

Concordia

Merchant Taylors' School



Summer 2015



Open Morning

Saturday 26th September 2015

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- 'Exceptional' 2014 School Inspection
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- Magnificent sports fields
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- 2015 Registration:
16+ December 31 2014
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- Bursaries
- Academic, Art, Drama,
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St John's Wood coach from September 2015

Getting here

Coaches: Barnet (via Stanmore), Beaconsfield, Brent (via Harrow), Ealing, Harpenden, Harrow, Highgate, Mill Hill, Radlett, St John's Wood from 2015, Stanmore

Car: MTS is 15 minutes from the M1, the M25 and the A40

Transit: MTS is adjacent to Moor Park (Metropolitan Line) and is accessible from any Jubilee/Metropolitan Line station. Chiltern line trains change at Rickmansworth From Marylebone: Chiltern Line trains change at Harrow. Travelling time from WC1/W1 is 40 minutes

Online

Visit us at
www.mtsn.org.uk

Find us on Facebook
Merchant Taylors' School

Follow us on Twitter
@MerchantTaylors

Guided tours (last tour 11.30)
The Head Master speaks at
11.15 and 12.15

Please contact **Gregg McCann, Admissions Officer**
admissions@mtsn.org.uk +44(0)1923 845514
Merchant Taylors' School Northwood Middlesex HA6 2HT



Panis Angelicus is played at the World War One Memorial Concert held at Merchant Taylors' Hall on 24th February where General The Lord Dannatt unveiled a plaque commemorating those OMTs who gave their lives.



Welcome

Dear reader

In this issue of Concordia we pay tribute to former Second Master, Denis Ogan. Denis taught at the school for thirty-six years and had an enormous influence on the lives of many Taylors' boys. He was a supremely gifted linguist, and a man of extraordinary versatility. We publish several tributes here, and would be delighted to receive more from those who remember him.

This edition sees us continue with a range of articles on different topics, with features from Neil Lawson Baker, Nick Telson, Tariq Attia and Linus Gregoriadis. Our cover story is an extraordinary tale of endurance; Johan du Plessis writes of cycling over 14,500 miles from Europe, across Asia and then America.

In Class Notes we feature Anthony Martinelli, the first OMT not merely to

win University Challenge but to captain the winning team. We also feature two start-up businesses recently set up by OMTs. If you have set up a new business please feel free to get in touch - we are always keen to hear about it.

Jon Rippier
Editor

Concordia E-mail Concordia at editor@mtsn.org.uk

Sandy Lodge, Northwood, Middlesex
HA6 2HT, Tel: +44 (0)1923 820644
alumni@mtsn.org.uk
www.mtsn.org.uk
Editor: **Jon Rippier**

Contributing editors: **Chris Roseblade,**
Nick Latham
Sub-editors: **Melissa Marsh, Sandra Sansom**
Photography: **Ian Rudling, Rohan Gupta (L6),**
Patricia Rayner

Cover photo: **Johan du Plessis OMT and Will Frazer** camping by the Toktugul Reservoir, Kyrgyzstan during their round-the-world cycle trip in aid of saving the rhino
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Introduction

An introduction from the Head Master:

Excitement at the school is growing as our new Design Centre nears completion. I was given a tour of the building the other day and was struck by both its scale and how impressive it looks. We will have not just a first class space in which to teach some of the country's finest young engineers, but we will also have a jewel to add to the already high quality of the school's architecture. And what better way to inspire the next generation of young architects than to teach them their skills in a place of beauty. It is even more exciting to report that others have also been inspired by the Design Centre. The Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust has made us the extremely generous donation of £400,000. There is an article about this wonderful gift in the Development section; I simply record my gratitude and look forward to the equipment it will buy and opportunities for our pupils that it will bring.

We celebrate the opening of the Design Centre next year with Design Week. We

will use the week to bring exciting events and speakers to the school. The idea is to energise the pupils' interest in design and engineering. It will also be an opportunity for friends of the school to visit and see the building. Design Week will take place between 12th-16th October - perhaps I will see some of you there.

Recently, the Development Office has been finding new ways to reach out to alumni and bring them into the school. The first of these events was an Afternoon Tea for the earliest vintage of alumni. It was judged to be a great success. The turn-out was excellent, with many returning to the school for the first time in many decades. The musical and dramatic performances of the pupils were greatly enjoyed and a rather sumptuous spread was laid on by our hard-working kitchen staff. Another upcoming occasion is aimed at the younger alumni, and will centre around a barbeque in my garden. Those based in New York, or who will be visiting the States at the end of

October, can look forward to our first New York OMT event, hosted at the prestigious New York Athletic Club. Finally, we look forward to the big OMT Reunion Day on 27th June.

In conclusion, I hope that any who visit the school will make their way to the Great Hall lobby, where they will find some of our commemorations of World War One. We have had our Gallipoli flag restored and it now takes pride of place on the wall beside the replica of Drewry's VC, won at Gallipoli, almost exactly 100 years ago. The flag, which flew as the ensign of HMS Rattlesnake, the last British ship to leave Gallipoli, looks magnificent and is a fitting token of the honour in which we hold our proud fallen.

Simon Everson
Head Master

Summer 2015

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Cycling around the world

Johan du Plessis (1999-2004) decided to take an early career break and went on an extraordinary adventure in aid of charity. He writes here of cycling over 14,500 miles across Europe, Central Asia, China, Japan and the US



The Turpan Depression in Western China (elevation -154m)

Working in South Korea as an engineering project manager for BP, I was on a great career trajectory which I could easily have followed for the next 30 years.

I'd been given great opportunities by a company that enabled me to work around the world. I wasn't lost, so didn't need to find myself, but I did want a change of direction. Would a new career be enough of a challenge?

Before I launched myself into something new, the opportunity for an adventure beckoned. I'd read about these "big journeys" and realised it didn't have to be about someone else - it could be about me. It was a mad risk, but if I didn't try it I'd never know whether or not I could have succeeded.

So what's the biggest trip I could think of? Something bike-related made sense. Years of rugby and hockey at

MTS had taken their toll on my knees, and shortly after arriving at university, the surgeons told me I was no longer allowed to do running, so I took up rowing. I was then introduced to cycling as a means of getting to the River Avon for 6am rowing sessions.

But I'd become increasingly hooked - cycling enables you to experience the world in slow motion as opposed to shooting past in a car. You also feel

the satisfaction of covering far more ground than if you were walking.

I studied Google Maps to hatch a plan. How long would it take me to cycle (on a direct route) around the world, across the great land masses of the northern hemisphere?

To share the experience I texted my friend Will Frazer, whom I've known since we were undergraduates at Bristol University together. I explained

that I needed a companion - what did he think? He immediately replied with: "Oh, wow - yeah, OK."

Seeing the trip as a perfect opportunity to raise awareness for a cause, we launched ridingforrhinos.org. I'd seen rhinos in the wild but it was the emotional experience I'd had viewing Brent Stirton's photo story (at the Natural History Museum in London), about the animals being

poached for their horns, which had made this magnificent creature's plight hit home.

Last April, five months after I'd contacted Will, we left Trafalgar Square in torrential rain. I couldn't let myself think about what I was taking on. The trip seemed totally overwhelming and impossible, so I had to break it down into small steps, such as making it over to the Continent.

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The top of the Tor-Ashuu Pass (3500m elevation), Kyrgyzstan



Panoramic of Tbilisi, Georgia



Reservoir in Georgia

“*Being exposed to the elements makes you appreciate how vulnerable you are. If the weather decides it doesn't want you to carry on, you have to listen to it.*”

Embarrassingly, we failed the first leg by missing the ferry from Dover, making us realise this was a marathon, not a sprint. Only when we reached Istanbul, after a month on the road, did I allow myself to think of what lay ahead.

The size of the achievement – contrasted with the sudden feelings of “What now?” – meant that each day I was flooded with conflicting emotions ranging from elation and euphoria to sadness and despair.

In the western US, there was a 180-mile stretch of road (catering for cars) in the Mojave Desert with one food and water stop *en route*. We arrived – the shop was shut. You just have to dig down.

One late afternoon, in the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia, a thunderstorm

carrying massive hailstones rolled in. As bolts of lightning hit the floor around me I froze – assuming I was going to die right there. There was nothing I could do. Shaken up, I just had to plough on another two kilometres to find shelter – and Will.

Being exposed to the elements makes you appreciate how vulnerable you are. If the weather decides it doesn't want you to carry on, you have to listen to it. In Europe it was rain; in Asia it was wind.

The direction and force of a wind can be the difference between crawling to gain less than 50 miles in a day and being hoisted for up to 130 miles. Or being blown off your bike or staying put. I learnt to embrace the positive and accept what I couldn't change.

I had expected the ride to be more physically demanding but I'd say two-thirds of the effort was mental. You need strength to find the drive to get up every day and sit on a bike for seven hours.

The unpacking and packing of panniers felt relentless. The monotony of chunks of the journey was also hard. In Central Asia we were presented with the same long straight desert road, with the same terrain, seven hours a day, for weeks at a time. Music and podcasts offered some respite.

Will and I started the trip talking as we cycled but we ran out of things to say. Eventually we understood each other so well, knowing what each other was thinking, we didn't need to speak.

Spending every waking moment with one other person is intense. With

exhaustion, tempers can fray – but you both know that without the other guy's support you are lost.

The trip enabled Will and me to experience some of the world's richest cultures, see its most stunning places, by riding some of its greatest roads. Every single day, I'd think: “Wow. Look at this place.”

The awe-inspiring landscapes along the back roads of Japan, the mountain passes of Kyrgyzstan and national parks in the US made up for any hardship. I'd reflect: “Look where I am, how did this happen? How lucky am I?” Thinking time was something I was never short of.

In mid-December, we finally coasted to South Beach in Miami. We had cycled 14,558 miles in 234 days. It felt weird. I knew I was going to miss the

enthusiasm and excitement that had lifted me out of my tent every day.

On a par with the incredible scenery, my biggest takeaway from the trip was that, without exception, everyone we met was overwhelmingly friendly, kind, generous and hospitable. The experience has been amazingly humbling. The less people had, the more willing they were to welcome and provide for us.

One meeting has particularly stayed with me. It was late one evening in Uzbekistan. Will and I were looking for a patch of land to pitch our tents when a shepherd appeared from nowhere. Sussing what we were trying to do, he helped us find a place to camp. He later returned, joined by friends, to share a big flask of tea with bread.

One friend gave Will his hat, which was pretty much all he had. I often reflect on meeting these men, as they were our age. Born under different circumstances, theirs could have been my life as well.

Stepping out of the job market for nearly a year, only five years into my working life, was a risk. But undertaking this epic journey was the best decision I've ever made and proving I can do something if I set my mind to it has filled me with confidence.

Strangely, I'm now driven by a desire to fail – or to at least push myself to discover where my limits lie. I never want to look back at life and kick myself for not having taken every opportunity.

If you wish to read more about the trip, please go to www.ridingforrhinos.org



The top of the Tor-Ashuu Pass (3500m elevation), Kyrgyzstan

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The desert somewhere between Beruni and Bukhara, Uzbekistan



Campsite, near Sheki, Azerbaijan



The lone tree in hundreds of kilometres of sand. Heading for Zharkent, Kazakhstan



Heading towards Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan



The desert somewhere between Beruni and Bukhara, Uzbekistan



Campsite, near Sheki, Azerbaijan



The lone tree in hundreds of kilometres of sand. Heading for Zharkent, Kazakhstan



Heading towards Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan

Neil Lawson Baker

Neil Lawson Baker (1952-1957) began his career as a dentist and dental surgeon, going on to specialise in oral reconstruction. He has since become one of the country's leading sculptors, is Executive Chairman of the National Open Art Competition and also runs a not-for-profit registered arts charity, The Chichester Art Trust

Christened Neil Anthony Lawson Baker, I was known at school as Neil Baker. My two brothers Stewart and Colin also had the name, Lawson, but none of us used it while at Merchant Taylors'. The three of us were born in 1938, 1943 and 1947 and from 1952 onwards we all thoroughly enjoyed our life at school and our time in Hilles. My uncle, the late Raymond Lawson, had also been in Hilles in the early 1930s and my brother Stewart was a very successful school cricket captain for some years.

I joined the school in Upper 4B, I was definitely a B streamer! I well remember certain masters; R.B. Hawkey who was in the English Squash team and ran the Naval Section; 'Prick' Thorning whose form I was in twice in the Science Lower 6th and then Science 6B; Hodgetts our House Master; Cliff Lummis who used to scream at us and throw lumps of chalk; Rags Stokes who taught me Chemistry so brilliantly; John Steane, erudite and Pickwickian; Mr Beech in the woodwork department; RSM Bell who ran the Corps like a well drilled private army, Jacques Brown in the gymnasium and many others.

