

Clocktower

Keeping alumni in touch with Ripon Grammar School and each other

Summer/Autumn 2014

Issue 6

Picture this

The former RGS boarder with a taste for adventure now capturing the world through his lens

Inside Westminster

RGS's political hopeful

Our students come out top

Plus, why a major football club came to RGS for advice



WWI: The RGS cricket team that went off to war - we remember those boys who didn't come back. Plus, a teenage soldier's moving letter from the Front



A letter from the Headmaster



Dear former students of Ripon Grammar School

A very warm welcome to this edition of the Clocktower and I hope you will enjoy reading it. I am very grateful to the editorial team for all their research and hard work.

It is heartening to see how successful former students of RGS are in the workplace and I really enjoy reading about your lives and achievements, including those of many students who were at RGS during my time as headmaster here. There is no doubt that a brilliant teacher can have a long-lasting and profound effect on a student and it is clear that RGS is blessed with many such teachers.

This magazine contains a number of articles to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War One. Many former students lost their lives in this conflict and it is humbling to read their letters to home. The stoicism and acceptance of such a difficult time in their lives is something which should inspire current and future generations.

I look forward to seeing many of you back at school in the future.

With best wishes,

Martin Pearman

EDITORIAL TEAM

Contact us on rgsconnect@ripongrammar.co.uk

Editor: Ruth Savage • Deputy editor: Nicola Woolfenden • Careers editor: Ian Pringle • Alumni news editor: Paul Heap • Design: Ruth Savage • Artworker: Suzanne Ryan.



■ **Anna Ferguson**, pictured right and, above, far right (left RGS 1996)

After graduating from Cambridge University with an MEng in electrical and information sciences, I went on to complete a PhD at Leeds University. After working in investment banking and management consultancy in London, I moved back North and retrained, gaining an MSc in electrical power systems through distance learning. I now work as a chartered electrical power systems consultant engineer in Manchester, with my work encompassing electricity regulation, technical strategy, power systems analysis, renewable energy (particularly onshore and offshore wind) and project management.

I live in the middle of the Pennines in West Yorkshire (it's good to be back in Yorkshire!) and am still involved in brass playing, as a cornet player with the Hepworth Brass Band based and as trumpet player with a Prince tribute band! I have good memories of music from my RGS days. The picture, above, is of 1st year prize giving in 1986. The others, from left to right are: Pippa Grenfell, Emma Christie, Charlotte Morgan, Claire Beer, David Ford, Catherine Hossain, Alex Porter, Rachel Rutter and me (maiden names - a couple are married and have changed their surnames). I would love to hear from school friends - I can be found on Facebook or contacted at anna_dalgety@hotmail.com.



■ **Hannah Lincoln**, pictured left today and as a schoolgirl (left RGS 2009)

I was a member of School House, Captain of the 1st XI in my upper sixth and after finishing my A-levels in French, geography and chemistry, I had a year out before going to university.

I'm currently in my final year at Newcastle University, studying combined honours in French, Chinese and business management. As part of my degree, I spent last year living in China, studying at a Chinese University on the island of Hainan. I'm a student mentor and ambassador for my degree and currently applying for a range of graduate jobs both in the UK and abroad.

Where

Have you ever wondered what ha



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Where are they now?

What happened to those old friends you lost touch with? **Paul Heap** finds out what some former RGS students are up to now

■ **Mark Flowers**, pictured below right (left RGS 1983)

After studying biology at Nottingham University I went on to work in TV, first as a researcher for the Private Life of Plants series with David Attenborough and later as director and producer, managing, writing and directing a range of natural history programmes for the BBC, including The Human Planet and Iceage Giants. I have recently completed a Gardeners' World series with Monty Don and am currently working as series producer on a new natural history series about the surprising wildlife and spectacular landscapes of New Zealand.

Looking back, RGS really opened up my future and gave me a chance I'd never have had otherwise. It taught me to try the best I could and strive for excellence. I keep in touch with many people in my year and recently we all got together to celebrate the life of Suzie Daish who tragically died, it was great to reconnect with so many old friends and look back through our time together at school and see where we have all ended up.

■ **Sean Wheatley**,

pictured right with his son Scott and bottles of juice from their own apple crop (left RGS 1989)

After graduating from Newcastle University in civil engineering, I moved to the States where I set up and ran three successful businesses.

I am now back in the UK with my 18-year-old son and we are working towards building our own eco-home and living a more sustainable, self-sufficient and simpler life in the Yorkshire Dales. I would love to hear from any old school friends. You can contact me on seanerroll@gmail.com



■ **Rebecca Russell**, pictured above with sons Ben and Alex and, left, while at school (left RGS 1996)

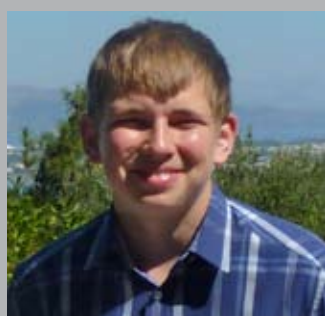
I read English literature and Latin at the University of St Andrews and was an enthusiastic member of the dramatic and debating societies. This involvement in debating paved the way to my first job as a graduate, as a features writer at the Dundee Courier and responsible for their annual schools' debating championship. After two years the call of North Yorkshire was too strong and I returned to live in Ripon, working for North Yorkshire Police, first in project management and eventually as internal communications manager. I married Andy in 2005 and began a career break in 2011 when our first son Ben was born; Alex followed in 2013.

■ **Alexandra Robinson**, pictured left, former head girl (left RGS 2009)

After leaving Ripon Grammar in 2009 I obtained a place to read chemistry at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. By the last year of my degree I realised that a laboratory based job was a career path I did not wish to take.

Alternatively I went into the world of men's fashion. I currently work as a tailor and account manager for Mullen and Mullen Bespoke tailoring.

