

## Presenting The Mulberry Pavilion!



In last year's Twyford Life, plans were outlined for a new oak-framed, glass-fronted pavilion on the site of the old tent/marquee, and potential donors were welcomed. Thanks to the generous support of the whole Twyford School community, on 15th January, 2011, the new 'Mulberry Pavilion' was officially opened.

Built to mark the 200th anniversary of Twyford School's move to its current site, this stunning building provides a new multi-purpose facility for a variety of uses, available to both the Prep and Pre-Prep. Just in its first two weeks the pavilion has, amongst other things, been used for drama lessons, a maths workshop and an author visit with accompanying writing workshop, not to mention being a vastly improved venue for parents' match teas!

The School would like to thank everyone who contributed to this project, including current and past parents, staff, governors and Old Twyfordians. Likewise, a huge thank you to all current parents who supported the Twyford Parents' Association Summer Ball in 2009 and the David Gower Sports Dinner later in the same year, held in aid of this venture.

If you missed the opportunity to support this project, but would have liked to have done so, you can still be associated with the pavilion by making a donation to Twyford School before the end of the School's financial year (August 31st 2011). Larger donations may be acknowledged with family names being carved into the remaining spaces in the pavilion on a first come, first served basis (see back page).



### Dates for your diary

- FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
– To the Ends of the Earth
- TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
– Twyford Society Golf Day
- FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
– Lord Douglas Hurd Dinner
- FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
– Chateau Monty



### Lord Hurd named 1st Twyford Society President

We are delighted to announce that Lord Douglas Hurd of Westwell (Twyford 1938-42) has agreed to become the first President of the Twyford Society. Lord Hurd's Presidency will run for the calendar year of 2011. Full story on page 3.....

### Contents

- Page 2 – Sir Mark Tully Dinner
- Page 3 – Lord Hurd
- Page 4 – School Reports
- Page 5 – Walking with the Wounded
- Pages 6 & 7 – The History of Court Cricket
- Pages 8 & 9 – Twyford Society News
- Page 10 – Whisky tasting with a difference!
- Page 11 – Missing Twyfordians
- Page 12 – Illustrated History of Twyford

### Inside The History of Court Cricket!

Page 6





# View from the Headmaster's Study

**Twyford Life is certainly colourful and lively – of course I could be referring to this magazine, but in fact I mean 'life at Twyford'. My first year has been a wonderful kaleidoscope of events and busy, happy children. Paula and I have been made welcome in every way, immediately embraced by the friendliness and warmth of the Twyford Community.**



When prospective parents ask me what it is that makes Twyford 'different' I find myself smiling inwardly and comfortably describing a community of teachers, parents and children all sharing in a common purpose. It is not exam results or sporting victories that shape a school, but the genuine feeling that the environment is welcoming and nurturing, and that children can explore ideas and overcome a number of barriers along the way. This caring and nurturing environment has been reflected by an excellent report from Ofsted following an inspection of welfare and boarding provision last month. The full report can be found on our website at [www.twyfordschool.com](http://www.twyfordschool.com)

The warmth of the Twyford School community is also evident in the active interest demonstrated by both the Old Twyfordian body and the Twyford Parents' Association. We have enjoyed some wonderful events this last year, and these pages detail many more in the year ahead. I am particularly grateful to Lord Hurd of Westwell for agreeing to be our first Twyford Society President, and we look forward to his visit in June. I do hope you will join us too in the year ahead.

# Inaugural Twyford Society Dinner with Sir Mark Tully

**More than 100 current and past parents, staff and pupils enjoyed a memorable evening at Twyford School on Friday, 11th June, as we celebrated the inaugural Twyford Society Dinner. Renowned journalist and broadcaster, Sir Mark Tully (Twyford 1945-49), was our guest of honour, returning to the School for the first time in many years.**

After drinks on the lawn, guests were treated to a fascinating talk about India. Sir Mark delighted the audience with poignant anecdotes and intelligent insights about that remarkable country. Afterwards, he answered a wide range of questions varying from the dispute over Kashmir to the social and developmental effects of India's rapid economic growth. Sir Mark answered all with the grace and humour to which generations of his avid Radio 4 listeners have become accustomed, and which led The Times newspaper to describe Sir Mark recently as: "The quintessential foreign correspondent - informed, even-handed and practically a native."

After Sir Mark's talk, guests were treated to a sumptuous three-course dinner, prepared by

Twyford School's own catering team.

*Sir Mark wrote afterwards:-*

Thank you for making my return to Twyford so memorable. You gathered an appreciative audience and put on a wonderful feast.... I was delighted to see round the school. It was very moving to be in the chapel again which seemed unchanged except for the electric pump for the organ. In my time we used to pump it by hand. Twyford is a very different place now but I am sure none the worse for that. With best wishes to you all.....



# Pre-Prep 2010

by Karen Rogers (Head of Pre-Preparatory)

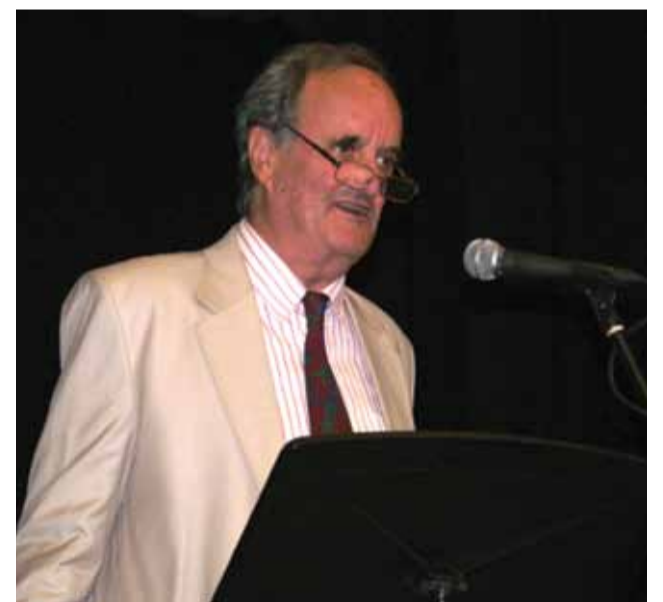
This has been another great year of progress and development in Nursery and Pre-Prep. We now have three wonderful outdoor playgrounds and have introduced a weekly session for our under 5s to explore our grounds, "Come rain, come shine".

There are now eight classes from Nursery to Year 2, accommodating 125 children. The children enjoy learning across the different subjects through a topic-based approach, exploring themes such as Dinosaurs, The Great Fire of London, Houses and Homes and Under the Sea.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of visits to the theatre,

Submarine Museum, Discovery Centre, local farms and Winchester Cathedral to name but a few. They have also enjoyed a Multicultural Week learning all about China, a Book Week with visiting authors and poets and a Creative Week with a resident Willow Sculptress!

Pre-Prep children are now part of the House system and love being mini-Mozzies, Hornets, Bees and Wasps! This has strengthened their feeling of belonging, as has joining with the Prep children for the Act of Remembrance, looking forward to visits from the Parry Choir and Prep staff and welcoming Year 3 staff and children for reading each week.



Born in India, Sir Mark attended Twyford School between 1945 and 1949, before moving on to Marlborough College and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. From there, after briefly considering the priesthood, he joined the BBC who posted him to India in 1965 where he quickly rose through the ranks to become BBC Delhi correspondent – a position he held for 22 years. Since then he has worked as a freelance journalist, broadcaster and author, and is currently presenter of the popular Radio 4 programme, *Something Understood*.

During his long and distinguished career, Sir Mark has been awarded an OBE, a knighthood and two of India's top honours, rarely awarded to non-Indians - the Padma Shree and the Padma Bhushan.



# Lord Hurd named 1st Twyford Society President

I am thrilled and honoured to be the 1st President of the Twyford Society. Although it is now almost seventy years since I left the School, I still have strong and vivid memories of my time at Twyford. Indeed, lessons and skills learnt have served me well throughout my life.

I have greatly enjoyed re-visiting the School periodically over the years, which has naturally undergone tremendous changes. When I arrived at Twyford in 1938, there were only thirty seven boys in the whole School and it had fallen upon very tough times. Fortunately, Bob Wickham and his wife, Betty, had just taken over and set the School on an upward path that has clearly been sustained ever since.

Today, it is astonishing to think there are ten times the number of pupils compared to 1937. And of course this now includes girls – an excellent idea though I doubt we would have approved at the time! The facilities and comforts are unrecognisable from my era. Nevertheless, I believe the essential spirit and atmosphere of the School has not changed. Twyford is a happy place and I am, and always have been, proud to be an Old Twyfordian.

I am getting on in years, and cutting back on what I do. But I very much look forward to visiting the School on the 10th June and spending some time with the children, before speaking in the evening to parents and fellow Old Twyfordians. I am speaking on the subject – Why on earth did I choose politics? I am also working on an initiative with the School which we hope to launch later in the year.

I am delighted to accept this inaugural Presidency and look forward to engaging with the School and its pupils, parents and staff, present and past, in the year ahead.



