



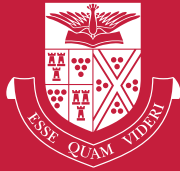
*The*

TRURO SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2024 / 2025

# TRURO ROMANIAN





The Truronian is the yearly magazine for former pupils and staff of Truro School, produced and edited by the Development and Alumni Relations team.



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The

# TRURONIAN



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### Front cover image:

1899 Cricket Team. Visit page 57 to find out more about this photograph.

*Old Truronian News and Features are published to share updates and career achievements about the Old Truronian network with the community. Views, experiences and any opinions are not an endorsement or reflection of the Development and Alumni Relations team or Truro School.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TSA President



ANDY JOHNSON  
HEAD OF TRURO SCHOOL

Warm regards to you all. Truro School has enjoyed another busy and successful year. Our values theme for the year was Creativity, which has been rather fitting.

This summer many pupils departed to join the OT community following what has been successful examination results. I thank them all for what they have given to the School, and especially my outgoing Head Boy and Girl team of Finlay, Elowyn, Pax and Megan who joined a prestigious tradition of impactful School leaders. I thank three long-serving Governors including our outgoing Chair, Richard Thomas, who had the good grace to appoint me as Head in 2020. Thank you for that, of course, but more importantly for all you have done to steer and nurture our community with such wisdom and care over quite some journey. Also stepping down as their Governance terms end are Liz Garner and Nigel Ashcroft. Liz has been at the heart of so much that has been exciting educationally and Nigel continues his commitment to our community as the Chair of the Truro School Foundation.

I thank all who have donated to and who are involved with the Truro School Foundation. Its support for life changing bursaries has neared half a million

pounds across 2024-26 at a time when need has never been greater. This has been to ensure the School remains accessible to those of any means where it can be, and that those here on limited means already do not become the first victims of punitive taxation changes imposed upon our sector. Much of the generosity behind this support comes from proud and passionate parents or alumni, who I thank also. Do get in touch if you would like to know more or become directly involved.

This year it was great to welcome many OTs back. This included **Fran Brown** CO03 to speak about being a successful Paralympian at our ACHE Graduation Celebration, **Sir John Curtice** CO72 'in conversation' to a packed Chapel audience. I am grateful to the Trustees of the Association who are working closely with the School to support the interests of alumni. Do look out for more updates in the Autumn Term, for Association, Foundation, and alumni work. This will include the 102nd Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday 18 October that alumni are warmly invited to here.



Looking back over the year, there has been so much activity to be proud of. There was the small matter of our 145th birthday and a link on the website takes you to some of our archive work (search for 'Celebrating 145 Years at Truro School'). Some of us can feel the excitement already brewing for our 150th in a few years' time! We look ahead with ambition, and marked a key threshold in the construction of our new Music Centre and refurbished Assembly Hall project that is due for completion in the Summer of 2026. There is a helpful page on our website which includes ways you can become involved.





Generous support is ensuring this project stays ambitious and successful at a time when celebrating the creative arts in schools and providing opportunities for it for all children astonishingly seems to need justification to some.

We held our inaugural Family Day in June, as part of our now annual Truro School Festival, and as a conscious decision to open our site to the wider community of Truro and beyond. It was a joyous day of fun and discovery for all ages, and embodies, alongside other Festival events like World Aims Day, a Methodist commitment to be part of a wider community, not apart from it. Some images from that day can be found on our website. We hosted an inaugural Business Breakfast this year too. Events like these help us to support parent and community networking, and in turn to draw on expertise for our Careers Convention, which was the biggest it has ever been this year.

And this brings me back to the pupils, for whom this School exists. Congratulations to our amazing Class

of 2025. Some images from your leaver's celebrations are in this magazine. You leave a School that was named last year in the top 10 schools nationally for "value added" at A-Level, and that is currently shortlisted in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards. Not to be left out, our Prep School has been nominated for an award in the Tatler Schools Guide 2025 too. Proud as I am of all of that, however, it is the moments of joy and achievement that the pupils live and grow through that they remember most keenly, and that we must continue to inspire. I have selected just a fraction of this picture below.

Sport and outdoor activity thrive here for boys and girls. From DofE to Ten Tors, fencing triumphs, long-distance swimming feats, and prestigious rugby appearances, through sailing, netball, hockey, pentathlon and more, our pupils have once again shown remarkable talent, determination, and dedication in their activity and sports. Whether representing the school, their region, or even the country, they continue to do us and themselves proud. Perhaps

the team highlights were the U14 Footballers reaching the National Finals for the first time, and the U16 Girls winning the Football County Cup – on the first occasion they had participated in the competition.

We champion the creative arts here too. The Cathedral choristers broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 for a special Ash Wednesday choral evensong. There have been joyous concerts at the Hall for Cornwall, for Junior School Charities, throughout the Festival, and much more besides. And on the stage we have been treated to *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *Twelfth Night*, a Shakespeare Festival, and again, much more besides.

To end this introductory message, therefore, I thank you for your support and interest in the evolution and ambition of our school family. It has been lovely meeting many of you at alumni events this last year. Details of events to come across the next year can be found in this magazine. In the meantime, my very best regards, and enjoy this latest edition of *The Truronian*.



A MESSAGE FROM THE

# Development and Alumni Relations Team



SAM WILLSSHER COO3  
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI  
RELATIONS MANAGER

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If you'd told me, as a rugby mad teenager walking the corridors of Truro School, that 'future Sam Willsher' would one day be responsible for writing an introduction to *The Truronian* - I might not have believed you (some former teachers might've also shared this view). Yet here I am, and I couldn't be more honoured.

*The Truronian* magazine is more than a publication. It's a celebration of the people, stories, and spirit that makes Truro School what it is. And this year, that spirit has been especially vibrant.

Each page of the 2024/25 edition is packed with stories that will make you proud, curious, and maybe even a little nostalgic. Whether you're reading as a former pupil, a parent, a friend of the school, or a member of the Class of 2025 - welcome. You're part of this story too.

From alumni returning to inspire our students, to families gathering for our inaugural Family Day, to the generosity that continues to transform lives through the giving of bursaries - there's been no shortage of moments that remind me why this community matters.

As Development and Alumni Relations Manager, I have the privilege of seeing the full arc of the Truro School journey - from the excitement of leavers joining the Old Truronian community, to the wisdom shared by alumni decades into their careers. I've seen how our motto of *esse quam videri* is lived out not just in classrooms, but in conversations, careers, and connections.

Our charity, Truro School Foundation, which supports life-changing bursaries through the generosity of our community has seen remarkable support. Despite an ever-changing economic outlook, huge thanks are given to the generosity of our donors. These donations have allowed Truro

School Foundation to increase its commitment of growing the school's bursary provision and support the transformative music centre project, ensuring every Foundation Award Holder and the future trajectory of Truro School continues to thrive. If this charitable goal resonates with you, please visit the ways of giving page on the Truro School website.

This edition marks the launch of our new fundraising campaign, **Will POWER** - a name chosen to reflect both the strength of intention and the transformative impact that legacy giving can have on future generations of Foundation Award Holders. The idea for **Will POWER** was born from conversations with proud Old Truronians who wanted to make a lasting difference to talented pupils, whilst navigating future Inheritance Tax liabilities and importantly ensuring the people they love the most are taken care of beyond their lifetime. It's an impactful fundraising campaign rooted in gratitude, community vision, and the belief that a Truro School education should be accessible to all, regardless of financial background. Discover more about our new **Will POWER** campaign on page 47.

Over the last 12 months, Truro School itself continues to shine. Academic achievements, sporting triumphs, artistic excellence, and community service have all played a part in another outstanding year. Our pupils have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and leadership, embodying the values that make our school so special.

Mark your calendars for Saturday 18 October 2025 and join us for an unforgettable evening at the **102nd Annual Reunion Dinner**. Gather friends from your year group as this is a celebration of shared memories, school spirit, and lifelong connections.

This year, we're marking milestone reunions for the classes of: 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. Whether it's your milestone year or you simply feel the pull of Truro School, we'd love to see you there.



As you explore this edition of The Truronian, I hope you feel a strong sense of pride and connection. Whether you left last year or decades ago, you remain a valued part of our past, present and future. If you're inspired to reconnect, contribute, donate, or simply say hello, the Development & Alumni Relations Team would love to hear from you - [tsconnections@truroschoo.com](mailto:tsconnections@truroschoo.com).

Enjoy the journey through another remarkable year at Truro School.

# Will POWER



**Mark Prisk** CO80

## Why I'm using my Will POWER

I was brought up in Camborne, west Cornwall, and I attended Truro School between 1973-80. I still remember my first day in September 1973, walking up the hill to what felt an imposing main school terrace. In fact, Truro was a great school for me and it opened my eyes to a much wider world.

When I reached my mid-fifties I felt it was time to think about what I could do to help another generation. My parents had died and so my direct connection with my home county was now gone. Making a Gift in Will to the school felt like a great way to keep a link with Cornwall.

It was much easier than I thought. Its not a complex process and being able to set a sum aside, is something most of us can manage. You don't have to be a millionaire.

Making a gift in my will is a simple way to help the next generation. The opportunities I enjoyed are something which I'd like to see extended to others and the bursaries which are available help people from all walks of life.

I would really encourage everyone to take this simple, but important step. The Truro School Foundation have been easy to deal with and I am sure would be happy to help with any queries.

### **Mark Prisk** FRICS

*Mark lives in east Hertfordshire. He became a Chartered Surveyor, then was elected to Parliament in 2001. He served as the MP for Hertford & Stortford and was a Minister of State in the Coalition Government (2010-15). Mark now has a third career as a Board Chair and qualified Executive Coach.*



# Congratulations to the Amazing Class of 2025

On June 26 we celebrated our incredible Upper Sixth leavers with a day full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

The celebrations began with a hearty brunch at the Cricket Pavilion, followed by a morning of sunshine and games. From shirt signing and the spinning puggle to the bungee run, bouncy castle, and sumo suit challenges, the upper pitches were buzzing with energy and smiles.

In the afternoon, our leavers gathered for their final Year Group Assembly and a thoughtful Leavers' Chapel service, before enjoying a special Afternoon Tea in the marquee with family, friends and staff.

The celebrations continued into the evening as they came together once more for their highly anticipated Leavers' Ball, a chance to make even more memories as they mark the end of this special chapter.

We are so proud of the Class of 2025 and all they have achieved. We wish each of them every success and happiness in the exciting adventures that lie ahead.









# An Evening of Celebration for the Upper Sixth

The Harbour Hotel in St Ives once again provided a stunning backdrop for our 2025 Leavers' Ball, where we had the pleasure of celebrating our incredible Upper Sixth and their families.

Guests arrived in elegant dress and, in the evening sunshine, made the most of the stunning Cornish location while soaking up the atmosphere of shared pride and celebration.

With exams behind them, our Upper Sixth students are now turning their thoughts to the future. For many, this includes university, both in the UK and further afield, while others are preparing for exciting adventures in travel, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

This year group has been exceptional not only in their academic commitment but also in their willingness to give back to each other, to Truro School, and to the wider community.







# Class of 2025 Leavers

NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
<b>Graci Ackerley</b>	<i>University of Surrey</i>	Psychology
<b>Lulu Bassett</b>	<i>Bath Spa</i>	Fashion Marketing and Management
<b>Raphi Berger</b>	<i>University of Bristol</i>	Theatre and Performance Studies
<b>Samuel Bishop</b>	<i>Imperial College London</i>	Geology
<b>Harriet Blackmore</b>	<i>Loughborough University</i>	Accounting and Finance
<b>Madeleine Blackwell</b>	<i>Cardiff University</i>	Media, Journalism and Culture
<b>Thomas Blackwell</b>	<i>Gap Year</i>	
<b>Olivia Body</b>	<i>Royal Agricultural University</i>	Agricultural Business Management
<b>Emily Botham</b>	<i>University of Bristol</i>	Physics
<b>Eva Bradley</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Ted Brown</b>	<i>University of Leeds</i>	Music and Music Technology
<b>Jason Chen</b>	<i>Imperial College London</i>	Aeronautical Engineering
<b>Finn Costa</b>	<i>University of Warwick</i>	Economics
<b>Charlie Curran</b>	<i>Royal Holloway</i>	Geology
<b>Charlie Davison</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Ben Dawson</b>	<i>University of Oxford</i>	Earth Sciences
<b>Megan Day</b>	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Biology
<b>Max De Glatigny Hogg</b>	<i>University of Bristol</i>	Civil Engineering
<b>Oliver Deering</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Callum Edwards</b>	<i>Durham University</i>	Geology
<b>Nia Edwards</b>	<i>University of York</i>	Human Geography
<b>Martha Faulds</b>	<i>University of Plymouth</i>	Biomedical Science
<b>Percy Fong</b>	<i>University of Birmingham</i>	Physiotherapy
<b>Henry Foote</b>	<i>University of Leeds</i>	Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship
<b>Bea Fry</b>	<i>University of Leeds</i>	Geology
<b>Finn Gabriel</b>	<i>University of Bath</i>	Business
<b>Kenny Gibson</b>	<i>Loughborough University</i>	Mathematics
<b>Toby Giles</b>	<i>Keele University</i>	Geology
<b>Ollie Gould</b>	<i>Falmouth University</i>	Architecture
<b>Eden Grant</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Anna Hamilton</b>	<i>University of Birmingham</i>	English Literature





NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
Kai Handford	University of Exeter	Biochemistry
Digby Haslam-Hopwood	University of York	Chemistry
Alice Henderson	University of Warwick	Economics
Bea Hersey	University of Bath	Psychology
Eleanor Hewlett	University of Exeter	Marketing and Management
Orla Hilliard	Cardiff University	Human Geography
Samson Hooper	University of Oxford	Biochemistry
James Howard	Goldsmiths, University of London	Law
Kitty Howarth	University of the West of England	Animation
Tilly Hynds	University of Bristol	Film and English
Eloise Ince	University of Bristol	Childhood Studies
Mathilde Iveson	University of Southampton	Psychology
Matthew Jones	University of Manchester	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Bea Jopling	University of Liverpool	Law with Criminology
Luca Kaplan	Bangor University	Ocean and Geophysics
Camilla Kingston	Cardiff University	Economics
Thea Lamboll	University of York	History
Chun Hei Lee Chun	Durham University	Accounting and Finance
Katie Lee-Smith	Cardiff University	Dentistry
Oscar Littleford	Durham University	Geology
Ruben Lombardi	Loughborough University	Sport Management
Finlay Lyall	Gap year	
Finn Matthews	University of Bath	Chemical Engineering
Pax McDowell	University of Exeter	Resource and Exploration Geology
Evie McIntosh	University of York	English
Gwen McIntosh	Cardiff University	Psychology
Harry McKeown	University of Surrey	Sport and Exercise Science
Quinn McNicholas	Loughborough University	Economics
Amelie Mecklenburgh-Allen	Gap year	
Susannah Melville	Trinity Laban	Musical Theatre
Cyrus Ng	Adelaide University	

# Class of 2025 Leavers

NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
<b>Benjamin Nicholas</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>William Nicholls</b>	<i>Apprenticeship</i>	
<b>Paddy O'Rourke</b>	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>	Palaeontology
<b>Immy Oldfield</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>William Orwin</b>	<i>University of Southampton</i>	Business Management
<b>Elowyn Parris</b>	<i>University of Bath</i>	Biology
<b>Ollie Pearce</b>	<i>University of Exeter</i>	Computer Science and Mathematics
<b>Natalie Phillips</b>	<i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Music
<b>Lizzy Power</b>	<i>Imperial College London</i>	Geology
<b>Marley Raulynaityte</b>	<i>University of Lincoln</i>	Biology
<b>Libby Rix</b>	<i>Imperial College London</i>	Geology
<b>Henry Stevens</b>	<i>University of the Arts London</i>	Product and Industrial Design
<b>Ben Stone</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Angie Su</b>	<i>University of Sheffield</i>	Law
<b>Diana Tatarulyeva</b>	<i>University of the Arts London</i>	Acting and Performance
<b>Arthur Taylor</b>	<i>University of Oxford</i>	History and Politics
<b>Louis Taylor</b>		Pilot Apprenticeship
<b>Joe Thompson</b>	<i>University of Bristol</i>	Economics
<b>Oliver Thorpe</b>	<i>Imperial College London</i>	Physics
<b>James Treleven</b>	<i>Gap year</i>	
<b>Elia Tucknott</b>	<i>Loughborough University</i>	Chemistry
<b>Noah van Zwanenburg</b>	<i>Goldsmiths, University of London</i>	History
<b>Nicholas Wade</b>	<i>Falmouth University</i>	Game Development: Design
<b>Philip Whiting</b>	<i>University of Birmingham</i>	Civil Engineering
<b>Charlie Wickenden</b>	<i>Newcastle University</i>	Business Management
<b>George Willings</b>	<i>Loughborough University</i>	Geography
<b>William Wright</b>	<i>University of York</i>	Politics with International Relations
<b>Lara Williams</b>	<i>University of Westminster</i>	Psychology and Counselling



# Class of 2024 Leavers

NAME	DESTINATION	COURSE
<b>Bryher Gemmill</b>	<i>Plymouth Marjon University</i>	Primary Education
<b>Benji Harper</b>	<i>Cardiff University</i>	History
<b>George Piccin-White</b>	<i>Durham University</i>	Business Management
<b>Tara Scully</b>	<i>University of Oxford</i>	Law
<b>Olivia Venables</b>	<i>Keele University</i>	Biochemistry



# Prep Speech Day



Families, esteemed guests, staff, and pupils gathered for the annual Truro School Prep Speech Day, a cherished occasion recognising the achievements and spirit of our vibrant school community.

The event opened with heartfelt prayers and reflections from Head of Truro School, Mr Andy Johnson, and Head of Truro School Prep, Mr Rob Morse, who shared thoughts on the year gone by, celebrating the values and accomplishments that define life at Truro School Prep. There was also a beautiful performance of *A Clare Benediction* by John Rutter from our Prep choir and current cohort of choristers.

The distribution of prizes was led by our guest of honour, Ms Bella Collins, whose remarkable story left a lasting impression on all who attended. Bella is a record-breaking ocean rower who crossed both the Atlantic and mid-Pacific Oceans, despite having no prior experience in rowing or endurance sport.

At just 21, she became part of the youngest and fastest all-female team to row across the Atlantic. She later rowed across the Pacific to break the female world record by over two weeks.

Bella's speech was filled with powerful life lessons for pupils of all ages. She encouraged them to:

- Keep learning and adopt a growth mindset, reminding pupils that she wasn't the sporty or practical one at school, yet achieved the extraordinary through perseverance and courage.
- Face fear and say yes to new opportunities, because even uncertain beginnings can lead to remarkable outcomes.
- Understand and embrace the strengths and weaknesses of others, and play to your own strengths, while understanding that 'weaknesses' can help us to build resilience.
- Recognise that the easiest route isn't always the best, as her team's longer Atlantic route still led them to a second-place finish in a field dominated by male crews.

- Embrace gratitude and positivity, especially during challenging times, and always believe that there is a solution to every problem – especially when you prepare, plan, and collaborate.

Pupils in Years 3 to 5 were recognised for their achievements in attainment, progress, citizenship, effort, and the creative arts. It was a delight to celebrate their energy, enthusiasm, and dedication.

Our exceptional Year 6 pupils were then honoured for their many contributions to school life, with prizes awarded for excellence across academia, creativity, sport, and character. Their time at Truro School Prep has been marked by courage, confidence, creativity, compassion and curiosity. The final award, the Head's Cup, was presented to Ellie L for her outstanding contribution to all areas of school life.

Truro School Prep Speech Day 2025 was a joyful and uplifting way to close the year and a testament to the strength, spirit, and community that define our school.



# Speech Day 2025

**OPIE  
SHIELD  
WINNER:  
SCHOOL**



On Wednesday 2 July we gathered in the beautiful surroundings of Truro Cathedral to celebrate Speech Day 2025, a special occasion to honour the achievements and contributions of our pupils and students, and to say a final farewell to our Upper Sixth Leavers.

Outside the Cathedral, the talented ensemble Celtic Chords set an uplifting tone, while inside, Joseph and Lilla performed on the organ. Guests and families rose to welcome the arrival of the platform party and Upper Sixth Leavers, marking the formal start of proceedings.

The ceremony was opened in prayer by Reverend Helen Byrne, the School Chaplain, before Richard Thomas, Chair of Governors, addressed the congregation. Mr Johnson spoke with warmth and pride, reflecting on the collective efforts and successes of the past academic year, and the spirit of the school community.

After joining together in the hymn *Singing the Faith*, the celebration continued with the Prizegiving, recognising the dedication, progress and exceptional contributions of Truro School pupils across the year groups and subjects.

One of the most memorable moments of the ceremony was hearing from Head Girl Elowyn and Head Boy Finlay, who shared heartfelt reflections on their time at Truro School.





# Senior Speech Day 2025





## Outstanding A-Level Success for Truro School Sixth Form

We are celebrating an exceptional set of A-Level results as usual, with 50% awarded at A\*/A and over 80% of all grades at A\*-B.

This year's outcomes further reinforce our position as the leading A-Level provider in Cornwall. Last year we were placed in the top 10% nationally for value added at A-Level, and these results are stronger again.

Reflecting on the results, the Head, Mr Johnson, said:

*"We are extremely proud of our students and today's results. These headline figures are another year of even stronger outcomes for the young people we educate. Their ambition, courage, and dedication, matched by the support of their families and friends, and the expertise and inspiration of our staff and Sixth Form team, is a source of joy to all associated with our School community."*

*The value of the Truro School Sixth Form to the futures of these young people is immense and is shown by more than the exceptional grades. By 10am today over 99% of our students had the security of being on pathways of their own choice. These included success with all our Oxford applications, at Imperial, UCL, with Dentistry, and on specialist training courses, in degree apprenticeships, and careers in creative industries. As a School we know that an education built on values and supporting diverse individual ambitions paves the way for our leavers to thrive in and positively shape a complex and rapidly changing world."*



50%  
A\*/A  
at A-Level

80%  
A\*-B  
at A-Level





# The Granite Gathering

## A CELEBRATION OF GEOLOGY AT TRURO SCHOOL, PAST AND PRESENT

*Saturday 13 June 2026, 11am - 2pm*

A reunion for Old Truronians  
who studied Geology and  
for those working in a  
Geology-related industry

£10 per person - includes a  
buffet lunch. Friends, family  
and colleagues welcome

**Guest of Honour,  
Mr Ian Kenyon**



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**



**TRURO SCHOOL**  
OLD TRURONIANS



# Old Truronian News

## ADAM SMITH CO99 LANDS BACK ON HOME TURF



It's not every day you look out across the school field and see a helicopter touching down, but that's exactly what happened in the Autumn Term.

At the controls was none other than Old Truronian **Adam Smith** CO99, who returned not as a student, but as Chief Pilot for the Cornwall Air Ambulance. Called out on duty, Adam and his crew landed on familiar ground before being stood down from the incident. With a few moments to spare, staff managed to snap a quick photo of him alongside the CAA team, capturing a full-circle moment: from TS student to life-saving pilot.

After leaving Truro School, Adam completed his secondary education in Bristol before heading to the skies, training to fly in the sunny airfields of Florida. He spent two formative years there, clocking up hours and honing his skills, before returning to the UK where his flying career took off in earnest. Much of his early experience was gained flying helicopters offshore for the oil and gas industry in Aberdeen and the Shetland Islands.

In recent years, Adam joined Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance as a HEMS pilot where he flew in both the MD902 and the AW169 helicopters two of the UK's most advanced air ambulances.

Now Adam has come home to Cornwall, both professionally and literally, as the Chief Pilot for Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust.

## TOP OF THE CLASS: OTS MAKE CORNWALL'S 30 UNDER 30

The cohort of Cornwall's 30 under 30 Class of 2025 has been revealed, and we are delighted to share the Old Truronians who made the shortlist:

### **Jack Clifford-Wing** CO14 (Wing of St Mawes)

Throughout his journey at Wing of St Mawes, Jack Clifford-Wing has gained firsthand experience of the trade; from buying fresh fish from local fisherman and markets, to filleting, preparing, selling and delivering products to chefs and homes nationwide.

### **Oliver Elwell-Deighton** CO20 (TouchByte)

A rising star in Cornwall's vibrant tech sector, Oliver Elwell-Deighton is a senior software developer at TouchByte and earlier this year was named Truro and Penwith College's Apprentice of the Year.

### **Phoebe CJ Reynolds** CO17 (Surgassist)

Phoebe CJ Reynolds is the founder and director of Surgassist, which claims to be the first and only virtual reality software designed to simplify complex medical terminology and anatomical structures, enhancing patient consent.

The winners were celebrated at a gala ceremony at the Atlantic Hotel.





## THE BELLINGHAM FAMILY VISIT



On Friday 6 June, exactly 117 years after Old Truronian **Leonard Bellingham** (TS 1908-10) joined the School, the more recent Bellingham family visited to see where their grandfather and great-grandfather had spent some of his childhood.

**Leonard Bellingham**, the son of a builder from Newquay, boarded at Truro School from 1908 to 1910. Before Truro he went to Newquay Elementary School. After leaving school he became an apprentice builder.

He was uncle to **L.J.C. Bellingham** who attended the school from 1925

to 1927 and **A.G. Bellingham** who attended from 1934 to 1939, and his own sons, **Allen** and **John**, went to the school in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Memorial Booklet reported that Leonard Bellingham 'Major, Wiltshire Regiment, served throughout World War I, 1914-18, in the DCLI. He volunteered for service in 1940 in the Wiltshire Regiment and proceeded to India in 1941 where he was stationed at a P.O.W. camp in Dehra Dun until 1943 when

he took over the command of a rest camp at Maungdan, Burma. He died of wounds received in an air raid in March, 1943.'

The 1939-45 memorial in the School Chapel to the Old Truronians who gave their lives in the war includes L. Bellingham.

Between the wars, the School Archive tells us that Leonard was an active member of what was then the Truro School Association. The school magazines recorded that when the Truro School Lodge was set up in 1936 Leonard held the position of Almoner. In 1936-37 Leonard was Treasurer of the Truro College Old Boys' Association. In 1937 he was also elected Vice-Chairman, and became Chairman in 1938.

It was lovely to welcome back the descendants of Leonard, his nephews and sons.

## BEN AINSLIE LEADS BRITAIN'S BOLDEST BID YET FOR AMERICA'S CUP GLORY



Exciting news in the world of sailing as Great Britain aimed last year to win sailing's most prestigious competition for the first time in the America's Cup. Led by Old Truronian and sailing legend **Ben Ainslie** CO95, the British challenge hoped to bring home the cup to the country where it all started.

Britain has competed in the America's Cup 22 times but has not raced in the final series since 1964. It is only since the arrival of four-time Olympic champion Ainslie that Britain had a realistic chance of lifting the Auld Mug.

Ainslie turned his focus to winning the America's Cup after claiming a fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal at London 2012. He set up his own British team to compete in the America's Cup World Series in 2012-2013, with the aim of gaining experience for a full challenge in 2017. That ended in disappointment when Ainslie's team were knocked out in the semi-finals. Four years later, in the Covid-hit 2021 campaign, his team won the round-robin stage but lost in the final selection race series.

Sadly though of course in the end the Emirates Team New Zealand successfully defended their title, defeating INEOS Britannia with a score of 7-2. Huge congratulations to Ben for bringing the British team closer than ever to victory.



## MUCK-UP DAY MEMORIES: TRURO SCHOOL 2013



Every school has its traditions, but few are as fondly remembered as 'muck-up' day. For the Upper Sixth boys in 2013, it was a night of undercover rebellion and a touch of creative landscaping.

As the school year drew to a close, a small group consisting of **Callum Waldie, Tom Harvey, Phillip Helliwell, Nathaniel Keymer, Jonny Mailes, Alex Young** and **James Twist** (all CO13) decided to mark the occasion in a memorable way. Under the cover of night, they gathered at the bottom of the Snake and set to work transforming a simple patch of ground into a makeshift

sitting area, laying down stones and arranging a spot where students could relax.

According to Callum, the group worked into the early hours, finally heading home around 1am. Remarkably, they still made it in for morning registration, bleary-eyed, no doubt, but proud of their handiwork and the spirit of mischief that drove it.

Now, years later, Callum concludes that the event was: "Good memories and good fun."

## FROM TRURO TO DOWN UNDER



It was a real pleasure to welcome back **Bryan Chadwick** CO87 and his family to Truro School, all the way from Australia! After decades abroad, Bryan's return to Truro was a nostalgic journey through familiar halls and memories, sparking conversations about school days, career adventures, and life on the other side of the world.

Following his time at Truro School, Bryan pursued a degree in Geology at Royal Holloway, University of London, before heading to Australia to complete a Master's in Hydrogeology at the University of New South Wales. What began as a passion for the natural world has since grown into an impressive global career in geology and mining.

Now a Director at AECOM, one of the world's leading infrastructure consulting firms, Bryan has built a reputation for excellence in his field, contributing to major projects across the mining and environmental sectors.

We were delighted to have Bryan and his family back with us, and we hope it won't be another hemisphere away before the next visit!

## DOMINIC ETHERIDGE VISITS CO99 VISITS FROM AUSTRALIA

We were delighted to welcome back **Dominic Etheridge** CO99, who visited the school recently with his wife Kate, and their two children.

After leaving Truro School, Dominic studied dentistry at the University of Bristol, before eventually settling in Australia where he and Kate run a successful dental practice together in Perth.

During his visit, Dominic had a chance encounter with Mr Laity, one of his former teachers - a nostalgic moment for both. It was a real pleasure to see Dom back at Truro School and to hear about the exciting life he and his family have built on the other side of the world.







