



# TRURO SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' ASSOCIATION



## January 2010 Online Newsletter

### News

#### Max Levene fundraising plans

Limited edition shirt  
Hall for Cornwall Concert Mon 21<sup>st</sup>  
June

Truro School has just purchased a painting by Arnold Christien (born 1883 – died 1918) who was an art teacher at Truro College, as it was then called

Hamburg Reunion delayed until May or June

#### Staff 'Santa hat' photo names

#### Floyd On Finance

Talan Skeels-Piggins (CO89) in Winter Paralympics in Vancouver in March

#### Deaths

Alan Ayres (ex-Headmaster Treliske)  
Frank Chappel (1938-44)  
Clive Mansell (Class of '60)

### Summary of Future Events

#### TSFPA AGM

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7:30pm  
Sixth Form Centre - All welcome

#### **Good Friday Sports – Smickett v Schinter**

Friday 2nd April 2010  
Mixed Hockey 1pm  
Netball 1:45pm  
Rugby 2:30pm  
Barbecue and refreshments available



**TSFPA Annual Dinner - May/June 2010**

To contact the TSFPA  
[tsfpa@truroschool.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschool.com) 01872 272763

## FP News

### Max Levene fundraising plans

Upper Sixth Former Max Levene was seriously injured whilst playing in a rugby match for the School earlier this term. Click [here](#) to see how he's progressing. A Charity is currently being setup and a committee has been formed to run fund-raising activities and several thousands of pounds have already been raised from **pupil concerts and donations**. Events being planned include

- **Limited edition shirts** (130 will be produced at a cost of £130 each – at least £100 per shirt to go to Max). The aim is to raise £13,000 for Max. We cannot sell the shirt until the charity is actually setup. Max last summer  
On the back of the collar will be



- **Concert** in the Hall for Cornwall on **Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>**. Tickets cost £10 and are selling fast so if you'd like to book some go to the [Hall for Cornwall online booking system](#) and select 21<sup>st</sup> June date. There will be a selection of performers from the Senior and Junior Charity Concerts, former pupils and guests. You can also phone the Hall for Cornwall on 01872 262466
- Current pupils are organising **concerts and other fund-raisers**
- Participation in the **RFU Grand Draw 09/10**, where 90% of the value of tickets sold through the Charity Committee will go to The Max Levene Charity. Tickets are £1 each.  
**Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010**

Top prize is £10,000 donated by Investec, second prize is a pair of Business Class return air tickets to Dubai courtesy of Emirates plus there are 38 other great prizes



If you would like to buy some RFU Grand Draw raffle tickets please send a cheque to Steve Floyd (contact details at the end of this newsletter) to cover the required tickets, payable to 'Truro School', with 'Max Levene RFU Draw' written on the back. Please also include the name/s and contact number/s to be written on your stubs for the draw. I will send your tickets by post.

**Closing date for the raffle is to reach me by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.**

**Truro School has just purchased a painting by Arnold Christien (born 1883 – died 1918) who was an art teacher at Truro College, as it was then called**



Arnold Christien taught at Truro College in 1911 as an assistant art master and took over the position of art master in the summer term when Mr W.A. Rollason died unexpectedly during the Easter holidays, aged 48.

Arnold was the son of the Reverend Charles Christien, a Wesleyan Methodist minister and his wife Adela. He was born in Burslem, Staffordshire in 1883, one of seven siblings. The family moved around the north of England many times, following Reverend Christien's appointments to different towns, including Leeds in Yorkshire and Farnworth in Lancashire. In 1905 Arnold Christien, having studied art<sup>i</sup>, took part in an exhibition of local artists at the Merehall Art Gallery in Bolton, displaying four landscapes. In 1906 Reverend Christien moved to Cornwall to take up an appointment as minister of Falmouth Wesleyan Methodist Church<sup>ii</sup>. Arnold must have come down with his family or joined them soon after, because he became an assistant art master at the Truro School of Art, part of the Central Technical Schools (now Truro Library) in Union Place, Truro.

He enlisted as a private, 5210, in the 3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion DCLI on 20 November 1915. At the time of his enlistment Christien's address was recorded as 3 Avondale Road, Truro. He was 32 years old<sup>iii</sup>.

He married Maud Louise John of 11 The Parade, Truro [who later also taught art at Truro College] on 1 July 1916 at St Paul's Church, Agar Road, Truro. The wedding was described in The Cornwall County

News:

...The bride given away by her cousin, Mr W. Kingston Wilton of Redruth, was dressed in a biscuit Shantung costume, with nigger brown hat, lined with pink, and attended by Miss D. Crowle. Mr G. Penrose acted as best man. Later in the day the bridegroom left to rejoin his regiment<sup>iv</sup>.

According to the CWGC website Arnold was serving as a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment, when he died of pneumonia in India on 30 May 1918, aged 37 (although the Royal Cornwall Gazette reported that he was a sergeant in the DCLI Brigade Staff Office in India). His service records include a letter from his widow to the Army Records Office in York stating that she believed Christien had been promoted to sergeant around the 6 March 1918 while in the Brigade Office in Ferozepore and that he then went to the Army Clothing Stores Depot at the Fort, Lahore as an Assistant Packing Overseer, for which he was paid 275 rupees a month. She suggested that it was possible that his papers had not been updated in India because he died within a month of his arrival in Lahore. In the reply from the Ministry of Pensions he was referred to as a Private Christien and Mrs Christien was given a pension of 13 shillings and 6 pence a week. His medal record shows that he was Private 201934 in the DCLI and 35998 in the East Yorkshire Regiment; he was awarded the British medal<sup>v</sup>.

