



# The Rosarian Recorder

Issue No: 01



It is with great pleasure I introduce our first newsletter since the Rosarians Committee merged with Ricky School with the aim to keep in closer contact with former students, staff parents and friends.

I last wrote to you explaining this merger and I am glad you returned our post / email by confirming your wish to remain as part of the new Rosarians.

This summer we are planning a reunion lunch on Saturday 27 June at 12.30 – 3.00 pm. This is an opportunity for you to see the developments at Ricky and meet old friends and staff. Information on this event, including an automatic reply, is on the email this newsletter was attached to.

We will soon be including an Alumni section on our website where you will be able to access information on future events and other activities going on in the school. Our Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Martina Thompson, will be overseeing this and responding to any enquiries you may have.

Just last month we had our annual skiing visit to Italy. All students and staff had a great time and you will be pleased to know Ricky students were commended on their conduct.



I am certain there are some of you out there who also have great memories of your skiing visits. Please send us some pictures and let us know your highlights.

Also in February we were treated to a fantastic evening of Dance from our students, much of it also including their examination pieces. Only last week our students were taking part in the Rock Challenge in Stevenage and among the many presentations given to Ricky students, we were given a specific award for our long participation over the years at Rock Challenge.



There must be many of you with pictures and memories of the event. Please do let us know and show us. In the summer we hope to have a memory board in which we can share these pictures (along with any others you have of any era in the School's history) and ultimately put these on the website for you to share.

January saw Rickmansworth School participate in a number of Holocaust memorial events. The first of these was the Hertfordshire Schools' Holocaust Memorial which was held at St Joan of Arc School. Rickmansworth students participated in the memorial events narrating and performing a poem with Ricky Park Primary School. The second was when Year 9 students travelled to Poland to visit Auschwitz. I am sure you will recall this year is 70 years since the camp's liberation and has been covered extensively on the news.

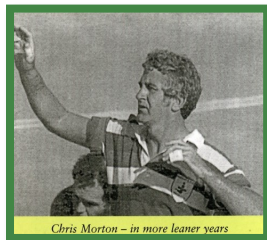
During this spring term we have seen our GCSE results place us with the top schools nationally and in Hertfordshire. At A level our results are in the top 5% of schools, and therefore it will be no surprise to anyone to learn that we have had record numbers of external applicants trying to get into Rickmansworth School. Earlier this month we received a letter from David Laws MP congratulating staff, governors and students for their hard work.

I look forward to hearing your stories of the School's past, seeing your photos and meeting you on 27 June 2015 at 12.30 pm.

Yours sincerely

K Douglas, Headteacher

## Where are they now?



**Chris Morton – founder student at the School in 1953 and recently retired Chairman of the ROSARIANS.**

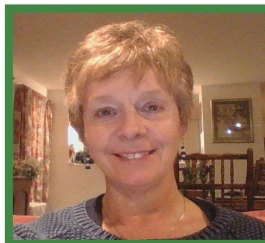
Chris Morton was a student in the School's founding intake in 1953, where because the new Scots Hill premises were running behind in construction their first year was spent every weekday being transported by buses to Oxhey to lodge at the new Clarendon School. In 1954 the new Scots Hill premises were complete and Rickmansworth Grammar School became an entity in its own right.

Chris remained a student at Scots Hill until 1960 when after a full seven years of both academic and sporting activity – representing the county and school at Athletics Cross Country and school at Rugby & Basketball - he left to embark on a military career, firstly entering the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, being commissioned in 1962 as an officer in the British Army, and from then on leading a very busy life taking in a spell of active service in the Middle East in Aden in the mid 1960's and three years seconded to the Royal Marines in the 1970's.

In 1980 Chris retired from the Army and took up a post in the rank of Lt Cdr in the Royal Oman Navy, remaining there for the next six years. He moved to South Africa in 1990 where he took up a post with the Rugby Union on their township development programme, finally returning to the UK in 2001 where he has settled down to a less hectic life in Worcestershire.

It was from this that Chris became involved with the school again, firstly by joining the Old School Students Association – The Rosarians – then becoming Chairman before finally retiring from the Committee into a quieter life early in 2015, but at the same time still maintaining contact with both the School and the Rosarians.

As the retiring Rosarian's Chairman Chris passes on his best wishes and good luck to both current and future Rosarians – and will hopefully meet up with former comrades at future functions.



