

Inside Latin Life



Remembrance 2025



Old Latin news



Old Latins back in school



The George Baldock Foundation



1970s reunions



Welcome to the 24th edition of Latin Life

It is always a joy to introduce a new edition of *Latin Life*, and never more so than at this reflective time of year. As the pages that follow so beautifully show, the ties between past and present at the Royal Latin remain as strong as ever. Whether in moments of remembrance, celebration, mentorship or simple reunion, our community continues to reveal its extraordinary depth and warmth.

Our Remembrance Service in November was, as always, profoundly moving. Standing together on the front lawn, students, staff, guests and Old Latins, it was impossible not to feel the weight of our shared history. The remarkable poppy installation, created by students across the school, offered a reminder of the creativity and care that characterise our young people, while the participation of Old Latins currently serving, or with family ties to those we remembered, made the occasion all the more poignant. These are the moments in which the Royal Latin's long story feels particularly alive.

Another highlight this term has been welcoming so many alumni back into school. From the invaluable guidance shared with our MedSoc and Oxbridge applicants, to the enthusiasm and expertise Old Latins brought to our Aspirations Day careers fair, their presence has been felt in classrooms, corridors and conversations throughout the term. There is something very special about watching former students return not only with pride in where they have come from, but with a genuine desire to support those who are following after them.

This edition also brings news of remarkable achievements and deeply moving milestones within our community, from national and international success in sport, academia and voluntary work, to the establishment of the George Baldock Foundation. The courage, compassion and purpose reflected in these stories speak powerfully to the values that so many Old Latins carry with them.

And, of course, it is a pleasure to see reunions continue to flourish, from gatherings of the Class of 1970 in an Oxford pub to wonderfully energetic meet-ups of the Class of 1977 back here in Buckingham. These reminders of enduring friendship are part of what makes our alumni community so distinctive and so treasured.

To all Old Latins reading this, thank you for the many ways you continue to enrich the life of the school. Your stories, your memories, your achievements and your generosity weave together to create something truly special. Whether you are near or far, recently leavers or decades on, please know that you remain an important part of the Royal Latin family, and you are always welcome back to Chandos Road.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Ian Chislett

Headteacher

Remembrance service, 7th November 2025



The whole school assembled on the front lawn

On Friday, 7th November, we held our annual Remembrance Day service, with all students and staff gathering on the front lawn of the school, next to the Green Room stage.

The service was also attended, as always, by special guests, including the Buckingham Town Mayor and Countess Howe – His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, as well as Old Latin former and serving members of the military.

The event included the laying of wreaths at the school's memorial, a performance by the school choir, the rendition of 'The Last Post' by student trumpeters, as well as the reading out of the names of Old Latins who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

This year, the event was also enhanced by a striking display of poppies, cascading down the side of the school building. This installation was created during a recent school Enrichment Day, during which students from all year groups collaborated in crafting poppies using a variety of materials,

including crochet, fabric, foam, and recycled plastic bottles. The installation also comprised 52 clay poppies that were specially made to honour those from the Royal Latin School who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

After the service special guests mingled with students at a reception in the Library, and we were privileged this year to be joined by Old Latins, Air Marshall Sir Julian Young (Class of 1980) and Commodore Alison Hofman (Class of 1989), along with Countess Howe, who were invited to inspect the Royal Latin student cadets in the main hall.

As time rolls on, links between the current Royal Latin students and those named on the rolls of honour become rarer, but at least two of our current students, Violet in Year 7 and Sam in Year 13 have direct family links to the fallen. Sergeant Denis Hughes (RAF) served in the RAF in World War II and is Violet's great-great uncle, and Lance Sergeant Tom Jones (Army) served in World War I and is Sam's great-great-great uncle - see photos opposite. It is poignant to know we still have these meaningful connections to our past.



The student-created poppy cascade on the school building



Head and Deputy Head students represent the school at the Buckingham Remembrance Parade



Student cadets are inspected by Air Marshall Sir Julian Young and Commodore Alison Hofman



Sergeant Denis Hughes, great-great uncle of current Year 7 student, Violet



Lance Sergeant Tom Jones, great-great-great uncle of current Year 13 student, Sam



Old Latins news roundup

Freya Austin (Class of 2012) represents Great Britain in World Para Ice Hockey



Freya (centre) with two of her Great Britain team mates

This year saw the first ever official Women's World Championship for Para Ice Hockey, taking place in Dolny Kubin, Slovakia from 26th-31st August, with Old Latin, Freya Austin included in the Great Britain line-up as a defender. Freya plays for the Peterborough Phantoms team when at home.