My job is focused on London suit sales, where I have been lucky enough to gain access to such glamorous locations as the top of the gherkin and frequently find myself in the cloth merchants of Savile Row. Although a family company, we are expanding to New York in 2014, which is something I am heavily involved in. In the meantime I write a men's fashion blog for our website and I'm undertaking short courses at London College of Fashion. alexandrarobinson@hotmail.co.uk



Award winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Ogden (pictured right) who left RGS in 2012 to study Geophysics at Imperial College London and has just been awarded a prestigious scholarship with the Rio Tinto Mining Group. As well as being offered exciting international work placements through the company, Chris will receive £6,000 a year towards tuition fees during the next three years of his course.

WELL done to former student and computer programmer Mark Hills, a member of the visual effects team which won an Oscar for the film Gravity at the latest Academy Awards.

• Please contact Paul Heap on paulheap73@gmail.com with your news

Eliza Richardson works as a parliamentary assistant at the House of Commons. She talks to **Ruth Savage** about life inside the corridors of Westminster

In the thick of it

It was watching a TV documentary about former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that inspired Eliza Richardson to decide on a career in politics.

Then a 16-year-old student at Ripon Grammar School, Eliza, who now works as a parliamentary assistant in the House of Commons and has been approved as a Conservative candidate for the local elections, says: "I've always been interested in how the world works but, as clichéd as it sounds, it was watching that documentary that made me want to go into politics."

"I was deciding what A levels to take at the time and found Mrs Thatcher so inspiring as a person. Her career was phenomenal. She was one of the true conviction politicians and incredibly passionate about making her country a better place."

Now 23, Eliza, who left RGS in 2008, went on to study politics at Nottingham University before working at Westminster North Conservative Association as a political researcher and also chairman. One of her key roles was helping to plan and execute Boris Johnson's mayoral election campaign.

After a series of political research and campaigning internships and jobs, including being a caseworker for MP Rob Wilson, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, Eliza was offered the position of parliamentary assistant to Wellingborough MP Peter Bone, co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking.

Her work includes conducting research on her MP's areas of interest, writing speeches and briefings and dealing with correspondence while monitoring media coverage and Bills going through Parliament. She also attends parliamentary meetings with her boss.

"I generally assist my MP with his parliamentary duties, anything from briefing him before a media appearance to writing a speech for

a Bill he's proposing. An average day is 9am to 5.30pm but when it's busy in Parliament, much later," says Eliza.

"The biggest challenge of my job is how quickly important tasks sometimes need to be completed, the pressure can be quite intense. Politics is incredibly fast paced but then the flip side of that is that it makes it all the more exciting."

The most rewarding thing about it, says Eliza, is the fact she is working on issues that really affect the country: "And your boss has a direct say in what laws are passed. "I find working for a backbench MP who is scrutinising the Government is really interesting rather than a minister who can't speak out against any decisions."

It's great working with someone who really believes in what they're doing and has strong views. Parliament is quite a nice place to have an office as well," she says.

Her greatest triumph, she says, was writing a ten minute speech for

Peter's bill to introduce a Margaret Thatcher Day holiday: "It was at short notice and I'd never written a speech for Peter before and he needed it that afternoon. I was so worried he wouldn't like it but he said it was perfect, I was so relieved."

While it is a very competitive job to get into, with the right work experience and a bit of tenacity, Eliza says, it can be done.

She advises students who are interested to get involved in politics at a local level at school or university: "Gain campaigning experience or intern with a charity or think tank before applying for a job in Parliament."

Don't be put off by the competition, if it's what you really want to do just go for it, I can't think of a great career path that is easy to get onto," she says.

"I interned at a Conservative Association and then with an MP in Westminster before taking a job in a constituency office and then finally landing a job in Parliament with Peter Bone. "Ultimately I'd like



‘You're working on issues that really affect the country and your boss has a direct say in what laws are passed’

Favourite teacher:

*“That’s a hard one!
Dr Saunders
or Mrs Wright”*



'My greatest triumph was writing a last minute speech for a Bill to introduce a Margaret Thatcher Day holiday'

to work in political risk for an energy company or a bank. I'd still be researching political issues but I would like to move onto the private sector as prospects for career development are greater," she says.

She has happy memories of her time at RGS: "The most important lesson I learnt during my time at school was that there's nothing more satisfying than when you've really pushed yourself and all your hard work pays off. My teachers always pushed me and I'm so glad they did."

She loved chemistry at school: "I have a passion for science. I remember on A level results day being torn between changing my university course to chemistry or leaving it as politics. In the end I couldn't get through to any universities to change it, so I was left with politics," she says.

"I was inspired by a combination of great teachers and knowing that I was building a foundation for

future successes. I knew that no matter what I wanted to do, to be successful later in life I needed to work hard then and there."

If she met her 18-year-old self now, she says, she'd advise her not to be afraid to seek people out who are in the field you want to work in: "More often than not people are willing to give some time to talk to you about how to get started and what your options are in your chosen field. It will give you a much better idea of exactly what you want to do and give you a clear focus."

She feels the secret of success is a combination of hard work and being passionate about what you are doing: "You have to love what you do and the rest comes naturally. I love immersing myself in politics but I'd find it very difficult to work hard if I was doing something that my heart wasn't in."

Eliza, above, standing on the steps of Number Ten Downing Street and outside her office, far left

Student progress is best in country



Some of the RGS students who helped their school top the league tables for progress after GCSE

LAST year's high achieving A Level students at Ripon Grammar School have earned yet another accolade which now puts our school ahead of the rest of the country. RGS has come out on top nationally in level three league tables for the progress students made in the two years following their GCSEs. New government data shows that RGS scored 0.61, the highest figure in the country, for progress. The next best nationally is 0.57 while most good schools score an average of 0.31. This means that, at RGS, students predicted BBB for A level have ended up typically achieving grades of AAB.

RGS has also just won an award as one of the best in the country for progress up to GCSE. The school has been congratulated by the SSAT education body, which makes the awards, for exceptional achievement. "There is so much good practice this school could share," said a spokeswoman.

Top of the league



RGS pupil Chris Man, 18, talks to officials from Manchester City Football Club about boarding life

PREMIER league football club Manchester City is seeking advice from Ripon Grammar School as it helps shape the life of the next generation of elite footballers. Representatives of the club, which is developing a unique, world-class youth academy, recently visited RGS on a fact-finding mission. Within the MCFC development is boarding accommodation for around 40 young players and the Department for Education recommended club officials visit RGS, the only state boarding school in Yorkshire and the top performing state secondary school in the county at A level, to gather information.

