

## Inside Latin Life



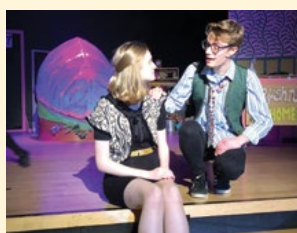
**Archive Open Day 13th May**  
Trevor Saving (Class of 1974) guest speaker >



**Remembrance**  
Nick Robson (Class of 1987) addresses the school >



**Looking for a Big Challenge in 2020?**  
Do you fancy climbing a peak or two? >



**Arts at RLS**  
A terrific performance of 'Little Shop of Horrors' >



**Reunions**  
Welcoming back year groups from the 1950s and 1970s >



## Welcome to the 14th edition of Latin Life

As you will see from this edition, things continue to be as busy as ever both in and out of school. Our strengths as a school have always been based around the Arts, sport, teamwork, a respect for the individual, and the grounding of a sound academic education.

All of the above are underpinned by outstanding and inspirational teaching. I love talking to Old Latins and hearing your stories of teachers you remember and value. It really is humbling for us as professionals to know that we make some sort of lasting impact on lives.

The quotation from J.R.R. Tolkien which you will see as part of the tributes to Ron Buckingham (RLS 1969-1997) is telling, 'True education is a

kind of neverending story – a matter of continual beginnings, of habitual fresh starts, of persistent newness.' We are so lucky at the Latin to stand on the shoulders of such great colleagues who have helped to establish this 'neverending story' of a truly memorable education. I pay tribute to all of those teachers and would like to think that our current group of colleagues continue this fine tradition for the benefit of the next generation of Latin students.

Please do feel free to drop into school to see how our school builds on the old and yet maintains a 'persistent newness' – you are always very welcome.

**David Hudson**, Headteacher



### Old Latins' Social Event 15th May

Join us for an Evening Tour & Tasting at Chafor Wine Estate, Gawcott, Buckingham

Old Latins are invited to join us for a guided tour around the Chafor Estate vineyard and winery in Gawcott, near Buckingham on the evening of Friday, **15th May**. The tour will start at 7pm and will last approximately 90 minutes, including a sample tasting of Chafor's award-winning wines, followed by the opportunity to visit Chafor's bar and shop. Space is limited to 30 people. Tickets (£15) can be purchased via the RLS Alumni Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oldlatins/events>

## Archive Open Day, Wednesday 13th May, 3pm-6pm



Trevor Saving (Class of 1974) at Arsenal FC

Please note the change to the date of our annual Archive Open Day to Wednesday, 13th May, 3pm until 6pm, at Rotherfield 6th-Form Centre (not 6th May, as advertised in the last edition). We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. This year, we are delighted to announce that Old Latin Trevor Saving (Class of 1974) will be our guest speaker.

Trevor attended the RLS from 1967 to 1974 and lived in Twyford during these years. He captained the school rugby and cricket teams and was 'somehow elected to be a prefect'. However, according to Trevor, his main achievement at school was meeting his future (and current) wife Carol. Today they have two grown up daughters and live in Kent. Upon leaving the RLS Trevor studied History and Politics at Keele University where he played rugby for Combined Universities and Northampton Saints 1st XV.

After University Trevor spent most of his career working for US companies including Levi Strauss, PepsiCo and Marsh and McLennan in a number of international business roles and lived in Dallas, Texas for five years.

During the past ten years Trevor held the position of Chief Operations and People Officer at Arsenal Football Club where he oversaw a wide variety of football and non-football related functions. He also served for five years on the board of Harlequins Rugby. Recently 'semi-retired', he remains an Executive Advisor to Arsenal, with a particular interest in the development of the AFC Women's team.

## Your legacy, their future

*"You carry a Latin Legacy within you . . . now  
You can ensure your legacy lives on at the Royal Latin"*

**Latin Learning . . . Cherished Traditions . . .  
Nurturing Landscape . . . Enduring Friendships**

To find out more about leaving a legacy to the school, please request a copy of our Latin Legacies Guide from [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)

Or contact Nigel Pullen at [info@cornwall-law.co.uk](mailto:info@cornwall-law.co.uk) for a free will-writing service\* in return for leaving a legacy or gift to the school

\*First 25 Old Latins only



## Remembrance



Gp Capt Nick Robson (Class of 1987) inspects cadets in the RLS main hall

On Friday 8th November 2019 the whole school came together with members of our extended community, and guests from the armed forces for our annual act of Remembrance.

This year, we were privileged to welcome many members of the Armed forces including Old Latin Group Captain Nick Robson (Class of 1987), who delivered a moving address to the assembled audience. We are very grateful to Nick for his valued contribution to this year's event. An extract from Nick's address, where he reflects on his experiences of the Afghan campaign in Helmand Province, has been reproduced below:

*As we today remember and name the Old Latins who made the ultimate sacrifice, I am grateful we can acknowledge all of our military casualties individually across all campaigns. Today, their pictures appear in the national newspapers, and periodically a newspaper will publish in one edition the photos of all who have died in the present conflicts. Of the 3,459 coalition deaths in Afghanistan as part of the ongoing coalition operations since 2001, the British military suffered 456 fatalities with 2188 wounded in action. Of course we also acknowledge those who continue to suffer in silence through the unseen injuries in their mental health and Post Traumatic Stress . . .*

*One particular repatriation still sticks in my mind today and closes the loop of my experience as that officer on that dusty airfield all those years before. I have tried to write a description of what I saw as we saluted the coffin of a soldier this time coming off the C130 Hercules transport aircraft with his family standing across*

*from me – but I have struggled to find the words, so I have reverted to an anonymous author from the Vietnam war whose words sum the scene better than I:*

*I stood and I watched as a mother cried,  
when she had heard that her son had died.  
He didn't die because he was sick,  
nor he did he die because he was in a crash.  
He died doing what he felt was right.*

*I watched a father try to hold back his tears,  
His son had lived only a scant 19 years.  
His son had died nine thousand miles away,  
But what was there left for a father to say?  
He got down on his knees and said a prayer,  
His brave son knows his father did care.*

*I stood and watched as a little girl cried.  
She didn't understand why her brother had passed away;  
Why he never again played with her on the lawn.  
Looking at the little girl's tears I knew,  
That her big brother died fighting for me and for you.  
We should, we must, we do remember them.*

If you or any Old Latin you know is a current or former member of the Armed forces and would like to be part of our Remembrance service next year please contact [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)

## Arts at RLS



The Little Shop of Horrors

The Arts continue to play an important part in RLS life, with a terrific performance of 'Little Shop of Horrors' over four performances at the end of November for the annual RLS production, and the traditional start to Christmas for the RLS community – the annual Carol Service at Buckingham parish church,

with the Chamber choir, Year 7 Chorus and a host of talented musicians performing for the congregation in the last week of term.

