

Truro School Former Pupils' Association  
**newsletter**  
*online*



DECEMBER 2015



'Shiver me Timbers' inflatable fun session pool equipment  
Book sessions though [Sir Ben Ainslie Sports Centre](#)

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Future events

Football - Former Pupils v School 1<sup>st</sup> XI  
Easter Saturday 26 March 10:30am kick-off  
Followed by refreshments

Smickett v Schinter Mixed Hockey and Rugby matches  
Easter Saturday 26 March 3pm  
Followed by a barbecue and refreshments  
Please let Steve Floyd know if you'd like to play  
by emailing [tsfpa@truroschoo.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschoo.com)

## FP News

### 'Santa' photographs of long-serving academic staff

Below are photographs of some of the longest serving academic staff at Truro School, in no particular order.

How many can you recognise? (Full list on the back page)









## A 'fighter jet on water'. Sir Ben Ainslie's (CO95) latest boat

These are pictures of Sir Ben Ainslie's new boat – billed as the most advanced yacht ever to hit the water.

The Land Rover Ben Ainslie Racing AC45 T2 has been described as a "fighter jet on water" thanks to its impressive technological advancements from the aerospace industry and is estimated to be worth £80 million.

These first look aerial pictures show the maiden voyage of the boat that is hoped to sail to victory in the America's Cup.



The 45ft vessel can reach speeds of more than 50mph and is hoped to guide the British sailing star, who grew up in Falmouth, attended Truro School, where the sports centre is named after him, and learned to sail in the Carrick Roads as a member of Restronguet Sailing Club, and his team to top spot in the highly-prestigious competition.

Report and photographs courtesy The West Briton.

Full report available by clicking [here](#)

## Request from Simon Latarche for video clips of FP musicians for the next School Charity Concert

Simon is asking former pupils who played in past School Charity Concerts to email video clips of them wishing the pupils taking part in this year's Annual Charity Concert luck. Basically he would like you to say your name, when you played in the Charity Concert, where you are playing now and the name of the band, and maybe 25 seconds of you actually playing, as well as wishing those playing in the Charity Concert luck. Please email the clips to [tsfpa@truoschool.com](mailto:tsfpa@truoschool.com)

If you wish to email separate clips, with the greeting and playing in separate files, that will be fine.

### Recent Graduations

**Sam Heather (CO12)** University of York Computer Science First  
Sam recently won the TalkTalk Next Generation Digital Heroes Award, presented in the House of Lords.

### Sam Healey (CO03) extends the Healeys' racing tradition

THE ART of transforming apples into cyder, to use its traditional Cornish spelling, seems to run in the Healey family. Sam and his younger brother Joe grew up learning the tricks of the trade from their parents, who first began making Cornwall's beloved Rattler in the 1980s.

But as well as his parents' passion for producing the perfect pint, Sam inherited a second love from his great-grandfather – the world-renowned racing driver and car designer Donald Healey.

In his spare time, the 29-year-old loves nothing more than to hit the racetrack driving the cars his "Old Pop" designed long before he was even born.

Talking at the centre of the business and the family's home, Healey's Cyder Farm in Penhallow, near Truro, Sam speaks proudly of



the history of the firm and the Healeys' racing heritage.

Report and photograph courtesy The West Briton. For the full report click [here](#)

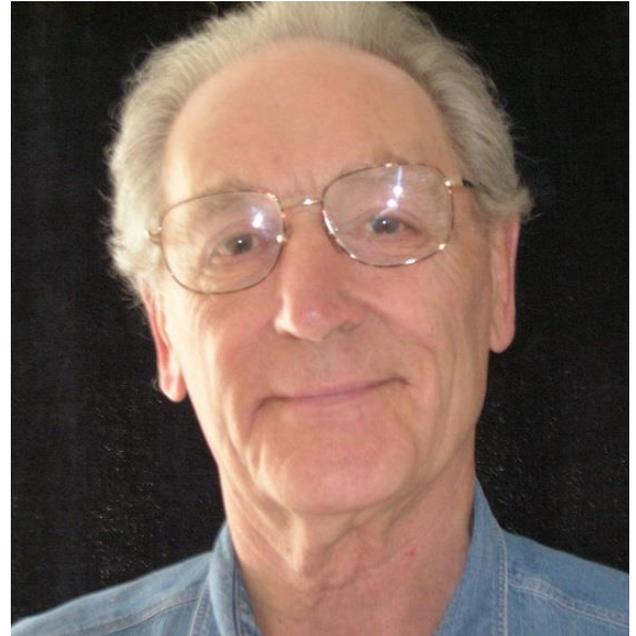
## HIGH ON THE HILL

### Memories of Truro School by John Daniel (1943-50) - Part 2

- *The three 'W's': 'Bert', 'Freddy', and 'Sammy'*
- *Playing Bianca to Ian Goodhand's Petruchio*
- *Dormitory and School plays*

Three masters loom largest in my memory of Truro School, the three 'W's': 'Bert' Willday, 'Freddy' Wilkes, and 'Sammy' Way. It is no coincidence that my three best subjects at school were English, French and Music, and that thanks largely to the influence of these three men I became a French teacher, a lifelong amateur musician, and a Headmaster. What they all had in common was that they taught outside the curriculum. Bert took us Lower Sixth Arts boys coolly through *Coriolanus* as though it was the most natural material in the world for sixteen-year-olds. Sammy told me to take a break from the pieces I was preparing for my Grade 8 piano and have a go at a Brahms *Ballade*. And what was Freddy thinking of when he had us read Rostand's play *Cyrano de Bergerac* when we were supposed to be studying Victor Hugo's poetry for Higher School Cert?

