

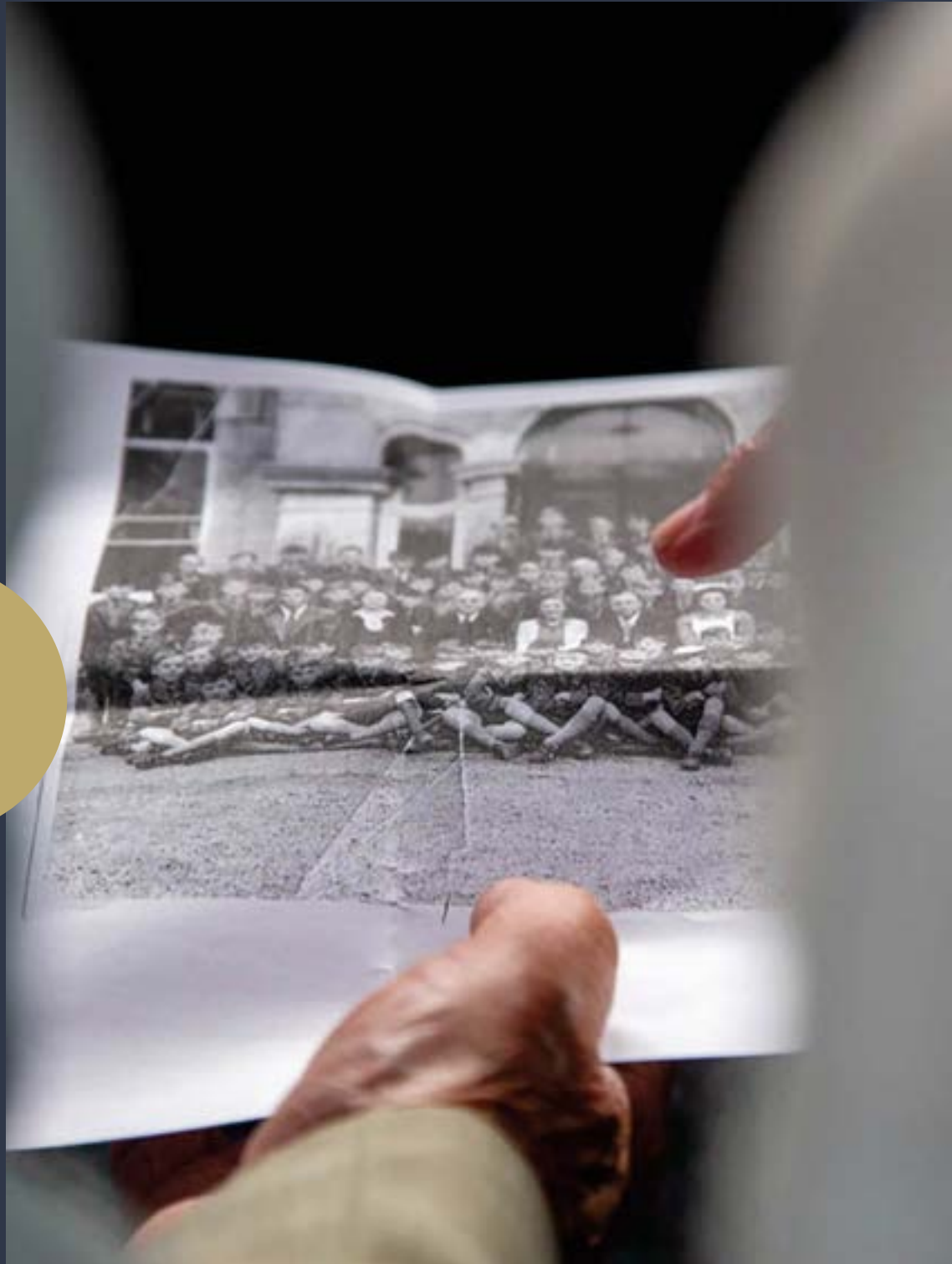


The

TRURO SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

2023 / 2024

TRURO ROMANIAN





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



AMANDA FORDE

Development & Alumni Relations Officer



JO WOOD

School Researcher/Archivist



SAM WILLISHER CO03

Development & Alumni Relations Manager

If you would like to get in touch about a contribution or have any other queries, please contact us:

TELEPHONE: 01872 246010

tsconnections@truroschool.com
foundation@truroschool.com

truroschool.com/foundation
truroschool.com/oldtruronians

FACEBOOK: @OldTruronians
INSTAGRAM: @OldTruronians
LINKEDIN: Truro School Connected



The TRURONIAN

In this edition

| | | | |
|--|----|--|-----|
| A Message from the TSA President | 4 | Kate Fonseca Williams CO12 | 40 |
| From the Development and Alumni Relations Team | 5 | My Life at Truro School by Gordon Hunt CO63 | 42 |
| Courageous Journeys Towards Top A-Levels | 6 | David Osborne CO57 | 44 |
| Class of 2024 Leavers | 10 | Professor Emeritus Neil Hawke CO63 | 46 |
| Speech Day | 12 | Salvete and Valete | 47 |
| Old Truronian News | 16 | Mike Thompson | 48 |
| Old Truronians' Charitable Work | 22 | Truro School Foundation | 50 |
| Events and Reunions | 24 | In the Garden this Year | 52 |
| A Heartwarming Reunion at Truro School Prep. | 26 | Sports Roundup | 60 |
| Truro School Art Collection | 28 | Archive Attic | 64 |
| Legacy, Impact and Memories of the Truro School Workshop | 30 | School News | 72 |
| Responses for Dennis Following the DT Reunion Invitation | 32 | Truro School Connected | 92 |
| Alex Sells CO18 | 34 | Truro School Cookery | 96 |
| Chris Nadin CO62 | 36 | Pause for Thought | 98 |
| Fraser Pakes CO55 | 38 | Governor's Report | 100 |
| | | Obituaries & Memories | 102 |

Front cover image:
Reunion Tea Party

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE TSA President



ANDY JOHNSON
HEAD OF TRURO SCHOOL

Warm regards to you all. Truro School has enjoyed another busy and successful year. In ever changing times, it has been fitting that our School value of focus this last year was Courage.

At Speech Day, and helped greatly by the inspiring words of OT **Harriet Bratt** CO03, it was joyous to celebrate the outcomes of courage across our School community, and to recognise the equal importance of the many steps of courage that went before. As an educationalist I respect those who show the courage to try something new, to stick with it when it hasn't worked, and to relish being a person of growth, not rushing to be a finished product. I thank staff, families, friends, Governors, the Association, the Foundation and all alumni who support, facilitate and inspire journeys of courage.

This summer many pupils depart to join the OT community following what we hope will have been successful examinations, and I thank here our two longest-serving staff leavers too. Melissa Duke has been a first-class teacher here since 2011, and Heather Alford has been a pillar of the community since 1992, having great impact on pupils and staff alike across that time. I thank and wish them and all our leavers the very best for the future.

Aside from the academic energy and focus that is at the heart of our Prep and Senior Schools, our pupils have achieved huge amounts this year. A few sporting highlights include Truro School pupils representing team GB in their age groups in athletics, our U13s mixed football team reached the ISFA national final, and we were county champions across various age groups in football, hockey, netball, tennis, badminton and rugby.

Our fencers won three overall team trophies at the public schools' championship, and we had teams reach the national squash plate finals for the fifth time in a row.

Not to be outdone by sports, the creative life of the School thrives and flourishes too. Highlights included a genuinely West-End ready musical called *Crossroads*, devised and entirely written by a current 3rd Year pupil, a musical calendar that culminated in an end-of-year Festival littered with musical treats of all genres and in many locations, and a fantastic art collaboration with the Royal Cornwall Museum.

The School's identity and purpose as a place of values and of community responsibility remains paramount too. I applaud our new Chaplain, Helen Byrne, for her orchestration of World Aims this year, alongside the myriad wider and often unsung community partnerships driven by pupils and staff alike.

Our Sustainability Committee has also ensured Green Flag Eco-Status for our School. All this work means the education here prepares children to be and to become citizens of positive impact in the wider world than the often fortunate one they are part of at home, or in School.

This purpose, integral to our Methodist foundation, to be a force for good, is under some threat from the changing economic and political environment around us, which we recognise. Current parents are understandably anxious about taxation and affordability, whilst also ambitious for their children's futures.

The School is doing all we can, true to our Methodist roots, and is grateful for all and any support from friends and alumni in this regard. There are many ways to be involved, in the sharing of expertise and time, in the advocacy for what the School has to offer, and, of course, via opportunities to more directly support

widening bursary provision or enhanced facilities such as our soon-to-be-built new Music Centre. Do contact me, or our alumni or development teams, if you would like to know more.

Amidst sunshine or storms, Truro School remains on an exciting journey. As one of the top 20 Co-educational Boarding Schools in the country last year, our recent nomination on the national shortlist for both Independent Prep School of the Year and Co-educational Independent School of the Year is another indication of this journey's direction and impact. I and my team are proud of this, but also mindful that whatever the accolades, it is the individual journeys through our School that have happened for you, are happening for others now, and will happen for many children to come, that matter most.

To end this introductory message, therefore, I thank you for your support and interest in the evolution and ambition of our School family. It has been lovely meeting many of you at Old Truronian events this last year.

Details of events to come across the next year can be found on the school website and within Old Truronian communications. In the meantime, my very best regards, and enjoy this latest edition of the Truronian.

A MESSAGE FROM THE Development and Alumni Relations Team

Thank you for taking the time to catch up on 'all things Truro School'. A huge thank you goes to the Old Truronians who have shared their stories, and to Amanda Forde & Jo Wood in the Development and Alumni Relations Team for bringing these stories to life in the upcoming pages.

Flicking through the 2024 edition is your chance to discover what's been going on in the Truro School and Old Truronian communities.

With every passing year the Old Truronian community continues to grow. May I therefore take this opportunity to welcome the 'Class of 2024', along with their parents and carers, to this supportive community. Make sure you stay in touch, wherever your next life adventure takes you.

In the last 12 months we've welcomed back over 300 former pupils and guests to a whole host of different reunion and networking events. The new academic year's calendar of Old Truronian events is shaping up to be a busy one.

I hope you can join us at one or more of these in-person events. You can also keep up to speed with news via our social platforms or by joining the private Truro School Connected LinkedIn Group.

We've recently created an Old Truronians LinkedIn page where we share news and announcements.

As Clerk to Truro School Foundation, I'd like to highlight 'The Work of the Foundation' article (see pages 50-51). Truro School's desire of growing the number of transformational bursaries it can offer talented young minds via the Truro School Foundation continues to grow.

Any support you can offer when it comes to 'Your Stories of Empowerment' is gratefully received. A huge thank you goes to our current bursary donors and legacy pledgers. Your generosity is currently supporting talented pupils on their Truro School journey.

While reading this year's edition of The Truronian Magazine I hope it might provoke nostalgic memories of your time at Truro School. If this is the case, do share them with us.



SAM WILLISHER CO03
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI
RELATIONS MANAGER

Courageous Journeys Towards Top A-Levels

There was a palpable sense of joy on A-Level results day as our Truro School students achieved the School's highest number of top-level A-Level grades in 10 years.

While it is undoubtedly a time for celebration, it was also a time for reflection as our incredible cohort looked back on their individual journeys at Truro School and the hard work and determination it has taken to gain such wonderful results.

Our students represent a diverse cohort of academic success, with future pathways including top-tier universities in the UK and abroad, medical pathways and apprenticeships in business and aviation. We caught up with a few of them to talk about their time at Truro School and the exciting futures that beckon.

A mixture of beaming smiles and tears of joy, Aimee is one of a plethora of our students who are now embarking on courses in medicine. With two A*s in Biology and Chemistry and an A in Geography (as well as a Distinction in the Level 3 Leiths Extended Certificate in Professional Cookery), she has secured a place at Exeter Medical School starting in 2025.

"Truro School has been amazing. All of the support from the teachers has been incredible, they are so happy to give as much as is needed. I chose to stay at Truro School for Sixth Form because of the existing network of friends and the security it offered me. But the staff have been amazing, Mrs Wormald in particular."

Brandon is also embarking on a medical pathway having achieved an A and two Bs. He is now following in his parents Nigel and Becky's footsteps and training to be a chiropractor. His mum remarked, "We are feeling so happy and very



excited. He is going into the course we both did at university. Brandon had a wonderful time at Truro School. Meeting with his tutors on a 1-2-1 basis and having lots of help with admissions and his personal statement was a real help."

Another medic with a wonderful conundrum was Ben who, having achieved an astonishing three A*s in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, is now considering numerous possibilities for where to study medicine, with a firm offer from St George's in London and options for Liverpool and Bristol now on the table.

"Truro School helped me to find my way of learning," Ben said. "I don't have much self-motivation but Truro School helped me to stay on track, by setting tasks and offering small classes. I've been at Truro School since Nursery, but the Sixth Form environment offered a real change. The teachers treat you like adults and you get access to all the extra-curricular things like the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award too."

Aimee, Brandon and Ben join five other students pursuing medical pathways: Lara (Medicine at St Andrews), Laura (Medicine at Kent and Medway), Madeleine (Pharmacy), Taerim (Biomedical Sciences) and Loki (Physiotherapy). Commenting on the outstanding success of the students pursuing medical careers, Head of Biology and the Medical Pathways Programme, Susan Havis, remarked, "I am incredibly proud to see so many of our students embarking on the challenging yet rewarding path of medicine. Reaching this stage is a testament to their dedication and hard work and their long-term perseverance. What lies ahead for all of them promises to be an exciting journey filled with opportunities to make a real difference in the world. I wish them every success in their diverse futures."

Sophia was celebrating an outstanding result in her CTEC PE, with two Distinction*s, equivalent to two A*s. She chose to come to Truro School Sixth Form because of the CTEC course, which she felt better suited her interests and learning style.

"I'm not very good at exams, but the CTEC is all coursework-based, so you can work at your own pace. It is rather like a dissertation; you can send it back and get feedback as you go along."



Outstanding A-Level Success for Truro School Sixth Form



Truro School Sixth Form students have plenty to celebrate this A-Level results day, achieving outstanding outcomes that further build on Truro School's position as the leading A-Level provider in Cornwall.

"I chose Truro School for Sixth Form because of the teachers and my decision always felt like the right choice. I wouldn't have got the results I did without the teachers. I've constantly annoyed them to go through stuff with me and I'm excited now to start my training."

Theo's mum Joanna tells us, "The School supported him exceptionally well pastorally and academically. There are some key people here who supported him with clinics and 1-2-1 sessions. He has worked so hard and today he got what he deserved. I am absolutely thrilled and very proud."

Finally, we leave with our Deputy Head Girl, Lexi, who has balanced life as a Team GB Fencer with her scholastic life to achieve two A*s in Maths and Physics and two As in Economics and her AS in Further Maths. These results have secured her first choice of studying Economics and Politics at Durham University.

45%
A*/A
at A-Level

92%
A*-A
in their EPQs
(Extended Project Qualifications)

88%
DISTINCTIONS
in their Leith's
Certificates

"The PE team has supported me amazingly well and I know I couldn't have got these results elsewhere. Starting at Sixth Form was tough, but it has helped me to grow a lot in confidence and see where I want to go. I'm now going to Oxford Brookes University to study Sports Coaching and Physical Education."

Truro School is well known for its pastoral care, which sits firmly alongside curricular and extra-curricular excellence. Benji, who achieved a fantastic two A*s and two As, had a tricky time health-wise during his A-Level exams following an accident, but was supported by the School to enable him to excel.

"I chose to stay at Truro School for A-Levels because they offered German and I got 1-2-1 tuition which made it fun. The culture here is that everyone wants and tries to do well." And what will he miss most about Truro School? "Probably the lunches!" he laughed.

Diggory also thanks Truro School's pastoral support for helping him through the stresses of Sixth Form life. His mum Lucy told us, "Diggory has been at Truro School since he was two years old and I feel that at every step we have had

brilliant teaching support alongside a fantastic parent community and extra-curricular offering."

"I was in a really rough place when I started revising for my A-Levels," Diggory explains, "but Truro School helped me with the early stages of revision. Mrs Richards was a godsend and always there for me."

Another pupil reflecting on the stresses that A-Levels pose was Macarena, a boarder at Truro School. "I was really stressed but I've done better than expected with three As in Spanish, Business and Psychology and a B in English. Truro School has been so great. Any time I emailed teachers for extra support, it was given, whether that was past papers or additional assessments. I'm off to King's College London to study International Management but I will miss the people, the teachers and the place here."

Two students who are taking a route into apprenticeships are David, who is embarking on a coveted apprenticeship with Barclays, and Theo. With two A*s and a B in Geology, Business and Maths under his belt, Theo is heading off to train as a pilot with L3Harris in London.

"I've been at Truro School since I was three and started fencing young, I've learnt to manage my time well and understand that I perform better when I'm busy and constantly moving.

The School has been incredible and so supportive. The teachers are so good and have been amazing at giving me work before I went away to fence or helping me to catch up when I was back. Having Mrs Jupp as the link between the Fencing School and Truro School was incredible.

I am very grateful for the position of Deputy Head Girl too, which has given me loads of opportunities to develop my skills. I have become much more confident in public speaking, learned a lot from taking part in meetings, and have really benefitted from the experience of working as part of the Senior Prefect Team.

I'll miss the people, my friends and the beautiful relationships I have with my teachers and the younger pupils. Truro School is a truly special place."

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our leavers and to wish them well as they embark, with courage, on the next phase of their incredible journeys as Old Truronians.

Over 73% of all grades were A*-B, over 45% were A*/A, and over 20% were at A*. This represents higher achievement across all these grade ranges than last year and the strongest top grade outcomes for students at Truro School for a decade.

In six subjects, spread across Further Maths, the Sciences, Humanities and the Creative Arts, all students achieved grades A*-B. Over 92% of EPQ outcomes were A*-A, 88% of our Leith's cookery qualifications were Distinction or Merit, and two double Distinctions were achieved in CTEC PE. This range of excellence reflects Truro School's ongoing championing of diverse A-Level and Sixth Form pathways that is at the heart of our Sixth Form Diploma programme, now in its third successful year.

Proud as we are of the overall outcomes, however, it is the individual journeys and destinations that matter most.

Our Diploma programme actively encourages and supports students to find and pursue their individual ambitions and enables us to celebrate excellence in its many different forms equally as a result.

We are delighted that the hard work of our students has resulted in places being secured at Oxbridge, four at Medical Schools, to McGill University in Canada, for Engineering, Law, Architecture, and also for Music Conservatoires, Archaeology, Sports, Geology, Software Engineering, Illustration and directly into varied industries, including training as a pilot or as business leaders through leading apprenticeship programmes.

We are proud that once again over 90% of our students have secured or reached destinations of choice within less than a day of results being published, and our dedicated staff remain on hand over the coming days for those seeking ongoing advice and support.

Head of Truro School, Andy Johnson, expressed his immense pride in the achievements of this year's cohort, stating, "I am incredibly proud of this year group. They are a real credit to both the School and themselves. Their ambition, dedication and courage have led to these outstanding outcomes. These results are a testament to their abilities and the support provided by our dedicated staff, and they reflect the value and impact of a Truro School Sixth Form education. Our goal at Sixth Form is to equip and empower students for their futures, and today's results have done just that. We wish them all the best as they embark on their exciting new journeys."

The entire School community celebrates these exceptional achievements, confident that Truro School Sixth Formers are once again well prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Class of 2024 Leavers

| NAME | DESTINATION | COURSE |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Macarena Alvarez-Felgueroso | <i>King's College London</i> | International Management |
| Ben Ashe | <i>Leeds Conservatoire</i> | Music |
| Emily Bailey | <i>Royal Agricultural University</i> | Business Management |
| Kate Barnes | <i>University of the West of England</i> | Business and Management |
| Lucy Bassett-Cross | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Human Geography |
| Grace Blakeburn | <i>Manchester Metropolitan University</i> | Software Engineering |
| Aimée Brown | <i>University of Exeter</i> | Medicine |
| Perry Brown | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Business Management |
| Thomas Caton | <i>Royal Holloway, University of London</i> | Geology |
| Brandon Corbett | <i>University of South Wales</i> | Masters of Chiropractic |
| Lexie Craze | <i>Durham University</i> | Economics and Politics |
| Lucas De Glatigny Hogg | <i>University of Bristol</i> | Civil Engineering |
| Henry Dunn | <i>University of Birmingham</i> | Mechanical Engineering |
| Madeleine Eccles | <i>University of Malta</i> | Medicine |
| Ben Eddy | <i>University of Leeds</i> | Geology |
| Diggory Gill | <i>University of Edinburgh</i> | Philosophy |
| Charlotte Hall | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Civil and Environmental Engineering |
| William Hare | <i>University of the West of England</i> | Business and Management |
| Abigail Harrower | <i>Oxford Brookes University</i> | Law with Business |
| Josh Higgins | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Architecture |
| Sam Horne | <i>University of Nottingham</i> | Finance, Accounting and Management |
| Luke James | <i>University of Bath</i> | Economics |
| Toby James | <i>Swansea University</i> | Medical Pharmacology |
| Rupert Karrington | <i>University of Southampton</i> | Physics |
| Maggie Kent | <i>University of the West of England</i> | Banking and Finance |
| Taerim Kim | <i>University of Manchester</i> | Biomedical Sciences |
| Leora Kwok | <i>Loughborough University</i> | Sport Management |
| Joshua Leigh | <i>University of Bath</i> | Chemistry |
| Henry Lower | <i>University of Exeter</i> | Geology |
| Florence Makhlof | <i>McGill University, Canada</i> | Business |
| Kundai Mandizha | <i>University of East Anglia</i> | Creative Writing and English Literature |
| Benjy Marsden | <i>University of Southampton</i> | Mechanical Engineering |

| NAME | DESTINATION | COURSE |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Finlay Meyer Melville | <i>Durham University</i> | Music |
| Ben Mitchell | <i>University of Exeter</i> | Law |
| Alice Mooney | <i>University of Liverpool</i> | Law and French |
| Joshua Morris | <i>University of Manchester</i> | Mathematics |
| Loki Newton | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Physiotherapy |
| David Nicholls | <i>Barclays Bank</i> | Apprenticeship |
| Lara Odling | <i>University of St Andrew's</i> | Medicine |
| Callum Oliver | <i>Sheffield Hallam University</i> | Sports Business Management |
| Sammy Ovenden Hope | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Architecture |
| Thomas Palmer | <i>University of Manchester</i> | Computer Science |
| Cailan Patel | <i>University of Gloucestershire</i> | Computer Science |
| Elsbeth Prindl | <i>Durham University</i> | Anthropology and Archaeology |
| Ben Purchas | <i>St George's, University of London</i> | Medicine |
| Sarah Roberts | <i>University of Bath</i> | Business |
| Oliver Sexton | <i>Durham University</i> | English Literature |
| Jack Shearer | <i>University of Exeter</i> | Economics |
| Tom Stephens | <i>University of St Andrew's</i> | Geology |
| Sam Stevenson | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Mechanical Engineering |
| Viktoriia Stytsiura | <i>University of Plymouth</i> | Illustration |
| Asia Tancharoen | <i>King's College London</i> | Nutritional Sciences |
| Jenna Teagle | <i>University of Birmingham</i> | Chemical Engineering |
| Joe Thomson | <i>University of Southampton</i> | Economics |
| Oliver Thorpe | <i>Durham University</i> | Physics |
| Sophia Walker | <i>Oxford Brookes University</i> | Sport, Coaching and Physical Education |
| Laura Waterhouse | <i>Kent and Medway Medical School</i> | Medicine |
| Aimee Whitelegg | <i>Airbus</i> | Apprenticeship |
| Bea Whittaker | <i>University of Southampton</i> | Aeronautics and Astronautics |
| James Williams | <i>Scotland's Rural College</i> | Environmental Management |
| Lola Willis | <i>Cardiff University</i> | Social Science |
| Theo Wood | <i>L3Harris Airline Academy</i> | Pilot Training |
| Jack Woolcock | <i>University of York</i> | Philosophy and Politics |

Absolutely Fabulous Prep Speech Day



It was with great pleasure that Truro School Prep welcomed British comedian, writer and actress Helen Lederer to our annual Speech Day and Prize Giving.

The afternoon was opened by Joint Vice Chair of Governors Mrs Liz Garner, who welcomed parents, staff and pupils before she reflected on Truro School's Values: Curiosity, Confidence, Compassion, Creativity and Courage, this year's value.

She remarked, "Courage comes in many forms... it can be very small but our actions do need a little challenge, perhaps a little fear. This takes bravery; having courage is hard." She urged our pupils to take courage because, through courageous steps, we can head forward into new adventures, new challenges

and new ways of thinking.

Head of Truro School Mr Andy Johnson led an opening prayer before our Boy Choristers took to the stage for two beautiful songs, the gentle 'View Me Lord' and a bouncy rendition of Psalm 150, written by a former chorister in 1967.

Head of Prep **Mr Rob Morse** CO89 then gathered his reflections on the past year, noting the impressive raft of daily and weekly extra-curricular activities and achievements our Prep Pupils have experienced, alongside their hard work in the classroom.

Mr Morse also spoke of the importance of our values and the need for kindness, honesty, work and friendship. In all of

these areas, we get what we give. He reminded pupils that, as they step into their new year groups and new schools, "It is kindness and service to others that makes our school what it is." It was then time for a cornucopia of awards, cups and prizes to be handed out to our phenomenal Prep pupil body before Helen Lederer gave an entertaining and insightful speech to close the afternoon.

Well done to all of our prize winners and thanks to the guests and families who attended the event. It was a fitting and moving end to another fantastic year at Truro School Prep.

Senior Speech Day – A SHOT OF COURAGE



This year's Senior Speech Day opening address was delivered by Elizabeth Garner, Vice Chair of the Governors, on behalf of all the Governors.

The Chairman, Richard Thomas, was unfortunately kept away by Covid. She welcomed everyone to the Hall for Cornwall, where the School was "showcasing pupils' achievements in the heart of the community". Firstly, thanks were given to the Operational Team, an essential component of this successful team. Then thanks to the teaching staff. She felt that the teaching improves year on year, and so much is accomplished in the classroom and beyond, which draws pupils and their families to the School.

Thanks were also given to the wider Truro School community: parents and families, the governors and the Senior Leadership Team. She drew to a close by wishing happy [big] birthday to Mr Johnson for next week.

The Head, Andy Johnson, echoed with his thanks to everyone, and thanks also to the pupils' parents and families for "entrusting the education of your children to us". He promised that the School would stay in touch about the changing political situation in the wake of yesterday's election, but that the School remains committed to high standards of education, and aims to increase its communications with parents in the new school year. Thanks were also given to the FTS (Friends of Truro School), TSA (Truro School Association), the Truro School Foundation and the



Senior Speech Day 2024



Old Truronians for their support of the School. The Prep School had recently been nominated for Independent Prep School of the Year, and the Senior School for Co-educational Independent School of the Year.

The staff inspire and facilitate the success of the children – it is a team effort. He expressed his pride in everyone in the School, not just the prize winners. All pupils are important and valued.

Turning to this year's focus on courage, following the Methodist ethos and one of Wesley's principal values, the Head said that Speech Day was the product of courage. However, success today was possibly less important than the "courage that went before" in the various endeavours taken during the year, "to start something, to go out of your comfort zone... to be a person of growth". He stressed the importance of not expecting to be a finished product, always right and perfect, but having the courage to embrace development, with humility on the journey.

After the welcome speeches, the prizes were handed out by the Honorary Guest Speaker **Harriet Bratt** CO03, an international public speaker and firewalker. The Opie Shield was won by Vinter with 162 points; Wickett were 2nd, Smith 3rd and School 4th.

The Head Boy **Oliver Thorpe** CO24 spoke about the value of leadership and looked at his time at Truro School to demonstrate these values. He concluded that this included the ability to accept help (even if it dented one's pride), tolerance and acceptance. While at School he had seen a breadth of diversity in values, approaches and experiences.

The Head Girl **Tara Scully** CO24 followed with the belief that the Class of 2024 had bonded over mutual exhaustion of walking up 'the snake', Pythagoras' theorem, perseverance and friendship. She believed that different experiences and perspectives enriched understanding and she encouraged everyone to not be afraid to stand out: "individuality makes you powerful". "...If you can survive cross-country ... in January ... in the rain, then you can survive anything".

Before starting her engaging speech, Harriet took a moment to celebrate with her former House, Vinter, in winning the Opie Shield. She left Truro School 21 years ago, had never thought to be invited back to speak and would have thought it more likely to have been summoned to the Head's office in former years. Courage was the main focus of her speech, and she began by quoting Steve Jobs:

"You can connect the dots looking backwards, so you must have faith looking forwards."

To achieve this, we all needed to have the following:

1. Faith to believe
2. Courage to act
3. Knowing that the dots will connect

To know faith is to know fear and to be courageous is to be scared but to act anyway. Harriet was not the usual type of guest speaker at Speech Day, talking from behind a podium. She moved around the stage and into the audience, engaging with them and keeping everyone's interest.

She recalled that she had had an "amazing time at Truro School". But for those who didn't, that was OK too; she had also been in that situation and related her experience at a previous school which was miserable. Harriet recalled that at her previous school she was victimised by a housemistress, bullied and lied about. At one point she endured solitary confinement for two weeks. Truro was completely different and Harriet remembered a positive school experience.



After leaving Truro School she followed a path of what should be done, but it took time to be able to realise her dreams and to know what she actually wanted to do. This led to a career in public speaking around the world and learning to live fulfilled and with inner peace. She encouraged everyone to live as they would wish to and to step into that dream or ambition with courage, reminding of the importance of being true to yourself and having the courage to act despite fear: feel the fear, act in courage. Although it is not possible to get rid of fear, a basic instinct, completely, it is up to the individual to decide how to respond to it.

"You can't always choose what happens to you but can choose how to respond to it." It was necessary to take charge of the doubting voice inside and act even when petrified.

Harriet had been impressed by Mr Johnson's, and his wife's, passion and enthusiasm for the School and the wider Truro community. She shared three steps to overcome a difficult task - B.A.F.: **Breathe. Awareness. Focus.**

She then asked Mr Johnson to demonstrate his courage using these steps, as well as leading by example, by breaking an arrow with his neck. An arrow tip was placed at the Head's throat and the fletched end against a board which the Head then pressed forward until it snapped.

Harriet concluded that courage was the willingness to try, stepping up even when scared. Confidence by comparison is built up over time. She reminded everyone to be bold, have fun, stay courageous.

