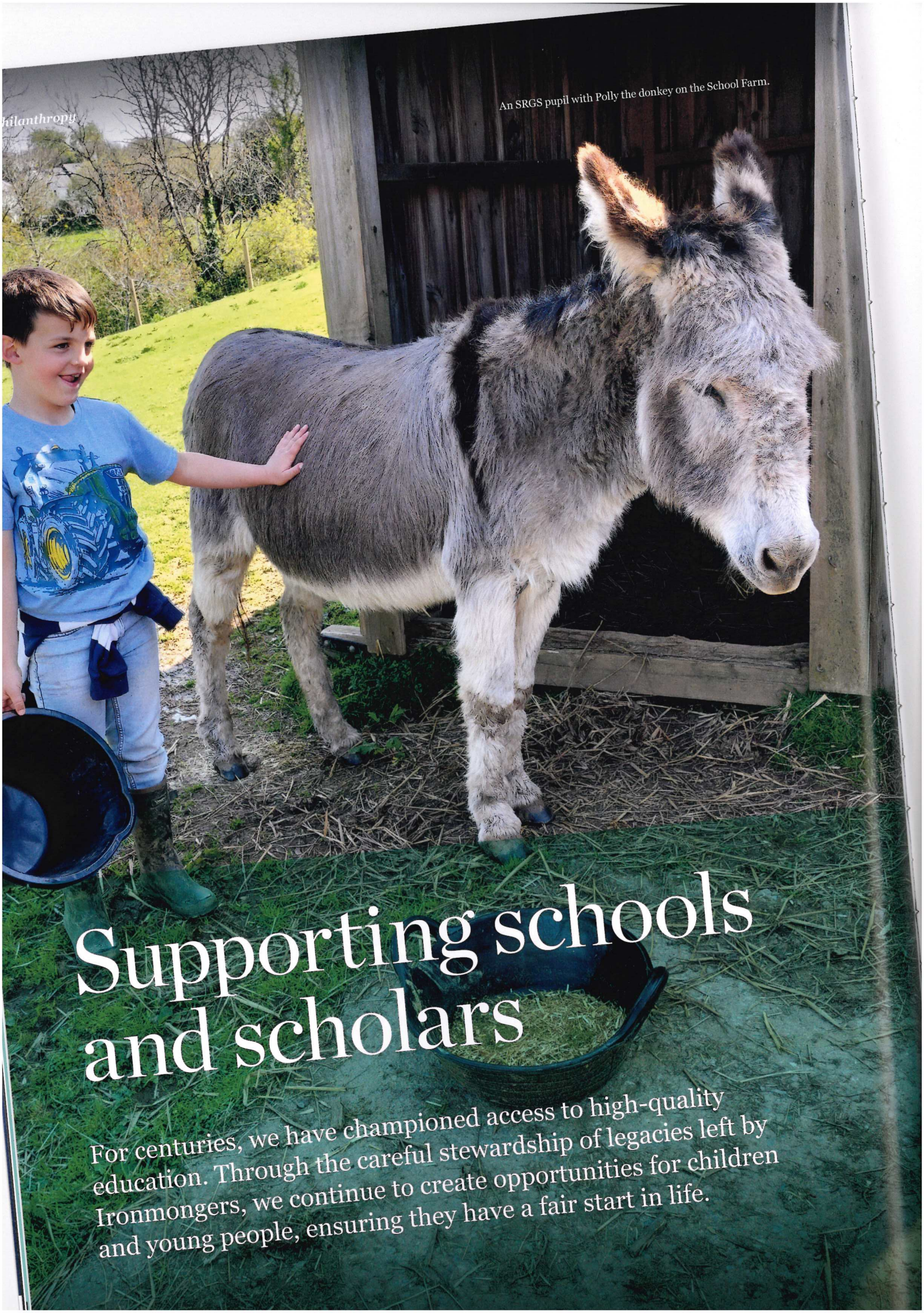


An SRGS pupil with Polly the donkey on the School Farm.

Supporting schools and scholars

For centuries, we have championed access to high-quality education. Through the careful stewardship of legacies left by Ironmongers, we continue to create opportunities for children and young people, ensuring they have a fair start in life.

A legacy of learning: *Sir Robert Geffery's School in 2026*

RICHARD TWALLIN ESQ, MASTER 2006, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL, LANDRAKE

Sir Robert Geffery's School was founded in 1704 as a consequence of a bequest by Sir Robert, an Ironmonger and former Lord Mayor. He wanted the children of his birthplace Landrake, Cornwall, to be taught how to read and write and to receive religious instruction. The Ironmongers' Company was appointed as trustee and has overseen the running of the school ever since.