**Helen Hunt - Teacher (also known as Miss Richards until 1984 at Rickmansworth School)**

Helen taught Biology from 1977 - 1990. Some highlights of her years at Rickmansworth include the following: 12 years or so of sailing summer holiday trips to Oby on the Norfolk Broads. This was led by Dr Ken Smith, with about 15 - 18 students for a week of camping and sailing. Playing in the school orchestra (under Chris Weaver) and accompanying it on numerous concert tours in Europe and Canada, as well as regular concerts in school. Being wardrobe mistress for numerous stage and musical productions, including HMS Pinafore, Oliver, The King and I, Beggars Opera, Importance of Being Earnest



**Kris Bhojwani—Student at the School until 2008**

After leaving Rickmansworth school in the summer of 2008 Kris moved to Guildford where he completed his BSc in astrophysics at the University of Surrey. Following this he undertook a masters course in physics at Imperial College. Determined to participate in nuclear fusion related research, he won a 4 year scholarship at the University of Oxford to enrol as a DPhil (Phd) student. He is currently in his third year and hopes to finish by October 2016. When not researching, Kris is an avid rugby fan and enjoys hiking.

Kris came back in 2014 as a speaker at our Prize Giving: "During my days at Rickmansworth school I never imagined that I would be given the chance to address the school, so speaking at the prize giving day was a huge honour. It gave me a platform to encourage the current students to challenge themselves, and it also provided me with an opportunity to reflect on my life so far. What struck me the most was how much the school had transformed. Staff members I knew had either moved on or changed positions and large investments in the school's infrastructure were being made e.g. the sports complex. I would highly recommend other members of the Rickmansworth school alumni to visit the school if given the opportunity to."

## Opportunities to assist with careers and work experience

With many articles in the press and media bemoaning the fact that students are leaving school or university without the all important 'employability skills' here at Rickmansworth we continue to buck the trend! We remain committed to offering work experience for students in Years 11 and 12, and run many careers related events during the school year to which we invite local employers and past students. Our aim is to ensure that all students leave School as well rounded individuals, with a comprehensive CV boasting not only academic achievements, but a host of personal and key skills that are so important to potential employers.

To give our students as many opportunities as possible, and access to a broad range of employment information, we are always on the lookout for willing volunteers to boost our work related learning resources!

If you are able to offer assistance in any of the following ways, please contact Mrs Pickford on [lpickford@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lpickford@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk), who will be more than happy to discuss with you potential ways in which we can work together for the benefit of the students.

**Work Experience Opportunities:** Would you be able to accommodate a student, either Y11 or Y12, in your organisation for a week of work experience? Companies should have a minimum of 5 employees to participate, but we are very flexible as to the roles students can fill.

**Career Talks:** Would you be willing to visit School to talk to students at one of our career events about your job, your experiences and qualifications? We arrange careers events from as young as Y9 when choosing GCSE options, to 6<sup>th</sup> form, when considering university and employment.

**Employability Skills Workshops:** Do you have the capacity to run an employability skills activity for a small number of students as part of our Key Skills development within School? This could be anything from interview technique skills, CV building, to practical teambuilding exercises. Perhaps this is something that could form part of your CPD, or community programme.

There would be minimal paperwork involved in any of the above, and we really do appreciate any time or expertise you can offer us. Please feel free to contact Mrs Pickford if you would like to discuss any potential areas in which you can help us further.

## Young Enterprise



Our two Young Enterprise Teams Amber (Year 10) and Additions (Year 12) continue to have great success. Both have finalised and are selling their products; well on their way to making a healthy profit—no mean feat in the current economic climate.

On 24 January, both companies participated in the Trade Fair held at the INTU shopping centre in Watford, where they had the great privilege of running market stalls alongside teams from other local schools. A tiring but worthwhile exercise selling to the general public, where they were able to develop many invaluable skills such as customer service, communication and teambuilding. Amber had great success with their family friendly 'pick & mix' recipe folders, and Additions drew much attention with their aluminium Oyster & Contactless Card protectors (a must have accessory for all the commuters amongst you!)



Amber also came away with the added bonus of a Young Enterprise Award on the day for Best Marketing. A real achievement, and both companies were a credit to the School.

Look out for both teams at the Guild Spring Fair in March.