The programme ended with thanks and presentation to Harriet, and music from the 4th Year Rock Band.

Old Truronian News

BENJAMIN MÜLLER CO91 REVISITS TRURO SCHOOL FROM GERMANY



On Friday 17th May the halls of our School were filled with nostalgia and warmth as Old Truronian Benjamin Müller, accompanied by his wife Britta, made his first visit back since leaving in 1989.

Benjamin was here for just a term, as one of the many German students who temporarily came to Truro School. After leaving, he moved back to Germany to finish his education before making the bold step to attend university in the USA. Following his university years he returned to Germany, where he has since established a successful career in design.

During his visit, Benjamin fondly reminisced about his time at the School, which he described as having a profoundly positive impact on his life. He spoke highly of the School's ethos, emphasising how it taught students

the importance of being good, well-rounded individuals. Despite recalling the School's strictness on behaviour, Benjamin expressed gratitude for the discipline, noting that it was exactly what he needed at the age of 15. One of his fond memories included clay pigeon shooting, an activity that added an element of excitement to his school days.

Benjamin boarded in Malvern during his time here, and he fondly remembered the friendships he made, particularly with another German student with whom he has stayed in touch over the years.

Before leaving, Benjamin was presented with a few mementos to commemorate his visit: an OT tie, a mug and a School shield. Although he attended the School for only a term, Benjamin told us that he regretted not having a proper graduation along with his cohort at the end of Senior School. Nonetheless, he still feels a strong sense of belonging and considers himself a perpetual student of the School.

FREDDIE ISSAKA CO24



Old Truronian and Plymouth Argyle prospect **Freddie Issaka** CO24 agreed a long-term contract with the team in July, shortly before his 18th birthday. Whilst at Truro School, Freddie Issaka became Argyle's youngest-ever player, at the age of 15 years and 34 days, when he came off the bench in an EFL Trophy group game away to Newport County in August 2021.

The Wales under-19 international has gone on to make two starts and 14 substitute appearances at first team level, with nine of them coming last season.

Freddie signed his first professional contract on his 17th birthday and was a key part of the Argyle under-18s' highly successful 2023/24 campaign, when they won both the EFL Youth Alliance South West Division and the Merit League One.



STUDENT TO TEACHER: OLD TRURONIAN ISOBEL DENNETT CO19



Isobel shared with us her reflections on the experience back at her old school and what her PGCE currently entails.

Having embarked on the path of pursuing my PGCE, I couldn't be more thrilled to return to the place that played a pivotal role in shaping my educational journey.

My journey thus far has been enriched by my experiences in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision settings. The challenges and rewards of working with students in these diverse and challenging environments have fuelled my passion for SEND and educational psychology, with my passion for psychology originating during my time in Sixth Form (2017-2019).

I have observed and worked closely with some 1st Year students during their first week transitioning into secondary education; I am reminded of the excitement and uncertainties faced during this pivotal time, having been in their very shoes just over 10 years ago.

Being back at Truro School has been a heart-warming experience, reconnecting with familiar teachers who once nurtured my own growth, and meeting new enthusiastic educators. It reaffirms my belief that Truro School is not just a place of learning but a welcoming community where students and staff alike thrive; I am grateful to have been welcomed back so enthusiastically, and once again provided with a platform to continue my educational and professional journey.

Miss Mitchell (Assistant Head: Teaching and Learning) also took time to share some words about how the School welcomes trainee teachers:

It was wonderful to welcome back Isobel, a former pupil, recently ahead of her starting a Primary Education PGCE at the University of Exeter later this month. Each academic year, Truro School provides placements for trainee teachers to support their professional journey into a career in education. Here Isobel shares her experience of returning to Truro School and working alongside our 1st Year pupils.

CELEBRATING OFFERS FROM OXFORD



In January, two students from the Class of 2023 received offers from Oxford University. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Imogen Dowse** CO23 and **Louis Fletcher** CO23.

Imogen has secured her place at Merton College to study English Language and Literature. Having studied English at A-Level, Imogen shared her captivation with the art of language and how literature can

preserve it while offering insights into diverse perspectives. She expressed her gratitude, saying, "I am so excited and feel incredibly honoured and lucky to have been given this opportunity. As an ex-chorister, I am particularly looking forward to singing in Merton College Choir, as I have a strong desire to continue singing at the university level. I owe everything to my teachers at school, as without them, I wouldn't be in the position I am now."



Louis, who studied A-level Maths, Music, and English, has been awarded an Organ Scholarship to Lincoln College Oxford to study Music.

Louis eagerly anticipates the privilege of working with and conducting the Lincoln College Choir and the international tours the choir offers.

A WELCOME VISIT BACK FOR RAY JONES CO51



Ray Jones visited us in April along with his wife Maureen and their son and daughter-in-law. After meeting at the front of the School, Ray immediately wanted to see the main staircase. He recalled this was where he had been brought down from his dormitory on a stretcher to be admitted to an isolation hospital after catching polio. He remembered the silence, no noises at all, and the nurse with him who was wearing a face mask.

A tour of the School Library followed, which Ray had remembered as his boarding dormitory. Ray recalled being told of his father's death whilst in Epworth one evening. He arrived back to the dormitory in silence, and someone noticed something was amiss. **Mr Rhead** (Teacher of Maths, Economics and History 1937-1957), Ray's form tutor and housemaster, came and sat by him, and put his hand on his shoulder. No words were spoken, but he was comforted by the understanding and sympathy.

After this, the visit moved to the Chapel, where many school plays were held, including King Lear, where Ray played the Fool. He remembered spending a week with **Mr Alan Scales** (Teacher of Science 1945-1976) who played Lear in one-to-one rehearsals. Truro School was known for undertaking difficult plays at the time, and Lear was no exception. A later production was to be Hamlet, and Ray

thought about staying on to take part, but by this time his studies had been disrupted and delayed by his recovery from his illness, which took seven months, and he thought there was not much point staying on at School just for the school play.

In the Chapel, Ray was presented with a copy of his final school report which drew comments and conversation about which teachers Ray recalled, including 'Stinker' Rhead and the classics teacher 'Agricola'.

After leaving Truro School, Ray studied at St David's College (now the University of Wales), before heading 'up country' to Wycliffe Hall and then St Catherine's College at the University of Oxford.

After completing his studies, Ray joined the Royal Navy as a Chaplain. Whilst working on board HMS Illustrious, he recalled hearing a pilot singing the School song 'High on the Hill' in the wardroom. After the Chapel there was a quick tour of the Dining Hall and seeing the School bell before returning to Reception.

Ray kindly sent us a letter a few days after his visit: "I am writing to thank you for making my 'pilgrimage' to the School, after so many years, such a moving and joyful experience, not only to me, but to Maureen ... it was so good to see old and familiar places, as well as the impressive new builds."

AUSTIN HANSEN CO11

Austin Hansen CO11 visited the School in November whilst in the UK visiting friends and family from his home in the USA. Austin took a walk around the School's site with the alumni relations team and caught us up with all of his successes since leaving.

After completing his GCSEs here he moved back to the USA, where his family are from, and completed his secondary education there. After graduating he moved home to Washington State.

In 2013 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps before becoming the Deputy Director of Domestic Operations, overseeing all close protection operations in the United States, including imbedded agent protection.

LUNCH REUNION IN AUSTRALIA



News from Australia in May from **John Speake** CO59 (in blue) who kindly shared a photo of himself, **Nick Cameron** CO59 (in yellow) and **David Stableforth** CO60 (in green) who all met up for lunch at Mooloolaba Surf Club on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

DR VICTORIA HARVEY CO98 DEMYSTIFIES THE CAMBRIDGE APPLICATION PROCESS



The School welcomed a visit from Old Truronian **Dr Victoria Harvey** CO98 who is now the Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for St John's College at the University of Cambridge. Victoria generously offered her time to demystify the daunting process of applying to Oxbridge, and to talk specifically about the application process to Cambridge where she currently works. Victoria was previously Director of Admissions at Lucy Cavendish College and also worked in outreach roles at Robinson College and Trinity Hall.

After leaving school, Victoria went to university before stepping away after a year to travel. She lived in Egypt for a time before returning to the UK to study at the University of Exeter for a BA Hons in French, gaining a 1st Class Honours. She then successfully applied for the University of Oxford

to study an MA in French Renaissance Literature before pursuing a doctorate in the same subject at the University of Cambridge. Victoria's research interests lie in 16th century French literature and visual culture. Her PhD thesis examined satirical representations of the figure of the *vieille* in French Renaissance poetry; more recent research examines 16th century representations of the 1495 syphilis epidemic and Real Tennis in the 16th century.

Victoria spoke to students about the application process, and fielded questions ranging from what she looks for in the initial application to personal statements. She offered practical advice with an in-depth understanding of the fears and anxieties that accompany the daunting task of applying to Cambridge.

There was detailed discussion about applications for Medicine, the sciences and humanities, and the benefits of a gap year. Victoria explained what happens in the interview, how to make the most of open days, the importance of extra-curricular subjects and how to choose your degree.

For the students, Victoria's visit was more than just a mere talk; it was a glimpse into the realm of possibility, a reminder that their Oxbridge aspirations are valid and attainable. They were left knowing that hopefully, with hard work, perseverance and guidance, an Oxbridge education may well be their next steps.

WILLIAM GOTTELIER CO09



William was in touch with the alumni office at the beginning of summer with an exciting career development: "Since leaving Truro School, I have embarked on an exciting journey in the field of architecture. Last summer, I began working full time at my architecture practice, Becoming X. We have rapidly grown and are now handling a diverse range of projects across London and the South West, from residential to healthcare developments of varying scales. I am particularly enthusiastic about expanding our work into Cornwall, bringing innovative design and sustainable solutions to the area I still hold dear.

Our team at Becoming X boasts extensive experience, having previously worked at some of the most prestigious architecture firms in London, New York and Norway. In addition to our professional practice, we are dedicated to academia, teaching at leading universities in the UK where we conduct research on alternative low-carbon construction methods and advanced insulation technologies. I am eager to share my insights and expertise with current students and alumni of Truro School, and I welcome any enquiries about architecture. Additionally, we are always open to new projects and collaborations, especially those that contribute to sustainable and thoughtful design in Cornwall."

BRYONY HALLIDAY CO11 NAMED AS RUNNER-UP IN THE WEST COUNTRY WOMEN AWARDS IN STEM



Congratulations to Bryony on her achievement. The West Country Women Awards celebrate and highlight achievements and triumphs of women across Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset, celebrating the fantastic work being done by businesses, individuals and the community of West Country Women. Bryony is Consultancy Manager at Wheal Jane Consultancy, who offer geotechnical and environmental investigations, mine searches and mundic analysis.

Bryony says: "Over the moon to have been named a runner-up in West Country Women Awards Women in STEM category at the Grand Final. I really enjoyed the evening and hearing about all the inspiring things the others in the room have been doing. Thank you to The Women Awards for a lovely evening and Wheal Jane Group for supporting me. I hope this unexpected recognition will give me a platform to be able to help other people get started in a STEM career, especially in Earth Sciences in Cornwall in the future!"

'80 NOT OUT' REUNION



The photo shows (l to r) **Mark Harvey CO56, David Stableforth CO60, Les Rendell CO59, Sue Holman, Pauline Sturtridge, Penny Stableforth, Nigel Holman CO59** and **Gerald Sturtridge CO59**. Unfortunately **Bob CO60** and **Val Haslock** were prevented from joining us because of a major hold-up on the M5.

News was received from Les Rendell in October that another '80 Not Out' reunion took place in Tiverton, Devon. Les told us, "Since our last full reunion in 2021, we have been planning some smaller reunions in areas where some of our members have not too far to go. The first of these "mini reunions" took place recently at the Fisherman's Cot, which is not too far from me here in Tiverton, Devon. I attach a photo of the group with some partners which was taken by **David Stableforth's CO60** daughter, Emily, who joined us as she lives and works at Blundells School nearby... The lunch was arranged by **Gerald Sturtridge CO59** who now hopes to organise a similar one in the Truro area. It is good that after well over 60 years since leaving Truro School, friendships still exist with many of the "boys" and nearly 40 of us are still in regular contact."

ROS ATKINS CO93 COMMUNICATES WITH CLARITY AND CONFIDENCE



We were hugely thankful that **Ros Atkins CO93** took time to visit the School in November to deliver a talk to Sixth Formers during his promotional tour for his new book, *The Art of Explanation*.

Ros talked about how today there is so much information swirling around via social media and 24-hour news channels, and the importance therefore of us all needing to get our point across clearly and concisely. Our current students are not subject to the demands made of TV journalists and presenters such as Ros Atkins, such as prioritising what audiences would want to know in international stories such as Nelson Mandela's death in 2013, and how to engage BBC News audiences about an economic crisis in Greece and why it matters to UK audiences. Ros shared how, through his 20 years of broadcasting

on radio and TV, he has managed to finely tune his technique and ability to clearly deliver information.

For our students, they will be contemplating university interviews, exam essays and job interviews later on, and so Ros offered his best pieces of advice for making the best from those situations from all that he has learnt along the way. He encouraged students to see every opportunity for communication as a chance to invest time in preparation and thinking beforehand, and urged that whatever the context, practise first.

Ros attended Truro School between 1986-1993, before successfully gaining a place at the University of Cambridge to study History and then pursuing a successful career in radio and TV broadcasting. He is currently the BBC News analysis editor.

SARAH CARBIS CO13 IS A WINNING 30 UNDER 30!



Amongst the many nominated this year for the annual Cornwall Chamber of Commerce 30 under 30 awards was **Sarah Carbis CO13**, who was 1 of 6 Old Truronians nominated but who subsequently won. Sarah said: "It was very much a surprise to be a winner but I'm absolutely delighted and feel very privileged to be included among such a great list of people."

CORNWALL CHAMBER'S
THIRTY UNDER THIRTY
TWENTY TWENTY-FOUR

Other Old Truronians nominated included:

Charlotte Rick CO13
Chris Smith CO14
Connor Donnithorne CO14
Ben Jenkins CO16
Oliver Elwell-Deighton CO20

REBS FISHER-JACKSON CO16 WINS BAFTA-FULBRIGHT AWARD TO STUDY IN THE USA

Outstanding news from Rebs who has received a BAFTA-Fulbright Award to enable her to study a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting at UCLA's School of Theatre, Film and Television on one of the most prestigious and selective scholarship programmes in the world.

As a participant, Rebs has been selected from a strong applicant pool to study the art of screenwriting and film production at the University of California Los Angeles' film school; with impressive alumni and a competitive acceptance rate of just 4%, UCLA has one of the oldest and most celebrated film schools in the world.

Having worked in the British film and television industry for the past five years, Rebs' studies in the heart of Hollywood seek to complement her prior film credits, as well as her long-standing commitment to encouraging diversity within the film industry. Her project objectives centre around

learning the skills to enable her to create films that spark social change at home and beyond, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community that she is a part of.

Commenting on receiving the Award, Rebs said: "As a working-class filmmaker and first-generation university student, I'm extremely grateful for all the opportunities I've had to elevate my education. Receiving the BAFTA-Fulbright award this year isn't just fulfilling my life-long dream of studying in the USA, it's enabling me to obtain a world-class international education and cultural experience that I wouldn't have otherwise had the means to access. I'm so grateful for this opportunity and truly honoured to call myself a Fulbrighter. I'm excited to see how UCLA challenges me, and to learn how to use my voice to not only tell diverse stories, but also how to make a meaningful impact in challenging the motion picture industry to become more accessible and diverse on an international level."

NOTABLE OLD TRURONIAN JAMES HAWES CO82 DIRECTS FEATURE FILM STARRING ANTHONY HOPKINS

There was exciting film news earlier this year when **James Hawes' CO82** first feature film as a director was released into cinemas, and starred Anthony Hopkins.



One Life tells the story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. The film was met with excellent reviews.



Since graduating from the University of Birmingham with a 2:1 in Music, Sarah began working for Walker Moyle Ltd, an ICAEW accountancy practice in Cornwall. She completed a certificate in finance, accounting and business in early 2017 and later passed the level 7 ICAEW Apprenticeship, becoming an ACA qualified chartered accountant in July 2019. In early 2021, Sarah joined PKF Francis Clark, working in their Truro office, focusing on audit and accounts for clients in a range of sectors including hospitality, retail, agriculture and non-profits.

Old Truronians' Charitable Work

We are proud to share news from three impressive Old Truronians who are endeavored to take on admirable charitable work for various causes this year.



ANAI RICHARDS CO20

FUNDRAISING FOR CARDIAC RISK FOR THE YOUNG

My name is Anai Richards, I joined Truro School in September 2013 and absolutely adored being a pupil with you from the minute I set foot onto the grounds.

On the 14th of January 2014, at only 12 years old, I suffered a cardiac arrest during a Maths lesson. The School nurse at the time (Nicky Armstrong) successfully performed CPR and resuscitated me, with the assistance of my Head of Year, Simon Collinge. As you can imagine, my family and I are eternally grateful to them for that day.

I went on to have extensive care in Treliske, as well as Bristol Children's Hospital, with many cardiac surgeries over the past 10 years. Obviously, my health meant I had to leave Truro School in 3rd Year, a decision I was gutted to make. I did however continue my education in hospital and have gone on to enrol in my degree at University of Southampton, in Cardiac Physiology. This means once I qualify, I will be helping diagnose and treat patients in a similar position to myself when I was young!

As the 14th of January marks 10 years since my cardiac arrest, I have decided to raise a bit of money for a charity called Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). They are a wonderful charity who aim to reduce the number of sudden cardiac deaths by raising awareness, engaging in research and screening young people for cardiac conditions. Every single week in the UK, 12 seemingly healthy young people under 35 die of sudden cardiac death. Through CRY screening, they hope to find these cardiac problems and treat them before they can harm these precious lives.

To donate to Anai's fundraiser, click here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/anai-richards-1704815846744>



GUY COLBURNE CO92

FUNDRAISING FOR BORN FREE

My name is Guy Colburne. I am a former student who attended Truro School as a boarder from 1985 – 1992. On the 12th March 1930, Mahatma Gandhi set out from his ashram to embark on an epic 240-mile protest march to the town of Dandi, on the coast of Gujarat, to make salt.

As salt was taxed, it was against the law to gather it in British India. Gandhi's simple act of non-violent defiance drew global attention to the injustice and absurdity of the British Raj. Between the 12th March and 5th April 2024 I will walk the original route of Gandhi's Salt March to raise funds for Born Free.

Please help me support Born Free by donating as much as you can. Anything you can give really will help wildlife. And don't forget to add gift aid if you are a taxpayer - this comes at no cost to you and helps Born Free receive even more money!

I have chosen to fundraise for Born Free because I am passionate about wildlife conservation. Born Free rescues, rehabilitates wild animals from captivity, protects species and habitats, advocates for compassionate conservation and lobbies for wild animal welfare worldwide. Born Free works in India protecting the Satpuda forest region, the largest block of tiger habitat in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi believed that we all have a responsibility to take care of the environment because all life is sacred. As a result of hunting, persecution and habitat loss, over 96% of tigers have been lost in the last 100 years. Can you imagine a world without these magnificent creatures? I don't know anyone who wouldn't be devastated if tigers disappeared from the wild.

To donate to Guy's fundraiser, click here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/guy-colburne-born-free-india>



ANAI HOOPER CO17

FUNDRAISING FOR SSAFA ARMED FORCES CHARITY

I am super pleased to confirm that on the 11th of February 2024 I held a fundraising event at Britannia Inn and Waves Restaurant, Par, to help raise money for the London Marathon 2024 in favour of the SSAFA Armed Forces Charity.

During my time in recruitment I specialised in cyber security, placing a specific focus on those looking to exit the forces and looking to move into a corporate role, hearing the lack of support out there available to them when making such a huge transition often meant many of these men/women ended up in financial crisis or struggling both mentally and physically - sometimes all three. Given the fact they have put their lives on the line to protect our country, I wanted to find a way to give back and the SSAFA Charity seemed like the perfect one to support.

If anyone would like to donate to my auction/raffle or send a donation straight to my page then please either get in touch with myself at anaishooper@hotmail.com, use the QR code on the poster below or use the following link:

<https://2024tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/anais-hooper>

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, is a trusted source of practical, emotional and financial support for serving personnel, veterans and their families in their time of need. In 2021 their trained teams of volunteers and employees helped more than 66,000 people, from Second World War veterans to those who have served in more recent conflicts, or currently serving (both regulars and reserves) and their families.

Events and Reunions



If you would like to attend a future reunion, make sure you're on the mailing list.



101st Dinner Saturday 28 October

It was wonderful to welcome back a cohort of Old Truronians on Saturday 28 October for the 101st Annual Reunion Dinner. On the guest list were those who left from 1958 onwards, to our most recent Old Truronian who left in 2013.

Guests arrived from 6.30pm to a glass of bubbly and a chance to view some of the objects and photographs diligently curated specially by School Archivist/ Researcher Jo Wood. At 7.25pm guests were welcome to take their seats for dinner, when Andy Johnson took time to welcome everyone back to the School. The School Grace was delivered by

Reverend Helen Byrne and the starter of butternut squash risotto and parsnip and apple soup quickly brought out. The mains that followed were feather blade of beef with Forestier garnish and celeriac tartlet with wild mushrooms, followed by black forest mousse with cherry ice cream for pudding.

As ever, a huge thank you to all the guests for coming back for this historic reunion at Truro School. Many of you travel from far and wide to return back to our school 'high on the hill', filling the dining room with your conversations of reminiscence and experiences.

It is a delight to see old friends catching up in the hall where you once sat for many school lunches and boarding dinners.

Finally of course, thank you to the events, catering, caretaking and operational support teams who all work months ahead, and on the night itself, to help make the Annual Reunion Dinner happen.





A Heartwarming Reunion at Truro School Prep:

OLD TRURONIANS GATHER FOR A MEMORABLE TEA PARTY



“Many thanks for your successful get-together at Treliske yesterday. We thoroughly enjoyed the Reunion Tea Party... also please pass on our good wishes to all at Treliske, a place I had not been to for 70 years.”



On the sunny afternoon of Friday 31st May, the picturesque grounds of Truro School Prep were filled with nostalgia and joy as Old Truronians who attended or worked at the School before or around 1975 reunited for a delightful tea party. This special event provided a unique opportunity for past students and teachers to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate their shared history of days at both the Prep and Senior Schools.

The reunion was set against the charming backdrop of Truro School Prep (previously known as Treliske School), with its historic building and beautifully maintained gardens serving as a reminder of the School's rich heritage. Attendees were warmly greeted by the Head of Truro School Andy Johnson and the Head of Truro School Prep **Rob Morse** CO89.

The air was filled with a sense of anticipation and excitement as old friends and colleagues spotted familiar faces and exchanged heartfelt greetings.

As the Tea Party commenced, the atmosphere was buzzing with animated conversations. Old Truronians alike shared stories of their school days, recounting amusing anecdotes, significant milestones and the occasional mischievous escapade. Photo albums, memorabilia brought by attendees and, of course, the Truro School Archive, served as conversation starters, sparking memories of colleagues, friends, school plays, sports days and classroom antics.

Head of Truro School Andy Johnson extended his heartfelt thanks to all who attended and commented that the

current strength of Truro School was due to the strong engagement from within the Old Truronian community. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a touching speech by **Rob Morse**, current Head of Truro School Prep and Old Truronian from 1989. He spoke of the deep sense of community that comes with being associated with the School, the achievements of its students and the enduring values that have continued to guide Truro School. He welcomed Old Truronians to visit the Prep school when the children were in term, to see for themselves the brilliance of the children and how accomplished, polite and mature they are.

It was wonderful to welcome back some OTs for whom it was their first time back since leaving.



Namely, **David Osborne** CO57 who returned after 66 years, having attended Prep and Senior between 1947-1958. From his era and also in attendance was **Peter Greenslade** CO66, who remarked that he remembered Prep exactly as it was back in the late 50s and early 60s when he was at the School.

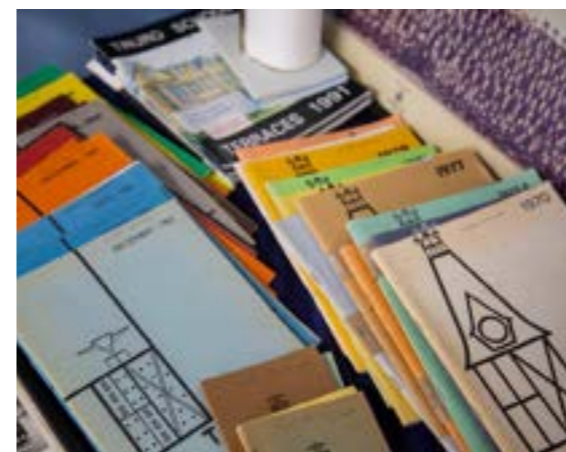
Among the former pupils were teachers who were warmly welcomed back. We were delighted to see **John Cornish** (Head of Economics, Business Studies and Politics and Assistant Head of Sixth Form 1989-2012), **Patrick Buxton** (Teacher of Mathematics 1981-2011), **Tim Tall** (CO72 and Teacher of DT 1980-2014), **Colin Taylor** (Teacher of Science & Geology 1960-1967), **Myra Shore** (Pentreve Housemistress 1979-1991), **Dave Richards** (CO64 and School Caretaker 1969-2007), **Dennis Keam** (Head of DT 1962-1998), **Alan Johnston** (Teacher of French 1963-1999) and Rev **John Johnson** (School Chaplain 1989-1997).

Huge thanks of course to the catering team who prepared an abundance of delicious treats, including scones with clotted cream and jam, delicate sandwiches and an assortment of cakes.

The catering team had gone above and beyond to ensure that the spread was both visually appealing and delectable, adding to the atmosphere of the event.

As the afternoon drew to a close, many attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to reconnect and reflect. As the Old Truronians departed, they carried with them not only cherished memories but also a renewed sense of connection to Truro School.

“Just a short email to say thanks for the wonderful afternoon last Friday at Truro School Prep. The food was delicious and beautifully presented. Topping it all was the display of memorabilia, especially the photos of my former colleagues. Those present at the event were some students and staff members from my years at the School who I clearly remember and recognise.”



Truro School Art Collection



The private view for *The Truro School Art Collection Goes on an Outing* was held in February. In attendance were more than 80 guests from across the School community, including many of the artists in the Collection themselves. It was a huge delight to welcome Mr **David Heseltine** (Head of Art 1976-2005), without whom the Collection would not exist.

A huge thank you to all who came to this special event; it was wonderful to share the space with those who have been impacted by David's legacy, and to enjoy the Collection in the beautiful Royal Cornwall Museum.

About the exhibition:

In the early 1980s David Heseltine, then Head of Art at Truro School, found himself frustrated that the independent status of the School barred it from

borrowing artworks from the Cornwall Council Schools Art Collection. He was convinced that the School should begin its own Collection in order that generations of students might learn from looking at the real thing. Today, the Collection encompasses nearly 300 artworks representing a veritable A-Z of late 20th and early 21st century artists, the majority of whom lived and worked in Cornwall and some of whom attained international recognition.

The Collection is rarely seen, and it is only the second time that the Collection has featured in an exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum in forty years. The exhibition draws from David's unique personal archive and anecdotal reminiscences, that amplify the personal generosity of the many artists whom he visited in their studios who either gifted to the Collection or whom he

purchased from. Iconic artworks from the St Ives and West Penwith/Newlyn halls of fame and Falmouth Art School tutors and alumni range across the widest of subject matter and spectrum of media as befits a 'living' teaching resource.

The Collection is unusually well gender-balanced and alongside **Patrick Heron, Terry Frost, Peter Lanyon, Bryan Pearce** and **Breon O'Casey** you will find works by **Kate Nicholson, Margot Maekelburghe, Daphne McClure, Sandra Blow** and **Wilhelmina Barnes-Graham** as well as discovering artists whose work you might not know so well.

The Truro School Art Collection Goes on an Outing was on display at the Royal Cornwall Museum until Saturday 18 May 2024. Huge thanks to all those Old Truronians who visited the exhibition and supported in some way.

Background : Robert Organ *School Children* (1981)

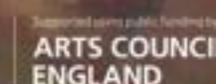
The Truro School Art Collection Goes On An Outing

ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM

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TUESDAY 30 JANUARY - SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024



Legacy, Impact and Memories of the Truro School Workshop



In the heart of every school there are teachers whose dedication and passion leave an indelible mark on generations of students. Such is the case for **Mr Dennis Keam**, a revered woodworking and metalwork teacher whose tenure at Truro School as Head of the Design and Technology department spanned from 1968-1998. As Old Truronians from far and wide reunited for an afternoon of nostalgia and reminiscence, the occasion served as a poignant tribute to Dennis' enduring legacy and the profound impact he has had on countless students.

On Saturday 20 April we welcomed back over 90 Old Truronians for a reunion to celebrate this legacy. The reunion buzzed with excitement as Old Truronians, now adults with successful careers (many in engineering as a result of Dennis' impact) and families of their own, made their way down to the quad

to meet at the Sixth Form Centre, eager to reconnect with old friends and mentors. Welcomed back were OTs from 1963 to 2019, as well as former teachers many of you reading will remember: **Alan Johnston** (Teacher of French 1963-1999), **John West-Letford** (former D.T Technician) and **Tim Tall** CO72 (Teacher of D.T. 1980-2014).

Amid the laughter and nostalgia, there was a palpable sense of anticipation for the highlight of the event – honouring Dennis Keam, the man who had shaped their formative years with his expertise, guidance and unwavering dedication to the craft.

Old Truronians gathered firstly for a walk and talk around their old D.T. classrooms, familiarising themselves with the space where memories of sawdust-filled workshops and the clanging of metal echoed through conversations.

For many, Dennis Keam was more than a teacher; he was a mentor, a confidant and a source of inspiration. His woodworking and metalworking classes were not just about mastering technical skills but about instilling a sense of pride and creativity in his students.

Old Truronian **Jon Machell** CO88 shared that, "...he was a wonderful role model to us, firm, fair and kind with a twinkle in his eye and an infectious sense of humour. He was very honest and, importantly back then, he was not afraid to show his emotions in conversations with us. He taught us about life, woodworking and even described how to build a house. It is incredible to think that he orchestrated the design and construction of the design and technology complex and sports hall, rolling up his sleeves with fellow teachers and pupils to literally help build it."