The busy Music department have also put on 13 concerts so far this academic year, as well as RLS's new annual fixture – the House Music competition, which this year took place at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre on 27th January. We were thrilled that Old Latin former house captains returned to watch their houses battle it out. Mr Tucker, Head of Music at RLS, and guest judges, drumming stars, Debbie Knox-Hewson, Eddy Thrower and Ian Iguado Bush had a stressful time deciding the winning house, as competition was tight, but in the end Newton were crowned this year's winning House.

If you have memories of past school concerts or music competitions, please do share them with us for a future issue, at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)



The Chamber Choir perform at the 2019 Carol Service



Performers from triumphant House, Newton, on stage at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

The RLS is also nurturing some very talented artists currently, as shown by these recent examples from our Art department from current Year 11 and Year 13 students.



A Year 11's work on their Urban-themed project



A Year 13's work on relationships

## Old Latins in print

We are delighted to celebrate the success of a variety of Old Latin writers in this edition, by sharing news of their latest works and publications. **If you are an Old Latin author, or know of one who would like to be featured in the next edition, please get in touch at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)**



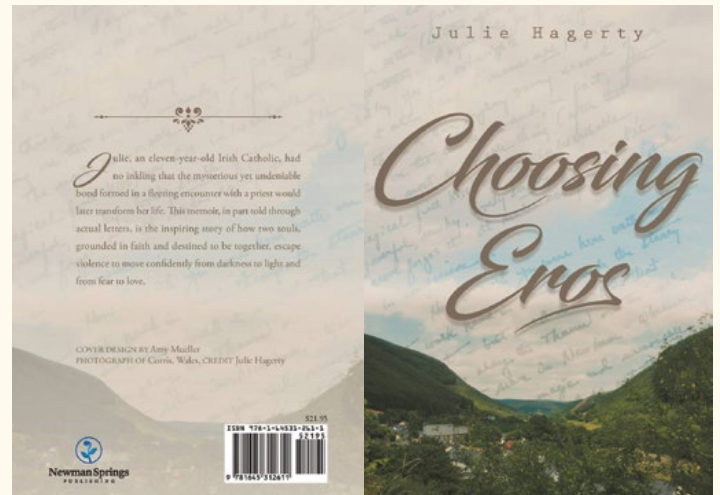
### Julie Hagerty (Class of 1974)

Congratulations to Julie Hagerty on the publication of her autobiographical novel, *Choosing Eros* (available via Amazon) in June 2019 – an inspiring story of the triumph of love over fear. The official synopsis reads:

*Julie, an eleven-year-old Irish Catholic, had no inkling that the mysterious yet undeniable bond formed in a fleeting encounter with a priest would later*

*transform her life. This memoir, in part told through actual letters, is the inspiring story of how two souls, grounded in faith and destined to be together, escape violence to move confidently from darkness to light and from fear to love. My time at the Royal Latin is a memory I cherish along with the close friendships I forged there.*

Julie is now an English teacher in a Catholic girls' high school in Cincinnati, and cites the influence of her old English teacher as an important one, 'Mrs Capel's influence was strong', along with other positive reflections on her school days at RLS;

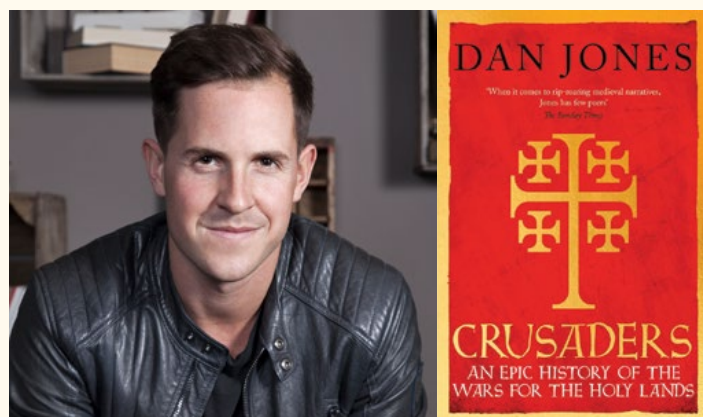


'My time at the Royal Latin is a memory I cherish along with the close friendships I forged there.' Julie has also been an adjunct professor at two local universities teaching public speaking, interpersonal communication and storytelling as a cultural craft to other teachers.

### Dan Jones (Class of 1999)

Dan Jones, best-selling author of *The Templars*, celebrated the release of his latest book in September 2019, *Crusaders: An Epic History of the Wars for the Holy Lands*, which has received a plethora of great reviews, with the following amongst them;

*Voyages, battles, sieges and slaughter: Dan Jones's tumultuous and thrilling history of the crusades is one of the best . . . Jones is exceptionally good at giving evocative snapshots of medieval life, sometimes poignant, sometimes pure Monty Python (Sunday Times).*



### Dean Jones (Class of 1997)

Congratulations to Dean Jones from the Class of 1995 on being awarded the honour of becoming the first 'Bard of Buckingham' after a closely-fought contest. Dean said: 'I'm both surprised and delighted to take on the role of first "Bard of Buckingham".' Dean will hold the role of bard for a year and will be invited to present his work at town events, including the Charter Fair and Fringe Festival. A bardic council will now be formed, made up of poets, storytellers and those who wish to support the bard in their endeavours.

We are privileged and very grateful to Dean for penning the following poem especially for *Latin Life*, which will surely ring a few bells with our readers!



## Old Latin Memories by Dean Jones

I remember quite clearly  
my first day at school.  
Main block corridors,  
the classrooms, the hall

Jump off the bus  
into London Road traffic  
Making new friends  
from a wide demographic

Form rooms, the library,  
the old science blocks.  
The time ticking by  
on those old classroom clocks

Humanities, Geography,  
History, R.E.  
Art, Drama, Music,  
Maths, French, C.D.T.

Teachers names I remember,  
Mr Green, Dr Penny  
Mr Hill, Mr Boileau,  
Looking back, there are many.

Mr Cattanach, Mr Luff  
Mr Lay, Mrs Pearce.  
Mr Collis, Mrs Kelly,  
and Miss Griffiths was fierce

Mr Newton, Mr Grimsdale,  
and Mrs Oakley were funny.  
Lying outside on the field  
when it's sunny.

D of E, Sports Day  
Cross country run,  
Lips turning blue.  
Never much fun

Muddy sports corridors  
red knee high socks.  
Bleep tests on tennis courts,  
behind C.D.T. blocks

Games teachers harder  
and stricter than most.  
Fifty punishing push-ups  
by the old rugby post.

Chemistry explosions,  
old bunsen burners.  
Falling behind  
the more able learners

Business with Mr Darcy  
An old lodge down the lane  
Half derelict Grenville  
Now a residence again

The ties that got thinner  
and shorter with time.  
Doc Martens and Curtains,  
that long dinner line.

'Hey you, tuck your shirt in!'  
'Where is your tie?'  
'six inches apart you two!'  
'Don't ask me why!'

Dark Alley, The T-Huts,  
along Brookfield Lane.  
Sixth form in Rotherfield;  
Mr Cooper, Mrs Baines.

Helping house captains.  
My Barton House Colours  
Denton, Stratton, Newton  
A prefect with others.

