



THE GORDONSTOUN ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT



WINTER 2016/17



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by Georgie Middleton, GA Chairman

Dear Old Gordonstounians,

'You should hear the string orchestra practising. They sound really good.' said Steve Brown, our GA Co-ordinator, as we met in the ambulatory of St Christopher's before the recent Bertelsmann lecture on digitalisation. I love the way Gordonstoun is still the surprising mix of classic and traditional, innovative and experiential. When I meet fellow OGs and hear what they are doing, they often say their education gave them the confidence and personal skills to achieve what they have done thus far, and to lead others to aim high. It is no less the case in the present day as I hear of the variety of places to work and live chosen by Gordonstoun leavers. Fergus Bevans Brown, GA Captain last year, is in Thailand on a gap year which will increase his vision. Here, I would like to thank all the contributors who have written pieces for this magazine.



Over this past year GA gatherings have included a visit to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Darmstadt, hosted by Felicity Sheasby (nee Higgins - Hopeman 1997), an ESA accountant, and her Rosetta colleagues. This attracted a large group of OGs from Germany, parents and others, who spotted this unique chance to learn about ESA projects from the scientists themselves. Other gatherings included a day with the 1st XI Cricket team playing on the beautiful Arundel Castle ground, and where we were pleased to see a photograph with The Duke of Edinburgh in match whites too. The occasion was the last 'official' event for Tony Gabb after 34 years of service to Gordonstoun. Welcome to the GA, Tony, and to other staff members and 'thank you' on behalf of the hundreds of students you all taught and guided. We would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Congdon who provided the evening barbecue. The Spooner family also helped us to enjoy a Gordonstoun occasion at Howard's The Outside Chance. David (English and Fire Service) and Bebe Spooner (Home Economics), and their sons Julian and Daniel with children, OGs and families enjoyed a relaxed afternoon at Howard's stylish country pub with another delicious barbecue.

The memorable events of the GA year must include our carol services in Edinburgh and London. I want to thank HRH The Princess Royal for joining us at Crown Court Church in December 2015, and for making it a truly, happy Gordonstoun family occasion where the message of serving people wherever we are is at the heart of our school philosophy. So, may I thank all who came, all who contributed, and hope you will keep coming if ever possible, to meet your friends and get that Gordonstoun inspiration again?

There are many people to thank for their service to the GA. The school always welcomes OGs: Emma Thorpe and Steve Brown especially, all the staff and the GA Captains who give their time to OG visits. The friendly greetings and conversations I have as I walk to a meeting or wait in the lunch queue, I know are replicated many times over the year as OGs return to visit Gordonstoun, which is reason to be pleased that the connection between past and present students is strong. Perhaps this is best illustrated by the place the new Headmaster, Titus Edge, and his wife Marina hold in the life of Gordonstoun. They are both former students and have returned to teach and promote a Gordonstoun education. The GA wishes them success in continuing to give young people the chance to explore their abilities and build their character as future leaders across the globe. It is sad to say 'Good bye', but I would like to thank the Principal, Simon Reid, and his wife Michèle, for supporting the GA from the very start of their time at Gordonstoun which enabled great communication and vitality between us and the school. We will miss you, but wish you a happy and successful time as you lead the community at Christ's Hospital in Sussex.

Whether you have visited Gordonstoun, met up with your old school friends, exchanged Facebook messages and posts, or have been too busy with life to do any of those things, I hope you will enjoy the 2016/2017 magazine at your leisure, and if you haven't been for some time, please come for a drink or a song (both are on offer at the carol service) at one of our GA events this year.

2	Chairman's Welcome
3	The GA Committee
4	View from HQ
5	News from Admissions
6	Principal's Farewell
7	Development Update
8	Chairman of the Board of Governors
9	Coming Full Circle
10	Gordonstoun Remembers
12	My Road to ESO
13	Reminiscences of a German Boy at Gordonstoun shortly after World War II
14	View from the Velodrome
15	To be Worldwide
16	My Experience
17	A Birds-Eye View
18	From a well-travelled Medicinal Chemist
20	Are you Alopecia Aware?
21	Jungle Jim Graham remembered
22	Life through a Lens
23	The life of the late Robert Chew and the late Eva Chew
24	Piece of the Puzzle
25	Former Hopeman Sisters take Harris Tweed to the Globe
26	Romania Project 2016
27	Romania
28	Between Poverty and Politics
29	Expeditions in the Sixties
30	OGG
31	GA Day & The GA 200 Club

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THE GA COMMITTEE



Georgie Middleton née Housman
GA Chairman
(Hopeman 1978)



Robin Gibb
GA Committee Secretary
(Gordonstoun 2005)



Ben Goss
Keeper of the Gordonstoun Family



Amanda Campbell-Lambert née Brown
(Plewlands 1991)



Nicky Montgomery née Hill
(Hopeman 1980)



Heather Glover née Main
(Hopeman 1991)



Edward Kirk
(Duffus 2005)



John Mulligan
(Altyre 1981)

THE GA OFFICE



Steve Brown
GA Co-ordinator



Emma Thorpe
GA Office Administrator



HELP US GO GREEN

Please let us have your email address so we can email you news and events, rather than printing and sending them on paper!

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THE VIEW FROM HQ

by Steve Brown, GA Co-ordinator



It is very gratifying that the number of GA events continues to grow and we are also delighted that we now have over 2000 members on the GA facebook page. The 2016 programme began in February with a gathering in Edinburgh over Calcutta Cup weekend and a very strong OG rugby team were involved in a terrific match against Edinburgh Accies FPs. In March there was the London Dinner at Fino's and in April the Yorkshire Dinner in Ilkley, where the wonderful work done by Martin Scriven on behalf of the Gordonstoun Community over many years was rightly recognised. April saw GA weekend coincide with the Junior Highland Games for the first time. This was generally considered to be a great success and it will be repeated in 2017.

Fino's in Mayfair, London, was the venue for a Class of 2006 reunion in early June. In mid-June there was a splendid event at the European Space Agency, close to Frankfurt, organised by Felicity Sheasby (Hopeman 1997) and at the end of that month there was a gathering at Arundel Castle, Sussex, to coincide with a Gordonstoun cricket fixture. In early July there was a barbeque lunch at Howard Spooner's (Bruce 1988) pub, 'The Outside Chance' in Wiltshire, and later that month there was a Gathering of OGs and friends of the school in Cape Town whilst the rugby team were visiting on tour. The Edinburgh Dinner took place in August in the splendid setting of the New Club - those assembled enjoyed a splendid meal and a wonderfully entertaining speech by Martin Scriven (Round Square 1962).

In September there were London gatherings for the Class of 1996 at Fino's in Mayfair and also for OGs from the mid to late 80s on board The Tattershall Castle on the Thames. Both of these were really enjoyable and it was terrific to bring together folk, some of whom had not seen each other since their Gordonstoun days. October saw the return to school of ten OGs for a brilliant GA Careers Day with the panel being made up of a journalist, an industrialist, an asset manager, a vet, a commercial advisor, a film director, a doctor, a financial crime analyst and a chartered surveyor. The splendid Christmas Carol Concerts in Edinburgh and London completed 2016 in suitably celebratory fashion.

If you have not managed to make it to an event in 2016, please do try to come along to one in 2017. We are in the process of arranging reunions for the Classes of 2007, 1997 and 1987 and if you have any ideas for a gathering please do get in touch. The end of 2016 was tinged with sadness as the Duffus boys vacated Duffus House for the last time. We remain very anxious to mark the important role that the building has played in the development of the school - Kurt Hahn was the first 'Housemaster' there in 1933 - and we plan to raise a glass to her on Friday 28th April (the Friday of GA weekend).

In my role as GA Co-ordinator the question I am asked most frequently is 'how are things at school?' to which I usually reply along the lines of 'really busy but very good' but what does 'very good' mean? I guess what I mean is that the students are thriving on the challenges and opportunities that Gordonstoun provides. A measure of our success in this regard is the reckoning which takes place at the end of a student's school career. These days, and beyond the currency of examination results alone, all of the students receive a leavers' report which summarises their achievement under five headings - Academic, Sports, Creative, Outdoor Education and Responsibility. These documents are quite detailed and form the basis of the 'Founder's Award'. This may not be a very scientific snapshot but I thought it might be interesting to summarise the achievements of my three Year 13 (Upper Sixth) Bruce House tutees who left the school at the end of June. All did well in their respective A-levels and are now on degree courses at Cambridge University, Oxford Brookes and York University respectively. In terms of their major contributions to sports one was a squash player, one a member 1st XV (including participating in the rugby tour to SA in July) and the third was the Captain of First XI hockey. We had a violinist (Grade 5) and member of the Chamber Choir, two were involved in

"Romeo and Juliet", which toured New York and one was in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". All three successfully completed the Year 12 Expedition in the Highlands and participated in a week long Sail Training Voyage on board Ocean Spirit. Two took the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. Two were CBs and the other was House Captain. Each was in a different Service - Community Service, Tech Service and First Aid and in addition two went on the Thailand Water project. This is just a very brief summary of some of their achievements but I hope it gives a sense that the 'Plus est en vous' spirit remains alive and well.

In the spirit of the school motto, Congratulations to Heather Stanning (Plewlands 2003) who, along with her rowing partner Helen Glover, took Gold in Rio in July. It was great to welcome her back to school in September with her two Gold medals! Heather has now returned to active duty in the army. In addition to Heather, Gordonstoun was further represented in Rio with five-time Olympian Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum (Round Square 1994) representing UAE and making it to the final round of the men's Skeet competition. As well as those competing in the games, Emma Barton (Windmill 2007) worked as a sports scientist with the Team GB cyclists, and brother James (Round Square 2011) operated 'Hawkeye' in several events. It was also wonderful to see Sophie Morgan (Plewlands 2003) doing such a brilliant job as one of the Channel 4 Presenting Team at the Paralympics.

Mention should also be made of Preston Mommsen (Duffus 2007) who recently announced his retirement from international cricket. Preston was one of seven Scotland-based full-time professionals, and featured in 42 one-day internationals and 24 Twenty20 internationals. Preston Captained Scotland at the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand and the 2016 World Twenty20 in India. He scored two hundreds and six half-centuries in ODIs and he was named ICC Associate and Affiliate Cricketer of the Year in 2014. In the 2014 World Cup qualifier in New Zealand he hit 520 runs at an average of 86.66 during the tournament, including 139 in Scotland's victory over the United Arab Emirates in the final. Preston was also the first to captain Scotland to victory in a global tournament when they beat Hong Kong at the World T20.

Further congratulations to Sheila Duffy (Hopeman 1980). Sheila has been Chief Executive of ASH Scotland since January 2008 and as such is responsible for the organisation's strategic and operational direction. In 2013 she received the annual REHIS Meritorious Endeavours in Environmental Health Award and in 2015 was elected to Honorary Membership of the UK Faculty of Public Health. In 2016 she was the recipient of the Scottish Cancer Foundation prize which recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in the fight against cancer.

Today, smoking rates in Scotland are half what they were in the 1970s and the number of young people taking up the habit is at the lowest level ever recorded. Sheila has been at the heart of these changes for the past 20 years. She played a prominent role in building the case in Scotland for the introduction of the smoking ban in enclosed public places in 2006. Scotland was the first part of the UK to introduce such a measure. It has been credited with changing attitudes to smoking and has been described as one of the most important public health changes of the past 100 years. The award comes with £10,000 prize money which is to be used to further reduce the burden of cancer in Scotland.

More recently it was wonderful to see Dr Caroline Johnson (nee Burton, Plewlands 1996) elected as MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham. Caroline won the Lincolnshire seat with a 13,000 majority in a by-election at the beginning of December and thus became Gordonstoun's first female MP.

On the creative front, congratulations to OG Lily Gibson (née Nicksay (Hopeman 2006) for winning the prestigious @lastagealliance #OvationAwards for Best Lead Actress in a Play for the role of May in 'See Rock City' at the Rubicon Theatre Company in Los Angeles. The Class of 2006 was obviously a vintage year as it also accounted for

Rosalind Eleazar (Plewlands 2006). Rosalind graduated from LAMDA in 2015 and that year was named as Best Actor securing the prestigious 'Spotlight Prize', previous winners of which include Dame Judy Dench (No pressure there then). She began her acting career at the Royal Court after which she continued on into film and TV. Earlier this year she appeared on TV in 'National Treasure' with Julie Walters and Robbie Coltrane and more recently she appeared in 'NW', the TV adaptation of the Zadie Smith novel. She is currently filming a new eight part series 'Harlots' for ITV which will hit our screens early in 2017 and she has another couple of projects in the pipeline. Oona Chaplin (Plewlands 2004) has recently starred in the series 'Taboo' on the BBC and later in 2017 she will appear alongside her mother Geraldine in a comedy film 'As We Like it'. No mention of acting talents would be complete without reference to the smouldering presence of Josh Paterson, or 'JP' as he is known in 'Made in Chelsea'. When I showed a clip in Chapel at least seven girls fainted. Never before has a former member of the First XV had such a profound effect at 8.20am in the morning!

It is not only in front of the camera where OGs have been enjoying success. Rob Luke (Bruce 2012) is a young freelance filmmaker based in London. Rob studied at Ravensbourne and he has worked on a range of projects from assisting on photo-shoots for movie posters such as Kick-Ass 2, to producing zero budget feature films. In 2016 he became Britain's youngest film director when he premiered his debut feature film

'Sasquatch'. The movie is a comedy set in the Lake District and received its premiere in Kendal before moving on to the Prince Charles Cinema, London. The movie received its Scottish premiere when it was screened to the Sixth Form the day after the careers event. The film has a very strong Gordonstoun flavour with OG Bernard Paget (Duffus 2012) taking the eponymous leading role and music provided by Hunter and the Bear, with OG band members Will Irvine (Duffus 2008) and Jamie Hunter (Cumming 2008) also making cameo appearances. If you get the opportunity to see it I can highly recommend it!

It is also good to report that Richard Twyman (Round Square 1988) has been appointed artistic director of English Touring Theatre. He has been associate director at London's Royal Court since 2013, and was associate director at the Royal Shakespeare Company between 2003 and 2008 and we wish him luck in his new role.

