

*The*

TRURO SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2022 / 2023

# TRURONIAN



OLD TRURONIAN HEADS HOME



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:**  
Old Truronian **Rob Morse** CO89 and his wife Lottie Morse who recently joined Truro School Prep.  
Read more on page 54

*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

I hope you are all well. Last year I hoped you were all managing to navigate a summer of extraordinary heat. If you are UK based, I hope this year that you and your gardens have been enjoying the rain.

The School year has been busy and successful again. It has been wonderful to experience a full year from start to finish without any of the constraints imposed by the pandemic. It feels strange writing that as I end my third year as Head, and is a reminder too of the experiences of others. Our marvellous Upper Sixth cohort, the CO23, are the last year group to have had public examinations disrupted (their GCSEs in 2021), and their successes this summer will be applauded all the more as a result.

We have also been thanking and celebrating the dedication and impact of longstanding staff who leave this summer, most notably the Rev, Aubin de Gruchy, who moves to a wider role within MIST after 21 years of service to our school family, and Martin Palmer who retires after 19 years as Director of Music.

The School continues to look ahead, however, with an emphasis on securing the future quality of educational experience for all pupils who join the School. In a great education, the pursuit of knowledge is exciting, and the development of transferrable skills is crucial, but it is the values we hold that define us. Our Strategic Plan and the annual Action Plans that underpin it have this agenda in mind. The School value of focus in 2022-3 has been Compassion, culminating in a superb Summer Festival and World Aims Week.

Outdoor performances on our newly landscaped front terraces, looking out across the skyline of Truro, were my personal highlight. Compassion must remain central to our purpose as a community, especially as hard and challenging times hit families and institutions alike. I commend the generosity of our alumni and benefactors that allows us to remain a School committed to means tested bursary support, and at the same time a place of ongoing educational ambition, investing in excellence. I am extremely grateful.

As you would expect, the School has enjoyed a full and vibrant co-curriculum, promoting the engagement and development of pupils as well as the nurturing of ambition. Successes at a national and international level sit rightly alongside personal triumphs too.

In a School that champions and values the personal development of all pupils, the most important achievements are not necessarily the most public, but it would be remiss of me not to celebrate here the role some of our choristers played at His Majesty's Coronation in Westminster Abbey this year.

We have also, of course, maintained our excellent standards of learning, teaching, and pastoral care, at Prep and Senior, and for day pupils and boarders alike. Our School roll is again extremely healthy, including the largest lower Sixth cohort we have seen for very many years who will add further strength and vibrancy to our community.

As we look ahead to next year, our community and school continues to build on strength. I welcome the CO23 into the OT fold. They and all our community were celebrated at Speech Day, held this year in the Hall for Cornwall, where we were all encouraged to know the power of compassion by our guest speaker, **Max Levene** CO10. Amidst some hilariously unrepeatable anecdotes about his own School days, Max was the personification of more than simply resilience, but of positivity and the potential for success in the face of even the most unpredictable challenges.

To end this introductory message, I thank you all for your ongoing support and interest in the quality, evolution and ambition of our Truro School family. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Old Truronians Reunion Tea Party on Friday 18 August, and the social and reunion events that follow across next year about which more details can be found on our website and in the Development Office's communications.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Development and Alumni Relations Team



SAM WILLISHER CO03  
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI  
RELATIONS MANAGER

As an Old Truronian (Class of 2003) who looks back nostalgically on my Truro School days it was a real honour to join the Development & Alumni Relations Team in September 2022. I must thank my colleagues Amanda and Jo who warmly welcomed me into the team, this made starting a new role so much easier.

It was not long until I was meeting fellow Old Truronians and had the privilege to hear their personal Truro School memories. Welcoming the 'Class of 1964' back to Truro School in early October gave me an amazing insight into their school days.

Despite our Truro School paths never crossing it was heartwarming to learn that we had common experiences which allowed the conversation to flow well throughout the day's events. The reminiscing continued after dinner with impromptu stories being shared with the common theme being the positive impact that Truro School had on individuals lives when venturing into the world of work and careers.

The main event in the Old Truronian calendar is of course our Reunion Dinner. Over 80 Truro School alumni from a wide range of year groups, along with their guests enjoyed the evening. I must thank the Trustees of Truro School Association for their generous donation towards the after-dinner drinks, they were gratefully received by all who attended.

Engaging with our Old Truronian Community is at the heart of what we do in the Development and Alumni Relations office. We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive community, this was certainly seen at our Careers Convention where a high percentage of attendees were also former Truro School pupils. We're forever on the lookout for Old Truronians who can support our current Sixth Formers and recent leavers with helpful career insights. Our Careers department would love to hear from you if you're keen to support?

Thank you to the Old Truronians who have contributed to this edition of The Truronian. Not only are the articles interesting and enjoyable to read but they have real impact on our current Truro School pupils and recent leavers. Every Old Truronian has a story to tell so please do reach out to us in the Development and Alumni Relations office if you would like to feature in the next edition.

As a charity, the Truro School Foundation is extremely close to my heart, not only because it was officially established and chaired by the late Guy Dodd, who was Headmaster during my Truro School days but subsequently I have also learnt that some of my Truro School friends and peers were supported through the generous donations from others. To give you an idea of this generosity, over the last 5 years, Truro School Foundation has contributed over £750,000 to Truro School to support life changing bursaries. Our fundraising efforts never stop, and if anything, the need, and importantly to desire to fund more bursary places will continue to grow over the next 10 –15 years.

If the work of Truro School Foundation resonates with you then please do take a look at our current Chairperson vacancy. Truro School Foundation is seeking a visionary individual to serve as the Chairperson of the Foundation's board of trustees. The Chairperson will play a crucial role in leading the Board, advising on the Charity's strategic goals, strengthening internal & external relationships, and promoting the Foundation's ambition of widening means tested access to a Truro School education via the raising of bursary funds for this purpose from stakeholders, alumni, parents, and friends of Truro School. It is an exciting time to join the board and we warmly welcome passionate Old Truronians to apply and hopefully play a key role the next evolutionary phase of the Charity's development.

The next 12 months within the Development and Alumni Relations office are set to be just as busy as the previous and I look forward to hopefully meeting you at an Old Truronian event in the near future.

# Bright Futures Beckon after A-Level Results

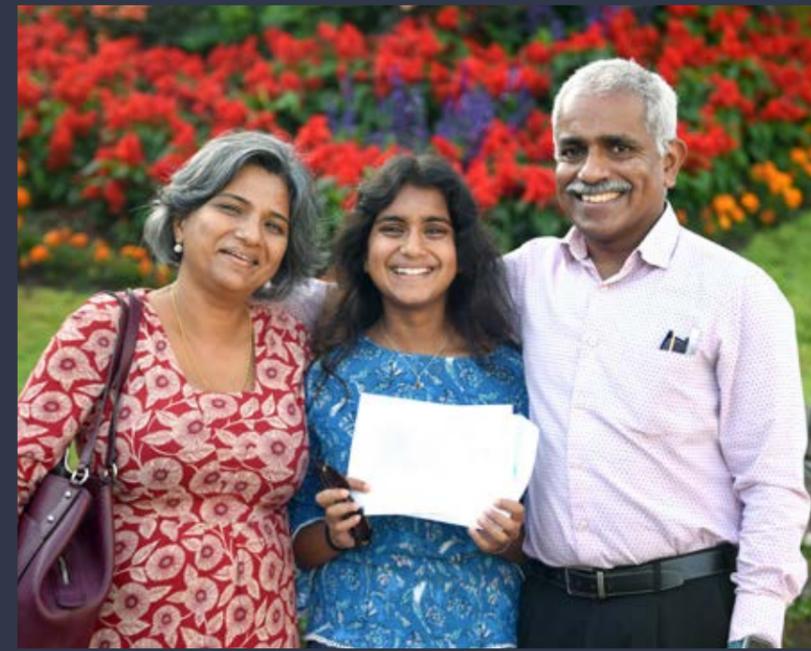
It was an emotional morning as our Upper Sixth and newly welcomed Old Truronians gathered to collect their A-Level results with family and friends. Despite initial nerves, it was uplifting to see the breadth of opportunities that opened up alongside the results envelopes.

Our diverse cohort of students will now go on to an exciting range of pathways; from universities and further education to gap years and burgeoning careers in sports. We caught up with some of our students and their families to find out more about their bright futures and what their time at Truro School has given them.

We first chatted with a beaming Maya and Livvi. Maya gained an A\* in Psychology and an A in both Chemistry and Maths, giving her the grades she needs to go on to her planned route to begin her Integrated Masters Degree in Chemistry at York. Maya joined Truro School in the 1st Year and told us, "The support from the teachers has been amazing. Truro School is so good at preparing you for everything."

Livvi had been nervous about her results but had done better than she'd expected and was delighted to be going to Truro College to do a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.

Reuben, who also joined Truro School in the 1st Year was "really shocked" having been "very stressed" about his results. With two A\*s and an A in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, he will now go on to his first choice to study Medicine at Keele University. "Truro School has been amazing for me. I definitely wouldn't have got into Medicine without the school's support, or the help from the Medical Pathway Programme here led by Mrs Havis."



It was a time of reflection for some of our students, including those who have been at Truro School since Truro School Prep. Head Girl Soumya received a sparkling set of 4 A\*s in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Biology and is now heading to her first choice to study Chemistry at the University of Oxford.

"The teachers put in so much time to help us when we're confused or struggling emotionally or academically. They make such an effort to go the extra mile. I gave them so much additional marking in extra essays and papers and they always supported me. Having been at Truro School since Prep, I will miss the community here. It is very close, but I hope to be back in the future to visit."

Head Boy Oliver has also been at the school since Prep and told us, "Undoubtedly I will miss the community and my friends the most. These friendships will stay with me for a lifetime."

Oliver, who achieved an A\*, 2 As and a B in Music, German, Biology and Chemistry is now looking forward to his gap year and hopes to apply to study Musical Theatre. "Musically, the breadth and depth of genres, bands and ensembles that Truro School supports is outstanding. Being the Musical Director of Les Mis last year was life-changing for me; it paved a path that gave me access to professional-level experience. All of the extra activities Truro School offers, it's just brilliant and I will treasure so much about my time here."

Other students also opting for a gap year include Hector, Tegan and Sam. Hector, who achieved an A\* in Art and 2 Cs in Maths and Physics is now set to embark on a year of paddle board racing around the world, an experience that will take him to France, Portugal and Thailand. He will then go on to study Product Design at Falmouth University upon his return.

Tegan, who is currently a Team England Surfing U18 squad member, is travelling for a year to far-flung surf spots including Hawaii, Indonesia and Sri Lanka for her year out. Having achieved an A\* and 2 As in Geology, Maths and Physics, she will return to study Geology at Bristol University in September 2024. "Truro School has been really good at supporting me while I've been travelling for surf competitions."





I've missed a lot of school but have managed to stay on top of my studies. The community and support I've had here have also prepared me for solo travelling."

Sam, who has already achieved success as a member of the GB Sailing Team, is heading off to Belgium to a Youth Sailing Camp. We look forward to sharing his future achievements with you.

There were smiles from parents too as they shared in their children's successes today. Dr Beth McCarron reflected on her son Joe's results (an A\* and 2 As in Geology, Geography and Business),

**"Today isn't just about amazing results. Truro School provides a family, strong values, friendship and support. The teachers have gone above and beyond to help these students achieve, but it's about ethos too and the values and life-long friends they develop here. Truro School changes young people into adults."**

These feelings were echoed by Alicia's father, Simon Bray. Alicia, who joined Truro School for Sixth Form will now go on to her first choice of studying Biomedical Sciences with a year in industry at Royal Holloway University. Mr Bray told us, "While Truro School helped Alicia to bridge a gap in her academic studies, the school has developed her potential more fully and helped her to flourish as an individual.

Truro School isn't singularly focused on the academic but looks at the development of each individual as a whole person. The School Diploma is brilliant. That it can sit alongside other interests like the Duke of Edinburgh Award is fantastic.

Truro School is creating valuable members of society. Companies are looking for more than just qualifications in their interviews. They want drive and ambition and a well-rounded team player. That is what this school gives to pupils here.

When you pay for a service, you expect something in return. When you pay school fees, you're guaranteed an education, but what you aren't guaranteed is enthusiasm and engagement. But this school delivers that for every student under its care."



We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our outgoing students; they are a truly remarkable cohort with so many talents and skills in the academic arena but also in a phenomenal number of additional fields. We are both proud and excited to see how the class of 2023 flourish in their futures.

Head of Truro School, Andy Johnson summarises today, "As proud as we are of the qualifications that the students at Truro School achieve, what we as a School are really celebrating today is the choices that they now have, and the values and character they have developed that will enable them to make the most of the opportunities ahead of them. The ability to succeed beyond School is about so much more than their studies alone and we are proud of the role that Truro School has played in providing a breadth of personal development as well as the depth of academic learning that will embolden these fantastic young people towards ongoing success. Our ambition and ethos here is to support students to do so much more than just fulfil their academic potential but to be ready and eager to go on and make meaningful contributions as citizens of a wider society too. We are immensely proud of all of our students and wish them every success."

## Exceptional achievements for A-Level students

It was a very happy A-Level results day. With pupils, their families, and staff, we have been celebrating another year of excellent A-Level results and Sixth Form successes.



**43%**  
**A\*/A**  
at A-Level

**89%**  
**A\*-A**  
in their EPQs  
(Extended Project Qualifications)

**56%**  
**DISTINCTIONS**  
in their Leith's  
Certificates



As expected, results are in line with the strength of those of 2019, including over 43% A\*/A grades, and over 14% at A\* (greater success at the top grade level than in 2019). Truro School pupils also achieved 89% A\*-A in their EPQs (Extended Project Qualifications) and 56% Distinctions in their Leith's Certificates, alongside their A-Level successes, emphasising the breadth of talent and opportunity in our Sixth Form.

Exceptional achievements are being celebrated across all subject areas from Mathematics to Geology, Economics to Art, History to Music, and beyond. There are many stories of personal empowerment including students who will now go on to Oxford, Durham, Cardiff, Exeter, Bristol, UCL and more, and to read courses as varied as Medicine, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Politics and International Relations, Chemistry, Computer Science, Ecology, Geology, Sports Journalism, and more.

We caught up with some of our students and their families to find out more about their bright futures and what their time at Truro School has given them and you can read their stories here.

Andy Johnson, the Head of Truro School, is delighted. He stated that "We congratulate all who have worked so hard to achieve these outcomes, as they celebrate goals met, or work now with dedicated staff offering ongoing support where plans may change. There is immense care for this year group individually and collectively. They are a superb cohort of young adults whose educational and personal journeys over the last few years have been exciting, challenging, and characterised by real compassion and courage. It has been a privilege to stand by them and work with them across that time, and on behalf of everyone at Truro School, I wish our class of 2023 every success for their future endeavours."

# Prep Speech Day 2023

After such a busy and exciting year at Truro School Prep, it was wonderful to come together as a community of staff, pupils and their families to celebrate the hard work, determination and progress made by our amazing children.

With a presentation to Head Gardener Colin Dower, who is retiring after 49 years of service to Truro School, an inspiring speech from Gillian Burke and some outstanding singing from our boy choristers, it was a truly moving event.

A huge well done to all of our prize winners and thanks to everyone involved in making the occasion so memorable.



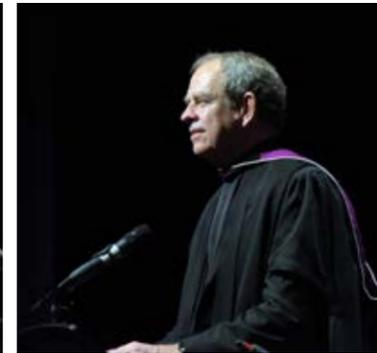
# Senior Speech Day 2023



As our year of compassion drew to a close, Truro School gathered for the final time at the Hall for Cornwall at the end of term. Marking the end of another fabulous school year, it was a rousing celebration of the achievements of all our pupils across the school and an opportunity to bid fond farewells to our 2023 leavers.

Our guest speaker, Old Truronian **Max Levene** CO10, economist and disability awareness campaigner, spoke with humour, poignance and inspiration. He exhorted our pupils to be and become the very best of themselves in the face of any challenges thrown at them. It was wonderful to end the year with a message of such empowerment.

*“Failing is not a disaster but not attempting to try is.”*



Max shared five lessons with our newly welcomed OTs:



1. Be compassionate and support each other. You don't quite know the struggles that others are facing.
2. If you have special people in your life, keep them close and let them know. Nurture those relationships. Tell them you care, and it will help you and it will help them thrive. There will be negative relationships also, but you have to learn which ones are worth your time.
3. Dark times come and go. There will often be problems or things that are difficult but you must treasure the things that bring you happiness. Also know that when things are hard, eventually they will become easier, even if they never become fully resolved.
4. Truro School is a community; use it and add to it. If you are still a student, take the opportunities it offers, be it sport, music, drama. Make the most of it and find your passion. If you are leaving, attend the reunions, keep in touch with people and remain part of that community. You never know what opportunities it might throw your way and having that Truro School connection will ever create bonds.
5. Live your life and say yes to opportunities. I learnt how fragile life can be and I was lucky enough to escape disaster and to live again. Take it from me it's valuable and you must enjoy it and make the most of it.

Thank you to Max for joining us at this auspicious event and representing the Old Truronians.

You can watch in the full the Senior School Speech Day on the Truro School Community YouTube page.

# Old Truronian News

## A MARATHON EFFORT



More than 48,000 runners took part in the London Marathon this year, including two of our Old Truronians **Marianne Kemp CO12** and **Christian Hambly CO97** who both completed the 26.2 mile course with impressive times. Marianne, who was running in aid of Mencap, completed in 3 hours 23 minutes and Christian in 4 hours 21 minutes for the charity Mind.



Marianne explained: As many of you know, I have a wonderful aunty, Lizzie, who has learning disabilities. Lizzie has been supported throughout her adult life by Mencap and she has also helped contribute to their vision, as the voice of someone with a learning disability who is trying to navigate the world in their own way.

Mencap's focus is valuing and supporting those with a learning disability, as well as their families and carers. This is all done in the hope that we can get to a stage where people with a learning disability are valued equally, given a voice and given the opportunity to have the quality of life that every person deserves.

On a final, more running related note, after an osteoporosis diagnosis several years ago, I never thought I would be able to run properly again, let alone a marathon, so this is very special to me and I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to do it to support a cause which has provided so much support to my own family and ensured that Lizzie has the quality of life she deserves.

A big shout out to all my loved ones who have supported me (and run miles with me) - THANK YOU! A further thank you

to everyone who has sponsored me - I am really grateful.

Christian updated us following the marathon: As I sit and type, I am a little broken - my quads are sore, my calves are tight, my hips are sore but I am a very happy boy, mind body and soul. How did I do? Let's start with what was my aim? Have a "good time" and not run a fast time! I walked many sections of the race simply to soak up the atmosphere and appreciate where I was and what was happening... it was unbelievable!

With that said, I ran a 4:21:08 - pretty good all said and done but I did have the time of my life!

How was it? What no one tells you? London is a tough marathon! What with the undulation (yes it is "hilly"), 26.2 miles of tarmac only (especially in sandals), 50,000 people running (constant alert state of being nudged, tripping or stopping) and the dropped bottles/gels (slippy and trippy) - there is nothing easy about London.

What no one can prepare you for? The simply immense nature of the crowds, support and 50,000 runners. It is a life defining experience. It was made all the more mental by me being nearly naked & in sandals...

Crossing Tower Bridge will be an experience I never forget. I walked, clapped and cheered for the spectators (thank you for being there for us all!) and the sight that was London Bridge in the emerging sunshine. The noise and cheers in return were biblical and I felt like a rock star!

Huge congratulations to both - an amazing and worthy achievement.

If any other Old Truronians took part in the London Marathon this year we would be delighted to hear from you.

LINKS TO THEIR FUNDRAISING PAGES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE VIA JUSTGIVING

## MAX LEVENE CO10



**Max Levene CO10** talks fundraising for Back Up and taking part in the 'Snowdon Push' with fellow Old Truronian and friend **Frankie Nevin CO10**

**Max Levene CO10** was on the radio with BBC Cornwall recently talking about his life, career and upcoming fundraising event for the charity Back Up. He will be taking part in the 'Snowdon Push' where teams of 10 to 16, including one member who uses a wheelchair, work together to reach the top of Mount Snowdon and back down again, covering approximately eight miles of steep, mixed surfaced terrain.

He will be taking part in the challenge with support from school friend **Frankie Nevin CO10** and local football team the St Agnes Thirds. Back Up helps people rebuild their lives after spinal cord injury.

He was asked what motivation or advice would you give to someone who have found themselves suddenly living with a disability too?

"There's an awareness that - yes, it's tough and what you are facing it's not going to be easy but there is a light at the end of the tunnel and that if you put the right mindset into you will get the right outcomes in life out of it as well. And don't close yourself off to relationships and friends.

It's very easy to sit and worry that people are going to treat you differently because you are in a wheelchair, but actually what you find is that the more you interact with people, the more they realise you are still the person you once were, if not actually an improved version because of what you have been through, and they want to be around you. You really find out who your friends are and what's good in life."

Max's fundraising webpage for the challenge can be found online on [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com), along with his interview with BBC Radio Cornwall on BBC Sounds.

## JOHN RHYSDAVIES CO62 RETURNS AS SALLAH FOR LATEST INDIANA JONES MOVIE



The Indiana Jones franchise returned in June for its fifth instalment and the return of Old Truronian **John Rhys-Davies' CO62** character, Sallah. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny follows Indiana approaching retirement when a familiar old rival returns forcing him to don his hat and pick up his whip once more to make sure an ancient and powerful artifact doesn't fall into the wrong hands.



LOUIS MURRAY CO23 IMPRESSES HARVARD



England No.1 U17 (2021), squash player Louis Murray is expanding his list of exceptional academic and co-curricular achievements having secured a highly prestigious place at Harvard University.

The talented and dedicated squash player has worked his way up through the ranks competing in South West, England and British Opens. The road to Harvard has been a long and intense one for Louis and Truro School has supported him throughout his journey. In March 2021, under the guidance of Mrs Jupp (Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Overseas Universities Advisor), Louis contacted several US universities and started a series of conversations with their squash coaches, before accepting invites to visit five of those US universities.

Louis stayed at each university for two days: training, living and attending lectures alongside his fellow squash players, giving him a real insight into what life could be like at a US university.

Upon his return to Cornwall, he was thrilled to hear he had been awarded a conditional place at one of the top-ranked universities in the world, Harvard University. Each year, Harvard has up to three places for top squash players. Louis' squash career to date, coupled with substantial academic achievements, no doubt helped secure his place at this globally renowned Ivy League University.

Harvard does not award sport-specific scholarships but offers an extensive package of financial aid to allow students from all backgrounds a chance to attend the university. Louis will receive a generous yearly scholarship when he starts in this September. He will hopefully join a 4-year undergraduate programme in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences with a 'liberal arts and sciences' focus.

Head of Truro School Sixth Form, Ross Williamson, said

*"We are thrilled to hear Louis is off to Harvard. He has worked his socks off to get there, and nobody deserves this opportunity more. We wish him every success and will continue to follow his next steps and future career with genuine enthusiasm."*

Truro School is very well geared up to support pupils applying for overseas places. It succeeds every year in helping students secure places at prestigious international universities. Our dedicated Overseas University Advisor provides expert advice to students and parents, guiding them through the process, coordinating all aspects of their application and, can also advise students on softer skills such as cultural and linguistic awareness.

PETE OLDS CO03



**Pete Olds** CO03 was featured in The Guardian in May talking about life as a poultry farmer and the issues surrounding the industry. Pete's Cornhill Farm has been in his family for four generations, with it being a poultry farm for the last couple decades. Pete shares about the process of selling eggs, how the industry has changed recently with price increases which affect production and the places you can buy his eggs locally.

Read the full article

**Why are eggs so expensive?**

Here's what a farmer and 14,000 hens told me written by Sam Wollaston in the Food section of The Guardian online.

PETER STEWART CO77



**Peter Stewart** CO77 was awarded the Royal Victorian Order for services to the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty The Queen. He is currently Executive Director of Outreach and Development at The Eden Project and attended Truro School from 1970-1977.

OLD TRURONIANS CELEBRATED AS CORNWALL'S "BRIGHTEST YOUNG BUSINESS TALENT"

The cohort of Cornwall's 30 under 30 for 2023 has been revealed. The awards celebrate Cornwall's brightest young talent and are organised by the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. This year we celebrate four of our own Old Truronians who successfully made it to the list, namely, **Ella Davis** CO16, **Alex Rodda** CO14, **Ed Smit** CO13 and **Joe Turnbull** CO09.



**Ella Davis** CO16

"A CEO of the future", Ella Davies has been "an outstanding addition" for Wildanet, playing an active role in the rural broadband provider's growth trajectory. She has helped set up the company's sales team and marketing collateral and worked closely with the CEO on its successful rebrand.

Ella has also worked on the firm's public affairs agenda, including helping to arrange an event with all the local MPs in Cornwall. All this hard work and initiative was recently recognised when Ella was promoted to propositions, insight and data manager at Wildanet, heading her own team.



**Alex Rodda** CO14

It's not just the Cornwall's 30 under 30 judges who have been impressed with Alex Rodda's track record. Last year he was named by industry bible, The Grocer, as one of the six best rising stars in the dairy industry.

Alex's accomplishments are too numerous to be mentioned here, but to give you a flavour he is responsible for managing national retailer and wholesaler accounts for the likes of Marks and Spencer, Ocado and Morrisons. He has also showcased Rodda's Cornish clotted cream abroad with a trip to Japan and attended the Hankyu British Fair alongside brands such as Harrods and Fortnum and Mason.



**Ed Smit** CO13

After graduating in marine biology from University of Exeter, rather than a career in science, Ed Smit opted to pursue a lifelong passion in film and set about creating a film studio that he hoped would one day give creatives from Falmouth something worth getting excited about.

Over the past five years, together with co-founder Ollie Couch, Ed has built Here Now to become a truly national studio delivering work across the UK and abroad with all the editing and skills being fulfilled by creatives right here in Cornwall. Clients include the likes of FatFace, AirBnB, Finisterre and RedBull TV, while Here Now Films also recently delivered a 30-minute documentary for BBC World to an audience of over 100 million.



**Joe Turnbull** CO09

Joe's leadership at Penryn-based video production company Bull & Wolf has led to further growth this year, with the team expanding from four to seven and a 60% rise in sales. Throughout the last year Joe has helped build a strong team of creatives, who have recently gone on to win two awards at the 2023 AVA Digital Awards.

A regular on the business speaker circuit, Joe was recently invited to participate in BBC's Share Your Story, a roadshow talking to students about careers in the creative sector. Joe champions doing business in a better way and to this effort Bull & Wolf is a certified Living Wage Foundation Employer and currently in the verification stage for B-Corp certification.

Chamber CEO, Kim Conchie said: "We had entrepreneurs, change makers, prosperity creators and eco-warriors from a huge cross section of businesses and business support, all adding to the magic that makes living and working in Cornwall so special."

**LUCY COTTON CO09 RETURNS FOR SCIENCE FAIR**



Lucy is a geologist based in Cornwall and is the Geothermal Group Manager for GeoScience Limited. She first joined GeoScience as an intern in 2012 after completing a BSc in geology at Cardiff University and returned annually until joining the company full time in 2017 following her MSc at University College Cork.

Lucy was the Lead Site Geologist during the drilling of both deep geothermal projects in the UK - the United Downs Deep Geothermal Power project and most recently, Eden Geothermal. Currently, Lucy is focused on assessing the "size of the prize" for mine water geothermal, specifically from abandoned Cornish tin mines and is working with the geothermal team to establish the viability of using mine water geothermal from Geevor, Levant and Botallack, for space heating on the tin coast.

Lucy is passionate about establishing a diverse and inclusive geothermal industry in the UK and, in her role as UK County Ambassador for WING (Women in Geothermal) is keen to encourage more women and girls to pursue a career in the geothermal sector through outreach and education.

At the science fair pupils were quizzed about why they chose their topic, how they devised their experiment (and controlled variables), what they found out, the limitations of their investigations and what future work could be done.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year scientists exhibited their projects for this year's science fair final. Following earlier rounds, the finalists had to prepare to answer questions from leading industry professionals including Old Truronian **Lucy Cotton**, CO09 and lead geologist on geothermal projects for Geoscience. Lucy, joined Truro School in 2004, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year following in the footsteps of other family members including, **Juliet Dunbar** CO91 (cousin), and **Roger Dunbar**, TS 1964 –2006 (uncle) who taught Classics and Ancient History for many years.



**OLD TRURONIANS NOW OWN SKINNER'S BREWERY**

Skinner's - one of Cornwall's much-loved breweries which collapsed has been taken over by another Cornish beer producer, Goodh Brewing Co, which rescued the business earlier this year.

Indian Queens-based Goodh, owned by Old Truronians **Louis Simpson** CO03 and **Jess Simpson** CO06, has taken the renowned Cornish brand under its wing.

Skinner's Brewery shocked its many fans in the autumn when it announced it had gone bust. The brewery, famous for its beers such as Betty Stogs, Porthleven and Lushingtons, closed its doors for good after 25 years on October 6, 2022.

**VISIT FROM REBECCA HARVEY (NEE COWARD) CO95 AND CONNIE SCHNIEDER CO95**



Rebecca, Connie and Jemima – who helped organised the reunion on the day. Jemima is also CO95 and works in the Marketing Department at the School.

In April it was a delight to welcome back Rebecca and Connie to the school site for a look around and a reminder of what their old classrooms looked like. Rebecca now works as a GP, and lives close-by in Truro with her family. Connie works in international affairs at a senior level for United Nations.

