



KEEPING CONNECTED

NUMBER 14



**TRURO
SCHOOL**
CONNECTED

OUR NEW 'OLD TRURONIANS' CLASS OF 2020



WELCOME TO TRURO SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

We hope to be of assistance to you for many years to come and to hear about, and share your continued journey, achievements, milestones and celebrations.

Please stay in touch!

TRURO SCHOOL A-LEVEL RESULTS

Congratulations to all our A-Level students who received their results on Thursday 13th July. We are extremely proud of how you have all handled this situation and, in what has certainly been a year like no other, we are pleased to report 17% of A-Levels were graded A*, an increase of 5%, compared to a national increase of 2%. Furthermore, 43% of all A-Level grades achieved the top-level A*/A results, with 70% graded at A*-B. Andrew Gordon-Brown said on his final A-Level results day as Headmaster of Truro School:



“This was not an easy or typical year for our leaving Upper Sixth, but they remained in good spirits throughout difficult times and continued to apply themselves with their customary dedication to their studies, despite not being officially examined.

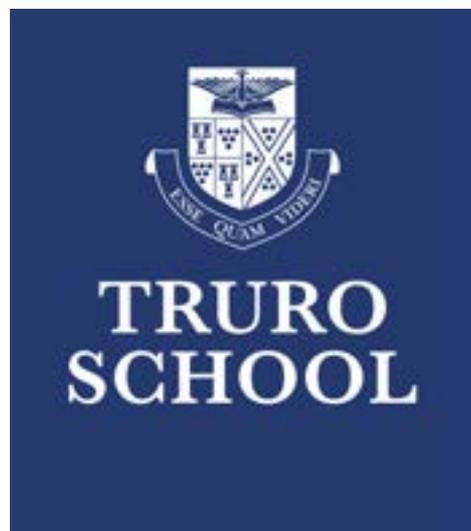
“Following Ofqual moderation of our centre assessed grades our students have been awarded a set of results which are very much in line with the strong three-year overall school average. Whilst we are naturally delighted with such a high percentage of top grades, it is perhaps unsurprising that this national data exercise has thrown up some anomalies. We await further guidance on the appeals processes and will be pursuing these vigorously where we feel our students have been assigned a grade below that which they deserve. This unusual results day brings into even sharper focus the fine qualities of this group of young adults who leave as well-rounded individuals who have been accepted into a broad range of excellent universities and who are well equipped to lead fulfilling lives.”

(Comment made prior to the Government's revision of the grading process.)

Read the full story: [CLICK HERE](#)

TRURO SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[CLICK HERE](#)



DR DAVID PENCHEON CO75 - PUTTING CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE

(LSHTM 1987-1988) WINS THE BMJ OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AWARD



David Pencheon CO75, founder director of the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) for NHS England and Public Health England, has won The BMJ Outstanding Contribution to Health award this year.

The BMJ Awards are the UK's top medical awards, recognising and celebrating the great work being done by healthcare teams and individuals across the UK to improve patient care and public health.

David Pencheon has been a world leader of efforts to tackle the climate emergency from within healthcare. He led the setting up of the NHS SDU in 2007 at a time when very few had the foresight to make sustainability and climate a priority. In the process he has been a major contributor to putting health at the heart of climate action globally and also to making climate action a normal and now essential responsibility for all healthcare professionals.

The SDU devised a way of measuring the carbon footprint of every aspect of healthcare in England and supported organisations in redesigning how care is delivered to reduce emissions. This work continues and has meant that the UK is able to take on the challenge of working towards a target of net zero carbon emissions.

David grew up in Cornwall and was a student at Truro School from 1968-1976. After qualifying as a doctor he went on to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine before moving into public health medicine. He held various public health roles before setting up and leading the SDU from 2007 until his retirement. David is an Honorary Professor at the University of Exeter.

Dr Fiona Godlee, Editor in Chief at The BMJ said: "David has been an inspiration to the many people within healthcare working to tackle the climate emergency and has inspired and encouraged the next generation of healthcare professionals working in the field of sustainability.

With so many pressing issues, including now the covid-19 pandemic, we must not let the real and present threat of global heating slip down the agenda. So, I am particularly pleased that this year's award goes to David, as someone who has so effectively championed climate action in healthcare and helped to normalise climate change and sustainable development as a health issue - not just an environmental issue."



We look forward to seeing more about David at the Awards Showcase video celebrating the 2020 winners and giving greater insight into the winning projects in the Autumn <https://thebmjawards.bmj.com/>

David has kindly given us permission to connect him with Sarah Finnegan, Head of Biology and Medical Pathways lead as part of our TS Connected initiative. David's knowledge and experience will no doubt be of great benefit to our current pupils and recent leavers.

OLD TRURONIANS ACROSS THE GLOBE

ANDY BUCHAN CO95

Since 2006 Andy Buchan has lived in the United States. He now resides in Mukilteo, Washington State, about 30 minutes north of Seattle. He and his brother Matthew attended Truro School; Andy left in 1995 and Matthew in 1998.

"I have fond memories of being at Truro School. As I look back on my time there I recall it being filled with so much activity. There was great camaraderie between the boys (it was all boys when I was there up to Sixth Form when the girls arrived)!"