House Drama, Young Enterprise  
Swimming Gala, Speech Day.  
French exchange, Theatre trips,  
The annual School Play.  
Mr Tucker, and music.  
Rock concerts on stage.  
Lines of a poem,  
neat on a page.

GCSEs, A Levels,  
All off to Uni.  
Keeping in touch  
With the classmates  
who knew me.

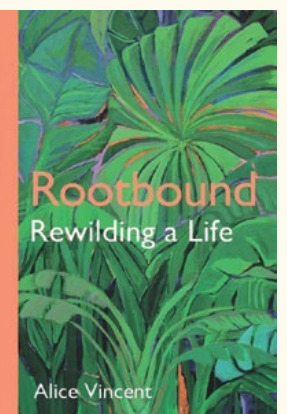
The friends that I've made,  
The things that I learned.  
A grateful Old Latin  
Who's often returned.

RLS memories,  
Amongst the best of my life.  
My son heads there this year  
to be taught by my wife.

Royal Latin School pupils  
have their own tales to tell  
My story ends here,  
which is perhaps just as well.

### Alice Vincent (Class of 2007)

We wish Alice Vincent (Class of 2007) every success with the second of her books, published this year – *Rootbound: Rewilding a Life*. Alice's first book, *How to grow stuff*, published in 2017 offered a simple and practical guide to the beginner gardener, but this latest work, as the official blurb expounds, mixes, 'memoir, botanical history and biography', and examines how 'bringing a little bit of the outside in can help us find our feet in a world spinning far too fast'. Alice is interested in the particular life challenges experienced by the millennial and runs an Instagram account called 'Noughticulture'. She is also an Arts writer for the Telegraph and features editor for Penguin Books.



## Old Latins remembered



### Ron Buckingham (teacher at RLS 1969-1997)

It is with sadness that we report the passing, in October 2019, of former RLS Maths teacher Ron Buckingham, and it is with thanks that we received a tribute from Ron's former teaching colleague, Ed Grimsdale, with contributions from Ron's daughter and Old Latin, Jackie. An extract of Ed's tribute is printed below, but you can read the full version online at [www.royallatin.org/alumni](http://www.royallatin.org/alumni).

Ron Buckingham joined RLS as 2nd in its Mathematics Department in 1969. He cut an unusual figure on the day of his interview soon after arriving in England from teaching on a hot, tropical island in the Pacific Ocean. He was sans formal dress. Ever a practical family, his loving wife, Mary, had quickly run up a neat interview suit in some material she had to hand. Ron stood out from the rest of the interviewees: he was deeply tanned but dressed in soft fawn. Headmaster George Embleton had fought in the Pacific in WW II and he warmed immediately to the well-read man from the East.

### We're all Humble Life-Long Learners

Ron, who quickly became Head of the Maths Department, didn't discriminate between teachers and learners as he surely believed the first were a subset of the second. Ron was ever ready to learn a new skill, a fresh musical instrument, or another language. During his last months, he was exercising his Italian, reading Dante in the original. At his funeral, the Reverend Ron Bundock, who knew him well, told the congregation that, 'Ron was a polymath'. Very true, Ron was a man of many parts and master of a surprisingly high proportion. His shelves heaved with volumes on the American Civil War. Ron was humble. Let me give you an example: one of his finest Further Maths students was James Margetson. Together, master and student composed and published a mathematical paper. No doubt, authorship was attributed to Buckingham and Margetson, as the alphabet orders, even in mathematics journals.

### Ron Buckingham - Mathematics Teacher

Ron was a fine teacher of his subject. To an extent he exemplified the saying, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going' for he was never better than teaching Further Mathematics to the most able. Although Ron was never a dry teacher, he found it difficult to understand the scamps who preferred 'having a laff' to studying. Ron built a strong team of teachers in his department who ensured that his subject inspired the best to carry on with Maths at University and provided the knowledge that other students needed to succeed in the sciences.

**The RLS Canoe Club [based on notes by Ron's daughter and Old Latin, Jackie – see also page 16]** My father was an inaugural member of the Bucks Schools Canoeing Association formed in June 1971, with the first meeting on 16th September 1971. The RLS club started building canoes in school colours: hull and cockpit were cream and the deck a bright red. The first canoe, a KW4, was built in April 1972 with the help of Len Hancock of Buckingham Secondary School. One canoe became three by the end of May. My mum and us children, not yet at senior school were all involved in the project!

I am pretty sure all the boats were named after freshwater birds. The club went on many weekends away and competitions over its time and operated on Saturdays during the winter months going along the local Great Ouse as this was when the river was deep enough to be navigable. Both my brother and I were members during our time at the Latin. I left in 1987, but I'm unsure for how many years after this it continued.

I'll sum up his career in the style of first RLS Headmaster: George Embleton. 'Mr Buckingham served this foundation in a wide range of capacities with loyalty, a keen sense of duty, and with unstinting efforts as he maintained high standards for himself and his pupils. 'One last vision: Ron Buckingham now at peace musing on a quotation from his favourite author: J.R. Tolkien, 'True education is a kind of neverending story — a matter of continual beginnings, of habitual fresh starts, of persistent newness.'

### Ed Grimsdale

### Geoffrey Kirk (Class of 1952)

Thank you to Andrew Cooper for providing the following tribute to Old Latin and friend, Geoff Kirk (1935-2019), who sadly passed away last summer.



Extract from whole school photo. Geoff standing behind senior staff, George Embleton Headmaster bottom right, Roger Wagland, top left

Old Latins will be deeply saddened to read of the death last year of Geoff, a pupil of the Royal Latin when the school was based in what is now the Grenville Academy. Geoff was a font of amusing stories of those post war years during the headship of George Embleton, the days of Mr Allitt, Mr Bush, Mr Archer and his 4th form English teacher Mrs Capel. Geoff was a regular visitor to the Archive in Rotherfield, remembering clearly the Gilbert and Sullivan performances, the names on the sports team photos, being summoned before GKE for misdemeanours and being invited to stay on into the sixth form by GKE who said, "your exam results were better than expected". He always enjoyed the Archive Open Days and meeting friends from his school days such as Rita March, Jack Freeman, Roger Wagland and Denis Hamley amongst many others.

Geoff was a member of the Buckingham Air Training Corps 1563, based in the school grounds and led by officers Tommy Allitt and George Capel. It gave Geoff a life - long interest in aircraft and in later life as a member of the Buckingham Royal British Legion he especially enjoyed visits to Hendon Air Museum and Bomber Command in Lincoln.

## Geoffrey Kirk (Class of 1952) – Continued . . .

He was a single handicap golfer, a past captain of Stowe Golf Club and a first-rate researcher into family history, something which he shared with anyone prepared - or unprepared- to listen to him!. He was a key figure in local history groups with a phenomenal knowledge of Buckingham and its people and he vies with Ed Grimsdale for the title, 'Mr Buckingham'. Geoff held a life-long affection for the Royal Latin. He was a man of courage and self-reliance, facing the death of his wife Esme after 60 years of marriage and his own failing health in recent years, with a stoical independence. He was a great friend to so many people.

