

TRURO SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS ASSOCIATION

# the truronian



## A Word from the President

There is a great deal upon which to report in my foreword for this year's edition of *The Truronian*. One of my major areas of focus has been to push forward in our aim to be celebrated as a socially and environmentally responsible member of the Cornish community. There are many facets to this objective which I am pleased to tell you more about in the body of this edition. Please see page 8.

Central to this objective has been the establishment of the Truro School Foundation under the chairmanship of Guy Dodd, Headmaster of Truro School from 1993 – 2001. Our new Foundation trustees have met for the first time and I am delighted that we have been able to build such a broad and strong committee of people who are passionate about the future development of our School. Our Development and Alumni Relations office has been restructured to support the work of the Foundation, but also to work alongside the TSFPA and Friends of Truro School whose mission is to provide engaging events and communication to our alumni and wider community.

The current academic year commenced with 790 pupils on our school roll and another 230 at our thriving Prep School. Both schools certainly have a busy feel about them. In spite of our growing pupil roll, it's clear to me that affordability is a major issue in the independent school market in the UK, and in Cornwall in particular. I am ever mindful of our charitable objectives as we seek to limit fee increases and to provide bursarial assistance to families with children who would benefit from an holistic Truro School education, but where the fees are beyond their reach. The Foundation's ultimate focus is to build our endowment in support of school bursaries and to raise funds for specific capital projects which cannot be met from school fee income alone.

The new format for *The Truronian*, your annual magazine, has met with a resounding thumbs-up and I hope that you enjoy reading this edition. We have selected a few stories about people who add great value to Truro School, often long after they or their children have moved on. We want to continue

to enhance our communication with our alumni so please stay in touch, send us your news and do share your wish list of things you would like to read about in forthcoming editions. A highlight for me was attending the 1940s reunion tea party. It was a joyous affair and reminded me of what we should celebrate about a school like Truro; friendships formed that have lasted more than fifty years and a shared sense of loyalty and affection for each other and for the alma mater.

It was an honour to host the family and friends of John Heath at our school Carol Service before Christmas. As a former pupil, former parent, former Chairman of Governors, John enriched the life of Truro School in so many ways and I hope that the tree we planted in his memory grows tall and strong.

I would like to thank Lucy Alldritt our former Development Manager for the fine work she did on the Foundation strategy. I am also very grateful to Steve Floyd for the work he has done over the years as the TSFPA Administrator. He will be missed but, as a member of the class of '76, I know he has already bought his ticket for the reunion dinner in September and I hope that many of you will come along to join the celebrations.

As you thumb through the pages that follow, I trust that you will get a sense that we are certainly building upon the legacy that started back in 1880 when 35 boys sat down for the first time at Truro Wesleyan Middle Class College. I am very grateful for the ongoing support of so many Truro School alumni.

**Andrew Gordon-Brown**  
Truro School Headmaster

A close-up portrait of Dr Patrick Flood, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue tie with small yellow polka dots. The background is a textured, grey stone wall.

Summer 2015 saw us waving off into retirement one of our long-serving members of staff who will be remembered by many of our alumni – **Dr Patrick Flood** had been with us since 1984 and in that time he had been a History teacher, Head of History, Boarding Housemaster and Sixth Form tutor – so a variety of roles – at the same time as publishing two textbooks and his PhD thesis. Some students still talk in awe about the story that, long before health and safety forms, Patrick once whipped out a bayonet and stabbed it into his desk to get his pupils’ attention. His impact on so many of our alumni is summed up in a letter I received from a former pupil and current parent on the announcement of his retirement:

*“Dear Dr Flood*

*I hear from my daughters that you are retiring at the end of this term and wanted to write to express my huge thanks for the positive impact you have had on my life!*

*...the joy of studying history was only revealed to me when I was able to experience your incredible teaching and passion for the subject.*

*I really cannot thank you enough as without you awakening a love of History in me I would not have progressed to University to study History and would not have met my husband who was on the same course as me!*

*I am so thrilled that my daughters have both been able to experience the joy and privilege of being taught by you and will always have such fond memories of your animated lessons.*

*Enjoy your retirement and huge thanks again. With very best wishes from a very happy and grateful former pupil”*



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# Chairman's Report

Over the past year, it has been a privilege to serve once more as the chairman of the Truro School Former Pupils' Association. The diverse and passionate members of the committee serve tirelessly to ensure that the Association remains successful in every aspect. We're enormously excited to be actioning so many of our visions. Our aim of reaching out to alumni across the globe with the hope of forging strong connections, particularly for the pupils who have most recently left the school, is well underway. The strategic plan of improvements in communications is now bearing fruit and we hope that this continues with your help. With so many of our alumni exploring every corner of the globe, it is our ambition that there will be the opportunity for a link of support should they need it. We're now looking ahead to further exciting change in the Association, bringing together the expertise of the school Development Office, Careers Office and the TSFPA. Whilst the Association itself will remain unchanged, it is our hope that we will be better equipped to serve you, our alumni, and continue with our work to nurture and grow our unique community.

The annual dinner was once again another super occasion, the catering staff's efforts were fantastic and it was a privilege to have Connie Schneider (CO95) as our guest speaker whilst we enjoyed the superb sea bass. She deeply touched the audience with her humble words of her extraordinary humanitarian efforts

and spoke with enormous humour and affection of the school. With such a great representation of alumni from such a wide time period attending, particularly the decennial years of '95, '85, '75 and '65, I'm very much looking forward to September where I'm sure there'll be another terrific turnout of former pupils, especially those of the classes of '96, '86, '76 and '66. However, all are very much welcome!

I'm thrilled that we've had such positive feedback on the new Truronian however it wouldn't be what it is without your support, contributions and stories. I do hope that you feel inspired to get in touch with your news and of course we'd be delighted if you would like to place an advertisement.

It is with great sadness that we have said farewell to our corner stone of the team, Steve Floyd. Always at the sidelines of every sports fixture, tireless instigator of our reunions and social events and the first point of contact for the former pupils, he will be greatly missed. We wish him every success in his future and very much look forward to seeing him at the annual dinner.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this, our second edition of *The Truronian*. I look forward to seeing as many of you soon, whether enjoying a pasty at the sports fixtures, or a glass of prosecco on the terraces before the annual dinner.

**Sophie McGannity**  
(nee Nixon) CO98



# Rob Cowie

## Chartered Accountant with Francis Clark LLP and Vice-chair of Governors at Truro School

I grew up in Somerset until the age of 10 and then my father made a second career by joining the Royal Air Force, so my secondary school years were spent as a boarder at Stamford School in Lincolnshire along with several other RAF kids. In terms of ethos, Stamford was and is very similar to Truro School being inclusive, providing many opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, an excellent holistic form education, and a good grounding for the big wide world beyond.

Having obtained A levels in Maths, Economics and German, I chose accountancy as a career because I had a reasonable grasp of numbers and I was intrigued how businesses were run. I had an uncle who was a Chartered Accountant and he gave me an insight into the work of an accountant in practice, advised me of a trainee position going in Truro for which I applied and was fortunate enough to be accepted. That was 43 years ago!

After I qualified as a Chartered Accountant I gained more responsibility and progressed quite rapidly up to becoming a Partner in 1983.

I am now almost at the end of my career, having retired as a Partner in Francis Clark last year, now undertaking some consultancy work for the firm. I have been incredibly lucky to have been able to live and work in Cornwall. Whilst I have only really worked for one firm, accountancy has offered me a hugely varied and interesting career over the past 43 years. I have acted for a number of clients for a great many years and have even seen some pass through to the third generation. Being a client's accountant means that you often become their "trusted advisor" and often a sounding board for any business ideas they have. Because of this I have been in a very privileged position, and many clients have even become friends. I have loved every minute of it.

Accountancy is still very much a career you can enter straight from school or college. At Francis Clark we provide training place for both graduates and non-graduates. The non-graduate route (which is the one I took) is becoming increasingly popular because of increasing cost of going to University but, of course, this has to be weighed against the experience that University provides.

We take our training responsibilities at Francis Clark very seriously because today's trainees are tomorrow's leaders. There is a skills shortage at senior level in Cornwall, because (and maybe very surprisingly bearing in mind our beautiful setting) it is difficult to attract qualified staff this side of Exeter. We therefore have to

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"grow our own", and it is for this reason we offer training places to both graduates and non-graduates alike.

I became a Governor of Truro School soon after my oldest son Jonathan (CO99) was at the School. My other son, Simon (CO02), also went to Truro School. Both boys benefitted hugely from their time here going on to qualify as a Dentist and Doctor respectively. Because of my accountancy background, I took over as Chair of the Governors' Finance Committee. The Governors are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the school and for setting and monitoring policy and strategy within its context as a Methodist School. I am also a Trustee and Chair of Finance of Methodist Independent Schools Trust, the ultimate body which owns Truro School and 11 others around the country.

Indeed, thinking that I needed something else to keep me occupied in my retirement, I have just recently become a Trustee of Cornwall Air Ambulance, a tremendous organisation that exists entirely on the generous voluntary contributions of Cornish people to keep its two helicopters going 24/7.

Being a Chartered Accountant has given me the skills and confidence to undertake all these roles.

# Graham Murdoch

From an early age, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer. I found the whole subject of the law interesting – and my father (himself a former pupil) was a lawyer too, jointly running the firm of Murdoch Tromans in Truro. The co-owner, Chris Tromans, was also a former pupil (and a Governor)!

My teachers at Truro School did their best to interest me in other things, to make sure that I was considering all the options. But my mind was made up and after A levels in 1981 I took up a place at the University of East Anglia to do my Law (LLB) degree. I then did a year's Masters (LLM) at Cambridge University, following which I went to Guildford College of Law to do my Solicitors' finals.

I moved back to the West Country to do my Articles as they were called then at a leading firm in Plymouth – and so eventually fully qualified as a Solicitor in 1988.

