On Sunday 29th June, a small group of OTs gathered at Taunton School to welcome 74-year-old veteran Racewalker, Edmund Shillabeer (Somerset ’58) as he completed the second leg of his 250-mile fundraising walk from Plymouth to London. In 2006, Edmund took part in the IRONMAN UK Championships raising £3000 for the Rotary ‘Shelter Box’ by swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles, then race-walking 26.2 miles. 2014 sees the 50th Anniversary of Edmund’s graduation from Bristol University Vet School and what better way to celebrate than with a 250-mile walk!

Edmund appeared totally unflustered when he arrived at Taunton School after his 40-mile walk from Exeter. He was accompanied by Olympian Racewalker Chris Maddocks, the only man in British athletics history to have competed at five Olympic Games. Chris spoke passionately about the camaraderie and support he and Edmund have enjoyed over the years. Chris retired from international competition when he finished last after being injured before the 50km race at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

“As soon as the starter’s pistol was fired, the pain was instant,” Chris said. He kept going, but was hurting so much at the 20km stage that he was about to give up. “I can’t take anymore, I’m in so much pain,” he said to Edmund, who was supporting on the sidelines. Spoken with a soft yet deliberate voice, Edmund said, “I know it hurts. Believe me I do. And it’s probably going to hurt for a few weeks. But now start walking. Get up that road and finish the race.”

As Chris entered the stadium after 5 hours he didn’t expect anyone to be there. But, as the applause and cheering grew, the announcer recited the words of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founding father of the modern Olympic movement, “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not the winning, but the taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting well.”

Edmund is raising awareness of International Cat Care, (formerly the Feline Advisory Bureau). iCatCare exists to improve the lives of cats worldwide and provide practical sustainable solutions to cat health and welfare problems.

https://www.justgiving.com/edmund-shillabeer
Twenty-five years after publishing the first edition, Chris has released a second version of ‘The Newton Abbot to Kingswear Railway’, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the railway reaching Kingswear 150 years ago. This edition includes more historical information as well as personal anecdotes from those who worked on the railway.

This isn’t the first time Chris updated a book of his, having published the second edition of his history of the Brixham railway branch in 2000. As well as railways, he has also written on the history of Brixham boys’ home and the town museum. Having started his career on the railways at Torquay office before spending 34 years at British Railways.

Chris said: “I've always taken great delight in railways and railway history. I’m pleased to have put to good use the education I received at Taunton School!”

Nik Harwood
(Evans 1989)
nik.harwood@tiscali.co.uk

Nik has worked within Children & Young People’s Services in Somerset for 17 years. His professional background is in Youth & Community work and he has worked in both the voluntary and statutory sector in operational and leadership positions. He was CEO of Bridgwater YMCA Foyer before moving to Somerset County Council, first as a Locality Manager and latterly heading up Leadership Development with the Somerset Centre for Integrated Learning. Having previously held responsibility for SRYF’s Economic Programme, Nik said: "I am delighted to be retaining SRYF at a time of significant change and development. I am passionate about the high quality work that we do – and will be working with our committed staff and volunteers towards the next stages of our work in serving the young people of Somerset.”

Tom Woolstencroft
(Goodland 2013)

Tom played for England U20s in the World Cup Final against South Africa. In a nail-biting finish, England won 21pts – 20 and so Tom is now a current World Champion!

A member of Bath Academy, Tom signed a loan deal with Coventry in January this year but his first game for the club was delayed until after the Six Nations. His debut in that competition was off the bench against France last February and he scored a maiden try in the Italy game the following month. Tom, a member of the Exeter Chiefs Youth Academy from 2009-11, moved from the back row to hooker last season.

Tom’s experience of captaincy spans Taunton School Years 9-11, Devon U15-U16 and Bath U18 Academy. He said: “My aim is to start for Bath in the Premiership and keep a regular place. I also have aspirations to play for England someday. Outside the game, I want to attend university and gain a degree in History and possibly have a career in law.”

Helene Jewell
(Bevan 1992)
helene.jewellfacilitation@gmail.com

After leaving Taunton School, Helene studied Speech and Language Pathology and Therapy at Manchester University. She went on to work in London as a Speech and Language Therapist before spending 3 years in Nepal as a VSO volunteer therapist and trainer. After a further year in Nepal working as an interpreter for the International Committee of the Red Cross using her newly acquired Nepali language skills, she returned to the UK to study for an MSc in International Development at Bristol University which led to work as a consultant for an international development company.

After a career path that took her through the charity, public and private sectors, Helene has honed her skills as an expert communicator and facilitator. Jewell Facilitation, her recently established freelance facilitation business, enables her to design and deliver workshops.

Helene said: “Facilitation is a fantastic way to improve group communication and harness people’s collective inputs in a dynamic, productive and motivating way.”

Helene lives in Bristol with husband, Andy, and children Tegan and Aden.
Jane Darley (Besley 1981)
jane.darley@bt.com

After University, Jane joined BT working in various departments, but in the main in marketing. Jane said: “When I joined BT I was determined not to stay more than 5 years and I definitely wouldn’t marry anyone in BT. I failed on both counts! I am married to Keith and have 2 teenage daughters, Charlotte and Lucy. Charlotte is disabled which has thrown up many challenges, but did get me involved in charity work.”

Jane has been with BT almost 30 years working in various marketing roles and has recently taken on managing and developing BT’s charity products and services.

Jane said: “I recently ran into Alistair Westall (School House ‘81) at BT working in our auditorium. I also ran into Tim Wilcox (Marshall ‘81) at the BBC — these OTs do get everywhere! I am planning to get the Class of 1981 together for the Annual Reunion weekend in May 2015 as President-Elect Richard Willacy (Wills West ‘81) was one of our Cohorts and it would be good to support him in his new role.”

Fiona Harrison (Besley 1997)
fiona.harrison@vanderbilt.edu

Fiona graduated from Cardiff with a PhD and is now Assistant Professor (Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism) at Vanderbilt University, USA, where she has a neuroscience research lab in the University Medical Centre. Fiona said: “I have undergraduate and graduate students in my lab, but also the occasional High School student for a week or two’s work experience. I am more than happy to be contacted by OTs and TS students interested in coming out here to work in the sciences.”

Obi Imachukwu (Weirfield 2011)
obi_oma@hotmail.com

Obi is currently on a four-year course studying Law with a professional placement at Brunel University.

It is compulsory for students to undergo a placement in a legal environment in order to gain an overview of the practical aspect of law. Obi was given the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to undertake her placement year at Norton Rose Fulbright. Core responsibilities included general legal research, drafting legal agreements and compiling the necessary documents needed to incorporate a legal entity in Tanzania.

Obi said: “I wrote weekly news updates regarding the energy sector in the East African Community which is made up of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. This was circulated around the firm to Partners, Associates and Trainees. In addition to this, I travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa to complete a four-week vacation scheme at the firm.”

Oli Neville-Payne (Marshall 2004)
nev_payne@hotmail.com

Oli is currently reading for his Hons Computer Systems and Networking at Plymouth University after working in an IT Support role for 7 years with Taunton firm, GIRLINGS Retirement Rentals. He is in the 3rd year of the 4-year course, currently in placement with Marlow-based Softcat Ltd, a UK-wide IT solutions provider, and is looking to remain with the company following graduation.