**VALERIA DUCA CO14**

**Valeria Duca** CO14 continues to make impressive waves and impact in the world of fine art. In Autumn 2022 Valeria exhibited a series of works as a result of her volunteer support in her home country of Moldova for refugees of the ongoing Ukrainian war. Deeply affected by her experiences, Valeria felt driven to paint a series of works in response which were auctioned to raise money for Médecins Sans Frontières, a charity working tirelessly to change lives for the better across the region. Valeria says:

"... in March of 2022 I went back to Moldova to volunteer and document, in the way that I could, the refugee crisis. I thought it was important to paint about this, so I made a series of works of refugees sleeping. The Ukrainians that I met on the ground, often didn't have anything with them other than a bag of random things taken in a rush and a couple of euros. People need so little for safety. A shelter, food and quiet.

The beds were often just a mattress on the floor, put there in a rush, in student accommodations, old hospital wings or even sports arenas. I will always remember the stacks of clothes, the mountains of pillows and duvets, and the bedding sheets. Every time there was mismatch in the patterns of the sheets, I would think - that's another person who has donated, these things are brought here by so many different people.

I still find it complicated to gather my thoughts about the time I spent in Moldova in March of this year. I think it's just surreal that we live in a day and age when bloody wars intertwine with dance routines on TikTok. I honestly thought that the biggest problem my generation would face would be climate change, trying to be sustainable seems a large enough problem on its own. I thought the biggest venture of my generation would be space, flying to Mars, opening new horizons. I thought, naively that we're outside history, part of an epilogue... It seemed to me that everything that could have happened has already happened. The best music had been written. The best paintings had been painted. The most brutal wars had been fought. So, when on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, Russia invaded Ukraine, this whole understanding of life went away.



What helped me, along these months, rather than shut down from reality and pretend it isn't happening, was to concentrate on the kindness that people show. Moldova, for example, a small country of only 3 million people, hosted over 100,000 refugees at its peak, the most percentage of refugees per capita. There is force in kindness, and that should be celebrated.

And there was so much kindness that I witnessed in Moldova: The hundreds of drivers that signed up to be contacted at ANY time of day or night, to drive for free; Ruslan, the Ukrainian refugee who became an active volunteer, carrying newcomers' bags at the Manej Sportshall in Chisinau; The man who transformed his newly opened Squash Club in a shelter; The girl who travelled from Israel to take care of Ukrainian children's playtime while parents were concerned with logistics; The man who came back to Moldova after spending twenty years in New York, to help his religious community; the hotel near the Ukraine boarder, that ran out of money by the second week, because they were giving all the food away for free; The NGO

activist, that was delivering trash bins and children's toys to refugee centres, while consulting on the need to manage the donations in a sustainable way. The girl that re-oriented her home patisserie start-up business to deliver goods to the refugees at her own expense. The taxis that refused fares. The art exhibitions in support of the Ukrainian artists. The love, the giving, the understanding, the community that came together. Empathy is stronger than fear. And while most Moldovans I know lived with their bags packed the whole of spring, ready to leave the country in of fear of Russian expansion; they spent their days helping. Many volunteered to the brink of exhaustion. They didn't sleep, so that others could rest.

Why? Because people want to live in peace. I tried to capture in this series of works the most peaceful moments I found in the middle of a crisis – people sleeping. One realises how much power there is kindness, when a whole society comes together to make moments like these possible."

- Valeria Duca, Spring 2022



**REB FISHER-JACKSON CO16 IS CHOSEN FOR IRIS PRIZE**

In January 2023, Reb was contacted by the Iris Prize to be one of their portrait sitters for the 'Pink Portraits Revisited' project, which is part of the LGBTQ+ History Month's 'Behind the Lens' campaign. The project revisits the original 2010 'Pink Portraits' that celebrated LGBTQ+ identifying people working in media (including the likes of Sir Ian McKellen and Stephen Fry), but this time focusing on the next generation. Ten LGBTQ+ identifying creatives and filmmakers in Wales were chosen to sit for the portraits to celebrate the future of the industry.

Reb says "I am so extremely proud to have been selected as one of the 10 sitters, in my capacity as a script supervisor and emerging writer/director! The Iris Prize was supported in this project by Ffotogallery and Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd which makes my involvement all the more meaningful: I came out as a lesbian five years ago during LGBTQ+ History Month whilst I was an English Literature student at Cardiff University, so to go back half a decade later for the opening ceremony - accompanied by my very supportive parents and my fiancée Lauren Taylor - was an absolute dream."

Reb's portrait has been available to view on posters around Cardiff Students' Union Centre for Student Life, the JOMEC building, University of South Wales ATRIUM, and on a Jackarts billboard. You can read Reb's profile on the Iris Prize's website.

**ALICE JEFFERSON CO08 RETURNS TO LEAD SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN HER ROLE AS HEAD OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE AT SHELTERBOX**

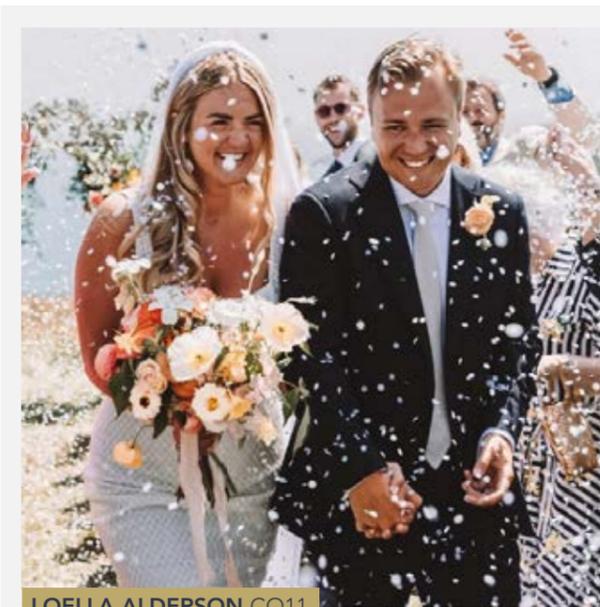


The Senior School Charity Day got underway in autumn term in support of two local charities, ShelterBox and Cornwall Christmas Box.

Each form collected items for Christmas boxes, which were given out to families in need last Christmas. In addition, assemblies that week focused on the importance of compassion, particularly at a difficult time for many.

We were also pleased to welcome Alex and Old Truronian Alice CO08 from ShelterBox, who joined the assembly to talk about the importance of giving and to share updates on their latest project.

Read more about Alice's time at Truro School and her work with ShelterBox in this issue of the Truronian.



**LOELLA ALDERSON CO11**

Loella's sister **Jessica CO08** shared the lovely news that Loella was married earlier this year to her new husband Charles. She says: "My incredible sister/co-founder married her perfect personality match at a beautiful ceremony in Cornwall. In terms of their personality types, Louella is an ESFJ, and Charles is an ISTP. They met eight years ago and instantly clicked, for all the reasons we would pair them together on So Syncd. Lou's warm, outgoing nature perfectly complements Charles's calm, analytic approach to life. They truly are made for each other."

Congratulations to the happy couple!

**MARTYN LONG CO65 VISIT TO SCHOOL**



Martyn Long visited in September for a tour of the Chapel, the Dining Hall and to view the boarding houses. Martyn attended Truro School as a boarder from Winchester in 1958 and stayed on to complete O-Levels in 1964. After leaving Martyn worked for one year at the local council offices, before teaching and then a career in the Fire Service as Contingence Planning Officer.

Martyn recalled various stories of how school was during his time, the lunches, and what boarding was like from Pentrewe to Hall (now Trennick). He remembered a group of boys discovering some home-made red wine under the floor boards of the cricket pavilion, only for them to enter the Dining Hall at tea time intoxicated. Inevitably they were called to the Head's office...

Old Truronians are very welcome to visit the School. Contact the Development team to arrange.

**80 NOT OUT REUNION ON ZOOM**



Old Truronians from the 1952-1959 era reunited virtually in May for their 80 Not Out meeting. Les Rendell shared that plans are afoot for small reunions in Devon and Cornwall, meanwhile virtual reunions are taking place already and exchanges via email occur almost daily.

Screenshot taken by Roger Yeo.  
**Top l-r:** Les Rendell CO59, Roger Yeo CO59, Claude Bennetts CO59 and John Speake CO59 (from Australia).  
**Middle l-r:** Nigel Holman CO59, Gerald Sturtridge CO59, John Wood CO60 and Mark Harvey CO56  
**Bottom l-r:** Brian Thomas CO59, David Way CO59, Tim Harvey CO59 and Bob Haslock CO60

**JACK CLIFFORD-WING CO14**

Old Truronian Jack Clifford-Wing CO14 has reason to celebrate recently after his business The Cornish Fishmonger was named the "Best Online Retailer" in last year's Taste of the West Awards.



The awards promote food and drink producers from Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. They were up against four other respected retailers for the awards, which took place in Exeter and were presented by the BBC's Victoria Graham.

The judges said "The fish we purchased, was outstanding. Beautiful, fresh Mackerel, Salmon, Sardines and Trout. Expertly filleted and sealed for freshness. Some of the best fish we have had. Highly recommended and we will become customers in the future along with recommendation to our contacts. Brilliant packaging and delivery as well. Well done The Cornish Fishmonger, what a professional service."

**RUBEN WHEELER CO21**



We are delighted to share that we received news from Old Truronian **Ruben Wheeler CO21** recently that he was successful in receiving a full scholarship to the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. The NYCDA is a small, selective conservatory offering an individualised and collaborative learning experience.

We wish all the best to Ruben with his move to New York and further studies having received this brilliant achievement.

# Peter Cole CO62



Peter attended Truro School from 1952-1956. He retired in 2020 after a career in law and is enjoying being a busy grandfather in Canada where he now lives.



**Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?**

Yes and no! I loved Treliske but not so much the Senior School. In early 1956 I ran away from TS with my friend, **John Rhys-Davies** CO62, and made it to Falmouth where we spent a cold night sleeping on a park bench as I recall. An alert bobby found us the next morning as we were eyeing a row boat to hide in. The Headmaster, **A Lowrie Creed** 1946-1959, was not amused! Neither were my parents. And shortly after we were off to Canada which was one of my father's boyhood dreams come true.

**Where do you live now?**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

**If you have now moved away from Cornwall, do you manage to visit the county and have you ever come back to Truro School for a visit?**

I was at Treliske and Truro School in 1996 for my only trip back.

**Where do you work now and where is your employment based?**

I am retired as of 2020. I was a lawyer with a general practice in a small town south of Winnipeg. I did everything from the usual solicitor's work to some civil litigation, a fair amount of family litigation and criminal law.

**What does your current role entail?**

Being a grandfather! I have two grandsons who keep me very busy.

**Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?**

Being of service to my legal clients honourably and ethically for 45 years. I can honestly say I have no regrets in that regard. I did my best at all times. I was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1997 and I served as a bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba for 8 years at which point, I became a Life Bencher. I chaired or belonged to most of the Law Society's committees.

I also engaged in a fair amount of charitable work in my community and in Winnipeg with certain arts groups.

I did run twice for the Liberal Party of Canada as a candidate for MP but did not get elected. I lived in a very Conservative riding! I was also a Vice-President of the Liberal Party of Manitoba and served as a campaign chairman in numerous provincial elections and as Official Agent in two federal elections. Being involved in politics led to my meeting many of the leading lights in Canadian politics in the 1970's and 1980's, including two Prime Ministers, Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chretien.

**Did you consider any other career?**

I was a lecturer in history at the University of Manitoba for a year before becoming an assistant archivist for the Province of Alberta. If a friend of mine who was a professor at the Manitoba Law School had not persuaded me to try Law school, I would probably have gone on to do a PhD in history. I still have an abiding love of history and read history books like most people read novels.

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

I will say that a good general education is still really important to lay the groundwork for any career. The first undergraduate degree should be in a variety of things that really interest you. Let your intellectual curiosity run wild! You can specialise later in career oriented studies but nothing will prepare you for a well-rounded life better than a general knowledge of history, science, literature, philosophy and political science. And

Grandsons Evan and Max



Above: My daughters, Andria and Vicky, 2019. Below L: Me and my wife. Below R: All of us at a cottage on Lake Winnipeg.



practicing law involves a lot more than a bare bones knowledge of legal precedent and statutes. To do it well you have to understand people and the context of their predicaments and needs. Knowing about the world in which they live and function is really essential to providing worthwhile advice. I have an Honours BA, a Master's degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree, but I still think my first arts degree was the most important.

**Please tell us a little about your family life**

Married with two grown daughters. Both very successful. One is a division manager for Manitoba Hydro in Winnipeg and the other runs a very successful dog grooming and boarding business in Calgary, Alberta. The Winnipeg daughter is married and has two wonderful boys who are the centre of our lives.

**Are any of your family still located in Cornwall?**

No. Actually my family lived in Lifton, Devon, which is only 4 miles from

Cornwall so I guess close enough! My father was Welsh and my mother came from Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?**

Reading lots of books, mainly history. Photography and vintage computers are also hobbies. I also like building things for the house.

**Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?**

No, sadly.

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

A positive yes for Treliske. As for the Senior School it did accelerate my departure for Canada which obviously completely changed my life.

**What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?**

Stay healthy!

# Maddison Fletcher CO14



## Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?

Yes absolutely! I moved to Truro School when I was 13 (in 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and loved every second of it, right up until Upper Sixth. I lived in Penzance at the time so the commute to and from school was long but always worth it.

## Do you have any special or specific memories of your time at Truro school?

My Economics lessons with **Miss Thompson** (Director of Student Progression 2012-2017) were always my favourite. We only had a small class of about 6 or 7 of us so it was great fun! Miss Thompson was the reason I went onto study Economics at University. The Madrid trips were always stand out for me as well.

## Did you have any siblings or other relations at Truro School? If so what are their names:

Yes I have a younger brother, **Jim Fletcher** CO17.

## Did you have any specific career dreams or aspirations? Or when did you first decide upon a particular path?

I have had many different career aspirations. From a young age I dreamed of being a dancer. This then progressed into an Architect and then Investment Banker after studying Economics at A-Level. However, ultimately, I have always wanted to work for myself. The freedom aspect was the most appealing for me.

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

After completing my A-Levels I went on to study Economics at Cardiff University. Then, after graduating I went on to do something completely different - I worked for Ibiza Rocks Hotel for two summers in Ibiza. I have always loved the island after our first holiday post A-Level exams. In November 2019 I moved to Manchester where I stayed during the lockdown and worked as an Account Executive for a local foods company.

## Where do you live now?

I live in Ibiza now! After living here for two summers I knew it was the place for me. I made Ibiza my permanent home in March 2022.

## If you have now moved away from Cornwall, do you manage to visit the county and have you ever come back to Truro School for a visit?

Since making the permanent move I haven't actually made it back to the UK. Now that I live in Ibiza I have quite a few friends coming out to visit me as you can imagine! I plan to spend a bit of time in Cornwall over Christmas, it will be nice to see my family. A few years ago I came back to Truro School talk to the Economics students about studying the subject at University, it was great to catch up with a few of my teachers.

## Where do you work now and where is your employment based?

I live and work in Ibiza. I have my own business, Fou Furnishings. The business and the warehouse is based in the UK however I carry everything out remotely.

## What does your current role entail?

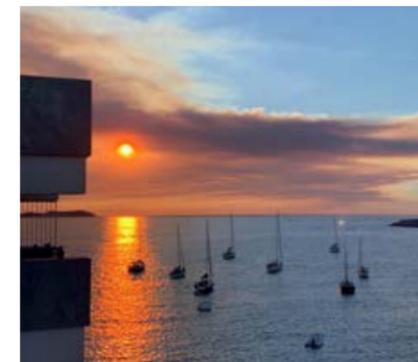
Fou Furnishings sells luxury, organic bedding to both homes and hotels. So day to day I'm liaising with trade customers, fabric suppliers and our manufactures. The pandemic and Brexit were big obstacles for us. Shipping costs have greatly increased and organic cotton was scarce for a long time. However, we have recovered well and it's onwards and upwards from here!

## Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?

For me, Ibiza is the only thing I have always been 100% certain on. So, making Ibiza my permanent home has been my biggest achievement in my opinion. That and being able to work for myself and making my own hours. Oh and my degree - I found exams extremely challenging so I was extremely pleased when I achieved a 2:1!

## Did you consider any other career?

Working for myself has always been my main goal, the field never really mattered too much to me. I knew absolutely nothing about bedding or organic cotton a couple years ago, but now I run a business that sells organic cotton sheets!



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

My advice: don't be afraid to change something if it's not working for you. I first went to Royal Holloway University after leaving school. I knew this wasn't the right place for me after two terms so I left and re-applied. Going to Cardiff University was the best choice for me, I absolutely loved Cardiff. That's not to say you should give something up when it becomes hard! Just don't keep carrying on a path that you know isn't right for you. Secondly, if things don't go the way you expected - just go with it. Everything happens for a reason.

## Please tell us a little about your family life

I used to live just outside of Penzance with my parents, Adam and Julie, and my brother, Jim. The majority of my family live in South Cornwall. My parents' business in amusement arcades, which my brother is now heavily involved in.

## Are any of your family still located in Cornwall?

Yes the majority of my family all live in Cornwall and always have done.

## What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?

My passion is music so the majority of my leisure time is spent enjoying all that the island has to offer! Making clothes is another hobby of mine, so I like to make the odd outfit from time to time.

## Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?

Yes, I'm in regular contact with two of my best friends **Beth Angove** CO14 and **Mary Ford** CO14. They both live in London so I try to see them as often as I can when I'm in the UK.

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

You were always pushed to be your best, whatever that may be. This really helped propel me into university life and beyond.

## What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?

I want to further grow my business and continue to enjoy island life!

# Christian Hambly CO95



I have been a lucky boy - this year I ran the London Marathon. I've dreamed of running the marathon since I started running and always planned to a) run it for a charity b) in fancy dress



I ran the London Marathon 2023 for Mind because of the depression I suffered due to low B12.

After leaving Truro I went onto Liskeard College - doing A-Levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics. From there I went to Swansea University on a scholarship studying Chemistry.

I've had a wild and varied career - primarily based in IT but with a good smattering of Customer Service, Sales, Marketing, Consultancy across many industries including pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicine and telecoms.

I've realised that I am a polymath and unfortunately this doesn't fit into many traditional corporate roles. So I had a complete re-evaluation of work and ended up working at Apple.

After 6 years of a whirlwind career with Apple culminating in being a Trainer as well as product expert. I left to setup two businesses.

The now closed, Great British Web Company where I was technical director. My business partner and I had lots of fun, learnt loads and built a solid client base but our hearts were never truly built for websites.

We parted ways professionally (but remain great friends) and I setup as FreelanceGeek Ltd ([www.FreelanceGeek.co.uk](http://www.FreelanceGeek.co.uk)), where it is me, being a polymath - specialising in working with SME's helping them with anything IT as well as healthy discussions about life, the universe and everything.

I've left Cornwall having bounced around most of Southern England with different jobs/roles and find myself in Milton Keynes.

It was completely by accident that I find myself in the city of concrete cows and roundabouts but it has a hidden secret - lots of green space.

I live with my partner of 14 years Alexe and our dog, Lizzie (the greyhound) - 5 minutes walk from the grand union

canal, 3 lakes and a huge parkland. Lots of walks, cycles and of course, running

As I approached 40, I found that I was personally in a bad place. I had an unhealthy relationship with alcohol, an ok diet and I walked a bit. I was in a dark space and felt I needed to do something about it.

Side note: I've never been sporty - anyone from TS will attest to that. I was the least sporty person you will ever meet. And I certainly was never going to run, everyone was getting into the trendy parkruns and that was not for me.

So in my head I decided to run, I announced this to Alexe, who promptly fell off the sofa.

I don't ever do things by half - "go big or go home".

I'd met a lovely lady whilst out walking the dogs one sunny summers day called Sheila. She and I got talking because of our footwear. I'd started to explore "barefoot walking" to help with my bad back.

Turns out Sheila is a running coach and accomplished Ultra runner - all whilst barefoot. Needless to say we got on. So I tracked her down and from Day 0, I had a coach to help me on my running journey.

I tried shoes... once. It wasn't for me.

So after Couch to 5k and loving it. I trained for 10km then half marathon. Might as well train for a marathon right?

3 months later - I completed my first marathon (26.2 miles or 42km) in 2018.

Why not try running a 40 miler in my 40<sup>th</sup> year? I'd caught the bug.

So for my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday I ran the Brecon Beacons ultra. 46 miles, in Brecon Beacons, in November... in sandals. It was "fun", hard and beautiful



**What else?**  
12 marathons in 12 months from my first marathon

Green Man Ultra (Bristol), Barefoot champion

Country to capital, 46 miler, Wendover to Little Venice

Winder Poppyline, Norfolk coast 50 miler

25 marathon or beyond distances completed

**How far can I run?**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - South Down Way 100 miler, running from Winchester to Eastbourne in one go. No sleep, no stopping, no shoes. 26hrs 52 minutes later and I've completed "coach to

100 miler" in under 100 weeks training. One of the proudest days of my life with the best support team and friends along for the ride.

2022 was a game of 2 halves for me, I completed another challenge run - 1,000 miles in 100 days. I was knackered!!

I then had 6 months of crazy depression and had no idea why? Turns out I have a B12 deficiency - amazing what issues it can cause.

So this year, I ran the London Marathon 2023 whilst raising money for Mind in fancy dress. if you want to know more: <https://run.christianhambly.co.uk>

# Dan Hill CO20



Follow your gut and heart - if you love something, chances are you'll enjoy putting the work in to do well.

**Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?**  
I didn't have the easiest path throughout my secondary school years, but I would say I enjoyed my time at Truro School as much as I possibly could given my circumstances. I definitely thrived much more than I would have at any other school and felt so lucky to be able to have all of the opportunities presented to me. I really started to grow into myself in Sixth Form, filling those two years with some very fond memories.

**Do you have any special or specific memories of your time at Truro school?**  
More than anything I have especially fond memories of the Geography office, with it essentially being my safe place for the entirety of Sixth Form. Any time someone wanted me, I was most likely sitting on the sofa in there. I loved the quiet comfort that I was so lucky to have access to through Geography, and the way I could tell from Mrs Wormald's (Head of Geography) tone of voice when she needed me to make her an emergency cup of tea - I'm sure the years below must have thought I was some kind of magical tea-bearing Geography goblin. The room was slowly yellow-ified to my liking and I've lost track of how many naps I took on the sofa or trances I went into listening to the rain hitting the window. I have many more special memories at Truro School but my associations with the Geography office will always be the most positive, from my hardest moments to my happiest.

**Did you have any siblings or other relations at Truro School? If so what are their names:**  
My brother Adam Hill is in Sixth Form at the moment.

**Did you have any specific career dreams or aspirations? Or when did you first decide upon a particular path?**  
No. Although I seem like someone who would want to have it all planned out, I generally act on impulse and instinct when it comes to my career dreams and aspirations. I choose what I enjoy (Geography) and when something comes up that seems interesting, I look into it. I would say that I aspire to have a career in Geography, but that would be a moot point, because as I'm sure everyone who has been taught by Mrs Wormald will know, everything is Geography (and Geography is everything).

**What did you do immediately after leaving Truro School?**  
Cry, cry some more, then isolate for nearly 2 years alongside starting a Geography degree at the University of Bristol.

I also did a few virtual internships, one before university (when I would've been doing my A-levels) and two in my first year at Bristol.

**Where do you live now?**  
Bristol!

**If you have now moved away from Cornwall, do you manage to visit the county and have you ever come back to Truro School for a visit?**  
I visit less often than I should to see my dogs, and when I go home my family also happen to live there so I get to see them too which is a nice bonus. It's nice that my dogs let my family live with them. I've come back to TS loads of times; they practically can't keep me out. I secretly still have my band, even though I know it won't work. I can dream.

**Where do you work now and where is your employment based?**  
I'm still at university but over the summer I'm a Barista at Starbucks in Gordano Services (extravagant, I know). I also work for the university as a student representative.

**What does your current role entail?**  
Coffee and cleaning and talking to tired motorway drivers. Alternatively, raving about Geography to endless streams of prospective students and their overly keen or majorly disinterested parents.

**Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?**  
Honestly, I am proud of every single thing I have ever achieved. It sounds like a generic answer, but if I don't look back and be proud of myself, I think I wouldn't be appreciating the daily effort I put in, and still do, in order to be who I am today and surpass any expectations I had of myself. I'm proud of myself for my unashamed queerness throughout school, which was by no means an easy path - I stood up for myself and never hid who I am from anyone. I'm proud of the grades I achieved both at GCSE and at A-level, whilst balancing my studies with my disabilities and advocating for my needs in and out of the classroom. I'm proud of myself for getting over my immense fear of public speaking, mostly through presenting the charity committee talks in chapel, so that now

I can spontaneously stand up in front of a full lecture theatre and feel like I'm on top of the world. I'm proud of myself for deciding after the pandemic that it was time to be 'confident Dan', applying to two internships, getting them both, and doing them in my first year while a pandemic threatened my life on the daily. Sometimes I do have to remind myself of everything I'm proud of myself for, even the things most people would consider unexceptional, that I achieved 'despite'.

**Is there any advice you could offer anyone considering a similar life or career path?**  
If you're considering a similar life to me, you're going to love it. Follow your gut and heart - if you love something, chances are you'll enjoy putting the work in to do well. Say yes to the opportunities that really call to you, even if in the application process you tell yourself 'It's fine, I'll just use this as interview practice'. Say no when you need to, even if you feel like you should do something but don't feel able to. Be enthusiastic, try things you wouldn't normally, embrace every little thing about you that would make someone remember you as 'the stranger who...'. Love yourself excessively, like way too much, but in a fun confident way not a narcissistic 'better than everyone' way. Do the boring work so doors open to the fun work. That's what I did, and it seems to be going okay, even when everything crumbles around me and I'm celebrating the fact that I washed enough spoons to be able to eat cereal this morning.

**Please tell us a little about your family life**  
My mum, Amanda, works insanely hard for me and my brother. I am so unbelievably grateful for everything she does, even if it is for a company I wholeheartedly and passionately detest on a moral basis (as everyone around me knows). My dad, Philip, is an absolute idiot and I love him even more because of it - he'd drop everything for me if I needed him to. Adam's a weird one because he's so very normal and I am so very not, but he's lovely, empathetic, sensitive - I'm so proud of him. Very sappy. We are a strange bunch but I suppose it works.

**What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?**  
A couple of months ago I decided that I'd actually try and get hobbies, so now I'm one of those people who does a little bit of everything - rounders, art, gaming (the normal video kind, the board kind, and the nerdy kind), swing dancing (wildcard, I know), writing, music, clubbing (with more than necessary levels of intoxication), cooking, fossil hunting... the list goes on.

**Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?**  
Yes! I see **Lottie Millar** CO20 - one of my closest friends from school - all the time, because clubs in Exeter are shockingly awful, so she comes to Bristol to actually have a life. I did go to Exeter once, which was certainly an interesting and enjoyable night. I see **Cat Boote** CO20 when she's not busy doing all of her incredible actress things, and it's always like we never spent a day apart. And of course, I'm still in touch with the loveliest of lovely Jo Wormald, because how could I not be at this point?!

**Do you feel your time at School, or anything about your time here, helped you to progress in later life?**  
Absolutely. Without the support I got from a huge number of teachers and other staff at Truro School, I don't think I would have had the ability to become who I am today (subjectively, brilliant, but I'm biased), or it would have at least taken a much longer time. Obviously, the grades are helpful, but I value so much more the support I gained elsewhere in terms of my personal, emotional, and social development.

**What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?**  
I just impulsively applied for a job with the Soil Association to go round to schools educating them about the importance of food sustainability. But assuming I don't get that job, I was planning to do a panic 'I don't want to enter the real world yet' masters, in Geography at Bristol, of course.

Since the time of writing Dan has since confirmed that they are looking forward to starting a masters degree in Geography at Bristol next year.

# Louis Simpson CO03



I would walk over hot coals to ensure my children get the same chance I did in attending Truro School.



**Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?**

*I loved it. Some of my fondest memories are of time spent at the School. Sending my children there has been my driving force in starting my own business.*

**Do you have any special or specific memories of your time at Truro school?**

*Many. Though they include such events as having three detentions on a single lunch time (late homework, talking in class). Being recognised by all staff was important and valued. Beyond the education the friendships I formed are the most important part of my Truro School experience.*

**Did you have any siblings or other relations at Truro School? If so what are their names:**

**Abraham Simpson** CO09, **Charlie Simpson** CO05, **Joe Simpson** CO12, **Emily Simpson, Gemma Simpson** CO02. Brother and cousins.

**Did you have any specific career dreams or aspirations? Or when did you first decide upon a particular path?**

*No, I had one driving motivation and that was to send my children to private school. Whatever career could offer this was of interest to me. So long as I didn't end up in the sea! I am terrified of sharks etc.*

**What did you do immediately after leaving Truro School?**

*Worked for call centres to build a fund for my own business. The work was not my ideal but the pay was great.*

**Where do you live now?**

*Summercourt, Cornwall.*

**Where do you work now and where is your employment based?**

*Director of multiple companies in Cornwall, with a retail store in Bromley.*

**What does your current role entail?**

*Everything. I do what other people are not available to do on any given day and enjoy working in the kitchen / buying collections from Warhammer.*

**Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?**

*Being able to send my children to Truro School.*

**Did you consider any other career?**

*I trained to be a financial advisor as I like maths and money but I left this to get real world business experience. Had I been naturally talented I would have loved to sing, draw, play an instrument or dance. Sadly these were far from viable options!*

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

*Learn from others mistakes. So often wins are based on right time right place but losses are easy to avoid repeating.*

**Please tell us a little about your family life**

*I have a wife and two kids and they are my motivation. My dad and uncles all went to Truro.*

**Are any of your family still located in Cornwall?**

*Almost all. My wife (**Jess Simpson** CO06) parents moved to Scotland as they have roots there but all four of their children went to Truro (**Andrew** CO09, **Katie** CO05, **Charlotte King**).*

**What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?**

*I enjoy my work and watching football. I particularly enjoy cooking in our taproom or buying extensive Warhammer collections.*

**Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?**

*A lot of people though not as regularly as I might like. I have time for all my old*



*classmates and really enjoy whenever they reach out. I recently started talking to **Chris Cooke** CO03 after years of no communication. We sent each other some alcohol and had great conversations like it had been only days since we last spoke. **Sam Healey** CO03, **Francis Clarke** CO03 and **John Perry** CO03 are people I am most in touch with from my own school friends. Jess has a far better connection with old school friends. Two are godparents to our children! (**Jess Hudson** CO06 and **Jess Hagley** CO06) A lot of Jess!*

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

*Absolutely to the point I would walk over hot coals to ensure my children get the same chance I did in attending Truro School.*

**What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?**

*I do not aspire to take over the world. I just want to enjoy and diversify my daily work while setting up a foundation in business for my children to move into.*

# Sam Willsher CO03



**Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?**  
Immensely! So much so that I jumped at the chance to work at Truro School when the opportunity arose. Looking back though, I am not sure a 16-year-old Sam would have believed that one day I would return as a member of staff and actually be allowed in the staff room.