I went up to London to do some further study and it was while I was there that my father told me an opportunity had arisen in his firm and was I interested? I realised that it was my chance to return to



Cornwall to practice. So I went back to Truro and joined the firm and I've been there ever since! Although in 1995, that firm merged with Stephens Scown which is the firm in which I am a Partner today.

I specialise in what we call 'private client' – dealing with the personal affairs of our clients such as their Estates, Wills, Trusts, Inheritance Tax etc. I am also a Notary Public.

I love what I do. Many of my clients have been with me or the firm for years. It's more than a job, it's a way of life, being part of the community here.



My three sons all went to Truro School and I have served on the Former Pupils Association committee for many years. It's nice to be able to give something back to the school that set me up so well!

# Verity Slater

I started at Truro School in 1990, as one of the first influx of 20 girls into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They were interesting times: I remember the teachers used to call us by our christian names whereas they addressed the boys by their surnames!

I knew I wanted to do something that would lead to a good and solid career. My father wanted me to be a doctor, which I didn't want to do, so I had to come up with something else sensible in its place! Law appealed to me and when I left Truro School in 1995, I did a law degree at the University of East Anglia and then law school at the University of the West of England in Bristol. That was followed by a two year training contract at a firm in Plymouth; I qualified as a solicitor in 2002.

I had job offers in the City and a range of other places – but decided to come home to Truro, and took up a place in a local firm here on Malpas Road, back where the School bus used to drop me off. My specialism became employment law and I set up the firm's employment law practice from scratch.

In 2014, I joined Stephens Scown as a partner in the Truro office. As well as employment law, I also head up the firm's marine sector, supporting boat builders, marine tech companies, ferries and Harbour Commissioners on employment and other regulatory issues.



To get in touch please call **01872 265100**, email [solicitors@stephens-scown.co.uk](mailto:solicitors@stephens-scown.co.uk) or visit our website [www.stephens-scown.co.uk](http://www.stephens-scown.co.uk).

Sailing has always been a love of mine, so I'm really happy to be leading the marine sector. I used to sail in competitions when I was younger and in fact was in the same year at school as the now-famous Sir Ben Ainslie. My father used to coach us both and we competed on the Optimist World Circuit. Ben then moved to Southampton to further his sailing career. I decided I'd better stick to a more regular profession!

I am also delighted to have recently joined the School's Foundation Board. The Foundation seeks to support the school and most specifically fund the bursary scheme. It's something I'm very happy to support.

# Truro School and the Cornish Community

In the Summer Term of 2014 our Governors authorised the Truro School and Truro Prep Strategic Plan 2014-2020. You can find the plan here:

[www.truroschoold.com/senior/about-us/strategic-plan](http://www.truroschoold.com/senior/about-us/strategic-plan). The objectives are as follows:

1. **For excellent teachers to inspire pupils to achieve academic success at school and go on to first choice universities, colleges or jobs**
2. **To enable young people to live their lives to the full and transform society for the better**
3. **To be known for outstanding pastoral care and trusting partnerships with parents**
4. **To help each child to find and fully develop his or her talents**
5. **To be celebrated as a socially and environmentally responsible member of the Cornish community**

## Objective 5:

**To be celebrated as a socially and environmentally responsible member of the Cornish community**

How will we do this?

1. **Build a Truro School endowment fund to provide means-tested support to talented young people**

- a) **Set up a Development Office to work with stakeholders to build a fund in support of school bursaries and to raise funds and grants to support capital projects**

*The Truro School Foundation has been established with a new committee of trustees. The Development and Alumni Relations office is now up and running. The Governors allocate a proportion of fee income each year to support scholarships and means tested bursaries; most of this is unfunded.*

- b) **Offer engaging events and communication to former pupils and the Friends of Truro School, strengthening our relationship and creating opportunities for them to support our development**

*Successful relaunch of The Truronian magazine and monthly newsletter. The Development and Alumni Relations team are*

*working to deliver the TSFPA strategy. FTS is very active with a calendar of events aimed at bringing current parents together. The number of alumni and friends connected to the school through social media exceeds 2000 at the current time and continues to grow.*

- c) **Develop and implement a strategy to unlock and share the richness of our school archives**

*Our archivist and researcher, Jo Wood, is a key member of the Development and Alumni Relations team. Terraces, the School Magazine, and The Truronian now feature archive material. 'A Century of Science' exhibition launched to coincide with the 2015 reunion dinner.*

2. **Enhanced school and community engagement and partnerships**

- d) **Increase the level of our facilities lettings at charitable rates**

*In the last financial year, we offered over £15k of lettings at charitable rates.*

- e) **Set up partnerships with other local schools, businesses and community organisations to share best practice in teaching and learning and provide professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff**

*The vision of a collaborative group of independent schools in Cornwall is taking shape. We are pleased that Truro High School for Girls has joined the Methodist Independent Schools Trust and the future opportunities for collaboration that this will bring. We have been providing support and guidance to other independent schools in the county. Both Truro School and Truro Prep are engaged in the wider community in Independent State School Partnerships.*

- f) **Develop collaborations to enable pupils and staff to engage with people in the wider community and other countries**

*We run a range of language and cultural exchanges with other schools in Europe. Work with our partner schools in Uganda continues. A very significant number of our*

*pupils undertake voluntary service in the local community as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. A regular programme of World Challenge Expeditions is now embedded in our annual calendar.*

**g) Expand our contribution to local sports development optimising community use of our facilities and hosting local, regional and national events at school**

*We continue to host primary and secondary tournaments in the Sir Ben Ainslie Sports Centre, the all-weather pitch and our swimming pool. Several local sports clubs now make regular use of our facilities.*

**h) Continue to offer leadership in the delivery of music throughout the county through a partnership with the Cornwall Music Service and our participation in the Music Hub.**

*The work we have done to help establish the new Cornwall Music Service Trust has been a hugely positive development. At the 2015 Gorsegh Kernow, Truro School received the Music Shield for Outstanding Service to Music in Cornwall.*

**3. Run our schools as social enterprises with a focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship**

**i) Involve pupils in the development of an environmental scorecard to define, target, track and monitor our performance**

*Truro School Sustainability Committee for both schools meets termly working on both qualitative and quantitative measures. Recycling programme at the Senior School has been reassessed with appropriate changes introduced. The sustainability work has on occasion integrated with charitable work e.g. Surfers Against Sewage and beach clean-ups that pupils have participated in.*



## **Simon Reed** BSc (Hons) ACA (CO02) **Partner at Robinson Reed Layton, Chartered Accountants**

I grew up in Truro and ever since I can remember I listened to my father talking about how business works, my grandfather and his work and hearing about their interesting and sociable lives as accountants. However I also saw the long hours my father worked and I decided that being a Chartered Accountant was not the profession for me.

Whilst at Truro School, I enjoyed studying the sciences and maths and continued this study through to biology, chemistry, maths, physics and further maths at A level. Truro School also gave me great opportunities for extra curricular activities - I played in various sports teams, and also completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award which gave me vital leadership skills, teamwork experience and resourcefulness which I still use now. I cannot recommend it enough to current pupils, you might get invited to Buckingham Palace like I did!

With my science A levels in hand, and with the aspiration to become a forensic scientist, I completed a degree in Medical Genetics from the University of Leicester. However although the degree was interesting, building on my statistical and maths skills from school, I soon realised that research was not for me. I missed the daily interaction with different people while locked away in a lab. I took full advantage of all the sports on offer at University and found I had a natural flare managing money as the treasurer of the University Hockey Club.

During the summer holidays, I undertook work experience at Robinson Reed Layton completing tax returns and working on accounts and found that I loved it!

On finishing University, I was determined to build a career in Cornwall and I finally relented and realised that I had accountancy running through my veins. I was good at numbers, enjoyed solving financial problems and

thrived on working with people. I therefore found myself a job in the finance team at Cornwall Development Company.

I was keen to start my training to become a Chartered Accountant and when I was asked by a Partner at Robinson Reed Layton to come in for an interview with the prospect of joining the firms training programme, I jumped at the chance. The firm has a reputation for training the best accountants in Cornwall, so training places are like gold dust!

I started at Robinson Reed Layton 10 years ago and haven't looked back. I spent the next three years studying Chartered Accountancy. I passed my exams in 2009 and specialised in audit. I built relationships with clients and learnt about their businesses at every opportunity. I gained experience in a broad range of different client sectors; initially with charities and the not for profit sector, then onto large company clients including those from the hotel and leisure and manufacturing sectors.

In 2014 I was offered a Partnership, and accepted as the second youngest Partner in the history of the firm. I wanted to reach the top and by becoming a Partner of a reputable firm of accountants coupled with the extra benefit of being in Cornwall, I had fulfilled my ambition.

I take pleasure in direct face to face relationships with clients as well as running the business with the other Partners. I enjoy making decisions regarding the future of the firm and was brought up to believe that it's best to control your own destiny, so I'm playing a key part in that now.

Being a Partner is a lifestyle choice and my clients are always at the front of my mind so your brain never switches off. My clients can ring me at any time of day or night as I aim to act like a business advisor and want to be there at critical stages in a business' lifecycle.

I was delighted to have been included within the 35 Under 35 Accountancy Age Publication list, an award which often focuses on the larger firms. My future ambitions are to develop the business, focusing on strengthening client relationships, growing the client base by continuously adding value to client service as well as increasing turnover and number of employees. There is always more to learn, and I am currently studying for a Diploma in Charity Accounting to strengthen my knowledge in this area.

I am keen to give something back to the local community and am looking forward to providing career advice to Truro School students who may be thinking about an Accountancy career. You don't have to do an accounting degree to become a Chartered Accountant, but a business degree would help. I would also advise gaining work experience during the holidays. It requires dedication and hard work but I am honoured to be in the position to assist the future growth of businesses in Cornwall.