Within Plymouth University, Oli has taken on several roles including Course Representative, Peer Assisted Learning Leader (assisting lower year groups once a week in their courses), and Assistant Manager of the student radio station (UPSU: Radio) for the past academic year. These he endeavours to continue during his final academic year from September 2015.

Oli said: “In my free time I remain true to my hobby of Classic Cars; my Rover Mini Knightsbridge being completely rebuilt 3 years ago and taking it to various Classic Car shows, and touring Northern France.”

Philip Withers (Goodland 1981)
philip.withers@umist.ac.uk

Philip (pictured left), one of the country’s top professors, has been recognised with one of the most coveted awards in teaching: The Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education. This was awarded for part of his ground-breaking work at the University of Manchester, ‘New techniques in X-ray imaging of materials critical for power, transport and other key industries’.

Philip’s innovative imaging work has an impact across a range of sectors, including nuclear, aerospace, oil and gas, airport security, automotive, biomedical materials, manufacturing and defence.

Philip said: “This award will help us to continue developing our X-ray imaging Facility to shine a light on previously unseen phenomena, primarily those of importance to engineering but also in the natural world. Our work has just been boosted by £18m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and £4m from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council for new equipment and so we certainly won’t be standing still!”

BEING BINKY

Welcome to the glamorous life of Alexandra ‘Binky’ Felstead (Weirfield ’06-08), original cast member and star of the hit TV programme, Made in Chelsea. In this tell-all account she reveals what it’s really like BEING BINKY and what it takes to be a real Chelsea Girl.

When the show launched in 2011, Binky was catapulted from a 9-to-5 job as a receptionist at a hedge-fund into the limelight of reality TV fame. She’s experienced many ups and downs on the show, from feuding with best friend Cheska and a failed romance with Jamie Laing, to her new found friendship with Lucy Watson and being swept off her feet by Alex Mytton. The impact of Made in Chelsea on her life was immediate.

Charting her overnight rise to fame and exploring her life outside of Made in Chelsea, Binky opens up about her childhood, the bullying she was victim to at school (not Taunton!) and the difficulties of dealing with her parents’ divorce. She talks candidly about body image and dieting, and shares her beauty regime top tips.

BEING BINKY lifts the lid on one of the series’ favourite characters and provides a backstage pass to the secret and exclusive world of Chelsea.


https://taunton.web-intouch.com
President's Message

Even though the May Annual Reunion weekend was not blessed with the lovely weather of the past few weeks, it was, nonetheless, a wonderful occasion. Pleasingly, there was a wide range of ages and a particularly impressive turnout from leavers of the ‘80s and the 25-year reunion of the class of ‘89 was a real highlight. Hopefully the class of ‘90 will aim to exceed that next May!

The cricketers, ably led by Ben Hunt (School House ‘89) and Charlie Walker (Marshall ‘86), enjoyed another close match and dodged, or simply ignored, the squally showers, whilst the hockey players from the successful ‘74 team completed 18 holes at Oake Manor Golf Club. Over 100 attended the evening dinner – another great success – and, although rather fewer managed to make Chapel on Sunday morning where Alison Shaw (née Page) Weirfield ‘73 addressed the congregation, the whole weekend was a memorable one.

Since then I have: enjoyed attending the School v OTs T20 cricket match; played in a couple of OT golf matches; welcomed Edmund Shillabeer (Somerset ’59) as he completed Day 2 of his sponsored walk from Plymouth to London; attended the Western Club Tiverton horse-drawn Barge trip and the Midlands Club luncheon, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

But, already my mind is racing forward to the President’s Dinner which is to be held on February 15th 2015 at the Palace of Westminster and about which I hope many of you will have read on the ‘new-look’ OT website https://taunton.web-intouch.com

In June this year I had the honour of attending a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and, as I walked across Green Park, I was greeted by Josh Duffield (Wills East ‘92), one of my former Heads of House. He was in London on business and it was really good to see him. It made me think how nice it would be to see OTs from my time in Wills West, Goodland and Wills East, as well as the many who played in teams – rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis, golf – for which I was responsible in my years at TS. The occasion might be a ‘sell-out’! I do hope some of you who are reading this will be able to respond to my request for some sponsorship for the event in Westminster – acts of generosity by those who can afford it, to help others to attend who otherwise would find it more difficult.

President Elect 2015-17

At the OTA AGM in May, Richard Willacy (Wills West 1976-81) was formally elected as President Elect 2015-17.

Born in Nigeria of mixed parents (English/Dutch), but raised in Venezuela, Richard speaks three languages – English, Dutch and Spanish. He was Head of Wills West, Captain of School Tennis and in the 1st Teams for Hockey and Rugby.

He read Maths at the University of Manchester / UMIST where he captained the University Golf Team. He is a qualified Management Accountant and formerly a Finance Director. He is now a Business Consultant, playing golf in his spare time.

Richard has played OT golf for the past 30 years and has been Secretary of the OT London Club.

Goodbye Vicky...Goodbye!

Tributes and presentations have been made to retiring TPS Deputy Head, Mrs Vicky Pugh.

Mr Duncan Sinclair, TPS Headmaster, said: “We cannot begin to try and measure the contribution made in her time serving our school. We wish Vicky well in all the pursuits which come as a consequence of this well deserved retirement.”

Vicky has served Taunton School for 31 years, working with no less than ten Headteachers. She began teaching at Weirfield School in September 1983, under the headship of Miss Ruth Hodgson.

She was employed as a form teacher for Senior Two (our current year 8) and English teacher. She is remembered fondly by many of her previous pupils having had over 1,500 of them in her care over the 31 years. She has been an exceptional Deputy Head and leader at Taunton Prep School, implementing many of the new initiatives when Weirfield and TPS merged in 1994. She is highly respected and will be missed by colleagues and pupils.

A Chapel service was held in her honour during the last week of term, where former and current pupils’ memories were shared and her favourite hymns were sung.

Mrs Caroline Tucker, Assistant Deputy (Academic) said: “It was a moving occasion and a fitting tribute to a very special colleague.”
This year’s Commemoration Day saw the inauguration of a specially created sculpture designed as part of a Senior School cross-curricular project to commemorate the passing of 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War, a conflict which witnessed the sacrifice of 168 Old Tauntonians.

Intended to double up as sculpture and usable seating, the new ‘trench bench’ makes a striking addition to Densham Court. After consultation with the History Department, it was designed by Neil Gush of the DT department, then constructed and fashioned by Jon Baker and the Art department under Lotte Hammer. Grounds and Maintenance, meanwhile, played a vital role in moving, then cementing, the heavy piece into place.

The sculpture is intended not as a Great War Memorial per se – this already exists in the Science Block – but as a commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the tragic conflict.

Eventually, an inscription on a nearby obelisk will reflect this: ‘Over and over again’ will allude not just to ‘going over the top’ and the trench warfare of the Western Front, but also to the fact that this was not the ‘war to end all wars’ as the repeated conflicts of the intervening 100 years have demonstrated.

It is hoped that this, as well as the poppies which will be planted around the sculpture, will give future generations pause for thought.

The inauguration ceremony involved the County Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Roger Duddridge, and Alec Young, the CCF’s RSM for 2013-14, cutting a set of red ribbons (pictured right) in front of an audience which included the School Governors.

A special exhibition, curated by school archivist John Brown, was simultaneously opened. ‘Taunton School and the First World War: A retrospective of 1914 and what followed’ focuses on the school in 1914 and how life was changed for leavers and younger pupils alike. It also highlights the development of attitudes during four years of suffering and the state of the school upon the cessation of hostilities in 1918.