## Andrew Cooper



Geoff (left) with fellow Old Latins Jim and Phyllis Faulkner and their daughter Suzanne also an Old Latin, in 2017.

## Stop Press: Graham Collis

We were very sorry to learn recently of the passing of well-known former PE teacher from the 1950s-1980s, Graham Collis, at the end of 2019. Many former pupils will remember him well. A full tribute will be published in the next edition.



Mr Collis coaches rugby (photo from the RLS Archive)

## Your news from the decades

### From the 1950s

Thank you to Richard Palmer (Class of 1961) for sending us this report from a reunion in June 2019 for a group of Old Latins who started at RLS in 1955:



Photo courtesy of Jo and Ian Macklin

It happened on 26th June, when 13 members of that class met at the Old Thatched House in Adstock for a very nice lunch, followed by a visit to the School. We were met by Mr Hudson and Robert Munday, who gave us an interesting tour of the premises - which were entirely new to some of us, who had left before the move to Brookfield - followed by time delving into items from the Archive which Bob had kindly sorted out. I was somewhat embarrassed to read a poem which had been published in the School Magazine in 1956: did I really write that?

## Richard Palmer

### From the 1970s

Sally Battersby (Class of 1970)



Sally, second from right, with the RLS600 Swim Serpentine team

Congratulations to Sally Battersby for her tremendous achievement as part of the 600 Campaign team to swim the Serpentine for the RLS Sports Campus on 21st September, personally raising £717 out of the total £2,000 raised by the team. Sally summed up the experience after the swim, 'I really enjoyed the swim and the challenge. Serpentine not too murky and swans and ducks kept at bay!! A beautiful day so we were blessed. Thank you to everyone who donated.'





Photo courtesy of the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser

Around 30 pupils who left RLS between 1975 and 1977 attended a reunion on Saturday, 6th July 2019. It is always a pleasure to welcome back year groups, and this one in particular was a lot of fun. We even had a request to take the former girl pupils down to the old Rotherfield cellar, which was once upon a time their unofficial common room! Everyone enjoyed spending time with each other and having a good catch up.

## Nigel Norman (Class of 1972)



Nigel compering on stage



Cannon and Ball perform

The legendary Cannon and Ball were the top of the bill at the star-studded 'Secret Pensioners' Ball' held in the main hall of the Latin on Saturday 31st August 2019. The event marked the 65th birthday party of Old Latin Nigel Norman of the Class of 1972 and the evening was reportedly a truly memorable one for those in attendance. You can read Nigel's full account of the event at [www.royallatin.org/alumni](http://www.royallatin.org/alumni).

## From the 1980s



Air Marshall Julian Young CB, OBE inspects cadets at RLS Remembrance 2017

### Air Marshal Julian Young (Class of 1980)

Congratulations to Air Marshal Julian Young CB, OBE on his inclusion in the military division of the 2020 New Year's Honours list, with his promotion to Ordinary Knight Commander of the British Empire. We look forward, hopefully, to being able to share a photo of Julian at Buckingham Palace in the next issue!



### Daniel Bushby (Class of c. 1981)

We would very much like our alumni to be able to help the family of Daniel Bushby, by sharing any memories they have of Daniel, who boarded at the RLS from approximately 1976 until 1981. Please read the following appeal from Daniel's sister. If you can help at all, please contact [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org). Thank you.

*I am appealing to all readers around 55 years of age who could have been at the Royal Latin with my brother Daniel Bushby. Sadly we lost Dan in 1990 and as a family we are getting together to especially remember him this year. Unfortunately I knew very little about Dan's time at the Latin or about any of his friends. I was hoping to find anyone who could share a memory or even a photograph of him to help me have a small glimpse into his school life. Just one photograph or one school tale would be so special to receive and share with my Mum.*

Sarah Bushby

## From the 2000s



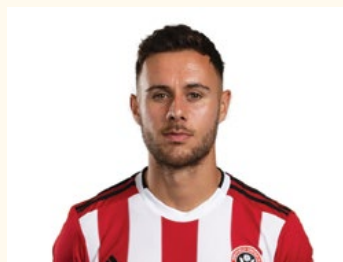
The happy couple are pictured here with their RLS English teacher, Penny Mason

### Rachel Lane and Dominic Crocombe (Class of 2009)

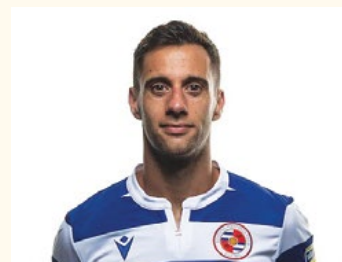
Congratulations to Old Latins Rachel (née Lane) and Dominic Crocombe on the occasion on their marriage on 13th July 2019 at the Catholic Church of Saint Edward the Confessor in Milton Keynes, followed by a reception at Primrose Hill Farm in Banbury. Rachel and Dominic met in their final year year at RLS, when they were Head Girl and Head Boy respectively.

Both graduated from UCL – Rachel with History and German in 2013 and Dominic with Medicine in 2015 (and we are extremely grateful to Dominic for supporting aspiring RLS medics at the Latin in recent years!) Rachel is currently General Manager of York Opera House and Dominic a Junior Doctor at York Hospital.

### George Baldock (Class of 2009) and Sam Baldock (Class of 2005)



George Baldock



Sam Baldock

Congratulations to George Baldock on his continuing success as a Wing Back with Sheffield United. George has been earning rave reviews of late for his performances for the Blades in the premier league, and fans and pundits alike have suggested he should be called up to play for England.

## George & Sam Baldock – Continued . . .

It also transpired recently that George would also qualify to play as an international for Greece, through a Greek grandparent. But George is still very much focussed on the job in hand, as he recently commented, 'I'm fully focussed on Sheffield United', he says, 'There's no international games for a while so we'll see what happens.'

George's older brother Sam (Class of 2005), who plays for Reading, has also been impressing with his recent performances, with Reading's Captain, Liam Moore, claiming at the end of 2019 that Sam is, 'one of the best strikers in the Championship.' Good luck to both brothers for their 2019/2020 seasons from everyone at RLS.



### Sam Keating (Class of 2019)

Thank you to Sam for getting in touch to let us know about his forthcoming charity fundraising challenge – a 240km dogsled journey across Norway to raise money for the National Autistic Society. Good luck Sam! You can read more about Sam's challenge and support him via the link below. We look forward

to printing the news of how you get on in the next edition. <https://isudare2020.everydayhero.com/uk/sam-s-arctic-expedition>



### Johanna Owen (Class of 2008)

We were delighted to hear from Johanna Owen since the last edition with news of her artistic endeavours. Jo went to Loughborough University to study Fine Art after leaving the Latin, and then onto a career in the clothes industry. But recently Jo decided to follow her true passion and become

a full-time artist, working on portrait commissions, both of animal and human subjects, although Jo is especially fond of painting dogs. Jo uses an unusual finger painting technique and has been featured in the local press and on Three Counties Radio, as well as at the BAFA Summer Exhibition in Buckingham.