*Douglas Hurd*

Lord Hurd has spent a lifetime in public service. Following his education at Twyford, Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he spent 14 years in the Diplomatic Service, during which time he served in China, Italy and the United States. Starting his political life as personal secretary to Edward Heath, he became an MP for Mid-Oxfordshire in 1974. In 1979, he was appointed Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, being promoted to Cabinet level in 1984 as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. His tenure paved the way for the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, which marked a turning point in cooperation between the UK and Ireland over the future of the troubled region. In 1985, he was promoted by Margaret Thatcher to Home Secretary – a position he held for four years. In 1989, he became Foreign Secretary where he served for six years during an extraordinary period in world politics, which included the end of the Cold War and collapse of the Soviet Union, the first Gulf War, and the war in Bosnia. During this time, he also stood for leadership of the Conservative Party following the resignation of Prime Minister Thatcher.

Douglas Hurd retired from front-line politics in 1995, and as an MP in 1997, whereupon he was named Baron Hurd of Westwell, enabling him to join the House of Lords. He has also been a very successful author, writing numerous political thrillers and respected non-fiction works. Lord Hurd has also participated with and represented a number of NGOs and causes in the UK and internationally, in such diverse fields as prison reform and multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. His sons have followed him into the Diplomatic Service and Parliament respectively, with son Nick serving as Minister of State for Civil Society in the current Conservative-led coalition.

## TWYFORD SOCIETY DINNER

with

### Lord Douglas Hurd

*“Why on earth did I choose politics?”*

7pm Friday 10th June, 2011

Tickets £20 - See separate flyer

## Lord Hurd's Memories of Twyford

Just before I joined in 1938, Twyford School was in crisis. The Headmaster, H.G.McDonell, with his sister, Daisy, ran an austere regime more akin to the late nineteenth century. Comforts were almost non-existent, as demonstrated by their reluctance to install electricity on account of it being “dangerous when it goes round corners.” Although Twyford still achieved academic success, regularly winning top scholarships to Winchester College, by 1937 this was no longer enough. The School role had dropped to 37 – an unviable number.

Bob Wickham, then owner of Twyford and a newly ordained schoolmaster of just thirty two and with a young wife and no money, bravely took over. He must have made a great impression on my father for within a year I was at Twyford, and my two brothers followed. It proved an excellent choice.

My early letters home point to my settling in quickly:-

October 2 1938

Dear Mother,

*Thank you very much for all your letters. I am sorry that I couldn't write before, as I could not find time. I am getting on very well and am not homesick. I sleep in the Long Room dormitory with five other people and I sit at meals second from the bottom at the left hand table ... At the present moment it is 2.15 (rest time)... This morning, we did Latin, English, French, Maths....*

Other letters home record:-

*This morning I pulled one of my front teeth out. It has been worrying for 2 days...*

*As you said, I have made many friends - Watt, Horsford, Sanger, Nightingale and E.Studd; but I like Studd best.....*

*The chief form of punishment is to go into Coventry. This means that you must not talk for some of tea. You can go*

*in Cov. for 5 minutes, 10, 15 etc.....*

*You were quite right; tea consists of toast with fish or something like that.*

*One of the great things to do here is to collect stores of beech nuts... Today I collected some 140....*

One of my strongest memories is of Mr Davies, who taught French. We called him “Trotsky” on account of his authoritarian instincts. He was an excellent teacher, but I do remember him having a very hard silver pencil that he used to ‘bang, bang, bang’ on your head when you got verbs wrong. It was very effective though as a teaching technique and I always remembered being grateful to him when required to speak French later in my political life. I also remember vividly Major Bull – another guardian of rather Victorian ways.

It was ironic that in 1989 I was invited back to Twyford to open the new Sports Hall. Regrettably, sport was never my strongest suit at Twyford. I think the school magazine, in typically robust style, recorded me in hockey as “hardworking but clumsy” and later as “improving fast, but still a son of the soil...!” I was never quite sure what that meant – perhaps I took rather a lot of divots. However, one summer's day, to everyone's astonishment including mine, I recorded my finest sporting achievement to date - 36 not out at cricket! Sadly, it was not to be repeated. I don't think I ever scored more than 10 in a match again.

Of course, my time at Twyford was over-shadowed by the Second World War. Although it was generally a source of excitement for the boys, I do remember many hours being spent in the air-raid shelters. A letter home on November 24 1940 records:-

Dear Mother,

*Air raid after air raid. We've had 37 solid hours of raid this week. On Sunday night 50 incendiaries were dropped in the face of a terrific barrage. Fields were blazing – that raid lasted 10 hours.*

*Tuesday and Wednesday there were six hour raids. On Friday, the raid caught us in our clothes, so we had to stay in them until 6am.....*

I still remember an irritating George Formby record that one of the masters used to play on his portable gramophone in the shelter during a raid. It had some endless ditty about little fishes swimming over a dam. .... But despite the raids, we were skilfully shielded from the true horrors of that dreadful war.

I eventually moved on from Twyford in 1942, armed with a scholarship to Eton. My younger brothers remained at Twyford until after the war, by which time the School was going from strength to strength under Bob Wickham.

I feel privileged to have begun my education at Twyford. I learnt many things – not just academic, but life-skills; the value of friendship and loyalty; to take an interest in the world around me; and how to apply myself. Despite the relative lack of comforts, they were happy days and I will always look back with great fondness upon my time at Twyford School.





# Sports Report

by Gregg Lewis (Head of Sport) and Natasha Carley (Head of Girls' Games)

This has certainly been a memorable year for Twyford Sport.

The Spring term saw the girls successfully continuing their netball season. For the first time in Twyford's history, three Twyford netball teams reached the IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) National Finals in Brighton, where they performed well against strong opposition. The boys meanwhile, had a good season of rugby despite the disruption caused by snow and frozen pitches, winning the Hampshire Sevens U12s title and being runners-up at another tournament hosted by Norman Court.

The Summer term was even more successful, with outstanding performances at both cricket and athletics. The Senior Wessex Athletics Meeting saw Max Colman and Sophie Ridley named Boy and Girl Athletes of the meet respectively, amongst seven children to win events and progressing to the National Finals in Birmingham. All performed admirably there, with Sophie becoming National U12s Hurdles Champion and Max coming third in the National Final of both 100 and 200 metres.



Max Coleman and Sophie Ridley with their athletics trophies

Meanwhile, Twyford now boasts 25 boys and 5 girls playing cricket for the District, eight of whom also play for Hampshire at varying age levels. Unsurprisingly, this translated to strong performances across the age groups. Of 108 matches played, 68 were won, 13 drawn and only 27 lost. Most notably, the Colts beat Ludgrove in the final of the Marlborough 6-a Side competition, and also finished as runners-up in the English Schools Cricket Association National Final. Later at Autumn half term, fourteen boys and two staff embarked on a memorable cricket tour to South Africa. On the field, the boys won five out of eight games, but the most vivid memories will be from the time spent visiting townships, Robben Island and the National Parks.



Twyford Tour Team in Cape Town

After the summer break, the girls and boys returned to netball and football respectively. The girls performed superbly, particularly in the younger age groups where the U9A and U10A were unbeaten all season, with the latter also winning two inter-school tournaments. The boys also enjoyed their football throughout the School, with the 1st XI only suffering defeat in their 15th and final game of the season.

In the swimming pool, Twyford won the Hampshire Primary Schools Water Polo Competition for the 2nd year running, beating Pilgrims in the final. Swimming is strong throughout the School and every child from Year 1 upwards can swim safely, enjoying a swimming lesson every week.

Once again, Twyford staff and parents have been proud of the conduct of our children on the sports field, whether representing the School or during inter-house competitions. While performing with real commitment and effort, they have nevertheless behaved with grace in the face of victory or defeat. Lessons learnt in teamwork and sportsmanship on the playing fields of Twyford will, we hope, serve them well throughout their lives.

# Art & Design Gallery

Right: Batik by Alice Gendingning  
Below from left to right:  
acrylic still life by Tom Harwood;  
acrylic onions by Roly Haynes;  
pastel rabbit by Marida Ianni-Ravn



Left: a jug by Alice Gendingning  
Below: a selection of silk hankies by Year 3



# Drama Report

by James Christie  
(Head of English & Drama)

In 2010, the children performed the musical 'Fleeced', a light-hearted re-telling of the story of Jason and the Argonauts, while those in Year 8 enjoyed their 'Shakespeare Workshop' in the summer term. This has become an important annual event and, once again, the leavers amazed everyone with their creativity and the confidence with which they performed their roles.



It is an exciting time for drama at Twyford, with two new drama teachers and a new timetable allowing all children to have a dedicated drama lesson each week, as well as special drama apprenticeships.

# Music Report

 by David Hall (Director of Music)

Scenes from La Tosca

2010 was the year of Verdi's *Tosca*. Fifteen of our trebles were chosen to perform for ten nights at The Grange. We have now established a firm link with Grange Park Opera who have invited us to be involved in a further production in 2012.

In March, the Senior Choir performed Fauré's *Requiem* in St. Mary's Church, Twyford. The Choir were augmented by volunteer altos, tenors and basses, soloists YiRu Hall (soprano) and Alex Poulton (baritone) and an Orchestra. Old Twyfordians Marina Pease, Helene Mathiesen, Helen Brown and Jessica Brown performed chamber music in the first half of the concert.