I am sure this represents only a fraction of the amazing achievements of the Gordonstoun alumni body and if you feel I have missed out folk who deserve a mention then please let me know. Finally I am sure you would all wish to join me in wishing a happy retirement to Tony Gabb, Chris Ince and Chris Barton who all departed the 'big Hoose' this year for life in the slower lane having put in, between them, well over 80 years at Gordonstoun.

NEWS FROM ADMISSIONS

By Chris Barton,
Director of Admissions



This has been another very busy year in the Admissions Department and we have once again admitted a significant number of OG's children into the School.

As ever, we have been really grateful for the continued support and kindness of OGs both at home, and abroad, in assisting with promotional events and gatherings of potential families. We recently had a very pleasant evening in Singapore which was attended by a really interesting cross section of OGs based in the Far East. These links are incredibly important for the school and we really value your input with regard to introductions to possible future students both for Gordonstoun, and the International Summer School.

We have also been researching a number of admissions related innovations, firstly the introduction of a new Year 2 Class in the Junior School with effect from January 2017. This is an exciting change which came as a result of significant parental demand and aptly reflects the outstanding work of Robert McVean and his excellent staff at Aberlour House. Secondly we are going to introduce a one year GCSE Course from the start of the next

academic year. This is aimed at international and domestic students and will enable them to take 6 GCSEs at the end of the year as well as experiencing all of the unique facets of Gordonstoun. Some of these youngsters will return home after one year but we anticipate that the majority of them will then continue to complete their A-Level Courses with us. They will be fully involved in all of our normal range of activities over the three terms and then complete their Expedition and Sail Training commitments after their examinations at the end of the Summer Term. Once again, initial demand has been high and we anticipate filling the 15 places available very quickly.

On a personal note, I decided to retire at the end of the Autumn Term and Sabine Richards who is our Communications Director, has taken over the running of the Department. Sabine is a former, and current parent and knows the School very well indeed. I am absolutely confident that Gordonstoun admissions will continue to flourish under her leadership and I wish her every possible success in the future.

All that remains is for me to thank the OGs, particularly those of the past 32 years, for making Gordonstoun the 'Great School' that it is. I have been really fortunate to have had a very varied and exciting career here, and I could not have possibly asked to have worked in a more fulfilling and stimulating environment with so many outstanding colleagues and students.

Please do keep in touch and I hope that I will meet up again with many of you at OGGs events in the future!

“a fulfilling and stimulating environment with so many outstanding colleagues and students...”

PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL

by Simon Reid,
Principal of Gordonstoun



Writing for *The Record* in December 2011, I mentioned the long, relatively straight road that my family travelled in April that year, past Grantown, north into the hills and moorland on the Old Military Road towards Forres and the road to Gordonstoun. Reading the article again today reminded me of another long road, the one mentioned in Alan Paton's 'Cry the Beloved Country': "There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills...are lovely beyond any singing of it." The simple rhythms of Paton's sentences buoyed by seemingly unaffected language communicate vividly a point, that this land needs no honeyed diction in its description. The language and the land is what it is. Moray needs no dressed diction either and, I am very proud to say, neither does one of its foremost schools. Gordonstoun, thankfully, is what it is.

And whether in Moray or Germany, the Americas or Beijing, alumni have a look-you-in-the-eye steadiness; a sure-footedness based on the quadruple pillars of academic ambition, strength without arrogance, proud service and civic responsibility. Managing and building Gordonstoun's reputation in and beyond the UK has been a great privilege, conducted often and happily alongside Chris Barton (who retired at the end of the Autumn Term after 32 years as teacher at the school). I salute and thank him for his extraordinarily diverse and tireless work for Gordonstoun.

There have been times when in relatively far flung corners of the globe, I have wondered how readily - in a Gordonstoun reception address of, say, 10 minutes - the 'essential' Gordonstoun can be communicated. Actually, our students' diurnal experiences, based as they are on carefully plotted educational objectives, have universal appeal. On countless occasions over the last six years I have found prospective parents strongly receptive to Gordonstoun's 'message'. The school travels well, and its genuine commitment of resources to transforming educational canon into daily reality is as strong now as it was 82 years ago, when its founder transferred his work from southern Germany to the Moray coast.

There will be ample opportunity between now and my departure to make our farewell noises; however, this is likely to be a last contribution to *The GA Magazine*. Forgive, therefore, some personal observation: first, six years at Gordonstoun have underlined how important it is for young people to be at least part nurtured by hills, the sea, space and nature-generated awe: like the Ocean-Spirit-moment when reliance on others is rammed home in the big west coast winds; trepidation when out, to all senses, lost on distant Cairngorm hills; uneasiness when exposed to the quiet scrutiny of an audience at Ogstoun Theatre. These are moments for intense humility-fostering 'learning'. Equally, I have come to understand, each morning in the stunning beauty of a short walk to my office, that learning happens by stealth. It is a welcome creeper under the skin which grows in mist, vivid sunlight, and the breathtakingly big spaces of Moray. Fear and beauty are momentous but uncelebrated teachers. Gordonstoun taught me that.

Second, 'Plus est en Vous' distils everything that the school is at the beginning of 2017, and it has been my work of almost every moment in the last six years to make these words resonate in and beyond the school, because they have come to resonate with me. '...than you think' is often added to the school's motto, apparently to make more sense of it; but it does not need help. The fact that the words leave you hanging - there is more in you, for what you may ask - opens the motto out for infinite application. Its essence remains crystal clear: when you

might indulge thoughts of being at an end, keep your head up and keep going: resilience, humility, pride, perseverance, clarity of vision to the fore.

At the end of the summer term 2017, I shall be moving as Headmaster to Christ's Hospital in West Sussex. In fact, I was there once before, as an English teacher, about 15 years ago. There are obvious differences between this great Moray school and the other. However, they share a commitment in doing something more than seduce by examination grade. Edward VI and Kurt Hahn, founders both of two wonderful British schools, had they met on 'Ocean Spirit', would have recognised in each other an allegiance: the young boy may have said to the old German: 'our schools, Doctor Hahn, give young people a space to grow under a roof propped by pillars of academic ambition, strength without arrogance, proud service and civic responsibility'. Both schools are striking colours in the British full-boarding school landscape.

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DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

by Andrew Davies,
Development Director

THE CAMPAIGN FOR GORDONSTOUN AND THE FERGUSON FAMILY GIFT

It is truly with great thanks we wish to announce a gift of £250,000 made to The Campaign for Gordonstoun by Steven and Wendy Ferguson and their family.

The Ferguson's most generous support will help create an International and Spiritual Citizenship (ISC) classroom space in Round Square.

In making this gift, Mr. Ferguson said, "What has come from our discussions at home, is that the overriding factor that we believe sets Gordonstoun apart from other schools is the unique approach to the development of the individual as a whole. If we look at what our children took away from Gordonstoun it has been this quality we have seen in them and others who went to school at Gordonstoun. With this in mind, we would like our donation to support the ISC facility which will help provide the infrastructure to continue promoting the Gordonstoun approach."

We are honoured and grateful to receive the Ferguson family's gift – a gift that will support generations of students and their personal development.

The Campaign for Gordonstoun was officially launched this June by HRH The Princess Royal at St. James's Palace. The Campaign aims to raise £5 million for significant campus redevelopment, which will see Round Square re-purposed into an educational space, a new boarding house to be built for Duffus House and a vital renewal for Cumming House. Plans and further details can be seen on the School's website.



In addition to our new canoe, gifts have been received to create a new science garden for the Junior School and a large scale world map for Campus.

Thank you to those who have already given to the Annual Fund. Your support, feedback and willingness to help is very much appreciated.

You can find out more about the projects in this year's Annual Fund by visiting www.gordonstoun.org.uk/annual-fund

SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Gordonstoun's long standing commitment to providing education to young people irrespective of means, continues. Each year, we have more applicants than we are able to give places for and securing support for scholarships and bursaries is crucial. This year, however, we were able to fund an additional full Sixth Form scholarship thanks to the generous support and donations made by OGS.

EVENTS

The autumn has been a busy period for the Campaign with gatherings and profile raising in several countries.

The Gordonstoun American Foundation (GAF) hosted a reception at the Racquet and Tennis Club in New York City. Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr Eve Poole addressed the GAF Board and guests, and along with the Campaign Director Andrew Davies, visited some of our existing donors in America.

In early November, Axel Masberg (Altyre 1994) hosted a hugely successful dinner in Düsseldorf, re-connecting former alumni in Germany and Belgium. Additional events in Hamburg and Munich are being planned for 2017.

In Hong Kong, current parents Claudius and Micaela van Heyningen generously hosted a successful and wonderful evening event for OGS and current parents. Gordonstoun is appreciative and grateful to have such a dedicated and supportive group of parents in Hong Kong and very much look forward to further engagement events.

GORDONSTOUN GLOBALLY SPEAKING – STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS ENGAGE WITH WORLD-LEADING EXPERTS

This autumn, Gordonstoun hosted two lectures, featuring two global experts in their respective fields of education and design.

In October, Dr Jörg Dräger, executive board member, from the Bertelsmann Stiftung (Foundation) delivered a lecture on digitisation and education to our senior pupils, staff, representatives from other philanthropic foundations, as well as local educators and invited guests. The German-based Foundation's international approach in fostering global understanding provides policy advice to governments and leading think tanks around the world.

A key point in the lecture and discussions was the global need to deliver new educational models in those countries with growing populations, and how digitisation can be used as a way forward.

We very much look forward to working with the Bertelsmann Stiftung in shared areas of interest.

In November, Bruce Mau, Chief Design Officer of Freeman, a global brand experience company, delivered a lecture to senior pupils and invited guests from the local art, architecture and design fields. Part of Mr Mau's global work has been delivered through a project called Massive Change. Its concept — 'It's not about the world of design, but the design of the world' — was explored in his lecture and student workshops. Mr Mau and his wife Bisi Williams provided a new way of looking at design and design education, and we are grateful for the sharing of their insight into how design can make the world work more sustainably.



HRH The Princess Royal and the School's Archivist Louise Avery.

GORDONSTOUN'S ANNUAL FUND UP AND RUNNING

Gordonstoun's first-ever Annual Fund initiative got off to a flying start, and within days of projects being announced in October, funds were received to purchase a new canoe for our fleet. (Only at Gordonstoun could a canoe be worn out!)

The projects identified for support speak to the breadth of our educational activity and busy school life.

It is hoped that The Annual Fund Appeal will be made each year to members of the Gordonstoun community, both present and former parents, staff and OGS. Projects identified for the Annual Fund are smaller-scale and achievable - this means they can be fundraised within an academic year. The emphasis is on participation and not necessarily the scale of a contribution.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

by Dr. Eve Poole BA MBA PhD FRSA

Thank you all for your stalwart support of your old school.

It has been one of the highlights of my first year as Chairman, meeting so many OGs and hearing your memories of Gordonstoun. From the Edinburgh and London GA carol services, to the Kurt Hahn Foundation lunches, via the Gordonstoun American Foundation Board in New York, and OGs at the Round Square conference in Singapore, I have been struck by the strong bond created by your shared experience of Gordonstoun. Everyone can talk about sail training; everyone can talk about exped; and everyone can talk about the magic of the Michael Kirk and the Silent Walk.

We put this to the test asking you to get involved in the Edinburgh University research into the out of classroom offer, and a phenomenal 1183 of you responded. We also surveyed parents, and held focus groups with OGs, parents and current students, as well as inviting the Edinburgh researchers to conduct on-site ethnographic studies. You told us that Gordonstoun is special, and that what you learned here has been material in how you have subsequently chosen to live your life. In fact, fully 94% of you reported that the Gordonstoun out-of-classroom experience had a positive influence on your personal growth and development.

While the research is a ringing endorsement of Kurt Hahn's vision, it also poses sharp questions about whether or not we always get the balance right both in and out of the classroom, whether all services are equal, and to what extent we are still able to give students genuine autonomy and opportunities to lead. We will use the findings to inform our strategy for the coming years.

This is an exciting time for the school as our leadership transitions and we look to the future.

By now of course you will all have heard that Simon Reid leaves us this year to take over as Headmaster of Christ's Hospital. This has given us the opportunity to review our leadership needs and to put in place a structure which gives us the full range of educational, strategic, business and development skills to deliver our vision for Gordonstoun as world leader in character education. We have therefore created the new post of Headmaster, which will be taken up by OG Titus Edge. He



has been performing a similar role for us this year already, while Simon focuses on our strategic agenda, and the arrangement is working well. Lisa Kerr will take over as Principal of Gordonstoun Schools Limited. Lisa will be known to many of you as the Chairman of our Development Committee, and has served as a Gordonstoun governor for over 10 years. Her parents were both educationalists, and like Titus, she has children at the school. Her background in industry and strong leadership abilities are exactly what we need to drive forward our strategic agenda, and we are very excited about the future. Our news has already sparked a lot of attention, both from the media and from other schools, many of whom regard it as typical Gordonstoun trailblazing.

We will be sad to see Simon and Michèle go. Both they and the cats have been central to the Gordonstoun family. Their generous hospitality has brought warmth to everyone who has entered their home. Simon's leadership has seen academic standards steadily improve, and we will never forget his reaction to the legendary singing Valentine on the wonderful ITN documentary! New facilities, including our Sports Centre and the Odstoun Dance and Drama Centre, have opened, and Duffus House moved into a newly refurbished and extended building near Odstoun at the start of the Spring Term. We will be saying our proper farewells in the summer. Our loss, however, is Christ's Hospital's gain, and we wish them well in the next stage of their journey together.

I am sure you have read recent widespread media reports about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry's preliminary hearing. The purpose of the Inquiry is to investigate the nature and extent of abuse that may have taken place across Scotland from 1930 to December 2014 and is expected to last four years. This is a comprehensive Inquiry that will assess a wide range of organisations throughout Scotland. Over 60 institutions and schools, Gordonstoun included, have been asked to report to the Inquiry and we are fully committed to helping in any way we can.