I biked to school every day with friends from Watford past a huge asbestos factory but I don't think the wind blew the toxic dust towards us, thank God! It was about 5 miles each way and on some days when I arrived

home I used to deliver the local post around Watford for my father's estate agency business. They paid me two old pennies (2d) per letter delivered, it saved them 1/2d and so I earned my pocket money. I was taught the value of money from a young age and it kept me very fit, adding a few miles to the ten I had already pedalled.

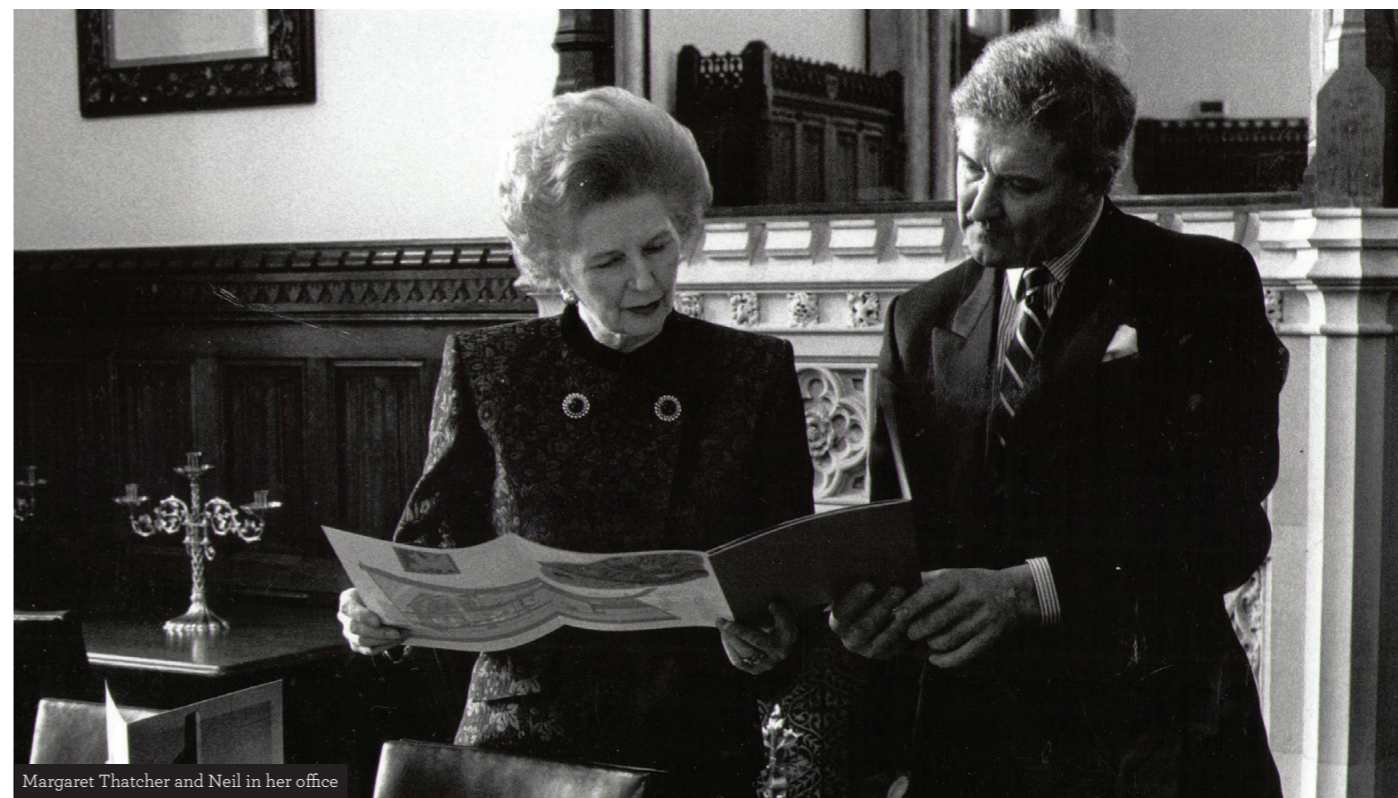
At school I loved sport but never hugely excelled, although I played rugby and squash fairly well and captained the tennis team. I was passionate about jazz, and later when a student at Guy's Hospital, ran The Lawson Turner Big Band, a 12-piece mainstream jazz band in which I played saxophone. Dick Wilcox, then at the BBC library, wrote our scores and whilst at school, together with Terry Brady and some other boys, Dick organised a lunchtime jazz concert with Humphrey Lyttleton and George Melly in the Great Hall. Can you imagine the furor after that coup? It had all been arranged in secret and took the school by storm.

Hugh Elder, our Head Master, summoned me to his office in 1956 to tell me, with my parents present, that the chances of my going to university were virtually zero as I was not academically suited. He was almost right. I failed Physics at A Level but managed to persuade Guy's Hospital to take me as a first year student, where I re-sat the Physics exams, and ended up a few years

later with an honours degree in Dental Surgery. That was when I became Neil Lawson-Baker BDS LDS RCS (Eng) and lived off the King's Road, Chelsea. It was 'the Swinging 60s'.

I made the big decision to carry on studying rather than immediately going into an NHS practice despite the resistance I encountered, this time from Fred Warner the Sub Dean at Guy's who once again advised against further academia. I accepted a place at St George's and five years later had an honours degree in Medicine MB BS and won the London University Brodie Prize in clinical surgery.

During my time as a student and later on the staff at St George's Hyde Park Corner (now the Lanesborough Hotel), I had some amazing experiences. I was privileged to have a clinic next to the pioneers of pacemaking in heart surgery. Aubrey Leatham taught me cardiology. I assisted in the development and the first use of laparoscopy with Patrick Steptoe, who invented it, during the months that I was doing an elective and delivering babies at Oldham General. I observed heart operations when both Michael De Bakey and Denton Cooley separately visited St George's from the USA and I well remember watching Lord Brock at Guy's with Donald Ross in 1957 packing the chest with ice before the invention of the bypass. Those were pioneering days.



Margaret Thatcher and Neil in her office

“I was privileged to have a clinic next to the pioneers of pacemaking in heart surgery.”

Armed with a decent undergraduate education from two of the great London hospitals, I went on to house surgeons' posts at Charing Cross in Ear, Nose & Throat, Plastic Surgery and then Radiotherapy, before progressing to Registrar in Oral Surgery at St George's, before taking on the same role at The Royal Marsden and The Royal Dental Hospitals.

That step was leading towards being a Consultant in Oral Surgery, but I had been fortunate to meet a colleague who was the President of the Student Union at the Royal, one Michael Furness, and our careers were to come together and take a different path. He had a similar training and we had met at King's in the Strand doing our 2nd MB. We decided to practice dentistry in the evenings at No 6 Lower Sloane Street to fund our medical studentship. He and two other students then joined me in a flat in Sloane Square. My dear mother had given me £2500 to buy somewhere to live when

my father tragically died in Guy's Hospital on the very day I qualified. It was a tough time. We ran an emergency dental service at night linked to all the London casualty departments who had no such cover and took home £10 per treatment usually from patients who had been in extreme pain.

Our flat at No 12 Eaton Mansions became well known for its dinner parties where we even entertained the hospital consultants and one night even invited dancers from The Eve Club to do a cabaret for them. After that dinner I walked one of the consultants, Terry Blennerhasset, back home across Belgravia to No 31 Wilton Place, where he also practised. He too had both qualifications. I had already done a locum consultancy for him at Charing Cross and I think I must have impressed him because out of the blue he offered me the opportunity to buy his dental practice because he had decided to retire early.

It was a golden opportunity to run my

own private clinic, actually a very serious business involving huge overheads, and at that time of course all on borrowed money. But I would be able to do all the dentistry and oral surgery I wanted to, to the very best degree of excellence, with no restrictions from NHS bureaucracy and committees - this was right up my street and I invited Michael Furness to join me there as a professional partner.

I managed to raise the money to buy the practice for the princely sum of £15,000 - exactly the sum I had managed to sell my flat for. I guess 31 Wilton Place is now probably worth more like £15 million but I have long since sold, after 38 years in practice, and changed career which I did when I was just 70. The practice is still there of course and is one of the oldest dental practices in London having started out at No 1 Hanover Square in 1842 and moved to Belgravia in 1954.

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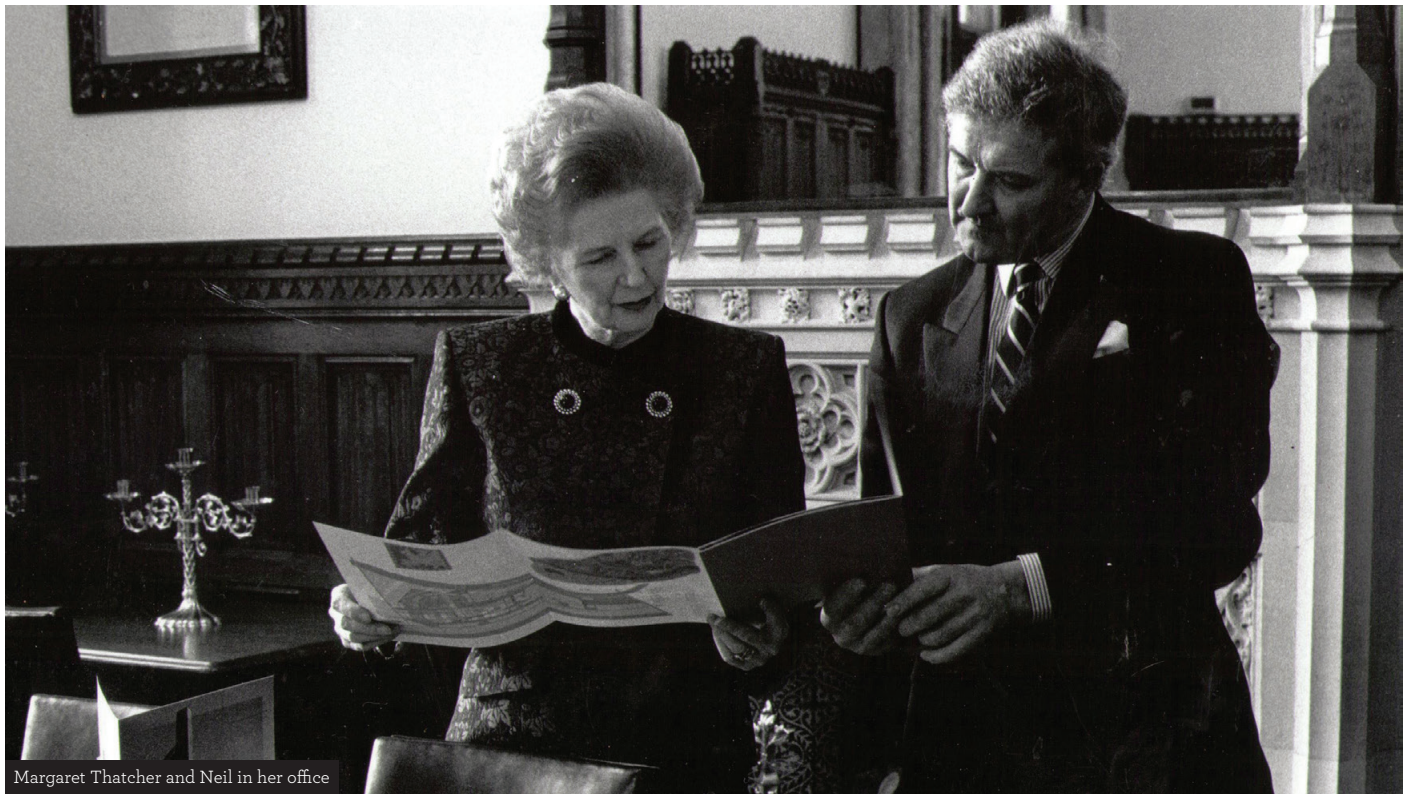
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During my time as a student and later on the staff at St George's Hyde Park Corner (now the Lanesborough Hotel), I had some amazing experiences. I was privileged to have a clinic next to the pioneers of pacemaking in heart surgery. Aubrey Leatham taught me cardiology. I assisted in the development and the first use of laparoscopy with Patrick Steptoe, who invented it, during the months that I was doing an elective and delivering babies at Oldham General. I observed heart operations when both Michael De Bakey and Denton Cooley separately visited St George's from the USA and I well remember watching Lord Brock at Guy's with Donald Ross in 1957 packing the chest with ice before the invention of the bypass. Those were pioneering days.



Margaret Thatcher and Neil in her office

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Armed with a decent undergraduate education from two of the great London hospitals, I went on to house surgeons' posts at Charing Cross in Ear, Nose & Throat, Plastic Surgery and then Radiotherapy, before progressing to Registrar in Oral Surgery at St George's, before taking on the same role at The Royal Marsden and The Royal Dental Hospitals.

