

Twyford LIFE



Twyford School

MAGAZINE OF THE TWYFORD SOCIETY JULY 2019

ISSUE 14



TWYFORD 2019

We have managed to pack so much in at School since the last issue of Twyford Life:

In March, we celebrated World Science Week with a focus on space travel – including a brilliant day of rocket-themed activities, involving making and launching 30+ rockets ourselves; Years 6 & 7 put on a splendid production of *Oliver!*, directed by James Christie and David Hall. So much sport, including competing in the National Fencing Championships, Prep Schools' Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships, winning the Southern Region Schools' Skiing Championships, and entering in the IAPS Sailing Championships! The Outdoor Pursuits programme, Twyford Explorers, has been in full swing, with Years 3, 4 and 5 having completed their New Forest residential expeditions in May, and after the June exams, the senior years headed off: Year 6 to Marlow, Year 7 to Aberdovey and Year 8 to Pembrokeshire. The Summer Term

has just drawn to a close, which means we bid a fond farewell to some Year 6 and all Year 8 pupils as they start their next journey onto senior schools.

Last term we said farewell to Andrew Keeling, after loyal service over nearly 21 years. He will continue to work with the school as Archivist, and he will remain a regular contributor to Twyford Life. The imminent arrival of another grandchild has persuaded Rosy Greenleaf to retire from Twyford having reduced her teaching more recently to take on her very valuable role as School Counsellor. Rosy has been a key member of the staff team as Head of Art, then more recently in helping children with aspects of anxiety. And we will also be saying farewell to Greg Bishop, as he retires after 30 years at Twyford. It is difficult to imagine Twyford without Greg; his soothing New Zealand tones calmly keeping everything running in school. As Second Master Greg has

supported several Headmasters, and I count myself lucky that I have had his wisdom and cool head to consult.

I have decided that it is also time for me to step out of my role at Twyford, and will retire in July 2020 after 10 years as Head. All schools need a change at the top before things go stale, and I have been privileged to lead such a wonderful school for so long. I have a year to get used to the idea of retirement, after 40 years in boarding education – but that is a year in which a steady process of recruitment can take place. The Governors have engaged a leading firm to assist and advise in this task.

This issue of Twyford Life continues to draw to our attention fascinating snippets from Twyford's past, with more to colour the picture of the School's long history. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Steve Bailey
Headmaster

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CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

We have enjoyed a new departure in the sporting arena this year, enthusiastically supported by our parents, and have entered two clay pigeon shooting competitions.

The first was organised by 'School Notices' at the Holland and Holland Shooting Ground in March. The team performed very well

being placed 4th out of the nine prep schools competing. This was the team's first outing and they rose to a challenging set of stands, showed great team spirit, sportsmanship, mutual support and encouragement, courtesy, good skills and, above all, safe gun handling. The team was well supported by parents and all enjoyed their day out. Following the success and enthusiasm of the team, they were entered into the IAPS clay pigeon championships in May, at the West London Shooting School where they finished 7th out of 20 schools in the U12 section.



ECO-WARRIORS

The Eco-Schools programme is pupil-led and involves the whole school in exciting environmental projects.

Our Eco-Warriors are very proud of their bronze award which is the first step to being accredited as a 'green school'. We are hard at work towards the silver award and we hope to be fully 'green' by next year. To achieve the bronze award, the children created an eco-board (on the corridor wall towards the dining room) full of information about what they have learnt and discussed over the last year. We are in the process of introducing different school initiatives to become more eco-friendly including car sharing, recycling points for events and upcycling some of our furniture!



The children have presented their findings in assemblies and have written to the bursar with different ways the school can be greener, including motion sensor lightbulbs and double glazing! With thanks to Miss Higham and Miss Ringelberg for their energy and enthusiasm.

OLIVER!

The Year 6&7 play is keenly awaited by parents and pupils alike, and this year expectations were surpassed with a rousing production of Oliver!

The children's full and busy timetable always seems to thwart the progress of

rehearsals and this term was no exception. It is fair to say that a certain amount of panic had set in (at least among the adults involved) by the time we reached the week of performance. As ever, though, the cast rose to the occasion when it really mattered.