The work the Scottish Inquiry is undertaking will, we hope, draw important lessons from the past and make children safer in the future. We are keen to support the Scottish Inquiry in any way we can and if you have any information you feel you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact them on talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot or 0800 0929300 (freephone).

Thank you to Adam Nair ► (Windmill 1957) for his very generous donation of photographic equipment to the Art Department. He and his wife Doreen took the opportunity of their visit to see the Art Exhibition and the school grounds on a beautiful sunny morning in Moray.



COMING FULL CIRCLE

by Dr Robert Anderson (former Staff 1962)

Robert Anderson was born on 20 August 1927 and educated at Cambridge University, England, where he began reviewing gramophone records and conducting. Later he wrote music criticism for *The Times* and broadcast for the BBC on radio and television. He was for five years Director of Music at Gordonstoun and conductor of the Moray Choral Union, appointments followed by a season as assistant to Thomas Schippers at Gian Carlo Menotti's Festival of Two Worlds at Spoleto in Italy.

For eighteen years he was an associate editor of *The Musical Times*, the oldest music journal in the world with a record of continuous publication. During the last seventeen years of his life he wrote mostly for *Music & Vision*, a comparatively recent internet daily. He wrote books on ancient Egyptian music, Wagner, and three volumes on Sir Edward Elgar. He was co-ordinating editor of the Elgar Complete Edition, personally responsible for many of the volumes that appeared during his tenure.

As a lecturer he went four times to the United States, but more often in Russia, where he has lectured at universities in Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Tver and Yaroslavl, as well as on waterway cruises of Russia and Ukraine. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in Moscow and an honorary professorship in Rostov.

As conductor he appeared frequently at the Royal Albert Hall, London, directing such major orchestras as the London Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic, London Mozart Players and English Chamber Orchestra in a mainly choral repertoire. He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a member of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, and a Doctor of Music at the City University, London.

He died in London on 24 November 2015, aged eighty-eight.

The following are some of his recollections and we thank his goddaughter, Liz Gray for sharing them with us.

"Like Eva Chew, I came south to Gordonstoun, from my home in the Shetland Islands. Mine was a mid-term emergency appointment, as the boys of Duffus House had driven a new master to near breakdown. My name was suggested to Henry Brereton by Martin Doernberg, a member of the music staff, with whom I had played much chamber music. Henry Brereton asked if I could manage till the end of the Christmas term; in fact I stayed more than five years, 1956-62. Brereton took note of my Cambridge degree, in Classics and Egyptology, though for the last two years I had been involved in musical journalism and editing. Main reasons for staying on at Gordonstoun, apart from the teaching, which I greatly enjoyed, were friendships with Godfrey Burchardt at Duffus and Susie Lachmann, perhaps the finest violinist I have ever met. Godfrey soon switched me from French (I think all my students failed O-level) to Classics, where I was in my element. But chamber music with Susie and her cellist sister, Frau Hoff (Froffie), became an increasing pleasure. I had done some conducting at Cambridge, and Susie suggested I should restart a choral society in Elgin. This won Brereton's approval, as some with wartime memories still thought of Gordonstoun as the 'German school'. Though I was commandeered by the Sea Cadets and certainly climbed a mountain, the choral society became an alibi, involving boys and staff as well as a loyal following in Elgin. Susie played in the orchestra for the Elgin concerts, and eventually she asked me if I would take over the directorship of music from her. This was one of the happiest moments in my life. A memorable venture was producing and conducting Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* within Round Square. I had asked for a fountain as central feature, and clouds of billowing black smoke



L-R: John Jackson, Duguld MacKenzie, Dr Robert Anderson, Greig Carnie and Charles Struthers.

as if conjured by the witches. The smoke was fine as long as the wind behaved; but at one performance it blew strongly in the direction of the orchestra, with hilarious and potentially disastrous results."

"Kurt Hahn had not visited Gordonstoun since his departure some years before. I had heard much about him from Burchardt and Susie, who would leave off all make-up if ever she wanted anything from him, entering his study with a ghostly pallor that immediately achieved her aims. He was to address all the Gordonstoun boys, with no masters in attendance. The more I thought about being excluded, the less I liked the idea. So I asked Dr. Hahn if I might attend. He said my presence would make him nervous, but I might come. The talk, based on key episodes in Hahn's life, was entirely gripping, and I was very grateful to have been there. It was the beginning of a warm relationship, involving characteristic breakfasts at Brown's Hotel in London, when there was much discussion about the first of the Atlantic [United World] colleges, to be founded at St. Donat's Castle in Wales. Hahn was also greatly interested in my own activities, and in 1974 he invited me to stay with him at his home near Salem. Unfortunately his illness prevented my going. Plans were already laid for my first conducting venture at the Albert Hall and for archaeological participation in the UNESCO Nubian rescue campaign. I like to think Hahn felt I had not failed him."

"My interest in the 'Round Square' movement was sparked by Eva Chew and Shomi Das. I had shared a flat with Shomi in Windmill Lodge at Gordonstoun. He liked the fact I had been born in India, and told me much about the Doune School, where he was later Headmaster. Before leaving Gordonstoun, I had promised Eva I would take her to Glyndebourne. This I did, about the time she was going to a 'Round Square' meeting. We kept in touch, and I visited her in her Lake District home after the stroke that hastened her end. My London choir, based at Bart's Hospital, gave me much I treasure, including a wonderful godchild in Liz Gray. Thus things have come full circle."

*appeared frequently at the
Royal Albert Hall*

GORDONSTOUN REMEMBERS

by David Monteith (former Staff, 2007)

The annual Gordonstoun Service of Remembrance in St Christopher's Chapel includes the two Guardians reading out the list of those commemorated on the School War Memorial. Since 1993 that list has numbered twenty six individuals; in 2016 the list numbered twenty seven. How did this come about?

Four years ago when I started researching the OGs commemorated by the marble plaques on the Colour Bearer staircase in Gordonstoun House I never imagined that the fruits of my labour would lead to a further OG being added to the list. It happened following an article in the 2016 GA Magazine describing the new digital memorial on the school website.

OG Army Hennessy wrote to the Principal to pass on his compliments on the magazine and asked if David Monteith knew of his brother's untimely death in a three day war in Kuwait in 1961. I knew nothing of that three day war in 1961 and the school had no record of the death of Army's older brother Flavian, who died at the young age of 24 flying an RAF jet. That was the start of several weeks' investigation in order that Flavian's story could be told.

Such research is like doing a jigsaw puzzle only you don't start with all the pieces! As well as telling us that his brother died in Kuwait he also passed on that Flavian had been Guardian and was buried in Kuwait City. The three day war was fairly simple to clarify - not a war but Operation Vantage, a deployment by British forces to counter Iraqi threats to the newly independent Kuwait.

In response to a request from the ruling Sheik, a Royal Navy aircraft carrier, another RN carrier with 42 Commando embarked, and two RAF Hawker Hunter Squadrons, 8 and 208, were deployed. Was Flavian serving on one of these? After trawling through the internet I found that he had indeed been a young Squadron Pilot on 208 Squadron. After joining the unit at RAF Eastleigh in Kenya, the Squadron deployed to Khormaksar in Aden and was sent forward to the Persian Gulf from there. Initially based in Bahrain, the two units went to Kuwait with the initial landing of Royal Marine Commandos.

In the meantime a search of the Gordonstoun archive revealed that Flavian had been in Gordonstoun House. He was a keen sportsman and a member of the Combined Cadet Force. His brother Army also sent further details - Flavian had joined the Royal Air Force straight from school and went on to attend the Royal Air Force College Cranwell where he graduated with the Sword of Honour. Obviously at the top of his game, what went so badly wrong for this young man?

After further investigation I stumbled on an RAF ops report that detailed the operation in which Flavian lost his life. This extract revealed his fate on a July day in 1961:

'Three pairs of aircraft were brought to 15 minutes readiness at 07:15 on the 11th for an Army cooperation exercise. By 07:45 all pilots were at 2-minutes standby in their cockpits and at 08:00, two pairs scrambled.

As both leaders failed to start, the number twos took off as singletons. Visibility in the exercise area was much worse than predicted and the first pilot, deciding not to make any ground attack dives, reported this back to ASOC. The second aircraft (XG134), however, made several attacks but unfortunately struck the ground, killing the pilot, Fg Off Hennessy.'

Reading between the lines it is possible to see a committed young officer determined to do his duty. Through circumstances beyond his control he was denied the guiding hand of more experienced pilots, he pushed home his simulated attack and hit the desert as a result. Coincidentally another RAF ground attack pilot is commemorated on the Gordonstoun memorial who died in similar circumstances in Egypt in 1945.



Throughout my journey learning about Flavian Hennessy his story touched me more and more and consequently I will now remember him every November. After leaving school I also entered the Royal Air Force College Cranwell and just before Christmas 1970 visited the Hunter Wing in Bahrain. The two Hunter squadrons, 8 and 208, flew a 19 ship Hunter formation the day we arrived and invited twelve young flight cadets to their Christmas celebration in the Officers' Mess. All those years ago I had seen something of the spirit of Flavian's existence as an RAF pilot and, over forty years later, it came to me to record his story at Gordonstoun.

Flavian's story can be found on the GA web pages at <http://www.gordonstoun.org.uk/flavian-hennessy>

“ a committed young officer determined to do his duty ”

by Armyr Hennessee (Windmill Lodge 1958)

Dedication to his brother Flavian Hennessee

LOVE'S LEADING BY ARMYR HENNESSY

In the shade of darkness
here in this scented garden
 we are alone,
 star-bells in her eyes
 reflecting playfully my own.
We talk, we laugh, and as we do,
 the garden is no more
 it is as dreamed.
And high, over-arching,
 the hues of spacious night,
 blue unimaginably deep and rich
 with flickering flow of pinpoint lights,
 itself no more a sky,
 echoes softly distant hoofs of our desire.
With shapes the Milky Way begins to glow;
 and from it riding through dim space,
 horses and their riders fly.
Wildly across the sky they charge,
 white flowing manes held fast by girls
 who sing the starly distances,
 coursing divine and myth strewn lands
 for love as like as destiny.
We kiss and nearer come the pounding hoofs.
 The neigh of instincts
 draws us close in an embrace,
 and a jewel held in dual grace
 their riders' joy, our ecstasy
 as shining cloud
 unfolds in coursers greeting.
The roar of horses overhead goes by
as though all space were a slender span.
 And as they pass,
 the young girls lean and catch us up
 and saddle us on racing steeds.
 There,
amid the charging host, the laughing shouts,
we travel beams of light that fly the stars.
We ride upon the back of boundless sky
and drive the luminous yielding night:
 and it gives before us into
avenues of safety and pleasing hours.

No comet banners stream this way
 but bidding radiance.
And they who riding brought us here
go on before us to the colouring of dawn,
strewing our path with flowers and foretelling.
 There too
 upon the threshold of the light
we are transformed performing marriage
ever before there were such things as law
-- sinews, being, intellect, all --
 seeing as we never saw,
 this love, our loyalty,
 casting azure on places far below
 where fade old challenges away.
 For what we do
 we are here in freedom
 and a world of day to own.
Behold love's leading
 to new kinds of sharing;
Smile upon our expectation.
 Within this link of life
 fulfilments come of love
 that forms in its hands well being,
 from trowel to seed and suns
 with needful rain to flower and fruition.
 Seasons shall pass
in the tug and pull of is and what can be,
 where the i
 shall give you the gifts of time,
 theirs in your service,
 with wisdom that first is love.
Then, a day's work shall love's leading renew,
 make joys out of hopes
 and being there for all it takes
 to bring up youth and live the roads of life
 in the long light of its healing afterglow.
 And now,
 for whom we take with our endeavour,
 we claim these simple rights,
beyond this garden to make physical another
not in the end our own and far beyond this time.

MY ROAD TO ESO

by Martine Peltzer née Surgess (Hopeman 1988)

As I sit here in the aftermath of one of the most important milestone discoveries in the heavens above (finding a planet in the habitable zone of our nearest star, Proxima Centauri using, amongst others, ESO's telescopes and instruments), I marvel at the luck that brought me to work in this amazing Organisation. ESO (the European Southern Observatory), builds and operates a suite of the world's most advanced ground based astronomical telescopes and its HQ is located just north of Munich, its telescopes can be found in the driest desert on earth, the Atacama Desert in Chile.

When I left Gordonstoun in 1988 I never dreamt that I would, one day, live in Germany and work in such an organisation. In fact, I had no idea where life would take me after my initial gap year of teaching English in Indonesia as part of Project Trust. I had not decided what to do about Uni, that decision would have to wait until after my gap year. As it turned out, I loved Indonesia so much that I returned there only months after finishing the gap year and spent the next four years living the life of Riley in Lovina Beach, north Bali. Whilst my friends were at university in England, studying away in lecture halls and laboratories, I was expanding my knowledge of Indonesia, learning the Balinese language and culture and performing Hindu prayers in my garden temple at sunrise and sunset each day. When I wasn't doing that, I was on the beach, hanging out.

So how could I afford to be a beach bum at 20? Well, I worked in London for 3-4 months each year and took temping jobs. The money I earned was enough for a return airfare to Bali and for my living costs for the rest of the year.

After I got tired of Bali (well not really, I just got the 'Call' from Down Under), I went further away from home and with a working holiday visa I planned to work and travel around the continent. To start off with, I spent 3 months working in Sea Life on the Gold Coast, staying with friends I had met in Bali. Then it was time to move on so I went to Sydney, to stay with yet another friend I had met in Bali. I ended up where 99.9% of young Brits end up, Bondi Beach. I shared a large (huge) bedsit with my friend on the top of a building on Campbell Parade, right at the beach. Stepping out of our door onto the roof our view was the beach, sprawled before us and it was breathtaking. I didn't want to leave and so I didn't. I didn't get to see the rest of Australia, except for a trip or two to Byron Bay, Melbourne, the Blue Mountains etc. Sydney was IT for me. The huge harbour, the coastal beaches and surf, the weather, it was paradise. But then my two best friends from school decided to get married around the same time and I left Australia to attend the weddings, despite plans of staying on illegally. It was a sad day for me.