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## Ellen Husain (CO94)

*The Hunt*, narrated by David Attenborough, ran on BBC1 for 7 weeks during November and December 2015. Ellen Husain (CO94) produced the fifth episode *The Hunt Nowhere to Hide*, broadcast on the 29 November. She recounts her story from Truro School Sixth Form to becoming producer for this beautiful Natural History programme, viewed by millions. You can follow Ellen on twitter at [https://twitter.com/ellen\\_husain](https://twitter.com/ellen_husain)

"If you'd told me as a Truro School Sixth Former that I would one day be working as a producer on an Attenborough BBC TV series like *The Hunt*, I would have been pretty surprised. From filming cheetahs in the Masai Mara, to lions hunting buffalo in Zambia, and killer whales off the Western Australia, it has certainly been an adventure. By far the youngest producer on the team I felt really honoured to get the job. Since then, it's taken up 2 years 10 months of my life, non-stop. The role of a wildlife producer is immensely varied, from conceiving the structure and content of the film, to writing the script, hiring crew, deciding on camera kit, going on location as a director, edits, schedules, budgets, working with composers, and of course working with the narrator - in this case the equally unassailable and indefatigable David Attenborough. Working with Attenborough was a huge highlight. Despite being the recognised master of the genre he was incredibly gracious and kind about the film, and his performance in commentary record was amazingly impressive. Ridiculous to say, but when he first struck up it really hit me: "Oh my God. That's David Attenborough reading my script!" At 89 years old he is an incredible inspiration. In terms of filming for the series, by far the biggest challenge, and biggest reward, was filming orcas hunting humpback whales - an event which is new to science and has never been filmed previously. We filmed it using a helicopter with gyrostabilised camera, as well as underwater. With a

background in marine biology I usually specialise in marine shoots, but this was a labour of love that spanned three years. It was always high-risk-high-reward, and at times hugely stressful, but culminating in a battle of three humpback whales with a combined weight of around 100 tonnes fighting it out with a pod of killer whales trying to take their calf, what we eventually filmed was the most incredible natural spectacle I have ever witnessed, and it will stay with me forever.

Back in my Sixth Form days I didn't know a soul who worked in TV, in fact, I don't think it even occurred to me that there were 'real' people doing real jobs in wildlife documentaries. All I knew was that I absolutely loved everything about the sea, and I wanted to study marine biology at university. I guess I've always been quite idealistic. It took me quite a long time to realise that wildlife TV would be the perfect way to combine marine biology with my love of photography. Things are different now, the internet means students can research any career they want to do, make contacts, get involved. It's not easy because competition is high, but horizons are far less limited. What I would say to leavers is whatever you're into, it's worth bearing in mind that someone's gotta do it - really; which does beg the question: why not make that someone you? Of course there are practicalities to think about, but it's worth giving it some thought - you might just want to stick at it as long as Sir David..."

**Ellen Husain (CO94)**





# Truro School Careers' Department

The Careers Department within the School has continued to expand and forge even closer links with former pupils. The Autumn Term marked the beginning of our annual series of 'Business Lunches' which are hosted by the Headmaster **Andrew Gordon-Brown** and myself, **Nancy Kenward** (CO96). The lunches are held either in the beautiful Heseltine Gallery (formally the Lower Sixth Common Room) or the newly refurbished Careers Room and are open to students from the 5<sup>th</sup> year and Sixth Form. It gives them an opportunity to meet and question professionals from a range of industries in an informal environment, offering them a fantastic insight in to different jobs available and advice on how to reach them.

We kicked off with our popular Finance lunch in October, supported by Mrs Helen Angove of City Asset Management who is a former parent and has been one of our most helpful mentors. Over the last few years she has arranged several work placements in London for current and former

pupils, providing them with fantastic opportunities in highly competitive industry of investment banking.

In the same month we had our Medics, Dentists and Vets' lunch which was so oversubscribed we had to repeat it in the Spring Term. The students learnt a huge amount from the speakers who ranged from highly experienced to current undergraduates. Speakers included Dr Whinney, an ENT specialist and current parent; **Chris Johnston**, 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Exeter (CO11); and **Marvin Firth** (CO03) an experienced vet who divides his time between his practices in Cornwall and Chelsea.

Come November, the Law lunch was again supported by **David Williams** (CO99), among others. David works as a real estate solicitor for Foot Anstey in Plymouth and provided work experience to Lower Sixth students last year. He was able to offer his insight on the various routes into Law and the pros and cons of law degrees versus law conversion courses.



Images from the Truro School Careers Fair.

**Becky Davidson** (CO00) was next to visit- she spoke about Physiotherapy as a career. As always, she inspired us with her dedication and enthusiasm for her chosen profession and talked about working for both the NHS and Exeter Chiefs as a sports physio.

This year's Business and Entrepreneurs' lunch was supported by Trevor Lee a current parent, running his own business. Formerly the Managing Director of Cornwall and Devon Media, Trevor was able to give us an insight in to the different advantages of working for oneself, and working for larger corporate businesses.

Over the Summer Term we have lunches arranged for Media, IT, Geology and Engineering. Supported by, among others, **Victoria Gould** (CO95) from BBC Radio Cornwall and **Marie Powers** (CO05) from the DPW and several recent geology graduates. This year we have continued to take advantage of the insights offered by our most experienced former pupils and parents but also

invited in more recent former pupils to give the most up to date advice on training and the job market today.

We have also made huge strides with our LinkedIn initiative. As Head of Careers, I now have over 300 connections made up of former pupils from a wide range of year groups and always looking to add to my network. LinkedIn enables former pupils from Truro School to network and has proved very successful so far - the network has managed to provide work experience placements, employment links as far afield as Australia and valuable up to date information on universities and degree courses. Please do sign up to LinkedIn and connect with me. Let me know if I can support you to advertise work experience or employment opportunities or make introductions.

The Headmaster and I have been so grateful for the volume of support we have received from former pupils and parents and thank you all for the opportunities you have presented to our current students.



**Nancy Kenward (CO96)**  
Head of Careers

If you think you could offer advice, guidance or work experience to our students please contact Nancy, she would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact me:  
**01872 272763**  
**nk@truroschool.com**

# Here comes the **SCIENCE!** Show Heseltine Gallery, September 2015

In September 2015, myself and Jo Wood (Archivist) were asked to curate a show in the Heseltine Gallery that reflected the development of the teaching of Science at Truro School over the past 135 years.

Combining material from the School Archive and various departments we brought together an eclectic selection to represent Science in its many forms throughout the history of Truro School. These materials were gleaned from all corners of the school and archive and we even raided old forgotten cupboards and drawers! Teachers were asked to dust off any old instruments and books and the Gallery was designed around these objects to look like a study or a chemistry lab. Many of the science instruments were unusual and often unlabelled so we had a fun time researching their uses.

From vintage glassware and ancient text books to pickled specimens and old film, the show explored not only the development of traditional Sciences such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics but also Geography, Geology, Social Science, Maths and Building Science.

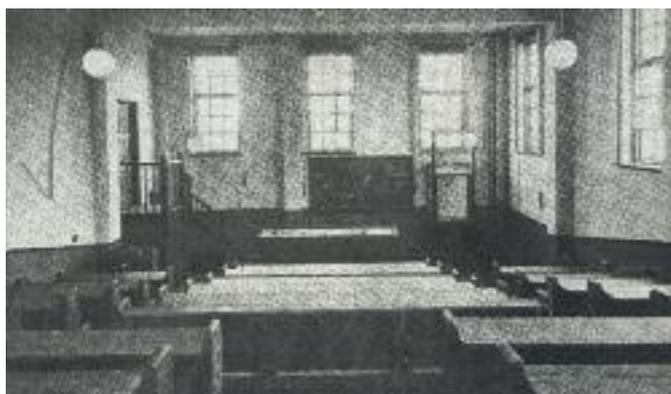
The show then went on to talk about the introduction of Computer Science (cue old photos of big clunky grey

machines and kids in nylon) and Sport Science was introduced. Many students have gone on to science-related careers after leaving Truro School. One of these is commemorated in the C.L. Bryant Prize for Science awarded annually at Speech Day since 1959. **Charles Leslie Bryant** (TS 1890-1896) became a Science Teacher at Harrow in 1913, but his earlier career was spent developing new methods and techniques for teaching Science and Mathematics in the 'laboratories of educational experiment' at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He was also the first chairman of the Truro School Society.

As always, for many visitors the exhibition was a starting point for their own memories of school. And if you feel inspired to dig out any old photos we would be delighted to have a copy for the School Archive, and would be happy to scan and return originals.

**Nichola Sheriff**, Events Manager  
and  
**Jo Wood**, Archivist

*Images from the Science Exhibition 2015*



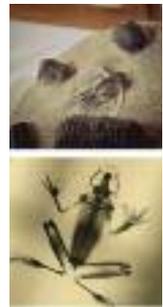


HANG-ON TO YOUR TEST-TUBES...

