

# Twyford LIFE



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## TWYFORD 2019

The clocks going back usually signals a Pavlovian response in a school teacher telling us that it is now harder to fit everything into our daylight hours; children always perform better in daylight than when darkness comes and that along with the approach of the Festive Season comes 'Report Writing Season' which can strike fear into the bravest soul!

But, at Twyford, we always have so much to look forward to in the second half of term that the weeks fly by. Immediately after half term, the fantastic fireworks display takes place, kindly organised by the Twyford Parents' Association. It is then only a short time before the Christmas Fair, with monies raised going to the charities nominated by the Prep and the Pre-Prep School Councils.

We start to audition readers for the Carol Services, and we also audition for principal parts in the Year 6/Year 7 Musical for performance next term. Of course, the Choirs have been underway with the music for the Carol Services from before half term, but the serious work gets going now.

We have the Staff versus Parents matches at football and netball, keenly fought but with the staff having held their own most recently. Of course, this is on top of our usual routines: plenty of lessons, trips, music and sport, together with a fair sprinkling of academic pre-testing for Year 6 and some Year 7 pupils for admissions to their senior schools. As you will see a bit further into this edition of Twyford Life, we make the

announcement of my successor as Headmaster. The process of selection was very involved, and the last stage included two days for the shortlisted candidates to spend at Twyford, where they each had to face the Prep and Pre-Prep School Councils, take House Assemblies, lessons to teach and observe in both Pre-Prep and Prep, meet all the staff, before finally, they had to submit to formal interviews and presentations for Governors!

**Steve Bailey**  
Headmaster

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## THE CHAIRMEN

Year 8 pupil Amelia has been successful in submitting a piece of art into the inaugural Young Artists' Summer show at the Royal Academy, held for the first time this year.

The RA Young Artists' Summer Show recognises artworks made by talented young artists at primary and secondary school level, championing the importance of the arts and creative thinking in education. Two judging panels of RA artists selected 329 pieces of art from over 6200 entries; Amelia's was one of 139 pieces chosen to be on display at the Royal Academy over the Summer.

All 329 pieces could be viewed online in a digital exhibition.

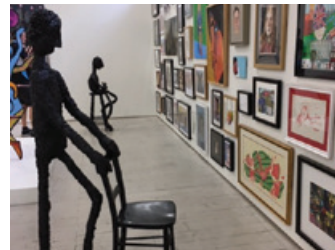
Amelia's 'Chairmen' started life as a Summer holiday project in 2018. The brief was to upcycle an old chair with a connection to an artist; she chose Giacometti to inspire her work and created the seated man out of recycled materials - wire, old newspaper to make papier-mache and paint.

The 'Man standing with Chair' was made by the same process and materials during the Easter 2019 holidays in order to compliment the first sculpture and create this eye-catching 'Chairmen' exhibit.

Amelia is really interested in working with recycled materials and loves a trip to the recycling

centre in Winchester to seek inspiration and find materials for her next project! She is currently working on a project with old bicycle tyres, spokes and clay.

Lianne Hinxman, Head of Art, read about the RA Young Artists Summer Show and felt compelled to enter Amelia's 'Chairmen'. We are very proud of Amelia's success and look forward to seeing her next creation!



## POLITICAL CORRESPONDENCE

An English research project by Year 5 in the Summer term with Mr Mathar resulted in a correspondence with our local Winchester MP Steve Brine.

Taking a topical issue and starting with the question: 'Can ordinary people save the seas from plastic pollution?'



led to lots of other questions and the children thought about how to find reliable sources of information.

Writing a balanced information text discussing whether ordinary people could save the seas from plastic pollution, the children felt moved to do something themselves; how could we give them a voice? Year 5 thought about starting a petition but decided that writing to our local MP would have more impact.

You will be pleased to hear that Steve Brine took the time over the summer to respond to the 54 letters. He meticulously read each letter and has crafted an elaborate response, making especial mention of Jack Mercer's handwriting (well done Jack!). And well done to the whole year group for making their voices heard and for engaging in our political system.

## SOS – CHERITON PHONE BOX

When Will in Year 7, noticed that the red telephone box in his village was under threat, he came up with the perfect venue for the village's first defibrillator machine, which his primary school had fundraised monies for.



He researched BT's 'adopt a phone box' scheme and discovered that it would be possible if the local parish council was involved.

The next step was for him to ask his immediate neighbours to sign a petition supporting the idea and Will managed to get thirty or so signatures in one weekend. He also cleaned the phone box himself to demonstrate that the locals would be willing to look after it.