**Do you have any special or specific memories of your time at Truro school?** So many to mention! I lived on the Isles of Scilly and was a boarder at both the Prep and Senior Schools from 1994 to 2001. Being a boarder meant that I was lucky enough to experience so many special Truro School memories.

Sport was my thing at School and as soon as I started at Treliske (now Truro School Prep) I went to every sports club going. That's the great thing about being a boarder, you could go to every after-school club and I took every opportunity that came my way. I was keen to show **Mr Hobson** (Hockey),

**Mr Neale** (Football) and **Mr Lear** (Rugby) my sporting enthusiasm and was warmly welcomed into the school's sports teams.

A standout Prep School memory that I look back fondly on were the adventures that we had after evening Prep in the 'side woods'. In small groups we would patrol the outer borders of the school grounds on the hunt for wayward golf balls from Truro golf course.

We would trade different golf ball makes and colours. I'm pleased to report that this tradition is still going strong. Ironically, today's Prep School pupils are highly likely to find some of my wayward golf balls when teeing off from the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole.

Playing in the Senior School's 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby team whilst still in the 5<sup>th</sup> Year was a personal sporting achievement which I was really proud of. Receiving my Rugby colours tie (which I still wear occasionally at work) in a whole school assembly meant so much.

I can also clearly remember receiving my end of term 1<sup>st</sup> Year school report from Poltisco Housemaster **Mr Collinge** (TS Teacher of Mathematics 1988-2016). I was instantly surprised and taken aback when he praised me for my drastic improvement and near straight A\* grades. Only to quickly discover (to Mr Collinge's horror) that he had picked up **Samantha** (Sam) **Abraham nee Wilshaw's** CO03 report card and not mine in error. At least, for a few short moments I got to experience what it was like to be an A grade student!

**Did you have any specific career dreams or aspirations? Or when did you first decide upon a particular path?**  
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year we were tasked with delivering a career presentation to the class. **Mr Vanstone** CO88 and **Mr Golds** (TS Teacher of French and English, among other subjects 1968-2007) were our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year form tutors. I sat there in awe of many of my classmates

who at that early age already knew what career path they wanted to pursue. They knew what subjects they had to study at GCSE, A Level and at university to achieve their goals.

At 14 I was less committed than my peers on knowing what I wanted to be when I was older. I come from an entrepreneurial family and grew up within the family business – Papers Past. This unique business sells original newspapers from the day you were born. Growing up around the family business meant I learnt first-hand the importance of talking to customers, selling products and how a business was run. From memory, my career presentation was on becoming a Sales Rep (I think) getting leads and closing deals sounded fun to me and on reflection isn't too far off the mark from how my career journey developed.

**What did you do immediately after leaving Truro School?**

Shh! Don't tell anyone, but after leaving Truro School at the end of my GCSE's I went to the 'other educational establishment' up the road in Truro. This was a hard decision to make as I didn't want my Truro School journey to end. However, in hindsight it was the right decision for me at that time in my life. I successfully completed a sports diploma course with the view to study a sport related course at university and potentially become a PE teacher. However, one subject on my course which stood out for me was the Business Studies module. Upon finishing my sports diploma and still not knowing 100% what I wanted to do as a career left me at a crossroads. After much thought and wanting to keep my career options broad I started a business degree at Cornwall Business School run in partnership by Plymouth University. The transferable skills which I gained from my love of sport backed up with the experience of gaining my business degree (along with my time at Truro School) set me up well for life in the real world!

**Where do you live now?**

As a family we live in Truro. I'm lucky enough to be able to walk to work after dropping my older two children off at primary school. When walking up the path to the main school building,

I often get flashbacks of my time at Truro School. A standout memory was one evening that we used a longboard to luge down the 'snake.' No doubt we took inspiration from the movie Cool Runnings but I certainly would not recommend this activity now after speed bumps have been installed.

**Where do you work now and where is your employment based?**

Truro School, or more accurately the Tower Office, on the top floor of the main school building. My desk is in a corner of the office where (in my time as a boarder) the then common room's TV was located. I can still remember watching Neighbours in this room with **Chris Cooke, Rob Turner, Chris (Cre) Williams, Nelson Chan, Tom Glover** and **Luke Harrison** - CO03. As soon as Neighbours finished at 6pm there was a mad dash for the door with everyone flying down the many flights of stairs to grab dinner in the dining room.

**What does your current role entail?**

I officially started working at Truro School back in January 2020 as the Business Development Manager for Truro School Enterprises. You don't need me to tell you what happened in March 2020. It was a challenging time to start a new role and the ever-changing economic environment and subsequent lockdowns did not help the matter. Despite these setbacks and challenges I learnt a lot during this time and was supported by some amazing colleagues. In April 2022 I saw the Development & Alumni Relations role being advertised and jumped at the opportunity. With the support of my colleagues in the Development Office, Amanda and Jo, the last 12 months in this role have been an enjoyable journey, despite the steep learning curve working in a new sector.

Simply put, my role as Development & Alumni Relations Manager can be broken down into two sections – engagement and fundraising. Engagement with our Old Truronian Community & fundraising for life changing bursaries through the Truro School Foundation. These two elements of my role are two passions of mine. I love nothing more than chatting all things Truro School and reminiscing about school life with Old Truronians at reunion events.

I was also compelled to donate to the Truro School Foundation in 2020 after the sad passing of my late Headmaster **Guy Dodd** (TS 1993-2001) and the creation of the Guy Dodd Bursary Award Appeal.

I have had the privilege of meeting so many interesting and inspiring Old Truronians with many tracing their life successes back to their time at Truro School. Our paths may not have crossed during our time at Truro School but it does not take long to realise that we have many shared experiences. Our Old Truronian Community are generous in not only donating to the Truro School Foundation but also giving their time and career advice to our current students.

**It is clear to see that many former pupils still hold 'Esse Quam Videri' close to their hearts.**

I look forward to meeting many more Old Truronians and please do reach out and connect if you feel compelled to support our current pupils with career advice or you are able to support life changing bursaries through donating to the Truro School Foundation.

**Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?**

In life I am hugely proud of my whole family. Despite the challenges which have been thrown our way, things do not get us down for long and I am hugely excited for the adventures which are yet to come.

In my career I'm proud of joining the Development & Alumni Relations team. I feel immensely lucky to have joined a department who have already achieved amazing things. Of course, there is always more to accomplish when it comes to engaging with our Truro School community and fundraising for the Truro School Foundation. As a team I hope we can have real impact on achieving these goals.

**Did you consider any other career?**

Whilst completing my business degree I worked at Marks & Spencer at the weekends in the menswear department and subsequently got promoted to a manager role. I aspired to get onto

the highly competitive M&S graduate scheme and move out of Cornwall. I was not successful with my application and made the decision to move away from retail.

I have always been open to opportunities and stepping outside of my comfort zone (although it can be scary at times). A prime example of this was after leaving M&S I signed up to a recruitment agency in Truro and vowed to say 'yes' to every shift or short-term job which was offered to me. This resulted in me working in a lot of different businesses and organisations. It was exciting to experience how different businesses worked and I quickly got to know which types of industries I did not want to work in. I was lucky to also be able to work with my dad at Papers Past and fondly remember us hustling hard at the N.E.C Trade Shows, pitching our unique products to interested buyers from small corner shops to international businesses. I learnt a lot from these experiences and continued to keep my eyes open for other opportunities if they arose.

A chance meeting with a friend of a friend (all set up by Mr Frewer - Truro School Prep Deputy Head) led to what I thought would be another short-term job but instead resulted in a fun and rewarding marketing role at a company called Treasure Trails. I had now moved from a unique business selling birthdate newspapers to one selling self-guided family treasure hunts across the UK. Treasure Trails had experienced some issues with its core business model and was in the balance when I joined.

Despite this uncertain future we worked hard in improving the product, understanding the core customer needs, and building the online exposure of the business. These simple principles (along with a sprinkling of luck) turned the business around and when I eventually left my role as Head of Marketing 6 years later the company was employing 7 full time members of staff and generating strong year on year growth. It was one crazy journey where we made many mistakes along the way, but I was proud to play my part in that particular story. I guess my 3<sup>rd</sup> year careers presentation wasn't too far off the mark after all – **Mr Vanstone** will be proud!

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

This is going to sound so very cheesy but, be brave and follow your own path. However, make sure you have a safety blanket around you of people who you can reach out to for advice and guidance if you need it.

However, if you were like some of my 3<sup>rd</sup> year pals (**Ben Hyatt** CO03 and **James Conran** CO03 I'm looking at you) and know exactly what job you want to do then map the stages out and crack on and achieve those goals. Alternatively, if you are unsure about the next step or struggling to find your calling in life keep your eyes open to opportunities. Instead of following a fixed career path try and build transferable skills which you can keep in your career toolbox.

**Please tell us a little about your family life**

I am married to Lucy (an ex-Truro High School student). We have three children Max 11, Emily 8 and Rosie 2.

Max is starting Truro School in September 2023, much to **Mr Laity's** disapproval as this news makes him 'feel very old' as he can remember teaching me back when I joined as a 1<sup>st</sup> Year in 1996. I have reassured him that this 'Willsher' is the model student and nothing like his father!

**Are any of your family still located in Cornwall?**

Lucy and I are super lucky to have the support of our families who all live relatively local, although my dad, step-mum and grandma have recently relocated to the wrong side of the Cornwall/Devon border.

Having our wider family close means that we often have weekend family adventures together. Bringing our children up in Cornwall is a real honour! Seeing their happy faces when jumping waves or climbing trees in the woods makes me feel lucky that we call Cornwall home.

**What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?**

Family life and weekend club logistics currently dominate my leisure time. However, I am playing the long game

with all three of my children when it comes to getting back into hobbies that I once enjoyed. I coach the under 11's cricket team at Truro Cricket Club and wishfully look ahead to a time when Max and I might both play in the same senior cricket team together. If I could only get Emily or Rosie to enjoy playing golf, then my mission would be complete. Wish me luck as Emily's passion is drama and being two, Rosie is only interested in Peppa Pig at the moment!

**Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?**

I made some amazing friendships at Truro School which are still going strong more than 20 years later! The shared experience of Truro School brought us together, but our friendships have grown and developed long after leaving.

Our local friendship circles are made up of loads of Old Truronians. When time allows and calendars synchronise, we enjoy family meet ups with **Adam Hayward** CO03 & **Becky Hayward** CO03 (nee Simmons), **Michele Pennington** CO03 (nee Hammond) and **Natalie Cape** CO03. We are massively outnumbered by children, but it is always great to catch up when we can.

I also try and meet up with my old 'partner in crime' **Tom Glover** CO03 as much as possible and it does not take long for us to reminisce about our time as boarders in Poltisco and Trennick.

Crazy to admit it, but 2023 marks 20 years since my year group left Truro School. If you are reading this article and are part of the class of 2003 then it would be amazing to catch up at our next 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday 28 October. Forgive me for the shameless plug but it had to be done!

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

Boarding life at Truro School meant that I had the privilege of meeting and living with a whole host of different people. This valuable experience has helped me to build personal friendships and professional connections which have stood the test of time.

I've also tried to carry the school motto with me throughout my life. It is a great



ethos to follow. 'Esse Quam Videri' has also been introduced to my children in the hope that the meaning behind the motto will have a positive impact on their life's as it has on mine.

**What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?**

These questions are always so tricky to answer. It reminds me of the job interview question of 'where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?'

My family and professional life has firmly been built in Cornwall and despite the grass sometimes looking greener elsewhere, I see us continuing to call Cornwall home.

As a proud Old Truronian I am also really looking forward to becoming a Truro School parent and seeing what opportunities my children might take along their senior school journey. I hope to play an active role within the Truro School community and continue to highlight the important fundraising work that Truro School Foundation does to support life changing bursaries.

Life is more than just work, so I am optimistic of getting back to those long-lost hobbies and enjoying life's adventures with family and friends when they come along.

# Simon Lata arche



**Former Music teacher at Truro School from 1983 to 2016**

**How long did you work at Truro School? What subject/s did you teach?**

*From Jan 1983 to July 2016. I was appointed by **Derek Burrell** to a Music and Games post. I taught Music to all year groups but in my first year taught some Physics and then some Maths to junior classes. I was also a Head of Year and Head of Soccer, probably due to my time playing for Truro City!*

**In the immediate time after leaving Truro School, what did you get up to?**

*I played a lot of jazz gigs around the South West, learnt new tunes and composed some more!*

**Are you still in touch with any other teachers or alumni from your time at School?**

*I meet up with some old colleagues for coffee but what I really enjoy is hearing from old pupils through social media. Many are still playing music.*

**Do you have any special memories that have stuck with you from your time at Truro School?**

*Conducting the school jazz orchestra when my two sons were members and performing at the Hall for Cornwall was amazing.*

**What is your current job role, what does it entail?**

*I am still performing jazz piano at events and venues around Cornwall. I also run jazz jam sessions around the county, I enjoy bringing individual musicians together for impromptu performances. I have recently accepted an invitation to fulfil a childhood ambition and present my own radio show on Source FM a community radio station in Falmouth. It is called the Jazz Train and whilst it is on every week, my show is on the second Monday of every month.*

**Is there anything you're particularly proud of in your career?**

*The introduction and development of jazz at the school both in the curriculum and the junior and senior jazz orchestras – I'm pleased to see they are still going strong. It's also good to hear from the number of former students who still perform – or play for pleasure.*

*Despite some fierce opposition from some areas, I started the first charity concerts in the 1980's which proved to be most popular and continue to this day.*

*A little thing but, during my time as head of soccer, I organised kits for all teams rather than just using the rugby jerseys that had previously been the norm for soccer teams.*

*I also have fond memories of being Musical Director of Jesus Christ Superstar, the first musical produced at Truro School since The Cobbler and The Princess written by a young, struggling composer trying to find his musical feet, luckily, I found jazz!*

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

*Teaching is a most rewarding career and the opportunities to develop the areas about which I am passionate were always possible at Truro School. As I got older and my energy levels declined, I became only too aware of one other piece of advice: when the fun stops... stop!*

*I think I knew when it was time to leave, whilst I was still young enough to fulfil other ambitions.*

**If you don't live in Cornwall, do you ever visit?**

*I live just outside of Truro and am a lifetime member of the SBA so can be found going up and down the swimming pool most weekends!*

**Please tell us a little about your family life?**

*My two boys **Dom** CO11 (now in Exeter) and **Tristan** CO13 (now in Clapham) are successful in their respective career paths thanks in no small part to some excellent*



John Hurrell (Captain), Mike Alvarez, Mike Dalton, Simon McIntosh, Darren Thompson, Justin Scott, Andrew Chilcott, Steve Richardson, Dan Glaze, Guy Shore, Tim Moore, James Hendym Chris Wharton, Adam Nice, Simon Perkins.

*teaching and advice they received during their time at Truro School. They love to return to Cornwall whenever possible. I can understand why, growing up near to Heathrow Airport I couldn't believe how lucky I was to start my career on such a beautiful place so I stayed, married someone whose brothers had been at Truro School and now, both of us retired teachers, we can go to the beach on a school day morning and still be thrilled by the way things have turned out!*

**Do you have any hobbies or what's your favourite thing to do in your free time?**

*Free time? That would be nice! I try to keep on top of things in my garden and am currently training our new goldendoodle dog.*

**What are your plans for the future?**

*More of the same and learning new skills presenting a radio show. Preparing the show is a bit like preparing a lesson although the audience is slightly better behaved!*

*My radio show – Jazz Train - is on 96.1 FM in Falmouth/ Penryn and the station is available world wide on the Source FM app. If anyone listens in, I would love to hear from Old Truronians as the app allows direct messages to the studio. I have already received messages from a number of former students.*



# The OT Technical Resources Team

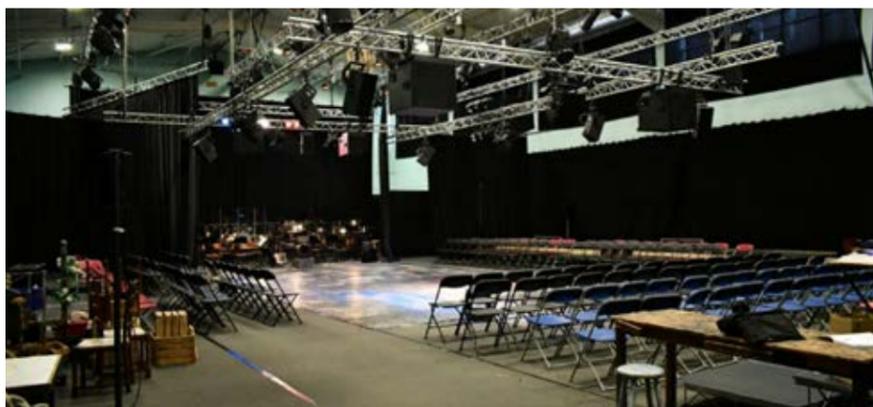


In the Development and Alumni Relations office, the team are normally used to finding out and keeping track of our brilliant former pupils who have gone on to start careers far and wide after leaving.

It was a nice surprise therefore to discover that with a recent new starter to the tech team at School, it meant they didn't need to travel far to speak to some of our more recent leavers.

With **Izzy Wilkinson** CO18 having joined the team in the autumn term, the team can say they are all Old Truronians, namely: **Swen Kearey** CO02, **Matt Sinkins** CO21, **Lilly Menear** CO17, **Sam Kemp** CO19 and of course, **Izzy** CO18.

We managed to chat to Sam, Izzy and Lilly recently to find out what it was like working back at their old school, their role in the recent school production of Les Mis, and what they are up to now in the Technical Resources department.



**Izzy Wilkinson** CO18

**Can you tell us what your job title is and describe your role in this years' production of Les Mis?**

*I am the Drama Assistant and on Les Mis I was Assistant Stage Manager, I managed all the backstage production. I started in the role the week before Les Mis had its first performance, so only now am I starting to know what my role is in the department. At the moment I am organising the props store, doing coaching and stage managing the student productions.*

**What are the best parts about your role generally, why do you enjoy your work?**

*I think the mentoring. I wasn't expecting to get to do it as much. The department has such an amazing costume store, which is at the same level as proper companies.*

*The department is so lively and the productions you get to work on are so professional. Les Mis ran like a West End Show in terms of how it looked and ran. 'School production' doesn't feel like the right description for it to be honest.*

**Could you tell us about your career journey before landing your current role?**

*After leaving in 2018 I took a gap year working. I started a small company and put on theatre.*

*I then started working in children's theatre before going to Arts University Plymouth to study Film. I've been working in freelance film work also more recently.*

**What was it like getting a job at the school you went to?**

*I had heard rumblings that the drama department was going to expand. I was actually sitting in a hammock in Fiji when I first saw the job advertised, I then applied for it the day I got home and then interviewed for it a couple days later. I think quite a lot has changed since I left, but I definitely feel more like staff than student.*

*I think when you're a student you have such a different view of it. When I was here I didn't even know half the departments even existed. When I had my staff tour, I was meeting people that would have been here when I was a student for the first time so it does feel different now as a staff member.*

**Do you have any other siblings that came to TS?**

*My older brother, **Elliot** CO15. He was a sailor and definitely excelled in sports when he was here.*

**Did you enjoy your time as a student at TS?**

*Yeah. I didn't really know what I wanted to do before I started doing Drama here, and it became a big part of my life and influenced me to work in the industry now. I am really happy to be here as a result.*

**Are you still friendly and in touch with any other friends you met at School?**

*Yeah – one of them is Lilly who I am working with now. But also **Daisy Newburne Munn** CO18 and **Grace Felstead** CO18 plus loads others.*

*A lot of friends! I actually met my partner here – **Oliver Chamberlain** CO18.*

*We've been together for 7 years now. He went and studied Marine Biology, then became a boat builder.*

**Is there anything you're looking forward to in the future?**

*In terms of work here – going to Edinburgh Fringe. Because my other job is working in film on a freelance basis. I've been talking about developing that side of the department here, but I'm excited about living back in Cornwall, surfing and living a nice life.*



## Lilly Menear CO17

### Can you tell us what your job title and describe your role in this years' production of Les Mis?

My job title is Technical Resources Assistant but it also covers management of the Burrell Theatre. On Les Mis I was 'tech swing' which basically means I was running around helping the team with whatever they needed help with.

I worked with **Swen Kearey** CO02 (TS Technical Resources Manager) and **Sam Kemp** CO19 on the build from the start, getting all the drapes hung and all the seating out and getting the building ready. When it came to the actual production it was general background support, helping everyone. The project is not really over for us now. De-building the set, and deciding what to keep or not takes time, the last couple days I have been putting together archive footage. People think the project starts when the tech rehearsals start and the production finishes but actually its 3-months before and things like 48 hours after the last show went down we had to break down the staging for an exam!

We also have to get the space at the Burrell back for public hire. It will be over and then once all of that is finished I go back to my standard day job which is booking the programming for the Burrell Theatre.

The next project for us is the Christmas concert alongside supporting end of year assemblies. There's always the next show and because school productions are done to such a high standard, on every project people want bigger and better than last time. The team here have already started discussions on the next Edinburgh Fringe project, and the next junior play by the students will be A Midsummer Night's Dream, we also have GCSE exams at the moment.

### What are the best parts about your role generally, why do you enjoy your work?

I think if you didn't enjoy it you couldn't do it because it is such hard work. You have to take pride in what you're doing, rather than thinking about not sleeping for 3 weeks. This job is really a learning experience for me. I am here to rinse as much knowledge as I can from **Swen** CO02 and the rest of the school and department. To me what's keeping me going is how much I am learning on each project.

### Could you tell us about your career journey before landing your current role?

I finished about a year ago at Lancaster and stayed in Manchester for a year working before getting the job here.

### What was it like getting a job at the school you went to?

I never considered working here as a student. It wasn't the school as a whole that brought me back but it was the relationship with Swen and Ben Oldfield and the whole Drama department as a whole that brought me back. Beyond the experience I could gain from the team here, it was the quality of work that the drama department put out.

My mum is Sandra who does the scenic painting and is involved in production design so I already had an ongoing dynamic and relationship after leaving. Because I was only here for Sixth Form, I think I had a different experience to someone who might have been at the school since Prep. Before I got this job, I had spent more time away than the amount of time I was actually here so I think that distance meant I didn't find working here that odd.

### After leaving TS initially, did you study further at uni/college?

I studied Theatre and Performance up at Lancaster University after leaving Truro School – my university got hit hard pretty bad by Covid which really affected my university experience. We had about 6 months where we just didn't know what to do.

But then we were lucky that with a creative arts subject, the university was quick to adapt to what we could do. My lecturers were really good at pushing us to use the situation as flexibly as possible. It was the best of a terrible situation.

I came out of uni with less practical experience as a result, so being here helps fill gaps.

### Did you enjoy your time as a student at TS?

Yeah, I got very lucky with my year group – we all got on. I had a really strong group of mates here and things like through studying Art – we really made the art room our own. I dived into Theatre head first which was really nice. So yes, it was very much to do with the people I knew and what subjects I was doing, but I didn't really engage with the rest of the School.

### Are you still friendly and in touch with any other friends you met at School?

Yeah the group of mates I had in Sixth Form! They are definitely people who are going to be in my life, and we'll always be there for each other. That group consist of **Gabriel Vyvyan** CO17, **Luke Richardson** CO17, **Guy Batten** CO17, **Olly Stewart** CO17, **James Stevenson** CO16, **Maisie Vincent** CO20, **Izzy Wilkinson** CO18 of course. Maisie actually started at Manchester whilst I was living there, and we became really great mates during that time.

### Is there anything you're looking forward to in the future?

The next thing I am looking forward to at School is Harry Baker who we have booked in to come perform. He is the world's youngest poetry slam competition winner. I once won a poetry competition here in Truro reciting one of his poems. I am a huge fan! Outside of School in February/March 2023 I went out to Adelaide to work tech at the Fringe there. I was working at Edinburgh Fringe this summer and it was suggested we should go out to Adelaide Fringe. I applied to some venues and managed to get employment with a big company there. I'm really excited.

## Sam Kemp CO19



### Can you tell us what your job title and describe your role in this years' production of Les Mis?

My role for Les Mis was Associate Sound Designer.

### What are the best parts about your role generally, why do you enjoy your work?

The best part is getting to make loud noise! I also enjoy being able to make a "vision" come to life in sound and make the directors "dream" a reality.

### Could you tell us about your career journey before landing your current role?

I work full time as an Engineering Surveyor for the family company building roads. I am lucky enough to just do sound engineering on the side and still make money from it!

### What was it like getting a job at the school you went to?

When I was at the School I was an active member of the student tech team. I always planned to go to London and do sound engineering in the West End however covid stopped that. I now just do sound engineering on a part-time basis for a few companies in the county, with Truro School being one of them. I never really expected to be working at the school again mind!

### After leaving TS initially, did you study further at uni/college?

Not for sound engineering. I learnt all I knew from Swen Kearey when I was a student at the school. However, I have gone on to complete a diploma in engineering surveying and am now a member of the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors.

### Did you enjoy your time as a student at TS?

I really enjoyed the theatre tech team with Swen. Apart from that school wasn't massively my cup of tea... however if I did have to pick I did enjoy DT with Chris Baker.

### Do you have any siblings that also attended/attend TS?

Yes – my sister **Daisy Kemp** CO11 – now an English teacher.

### Are you still friendly and in touch with any other friends you met at School?

Yes and no... kept in touch with a couple of the closest however drifted apart from a lot as I left school after the first year of A levels.

### Is there anything you're looking forward to in the future?

The big musical is always fun to come in and work on. Hopefully, I will be involved in the next one!

# Valete

We wish the following staff farewell from the School in the 2022/2023 academic year

## Autumn Term

JOHN CHAMBERS  
Network Manager

JOHN HARVEY  
Prep Catering Assistant

SALLY PHILLIPS  
Catering Assistant

KAT TALLON-QUERAUD  
SBA Duty Manager

TOM HATFIELD  
Resident Boarding Tutor (Trennick)

AJ TURNER  
Head of Cookery

KACEY BARBER  
Cleaner

KATE LITTS-DEAN  
Driver

ZOE LEVIN  
Biology and Sports Coach

KALVIN ASHWOOD  
Caretaker

JUDITH BREWER  
Invigilator

## Spring Term

STEVE SPARKS  
Teacher of Mathematics

DEBBIE BLEWETT  
Finance Officer

INDIA CASTLE  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

FREDDIE BINGHAM-CLOKE  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

SAM RICKETTS  
Cover Supervisor

CATHERINE MCCABE  
Teacher of Maths

TRACEY TOLLEY  
Kitchen Porter

KATH ARCHER  
PA to the Head

JANE ELLIS-WALKER  
Assistant Head (Prep)

NATAHSA MIKAIL JONES  
Teacher (Prep)

JANE CHAPMAN  
Café Assistant

## Summer Term

MARTIN PALMER  
Director of Music

AUBIN DE GRUCHY  
Chaplain

PHILIP DAVEY  
Music Teacher

WILL KINGDON  
Cookery School Assistant

FINN WOOTON  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

AMEILIA DURANT  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

EMMA TRELAWNY  
Head of Admissions (Maternity Leave)

LAURA MACKENZIE  
Teacher of English and Pentreve Housemistress

KEVAN DOWNING  
Facilities Manager

COLIN DOWER  
Truro School Prep Gardener

FINN WOOTON  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant (SBA)

MAGGIE CRADDOCK  
Finance Officer

NIKY RILEY  
Exams Officer

MOHAMMED AL NASSOUH  
Domestic Assistant

JOHN DOCHERTY  
Outdoor Pursuits Coordinator

TEGAN BLACKFORD  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

## Summer Term

BRUCE MANTLE  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

OLIVIA PENNA  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

ILSE HERLIHY  
German Language Assistant

MARISA ALONSO MEDINA  
Spanish Language Assistant

HELEN GIRVAN  
SENDCo (Prep)

VICKY PHILP  
Café Supervisor

IAN ROBINSON  
Teacher of Maths

WILL DEWHURST  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

JESSICA JAYE  
Duty Manager (SBA)

WALTER DIXON  
Driver

COLIN FISHER-JACKSON  
Driver

PETER GREET  
Driver

IVOR UREN  
Driver

DAVID RUSDEN  
Driver

CARL SMITH  
Driver

CHRISTINA POPE  
Cleaner

LYUDA ISHCHUK  
Kitchen Porter

SAM TEAGLE  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

BECKY NOVELL  
Café Assistant

# John Chambers



John retired in the Autumn Term after 24 years managing the School's IT department, leaving a legacy of vital progress and change to the network

**When did you first join the School?**  
Pretty sure it was around Easter 1999.

**How did you find out about the job?**  
I was the IT Manager at Falmouth School. The IT Co-ordinator left the Times Education Supplement in the IT Office, so I had a look at the job listings, saw the job at Truro School. I applied and came for an interview. One of the stages was an interview with the Deputy Head and the Cornwall County IT Advisor at that time, Uta Wagemaker. It was quite an intense all-day process of interviews. I got a phone call that evening from the Head at the time, **Guy Dodd** offering me the job and of course I accepted.

At the time the school had recently had an inspection. One area that required improvement was with IT. I can remember on a tour of the school at interview, in the old languages block (now known as junior block with maths classrooms). The languages lab never worked though, because they connected it all together across site with a coax BNC 10base2 cable running at 10Mbps, I remember thinking at the time, if I get the job I've got my work cut out here!