**DR CATHERINE JOHNSON CO08 VISITS FROM THE USA**

It was a joy to welcome back **Dr Catherine Johnson** CO08 at the end of Summer Term, all the way from the USA where she now lives. After leaving Truro School, Catherine went to the University of Leeds to study Mining and Quarry Engineering. Soon after she was offered a PhD at the University of Kentucky to study mining engineering further. She is currently Associate Professor of Mining and Explosives Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

**Dr Catherine will be sharing her expertise and delivering an exciting and informative class to the Upper Sixth in the Autumn Term.**

## OLD TRURONIAN RECOGNISED IN KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

**Tamsin Daniel** CO88 has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's Birthday Honours list this year. Tamsin is Convenor for Bord Ertach Kernow. Her MBE is for services to Heritage, Cornish Distinctiveness and to the community in Cornwall.

## FRAN BROWN WINS SILVER AT PARALYMPICS IN PARIS



**Fran Brown** has claimed silver in the women's C1-3 time trial at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, completing the course in 21 minutes 46.18 seconds. The medal adds to an extraordinary journey that began after a life-changing accident.

Originally a lighting engineer in London's West End, Fran sustained a spinal cord injury in a 16-foot fall that left her with a C4 incomplete injury. Since then, she has carved out a remarkable sporting career across three disciplines.

Fran first returned to sport through para climbing, becoming Britain's first para climbing world champion. When climbing wasn't included in the



Paralympics, she switched to triathlon—winning world and European titles in 2019 and finishing fourth at Tokyo 2020.

Health issues led her to focus solely on cycling from 2022. That move paid off, with multiple world titles in 2023 and now, a Paralympic silver in Paris.

We were honoured recently to welcome Fran back to the school as guest of honour at a Sixth Form dinner. At the dinner, Fran shared her journey since leaving Truro School, encouraged students to continue striving for their best and highlighted how mentoring younger pupils is a meaningful way to give back.

## OLD TRURONIANS HIT THE RIGHT NOTES AT GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL



This year's Glastonbury Festival once again offers a perfect opportunity to celebrate the creative journeys of our Old Truronians and members of the school community.

### **Ros Atkins** CO93

BBC News presenter/DJ Ros Atkins returned to Glastonbury with a high-energy Rave Machine drum & bass takeover on the Stonebridge stage. He took to the decks on the Thursday night bringing a lineup of celebrated DJs.

### **Jon Davies** CO93

Also from the class of 1993 and bringing Cornwall's unmistakable energy to Worthy Farm this year was Jon Davies, who is performing with The Oggymen. The Oggymen collective, celebrated for their folk sets, performed at various times during the Festival.

### **Gareth Churcher**

Composer Gareth Churcher, a musician, composer and Head of Service for CMST (who are based at Truro School), had the distinguished role of scoring the dazzling opening show on Wednesday night at the Pyramid Stage. This spectacular performance, named *The Dreamweaver's Journey*, fused theatre, circus, and aerial acrobatics.

Ros, Jon, and Gareth represent a proud tradition of Cornish artistry on the world's biggest festival stage. Together, they place Truro School firmly on Glastonbury's cultural map.

## MAD PROFESSOR TAKES ON THE AVENUE VERTE!



Truro School Connections commonly shines the spotlight on the extraordinary accomplishments of alumni during their tertiary education or careers. But what happens after retirement? Too often, the next mention is in the form of an obituary.

This article bucks that trend. It is the story of one retired Truro School alumnus—**David James** CO68—who saddled up for a two-wheeled adventure along the Avenue Verte, raising funds for Combat Stress, the UK's leading charity for veterans' mental health.

Too busy to read the full account? Just cut to the chase and head over to the fundraising page: [events.combatstress.org.uk/fundraisers/davidjames](https://events.combatstress.org.uk/fundraisers/davidjames)

### Riding through life's phases

Life unfolds in phases. Mine began in Redruth, where I attended Trewirgie Primary School before spending eight formative years at Truro School. From there, I moved on to Cambridge University and Bart's Hospital to study medicine. My professional life was spent mostly in fetal and maternal medicine, culminating in a post as Professor of Fetomaternal Medicine at the University of Nottingham. Somewhere along the way came marriage and family.

And now? Retirement - the next phase. Contrary to what one might expect, for me it's as full as ever. The key difference is this: I now get to choose what I do (or at least after I have done what my wife wants me to do).

One of those pursuits is long-distance cycling, a passion I started post-retirement. Since then, I've completed 16 rides covering over 3,000 miles, raising more than £25,000 for eight different charities. Though a pair of neurosurgical operations in 2019 and 2020 left me with reduced power in my left leg, I'm back in the saddle

though with slightly shorter daily distances (30–40 miles a day).

This spring, I set off on my most recent two-wheeled adventure - a 273-mile ride along the Avenue Verte, from the London Eye to Notre Dame in Paris ([avenuevertelondonparis.co.uk](https://avenuevertelondonparis.co.uk)). I did it the old-fashioned way, on a non-electric bike, and timed the ride to coincide with the 80th anniversary of VE Day, 8 May 2025. My chosen cause was Combat Stress, in honour of the VE Day anniversary and because I've seen firsthand, through a family member, the life-changing support they offer to veterans facing post-traumatic stress.

### England, a ride in glorious sunshine

For the English section of the route, 106 miles from London to Newhaven, I was lucky to have warm sunshine the entire way. The official route starts at the London Eye and runs along the South Bank of the Thames opposite Westminster, before crossing at Lambeth Bridge and picking up the North Thames Cycleway. My final Thames crossing was at Chelsea Bridge, after which I pedalled through Battersea and on to Clapham Common.

Being a sunny Sunday, the city was alive with activity - cyclists, traffic, and pedestrians. Things quietened

down as I joined the Wandle Trail, a leafy walking and cycling path. This off-road route tracks the River Wandle from Wandsworth to Carshalton, once home to over 90 watermills, making it one of the most industrialised rivers in England. Today, it's all parks, trees, and the occasional startled dog. Whilst those I met on the trail may not have responded to my "good morning", at least they cleared a path!

After Carshalton, I rejoined the roads—mercifully calmer than in central London. After Coulsdon, I crossed Farthing Down, a stretch of North Downs chalk grassland, then took a route via Crawley Down rather than Redhill, Crawley, and Gatwick. Crossing the M25 felt symbolic - I had officially left London behind. My first overnight stop was Horley, a short detour west of the official route.

### The Worth Way, the Weald, and Winding Trails

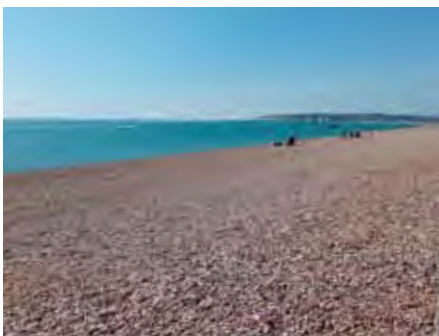
Day two began with a gentle ride along the Worth Way, a disused railway line that brought me to East Grinstead, its high street flanked by timber-framed buildings. From there, I joined the Forest Way, another repurposed railway track. Climbing onto the High Weald, I was rewarded with sweeping views of forested hills and open farmland. That night, I stayed at the Rose and Crown in Mayfield, a welcome rest after a day of steady climbing.

### The South (Ups and) Downs

My third and final day cycling on English soil took me over the South Downs - more accurately described as the "South Ups and Downs." The views were well worth the effort. One image captures the famous Long Man of Wilmington etched into the hillside. From Heathfield, the route followed the Cuckoo Trail—yet another former railway, leading me to Hailsham, then Seaford, and finally to the modest Newhaven ferry port.

The terrain was a challenge, but the landscapes were most rewarding. The ferry crossing to Dieppe offered a well-earned pause before the French leg of my adventure began.





### France, a ride from quiet trails to city challenges

The final 167 miles from Dieppe to Paris took me from the tranquil Normandy countryside into the heart of France's capital and centuries of history. I mostly had sunny weather, apart from two thunderstorms.



The journey began in the charming, less industrialised port town of Dieppe, with its maritime history. From the station, the route followed an impeccably surfaced former railway line to Neufchâtel-en-Bray, birthplace of the delicious heart-shaped Neufchâtel cheese. Many of the old stations along this stretch have been repurposed into private homes or cafes, perfect places to pause and take in village atmosphere and

festivities, especially as I had chosen to ride this section on May Day, when local celebrations were in full swing.

A standout sight was the grand Château de Mesnières-en-Bray, just before reaching Neufchâtel-en-Bray, a town once heavily damaged during the 1940 Battle of France. From here, I cycled through the peaceful Bray region, passing picture-postcard villages. Forges-les-Eaux, a spa town of gracious villas, gave way to Gournay-en-Bray, which also suffered wartime destruction but now boasts such gems as the Art Deco Kursaal Cinema.

The impressive Benedictine Abbey at St-Germer-de-Fly, originally founded in the 7th century, was a contrast to the very modest village. Then came Gisors, a medieval flashpoint between Normandy and the Kingdom of France. Its 11th-century Castle and vast 12th Century St Gervais-St Protais Church testify to the town's historic past.

### Greenways, Grand Estates, and the Parisian Horizon

From Gisors, I followed the Epte Valley Greenway, a serene former railway path tracing the Epte River, meandering through quiet villages. At Bray-et-Lu, I climbed into the rolling farmland of the Vexin, a designated Parc Naturel Régional. Here, I discovered the Villarceaux country estate and the Château de Théméricourt, home to the regional museum of the Vexin, displayed local traditions and rare flora.

Urban life returned at Cergy, where trail upgrades made for the 2024 Olympics guided me along the River Oise, which flows into the Seine. After a brief ride alongside the Seine, I crossed into the impressive Forêt domaniale de Saint-Germain — a quiet, car-free interlude before emerging at Maisons-Laffitte and the River Seine.

The approach to Paris was as elegant as it was exciting. Riverside suburbs like St Germain, Rueil-Malmaison, and Croissy showcased stately homes, leafy lanes, and the British School of Paris. The extremely attractive ride

alongside the river was only disturbed once, by a cumbersome footbridge over a port inlet.

### Wheels Through the City

Near Colombes, rural quiet gave way to the bustle of Greater Paris. Bike paths began threading between cars, trams, and people as I approached St Denis. From there, I followed the St Denis and St Martin canals, passing landmarks like the Stade de France.

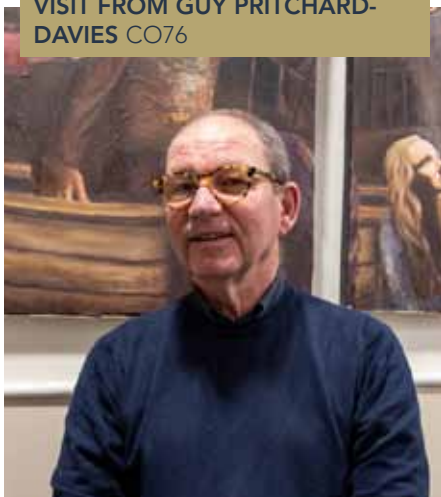
But Paris had its share of urban surprises: roadworks, missing signs, graffiti-covered waymarks, chaotic intersections, and the occasional traffic-light-defying cyclist or pedestrian. From Stalingrad Square, I continued along the Canal Saint-Martin, leaving it at Place de la République and riding due south on Boulevard de Sébastopol—the home stretch.

Finally, I arrived at the majestic Notre-Dame Cathedral, bathed in spring sunlight and swarming with tourists not only viewing the Cathedral renovations but also celebrating La Fête du Pain held on the forecourt. The newly renovated building was magnificent. Then, ten minutes after my arrival came a bomb scare. The gendarmes moved everyone away from the area. But I had made it... just!

**David James CO68**



## VISIT FROM GUY PRITCHARD-DAVIES CO76



It was a real pleasure to welcome back Guy on a recent visit to Truro School. As he walked through the familiar halls and grounds, memories came flooding back, starting with tales of his early days at Treiske and his move up to the Senior School.

The tour sparked plenty of nostalgia, especially when passing the Chapel, the Graham Smith Block, and the boarding houses, all of which hold a special place in Guy's memories.

One highlight of the visit was spending time in the School Archive, where Guy browsed through old rugby team photos on the archive computer. It inspired him to dig out his own collection of school photos when he returns home.

We loved having Guy back on campus and hope to welcome him again soon for another trip down memory lane.

Guy is one of many in his family who have attended Truro School.

**Neil Pritchard-Davies**  
CO75 - Brother

**Michael Davies**  
(TS 1930-36) – Father

**Maxwell Davies**  
(TS 1930-39) – Uncle

**David Davies**  
(TS 1936-42) – Uncle

**Anthony Davies**  
(TS 1930-36) – Uncle

## KATE BARNES LAUNCHES EXCITING NEW CORNISH BUSINESS



**Kate Barnes** CO24 has launched an exciting new business which offers sustainable Cornish gift boxes filled with high-quality, locally sourced products. She says:

*"My aim is to help anyone in the holiday market make their property welcoming by offering an authentic and memorable welcome gift. The size options for the welcome boxes are: 2-4 people, 6 people, 8 people & 10 people. Any requests for different sizes are happily welcomed and I will try my best to accommodate."*

Information can be found through Kate's website, which also has a contact form - there's also the option to request



a digital brochure too. Alternatively, anyone can email Kate if they would like to get in contact.

Find An Tresor Co online:

**Website:** [antresorco.co.uk](http://antresorco.co.uk)

**Email:** [enquiries@antresorco.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@antresorco.co.uk)

**Instagram:** @antresorco

**Facebook:** An Tresor Co.

## ST MARY'S RNLI HERO PETE HICKS NAMED ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST BY ROYAL YACHTING ASSOCIATION



**Pete Hicks** CO87, coxswain at St Mary's RNLI Lifeboat Station, has been honoured with one of the most prestigious accolades in global sailing—the RYA Yachtmaster of the Year 2024. Chosen from over 3,500 candidates worldwide, Pete's exceptional skill, knowledge, and leadership at sea earned him the top spot, marking a proud moment not only for him but for the entire RNLI community.

The award, presented by HRH The Princess Royal at a special ceremony

held at Trinity House, also marked the start of the Royal Yachting Association's 150th anniversary celebrations—an occasion steeped in maritime heritage and excellence.

Pete's recognition highlights the calibre of talent within the RNLI and reflects the organisation's dedication to saving lives at sea through rigorous training and outstanding professionalism.

A heartfelt congratulations to Pete for the incredible accomplishment.





## LARS-ERIK SAYS HEI!



**Lars-Erik Oller** CO57 has shared with us artwork that he made in 1956, whilst studying here as a boarder from his home country Finland. He was here for just one month during the Summer Term.

Lars says in his letter: *"Now looking at the pictures of the School on the web, I think I couldn't even find my way. Perhaps I could find the track where I used to train the 400m run and afterwards swimming in the pool, alone and just before bedtime. Of course I would find the Chapel, where one of my schoolmates would play Beethoven's piano sonatas for those of us who loved music. And where I learnt the English hymns, most of which were unfamiliar to me."*



## Do you recognise any of the locations?

Later in life Lars-Erik moved on to have an impressive career in financial academia and research in Helsinki. He holds a PhD from University of Helsinki and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 1980-81.



## ROYAL RECOGNITION FOR OLD TRURONIAN

May was a memorable month for Leiths Education, as the CEO and Old Truronian **Maria Dunbar** CO86 had the honour of attending a prestigious Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, celebrating the dedication of professionals working across the education sector.

Invited alongside her husband Neil, Maria was joined by Louise Davies – founder of Food Teachers – and her colleague Barbara Monks. The invitation came as a result of a recent nomination by Independent Higher Education (IHE), recognising their innovative contributions to the field through the launch of two new Food Teacher Training qualifications.

Held in the elegant palace gardens and hosted by King Charles with support from the Department for Education, the event brought together changemakers from across the UK to share stories, ideas, and a collective passion for shaping the future of learning.

Maria attended Truro School for Sixth Form (1984-86) and later returned as Head of Cookery in 2018. She is now the CEO of Leiths following a recent promotion from being Director of Education. Maria specialises in the design and delivery of the academic curriculum to ensure that students receive exceptional, practical food education. Her father **William Taylor** CO66 is also an Old Truronian.





**OLD TRURONIAN BRINGS  
CORNWALL'S MYTH AND  
MAGIC TO LIFE IN NEW STAGE  
PRODUCTION OF WHITE HORSE**



We're delighted to celebrate the achievements of Old Truronian **Lowenna Hosken** CO11, who is making waves in the UK theatre scene. She is currently working as General Manager of the acclaimed Cornish company o-region. This year they have cause to celebrate the fantastic production of White Horse.

Blending puppetry, film, and live music, White Horse reimagines Michael Morpurgo's *The White Horse of Zennor and Other Stories* for the stage, transforming it into a captivating 21st Century Cornish folktale that explores the wild edges of myth, memory, and family.

Set in the rugged landscape of Zennor, West Cornwall, *White Horse* follows sixteen-year-old Annie Veluna, who is reluctantly spending the summer with her estranged father on a struggling family farm. Isolated and unimpressed by rural life, and even more so by the lack of phone signal, Annie is slowly drawn into the rich tapestry of stories that surround her: local legends of lost children, storm-lashed ghosts, and mysterious figures who walk the line between fact and folklore.

Lowenna attended Truro School from 2009-11 before moving up to the University of Edinburgh to study Scottish Ethnology. Her father and grandfather are also an Old Truronians, **Phillip Hosken** CO53 and **William Hosken** (TS 1913-18).

**FULL CIRCLE MOMENT: MARIE FINKELDEY RETURNS WITH HER FAMILY**



In May we welcomed back **Marie Finkeldey** CO03, an Old Truronian boarder originally from Germany, who returned for a visit – this time with her husband Alex and their baby daughter Marlene in tow.

Now a successful lawyer working in the German Parliament and living in her hometown of Berlin, Marie's visit was to see how School had changed and show her family where she had once lived and studied.

*"It was wonderful to see how the school has developed," she said, "but also how many things have stayed the same – an excellent mix of old and new."*

Accompanied by both the alumni and admissions teams Marie toured both the historic heart of the school and its exciting new additions. With baby Marlene – just 10 months old and already charming staff and students.

As Marie shared stories from her time as a boarder, it was clear how deeply her Truro School experience had shaped her. And looking to the future, she reflected on the possibility that Marlene might one day also be a boarder, adding another chapter to the family's Truro School connection.

**RON CHAKROBARTY CO89 WINS A BAFTA**



Enormous congratulations to **Ron Chakrobarty** CO89 who won Best Sports Coverage at the BAFTA Television Awards for his Paris Olympics coverage in 2024!





Truro School welcomed back distinguished Old Truronian **Simon Jacobs** CO02. Now based in Colorado, USA, Simon leads a vibrant career as a freelance musician and local radio host. His journey since leaving Truro School in 2002 has taken him across continents and into some of the world's most prestigious musical institutions.

After graduating from Truro School, Simon became an Organ Scholar at the University of Cambridge, where he read Music. His early professional years were shaped by successive Organ Scholarships at Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, two of the UK's most iconic ecclesiastical venues. In 2007, Simon moved to the United States, taking on prominent church music roles, most recently as Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs.

In 2010, Simon was awarded a full scholarship to pursue a master's degree in Choral Conducting at Yale University.

During his visit to Truro School, Simon was met by Richard Osmond, the school's current Director of Music. Highlights included a tour of the school's organ and the building site of the future Music Centre. In a happy coincidence, Simon also reunited with his former classmate, **Swen Kearney** CO02.

Simon previously returned to Truro in 2017 to serve as Acting Assistant Director of Music at Truro Cathedral, where he accompanied and directed the internationally renowned Cathedral Choir.

A sought-after concert organist, Simon has performed in some of the most respected venues in both the UK and the US. His appearances include Westminster Cathedral, Washington National Cathedral, Saint Thomas Church in New York City, Trinity Church in Boston, and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. He has also performed three organ concertos with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs.

As a choral accompanist, Simon's artistry has been heard in St. Paul's Cathedral, London; Hereford Cathedral; Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; and St. John's Cathedral, Denver. His playing is featured on CD recordings by the Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge; Salisbury Cathedral; and Yale Schola Cantorum.

With a repertoire of over 300 organ works and a reputation for exceptional improvisation in both liturgical and concert settings, Simon is also an Associate of the Royal College of Organists.

# Amber Wood CO21



A journey of dedication, education, and humanitarian work



AMBER IS  
THE WINNER OF  
THE 'OUTSTANDING  
CONTRIBUTION OF THE  
YEAR' AWARD FROM  
THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BATH

Since leaving Truro School in 2021, Amber has carved out a unique and impactful path in both her academic and professional life. After living in Canada and the USA, Amber joined Truro School in 5th year and quickly built a strong connection in the school community. Her time at Truro was marked by involvement in a range of activities, from participating in school plays to playing in the orchestra, as well as taking on a teaching assistant role at Truro School Prep for five years.

Amber took A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry, and Maths, subjects that laid the foundation for her future studies. Lasting friendships were also formed, including with fellow students **Jess Bateson CO21**, **Gracie Carleston CO21**, and **Talulla Lee CO21**.

After Sixth Form, Amber went on to study at the University of Bath, where she is currently undertaking a four-year degree in International Development with Economics. Now in the middle of her third year, Amber has already made an impact on the world, having gone on a transformative placement in Malaysia in June 2024.

Amber's time in Malaysia has been deeply inspiring. She travelled there to teach at five refugee schools and a local school, working with children who had fled conflict in Myanmar. The children Amber worked with ranged in age from 7 to 20 years old, and the experience was a profound one.

Amber played a key role in teaching a variety of subjects, including Maths, Biology, Chemistry, English, and Art. Beyond her classroom teaching, she also created her own enrichment programme for Key Stage 2 students—an initiative designed to meet the needs of children in the UK equivalent education system.

Amber's impact extended beyond the classroom. In November 2024, she attended a teacher training conference where she shared her experiences and learnings with both international and local educators.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Amber's time in Malaysia has been her involvement in providing much needed eyecare to the children. Through her observations, she discovered that many





of the children had not received basic eye tests, and some were living with severely impaired vision—one child couldn't even see his own hands clearly. Working with her team, Amber helped facilitate access to eyecare for these children, marking a small but significant victory in improving their quality of life. Amber also told us about other children that she taught, such as Zenith (age 11) who lives with a single, disabled mother, whom he shared his single mattress with and only ate one meal a day at school lunch. She also met Saw Eh (aged 17) who lives in a dormitory at school but is also the sole caregiver of his three and five-year-old siblings, and has to balance final year of school with looking after the children. Amber described how he would frequently fall asleep in class due to his brothers having nightmares and needing comfort or wetting the bed. May (aged 12) worked nights to support her family so missed school and activities due to needing to sleep and rest.

Amber's dedication didn't stop at education and healthcare. She also created school supply packs containing

essential materials like notebooks and pens, which she distributed to schools in need.

**This initiative led to the founding of her charity, Supplies of Hope, which aims to provide educational resources to children in underserved communities.**

Amber's journey doesn't end with her current placement in Malaysia. She has already made plans to continue her work with another placement in 2025. In January she headed to New Zealand to complete the final leg of her placement, where she will be teaching in schools there until September 2025.

Looking beyond her time at university, Amber is committed to expanding her charity, Supplies of Hope, and continuing her humanitarian work in education. She plans to return to Malaysia to teach once more and, depending on the situation in Myanmar, she hopes to one day teach there as well.

Reflecting on her time at Truro School, Amber fondly remembers several key figures who inspired her throughout her education. She particularly valued the guidance of Mr Kenyon and Mr Barnett, as well as the engaging Geography lessons she enjoyed. Her Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) with Mrs Thurlow also left a lasting impression. Amber's project, titled *To What Extent Does Unemployment Affect the Spread of HIV in Kenya?*, not only sparked her interest in human development and geography but also served as the catalyst for her decision to pursue a degree in International Development at the University of Bath.

Amber's journey from Truro School to Malaysia and beyond demonstrates her commitment to making a difference in the world. Through her teaching, charity work, and dedication to humanitarian causes, Amber has shown that one person's passion and dedication can have a profound impact on the lives of many.

Amber's website: [amberlouise7.wixsite.com/supplies-of-hope](https://amberlouise7.wixsite.com/supplies-of-hope)

# David Fields CO81

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## From Truro to the Kremlin: the remarkable journey of David Fields



When David Fields left Truro School in the summer of 1981, he wasn't heading for a gap year or university lecture halls like many of his friends. Instead, just two months later, he stepped onto the grounds of Britannia Royal Naval College, beginning what would become a storied naval career spanning over three decades, and reaching as far as the diplomatic corridors of Moscow.

*"I decided on a career in the Royal Navy at an early age and can't really recall a time when joining wasn't in my mind."*

Now semi-retired and living in West Dorset, David's life has been anything but quiet since leaving school. Following his 36-year service in the Royal Navy, he pivoted to the charity sector, spending two years as the

Community Fundraising Manager for the mental health charity *Mind* in Somerset. But the story of his career is one of global scope, complex diplomacy, and deep-rooted service.

For David, a life at sea was always on the horizon. "I decided on a career in the Royal Navy at an early age," he says, "and can't really recall a time when joining wasn't in my mind." His early years in the Navy included a rigorous education in languages - most notably Russian, which would shape much of his professional journey. After training as an interpreter, he found himself on a path that would intertwine with some of the most sensitive moments in recent geopolitical history.

His Russian expertise led to two diplomatic postings in Moscow, including one during the critical early days of the Ukraine crisis in 2014. Back





in the UK, David was entrusted with influential roles within the Ministry of Defence, including a stint as the Naval Assistant to the First Sea Lord. He also contributed to the writing of the UK's official Russia policy, published in 2017 - an insight into the importance of language, cultural understanding, and military experience at the highest levels of policymaking.

Among his proudest achievements is his command of HMS Westminster, a Type 23 frigate. "Being selected for ship command in 2005 and taking Westminster to the Far East in 2006-07 was a defining period in my career," he reflects. Commanding a Royal Navy frigate represents the pinnacle of operational leadership, a test of not just naval skill but also the ability to manage people, crises, and diplomacy at sea.

In April 2025, David added another milestone to his career: published author. Alongside his former Russian teacher, Robert Avery, he co-authored *The Royal and Russian Navies – Cooperation, Competition and Confrontation*, a compelling historical analysis of the naval relationship between Britain and Russia from 1989 to 2014.

The book is more than academic reflection. "It examines the lessons

we learned and offers ideas about how we might one day re-engage in dialogue, even though in the current political circumstances that seems impossible. It draws on much of my and Robert's first-hand experience and also personal testimonies from others."

Though he hasn't kept in close contact with many classmates, apart from the occasional message with **Richard Brown** CO81. David remembers Truro School fondly. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Truro and the friendships I made," he says. It was there that he discovered a love for drama, encouraged by the inspirational teacher **Watson Weeks**. An ambitious production of *Oh What a Lovely War* left a lasting impression, both on and off stage.

Though he credits the school less for any specific academic advantage and more for nurturing his confidence and ambition, it clearly played a role in launching him toward the disciplined world of naval service.

Today, David enjoys a quieter pace of life. He lives in the countryside north of Bridport with his wife of 32 years, Jessica. From his first marriage, he has a daughter, Polly, who now lives in Penryn with her two children - Agnes and Wilf. Two more children, Ellie and Alex, complete the family.

Despite the demands of his professional life, David has always returned to Cornwall, where family ties remain strong. He considers Falmouth his true hometown, though he spent part of his youth near the Helford River after his mother remarried.

In his free time, he enjoys walking and fly-fishing - simple pleasures after a life of global complexity.

For those considering a career in the military, David offers grounded, honest advice. "If you are looking for a career that can offer you a breadth of different experiences and financial security then the Royal Navy is a pretty good option. The experiences I have had I don't think could have been replicated in another career path, but I accept not everyone wants to go to sea for months on end or necessarily to Moscow. However, there are plenty of other options in the Royal Navy to satisfy people's different aims and aspirations."

Looking to the future, David is focused on promoting his book and carving out more time for family and travel. After a life of service, diplomacy, and leadership, his story continues to unfold, now with pen and paper rather than ship and signal.

# Jess Alken-Theasby CO02



Nestled on coastlines of Cornwall, you will find the beautifully restored historic properties of Jess Alken-Theasby - a designer, creative visionary, and Old Truronian. Her story, like her interiors, is rich in layers: of heritage, imagination, and a love for the place she calls home.



Jess' time at Truro School laid the essential groundwork for the creative path she would later carve out for herself. "When you are a creative at heart, the academic side of school can be hard to navigate," she reflects. Whilst here Jess found a sanctuary in the Art Department, and in particular, under the guidance of **Mr Heseltine**, the former Head of Art.

"He probably has no idea of the magnitude and positive impact he had from such a young age," Jess says. "He would lift my mind and so warmly acknowledge my talent." It was in these formative years that she began to see not only the value in creativity but also the role it could play in shaping her future.

After leaving Truro School, Jess went on to study at Falmouth School of Art before being offered an internship at MTV that would take her straight to the heart of London's media and cultural scene.

Packing her bags and her Apple Mac, she dived headfirst into the vibrant chaos of city life. Working in MTV's online department, Jess found herself designing content, attending film premieres, and soaking in the glamour of the entertainment industry. "I went to the Brit Awards, the BAFTAs, and numerous movie premieres," she remembers. Her creative energy was thriving, and her

circle of friends expanded to include fellow Old Truronians like **Claire Martin** CO02, with whom she shared many of London's glittering moments.

Though London offered excitement and opportunity, Jess's heart never truly left Cornwall. The coast, the history, and the sense of place all called her back - and she listened. Her return was not just personal, but also deeply professional. "Although I enjoyed my six-year stint in London, Cornwall is my home," she says. Today, she lives near Padstow with her husband and two sons, Ernie, aged 7 and Miles, aged 5.