After the weddings I went to Turkey, where I lived for 1½ years on my mother's small yacht, maxing my credit cards to the full and earning some money as a holiday rep, planning a cunning return to Oz. And then, one day out of the blue, I got a phone call from an old family friend who owned a recruitment agency in Sydney. He knew I loved Sydney and wanted to return so, completely unbeknownst to me, he got his lawyers to fix me up with a four-year business visa and I was to start work as a recruitment consultant in his firm. WOW. I was the happiest gal on the planet and back to Sydney and Bondi I went... and that, I thought was that.

But, and there is always a but, I had met someone in Turkey. He came and visited me in Sydney three times in one year. In the end, he captured my heart and brought me back to Europe.

This 'someone' (now my husband of 15 years) was living in Munich and soon after I settled down, I started to look for work. As I didn't have much experience of sales, banking, insurance or other work, I did what I knew best. I registered with a couple of temping firms. As I was filling in the forms with one company, they received a call from ESO's HR department, looking for a native English speaking secretary. Asked if I was available for an interview I said yes and the following week saw the beginning of my career at ESO. First as a temp and then after 2½ years I started as a staff member. Now, 17 years on I am still here. Why? It's an incredible place. Come visit!



Martine in Bali



REMINISCENCES OF A GERMAN BOY AT GORDONSTOUN SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR II.

by Ernst Breuel
(Hopeman Lodge 1952)

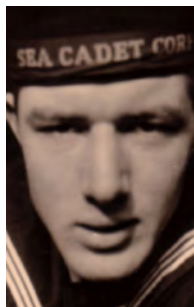
I was one of the first German boys after World War II at Gordonstoun. Kurt Hahn wanted to quickly normalise relations between the younger generations of Britain and Germany after the war by sending boys from Salem to Gordonstoun and vice versa.

I met Kurt Hahn on a Tennis court in Salem. He loved to play tennis. Whenever he turned up, we played a round. When he asked me what

I wanted to do after the Abitur, I said I wasn't sure yet. He suggested I first learn some English – we only had Greek, Latin and French in Salem – and to come to Gordonstoun for a while. Maybe, in the back of his mind, there was also some more tennis in Scotland.. Anyway, in Autumn 1951 I arrived at the school, not knowing one word of English. Hahn made me househelper at Hopeman Lodge, at that time a boys only house. With Captain McGregor in charge, who had lost one leg in the Battle of the Atlantic when his ship was sunk by a German torpedo. Also, I became a member of the Helpers Executive and thus found myself right in the middle of Gordonstoun life. I stayed for only two terms, but it was a time full of new impressions, serious tasks and funny memories.

Captain McGregor loved housecleaning. He had established a Hopeman Lodge Masterplan of scrubbing and polishing every morning before breakfast with everybody on their knees and he personally supervised its meticulous execution with all his captain's authority. I remember sitting in my chilly room at night wrapped in a blanket feeding my weak little fireplace with two shilling pieces and reading 'David Copperfield' to follow Hahn's advice: "10 new words each day, my boy, and you will learn English quickly." I remember the obstacle course and me crawling over that awful rope with the the cold muddy water underneath. I remember being run over in my first rugby match, that strange British game, with Hahn steaming round the pitch in his black car encouraging the losing team to promote its fighting spirit. I have sweet memories of my Sea Cadet Service in rather low winter temperatures. We first shovelled the boats clear of snow and then sailed on the stormy Moray Firth. Not very gemütlich! In the Sea Cadet Force World War II propaganda films each British shot or bomb sank a German Ship. My very German presence brought about that these films were no longer shown. I experienced Hahn's funny and subtle methods of punishment: He asked for learning poems to find out abilities to concentrate and how long it took the boys to learn the poems by heart. I took part in a dramatic school assembly when something wrong had happened. But who had done it? Hahn stood in front of the assembly with his big blue eyes and held a flaming speech. He demanded the culprits step forward. After half an hour of silence two boys stepped forward, admitted their sins and received their punishment – three rounds of boxing.

Hahn was interested in the education of boys. Girls were not on his priority list. But he may have thought that his boys should nevertheless should get used in time to the other species. The annual Gordonstoun Highland Dancing Ball before Xmas, for upper classes only of course, was Hahn's vehicle to promote normal relations between the sexes. To my great surprise: After some dancing lights were suddenly turned off and I found myself hugged and kissed in the dark by my dancing partner, a lovely girl from a near village. She apparently knew what Hahn expected to happen. After about 3 minutes the lights went on again and the dancing continued. Everywhere hot faces and destroyed hairdos. Quite obviously, Hahn's philosophy was well accepted and readily implemented.



One day Hahn asked me to accompany a boy back home who had to leave the school. It was January and pretty cold. We travelled by train a couple of hours – in school uniform. The family was not pleased at all. Their son being expelled from the school was bad enough, but realising me being German was an additional shock. However, after first emotions had cooled down, I was invited for dinner and even to stay for the night. Next morning I left in an atmosphere of distance and respect. Possibly, this encounter has done something to improve relations between our countries.

At the end of the Spring Term, before I left Gordonstoun, Hahn suggested a farewell-skiing at a students hostel near Aviemore in the Highlands. I was the only foreigner. The skiing was rather poor compared with continental standards – walking to a short slope with a tiny lift in heavy skiing boots for almost two hours each way. But the Apres Ski at the hostel in the evening was really nice. Lots of tea and singing and highland dancing. One evening, right in the middle of the dancing, it bounced at the door. A boy, pale and bloodsmearred, stood there and asked for help. He and two friends had been climbing Ben Mcdhui. They went up roped together, he said, when suddenly one of them slipped and all three lost balance. One friend was killed immediately, the other badly injured.

At dawn our rescue team went up. After a gruelling five hours we found two dead climbers and started immediately on our way back. To get as far as possible before dark. We carried the bodies on stretchers we had brought with us. A heavy snow storm and darkness made it extremely difficult to find our way. Our one torch was of little help. We finally reached the hostel at 10pm. It surely was the most exhausting trip of my life. Maybe the cross country runs at Gordonstoun had helped me to make it.

After finishing law studies in Germany, Hahn helped once more.

St. Antony's College in Oxford accepted me as a postgraduate in 1956. At that time about 60 postgraduates from all over the world studied at the college. We had fascinating discussions. I did some work for my German Ph.D, heard excellent lectures on Soviet and Far Eastern Affairs, played hockey with the Oxford Occasionals and enjoyed life during a glorious summer.

Looking back, Salem, Gordonstoun and later Oxford were important times of my life. Kurt Hahn had guided me through those early years, and I am grateful for it. His motto, or rather demand, „Plus est en vous“ probably helped to set better priorities in my life. Kurt Hahn was a great personality, a charismatic headmaster, a wise man with a deep understanding of the human nature. I am glad I met him.



VIEW FROM THE VELODROME

by Emma Barton
(Windmill 2007)

Walking into the Rio 2016 Olympic village, there were lots of similarities to being back at school, albeit on a slightly larger scale, with the addition of a warm South American climate. The dining hall, much like the refectory, but 10 times the size, brought people from all over the world together to sit and enjoy a meal. From Marathon runners to Heavy Weight Boxers, Gymnasts to Basketball players, some of the most talented and diverse athletes on the planet under one roof made for an impressive meal time. The accommodation blocks scattered through the campus acted as a boarding house for each nation, providing a home throughout their stay. I was lucky enough to be there as a part of Team GB, as one of the support crew for the British Cycling Team.

The first Cycling events were the Road Races, around the epic backdrop of Rio's spectacular coastline. Starting from the iconic Copacabana beach, the riders faced one of the most challenging courses in Olympic history. Both the Men's and Women's teams fought hard along the ragged coast line, cobbled stretches, long steep climbs through the jungle, with equally treacherous, winding descents, which unfortunately played a role in Geraint Thomas' crash on the last lap. This sadly took him out of contention for a medal, and also saw Lizzie Armistead finish 5th in a close battle the following day.

The Time Trials followed a few days later, and after the glorious Brazilian sunshine that greeted the Road Races, the weather for the TT was reminiscent of Moray in Mid February. Gale force winds and lashing rain made for tricky conditions, even for the hardest of British riders. In the women's field, the petite Emma Pooley battled the high winds to finish 14th. In the Men's, following his busy summer in France, Chris Froome raced to Bronze and GB's first cycling medal.

Next up was the Track Racing, six days of competition on the newly constructed Velodrome. Following the GB squad's success in Beijing and London, the pressure was on, and recent results had shown that the rest of the world had stepped up significantly in the last four years. Preparation for the track squad in the holding camp in Wales had gone well. The Velodrome in Newport was heated to 30 degrees, the



Emma (far left) with Team GB's cycling support team

new bikes were in action, and the teams were riding fast, but now it was time to see how that form would compare to their competitors. The Riders had trained hard in the preceding years, and an amazing support network of Coaches, Physiologists, Nutritionists, Biomechanists, Performance Analysts, Psychologists, Aerodynamicists, and Strength & Conditioning Coaches to name but a few, had helped ensure they were at their peak coming into the Games.

With the excited apprehension that anything could happen, the first day of competition is always an important one for the team. As it turned out, GB couldn't have asked for a better start. Both the Men's and the Women's Pursuit squads set the fastest times in Qualifying, and the Team Sprint boys rode to win Gold. From there, the momentum built and the scene was set for an exciting competition. World Records were broken and medals won, to the extent that every rider who lined up on the track came away with an Olympic medal, an incredible achievement by a determined and talented group of athletes.

Then onto BMX, but the fast paced and notoriously unpredictable event wasn't without its complications in the lead up. The track had been rebuilt three times as an overly ambitious design had made it too dangerous to ride, and both GB riders had been racing to heal broken bones in time for the big event following a crash in training. Liam Phillips and Kyle Evans had cruised into the quarterfinals, but a huge crash left Liam with a severe concussion, and unable to ride on. Unfortunately it wasn't to be for Kyle either, but despite the disappointment, both lads displayed fine acts of sportsmanship by completing the lap, shaking hands and wishing their rivals all the best for the final, a credit to such a hard working pair of riders.

The final event was the Mountain biking, on the closing day of the Games. Based in Deodoro, the man-made course was built around an ex military base, overlooked by one of the largest favela communities in the city. The young Scotsman Grant Ferguson had a last minute call up to the Games, and showed the field what a promising future he has ahead of him by finishing in the top 20.

It was a privilege to be a part of Team GB and witness the amazing display of performances by the whole of the team over the summer. Our Brazilian hosts put on an incredible Games, with so many inspiring stories, endeavours and achievements by athletes from every corner of the world, it's something I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to experience.



Emma is a sports scientist and was part of the Team GB Cycle Squad.

TO BE WORLDWIDE

by Folkert Mijster
(Round Square 2010)

GORDONSTOUN

Arriving at Gordonstoun in April 2008, leaving Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where I lived my whole life, a new journey started. It seems now to be the first big adventure I did on my own. Alone, new people, other environment, other rules, chapel and fewer subjects. During my time at G'stoun I was involved with the hockey at school. I trained Aberlour, trained and coached the U14s and U16s, and if my classes and own hockey games allowed, I would go with the younger teams to their games.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

During my time at Gordonstoun Mr. Pyper, headmaster at the time, told us the story about the Good Samaritan once every term in chapel, if I remember well. There are many different ways to look at this story, but I see it as helping someone in need, or helping a stranger. Although the story didn't seem to have a big impact on me then, it certainly did after my Gordonstoun time. We, my family and I, always supported orphanages and schools in India, Kenya and throughout the whole of Africa. Although we visited some of the places we supported, we would only go there for a week.

SPORTS

After my Gordonstoun time I went back to the Netherlands to study. During my study I coached some hockey teams at my club and continued playing hockey myself. Although I think education is really important, I think playing sports is nearly equally as important when you're young. It is proven that sport enhances children's learning. It shows you that you can get back on your feet when you lose or make a mistake, and with team sports it teaches you at a young age how to be a team player and that you can't do everything on your own.

TOBEWORLDWIDE

After finishing my study, I worked in real estate in Amsterdam for a year, but something didn't seem right. I needed new input and a new adventure. While looking around for the new input/adventure, I was approached by a charity, called ToBeWorldwide, that was at that moment only involved in educational resource centres in Ghana, but they wanted to add sports to their programme. As you may know, Ghana is a "football crazy" country, everywhere you go you will see grass/sand pitches with two, mostly, hand made goals, guys and girls running behind a football. Therefore I decided this would be an amazing opportunity and adventure for me to combine sports, education and doing something for strangers who need help.



Footballers on the pitch

GHANA

In March 2016 we secured the first pitch ToBeWorldwide will be using for their sports programme. Much as this was already a breakthrough, the pitch was, and still is, in bad condition. The pitch has small grass island in a sand area, some holes and the pitch is sloping. Just after securing the pitch I decided to go to Ghana, in the first place for ToBeWorldwide. My initial plan was to go to Ghana for two months to find funds, private as well as companies, for the reconstruction of the pitch. The plan has changed over the past few months, I have moved to Ghana, I'm still looking for funds for the football pitch, but I'm also helping Ghanaians setting up business and will probably be in Ghana for the coming years.



Ghanaian Business Partner Victor

FUNDS

ToBeWorldwide is still looking for funds, at this moment we have two teams (U18s and U16s) playing in one of the Ghanaian competitions and we have the younger players train at the pitch at least four times a week. We offer as a return for our individual donors to see the first match online when the pitch is reconstructed, and in return for company donations we have set up an internal competition for the younger players, whereby one of the teams will play with your company name on their shirts and will give a weekly update on how they're doing in the internal competition. If you're interested in donating either contact me on folkertmijster@gmail.com or look at our website tobeworldwide.com



Warm up

Ghana is...
football crazy

PLUS EST EN VOUS

If anyone is visiting Ghana or wanting to work as a volunteer please contact me, as I will be more than happy to meet up or help find a place to do volunteering jobs.

MY RIO EXPERIENCE...

by Heather Stanning
(Plewards 2003)

I find it hard enough to express myself when asked direct questions, so when asked to sum up my journey to Rio and the experience in a few hundred words I may struggle. There's a reason I excelled in sport and not in the classroom while at school...

