ROEDEANIAN SOCIETY

The Roedeanian

Spring 2022

School News

Art workshop

F24 Electric Car

House Netball

Yellow and Blue for Ukraine

Alumnae News

Julia Wong Visit 2022

Class of '80 reunion, courtesy of Hilke Flebbe

Relatives of Ella Roechling (No. 2, 1905-10) Visit Roedean

Rosalind Copeland and Family visit Roedean

Introduction

The summer term is always one to look forward to with great excitement, and some trepidation for the girls. The sunny weather means more opportunities for us to all enjoy our wonderful site and it is great to hear the chatter and laughter of the girls enjoying their break times in the Front Quad through my office window. This year though also sees the return to public examinations after two years of teacher assessed grades. My very best wishes therefore go to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they sit their A Levels and GCSEs. They have shown incredible resilience over the two years of their courses, despite the very difficult circumstances, and so I am certain that we will see fantastic results in August.

As the Year 13s are now focussed on their exams, it is also the time of year when we welcome in the new prefect team. My congratulations go out to all of the girls (pictured on the right) on their appointment as prefects, and particularly to Sarah and Jemima on becoming our new Head Girls. I would also like to thank our outgoing prefects who have done a wonderful job of supporting our School community over the last year.

Looking beyond Roedean, it is devastating to see the continued war in Ukraine. As a school we are planning to support ten Ukrainian students whose families will be hosted by those in our community. We are looking forward to welcoming them to Roedean, and providing a safe haven for them when they are able to travel to the UK. Funding these places is incredibly important to us, as a continuation of Roedean's tradition of supporting those in need. We will soon be launching an appeal to help fund these bursaries, and to enable us to come together as a community to provide as much support as possible for those in need. If you would like more information about this, please contact Grace Chaston on glc@roedean.co.uk or 01273 667398.

The next month also sees an important date nationally, with the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The feature on pages 8 & 9 is a wonderful look back at the Royal visits we have been honoured to receive over Roedean's history, and our warmest congratulations and best wishes go to her majesty on this momentous occasion.

With best wishes

Oliver Blond
Headmaster

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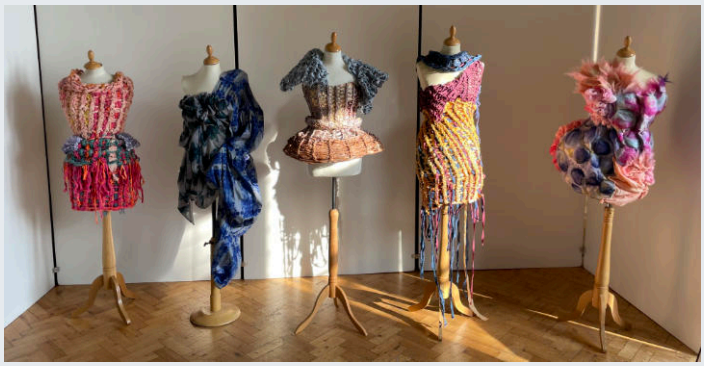
School Highlights



Year 12 Art Exhibition

The Year 12 students studying Art, Textiles and Photography, treated us to an incredible exhibition of their work at the end of the spring term. The work was the result of their projects along the theme of Light and Space and the standard was outstanding. The pieces demonstrated a fantastic range of skills such as oil painting, photography, bin-woven garments and screen printing and no two students work was alike. There was also exquisite canapés produced by the catering department which went down a treat with girls, staff and guests.

Romeo and Juliet

The Senior School's production of *Romeo and Juliet* was a fantastic display of their talent as performers. So many girls wanted to take on roles that we had two casts, who each performed twice.

The girls had originally auditioned for the roles 2 years ago, so it was wonderful to finally see them taking to the stage. Set in the Golden Age of Hollywood, the set was a gorgeous Art Deco inspired design, and the costumes were brilliantly designed by Niamh, Urara and Hebe.

This was our first major drama production since the pandemic hit, and the first in our newly refurbished theatre and the performance certainly lived up to our high expectations.