Jo also kindly donated a portrait commission as an auction prize for the 600 Campaign Gala Dinner and Auction at Williams F1 in November, for which we were extremely grateful.

If you would like to find out more about Jo's art, please visit her website: [www.johannaowen.com](http://www.johannaowen.com) or Instagram @johannaowen\_art



Will and Tom (from left) after the match

### Will Simonds (Class of 2016) and Tom Bacon (2018)

Up and coming Old Latin rugby stars, Tom Bacon (above left) and Will Simonds (above right), both members of the Wasps Senior Academy 2019/20 made their Wasps first-team debut on 11th January at Round 5 of the European Rugby Challenge Cup clash against Agen at Stade Alfred Armandie.

Tom has played in all of Wasps A's Premiership Rugby Shield games so far this season, and scored a great solo against Leicester Tigers A, and Academy centre Will made his first first-team appearance of the campaign from the bench at Stade Alfred Armandie. The Wasps defeated Agen with a final score of 24-52.

Congratulations Will and Tom, and we look forward to following your continuing progress in the sport!

## Old Latins back in school

### Alice Torjussen (Class of 2015)



Alice (second from right) with current members of RLS science staff as well as fellow 2015 leaver, Georgia Pomfrett who is currently a trainee science teacher at RLS

We were very grateful to Alice Torjussen of the School of Engineering and Informatics at the University of Sussex (RLS Class of 2015) for returning to RLS on 27th January to give a fascinating lecture on Animal-Computer Interaction: Creating technology for assistance dogs.

If you are a scientist and would like to discuss the possibility of giving a lecture in our Lillingstone Trust Community Laboratory, or to a group of students, please do get in touch at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org).

We are always delighted to welcome back Old Latins to support the current Latin community, and are always keen to add new lectures to our thriving community science lecture programme – the Lillingstone Lectures (kindly supported by local charity the Lillingstone Trust). If you would be interested in speaking at one of these lectures, please do get in touch at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org).

Finally, it may be of interest to anyone planning to attend Archive Day at RLS on 13th May (3pm-6pm), that there will be a Lillingstone Lecture taking place in the Discovery Centre straight after Archive Day at 6pm, entitled, 'AI in healthcare', by Dr Hisham Al-Assam – senior lecturer in computing at the University of Buckingham. Lectures finish at approximately 7pm, and entry is free. For more details, search for 'Lillingstone Lectures' at [www.royallatin.org](http://www.royallatin.org).



**600**  
Campaign

## Sports Campus

Energise • Enjoy • Excel



*Architect's plan of 3G Pitch showing sports hall and new block at the top*

## Pitch Update

At the time of going to press, we're waiting for the local planning department to give us the final go ahead to begin building our fabulous new 3G pitch. We've secured the necessary funding, have approval from the Secretary of State, and have a contractor on standby just waiting to come and get started! The pitch will only take around 16 weeks to be completed, which means that it will be ready slightly ahead of schedule, and importantly, in time for the start of the new season and academic year in September.

## Sports Performance Centre

Whilst we wait for the pitch work to be completed, securing the remaining £660,000 needed to fund the Sports Performance Centre remains our priority, and we are urgently appealing for extra help with this challenge, so that we can start work on the building later this year. Ideas, suggestions, contacts (and yes, donations!), are still very gratefully received, so please do get in touch if you feel able to help, by emailing Jo at: [Jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:Jballantine@royallatin.org). Please see overleaf for donation options.



Sports hall and new block at the rear, with current muddy pitch to be replaced by 3G pitch

In terms of donations, there are three key initiatives we are appealing to Old Latins to support:

## Buy a Brick

We have sold 147 bricks for the Sports Campus so far, but still have bricks available. The bricks are a wonderful way in which Old Latins can make their mark on the school. The bricks will feature on an external wall of the new sports building, and can be inscribed with wording of your choosing. Some Old Latins choose a name and date, some make a dedication to a loved one, and others give a message to current students.

Each brick costs £125 (payable in 12 monthly instalments of £10.42 if preferred). You can buy your own brick, club together with a friend, or do as the Class of 1975 have done, and buy one brick form the whole year group.

The bricks will be unveiled at a special ceremony when the building is ready to open, with all brick sponsors being invited to see their brick in situ. We can also provide you with a certificate thank you for your brick – a nice momento, particularly if you are buying a brick as a gift for someone else.

Please visit [www.royallatin.org/600-campaign/brick](http://www.royallatin.org/600-campaign/brick) for more information.



## Latin Inspires

There's still time to sign up for Latin Inspires, the flexible way to give back to the school by making a monthly gift of any amount (we suggest £34 which would equate to £2,023 over five years, in recognition of the school's 600th anniversary in 2023). We're looking for 100 Old Latins to contribute in this way and become the founding members of Latin Inspires, so please do get in touch with Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) if you'd like to join, or just head straight to [www.royallatin.org/latininspires](http://www.royallatin.org/latininspires) and set your donations up online – it only takes a minute or two to do. Thank you!

**600**  
Campaign

**Building the future Together**



Your invitation...

...to join **Latin Inspires**; a passionate community of Old Latins helping to build a brighter future for RLS students

We are seeking 100 Old Latins to lead the way in becoming founding members of Latin Inspires, a special fund created by Old Latins from across the world and across the generations.

By pledging a monthly gift to the school from today, you will help to inspire future generations of Royal Latin pupils to grow and express themselves through sport and the arts. Please consider joining other Old Latins in making this meaningful pledge. [www.royallatin.org/latininspires](http://www.royallatin.org/latininspires)

## Sponsor Programme

We now have just 30 Sports Campus Sponsor places available.

Old Latins can become Sponsors by pledging a gift of £2,500 or more to the Sports Campus, which can be paid in instalments over one or two financial years. Anyone interested in becoming one of our Sponsors will be invited to attend a small private dinner or drinks party to hear about the impact that sponsorship will have, and to meet other sponsors. **Three forthcoming Sponsor events will be taking place as follows:**

1. **Wednesday, 29th April - The Map Room, Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel, London**
2. **Thursday, 11th June Discovery Centre Roof Terrace drinks, Royal Latin School**
3. **Thursday, 15th October - RAF Club London**

If you'd like to attend any of these events or find out more about becoming a Sponsor, please email Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org).



### Royal Latin Connection to Lowndes Square

We are delighted to be able to rekindle the connection between the school and Lowndes Square in Belgravia, by holding a dinner there in March. The area is named after William Lowndes, Old Latin. Lowndes was Secretary to the

Treasury under King William III and Queen Anne, and the saying, 'Look after the pence and the pounds will look after themselves' is attributed to him. He became wealthy as a result of holding office, and in 1700 built Winslow Hall. Lowndes' death in 1724 was announced in the House of Commons by Horace Walpole, who said, 'The House had lost a very useful Member, and the public as able and honest a servant as ever the Crown had.'



Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel, London



RAF Club London



View from Discovery Centre Roof Terrace, Royal Latin School

## Looking for a Big Challenge in 2020/2021?

What's on your bucket list? We're exploring the potential to get a team together for an exciting sponsored challenge this year, either in the UK or overseas.