This year's Carol Service at Winchester Cathedral featured a carol newly composed for us by Malcolm Archer *Let Christians All with One Accord Rejoice!* The Senior Choir sang this superbly as they did all their other performances.

Alongside the special events, we had a busy and successful year of music-making. The visiting music teachers have been working as hard as ever and have helped our pupils to achieve stunning exam results with high grades. The ICT corner of the music school has been

refurbished and upgraded. We have put on the end-of-year Music Gala, the House Music competition, the charity bands concert and fifteen lunchtime concerts. Also during the year, we have taken trips to an orchestral concert and a string quartet rehearsal and we hosted an India drumming workshop using tabla, presented by ArtAsia.



Twyford Boys with Claire Rutter

# Chapel Report

 by David Owens (Chaplain)

We are truly blessed in having such a wonderful chapel in which to worship. It is a special place in the school where it is possible to escape the hurly burly of the day and find time and space for quiet reflection.

All children in the main school attend regular chapel services, and these are interspersed with periodic Saturday services with guest speakers that are open to parents. Pre-Prep now also come up to

hold a service in the chapel each week. Visiting speakers this year have included representatives of the various charities supported by the School this year, including Naomi House, RNLI and the Earthquake Appeal in Haiti.

The year finished with the customary Carol Service in Winchester Cathedral, which proved again to be a glorious occasion for the whole pupil and parent body.



# Walking with the Wounded



On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011, eight men will set out from the most northerly Russian outpost with the aim of reaching the top of the world – the North Pole. They will not be the first to attempt or, God willing, accomplish this feat. But this expedition is nevertheless the first of its kind ever attempted. For one extraordinary reason....

## Four of the team members have lost limbs or suffered life threatening injuries while serving in the Armed Forces.

In the process the team are hoping to raise £2 million to fund the re-training and re-education of wounded servicemen and women in order to assist them to find stable employment.

At the heart of the 'Walking with the Wounded' challenge is an Old Twyfordian, Edward Parker (Twyford 1973-78). As well as co-founder and expedition leader, he will be accompanying the soldiers on this epic trek. Below, Ed describes how this record attempt came into existence and some of the challenges that lie ahead.....



Old Twyfordian Ed Parker is Expedition Leader

### Ed, you are one of the two co-founders of this expedition. How did the idea for 'Walking with the Wounded' come about?

My nephew, Harry, was wounded in 2009 while serving with 4 Rifles in Helmand. Having seen him and many others wounded during this conflict, as well as those affected in the past, I felt I wanted to do something to draw the public's attention to the fact they don't give up, that they have extraordinary determination to continue to succeed, but that they do need our support and help.

### Tell us when and how far the team will be walking?

After a week's acclimatisation in the Norwegian archipelago, Svalbard, we will be dropped at a Russian airstrip at 85° to 86°N on 29<sup>th</sup> March. From there we will have 25 days to cover the approximately 200 nautical miles to the North Pole.

### What are the biggest challenges that will face the team during the attempt?

The challenges are numerous. Firstly, there is the sheer physical effort of dragging heavy sledges hundreds of miles across some of the most treacherous terrain on Earth. Then there are the obvious dangers - thin ice, open tracks of water and poor visibility mean that falling into the freezing water is a real risk. Even if you were able to get out of the water, avoiding hypothermia in that situation would be very difficult.

Indeed, resisting the cold will probably be our biggest challenge. Temperatures in April generally range from -25C to -50C. Putting our tents up in arctic winds and melting snow for drinking and cooking will also test us, not to mention getting enough sleep in the perpetual daylight. Finally, there are the polar bears! As sweet and cuddly as they look on television, we certainly wouldn't want to run into a hungry one. Our guide will have to set up trip wires around the camp with flares to scare them away, and carry a gun as a very last resort.

### Tell us about the team...

Our four wounded servicemen are just extraordinary. Captain Martin Hewitt was shot in Afghanistan in 2007 and has lost use of his right arm. Captain Guy Disney lost his leg when a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) hit his armoured car during Operation Panther's Claw. Private Jaco Van Gass was also wounded in another RPG attack, losing

his left arm at the elbow and suffering a double break of the leg, serious flesh wounds and a bowel injury that requires a colostomy bag. Finally, Sergeant Steve Young suffered a severe spinal injury from a roadside bomb, breaking his back and spending four months in a spinal bed. He was told he would never walk again. Their commitment and resilience is simply awe-inspiring.

The rest of the team are made up of myself, my co-founder, Simon Daghish, Inge Solheim – our polar guide, and Henry Cookson – our logistics man.

### How have you been training for this challenge?

This old body needed a huge shake up to get it going again, but now everything seems to be a little more tuned up. The yard at home is full tractor tyres, jerry cans full of water, weights and tug o' war ropes. At first, you feel a little self-conscious pulling tyres around the Norfolk countryside. But it's not as bad as for Simon, who lives in London and has been towing tyres through Richmond Park and Tooting Common!

I have also had invaluable assistance from a friend and ex-military policeman, who comes and trains me once a week.

### You are aiming to raise £2 million. What are you raising funds for?

We have identified education projects and training courses which specifically account for both physical and mental injuries for servicemen and women, at establishments like Portland College and Enham Alamein. The effort for the wounded is becoming more coordinated with the military at the core of this. The Army has recently launched the Army Recovery Capability (ARC), a seamless process to assist wounded soldiers either back into active duty, or into civilian life. 'Walking with the Wounded' is



working with the ARC, providing funding for the re-training and re-skilling of wounded soldiers. We will also be providing funds to 'Help for Heroes' to assist with the funding of the Regional Recovery Centres which they are building.

### News reports have suggested you may have a royal companion on the trek?

Yes. Prince Harry is patron of 'Walking with the Wounded'. He has been fantastic in helping us to raise publicity and profile for the challenge. If his royal and military commitments allow, he is hoping to join us on the trek. We should hear shortly.

### Finally, you've agreed to come and talk to us at Twyford at the end of the trek?

Yes, I'm thrilled to be coming back to Twyford School on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May and am looking forward to meeting pupils, staff, parents and old contemporaries. We'll only have been back ten days so please forgive me though if I'm still a bit stiff and limping around!

**Ed - We are sure all pupils, parents, staff and Old Twyfordians would like to join us at Twyford School in wishing you and the team all the best in this remarkable venture. Vince Potential! (Dogged as Does It!)**

To follow the progress of the trek and/or to donate to this excellent cause, please visit [www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk](http://www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk)

## Everest hero to return to Twyford



**Myles Osborne** (Twyford 1988-93) had dreamed of climbing Mount Everest since a little boy at Twyford School. He had trained for years. Fundraised like crazy. Given months of his life to fulfilling this ambition.... Aged 26, the summit day had finally come. The weather was clear, progress steady, team working well. Just over 300 metres to the summit of Everest.... And then:-

"Sitting to our left, about two feet from a 10,000 foot drop, was a man. Not dead, not sleeping, but sitting cross legged, in the process of changing his shirt. He had his down suit unzipped to the waist, his arms out of the sleeves, was wearing no hat, no gloves, no sunglasses, had no oxygen mask, regulator, ice axe, oxygen, no sleeping bag, no mattress, no food nor water bottle. 'I imagine you're surprised to see me here', he said. Here was a gentleman, apparently lucid, who had spent the night without oxygen at 8600m, without proper equipment, barely clothed. And ALIVE."

Myles is returning to Twyford School to talk about one of the most remarkable Everest rescues ever, and to share his experiences of mountaineering around the world.



THE TWYFORD SOCIETY PRESENTS

## To the Ends of the Earth

7pm - Friday 6th May, 2011

Please join us for an extraordinary evening at Twyford when both **Myles Osborne** and **Edward Parker** will be sharing their stories of endurance and heroism in two of the world's most inhospitable terrains

Ticket Price £10. - See separate flyer

Food and drinks included.

A collection will be taken for 'Walking with the Wounded'



# A History of Court Cricket

For most visitors, arriving at Twyford in the summer time is generally a pleasant and peaceful experience. The walk from the car park to the school office is a tranquil stroll across the Headmaster's lawn, with the playing fields to your left and the rolling South Downs beyond.

A peaceful stroll that is, unless you happen to arrive at break or lunch. For at these times, the

tranquillity is destroyed and even your very safety is in question, as you encounter the **tradition**, the **institution**, the **legend** that is... **Court Cricket**.

In 2005, the Times newspaper ran an article describing the growing sport of "Tapeball Cricket" using a semi-taped tennis ball - apparently a new innovation in England, but one which has been played in Pakistan for almost two decades!

All Old Twyfordians know such journalistic inaccuracy about the game's origin throws up only one legitimate question - which Old Twyfordian introduced the game to Pakistan?

To set the record straight for all time, with help from Old Twyfordians past and present, this article sets out to chart the history and evolution of this most special of Twyford pastimes.



## The Current Game

At its most basic level, "Court Cricket" is like normal cricket - batsmen, bowlers, fielders. But there are many fundamental differences.