"I was very engaged in sports during my time there. I played badminton, football and rugby and remember well the energetic and sometimes, a little scary, coaching, by Mr. Hunt! I loved the inter-house rivalry and of course being in Smith we often emerged victorious. I also remember CDT class and how awesome it was we got to use such great facilities and actually make things."

"I loved the campus and the grounds - it was always so pleasurable to be out during break and lunch times either in the courtyard or on the terraces."

Whilst at school Andy enjoyed sciences, especially physics. At the time he wanted to join the air force and was a cadet the entire time through school. "I loved flying and so naturally was drawn to the sciences including physics and electronics which I took at A-level along with maths (which was a necessity though I certainly did not excel at it!)"

After leaving school Andy went to the University of Hertfordshire and went on to gain a BEng in Aerospace Systems Engineering. Following that he started his first job with what was BAE Systems working as a missile design engineer. *"This was an amazing first job where I applied my degree immediately and was lucky enough to travel the world and work on some fantastic projects. Although I almost changed my degree at the end of my second year to become a lawyer! I was working for a law firm to pay my way through college and was fascinated by law, but I stuck out the hard maths and finished my bachelors. I later earned a Master's degree from Loughborough University. Ironically, in my management roles in more recent years I dabble with more legal work than I ever do engineering!"*

Andy now owns and runs a management consultancy company, [Deep Blue Strategic Advisors](#), helping small to medium sized aerospace and defence companies with strategic growth, winning new business and mergers and acquisitions. He also has a small start-up technology business focusing on new composite technologies that will help make urban mobility (flying cars / taxis) a reality.

Is there any advice you could offer anyone considering a similar life or career path?

"I would highly recommend an engineering degree. It is so versatile and you open up so many options later in life having the technical background and grounding. You can learn "business" on the job but it's harder to start on the business side and truly pick up the science and engineering as you go."

Andy is a proud family man, married to Kristen, with two children; Julianne (10) and William (6).

"My wife kristen is a successful business woman and a director at a large aerospace company also and both my children make me proud every day."



He is also proud of his career and told us: *“I was very lucky to be mentored by some great individuals which helped me accelerate my career path and achieve many successes. Having spent much of my career supporting the defence industry I am very proud to know I have been part of teams that developed and delivered products and solutions that support our service men and women around the globe.”*

Andy still has links with Cornwall. His parents, grandmother, aunt, brother and his family all still live in the county so he tries to visit with his family at least once a year. He has only re-visited Truro School from the outside, to show his children – we have asked Andy to let us know when he next visits so that we can give him and his family a proper tour.

In his spare time Andy enjoys golf and walking and looks forward to time spent with his family, just enjoying his children growing up.

Do you feel your time at School, or anything about your time here, helped you to progress in later life?

“I think Truro school definitely gave me the right grounding and start in life with the right ethics and morals to succeed later on in life. Today I still hold the phrase Esse Quam Videri closely!”

Truro School Connected

a network for life...

Truro School Connected aims to provide a life-long networking community consisting of Sixth Form students, Old Truronians, and current and former members of the Truro School Community to assist with careers advice, guidance, work placement opportunities and networking links.

a network for life..., extending beyond school - one that not only helps our Sixth Form but also enables our younger alumni access contacts across the globe who can, in partnership with Truro School, assist and advise with future career planning.

Our network for life... programme has many facets – for example our younger alumni continue to seek advice and mentoring from members of Truro School Connected but can also offer advice about their experiences of university to Sixth Form students about to make their first big decision.

We appreciate that not everybody is able to visit the school to chat to our students about their career but there are other very important ways that you might help. Perhaps you could offer to assist our careers team by reviewing CV's, conduct mock interview, host a table at one of our business lunches (remotely), with Post 18 options days, our careers convention, present at our lecture series, offer work experience or an internship, or just chat with a student and explain what your role entails by coming to one of our TS Connected social events.

If you can help, or indeed would like to receive help and guidance, in any way, big or small, please complete the online form just [CLICK HERE](#).



ALUMNI ACROSS THE GLOBE

PHIL ROWE CO97

GOLF COACH, SWANSON CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY GOLF PROGRAMME

Old Truronian Phil Rowe has been selected as head men's coach of the Swanson California Polytechnic university golf programme. Phil, who was promoted this year, previously coached in Las Vegas where he spent four years as assistant coach for the men's golf program at Stanford, his alma mater. Phil was instrumental in helping University of Nevada, Las Vegas return to the top, winning its first championship in 14 years in 2016.



After leaving Truro School, Phil was at Exeter University for a year before being recruited across the pond to Stanford University. He returned after eight years of competing on various golfing world tours, including a five-year stint playing on the professional circuit in France. Phil won four world-wide tournaments as a professional, including a pair at the Open de La Réunion, and was ranked ninth by the Allianz Golf Tour in 2009.

Phil was also the attached touring professional golfer for the more local Trevoze Golf & Country Club near Padstow from 2005-2010.

Whilst at Stanford, he was a two-time 'Academic All-American' at Stanford, captained the team as a senior and posted team-low scoring averages of 72.8 in 2001 and 71.8 in 2002.