In September Will presented the idea to the local Parish Council at a meeting, where he persuasively and confidently spoke about the project's benefits to local residents and to the village as a whole.

The Parish Council members voted yes there and then! Well done Will.

## ARCHIE & PRE-PREP

Please meet Archie, the key to relaxed reading and reduced anxiety! Archie is our much loved and cuddled Pre-Prep therapy Labrador, whose job it is, at the ripe old age of 7 (that would be 49 years in dog years) to assist reluctant readers and inspire their literacy, whilst providing therapy and calm to all our Pre-Prep children on a Friday afternoon.

Even very young children can experience stress, and there has been much written on the positive influence of these trained dogs, whose mellow companionship moderates anxiety and promotes wellbeing. Our teachers are also enjoying his company and have been spotted 'Archie tummy tickling' in between ticking off class lists and mathematical calculations!

Archie successfully passed his therapy training over the summer and is now able to visit schools, hospitals and retirement homes. For children at Twyford Pre-Prep he is also providing the

opportunity for them to learn to be 'dog smart'. Linda Roberts, (his owner and a teaching assistant at the Pre-Prep) is also showing the children how to care for a dog when he makes a star appearance at her weekly Animal Care club on a Thursday afternoon.

Caring for children, as well as dogs, is our prime concern, and we are mindful of the children with allergies to pets and pet hair within the school. For this reason Archie's timetable takes him to Pre-Prep locations and dog baskets separate from these children – keeping everyone safe and happy.



## NEW HEAD ANNOUNCEMENT

After a rigorous selection process, Fiona Dunger, Chair of Governors, was delighted to announce the appointment of Andrew Harvey as the new Head of Twyford School from September 2020. Andrew is currently Head of The Paragon School, Bath, which he has led for the past seven years. Married to Anna, they have two daughters, Sophie aged 11, who will be joining Twyford in Year 7, and Imogen aged 13. Hetty, their Labrador, completes the Harvey family.

Andrew said of his appointment "It is a tremendous honour to be given the opportunity to lead and serve Twyford School as the 17th Head in its 221 year history. From my first visit to the school I was struck by the warm and friendly atmosphere, the tremendous opportunities available to pupils and was hugely impressed by everyone I met. I am keen to build

on Twyford's long tradition and outstanding education and I am excited to be part of its future"

Fiona Dunger commented "We received an outstanding response for the post, and this made the selection process challenging. Andrew was our unanimous choice from a final shortlist of very strong candidates, and we are delighted that he has accepted our offer,



Andrew shares a passion for academic excellence as well as inspirational, skills-based learning and extracurricular enrichment. He has a wealth of experience in the prep school sector. We look forward to welcoming Andrew to Twyford School over the coming months as he prepares to take up his post next September".

Andrew studied Theology at

University, followed by a PGCE.

His experience of prep school education began at Perrott Hill School, where he taught History and English. He was a Housemaster at Chafyn Grove School, and then Head of Pastoral Care at Sherfield School. He was appointed Deputy Head of Lambrook School in 2007, before becoming Head of The Paragon in 2012.



# OLD TWYFORDIANS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War was marked by the School with a September exhibition in the Mulberry Pavilion. This highlighted the lives of a dozen Old Twyfordians and the significant part each played in the war.

The amazing story of Peter Fanshawe, Twyford’s “Great Escape Hero”, was covered in Issue 3 of this magazine (Spring 2012). We now cover three more OTs and their important contributions to the Royal Navy, the Army and the scientific community.

**Lynch Maydon DSO (bar) DSC (OT 1927)** Born in South Africa, Lynch moved to Britain at the age of four. He joined the Royal Navy in 1931 and in 1935 attended a submarine training course. In 1941 at the age of 26

he attended a commanding officers’ course and was posted as commanding officer to the Umbra, a U-class submarine which took part in operations in the Gulf of Genoa and was active in the defence of Malta. Lynch was awarded his first DSO for patrols in the Mediterranean in June 1942.

The Umbra’s oddest adventure occurred early in 1943 when she torpedoed an enemy aircraft in mid-air! Lynch sighted an enemy supply ship being escorted by three aircraft. He fired a torpedo

and “all that was left of the target was a magnificent column of orange and white smoke rising to quite a thousand feet”.

He noticed that only two of the three enemy aircraft were in sight. “It was hoped” reported Lynch “that the third may have gone to great heights when the target blew up”. He was awarded his second DSO in May 1943 after this action and others which sank seven merchant ships and an Italian heavy cruiser.

