



The Opening of Ashburton Hall



whether I was nervous about the visit. I said I was not and he asked to see my finger nails. They were badly chewed, as he informed all the waiting dignitaries! It was a great day, and a real acknowledgment of a major step forward for St Faith's in replacing the old "covered way" with a brand new facility which is still in use today."

Martin Milward, Teacher of Science, (pictured): "It is harder to imagine a much greater coup than securing the attendance of a senior member of the Royal Family to formerly open Ashburton Hall on 2nd February 1999. Significant preparatory work had taken place in smartening up the school site for the great day. His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, driving the royal Range Rover himself, swung into the Headmaster's drive and was greeted by pupils and staff lining the path as he walked into the Courtyard and then to Ashburton Hall. Spontaneous applause greeted the Duke's arrival as he

To celebrate 18 years since the grand opening of Ashburton Hall we look back at the arrival of HRH Prince Phillip to St Faith's. Whilst digging in the school's archive an old newsletter appeared detailing His Royal Highness' visit, where he unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion and signed a photograph for the Visitors' Book.

During the day he watched a short drama performance in the new hall before a few select pupils showed him displays of their work. Before departing, Head Girl, Millie Stoop (now Mrs Musson who works at the school), presented HRH with a personalised copy of *Fidelian Heroes*.

We got in touch with former Head Boy, James Petkovic, several current teachers and a former pupil, and asked them for their memories of the day. **If you have fond memories from this special occasion please do not hesitate to get in touch; details of how to are on the back of this newsletter.**

James Petkovic, former Head Boy: "We were lined up outside the Headmaster's House and the Duke inspected us as though we were on military parade. When he got to me, he asked



inspected displays of work and spoke to teaching staff, pupils and invited parents. The Duke was on excellent form, generous with his time and comments and skilfully included as many people as he could in conversation and handshakes. Following the unveiling of the plaque and signing the photograph in the Crush Hall the Headmaster, Richard Dyson, gave a speech and then the Duke departed.”

Jane James, Pre Prep Teacher: “I remember that we spent the morning making Union Jack flags and then the Pre Prep children lined the path where Tom’s Garden now is. The Duke of Edinburgh walked along and stopped to talk to some of the children. They were very excited, waving their flags and saying hello. I seem to remember the Mayor of Cambridge attended too and the children were amazed at his gold chains!”

Victoria Royce, former pupil: “The day the Duke of Edinburgh visited St Faith’s was a very special day for all the staff and pupils at the school. The daily activities in the school, from academic lessons to sports and music, were suddenly on full display. We all felt very proud choosing which subjects we would represent, and it gave us all a chance to reflect on what we had achieved during that term. We were all very excited during the lead up to his visit, and worked very hard to try and prepare for the day. We all pushed ourselves to achieve the best that we could, and there was so much joy in that process too. I was delighted to represent the Music Department, and it was such an honour to perform on the piano for the Duke of Edinburgh as he inspected the then new Ashburton Hall. He was very encouraging to all the staff and pupils, and I remember us all feeling immensely proud of being part of St Faith’s, and of our achievements.”

St Faith’s Throwbacks



Whilst rooting around in our archive we came across this wonderful photo, however we were disappointed when we couldn’t find a date on it. We would like to find out if any OFs have any more information about boxing at St Faith’s. Please do get in touch with us.

Similarly, we are very interested in knowing if any OFs can recognise themselves or their friends in this Leavers photo from 1990, pictured with St Faith’s veteran Nick Lloyd once again. If we have calculated correctly these pupils will be celebrating their 40th birthday in 2017.



Leavers photo from 1990

We would love to hear from you, if you can provide us with any memories of your time at St Faith’s then please tweet us using the hashtag #OFmemories, drop us a message on Facebook or send us an email.

Nick Lloyd's Retirement



After 42 years at St Faith's it is time to bid farewell to Mr Lloyd, a beloved Teacher of Sport and Geography and member of the Old Fidelian Committee. He sat down to discuss his time at the school and the dramatic changes he has seen over the years.

Let's take you back to 1975, why did you decide to come and work at St Faith's?

The Headmaster, Malcolm MacInnes needed someone to run the Hockey in the school and introduce more PE activities rather than just the major sports of Rugby, Hockey and Cricket. At that time, I had made six international hockey appearances for Wales and the team had recently won the Home Nations Championship with a Grand Slam season. He knew of me from my school days playing against St Faith's and when I was a pupil at The Leys.

I was about to leave Reading University having qualified to teach Physical Education and Geography when Malcolm made contact, invited me to the school for an interview and offered me the job. I was therefore "head hunted" for the position and it also meant returning to my home city of Cambridge which I had wanted to do.

Has working at St Faith's lived up to your expectations?