Returning home wasn't just a change of address; it was the beginning of an ambitious new chapter.

Jess began restoring old properties, dilapidated yet handsome buildings that others might have overlooked. She describes it as more than a job: it's a mission rooted in family tradition. "My father, uncle, grandfather - they all have a history of renovating some of the most handsome houses in Cornwall," she explains. And from her mother, a LaGuardia Music and Art School graduate raised in New York City. "She lived on 9th avenue on the 19th floor surrounded by culture but in 1982 found herself in Cornwall, a few years later I was born and living amongst a huge restoration project at Harlyn House, near Padstow."

Jess's work is not just about restoration; it's about storytelling. "Most people who come to stay with us want to embrace the windy walks, the wild waves and the cosy fireplaces. We lean into the wildness of the coastline - no smooth edges or clean lines. Everything is slightly wonky, authentic, rugged and raw," she says. Her projects, like the recently re-opened *Atlanta Trevone*, reflect this ethos. Following a £2 million renovation (made possible due to the sale of Jess's childhood home, Harlyn House, now the Pig Hotel), the Victorian terrace now offers a luxury self-catering experience that rivals high-end hotels like The Newt or Limewood, but with a uniquely Cornish



soul and the privacy that a hotel can't offer.

Every detail is considered. From the young designers she champions, to the local artists and hand-crafted materials she sources, her approach is collaborative, thoughtful, and elevated.

"My background may not be specifically interior design, but I like to think I have the ability to pull together the most talented team of people to make my own restorations a reality. I fiercely admire Robin and Judy Hutson for their interiors, their business ethics and the way they have elevated hospitality in Cornwall. The builders onsite are hardworking, kind and considerate people – and stonemasonry, well - it is just as much an art as the architecture itself."

The recognition hasn't gone unnoticed. Jess's work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Tatler*, *Country Life*, *The Sunday Times*, and *House & Garden* - a personal milestone. But perhaps the highest praise came from Marcus Barwell of Soho House, who said, "I can't honestly remember the last time I stayed in a place as welcoming, stylish and comfortable as yours."

**Jess's work is not just about restoration; it's about storytelling.**

Family life now weaves seamlessly into Jess's professional rhythm. Her children attend Truro School Prep. "We are in Truro almost every day of the week" and her eldest has already developed a love for the School's cricket camps. The echoes of her own school days feel not just nostalgic but newly relevant, as she watches her sons begin their own journeys.

Jess' ambitions continue to expand. A newly acquired abandoned farm shed just 100 yards from the sea is next on the list. "We've already envisioned leaning into a Matunuck Beach-style hut with shingle-clad walls and a whitewashed porch," she says with excitement. It's a vision of coastal living rooted in



simplicity, heritage, and the beauty of imperfection.

Beyond her creative work, Jess is also preparing for the London Marathon, running in support of Macmillan and her father, who is currently battling cancer. "Some of my best ideas were born whilst running," she says, referring to her regular runs along the coastal paths that inspire her work and ground her spirit.

From antique shop strolls to Sunday lunches at The Pig and rock pooling with her boys, Jess has cultivated a life of depth and richness. It's a blend of old and new, of dreams once whispered in a Truro School classroom and now fully realised along the Cornish shores.

Asked what advice she would give to current students or aspiring creatives, Jess is clear: "You don't have to be good at everything. Just find the one thing that you enjoy, dive in, and the rest will follow."

Jess' OT story is one of coming full circle - from an inspired student sketching in an art class with **Mr Heseltine**, to a celebrated creative reshaping the Cornish landscape, one building at a time. Her journey after leaving School is an example of how life is not always a straight line, but can be a winding path paved with a passion, and the courage to return home.

# From School to Success: Inspiring Recent Old Truronians

We love discovering what our recent leavers have been up to.

Our Old Truronians continue to inspire us with their achievements and so many of them have reached incredible milestones across a diverse range of fields. We are delighted to share some of their latest success stories below and we look forward to seeing where their journeys take them next.



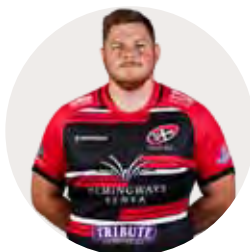
**Maria Chart CO17 – Engineer & Team GB Fencer**

Maria studied Mechanical Engineering at Columbia University, where she captained the fencing team. Now working as a Smart Buildings Engineer at WSP, she balances her career with competing for Team GB in Sabre Fencing.



**Eleanor Sullivan CO16 – Professional Oboist**

Ellie studied at the Royal Academy of Music on prestigious scholarships and now enjoys a thriving freelance career, performing with orchestras including the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Opera House. She was Principal Oboist for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and has played at the Royal Festival Hall.



**Ollie Andrews CO18 – Professional Rugby Player**

Cornwall-born prop Ollie Andrews has signed a contract for the 2024/25 season with the Cornish Pirates. A former Head Boy at Truro School, Ollie played in the Exeter Chiefs Academy before pursuing Sport and Exercise Science at Cardiff Metropolitan University. His rugby journey has seen him play for England Students and Coventry before returning to Cornwall to play for the Pirates. Off the pitch, he manages his own small beef herd on the family farm.



**Harry Stacey CO18 – Entrepreneur & Toy Shop Owner**

Harry founded Harry's Toy Chest in Truro, a specialist toy and gaming store. After studying Entrepreneurial Studies at Falmouth University, he successfully expanded his business and opened a second store in Camborne in 2024.



**Valeria Duca CO14 – Acclaimed Painter**

Valeria's artistic career started early, with her first exhibition at age 12. She later studied History of Art at St Andrew's and now works as a painter in Oslo. Her works are housed in multiple European museums.



**Rebs Fisher-Jackson CO16 – Award-Winning Filmmaker**

Rebs is a BAFTA Connect and Cardiff-based writer and filmmaker, dedicated to diversifying the film, television, and games industries. She has worked on over 21 major productions, including for the BBC and Lucasfilm. Her debut short film, *Best Student*, was funded by the BFI and won multiple awards. In 2024, Rebs was awarded the prestigious BAFTA-Fulbright scholarship and has moved to Los Angeles to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting at UCLA.



**Tom Harvey CO13 – Legal Professional & Competitive Fencer**

Tom studied Law and Philosophy at Cambridge before specialising in finance and competition law at Queen Mary University of London. He now works as an Associate at Watson Farley & Williams. A keen fencer, Tom discovered the sport at Truro School and went on to compete for Cambridge University and England.





**Louis Murray CO23 –  
Harvard Student & Squash Player**

Louis secured a place at Harvard University, where he studies Economics and plays on the Varsity Squash Team. Recognised as a top UK player, he receives a generous scholarship as part of Harvard's financial aid programme.



**Ed Williamson-Smit CO13 –  
Filmmaking Entrepreneur**

Ed co-founded Here Now Films, a leading UK video production agency that has created work for major brands like Airbnb, Domino's, and TUI, as well as documentaries for BBC WORLD and Tate Galleries. After studying Marine Biology at Exeter University, he pursued his passion for storytelling through film.



**Will Deary CO15 – World-Class  
Fencer & Software Engineer**

A nine-time national champion, Will joined British Fencing's World Class Programme and is now ranked among the world's top 40 fencers. Alongside his athletic career, he works as a software engineer at the startup 'Sequel' and holds a first class degree in Computer Science from King's College London.



**Max Cromie CO21 – Fencing champion  
and postgraduate student at UCL**

Max attended here from 2014-21, along with his two brothers **Conall** CO16 and **Eoghan** CO18. Whilst here Max was selected to compete in various Fencing world and European championship competitions, and was also selected as a Sixth Form Prefect 2018-19. After leaving he went on to study Geography at Royal Holloway. He is now studying Environment, Politics and Society at UCL. Max shared his experiences of being educated at Truro School:

*"Since I was the youngest of three, and both of my brothers attended Truro School from 1st to 5th Year, it felt natural for me to follow in their footsteps. From the outset, I felt incredibly fortunate to be part of a school that offered so many opportunities, both academically and through sport, and I tried to soak up as much as I could, all while being my cheeky self.*

*As I moved into the later years, 4th Year through to Upper Sixth, the looming pressure of exams made things more intense, as it does for most students. But that never took away from the fact that my experience at Truro School was something I'll always cherish. Teachers like Mr Steve Sparkes (Maths), Ms Emily Hargreaves and Mr Andrew Barnett (Geography), and Ms Justine Hope (Geology) were not only incredibly knowledgeable but also deeply supportive. I was lucky to be guided by teachers who genuinely cared and nurtured my interests throughout my time at the school.*

*From around 3rd Year, I knew I wanted to study Geography at university, though I wasn't sure whether to pursue human or physical geography. That unknowingness (in the best way possible) followed me through my undergraduate degree and into my current Master's (MSc in Environment, Politics, and Society). But it was my teachers who reassured me early on, that studying a subject like Geography would give me the freedom to explore a wide range of interests over time. Topics like sustainability and geopolitics, briefly touched on in school, have become central themes in my academic journey, all of which began with the foundations laid at Truro School.*

*In Sixth Form, the dynamic between students and teachers shifted in the best way. It became more about mutual respect and guidance, and I really valued that sense of being treated as a young adult.*

*I've never considered myself the 'smartest' in the class, that honour goes to some of my naturally gifted friends, but I've always been willing to work hard and sacrifice to achieve what I set out to do. That dedication, rooted in sport, carried through into academics and beyond. The motto "hard work pays off" is something I still live by today, and I know it's something my teachers recognised and supported.*

*Even now, the fact that many of them still take an interest in what I'm doing, celebrating my achievements and offering words of encouragement, means the world. To be remembered, whether as "Cromie" or "CromDog" by people who've mentored hundreds of unique students over the years is a privilege I don't take lightly. Their continued support is a gift more meaningful than any medal, trophy, or accolade I've earned so far.*

*Truro School will always be a part of who I am, and I hope I'll always remain a part of it."*



**Finn Hawkins CO21 – Champion Windsurfer**

Finn took his first steps in windsurfing during school activities at Loe Beach. He has since won gold at the iQFoil World Championships and continues to compete internationally, placing 12th overall at the 2024 World Championships.

# Salvete

A huge welcome to Truro School for the following staff

## Autumn Term

OLIVER MCKEOWN  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

CARINA BARKER  
Cookery School Technician

HELEN RODGERS  
PA to the Head at Truro School Prep

STEPHANIE LEER  
Duty Manager

GARY OLDS  
Teacher of Humanities

CESCA RYDER  
Head of Maths (Prep)

MOLLY LEIGH CO18  
Teacher of Music

REBECCA KNIGHT  
Head of DT (Prep)

HANNAH DE SOUZA  
Teacher of Maths

MILLIE MONTGOMERY-SMITH  
CO23  
Drama Assistant

CHARLOTTE WARD  
Music Assistant

ALISON BALLARD  
Marketing and Admissions Apprentice

LEVI WEARNE  
Catering Assistant

FLORA BOYES-HUNTER  
Receptionist Leisure Assistant

HEINKE THIES  
Cookery TA

ANNABELLA ATHA  
Catering Assistant

EMILY HANNAH  
HR Advisor

FRAZER CLARK  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

ANDY TASKIS  
Caretaker

SARA BRANDOLESE  
Geology Technician

MARGARET HOWARD  
Cleaner

MICHAEL PASCOE  
Kitchen Porter

MATTHEW LUFF  
Admissions Officer

## Spring Term

HAYLEY WALKER  
Swim Teacher

DARREN JEFFREY  
Minibus Driver

MARK KEEGAN  
Minibus Driver

GEORGE ROYLE  
Supply Teacher

TRACY BAKER  
Teacher

CLAIRE KNOWLES  
Evening Cleaner

ESTHER RODGERS  
Receptionist at Truro School Prep

FINLAY HARRIS  
Sports Assistant/Lifeguard

BERNADETTE BAGGOTT  
Exam Invigilator

ANNA KAKUCS  
Exam Invigilator

MARY ELLISON  
Exam Invigilator

SARAH HARVEY  
Pastoral Support Worker

MARK BURCHELL  
Exam Invigilator

LINDA BOYD-SMITH  
Exam Invigilator

RENEE BUCKLAND  
Exam Invigilator

LAURA POOL  
Exam Invigilator

SOPHIE SMITH  
Exam Invigilator

SUSAN WILSON  
Exam Invigilator

BRANDY DOUBLEDAY  
Personal Assistant to the Head

VICKY LANE  
Prep Receptionist

WILL SILK  
Assistant Head of Prep (Pastoral)

HARRIET CHASE  
Senior Café & Baking Assistant

LISA SHARMAN  
Basketball Coach

## Summer Term

CIARA BAILEY  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

VICTORIA MAUND  
Administrator to Deputy Head  
& Academic Team

IMOGEN BARNES  
Teaching Assistant

## Staff Evolvments

**JEMIMA LUCKHURST CO95**  
Marketing, Communications and PR  
Officer becomes Admissions Officer

**RACHEL VAUGHAN CO98**  
Teacher of English and Head of Choristers,  
also now becomes Head of 1st Year

**EMMA MITCHELL**  
Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)  
becomes Deputy Head (Pastoral)



# Valete

We wish the following staff farewell from the School in the 2024/25 academic year

## Autumn Term

KIMBERLEIGH WATSON  
Duty Manager

TRACY BAKER  
Cover Supervisor

MARK FINCH  
School Cleaner

COREY ADAM  
Kitchen Porter

BETHANY HAYNES  
HR Advisor

KAITLYN WOOD  
Kitchen Assistant

ALISON BELLAMY  
Catering Assistant

CATHRYN READ  
Sports Assistant/Lifeguard

SARAH PASCOE  
Cafe Assistant

SIOBHAN LYNCH  
Personal Assistant to the Head

DAVID SKINNER  
Teacher of History

## Spring Term

GEMMA WEBSTER  
Exam Assistant/Lead Invigilator

JOSH LORD  
Head of Boys' Games and Maths (Prep)

JANE JEFFRIES-JONES  
Exam Invigilator

MAYA FIELD  
Exam Invigilator

CLAUDIA MONKS  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

MARGARET ISSAKA  
Deputy Head (Prep)

SARAH HATTON  
Administrator to the Deputy Head

VIVIANNE SCAMMELL  
Classroom Assistant

BEN HOADLEY  
Vocal Teacher

DAN RICHARDS  
Drama Practitioner

BERNADETTE BAGGOTT  
Exam Invigilator

JOANNE PARADISE  
Invigilator

## Summer Term

MARK GODDARD  
Caretaker

KEILEY NOKES  
Reception Apprentice

JESSICA GUMBRELL  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

TEGAN BLACKFORD CO23  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

MILLIE MONTGOMERY-SMITH CO23  
Drama Assistant

MILLIE RADFORD  
Events Assistant

EMMA WILLIAMS  
Admissions Officer

BRIDGET HOLROYD  
Teacher of Maths

CHRISTINA MOSS  
Teacher of Biology

CHARLIE FRASER  
Operations Manager

ROB MURPHY  
Deputy Head (Pastoral)



VALETE

# Charlie Fraser

Operations Manager 2015-25

## When did you start working at Truro School?

I started working here on 1 September 2015, having joined from the British Army where I had served 37 years. My last role there was Quartermaster of the 3-star NATO headquarter. I remember I had to give 3 months' notice, after I found out I had the job in May. It was a new post. I finished on the Friday and then started on the first day of term just a few days later on the Tuesday.

I had come to a natural end at the Army, I was thinking about 'what's next'. So it was just a case of applying to leave the Army early, and then I started here right away.



I found the transition from Army to working at Truro School pretty seamless. Both places have a 'hierarchy' so to speak with the Head at the top, it's institutionalised here and there's a structural balance to it. In the Army I spent a lot of time working with contractors – which is similar to what I do now. It's a very similar style of role... managing the catering, security, health and safety etc.

I was the first Operations Manager at Truro School – which was the nature of the time – a lot of schools started hiring for that role. Before it was that most of the operational side of the school was with the Bursar, so when my role was created it freed up the Bursar needing to do that. There's definitely been a lot more improvements in the last 10 years. When I came in I was managing maintenance,



facilities, SBA, catering, internal events, grounds, support services at the Prep, health and safety, security. It was a big job! Over the last 5 or 6 years, there's been restructuring and so many of those departments have moved under new managers for the better.

## Is there anything you will miss now that you are leaving?

I shall miss the camaraderie. When I was in the Army, I moved every two years. Having now been here for 10 years, this is the longest I've spent in one place so it really feels like I've got to know colleagues well. I also like the fact my role means I bridge both sides of the



operational and the teaching staff. People ask me what I do, and I tell them I am kind of the glue between everyone.

## Is there anyone that you have fond memories of working with?

I still remember three members of staff who sadly died. The first is **Colin Martin** (Caretaker 2015-21), who joined the same year I had. Colin was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2020 and sadly died six months later. Before that the old maintenance manager, **Mike Verran**, who had left in 2018 after being here for 12 years, he sadly died a year after leaving. Finally, there was **Ivor Uren** (Minibus Driver) who was working at his second job when he suffered a stroke. He sadly died a year after.

Those are the three that I will remember. There are of course great colleagues that I have worked with.

## How will you remember your role here?

When I left the Army I really wanted to do something away from uniform, but similar, so I have done that, it was the right decision. My legacy will be:



- **The one-way circuit around the School.** When I first arrived, all the traffic went up and down Trennick Lane, so if you had more than two cars coming up or down, it would just be gridlock. The term after I started, we had marshals operating a 'stop – start' system with walkie talkies and all that to help the traffic flow in and out. Two terms later we had the one-way system in place.

- **Enhancing security.** When I first started the caretaker would open all the doors in the morning, and then lock them all at night. So the School was just completely open! The School was advised to make itself more secure, of course. So I set about right away putting in number pad locks, and then we started the introduction of Salto locks in the summer of 2016. During my job interview, I remember being asked how I would make the School more secure and my answer was that I would put a fence around the School. The whole site was completely open, so as soon as I was able, I organised for fences to be put up everywhere I could. CCTV has also gone from 15 cameras to about 65 cameras.

- **I was in charge of all the testing during the pandemic.** It was an emotional time, when we were having to do rigorous testing of pupils and staff. When we knew that someone had tested positive for covid, I had to go into the classroom with my 2-metre stick, measure from where the poorly child had sat, and send anyone within 2-metres home!

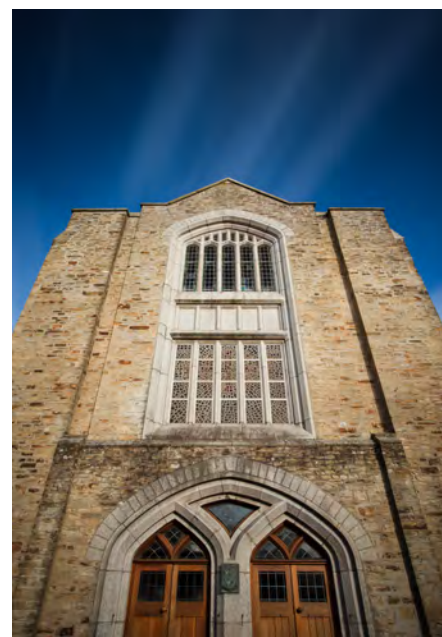


#### Where did you go to school?

I went to a small prep boarding school in Dorset. I am originally from Liverpool but it was an odd family thing that became a tradition amongst my family and some friends' families that they decided the Old Malthouse would be the school for all the children. For secondary school, I went to Rossall School in Lancashire. It was a big culture shock, going to this small quaint prep school in Dorset to a huge bustling school near Blackpool! I then left at 16 for the Army.

#### What are your plans for retirement?

My wife and I are going to spend about 18 months more in Cornwall, and then the plan is to move permanently to the Cotswolds to be closer to our grandchildren.





VALETE

# Maggie Issaka

Deputy Head of Prep (Pastoral) 1998-2025

## Take us back to your own school days – what were they like?

I went to a lovely primary school up country where I really enjoyed it. The things that stay with you are the friendships, and I had lots of friends. And also I had some amazing teachers. I think it was those early days at school that gave me the awareness of the importance of good support outside of lessons. From there my family moved to Cornwall and so I attended Richard Lander School, before going up to Avery Hill College (now University of Greenwich) in London to do a 4-year teaching degree.

## Do you remember when or how you decided to follow a career in education?

I had returned to Cornwall after gaining my teaching degree and started working as a class teacher at the local primary school in Breage. I had a lovely experience there. At some point I saw an opportunity to go to Ghana and I ended up staying for 4 years! I was teaching out there and had the most amazing experience, and did so much. It was there that I met my now-husband.

## Can you remember your earliest days working at Truro School Prep and what made you apply for a job here?

Well after I returned from Africa, I came back to Cornwall. At the time the work I found was supply work, so I did that for a while. It was eventually through the Truro Methodist Church that I saw the opportunity for a class teacher here at Truro School Prep. I got the job and started as a Year 3 teacher, before becoming a Year 4 teacher – and then the rest is history. I am leaving having been Assistant Head (Pastoral) for the past 6 years, Humanities coordinator, PSHE coordinator and a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

I have now worked here for 27 years! The years have just flown by. I've even been here long enough that I am now



teaching the children of the children that I taught in the early days! I even taught **Louis Keveren** CO09, who is now a teacher here. I have been here with four headteachers now. When I started it was **Russell Hollands**, **Michael Lovett** (TS 2004-16), **Sarah Matthews** (TS 2016-22) and now of course **Rob Morse** CO89.

## Any highlights during your time?

- The teachers
- The atmosphere
- The school environment
- There really aren't any particular moments exactly, but the whole experience has been something. I am proud of the school values that we promote here, and I think you





feel it – the kindness, good and helping others.

#### **What would you say to someone hoping to forge a similar career path?**

Look after yourself, take time to keep connected with yourself away from work. Keep positive in all the ways you can. I think if you spoke to colleagues, they would tell you how I have had a sleeping bag in my office, and things like that, because I've just ended up spending

hours and hours working – doing long evenings and early mornings. I think I would tell anyone thinking of teaching now just to be mindful of falling into that and really take time for yourself. I will say I have never taken my work home with me, which I know can happen. We have always had a good system in place for pastoral matters.

#### **What are your plans after leaving?**

In the immediate, lots of things like

just enjoying the Cornish spring and spending time with my sons, **Freddie Issaka CO24** and **Ben Issaka CO20**. Freddie will be off-season from football and Ben will have finished his university degree. I am looking forward to doing some gardening and just enjoying retirement. I will still be involved with the School in little way, like doing cover teaching and helping drive the minibus for trips – so it's not a complete goodbye.

### **A Tribute to Maggie by Annabel Gregory**

Maggie started teaching at Truro Prep, then Treliske School, in September 1998. She started with a Year Four class and led girls' games. She joined Treliske as Maggie Cresswell, but as soon as the pupils got used to calling their new teacher 'Miss Cresswell' she married Steve in that first Autumn half term and became Mrs Issaka.

Maggie brought a wealth of experience, new ideas, care and compassion to the School, which she had partly honed during her VSO work in Ghana, where she met Steve. She would regale us with tales of her amazing life in Africa, and the insight she gained from her time there informed her teaching for the duration of her time in the school, particularly in the humanities subjects.

Over the years she has taught a wide variety of subjects, from science to humanities and took over as Head of RE in the early 2000s. When RE, History and Geography were combined into one in the 2010s, she became humanities co-ordinator and also looked after PSHE. She then took on the great responsibility of being the School's DSL when appointed Pastoral Deputy Head, and managed the complex task of ensuring the well-being and happiness of pupils, parents and staff with calmness, clarity and unceasing compassion.

Maggie seems to be unflappable. Never does she lose her temper or allow the ever-present frustrations of school life get to her – at least that's the impression she gives! Pupils,

staff and parents know that if they go to her about any matter, she will smooth waters and ease minds. However people feel when entering her office, they will invariably leave feeling reassured, happier and with the certain knowledge that their concerns have been listened to with the greatest integrity and sincerity.

Over the years, she has revealed many talents – she is a fine singer and has performed many solos around Cornwall; she has long been a luminary of Truro Methodist Church and has often conducted youth and adult choirs there. She has beautiful handwriting - there are probably still school certificates lurking on fridges and on mantelpieces which bear her elegant calligraphic script, and her keenness to 'muck in' with glee and enthusiasm has never faded, whether it be on Beam House, France trips or innumerable school outings. No task ever seems off limits to Maggie, and all are met with a beaming and warm smile which makes all who receive it feel reassured and peaceful.

Maggie is the heart of the school, there is no doubt. When she is away, her absence is keenly felt (although that is very rare – she smiles through coughs and colds when others are dropping around her).

She is the proudest of mums to Old Truronians **Ben CO20** and **Freddie CO24** (who didn't exist when she first started at the School), and Maggie is now the keenest (and possibly the loudest!) Argle fan.

# A Warm Welcome for Mr Silk



**Truro School Prep is delighted to welcome Mr Will Silk, who joined the team in Easter as Assistant Head Pastoral, following the retirement of Maggie Issaka.**

Mr Silk brings with him 25 years of experience in education. Most recently, he served as Deputy Head at Perrott Hill Prep School in Somerset, where he was instrumental in launching a Young Farmers Club – an initiative he hopes to introduce at Truro School in the future. He is passionate about charitable work and is a proud patron of Farms for City Children, a charity founded by Sir Michael and Lady Morpurgo. The charity provides children from disadvantaged urban backgrounds with residential farm stays, offering many their first glimpse of the countryside and a deeper understanding

of where their food comes from. During his time at Perrott Hill, Mr Silk led several fundraising initiatives in support of the charity, including the creation and sale of jams, marmalades, and chutneys. He is already feeling welcomed by the Truro School Prep community and is excited to continue this meaningful work here.

Speaking about what drew him to the role at Truro School Prep, Mr Silk said, "I loved the vibrancy and feel of the school, the children were all happy and there is a breadth of opportunity for me to accentuate that even further. I am looking forward to getting to know the pupils, bring my experience to the school and make it the best place I can to educate your child".

Beyond his professional life, Mr Silk enjoys cricket and farming, spending time on his smallholding with his wife Lucy, who also has a background in education, and caring for their chickens and animals. He has three children: two currently at university in Falmouth and Edinburgh, and a son at boarding school.

Alongside his pastoral responsibilities, Mr Silk is also looking forward to being back in the classroom. He is leading

humanities for Years 5 and 6, as well as teaching PSHE. His first lesson involved a fun 'get-to-know-you' activity, encouraging pupils to interview each other and present their findings to the class. In addition, he is serving as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Prep and Pre-Prep, with a visible presence across all areas of school life.

At the heart of his role is a commitment to pupil and parent wellbeing. He said, "I hope to build a strong and supportive bond with families, ensuring excellent communication and care – always putting the children at the centre of everything we do."

Education has been part of Mr Silk's life from a young age. He grew up on the campus of Radley College in Oxfordshire, where his father, Dennis Silk, served as Warden for over 20 years. With a background in both Prep and Senior education, Mr Silk is a trained History teacher and experienced in sports management.

We're delighted to have him on board and hope you'll join us in warmly welcoming Mr Silk to the Truro School family.

## Truro School Foundation

### THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION



#### Honouring the legacy of Morley Blamey

Morley Blamey is more than just an Old Truronian; he is a testament to the enduring spirit that Truro School's motto *esse quam videri* instills in its pupils.

Born and raised in Portloe, Cornwall and attending Truro School from 1949 to 1954, Morley's school journey was marked by academic curiosity, a passion for community, and a commitment to making a difference.

Morley's time at Truro School laid the foundation for a life dedicated to service and philanthropy. Inspired by teachers like Stephen Wicks and nurtured within the school's Methodist environment, Morley learned the importance of giving back.

In a remarkable act of generosity, Morley left a £100,000 gift in his Will to Truro School Foundation. This substantial charitable donation is a beacon of hope for future generations, ensuring that deserving bursary pupils have the opportunity to benefit from the same exceptional education that Morley cherished. 100% of Morley's legacy will support future Foundation Award Holders, providing them with the resources they need to thrive academically and personally at Truro School.

Morley's story is a powerful reminder of the impact that one individual can have on the lives of many. His legacy is a testament to the enduring power of giving.



# Will POWER

## The Impact of a 1% Gift



### Leaving a gift in your Will to support transformative bursaries at Truro School changes lives, forever!

Did you know that you can leave just 1% of your estate's value to Truro School Foundation in your Will, leaving the remaining 99% to the people you love the most. You can of course leave more to life-changing bursaries if you wish to.

The **Will POWER** campaign gives proud Old Truronians the unique opportunity to help shape the lives of future Foundation Award Holders. And the best part? You can do this while still ensuring your loved ones are well taken care of.

Just imagine the difference your **Will POWER** gift could make!

Your support, whether a 1% gift or more, will have a life-changing effect on a child for whom a bursary award might be the only way of accessing a Truro School education.

#### Feeling inspired to make a difference?

If Truro School made a difference in your life or the life of someone you love, we hope you'll consider giving the gift of education to a future Foundation Award Holder, by leaving a gift in your Will to Truro School Foundation.

#### How to write a Will

Writing a Will is a crucial act to safeguard the people and causes you cherish. It's easier than you might imagine, and the following points will help you navigate this process.

Firstly, you'll need to find a solicitor who meets your Will making needs. The Law Society's database is a great place to start, or you may already have a solicitor in mind.

#### Updating a Will

Updating your Will to include a charitable gift is simpler than you might think.

If you've already written a Will, you can make an official alteration, known as a codicil, for minor changes.

This means you can easily add a gift to your chosen charity without rewriting your entire Will. For more significant updates, writing a new Will with the guidance of a solicitor is recommended.

We've created a Truro School Foundation codicil form for you to complete and then attach to your current Will.