Phil played for the England Boys Team at age 16, and competed with the Great Britain & Ireland Boys Team in 1996 and 1997. He accumulated 30 team match representations (caps) for the England Men's Team.



For those who may be interested in finding out more about becoming an academic athlete or are simply thinking of pursuing a life in the USA – please get in touch and we would be happy to connect you with Phil.

Email: tsa@truroschoo.com

PROFESSOR NEIL (JAMES) HAWKE CO63

GENERAL EDITOR OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAW

WORKING ON CORONAVIRUS LEGISLATION

I was intrigued by the memories of what was so-called 'food' during my time at school between 1956 and 1962. It is difficult to add to the catalogue of culinary calamities described by Stuart Bird, Stuart Sylvester and Martin Corner, all contemporaries of fond memory. My only contribution to the debate is to recall the infamous 'Quantock' brand of jam, dispensed from huge cans.

After Truro School I did my 'A' levels at Cornwall Technical College, as it was then known, before completing a first degree in Law at Hull University.

Thereafter my first taste of higher education was as a junior lecturer in London before an appointment as Senior Lecturer at what was then Leicester Polytechnic. In the early 1970s I completed a Ph.D. in Law at Nottingham University while on sabbatical after which I was appointed Reader in Law. Later, in what became De Montfort University, my specialism was Environmental Law. In between teaching commitments, various books and articles, and conference papers in the UK and overseas, time was spent on secondment advising governments then outside the EU on the requirements of the Community's environmental laws. From 1989 I was appointed Head of Department and Professor of Law.



Retirement was in 2005 since when my wife and I have divided our time between Brighton and Falmouth, allowing me to keep in touch with Cornish relatives and friends, and my home town of St Ives. In retirement I spend time researching and publishing in maritime history – I come from a sea-going family – as well as travelling and following flat racing. I have visited the School (and Nicky) on a couple of occasions and look forward to doing so again in the future when times allow.

Since 1989 I have been General Editor of the Encyclopedia of Environmental Health Law, published by Thomson Reuters and aimed at practitioners who can choose a hard copy in five volumes, or an online version. Just now I am heavily involved in analysis and application of the ever-expanding body of Coronavirus legislation. Rarely does a day go by without a new set of regulations requiring attention. What is striking is the extent to which detailed regulation of everyday life is demanded in the face of the pandemic. The pace of legislative change is such that very careful attention is required to ensure that amendments and revocations are consistent in order to produce a coherent and easily understood body of law.

Neil Hawke CO63

Thank you for getting in touch Neil, and good luck with the ongoing legislation!

KERRY (ALWYN) STEPHENS CO65

RECOLLECTIONS OF TRURO SCHOOL DAYS & HIS JOURNEY TO RETIREMENT

I was sent to Truro School from my home in the West Midlands as my mother had relations in Cornwall and my uncle (Colin Nunn) attended in the 1940's. At that time Truro School had the benefit of grant aided status, which meant that there was a pretty broad social background amongst the pupils



In my day there were three streams with classes of about 30 each year; the top stream would have half a dozen or so boarders and the bottom the same number of day boys. The middle stream was equally balanced. The day boys, often from less advantaged backgrounds, were of course the cream of the 11+ group from a wide area and a range of backgrounds around Truro. It perhaps helped us all to understand that social class had nothing to do with either academic, or sporting, ability.

I arrived at Pentreve boarding house in 1958. While probably nicer than the other first year one, Poltisco, it was a very long hike to the classrooms, up Trennick Lane (the front path was out of bounds) across the school and then down the rather treacherous path. If you forgot something it was not a five-minute trip to collect it.

In the first year there were two exams. The first, at the end of the first half term basically decided your fate academically for five years. If you did badly enough to be in the bottom stream you were likely to be stuck there until "O" levels. The second exam at the end of the first year determined between the top and middle streams. I made it, unexpectedly, into the top stream (just). In that stream you skipped the third year and took "O" levels a year early. I believe this was abandoned not long after I left - a good thing! In my case I made it to "O" level, but rebelled in the Sixth Form, did no work and left with three dubious "A" levels. My sons, (one of whom is a teacher), regard this as abject failure, although I point out that there has been serious grade inflation since the 1960's. However, I did have a great time in the Sixth Form.

While not exactly Dickensian, the school was only just emerging from a post war world; the overstuffed dormitories in the junior houses, the soulless vast dormitories in the senior school and the dining hall with its serried ranks of long tables and benches. The food was also pretty dubious, served out of beaten up metal trays by the heads of table - but we all survived and had the benefit that you appreciated good food in later years. There were "treats" of chips on Wednesdays and Saturdays (to fortify for school matches in the afternoon) and butter for Sunday tea. Looking back I suppose it was a rather Spartan existence compared to the comparative luxury enjoyed by my sons (a relatively recent experience as I had my children late in life) with their own rooms and multiple food choices in the dining hall.

Not being a native Cornishman I still recall the winters with horror at what seemed like non-stop rain and rugby pitches that were quagmires, particularly what was then the Colts field.