That step was leading towards being a Consultant in Oral Surgery, but I had been fortunate to meet a colleague who was the President of the Student Union at the Royal, one Michael Furness, and our careers were to come together and take a different path. He had a similar training and we had met at King's in the Strand doing our 2nd MB. We decided to practice dentistry in the evenings at No 6 Lower Sloane Street to fund our medical studentship. He and two other students then joined me in a flat in Sloane Square. My dear mother had given me £2500 to buy somewhere to live when

my father tragically died in Guy's Hospital on the very day I qualified. It was a tough time. We ran an emergency dental service at night linked to all the London casualty departments who had no such cover and took home £10 per treatment usually from patients who had been in extreme pain.

Our flat at No 12 Eaton Mansions became well known for its dinner parties where we even entertained the hospital consultants and one night even invited dancers from The Eve Club to do a cabaret for them. After that dinner I walked one of the consultants, Terry Blennerhassett, back home across Belgravia to No 31 Wilton Place, where he also practised. He too had both qualifications. I had already done a locum consultancy for him at Charing Cross and I think I must have impressed him because out of the blue he offered me the opportunity to buy his dental practice because he had decided to retire early.

It was a golden opportunity to run my

own private clinic, actually a very serious business involving huge overheads, and at that time of course all on borrowed money. But I would be able to do all the dentistry and oral surgery I wanted to, to the very best degree of excellence, with no restrictions from NHS bureaucracy and committees - this was right up my street and I invited Michael Furness to join me there as a professional partner.

I managed to raise the money to buy the practice for the princely sum of £15,000 - exactly the sum I had managed to sell my flat for. I guess 31 Wilton Place is now probably worth more like £15 million but I have long since sold, after 38 years in practice, and changed career which I did when I was just 70. The practice is still there of course and is one of the oldest dental practices in London having started out at No 1 Hanover Square in 1842 and moved to Belgravia in 1954.

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I even owned Monacle, an amazing horse that came second at Badminton in 1979 and was selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.
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Life in practice was wonderful. We built a brilliant team, invested in the best of equipment, worked ourselves to the bone, did a multitude of post graduate courses and after nearly four decades ended up with a huge international reputation. I was also an active City of London Barber Surgeon and rebuilt the company library and helped redesign the Gerard Herb Garden.

Implantology arrived and I was one of the first to use it. Crown and Bridge technology blossomed, bonding metal to porcelain and later finding porcelains strong enough to need no metallic support and all the while I kept up the oral surgery by operating in the evenings in many of London's private hospitals often taking out wisdom teeth.

We began to do extensive oral reconstructions on badly damaged mouths, making major changes to people's lives. We could offer superb aesthetics with the backing of the Regent Dental Laboratory. The days of inevitable full dentures, which we had all been trained to make, were on their way out. All these technical advances had to be based on good dental hygiene so I pioneered prevention too and in 1978 launched a new clinic in Devonshire Place, near Harley Street, with two other colleagues. It was called the Oral

Hygiene Centre and was the first of its kind in the world. The idea was to provide the services of a large team of Dental Hygienists under the supervision of one Dental Surgeon to make prevention the priority and lower the cost of providing better dental health.

Hygienists, I explained to the politicians, are cheaper to train; they require minimal equipment, and the fear level for patients should be less too, with no drilling. I imagined a worldwide Oral Hygiene Centre franchise but the

dream was somewhat thwarted by both politicians and the profession. In the USA, where I also introduced the idea, state laws only allowed hygienists to work one to one with surgeons and under their direct supervision. I think I was a few years ahead of my time; most dentists now have their own hygienists and I believe they are the most important part of any practice.

Not long after the start of my career in 1972 I had been unfortunate enough to experience synchronous bilateral malignant seminoma and was advised I might only have a short time to live. It was only six months after my first marriage to Sue. I was lucky enough to be completely cured by two wonderful surgeons and aggressive radiotherapy, and while recovering I took up riding. Sue and I bought a weekend cottage in Wiltshire and I took to horses like a duck to water, ending up riding one and three day events. I even owned Monacle, an amazing horse that came second at Badminton in 1979 and was selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Sadly, Mrs Thatcher asked our team to withdraw as a protest against Russia's occupation of Afghanistan - somewhat ironic in hindsight - but I still can't live without horses in my life.

But now it was 1987 and I suffered a second setback. I contracted Hepatitis B from a needle stick injury. Bright yellow and feeling very ill my doctor informed me that if I didn't clear the virus I wouldn't be able to practice again! I recovered, but during the 4 months away from practice, I had taught myself how to make sculpture. It is a similar hand-eye skill to creating beautiful crowns in dentistry. Rather than a dental laboratory you use a foundry; rather than casting a gold inlay you cast a bronze.

I had collected art for my home for many years. Sue was a PA to a director at Christie's so I spent a lot of time in the auction rooms just looking and acquiring know-how. Earlier in my life my father

was awarded an FRPS as an amateur photographer. He often let me help in the dark room, developing and printing black and white photographs and I can well remember his first coloured print. He had taught me to put objects on the thirds in a photographic field and to view a scene through a pin hole made with my fingers before taking a photograph. I had, without knowing it, developed a seeing eye.

Later that year and fully recovered, I was introduced to the Burleighfield Foundry at Beaconsfield who began to cast in bronze for me using the lost wax technique. The directors there had made Barbara Hepworth's work and I met Elizabeth Frink and Lynn Chadwick

(another OMT) and became surrounded by great sculptors, many of whom became friends.

I soon had the unique situation of having a wonderful practice full of interesting patients with my own art works decorating the house and people beginning to collect my work. Suddenly commissions came flying in. I thought about retiring from practice but I hadn't quite got the will to be a full-time artist and what was happening suited me well - I had the ideal day job and the night time and weekend one too. I remarried and my wife Auriol joined me, designing and making sculpture. Many of our heroic works were made in partnership.



Portcullis and Crown at No 1 Parliament Street



The Race for Riderless Horses



Mother Superior



The Keris

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We got a commission to make 'Sterling' for a building by Albert Bridge. It was a contemporary work, and controversial as it depicted the pound fighting the ECU (European Currency Unit), the name first given to what later became the Euro. Mrs Thatcher, as she then was, our Prime Minister, called me to her office. She wanted a bronze maquette of the work for her desk and commissioned me to design and make similar works depicting the currencies of all 9 (at that time there were only 9) Common Market countries. She was intending to have these sculptures with the flags of the nations in a lovely curve, like the front of the UN in New York, as the forecourt of the European bank in the City. Then the bank went to Frankfurt!

We went on to make a 17-metre high Keris (dagger) as a national monument for Malaysia, designing the entrance to the Commonwealth Games stadium, the fourth largest in the world. Then a Portcullis and Crown for the Palace of Westminster; the Runnymede Magna

Carta Fountain; an Open Outcry trader and a Globe for LIFFE in the City of London and a sculpture dedicated by HM The Queen with President Mitterrand to open the English end of the Channel Tunnel on June 6th 1994. Many other commissions followed.

Now aged 76, and very happily married to my third wife Grace, I am still hard at work. I am executive chairman of The National Open Art Competition NOA and its Exhibitions, (www.thenationalopenartcompetition.com). I also run, with a small and dedicated team, a not-for-profit registered arts charity, The Chichester Art Trust. We get more than 3500 entries from artists and photographers across the entire UK and give over £60,000 of prizes every year all supported by sponsors, patrons and those who wish to encourage creativity and want to give young and emerging talent a chance to succeed.

I adopted Auriol's son Tom and Grace has Michael, a teacher of 32, so we have two lovely sons and a young granddaughter, the light of

our lives! I am usually to be found in my West Sussex studio or my office near Chichester at work with NOA or from time to time at a bronze casting foundry making work for those who have commissioned me. Occasionally you may discover me in a classic car as I drove the Monte Carlo Classic in 1999 and Around the World in 2000 in two rare Facel 6's, which you can see in the photographs.

I don't believe in the word retirement; you do that when you die.....career change is much more fun!

I rather hope that this story can inspire other Merchant Taylors' boys. I believe two valuable lessons are that tenacity and hard work usually pay off and in the face of adversity it is often possible to turn bad into good. There are opportunities at every turn in life. Learn to see them, grab them, run with them, and never take no for an answer. The groundwork put in by my teachers at Merchant Taylors' played a huge part in whatever success I have enjoyed.

www.neillawsonbaker.com



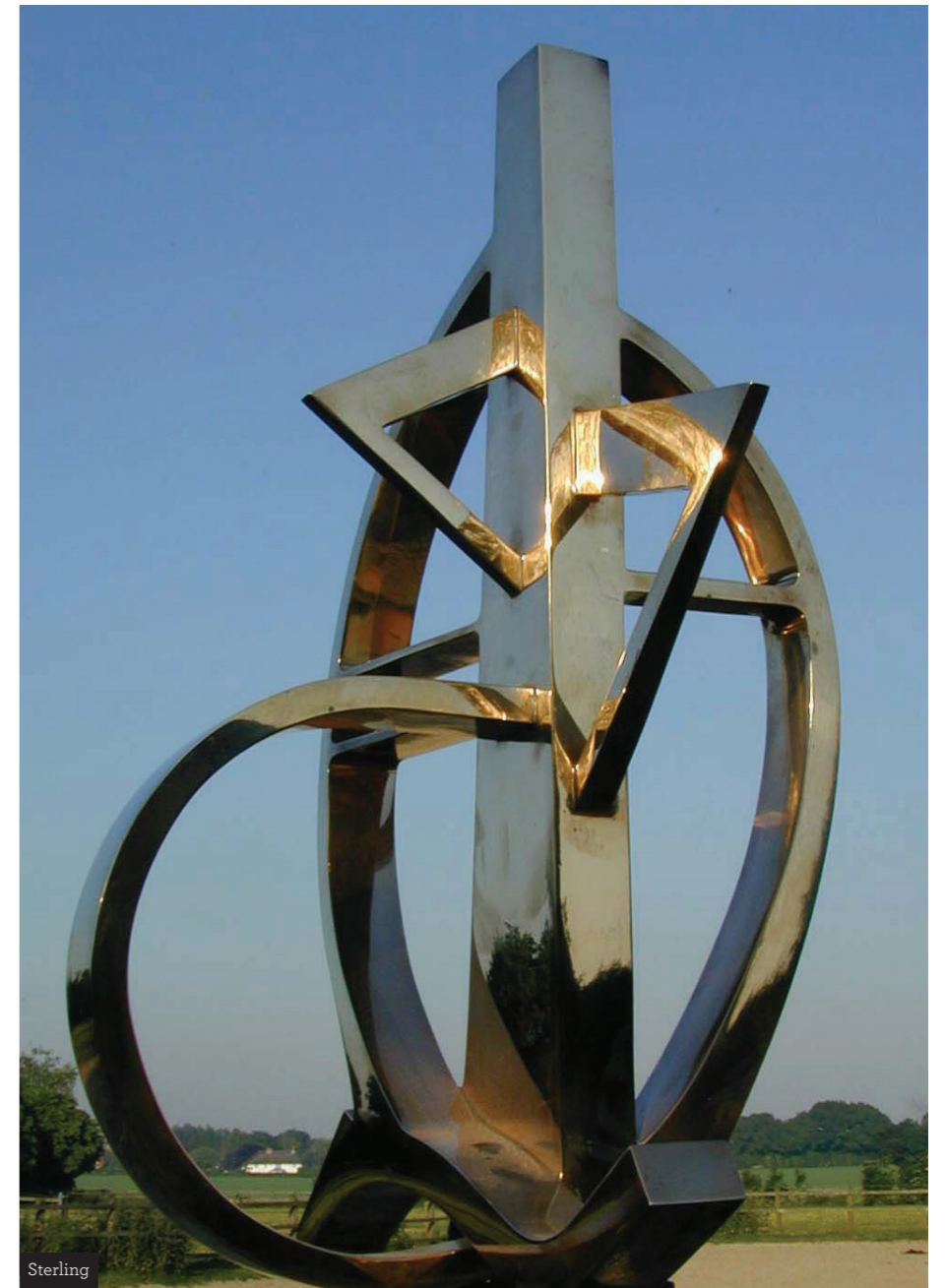
LIFFE Trader



Unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen and The President of the French Republic M. Jacques Mitterrand at the inauguration of The Channel Tunnel on 6th 1994



Opening of the Channel Tunnel, 1994



Sterling

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Cordon Bleu crossing the Sahara in the 2000 Around The World in 80 Days rally