If you are interested in talking to either team about their products, or know of an event at which they could sell, please contact them on the following links:

<http://amberrecipebook.wix.com/amberrecipebook>

 [additionsye@hotmail.com](mailto:additionsye@hotmail.com)

 [@additionsYE](https://twitter.com/additionsYE)

 [ambercustomerfeedback@gmail.com](mailto:ambercustomerfeedback@gmail.com)



## CAN YOU HELP?

Y12 HIGHER EDUCATION & BEYOND 6TH FORM

CONFERENCE

**TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2015**

This annual event is run for all Y12 students to explain the UCAS application process, and provide information on all the alternative opportunities available.

We invite ex-students, staff, universities, apprenticeship providers and employers to talk to students about their specific experiences.

- ***Do you have any advice to pass on to current 6th formers applying for university?***
- ***Could you talk to a small group of 6th formers about your career and what qualifications and skills you need?***
- ***Are you training or recently trained as an apprentice?***

We would love to hear from you if you could spare a few hours to attend this event.

For more details please contact Liz Pickford, Careers Dept, lpickford@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk

You are invited to  
A family day filled with fun

# SPRING FAIR

Saturday 28th March 2015

DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS GIFTS

JOIN US

RAFFLE CAKES CRAFTS

Y7 & Y8 STALLS

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA FUN GAMES

YEAR 7 SPORTS EVENT  
Come and support all the fun of the spring fair

11am - 2pm  
ALL Welcome

Rickmansworth School, Scots Hill, Rickmansworth

Raising funds for state of the art facilities and equipment throughout the School

RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL GUILD  
Registered Charity No. 211514

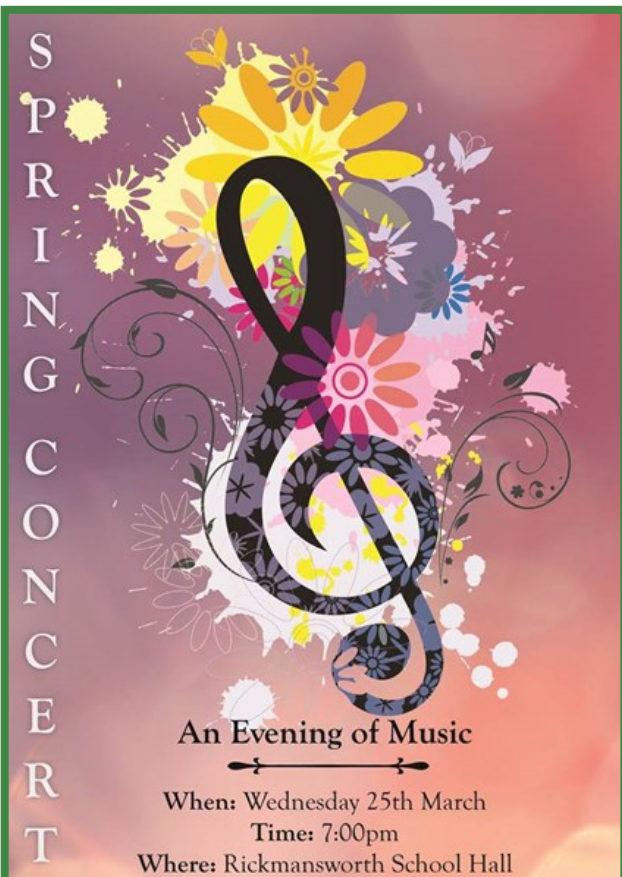


Rickmansworth School is working with the charity **futurefirst** to reach out to former students of the school. Alumni can help and advise our students in so many ways, from talking about your journey to where you are now, to acting as a mentor. For alumni, coming back to the school can be a fantastic opportunity to get in touch with old classmates and help give something back to the current students at the school.

If you haven't already, you can to be a part of our network by signing up at: <http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/rickmansworth> After you've joined up, we will send a few updates of our latest news. We'll also let you know about any forthcoming opportunities to get involved with us!

We always love hearing from our former students. Perhaps you have news or photos you would like to share, maybe you would like us to include a new event on our social calendar, or organise a re-union of your Year Group... please get in touch.

SPRING  
CONCERT



An Evening of Music

When: Wednesday 25th March  
Time: 7:00pm  
Where: Rickmansworth School Hall