However, there were a couple of very cold winters with a lot of snow and in the winter of 1962/63 the start of the spring term had to be deferred because the pipes had frozen.

Although I did not take full advantage of it, the teaching was high quality, helped by first class raw material for the teachers to work with from the 11+ local scholarship students. Those who stand out in my memory include M. Laupretre, my form master for three years, whose efforts have left me with a smattering of French some 50 years later; Mr Simpkins, whose double history periods were essentially lectures from memory, although taking notes in those lessons could lead to writer's cramp, such was the volume of noteworthy material he communicated. Mr Marshall, who struggled instil Latin into me, succeeded against the odds in getting me through "O" level, whereas Mr Wilkes failed to do the same with German. Then "Slotty" Wicks (how did he get that name?) who taught me English for five years. He had a wicked sense of humour and was always keen to champion the achievements of those from less advantaged backgrounds. He also fined me, what seemed then a king's ransom, for returning to school "tired and emotional". In those days alcohol was very much frowned upon, and smoking was a serious sin (sadly I did both) which made my final year one of never ending battles with Mr Monks, my then housemaster.

Overall the school prepared me for the world of work, particularly my first job as an articled clerk to a small West End firm of accountants, which was seriously Dickensian. Most of the staff were articled clerks, cheap labour, ruled with a rod of iron by a long serving chief clerk, who sat in the same room and did not permit any talking except on client matters and resented you as you gained more knowledge. The partners were addressed as "sir" and audience was only permitted at their invitation. In many ways I was lucky to choose accountancy. I wanted to be a lawyer, but I could not get articles to train, and I ended up in accountancy training in 1964, when it was far from being a fashionable profession. Post qualifying, I joined what was then one of the "Big 8" accountancy practices to specialise in corporate taxation, which I have done throughout my career. This firm was also a bit Victorian - the partners had their own private corridor and you knew you had "arrived" when the aged senior managers called you by your Christian name. In the nine years before I was admitted to the partnership the firm must have quadrupled in size. I took early retirement after 25 years as a partner from what had then, post a couple of mergers, become PwC. By then I had had enough of "big end" accounting, which involved a little too much travel for my taste, (mainly the USA and Northern Europe). I advised some household names as well as a lot of very large, but not well known, corporations and was engaged in a number of high profile transactions, which today, because of their comparatively modest values, would hardly rate a mention in the financial press.

I did intend to retire, but was offered a number of part time posts, which I accepted. One of them has turned into a second career as I am still working for the company even though it filed for bankruptcy eleven years ago. My experience has involved litigation in North America including the interesting experience of giving a deposition in accordance with US legal practice and then being questioned on it for two days in a room with twenty odd lawyers representing the various factions, asking what was in my mind when I wrote particular emails from many years before, and having had no forewarning of what might be raised. This was followed by giving evidence in probably unique circumstances where the US and Canadian courts sat together, via video link, hearing the same evidence, as I gave my evidence via video link from London. Thankfully the issues have now been resolved and after seventeen years retirement finally beckons! I will now concentrate on keeping nature at bay in the overly large garden my wife visited on us when we moved house from London suburbia to a market town in the East Midlands.

Kerry Stephens CO65

Thank you Kerry for taking the time to share your lovely recollections.

INFORMATION:

The Government Grant Scheme ran from 1945-1976 and was replaced by the Government Assisted Place Scheme 1980-1997 when it was abolished.

In 1999 Headmaster, Guy Dodd, launched a campaign to raise funds for the Truro School Endowment Fund with the aim of continuing to offer support, via means tested bursary awards, allowing those children whose families could not afford the fees, to benefit from a Truro School Education. Many young people have benefited over the years and to this day over 100 children currently receive means tested bursary assistance as a result of Guy's foresight.

In 2017 the Truro School Foundation (TSF) and the Development Office was set up by Headmaster, Andrew Gordon-Brown, to continue the work of the Endowment Fund, guided by a board of trustees with Guy Dodd at the helm until January 2020. Now Graham Hooper (Old Truronian parent) is Chairman of the Board, assisted by 12 trustees all of whom are passionate about continuing Guy's vision and addressing the social mobility issue. Since the launch of TSF in 2017, over 20 Foundation Awards have been made, helping to widen access to Truro School.

If you would like to learn more about the Foundation contact Nicky Berridge (Clerk to the Trustees) or Graham Hooper (Chairman)

by emailing: foundation@truroschoo.com

or visit the website: [CLICK HERE](#)



**TRURO SCHOOL
FOUNDATION**

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF GUY DODD



SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2020

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND

The Foundation Trustees, Governors and new Head, Andy Johnson, would like to invite you to Truro School's service to honour former headmaster, Guy Dodd, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

It is very difficult for us to make definite plans for this ceremony, given the current COVID-19 situation, and the ever changing Government guidance regarding large gatherings.

At present we hope to hold an outdoor gathering which will include the planting of an oak tree in the school grounds. The ceremony will be attended by Guy's family and friends and *hopefully* anyone else who would like to join in this tribute to a dear friend and former colleague, (guidance permitting) followed by a Cornish Cream Tea. It may only be possible to hold a small gathering, so sadly we are unable to guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all. If you would like to be added to the guest list, please let us know by emailing:

foundation@truroschool.com

Nearer the time, we will contact all those who have indicated their wish to attend, with more information.