It is always fascinating to see how young actors blossom in front of an audience of grown-ups.

Having entertained the rest of the

school with a very promising dress rehearsal, the whole cast seemed to step up a gear for the two evening performances to parents. In particular, those in the key roles, Finn Rydon, Dom Jackson, Jazzy Finney and Hector Taggart, led magnificently by Alice Clegg (as Fagin!) grew in stature as they reacted to the warm applause of a very enthusiastic adult audience.

Supported by a wonderful band

of musicians (including Year 8 music scholar, Louisa Paterson and Mr Keeling on the Tuba) all those on stage played their parts with infectious energy and enthusiasm. The audiences were generous with both their applause and their cash, donating a total of £658 to our collection for the school's nominated charities.

By James Christie, Head of English.



ART EXHIBITION

The gargantuan task of staging an Art exhibition in the Mulberry Pavilion took place last term, with every child from Year 3 to Year 8 having a piece of work on display.

The Mulberry Pavilion came into its own as an exhibition space; a school of giant papier-maché fish were suspended from the oak beams swimming through the air; grotesque ceramic gargoyles graced the walls, self-portraits both in pencil and low-relief ceramic were striking in resemblance to the artists, lino-printed wood panels and cushions displayed the results of our visiting artist last term, insect inspired postage stamp designs, ice cream sundae collages and abstract close-up studies of plants and animals were all on view and the ceramic owls and pumpkins completed the display. It created a dazzling and impressive array of what the children have been

working on, and Mrs Hinxman and Mrs Johnson worked tirelessly to achieve the stunning results.

As Head of Art, Lianne Hinxman writes: I hope the majority of you made it along to the Art exhibition at the end of the last term. I am always very proud of the artwork the children at Twyford produce and this was a wonderful opportunity to share and celebrate their efforts in the classroom.

It was always my intention to make this an inclusive exhibition and include artwork from every child in the prep school. The children were proud to show both their parents and teachers what they had displayed in the Mulberry Pavilion. I would like to also recognise the efforts of Clare Johnson my technician who lead the curation and hanging of the show. I hope your children were inspired by seeing their work displayed professionally and that their creative juices are now flowing at home too!



BEDFORD’S UNIFORM LIST

The uniform list and requisite name tapes are the bane of many modern parents’ lives but they existed in the early nineteenth century as well!

Twyford School has been on this site since 1809 and the Reverend James Gover Bedford was Headmaster from 1815-1833. Bedford kept complete School lists, in a slim volume, entitled ‘List of boys at the Rev’d J.G. Bedford’s per half (many schools ran a two-term year hence the reference to half).

Alongside the lists of names can be found the clothes list: *“The usual list of Linen etc. brought by each boy to the Rev’d James Gover Bedford*

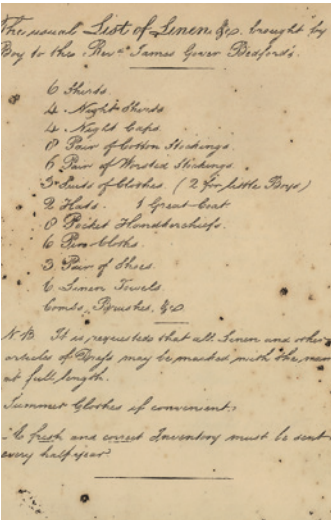
- 6 Shirts
- 4 Night Shirts
- 4 Night Caps
- 8 pair of Cotton Stockings
- 6 pair of Worsted Stockings
- 3 Suits of Clothes (2 for little boys)
- 2 Hats
- 1 Great Coat
- 8 Pocket Handkerchiefs
- 6 Pin Cloths
- 3 pairs of Shoes
- 6 Linen Towels Combs, Brushes etc.

N.B: It is requested that all Linen and other articles of dress may be marked with the name at full length.

Summer clothes if convenient.

A fresh and correct inventory must be sent every half year.”

So no mention of underclothes of any sort; winters must have been chilly with the only heating being provided from open fires, although cosy with night caps in bed! Nor of course, were there any special clothes for games. Pin cloths were neckerchiefs, the equivalent to our ties.