#### How to leave a gift in your Will to Truro School Foundation

Once you've instructed a solicitor they'll lead you through the Will making process. Everyone's situation is different so it's best to have an expert to help you.

Did you know, 1 in 5 of people in the UK make the impactful decision to leave a gift in their Will. If you make the same decision and choose to play a part in transforming a child's life through the power of a Truro School education, then simply take note of the next three steps.

#### 1. Truro School Foundation Charity details

Truro School Foundation  
Trennick Lane, Truro, TR1 1TH  
Registered Charity Number: 1070969

#### 2. Decide on the type of Gift

There are three types of gifts you can leave:

- Residuary Gift: A percentage or all of your estates value after other gifts, costs, and taxes are covered
- Pecuniary Gift: A set amount of money
- Specific Gift: A particular item, asset, or property

#### 3. Contact your solicitor

Provide your solicitor with Truro School Foundation's details and they will help ensure your wishes are correctly documented in your Will.

Your Will is a private matter, and you may want to keep your gift intentions to yourself. However, if you wish, you can complete a legacy form to let us know if you intend to leave a gift in your Will to Truro School Foundation. Sharing your intentions with us ensures your wishes are carried out correctly and allows the charity to plan for the future.

#### Added financial benefits of leaving a gift in your Will

Truro School Foundation is a registered charity (charity number: 1070969), which means that any gifts made to the Foundation are exempt from UK Inheritance and Capital Gains Taxes. Under current rules, if you leave 10% or more of your chargeable net estate to charity, the Inheritance Tax (IHT) rate on the whole of your taxable estate is reduced from 40% to 36%.

#### Give the gift of a Truro School education

Thank you for considering leaving a gift to Truro School Foundation.

Your **Will POWER** gift will enable our ambitious charity to grow the number of life-changing bursaries Truro School can offer. Your support will make a significant impact to a talented child and change their life forever!

Contact Sam Willsher, Development & Alumni Relations Manager to ask questions about Truro School Foundation's **Will POWER** campaign or to informally discuss your personal wishes in more detail.

**Email:** [foundation@truroschoo.com](mailto:foundation@truroschoo.com)

**Phone:** 01872 246094

**Web:** [www.truroschoo.com/foundation](http://www.truroschoo.com/foundation)

# IN THE GARDEN THIS YEAR

TOM LAGDEN  
HEAD GARDENER



## AUTUMN TERM

After a busy 2023-2024 school year in the garden with less staff, our ranks have been bolstered with two new members of staff. At the end of August, we welcomed gardener **Sarah De Gruchy** CO09 and our new Horticulture apprentice **Ryan Harper**. Sarah had recently completed her horticulture apprenticeship at the Eden Project before applying for the job here, and Ryan was an electrician before he decided he wanted a change in career. Both have a passion for gardening and the outdoors and I'm sure they will fit well in the team and enjoy the work we do.

September and it's the start of a new school year. It's nice to see staff and pupils alike but for us gardeners it does take a day or two to adjust from the peace and quiet we have had for the last 8 weeks.

The weather is fair and the teams hard work through the summer means the gardens and grounds

are looking at their best. This also gives us the time to go through inductions with new team members Sarah and Ryan and to familiarise them with both sites.

One of the first jobs for the new guys is some propagation in the nursery. We have plans to install a polytunnel next year and increase our inhouse plant production. The gardeners sow seeds for Delphiniums, Ammi Majus, Gypsophyllua, lupin and foxgloves, as well as hardwood cuttings from selected shrubs in the gardens.

The sporting fixtures kick off and the grounds team have surprised themselves on the fantastic condition the pitches are in. Improved maintenance and sports turf management by the team are starting to pay back as not only do the pitches look their part, the general health of the grass and deeper rooting means the pitches are holding up under tougher conditions and all through the

season. Whilst the first fixtures kicking off the team are doing end of season renovations on the cricket square. Ryan is keen to get involved and as lawn care is part of his apprenticeship - it's the ideal opportunity to learn on the job. We have made some slight adjustments to the way we renovate the square this year and we hope this will increase sward coverage for next season.

Later in the Term, the days are drawing in and temperatures are starting to drop. Our winter seasonal bedding is ready to plant out. All our summer beddings are removed and composted and perennial plants and tubers in our seasonal displays are removed, dried and stored over winter in our potting sheds. Before the winter weather sets in our spring bedding is planted out to settle in and take root.

This is also the time of year for bulbs, and the next section of the





In October 2024, the team won the Spitfire Cup for the Best-kept School Garden and the Glasteinan Shield for 1st place in the Best Wildlife-Friendly Garden



swathe of daffodils that run through the whitebeams on the 'snake' are planted.

Around site the gardens are full of autumnal colours. A particular highlight is always the liquid amber tree on the 'snake', with each day that passes the leaves appear a fierier shade of orange. This autumn has certainly been milder than the last and the team are busy cutting the lawns and pitches. The dark and light green stripes providing the perfect backdrop for the autumnal show.

Towards Christmas, the mild and relatively dry weather has been accompanied by strong winds. Unfortunately, this has brought down twelve large trees at the Prep site. In one event we lost five 60ft conifers on the playing field, as well as four in the woods. One group of three lifted on one root plate.

Luckily, we have a fantastic team with a wealth of experience, and we soon got to work. A chipper was on hire the next day and within four days all the trees were made safe, the brash chipped and the timber logged

up into piles for removal once the ground dries up.

Christmas is fast approaching, and the team make good use of the endless supply of logs, and a new herd of reindeer appear across both sites with this year's new addition of snowmen.





## SPRING TERM

The new year starts and its time to get on with some new projects. The azaleas at the front of Treliske House below the flagpole are transplanted to another border. The area under the flagpole is dug over and a new seasonal bed is created and planted up with a mix of tulips, Bellis, Myosotis and Erysimum.

Over at the Senior site the team also mark out and dig over the final two beds in the Celebration Garden. The edge is planted up with yew hedging. Rather than planting more roses in these beds, we have decided to grow cut flowers. Providing not only a brilliant show in the garden but also flowers for around school and events.

The team are excited to see the garden develop, and as a nod to the original use of the Terrace as a tennis court, Ben Laity, the school carpenter has made us two new obelisks to grow roses up in the shape of umpire's chairs. The final phase will be to install benches and create a path through the Celebration Garden so it can be accessed in all weathers. Hopefully a project for next winter.

We are finally starting to see the days get longer and spring appears to be arriving early. The mild and drier winter than we have had in previous years has meant we have had good recovery on our sports pitches. The Grounds Team are proud to be providing some of the best pitches the school has ever had at this time of year and due to their hard work and dedication pitches are looking and playing as well as they did at the beginning of the season.

End of February and it's time to prune the apple trees. This will be the fifth year since they were planted, and they are to take good shape and form. Leading stems are reduced by a third to outside buds and the crown is opened up to enable airflow and reduce disease. Ryan is shown how to select which branches to remove and those to keep and is keen to put his new skills to test in the rest of the orchard. Material that is cut and is of suitable size and strength is grafted onto root stock. This gives us Cornish apple tree varieties for future planting around site.

The warm and mild weather has meant last year's seedlings are pushing on quickly, and the gardeners spend time potting up over 500 perennials. Tubers stored over winter including dahlias and Canna are also potted up and left dry in the glasshouse, only receiving water once the first signs of growth appear. A favorite among the gardeners are Geums, providing fantastic colour in late spring and early summer. The team dig up and divide the Geums in the borders, making sure some of the plants goes back in the border whilst the rest is taken down to nursery and grown on for future years.

Just as we finish potting on Mr Elliot from Allet Nurseries calls to let us know our 3000 bedding plants have arrived for the summer. This year is a change in the planting scheme as we have included Salvias, Begonias, Antirrhinums and Lantana. The team head back down to the potting shed for another couple of days potting.





## SUMMER TERM

The Summer Term brought with it a renewed focus on outdoor projects, particularly at Prep, where we began by digging new flower beds and completing the long-anticipated Celebration Garden. As part of this transformation, we introduced two vintage-style tennis umpire chairs. These charming additions serve as a nostalgic tribute to the days when the Terrace was regularly used for tennis matches, offering a subtle nod to the school's rich history.

To enhance the already colourful and fragrant collection of roses in the Celebration Garden, we decided to plant an additional variety: Madame Alfred Carrière. This elegant climbing rose, with its large, creamy white, cupped blooms, adds a graceful vertical element and a timeless beauty to the space.

Another major gardening undertaking this Term was the ambitious goal of growing 150 foxgloves and 100 delphiniums from seed. Thanks to careful planning and hard work, we achieved this with great success, contributing further to the garden's stunning summer display.

Meanwhile, improvements to our sporting facilities also took place. At Prep, an artificial cricket wicket was installed, providing a high-quality surface for matches and practice sessions. In addition, a brand-new long jump pit was constructed near the Senior site pavilion, expanding the athletics facilities and encouraging pupils to develop their track and field skills.





# Archive Attic:

## KENT COLLEGE AND THE AIR TRAINING CORPS

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the end of the Second World War, which meant that Truro School's hosting of the Kent College evacuees came to an end as well in 1945.

The Archive was recently sent photos from John Charlesworth, son of **Alan Charlesworth** who was a pupil at Truro School from 1942 to 1947 and later became a teacher at Kent College. Among the photos of his time at school, there were some taken while Kent College was in Truro. There were also some of the Air Training Corps Flight 1532, different from ones already in the archive.



The photos depict the Flight being inspected by two RNAS officers, as well as a group photo.



*The Flight's numbers are now nearly on the 50 mark. Promotions this term are as follows: Sergt. Charlesworth, Corpls. Pennington, Jasper, Langford, and Smith, F.S. We welcome Mr A.J. Tonkin to the Flight, and when the full scheme of combined training for School Units comes into being, his experience will be invaluable...*

*22 Cadets the O.C. and Sergt. Charlesworth camped at St Mawgan in August. We fell victims to the 'Summer' weather, and the loss of flying hours was considerable...*

*This Term we were honoured by the visit of the A.O.C. No. 62 Group, Southern Command, our Chief, Air Commodore F.L. Pearce, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., inspected the Flight, and the Headquarters, supported by Col. Stanley Smith and out Headmaster, who is Treasurer of the Flight. We had an inspiring address from the A.O.C. and he complimented the Cadets on their general appearance. A Flight photograph was taken before the A.O.C. left us...*

**The Truronian, December 1946**



After initially thinking that this was the combined Truro School and Kent College Flight, a deeper delve into the school magazines suggests that these images come a year after Kent College had returned home. However, this led to thinking about the origins of the ATC at Truro School.

The ATC was set up in 1941 by H.J. Prickett, headmaster of Kent College, Canterbury. Kent College evacuated to Truro early in the summer term 1940, invited by Dr Magson. Some of Truro School's classrooms were allotted to KC. At first the two schools worked independently but it soon became necessary to merge the two because of staff being conscripted and other shortages and restrictions. The Air Training Corps was registered as the Truro School and Kent College Flight in April 1941. Prickett and Truro's Mr Wilkes were appointed commissions in the ATC. There were initially 34 members in the Flight.

**'Throughout the county the ATC owed a great deal to the masters of schools that had been evacuated to Cornwall. The ATC meant self-sacrifice and hard work... That was one part of their war effort...'**

#### **Speech Day report, 1941**

The Flight was attached to a local Naval Air Station and in September 1941 it was inspected by the captain and some of his officers before being invited to visit the Station. The cadets gained flying experience and received instruction on the link trainer, in firing machine guns on the range and in folding and using parachutes. Lectures and classes were also given on various aspects including wireless, Morse code and navigation. Drill instruction was given on Friday afternoons. The cadets worked towards

proficiency exams and took part in several public parades.

Camps were held in the summer at the local RNAS station and cadets helped the local Home Guard on exercises. Athletic sports events were held with local Flights, as well as swimming and football competitions. The athletics competitions also provided Truro School's first opportunity to take part in County and Regional competitions, which culminated in competing in a national competition where 'No.1532 Flight was the only Unit in the four Countries to secure three National Champions' in 1945.

**'For the last time No. 1532 covered both schools. Kent College returned to Canterbury with their Headmaster, who was also O/C of the Flight – F/O H.J. Prickett. We take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of all he did for the Flight from its inception, and trust that a K.C. Flight will flourish under his direction.'**

#### **The Truronian, December 1945**

Kent College returned home in September 1945.



To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day a copy of the May 1945 *Truronian* magazine can be found on the School Archive page on the School's website.



# Archive Attic:

## LOOKING BACK

### 100 years ago

April 1925 saw the opening of a new extension to the dormitories in Trennick, as well as more space in the dining hall, and new classrooms. The school also used the occasion to mark the headmaster E.H. Magson's achieving his doctorate in Psychology from London University and presented him with doctorate robes. The gown and bonnet are preserved in the Archive and are still as bright and vibrant in colour as they were in 1925.



### 45 years ago



The Prince of Wales visited the School on 20 May 1980, seen as 'the crowning event' of the school's centenary celebrations. During the visit he unveiled the new stained-glass centenary window in the Chapel and formally named the school plane 'Spirit of Truro'.

The school magazine reported that:

*'It was a dull overcast day which welcomed Prince Charles in Truro. However, this was not allowed to affect the atmosphere of the occasion.'*

*'The school flag was unfurled as the royal car wound its way up the snake. The prince and his entourage including Lord Falmouth were greeted by Mr Burrell and Mr Bedford Daniel. He was then directed along the terrace to the chapel for the unveiling of the new Centenary Window designed by one of the monks of Buckfast Abbey.'*

*'As the Prince entered the building he was greeted by the School Choir singing the new Centenary Song Esse Quam Videri written by Stephen and Patrick McGrady. Welcoming speeches were made by Mr Burrell and Head Boy,*

*Nigel Morton, and the window was blessed by Dr Holland.*

*'Chatting amiably to members of the congregation, His Royal Highness, left the Chapel to the strains of the old school song and proceeded to the Graham Smith Rooms. The ceremony had been broadcast by loudspeakers to the boys and staff waiting at other parts of the school.'*

*'He then walked up the pathway meeting boys and members of staff from Treliske. Speaking informally to many boys and girls, the Prince was led past the Science rooms to the new Technology Block where he was to name the aeroplane 'Spirit of Truro' built under the direction of Mr Keam. Enthusiastically the Prince, an experienced pilot himself, tested the controls and was obviously impressed by the expertise which had gone into its construction. He voiced a sentiment which was in everybody's mind when he said, 'I hope it will fly'. Fortunately it has done so.'*

*'The Prince was shown the facilities of the Sports Hall including a rock climbing exhibition by some of the more experienced climbers.'*

*'After a detailed examination of the Centenary Exhibition, organised by Mr Baker, he watched several boys at work in the metalwork and woodwork rooms and expressed a keen interest in the various projects.'*

*'While he had been doing these things, the entire school congregated on the lower Rugby fields to give the Prince a fitting send off as he left in the royal helicopter. This exit was a suitable ending to a highly memorable visit.'*

*'Everybody we spoke to was impressed by the Prince's informality and ability to talk freely on a wide range of subjects. Despite the intense security surrounding the visit, he was not hampered in his desire to speak to and meet as many people as possible.'*

*'Indeed a surprisingly large number of people left the school pleased and impressed with the cordiality of the royal visitor. This highly memorable visit was the crowning event of the centenary celebrations.'*

**S. McGrady and G. Pellow**  
**Truro School Centenary Magazine 1980**





## 35 years ago

1990 marked the end of the first year of co-education in the Prep School and the beginning of full co-education in the Senior School in the September.

The school newsletter in December 1990 recorded that:

*'The first stage of Truro School's move to full co-education has now taken place. Joining the 109 girls already in the 6th Form (just over a third), are now 25 girls in the 3rd year (a fifth) and 34 girls in the 1st year (just over a quarter).*

*'A straw poll of one of the 3rd Forms made it clear that the move has virtually unanimous support among the pupils – those in favour 14, those against 0, don't knows 2.*

*'Asked to write comments on the arrival of girls in the lower part of the school, the same form came up with some interesting observations – a random sample:*

*"when the teachers are entirely used to girls things will probably improve" ...*

*"There's more competition because the girls are quite bright" ... "boys have to watch what they do and what they say" ... "the teachers are really nice and there's a good fun atmosphere" ... "I wouldn't go back to an all-girls school if they paid me" ... "I thought on the first day boys would be rude and unhelpful. I was mistaken" ... "A brilliant idea!" ... "they get in our way, and we get in theirs" ... "the boys are always competing with each other trying to look good for the girls and end up making fools of themselves".*

*[No comment – Ed.]'*

## Truro School at 145

A short slideshow and quiz were provided for form time in January to mark the occasion. The quiz questions, in the form of two truths and a lie, are below; can you pick out the false answer?



### 1. Truro School was opened

- A. In January 1880
- B. Before Truro High School
- C. By the Church of England

### 2. Before 1930 Truro School was known as

- A. Truro College
- B. Truro School
- C. The Wesleyan Middle-class School for Boys

### 3. In the first year Truro School was

- A. In River Street, near the Royal Cornwall Museum
- B. On Trennick Lane, in its present location
- C. In Strangways Terrace, next door to Truro High School

### 4. Subjects taught in the early years included

- A. German
- B. Chemistry
- C. Music

### 5. The front terraces and drive were

- A. Dug out and landscaped by hand
- B. First used by a baker's cart
- C. First used for the annual visit of the President of the Methodist Conference

### 6. Weird or not?

- A. The school had its own plane
- B. The school had a donkey called Carn Brea
- C. The school's archaeology club unearthed a book of prophecy in 1926

### 7. During World War 2

- A. No schools were evacuated to Truro School
- B. Two schools were evacuated to Truro School
- C. One evacuated school was temporarily absorbed and became a house in Truro School

### 8. Girls first came to the school in the

- A. 1880s
- B. 1970s
- C. 1990s

Answers over page.

# Archive Attic:

## FOUND



### Vinter House badge

A new find for the Archive, via eBay, was an early Vinter House badge. The school crest, dove and Bible are all inside the shield which is outlined in a light blue line. This version dates from the 1920s – the houses being introduced in 1921 and the design of the

school crest was altered in the early 1930s putting the dove and Bible above the shield.

Until the 1970s Vinter's colour was light blue, after the former headmaster's attachment to Cambridge University. In 1970 the house colour was changed to gold.

### Postcard

Another find on eBay was a postcard of the school sent to **Dr Littleton Lawry** (TS 1888-93, d.1934) when he was stationed at No.6 General Hospital in Rouen with the British Expeditionary Force c.1915 from Emma Opie, the School's matron.

'May it not be very long  
and may I be here to see  
you back up to this place.  
Yours E. Opie'

The school magazine in July 1915  
included a letter from Lawry:

Rouen, June 1st, 1915, No. 6,  
General Hospital.

How extremely good and kind of you to send the parcel of socks and £3 from the Truro College Boys' War Fund. I wish you would convey to them one and all my thanks and the thanks of the wounded soldiers under my care. Many of them are so patient and so quietly brave that one feels that the little one can do for them is all too little. We have about 750-900 beds in No.6, and two of us do most of the surgery; there are 120 beds for acute surgical cases, and

I have under my immediate care 60 of these and a Canadian colleague the other 60. The work is extremely onerous and responsible, and many of them require constant attention. The surgery is quite unlike anything one meets with in ordinary civil life, and many conditions occur that one has never seen before. One thing I can assure you and through you all my friends who have so generously contributed to my "War Fund", that all that can be done for the wounded is being done. Our Hospitals here although made of wood, are

models of their kind, and compare more favourably with anything the French have to show. It is more than likely that after the War, when all the statistics have been obtained, that the mortality amongst the English wounded will be considerably lower than that of any of the nations fighting at the present time.

I am looking forward to visiting the old School the first opportunity I get, when that will occur I dare not say.

Perhaps this postcard was in the parcel with the socks and £3.



### Truro School at 145

Answers: 1.C; 2.B; 3.B; 4. Trick question – all were taught; 5.C. It was intended for the visit but the baker got there first!; 6.C – a hoax or practical joke in the school magazine; 7.A; 8.A – girls were admitted to the Sixth Form in 1976 and to the Senior School (1st and 3rd Years) in 1990.





# Archive Attic:

## FAMILY DAY EXHIBITION

### One Team, One Family: A Snapshot of Sport and Clubs between 1882-1946

On Saturday 28 June, a display of photographs from the School Archive was showcased in an exhibition which celebrated historical sports teams and clubs, as part of Truro School's Family Day. To explore the exhibition in full, visit the webpage online or follow the QR code below.

Step back in time and explore the spirit of camaraderie, resilience, and school pride that defined Truro School's sporting and extra-curricular programme from 1882 to 1946. At a time when the student roll never exceeded 231 boys, sports teams and extra-curricular clubs played an essential role in shaping not just school life, but lifelong values of teamwork, leadership, and perseverance.

This exhibition brings together a carefully curated selection of archival team photographs that span over six decades. These images are more than just group portraits - they capture the youthful energy, individuality, and evolving culture of Truro School during a period of immense historical change. From cricket teams posed proudly in front of the former sports pavilion to scouts and cubs groups frozen in time, each photograph tells a story of pupils who shared not just a uniform, but a sense of belonging.

What makes these photographs even more poignant is the knowledge that many of the faces featured went on to serve in the First and Second World Wars. Some returned, some did not - but all left their mark on the school and its history. The teams were often made up of teachers and boys from all age groups, with older students mentoring younger ones in a dynamic that fostered deep bonds and continuity over the years.

As you journey through this display, we invite you to look closely at the faces, postures, and expressions - there's mischief, pride, discipline, and joy. These are not just images of sport at Truro School; they are glimpses into the heart of a school community where students supported each other, grew together, and found their voices through shared experiences on the field, and beyond.

We hope this exhibition celebrates the enduring role of sports and clubs at Truro School in building unity, character, and a lifelong sense of family - one team, one school, one history.



1909 CRICKET

SCAN THE CODE TO VIEW  
THE EXHIBITION ONLINE



1928 SCOUTS AND CUBS



1891 FOOTBALL

# Sports Roundup

For this instalment of *The Truronian*, I approached it like any diligent sportsperson would. I analysed the competition (by reading through my previous entries), I practised to make sure I could perform how I wanted (this is the fourth draft), and I visualised the outcome I was aiming for: to raise a smile, shine a spotlight on our amazing school, and make my English teacher proud. Of course, all this high-level performance needs fuel... three cups of tea and a packet of chocolate Hobnobs later, here we are.



Let’s start with some statistics. Sport is often measured in numbers. While they don’t tell the full story, they do provide a valuable insight into the sporting life of Truro School. Below are the participation figures for each year group, showing pupils who have represented the school in at least one fixture during the 2024/25 academic year.

We’re really pleased that so many pupils have proudly represented Truro School - around two-thirds of the entire school population. At some point during their time with us, most pupils will take part in a fixture, and the table is just a snapshot of the past year. The PE and Sport Department will always encourage pupils to get involved, give their best, and represent the school they love.



DAN SANDERSON  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT  
[djs@truroschoo.com](mailto:djs@truroschoo.com)

YEAR GROUP	TOTAL PUPILS	NUMBER WHO WHO PLAYED A FIXTURE	% OF YEAR GROUP / SCHOOL	NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYED BY YEAR GROUP
1ST YEAR	108	88	81	13
2ND YEAR	116	94	81	14
3RD YEAR	135	98	73	15
4TH YEAR	144	100	69	16
5TH YEAR	124	61	49	11
LOWER SIXTH	90	46	51	10
UPPER SIXTH	88	28	32	88





436. That's the number of fixtures our teams have played in this year, across 18 different sports (up from 419 fixtures and 17 sports last year). An incredible achievement. Thank you to the players who have committed to their teams, and to the staff who have coached, supported and organised every step of the way. To our parents, thank you for your encouragement, your celebratory emails, the countless hours of driving and waiting, and your brilliant touchline support. And to the teams behind the scenes - transport, catering, grounds, caretaking, marketing - you make it all possible, and we're hugely grateful.

Every other Thursday, we come together as a whole school for assembly. During these, the Head and the Student Leadership Team read out recent achievements from across Truro School life. Unsurprisingly, the sport section is always packed. In fact, when I went through the roundups for this year, I found 18 pages of sporting highlights.

Being able to celebrate our pupils, share their achievements and recognise their efforts among peers is hugely important to staff.

Whether it's national team selections or charity swims, we want to shine a light on all the ways our pupils are pushing

themselves to improve, and in doing so, inspiring others. Sport takes many forms, and we aim to support and encourage them all. Our goal is that every pupil leaves Truro School with a love of physical activity and a lifelong appreciation for its benefits, both physical and mental.

Now, to the message I'd like you to reflect on. As pupils move through the school, their participation in fixtures starts to drop off. This happens for a number of reasons: some prefer to use the fitness suite, others train but choose not to play in matches (which is completely fine), and some prioritise music, drama or DofE, while continuing their sport outside of school. All valid and understandable choices.

However, if you study the table, you'll notice two significant drop-off points. I'll give you a moment... You're absolutely right - 5th Year and Upper Sixth. Both year groups show around a 20% reduction in fixture participation. This isn't just a Truro School pattern; it reflects a national trend. These are, of course, the key exam years. But as pupils, parents and teachers all know, during times of pressure and challenge, physical activity is one of the best ways to maintain mental wellbeing and stay socially connected.

So, here's my challenge to us all: let's encourage each other (yes, even us adults) to stay active and prioritise health. And this doesn't have to mean traditional sport. Walking, bike rides, surfing - taking advantage of Cornwall's great outdoors should be a priority, even during exam years.

In conclusion, our pupils continue to represent Truro School with pride and distinction. The support around them, from families, staff, and the wider school community, is extraordinary. We celebrate all achievements, understanding that everyone's journey looks different. Pupils have been selected for professional academies, national, regional and county teams, while others have taken part in their very first competitive fixture. Every one of these moments matters.

We are incredibly proud of our school and all the people who make our sporting life so vibrant. As always, follow our social media for the latest updates, and please read on for selected highlights from our whole-school assembly announcements.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. Please get in touch if there's anything I can help with.

## AUTUMN TERM

# School News

### YEAR 6 TRIP TO TATE ST IVES

Classroom learning was brought to life for our lucky Year 6 pupils, who travelled to St Ives for a combined English and art trip.

Our pupils have been looking at the interplay between Art and English since the start of term, with a focus on some of the artists and writers who have been inspired by our beautiful county.

Split into three groups, our St Ives explorers visited three locations across the day; Porthmeor Beach, the Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum.

Porthmeor Beach is famous for having inspired artists including Stanhope Forbes, who was so taken with West Cornwall that he set up the Newlyn School of Art. Here, pupils made sketches and wrote notes to inspire writing and artwork they will complete during the remainder of this half term.

Having made their own sketchbooks, it was wonderful to see the unique artistic styles of our pupils as they took in their surroundings.

The Tate St Ives is home to collections from Cornwall and around the world, with featured artists including Wallis, Moss and Picasso. Visiting the Tate St Ives helped our pupils explore and understand how artists move between different themes, styles, media and techniques. Pupils delighted in seeing Wallis' *Schooner Under the Moon* on glorious display in the St Ives light that lured so many artists to Cornwall.

Focussing on the work of Barbara Hepworth, our pupils also visited the Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, the former home and studios of the artist. The gallery and beautiful gardens offer a unique insight into the artist and it was delightful to see our children similarly inspired and in awe of this wonderful setting. Children

learnt that Barbara Hepworth was the first sculptor to use holes in her work, to create points of connection, an interplay between light and dark and to allow people to see sculpture in new ways. Hepworth was made a Bard of Cornwall in 1968 and took the bardic name 'Grayvor' (sculptor in Cornish).

This valuable and enjoyable trip brings together cross-curricular learning and hands-on experiences, making the most of Truro School's unique and special location in Cornwall.

Thanks to all of the staff who helped on the day, with special thanks to Miss Ashdown and Ms Cadwallader. A huge well done to our amazing Year 6 pupils who represented the school and received multiple comments on their respectful behaviour, attitude and approach to learning.

### MINING GAMES TROPHY AWARDED



We loved seeing the 2nd Year Geologists on Spotlight News celebrating their win in the Cornwall Schools Mining Games. The trophy was designed by Cornish artist Kurt Jackson.



## MR FLOYD STEADMAN OBE

Last year, the students had the privilege of hearing from the inspirational rugby legend and recently appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall, Floyd Steadman OBE.

He talked to all year groups about his remarkable life story, which included a candid account of his turbulent early family life, his experiences of social services and homelessness in London in the 1960s and overcoming discrimination and adversity in pursuit of studying A-Levels and his dream of becoming a teacher.

Floyd, a talented rugby player saw him rise through the ranks of his sport and made history as the first black captain of the Saracens, earning a place in the Rugby Hall of Fame. After fulfilling his dream of becoming a teacher, he advanced through the educational system, ultimately achieving positions as deputy headteacher and headmaster at several preparatory schools. In recognition of his contributions to rugby, education and charity he was honoured in 2023 with an OBE.

With his long-standing family roots in West Cornwall, his talk was insightful and thought-provoking. He stressed the need to continually challenge perceptions, break down barriers, and address unconscious bias without ourselves and our community. He left us with a sense of well-being, emphasising the importance of our values and responding to any situation with kindness and compassion.

Mr Murphy thanked Mr Steadman for sharing his inspiring story and encouraged pupils to speak to any member of the Safeguarding team regarding any topics discussed that may have impacted them. Additionally, he recommended that everyone read Mr Steadman's book, *A Week One Summer*, available in the school library.



## QUESTION TIME FOR TRURO AND FALMOUTH MP



Jayne Kirkham, MP for Truro and Falmouth, received a warm welcome from senior school pupils during her recent visit to discuss her work and answer their questions. Elected in July 2024, Ms Kirkham shared insights into her busy schedule, which involves working in Parliament from Monday to Thursday and spending Friday to Sunday in her constituency, where she works with local residents to identify and address their key issues.