So if you fancy climbing a peak or two, or taking part in a trek somewhere exotic, please get in touch and we'll let you know once we've found the perfect challenge, to see if you'd like to be part of our 2020/2021 adventure!

Get in touch with Jo Ballantine at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) to tell us what you think, and to be put on the waiting list for further challenge details.



## Getting Fit and Fundraising too

If you are in the mood for getting fit and healthy, having a target to aim for can always help!

We have been lucky enough to have our alumni take part in sponsored challenges which has made a real difference to our fundraising so we really hope we can gather the same support again this year! We have several places in sporting challenges this year that may be just the thing for you / your family:



### Run the Claydons - 7-mile run

25th April 2020 - Buckinghamshire



### Buckingham Half Marathon

17th May 2020, Buckingham



### Vitality London - 10k run through Central London

25th May - London



### 5km Color Rush Run

30th May 2020 - Milton Keynes



### Ride London - 100-mile sportive on traffic free roads

15-16 August - London



### Swim Serpentine - 1 or 2-mile Swim

Sept 2020 - Hyde Park, London

Please get in touch if you would like to sign up and we can send you more details on how to start fundraising:

[RLS600@royallatin.org](mailto:RLS600@royallatin.org)

You can also check our fundraising pages if you aren't so keen on taking part yourself this year but would like to offer your support: [www.justgiving.com/rls600](http://www.justgiving.com/rls600)

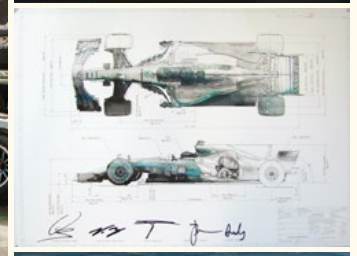
## Stay LinkedIn to the Alumni Network

Did you know that we have a group on LinkedIn, especially for Old Latins? It's a great way for us to share details of forthcoming events (especially those which provide good networking opportunities) and for us to get an overview of the broad range of occupations and careers amongst you all.

If you aren't already a member, please do join the group – just search for 'Royal Latin Grammar Alumni' and you should find it. You can also connect direct to Jo Ballantine, RLS Director of Development if you wish. Finally – have you added The Royal Latin as your school on your LinkedIn profile? We'd love you to! We hope that you are proud of your time at the school and of the reputation of the school today, and that you will want to share that with the world!



## Gala Dinner and Auction at Williams F1



I recently attended the RLS Gala Dinner and Auction at the Williams F1 HQ in Grove, on Friday 22nd November.



It was another amazing 600 Campaign event, with a spectacular drinks reception among the many Williams Heritage cars in the museum, followed by dinner, games and an inspirational talk by blind ultra-marathon runner Simon Wheatcroft.

It was so good to see a number of other alumni attend the event. As always we were made to feel so welcome and that our support was greatly appreciated. There was an incredible range of auction lots on offer to guests at the dinner as well as online bidders, including a Red Arrows experience, a silver Ganesha statue donated by Bernie Ecclestone, a Mercedes F1 factory tour package, and A day in the country with Jodie Kidd, to name just a few! I am pleased to hear that the auction raised just under £18,000, and am very much looking forward to the dinner at Brookfield House that I won in the auction as I will be sharing the dinner with others from my year. It will be a real trip down memory lane!



**Denise Griffiths (née Bone - Class of 1980)**

You can get a flavour of the event from the following video montage:  
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/1523579283>

## From the Archive

The sad news about Mr Buckingham (see page 7) prompted us to delve further into the history of the former RLS Canoe Club, and we were very grateful to have received copies of Ron Buckingham's records of canoeing adventures from his daughter, Jackie. An excerpt from the 1975 trip scrapbook is published here.

*Could you please send this back.*

**RLS**  
*No desperate heavy*  
**Canoe**  
**Venture**

A HUNDRED mile stretch of the River Wye became the focus for eight days of activity by the Royal Latin School Canoe Club.

A party of Canoe Club members set off for Glastonbury, where the canoeing was begun, at 6 a.m. last Sunday. The party consisted of Mr. R. Buckingham, teacher, seven pupils and Mr. D. Thomas who left the school last year but is a keen canoeist and was invited to join the party. *Glastonbury*

After setting out from Glastonbury in the afternoon, the first camp was set up near Hay, a few small rapids having been encountered on the way.

The second day involved the longest and hardest canoeing of the whole trip. The team covered a total of 18 miles in wintry weather, part of the way in a strong headwind. Wrecks of two canoes from previous trips were sighted and the team were glad to make camp - despite having to land, one at a time, on a near vertical bank, hauling fully loaded canoes up in a severe hail storm!

**TRICKY RAPID**

As this camp was just above Mannington Falls, a tricky rapid, the team had an exciting start to the next day. All went safely, however, and after lunch three boys raced ahead to Hereford to buy provisions.

That night they camped a few miles from Hereford in a field with some rather over curious cows who had to be kept at bay.

The fourth day brought the first capsize. Making a short detour up the River Lugg, the team found an interesting rapid where young John Buckingham capsized in an eddy and Dave Thomas broke a paddle.

Day five, and capsize number two which occurred when Guy Smith attempted a bow first launch into regrettably shallow water.

**PUB VENUE**

Camp that night was pitched on the lawn of a pub - a venue which pleased nearly everyone.

The next day brought an encounter with the Symonds Yat rapid - the biggest on the trip.

Ian Hopwood capsized while cutting into a big stopper for a second run. Mr. Buckingham was also a casualty on a return run.

However, despite losing half the breakfast eggs in the process, the team enjoyed this more than any other rapid. Dave Thomas displayed good turning skills; Guy Holden pounded down at high speed and Roger Marsh showed off by going down backwards.

Those members of the team who had capsized conspired heavily to ensure that the others should not escape such an invigorating experience.

100 miles and eight days from Glastonbury the trip ended at Chepstow. It had been exhausting but, by common assent, thoroughly enjoyable.

The complete team was: Mr. R. Buckingham, Mr. Dave Thomas, Charlie Allen, John Buckingham, Guy Holden, Ian Hopwood, Roger Marsh, Guy Smith and John Worth.