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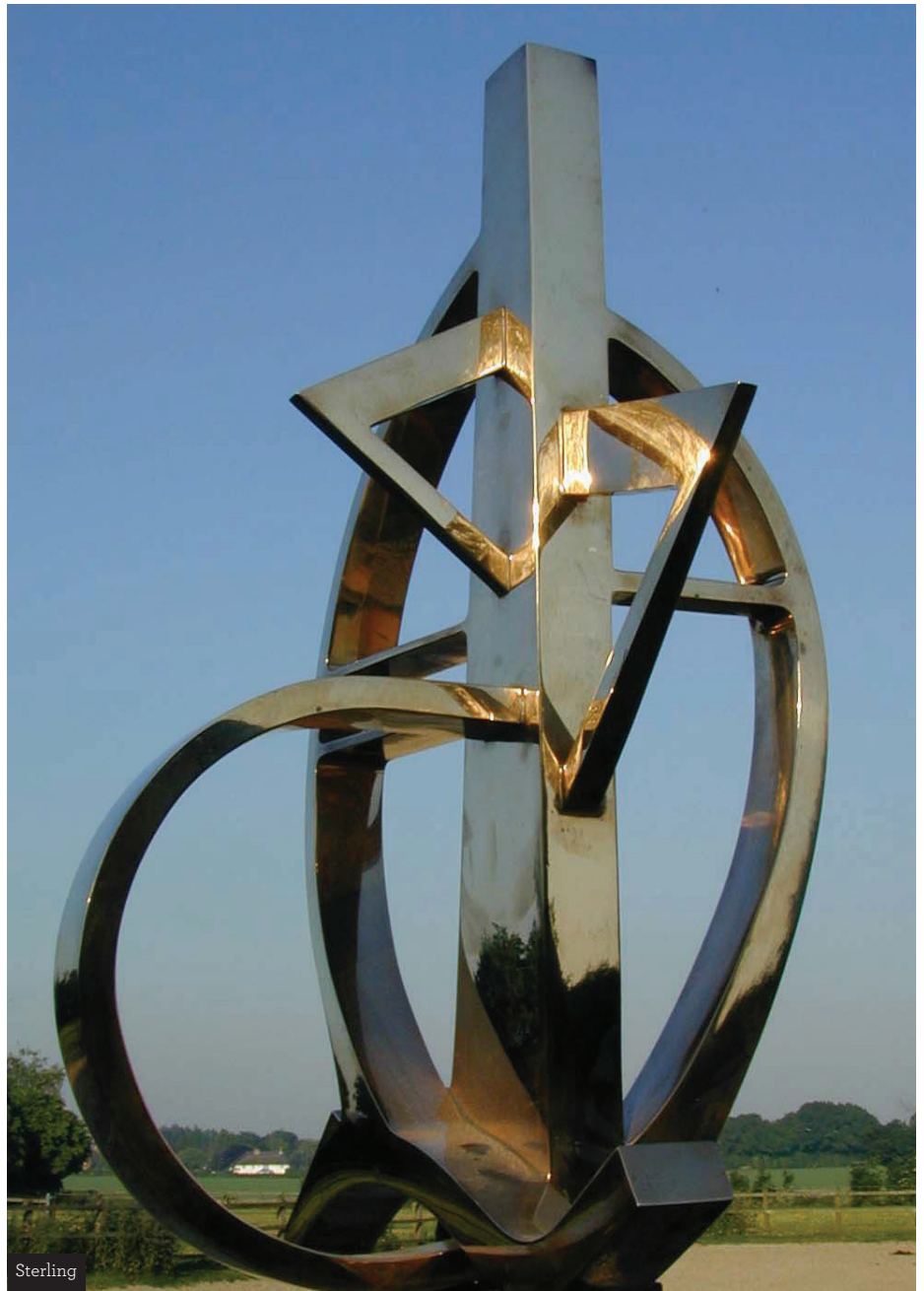
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Cordon Bleu crossing the Sahara in the 2000 Around The World in 80 Days rally



LIFFE Trader



Sterling



Unveiled by
Her Majesty The Queen
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Design My Night

Nick Telson (1997-2002) co-founded DesignMyNight.com, the leading nightlife website in the UK. He recalls his time at Taylors' and writes about life as an entrepreneur



I started at Taylors' in 1997 aged 13, of course excited, but also nervous about meeting lots of new people at such a huge school. As well as the high academic level, at the time, Taylors' was head and shoulders above other schools in terms of extra-curricular opportunities and sports facilities; that's what I really wanted to take advantage of.

Unfortunately my passion was football, not rugby! When I joined, football was a bit of a second class citizen in everyone's eyes but by the time I left in 2002, I had enjoyed two years in the 1st XI and football was more appreciated... Hopefully, this trend has continued over the last 13 years! Throughout my years, I was a quiet, head-down, hard-study student. I knew I wanted As and A*s at GCSE and all As at A-Level so in order to reach these targets I always put work first, while still getting involved with sports and activities.

Looking back now, my stint in Community Service on Fridays was actually one of the most important parts of my time at Taylors'. It taught me humility, how to interact with different people and compassion; for me, all important life skills...even if I didn't always enjoy mowing Anne's lawn in Northwood on a rainy Friday

afternoon. The Sixth Form was when I really flourished. I thoroughly enjoyed the subjects I had chosen (English Language, Spanish, French and Politics), was in the JCR and I started my own football magazine, which I sold to other students at lunch.

If my memory serves me correctly, it was called Footy Fanatic; a small team of us put the monthly magazine together and worked with the Print Room staff to put it together. This was my first go at being an entrepreneur. It sold out every month and we donated the money made to a local charity.

It wasn't until nine years after I left Taylors' and after Nottingham University that I picked up from my Footy Fanatic days and started DesignMyNight.com.

Andrew (best friend from university and co-founder) and I were on a trip to New York and were blown away with the amazing nightlife knowledge of our hotel concierge. After a few ice-cold Margaritas, a business idea was born. We decided we'd had enough of the half-baked nightlife websites and the constant hassle of planning a night out in our favourite city in the world. What London needed was a site where you could discover and unlock the best, the new, the wallet-friendly, and the secret

nightlife on offer. But also a website to help plan, book online and buy tickets so the site does all the hard work, so you could simply enjoy a cracking night out.

We both had very successful corporate jobs so the risks were large. We had spent five years climbing the ladder at our respective companies, so jumping ship was not only a financial risk but we also risked undoing all the hard-work we had done to establish ourselves in those worlds.

We both always wanted to set up our own company but it was a definite step into the unknown. I don't think we were ever scared, at the start it's more exciting than anything else, but as time ticks on and the bank balance drops you do have to be realistic. We always believed in the idea and thought we had enough about us, in a growing industry, to succeed.

Getting the business off the ground came in two stages: the initial 18 months of grunt work, physically walking into hundreds of bars in London and explaining the concept and trying to get some early adopters on board. This we managed to do.

We also read up a lot on SEO and made sure everything on the site was "Google friendly" so we would get picked up. After about six months we began to see traction from Google, which quickly

increased our daily visits and luckily people responded well to the site so we got a lot of pick up from social sharing and word of mouth.

The second growth stage, which we are in now, came from Angel investment. We managed to secure funds from six prominent business Angels who all had significant success and experience in growing online brands.

Not only did their financial input allow us to grow the team, grow the site and do some low-level marketing, but their expertise and know-how was fundamental. Now we stand, four years in, getting over 2.5m views a month, selling over 20,000 tickets a month, processing over 4,000 bookings a month and have a team of 25 in Old Street, Shoreditch.

My top tips for anyone reading this who would like to be an entrepreneur, now or in the future are:

1) Research, research, research! If you think you have a good idea, speak to as many people as possible. Not just family and friends (as they will be biased) but actual members of the public. There is no point blindly ploughing on with an idea if it simply won't work.

2) Get it live. You can spend years planning and thinking about an idea. The best way to learn and improve is to get it live. You don't have to spend a fortune to

bring an idea to fruition. This start phase is called a Minimum Viable Product. You may not be 100% happy with this MVP or it may not be your total vision but getting it live is the key...then learn and improve from there.

3) The most important aspect we have learnt is being ready to pivot. Plans will inevitably change when you start trading, as might the landscape you're trading in. If you stick blindly to your original idea, you may get left behind. Be quick, be nimble and be ready to change. Over the four years we have pivoted from a purely advertising model, to a bookings model, to a B2B ticketing model and a B2B booking software (Collins).

A final thought goes to some of the amazing teachers I was lucky enough to have. I think I have taken certain personality elements from different Taylors' teachers as a boss now at DesignMyNight.com; I had Mr Moon for Spanish, who was fierce but fair, Mr Andrews for English, who was wise, listened and was very informed, and Mr Rocher, an extrovert, laid-back, fun-but-firm French teacher. I will always look back with extreme gratitude at the opportunities offered me at Taylors' and without doubt it was the perfect breeding ground for all the qualities you need to become a good entrepreneur.

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Tariq Attia

Tariq Attia (2003-2008) is Head of Private Clients at private equity firm, IW Capital. He spent time at National Australia Bank, before joining IW Capital and becoming the youngest ever equity partner at the firm. He now advises high net worth clients on their tax efficient investments

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I recently returned to MTS for the first time since I left in 2008 to speak at the Fifth Form Careers Convention; it was a surreal experience. Driving up Sandy Lodge Lane, I felt a strong sense of nostalgia and was excited to see the school again after so many years away. There were many changes, most notably to the newly renovated Great Hall (in which golfer Ian Poulter would speak that evening), and the new, ultra-modern Design Centre. I was looking forward to sharing my school and career experience with the current crop of MTS students; it was only eight years ago that I had sat in the same seats as the Fifth Form, listening to former students who had gone on to great universities and fulfilling careers. I must confess that at the time, all I really cared about was getting the best GCSE grades possible and what I would do during the summer holidays. I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do career-wise but what helped was the support from teachers, ex-students and my parents. They all had the same message, clichéd though it may sound: “Do what you love”, and this is what I tried to communicate to the Fifth Form.

When I came to choose my A-Level subjects, I chose what I genuinely enjoyed rather than what I thought universities would want to see me study. It is simple logic – if you do what you enjoy, you will feel less like

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you are working and the likelihood is you will be successful. Mr Ellams, my Economics teacher and form teacher during the Upper Sixth, stressed this point in his classes. Economics was always something I was fascinated by, and I ended up studying it at university. Throughout my time there I still didn't know quite what I wanted to do, but I knew it would be most likely something in the financial world.

I decided to secure a couple of internships in order to find out a bit more about the industry, and so I worked for a month in Clydesdale Bank's Private Client office and for a couple of months on National Australia Bank's trading floor shadowing the commodity traders. I enjoyed both and learnt a lot, but also realised that I'd rather work with private clients and in a smaller company, than in a large firm on a trading floor. In my final year, the job applications started and I applied for graduate schemes with a few smaller banks and boutique investment management firms. I then had a chance introduction to the CEO of IW Capital, Luke Davis, and IW's Chairman and “city Superwoman” (a title which she hates), Nicola Horlick. They told me about IW Capital, and explained their vision for the future, which was something I wanted to be involved in, and so I accepted their invitation to join.

IW Capital is a small-cap private equity house specialising in tax efficient investments under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). Very briefly, the EIS is a government-backed tax efficient investment scheme encouraging individuals to invest into small and medium sized UK businesses by offering a number of tax breaks, which are extremely attractive. Last year, over £1bn was invested through the scheme, more than doubling 2013's figures, and at IW, we identify, structure, negotiate and lead our own investment opportunities before presenting them to our network of high net worth and ultra-high net worth clients.

On joining in September 2011, my first course of action was to obtain my regulatory qualifications so that I could deal with clients directly. This involved completing the Investment Advice Diploma, which I did over the course of 6 months. It was tough having to revise on evenings and weekends, but securing this qualification meant I was able to be client facing, which is my favourite part of the job. I love what I do, as I work with exceptional clients, and with a variety of businesses; at IW Capital, we are sector agnostic (meaning we will look at all industries), and we have invested in everything from a microbrewery pub operator,

to a biotech firm specialising in oncology and some exciting “fintech” businesses. Moreover, we have an exceptionally hands-on approach to these businesses and this is what attracted me to the private equity space from the outset – we help these companies grow and have an equity stake in each business, so their success translates into our success. Indeed, securing the sale of a business and generating returns for our shareholders is the ultimate aim and we had a successful exit last year, which brought about a great deal of job satisfaction. We are always working simultaneously on sourcing our next investment opportunity whilst raising funds for the current investment opportunity; once we have finalised an investment opportunity, we will source the funds from our network of clients.

IW Capital's niche – of combining the interests of individual investors to give them pooled access to opportunities that have traditionally been the domain of larger private equity funds – has served us well, especially in the past few years. Furthermore, the government has put certain restrictions on VCTs (Venture Capital Trusts – another tax efficient investment vehicle), and capped pensions, whilst the Enterprise Investment Scheme has only grown

and seems to be the last remaining tax efficient investment scheme backed by government and entrepreneurs. In my opinion it is also a very stable sector – whatever government comes into power, I believe the EIS won't be at risk; the UK SME sector accounts for over 50% of the UK's GDP and 60% of private sector jobs – two statistics every government will want to shout about, and the EIS helps them do this.

The academic grounding I received at Merchant Taylors' was excellent, but I also believe the discipline and interpersonal skills instilled by the likes of my tutor Mr. Roseblade have served me especially well in my career. I work in an industry where a single mistake could prove costly, and cost clients huge sums of money; precision and detail is of paramount importance. It is vital that one adapts, manages one's time effectively and is organised. All of these sound like simple traits, which you'd expect most professional individuals to have, but you would be surprised!