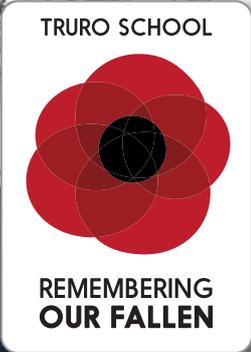
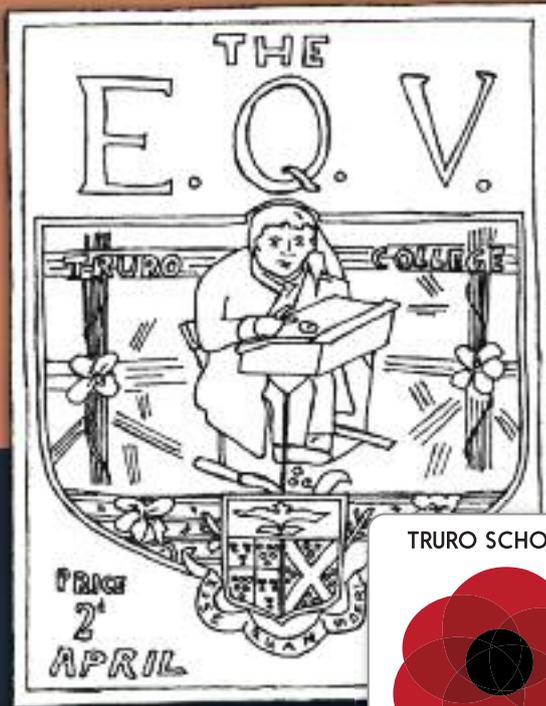
HERE COMES THE

# SCIENCE!

*A Century of Science at Truro School*



# Truro School in 1916



## At home

During the Spring Term of 1916 more staff left the College to join the Services as conscription was introduced. This led the magazine editor to lament that 'the demands of the nation upon our staff have made the term one of unusual difficulty' though generally "thanks to the unwearied vigilance of our Headmaster, work has not unduly suffered". Teaching staff at the school now included women for the first time; Miss Pauline Julian joined in November 1915 and Miss Lillian Martyn joined in March 1916. By December seven members of staff had enlisted and there was a total of 250 old Truronians on the roll of honour.

Amidst the day-to-day working of the School it was still difficult to realise 'the vastness of the conflagration which is raging comparatively near us'. The cadet corps' activities continued and competition was increased with the introduction of the Wellington Cup and the county-wide Lucas-Tooth Competition, which the cadets won in October. An outbreak of measles affected such a large number of boys that the gym was used as an annexe to the sanatorium.

The pressures of war affected the official School magazine, as it became shorter and increasingly focused on the Old Boys. The EQV magazine was resurrected by boys in the School and it reflected their humour and activities; 'for six years this jovial mag has been shrouded in oblivion whence it now emerges with new found glory to gladden our hearts with mirth'.



## At war

A Magazine Fund was set up to send copies of the School magazine to Old Boys in the trenches and the hardships at the Front were reflected in the letters that reached the School.

*"A large number of the Old Boys have been wounded, but the general tone of their letters shows clearly that they are willing to suffer, and that they do not in any way regret that they have taken their part in this great struggle."*

*Truro College Magazine, December 1916*

Eleven of the fifteen school casualties in 1916 died as a result of action on the Somme.

CADET CORPS



A second form essay

"They have a Lieutenant  
a sergeant, a corporal  
and a lance corporal  
They do fatigue drills

with a lance corporal named  
the army

eye in the shape of a line!"

"Stop! Halt! (Cap'n)

- left-right form!"

At least Greenfield has left us  
the 'Caesars' Legion' no longer

is a fine agreement. The  
splendid condition thanks to

The drills at the shooting range  
- Doubtless the Germans would  
saw us doing bayonet exercises

of interest to all -  
Ass you were!

*It is almost a year now since we landed in France, and I can assure you we have had some exciting times. We were in the thick of it on July 1st. It was a great day, and we fairly made a name for ourselves, but I am sorry to say we lost a good many of our lads... I could tell you many exciting experiences, but I am afraid the Censor would not allow me; however, I am looking forward to the day when I hope we shall all be able to meet again at the old School.*

**Pte J.P. King**  
18th Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment,  
France, 5 September 1916

*I have been up the line now for close on a fortnight, but your letter followed me up.*

*I think I have crowded more experience in this last week than ever I experienced in a year of my ordinary life... I only wish that I was back at the College once again. I often remember the good times with George, Tito, and all the O.B.'s... The guns are still on their continual strafe. It sounds magnificent but not conducive to sleep...*

**Pte G. Stratford**  
Royal Fusiliers, France, 26 July 1916

*We are having a rest for a few days, and it is a great treat to get a hot-water bath. It is easier to write letters here than in the trenches, where we often get only four hours' sleep in twenty-four... But work can't be done on nothing - it never was at T.C. - thanks to Mrs Opie and her staff. Neither is it out here...*

**2nd Lt G.L. Symons**  
1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, France, 29 October 1916

**Captain J.S.H. Shafto** (TS 1897-1900), 8th Buffs, was killed in action in France on 12 August. In June he won the Military Cross for

*"gallantry in attempting, by daylight, under fire, to rescue a man who had been blown out of his trench. He went over the parapet, returned for assistance, and remained with the man until he died."*

**Ronald F.P. Jacobs**, Royal Naval Division, (TS 1907-1909)

*"...entered heartily into the life of the School, and was liked by all his school-fellows. He was specially interested in music, and often on Sunday evening, whilst serving his apprenticeship with Messrs. Webb and Co., Truro, he would come and play the hymns in the Dining Hall and have supper with the pupils. On November 13th, 1916, at the age of 23, he heroically gave his life for his God, King and Country at Beaumont Hamel. It was said that 'he was last seen going over the parapet smiling.'"*

**W.H. Jane** who was slightly gassed in the 'Big Push' on the Somme called at the School in September and gave an account of his nephew **Private Leslie L. Dreyer** (TS 1901-1907), of the 1st South African Infantry, who was killed in action on 14 July.

Dreyer had visited the school with Jane the previous November

*"after being engaged in active service in German S.W. Africa. Soon after his arrival he went to Alexandria and subsequently to France. There he volunteered to carry a letter from his Captain under heavy fire, but he had not gone far when he was struck in the forehead with an explosive bullet, and died at the taking of Longueval at the age of 26."*

# Truro School Today

Dear Alumni

The wonderful thing about being responsible for Admissions at Truro School is the number of students I meet and have the privilege of getting to know through the duration of their education. To have Development and Alumni Relations added to my role is hugely exciting, and apt as I have been around for so long, meeting many of our alumni at their entrance examination! However, as the time draws near when I become the parent of not one but two alumni, I recognise the importance of the Truro School community for everybody. The alumni community are fortunate to have the Truro School Former Pupils' Association providing you with updates, reunions, news and views and generally keeping you all in touch with each other and with your alma mater. I am keen to expand this two-way communication to everyone, including to the parents of alumni, so that the Friends of Truro School becomes an organisation which encompasses everyone who has, or who has had, a connection to the school in some way without actually being a pupil.



We are working on both the Truro School Community Facebook page and the TSFPA newsletters to ensure that not only are you kept informed on a regular basis of what is happening back at school, but that the school knows about the work and successes of alumni. Through our use of LinkedIn many of our former pupils are helping in different ways, big and small, to mentor and advise our current students; younger alumni supporting with university advice, to other more experienced alumni who provide work experience and mentoring. Please see Nancy Kenward's report on pages 14 and 15 for a full update.

No organisation can stand still. Truro School is no exception and we continue to work our way through the Headmaster's Strategic Plan with the aim of being recognised as the leading independent school in the South-West. Looking through the events of the last year to update you all, I am amazed by everything that has taken place throughout 2015. There are a number of noteworthy "firsts", including our senior drama students who performed at the Edinburgh Fringe.



In sport; we descended upon Millfield for a squash tournament for the first time; two of our swim teams got through to National Finals; the Under 16s Rugby team became County Champions for the 5th successive year; we returned home with two Gold Medals from the inaugural Independent Schools' Surf competition; the Wednesday afternoon activity list expanded to include skateboarding and BMX riding; our team secured Gold in all four sabre titles at the Under 17s and Under 20s British Fencing Championships in London; and Truro School entered the top 20 of independent sports schools in the UK. In music, our girl choristers performed in Truro Cathedral at a moving inauguration service and five students achieved diplomas in their chosen musical instruments. We also played host to an Overseas University Fair with visitors representing universities from Queen's Belfast to Sydney and Harvard. Just a small snapshot of all that goes on every week in School today.

If you have not done so already, please do follow our Truro School Community Facebook page to keep track of our community, and more importantly keep us informed of your news and stories. We look forward to hearing from you.



**Jayne Grigg**  
Director of Admissions  
and Development

Jayne Grigg has been looking after prospective parents and students since 1992 and is now Director of Admissions and

Development, encompassing marketing and events.

Contact me:  
**01872 246007**  
**jeg@truroschool.com**

# Former Pupils' Sports Day 2015



(Left): Alumni played in the navy and red are Becca Hughes (CO15), Millie Burdell (CO15), Christina Homer (CO15 - captain), Ellie Sayer (CO13), Kiani Pay (CO13), Stacey Pascoe (CO14), Jess Pascoe (CO15) and Claire Tresidder (CO10) who is now working at School as a teacher in the PE Department.

## Former Pupil Netball v School

The Former Pupils' team defeated the School in the annual netball match by 30 goals to 18. **Christina Homer** (CO15) captained her team to victory in a thrilling game, where each goal was hard won. Thanks to Christina for organising the team and captaining them to the win. Also great thanks to all the players, both current and former students, who took part.

(Right) Back row: Henry Matthews (CO10), Neil Stevenson (CO12), Pete Ashworth (CO09), Will Jones (CO10), Simon Reed (CO02), Luke Rugg (CO12), Matt French-Constant (CO12), Jeremy Pascoe (CO85)

Front row: Chloe Sutcliffe (CO11), Jack Carr (CO11), Joe Grassby (CO08), George Baird (CO08), Amie Tall (CO10)

Former pupil players not in the photo include: Jess Pascoe (CO15 - captain), Christina Homer (CO15), Anna Venning (CO15), Adi Shields (CO15), Tom Parry (CO15), Stacey Pascoe (CO14), Kiani Pay (CO13), Tegan Cockcroft (CO15)



## Former Pupil Mixed Hockey v School

The Former Pupils' team beat the School by 5 goals to 1. Many thanks to **Jess Pascoe** for organising and captaining the team and many thanks to all the players, especially to those who went straight from playing in the netball match to the hockey.