Des Coffey, MCFC education and welfare consultant, explained: "We are trying to do as much research as possible in order to provide the very best opportunities. We came to Ripon with lots of questions." Nic Scott, head of safeguarding at the football club, added: "We will have a superb, modern facility that will provide a home from home for our boys. Ripon is a very happy ship, and if we can create some of that by finding out how they've achieved it, it's very useful to us."

JOB MARKET

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MY CAREER PATH

Alastair Da Costa left RGS in 1983. He studied history and economics at Essex University, before switching to Law at Leeds and going on to enjoy a successful career in corporate law. Now on a career break and studying part-time for a master's degree, he talks to **Dick Edwards** about his career path

Q: Having started out working for a major London legal practice, then returning to Leeds to work for global law firm DLA Piper, in 2007 you moved to Hong Kong to be DLA's MD for Asia Pacific, Middle East and emerging markets. What did you enjoy about corporate law?

A: DLA was the fastest growing law firm in the world and this gave me immense opportunities. The highlights have been the ability to travel extensively and to work with many different cultures. I would advise all young people to take any opportunity to live and work abroad.

Q: You are now studying for a master's degree in Development Management at LSE. Why the change?

A: I have always sought new challenges and I think we are now at a stage where many people will have at least three careers in their lifetime. I really enjoyed law, but I wanted to pursue other interests.

Returning from Hong Kong was an obvious point at which to make a change. My aim is to be involved with NGOs (non-governmental organisations) in the international development or education sectors once I have finished the master's degree.

Q: What advice would you give to students about to leave school and unsure what to do next?

A: It's important to do something you enjoy. I really enjoyed history, but my passion was to study law. Although it was quite daunting to change courses, I'm glad I did. I worked in London for a fashion company for eight months

'Many people will have at least three careers in their lifetime'

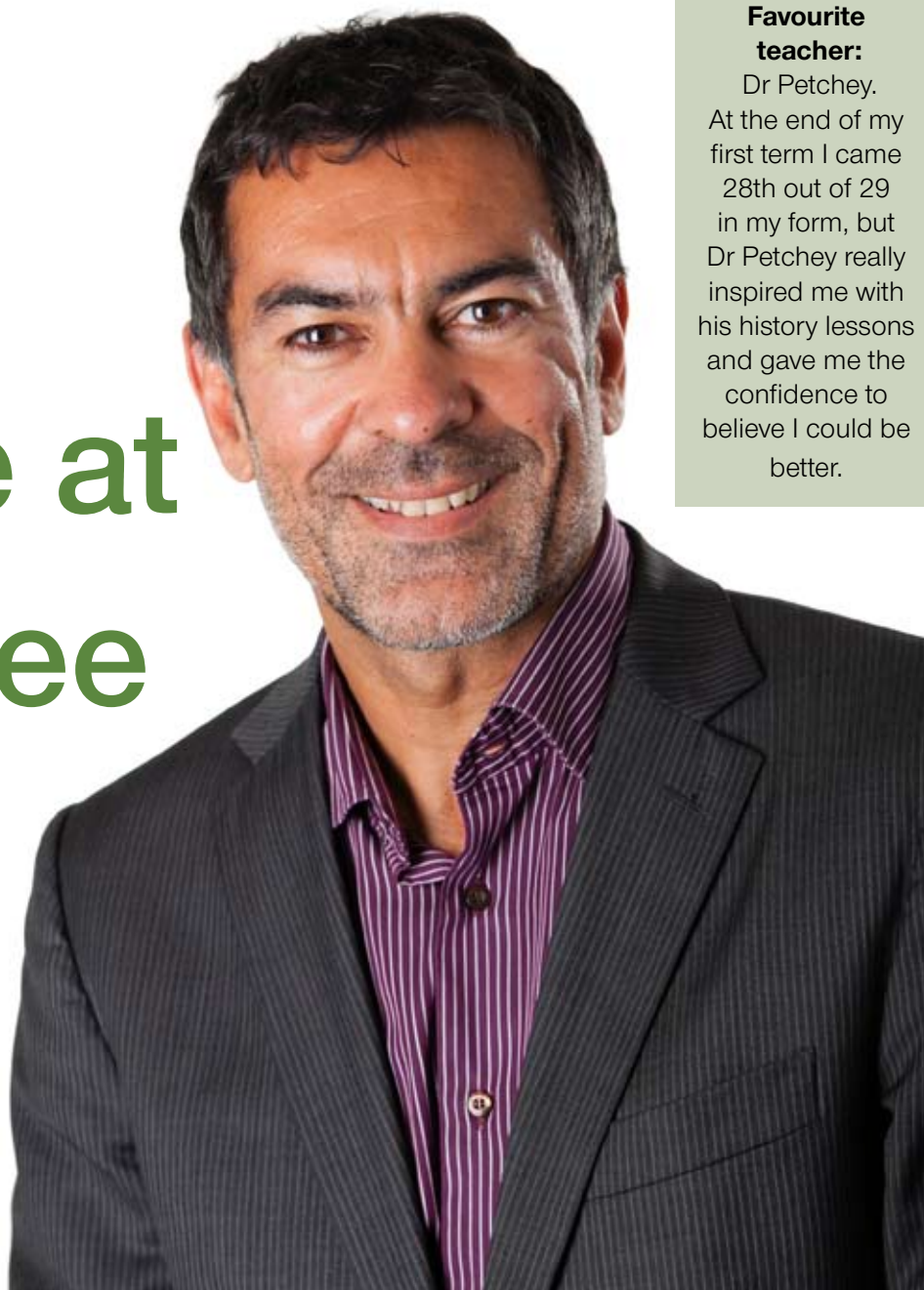
as part of a 'gap' year. I ended up working as a general administrative assistant/dogsbody in the showroom of a women's fashion group. It made me realise how much hard work goes into the basics of making, promoting and selling clothes and a lot of it is really not glamorous at all. While totally unplanned, it was a great first business experience for me.