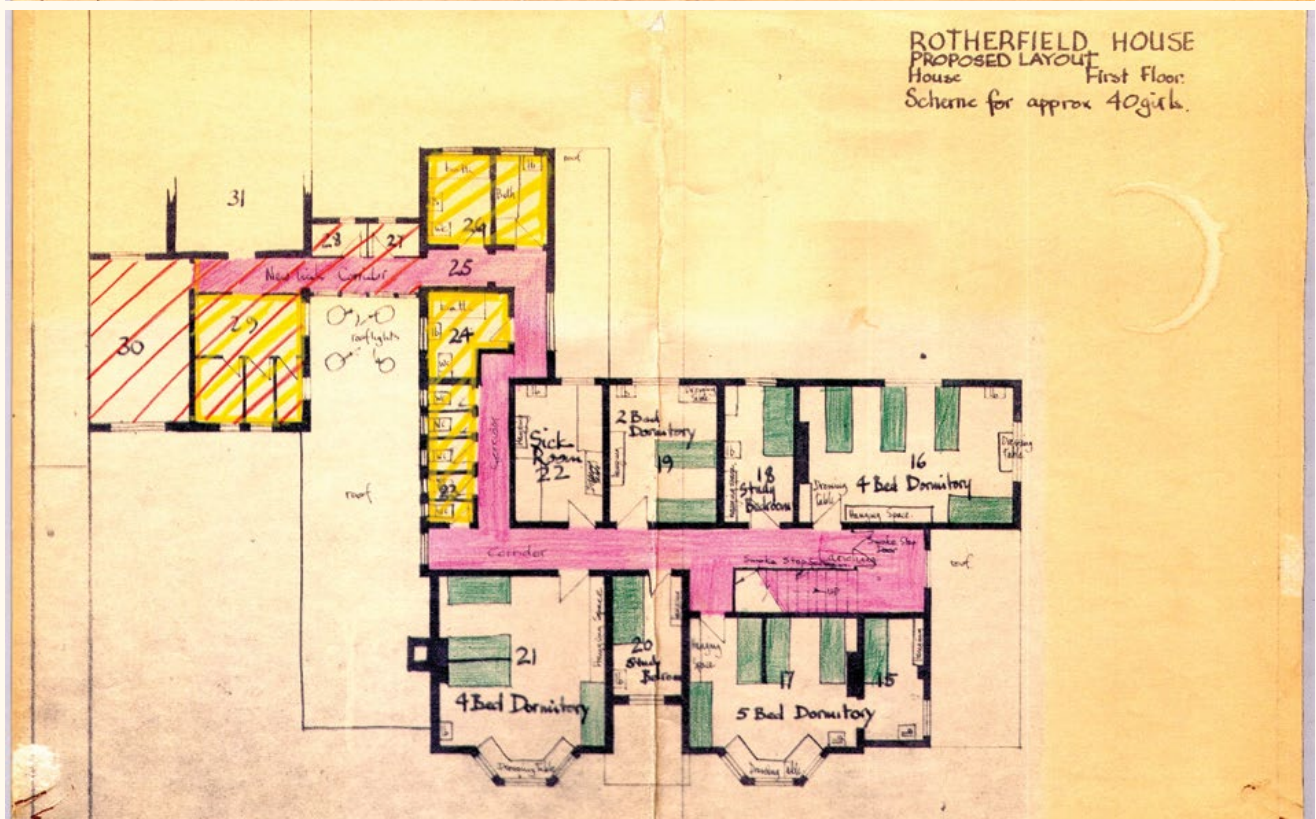
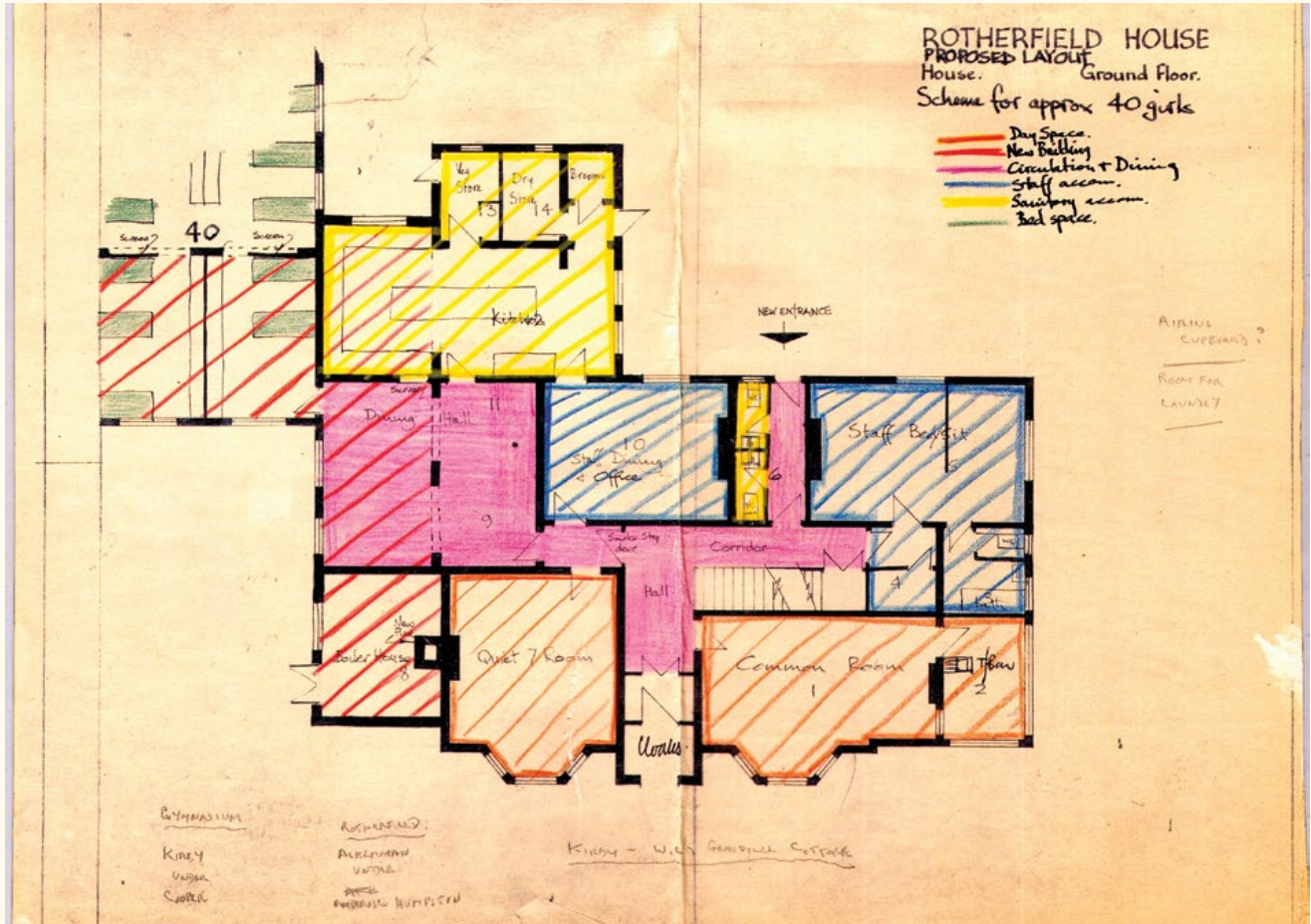
*John Guy Roger Ian Charlie Dave  
John Guy*



*Well, you'd feel tired after  
100 miles.  
!*



We recently came across a pile of 1960s architects' plans of Rotherfield, which we rescued from a dark corner underneath the main hall stage! These included the floorplans of the proposed new girls' boarding facilities. We're sure that any former girl boarder readers of this issue, in particular, will find these stir a few memories!