The first thing required was to improve what Truro School had and set-up additional IT facilities. What I found, was all the computers were built using local companies to a minimum spec and a lot of the software was unlicensed, so we basically had to start from scratch.

I set up two computer rooms and upgraded the language lab, with the then IT teacher, **Patrick Buxton** (TS 1981-2011) – (who also taught part-time maths) got things squared and working with me. Things evolved, and all the then 3 separate networks were improved. I also started improving what was available at the Prep School. Eventually we got all the networks (Curriculum, Finance and Admin) integrated into one large network.

From one server, we now have 26 – the majority of which are virtualised so much easier now to manage. From the 48 computer stations when I started, we now have 526 across both sites. Back when I started the Prep School was completely separate to the main school. About 10 years ago I managed to get a line in to connect the two sites. The whole school now is one integrated network.



I remember the first school website around 2001 which was created by an Old Truronian **Ed Moore** CO02.

Ed did the design and I managed to get the school registered as a domain [truroschoo.com](http://truroschoo.com). The department of education at the time were trying to get all schools to use [truro-school.cornwall.sch.uk](http://truro-school.cornwall.sch.uk). Can you imagine trying to fit all that on the side of the school minibuses! I registered [truroschoo.com](http://truroschoo.com) after checking with the then deputy head Simon Price, which is what the site URL still is today.

### Would you say there's any legacies and things that you're proud of when looking back at your career here?

I think I did my best to accommodate what HOD's wanted in their departments and avoided pushing IT systems onto anyone if I could. We went from 48 to 526 computers across both sites, which are stable and work well.

Adopting cloud-based systems as we developed meant we were very well equipped when it came to lockdown. The switch to home-based learning during that time was relatively easy using the systems we had in place, with staff and students doing a remarkable job of teaching and learning remotely.

It's been quite a journey from where we started. The involvement of Jon Richards and Liane Holt as Assistant Network Managers a few years later, and then Ross Lovell as e-Learning Developer has made such a positive difference. When you look at the services that we have now compared to when we started, it's very satisfying to be leaving a legacy of such massive progress and change that the IT team has driven forward over the years.

### Are there any other staff members or pupils you have fond memories of?

My team are actually the longest serving unbroken team (Liane, Jon and Ross) in the school – until I retired. I have fond memories of working with **Mark Vanstone** CO88 who is the current Head of Computer Science and IT, and was my line manager for around 10 years, prior to that **Jane Rainbow**. **Roy Wright** who was facilities manager and **Steve Flloyd** CO76 who ran Truro School Association for many years.



I'll remember school trips with Ingrid Quaife (current Teacher of Modern Languages). I went to Munich twice to support Ingrid and the languages department and students on those trips which I have to say were so efficiently run by Ingrid, it was a real pleasure to be able to help.

Many students will remember me from when I ran squash sessions on Wednesday afternoons. I organised the first ever squash match for decades against Newquay Tretherras – I think it's the last time we ever lost a squash match!

I kept squash going for many years leading up to the building of the SBA where I persuaded the then Business Director that squash was relevant, and we needed squash courts.

I've also been taking students out in the Summer Term's for fishing on Wednesday afternoons, at Pendennis Point in Falmouth and Roundwood Quay. Many of our former pupils will hopefully remember our Wednesday afternoons fishing and landing that first fish.

### What are you looking forward to with retirement?

Not doing the commute to Truro from home (Helston) every day and not doing aspects of my job at home that I needed to do, such as being there on-call generally in case of urgent issues, thankfully few and far between.

IT as a job has become more and more needy over the years, with lots of support needing to be given to staff and students who are using the systems out of hours. I've been sat on the bank fishing at a weekend and had an alert come through. I shan't miss all that! I've been asked to carry on the Wednesday afternoon fishing, so I haven't completely retired though.

## MARK VANSTONE'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO John Chambers

Thank you everyone for coming here this afternoon to mark John's retirement. I do have some words to say and a few gifts to give.

Thank you everyone for coming here this afternoon to mark John's retirement. I do have some words to say and a few gifts to give. I want us to think about the impact that John has had over the last 23 years. So firstly, IT has been transformed. When John arrived, we had two computer rooms C1 and C2. The finance server was on a Unix machine in the finance office cupboard. And the Phoenix server was under Jayne Grigg's desk. Look around you, you will see the network everywhere. Actually you won't, John has taken great pains to hide it away. If he changes your mouse, he will tidy away the other cables, and possibly straighten up your desk.

Since being recruited by Nigel Baker and Guy Dodd, he has been involved in everything from changing toner cartridges, through reconfiguring the hardware and software in the computer rooms, to server virtualisation, linking the senior and Prep schools by fibre, preparing the 5 year plan and moving our IT to the cloud. He has worked under four Heads, at least five bursars or business directors. And five heads of IT

Remember the millennium bug, John had the tie, but that is as close as we got to it, as we had no problems. And we have had no significant problems since then, because he has led us well. We have mostly been at the cutting edge, but not the bleeding edge of technology. John has taken up new technology once the initial premium price has dropped. And the main bugs have been ironed out. But while everyone would recognise it as new. He has also saved us from a number of expensive fads. And the kit has worked. We have had no significant outages in 23 years. We have moved from a few handfuls of computers to PC's in every room, WiFi everywhere, and a smart device in the hand of almost every member of the school community.

### People cared for

While being here, John has taken every opportunity to build the team. You will need to ask him about support staff afternoon tea in Jayne's office and about the liquid Christmas events at Paul Smith's house. And about Nina's leaving party. John was always first to help me, along with Steve Floyd when I was chair of the common room. For a long time he was our school Unison union rep and helped so many people with their problems. Whilst saving the school a fortune in recruitment costs, nobody ever leaves John's team, except Ben Philp, who successfully trained as an apprentice and moved on to a well-paid IT job. Jon, Liane and Ross have not moved on, because John cares for his staff: insists on them getting appropriate training, and promotes activities like coffee break and lunch break together in the common room, as well as

social events like squash, badminton, tennis and cake club. John is community-minded and a great team builder. He also has great relationships with our suppliers, and close relationships with the RM engineers, AtoZ computing and especially John Darling at MicroComms.

Finally, John puts pupils first. Early in his career, we ran a web-development club and Ed Moore, a contemporary of Swen, won the competition to design the intranet and went on to work in the creative industries as a TV producer. The Funky Red Spat also grew out of the club and became an institution in C1 for five years. David Dexter was one of the authors of the site. He characterised John as an android, but later acknowledged that John had a sense of humour module retrofitted. He has been strict, but fair to the pupils and wound them up at every opportunity, just ask him about the food detector in C2. When Sam Heather tried breaking our security system, John recruited him as an advisor and Sam then went on to work in IT. John ran squash club, choosing pupils who did not normally represent the school and winning squash matches before we recruited a professional coach.

He helped Ingrid with a trip to Germany, hopefully not using the German vocabulary that he picked up in the navy, which did on the other hand, help him to catch one of the visiting students who was trying to get around our English internet filtering system.

Fishing on the Edge has been very successful, despite Zoe almost accidentally renaming it. Again, picking up pupils who would not necessarily be catered for by our system and giving them an opportunity to find a different path through the school.

John didn't need to care so much about the pupils or the school, but he has consistently looked out for the slightly lost characters who don't fit in and shown them a lot of care, with a robust edge to it.

So here is a gift from the common room, an Old Truronian tie. Partly because of the ribbing you and Roy gave to me, Steve and Andy on Fridays, when we wore ours, but also because, as a former pupil, as a member of staff, as your former manager and as a friend, I hope you will wear this at some point and continue to identify yourself with this community, in which you have fitted in so well, have had a massive impact and quietly done such a great job, without loudly blowing your trumpet about it, exemplifying *Esse Quam Videri* – to be and not to seem to be

Please raise a glass to John Chambers -

For a long and happy retirement.

# Aubin de Gruchy



We bid farewell to Reverend Aubin de Gruchy who has given Truro School extraordinary service, qualities, compassion, wisdom, dignity, humour, and impact on decades of children and adults in our community.



Aubin completed his theological training at Rhodes University in South Africa and later completed a Masters degree at the University of South Africa. Aubin was ordained at a minister of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in 1982 and served in a number of congregations in South Africa. He was appointed as the Chaplain of Kingswood College in Grahamstown in 1989. In 1999 he was appointed as Deputy Head and Chaplain of Somerset College in the Western Cape.

Aubin's two children **Simon** CO04 and **Sarah** CO09 both attended Truro School.

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

My dad was a banker which meant we moved a fair amount. I cannot say I enjoyed the schools I attended particularly and all the things I enjoyed happened outside of school i.e., music lessons, sport, church youth group involvement. It was best to keep your head down at the last two schools I attended as the prefects and senior students often wielded more unpleasant power than the staff!

**Do you remember when or how you decided to follow a career within the church?**

My matric subjects were all geared towards becoming a Vet, but my involvement in a really active youth group meant that I started seeing my future involved working with people so after completing school, I registered to study social work. In this time, I became far more aware of the enormous struggles individuals and society were facing while also training as a local preacher.

Sensing that my vocation lay within the church I switched to studying for the ministry and became a probationer in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. In 1982, the second year of serving as a military chaplain I was ordained as a Methodist Minister. I enjoyed working in different congregations and then was invited to serve as Chaplain at Kingswood College, where as a family we spent ten happy years, experiencing school in a somewhat different life-enhancing manner to that which I had experienced as a boy. My next appointment was as Deputy Head and Chaplain at Somerset College in the Western Cape.

**You started at Truro School in 2002, can you remember what it was that encouraged you to make the move from South Africa to the UK, and what was the transition like?**

When I applied and was shortlisted for the post at Truro School I flew from Cape Town to Johannesburg and then to Heathrow, transferred to Gatwick to fly to Plymouth. There was an 8-hour delay which meant I had to catch a taxi and then a train and arrived in Truro where it was snowing, to be warmly welcomed by Mr and Mrs **Paul and Cathy Smith**.

Half an hour later I was in my first Hall for Cornwall Music concert. Given the opportunity to work overseas and experience education and chaplaincy in another country, we made the move to Truro.

We began our time at Truro School in 2002. Initially it was meant to be for two years but we are still here 21 years later! In the interim I transferred to the British Conference of the Methodist Church and we acquired dual citizenship. Our move to Truro was one of the easiest moves we have made as we found ourselves warmly welcomed both into the School and Church.

**Are you able to describe any of your strongest memories from your time working at the School?**

Whole School Chapel services at Truro Methodist Church, teaching Religious Studies at the Prep and Senior School with Philosophy and Ethics A-Levels under the guidance of Mr Clive Case was all a joy. More recently I have taught less and been more involved with counselling.

Other joys have been running the ACHE training with Lower Sixth students over the years; the fantastic World AIMS team of staff and pupils with some amazing trips to Uganda and Slovenia; the C Team – all those who have led Chapel services, served as Chapel stewards and provided music for worship. Coaching various football sides has been a pleasure. It has also been a privilege to train over 100 members of staff and students as Youth Mental Health First Aiders.

**Strongest memories also include wonderful celebrations of weddings of staff and former pupils, baptisms alongside those incredibly sad moments of memorials and funerals.**

It was a huge privilege to see the opening of the Heseltine Gallery with the exhibition of the Methodist Collection of Modern Spiritual Art, the opening of the Sir Ben Ainslie Sports centre and Leith Catering School. At the Prep School the opening of the Matthew Lovett Hall with the magnificent stain glass windows created by pupils and the Jane Grasby classrooms.

The biggest privilege and pleasure, alongside working with students, has been the support and friendship of colleagues. From the front door with the Reception team, the Grounds team, the Catering staff, Finance and Human Resources, the Nurses in the Medical Centre, the Marketing team, Development and Alumni Relations team, the Archivist, the Estates team, Caretakers and fellow teachers.

**Your children Simon CO04 and Sarah CO09 both attended Truro School. That being said, how does it feel to be departing as not only Chaplain but as an Old Truronian parent?**

Simon and Sarah previously also worked at Truro School. Simon as a sport coach for a short period before going to university and Sarah for Truro School Enterprises. **Mrs de Gruchy** worked at Truro School from 2002 until 2015 as a TFL teacher and also within the Learning Support department. She remains enormously proud of the foreign students who were able to complete the English qualifications required for them to continue their studies at British universities.



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

Serving as Chaplain has been an enormous privilege and I would recommend it for those who sense that this might be their vocation.

**What are your plans after leaving, if any?**

A lot more paddling on the river!

Going forward I will continue to be involved with Truro School in that I have been appointed as Pastoral Visitor to the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (a role which is also linked to the Methodist Associated Schools and Methodist Academies) alongside working in the Mid-Cornwall Circuit of the Methodist Church.

As the hymn writer, Joseph Hart put it: "We'll praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come."

# Martin Palmer



Martin Palmer retires from Truro School having left a legacy building up one of the largest and busiest music departments in the South West. He joined as Director of Music in 2004, from the Forest School in Snaresbrook.



His daughter **Sofie Palmer** CO22 has recently become an Old Truronian and his sons Thomas and Benjamin are currently at Truro School.

We asked Martin to share memories of his career and what's next for retirement.

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

I went to school in the seventies, to Wellingborough Grammar School, in the middle of the country. We were the last year of the grammar school intake. The school was a pretty rough place in comparison to schools these days, however, I really enjoyed my school days and specialised in my two parallel interests - music and electronics. I joined the school's radio club and with the other boys passed our City & Guilds exams and became a licenced radio hams, G8PDZ.

**Do you remember when or how you decided to follow a career within Music?**

Although there was a reasonable amount of music going on at my school, my real love of music came from the exciting years playing Cello in Northamptonshire

Youth Orchestra which meant seeing much of Europe on trips and tours, and playing in anything and everything I could. I had always enjoyed playing the Organ which Mozart called "the king of instruments" and so I took a year off, worked for an Organ building company and developed my playing skills. I was thrilled to win a place to study at London's Royal Academy of Music and the experiences and opportunities that this gave me have lasted a life-time.

**You started at Truro School in 2004 from Forest School, can you remember what it was that encouraged you to make the move?**

After the Royal College of Music, I was able to work in three great schools around London – the Royal Grammar School Guildford, King's College School, Wimbledon and Forest School – but in the end I really missed the open countryside and when I came for interview at Truro School I really warmed to the then Headmaster, **Paul Smith** (TS 2001-2012), and felt I could develop the Music Department.

**Do you remember your first day at Truro School?**

I am afraid I cannot remember my first day as I had been down many times to visit the School and meet all the musical 'movers and shakers' in the county. However, my early impression was that of a school from an earlier era run by many grumpy, male heads of departments. Very different to the lovely, dynamic and impressive staff I find around me today!

**Are you able to describe any of your strongest memories from your time working at the School?**

There are just so many – too many to mention here – I suppose my best memories are: the absolutely electric Hall for Cornwall Concerts, the magnificent Cathedral Choral Concerts and Services, the Chamber Choir becoming semi-finalists in the BBC School Choir of the Year competition, the Chamber Orchestra playing in Birmingham's Music for Youth Festival, the Cathedral Choristers singing in Britain's Got Talent, the Chamber Choir Venice tour, the Wind Band's Spain/Italy tours.

Six wonderful musicals, not least West Side Story and Les Misérables (twice). This year I have really enjoyed our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Hymn Practices, where the pupils regularly raise the roof with their singing, and, my 1<sup>st</sup> boys Donut Club have been a wonderful (unhealthy) joy to work with!

However, the regular, real (and often very moving) highlights have been the moments when our pupils achieve magical performances of their concertos or songs. Unforgettable!

**Your children attended Truro School. That being said, how does it feel to be departing as not only Director of Music but as an Old Truronian parent?** My **Sofie** CO22 has just finished her first year at Royal Holloway reading Geology, Thomas is the L6<sup>th</sup> and Benjamin the 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

**What would you say to someone hoping to forge a similar career path?** I am always thrilled to see our pupils go off to music college and university to study Music, however, for the majority



of our pupils, I hope we have given them a great hobby for life!

**What are your plans after leaving?**

I have so many plans for the future – I have undertaken a lot of Organ playing and conducting this year and hope to continue with this. I will definitely be doing more cycling, running and sea swimming, improving my German and French, I hope to cycle to John O'Groats then run back through the Outer Hebrides, Highlands, Lake District, Peak District etc., cycle the length of Eurovelo 1 (Arctic Circle to Portugal), cycle Eurovelo 6 in reverse (France to the Black Sea). However, my wife says I will be doing all the cleaning, shopping, cooking and school runs...

**Martin's final thought**

I am pleased that I leave a flourishing (and rebuilt post Covid) Music Department behind me with:

Many bands, choirs and orchestra in very safe hands

317 individual music lessons (flute, guitar, piano etc) taking place each week

Cornwall's best individual music teachers teaching our pupils, and

A wonderful Steinway Grand and Mander Organ in the Chapel.

I shall look forward to seeing the state-of-the-art new Music Department building arrive over the next few years.

# Colin Dower

RETIRES AFTER 49 YEARS



Colin leaves Truro School after 49 years of service and takes the title as the longest serving member of staff the School has seen, exceeding Mike Osmond whom he took over from, who achieved 47 years of service.

Colin accepted the job as grounds person and gardener on 16 July 1974, shortly after finishing his schooling at Helston Community College that Easter. He was hired by Old Truronian and the Bursar at the time, Jock Appleton 1928-1935 (TS Bursar 1958-1979) whom Colin said he had fond memories of working with. He said "I remember it was an easy interview, I went up to the Bursar's office and we chatted for a few minutes before he toured me around the site and then hired me on the spot. I started right away." The salary at the time was £12 a week and was paid in a brown envelope every Friday at 1pm. Colin remembers that visit to the Bursar's office to collect his wage in cash very well.

Other memories include: the cricket pavilion sadly burning down, along with all the names of those who had fallen in

the wars; the allotments that previously existed where Epworth Close now stands, providing daily produce for the school kitchen. Most notably though Colin remembers the solar eclipse of August 1999. "It was a huge event on the sports terrace where anybody was invited. We had loads of people come from all over the country to camp out and watch the eclipse. I was there to help set it all up and act as sort of security throughout the night. But no one slept – everyone was there with their telescopes looking up at the sky all night long!"

Today Colin has mixed feelings about retirement but is looking forward to spending time with his wife of 43 years, Julie, and visits from their four sons who all live in Cornwall. When asked if he had any big plans for the coming years, Colin's only immediate jobs are all the house improvements he has had plans for, but mostly just to "wind down". Colin leaves a legacy of having designed and planted all the gardens at the Prep site, which previously did not have any planting at all. Colin also designed and planted the Celebration Garden at the senior site.

On behalf of the School, we wish Colin a well-deserved restful retirement.

## TOM LAGDEN, HEAD GARDENER, HAD SOME WORDS TO SAY ABOUT COLIN AS HE LEAVES:

"From what I understand when Colin went to the Prep site, his first big project was to turn the headmaster's old overgrown garden into the mixed border you see outside the canteen. Since I have known him he has always been looking for new projects to improve the site, with a raised bed at the front being his last addition. He has an extensive knowledge and passion for horticulture plants and wildlife. He has been ahead of the curve managing the site in a sustainable way to improve biodiversity before it was popular to do so. He is also hardworking and tidy in his work – in fact I've never seen such a clean tractor!"

I believe he set the standard at the Prep for the rest of the gardening team, and in the nearly five years I've been here, it has been the standard I have worked to and hoped to achieve. He has been an inspiration to me and the rest of the gardeners and is a well-respected member of staff. He has always been there if I have a horticultural question and has always been happy to help and guide us. He helped us to design and plant the Celebration Garden. Even though he hasn't worked at the senior site for several years, his all-round knowledge has been invaluable, from the gardens to the cricket pitches, he is a source of knowledge."



# What does it mean to be Cornish?



Lower Sixth psychologists put their questionnaire designing skills to the test earlier this year, applying their knowledge of attachment types to their own research, finding out what Sixth Form students at Truro School felt about attachment to Cornwall.

They asked 8 questions from which they analysed attachment types:

Securely attached to Cornwall (home base, don't mind going away, but love to come back and miss it a bit when away)

Insecure-avoidant attachment to Cornwall (look forward to leaving, don't miss Cornwall when away)

Insecure-resistant attachment to Cornwall (love Cornwall so much they feel homesick and displaced when not in the county)

66 Truro School Sixth Form students responded to the questionnaire.

The results were that 39 people had lived here 10+ years; half were securely attached and half insecure-avoidant, with only 1 person being insecure-resistant. 1/3 of the other 27 people, who'd lived in Cornwall

for less than 10 years, were securely attached to Cornwall whereas 2/3 were classified as insecure-avoidant.

This seems to show that more securely attached students tend to have grown up in Cornwall. However, many students were securely attached who hadn't, showing the strength of feeling for the county. A significant number also showed insecure-avoidant attachment, indicating that they are looking forward to moving on to new things and new places. This shows that they are positive about university and life beyond Cornwall.

A final question was asked, "What does it mean to be Cornish?". Chloe, an Upper Sixth psychology student practised her thematic analysis skills in summarising the varied responses to this question:

Personal heritage and emotion linked to Cornwall (my home, pride, community, lived and grown up in Cornwall, born here, distinctive heritage, emotional when hearing "This is my Cornwall", will never forget Cornwall, knowing people and places, very important, identity in Cornwall) One student responded with their own poem:

*"I live, breathe and sleep, dream of Cornwall.  
I feel the Kernow in my blood,  
When I cross that Tamar I feel heart-wrench.  
I believe in the independence and strength of Cornwall.  
LONG LIVE CORNWALL.  
I will never leave."*

Heritage and traditions of Cornwall (pasties, scones with jam then cream, surfing, rugby, mining, tea drinking, slow pace of life, other traditions)

Geography of Cornwall (beach, weather & rain, seagulls, rural, coast, a beautiful place)

Language used in Cornwall (emmets, accent, "my lover", "my superstar", lingo)

Dislike of outsiders (emmets, xenophobic, anywhere past Devon is up north)

Inability to answer the question because "I'm not Cornish". This implies that an understanding of what it means to be Cornish is something deeply personal and varied between people, to the extent that someone who feels they aren't Cornish sometimes can't explain what being Cornish is.

**But what does it mean to be Cornish as an Old Truronian?** Does your Cornish identity change after leaving? Is having gone to School in Cornwall something you are proud of?

Thanks to Jack, Lola, Diana, Ben, Toby, Henry and Chloe for giving up their time to analyse a large quantity of data. And thanks to the 66 students who took their time responding to the questionnaire.

# Salvete

A huge welcome to Truro School for the following staff.

## Autumn Term

JAMES BUTTERWORTH  
Head of Maths

EMILY DOPSON  
School Cleaner

NATASHA DOPSON  
School Cleaner

JULIE DYER  
School Cleaner

SUZY ELLIS  
Teacher of Maths

JANE ELLIS-WALKER  
Prep Assistant Head

MARK FINCH  
School Cleaner

BEN HARRIS  
SBA Duty Manager

CHRISTINA HOMER  
Teacher of MFL

MARK JONES  
Teacher of MFL

MARCIA KLOSKE  
School Cleaner

GARRY LITTLE  
School Cleaner

DAVID MCKEOWN  
Head of Boarding

KATE MASTERS  
Club Support Administrator

MARIOLA MURPHY  
School Cleaner

JAMIE OLDER  
Head of Chemistry

MILES WITHINGTON  
Sports Assistant and Lifeguard

CHRISTINA POPE  
School Cleaner

ARIEL ROUKAERTS  
Teacher of Maths

DAVID RUSDEN  
Minibus Driver

GRACE SHIMA  
Sports Assistant and Lifeguard

SARAH SIMPSON Learning  
Support Specialist & Counsellor

SARAH SPALDING  
School Housekeeper

JENNY THOMAS  
Cleaning Supervisor

PETE THOMSON  
Teacher of Music

HELEN TRYTHALL  
School Cleaner

MARIE TRYTHALL  
School Cleaner

LIZZIE WADDLING  
Height – SEN Teacher

TEGAN BLACKFORD  
Sports Assistant and Lifeguard

BETH HAYNES  
HR Advisor

LYUDMILA ISHCHUK  
Kitchen Porter

NIKOLAOS KOUTOULAKIS  
Chef de Partie

BRUCE MANTLE  
Sports Assistant and Lifeguard

KATIE MCKECHNIE  
Classroom Assistant

OLIVIA PENNA  
Sports Assistant and Lifeguard

SARAH SIMPSON Learning  
Support Specialist & Counsellor

IAN ROBINSON  
Teacher

STEVEN ROWE  
Minibus Driver

DAVID SKINNER  
Teacher and Cover Supervisor

PAULA SMITH  
Chef de Partie

DANIEL VINCENT  
School Cleaner

## Spring Term

ALEX RIDDELL  
IT Apprentice

CHARLOTTE LE BIHAN  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

ROB MURPHY  
Deputy Head (Pastoral)

ALAN ROSENTHAL  
Head of Cookery

JAMIE NEVILL  
Teacher of Maths

JACOB MACCREADIE  
HR Administrator

CHRISTINA HOMER  
Teacher of MFL

VASILLISA GERUSIMENKO  
Judo Coach (Prep)

CHRIS HARDMAN  
Groundsperson

KIMBERLEIGH WATSON  
Senior Lifeguard (SBA)

ROB MORSE CO89  
Head of Truro School Prep

VASILLISA GERUSIMENKO  
Judo Coach (Prep)

YULIIA KOBYLYNSKA  
Cleaner

JASMINE SAMPSON  
Teacher (Prep)

DARREN PHILP  
Head of Digital Network Services

KIMBERLEIGH WATSON  
Senior Lifeguard (SBA)

SARAH HATTON Administrator  
to the Deputy Head and SLT

RICHARD HALL  
Cleaner

MAWGAN LANGDON-HELLER  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

ESME BROKENSHIRE  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

BARNABY GILBERT  
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

ROLAND FONTANA  
French Language Assistant

## Summer Term

DAVID ECCLES  
Invigilator

JADEN DUNCAN  
Invigilator

GEMMA WEBSTER  
Invigilator

SAMANTHA BARTON  
Invigilator

KATHERINE HUTCHINSON  
Invigilator

SIMON HENDERSON  
Payroll Administrator

VICTORIA PHILP  
Café Supervisor

ASHIKA SOOKOO  
Cleaner

SAM WILSON  
Finance Officer (Fees)

## Staff Evolvments

SAM WILLISHER CO03  
Business Development Manager  
becomes Development and Alumni  
Relations Manager

EMMA ELLISON  
Deputy Head (Pastoral) becomes  
Assistant Head (Director of Studies)

MARK VANSTONE CO88  
Director of Studies becomes Head of  
Computer Science

ALY BIRCHMORE  
Cafe Assistant becomes  
Events Assistant



# Rob Morse CO89

OLD TRURONIAN HEADS HOME



Rob Morse returned to the School as Head of Truro School Prep in the Summer Term after attending Truro School for Sixth Form from 1987-1989. Rob was previously Headmaster of Aysgarth School in Yorkshire and Perrott Hill in Somerset.

**Did you enjoy your time at Truro School?**  
Absolutely. My time at Truro School was genuinely life changing and I had great fun along the way. The School opened my eyes to the benefits of a broad curriculum and that has been fundamental in my career in education.

**Do you have any special or specific memories of your time at Truro school?**  
Almost too many to mention. Even though I was only at the school for a relatively short time, I remember the staff fondly and particularly the patience of **Dr Blake** (TS Teacher of Biology 1987-2009) and **Mr Tall** (Head of D.T 1980-2014). **Mr Johnson** and **Mr Laing** were inspirational on the sporting front and I have fond memories of my time on the rugby and cricket pitches. I have clear memories of an unusual rugby tour which involved a minibus journey from Truro to the north of England to play in

the National 15 a side competition at Preston Grasshoppers (in torrential rain and covered in mud) which was followed by a stop off at Rosslyn Park in London to play in the National Sevens on the return. We spent much more time in the minibus than we did on the pitch!

**Did you have any siblings or other relations at Truro School? If so what are their names:**  
My sister, **Karen Green** (nee Morse) CO93, attended the school after I had left. She continues to visit school as a peripatetic flute teacher.

**Did you have any specific career dreams or aspirations? Or when did you first decide upon a particular path?**  
Before arriving at Truro, I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher but it was Truro School that led me to pursue a career in the independent sector.

I am a firm believer in a broad and balanced education; academics will always be a primary focus but providing the opportunity for creative, physical and emotional development is essential.

**What did you do immediately after leaving Truro School?**

After a year out (mainly working, playing sport and having fun), I attended Bedford College of Education. After securing a BEd (Hons) in Physical Education and Humanities I was lucky enough to be offered a teaching position at Bedford School. Over the past 15 years I have been a headmaster at schools in Somerset and Yorkshire but we always returned to Cornwall in the holidays. Having worked and lived in Devon, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire I am very fortunate in that I now live in a very small hamlet on the beautiful Roseland Peninsula where most of my family still live.

**Where do I start?**

Without going into too much detail, my role is to oversee the next phase of this amazing school's development.

**Is there anything that you are especially proud of relating to your life or career?**

After almost 30 years in education, I have been fortunate to work in some superb schools and have enjoyed the privilege of working alongside a number of inspirational teachers. The opportunity to inspire and shape the future of the children in our charge is a genuine honour.

**Did you consider any other career?**

No, although in my teenage years I thought a windsurfing instructor would have been the best job in the world!



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

Simply to go for it. Teaching is unbelievably rewarding and no day is ever the same!

**Please tell us a little about your family life**

I am married to Lottie and we have two children Daisy (23) and Harry (18). Lottie and I have worked together in schools for over 25 years and she is currently working as a cover teacher here at Truro School Prep. Daisy is currently in her first-year teaching GCSE and A-level English at Shrewsbury School and Harry is hoping to read Creative Music Technology at Falmouth University next year. We have two black Labradors, Minnie and Mabel, who have definitely enjoyed the return to Cornwall!

**What are your hobbies or how is your leisure time spent?**

Running, walking, swimming, surfing, reading, cooking and crosswords.