FOND FAREWELL

TONY (JOSEPH ANTHONY) BOWDEN

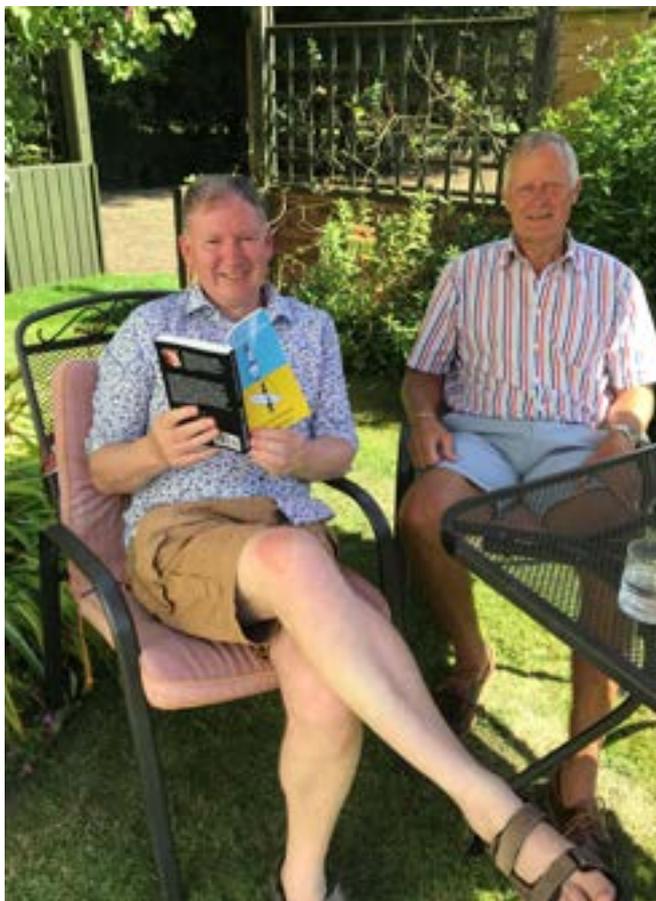
02/12/1938 – 06/07/2020

TS 1947 - 1955

Tony, aged 81 years died at home in Harrowbarrow on July 6th 2020 after fighting with courage and tenacity to recover from two major operations. He shared 58 years of happy marriage with Anita and was the loving father of Simon and Allen, loving grandfather to Genevieve and Josie and loving father-in-law to Mandy and Sharon. Tony worked for Legal & General for many years in Truro. The family hope to have a celebration of Tony's life at a later date.

AUTHOR & FORMER TRURO SCHOOL TEACHER, IAIN MACDONALD, VISITS FORMER HEADMASTER PAUL SMITH

Iain MacDonald, teacher turned author, recently visited former headmaster, Paul Smith at his home in Norfolk.



Paul said: *"It was good spending time with Iain and I have now read his novel which is a good beach read. I am sure there are a few characters that I recognise from my Truro School days!"*

MENTORING MR SINGLEMAN

Iain, who taught English and drama at Truro School from 2001-2015, has recently published his first novel. **Mentoring Mr Singleman** is set in and around a Cornish School, and certain elements may feel familiar to Truro School staff and alumni.

"I have always wanted to write about teaching," says Iain, "and it struck me that while school stories are perennially popular with both adults and children, they tend to be written with the focus on the students, with the teachers providing a kind of colourful backdrop. I wanted to reverse that – to write about teachers, and what teaching is like, although I also have a small group of student characters who comment on the action and provide a bit of a sub-plot.

"In my teaching career I have also known of several staffroom romances – some perfectly routine and some less so - and I always felt how difficult it must be to carry on a courtship of any sort under the noses of several hundred adolescents. This seemed to me like good basic material for a novel."

Mentoring Mr Singleman is essentially a love story between two young-ish English teachers with differing educational philosophies. Dave is a bit laid back, not over-fond of marking, and resistant to the current fashion for measuring educational outcomes. Kate, on the other hand, is career focused and happy to buy into a more data-driven approach, and her first impressions of Dave are that he's a cynical slacker. It's clear from the beginning of the novel that one or both of them will have to compromise if they are going to find enough common ground for a happy ending, and the uneven progress towards that compromise is the subject matter of the novel.

While Iain has drawn on some aspects of his time at Truro School for his material, (there's a Shakespeare festival and a debating competition, and the physical geography may feel familiar), he stresses that neither the school itself, nor individual staff and students, are represented in the novel. "I deliberately set the novel in a different type of school, a state academy located vaguely in the Penzance-Newlyn area. There are some educational politics in there, common to all schools I suspect, and people may fancy they detect aspects of folk they know here and there. But I was keen to avoid portraying anybody I had worked with - I enjoy excellent relationships with my former colleagues and I'd like to keep it that way!"

Iain has a track record of published work, both short fiction and journalism, but this is his first attempt at a full-length novel. He had some early success when a short story was published alongside pieces by Alexander McCall Smith and Ian Rankin – both of whom went on to write multiple best-sellers.