Rio is the result of not just Helen and my hard work, but that of a whole team who helped and supported us along the way, the key player being Robin Williams, our coach. We won in London because we were passionate, determined and had the support of the nation behind us at a home Olympic Games. The experience was phenomenal and one that spurred us on and made us believe we could do it all again in Rio. However to do that we needed to get better, so that's what we set out to do. The journey to Rio was not straight forward, me making it harder from the start, due to wanting to have time back with the Army to keep my military career on track.

2014 was dominated by me returning to fitness, suffering set backs due to over training, and our coach Robin falling ill with cancer. It was, however, an extremely successful year, Helen and I became World Champions together, breaking the World Best Time in doing so. Robin got the all clear and the balance was all reset. The following year saw us produce probably the best race of our career, and also learn what it was like to defend a major title. The journey is almost as important as the end goal, as it helps create that result, which we, as athletes, will be remembered.

So going to my second Olympics to defend the title, what does that feel like? Quite honestly, turning up as a first timer with no expectations, is a lot more fun! Rio was way more emotional than I every imagined, and there wasn't one particular moment that I realised this, but more the build up, the living in a pressure cooker, the feeling that the eyes of the world were on us...having such a key focus on one set target, knowing that anything but Gold is failure, takes a lot of the fun out of it!

We had invested so much more time and energy into this Olympic campaign, and also had the results to back us; being unbeaten since 2011 gave us confidence in what we had done in preparation, but unfortunately didn't make the actual racing any easier. We still had to deliver on the day. The racing conditions in Rio were a lot less predictable than we were used to but, hey, rowing is an outdoor sport, what did we expect! We had proved time and again how good we were in stable racing conditions, this was our opportunity to show how good we could be at dealing with race delays, unpredictable winds and choppy water. Helen and I have always had an approach to our training and racing; we must be good enough to win even on a bad

day. Rio may not have been our best racing, it was however a display of our ability to deal with pressure, change and still produce the results.

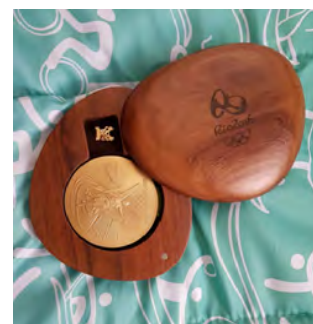
It was especially clear after the Olympic Games in London, medallists or not, we athletes all became role models to young and old...this is not something that any of us prepared for; we trained to compete at sport. What qualifies me to tell people how to live their lives and what to do...and what impact do I really have on young girls and their views on sport? All I've done is grab an opportunity I was given with both hands and absolutely made the most of it, I am one very lucky lady. But, if telling my stories inspires someone to take an opportunity that comes their way and make the best of their talent, it doesn't just have to be sporting, then I guess that's not a bad thing.

The Olympics and sport are fascinating phenomena and it has been a huge privilege for me to compete for Team GB, but what I have loved seeing and experiencing is how it helps break down barriers and stereotypes. It's about the individual/team's ability, not where they come from or their cultural upbringing and religious beliefs. Rio is a city of carnival and culture, but for two months this summer it became the city of sport.

Thank you to all who have supported me in my sporting endeavours over the past decade. After hanging my rowing oars up it didn't take me long to look for a new challenge, this time it's all about helping others...so I'm running the London Marathon.

Please take a moment to look at my page...and thank you for all your support in advance. (Any tips on marathon training also much appreciated!!!)

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HeatherStanning>



A BIRDS-EYE VIEW

by James Barton
(Round Square 2011)

Behind the scenes of any sports competition, armies of officials, staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the event. Earlier this year I was lucky enough to experience what went on behind the scenes in order to plan, manage and deliver the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Since leaving Gordonstoun in 2011, I completed a degree in Sports Technology at Loughborough University, a course which included an optional industrial placement. Between my second and third years of study, I spent 15 months working for Hawk-Eye Innovations, a world leader in sports technology for officiating, coaching and broadcast enhancement, and upon graduating have now returned in a full time role.

Hawk-Eye technology is used for a variety of applications worldwide, with the aim of making sport fairer, safer and more engaging. Whilst the most well-known Hawk-Eye systems are ball tracking technologies used for officiating in Tennis and Cricket, Hawk-Eye has rapidly expanded over the past 5 years. Our technology now plays a central role in over 20 different sports worldwide, including Rugby Union, Baseball and Football, where Hawk-Eye provide Goal-Line Technology for leagues across Europe, including the Premier League.

Throughout my time as a Systems Operator for Hawk-Eye, I was responsible for installing, calibrating and operating a variety of these technologies worldwide, and worked directly alongside match officials and broadcasters to provide services at a range of events including The Ashes, Wimbledon and the Rugby World Cup.

In the Autumn of 2015, Hawk-Eye was approached to propose a range of technology solutions for the Rio 2016 Olympic games. The Olympics is an exceptional event, mainly due to its global, multi-sport format. Each of the 28 Summer Olympic sports have a specific set of requirements which need to be in place for the smooth running of their event. As project manager, I was tasked with designing Video Adjudication systems to best address the individual needs of each of these sports.

During the Rio Games, our technology was used across eight sports; Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Equestrian, Hockey, Tennis and both Beach and Indoor Volleyball. The exact requirements of each sport varied significantly. Some sports, such as Hockey and Basketball, required instant replay technology to allow in-game officiating whilst minimising any delay to competition. Others, such as Badminton, Tennis and Volleyball, needed ball tracking technology to provide accurate line calling. The remainder of the sports required bespoke solutions tailored to meet precise end user requirements, varying from relay handover officiating for Athletics, to robotically controlled camera technology for use in Equestrian dressage.

This wide range of technology used at nine different venues, spread across Rio de Janeiro, presented significant challenges in terms of logistics and planning, ensuring that the correct equipment, infrastructure and staffing were in place for every day of competition throughout the Games. These challenges were amplified by the number of different organisations involved in putting together an event such as the Olympics. A single decision can require the input of Competition, Events, Media, Technology and Broadcasting departments, each coming into the event with their own area of responsibility, so an incredible level of co-ordination and communication is required to get the job done. It is scenarios such as this where the experience of a Gordonstoun education can be so invaluable, working alongside a vast range of people from different cultures and backgrounds, with a shared objective of delivering something incredible. Inevitably with a project on the scale of an Olympic Games, a number of hurdles were encountered throughout the process, but despite this, the Hawk-Eye team of 26 operators worked tirelessly to the very end to ensure that everything was delivered on time and to a high standard.

Having spent two months in the Rio bubble, it was incredible to see how the Olympic and Paralympic Games had gripped the nation back home in the UK. It was something I am very proud to have played a small part in, and I look forward to the next adventure!...



FROM A WELL-TRAVELLED MEDICINAL CHEMIST: “PLUS ET EN VOUS” (MAIS PAS NÉCESSAIREMENT MAINTENANT!)

by Dr. Jim Palmer (Altyre, 1977)

On the 9th of February 2009, the state of Victoria, Australia experienced its worst ever natural disaster, with 173 deaths and 414 injuries resulting from over 400 bushfires. Many homes were destroyed and much indigenous wildlife was killed. Melbourne endured its hottest temperature since records began, 46.3°C (or 115°F). We fearfully closed windows and lowered blinds to keep out the heat and smell of distant smoke, but experienced great relief when the evening cool change blew through, dropping the temperature to a balmy 33°C!

At the time, I recalled serving in the Gordonstoun Fire Service, helping the Grampian Brigade battle a blaze on the Cairngorm Mountains, in far less challenging conditions, but still warm enough to cause discomfort. The brave firefighters who tackled Victoria’s bushfires on that terrifying Saturday would have welcomed all the help they could get.

Memories like those triggered by the bushfires pop up often as I recall my time at the school back in the 60s and 70s. But few were as significant as that of a young boy at a neighboring school who had died of leukemia, and the incredible sadness I’d felt for the poor lad whose life had been cut short, and for his family. To say this elicited a desire to help others suffering from similar afflictions would be over-egging the pudding, but it might have subconsciously piqued an interest in discovering new drugs for all manner of diseases. Yet, the journey wasn’t entirely obvious.

Scientists can often be naturally rebellious, which personally didn’t mesh well with the notion of British public school traditions. I say this in retrospect, perhaps to rationalise a sub-stellar Gordonstoun experience; the only “unofficial” school record I claimed was shearing as much term time off as possible, through any pretexts imaginable! Travelling to and fro by devious or unorthodox paths enabled late arrivals and early departures, culminating in a final vamoose off to the States right after A level exams. Thankfully, the results were irrelevant. My schooling might have been labeled a failure if calibrated by British examination board results. Somehow, Sixth form subjects and French fluency translated into a halfway decent set of American SAT and AP test scores, and enabled a rewarding US college education, so it can’t have been too bad. And having given most of the available activities a fair go, whether they were seamanship, expeditions, team and individual sports, and assorted services, I’d beg a little leniency for pseudo-truancy, the occasional booze-up, a preference for the cricket field rather than study, all to the soundtrack of 70s prog rock. Fortunately, the motto of “plus et en vous” doesn’t force you to access the contents of yourself within a set time. The process takes longer for some; ultimately, when you have a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, no one cares about your high school grades!

Not long ago, I was invited to address a conference room full of cancer patients with a short talk. This was a tremendous thrill, since these were, in a way, my patients, who had been taking a new drug, marketed as Imbruvica®, combating chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). Compressing the discovery of a drug, developed by a team of hundreds, and successfully tested in thousands of patients, into an abbreviated ad-lib tale, wasn’t easy. Imbruvica, also known as Ibrutinib, is an irreversible inhibitor of Bruton’s tyrosine kinase, and is the first marketed cancer drug targeting this enzyme. Ironically, in the mid 1990s, I’d been roundly chastised by a company Vice President

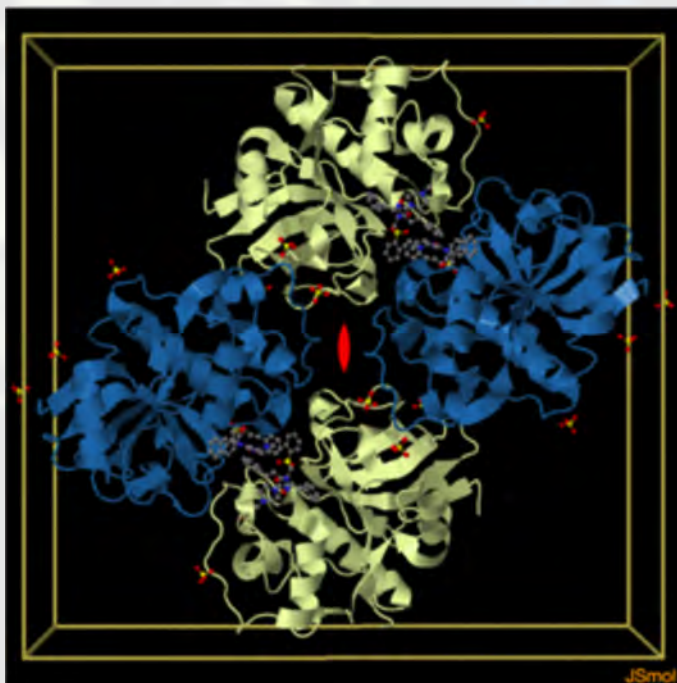


Screenshot from a BBC World Service program, filmed in 2003, showcasing Jim’s part in the fight against Chagas disease.



Local friend encountered on bush walk close to my home.

“ *there is indeed more in you than you think... but don’t worry if it takes you a while to discover it...* ”



Depiction of the cruzain inhibitor K11777 co-crystallized with the protein (courtesy Protein Data Bank).

“being part of
teams
that help
improve
the quality of life
or even save lives,
serves as its own
reward”

for even proposing the study of irreversible inhibitors in drug discovery. This individual had perhaps forgotten that two of the greatest drugs ever invented, aspirin and penicillin, are also irreversible enzyme inhibitors, but once corporate and scientific dogma sets in, it takes a bit of bravery to overcome it. Fortunately for the team, this person decided to leave the organisation before the project began! Imbruvica/Ibrutinibs had begun as a discovery in my San Francisco-based project team in 2004, and was licensed to the developers, Pharmacyclics, who had the guts to progress it all the way through clinical trials, FDA registration, and launch. But while annual sales are projected in the billions of dollars, sheer economics fail to tell the story from a discoverer’s point of view. The best way to sum it up was this: when following the path of the drug through Phase II (human proof of concept) trials, and seeing the words “Complete Response Achieved” among the positive outcomes for a high percentage of patients, this meant lives had actually been saved by this stuff. These words brought tears to my eyes when I first read them, and it wasn’t easy to stop a little ocular liquidity when addressing the patients themselves. This is why medicinal chemists do what we do, and when we win our battles and help save real human patients, we can’t ask for much more.

It’s not all good news in the drug discovery business, though. Another drug, Odanacatib, a cathepsin K inhibitor to treat osteoporosis, which emerged from a partnership between my former research group and Merck & Co., and which, despite a billion dollars invested, thousands of patients, and twenty years of research, recently failed in the last stages of development. The announcement came as a great disappointment to all of us who had worked on its discovery and development, but these events are part and parcel of the industry, hence the need for strong research pipelines. I retain hopes for a treatment for myeloproliferative disorders, the Janus-associated kinase 2 inhibitor momelotinib, which was licensed from a Melbourne company where I once headed the chemistry team. An antibacterial, targeting bacterial DNA gyrase, developed in the UK and Australia, a potential treatment for drug-resistant pathogens, is at a much earlier stage of development, now licensed to Spero. A personal favorite, called K11777, represents a potential treatment for Chagas’s disease, a parasitic illness endemic to South and Central America. This compound inhibits cruzain, an enzyme essential for the parasite’s life cycle. It works well in animals, but funding is needed to help support human testing. Perhaps with the Rio World Cup and Olympics, a chance will emerge for global publicity of this disease (in spite of Zika being the latest winner of the “scourge of the month club”!