**Are you still in touch with anyone from your time at Truro School?**

Yes, and returning to Cornwall has meant that I have reconnected with many more.

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

Yes, as outlined above, Truro School opened my eyes to the benefits of a broad curriculum and that has been fundamental in my career in education.

**What are your immediate / long term plans for the future?**

To do my very best to ensure that Truro School Prep goes from strength to strength!

NEW SCHOOL CHAPLAIN  
**Reverend Helen Byrne**



Truro School is delighted to announce that Reverend Helen Byrne will take up the post of School Chaplain in September 2023.

Helen is an Ordained Methodist Minister and Hospital Chaplain. Much of her work has focused on the wellbeing of children and young people, which equips her perfectly for this role.

Helen's warmth, energy, and creativity mean that she will offer strong continuity and build on the legacy of the current Chaplain, Revd Aubin de Gruchy. Aubin departs in Summer 2023 after 20 years of dedicated and compassionate service to the School and local Circuit. He will continue to work with the Methodist Independent Schools Trust as its Pastoral Visitor.

Helen's experience and understanding of wellbeing will also enable her to be a support and listening ear to staff, and

her experience of mission and outreach will promote ever more engagement within the wider community and Methodist Circuit. Helen has a grounded, welcoming, and inclusive faith. She embraces opportunities to treat everybody as an individual and as an equal, respecting all beliefs, celebrating what we share in common, and encouraging us to continue building upon the Methodist foundation of our school. Helen is also a passionate singer, lover of music, the performing arts, and of the great outdoors.

Helen and her husband Dave have a deep-rooted love for Cornwall, where Helen's father was a Methodist minister when she was a child. They are excited to be moving here from Cheshire, along with Helen's university-aged daughters Rebekah and Hannah, and the family's adored pet dogs. Helen says, "I feel honoured to have been chosen to be the next Truro School Chaplain. When I visited, I found the school welcoming, warm, encouraging and inspiring. I look forward to joining the team and being

a pastoral and spiritual support to the Truro School family."

Truro School Head, Mr Andy Johnson, said, "The role of Chaplain is pivotal and we are excited by the prospect of Helen joining our School. Helen will play a key role in maintaining and promoting the School's progressive and welcoming ethos and culture, grounded in our Methodist values. She will be an experienced and compassionate pastoral presence, building on an immensely strong legacy. I am delighted by this appointment, look forward to welcoming Helen, and take this opportunity to thank and commend Aubin for his very many years of utterly resolute support, care, and love for our community too."

Following ratification of the appointment at the next Methodist Conference, Helen will take up her post in September 2023. She will enjoy support from the wider group of Methodist school chaplains as well as the local Methodist Circuit, of which she will become a valued part.



NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
**Richard Osmond**

Truro School is delighted to announce that Richard Osmond will take up the post of Director of Music in September 2023.

Richard has very extensive experience of music leadership in Schools. This will be his third Director of Music post, having held the role at the co-educational Bristol Grammar School and more recently at Haberdashers' School in London.

Before embarking on his teaching career, Richard studied at Cambridge University and McGill in Canada and is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, having been an organ scholar at both Magdalene Cambridge and Christ Church Cathedral in Canada.

An enthusiastic cyclist and amateur photographer, Richard is pleased to be returning to the West Country to invest his extensive experience and skills into the Director of Music role and to develop the school's outstanding musical partnership work and wider ambitions.

Richard joins Truro School to continue the superb work of our current Director of Music, Martin Palmer, who retires at the end of this academic year after 19 years at the school.

Truro School Head, Mr Andy Johnson, said, "We are a School that is passionate about both musical excellence and the widest range of musical engagement and education for all. Richard shares these passions and his appointment is very exciting for our community. He is well placed to build on immensely strong foundations and to lead the musical life and ambitions of our School forwards at a truly exciting time. The profile of music in our School has never been stronger, the relationship between music and wellbeing has never been more important, and the opportunities for ever more musical partnership with the wider community excite us all. We look forward to welcoming Richard in September, and take this opportunity to thank Martin Palmer for his many years of dedicated and inspirational leadership."

Richard commented, "I am delighted to be joining Truro School at this important time in its musical journey. Music is clearly at the forefront of both the school's vision and its interaction with the wider community. Having the opportunity to be part of that vision and to share and celebrate music with everyone is immensely exciting: I am very much looking forward to September."

**Alan Rosenthal**

With a new year comes a new team here at Truro Cookery School. I'm super excited to have recently taken over as Head of Cookery now that AJ Turner has moved on to work centrally with Leiths Academy.

Since starting the role at the beginning of January, I've been so impressed with the teaching and support staff in the Cookery School, not to mention the incredible skills I've seen from our Sixth Form diploma students and keen young chefs taking part in after school clubs. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing facility here at the school, offering the perfect space for cookery classes, corporate events and also private hires. I'm excited to see what the future holds and look forward to updating you soon.

- Alan Rosenthal



# IN THE Garden this Year



END OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

We were really pleased to welcome John our new gardener, who joined the team. The lawns, flower beds, pots, borders and pitches have all had a hard summer with the hottest temperatures and drought we have experience so far. Although as a business we were allowed to use hoses for watering, we only did so in the greenhouses. The pots and seasonal borders were watered with watering cans to reduce water waste and where possible pots were moved to shady spots around site to reduce water loss. All the lawns and pitches suffered badly to the point where some of the worst areas struggled to recover once the rains came.

The front bed on the terraces were weeded and dug over and so old plants were composted and areas cleared to make ready for bulb planting in autumn and further planting in the new year. The general jobs around the garden are carried on such as, weeding grass cutting etc. Actually, weeding in hot spells is an easy job because a bed can be hoed over and left on the bed - as long as the roots of the weed are exposed the sun will burn them off and kill them. Grass cutting was kept to a minimum in the drought as doing so can stress the plant. When we do cut the grass, clippings are not collected to allow it to mulch down and retain moisture on the lawns.

The spring bedding arrived to be potted and grown in the green houses. It has been a difficult year with our spring bedding... we have lost a few and they have been slower



to grow on than previous years hence the delay in planting out. Having spoken to our supplier at Allet Nurseries for advice, this is not a mistake on our part. He told us that the hot temperatures and sunny days has made gardening difficult even for professional growers like himself. So although we shaded our greenhouses, we couldn't keep the greenhouses cool enough with the extreme weather. This leaves us with lessons to be learned if we end up with more summers like in 2022.

On the grounds, the cricket square renovations begin just before the first decent rainfalls are forecast. The pitch is first scarified to remove old and dead thatch and then new seed is drilled and the dressed with surrey loam and pre-seed fertiliser is applied. The whole team gets involved and we complete the renovations on two squares in one day.

Due to the droughts the pitches are cut as little as possible to reduce stress on the grass and as soon as the rain comes we hope for good recovery, though there are some areas that are suffering worse than others.

At the end of the holidays cricket season finishes which means squares are rotavated and closed and rugby and football pitches are marked out for the start of term. The seeds are sown for perennials and cuttings taken for plants we want to cultivate the next year, including more cotoneaster for the Rose Garden and yew cuttings for hedging on the front terraces in years to come.

## OCTOBER

At the beginning of October and towards the end of September, the first section of the front terrace lawn is renovated and the lawn was scarified to remove moss and to provide a clean surface for the seed to be drilled. The grass is then drilled into the lawn using a ryegrass mix that is tolerant of shade due the number of trees on that side of the lawn. After that 8 tonnes of top soil is dressed on top and a fertiliser applied.

The first decent rainfalls have finally arrived this month and the grass almost instantly started greening up, and the cricket square and lawn renovations have started to germinate. Spring bulbs have arrived too which enabled the front terrace bed gaps to be planted with bulbs and tulips planted in our seasonal beds.

Mulch is applied to the front terrace bed to retain moisture and add nutrients. Now that the ground is soft the pitches are all aerated, the autumn fertiliser is applied which really helps the pitches bounce back after the drought, and those pitches that had spring and summer applications of fertiliser prove to have coped best with the stresses of the drought.

By October half term the rhododendrons and laurels on front terrace are removed. To do this a chipper is hired and over three days we manage to cut them all back and put them through the chipper. This has opened up a massive area that we hope to utilise better in the future, although there is still plenty more to be done.



NOVEMBER



The lawns and cricket squares are spiked using our pedestrian spike, this helps the roots of the newly renovated grass seed to establish and become ready for new growth in the spring. The pitches are slit and brushed regularly to improve grass health and reduce the risk of disease. The grass is still being cut regularly due to the unseasonably warm autumn, although now we are fighting against too much water rather than not enough as pitches and lawns are being saturated!

The roses are pruned to reduce the height and stop them rocking in the wind, and all leaves are removed. The old dead and dying stems are removed to reduce the risk of disease. Another prune just before budding in the spring will encourage next year's new growth. Finally, the leaves are collected around site and composted for next year.



DECEMBER

This month temperatures are dropping and the grass has slowed down in growth. The camellias are budding, with some even flowering! Fingers crossed there's no hard frost. The Christmas tree is put up in the quad and we make some reindeers to greet visitors at the front reception and as guards for the tree. Some tree work is to be done and brush cutting to clear areas that are left grow long. We are still waiting on our bedding to grow on, hoping for early next year now... a bit disappointing but we learn from this year and improve on it next year and hope and pray for more stable weather.

**JANUARY – GARDENS**



The yew hedging arrived to be planted on top terrace after we removed the hydrangeas last term.

To do this the ground is stripped of turf then rotavated to loosen for planting, garden compost is added and then dug in to improve soil structure and provide nutrient for the plant. The yew hedging is planted and wood chip mulch is put around the hedging to retain moisture in the summer months. We have also added seep hoses so we can water the hedging through the summer months.

It has been a very wet December and January, so towards the end of the month when we had some dry weather we used this opportunity to do some grass cutting. Any scrubby bramble areas that are left to grow wild are cut back at this time of year, including around the badger set. We do this in the winter to limit the amount of disturbance to wildlife.

The roses in the Celebration Garden are pruned this term. We start by removing any crossing or rubbing stems and dead or dying material. We can then prune down to a foot or so above the ground which stops the plant rocking in the wind. We will give them a final prune down to suitable buds in very early spring.

For the grounds, the rugby pitches are converted to football pitches and when the weather conditions are right we slit/spike the ground to reduce compaction and improve drainage. The pitches are marked regular. The turf is brushed and rolled when suitable because this does two things: it creates a stripe for presentation, but also stands the grass up which increases airflow around the grass planting and reduces the chance of disease. We also took time to introduce new stadium goals on the first team pitch. The cricket squares are cut when weather conditions are right and more spiking is done to improve drainage and root growth.

During bad weather when nothing can be done outside we utilise this time for machine maintenance and a general tidying of the workshop.

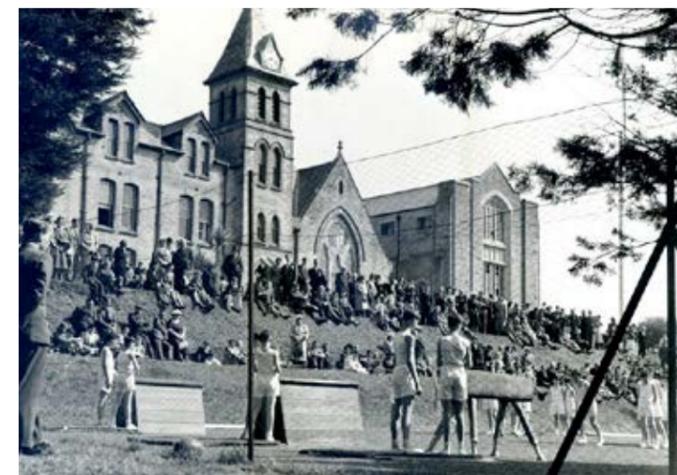


**FEBRUARY – GARDENS**

In February we undertook the usual garden maintenance and weeding whenever the weather was suitable and any bare patches remaining from autumn renovations on the front lawns are over seeded and spiked. At mid-to-end of February the forecast looks promising for a period of dry weather so we hire a digger and start working on reprofiling the front terraces. Our new builder Mikey is quite handy in a digger so we get to work removing all the rhododendron stumps first and then next, we reprofile the terrace to create three smaller terraces. Trenches are also dug on the second terrace so we can lay services like water and electric cables etc across the lawn for any future events. Once the trenches were back filled, 20 tonnes of topsoil were ordered for both terraces and the lawns were dressed and rolled ready for laying turfing and overseeding. The weather changes and the rain returns though, which stopped any work on the terrace for now.

In the orchard, the apple trees are pruned. The tree cuttings are kept and we graft them on to rootstock in order to grow more Cornish apple trees in the future. Its proven difficult to source Cornish apple tree varieties after the nursery we purchased the original trees from has closed down.

Dhalia tubers and other summer bulbs including Zantedeschia, eucomis and canna lilies are removed from winter storage in the sheds and are potted up. Many other perennials planted last autumn are also potted up.



**NEW TERRACES**

Visitors and pupils will have noticed some work taking place on the second terrace in front of our School in early March. The estate team worked on an exciting project to regenerate the area. It has been returned to a multi-use terraced seating area, not too different from how the school founders originally envisaged it.

The invasive rhododendrons have now been removed to make way for traditional yew hedging, which will eventually provide a thick, well-managed hedge linking all the way around to the Celebration Garden.

We love the image taken by Griffith Sandy, showing an earlier use of terraces for a Speech Day gymnastics demonstration in 1951.

A big thank you to the estates, gardens and maintenance teams for all your hard work, and we look forward to using the seating area, with newly installed electrical systems for events and performances.

**FEBRUARY – GROUNDS**

The dry spell in February enabled us to get out and cut the grass on all the pitches but also to bring the cylinder mowers on to the cricket squares both a cut and verticut as well as light roll. Slitting carries on across all the pitches to increase drainage and root growth for when the temperatures increase and the grass really begins to grow. Despite all the wet weather recently and it being used for rugby last term, the First team football pitch is still playing well. All the work carried out in the last year to improve the quality of the pitch has paid off and the sports staff have had a massive input in reducing training on the pitch, which has helped enormously to manage the work carried out.



**MARCH – GARDENS**

It's starting to feel a bit more like spring and although the rain is still with us, temperatures are beginning to rise and the spring bulbs are flowering. Daffodils are in full bloom and the last of the snowdrops are finishing flowering as the tulips emerge. By mid-March, we hope the last frost has passed so the hydrangeas are dead-headed and thinned, and the roses in the Celebration Garden are pruned.

The lawns are starting to grow and so are given a cut before being sprayed for moss and selective herbicide for weeds. A few weeks later they are spiked to aerate the soil and by the end of March/beginning of April they are overseeded again just to fill any bare patches created by dying weeds and moss. A spring fertiliser is also applied.

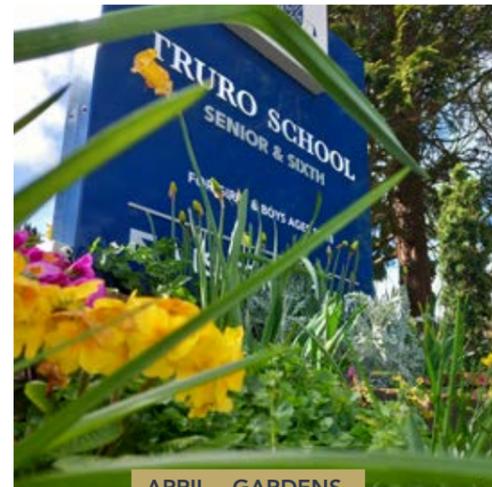
More dry weather is forecast so 400sqm of turf is ordered from Trelawny Turf. The terrace is turfed first, but then comes the rain so we wait until mid-April for another opportunity to lay the next 200sqm.

In March the seeds for annuals are sown in the greenhouse, including anthurium, gazanias, zinnias, sweet peas and cosmos. They are watered and placed in the heated propagator to germinate. We notice now that the dahlia tubers are starting to show new growth shoots and once big enough, some cuttings will be taken so we can propagate more plants for the future.

**MARCH – GROUNDS**

Chris the new Groundsperson starts with us this month its great to welcome him to the team. It's been a wet month though so all of us find it difficult to work on any of the pitches. When possible, the pitches are slit to improve drainage and given a cut, along with the cricket squares which are ready for pre-season rolling at the end of the month. By the Easter break all the football pitches will come down and we will move to summer sports e.g., cricket, athletics etc. At the end of March, a Disc Seeder is hired for overseeing the pitches. This is then followed by the application of a spring feed to help the growth of the new grass plants when they germinate.

One week before the cricket fixtures we were put through a spell of wet weather making the ground extremely soft. Unfortunately, the cows from our neighbour's field broke out causing significant damage to the main cricket square, as well as the outfield and top terrace football pitch. There is extensive damage across the main square, putting it out of action until materials arrive and it can be repaired. This is frustrating for us as we were happy with the renovation at the end of the season and the pitch would play well this year.



**APRIL – GARDENS**



The spring bulbs are in full show at April, and the seasonal bedding tulips, polyanthus and bellis are looking at its best, especially in the glimpses of spring sunshine. Over 1,500 summer bedding plugs arrive - including, marigolds, salvias, bacopa and fuchsia. These are all potted on and grown on in the greenhouse.

The weather has finally improved now and the rest of the lawns are turfed and overseeded. The fertiliser is now really starting to improve the lawns, as well as other regular maintenance, including aeration and brushing.

Perennial plants are propagated by seed and cuttings from last year are hardened off, ready for planting out – this includes 150 foxglove excelsior, 15 delphiniums, 18 hollyhocks and 20 achillea. All the beds are weeded and spring bulbs dead-headed. Dogwood is pruned back to a stool as soon as the first leaves show, which provides new vigorous fresh growth that provides the interest of the coloured stems in winter. By the end of April, the bedding is potted on again and dahlias and other bulbs/tubers including Zantedeschia and canna lilies are hardened off.



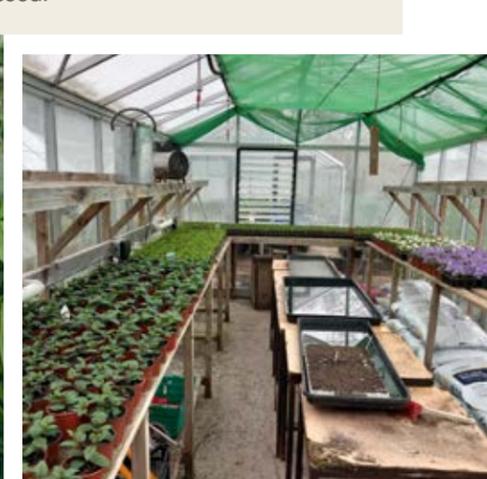
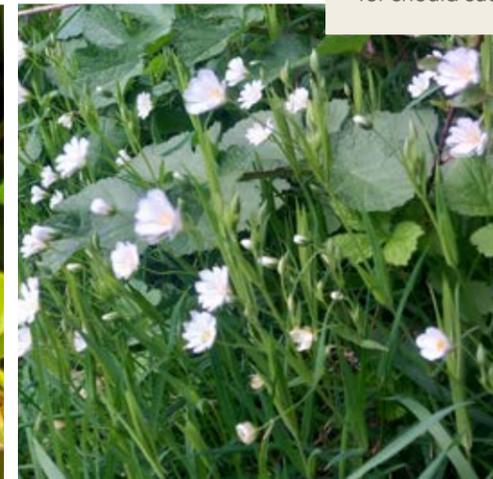
**APRIL – GROUNDS**

The grounds focus this month has firstly been with the athletics track – which is marked out as well as the rounders pitches and some football pitches. The junior square is prepped, and pitches are marked out for fixtures. The grass seed drilled into the pitch at the end of March is starting to germinate and by the end of April most of the bare patches are filled in with new grass and the fertiliser is helping to provide health and colour to the pitches. Although this has helped to disguise the damage done by the cows on top terrace, it has not removed the divots made by the hooves. 40 tonnes of sand are ordered and the top terrace and other areas of the worst damage on the outfield are dressed with the sand which is then brushed into the playing surface.



Other jobs in May included, planting out perennial plants that had grown in the greenhouses. We planted them into beds and borders across the site. The annuals that were grown from seed are hardened off including cosmos, zinnia and sweet peas. Wildflower areas are no longer cut except for paths and areas for people to sit and enjoy.

This also applies to the banks on our sports pitches as some will be cut for seating whilst areas that can be, will be left wild helping to improve biodiversity across site. The hedgerows have not been cut now for two years and we are starting to see plant species like stitchwort and bluebells proliferate along the hedgerows, as well as more regular sightings of green woodpeckers and other bird species. The apple cuttings grafted earlier in the year are starting to show leaf which means they have made a graft and as long as they are cared for should succeed.



**JUNE – GARDENS**

May means that the lawns are more regularly cut, and the newly seeded terraces are starting to green up and look lawn ready for events in the Summer Term.

The king's coronation is an event that our team have been planning to commemorate since last year. We sprayed the king's cypher in the Celebration Garden by using marking paint, much like the advertising seen on football and rugby pitches. John, who joined the team recently, had a previous career as a graphic designer so he came up with the design and then projected that on to a tarp in the Burrell Theatre to create a stencil that could be used to create a basic outline. John then filled in the rest of the colours by hand. I was massively impressed with the result, and it surpassed all our expectations.



**JUNE – GROUNDS**

The new grass is growing strong on the pitches and with the warmer weather most of the pitches are cut twice a week, reducing the height as we go. In early May, the loam arrives and in the first dry weather we have the entire of the main square cut down short so we can see the hoof damage. These holes are then filled by hand with a mix of loam and seed. The entire square is then rolled again. Although the rolling helps to remove the divots too much, rolling can be detrimental to playing surface when it is over rolled, which I fear may be the case this season. However, I'm happy to now have identified the best playing pitches (those with least damage) and we are now able to open the square for its first fixtures.



**JUNE/JULY – GARDENS**

At the beginning of June all the summer bedding is planted out around site in pot displays and borders. We do mix of annual bedding (salvia, marigold, bacopa, trailing fushia) and perennials are used in displays around site. We are a particular fan of dahlias, not only for their variety of colours, sizes and flower shapes but also their ability to flower all season all the way up to the first frosts. This means that unlike other perennials they are still in show even when everyone comes back to school in September.

The front bed on the top terrace is also planted up with a mix of perennials (including, penstemon, achillia, lupins, foxglove, dahlia, primula, geum, gaura, scabious and holyhocks) and left-over annual bedding. Over 400 plants were planted in the front bed alone. All of which were grown on site by Craig and John from seed or earlier in the spring. The skill and ability of our gardeners means we are able to supply large quantities of plants at a fraction of the cost whilst also reducing our carbon footprint and our impact on the environment. We make our own potting compost and reuse all our plastic pots.

We open the front terraces for a summer season of Drama productions such as A Midsummer Nights Dream, unfortunately due to the dry weather the grass hasn't taken everywhere and there is still the odd bare patch. The team are looking forward to autumn to get on and renovate the two top terraces adding more grass and some fertiliser will certainly help.

Normal maintenance continues weeding and watering, plus planting up any gaps in the beds with plants with have grown on. The Celebration Garden is weeded and deadheaded on a regular basis and yew hedging around the roses is given its first cut.

The grass is cut regularly and clippings are left to fly in the hot weather as this provides a light mulch that retains moisture. The green houses are looking empty once the school packs up its time for a tidy up and to start thinking about next spring seasonal displays. The bulbs are ordered and seeds sown.

As some of the early flowering perennials finish flower and the seed heads dry out, they are collected and stored for sowing later in the year or next year. Wildflower seeds are also collected especially species like yellow rattle that are semi parasitic on grass helping reduce grass competition. The plan is to grow these on as plugs and plant around our wild areas.



**JUNE/JULY – GROUNDS**

This term cricket fixtures continue; pitches are prepared when needed. Unfortunately, due to the cow damage early in the season it is proving difficult to find decent pitches on the square. Although repairs were made, the recent dry weather has meant they have started cracking and opening up as there is no grass root to hold the soil profile together. Chris, our new Groundsman is doing a brilliant job at preparing multiple pitches at a time then assessing and repair as needed. This gives the cricket coaches options to choose a pitch they prefer. Again, we are looking forward to renovating at the end of the season providing a better playing surface next year.

Regular line marking cutting continues and grass height is reduced on the cricket fields and running track. The lack of rainfall through late spring and early summer has meant the grass is starting to stress and lose its colour. Luckily our early overseeding in March means most of the grass has had enough time to establish a good root and hopefully will survive this dry period ready to bounce back into the autumn months ready for rugby. At the end of June some rainfall is forecast which is ideal to apply some slow-release granular fertiliser to first team pitch. The running track lines are freshly marked and grass is cut ready for Sports Day.

# Sports Roundup

I had to check my previous year's entry as I was sure that I was wrong. It turns out, I wasn't (for once). The 2022-23 school year was the first school year completely unaffected by any covid limitations since I joined Truro School in 2018-19. That also means that I have been at Truro School for 5 years, which is a perfect reason to stop and reflect.

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To say that this year in sport was a busy one would be a gross understatement. The energy that our pupils, staff, coaches and parents have is inspiring. Due to everyone's efforts, it has been an incredible year packed with fixtures, tournaments and new experiences.

Truro School has competed in over 700 fixtures, spread across 21 sports. An incredible 63% of the Senior School represented Truro School in a fixture at least once this year. The 1<sup>st</sup> years have been the most active year group (both in terms of pupil engagement and fixtures played) that we have had in the past 5 years. All of this is indicative of the phenomenal opportunity each pupil has to engage in sport at Truro School.

Sport is still largely judged by the win/loss column but I am grateful that more people than ever can look past this.

The learnings, experiences and resilience gained through sport are well known and are of extreme importance in and beyond the school setting.

Winning is, of course, nice, but the added benefits of sport allow us to focus on preparation, process, creativity and risk-taking. These skills are of far greater value and benefit to our pupils than the short-term pleasure of winning a fixture.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to see the pupils of Truro School perform, grow and enjoy themselves in the sporting arena. Below are just a handful of some highlights of the last academic year:

## Team Highlights

Our U16 netball team were crowned National Champions in netball after they won the Sisters in Sports Bowl competition. A special achievement from a wonderful year group and the first national title in netball for Truro School, well done girls! The U15 netball team were crowned County Champions and once again, had a fantastic year in a variety of competitions.

The U12 and U15 boys football teams both made it to the national semi-finals, which was an incredible run for both teams. The U18 boy's football team continue to be successful, again winning the double (league and county cup), following on from the double last season.

Our girls' football teams continue to grow stronger, especially in the younger years. Well done to the players for training so well and for representing the school with passion.

Our mixed rounders and cricket teams were fantastic ambassadors in the Cornwall School Games. Not only did they compete with exemplary behaviour, they ended the tournament as winners. The U14 cricket team won the county title, which was the first county title for this cohort in any sport and a well-deserved accolade for a tremendous year group.

Our athletics and cross-country teams had their busiest season ever; with over 100 pupils representing the school in a record number of events. We also had two golf teams in the national finals, which was an amazing achievement and a first for the school.

Our Judo team travelled to Mount Kelly College to compete in our first Judo fixture, in a triangular tournament, which we hope will be the first of many. The team continues to go from strength to strength, with increasing numbers at training each week.

The U16 boys rugby team had a great

season, playing some wonderful rugby throughout, both in 15-a-side and 7's. A talented team throughout, they have produced some of the best rugby at Truro School for a long time

## Recent Old Truronian Highlights

In rugby, **Will Becconsall** CO21 made his premiership debut for Exeter Chiefs and has become a regular fixture in the Chief's match day squads. **Ollie Andrews** CO18, who was our special guest at this year's sports dinner, continues to impress at Coventry Rugby Club. Ollie has recently signed a new contract and has been a strong performer in the front row.

In football, **Freddie Issaka** CO24 signed his first professional contract and has put on some eye-catching displays for Plymouth Argyle FC. Freddie becomes their youngest-ever player and has also gained national age group honours.

## Developing Sport at Truro School

Away from the sports field, the PE team have been involved with various events and initiatives throughout the year, a few of which we will share below.

With the help of Mrs Norfolk, the team launched 'masterclasses' to give our pupils a snapshot into sports they may not have tried before. Sessions were held for fencing, badminton, golf and triathlon and we are looking forward to more showcases next year.

The PE department held a rainbow laces week, where we championed different LGBTQ+ athletes and shared their stories. Our staff and pupil community donned rainbow shoelaces to show that sport will always be available to everyone at Truro School.

Trips were back on the agenda, with highlights being the Portugal tennis trip and the World School Games Tournament, which took place at Loughborough University, with our U13 & U15 netball teams representing Truro School. With even more planned for next year, it will be fantastic to see our pupils performing far and wide.



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

**THE ANNUAL SPORTS DINNER**

The annual Sports Dinner took place in May, with 150 guests joining in the celebrations of our senior teams and individuals. Our keynote speaker was former pupil **Ollie Andrews** CO18, who gave us an insight into life as a professional athlete and shared some entertaining anecdotes about his time at Truro School and his rugby career to date.

Tegan B (U6<sup>th</sup>) won the Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award for her phenomenal efforts in surfing, representing Team GB and England in events across Europe. Kobe K (U6<sup>th</sup>), was awarded the Truro School Sports Ambassador, for continued service, a consistently high positive attitude and for being a wonderful role model across a multitude of sports during his Truro School sporting career. It was a privilege to spend the evening with our senior pupils and it is always an occasion that I look forward to.



I can't finish without mentioning the first full Sports Day since 2019, which was won by Vinter. To see the whole school come together and compete, cheer on friends and enjoy being active for the day, was long overdue. I was filled with pride as I witnessed hundreds of pupils on the athletics track; it was clear then, as always, that we really do have a special school community.

I would like to say thank you to all of the OPS teams that are essential to running our sports programme. Transport, caretakers, maintenance teams and catering, your support is greatly valued and appreciated. The grounds team at Truro School go above and beyond and we have some of the best pitches in the South West. Thank you all.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the pupils, staff and parents. Thank you for your effort, patience and support. For me, the best thing about sport is the spirit of teamwork that it creates. Solo or team athletes, everyone needs others to help them achieve their goals and are lucky to have a wonderful community at Truro School that enables this to happen.