**Teams?** - As one Old Twyfordian described it, (in language overly dramatic only to those who haven't played it!), Court Cricket is not a team game - "It's you versus the world!"

**The Pitch** - The pitch is "Court" - an apron of concrete in front of the bare wall of the memorial library, which also acts as backstop. The concrete wall is peppered with almost a century of dents from over-enthusiastic swinging of bats, or, dare I say it, batsmen lashing out in frustration when dismissed, especially by younger bowlers.

**Batting** - Batsmen are required to "slog" every shot.

Defensive shots result in instant dismissal, meaning Court Cricket is not for the purist. And there are numerous ways to be "out" - bowled, caught, one hand - one bounce, caught one-handed off the trees, hitting into certain bushes, hitting on to the main School roof (a very long hit indeed!), hitting on to the Headmaster's lawn, hitting cars and hitting visitors to the school. The current bats are Kwik Cricket (plastic) bats, which make a loud 'thwack' when connecting with a fast moving ball!

**Bowling** - Bowlers stand in line to bowl and a "bowled" or "edge behind" is rewarded with batting (if a batsman is caught, the catcher bats). Bowlers can bowl from an "angle" but must declare "angle" before they release.

The real essence of Court Cricket, though, is to be found in the ball, of which there are many types, all known by their Twyford abbreviations (below). All bowlers are required to declare their ball 'type' before they bowl. The standard balls are as follows:-

- 'TB' - A standard Tennis Ball

*Court Cricket is my favourite thing about Twyford.*

**Max Coleman**

- Skinny 'TB' - A shaven tennis ball - Faster and lower bouncing.
- 'SSTB' - A tennis ball half covered in tape - swings violently!
- 'STB' - A fully taped tennis ball - fast and unpredictable.

It is not unusual for up to 100 children to be playing at once, or at least hovering in the vicinity in the hope of taking a lucky catch. But fielders have to keep their wits about them, with two hard balls being smashed into the crowd every four or five seconds! Accidents do happen, but injured children seem to take a "hit" with surprising grace, as if just an unfortunate but accepted bi-product of Court Cricket!

## Court Cricket in the 80s

Nick Coombes (Twyford 1985-90) writes:-

*It doesn't sound like the game has changed much!*

*In my first few years there was only one (metal) wicket which made a satisfying noise when hit. They then added another (against popular will), one for juniors and the other for seniors. Before this addition the game was very democratic; Squits (do they still call them that?!) could bowl at the oldest years so a good leveller. I still remember bowling out a very senior guy called Harold Ma with a pea-roller.*

*If you caught or bowled someone out you were then in, and you could take a pre-arranged gang of mates in with you. You'd be in as a team, taking alternate shots until someone was out, when the whole team would change. I remember people running in screaming from the outfield when a team mate was in and everyone desperate to be second to bat. The lucky guy would shout 'seeecundo!!' as they arrived alongside the crease.*

*Peak times were the morning break or lunch, when it was a frenetic atmosphere and the pressure of batting with half the school baying for your wicket was quite intense. If a wicket was in dispute often the whole game would start chanting 'Out Out Out' until the*

## Twyford Golf Society gets off to a scorching start!

The inaugural Twyford Society Golf Day got off to a great start on a glorious sunny day in June 2010.

After coffee and a tour at the School, 16 Old Twyfordians and parents, past and present, gathered at the historic Hockley Golf Club, just a stone's throw from Twyford, to take part.

Old Twyfordian Joe Panter (1988-93) had the honour of hitting the very first drive straight up the middle of the fairway - something he did unerringly all day, deservedly collecting the "longest drive" award later.

Current parent Kevin Watson carried off the "Nearest the Pin" award and

indeed was named individual winner later in the day with 43 Stableford points.

However, the big competition was to see who would carry off the inaugural team award - the Old Twyfordians, Current Parents or Past Parents. It was a close run-thing but, with an average of just over 30 points per player, the Old Twyfordians had it!

**Right: Winning OTs from left to right - Patrick Melville (87-92), Charles Mason (87-92), Joe Panter (86-92), David Panter (44-48), Chris Huffam (60-65), John Edwards (41-46), Colin Howman (76-81)**



Above: Current parent, Kevin Watson (centre), won 'Best Individual Score' and 'Nearest the Pin'

Left: Old Twyfordian Joe Panter (88-93) hits the first shot of the new Twyford Golf Society





*Court Cricket is the highlight of the summer term. It was invented by a few boys mucking about with a tennis ball many years ago. Since those early days it has become a well-respected sport at Twyford.*

**Sam Beckett**

writes:-

*The game was played passionately in my day.....*

*I remember Charles Mason (Master & Head of Cricket) hating it. In fact, he banned his 1<sup>st</sup> XI from playing the game, claiming it made them bowl too short (the Court Cricket wicket is less than 22 yards) and also play non-correct shots. Curiously, he also believed that swimming on a match day affected a boy's eyesight!! 'Super-balls' were very popular at that time. These were small, made of hard rubber and bounced phenomenally, but were too hard and small to be safe and were outlawed fairly sharply! The perfect ball was the SSTB (semi-skinned TB) bowled from a slight angle. The perfect shot was from left-handers who were able to pull a shot into*



*breakfast and (daily) chapel and by 'late beds' between 7 and 7.30 on half-holidays when there was no prep.*

*The bat used was a 'broomstick' - a bat with sides shaved down so that the blade was only 4 inches or so wide. The balls used were like Fives balls, only the size of tennis balls.*

*As with Bat Fives balls (Bat Fives was also popular at Twyford) the proper court cricket balls ceased to be available during the war, so tennis balls were used as replacements. But as both sorts were for a time in use, those bowlers with a tennis ball had to announce the fact before bowling - hence the shout 'TB' as the bowler runs up. Amongst the 'fast balls', 'chinamen' and 'googlies', the clever clogs insisted that they could make a tennis ball swing if they rubbed off the knap (on the bricks at the side of Upper School) from one side of the tennis ball. It was therefore thought to be fair on the batsman to announce on the run up 'SKINNED TB'. Those who didn't know the finer points merely shouted 'SKINTYBEE'. Those who were even less cricket buffs rubbed off all the knap, on the theory that it might swing twice as much!*

*Certain areas of the 'field' were especially popular with those with a facility to catch, for they were the ones who got most innings - often many more than the bowlers. Those special areas were jealously kept by their 'owners'. For some unknown reason the queue of bowlers in the morning had to have their hand on the shoulder of the boy in front of them in the queue, or someone would queue-barge. In the evening version, we became more civilised and queue-barging would not take place.*

*As with Charles Mason later, Major Bull (Head of Cricket in my era) also frowned upon Court Cricket, believing it discouraged "proper shots".*



*what is now the Bursar's office but was David Wickham's then.*

### Court Cricket in the 40s

David Wickham (Pupil 1941-46, Headmaster 1963-83) writes:-

*Court Cricket was certainly alive and kicking in my school days, and a good deal earlier, too. It was originally played between*

### Conclusions

So, how far does Court Cricket go back? Alas, with no living witnesses, we shall probably never know. However, Bob Wickham, Headmaster and pupil during the First World War regularly recalled cricket being played as a Court Game.

Likewise, our archivists have dug out two pictures which seem to indicate Court Cricket was played even earlier.



The photo (above) entitled "On Court" in 1894, clearly shows the boys holding cricket bats, while the famous "Hart" painting of 1848 (below) shows at least one cricket game in progress in the court vicinity.



Thus, we can be sure that Court Cricket has been played in one form or another at Twyford for more than 150 years. And anyone standing within 500 hundred yards during lunch or break in the summer time would surely not bet against it lasting another 150 years at least.

*Court Cricket is nothing like the gentlemanly and orderly game of normal cricket: it is a great noise of shouting pupils, claiming catches, appealing for wickets or screaming the warning cry of 'Carl!' when a vehicle approaches up the school drive.*

**Christian Hollingbery**

batters left.

*The 'balls' were all the same as today except for one occasional addition - the Mushy Apple.... It was as described, and made a satisfying explosion on impact!*

*Depending on the position of parked cars, the hitting rules could be 'stodging (defensive shots) on the off and slogging on the on' or if very busy 'stodging all round'. Or, if lots of space, it was the hallowed phrase 'slogging all round!'*

### Court Cricket in the 60s

Tony Francis (Pupil 1962-67 & Master 1994 - present, and Current Head of Cricket)

## Golf has always been a favourite pastime amongst Twyford's staff and pupils.

The Twyfordian of Spring 1900 reports:-

***'An exceptionally fine term - the masters came back after Xmas bitten with golf, so we laid out 9 holes round the fields and all went mad over it. Record for the 9 holes 42 - G.W. Palmer. Golf also taken up by boys. First result - breaking of many windows including a 16/- pane in the dining room.....'***

In the Twyfordian of April 1939, a wonderful piece entitled "The Trivial Round" is featured. It is not clear who is the aforementioned "Reporter", nor whether the contest has been embellished. Nevertheless, it paints an amusing picture of life at Twyford!

### - THE TRIVIAL ROUND -

The following golf match took place the other day:- J.C.B [Major Bull] and A.T.Budgett v. W.T.T. Pakenham and M.R.T Lowth. Our reporter happened to be present.