BEDFORD’S UNIFORM LIST

PORTRAIT OF A TWYFORDIAN

The Hall is the hub of the School; the thoroughfare of our community. Children pass through on their way to and from bevers, lunch, matrons, the hub and boarding, the staff go to and from the staff room, and our parents pass through the Hall on their way in and out of school.

A portrait of a boy is nestled between the honours boards with his trusty lurcher-style dog by his side. A small plaque at the bottom of the frame gives details of his name and dates but who has stopped to fully read the details? The inscription reads:

“Frederick Bell Pryor 1830
A pupil with the Revd. J G Bedford 1830-1833. This picture was a gift to the School from his daughter, Mrs W Shirley, in 1901 (11 of Mrs Shirley’s relatives were Twyfordians).”

The portrait is a photographic copy of the portrait and was presented to Twyford in 1901 by his daughter Alice Shirley.

Her connections to Twyford were manifold: Her father Frederick Pryor, and his brother, her father in law and his two brothers, her husband, the Rev William Shirley, her two brothers in law and her three sons were all at Twyford; in total, 11 members of her family!

Frederick Bell Pryor’s father kept a diary and he describes Frederick’s first day at Twyford in 1830:

October 9 1830: Proceeded to Twyford in a post chaise at 12 o’clock, three miles from Winchester, found Mr and Mrs Bedford at home expecting us. We went over the whole establishment, which gave both my wife and myself great satisfaction.



FREDERICK BELL PRYOR

Mr Bedford himself is blind, but a very superior man. There are four masters besides in the School and Mrs Bedford is a most intelligent and active lady. There are 50 boys and it requires two or three years to get admission. We left dear Fred very comfortable.

Frederick went to Winchester College and Oxford where he was a Fellow of New College for some years. As many students did, he got heavily into debt whilst at Oxford and was pressed into ordination by his father. He married in 1849 and became Rector of Bennington, Hertfordshire in 1851.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE BOOT BOY

90 years ago, day to day life at the School was rather different; not least the existence of the role of a boot boy!

Young Reg Mundy left school in August 1927, directly he was 14. After a few weeks the job of boot-boy at Twyford School fell vacant and Reg got the job.

Work began at 6.30 am and so Reg was up betimes. There were two boot-boys employed and they were under the direction of Fred Stratton, the caretaker. Fred expected the job to go like clockwork. They had to clean two classrooms, clear the fireplaces, lay and light the fires. The other classrooms were cleaned by maids but the two boys had to carry buckets of coal to all the rooms. If it was really cold there would

be fires in the dormitories as well. All this had to be done by 7.30am when the boys appeared. The scullery maid had an even harder time. She had to be up at 5.30 am to light the kitchen range and take the cook a cup of tea. No fun on a cold morning trying to boil a kettle on a reluctant fire. Cook and kitchen maid had to be down before seven to make breakfast for everyone. The staff had breakfast at 7.45am and by this time, Reg was well ready for his!

At a quarter to nine, work started again. All the shoes had to be cleaned, the oil lamps filled, the waste bins emptied. They carried coke to the boilers, swept all the cloisters and passages, chopped kindling ready for the next day. Twelve noon brought dinner and an hour’s respite, although one boy had to walk down to the Post Office with the postbag. In the afternoon, the two boys helped with the washing up, cleaned the gym and carpenter’s shop, scraped and cleaned the football boots.

Sunday was slightly easier, work didn’t start until seven o’clock and some of the day was free. However, they had to be back at five in the afternoon to clean the

boys’ boots; they hated this job. Every year they were given a new suit. Fred Stratton took them to Burton’s in Winchester to be measured for it. On Sundays they had to wear their best suit and woe betide them if it got dirty. The schoolboys spent Sunday afternoons out walking with some of the masters and they often came back with their boots plastered with mud. Reg and his friend made themselves aprons from sugar sacks to try and keep the mud off their suits. All the boots had to be scraped and cleaned before half past six when the two boys were free to go to evening service in the village church. All the schoolboys had a pair of brown boots. Mr Hewlett, the saddler, fitted them all

with studs in the summer for playing cricket. In winter the boots were fitted with bars for playing football.

