

Anniversaries

A school as old as the Royal High is bound to have had many anniversary celebrations. In this (2018), Barnton's 50th anniversary, we are bound to include the topic. This history edition will include three anniversaries, as follows:

[The 850th anniversary of the school \(1128-1978\)](#)

[The 25th Anniversary of the Barnton Campus \(1968-1993\)](#)

[The 50th Anniversary of the Barnton Campus \(1968-2018\)](#)

The 850th Anniversary

Little evidence of this anniversary has been found save for passing references in the Annual Report of the time.

The 1979 Annual Report listed the 850th Anniversary programme of events;

1. A Cheese and Wine reception for Former Pupils and staff;
2. A Buffet Dance in a marquee in the school grounds;
3. A week of sporting activities at the school
4. A Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at the High Kirk of St Giles, involving a robed procession from the Signet Library to the Kirk (and described in last year's Report);
5. A Dinner and Ball at the Signet Library
6. An Exhibition of Art work by the pupils in the Regional Council Chambers—the first time this space had been used for such a purpose;
7. A Concert in the Usher Hall given by some 400 present and former pupils and staff, parents, and pupils from the feeder primary schools;
8. An exhibition of the School Archives in the National Library of Scotland.

The Barnton 25th Anniversary

Little evidence of any celebrations remain, save the recollection of a dinner attended by twenty five school Captains, reportedly in the Pavilion in 1993. Rector Matthew MacIver reported briefly in the 1993 Annual Report, as follows:

...a school "guided by the best of traditions. I am happy to report that traditions are still valued in our school and important occasions are marked with due formality. Our 25th Anniversary at Bamton was marked yesterday evening (presumably Thursday 1st July) by a dinner in the pavilion attended by the School Captain from each year since 1968. For twenty-five years staff have served "with vision, wisdom and energy to uphold the fine traditions of our school".

The report makes no mention of Gordon Leckie, the 1982 Captain who sadly died in 1985.

The Barnton 50th Anniversary

Multiple events were planned for this anniversary, and while the first two substantial events were postponed (and subsequently cancelled) some rearrangements were in place. The Evening News report of 'A Royal Preview for Two', and the installation of popup banners celebrating the event, were joined by a whole-school walk from Regent Road to Barnton (with a Procession in Princess Street gardens), and a Gala dinner at Dynamic Earth museum in Holyrood, Edinburgh. The substantial 50th Anniversary projects were:

1. The Royal Preview for two
2. The Procession and Sponsored walk from Regent Road to Barnton – video at <https://youtu.be/JI5NFgo78Xk>
3. The Gala Dinner at Dynamic Earth Edinburgh
4. A series of video projects – a 10 minute ensemble video is at <https://youtu.be/heeiZJ2h6s>
5. The Popup decade banners

The Royal preview for two

While researching Edinburgh newspapers from 1968 in the national Library, historians Tom Baciarelli and Alastair Allanach found press cuttings showing the visit of two prep. School boys to the developing new campus, to show them what to expect. The two boys were identified (thanks to Euan Rae), contacted and agreed to front the recreation fifty years later.



Two boys (Alan Blyth and Keith MacConnachie) re-enact their photo shoot of fifty years previously (24th April 1968).
The Evening News published the report on the exact anniversary.



Left – The Two Boys in 1963
Right – The Two Boys in 1968

Upper – The School timeline, 1128-2018 as published
Lower – The whole group poses on the memorial Stage – the Rector
The two young pupils, 'The Two Boys' and some chums, and a couple of school prefects



Left - 1968 Joint Duxes Alan Blyth and Colin Watson
Right – The Two 'Old Boys' and the two young pupils

The sponsored Walk and Procession

It was suggested to the nervous organising committee that a Procession from the old school to the new school (as happened on the Regent Road opening in 1829) might just save their bacon. However, despite pleadings from messers Cowie and Allanach, video team extraordinaire that just a cross section of the school should participate, the entire school was rolled out

A 10-minute video is available on application, but a 2-minute version is available here - <https://youtu.be/JI5NFgo78Xk>

The Gala Dinner at Dynamic earth

This was designed to be the crowning glory of the year of events.

1. The advance brochure – available on the RHS Club website
2. The newsletter - available on the RHS Club website
3. An ensemble video was produced for the event - <https://youtu.be/heeiIZJ2h6s>
4. Three distinguished guests were interviewed – available on the RHS Club website
5. Other videos?

The Barnton 50th popup banners

The idea for these was conceived by a former pupil, who took it upon himself to design the project, collect all the images and create the artwork. The project description and photos of the installation in the school are shown below.