In 1943 Lynch was promoted and posted to command the Tradewind, a Triton Class submarine, based in Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. Commanding the Tradewind, he torpedoed 14 Japanese vessels and was awarded a DSC. One of these ships was the Junyō Maru, on its way from Java to Sumatra, carrying mostly Dutch and Javanese slave labourers. 5620 of those on board died, making this the biggest single-action friendly loss of life in history. Tragically,

no flag indicated the presence of POWs as required by the Geneva Convention and Lynch was only made aware of what had happened many years later.

Lynch was elected as a Conservative MP for Wells in the 1951 election and served until his retirement at the 1970 general election.

He died less than a year later.



LYNCH MAYDON DSO (BAR) DSC

**Sir Michael Perrin (OT 1919)** was born in Canada and moved to England when he was six. Choosing a career in research Michael took an MA in physics before joining Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), then Britain’s largest chemical company.

In 1935 Michael headed the team which created the first practical polythene and then led the work to develop and manufacture it on a large scale.

Michael suggested using the newly discovered polythene as an insulator for the cables used in early ground radar. This worked extremely well, allowing the British to detect the approach of enemy aircraft even sooner and gave Britain a significant strategic

advantage over the Germans. This light-weight insulator also allowed the allied forces to use airborne radar, which gave them an enormous technical advantage in long-distance air warfare, most significantly in the Battle of the Atlantic against the U-boats.

Michael was involved in several top-secret operations. He was a leading part of a programme known as ‘Tube Alloys’ which very few people, even in the government, knew about. This was the code name used to hide the existence of the British nuclear weapons programme.

Initially, the British government understood the significance of the atom bomb before the US government.

However, when Michael went to the US in 1942 he encouraged the British government to collaborate more closely with the work being done in the USA. The work of the ‘Manhattan Project’, as it was called, eventually led to the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan in 1945.

Michael also did important work to investigate the German atomic bomb programme and helped a famous Danish nuclear physicist, Niels Bohr, to escape from the Nazis.

Five years after the war ended,



SIR MICHAEL PERRIN

when he was working as the Deputy Controller of the Atomic Energy Authority, he was responsible for interviewing Klaus Fuchs who had been spying for the Russians.

As his final career-move he became Chairman of the Wellcome Foundation, an international pharmaceutical company, where he stayed until his retirement in 1970.

**Vivian Street CMG CBE DSO MC (OT 1925)** was commissioned into the Devonshire Regiment in 1932. He served as an intelligence officer in Palestine during the Arab revolt and, in 1938, was awarded his Military Cross after almost single-handedly holding up an attack by some 50 rebels.

In 1941 he was officer in charge of the beach at Port Raptis during the Allied evacuation of Greece. When he had got everyone away he commandeered a fishing boat and, with eleven others, sailed it to Alexandria, constantly in fear of being captured.

Afterwards he was invited to join the 1st SAS Regiment by its founder, David Stirling, and carried out raids behind enemy lines in North Africa.

Captured by the Italians on Christmas Day 1942, Vivian was kept in an Italian camp until mid-January 1943 when he was transferred to an Italian submarine, which was to take him and ten other captured officers to Italy.

The submarine was spotted by a Bristol Beaufort and depth charged. Vivian and the other POWs managed to escape from the submarine after many of the Italian crew ‘abandoned ship’. Two British destroyers then joined the attack. Many died in the water but Vivian was saved from drowning by the actions of an American officer who had been a lifeguard!

In late 1943 he was made second-in-command of the British Military Mission to Yugoslavia, which was led by Sir Fitzroy Maclean. Their task was to work with Tito and his partisans in their fight against the Germans. Since 1941 Tito had been fighting a highly successful guerrilla war. Vivian ensured that the guerrillas received arms and material from the West.

In 1944, Maclean flew back to England leaving Vivian in charge. During this time, the enemy made a fierce attack

on the partisan headquarters and, after Tito and the partisans escaped, revenged themselves on the civilians, massacring almost everyone, men, women, and children. Tito reached the decision that he needed to leave and establish his headquarters in a place of security and it was Vivian who organised the evacuation of Tito and his staff. For this he was awarded a DSO. Vivian retired from the Army as a Major General in 1963.



VIVIAN STREET CMG CBE DSO MC



HMS UMBRA FLYING THE JOLLY ROGER SUCCESS FLAG 1943



## UPPER SCHOOL

The worn steps leading up to Upper School are an indication of the vital role this room has served over the years, in this its bi-centenary year.