His name appears on the Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial; a memorial for soldiers who served and died in garrisons in various parts of what is now Pakistan (then part of India), and buried in areas which could not be permanently maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission<sup>vi</sup>. His name also appears on the First World War Memorial in St Mary's Methodist Church, Truro.

*Article provided by Jo Wood (archivist)*



**Talan Skeels-Piggins (CO89) has been included in the Great Britain skiing team for the Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver from March 12th to 21st.**

Check out his blog [Talan's blog](#)

Having been paralysed in a motor-biking accident in 2003, he's just purchased another motor-bike. So when he's not skiing down a slope covered in snow at 60 mph he's riding his 1000cc motorbike on a track at 100mph.

## Hamburg Reunion delayed until May or June

Mike Homer has delayed this reunion as several people thought it should be held in the summer rather than the depths of winter. As they say 'Watch this space'.

## Staff 'Santa hat' photo names

If you're not sure who all those staff were compare the list below with the photos in the [December Online Newsletter](#)

Adam Laity	Rev Aubin de Gruchy	Chris Moncaster	
Cliff Flowers	David Hunt	Dr Blake	
Dr Flood	Graham Baines		
Graham Whitmore	Ian Kenyon	Jane King	
Jerry Worthington	John Chambers	Judith Eastburn	Mark Nicholas
Mark Vanstone	Martin Palmer	Mike Homer	
Nick Baker	Nigel Baker	Paul Collenette	
Richard Harrison	Ruth Huckle	Simon Collinge	
Sonia Newton	Sue Spence	Tim Tall	

## Floyd On Finance

If you have a personal pension make sure you review the performance of the funds YOUR money is invested in each year. Don't simply leave it expecting 'everything will be alright'. If the funds are performing badly you should at least know about it and think about investing in different funds. There are enormous variations of fund performance within the same risk sector. Don't forget 50% of funds in a particular risk sector will under-perform the average.

## Deaths

**Alan Ayres (TS 1955 – 1988)** died on Sunday 24th January aged 82. Alan Ayres joined the teaching staff at Treiske in September 1955. He became housemaster on the retirement of Tommy Stratton at the end of 1960. During his tenure 'housemaster' became redefined as 'headmaster'. He organised the first trips abroad for boys from Treiske to Holland and Austria. His life became the school and his 'restless spirit found the holidays a bit empty'; he could be up at 7am to fix a burst boiler and comforting a sick or homesick boy 17 or 18 hours later. In 1989 Burrell recalled that 'he was a traditionalist. He was unhappy about the disappearance of Saturday morning school, and some of the great traditions he established included a very 'trad' speech day (hats and all)... ..he was a effective and encouraging art teacher and... could seem fierce at times and sometimes gruff. But he cared for his charges and saw it as his his business to know something of all of them and their backgrounds...'  
He retired in 1988.

**Frank Patrick Chappel (1938-44)** died aged 82.

Frank was born in Redruth in June 1927, the son of Arthur and Jenny Chappel, who had a grocery shop in Bond Street. Frank had two older sisters, Margaret and Dorothy, and a younger brother Alec.

He attended the former East End primary School and went on to Truro School. This was followed by him studying at Exeter University.

Having worked at a research scientist for British Nylon Spinners in Pontypool and ICI in Harrogate he took voluntary redundancy in 1980 and moved back to Redruth.

He was very active until the final months when he became ill. He spent his last months at Glencoe Nursing Home, Gwithian, where he received very good care.

Frank was always of a friendly and optimistic disposition and was very sociable. He liked talking to different types of people and treated everyone the same. He was a kind and humble person who tried to see good in everyone and had a strong Christian faith.

**Clive Mansell (Class of '60)** died on Tuesday 26th Jan 2010 aged 66. He was a past President of, and still very involved with, Truro Rotary.

## IMMINENT FUTURE EVENTS

### **TSFPA AGM**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7:30pm

Sixth Form Centre - All welcome

Please let Steve Floyd know if you will be coming to any events. Contact details

[tsfpa@truroschool.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschool.com)

### **AYRES**

On Sunday January 24th 2010, Alan passed away peacefully at Treiske Hospital, aged 82 years. Loving husband of Wendy, much loved father of Rachel and Helen, and a dear grandfather of Ruth, Jack, Katie, Zoe, Tom and Edward. Funeral service 2pm Monday February 1st, Trelawny Chapel, Penmount Crematorium, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving 3.15pm at St. Cuby Church, Tregony.

All welcome. Donations to Shelterbox and Cornish Talking Newspapers for the Blind may be sent c/o the Funeral Directors W J Beswetherick & Son Ltd., Central House, Fairmantle Street, Truro Tel 01872 274021.

01872 246010

07870 486392

TSFPA Office, Truro School, Trennick Lane, TRURO TR1 1TH

# Esse quam videri

## References from the Arnold Christien painting article

---

<sup>i</sup> 1901 census, The National Archive, via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>ii</sup> Notes from Alison Spence: Hill's Methodist directory, confirmed by Falmouth Wesleyan circuit plan, October 1906 (MRF/779).

<sup>iii</sup> The National Archive, WW1 Service Records, [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>iv</sup> Alison Spence's notes: *Cornwall County News*, 5 July 1916.

<sup>v</sup> TNA, [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>vi</sup> [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)