I would advise students not to be afraid of getting involved with something that looks interesting; keep an active brain; always take

No More job for life

THE idea of having a career for life is over according to a recent survey which reveals people are likely to reinvent their careers at least twice during their working lives. Research by financial services company Scottish Widows found 27 per cent of people switch careers to pursue their passions. While people over 70 are likely to have had a 'job for life', more than one in four of today's working population will make big career changes to follow their enthusiasms. The optimum age for reinvention is 33, with 35 per cent of people making the switch because they are unhappy in their current job and 31 percent motivated by higher salaries.

e at ree



Favourite teacher:

Dr Petchey.

At the end of my first term I came 28th out of 29 in my form, but Dr Petchey really inspired me with his history lessons and gave me the confidence to believe I could be better.



A whole new world

Forensic Anthropologist Professor Caroline Wilkinson, who recreated the famous image of Richard III from remains found under a car park, has been using cutting edge computer technology to bring faces of the dead, from ancient Egyptians to Mary, Queen of Scots, to life for the past 20 years.

But she was at RGS before science and computing, combined with art, offered such exciting career opportunities. After taking science A levels and a degree in anatomy and physiology she went on to study scientific illustration at Blackpool Art College.

"In the Seventies and Eighties, we weren't encouraged to combine art and sciences. All that has changed."

Read her fascinating story in the next edition of the Clocktower.



Caroline's reconstruction of Richard III

your chances to learn when you move into a new environment; and have the confidence to believe in yourself -careers don't always go as planned but take the experiences you have gained and use them well.

Q: Are you involved with any bodies in a voluntary capacity at the moment?

A: Yes. In 2000, I helped found what is now Leeds and Partners, an organisation set up to promote investment in the city of Leeds. In 2011 I joined the board of City and Islington Further Education College, I am also on the board of the University of Sussex. It's a really interesting time to be involved with higher education. I also recently joined the board of the International Institute for Environment and Development, a research based NGO focusing on global sustainability and climate change policy.

Q: Having held the U14s North Yorkshire 800m athletics record, and also playing in the North Yorkshire U18s rugby team, sport was

obviously a big part of your life at school. Are you still involved in sport?

A: I am an athletics coach at Harrogate Harriers and the inspiration for this has been the developing interest in athletics of my youngest daughter. I also continue to run and race - often abroad, recently in Ethiopia.

Changing careers has allowed me to do things I enjoy and to put something back into the sporting community.

Q: How did you find your early days at RGS?

A: I had an inauspicious start. I joined in the 3rd year but the Headmaster wrote to my family to say he was pleased to offer me a place, but my maths score was barely adequate, so I had to spend the summer doing extra maths before starting.

• Send your career news to rgsconnect@ripongrammar.co.uk

Giving something back

OVER the past 20 years, around 200 students from Ripon Grammar School have gained valuable work experience at Ripon Community Link and its Walled Garden. Now the charity, which was established in 1990 to provide innovative support services for people with learning disabilities and continues to support over 60 adults within the community in learning, care, leisure and social enterprise, needs our support. Having been given notice to vacate its Palace Road site, Ripon Community Link now needs to raise about £40,000 to secure new premises. While some groups will use Community House in Ripon, the charity will also lease a bungalow in need of renovation on Church Lane for various activities.

If you can offer any help or support, please contact Louise Bowman, Project Manager, on 01765 607461 or email info@riponcommunitylink.org.uk Ripon Community Link, Community House, Sharow View, 75 Allhallowgate, Ripon HG4 1LE, Thank you.

The world through



As a boarder at Ripon Grammar School, Mark Read felt a sense of rootlessness which, he says, gave him a taste for adventure. From remote Siberian tribes living in one of the coldest inhabited places on Earth to Colombian cocaine farmers in the heat of the Amazon jungle, the internationally renowned documentary photographer has captured a stunning array of images through his camera lens over the past 20 years.

His work for publications including National Geographic and Time magazine has taken him to every corner of the planet, documenting the lives of child soldiers living in the wake of civil war in Sierra Leone, picturing firewalkers in Mauritius and Hindu pilgrims in the ancient Indian city of Varanasi.

A chance encounter with war correspondent John Pilger was an epiphany for former RGS boarder Mark Read, above.

Ruth Savage hears the acclaimed documentary photographer's fascinating story

The son of an RAF group captain, the 46-year-old father of two believes it is partly the feeling of 'not belonging' which drives him now: "Growing up in an Air Force family meant every three years we moved to a new home. Although this might seem disruptive, it instilled in me an adventurous streak and I've been restless ever since."

Now based in London, he says: "I feel jealous of 'proper' Yorkshire people, with the strong accent and real affinity with the place, it's a common thing with Forces children. But I really enjoyed boarding school life, there was great camaraderie, we were a tight knit bunch. It also made me very independent."

Read has spent six months of every year working abroad ever since he first came to prominence when, fresh out of photography college, he joined genetic anthropologist Dr Spencer Wells, travelling across the newly independent central Asian states of the Soviet Union to help chart the migration patterns of mankind, research which led to National Geographic's acclaimed Genographic Project. ➔



my lens



A holy man, or Sadhu, at the ancient city of Varanasi on the banks of the Ganges in India



'In Columbia, I photographed one family with £100,000 of cocaine on scales on their kitchen table'



Clockwise from top left: child soldier in Sierra Leone; a Bedouin in Petra, Jordan; Fargo, North Dakota; Columbian cocaine farmers; Read's picture of a female soldier on the cover of Time magazine; Fargo; wild tiger in Ranthambore National Park, India; one of the Kalash people of Chitral, northern Pakistan.



As he takes time out from his busy schedule to talk about his work - having just returned from Cambodia and about to set off for Cuba - he reflects on the path he took which led him from Ripon Grammar School to where he is today.

After A Levels he spent two years travelling in Australia and South-East Asia while deciding what to do with his life: "I was trying to find myself, I suppose."

It was a remarkable chance encounter with war correspondent John Pilger which first captured his imagination and encouraged his enthusiasm for documentary photography.

He stumbled across the legendary journalist at a party in Australia attended by a number of journalists who had reported on the Vietnam War. "John Pilger said something I will always remember: 'Journalism is the privilege of witnessing history.'"