Now, after having left the USA over 9 years ago, and amid a delightful semi-retirement among the kangaroos, gum trees, and flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos and rainbow lorikeets coming to visit our back garden every day, my latest ventures are in cholesterol reduction and oncology. Both in terms of drug discovery and hopefully, on a personal level, by means of good diet, stress avoidance, and plenty of 10K runs! (And maybe a sniffer or two of single malt on occasion to keep the Scottish memories alive!) But ultimately, regardless of one’s background or chosen profession, being part of teams that help improve the quality of life, or even save lives, serves as its own reward. If there is one message worth taking home from the Gordonstoun experience, consider this: there is indeed more in you than you think, but don’t worry if it takes you a while to discover it.

ARE YOU ALOPECIA AWARE?

by Ruth McPherson (Windmill 2006)

Ruth McPherson (Windmill 2006) was diagnosed with alopecia areata aged 18, but has not let it hold her back. She successfully fundraised over £10,000 through her Wig Free Week last year, and is now a Trustee of the charity Autoimmune Alopecia Research UK. She tells us in her own words how she overcame the challenge of losing her hair.

The summer after I left school my hair fell out. It was 2006 and I was leaving Gordonstoun with a position confirmed at university, feeling positive and full of excitement at the prospect of an action-packed gap year ahead. However, what happened next was a total surprise to me and ultimately changed me irreversibly.

My hair loss happened gradually over a three-month period, starting with patches at the front of my head and eventually thinning until I had practically no hair left and was forced to cover up with ever-increasing headscarves. My initial reactions were shame and confusion – why was this happening to me and how could I hide it?

When I eventually saw a doctor, I was diagnosed with alopecia areata. I learned that alopecia is an autoimmune disease which occurs when the immune system attacks healthy hair follicles, causing hair loss. Doctors could unfortunately do very little for me, as there is no known cure or effective treatment.

Having failed to find any medical help, I was left to cope with my alopecia as best I could. No-one could tell me whether it would be permanent or temporary, which meant that I was stuck in a state of limbo wondering whether my hair would come back or if I would have to learn to live with being bald.

After my diagnosis I was persuaded to explore the option of getting a wig. For me, this was a totally foreign concept and even the word 'wig' was embarrassing. It took me a while to find one that I liked, and getting used to wearing them was pretty challenging as they can be hot, itchy and prone to falling off if you dance too enthusiastically! I was relieved to be able to hide behind my wigs but often I would be racked with insecurity that people might find out.

In September 2015 my life changed. I had been wearing wigs for almost ten

years and I was still keeping my alopecia a secret from everyone except a few close friends and family. On a trip to Glasgow to buy a new wig, I met the Founder of an alopecia charity, Autoimmune Alopecia Research UK (AAR-UK), who were trying to fund a bio bank which would enable research into alopecia. They needed £20,000 for the project and were looking for fundraisers to help.

I started thinking that maybe this was the excuse I needed to go public about my alopecia. After much deliberation and planning, I announced that I would be doing a 'Wig Free Week' to raise money for AAR-UK. This would be the first time I had ever gone out in public without my wig or shared photographs of my bald head.

The response was phenomenal – I raised over £10,000 in total and was flooded with messages of support from the Gordonstoun Association, friends, family and strangers, and people with alopecia from all over the country. I found the whole experience incredibly emotional but very liberating, and gradually learned to be proud of myself and the way that I looked.

The other positive thing that came out of my campaign was that I was able to increase awareness of a condition not often discussed publicly. I wrote about my experiences on a blog, received media coverage including articles in national titles like The Scotsman and Grazia magazine, and spoke in front of the Sixth Form students at Gordonstoun during a Saturday lecture.

Since finishing the campaign, I was asked to join the board of AAR-UK in a voluntary role. The charity aims to provide hope and confidence for people with alopecia by funding research into its cause, and I am proud to be a part of it. As a Trustee and their Marketing and PR manager, I run their social media and website, respond to media enquiries and have recently put together a video on alopecia for September Alopecia Awareness Month.

My experience of alopecia has taught me how to cope when the unexpected happens, and how to try and put a positive spin on things rather than focusing on the negative. Because sometimes, negative experiences can change you for the better!

www.aar-uk.org



JUNGLE 'JIM' GRAHAM REMEMBERED

by Peter Cousens (Windmill 1974)

In the late 1960s The Armidale School (TAS) in Australia, began to embrace some of the educational ideas of Kurt Hahn. Jim Graham, a housemaster at TAS, had spent 1966 teaching at Gordonstoun and the Headmaster, Alan Cash, also visited. A student exchange programme was set up in 1968 and many of the Gordonstoun ideals, such as educational development through adventure, expeditions and service to the community, were introduced to TAS. TAS is now a member of the Round Square Schools. The following is an extract from a Eulogy to Jim Graham written by Peter Cousens who was a pupil under Jim at TAS and who also spent time on exchange at Gordonstoun.



Windmill House 1966

You have been on quite a journey. After spending time at the New England University between 1952 and 1955 you went on to teach at The Armidale School for 43 years. Headmaster Gordon Fisher hired you, and then you served under Alan Cash, Geoffrey Andrews, Ken Langford Smith and Murray Guest. That's quite a line-up of Headmasters you were able to hoodwink into allowing you to produce 133 plays, melodramas and musicals in your time there. What an astounding legacy Jungle. But also, in your time, you ran the Outward Bound program, coached sporting teams, created pageants and events, ran expeditions, debating, were a Head of Studies, a Housemaster, and for a while Deputy Headmaster. I could go on... but ...

How did you do it all?

What drove you to serve with such energy and humility? I'm glad you did. I wouldn't be standing here overwhelmed with gratitude for your influence and inspiration. And I write this letter on behalf of the hundreds of ex-students and colleagues who came into your orbit. We all thank you Jim for the many different ways you mentored, advised and supported us, not only in your 43 years as a teacher, but the next 20 years as a friend. You had an uncanny knack of making us all feel we had a singular connection to you. Our partners and our children were included in this gossamer web of kindly inclusion, that extended threads of friendship into a lifetime.

How did you do it?

How did you rise out of the parochial, but blissful nest that is Nambucca Heads, to receive a Medal of the Order of Australia; to teach the princes of Great Britain and its Commonwealth - Charles, Andrew and Edward; direct in plays the grandchildren of theatre royalty, Peter Finch and Vivien Leigh; and end up having a major impact on private education in Australia, initiating many school's memberships to the Round Square Conference, as a result of your time at Gordonstoun School, Scotland?

And at the risk of overstepping the mark I feel it is only right that I mention Julia. Julia, who you first met at Gordonstoun School Scotland, in 1966 and with whom you quietly and secretly fell in love. It took another 30 years for that love to be expressed and reciprocated. But as you so aptly describe it in your short allegory, *The Unkind God*, fate stepped in and gave you Parkinson's Disease on the eve of your retirement and at the beginning of your planned new life, with the love of your life, Julia. This impossible

dilemma saw you give way to the hand you had been dealt. You retired to Bald Hill, alone, and began to play a different sort of game, on your ever shrinking playing field.

Dignity, grace, courage, resilience, faith, creativity, a sense humour and large scotch, combined well to keep you on the winning side for a long time. You confessed your attitude to your disease, after many wines on the veranda at Bald Hill cottage. You told me 'The playing field is shrinking. but that doesn't mean I stop playing hard at life. I just adapt to the size of the field'. I thought this sporting metaphor a little unusual coming from you my artistic friend. But you've always been full of surprises.

And, tell me if I'm wrong, but your broad approach to education came from the Ancient Philosopher Plato. You quote in your book *Word of Mouth* this advice from Plato - *'Young citizens should live in a beautiful and healthy place; from everything they see and hear, loveliness, like a breeze should pass into their souls, and teach them without their knowing it the truth of which it is a manifestation. In such an atmosphere they will not only acquire a natural grace and proportion of bearing and character, but an instinctive sense of what is fair and what is foul in nature and in art; and this instinctive sense is a kind of anticipation of a rational understanding of the nature of good and evil'*.

I am right, aren't I? We have been your students and you passed through our souls like a breeze and taught us an instinct for good, without us ever knowing.

For most of your adult life you lit the spark of Faith, Hope and Love in all our lives. We are so very grateful Jungle. We will always remember and always celebrate.

*'Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night, sweet prince;
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest'*.

LIFE THROUGH A LENS

by Rob Luke (Bruce 2012)

I'm a London based filmmaker, mostly working on web-based content for corporate and commercial clients, alongside getting my debut feature film out to numerous film festivals around the world.

On leaving Gordonstoun in 2012 I went straight to university in London, where I studied Digital Film Production at Ravensbourne. I didn't even consider taking a year out, as I was so hell-bent on going to Ravensbourne and being the next Tarantino or Danny Boyle! Looking back now it was the students that had tried to work in the industry and travelled a bit that took the uni work a lot more seriously - I didn't really know what was going on so figured I'd just try and make a full length movie while I was still at college!

During my second year I started to produce the movie: a zero budget comedy called **Sasquatch**. It's about two young men stranded in the Lake District, who decide to trick the locals into believing in Bigfoot, by dressing up in a costume and scaring people deep in a local forest. Which resulted in the village committee hiring a hunter to kill the so-called 'Bigfoot'. I produced the film with my Gordonstoun drama classmate/Sinai service project buddy, Bernie Paget, and with my flat mate Max Boulton completing the trio. By producing **Sasquatch** and premiering it in January 2016 we became Britain's youngest feature film makers, which I suppose counts for very little if the film is rubbish, but still we'll take that title. The London premiere followed in July at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square, which went down far better than we could have ever hoped, selling out the venue, with two screens playing simultaneously. Throughout the process, from the initial concept to the most recent screening, there's been a heavy Gordonstoun influence. It was in Los Angeles where Bernie and I came up with the idea for the film, while on holiday visiting our classmate Tom Williams and his family, including our drama teacher Mr Wills. The soundtrack was provided by Hunter & The Bear (a band setup by two OGs), who I'd never actually crossed paths with until they agreed to give us their music, they even called by the Lake District to film a cameo. A large chunk of our crowd-funded budget of £8,500 was thanks to many Gordonstoun parents and even recent leavers' generosity. When we eventually had the world premiere in the Lake District, at a 200-seater venue in Kendal, on a cold January evening, the number of OGs travelling from all corners of the UK to be there was really something that stood out for Bernie and I.

When I started at Gordonstoun for Sixth form in 2010, my sole purpose of joining was to be part of the infamous Drama Department. I'd seen shows at the Edinburgh Fringe which Nigel Williams had produced, and was then at a school planning to discontinue its Theatre Studies program. It would have been very easy for me to stay there and do the occasional school play, but the lure of being part of such quality shows at Gordonstoun was too much to ignore.

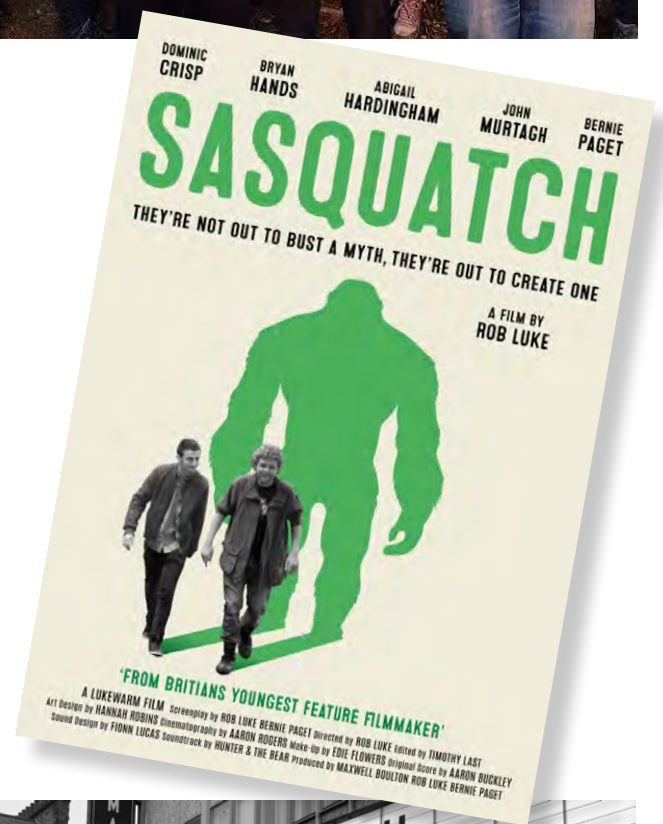
I was also a very keen rugby player and had made friends on the scholarship weekend with a few of that year's team, though during the summer before starting I foolishly broke my ankle playing tennis! I'd figured that perhaps for the first term's activity I would take it steady on my ankle and choose swimming, before easing my way back onto the rugby pitch. However the Gordonstoun spirit was soon made very clear when I met my tutor, and 1st XV coach, Mr Brown. When over a cup of tea and shortbread in the Bruce House common room he asked,

'I hear you're a rugby player?'

'I am yes, not done much in a while after a tennis.'

'Great! You have a game this Saturday, away at Orkney'

And that was that. It was this exchange on my first day that made me realise I wasn't there just for the Drama productions, that would have been a huge waste of what Gordonstoun had to offer, there was absolutely everything to have a go at and I should make sure I'd tried it all before Sixth form was over. Four days later I was on an island with, what appeared to be, a man-bear of an Orcadian running at me, it was brilliant! A big thanks must go to my teachers and staff, as I had never made a film until Gordonstoun and now I do it everyday! Bernie and I are currently writing our next feature film, a drama-comedy about people smuggling gone wrong, we hope to start looking for funding early in 2017.



THE LIFE OF THE LATE ROBERT CHEW AND THE LATE EVA CHEW AT ALTYRE HOUSE

by Neil McIntosh (Altyre 1954)

I was born at the weight of three and a half pounds in 1936. Around about the age of ten my late father Major George Mackintosh, who had been at the landings in Dunkirk in World War II went missing but turned up injured ten days later. He was hospitalised then joined the Home Guard before he went back into the family business McIntosh Removals in 1945, the business having been founded in 1860. An aunt had been running the business to the best of her ability during the war years so he returned to find 12 vehicles, a warehouse in Glasgow and three vehicles in London – not in good shape. Having survived the war and many adventures, he then continued to take risks as he purchased three landing barges in 1946 in direct competition to David McBrayne. Three years later the shipping licences for the barges were removed because they were providing too much competition to McBrayne! At the same time the road removal business was expanding with replacement vehicles and increased labour force.