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Tariq Attia

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One of my earliest school memories after joining MTS in 1983 was somehow falling off 'Rickety Bridge' into the water during the Quarter. I sheepishly arrived at our English lesson looking like a drowned rat and Mr Ritchie was most amused.

Our happy days in the Third Form gave us a great platform for the rest of our school lives and our form teacher Bruce Ritchie played a major part in that. Like others, whether ex-Third Formers, English students or cricketers, I was very sad to hear of his passing in 2012.

From our first days at school we were always a very competitive bunch and everything seemed to be a race or a competition. We would sprint from the fourth period of the day to the lesson just before lunch to get a seat near the door so we could race to the dining hall as quickly as possible to avoid any queuing. Bags were flung into the gaps between sets of lockers and I'm sure that still happens today.

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It wasn't all bad, though. I was sent by the *Daily Telegraph* to the Maldives for 10 days in 2000 to cover Miss World, a trip which got me my favourite byline from Paradise Island. I still have Miss Singapore's business card somewhere...

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From the Archive

Merchant Taylors' School



GILLMAN & SOAME

OXFORD

June - 1973



MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL



PHOTO BY T. H. EVERETT & SON

15 HAMLET ROAD, LONDON, S.E.11

JUDO 1973 (MIDDLESEX CHAMPIONS 1971, 1972, 1973)

P. P. Frankl C. L. Thomson J. M. G. McArdle S. J. Higgins M. C. Stammers N. Pannam
 W. M. Henderson M. D. Whittingham J. R. Hughes I. W. Radford S. F. Hetherington S. L. Bloom T. Ellingham R. J. S. Holmes
 R. S. Daicos C. Hebditch W. J. Chamer A. L. Dwyer (Hrs. Soc) E. F. Goldring P. T. Edwards C. J. Pitt M. J. Lind D. A. Nilsen
 C. Hebditch W. J. Chamer A. L. Dwyer (Hrs. Soc) E. F. Goldring P. T. Edwards C. J. Pitt M. J. Lind D. A. Nilsen
 S. M. Straw M. Crowther S. B. Memory F. J. Harlin

* Denotes Colours



MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL



Event Photography

2ND XI HOCKEY 1995

N. Stewart Esq. G.S. Maini J. Rasheed A.C. Thorpe B.M. Richardson B.J. Knowles
W.R. Davis A.C.J. Nash T. A. Coleman J. Reuben T.J.H. Cook C.J. Nockels T.H. Woodnutt



MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL



Event Photography

U16 'A' XV RUGBY ~ AUTUMN 2001

S. Patel E. Gawne A. Stein
W. Wallace J. Fineman J. Gray M. Gordon M. Igboke R. Tanner A. Walton Mr. T. Greenaway (Coach)
R. Mendoza J. Hillary B. Wilson A. Pakkitis J. Pulman A. Cottrell A. Singer J. Ramsay D. Jennings

Development:

Gift of £400,000 to the Design Centre

In March, the school was delighted to hear that the Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust wished to make a gift of £400,000 towards the new Design Centre.

Dudley Cox and his son Geoffrey were both OMTs who ran a very successful group of construction and property companies. In 1979 they created the Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust to support charitable interests, with particular interest in education. They bequeathed significant funds to the Charitable Trust, which has been very supportive

of the school over the years, providing many scholarships and prizes. With Dudley and Geoffrey's interest in construction and design, the trustees felt the new Design Centre at Merchant Taylors' was a perfect fit for the Trust's objectives.

Their generous gift of £400,000 will fund equipment in the new building which will give pupils the possibility to reach a level of sophistication in 3D design and manufacture which would otherwise not be possible. With equipment of this standard, the school will be a leading centre for Design and

Technology and can become a hub school in the area, allowing pupils and teachers from other schools to benefit from the facility and the expertise at Merchant Taylors'.

In recognition of this wonderful gift, the school intends to name two spaces in the new building – the CNC Design Hub and the Major Projects Workshop – after the two benefactors, Dudley and Geoffrey Cox.

There will be a series of events during Design Week in October 2015 when it will be possible to come to see the new facility and equipment in place.



Phab's Casino Royale

On Friday 20th March, the 2015 Phab Team hosted a black tie Casino Night. The Development and Alumni Relations Office contacted as many OMTs as possible that had previously taken part in Phab. They, along with current parents, were treated to an excellent occasion. The 124 guests enjoyed music by MTS group 'Merchants of Groove' throughout the drinks reception in the Undercroft, before settling in the Dining Room for the evening. The Dining

Room was transformed into a casino and, after a delicious three course meal provided by the school's catering team, the guests were able to chance their luck at the blackjack, poker and roulette tables.

The night was a huge success, raising over £5,000 for Phab Week 2015. The 2015 Phab Team thanks everyone who has supported not only the Casino Night, but all their fundraising endeavours this year.



Afternoon Tea at Sandy Lodge

On 20th March we held an afternoon tea in the Exam Hall for OMTs who left the school in 1970 or earlier. Some OMTs had not been back to the school in over forty years, so saw some quite significant changes to the buildings and grounds.

58 guests were treated to some exceptional performances in the afternoon. Two outstanding duologues from the recent competition were chosen to perform along with one of our new music scholars.

The afternoon tea itself was exceptional and the guests

paid many compliments to the school's catering team. While the guests ate, the Head Master spoke about how the school is developing while staying true to the Founders' values, and about our wish to re-engage with OMTs of all ages through social gatherings as well as networking and careers opportunities.

It was great to see so many OMTs back at Sandy Lodge, and we were delighted to be asked by many that we make it an annual event.



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Gift of £400,000 to the Design Centre

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Dudley Cox and his son Geoffrey were both OMTs who ran a very successful group of construction and property companies. In 1979 they created the Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust to support charitable interests, with particular interest in education. They bequeathed significant funds to the Charitable Trust, which has been very supportive

of the school over the years, providing many scholarships and prizes. With Dudley and Geoffrey's interest in construction and design, the trustees felt the new Design Centre at Merchant Taylors' was a perfect fit for the Trust's objectives.

Their generous gift of £400,000 will fund equipment in the new building which will give pupils the possibility to reach a level of sophistication in 3D design and manufacture which would otherwise not be possible. With equipment of this standard, the school will be a leading centre for Design and

Technology and can become a hub school in the area, allowing pupils and teachers from other schools to benefit from the facility and the expertise at Merchant Taylors'.

In recognition of this wonderful gift, the school intends to name two spaces in the new building – the CNC Design Hub and the Major Projects Workshop – after the two benefactors, Dudley and Geoffrey Cox.

There will be a series of events during Design Week in October 2015 when it will be possible to come to see the new facility and equipment in place.



Phab's Casino Royale

On Friday 20th March, the 2015 Phab Team hosted a black tie Casino Night. The Development and Alumni Relations Office contacted as many OMTs as possible that had previously taken part in Phab. They, along with current parents, were treated to an excellent occasion. The 124 guests enjoyed music by MTS group 'Merchants of Groove' throughout the drinks reception in the Undercroft, before settling in the Dining Room for the evening. The Dining

Room was transformed into a casino and, after a delicious three course meal provided by the school's catering team, the guests were able to chance their luck at the blackjack, poker and roulette tables.

The night was a huge success, raising over £5,000 for Phab Week 2015. The 2015 Phab Team thanks everyone who has supported not only the Casino Night, but all their fundraising endeavours this year.



Afternoon Tea at Sandy Lodge

On 20th March we held an afternoon tea in the Exam Hall for OMTs who left the school in 1970 or earlier. Some OMTs had not been back to the school in over forty years, so saw some quite significant changes to the buildings and grounds.

58 guests were treated to some exceptional performances in the afternoon. Two outstanding duologues from the recent competition were chosen to perform along with one of our new music scholars.

The afternoon tea itself was exceptional and the guests

paid many compliments to the school's catering team. While the guests ate, the Head Master spoke about how the school is developing while staying true to the Founders' values, and about our wish to re-engage with OMTs of all ages through social gatherings as well as networking and careers opportunities.

It was great to see so many OMTs back at Sandy Lodge, and we were delighted to be asked by many that we make it an annual event.



Development:

Restoration of the Naval Ensign supported by the Annual Fund

The school's Gallipoli flag, saved from HMS Rattlesnake in 1916, was fully restored in time for the commemoration of ANZAC day which fell on the 25th April. This was also the 100th anniversary of OMT Lt Leslie Drewry winning the Victoria Cross for his part in the landings.

With support from the Annual Fund, the flag was removed from its original frame and mounting (an old piece of blackboard), carefully cleaned before humidification. It was then mounted on a custom-made padded board and re-framed with lighting. The flag is now displayed in the Great Hall lobby alongside the roll of honour and Lt Drewry's medals.

In an amazing coincidence, after six months of research, the

school discovered the identity of the donor of the flag on 24th April - the day it was re-mounted on the wall of the Great Hall Lobby, and the day before ANZAC Day. The original owner of the flag was Lt Commander John W R Smails who served in the Dardanelles and was badly wounded. His obituary in the Halstead local newspaper says that "the scenes at the Dardanelles had made a deep impression on his mind". The flag was then passed to his son, Frederick Smails, who donated the flag to Merchant Taylors' School to mark the creation of the Royal Navy section of the CCF in that year. His son, Stephen Smails, had joined the school in 1952 in the Third Form as a member of Hilles House.



Future Events

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON ANY OF THE EVENTS BELOW, PLEASE VISIT <https://development.mtsn.org.uk>

City Network – 3rd June 2015 – Oriental Club

The third in the series of City Networks; this year held in St. Helen's School, those working



An Evening with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks – 22nd June – Merchant Taylors' School

The next in our series of author visits. Open to all.

Old Boys' Day – 27th June 2015 – Merchant Taylors' School

The first in our series of rolling 5 year reunions. For OMTs who left Merchant Taylors' in a year ending in 0 or 5. Activities during the afternoon, tours of the School, dinner in the OMT Clubhouse.

North American OMT Dinner – 16th October – New York Athletic Club

All OMTs are invited to this dinner in New York.

Engineering & Design Event – 10th October 2015 – Design Centre, Merchant Taylors' School

As part of our Design Week at school and to celebrate the opening of the new Design Centre, OMTs and parents working in engineering, design, architecture, manufacturing and related industries, are invited to a careers and networking event

Roast & Rebellion – 12th September – Merchant Taylors' School

For all OMTs who left the school since 2011. An informal lunch and drinks in the Head Master's garden.

OMT Society Annual Dinner – 20th November 2015 – Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

OMTs are invited to the Society's annual black tie dinner.

Literature festival – 30th June 2015 – Merchant Taylors' School

Benefactors' Day – 12th December 2015 – Merchant Taylors' School

All benefactors are invited to drinks and canapés at the school to thank them for their support this year.

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Benefactors' Day – 13 December 2014

The Development Office was delighted to welcome all those who have so generously supported the school since September 2013 to a drinks reception in the War Memorial Vestibule. Prior to the reception, tours of the school were given by current members of our Sixth Form, which proved as popular as ever.

While enjoying canapés and a glass of wine, our 65 guests were treated to some music, exceptionally performed on the trombone by music scholar, George

Wright (3rds). On display were old photographs of many OMTs in attendance and a photograph album containing pictures of the construction of the school at Sandy Lodge in 1931. The Head Master thanked all our benefactors and spoke about all that we have been able to achieve because of their support. If you were unable to attend this year, please do make a note of the date for next year, which is likely to be Saturday 12th December 2015, and will be open to all our benefactors.



An Evening with Shami Chakrabarti

As part of our series of high-profile author visits and talks, on 12th March a crowd of over 300 guests were treated to a talk by Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty. Her softly-spoken, eloquent presentation concerned the importance of human rights and how these rights can protect citizens against three major patterns, which she sees as emerging in the world today. First, she discussed the legitimacy of the assumption that the innocent have nothing to fear in a world where we have no privacy.

She addressed the undermining of legal aid and the presumption of innocence; and finally, she discussed more generally, the increasing hatred of “others” that has become so characteristic of today’s societies.

After a question and answer session, Ms Chakrabarti signed copies of her book and posed for photos. It was an enjoyable and thought-provoking event. To see Shami Chakrabarti being interviewed by current pupil, Maneet Patel, please visit <http://development.mtsn.org.uk>.



Development & Alumni Relations Update



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I am delighted to report on the extensive range of activities that the school and OMT Society have been involved in over the last six months. The increased activity is very noticeable, and largely a result of bringing The Development and Alumni Relations Office up to three staff, with both Melissa and Sam now fully into their roles.

As well as all our UK events, we are – with the OMT Society – holding a dinner in New York on 16th October 2015. While we expect it to be mainly OMTs living on the East Coast, this is open to OMTs wherever they live in the world, so please do get in touch if you happen to be in New York at the time and wish to attend.