"It was an epiphany. I was seduced by it all and I thought: 'This is what I want to do'."

As a teenager, Read had first started taking pictures with a small plastic camera during a road trip through the Southern States of America: "My first big outlet creatively came on my gap years. I took quite a few pictures and fell in love with the idea of travelling and stories and people."

Belatedly diagnosed with dyslexia in his twenties was revealing, he says: "It probably affected the way in which I learnt things. A lot of photographers and film makers have dyslexia. A lot of it is to do with the way the brain processes things."

Having taken sciences at A level, he confesses he wasn't academically minded: "My awakening didn't really happen at school."

His talent became obvious once he began studying photography at the London College of Printing in his early 20s. One of five students to win a coveted place working for Insight travel guides while still studying for his degree, he was soon combining his love of travel with his passion and sent on all-expenses-paid trips to photograph people and places all over the world.

"That was a really lucky break, but a baptism of fire too." While the others squabbled over getting to cover cities like Paris, Milan and Rome, Read gravitated towards more unusual locations. "It was 1992. I went for Prague and Budapest, where not many people were going. The Berlin wall had come down two years earlier, Prague was exploding, coming out of a dark period. Every city has its moment, I was lucky enough to be there."

He continued working for Insight after he graduated, while searching out projects that inspired him. He travelled to Columbia with the Catholic aid charity Cafod, where he lived with cocaine farmers in an area protected by Communist guerrillas. →



"I had been looking for a project in Latin America and before I knew it, I was paddling a canoe in the middle of the rainforest. I was given a horse and travelled for two weeks with a Jesuit priest, who visited these communities once a year to marry couples and bless the dead. I photographed one family, with £100,000 of cocaine being balanced on scales on their kitchen table in front of me."

His first big break came when he met Dr Wells, who was carrying out research into our human genetic roots, through a friend. Wells was about to set off on an expedition mapping the migration routes of mankind from 60,000 years ago, when man first ventured out of Africa, and Read immediately offered to join him as photographer.

The pair drove for six months from London to Siberia, through the Caucasus, Iran and most of the 'stans of central Asia. During the trip they collected blood samples and Read shot portraits of the most isolated, remote peoples on the planet.

The data they collected from these indigenous communities was invaluable in helping to answer fundamental questions about where humans originated and how we came to populate the Earth.

As a result, Read's first major photographic project after leaving college ended up in what he describes as the 'Holy Grail of photography', the National Geographic magazine, and was also made into a book: "I was lucky. I struck gold," he says.

He went on to work for a range of publications, including the Sunday Times, Telegraph and Guardian as well as for the BBC and Channel 4 and publishing companies Random House and Harper Collins. His photography illustrates bestselling books like Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Heaven and magazines such as Jamie Oliver's Jamie.

But it is his work on projects for charities in the developing world that he finds most rewarding.

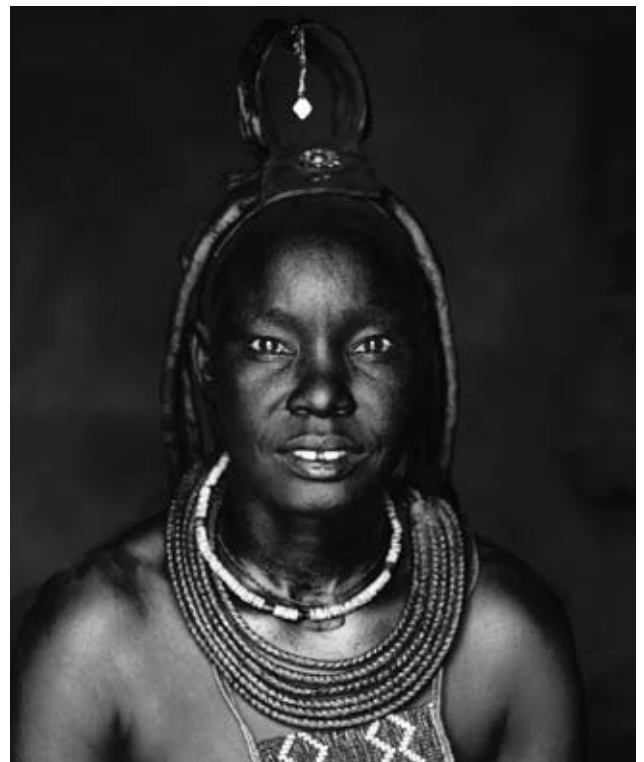
His favourite photographs are of a group of Siberian Chukchi Eskimos taken in challenging conditions in temperatures of -53: "We were inside the Arctic Circle, the closest you can get to the Bering Strait before it hits America. This small group of Eskimos walked across the ice 20,000 years ago and became the ancestors of the modern indigenous peoples of the Americas, including the Navajo, the Mayans and the Incas.

"I was in full Arctic gear. Two cameras broke because it was so cold. There were only three hours of daylight at that time of year and I wasn't sure I was going to get anything. But it was such a calm and beautiful setting, which belied the conditions.

"There was the most beautiful light, subtle blues and pinks, with the sun coming over the horizon. There were no trees or anything else around just this incredible frozen landscape. And these Siberian Chukchi in reindeer outfits, wearing →



*'My
the*



*work has allowed me to visit
every corner of the Earth'*



Alma mater: Read took this picture of RGS, bottom right, on his iPhone at a school reunion recently: 'I hadn't realised how imposing a building the school is. That really struck me.' Clockwise from top left: Baracoa, Cuba; a fisherman in Yangzhou, China, uses trained cormorants to catch fish - an ancient and dying tradition now only practised by a small number of elderly men; images from Namibia; RGS; a portrait of Turner prize-winning artist Grayson Perry for Art World; Chukchi reindeer herders in Siberia, Tasheena Black Kettle of the Blackfoot tribe in the Canadian Rockies.



‘These were really smart people, so calm, living in one of the coldest places on the planet’

the back legs as trousers and the front legs and back as jackets. Even the hats for the children still had the soft fur ears on them. These were really smart people, so calm, living in one of the coldest places on the planet.”