The reunion served as a poignant reminder of the profound impact Truro School teachers have on our students' lives. Dennis' dedication, expertise and genuine care for his students had left an enduring legacy, shaping their careers, characters and values.

As the Afternoon Tea drew to a close, amidst shared memories and laughter, one sentiment rang clear – gratitude. Gratitude for a teacher who had not only taught them the intricacies of woodworking and metalwork but had also instilled in them a sense of lifelong learning. Dennis' legacy lives on, not only in the furniture crafted and metalwork forged but in the lives touched and inspired by his teaching.

Chris Baker, who has since taken on Dennis' role, said, "It was such a pleasure to see the recognition and fondness for an environment that shaped and forged so many ex-pupils, inspired by the charismatic Dennis and Tim. A wonderful occasion that served as a fantastic reminder for the reach of inspiring teachers."



"It was wonderful to see Old Truronians spanning the decades, and coming together to celebrate DT at Truro School. Dennis Keam's great legacy has touched so many people, as well as shaping the very landscape of the School, and it was clear to us all that his warmth and humour were unchanged since our school days. I personally very much enjoyed reconnecting with former teachers Tim Tall and Alan Johnston, as well as catching up with old friends and former pupils over afternoon tea. The committee and I would like to extend enormous thanks to the Development and Events teams for the planning and preparation which went into creating such a special afternoon."

- Rachel Vaughan

Responses for Dennis Following the DT Reunion Invitation

Richard Payler CO64

Hello TS connections!

Thank you very much for the invitation to Dennis Keen's workshop. I'm sorry not to be able to attend but thought that I could make a contribution to the event.

I was one of two boys Dennis had in his first year at TS. We both passed our GCE O-Level and the other boy - John Dunstan - went on to do great things with his skills. (As a pure aside, John and I attended the same school in India before we started at TS.)

I, however, went into the Civil Service, but throughout my life I have found the skills picked up in the workshop have transferred to many other areas of everyday life. The turned pieces are again proof of transferred skills! I do hope the event goes well and will be thinking of you.

Best regards to all involved.

Richard Payler.
(Yes I know I'm J. R. P. but have always been Richard!)



A Photo of the Truro School Desk Mark 1. That is to say I was the first boy to make the desk at TS way back in 1963! The chair unfortunately succumbed to our daughter swinging on it!!



John Pearson-Hicks CO85

Attached is a photo from the vicarage dining room... an A-Level piece for Fine Craft and Design in Wood, plus two pieces of ceramics as part of my A-Level Art.

Nick Coveyduck CO71

Many thanks for the invitation but living in France makes it impractical for me to attend. However please pass on my very best wishes to Dennis, (can I call him by his Christian name now? I am over 70!)

I learnt so much in his workshop and I can honestly say that a week does not pass without me using a skill that I learnt in there and I have enjoyed passing them onto my son & daughter who are both very competent DIY'ers!

I joined the Army where I was an Engineer and a pilot (helicopter) and the skills learnt in the workshop were invaluable. Flying a helicopter, especially in the military environment requires a certain touch which I am sure I got from the way I handled the tools!

When I left the Army I was in the hospitality industry where I spent much time fixing things our customers broke.

Verity Sidgwick CO98

It's unlikely that I will be able to attend this reunion. But I wanted to write and let the DT department know how much a practical, hands-on subject has been helpful in a way I would not have anticipated. I joined Truro School exceptionally fed up at being taken away from a school whose secondary options included home economics - a subject I was so looking forward to taking - only to be confronted with a woodwork/metalwork option in place of baking and sewing, which would have been far more my ideal.

However, considering that following my MA I ended up working on a museum redevelopment around a Victorian winding engine and working with volunteers on the conservation team - some of whom restored steam traction engines in their spare time - and my time was spent a lot in overalls inspecting rivets and managing industrial conservation, I found I was more than comfortable and capable of the practical side of the role and furthermore appreciative of the beautiful workmanship. I moved on to run my own business and, surprisingly, floristry is much less genteel and fluffy than you imagine and often involves a lot of practical construction in metal or wood as a base for floral installations and structures. I am sure I am confident in doing this a little bit because I got to design, make, build and experiment at school. I always thought it was quite odd that the art studios and DT were not more thoroughly integrated.

I was also lucky to have practical parents, so I'm not saying it's entirely credit to the School. Also, it's very lucky these structures are covered in flowers and foliage because they aren't always beautiful carpentry and definitely wouldn't get A* for finesse; but having the experience in bringing designs to life, solving practical problems and having the confidence to know you can create is an asset I didn't realise DT gave me. I've also renovated three Victorian and Edwardian homes, doing much of the work myself, so I'm sure school-based tool-wielding helped. Woodwork lessons and YouTube may, however, be responsible for the misplaced confidence to attempt rehanging doors. A humbling experience and true to the expression "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing".

Thank you - as a self-absorbed teenager I probably didn't express or value this enough at the time.



Robert Holloway CO88

Hello, I won't be able to attend, but you might like to see my tool box made during the academic year 1982/83. It's still in use after over 40 years.

Regards Robert

Richard Luff

CO70

Sadly I will not be able to join you on April 20th. However I would like to share the attached photo with you.

I remember Dennis Keam very well from my days in the woodwork class (this was long before design technology existed). He was an excellent teacher but could be very strict and woe betide you if you did not carry a chisel pointing downwards! I carefully crafted my early works, the chisel rack and the teapot stand (which my mother used for many years). But Mr Keam also introduced me to fibreglass. Somehow he had managed to get hold of a couple of number plates from scrapped Great Western steam locos and we had to make a mould and then make our own copy of the brass original. This proved to be very useful in later years when I had a succession of elderly cars which needed the rust holes filled in!

Please give him my best wishes,

Richard Luff (1963-71)



Alex Sells CO18



Her story highlights the importance of a well-rounded education and the lasting influence of dedicated teachers and supportive family.



Truro School, known for its rich blend of academic rigour and extra-curricular opportunities, has shaped countless students' futures. One such student: Alex Sells, a recent alumni, reflects on her time at the School, the memories she cherishes and the path it paved for her successful career in chemical engineering.

Reflecting on her school days, she recalls the perfect balance Truro School offered between academics and her passion for music. The support from the academic staff enabled her to engage deeply in both areas, allowing for unforgettable experiences. "Truro School was a really good fit for me because it enabled me to pursue music alongside my studies with support and understanding from academic staff that allowed me to do some incredibly memorable extra-curriculars," she says.

Her fondest memories from Truro School revolve around the School musicals. She fondly remembers being part of the choir for "Sweeney Todd" and playing in the orchestra for "Fiddler on the Roof."

These experiences were not only enjoyable but also a testament to the hard work and dedication of the School's staff. Additionally, the chemistry labs provided exciting and adventurous learning moments, and Friday morning maths lessons with **Ms. Holroyd** were a cherished escape during stressful times.

Her brother, **William Sells** CO23, also attended Truro School, adding a familial connection to her school memories. While she always knew she didn't want to follow her doctor parents' footsteps, her love for maths and science steered her towards a career in chemical engineering.



It was **Dr. Orchard's** inspiration and experiences that solidified her decision to pursue this path at the University of Birmingham.

After leaving Truro School, Alex embarked on a five-year degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, she successfully completed her degree, including a placement year at GSK in Worthing. This period of her life was marked by academic excellence, culminating in her achieving a first-class integrated master's degree in Chemical Engineering.

Currently residing in Swindon, Alex works as a Process Development Engineer at SFC Energy UK. Her role involves investigating processing issues, scaling up processes and participating in research and development efforts. She takes pride in her diverse achievements, from earning a diploma in flute to excelling in her final-year research

project and navigating the challenges of software development.

Initially exploring a career in software development, she soon realised her preference for roles involving tangible problem-solving and interaction with diverse teams. This led her back to operations, where she now thrives. While she harbours aspirations of teaching someday, she currently enjoys mentoring work-experience students and immersing herself in the dynamic environment of her engineering role.

Family remains a cornerstone of her life. She is the eldest of three siblings, with her younger brother also having attended Truro School, and her sister currently in primary school.

Weekends often find her in Cornwall, a testament to the close-knit bond she shares with her family. Her personal life is enriched by her fiancé, their pet snake Phantom and hobbies like music, baking, reading and indoor climbing.

Staying in touch with friends from Truro School, though less frequent due to busy schedules, is a source of comfort. She credits her teachers for much of her success, recalling the patience and dedication of educators like **Mr. McCabe, Miss MacLeod, Dr. Orchard** and **Mr. Gustafsson**. Their support fostered her confidence and passion for science.

Alex is now focused on her evolving role at SFC Energy UK and the excitement of planning her wedding. She envisions continuing in operations, solving new problems daily and contributing to a greener future through advancements in fuel cell technology.

Chris Nadin CO62



Reflecting on his years at Truro School, Chris Nadin recalled his experience with great affection. "Yes, very much so," he responds when asked if he enjoyed his time at the School. The dedication of the staff to the pupils made a significant impact, fostering an environment of support and growth. His involvement in the choir and amateur dramatics, along with earning School colours for swimming and diving, stand out as cherished memories. The leadership and management skills he developed as a prefect have served him well throughout his life, and the friendships he made during those years remain strong to this day.

Truro School was not just a personal journey but a family affair. Chris attended the School alongside his two brothers, **Richard** CO65 and **Charles** CO71, further enriching his experience with shared memories and sibling camaraderie.

Chris told us that in the early days he aspired to become a dental surgeon, intending to join the family practice via a short service commission in the RAF. However, life had other plans. After failing A-Level Physics twice, he pivoted towards a career in the drinks market, starting as a management trainee with Watney Mann, which later became part of Grandmet and then Diageo. This unexpected turn led to a wonderfully fulfilling career both in the UK and international markets.

Throughout his illustrious career, Chris made significant contributions to the beverage industry. As a senior marketer at Grandmet and Diageo, he played a pivotal role in developing iconic brands such as Smirnoff, Baileys, Croft Original, Piat D'Or, Malibu and Jose Cuervo. His tenure as the International Brand Director from 1993 until 2002 was particularly noteworthy.

Additionally, he launched **Duchy Originals for HRH The Prince of Wales in 1992**, a project that remains close to his heart.



Now in retirement, Chris still undertakes pro bono work as an advisor, mentor and Non-Executive Director (NED). As Chairman of the SW sector of The Worshipful Company of Distillers and welfare officer for the Blandford Forum PROBUS Club, he continues to offer his expertise and support. His role as a NED involves advising on the marketing of Pavilion in the Park, a charity cafe in Poundbury, Dorchester, part of the Talkabout Trust.

Away from work, Chris is married to Jennifer, whom he met in 1960 whilst still at school, and they are the proud parents of Joanna, an associate professor of creative writing at Bristol University, and James, a senior communications manager at The Metropolitan Police. His upbringing in Liskeard, as the firstborn of three boys to Margaret and Gaston Nadin, was filled with activities such as swimming, sailing and playing golf, alongside a deep love for the arts and community involvement.

The values instilled at Truro School have been instrumental in his success as a manager and team leader. The sense of curiosity, resilience, purpose, fairness and balance cultivated during his school years have guided him through both good and challenging times. Chris shared that three staff members, in particular **Mr Burrell** (Head 1959-1986), **Mr Weeks** (Head of English and Drama 1957-1992) and **Mr Frost** (Teacher of Biology 1954-1961), played crucial roles in his development, leaving lasting impressions on his approach to life and work.



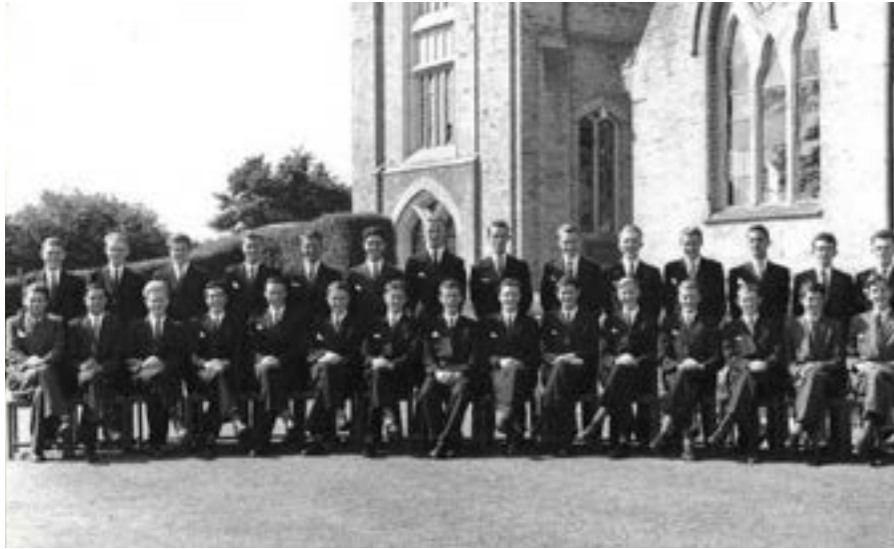
Truro School Prefects, 1961-62

Looking to the future, Chris told us that he aims to continue contributing to society and his local community for as long as he is able, while also supporting his family. His journey serves as a testament to the enduring influence of a nurturing educational environment, the importance of adaptability and the fulfilment found in giving back.



From his formative years at Truro School to a distinguished career and a fulfilling retirement dedicated to mentorship and community service, Chris' story is one of resilience, adaptability and gratitude. His reflections offer valuable insights and inspiration, underscoring the lasting impact of a supportive educational foundation and the importance of seizing opportunities, even when initial plans falter. Truro School, with its dedicated staff and enriching environment, continues to shape lives in profound ways, fostering success and personal growth that extend well beyond its classrooms.

Fraser Pakes CO55



Truro School Prefectorial Staff 1954-55

"I was not happy at first. I came to the School as an 'emmet' (my family having relocated from Bournemouth to Truro) and as such went through the usual rites before acceptance. However, as time went by I came to value what was there, and by the Sixth Form I was thoroughly enjoying my life. I liked that the teachers treated us in an adult way so that, when it became time to leave, I felt the time was right to enter the adult world. I was though truly sad to end my time there."



Adjusting to a new environment can be challenging, especially as a newcomer. However, the transition for Fraser from initial discomfort to eventual contentment highlights the supportive Truro School education.

"I remember my favourite place in the whole school was the Library. It was those green, upholstered easy chairs that gave me a feeling of luxury and importance. Lining up at the tuck shop. Hurrying in and out of the damp, cold, outside toilets. The common room with its table-tennis table. Sitting in the Chapel. The smell of wet mud carried back from a cross-country run in the pouring rain. The horror of 'open' days when, despite our efforts to put them off, our mothers turned up in full regalia."

From the comfort of the Library to the camaraderie of the common room, these memories paint a vivid picture of what was the daily life at Truro School. They are a testament to the blend of academic, social and extra-curricular experiences that contribute to the unique character of the School.

We asked Fraser what kind of career he had aspirations for whilst a student here: "**Mr. Penna** (Teacher of Geography 1945-1979) suggested to me, after I gave a talk to the class about American Indians,

that I should think of anthropology for a career. Advice sadly too late for me as I was in my last year at TS and would have had to have studied Latin in order to gain acceptance into a university programme. I did not have that course covered."

Fraser did consider a completely different career altogether, however: "After I had written reports on two of **Mr. Penna's** cycle tours, a review of a school play and an essay selected by **Mr. Willday** (Teacher of English and Deputy Head 1921-1960) for the Truronian magazine, I fancied myself as potential journalist material. However, after comparing the West Briton to the streets paved with gold in London, I took the train to that city to seek my fortune and sidetracked first into the fashion industry and then to British Overseas Airways Corporation (now British Airways) as an air steward."

Fraser also joined the National Service for a time, serving with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in Bermuda and Germany before attending teacher-training college and settling into a teaching career.

In 1969 Fraser emigrated to Canada, where he went on to experience 20 years working on Canadian First Nations reserves variously as teacher, principal, director of education and as ethnographer for a tribal cultural centre.

"My lifelong interest has been North American Indian history and culture. This interest led me in 1969 to leave England for Alberta, Canada, to work for the indigenous people there on (variously) the Kainai, Piegan, Cree/Chippewa, Stoney reserves in that province. I worked as a principal of the various reserve schools there as well as a sometime Director of Education on the Stoney reserve. For a few years I was seconded to the Nakoda Institute, an interpretative centre operated by the Stoney Tribal Council. I wrote papers and was a conference speaker as well as replicating items of culture and even joining in religious rites and powwows."

"Working for indigenous peoples anywhere is rewarding. Once the community has accepted you are not there to missionise or rip them off financially, and are prepared to stay, they usually warm to you. You have, as a teacher, to be willing to rethink everything you have been taught in training. For instance, before embarking on what is to you a fascinating lesson on subtraction, you may have to know whether the student has had breakfast or has had any sleep that day. When I began teaching on the reserves in 1969 the 'white' teachers were in full control. Now indigenous teachers are rapidly taking control of their schools, so that outsiders are seeing their position differently. Adaptability and the ability to listen are keys to outsiders' success."

Fraser told us what he was particularly proud of, thinking about his career. "I'm pleased that I was able to encourage a number of my indigenous students, suffering from economic and social difficulties, to persevere through university and college training and, as I challenged them, 'put me out of a job.'"

Helping students overcome challenges and achieve their potential is a profound source of pride for any educator, reflecting the lasting impact a teacher can have. He advises anyone reading and thinking about a similar career to consider the importance of cultural sensitivity, adaptability and the willingness to understand and address the fundamental needs of students.

Away from his work, Fraser's brother **Martin Pakes** CO61 is also an Old Truronian. Fraser is married to Marie, who incidentally was at Truro High School when he was at Truro School. "We had gone our separate ways, me to Canada and she to Venezuela and Spain. We got back together when she joined me in Canada some 25 years ago. We live on Vancouver Island and, apart from England, head off when we can to Madrid, where she had worked as an ESL teacher and batik artist. Her daughter Susie lives nearby in Victoria."

Fraser also has a daughter, Tonya, from his first wife, Josy, who was a Kainai



Morley School, Nakoda (Stoney) reserve, Alberta



Athropological fieldwork.



With wife, **Maree nee Edyvean** CO56

(Blackfoot), and an adopted son, Todd, both of whom have very sadly passed away. There are four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren from that marriage.

In his downtime, Fraser's other interest is the poet and novelist Thomas Hardy. "Through the years I built a substantial library on and about him. I visited all the significant places in his life, including of course the Rectory at St Juliot in Cornwall where he met his first wife. I recently donated the collection to the Thomas Hardy Society where it will be digitalised and available for student research."

Fraser's closeness to Cornwall also lives on in his group of friends from the Class of 1955 who he has kept in contact with, namely **Mike Standen** and **Ben Luxon*** in the USA.

From Fraser's varied career path to his commitment to indigenous communities, and a lifelong passion for learning and continuing to engage with his interests and contribute to academic and cultural preservation, his story serves as an inspiring testament to the enduring influence of a supportive and dynamic educational environment and saying yes to opportunities.

Looking ahead into retirement, Fraser continues to research and write papers on the Plains Indians and looks forward to staying in his "world of books, music and sitting by the sea."

*Benjamin Luxon sadly passed away on Thursday 25 July. See page 107 for an obituary.

Kate Fonseca Williams CO12



Truro School has long been a bastion of academic excellence and personal development. For many, it is a place where lifelong friendships are forged, and aspirations take shape.

This sentiment rings true for one particular Old Truronian, whose journey from Truro School to a fulfilling career in occupational psychology serves as an inspiring testament to the School's lasting impact.

Kate was at Truro School between 2010 and 2012, having joined from another school. She told us: "I joined Truro School for Sixth Form after previously being at the High School," she recalled. The transition marked a significant shift in her educational journey. "I immediately responded to the more relaxed, independent and creative culture and felt my years there were formative. I made some amazing and lifelong friends during my two years there too."

Among her numerous cherished memories, one stands out vividly: "I have so many! But I will always remember completing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and getting to do the final

expedition in Slovenia, which was an incredible experience." These formative experiences not only enriched her time at Truro School but also instilled a sense of adventure and resilience.

Her connection to Truro School extends beyond her own experience. Her older brother, **Harry Fonseca Williams** CO10, also attended the school. "He now lives on the Kenyan coast and is a serial entrepreneur, running an environmental charity (LEAF) as well as an Indian Biotech company specialising in snakebites (ToxiVen)," she shares proudly.

From an early age, she knew she wanted a career that would help people. "I left Truro School just before Psychology was offered as an A-Level but I remember being given the chance to do a short course in it. The minute I started, I knew that it was what I wanted to study at university."

Following her time at Truro School, she embarked on a gap year that included studying French in Paris and travelling through Southeast Asia and Australia with two friends. Upon her return, she pursued a degree in Psychology at Cardiff University. A professional placement year as a forensic psychologist in London sparked her interest in workplace behaviour, leading her to specialise in occupational psychology. "I decided to do a master's degree in occupational psychology (the study of applying psychological principles to improve productivity, job satisfaction and effectiveness within an organisation) in London."

After seven years in London, she and her husband, **Jordan Soltys** CO12 - whom she met at Truro School - moved back to Cornwall. "We bought a house outside of Mylor - we're very happy to be back!" she exclaims.

Her professional journey has been as dynamic as it is impactful. After completing her master's degree she worked in management consultancy in London, specialising in employee engagement and change management. "During this time, I collaborated with international organisations like Mars and Saudi Aramco, helping them with wide-scale transformation projects aimed at enhancing employee engagement," she explained.

Since returning to her home county, Kate has successfully founded her own business, Karibu Coaching Limited. "I work with businesses to support their employees, whether through creating better organisational cultures or by creating development opportunities through individual and team coaching. I also work with individuals navigating career challenges, whether that's leading a team, becoming a first-time manager or wanting a career change."

Reflecting on her career, her job fulfilment is clear. "I'm really happy that I have developed a career that helps people in such a tangible way. As the lines between work and life continue to blur with technological advancements, it is more important than ever that we look after people at work so that this has a positive impact on all aspects of their lives."



For those considering a similar career path, her advice is simple yet profound: "Any experience is good experience! If you're interested in human behaviour at work, you'll learn important lessons regardless of where you work. Soak in as much experience as you can - whether that's working in hospitality, volunteering or doing any other job. Don't stress too much about having a perfectly linear career journey; every role provides transferable skills that will be valuable in the future."

Her personal life is as rich as her professional one. "My parents live in Lelant, near St Ives. My dad, Nick, is an artist and obsessive gardener (our garden became one of the National Gardens of England last year) and my mum, Sara, is a counsellor. We're very close, and I'm very happy that I get to see them more often now I'm back in Cornwall."

A keen traveller, she and Jordan recently enjoyed a three-month-long

honeymoon backpacking through Central America. "I'm also enjoying getting back into hiking now we're in Cornwall, and working my way through the South West Coast Path."

We asked Kate if she had kept in touch with any friends since leaving. "Too many to name! Especially having married someone I met at school - our wedding felt like a school reunion!"

As she looks to the future, her focus is on growing her business and reconnecting with the Cornish way of life. "My immediate focus is on building my business down here and expanding my professional network. I'm also really looking forward to getting back into the Cornish way of life and being back with our oldest friends."

Her journey, deeply rooted in her formative years at Truro School, underscores the enduring impact of education, friendships and the pursuit of a fulfilling career.

My Life at Truro School by Gordon Hunt CO63



I started my education at Treliske School as a day pupil in 1954. I travelled from Falmouth every day and often had to walk from the bus station in the centre of Truro up to Treliske. I believe the head at that time was **Tommy Stratton** (Teacher of English and then, later, Headmaster of Treliske 1927-1961).

My best recollection was playing with dinky cars during the break times, usually in the woods close to the School. I also remember having to walk after school in the winter out to the main road and wait for the bus that took me to my new home in Redruth. It was very dark and intimidating especially if I chose to walk up the main drive.

The headmaster who had taken over from **Tommy Stratton** (TS 1921-1961) organised an overseas trip to Vienna in Austria, and I remember this very well, probably because of the distance we had to travel by train and boat. It was my first trip abroad, and to have a day trip to the then Iron Curtain and to see the watch towers and barbed-wire fences was rather sinister for an 11-year-old to witness.

We also went to all the tourist sites in Vienna, and I especially remember a visit to Schonbrunn Palace, St Stephen's Cathedral and the Prater Amusement Park. Great memories and many photos taken. Unfortunately, none of these came out as I didn't load my Brownie 127 properly!

I believe that I was in Poltisco House when I started in the main school in 1957, when **A. Lowry Creed** (Headmaster 1946-1959) was Head, although in his last year before he took over the Headship of another Methodist school in England. He was succeeded by **Derek Burrell** (Headmaster 1959-1986) who remained my Head during my remaining time at the School.

I do not remember boarding until I entered Malvern. My first memory as a boarder was having to undress in front of other pupils when I had my first shower in a communal area, and being supervised by a prefect! I was both embarrassed and horrified. My housemaster was **Mr Worthington** (Teacher 1941-1968) who, with his wife, provided a happy environment. We were allowed out into Truro on a Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. School was still held on a Saturday morning and sporting events were held on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday afternoons. I also know that we were allowed home for the weekend a couple of times a term and these were always eagerly looked forward to.



Mum used to come and take me out occasionally into Truro and I used to love the egg, chips and beans that she bought at one of Truro's fish and chip shops. I also remember having to walk into Truro every Sunday morning to the Methodist Chapel for their service and then up to our Chapel for the evening service. Between these times we played a lot of board games and had time to ourselves.

We all had pocket money given by our parents each week. Mine started off at one shilling and sixpence a week, eventually going up to three shillings when I went into the Sixth Form. This money was largely spent at the tuck shop and seemed to go a long way.

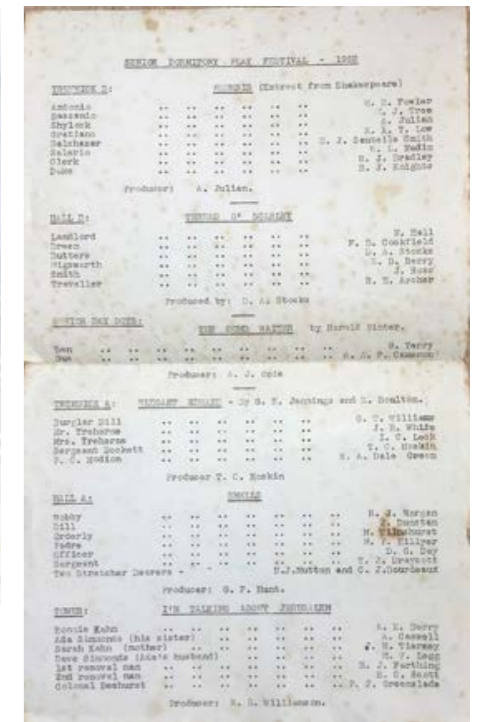
As time went on I got used to boarding and in fact began to like it. I joined the School band playing the cornet. A lot of Sunday afternoons were spent in the Band Hut practising. I also enjoyed being a member of the Scouts under **Mr Penna** (Teacher of Geography 1945-1979) who was a great favourite with me. My first Scout camp was at Lostwithiel near Restormel Castle, but over the years we also camped at Corfe Castle, the Scilly Isles and Dalmally, alongside Loch Awe in Scotland. I eventually became a patrol leader of The Seagulls.

Most Saturday nights it was film night. A 16mm projector was set up in the Chapel and we watched a film. The end of each reel was not always coordinated with the next so there was a gap in the story. This often was met with groans and moans from the pupil body!

When I entered the Sixth Form, I studied Geology also under **Mr Penna** and also became an official at Malvern. This position was a step below being a prefect, but Geology became my passion. I loved searching for mineral specimens amongst the old mine workings near Redruth, as well as going to the Isle of Wight with the School on a field trip searching for fossils. I also remember producing a House (or was it a dorm) play called 'Shells' and was commended for my direction. These plays were performed on the stage above the Chapel. Annual School plays were performed in the Chapel where a stage was built above the pews. I particularly remember **John Rhys Davies** CO62 when he played Othello.

Another highlight of the time that I was in the Sixth Form took place on the last Sunday of the Summer Term. After services at the Methodist Chapel and Kenwyn Church, all the leavers paraded through the city wearing their gowns and mortar boards. When they reached the bridge over the River Fal they stood on the bridge wall and threw their mortarboards into the river. This was a great annual event although a bit scary at the time. No such thing as health and safety in those days!

I also have the accolade of being the first pupil to have his car confiscated! It was nearing the end of my time at the School, and I was allowed to have a car. However, I drove it over to Perranporth, I believe on a Sunday afternoon, with some fellow Sixth Formers, without permission.



As luck has it, I was spotted in the town by my Housemaster who confiscated my car keys at breakfast the following day!

Following my time, I kept up my cornet playing by joining Templemore Band in Belfast. This was a championship band and great fun. I also joined the Belfast Youth Orchestra playing the trumpet.

Careers advice at the School suggested that I should not go into teaching as I had a slight stutter. After graduating from Stranmillis Teachers College in Belfast, now known as Stranmillis University College, I went on to become a teacher at Hollywood County Primary in Northern Ireland, Yateley CofE Primary in Hampshire, St Mewan County Primary in St Austell and Illogan Primary. I then went on to be a teacher at Treliske before becoming a Houseparent at an independent school in Surrey. I then went on to become a Deputy Head at the same school and, finally, Head of their senior school. Recently I have just retired from being Chair of Governors at the same school. A pretty good career after leaving Truro School in 1963.

One of my closest friends was **Frank Stevens** CO64. We have kept in contact although we have not met up for some time. He also loved geology, and we went on many a specimen hunt all around Cornwall. He also became a teacher but is now retired and lives in St Ives.

David Osborne CO57

I was born in 1939 at Highertown and went to Kindergarten at Truro High before moving to Treliske under the Strattons and finally Truro School, which I left in 1957, though was employed as a Lab Technician for the rest of the academic year.

Here I learnt many practical things e.g. replacing six-inch water pipes when the asbestos-cement piping at the relatively new outdoor swimming pool was broken when the made-up land subsided, all while struggling in variable weather to keep the pool Ph level correct, injecting gaseous chlorine.

My mother had been a schoolteacher at Veryan and was 'called up' once the young men had gone to war and helped the Strattons cover the teaching at Treliske, and possibly at Kent College. Thanks to hard work and (I suspect) the influence of **Mr Creed** (Headmaster 1946-1959) I passed the open entrance to Queens' College, Cambridge. This was materially influenced by the excellent supportive School staff at the time. I must particularly thank **Mr Scales** (Teacher of Science 1945-1976), who had come to teach after secret wartime activity followed by a time at BTH working in development.