Yes, it has been a great school to work at with very dedicated staff who work as a team. The different personalities get on well and support each other. I know several teachers that have moved on to other schools thinking they were going somewhere better but have regretted their decision to leave and wished they had stayed.

I have been fortunate enough to have done seven different jobs while working at the school

including twelve years on the Senior Management Team and nine years when I was in charge of the Boarding House. I have had no regrets in staying at St Faith's for all forty-two years of my teaching career!

What has been memorable about working at the school?

Whilst organising and running the St Faith's ski trip for over 30 years, some of the pupils that were less able at sport sometimes developed into good skiers, often far better than their sportier peers. The confidence it gave them on returning to school was very rewarding to witness.

I have many memories of former pupils and staff, but one that springs to mind relates to the first girl to enter the school. Many years later she still reminds me that I was the only teacher that ever gave her a detention even though she was head girl at the time!

What do you see as your greatest achievements at St Faith's?

The occasions when teams have remained undefeated throughout the whole term and you know that – bearing in mind the sporting talent available – your coaching has made the difference. My first hockey team in 1975 won every game except one which was drawn 2-2 against Felsted (I can still name every pupil in that team!). I also get a lot of pleasure when pupils return some years later to inform me they went on to study Geography at A-level and university because of the grounding they received in my lessons.

How has the Sports Department changed over time?

The Sports Department now has greater expertise and depth in the coaching with well qualified coaches involved in all the various sports. The variety of sporting activities available to the pupils has also expanded significantly over the

years so there is now something for everyone. There is now an all-inclusive policy so all pupils represent the school in matches, for example on a typical Wednesday, twenty-one teams from just the top three years are playing at the same time – quite an achievement for the Sports Department and the school.

Behind the scenes, the Sports Department staff are great fun to work with and we certainly have some amusing moments (most of them unrepeatable here!).

Finally, how do you plan to fill your free time during retirement?

I intend to do a lot more travelling with my wife Barbara to various parts of the world that we have yet to visit before it's too late! I intend to play more golf at the Gog Magog Club and hope to improve my handicap. I also want to start playing Real Tennis again having hardly played in the last forty years. I might even join the David Lloyd Centre to get a bit fitter!

I am also looking forward to spending more time with my three-year-old granddaughter and my aim is to teach her to ski as I was fortunate enough to learn at a young age myself.

A few words from Nigel Helliwell, The Headmaster

“It is remarkable that although Nick is in his forty-second, and final year, as a member of staff at St Faith’s, he still goes about his work with a spring in his step, a smile on his face and a real commitment to teaching. His time here spans the terms of four Heads and several generations of children, and he has witnessed so many changes, both at St Faith’s and in education as a whole. In the past six years, I have greatly valued his hard work and support, both for the school and at the Old Fidelian events. He will be missed here but we wish him a much deserved, long and happy retirement.”

St Faith’s Golf Lessons



St Faith’s has always had a strong affiliation with golf. As some of you may know Mr Dyson, a previous Headmaster at the school, was a golfing enthusiast. This is something which he shares with our current Headmaster, Nigel Helliwell.

In the past few years Mr Helliwell and Tim North (Head of PE) have been working hard to add golf into the PE curriculum. The process begun with Mr Leggoe running golf activities during the summer term for the pupils. From 2016 they were finally able to bring it into the curriculum, and now every Year 7 and 8 pupil has four hours of golf, taught in rotation with trampolining and swimming. The school has been able to develop its own team to compete against other schools in the area at Cambridge Lakes, as well as running our own competition at Royal Worlington. In addition to these two events, children that hold their own official handicap have been entered into several competitions representing the school, including at Sunningdales.

Harry Howell is one to look out for in the future having competed in the Wee Wonders Grand Final in St Andrews. For those who don’t know, Wee Wonders is the biggest national golf competition for children under 12. Around 220 boys entered from across the country. Harry got down to the last 27, he then shot 33,33,30 round the Balgove to come 3rd in the competition. Although he narrowly missed out on the top spot, he was the second placed Brit in the competition, the second place was a player from Denmark. This is a fantastic achievement.

Bill Rusted who organises the golf lessons is hoping to continue these lessons and encourage more girls to participate. I’m sure many of you can’t imagine having this opportunity at prep school, and we have been fortunate enough to be given recycled gear from Cambridge Lakes as well as donations of second hand gear. We are thankful to all who donated and allowed us to get this up and running swiftly and inexpensively; we hope to have a calendar of golfing events in the near future.

Scholarship Information & Special Mentions



Huge congratulations to the following pupils who received scholarships last year. This is a just reward for all the hard work they put in during their time here at St Faith's.