Many other academic departments and a large number of pupils will be involved in the 2014 commemorative project.

The Sculpture was part-funded by the Taunton School Foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr James Hickman (Marshall 1984) who has been awarded an MBE in The Queen’s Birthday Honours, June 2014.

James, who rescued a woman who fell 30ft from Wells Cathedral and was first on the scene of the November 2011 M5 crash tragedy, was described by the Somerset County Gazette as an ‘heroic doctor’.

James, a GP in North Curry (near Taunton) and pre-hospital emergency care doctor, was commended for his services to health care, particularly emergency medical care, in Somerset and abroad. As a member of the Somerset Accident Voluntary Emergency Service (SAVES) James has attended hundreds of incidents in support of the ambulance service, including rescuing a patient by amputating his arm high in the roof space of an industrial complex.

In addition to his 24/7 voluntary work as an emergency call-out doctor in the county, James is a member of the UK International Search and Rescue Team, and was deployed to the 2009 Sumatran earthquake and the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami. In October 2013, James was elected Chairman of the British Association for Immediate Care.

James said: “I am grateful to my colleagues in SAVES and BASICS, the doctors and staff in my practice, my patients for supporting my emergency work and particularly my long-suffering wife and daughters for all their support in putting up with me disappearing at a moment’s notice!”

The School is extremely grateful to the OT 200 Club, the OT Western Club and an anonymous donor who, between them, have contributed £3400 towards two high-quality radio microphones which complement the recently installed, excellent Chapel sound system.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

T he School is extremely grateful to the OT 200 Club, the OT Western Club and an anonymous donor who, between them, have contributed £3400 towards two high-quality radio microphones which complement the recently installed, excellent Chapel sound system.

https://taunton.web-intouch.com
It is a pity that such wise thinking does not apply to other far more important parts of our national life. Take the health of the nation. The NHS is becoming unaffordable. What are we doing to prevent illness rather than just curing it? Where is our investment in sport?

Statistics have emerged that show that 21% – yes, only 21% – of 2 to 15 year-olds do an hour of exercise per week since the London Olympics. This is a reduction from pre-Olympic days. The budget was too easy to cut. What a disaster for those 10 year-olds who by the age of 50 will be suffering all sorts of health issues that could have been avoided.

Let’s move this forward to our education system in general. We have done badly in PISA league tables. Do we wish to improve the educational success of our young people so that by 2030 we are not scratching our heads over exactly the same problems? The answer once more is long-term thinking.

Every party has ideas about education. No party does education well. Political indecision and ideological tampering continue to have a horrendous and negative impact on the precious lives of young people. Cross-party, long-term co-operation, such as is being attempted with HS2, must surely be our aim.

While China may not be covered in roses when it comes to how it deals with its politics, it at least has some long-term, laudable ends, many of which we would do well to adopt ourselves.

Dr John H. Newton M.A. (Oxon), F.Coll.P., Dip.M.S.(Ed.)

An offer you can’t refuse

After 33 years of working in the IT Industry, Dave Markham (Foxcombe ’78) finally decided it was time for a change. He and his wife both took redundancy and are now the proud owners of a B&B (www.southcliffe.co.uk) in the quiet, picturesque, North Devon town of Lynton. David says: “It really is the most beautiful area with so much to do – wonderful coastal walks (we are on the South West Coastal path as well as being on Exmoor), a Victorian cliff railway to our sister town of Lynmouth, horse riding, cycling, sandy and rocky beaches, steam trains, as well as many National Trust properties (Dunster Castle and Watersmeet to name two), plus we are only 10 minutes’ walk from the ‘Valley of Rocks’.”

David is happy to offer a 10% discount for any Old Tauntonians who book directly with him by phone. Please see www.southcliffe.co.uk for further details.

Old Tauntonian Association

From the Headmaster

For healthy bodies and happy lives, we need long term thinking...

You’re not going to like this article. However, I am prepared to take the risk.

China does politics better than we do – and in ways we are going to have to get used to. I know this is hard to accept, because in some areas the Chinese do politics badly. For example, nobody can be comfortable with the fact that there is only one name on the ballot paper or with the way dissent is treated.

However China’s capacity for long-term thinking, their long-term planning for long-term success is a strength. There are few political footballs. Progress is smooth. This is, perhaps, one reason why they believe that 17 of the last 20 centuries have been dominated by them and there is no reason why this – in their eyes – established order should not continue.

We need to adopt some long-term thinking too. Let me give three examples. The first one is very positive. The high-speed rail link 2 project is of such significance to the country that, whether we agree with it or not, the fundamental principle adopted by the Prime Minister to proceed only if there is constant cross-party support is a sign that there’s some attempt somewhere to think beyond the immediate.

China’s capacity for long-term thinking, their long-term planning for long-term success is a strength...We need to adopt some long-term thinking too.

Headmaster John Newton

The Castle
at taunton

Historic Luxury

Single Rooms from £99.00

Double/Twin Rooms from £155.00

Rates include full English breakfast & VAT.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Please quote “Taunton School” when making your reservation.

The Castle Hotel, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 1NF

T: 01823 272671
reservations@the-castle-hotel.com
www.the-castle-hotel.com

https://taunton.web-intouch.com
THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

Dr Martin James (Fairwater ’66) and Richard Bond (Fairwater ’66), after exchanging Christmas cards for the past 50 years, decided it might be a good idea to meet up before the Grim Reaper paid a call. They met for lunch at Richard’s house in Gloucestershire. He dug out a battered photograph of the pair of them in the Tuck Room in Fairwater, circa 1964.

Veryan Rookes (née Acheson) sent a photo of herself with two other Jenkin ’82 girls, Alison Hembrow and Charlotte Barber (née Evans), taken on Dartmoor in 1978 where she, Alison and Charlotte were part of the same Duke of Edinburgh’s Bronze Award team.

Veryan said: “A photo was recently taken at The Castle Hotel, Taunton, where I was celebrating a special birthday. Although we feel much more grown up these days and thought we had changed a lot, it would appear that we are all too recognisable from this photo!”

HOME FROM HOME

Cape Town is fast becoming a sub-branch of the OTA Western Club with both former Secretary Ian Irvin (Somerset ’64) and former Chairman Chris Levan (School House ’66) having homes nearby, and another former Chairman and OTA President, David Brighton (Fairwater ’49) who often visits his daughter there, all spending the warm South African summer months away from the cold and rainswept UK. Ian, and his wife Tina, live in Hout Bay where his daughter, Nicola Broxis (Bevan ’94) has a permanent home having married a South African. Chris and Christine have a home on the Arabella Country & Golf Estate near Hermanus.

The four met up for the weekend in April this year and attended one of the many outdoor music festivals held at the world renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, in the shadow of Table Mountain.

With the mixture of music and champagne, Ian and Chris soon joined in the dancing – African style – much to the embarrassment of their wives.

Chris is due to give a digital slideshow to the Western Club on Monday 15th September of his and Christine’s self-drive safari in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Northern South Africa.

A GLOBAL THANK YOU

Dear Mrs Coomber,

I’ve been thinking about you, the house and the school a lot lately. It was pretty much exactly one year ago when I was in the middle of my final International Baccalaureate exams. It doesn’t feel that long ago at all. How’s the house doing? I do miss the days in Woodyer... a lot. I’m always happy if Jessie, Jasmin, Eleanor or Bella message me a little update of how things are from their perspective.

