

MERCHANTS' TALES

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MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

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A WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the latest edition of Merchants' Tales, the first for 18 months. I appreciate your patience through a time of change at

the Schools, which along with a review of how this magazine is produced and distributed, has meant that you have had to wait longer than usual for your printed update of the Schools' and alumni news. However, I hope that you have still been keeping up to date via our emails, the new e-bulletin, the website and social media channels.

You will notice that we have produced a separate 'In Memoriam' booklet celebrating the lives of many of the Old Boys and Old Girls that we have lost over the last 18 months. Normally we include 'In Memoriam' articles within the main magazine but due to the timeframe we have gathered many contributions and felt it was fitting to publish these stories in a separate booklet. Whilst it is sad to

see so many, it is uplifting to read such inspirational life stories and hear about the variety of careers our alumni have enjoyed.

In response to your feedback, we will now be publishing Merchants' Tales twice a year, in the Spring and the Autumn. Those of you on email will receive it as an e-book, along with a monthly e-newsletter breakdown of current news and events. If you prefer to receive post, you will receive your hard copy as usual.

We should also thank the thousands of you who have responded to our data protection mailing so far. The law changes in May requiring you to proactively consent to hearing from us and we have been overwhelmed by your positive response. We want as many of you to remain part of School life as possible; if you have not already told us how you would like to hear from us in future you can find a form enclosed.

Finally, as the Editor of the magazine for the last 10 years I write with some sadness as this will be my final edition. After 12 wonderful years at Merchant Taylors' I am taking up a new post at the University of Liverpool. Whilst this is an exciting next step in my career I know I am going to miss working for the school - it has certainly been more than just a job. However, the area of alumni communications is in good hands with my colleagues Lisa Connor and Jonathon Reid and the team are well placed to make some significant progress in this area over the next couple of years. Jonathon will take over the editorial control of Merchants' Tales so if you have any contributions for future editions please email him at j.reid@merchanttaylors.com. I wish the team well for the future and look forward to receiving communications from another perspective as a member of the Merchants' community.

Michaela Riches
Director of Marketing & Development

Welcome

YOUR SUPPORT CONTINUES TO SHOW US JUST HOW STRONG THE MERCHANT TAYLORS' CONNECTION REALLY IS:

From careers talks to mentoring; reunion dinners to networking drinks; our alumni and friends of the Schools really are woven into everything we do. The financial support of our donors is integral to offering bursaries to pupils and to ensuring we can offer the best facilities. You will find some impactful figures showing just what donations

have achieved in this edition - watch this space for some exciting plans about future appeals, and our big anniversary in 2020 in particular. Change really is in the air here at Merchant Taylors'; we look forward to welcoming Mrs Claire Tao as the new Headmistress of the Girls' School in April, and Mr David Wickes as Headmaster of the Boys'

School in September. We know that the wider School community will welcome them enthusiastically and you can read a little more about them in these pages. We hope that you enjoy catching up with the School through these pages and we always welcome your news and thoughts, so please do stay in touch!



Mrs Louise Robinson -
Headmistress, Merchant Taylors' Girls' School

At Merchant Taylors' Girls' School, we celebrated not only an exceptional Inspection report, but also outstanding examination results, with 70% girls achieving top grades at GCSE and over two-thirds achieving A*-B at A Level. Our focus on personal development led to achievements

as diverse as volunteering at Riding for the Disabled as part of a community volunteering programme, participation in the Model United Nations General Assembly and the European Youth Parliament, rowing at Henley and participation in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. As you may know, this will be my final contribution to Merchants' Tales. After 12 years at the School, and 17 years as a Head, I will be moving on in April. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to work here at Merchants', alongside the teachers, support staff, colleagues in the wider schools' community, and you, our alumni community.



Mr Deiniol Williams -
Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' Boys' School

At the Boys' School, we too have enjoyed exceptional exam results alongside a dizzying array of extracurricular activities. You can read about our U15 cricket success and the Madagascar trip that I was lucky enough to join in these pages; I should also highlight the 375 competitive

fixtures against other schools across nine different sports undertaken in 2017 (worth remembering that each of these represents a team, squad or crew which will have been training for weeks beforehand and, on each occasion, will be accompanied by a member of staff). There were 4 major school productions, 4 major school concerts, 12 Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, 5 CCF camps and 10 trips to overseas destinations for sporting or educational purposes.

The Best Education for Life



Chair of Governors' Report

The Best Education for Life

MRS BEVERLEY BELL CBE

I know you will enjoy reading this edition of Merchants' Tales. In celebrating our success, we provide a flavour of the strength, depth and richness of our wonderful community. In 2020 the Schools celebrate the 400th anniversary of our foundation by Merchant Taylor and philanthropist John Harrison. We are planning a number of exciting celebrations as we approach this landmark date. As custodians of our Schools, Governors support our wonderful staff who provide the 'Best Education for Life'. In the coming years we will continue to refurbish and develop our estate and IT facilities to provide modern, vibrant

and well-equipped spaces reflecting the fast pace of technology change, as well as providing a warm and welcoming environment for our pupils. Our Schools work closely together, whilst ensuring our pupils benefit from the advantages of single sex education. This is reflected by the breadth and depth of our extra-curricular activities. Examples include our many joint school productions, our joint Classics trip to Greece, and our increasingly popular CCF. Our Junior Schools are thriving, and Janet Thomas and Julie Yardley have wasted no time in working together with their teachers to develop more joint initiatives - their enthusiasm is infectious! Our new

Heads are looking forward to developing joint initiatives at our Senior Schools which David Cook, Deiniol Williams and Louise Robinson started when they were appointed. The Governors and Heads work together to ensure Merchant Taylors' grows and develops by evolution rather than revolution - only making changes when they are good for the Schools and our pupils, both now and in the future. I have set out below just a few of the areas the Governors and Heads have been concentrating on to provide not just "Education for Life" but the "Best Education for Life".

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We continue to achieve the highest levels of academic excellence by employing dedicated, highly qualified specialist subject teaching staff, maintaining small class sizes, and providing personal support and pastoral care to our pupils. This ensures they achieve their own "personal best". Our curriculum provides an enriching combination of rigorous, traditional and creative subjects. As a leading North West School, we are rightly proud of our pupils' academic attainment. We attract and retain the best staff, employing over 350 people and making an important contribution to our local economy. Our pupils come from a wide catchment area, covered by more than 20 bus services. At GCSE, pupils aim to achieve a 100% pass rate in a minimum of 5 subjects, including English and Maths. We are proud that at A level, over two-thirds of our pupils achieved the top grades of A*- B after the uncertainty of the assessment with the new, more rigorous specifications and our continued focus on demanding subjects. We are top of the Sefton "league tables" with 22-26% of students achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects. I am delighted to report this year that 9 pupils have received Oxbridge offers, and I know our new Heads will continue to ensure our pupils receive offers from their first choice of university, so they leave us with confidence and excited anticipation for their new lives ahead. The destination of our pupils when they leave is testament to the fact we really do provide the "Best Education for Life".

INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

In the last 10 years we have invested more than £10 million in our estate, building the Ian Robinson Sports Centre and rebuilding our Primary School. We recently spent another £4 million when we undertook a 16-month programme of roof improvement works at the Boys' School. We also carried out structural repairs to parts of the Girls' School. We are developing a 10-year plan for major capital investment to enhance the quality of our education. We are making significant investment in our IT provision. In summer 2017 we improved equipment and services for staff and pupils, ensuring our technology supports the highest quality of teaching and learning. We recently upgraded our website to improve support to our pupils, parents, and prospective parents.



Over £11,400 was raised by our pupils for charities of their choice.

The perfect environment for a child to develop socially and academically.
Parent Satisfaction Survey



Excellence is what we strive for everyday; under constant review we are always challenging ourselves, asking if there is a better way

Miss Julie Yardley, Head of MTPS

ENSURING CONTINUED FINANCIAL STABILITY

Our Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2017 highlight the strength of the Schools' finances. We were delighted when our new Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs. Lynn Hill, joined us in September 2017, and she has set up a new Professional Services Directorate to deliver a high quality, responsive and innovative service. This work is often unseen but is vital in providing a number of important functions including Governance and Administration, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Estates Management, IT, Marketing and Development.



Our Junior Boys are encouraged to be confident, find activities to enjoy and develop a high level of self esteem and a sense of fun.

**Mrs Janet Thomas,
 Head of Junior Boys' School**

BUILDING OUR NETWORKS

Our strong and vibrant alumni network ensures our pupils' pathways of important connections are maintained through life, connecting our alumni to enjoy the benefits of friendship, networking and career development. Our links with our friends at the Merchant Taylors' Company not only enhance these vital connections, but also ensure we benefit from the Company's philanthropic support for education by, for example, the provision of seminars and events which our staff and pupils attend, and enabling pupils to represent the schools at national and international events. Our Schools' 'Primary Liaison Programme' provides opportunities for more than 3,000 local primary school children and their staff to benefit from many exciting activities and events at our schools. This year our pupils raised over £11,400 for charities of their choice, continuing our philanthropic traditions.



FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING FOR BURSARY SUPPORT

Bursary support for our pupils remains very high on our agenda. In 2016/17 301 pupils benefitted from bursary support thanks to the generosity of our wonderful donors, who gave £1.6 million in donations and legacies. We rely on these important donations to provide bursaries and scholarships, and to support investment in the Schools' estate and infrastructure. We are eternally grateful to each and every donor, and as you read this I know you will want to make your own personal contribution. Modest regular monthly donations really do add up, and soon grow into large amounts, providing tangible benefits for our pupils. It is easy to set up a monthly donation or to give a single amount; Just contact Lisa Connor (l.connor@merchanttaylor.com; 0151 949 9301) and she will be delighted to help. Thank you.



OUTSTANDING INSPECTION
 'The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent'
 'The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent'
 'And fully compliant, of course.'

AND FINALLY - MY THANKS

None of these successes would happen without the commitment and dedication of each and every member of our staff, and without our pupils working hard to achieve their personal best. In addition, my fabulous fellow Governors willingly devote their time, expertise, experience, enthusiasm and energy to the Schools to ensure we remain one of the top performing schools in the North West. As Chair of Governors I want to record my considerable gratitude to all our staff, Governors, friends, donors, supporters and everyone who makes Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby what they are. I am privileged and delighted to have this role and I am absolutely dedicated to achieving my own "personal best", doing all I can to develop, grow and maintain our Schools so they continue to thrive in the 21st century - and beyond.

Thank you!



Events

The Schools hosted numerous events throughout the year, taking in all aspects of School life and ranging from one end of the country to the other. The OBA hosted their annual Crosby Dinner at the Boys' School, as well as dinners in London, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Wessex and York. The OGA had their annual Summer Lunch as well as their new Sports Festival and Reunion, while both associations jointly hosted 'City Drinks' events in Liverpool and London for those who wish to network within the School community.

Special mention must be made to the sporting fixtures undertaken by both associations. The OBA's annual Golf Day saw 22 OC's and their guests attend and saw Roy Barlow, John Sharman, Nick Jones and John Scutt walk away with a prize in the guests, seniors, handicap and scratch categories respectively.

The Association unfortunately came off second best to the Old Lerpoolians in their annual LOBAGs meeting, but were successful in reclaiming the 'Auld Drutter' trophy when they met sister schools Wolverhampton Grammar and MTS Northwood for the Triangular match. The OGA's Sport Festival had a round robin hockey tournament of six teams which saw an experienced 1980s team finish level with the current XI on points.

To read a full report for each of these events, please visit the Alumni section of the School website. If you require any information for next year's events, please contact the School at devoffice@merchanttaylors.com



Sports Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

OBA London Dinner - 23 March

Wessex Lunch - 14 April

Liverpool City Drinks - 18 April

Cambridge Dinner - 28 April

OC Golf Day - 8th June

OGA Summer Lunch - 23 June

LOBAGs Golf Day - 13th July

Triangular Match - 25th July

OGA Sports Festival - 8 September

Scotland Dinner - 10 November

Merchant Taylors' Company
Remembrance Concert - 11th November

London City Drinks - Autumn TBC

York Dinner - Autumn TBC

If you would like to know more about any of the above events, or to book your place, please email devoffice@merchanttaylors.com or call 0151 949 9351.