Upper School was built in 1819 by Headmaster Bedford to accommodate the increasing numbers of boys at the School. Designed as the main school room, daily life revolved around it. The furnishings of the Headmaster's 'throne', smaller seats for assistant masters and large fixed desks for the boys, suggest that Bedford based his designs on the Winchester College building known as 'School'. These thrones can still be seen around the building today – one by the trophy cabinet and the other up in the Old Dining Room.

Another original feature which survives in Upper School is the 'Slate' hanging in the doorway into the Library. Here 'tardi' 'inepti' and 'inurbani' were noted and marks awarded for being late, inept/careless work, and bad manners. The canes were kept in a cupboard nearby...

Upper School remained a classroom but as the needs and requirements of the school changed and fluctuated, it found itself in use as a gymnasium and woodwork was also taught in Upper School.



UPPER SCHOOL, 1901

There is a photo from 1901 showing a woodwork class in action with the gym equipment hanging above!

Charles Wickham, the Headmaster responsible for this repurposing of Upper School, always felt rather guilty about its misuse. When a large 'temporary' corrugated iron building, lined with timber, became the gymnasium, woodworking classes were relocated and in 1906, thanks to Old Twyfordian well-wishers subscribing to the work, Upper School was renovated; the oak panelling on the walls was restored and the room furnished with oak tables and benches – still in use around the School today.

Charles Wickham was also responsible for a further improvement to Upper School once he had retired from School life. In memory of his wife, he paid for the extension northwards to create a stage and the installation upon it of an organ. In order to create space for the stage the north wall was removed. The arched georgian window contained in this north wall was stored and then used when the classroom next to the stage (Room 15, PSHE today) was built in the 1920s. The stage extension was designed by Herbert Kitchin, who was also responsible for the Memorial Library in 1923.

One further modern addition is the gallery and seating, but this aside, Upper School remains remarkably similar to how it was first built 200 years ago. Now housing drama classes and a performance space it is also entered daily by children going to change their books in the Library!



PREP TAKING PLACE IN UPPER SCHOOL, 1970s



UPPER SCHOOL 1913



## OLD SCHOOL UNIFORM

Many letters and books make their way to the Archives, but it's not often we are given a suit! The Coombes family had four sons at Twyford; Ben and Tom started in 1977, Christopher in 1982 and the youngest Nick started in 1985. This grey suit was the uniform of the time and served both the youngest and oldest Coombes boys and, has been kept in extraordinarily good condition by their mother Victoria, with even the receipt from John Lewis dated 1977! Modelled by George, currently in Year 4, it is in remarkably good condition.



## THE THATCHED SHELTER

For many years, the wooden shelter, overlooking the 1st XI football pitch, has provided protection from the elements whilst watching matches.

In need of repairs, the roof was returned to its original glory earlier this year, by being completely re-thatched and repairs made to the wooden beams and uprights.

The 'Beehive' has stood on the side of the pitch since the 1920s. A photo from 1928 shows that whilst the trees have grown around it, the shelter and steps are much the same.

It was designed by George Herbert Kitchin, a well-known local architect

of the time, an Old Twyfordian. He was also responsible for the design of the Memorial Library, the extension of the stage in Upper School and the carved wooden reredos in the Chapel.



## THE MAGIC LANTERNS

On a shelf opposite the trophy cabinet by School Hall are three large contraptions, sometimes mistaken as early types of cameras, but which are in fact two single lens and one triple lens lanterns; early types of image projectors often referred to as magic lanterns.

A magic lantern projected images by using pictures painted, printed or produced photographically on transparent plates (usually made of glass), one or more lenses, and a light source.

Developed in the 17th century and commonly used for entertainment purposes, in the 19th century, they were increasingly applied to educational purposes. By the mid-20th century they had evolved into the slide projector.

The Twyford lanterns date from about 1880 and were used by and belonged to George Marsh, an Old Twyfordian himself, who arrived at Twyford in 1898 to teach and stayed for 35 years; the veritable 'Mr Chips' of Twyford.

Marsh loved everything mechanical and scientific and

had a boy-level interest in all aspects of the burgeoning scientific world of those days. He introduced the boys to all sorts of new inventions of the age such as phonographs, gramophones, wireless and the magic lanterns amongst others. He lived at Mallards Close from 1910 – 1933 and his Sunday tea parties were the stuff of legend.

Bob Wickham recalled, "The Mallard's Close teas were little less than an introduction to fairyland for boys. The visit to the greenhouse where passion fruit and every kind of odd and exotic plant was grown. The pianola in the drawing room, caterpillars of all sorts crawling under bell-jars, puzzles to solve, microscopes to look through, a room completely devoted to swinging pendulums which drew elaborate designs; the dark room and the chemical

laboratory where one was always invited to smell 'the worst smell in the world'!