Thank you to all of the pupils who have represented the school. We hope you have enjoyed sport at Truro School this year and we are looking forward to providing you with more opportunities next year.



# The Ball Family

## AT TRURO SCHOOL

At Truro School we are privileged to have educated many families of which multiple generations have attended. None so much as the Ball family however, who we know that seventeen family members have attended, including one teacher.



Ball family, 1956. Far right is Christopher TS 1949-56 and middle front is Jonathan Ball TS 1958-65



Emma and Charles Henry Ball, late 19th Century. Studio portrait taken by Hayman & Sons Launceston

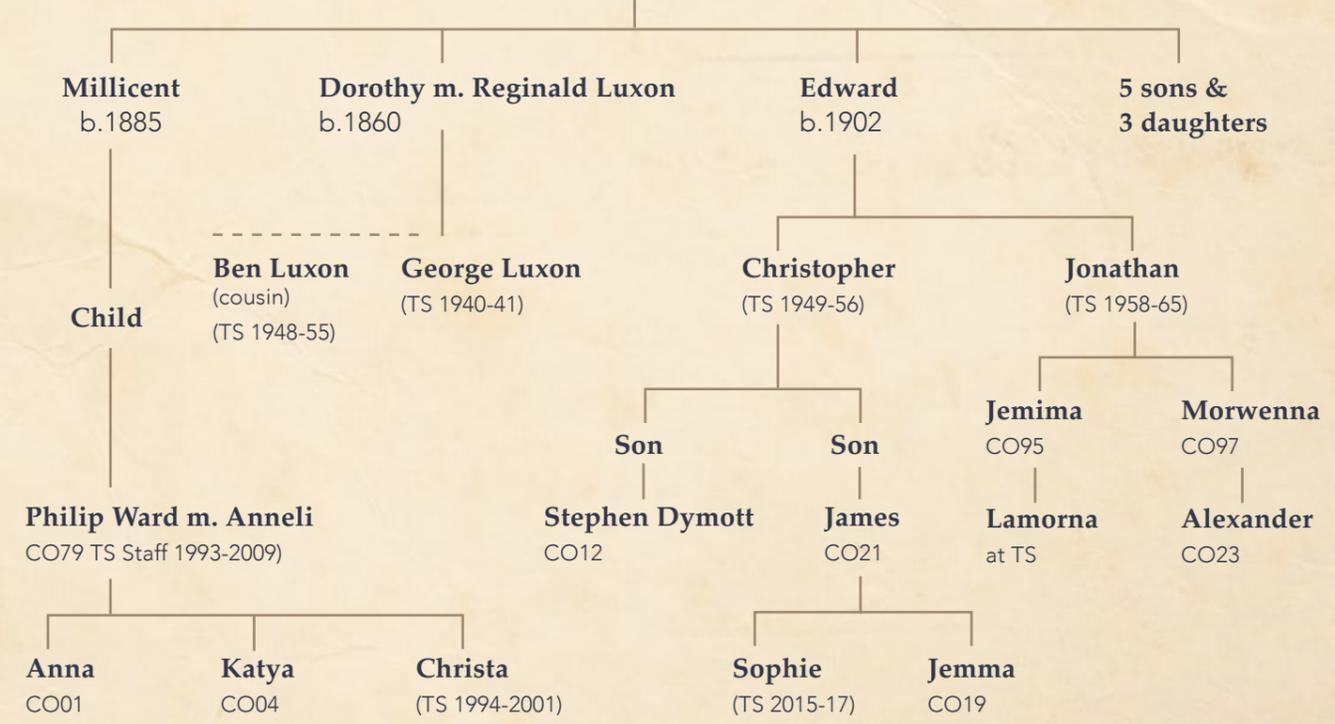
Jonathan describes arriving at the School in his autobiography *The Winds Call No Man Sir* (2015): "A tree-lined snaking drive steeply inclined past grassy terraces each containing a tennis court, heightens the sense of arrival at the imposing front elevation of Truro School which, for us boarders who outnumber day boys, is a true bastion of Cornish Methodism."

The Ball line continues at Truro School through Jonathan's children and grandchildren and Christopher's grandchildren, who have all attended Truro School over the past thirty years. The family can even attest to having had a teacher join the School through **Anneli Ward** (TS 1993-2009) who was Teacher of German and Assistant Housemistress in girls boarding. Anneli is the wife of **Philip**

**Ward** CO72 and grandson of Millicent Ball – cousin to Edith Ball where the link with Truro School began.

Today **Jemima Luckhurst** (nee Ball) CO95 who is one of Jonathan's children attended Truro School now also works in the Marketing and Communications office. Her daughter Lamorna currently attends the School.

**Charles Henry Ball m. Emma Blatchford**  
b.1857 | b.1860



# Archive Attic

## Pentreve

A newsletter from 1936 noted that 'Old Boys will remember this [Pentreve] as a large house near to the main gate. This was purchased in 1931 [sic], and its beautiful gardens run right down to Trafalgar Square. Here 21 of the younger boys are accommodated under the charge of a married Master and Matron'.



The early 1930s prospectus described the 'Junior House for Younger Boys'.

'A Junior House, for boys between eight and ten years of age... it accommodates 14 boys only, and is furnished like an ordinary house, and is under the direct supervision of the Headmaster... The boys take breakfast and dinner in the School Dining Hall, but when afternoon lessons are over they return to the Junior House for the rest of the day...'

After 1937, the younger boarders, just up from Treliske, were provided with conditions 'as home-like as possible so that the change from home to school life may be gradual and easy. All the rooms face south and not more than five or six boys are put in each dormitory...'

Before being purchased by the School, Pentreve was two houses, one of which was the residence of Lord Falmouth's agent. Enquiries were made by the Governors into purchasing the property in the summer of 1929, and it was bought for £1150 by October. The following month the adjoining house, occupied by Dr Day, became available for sale as well, and was bought for £1200 in March 1930. After repairs and refurbishments were made the first part of the new boarding house was opened

on 10 January 1930 during the visit of Dr Lofthouse, President of the Wesleyan Conference, to the School. Miss Clarice Williams, the Form I teacher, and housemistress from 1930 to 1934, recalled the occasion and the early days of boarding life:

'We spent the previous week-end in polishing and cleaning, both inside and outside, and when the great day came we were all awake early, wondering if Nature would be kind enough to give us fair weather. The boys had to rise earlier to have an extra scrub and put on Sunday suits; back studs as usual were missing and hectic minutes were spent in trying to retrieve them from their wrong owners.

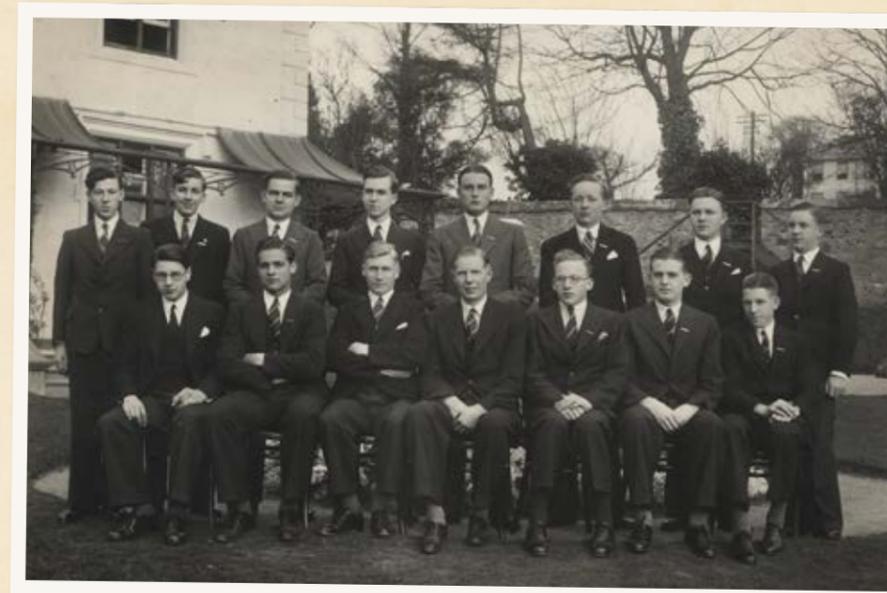
After lunch the invited guests made their way down to the Junior House. Meanwhile the boys formed a Guard of Honour and great was the disappointment when the distinguished visitors failed to pass through...the President offered a prayer, and W.H. Langdon then asked Mrs Ingram to declare the Junior House open, presenting her with a bouquet of tulips. Mrs Ingram in a short but happy speech graciously declared the house open ...

The House was inspected, and great The House was inspected, and great was the

relief and joy of the Junior House Boys when, on the departure of the last guest, they could at last get off those terrible collars. The effect of wearing their Sunday apparel on a week day had a disastrous effect, for, sad to relate, after tea the supporters of Vinter, Smith and School Houses decided to fight the one valiant Wickettite. The would-be heroes had to spend the rest of a memorable day in bed, while the non-fighters had a glorious time telling yarns and eating chips around the fire.

Life at the Junior House is very jolly. The boys get up at 7.20am every day and troop to the College for breakfast. At 4pm down they come again and until 5pm spend a great deal of their time in gardening – each boy has a patch of land and each believes that next term he will be able to supply the Junior House with lettuce, radishes and peas.

Tea is generally at 5pm and it is really amazing how long this meal lasts – several of us have tremendous eating capacities. After tea we play games, of which draughts is the most popular, and great is the joy of that terrible person who administers punishment, when she defeats the champion players. Prep, is at 6 o'clock and supper at 7. Lights out at 8.30pm and then silence.



Prefects outside Pentreve c1938.

On Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, we take our weekly walk, and after tea we write letters, and read stories around the fireside. One person, at least, is thankful when lights are out, and she can sit and read without being cross-examined about the hundred and one things boys are keen on.

In spite of punishments, three baths weekly for each boy, and having to wash without wearing a vest, life here is very happy, and we are just like a great big family. I feel sure that those who visit us often envy us and wish they could enjoy the privileges given to us. We are trying to hand on to succeeding generations a glorious tradition and are hoping that the training given to the younger boys will make them proud of the school on the hill, and so that the school may be proud of them.'

By 1935 boarding was expanding and more space was needed, so when Treliske was bought for the youngest boarders, Pentreve was used for older boys, over the age of 11. At that time part of the garden at Pentreve was leased to Charles Langdon to build a bungalow on.

As well as the housemistress or housemaster, Pentreve was staffed with one or two servants. Ruby Terrell worked for six years as a housemaid at Pentreve before being appointed head dormitory maid in January 1937. In 1938 a pupil got caught carrying letters from another maid at Pentreve (probably aged about 15) to one of the other boys and received four strokes of the cane as punishment.



Pentreve juniors 1930

## Pentreve, 1944

*Up three stone steps and in the door,  
Probably varnished last in the war,  
Into the cloakroom to change your shoes  
A pair of woolly slippers choose.*

*You see oak bannisters gleaming bright  
But you can't slide down in the middle  
of the night*

*For there are little prickly things  
Which stop you riding down on wings.*

*You plod upstairs to go to bed,  
And then the prayers by all are said  
It proves to be your night to bath,  
So towards the baths direct your path.*

*Soon you run into the steam  
You make some soap turn into cream  
Then wash yourself from top to toe  
And after that out you must go.*

*You run away and get in bed,  
And then you hear the Prefects tread,  
He puts all lights out and cruel it seems,  
But then we go to happy dreams.*

**J.C. WHITE**  
(TS 1943-49)

# Archive Attic

## Coronations and Royal Visits

### Edward VII's Coronation Truro College Magazine, July 1902

'Arrangements were made for illuminating the College on a noble scale for the Coronation, but everything was of course postponed, and the illuminations took place on Speech Day instead. A select few had seen the Diamond Jubilee celebration, but to most the sight was a novel and unique experience, for the effect of 1,500 coloured lamps, set close and outlining the shape of the building, was beautiful in the extreme. From every point the effect was good, but finest perhaps from the bridge in Lemon Street. The College, in its setting of utter darkness, looked like a fairy palace suspended in mid-air, while the reflection in the motionless tide, which turned the gables and projections into minarets and spires, was yet more weird and fantastic, resembling some gorgeous Eastern temple set in gold and precious stones.'

### George V's Coronation Truro College Magazine, July 1911

As the Coronation came very close on half-term, the holidays were combined, school breaking up at mid-day on Wednesday and not recommencing until Monday morning. Those boys who remained at the school during the four days had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Thursday morning saw a shirt-sleeved throng in the Physics Lab, busy sorting and filling the fairy-lamps that were destined to illuminate our stately pile. Hard work was the rule; the sound of breaking glass fell ever and anon on the listening ear. Everything was done and every lamp taken to the front windows before eleven o'clock came. Then like so many ... we wended our way to St Mary's ... After an impressive service everyone resorted to Boscawen Street, where there was a most imposing group of chief priests and elders, headed by the Mayor, and supported by the Territorials in full war-paint. It was undoubtedly a striking scene, this brilliant array under the gorgeous festoons, but despite the raised

stand from which the proclamation was made, my unfortunate position behind and amongst several large hats gave me but a poor view of the proceedings. I saw several convulsive movements of cocked hats, and caught the sound of larger hats and louder voices were too great to be overcome. Some of us were more fortunate, and with the usual progressive instinct so noticeable in the early 'teens, many Collegians reached the very front. The crowd was large, but behaved admirably. Having joined in the necessary ebullitions of loyal enthusiasm, we returned for dinner.

In the afternoon cricket and tennis were played, and after an early tea we went to see the Carnival. The procession was mirth-provoking in the extreme, and I understand that some of our company managed to view it several times by dint of strenuous running down the side streets...

At our trying-time of seven o'clock we presented ourselves once again at the College. Work was before us now, the great task of attempting to light nine hundred fairy lamps in the teeth of a sharp westerly gale. Naturally, the wind proved too strong for us, and we were forced to abandon any idea of illuminations on that night. Disappointed, yet hopeful for the future, we made yet

another pilgrimage to Boscawen Street, where was a large crowd, the inclement weather notwithstanding. Here it was lamentable to behold how that the carefully planned illuminations on the Town Hall steadily refused to illumine. However, although the wind made havoc with the outlines, the general effect was striking. Some time was spent in the Rink, where a great crowd attended the Patriotic Concert.

By ten o'clock everyone was back at the College, after a long and varied day.

An expedition had been rumoured for Friday, but leaden skies and a steady drizzle did not make us very hopeful of getting far away from Truro.

After an "indoors" morning, we were all pleased when the announcement of a trip to Falmouth was made...The "voyage" was a pleasant one, and Falmouth was well explored by our party. It is rumoured that one trio took upon themselves the almost superhuman task of the Inspectorship of Ice Cream for Falmouth, but the results were not fatal...

The evening remaining quite calm, we determined to illuminate or die. All hands were at their posts, all lamps lit, and the order given. Then for an object lesson in the advantages of organisation. Everyone knew his job,

and everyone did it. While the work was still in progress, and a certain friend of ours from over-seas, "risking all for glory", was performing prodigies of skill with ladders and lamps upon the gables, there occurred a curious incident.

Thanks to the enterprise of a local journal, the news of our illumination had been spread all over the town, with the result that long before dark a large crowd had gathered around the gate. As their numbers increased this crowd invaded the premises, and it needed all the admonishments of a somewhat reluctant constable to keep them in check.

As night fell, and the result of our labours began gradually to be apparent, a dense throng congregated on all points of vantage in the town. When at last the noble building shone out in all its glory of mingled colours, every outline limned in light, the bridges and quays were almost impassable. After the fireworks the crowd thinned somewhat and we were able to go down and look at our work for ourselves. A proud little throng we were as we gazed up at our alma mater, transformed by our own hands into the noblest tribute given by the city to our King in his year of Coronation. Advantaged by its outstanding position, there is no doubt that the College was far and away the most striking unit in all the local decorations. In the front rooms we went to bed that night with the strange glow of the lamps shining in from the windows, and about three in the morning a sizzling was heard. The rain

had put them all out, but it had come too late to spoil our show.

Lamp cleaning and sorting occupied Saturday morning up to eleven o'clock, when we all went to the station and were soon en route for Newquay. There we spent a very pleasant day, commencing with a splendid bathe in the surf, and ending with a hearty tea...

On Sunday morning the municipal authorities and the Territorials were present at St Mary's, when the Rev. Baron Hay preached a striking sermon, pointing out the deep significance of the Coronation festivities... Sunday afternoon was spent by a large number of us in slumber. It was strange to see how one after another wandered into the dormitory and tottered on to a bed. But those had been tiring days.

Monday brought us back to work. Despite the uncertain weather, everyone had a good time, thanks to the admirable foresight and organisation exercised then (as always) by the Head Master and Mrs Opie. That Coronation week will not soon be forgotten by any of us.

### George VI The Truronian, December 1937 The King's Visit

It had been decided by the authorities that the King should make a visit to Cornwall on December 1<sup>st</sup>, visiting Truro at about 4 o'clock. Feeling ran high in the School when it was known that it was to be a general holiday; unfortunately, our holiday was postponed to a later date.

However, it was arranged that the School should be present when the King passed.

The School marched down in groups of twenty, because it was feared that if one big crocodile was formed, one end would be on Boscawen Bridge while the other end would still be at School.

However, we were safely squeezed into our allotted area with the prospects of an hour to wait. Several bystanders, with oversize lungs, gave us a vocal chorus and the time soon slipped by.

The King arrived in his car, walked through Boscawen Street, inspecting the British Legion; he returned to his car, drove to the Cathedral, where we saw the statute erected to his father. He then re-continued his visit in the direction of Camborne. As for ourselves, we returned to School with stiff legs and cold feet, but with a warm and loyal heart – Long Live Our King.

### Elizabeth II's Coronation The Truronian, July 1953

'The School was closed for the Coronation Holiday from Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

...On Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, the School saw the Coronation film "A Queen is Crowned" at the Plaza Cinema and during the Coronation Celebrations the School was floodlit'.

... Coronation beakers were presented to boys living in the Truro area when the Mayor and Mayoress visited the School just before the half term holiday'.



## To the King

*Past is the trumpet's blare, the long, dull roar,  
The surging shout of thousands, all the power  
And joy that welcomed thee in that glad hour  
When from our glorious Empire's furthest shore  
Came her strong sons, and, standing thee before,  
Gave thee their homage. Past the solemn scene,  
The sacrament of crowning, that hath been  
For thee but once, nor comes it evermore;  
Unique, mysterious, 'twas for thee alone.  
Past are all these, the symbols of thy rule,  
Past never to return. Yet these above  
There rests for thee a tribute yet more full  
Of loyalty on which may rest thy throne;  
A tribute that is faith, and truth, and love.*

J.K. Peel, 1911

# Archive Objects

# OLD TRURONIAN Events and Reunions for 2023



Early badges in Old Boys' colours of crimson and ecru.

## In Focus

The School Archive recently received a car badge from the 1930s, with 'Truro School OBAMC' emblazoned on it with the school badge in red and cream; a much more colourful example than a former example already in the Archive from the same era. A rummage around in the old school magazines suggests that the Truro College Old Boys Association Motor Club, as it was first known, was formed in the 1920s (before the school changed its name in 1931), although reports of rallies and outings did not appear in print until the late 1930s.

### The Truronian, July 1938: Old Boys' Annual Rally 1938

'About 34 members of Truro College Old Boys' Association and lady friends joined in the annual motor rally on Friday, June 17th. They went first to Porthtowan where they had a game of rounders on the beach, and afterwards went on to Portreath, North Cliffs, Hayle, St Ives and Penzance, where they were joined at supper at Chirgwin's Café by their President, Dr E.H. Magson, Headmaster of Truro School. Mr L Bellingham, Newquay (Chairman) congratulated the organisers and said another rally would be held at the end of July. Among others present were Messrs W.F. Jewell (Vice-Chairman), L.A. Dotson (Hon. Secretary) and A.W.B. Lukies (Sports Secretary).'

### The Truronian, July 1947

'An evening motor run took place on the 4th July. The route was along the North Cliffs via Porthtowan, Portreath, Hell's Mouth and Hayle to St Ives where, before supper at Curnows' Café, Old Boys and their wives and friends enjoyed bathing and games on the beach.'

### The Truronian, July 1952

'On May 26th we were fortunate in having a fine evening for the Annual Motor Run. About a dozen cars followed a coach-load of members from the Car Park to Crinnis. Here, on the beach, the ladies defeated the men at rounders while a few members did a little 'exploring' and climbing. From Crinnis we travelled to Fowey, where over 70 members sat down to supper in the Toll House Café. There was time to appreciate the beauty of the Fowey river and town before returning to Truro – a highly successful evening.'

### The Truronian, July 1954 'Mystery' Motor Run

'This most successful evening trip, arranged by the Assistant Secretary, was enjoyed by over 90 members. By devious routes, on both good road and very bad, we found our way around St Agnes Beacon, navigated 'Blue Hills', raced three abreast across Perranporth Aerodrome and thence through Perranporth, and across Cubert Common to an excellent supper at Crantock. We eagerly look forward to the next 'run'.'

### The Truronian, July 1956

'For yet another year Donald Vage organised two motor-runs, both of which were well supported and highly successful. He seems to be almost uncanny in picking fine evenings for such trips. The first, early in May, was a 'Mystery' one and we were led around the South Coast area and through Caerhays, for an excellent buffet supper at Gorran Haven. For the second he chose the North coast. First to Portreath to climb the cliffs and watch a lone member of the party swim, and then through Gwithian and Hayle to Carbis Bay for pasties and coffee.'

### The Truronian, March 1959

'The new crested tie is in the course of production! In Terylene, with a silver crest on a maroon background, the tie will become available from Messrs Boggia, Boscawen Street, Truro, towards the end of April and will cost 14/11. The Car Badge will be available with

a month of your receiving this Magazine... We hope you will approve of the quality and of the new and, we think, rather attractive design. The car badge was priced at 30 shillings and it was reported that it appeared 'to be meeting with general approval and sales are brisk!'

From the following school magazines, enthusiasm amongst alumni for the motor club appears to have begun to wane from this point (unless it was just not reported) but was on the rise within the school; a school motor club giving films and lectures was formed in the early 1960s. By the late 1970s 6th Formers had formed a Truro School Motor Cycle Club, not long followed by a rival Car Drivers' Club.



TSOBA 1959 car badge

### TSCDC – TRURO SCHOOL CAR DRIVERS' CLUB

Formed to rival the TSMCC, the club has dramatically grown in size with people realizing the assets of a roof over their heads.

All that remains is to thank Mr Keam for providing the 'parking' spaces and car wash, and to send him the club's emblem, a one-legged pedestrian rampant over the motto "Pedestrianus AVOIDIA". Safe driving! Sir N.F., A.H. Esq (300 points).

Although cars have now become a ubiquitous part of modern life it is interesting to see how they once combined prestige and novelty, and provided a focus for entertainment.



# Reunion Tea Party

Friday 18 August 2023

The rain did not dampen the spirits of the returning Old Truronians for the Reunion Tea Party on Friday 18 August. With former pupils from the 1940s to the 1980s attending, the Old Dining Hall was full of OT's who had plenty to reminisce on and stories to share of their time at Truro School. It was a particular pleasure to welcome back Thomas Philp who attended from 1936-1944 and was one of the first pupils at Treiske (now Truro School Prep) and Michael Yeo who attended from 1941-1946.

The afternoon began with a Cornish cream tea and a chance to peruse objects and photographs from the Truro School Archive, followed by a fun 'Guess the Tune' game on the Chapel organ, from the Director of Music Martin Palmer. Martin delivered a brilliant performance of a huge number of famous tunes and soundtracks from films for the OTs to guess.

The Head's only recommendation for the afternoon was "to tea, rather than seem to tea." Huge thanks to all the Old Truronians and their guests who took the time to come back to Truro School.

"Thank you so much for an excellent afternoon at the school. The "cream tea" was much more than that and I even ended up with a "doggie bag" to bring home. Whilst the weather prevented the tour of the school, Martin Palmer's brilliant organ quiz was a great substitute while Jo's archive presentation was up to her usual professional standard. I was pleased to have another chat with Head Andy again and to meet up with four of my reunion group. All in all a worthwhile trip back to Alma Mater."



# AUTUMN TERM School News

## A SURPRISE VISIT FROM GARY

Players and spectators on the Truro School playing fields got a rather unexpected surprise as acclaimed singer, songwriter, composer and producer, Gary Barlow landed his helicopter during a rugby match between Truro School and Penryn College.

Gary greeted excited onlookers before heading off to the Hall for Cornwall to narrate the journey of his life alongside the music from his incredible discography. Our Operations Team were on hand to secure the area and support Gary safely to his onward journey whilst pupils enjoyed taking a closer look at the helicopter.



## LONDON THEATRE TRIP A SMASH HIT

The cast of Truro School's production of Les Misérables, along with drama, music and tech pupils, took an exciting two-day trip to London in the autumn to see the West End version of the performance.

The students and pupils travelled up via coach to see the stunning stage show, along with a matinee performance of Matilda. The group also managed to squeeze in some sightseeing, including a bronze-statue "Scenes in the Square" tour and street performances in Covent Garden.



## YEAR 5 BODMIN MOOR WALK



'My favourite bit was having lunch at the quarry. It was nice to see the weather and be outside.' Rowan, Year 5.

After a very soggy start in Truro, the clouds cleared away, and the blue skies arrived as the group arrived in Bodmin. The circular walk was rich in new experiences, with some children saying that they had never been to such a wild place before. Others said they hadn't climbed up such a huge mountain before. Stowe's hill was definitely no mountain, but it was a beautiful and rewarding climb, with 360-degree views at the top.



The children loved exploring the enormous granite slabs at the top, created over thousands of years by geological erosion. The Cheesewring was their favourite - seven granite slabs balanced on top of each other, with the smallest at the bottom and the biggest at the top. We even had time for some storytelling - a legend about how the giant Uther fought St. Tue, with a stone throwing contest settling the winner.

They also enjoyed visiting Daniel Gunn's hermit hut, where he lived with his family on the wild moor to avoid paying his taxes. They saw the mathematical symbols and astronomical signs he had carved into the rocks.



Lunch was spent at Gold Diggings Quarry. This is a well-known wild swimming spot, often found on adventure blogs and travel writing blogs. Although there were no wild swimmers there on this occasion, this didn't stop many of the children from resolving to return with their hardy parents to brave the icy waters.

The last stop was the most famous part of the walk - the ancient stone circles known as the hurlers and the two standing stones called the pipers. With help from guides, the children heard about the local legend of the stones: that because the local men were caught playing sports and musical instruments on the Sabbath, they were turned to stone. And there they have stayed.

## EXCITEMENT AT THE START OF TERM

It was lovely to have the school site filled with activity again after the summer break as the pupils were welcomed back for the start of the Autumn Term. Pupils made the most of the dry weather and took to the playgrounds to enjoy their lunchtime as they caught up with their friends.



## HEAD BOY AND GIRL

This academic year heralded the arrival of a new Senior Prefect Team, this time led by Head Girl **Soumya Sen** CO23, Head Boy **Oliver Jones** CO23 and Deputy Head Girl **Alicia Bray** CO23 and Deputy Head Boy **Magnus Bushby** CO23.

## AUTUMN TERM

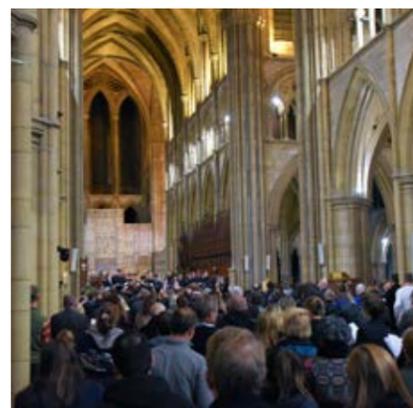
# School News

### VOICES RING OUT FOR NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols took place at Truro Cathedral again at the end of 2022. A celebration of the special relationship between the Cathedral and Truro School, the service was originally devised by the first Bishop of Truro, Bishop Edward White Benson in 1880. It is now held in churches across the world at Christmas.

The service runs through nine passages, interspersed with carols and hymns, leading to the birth of Jesus. The readings were undertaken by staff and pupils, including Will from Truro School Prep. The Chamber Choir, Girl Choristers, and Barbershop Group provided stunning musical interludes, with their voices lifting high into the ribbed vaults of the Cathedral. There was also a moving performance from the Prep Choir, who sang, 'The Voice of an Angel'.

A special thanks to the fabulous Music Department and to Reverend Aubin De Gruchy for bringing the evening together and to all of those who took part and joined in the celebration.



## SPRING TERM

# School News

### THE 16TH TRURO SCHOOL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Shakespeare Festival celebrated the life and works of William Shakespeare, with each of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year forms producing a twenty-minute play. Directed by our English teachers, worked on in lessons and performed on stage in the Burrell Theatre, the festival is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to perform and connect meaningfully to the vivid life, language and intellect of the bard William Shakespeare some 400 years after his death.

Audiences were treated to a journey through the tragedies of Macbeth and Henry V, performed by 2J and 2H and Oberon's Hawaiian-styled fairies on scooters in A Midsummer Night's Dream by 2M. The second night started with the comedy-turned-tragedy Romeo and Juliet, performed by 2K, and a memorable Macbeth performed by 2H. The evening was rounded off by a joyful production of one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, Much Ado About Nothing.

Huge thanks extended to the Burrell Theatre tech crew, Miss Selvey, Ms Egar and our wonderfully talented English department for their superb organisation, inspiration, creativity and tireless good humour.



### BOARDERS CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Our Boarders had a wonderful weekend getting stuck into celebrations to mark the Coronation. They enjoyed a red, white and blue street party complete with lots of delicious food fit for a King, including scones with jam and clotted cream, coronation chicken sandwiches and Victoria sponge. They also played royal-themed games whilst wearing crowns, and even Alfie, the boarding house dog, got involved.

On Monday, teams headed off to Carne Beach to take part in 'The King of the Castle Challenge'. Organised by the High Sheriff of Cornwall, Mr Toby Ashworth, teams were given two hours to build their creations. As part of The Coronation's Big Help Out campaign, the day was organised to raise funds for The Roseland Centre.