He was a perfect motivator for me and my early interest in electronics, which was much aided by the vast quantities of Government surplus equipment cheaply on the market at the time!

I had always primarily studied Physics, Chemistry and Maths, so arriving at Queens after a looong train journey for someone whose family had no motor car and had only ventured out of Cornwall on about three occasions previously (how the world has changed!), I finally stepped



into the 500+-year-old 'Old Court' and thence in front of the Admissions Tutor ... "Welcome," says he ... "Now what would you like to study? ... We have some good courses in Serbo-Croat." This was something of a surprise!

Of course, I was quite nervous and couldn't conceive of changing my academic direction so I said I should continue Natural Sciences, Physics, Maths, Chemistry, Crystallography (Cambridge was much broader than the 'provincial' universities at the time). This was most interesting. I found year one Physics and Chemistry were almost a repeat of the A and S-Level courses I had taken, but the Maths and other add-ons were very different. This was at the very beginning of Quantum Mechanics in a student environment, and I soon discovered that Maths in all these forms was moving from being deterministic to probabilistic and other (to me) weird concepts. I seem to need to be able to (at least mentally) 'see' and 'touch' things I am working with or analysing. I have no hope of understanding quantum entanglement any more than the Serbo-Croat I didn't study. In fact, there were three of us Queens' College men with similar issues; after much discussion with our tutors it was

agreed that we would switch faculty to Engineering for our 3rd year, showing how Queens' College had an exceptionally supportive ethos towards its students, allowing us to join what was really the Engineering Department's 4th year and still be awarded our BA degrees.

We were obliged to gain our 'industrial experience' and attended SRDE (Signals Research and Development Establishment) at Christchurch where we spent time in many departments from mechanical apprentice training to the secret unit on the cliffs (it's now in the sea!). If you want a radio comms system installed in a Jeep I am your man!

This was most satisfactory, as our academic year had the first student introduction to the new semiconductors. One course from the Prof was 'impossible' as he tried to explain transistors and diodes in quantum mechanics terms, which were very far from practical semiconductor construction and use - the other was using transistors in computing. Don't forget this was just after Maurice Wilkes had completed the EDSAC valved computers possibly based on the (still secret) work on Colossus at Bletchley Park and was just getting the new transistor version operational.

I worked in the semiconductor industry and was impressed to see the first 'Semiconductor Network' that Jack Kilby had devised in 1958 on my first day of work in 1961 for Texas Instruments (Bedford, UK).

It is interesting that the first integrated circuits (as they became called) were mainly customised 'master chip' with alternate metallisation for different functions, and the first application was for the microphone/headsets on the nuclear submarines. It was later that logic chips became high-volume products.

The early 1960s saw the development of the first transistors able to work in FM radio tuners and, soon after, UHF TV tuners. This led to working with BRC (British Radio Corporation) to build their first production all-solid-state British colour TV in 1968. This helped justify the first automated assembly line for plastic encapsulated transistors and started development of high-voltage power transistors with low costs.

This was an era of dramatic change of direction in the semiconductor business; hitherto, the majority of business had been specially adapted to the military, e.g. I used to have one line that had been the first diffused junction silicon NPN transistor in production, which had an average selling price of over £10 with a cost of about three shillings and fourpence (about £0.17 in decimal), so margins were so high there was little motivation to look at value engineering and reduce costs. Luckily the market taught otherwise and obliged the companies to push costs down, making consumer business possible.

This was also the time that the first transistors made using photolithography were introduced, in particular a high-speed gold doped silicon mesa etched device destined to the early computers, followed by the introduction of TTL logic for computing circuits, which TI (a very American company) pushed by taking

full-page advertisements in Electronics Weekly in the form of a 'British Lion'! Don't forget the Apollo Mission computers that made it possible to land and retrieve men on the Moon in 1968 thanks to Margaret Hamilton's 'Priority Scheduling' principle that eliminated computer crashes.

In 1968 I worked at Plessey Semiconductors where one of the custom product areas was integrated circuits for the analogue computers designed to control those Concord(e) Olympus engine air intakes that were essential in that fantastic aeroplane to achieve super cruise economically (and what a wonderful ride she gave her passengers!). This was the era when RTL was replaced by DTL and then TTL logic, growing towards VLSI with N-channel MOS leading to CMOS and modern VLSI, and the industry worked at photo engraving shapes much smaller than the light wavelength! Subsequently Moore's Law was established and, since about 1962, complexity (= number of functional elements on a chip) doubles every 1.5 years or so. I think that the early computer chips had maybe 20 components in 1964 whereas a 2024 memory or cpu chip can have billions of elements!!

I then worked with Motorola with high involvement in building their Phase 1 wafer process, assembly and test facility at East Kilbride. Apart from achieving a good 'cleanroom' area to achieve good yields of our CMOS wafers, we installed multiple computer-controlled testers all before 1971!

The semiconductor technology progressed rapidly as did the computer-controlled test business, and I skipped ship again to Teradyne working in Paris, which was formative for my wife and two children who became accent-free French speakers! The semiconductor test industry had to develop even faster than Moore's Law in order to keep ahead of semiconductor product development.

Our first computer controllers had 4k words of memory, used teletype 110baud paper tape readers for loading programmes and needed 19-inch Rack cabinets. Floppy disks appeared holding at first a whole 110k bytes. The first DEC removable hard disks could hold a huge 5MBytes.

Ongoing progress from 1980 soon led to making radio frequency chips for the transmitter/receiver intended for mobile phones, even testing S-parameters on the bare wafer at 1GHz. In another area we worked with the German Automotive manufacturers testing power devices intended to operate at over 200Amps and over 100V simultaneously with self-protection so as to live in the automotive environment, before advancing to over 2kV. Other areas of development included the process for testing memory chips and cpu chips requiring vast amounts of data. I retired from this semiconductor world in about 2000, so Moore's Law suggests that complexity has increased about 65000 times since!

During my school years I had acquired an interest in stage lighting, which I designed and operated in a small way at local halls in Cornwall - this may even have been material to my acceptance at Queens, because their incumbent lighting man had just graduated leaving an important vacancy - so, of course, I joined The Queens' BATs dramatic society which produced a show every term, and Frank Bechoffer's Cambridge University players group that performed Shakespearian Plays at the Minack during the summer vacation. Later I even had the opportunity to light a school stage performance in Velizy, near Paris.

I have long since retired but retain a hobby of practical things, simple electronics (with software) and enjoy the theatre, thanks to the Master's Plays over my school years and my backstage interests. Thanks to motivation and guidance from Truro School I have had a very interesting working life and had the luck to surf the wave of engineering innovation that started in the 1960's and is still forging ahead, as we wonder how the now readily available 'Artificial Intelligence' will change the world.



Professor Emeritus Neil Hawke CO63



Professor Emeritus Neil Hawke has led a distinguished career in law and academia, contributing significantly to environmental health law and maritime history. In a recent interview, Professor Hawke shared his reflections on his early life, career trajectory and enduring passions.

Neil fondly recalls his time at Truro School, where he formed lasting friendships and was inspired by teachers who ignited his passion for English and Music. “**Ken James** (Teacher of English 1942-1971) and **Sammy Way** (Teacher

of Music 1922-1963) were particularly influential,” he reminisces. These subjects left a lasting impact, shaping his intellectual pursuits and interests.

Initially aspiring to be a naval architect, Neil’s career path took a turn after he left Truro School in 1962. At Cornwall Technical College, he discovered a passion for law through his A-Level studies. This pivotal moment set the stage for a lifelong dedication to the field of law.

After completing his A-Levels, Professor Hawke embarked on an illustrious academic journey. He earned his PhD from the University of Nottingham in 1977 and had his career as a Professor of Law at De Montfort University, before being awarded his Professor Emeritus in 2005.

Since 1989, Neil has been the General Editor of Thomson Reuters’ Encyclopedia of Environmental Health Law, a role he continues to fulfil in retirement. His contributions extend beyond academia; he has written extensively on maritime history and has a forthcoming book on Cornish ports set to be published in 2024.

Even in retirement, Neil’s commitment to making a difference is evident. He volunteered with the British Red Cross for six years and with Fareshare, a food charity, for seven years. His dedication to community service is matched by his passion for writing and lecturing on maritime history.

Neil’s personal life is marked by rich family ties and active engagement in his interests. Married to Mary since 1996, he has three children - Rupert, Philippa and Oliver - and three grandsons - Alexander, Theo and William. Living in Brighton, he enjoys flat racing, walking, reading and supporting Exeter City FC as a member of the Supporters’ Trust.

Reflecting on his journey, Neil advises those considering a similar career path to “find a useful niche and stick to it.” He acknowledges the foundational role of his early education, particularly in English, in shaping his later successes. His connection to Truro School remains strong, with regular visits to Cornwall to catch up with friends and revisit his school days.

As for the future, Neil plans to continue his research, writing and community involvement as long as his health permits. His enduring passion for his work and interests exemplifies a life well lived, characterised by intellectual curiosity, professional achievement and a commitment to service.

Salvete

A huge welcome to Truro School for the following staff.

Autumn Term

THERESIA SRIKANTHAN
Teacher of German

HELEN BYRNE
Chaplain

HAYLEY HOOD
Teacher of English

RICHARD OSMOND
Director of Music

KATHERINE DOLAN
Teacher of Design Technology

ALISON HANSON
SENDCo Administrator

IMOGEN CROPP
Teacher of Mathematics

GIZELA DAEMI-RASHIDI
Teacher of Art & Design

ASHLEY HEIGHT
SEN Teacher

CARINA BARKER
Geology Technician

MEL APPLETON
Teacher of Economics

MARY FAIREST
PA to the Chief Operating Officer

KATIE MAYNE
Outdoor Pursuits Co-ordinator

HUGO USHER-SPARKES
Technical Resources Assistant

ESTHER HOSKEN
Spanish Language Assistant

EMILY MILLER
School Nurse

DONNA WALKER
Sales Ledger Accountant

KEILEY NOKES
Reception Apprentice

SAMANTHA GREEN
Catering Assistant

LESLEY JAYE
Receptionist

Spring Term

AMY HOLMAN
Teacher of RS and Head of PSHEE

EMILY CRANSTONE
Teaching Assistant – Prep

ABBIE CARVETH
HR Advisor

MILLIE RADFORD
Events Assistant

OMER YIGIT
Chef de Partie

RHIAN KNIGHT
Teacher of Music

Summer Term

SARAH DE GRUCHY
Gardener

ROBERT BOWDEN
Caretaker

OSCAR BOWDEN
Caretaker

Valete

We wish the following staff farewell from the School in the 2023/2024 academic year

IRA BRETT
Lifeguard/Sports Assistant

ALIVIA COLES
Lifeguard/Receptionist

MATHEUS DO VALLE COELHO
Kitchen Porter

IZZY HAMBLIN
Cleaner

PATRICIA HEMMING
Catering Assistant

GARRY LITTLE
Cleaner

MARION MONNIER
Resident House Tutor (Pentreve)

CHRISTIAN PICKERING
Duty Manager (SBA)

CHARLOTTE SEVIOUR-SMITH
Domestic Assistant

JODIE SKINNER
Catering Assistant

SAM WILSON
Finance Officer (Fees)

KATIE HILL
Teacher of Religious Studies & Head of PSHEE

JOHN KEARNEY
Gardener

PETE THOMSON
Teacher of Music

JACOB MACCREADIE
HR Administrator

HEATHER ALFORD
Teacher of Maths

MELISSA DUKE
Teacher of Maths

RHIAN KNIGHT
Teacher of Music

GEORGINA FRITH
Resident House Tutor (Malvern)

CAROLYN WAMBEEK
Prep Administrator

DANIEL GODDARD
Teacher of Maths – Prep



Mike Thompson

Since retiring as Head of Chemistry (1980-2006) Mr Mike Thompson has shared with us the exciting news about his book *The Penguin Lessons*, which has been made into a feature film starring Steve Coogan. Mike, who goes under a pen name as writer and artist Tom Michell, looks at how one moment of chance had a remarkable impact on the life of an author.

How one penguin's survival led to an invasion on a beach in Barcelona. Or the serendipity that followed from the rescue of an oil-drenched bird on the Uruguayan seashore.

"I really can't believe it!" said my editor at Penguin in a frosty and injured tone. She had phoned me moments after my BBC interview that morning. 'You've just ticked off John Humphrys on Radio 4's Today programme. Live... on air!' She had set up the broadcast some days before and I had gone through the facts carefully with three separate programme researchers. 'Not really,' I said. 'I simply told him my name was 'Michell', not 'Mitchell', and that the penguin wasn't a pet, as he called it, but was a wild bird that had refused to return to the sea and had elected to come with me after I had spent hours cleaning it of oil and tar.'

That Today programme interview was just one of the many very unexpected twists and turns that my life was to take after my spur-of-the-moment decision to rescue the little Magellan penguin that I came across in the wake of an oil spill off the Uruguayan coast in 1976.

I was living in Argentina at the time, where I was teaching at a prestigious Buenos Aires boarding school, and was taking a holiday in the fashionable resort of Punta del Este on the Uruguayan coast, staying in an absent friend's rather smart flat. The day before I was due to return to Buenos Aires and work, I had gone out for a final walk along the shore to the north of the point. It was here, on the beach, that I stumbled upon the first of what proved to be thousands of dead, oil-drenched penguins. This wasn't so many years after one of the world's worst environmental disasters which had seen the SS Torrey Canyon run aground off the Cornish coast, spilling some hundred million litres of crude oil. During the clean-up that followed, I had seen how it



was possible to rescue and clean seabirds that weren't too badly affected.

As I made my way along that beach, thinking how grossly irresponsible, negligent and stupid humankind can be (an opinion that hasn't changed much in the intervening 50 years), I was astonished to discover that one penguin was still alive. Just one of thousands on the beach hadn't succumbed to the oil, it seemed. My first thought was that I ought to end its suffering. However, when it promptly struggled to its feet and made it clear that it had no intention of tolerating any such violence, I thought again. Why not try and clean it?

And that's what I did, over the next few exhausting, painful and frustrating hours. I then tried, repeatedly, to return it to the sea. But it kept coming back and really left me no other option but to try to take it back to Argentina with me, a journey that, as I feared, would be fraught with difficulty, danger and embarrassment.

Suffice to say, I eventually made it back to my flat in the Buenos Aires school, along with the bird, now named Juan Salvador, and there, on the terrace outside my flat, he settled down on an indulgent regime of sprats and love,

provided by everyone who knew him, and where he lived happily ever after.

If I close my eyes I can still see Juan Salvador leaning against my feet and feel his warmth, while we relaxed on the terrace with our habitual sundowners, sprats for him and G&T for me. It had been a particularly extraordinary day (all days living with a penguin are extraordinary). "I ought to write a book about you," I told him, and he, in his avian way, regarded me, first with one eye and then the other, as if to say, "What would you call it?" "What about 'Juan enchanted evening'?" I said.

I told the story of Juan Salvador to Christine on our first date and I'm not convinced that it didn't help persuade her to marry me. Over the succeeding years, as we began to contemplate what we would do with ourselves during our approaching retirement, she constantly told me to write the story down. Eventually, I did. When my initial attempts to find a publisher proved unsuccessful, I used a local printer to produce sufficient copies as gifts for family and friends. Then, on a whim, I self-published it on Kindle, while doubting that anybody would ever find it because all 'penguin'

entries in the search engine returned 20 pages of 'A Penguin Guide to Compact Discs' and other such riveting reads.

I was, therefore, astonished when, in less than a week, I received a phone call from Warner Bros channel Animal Planet, asking if we could talk about the story. They wanted evidence, which immediately sent me to a neglected packing case in the garage marked 'Argentina - to sort', which I still hadn't, nearly 40 years later. There, among a collection of wonderful memorabilia, I was astonished to find 31 reels of 8mm cine films that I had never actually watched. Promptly I had them transferred onto DVD and I discovered two minutes and 17 seconds of Juan Salvador, as his name had become to his friends. (Google 'Juan Salvador total footage'.)

It wasn't enough for Animal Planet. But I had no time to dwell on this disappointment as the news was followed almost immediately by a phone call from Penguin Random House, who had been alerted to the story by the publishing grapevine. Events moved quickly after that. The hardback edition of *The Penguin Lessons* was published in 2015 and the paperback in the following year. Hardly a week then seemed to go by without an email advising me of another territory that wanted permission to publish it. Today the story can be read in 24 languages. The Russian edition even has delightful little flick cartoons at the corner of each right-hand page, showing a penguin diving and swimming away. Incidentally, my original draft had included a series of my own sketches of Juan Salvador [two of which are reproduced on this page], but sadly these failed to make it to publication.

Hardly had I drawn breath when Penguin told me they had received offers for the film rights and I better get up to headquarters and discuss any input I might have. Paperwork in place, I was introduced to Jeff Pope, head of Factual Drama at ITV, who started work on the script in 2018 as I escorted him over familiar (to me) ground in Argentina and Uruguay. Everything was seemingly in place for shooting in 2019/2020. Then Covid struck, and everything stopped.

Well... not quite. Via Penguin, I received a letter from the South Korean National Curriculum Committee asking if they might use part of the book for their English Language teaching material. Learning that a country of some 50 million (and with one of the

highest educational standards in the world) should choose my work about a penguin out of all the books published in the English language, to put before their 14-16-year-olds, was a deeply humbling moment for me. Naturally, I agreed. To be completely honest, I don't think winning one of the glittering literary prizes could actually give me a greater sense of personal achievement or satisfaction.

Next, I learned that the Cambridge International GCSE board were using extracts from the book in a couple of their exam papers. An exam taken by some 200,000 kids worldwide. What more could happen? Enter actor Steve Coogan. Jeff Pope had written screenplays for a number of films starring Coogan, and as the pandemic began to recede, during some of their collaborations, Steve asked if the penguin story could be adapted for him to play me. So it was that, last November, I found myself on a beach, about an hour south of Barcelona, with Steve Coogan, Peter Cattaneo (director of *The Full Monty*) and hundreds of others, nine live Humboldt penguins, and a handful of superb animatronic models, along with a couple dozen large barrels labelled 'Environment Friendly Artificial Pollution' and certified by the local authority for use on the beach. As long as you look out to sea, Barcelona looks exactly like South America!

It was my first ever experience of a film set. While no single aspect particularly surprised me, I was impressed to see how the whole thing came together. The crew had taken over a corner of a village and had hired a number of buildings, including a house with a swimming pool for the penguins. There were scores of lorries with tonnes of equipment, wiring, lighting, wardrobes, make-up, camera equipment and monitors, pop-up tents, you name it. Caravans were used as green rooms and dressing rooms. An entire canteen had been set up to provide food and drink for a couple of hundred people every day - and the food was good! Nothing was left to chance. Every day, reams of instructions left nobody in doubt about what was required of them.

I had an enjoyable chat with the man who kept the penguins. He lived in France and, while there isn't space here to record a fraction of what he told me, I was particularly impressed to learn so many different penguins were being used, each chosen for its own characteristics and its individual response to different situations.

For me, it was delightful to be with real penguins again.

While there were no great revelations on the set, I was constantly enthralled. An almost military hierarchy exists within the team, from the director through deputy directors to directors of cinematography all the way down to the deputy beach-sand sweeper. The monstrosity heavy gyro-stabilised video cameras were operated by chaps with the build of rugby prop forwards wearing special waistcoats with grab-handles by means of which other chaps guided, steered and stabilised the cameramen. I was impressed by the air of calm efficiency and organisation (something Peter Cattaneo attributed to the penguins). I had half expected the histrionics of a Gordon Ramsay kitchen!

From the beginning of the discussions about a film, I had been fascinated to see how all the illusions would be created. Real penguins, CGI or models? In the end, real penguins and many model penguins turned out to be the answer, along with a little CGI. Models were used for birds covered in tar, some were 'dead' and others had to be 'alive', nodding their heads and flapping their wings. I spoke at length with the Spaniard whose company made the models. I can only say I was so impressed with all the facsimiles. Life-size radio-controlled robot penguins with heads that look left and right, up and down, acrylic beaks that open and close, wings that flap and silicone feet. From a couple of metres away I'd defy anyone to know they were models.

Filming was completed by December 20th and the long process of editing has now begun, with completion scheduled for March or April. Once the final edit is locked, musicians and soundtrack experts will be brought in to add their all-important magic. When will all this vast expenditure finally earn some payback from the box-office? I'm told a premiere is currently being considered for Christmas '24 or the spring of 2025. To think, all this from one impulsive moment at the age of 23.

Tom Michell has been writing non-fiction for more than 30 years. All his early work was commissioned by academic publishers who hold the copyrights. *The Penguin Lessons* is his first book of general interest and he is currently working on a new biography. Tom draws plants, birds and animals.

Truro School Foundation

THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION



WRITTEN BY
ANDY JOHNSON

An Education that Makes a Difference

The Truro School Foundation has never been more necessary, more important, or more in need of your help.

When it was created in 2016, Truro School Foundations mission was to continue the School's longstanding and Methodist ambition to increase access to an empowering education for talented children from any background irrespective of means. This has always been achieved via individual philanthropy, government-assisted places schemes (across the 1980s and 90s) and now via partnership between the School and the Foundation. As I write, Truro School supports over 50 Senior School pupils with means-tested fee assistance at a cost of over £1M per year.

The Foundation is a central part of this. It is directly responsible for several 100% bursary awards, making access to the School possible for some of the most talented but least financially secure children in our county. We are very proud of the work we do to make this possible, with the often very quiet but very generous support of some of you.

Our ambition has always been to strengthen this tradition of enabling access and to increase the numbers of children benefitting. At this time, there are direct challenges to this ambition. Following the impact of Covid and then of widespread economic difficulty that has affected all families, the new government has confirmed its plans to impose VAT on school fees and remove Business Rates Relief from independent schools like ours.

Whilst the wider agenda to support a troubled national education sector is laudable, this policy approach directly threatens our School's ability to keep access wide and support those from less advantaged backgrounds to be here. In simple terms, the proposed new laws will mean every bursary (current or future) will need to support an approximately 20% larger fee to have the same impact, and the families least able to contribute will be most at risk. It will be the Foundation and the School who must find this extra support, therefore, or we will be forced to contemplate reversing our direction of travel towards increased bursary provision.

The Gift of Education

Strengthening and enhancing Truro School's bursary offering is Truro School Foundation's overriding mission.

This mission brings together members of the whole School community and wider Truronian family who share the belief that our School should commit itself to educating talented and enthusiastic young people, regardless of means.

This has happened across generations at the School and must continue to happen in the future. There are new pupils joining our School this September as a direct result of Foundation Awards, and we welcome them with a real sense of excitement about their futures. We thank all of our current and previous donors who have supported these opportunities – your donations are changing lives right now.

There is, of course, a strong desire to do more good for more children however and wherever we can. The Foundation, with the School, is looking ahead to consider how we can build a strategy to secure as much need-blind access to the School as possible in the years ahead. At the forefront of this drive will be the Foundation's Trustees, its new Chair, Nigel Ashcroft MBE, the Head, and the School's Development and Alumni Relations team.

If you would like to know more about the Foundation or to become involved, please do contact us at foundation@truroschool.com or call 01872 246094. Likewise, if you would like to discuss any form of donation or wider philanthropy to support the Foundation's work, please do get in touch. Our Ways of Giving page offers more information about the different ways in which to help financially.

Whatever your reason for contacting us, we will welcome your email or call.

Esse Quam Videri

How can you help?

Your Stories of Empowerment

If you were the beneficiary of a means-tested bursary or support during your time at the School, we would love to know more about how it benefitted you. We know many lives have been changed in this way and we are looking to understand more about how, and why. We are also looking to celebrate and tell some of these powerful stories of this impact too.

Please do get in touch with us if you have a personal story or reflection that you would like us to know, or one that you would be happy for us to share. Connecting or re-connecting with us in this way will, we hope, allow us to advocate all the more powerfully for the future of bursary provision. This is not a financial request, but one designed to build and support community and wider awareness of the mission and impact of bursary provision at our School.

If you are a previous bursary award-holder and happy to share your story then please contact the Foundation Team on foundation@truroschool.com or call **01872 246094**.

IN THE Garden this Year

BY TOM LAGDEN, HEAD GARDENER

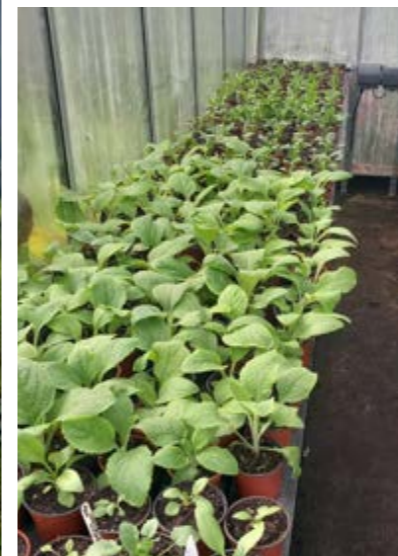
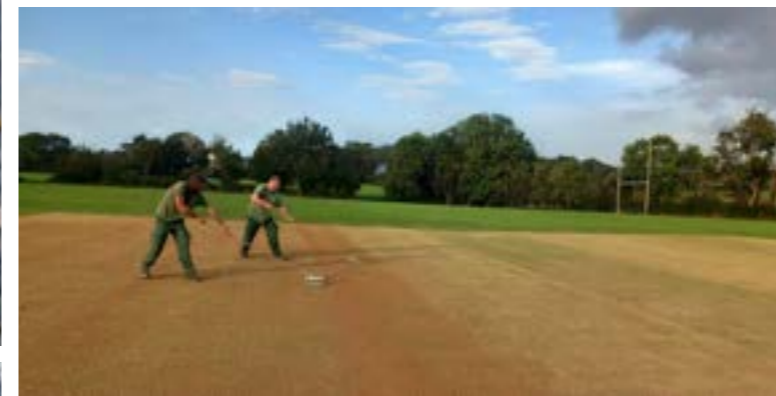


AUTUMN TERM

The summer break is always a welcome time of year for the Gardeners at Truro School. It allows us to step back and take stock, and although summer is not the best time to undertake new projects and planting, it is a time for us to plan for the next school year.

Since Colin Dowers' retirement at the end of the Summer Term, our biggest project this year will be the continued

maintenance and improvement of the Prep site grounds as Colin has done over the past 30 years. As for the Senior School site, we were looking forward to the continued development of the front terraces and the addition of a chipping green on the sports fields, as well as the continued improvement of our cricket square after the neighbouring cows played an early spring fixture on it last year.



END OF SUMMER AND EARLY AUTUMN

The very wet end to our summer and continuation through autumn has been more like the Cornish summers we are used to. This has made for great growing conditions for the lawns, plants and weeds alike.

Our team of Gardeners have been busy making sure seasonal bedding and borders are at their best for the return to school in September. Unlike any other place I have worked, when the gardens are looking at their best there is often no one to see or enjoy it. To compensate we try to use plants that flower late into the season, and work hard through the summer break deadheading and weeding to keep the plants looking showy and at their best for the Autumn Term.

The wet and warm weather has also enabled good recovery and increased grass growth on our sports pitches. All our winter sports pitches are looking at their best and will hopefully play well for the first fixtures of the season. Continued regular cutting alongside regular aeration will help to support root growth and drainage. Towards the end of September, we apply a low nitrogen with a higher potassium fertiliser to improve disease and stress tolerance for the winter months.

The end of September also brings a break in the wet weather and a late show of some summer weather perfect for much-needed cricket renovations. After the cows damaged the square in early spring, we had to close the square for the first month of the cricket season and were only able to play three or four wickets due to the lasting damage, so we were all keen to get on with renovations, close the square for the winter and look ahead to 2024 being a cow-free year!

A new project on the sports fields this year is the creation of a chipping green for golf. An area behind the tennis courts has been identified and the dry weather enables the team to rotavate the ground and rake to a fine tilth ready for overseeding and fertiliser application.

In the greenhouses, seeds sown in late spring/early summer are ready to pot on and more seeds are collected on site, including one of our favourites, Ricinus Communis (castor oil), and many other perennial plants. Our winter/spring bedding also arrives this year; it's a mix of Bellis and Myosotis underplanted with tulips. The plugs are potted up and brought ready for planting in late autumn. Around the site, regular deadheading in the beds and borders extends the flowering season and keeps the plants looking their best till the weather turns cold. The last of the wildflower meadows are cut and collected.

MID/LATE AUTUMN

Spring bulbs arrive in October and the weather at the later end of autumn has returned to rain softening the ground, ideal for bulb planting. This year the team has planted over 3000 bulbs at the Senior site and over 1500 at the Prep site ready for spring.

John and Craig make visits to the Prep for regular maintenance, especially leaf clearance at this time of year. Alongside regular maintenance, we are always looking for ways to improve the gardens and grounds at both sites. Two initial areas identified at the Prep site are to add new woodchips to the outdoor classroom and sow native wildflower hedgerow seeds on the surrounding banks. More bulbs and hellebores have also been planted in the stumpery in the woods.

Towards the end of the month just before half term, the bedding is ready to plant out across both sites. The whole team looks forward to seeing some winter and spring colours; one flower we are particularly looking forward to seeing bloom is the tulip Tropical Impression planted with the Myositis.

Early November and storm Ciaran arrives; although both sites are largely unscathed, a large Monterey pine has come down on the playing field at Prep. The team spent the next day tidying up the fallen tree and felling the remaining unsafe tree. Rather than removing the wood, we decided to cut and stack the brash and logs creating a deadwood habitat, and in the Spring Term, we hope to put wildflower turf across the top of the stack.

Despite the bad weather, regular aeration and good management mean the sports pitches are holding up well and the grass that germinated just last month on the cricket squares and the chipping green are starting to develop good roots; some more fertiliser is applied to help the new grass through the winter months.



EARLY/MID-WINTER

December arrives along with colder temperatures slowing down plant growth and giving us time to get on with other jobs, including machine maintenance, and to start some of the yearly scrub clearance. Bare root yew hedging ordered at the end of summer arrives and the hedge started on the top terrace is continued down through the second terrace and links up with the hedges around the Celebration Garden.

As Christmas approaches the gardening team have one last job to finish before the break: a festive version of the school badge painted on the lawn.



MID/LATE WINTER AND FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING

January and the new year bring even more rain. The team made use of this time to carry out tree work advised by our tree inspector Colin Hawke. We also carry on with the last of the scrub clearance around the site.

