

## A GUIDE TO GIVING TO THE GIBBS/ANDERSON LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND & THE GIFT AID SCHEME



Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, The Rowans will receive an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. In addition to this, Higher Rate tax payers can claim back the difference between the Higher and Lower tax rates.

For instance, if a donor makes a £1538 to the Gibbs/Anderson Library Endowment Fund, the School (because of the charitable status it enjoys through its relationship with King's College School), can claim back an additional £462, bringing the total value of the gift to the School to £2000. The donor can then claim £338 on the Self-Assessment form making the cost to them £1200.

The table below gives more examples.

| Giving Level (£)   | Value of Gift (£) taxed income* | Value of the Gift to The Rowans (£)   | Actual Cost to Higher Rate Tax Payer (£) ** |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Contributor (1-999)  | 78                              | 100   | 60  |
| Donor (1,000-1,999)  | 780                             | 1,000   | 600   |
| Supporter (2,000-4,999)  | 1,560                           | 2,000   | 1,200                                       |
| Friend (5,000-9,999)   | 3,900                           | 5,000   | 3,000                                       |
| Benefactor (10,000-24,999)   | 7,800                           | 10,000  | 6,000                                       |
| Patron (25,000 upwards)  | 19,501                          | 25,000  | 15,000                                      |
| * UK Tax Rates 2006/7<br>Lower Rate tax is 22% and Higher Rate is 40% 2007/8<br>Lower Rate tax will be 20% and Higher Rate will be 40% |                                 | **Higher rate (40%) tax threshold<br>2006/7 over £33,300<br>2007/8 over £34,600 |   |

In order for The Rowans to claim back tax on your donation using the Gift Aid Scheme, you must:

- Be a UK tax payer.
- Pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax reclaimed on the donation in the tax year.
- Complete a Gift Aid Declaration form.

### MAKING A DONATION

As mentioned above, The Rowans enjoys charitable status by virtue of its relationship to King's College School (Registered Charity No. 310024). This means that all cheques should be made payable to King's College School – Gibbs/Anderson Library Endowment Fund. Please send cheques together with the completed Gift Aid Declaration to:

Elaine Tyrrell  
Headmistress  
The Rowans School  
19 Drax Avenue  
Wimbledon  
LONDON SW20 0EG

If you have any questions about the Gift Aid Scheme or other ways of giving tax efficiently, such as the giving of shares, please contact The Rowans.

The running total of all donations will be posted on our website [www.rowans.org.uk](http://www.rowans.org.uk)

*If you do not wish to receive any further details of the Gibbs-Anderson Library Endowment Fund please contact Elaine Tyrrell.*

# THE ROWANS SCHOOL

## THE GIBBS/ANDERSON LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND



*Jessica Gibbs*



*Joan Anderson and Brittany Gibbs*

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROWANS

The Rowans was founded in 1936 by Miss Hampton (Auntie) as a school for five to eleven year olds. The School flourished under Auntie's headship, ably assisted by Miss Clifford (Cliffie), for many years. In 1977 staff and pupils were told that Auntie wished to retire and close The Rowans.

Six families joined forces to save The Rowans from closure. Two of those families were the Gibbs and the Andersons. Jessica Gibbs became

Headmistress and established The Rowans much as it is today. She remained headmistress until her unexpected death at the age of 57.

A few months later Joan Anderson succeeded her bringing her dynamic and charismatic personality to the rôle of headmistress until her tragic illness almost two years ago. Sadly she remains in long term care. To thank those two families we would like to create a library at the heart of the school to honour them.

*The Rowans School, 19 Drax Avenue, Wimbledon, London SW20 0EG Tel: 020 8946 8220 [www.rowans.org.uk](http://www.rowans.org.uk)*

## MARTIN GIBBS ON HIS WIFE JESSICA

In 1974 when our son Stephen was seven and in his last year at The Rowans, Jessica took a part-time teaching job there. It was mornings only and she looked after Form 1, where the children were about five or six years old. After she had worked happily in the position for two years, Auntie and Clifflie (Miss Hampton and Miss Clifford), who ran The Rowans, suddenly announced that they were going to close the school at the end of the summer term. It seemed that Auntie felt that she was too old for the job at seventy, although we had all thought that she had been seventy for years.

This action caused an uproar. There were several meetings of parents, and in due course it was decided to try and raise enough money to buy the house from Auntie and to keep the school going. Eventually, it came down to a group of six families (including ourselves and the Andersons), who were prepared to put up the required money.

After some negotiations, Auntie and her family agreed to sell the house and school for £77,000 (including £2,000 for "goodwill"), part of which was recovered by selling the Copsie Hill end of the garden for housing development. Jessica was

invited to become the new headmistress.