The World Championships included six teams, from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Norway, USA and 'Team World', a composite team made up of players from nine different nations across Europe and Asia, including four from the Czech Republic and two from both Germany and Slovakia.

The Great Britain team succeeded in reaching the Group B semi-finals, where the Canadian team snatched the victory. Congratulations to Freya for her sporting success and we wish you all the best in your continuing ice hockey career!

Grace Bloomfield (Class of 2024) on BBC's University Challenge



Grace (left) with her team mates and presenter, Amol Rajan

Congratulations to Grace Bloomfield of the Class of 2024 for her part on the triumphant University of Lincoln team in Round One of the BBC's University Challenge 2025/26, broadcast on 1st September.

This was the first appearance on the show of the University of Lincoln, where Grace studies Chemistry. Lincoln scored 170 points, beating Lancaster's 46, securing a place in Round Two, which, as we go to press has not yet been broadcast (keep an eye out on BBC iPlayer!)

If you or an Old Latin you know has news to share for the next issue, please get in touch!
latinlife@royallatin.org



Archive Open Day

Wednesday, 6th May 2026

Rotherfield Sixth Form Centre & Archive Room

4pm – 6pm

We look forward to seeing Old Latins at this popular annual event.

Book online on RLS Connect

Jordan Palmer-Boateng (Class of 2012)



Jordan with children in Ghana supported by Akwaaba

In Issue 10 of Latin Life, back in 2017, we reported on Jordan Palmer and her volunteering work in Ghana after leaving the Royal Latin. A spell of volunteering led to Jordan founding her own venture in 2016 – Akwaaba Volunteers (Akwaaba is 'welcome' in Ghanaian), working to find volunteers to work in Accra, Ghana, and forging links with UK sports clubs and organisations, to provide much needed sports kit to Ghanaian clubs.

Nearly ten years after its foundation, Akwaaba Volunteers has gone from strength to strength, as a registered charity that focuses on three main ways of making a positive impact in Accra, Ghana: improving access to healthcare and promoting healthy living for children and families, enhancing educational opportunities and using sport to help to develop life skills and confidence.

Amongst the volunteers from the UK who have travelled to Ghana to support the charity is current Royal Latin PE teacher, Josephine (Nell) Payne, who many Old Latins from the past couple of decades or so will remember well. Nell recently instigated a fortnight of fundraising and awareness in school for the work of Akwaaba, presenting at assemblies about the charity, organising a non-uniform day to fundraise for Akwaaba, along with another day when students were permitted to wear trainers to school in return for donating a pair of their old trainers or black school shoes.

To find out more about Akwaaba Volunteers, visit their website here: akwaabavolunteers.org.uk



Donations of trainers from RLS students on non-uniform day



Royal Latin teacher, Nell Payne volunteering with Akwaaba

Old Latins back in school

We were both delighted and grateful to welcome back four Old Latins this term to assist our MedSoc and Oxbridge students.

Branavi Yogathasan (Class of 2024)



Branavi in front of Brookfield House

Branavi returned to school on 8th September, just before she embarked on her medical studies at the University of Bristol, to share valuable insights with sixth-form MedSoc students about her journey to medical school. Thank you Branavi and we wish you all the best with your studies.

Loveleen Jaswal (Class of 2025)



Loveleen embodies the motto written on the wall

On the 15th September, Loveleen joined MedSoc students to impart her wisdom on navigating the rest of Year 13. Loveleen had huge amounts of helpful advice, and it's clear that she will do great things in her medical studies at King's College.

Abi Moore (Class of 2023)



Abi talks to Royal Latin students, from her university

Abi joined MedSoc students remotely on 6th October, from her Medicine studies at the University of Sheffield, to offer her advice on preparing for interviews. Thank you Abi for sharing your valuable advice and time.