Introduction and explanation of the seven Barnton 50th popup banners

What are they?
2 metre x 0.85 metre vertical roll banners, six of which represent each decade of the schools 50 years at Barnton (60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's, 10's). The seventh popup is a timeline of the 50 years of the school aligned with Scottish and World events.
Why have they been created?
One strand of the 50th celebrations is to create visual and written records of the last 50 years at Barnton. This particular project is to create moveable exhibition material. The popups can be displayed in the school, and to the various events being held outside the school. They will be augmented by audio visual displays of material gathered for the Barnton 50th anniversary project.
How were they created?
Technically, they were created in PowerPoint, then converted to PDF's. Physically, the work of collecting the images has taken over 20 years of dedicated effort, with many FPs, teachers and the School contributing images. To reduce costs, all artwork and preparation for the printing was undertaken by a Former Pupil.
What was the design requirement?
Each decade is represented by a mix of photographs, and other images, representing as far as possible some aspects of the life of the school during that period. The images shown include building milestones, performing arts and sporting highlights, Schola Regia and nation badge insignia and a famous FP associated with the decade. All the popups include images of the six principal school buildings.
What images are included?
As the school progressed through the half century, changing in size, adding features and producing fabulous performing arts events, so Scotland created huge engineering projects, hosted three commonwealth games and held referendums (and won Wimbleton). Meanwhile, man walked on the moon, Wars came and went, Mandela returned, natural and man made disasters occurred. Other fifty year highlights not shown include the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968, the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, and the 2005 Tsunami.
What's next?
More images will become available, and other versions can be produced. If you have any ideas, please ensure that the designer of the popups gets to know



This document is for use in interpreting the popup displays, and is available close to the installation, and also as handouts



The Barnton 50th Popup banners installed in the school foyer on 5th June 2018

Popup banners.

The explanation document is available as a download below, and the seven popups are shown next in the document. Click to access the explanation document.

[Popup banner Introduction and explanation](#)

The six decade banners and the timeline banner

The 1960's to the 1980's

Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 1960's

The 1960's were dominated by the move from Regent Road to Barnton. These images are a mix of old and new School

Royal preview for two

RHS Junior School pupils Alan Blyth and Keith Macconnachie get a 'Royal preview for two' of their new school. Evening News 14th April 1968

Left with memories of the past

The Rector during the transition was Baillie Ruthven. The image above left shows the Rector 'Left with memories of the Past' in the hall, and pupils leaving school on the last day, Friday, 28th June 1968. The right hand image shows the Ceremony of deconsecration at Canongate Kirk, on the same day

School reconvenes, 17th September 1968 (Autumn Term)

– the chairs haven't arrived and the Evening news article shows the pupils sitting on the floor

The cast of the 'Physicist' – a joint production between the RHS and James Gillespies High School

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The 1960's features the transition to Barnton, with the headline item being the 'Royal Preview for Two'. The famous FP is Scotland Rugby Captain Pringle Fisher. The nation badge is the PICTS

Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 1970's

The 1970's saw the arrival of comprehensive education, which meant Girls! ...and we had our 850th Anniversary

1973 – September - a terrifying prospect... six young men nonchalantly disregard the thirty six new lady pupils

1972 - Young seafarers setting sail on SS Uganda for Scandinavia

1973 Easter- Intrepid skiers in Austria

1975-76 First XV with Rector Farquhar Macintosh and Curly Bill Mitchell

1977 Christmas - The cast of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

1976 – Ronnie Corbett: 'Four Candles' sketch

Britons Nation badge

Four 1970's Schola Regias

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1970's saw the arrival of GIRLS. Also shown are rugby and skiing images, Scandinavian cruise travel and a stage event, with Ronnie Corbett, the BRITONS nation badge, and some Schola Regia covers completing the popup

Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 1980's

The 1980's saw the School moving forward with refurbishment, a new Rector and new Clubhouse

1980 March - five teachers, one infant and around forty pupils waiting for the ferry while on the Munich trip

1981 – The KT2 Singers in action at Christmas

1989 – Cutting the first turf for the clubhouse

1981 October- The cast of Pirates of Penzance – new Rector Matt Maciver is introduced to G&S

1982-83 Junior XV John Murray in attendance

1981 – Ian Charleson as Eric Liddell in Chariots of Fire

Angles Nation badge

Four 1980's Schola Regias

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The 1980's main image shows the Munich choir travellers at the ferry, the clubhouse emerges, KT choir and stage events, FP Ian Charleson, the ANGLES, and Schola Regia covers