Keep an eye on our social media feeds for up to date event information!

 www.facebook.com/merchanttaylorscrosby/

 www.linkedin.com/in/mtsalumnirelations/

 twitter.com/merchantscrosby

 www.instagram.com/merchantscrosby



London City Drinks



Cambridge Dinner



Triangular Golf



Crosby Dinner



Liverpool City Drinks



OBA Golf Day



Wessex Lunch



Liverpool City Drinks



OGA Summer Lunch

Snippets

CAMPING WITH KENNETH

Graham McGuffie (1967 Leaver) and **Nigel Rees** (1963 Leaver) at The White Hart, Lydgate, Saddleworth following Nigel's entertaining tour de force, "Camping with Kenneth"



Comedy and Fine Dining provided the opportunity for a mini reunion when Nigel Rees (OC) visited Saddleworth to entertain members of the Saddleworth 91 Club with his reminiscences of his professional association with the uniquely talented Kenneth Williams. Amongst the diners at the award winning White Hart Hotel Lydgate was Old Crosbeian Graham McGuffie (1960-1967).

Nigel's brilliant mimicry and his unique encounters with Williams held everyone's attention and there was time to enjoy some reminiscences and a photo opportunity.

OLD BOY BECOMES PRESIDENT OF MICHIGAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INN OF COURT



William Abbatt has been elected as President of the Michigan Intellectual Property Inn of Court. A philanthropic organisation of

judges, lawyers and legal educators, the Inn seeks to promote fair and ethical practice amongst junior lawyers and law students. Mr Abbatt helped to found the Inn five years ago and was enthusiastic about moving into a leadership role stating, "As President of this Inn, I have an opportunity to give back to the profession which has treated me so well".

Patterned after the English Inns of Court mentoring system, the Inn looks to provide best practice advice to those

new or less skilled in the profession, in part through the educational programmes written by its one hundred plus members. William has worked for Michigan-based law firm Brooks Kushman since 1986 and has received several commendations for his work, including being named as a 'Top Lawyer' in DBusiness Magazine's 2016 edition and being listed in Intellectual Asset Management's 1000 Recommended Individuals list for 2014/15.

DAVID MAPLEY: FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY TO VINEYARDS

What started as an idea to open a French office for City Windmills, ended up with a relocation to Bergerac and a new career investing in vineyards. "Dordogneshire" as it is more commonly known, is part of Aquitaine and was under English rule for 300 years until the end of the 100 Years War (1154-1453). Bergerac was part of Bordeaux until the wine appellations split in 1936 and it became its own separate wine region, just to the east of Bordeaux's famous St Emilion.

Bergerac Wine Holdings (www.bergeracwine.com) was launched in April 2016, and I re-located there in August to operate my European businesses from a beautiful region full of chateaux and vineyards. (OC 1979)

Jonathan Coulthard moved there in 2002, so there may even be an Old Boys' re-union at some stage.

OLD GIRL SUPPORTS DRAMA

The Schools have an excellent reputation for their musical and dramatic productions and Joint Schools' Musical Theatre productions are eagerly looked forward to. Through a generous donation from **Wendy Hazlehurst**, a



1951 leaver, the Girls' School has been able to purchase some specialist text books on this subject.

WEDDING BELLS

2010 Leaver **Alistair White** recently married his partner Anne in Canada: Anne and I met when we were both students at Lancaster



University. I was studying for my BSc in Biological Sciences and Biomedicine whereas Anne was doing a year abroad to finish her BSc in Biology. She went back to the US, but decided to return to Lancaster to do her Masters in Biomedicine. After University, we dated long distance before getting engaged in Berlin 2015 - we married in Ottawa the following January. It then took a year and a half until my Green Card was issued, during which I worked at the Sanger Institute in Cambridge. I got my Green Card in June of 2017 and moved to Minnesota in the US in July. I then started working for a stem cell based company called Stemonix, while Anne works in tissue transplant research for a company that hopes to re-engineer livers for human transplant. We returned to Liverpool this past November for a much delayed UK reception, which included many fellow OCs, and now we look forward to a life together in the US.

PHILLIP MAKES WAVES TO INSPIRE OTHERS

The Boys' School welcomed back Old Boy **Philip Cave** on behalf of Seaforth Sea Cadets Corps to accept a donation of £1,100 from the School Council.

Philip is currently a senior 2nd officer and navigator for Princess Cruises and gives generously of his time to the Sea



Cadets, using up to a third of his leave to take disadvantaged boys on week-long tours along the coast, which this donation will help to fund. The boys involved come from deprived areas, often have never left Liverpool before and have no access to the types of facility which would provide them with the skills and opportunities these tours do.

Philip says: 'Yet again this year, MTS has come together and raised a huge amount for the unit, again providing experiences that many of them can only dream of; from the bottom of my heart I cannot thank the boys and staff enough for their generosity.'

OLD BOYS REUNITE AFTER 54 YEARS!

During a three week trip to Cape Town in January 2016, **Michael Durham** met up with old school friend **Michael O'Neill** for the first time in 54 years. Fellow 1960 leavers, both gentlemen played rugby together at school, in the highly successful team captained by Richard Greenwood.

Michael O'Neill has been living in South Africa since 1971, after moving there to pursue a very successful career in the food sector. The two Michaels (accompanied by their wives) thoroughly enjoyed their leisurely 4 hour lunch, reminiscing and catching up with one another. They had last seen each other in 1962, when Michael Durham accompanied Michael O'Neill to a party....and met his future wife Barbara!

L to R:
Michael Durham,
Michael O'Neill,
Barbara Durham (nee Nimmo) and Delyce O'Neill



MATT DUNN - A LEAP OF FAITH

Matt left Crosby in 1991 to study Civil Engineering at Newcastle University. After a fulfilling career in design consultancy for 15 years, he was laid off in early 2010. This resulted in a defining moment of clarity to pursue a new direction towards vocational Christian ministry.



With the full support and encouragement of his wife and sons, they relocated to Pasadena, California, where Matt gained a second Masters degree in Theology and was subsequently called to serve at a local non-denominational church in Pasadena, where he was ordained as a Pastor. Matt says:

'The decision to embrace a new direction (and location) at this stage of our lives has not been without challenges, but has enriched us all and led to unprecedented personal growth that could never have happened if we had not stepped out of our 'sheltered nook'. It has shown me the tremendous value of embracing life-long learning and not being confined to our comfort zones.'



RAISING AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Old Boy **Thomas Featherstone-Witty** returned to School to speak to the Middle School about

mental health during PSHE. He stressed the importance of seeking help to maintain good mental health, as well as sharing his own experiences with depression and anxiety.

OLD BOY SUPPORTS DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The DT department of the Boys' School was grateful to receive a very kind donation of micrometers from Old Boy

Geoffrey Brazendale (1949 - 58). Having visited the school on



a couple of occasions, including Speech Day 2016, he met with current pupils to share his lifelong passion for engineering. Mr Brazendale worked as a factory inspector in the North-East for a number of years; as well as forming an integral part of his working life, engineering also fuelled his interest in motorcycles. He published a book on the history of the sidecar in 2013.

Our thanks go to Geoff for his very kind gift to the School.



ROWING REUNION DOWN UNDER

Richard Suthers recently contacted the School Development Office, hoping to get in touch with his fellow rowing OC's from 1971. The 1971 VIII is one of the School's most successful rowing teams, being described in that year's *Crosbeian* as having "possibly [our] best season ever, having won nine challenge trophies at open regattas".

Having reached out to his fellow alumni via the School, Richard was able to coincide a



trip to Australia to meet up with Richard Spencer, who relocated to the country as a surgeon

some years ago. As luck would have it, John Horsley was also visiting at the same time, allowing the three to meet up:

I spent two days with Richard and his wife Stephanie at their home in Northam about 100 miles east of Perth. My mother, brother Julian (also MTS) then met up with John and his wife Vera for lunch at a Margaret River winery.

By an amazing coincidence John and I were booked on the same flight out of Perth to Dubai on Tuesday. Richard came along to see us off - and make sure we left the country!

Thank you to the School for helping us get back in touch. We had such fun, so many good memories to share and will meet again.

I look forward to getting as many of the '71 VIII as we can together in the UK later this year.



Richard Spencer's jacket still fits him!

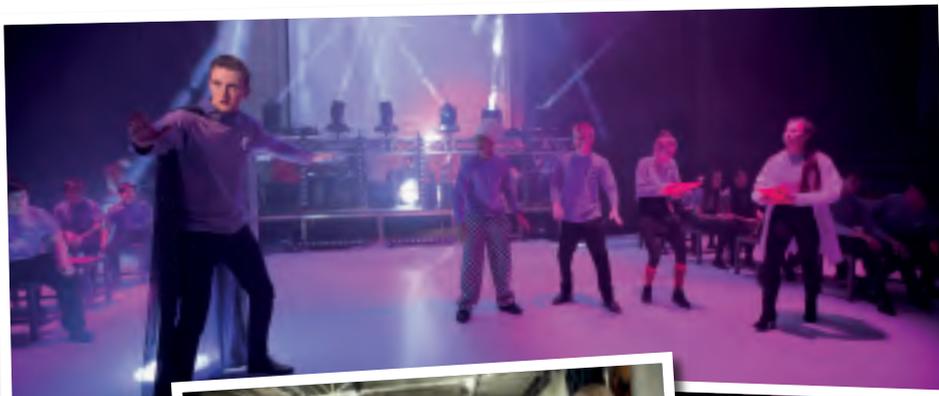
School News

PRIZE GIVING

We recently celebrated the success of our students at two prestigious Prize Giving Ceremonies, which took place at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

The Senior Girls' School welcomed Guest Speaker and former Merchants' pupil, Clare Lilley, who is the Director of Programme at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP). Clare gave an inspirational speech to the girls, staff and parents in which she encouraged everyone to "Embrace responsibility and give to something bigger than yourself".

Former right-hand man to Lord Sugar on BBC's The Apprentice and current host of Countdown, Nick Hewer, was the Guest Speaker for the Boys' School celebration. He entertained the audience with a witty speech about his time at school and varied career in television. He told the boys to recognise all the opportunities available to them, say yes to everything and always try something new.



'RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET' WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

The multi-genre, postmodernist aspect of the show (Rock musical, Shakespeare play and Sci-fi story rolled ingeniously into one) required a fast, uncluttered style with minimum props and a simple but effective set. With his excellent band, Stephen 'Ziggy' Newlove gave the show high quality music, together with brilliant choreography by Louise Edge and outstanding lighting effects designed and operated by Upper Sixth former Anthony Swift.

Four months of rehearsal with Dr Gill prepared the cast and there were fine performances by Callum Williams as Captain Tempest, Charlotte Hulme as Gloria, Tom Redpath as Prospero, Ellis Coulter as Bosun, Cathryn Barton as Miranda, Daniel Naguib as Cookie and Harvey Dawbarn as Ariel the Robot together with the impressive dancers led by Cassie Pickard and George Buxton, and not forgetting the Chorus.

John Gill

NEW HEADS

The Board of Governors was delighted to announce the appointment of two new Heads to lead the Boys' and Girls' Senior Schools in 2018.



Mrs Claire Tao, who is currently Deputy Head at the City of London School for Girls (CLSG), will take over as Headmistress from Mrs Louise Robinson when she leaves at Easter 2018. Mr David Wickes will join Merchant Taylors' Boys' School as Headmaster in September 2018. David is currently the Deputy Headmaster at Warwick School.