Our teams worked together to create some truly stunning sand castles, and despite the dreary weather, they took the win. A fantastic and memorable weekend was had by all.

With thanks to all of the boarders, our catering team and our boarding staff who make these weekends possible.



# SPRING TERM School News

## PRE-PREP VISIT FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE



Reception was excited to welcome the Devon and Cornwall Police today with some extra special four-legged visitors.

The children were delighted to meet Police Dogs, Ronnie the German Shepard and Daisy the Springer Spaniel and loved giving them lots of attention and cuddles. They learnt all about Ronnie and Daisy's roles in the Police and how important they are to their handlers' jobs.

A highlight, of course, was having a go at turning on the flashing blue lights and sirens in the Police Car. The children enjoyed taking a seat behind the wheel to experience what it's like to be a Police Officer.

A huge thank you to the Police officers for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit us.

## TRIVIA TESTED IN THE TOP HOUSE QUIZ

Nerves were tested, knowledge was proven and the crowd was left on the edge of their seats as the four houses battled it out in the Top House Quiz cup.

There were some stunning rounds from all of the teams and it was anyone's guess who would be crowned the ultimate winners, but in the end, School House managed to pull ahead in the final to win. The quiz is just one of the many inter-house challenges that encourage friendly rivalry and team camaraderie between our four houses; School, Vinter, Smith and Wickett. With thanks to Dr Spring, our Quiz Master and host.



## PORTUGAL SURF TRIP

A group of our budding young surfers ventured to Portugal over half term to take on the waves of Lagos. The group had a jam-packed week of surfing tuition and sightseeing and enjoyed plenty of local culture and food. Everyone had a wonderful week developing their surfing skills and enjoying the warmer waters and waves of the Portuguese coast.

## A ROYAL SURPRISE AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM

Year 5 had an unexpected royal meet and greet during their trip to the National Maritime Museum. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, on their first official visit to Cornwall since taking their new titles, chatted to pupils as they left the museum.

The children's trip was the culmination of their term's topic on the Vikings. The children spent the morning taking part in a Vikings workshop, where they looked at maps, did a trading exercise in Viking goods, made their own coins and tested out Viking vessels in the model "sea" on the ground floor of the Museum.

The children were lucky to have been present as the Duke and Duchess left the museum. The royal couple spotted the children and came over, spending several minutes chatting about Vikings, lessons and being a chorister at Truro School and Truro Cathedral. George was able to joke with the Duke about football. He said, "We asked Prince William what team he supports and he said Aston Villa, which is disgraceful!"

Meanwhile, Kate commented on the fact that a number of the pupils were wearing shorts, despite the chilly February weather, remarking that the children were "just like my George."

The children were thrilled to have met the royal couple and happy to explain what they had been learning about during their visit. Lexi said, "Kate asked us what we were doing, so we told her about the Vikings." Kate responded by sharing her own experience testing out the Viking vessels at the museum. The pair happily posed for photos and gave lots of high-fives before they headed off.



## CELEBRATIONS FIT FOR A KING

There was a sense of jubilation in the air on Friday as the Senior School came together to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Every pupil and member of staff at school was gifted a commemorative Coronation coin during form time before being treated to a special lunch in the Dining Hall. The mains featured coronation chicken, Cornish pasties, the King's heritage sausages and a pea, mint and feta quiche finished with coronation cupcakes.

The School site looked resplendent, with the Union Jack flying high and the King's cypher emblazoned on the lawn in the Celebration Garden (below the terraces).

The celebrations even reached as far as Trafalgar Roundabout. A specially organised team from Truro School, the aptly named H.O.G.S (Hedgehog Organisational Group Squad) treated the resident hedgehogs to a sprinkling of coronation cheer, with crowns, flags and fabric bunting.



# SPRING TERM School News

## TOP TEAMS IN TEN TORS

Four incredible teams of determined pupils from Truro School joined 2,400 other teenagers from across the Southwest for the annual Ten Tors challenge held in Dartmoor at the weekend. Friends, family and staff were there to cheer them across the finish line at the end of their incredible two-day challenge of endurance, navigating and survival.

This huge event starts and finishes at Okehampton Camp and is managed by the Army's Headquarters South West with support from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, as well as civilian emergency services and volunteers.

The challenge sees teams of six navigate routes of 35, 45 or 55 miles over the north half of Dartmoor visiting ten nominated tors and checkpoints in under two days. All team members must individually carry everything they need to be self-sufficient for the entire challenge including one overnight campout on the moor. All 400 teams set off with only a compass and a map for navigation - no GPS and no smartphones allowed.

All four teams have been training hard for this over many wet and wintery weekends since October and have shown huge levels of commitment to the challenge and one another.

Mark Aston, Head of Outdoor Pursuits said "On the first day the teams walked from 7am until the evening, with some of the longer-distance teams walking well into the night. They were challenged by thick fog which made the navigation very tricky at times with all teams reaching their 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> tor, meaning they were well over halfway. They should be very proud!"

A big thank you to all our staff, parents and volunteers involved in the training, preparation and support for Ten Tors this weekend. It takes months of preparation, hard work and dedication from everyone involved. Heartfelt congratulations to our teams for their grit, resilience and teamwork. You have done us all proud. Well done!



## CELEBRATIONS, WELCOMES AND A BIG THANK YOU



There were celebrations and awards galore in the final assembly at Prep and a warm welcome to Mrs and Mr Lottie and Rob Morse CO89 ahead of Mr Morse joining as Head of Prep in the Summer Term. (Read more about Rob and his return to Truro School as an Old Truronian in Salvete and Valette.)

There was a huge thank you too, as Mr Johnson, Head of Truro School, thanked James Frewer for his time as Interim Head at Prep. Mr Johnson remarked, "I have worked with a lot of people who have cared for children, but the level of care and commitment Mr Frewer has shown is just superb."

## MORVEN SHORT FILM SHOOT

Over half term, the drama department and pupils from across the school got to work on a new short film production. 'Morven' is a mythical fantasy fable and the latest production dreamed up by Head of Drama, Ben Oldfield.

The film shoot took place over three days in local woodland and was approached with great humour and positivity by everyone involved, despite all the mud.

We can't wait to see the new film when it airs later in the year.



## COMPASSION CONFERENCE

What kind of world would you like to live in? This was the big question we asked our 3rd and 4th Year pupils at our first Compassion Conference. Guest speakers from around the country were invited to talk about significant, hard-hitting issues such as sexism, racism, female genital mutilation (FGM), misogyny and unconscious bias.

Staff were very impressed by how pupils responded to the day and asked them to 'raise their gaze' and put themselves in other people's shoes, be more aware and always speak and think with compassion. The conference was very much one step in a journey to champion empathy and compassion within our school community, with empowerment to tackle injustice close to home and wider afield as a core objective.

The day ended with a pledge asking pupils to consider their role in the community and shine a light on some of the ways that they can help to build even greater compassion and empathy across the school community and the wider world.



## LOG-RELAYS AND BURPEES IN ARMY FITNESS

Twenty-three keen and ambitious recruits showed up on Wednesday afternoon for British Army Fitness Training. Each week Miss Lobb puts the recruits through their paces, starting with a good warm-up, followed by sit-ups and burpees. This week's challenge was a tough 200m log-run relay with their teams. Each log weighs between 2-5kg, which starts to feel much heavier after a few hundred metres. Each team must do five more burpees if the log touches the floor. A log-hurdle relay and other log-related activities followed this.

British Army fitness is all about strength and cardio training, and our pupils are out in the fresh air whatever the weather. Mrs Lobb said, "Our teams get muddy, out of breath and will ache the next day, but it is a very social way to build health and fitness."

# SPRING TERM School News

## TRURO SCHOOL GOES AROUND THE WORLD

From the spectacular sounds of the samba band to the melodic beauty of our talented Upper Sixth soloists, the Hall for Cornwall was the esteemed venue for our multicultural celebration of 'Truro School Goes Around the World'.

Celebrating and embracing sounds and stories from around the world, the concert showcased acts and ensembles from across our Senior and Prep Schools.

Alongside our incredible musicians, our international boarders, and several day pupils, were asked to speak about their cultures and nationalities. Speaking in both English and their native languages, they impressed the audience with their confidently presented stories about music, art, cuisine and architecture from around the world.

The speakers represented Thailand, Spain, Brazil, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Ukraine, China, South Korea, Nigeria, India, Latvia and New Zealand.

**Mr Johnson, Truro School Head, commented,** "They spoke with pride and considerable humour. They showed us that this School is both in Cornwall and part of a wider, diverse, and wonderful world."



## PORTUGAL TENNIS TRIP



Twenty-four tennis players across the School flew to the beautiful Val do Lobo on the Algarve, Portugal, to kick start their 2023 tennis tour.

The trip offered the keen tennis players the opportunity to have intensive tennis coaching from the 5 Star Coaching Team at the Vale do Lobo Tennis Club, which has had famous tennis players like Nastase, McEnroe, Borg, Leconte, Edberg, Stich, and Ivanisevic compete on their courts.

The Truro School group enjoyed two tennis sessions a day. The mornings were focused on skill development, particularly on rallying and the basics of technique. Whereas the afternoons focused on playing matches, including learning new doubles tactics. Each day's tennis was rounded off with fun team games like the now famous "Sky High", a favourite

from the last two trips to Portugal. And some players had an opportunity to play matches against Bradfield College, in which they ended triumphantly.

Outside the tennis courts, pupils made the most of the sunshine by swimming, playing table tennis and hanging out with their friends in the Ria Park Hotel. They also took a trip to the beach and played Padel tennis, which for many, was their first taste of the fastest-growing sport in the world.

Evenings included watching the exhibition match between the coaches, bbq food, a quiz night and lots of free time to enjoy the hotel's facilities.

Thanks to Phil, Pat and all the 5 Star Tennis Holidays team for organising another brilliant trip. We look forward to returning in 2024.

## CAREER PATHS UNCOVERED AT HEALTH SYMPOSIUM



Pupils from the 4<sup>th</sup> Year onwards were invited to attend a Healthcare Symposium in the Heseltine Gallery this term. This event is designed to inform and support students interested in pursuing a healthcare career, making them aware of the vast array of career opportunities and pathways into healthcare outside of more traditional routes into medicine, dentistry and veterinary care.

The event opened with a talk by Debby Lewis, a manager at the NHS, who talked about the broad range of career options available to students. Pupils then had the opportunity to talk to an occupational therapist, a therapeutic radiographer, a pharmacist, a biomedical scientist, technicians and students.

Mrs Havis, Head of Biology, organised the event as part of the career pathways programme, which is designed to broaden access points into healthcare careers.

Mrs Havis said "These events are a fantastic opportunity for pupils to think hard about their career choices, ask questions of industry professionals and find out first-hand about their career paths. We are very grateful to all our guests who have given up their time to see our pupils today and have helped give a real insight into their work."

Around 30 pupils attended the event and were able to get hands-on with specialist equipment and spend time chatting in small group sessions. It was fantastic to see students who have specific healthcare interests being able to ask questions to people currently in these roles about pathways, challenges and opportunities.

# SUMMER TERM School News



## SINGING FOR THE KING AND QUEEN

Our Choristers were invited to St Ives in July with Truro Cathedral Choir to sing for and meet King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Director of Music, James Anderson-Besant said "It was a great honour for the choir to meet King Charles and Queen Camilla in St Ives, and to sing for them. Of course, some of our choristers are no strangers to royal events, having sung at the coronation in May. The King and Queen were very interested in talking to choir members about their singing routines, and about our wonderful choral tradition in Truro.

"The King has a particular love for the music of C.H.H. Parry, so we were pleased to sing his anthem 'My soul, there is a country'. We also sang Byrd's 'Prevent us, O Lord', Russell Pascoe's setting of the Lord's Prayer in Cornish 'Pader an arleth' and an arrangement of the sea shanty 'The Mermaid'. We are very privileged to have had this opportunity, and are proud that our Cornish cathedral musicians are held in such high regard."

Leaving chorister, Kes said, "When I was new in the choir we sang to Prince Charles when he visited Truro. Today, was my very last day in the choir after six years of singing and I can't think of a better way to finish than this. It was awesome!" Another leaving chorister, Jack said, "I feel proud that my last duty with the choir was singing for the King."

It was chorister Natalie's birthday, she commented, "As a cathedral chorister I've been lucky to have so many memorable experiences, but singing in St Ives on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to King Charles and Queen Camilla will certainly be one of my highlights."

John (Year 6): "That's what's cool about this job – just when you think it's time for a holiday – suddenly the King turns up!"

Oriel, "After singing at the Coronation, I didn't think I'd see the King close up again. So it was great to get the chance to sing for him again – and even better to meet him."



## THE JOURNEY OF THE CORONATION CHORISTERS

Truro School and Truro Cathedral are pleased to present a film that shows the incredible journey of our seven 'Coronation choristers' Millie, Evie, Imogen, Chloe, Lowenna, Bryher and Oriel.

The film documents their response to the initial invitation to join the Coronation Choir for the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, their experience of singing at the Coronation and returning to Cornwall to overwhelming support and pride from the Cornish community.

The girls sang with the choirs of Westminster Abbey and HM Chapel Royal Choir, St James's Palace. They also joined young girl choristers from Methodist College, Belfast, making history together as the first female choristers to sing at a coronation. You can watch the film via the Truro School Community YouTube page.

## SUMMER BALL

Celebrating months of study, coursework and exams, our Upper Sixth joined staff, parents and friends at this year's sold-out Summer Ball. With the theme of 'Casino Royale', everyone came dressed in their finest attire and had a splendid time celebrating the end of the School year.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to our Events and Catering teams for hosting such a wonderful evening.



## BOARDING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

On behalf of our boarding community, we are delighted to share the excellent news that Truro School has been shortlisted for 'Boarding School of the Year' at the Independent Schools of the Year 2023.

Head of Boarding, David McKeown, joined in 2022 and has led boarding in the UK and abroad for many years. David says, "We are proud of the bespoke boarding offering. We like the fact that we know the students and their families well. We want our boarders to feel happy and settled here with us. It is a home away from home."

As one boarder, Gabriel, says, "Boarding at Truro School is like one big family" and we are very excited to have been shortlisted from hundreds of schools across the country in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards, designed to 'highlight the excellence of the student experience offered by the UK's amazing independent schools'. Truro School Prep has also been shortlisted for 'Prep School of the Year'.

The winners, chosen by the Independent Schools of the Year judging panel will be announced at an awards ceremony in October.



# TRURO SCHOOL CONNECTED

offering advice, guidance, networking and opportunities for current students and alumni.



TRURO  
SCHOOL  
CONNECTED

a network  
for life



CAREERS TALK

## Byron Wills-Heath CO97

### Computer Software

Byron visited the School on October 21 2022 to deliver a guidance talk on a career in computer software. Byron attended Truro School from 1986-1997, and studied A Levels in Maths, Physics and Business Studies, before being accepted to the University of Exeter for Computer Science. After Exeter, Byron returned to Cornwall for an internship with a local software company, and then worked self-employed for 3 years. He then found employment with another local software company, Bluefruit, which is where he has worked for 16 years. Byron explained that he initially started as a Developer, then Team Lead and is now Head of Development.

Bluefruit are embedded specialists providing embedded software development for innovative clients in quality-critical spaces. With a team of over 80, including software engineers, testers, UX and quality specialists. They believe excellent embedded software happens through investing in people and processes and a dedication to quality. Bluefruit work closely with clients operating in safety-critical spaces to meet their organisation's needs across firmware to high-level technical consulting.

Byron was able to offer current students' valuable advice about the various pathways leading to work, such as grad jobs like testers and junior coders and talked about his experience with employing computer scientists and what the job market was like in the sector. Grad jobs often start at around the £24,000-30,000 band, to which **Mrs Kenward**, Head of Careers, explained how positive that was for a starting salary, especially in Cornwall.

When interviewing for jobs Byron advised that he tended to look for skills in problem solving, communication and team work, rather than what kind of degree the candidate had (although a computer science degree is a bonus).

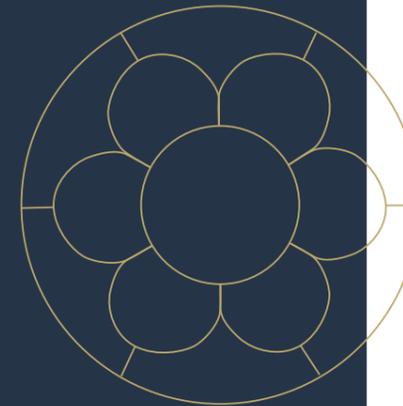
Byron's final advice to students still at school and thinking about a career in the sector:

Showcase your demo projects

Attend networking events

Gain an online presence

It was fantastic to welcome Byron back to the School.



The Truro School Community 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 will be of interest to our former pupils. We would encourage all former pupils, no matter what age, to connect with us so that they too can access this amazing network of Truro School alumni and become part of **Truro School Connected**.

NOTE OF SUPPORT FROM

## Amy Smith CO08

We recently heard from **Amy Smith** CO08, who is currently completing her PhD on the role of women in alehouses in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with the University of Bristol. She told us she is happy to help anyone on a similar academic path.

"I am completing an AHRC-funded PhD researching women's work in the seventeenth century - if any students or alumni are considering applying to the University of Bristol's history programmes, I'd be happy to hear from them, and assist if required. Likewise, if anyone is hoping to secure AHRC funding, I can advise on that as well. They can reach me on ky18478@bristol.ac.uk.

2023  
SUMMER TERM



**The Convention is a valuable opportunity for our students to engage with Old Truronians, local and national businesses. Students were able to ask questions about career pathways, opportunities and roles within a range of industries.**

The opportunity to speak to adults in a professional setting was also a valuable experience in itself, especially as visitors to school were few and far between during the pandemic. 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. Nearly half our delegates were former pupils, representing the inspiring range of careers paths taken by our students. Among our Old Truronians present: an agronomist, an HR manager, a doctor, a film maker, an author, a marine engineer apprentice, a solicitor, a software developer, a geologist, and several engineers. Some only left Truro School four years ago, others are now partners at their firms or run their own businesses, but we were very grateful to them all for giving up their afternoon and evening to join us.

It was fantastic to see nearly 300 Truro School students being inspired and educated about job opportunities and we were also delighted to welcome students from other local schools to the convention as well.

This was the first careers fair we have run since before Covid, and we shall certainly be hoping to expand the number and range of delegates at future events.

It is always difficult to secure delegates from City or international firms at Cornish face-to-face events such as these, and while many would love to support us, it simply isn't always possible for our contacts to attend, for geographical reasons. We tend instead to use these contacts in our lunchtime careers talks, which can often take place via Teams. This winter we have had speakers from JP Morgan, JP Architects (London), Nijhuis (an international engineering firm) and FieldFisher (London law firm), alongside in-person talks from more local speakers. Hopefully these events give our students the opportunity to gain a range of career path ideas.



NANCY KENWARD  
HEAD OF CAREERS

## CAREERS TALK

# John Williams CO95



### Engineering

Old Truronian John visited the 4<sup>th</sup> Year students on Friday 14 October to deliver a career talk about engineering with Head of Careers Nancy Kenward.

John attended Truro School between 1988-1995 and studied A Levels in Maths, Physics and DT before being accepted to the University of Bristol for BEng in Mechanical Engineering. John explained that when he was at School, he remembered exploring which university to attend but there were only 8 universities at that time in the mid-90's that offered accredited engineering degrees. John said he really wanted to attend the University of Swansea, but a tutor there remarked that he would do really well at Bath or

Bristol – which were and still are part of the leading engineering universities in the UK. He discussed the various types of engineering careers available to budding students now, such as aerospace/avionic, space, chemical, electrical engineering, among many more.

John took time to emphasise that whilst an engineering degree can help students get their foot in the door to employment, a degree does tend to mean less and less the further into your career you get. "When I was at Bristol I completed a BEng with an additional master's degree straight after so did 4 years. I would say it can help open doors initially but as your career progresses it does become less and less important."

After Bristol, John returned to Cornwall where he has managed to stay for his whole career now, in various engineering jobs in and around Falmouth. His career has enabled him to work across the engineering sector and allowed him to travel to places such as New Zealand, Sumatra and Finland. He currently works for Nijhuis Saur Industries as Engineering Manager. This leadership role means that John directs and delivers design activities within skill set, reviews, and approves project designs and proposals. Previously he worked at nmcn in St Austell as Business Development Manager.

John's advice: "always keep your network. You never know when a contact could be the key to new employment."

# Tom Rimmington CO17

### Architecture

#### **In your role, what do you do on a day-to-day basis?**

Since graduating my Masters in June last year, I worked over the summer in Cornwall part-time at a small practice that worked on Cornish residential properties. I always knew I was going to move to London that September, and I now work at a firm of over 100 people, working on local and international properties. I am working on few different projects. Today for example I've been hand-drawing on an iPad pulling together a few visions. It's exciting because one day you're hand-drawing something really creative, and another day you're in communication with structural engineers to work on the safety of a building. It's a really collaborative process. There's also time spent talking with clients. I really enjoy the iterative process that leads to a project and I love the studio atmosphere.

#### **How did you choose the firm you are now working in?**

It's known for being a really good employer, its good socially and work aside, you know you're doing to have

a day because of the positive work culture. Without getting too nerdy about architecture - the process of which they design through means that they do a lot of community engagement work, and are notorious in including communities in the design and planning of a building. It generally leads to a better design and a more successful space. That was attractive to me. But also I knew I wanted to move to London and they were in a good spot location wise.

#### **On living in London**

I personally think spending some time in a big city – where there are more people doing what you are passionate about, will benefit you in the long term. Even if you see yourself moving back to Cornwall eventually (which I do), its good to get experience. My dad said "use London, don't let it use you".

#### **Is there anything you would have wanted to know about whilst you were at Truro School?**

I would say the teaching style at university is not typical. In architecture it's focused on coursework, there are far less exams than other subjects.

There is this thing called the 'crit' where you stand in front of a room and talk about your years' worth of work. It's more of a constant checking in on your coursework stages and then there's the verbal presentation. It's not always easy to explain why you did something 6 months ago.

#### **Do you work with anyone at your firm who didn't arrive from a classic architecture degree route?**

Probably about half the office are more from planning backgrounds. Urban design is a great degree to get before moving into architecture and would be really useful. You can do apprenticeships but the difficult bit is you need to be employed with a firm first and getting that job straight out of school is tricky. Its more common when you've achieved the undergraduate degree, and then becoming fully chartered in an apprenticeship after that. It is a great option because you save time, money and its generally more efficient.

#### **Which A Levels did you study at Truro School?**

Art, DT, Physics and Maths.

## LAW TALK

# Oliver Carlyon CO95



### Law

After leaving Truro School in 1999 Oliver told the current students that his first-choice university was Cardiff University. After visiting King's College London and Cardiff, he ultimately chose Cardiff knowing it would be the place he was happiest, despite it not necessarily being the more academically respected university for Law at the time, he knew he would have a better university experience.

Oliver offered our ambitious law students' reflection on his own time at School when having to choose which university subject to apply for, and shared that if he could choose his subject again, he would have chosen not to study law, and instead study something else that interested him before completing a law conversation.

**"What you learn at university doesn't necessarily reflect what you actually practice later as a qualified lawyer so its worth considering that you might as well do a subject you're interested in and then law conversion before applying."**

After his Law degree – Oliver decided he wanted to become a Barrister due to the opportunity to do advocacy work. Oliver completed the Bar (LLM) at Cardiff University before moving to London to gain work experience in a law firm as a paralegal. After this he was offered a pupillage at Chambers in Exeter for three years.

Following Exeter, Oliver explained that he then made the move back to London when opportunity arose to support the London Fire Brigade as an in-house lawyer which led to working on the inquest to the London bombings of 7 July 2005.

Oliver is currently a partner at Fieldfisher and has worked on numerous inquisitorial proceedings such as:

The Lakanal House fire inquests;

The Inquests into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster;

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry; and

The Inquests into the deaths of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor.

During the careers talk, Oliver took time to describe the work/life balance that comes along with being a barrister. He said being self-employed meant flexibility with life but it's inevitable that you will often have to work weekends, particularly if you earn a reputation as a top barrister because you are inundated with work so find yourself being extremely busy. Depending on the area of law you work in, your working pattern will vary hugely.

Oliver offered advice and insight for students into what he looks for in graduate recruitment: "I don't look at those with only legal experience, I am also interested in hearing about interesting experiences in work or life generally.

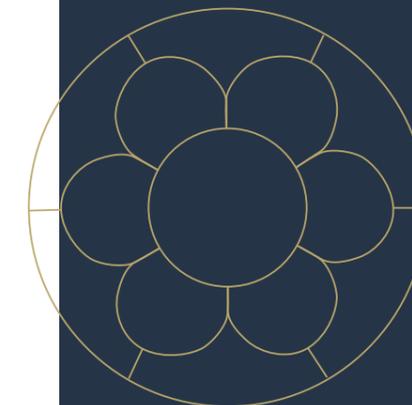
**Ultimately, we look for bright people with insight and that can demonstrate that. We look for personal enthusiasm.**

The best interviews are those that turn into a conversation and aren't just question and answer. Some advice is if you're interested in law, do legal experience so you know you don't hate it(!) but also get experience in other areas and get some life experience."



**TRURO SCHOOL**  
CONNECTED

a network  
for life



**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

Braised caramelised onions with spelt, vanilla, cavolo nero and Stilton (v) from Alan Rosenthal – Head of Cookery

### INGREDIENTS

What you'll need: a wide pan

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 65 minutes

4 medium red onions, peeled

½ tbsp caster sugar

3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

15g unsalted butter

1 large leek, cleaned, halved lengthways and finely sliced

1 tbsp cumin seeds

Seeds from 1 vanilla pod (see note)

250g pearled spelt

900ml hot vegetable stock

200g cavolo nero, roughly chopped across the stalk into 2-inch-wide slices

200g stilton, crumbled

60g salted roasted cashews

Sea salt and black pepper

**Note:** to remove the seeds from the vanilla pod, first slice it in half lengthways. Then, using the back of a sharp knife, scrape the seeds from the pod.



### PROCEDURE

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C / °F180°C fan / 400°F / gas mark 6
2. Slice the roots from the ends of the onions, ensuring you don't cut too deeply; you want to maintain the structure of the onion. Now cut each onion in half, across the equator. Sprinkle the cut side of the onions with the sugar.
3. Heat the oil in your wide pan over a medium heat. Add the onions, cut side down and cook, undisturbed for 7-8 minutes or until deeply caramelised. Flip them over and cook the other side for a couple of minutes. Transfer to a plate, keeping as much of the oil in the pan as possible.
4. Add the butter to the pan. Once melted, add the leeks, cumin seed and vanilla with a pinch of salt. Cook gently for 5 to 6 minutes until the leeks are soft. Now add the spelt and continue to cook for 2 minutes. Add the stock, 1.5 tsp salt, ¼ tsp black pepper and mix well. Add the cavolo nero, don't worry about it floating on the top slightly. Place the onions cut side up on top of the cavolo nero. Bring to a simmer. Cover with the lid and transfer to the oven. Cook for 35 minutes.
5. Remove the lid and cook for 10 more minutes. Finally sprinkle over the stilton and the cashews and pop back in the oven for a final 5-10 minutes until the cheese has melted.
6. Serve immediately.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE Wargaming Society

We recently heard from **Bob Aldridge** CO72 who was reflecting on the Wargaming Society which was founded by Bob himself in 1969. Wargames are analytic games that simulate aspects of warfare at the tactical, operational, or strategic level. They are used to examine warfighting concepts, train and educate commanders and analysts, explore scenarios, and assess how force planning and posture choices affect campaign outcomes.

Wargaming has continued to this day at Wednesday Afternoon Activities, where the children are invited to take part for weekly sessions. **Swen Kearey** CO02 (now Technical Resources Manager at TS) explained that when he was a student in the nineties the club was mostly enjoying Space Marines: Ork and Squat Warlords.

Dr Spring (Head of History) says: "I arrived in 2002, by which time there had been a short hiatus. As a keen wargamer myself, I offered to run a club as part of the WAA (Wednesday Afternoon Activities) offering. As a history teacher (and, from c.2010, Head of History) I have increased the opportunities for the pupils to play. We now therefore run wargaming on Wednesday afternoons (2.05pm to 3.50pm), and Wednesday and Friday after school (4pm to 6pm). I can have up to 30 pupils playing here, so we are doing pretty well!"

"Over time I have built up the collection, so we now have many dozens of games for the pupils to play. Most are military-oriented boardgames, ranging from the various incarnations of Risk and old favourites like Diplomacy, all the way to more specialist simulations like the Commands and Colors series (Ancient, Napoleonic and American Civil War). For those who want non-military games we have resource-management titles like Puerto Rico or Agricola. For those who want what you and I might recognise as more traditional tabletop wargaming, I have invested in the Star Wars X-Wing,



Armada and Legion series. We also get some freebies from Games Workshop, so a hard-bitten gang will occasionally play Warhammer 40K."

Other games played by current students are Dungeons and Dragons and of course, Chess. One student told us: "I really like it because the scenery is so visually interesting, and it makes you really want to get involved."

Bob informed us that in the beginning, the club had virtually no support, but things changed when Donald Featherstone's book Wargames became more available and the Society of Ancients dedicated to Ancient and Medieval Warfare. He says: "Wargaming was leaving the dining room table. Ancient Battles were still mostly "Romans" v "Barbarians", plastic figures sold by Airfix. Bob O'Brian ran a series in the Airfix Magazine showing how to convert Airfix Robin hood figures to German Tribesmen. Life became interesting!"

"Back at TS we discovered ancient Greek naval warfare, and one of the best sets of rules for any period. Very easy to pick up even for non-wargamers. I was now a fully paid-up member of the Society of Ancients and together with Alan Wicks founded the wargame society in Truro, members of that society, including Alan went on to form Slanning's Regiment in the Sealed Knot

(the largest and oldest re-enactment society). I joined the Kings Army in the West around 1976."