Towards the end of January some drier, more stable weather arrives and it's time to get on and cut the grass lawns and sports pitches alike. The sports fields have all now been converted from rugby to football and, considering the wet weather, the pitches are looking the best they ever have going into the football term. The green has also taken very well and it's time to start regular cutting to reduce height.

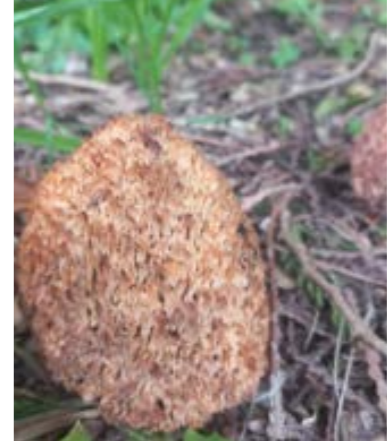
The weather holds long enough for the cricket pitches to drain so they are also cut and are spiked for aeration. The overrolling last year as an attempt to iron out the cow prints has increased the compaction on the square, reducing its drainage and increasing the grasses' susceptibility to diseases, specifically red thread. Poor drainage and lack of nitrogen are the cause. In this case, a fertiliser with nitrogen is applied and the drainage will be improved over the next few winters with an increased programme of aeration, something that may prove difficult if we have more wet winters over the coming years.

At the Prep site, the team continue to make regular visits and the borders are dug through and cut back as the days get longer and the first signs of spring appear. Spring bulbs, including the thousands planted last year, are starting to appear and we are all excited for the coming gardening year.

FEBRUARY



Consistent and heavy rain has made it difficult to achieve any meaningful work in the gardens and on the pitches. The team continues with ongoing maintenance and the greenhouses are given a deep clean ready for spring and the arrival of new plants. We watch the forecast intently, and whenever there is a slight break in the weather the team are out cutting the lawns and pitches along with continued aeration. Even with the exceptionally wet weather many of the pitches are still playable thanks to the team's hard work prepping and repairing before and after matches.



MARCH

St Piran's Day! The team have painted two St Piran flags on the lawn to mark the day. As a gesture, and to build good working relationships with our neighbours, we have also painted flags on the Trafalgar Roundabout for Truro Town Council. We look forward to building on this in the future, including plant swaps and sharing skills and knowledge.

The wet weather continues and quite frankly we have all had enough!

The bare root yew hedge we planted before Christmas has spent the last three months in waterlogged ground, something which yew in particular does not like, especially newly planted plants. There is not much we can do except wait and see through summer how well they have fared. Fingers crossed.

On the pitches things are not much better. Although not waterlogged, we are not able to get on them and do any regular maintenance, pushing back our work schedule. One particular point of concern is our inability to get on the cricket square. Usually, by mid-March, we hope to get on and start pre-season rolling. But at this point, we are lucky if we can get on and just give it a cut. We stay off so as not to cause future problems and pray for better weather, though it looks like the start of the season may have to be pushed back if this weather continues. However, it's not all doom and gloom and non-stop rain. Spring flowers are in full show and all the bulbs planted in autumn are flowering. The tulips look stunning, especially on those rare sunny afternoons.

The team keep busy at the Prep School clearing and cutting back the beds and borders and constructing a fantastic deadwood habitat from a pine tree blowover in one of the winter storms. This log stack is an important habitat for invertebrates, including solitary bees. The newly sown wildflower mix, once germinated and growing, will add to the deadwood habitat.



END OF MARCH AND EARLY APRIL, INCLUDING THE EASTER HOLIDAY

End of March and just before we break up we take delivery of over 3000 bedding plug plants for summer displays. A mix of Salvias, marigolds, fuchsias and Bacopa.

The wet weather gives us ample opportunity to pot on the plants and place them in the greenhouses to bring on for summer. We also sow seeds for plants we would like to grow this year, including Gazanias and sweet peas. We also take time to pot on established plants and also pot up tubers and bulbs we have stored over winter, including a variety of dahlias and canna lilies.

The School breaks up and it's usually a time when we convert the winter pitches to summer sports. The wet weather is hampering this, and many clubs and schools around the South West are looking to extend the football seasons to play cancelled fixtures from early in the year and also postpone the start of the cricket season.

Lucky for us we managed to overseed all our pitches at the end of March and we are now starting to see grass germinating. The wet weather means an application of granular fertilizer can be well watered in.

At the end of the Easter holidays and spring, the sun finally looks like it might arrive. Drier and warmer weather is in the forecast, and we are all ready to go when it arrives.

APRIL

Pupils and teachers returned after the Easter holidays, and unfortunately the wet weather has hampered our preparation on the cricket square and we have had to postpone the first few cricket fixtures. **John Kearny**, one of our Gardeners, has made the decision to start his own gardening business. He was a valued and well-liked member of the team - we are sad to see him leave and we wish him all the best.

A few weeks in and the weather starts to improve, and daylight hours are increasing. The spring seasonal planting is starting to fade and our summer seasonal displays are growing well in the nursery. The grounds team can finish any of the summer sports markings on the better days.

Some dry, warm weather arrives at the end of April and our first cricket fixtures can be played.



JUNE

The team continues to put in the overtime - we all want the front of School and the Terraces to look at their best for the summer events now that they are more usable space. The lawns are looking especially good after the spring renovations; regular cutting continues and a follow-on liquid feed is applied. Regular watering and deadheading is carried out on the seasonal bedding and all the beds are weeded. When not preparing sports pitches, Chris regularly comes down to help in the gardens.

It's the end of June and all hands on deck for Sports Day. Chris has done a brilliant job preparing the pitch for the day lines which have been freshly marked, and the weather is on our side. We even managed to find time to watch the always-competitive teacher's race.



MAY

Early May and the team are renovating the lawns, since re-landscaping the Terraces last year, we have come to find that both the top and second Terraces have poor drainage. The deep spiker used on our pitches is used to spike and heave the lawns, then dressed with sand and brushed in; this works into the soil profile and helps drainage. The lawns are then overseeded and a pre-seed fertiliser applied. Luckily for us the wet weather and spells of sunshine mean the grass is germinating in just after a week.

Mid-May and general maintenance continues across both sites. All the plants for summer displays are hardened off and ready to plant out. The team all chip in and plant out all our seasonal beds including at the Prep site, and with two less Gardeners the team put in the overtime, maintaining standards across all the gardens and still providing quality sports pitches.

One way we are able to maximise our efforts maintaining standards in key areas is by increasing our wild areas. This year we have left more unmown areas than any previous year. We are starting to see an increase in biodiversity in these areas that are now on their third year. Species including yellow rattle (valuable as they are semi-parasitic on grass) are now seen all along Austin Avenue as well, and for the first time wild clary, which is one of our native Salvias. It's not just about the plants though - the increase in invertebrate species is audibly noticeable as you walk through the pathways in the orchard.



END OF MAY - BEGINNING OF JULY AND THE END OF SCHOOL

After lots of hard work the gardens are looking at their best for Truro School Festival and everyone seems to have enjoyed the events and performances on the Terraces, and largely without the use of an umbrella.

Final week of Term, and the team continues regular maintenance including deadheading in the rose garden. A perfect opportunity to introduce our new apprentice Ryan Harper to one of the nicer jobs in horticulture.

The summer holidays are here, and the team continues to work hard maintaining the gardens and pitches for summer cricket and football camps.

Mid-August and our new Gardener Sarah starts just in time to help us prepare for the start of the new academic year. With two new members to the team, we are looking forward to the coming year and goals we want to achieve.

Sports Roundup



Well, it's that time of year again when I attempt to summarise a whole year of Truro School sport into a few pages. Including all the wonderful achievements, magical moments, recognitions of effort and perseverance and thanks is impossible.



DAN SANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF SPORT
djs@truroschoo.com

I hope that over the next few pages, I can draw you into the world of sporting achievement at Truro School and that you gain insight into our wonderful community: pupils, parents, coaches, operations staff and teaching staff.

To begin, I must mention our incredible Grounds team. The condition of the fields, courts and the School in general has been the best I have ever seen at Truro School. Despite the wettest spring in recent memory, the team's hard work, skill and dedication have allowed fixtures to continue, and our pupils have benefitted from some of the best facilities in the South West.

Alongside the Grounds team, I want to express my thanks to those in the Transport, Laundry, Facilities and Catering teams. As a school, we have participated in 419 fixtures across 17 sports, fielding 78 teams.

Minibuses and coaches, clean kits and changing rooms, and mountains of food (no – not just for me...) are needed to keep the Truro School athletes and staff in fine fettle, and we have the most wonderful team behind us.

Our pupils have represented the School in droves this year, with 531 pupils representing the Senior School in a fixture, 62 more pupils than last year. It is important to me that Truro School pupils feel they have a chance to represent the school and enjoy their chosen sport and activity. Sport is competitive by nature, but at a school age and in an educational setting, the result should never be the primary objective. Yes, we play to win, but more importantly, we play to learn, to challenge our pupils, to model positive behavior and to uplift others. If we get this right, the fixture will always be positive, regardless of the score. Thank you to the pupils for representing us so well.

Our parents continue to be a supportive presence at many fixtures, turning up in the wind, rain, sleet and the occasional sunshine. Thank you for the late pickups, early-morning starts, travelling to fixtures far and wide and for the thanks you pass on to the coaches and staff. It is always noticed and appreciated. Sport is an emotive pastime, and your support and constructive feedback are always welcomed. Thank you for your dedication this year.



There has been some incredible success this year, and it is right to celebrate the hard work of individuals and teams who have committed to achieving these goals through sacrifice, perseverance, courage and teamwork. To the right are some of the highlights, but please visit our social media pages on Instagram and Facebook, where we have the space and opportunity to celebrate our pupils more regularly.

Reading through the list, I really enjoy the range of sports and age groups in which Truro School has been successful: county champions, regional winners, national finalists, international honors, pupils making their School team debuts, mixed teams, boys' teams, girls breaking new ground in cricket, rugby and football. Seventeen sports. It is truly thrilling and exhilarating to be part of, and my team and I are very fortunate to witness it all at such close quarters.

Our pupils are fantastic, talented and special. I hope they share their fondness for sport and Truro School in general with you, and I hope they will always enjoy being active and working towards their goals, whatever they may be.



Sports Achievements

SEPTEMBER 2023

Daisy H Selected to represent Team GB in pentathlon

OCTOBER 2023

U16 tennis played Exmouth College in div. 1 regional qualifiers

Lola competed in Penryn classic – gold overall

U15 netball county tournament finished 4th

U16 netball squad crowned county champs

Fenella took part in U15 England football trials

NOVEMBER 2023

U15/U16 tennis South West regional finals

U18 netball county tournament success - through to regionals

Naomi represented GB in Bali for world triathlon and biathlon championships 11th and 12th place

DECEMBER 2023

U13 won 10 aside tournament at Mount Kelly

JANUARY 2024

U14 girls' football incredible cup run last 16

U16 boys' rugby county cup final winners

U14 netball sisters 'n' sport bowl last 16

U13 netball tournament plate winners

FEBRUARY 2024

U15 netball sisters in sports bowl semi-final

KS3 and KS5 squash national finals

Yasmine, Tommy and Amelia - NSEA national and county show-jumping qualifiers

U13 boys' indoor cricket county champions

U12 girls' netball county runners-up

MARCH 2024

Harriet S and Gen P westward league cross-country U15 winners

U13 mixed football ISFA national final runners-up

U13 girls' netball county tournament runners-up

Truro School Fencing won 3 team trophies at the Public Schools Fencing Championships

Daisy H came 2nd in the Public Schools Fencing Championships

Badminton regional finals: KS3 girls 5th place, KS3 boys 2nd place, KS4 girls 3rd place, KS4 boys 3rd place

U13 rugby 7s county champions

Girls' indoor cricket county finals: U12s = 3rd place, U15s = 4th place

APRIL 2024

U18 boys' football county cup winners

U12 boys' rugby 7s county tournament winners

U16 tennis county championships winners

MAY 2024

U13 tennis county tournament 2nd place overall

JUNE 2024

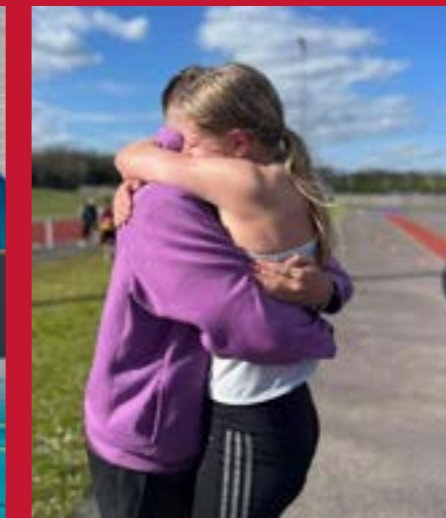
U13 CYB county championships: boys winners and runner-up, girls runner-up, boys doubles winners, girls doubles winners and runners-up and mixed doubles runners-up

Daisy selected GB U17 European pentathlon

Dan finished 3rd in U13 boys' national schools biathlon

Excellent results at the Cornwall Schools Athletics championships

U13 girls' cup run into semi-finals



Archive Attic:

TRELISKE

This year the Development team have spent more time than usual at the Prep School site and, through one thing and another, got to looking further into the origins of Treliske House.

Treliske was built in the 1870s by William Teague, who was described as the 'King of the Cornish miners' and 'quite the biggest man among the [mining] 'adventurers''.

Origins

Born in 1823, William was the eldest son of Joseph Teague, a mine captain involved with Wheal Basset near Carn Brea and other mines in the Redruth and Marazion areas. Joseph Teague died in Boston, Massachusetts, on the way home from testing copper mines around Lake Superior for an American mining company.

William Teague started working as a tributer underground 'in the bowels' of Wheal Basset, before the age of 15, earning about £3 a month. By the age of 30 he had risen to become an Inspecting Mine Agent, then resident manager of St Day United mine. He then became a consulting agent and underground inspector at Tincroft mine. Captain Teague's first important discovery was the intersection of Dunkin's lode by a crosscut driven south of the main lode at the 160 fathom level, near the east of Carn Brea boundary.

He recalled in a speech in 1869 that his association with Tincroft began in 1854, then under the management of Capt. Frank Pryor, who helped his career take off and attain the controlling position at Tincroft. At that time Tincroft was losing £600 a month and had liabilities of £9000. In the first report he made to Pryor he said, "I think the mine will do, but great changes must be made; you must tell the directors that they must be content to raise less tin and copper,



and then you will promise to pay costs. Capt. Pryor stared, but I told him I would pledge myself to pay the costs if he would obtain the management. Well, in 1855, I obtained the management, at six guineas per month, and I soon reduced the monthly cost from £3500 to £2500. The mine then began to pay costs, and I was shortly afterwards enabled to declare a small dividend..." The very low share price rose to £75 and £80 a share – at one time Tincroft made £10,000 a year in dividends. At one point it was estimated that he was worth at least a quarter of a million sterling.

In 1859 he aided Mr Tyrie, a large shareholder and director in Tincroft, to procure further change. When Tyrie died in 1863 Teague was offered his shares in Tincroft, nearly a third part of the mine, which strengthened his position to bring change and profit to the mine.

After Capt. Pryor's death in 1870, Teague became the purser and manager of Tincroft. Teague also became a shareholder in Carn Brea mine, and was connected to Wheal Kitty, St Agnes and Great Work, near Helston. He was also involved with West Poldice, Ludgvan, until an enormous sum had been spent developing it but to little return and work was suspended.

Other interests

The *West Briton*, 15 November 1886, described Teague as "one of those whose shrewdness and common-sense were most prominently marked, and who appears, in other capacities than that of a mine captain, to have been able, not only to take a leading part, but to inspire a remarkable degree of confidence in those with whom he was associated."

As well as his mining career, Teague broadened out his ventures and took an interest in the Cornish Bank and tin smelting works at Penpol. He took an active role in the governance of Cornish mining, such as bills connected to the revision of mine leases and amendments to the Stannaries.

Teague's mining success allowed him to invest in land and he developed an interest in farming. He bought property in North Cornwall, including Greylake and the manor of Crackington near Camelford, Hendra in St Kew and farms in St Minver and St Teath, as well as scattered property in Illogan. It was estimated that he supervised the farming of over 1000 acres himself.

This included land around Truro including St Coose and the Liskes.

In his earlier years, while living in the Redruth area, Teague was an energetic member of the Primitive Methodist Church, but after settling nearer to Truro became known as a Churchman. He was described as a moderate conservative, who refrained from taking active part in public affairs.

His wife, Sarah, was "a woman of singularly gentle and self-denying disposition", but died early, although long enough to see Teague on the

road to affluence. She apparently had a poor opinion of mining speculation in Cornwall. Together they had three sons and two daughters.

Treliske

Teague purchased Treliske in about 1860. He decided to build a grand house for himself on the farmland there in 1873, after his proposal to buy Pencalenick was rejected. The new mansion was completed in 1876 and was estimated to have cost up to £15,000.

The Cornish Telegraph gave a glowing description when the building was completed.

The lawn and trees planted there-on have greatly added to the attractiveness of the scenery, as the park was formerly nothing but the fields of an ordinary farm. The house has a commanding appearance when seen from the public road, and it is on such an elevation as to afford a noble view of the surrounding country. The view from the house looks down upon one of the beautifully-wooded, fertile and well-watered valleys which are frequent in the neighbourhood of Truro – a veritable pastoral paradise, in fact.

(1 August 1876)



Archive Attic:

TRELISKE

The Cornubian and *Redruth Times* described Treliske as “one of the best houses erected of late years west of Truro”.

[19 March 1886].

The West Briton in 1879 reported that

Now he is surrounded with every luxury, and no doubt feels equal pleasure in skilfully handling a cue in his luxuriously fitted up billiard-room in his mansion at Treliske as he did in handling the pick and gad underground, scores of fathoms from the surface, and may be hundreds of feet away in a far driven end.

...Capt. Teague is about the astutest man I know in connection with Cornish mining... uncommonly shrewd, far-seeing, penetrating, and, above all, possessed of an abundance of good practical common sense. He possesses the ruling power in the management of his mines; but he rarely shows his fellow adventurers that he does, and, as a rule, works with them and for them, as, of course, for himself at the same time. Capt. Teague's face is one you do not easily forget when you have once seen it. The twinkle of his dark bright penetrating eye shows you have a man of ability to deal with, and withal a man of humour.



The main staircase



Teague

By the mid-1880s Tincroft and Carn Brea shares slumped from £70 and £200 to £7 and £2 respectively. For many years there were no dividends, and constant debts to be paid, but Captain Teague loyally stuck to both concerns. He also lost £30,000 in copper syndicate, and it was thought that he probably died ‘a comparatively poor man’.

The funeral procession that left Treliske consisted of “some 30 vehicles at starting... greatly augmented en route, and the streets of Redruth were thronged with people for a considerable time”. Teague was buried with his late wife in St Uny churchyard.

Six months after Teague's death, Treliske was purchased by George Smith of Trevu, Camborne. In the 1930s Smith's family sold Treliske for the boarding and schooling of junior boys at Truro School.

Visit of Prince of Wales

Seen by many as the pinnacle of his success, Teague entertained the Prince and Princess of Wales at Treliske in May 1880. On the 20 May the royal couple came to Truro to lay the foundation stone of the Cathedral, which was followed by a high tea “in the most sumptuous manner” for many invited guests at Treliske. The previous day Teague provided an “opportunity of witnessing a review of some thousands of troops under arms on the previous day – a sight never before witnessed in the county, and their evolutions had been watched by many thousands of spectators.”

Decline

In March 1886 the death of William Teague was reported, “which took place early on the morning of the 11th inst., and ... has caused not a little sensation among the mining community of West Cornwall, for although the deceased gentleman had been failing in health for some months, his somewhat sudden death came as a surprise to those who had been in his company almost to the last.” (Royal Cornwall Gazette, 19 March 1886). Nothing serious was noted until the day before when he was unable to leave his bed until 4pm, and had to retire again a few hours later. Messengers were despatched but he died before his eldest son, or the doctor, could arrive.

Royal Cornwall Gazette
Friday 30 July 1886
CORNWALL.
Delightful Freehold Country Residential Estate for Sale.
TRELISKE.
1 1/2 MILES FROM TRURO,
COMPRISING Marble Porch with ornamental Glazed Screen, and paved with White and Black Marble, forming a Vestibule opening into spacious Entrance Hall; elegant Drawing-room, communicating with Fernery, opening into Palm-house, and thence to a beautifully-arranged Green-house, all fitted with the most modern appliances for heating and supplying water; well proportioned Library and Breakfast-room, a capital Billiard-room, with an open panelled arched roof. The upper floor is approached by a handsome Staircase and spacious Landing and Corridor, and contains 6 excellent Bed and Dressing-rooms, Morning-room, Bath-room, and 2 w.c.'s, with second Staircase communicating with Servants' Apartments. The Kitchens, Servants' Hall, and other Domestic Offices are ample and well arranged; also good Cellarage.
The Stabling is arranged for 5 stalls and 2 loose boxes, with iron fittings, harness-rooms, excellent carriage-houses, and other necessary offices.
The Gardens are tastefully laid out, embracing shady walks and rustic summer retreats; the Glass-houses are very extensive and judiciously arranged, with every modern improvement for heating and watering, and there is a Gardener's Cottage.
This beautiful Mansion, with S.W. aspect, situate in its own grounds, and approached by its own carriage-drive (with entrance lodge), has been lately and most expensively and elaborately built and fitted up, and commands excellent views of Truro and its suburbs, and whilst within 10 minutes' drive of the Truro Railway-station, is also conveniently near the mining centres of Redruth, Camborne, &c.

Archive Attic:

EXTRACTS FROM THE 1924 INSPECTION

School life 100 years ago:

HEAD MASTER – E.H. MAGSON,
M.A. (London), BSc (Birmingham).

NUMBER OF ASSISTANT STAFF:
13, Regular: 9; Occasional: 4.

FEES (YEARLY).

TUITION:
Entering under 12 years of age, £11 8s; entering over 12 years of age, £11 11s; entering over 15 years of age, £15 15s to £18 18s.

EXTRA SUBJECT FEES
Piano, £6 6s; Violin £9 9s; Commercial Subjects, £6 6s.

BOARDING
Entering under 12 years of age, £51 12s; entering over 12 years of age, £54 9s; Sanatorium £1 1s.

Nature and scope of school 1924 Inspection report

At the previous Inspection held in 1914 some anxiety was expressed by the Governors at the fall in the number of boarders, and it was feared that the increase in the number of local day-boys brought about by the reduction in fees and the admission of Free Scholars would result in a serious change in the character of the School.

As the tuition fees are low, the financial position of the School depends upon the number of boarders, and it is therefore satisfactory to find that, concurrently with a further increase in the number of day-boys from 84 to 107, the number of boarders has risen from 59 to 82 in the present term.

More than half the boarders are drawn from Cornwall, and of the rest the majority are sons of Cornishmen from almost every part of the globe.

The establishment of motor-bus services in the district is tending to reduce the number of boarders from the immediate neighbourhood, as boys can come in as day-pupils.

Since the previous Inspection there has been a noticeable improvement in the average duration of school life. For the boys who left during the last session, 1922-23, the average school life, omitting attendance under 12, was 3 years 2 months as compared with 2 years 4 months in the session 1912-13.

A good proportion of the boys remain at the School until 16 or more, but too many still leave at 14 or 15, and considerable further improvement should be possible. On the Form of Application for Admission parents now give a general declaration of their intention to keep a boy at school until he reaches the age of 16 at least.



1920s dormitory



The dining hall



1925 school room



The physical laboratory

Of the boys in attendance at the Inspection, 25 per cent were under 12 years of age, 64 per cent were between 12 and 16, while 11 per cent were over 16 years of age; the ages being calculated at 31 July 1923.

A fair proportion of boys continue to proceed to places of higher education, generally Cambridge. With the rapid development in the senior work of the School now in progress, it is probable that a larger number of boys will go to the Universities.

General school activities and corporate life

The School assembles each morning in the hall for a service conducted by the Head Master.

There are 8 Prefects chosen from the boarders and 2 from among the day-boys. The Prefects have a room.

There is no general system of medical inspection, but each term measurements are made of weight, height and chest.

There are 4 Houses, day boys and boarders being mixed. Each House provides three football teams, and junior teams score marks in inter-House competitions.

Inter-School matches for teams under 14 years and under 12 have been arranged, and every effort seems to be made to ensure that all boys have the opportunity of taking an active part in the games. The boys produce a Magazine, there is a Photographic Club and a Musical Society. There are lectures on alternate Saturdays.

A tuck-shop is run by the boys, the profits going to the Games Fund.

The Old Boys' Society lapsed during the war but is again active and a London branch has been started.

General conclusions

The position of the School is distinctly promising. Although there are some weak places in the work, it is quite clear that the standard of attainment is being steadily improved. The discipline is good.

Subjects of teaching

Scripture.

In addition to the usual Scripture lessons in each Form, very careful provision is made for religious instruction at morning and evening prayers.

English Language and Literature.

...The speech of the boys is slovenly and indistinct. This can be overcome if all the Master on the staff in every lesson and in every subject combine their efforts to that end.

...Generally speaking, the work in this subject is in a satisfactory condition, and the boys appeared to be interested and industrious.

History.

...An accurate knowledge of dates and facts is rightly insisted upon, and it is recognised that throughout the greater part of the course the boys' interest is best secured by a narrative as opposed to an analytical presentation of the material.

Geography.

...The lessons heard were suitable and well given, except one in IIIB dealing with the influence of the sea on climate where the explanation given was incorrect. At this stage any discussion of climate should be confined to the observed facts.

French.

... The general standard of work is satisfactory without being conspicuously high.

Latin.

The history of Latin in the School is unfortunate. There seems to be a good deal of hostility, latent and expressed, to the subject, and recently examination results were so bad that it was found advisable to discontinue the subject with the majority of Form V this year. It is hoped, however, that the present Form IV will be able to take the subject next year.

Mathematics.

... The boys work well and the neatness and setting out of their

written exercises are creditable. They know the processes and propositions included in the syllabus satisfactorily, but they are not very quick at applying them.

Science.

The Head Master is an experienced Science teacher, and he is taking the senior work in physics. The new physics laboratory installed in the workshop is a considerable improvement on the old one...

Art.

The Head Master since his appointment has taken steps to remedy the impossible conditions under which he found this subject being taught. They are still very far from satisfactory, and it is very greatly to the credit of the Art Mistress, who for the last two years has done most of the teaching, that she has accomplished such good work as she has. By hard work and steady determination, she has overcome very great difficulties and succeeded, not only in getting the boys interested, but in teaching them a great deal.

Manual Instruction.

The present arrangements for teaching manual work are transitional. Forms II and IIIB are taught by the County Instructor at the Technical School, while IIIA is taught in the school workshop by another Master, a local builder, an old boy of the School who ... teaches as a hobby.

Music.

All boys up to the broken voice period have two lessons a week, given by a member of the staff, a musician trained at the Royal College of Music, who also takes the piano pupils. A Visiting Mistress takes the violin pupils.

... The only Music done by the upper part of the School takes the form of House concerts. Each House gives a concert once a year. These take place on Saturday evenings as part of the regular series of concerts and entertainments.

Object in Focus:

KENNETH PELMEAR

Pelmear's Centenary

The 1 October 2023 marked the centenary of former music teacher and Cornish composer Kenneth Pelmear's (1923-95) birth. Known for one of Cornwall's best-loved anthems 'Hail to the Homeland' and many other musical compositions, Pelmear taught at Truro School from 1959 to 1980. The son of a miner from Carharrack, Pelmear actually began his teaching career at Truro School in 1945, before teacher-training at Westminster College in 1946. He returned to Truro in 1959 after being head of music and a resident housemaster at Woodhouse Grove School for ten years.

On his retirement in July 1980 the school magazine recorded that

'Kenny' was a legendary figure in the School's life for 21 years, ageless in physical appearance and a man with many varied interests. Memories of K.P. will be of groups of boys in earnest discussion, usually on the subject of rugger (he published a History of Rugger in the Country in the sixties) or his beloved Cornwall (he is a Bard in the Gorsedd). He has assisted two Directors of Music and was always meticulous in the administrative chores he undertook in the organisation of visiting music teachers, examination entries and the stage managing of the annual concerts.

Playing the organ in the Chapel, and during its closure conducting the band and choir on the quad and in the dining-room led to a form of nine lessons and carols in 1961, a tradition which has continued with great success ever since. On the games field he has coached the first-year rugger, many pupils making their mark later as star fifteen players. Before the advent of Organ Scholars K.P. accompanied massed singing at the annual concerts in St Mary's and as a composer in his own right has produced much music which has been sung and played by Cornish choirs and bands throughout the Duchy. For many years he taught general subjects and games



at Treliske and founded the orchestral group which started its life in inverted commas before reaching the standards of latter years!

'Every satisfaction given' was a typical remark appearing in reports, usually completed before other members of staff had even raised their pens – this applies to K.P. and we all wish him well in his retirement to enjoy music and Cornwall.

- Terraces, 1981

Another of his well-known compositions was 'Great Soul' written to accompany the hymn lyrics "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." The Rev. Joe Ridholls (TS 1977-80) wrote a tribute to Pelmear, published in the West Briton, entitled 'Great Soul'.

"...His music, of course, springs first to mind, but I wonder how many people know that this fine composer had no musical instrument at all in his house. When inspiration came to him ("often on the cliffs at Portreath" he once told me) and the chords sounded in his brain, he would go to Carharrack chapel or the house of a friend to try them out on organ or piano.

Rugby meant a lot to him, and I retain a mental image of Ken's ample form, in shorts, refereeing a match at Truro School.

His sheer Cornishness was something to be savoured in his 'Carols of Cornwall'...

At Truro School the boys thought he was great. His religious instruction lessons may not have satisfied the stringent demands of the National Curriculum, but, as a colleague observed, perhaps he got through to the boys better for that.

That many of them called him 'Ken' to his face spoke not of disrespect but genuine affection.



1963 choir

I recall an occasion when a group of Truro School boys, at a loss as to what to do during a holiday, got on their bikes and said 'Let's go and see Kenny'. This they did and were hospitably received by Ken and 'mother' who he always claimed, made the best pasties in Cornwall.

When I get to the annexe of Truro School known as Heaven I shall say to Ken 'You know, you were a Great Soul'. (I once told him if that was the only thing he'd written in his life, it made his life worthwhile.)

He will look at me and say, in his characteristically Cornish way 'Think so, do you?' and I'll say 'Yes Ken, I do'.

Perhaps Pelmear is best summed up by the memories shared about him by the Old Truronian community on Facebook: "A thoroughly decent man, Esse Quam Videri through and through... I gave him some lame third-form lip one time. He put me in detentions. Thirty minutes serving in the tuck shop. Legend." (Nick McMahon)

"I remember him fondly. Reading 'Reach for the Sky' to us in RE. Teaching all the Cornish songs which we sang in St Mary's (and still sing today after a few beers). Best of all was the 1st year rugby coaching which consisted of shouting 'Dig in boys!' from the touchline." (Ian Brumby)

"A fantastic teacher and a wonderful person. I had many chats with him about Rugby underneath Redruth town clock! He was a very interesting and intelligent man. He would referee school matches as well. He was the last of his line with his surname spelt in that way..." (Rob Piper)

"I totally agree with what you have said. He was also great fun. I will always remember him reading 'Reach for the Sky' at any excuse, the rugby coaching, talks about music or his latest album and one of his last projects 'Swiss clock chimes'." (Julian Coia)

"Great guy. Commanded respect by being approachable, knowledgeable and an all-round legend. To this day I can't open my battered copy of 'Reach For The Sky' without hearing his voice". (Nick Horne)

"'Pleasing work'. I just happened to be having a sort out and came across my (fetching pink) report book, and that was about as specific as it got. I remember him as a lovely affable man, but I've also got to admit the bottom set in games (where I always was) used to run rings round him. I remember one cricket match where we put the only one of us who could hit straight in to bat, threw him an easy one which he skied into the hedge, and we then spent the rest of the lesson "looking" for it." (Paul Clark)

"...but his underarm leg spin was dynamite, and his warm approachable character was peerless." (John Rosevear)

"Kenny was a fabulous, kind, approachable teacher and an absolutely lovely person off campus too. I'll always remember him fondly. Also, I simply can't think about Kenny without Kernow Bys Vyken going through my head... in fact it's been playing on a loop in my head now all day!" (Trevor Raggatt)

"As a predecessor of mine, he would often drop in to school, usually if he needed a favour! Always friendly and always had time for a chat about music or rugby. Yes a true gent."

AUTUMN TERM School News

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The European Day of Languages was celebrated across the School, with lots of events happening including a special European-themed lunch, a break-time treasure hunt and a special morning assembly.

The pupils celebrated the Prep's diversity by guessing how many languages were spoken across the School.

There was also a creative language competition, with pupils dressing up as Greek gods and some fantastic posters among the entries.



PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Music filled Truro Methodist Church at the annual Prep Concert, as young voices from Year 3 to 6 infused the room with beautiful performances. Families and friends gathered to enjoy the evening, creating a truly special atmosphere that marked the beginning of the last week of term.

The night was a very memorable celebration, showcasing the talent and spirit of the young performers, leaving everyone feeling Christmassy and joyful.



INSPIRING ART AND WRITING IN ST IVES

Our lucky Year 6 pupils travelled to St Ives to immerse themselves in inspirational art and scenery for a combined literacy and art trip.

The pupils split into three groups, which rotated across three locations: Porthmeor Beach, the Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum.

Porthmeor Beach is famous for inspiring artists and was the perfect setting for some sand sculptures. Pupils were also encouraged to capture sights, sounds and feelings to inspire their writing on their return to school. The Tate St Ives is home to collections from Cornwall and around the world. Featured artists include Alfred Wallis, Marlow Moss and Barbara Hepworth.

Focusing more on the sculptures of Barbara Hepworth, our pupils considered how the artist used a wide array of inspiration to move between landscape, figure drawing and still life, combining different techniques, media and styles. Barbara Hepworth was the first sculptor to use holes in her work, promoting the idea that holes can be points of connection. Certainly, our students enjoyed exploring these connections for themselves.

The tour of the Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, the former home and studios of Barbara Hepworth, offers a fabulous insight into the artist's life and sculptures. Our children were delighted to walk in the gardens that inspired much of her work.

It was a fabulous day and a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning and experiences. Our children were a credit to the School and staff received many compliments on their behaviour during their visit.

Thanks to all of the staff who helped on the day, with special thanks to Ms Cadwallader and Miss Ashdown.



A JUICY ADVENTURE AT HEALEYS CYDER FARM



From seed to bottle, our Nursery pupils learned all about apple juice production while visiting Healeys Cyder Farm. They began their experience with a special tour led by **Joe Healey** CO04 before a bumpy tractor ride to see the farm's orchard, where the apples begin their journey to juice.

The children also enjoyed visiting the farm's animals, including Mocha, the very friendly Pygmy goat, and Dancer, the shire horse. As the weather turned, they ventured to the Rattler Bar

for an apple-juice label-making competition. There were lots of wonderful designs that they put on their very own bottles of apple juice.

A huge thank you to Joe and Bella Healey for showing the children around the farm; the children had a wonderful time learning about all things apple!

AUTUMN TERM School News

ROALD DAHL DAY

Have you ever wondered how George made his marvellous medicine? Our Year 3 Pupils found out exactly how, among other things, as they celebrated Roald Dahl in a fully immersive day based on the author's work.

Willy Wonka-inspired hot chocolate, potion artwork, The BFG language learning and medicine creating were all on the agenda, as well as wonderful fancy dress from all the children with Fantastic Mr Fox, Matilda and the Roly-Poly Bird all on display. Mrs Cadwallader also created a wonderful display in the classroom and a balloon arch to welcome the children into their building.



QUEEN'S COLLEGE RUGBY FESTIVAL



On Saturday the 11th of November, the Under 10s competed in the annual Queen's College Rugby Festival. The standard of rugby was high, and Truro was extremely competitive against all the teams that they came up against. The festival started with group matches against Hazlegrove, Queen's, Stover and Wellington. Undefeated in the group with three draws and a win, we finished third. This meant we progressed to play two more games against Perrot Hill and Port Regis, drawing with the former and narrowly losing to the latter.

Throughout the day, the side improved in each game and produced some fantastic performances. Equally importantly they displayed outstanding team spirit, sportsmanship and camaraderie. Thank you to all parents and supporters who made the trip – their encouragement and appreciation were greatly appreciated.

SPOT-TACULAR FUN FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

There were spots and bright colours galore at Truro School Prep as pupils and staff gathered to raise funds for Children in Need. Even Tayto, the School dog, was sporting his spotty bandana.

Whilst lots of fun was had, the children were also reminded of the vital work that this charity does for children across the UK and the importance of raising money to help others.



A SNOWY END OF TERM AT PREP

There was fun galore at Prep as children took part in the annual Santa Fun Run in aid of the Children's Hospice South West (CHSW). The older children helped their younger peers navigate the holiday hurdles on the fun-run course. Starting at an inflatable arch, the children progressed via a snow cannon and an 'elfie selfie' station and negotiated some carol singing and snowball throwing before crossing the finish line. Dressed in their festive finest, it was delightful to see the pupils and helpers getting fully into the festive swing.

Whilst plenty of fun was had, the School community managed to raise a significant amount for the CHSW. Well done to everyone who took part, and a huge thank you to the FTS, staff and parent helpers who made it possible.

Once the race had finished, there was a special treat in the form of Father Christmas, pulled on his sleigh by a Truro School minibus. Having greeted the children, he dashed off to prepare for the big day.

It was a wonderful end to an extremely festive period at Prep. Each of the children went home today with a special bell to mark the occasion, their hearts full of warm Christmas wishes.



EFFUSIVE LEARNING IN YEAR 4



Our lucky Year 4s had a fascinating visitor in the form of Senior Lecturer in Geophysics and Volcanology at the University of Exeter, Dr James Hickey. He enthralled the children with information about the different types of volcanoes, parts of a volcano and the different types of eruptions; effusive and explosive. He then went on to discuss how volcanoes are formed and why eruptions differ in flow, power and danger.

He explained that the key to volcanic eruption was the level of gas in the magma, replicating how crystals in magma help bubbles of gas to form (with sugar crystals poured into lemonade). The groups then went outside to put their theory into practice, with Mentos replacing the crystals in magma and cola acting as

the magma. By altering the amount of crystals (the number of Mentos) and changing the size of the vent (restricting the size of the lid), the pupils were able to see the effects of more gas and greater pressure. In real life, this would create an increasingly explosive volcanic eruption.

Dr Hickey also talked about the importance of studying volcanoes in allowing us to protect those communities around the world who live and work around volcanoes. It was an exciting and fascinating lesson and one our pupils are unlikely to forget! We would like to thank Dr Hickey for taking the time to come into school and sharing his knowledge with our aspiring volcanologists at Truro School Prep.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Pupils celebrated the harvest with their annual Harvest Festival. They had assemblies led by Rev. Helen, dressed in her harvest finery.

The children joined in by singing the Harvest Samba and an interactive harvest story before they shared what they're thankful for this harvest. The pupils have also been bringing in their own produce to donate to the Truro Food Bank to help those in need.



AUTUMN TERM

School News

A CHRISTMAS CAROL DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

The Christmas Season was launched with a resounding "Bah, humbug!" as Truro School Drama presented a stunning rendition of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' from the 22 to 25 of November.

Directed by Ben Oldfield and with original music by Musical Director and Old Truronian **Ollie Jones** CO23, the production told the much-loved tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, a tormented soul who, driven by his endless pursuit of wealth, had become hardened and embittered against all of the love and joy that the Christmas period represents.

The production perfectly captured the essence of Victorian Britain, with a captivating set in the Burrell Theatre, transformed with cobblestones, Scrooge's office and the Cratchits' kitchen. Well done to everyone involved in bringing the production to life, from the actors to the production team, wardrobe, set, lighting, tech, music and more; a huge thank you to you all, "and so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us, every one!"



GIRLS' AUTUMN CHORISTER TOUR

The annual autumn expedition for our girl choristers once again brought together extraordinary destinations and incredibly powerful musical experiences. Their journey began at St George's Chapel Windsor, the final resting place of 11 monarchs, including the late Queen Elizabeth II. Here, the girls participated in a beautifully memorable and poignant evensong and enjoyed a guided tour of this spectacular chapel. They then ventured to Cambridge, where there were opportunities to explore a number of colleges, and performed with Christopher Gray, the former Truro Director of Music, and the internationally renowned back row of The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge.

In Oxford, they rehearsed and sang evensong at New College with the back row and under the direction of Robert Quinney. Their final destination on this grand tour was Salisbury, where the girls enjoyed some more leisure time and a fascinating tour in which they saw the Magna Carta and learnt about the amazing history of the building before singing an evensong service of upper-voices music by Sumsion, Ireland and Hildegard. The incredibly atmospheric medieval Cathedral provided a captivating atmosphere and a large, appreciative congregation.

Mrs Vaughan CO98, Old Truronian and Head of Choristers, writes, "Our autumn tour is always a highlight of the choir year for both the girls and staff. Performing in such awe-inspiring venues alongside world-class choral musicians is truly a 'money can't buy' experience and the girls were, as always, a pleasure both to listen to and to spend time with".



MANCHESTER FOOTBALL TOUR



Our keen 2nd and 3rd Year footballers ventured to Manchester for a week of training and gameplay with Manchester City FC. The group had the incredible opportunity to train with the Manchester City coaches in private sessions at the Academy focusing on different skills in each session. The group split into teams for an evening of fixtures against local teams Urmston AFC and Denton.

Alongside playing lots of football the group enjoyed a shopping trip to Arndale, a visit to the Manchester Football Museum and a game of tenpin bowling, but the highlight for the pupils was watching Manchester City v Brighton in the Etihad Stadium.

MAKING MEMORIES IN MUNICH

Lots of International opportunities are on offer to our pupils, and a group of 4th and 5th Years jumped at the chance to take a trip to the vibrant city of Munich. The trip began with a tour of the old town where they were given an overview of Munich's rich history. The afternoon was then spent at the National Socialism Documentation Museum with a focus on the theme of alienation and persecution in the National Socialist era.

Among many other cultural experiences, pupils enjoyed traditional German food including Schweinshaxe, Bayerische Ente mit Knödel and the Würstlteller mit Sauerkraut. On the final day, they visited the Deutsches Museum 1972 Olympic Stadium TV tower with its stunning 360° view of the city and the Alps beyond.



1ST YEAR VISIT GAIA

Our 1st Year pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Gaia, an extraordinary artwork that offers a unique perspective of our planet as seen through the eyes of an astronaut. Created using imagery from NASA, Gaia showcases the intricate details of Earth from space.

The experience sparked curiosity among the pupils, with many fascinated by the makings of the artwork writing their own ideas in their workbooks, as well as sharing how the artwork made them feel and their first impressions.

GLOBAL EARTHQUAKE MONITORING

Did you know Truro School was able to detect seismic waves from an earthquake in Mount's Bay? We are fortunate to have our own seismometer here at Truro School. Since 2018, we have actively monitored and recorded local quarry blasts, fireworks, thunderstorms, helicopters and also earthquakes worldwide. Our observations have led us to identify more than 2000 earthquakes during this period, with many occurring in distant locations. The data collected by our seismometer links with other international

data, which experts around the world use to enhance their understanding of seismic events globally.

Mr Vanstone CO88, Old Truronian and Head of Computer Science, who installed and oversees the seismometer, said: "Having our own seismometer has enhanced the teaching of earthquake seismology in the school, allowing us to show pupils live earthquake data, lifting earthquake science off the pages of the textbook and bringing seismology to life."



FESTIVE FEAST AT TRURO SCHOOL

Turkey with all the trimmings, a vegan feast and puddings galore were on the menu for the Truro School Christmas Lunch.

With over 1000 staff, pupils and students to feed, our amazing catering team delivered a truly festive affair to mark the end of term.

Thank you to all of the staff in our catering department for their hard work and dedication throughout the year in delivering nutritious meals to our community.

SPRING TERM School News

MUSICAL STARS SHINE AT PREP



Pupils from Prep were given a musical treat in their assembly as Choristers Archie and Thomas sang the duet, 'Evening Prayer (Hansel and Gretel)' by Engelbert Humperdinck.

The rendition was a repeat of the boys' performance from 'Celebrating the Importance of Music', held at the Senior School to launch the new Truro School Music Project.

We are extremely proud of these children, their talent and bravery in performing at such an auspicious event is both inspiring and much appreciated by all.

YEAR 2 VISIT WHEAL MARTYN

China clay mining has shaped the landscape, lives of people, and economy of mid-Cornwall for over 250 years, and our Year 2s found out what it was all about.

As part of their topic on 'materials,' Year 2 visited Wheal Martyn China Clay Mine. The children learned how the clay was mined and the fascinating fact that China clay is in so many everyday things, including toothpaste and bath bombs. They also participated in a workshop to investigate which material would be most suitable for making socks for miners to wear. Working in all conditions, it was important that the material would keep their feet dry and warm, and last for a long time.



EXPLORING THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS

Year 3 pupils had an exciting visit to the Royal Cornwall Museum to enhance their learning of the Ancient Egyptians.

The group enthusiastically engaged in various Ancient Egyptian activities, deepening their understanding as 'Egyptian spies'. They had the opportunity to examine artefacts, learn about mummification and discover the significance of the afterlife.

THE LORD HIGH SHERIFF VISITS PRE-PREP



Our pupils at Pre-Prep had a visit from Toby Ashworth, the High Sheriff of Cornwall.

Dressed in his regulation court dress, complete with hat, gloves and sword, Mr Ashworth led the morning assembly. He introduced himself to the children before explaining his role as the King's representative in Cornwall. He talked about his journey to becoming Sheriff, having served in the Royal Navy and worked in the Cornish tourism industry. A voluntary position, the appointment of the High Sheriff is made annually by HRH The Duke of Cornwall.



FROM BEACH WASTE TO ECO ART

Pre-Prep children have been scouring Cornwall's beaches in preparation for their Eco Art Day. Inspired by the artist Rob Arnold, whose mission is to prevent harm to wildlife and "raise awareness of pollution, encourage people to reduce plastic use and dispose of it responsibly", the Pre-Prep children and their families have been finding plastic waste on the beach and collecting it to bring into school.

They are now working hard to create a collaborative artwork that makes use of the plastic waste and celebrates the beauty of our oceans and our planet.



COMPARING TRURO'S CHURCHES

Year 4s at Truro School Prep studied Tudor history this term, learning about the impact of Henry VIII's break from the Catholic Church.

Our Year 4s investigated the differences within the modern Church of England, visiting both Truro Cathedral and Truro Methodist Church.

Both venues have a rich history and unique features. The Cathedral, which was completed in 1910, is famous for its Gothic-inspired architecture and features including the organ, the Lady Chapel and copper spire.

The Methodist Church offers insights into John Wesley and the beginning of the Methodist denomination. The children were able to compare the differences and similarities to the Cathedral, taking notes as they went.



WELCOMING OUR NEW CHORISTERS

After nearly two terms of learning the ropes in their journey as Truro Cathedral Choristers, our four probationers, Logan, Tom, Luca and Sebastian, were made up as full choristers at the morning service on Sunday 17th March. They were given their white surplices to denote their new status and signed the chorister register book. All members of the choir have signed this, dating back to the Cathedral's inception in 1880.



A SPRINKLING OF SNOW

Snow is a rare sight in Cornwall, so as both the Prep and Senior School received a pretty dusting today, the pupils were very excited to make the most of it.

Pre-Prep used their forest school lesson to enjoy the snow, sliding down the hill, making snow angels and as many snowballs as possible. Meanwhile, Prep pupils made the most of playing outside before lessons, much like our Senior School pupils.

SPRING TERM

School News

SIXTH FORM CELEBRATES NO.1 RANKING



Truro School Sixth Form is celebrating after the latest official Department for Education A-Level performance tables have been released, once again placing Truro School as the leading A-Level provider in Cornwall.

During the recent A-Level results day, the father of one of last year's Sixth Formers, Alicia, who recently started at her first choice of university studying Biomedical Sciences with a Year in Industry at Royal Holloway, 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."

DAVID SECURES COVETED APPRENTICESHIP AT BARCLAYS BANK



We are thrilled to share that Sixth Former David has recently been offered an apprenticeship opportunity at Barclays Bank. After successfully navigating a series of rigorous evaluations, including psychometric testing and online interviews, David has emerged as a standout candidate and has been granted a coveted place in Barclays' prestigious apprenticeship scheme starting next summer.

David, currently studying A-Levels in Economics, Maths and Geography, said he was inspired by the Economics department, particularly Mr Whatley's passion for economics, which encouraged him to apply for a finance position.

Barclays Bank, renowned for its commitment to nurturing talent and providing exceptional learning opportunities, has recognised David's potential and has chosen him to be a part of their esteemed apprenticeship programme. Hopefully, this programme will equip him with the skills and knowledge to thrive in finance.

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND COMMUNITY

Celebrating the Importance of Music was an event held to mark the launch of the Truro School Music Project, a transformative initiative to develop a new, multi-million-pound music centre and refurbished, multi-purpose Assembly Hall. This project also paves the way for improved facilities to support pupil wellbeing.

As guests were seated in the Hall, Mr Andy Johnson welcomed pupils, alumni, staff, parents and guests from all over Cornwall and the United Kingdom with audiences enjoying performances from musicians from across the Senior and Prep School, including the Truro Cathedral Choristers and performances from our partners Cornwall Music Service Trust (CMST) which features students from all over Cornwall.

CMST is a charity providing music teaching, support and therapy to around 10,000 children across Cornwall. Now in its 10th Year, the charity has a long-standing partnership with Truro School, and this Music Project marks an important milestone in solidifying the partnership and strengthening and further supporting the vital work CMST does within Cornish music education.

The evening then moved to an overview of the ambitious plans for the Music Project. Scheduled for completion at the start of 2026, the Project will create a hub for musical education and aspiration in Cornwall, offering state-of-the-art facilities for pupils, the Truro community and beyond.



BRIGHT SMILES FOR THE NEW TERM



Looking refreshed and ready to face new challenges, Truro School pupils, students and staff returned to site after the Christmas break.

Rev. Helen led services in the Chapel, reflecting on predictions and possibilities for the year ahead. She urged our community to make good choices, led by hope, love, joy and peace.

Pupils also gathered for assemblies where year-group challenges and focuses were laid out. These were then developed further in tutor times, providing a chance for reflection and personal goals to be set.

SPRING TERM School News

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE IN ALICANTE



Pupils from the 4th Year to Sixth Form had an exciting long weekend exploring Alicante, which included a fascinating walking tour of the town, where the pupils had the chance to discover the historical landmarks and architectural wonders.

They enjoyed a tour of the food market, where they explored the stalls filled with fresh produce and local delicacies. They experienced traditional Spanish cuisine and practised their Spanish whilst purchasing goods. Also on the agenda was a visit to the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, where students had the chance to appreciate contemporary art, and a visit to Elche, where they enjoyed looking around the largest palm garden in Europe.

AN EXCEPTIONAL TRIP TO SKINNER'S BREWERY



Our Lower Sixth Business students had the opportunity to visit Skinners Brewery, a renowned Cornish business owned by Old Truronians **Louis** CO03 and **Jess Simpson** CO06. Led by Louis, the students were taken on an insightful tour, looking into the intricate brewing process and delving into all the behind-the-scenes of running a business. Beyond the brewery, Louis shared his invaluable advice about his experience running two contrasting businesses: Skinners Brewery, and his first business Troll Trader. He emphasised the importance of recruiting individuals with diverse skill sets and openly discussed his business setbacks, highlighting them as valuable learning opportunities. Louis' passion for turning hobbies into successful ventures resonated with the students, and they were very eager to ask questions inspired by this. One student, also named Louis, expressed how the visit prompted him to contemplate the potential of turning his hobby into a business.

Overall, the visit to Skinners provided a valuable glimpse into the world of running a business, leaving the students motivated and inspired. A huge thank you to Louis and Jess for allowing their old school to visit.

AN INSIGHT TO BUSINESS AT HEALEY'S CYDER FARM

The students were warmly welcomed and given a tour of the farm and factory. Led by the knowledgeable staff, they had the chance to witness the intricate processes involved in crafting their renowned ciders. This hands-on experience allowed the students to appreciate the meticulous attention to detail and the dedication required to maintain the high-quality standards of Healey's products.

Furthermore, the students were encouraged to ask questions during a Q&A session with **Joe Healey** CO04. This interaction provided invaluable insights into the behind-the-scenes operations of the business. Joe's expertise and

willingness to share his experiences allowed the students to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by Healey's Cyder Farm.

One of the most enlightening aspects of the trip was Joe Healey's discussion on how external factors, beyond the control of the business, have influenced product development at Healey's. Specifically, he shed light on the shift towards increased consumption of low-alcohol and low-calorie beverages, which has significantly impacted the company's strategies. A huge thank you to Joe for inviting the School and taking the time to talk to the students.

CELEBRATING GENERATIONS



Excitement filled the air as our 1st Year pupils gathered in the Chapel, to welcome nearly 100 grandparents to their school.

The event began with a warm welcome from the Head, followed by a beautiful performance by our Chamber Choir and a short service led by Rev. Helen.



The 1st Years then led their grandparents on a short tour of the School, showcasing their form rooms, the Theatre, the Library and some of their favourite classrooms.

Following the tours, guests were invited to join the pupils for a delicious tea and cakes in the Dining Room before heading off for half term.

Heartfelt thanks to all the lovely grandparents and grandfriends who joined us for this wonderful occasion, and to the 1st Years for being such excellent hosts.



DANCERS SHINE IN SHOWCASE

Truro School dancers joined secondary schools from across Cornwall in a dazzling dance and drama spectacular at the Hall for Cornwall. Their vibrant performances featured members of the Friday dance club, who energised the audience with an upbeat routine set to the beats of Tom Walker's 'Burn'. Meanwhile, Wednesday's dance group showcased their artistry with a captivating contemporary dance performance, choreographed to Cody Fry's 'Underground'.

EXCEPTIONAL INTERNATIONAL OFFERS FOR FLORENCE



Congratulations to Sixth Former Florence on receiving an unconditional offer from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, to study Business. She has also received offers from other prestigious overseas universities, such as McGill, Western and Concordia in Quebec.

Notre Dame is ranked in the top 20 US colleges and is known for its selectivity. Out of 11,500 applications in the early round, Florence secured one of the 1,742 available places, making Notre Dame more selective than Oxford and Cambridge. Additionally, Notre Dame only accepts around 8% of international students in their freshman class.

Florence, who is studying A-Levels in Chemistry, Maths and Drama, will be well recognised for roles in productions of Boudica and Les Misérables. But she said it was the research she did for her EPQ project on the perfume industry that has really sparked her interest in studying Business at university.

Florence already has some experience of Canada through her brother and said, "I decided in the Lower Sixth I wanted to apply to international universities, and I can't wait to get out there, meet some amazing people, and also, of course, enjoy the snow."

We wholeheartedly congratulate Florence on her accomplishments, and although it might be a little early for her to decide precisely which offer she will take up, we look forward to hearing all about her plans across the pond.

SUMMER TERM School News

FUN AND FINDS AT THE FTS BEACH CLEAN

On a gloriously sunny afternoon, our boarding community joined over 20 families and staff members from Truro School and Truro School Prep for the annual FTS picnic and beach clean at Watergate Bay.

Led by Rob from Beach Guardian, our beach-cleaning crew were provided with gloves, litter pickers and collection bags before they scoured the shoreline to recover buckets of waste including microplastics, glass and plastic bottles, a croc and some pipe insulation. Some of the more unusual finds included an old badge that might have been a 'collectable' from a cereal packet, an entire cuttlefish and a firework rocket (discovered in two parts).

To celebrate the buckets of waste that are no longer clogging our shorelines or entering our waters, each of the children was treated to a delicious ice cream as a thank you for their hard work.



MAGNIFI'DOG'?



Tayto, the beloved Prep School support dog, has been making appearances at Evensong, much to the delight of our choristers. Tayto, with his calm demeanour, has been sitting patiently in the probationer choristers' stalls during the services. While the choristers raise their voices in song, Tayto observes attentively, though he has yet to lend his own vocal talents to the choir.

Despite his good behaviour, Tayto can't help but express a bit of confusion. As the choristers sing the Magnificat, he raises his head quizzically, perhaps wondering when they'll introduce the Magnifidog (credit to Mrs Gregory for that one!). Nonetheless, he remains a cherished presence in the Cathedral, bringing joy and comfort to our choristers.

GRANDPARENTS' CREAM TEA AT PREP



Truro School Prep was busier than usual as the grandparents of pupils in Years 3 to 6 joined their grandchildren for the first Grandparents' Afternoon Cream Tea event at Prep. As the gates opened, families flocked into the School grounds, welcomed with a concert from some of our talented pupils and Truro School Prep Choir. Our visiting grandparents were joined by their grandchildren, with beautiful smiles, warm hugs and excited chatter galore.

The afternoon allowed grandparents to tour our beautiful School, with a chance to pop into classrooms, chat with staff and teachers and visit our fantastic facilities, including our extensive outdoor learning areas, sports hall, swimming pool and DT lab.

Our excited pupils happily showed off their work and talked about their favourite lessons and experiences at school as they proudly guided their grandparents around.

For many of our visitors it was a trip down memory lane, as several were Truro School alumni or had children who had also been pupils at Truro School. With tours completed, it was time for a lavish afternoon tea of scones, cookies and cakes in the Dining Hall.

There was an exciting carousel of outdoor activities and lollies for those pupils whose grandparents were unable to attend, ensuring that all had a memorable afternoon.

CHORISTERS SHINE IN SALISBURY



The choristers spent Bank Holiday Monday in Salisbury where they were fortunate enough to visit the Cathedral and take part in a performance.

During their time there, the boy choristers were given a tour of the Cathedral which included looking at the Salisbury Cathedral clock, a large iron-framed tower clock without a dial, and a view of the Magna Carta, one of the best examples of only four surviving Magna Carta documents from 1215.

The Cathedral Choir then rehearsed and sang a service of Choral Evensong, celebrating the music of Charles Villiers Stanford, who died 100 years ago this year. It was a truly uplifting experience, and we were extremely proud of our choristers who showed great maturity and confidence in their performance.

INTRODUCING CODING AT PREP



A group of pupils from Prep got to grips with an introduction to the world of coding today. The session, led by Robert Wiltshire, Education Outreach and Digital Skills Developer at Tech Cornwall, provided the class with a valuable insight into Python, a popular programming language. Python is used in AI, machine learning and data analysis and lets users work quickly and integrate systems effectively.

Coding is a vital skill that our pupils will undoubtedly encounter more and more in their futures. Tech Cornwall is at the heart of software development in Cornwall and hopes to create a pool of talent from within the county by investing in education.

For our session, the budding coders used Microbit, a programmable board with two buttons, a microphone, LEDs and various other items, to develop projects. Usually a topic for 3rd Years, our Prep group quickly got to grips with how to enter code and then see the results coming to 'life' on the Microbit. They were able to create smiley (and sad) faces, play music and create basic sequences through their coding prowess.

SUMMER TERM School News

626 TRANSITION DAY



Senior Prefect Elwyn was very busy organising a transition day for the Year 6 pupils at Truro School Prep to help ease their transition to the Senior School in September. Entirely student-led, the aptly named '626 Day' provides our Year 6s with a dynamic carousel of activities including a Maths scavenger hunt, Physics and Biology practical sessions and creating fossil casts for Geology.

Held at Truro School Prep, each exciting session was run by a group of newly appointed Sixth Form prefects. It was a fantastic opportunity for the younger pupils to get acquainted with new subjects while forming all-important bonds with their new prefect team.

There was also time for the Year 6 pupils to quiz the prefects about life at the Senior School, with questions ranging from whether there would be salt on the chips (there will) and what kind of activities the boarders got up to at weekends.



4TH YEAR GEOLOGISTS EXPLORE PRAA SANDS AND GODREY

4th Year Geologists enjoyed beautiful weather for their fieldwork at Praa Sands and Godrevy. The day provided a perfect opportunity for pupils to see in the field what they have been learning in class all year, and all within an hour's drive from school.

They began by identifying igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks through close examination of their textures. They then were able to consolidate their understanding of how each rock was formed by group discussion designed to promote their retrieval of core content from the GCSE course.

At Praa Sands pupils were tasked to work in groups to predict how the orientation and size of phenocrysts would vary across a dyke before systematically sampling along a transect to test their theories.

At both locations pupils were also able to examine evidence for climatic change, from a peat deposit formed when sea levels were lower in the last 2000 years, to a raised beach deposit at Godrevy formed shortly after the last Glacial Period.



LAMDA SHOWCASE WOWS AUDIENCE



Friends and families gathered at the Burrell Theatre for an evening of outstanding performances by this year's LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) pupils. The showcase featured a variety of acting monologue and duologue pieces, showcasing the talent and dedication of pupils and students preparing for exams ranging from Grade 2 to Grade 8.

The audience was treated to a superb display of acting prowess as each pupil delivered their pieces with skill and confidence. LAMDA exams not only help pupils develop their acting abilities but also improve communication skills, boost confidence and enhance overall performance abilities.

Congratulations to all the talented performers and a special thanks to Claire Rawlinson, LAMDA teacher at Truro School, for organising such an incredible Showcase. As the pupils gear up for their upcoming LAMDA exams, we wish them all the best of luck in their continued success.



SPORTS DAY TRIUMPH FOR WICKETT



Excitement and anticipation filled the air at Truro School as pupils, staff, and parents gathered for the annual Sports Day. This year's event was particularly significant as it marked a historic victory for Wickett House, who clinched the Sports Day title for the first time in many years.

The afternoon was packed with thrilling finals in the 100m, 200m and 800m races. The School's four houses - Smith, School, Vinter and Wickett - competed in a bid for glory, with individual winners awarded medals on the Podium. Relay events added to the day's excitement, with each house giving their all. As the points were tallied, the atmosphere was electric with anticipation. When the final scores were announced, Wickett House emerged as the overall winner.

Truro School Head Mr Andy Johnson praised all the participants for their sportsmanship and determination and gave a special thanks to the Grounds team for the exceptionally presented track, before congratulating Wickett House on their historic win.

ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW



A massive thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's Royal Cornwall Show!

We had an incredible time catching up with Old Truronians of all ages and it was wonderful to see both familiar and new faces.

SUMMER TERM

School News



MARKING D-DAY 80

June 6th marked 80 years since the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy. D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in history and, alongside airborne operations, was the turning point towards the liberation of France and Western Europe in World War II.

Assemblies at Prep and the Senior School allowed our pupils to reflect on the magnitude of this historic event. Mr Johnson talked of Cornwall and the South West's role in the landings, quoting a veteran from Plymouth, Bill Johnstone, who was 21 at the time of D-Day. He said, "You did what you had to do, and when the day arrived that was what it was like, and you did it."

Mr Johnson went on to reflect on the courage needed to face such adversity and asked, "When it truly matters for your friends, for our School, for the communities we are part of, or for the society in which we belong, do we individually and collectively have the courage to look beyond ourselves?" He encouraged our School community to find a balance between collective needs and individual wants and encouraged discussion around this in lessons throughout the week.

At Prep, Rev. Helen also looked at Cornwall's role in D-Day and how Trebah, Turnaware and Falmouth were three important beaches and coastal areas involved in supporting the troops on their historic departure to Normandy. She noted, "It is fitting perhaps that Cornwall played such a key role in the multi-national effort that was D-Day, because it embodied in a powerful sense our Cornish commitment to 'One and All'." She reminded pupils that, by working together, we can achieve incredible things.

The Assembly finished with Rev. Helen asking our School Community to always strive to remember those who fought and died for us and to honour their memory and sacrifice, before leading a prayer and a minute's silence.

In lessons, our 3rd Year historians have been studying World War II and today looked at sources to help them to better understand D-Day. From veteran accounts and reconstructions, it was wonderful to witness the palpable respect that these young people showed for our D-Day veterans as they better understood the very harsh realities of the war.

Our lucky 1st Years were treated to a visit from Mrs Jobling, whose grandfather, Philip J Wagener, served as a Private First Class in the 175th Infantry Regiment in the US Army. His regiment played a crucial role in the Omaha Beach landing, one of the most fierce and bloody battles on the 6th of June 1944. Sadly, Philip died in a military hospital a few weeks after D-Day and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, which recognises commendable action for those wounded or killed in combat.

Mrs Jobling brought in the medal for our pupils to see, alongside maps and books from Normandy. It was a truly humbling and special moment as our pupils once again reflected on the bravery and courage shown on D-Day by the Allied Forces, some of whom were the same age as our Sixth Formers when they went to war.



SEASONAIRES SHOWCASE

Truro School Cookery was abuzz with the sounds of clinking glasses and the enticing aroma of delicious food as graduates from the Truro School Cookery Seasonaires Course hosted a sit-down three-course meal for their parents and guests.

Students and staff warmly greeted their guests with a glass of sparkling wine and a delectable selection of canapes, including haddock goujons with aioli, sundried tomato and mozzarella suppli and pea and mint crostini.

The guests then sat down to starters of ricotta and lemon tortellini with sage, followed by a main course of

chicken saltimbocca with marinated courgette ribbons. The evening culminated with a toast to the chefs and a decadent tiramisu, served alongside coffee and petit fours.

Congratulations to all our students for their dedication, meticulous planning and washing up! This evening was a moment of immense pride as we reflected on the remarkable achievements of these talented young chefs throughout the year. As part of the Sixth Form Diploma, the Seasonaires Course is designed to equip students with the culinary expertise for seasonal work abroad and aims to cultivate a love of cooking.



TRURO'S HEDGEHOGS ON TOUR

Eagle-eyed passers-by of the Trafalgar Roundabout in Truro, which Truro School sponsors, may have noticed that one of the resident hedgehogs, Denzil, is missing.

Denzil is currently on his travels, having received a much-needed makeover, and has made a star appearance at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. He played a part in the Britain in Bloom display, celebrating 60 years of this iconic competition.

Denzil will then return to his natural habitat on the roundabout, alongside his siblings Kizzy, Patricia and Cecil, who are awaiting their makeovers in the coming months.

SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS ISOTY AWARDS



We are thrilled to announce Truro School has been shortlisted in two of the most highly coveted categories at the Independent Schools of the Year (ISOTY) 2024 Awards: 'Co-educational Independent School of the Year' and 'Independent Prep School of the Year.'

Recognised as the leading awards in the UK independent education sector, the ISOTY Awards celebrate excellence in education. Dr Helen Wright, Chair of ISOTY, remarked, "It has been truly wonderful to receive so many nominations which clearly celebrate 'excellence in education' and showcase the myriad of activities in which our students have the opportunity to excel."

Being shortlisted for these awards is a huge honour, reflecting the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff, pupils and students. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the ISOTY judges for recognising our commitment to providing outstanding co-educational opportunities and for considering Truro School Senior and Prep to be 'best in class'.

SUMMER TERM
School News



FESTIVAL OF COURAGE

We were delighted to host our third annual Truro School Festival: the 2024 Festival of Courage.

Designed to celebrate our School values, this annual event first began in 2022 with the Festival of Curiosity, a value that drives us to develop knowledge and understanding through inspirational opportunities. Last year, we celebrated Compassion by looking outwards to our wider communities; in School, in Truro, throughout Cornwall and globally.

For 2024, our value is Courage, a value that drives our School Community to enjoy becoming the very best of who we are, with integrity and ambition.



Our festival lineup brought together many of our Summer Term fixtures such as World AIMS, Sports Day and our Year 6 Play as well as a raft of one-off concerts, performances and events that are underpinned by this most inspiring of values.



TRURO SCHOOL CONNECTED

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



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for life

2023-24



NANCY KENWARD
HEAD OF CAREERS

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

The Careers Department has had another busy year, with a host of events taking place within the School calendar. In 2023-24, we were incredibly lucky to welcome a number of speakers in to discuss their careers, many of them Old Truronians or parents. Our programme of events started in September with a brilliant talk from **Jamie Craze** CO17 who now works for Omnevue. Having completed an Economics degree at Edinburgh, he gave some great advice on the growing importance of businesses collecting data to monitor their carbon emissions and other environmental factors.

Other speakers this year have included Matt Cooke, a current parent who described the fast-changing and rapidly expanding world of cyber security, **Tom Sawle** CO07, current parent, who gave an exciting and realistic account of the opportunities within both the Royal Navy and the RAF, and **Kevin Barnes** CO90, a current parent and former pupil. Kevin has had a varied and distinguished career with the Environment Agency and spoke about the environmental sector as an area of huge opportunity.

Rob Headland left us in 2022 and gained an apprenticeship placement. Currently working for Bishop Fleming, a large regional accountancy firm, he gave some great advice to students considering apprenticeships. For those students wishing to get straight into the world of work and avoid the huge financial costs of gaining a degree through university, these pathways are looking increasingly exciting.

Several current U6th students have gained places on similarly prestigious apprenticeship schemes this year, including Aimee Whitelegg at Airbus and David Nicholls at Barclays. Wesley Coultas and his colleagues offered some brilliant insights into the world of finance and also launched the Walker Cripps Investment Challenge competition. Students were given the opportunity to 'invest' in a range of different

businesses over the course of two months. Walker Cripps was thrilled to announce the winning team last term: 5th Year students Oscar and Rory, winning with an impressive 8% increase in their investments. We finished off our season of Careers Lunches with the **Tom Harvey** CO13 talk about his career in international finance law.

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

In June we also held the Lower Sixth Post-18 Options days, and as usual, we were very lucky to have so many former pupils who volunteered to give up their time to assist us in delivering a wide range of lectures and workshops. **Warwick Royden** CO12 delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking session on running a business. With several different businesses in his portfolio, including the successful Skyline Cinema company, Warwick provided students with a valuable insight into the day-to-day challenges and advantages of being your own boss. **Ben Stone** CO22, **Sam Haywood** CO17 and **Tobi Rowe** spoke with such passion and detail about their gap years and the pros and cons of travel between A-Levels and university.

Tobi also joined **Torrin Gillies** CO17 to share advice and tips on student living in London. They gave some great advice on making the most of the capital while managing the costs of living there. In the current job market we are seeing more and more companies switch to assessment centres rather than traditional standalone interviews.



With that in mind, we also invited Carrie White (governor and parent) to deliver a session which provided vital information on how to succeed in the selection process. We were also joined by a host of other former pupils who joined staff members in the subject-specific sessions, including **Charlie Chilcott** CO21, **Jenna Bray** CO17, **Maya Bessell** CO23, **Lowenna Wearne** CO20, **Reuben McCartney** CO23, **Finn MacDonald** CO22, **Codi Brookes**, **Heidi Machin** CO23, **Thurston Blount** CO22, **Lucy Mitten** CO21, **Alex Martin** CO20, **Helena Paish** CO20, **Soumya Sen** CO23, **Holly Giles** CO23, **Kushal Sharma** CO21, **Ben Stone** CO22, **Paul Dinkle**, **Theo Brown** CO23 and **Ben Edwards** CO22. Their insights were invaluable to our current students, and I was very sorry that I didn't get a chance to catch up with everyone while they were here!

As always, we feel incredibly lucky to be able to provide our current pupils with inspirational speakers from our Old Truronians - their generosity and enthusiasm is an essential part of the careers provision at Truro School.

Last term I requested help and advice from alumni via our LinkedIn page, Truro School Connected, and some of our current pupils have benefitted from fantastic insights into the international hospitality industry, securing accommodation in London and gap years as a result.

In March 2025 we will be holding our next Careers Convention at Truro School. The Convention is a valuable opportunity for our students to engage with Old Truronians and local and national businesses.

Students are able to ask questions about career pathways, opportunities and roles within a range of industries. As always, we rely on the goodwill of businesses, former pupils and parents who volunteer to give up their time to speak to our students. If you or the company you work for would be interested in attending the convention next year, please do get in touch.

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

CAREER TALK

Jamie Craze CO17



Jamie Craze CO17 visited the School on 22 September to share with current students his advice on a career in sustainable finance. Jamie studied at Truro School from 2010-2017, before going to the University of Edinburgh to study Economics & Politics. Jamie spoke to students about studying for his A-Levels (Philosophy, Maths and Economics) and the process of applying to university.

“A-Level results day, for me, was the worst day of my life so far!” After not receiving the results he expected, Jamie described how he had to make plans for a life after school which he was not expecting.

With ambitions to be an investment banker in London, a change in A-Levels meant rethinking what Jamie was interested in, and where he could safely continue to practise fencing alongside his studies. Also, as an international fencer for the British squad, whichever university he ended up at, the sports facilities were an important factor.

With support from the School and his family, he was quickly able to make plans for the University of Edinburgh and moved up to Scotland within a couple weeks of being accepted. The experience that became more unexpected however was founding an events management start-up. Jamie was soon running two-weekly club nights.

Jamie described how, at university, he developed an interest for sustainable

finance and corporate responsibility which led him to studying further for a masters in Climate Change Finance and Investment at Edinburgh, which he completed in 2022.

Today Jamie works for Omnevue, a start-up software engine which connects to businesses’ financial, HR and other data sources to quickly collect, analyse and report on it – to an international accounting standard. Jamie and his team are able to then indicate to a business how sustainable and healthy a company really is.

Huge thanks to Jamie for sharing his journey with the current students, and for his valuable insights into adapting when life doesn’t quite go the way you intended, and forging a career in finance and start-ups.

CAREER TALK

Rob Headland CO22



Accountancy Apprenticeship with Bishop Fleming

Rob Headland CO22 returned to School to deliver a talk to Sixth Formers who were considering an apprenticeship pathway after leaving. Rob is currently undertaking an ACA apprenticeship with the Truro-based office of Chartered Accountancy firm Bishop Fleming.

At school, Rob studied for A-Levels in Maths, Economics and Music, receiving grade 8 in every subject. Before completing his A-Levels he applied for the apprenticeship pathway with the firm and received an offer to be interviewed and examined just two weeks after his final exam. To qualify now he will

have to take on 15 exams in the space of five years, which is the equivalent to studying for a master’s degree (but without the university fees!).

During Rob’s talk to the students, he discussed the benefits of going down an apprenticeship route, particularly in his circumstance, such as being able to work amongst colleagues in all age groups and the career progression that can come quickly after qualifying.

He also talked about working at a firm in Truro, allowing him to live at home and enjoy the advantages of working in Cornwall – such as paddleboarding after a day’s work.

We asked Rob what his five-year plan is: number one was to gain as much management experience as possible, and number two is to join a business once qualified, and work towards top positions such as CFO.

In terms of any advice Rob would give a current student or recent leaver thinking about the apprentice route in Chartered Accountancy, his only advice was to apply early, as these roles are so in demand now and there are more applicants than jobs available.

Huge thanks to Rob for taking the time to come back to the School for a careers talk.

CAREER TALK

Lottie Millar CO20



Old Truronian **Lottie Millar** CO20 kindly offered her time on International Women’s Day in her capacity as a 5th year medical student at the University of Exeter to offer advice to current pupils thinking about a career in medicine as a woman in a STEM career. After years of volunteering in a local hospice, and completing A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Geology, she successfully applied for the University of Exeter and is now based at the Knowledge Spa in Truro.

During her talk, Lottie delved into the application process and how she fared in the pre-admission tests, offered advice on interviews and, more generally, the intricacies of studying medicine and embarking on a career as a doctor.

Poignantly, Lottie shared how she first began to aspire to be a doctor when she was just 13 years old and so, when the time came to apply for university,

she knew for certain it was Medicine she wanted to apply for. Since beginning her course in 2020, the experience she has gained enabled her to shed light on the diverse opportunities within the medical profession, encouraging students to explore various specialties and find their niche. From paediatric to intensive care, from research to general practice, she underscored the vast array of paths available to those with a passion for healing and service, and talked about the aspects she loved the most and which areas she hoped to specialise in.

Lottie’s return to the Science block at School served as a poignant reminder of how a Truro School education can provide pupils with the tools they need to move on after leaving. Looking ahead, Lottie has aspirations to become a GP after qualifying, and continue with the training over the years. Huge thanks to Lottie for taking the time to visit our aspiring medics.

THIS YEARS’ INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY PARTICULARLY AIMED TO INSPIRE INCLUSION.

The Truro School’s Development and Alumni Relations team are always eager to hear from Old Truronians, but it is a fact that we hear far more from the men that leave TS than from the women. Can any women Old Truronians help us to inspire inclusion by getting in touch so we can share your story with our community and current students? We want to include as many women as possible in the messages we share with our community, with an aim to inspire and demonstrate to Old Truronians and current pupils how impactful Old Truronians are in the world.

Notable Female Old Truronians

Jess Alderson CO08 (2001-08) & **Lou Alderson** CO11 (2004-11)
Co-founders of the dating app So Syncd

Fran Brown CO03 (TS 1996-2003)
Paralympic climber, triathlete, cyclist

Ann Glaze (nee Gripper) CO98 (TS 1991-98)
Senior editor at Reach plc (the Mirror, West Briton etc.), host of the Mirror’s royal themed podcast ‘Pod Save the Queen’

Julia Goldsworthy CO97 (TS 1990-97)
Former Liberal Democrat MP

Laura Harper CO02 (TS 1995-2000)
Former England cricketer

Ellen Husain CO94 (TS 1992-94)
TV Director/Producer – The Hunt, Ocean Giants, Life Story and writer for BBC Wildlife Magazine

Lucy Nethsingha CO91 (TS 1989-91)
Former MEP; Liberal Democrat leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

Tassy Swallow CO12 (TS 2005-07)
Professional surfer, British Champion



LAW TALK

Tom Harvey CO13

Tom came back to visit the School on Thursday 20 June to deliver a talk about working in law to our aspiring law students and generally those thinking of working in the City. After leaving in 2013, Tom was accepted to the University of Cambridge to study for BA Law and then to Queen Mary, University of London to study for a Master of Laws.

Following his studies, Tom was accepted to Clifford Chance as a trainee solicitor before qualifying there as an Associate. In 2023, an opportunity came up to work at Watson Farley & Williams. The firm specialises in the energy, infrastructure and transport sectors.

Tom took time to describe to students the intricacies of working in law, and navigating the career ladder in this field. There was much advice, from which degree to choose to getting started in firms themselves by obtaining vacation schemes and training contracts. Tom was asked about opportunities to potentially work abroad, either for deals or on longer secondments, and there was discussion around the work/life balance that potentially comes with working in law.

Huge thank you to Tom for generously offering his time to come back to speak to our aspiring law students.

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 or phone 01872 246010.



TRURO SCHOOL COOKERY

RECIPE

Piedmont roasted peppers with rosemary potatoes, mackerel & basil gremolata. Taken from Foolproof One Pot by Head of Cookery, Alan Rosenthal.

I've built on this super simple recipe to create a complete one-pot meal thanks to the addition of some potatoes and fresh mackerel added towards the end. This is a lovely, light and summery dish that's perfect served straight from the oven or at room temperature.

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4:

600g new potatoes, halved

5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp finely chopped rosemary

2 red peppers halved and deseeded

2 tomatoes, quartered

2 garlic cloves, finely sliced

4 anchovies

4 fresh mackerel fillets

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the gremolata:

15g basil leaves, finely chopped

1 tbsp capers, drained and finely chopped

Zest of 1 lemon



PROCEDURE

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6.
2. Add the potatoes to a wide, shallow ovenproof dish with 1 tbsp of the olive oil, the rosemary, some salt and black pepper. Give everything a good toss with your hands.
3. Now add the halved peppers, cut-side up, to the pot, nestling them among the potatoes. Place 2 tomato quarters in each pepper half, followed by the sliced garlic. Then, using scissors, snip an anchovy into pieces into each pepper.
4. Drizzle the remaining oil into the pepper halves and give them a good grind of black pepper. Pop in the oven and roast for 1 hour.
5. After 30 minutes, remove the pot from the oven and give the potatoes a little nudge with a wooden spoon, being careful not to allow the juices from within the peppers to escape.
6. Return to the oven for the remaining time.
7. Meanwhile, mix the gremolata ingredients together in a small bowl.
8. Once the pot has been in the oven for the hour, remove it and increase the temperature to 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7.
9. Rub the mackerel fillets with olive oil and season.
10. Once the oven has heated up, top the potatoes and peppers with the mackerel fillets, skin-side up, using them to cover up any more charred bits of pepper or browner pieces of potato.
11. Roast for 7-10 minutes until the fillets are just cooked (this will depend on how large your fillets are). Remove from the oven and scatter with the gremolata just before serving.



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Pause For Thought

From Reverend Helen Byrne



‘and what does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God’

(Micah chapter 6, verse 8)

I have always enjoyed walking. Being out in the fresh air following a path through the countryside is, for me, an important part of looking after what I like to call my spiritual wellbeing. There is a real sense of feeling connected as I walk, I'm able to process my thoughts and reflect on the day. After a good walk (usually accompanied by one of our dogs trotting alongside) I feel calm, refreshed and often recharged – all good indicators of wellbeing. In the past I've enjoyed walking along the Peak Pilgrimage, St Cuthbert's Way, doing the Keswick to Barrow challenge and covering many miles in the Scottish Highlands. Now in Cornwall, I find my footsteps take me onto beaches and coastal paths, drinking in the stunning views and fresh coastal air all around.

When I took over from Aubin as School Chaplain in September 2023, I talked about my role as being a ministry of presence, walking alongside members of our School community: supporting, celebrating, encouraging along the way. As part of my Prep-induction,

I accompanied pupils from years four, five and six on three delightful walks, through forest, glade and coastal path. Each around five miles long and a good reminder of the energy (and speed) of young tireless legs, compared to my slightly older and less in-training ones! It was great fun keeping up with them and chatting along the way.

Walking is encouraged at the Senior School too; each day being present on site is a walk in itself. Based close to the Chapel, my days are often filled with several journeys up and down the various levels of the site to meet with staff and pupils (very good for getting your steps in apparently). Walking is also central to our Duke of Edinburgh scheme here, which involves many pupils from 3rd Year up, working towards Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. They undertake various levels of expeditions involving lots of walking accompanied by camping (and usually some dodgy weather!). It is great to see walking being encouraged in many ways across both sites.



When I took over from Aubin as School Chaplain in September 2023, I talked about my role as being a ministry of presence, walking alongside members of our school community: supporting, celebrating, encouraging along the way.

Being a Methodist School, I want to encourage us to walk in the footsteps of those gone before us, through exploring our Methodist heritage here in Cornwall. With that in mind, we took some of our boarders to Gwennap Pit, just a few miles outside of Truro, made famous by the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, who first visited this "round green hollow" in 1762. He described it as "the most magnificent spectacle this side of heaven", loving it so much he returned seventeen times and preached to thousands of local people, many of whom were from mining communities. Wesley believed in getting out being alongside people where they were. He said "the world is my parish" and travelled 250,000 miles around the UK on horseback to preach, pray and speak up for ordinary people, visiting schools, hospitals, prisons and places of work. He often preached outdoors, passionate about responding to the needs of the poor and being a big advocate for change to social injustices he uncovered on his travels.

Wesley's journeys around Cornwall left foot (and hoof!) prints all over this beautiful county we can still trace today. At Gwennap Pit, our boarders enjoyed

'walking the mile' around the pit, journeying round and down till arriving at the centre, then retracing our steps back up and out. Here we sat where others before us had sat to hear Wesley preach and felt valued and loved; here we walked where others had travelled before us and, whilst we were not on horseback, we were indeed walking in the paths of Methodist and Cornish history combined, leaving footprints of our own.

The Methodist Church today continues in Wesley's footsteps, as a 'justice-seeking' church. As a Methodist School, we look to the person of Christ as our model, and following in Wesley's footsteps as we strive to be the best authentic versions of ourselves. This authenticity is at the heart of our Methodist Ethos. Our World AIMS (World Action in Methodist Schools) programme offered in Prep and Seniors through the year is a way of encouraging us to see the world as our parish and seek ways to be good global neighbours.

In our Year of Courage we explored how we could be courageous advocates for change, finding our voices through art, drama, music, science and sport.

Together we learned about real life struggles of those affected by climate change, those displaced by war and those who have had their human rights denied. Whilst we can never walk in the shoes of another human being, we can learn about their struggles and seek to support them on their journeys through realising our voices can and do make a difference.

In 8BCE, the prophet Micah spoke wisely, seeing the need for humanity in his day to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

A few centuries later, Christ came along to show us how to be justice-seeking, kind and how to walk humbly with God. As we travel on through our journeys as part of the Truro School Community, it is my sincere hope and prayer we continue to follow in the footsteps of our Methodist founders, upholding our values and ethos of being a justice-seeking, kind community, finding our voice, supporting others with theirs and being good companions on the road.

May God bless you all on your journeys ahead.

Reverend Helen Byrne



Governors Report

I was very sorry to miss Speech Day. Just when we all thought that Covid was a thing of the past, I manage to catch it. I am thankful to Liz Garner for stepping in and speaking, she did a wonderful job at the Hall for Cornwall.

I think it important that our days of celebration can be held in the heart of Truro. It is an opportunity to showcase our achievements in the centre of our community and city. Truro School is so much more than the site and premises. It is a facility that provides for diverse community inclusion, and as such we should celebrate. That inclusion is provided by you all through everything we do in the interests of education and the development of the next generation.

It is important in these times to recognise the importance of how Truro School integrates with our local society. We are not one of the large, wealthy, endowed independent schools but a school that provides for our own pupils and gives them the best education, as well as providing benefits in the community for others. Whether that be through our relationship with the Cornwall Music Services Trust, engagement in careers advice, inclusive invitations to the Summer Festival; they are all examples of how, as a school, we provide for all.

We have a new government and changing scenery on our stage. It is too early as I write to comment at length on the significance of this for our School, but we are aware of the publicised intentions regarding VAT. I would assure you that the Governing Body of this school will do all it reasonably can to support parents, pupils and stakeholders alike through whatever occurs in the coming months and years, as, indeed, we have always done through different challenges in the past.

This gives me an 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 strategic direction 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 are pleased to have three new Governors this year. The level of applications is a demonstration of the desire to be involved in a school which has commitment and ambition in furthering the education and life offerings to all.

This year sees the two Deputy Chairs Liz Garner and Nigel Ashcroft retire, to be replaced by Richard Raistrick and Martin Ayliffe. I am so very grateful for the support that Liz and Nigel have provided over the last four years, providing expertise in their own fields. The Governing body has been a better place having you near and I am pleased that you remain on the board.

When I became Chair there were significant changes in the Governance and Leadership of the School. We had a new Head, and we lost a well-respected and established Chair along with other members of the Governing Body who had vast experience.

I was privileged to have received the support in being promoted to Chair, but my background is in buildings and surveying, which is not much use when leading governance of a multi-million-pound education establishment. Knowing that the structural movement that has historically occurred to the Chapel is not unduly serious is helpful, but not necessarily the most important focus.



RICHARD THOMAS
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Liz with her extensive educational background and Nigel with his business acumen and commercial leadership have been vital in the success of the last few years. It has been a real adventure along the way, there have been vital and difficult decisions and many achievements over the time, so thank you for all your support and expertise as I could not have done it without you.

The strength in governance is in teamwork and we are thankful to have two new Deputy Chairs in Richard and Martin. With both of them in place, plus support from former deputies and the whole of the Governing Body, we can continue in our endeavours to provide the best for Truro School.

Four years ago, the Governing Body and Leadership Team established a new Strategic Plan. Part of that process was ensuring that the individual achievements in the plan were measurable. There are many Strategic

Plans that are produced with good intention but little direction to achieve the end result. We were keen to avoid this pitfall and therefore agreed the development of an annual Action Plan with graduated targets. This involves a lot of work for the Leadership Team but, as a Governing Body, we are impressed by the way it has been embraced and that is shown by the positive developments that have occurred in School. We can all see the benefits of the Plan coming to fruition and in the next 12 months will look at the next phase of development and renewal of the Strategic Plan.

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 special is our Methodist ethos, and Helen Byrne, our new Chaplain, has

now been with us for a year. Helen has slotted into the role with such ease, and it is a pleasure to see her develop relationships and bring a new dynamic throughout.

I want to make mention of the Summer Festival with its emphasis on courage. From last year at its inception, it has grown and become more inclusive in the community, beyond Truro School itself.

This is important in current times and to see the performances of Crossroads, the Rock Concert, Jazz on the Lawn, the Musicals Night and many others cannot fail to leave a strong sense of pride to all that engaged.

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.



OLD TRURONIAN
Obituaries

TRURO SCHOOL NOTIFICATION RECEIVED:
August 2023 - July 2024

MR IAN CHARLES
TRUMAN ALDERTON
TS 1961-1971

MR JOHN KNOWLES
TS 2006-2021

MR FREDERICK ROBERT
'BOB' ANDREW
TS 1940-1948

MS JANE LLOYD NEE KING
TS 1998-2011

MRS WENDY AYRES
TS 1958-1988

MR BENJAMIN
MATTHEW LUXON
TS 1948-1955

MR DAVID PRIESTLEY BALME
TS 1940-2024

MR ROBERT PARFETT
TS 1986-2007

MR MARIO CHADWICK
TS 2002-2004

MR MICHAEL
VICTOR PAULL
TS 1947-1952

MR FINLAY SHIVA CHARLES
TS 2006-2021

MR JAMES LAIRD PENGILLY
TS 1934-1938

MR MARTIN JAMES EBURNE
TS 1948-1954

MS CLAIRE E PRACEY
TS 1983-1985

MR SAMUEL PETER GUBBIN
TS 1943-1947

MR PHILLIP
GORDON PROWSE
TS 1963-1964

MS FREYJA HANSTEIN
NEE MUNDING
TS 1998-2005

MR PETER
JOSEPH RESEIGH
TS 1953-1958

MR ROGER HATTAM
TS 1953-1960

MR HENRY 'HARVEY'
HARVEY RICHARDS
TS 1937-1942

MR NEIL 'BILLY' CLIVE
HUNTER
TS 1972-1979

MR KENNETH JOHN KEAST
TS 1946-1951

MR HAROLD
DESMOND RICHARDS
TS 1941-1949

MR LEONARD 'JEFF' JAMES
JEFFREY KENDALL
TS 1943-1953

MR NICHOLAS DE
SAUSMAREZ
TS 1980-1998

MR BEVERLEY 'BEV'
JOHN KNIGHTS
TS 1958-1965

MR WILLIAM 'ALAN'
ALAN THOMAS
TS 1943-1949



**Harold
Desmond Richards**
CO49

1930-2024

Des died peacefully in hospital on Wednesday 13th March aged 93 years with his children by his side. He was born in St Stephen-in-Brannel in 1930 and attended Truro School, leaving in 1949. After completing his military service he attended Downing College, Cambridge from 1951 to 1954 reading Natural Sciences.