I thought I’d write to let you know how I’m doing: I’m so grateful that all that hard work does actually pay off! If I had not gotten those 40 IB points, I would not have been accepted at the Humboldt University here in Berlin. It’s such an amazing law faculty and the professors are great, too. Also, law is definitely keeping me busy and that’s just the way I like it, as you know....

Then there is Berlin – there is always something happening here, which is quite nice after a long working day. The latest good news is that I got an offer for a part time job at an amazing law firm (Noerr) here in Berlin. I’m so happy about it, especially, once again, I would not have got that job without the IB. They usually only take students who already are in their 6th semester and actually have some more knowledge of the German law, but since they are a very international firm, they liked my CV a lot. So I’m really looking forward to my first day of working there next week. I think next to reading and trying to memorise all that abstract knowledge, getting some insights of how an actual day as a lawyer could look will help motivate me even more for all the abstract parts of the course.

Please say hi to everybody.

Jonna Klockenhoff (Woodyer ’13)
ANNUAL REUNION WEEKEND
May 2014

The reunion weekend included an impressive turnout from leavers of the 1980s.

From left: Colin Trim (Somerset ’64), David Craggs (Somerset ’64), Brian Smith (Somerset ’63) and Paul Williams (Somerset ’63).

From left: Ed Warneford-Thompson (Goodland ’84), Hugh Todd and Peter Hubbard (Marshall ’89).

Above: OT President Hugh Todd & President Elect Richard Willacy (Wills West 1982).
Old Tauntonian Review

Western Club members are pictured here after having enjoyed a horse-drawn barge trip on the Grand Western Canal, Tiverton.

80TH BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Below: David Mason (Fairwater ’51) and Brian Stent (School House ’52) celebrated their 80th birthdays with a lunch at Taunton School in March.
TAKAPUNA TURTLES

This year the Takapuna Turtles re-grouped, starting things off at North Petherton 7s, where we unfortunately lost in the final. Following this our confidence was boosted as we entered the Bournemouth 7s again. Looking fresh with our brand new playing kit, we took on a wet Saturday morning, avoiding the puddles which had formed on the pitch, making it through to the Semi finals the next day. On the Sunday we fought hard to pull off a late comeback win in the quarter finals and were determined to make the final on the main pitch. Unfortunately, Sevenoaks were too strong for us again and rattled our shells to take the win.

The following weekend we crossed the bridge to Wales for the Cardiff 7s. We dug deep and made the final of the open competition, only to lose to a far stronger side. Our next point of call was the Newquay 7s at the end of June. A tough day in the sunshine saw us fall short to a well-drilled Army (German Division) team in the Semi finals. Of course, we did not leave without playing a traditional TS game of beach cricket and taking a dip in the sea.

We would like to thank Jonathan Stocker and the OT 200 Club for their generous donations and support. If any other young and experienced OTs are interested in playing, please feel free to contact me at tim-thompson12@hotmail.com.

FORE!

Representatives of the unbeaten 1974 1st XI hockey team gathered to celebrate their 40th anniversary with what was intended to be a gentle stroll around Oake Manor Golf course in the sunshine, followed by a celebratory meal at the OT Reunion weekend in May. However, we did not plan for the torrential rain and gale-force winds – at times it was quite a challenge just to complete the 18 holes, but true to the spirit which defined the unbeaten side all those years ago, we battled on valiantly, with one team doing rather better than the other and enjoying the complimentary post-match clubhouse hospitality!

Many could not make this reunion due to other commitments, but it was agreed that there would be no excuses for anyone not making the next big anniversary – the 50th in 2024!

Thanks to Rick and Lizzie Pudner, Mike Pudner (even though as a 1978 leaver he was a mere youngster), Kim Husband, Clive Large and skipper, Neil Longstreet, and a special thanks to Richard and Gill Jowett who saw the teams off and joined up afterwards for dinner, thus wisely avoiding the tempest!

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON...

On a bright January morning, Wes Wyatt (Fairwater ’48) graciously hosted the Headmaster, Dr John Newton, for a round of exhilarating golf at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club. As part of the visit, Wes was able to take the photograph (left) showing the Headmaster and the Honours Board celebrating the success of Taunton School in the ‘West of England Public Schools Tournament’ which Taunton won in 2010 and 2011.

The Headmaster lost many balls, but not once did he lose his temper... Wes, of course, was triumphant.

OLD TAUNTONIAN GOLFING SOCIETY

The OTGS continues to organize meetings in the London and Taunton areas throughout the summer, both social and competitive. All OTs and those connected with the School are very welcome to join in and should contact the Secretary, Richard Jowett, for details: richardjowett@hotmail.com or 01823 331666.

A reminder also that all young OTs (under 25) are able to enjoy entry to all competitions free, as these costs are met by the OTGS.

We look forward to meeting golfers old and new.

OT CRICKET

Taunton School played an OT XI on the front in a 20-over game on 23rd June – the first time the fixture has been played in over 10 years. The school batted first and got off to a very fast start after some slightly generous bowling from the OTs. Once we realised the School were taking this seriously, we upped our game, and some tight bowling, good catching and fielding restricted the school to 153. There were fine contributions in the school’s inning whilst Josh Kelly and Richard Glover were star performers for the OTs in the bowling stakes.

The school bowled very tightly in the opening 6 overs, and the OTs fell below the rate. However, a mixture of nuddling and hitting from Phil Higginson, David Higginson, and Hugh Kelly kept the OTs in the hunt. Some fine bowling from Ed Clark meant the target was just out of reach and the school ended victorious by 10 runs.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and the hope is that it will become an annual event, with a BBQ and drinks afterwards in future years... perhaps with a few more spectators as well!

David Higginson (Goodland ’99)
HELPING CHILDREN, CHANGING LIVES

Since 2012, Richard Wakely (Evans ’11) has been volunteering in the City of Cebu (Philippines) for the Bath based charity, Mercy in Action (www.mercyinaction.org.uk). His first visit was a 6-week volunteering stint after his travels around Asia with Guy Skinner (Evans ’11) and Richard Glover (Evans ’11). He then went back for 6 months on his own in January 2013, working as a full-time volunteer in their drop-in centre: a house where they feed, cloth, shower, teach and look after the children in the community who live on the streets.

In January 2014 he began a one-year contract as the Community Outreach Intern in charge of starting up after-school clubs and activities, majoring in sport and activities that the children can’t access due to the poverty they live in. Also, a big part of his job is getting into the community and building friendships with the children and their families.

Richard runs a club each night of the week from Monday to Friday, and then opens the centre on Saturdays. Monday is problem-solving games where the children can come into a safe environment to enjoy fun activities and learn new things. Most are just happy to do some drawing and colouring as they don’t have the materials to do these kinds of things at home. Tuesday is Bible study night and Wednesday is Arts & Crafts night.