"Your honour, Pakenham."

"Please Sir, what's that mean, Sir?"

"It means that you hit it first."

"But Sir, what happens if I miss it?"

"Well, your partner has the shot."

"Oh! I see, Sir."

The first hole was played without incident, apart from an unfortunate ricochet off a cow by Lowth's tee shot, whereat Budgett promptly claimed the hole. No parallel being found in the local rules, the Major held that the case was incongruous, since the animal was a natural hazard. After a triangular argument, the hole was eventually won by J.C.B and Budgett in the odd stroke.

The second fairway runs level with the road, which was as usual lined with a various

assortment of youthful enthusiasts, who little realised their danger: for Budgett, letting loose his famous pull drive, scored a goal through the posts of the local football ground on his left. The point was disallowed, as the scorer was off the field of play. Lowth's reply was carried downstream in the local drain so rapidly that it was soon out of sight.

"I think you lifted your head a bit," said his partner.

"But Sir, I think it is easier that way!"

The 'mountain hole' provides a severe test of accuracy, for the green is poised upon a small plateau some thirty feet above the tee. The Major hit a lofty chip on to the green, only to see his ball borne off in triumph by two energetic fox-terriers, to be buried, and consumed later. On rising to his feet after his drive, Pakenham was astonished to find that gravity and an obliging tee had returned his ball back to the tee. Result of hole:- a win for Pakenham and Lowth in 17.

Hunching his shoulders with determination, Budgett swung violently.

"Sir, that was your fault," he cried indignantly, as the ball scuttled a few yards towards the second tee. "You told me that if the wind was blowing from the left, the ball would drift right, so I allowed for it."

"Yes, but the wind is behind us."

"It wasn't when I did my shot."

While this long discussion was taking place, Lowth was addressing his ball, oblivious of the fact that Budgett was in possible danger.

"Ow!" exclaimed the unfortunate person, as something very hard hit him on the ankle, and he proceeded to execute one of those delightful Devon folk-dances, which are so seldom seen in this county, much to the delight of our reporter. The claim to have won the hole by this masterly stroke was upheld on behalf of the striker.

It was obvious by now that there was bad feeling between the contestants; so that it was fortunate that "Time" was called after a long wait on the next tee, during which Gardyne, Trehwella, Grantham and Watt were exchanging putts on the last green.

**2011  
Golf Day**

**The 2011 Twyford Society Golf Day is to be held on  
Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2011 at the beautiful Royal Winchester Golf Club.**

The day includes coffee and bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and dinner and prizes afterwards. The cost is £50 per person. See separate flyer





# Farewell Susie!

In summer 2010 Susie Mason retired from Twyford School. She had been Senior Matron since she joined the School in 1994. Susie was a constant source of fun, compassion and love at Twyford for staff, parents and, most of all, the children. It is not an exaggeration to say that she was loved by all at Twyford, as evidenced by the hundreds of past and present parents, pupils and staff who attended a leaving party in her honour last summer. She will be greatly missed. Susie writes:-



**A**s I sit here writing this from my cottage at Sulgrave in the Oxfordshire countryside, Twyford seems a very long way away. In reality, of course, it is just

under two hours' car journey away, but the change in my life after sixteen and a half years at Twyford is far greater. I look back over my years at Twyford as a very happy time, and although it was sad to leave last summer, the time was exactly right.

When I first arrived at Twyford in March 1994, there were only a few girls in the School (none were boarding), a tiny Pre-Prep, and no flexi-boarding. There were 72 boys boarding of which about 16-20 were full boarders, and the remainder weekly. The first and last weekends were closed weekends when all 72 boys stayed at school. Every other weekend the boys had to return for chapel on Sunday evening, so only went home for Saturday night.

In those early years my role was very much that of a mother, especially to the children whose parents lived abroad. As you can imagine, I have many memories of my years at Twyford. I look back and remember the many children I looked after, the many parents who I enjoyed meeting and helping and all the staff past and present. But I will write of just two memories, taken from a great many.

An eight year old Spanish boy called Pablo came to Twyford as a full boarder. He spoke almost no English and was very homesick. It was a struggle for him but amazingly quickly he learnt to speak and think in English, was a terrific sportsman and made many friends at Twyford where he enjoyed four happy years. After only a few weeks it was his birthday. As we all went downstairs to breakfast I noticed Pablo take the photograph of his parents and younger sister, which he had beside his bed, with him. At breakfast I gave Pablo all the cards which had been arriving for him and



Susie accepting gifts at her leaving party, organised by the Twyford Parents' Association.

the one from the boarding house. As Pablo opened each card he showed it to the photograph of his parents and sister! I have never forgotten it....

The second snippet is about a little boy aged nine who was a full boarder (his parents lived and worked in Africa). He was struggling to settle and did of course miss home and family. Each evening he would come and chat about his day. He was anxious about almost everything and so we would chat away and then he would leave quite happily. As the weeks went by I could see that he was settling into school, making friends and taking part in all that went on. After about three weeks he stopped coming most evenings and I was delighted to see him so happy and settled. One

evening, a little later, there he was to see me again. As he came in, I asked him how he was today to which he replied:- "Oh, I am fine Mrs Mason. I just came to see how you are..."

Despite all the changes at Twyford, the one thing that has not and, I feel sure, never will change is the happiness of the children. It was quite clear from my first to my last day just how much the children enjoy life at Twyford School. I am so very happy now too, settled here in the Oxfordshire countryside with my two dogs and enjoying village life and helping my elderly parents who live opposite.

**Each year, we interview Old Twyfordians about their life and careers. In 2010, Old Twyfordian Christopher Peach (1979-81), Director of Food and Beverage and Culinary Operations at the Swissotel Grand in Shanghai, was the first to be interviewed.**

**This year Tom Coombes (Twyford 1977-1983) has kindly agreed to step into the spotlight. He lives in Hollywood, Los Angeles, is married with two children and runs an international marketing business called Cognito.**

Tom Coombes with wife Tamzin, daughters Estelle and Isabelle, and dogs Bailey & Cinnamon!



**• Tell us about your career after Twyford.**

I followed my brother to Canford which I enjoyed and made some great friends. During my year off, I worked for a few months at Lloyds of London and then decided I wanted to pursue a degree in farming. Very odd! So Wye College followed. After Wye, where I learned the ins and outs of running commercial agricultural enterprises, I went to work for a commodity trading firm in Sussex. I didn't last long. Then to London, where I landed a sales role in financial sector publishing. So I worked there for a while, got a little frustrated, took a year off to go to Australia, and then came back to London and worked for a PR firm. I got poached to run the marketing for a software firm in France. They became my first client for my new business.

**• So what is Cognito?**

Cognito is a PR firm. We work for companies that need to manage their reputation and profile, usually in the financial markets. I started the firm in my bedroom in London in 1999. We are now on three continents and work for some of the largest financial institutions in the world. Not meaning to blow our trumpet, but it's quite nice to look back and see we've made some progress! We're also building some software here in California that helps firms to measure and monitor their profile in the market.

**• You now have offices in London, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Singapore. What have been the biggest challenges of growing your business?**

Honestly, it is all about finding and keeping really good people. People who want to work hard, who are honest, reliable, fun, intelligent and ambitious. Unfortunately, these people are hard to find. In PR we have a lot of young people, sometimes straight from university. Their attitude is the most important thing. Do we want to work with them? Will our clients want to work with them? Do they want to do a good job? Are they reliable? Can we trust them? It sounds very simple, but these basic qualities are very rare!

**• So you and your family live in Hollywood in Los Angeles. What's that like?**

When we arrived in LA it was like landing on Pluto. Los Angeles is effectively in the desert. It's very hot in the summer. Except for a little rain between October and February, most days are sunny and dry. The people are outrageous, with so many wanting to be on camera - there are a lot of very white teeth and plastic surgeons! Seriously though, the Californians have a tremendous attitude. It's still the new world out here. They have a very 'can do' approach to life, and want to get things done and build it bigger and better. It's quite refreshing sometimes to be around people like this.

There's a lot to do in California. Beaches, mountains, hiking, swimming, sailing. Mostly for us we're looking after our new young family who, at six months and 3 years old, need a lot of care!

**• What lessons/skills did you learn at Twyford that have helped you in your life/career?**

Great question! When I interview people now, I'm really interested to know where they went to school and what that was like. For me, Twyford taught me some crucial things that help me every day - how to get on with people; how to fit in; the importance of teams and sports.

I still remember learning capital cities with Noel Keble-Williams. I call on Latin to help understand the derivation of words. I would like to hand out "Tardi's" and "Ineptus" to members of staff who are late. I would love to go round calling "hypos to hypoland" when people call in sick! Seriously, Twyford helped me form my value system. It helped give me, hopefully, a balanced view of what is right and wrong.

**• Any favourite memories from your time at Twyford?**

The Tug of War. Hornets winning sports day. Singing the songs at the end of term and stamping feet on the tables. Going to the bell. Midnight kitchen raids. Collecting strawberries. Nets. Court Cricket. The map on the geography room ceiling. Too many to write but enough to last a lifetime.