## Former Pupil Rugby v School

The Former Pupils' team were short of a few players but still gave the 1st XV a hard game, scoring first to great cheers from the avidly supporting crowd. The School eventually went on to win by 28 points to 7, fighting back hard. Thank you to all returning players and **Graham Whitmore**, Director of Sport for organising the event. The long standing tradition of this fixture is hugely enjoyed by all, making for a great finale to the Former Pupils' Day. Thanks also to **David Connolly**, Head Chef and his team for the hot soup during the match and refreshments served afterwards this year in the beautiful surroundings of the Heseltine Gallery.

(Above): Alumni played in the navy are Cam Sayer (Captain), Ed Jane, Harvey Jones, Fred Young, Oscar Holdsworth, Mawgan Ibbotson, Chris Lin, Charlie Dean, Toby Knox, Peter O'Toole, Charlie Boon, James Turpin, Tom Parry, George Parry, Joe Elderkin, Will Harris and Will Murdoch

# Former Pupils' Arts Day 2015

On Sunday 6 September 2015, we were delighted to host a two-part performing arts extravaganza featuring alumni, returning to entertain their peers and the Truro School community.



"Swinging through bawdy big band songs, blasting flamboyant sambas, delicately accompanying soulful Billie Holiday ballads: as a Sixth Form student, Thursday lunchtimes were a highlight of my diary, when I would play piano with the School's Senior Jazz Orchestra. I was therefore delighted to be asked to return to School in September to perform jazz at a reunion gathering in the Burrell Theatre, alongside my brother **Toby** (CO15). The orchestra were grooving as hard as ever, teeming with talented up-and-coming jazzers. Toby and I had enormous fun spontaneously joining in with some of their charts (who needs rehearsal?!), as well as improvising our own duets. Deep words of thanks must go to the passionate leadership of Mr Simon Latache, who played no small role in cultivating Toby's and my jazz piano chops when we first become interested in the genre. His



dedication and enthusiasm - even when I didn't always practice for my next lesson - led onto both of us pursuing jazz after school. Toby is now in his 1<sup>st</sup> year studying jazz piano at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, while I am a freelance musician in London, where one of my weekly highlights is the post-midnight jam sessions at Ronnie Scott's. It is fantastic to see the next generation of jazz musicians being so expertly nurtured at the school that appropriately devotes so much emphasis on the arts."

**Ben Corneau** (CO11)



"*How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse* was performed for a second time as part of the recent Former Pupils Association Arts Day, following the Creekside Theatre's debut of the production in the Burrell Theatre on the 28 August 2015, where it raised £250 for The Invictus Trust.

The showcase, directed by Old Boys **Dominic Latache** (CO11) and **Cameron Williamson** (CO13), starred former pupils of Truro School and Truro High School. Produced by Dominic and Truro College's Georgina Carlin, it was supported with technical effects by Old Boy **Alistair Cota** (CO13).

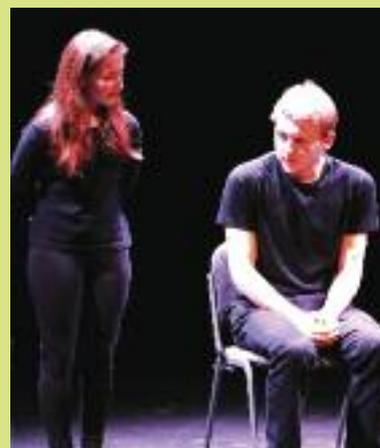
In the first half, the audience enjoyed a series of sketches, written by playwrights including Sir Alan Ayckbourn CBE. In the second half, three audience members were decided to be capable of surviving a zombie apocalypse in an informative seminar, *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse*, a comedy written by Ben Muir.

Cast included **Harrison Dean** (CO13), **Hugh "Freddie" Hougham-Slade** (CO13), **Nathaniel Keymer** (CO13), **Charlie Martin** (CO13) and **Alexander Piper** (CO12). And former Truro

High School students **Gabrielle Dawson**, **Verity Ford**, **Megan Tamblin** and current student **Eugenie Nevin**.

Dominic extends special thanks to his co-producer **Georgina Carlin**, who advertised the show online and in print, and secured the production of three separate radio interviews on the day of the show; to his co-director **Cameron**, whose direction of several rehearsals enabled Dominic to continue working for his law companies; and to the Burrell Theatre, which was kindly made available for rehearsals close to the night of the show."

**Jack Harvey** (CO14)



# Annual Reunion Dinner 2015

## Annual Dinner CO95:

*Vicky Just (née Winter), Jo Wicksteed (née Mooney), Valerie Buckingham, Jemima Luckhurst (née Ball), Connie Schneider, Lizi Hesling, Sarah Hayes (née Holmes) Kenny Green.*

*Also in attendance (but not in photo) Ceri Harvey (née Drew), Demelza Hills (née Salter), Rebecca Harvey (née Coward), Verity Slater, Julia Ives (née Richardson), Debbie Baldock (née Cocks).*



## Annual Dinner CO75:

*Jonathan Middleton, Peter Ham, Bill Sharpe, Huw Dyer and Brian Milstead.*

The Annual Reunion Dinner took place on Saturday 5 September 2015. The Dining Hall was abuzz with over 100 former pupils, staff and partners enjoying a superb three course dinner provided by Head Chef, **David Connolly**, and his staff. Before entering the Dining Hall, we began the evening on the Terrace with pre-dinner drinks. Basked in the late summer sun, familiar faces met in front of Trennick House, some not seen for decades.

**Connie Schneider** (CO95) returned to School for the second year running, this time as Guest Speaker to the reunion. Equally as inspiring to adults as current students, her oratory was as good as her Speech Day keynote in 2014. Connie is currently Judicial Affairs Officer with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations. She reminisced on how she had fitted into School life and made to feel welcome as a young German girl many miles from home, boarding in Cornwall. Connie related to her alumni peers how she had made enduring lifelong friendships through her School career. She had the floor in raptures with School tales, and professionally took the technical difficulties of a dodgy microphone in her stride.

Ending on a round of port and cheese, the frivolity continued late into the evening. By conducting the reunion in the new format of decennial years, it allowed the unique opportunity of exchanging stories across different generations of former students. It was a pleasure to recount how the School, and education, has developed over the past 70 years.

As the Headmaster welcomed everybody, it was **Steve Floyd's** (CO76) final words that bid the party good night and a safe journey home. Thank you to all those who made it such a special evening.

I look forward to sharing another fine party with the next decennial year groups. The Annual Reunion Dinner 2016 is scheduled for Saturday 10 September. Classes of '06, '96, '86, '76 and '66 are warmly invited to celebrate their milestone decennial anniversaries, whilst of course the dinner remains open to all former pupils.

## Lucy Alldritt

Former staff member (2014-2016)

## Annual Reunion Dinner 2016

You can book your place at the dinner by downloading the form at:  
[www.truroschool.com/senior/about-us/former-pupils/former-pupils-forms/](http://www.truroschool.com/senior/about-us/former-pupils/former-pupils-forms/),  
 sending it to the TSFPA c/o Truro School Development and Alumni Relations Office.

Contact:  
**01872 246094**  
**tsfpa@truroschool.com**

# London Networking Reunion 2015



Thursday 1 October 2015 saw Truro School alumni again inhabit the top floor of The Mason's Arms in Mayfair. The reunion of former pupils were happily joined by former Headmaster **Paul Smith** (2001-2012), who delighted in meeting with familiar faces and hearing how recent alumni were getting on in the "big smoke". The evening again offered the opportunity for younger, recent School leavers to network with slightly older alumni, many established in their careers in London.



Thank you to all those who attended – spread the word for next year!

# 1940s Spring Reunion 2015



Every community has its wise elders and Truro School Community is no different. On Friday 17 April afternoon at 2pm, 30 of our former pupils who were at School during the 1940s and earlier joined our current Headmaster, Andrew Gordon-Brown and the Development Office team for a delightful cup of Tregothnan tea and homemade scones.

The eldest of our party was **Mr George Williams** (Truro School between 1930-1936) at 97 years. Mr Williams made the journey to School with his wife from Gloucestershire. **Mr James Pengilly** (Truro School 1934-1938) of St. Keverne was astonished to find he was not the oldest at 92!

Stories of punishment (hours standing by the gong) and strife were the main themes of conversation, all interspersed with great doses of laughter. Andrew

enjoyed listening to tales of mortar boards being thrown into the river on graduation day, some floating from the insertion of plywood! Our School Archivist, **Jo Wood**, struggled to keep up with the raft of anecdotes; a particular favourite and entirely new account for our knowledgeable Archivist, was of Sixth Form boys hiding the Headmaster's Austin on the roof of the Graham Smith block – I can't imagine Andrew's estate making the same journey with equal degrees of success!

There were sad tales too of small boys who did not make it to adulthood, being taken prematurely by polio and measles. These diseases were taken very seriously, with boys who presented with suspect symptoms kept in confinement. Such confinement did not thwart youngsters from securing sweets from the tuck

shop; a rope and cap with comrades 'down below' were very useful prison break items indeed!

After tea some of the former pupils went on tours of the School campus to see its many developments. The Sir Ben Ainslie Sport Centre was a particular star of the show, as well as the changes to the Trennick dormitories, which are now predominantly the library and offices, with only a wing remaining for our current senior boarding boys. Thank you to **Emma Austin** for the impromptu tour of Trennick.

Thanks also to **Steve Floyd** for collecting some of our party in the School bus – I hear it added greatly to the adventure for those who took up the offer.

**Lucy Alldritt**  
Former Staff member  
(2014-2016)

# Truro School Leavers 2015

We welcome the following GCSE and A Level 2015 leavers to the TSFPA. To receive alumni news and stay in touch, please update your contact details with the Truro School Former Pupils' Association by emailing [tsfpa@truroschoo.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschoo.com) or visiting <http://www.truroschoo.com/senior/about-us/former-pupils/truro-school-alumni-census/>. The Truro School Community Facebook page is also a great way to remain in contact with each other and see what the School is up to – follow us today!