Richard said: “Due to my utter lack of talent, and the fact our long-term volunteer whose talent was art has just left, I am doing art one week, science experiments (which is much more up my street) the next. Thursday is assignment night. Due to lack of electricity in many houses, and the fact that many of the children have six or more brothers or sisters, home can be a very busy and noisy place. So we open up on Thursday for them to come and do their assignments in a quiet, clean environment that has good lighting. We have a donated laptop (we are hoping to get a printer soon!) so they can research, as around 50% of their assignments require this! On Fridays there are two clubs running: the first one is a life skills club that looks at cooking, cleaning, first aid and so on. When this club finishes, Richard opens up a space for older college children to come and share about their week. They are able to ‘chill out’ as many of them are studying, then working for money and then, on top of all that, looking after their younger siblings! On Saturday there are two clubs running: 9.00am to 11.00am is our Dance Club run by one of the girls and 11.00am to 2.00pm is the Basketball Club. Hopefully, there will soon be a soccer club from 7.00am to 10.00am.”

Richard also said: “It’s been pretty tough to say the least, as this is a totally new part of the charity that had not been tried before. We had to overcome many obstacles including finding venues for the sports clubs as every place is always fully booked and it’s too hot to do most sports outside. Another, is the schedules of the children out here. The schools are so over-populated, that some go to school Monday to Friday, some Tuesday to Saturday and others Wednesday to Sunday. Some then have classes in the morning, some in the afternoon and some in the evening! So to find the right venue at the right time and then to find the children we are targeting has been quite interesting, to say the least. God has kept me strong, and kept me going and enthusiastic about wanting to help the children I really care for and love out here. I’ve been super-blessed by him! We are coming into a new season now for the Community Centre. Venues are being found and booked for long periods of time, and evening clubs are gathering structure and focus! With this new season I will be going into a new community, so who knows where God will take me and the programme!!”
Donald Malpas CBE  
(School House 1934–42)  
8 March 1924 – 26 March 2014

Whoever tried to stereotype the concept of The Boring Accountant never met Donald Malpas. Donald was many things, none of them boring.

Born in Bahia of British parents and sent off to board at Taunton School, Donald returned to Brazil in 1940 in the face of the then real possibility that England would fall into enemy hands early on in the Second World War. He vowed to go back and serve his country. This he duly did, after a short spell at Price Waterhouse in Rio.

His community activities were an important part of his life. Donald was highly visible for his participation in the BCCC, the RBL, St Paul’s School, and especially the British Chamber of Commerce. In all he did, his beloved wife, the late Maggie, was by his side.

Her Majesty The Queen recognized Donald’s qualities and achievements by awarding him the OBE in 1986, and then upgrading him to CBE in 2002. For all his public achievements, it was Donald’s personality that will live on in people’s memories; he loved fun and he was funny, a raconteur of entrapping talent. He loved people; people loved being with him. His wit was always sharp, his curiosity and knowledge on a wide range of subjects prodigious. He loved a party; parties loved him.

Of course he planned, down to the minutest detail, a big birthday bash for his 90th on March 8. The spirit remained willing, but the flesh was uncooperative, and his family very reluctantly called off the party. He died two weeks later, a fighter to the end. His children, Richard and Susan, and grandchildren Daniel, Filipe, Andrea and Sabrina have much to be proud of.

Congratulations, Donald Malpas, on a life well-lived.

Christopher Bull  
(Somerset 1947–55)  
6 September 1936 – 31 March 2014

In his own matter-of-fact words, “After pilot training I was commissioned and posted to India and Burma with Transport Command to take part in what was to have been the invasion of Malaysia, had the atom bomb not made this unnecessary.”

Peace-time saw him back with Price Waterhouse, to which he gave himself wholeheartedly; in New York, Buenos Aires, Lima, São Paulo, Recife and Rio, until – and beyond – his retirement as Senior Partner, Brazil in 1984. Donald will be especially remembered for the hands-on interest he took in new arrivals to PW: he took his ‘boys’ under his wing, showed them the ropes, followed their progress, remembered the names of their children, and thus created a network of loyal friends spanning several generations.

His community activities were an important part of his life. Donald was highly visible for his participation in the BCCC, the RBL, St Paul’s School, and especially the British Chamber of Commerce. In all he did, his beloved wife, the late Maggie, was by his side.

Her Majesty The Queen recognized Donald’s qualities and achievements by awarding him the OBE in 1986, and then upgrading him to CBE in 2002. For all his public achievements, it was Donald’s personality that will live on in people’s memories; he loved fun and he was funny, a raconteur of entrapping talent. He loved people; people loved being with him. His wit was always sharp, his curiosity and knowledge on a wide range of subjects prodigious. He loved a party; parties loved him.

Of course he planned, down to the minutest detail, a big birthday bash for his 90th on March 8. The spirit remained willing, but the flesh was uncooperative, and his family very reluctantly called off the party. He died two weeks later, a fighter to the end. His children, Richard and Susan, and grandchildren Daniel, Filipe, Andrea and Sabrina have much to be proud of.

Congratulations, Donald Malpas, on a life well-lived.

Christopher Harris  
(Fairwater 1953–60)  
16 December 1942 – 30 April 2014

Chris was a Governor for The Rose Bruford College, a member of the Board of Directors for Salisbury Playhouse, a panel-member for Southern Arts and past President of Bridgwater Theatre Trust.

He was British delegate for the International Theatre Institute XVIII Congress in Sofia and also for the World Shakespeare Congress in Japan. He was also a Patron of Circomedia and Bristol and Highbridge Arts Festival.

Chris was much sought after as a lecturer and teacher, notably a regular visiting lecturer and director for the Bristol Old Vic theatre school for twenty-five years. He lectured at Universities in London, Manila, Bangkok, Cambridge and Exeter.

His workshop ‘How to make a fool of yourself and get away with it’ was used by many educational authorities, the probation service, theological colleges, the social services and the BBC TV News Department.

On May 20th 2014, the Theatre Royal, Bath hosted what it called a ‘Farewell jollification’ in memory of the much-loved actor and director, who died of cancer at the age of 71.

Friends, family and colleagues came together to celebrate his life and pay tribute through music, dance and song. Guests were asked to wear bright, colourful clothing to the event, which saw the venue packed out as people poured in to say their final goodbyes.

Despite the emotional occasion, there were plenty of laughs throughout the performance, as Chris’s sons, Sam and Matt, led tributes to their dad. Matt performed a stumtman routine as Sam cheered him on, before Matt’s two sons came on to throw sweets out to the audience in true panto style. Matt joked that it was the one time he didn’t want to hear the phrase “he’s behind you”.

Comedian Jon Monie, who appeared alongside Chris in panto in Bath, said: “It has been a most remarkable event. I’ve never been to a funeral where there was so much laughter, where water was squirted and where sweets were handed out. It ended with a standing ovation and was a fitting send-off for a truly memorable man.”

2013 saw Chris Harris perform in his fifteenth pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and his twelfth consecutive year as director, during which time he played all of the legendary Pantomime Dame roles. The West’s best-loved Dame, Chris most recently performed as Governess Gerti in Peter Pan. His rapport with audiences and expert knowledge of pantomime is what made his reputation as one of the UK’s favourite Dames. As such a recognised authority on this unique theatre form, he conducted workshops on pantomime both in the UK and abroad.

Chris was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company but since 1976, he toured the world extensively with his six one-man shows, the flagship of which was ‘Kemp’s Jig’.

His television credits include an RTS Award for the BBC TV series ‘Hey, look, that’s me’ which ran for eight years and also five programmes he co-wrote and performed in, including the trilogy ‘That’s the way to do it!’ which received a Royal Command Performance for The Queen in 1979. He performed and directed all over the world: in the USA; with the National Theatres of Turkey (four awards) and Namibia; in Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore; and throughout the Middle East.