“At that time I had a young family,” he says, “and full-time writing really wasn’t an option, so I just did bits and pieces as and when I could. It’s interesting though that in terms of style that early story was not dissimilar from the one McCall Smith submitted, and in many ways the style of this book has similarities to his work. It deals with an ordinary situation with a light, wryly humorous touch, and that’s an aspect of McCall Smith’s writing that I admire.”

Below is a short extract from the novel. It describes Kate’s first experience of the Shakespeare festival, and should strike a chord with anybody who has left Truro School in the past decade.

The theatre is buzzing. The main auditorium is filled with mums and dads, aunts and uncles, for the reputation of Shakeyfest precedes it, and even the most disengaged parent, who might rarely cross the threshold of the school, is not insensible to the significance of their offspring uttering (or, as is sometimes the case, stuttering) the immortal words of the Bard on stage. The lighting box is also packed, principally with the considerable bulk of Harrison Roche, but with the remaining space occupied by his minions, peering anxiously at their tech scripts, going over the sequence of the first few cues in their heads. The various form groups in their differing states of readiness are disposed around the theatre block according to Mr Singleman’s legendary battleplan, copies of which are sellotaped to walls and pillars in the hope that this might ensure compliance. It never has in the past, but Mr Singleman lives in hope.

Issy and Sammy are both there, Issy in her school uniform as Dave’s form prefect, invested for the evening with the responsibility of marshalling the various groups from changing room to backstage area and back to their allotted space in the auditorium when their twenty minutes upon the stage has been duly strutted and fretted. Sammy is in black, his job tonight being to run the backstage area, troubleshooting any prop or set issues, and supervising the setting and clearing of the stage by the Year Seven techies. This small army of stagehands, who are too junior to be employed in anything more complicated than scene-shifting, are a troublesome team of theatrical goblins who do not entirely respect Sammy’s authority, and who from time to time have to be encouraged with a sharp word or the threat of physical violence. Raphael D’Allesandro is flitting around with a serious expression on his face, and Kate has the impression his principle concern is not the success of the evening but the security of his departmental real estate.

Kate is backstage with her cast, already changed into their minimalist costumes of black jeans or leggings and brightly coloured tee-shirts, though at present these look rather odd in the soft red glow of the backstage lights. They are a gentle crew, with the exception of Caliban, who is being played by Lily Tregunna’s cousin, and who revels in her role as an earthy spirit given to colourful cursing and snarling gesture. Kate herself is growing anxious that, as the hour of curtain-up approaches, a collective glazed look is starting to appear across their faces. She realises that all the obedient rehearsal, the creative choreography and the diligent learning of lines, could be wiped out in a moment by stage fright. She seeks out once again the boy who is playing the bosun and checks that he is in good shape to belt out his opening line as soon as the storm effect subsides a little, as she has briefed Harrison that it should. She casts a concerned glance at Ariel, delicate and diaphanous, and at this moment crouched in a corner with her head in her hands. She hopes this is actorly preparation, and not blank terror.

Dave’s head appears round the door.

“All ready, Ms Porteous?”

She smiles and gives him the thumbs up, and amid the nervous tension feels a flutter of a different kind of excitement. She rather likes this secret that they have.

An adjustment to the house lighting quietens the hubbub of the audience, and she knows that Frances will be stepping out of the wings. She listens as her Head of Department, with her customary gentle confidence, welcomes the parents to the theatre, and explains the format of the evening. It seems to take an age to get through the fire evacuation procedures, the arrangements for interval refreshments, and the list of dos and don'ts that are deemed necessary to ensure a smooth show, and her cheeks ache from dispensing encouraging smiles to her now clearly petrified cast. Then suddenly Frances is saying,

"So, without further ado, please put your hands together for 86, who are presenting... The Tempest!"

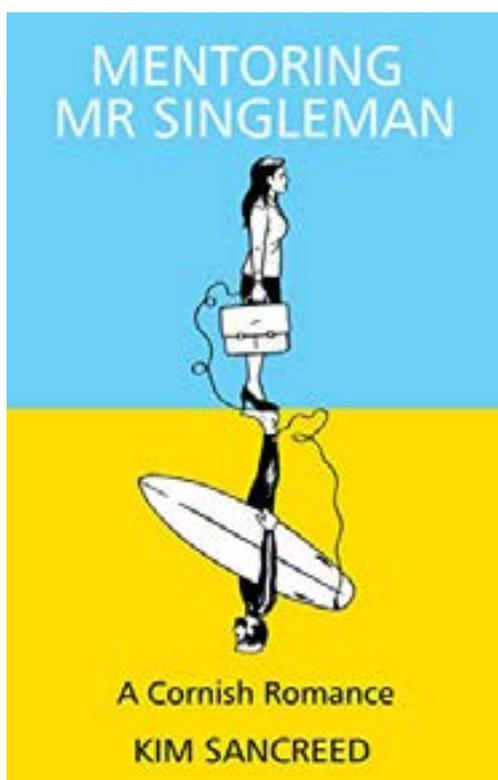
Under cover of the applause, and with the help of Sammy, she ushers her group out onto the darkened stage, and watches anxiously from the wings as they take up their positions, most sitting cross legged in the shape of a boat, while others strike pre-rehearsed frantic-mariner attitudes. She is relieved to see that Ariel is in position and looking alert.