Boot boys were only employed until they were sixteen. Luckily, one of the gardeners retired at just the right moment and Reg took his place. He worked in the gardens, rising from garden boy to reliable gardener, until 1940 when he joined the RAF. At the end of the war he came back to the school gardens and rose to be Head Gardener. He left Twyford in 1952 to work in Winchester.

With acknowledgements to D. Pearce and S.Crooks ‘Twyford, Ringing the Changes’ George Mann publications 1999.



FRED STRATTON (BACK, RIGHT) AND HOUSEHOLD STAFF, 1955

MATCH OF THE DAY

The following entry in the archives from the 1933 Twyfordian shows that interest in football is not just a modern passion:

“On March 4th, a party of 20 boys went down to Southampton with Mr McDonell (Headmaster), Major Bull, and Mr Davies to watch a professional football match at

“The Dell” football ground, between Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur.

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr G. H. Muir and the officials of the Southampton Club we were allotted excellent seats and had a good view of the match, which ended in a draw of one goal all. The skill of the players on the sodden ground was a revelation to most of us, and

we were particularly impressed with the play of the Tottenham goalkeeper.”

Old rivalries run deep between the clubs and many members of our current staff and children would happily watch Southampton v Spurs in the 2019 Premier league!



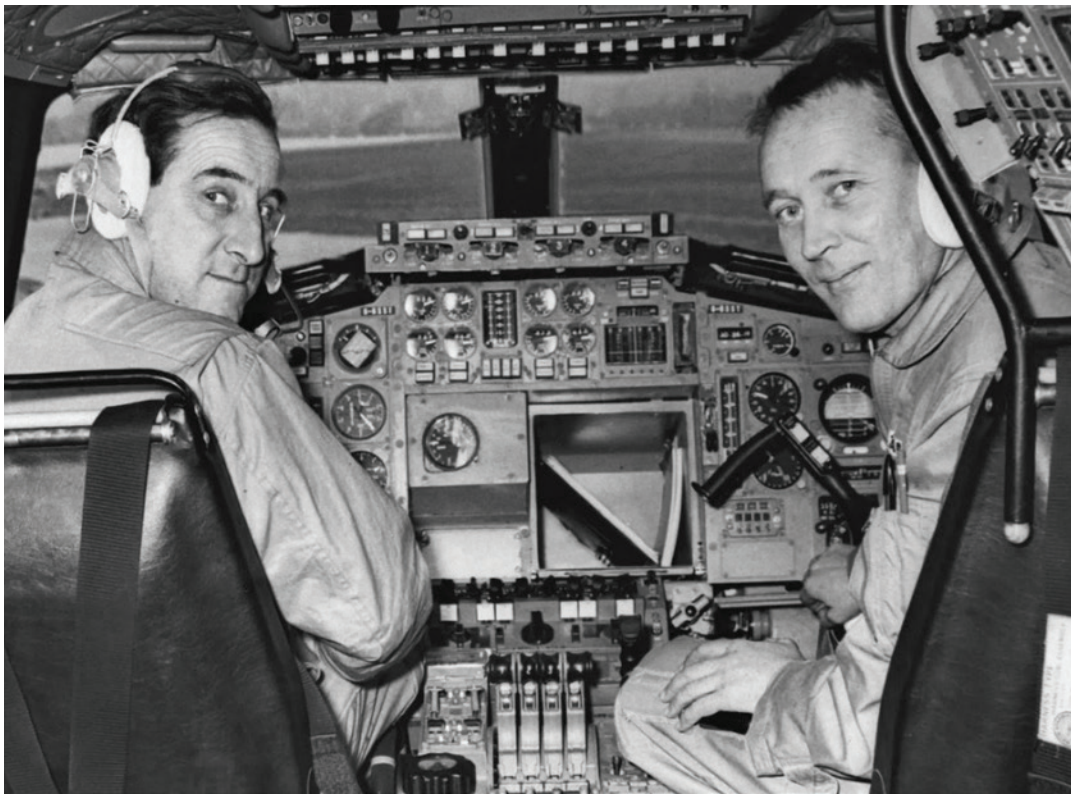
THE DELL, 1930



CONCORDE’S CONNECTIONS WITH TWYFORD

The 50th anniversary of the inaugural flight of Concorde was celebrated in 2019. Twyford School has not one but two Old Twyfordians who were very closely involved with the development and early flight years of Concorde; Brian Trubshaw (OT 1937) and Christopher Orlebar (OT 1958).

