



The Royal High School of  
Edinburgh  
extends a tribute to  
John Alexander Cruikshank VC  
on the occasion of his birthday  
on 20th May 2020



The Video has been compiled by the Captain of the Royal High School in conjunction with members of the Royal High School Club

**Presenters**

*Lucy Krauth, School Captain*  
*Ian Cowie, President, Royal High School Club*

**Lucy**

Hello, I'm Lucy Krauth the current Captain of the Royal High and on behalf of all the pupils, I would like to say Happy Birthday to you. John, many changes have been made to the school since you first went there. Most notable has been the change of location to Barnton in 1968, and then girls arriving in 1973.

I would like to add how lucky we are having the only living Victoria Cross holder in Scotland, and also celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your inspiring story was explained to us at the school's Remembrance Service on November 11<sup>th</sup> last year. A very moving account of the events which lead to you being awarded the Victoria Cross was made. During the ceremony, the Royal High School Club President and I placed wreaths at the memorials to the Fallen in the two World Wars in the assembly hall, memorials which were relocated from Regent Road, where you attended school in 1930.

**Ian**

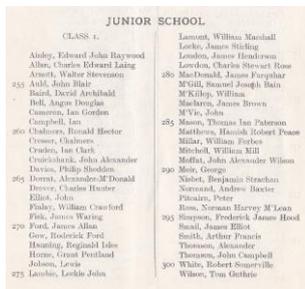
Hello, I'm Ian Cowie, President of the Royal High School Club, the organisation to which all Royal High School pupils join by right when they leave school. I watched the video re-enactment of your wartime engagement with utter amazement. A lifetime working with the BBC did not prepare me for the heroism displayed in your leadership of the crew of the Catalina.

On behalf of the entire School and Former Pupil community, we wish you a very happy birthday.

**School memories from 1930-2020**



The 1829 Regent Road building, its splendid Portico looking out over Edinburgh



1930 Royal High School Annual Report – John Alexander Cruikshank is pupil no. 263



1973 saw the School become comprehensive, and non-fee paying, and GIRLS arriving



The 2019 Remembrance Service: Senior pupils, the youngest pupil, former pupils and teachers. In the background are the Memorial Door and WWI Roll of Honour, and on the right the new WWII Roll of Honour

Thanks are due to Squadron Leader Alasdair Beaton, Alastair Allanach, June Nelson and the staff of Craigielea Gardens  
The School song – Vivas Schola Regia - in the opening credits was created by June Nelson, and in the closing credits, it is the version sung at the Barnton campus 50th Anniversary dinner on Friday 5th October 2018 at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh