

Old Tauntonian Review

APRIL 2016

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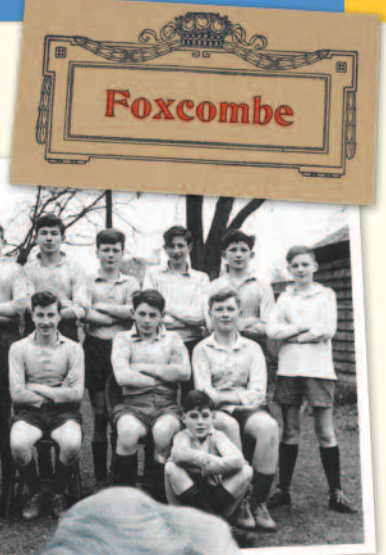


T J Lawson

Foxcombe:
Old Style
Dormitory



Foxcombe



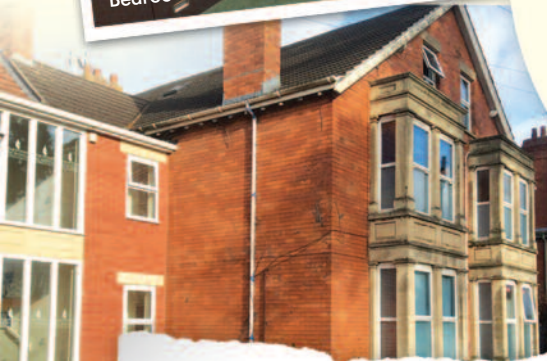
FOXCOMBE

100
Anniversary

Foxcombe:
Bedroom today



Ursula Gray

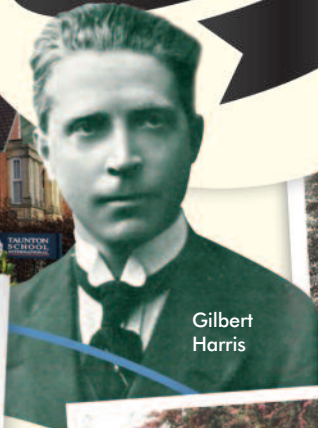


Foxcombe - founded 1916
Taunton School
International - founded 1996

...Shortly after his marriage Mr Gilbert Harris started the 'Boarding House in Greenway Road, which was soon to become famous as Foxcombe. At Foxcombe Mr Harris found ample opportunity for the development of his numerous ideas, and the House soon became a most flourishing community of some 70 boys...

...He was most generous to the School, and it should never be forgotten that it was Mr Harris who bought the new playing fields on the Greenway Road and handed them over to the School for its use, in return for a moderate rent...

Gilbert
Harris



Foxcombe 1975

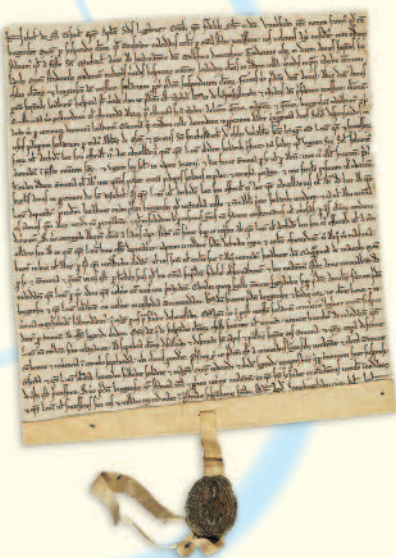


Foxcombe 1995



Christopher Nichols (School House 1959)

csnichols.oxford@googlemail.com
Christopher writes: "History was not my strong suit at Taunton....no fault of Mr Billingham, may he rest in peace. Now, having retired from the best day's work I ever did – developing the old BR freight sector into the sleek system of today which takes a great deal of heavy road-haulage off the roads and on to freight trains – by way of a complete change I give history lectures to visitors at The Bodleian, the library of Oxford University. Visitors come from all over the world to see the spectacular old library buildings (dating from the 1400s) and to learn about the origins of Oxford and the University, and the emergence of our modern philosophy and religion, in which Oxford played a dominant role. I'd be delighted to make the acquaintance of OTs if they come to The Bodleian!"



The accompanying picture is of our most treasured document, 'The Award of the Papal Legate', given by Nicholas Bishop of Tusculum in the summer of 1214, in support of the 'clerics' and penalising the townspeople who had lynched two young clerics in 1209 following the murder of a woman of the town. The pope naturally had a strong desire to see the establishment of a new 'school' (not yet a 'university') which would produce priests for the church in England, and this document counts as our founding constitution with papal blessing. The clerics had departed following the disturbance which ensued from the hanging and many went to Cambridge. The document and its translation can be found online. ●

Jenni Wyatt (Weirfield 2005)

jenniwyatt@hotmail.com
Having lived most of her life with Auto Immune Hepatitis, a chronic liver disease, Jenni spent most of 2015 in and out of hospital with deteriorating health. In March 2015, she was listed for a liver transplant and in September travelled from Bristol to London only to be told that the organ that was available was not suitable for transplant.

Jenni writes: "My health deteriorated further but, on the 29th October, I received the call I had been waiting for and the transplant went ahead. Recovery was difficult, and I experienced a couple of episodes of rejection requiring hospital visits. On Christmas Day 2015, my partner, Caius Freeman, got down on one knee during the traditional family walk on the beach and proposed. I said "yes" and am now spending my recovery time focusing on planning a wedding!" ●



Helen Medley (Gloucester 1994)

helen.medley@hotmail.co.uk



After 5 years working as Geological / Geotechnical Engineer on mine sites in Western Australia, Helen is now Manager of Technical & Safety for the Department of Engineering, Maths & Computing at the University of Western Australia. ●

Gillian Hall née Porter (Weirfield 1980)

gillianlockyer2@gmail.com
In July 2014, Gill joined the National Trust as their Insurance and Risk Manager. She is responsible for placing all the insurance for the Trust and gets involved in large and litigated claims as well as joining up operational risk strategies with their insurance.

Gill said: "As you can imagine a fascinating role if rather busy following the fire at Clandon Park earlier this year! I have offered in the past to be available for careers advice and am happy to continue with this." ●

Sara Atkinson (Gloucester 1982)



Sara recently returned from a rather eccentric rail trip, via Nicola Ashcroft (Gloucester '82) in Germany, to Bali via Russia, Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia. Sara said: "It was great to catch up with Nicola and then encounter lots of opportunities for swimming in wild and cold locations!" ●

Patrick Almond (Somerset 1962)

palmond@vianet.ca
Although the grand age of 70, Paddy continues to consult and audit in construction Health and Safety. He also works as a volunteer on the City of Calgary 'Advisory Committee on Accessibility' as the city plans a new north/south light-rail transit (LRT) line with some 50 stations over about 40km.



Paddy writes: "The mission of the committee is to provide access recommendations and to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities and advise City Council of the rights and service needs of Calgarians with disabilities. The committee reviews and makes recommendations on issues and plans that relate to universal design for people with disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, the review of public and private projects like properties, buildings, barrier-free walkways, parks, playgrounds and pathways. It also advises in all aspects of transportation functions pertaining to buses, LRTs and taxis including the safety of people with disabilities through audible signals and wheelchair curb cut ramps. This ensures the greatest level of accessibility for persons with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities."

Once this transit line has been pretty much put to bed, I plan to spend the summer camping my way from Calgary to the east coast of Canada and back with my 2013 Toyota Tacoma 1/2 ton 4x4 truck and my 2015 Keystone Hideout 22ft travel trailer: a round trip of approximately 12,000km." ●

Henry K. H. Wang (Wills East 1973)

henrykhwang@gmail.com
Henry is a Senior Executive & International Adviser, author & speaker with extensive high level business experience in China and internationally. He has held Directorships and Board positions in leading multinational companies and major Sino-Foreign Joint Ventures. He was elected to hold offices as the Vice Chairman of the EU Chamber of Commerce & Vice President of the British Chamber of Commerce in China.

Henry was elected as Honorary Vice Chairman of International Energy Committee of the OECD Business & Industrial Advisory Committee BIAC after nomination by the Confederation of British Industries. He has over

36 years of senior management experience in petrochemicals and chemicals, oil and gas, renewables and clean energy, strategy and planning, deals making, mergers and acquisitions, technology and operations. He holds international patents, has published papers in international journals and has been invited to speak at key international symposiums. Henry has lectured at leading Universities and Business Schools in UK, USA, EU and China. ●



Kieran Mulvaney (Wills East 1984)

kieran@mulvaney.net

Inspired by a combination of childhood influences – the wildlife in our garden and the woods on the edge of town; the books on my parents' bookshelves filled with stories and photos of the natural world; my father's stories and photographs of his voyages in the Navy – I knew by the age of sixteen what I wanted to do with my life... travel the world and write about wildlife and the environment.



I wrote articles for the **People's Trust for Endangered Species** and volunteered at the famed Natural History Unit of the British Broadcasting Corporation. I worked for Care for the Wild, another environmental group and, just a few days after my eighteenth birthday, my first published article appeared in *New Scientist*.

Early on, I became interested in writing about zoos and the role they played in conservation. As part of that, I wanted to know about dolphin shows, and so I began learning all I could about dolphins and their cousins, the whales.

The more I learned about whales, the more I learned about the environmental pressures they faced, from whaling to pollution to conflicts with fisheries. There was no organization in the United Kingdom devoted solely to the protection of dolphins and whales and so, in 1987, I founded the **Whale Conservation Society** (later to become the **Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society**). Two years later I joined Greenpeace International where, until 1995, I was the organization's chief spokesperson on whaling issues, and was a leader of four anti-whaling voyages to the Antarctic and one to the Arctic.

Antarctica must be the most beautiful part of the world: largely unspoiled and untouched, much the way it would have seemed to Captain James Cook when he became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773. Being a leader of a ship-bound

expedition to the most hostile region on Earth is a uniquely challenging experience, providing an intense set of demands unlike anything I had experienced before, or have done since. Consequently, after leaving Greenpeace and the life of a full-time activist, I had a hard time finding anything that provided the same kind of motivation. I returned to writing, and in 1996 was asked to join a new organization called **SeaWeb**, which seeks to provide balanced information on marine conservation issues to the media and public. For many years, I was editor of **SeaWeb's** monthly *Ocean Update* newsletter.

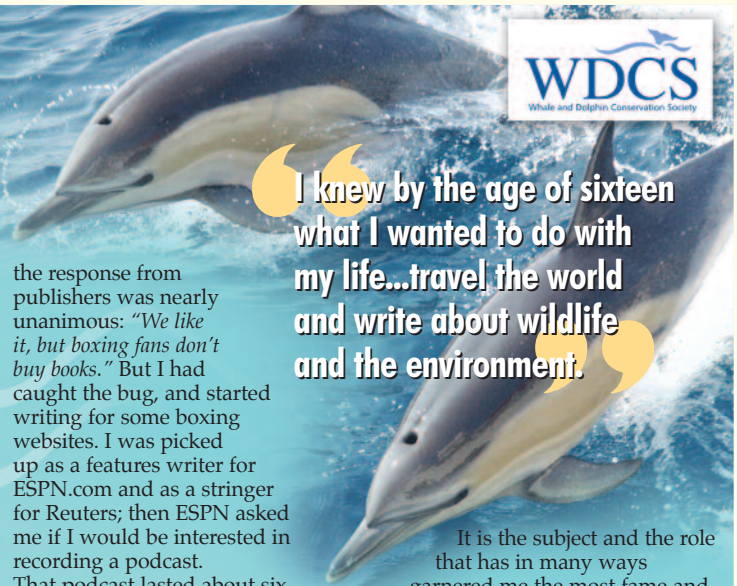
In 1998, I was given the opportunity to spend the summer in Alaska and the Russian Arctic, writing articles about climate change and its impact on wildlife and native peoples. It was an incredible experience: not only did I succeed in writing and selling plenty of articles and news items, I was also completely captivated by the region. I returned to Washington, D.C., where I was living at the time, long enough to pack up my life and move to Anchorage.

For seven years I lived in a little cabin on the shores of Cook Inlet. I wrote a couple of books and had the best time of my life. Alaska is beautiful and alluring, and I was very sorry to say goodbye.

Eventually, however, I was forced to do just that. There are only so many opportunities for a freelance writer in the 49th State, and so I reluctantly returned to the outskirts of the nation's capital, living from 2005 to 2014 in Alexandria, Virginia. At the end of 2014, I moved again, to the

beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont where I now reside in a small village called Bristol, which I hope and suspect will be my home for many a long year.

In 2003, my writing career took something of an unexpected left turn. Seeking to freshen things up, I decided to spend a few months in Las Vegas, writing a book about boxing – the idea being, partly at least, to spend some time writing about something 180 degrees removed from my usual fare. Alas, although both I and my agent were very happy with the extended proposal I produced,



I knew by the age of sixteen what I wanted to do with my life...travel the world and write about wildlife and the environment.

the response from publishers was nearly unanimous: "We like it, but boxing fans don't buy books." But I had caught the bug, and started writing for some boxing websites. I was picked up as a features writer for ESPN.com and as a stringer for Reuters; then ESPN asked me if I would be interested in recording a podcast. That podcast lasted about six years, until it was cancelled in early 2014; but by then, I had another string to my boxing bow. I had filmed some videos and written blogs for HBO for a few years, and beginning in January 2014 became the *de facto* face and voice of HBO Boxing's digital platform, recording fight week videos and co-hosting a new podcast.

It is the subject and the role that has in many ways garnered me the most fame and attention, but I consider it still my weekend job. My true calling remains writing about wildlife and the environment, via articles, blogs and books, such as *At the Ends of the Earth*, *The Whaling Season*, and my most recent effort, *The Great White Bear*, which was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in January 2011. ●

Richard Parks (Somerset 1965)

rpmarketg@aol.com

Richard has over 45 years experience in marketing and representation within the travel industry. Initially his work was in Asia, but has now expanded to include the Pacific, Europe and The Caribbean.



He started in the Travel Industry in 1966 when he joined BOAC, the National Carrier and forerunner of British Airways, in the Reservations Team, before moving in 1970 to help launch Singapore Airlines (Malaysia Singapore Airlines as it was then known) where he stayed for ten years in the Sales Team. Joining Garuda Indonesia in 1980 to help launch the London service, he stayed twenty years, again in Sales and Marketing before founding his own company **RP Marketing** (www.rp-marketing.co.uk). He is well known within the travel industry having been a past Vice Chair of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) UK Chapter, a past council member of Skat International London and a past member of the Latin American Travel Association (LATA). He is a member of CIMTIG, (Chartered Institute of Marketing), actively representing Papua New Guinea and Bali. ●

Sam Ambridge (Murray 1996)

sam.ambridge@gmail.com

After graduation, travel was a major feature of Sam's life until 2003 – she went backpacking around both South and Central America for 6 months each, and also spent 6 months in both Germany and Paris. From 2004-09 she lived in Poole, Dorset, working for Business Link Wessex until 2007, followed by 2 years at Dorset Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the Skills, Training and Education Services Coordinator. By March 2009, she had itchy feet again and left to go backpacking through South East Asia and Australia, where she met her now fiancé in Melbourne.



Sam said: "I returned to the UK for 15 months in December 2010, living in Brixton in London near both my brothers, and worked as the Office Manager for a computer games recruitment agency, before returning to Australia in April 2012. I was granted my AU Permanent Residency in September 2013. I now live in the countryside near Darwin in the Northern Territory and work as the PA to the Director of the International Office at Charles Darwin University. I got engaged in October 2015 to William Boyle and will be married later this year." ●

OT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year I will continue to encourage OTs to expand the *LinkedIn* network as a tool to help all OTs both young and old. It is encouraging to notice the effect the President's Youth Fund/OTA sponsorship has had with increased younger OTs attending functions.

Again, this can only continue with the support and donations from generous OTs. Donations, however small, all help to support this great initiative.

I am delighted to announce that the venue for my President's Dinner is **The Garden Room, Hampton Court Palace, KT8 9AU on Saturday 22nd April 2017.**



Writing this in January and knowing that you will be reading this in March/April, I still take the opportunity to wish all OTs all the best for 2016! As I sit here in my office watching the rain come down again, on the already very saturated ground, our thoughts go out to those OTs who may have been caught up in the severe flooding in the North of England and Scotland. We wish swift progress on the remedial work and a return to normality and stability.

Last year I met a number of OTs at the various functions and dinners and I hope to meet many more during 2016. This year, the OTA Reunion Weekend coincides with the OT Golfing Society weekend where we have games arranged for both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning against the school, hopefully this will encourage many OTs to bring their clubs and join in whilst fitting in events at the school during weekend.

For more than 500 years, Hampton Court Palace has played host to gala celebrations, festive banquets and historic meetings. England's most famous kings and queens, from Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn to William III and Mary II, dazzled audiences of ambassadors, courtiers, cardinals, artists and dignitaries with the grandeur and majesty of Hampton Court Palace. A 1½ hour tour of The Palace before the event can be arranged.

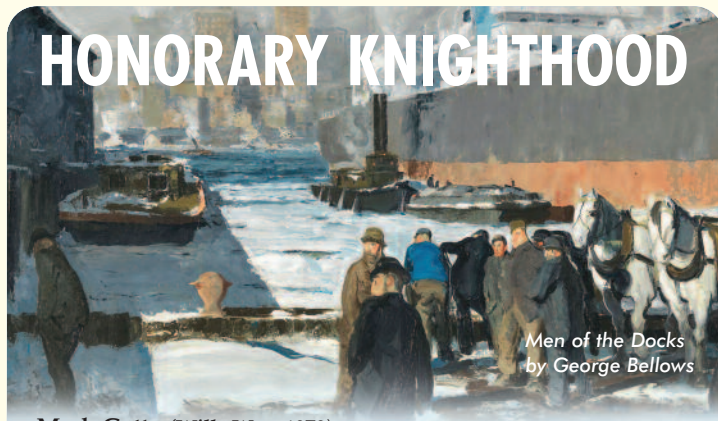
Finally, I am pleased to announce Commander Simon Nicholson as OTA President-elect for 2017-19. Simon is currently Chairman of the Western Club, was a boarder in Wills East and left Taunton School in 1973.

Richard Willacy

Richard Willacy (Wills West 1981) ●

It is encouraging to notice the effect the President's Youth Fund/OTA sponsorship has had with increased younger OTs attending functions.

HONORARY KNIGHTHOOD



Men of the Docks
by George Bellows

Mark Getty (Wills West 1979)

The National Gallery is delighted that its former Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Mark Getty**, has been given an honorary knighthood.

Her Majesty the Queen made the award in recognition of his services to the arts and philanthropy in the United Kingdom, and in particular his leadership of and support for the National Gallery over many years.

Honorary knighthoods are conferred on those who are not British citizens, but who have made an exceptional contribution to our national life. Mark will not use the title of Sir, but will be entitled to use the letters KBE after his name.

Mark has long been associated with the National Gallery. He served as a Trustee from September 1999 until August 2009, when he was elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. He remained in that position until August 2015.

Current Chair of the Board of Trustees, Hannah Rothschild, said: "During his long service as a Trustee and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery, Mark Getty oversaw many important acquisitions. He was closely involved in the campaign to buy the two great mythological paintings by Titian, *Diana and Actaeon* in (2009) and *Diana and Callisto* (in 2012) for the National Gallery of London and the National Galleries of Scotland. In 2014 he championed and gave

significant financial support to the purchase of *Men of the Docks* by George Bellows; the first acquisition of a major American painting by the National Gallery. For the past 20 years, Mark has continued and augmented his family's distinguished record of being champions of the Gallery and of British culture."

Mark has also been active as Chair of the American Friends of the National Gallery, established by his father Sir Paul Getty, with an endowment which has enabled the Gallery to compete internationally for the acquisition of world-class paintings (including works by Holbein, Caravaggio, and Bernardo Daddi). Financial support from the Getty family (including support from Mark Getty himself) made possible the major East Wing project carried out between 2001 and 2004. The Getty entrance, which opened in 2004, is named in honour of Sir Paul.

National Gallery Director Dr Gabriele Finaldi said: "Those who love the National Gallery have many reasons to be grateful to Mark Getty, who has been one of its greatest supporters and most loyal friends." ●



Diana and Actaeon – Titian

FROM WIG TO SWORD

By Howard Giffard

Howard Newton (Fairwater 1963)
<http://www.howardgiffard.co.uk>

This is the first in a series of novels involving espionage, love and intrigue moving between England and America during the American Civil War. The plot weaves between the quiet cathedral town of Hereford, the streets and taverns of Victorian London, the heaving emigrant port of Liverpool, New York immersed in war and commerce and the draft riots, southern plantations, and Richmond forever engulfed with the threat of invasion, politics and espionage. The drama involves real events and real people such as Allan Pinkerton the founder of the detective agency, President Lincoln, General Robert E. Lee and the famous spies – Rose Greenhow, Belle Boyd and Elizabeth Van Lew.

Richard Clarke a young English law student runs away from a claustrophobic life in his father's solicitor's office to enlist in the Union Army. Early on arrival in New York he is befriended by an influential family who realise his Englishness and his youth would make him useful for espionage work in Richmond, Virginia. Kate Turner is the daughter of a plantation owning family in South Carolina who (out of keeping with the period) has been brought up as a competent business woman and is left to run the plantation when her father and brothers leave for war.

The Confederate government calls her to Richmond and she also becomes involved in espionage. The story embraces slavery, the emancipation movement, military action, and a daring escape from the infamous Libby Prison.

Howard was educated at University College London and has been a practising solicitor for over 40 years and to a small extent the legal world features in the novel. All his life he has been fascinated by history but his interest in the American

Civil War was engendered from visiting Atlanta, Georgia when he was 21. Since then he has been a voracious reader of books, articles, letters and diaries on the subject. Howard said: "Contemporary diaries and letters are of course the most revealing as they show events as they happened through the eyes of the participants rather than through the historian's telescope of time which can never penetrate the emotions of the participants in the same way. I must also mention that, although some of the letters and diaries of the time are very basic with poor spelling and grammar, others are written in the most wonderful prose of a quality that is rarely seen today. I am a member of American Civil War Round Table UK." ●



OT Author

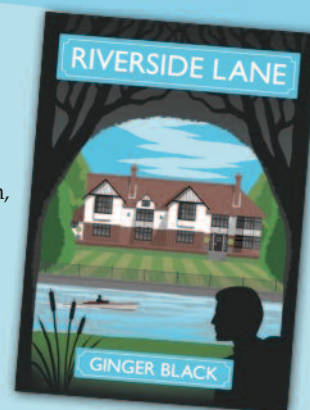
RIVERSIDE LANE

By Julia Thum

Julia Thum (née Blackburn)
 (Jenkin 1979)

<http://www.GingerBlack.ink>

Fuca Tempesta, a handsome, charming, affable American, swaps homes with a prosperous antique dealer in a quiet village in England and arrives to find the people of Riverside Lane most welcoming. But Tempesta is hiding a dangerous secret, which will soon reverberate through the community. Behind perfect privets and brightly painted front doors, the lives of Riverside Lane's residents slowly unravel, until it becomes apparent that the American may not be the only deceiver in their midst. Tension mounts in the quintessentially English village, now revealed to be a labyrinth of smoke and mirrors, and culminates in an unexpected death. Set against a cinematic backdrop of a Thameside village in springtime, **Riverside Lane** follows the colourful lives of the inhabitants and shows how, while deception must always involve secrecy, not all secrets are intended to deceive....



After leaving Taunton School, Julia founded and ran, her own consumer PR agency representing a range of international brands including Braun, Molton Brown, Clairol and Kleenex. After selling the business she trained as a psychotherapist specialising in eating disorders and hosted a phone-in show on Radio Luxembourg.

A keen kayaker and a passionate cook, she lives in Bray-on-Thames with her husband Nicolas and their four children. She writes bespoke literature and articles for private clients and visits secondary schools and prisons representing two national charities in providing emotional support to pupils and inmates. ●



OT Author

POLE POSITION



Em Tamsin Kelty (née Wrangham)
 (Bevan 1992)
emtatrekking@gmail.com

Tamsin has just returned to the UK after skiing all the way to the South Pole – the 14th British woman ever to do the full distance. This year has been particularly brutal with the unusual amount of snow, making pulling the pulk uphill for 700 miles / 1100km / 600nm a little harder. She returns in October to complete the expedition unsupported and unassisted. This would position her as the 5th solo woman in the world

to complete the distance if she just repeated the same journey to the South Pole but of course this wouldn't be enough challenge and so she will be also aiming for a world female first. Tamsin said: "Suddenly I am making history rather than encouraging others to make history themselves (I was a Headteacher)!"

"I am looking for sponsors to help with the costs of such an expedition so if there are any OT businesses or individual OTs who would like to be part of making history then it would be wonderful if they could get in touch with me." ●

THE HEADMASTER HAS HIS SAY...

We have had a very busy autumn term since I last updated you. The senior team across the school has changed significantly and we are all ambitious to ensure we deliver an outstanding education to our students.

Ed Burnett has joined us as Deputy Headmaster from Cranleigh School and Damian Henderson as Academic Deputy from the Stephen Perse Foundation. Sally Doherty is our new Director of Marketing and Admissions, Nadine Latte is the new Foundation Director and Nikki Miller joined us in January as the Chief Operating Officer. The energy and vibrancy is contagious as the new ideas keep on coming.

At the top of our agenda is student well-being. The demands on children in the current generation are significantly higher than in the past. Pressures come from all directions with the need to conform to a particular image, the drive to achieve high academic results and the push to be better at sport, music or drama.

Our children need to learn coping strategies in order to help them develop resilience which they will need throughout their lives. The headlines are littered with statistics about mental health cases on the increase in children and we have a duty to ensure we support them appropriately by making their time at school both challenging and fun.

I have very much enjoyed meeting up with many of you at recent events in Cornwall, London and Dubai. Your support is always very much appreciated and it is lovely to meet up with friends. I would also like to thank OTs for their support of the Foundation. I know that Nadine has felt very welcome in her new role and your generosity is appreciated. We deliver an outstanding education at Taunton School and our aim is to ensure that it is accessible to as many children as possible.

OTs are always very welcome at the School and I look forward to seeing many of you at the OT weekend in June. ●



NEIL LONGSTREET RETIRES

Neil Longstreet (School House 1974) was Captain of Tennis, Squash and Hockey. A keen sportsman, he cherished his time at Taunton School and, after a successful career in the banking industry, returned in 2002 and established The Taunton School Foundation.

Over a period of 15 years Neil raised thousands of pounds to support a range of projects.

The Longstreet family at Neil's retirement Dinner: James (Marshall '06), Caroline, Neil and Katie (Jenkin '04)



Over a period of fifteen years Neil raised thousands of pounds to support a range of projects...