Chris toured the USA for Sam Wanamaker raising money with others for The Globe Theatre on London’s South Bank. He also toured with members of the Welsh National Opera with shows based on the works of Charles Ives, Banchieri, Monteverdi and Thomas Weelkes.

A recipient of scholarships from the Rose Bruford College, the French Government and the British Council, his training ranged from The Jaques Lecoq Mime School in Paris to the Moscow State Circus School and Ladislav Fialka’s pantomime company in Prague.

For all his public achievements, it was Donald’s personality that will live on in people’s memories; he loved fun and he was funny, a raconteur of entrapping talent. He loved people; people loved being with him. His wit was always sharp, his curiosity and knowledge on a wide range of subjects prodigious. He loved a party; parties loved him.

Of course he planned, down to the minutest detail, a big birthday bash for his 90th on March 8. The spirit remained willing, but the flesh was uncooperative, and his family very reluctantly called off the party. He died two weeks later, a fighter to the end. His children, Richard and Susan, and grandchildren Daniel, Filipe, Andrea and Sabrina have much to be proud of.

Congratulations, Donald Malpas, on a life well-lived.

Christopher Bull  
(Somerset ’53)

Richard Bull  
(Somerset ’53)
Donald Ian Clarke
(Wills West 1939-49)
18 June 1931 - 08 February 2013

Donald Ian Clarke attended Taunton School from 1939 to 1948. This was somewhat difficult for him, and I guess for many others, as he did not see his father for six years. In early 1939 his father was promoted to Lt Colonel and sent to Singapore to command searchlights and was posted missing on the fall of Singapore to the Japanese.

He ended up as a prisoner of war until his release in 1945. Donald's mother had taken a cottage in Taunton to be near him and his older brother who also attended Taunton for a while. He always had vivid and fond memories of school life, which I am sure gave some security to many youngsters during the war years.

...never forgot being confirmed while at school with doughnuts in his pockets which he obtained from the tuck shop on the way to chapel...

After his Father was released the School allowed Donald to visit him in Pembrokeshire where they had a house on the coast for his Father to recuperate, but later took up residence in their ancestral home at Welton, Northamptonshire.

Although a quiet, beautiful person Donald was a great character (a good mimic, a talent he used at the end-of-term entertainment) and a collector of books and everything military. In later life he studied the Christian faith and became really committed, but never forgot being confirmed while at school with doughnuts in his pockets which he obtained from the tuck shop on the way to chapel – food was very short in those days! He was a wonderful husband and father and we have many happy memories including visits to Taunton. His family motto 'Erectus non elatus' (Exalted, but not lifted) described him well.

Jennie Clarke

David John Harris
(Wills East 1935-44)
1 April 1926 – 5 July 2014

David was a real Christian warrior – he preached the Gospel regularly, always faithfully and thoughtfully handling the Word of God – until just a few weeks ago, when he began a new series on Jeremiah, which someone else will have to finish off. He was 88, well-loved, and hugely respected by so many in this area and beyond.

David, the youngest of five born to Baptist missionaries in China, first went to Chefoo School before attending Taunton School for a while. After his Father was released the School allowed Donald to visit him in Pembrokeshire where they had a cottage in Taunton to be near him and his older brother who also attended Taunton for a while. He always had vivid and fond memories of school life, which I am sure gave some security to many youngsters during the war years.

Ian Albert Coate McLennan
(Senior Day Boys 1934-42)
10 October 1923 – 31 March 2014

"An outstanding all-rounder, doubtless one of the all time greats, he was an inspiration to his contemporaries and to many that followed."

Ian was Rugby 1st XV for two years; Cricket 1st XI for two years; School Swimming for six years (two as Capt); Bevan Diving Trophy winner 5 of those 6 years; Water Polo Capt and Victor Ludorum. School Prefect and Head of Day Boys too – yet a notable modesty prevailed over all his accomplishments and responsibilities.

In Bill Currie’s 1988 publication, A century of promise, he recites from Donald Crichton-Miller’s Commemoration Day speech mention of two boys that epitomised the aim and achievement of Taunton School: one boy from the ‘outposts of Empire’ and the other, Ian McLennan, the ‘local boy’. I remember seeing a wartime photo of David in the Taunton School Jazz Band on his trumpet! He was Head Boy and a front rower in the 1st XV. He went to Oxford to read maths, but this was curtailed by service as an army officer in India, a country for which he retained a life-long love.

Another officer introduced him to his sister in UK, Betty, who survives him with their four children, grandchildren and also a brace of small greats! I should add that it was in India that he first met the Ogle family, whose family Trust he handled thoughtfully and faithfully and regularly, thoughtfully and faithfully.

The Times Far East Correspondent] to Wills West '54)

Ian was Rugby 1st XV for two years; Cricket 1st XI for two years; School Swimming for six years (two as Capt); Bevan Diving Trophy winner 5 of those 6 years; Water Polo Capt and Victor Ludorum. School Prefect and Head of Day Boys too – yet a notable modesty prevailed over all his accomplishments and responsibilities.

In Bill Currie’s 1988 publication, A century of promise, he recites from Donald Crichton-Miller’s Commemoration Day speech mention of two boys that epitomised the aim and achievement of Taunton School: one boy from the ‘outposts of Empire’ and the other, Ian McLennan, the ‘local boy’.

Ian entered Taunton School on a scholarship from St Andrew’s School, Taunton, where his father was a master and keen sportsman. With a Headmaster who had introduced compulsory games (including PT before breakfast), a father’s passionate expectancy in all directions and his own natural ability, Ian’s destiny in sports was assured.

After attaining his School Certificate, Ian joined the Royal Engineers. Posted to India, he was attached as a Sapper to a famed Indian Army Engineering Regiment. On active service in the Burma Campaign he was ‘Mentioned in Despatches’ (awarded for distinguished service in the field).

In civilian life, though selected for Somerset CC and playing for Taunton RFC, he realised that serious studies had to be the priority over the attractions of a sporting career. He attained a BSc in Engineering and later became a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

From the age of 11 through to 63 he ‘kept wicket’, playing wicket and opening bat in Yorkshire, Durham Leagues and in Kuwait as well as for the minor counties, North Wales and Somerset 2nd XI.

It was, however, the beauty of his Crawl swimming stroke that showed him in an elite class: his head, arm and leg movement were sheer perfection in unison. He held several records for many years in the green, algae-coated water of the TS open-air pool!

Other sporting areas included yachting and the, then derided, Catamaran Class. His wife Peggy would sail as crew, but not without apprehension for, when overturned, prevention of a fractured mast came first and not the wife treading water! In later years, Ian took up golf and played with the OT Western Club golfers. He was Chairman of the Western Club and attended many Club Dinners and Annual Reunion Weekends with Peggy.
CHALLENGING THE ‘NASTY PARTY’ IMAGE

The following (edited) article appeared in The Daily Telegraph on 14th May 2014

OBTUARY

William Bentley
(‘Ben’) Walker
8 July 1939 – 24 May 2014

Ben, a human dynamo of energy and initiative, who had such a huge expanse of affection for so many people – died at Musgrove Park Hospital.

He joined Taunton School as its Catering Officer in 1982, following a successful career in the hotel industry. Trained in Switzerland, he continued to gain experience in hotels in Paris and London before opening his own hotel – The Dragon House at Billbrook – which swiftly gained an impressive reputation in every way.

A brief foray into horticulture, driven by his life long love of plants and gardening, enabled him to bring his vast experience to the kitchens of, our then, three schools.