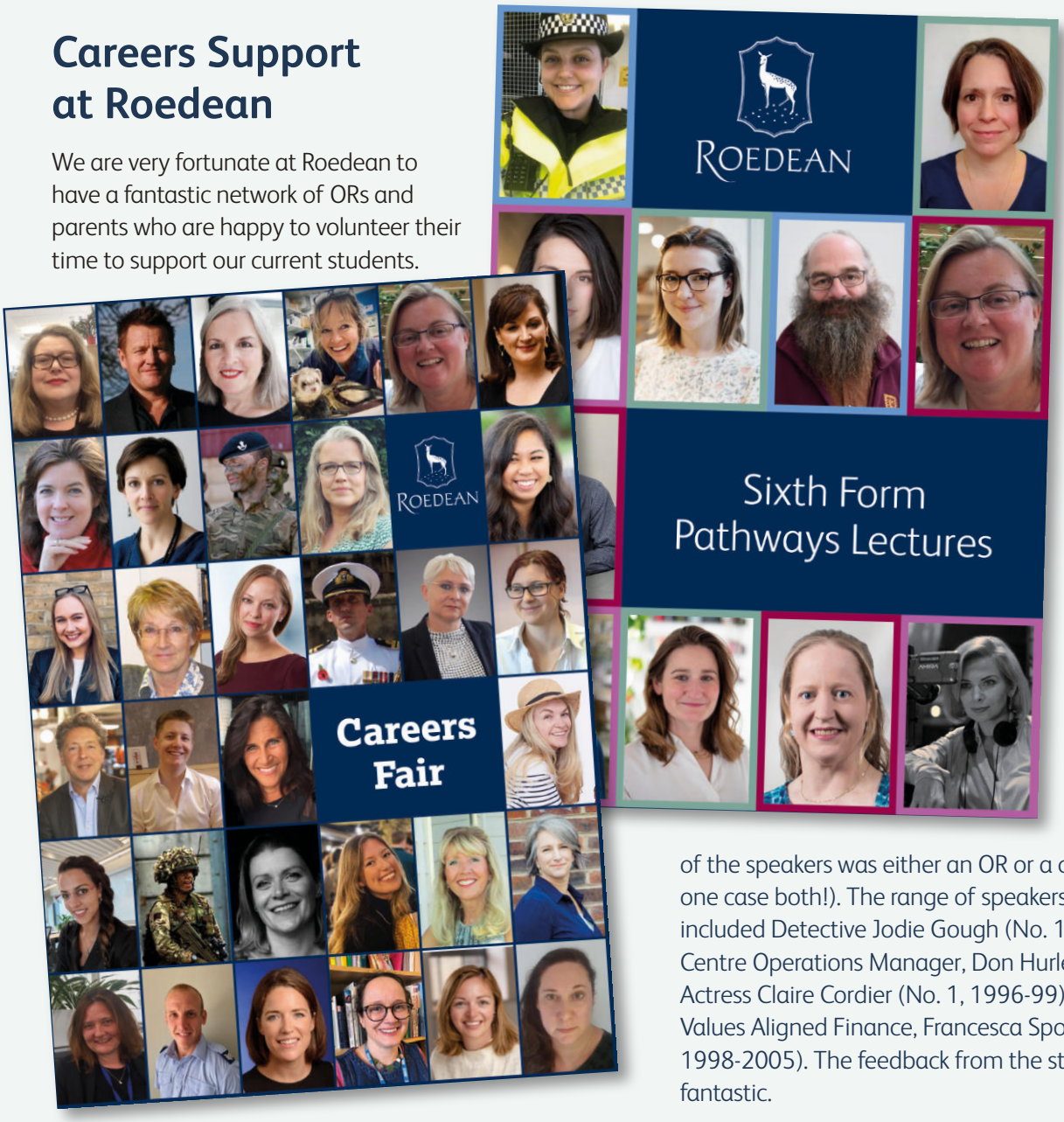
We are now looking forward to the production of *Matilda* in June, including a performance on Roedean Day. Tickets are available from roedeantheatre.co.uk.

Soma Sara *Everyone's Invited* talk

6th Form students and staff, were joined by students from Lancing College, Caterham School and Christ's Hospital for an excellent talk by Soma Sara, founder of the *Everyone's Invited* website. Soma spoke about the importance of raising awareness of what she called the 'societal endemic issue' of rape culture and sexual harassment in education. She launched the website in June 2020, after discovering through conversations with her peers that many had been through similar experiences at university. The audience engaged brilliantly with Soma's presentation, which sparked a series of excellent questions.

Careers Support at Roedean

We are very fortunate at Roedean to have a fantastic network of ORs and parents who are happy to volunteer their time to support our current students.



Virtual Careers Fair

We held our annual Careers Fair virtually for the second time, and one definite advantage of this format is that we aren't limited to speakers who can easily get to Brighton. This meant our speakers this year could include sustainability expert, Sarah Severn (Cobbett, No. 3, 1969-74) who spoke from her home in the USA. She was joined by 16 other ORs and 5 current parents, as well as several external contributors.