2nd and 3rd Year pupils were the first to ask questions, focusing on topics such as assisted dying, the Young Persons Labour Party, war, and immigration. They had prepared well and approached the discussions with curiosity and enthusiasm.

The 4th and 5th Years participated in an open discussion on a range of issues, including VAT changes for independent schools, the state education system, churches, the housing crisis, environmental and climate change policies, sparking lively debates among the group.

Finally, Truro School Sixth Form students engaged Ms Kirkham in a more in-depth discussion on VAT, education policies, university fees, war, National Insurance, food and commodity price increases, NHS waiting lists, and the nationalisation of rail services and water companies. Many of these students, particularly those studying economics, were eager to share their views and delve deeper into these topics.

These sessions provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn more about key issues locally and nationally which helps them form their own personal perspectives on these matters.

## AUTUMN TERM

# School News

### BEYOND THE HEADLINES

After the summer holidays, academic departments are carefully analysing public examination results to reflect on how the successes were achieved and to ensure that best practices are shared across the school, allowing us to continually improve and build upon our achievements.

You may have seen from our website and press releases that our public exam results this year have again been outstanding. At GCSE, grades were awarded far above the national averages with over 52% of all grades at grades 9-7 (equivalent to the old A/A\*). At A-Level, just under three quarters of entries were graded A\*-B. In 2023, we were proud to be the leading A Level provider in Cornwall. With the 2024 cohort achieving even higher than the 2023 cohort, we know that we are well placed yet again.

However, while these headline grades are impressive, our celebration and the success is of all pupils and students who took examinations here, not just those with the highest grades. This is because beyond the headlines, we look carefully at the contextual value-added that Truro School pupils achieve. In short, this means how their progress to these grades compares to the outcomes of children nationwide taking similar exams with similar ability profiles. In this measure, which we feel is the most important for us as a community, our pupils across our full ability range have excelled. Our school has achieved an ALPs (A-Level Performance System) grade that places us in the top 10% of schools nationally for the value-added in our pupils' grades because of studying and taking exams here. Our pupils not only achieved excellent grades but, more importantly, made outstanding progress beyond what was predicted based on their starting points.



At GCSE too, our value added was also outstanding. In 14 subjects when compared to the national cohort, and like A-Level, the value added was significant in relation to the national picture. To achieve that in so many subjects is exceptional and rare in any school and represents, here, the best progress outcomes for pupils in a decade.

We are delighted by these outcomes but are also always looking to understand why and to keep improving where we can to ensure the education offered here remains transformative. We commend the efforts of all pupils and the expertise and dedication of our staff which have led to these outcomes. We are also proud to champion an education that believes academic success is about more than just top grades (wonderful as they are), and is also about fostering lifelong habits

of learning, growth, and resilience that mean every child can be proud of their achievements and progress. I am incredibly proud of how our school continues to nurture these qualities in our pupils.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our pupils for their determination and success, and to our staff for their dedication and unwavering support. These achievements are the result of partnership between pupils, teachers, and parents, and we should all be proud of what we have accomplished together.

**By Dr Shaun Pope, Deputy Head (academic)**



## EXPLORE THE ROSELAND

Year 4 had a wonderful ramble in the sunshine of the Roseland in September. Their adventure began at a slightly overcast Portscatho where our Year 4 hikers enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of the woods. After what seemed like a long ascent, weary legs enjoyed a short rest as they breathed in the fresh air and delighted in the stunning views.

Soon enough, they were on the move again, heading for the glorious yellow hues of Place House and its immaculately lawned gardens. Home to the Spry family for over 400 hundred years, it was hard to imagine this grand building was ever in such disrepair after the war.

It is rumoured that King Henry VIII and his new bride Anne Boleyn once stayed at Place House. There are certainly reminders of their visit to St Anthony-in-the-Roseland church, carefully tucked behind the house. Beside a small side door, which would have once led into the monastery and still connects the



church to the manor house, is an old wooden pew. The front of this seat is decorated with the arms of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. Here the children had a few moments of contemplation and some took to the pulpit to address their imaginary congregation.

The final stint of the walk took our pupils to what seemed like the top of the world. The sun emerged from behind the clouds, lighting up the panoramic views of St Mawes and Pendennis Castles nodding to each other over the water. Carefully walking the coastal path, cooled by the gentle breeze, pupils learned how the headland was used to defend Falmouth against coastal attacks.



Finally, our Year 4s arrived at their destination, St Anthony's Lighthouse. Built in 1835, it has what is thought to contain the largest fog bell in Cornwall. Keeping the ships safe as they travelled along the Carrick Roads, one of the largest natural harbours in the world, the iconic white building is perhaps best known as *The Fraggie Rock Lighthouse*.

Our staff and pupils had a memorable and enjoyable day exploring our beautiful Cornish landscape and learning about the rich history of the place we are lucky enough to call home.

## AN ISLAND HOP FOR ADMISSIONS

The Admissions Team received a wonderfully warm welcome during their visit to Five Islands School on the beautiful Isles of Scilly. They have cherished our longstanding relationship with the islands for many years, and this trip was a special opportunity to strengthen those connections.

It was a pleasure meeting so many families at the school's annual Sixth Form & Careers fair and engaging in positive conversations with pupils and their parents. During the stay, the team reconnected with current parents, Old Truronians, and prospective families over a lovely tea party at Juliet's Tea Garden. The perfect weather made the visit even more memorable.

Thank you to Five Islands School, Juliet's Tea Garden, and everyone on the Isles of Scilly for making our team feel so welcome!



## AUTUMN TERM

# School News

### REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN



Pupils from across the Prep and Senior Schools came together to remember those lost to war during our Remembrance Service on Monday 11 November.

The engaging service at the Senior School was led by Head, Mr Johnson and Rev Helen, while at Prep the service was held by Mr Morse. Sixth Form students joined the service, remembering those Old Truronians who lost their lives to war in both the First and Second World Wars and in Afghanistan. A cross with a poppy was laid for each, as their names were read in recognition for their sacrifice.

At Prep, pupils gathered in remembrance of those who gave their lives during the great Wars and in service of their country. House Captains laid a wreath during the roll of honour, followed by the *Last Post* played by Mr Pope, and a one-minute silence. As they departed, children planted poppies as a tribute.

The services offered a time for reflection on friends, relatives, and all those whose lives have been impacted by war. Together, they remembered lives given for others and allowed pupils a moment to reflect and consider those still affected by conflict today.

On Sunday 10 November, pupils were involved in parades across our county. In Truro, Mr Morse, Mr **Chris Rowe** CO76 (from the Truro School Association) and pupils Oliver and Ben had the privilege of taking part in the Truro Remembrance Sunday Parade. They laid wreaths at the War Memorial to commemorate the fallen and remember those from the Truro School community who have served this country. In Padstow, pupils Issey and Rupert attended the Padstow Remembrance Parade, with the Padstow Sea Cadets – proudly wearing their Sea Cadets uniforms.

Thank you to all pupils who have taken part in parades today and over the weekend and to all the pupils and students who have worn their poppies with pride and respect. A special thanks to our gardening team who created a beautiful dedication on our school lawns.



### TRURO SCHOOL COOKERY SIZZLES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Truro School Cookery has been hitting recent headlines and in October, joined the ranks of local food heroes invited to showcase their signature dishes at the Truro Food and Drink Festival.

Our Head of Truro School Cookery, Alan Rosenthal led a demonstration in the main marquee on Lemon Quay, presenting one of his favourite recipes: delicious dry paneer and cabbage curry featured in his book, *One Pot*. The marquee was filled with a wonderful aroma of curry spices with eager attendees keen to watch his demonstration and afterwards sample the curry he prepared as well as purchase his book.

The following day, Alan hosted a fun and interactive pasta-making workshop, where attendees learnt the art of crafting pasta from scratch.

The festival highlighted the many talented chefs, producers, and street food vendors in Cornwall along with the diversity of fresh local produce available from our county.

In addition to this, we would like to thank Cornwall Live for visiting us recently. Senior Reporter, Olivier Vergnault, attended our 'Thai Night for Two' Cookery Course.

His review, taken from the Cornwall Live website reads:

"Review: Truro School Cookery Thai night is a civilised fun night out for two. Thankfully it wasn't as hard as you might think. Ever wondered how easy it would be to recreate your favourite dish or have a go at cooking dishes from an unfamiliar cuisine? Of course, there is nothing stopping you from grabbing a recipe book or watching a tutorial on YouTube, but you could sign up for a cookery course night out instead and make an event out of it – and that's exactly what we did.





In our household, we love food from all over the world and enjoy cooking – everything from home pizzas to ramen bowls, curries or burritos made with whatever leftovers we could rustle up from the fridge. However, we're less familiar with Thai food.

When Truro School Cookery invited us to one of their cooking nights, we jumped at the opportunity to try cooking a four-course Thai feast from scratch. The school holds regular courses open to the general public, adults, and children. You can choose from various world cuisines, from Italian to Korean, Japanese to Middle Eastern cuisine, French bistro food, and seafood.

Being as we said less familiar with Thai food, we tagged along to a Thai Night for Two. The setting is not too dissimilar from any cooking demonstrations you might enjoy at food festivals around Cornwall, with a chef – or in this case, Alan Rosenthal, the head of cookery at Truro School – being filmed from above going through a dish step by step so you can replicate it easily.

The school's cookery department is up to professional standards with stainless steel workstations complete with electric hobs and ovens, alongside all the pots, pans and utensils you'll ever need.

Three other couples joined us on the night and we all sat at the bar watching Alan prepare the amuse-bouche of the day – sweetcorn cakes with a cucumber relish – while enjoying a glass of bubbly. This is the only dish we did not actually make ourselves on the night, but it served as an introduction to the evening and acted as a social icebreaker – albeit with a fragrant and spicy tang to it.

Thai night is one of Alan's favourites as new head of cookery at Truro School, as he has a personal affinity with Thailand and its food scene. While detailing the ingredients necessary for the dish, he explained how sweetcorn cakes are everywhere in the Southeast Asian country, sold as they are as on-the-go street food snacks.

Watching him prepare the sweetcorn cakes was also a way to get into the ingredients that make Thai cuisine so unique, fragrant and flavoursome, from glutinous rice flour to makrut lime leaves or coriander, lemongrass to chillies. Once the sweetcorn fritters were sampled, it was time to don our chef's aprons and get cooking on the starter – a chicken larb.

I have to admit this was a lovely surprise. Tiny bits of chicken cooked in a beautiful mint and coriander and chilli and lime



dressing topped with a sprinkling of toasted rice for crunch, served in baby gem lettuce leaves. You eat the lot using the lettuce leaves like scoops. A really simple dish that's packed with flavours, it can be done almost as a light lunch snack on its own or as a side dish for a larger Thai meal.

I'm not going to put out here any of the recipes we followed on the night; you'll have to go along and try the whole cooking, eating and wine-drinking experience at Truro School Cookery for yourself, but suffice it to say it was delicious and filling whilst being light too.

In all honesty, I was stuffed after the appetisers and starter complete with a glass of bubbly and another of white wine. The main courses of a classic green prawn curry (it was changed for salmon for me as I'm allergic to shellfish) with baby purple aubergines and mange-tout, and the pad Thai was really tasty – definitely fiery but flavoursome and fragrant. The two dishes complemented each other with their different heat and textures and made for a truly lovely meal.

Oddly, whilst an old hand at cooking Indian curries and Japanese ramen dishes, I have always felt overwhelmed by Thai food. I always saw it as complicated with unusual ingredients that are difficult to source. It could not be further from the truth.

Not only can you find most of the herbs and spices in supermarkets such as Sainsbury's but Truro also has a well stocked Asian food shop, which is another reason to support a local trader. If the cooking course taught me one thing, it is that Thai food really does not have to be complicated.

The beauty of attending one of Alan's foodie classes, is also that all the ingredients are there ready for you in the right quantity. An easy-to-follow recipe is provided, while Alan's demos are clear and fun in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. And yes you get to take the recipes and any leftovers you've cooked home – and finally, the washing up is done for you!

To round off the evening, a pear sorbet and lemony sablé biscuit worked just the trick to kill off some of the intense heat from the green curry and help with digestion.

Whether you're a foodie, a cooking aficionado looking to tick more boxes on your world recipes list or simply are looking to enjoy a different experience and learn something new, a Truro School Cookery night might be just what you need."

## AUTUMN TERM

# School News

### CHORISTERS SHINE IN LIVE BBC BROADCAST



The Cathedral choristers experienced a once-in-a-lifetime experience as they sang live on BBC Radio 3's Carols Across the Country, broadcast from the iconic St Michael's Mount.

Arriving by amphicraft over land and sea, the young singers made their way to the iconic tidal island, where they were met with breath taking views of the historic battlemented church and the cobbled causeway washed by the incoming tide.

Singing alongside the professional adults of the cathedral choir and under the direction of the Cathedral's Director of Music, James Anderson-Besant, the choristers performed a selection of carols in the mount's intimate chapel, surrounded by centuries of history. Petroc Trelawny, host of the programme, brought his signature warmth and expertise, weaving stories of Cornwall's carolling

traditions and the fascinating history of St Michael's Mount. The choristers were thrilled to be part of such a significant broadcast.

Later that afternoon, there was another live broadcast on Radio 3 with a Truro School connection: the annual advent service from St John's College, Cambridge, always a highlight in the choral music calendar, featured a new composition by OT and former chorister **Helena Paish**, who is now studying at the Royal Academy of Music. The Director of Music at St John's College is Christopher Gray, also formerly of Truro Cathedral.

Listeners can tune in to the performance on BBC Sounds, where the choristers' voices, paired with the mystique of St Michael's Mount, promise to transport audiences to a place of Christmas wonder.





## NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS 2024

It was a wonderful evening at Truro Cathedral, where the beautiful voices of the Truro School Chamber Choir rang out a message of Christmas. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols opened with the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, sung by head chorister Natalie, her voice resonating throughout the cathedral.

All nine lessons were read beautifully by members of the Truro School community, including pupils from both the Prep and Senior Schools. The chamber choir delighted with pieces from Handel's *Messiah*, Vaughan Williams and Rutter. The girl choristers delivered a beautiful rendition of *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Darke and the Truro School Prep Choir performed the traditional Scottish carol, *Tàladh Chrìosda*.

This event cannot pass without mention of Rt Rev Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, who conceived

this special service in 1880. His name is forever associated with this significant Christmas service and the inaugural performance held in a temporary wooden building whilst awaiting the construction of Truro Cathedral.

The congregation was also in fine voice and spirits, departing the cathedral after a rousing rendition of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, at which point, Christmas had truly arrived in Truro. The service was led by Reverend Helen Byrne and the Dean of Truro Cathedral, Simon Robinson.

A special thanks to conductors James Anderson-Besant and Angela Renshaw (Truro Prep Choir), organist Andrew Wyatt, and the Director of Music, Mr Richard Osmond. The retiring collection supported Children's Hospice Southwest.



## SPRING TERM

# School News

### SPRING TERM



Truro welcomed in the New Year with a dazzling fireworks extravaganza, thanks to the efforts of the Truro City Council. The sky-lit up with two impressive display fireworks displays launched from the upper Truro School pitches, marking the grand arrival of 2025.

A special shoutout goes to Cathie, Paul and volunteers from Truro Rotary Evolution Club for leading the clear up of the pitches, ensuring they were ready for the re-opening of the School the following week.

### WISDOM FROM WAR ZONES



Sixth Form students were on the edge of their seats for a fascinating talk from Rick Findler, an award-winning photojournalist who has covered some of the most dangerous news stories of the last ten years.

Rick gave a whistlestop tour of conflict zones around the globe, telling inspiring and thrilling stories from his career, which has spanned over two decades.

From inspirational stories of a ski school in Afghanistan that champions female skiers

to a harrowing tale of a very real near miss in Ukraine, his talk threaded through how his history of working in high-stress environments has empowered him to share his stories to help with fear management, goal setting and the importance of preparation.

It was certainly a humbling, engaging and inspirational talk and one that our lucky students are unlikely to forget in a hurry. We would like to thank Rick for visiting Truro School and sharing his incredible career and insights with us.

### RUGBY STAR INSPIRES PUPILS AT PREP



Exeter Chiefs player and former Ireland U21 international Jack Dunne visited Truro School Prep to speak with Year 5 and 6 pupils about his journey in professional rugby, his experiences as a bisexual athlete, and his degree in physics.

Jack's talk offered a fascinating insight into life as a professional sportsman, balancing rugby with his studies, and the importance of authenticity.

Jack joined Exeter Chiefs from United Rugby Championship outfit, Leinster Rugby. He started playing rugby at age five and attended St Michael's College in Dublin. He subsequently entered the Leinster sub-academy immediately upon leaving school in 2017. Within a year, he was already promoted to the full academy and was selected for Ireland's Under-20s in the 2018 Six Nations and World Under-20s Championship. In the same year, Dunne was part of the Celtic Cup-winning Leinster A-side and made his senior debut for the Irish province in February 2019 against Zebre.



## A VERY SPECIAL GRANDPARENTS' AFTERNOON



In February, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming over 100 grandparents of our 1st Year pupils to Truro School.

The annual event celebrates the special role grandparents play in our school's community. The afternoon began with a warm welcome in the Chapel from the Head and Chaplain Rev Helen, followed by a stunning performance from our Chamber Choir, which set the perfect tone for the afternoon.

Accompanied by their grandchildren, guests then enjoyed a short walk around the school, giving them the chance to see where their grandchildren learn and grow every day. The afternoon ended with a delightful afternoon tea and cake reception in the Dining Hall, with grandparents, pupils, and staff sharing stories over delicious treats.

## A TRIPLE CELEBRATION FOR OXBRIDGE OFFERS



It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the outstanding achievements of three students who have received offers from Oxford University. **Ben Dawson** CO25 has been offered a place to study Earth Science, **Samson Hooper** CO25 has secured an offer to study Biochemistry, and **Arthur Taylor** CO25 has received an offer to study History and Politics.

The rigorous process of applying to Oxford is known to be demanding, and all three students express their huge excitement about this opportunity and their gratitude for the support provided by Ms Selvey, Mrs Richards and the entire Sixth Form Team.

Samson, a boarder from the Isles of Scilly, is a skilled musician who has embraced the many bands and opportunities offered by the vibrant music scene at Truro School, including playing in his own band, the Silver Sax Jazz Quartet, and performing at many school events. Both Samson and Ben attribute much of their inspiration for their chosen courses to Dr Older, Head of Chemistry, and described Miss Hope's Geology department as out of this world.

Ben, who is also a dedicated rugby player and boxer, is currently working on his EPQ on *Hypnosis in Sport* and is also awaiting responses from several international universities.

Arthur, who might be recognised from his role in Chicago last term, has also been a chorister, performed in *Am I Nuts* at the Edinburgh Fringe last year, and is a member of the brilliant school jazz band and the boys' barbershop. All these boys have played very active roles in the Sixth Form life and the vast co-curricular programme.

Congratulations to these three exceptional students for their remarkable achievements.

## SPRING TERM

# School News

### TEDX WOWS AT TRURO SCHOOL



During the half term break, Truro School welcomed TEDxTruro to the Burrell Theatre for their first event for 2025.

Held in Truro School's on-site theatre, the Burrell Theatre, this sold-out event welcomed over 140 guests to listen to six fascinating speakers from the Cornish business community, whose job it was to inspire conversation and entrepreneurship across the county.

The line-up started with Fatma Sabet, a British-Egyptian academic specialising in social transitions towards health equity. Naabil Khan, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Exeter, took to the stage to explain her drive for equality in healthcare.

Business owner Kate Doran inspired with her story of overcoming personal adversity, while Sophie Lang, co-founder of one of Cornwall's largest independent property agencies, encouraged audience members to push forward in the face of fear.

The stellar speakers were completed by Des Bell, a local business leader and entrepreneur and Joe Turnbull, a serial Cornwall 30 Under 30 Winner, who has been recognised as one of the emerging entrepreneurial talents in the region.

It was certainly an insightful and enjoyable afternoon for all those in attendance. With thanks to TEDxTruro and Truro School Enterprises for organising this prestigious event.

### TOP 20 UK BOARDING SCHOOLS

We are excited to share that Truro School has been recognised in Education Choices Magazine's Top 20 Senior Boarding Schools!

As a trusted, unbiased source for families seeking the best educational opportunities, Education Choices Magazine highlights schools that offer exceptional experiences.

Choosing the right senior boarding school is a big decision, and we're proud that Truro School has been included in the Top 20 for our commitment to creating outstanding educational and co-curricular opportunities for our pupils.





## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Saturday 8 March marked International Women's Day (IWD), a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, as well as a call to action for accelerating gender equality.

Across campus, various celebrations took place to mark the occasion. IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people.

In the Library the focus was on World Book Day, with a special emphasis on influential female authors. Over at the Sir Ben Ainslie Sport Centre, the team put together a feature wall dedicated to women in sports. Pupils were invited to nominate inspirational female athletes and explain their choices, with the PE team awarding cream eggs for the best suggestions and reasons.

Staff also engaged with the movement by posing with pledge cards with the logo, statements and hashtag of the movement to provoke conversation amongst pupils.

A key event in the Truro School IWD calendar was the 'Cornwall Women's Fund Fashion Show', hosted by Truro School parents Amanda, Kathryn and Caroline. This fashion show highlighted the strength and beauty of women and girls in Cornwall who are excelling in their fields.

## A WINNING HEAD GIRL, HEAD BOY TEAM



In May, we met up with our Head Girl and Boy Team to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and successful year. Despite the demands of their A-Level studies, Elowyn, Finlay, Pax and Meg have taken on a wide range of responsibilities showing incredible dedication and enthusiasm.

Each fortnight, the Head Girl and Boy Team take turns leading whole-school assemblies, and they meet for a weekly breakfast meeting with the Head to discuss school matters. These sessions have served as a valuable sounding board for initiatives such as the Yondr phone policy and other school-wide changes. The Team described these meetings as open, collaborative, and empowering, a place where they felt heard.

One of the Team's major achievements this year has been the restructuring of the School Council. Their goal was to make it a more prestigious and aspirational body, one that truly represents the voice of the student body. The new structure allows more pupils to contribute their ideas and take part in meaningful discussions. The Team credit Mr Murphy for playing a key role in guiding this transformation and we are excited to see how these changes will take shape in the next academic year. In addition, the Team hold weekly meetings with the wider prefect team during Wednesday morning form time, ensuring that feedback and ideas from across the school are passed directly to the Senior Leadership Team.

Aside from through their leadership, all the Team have had a real and positive impact on our School. Finlay has been front and centre of many musical initiatives, Elowyn has championed our school identity spending time at Prep

inspiring the younger pupils, Meg has been a dedicated and strong advocate for the Eco-Committee, which meets every Friday, and Pax has acted as a role model for many based on his talents across every major aspect of our co-curricular programme, sporting, musical, and dramatic.

Mr Johnson, said, "I have been deeply impressed by the insight, maturity, and teamwork demonstrated by this year's Head Girl and Boy Team. Their contributions have left a lasting impact on our school community, and I am immensely proud of the way they have led—embodying all our values. They have set a remarkable example for others to follow, and I have every confidence that they will continue to achieve great things beyond our school gates. Thank you for your outstanding service, and my very best wishes for the exciting journey ahead. Thank you also for being genuinely thought-provoking and enjoyable company too."

## SPRING TERM

# School News

### CELEBRATING CREATIVE SUCCESS: STUDENTS SECURE UNIVERSITY OFFERS



Congratulations to these exceptional students for their hard work and dedication in pursuing their creative aspirations post-A-Level. We wish them every success in their creative futures!

The Sixth Form Centre is buzzing with excitement as university offers roll in. In this Year of Creativity, we're thrilled to celebrate some of the students who are achieving their post-A-Level goals in their chosen creative pathways.

One individual who has a lot to celebrate is Susannah, who has been offered a coveted place at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance to study Musical Theatre. This is a fantastic achievement, especially as she secured a place at her first audition. She commented, "My whole life has been dedicated to musical theatre and this has been my number one goal for a long time. I am so excited!"

Susannah spends a lot of time in the drama department and credits the team's support and encouragement for helping her get to this point. "Both Mr Oldfield and Ms Egar have been a huge source of inspiration to me. We have worked on many productions together, and they have helped me gain a lot of stage experience."

Ollie, who is studying Art, History, Spanish, and Leiths, has received an offer to study Architecture at UCL. Having grown up in London and relocated to Cornwall six years ago, he credits The Barbican and the work of

Richard Rogers as a massive source of inspiration for him and is really looking forward to returning to the city that originally inspired him. He explained that the Art Department staff here are either working artists or come from a commercial background, so their skills have been instrumental. "Mr Meads helped me to build and present my portfolio; he is excellent, especially with his background in graphic design. He has sat with each of us to help us present our ideas professionally."

Kitty is studying A-Levels in Art, Drama, English, and EPQ and is thrilled to have been offered a place to study Animation at UWE in Bristol. Initially interested in theatre, Kitty wanted to combine action, performance, and art on her own terms. A short summer school course in Bournemouth ignited her interest in animation, which led to her excellent EPQ concept animation about sharks.

When asked about her experience of the Sixth Form, she explained, "There is a huge amount of enthusiasm and support for pursuing creative pathways at Truro School. Mrs Kenward and the Sixth Form team are incredibly supportive. I think that is what's so great about this school; we get so much one-to-one support in our creative subjects with a team of experienced teachers."

Lulu explains that she has spent quite a lot of time working out what she is interested in but was always sure her future would involve fashion. She has just been offered a place at Bath Spa to study Fashion Marketing. The Art Department has given her the freedom to develop her own ideas. "Mrs Cucknell and Mr Meads, in particular, have been excellent at giving guidance, encouraging me to make the course my own and pursue a textiles route within my A-Level coursework." All Sixth Form art students have their own studio space – a dedicated area that is a hotbed of creativity and collaboration, with a focus on individual exploration and growth.

Henry, whose design skills and experience have been expertly mentored by Mr Baker and Mrs Coleridge in DT, has received an offer at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, to study Product and Industrial Design. Like many of his peers, Henry is eager to spread his creative wings in London and explore the exciting opportunities that await him in the next phase of his life.

Congratulations to these exceptional students for their hard work and dedication in pursuing their creative aspirations post-A-Level. We wish them every success in their creative futures!



## BOARDERS ENJOY SPRINGTIME IN CORNWALL



Our boarders have been taking part in lots of springtime activities. The End of Term Boarders' Service held in the Chapel was a notable occasion, where Rev Helen introduced a competitive element by hiding coloured 'house' eggs and guiding the boarders through the Easter Story. The service concluded with a lively rendition of *Give me Joy in my Heart*, accompanied by the talented duo of Samson and Arlo on drums. To add to the springtime atmosphere, the

Easter Bunny paid a special visit to our boarders, there was a fun egg hunt on the front terrace as all boarders searched for hidden eggs before enjoying a delicious supper together.

In addition to the Easter celebrations, all our boarders set off on two wheels to cycle along the old railway route between Wadebridge and Padstow. This scenic 8km walking and cycle trail follows the picturesque River Camel, the

traffic-free path, once used by the London and Southwest Railway, provides a serene and safe cycle trail and is one of the top visitor highlights of North Cornwall.

The Pentrewe boarders have also been practicing mindfulness with Rev Helen and created some beautiful scratch art butterflies along with sewing hearts to remind them of loved ones.

## ROCK STARS: GEOLOGISTS GAIN PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY OFFERS



Congratulations to our outstanding cohort of Upper Sixth geologists who have accumulated a multitude of prestigious university offers. Among the twenty Upper Sixth students currently studying A-Level Geology, an impressive 50% have chosen to pursue a degree in geology or a related field. The students have excelled in their studies, with the dynamic program of supra-curricular talks and field trips serving as a rich source of inspiration to expand their knowledge and advance their careers in this field.

Our students have chosen to apply to a huge range of universities nationwide and have received offers to further their geological studies at Durham University, Imperial College London, University of Oxford, University of St Andrews, Leeds University, Keele University, University of Exeter, Camborne School of Mines and Cardiff University.

Head of Geology, Miss Hope, said, "We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm our geology students have shown, both in the classroom and in the field over the past two years. Their curiosity, determination, and hands-on approach to learning, whether analysing complex concepts or braving the elements on field trips, are truly commendable"

Student, Libby, who has received offers to study Geology at Imperial College London and Edinburgh University, shared, "The department is truly exceptional, and the teachers make the subject engaging and stimulating. The field trips have been particularly enriching. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending all of the geology talks this term and hearing about many diverse pathways available with a geology degree. While it is too early to determine my specific career path, there seems to be a breadth of potential opportunities."



## SPRING TERM

# School News

### A MORNING IN THE GARDENS



Parents, friends and families gathered for a lovely tour of the Truro School gardens, led by our Gardeners Tom and Sarah. Organised by members of the Friends of Truro School (FTS), the group met in Reception before setting off to explore the stunning grounds, learning about the seasonal planting, the careful maintenance of our green spaces, and the biodiversity that flourishes within the school's gardens.

Tom shared fascinating insights into the work that goes into keeping the gardens looking their best year-round, from sustainable gardening practices to

the hidden stories behind some of the school's oldest trees. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions, gain gardening tips, and appreciate the beauty that surrounds our school.

Following the tour, guests gathered for refreshments and reflected on a truly inspiring morning. The event was a wonderful opportunity and we look forward to welcoming more members of the Truro School community to future FTS events!

A huge thank you to the FTS and to Tom, Sarah and all the gardening team.

### A MER-MAZING DAY AT PREP



Truro School Prep has always prided itself on creating magical learning opportunities for our pupils, and this visit was no exception.