Under Jessica's leadership, the school became very much sought after by parents. She used to say that her biggest problem was dealing with the waiting list in a way that could be seen to be fair by all concerned. This involved taking children in strict order of application unless they had siblings at the school, or lived particularly near it. No child could go on the waiting list until he or she had actually been born. But after a while, it seemed that the parents virtually had to telephone from the maternity ward if they wanted to be sure of getting a place for their child in three years time.

When the children in her form had done some particularly interesting work, Jessica used to pin the results on the wall, so that everyone could see them. One year, she asked each child to write a sentence, illustrated by a picture, about "What I like doing best". If there had been a prize for the most revealing answer, it should have gone, I think, to the child who wrote "What I like doing best is helping Mummy with my homework".

*An abridged text from Martin Gibbs' book "Anecdotal Evidence"*

## TESSA BRIDGES, HELPER, THE ROWANS

### THE TWO HEADS – JESSICA AND JOAN

Jessica had very much her own way of doing things. She would teach Form One all morning, see the parents at break, do the office work three afternoons a week and take the other two afternoons off to go and look after her sons, of whom she had five!

She knew the name and date of birth of every single child in the school, but it wasn't just a feat of memory, it was done with love. Lunch was a social time and on wet days we had a very popular quiz afterwards. Jessica was competitive and had an

encyclopaedic knowledge of all the two-letter words in the dictionary, which came in very handy at Scrabble!

Joan was a terrifically dynamic headmistress. She was brilliant with the children and extremely popular. Assembly became much more of a big thing, the house system was started up and school days became regulated by bells. Joan became much more adventurous in the outings the children went on, even taking them on day trips to France. Both the J's were exceptional Headmistresses.

## ELAINE TYRRELL, HEADMISTRESS OF THE ROWANS

From the minute Joan showed me round the school, we clicked. Right from the start, I was carried away by her open character and her enthusiasm for the school.

There's no doubt about it: Joan was born to be a head teacher. The Rowans was her realm, and she loved every inch of it. As soon as you walked into the school, you knew instinctively that Joan was in command and in control – and yet she always had a smile on her face.

As for her appearance – well Joan was invariably immaculate; extremely stylish and elegant. She knew instinctively that as well as knowing all about the children, a head needed to know all about the parents too. Under her the School acquired the marvellous, big-family atmosphere that still exists today.

## JOAN ANDERSON, BY HER HUSBAND JOHN ANDERSON

There were three great loves of Joan's life. Our grandson Pip, whom she knew for just a year, before her illness. The island of Minorca, where we had our holiday home, and planned to spend much of our retirement. And of course, The Rowans School.

When she was asked to become headmistress, Joan was already teaching tennis at The Rowans part-time, plus a little maths. She spent a year learning the ropes, from a lady called Mrs Robbie, who had been the senior Form Three mistress, and whom we asked to run the school during that interim period. And from that point on, she never looked back.

I wasn't so much surprised, as hugely impressed, by the way Joan took to the rôle so quickly, even though she'd had no experience of running a School. Previously she had worked as a computer programmer, then run off to be an air hostess with British United Airways (much to her mother's distress!), following which she ended up working in quite a menial rôle for a firm of management consultants, and then gave up work to raise our two children Sarah and Richard (both of whom went to The Rowans).

What she loved was teaching The Rowans' children, and it was a constant source of frustration to her that all the administration and

I remember her being forever in a hurry, always moving on to the next thing. She loved nothing more than to spend time with the children, particularly taking morning assembly and teaching science to Form Three.

I think of the things she enjoyed: her Golf convertible, her bridge-playing (she was one of the top players in the country), even her glasses, which she hated having to wear, but which she made bearable by having a pair to match practically every outfit in her wardrobe!

Sometimes when I watch the children at playtime out in the Rowans' garden, I think that this is such a beautiful place to be; no wonder Joan loved being here.

paperwork ate into that time. She knew each boy and girl individually, and when the time came for them to move on, she always gave a lot of thought as to which school would suit each child. Mostly, parents took her advice; occasionally they didn't. Over the years, the one thing I found was that my wife was an extremely good judge of character; sometimes if I were to introduce her to someone in my line of work with whom I was going to do business, she would look slightly questioning afterwards, and in my experience she was always one hundred per cent on the button.

During the 15 years Joan was at The Rowans, there's no doubt that the school became more competitive in every way. As a keen sportswoman herself (she played junior lacrosse for the East of Scotland), she was anxious to improve standards both on the games field and in the classroom, in order to ensure that children (and their increasingly anxious parents) had the best chance of getting into the school of their choice.

I am delighted there is a move afoot to create a Rowans' library, as a tribute both to Joan and to her predecessor Jessica Gibbs. My wife can't express it now, but I feel sure that, looking back, she would have been proud of all she achieved during her time at The Rowans. I know I am.