MERCHANT TAYLORS' U15 CRICKET

Merchant Taylors' U15 cricket team rounded off a spectacularly successful season by becoming joint national T20 champions. Having beaten Cheadle Hulme and Sedbergh in the North of England finals they joined Oakham, Whitgift and Wellington College at Arundel Castle to play off for the prestigious national trophy. Steady rain throughout the second semi-final made conditions very difficult, and although the final against Whitgift was started another heavy downpour meant that no further play was possible and the trophy was shared. The team also got to the final of the ESCA national 40 over cup, losing eventually to Bede's School from



Sussex. Nevertheless, Merchant Taylors' was the only school in England and Wales to get through to the finals of both formats of the game - a testament to the ability and commitment of the boys. Head of Cricket Simon Sutcliffe commented - "This group of boys have become county and regional champions in both T20 and 40 over cricket, and national finalists in both, sharing the national T20 trophy with Whitgift. They have played some exciting and aggressive cricket throughout the season and thoroughly deserve all the accolades which have come their way. Many of the players have also played representative cricket for Lancashire or their District teams this year".

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL BIRDIE CLUB CONTINUES TO THRIVE!

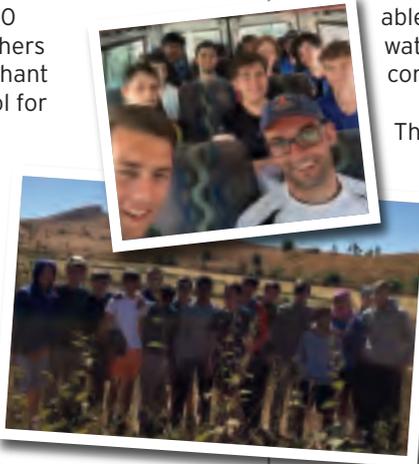
The Junior Boys' School's Birdie Club has had an exciting time maintaining the John Bebb Wildlife garden of late. The boys enjoy a range of activities from planting potatoes to bird feeding and pond dipping. As a result of their efforts, the boys were delighted when the garden was awarded a bronze medal in the Waterloo and Sefton 'In Bloom' completion, followed by a 'highly-commended' eco award.

The competition aims to engage younger people in gardening and maintaining outdoor spaces, and was the first time the School had entered. Thank you to garden enthusiasts such as Alex Goldman, Adam Blagbrough Thomas Pearson, Jairam Ramaiah, Evan Bray and Harry Staines, as well as School groundskeeper Steve Riding.



MADAGASCAR

On the 5th of July 30 students and 4 teachers departed from Merchant Taylors' Boys' School for their expedition to Madagascar. The group consisted of 22 students from year 11 and 8 students from year 12. This was a new experience for all of the students and all set off with high expectations and excitement for a trip that was bound to be an unforgettable and enjoyable experience. The trip was led by Mr Bonfante and required extensive fundraising, led by the boys, as well as numerous planning meetings. Several pupils even carried out their PADI Scuba



Diving qualification in order to be able to spend more time in the water during the aquatic conservation week.

The group landed in Madagascar on the 7th of July and three days later they travelled to a forest camp based near Mahajanga to carry out their expeditions with the scientific teams based there. The standard schedule for each day at the camp was surveys and mist netting in the morning, forest plotting in the afternoon, followed by a lecture, and a lemur survey after dinner.

The second week of the expedition was at Nosy Be and consisted of reef conservation and diving. Staying in

tents a few metres from the shore, the dives followed a similar format, each studying a different effect on the reef such as fish identification and the effects of coral bleaching using a coloured chart and noting down the appropriate colour.

In the boys words, their time in Madagascar left them all "much the wiser regarding the true nature of conservation... as well as the impact global warming, deforestation and farming are having on the habitats for these truly awe inspiring creatures".



School News

GIRLS VISIT UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF MARIE CURIE

Lower 6th Physicists attended an event at Liverpool University to celebrate the 150th birthday of Marie Curie. The day focused around Marie Curie's triumphs and the adversity she had to overcome to become the first female Nobel prize winner. Hands on activities allowed students to develop their knowledge on radiation, and a live

satellite link to CERN gave an insight into the careers of researchers and the importance of collaboration. Attending students were required to pre submit a poster focusing on pivotal women in science. MTGS students were praised for their design and that fact that they highlighted a number of women who have paved the way for future female

physicists. The standard of poster was excellent, and our students were pleased to be awarded 3rd place, receiving a certificate from Professor Carsten P Welsch. The day was thoroughly enjoyable, and highlighted the important role that women play in science. Well done to the girls for being part of this fabulous celebration.

HEAD GIRLS' SUPPER 2017

Mrs Robinson welcomed back Old Head Girls from the past eleven years to join her for the annual Head Girls' Supper. The supper had added poignancy this year, as Mrs Robinson enters her final year as Headmistress of MTGS. She was joined by Head Girls mainly from her previous years at the School. Of particular note was returning alumni Kate Attwood, who was a Head Girl whilst the current Head Girl team were in Year 7.

In attendance were Pramudi Wijayasiri, Kate Attwood, Laura McGuckin, Millie McCaughrean, Esme Malley, Sarah Goldstein, Eleanor O'Shaughnessy, Sara Algebara, Milly Cadman, Saoirse McGowan, Sarah Tobin, Catherine Magennis, Oishi Sikdar, Sophie Marsh and Rosie Solomon. The girls were joined by the Deputy Heads of School, Miss Tyndall and Dr Bush, as well as the current Head Girl team for a delicious three course meal in the Library at MTGS.



LANGUAGES DAY

Did you know that at least half of the world's population are bilingual or plurilingual? Merchant Taylors' Primary School celebrated European

Day of Languages. Everybody involved had lots of fun learning about the 6000+ languages that are spoken around the world and also thoroughly enjoyed the specially made paella at lunch!



ROWING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Sophie Gillbanks of MTGS and her partner Georgia Shirley (St Mary's School, Northwich RC) for their outstanding achievement upon winning their seventh national rowing title together in Nottingham, at the British Rowing Junior Championships 2017.



Sophie's sister Lucy (an Old Girl of MTGS), also represented GB Universities at the European Championships, held in Serbia, the same weekend Sophie was competing in Nottingham. Lucy brought home two silver medals, one in the Women's Lightweight Quad and another in the Women's Lightweight Double.



GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

Our year 2 pupils have been studying the Great Fire of London, and spent an afternoon visiting the Science Labs at the Senior Boys School to better understand the science behind how the fire spread.



Mrs Wright demonstrated how flammable material allowed the fire to spread between houses, and how fireballs caused explosions adding to the fire's destructive force. The children had a very enjoyable time and were taught the basics of fire safety, while gaining a greater understanding of how the fire had such a devastating effect on seventeenth century London.

SAILING TO SUCCESS

One of our year six pupils, Thomas Link, is on course to compete in the Olympics. Eleven year old Thomas has been selected by RYA British Youth Sailing to represent the northern region in their Topper 'Zone Squad', giving him an opportunity to train with a professional coach. The Zone Squad is the first rung on the ladder to sailing competitively in the Olympics.

In late September 2017, Thomas competed in the RYA North Zone Championships against children from around the North West for one of the sought after places, and was successful on his first attempt. Since then he has

competed in the New Year's Day Pursuit Race, in which he placed first in the U/14 category and second in the U/16. He has also appeared at the Junior Regatta and the 'Topsy Icicle' series, attaining first and second place finishes respectively.

Thomas said, "Later this year I will be completing the North West Traveller Series, together with some of the Welsh Series, and national events as far away as Weymouth. I have already beaten some of the national squad this year, so bring it on, I am on my way to the Olympics!"

MENTAL TOUGHNESS WEEK

In the weeks leading up to October half term the Schools dedicated two weeks to discussing issues surrounding 'mental toughness'. This took the form of assemblies, activities, lunchtime meetings and visitor presentations for both pupils, staff and parents. One assembly at MTGS focused on pupils who achieve to a high standard in an activity. They were interviewed by the Headmistress in front of their peers to share 'the secret of their success' along with the highs and lows of their chosen disciplines, and to demonstrate how

mental toughness has helped them succeed.

The Schools also welcomed Steve Oakes, Director of Education at AQR International, to discuss mental toughness in education. He delivered a presentation to the students and a training session to staff, as the school moves to embedding the "7 Cs" of Care, Courtesy, Consideration, Commitment, Challenge, Control and Confidence.



Giving Back

Giving forms a huge part of our Merchant Taylors' community; from pupils raising money for charities of their choice, to Old Boys & Girls giving their support to current pupils by donating to bursaries, we're proud of our crowd! In the academic year 2016/17 Alumni, parents, staff, Governors and family members of Old Boys and Old Girls all donated to our bursary fund. Thanks to them:

115 people gave amounts varying from **£5** to **£1 million**

£11,400 was raised by pupils for local and international causes

301 pupils benefitted from some kind of bursary support

£1.6million was given in donations, including 7 legacies totalling **£1,300,000**

HERE'S A MESSAGE FROM AN OLD GIRL RECEIVED BY MTGS HEADMISTRESS LOUISE ROBINSON

I just wanted to write you a quick message saying how much I appreciated you letting me come to your school. I am not from a wealthy family and I had little to offer but I am thankful that you saw potential in me and let me come to your wonderful school.

When I was younger, I was an incredibly shy and anxious individual, so when I was offered an assisted place at Merchant Taylors from 2007 to 2014, I honestly did not believe that I deserved it.

Throughout my time at MTGS, Mrs Robinson would always tell me to hold my head high and smile in an



attempt for me to gain self-assurance and realise that I deserved to be there just like everybody else. As I look back, I

appreciate how much I have grown and developed into a much more confident person. I am incredibly grateful that I was given the assisted place so I could come to a school where I could gain an impressive education in an environment of supportive and respectful teachers and strong, bright young women that I am honoured to call my best friends. MTGS made me realise what type of

person I want to be and what I want from this world.

I have just graduated with a 2:1 in Molecular Biology from Cardiff University and I am currently doing an MSc in Stem Cells and Regeneration at Bristol University. I hope to carry on in research and, with a bit of luck, undertake a PhD. I do not mean to talk so much about myself but I just wanted to show you that I am doing pretty well, and I do not think I would be here without the help and support the School provided me with. I have gained a lot of confidence and I am looking forward to the future.

I am looking forward to the future and you should too!

Dannielle Cox-Pridmore, 2014 Leaver

If you would like to join our philanthropic community in enabling more students like Dannielle to benefit from bursaries:

Go to <http://www.merchanttaylor.com/alumni-development/support-us/>

Call **0151 949 9351**

Email devoffice@merchanttaylor.com

Merchants' Connected

Maintaining lifelong connections

Careers support & mentoring

Reunion & social events

Connecting with alumni near you

Networking opportunities

STAY IN TOUCH!

After data protection law changes in May, you will need to give us your consent for us to continue sending you publications such as Merchants' Tales. If you choose to stay in touch with us by email, you will receive a monthly e-newsletter containing School & Alumni news and events, and a biannual copy of Merchants' Tales. If you'd rather hear from us by post, we'll just send you your copy of Merchants' Tales twice a year.

Thousands of you have already told us how you'd like to hear from us, so thank you! If you haven't yet completed a data protection preference form, please return the enclosed to us, or even better, go to <http://www.merchanttaylor.com/stay-in-touch/> and complete the form online.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You'll find lots of up to date School & Alumni news and events on all of our social media channels:

-  www.facebook.com/merchanttaylorscrosby/
-  www.linkedin.com/in/mtsalumnirelations/
-  twitter.com/merchantscrosby
-  www.instagram.com/merchantscrosby

We also have a monthly e-newsletter you can sign up for at: <http://eepurl.com/ddqsaX>



The Best Education for Life

Honours

Whilst we are proud of the achievements of all of the Merchant Taylors' community, it is always a matter of some significance when our alumni are recognised in public life for their services to their respective industries:

Chair of the Governors, **Beverley Bell**, was awarded a CBE for her services to Road Safety and the Freight Industry. Her award comes in recognition of her years of service in the transport industry, having been an independent regulator of the commercial vehicle industry for 17 years. She was appointed as North-West Traffic Commissioner in 2000 at that time being the youngest and first female to hold the role. She was later appointed as Senior Traffic Commissioner for Great Britain in 2011, and she retired from both roles on 31st May 2017.