# OT News

## Australian Reunion

A gathering of Australian-based OTs took place at the Royal Automobile Club in Victoria (RACV) on 25th November, 2010. OTs present were:-

**John Corner** (1949-54), **Anthony Jannink** (1950-55), **Michael Parkinson** (1951-56) and **David Fradgely** (1949-54), who was visiting from the UK. Each recognised the other despite it being more than 55 years since they all last met! Great memories were shared including a belated apology from Michael to John for running him out in a cricket match against Westbury School in 1954. He still remembers the glinty glare he received from Mr Cyril Mason who was umpiring at the time!

**John Corner** (1949-54) spent his career working in the luxury consumer goods industry, including many years with Wedgwood. Latterly, he started his own business assisting companies trading in the



1st XI Front row (L-R). Anthony Jannink, John (Kay) Corner, Robert Tully (Capt.), G.R.Petherick, Michael Parkinson  
Back row (L-R) John Day, Robert Maydon, David Tully, Tim Salmon, Peter Lascelles, Christopher Cadell.

Far East and Japan. He and his wife retired to Australia in 2004 to be near their daughter. John is currently working on a biography of his father, the famous botanist Professor EJH Corner CBE FRS.

**David Scott** (1969-74) left Twyford in 1974 for Malvern, and then went to Liverpool Polytechnic, as it was then, coming away with a degree in Building Surveying. After a few years in Oxford, he and his wife now have a practice in Truro, Cornwall, specialising in historic and ecclesiastical building conservation. In 1999, David won the RICS building conservation award, followed in 2000 with a further project award and the RICS Person in Conservation award which was presented by H.R.H the Duke of Cornwall. They have three grown-up daughters.

**John Studd** (1942-48) went to Winchester College, and then, after national service, to Clare College, Cambridge, to read theology under Dr John Robinson. He did his ordination training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire, and was ordained deacon in 1960 and priest in 1961. He met Nea, his wife, and served his curacy at St. Stephen's Rochester Row, Westminster, before moving to Australia. Next summer, he will celebrate 50 years as a priest at a church in Adelaide. The latter part of his ministry was mainly spent working with deaf people. He and Nea celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last year.



**James Lamont** (1976-1981) visited Twyford with his son Oliver on 25th June 2010. He was on holiday with his family from his job as South Asia Bureau Chief for the Financial Times, based in Delhi, India.

### George Magan

(1954-59) – Congratulations to George Magan, who has taken up the Prime Minister's invitation to become a member of the House of Lords. Lord Magan has enjoyed a distinguished career in the financial sector. Since 2003, he has served as Party Treasurer for the Conservative Party and is also Chairman of their Executive Committee.



**Owen Skinner** (1994-00) has recently qualified, from the University of Bristol, as a Veterinary Surgeon. He is now serving a 12 month internship at a referral practice in Cheshire. He has a special interest in orthopaedics.

We are sad to learn of the passing of the following:-

### Michael Francis

(Twyford Parent & Governor) – Michael Francis's first association with Twyford was as guardian for the son of a naval friend. He was so impressed with the School and Bob Wickham that his own sons, Mark, Tony and Benedict, attended Twyford between 1961 and 1975. He became a Governor in 1969, and was Chairman between 1975 and 1977. He remained a Trustee until 1999, by which time his son Anthony had returned to Twyford as a teacher of Science, where he remains a dedicated member of staff. The Francis connection at Twyford now spans 52 years of unbroken service.

Michael died on May 22nd after a short period of illness, but a longer battle with cancer.

### Derek Huffam

(Twyford Parent & Governor) – Derek was educated at Marlborough where his connection with Bob Wickham and Twyford School began. He served during the war in the 1st Kings Dragoon Guards, seeing action in the Western Desert, Italy, Greece and Syria and rising to the rank of Major. He joined Metal Box as a trainee and worked his way up to Vice-Chairman, retiring in 1979, during which time he sent his son, Christopher, to Twyford and served as a Trustee between 1965 and 1972.

Derek passed away on 31 October 2010 aged 89, followed by Sheila two weeks later after 63 years of marriage.

### John Thompson

(Twyford Staff & Governor) – John Thompson first joined the Twyford staff in 1940 after graduating from Cambridge. However, he was soon off to the war where he served in Iraq and India, before returning to Twyford in 1945. In typical altruistic fashion Reverend Bob Wickham advised John Thompson his talents were wasted at Twyford and advised him to apply to Marlborough. At Marlborough, he became a legend, combining teaching with playing for Warwickshire at cricket, becoming both Singles and Doubles National Racquets Champion, not to mention playing for England at Squash. However, he never forgot Twyford and served the School as a Trustee for many years.



In the words of Ali Robinson (Twyford 1978-83), who went on to learn under Thompson at Marlborough and later became World Doubles Racquets Champion:- *John Thompson was a remarkable man - clearly an extraordinary and inspirational sportsman - but far more than that. He always said he was a schoolmaster first and foremost and his teaching was almost paternal such was the unconditional support he gave.*

### Amy Vertannes nee Thomas

(1989-94) finished her education at UWE in Bristol, obtaining a degree in Media and Cultural Studies. There followed stints at Southampton Television and Sky Sports before becoming first Assistant Producer and then Producer for a shopping channel based at Teddington Studios. She continued in this profession up until August 2010, when her husband was offered the position of Head Coach for Arsenal Soccer School in Casablanca, Morocco. They relocated to Casablanca on September 2010, where Amy take all the photos for the soccer school and works in the office. They are both improving their French and enjoying the culture and sunshine!



### James Warrand

(1945-1946) returned to Twyford for the first time in 64 years in November 2010 whilst visiting from Australia for the naval memorial service at Southsea. James's father, Commander S.J.P. Warrand was killed when HMS Hood was sunk at the Battle of the Denmark Strait in 1942 ([www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com)).



*"My mother, who was an Australian, was anxious to return to Australia and her family after the war and managed to secure a berth for us on MV Wairangi, which sailed from Tilbury on 10/7/1946. I recall she came and picked me up from school a few days before we sailed. If my memory is accurate, it was a warm early summer morning and I was involved in picking gooseberries in the vegetable garden when she arrived."*

James has lived in Australia ever since. He and his wife Julie have just celebrated 50 years of marriage and have three children and seven grandchildren. He is retired and is warden of St Paul's Church, Cobbity, NSW and a volunteer for the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

## 'Twyford Society' is on Facebook!

We would like to keep you in touch with events and reunions at Twyford and, in time, introduce forums and networking opportunities. Please search us out and become a fan!



# Whisky tasting with a difference!

**Twyford, like many schools, can boast a number of current and past Olympians and international sportsmen and women amongst their alumni. But few can claim a three-time World Champion – in Elephant Polo!**



On 8th October 2010 Twyford School was served a treat as the charismatic **Peter Prentice** (Twyford 1969-74) returned to the School to share with guests his twin passions in life – Whisky and Elephant Polo.

As a Vice-President of Chivas Regal, responsible for sales across Asia, Peter led a delighted audience through a whisky journey, sampling scotches ranging from a newly distilled spirit to a rare 25 year malt. His knowledge proved extraordinary, as one would expect from a man awarded a 'Master of the Quaich' for services rendered to Scotland and Scotch Whisky. However, his presentation was wonderfully enlivened by anecdotes of his time representing whisky around the world, including his very first outing to South-West Africa where he only narrowly survived a SWARPO guerrilla attack.



When the tastings were finally over (Upper School has never smelt so good!), Old Twyfordians, staff and parents past and present enjoyed a sumptuous Thai feast prepared by the School's catering team. Afterwards, Peter rose to his feet once more and, using dramatic videos, educated those gathered on his other great passion – Elephant Polo.



Peter's involvement in this dramatic sport began when he met the legendary A.V. Jim Edwards during a business trip to Nepal in 1987. Since then, Peter has not only supported and helped expand the sport through introducing vital sponsorship, but has also been an enthusiastic participant, winning 3 World Cups, 5 King's Cups and 1 Trapobane Cup. In 2007 he was appointed Chairman of the World Elephant Polo Association and continues to be a leading advocate of the sport and, through it, elephant conservation in Asia.



Peter is married to Samantha and has two children - Anoushka (9) and Ben (7).

*Pictures courtesy of Peter Prentice and Equestrio Magazine*



THE TWYFORD SOCIETY PRESENTS

## Chateau Monty

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October - 7pm

It's a romantic notion. The stressed executive looking out of his office window on a grey rainy day and dreaming of giving it up to move to the South of France and grow wine.....

Well, this is exactly what one Old Twyfordian, **Matthew "Monty" Waldin** (Twyford 1977-80) actually did, when faced with his impending 40th birthday. Although already a successful wine critic and expert on bio-dynamic wine, Monty decided to 'put his money where his mouth was' and live the dream, renting a vineyard in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. But all did not go according to plan! Unpredictable weather, sceptical locals, an invasion of wild boar and a serious car crash were just a few of the things which conspired to ensure that this would be no holiday in the sun.....

On Friday 7th October, 2011, Monty is returning to Twyford after thirty years to talk of this life-changing experience and his career as a wine critic and, now, wine grower! His warm and witty story will appeal to wine lovers and Francophiles alike.