Following graduation, Des chose to work for Shell and that opened a wonderful world of opportunities, giving him a fulfilling career spanning many continents. He was a keen rugby player at school and university and played occasionally during the early part of his working career. Golf eventually took over, and when mobility reduced with age, bowls was the sport of choice.

He was married to Katie in 1959 with whom he had two children, Sally and John, and after her premature death in 1992 he remarried to Maureen in 1997. Based in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, they had 21 years together travelling the world visiting family before her death in 2018. Des spent his final years in a McCarthy and Stone development in Virginia Water, Surrey.

Throughout his life he maintained an attitude and ability to make the most out of anything that was thrown at him and he faced major change with astounding resilience, positivity and a 'can-do' attitude. He will be sorely missed, but what he leaves us with is great respect for his inspirational approach to life.

TRIBUTE BY
DES' SON, JOHN RICHARDS.



Tributes and Memories



Freyja Hanstein, née Munding CO05

1987-2023

Freyja Hanstein who “found beauty in the world wherever she went” has died after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Freyja, from Porthtowan, was a well-loved marketer who channelled her strength into helping others even in her darkest days.

Freyja had been through more than most, having lost her husband to abdominal cancer when he was aged just 26. Freyja herself was diagnosed with a brain tumour just ten months later. Following crippling treatment, she had to basically learn her entire vocabulary again but stunned all who knew her with her positive outlook on life.

Freyja distracted herself from her intense grief for a year after husband Lars' death in 2014 by burying herself in work and spending all her time with family. Two years after she entered remission, she wrote and designed Wholesome World, a health and wellness app aimed at everyone but particularly those going through chemo and radiotherapy. But in a sad statement released on November 19th 2023, her loved ones announced she had passed as a result of complications from a recurrence of her cancer.

A statement posted to the Wholesome World Instagram page reads: “It is with the most profound sense of loss that we share the sad news that Freyja Hanstein, Wholesome World’s creator, has passed away. She died peacefully in her sleep in the morning of the 16th of November as a result of complications from a recurrence of her cancer.

That you are reading this is testament to Freyja’s immense strength, positivity and perseverance. She created Wholesome World after losing her husband Lars to cancer, while in remission after her own first fight with a brain tumour. This project has been Freyja’s way of transforming those dark experiences into something positive and nourishing. Her love and creativity built Wholesome World, and we are immeasurably proud to have been here to support her, and to carry on what she started.

Here online, and in her book, Freyja wanted to share the things that sustained her - a love of the natural world, the ocean, travel and culture. She poured those things and her own energy into this project, and every success, every new supporter or follower encouraged her, and made her feel like she was giving something to other people who were struggling. Thank you all for your wonderful energy and for making her work mean something.

Freyja found beauty in the world wherever she went, and joy in sharing that beauty, reflecting it back to make those around her happy. She shared what she loved; a walk by the ocean, a delicious meal, a song, a poem, a cheeky smile. She was the girl with the flowers in her hair and a kind word for everyone. She was the woman who lost everything and stood up again and again. She is the daughter, the sister, the irreplaceable friend who will be missed and mourned and loved by everyone who knew her.

Wholesome World will be on pause for a while to recover from Freyja’s passing, but we will be back soon to continue her work, trying to bring the benefit of her kindness, hard work and wisdom to anyone it can help. If you knew Freyja, or you have taken something positive from her work, please let us know, we’d love to hear your memories and experiences. Thank you for your support.”

The post was met with a huge outpouring of love as dozens shared their memories and fondness of Freyja, a woman so well-known for her positive outlook on life and her contagious laughter and personality.

Tribute from Cornwall Live.
We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Freyja personally.



Obituary notifications and tributes for publication can be e-mailed to the Development Office by e-mail at tsconnections@truroschool.com or telephone **01872 246010** in the first instance.



Tributes and Memories



Mario Chadwick

Teacher of Design and Technology 2002-2004

1950 – 2023



Those of you who were at School then will be saddened to hear that Mario passed away in December 2023, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Mario was trained at Shoreditch College from 1968 to 1971. It was the college that produced some of the finest craft and teachers in the country; in fact, the whole of the DT department staff at Truro School had come from there.

Prior to teaching here, he had previously taught at what was originally St Austell Grammar School, which later became Poltair School. He was there from 1973 until 2001. His last few years there had been less than enjoyable for him it would appear. Mario arrived at Truro School as a result of a job share with **Dave Hodge** CO81, who taught DT at the time but was suffering with a chronic back problem.

TRIBUTE BY
TIM TALL
(HEAD OF DT 1980-2014)

From day one Mario had “presence” in the workshops, and I am not just referring to his lofty stature!

Coming into a well-established and successful department as a part-time member of staff is quite a challenge in itself, but it quickly became obvious just how able, talented and dynamic he was. He very rapidly built up a good rapport with the pupils, who he taught and guided with care and professionalism, introducing them to projects that were novel and educationally challenging.

The Sixth Form started to refer to him as “Chadders”, which he initially thought was a bit disrespectful, but I assured him it was nothing of the sort, and a sign of them liking him. Truro School pupils seldom held back with the nicknames they used for teachers that they either did not like or respect.

Over and above the day-to-day teaching, Mario became increasingly involved with the extra-curricular activities the department ran at lunch times and after school. This led to him encouraging and enabling many of our pupils to undertake projects that would ordinarily be unthinkable in their normal lessons. One such project was the manufacture of an acoustic guitar, where he guided one of our Lower Sixth formers, **John Dudding** CO06, who still, to this day, has his guitar as one of his prized possessions.

Mario had many passions: cricket, rock climbing and fishing to name but a few, and he also manufactured high-quality, bespoke cricket bats. He loved being on the water and owned his own boat which he kept at Charlestown. Over the years several of our pupils had designed and constructed small plywood dinghies, and one of them, **Richard “Widge” Jones** CO06, had been given an elderly Seagull

outboard to use on his, by his grandfather, the problem being that it had not been used for years! Mario stepped in, bringing in a collection of his own spare parts, and revived the engine, much to the students’ delight.

Mario was also approached by the Music Department to see if he could design and create a unique award for the department to recognise pupils who had achieved outstanding achievements. He came up with a treble clef design, which was quite unique and beautifully crafted. What he failed to realise was the pupil who this award was destined to go to, **Simon Jacobs** CO02, was a childhood friend of Mario’s son Miles!

Sadly, **Dave Hodge** decided not to continue working at school, so Mario’s contract ended much sooner than we wanted it to, and he left in July 2004.

Often in his free periods he would drive down to Sunny Corner on the Truro river to eat his lunch and relax. So, to thank him, I did a painting of the place to thank him for his efforts with the pupils in the department. On the day of its presentation, unbeknownst to me, he had created a cricket bat for my son **Edward Tall** CO12, as he was aware that my interest in sport was none too good, so we ended up doing an exchange of gifts in front of the entire staffroom.

After Truro School he carried on his teaching career with The Plymouth Brethren, firstly in St Austell and finally in Plymouth, having made them a set of sturdy benches for the workshops he was asked to equip for them. He retired in 2016. He leaves a widow Coleen and two sons, Miles and **Ross**, who himself was a student at Truro School from 2001-2003. Anyone who had contact with Mario should feel privileged to have known him.



Michael Victor Paull CO52

1935 - 2023

It is with great sadness that we learn that Michael V. Paull passed away on 9th April 2023. He was cremated in Staffordshire and his ashes will be scattered in Cornwall.

He came from a much-travelled Paull family from Redruth. His parents were Frances and Arthur Paull, Arthur being a miner who worked abroad in management positions.

Mike was born in Trinidad on 3rd Feb 1935, while his parents were working in Venezuela, and the family returned to Cornwall in 1939. Arthur then became Vice-Principal of the Camborne School of Mines until his death in 1951; Mike was only 16 years old at the time, with his younger brother **Charles** CO62 being just 7. Both attended Truro School. He enjoyed cricket and played rugby at their senior team as prop, and represented the School in tennis and at Junior County level.

Mike had attended Truro School until 17 and followed his father’s footsteps in mining, attending Camborne School of Mines. After graduating, he did his National Service in the Royal Engineers for two years.

He married in 1961 in Truro to Elizabeth Mitchell and went abroad to several different countries such as Africa, Guyana and Trinidad, working for diamond, gold, bauxite and copper mines. He has three children, **Nadia, Susan** and **Stephen** CO81 who also attended Truro School.

For enjoyment, Mike was very active in amateur dramatics playing various roles (e.g. in Jack and the Beanstalk). He loved to perform and was active. He loved to dance and listen to jazz music.

After working many years away, Mike decided to move back to the UK, first to Cornwall and then to work and live in Staffordshire. While living there he was the local Conservative Honorary president and Councillor for a number of years.

Growing up, our father told us so many Cornish jokes, he had a great memory and was always positive. He will be sadly missed by his wife, children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE BY
MICHAEL’S CHILDREN, NADIA FREEMAN, STEPHEN PAULL CO81 **AND SUSAN GOEYENBIER**



Truro School Tennis Team 1952



William Alan Thomas CO49

1932 – 2003

Alan attended Truro School from 1943-1949, travelling by train from Camborne each day. He very much enjoyed school, especially for the sporting opportunities it afforded him, and throughout his life he retained very strong memories of those teammates and matches, particularly with regard to cricket. He and his wife Janet returned for the fifty-year reunion which also became a much-revisited memory for him.

On leaving school he trained at the library college at Brighton, and with the exception of National Service, always lived in the Camborne area. He was proud to receive a long service award for his work within the Cornwall library service, initially on the West Cornwall travelling library, then in Redruth and finally Camborne. He and Janet raised three daughters and were later very proud grandparents.

Other than his family, his passion was Camborne Rugby Club. He was a lifelong member, a second team player, and both Treasurer and Assistant Secretary throughout the 1980s, also being asked to write the book commemorating the club’s centenary in 1978. He retained a great interest in the club despite being housebound during his later years.

Janet died in 2017 and the family are enormously proud of how well he coped on his own in subsequent years, only moving into a care home for the very last few months of his life.

TRIBUTE BY
ALAN’S DAUGHTER, VAL MAIDEN



Tributes and Memories



Jane Goodall King, née Lloyd

Teacher of Biology 1988-2011

1953 – 2023

Jane Lloyd grew up in Newquay in the fifties and sixties. She was the daughter of a dentist. According to Jane's friend **Muta Dickenson** (Teacher of Art 1979-2004), she spent a rather idyllic childhood running around and playing in the harbour area.

She did very well at school and went on to Cardiff University to read Psychology and Zoology, followed by a master's degree in Entomology. Apparently, Jane was rather a beauty and turned many a head. After she had a daughter, **Amena** CO95, she worked in various jobs including nursing, later getting a job at Truro Cathedral School to teach Biology. After the closure of the Cathedral School, she moved to the newly formed Duchy Grammar School.

It was while teaching there that Jane was faced with an issue of principle and wrongdoing. She bravely blew the whistle at some personal cost to her reputation and safety. At that time, few wanted to listen, and her courage and bravery in doing this should never be forgotten. It has led to her becoming somewhat of a legend in Cornwall Social Services.

After this stressful chapter, Jane had a spell at Dairyland, where she won a national prize for setting up their nature trail, which still exists today.

In 1988 Jane came to Truro School to teach Biology and made friends across the School who she saw daily in the common room. Her special friends included **Jane Rainbow** (Head of Sixth Form 1990-2018) and **Muta Dickenson**. There were very few women employed

at that time and the school was on the brink of becoming co-educational. Both Jane King and Muta had daughters who were to attend the School.

According to **Jane Rainbow**, anybody who knew Jane well knew she was a serious, principled individual who was committed to justice for everyone. She was tangential in conversation, zipping between her news, the state of the nation, global threats and then diverting to fascinating facts about fruit flies. As a colleague, she was highly intelligent and often under-estimated by many of those around her because her default mode was self-deprecation. **Muta** recalls Jane's wonderful laugh and sometimes terrible jokes, and retains visions of her gliding into the staff room in a rain hat and mac looking like a model.

There followed a period in boarding as Housemistress, where Jane took care of girls who were away from home who often needed her kind guidance and principled advice. Jane supported many aspects of school life and put in hours helping to run the Junior Discos and helping to prepare social events for staff at Christmas or when people left. In holiday time she was always game to assist on field courses and trips abroad. She went on two school trips to Russia with **Jane Rainbow**. Jane loved the Lomonosov ceramics and the loquacious loo cleaner in the Hermitage, whose day she made by insisting on a photograph together. **Jane Rainbow** remembers visiting Gostiny Dom, a covered market on Nevsky Prospekt. In early post-Soviet days, one could purchase anything from a lacquered spoon to a Bakelite telephone,

or indeed a 'Warning! Woman Driver' badge. They bought the latter of course. It was the law at the time in Russia that all females had to display them in their cars! At Tsarskoe Selo, when visiting the iconic Catherine Palace, they encountered an elderly woman selling huge nylon underpants laid out like colourful flags on a tablecloth in the snow. Matryoshka-rotund, resplendent with the obligatory gold tooth and sad grey eyes, Jane characteristically could not leave without asking her friend to negotiate a sale. Much hilarity ensued when a combination of the low price and bad Russian led to purchase of the entire stock. The old lady was jubilant, and so was Jane!

Jane was a very hard-working member of the Biology department. She took a keen interest in all those she taught and had in her care as a form tutor. Jane encouraged the best from the students and taught through her love for the subject... she was not just passing on information. Jane was very keen on all things concerning the environment, and her enthusiasm shone through, not only in the classroom teaching but also on fieldwork. Outside work Jane was vice-president of Cornwall Wildlife Trust for a time and served as a director for them until 2012. She was also an active member of a bat protection group.

Jane retired from Truro school in 2011. She wanted to spend time with her two granddaughters, Lara and India. Jane was a keen vegetarian and cook, and straight after retiring she took a bread-making course and kept bees. She also spent a lot of time quilting with a group in St Agnes, where she lived.



After losing one or two of her beloved cats on the road outside her cottage, and ahead of knee replacement operations, she moved to a bungalow on a corner plot. This had a lovely garden, which she made the most of, including a large area devoted to wildflowers.

When retired, Jane loved to travel within Britain, to the Scottish Islands and Highlands, and Wales, always with a keen eye on the local wildlife.

Jane also liked to stay in Youth Hostels and go on short trips with friends to places like Bath. Some of my best chats with Jane took place from the top of the bunkbed where we would crash after a hard day's shopping or wallowing in Bath's Spa.

In summary, Jane lived a rich and varied life. She had many interests, and many friends. She was clever and funny. She was a true Biologist inside and outside of work. She will have ensured that whoever she taught had the best possible background in the subject. She made a difference to child protection in Cornwall, and wildlife protection in Cornwall and beyond. Jane was however quite modest and would probably have been surprised and delighted by how many people attended her farewell event at Porthtowan's Ecopark, and how many people are genuinely sorry she has left us. She once said to me, "I shan't make old bones". Jane was right about that, but I like to think that the 70 years she did have were the best 70 of her life.

TRIBUTE BY
DR ROS CLARK, FELLOW TRURO SCHOOL BIOLOGIST AND FRIEND,

with contributions from Graham Baines (Teacher of Chemistry 1976-2013), Erdmute Dickenson (Teacher of Art 1979-2004) and Jane Rainbow (Head of Sixth Form 1990-2018).



Kenneth Keast CO52

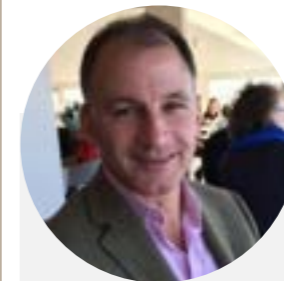
1934 - 2023

Kenneth Keast was born in Perranporth in 1934 and attended Truro School from 1945 to 1951. After school and National Service he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He moved out of his beloved Cornwall for three years in the early 1960s to work for Bath Cabinet Makers but his absence from the County was brief as he moved back to live initially in Camborne and later Truro whilst working for Holmans, later known as Compare, where he continued until his retirement.

Whilst at Truro School he was a member of the School's tennis team for two summers and took his love for tennis into later life playing for Redruth, Truro and Cornwall.

A keen rugby fan and Bridge player, he passed away on the 30th October 2023 leaving a wife Jan and three sons, all of whom also attended Truro School, a stepdaughter and stepson.

TRIBUTE BY
**KENNETH'S SON,
RICHARD KEAST CO79**



John Knowles

Sports Coach 2006-2021

John was a sports coach for athletics and cross-country at Truro School from May 2006 until 2021. John coached many Truro School athletes (as well as many across Cornwall) to regional, national and international competitions. He was a stalwart of the sport of athletics and will be much missed by alumni, parents and staff.

Tribute from Zoe Jobling, Deputy Head



Benjamin Luxon CO55

1937-2024

On Thursday 25 July, opera singers began sharing the news of the legendary Old Truronian Benjamin Luxon. He was considered one of the nation's greatest opera singers. He was 87. A Cornishman from Redruth, Benjamin attended Truro School between 1948-1955 as a day pupil.

After leaving school, Benjamin performed at venues such as the Royal Opera House, Teatro alla Scala, Glyndebourne and Paris Opera. He worked with some of the most famous conductors, including Benjamin Britten. A fixture for two decades at English National Opera, he achieved apotheosis as Verdi's Falstaff. Benjamin was renowned as a recital singer, specialising in English songs and making more than 100 recordings. He was made Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1986 for his service to music. Later in life, he developed a career as a narrator and poetry reader, and delivered masterclasses in opera in Massachusetts, USA, where he spent his final years.

Tribute written based on information available online. We welcome tributes and memories from anyone who may have known Benjamin personally.



Tributes and Memories



Neil Clive Hunter CO79

1961-2024

Neil "Billy" Hunter. The Likeable Rogue! For anyone who knew Billy they will remember that twinkle in his eye as if he'd been up to no good or was about to get up to something!! Not anything serious but he was the joker in the pack who would point out something on the front of your blazer and then flick your nose!

Our year was an eclectic bunch of characters with a high ratio of dysfunction that would have all sorts of labels these days. I particularly was one of them, so Billy and I had a knack of getting into trouble and my brother's abiding memory was to see Billy stood outside **Mr Burrell's** house! But that could have been because the brilliant Headmaster of our time understood the likes of Billy and myself. Our meetings with the Head never involved corporal punishment but kindness and thoughtfulness as we talked about our issues over a cup of tea. I know Billy had the greatest respect for **Mr Derek Burrell**, as did I. He was way ahead of his time showing compassion for us naughty boys!

It was through sport that Billy and I formed our friendship at school, and we were lucky enough to have one of the best year groups of sportsmen that went on to achieve great success for the School and Billy was a massive part of that. In rugby he played in the back row terrorising the opposition with his tenacious tackling. And in football, it was 'Billy the Cat' as he commanded his area and showed his courage coming out to smother, and diving at the feet of the opposition contesting the football. Inevitably with such safe hands, he became wicketkeeper in the cricket team, much to the relief of everyone else when **Paul Triniman** CO79 came up to bowl!

After leaving Truro School, Billy was a massive part of the sporting community in Truro in all three sports, and all three clubs will miss him.

On my occasional visits back to Cornwall I would meet up with Billy and our school chum **Grant Champion** CO79 whom he joined in the Devon and Cornwall



Police Service. They wanted me to join with them, but I never thought that was a good idea! One has to only imagine some of the stories as I'm saying nothing! I would get the lowdown from Grant's dear mum Dorean and I can just see her now, rolling her eyes, as she told me the latest Billy news!

Indeed my brother **Chris** CO76, who came back to Truro to teach at Treliske, became good friends with Billy and had some adventurous nights - in particular a party in the middle of nowhere which covers most of Cornwall! Billy claiming to know the roads better decided to drive Chris' Mini back home only to write it off in a ditch!

Ohh Billy... the trouble we could have caused! I'm sure **Mr Burrell** will be looking out for you up there.

TRIBUTE BY
**AN OLD SCHOOL MATE,
DAVE JENKINS** CO79

Truro City Football Club are saddened to announce the passing of long-time supporter Neil 'Billy' Hunter. Billy was a regular supporter of all sports in and around Truro, often seen at Treyew Road, St Clements Hill (Truro Rugby Football Club) and Boscawen Park (Truro Cricket Club). A larger than life character in every sense of the word, Billy's passion always shone through on the terraces, behind the try line or on the boundaries edge. His tales of watching Truro and Cornish sport would always gain an audience (young and old), with his (true) story of following the Falmouth Marine Band onto the pitch at Twickenham before a County Championship Final, and hoisting a giant wooden pasty over the goal posts, the stuff of a true Duchy legend.



Tribute from Truro City Football Club. With thanks to Philip Rule CO78.

Finlay Shiva Charles CO23

2005 – 2024



We share the incredibly devastating news that Finlay Charles (Truro School Prep and Senior 2008-2021) passed away on 1st January 2024.

Finlay's mother, Cressida, shared with the School that he had been working as a stonemason for a specialist company based in Cornwall. He had just been given a 30% pay rise over Christmas which he was delighted about and had passed his driving test first time which he was also very happy about. He was in a very good place, optimistic and looking forward to his future. He is very much missed by family, friends and colleagues from work. We wish to share some reflections from the many teachers that taught Finlay over the years:

"Finlay joined the Prep School in Year 4 at the age of 8. A relaxed, happy boy, he was always in the thick of the football action at break times, tearing up and down the pitches and courts with boundless energy. I remember a lot of returns to class with him covered in mud and scrapes and scratches!"

"Finlay was an exuberant member of any class I taught."

"I loved having him as part of our Year 6 show, which in his year was The Lion King.... Finlay was completely committed to the process, helping to make props and blossoming on stage. I will treasure those memories of him always."

"Most 'teacherly' chats with him would end – irrespective of what the chat may have been about – with him breaking out his bright-eyed, broad and slightly cheeky grin, at which point it was hard to stay stern!"

"Finlay was always smiling around school, his face always alight with positivity. Always quick to laugh with his peers and staff, always with a warmth."

"Would stand up for his friends. Loyal beyond belief."

"Finlay was a lovely quiet lad with a gentle sense of humour. He was always keen to please his teachers and was very much liked by both his teachers and peers."

"Finlay was part of the 1st Year rugby squad and always gave his very best in all the matches that he played. Notably during a very wet, muddy and tough training session I remember him giving his all during a length of the pitch rucking drill during which he very kindly remarked that I looked exhausted as well!"

"Finlay was in the year group where GCSEs were cancelled, and he sat three trials of assessment in subjects. Navigating the complexities of remote learning, Finlay engaged well with remote learning through 5th Year Spring lockdown, but was clearly overjoyed to return to school and be surrounded with friends to smile, laugh and simply be with."

"Finlay went on a surfing trip in 2nd Year to Portugal with school. He was so keen, took it all in and by the end of the week he was surfing and catching the waves. He then joined the 'elite surfers' who, by the end of the term, were taking on the biggest waves. Finlay continued to surf till he left the School. He was the most natural in the sea."

Henry Harvey Richards

1925-2019



One of the truly great Pirates, Harvey Richards, passed away peacefully at his home in Marazion on Monday 28th January 2019, aged 93. Harvey 'Dick', as he was often referred to, was home on leave from the services and about to return to his ship in the Baltic when he played for the Pirates in their first-ever game, which took place at the Mennaye Field on Saturday the 22nd September 1945, against Guy's Hospital. He was chosen as a reserve for an England trial in 1948, in 1950 played in the Pirates team that famously won 5-0 against Cardiff, and in 1951 was a member of the side that competed in the Middlesex 7s. Besides wearing the black and gold of Cornwall, he also, during time with Rosslyn Park, played for Middlesex.

A fly-half, who was hugely respected, Harvey proudly skippered the Pirates of Penzance & Newlyn RFC in 1952/53, when the team enjoyed what can only be described as a season of unparalleled success. After the opening game was drawn 6-all, against a side of 15 internationals brought together by our former England centre John 'Ginger' Williams, the team remained unbeaten in a further 28 matches. Crowds had often totalled 5,000, and there was satisfaction in beating Redruth 21-3 at home and 22-6 away, but when the unbeaten run came to an end on the 7th March 1953, it was the 'Reds' who lowered the club's colours, winning 19-6 at the 'Mennaye'. At the end of the game Redruth's Bill Phillips relieved Harvey of his shirt – it was later returned – and due tribute was made the Pirates for accepting defeat in a gracious and sportingly manner. That season had many highlights, but for Harvey no match was more important than one at the very end, when in May 1953 he married his late wife Frances. A great friend and fellow Pirate, England international **John Kendall-Carpenter** (TS 1939-1943) was his best man.

A schoolteacher, Harvey became a county selector after hanging up his boots, and he would also in 1973 bring the idea of initiating mini-rugby in schools locally, having watched a demonstration game played before an international in Cardiff. He was a Colts official and Chairman of the Pirates, and in the 1990s was President of the Cornwall RFU (1994-97). Also, during the Pirates 'Golden Jubilee' season (1995/96) he was a truly valued and committed member of the Golden Jubilee committee. A Vice President of Penzance & Newlyn RFC, Harvey was also a founder member of the 'Cornwall Sages Society', who he described as being "a bunch of old rugby buggers, growing old together who enjoy each other's company!" In the meantime, condolences are expressed to his family who held a funeral service at Marazion Methodist Church on Saturday 9th February 2019, followed afterwards by a gathering at the Godolphin Arms.

Tribute from cornish-pirates.com

**Frederick Robert
'Bob' Andrew CO48**
1930 - 2024



Frederick Robert 'Bob' Andrew joined Truro School in September 1940, aged ten, on a Direct Grant Scheme. His elder brother, **Leonard**, was already at Truro School, and his younger brother, **David** CO52, joined later. Bob was in School House and his interest in Truro School lasted a lifetime.

In 1944, whilst still at Truro School, one of his treasured memories related to the Hurricanes circling nearby everywhere just before D-Day. A Stinson L-5 Sentinel aircraft landed in a field close to his family farm at Callestick Vean, and a man with a briefcase strapped to his wrist got out, tasking Bob and his younger brother, David, to look after the plane. The brothers looked all around it, through the windows, keeping the cows away, but not touching it. The name of the plane, 'Texas Terror', amused Bob.

His final school report in 1948 showed that his three main subjects for his Higher Certificate were Mathematics (Pure Maths, which he passed with distinction, and Applied Maths); Geography and Physics, with subsidiary subjects being PT and Games, English, RI, Latin and Modern Studies. Bob played for the 2nd XV RUGGER 1946, 1st XV RUGGER 1945-1947-8, Team colours 1947-8 and County Grammar Schools XV 1947.

Bob remembered being chosen to play for Cornwall, but he was unable to play because he sprained his ankle. However, he played School's Rugby at Camborne, Cornwall v Devon, and wore that "sacred shirt". Bob particularly enjoyed the school photo where he stood with pride in his rugby kit, and, as he pointed out, **Robert Shaw** CO45, the actor, is pictured in the same photo. Bob's love of rugby lasted a lifetime and was a source of interest to him well into his nineties from his armchair.

Bob was awarded a county university scholarship to the University of Bristol, where he read Maths and Physics. Bob

continued to play rugby in the university teams. He graduated with a BSc (Hons) in July 1951. Bob completed his National Service in the Royal Air Force, principally with 192 Squadron working on airborne radar. In July 1954, Bob was awarded the University of Bristol Certificate in Education.

A Lowery Creed, the then Headmaster (1946-1959), signed a letter dated 9th February 1954, which included, "Whilst he [Bob] was at school he took an active part in the life of the community and played regularly for the First Fifteen. He was a House Prefect, and he accepted this responsibility in the right way. [...] He has an excellent character, a pleasant personality, and a conscientious attitude towards his work which would ensure that he would prove to be a loyal colleague." These observations proved true of Bob. His active part in the community continued in later life through his interest in teaching and aviation. Moreover, his character, personality and conscientious attitude made him a loyal, reliable, trustworthy member of his local community.

Bob married Mary Duthoit on 1st August 1956. They had met on a train while Bob was teaching at Fairfield Grammar School in Bristol, and both were teachers. They left their jobs in the Bristol area and moved into their newly built home at Porth, Newquay, in September 1959. Bob collected flints on the Headland, and Mary gathered seaweed for the garden. They remained in that home for the rest of their lives.

Bob started a new job in 1959, teaching maths at Newquay Grammar School, which became Newquay Tretherras School. Bob taught there until his retirement in the 1980s. Bob joined the Cornish Aviation Society shortly after it formed in 1979.

Bob took on the responsibility of collecting the key to the meeting

building from the Guardroom and then locking up and returning the key at the end of the evening. He did this for over forty years.

In 1995 he published his book 'The History of RAF Perranporth 1941-1945' and a revised version followed in 2002. Bob researched, recorded and documented approximately 1,600 aviation-related incidents that took place across Cornwall between 1939 and 1991. Bob's work detailed over 250 aircraft crashes, which are recorded in the official Police War Diaries at Kresen Kernow, the Cornish Archive Centre in Redruth.

In the 1990s, Bob became Secretary for the Cornish Aviation Society, handling all the correspondence, inviting speakers to come and thanking them afterwards. He collected press cuttings about aviation events in Cornwall, and, additionally, he produced ten society newsletters each year, which contained aviation stories and a comprehensive and thorough precis of the previous month's meeting.

Bob regularly contributed generously to the Truro School's bursary fund, giving back to others the gift of financial support that he, himself, had received as a child. Bob was a gentleman in the true sense of the word. He did what he believed to be the right thing. He was independent in thought, kind, forgiving, inspiring and generous to those around him.

He was true to himself, living his whole life, it seems, by Truro School's motto 'Esse Quam Videri': 'to be, rather than to seem to be'. He made the world a better place.

TRIBUTE BY
**RACHEL BEALE, BOB'S
HONORARY DAUGHTER**

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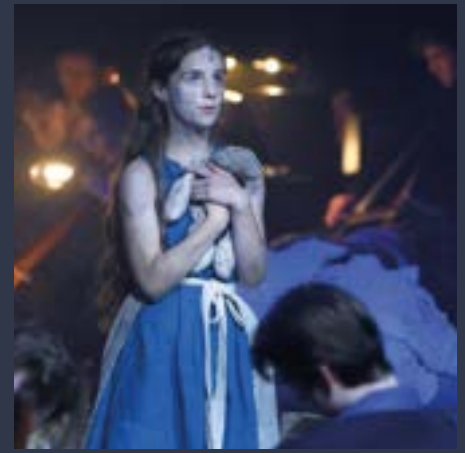
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