Ben simply transformed school catering to bring it to a level hitherto only dreamed of. Headmasters had Ben on their wish list. Parents could not believe their children’s description of lunches which could include duck, steak and a vast and varied salad bar. Visiting sports teams looked forward to our fixture – probably for the food! He provided OT reunion weekends with lavish BBQs and high quality dinners. He started Taunton School Enterprises to bring many outside events and sporting fixtures into the school. No request was ever rejected. We never heard “it can’t be done”, because with Ben it was a case of if you want it, we’ll do it – somehow. After all, he was a Yorkshireman! In the 90s he also took on the role of Domestic Bursar, at a time when the two junior schools were amalgamating and he oversaw the building of the current TPS classrooms and sports complex.

Outside the school, Ben had a great love for his family. He married Sheila whilst they were both working in Paris and his love for her was plain for all to see, particularly during the deterioration of her health and subsequent death. That love extended to Paul, Charles and Kate and his grandchildren whom he adored.

Ben’s funeral at Staplegrove Church was attended by a large congregation of family, friends and former colleagues. His contribution to the life of Taunton School was immense. He will be long remembered.

Ben’s Funeral by Rev Terry Curnow
Former Taunton School Chaplain

Josh Hitchens

Josh Hitchens (Wills East ‘12), President of LSE Conservatives Society, warns that tales of Bullingdon Club-style behaviour from Tory university associations put students off joining the party.

Despite the best efforts of David Cameron and senior figures in the Tory party to banish the well-publicised ‘nasty party image of the Conservative Party, senior figures in the Tory party to intervene when things go badly wrong is desperately needed.

When I first joined the party another member of LSE Conservatives advised me not to keep my membership card in my wallet in case it became visible on a night out in the Student Union bar.

More recently I let slip that I was president of LSE Conservatives at a student union event. Needless to say conversation stopped in its tracks and people started to drift away from me. I initially struggled to understand why. We are, after all, no longer the party of Clause 28 but of the playing of classical music at meetings, accompanied with expensive wines and port. But there is also a serious side to this culture. These associations tend to be unrepresentative of the makeup of the student body.

While giving the speech at my election meeting for LSE Conservatives, I glanced around at room of close to a hundred people. I managed to count a handful of women and even fewer people from ethnic minorities. This is at a university famous for its cosmopolitan make up and one where women have always played a leading role.

This is all accompanied by an exclusive series of social events. Whether it is a Christmas party for £50 at the elite, male only Carlton Club, or the forthcoming Summer Ball in Cambridge for £69, events are often priced at a level most students cannot afford. And the reputation of Bullingdon Club-style antics means many wouldn’t want to.

This may be ‘toffish’, pompous fun to those who organise such events, but it deters the exact type of people we need to be attracting into the party.

Only 4 per cent of MPs are from ethnic minorities and only 16 per cent of Tory MPs are women. We must, therefore, attract a diverse pool of people in order to achieve a more representative future.

Many of the Cabinet members and MPs we’ve had to speak at the LSE this year have recounted how their time in campus associations set them on a path towards Westminster politics. Even the much beleaguered LSE alumni, Maria Miller, who had a twenty-year stint in the private sector before making the jump from student to Westminster politics, cited her time in the LSE Conservatives as crucial in harnessing an interest in politics and a loyalty to the party.

Equally, until we create more diverse and representative associations we will continue to be open to accusations of being closed shops, elitist and ‘toffs’. Some fellow young Tories may indulge in that reputation, but as long as we allow it to go unchallenged our hopes of achieving more goodwill and electoral success with students will be hindered.

It is an exciting time in the Conservative Party; modernisers abound and diversity is high on the agenda. But university associations must buy in to the vision set out by the party leadership. This is why more support from Conservative central office and a mechanism for the party to intervene when things go badly wrong is desperately needed.

Ultimately, if university associations are allowed to become a series of wannabe Bullingdon clubs consisting primarily of old public school boys, then the party in twenty years will not only be permanently tainted in the eyes of millions of students, it will also fail to shake off the lamentable diversity record which currently deeters swathes of voters.

https://taunton.web-intouch.com
Hockey was high, with both junior international and future cup players on the pitch. Oliver scored the first goal and set up the second for Sheffield in a tight and nervous first half. A fitter and more cohesive Sheffield side then dominated most of the second half to secure a comfortable 4-0 victory.

### MARRIAGES

| BREWER | Ian | Marshall ‘06 | to Pippa | 24.05.14 |
| BREWER | Pippa (née Gwynne-Jones) | Bevan ‘03 | to Ian | 24.05.14 |
| BUDD | Emily (née Ford) | Besley ‘05 | to Nathan | 30.05.14 |
| COOK | Tom | Wills East ‘97 | to Emily | 02.07.14 |
| DAVIDSON | Andrew | Marshall ‘03 | to Charlotte | 10.05.14 |
| FEANE | Kate (née Wood) | Besley ‘82 | to Philip | 15.03.14 |
| GAPPER | Rosemary (née Hawkins) | Weirfield ‘05 | to Robert | 21.06.14 |
| HASLEHAN | Jocelyn (née Reynolds) | Jenkin ‘02 | to George | 04.04.14 |
| JOHNSTON | Rosie (née Harlow) | Jenkin ‘04 | to Tom | 21.06.14 |
| KENNEDY | James | Goodland ‘01 | to Susannah | 26.07.14 |
| KIRBY | Alastair | Evans ‘08 | to Nicola | 04.04.14 |
| PAYNE | Carly (née Pitman) | Jenkin ‘03 | to Thomas | 02.08.14 |
| WOLFE | Gavin | Fairwater ‘05 | to Gemma | 31.05.14 |

### DEATHS

- BOMFORD Peter Herring (School House ‘48-’59) 17.02.14
- BRISTOW Richard Lawrence (Fairwater ‘41-’47) 11.02.14
- BULL Christopher (Somerset ‘47-’55) 31.03.14
- CANNON Garth Kingsley (Wills West ‘52-’59) 02.03.14
- CLARKE Donald Ian (Wills West ‘39-’49) 08.02.13
- GARRETT Keith Alan Shefford (Somerset ‘44-’48) 26.02.14
- FORREST Roderic MacLeod (Wills West ‘38-’45) 25.05.14
- GRAY Richard Neil (Fairwater ‘47-’54) 14.06.14
- GRAY Robert Cuthbert Birrell (Fairwater ‘39-’46) 08.04.14
- HARRIS Christopher Clifford (Fairwater ‘53-’60) 30.04.14
- HARRIS David John (Wills East ‘35-’44) 07.05.14
- HEDDITCH Betty Mary (Weirfield School ‘35-’40) 26.04.14
- HUNT Geoffrey (Wills East ‘45-’52) 06.09.11
- JAMES Roger Howard (School House ‘23-’27) 26.11.13
- LANG Henry Wilfred Thomas (Marshall 83-’92) 22.07.14
- LYNAS Ivy Beatrice Jane (née Baker) (Weirfield School ‘27-’35) 11.04.14
- MALPAS CBE Donald (School House ‘34-’42) 25.03.14
- McLENNAN Ian Albert Coote (Senior Day Boys ‘34-’42) 31.03.14
- TEMPLEMAN MC Charles Henry (Senior Day Boys ‘40-’44) 14.06.14
- WALKER William Bentley ‘Ben’ (TS Catering Manager) 24.05.14

### ENGAGEMENTS

- November 2013 - Daniel Green (Wills East 2004) to Elizabeth Eccott
- November 2013 - Ben Pine (Wills West 1997) to Stephanie Tomlinson
- April 2014 - Captain Tim Taylor (Goodland 2006) to Dr Katherine France

### OT PRESIDENT’S DINNER

Friday 13th February 2015

Palace of Westminster

This is an event I am looking forward to enormously and I hope it will attract many who have never before had the chance to visit this iconic building.