My memories of my late mother during the war years were memorable as, in the absence of my father, she housed seventeen evacuees from the Clydebank blitz. She came from a comfortable background having attended Harrogate Ladies College and played lacrosse for Scotland.

The family, now consisting of my brother Colin and sister Kirsty, moved into Glasgow from Lennoxton and about the age of 11, after attending Lennoxton Academy, I joined Kelvinside Academy as a boarder in the Tarbet Hotel where the school had been located during the war years. The headmaster there, Mr Murie, was a pretty strict character. When the American service people passed our door, chewing gum which they readily shared with us, the consternation of the headmaster was obvious!

Following our arrival in the west end of Glasgow the business was expanding rapidly, and to facilitate this expansion, some assets had to be realised – including a Rennie Mackintosh plaque and two Alvis coupe motor cars.

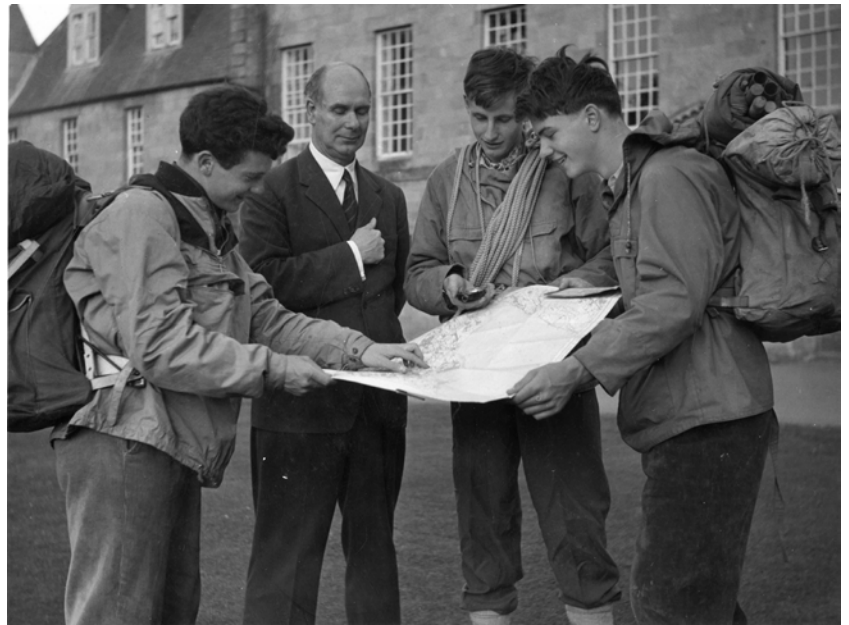
It was decided following the return of Kelvinside to the west end of Glasgow that I would be better suited to the outdoor environment of Gordonstoun School in Morayshire as I had struggled with my academic studies. The headmaster and founder of Gordonstoun, Kurt Hahn took it upon himself to interview me without the presence of my father. His preferred method of finding out the capabilities of a youngster, without parental interference.

Having been accepted terms were then discussed as my father was somewhat financially strapped at this time but terms were agreed and I found myself delivered by a McIntosh vehicle to Lossiemouth joining Gordonstoun School in late 1949.

My recollection of Dr Hahn is of a slightly stooped gentleman with steely blue eyes.

I was selected to join Altyre House as part of my experience at Gordonstoun had not been good. I found the academic work under the gaze of Dr Hahn difficult and during my second year I found myself transferred to Altyre where I thrived under the totally different regime established by Mr and Mrs Chew.

Robert Chew's most important contribution to Gordonstoun was the foundation of the school at Altyre House in 1951. He selected boys who were struggling academically in the main school at Gordonstoun and, together with hand-picked masters from the main school, Cambridge and Sedburgh, in particular Major Downton, Andy Clelland, Ian Lawson, David Snell and Alistair Paterson, they undertook to provide confidence and life skills by concentrating on outdoor activities as most of these young men had struggled with academic study.



Activities included a week sailing cutters in the Moray Firth, climbing expeditions in the Cairngorms and a special example was a 16 day expedition to Norway conducted by Mrs Chew – Mr Chew being too busy establishing the school. My father had misgivings about my progress at Gordonstoun but when he saw the dramatic change in my confidence and leadership during my days at Altyre, he presented the school with a four wheel drive vehicle for the Coastguard service at Gordonstoun. To begin with, the three masters involved the Mountaineering service were Clelland, Lawson and Snell. Sadly Clelland was killed in a Swiss climbing accident many years ago. My memories of him include a visit to Glencoe on the way home when we climbed Buachaille Etive Mor on ropes and where I fell 50 feet to be held by Andrew Clelland.

One of my other recollections from these happy days was a visit to the school by the Bishop of Moray, complete with lum hat. During the sermon in the Armoury Hall in Altyre some bats were released by an enthusiastic bat keeper called Essery. The bats immediately made toward the light shining on the lum hat and the service had to be halted! Robert (Bobby) Chew did not punish the boy concerned but he was told not to repeat the incident.

Punishments were quite rare – some of them were conducted by Robert Chew who made us run round the rugby field in full kit in the pouring rain whilst he stood there with his soft hat and duffle coat on. An alternative was a five mile walk in complete silence, and last but not least, was to play squash which meant Bobby Chew standing in the middle of the court making you run round in circles. Mr Chew had a lazy eye which could spot misbehavior unbeknown to the perpetrator – a somewhat disconcerting skill! He once asked me to finish eating potatoes for ten which I had taken on as a bet. He rang the bell when I had struggled to finish and advised me that he would see me in the sanatorium. His assumption was correct as I was extremely sick. His remark was "Serves you right McIntosh!"

Another incident involved a 30 mile walking exercise in typical freezing weather. In late afternoon the Headmaster passed us in the car with five miles to go and offered us a lift. As the leader, I declined and was gratified with the smile I received when we finally made it back to school. Other adventures included camping on the top of Ben Wyvis and I recall waking at 5am and the amazing view as dawn approached.

How many Gordonstoun pupils have gained from these character building experiences and applied them in later life? I for one have always treasured and respected the total trust given to us and have used this to great advantage both in my working and personal life. My retirement days have been fulfilled by applying these early experiences to my charity work.

PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

by Toby Lyons
(Duffus House 2005)

Amongst a host of extremely fond memories, I am most thankful for the opportunity that I had to travel during my Gordonstoun years.

Countless hours spent on buses to and from rugby fixtures, two rugby tours to South Africa and South America, and the Thailand

Water Project gave me the itchy feet that I still have today. These experiences gave me much more than just a desire to see the world. They pushed me far beyond my comfort zone, instilled in me a passion to help others, and ultimately set me on my current path to create a social enterprise to help smaller charities in developing countries.

My first experience of development needs was during the 2002 rugby tour to South Africa. Before the second match, we visited the Langa Township on the outskirts of Cape Town and I was struck by the vibrancy of the community and the resourcefulness of the people we met. I was keen to see more of the developing world and the Thailand Water Project two years later gave me the opportunity to do so. The project was hands down the most exciting adventure a 17 year old could have and made me realise that exotic travel could mean so much more than hostel hopping and bumping into vaguely familiar people on well-trodden beaches.

So, during the long summer breaks during my time at Leeds University, I created my own Gordonstoun-esque adventures, including working for charities in Mexico and Uganda. My formula was to save what I could from my student loan, pick a place, contact a small local charity and offer to help. I would spend one month volunteering and two weeks travelling and this proved to be an incredibly rewarding way to see a country and experience its culture.

Unsure after university of the career path I wanted to take and keen not to succumb to the London grind, I found myself teaching skiing in Switzerland. One season turned into five but eventually it was time to leave the mountains and pursue my burning desire to create an enterprise for social good.

Returning to London, a Master's degree in Environment, Politics and Development at SOAS gave me depth and insight into international development. I found studying gender a fascinating lens through which to see the pitfalls and processes of development, and I finally settled on 'The effects of enterprise on women's empowerment in South Africa' as the title of my thesis.

With a Master's under my belt and my experience of working for smaller charities, I now feel confident to push forward with my new venture, Piece of the Puzzle™, with the mission to help grassroots educational charities in developing countries gain greater access to the resources they need.

My experience of grassroots charities in developing countries is that they deliver highly personal, well-targeted and effective care to children. They tend to engage directly with community needs, and are motivated by personal experience, compassion and empathy.

Despite their effectiveness however, many of these charities remain underfunded, relying on small circles of friends and family to fund their projects and stay afloat.

Piece of the Puzzle's mission is to provide an online platform where smaller charities will be able to connect with wider circles of potential donors by creating direct engagement between the charities and the ever-growing ethically minded and adventurous community of tourists that flock to developing countries. It will do so by using location-based technology to allow tourists to tag where they are, find trusted charities in the area and encourage them to help provide the resources



needed to expand access to and increase the quality of education and childcare.

A recent research trip to Goa highlighted the dilemma that while tourists often want to help, they typically lack convenient and responsible means of doing so. For example, while we may feel mean by not giving even a small amount to children begging on a beach, we need to be aware of the wider implications of doing so. Giving in this way can feed into a number of issues, but one thing is for certain, it keeps children out of school and coming back for more money. And while little, if any of the money given will benefit the children, greater funding for charities providing education and childcare for vulnerable children certainly will.

To guarantee transparency is an essential part of the Piece of the Puzzle's model and itemised giving will allow donors to contribute to anything from basic classroom materials, food for the children, tuition fees, sponsor a teacher or even providing the materials to help build new schools. Each charity's needs is different, but in every case, donors will be able to see exactly how their support has directly benefited the charity, and ultimately the children.

I credit my time at Gordonstoun for arming me with important tools for life and my current endeavour. It is very exciting to be living and breathing something I wholeheartedly believe in, and I have huge determination to achieve my goal. If anyone in the Gordonstoun family shares my passion for education and the objectives I have outlined, knows a charity that might benefit from the service, or can connect me with potential fundraising to get Piece of the Puzzle launched, please do get in touch.

email: tobyelyons@gmail.com



FORMER HOPEMAN SISTERS TAKE HARRIS TWEED TO THE GLOBE

Julie-Anne Macdonald (nee McPhee, Hopeman 1997)
Jennifer Jamison (nee McPhee, Hopeman 2000)

My sister and I have recently created a new trend in baby bedding; sourcing and handcrafting luxurious blankets from Harris Tweed. Launching our textile business, Cabar Kids, at the end of last year, we are now selling our high quality and bespoke infant blankets to buyers all over the world. A significant element of our success to date has been influenced by what we learned at Gordonstoun – it was Gordonstoun that nurtured our personal characteristics of resilience, tenacity and self-belief, and it is from this position that our business continues to flourish.

Gordonstoun has had a strong influence on both our lives and, in particular, our business. Our time at school taught us the importance of determination and steadfastness – the school’s culture and environment naturally encourages pupils to believe and invest in themselves, and this has helped us to develop an entrepreneurial and inquisitive spirit. When we set up Cabar Kids we were relative novices to both the industry and, more generally, running our own business. However, with hard work, perseverance and a determined outlook, orders started coming in from all over the world, and we are now very much on an upward trajectory.

For those who aren’t familiar with the product, Harris Tweed is a luxurious woollen cloth that is woven, by hand, by the islanders of the Scottish Outer Hebrides. The superb quality, woollen material was first discovered in the 1840s and quickly became recognised globally and demand for Harris Tweed grew.

Our beautifully coloured and deliciously soft Harris Tweed blankets are made from pure virgin wool and are backed in cotton. Available in a range of distinctive patterns, every weave is different, meaning that each blanket is unique by design.

For further information please see [etsy.com/uk/shop/CabarKids](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CabarKids), or email cabarcrafts@gmail.com.

“sourcing
and
handcrafting
luxurious blankets
from Harris Tweed”



ROMANIA PROJECT 2016

Jessica Leate (Windmill 2017)

In the UK it is quite uncommon to be at school with other students who have quite severe special needs, but where I grew up and at the Waldorf Primary School in Cornwall which I attended, we had quite a few students who learned differently and who needed much more help than the rest of us. In my view they were part of our eclectic mix and added a rich dimension to our school experience. In this light, when the choice of service projects was first offered, it was to Romania, and Little John's House, the home for a small group of special needs people, that I was immediately drawn to.

My experience of this opportunity was everything that I had hoped and then many other things which I could not have imagined.

There were 12 of us students from Gordonstoun, only one of whom was in my House so that in itself was an experience. Little John's House is a privately run orphanage that houses six young adults; Laur, Vlad, Ana, Julia and Andrea, and Costica, all of whom have varied disabilities and difficulties that they live with on a daily basis. Our task was to create activities and games for the two weeks of Summer School that we were helping to run whilst we were there. This not only included the Little John's House residents but many other visitors from two other local orphanages, one specifically for people with disabilities and the other not, and also people from a physiotherapy unit from the local hospital, so the range of age and capability was considerable. Initially the numbers of people was a bit daunting, and some were young adults, older than ourselves, very able, and then there was a child of three, so we were really kept on our toes! There was a good deal of trial and error finding out where and what to pitch to the different abilities, but as the time wore on we found out more about this and learnt to work out how to make the activities interesting and enjoyable to such a range.

The language barrier was of course a real challenge for us all, (although I was quite proud of how much Romanian I could speak by the end of our trip!), but despite this, the Summer School always felt like a huge success at the end of every day. Part of our mandate was to bring supplies with us with which to create the games etc, which otherwise wouldn't have been available to these young people. The visiting orphanages came regularly over the period, and we even got to visit them in their own environment one day, giving a little concert, so we became very fond of some of them and got to know them well. However, Little John's House residents were always there so we built up strong relationships with them, seeing them everyday and living, as we were, on site.

Inevitably some individuals were more endearing than others and we each made special connections with different people.