It is the most difficult jobs, he says, which are ultimately the most rewarding. He has had to make many sacrifices for his work: “I did about 14 overseas trips last year. It’s a dream job when you are a 25-year-old single person, but not when you are married with children.”

He misses garden designer wife Liberty Silver and daughters Delta Rae, 9, and Piper, 6, when he is away. “People imagine it’s like a holiday. But it’s hard work. I am up an hour before dawn trying to get the best possible light.”

Digital photography has taken some of the magic out of it all, he says: “It was more fun when you shot a film and didn’t know what you were going to get until you got to the lab. That was really magical.”

Although technically easier now, it is an expensive and highly competitive career: “You have to know what you want to say with your pictures. I would advise people not to do it for the money. You have really got to love it.”

And the one piece of advice he would give his 18-year-old self now is: “Don’t always do what is expected of you, there is a myriad of paths and you don’t need to decide at 18. Also, don’t take life too seriously, there’s so much time for that.”

Read, who recalls being particularly gregarious and sporty at school, is still in touch with many old friends, mainly former boarders, from RGS: “The most important thing I took from RGS was the friends I still have and the memories. I’m not sure they were the best days of my life but, for the most part, I had a blast.” ■

www.markreadphotography.co.uk

Frozen landscape:
a Chukchi reindeer
herder in Siberia.
Two of Read’s
cameras broke in
temperatures of -53

My favourite teacher: ‘Chris Horton taught English, the subject I was most interested in, and had a subtle approach. Sport, with Mr Locke and Andy Ebbage, was also a big part of my time at RGS’



An unfair innings: the boys, pictured with Headmaster C Swinton Bland, from top row, left, W N Wells, S Thompson, A Waite (master), F E Southwell (master), M H Thirlway, Hainstock, J S Morton, D Hamilton,. Second row: J G Dove, J E Tilston, J L Jameson, P Whitelock, S F Cartwright. Front: G E Reeve, C M Richardson, C H Ducksbury. There are no records of Hainstock. We know the others all went to war. Those with names underlined were killed in the conflict

From the cricket field to the battlefield

LOOKING more mature than their tender years would suggest, the boys in this 1913 RGS cricket team, resplendent in their whites and striped blazers, are pictured in front of the entrance to the boys' boarding house.

Like many students today, planning for the future, their faces glow with the hope and optimism of youth.

But a multitude of dreams were soon to be shattered. A year after this photograph was taken, Britain was at war and at least 15 out of the 16 boys in the team went off to fight. Five never returned.

They were among 48 of our former students and teachers killed in the conflict.

Information about the lives and deaths of the five young cricketers who were killed has been pieced together from both school and national archives by members of the Old Rips, RGS's former students' society, as part of a project to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The storm clouds of WW1 were gathering as the RGS cricket team posed for this photograph. One year later Britain was at war and 15 of the boys and masters pictured above went on to fight. Five, including one who wrote a letter to his school from the Front, never returned. **Ruth Savage** examines the latest research

Many moving stories of the heroism and sacrifice of the school's former pupils have emerged. That a third of those from the team who fought were killed and four out of five of the dead were officers perhaps reflects the wider experience of such young men, who suffered an extremely high casualty rate. The average life of a second lieutenant on the Western Front was said to be six weeks.

The 1913 picture shows the equivalent of today's RGS First cricket team, with most of the boys aged 17 and 18 when it was taken. The young masters photographed alongside them regularly

played for the school at this time, since RGS had fewer than 90 pupils in total. Head teacher Martin Pearman says: "That summer, the school team led by James Jameson played 13 matches, winning six, with James leading the batting averages. But the boys' and masters' wishes for their future were about to change."

Of the 287 former RGS pupils and teachers who fought in the First World War, just over 80pc, including many injured, returned home. The impact on such a small school community must have been immense. "This research into the cricket team is part of a tribute

to allow us all to remember the Fallen, both their lives at school and their war records," adds Mr Pearman.

One of the young cricketers was awarded the Military Cross. The research has also uncovered a remarkable letter, reprinted on page 20, which another wrote to school from the Front.

Samuel Cartwright, who writes from 'somewhere in France', tells how his job is to take the wounded out of the firing line to one of many casualty stations. "I can tell you it is pretty warm up there when the artillery are going and the racket of the guns is tremendous," he says.

Touchingly, he asks if he can be sent a copy of the school magazine, no doubt a welcome and reassuring reminder of home and the normality he left behind: "I should be awfully grateful," he says.

Samuel died in 1918, aged 22, after being severely wounded at the Front.

"The five young cricketers who died are remembered overleaf"



James Leslie Jameson

James, pictured above in 1910 aged 15, was the son of the Rev. Thomas E. Jameson, of Thornton-le-Dale, Pickering, Yorkshire.

A lieutenant in the 5th West Yorkshire Regiment, he was awarded the Military Cross.

James died, aged 20 years, on July 2, 1916 and is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial, The Somme, France (pictured below).

Mentions in the Riponian, RGS school magazine:

1912: Congratulations to Wells, Tilston, and Jameson, on their elevation to the dignities and privileges of Prefectdom.

The Scientific Society: The following papers presented: Colour photography (J. L. Jameson)
The alpha, beta, and gamma rays (Jameson)

Rugby: The school then drew level through tries gained by Mr. Waite and Mr. Southwell, both of which Jameson converted 'somewhat luckily' the ball grazing the cross-bar in each case.

Jameson was tackling well and the visiting three-quarters found it more expedient to kick over his head, and then beat him in the race for possession.

Hockey: Jameson (Half-back). Very clever with his stick, but should look where he passes more.

Leeds University 1914: James Jameson is playing for Leeds University at Hockey and Cricket, and has been chosen as vice-captain at the latter game for next season.



The five young cricketers from the 1913 RGS team are among 48 of our boys killed in the Great War. Members of the Old Rips RGS alumni society have been invited to visit the memorial.