As a part of the incredible celebrations for World Book Week, our pupils from Nursery through to Year 3 were treated to a truly mem-mer-able treat as they discovered a mermaid swimming in the Prep pool.





HALL FOR CORNWALL CONCERT 2025

Truro School's Hall for Cornwall Concert was a spectacular showcase of musical talent, bringing together pupils and students of all ages in an evening that highlighted the power of music to inspire, connect, and enrich the school community.

From the outset, the evening was filled with energy, as the Jazz Orchestra, directed by Matthew Harrison, opened with a dazzling rendition of *Feeling Good* before treating the audience to *The Way We Were* and *Cantaloupe Island*. The Rock Band, coached by Tom Holland, followed with a moving rendition of Foo Fighters' *Everlong*, bringing a contemporary edge to the programme.

Classical music lovers were captivated by the beautiful *Suite Hébraïque* by Ernest Bloch, performed by Victoria Stolte on viola and Stella Pendrous on piano, before Prep's Year 3 took the stage under the direction of Angela Renshaw. Their performances of *As I Was Going to St Ives* and *Harvi Darvi* celebrated Cornish heritage and the joy of language through song.

The evening continued with jazz standards *Four* by Miles Davis and *Strasbourg/St Denis* by Roy Hargrove, performed with skill and sophistication by Silver Sax. The Wind Band, directed by Alan Pope and Rebecca Bingham, brought cinematic magic to the stage with a thrilling performance of music from *Chicago* and *The Incredibles*, drawing on the school's recent theatrical success with *Chicago* in the autumn term.

After the interval, the Symphony Orchestra, led by Richard Osmond, delivered a breathtaking performance of the *E.T. Flying Theme* by John Williams, followed by William Mathias' *Serenade for Small Orchestra*. The evening also showcased individual talent, with Imogen Hawkins delivering a virtuosic performance of Monti's *Czardas* on alto saxophone, accompanied by Frances Eagar.

The Vocal Ensemble, directed by Frances Eagar and coached by Heather Mee, enthralled the audience with a stirring *Phantom of the Opera* Medley, before the Chamber Choir delivered a

moving rendition of *Londonderry Air* and the newly formed a cappella group, Pitchforks, performed *Misty*.

The event concluded with a special performance by the 1st Years, showcasing their Instrumental Scheme, directed by Sarah Whomersley. This initiative, which introduces every 1st Year pupil to orchestral instruments and ensemble playing, reflects Truro School's dedication to fostering a lifelong love of music.

The Hall for Cornwall music event was a testament to the breadth and depth of musical talent at Truro School, as well as the school's strong commitment to providing pupils and students with opportunities to perform and grow as musicians. With music continuing to play a vital role in school life, the event not only celebrated artistic achievement but also reinforced the power of music to unite, inspire, and transform.



## SUMMER TERM

# School News

### A RITE OF PASSAGE: 1ST YEAR MODEL BOATS



Building a model boat in DT is a cherished rite of passage for all our 1st Year pupils. Over the course of a term, pupils embark on a hands-on journey that introduces them to the foundational principles of woodwork.

Working from a standardised template, each pupil learns about a range of traditional woodworking tools, including tenon saws, spoke shaves, chisels, and sanding machines. The process is designed to develop essential practical skills, learn safety protocols, and

it also cultivates patience, precision, and a strong sense of personal achievement.

In the final stage of the project, pupils apply the finishing touches by painting, varnishing, and rigging their boats, and even design and create their own bespoke

sails. The result is a unique and beautifully crafted vessel that reflects individual creativity and effort.

These handcrafted boats have become treasured keepsakes, proudly displayed in the homes of Truro School families for generations.

### TRURO SCHOOL HOSTS INAUGURAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST



We were delighted to welcome guests from across our community to our inaugural Business Breakfast, kindly sponsored by Handelsbanken. The event marked an exciting step in bringing together parents, associates, and friends of the school community to network, share ideas, and explore future collaborations.

Guests were welcomed by speakers, Joanna Wood, Head of Enterprises, Kieran Topping, Chief Operating Officer, and Andy Johnson, Head of Truro School. Kieran shared his journey to Truro School, reflecting on his previous roles and sharing a bit more about the 'business' operations of the school, while highlighting the opportunities and exciting developments that lie ahead. The event also featured insights from Handelsbanken, the generous sponsors.



## A WONDERFUL ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW



### Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Royal Cornwall Show!

We had a fantastic, fun-filled time connecting with so many parents, alumni, pupils, prospective families, and members of our wider community.

From agriculture and show jumping to prizegiving, flowers, food, and fairground rides, the Royal Cornwall Show once again proved itself as one of the most exciting highlights in the Cornish calendar.

Although the weather wasn't always on our side, spirits certainly weren't dampened. Our stand showcased an impressive range of pupil work from Pre-Prep through to Sixth Form, which was enjoyed by all who visited. On Saturday, we were delighted to welcome the talented Celtic Chords and singer Ella.

Our hands-on activities were a big hit with children and families, from decorating our community lion to taking on our giant Jenga game, with each block uniquely decorated to represent departments across the school. Our friendly dinosaur from the Geology department was another highlight, with

many young visitors thrilled to take home their very own mini dinosaur.

Just next door, Truro School Enterprises drew crowds with their ever-popular strength bar challenge, inviting guests to test their stamina before indulging in delicious homemade cupcakes from the Truro School Cookery Café. On Friday, our Cookery School team also delighted visitors with live food demonstrations and tempting tasters, a real treat for foodies.

Elsewhere, Prep pupils were proud to have their ceramics and posies featured in the Craft Tent, while musicians from our Senior School were honoured to perform at the Age UK tent – a special opportunity our young performers embraced wholeheartedly.

Over the course of the three days, we had so many lovely conversations and are truly grateful to everyone who stopped by, took part in an activity, or simply came to say hello. And, of course, we must mention that on Friday, Prince William popped by to enquire about school places for his children (well... we're only joking, but we're sure he meant to and will be in touch soon).

## THE 2025 SUMMER SHOW – A CREATIVE HIGHLIGHT



One of the highlights of every Summer Term, and especially meaningful in this Year of Creativity, was the opening of the Heseltine Gallery to showcase the outstanding work of our A-Level and GCSE Art and Design and Art and Technology pupils and students.

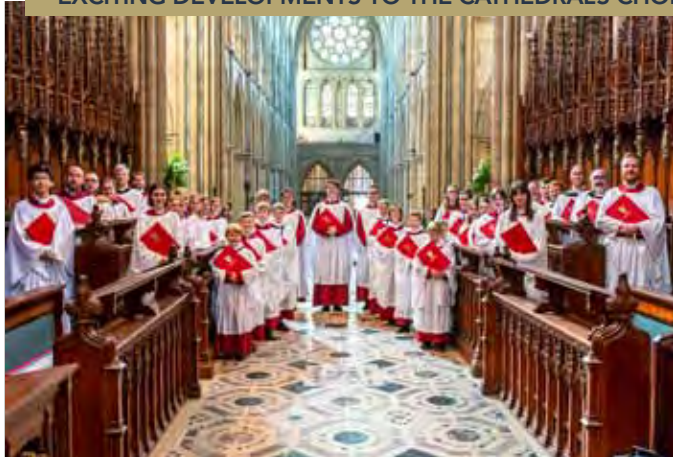
On a warm summer evening, the preview event was packed with parents, pupils, and members of the wider community, all gathered to celebrate the talent and imagination of our students. From striking large-scale paintings and intricate sculptures to bold graphic pieces and intimate portraits, the exhibition offers a rich and diverse display of creativity.

Congratulations to all our GCSE and A-Level exhibitors on an excellent exhibition.

## SUMMER TERM

# School News

### EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS TO THE CATHEDRAL'S CHORISTER PROGRAMME



We are pleased to share with you the following news release from Truro Cathedral:

Truro Cathedral is delighted to announce the next chapter in its proud choral tradition.

From September, Truro Cathedral Choir's age 8-13 chorister programme will become mixed gender for the first time and children of all genders are invited to apply as part of an exciting additional round of recruitment for 2025, widening access opportunities to all children.

Truro Cathedral Choir has an unbroken tradition dating back to the 1880s, when services took place in a wooden shed while John Loughborough Pearson's cathedral was under construction. 2015 marked a significant milestone when girls aged 13-18 years were welcomed into the chorister programme for the first time, enriching the Cathedral's musical life and laying the foundation for greater inclusivity.

Building on that legacy, and as a result of being in the position to facilitate additional places, the cathedral is pleased to open its chorister programme (ages 8–13) to children of all genders. This development will, over time, create a fully mixed-gender chorister group.

#### EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES

At the core of the revised programme is a commitment to empowering young singers. The cathedral recognises the unique potential within each chorister and is dedicated to cultivating their abilities through comprehensive training, developing a wide variety of musical and non-musical skills.

All choristers attend Truro School, which continues to offer scholarships for them. Access to means-tested bursaries also ensures that financial circumstances do not hinder access to the programme.



**Truro Cathedral's Director of Music, James Anderson-Besant, commented,** *"Truro Cathedral Choir's chorister programme offers a unique education in singing and music in Cornwall, to boys and girls alike. We are delighted now to offer this opportunity to girls aged 8-13, as well as 13-18. This will widen access to the choir; through an immersive training, children develop teamwork, leadership and confidence skills alongside musical excellence. In due course, we will be announcing our plans for an exciting new scheme to nurture boys' singing in the 13-18 age range – an area currently underrepresented in cathedral music".*

**The Very Reverend Simon Robinson, Dean of Truro and Rector of St Mary's Truro, said:** *"It is a true joy to work in partnership with Truro School. I am delighted with these carefully thought out and exciting developments which will build on the excellence inherent in our worship at Truro Cathedral and will both enhance and widen opportunity for young people to be part of this worshipping community whilst developing musical skills, skills of teamwork and leadership all under the direction of our Director of Music, Mr James Anderson-Besant. This is great news for the children and young people of Cornwall as well as for us."*

**Speaking about the partnership Mr Johnson said,** *"We are immensely proud of our longstanding partnership with Truro Cathedral and of the role we play in supporting the Cathedral's outstanding Chorister Programme. This latest development reflects a shared commitment to inclusivity and opportunity, and ensures that all young singers, regardless of gender or background, can access exceptional musical training, and education, and be part of a tradition that continues to evolve and inspire."*



## CELEBRATING THE AMAZING 5TH YEARS



In June we celebrated not just the end of GCSE exams, but the close of an incredibly special chapter in the journey of our wonderful 5th Years.

In a moving celebration service held in the School Chapel, we reflected on their achievements, friendships, and the memories that have shaped their time in the Middle School.

The service was heartfelt and memorable, beginning with a welcome from the Head, followed by the beautiful song *Cornwall My Home*, which filled the Chapel and set the tone for an afternoon of reflection and celebration. Afterwards, there was time to relax over tea and cakes, and to collect year group photos and the 5th Year hoodies.



## SUMMER TERM

# School News



### SUCCESS AT CORNWALL SCHOOLS MINING GAMES

This year's Cornwall Schools Mining Games proved to be another exciting and successful celebration of Cornwall's rich mining heritage, with Year 8 (2nd Year) pupils from across the county competing in six traditional mining disciplines: mucking, mineral processing, hand-steeling, gold panning, swede sawing, and surveying.

We are delighted to announce that Truro School Team Two emerged as the outright winners of this year's competition and their determination and teamwork saw them take 1st place in the mucking discipline, showcasing



both physical skill and coordination under challenging conditions.

Full results across all disciplines will be released soon, and we are confident that Team One has also performed strongly, likely achieving 2nd or 3rd place in some of the disciplines.

Miss Hope, Head of Geology, commented, "This is a fantastic opportunity for 2nd Year pupils to gain a hands-on understanding of Geology and to explore Cornwall's rich mining heritage. Many of the disciplines they practise during the competition, such



as mineral processing and surveying, are the very same skills that several of our former Truro School Geology students are now putting into practice in mines across the world. It's incredibly inspiring for our pupils to see how their learning here can lead to exciting futures in the mining industry."

We look forward to next year's event and another opportunity to celebrate the skills, spirit, and heritage of our county's mining past. Thank you to King Edward Mine Museum for hosting the event.

### FUN PACKED FAMILY DAY FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for Family Day at Truro School at the end of June. You all made it a truly special occasion.



It was a joyful celebration of creativity, community, and collaboration, with pupils, parents, staff, and performers coming together to fill the stages, terraces, and quads with energy, talent, and laughter.



The day was officially opened by the Town Crier and his wife, setting the tone for a day that showcased the incredible creativity within our school and the wider community. We were delighted to welcome many local businesses and community members who hosted art and writing workshops, creative stalls, and performances throughout the day.

From the main stage on the Terraces to the Burrell Theatre and every corner of the school grounds, we were treated to an inspiring afternoon of performance, play and creativity.

Thank you to all the local businesses, community members, staff, pupils, families, and volunteers; your enthusiasm and support made it a truly memorable day for all.





# A Musical Hub for Truro and Cornwall



Truro School is proud to announce the launch of the **Truro School Music Project**, a transformative initiative that will enrich the musical landscape within the school, the city of Truro, and the county of Cornwall.

With a firm belief in the pivotal role of music in education and community and cultural life, the Truro School Music Project will see the creation of a new multi-million-pound music centre and a refurbished multi-use hall, fostering musical participation, excellence, and inclusion within the school and the broader community.

Scheduled for completion at the start of 2026, the Truro School Music Project will create a hub for musical education and aspiration in Cornwall, offering state-of-the-art facilities for pupils, the Truro community, and beyond. This project also paves the way for improved facilities to support pupil wellbeing too.

The project aligns with Truro School's rich musical tradition, which delivers around 40 annual concerts and gigs, an annual Summer Festival, individual music lessons for over 250 pupils, and regular notable multi-show performances of major musicals.

The Truro School Music Project promises significant improvements, including:

- An increased number of bespoke practice rooms.
- The bringing together in one building of rehearsal and practice spaces for all genres of music, and music technology, to promote better musical collaboration and innovation.
- Expanded and updated classrooms to enhance music education from Key Stage 3 through to A-Level.
- A dedicated orchestra rehearsal space.
- A revamped Assembly Hall for dynamic, multi-functional use.
- The project also provides opportunities to further enhance site safety by redirecting some points of traffic



access and aligns with sustainability targets (the project is designed to BREEAM excellent level, including PV panels, air source heat pumps and an operational carbon neutral objective).

Beyond Truro School, the Music Project aims to widen musical access and musical aspiration, providing a vibrant musical hub for Truro and Cornwall.

- Development of our existing contribution and support for local musical partnerships, including with the Cathedral, the Hall for Cornwall, and the Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST). The School currently hosts the offices of the CMST in partnership with whom this project has been planned.
- Increased opportunity and investment in music for local schools and groups.
- Dedicated space for partner schools and organisations to benefit from Truro School's musical resources.

Mr Johnson commented, *"I am proud to be heading a School that embraces the transformative power of music education, investing with prudence and ambition in the cultural enrichment of the School and Cornwall's wider community."*

Head of Service at CMST Gareth Churcher, said, *"Cornwall Music Service Trust is a charity providing music teaching, support, and therapy for close to 10,000 children across over 240 schools or settings in Cornwall and we see this facility as incredibly important for music education in Cornwall. We are now in our 10th year of operation and are very excited about the tangible opportunities the Music Project will present, providing an efficient and effective environment to facilitate our work as a charity."*

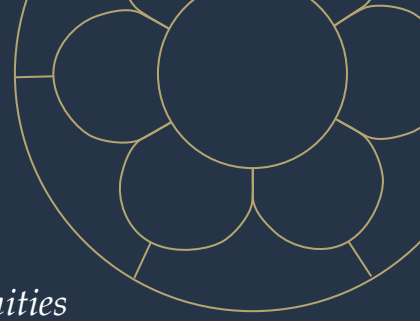
Truro School is working alongside **Tate + Co**, one of the UK's leading sustainable architect firms, and Truro-based property and construction consultants, **Ward Williams Associates**, to deliver the project.

For more information visit:

[truroschool.com/community/truro-school-project/](https://truroschool.com/community/truro-school-project/)

# TRURO SCHOOL CONNECTED

*offering advice, guidance, networking and opportunities  
for current students and Old Truronians.*



2024-25

## **Head of Careers, Nancy Kenward, provides an update on Truro School Connected and the difference it makes to our students.**

The Careers Department has had another busy year, with a host of events taking place within the school calendar. In 2024-25, we were incredibly lucky to welcome a number of speakers in to discuss their careers, many of them Old Truronians or parents. Our programme of events started in September with a brilliant Engineering and design talk from Eric Nicholls, current parent and co-director at Spiral UK. Other speakers this year have included **Rob Newlands** CO09, who described the fast-changing and highly competitive finance and wealth management industry, Andy Barber, a current parent who is the CEO of iMail who described his journey in the tech sector, logistics and business start-ups, Leighton Simmons, a current parent, who gave an insightful talk on optometry and also explained some of the bursary opportunities offered by Specsavers and **Victoria Gould** CO95, a current parent and former pupil who now works as a communities journalist for the BBC. Students enjoyed hearing about some of the career opportunities within the BBC, including their brilliant apprenticeships.

We finished off our season of Careers Lunches with the **Nick Carne** CO12 discussing the various Allied Health professions, and **Dom Gilchrist** CO09 sharing his career in the civil service, including his time working at 10 Downing Street.

In March 2025 we held our biennial Careers Convention at Truro School. The Convention is a valuable opportunity for our students to engage with Old Truronians, local and national businesses. Students asked questions about career pathways, opportunities, and roles within a range of industries. As always, we rely on the goodwill of businesses, former pupils and parents who volunteer to give up their time to speak to our students. If you or the company you work for would be interested in attending the next convention in 2027, please do get in touch.

In the Summer Term, 4th Year students enjoyed a day of workshops and Morrisby tests (in depth psychometric tests which produce a report which matches students to possible subjects and future careers) and they were interested to see an inspiring CV from a recent Sixth Form leaver. It contained excellent evidence of a range of skills they had gained while they were at school, and showcased the huge variety of opportunities available to our current students to get involved in. The Sixth Form Diploma is particularly exciting, offering everything from subsidised online academic courses, scuba diving and pool lifeguard training to lectures and self-defence classes.

In June we also held the Lower Sixth Post-18 Options days, and as usual, we were very lucky to have so many former pupils who volunteered to give up their time to assist us in delivering a wide range of lectures and workshops.

**Warwick Royden** CO12 delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking session on running a business. With several different businesses in his portfolio, including the successful Skyline Cinema company, Warwick provided students with a valuable insight into the day-to-day challenges and advantages of being your own boss. **Adam Hill** CO23 and **Octavian Badea** CO23 spoke with such passion and detail about their gap years, and the pros and cons of travel between A-Levels and university. **Alfie Lobb** CO21 shared his insights on graduate job hunting in the current competitive market, including application forms, interviews and application centres.

**Scarlett Marsden** CO22 came in to share advice and tips on student living in London. She gave some great advice on making the most of the capital while managing the costs of living there. **Sam Poppy** CO24 also came in to school to deliver a talk about apprenticeships as an alternative to traditional university routes - he is currently three years into his apprenticeship in marine engineering at Pendennis Shipyard.

We were also joined by a host of other former pupils who joined staff members in the subject specific sessions, including **Charlie**



NANCY KENWARD  
HEAD OF CAREERS





## TRURO SCHOOL CONNECTED

a network  
for life

**Chilcott** CO21, **Grace Kitching** CO22, **Amy Lindon-Travers** CO21, **Millie Montgomery-Smith** CO23, **Luke James** CO24, **Scarlett Marsden** CO22, **Magnus Bushby** CO23, **Josh Morris** CO24, **Thomas Palmer** CO24 and **Diggory Gill** CO24.

Their insights were invaluable to our current students, and I was very sorry that I didn't get a chance to catch up with everyone while they were here!

As always, we feel incredibly lucky to be able to provide our current pupils with inspirational speakers from our Old Truronians - their generosity and enthusiasm is an essential part of the careers provision at Truro School. Last term I requested help and advice from alumni via our LinkedIn page, Truro School Connected, and some of our current pupils have benefitted from fantastic insights into the international hospitality industry, securing accommodation in London and gap years, as a result.

## EVENTS

# Bristol Networking Reunion

On Thursday 19 September, Old Truronians based in and around the Bristol area enjoyed an evening of networking, connecting and reminiscing about their Truro School days.

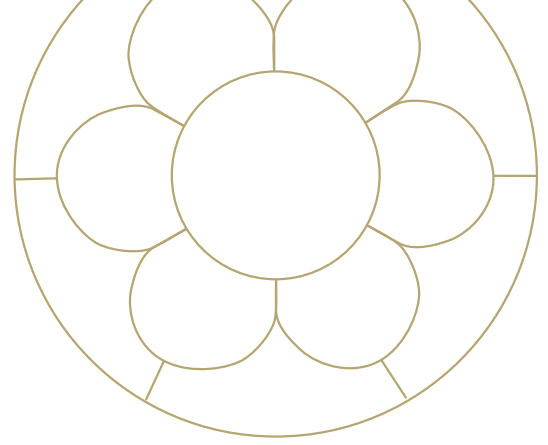
Within the relaxed setting of Bristol wine bar Le Vignoble, Old Truronian (CO03) and Truro School Development and Alumni Relations Manager, **Sam Willsher**, hosted former pupils from the class of year groups spanning the years of 1965, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1987, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2012 & 2019.

Upon arrival, each Old Truronian was presented with their very own Truro School file made up from school documents and final school reports found within the School Archive. These documents sparked memories of favourite teachers and subjects along with a spot of trepidation from some when it came to re-reading report comments from former headmasters.

Conversations about shared Truro School experiences flowed throughout the evening, career journeys were discussed, and contacts details were exchanged between guests all whilst enjoying a glass of fizz.

Post event, emails of thanks were sent from the Alumni Relations Team for re-establishing the Bristol get together. Old Truronian **Mike Pooley** CO76 commented, *"congratulations on organising a very cordial evening in good company. You did a great job facilitating the event and your level of preparation in distributing those personal mementos to each of us was a real bonus and very moving!"* When reflecting back their time at the Bristol event, **Peter Mansell** CO79 enjoyed the meaningful connections which he made, *"I had some really interesting chats (I hope this was mutual!!) and you realise what a small world it is when you discover common acquaintances. I look forward (with trepidation!) to having a proper read of the archive material you kindly supplied."*

The Truro School Connected page on LinkedIn is an excellent way of staying in touch with us. We update the page with local and national job opportunities, information on work experience, conferences and internships which could be of interest to our former pupils. We would encourage all former pupils, of any age, to connect with us so that they too can access this amazing network of Truro School Old Truronians and become part of Truro School Connected.



TRURO SCHOOL'S CAREERS CONVENTION:

# A Resounding Success with Old Truronian Businesses Represented

Held in the Sir Ben Ainslie Centre, this year's Convention attracted just under 400 students, parents/carers and external students, providing an invaluable opportunity for pupils to explore potential career paths across multiple industries. The event was particularly aimed at students in the 4th, 5th, and Sixth Form, allowing them to meet with experts from fields like engineering, medicine, accountancy, graphic design, real estate, and more.

**Nancy Kenward** CO96, Head of Careers, said: *"The Careers Convention was an amazing opportunity for students to speak to a huge range of professionals from a range of industries. We hope that students were both inspired and informed by their conversations. As always, we are hugely indebted to our delegates, who came from far and wide to support this event and share their knowledge with our students; we really couldn't put on events like this without their help."*

## A broad representation from leading companies

Delegates from some of the most renowned organisations in the South West were present to offer guidance, share career insights, and provide networking opportunities for students. One of the standout features of the event was the incredible range of companies and industries with Old Truronian links, here are just to name a few:

- Francis Clark
- Pendennis Shipyard Ltd
- Engineered Arts
- Cornish Lithium

- Nijhuis Ltd
- University of Exeter Medical School
- RTP Surveyors
- Grinding Solutions
- Kemp Engineering
- NHS
- Stephens Scown
- Riviera Produce
- Healeys Cyder Farm
- Ward Williams
- BBC Radio Cornwall
- Cornish Metals
- Imerys
- Eden Project
- Geothermal Energy Lithium (GEL)

These companies covered a vast range of sectors, ensuring that students had access to a broad spectrum of career advice and industry expertise from professionals who were familiar with Truro School.

## Digital programme and breakout talks

In keeping with Truro School's forward-thinking approach, students and attendees had access to a digital programme through QR codes displayed throughout the venue. This allowed everyone to easily navigate the Convention, locate exhibitors, and access detailed information about the companies present. The digital programme was also made available in advance, allowing attendees to plan their visit and make the most of their time.

This year, the Convention also featured two breakout talks designed to dive deeper into key topics relevant to students as they prepare for their future careers. At 4:30 pm, **Nancy** CO96 hosted a session on Employability

Skills, where students learned about the most in-demand skills in today's workplace and how they can develop and demonstrate these qualities to prospective employers. At 5:15 pm, Stephen Roberts from The Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth Hub delivered a talk on Apprenticeships, shedding light on the growing opportunities available in a variety of industries.

## A bright future ahead

With its wide array of exhibitors and expert-led talks, the Truro School Connected: Careers Convention has once again proven to be an essential event in helping students prepare for the next stage of their lives. The event's success reflects Truro School's commitment to providing students with the resources, guidance, and networking opportunities they need to thrive in the ever-changing job market.

As students made valuable connections with leading Old Truronian professionals and explored career pathways in a variety of industries, they left the convention with the confidence and skills to succeed. Truro School continues to set a high standard in career development, ensuring its students are not only well-prepared but also excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you to the following Old Truronians who represented their organisation:

**Hugo Heard** CO15, **John Williams** CO95, **Nick Carne** CO12, **Amelia Grigg** CO14, **Victoria Gould** CO95, **Sam Poppy** CO24, **Luke Osborne** CO18, **Billy Lee** CO18, **George Brougham-Pickard** CO90



# Dom Gilchrist CO09



## MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE

**Dom Gilchrist** CO09 gave an insightful talk about working in the Civil Service as part of the Truro School Connected careers programme.

He talked about his journey, from his School days to his position as Head of Behaviour, Exclusions, and School Food at the Department for Education and offered valuable advice for students considering their futures.

Dom attended Truro School from 2002 to 2009, where he completed his A-Levels in History, Economics, and English Literature. His academic interests led him to Oxford University, where he studied history and politics. However, Dom's journey to Oxford wasn't without its bumps. He initially applied for the

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) course but faced rejection from there and all other uni choices. Dom explained how this setback proved to be a blessing in disguise, as it allowed him time to reconsider his options and ultimately, he reapplied with greater clarity.

He advised students to take the time to reflect on their interests and career goals before making decisions about university and courses. His personal experience highlighted the importance of being sure about what you enjoy studying.

During the talk, Dom offered guidance on subject choices for A-Levels. He emphasised the value of studying particular subjects, which provide a strong foundation for a wide range of careers. He noted that he has seen first-hand how crucial it is in a variety of fields.

Dom spoke about his academic and personal time at Oxford University,

discussing the unique atmosphere of the institution, how he chose his College, how the College experience shaped his worldview and prepared him for the world of work that awaited him after graduation. He elaborated on journey into the Civil Service through the highly competitive Civil Service Graduate Scheme. He spoke about the experience of applying to and being accepted into the programme, which provided him with a broad range of opportunities to gain skills and knowledge in government work.

The talk was both informative and inspiring, offering a candid look into the world of the Civil Service. His journey demonstrates that careers in government are not only diverse but also provide the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on society. By working in the public sector, civil servants like Dom have the chance to solve significant challenges and shape the future of the country.

# Victoria Gould CO95

## JOURNALISM CAREERS TALK

In the Spring Term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Old Truronian **Victoria Gould** CO95 back to Truro School for an engaging and inspiring talk about careers in broadcasting and journalism in Cornwall. Her visit was not only a trip down memory lane but also a valuable opportunity for students to gain insight into a dynamic and evolving industry.

Victoria, who attended Truro School from 1990 to 1995, went on to study History at the University of Exeter before pursuing a postgraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism at Falmouth University. Today, she plays a pivotal role at BBC Cornwall as a Senior Content Producer, ensuring

high-quality, locally relevant content for the Cornish community—a position she's excelled in, amongst many other roles, for over 20 years.

Accompanying Victoria was Lou Symons, an apprentice at BBC Cornwall, adding a fresh perspective to the discussion. Together, they shared a wealth of advice, from uncovering opportunities in journalism to crafting compelling applications and taking those first steps into the field.

Victoria captivated the audience with her reflections on how news consumption has evolved since her school days. She recalled a moment in class when **Mr Keam** (Head of Design & Technology 1962-98) wheeled in a TV so her class could watch the dramatic resignation

of Margaret Thatcher—an iconic event of the 1990s. Back then, newspapers in the Sixth Form common room were a primary source of daily news.

The session wasn't just a walk down memory lane; it was a masterclass in the realities of modern journalism. Students left the talk equipped with practical tips and a deeper understanding of the changing landscape of news media, inspired to consider careers that shape how stories are told in the digital age.

We are deeply grateful to Victoria and Lou for taking the time to inspire the next generation of journalists and broadcasters. Their visit reminded us of the power of storytelling and the vital role journalism plays in connecting communities and documenting history.

# Jack Piercy CO18



## WARDELL ARMSTRONG, GEOLOGY VISIT

It is always a pleasure to welcome past students back to the Geology Department, and this week was no exception as we caught up with **Jack**

**Piercy** CO18. Jack, who was taught by Miss Hope in her second year at Truro School, returned to share insights into his career with Wardell Armstrong.

