



SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOUSES

The House system is deeply embedded in the pastoral system of Aylesbury Grammar School, as well as providing a means for many students to participate in competitions and extra-curricular activities. The system was established relatively late in the school's history in 1920, with 4 Houses: Denson, Hampden, Phillips and Ridley. The intention was to introduce a '*spirit of unity*' amongst the students. As the school grew it was necessary to add Lee House in 1975 and then to establish Paterson House in the 1980's.

The six Houses now compete for two trophies. The Brodie trophy is awarded for Sporting endeavours and the Watson trophy for Artistic pursuits. The origins of each House alongside their **Trophy successes since 2000** are listed below:

DENSON

BRODIE: 2001, 2004, 2005, 2018

WATSON: 2001, 2018

Denson House was named after the first President of the Old Boys' Association, Thomas Denson. He was also the first to leave a bequest to the school.

HAMPDEN

BRODIE: None

WATSON: 2010, 2016

Hampden House was named after Sir John Hampden, a great local Parliamentarian who opposed Charles I and his taxes. John Hampden died of his wounds after the Battle of Chalgrove.

LEE

BRODIE: 2002, 2017

WATSON: 2008, 2013

Sir Henry **Lee** was the original founder of the school in 1598 so it seems strange perhaps that his name was only used in the 1970's for the fifth House. Sir Henry Lee of Ditchley was Lord of the Manor of Fleet Marston and Quarrendon. He farmed the estate at Quarrendon and the history books tell us that he had one of the largest flocks of sheep in the country!

PATERSON

BRODIE: 2014, 2015, 2016

WATSON: 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017

Paterson House was named after Mrs Olive Paterson, Chairman of the Governors in the 1950's. Her son, John Paterson was also Chairman of Governors in the 1990's. It was Olive Paterson who opened the rebuilt Hall and original Science Laboratories following fire damage in 1954.

PHILLIPS

BRODIE: 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009

WATSON: 2000, 2002, 2006

Sir Henry **Phillips**, gentleman of London, '*enlarged and more amply provided*' for the school with a bequest of £5,000 in 1714, the equivalent to well over £1,000,000 in today's money. Sir Henry Phillips was the son of the High Sherriff for Buckinghamshire in 1716. Curiously little is known of Phillips, barring the above and that he was born in Aylesbury. Certainly without the endowment and bequest of Lee and Phillips, AGS would not exist today.

RIDLEY

BRODIE: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

WATSON: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2015

Ridley House was named after the Reverend Christopher Ridley, the last Headmaster of the Old School before it became a mixed school in 1903. Reverend Ridley arrived at AGS in 1893 when there were just 130 boys in the school and his annual salary was just over £100!