As well as some of the past and future events reported on in Concordia, we have launched our new e-newsletter, Parvae Res, which has been very well received by OMTs. Feedback has been very encouraging, with OMTs enjoying the snippets of news, with the option of reading further information on the website. If you aren't currently receiving Parvae Res and would like to do so, please do get in touch; pass on your email address and we will be delighted to include you in future editions.

An obvious highlight of the year so far is the generous donation of £400,000 from the Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust for the Design Centre. I'm sure both Dudley and Geoffrey

would have been very proud to have their name associated with such a superb facility at the heart of their school. Another, perhaps less obvious highlight, came at the OMT Society Annual Dinner. Since joining Merchant Taylors' I have attended many events, school assemblies and services where the school song has been sung. However, I have not heard such a rousing rendition as at the Dinner at the end of last year. Even as an Old Borlasian I found it quite moving! It was fantastic to have a record-breaking attendance at the dinner and I hope we can repeat the feat at Shakespeare's Globe in November this year.

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of what looks to be a very successful appeal to parents of the

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current Upper Sixth – the Class of 2015. They have been very generous in our aim to establish a hardship bursary in their name. Hardship bursaries support pupils whose families have a change of circumstances during their time at Taylors' and without support may have to change schools. The Class of 2015 hardship bursary aims to help future year groups stay together until the end of the Upper Sixth. Thank you to everyone who has pledged their support.

I am very much looking forward to our 1561 Foundation Lunch. This is to thank all those who are intending to leave the school a legacy. I'm pleased to say that the 1561 Foundation has grown a great deal since the last lunch we held, so I expect a good turnout.

There are many opportunities to engage with Merchant Taylors' and the OMT Society, so I hope you will find one that suits you and I shall see you at an event or for a visit soon. One of the most popular features of our events at the school are the tours given by our pupils. If you would like to visit the school, but are unable to make it to an organised event, we can organise a tour given sufficient notice. If you do get in touch beforehand, we can arrange lunch in the Dining Hall for you too.

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OMT wins University Challenge

Anthony Martinelli (2003-2008) is the first OMT to win University Challenge. Here is his account of his team's success

When I was an A-level student at MTS, I would sit in the Sixth Form Common Room on a Tuesday morning and compare my University Challenge scores from the night before with a number of my contemporaries. With ten points for a starter and five for a bonus question, anything over 100 was deemed miraculous. A sad reflection on the life of a 17 year old, perhaps, but in hindsight it was early training for one of the most enjoyable experiences I've had.

In my final year of medical school, after five failed attempts to appear on the quiz show, I received a call from the producers, who, to my total shock, told me that our team had been successful in its application. What followed was a mixture of excitement and mild panic as I and three other students at Gonville & Caius College rushed to fill the gaps in our knowledge. We read up on the solar system on Wikipedia, skimmed "1001 Paintings to See Before You Die" and loaded every Bach cantata we could find onto our music players. Crucial to our preparation was watching previous episodes of the series together and practising our buzzing by methods as crude as simply hitting the sofa - the pressure of even a fake interruption makes the game significantly more difficult than shouting answers at the TV for every question, which was very much my tactic when I was still at Merchant Taylors'.

The recording process itself took place over three non-consecutive weekends in Manchester - the long northbound train journeys providing a vital few extra hours to consolidate our knowledge. Before our first match, against St Anne's College, Oxford, we knew that we had a good chance based on our preparation, but we thought it would be a tight affair. As it happened, despite an early scare, we managed to

"When we entered the competition I don't think any of us expected to win..."



progress fairly comfortably. I can clearly remember the first time I buzzed in and heard veteran voiceover artist Roger Tilling announcing "Caius Martinelli" to the room: fortunately, on that occasion, I had supplied a correct answer.

The following weekends followed a similar format, with the major change being that the more matches we won, the more confident we became. It was after dispatching a good Durham University team in our first quarter final fixture that we first began to believe we might have a shot at the trophy. Highlights of the final few days of recording included having my make-up applied next to Jeremy Paxman (who was nothing but civil to us throughout)



and turning around a 0-65 deficit against Magdalen College, Oxford in our second quarter final.

When we entered the competition I don't think any of us expected to win and I would be surprised if we were, on paper, the strongest team based on the original application. For me, the key point is that, motivated partly by a fear of embarrassing ourselves on television, we practised our quizzing technique, improved our general knowledge and worked as a team in a way that most of the other participants did not. It was, therefore, satisfying to end up as victors, giving Caius its first trophy, retaining it for Cambridge and possibly also providing Merchant Taylors' with its first champion.

There is disdain in some circles for the bastardisation of knowledge supposedly encouraged by quiz shows such as University Challenge - rewarding recall, rather than understanding. Certainly I would agree that depth of knowledge is

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not a prerequisite for doing well on the programme, but I would also argue that stimulating an interest in matters beyond your own subject field, particularly in the arts, is unequivocally important. For example, it was no bad thing that on several occasions whilst preparing for the show I was forced to confront how little I knew about the history and culture of China, a country which will no doubt be the dominant power over the next century.

Finally, I would like to thank five years' worth of MTS teachers for their

immeasurable contribution towards the bank of knowledge I was able to call upon during the show. Despite being primarily a scientist, the wide grounding in history, geography, languages and many other subjects I gained at school allowed me not only to answer questions, but also to captain effectively. For anyone interested in applying to be on the show, I would, of course, thoroughly recommend the experience and I am more than happy to be contacted with any questions.

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OMT News



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Milk and Cookies Gallery

Shmoyel Siddiqui (2004-2009) and Tom Petrides (2002-2009) have set up a new art gallery business called Milk and Cookies Gallery. Shmoyel writes of how the idea was developed and their first exhibition



Milk and Cookies



Studying art at Merchant Taylors' had a huge impact on my outlook of the art world and how I imagined our gallery to be. I set up Milk and Cookies Gallery with fellow OMT and best friend, Thomas Petrides. We both learnt a lot from the school's Art Department - it was always very welcoming, and we would often find students who didn't necessarily study Art getting on with paintings during lunch break. However, this inclusive approach was distinctly different from the art world we were exposed to - a closed and secretive community.

After completing our Masters in Modern and Contemporary Art from Christie's Auction House, Thomas and I decided to create a gallery brand that was young, exciting, affordable,

and most importantly inviting to all age groups. The most difficult part was creating an identity, a brand that would separate us from other galleries in London, and one that could reflect our aims as a gallery. The name, Milk and Cookies Gallery, is both playful and somewhat childish, a stark contrast to the stiff conventions of the traditional gallery. Nevertheless, the name had to be able to reflect the nature of the artworks exhibited, and thus we decided to focus specifically on artists who use humour to convey their artistic perspective.

After several months of building the brand, we held our official launch exhibition in February 2015 with a solo show by our artist Super Future Kid, titled 'Psychedelic Tumbleweed'. The launch was a one-day pop up exhibition

on Euston Road attracting over 450 people in the space of three hours whilst simultaneously being broadcast to an audience of 280,000 viewers of Sky Living HD's new reality series 'Desi Rascals' that I am also part of.

People of all ages and different levels of experience with art attended, and were greeted at the entrance with cookies for canapés and milkshakes in champagne glasses. The quirky brick walled space with dark archways was perfect for the starkly contrasting colours of Super Future Kid's paintings. With a live DJ set present and the artist mingling with the audience, there was a great atmosphere. The exhibition was also very successful, with four of the seven original paintings selling on the evening along with numerous prints. www.milkandcookiesgallery.com

OMTs develop new start-up to help job seekers and employers



Aidan Cramer (2005-2010) and Matt Sinderberry (2005-2010), have founded and developed an innovative startup, www.JobLab.com They write: "The concept behind JobLab came to us at university where we (along with a number of friends), struggled to find paid internships. Any we could find required repetitive applications and were often met by no response. Students waste time applying to jobs they have no chance of getting, and employers are having to sift through countless, unsuitable CVs and applications.

Picking up on this market

inefficiency and outdated process we, in true start-up fashion, got to work from a shed at the back of Aidan's garden. After a few months of market analysis, customer research and a lot of coffee, we were ready to pitch the idea to a number of angel investors. We have since secured seed funding to get the venture off the ground.

Web development is currently underway on www.JobLab.com and the finished platform aims to effectively connect small business employers with students and graduates seeking work through a centralised, national platform.

On signing up, a student's profile becomes their concise, digital CV and a

short video introduction becomes their cover letter. Employers simply enter the requirements of their desired candidate and are presented with the best matches, who they can assess, contact and hire directly through the platform.

So far we have signed up over 3,000 students (pre-launch) and are now reaching out to employers to trial the site and recruit for free, in return for some feedback to help build a product of real value.

Any OMTs that sign up looking for jobs or employers looking to hire, will get priority access if they email us at info@joblab.com or visit the site at www.joblab.com."

Class notes

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Studying art at Merchant Taylors' had a huge impact on my outlook of the art world and how I imagined our gallery to be. I set up Milk and Cookies Gallery with fellow OMT and best friend, Thomas Petrides. We both learnt a lot from the school's Art Department – it was always very welcoming, and we would often find students who didn't necessarily study Art getting on with paintings during lunch break. However, this inclusive approach was distinctly different from the art world we were exposed to – a closed and secretive community.

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and most importantly inviting to all age groups. The most difficult part was creating an identity, a brand that would separate us from other galleries in London, and one that could reflect our aims as a gallery. The name, Milk and Cookies Gallery, is both playful and somewhat childish, a stark contrast to the stiff conventions of the traditional gallery. Nevertheless, the name had to be able to reflect the nature of the artworks exhibited, and thus we decided to focus specifically on artists who use humour to convey their artistic perspective.

After several months of building the brand, we held our official launch exhibition in February 2015 with a solo show by our artist Super Future Kid, titled 'Psychedelic Tumbleweed'. The launch was a one-day pop up exhibition

on Euston Road attracting over 450 people in the space of three hours whilst simultaneously being broadcast to an audience of 280,000 viewers of Sky Living HD's new reality series 'Desi Rascals' that I am also part of.

People of all ages and different levels of experience with art attended, and were greeted at the entrance with cookies for canapés and milkshakes in champagne glasses. The quirky brick walled space with dark archways was perfect for the starkly contrasting colours of Super Future Kid's paintings. With a live DJ set present and the artist mingling with the audience, there was a great atmosphere. The exhibition was also very successful, with four of the seven original paintings selling on the evening along with numerous prints. www.milkandcookiesgallery.com

OMTs develop new start-up to help job seekers and employers



Aidan Cramer (2005-2010) and Matt Sinderberry (2005-2010), have founded and developed an innovative startup, www.JobLab.com. They write: "The concept behind JobLab came to us at university where we (along with a number of friends), struggled to find paid internships. Any we could find required repetitive applications and were often met by no response. Students waste time applying to jobs they have no chance of getting, and employers are having to sift through countless, unsuitable CVs and applications.

Picking up on this market

inefficiency and outdated process we, in true start-up fashion, got to work from a shed at the back of Aidan's garden. After a few months of market analysis, customer research and a lot of coffee, we were ready to pitch the idea to a number of angel investors. We have since secured seed funding to get the venture off the ground.

Web development is currently underway on www.JobLab.com and the finished platform aims to effectively connect small business employers with students and graduates seeking work through a centralised, national platform.

On signing up, a student's profile becomes their concise, digital CV and a

short video introduction becomes their cover letter. Employers simply enter the requirements of their desired candidate and are presented with the best matches, who they can assess, contact and hire directly through the platform.

So far we have signed up over 3,000 students (pre-launch) and are now reaching out to employers to trial the site and recruit for free, in return for some feedback to help build a product of real value.