Legacy pledges are celebrated at an annual event of The 1847 Society which cherishes the association between legators, donors and friends of the school.

The Foundation is an integral part of school life and funds raised annually support new initiatives and projects which benefit every child throughout the school. Longer term, funds will support bursaries and access to an outstanding education which has become the main focus for The Foundation.

Having been appointed Foundation and Alumni Director in September 2015, I relocated from Perthshire, Scotland, to begin a new life with my family here in Somerset. This slightly daunting proposal was made easier for me having received the support and guidance of Neil, who carried on his association with the school by becoming a Consultant to The Foundation until December 2015. I will continue its primary focus in developing relationships with OTs, parents and friends throughout the world, in order to provide increasing financial support for talented children; a task that would have been impossible to begin so quickly without the support of my team of David Bridges and Dale Sutcliffe.

Neil remains a part of the Tauntonian community, as an Old Tauntonian, former parent and friend. He has many plans for his retirement and begins in earnest with a charity walk, the Camino de Santiago (www.justgiving.com/Neil-Longstreet) which he is doing in support of a local hospice.

We wish Neil every happiness and success in his future plans
Nadine Latte – Foundation Director ●

TAUNTON SCHOOL FOUNDATION: CHANGING LIVES

NEW BURSARY CAMPAIGN

We believe that every child who is talented, willing to work hard and contribute to the ethos of the school should have access to an education at Taunton School regardless of their personal financial circumstance.

Our focus is to engage a global community to support our ambitious vision to change the lives of children through the provision of means-tested bursaries.

This March we are launching our Annual Fund which will ask for smaller regular gifts from our OT community.

"The fundamental aim of the Foundation is to offer life-changing education at Taunton School. We work as a team to engage Old Tauntonians and friends with regular events that create professional networks and friendships for life. Donations of all sizes make a difference."

Nadine Latte, Foundation Director



"You cannot underestimate the value of a good education. It stays with you for life."

Juan Luquin (Head Boy 2014 and sponsored sixth former)

SIXTH FORMERS TO BE SPONSORED THROUGH NEW 'PATRONS' PROGRAMME

We have created a new fundraising initiative, designed to support students at sixth form level; encouraging individual sponsorship of a student either as a boarder or day pupil for two years.

Since September 2015, we have secured two major sponsors; each supporting a single student through their sixth form experience by making a life-changing financial contribution. It is our aim to support 20 children in this way.

THE OLD TAUNTONIAN LECTURE SERIES

We welcome OTs back to school, to encourage and inspire our young people as they consider their choices entering the work place or further education. If you would like to come back and talk about your experience at University, or perhaps offer advice about your career, do please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

DONOR WALL FOR LEAVERS

We actively encourage giving from all members of our community and this year we are launching a campaign for recent and current leavers to make their mark on their old school by buying a plaque that will form part of our new 'leavers' wall'. The cost to do this is £100 – encouraging giving of less than £10 a month over the course of a single year. The funds will be used to support our bursary campaign.

**George A Lee
Fairwater
2008 – 2014**

LEAVERS' WALL

NEW PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE PARENTAL FUND

We are hugely grateful to our parents who, despite already committing to fees, contribute to the Foundation through the Parental Fund. This year we have been able to support a number of exciting new projects and state-of-the-art equipment, including a new bowling machine for cricket, a dance studio and new microscopes for the science department.



If you would like to know more, do please get in touch:
foundation@tauntonschool.co.uk
David, Dale and Nadine (The Foundation Team) ●



My family has been connected with Taunton School and the Old Tauntonian Association since 1918.

When I came to Taunton in 1949, like all independent schools of the day, it was suffering from the effects of post-war austerity and it was this experience which led me after I left, to do what I could to support those who have, over the years, transformed Taunton into the wonderful institution it is today enjoying a high place in West Country academia.

I have been closely involved in two fundraising projects. The first of these was to replace a pipe organ that had served the School well for a hundred years but was past repair, with an advanced digital organ for the Chapel. This was at a time when the list of essential capital projects was overwhelming and funds in short supply – a replacement organ was nowhere on the list. Rather dramatically, the pipe organ failed completely the very day the new digital organ was commissioned!

More recently, we were able to raise fees to offset the cost to the School of the 6th form education of Obi Imachukwu who had boldly written to the Headmaster from her state school in the East End of London asking for a place at Taunton to study the International Baccalaureate and to continue learning Mandarin, but had no available funds. Obi has since graduated university and is working as a paralegal in a London law firm.

In both cases the funds were raised through a wide circle of Old Tauntonians.

I hope we can all from time to time identify and support one or other of the many successful projects, some big (some small) put forward in the future by our highly successful Foundation."

Michael Button

**Michael Button (Wills East 1949-56)
Past President Old Tauntonian Association**

CLASS OF 2003 AT 30



Bottom left round to bottom right: Mike Williams (Marshall), Francesca Duffield (Gloucester), Simon Carroll (Fairwater), (Laura Robinson), James Robinson (Goodland), Robert Penny (Marshall), Ian Brewer (Marshall '02), Kit Washington (Goodland), Andrew Barclay (Wills West), Andrew Davidson (Marshall), (Natalie Barclay), (Charlotte Davidson), (Jenny Orton), (Katie Woodgate), Jeremy Woodgate (Marshall). Also present but not in the picture are Pippa Brewer (née Gwynne-Jones) (Bevan) and Sam Shirley (Goodland)

Amongst this elite crowd were the Head of Houses from Wills West (Andrew Barclay), Marshall (Andrew Davidson), Goodland (James Robinson), Bevan (Pippa Brewer) and Fairwater (Simon Carroll), as well as Head Boy (Mike Williams).

A recent gathering of OTs from the Class of 2003 who hired a Manor House in Worcestershire for the weekend to celebrate their 30th birthdays.



FRENCH CONNECTION

Edward Bryant (Wills West '58) has been out and about again! Here he is (on the left) pictured with Laurent Fabius, the French Foreign Minister & Former Prime Minister (the youngest ever) who led the COP 21 in December 2015. In 1985 he was Prime Minister when the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior was sunk by French agents in Auckland Harbour.

WESTERN CLUB DONATION



A donation from the OT Western Club of £800, together with £500 from an OT who wishes to remain anonymous, has enabled the Music Department to purchase a top-of-the-range mixing desk, speakers and microphones to facilitate music-making in the Senior School. The equipment is seen in use at a recent Yr9 tea-time concert.

LONDON SKYGARDEN REUNION

OTs in Sky Garden, London

L-R: Matthew Hatfield (Marshall '09), Bede Constantinides (Evans '09), Patrick Bott (Evans '09), David James (Evans '09), Joseph Marsh (Goodland '09), Tom McGurk (Evans '09), Henry Grantham (Evans '09), Chris Rainford (Evans '09)



CCF SUMMER CAMP 2015

Great to see 3 Old Tauntonians at the CCF summer camp 2015 at BRNC. L-R: Thomas Dunn (Wills West '15) Henry Pearson (Wills West '10) & Sam Griffin (Evans '15). ▶



Photo: Henry Pearson (Wills West '10)

DUBAI RECEPTION



Top Picture: L-R Andrew Roberts (Goodland '71), Lee Glaser (Headmaster), Sharon Forester-Bennett, Anthony Forester-Bennett (Goodland '78), Nadine Latte (Foundation Director) & Wei Ling Roberts.

Above: Spencer Dando (School House '87) & Fawwaz Al-Khodari (Wills West '83)

TS NAVY SECTION REUNION



Taunton School Navy section 1984 U6 reunion. Petty Officers David Weatherill (Marshall), John Leahy (Goodland), Stuart Langridge (Goodland), Chief Petty Officer Sebastian Lawrence Mills (Wills East).

LONDON CLUB DINNER

November 2015



Jane Barrie (Weirfield School '64) and her husband Ian with Michael Button (Wills East '56) at one of his restaurants at Osterley Park.

LOVEDAY OT JUNIOR HOUSE ANNUAL REUNION

November 2015



L-R: Olly Hyland (Fairwater '64), Gordon Brigg (Fairwater '64), Tony Howe (Fairwater '63), John Cookman (Fairwater '63), Chris Ainley (School House '63), Roger Tipple (School House '64)

CORNISH CLUB LUNCH

September 2015



Outside the Headland Hotel

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Edward Bluemel
(*Goodland 2011*)
eddo22@hotmail.co.uk

Edward trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for three years performing roles such as Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* in his final year. He was awarded the Laurence Olivier Bursary and was runner-up in the Spotlight Prize with a monologue from Howard Barker's *The Possibilities*.

Edward said: "I had the privilege of performing on The Globe stage in the annual 'Sam Wanamaker Festival'. Since leaving College I have been lucky enough to play the lead in a film called *Access All Areas* which will be released early summer this year, while recently I have been cast as a regular in an upcoming Period Drama." ●

CHAPEL CHOIR SING AT THE PALACE

The Chapel Choir sang Christmas Carols to an admiring audience at Blenheim Palace after the end of a busy term at the invitation of **Andrew Patterson** (*Wills East '76*) who is the 'official' Blenheim Palace Organist. The Choir had sung earlier in the year at the Palace and were so good they were invited back! After half an hour of singing in the Grand Entrance Hall (below) they sang the *Hallelujah Chorus* (and a couple of rousing Christmas Carols with the audience accompanied by the Organ) in the Long Library (right). ●



HODIE!

The Taunton School Sports Hall was recently filled with excited guests to hear a performance *Hodie*, a rarely-performed Christmas Cantata by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The performance from Taunton School Choral Society consisted of over 120 students, staff and singers from the Somerset community and an accompanying orchestra of professional musicians with a number of pupils gaining the fantastic experience of playing with them.

The opening of the concert saw an exciting and festive performance of Tchaikovsky's seasonal ballet *The Nutcracker* alongside Weber's *Concertino for Clarinet, Cello Concerto in E minor* by Elgar. Concerto soloists Toby Topp (Clarinet) and Hera Bradley (Cello) both gave inspirational performances showcasing skill and dedication to their studies.

The Children's Choir for the exciting final piece of the first half was a real collaboration of the Taunton School community: singers from the Prep School, the International Schools and St Peter's Prep School. Lymptone, joined with the girls of our own AVE choir to perform the rhythmic and exciting Karl Jenkins *Song of the Spirit*.

Hodie featured pupil soloists Rosie Stacey, Tessa Lewes, Rosemary Moss, Harry Acton, Sam Harrison and John Bacon. It told the Christmas Story through sung narration and choral movements with the orchestra, unaccompanied choir, soloists

This was a fantastic way to finish a term of high musical achievement.

and an uplifting finale involving the entire cast of two hundred performers.

This was a fantastic way to finish a term of high musical achievement. ●



Ashley-Curtis Correya
(*Goodland 2006*)

accorreya@gmail.com

Ashley-Curtis, a Physical Theatre Graduate from the East 15 Acting School, has appeared in short films, professional theatre, puppetry, commercials and has even dabbled in modelling.



He enjoys writing and, as a solo project he performed a 10 minute domestic violence scenario without the use of text, playing both male and female characters through the steps of the woman, concluding at the beginning, in reverse with the man. YouTube: Ashley-Curtis Correya.

Ashley-Curtis said: "I recently worked on stage at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in *Antony & Cleopatra*, alongside some of the most inspiring actors I've worked with to date. Partnering the atmosphere of the audience in situ with the history of the space was a hugely gratifying accomplishment. Akin to my passion for theatre I have a deep love for film. I love my craft: get used to rejection and be prepared for anything. Don't be in it for money or fame but play always in the art." ●

Rhiannon Llewellyn (Weirfield 2006) rhiannonllewellyn@hotmail.co.uk

After leaving Taunton School, Rhiannon worked in Rome for a year as an *au pair*, before completing a BMus in singing at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, an MA at the Royal Academy of Music and then joining the Royal Academy Opera for a further two years on a full scholarship.

She made her professional operatic debut in 2013 for Garsington Opera and has since performed with Glyndebourne, Scottish Opera, Longborough Festival Opera and London Handel Festival. She has appeared as a soloist in concerts and recitals at most of the major UK venues, including the Royal Opera House Crush Room, Wigmore Hall and Royal Albert Hall, as well as many solo recitals on the continent.

She has been fortunate to win several major awards which have been fundamental in enabling her to both pay for her studies and raise her profile. First prizes include: Maggie Teyte Competition for French Mélodie at the Royal Opera House, MOCSA Young Welsh Singer, Dunraven Young Welsh Singer, John Kerr Award for Early English Song, the Patricia Routledge National English Song Prize and Garsington Opera Leonard Ingrams Award for Most Promising Young Artist.

Rhiannon said: "I am passionate about youth opera and set up the company **Opera'r Ddraig** in 2009 which has helped over 600 young musicians, directors, arts administrators, designers and stage managers gain their first experience in full-scale operatic productions and over 1,000 local school children participate in opera-writing workshops. For my work with the company I was awarded Quality in Wales' 2010 **Future Entrepreneur of the Year Award**. I stepped down as Artistic Director due to my performing commitments in 2014, but the company continues to thrive."

"Aside from my work with established companies and venues, I have recently commissioned an opera based on the life and works of the incredible Lady Mary Wortley Montague which will tour in 2017 to several major festivals, a tour of 'Dr Burney's Guide to the Baroque' which is a baroque lecture-recital/stand-up comedy show and finally a song-cycle using the love letters from Rameau and Verlaine which will be performed at Kings Place. I recently married an army Padre and now divide my time between Bielefeld (Germany) and London."

www.rhiannon-llewellyn.co.uk ●



Emily Garland (Besley 2007) emily1star@hotmail.com

Emily, a postgraduate singer at The Royal Academy of Music, performed music by Bridge, Debussy, Puccini and Strauss to become winner of the 2015 **Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks Award**, a major prize generously funded by Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks Trust.



Emily, now in her second year with the Royal Academy Opera studying with Kathleen Livingstone and Jonathan Papp, has taken part in a competitive masterclass with Dame Felicity Lott as part of the Three Choirs Festival, and as the joint winner she performed a full recital in the 2015 Festival.

During Emily's time at the Academy she has played the title role in Suor Angelica, First Witch (*Macbeth*), Mimi (*La Bohème*) and the title role in Vanessa as part of Academy Opera Scenes. Last year she performed as a spirit in Royal Academy Opera's *Cendrillon*. Other roles include Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Dido (*Dido and Aeneas*), Controller (*Flight*), Mrs Gobineau (*The Medium*) and the Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*).

Emily is generously supported by the Sickle Foundation, the Carr-Gregory Scholarship, the PF Charitable Trust Award, the John Baker Opera Award and the Josephine Baker Trust. ●

Patrick Chatterton (Wills East 1997) paddy chatterton@gmail.com

Paddy is Development Director at London Music Masters and leads on raising funds to support the organisation. He has spent over a decade working in fundraising for arts and charitable organisations, beginning his career managing Hoxton Hall Youth Arts programme before leading the development team for London International Festival of Theatre (*Lift*). From 2010-14 he was the Head of Development at the Institute of International Visual Arts where he developed a new commercial arm for the organisation.

Paddy said: "London Music Masters is committed to improving the quality music education in the UK for those children who cannot afford private tuition. We are discovering incredible talent in some of our poorest and most diverse communities, with children going on to train at leading conservatoires, including the Royal College of Music." ●



Jan-Philipp Kelber (Foxcombe 1986) jpkelber@melloton.de



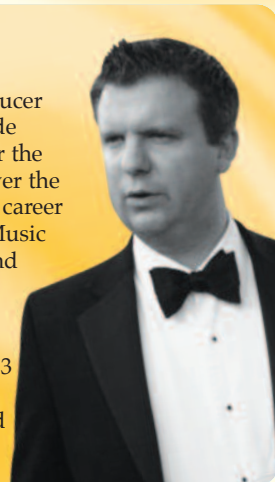
Having finished, others say abandoned, his classical music career as a flautist at the age of 23, Jan-Philipp took on a career in pop music. After graduating at Kontaktstudiengang Populärmusik at the HfMT in Hamburg he started as a singer/songwriter working with several bands, 'Stiller' being the most successful one, touring and recording extensively.

After his career as a live and recording artist, he began writing songs for other artists around the world as well as producing their records. In the course of doing so he's written and produced several top ten songs and records, mainly in Germany with artists like ECHT, Ina Müller, Christina Stürmer, Gregor Meyle and lots more. Jan-Philipp operates his own 600 square feet studio *melloton* in the middle of Hamburg and is very happy to be able to work in his "all time dream job". He's also been working as a vocal coach in the Hamburg School of Music and Leuphana University.

Philipp said: "My time at TS was an enormously intense and precious one. I'm so glad I learnt so much and got to know so many talented and interesting people, members of staff included. THANK YOU!" ●

Jonathan Manners (Wills West 1997) jonathanmanners@googlemail.com

Jonathan has been appointed Senior Producer for The BBC Singers. His work will include responsibility across the BBC Network for the UK's only full-time professional choir. Over the past decade Jonathan has forged a strong career in classical music, having been Head of Music Department of English National Opera and CEO at The Academy of Ancient Music. In 2010 he founded the Resonus Classics record label. In addition to recording Taunton School's Chapel Choir CD in 2013 the label won a coveted Gramophone Award in 2015 and is currently shortlisted for a BBC Music Magazine Award. ●



CARRINGTON LIBRARY REFIT

Thanks to the generosity of the Taunton School Foundation, the Carrington Library has had a major facelift. The colour scheme is deliberately based on three colours, with a nod to psychology – yellow, an energising colour associated with the intellect and the activation of memory; a restful green to encourage calmness; and touches of purple for wisdom. I hope this will provide a positive impact on the quiet atmosphere for reading and learning.

The smart carpet tiles cover a smooth new floor and the refitted ceiling incorporates much improved lighting and also helps minimise echo. The new layout has a more open feel, with the heavy furniture fanned out furthest from the door. The contents of each non-fiction section are clearly identified by colourful posters and detailed guiding.

Study tables are now spread out to allow more choice of location as well as additional study places. The Library PCs are back, and there are power and network outlets available for portable devices at the other benches along the walls.

The heart of the library is the new fiction section, beautiful new shelving and comfortable seating to encourage pupils to escape into a story. ●



Old Tauntonian Lodge No 5735 (OTL) Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC

Master – David Hughes
Senior Warden – Malcolm Wicks
Junior Warden – Michael Ramsbotham

Secretary – Graham Bowerman
T: 01275 855293 Mob: 07885 461579
E: graham.bowerman@gmail.com

Johnny Bouchier was welcomed and Initiated in February 2015 and Passed at the March meeting. Also at that meeting, Michael Griffin was elected an Honorary Member reflecting significant service given to the Lodge over many decades. The October Installation meeting saw David Hughes Inducted as Master with Malcolm Wicks and Michael Ramsbotham appointed as Senior and Junior Wardens respectively. The Lodge was honoured by the attendance of the Provincial Grand Master of Somerset, RW Bro Stuart Hadler and members of the Provincial Team, and congratulations were extended to Ted Tucker on his appointment to London Grand Rank. At the December meeting, Johnny Bouchier went through his third degree, and the Lodge welcomed as Joining Members Jason Raikes and Gary Chaffey, both members of TSL. An announcement that David Hughes, who completed his year as an active Officer of Grand Lodge (AGDC) in April 2015, was to be appointed a Metropolitan Grand Inspector was received just before Christmas and much to the delight of the Lodge.

The Public School Lodges Council Festival 2015 was held at Wellington College in May with a large OTL attendance of 19 and a special personal car parking space reserved for Mike Button! The theme of the Festival was the Battle of Waterloo 1815, and all attending were welcomed by the outgoing Master Sir Anthony Seldon. The 2016 Festival will be held on Saturday 25th June at Christ's Hospital, Horsham. See PSLC website.



Taunton School Lodge No 8215 (TSL) The Masonic Hall, The Crescent, Taunton

Master – Richard Hemmings
Senior Warden – Julian Frost
Junior Warden – Alan Watkins

Secretary – Chris Harding T: 01202 733694
E: harding588@btinternet.com

The Lodge was kept very busy during 2015. Stephen McLauchlan took his Second Degree in February and in May the first of what is hoped will be many members from the cadre of TS parents, Richard Hemmings, was Inducted into the Chair as the *quadragagesimus octavus* Master. Being a Bristol Mason (a Province that prides itself in its unique Bristol working), TSL anticipated some subtle differences in delivery of the Ritual! Also in May, and very sadly, the Lodge lost one of its few remaining Founder Members Richard George Taylor aged 89 and a Mason for over 60

years. Nicholas Smith was Passed in September and at that meeting Dick Langridge was elected an Honorary Member reflecting the very considerable service given as Secretary over many years, and embracing the marvellous help given by his wife Pat in typing out Summons and minutes. Very sadly both Dick and Pat passed away a few weeks later but will be fondly remembered. In November Paul Billings was elected a member and duly initiated; Simon Willets was elected a Joining Member. A cluster meeting of the Federation of School Lodges was held under the banner of the Wellington School, Somerset Lodge. The Master, Arthur Vize was one of a group of schoolboys from the Taunton and Wellington Schools who were given an Introduction to Freemasonry in 2008. Now aged 25 he is one of the youngest Masters in the Province of Somerset. The 2015 Festival for the Federation of School Lodge was held at Solihull School in September attended by David Jenkins and Mike Button. The 2016 Festival will be held on 3rd September at Richard Hale School, Hertford under the banner of the Old Hertfordian Lodge – see FSL website. Taunton School Lodge will be hosting the Festival in 2018.

Congratulations to Julian Frost who was appointed to PPrAGDC in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset in April 2015 and to Ted Tucker who will be appointed PPGSwdB in April 2016.



Old Tauntonian Royal Arch Chapter No 5735 (OTC) Mark Masons' Hall, St James's Street, London SW

Z. Julian Frost H. David Noble
J. Ted Tucker Scribe E: Graham Bowerman T: 01275 855293
E: graham.bowerman@gmail.com

Jason Raikes was welcomed and Exalted into the Chapter in April 2015, and at the same meeting Ted Tucker was congratulated on his appointment to London Grand Chapter Rank. At the Grand Festival later in the month David Hughes was promoted to Grand Chapter Rank as PGStdB. The November meeting saw the Induction of Julian Frost as First Principal, with David Noble and Ted Tucker appointed 2nd and 3rd Principals respectively. Attendance at both meetings was extremely good with many visitors – always most welcome.

MEETINGS 2016

OTL 5th February, 4th March, 7th October (Inst),
2nd December – 16.00 hrs

TSL 9th February, 20th May (Inst), 23rd September,
25th November – 18.30 hrs

OTC 5th April, 1st November (Inst) 16.00 hrs

All Old Tauntonian Freemasons and their friends are cordially invited to attend meetings of both Lodges and the RA Chapter and will be made most welcome. ●

BIRTHS

BREWER	to Ian	Marshall '02	and Pippa	Ottile - 26.10.15
BREWER	to Pippa (née Gwynne-Jones)	Bevan '03	and Ian	Ottile - 26.10.15
BRODIE	to Hannah (née Lansdell)	Murray '99	and James	Florence Mary Clare - 21.10.15
CHANG	to Josiah	Fairwater '91	and Judy	Julian - 07.08.15
CLARKE	to Sandy (née Chow)	Weirfield '05	and Andrew	Arabella - 10.11.15
DONKERSLEY	to Louisa (née Harman)	Jenkin '97	and Richard	Heidi Eleanor - 12.01.16
FENTON	to Toby	Wills West '93	and Lizzie	Annabelle Evie - 03.10.15
GILMORE	to Jeremy	Marshall '01	and Farida	Ezra John - 24.10.15
GOLDSMITH	to Jessica (née Axe)	Besley '97	and Matthew	Sophia Florence - 20.10.15
GREEN	to Daniel	Wills East '04	and Elizabeth	Penelope Freya - 06.07.15
GREENWOOD	to Toby	Evans '01	and Millie	Georgina - 13.09.15
HAU	to Ka Yan (née Lee)	Weirfield '05	and Jeffrey	Leon - 08.08.15
HILL	to Katie (née Linden)	Jenkin '04	and Mark	Ella Elizabeth - 10.09.15
HILL	to Mark	Goodland '04	and Katie	Ella Elizabeth - 10.09.15
KENNEDY	to James	Goodland '01	and Susannah	Hedley Richard John - 19.09.15
LONGSTAFF	to Harvey	Marshall '00	and Rachel	Jake Oliver - 07.10.15
LUPSON	to Sam	Fairwater '00	and Ioana	Emma Ioana - 27.11.15
PARKER	to Graham	Fairwater '92	and Tia	Emelia Mae - 01.01.16
PLIMMER	to Michael	Marshall '93	and Lucia	Roberto - 02.08.15
MORAN	to Sarah (née Taylor)	Bevan '02	and David	Lysander John Ashbridge - 24.10.15
NOTARO	to Szack	Marshall '02	and Jessica	Olivia Violet Jacqueline - 09.09.15
POOLE	to Sarah	Gloucester '01	and Mark	Florence Sylvia - 27.08.15
SPEAKMAN	to Rob	Marshall '00	and Annabel	Harry Edward - 22.12.15
WEBSTER	to Katie (née Turnbull)	Murray '01	and Jonathan	Clara Daphne - 30.09.15
WISCOMBE	to Paul	Wills East '98	and Kate	Ruby Zuzana - 15.01.16
WOLFE	to Gavin	Fairwater '05	and Gemma	Hilary Florence Eliza - 01.09.15
WRIGHT	to Emma (née Milsted)	Jenkin '04	and Tom	Ella - 23.12.15

ENGAGEMENTS

SAM AMBRIDGE	(Murray '96)	to William Boyle
JOE BILLET (JONES)	(Wills East '05)	to Paris Foat
ALLISON CROCKER	(Weirfield '03)	to Matthew Palfrey
DAVID GILSON	(Wills East '05)	to Claire Rogers
RICHARD GREEN	(Wills East '07)	to Claire Haggarty
JACK HAWKINS	(Goodland '04)	to Lily Paul (Jenkin '06)
PHILLIP JONES	(Evans '91)	to Emily Davidson
LILY PAUL	(Jenkin '06)	to Jack Hawkins (Goodland '04)
NAOMI PAUL	(Besley '06)	to Mathew Van Beek
ROBBIE WATTS	(Goodland '03)	to Abigail Smith

MARRIAGES

ATKINSON	Richard	Fairwater '04	to Lucy	12.09.15
BARNETT	Anna (née McLauchlan)	Besley '06	to Robert	01.08.15
CAMM	Katie (née Glover)	Jenkin '08	to Fielder	04.07.15
DIBBLE	Adam	Evans '09	to Charlotte	17.10.15
FALLON	Celia (née Hamlyn)	Besley '03	to Johnny	12.09.15
GLIDE	Charles	Marshall '81	to Deborah	29.11.15
GREEN	Rhiannon (née Llewellyn)	Weirfield '06	to The Revd Dr Brutus Green CF	28.08.15
HATFIELD	Leticia (née Odgers)	Bevan '08	to Sam	05.09.15
HATFIELD	Sam	Marshall '08	to Leticia	05.09.15
JEFFERIES	Ryan	Marshall '08	to Niki	05.11.15
KING	Katie (née Riseley)	Gloucester '99	to Martin	24.10.15
MILLER	James	Wills West '99	to Vivian	24.10.15
PATERSON	Angela (née Cottrell)	Jenkin '95	to Mark	11.04.15
PEACOCK	Angharad (née Cartwright)	Gloucester '94	to Frances	03.05.15
POWELL	Carly (née Mercer)	Besley '98	to Gareth	05.09.15
SHICKLE	Greg	School House '94	to Alice	12.09.15
SLIPPER	Justin	Evans '88	to Paula	05.09.15
TAYLOR	Capt Timothy	Goodland '06	to Katherine	26.09.15
WILLIAMS	David	Fairwater '91	to Helen	19.12.15

DEATHS

BAKER	John	Wills East '44-'51	29.04.15
BAREHAM	Susan Lorraine (née Bunyan)	Besley '77-'80	05.02.16
BLUCK CBE	Duncan Robert Yorke	School House '39-'44	06.10.15
CALLENDER	Colin Ernest	Wills East '55-'60	06.12.15
DARVALL	Polly Grace Mahoney	Jenkin '97-'12	31.10.15
DAY-WILMER	Paul Adrian	Wills West '60-'64	
DUNLOP	Peter David	School House '50-'55	26.03.15
EDWARDS	John Peter	Goodland '65-'72	08.08.15
EDWARDS	Stuart	Fairwater '39-'49	15.11.15
HOWELL	Vernon Thomas Seymour	Somerset '43-'50	22.10.15
IRVINE	Jennifer Anne		12.11.15
LANGRIDGE	Richard Charles	School House '45-'52	27.09.15
PEPLER	Michael David	Wills East '46-'56	13.04.15
PRING	James Neil	Marshall '78-'86	17.07.14
SMITH OBE	Kenneth Maltus	Eltham '39-'45	19.09.15
WALKER	Norna (née Baird), Lady Walker	Weirfield School '47-'56	23.12.15
WHITE	Peggy Viola (née Rendle)	Weirfield School '31-'37	20.07.15
WILLETTS	James	Marshall '11-'15	09.09.15
WOOD	Peter Lawrence	School House '33-'44	11.02.16



TS CHAPEL BAPTISM

The Baptism of Ella Elizabeth Hill took place in Taunton School Chapel on Saturday 23rd January 2016.

L-R: Richard Tithecott (Godfather), Rev Matthew Dietz (School Chaplain), Mark Hill (Goodland '04), Katie Hill (Jenkin '04), Ella, Ollie (TPS N3), Phoebe Swinburn (Jenkin '10) and Zoe Leach (Besley '04).

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO..



Anna McLauchlan (Besley 2006) married Sgt Robert Barnett RM on the 1st August 2015 in St Paul's Cathedral, London. By all accounts it was a spectacular event! Anna is currently working as a Sales & Marketing Manager for Mastergen Ltd, a company selling Bovine Genetics.



Meanwhile, her brother, James McLauchlan (Goodland 2004), an officer in the Royal Navy, married Laura Smith (a Teacher at Taunton Prep School) on the 31st December 2015 – a great way to see in the New Year!

Duncan Robert Yorke Bluck CBE (School House 1939-44) 19 March 1927 – 6 October 2015



Duncan was Head of Swire's and Chairman of the Cathay Pacific airline, before returning to London to take charge of the British Tourism Authority.

His parents were interned by the Japanese in Shanghai's Lunghua camp (together with the young JG Ballard, author of *Empire of the Sun*, and his family) and Duncan did not see them again until 1945; when he met his mother off a ship he brought a photograph in case he did not recognise her.

Bluck joined the Far Eastern trading house of Butterfield & Swire in 1948 and became Commercial Manager for the fledgling Cathay Pacific at only 27 years. Eager for growth and not afraid to take a risk he was behind the upgrading of Cathay's aircraft fleet and expansion into Japan. From 1971 he was chief executive and then chair of Cathay, simultaneously chairing all the major Swire companies in Hong Kong. Cathay Pacific was by then a main international carrier and Bluck's 'can-do' attitude won him plaudits.

Back in England from 1984 he continued with John Swire & Sons as a director and chaired both the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board. Norman Lamont described him as 'a tough businessman able to achieve the economies we want'.

A pillar of the community in Hong Kong and later in England, he chaired various boards and charitable bodies and in 1990 was honoured with the CBE. ●

Peter Scopes

22 August 1928 - 26 July 2015

Peter was the son of missionary parents in Southern India. Periods of his education were spent in England including at Taunton School where he gained his Higher School Certificate and, in 1946, he won a scholarship to read Mathematics at Cambridge.

A qualified teacher, Peter was for fifteen years an education officer in Tanganyika. He spent this time teaching and writing a book on teaching maths for primary teachers in developing countries. Following Tanganyika's gaining independence he became Principal of



Nicholas Martin Cavender (Wills West 1960-65) 5 February 1947 – 31 July 2015



Martin was one of the most charismatic evangelists who never wore a dog collar; his background was as a West Country solicitor specialising in ecclesiastical work, but it was as an evangelist with a gift for preaching – a combination of encouragement and dynamism – that he gained renown.

He was the first layman to preach in Westminster Abbey at a Bishop's consecration. Having asked an eminent churchman who loved his style what tone might be suitable, Cavender received the reply: "Give us both barrels." Cavender obliged, concluding his address with a prayer "written by a friend of mine who is... banged up in Dartmoor Prison".

Martin was registrar of the diocese of Bath and Wells from 1977 to 1992 and was greatly valued by clergy for his advice and encouragement. He also served as Chapter Clerk to Wells Cathedral.

During the 1990s he was Director of the Church of England's evangelical initiative *Springboard*. A man of great charm and diplomacy, he established links with church groups around the world. He was sent by his friend George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, to Rwanda after the genocide to rewrite the Church's constitution there. Listening in Synod to the first-hand accounts of people's extreme suffering Cavender was profoundly moved.

After the cessation of *Springboard* he helped set up *ReSource* a body dedicated to teaching, training and spiritual renewal. Active across this country and Africa *ReSource* continues today although Martin resigned in May due to his spinal cancer. ●

Dar es Salaam Teachers College and met Julius Nyerere when he came to open some new college buildings.

Retiring from the Overseas Civil Service Peter made his home in England from the late 60s and became head of mathematics at Avery Hill College, south-east London. A second book emerged, this time on mathematics teaching for secondary teachers. He was then appointed as a senior education adviser with the Overseas Development Administration, a post involving extensive travel to the Far and Middle East. ●

John Oakshott (TS Staff 1976-86)

John sadly passed away on 15th March 2015 after a short illness. Arriving in January 1976 from The Thomas Hardy School in Dorchester, John immediately became immersed in hockey. From the outset he ran the Foals and quickly followed this with the Somerset Under 14s, finally establishing the West Under 14s. All these jobs he did with conspicuous success making no excuses and unashamedly coaching his players to win.

The Foals went years undefeated, the Somerset U14s lost just two matches in sixty six under his management and similar success followed with the divisional team who won the Divisional Tournament three times, never finishing outside the top three. He took the school Foals to the National Mini Hockey Finals twice and won the competition on both occasions. He didn't suffer fools gladly but at TS



hockey players who came through the Foals year will testify to his enthusiasm, dedication and expertise – even if they didn't always share it!

John moved to Felsted in 1986 and spent the next 20 years teaching Biology, coaching boys and girls hockey as well as being a house tutor in one of the boarding houses. His real passion was hockey and after retiring from teaching, he coached and

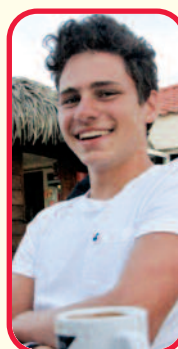
managed the England XL club to gold medal success at both the World Cup and European Championships. He was a much loved and respected figure who will be sorely missed by many.

About 300 people, including representatives of both Essex and East Hockey, England XL club, NPUA, EHF and FIH attended a service of celebration for his life at Felsted School Chapel. ●

James Willetts

(Marshall 2011-15)

2 July 1997 – 9 September 2015



The 2015 Leavers' Service, BBQ and balloon launch was temporarily delayed as pupils excitedly watched James take a special 18th birthday helicopter ride, courtesy of the *Make a Wish Foundation*.

James left the school when he was diagnosed with Glioblastoma in January 2014 which he has been bravely fighting. His former classmates, alongside staff and other members of the student body, were keen to gather on the front to sing 'Happy Birthday' to James ahead of his trip.