Dr Lisa Harvey (Class of 1998)



MedSoc & Oxbridge students benefitting from Lisa's interview tips

MedSoc and Oxbridge students were joined by Lisa on 17th October to discuss her journey through the Royal Latin and insights into interview preparation, including some brilliant notes (with nods to Mr Cooper, Mr Tucker and Mr Grimsdale!) Lisa's insights were truly inspirational, focussing on 'read, read and read some more, be curious, embrace the arts as scientists and make connections in your learning.' A huge thank you to Lisa for her time, wisdom and experience, which she has been sharing with Royal Latin students now for an incredible 15 years.

If you would like to share your career advice with current students - whether related to medicine or other professions, please do get in touch - latinlife@royallatin.org

Old Latins at Aspirations Day, 19th November

The school's annual careers fair - 'Aspirations Day' took place in Rotherfield Sixth Form Centre on 19th November, providing the opportunity for students from Year 7 to Year 13 to meet representatives from around 70 organisations, encompassing a diverse range of career and apprenticeship opportunities.

Included among these professionals were a dozen or so Old Latins, from the worlds of healthcare, nursing, finance, law, HR, veterinary science, games development, the University Royal Naval Units and more. We are so grateful to these alumni volunteers for sharing their valuable time and expertise with our students.

Old Latins in attendance included Ayra Ali (Class of 2020), Rose Harper-Fraser (Class of 2023), Christian Gibbs (Class of 2024), Henry Pearson (Class of 2019), Kirstie Allen (Class of 2009), George Smith (Class of 2020), Henry Pearson (Class of 2019), Zayaan Hussain (Class of 2024), Amy King (Class of 2006), Joe Clark (Class of 2020), Sacha Hind (Class of 2018) and Emily Hyde (Class of 2020). Thank you all for your support.

Watch this space for confirmation of the date of next year's Aspirations Day, or register your interest any time at latinlife@royallatin.org



Ayra Ali chats to interested students



Kirstie Allen talks to students about nursing



Rose Harper-Fraser & Royal Naval Unit colleague

Remembering Robin Bryant (Class of 1960) and Joanna Macklin (née Bryant, Class of 1963)



Robin in his school days at RLS in the 1950s



Joanna in her senior years of school in the 1960s



Robin Bryant (right) with his son, Mike and granddaughter, Libby

We were very sad to learn in November this year of the unexpected passing of Robin Bryant (Class of 1960). This news comes barely a year after Robin's sister, Joanna Macklin (née Bryant, Class of 1963) also passed away, in November 2024.

After leaving school Joanna became a French teacher and lecturer, and Robin became a civil engineer, but both maintained a strong connection to the Royal Latin School into their later lives, both attending many Archive Days, reunions and other events at school, and supporting the improvement of the school's facilities in recent years – in fact Joanna was fundraising for the school facilities while she was still at school, as a key member of the campaign to build the swimming pool!

Robin and Joanna's parents, Bill and Mary had also attended the Royal Latin in the 1930s, with long-serving teacher Tommy Allitt playing the organ at their wedding in Buckingham Church, as he must have done for so many Old Latins during his time.

Robin's daughter, Catherine, told us that her father was devoted to his rugby and spent many years playing for Saracens at various levels, remaining involved with the club right up to his death. The picture opposite was taken on the day that Robin's granddaughter had played recently in a winning Cambridge rugby team at a Varsity match, and his pride and happiness is clear to see.

Robin and Joanna will be both be much missed at alumni events, and we send our warmest condolences to their families.



Robin and Joanna's father, Bill Bryant (rear, fourth from right), with the hockey team in the 1930s, with Headmaster Mr Fuller



Mary Bryant as Mary I in the Buckingham 1554-1954 quatercentenary celebration pageant

The George Baldock Foundation



Since the tragic loss of Old Latin footballer, George Baldock (Class of 2009), in October 2024, his family (including Old Latins former Deputy Head, Jacque Baldock, George's brothers, Sam and James, and sister-in-laws, Fern and Claire), have established The George Baldock Foundation to honour his life and support disadvantaged children through sport.

The Foundation's first fundraising event was a gala dinner, which took place at Stadium MK on 15th November. The event included a silent auction and was attended by friends, family and former team mates of George, including former Sheffield United footballers and former manager at Sheffield, Chris Wilder.