In April 1969, Brian Trubshaw was in the cockpit of 002 the first British Concorde on its maiden flight. 002 was one of the two prototypes taken all over the world on route-proving flights, including a 30,000 mile tour to Australia. When Trubshaw stepped down from the cockpit on that inaugural test flight in Fairford, Gloucestershire, he announced 'It was wizard. A cool, calm and collected operation!'



BRIAN TRUBSHAW, LEFT, ON THE MAIDEN FLIGHT OF BRITISH CONCORDE, 1969



CONCORDE TAKES OFF

The age of the Concorde and supersonic passenger travel had begun. The first supersonic commercial flight started in 1976 with transatlantic flights running between France and UK to USA and Barbados. Christopher Orlebar used to joke that supersonic travel was good for you because, when travelling westbound, you would get younger by arriving before you departed, and because Concorde expanded at supersonic speeds by up to 1 foot, it afforded passengers extra leg room! Brian Trubshaw left Twyford in 1937 and went to Winchester College. He joined the RAF in 1942 and in 1946 was selected as one of the 8 Transport command captains to fly the Vickers Vikings of the King's Flight.

His first duty was the royal tour of South Africa in 1947 and he was known as 'my Brian' by the Queen. From 1950 he was an experimental test pilot for Vickers-Armstrong which in time became the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC). He became the Director of test flights and it was in this capacity that he led Britain's participation in the highly successful development programme of the Anglo-French Concorde. When he retired in 1986 he had logged more than 11,000 flying hours on over 100 aircraft types! Charles Orlebar left Twyford in 1958 and went to Rugby School. After a stint at Southampton University and time in Australia as a jackaroo, he joined the University Air Squadron (RAF)

flying out of the Hamble. On graduating in 1969 he joined BOAC, the forerunner of British Airways, as he knew it would be operating Concorde. Indeed, his first flight with Concorde was in 1976 and he flew it more than 1,000 times over the next ten years. He settled with his family in Surrey, and his wife knew that when Concorde flew overhead she had an hour to make dinner! Orlebar knew the aircraft so well that in 1985 he was commissioned to write the official history 'The Concorde Story'.

THE WEST WINDOW, TWYFORD CHAPEL

The West window in Chapel was dedicated in 1903 as a memorial to Latham Wickham (Headmaster 1862 – 1887). It is of the highest quality and unexpected in a small Victorian school chapel; it was the work of the studio of the renowned pre-Raphaelite stained-glass artist Charles Kempe.

Kempe himself was an Old Twyfordian (OT 1851) although letters home reveal not such a happy school experience, perhaps not helped by his stammer; from Twyford he went onto Rugby School and then Pembroke College, Oxford.

A severe stammer prevented him from following a religious vocation and he subsequently studied ecclesiastical architecture under one of the leading church architects of the day, G.F. Bodley; 'If I was not permitted to minister in the Sanctuary, I would use my talents to adorn it'.

Bodley encouraged Kempe to travel round Britain and overseas to study and sketch medieval window designs in churches and cathedrals. It is thought that Kempe's particular interest in stained glass stemmed from his dissatisfaction with glass he had ordered from a supplier and he decided that he could do better.

In 1866, Kempe opened a studio of his own in London supplying and creating stained glass and furnishings.



ANGELS IN THE WEST WINDOW, TWYFORD CHAPEL

The firm prospered and by 1899 he had over 50 employees. He was fortunate that Kempe Studios began in a period when church architecture and rebuilding was in vogue. This spiritual renaissance of the Victorian period led to many medieval churches being rebuilt and as such there was a demand for suppliers of materials and architectural knowledge; Kempe had found a ready market for his glass. Kempe's studios produced over 4,000 windows as well as designs for altars, altar frontals, furniture and memorials that helped define a late 19th century Anglican style. Throughout his career he encouraged the young artists joining his studios to learn as he had done, paying for them to travel to France and Northern Europe to see the medieval stained glass in the great Cathedrals there.