## Class of 2015

Kanyin Aje	James Evans	Louise Johns	Emily Pender
Dare Balogun	Charlie Farmer	Flis Jones	Michael Pun
James Bishop	Nini Gigani	Harvey Jones	Holly Rice
Nancy Bowden	Samantha Glinski	Taylor Jones	James Richardson
Kitty Broger-	Bailey Godolphin	Benny Kanyip	Tobias Robinson
Bareham	Rebecca Hall	James Katz	Charlie Rolls
Luke Brotherwood	Sadie Hallett	Yola Kingsbury	Callum Ross
Maxwell Bruce	Toby Harvey	Sophie Kitching	James Rowe
Millie Burdell	William Haydon	Toby Knox	Cameron Sayer
Charles Byrne	Hugo Heard	Edward Laslett	Marina Scott
John Caklais	Tristan Hearle	Lynus Lau	Catherine Shepherd
Benjamin Capper	Megan Hodges	Erin Lee	Adelaide Shields
Hannah Carnegie	Oscar Holdsworth	Joseph Lee	Andrew Smith
James Channon	William Holmes	Christopher Lin	Sophie Solomon
Yvonne Chart	Christina Homer	Molly Long	Melissa Thomas
Alisa Cole	Becca Hughes	Callum Macdonald	Ellie Tregoning
Radley Cook	Ryan Huxtable	Olivia Mannall	Brian Tse
Nicholas Daffern	George Hyslop	Joshua Maxwell	Anna Venning
Megan Dalton	Mawgan Ibbotson	Michael May	Chloe White
Madelaine Davison	Jonny Innes	Hannah McCabe	Daniel Whitmore
William Deacon	Alexandra James	Jamie Mitchell	William Wilson
Charles Dean	Antonia James	Louise Myers	Freddie Young
William Deary	Edward Jane	Arsentiy Novak	Cheuk Yiu Yoyo Yue
Milan Ding	Alicia Jeffries-Jones	Jessica Pascoe	Ryan Yung

## Other Leavers

Ben Allan	2016
Leo Altmann	2016
Pedro Caixeta	2016
Bella Corbridge	2016
Merryn Dyer	2016
Piran Fisher	2016
Frances Hosking	2016
Patrick Kyle-Milward	2016
Anton Lytvynenko	2016
Tamo Modersitzki	2016
Tobe Nduhuisi-Ulokwen	2016
Julia Obojes	2016
Giovanni Seregini	2016
Sam Spurrell	2016
Taaron Syder	2016
Nick Whaits	2016
Corin Wissett	2016
Oliver Wissett	2016
Nils Bartelsen	2018
Harry Brooksbank	2018
Margot Ellies	2018
Nicole Frank	2018
Colin Goofers	2018
Lara Gottschalk	2018
Fabian Hildesheim	2018
Lina Klusmann	2018
Svenja Krueger	2018
Bruno Quaife	2018
Hugo Sonnery	2018
Talai Blight	2019
Elena Ferraris	2019
Melanie Jehu	2019
Megan McGuinness	2019
Eugenia Olmi	2019
Lily Pursall Berger	2019
Emma Williams	2019
Gabriella Wissett	2019
Daisy Bensa	2020
William Gregory	2020
Max Mooney	2020
Jess Tozer	2020
Jake Brooksbank	2021

## Class of 2017

Rebecca Aitken	Henrike Fuhrberg	Tara Kelly	Jacob Schuh
Joshua Boorne	Alice Gaukroger	Anoushka Kumar	Jordan Smart
Jonathan Brunyee	Maren Gerdes	Aaron Lovelock	Anya Sneddon
Florence Cameron-	Heinrich Greuner	Alexandra Maskell	Gloria Steinhauer
Webb	Rhodri Guy	Katharina Moeller	Jemima Thompson
Louis Campbell	Toby Hodges	Denna Mohajeran	Aimee Towndrow
Miranda Clark	Amelie Sophie Fee	Olivia Norman	Anna Tozer
Jack Collop	Hoffmann	Kilian Nuss	Christian Turner
Richard Coney	George Hudson	Lydia Piper	Moritz Walliser
Tabitha Cooper	Joshua Hunt	Charlie Pursall	Jamie Webster
Jamie Eddy	Anton Hussmann	Berger	Olivia Williams
Joseph Elderkin	Edward Jane	Ann-Kathrin Reichel	James Wirth
Marcel Franken	Laurie Jenkins	Harriet Richards	



# Matt Rogers (CO07)

*Martin Palmer, Director Music Truro School, interviews Matt Rogers (CO07) who is now a Staff Conductor at the prestigious Royal Opera House (ROH), London. He tells us his story, from Truro School Sixth Form to conducting the world's most talented musicians.*

## What did you do immediately after leaving Truro School Sixth Form?

I won a scholarship to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), where I completed my undergraduate degree in performance [playing Clarinet]. While I was at the Academy I was lucky enough to be the youngest student they had ever admitted into the conducting class, which allowed me to pursue my studies with some globally-regarded professional conductors.

During the third year of my course I took a year out to study conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where I worked with Jorma Panula, the world's foremost conducting teacher (now 85). I then studied for a Master's in historical performance at the University of Glasgow, and later at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

## How did you become involved in the ROH?

It's a funny story: I went to audition for the young artists' scheme at the ROH. I was late on in the day, but the audition went really well and as I was leaving the room I heard the two Music Directors turn to each other and say "the last one is always the best." Two hours later I received a rejection email from the programme administrator. This sort of thing is not terribly unusual in the industry, as there are many factors that come into play regarding such decisions, and so you learn to brush it off and carry on.

A week later I received a phone call from the Music Director of the Royal Ballet, asking whether I would like to come in to observe a rehearsal. I said "yes", and begged a day off from my full-time employer at the time. During the day we went for lunch, and it was then that he offered me a 3-month contract with the company to work on a triple-bill of new commissions. Often these contracts are used to test the compatibility of new/young musicians, and before the end of the first month I was offered a further contract to tour New York with the company. On the company's return back to the UK I was summoned into Covent Garden, where the music administrator offered me a contract for 2016/17.



**Martin Palmer**  
Director of Music

As Director of Music at Truro School as well as Director of the Truro Choral Society, Martin frequently works with former pupils. If you would like

to contact Martin to either reconnect since leaving School or to offer your musical services, he would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact me:  
**01872 246097**  
**mdp@truroschoo.com**

## What is your ultimate career ambition and how are you working towards it?

Career trajectory is a fragile concept for most young people working within artistic industries, so I feel exceptionally lucky to be where I am now. The past year has been a whirlwind, with short-notice debuts both in New York, and with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia. So at the moment I'm just trying to focus on the year ahead. One particularly exciting project however, is the revival of a professional orchestra in Cornwall – the South West Chamber Orchestra. I'm looking forward to returning home in a professional capacity in the near future!



*Matthew Scott Rogers is a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House.*

# Easter Sport Fixtures 2015

The Easter Saturday Sport fixtures this year were a mix of highs and lows. The Football game saw former pupils go up against the Truro School 1st XI football team, whilst the Rugby game centred on former pupils nostalgically competing again in the inter-house match, Smickett verses Schinter.

The football kicked off at 10am sharp, with a geed up former pupils' team who, having maintained the trophy for two years running, were hopeful of another win. Determined to take down the School boys the game started off at a pace. However it was not long before School had scored, the opposition's mood was lifted and the former pupils' were on the back foot. By full time the former pupils' team were three goals to nil down, passing the annual trophy over to Truro School 1st XI

team. The former pupils were consoled with a hot pasty and beer over lunch in the Heath Hall; swapping stories of previous wins both at School and over the previous two years as returning alumni.

At 3pm the rugby got underway. A close tussle, Smickett just kicked Schinter into touch with eleven tries to nine by full time.

Due to kick off at the same time as the football was the mixed hockey, but this year we were sad not to run it, due to lack of numbers. If you do fancy picking up your hockey stick again, please do not hesitate to contact the TSFPA at [tsfpa@truroschool.com](mailto:tsfpa@truroschool.com).



# Valete

In July 2015 Truro School said farewell to some long-serving staff members who some of our alumni may remember.

## Iain MacDonald



Iain's arrival at Truro School in September 2001 brought a calm and considered approach to teaching English, after all Iain is a Navy man and as a result there is a certain way things should be done – and done right! Iain is impressively organised, he had been a

Head of English at two schools previously, and his attention to detail is legendary.

It was as Head of Drama that Iain collaborated with cube Theatre and Ben Symes to produce some great productions, namely *Oliver!* and the much acclaimed *Les Miserables*; and with the Sixth Form there was the hilarious *A Servant and Two Masters*. However it is as a writer that Iain also excels, his adaptation of *The Tempest* *The Dirty Great Storm* is a clever reinvention of the play and was published. Iain has trained countless debating teams and had success with the Sixth Form debaters getting them to the finals of the Cambridge Union on more than one occasion; there were also many successes regionally with the English Speaking Union. He also took teams for mock trials at Truro Crown Court alongside Ramsey Quaife honing the skills of many Truro School pupils in the art of precise questioning. So fare thee well Iain and Julia; thanks for all the funny stories, the poetry recitals and songs, the liberal idealism you promoted, and for always knowing where to be and when – you'll be missed – you'll be really missed. *By Saul Berger, English Teacher*

## Lez Seth

Lez Seth has been one of the hidden gems in the Truro School community for over ten years. She initially came to Truro School while working for Relate but then became the School Counsellor who has listened and helped numerous pupils and staff members over the years. She has also been a key figure in training our Sixth Form ACHE counsellors and more recently in the Prep School Year 5 peer mentoring programme. She has been a real asset to the medical and pastoral teams and quietly gone about making a significant difference in the lives of so many. Some staff or pupils might not have even know who she was, because she chose to work behind the scenes, protecting the confidentiality of those who benefitted from her patience, understanding and excellent counselling skills. We wish her well in her retirement and the enjoyment of her family, particularly her grandchildren. *By Rev. Aubin de Gruchy, School Chaplain*

## Malcolm Leigh



Malcolm Leigh alias "Mr Bow Tie", retired in the summer of 2015 after seven years of service at Truro School. Setting the highest of standards in the laboratory, Malcolm was a highly skilled practical Chemist who developed a real sense of care and precision when it came to

teaching A Level. His fondness for multiple

whiteboards, using up at least fifty board pens per day plus his reluctance to ever use a PowerPoint presentation is legendary.