Outside the classroom, music and drama were my main interests. And what an abundance of both these activities we enjoyed at Truro! We were forever singing. In my memory we went through *Messiah* every year, with Sammy accompanying us on the organ. We didn't seem to need a conductor and we didn't have an orchestra. Those famous Handel arias were performed so beautifully by boys; in my memory I can still hear John Exelby singing *I know that my Redeemer liveth*.



And the plays... Dormitory plays in the gym, of course; they involved practically everyone. And the school plays in the chapel (no theatre then for us to perform in). *Julius Caesar* with Robert Shaw as Marc Antony, *Hamlet* with Billy Faull in the title role, Derek Jeynes as *Saint Joan*, science teacher Mr. Scales as *King Lear*, and Michael Drew as *Henry V* with yours truly in the plum part of Chorus. Not to mention adventurous choices like *The Lady's Not For Burning*. All directed by Freddy Wilkes, all involving hundreds of boys, and all done with minimal technical facilities. We were so lucky.

If you have read this far you will know that I was happy at Truro. But the school was not perfect; few if any schools are. Much of what today's Truro boys and girls must regard as their normal, natural right was simply not available to us then. Because of the war, there were no young teachers. The buildings and facilities were worn and old. Dormitories were noisy and uncomfortable, with privacy at a premium. Our books were outdated, our clothes were scruffy, and we were always hungry.

Photos show the cast of Taming of the Shrew 1946

More serious than these deficiencies, our curriculum was in urgent need of reform. Because I was quite a bright student, I accelerated up the school far too fast. At the age of fourteen, I was allowed to stop studying science and maths and concentrate on my English, French and Music. The only education I received in the visual arts was a chaotic art appreciation class which consisted mainly of passing around picture postcards of old masters. At no time did anyone try to teach me to draw, much less to paint or sculpt. I received no practical or technical instruction, although I remember some boys doing technical drawing. As for sex education – this was limited to a garbled version of the ‘facts of life’ discussed among incredulous friends in the Pentreve dormitory, supplemented from time to time by veiled warnings about ‘staying pure’ emanating from the chapel pulpit.

Truro School can only partly be blamed for the fact that sex was a closed book for me and for most of my generation. For my seven years at Truro, my two years’ National Service in the Army and my three years at Oxford I was in a single-sex environment.



Not only was there no sex education; there was no approved social contact between boys and girls. There were no dances, no mixed debates, nothing. No girls took part in our school plays. I loved drama, but I did not enjoy having to play Bianca to Ian Goodhand’s Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*.



With all its faults, Truro was a pretty good school seventy years ago, and I’m sure it’s an incomparably better school now. If today’s Truro boys and girls are as happy there now as I was then, there can’t be too much wrong. My advice to them from the Augustan heights of my eighty-two years is simple: make the most of your life High on the Hill. It’s an opportunity that only comes once.

Robin Elsey (CO11) wishes you all a Happy Christmas

Highlights from 2015

Perhaps the high point of my career to date. Winning the Bizuth Prize in the Solitaire du Figaro 2015 in the great yacht Artemis 43. Only the second Brit to win this coveted Prize in this great race which is the unofficial world championship for solo offshore sailors. This is due to the great support from the Artemis Offshore Academy whilst I have been on their part-time and then full time squad. A brilliant programme for young short-handed sailors.



Thanks again for all your support and encouragement during my career to date and I hope you will follow my future career towards competing in the Vendee Globe (Facebook Robin Elsey Racing).

In 2016 my aim is to compete again in the Solitaire and to finish in the top ten. (Just have to find a sponsor now so wish me luck)

Happy Christmas and a great 2016  
Robin

## Future Events

**Easter Saturday 26 March 2016 10:30am kick-off**  
**Football – Former Pupils v School 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

**Easter Saturday 26 March 2016 3pm**  
**Smickett v Schinter - Mixed Hockey and Rugby**  
Please let Steve Floyd know if you'd like to play.

**Contact details:**

Steve Floyd  
TSFPA Administrator  
[tsfpa@truroschool.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschool.com)  
01872 246010

**Staff Santas (left to right, top to bottom):**

Mr Nicholas, Miss Wright, Mr Collinge, Mrs Rainbow  
Mr Hunt, Mr Latarche, Mrs Huckle, Mr Warren  
Mr Meads, Rev de Gruchy, Mr Whitmore, Mr Austin  
Ms Rosier, Mrs Newton

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all former pupils  
and friends of Truro School.

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep  
happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host  
against difficulties.

Helen Keller

Esse Quam Videri