More than 300 years later the school continues to be a successful Primary Academy, funded by the Department for Education with additional support from Sir Robert's Trust and other Ironmongers' charities. The past academic year 2025–26 has been particularly successful, culminating in the traditional Speech Day celebrations on 16 July. The Immediate Past Master, Randall Boddy, kindly presented the prizes, which included achievement certificates for every pupil. Each of the seven year groups gave a performance, as did the school orchestra and singing group. The event really was an opportunity to showcase the school's wide range of talents and activities.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Our support for primary education dates back over 300 years. Today, we fund pastoral care, extracurricular activities, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision, and other essential initiatives across ten primary schools. One of our longest-standing partnerships is with Sir Robert Geffery's School (SRGS), where we not only provide financial support but also contribute governors from our membership to guide the school's development.



Year 6 students enjoying a banquet at Ironmongers' Hall.

Academic and extracurricular excellence

Academic achievements have once again been impressive, with Standard Assessment Test (SAT) results comfortably exceeding the national average. But the many extracurricular activities do so much to develop the children and prepare them for secondary school and life thereafter. Alongside music, activities include acting, a wide range of sports, participation in World Book Day and work on the School Farm, now some 30 years old! You can hear the Headteacher's World Book Day interview with Radio Cornwall on the school's website (bit.ly/rgs-wbd). The farm is especially successful, achieving silver status from Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF), an organisation that promotes the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

These achievements are an enormous tribute to the unstinting work of the Headteacher, Ed O'Hara, and a truly exceptional team of teaching and support staff. I was particularly struck by a comment from an experienced teacher who told me that SRGS was the best school she had taught at. When I asked her why, she replied, "because of the way the children look after one another". This is a really wonderful compliment to the culture which has been established by the current team and their predecessors. The school's success is further borne out by the feedback we consistently receive from secondary schools that SRGS prepares pupils for the next stage of their education so well.

A supportive and inclusive environment

The Government's recent white paper emphasised the importance of children with SEND being able to attend mainstream school. 39 SRGS children, from a total of 202, slightly above the national average, receive SEN support—giving them the opportunities of mainstream education. Again, this is attributable to the experience, dedication and hard work of the school staff.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow governors, many of whom are local to Landrake and act as 'link governors' for particular curriculum areas.

Many of the extracurricular activities would not be possible without the financial support from the Friends of SRGS, Sir Robert's Trust itself and Thomas Betton's charity (also managed by the Ironmongers)—for which the School and I are most grateful. It is money well spent, benefiting the pupils but also adding to the uniqueness of the school, encouraging parents to send their children there so that they receive the advantages which the support provides.

We are all looking forward to the coming academic year. The Reception class is fully subscribed, another tribute to the staff team's work—of which I feel that Sir Robert would be truly proud.



Pupils working on the School Farm.

Betton's Schools

DAVID WORLIDGE, MASTER 2016, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

For over 20 years, we have provided an annual grant to nine Church of England State Schools facing challenging circumstances. These grants originate from Thomas Betton, an Ironmonger who, upon his death in 1723, entrusted the Company with a bequest to support Church of England education.

Our funding enables these schools to offer resources and activities such as educational trips, in-school theatre performances, sensory gardens, and specialist staff training. Each year, we also bring together the senior leaders of these schools for a conference at Ironmongers' Hall. This event provides a valuable opportunity for heads to pause, learn, and share peer support. This year, Rebecca Boyle Suh of the Artis Foundation delivered a keynote on the importance of creative, embodied learning to enhance the curriculum.

Enhancing special educational needs and disabilities provision

At Bethany Junior School, our annual grant makes a profound difference. Serving one of the most deprived areas in south-west England, the school faces high levels of poverty, additional needs, and trauma among its pupils. Our funding has enabled initiatives such as minibus training for staff, allowing children in Oasis Class—who have complex SEND needs like autism and ADHD—to take regular community trips. These outings help develop social communication skills, expose children to new environments, and build essential life skills.

We also funded additional swimming lessons in a private, quiet pool, ensuring SEND pupils could develop water safety skills in a calm setting. Our grant supported the purchase of new books, games, and therapeutic resources for the Wellbeing Hub, a vital space for children facing emotional challenges. Additionally, we backed The Golden Table initiative, which celebrates positive behaviour and has transformed lunchtimes into a more positive experience.

As Jo Wilson, SENDCo, wrote, "Your generosity truly changes lives." We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting this vital work.