In class, Malcolm was well known for many of his spectacular demonstrations and his comprehensive knowledge of the history of Chemistry. Highly respected by all of his students and peers alike, Malcolm always demonstrated a real empathy and understanding with those he worked with. He also contributed much to the co-curricular life at Truro School, setting up a cycling club which was highly successful.

Malcolm has since returned to teaching at Truro School to cover for Dr Brogden during her maternity leave, but his future plans include some travel with the motorhome and he aims to cycle the same number of miles as his age every birthday! *By Adam Gustafsson*

## Patrick Flood



Patrick Flood joined Truro School from Bromley High School in 1984. In the course of his three decades of service to the school Patrick fulfilled a diverse variety of roles which included being a boarding house master in Trennick, Malvern and Pentrewe and a Sixth Form.

But it is of course as a History Teacher, and especially as a Head of History, that Patrick will be best remembered.

Generations of Truro School pupils – including parents of recent and current pupils – have been privileged to experience Patrick's inspirational teaching methods. Like all the best history teachers, he has the ability to hold a class spellbound, by blending his encyclopaedic knowledge of the past with a knack for the dramatic, and lacing this heady brew with his rich (and often deliciously politically incorrect!) sense of humour. While "Floody" has always been a firm favourite of lower school and GCSE pupils, arguably the most important of his academic contributions to the School has been his authoritative A Level teaching, which enabled hundreds of students to earn the grades they needed to read history at their first choice universities, and helped dozens more gain prestigious Oxbridge places.

Outside of the school Patrick has also led a distinguished historical career. His PhD thesis (a study of public opinion in France during the First World War), published in 1989 and described by one academic reviewer as a "richly textured account of peasant life during the conflict," remains a key university course text. During his time at the School he also authored two key A Level textbooks and enjoyed a successful career as an examiner serving in various roles including Principal and Senior Examiner.

Patrick's departure from Truro School brings to a close a career that has encompassed more achievements than most teachers could reasonably expect to achieve. While he generously handed over the reins of leadership within the history department in 2009, Patrick's experience and support (not to mention his wry sense of humour) have remained invaluable assets; he will be a much missed colleague. It is hoped that retirement will give Patrick the much-deserved leisure to read (and hopefully to write) more history, to pursue his interest in political affairs and to indulge his passion for Ipswich Town Football Club. *By Dr Matthew Spring, Head of History*

## Obituaries

**John BEE** CO46

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**Peter William BERRIDGE** CO47

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**Peter Davies BERRINGTON** CO32

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**Dave BRUCE** CO75

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**Ed BURNETT** CO90

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**Michael Garnet CARLING** CO48

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**Dennis Orlando "Dodie" DREW** CO51

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**David FILLBROOK** CO59

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**John Hugh (Reverend) HARPER** CO52

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**John HEATH** CO60

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**Francis Norman JASPER** CO58

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**John KENDALL-CARPENTER** CO43

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**Brian Russell KNIGHTS** CO59

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**David MENHENNET** CO47

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**Joseph A.D. (Reverend) RIDHOLLS** TS80

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**Chris ROBERTS** CO76

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**Paul Anthony SAWBRIDGE** CO60

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**Stephen John SECCOMBE** CO50

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**Robert "Robin" TCHERTOFF** CO45

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**Nigel TERRY** CO64

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**Victor Charles WATTON** CO68

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**Charles Paul Thomas WILSON** CO61

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**John WILSON-CLARIDGE** CO53

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## Obituary Tributes

### John BEE (1941-46)

Died on the 14 February 2015. John was born in Perranporth in 1930. The family moved to Truro and John won a scholarship to Truro School when he was eleven. He had always wanted to be an electrical engineer and after taking his School certificate, he joined the Cornwall Electric Company as an apprentice electrician. When the company was nationalised he joined S.W.E.B as a graduate trainee. He progressed through the company and in 1977 he became the Bodmin Area Manager. Eventually he became Cornwall Area Manager until he retired completing 41 years service with S.W.E.B. His main hobbies were golf, sailing and travelling.

*Thanks to Ann Bee for this tribute.*

### Dave BRUCE (CO75)

I was extremely sad to hear of Dave's passing. Although we had never kept in touch after school days, I remember him with great fondness. He was certainly one of the 'nice' guys at school. My two most vivid memories of Dave were helping him build his first surf board (not particularly hydrodynamic, but great transfers as I remember it!) and when he took up playing guitar and how quickly he managed to perfect Leo Kottke's finger picking style and riffs.

*With sadness, Alan (Oswald) Triggs (CO75) Multiple tributes were paid to Bruce through the TSFPA and were published in the July 2015 Online Newsletter.*

### Ed BURNETT (CO90)

Died on 5 May 2015 aged 43. The architect who designed Gloriana, the Queen's jubilee barge, Ed was described as one of the country's most imaginative and respected designers of modern classic yachts and was specially chosen to create the historic barge. He was



also one of the rowers on board as it led the Queen and Prince Philip up the Thames during the national celebrations in 2012. It was initially set to carry the Queen or the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge themselves, but in the final stages of preparation it was decided the Royal Family would not embark on the Gloriana, but instead would board the Spirit of Chartwell. This left the Gloriana to lead the 1,000 strong flotilla, which escorted her majesty along the river to cheers from thousands of well-wishers who gathered along the Thames.

### Revd John Hugh HARPER (CO52)

John moved from St Agnes to Truro on his 5th birthday. He won a scholarship to the School in 1945 following brothers Harry (CO45) and Geoffrey (CO50) and took the Oxford and Cambridge Advanced Schools Certificate in 1951. Following National Service in the

Army he took up his scholarship to Hertford College Oxford gaining a 2.1 in Theology and then went on to Wells Theological College studying for the priesthood. During this period he married Romola Pascoe at Kenwyn in 1958 and was ordained Deacon in 1959 and Priest in 1960.

Returning home to Cornwall in 1969 with his wife and three children John set about reinvigorating the parish of Halsetown on the outskirts of St Ives. He used his skills and dry humour to engage, invigorate and swell congregational numbers, successfully encouraging others to take Holy orders, and putting the church of St Johns in-the-Fields firmly on the ecclesiastical map. The young preacher caused a stir allowing beatniks to camp in the vicarage gardens, then went further, installing a 'central Altar'. He facilitated a much publicised and graphic Good Friday passion play. In 1972 he wrote the book 'Preach and be Damned'. John retired initially to West Mersea Island in 2000, then to Hampshire to be close to his two grandchildren. Despite failing health he continued to serve throughout the dioceses of Winchester.  
*Tribute by Geoffrey Knights (1953-59).*

### John HEATH (1952-60)

John Heath, Former Pupil, Parent and Chairman of Governors died on 16 April 2015 following a typically brave and uncomplaining two year struggle with cancer.



John came to the School in 1952, the eldest of four Heath boys. Many of his contemporaries were represented in the huge crowd at his Memorial Service and they have written very warm tributes to him. Rugby (he played prop for the XV in 1957 and 1958 and for Cornish Schoolboys) featured prominently but he also had a good mind. He won a place to read Physics at Oxford and went up in 1960, playing rugby for the college 1st XV, rowing in the second boat and 'helping make the college a warm and welcoming place'.

After Oxford he worked in industry in Cardiff and at that time married Janet – the best thing he ever did in his life, he would say – and his family grew: Guy (CO82), Richard (CO85) and Mark (CO87) soon appeared on the scene.

The family hardware business in Perranporth meanwhile needed a new hand on the tiller. John weighed the options and Cornwall won. It was a decision he never regretted. He redirected the business to make it one of the leading surf centres in the country and he became a much loved and respected figure in the surfing community.

It was typical of him to put something back into society. He was a Governor of Perranporth School, Chairman of the Perranporth Garden Trustees, instrumental in setting up the Women's Refuge in Truro and, later, accompanied blind and partially sighted people on sailing expeditions.

After 12 years as a Governor of Truro School he became Chairman in 1992, finally retiring in 2003 – an unusually long commitment. For a variety of reasons it wasn't an easy time to take the helm. John recruited an excellent team of Governors, most specialists in their own fields, and together they tackled the challenges. He didn't confuse the role of the Chairman with the day to day work of the executive, an area where many a school has run into trouble. He would always be a listening ear, would advise and support but he did not interfere unnecessarily.

His connection with Truro School was long and immensely valuable. He will be much missed but his contribution is well remembered in Heath Hall, named in John's honour.  
*Tribute from Guy Dodd – Former Headmaster at Truro School.*

### John KENDALL CARPENTER (1939-1943)

John Kendall Carpenter and I were exact contemporaries— fellow members of the 2nd XV, fellow prefects, fellow actors and late developers physically. We left the same year, I to go to Bristol to study Physics / Radar and he to the Fleet Air Arm. While at Bristol I put on 4 ins. while he simultaneously put on 6 or 7 and a lot of weight. When John went back to school after being demobbed, the staff had no idea who he was.



*Kendall Carpenter (1939-43) and Ken James (English and RE teacher and rugby master at Truro School 1942-71) at the Former Pupils' Centenary Dinner in 1980.*

I first met him again in Oxford in 1950 where he had returned to do a degree and I had been sent on a course by the Colonial Office. I went to call on him. I knocked at the door. When it opened I saw this huge man whom I was sure I had never met. I apologised saying I had hoped to meet an old school friend. He laughed, said "You idiot. I remember you very well. Come in ". From then on, we kept in touch.