**Dinner and wine tasting are also included. Tickets - £20**  
See separate flyer



Regarded as the 'enfant terrible' of the wine world thanks to his opinionated view of the industry, Monty Waldin has nonetheless forged a successful career as a wine critic, and has written several award-winning books. He is a well-known (if slightly scoffed-at) advocate of biodynamics, which recognises how using medicinal plants, minerals, manure-based compost and even lunar cycles can produce better wines without costing the earth.



In 2007, Monty's experiences with wine growing became the subject of the acclaimed six-part Channel Four documentary, *Chateau Monty*.



# Missing Twyfordian Data

Regretfully, over the years the School's database has become extremely out of date. A huge effort has been made over the last two years to trace lost Old Twyfordians and install an effective database. However, there is still a long way to go.

Below is a list of all the Old Twyfordians we are still missing, listed by the decade they attended the School. We would be most grateful if you could check this list for any individuals for whom

you might know the whereabouts so we can keep them in touch with news and events at Twyford School.

Information can be sent to Luke Wordley, Twyford School, Twyford, Winchester SO21 1NW or by email to [lwordley@twyfordschool.com](mailto:lwordley@twyfordschool.com). This list is also available on the school website.

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1930s</b>			
Bolton	Edward	1934	1937
Braund	Peter	1934	1937
Burrell	Raymond	1934	1939
Cobb	William	1931	1934
Cochrane	James	1934	1939
Crosbie	John	1930	1934
Crosbie	Michael	1932	1936
Cunningham	Geoffrey	1938	1940
David	David Rhoderick	1939	1939
Forrest	Martin	1938	1941
Fryer	Anthony	1935	1940
Knight	Murison	1936	1937
Long	Denis	1938	1943
Longman	James	1931	1936
Nightingale	Ralph	1937	1940
Park	Alistair	1938	1942
Paulin	David	1933	1934
Pim	Anthony	1935	1940
Trehwella	Matthew	1935	1940
Washington	Ralph	1934	1938
Westby	David	1935	1940

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1940s</b>			
Argles	Anthony	1947	1951
Bennett	Peter	1946	1952
Brewer	David	1942	1944
Brewer	Christopher	1942	1944
Cary-Grey	Patrick	1943	1947
Fenton	Jonathan	1947	1952
Ferguson	Robert	1941	1946
Gardiner	Richard	1946	1951
Harrison	Christopher	1941	1942
Heal	John	1939	1943
Howell	John	1939	1943
Mallinson	John	1943	1948
Ponsford	Christopher	1946	1951
Rayner	John	1943	1947
Reynolds	David	1939	1940
Stacey	Mervyn	1939	1943
Staley	John	1947	1950
Taylor	Michael	1946	1948
Tighe	Antony	1940	1945
Walton	Edmund	1946	1951
Wann	Daniel	1939	1940
Welby	Herbert	1939	1944
Wheeler	Max	1944	1947
Wood	Thomas	1945	1951

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1950s</b>			
Aitken	Robert	1948	1952
Ansell	Nicholas	1952	1957
Baring	Guy	1955	1957
Bird	Stephen	1954	1959
Bird	Paul	1957	1959
Bird	Timothy	1959	1959
Blake	Richard	1953	1958
Brown	Richard	1954	1959
Cardew	Richard	1948	1952
Dallas	William	1952	1955
Dallas	Michael	1952	1957
Darley	Charles	1957	1962
Davenport	John	1951	1955
Davidson	Charles	1954	1958
Dixon	Timothy	1951	1956
Dixon	Nicholas	1954	1959
Dixon	Michael	1958	1960
Duke	Thomas	1953	1958
Fenton	Richard	1948	1953
Ferguson	John	1953	1958
Ford	John	1948	1953
Fradgley	John	1955	1960
Fraser	Ewan	1955	1960
Gale	Patrick	1954	1959
Galsworthy	John	1953	1957
Gardiner	Michael	1948	1953
Greenwood	John	1956	1961
Hamlyn	Richard	1956	1960
Hancock	Gerard	1957	1958
Hayward	Christopher	1954	1958
Hill	Stephen	1954	1959
Holdsworth	Roger	1952	1957
Hunt	Martin	1954	1959
Kayser	Charles	1955	1959
Kenber	Anthony	1956	1960
Lascelles	Peter	1950	1954
MacCaw	Robin	1953	1957
McMahon	Brian	1951	1955
McMahon	Shaun	1953	1958
Miller	William	1954	1957
Milles	John	1956	1961
Nunneley	William	1956	1961
Paris	James	1954	1958
Parsons	Richard	1958	1958
Pepper	Arthur	1951	1956
Pepper	Charles	1953	1959
Rowland	Nigel	1950	1951
Sanders	Robert	1956	1961
Schreiber	David	1948	1953
Sclater	Christopher	1948	1952
Shipley	John	1955	1958
Swanton	Roger	1948	1952
Swanton	Robin	1956	1961
Torrens-Spence	Michael	1956	1960
Vigne	Rodney	1953	1958
Walford	Charles	1952	1957
Warwick-Pendarves	Philip	1956	1961
Webster	Henry	1949	1955
Wood	Jonathan	1947	1953
Wood	William	1951	1955

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1960s</b>			
Avis	Timothy	1965	1970
Balfour	Mark	1966	1971
Baring	Alexander	1962	1966
Bird	Henry	1967	1971
Bishop	Peter	1967	1969
Cocks	James	1964	1968
Dixon	David	1964	1968
Eaton	Colby	1966	1967
Edwards	Rodney	1962	1966

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
Edwards	Oliver	1964	1968
Evered	Christopher	1962	1966
Fiddian-Green	Charles	1964	1966
Forsyth	Charles	1962	1966
Forsyth	William	1965	1969
Glover	Edward	1960	1965
Green	Stafford	1959	1964
Green	Alexander	1959	1964
Greenwood	David	1958	1963
Grew	Simon	1959	1961
Grimley	Reginald	1965	1971
Hadow	Michael	1960	1964
Hamlyn	Christopher	1959	1964
Hony	Guy	1963	1968
Hutchinson	Alexander	1957	1963
Ingram	Thomas	1966	1970
Jefferson	Julian	1958	1962
Keiller	Andrew	1965	1969
Lamb	Robin	1965	1968
Landale	Anthony	1966	1970
Lane	Henry	1958	1962
Lascelles	Hugo	1967	1968
Laskey	Edward	1958	1961
Le Gallais	Nicholas	1961	1964
Lloyd	Neil	1961	1966
Loader	Christopher	1957	1962
Maclean	Charles	1959	1964
Martineau	Michael	1962	1965
McCall	Charles	1965	1969
Mickleth	Peter	1964	1968
Morshead	Sam	1963	1966
Moss	Anthony	1958	1962
Moss	Andrew	1963	1968
Muncaster	Timothy	1968	1970
Newby	Jonathan	1959	1963
Nicholson	Timothy	1959	1964
Norman	Charles	1967	1971
Ollivant	Nicholas	1958	1963
Ollivant	Simon	1960	1965
Palmer	Timothy	1962	1965
Parker	Mark	1967	1971
Paterson	Geoffrey	1960	1964
Pearce	Roderick	1966	1971
Phillimore	Peter	1959	1963
Phillimore	Charles	1962	1966
Radway	Jay	1959	1962
Ridgeway	Stephen	1958	1964
Roth	Richard	1957	1961
Rowlandson	Piers	1958	1962
Saunderson	David	1965	1969
Saunderson	Richard	1965	1970
Sharp	Jeremy	1966	1968
Shaw	Graham	1966	1970
Simpson	John	1967	1970
Steinert	William	1968	1970
Stewart	Anthony	1958	1963
Travers-Smith	Robin	1968	1969
Travers-Smith	Richard	1966	1971
Tyler	Andrew	1966	1968
Vigne	Philip	1957	1961
Walford	Thomas	1957	1962
Walker	Timothy	1964	1969
Webster	Adrian	1958	1964
Woodhouse	Robin	1959	1964

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1970s</b>			
Allen	Mark	1968	1972
Anderson	Mark	1967	1972
Avis	Simon	1970	1974
Avis	Marc	1973	1976
Baker	Martin	1968	1973
Bates	Michael	1977	1980
Bencard	Robin	1971	1976
Bencard	Piers	1973	1978
Bingham	Philip	1970	1975
Bingham	Hugh	1972	1977
Bjelke	Fin	1977	1980
Blockley	John Edward	1977	1978
Bridgeman	Timothy	1970	1974
Bridgeman	David	1972	1977
Burridge	James	1970	1973
Cameron-Clarke	Patrick	1977	1981
Carlisle	James	1975	1980
Carter	James	1972	1977
Chattock	Richard	1973	1977
Cole	James	1976	1978
Collins	Clive	1970	1974
Collins	Robert	1978	1981
Cooper	Matthew	1973	1975
Corsie	Lloyd	1977	1980
Covell	James	1969	1973
Covell	Alexander	1972	1973
Cox	Julian	1977	1980
Cox	Louis	1980	1980
Davies	Matthew	1977	1981
Davies	Benjamin	1979	1981
Dickinson	Anthony	1974	1978
Drake	Jonathan	1978	1981
Eden	Robert	1972	1975
Eden	John	1973	1975
Fry	Timothy	1969	1973
Fry	Alastair	1972	1977
Fry	Julian	1973	1978
Gordon	Ian	1968	1973
Gordon	David	1971	1976
Govett	John	1970	1973
Hawkins	Jonathan	1974	1975
Helm	Timothy	1977	1980
Hucker	Nicholas	1972	1974
Hunt	Neil	1967	1972
Jeffrey	Andrew	1977	1977
Johnson	Peter	1969	1973
Knights	Quentin	1977	1979
L'Herminier	Christopher	1970	1973
Locke	Julian	1974	1977
Longworth-Krafft	Andrew	1972	1975
Mackay	Angus	1975	1980
Mackereth	William	1975	1979
Mackereth	Edward	1976	1981
Mackrill	Benjamin	1967	1972
McMurrugh	Mark	1977	1979
Nestel	Steven	1975	1980
Oliver	James	1975	1980
Palmer-Becret	Morgan	1975	1980
Peisley	Andrew	1976	1978
Powell	James	1967	1972