Professor **Caroline Watkins**, received a DBE in the New Year's Honours list for her services to stroke care nursing. Caroline is the only Nursing and Stroke Care Professor in the UK, and has received recognition throughout the field for her dedication and commitment to improving stroke care for patients. Her research has been incorporated into the National Clinical Guideline for Stroke, the Joint Royal College Ambulance Liaison Committees Guidelines, and the National Stroke Strategy.

While extremely grateful to have received the award, Caroline was keen to stress that none of these things happen in a vacuum. "I always feel a bit of a fraud because research is not a sole pursuit. I have whole teams of fantastic staff that work alongside me; senior colleagues and peers who are truly supportive on a day to day basis. Not least the people who themselves have had a stroke, or their partners and relatives. They give their time so freely to contribute to improving care and research - not for their own benefit but for others. So I think the award is for all of them too".



Richard Greenwood was awarded his OBE in June 2017. A former England rugby international and national team coach, he called it a 'source of great joy, pride and fulfilment':



"Rugby has been my lifelong passion. It is a great team game, so I am above all a team player, and my debt is to all my team-mates who have supported me through the years. I dedicate this award to all of them, who have made it possible for me. Waterloo, Rome, Blackburn, Preston Grasshoppers, and now Rhyll - all great places for a rugby bloke to have plied his trade. The best team of all is my family - the Greenwoods, the Maziaks, the Stewarts and the Bradford-Nutters - all of whom have given me wonderful support, encouragement, and occasionally a well-merited kick up the backside. 'Primus inter pares' is my daughter Emma, who took the initiative in putting me forward for this award. I offer a huge thank you to all those who have contributed to Emma's application - an overwhelming tide of support, indeed. My warmest thanks and appreciation to all concerned".

Peter Magill was also elected to the Mastership of the Merchant Taylors' Company in London. Involved with the Company since his time at University, Peter was asked to represent the Company as its nominated School Governor in 2005, and served on the Board until July 2017. In 2009 Peter was elected to the Court of the Company and after serving on various committees - including two terms acting as one of the four Wardens of the Company - he was elected as its 691st Master in July 2017. While the earliest records are unclear, it is thought that Peter is the first 'boy' from the Crosby school to hold this position. "It is a great privilege and honour to be elected Master of this ancient Company" says Peter. "It will be a busy but very enjoyable year. There are already over two hundred meetings, appointments and functions to attend, not least of which will be two visits to Liverpool for the Girls' School Prize Giving and the Boys' Speech Day."



MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY - CITY OF LONDON

Merchant Taylors' Company is one of the 'Great Twelve' Livery Companies of the City of London, and dates from medieval times. The 108 Livery Companies trace their roots back to the guilds which developed around the different trades active in the City.

Whilst many of the ancient companies now have only vague links with their original trade, new Livery Companies continue to be formed to this day and serve as 'guilds' in the traditional sense. The most recently formed is the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals, which became a Livery Company in February 2008.

Merchant Taylors' was originally a religious and social fraternity, founded before the beginning of the 14th Century by an association of tailors and 'linen armourers' (the latter made the padded tunics or 'gambesons' worn under suits of armour). By virtue of a series of Royal Charters granted from 1327 onwards, the functions of the 'Gild' were extended and by the end of the 15th Century it controlled the tailoring trade.

However, the membership ceased over time to be composed of craftsmen, and became dominated by merchants trading with other parts of the world. The nature of the organisation therefore changed to the extent that, by the 17th Century, it had become what it is today - a social and philanthropic association devoting its energy to educational and charitable works, forming part of the fabric of the City of London.

Today's Company plays a role in three key areas of activity: education, social housing and charitable grant-making. These, together with investments and social activities (served by its world-class catering subsidiary, which is available for private hire), are run by a governing body called the Court, composed of people from industries including finance, law, construction and engineering, with the support of a small professional staff.

Senior members of the Company known as the Livery assist the Court in many of the Company's activities. One such 'Liveryman' was John Harrison, founder of Merchant Taylors' School, Liverpool.

Applications for Membership of the Company are open to all. Young people often apply to join the Company as an 'apprentice' between the ages of 14 - 26, which involves attending Company events and meeting regularly with an existing member of the Company who acts a mentor. After a period of time, successful apprentices may be admitted to the Company as 'Freemen', at which time they are also eligible to apply for the Freedom of the City of London.



Alumni in print

A NUMBER OF OUR ALUMNI HAVE BEEN TOUCH WITH NEWS OF THEIR PUBLISHED WORK...

A CAREER IN PUBLISHING

Life has an interesting way of twisting and turning to craft a journey that I would never have imagined when I joined MTGS in 1977. As I look back from my home in Cincinnati, Ohio surrounded by my 4 sons, having survived cancer and an exhilarating media career, I am reminded fondly of my time at the school. There I made great friends, with whom I am in constant contact thanks to Facebook, was educated to the highest level, but most importantly, I was given the opportunity to aim high and thrive. The unquestioning ability to be the best version of yourself instilled on me by my inspiring teachers is an attitude that has stayed with me from these early impressionable days and allowed me to prosper in the professional world.

I 'graduated' in 1984 and went onto Lucie Clayton's College, London where I discovered the publishing industry. Happily I found my sweet spot by combining financial acumen and creativity and thrived. I initially joined Penguin, went on to Macmillan, worked for the Tolkien Estate whilst at HarperCollins before being made a Rights Director for Reed Consumer Books at 27. There I worked with the top children's authors and licensed properties in the world including Thomas the Tank Engine, Winnie the Pooh and specialized in negotiating deals as I became a frequent globetrotter! Wanting to learn more, I decided to expand my expertise into Adult books and joined David & Charles in 1998 in the West Country as their International Sales Director responsible for adult and children's books. I soon became the Publisher, progressed to Managing Director as we created a global publishing programme and transitioned the company. With a new distribution deal in place, I then sold the business to F+W based in Ohio but with 18 offices around the US, became the President of F+W Book Division in 2005 and subsequently the President of the



whole company. It became imperative to continue to transition and use change as a competitive advantage as we evolved the business from a print company to a content and ecommerce company employing 800 people worldwide and focusing on four key pillars 'content, community, curation and commerce'. After 17 happy years, I have just left F+W and as a new American citizen have just started my own media business, Domville Media LLC so a whole new learning curve as a new chapter is just beginning...

MTGS taught me so much more than how to pass exams; they taught me to live to learn and never stop trying to be the best version of who you are. Find your passion and follow it, treasure your friends and family along the way and embrace the challenges you encounter as they will help you grow and will enable you and others to fly.

Sara Domville
(née Evans, class of 1984)

OLD BOY'S SCI-FI TRILOGY

Do you remember Image? It was the School's first magazine for creative writing, the brainchild of English teacher Chris Price. He joined the school in September 1961 and Issue No.1 was published in November 1962. Image was run by an Editorial Committee of six: four modernists, a scientist and a classicist. Mr Price and fellow English teacher Mr Woodland were Editorial Advisers.

One of the modernists was John Standingford (aka Standingford, J R K), who contributed a poem and a very short play to the first issue. He went on



to read Economics at Cambridge and follow an international career as a consulting economist, spending much of the last 23 years in the former Soviet republics. He lives in Australia with his wife, Mary.

John just turned 70 and is easing out of consulting into authorship. "I remember being shocked when Mr Price told us he liked science fiction," he told us, "because we solemn sixth-formers didn't consider that a serious literary genre!" But Mr Price's words echoed down the decades, and John's first published work is a science fiction trilogy.

It's called The Eeks Trilogy. The three books are 'Eeks', 'Speeks' and 'Squidgies'. They are available only as e-books, through all the main e-book retailers.

The hardest question to an author is "What's it about?" An honest answer might be "Life, love and death," but that's not a good sales pitch. A more informative answer usually turns into a summary of the plot. John's answer is "Human nature, relationships and adaptability. Robots and aliens help to create situations that demand human responses, and provoke questions about euthanasia, religion, colonialism, racism, sexuality and our long-term survival as a species."

John has a blog too (<http://stroppygit.com>) where he expresses his sometimes controversial opinion about issues of the day.

John Standingford 1956-64



AN ANNOYANCE OF NEIGHBOURS

I've always had a secret desire to be an author.

Even after writing academic papers, a PhD thesis, had letters and articles published in newspapers and magazines, I've yearned to be a Proper Author with my name on a book. Over the years I've gathered ideas for novels and even got as far as a first draft. Then a similar storyline cropped up in a well-known series on TV and that was that.

Inspiration can be found in strange places. Three years ago I volunteered to help my parish council develop a Neighbourhood Plan which involved consulting local residents for their views on housing needs and the best places for development. During the process I heard many interesting tales of neighbourly interactions and I noticed similar stories in the news about disputes between neighbours over hedges, parking, noise and building works. As a psychologist I was fascinated by how these situations arose, how they were dealt with and the consequences. They shed light on the minefield of undercurrents, subtexts

and etiquette involved in the type of forced relationships that exist between neighbours.

One day as I was thinking, all those thoughts coalesced and An Annoyance of Neighbours was

conceived. Once I started writing I couldn't stop! When searching for a word and later when editing and proof reading the manuscript, I often thought about the wonderful Merchant Taylors' education I received in grammar and punctuation. I vividly recall an English lesson in the use of Roget's Thesaurus, which came in very handy!

I had great fun researching and writing my book. It will never win The Man Booker Prize but I'm proud of it and I can finally call myself an Author.



So if getting published is on your bucket list and you've got something part-written gathering dust somewhere or even just an idea, have confidence in yourself, get writing and resolve to finish it. If I can do it, so can you!

Dr Angela Lightburn (née Trench) is the author of *An Annoyance of Neighbours* published by Troubador Publishing Ltd and available on Amazon as a paperback and ebook. Find me on Facebook and Twitter.

WHAT CAN A FIGHTER PILOT TEACH A CEO?

My first career after leaving Merchant Taylors' in 1982 was as an RAF fighter pilot. I flew the Tornado F3 for 6 years and was then lucky enough to spend my last 3 years in the RAF on the Red Arrows. I became the Executive Officer and flew around 250 displays worldwide. I had no real longer-term career plan, so it was a case of working out where else I might be able to leverage my skills and experience. I decided to set up a teambuilding business applying my experience in the corporate world.

My break came before the business even started. During my last summer on the Red Arrows, I flew in a flypast over Buckingham Palace in formation



with Concorde for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. As a result, I had the opportunity to take a flight to New York on Concorde. The co-pilot asked me what my next job would be. I told him about my plans for the business and he said I should meet his sister who was Head of Internal Comms at a large insurer. They became our first client.

Since then, the business has grown in breadth and depth and is now a consultancy which partners with organisations committed to high performance. There is a surprising commonality between the challenges faced by a fighter pilot and those which exist in large organisations. A fighter pilot's world is characterised by ambiguity, imperfect information and time pressure. Sound familiar to anyone? Over time, we have deconstructed the key factors which drive high-performance in that world:

- People: the primacy of attitude over skills
- Capability: building alignment before setting people free
- Delivery: a process to close

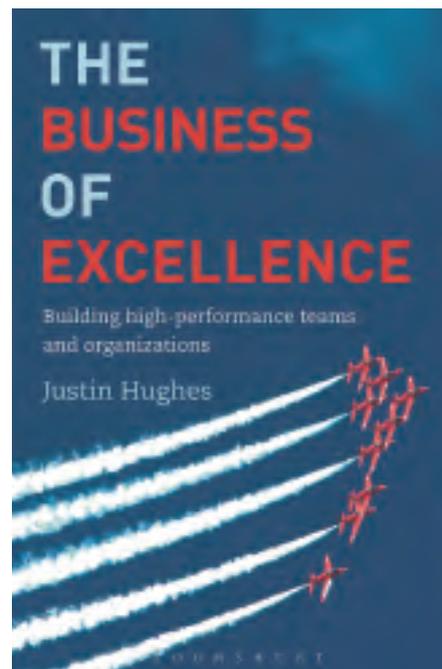
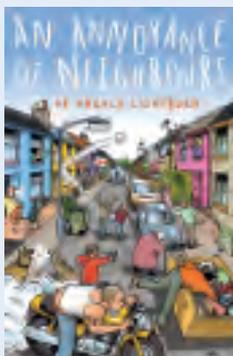
the gap between desired and actual outcomes

- Learning: how to accelerate performance in real time

Bringing these factors to life in an engaging way was the aim in writing my recent book: *The Business of Excellence Building High-Performance Teams and Organisations*. The book draws on lessons from the military, commercial and sporting worlds to illustrate and explain tools and methods which the reader can apply in their own teams. Experience seems to show that the fighter pilot approach actually translates pretty well to other environments.

The Business of Excellence, published by Bloomsbury.
ISBN 978-1-4729-3022-4

Justin Hughes is a former Red Arrows pilot and the Managing Director of Mission Excellence, a consultancy that partners with organisations committed to high performance. His new book, *The Business of Excellence: Building high-performance teams and organisations*, is out now, published by Bloomsbury and available in hardback for £25



Old Girls' News

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I feel immensely honoured to carry the responsibility of President of the Old Girls' Association. As an Old Girl currently based in London, I am really enjoying the support that the Association provides. Whether spending time at School or meeting Old Girls all around the country, the Association offers all our Old Girls precious opportunities with networking, and re-kindling friendships as well as practical and financial help. I am also proud to be part of the Association as we move forwards; my Presidency will be the first to last 2 years to help us with continuity and long term strategic planning. It also gives me the chance to get to know more of you!

Our Liverpool City Drinks event in March brought together both Old Girls and Old Boys living and working in the area to network, catch up and hear School news. People were able to connect with those recently moved to the area, as well as catch up with old friends. The Summer Lunch was a wonderful celebration of the Association, demonstrating once again the strength and breadth of the Old Girls' network; we welcomed 22 Leavers from 1967 as well as groups from 1982 and 1957. You will

find more details on the 1957 reunion in these pages.

2017 saw our first Old Girls' Sports Festival in September, ably organised by current Head of Sport Erica Moore and her team. Over 60 Old Girls of all ages came along to participate in Hockey and Netball matches, and enjoyed lunch and afternoon tea together. We hope that many more of you might like to come along to this year's event; even if you don't play you are welcome to come and cheer!

I was thrilled to see the quality of entries to our inaugural Year 7 art competition this year. The Girls were asked to come up with a logo design to represent the OGA and they impressed with their creativity and artistic skill! We named Isabella Green the winner of the £50 prize after a tough judging session; pictured are some of the entries. Once again Prize Giving 2017 saw the the Fordham Memorial prize for service to the school presented, along with prizes donated for Business Studies and Geography, and the Cynthia Smith memorial prize for Head Girl.

During my time as President, I would like to continue to encourage Old Girls both young and old to stay in touch and to come along to our events. Pressures of time and worries about social events are often the key reasons that some Girls hesitate to participate. I assure you that a shared history of school experience and simple friendliness will make reconnecting through the Association a real pleasure. We aim to offer something for everyone.

Looking ahead, the Schools' 400th anniversary is coming up in 2020 and we would love to bring as many Old Girls as possible together in that special year as possible. We are planning a series of events that we hope will entice Old Girls of all ages and interests and reflect the history and success of our alma mater. I wish you many joyous moments and personal achievements in 2018 and look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

Anna Gervasoni
1993 Leaver





HOWEVER DID WE MANAGE WITHOUT THE INTERNET?

Like many of you, I received an email in February or early March about the weekly archive items which would be featured on the Merchant Taylors' Schools website from 2016 to 2020 to mark the 400th anniversary of the school.

I actually ignored it until one day when I was thinking about the impending family reunion I was helping to organise for descendants of my maternal great-great and great grandfathers, the Plint clan. My eldest brother (an old boy of MTS) was collecting information about various members of the family to provide an up to date biographical document so that the cousins who didn't know one another very well could find out more about each other, and if they came to the reunion, meet face to face as well. Additional information on our common ancestors formed a large part of the document. Quite a few members of the Plint and Carmichael clans were pupils at MTS/MTGS over the last hundred years or so, as were cousins on other sides of the family. It's a small world.

Perhaps it was this very vague train of thought which prompted me to remember the school email and look at the website to seek out the archive entry. I was taken aback to see on the very first entry a picture of my great aunt, Constance Plint, (known to me as Auntie Connie, who was a pupil from 1906 and then a teacher at MTGS, completing her

qualifications by distance learning during WW1, truly an achievement in those times).

I contacted my brother and we arranged with the school archivist, Anita Barry, to have a copy of the picture to put in the family document. (It formed part of a collection of documents about Constance Plint given some years earlier to the school by one of her nephews' family who had the original papers including references for future jobs. It makes interesting reading.)

But before I phoned the school I was intrigued to see what other offerings the archive blog had put on the website.... You know how it is with the Internet, once you get hooked into a search.

I looked at the entries which were there, about 4 weeks' worth, and was further astounded to see that the one issued on my birthday 8th April, was a picture of my German exchange group from 1967! Not only that but my actual name was mentioned in the accompanying write up. I am the one hiding behind my pen friend Sabine, who has pole position next to Mrs Woodhall, our German teacher. (Mrs Woodhall was

a scary but very talented and inspiring teacher for me.)

This was altogether an embarrassment of coincidences... but rather comforting in a funny sort of way. Putting oneself in context, so to speak.

I think I have recovered now from the searchlight of unexpected fame, and can thoroughly recommend looking at the archive blog: you never know what you will find.

As a footnote, especially if you have a large family, I can also recommend a family reunion: ours was in July and a wonderful weekend of catching up and making new acquaintances was enjoyed by nearly 80 people of all ages from 3 months to over 85 and from all corners of the world. And all of whom had one common ancestor not so far back, in the 18th and 19th centuries ... If the members of the various families represented who could not make it in person had been there we would have numbered well over 100. Now that puts one in context!

Catriona Smith (née Carmichael)
July 2016



Old Girls' News

Former pupil **Anna Ratcliffe** (1999) and Director of The Michel Roux Jr Cookery School in Clapham, London, has been honoured with a top industry accolade for her work at Cactus Kitchens.

The school works with a number of male chefs; however the team running the business is entirely female. The school was crowned 2016 Cookery School of the Year at the Food and Travel Magazine Reader awards celebrating the best in the worlds of food, drink and travel.

Anna accepted the trophy at a ceremony at the RAC club on Pall Mall saying "The support we've received from mentors, and

workshops we've attended, as part of the growth schemes have been invaluable in helping us gain essential business knowledge and set sound strategies for future growth."

"It's incredibly heart-warming to be rewarded by the Food and Travel readers for all the hard work we've poured into the cookery school. The entire team - the admin staff, the home economists, the chefs and I - all love what we do and I think that really shines through in our daily approach and is the reason our customers have voted for us."

The cookery school was opened in 2013 in partnership with Michel Roux Jr and since then has grown

from employing just 2 full time members of staff to 7. They have received support from the government's Growth Accelerator programme for small businesses and are now being mentored by the British Library's Innovating for Growth: Scale Ups programme. Anna also took part in Escape the City's Start-Up Tribe in 2015.

Hundreds of cooking enthusiasts and food lovers have since had the opportunity to cook alongside the trailblazing chef, his protégés and an array of award-winning stars of the kitchen.



MERCHANT TAYLORS': LIFE OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

23rd June 2014. 3 days after my final exam at MTGS and I was on a plane to Cambodia. My parents were beside themselves! I had never been abroad without adult supervision before and 6 weeks of teaching in the remote village of Bakod lay ahead. The days at the school flew by and before I knew it I was travelling the coast of Vietnam! I reluctantly returned home later that summer and began to look for a job for the next year whilst applying to University.

I started working at MerseyCare Julie Ann, a domiciliary care agency, and frequently came back to Merchants' where Mrs. Copley and Mrs. Doyle were my saviours in helping with my UCAS application. Once the invitations to interviews started coming through, I was once again back at Merchants' to get interview practice with Mrs. Custard. Really, these women are the reason I am in medical school today!

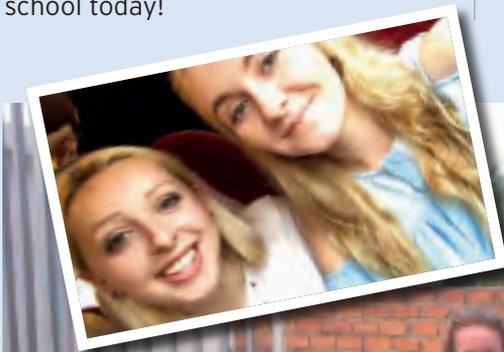
I worked until the following summer and before I knew it I was in Thailand. I did 3 weeks of teaching there with the same company that placed me in Cambodia. I travelled around Thailand for a while, returned to Cambodia and finished the trip up in Laos. I then started at Hull York Medical School in September 2015. We started on the wards from the 3rd week of placement, which is great clinical exposure for seeing real patients. Fast forward to present day and I've just started my 3rd year (our holidays get shorter each year... but it's worth it). The workload is plentiful but definitely manageable.

As I enter phase 2 of medical school, I will be based at the hospitals now for all of my teaching. This means daily ward rounds and lots of practical skills being learned! I am currently being immersed into clinical life, and will be learning lots of new skills within the next few weeks.

And I suppose that concludes my time since I left MTGS. In just a short 3 years, I would say I've done a fair bit! Where I am now all stems back from the skills and confidence I got from being at MTGS, as well as the tremendous support I received from the Old Girls' Association. Not only did they support me throughout Sixth Form, they made it possible for me to attend events like Medsin which enhanced my UCAS application. They even assisted me when it came to my interviews, helping me with trains, flights and accommodation.

The OGA have played a huge role in shaping my life both at and after MTGS. I have so much gratitude for them and hope that others in my position know that they are always there to help students. They are an integral part of the Merchants' family and I am honoured to be able to call myself an Old Girl.

Ellie Cain



Old Girls' News

THE POWER OF OUR MTGSOG NETWORK!

Towards the end of 2014 I submitted a short piece about my cousin, Carolyn Slatter (Turner) for inclusion in our magazine. Shortly afterwards Judith received an email from Margaret Le Vesconte (Jackman), our Channel Islands rep, in which she said she remembered that we were good friends at school but had lost touch. Judith kindly forwarded the email to me and I was able to contact Margaret. By a happy coincidence my son, Matthew, and his family now live in Jersey so on my last visit there in March this year Margaret and I were able to meet and, over a long pot of tea, caught up on nearly 30 years of news. We last met at the 1988 celebration weekend. (See the then & now photos)

We realised that in 2017 it would amazingly be 60 years since our year left school although Margaret herself did a further year in Sixth form. We met up at the summer lunch in 2017, and had a lovely time to celebrate the fact that we are all still here! To get the ball rolling please contact me or Margaret and let's make it a joyful occasion.

Thank you to our OG association for helping us to get back in touch.

Liz Morris (Joyce)
email: lizzie.m@blueyonder.co.uk



HEADMASTER'S SYDNEY VISIT 2016

Nora McFee (Nee Goulden 1953-60) writes - In Sydney on 21st July 2016, I had the great pleasure of meeting David Cook, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' Boys' School. He was here in Australia with the school's Annual Rugby Tour which had visited and played matches in several Australian towns before the final match in Sydney.

Together with Andrew Dickinson, an MTS Old Boy, we met for lunch in the beautiful Queen Victoria Building in central Sydney. David very kindly answered all our questions about school life in today's world and his own role in the school. Apart from the several hundred pupils under his care he also deals with a large and varied staff as well as taking his own class in History.