The fair was held across nine different 'rooms', covering a huge variety of different sectors such as Charity, Building and Construction, Finance and Business, and Creative, Film and TV. Being able to hear from those out in the 'real world' makes such a difference to our students as they start to think about which direction they want to go in after school, and everyone left with lots of food for thought.

Thank you to all of the parent and OR speakers at these events. If you are interested in offering careers support in the future, then please contact Grace Chaston on glc@roedean.co.uk.

Sixth Form Pathways Lectures

The Pathways Lectures are held over three Monday afternoons, and each week, the students choose to attend one of four talks, along the Pathways of Creative and Performing Arts, Society, Business and Economics, and STEM.

This year, all but one of the speakers was either an OR or a current parent (or in one case both!). The range of speakers was fantastic and included Detective Jodie Gough (No. 1, 2005-12), Brighton Centre Operations Manager, Don Hurley (current parent), Actress Claire Cordier (No. 1, 1996-99) and the Founder of Values Aligned Finance, Francesca Spoerry (No. 4, 1998-2005). The feedback from the students has been fantastic.

I attended a fascinating lecture from Lucy Mitchell (Hodges, No. 2, 2001-08) who is currently a technical writer at Pfizer, I found her talk extremely insightful and learnt a lot about the different pathways into STEM professions. She highlighted how it is ok to have many different careers and not know exactly what you want to do after leaving college, and also that it can actually be an advantage as it shows ability to adapt to change. It was also very interesting to learn about how ADHD has impacted her career and she emphasised that it is good to be on a different path and to not compare yourself to others. Her lecture was extremely interesting, and I gained a lot from it. **Maddie**

I found the pathways lecture to be really insightful. Firstly, the lecturer took similar A Levels to me so I could relate to her sixth form path. She took Spanish and told us how her Spanish degree and year in Spain played a role in her life which was interesting to me because I was considering the same thing. She has been in the industry a long time so she had a lot of tips to give us. Overall it was a really good lecture and I may consider digital marketing in the future since now I am more aware of her role and what it is like on a day to day basis. **Harmony**

Class of 1980 Reunion

Covid sadly put a stop to the Class of 1980's planned '40 Years On' reunion, but they were finally able to hold a '40+2' Years On Reunion earlier this year. With thanks to their Year Rep Pippa Alexander (Waide, No. 2, 1974-80):

We had a small, tight knit team organising the event, Claire Jenkins, Jeanine Josman & myself.

Our first task, was to try to locate members of our year so we could invite everyone to the reunion. This took several months believe it or not, but we managed to find almost 90% of us.

We decided to hold the event over 24 hours. Drinks in The Grand overlooking the sea front followed by Dinner in Browns Cafe/Restaurant (which held memories as an old haunt of many of us whilst at school) on Friday. Followed by a trip up to Roedean on Saturday for Lunch in the Old Reference Library followed by a tour of the school with current pupils being our tour guides.

Around 38 of our year attended (some just Friday evening, some just to visit the School but most for the whole event). Several of us travelled to the event from abroad (the USA, Switzerland & Germany to name a few).

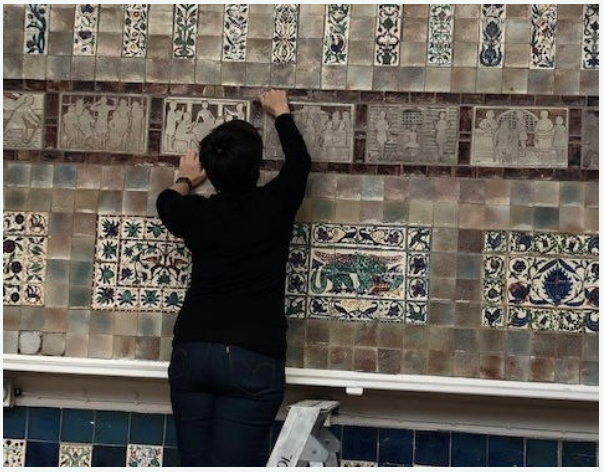
I can't tell you what a joyous time we all had. The generosity of heart that everyone turned up with was something to behold. I think it quite shocked us all how much we would enjoy meeting up again. 42 years on, it appears that we are wiser, kinder & genuinely interested in each other, unlike the complicated teenagers we once were. It was as if we were meeting the best version of each other. It was such a positive experience for us all that we now have a WhatsApp group with 49 of us on it. We have even organised another event in London in October and there is talk of maybe organising a Northern reunion.

