

Chairman's Diary : An Evening to Remember

In April, RAF Boulmer hosts the Annual Spring Reception in the Officer's Mess. Local civic leaders and dignitaries are invited and – oh yes – the Chair of Governors of Barndale House School. When my invitation arrived in March I knew exactly what I wanted – a Chain of Office. So I asked Pauline to see if Class 4 could make me one. They obliged and I called into the School Office where Ryan conducted the honorary Chain of Office Giving Ceremony.



I was thrilled, feeling like Cinderella in a posh frock on her way to the Ball! I wore my M&S grey wool suit, purchased for the occasion from the RSPCA shop on Bondgate for £7 and purple trainers, donated by a friend with small feet.



The Officer's Mess was packed with guests and RAF personnel hosts. There were canapes to eat and drinks. Everybody wanted to see my Chain of Office. It was so much brighter than all the others.



I was able to tell many people about our School and the achievements of its students. Group Captain Cowieson gave a presentation about the work of RAF Boulmer, followed by a short film. The station is the Force Command for the Aerospace Surveillance and Control System.

Later on, we went outside to the Parade Ground to witness the Sunset Ceremony. This is where the RAF Ensign is lowered to the accompaniment of a military band and a guard of honour. There I met William's Dad, a paradigm of sartorial splendour in his blue grey RAF uniform.



Before we went home I organised a contest to see whose Chain of Office was the smartest. In the photo you can see the four finalists:



You'll be pleased to know Barndale House School's Chair of Governors' Chain of Office won the contest by a landslide. Thank you to Ryan, Jack, Nikola, Thomas, Kai, Bobbie, Harvey and Pauline. I felt so much better dressed than all of the other guests.

Christopher Benjamin

Chair of Governors