The boys who were and didn't come home



John Edward Tilston

John, pictured above in 1912 aged 16, was the son of Mrs Tilston, 84 Springkell Avenue, Maxwell Park, Pollokshields, Glasgow

A Second Lieutenant in the 154th Company, Machine Gun Corps, John was killed in action on April 23, 1917, aged 20 years and is commemorated at the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France (pictured below)

Mentions in the Riponian, RGS school magazine:

HENRY IV: The Travellers played by Tilston, Gill and Hamilton

Rugby: Against Leeds Grammar; Tilston tackling splendidly.

Congratulations: to Tilston, Wells and Jameson, on their elevation to the dignities and privileges of Prefectdom.



Samuel Francis Cartwright

Samuel, pictured right in 1911 aged 15, was the son of Samuel and Alice Cartwright, of 20, Otley Rd., Harrogate.

A Captain, 3rd Battalion attached to 6th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, who served originally with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Afterwards, taking a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery, he returned to the Front after being wounded but was severely wounded again in the late fighting of October 1918. He died of his wounds on Tuesday, November 5, 1918, aged 22. He is buried at the British Cemetery in Sebourg, France (pictured below)

Mentions in the Riponian, RGS school magazine:

The Scientific Society: The opening meeting of the session was held on Thursday, November 13th, when S. F. Cartwright read a paper on "Enzymes," fully describing fermentation and enzymatic reactions.

Rugby: Cartwright has had heavy work at back, and though undoubtedly our best full back, has had his hands too full.

Cricket: Cartwright is as steady as last season, but has devoted himself rather to the bat, with good results.

He plays a clean, steady game, and shows up well on a good wicket. His two innings against Newby were very valuable, and redeemed the side from disaster.





Our former students and teachers have been researching their stories

nt to war e back



John Stanley Morton

John, left, son of John R. and S. Morton, of Leeming Lane Farm, Sinderby, Thirsk, Yorks, was a rifleman in the King's Royal Rifle Corps att'd. London Regiment (City of London Rifles).

Reported wounded in 1916, he died on August 28, 1918, aged 22 years and is commemorated at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France (pictured right)

Mentions in the Riponian, RGS school magazine:

Rugby: De Grey for whom defeat now seemed certain, played most spiritedly, and Morton, after a splendid run, scored.

Morton shows promise, and should be good next year.

Cricket: Then at 54 three wickets fell, and a struggle for runs began against the bowling of Morton and Trevor.

With seven wickets down only two runs were required, but Morton then finished off the innings in sensational style with the 'hat trick'.



Frederick Edmund Granville Southwell

Frederick, pictured right in 1914, aged 24, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Southwell, of 93, Queen St., Filey, Yorkshire, and was Classics master at RGS from 1910-1914.

A Lieutenant in the East Yorkshire Regiment 4th Battalion, Frederick was killed in action on April 10, 1917, aged 27 years.

Educated at Elstow Bedfordshire & St Catharine's College Cambridge, he is buried at Duisans, Pas de Calais, France (pictured below right).

Mentions in the Riponian, RGS school magazine:

Mr. Southwell, of St. Cath's. College Cambridge, to whom we extend a hearty welcome. As a chess blue, and one who has in addition represented his college at every game of the outdoor variety, he has naturally proved a great acquisition to the School football and we can safely anticipate equal prowess from him on the hockey field next term.

We are pleased to note the continued successes of Riponians in the Hockey world.



Mr. Southwell has also played both in the 2nd and 1st Yorkshire teams.

Mr. Southwell made his debut by giving an amusing reading from Mark Twain's "Yankee at the Court of King Arthur," and responded to the enthusiastic encore by telling a Scottish yarn in irresistible style.

We note with regret the departure of Mr. F. E. G. Southwell. Mr. Southwell has been a great supporter of the games and will be much missed in all departments of school life.

Our heartiest wishes for his future success at Hymer's College go with him.

We must add a personal note as regards our periodical, whose dull pages he has helped so much to brighten with his pithy poems, and his many contributions to the "Slips" column.



Read Samuel's moving letter from the Front on page 20

- More stories of heroism and sacrifice in the next edition of Clocktower



The Fallen: circled, from top row, l to r: Frederick, John M, John T, James and Samuel

‘They hammered us, of course...’

Old Rips v RGS students (netball)

IN recent years the Old Riponians’ Netball Match has become an important fixture in the diary. The youngest Old Rips in our team were Fionnuala Morris and Amy Ellerker who are in their second year at university and the eldest was, well, me!

Super netballer, Joanna Stevenson (Marston) played centre and, with Suzanne Rickard (Gatford) and Tessa Rich in defence and Nicola Stubbs on the wing, I was confident of yet another victory against the girls. How wrong could I be?

Ripon Grammar School’s netball teams have benefited massively from having local netball club, Ripon Rockets, coaching many of the girls on a Saturday afternoon.

The standard of school netball has risen exponentially and more and more girls are coming to practice simply because they enjoy this fast and skilful game.

The girls we played against were a mix of year 10 and year 11 netballers and quite by chance were brilliant defenders, superb shooters and excellent centre court players. Can you get a sense of what’s to come?

They hammered us! The final score was 34 - 17 so, effectively, they were twice as good as us, but then our average age was twice as much as theirs at least! (sighs deeply).

However, on the plus side, I win either way. If Old Rips had won the match I would be a victorious player. As the girls won the match, I am a victorious coach. Job done.

As ever, the match was played in a good-natured and friendly manner with only the Old Rips being overly competitive!

Enormous thanks to the girls who gave up their afternoon - Sarah Reed, Philippa Reynolds, Emma Hope, Saffy Dean-Stone, Alannah Mansfield, Alex Halshaw and Emily Morrell and a special thank you to Ripon Rockets coach Debbie Reed for umpiring on the day.

Next year I shall choose a B team of year 7s to play against...

Helen Mackenzie
Oldest Riponian



100 years after the ou
and past pupils, thankf
Mackenzie and Han



Looking hopeful: the Old Rip netball players before their encounter with the youngsters



Old Rips v RGS students (football)

IT was 2013’s turn to experience the event which brings back the likes of ex-head boys, university freshers and over-worked employees, all in the name of beating the current grammar school boys at a game of football.

A sideline of well wrapped-up spectators witnessed the highly populated Old Riponians’ team, featuring more than 23 young men, fall behind 3-0 as the young Rips - with only one sub - were quietly confident and shrewd with their attacks.