I am glad to report the School is in fab shape. It combines the strange combination of being similar to the old school we frequented BUT it is now all beautifully & thoughtfully modernised. Colourful carpets where floor boards used to be, modern stylish furniture where old wooden desks/chairs used to be, together with elegant & comfortable common & drawing rooms etc. The facilities of course are now awesome; extended science labs, huge sports hall, fully equipped modern theatre, the list goes on. I think the only bit totally unchanged is The Chapel. But I have saved the best bit of news till the last, believe it or not the school is now toasty warm & the food that was served to us was both delicious & nutritious. If you do ever have the chance to return to Roedean School, I think we would all recommend it.

Just before I end, I would like to thank Grace Chaston & her team, they were so very helpful in bringing this event together for us all. I recommend that if you want to organise a reunion for your own year that you contact Grace as your first priority; I am very glad I did.

ORA Heritage Projects

Work has been continuing to assess the work required to restore and conserve the various heritage projects, and the ORA will be launching an appeal this summer to raise funds for these. You will only be sent fundraising details if you have 'opted in' to receive fundraising communications, so if you would like to, please email alumnae@roedean.co.uk to check your details are up to date. For updates and further information on the projects, please email heritage@oldroedeanians.co.uk.



OR vs Students Netball Match

On the first Saturday in May, 11 ORs from the Classes of 2016-21 returned to Roedean, with guests to cheer them on, to take on our current students on the netball court. With several of the ORs having not played since leaving Roedean, there was some nervousness, especially knowing that Roedean had won both the U13 and U15 National Plate this year! Although the victory went to the current girls, the OR team put up an excellent fight, with the final score being 28-16. The next match will be ORs vs Girls Hockey on September 3rd, and you can register to play or spectate on the Roedean Community Network.

OR Afternoon Tea

The OR Afternoon Tea was held at the Bailey's Hotel in Kensington this year, and was a wonderful afternoon. We were joined by 22 ORs from the 1950s to the 1980s for a delicious tea of finger sandwiches, cakes and scones, accompanied by a glass of champagne. There was so much chatter, that the staff had to subtly encourage us to leave well past the advertised finish time, and the remaining ORs chose to retire to the bar to continue catching up and reminiscing.

Nick Carter

(Whittington, No. 1, 1982-85)

Nick, works as an artist in collaboration with her husband under the name Rob and Nick Carter. This spring they are included in the Best of British Exhibition at the Maddox Gallery in Westbourne Grove, London. The works included in the exhibition are a selection from their Dark Factory Portraits and their Transforming series. The exhibition celebrates the lasting influence of the YBA movement. Amongst the artists included alongside Rob and Nick are David Hockney, Bridget Riley, Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst. The exhibition is open until the 19th June.

10 QUESTIONS WITH OR Catherine Tooke

(Phillips, No. 3, 1993-99)

This month we talked to Catherine about her career in retail and memories of summer at Roedean. You can read her interview here. https://shorturl.at/afP14

A Blue Plaque for OR Enid Marx

(No 1, 1916-21)

English Heritage have recently unveiled a new blue plaque in London to celebrate OR Enid Marx. The plaque has been placed at her former home in Islington, and ORA President Mary Henderson (No. 3, 1971-76), Roedean School Vice-President Ginny Stephen (de Trense, No. 3, 1954-60) and Sarah Curtis (Myers, No. 4, 1945-1953) were invited to the unveiling.