As a trademark, the firm used a golden garb or wheat sheaf, taken from Kempe's coat of arms. You can see the wheat sheaf in the Twyford window on the furthest left panel.

Windows by Kempe can also be identified by their rich colours off-set by horn-white glass

and by their composition and the quality of the draughtsmanship, especially of the faces in which the influence of artists such as Durer can be increasingly noted.

The figures in Kempe's windows are always finely clothed; their robes often embellished with jewel-like pieces of deeply coloured glass or decorated with pearls (visible in the Twyford windows) each pearl or jewel was carefully highlighted and etched before and after the glass had been fired. Another distinctive feature of his windows are the angels' wings ending with peacock feather tips. If you look carefully at the variety of angels in the Twyford windows, you can see that the tips of the angels' wings end in peacock 'eyes'.

The figures in the Twyford chapel are, from left to right, St Christopher, St Nicholas, John the Baptist (patron saint of the chapel) and William of Wykeham, patron saint of education and theoretical ancestor of the Wickham family.

Kempe's work can also be seen locally in Winchester Cathedral

(the Jane Austen Memorial window) and Compton Church. In celebration of the 150th year of the Twyford School Chapel, a service took place on the 25th June 2019 followed by a lunch in the Old Dining Room.



WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM

TWYFORD SOCIETY GOLF DAY

The usual May Golf event did not take place this year; the plan instead is to hold the event on Saturday 20th October. This will be the 10th year of the Golfing day so let's make it the biggest and best yet!

Please contact Twyfordsociety@twyfordschool.com if you would be interested in playing. It is open to all alumni, staff, current and past parents – everyone in our community. Cost of entry is £50 per person, which includes a bacon bap on arrival and a meal at the end.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Copies of the 'Twyfoodian' Cookbook and 'Twyfordians in the 1st World War' are still available to buy from the School Office.

The Twyfoodian costs £20 plus postage and 'Twyfordians in the 1st World War' costs £13 plus postage. Please contact twyfordsociety@twyfordschool.com if you would like to buy a copy.

RETIRING TEACHERS:

2019 marks the end of an era; both Greg Bishop (30 years at Twyford) and Rosy Greenleaf (28 years at Twyford) retired at the end of the Summer term, which combined with Andrew Keeling who retired in March after 21 years at Twyford, totals an impressive 79 years (or 237 terms) of service!

How to sum up their invaluable input? It is almost impossible, as they have each contributed so much to so many in the School; to both pupils and staff alike. The Art, Maths and History departments will keenly feel their departures and the unenviable task of setting the timetable, which was Greg Bishop's responsibility, will fall into new hands!

Between the 3 they have been on every School trip that Twyford has offered over the years: Ski trips, Cricket trips (South Africa and Barbados) Battlefields of the Somme trip, Choir trips, Year 8 leavers trips in France, Geography field trips at Calshot, and many residential trips.

All three have taught their own children at school, and when asked what their funniest memories were, each replied that the answers were classified/non-repeatable! But Greg Bishop tells an entertaining story of hide and seek being played one break-time; on walking into Upper School, he saw a pair of legs disappear up the chimney. When the boy finally re-appeared, trying to keep a straight face whilst telling off a soot-covered boy was very hard! A little known fact about Greg is that his nickname in the early years was 'the Ogre'.

Hard to even fathom the number of reports that they have written

between them, nor the number of children they have taught, which must be over the 1,200 mark. Indeed they have recently found themselves teaching children of parents that they had taught!

We wish them well in their retirements and look forward to welcoming Andrew into the archives team.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 7th September

Reunion lunch for 2010/2011 leavers

Saturday 20th October

Golf day

BARBADOS REUNION

In 1994 the Twyford 1st XI toured Barbados and to celebrate this 25th anniversary we held a reunion BBQ on Sunday 9th June.

Nine of the original team attended, with their families and children along with many of their parents who accompanied the original tour. It was a lovely occasion and Greg Bishop held court over the BBQ!