Jack’s a record breaker

FORMER RGS student and Olympic diver Jack Laugher celebrated his 19th birthday recently by breaking the British 1m springboard record at the British National Championships in Southend.

He went on to claim the 3m springboard crown two days later, beating rival Tom Daley to win the title for the third time in a row. After securing a bronze medal in the 3m springboard synchronised event, he has surely established himself as one of the world’s best springboard divers this year. Hopes are high now that he will win medals at the Commonwealth Games later this year.

Never dropping under the 60-point mark in any of his dives at the British Gas National Cup competition, his 1m dives culminated in a British Record score of 445.10.



Jubilant: David Marsden and friends celebrate victory for the Old Rips

break of the First World War, today's students fully, live in happier times. **Toby Kinread, Helen Hannah Hale** report on a recent sporting reunion



Team spirit: so many Old Rips turned up to play football, the team was oversubscribed by ten players.

However, sheer determination and unwillingness to be embarrassed caused a late surge from the Old Rips, starting with a goal from Jack Newsome followed by a missed-but-scored-on-the-rebound penalty from Peter Marsden.

In the dying moments, an equaliser from David Bradley took the game to a penalty shootout, which was rather less impressive than the pile-on which followed for the winning team.

Glenn May's confidence on the rugby field was unfortunately not channelled into his penalty taking,

but thankfully for the Old Rips, Jonny Frank and Drew Johnstone tucked away their penalties.

Charlie Savage was a force to be reckoned with in goal for the Old Rips and the young Rips were unable to convert any of their penalties, allowing the Old Rips win the shootout 2-0 and take the highly-coveted accolade of 'Old Riponians' Day Football Match Champions 2013'.

There's always next year, youngsters.

Toby Kinread
Old Riponian



On their way to victory: the Old Rips hockey team at half time

'A well fought game and as much fun as ever'

Old Rips v RGS students (hockey)

THE Old Riponians' hockey match of 2013 was as much fun as ever.

There was a good turnout of Old Rips girls, ranging from the generation of the 1992 North Yorkshire champions to last year's Sixth Form.

The match began in quite an eventful manner with one of the Old Rips dislocating her shoulder after a nasty fall. Thankfully she managed to pop it back into place after walking off the pitch with a smile despite the great pain she must have been feeling! It was a well-fought game from both sides with a particularly memorable strike from Emily Ramsden of the current RGS first XI and a great run from Carolyn Allen of the Old Rips.

Although the team may not have reached Miss Bottomley's 'magic number 6', the Old Rips triumphed with a 5-2 victory.

Thanks go to all whom attended, playing and spectating. The standard has been set for next year!

Hannah Hale
Old Riponian



Thank you, Jenny

OUTGOING Old Rips RGS alumni president and former deputy head Jenny Bellamy was presented with an engraved fountain pen and bouquet at the recent AGM.

New president, former student Nicola Woolfenden, who left RGS in 1985, said: "Jenny has been a passionate supporter of the Old Rips, working tirelessly to support the school and the association over many years. The Old Rips would like to thank Jenny for the splendid contributions she has made during this time and we look forward to building on the good work which she leaves behind".

This 19-year-old soldier and former member of the RGS cricket team is writing to his old school from the heat of the battle. Samuel Francis Cartwright died on Tuesday November 5, 1918, aged 22, after being severely wounded at the Front

Samuel's letter from the trenches



Samuel's letter to Ripon Grammar School, written in the summer of 1915:

"Somewhere in France"

You will no doubt be wondering how we are going on here; though I daresay Barnie (i.e., Capt. Bland) will be giving you some glorious accounts of their life here. It is just over three months now since we landed, and in that time we have wandered about a good deal. Our work is to get the wounded out of the firing-line down to one of the casualty clearing stations (such as Evans is at), and they transfer them down to the base.

Up to the present time, when we are working at full speed, we have had slack times and stiff times, but now we have been moved to another portion of the Front, and are getting it pretty hot. I will try to give you some idea of how we are working, as no doubt it will be interesting to you. Well, the majority of the bearers are either working in the trenches, clearing to the two dressing stations, or else in -the dressing stations themselves. These are really the first places of shelter for the wounded, and are usually small farms or buildings, where the injured are taken, and there they are looked after by our men, until the motor ambulance arrives ready to convey them further back, perhaps three or four miles to a field hospital. Here they have their wounds treated thoroughly and minor operations are performed if necessary.

The Motor Convoy (often run by the Red Cross Society) clears from the field hospital to the nearest clearing station. We, however, are running a small hospital for convalescent wounded, and sick; they have beds in a large barn, cleared of straw, and in fact barns are used very frequently as hospitals, although our field hospital consists of two long sheds, and this is where I am at present.

My duty is to go up with one of the motor ambulances to bring back casualties from the dressing stations, and I can tell you it is pretty warm up there when the artillery are going, and the racket of the guns is tremendous.

I met Evans twice, but I am afraid we have left him now many miles away. He was looking very fit, but was rather bored as they hadn't shifted from one place for over three months, and I believe they are there yet. I have also seen Barnie at odd times. He looked very fit the last time I saw him. If you could scrape through a "Riponian" I should be awfully grateful.

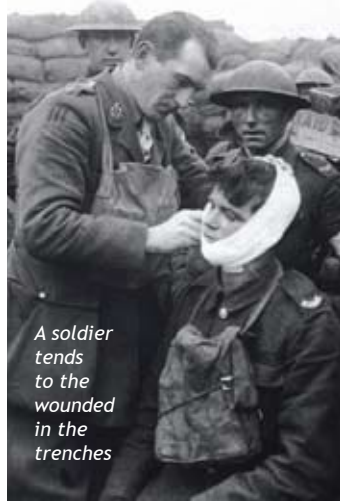
Well! I must ring off now, and prepare for the toils of the night.

Yours very sincerely,

S. F. CARTWRIGHT (O.R.), R.A.M.C.



'We are getting it pretty hot. The racket of the guns is tremendous'



A soldier tends to the wounded in the trenches



Lone soldier on the battlefields. Top, Battle of the Somme