Enid is best known for her work designing the seat covers for London Transport. *"There was a very strict brief" she said "The seating needed to look fresh at all times, even after bricklayers had sat on it, so there was a camouflage problem. The design had to be bold but not dazzling because it was for a moving vehicle".* As well as this work, Enid also created book covers, illustrations and stamps, including those produced to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Enid is included in the *100 Roedeanians* book, copies of which are still available from Roedean.co.uk/shop.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 15 June 6 PM	**Governors' AGM** The Governors' AGM will be held at the Caledonian Club, 9a West Halkin Street, London, SW1X 7DR. To register to attend and to book a dinner ticket please go to: https://community.roedean.co.uk/event/governors-agm-and-dinner-2022. Dinner bookings will close on Friday 10 June.
Wednesday Saturday 22 - 25 June	**Matilda** Our main School production of the fantastic musical Matilda promises to be a spectacular performance. Tickets are available from www.roedeantheatre.co.uk.
Saturday 25 June 10 am - 3 pm	**Roedean Day** We are delighted that Roedean Day is back this year and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to Roedean again. All ORs and Former Staff are invited to attend, with partners and children welcome to join you. Booking is open now via https://community.roedean.co.uk/event/roedean-day-2022 and will close on Friday 17 June.
Saturday 23 July 1.30 - 7 pm	**OR Tennis Day** Join fellow ORs for an afternoon of tennis followed by a BBQ at the Roehampton Club, London. Players and spectators are welcome. Booking is via https://community.roedean.co.uk/event/or-tennis-2022.
Saturday 3 September TBC	**OR vs Student Hockey Match** Please email events@oldroedeanians.co.uk or book online at https://community.roedean.co.uk/event/or-vs-student-hockey-2022 if you would like to join the OR Hockey team, or if you would like to come as a spectator.
Friday 9 September 7 pm	**Young Roedeanians' Networking Evening** ORs under the age of 25 are invited to join Year 13 students for an opportunity to develop connections with ORs interested in similar areas to you, and to pick up career tips from OR Career Reps. Please email alumnae@roedean.co.uk to volunteer as a Career Rep.
Thursday 29 September 12 - 3 pm	**London Lunch** We look forward to welcoming you all to the Bluebird, Chelsea for the return of the London Lunch. Booking will open in July.

Royal Visits to Roedean

Although we sadly haven't ever been visited by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we have been honoured by visits by four members of her family during Roedean's history. To celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, we have taken a look back at these visits.

1935, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone

Princess Alice joined us in 1935 to celebrate the School's 50th Jubilee. To celebrate the jubilee, Speech Day was spread across three days in July, with the main event being Princess Alice presenting the prizes in a marquee. During her visit, Princess Alice shared an important message with the girls: *"Do not fear to aim high, but hitch your wagon to the stars"*. Advice that is as relevant now as it was 87 years ago.

After the ceremony, there was music conducted and arranged by Miss Holst, the daughter of Composer Gustav Holst and a visiting music teacher at Roedean at the time. The celebration also included tea, Greek Dancing by 130 girls, displays of arts, sciences, tennis and cricket, dinner in the Grand Hotel, and a Thanksgiving Service in Chapel.

Princess Alice, 1935

1955, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother

On the 22nd of July 1955, we celebrated our 70th birthday with a visit from Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Many ORs who were at Roedean at the time recall the Greek Dancing on the flats. HRH was joined during her visit by the

Queen Mother's visit, 1955

Princess Margaret with Jean Fort, 1964

Greek Dancing for Queen Mother's visit, 22nd July 1955

Prince Charles's visit, 1994

Duke of Norfolk, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex and the Bishops of Chichester and Lewes. After the Greek Dancing, The Queen Mother retired to the Reference Library for tea (everyone else had their tea in a marquee), and then attended a Chapel service, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. After the service, she spent time in the Cloisters and Gymnasium talking to pupils, while others prepared to wave her off as she was driven down the drive.

The stained-glass window at the end of Main School Corridor, commemorates her visit.

1964, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Following their mother's visit nearly ten years before, Queen Elizabeth's sister, Princess Margaret formally opened our new Dining Wing in 1964. Unfortunately, where we had glorious sunshine for the visits of Princess Alice and the Queen Mother, the weather was not so great for Princess Margaret. However, this didn't deter the girls from lining the drive and the terrace to greet her.

During her visit HRH had lunch in Roedean House, toured the School, was treated to a performance of Purcell by the Choir and Orchestra, and had tea with members of the 6th Form, before flying off in a red helicopter.

Princess Margaret's visit, 1964

1994, Prince Charles

The next official visit was on 8th March 1994, when Prince Charles visited to open the new Performing Arts Centre. Although this was actually his second visit, having made an earlier unscheduled visit when his helicopter pilot used Roedean as a landing pad. During this visit, he was pleasantly surprised by the warmth with which he was greeted and said, "*he must come again*". He kept his word and was greeted on his arrival for his official visit by the *Fanfare for Prince Charles* played by the School's wind players. During the opening ceremony, he was presented with the first editions of two Dorothy Martin botanical prints. The special limited edition had been created for the Roedean 2000 appeal, with the second editions being purchased by then Headmistress Ann Longley and recently donated back to the School.

Writing in the 1994 School Magazine about the visit, Mrs Longley wrote:

"His Royal Highness established an instant rapport with all those he met, and showed a genuine interest in the girls and their work."

Prince Charles' Visit, 1994. Photo donated by Ann Longley

Duke of Edinburgh RNLI Session, Photo donated by Ann Longley

HONNEUR AULX DIGNES

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