Having lived in Australia since 1972 it was delightful to acknowledge my connection with the school and to feel part of the Merchant Taylors' family. My time was limited however as the two men had to meet up with the rugby team for the afternoon's match against St Joseph's of Hunters Hill.

I would welcome any other ex MTS pupils visiting Sydney to get in touch with me via the school office and we can arrange a meeting.

SOUTH WALES MEET-UP

Representative **Olwen Evans** (Nee Jones)

A group of MTOGs all from the leaving year 1965, who live on the M4 corridor from London to Pembroke meet up regularly a few times a year, for lunch in Bristol, Cardiff or occasionally Swansea.

Twice a year we arrange a couple of nights somewhere in South Wales or north of Bristol. A few Old Girls from 1965 will join us on these away nights, from Liverpool, Canada and the USA.

This November five of us went to Liverpool for a couple of nights, there should have been six but Jill Dodds didn't make it as she had fallen the day before and hurt her knee.

We met up with Monica Swift (Thompson) and Judith Hawkins at the Walker Art gallery. After we had all had a good look round including seeing the Grayson Perry dresses, we sat down to coffee then lunch as shown in the photo.

The weather was not kind and having failed to catch a ferry across the Mersey (they were on strike), we ended up in the Museum of the North West Approaches which was an excellent choice. Most of us had no idea that the bunker was under Derby House. One of us had worked in Derby House and hadn't known it was there.



Photo L-R: Judith Hawkins, Alyson Gardner, Jacqui Porter, Jane Suleri, Brenda Spence, Monica Swift, Olwen Evans

Old Girls' News

A CAREER IN MUSICAL THEATRE

It's been eighteen years since I left MTGS, though in some ways it only feels like a few! I went straight to Birmingham University and got my music degree, followed by a post grad year at The Royal Academy Of Music (musical theatre course). It was always the route I wanted to go, but along the way I was met with a number of people who tried to discourage me from such an unsteady career! Don't get me wrong, a career in the performing arts is hard..really hard, and you have to want to do it more than anything else in the world. There are constant knock backs and people will criticise you to your face about your singing/acting/dance but, along the way, you develop a thick skin and when you do get offered a job, you forget the tougher days. It's hard work but if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything in life.

I've been lucky, I have an incredibly supportive family, friends and partner. I've been fortunate enough to work pretty consistently in the business, from a two year stint at Les Miserables in the West End to shorter jobs up in Liverpool at the Everyman Theatre and The Royal Court, (the latter which incidentally has another ex MTGS girl working as casting director). I've worked on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth, TV appearances, Buddy the musical, Cats (back in the day when I could still kick my leg high enough!) and now I'm touring the UK in Footloose the musical where I'm playing one of the leads. I get to see a different city every week, I get to catch up with old school friends along the way and perform to a wider variety of



audiences. In this show I also get to play the piano, flute and sax as we are not only the actors on stage but we are also the band.

These days my casting bracket has changed. I've gone from playing the smaller character parts, or understudying the principal roles to being cast as the 'mum' parts... yes, I'm now at that awkward age, I'm embracing it. These parts are usually more interesting anyway... at least that's what I tell myself! My life is full, I have made tremendous friends over the years and continue to make more as I go from job to job; every day is different and I am hugely grateful for that.

Nicky Swift (1991-98)

A CAREER IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

Pick up my UCAS personal statement today and you'd be forgiven for thinking I'd booked a flight to CERN and was halfway to a career in particle physics. Instead, when I arrived at Nottingham to study Physics, the breadth of topics available and the freedom and flexibility of my course opened my eyes to opportunities I had never really considered, or even knew existed. A combination of an excellent department, enthusiastic lecturers and career opportunities, eventually lead me into medical physics.



3 years to become a qualified medical physicist, or take up a fully funded PhD in Biomedical Imaging at Oxford University. I decided on the latter, although I have many friends who opted to go down the NHS route.

I'm still surprised by how little people know about medical physics as I am reminded every day of the large and direct impact it has on peoples' lives. Medical physics is the basis of any technique we use to image the human body such as ultrasound, MRI or X-ray, as well as playing a crucial role in drug development, cancer treatment and understanding mental health, to name but a few.

So far in my short 3 years of studying medical physics I've worked on projects involving Osteoporosis, Schizophrenia, Epilepsy and Cardiovascular disease. My current project involves trying to measure oxygen uptake in the brain using MRI, with the aim of improving treatment planning and outcome of stroke patients. We've recently had the go-ahead to scan our first NHS patient which is incredibly exciting.

I'm not sure if my future lies in academia but if reading my personal statement has taught me anything it's that you can never predict the opportunities that are going to come your way or where you're going to end up.

Caitlin O'Brien

BATH & AVON AREA

Rhona Winter (Jellicoe 1968 leaver) the area 1 representative says: I arranged a lunch on Saturday 8th July 2017 at a hotel in Clevedon, which has a stunning location overlooking the sea. Sadly there were only 4 of us who could make it but nevertheless I felt we were representing the West Country division! Alison Harding (Nee Davies 1964 leaver), Valerie Plumpton (Harrison 1972 leaver), Laura Holt (Sach 1972 leaver), and myself made up the foursome. It wasn't quite the age span I've experienced on a number of past occasions! Thank you Rhona for keeping the area going locally.

Alison Harding (Nee Davies 1957-64) sent in 2 photographs (Below) that her husband found in a back alley called Taylors' Court whilst walking around his local area of Bristol. Alison wrote in to ask if we knew any related history. I asked Peter McGill (MTOB), the New Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, London. Peter said: 'There seems to be various references to a Merchant Taylors' Building in Bristol. There were almshouses there as well as a Hall. It is probable that the same crest was used as that in London although any connection between the two organisations would have been very tenuous - if at all. There may, at best, have been a recognition of one's colleagues in another city. There is a similar situation in York.'

Bearing in mind that travelling between these cities in those days would have taken days- in each direction - then regular contact as we know today would have been impossible.



Old Girls' News

Susan Pettican (Nee Almond 1969-76) says her mother Joan Almond (Nee Cameron 1943-50) and father MTOB Reginald William Almond retired to the Lake District about 25 years ago to run a working sheep farm near Keswick. Joan still lives there but Reginald died in 2013.

Claire Louise Ferris (Nee Knaggs 1992-99) has also recently updated her subscription. She is married to John and has 2 children, Jessica aged 3 and Jack aged 18 months. Claire became a GP in Keswick, Cumbria, having gained a B.Sc (Hons) Pharmacology intercalated & MBChB Medical degree at Edinburgh University.

Maureen Andrews (Nee Smith 1946-53) emailed us to tell us of the death of her aunt Phyllis Stanton Williams (see deaths) and remembers talking with her aunt of happy times they both remembered at school. Maureen's mother Sylvia Smith (Nee Sleigh) and her 3 sisters Lillian, Norah & Muriel Sleigh, all attended school as well. Maureen herself attended school from 'Daisyfield' at the age of 4 until she left in 1953 and for the past 51 years she and her husband Bernard have lived in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Maureen has school magazines from the 1940s until 1953. Maureen left Crosby when she married in 1958 in St. Luke's Church, but has warm memories and remembers Sheila Duncan who was Head Girl in Maureen's time at school. She also remembers meeting Sheila at church in Forefield Lane with her mother who incidentally died in Warwickshire aged 100!!

Found in the Daily Mail around the time of the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, Old Girl **Michelle Stanistreet** (1985-92) has attended a Lunch hosted by Prince Philip in her capacity as the Boss of the National Union of Journalists!! Well Done Michelle!!

Also found in the Daily Mail (of 25th September 2017 written by Colin Fernandez) an article about how Split infinitives have taken over. Colin says that 'Split infinitives - where an adverb is put between 'to' and the verb - are becoming the norm'. We are afraid to say that the OGA were guilty of this in our first paragraph of our recent revision of our Constitution, as one of our OGA members kindly pointed out. We have now corrected this and thank our member for thoroughly reading our Constitution. We may employ you in future as our Proof Reader! I have to say though that we are obviously keeping up with the modern trend!

RECENTLY FOUND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Barbara Procter (1971-78) has been found by her contacting the Development office regarding a possible Reunion of her year at the OGA Luncheon on 23rd June 2018. The OGA lost you Barbara in 1984 so we are glad to see you are back in the land of the living in Swansea!

Janet Leeder (Nee Davies 1961-68) espied an article in the Guardian back in June 2017 about one of our 'LOST' Old Girls - **Eleanor Jackson** (1960-67). Good to read about you Eleanor, we lost you in 1989!! Where are you now? Please get in contact with Membership sec. Judith Hawkins: email: JLH@jandb.org.uk or phone: 01704 874976

Sarah Butt (Nee MacCulloch 1987-94) recently updated her subscription and says: 'After leaving MTGS I read Law (LLB Hons) at University of Sheffield and then took my Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the Law School there. I qualified as a Solicitor in 2000 following 2 years of training in Liverpool and Birmingham. I married in 2001 to Jez, a fellow solicitor and settling in the Midlands. I worked as a solicitor in Birmingham, Stratford upon Avon and Rugby before taking an extended career break to focus on the family, including the needs of our younger child, who has autism. We have 2 children, a daughter born 2004 and a son born 2006. After years of pursuing diagnosis and support for our son while my husband retrained and established a new career as a teacher, I returned to work as a Business and Operations Manager for an education consultancy based in North London.

I have now returned to full time study at the University of Wolverhampton studying Interpreting British Sign Language/English aiming to qualify as a sign language interpreter in 2018. This new career combines my love of language with a passion for improving access for individuals with different communication needs. This started as we began advocating for our son but widened as I got to know members of the local deaf community and heard of their experiences of being denied access to their first language, BSL.

OLD GIRLS' SUMMER LUNCH

Come and join us at the annual Old Girls' Summer Lunch on 23 June 2018 at MTGS. We can offer a sumptuous 3 course lunch with coffee, alongside excellent company and the chance to catch up with Old Girls and MTGS staff. We are particularly encouraging Leavers from 1958, 68, 78, 88, 98 and 2008 to attend to celebrate their anniversary.

To book go to www.trybooking.com/2505, email devoffice@merchanttaylors.com or call 0151 949 9351



BACK TO SCHOOL: FIFTY YEARS ON

Saturday 25th June 2016 - a beautiful sunny day.

Nine 1966 leavers:
Marcia Carpenter, Sonia Chambers, Gwyneth Crisall, Jill Goodman, Carol Long, Vivien Mccallum, Sian Owen, Judith Sherwen, Jackie Southworth.

Representatives of parallel forms. Some close friendships since school, some no contact since July 1966.

Six of us early enough to enjoy being shown around the school by two of the deputy head girls. One stayed with us for the whole tour and treated us with respect and care even though we stopped, reminisced, laughed time after time.

High standard of equipment available to today's girls in all departments. More comfortable than in our time.

Back in the entrance hall for purchase of raffle tickets, a variety of prizes, looking around to see who we recognized from other years, chatting. The rest of our party arrived, pre-lunch drink, conversation with the indefatigable Mrs Davies (Miss Walsh as we knew her), into lunch.

Was this the same dining hall that we used so long ago? Barely recognizable and so well decorated

for this special occasion. Nine of us at a round table - just right. Good food, more than one vegetarian. Did the wine flow? I don't remember.

Did some of us really not know each other well? Lively conversation, eventually outcome of referendum mentioned. Same shocked feeling round the table, 2 of our number long resident in Italy.

Children and grandchildren mentioned perhaps, bereavements and illness too, but a memory here and there of staff who had been supportive when needed, inspiring, encouraging. Yes, laughing about another teacher, or expression of "could have done better if Miss X had...". All agreed that careers advice had not been good.

Memories of other Old Girls, not all still alive or in good health. General feeling that we had been lucky to have been at Merchants'. Above all, the feeling that we were caring and openminded, liberal in our attitudes, not elite.

Parting company afterwards, but email addresses, telephone numbers exchanged. We've been in touch since.

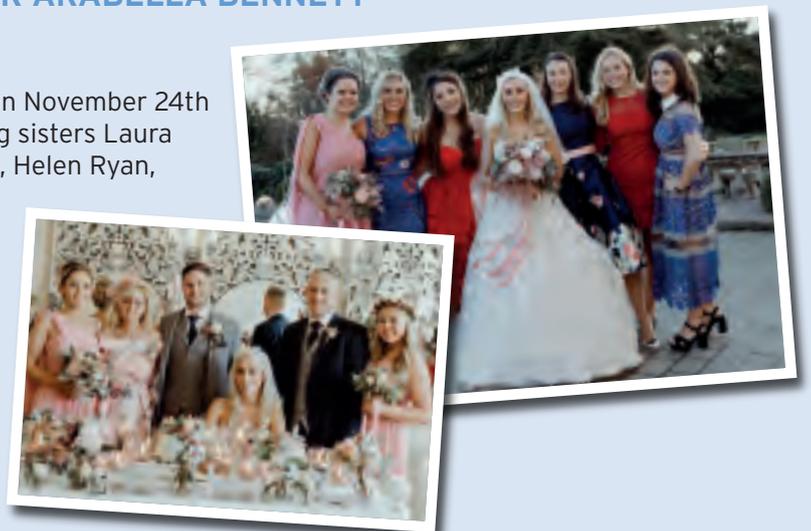
Thank you to Sheila Duncan, also indefatigable.

Sian Boardman, September 2016

WE RECEIVED NEWS FROM 2007 LEAVER ARABELLA BENNETT OF HER WEDDING TO RYAN FERRIS

The wedding was held at Eaves Hall near Clitheroe on November 24th 2017 and was attended by Arabella's family, including sisters Laura and Angelina Bennett, as well as Georgina Cochrane, Helen Ryan, Caroline Longstaff, Leanne Eveson (née Burgess), Rebecca Kaye and Emma Hurst.

We wish both Arabella and Ryan a long and happy life together!



Old Boys' News

Well, as I write towards the end of my time as President, I am looking back on the Association's 2017-18 Year. Meeting our members at events in London, Liverpool, Cambridge, Wessex, York and Edinburgh has been so stimulating, and I have gleaned so much from what Old Boys have told me about their eras at MTS. It has been really a pleasure too for me to see our friends from the Old Girls' Association, from Old Merchant Taylors' Northwood and Wolverhampton Grammar School's Old Boys and Old Girls, as part of the whole Merchant Taylors' Family.

Our Association

It really is a team effort. Our immediate Past President, Philip Marshall QC, was tireless in coming to Crosby from London where he is eminent in the Family Law Bar, and I look forward to handing over to our Senior VP, David Cairns, who should be President before he is forty! Our long-serving Hon Treasurer, Paul White, and Hon Secretary David Holroyd - taking on the role straight from the Presidency - are key players along with our Hon Membership Secretary, Ian Duckett. John Farrell, known to so many from his career at MTS, has recently joined the team as Junior Vice President and will be a key link with recently-departed Old Boys. We are in constant liaison with each other, and with the teaching and administrative staff at MTS, without

whom we simply could not get our message out to members or organise successful events.

Appreciating our good fortune



The good fortune which we each enjoyed in attending MTS has given us lifelong development. This benefit becomes more and more apparent as we go through life and as we encounter others who were less fortunate in their educational experience and opportunities, and underlines the debt we owe to MTS.

This means MTOBA tries to make a tangible difference. Let me take two examples. First, our Association's Charitable Trust makes contributions to the fees of our Boys and Girls who - through bereavement or divorce or redundancy - cannot pay all or part of their fees. Those contributions enable them to stay at MTS instead of having to leave at points vital for their education. Second, MTOBA contributed half of the cost of MTS's publication of "To Honour Duty's Call". Prepared by MTS's Archivist, Trevor Hildrey. It honours in detail each Old Boy of MTS who died in the First World War.

Initiatives

I hope that in this Presidential Year I have encouraged participation in MTOBA and have helped to give a flavour of how involvement might

benefit MTS and its past and present students. Several of us have welcomed past and present students from both the Boys and Girls Schools into our workplaces to offer vital short experiences. We are working with the Schools' Careers Manager and Alumni Relations Officer to develop a mentoring scheme and I would encourage all members to offer some assistance to those who are trying to take making the first steps in their career paths.

Our alumni groups also give us the opportunity to see our opposite numbers from Merchant Taylors' Northwood and from Wolverhampton Grammar School. We are not rival schools and we should take each opportunity when it comes to consult and perhaps benefit from the respective experiences at each School. This informal linkage came to mind for example when I was a guest at Wolverhampton's Dinner in March 2017. I was chatting with the Development Officer who I was then able to put in touch with the MTS Development and Marketing team.

Conclusion

I have really enjoyed meeting so many more of you in the past months, and am I looking forward to helping MTOBA as it looks ahead to celebrating MTS's four hundredth anniversary in 2020.

With very best wishes
Jeremy Myers



MY LIFE AFTER MERCHANT TAYLORS'

My visit to Crosby in September 2016 was to join my friend of over 50 years, Andy Oakes, for the celebration of his 60th birthday but a conversation with Doreen Iddon in the Development Office at the School led to me having a look round the school for the first time since I left in 1974 and sharing some details of my subsequent career for this magazine.

I spent 12 years in all at Crosby Prep, Merchant Taylors' Prep and Main School and left very much imbued with the MTS culture. I was rather more successful at the sports and "leisure" side of things than academic excellence so no University for me but straight into the big wide business world. After a brief time in a quantity surveyors' office I began my 32 year banking career with Midland Bank International Division Liverpool. I rose through the ranks in Liverpool and, after 5 years, I was offered a significant promotion to Bromley International Division which brought my wife and me to the South East where we settled and started a family. After 3 years in Bromley I soon learned that the streets of London were indeed paved with gold especially for bankers working in the City. For the next 24 years I worked for German, Austrian and French banks in the City specialising in finance of international trade and offering trade facilities to mainly medium and large FTSE 100 companies. I ran the UK trade finance offices of these foreign banks. During that time I also set up and ran a trade finance company offering trade finance to small companies secured by the goods being financed.

MTS had given me the resilience, confidence, self-sufficiency and ethic of successful team work as well as the ability to get on with people of all types and cultures. I travelled extensively overseas gaining business. Competition



L to R: Mark Litherland (works for local government specialising in property/estate management), Jerry Edey, Andy Oakes (is now working as a qualified accountant but has previously run a trading company & a chain of retail outlets), Mike Dickinson (who attended Liverpool College) and Steve Breen (Senior Partner at a Southport & Waterloo law practice)

within and outside the City was intense but believe I not only coped but flourished in that competitive environment.

After 32 years in banking I needed a complete change from the now 4 hour round commute and all the overseas travel so, at the age of 52, I shifted down from my career to a job as Mayor's Attendant to the Mayor of the Borough and town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. I have enjoyed this great role for 8 years now. I accompany the Mayors to all their functions and appointments in and outside the Town Hall acting as PA on the road, responsible for security of the solid gold mayoral chains and of course I drive the limo!

Apart from my working career my life has been very full with many highlights. I have a wonderful wife these last 34 years and 3 happy and successful grown up children. I have played a tennis tournament at Wimbledon with Andy Oakes, played football at Wembley in front of

35,000 people and my love of nature / wildlife has led me to snorkeling with killer whales in the Norwegian Arctic, cage diving with Great White sharks off the Southern tip of Africa and trekking tigers on an elephant in India, to name a few adventures.

I meet up with my Old Crosbeian buddies from time to time (see photo) and my children live in Reading, Sheffield and Liverpool. My Liverpool roots, friends and family may well lure me back to Merseyside to live within the next few years.

Jerry Edey 1965-75

Old Boys' News

MEMORIES OF HARRISON HOUSE (PART 2)

Being isolated from their family was a downside to boarding school life but this was compensated by various privileges bestowed by Bugs, Nej and some masters. The Army Training Corps (A.T.C.), forerunner of the C.C.F., was joined by most boys on reaching the minimum age. Boys had their own boots but proper uniforms were issued, together with belt, gaiters and front pouches, which were "bulled" and blanched to perfection. We were drilled like Army recruits, equipped with a .303 rifle. An important A.T.C. parade was held in 1948, when several Harrison House boys were issued with bugles. We were shown how to respond to various commands but ordered not on any account to try and play them! However, across the road from H.H. was a triangular piece of ground known as Parker's Piece, which had a small pavilion in the corner. One of the day-boys had a part-time job playing trumpet in a dance band and taught us the bugle. All went well and when the dress rehearsal was held, the bandmaster was stunned to hear three extra buglers - playing! and then recruited into the band. A few boys were allowed at weekends to clean rifles in the armoury, happily pulling "four by two" through and oiling them. The yearly "Field Day" was held at the Altcar Range, when we were marched to Crosby Station and from Hightown to the ranges, where we fired live .303 rounds at targets 50, 100 and 200 yards away.

Sport figured large, with most boys playing rugby and cricket. Wednesday and Saturday afternoons saw a procession of boys heading for the Endbutt Lane

playing field whilst some, unable to take part, had to attend as spectators. During the summer months we were allowed to go, after prep, to Bootle Baths or the plunge pool at Southport for a half-hour swim.

H.H. boys were allowed to leave the house during daylight hours and were officially 'bounded' by St. John's Road and Coronation Road, but this was sometimes exceeded, notably when a rubber warehouse caught fire at Seaforth Docks, seen from the Overhead Railway station, and when the Aircraft Carrier "Ark Royal" was launched in 1950, watched from the New Brighton Ferry.

For several months a few of us published "Harrison House Times", a single quarto page

produced after prep and sold for 1d a time. The master page was written with purple hectographic ink, which was then laid on a bed of gelatine in a biscuit tin lid and it was possible to take fifteen copies before they became illegible. It would be interesting to know if any boy took up journalism!

David Green 1946-52



REVEREND CANON MYLES DAVIES (1969 LEAVER)

A colleague at Liverpool Cathedral forwarded to me an e mail from Kate Thomas at Merchant Taylors', enquiring about the possibility of a service to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the School in 2020. It took me back to the 350th anniversary in 1970. I had left school the year before, but I had been invited back to carry the cross by Russell Perry who planned the service. Nearly 50 years later, I am the Vice Dean and Canon Precentor at the Cathedral, with responsibility for all the services held in this great space -the largest Cathedral in Great Britain and the largest Anglican Cathedral in the world.

It has been a fascinating place in which to work for the last ten years, with over half a million visitors each year, and which is a fantastic setting for worship which uses words and music, movement and drama on a huge scale. It has been fascinating to live and work in a place which I first came to know during my days at school, having being introduced to it by Nigel Frostick, a school contemporary who was also head chorister at the Cathedral.

Last year I celebrated 40 years working as a Priest in Liverpool Diocese, in West Derby, in Waterloo and Seaforth when I was able to renew my links with Merchant Taylors, and for 27 years as Vicar of St Anne, Stanley in Old Swan, during which time I also worked with those exploring their vocation and training to be ordained.

My memories of the service for the 350th anniversary are of a packed Cathedral, of grand processions, of the thrilling sound of the Cathedral Organ along with the School Choir and Orchestra under the direction of Mike Ashcroft, and of the stately figure of Donald Coggan, Archbishop of York, who preached the sermon on that occasion.



I look forward to helping in some small way with the plans for the 400th anniversary, but I will leave it to someone much younger to carry the cross this time!

Old Boys' News

HOW MERCHANTS' ENCOURAGED MY LOVE OF GOLF

I was brought up in Hightown, a very small place ten miles outside Liverpool and joined Merchant Taylors' Schools in 1931, when I was 11 years old.

I played golf from about the age of 14. At that time our Chemistry Master, Dr Duncan, used to play every Wednesday afternoon with a pupil called Ronnie White who later became British amateur champion.