## Obituary Tributes

We both decided to teach. His first job was at Clifton College and mine at Bristol Grammar. We both coached rugby, he from a background as England captain, I with one as a Bristol University soccer player! We went to Twickenham several times together. Unsurprisingly, he was able to get tickets easily. Later, in the early 1960s, when he was Head at Cranbrook and I Head at Vyners, he invited my wife, Eiry, and me to stay for the weekend. He also came as a guest speaker at one of my Vyners' Speech Days.

Much later, when John was coming up to retirement after his third headship, he wrote to say he had bought a place in Penzance and inviting us to go down and stay for a week that summer. I replied saying we would be delighted. Eiry and I then went abroad on holiday. When we got home, we were shocked to learn that he had died while we were away, only a week or so after retiring. So ended a lifetime of knowing each other. I still recall him vividly some quarter of a century later, *Tribute written by Trevor Jaggard (1937-43).*

### Revd Joseph A.D. RIDHOLLS

Died peacefully at RCH Treliske on 15 November 2015. A Plymouthian, he was born in 1924 into a Salvation Army family, but influenced in his youth by Methodism. He was conscripted into the Army aged 18, took part in the Normandy landings and served in Western Europe. Gifted linguistically, his command of the French language increased. After demob, Joe felt called to be a Salvation Army officer, but, on deciding that was not right for him, turned to the Methodist Church. He was accepted for training at Didsbury College, Bristol, graduating with a B.A. degree from Bristol University. He served in eight Methodist Circuits in various parts of the country, two of his appointments being in Cornwall – a county he loved. He was a part-time teacher in Religious Education at Truro School from 1977 to 1980. To this he brought a sharp mind, stimulated by wide reading, with a lively, anecdotal, approach to communicating his subject. After suffering ill-health for over a decade, though fulfilling his calling as much as he was able, indeed until the last days of his life, he died suddenly on 15 November aged 91.

*Tribute from Revd Ian Haile, Governor of Truro School from 1980 to 1992.*

### Stephen John SECCOMBE (1945-50)

After leaving Truro School John did an apprenticeship in printing at A. Wheaton & Co. of Exeter. He worked through the whole printing and publishing process, and continued in the book printing process for the rest of his life. He was always interested in receiving news regarding events at Truro School.

*Thanks to Maureen Seccombe for this tribute.*

### Nigel TERRY (CO64)

He left Truro School in 1963 having distinguished himself in a number of School drama productions, following encouragement from Alan Opie and subsequently, under the direction of Watson Weeks. Outstanding performances in *Volpone*, *Juno and the Paycock* and Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* left a lasting impression on many contemporaries. His parents were keen supporters and proud of his talents and acting career. On leaving Truro School, he studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama and enjoyed a distinguished career in film and the theatre.



*Nigel Terry as Joxer in 1963*

His funeral was attended by dozens of fellow professionals from the acting world who descended on Truro like an impromptu travelling repertoire company and delivered a series of memorable readings, eulogies and wonderful anecdotes about Nigel's life, to the accompaniment of the music of Bob Dylan and the Mevagissey Male Voice Choir. We also heard Nigel's own words, from the soundtrack of Derek Jarman's film *Blue*. A number of fellow pupils and 'old Truro' friends were able to share memories of the young, at times outrageously entertaining 'Nigs' Terry that we all fondly remembered, with those who had witnessed his similarly bizarre and enigmatic life. This had clearly touched both the 'highs' as well as some of the 'lows' of life in the theatre, leaving the distinct impression he was an 'actor's actor'.  
*With thanks to Andrew Cameron (CO64) for this tribute.*

# Speech Day 2015

Each academic year Truro School life culminates in a celebration, as our leavers prepare to move on to the next stage in their lives. In July 2015 the annual Speech Day took part in the Sir Ben Ainslie Sports Centre, where we were honoured to welcome Guest Speaker Dame Marjorie Scardino, former CEO of Pearson PLC. The day was as ever full of laughs, applause and nostalgia, as Dame Marjorie addressed our leavers on the years they have ahead of them and led the traditional prize-giving ceremony. There were also speeches from myself, Mr Kim Conchie (Chairman of Governors), Head Boy James Channon (CO15) and Head Girl Catherine Shepard (CO15), interspersed with a superb selection of jazz from the School's music department.

In my final remarks to leavers I reflected on, for me, the most important gift to impart to our students. "We can talk about exam results, sporting achievements and music concerts performed and so on. But, part of the DNA of Truro School is a commitment to expose our students to the big issues facing the world today. It is essential that this is a School where boys and girls are encouraged towards a personally developed life philosophy. Herbert Spencer, a 19th century English philosopher, said that "the great aim of education is not knowledge but action."

Almost in reply to this, Catherine's speech concluded "Regardless of whether we're planning on attending university, completing an apprenticeship or launching ourselves straight into our first careers, none of us are really leaving full-time education today because life is a continual learning process. But, thanks to Truro School, I honestly believe that each one of us is now equipped with all the tools we could possibly need to move forward into the next chapter of our lives."

Please do visit the website to hear the full array of Speeches 2015 on video. In particular, as the extract from Catherine's address has shown, the Head Boy and Head Girl provide moving accounts of their Truro School experience and give thanks to the School and peers for preparing them for life after School; life in an ever changing world; and a life dedicated to the pursuit of happiness and life-long learning.  
<http://www.truroschoo.com/senior/school-life/speech-day/>

**Andrew Gordon-Brown**  
Headmaster and President of the TSFPA



## Former Parent

This has been a week of high excitement for the Mead boys. On Monday Brinsley was offered a long term contract as a water sports instructor in Barcelona, on Tuesday Otto was offered an apprenticeship by Lloyds of London and Wednesday Sam was offered a job as a butchery tutor and pop up chef in a food training academy in America. All three are deservedly delighted; they are all following careers in areas that they are genuinely passionate about.



Sam



Otto



Brinsley

I don't really recall the windsurfing instructors course lessons, or indeed the butchery or insurance tutorials at Truro School. It is not of course possible for a school to cover every eventuality, however it can and does invest in individuality, in diversity, breadth and the innate value of developing confidence and self-belief. All three boys took from the school the importance of independence of mind and spirit, to follow one's convictions, to explore, to be curious and to work hard and tenaciously. All three have been supported or championed by dedicated teachers and form tutors, people who really understood them and for whom the boys' success mattered. I will always be grateful to those teachers.

So as I contemplate the last two months of a 17 year involvement (gosh!) with Truro School I am of course sad to mark the end of a long and happy era, but also so very appreciative of the Truro School's vital contribution to the forming of three young men ready to go out into the world well equipped for an exciting future. Thank you Truro School.

**Catherine Mead**



# Latest Blog from Max Levene (CO11)

So yet another year has flown past and it therefore seems a good time to do an update of what I've been up to. Whilst I realise it has been four years since I left the school, I feel very connected to Truro School and it's nice to give those who have supported me an update, as well as creating a record for myself to look back upon.

I guess the biggest news this year has to be that I managed to graduate with a first in my Business Economics degree. I was extremely proud of my result, especially when looking back and realising some of the extra hurdles I have had to overcome. Simple things like getting ready in the morning can take 2 to 2 and 1/2 hours meaning some very early mornings and needing to be organised to even get to lectures. I also had to



learn how to deal with carers away from home, another added stress and then numerous minor medical issues that are par for the course when it comes to a spinal cord injury; I think all of these have added to my sense of achievement. Whilst I was ecstatic with the grade itself, the degree held a lot more meaning. After my accident my main goals had been to get back to School, with the aim of heading to university to do a degree. This means in many ways it is the end of a chapter that started the day I broke my neck. It is also an achievement that would never have happened without the support of the School; firstly getting me back to

education and secondly all those connected to Truro School and the Trust for the immense support I have received.

I now must confess that in reality my university lifestyle is not quite over as I have opted to continue onto a Master's course in Development Economics at UEA. I have loved my time at the university and therefore was extremely keen to continue however it also seemed like my best opportunity to do so. The university know me and my needs, I have a good relationship with the support staff and I did not have to worry about finding adapted accommodation. These things, alongside the bonus that living in halls the whole time meant that I have many friends who are still in years two and three, also encouraged me to continue.

I am pleased I made this decision to stay on as it has allowed me to meet all sorts of amazing people on my course, and it is also interesting to apply much of the knowledge learnt in my undergraduate degree to a more specific sector. From broad topics such as microfinance to studies on inequality and even the effects of health epidemics, the course has been varied and fascinating. I am now looking to finalise my dissertation topic although it is likely I will be examining the link between wealth and education in Ethiopia. It is nice that I have the opportunity to apply my knowledge to a country that my family has become so close to in recent years since setting up an eco-lodge in Ethiopia.

At the start of the university year I had an exceedingly busy time as I was travelling regularly down to London for the Rugby World Cup, not only as a spectator but also as a volunteer. Working at Wembley for the World Cup was a great experience and it was tremendous fun to be involved in helping to create the fantastic atmosphere that went with the whole tournament. It was also nice to bump into a few famous faces along the way, as well as being able to say I worked at the highest attended rugby game in history (Ireland v Romania for any potential pub quiz questions). As a spectator I went to the two England opening games, a semi-final and the final which has been a long-time dream of mine. Despite the early exit of England the atmosphere remained fantastic and for me the whole two months were unforgettable.

It is now time to start looking for work following on from university. I think all students find this one of the most stressful periods and as yet I have been unsuccessful in my applications, but my hunt will continue. I am also looking into taking a trip out to Ethiopia to see family and friends.

Again I must finish by thanking the School and trust for the ongoing support that I have received without which many of these things I would not have been able to achieve.

**Max Levene, CO11**



[www.stephens-scown.co.uk](http://www.stephens-scown.co.uk)

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