Earlier in 2015 he had a titanium port bolted to his skull to deliver drugs directly to the tumour after he failed to respond to conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy. However, in June, we were told that the tumour was spreading and

that there was very little that could be done.

We needed a miracle. We just kept getting knocked back; we were considering anything, all these wacky treatments. There was no crying from James when they told us, no 'why me?' no real fear or emotion. He took it in his stride; it was almost like he knew it was meant to be. He just said 'That's a bummer', and moved on. James spent all of his time at home with his family, and latterly with support from St Margaret's Hospice and Marie Curie. The support they provided us was fantastic, enabling us to look after James at home. In those final months you just want to cherish every minute and personally ensure he is loved and pain free.

I sensed he was quite a spiritual person. People used to say he was a deep thinker. Never one for wanting to be the centre of attention, he just used to quietly absorb everything around him – an old soul with an inner wisdom. He knew that life was so much more than someone winning and someone losing, he knew what was coming and could handle it.

James' funeral took place in Taunton School Chapel.

Simon Willetts (James' Father) ●

Polly Grace Mahoney Darvall (Jenkin 1997-2012) 17 October 1993 – 31 October 2015



We said farewell to a much-loved former pupil, Polly Darvall, at her funeral which took place in the Taunton School Chapel. Polly, who was 22, tragically died in a car accident on 31st October.

Miss Clare Harvie (Jenkin Housemistress) writes: *"What a privilege it is to have known Polly as a member of Taunton School and Jenkin House. She was a pupil at the Prep School before moving into the Senior School in 2006. She was an outgoing, fun-loving, vivacious student who made her presence felt wherever she went whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or in The Guvvy. She was easy to get on with and that made her the perfect choice to become Student Deputy Head of Jenkin House.*

As her Housemistress and hockey coach, I always found Polly to be a livewire. She was very principled and she rebelled against any perceived injustice she or her friends received. Always a contributor to discussions in the tutor group, Polly often came up with new ideas or improvements on old ones. She was very popular in her peer group; very loyal to her friends; looked up to by junior members of the House and a leading member of The Guvvy crowd. I could always rely on Polly to let me know when I got it wrong but also to tell me if someone needed help.

On the sports field she was tenacious and committed. She represented the School in numerous sports and thoroughly deserved the Goddin Award on Commemoration Day for high sporting endeavour. She played WA for the 1st VII where her speed around the court was the undoing of most defences. She would always be the one in the team talks who, when it got too serious, would lighten the mood with either a comment to make everyone smile or just an impromptu burst of laughter. I also have many fond memories of Polly playing hockey and scoring some spectacular diving goals. She always picked herself up, smiling her huge smile when she realised she had scored. She loved the competitive side to sport and relished the opportunity to play in any house competition.

In the classroom, Polly worked hard to achieve her grades and I was delighted when she received a 1st Class Degree in Geography from Northumbria University.

Polly will be sorely missed by many people at Taunton School and we will always remember her with great fondness." ●

Norna Lady Walker née Baird (Weirfield House 1947-55) 30 March 1938 – 23 December 2015

Like many of her friends, Norna's family were farmers; albeit fruit farmers, her father having retired from the Royal Navy in 1946 to set up a new career in fruit farming.

Horses were part of every girl's dream in those days and Norna was no exception! She borrowed horses until she was able to buy her very own Capicua, (a half Arab). What joy! She met Sir Hugh at a point-to-point where she heard him boasting that 'no girl could ride his stallion!!' Well, that was a challenge that Norna could not resist! Hugh could not get over the way she rode and said to his friends 'be damned if I don't marry that girl!' And the rest is history.



Norna, Lady Walker
née Baird

They settled on his Irish estate and spent many years pulling it back into the 20th century and breeding horses! Norna and Hugh had two sons, Robert and Roy. Norna was widowed in 2004 and, tragically, lost Robert in a car accident in 2006.

She suffered tremendous pain from a fall in the bottom yard when she smashed two vertebrae in 2002. Her health finally broke down in 2010, when Roy left the farm to do other things. Bladder cancer and all that goes with it left her in considerable pain and she arrived back in Taunton in December 2014 so that there was family around to care for her.

She was the bravest, strongest lady and bore everything thrown at her with amazing fortitude. Norna died on 23rd December 2015 with her sister by her bedside. ●

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WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Our school started the 2015-16 academic year with two new Deputy Heads. **Mr Ed Burnett** joined as Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead while **Mr Damian Henderson** is our Deputy Head (Academic).



It marks a return to the county town for Mr Burnett, who taught for a year at King's College in Taunton, while his wife Valerie was a teacher at Taunton School during the same period. Mr Burnett, who has also taught in Hong Kong, has been at Cranleigh School in Surrey for the past ten years, latterly as a Housemaster and previously as Head of Economics and Business Studies and Head of Rugby.



Mr Henderson spent the first decade of his career in boarding schools – Eton College near Windsor and, like Mr Burnett, Cranleigh School. He was then Head of French and IB co-ordinator at The Stephen Perse Foundation in Cambridge, where, in addition to Languages, he taught Theory of Knowledge and Global Outlook.

Headmaster, Mr Lee Glaser, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Ed and Damian to the school and the senior team. They are outstanding educators and believe wholeheartedly in the Taunton School ethos. They will play a key part in building on our strengths and implementing our shared vision for the school." ●

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2016

Saturday 14	West Wales Dinner	7.00pm	The Old Kings Arms SA71 4JS
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JUNE 2016

Saturday 18	OTA Reunion Weekend		Taunton School
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10 year reunion for leavers from 2006
20 year reunion for leavers from 1996
25 year reunion for leavers from 1991
30 year reunion for leavers from 1986
40 year reunion for leavers from 1976
50 year reunion for leavers from 1966
Foxcombe House Centenary 1916
Taunton School International 1996

OTA Committee Meeting	10.15am
OTA AGM	11.45am
Family Barbecue (at Foxcombe)	12.30pm
Reunion Dinner	6.30pm

Sunday 19	Chapel & Lunch	10.30pm	
Saturday 25	Midland Club Lunch	12.30pm	The Bridge, B50 4BG

SEPTEMBER 2016

Friday 9	Western Club Lunch	1.00pm	Taunton School
Sunday 18	Cornish Club Lunch	12.00pm	The Headland Hotel, TR7 1EW

Saturday 24	1847 Lunch	12.00pm	Taunton School
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OCTOBER 2016

Date TBC	Hong Kong Reception		Venue TBC
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Saturday 8	OTA Committee Meeting	10.30am	Taunton School
	Western Club Dinner	6.30pm	Taunton School

Saturday 22	Welsh Dinner		
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NOVEMBER 2016

Friday 11	Western Club Lunch	1.00pm	Taunton School
Thursday 24	London Club Dinner	6.30pm	RAF Club, Piccadilly

DECEMBER 2016

Monday 12	Western Club Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	Taunton School
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APRIL 2017

Saturday 22	OTA President's Dinner		Hampton Court Palace, KT8 9AU
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FORE! OT GOLF

SOCIETY MEETINGS (ALL WELCOME)

APRIL

Sun 24	Thone Cup	Taunton & Pickeridge	Hugh Todd
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MAY

Sun 8	Fairwater Cup	St. George's Hill	Richard Willacy
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JUNE

Sat 18	Reunion w/e	Oake Manor	Clive Large
Sun 19	Match vs School	Taunton & Pickeridge	Clive Large
Mon 27	Old Honitonians	Honiton GC	Richard Jowett

OCTOBER

Sun 2	Rose Bowl	Oake Manor	Hugh Todd
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SCRATCH COMPETITIONS (BONA FIDE OTS)

APRIL

Tues 5 - Sun 10 ind. practice	Halford Hewitt	Deal/Sandwich	Richard Willacy
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MAY

Sun 15	Grafton Morrish (qualifier)	Denham	Richard Willacy
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JUNE

Wed 22 - Sat 25 ind. practice	Cyril Gray (over 50)	Worplesdon	David Morgan
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OCTOBER

Thurs 6 - Sun 9 (event)	Grafton Morrish	Brancaster/Hunstanton	Richard Willacy
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STATE-OF THE ART FACILITIES

Taunton School began the academic year with state-of-the-art

Science facilities following the completion of a £2 million refurbishment project. The main Science Department in the Senior School has had a complete overhaul while two new Science labs have been completed and opened at Taunton School International.

TS Head of Science, Dr James Penny, takes up the story: "Taunton School's Science labs have benefited from a complete refit with consequent huge advantages to this successful department, which is now a much better environment in which to teach and study. Where once wooden benches stood, we now see modern chemical-proof surfaces. Remodelling the benches has allowed the incorporation of gas and electricity at every student work station, so classes can now occupy the whole lab space during practical work with greater safety as well as having more room with which to work."

An extension to the existing building housing the TSI Hall and ICT suite and the new labs were completed one week before the start of the new school year – on time and on budget! ●



Photograph the QR code above with a smartphone to connect to OTS Online.