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
Radcliffe	David	1974	1978
Radcliffe	Julian	1974	1978
Rickett	Charles	1971	1976
Roger	Matthew	1977	1980
Rose	David	1974	1978
Rowe	David	1967	1972
Ruscombe-King	Justin	1972	1977
Salter	Richard	1973	1978
Saunderson	Thomas	1970	1974
Schreiber	Piers	1972	1977
Shaw	Rupert	1977	1977
Shears	Toby	1974	1979
Stanley	Charles	1969	1973
Stanley	Harry	1971	1976
Stolz	Matthew	1977	1981
Thomas	Mark	1976	1978
Turner	Phillip	1975	1980
Vincent	Alan	1976	1978
Wadham	Christopher	1968	1973
Walters	Guy	1969	1974
Wilkie	James	1975	1978
Wilson	Phillip	1976	1980
Wollen	Christopher	1972	1975

Surname	Firstname	Year Entered	Year Left
<b>1980s</b>			
Allison	Stuart	1986	1989
Bennett		1987	
Bessey	Edward		1986
Blockley	Timothy	1980	1983
Bolger	Felix	1983	1984
Brooks	Anthony	1980	
Brown	Michael	1985	1989
Burch	Aidan	1978	1983
Catalina	Alejandro	1982	
Challis	Thomas	1981	1985
Chamberlain	Edward	1976	1982
Chiesa	Mark	1986	1989
Clark	James	1980	1984
Combes	John	1978	1982
Copus	David		1985
Corlett	Ewan	1985	
Coveyduck	James	1986	1988
Coveyduck	Christopher	1987	1990
Davies			1986
Denton-Thompson	Isla	1989	1991
Denton-Thompson	Guy	1989	1991
d'Estais	Mathias	1976	
Dixon	Alastair	1981	
Draper	Thomas	1989	1991
Drew	Alexander	1986	1990
Duncan			1985
Edwards	Alastair	1981	
Elliott	Ian	1977	1982
Featherston-Dilke	Edmund	1979	1982
Fielden	Thomas	1980	1982
Finch	Anthony	1985	1989
Fletcher	Timothy	1981	
Glisson	Andrew	1989	1991
Ghodwin	James	1989	1990
Gray	Sarah	1988	1990
Griffiths			1988
Gunton	Nicholas	1979	1984
Hanks	Mark	1986	1990
Hardie	William	1985	1989
Head	Richard	1986	1990
Hendry	Andrew	1986	1988
Hess	Daniel	1986	1990
Hewitt	Richard	1984	1989
Hughes	Richard	1978	1983
Hughes	Robert	1978	1984
Hughes	Martin	1989	1989
Hunt	Richard	1987	1987
Kats	Rudolf	1986	1989
Legg	James	1978	1984
Lewin-Harris	James	1978	



## 2010 Leavers

Congratulations to all 2010 leavers on their successful graduation to their Senior Schools.

Special mention goes to our scholars:- **Giles Dibden** to Marlborough (Academic), **Georgia Hoile** to K.E.S (Academic), **Rowley Haynes** to Marlborough (Art), **Marida Ianni-Ravn** to K.E.S (Art), **Susanna Flory** to St Edwards, Oxford (Music), **Michael Meyer** to Winchester College (Music), **Guy Rawson-Smith** to Dauntsey's (Sport), **Charlie Toyne-Sewell** to Sherborne (Sport).

# New Book brings Twyford's History Alive!

In September, for the 201st time in its history, the corridors of Twyford School resonated with the sound of excited school children arriving for a new academic year.

However, there might just have been a tinge of disappointment amongst them about the manner of their arrival for, over the summer holiday, many will have read that for much of the last two centuries their forbears arrived at the beginning of term in a dedicated Twyford School carriage on the train from Waterloo Station!

This is just one of hundreds of fascinating facts and anecdotes detailed in a superb new 'Illustrated History of Twyford School'. This book has been meticulously researched and beautifully written by the School's archivists, Roger Porteous and John Stott, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Twyford School's move to its current site from elsewhere in the village.

Drawing upon extensive archive material and early photographs taken by Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll - author of Alice in Wonderland - whose brothers attended Twyford, the first portion of the book paints an amazing picture of life in a nineteenth century boarding prep school. From earwig hunts to Sundays spent roaming the South Downs, pupils enjoyed and at times endured an extraordinary existence.

And despite its small size, with around 40 boys for most of the nineteenth century, the School managed to produce and nurture some

remarkable talents including Hubert Parry, composer of 'Jerusalem', and Thomas Hughes, author of 'Tom Brown's School Days'.

Stepping forward into the 20th century, the book charts life at Twyford during the traumatic war years, during which hundreds of Old Twyfordians fought and many lost their lives. Poignant reports of heroism and suffering are outlined, whilst life at Twyford remained largely unchanged except for the occasional excitement, as when the boarding master assisted in the arrest of a downed German air crew!

Finally, the book brings the Twyford School story right up to date, charting the School's remarkable recent growth and development into one of the leading preparatory schools in the country. Today, the School's roll is 380 boys and girls ranging from 3 - 13 years of age.

As the School steps forward into its third century on the current site, this book provides Twyford's children with a wonderful insight into the heritage of this remarkable School.

Thanks to a generous donor who sponsored production of the book, the 'Illustrated History' is available to all Old Twyfordians who would like to receive a copy. If you would like a copy, and have not already received one, please email Fiona at [fkeeling@twyfordschool.com](mailto:fkeeling@twyfordschool.com)

Additional copies are available for sale from P&G Wells Bookshop in Winchester for £16.00, or by contacting Twyford School on 01962 717097.



Twyford children with authors Roger Porteous (left) and John Stott (right) with publisher George Mann



A photograph of Twyford School taken by Charles Dodgson in 1858



## Become a Friend of the Twyford Society

At the end of 2010 we launched a new "Friends of the Twyford Society" scheme.

Through this scheme, individuals or families can become Friends, Benefactors, Fellows or Patrons of the Twyford Society, by making a one-off or regular donation to Twyford School. Each year, money raised through the Twyford Society will fund a range of projects, activities and life experiences that will help pupils to aspire to and achieve great things in their lives. These will be reported upon within this magazine and other publications each year.

Since its launch in November 2010, this initiative has raised over £36,000 for future projects at Twyford and we would like to thank the following people who have kindly contributed:-

**Michael Audland** (32-37), **Geoffrey Bennett** (38-40), **Gerald & Wendy Bryan** (Parents 63-68), **Peter Cobb** (48-52), **John Day** (51-55), **John Eyre** (45-49), **Robert Jennings** (47-51), **John Lever** (Governor), **Mark Loveday** (52-56), **Mark Lowth** (34-39), **George Marsh** (Past Governor), **William Pakenham** (48-50), **David Panter** (44-48), **Jonathan Parker** (46-51), **John Parry-Wingfield** (43-47), **Peter Spreckley** (47-52), **Nigel Stevenson** (45-49), **John Stott** (Past Bursar), **Edward Studd** (36-42), **Gil Swanton** (46-51), **Mark Synge** (62-66), **John Woolley** (45-51), **Richard Zorab** (54-59)

A Twyford Society Support Form is enclosed with this magazine. If you have any questions about this scheme, or any fundraising matter, please contact the Development Director, Luke Wordley, on 01962 717097, or by email to [lwordley@twyfordschool.com](mailto:lwordley@twyfordschool.com)



Until 31st August 2011 'Fellows' and 'Patrons' of the Twyford Society are welcome to have their name carved into an oak beam in the new Mulberry Pavilion. In doing so, they can quite literally carve their family's name into the fabric of Twyford School for all time!

## Your Feedback

Twyford Life is your magazine - we welcome feedback, letters and news items you may wish to contribute or suggestions for items you would like to see covered. You may have photographs or anecdotal stories to share, although we can't promise to use them. Contact the Editor Luke Wordley at: [lwordley@twyfordschool.com](mailto:lwordley@twyfordschool.com)

If you know of anyone who has not received this magazine but you think would like to do so, please forward their details to us.