A keen audience gathered to hear about Jack's journey, from studying Geology at Truro School to Durham University, followed by a Master's degree at Camborne School of Mines. Now working as a Mineral Surveyor with Wardell Armstrong in Bristol, Jack applies his geology expertise daily, working on a diverse range of projects. He spoke about the importance of technical skills, geological mapping, and legal knowledge, all of which have played a key role in his career development.

Jack also shared fascinating insights into his client-focused work, which includes mine legacy inspections, occasional quarry blasting, and surveying projects. He emphasised that his grounding in Geology at Truro School was instrumental in shaping his career path.

A huge thank you to Jack for taking the time to visit and inspire the next generation of geologists!



# Nick Carne CO12

## EXPLORING ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS: INSIGHTS FROM NICK CARNE'S CAREER TALK

On Friday 24 January, Old Truronian **Nick Carne** CO12 delivered an inspiring and insightful careers talk to students, focusing on opportunities in the allied health professions. After leaving Truro School in 2012, Nick studied at Warsash Maritime Academy. He began by working on private yachts, to then gain a sponsorship with Trinity House to gain his Deck Officer of the Watch Unlimited in the Merchant Navy. After a few years he decided to change and trained to be an Adult Nurse through Plymouth University. He now also works as a Practice Educator (Preceptorship) for Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

One of the key highlights of Nick's talk was his explanation of the apprenticeship schemes offered within the NHS. These schemes provide students with an excellent pathway into healthcare careers without the need for a full university degree. He also shared insights into the various roles apprentices can take on, and how these can lead to long-term career development. There was also discussion on how the NHS operates in Cornwall, offering a clearer understanding of the local healthcare system. He discussed the differences between the hospitals in Cornwall and the types of healthcare settings that students could expect to work in. From smaller, community-focused hospitals to the larger main hospital in Truro, Nick explained how each environment offers unique opportunities for healthcare professionals.

Nick wrapped up the talk by diving deeper into the specifics of various allied health professions. He shared

detailed insights into the roles of physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, radiographers, and other healthcare professionals, explaining what bursaries were offered to help with funding, what each job entails, and the skills required. His detailed explanations helped students better understand the diverse range of careers available within the healthcare system, beyond the conventional roles that come to mind.

By the end of the talk, the students left inspired and more informed about the many exciting career opportunities in allied health professions. Whether through apprenticeships or university degrees, students now had a clearer sense of the pathways available to them within the healthcare sector. Nick's practical advice, along with his engaging style, made the session a valuable learning experience, and his passion for helping others enter healthcare was evident throughout the talk.

**If you are an Old Truronian and can offer career advice to our current students, please contact Amanda (Development and Alumni Relations) at [TSCconnections@truroschoo.com](mailto:TSCconnections@truroschoo.com) or phone 01872 246010.**





## TRURO SCHOOL COOKERY

### RECIPE

# Crispy salmon with mango salsa & coconut rice SERVES 2

## INGREDIENTS

### For the salmon:

- 2 salmon fillets, skin on (approx 120-150g each)

### For the salsa:

- ½ mango, peeled
- ¼ cucumber, seeds removed
- 2 spring onions
- ½ red chilli
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander
- ½ lime, juice

### For the rice:

- 100g basmati
- 200ml coconut milk
- Pinch of salt

### For the nam prik sauce:

- 1 garlic clove, peeled
- ½ red chilli
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 limes, juiced
- 2 tbsp caster sugar

## METHOD

1. For the salsa: carefully chop the mango into very neat 1cm dice and place into a small mixing bowl
2. Cut the cucumber into 1cm cubes to match the mango and add to the bowl
3. Slice the spring onions thinly on the diagonal and add to the bowl of mango and cucumber
4. Finely chop the chilli and coriander, add these to the bowl too
5. Now taste the salsa and add enough lime juice to balance with the sweetness of the mango and set aside
6. For the sauce: finely grate the garlic and finely chop the chilli, mix these together in a small bowl
7. Add the remaining ingredients and taste, it should have a balance of sweet, salty, hot and sour. Set aside
8. For the rice: first rinse the rice very well. Keep rinsing until the running water, until the water draining off is becoming clear and not cloudy
9. Place the drained rice in a small saucepan, pour over the coconut milk, add a pinch of salt and then enough cold water to just cover the rice. The liquid level should be ½ cm above the level of the rice
10. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer very gently for 10 mins
11. Cover the pan with a lid and remove from the heat and leave to stand for 10 mins
12. For the fish: heat a frying pan with ½ tbsp of oil
13. Place the fish skin side down into the pan and allow to cook for 2-3 mins on a medium heat until the skin is lightly golden and crispy. You should see the flesh changing at the sides of the fillet and starting to look cooked
14. Turn the fish over and cook for 1 min and then remove the pan from the heat and leave for a further min
15. The flesh should feel flaky and if you insert a cocktail stick into the flesh there should be no resistance
16. Place a spoonful of the rice onto a plate, top with salmon, skin side up and a small amount of the salsa
17. Drizzle some nam prik sauce around the plate before serving.



## CHECK FOR COOKED

- Salmon skin is lightly golden and crispy
- Flesh feels flaky

## VARIATIONS

- Substitute the salmon for tuna or pan-fried tofu for a vegetarian version
- Add toasted coconut flakes to the rice for extra flavour and crunch

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO THE



**TRURO  
SCHOOL**  
OLD TRURONIANS

*102nd*  
**ANNUAL REUNION  
DINNER**

GUESTS OF HONOUR  
Mr Dennis Keam

DATE & PLACE

**SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER, 2025**

6.30 pm - 11.00 pm  
Truro School, Old Dining Hall

*Kindly RSVP by 28 September*



# *102nd* ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

## RECOMMENDED DRESS

Ladies - evening attire or cocktail dresses

Gentlemen - black tie or lounge suits

## DINNER MENU

Pumpkin and pea risotto with crispy pancetta

Spiced butternut soup with crispy haloumi (v)

Herb crusted lamb

Roasted celeriac with wild mushrooms (v)

Apple tartlet with vanilla ice cream





# Pause For Thought

From Reverend Helen Byrne



‘Rejoice in the Lord  
always, again I say  
rejoice’

(Philippians 4:4)



Picture the scene: 100 children, aged 3-7 years, along with every Pre-Prep teacher available, all waving bright streamers and dancing in the playground to the song ‘Sunchyme’ as the sun shone. There were smiles everywhere, everyone joining in, soaking up the sunshine, celebrating and giving thanks for all the goodness the sun provides for our amazing world. Summer Solstice Celebrations 2025 were full of rejoicing – and it felt great!

This was one of several World Faith Festivals we have supported through the year which I feel blessed to facilitate in my role as school chaplain. It is lovely to be part of these joy-filled, uplifting moments when we come together to recognise a variety of different faith festivals through the year, supported by the Cornwall Faith Forum. These shared celebrations remind us of the common values found within the various faith groups here in Cornwall. As well as encouraging understanding, inclusivity and respect for one another, I believe we are all strengthened in our own faith tradition as we acknowledge and respect our neighbours.

Amidst the many books on my study shelves, one of my favourites is *The Book of Joy – Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. Written in 2015, this is a book of reflections by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama, that consider how to live a life brimming with joy, even when times are really hard. In the book Archbishop Tutu says “*Joy is much bigger than happiness. While happiness is often seen as being dependent on external circumstances, joy is not*”. In essence, the book seeks to show us that joy is accessible to all of us of the time and that with joy we are more alive. On that summer day in the Pre-Prep we were most definitely alive and brimming with joy as we danced.

I’m a big fan of joy: sharing joy, bringing joy, encouraging others to seek joy and discovering how to be joyful, even when times are hard. I often say my role here is to ‘lift and soothe spirits’ (a phrase I discovered whilst training with Birmingham Children’s Hospital Chaplaincy Team a few years ago). Chaplains are called to get alongside others, to lift and soothe spirits,





in all times and in all places. I strive to do that by seeking the hope in what might seem hopeless, encouraging people to wonder and creating spaces where we can step into joy, even in the harder times.

When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians about rejoicing, he was most likely imprisoned, yet still found the grace to write these uplifting words about the importance of remaining joyful. When the ancient pagan pilgrims gathered to dance at the solstice they lived in perilous times, when one bad harvest could wipe out their communities, yet they continued to dance. When the early Christians in Philippi sang psalms together and gave thanks to God, they did so amidst threats of persecution, yet they continued to be joyful, lifting spirits and giving thanks.

Throughout our Year of Creativity, we have focused on 'creating a culture of kindness', where we encourage thoughtfulness for one another and joy is shared and received by all. In our recent review by MIST, our school Chapel was described as *'the soul of the school - where the values and ethos are celebrated openly and warmly by the whole community'*. I like to think of our Chapel as a place where people can find peace and step into joy. In May I was preparing a service for our Upper Sixth just before they were going on study leave and decided to take the theme of *'laughter being food for the soul'* (Proverbs 17). I wanted to encourage them to seek some fun, joyful moments during what would be a tough few weeks of study, as part of their wellbeing. A few weeks later, at their Leavers' Day Service, our final hymn was *'Give me joy in my heart'* and there were smiles all around. An appropriate way to celebrate their time here as our Class of 2025.

Joy is often found in the generous hearted. In *The Book of Joy*, the Dalai Lama says *"Our greatest joy is when we seek to do good for others"*. I have seen

much evidence of this in Truro School this year with many thoughtful activities and events happening on and off site. At our ACHE Banquet (ACHE being our peer mentoring programme) we were delighted to host Paralympic Silver Medallist and Old Truronian **Fran Brown CO03** who shared her inspirational story and encouraged our students on how mentoring younger pupils is a meaningful way to give back.

Later in the year we were invited to provide some live music in the Age UK (Cornwall & Scilly Isles) hospitality tent at the Royal Cornwall Show. Our young musicians happily entertained hundreds of people whilst they enjoyed their afternoon teas, a wonderful inter-generational partnership that provided great joy for all involved.

Towards the end of our Summer Term, we ran our annual World AIMS Day (World Action in Methodist Schools) at the Senior site. This is a focused day off timetable where we learn about being good global neighbours. At the Prep earlier in the year, we explored the theme 'We Are All Born Free' (UNHCR) and for the Seniors, the theme was 'Freedom for All'. Across the whole school, we learned about how to help those who are not free find their way towards freedom, whilst appreciating the value of our own freedoms we have today. There was sports, craft, discussions, creative writing and art through the day with visiting charities aiding our learning experience. Some of our pupils created a giant art piece that spelt 'FREEDOM' to be displayed somewhere prominent in school. Lots of joy shared through our World Aims Programme, as we sought to do good for others.

Joy can be found in music and singing is part of our Methodist Heritage, Methodists being 'born in song' (1933 Methodist Hymnal). Our school year drew to a close with a familiar trip to Truro Methodist Church (TMC) for our end of

year service. Since becoming chaplain here, I have been exploring hymns and songs for us to sing in chapel that pupils and staff enjoy singing. On this occasion, we seemed to hit the jackpot for, just as we announced our last hymn 'Lord of the Dance', there were notable cheers and smiles all around - and the singing was joyful!

The Greek word for 'rejoice' is *'χαίρω'* (pronounced khah'-ee-ro) which literally means to be "favourably disposed to God's grace". John Wesley, founder of Methodism, maintained a positive attitude all his days, notably his words towards the end of his days were not of woe, but instead he repeatedly said *'best of all is God is with us.'*

Our Methodist Heritage is important to us as a school, so we know where we came from and can discern how to be the best version of ourselves today. To this end, we invited a team of young artists from school, aided by Artist Tony Mannion, to create a Methodist Ethos Banner which will be displayed at the front of Chapel. On it are words and pictures gathered from staff and pupils to describe what it feels like to be part of this Methodist School today, to be a community 'born in song' who are joyful, hopeful and part of a world-wide community where all are valued and celebrated as they are. You will find the Cornish word for joy - 'Lowena' - is on there, along with others, words that our school community chose for our Methodist Ethos as a school. As chaplain here, I continue to hope and pray we remain a joy-filled, Christ-like community, where all can find a welcome, all can celebrate who they are, and all continue to find ways together to rejoice.

***'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!'***

Blessings to you all,  
**Rev Helen**



# Governors' Report

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This year the Senior School Speech Day was held in the ecclesiastical splendour of Truro Cathedral. It was a most appropriate location considering the strong relationship that exists between Truro School and the Cathedral through choristers and Christian values.

Truro School has seen a lot going on this year. The Music School is well on the way to completion and should be ready in early 2026. There is a new minibus parking area and refurbishments have taken place in many buildings, and the site and gardens look splendid. Truro School though is so much more than just the site and premises. It is a facility that provides for diverse community inclusion, and as such we should celebrate. That inclusion is provided by the whole school community through everything we do in the interests of education and the development of the next generation.

There is however planning and strategy involved, and I want to focus on the life of the Strategic Plan that was put in place by the Head and Governing Body back in 2020. Our Head Andy Johnson with valiant support of Prep Head Rob Morse and the Leadership Teams have driven the process since with in both Prep and Senior School locations.

There have been notable achievements in steering the school through Covid and taxation, but beyond that in the enactment of the Strategic Plan the school has increased means tested bursaries to 8% of gross income, has developed a sixth form diploma ensuring almost 200 pupils in the Sixth Form, introduced learning scores to provide a better and more inclusive matrix of assessment, achieved healthy pupil numbers in Prep education, achieved A-Level results which with value added are in the best 10% in the country, and many more.

Despite the headwinds encountered and the limited number of friends we have in independent education, Truro School continues to thrive with careful management and planning.

I say it regularly and without apology, but the staff in Truro School whether in the leadership, teaching or the operational side excel year on year. As a Governing

body we are proud of the way that the whole staff deliver with efficiency and excellence.

Strength and excellence are driven by direction, communication and consideration. Different facets of the school environment getting along with each other and understanding their challenges.

I am proud of the way that we deliver Governance. There is a good relationship between the governing body and School Leadership Team with all parties seeking to provide the best environment for the education of all children. I thank my fellow governors for their dedication and commitment, and we are pleased to have three new governors joining the board this year.

This year sees two of our most senior governors Liz Garner and Nigel Ashcroft retire. They have both been wonderful servants to the school, as vice chairs, chairs of committees, liaison officers and so much more. Their dedication and experience will be sorely missed, and I am so grateful for the support and guidance they have given me over the years. As they disappear into the sunset of governorship at Truro School, they can be exceptionally proud of what they have achieved in the name of the School.

It is also my last year in post. Now that my physical appearance bears little relation to the photo on my school pass. I have had 13 years as a Governor of which five have been as Chair. It has been an absolute privilege to be Chair and could not have been achieved without the support of



RICHARD THOMAS  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS





our clerk and governors. It is important to remember that the Governing Body and the School are a team, and this is not a termination of tenure but a continuation of purpose. Martin Ayliffe takes over from me as Chair and he, along with Richard Raistrick as Deputy will guide the School to further inclusivity, excellence and strength.

In my time as Chair there have been occasions when there has been a need to bring in an independent opinion for matters in review. Those people can't be paid, nor can they be given School recognition. I am however now in a position to publicly thank Henry Shaw and Mike Scott for their selfless contributions over my time as Chair. Their expertise and opinion have provided important insight in difficult moments.

I mentioned at the beginning of this piece that 2026 will see the new Music School

reach completion. This will provide immense benefit to the school, help in education, and provide better facilities and opportunities for our pupils. But it will do so much more than that. It will provide opportunities for the whole county, whether that is through Cornwall Music Services Trust, a performance space, rehearsal rooms or choral workshops. Truro School is a major part of the community, yes, it is our Music School but it is also for community benefit to make Cornwall a better and more talented place.

There are many emotions in life, but if there is one we should all adopt, it is inclusivity, if you have a particular talent, teach it to other people; if you have something to say, share it with other people, include as many as you can, because working together, doing what you can for others, making people feel valued, making people feel wanted, or even important, is so vital in building relationships and trust. Truro School does this every single day.

Truro School is special. It has an important role in the whole community, and I strongly feel that it is integral, and plays a vital part, in the whole education system in Cornwall.



## OLD TRURONIAN Obituaries

TRURO SCHOOL NOTIFICATION RECEIVED:  
August 2024 – July 2025

**MR PETER ANTHONY  
BALME**

TS 1956 – 1963

**MR ADRIAN JOHN  
BURROWS**

TS 1954 – 1963

**MR MICHAEL CURNOW**

TS 1952 – 1959

**MR TERRENCE JOHN  
DRAYCOTT**

TS 1957 – 1964

**MR WILLIAM DUNSTAN**

TS 1966 – 1975

**MR MICHAEL  
ROBERT ELLERY**

TS 1960 – 1964

**DR KENNETH  
STAFFORD ENNOR**

TS 1946 – 1951

**MR ANTHONY JAMES  
GREENSLADE**

TS 1978 – 1986

**MR DEREK GREENWOOD**

TS 1979 – 2013

**MR FRANCIS HUGH  
DAVID HICKS**

TS 1957 – 1964

**MR PETER WILLIAM LAKE**

TS 1935 – 1936

**MR DEREK VINCENT LAW**

TS 1948 – 1955

**MR ROBIN DUFF MAWER**

TS 1943 – 1961

**MR CHARLES  
DOUGLAS NANCE**

TS 1940 – 1948

**MR DAVID  
LEONARD PASCOE**

TS 1948 – 1955

**MR ANTHONY  
JOSIAH PAWLYN**

TS 1950 – 1956

**MR DAVID PIERCE**

TS 1976 – 1994

**MR GEORGE  
KITTO SAMPSON**

TS 1946 – 1950

**MR BRYAN  
SAUTELLE-SMITH**

TS 1955 – 1965

**MR JAMES MALCOLM  
DOUGLAS SCOTT**

TS 1961 – 1968

**MR NIGEL TONKIN**

TS 1952 – 1961

**SIR BRIAN ROBERT  
WILLIAMSON CBE**

TS 1958 – 1963



**Adrian John Burrows**  
CO63

1945 – 2024

Adrian Burrows died from a heart attack on 6 October 2024. After Truro School, Adrian joined London Cornish in the late 1960's when he moved to London to work for IBM. With LCRFC he established continuing relationships with 2nd row partnerships including with the now Club Chairman, Frank Hill. Towards the end of the 1970's he relocated back to Cornwall and Liskeard RFC and took up refereeing with the CRFU Referees Society which took him to club matches throughout the county during the amateur non-league days.

An accomplished bass singer with London Cornish après match singing and a brief encounter with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir. On returning to Cornwall he sang with the Loveny Male Voice Choir, singing in the first massed Cornish choir concert in the Royal Albert Hall. He was later invited to join Canornyn Lowen, probably one of the most accomplished mixed choirs in Cornwall with much recorded music.

Adrian was a connoisseur of beer, which he loved very much and always in proportion. He leaves a widow Mandy, son Sam, daughter-in-law Jennifer and grandchildren Noah and Jack.

A memorial concert was held with Canoryan Lowen singing at St Neot's Church, Liskeard on Wednesday 13 November followed by a more informal gathering nearby.

TRIBUTE BY  
**STEVE FLOYD CO76**





# Tributes and Memories



## Sir Brian Robert Williamson CBE CO62

1945 – 2024

Sir Brian Williamson, the former chairman of Liffe, has died after a long and storied career in the City of London. Sir Brian, who spent forty years working in financial services including two stints as chair of the London market, passed away on 14 October 2024.

Sir Brian was born on 16 February 1945 to parents of Irish descent on both sides and was educated at Truro School between 1958-63. His first ambition was to be a scientist, but he changed path to read economics at Trinity College Dublin, where his cohort included a trio of future City notables: Padraic Fallon of Euromoney, Rupert Pennant Rea of The Economist and the Bank of England, and the financial columnist Hamish Macrae. He was news editor of Trinity News under Macrae, an officer of the Hist (the College's debating society), and stroke of the men's second VIII.

As a young man he nurtured Tory political ambitions, spending four years as private secretary to Maurice Macmillan MP (son of the former prime minister Harold) in opposition. After a spell as editor of International Currency Review he stood for the Sheffield Hillsborough seat in both 1974 general elections against Labour's Martin Flannery, taking 27 per cent of the vote

at the first attempt and 25 per cent at the second. Later, he was prospective candidate for Truro, stronghold of his schoolfriend, the Liberal **David Penhaligon** CO62, but by the time of the 1979 election Sir Brian was trading futures in Chicago.

Sir Brian started his career in the mid-1970s trading futures for Gerrard and National in Chicago. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a managing director at the discount house before founding in 1982 commodities broker GNI and becoming chair of that firm in 1985. In his time at GNI, Sir Brian helped found the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) in 1982 and went on to become chair of the fast-growing derivatives market in 1985, a post he held first until 1988.

Elegant and upright, with the manners of a matinée actor, Sir Brian, as one profile recorded, "so resembles the caricature of the gentleman amateur that one wonders what he is doing in the office on a hot afternoon... let alone how he rescued Britain's flagship futures exchange from near-extinction. But, as with many successful men, the studied nonchalance may be just that: studied."

The contrast between his impeccable tailoring and the loud blazers, gelled hair and coarse language of Liffe's floor traders could hardly have been greater, but they recognised him as a professional and a powerful ambassador

for their market – even when he personally supervised the removal of Page Three pin-ups from their booths. He described the City's explosion of futures trading, cheap to enter and simple to deal in massive amounts, as "a liberating force" despite its setbacks.

In his second stint at Liffe, Sir Brian helped revive Liffe's fortunes and oversaw the gradual closure of the exchange's iconic open outcry trading pits and the migration of liquidity to screens.

Sir Brian was appointed CBE in 1989, knighted in 2001 and became an HM Lieutenant for the City of London in 2003. His charitable involvements ranged from the Royal Opera House to St George's House and Chapel at Windsor, the St Paul's Cathedral Foundation and the Winston Churchill Memorial trust.

In 2007, Sir Brian was inducted in the Futures Industry Association's Hall of Fame to commemorate his contribution to the global futures and options industry.

A popular and forthright figure, his passing will be felt across the industry.

TRIBUTE SOURCED ONLINE AT **FOW.COM AND FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (20 NOVEMBER 2024).** WE WELCOME TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES FROM ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN BRIAN PERSONALLY.



Obituary notifications and tributes for publication can be e-mailed to the Development Office by e-mail at [tsconnections@truroschoo.com](mailto:tsconnections@truroschoo.com) or telephone **01872 246010** in the first instance.



## Tributes and Memories

### Bryan John Sautelle-Smith CO65

1946 – 2025

I first met Bryan 68 years ago when we started our secondary schooling at Truro School, and we immediately became close friends. My parents lived in Winchester and Bryan's parents lived in Newquay.

Many a time, Bryan would invite me out on exeat days to see his parents, and a traditional Sunday roast! Which was very welcome!

"BJ" as he was known at School, and his parents, were the kindest people you could meet, and treated me as a family member. His father had a rover 90 and drove very fast down the country lanes, something I will remember forever, it was like being in a rally car!

Two things I will remember vividly from our time at School: Bryan got two canoes from the scout hut one Saturday and said let's canoe down the Truro River to the King Harry ferry and look at the old hulks waiting to be scrapped. The ships were huge and quite a sight from a small canoe. How we got back to School for five o'clock tea I will never know! The tide was against us and I already had blisters

on my hands. I have never been in a canoe since!

The next outing was when Bryan persuaded me to cycle from the School to his parents' house in Newquay to watch the annual varsity rugby match on TV. We set off and it rained all day. We got there but only just got back in time for tea. We were lucky not to be "gated" which was a term used by the staff to stop you going out, and usually we had to stand in the front entrance for four hours. Sometimes the staff and prefects gave us "cubes", which were six figure numbers to multiply by different six figure number, six times! Bryan was clever so I copied his!

Bryan and I lost contact when we left School and when he was at university and in the Royal Navy. He then worked abroad, but I did visit his parents at Feock from time to time. We since re-kindled our friendship and caught up every year for some time now in Cornwall. I am deeply saddened to have lost a dear friend. I valued his friendship both at School and the recent past.

Rest in peace Bryan you will be missed by all. Esse Quam Videri.

TRIBUTE BY  
**MARTYN LONG** CO65

### James 'Jim' Malcolm Douglas Scott CO68

1950 – 2019

It was with great sadness that I recently learned of the death of my old friend Jim Scott.

We had met during school/college holidays whilst working as lifeguards, often hilariously and became good friends, in due course Jim went to work for Shell whilst I went to IBM.

In 1977/78 we were both married within a year of each other, Jim was my best man.

In later years with wives and careers under way we rarely met up but kept in touch but with employment/house moves in more recent years we had lost contact and I was attempting to locate Jim through the school records as I knew that he had corresponded with his former headmaster for many years.

I know that Jim was very attached to Truro School and often spoke of his time there.

I was greatly looking forward to a reunion and reflection of our lives and was shocked to discover it was not to be. Jim was a wonderful character, fit, always with a sense of humour and we had many good, carefree and happy times together - he was a rare and true friend.

TRIBUTE BY  
**JIM'S FRIEND, KEITH PERRETT**



### David 'Len' Leonard Pascoe CO57

1939 – 2025

Sadly David (Len) passed away on the 18 February 2025, aged 85. He had a fulfilling life and influenced many in all walks of life as a teacher and mentor to the cycling community. He was a founder member of the English Schools Cycling Association. We were overwhelmed with

the tributes to him and over 200 friends, colleagues, and cyclists who attended the celebration of his life on the 10 March.

His legacy hopefully will continue with the donations to The Redruth Charity

Trust which supports young people in the area and currently stands at nearly £1000.

TRIBUTE BY  
**LEN'S WIFE, ANNE PASCOE**





## Derek Greenwood

### TS Visiting Teacher of Music, 1979 – 2013

The death has been announced of the conductor Derek Greenwood. He was 79.

Born in Yorkshire, he made his brass banding home in Cornwall, becoming one of its most respected figures. His association with the likes of Camborne, St Austell, St Dennis, St Keverne and others from the mid-1970s brought considerable contesting success, whilst his inspirational teaching work with youngsters helped reinvigorate many bands in the region.

Following school he worked for Rolls Royce before becoming a musician with the Band of the Grenadier Guards in 1966. Over the next decade he became its principal euphonium under the baton of Major Peter Parkes, whom he considered one of the finest musicians he ever worked with.

Although he had conducted the Crystal Palace Band in London for a few contests, it was Cornwall where his musical future lay, when in 1976 he applied to become Musical Director of Camborne Band. He later revealed that the band helped buy him out of the Army.

Over the next decade he turned Camborne into a commanding contesting force — winning the West of England Regional Championship title on three occasions (1977, 78 and 82). The partnership went on to claim fourth place at the National Final at the Royal Albert Hall in 1977 and 1982.

During his tenure he was also the conductor of the highly successful Camborne Youth Band.

In 1985 Derek Greenwood joined St Austell, and over the following years extended his successful freelance work to many other Cornish bands such as well as further afield to Aldbourne, Bideford, Tredegar and Woodfalls, whom he directed at the 1986 British Open.

As Musical Director of St Dennis Band he led them to the Second Section West of England Area title in 1991, whilst with St Keverne he won the Third Section Area title in 1997.

Over the next decade he turned Camborne into a commanding contesting force — winning the West of England Regional Championship title on three occasions.

In 2005, they became Second Section National Champion of Great Britain, whilst he enjoyed considerable success with its youth band in becoming National Youth Champion in 2000 and again in 2002. They were declared BBC Radio 2 Youth Band of the Year in 1999 and 2001.

His commitment to youth also saw him become an integral part of the Cornish Youth Band organisation, both as a tutor and course leader. He also inspired countless youngsters to take up brass banding through his work at Truro School, and in 2000 was presented with the Mortimer Medal.

Derek Greenwood took a break from conducting 2011 but returned in 2019 to make his final appearance with St Austell Band at the Bugle contest — a fitting final bow at an event he had graced and had won on eight occasions.

A perceptive adjudicator, news of his passing has brought numerous tributes from throughout the brass banding world. He leaves a wife, son, daughter and three grandchildren.

TRIBUTE SOURCED FROM **4BARSREST.COM. WE WELCOME TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES FROM ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN DEREK PERSONALLY.**

Terraces (1980) has a staff note about Mr Greenwood's arrival to the School.

Finally, we welcome Mr D. A. Greenwood to run the school band. He was in the Grenadier Guards Band for ten years after studying at the Royal Military School of Music. Mr Greenwood moved to Cornwall three years ago and runs Camborne Town Band.



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## David Pierce

TS Prep Teacher of Sport and Science 1976 – 1994

1929 – 2025



Legend. According to the Oxford English dictionary is an extremely famous or notorious person, especially in a particular field. However, I'm sure we can all agree that another definition could read "David Pierce, Mr Pierce, King Pierce, The Major", or as I knew him - "Diddi". A true legend.

This is the memorial service for John David Pierce, and I don't believe that there is a more fitting word to describe a man's life than that word... "service". A life dedicated to the service of others through a 25-year military career, 20 years as a schoolteacher and a lifetime of sports coaching for which he never charged a penny, he did it for love, love of sport, its values and love of all of you who are with us here today.

My grandfather was born in 1929 in Norfolk into a Welsh speaking family with military and farming roots. He then attended Norwich School as a day pupil until one morning on the way to school with his father, a Luftwaffe fighter plane put several bursts of machine gun fire through the carriage, killing a passenger that was sitting opposite, and it was declared too dangerous to travel to school each morning and he therefore became a border. You would think such an experience would turn one away from any sort of risk or danger, but not this man. He received an offer to study Chemistry at the University of Cambridge which he rejected and instead enlisted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, commissioning from intake 003 as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Wales's senior regiment.