The Twyfordian of 1913 notes: 'Mr Marsh has again been kind enough to give short scientific lectures to some of the Upper School on Thursday evenings. One of these lectures was on the subject of 'wireless telegraphy' and in the course of it, wireless messages were sent from the IV

Form classroom to the Library. Mr Marsh has himself fitted up a wireless installation at Mallard's Close, where it is possible to receive messages from Paris, North Germany, Poldhu and other important stations. We understand that he has also permission from the Government to send messages to his friends in the neighbourhood.'



THE LANTERNS



## TWYFORD SOCIETY GOLF DAY

Autumnal sunshine greeted our golfers on Saturday 19th October, a welcome relief after the endless rain of the previous week and Hamptworth Golf Course looked stunning in the October sunshine. Our thanks to Chris Huffam (OT 1965) for organising the day. Every year brings new 'firsts' and this year we welcomed a Ladies team!

The overall winner was Stephen Cheung (current parent) with an excellent Stableford score of 36 points, Christopher Mann (OT 1978) was runner up and the Leading Lady

was Lucy Wolfe (current parent). The winning team was Chris Huffam, Stephen Cheung and Lucy Wolfe and the special prize for furthest distance travelled was Tony Francis from Scotland!



## 2010 REUNION

We welcomed 15 of the 2010 Leavers back to School on the first Saturday of the Autumn term. It has been an interesting challenge to find a day which suits both university students and the school, but finally, we believe we have!

For some, it was their first time back at School since Year 8 and they so enjoyed seeing their old teachers and having a tour of Twyford. The House football matches were going on, so plenty for the Old Twyfordians to see and reminisce over!



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 5th  
September 2020

**Reunion lunch for 2011 leavers**

Friday 22nd May 2020 **2020 Twyford Society Golf Day**

## SWIMMING THE CHANNEL

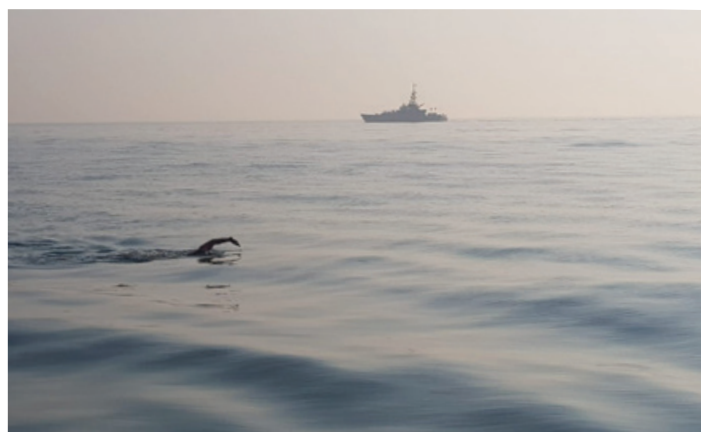
Alex Fordyce, OT 1995, achieved the extraordinary achievement of swimming the English Channel, solo, in August 2019 in a time of 15 hours and 51 minutes. A member of the Serpentine Swimming Club, Alex has always been a strong swimmer and in 1995, his final year at Twyford, he was awarded the 'Griffin Cup' for 'Outstanding Individual Performance in the Pool'.

At its narrowest point, the English Channel is 21 miles and rules dictate that you cannot wear a costume that offers any thermal protection or buoyancy so Alex weight-gained to aid insulation and help fight potential hypothermia. In order to even qualify for the Channel swim, he had had to complete a 6 hour sea swim in June. Escorted by the boat 'Gallivant', piloted by Mike Oram, Alex's support crew consisted of his siblings, best friend and a couple of other Serpentine swimmers, but his wife had to miss the trip as she was 3 weeks off her due date! Starting his swim from



Shakespeare Beach, Dover and finishing at Cap Blanc Nez, tidal conditions can have a huge impact on the time the swim takes, and Alex finished in just under 16 hours.

A terrific achievement, and congratulations to Alex for also fundraising a wonderful amount for his chosen charity.



## REUNION SUMMER 2021

Plans are afoot for a 30 year reunion gathering in Summer 2021. Please make sure we have up-to-date email and postal addresses by emailing Rebecca on [twyfordociety@twyfordschool.com](mailto:twyfordociety@twyfordschool.com) or filling in the Records update form.

**We love to hear your news. Please keep us updated on [twyfordociety@twyfordschool.com](mailto:twyfordociety@twyfordschool.com)**