During a television interview on the evening, Sam Baldock reflected on what the Foundation meant for his brother's legacy,

'George was passionate about football, and he was passionate about opportunity for children as well. To have George's name associated with that - I think he'd be very proud.'

When setting up the Foundation, Sam was also passionate about creating a deserving legacy for George's young son,

'He left behind his one-year old son, who deserves his dad's memory to be kept alive as vibrantly and positively as possible.'

For more information about the Foundation, or to donate, visit: justgiving.com/charity/prism-georgebaldockfdn.co.uk



The event set up and ready to start



Sam Baldock speaks to journalists at the event about George



The gala dinner under way at Stadium MK



Reunions from the 1970s

From John Hounslow (Class of 1970)

Class of 1970 reunion in Oxford 23rd October 2025

Thank you to John Hounslow of the Class of 1970 for letting us know about a recent gathering of members of the Class of 1970 in an Oxford pub in October.

As you will see from the first photograph, below, the gathering was also joined by local Oxford resident and former headteacher (which also makes him an Old Latin), David Hudson!

From Finbarr Coughlan (Class of 1977)

Class of 1977 reunion in Buckingham, 9th August

Thank you also to Finbarr Coughlan for sending us this summer reunion photo of the 'pensioners reunion' of those who left in 1975 in the fifth form or 1977 in the sixth form. The event was organised by Finbarr and Philip Rowe and took place in Buckingham. It was well attended, by approximately 30 former classmates, who had travelled from near and far, including Belgium and Australia, as well as by former RE teacher, Andy Cooper.



Class of 1970: (left of the table first) – Jan Claridge (sister of Maggie Claridge, honourary Old Latin for the evening) Maggie Claridge, Alan Baxter, Sally Battersby, Tim Emms, David Hudson, Alan Kiddle, David Thrower, Nigel Robinson and John Hounslow



Back row left to right (boys): Andrew Shepherd, David Harper, Colin Welford, Simon Tansley, Charlie Alen, Roger Marsh, Jeramy Dixon, Kevin Stewart, Cecil Fricker, Paul Carr, Andrew Cowell.

Middle row left to right (girls): Glenys Scott, Kate McKenzie, Deirdre Hilder, Alison Brunt, Marion Doble, Juliet Eckersley, Alison Shephard, Hilary Dunn, Felicity Bray, Bridget Crook, Julie Smith

Front row left to right: Andy Cooper, Finbarr Coughlan, Philip Rowe, Ronnie Smith, Sandra Wilkins, Philip Jennings



Nearly 1500 Old Latins now have online profiles on RLS Connect!

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1441
Online Members

3
Upcoming Events

450
Photos

507
Mentors

We've been pleased to see the number of online members on RLS Connect steadily increase this academic year, with new members from across the decades, including the majority of the Class of 2025 already signed up! If you haven't yet joined, it's quick and easy to register, and once you have you can:

Build your profile (adding a photo, interests, career path)

Invite others to join too

Find, message & connect with your old school friends, teachers, siblings, & staff

Read about upcoming events for Old Latins and book places at alumni reunions or other events in school

Browse our growing digital archive and search for yourself or your friends in our digitised material

Join a Group and reconnect or meet other Latins that have similar interests to you, careers, or classmates from the same decade

Share information about your career, a new venture, a job opportunity you have got or anything exciting you think would be of interest to other Latins

Help give back to your old school with careers advice & mentoring for current students

Opt to receive regular bulletins from the Development team, with news relevant to alumni

Join today!
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Get in Touch!

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2025/26 Calendar

(any updates, will be
published on RLS Connect)

Wednesday, 21st January

Lillingstone Lecture: What is Smell
by Dr Luca Turin

Wednesday, 11th February

Lillingstone Lecture: Performance
Enhancing Drugs in Sport. The
Science, The Risks and The Rules
by Dr Mark Homer

Wednesday, 6th May

Annual Archive Open Day

Friday, 18th June

Founders' Day & Sports Day

Other future Lillingstone Lecture
dates will be published on RLS
Connect when confirmed.



Christmas 2025 in Brookfield

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contributions to shape this
magazine - so please get in touch
to share ideas for articles or let us
know what you would like to see
included in *Latin Life*.

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share your own news – whether
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