In Hightown we played regularly during school holidays at Formby Ladies Golf Club where we had a concession to play all day for a shilling (10p!). In the summer we often played three rounds a day finishing in moonlight. (Oh to be young again...) One of my pals that I played with did an albatross once when we were about 15 years old!

My career consisted of a Higher School Certificate, followed by a degree in Electrical Engineering at Liverpool University. The Second World War broke out after the first year of a three year Course and we were told by the War Office official to finish our Course as trained engineers would be necessary to rebuild the country after the war. I carried on for my Master's Degree and gained a two year Apprenticeship at the English Electric Company in Stafford.

After the war my work took me to the London area and I lived in

Essex. I joined Romford GC and played there until my eyesight failed. My wife was also keen and we often played together. My daughter is very good and played for Gloucestershire some years ago. She still plays off a handicap of six - so I suppose you would call us a "golfing family".



My ambition at the time was to play every golf course in the country - because of the difficulty of playing new courses - but of course that was obviously not possible. I got my handicap down to nine and my wife played off 15.

If anyone is serious about starting to play golf, I suggest they have proper lessons from a good professional, and don't worry about bad shots - it is the next one that matters. It is good to be able to play golf.

I will always be grateful for the education given to me by Merchant Taylors' Schools. Sadly my career took me too far from my old school to allow me to participate in school activities, particularly the golf, but one can't have everything!

My chemistry master was a nice chap but I never reached a standard to play with him.

J Malcolm Worthington
(1931-38)

(Unfortunately, as Merchants' Tales was going to print, we received the sad news that Malcolm had passed away. Our condolences go to his family).

PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN FLENLEY - SHORT HISTORY OF PROFESSIONAL CAREER

At Merchant Taylors' School I had a very enthusiastic Biology teacher called Ronnie Telfer. He took us on field courses, including one to the Isle of Man. I had also, earlier on, had some valuable lessons in Geography before O level. Both these subjects were invaluable to me.

When I left Merchant Taylors' School in 1955 and went as a student to Cambridge, I was very fortunate to have a brilliant lecturer in Botany called Professor John Corner. He told us all about the Tropical Rain Forest and urged us all to go and see it for ourselves before it was all chopped down by selfish people. So when, at the end of my second year in Cambridge, a student who was the son of a famous archaeologist invited me to join him on an expedition to Ethiopia, I was very attracted. It lasted two months, during the long vacation. We collected botanical specimens, including one species new to science, and we ended up having an audience with Emperor Haile Selassie, who gave each of us a small gold medal. But we did not see much tropical forest.

Fortunately, my supervisor at Cambridge, Donald Walker, accepted a professorship in Canberra, Australia in 1959. So in 1961, I contacted him and enquired whether I could do a PhD there. He sent me a telegram saying I could have a scholarship there provided I did my fieldwork in Papua New Guinea. By this time I had a wife and two daughters, so we all went together for a year in PNG, and at last I was able to study Tropical Rain Forest. Also, I learnt while in Canberra the subject of palynology,

the use of fossilised microscopic pollen grains to reconstruct the history of vegetation. This history turned out to relate well to geological evidence of climate change, such as Ice Ages.

When I left Canberra in 1964 with my PhD, I took up a lectureship in

The results were spectacular. The island, now deforested, had once been completely covered in trees, mainly palm trees of a type now extinct on the island. So I started another book called Easter Island, Earth Island. I completed this in collaboration with a well-known archaeologist, Paul Bahn, who lived in Hull. A second edition was accepted for publication by Oxford University Press, though they changed the title.

I did a total of 17 years at Hull, which included several minor student expeditions to Pacific Islands to study their rain forests. In 1989 I accepted the post of Professor of Geography at Massey University, New Zealand. By this time I had three grown-up daughters, but they all decided to stay in England. One of them is now a Senior Lecturer in Statistics at Sheffield University. They have all been to visit me in New Zealand.

Since I arrived in New Zealand, I have been able to make several further visits to Easter Island, and Paul Bahn and I recently completed our 4th Edition of Easter Island, Earth Island, which should appear in September 2017.

I am grateful to God for the many events which have led me to a successful academic career. I am now retired but still in touch with academia. I am grateful for my gradual switch from the pure science of Botany to the wonderful hybrid subject of Geography. And I am especially grateful to Merchant Taylors' School for giving me the necessary background. I was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church in 2012.

John Flenley



Geography at the University of Hull in England. But two years later, Donald Walker invited me back to Canberra for a two-year visit as a post-doctoral fellow in Biogeography. While there I was able to write a book on the history of the Tropical Rain Forest. During my return to Hull, I managed to pay a visit to Easter Island, the most remote island in the Pacific Ocean, famous for the giant stone statues it possesses. I collected a few palynology samples, which I analysed in Hull.

Old Boys' News

RECOUNTING AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OUT IN THE FIELD

I'm currently facing a quandary which I doubt most of my contemporaries at MTS are contemplating ... having just celebrated the age of getting my free 60+ London travel card do I finally hang up my flak jacket and helmet and perhaps have a more 'settled' lifestyle, more befitting to my recent birthday?

MTS (1971 - 1975) will always be remembered as a love-hate relationship during my time of study. Many of my former boyhood friends and colleagues may well recollect that I was not necessarily the most academically gifted or most conformist boy in the class. However, I will always be grateful to those masters who persevered with me and gave me the background knowledge (both academic and worldly) to pursue the career path I still currently tread.

Having left MTS, I subsequently read Electronics and Music at Keele University (having changed my A level subjects after a year to the correct subjects!) and then joined Polydor Records as their junior engineer - continuing my streak of non-conformity by working with punk/new wave/new romantics musical masters such as The Jam, Siouxsie and the Banshees and Visage (who the heck remembers them!!) for a couple of years before joining the BBC in Cardiff as an Audio Assistant.

Gradually rising up through the audio ranks, whilst also moving to BBC News in London, I quickly

began to move to field work - away from the bosses - and established my credentials as someone who rather enjoyed forcing equipment to breaking point and then putting it back together again (usually in the right order and with not too many components left over).

Airport runs started to become more frequent. The troubles in Northern Ireland were to prove an excellent training ground for both the career path and for the leaps in technology that have accompanied this path.



Audio at this stage was on the cusp of moving from tape to the computer - and so my studio-based razor blade (for cutting tape) was swapped for a field laptop. The first 'easily portable, easily set-up' satellite dishes made their debut - and I could now produce and transmit 'quality' audio from anywhere in the world - and get every correspondent I was working with to sound as if they were sitting next to the presenter in the studio (creating 'location studios' for

programmes such as Radio 4 Today often meant that the foreign correspondent actually was sitting next to the presenter!).

I'm not sure exactly how or why, but I became known as the engineer (and subsequent senior producer) who rather enjoyed those hostile environments - whilst also becoming versed in all aspects of both editorial and technical field work - and the scene was set for my BBC career, with amazing highs but tempered with occasional very difficult lows.

I have three passports and tend to renew at least one a year. I have covered virtually every conflict since Bosnia - on every continent. Drinking tea with the Taliban (they offered me a factory to run after I mended a radio station for them) was followed a few years later by walking into Kabul with John Simpson (via 9-11 in New York). I've been ambushed, shot at, bombed and faced the threat of execution.

Alongside conflict has been the coverage of natural disasters - famine, earthquakes and tsunamis. Many of these have been at next to no notice; with my phone on and with me 24 hours a day. A lot of breaking news is just that, it breaks and I head to the airport, hopefully having a few minutes to pick up the essential kit needed for that specific job (I have cases of equipment and stores at home for all eventualities).

Occasionally there is no time to even get home (even though it's en-route to Heathrow) or the airlines

forget to load my favourite case. Covering the breakout of civil war in Ivory Coast, not one case left Heathrow the entire time my correspondent colleague and I were deployed. I also carry at all times a small backpack which contains the essentials, ensuring that we don't miss any transmission slot - live and packaged, for both radio and TV. This was also the first occasion that an iPhone was used to broadcast live for BBC TV news.

Finding that I could use all technical equipment, I became the first BBC News 'multimedia producer'; handling all aspects of audio, video, satellite communications and IT - often travelling with just a correspondent and therefore very manoeuvrable.

Not all deployments have been hostile though. With memories of trips to the Galapagos Islands, Mandela meets the Spice Girls, meeting Prince Charles in South Africa, the mountain kingdom of Bhutan, both Everest base camps (Nepal side to cover the earthquake and Tibetan side to cover the Olympic Torch), and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar being among dozens of other highlights. I have worked alongside virtually every BBC foreign correspondent during the past few decades - making sure that they get on air saying the right thing at the right time in the right place. The right time is essential for news; missing your 'slot' on the 10 O' Clock News is not an option and can occasionally be rather stressful (Jeremy Bowen's 4 minute package from west Mosul a few weeks ago took me 6 hours to transmit to our

London studios - and got there with 2 minutes before it was due to be on the air). However, behind every correspondent is 'the team' - and I've been luck enough to be in that team, alongside a fantastic group of colleagues, for the past 25 years.

Will I give it all up now that I've blown out the candles on my 60th birthday cake? My wonderful (and long-suffering) wife has a list of jobs needed to be done around the

house...

I'm sitting here writing this in north Iraq, with equipment (now including a drone) spread out before me... waiting to head into Syria.

The slippers and pipe have been put on hold!

Peter Emmerson 1971 - 1975



Old Boys' News

A SPORTING PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE...

It's fair to say that life is always busy at CNN International Sports and I'm truly privileged to be part of it! As one of the Atlanta-based Presenters, or "Anchors" if you prefer, on CNN World Sport it's been a whirlwind last few months with one of the most captivating and engaging stories I've ever worked on, playing a major role. Did anyone really see Leicester City's most unlikely of English Premier League title triumphs actually happening? What an incredible achievement for Claudio Ranieri and the Foxes and I have to say richly deserved in the end too!

Another wonderfully eye-catching story took place just down the road from us at CNN's global headquarters here in Atlanta at the famed Augusta National with English golfer Danny Willett capturing the coveted green jacket at this year's Masters Tournament. I was delighted for Danny just as I was at last year's US Open at Chambers Bay in beautiful Washington State when young Jordan Spieth won his second career Major after a thrilling finish. On that occasion I was blessed to have a first-hand view of how he kept his nerve and held off the challenge of his compatriot Dustin Johnson. It was great to interview the young American one-on-one afterwards about it all and he was even gracious enough to let me see how it felt to get hold of that famous trophy!

20 years ago the eyes of the world were on the city of Atlanta for the 1996 Olympics. Two decades on and the Summer Games were staged for the first time ever in South America

with Brazil hosting. Our team covered many compelling stories... The historic exploits of Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps immediately spring to mind of course. And rightly so. But among many other memorable highlights were the hosts winning a first ever Gold in the men's football tournament and what an occasion for Fiji who won their first ever Olympic medal in the Rugby Sevens Competition.

But a busy sporting year shows no

sign of easing up! We'll be following All the top football leagues closely as they swing back into action and then there's the small matter of golf's Ryder Cup and on a personal level I can't wait to get to Hazeltine where the American team will be looking for their first win over their European rivals since 2008! A victory "they" would say is long overdue!

Patrick Snell (1986 Leaver)



OLD CROSBEIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Old Crosbeians FC is a London-based 11-a-side team founded by Old Boys of MTS Crosby in 2009. Over the years many MTS Old Boys in London have represented the team, alongside our mates from university, work and elsewhere – everyone's welcome!

We play in the Amateur Football Combination South 4 league each Saturday afternoon at our Barnes home ground (just over the Thames from Fulham's Craven Cottage) and at away grounds up to about an hour's travel away. We don't train together during the week but all look after our own fitness so we can play to win and enjoy ourselves when Saturday comes.



Whatever the result we stick around for a drink after the match and have a few proper social events throughout the season. I would encourage any OCs in the London area to get in touch and be involved!

Jim Davies, 2003 Leaver, Club Captain.

If you would be interested in participating, please contact our Alumni Relations Officer Jonathon Reid at j.reid@merchanttaylors.com

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