Tickets are £280 (£40 for OTs aged 30 and under) which is not, I believe, excessive for such a prestigious venue. However, I would very much like to limit further costs by gaining sponsorship which works in two ways:

1) Sponsorship (essentially for wine) for an individual table at a cost of £100

2) Sponsorship for the Reception Drinks at a cost of £150

Sponsorship could be from an individual, a business or company, a group of OTs perhaps with a shared background (eg Marshall House Leavers 1985/Murray House Prefects 1989/1987 unbeaten 1st XV/1974 unbeaten 1st XI Hockey) … the possible combinations are endless!

Clearly, all those who supported the event in this way would be acknowledged both in pre-dinner communications and appropriately on the night. Additionally, an individual sponsor for the Reception Drinks would have complimentary tickets for him/her and partner.

I do hope that many of you will be able to support this – there are 17 tables available! Please contact me at otpresident@tauntonschool.co.uk to confirm your willingness to sponsor this Old Tauntonian Dinner.

### OTs MEET IN NATIONAL HOCKEY FINAL

Oliver Large (Marsh ‘12) and Tom Chandler (Evans ‘11) competed against each other in the National Association of Medical Schools mixed hockey cup final at Sheffield in May. Oliver played for Sheffield University medics and Tom played for Guy’s, King’s and St Thomas’ medics. The match was played on the blue and pink 2012 Olympic hockey pitch, which was transferred to Sheffield as part of the Olympic legacy. The standard of hockey was high, with both junior international and future cup players on the pitch. Oliver scored the first goal and set up the second for Sheffield in a tight and nervous first half. A fitter and more cohesive Sheffield side then dominated most of the second half to secure a comfortable 4-0 victory.

Clive Large (Fairwater 1975)
LEARN FROM THE PAST

When the Old Library was originally donated to the school, the two rooms at each side of the vestibule were set aside as museums, both fitted with glass cabinets in what we know today as the Winterstoke and Meeting Rooms.

Winterstoke Room
It was suggested some three years ago that the OTA undertake a refurbishment project which has resulted in a twelve-panel display entitled ‘A History of Taunton School through its Headmasters’ along with tributes to the Independent College Old Boys, the Taunton School Old Boys Associations and the Old Weirfieldian Association, which is now part of the OTA.

This collage gives a brief outline of the development of Taunton and its buildings from its formation as the Dissenters College in 1842 to the present day under the stewardship of the current Head, Dr John Newton.

The project has, as its centrepiece, a state-of-the-art touch screen, that is accessed through a glass panel, which allows Association members, researchers and pupils to interact with an archive facility.

The Meeting Room
This has been re-designed using existing memorabilia from the original display, complemented by an overview of the four ‘warrior heroes’ who passed through Taunton School under the heading ‘For Sovereign and Nation’: General Charles Gordon (Gordon of Khartoum) who attended the original college in 1842; RA Gerrard (killed in the push after El Alamein who is remembered by the Memorial prize in his name); Gerald Blaker (who was awarded the Victoria Cross when killed in action during the Burma Campaign) and Group Captain ‘Bob’ Brabham (a night fighter veteran whose three DSOs and three DFCs and the Airforce Cross Award make him one of the most decorated officer in all theatres of the second world war).

An artist’s sketch of the original Memorial Hall has been hung, now the Arts Centre, in recognition of the contributions to Taunton School by Dr Charles Whittaker and JG Loveday. Loveday was the founder of Weirfield School. The School Crest, which was originally the centre piece of the Hall balcony, now hangs above the sketch.

When you visit the School for any future gathering take some time out to view both these rooms which complement the Association’s Archive project soon to be launched on-line via https://taunton.web-intouch.com.

Phil Griffiths (Fairwater ’59)

A vast amount of work has gone into this OTA Archive Project, so it is only right that I publicly record my personal thanks to Phil Griffiths for his vision to see this project through from the start. Whilst there is more work to be done (mainly by myself!) I am extremely grateful to Phil for his support and cajoling past the three years.

It has cost a lot of money and the OTA is hoping to recoup a small part of the costs by charging a one-off, life-time access fee of £15. This will give you searchable access to all Tauntonian Magazines since 1882; as many of the Weirfieldian Magazines that we have; House photos; School team photos and so on. High resolution photos (together with names, if possible) to go on the archive will be gratefully received! If you are unable to scan your photos, please send me the originals and I will return them to you. Email photos to: ots@tauntonschool.co.uk

David Bridges – OT Secretary

It has cost a lot of money and the OTA is hoping to recoup a small part of the costs by charging a one-off, life-time access fee of £15.

https://taunton.web-intouch.com

A HAPPY RETURN

Dear Dr Newton,

I was recently a fly on the wall at Taunton School. Pupils were encountered moving between classes and going to exams and all looked happy and purposeful. It was a joy to see the school alive and functioning.

I went into the Science Block and saw the upgraded laboratories. Where has the smell of hydrogen sulphide gone? Ian Piper explained how the chemistry syllabus had changed and his enthusiasm really shone through.

Happy pupils were engaging in cadet activities and I spoke to one of the teachers instructing mapping reading: this could be vital later in life when the Sat Nav fails! I looked in on the Carrington Library, which was a junior dining hall in my time, and it seems to be laid out well. I made a point of looking at the new stained glass windows in the Chapel and noticed how much extra opportunity to see the Meade King in progress. The star swimmers were, of course, outstanding and far quicker than in my time as I expected. The support for all swimmers from their teams was terrific. Naturally, not every swimmer in a team is a top performer and swims as the best option to secure a team point. It was especially good to notice a modest Taunton swimmer, but ending up on the winning team. Actually, every participant is a winner; they have been involved in swimming training and so have put down a foundation for their cardiovascular and muscular skeletal systems that will benefit them for life.

In conclusion I had a lovely day and every member of staff I spoke to gave me the impression that they were inspiring and committed.

Keith Ingram (Wills East ’59)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2014
Friday 12 Western Club Lunch 13:00 Taunton School
Sunday 14 Cornish Club Lunch 12:00 Lanhydrock GC, PL30 5AQ
Monday 15 Call of the Kgalagadi 18:00 Taunton School

OCTOBER 2014
Saturday 4 OTA Committee Meeting 09:30 Taunton School
Saturday 4 Western Club Dinner 18:30 Taunton School
Friday 10 Old Weirfieldian Lunch 12.30 Taunton School

NOVEMBER 2014
Friday 7 Western Club Lunch 13.00 Taunton School
Thursday 27 London Club Dinner 18:30 RAF Club, London W1J 7PY

DECEMBER 2014
Monday 8 Western Club Christmas Lunch 12.30 Taunton School
Friday 18 Christm as Lunch 12:30 Taunton School
Friday 10 Old Weirfieldian Lunch 12:30 Taunton School

FEBRUARY 2015
Friday 13 OT President’s Dinner 19.00 Palace of Westminster, London