Post war Army life was tough, and I'm sure that a first posting to Jamaica was a rough place to start. On a more serious

note, many of you may not know that David was actually badly injured whilst on duty in Jamaica... the straps from his cricket pads rubbed on his legs and the infection that followed almost caused him to miss carrying his regimental colours on Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in London, which of course he duly did. It was also around this time where I believe that he broke an unofficial world record, attaining scores of thirteen ducks in consecutive innings.



David receiving an England Cricket Coaching Award in 2014 from Paul Farbrace

The only consolation that could be taken from this was that the great Sir Garfield Sobers was on the opposition side on a number of occasions.

"The Major" went on to serve in Berlin, guarding deputy Fuhrer Rudolph Hess in Spandau prison, Bermuda, Malaya- where he led small patrols, deep into the jungle to attack or lay ambush to Malayan Communist insurgent fighters. He also served in Singapore, Cyprus with the United Nations, and Aiden as a Company Commander. Furthermore,

he represented the Army for Cricket and Hockey and his regiment for boxing and rugby, which he took great pride in.

Many people have served for shorter periods of time in the Armed Forces and reached far higher ranks, however when I have spoken to his subordinates and those whom he served with, it became blatantly clear that "The Major" looked down instead of up, he cared not for good reports, promotions and his career,

but instead cared for his soldiers, his men, he would have given his world for them, and in turn they loved him for it.

It was during his Army career that he met my grandmother, Jean Brewer - a Cornish girl from Newquay, they were married in April 1954, however perhaps the more pertinent story comes from the evening before the wedding. Newquay was not prepared for the Lt David Pierce Casuals XI otherwise known as the stag do to descend upon it, leading to the groom and his entire stag party





being arrested for drunk and disorderly behaviour. Despite this debauchery, David and Jean enjoyed a wonderful marriage, finally settling in our family home of Spring Cottage in Wheal Frances, until her passing in 2010.

Once "The Major" left the Army, he enrolled at St Lukes Collage Exeter, in order to become a teacher. Having qualified in 1975, he was interviewed by Headmaster Alan Ayres at Treliske school - now Truro School Prep, where he started teaching General Science and English.

Throughout his life he was a charitable man, and notably left a money collection tin on his desk at the front of the classroom, entitled "King Pierce's beer fund". He also spent much of his time at Treliske hiding in other teacher's classroom cupboards, only to burst out in the middle of their lessons- making him rather popular amongst the pupils but perhaps less so amongst the staff. To quote one pupil "Mr Pierce had a way of bringing joy to every lesson, weather in the classroom or on the pitch. His great sense of humour was infectious, lightening the mood, and turning even the toughest challenges into opportunities for laughter and growth. Mr Pierce was more than just a teacher and coach to me, he was a mentor who shaped my character and love for the game. He instilled not just technical skills, but also life lessons about teamwork, perseverance, and respect".

It was during his time teaching that he inspired and motivated Sir Ben Ainslie, the Olympic gold-winning sailor, who has spoken very publicly about his favourite teacher, who gave him the determination to succeed in sport. Furthermore, Mr Pierce also spotted a special cricket talent at Treliske named Laura Harper. He took the bold, ground-breaking step of selecting her for a Cornwall Under-12 Boys tour to South Africa, which he led, and he was a huge advocate for the women's game that has come on leaps and bounds in recent years. Laura went on to play six test matches and 25 one-day internationals for England. These are but two examples

of many exceptional sports men and women that he assisted on their journey to the top. I know my grandfather took great pride in this later on in his life and kept a close relationship with Ben and Laura right up to his death. However, it was never Olympic gold medals, or international caps that he was most proud of. He took the most pride and joy from instilling a love for sport in those who he coached. To see someone playing cricket or hockey, no matter what level and playing with a smile on their face, for the love of the game, was the most important to him.

Mr Pierce had three main family members, Saturday Morning Cricket, Truro Hockey Club, and then us lot sitting in the front row today. He ran Saturday morning cricket for 45 years from Treliske sports hall and I would wager anyone who ever walked into that sports hall on a Saturday morning would never have seen something as fun filled, magical, but also as bizarre as what was taking place. A mix of ages from 6-60, partaking in a game of indoor cricket, followed by the infamous diamond cricket, and then perhaps some nets. Cries of "Your time has come sir" and "Caught Pierce, Bowled Pierce", would regularly echo around the hall as Mr Pierce walked into bowl. Those were some of the most special days for many a generation of Cornish cricketer.

David was also instrumental in the founding of Truro Junior Hockey Club and gaining government funding to build the AstroTurf pitch at Penair School. Without stealing any of Scullys thunder, he adored his time playing for and coaching Truro Hockey Club and remained an avid supporter of the club until the end of his life. As one Truro first team player recalls "our last five or so encounters began with, "still terrible at hockey I see"". If I asked anyone who hasn't been insulted by David to stand up, I imagine that the congregation would largely remain seated.

My grandfather leaves behind my uncle, Michael, and I know he was exceptionally proud of his work as a model maker, sculptor and artist. And my mother, Christina whom he loved

dearly and again was immensely proud of her achievements as an artist and in life.

My memory of Diddi will be him rolling the wicket in the garden and putting up the fishing nets from Porthleven up as cricket nets. Constructing ruby posts from Bamboo and digging trenches for me to fight imaginary battles when growing up - these formative memories as you can see today had absolutely no bearing on my future careers in cricket and the British Army. I will think back to all the amazing summers my friends had playing garden cricket, Diddi insulting any of my South African friends about the South African cricket team, and even allowing a small music festival known as "CornFest" to take place on his property.

To quote the famous rapper Macklemore "You die twice, once when they bury you in the grave. And the second time is the last time when someone mentions your name". However, in my grandfather's case this simply isn't true. He lives on through each and every one of us who he has inspired throughout his life, each time we step onto that sports pitch he is with us and we continue his legacy, and those who we have influence on and introduce to sport will continue it again and so on and so forth, as the multiplier effect from this legends life continues.

If anyone with us today is still playing sport or involved in sport due to the contribution of "David, Mr Pierce, King Pierce, The Major or Diddi", I will pass on a message that he would never have said to you, that you would have brought him immense pride and that he could not be prouder of you for what you do, ensure you play with determination, joy, good values, perhaps a bit of ruthlessness, but always with a smile on your face.

#### **EULOGY BY OSKAR KOLK, DAVID'S GRANDSON**

A tribute to David, from **Alex Money** CO02, follows on page 101.



### Peter William Lake TS 1935 – 1936

1920 – 2024

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Dad was born on 2 September, 1920, in Salford, Lancashire, England. And his adventures began right away. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Jesselton, Borneo, now known as Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. There his father, my grandfather, was a paymaster with the British North Borneo Company. My Dad often spoke fondly of those years—climbing palm trees and exploring the jungles with the local boys. It was a childhood full of adventure, which set the tone for a life lived with curiosity and courage.

In 1929, the family, with his sister Jerry, returned to England on a Japanese passenger liner. In England, his father began a business venture with cash registers, however it did not go as planned and the family fell on hard times. His parents separated, and my Dad had to leave boarding school at 13, and ended up spending his teenage years with friends of the family on a poultry farm near London. Following that he found work in London at an electrical supply company.

When World War II began, Dad was eager to serve his country. Though initially rejected by the Royal British Air Force for having high arches, he persisted and was accepted in 1940.

He did his training in England and Scotland as a wireless operator and air gunner. It turned out that even training was a dangerous undertaking. During one of their training flights in Scotland, their plane had an engine trouble and the pilot just managed to pull up in time to avoid hitting the Turnberry Hotel, which was a hospital at the time. The pilot was so shaken up by the experience that he broke the planes tail wheel on landing.

Once trained he was assigned to the 203rd RAF Squadron and was deployed to a desert airfield near Benghazi on the north coast of Africa. There he flew in Baltimores over Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, doing reconnaissance flights searching for enemy shipping and

submarines. After that, he transferred to the 48th Squadron and did a second tour in the Far East doing supply runs over Burma. By the time he had been demobilized at the end of the war, in 1946, he had flown in over 60 missions.

These were dangerous times, yet Dad's bravery saved his crew on more than one occasion. He once spoke of a sabotage attempt where he discovered a fuel leak in mid-flight, averting a disaster and ensuring the safety of everyone on board. His quick thinking and calmness under pressure exemplified his character.

After the war, he returned to England but wasn't ready to settle down. Seeking new adventures, he seized the opportunity to move to Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. There, he worked as an Agricultural Officer, teaching local communities sustainable farming practices. He enjoyed touring the local villages in the African bush, often accompanied by his beloved Boxer dog, Jessie. It was a time of discovery and adventure, full of memorable stories.

It was in Zambia that he met my mum, who had moved there to work as a nurse. They married in England in 1957, honeymooned in Spain, and then returned to Zambia. Shortly thereafter, I arrived on the scene. However, not long after my birth, my parents decided to return to England. In 1960, we sailed back aboard the passenger liner Capetown Castle.

Even the journey home turned into an adventure, with an explosion in the ship's engine room forcing all the passengers to abandon ship in La Palmas.

Once back in England, we settled in the charming town of Amersham-on-the-Hill in Buckinghamshire, not far from London. My Dad joined my mum's father's clothing and tailoring business, where he discovered an appreciation for fine clothing. My brother, Geoffrey, was born in 1961, and life settled into a steady rhythm for a time.

But restlessness returned, and in 1972, our family made another big move — this time to Canada. My Dad purchased John MacMasters' Fine Clothes at 1012 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, which he ran successfully for over two decades. Even after "retiring," he remained active, opening a small tailoring shop on the second floor at 819 Fort Street. His meticulous craftsmanship and dedication to his trade left a lasting impression on his customers and the community.

Dad was not just a hard worker; he was a man who loved life's simple pleasures. After truly retiring, he turned his attention to his garden, where he cultivated vegetables with care and composted with great enthusiasm. He enjoyed camaraderie with the Vancouver Island Aircrew Association, cherishing the bonds forged with fellow veterans.

Even in his later years, Dad's strength and grace shone brightly. He transitioned to senior living in 2023, adapting to new surroundings and finding joy in the activities at both Ross Place and Broadmead Veterans' Memorial Lodge. Though his journey ended unexpectedly on October 19, 2024, at 104, his legacy endures.

To me, Dad was not just a father—he was a teacher, a guide, and an inspiration. He taught us to face challenges head-on, to value integrity and kindness, and to appreciate the beauty in life's everyday moments.

Dad's story is one of resilience, courage, and love. It's a reminder that a life well-lived isn't only measured by years but by the depth of experiences and the impact we leave on others. And Dad's impact is immeasurable.

As we say goodbye, let's remember him not in sadness but in gratitude for the gift of his life. Rest peacefully, Dad. You will forever be in our hearts.

TRIBUTE BY  
**PETER'S SON, WILLIAM LAKE**

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## Derek Vincent Law CO55

1937 – 2025

Derek Vincent Law was born on 5 February 1937 in Camborne to William and Mavis Law. Derek's father William worked as a copper miner after leaving school at 15, going on to work for ICI and then as a school caretaker. Mum Mavis kept house and ruled the roost!

Derek applied to the private and nationally known Truro School and won a full scholarship - the first boy in his street ever to attend private school.

After A-Levels at Truro, he went on to Bristol University to do a history degree.

Derek was in the last cohort required to do National Service, which took place in Bury St Edmunds, where he taught brand new 18-year-old army recruits the three R's. After this he applied to do a PGCE in London to become a secondary history teacher.

It was in London he met Pam, another teacher, and they were married in August 1962. After both teaching in large London comprehensives, they moved to Luton, Bedfordshire in 1964, where daughter Sarah was born.

In 1967 they moved to Wiltshire where son Richard was born. Derek taught history at George Ward Secondary School, Melksham. He also joined the Town Council, becoming Mayor of Calne in 1971 at the age of 34.

The family moved to Somerset in 1972 with Derek's job change, becoming leader of a Teacher's Professional Development Centre.

A move to Llandrindod followed in early 1976, when he took up the post of local government education advisor for schools across Powys, later Senior Advisor. He did this for 16 years.

The family have lived in Llandrindod for 49 years and both Derek and Pam were active members of the local community. Derek joined Llandrindod Town Council

and served for 12 years. He was Mayor of Llandrindod, twice, in 2003/4 and 2007/8 and he retired from the council in 2012.

The town council held a minute's silence in memory of Derek at their January meeting.

Town clerk Jane Johnston said: "As Town Clerk, I had the pleasure of working with Derek from 2007 when he was Chair of the Council and Mayor of Llandrindod Wells until his retirement in 2012. Derek was a strong and effective Chair and was a pleasure to work with, particularly due to his professionalism, empathy and kindness. Since 2012 I have kept in regular contact with Derek, who often would pop into the office to say hello and to discuss matters of concern to him as a resident. He loved Llandrindod Wells. He kept his wide smile and sense of humour throughout. He will be sadly missed in Llandrindod Wells."

A thanksgiving service for Derek's life was held at Holy Trinity on 13 February at 2.30pm following a private cremation in Hereford.



Derek and wife Pam, with their young family

**TRIBUTE SOURCED FROM THE SHROPSHIRE STAR. WE WELCOME TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES FROM ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN DEREK PERSONALLY.**

## A Tribute to David Pierce

David Pierce was a remarkable individual who touched the lives of so many as a teacher, coach, and friend. From a young age, I had the privilege of learning hockey and cricket under his guidance. His skill and passion for these sports were evident, but it was his warm and approachable nature that truly made him stand out. David had a way of bringing joy to every lesson, whether in the classroom or on the pitch. His great sense of humour was infectious, lightening the mood and turning even the toughest challenges into opportunities for laughter and growth.

David was more than just a coach to me; he was a mentor who shaped my character and love for the game. He instilled not just technical skills but also life lessons about teamwork, perseverance, and respect. I will always treasure those moments of encouragement and his ability to make every player feel valued.

Beyond his impact on individuals, David was the heartbeat of Truro Junior Hockey Club during challenging times. His dedication went far beyond the hours spent coaching on the pitch. Behind the scenes, he worked tirelessly to keep the club alive and thriving, ensuring that countless young players could continue to benefit from the sport he loved so much. His unwavering commitment and selflessness were inspiring and left a lasting legacy for the club and the community.

David Pierce will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him. His time, patience, and genuine care for those he coached have left an indelible mark on so many lives. Thank you, David, for everything you gave. You were a true mentor and friend, and your legacy will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of learning from you.

**TRIBUTE BY  
ALEX MONEY CO02**



### Fran Hugh David Hicks CO64

1946 – 2025



I was introduced to Fran by **Francis Creed** CO64 (son of the Headmaster, **Lowry Creed** TS 1946-59) when I was in the first form at Truro School aged 11. The three of us became firm friends and by the end of the Summer Term Fran had invited the two of us to spend some time on St Agnes with his family for the summer. To say I enjoyed my time there would be a huge understatement. Digging lugworms out of the sand on the beach to be bait for a row of fishhooks attached to a line across a small bay, with the intent to catch Wrasse to be used to bait lobster and crab pots. Out in a rowing boat to set the inshore pots, and in the evening with Fran's dad and mum, mackerel fishing in their bigger boat. Lots of bird watching, and for my first time catching elusive swallows to ring them and then looking at an atlas in the evening to marvel at their migration patterns. Plenty of fun with other kids on the island, along with cricket matches and trips to other islands. It was as if the *Famous Five* and *Swallows and Amazons* had come alive. I was only 11 years old, but my parents couldn't tear me away and I stayed for the whole summer - seven weeks! I came back the following two summers, then when I could over the next 50 years - often for a few days, many times with girlfriends and my wife (not together) and sometimes in the winter to coincide with Fran's birthday.

Over the years Fran took a great interest in my travels and came to stay with me in Sydney for a few weeks. He then married Carole and had daughter **Sophie** CO09 and visited us in London and Penzance. All through this period **Francis Creed** CO64 had also started visiting St Agnes with his wife Alison. They stayed in the self-catering units that Fran and Carole had developed. Then came the children, then their boy and girlfriends, and then the grandchildren, so that all their summer holidays were spent on St Agnes.

I was so pleased that **Francis** CO64 and I were able to make a day trip last summer on a perfect Scilly day. There you see the three of us - me on the left and **Francis** CO64 on the right with Fran in the middle. A school friendship which lasted over sixty years and sadly ended when Fran passed away on Sunday 2 March 2025. A sad day but an opportunity to remember some of the best times of my life.

TRIBUTE BY  
**GARETH JAMES CO64**



1963 Cross Country team (back row, far right)

Francis Hugh David Hicks, known to me as Fran, and occasionally "Wal" to others, passed away on 2 March 2025, in Andover, Hampshire.

Fran and I grew up together on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. In early years we both attended the island school where the teacher, Ron Davis, attempted to educate those of us children between the ages of five and eleven. In the early days there were about nine children at St Agnes School, but the roll increased to 17 pupils in later years. The earnest endeavours of Mr Davies and his successors must have had some success because both Fran and I managed to pass our 11-plus exam which, in those days entitled us to a scholarship of some sort to Truro School.

In those days there were four boys of "our" age at the school. Fran was the eldest followed by myself, then Tony and Ron. (Also, Marigold and Deborah, but girls didn't really figure much in our lives at that age).

Not only was Fran the eldest, his father, Lewis was an Alderman on the Council, his family owned a farm AND he lived in a lighthouse! Whilst Tony, Ron and I spent our time getting into trouble, Fran largely focused on more serious pursuits such as helping on the farm and birdwatching. He was seldom seen without a pair of binoculars around his neck. St Agnes

was well known amongst the bird-watching fraternity as being an excellent location to catch sight of and study rare species as they passed through on their annual migrations. It would be fair to say that, even at a young age, Fran became somewhat of an expert in ornithology.

I am reminded that, in those early days, Fran would run everywhere. Only he knew why.

The island was small with not many places to go, but Fran was always in a hurry to get there.

Fran and I were together at Truro School for a number of years, but I left in the 6th Form to pursue a career at sea. Fran continued his studies at Truro and, as I recall may have studied agriculture at tertiary level. Occasionally we would meet between my voyages, when my time on the island coincided with his. My memories of Fran from those time are that he took a genuine interest in my career and was clearly interested to hear about my travels.

In 1969 my parents left St. Agnes. I pursued my own career and ended up in New Zealand. I never forgot St Agnes and my childhood friends, but we had all simply gone our separate ways.





Then, in 1998, after some 29 years absence, the opportunity arose for me and my then teen-aged daughter to visit St Agnes. We stayed at Lower Town Farm, Fran's farm. I won't claim it was as though I had never been away, but Fran made us feel so genuinely welcome. He even let me take the family out fishing in his boat *Undaunted* which I remembered from my childhood days on the island.

I have been fortunate in that, since the visit in 1998, my wife Barbara and I have been able to return to holiday on St Agnes on a couple of occasions. Every time, Fran and I simply "got on" with each other in the way that only genuine friends do. When we got together, we laughed, we would reminisce, drink a bit of wine and generally put the world to rights.

In June 2022 I happened to be in UK when I heard that Fran had been

diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Being already down in Devon and with the assistance of Fran's wife, Carol, I quickly arranged a short visit to St Agnes to catch up with my old friend.

Fran met me at St Agnes quay with his big, friendly smile, firm handshake and binoculars around his neck. Nothing seemed to have changed! If I hadn't been told otherwise, I would not have known he was sick. During the next 24 hours, over dinner that night and again at breakfast the following day we sat and talked about St Agnes, about life and, eventually, about "this bloody awful Alzheimer's disease". Fran was clearly very concerned about his condition and what the future held for him.

The following day, when it came time to leave, we had a drink together in the Turks Head, said goodbye, and that was it.



Fran, Gareth and Francis

I was so glad I to see Fran when I did. It really was just what it was, two boys who had grown up on a small, isolated island, getting together again to chat about old times, and life in general, for what we both probably realised would be the last time.

The Isles of Scilly have lost a great Scillonian, St Agnes has lost another of its sons, and I have lost a really good friend. Rest in Peace Fran.

TRIBUTE BY  
**ADAIR CRAIGIE-LUCAS CO64**



Cricket team (bottom row, left)

Michael was born on the 27 April 1941 in his parents' home at Roskear Road, Camborne. A true Camborne boy. Michael was known as Mick by his friends, but the family insisted on calling him Michael.

Michael attended Roskear Primary School, Camborne where he developed his interest in singing by being a member of the school choir.

After primary school, Michael gained a scholarship to Truro School. Along with many lads, he travelled on the train to

## Michael Paul Curnow CO59

1941 – 2025

Truro. The walk from Truro station to school in the morning and back again to the station in the afternoon, kept these young men very fit!!

While at Truro School he played cricket and enjoyed representing the school in matches.

In 1961 Michael joined the RAF and was stationed at RAF Wroughton, Wiltshire. Michael had a wonderful flair for learning languages which was nurtured by the RAF. Back home Michael worked in the civilian side of the police until retirement.

His love of singing and having a beautiful tenor voice, led to him joining the Holman Climax Male Voice Choir, Camborne. He continued with this hobby until health dictated that it was not possible for him to stand for any length of time.



Michael's close friendship with **David Jenkin CO59**, **David Treloar CO60**, **Godfrey Thomas CO60**, **Les Rendell CO59**, **Rodney Hocking CO59** and so many other Camborne boys, lasted all their lives. With some of these special friends, he travelled all over the UK and to France for the international rugby games.

In December 2024 Michael was hospitalised due to failing health but returned home at the end of January 2025. Suddenly on the 21 March 2025, Michael 83 years old, died at his home in Pool, Redruth. His funeral was held on the 22 April which was attended by many representatives of his life. His humour was widely commented on by all.

The family would be delighted to hear of any stories connected to Michael.

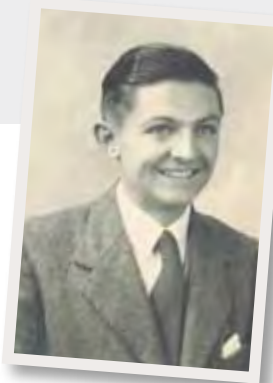
TRIBUTE BY  
**MICK'S FRIEND, JULIET M. JENKIN**



## Tributes and Memories



### Kenneth Stafford Ennor TS 1946 – 1951 1933 – 2025



On 19 January 2025, Kenneth “Ken” Stafford Ennor passed away in his sleep at Regency Care Manor in Monroe, Washington at the age of 91. He struggled with Alzheimer’s disease for 12 years and is now at peace. He is survived by his wife Liisa, daughters Tina and Lorna, and twin granddaughters Ashley & Kaitlyn.

Ken studied at Truro School and went on to achieve a PhD in Organic Chemistry from King’s College in the summer of

1955. As a young adult Ken liked to travel biking across Europe with a friend staying at hostels and with host families. He enjoyed skiing, table tennis and acting with his friends.

He would have been married to Liisa 60 years this June. They met in London and moved to Savannah, Georgia for Ken’s job as a research chemist for Union Camp where he worked for 30+ years focused on pulp and resin products. They moved into their first home in the

US on Wilmington Island. After many, many happy years in Savannah they experienced two floods and then moved to Snohomish, Washington.

Dad had a wonderful sense of humor and was a great storyteller who could make people laugh. We will miss his stories and lovely smile.

TRIBUTE BY  
**KEN’S DAUGHTER,  
TINA MAUDSLEY**

Kenneth and I were in the Sixth Form together for just a short time. He was a couple of years younger, so I was in a ‘scholarship year’ when he entered the Sixth. Without knowing each other’s choice, we both opted for a chemistry degree. We may have been the only two between 1947 and 1953 who made that choice. To me that was an interesting coincidence. His folks had a home in Cornwall, and mine in a London suburb. On one visit Ken’s parents hosted mine, who were attending a special event.

Kenneth studied at King’s College London and stayed on for his doctorate, immediately after his B.Sc. I went to Nottingham, which was in the throes of change. With my hearing loss, oversize classes, inexperienced young professors and absence of textbook consensus, I did not do well, so I went directly into industry at a company near London.

While in London at the same time we attended several London branch OT events which were held at The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland St., between Charing Cross tube and main-line terminus.

His Truro colleagues knew Ken by his well-modulated voice and its distinctive resonance. I cannot recall if he was in the choir, but he could have been; although

hard to find among fifty or so. However, he definitely stood out in acting. I particularly recall a one-act play where he had a repeated line like: “In the midst of life we are close to death.” As the plot developed different characters talked among themselves. Was he a preacher; maybe a philosopher; perhaps a doctor or a psychiatrist. At the end he revealed that he was merely an insurance salesman trying to drum up business, which brought the house down.

While we were on our graduate degrees we both had a second, and more exciting, coincidence which we were unaware of at the time. While at King’s, Ken walked the corridors that Rosalind Franklin walked, while she was a key researcher in proving the spiral form of DNA. But her department head at King’s was a misogynist, so she transferred to Birkbeck to research tobacco mosaic virus – the corridors that I walked, as did Rosalind those years later.

With my new PhD, I left England for a two-year post-doc fellowship at Florida and lost touch with the London OT branch, and Kenneth, before winding up in a small college in Savannah, Georgia in 1965.

During my early years in Savannah I was locally active in the American Chemical

Society, and was startled one evening to hear Kenneth’s unique voice behind me. I turned and said: “Kenneth Ennor, I presume?”. He was just as startled as I – an amazing third coincidence.

He worked with the major paper manufacturing company, Union Camp, in their organic labs.

And finally, a fourth coincidence! – At the ACS event where we met once again, we were wearing identically cut Saxony weave suits. Truro really generates good taste and it stayed with both of us. I should have asked him if his was made by the same London tailor as mine!

When Kenneth retired, he and his wife moved out to Washington state to join his younger daughter who had moved there for her career; and when I retired, I remained in Savannah. But we kept up a long-distance friendship through our offspring, though less frequently as we both got older.

And now, after a long retirement, he is gone, and I grieve that such a fine and able gentleman, loving the same field of science as I do, is no longer with us. But I treasure the times we shared.

TRIBUTE BY  
**CEDRIC STRATTON (TS 1939-50)**





## Terrence 'Terry' John Draycott CO64

1920 – 2024

A mainstay of the Bermuda Musical and Dramatic Society known for his love of song was also a major importer of the island's souvenirs for tourists. Terry Draycott, a keen player with the Renegades rugby team, ran the family wholesale business, Draycotts of Bermuda, all through the peak decades of Bermuda tourism. Founded by his mother, Jessie May, it was run single-handedly by Terry, who took frequent overseas trips to source the knick-knacks and trinkets stocked by businesses catering to visitors.

Terry and his wife, Mary, a schoolteacher at Saltus Cavendish primary school, were also heavily involved as volunteers with the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo. He was a pillar of the BMDS, where records show his earliest involvement in plays going back to 1965. Terry joined the society's choir when it formed in 1977 and enthusiastically took part for the next 40 years.

Adrian Lee-Emery, a friend and former president of the BMDS, met Mr Draycott through the theatre when he arrived in Bermuda in 1971, forming a lifelong bond.

He said: "He was just one of the world's really nice people — always friendly, always with a smile. He would talk to everybody, and he was great at remembering who people were. I'm really, really pleased that I got to know him."

Mr Lee-Emery said his primary involvement with the BMDS was through singing. Terry sang bass, while his wife sang alto.

"BMDS has had various iterations of groups of singers over the years, and Terry was involved with that for a long,

long time," Mr Lee-Emery said. "He would probably deny that he did acting too, but he did — not in major roles." Mr Lee-Emery and Mr Draycott played together on the Renegades, where his singing was enjoyed by team-mates. Much of his involvement with BMDS shows happened behind the scenes, Mr Lee-Emery said. "Terry was involved in almost all elements of backstage. He did set construction and worked on lighting and painting."

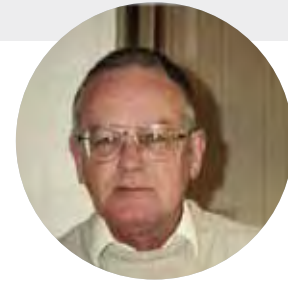
At the City Hall Theatre Terry was part of the team with the arduous task of hoisting and lowering scenery in the days before counterweights were installed in the early 1980s. Mr Lee-Emery recalled: "It was incredibly hard work. It was as difficult letting it down as it was taking it up. It was done by a very select little group." At the BMDS's Daylesford Theatre, Terry's roles ranged from house manager to working the bar.

"He was a huge supporter," Mr Lee-Emery said. "He attended virtually every single event. "If he wasn't working on it in the early days, in the latter days he would be there for nearly everything."

The Draycotts were particularly keen on the Famous for 15 Minutes festival of short plays, which raises funds for bursaries to send Bermudian students overseas to study theatre and the arts.

Terry is survived by his wife and their two children, Catherine and Simon, as well as granddaughters Holly and Rosie.

TRIBUTE SOURCED FROM  
**ROYALGAZETTE.COM**



## Peter Anthony Balme CO64

1945 – 2024

Peter passed away peacefully in hospital on Sunday 24 November 2024, aged 79 years. Devoted husband to Catherine, much loved dad of John, Michael, Debi-Jayne and the late Andrew and loving grandad of Adam. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE SOURCED FROM  
**THE WEST BRITON**



## George 'Kit' Kitto Sampson CO54

1935 – 2024

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Kit, on Saturday 3 February 2024, at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, aged 88 years. Beloved husband of Liz (deceased), loving dad of Mark, Joanne and Jason. Much loved gramps of Jack, Thomas, Alice, Kieran, Rosie and Megan. A service was held on Friday 15 March at Gwithian Parish Church.

TRIBUTE SOURCED FROM  
**DIGNITYFUNERALS.CO.UK**

**WE WELCOME TRIBUTES AND MEMORIES FROM ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN TERRY, PETER OR KIT PERSONALLY.**



To keep in touch, for general queries or if you have a story to share in *The Truronian*, please telephone **01872 246010** or email **[TSCconnections@truroschoo.com](mailto:TSCconnections@truroschoo.com)**

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