Olly Morgan (All Round) Rebecca Malyon (Sport) Lucy Butterworth (Sport) Felicity Wood (Drama) Anna Dignam (Art) Christina Kell (Academic) William Baldwin (All Round, Sport) Milly Wych (Sport) Alexander Catton (Sport) Evie Gifford (Art) Jude Crawley (Academic, Drama) Victoria Reid (Foundation-Academic) Nikhil Gorantla (Sport) Jemma Wilson (Foundation-Academic) James Hansen (Academic) Florence Turner (Foundation-Academic) Daniel Karr (All Round Sport) Jemima Morgan (Sport) Charlie Hurd (Sport) Maya Babar (Sport) Harry Curedale-Rayner (Art) Ruby James (Sport) Hugo Bray (All Round) Joe Bister (Music) Sam Ludwick (Foundation-Academic).

We were extremely proud to hear that OF Professor David Thouless (above left), has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics 2016 for his theoretical discoveries of Topological Phase Transitions and Topological Phases of Matter. David received his honour from H.M. King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden in Stockholm Concert Hall on 10th December 2016. Alison Price, Head of Science, said that she is 'thrilled that an OF has been bestowed this honour. It is an inspiration to us that even though practical applications



of research may take many years to emerge, scientific research and education continue to be of fundamental importance.'

OF Ben Dilloway (above centre) recently came back to the school to talk to our drama enrichment pupils. He gave career tips and discussed his portrayal of Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. After studying at St Faith's, Ben then went on to study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and LAMDA Drama School. He has many acclaimed reviews for his performances, particularly in *Silver Tassie* at the National Theatre and as *Lennie* in *Of Mice and Men* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. *Broadwayworld.com* wrote 'you could even see [Lennie's] thought processes and this makes it fascinating as an audience member to watch. The casting of Dilloway is absolute perfection'.

OF Alex Goode (above right) is an equally adept fullback and fly half,



and after playing a pivotal role for the Saracens as they reached the Aviva Premiership Grand Final, Goode was given the No 15 shirt for the autumn internationals.

OF Christopher Teo (below) was requested by the Blue Plaque Committee to write a programme featuring the blue plaques around St Cambridge. Using his skills learnt in Mr Mitchell's lessons (our Head of Computing) such as html, CSS and web languages; Christopher produced a mobile app which lists all the blue plaques in the area with photos, a brief history and a map for the user to easily navigate between each one. After presenting it to the committee back in May 2016 it is now in its final editing phase and will be passed to the committee to go live in the near future. This will be a useful tool for thousands of visitors to the city. Christopher is continuing his studies at The Perse Upper School.



Granny Huckle



This term marks the end of the 'Granny Huckle era'. Pat started volunteering in the school twenty-three years ago when her grandsons were here, and since then she has touched the hearts of our pupils and staff, through her love and care of the children as well as her passion for helping them to learn to read. When asked about their highlights at St Faith's in their practice interviews with Mr Helliwell, the Year 8 pupils have often commented on the help and care Granny Huckle gave to them when they were in Year 3 and 4. Many of our pupils and alumni will never forget the compassion and support shown to them by Granny Huckle over the years. She will be sorely missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Staff Reirements

Mrs J Bradley and **Mrs J Wilson**, who started at the school back in 2002 as the School Nurses have left after 14 years at St Faith's.

Mr Nick Lloyd, a teacher of Geography and Sport will retire this summer after 42 years. He will be sorely missed by all those at St Faith's.

We would like to thank everyone for all their hard work and services to St Faith's over the years. You were all part of the family and we wish you the best in your new roles.

OF Committee

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those members of the Old Fidelian Committee who meet once a term to plan and discuss events for OFs.

The members of the current committee are as follows: Nigel Helliwell (Headmaster), James Arnold, Tim Willan, Brian Simms, Nick Lloyd, Richard Devoy, Tim Rodgers, Chris Bullen, Paul Dennis, Alex Nichols, Johnny Goodman, James Munro, Patrick Humphrey, John Welch, Claire Sanders, Victoria Royce, Fraser Patrick and Philippa Sanders.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Pupils vs OFs Chess Match

Friday 21st April, 16:00–17:30

OF Golf at Royal Worlington

Monday 8th May, 08:00–18:00

Staff vs OF Golf at Gog Magogs

Friday 26th May, 16:45

OF vs Old Leysian Golf Match at Gog Magogs

Thursday 10th August, Time TBC

Tennis

Monday 26th June, 17:30–19:00

OF Summer BBQ, Headmaster's Garden

Friday 15th September, 18:00–20:00

Christmas Reunion

TBC (Mid December)

Please do join us at Royal Worlington to cheer and support the OF Golf tournament; they will be accepting visitors for lunch as well as offering half day tickets. The invites for this event will be sent out later this month.

This year we will be organising a Christmas reunion for OFs in Cambridge during December. We hope this will be a successful event and will send out the information about this event in due course.

If you would like any more information about any of these events do not hesitate to get in touch. Contact details are below.

How to get in touch

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