## Old Latin match funds student fundraising efforts



Bernard Garbe (centre, alongside Headteacher, David Hudson) with students and staff

Our students are busy planning their own events to raise funds for the Sports Campus, and we are delighted that Old Latin Bernard Garbe, who joined the school in 1964, has offered to match fund the first £10,000 that the students raise.

Bernard, Chairman of Maids Moreton-based Vitalograph, visited school to announce his donation to students and share memories of his time at the Royal Latin. Bernard, who has previously donated equipment and contributed to the school's Discovery Centre, said:

*I wanted to support the Sports Campus because I just want to give back to the community, and to schools in particular. Coming back to visit the Royal Latin always feels like coming home.*

One of the current RLS students posed a few questions of Bernard during the meeting at RLS, and the interview has been reproduced below:

### When were you a student at the Royal Latin School?

I came to the school in 1964 when the school was brand new. I started the day after the official opening by the Queen Mother!

### What was your favourite subject?

The subjects I was best at were English and Maths, but I first knew that I wanted to be an engineer when I found out that I loved making things that worked.

### What was different about when you were here compared to now?

The main difference in my day was the size of the school – there were only 300 pupils, and there were boarders. Also, I remember that lunches were quite a formal affair – with an older boy being head of a table, and the youngest on the table having to go and get all the food for their table.

### Were there any big changes/developments back then, like we have had in the Discovery Centre and Sports Campus?

The main fundraising drive when I was at school was to build the swimming pool. It was an outdoor, unheated pool (pretty cold!) and it's where I learnt to swim.

### When you left RLS, what did you do next?

I decided to leave school before A' levels and became an engineering apprentice with British Aerospace, where I worked my way up to be a project manager. Later I joined the family business (Vitalograph). I took over the company when I was 26 when my father died. I am now semi-retired and have handed the running of the business over to my children.

## **We're so grateful for your donation. What motivated you to donate the money to the Sports Campus?**

I wanted to give something back to community, and also retain the close link with the RLS that I have because not only did I attend the school, but my three children did also.

## **What does Vitalograph do, and if our students wanted a career in that sort of industry in future, what advice would you give them?**

We make cardio-respiratory diagnostic devices and other medical equipment. In terms of career advice, the main thing I would say is that if things don't work out the way you wanted to start with, there is still a way – I deferred my A' levels in favour of an apprenticeship, but then did get my qualifications later on – it's never too late.

## **Do you have any sporting hobbies yourself?**

I played rugby at Buckingham Rugby Club where I was captain of the 3rd team -I retired from rugby when I was 36. I also enjoy motorbiking, and when I was at school I used to do high jump, triple jump and shot put, and did those for Duke of Edinburgh.

David Hudson thanked Bernard and the students for their collaboration, saying: 'We are so grateful to Bernard for his long standing support of the school. It means a great deal to us and it's wonderful to see the students so inspired by his generosity and encouragement.' The students will embark on their 'Race to 600' – a challenge to every form to raise £600 – later this month. We'll report on their progress in the next edition!

We'd love another Old Latin to match fund the next £10,000 that the students raise! Please contact Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) if your company can help – thank you.

## Help inspire our future generations



The RLS will be holding its second 'Aspirations Evening' for Years 9-13 this Autumn, where students (and parents) have the opportunity to interact with employers from various sectors and attend presentations from key speakers and get inspiration for their future study or career plans.

It is especially impactful when our own alumni are able to represent their chosen career path and inspire our students about what could lie ahead of them. We would love to hear from any past students, in any sector, but particular this year we are in need of representatives from the creative industries such as publishing and journalism who would like to come along and impart their experiences. Please contact [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org).



# Get in Touch!

Editor: Lucy Beckett

Call: 01280 827306, e-mail: [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)

The Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX

## 2020 Calendar

**Wednesday, 29th April:** Sponsor Programme dinner at The Map Room, Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel, London

**Wednesday, 13th May:** Archive Open Day at RLS, 3pm

**Friday, 15th May:** Chafor Wine Estate tour and tasting for alumni, 7pm

**Thursday, 11th June:** Sponsor Programme drinks, Discovery Centre Rooftop, Royal Latin School

**Saturday, 13th June:** Class of 1980 reunion at RLS

**Friday, 26th June:** Founders' Day

**Tuesday, 14th July:** Sports Day

**Thursday, 15th October:** Sponsor Programme dinner at RAF Club, London

**Friday, 6th November:** Remembrance at RLS

**Tuesday, 15th December:** RLS Carol Service at Buckingham Parish Church



## Your details . . .

We hope that you will continue to enjoy hearing from us, and know that we will always keep your details secure and respect your wishes. If you would like to unsubscribe at any point, you can just email [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) or leave a message on 01280 827306 and we'll remove your details from our mailing list straight away. Our data protection policy and privacy notice is available to read via the alumni page on the school website at [www.royallatin.org/alumni](http://www.royallatin.org/alumni), so if you have any queries, please have a read of those or contact us and we'll be happy to answer. We're putting lots of energy into keeping in touch with you all, and we very much want to get it right!

## Planning a Reunion?

We are happy to help you make your reunion happen in 2020/2021. The tried and tested format for a reunion tends to consist of meeting at the RLS at 2pm on a Saturday for a gathering with refreshments (we are happy to provide complimentary tea and coffee, but would just ask that you provide anything further you might like to serve), followed by a tour of the school.

**Please contact Jo to arrange –**  
[jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)

**Helping the environment**  
All of our paper copies of *Latin Life* are now mailed out wrapped in polythene-free, compostable wrappers.



**Latin Life via Email**  
If you haven't already, please, please send us your email address! Electing to receive *Latin Life* by email will help us to minimise our costs and save trees!

## It's Your *Latin Life*





Please get in touch to share ideas for articles or let us know what you would like to see included in *Latin Life*.

We'd particularly like to be able to share your news – whether relating to career, family, leisure, travel or voluntary work – with other Old Latins, so get your thinking caps on and email [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) with your contributions!

## Alumni Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn



Please don't forget to follow us on social media. If you haven't yet joined, you can follow us on **Facebook at RLS Alumni**, on **Twitter @RLSAlumni** and **LinkedIn**.

<h3>1552</h3> <p>Old Latins receive Latin Life &amp; event news on email. Please email us at <a href="mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org">latinlife@royallatin.org</a> to add your email to our list and help reduce our postal costs!</p> 	<h3>519</h3> <p>Old Latins like our Facebook page for news, photos and the chance to share memories. Please search Facebook for <b>@rslalumni</b> and join in the conversation!</p> 	<h3>265</h3> <p>Old Latins are members of our group on LinkedIn and choose this as the preferred way to message us. Search for Royal Latin Grammar Alumni to join, or connect direct to Jo Ballantine</p> 	<h3>157</h3> <p>Old Latins follow us on Twitter for news and the chance to share Royal Latin stories with their wider network. Please follow us at <b>@rslalumni</b> and say hello!</p> 
---	---	---	--



We'd love to hear from you via any of these methods before the next edition of *Latin Life*, so next time you're online please take a moment to get in touch.

Thank you!