"I dabbled with most periods, but most interested in ancients, Second World War naval, English Civil War, and pike and shot. Over the last 30 years I've moved away from tabletop games to multiplayer campaigns, and computer games. Computer games let you play a battle involving hundreds of thousands of men in a few hours, you can do real flank attacks. Unfortunately, apart from computer games, I haven't done any tabletop gaming for over twenty years."

Bob was featured in the West Briton at the time (December 20, 1971) with the headline "Britain's fastest growing hobby". Notably, the local press attention tells us that the foundation of the club intended to include girls from Truro High School. The West Briton (November 18, 1971) commented: "A meeting of wargaming societies from Truro School and Truro Girls High School was held last week at Truro School to discuss the possibility of forming a Wargaming Society which would be open to members of the public of Truro. About 20 attended the meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Derek Burrell, headmaster of Truro School." (Source: "And for the more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys games" – Man of Tin blog (wordpress.com))

# Vacancy for a Truro School Foundation Chairperson (Voluntary Position)

Truro School Foundation is seeking a visionary individual to serve as the Chairperson of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Chairperson will play a crucial role in leading the Board, setting strategic goals, strengthening internal & external relationships and promoting the Foundation's mission of advancing fundraising opportunities & donations from alumni, parents and friends of Truro School.

The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership skills, a proven track record in a fundraising environment, and the desire to build relationships with diverse stakeholders within the wider Truro School community.

**Please visit the Truro School employment opportunities page on the School website for more details on this exciting voluntary role and information on how to apply.**



**TRURO SCHOOL FOUNDATION**



### Background

Truro School Foundation serves as the engine behind Truro School's fundraising efforts and its overriding mission of supporting life changing bursaries. Formally established in 2015 by the late Guy Dodd (Truro School Headmaster 1993-2001), Truro School Foundation has received generous donations and legacies from the wider Truro School community which has resulted in over £1million being directed towards means tested bursaries.

### The Goal

Over the next 10 years, Truro School Foundation looks to build on this historical support and ambitiously grow future donations from our diverse and supportive community. The charity's aim is to significantly increase the number of life changing bursaries to pupils would not otherwise be able to enjoy a Truro School education. Can you help the Truro School Foundation to achieve these goals?



## OLD TRURONIAN Obituaries

TRURO SCHOOL NOTIFICATION RECEIVED:  
August 2022 – July 2023

MR FRANK  
HAROLD ANSTIS  
TS 1937-1943

MR ANDREW  
HARVEY OATEY  
TS 1946-1953

MR MORLEY CHARLES  
BLAMEY  
TS 1949-1954

MR OLIVER MORLEY  
POWNING  
TS 1944-1950

MR PETER  
WILLIAM BOGGIA  
TS 1943-1950

MR SAMUEL JAMES  
PEDLAR  
TS 1937-1944

MS LOWENNA  
MELWYN CARE  
TS 1992-1994

MR JAMES WOODS  
RENTOUL  
TS 1936-1937

MR SIMON FAIRLESS  
TS 1973-1980

MR FARLEIGH RICE  
TS 1939-1950

MR SIMON JOHN GLASSON  
TS 1973-1984

MR PAUL SOLOMAN  
TS 1968-1974

MR VIVIAN JOHN GROSE  
TS 1944-1950

MR JOHN SUMMERS  
TS 1946-1952

MR JAMES DILLON HUGHES  
TS 1964-1971

MRS CHRISTINE THOMPSON  
(NEE RUSHTON)  
TS 1981-2006

CAPTAIN ERIC KEMP  
TS 1949-1952

MR BRYAN H T WEARNE  
TS 1943-1950

DR REVEREND RICHARD  
GRAN-VILLE JONES  
TS 1936-1944

MR DEREK CECIL WHITE  
TS 1956-1966

MR MICHAEL KNUCKEY  
TS 1944-1954

MR DAVID WILLIAMS  
TS 1941-1950



**Bryan Wearne**  
CO50

1932 - 2022

Born in Camborne, Bryan boarded at Truro School from 1943 -1950 where he developed a lifelong interest in rugby, mainly as a spectator, though he did lose some teeth to the sport in his playing days. Initially Bryan was taking arts subjects for his Higher School Certificate (forerunner to A-Levels) but then switched to sciences in order to follow in his father's footsteps and train as an optometrist. He remained eternally grateful to **Alan Scales** (Teacher of Science 1946-1976), the science teacher who helped him in his final year to fast-track from the arts to the necessary science path.

Bryan went on to train at Northampton Polytechnic Institute, now City University, in London after which he joined the family optometry business in Cornwall where he worked for 41 years in the profession, taking over from his father as he retired.

Bryan played golf for many years, taking part in the TS 'Old Boys' and 'Older Old Boys' tournaments and in recent years was a regular at TS Reunion Dinners then later, the Afternoon Teas.

After a very long and healthy life, sadly Bryan had a cancer diagnosis in 2022, but was well enough to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at home with family and close friends last August. He passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> December and is survived by his children, step-children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE FROM  
**BRYAN'S DAUGHTER,  
LOUISE WEARNE CO79**



# Tributes and Memories



## Eric Kemp CO55

1937 - 2023



Eric Kemp passed away peacefully on Sunday 26 February 2023 at home, aged 85 years.

Eric was an only child, born to John and Ann Kemp on 26 June 1937. He was educated locally in his home town of St Ives, Cornwall until he was 12 years old, when he went on to attend Truro School, as a boarder. Eric describes the many events of his times at Truro School in his book *Yes Dad, I Want to Go to Sea*. How he changed from a finicky eater, to one who would eat almost anything as the food in those days was not plentiful.



He ran away from Truro School after being falsely accused of stealing, only to be returned several hours later by a friend of the Headmaster **Mr Creed** (TS 1946-1959), who had seen him walking on the road not far from Camborne, trying to get a lift back home to St Ives. In the early 1970's Eric became involved in politics and was a Liberal Party Councillor for St Ives.

Eric had a long and varied maritime career after his training at the Thames Nautical Training College on The Worcester moored on the Thames at Greenhithe, Kent. He always said that it was the strict and harsh routine on The Worcester that toughened him up for life.

He married Jill England, a teacher and local St Ives girl (d 2015). They had two sons, Ian and Jeremy, three grandchildren Sam, Chloe and Erin and one great grandson, Theo.

Eric had a strong Christian faith and was a local Methodist preacher for many years, it was this incredible faith that sustained and comforted him during the final two years of his life.

Eric worked for long periods of time away from home travelling to and from West Africa. He eventually studied and qualified as a Master Mariner and gained the

position of a ship's Captain on the Queen of the Isles, a passenger vessel travelling from St Ives/Penzance to the Isles of Scilly. He was immensely contented to be back with his family in St Ives.

He went on to be a self-employed Trinity House Pilot for Penzance harbour and these were happy times. Whilst working as a Pilot, Eric became the Secretary of the St Ives Lifeboat a position which he retained for ten years. Eric then worked as a Fisheries Officer before taking early retirement in 1999 to spend more time with Jill.

In 2000, with more time on his hands, Eric accepted the position of Chairman of the Newlyn Fish Festival. Eric had a good tenor voice and was a member of Mousehole Male Voice Choir for 23 years until his diagnosis of Leukaemia forced him to withdraw. During his retirement Eric also decided to start writing about his father's long maritime career. There followed two more books, this time documenting his own life and career. Eric's fourth and final book *A Sailor's Odyssey in the Palm Line* was completed in the last few weeks of his life and it will be published in the summer of this year (2023).

TRIBUTE BY  
**ERIC'S FRIEND,  
PENNIE HALLOWS**

## From RNLI

Eric was involved closely with the RNLI's Penlee Lifeboat station over the years, he went on two 'shouts' with Penlee and was secretary of the RNLI's St. Ives Lifeboat Station for ten years. He served on the Trinity House vessel Stella, was Captain on the Queen of the Isles and was Pilot for Newlyn, Penzance and St. Ives. Eric will last be remembered closing his career as Fisheries Officer at Falmouth.

Eric with his book 'A Master Mariner of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'.



## Simon Fairless CO80

1962 - 2023

At Truro School, you quickly get taught three key life learnings (a) be true to yourself (b) it is all about family (c) when you decide on a job/career, make sure that its one that you enjoy, as you will be doing it for a long time. Simon lived these three life learnings to the full.

Anyone that knew Simon would appreciate his slightly quirky sense of humour, his tremendous loyalty and his passion for creativity. Simon took his flare to the rugby and cricket fields. He was an outstanding running full-back, in an era when the full back was just supposed to catch the ball and aimlessly hoof it as far as possible down the paddock. As a member of the front row union our preference was always for scrums and lineouts, and a rest, rather than trying to keep up with Simon's off-the-cuff runs.

A swash buckling cavalier batsman, he had no fear of even the fastest of bowlers. One fine innings for the Albert Taverners against Brixton, he held the Taverners innings together by going onto the front foot, a Sir Viv Richard-esque performance.

A proud Geordie, the Toon were always close to his heart, even in the days when it was more popular to support other teams. Simon remained true to himself, and always knew precisely where Newcastle were in the league. A keen and energetic hillwalker, Simon loved spending time in the Lake District and the Brecon Beacons.

My own enduring memory was walking the Pennine Way together with Simon & Paul Ferris. Somehow, we always seemed to find a pub, the most famous being the ultra-remote Tan Hill. At the

end of the walk, Simon proudly took us to Wallsend to meet his extended family, and many an eye-opening evening was spent in Workingmen's Clubs.

Family was extremely important to Simon, he was immensely proud of his two brothers Stephen and Matthew, and their families. In the last 10 years, and especially during the pandemic, he provided much loving support to his parents.

Simon studied Economic History at Leeds University, leaving to work in Sales and Recruitment in London. He was a natural, but this was not what he wanted. In his 30s Simon made a dramatic career change when he decided to follow his life's passion as an artist and photographer. He became very successful with a worldwide following and many prestigious commissions, and he leaves an abundant and prolific body of work.

There will be endless debates around which was Simon's greatest work. Personally, it is his large-scale fine pencil drawing of the London skyline. This took Simon 9 years to complete off and on, and number 1 of 1,000 proudly hangs on a wall in New Zealand. The attention to detail in how the framed picture arrived, safely in one piece, the constant tracking & checking, tells its own story.

Simon could never sit around doing nothing, and his care for others always greatly shone through. He kept in touch with many of his schoolmates, the CO80, who still meet annually with Simon always being one of first to arrive and the last to leave. There will be an empty seat at the table this year, and a pint of Doom Bar, in mark of respect.

So Simon, we were given three life boxes to tick at Truro School, and without a shadow of a doubt you have magnificently managed to tick all three, well done!

Go well my dearest of friends.



TRIBUTE BY  
**SIMON'S FRIEND  
COLIN JR GROVES CO80**

## Richard Granville Jones CO44

2026 - 2022

The Reverend Dr Richard Jones, known to everyone as Dick Jones, was a former President of the Method-ist Conference, Chair of East Anglia District, principal of our training college Hartley Victoria, Lecturer at Manchester University, author of books and hymn writer of note. And a proud Cornishman!

He was also my dad, greatly loved and much missed.

He was impressed with all that Truro School had achieved in days of difficulty as well as ease and always took a lively interest in the School. Both his grandson and granddaughter came to the school. And each year when I brought dad and mum down on holiday we would drive through, and he would tell us sto-ries from those days. He attended with his older brother Cecil Jones (TS 1934-1940), and I have a photo-graph of him as a Senior Prefect - with him on one end and Robert Shaw who became a famous actor on the other!

Tribute by **Richard's daughter,  
Nichola Jones**



# Tributes and Memories



## Michael Knuckey

CO54

1936 – 2022



Michael Knuckey was born in Redruth in 1936, and attended Truro School between 1944-1954 alongside his brother **Peter Knuckey** (TS 1942-1948 – currently living in Australia) before studying mining geology at the Royal School of Mines in London. He graduated and immigrated to Canada in 1957 where he worked in mining management and as a chief geologist in various roles and across numerous locations.

He was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame which celebrates his leadership role in the discovery and development of at least 10 mineral deposits. Of these deposits, 8 have become mines. Michael is also celebrated for championing the development of new exploration techniques that are now standard in the industry. The Canadian Mining Hall of Fame describes Michael as having been an inspiring mentor to many explorationists who are now making an impact on the industry. Held in high esteem by his colleagues, Michael is one of the premier explorationists and mine finders of our time and had the ability to recognise potential in properties and people.

Michael leaves behind his wife Chris, and children Susan, David, Ian and Tony.

**Tribute from the Mining Hall of Fame and Legacy websites.**

## Christine Thompson

TS Teacher of Mathematics 1981-2006

We share sad news that Christine Thompson has sadly passed away. Christine taught Mathematics at Truro School from 1981-2006, and was married to the former Head of Chemistry, **Mike Thompson** (TS 1980-2006). An excerpt from Terraces (2006) when Christine retired from her Truro School role:

Even as a small child, Christine had felt drawn to teaching and after completing her Mathematics degree at UMIST and a PGCE teaching qualification from Manchester University. Throughout her teaching career, it has always given her great satisfaction to know that she has played a small part in the future success of so many pupils. Despite her rigour of her teaching, Christine has always been a caring and generous mentor and friend; over the years countless pupils and more than a few of her colleagues have had reason to be grateful for her kindness at time of crisis. Her willingness to offer sympathy and understanding to anyone in trouble is legendary and it is hardly surprising that in 1997 she was offered the post of Head of Year, a responsibility which she fulfilled with great conscientiousness.

Christine and Mike celebrated their marriage in the School Chapel in 1986 (the occasion being marked by an extra

half day's holiday for the whole school!) and for a number of years, Mike and Christine were house-parents of Trennick where they were well respected as well as being popular with their charges. These were happy times for them both and the magnificent views across the City from their living room will always remain a treasured memory.

Among her happiest memories at Truro School are her involvement in the Masters' Plays and the Christmas Pantomimes, playing Euchre during the lunch break in the early years and the time spent with **Jenny Leathes** (TS Teacher of Art 1984-2002) learning ceramics alongside the students as part of a Wednesday Afternoon Activity. She has also been an invaluable member of the team running junior school discos.

Christine has always had an impish sense of humour and a willingness to enter into a spirit of fun which at times has surprised a few of the more said of her pupils. Christine joined Mike in retirement in 2006.

**If any members of our community would like to remember Christine Thompson in the next issue of the Truronian (2023-2024), please get in touch.**

## Frank Harold Anstis CO45

1925-2023

Frank, aged 97 died peacefully at Meadowbrook Nursing Home, Lostwithiel, following complications after a fall at his home in Truro. May he rest in peace.

**Tribute by West Briton. We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Frank personally.**



## Simon John Glasson

CO84

1966-2022

Simon Glasson, a passionate and much respected educator, passed away on 22 December 2022. He was born in Redruth and attended Truro School from 1973-1984. He loved his time at Truro and often cited it as the inspiration behind him becoming a teacher.

After leaving Truro School, he worked at schools in London and was twice employed by Sir William Atkinson, who attended Simon's funeral (along with other teachers from Mr Glasson's past). It is Sir William who recognised Simon's talent and gave him his first job at Cranford Community School. He later re-employed him as Deputy Head of Phoenix Academy (Hammersmith Boys' School).

More recently he was principal of The City School's PAF Chapter and the Karachi Grammar School in Pakistan. The news of his passing has deeply saddened all his friends, students and old acquaintances. Calling it a huge loss to education, some also took to social media to pay tribute to him.

Everyone remembered him as a thorough gentleman and a staunch supporter of using education to bring about beneficial social change in society. He enjoyed his time in Pakistan.

**TRIBUTE BY MRS MAYA GLASSON and excerpts from Dawn.com**



## Peter William Boggia

CO50

1932-2023

Peter died peacefully at home on Sunday 29 January aged 90 years with his family by his side. Much loved husband of Annie, loving father of Anna, Paul (deceased), Marc, Claudia, Lucy and their partners. Grandfather of 7 and great-grandfather of Finley and Bronson.

He attended Truro School in the late 1940s and after completing his national service he returned to Truro to work in the family menswear shop in the city centre. He was a fine rugby player playing for Truro RFC for many years. He graduated to golf which he also excelled at and was a member at Truro Golf Club for almost the rest of his life. He continued to run the family business until retirement in 2009. The Boggia menswear shop existed for 100 years and served the County and beyond with distinction. He was married firstly to Christiane with whom he had three children, Anna, Paul and Marc. He subsequently remarried to Annie with whom he shared over 40 years together living at Perranwell, Restronguet and finally Killiow.

His sons **Paul** CO77 and **Marc** CO79 were also Truro School pupils. Very sadly Paul pre-deceased him many years ago. Peter was a very generous, kind and loving gentleman who adored a party and above all a practical joke. His funeral was packed at Penmount where many a tale of fun and mischief was recounted.

**TRIBUTE BY PHILIP RULE CO78 and excerpts taken from the West Briton.**

## Lowenna Care

CO99

1981 – 2022

Lowenna passed away on Friday 14 October at home in Truro, aged 41 years. A much-loved daughter who will be greatly missed by all family and friends.

**Tribute by Dignity Funerals Directors.**  
*We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Lowenna personally.*

## William Farleigh Rice

1931-2022

On Saturday 10 December 2022, Farleigh sadly passed away aged 90 years at Royal Cornwall Hospital. The funeral took place on Friday 6 January 2023 in Kernow Chapel at Penmount Crematorium.

**Tribute by West Briton.**  
*We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Farleigh personally.*

## Oliver Morley Powning

1933-2023

*Oliver passed away on Friday 7 April at Eshcol House Nursing Home, Portscatho, aged 89 years. Much loved husband of Ann. Oliver's brother, Arnold also attended Truro School.*

*A service was held at Truro Methodist Church on Friday 5 May, conducted by Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, where the School song High on the Hill was sung during the proceedings.*

**Tribute by Cornwall Live. With thanks to Maurice Scantlebury (TS 1938-1944).**



# Tributes and Memories



## Morley Blamey CO56

1937 - 2023



Morley was born in Portloe Cornwall on 24 November 1937 to parents Albert & Mina Blamey. At the age of 5, Morley went to school at Veryan which was 2.5 miles from Portloe and he used to walk to school and back with his two older sisters Joyce & Valerie. Quite a walk for a 5-year-old! Morley did well at school and at the age of 11 he graduated to Truro School which he really liked, and where he did well.

Morley left Truro School at the age of 16 and got an apprenticeship with an electronics company, named British Thompson Euston.

After completing his apprenticeship, he got a job with Mullards, in Lincolnshire where Morley met Frieda and they got married. They lived there happily, for a couple of years until Morley got a new job with Phillips down in Croydon, Surrey.

They moved to Croydon and Morley worked for Phillips until he secured a job at Epak Electronics. After some time, due to the untimely passing of two of the directors, the business was put up for sale. Morley managed to secure a loan and buy the business.

The company did very well under his leadership, primarily due to a lot of hard work by Morley, who was travelling all over the country and often abroad, especially America, where he made lots of good friends, some of whom he was still in contact with, right up until he passed. The success of the business and the network of people he built around him was a reflection of the character of a great man who certainly left his mark.

With a view to semi-retire he bought a house, called the Barn House, in Puckington and moved down with Freida to enjoy the slower pace of life. This was not to last for too long however, as the business ran into some challenges, and Morley decided to move the company down to Somerset, so he bought offices and a warehouse in Yeovil.

Morley and Freida lived there for many years. Morley ran the business successfully until his retirement, at which time he handed over the reins to his eldest son, Nicholas, who still runs it today.

After all the years at the Barn House, Freida became unwell and they decided to sell up and move to a bungalow in Horton. Unfortunately, Freida's health deteriorated further, and after a short time there, Freida passed away and Morley was left alone. He had three children. Nicholas, Robert & Louise, who were all out of the house by that time.

Morley loved to play golf with friends and was a keen supporter of the Taunton Rugby Club. Many other charities and organisations were impacted by the generosity of this incredible man.

During lockdown Morley became very lonely and decided to go onto an internet site to find a companion, someone he could talk with and that is where he met June. They were both lonely and hurting after the recent losses of their respective spouses. So, after they met, it didn't take them long to get married and a start a new chapter. Morley and June, lived in the Horton house and were both very happy and deeply in love.

Their intimate love for each other as well as their love for Jesus was obvious for all to see.

In the later months of his life, Morley's health was poorly but he hung on like a trooper, defying the doctor's predictions. On the 31 May 2023, Morley finally succumbed to his illness and went home to be with his precious saviour, ending this chapter of his life. His legacy, however, will live on for years to come.

Goodbye for now Morley, you will be sorely missed.

### Tribute from Morley's family.

## Dillon Hughes CO71

1953 - 2023

I ran into **Toni Carver** CO66, who was a couple of years ahead of me at TS. He told me that our mutual friend, Dillon Hughes, died in April 2023. Dillon was in the same year as me and we shared many adventures. He was a rock climber, and energetic Chairman of the Truro School Climbing Club. He liked nothing more than a weekend on Bodmin Moor or down at Bosigran, and he had a widely known reputation for both climbing to a high standard, and of enjoying the social side of the sport. Toni recalls that, as Dillon and I and others often went to folk clubs at Mitchell and Botallack, he would invite singers to join the 'party' at Bisigran.

Dillon, **Rich Michell** CO72 and I produced a couple of anthologies of poems, with the great assistance of Miss James (sanctioned by Derek Burrell) who operated the Gestetner and did much of the typing. These we sold to bemused parents at Sports Day. We held readings in the Sockrooms at the Royal Hotel under the auspices of Truro Young Oxfam, and shared much earnest merriment together.

Dillon went on to a career in youth work, eventually rising to a senior regional role. I recall meeting the Cornwall Youth Service Director, the late John Walton, who introduced me to his companion. This is my boss. 'Hello, Dillon. How's it going?'.

Dillon Hughes was an intrepid leader and achiever. He loved physical challenges and searched for the spiritual wisdom in the disciplines he practiced. He was unpredictable, impetuous, full of compassion and thoughtfulness, good fun and always at the heart of things.

One scrape which has stayed with me was going to Cligga Mine, near St Agnes, and Dillon disappearing into the ground, returning with the remains of a wheelbarrow which, riding pillion on his Honda 50, I carried on my back to the Royal Cornwall Museum. Mr Douch (who recognised Dillon!) accepted the gift graciously. I recall that motorbike ride with a mixture of wistfulness and terror! Later, as a trustee of the Museum, I searched for that barrow - not there!

Dillon had a heart condition which resurfaced and he suffered a heart attack about in March/April 2023. He was hospitalised whilst they battled with a secondary infection which was unsuccessful. He passed away peacefully after a sudden cranial bleed which, mercifully, he knew nothing about.

The very many people who knew, admired, loved and worked with Dillon Hughes will be sadly shocked to hear he has died. He was a maker of experiences, a loyal and stout friend, and an old pupil of which Truro School should be institutionally proud. All sympathy to his family.

### Tribute by Bert Biscoe CO71

## Graham Crocker CO51

1933 - 2023

Graham passed away peacefully on Sunday 28 May at St Austell Community Hospital at 90 years old. Loving husband of Iris, 67 years married, precious dad of Jenny, Alison and their husbands Richard and Ian. Proud grandad of 7 and great grandad of 12.

### Tribute from local news.

We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Graham personally.



## David Williams

CO50

1933-2022

My father David Williams, was a man of great integrity and knew the value of love, trust and respect. His journey through life was full of passion and devotion, starting in the RAF and finally in his later years serving as a Roman Catholic Priest. He was a devoted husband to Winifred Ruth Williams (nee Nicholls) and an inspirational, loving father towards myself and my sisters.

Many who met him were touched by his warmth and deep compassion for the human condition and his desire to see equality and equity prevail. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm for life, his wit and his devotion to his ministerial work. My father's health was challenged in Christmas 2021 when diagnosed with prostate cancer that spread to the bone and he spent a long period of time in hospital. He had managed to return home for three weeks to enjoy his beloved garden surrounded by those who loved him. Dad was artistic with both gardening and woodwork and his precious garden was his creative paradise but sadly this was interrupted by further ill health and he had to return to hospital.

The staff at RD&E hospital Exeter knew him well from his previous stay and they all went that extra mile to enable him to pass away peacefully and comfortably. He will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE BY  
**DAVID'S DAUGHTER,  
SUE WILLIAMS**



# Tributes and Memories



## John Summers CO54

1935 - 2022



John Summers attended Truro School Prep (known then as Treliske) and Truro School from 1946-1952, following on from his father Norman Gilbert Carlyon Summers from 1919-1924.

After 5<sup>th</sup> Year, John found a position as a live-in farm pupil with a local farmer before being called up for National Service and joining the RAF. John latterly joined his father in the family business, N Summers & Son Ltd – an animal feed and forage merchants company based in Truro trading from a retail shop in Victoria Square, a small store in St Dominic Street and a hay and straw store on Bodmin Road. In 1966, John married Pauline and moved to a cottage near St Agnes.

TRIBUTE BASED ON INFORMATION KINDLY PROVIDED BY JOHN'S FRIEND **PHILIP HOSKEN** CO53.



Leavers photo 1952 - John, far left, back row



The Summers' Family Business - N Summers and Son Ltd in Truro in the 1950s  
Image: Summers family

# Pause for Thought

## SUPER-EROGATIONISTS

In April the Head and I had the privilege of attending a Methodist Education International Conference entitled Transforming Lives in Bristol and Bath.

The event also celebrated the 275th anniversary of Kingswood School, the first school that John Wesley established. In the wonderful service with rousing singing, to celebrate this event a former Kingswood School student, Revd Simon Topping was the preacher and he was happy for me to share his message.

Firstly, some Wesleyan history:

While Charles Wesley was studying at Christ Church, Oxford in the 1720s, he formed a small group of fellow Christians who met for prayer, Bible study and who would go into Oxford to visit the poor, the sick and the imprisoned. Charles' brother John soon joined the group and eventually became its principal leader. This group was gently mocked by fellow students for its various activities and the group was given a variety of nicknames: the Holy Club, because of the group's focus on the development of personal and social holiness, the Bible Moths, because of their commitment to searching the scriptures, the Enthusiasts, the public demonstration of spirit-filled emotion was not thought to be appropriate for a gentleman of the time, the Methodists, because of their commitment to a disciplined pattern of prayer, study, visiting, and also a nickname that is slightly less well known – the super-erogationists.

Thankfully for us the name Methodist, rather than Supererogationist stuck. Can you imagine yourself telling someone you went to a Super-erogationist school!

### So what is super-erogation – as it was clearly a distinguishing feature of the life of that first group?

It is - to do more than is deemed morally necessary, as a Christian, or as a member of wider society. It is to go above and beyond the call of duty. Going the extra mile is an act of supererogation.

Doing good to those who don't do good to you, that action which Jesus talks about in our Bible in Luke (Luke 6:27-36), Supererogation is to act out of grace, rather than on the basis of a contractual obligation or ethical expectation. And although John Wesley's movement became known as the Methodist movement, acts of supererogation continued to lie at the heart of Methodist practice for Wesley. This has also been my experience of staff, students and former pupils at Truro School.



And so we join others living by Wesley's famous instruction:

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can".*

*The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*

Amen



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.



# Governors Report

This last school year while bringing our educational world back to a level of normality, has shown some significant and innovative changes in Truro School. It is important for every organisation to evolve and regenerate and I'm pleased to see that our school is no exception.

An example of this change is to hold Speech Day in the Hall for Cornwall. This is a departure from the historic norm. As most people will know the Hall for Cornwall has been recently refurbished and as such, has an increased capacity.

The holding of Speech Day within the Hall shows Truro School to be at the heart of the community and our city, and to be in a position to show off our achievements. I do not say this with an ideology of selectivity or elitism, but with one of inclusivity. The school firmly believes in providing opportunities for all and is exceptionally proud of the level of involvement that we have in our city and our county.

Initial feedback identifies that having Speech Day within the centre of our community was a success. The school will take feedback from the initiative and all views are welcome.

A further initiative developed has been that of the Summer Festival. The re-landscaping of the Terrace in front of the school and the development of this into a performance area allowed (along with excellent summer weather) some wonderful performances of drama and music of all genres. These events showcased the talent, ability and courage of our students. The Summer Festival is certainly an aspect of school life which will be built upon and amplified in years to come.

I would, in this review, also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow governors for their part in the structure of the school. They are not involved in the operational duties but play a vital role in the leading of the process of setting the strategy of the school and delivering governance. This includes the compliance with educational policy and standards, the long-term development of the school's buildings and facilities and maintaining a sound financial footing for a sustainable business.

All governors work entirely voluntarily for the good of the school and I commend their commitment and dedication to ensure the best environment for the education of all children. We have recently had a very successful recruitment process for new governors, and I am pleased to see the desire of community members to oversee and help provide strategic direction for the school.

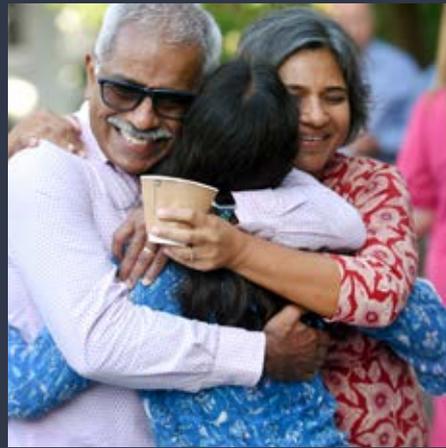
**Truro School is a special place. It has an important role in the whole community, and I strongly feel that it is integral, and plays a vital part, in the whole education system in Cornwall.**

A large part of making Truro School a special place is our Methodist ethos and the engagement of our Chaplain, Aubin de Gruchy. Aubin, as most will know, is sadly leaving us this year after 21 years in post. As a governing body our ethos and direction is core and the Christian teaching and pastoral care that he has provided through the school has been so important to us all here. We have all benefitted at some point from the Rev's care and advice.

So, to you all, on behalf of myself and the whole Governing Body, thank you. There are exciting if challenging times ahead and as a school, we will look to deliver our aims and maintain our values in the Community that is Truro School.



RICHARD THOMAS  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



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@truroschool.com](mailto:TSCconnections@truroschool.com)**

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