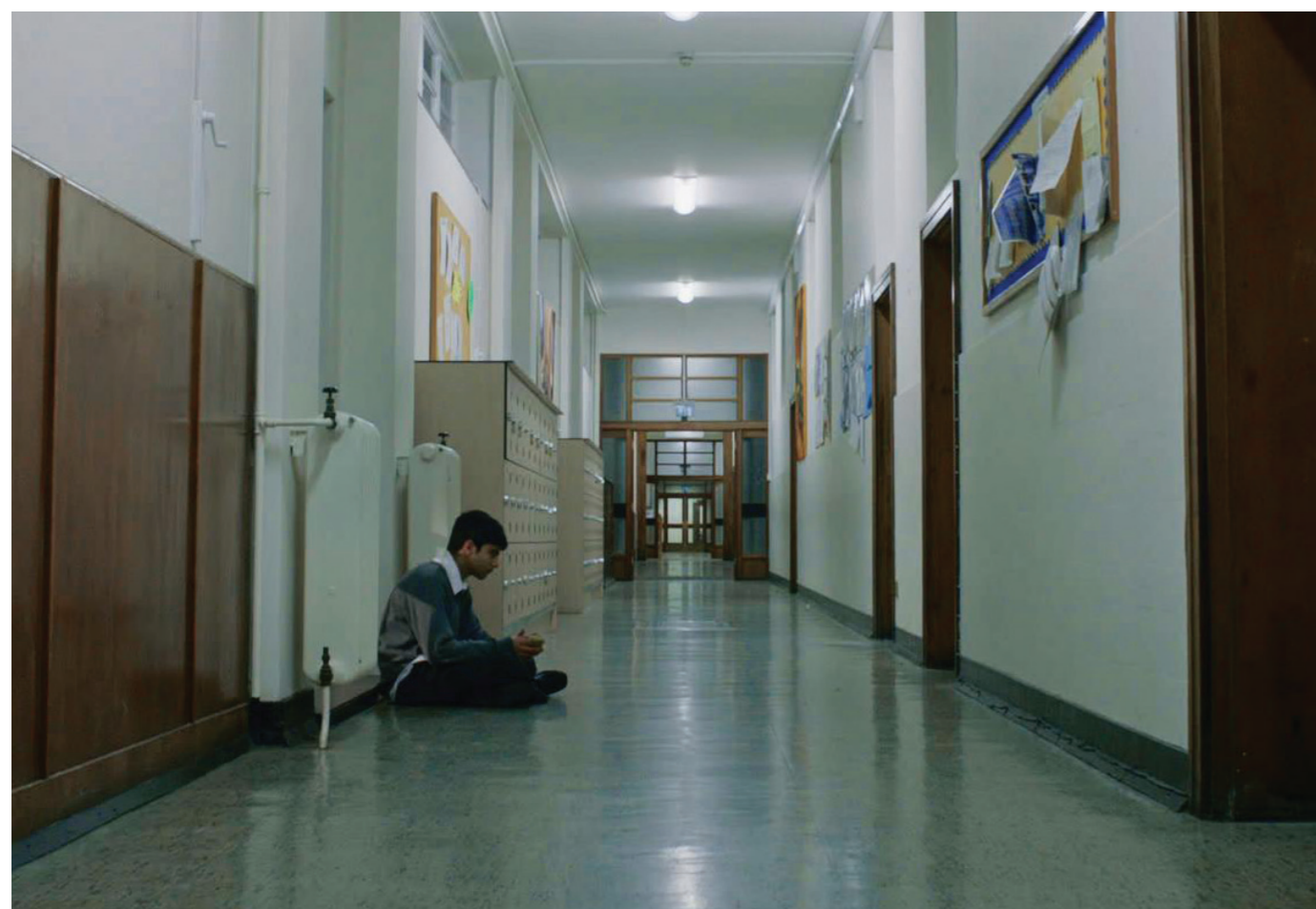
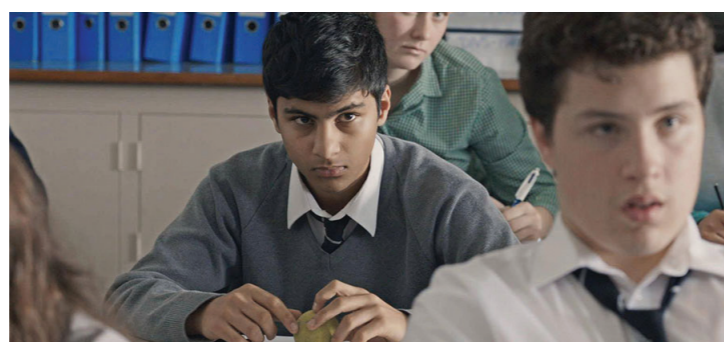
Any OMTs that sign up looking for jobs or employers looking to hire, will get priority access if they email us at info@joblab.com or visit the site at www.joblab.com."

Class notes

OMT News

Short Film wins prize at Toronto Film Festival

Vaughn Stein (1998-2003) has won a prestigious prize at the Toronto Film Festival with his short film *Yussef Is Complicated*. Shot at Taylors' and starring Fifth Former Rohan Popat and several other current MTS boys, it won the People's Choice Award for best short film in the "TIFF Kids" section (the biggest children's film event on the international film festival circuit). The film tells the story of an Iraqi boy at school in London who gets into a schoolyard fight. Threatened with expulsion for his behaviour, he then reveals in a presentation to the class exactly why he is so complicated.



Philip Simon (1992-1997) writes: "On 29th - 30th May I am going to be cycling 155 miles from London, taking in some of the monuments of the Kindertransport and finishing at The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. I have been assured there is an overnight ferry between the two countries where no cycling is required, at which point I will be eating, sleeping and deciding which hymns should be sung at my funeral!"

The money being raised for this event will go to support the work of The Anne Frank Trust, which uses Anne's life and inspirational message as an anchor to educate people about damage caused by all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Each rider has an individual target of £1,500 and if you feel so inclined, I would be delighted if you would sponsor me. This can be done through my VirginMoneyGiving page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PhilipCyclesLondonToAmsterdam>."

Alan Sherwell (1962-1969) is now Chair of Trustees at the National Liberal Club. Alan is also Chair of Governors at Thomas Hickman School, Aylesbury.

Robin Bradbury (1937-1943) writes: "I would like to report that having benefited from Norman Birley's Three Sixth's classes on Friday afternoons, I have just completed sixty years as an elected member of my various Parish Councils as I have moved around Somerset after returning from my National Service as a Staff Captain with the R.E.s at the BAOR GHQ. Sixty years is quite enough and I am not standing for re-election this year. I have greatly enjoyed the companionship and the ability of helping to deal with local issues. I have mastered the techniques of Standing Orders and procedures - all of which I trace back to those interesting exercises we held just before going out onto parade on Friday afternoons with the OTC."

Robin also sent in this mug to the MTS memorabilia exhibits. He tells the story of how he was awarded it: "This mug was called a "Povah Pewter". It was presented to me in 1942 at a late summer Assembly in the Great Hall by N.P. Birley, the Head Master, and was in some sort of recognition for my work in the O.T.C. It is marked "Hills Cup" but I never saw that, whatever it was.

I had been taking an NCO's class in Map Reading with junior cadets and had managed to fire them up with some unexpected enthusiasm. It was a topic that I enjoyed and apparently that carried over to the other pupils.

At that time I was a Private in the school Home Guard platoon in the 6th Hertfordshire Battalion of the Home Guards. The following school year I progressed rapidly

John McNally (2000-2007) writes: "I have recently started with the Metropolitan Police Service on their Graduate Scheme. I started training on 29th September 2014 and 'passed out' at the end of January this year. It's been a wonderful change and I would obviously encourage any of the current Taylors' students to look into it if they are inclined towards a career in the public sector."



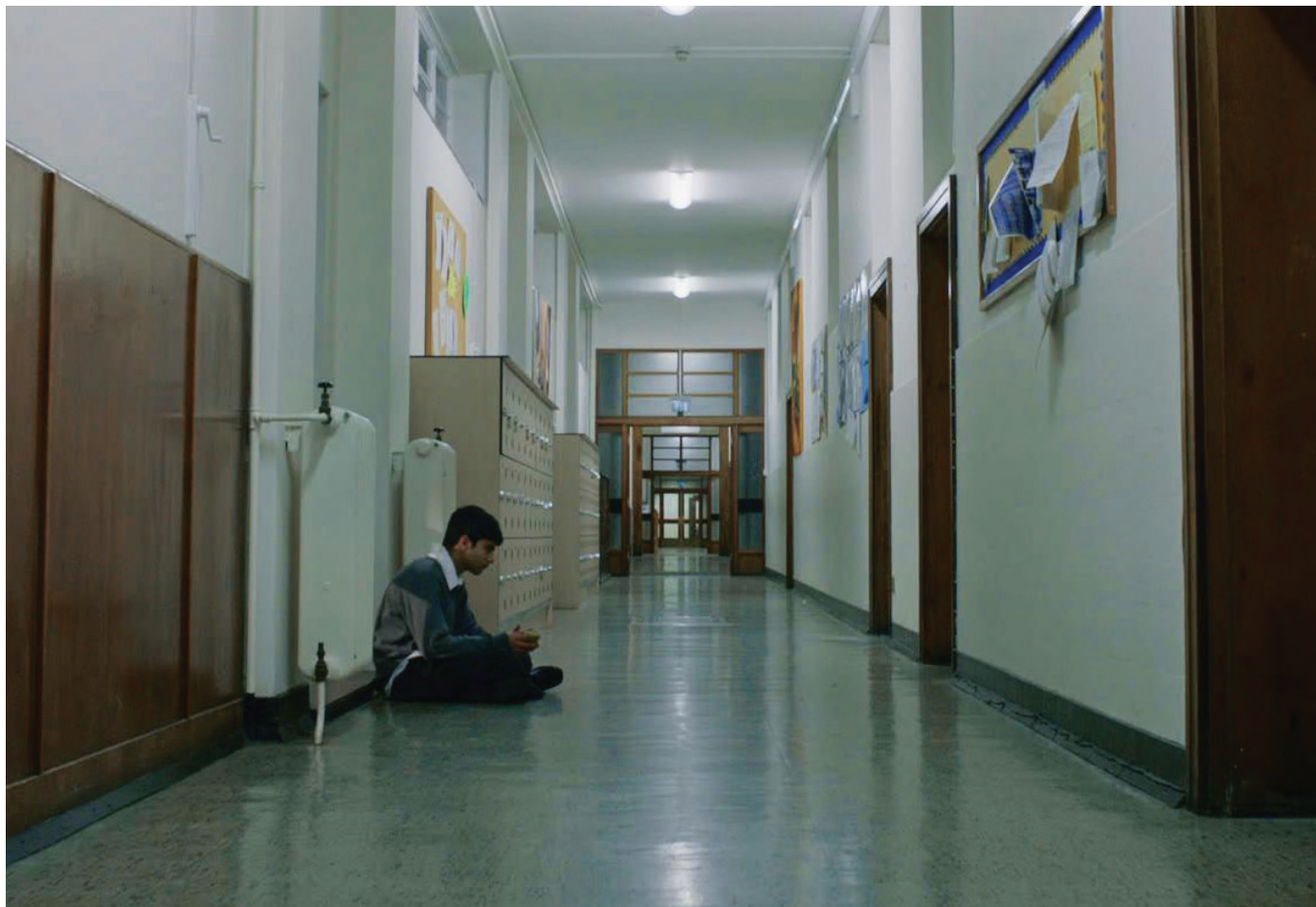
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My training at school was a considerable help to my service in the real army. After a short spell in the U.K. at various military railway depots, I was posted to the Rhine Army and at the G.H.Q. was given the post of the Staff Captain, Royal Engineers (Transport) which was bliss. Fancy being in charge of a national railway system, in a supervisory role, "running" a railway and being paid for it! I did two and a half years' National Service before my demobilisation and, truthfully, I enjoyed every minute."

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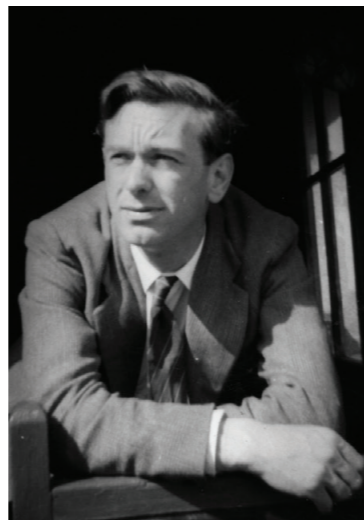
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Denis Ogan

Denis taught Modern Languages at Merchant Taylors' from 1952 to 1988, ending his career as Second Master. He passed away in February 2015. Former pupil and colleague Charles Watkins read this eulogy at his funeral



“

... He was a man of infinite patience with the failings of the young – boys and colleagues alike.

”

« Toute ma vie, je me suis fait une certaine idée de la France. » It was November 1970, the day after Charles de Gaulle died: the monitor in course had remained standing at his place and Brian Rees had nodded to the imposing figure of the Head of Modern Languages, “Ben” Ogan as we boys called him at that time – an affectionate nickname that was devoid of even the gentlest irony. That morning he read us the opening lines of that famous passage of de Gaulle’s War Memories: I was in the Sixth Form by then doing French A-Level, and so was able to follow some of it but by no means all – not that I was inattentive: the voice held one’s attention, as did what I later came to realise was the pitch-perfect pronunciation. It was when I scraped into Arts V A that I first heard French spoken correctly. Denis didn’t just articulate the strange sounds perfectly, he seemed almost to taste them – I was immediately enthralled and never looked back. As a teacher, he was inspirational in the best sense of both meanings of that term: not only did he inspire his pupils with a sense of the foreign culture, its difference but also its accessibility, he also seemed to extemporize with no notes and rely on the inspiration of the moment. Years later, as a colleague after hearing him speak noteless at a Common Room dinner with extraordinary fluency and wit, I was let into the secret, initially by Liz, I think: he would practise in the bath. But back in Sixth Form days, we needless to say never imagined Ben in the bath. He would appear in Room 3, striding across the room to the desk: book in one hand, the other hand out to the side with fist slightly clenched. And then would begin the day’s prose, or set-book study. Well do I remember him letting us into the arcane secrets of correct pronunciation (to pronounce the French “u” say “oo” then try to say “ee” with your lips in the same position – it worked and still does!); and also – to our feverish excitement – revealing the sultry depths of eroticism hiding

between Racine’s alexandrines. But he wasn’t just preparing us for A-level or Oxbridge, he was preparing us for life: “Longtemps je me suis couché de bonne heure.” I can still hear that first sentence of Proust’s In Search of Lost Time as I heard it for the first time; his utterance of it seemed to make it resonate with ambiguities, with the timelessness of time itself. And of course Denis would pronounce “Proust” « Proust » with phonetic perfection even in the middle of an English sentence, with a slight pause before – to change gear, as it were. Because one does change gear; frequently when speaking a foreign language one can find oneself adopting the vocal mannerisms of some native speaker one has subliminally in mind. But for me as often as not it is Denis who is there as prompter in the wings, still today as I near retirement. But it wasn’t just future language teachers he inspired; he inspired many who went into quite different walks of life with a love of France and the French language. Peter Stafford, to mention just one contemporary of mine, has often told me that it was sitting at Denis’ feet that inspired him to make his life in France and the French business world after qualifying as an accountant in London; he wrote to me to express his sadness at the news of Denis’ death. He writes “I can still recall a man of great charm and kindness, and a superb teacher greatly admired by both pupils and colleagues.”