"They'll be fine, Miss," Sammy whispers kindly, "So long as they know their lines."

Up in the box, the sound guy on one desk, and the lighting guy on the other, glance up at Harrison, are given the nod, and hit their respective buttons.

There is an almighty crack of pre-recorded thunder, the blue wash comes up and the strobe kicks in, and the Bosun bawls at the top of his voice "Avast me hearties!" This is not of course the opening that Shakespeare wrote, but one that Kate has imposed upon her adapted script in the interests of getting the play off to a strong start. The tactic works.

In the time available they can only scratch the surface of the Bard's enigmatic and magical swansong to the English stage, but they rattle in some style through abbreviated renderings of the storm, the Ferdinand and Miranda log-carrying scene, the rude bits with Caliban under her gaberdine and finally, and rather impressively, Prospero's grand renunciation of his magic. Then the stage empties to leave only Caliban, temporarily forgotten in a corner, whose final flourish is to pick up Prospero's staff, shamble downstage centre, and cackle obscenely at the audience as the lights fade to black. There is a moment's silence, then the theatre bursts into enthusiastic applause, nobody clapping more excitedly than Kate in the wings.



Extract from **Mentoring Mr Singleman** ©Wildword Publications 2020

Mentoring Mr Singleman is available as a paperback and e-book from Amazon. Iain writes under the pen-name of Kim Sancreed.

[CLICK HERE](#)

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER - 13/08/2020

Dare we look forward to more stable times in Cornwall and in business? Unfortunately, everybody has seen the headlines saying that 1 in 3 businesses is planning redundancies in the next three months so, understandably, many employees are worried and many small business owners are losing sleep. In truth the picture I'm seeing locally is much more nuanced than this. Vacancies advertised are on the increase, the hospitality sector is busy and there is pent up demand being released in Cornwall, our tech businesses are thriving on the international stage, and more and more businesses can use homeworkers based in wonderful places like Cornwall working remotely which is having a positive impact on house prices – if you see 'increasing' as a positive!



Without being glib about the threats facing people and businesses in the short term, I am one of the few private sector people on Cornwall Council's Recovery Group; and Cornwall Chamber of Commerce is doing our bit to get Cornwall back on its feet again. The inaugural Cornwall Festival of Business took place in 2019 with the centrepiece being the 10th Business Fair in the Sir Ben Ainslie Sports Centre at Truro School last November. Sadly, due to Covid, that is not possible this year. So we have come up with a cutting edge tech solution. The Festival is planning to have 60 virtual events across Cornwall & Scilly through the week.

If you are interested in hosting one, no matter how modest, you can register your activity and benefit from the Chamber's extensive marketing of the Festival by visiting our website (use the link below).

The Business Fair is going to be amazing. It is the first virtual business fair in the South



West to use some state of the art software to create an online Exhibitors Hall with stands and personnel with whom you can interact, and an auditorium for presentations, videos and interactive workshops. It will make you smile it's so cleverly done, so do look out for the promotions. The Festival and the Fair are evidence that Cornwall can prosper doing things differently. The crisis has been a catalyst for change to ways that will suit Cornwall's public vision and private psyche in ways that haven't suited Cornwall for decades.

And the collaborative approach we take to sorting out problems here, added to our natural resilience and resources mean we have lots to be positive about. But, if you're worried about losing your job, do use the Chamber and all your networks to explore your options.

By Kim Conchie

Chief Executive Officer, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
TS Chair Of Governors & Foundation Trustee

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce website

COLIN BENNEY CO69

ROTARY CLUB MEMBER & SHELTERBOX VOLUNTEER



I joined the Rotary Club of Helston – Lizard in 2000. At the time the club was looking for a project to celebrate the Millennium. A member, Tom Henderson, suggested putting essential items a family would need to survive following a major natural disaster such as a tent, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, water containers and water purification tablets into a robust box. The club supported the idea and subsequently funds were raised to purchase the necessary items for the first boxes. We received great support from the Helston community and from other Rotary clubs. Rotary International has 1.2 million members around the world and this has been a major factor in enabling this small Cornish Charity to expand and reach out providing aid to people in need all over the world. It is now one of Rotary International's official project partners.

The story of how Shelterbox developed is told in full on the Shelterbox web site www.shelterbox.org.

We are currently celebrating 20 years of operations. To illustrate how the delivery of aid has developed over the years; when we started, we worked closely with Vango who design and supply our tents. Our tents are mainly made in China and Vango are based in Scotland. The tents were imported from China, delivered to Vango in Scotland. They were then sent to us and we arranged for them to be packed into our boxes in our warehouse in Helston. The boxes were then dispatched to where they were needed and, ironically, sometimes that might not be far from where they were made.