The 1990's to the 2010's

Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 1990's

The 1990's saw the all weather pitch being opened, and the European Cities concert



1995 March – The Lord Provost cuts the first turf for the all-weather pitch, supported by the hockey team, teachers, school captain and prefects, and FP's




1990 – at the Ypres memorial 1993 – the Prize Giving




1996 June – European cities concert at the Usher Hall 1990 U14 and U18 Football squads – who said RHS was Rugby-only?






Rosie Kay:
Dance
Company
Director
(1994 Alumni)



Scots
Nation
badge



Three
1990's
Schola
Regia
Editions

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Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 2000's

The 2000's saw Scottish Rugby Cup success, a new Rector, and great dance musicals



2008 August – High School Musical: Edinburgh Fringe production: over 50 performers and a further 50 backstage crew




2009 November – Four Rectors 2009 Fashion Show: Pupils and Teachers




2007 We Will Rock You: the assembled cast 2003 – Scottish Cup Plate Winners



Teachers are allowed to have fun too – the 1980's to 2000's night out



2006 Pupils have their prize-winning film premiered at the Filmhouse



Sarah Boyack and Ken Macintosh
Speakers at the 2003 and 2008
Prize Giving Ceremonies



2003 6th Form, and 2004 Teachers

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Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

The 2010's

The 2010's saw our first female Rector, and many new educational and sporting initiatives



2011 August – Modern Studies/English trip visits the London Eye




2015 – Pupils relax in the new outdoor classroom 2014 – WWI Centenary poppy display




2012 Deborah Colker Dance masterclass 2012 – Brewin Dolphin U16 Rugby Plate winners




2016 – Rugby team in Cape Town 2017 – First form enters school through Memorial Door



Eric Brown,
Eric Brown, Aviator
Extraordinaire, and Jam Bay
(Fraser Doherty)



2016 Building
problems: portacabins
installed in playground

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The 1990's saw the opening of the artificial pitches, WW1 battlefield visits, football and rugby success, with dance impresario Rosie Kay, Schola Regia and the SCOTS nation badge

The new millennium saw fabulous school musicals, rugby and film festival success, Rectors and Teachers convening, and star FP's shining in the political arena, Sarah Boyack and Ken Macintosh.

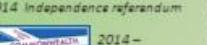
The 2010 images include a London visit, remembrance poppies, rugby success, first formers entering through the Memorial Doors, Eric Brown and Fraser Doherty, and building problems

The Barnton Timeline banner

Royal High School – 50 years at Barnton

Timeline

1968 – 2018 Comparative timelines of the School, Scotland and The World

		
<i>RHS events</i>	<i>Scottish events</i>	<i>World events</i>
1960's		
		
1968 Barnton campus opens for business	1964 – Forth Road Bridge	1969 – One small step for man
1970's		
		
1973 First comprehensive intake (Girls arrive!) 1978 – 850 th Anniversary	1970 Commonwealth games 1973 – UK enters the EEC	1975 Vietnam War ends
1980's		
		
1987 – Major school refurb. completed 1989 – Clubhouse first turf	1984 – Rugby Grand Slam 1986 – Commonwealth Games	1982 – Falklands War 1988 – Lockerbie disaster
1990's		
		
1999 – all weather pitch first turf cut	1991 – First Internet installation 1990 – Another Grand Slam! 1997 – Devolution Referendum 1997 – Harry Potter launched	1994 – President elect Mandela 1998 October – a new browser
2000's		
		
2004 – new Campus opens 2007 We Will Rock You 2008 High School Musical	2003 The Falkirk Wheel 2004 Scottish Parliament Building	2001 – 9/11 – World Trade Centre 2007 – Global Financial meltdown
2010's		
		
2015 Outdoor Classroom 2016 – School Building issues 1968 – 2018 - Full circle	2013/2016 Andy wins Wimbledon 2014 Independence referendum 2014 – Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2017 – The Queensferry Crossing	2011 Space Shuttle retired Rio 2016 Two fabulous Olympics

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The Timeline slide is intended to illustrate how Scotland and the World moved on while Building, Education (and co-education), Qualification, Curricular and Extra-Curricular activities progressed at Barnton.

Space travel, Engineering and Sporting triumphs vie with War and other tragedies for inclusion.

Scotland built bridges and other major engineering marvels, held several Commonwealth Games and a couple of Referendums, won two Rugby Grand Slams and two Wimbledon titles.

The World celebrated the return of Nelson Mandela, several Wars and other conflicts, Space travel from the Moon Landing to the last USA space shuttle, Olympic logos, and the birth of the internet and browsers