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His advice to young colleagues was often humorous too, but above all it was driven by a concern for linguistic and intellectual rigour as well as plain common sense and an instinctive distrust of general pedagogical cant. Later in my career at Merchant Taylors’ I suggested a new communicative format for an internal exam: “Look,” he said in a rare moment of slight impatience, “if you want to know whether a boy knows how to say something in French the best thing to do is to ask him to translate it”.

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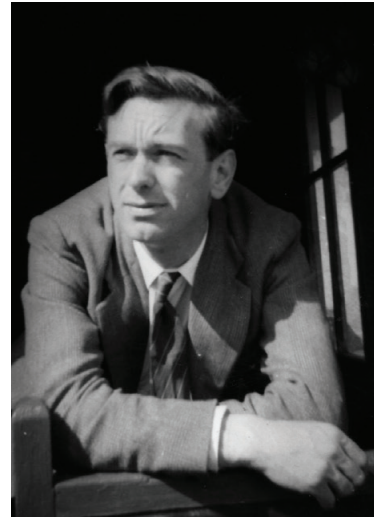
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And so, like Denis, who despite his many talents was a profoundly modest man, we must know when to fall silent. Sarah, Charlie, it has been a great privilege to speak of your father and to say something of what he brought to so many of us at the school. For my part, all my life, I too have entertained certain ideas about France, but also about the French language and people, as well as of how to teach foreign languages. Very often those ideas, and indeed ideas about life itself, have owed a great deal to my long acquaintance with your father, and I feel I can say alongside countless classmates and colleagues down the years and generations that we shall miss him, and that we shall long remember him with gratitude, a smile and above all with great affection.

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Denis Ogan

Denis taught Modern Languages at Merchant Taylors' from 1952 to 1988, ending his career as Second Master. He passed away in February 2015. Former pupil and colleague Charles Watkins read this eulogy at his funeral



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We used to play "Quad Soccer" in the Quad that was enclosed by the workshop, Lun, sports hall and Common Room. In my L6 days I played in goal for a team of classicists named "Woolley's Wonders." We made it through to the final, I think, against the staff team. Denis scored an excellent goal: I can still picture the ball, swerving away to my right, eluding the reach of my full-length dive (that hurt...), securing them victory. Sadly, I think it was his swan song as he suffered a rather painful pulled muscle: I actually had the next lesson after lunch with him, and he came in looking rather unhappy despite my admiring comments about his scorching shot. It was an impressive way for him to conclude that particular career.

I remember him with great fondness; he was one of a number of Common Room members of that era whose example and inspiration led me towards a career in teaching (albeit with the extra 'hat' of Chaplain - I'm not entirely sure

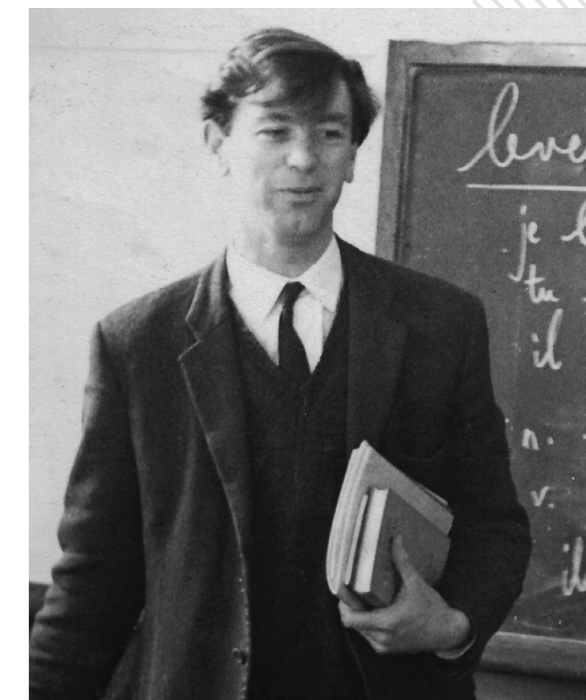
where Denis stood in that respect!). He was an inspiration; someone who drew ready admiration but who also allowed us, as we grew more senior, to be treated more as fellow labourers in the classroom and even to a degree as friends. He is sadly missed, but perpetually and very thankfully remembered.

**Rev'd Andrew Law (1974-1979)
Chaplain
Malvern College**

It is 60 years last month that I first walked up the school drive in a blanket of snow with my older brother and Denis was our second House Master, the senior House Master having taught our father at Charterhouse Square. Not only was Denis my House Master for the remaining six and a half years he was also my form master in the Modern 5th. A great Master and a lovely man to know, especially when he came to many of our age group dinners at Durrants.

I will never forget him. God Bless Denis, or 'Ben' as we used to call him at school!

Colin L Bywater (1955-1961)



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Despite his rather fearsome appearance, generously proportioned eyebrows in full sail, he was a kind, patient, good-humoured and inspirational teacher. In those days we studied French-with-Literature to O Level, and this was a course that I remember with great fondness. Denis introduced us to Ionesco's "The Killer" (Tueur Sans Gages), which I suspect would have been a trial for most native speakers, let alone a bunch of unruly English adolescents. He brought it to life, and whilst the linguistic subtleties escaped me soon after the examination, the delights of absurdism remained long after, and only a couple of years ago I sought out a copy of the text which Denis had brought to life, to enjoy it again. It was a key episode in my education; one which really has had a lifelong influence.

Denis had his own particular style when handing back marked work. He would address the hapless student in tones that suggested just the merest pity for our benighted state: in my case the regular pronouncement was simply, "Law, you are an idiot." I like to think that the words were said as fondly as they sounded brutal – but then, I could be wrong...

We used to play "Quad Soccer" in the Quad that was enclosed by the workshop, Lun, sports hall and Common Room. In my L6 days I played in goal for a team of classicists named "Woolley's Wonders." We made it through to the final, I think, against the staff team. Denis scored an excellent goal: I can still picture the ball, swerving away to my right, eluding the reach of my full-length dive (that hurt...), securing them victory. Sadly, I think it was his swan song as he suffered a rather painful pulled muscle: I actually had the next lesson after lunch with him, and he came in looking rather unhappy despite my admiring comments about his scorching shot. It was an impressive way for him to conclude that particular career.

I remember him with great fondness; he was one of a number of Common Room members of that era whose example and inspiration led me towards a career in teaching (albeit with the extra 'hat' of Chaplain – I'm not entirely sure

where Denis stood in that respect!). He was an inspiration; someone who drew ready admiration but who also allowed us, as we grew more senior, to be treated more as fellow labourers in the classroom and even to a degree as friends. He is sadly missed, but perpetually and very thankfully remembered.

Rev'd Andrew Law (1974-1979)
Chaplain
Malvern College

It is 60 years last month that I first walked up the school drive in a blanket of snow with my older brother and Denis was our second House Master, the senior House Master having taught our father at Charterhouse Square. Not only was Denis my House Master for the remaining six and a half years he was also my form master in the Modern 5th. A great Master and a lovely man to know, especially when he came to many of our age group dinners at Durrants.

I will never forget him. God Bless Denis, or 'Ben' as we used to call him at school!

Colin L Bywater (1955-1961)



Obituaries

David Thomas (1952-1957)

I first met David over 60 years ago in Laddie Hole's Modern Division A. David came via Kingsfield School and Upper IV A. David admitted that he had an unremarkable school career moving up into Sandy Powell's Modern V A and then Ted Rider's Modern Lower VIth.

In 1959, David was called up for National Service. He was selected for Officer Training and went to Mons from where he was commissioned into the 4th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. David decided to take a three year short service commission and joined his regiment in Germany for a year until 1961 when it was posted to Hong Kong. During this time, he was sent to Korea to command the multinational United Nations contingent of the US Eighth Army Special Troops for four months. In recognition of his service, he received a citation from the US Army.

David joined Marks & Spencer as a management trainee in 1966 and in 1972, he went to Canada for six months to help M & S start their business in Toronto. That six months turned out to be 18 years because M & S took over a wholly owned subsidiary company in Montreal. He rose to become the Executive President of this major company within the M & S group.

When David retired from M & S, he became a Divisional Director of the Prince's Trust for six years. He also became a Magistrate and sat on the Aylesbury Bench for 14 years.

In addition, David ran the OMT Veterans Cricket XI for a couple of years and he became Captain of the OMT Golfing Society for another two years.

Under David's direction as Dining Representative on the OMT Society Committee, we started going to more interesting venues - for instance, the House of Lords, the Long Room at Lord's, and the HAC. He also instigated the policy of offering generous discounts to members under 30 and this has meant a much larger and younger attendance.

Another task David had taken on was to make sure that a wreath is laid on every grave of OMTs who fell in the Great War. Finally, David had just finished an enormously successful year as President of the OMT Society, attending dinners and functions all over the country. He was ably

supported by Liz to a great number of these.

It is always said that if you want a job done, ask a busy man. David epitomised that; he had a very full life, and he could have no regrets about things he never did. He lived his life to the full and he will be missed by an enormous number of people, especially me.

Guy Hearn

David Francis Betts (1954-1960)

David Betts will be fondly remembered by many OMTs, as he spent virtually all his adult life in the Northwood area, and was a well-known and respected dentist in the town from 1968 when he set up his own practice treating many OMTs, school staff and their families, until he retired in 2007.

He died at home in Chenies on 16th November 2014, having been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease only two months earlier.

During his school career David was Senior NCO in the CCF, and for two years was a talented member of the shooting team, contributing to that team's success in winning the Ashburton Shield.

Matthew Houston

Paul Vos (1947-1952)

Paul Vos passed away peacefully at the Watford Peace Hospice on 31st January 2015 after losing his battle with cancer. He was born in Hampstead and lived in Moor Park in his youth, attending Northwood Prep before joining Taylors' in 1947. From there, he joined the Royal Veterinary College and spent a rather longer time than was necessary learning his veterinary trade.

Dad had numerous veterinary stories and treated all the animals with the same care and attention. Indeed, he was always rather pioneering, particularly enjoying operating on badly injured dogs and cats when other local vets would not take on the risk.

He was very active in the running of Durrants, becoming chairman of the Durrants Club and administrating over some of the tough financial years at Durrants. He always enjoyed an OMT Dinner and was a founder member of the Dinosaurs.

A wonderfully giving and proud

grandfather (Grumpy) to Harry, Tom, Charlie and Maddie, he has already been greatly missed.

Ashley Vos

Duncan Innes (1966-1973)

I am writing with the very sad news of the sudden and unexpected death of Duncan J F Innes aged 59. He had just left when I started at MTS in 1974.

The offices for his firm - Marriott Harrison - were for many years adjacent to mine near Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1 and I got to know him very well both professionally and socially. He became a good friend and was always excellent company. The following obituary is taken from the tribute written by Marriott Harrison.

"It is with the greatest sadness that we have to report the untimely death of Duncan Innes. He was a partner at Marriott Harrison for 21 years and helped to transform the firm through the force of his personality and his skills as a lawyer. He was a friend, colleague and mentor and a valued and trusted adviser."

Duncan leaves us with a golden trail of memories stretching back through the years he was with us. Sadly, we must now be content with those. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Julian Hill

Full versions of these obituaries can be read in the OMT News Sheet

John Fell (1941-1946) died on 8th January 2015

Roger Mann (1938-1942) died in January 2015

John Seymour (1944-1949) died in 2015

Paul Smith (1948-1955) died on 12th December 2014



Development Office
Merchant Taylors' School
Sandy Lodge, Northwood
Middlesex HA6 2HT
01923 845545
alumni@mtsn.org.uk
www.mtsn.org.uk