Shelterbox moved to a modern office building in the centre of Truro in 2017, opened by The Duchess of Cornwall our President. From that office, operations are coordinated to supply essential aid where it is needed all over the world. We have worked in nearly 100 countries over the last 20 years. We now have warehouses at strategic places around the world such as Dubai, Malaysia, The Philippines and Panama so that we can deliver aid when it is needed more cost effectively and more efficiently.

The Truro office also has a Visitor Centre, the only disaster relief visitor centre in the country. At about the same time as the centre opened, I retired from Cornwall Council as an Area Valuer. I decided to be a volunteer at the Visitor Centre as I felt I was well placed to be able to tell the story of the development of Shelterbox and encourage others to get involved or just donate to the charity. It also provided me with the opportunity to relate current challenges and news of new developments back to members of my Rotary Club who after all, founded the Shelterbox Charity.

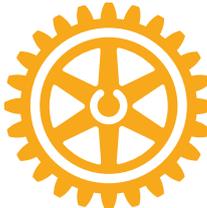
We receive visitors from all over the world and I have met many Old Truronians. We also encourage school visits and last year it was a great pleasure to show around 500 pupils from Truro School, in groups over two days; our biggest ever school visit.

Unfortunately, because of Covid 19 restrictions, the centre is currently closed. But this perhaps emphasizes the difficulties that ShelterBox faces delivering aid. It is the poorest countries that are worst affected and least able to cope when such a disaster strikes.



On Sunday 26th July I organised a cycle ride for members of our club to celebrate 20 years of Shelterbox operations, "The 20 for 20" challenge". I am pleased to say seven members of the club completed the challenge and we found out later we had actually cycled over 28 miles from Helston to the Lizard and back.

Colin Benney CO69

Rotary 



ShelterBox



**TRURO
SCHOOL
COOKERY**

HELLO FROM THE TRURO SCHOOL COOKERY TEAM.....

APRONS AT THE READY....WE'RE BACK!

Finally, we have some exciting news!!! More than 4 months since the very sad day that we had to turn off the ovens and fridges at Truro School Cookery, we are ready to throw open the doors!! AJ and Maria have been busy writing a mouth-watering menu of courses to entice you back to our kitchen, and whether you have a voucher to use or simply want something to look forward to, booking is now open!

Rest assured your safety is of the utmost importance to us so we have decided to halve the number of guests on all of our courses until further notice. We have also put in place a range of other measures to keep everyone super safe ([see our COVID statement](#)), however rest assured the tunes will still be rocking and the fizz will still be flowing.

Head over to our website for everything from 'AJ's Autumnal Favourites' to 'Maria's Greek holiday that never was', not forgetting the return of our sell-out Christmas trio. What's more, we have a special Summer sale with 10% off all of our bookings made in August to celebrate our reopening.

We just can't wait to see you all again very soon!

Maria & AJ



[CLICK TO BOOK A COURSE](#)



MARIA'S RECIPE



INGREDIENTS

3 – 4 ripe peaches (or nectarines) depending on size

2 chicken breasts

1 tablespoon olive oil for the griddle pan

Salt and pepper

1 red chilli

Small bunch fresh mint

2 tablespoons white wine vinegar (or cider vinegar or sherry vinegar)

1 tablespoon clear honey

1 teaspoon smooth Dijon mustard

6 tablespoons light olive oil for the dressing

125g mixed salad leaves

100 feta cheese

METHOD

1. Cut the peaches or nectarines in half to remove the stones then cut each half again to make quarters.
2. Cut the chicken into thin strips and season well.
3. Heat half the tablespoon oil in a griddle pan until very hot then cook the chicken strips for 3 – 4 minutes on each side until cooked through and slightly charred. Place on a clean plate to rest.
4. Add the remaining half tablespoon of oil to the griddle pan and cook the peaches or nectarines on their cut side for 1 – 2 minutes until charred and slightly soft. Set aside on the same plate as the cooked chicken.
5. Remove the seeds from the chilli and chop into very fine pieces.
6. Remove the mint leaves from the woody stalks and chop very finely.
7. Place the vinegar, honey and mustard into a small dish and whisk together. Gradually add the light olive oil whisking thoroughly to make a dressing. Season with salt and pepper.
8. Place the salad leaves onto a serving plate. Scatter over the chicken and peaches.
9. Crumble over the feta then sprinkle over the chopped chilli and mint.
10. Finally drizzle over the dressing before serving.

My annual leave was spent at home with my grandchildren. They have just returned from Cyprus after a 3 year military posting. I haven't seen them since October 2019. Mollie (pictured right) and I made Maria's Marshmallow Toffee Crispy Cakes - and very delicious they were too - thanks Maria & Mollie! **Nicky B**



Don't forget to send your photos.

tsa@truroschool.com

THE TRURO SCHOOL 'FAMILY' BRANDS



TRURO SCHOOL
FOUNDATION



TRURO SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



TRURO
SCHOOL
ENTERPRISES LTD



TRURO SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Truro School - Working together with our community

Email: tsa@truroschoo.com

Please be aware that it may take a little longer than usual for the Development Office team to respond to emails during the month of August as the office will only be staffed part-time. Rest assured we will respond as soon as we are able and PLEASE keep sending your news and comments.

The next edition of Keeping Connected will be at the end of August.