But even those who were initially more reserved and were less easy to make a connection with, gradually opened up and grew to trust us more as we found ways of reaching them. Those were the hard won achievements and really made you realise that all the fund raising and effort put into the trip was small in comparison to what we got back, in terms of gratification and confirmation of the service project's value, reflected back in these chance expressions of pleasure of the more closed individuals.

The orphanage itself is situated in a little town near Sibiu called Cisnadiora, in the heart of Transylvania. Every day, the Summer School finished at around one, giving us time to explore the area and get a really authentic flavour of Romanian life, food and culture, which is so completely unlike anything that I had ever encountered. I found it very romantic, evocative of fairytales, legends and old folk tales, with its turreted architecture, patterned paved town square, and steep, gabled red roofs.

In addition to just being in the local town, Sibiu, sightseeing and shopping, and a few visits to local restaurants, we also had some outings further afield to other places of interest. This included doing a high ropes course, bathing in a salt lake, which is apparently very beneficial for your health, and several cultural visits to churches and historical sites in and around Sibiu. One which I found quite amazing was a church which was



having its entire interior hand painted by an artist who had already been working on it for 5 years! He still had a long way yet to complete it but the paintings were exquisite iconography which reminded me very much of Ethiopian Christian imagery, which is Coptic in origin. I believe that the Romanian church has the same foundation.

Halfway through the trip, we went on a project break to Brasov. On the Saturday we visited Bran Castle, which has links to Vlad the Impaler - Dracula. We then went on to stay at our hotel in the city, which really gave us an idea of the contrasting rates of development in and around Romania. Brasov itself is a beautiful city and we were lucky enough to visit Tampa Mountain which had astounding views of the city while we were there. On the Sunday we then went on a gorgeous drive through the Romanian landscape, along the longest highway in Europe, the Transfagarasan Highway from the top of which we had the most stunning views, further impressing upon me what a beautiful country Romania is.

On the last evening we met with Mags Zaharia, the founder of Little John's House. I was deeply struck by what this woman has, and continues to, achieve. Her drive to improve the lot of these young people is relentless. Her next ambition is to buy a farm and run it as a self-sustaining, working place for more orphans. I was also humbled by the residents, their warmth, their joy, and the extraordinary affection which they offered us. I am hugely grateful to the GA for supporting me in this unique experience. I remember the days after I returned, feeling a loss, missing their energy and their affection. I missed the business of the place, always being needed, always having something meaningful to do. It was also when I realised throughout those two and a half weeks I had been, without interruption, very happy. We went as benevolent givers, but corny as it sounds, we really did receive every bit as much as we gave.



ROMANIA

Sarah DaBell – Romania Project leader 2009 – 2016

I have led the Romania project for the last eight years; during that time I have witnessed over 100 Gordonstoun students having a very similar experience to Jessica. The project has been running for over 20 years; it was set up by Peter and Hilary Dewey with Mags Zaharia in 1994 and there have been a steady stream of students benefitting from their time at Little John's House in Cisnadiora, near Sibiu. The house was purchased in 1993 to provide a secure home for Ionut Balan (Little John), a Romanian child suffering from hydrocephalus, Little John sadly died but his home became a very special place catering for other disadvantaged young people. They however are not the only ones to benefit, LJH reaches out to touch the lives of many other children with special needs and disadvantaged children living in other care homes, hospitals and family homes in the local area.

Apart from Laur who is 17 years old, all the other residents of LJH are now over 18. To retain the 'family' atmosphere the home must now provide separate accommodation for the adults. With this in mind, Mags and her team have come up with a solution that would not only benefit the young of LJH, but also others in the local community.

The plan is to self build a farm complex with separate adult, children and staff accommodation, along with a day centre to receive many children who are not allowed to attend school, a respite care unit for distressed families and a general Centre of Excellence. With extra land, the residents would receive therapeutic education through the care of birds and animals, the planting of flowers and vegetables, and be encouraged to reach their highest potential.

I am sharing this information as, with so many OGS benefitting from their time at Little John's House over the years, it would be lovely if you could spare a thought for what is happening now. The Romania Service project is the only school project that returns to the same place every year, we have a very close relationship with Mags Zaharia and her team and it has been a privilege to observe the amazing work that they do. If you could take some time to visit their website and possibly donate to the farm appeal it would be most appreciated.

www.littlejohnshouse.co.uk



“LJH reaches out to touch the lives of many children”

BETWEEN POVERTY AND POLITICS

By Nathalie von Massenbach (Windmill 1999)

In 1997, I arrived at Gordonstoun as a 16 year old. It was the first time for me living outside of my own country, joining a truly international environment and way of thinking. "Plus est en vous" helped me learn to approach the unknown with a certain sense of curiosity and to embrace challenges as something positive and rewarding. One central element of Kurt Hahn's philosophy particularly resonated within me: the idea of giving something back to the community and of reaching out to those less fortunate.

For most of my professional life, I have worked at bridging the gap between humanitarian and development aid. It all started with me participating in the summer school project for orphaned and disabled children in Romania in 1998. At that time, the situation of Romanian children in need of protection, dignified living conditions and access to education was catastrophic and this experience laid the foundations for my passion for this line of work. After A-Levels I then spent a year teaching English in China, an opportunity that the school had created for me. During this gap year, the spatial and emotional distance from everything I was familiar with helped me reassess my interests and as a result, I discarded my longstanding wish to become a mathematician and opted for the social sciences instead!

Accordingly, family and friends – including former teachers at school – were slightly bewildered when I started a BA in Sociology, Culture and the Media at the University of Essex, but I did not for one day regret that choice. After I finished the course and before deciding which career to pursue, I felt I needed to get back in touch with the realities of those less fortunate. So, I joined the Romania project again in 2003 – this time as supervisor. It confirmed for me what I had already intuitively known: international aid and development is at the heart of my soul! And so I enrolled at the LSE for an MSc in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries.

After a short stint with the Refugee Agency of the UN in the world's largest refugee camp in Daddab in Kenya and two years in the construction sector in Dubai, I now work in bilateral development aid, namely for the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. GIZ is one of the implementing agencies for the Development Cooperation of the German Government and its main client is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With over 50 years of experience, the company operates from over 100 offices in about 130 countries and has a total number of staff of about 16,500.

I started off with a job in Afghanistan and currently work as the desk officer for Kenya – my third post within the company. I am the interface for everything to do with Kenya, both for the Ministry, at GIZ headquarters and the field operation. My position involves liaising with the ministry and the other implementing agencies for the portfolio development in Kenya and supporting colleagues abroad with the contractual management of the commissions. I act as a resource person and can advise on procedural regulations. Most of my time I spend on the phone or emailing, setting up work processes, co-ordinating the input needed for contractual and other documents and ensuring sufficient quality.

The best part of my job is probably being able to take part in, and to somewhat shape, the government-to-government consultations and negotiations, which happen every three years. On these occasions, both governments meet to discuss the thematic areas of Germany's support and the amount of funds allocated to each area. As a member of the official political delegation, I have the privilege of being involved together with my colleagues in hands-on diplomacy alongside the



Enjoying some leisure time in Kenya

German ministry BMZ and the German embassy in Nairobi vis-à-vis the Kenyan government. As part of the preparation for these talks, I am also engaged in the budgetary planning processes of the German government – a lengthy and complex but nevertheless interesting part of public administration.

There are many bilateral and multilateral donors as well as private and third sector organisations supporting the development of Kenya along the road to reaching its Vision 2030, which is its national development plan. A special relationship though exists between Kenya and Germany as Germany was the first country to recognize Kenya as a sovereign nation after independence. Currently German support focuses on food security and drought resilience, water supply, health services, energy provision and anti-corruption. It also includes improving the prospects of over 600.000 refugees. Encouragingly, a few years ago, Kenya evolved from a lower income to a middle income country.

I am very grateful to be able to work in such a stimulating environment, both in terms of my everyday duties but also in terms of the wonderful and interesting people I come into contact with on a daily basis. I was privileged to have had so many valuable opportunities presented to me while growing up enabling me to build a prosperous life. And I was lucky enough to be endowed with a strong sense of intuition which has led me to doing something I love. After 13 years abroad and six years in Frankfurt now, let's see where my next position will take me!



My impression from the Dadaab Refugee Camp

EXPEDITIONS IN THE SIXTIES

by Geoff Faux (Former Staff 1965)

The Gordonstoun Association magazine arrives once a year. I was on the staff from 1961 to 65, at this distance in time I still find it interesting.

This year, because of something I mention below, I felt the urge to contribute.

My first teaching post was at Gordonstoun. Nominally to teach mathematics but what attracted me to apply was the chance to partake in expeditions, mountain rescue, days in the hills and sailing at Findhorn. It was a way of using the skills I had developed as a voluntary instructor over four university summer vacations at Glenmore Lodge.

I arrived with quite a batch of new teachers, Neville Mangin, Simon Hall, Anthony Beater, Michael Barcroft and, the oldest by quite a bit, David Osselton, the new expeditions master. David and I quickly struck up a friendship that has lasted more than 50 years. He died at the end of 2015, aged 91, and this was the spur to get out my log of expeditions from Gordonstoun. David and I have mountaineered together since we left Gordonstoun but I hadn't opened my Gordonstoun log for about 30 years. Looking through brought back some wonderful memories. How much could be of interest to any reader of the Gordonstoun Association magazine I wondered?

John Gillespie was Housemaster of Bruce House and being, at that stage, unmarried he had four bachelors, all just arrived, filling the bedrooms in the Housemaster's flat. Ah, the long nights with the open whisky bottle and dark chocolate biscuits in Neville Mangin's room.

On arriving at Gordonstoun one of the larger than life characters already on the staff was Keith Warren. He had a car. I bought a bicycle with my first pay cheque and David had a Hilman Minx that he had just been to the Himalayas and back in with Joss Lynam and two Irish mountaineers and all their gear for a serious 'first ascents' expedition. The car was 'well run in!', in fact, no longer the most reliable of vehicles. Keith would arrive at Bruce House in his shooting break, a sort of 'greenhouse on wheels', to collect a band of thirsty bachelors on a weekend evening for a trip to the flesh pots of Elgin. But before we left he would insist on a race, 'who could be first on top of the water tower at the front of Bruce House?' This of course was whilst the boys were down at tea in Gordonstoun House. We wouldn't want any of them to see us climbing buildings in case they got ideas about doing it themselves, it was quite enough being caught and shouted at once by Ian Lawson the Housemaster of Altyre House next door.

SO WHAT IS IN MY LOG?

Many expeditions, lots of Mountain Rescue training weekends, a pilgrimage to Iona the year when Easter fell in late March with the school still in session over Easter. Climbing Black Spout on Lochnagar with David whilst 'supervising' Prince Charles' Bronze Expedition. From Black Spout, we thought, we might see the group passing below as they wended their way from camping in the garden at Glas-allt-Sheil to Balmoral. Why, you may ask, was this expedition in Charles' own backyard? Easy to answer, he needed to be always within earshot of his Royal Protection Officer, the Duke of Edinburgh Award states that the participants need to be away from adult supervision for the duration of the expedition. The Balmoral Estate, where you can lock the gates, seemed to be the answer to this collision of criteria.

So what did the pair of us go on to? David went initially to Outward Bound and then as Expeditions Officer on the 'Captain Scott'. Interestingly the victualing officer for the Captain Scott was Patrick Job, father of Ian Job, who features on many of the expeditions in my log.



Geoff Faux

After a grueling couple of years on the Captain Scott, David retrained and taught mathematics at Lord Williams School in Thame until his retirement.

I left Gordonstoun to be part of a new school at Dunrobin Castle but quickly moved into the state system in England teaching in two newly developing comprehensive schools. After ten years I got the job as maths adviser in Cumberland, afterwards Cumbria. David and I continued to enjoy occasional days on the hills but maths education was by then my passion. I just wish I had known what I now know about maths teaching when I taught at Gordonstoun.

Andrew Gordon OGGs Captain (Windmill 1971)

OGGS has a well established programme of meetings with the highlight being the two day annual meeting held in the North of Scotland on the Thursday and Friday before the GA weekend at the end of April, but we are always keen to look at new opportunities. In this regard, Brian O'Connor is working to organise a new two day event for next Summer which will encompass the existing Luffness meeting and a match at the relatively new and highly regarded Renaissance golf club at North Berwick.

Membership of OGGs is open to all GA members and their families, members of staff and friends of Gordonstoun with an annual subscription of £20. The annual membership for those under 30 is free and they also receive a 50% reduction of the cost of playing in all matches other than the annual meeting of the society that is held on the Friday before the GA weekend. The current membership is 90 and new members are very welcome.

ANNUAL MEETING – NAIRN AND CASTLE STUART – APRIL

On Thursday 28 April we held the match against the School playing at the testing but excellent Nairn GC. This is the 7th time the match has been played for the handsome trophy presented by Richard Devey in 2010. OGGs put out a very strong team of 8 players, all with handicaps of 11 and below, which proved too strong for the School team, retaining the trophy for the third year. The School has won once previously with two drawn matches. We were blessed with a dry afternoon and 18 other OGGs members teed off after the match and joined the two teams for supper afterwards.

The following day we held our Annual Golf Meeting at Castle Stuart, the very highly rated modern links course at which the Scottish Open was held a couple of months after our visit. Whilst being a very good test of golf the wide fairways make this an excellent course for a golf society with members of varying golfing abilities. The views from the golf course over the Moray Firth towards the Black Isle are stunning and its not surprising that Castle Stuart is ranked 21st on the most recent rankings of UK and Irish golf courses.

We had 32 players in the field and the winner this year was David Richmond with 37 points followed by Angus Lamont on 36 points with Charles Legge taking third on 33 points on a count back from three other players. Angus Lamont also won the Over 70s trophy with Ian Laming hitting the longest drive and Garry Welsh getting closest to the hole at the beautiful 11th hole.

The best score of the day, however, came from student Emma Booker-Milburn with an excellent 41 points off a handicap of 18. Emma, unfortunately, missed out on the trophy as the annual meeting competition is only open to OGGs members but we look forward to Emma playing in the years after she has left School.

ILKLEY – APRIL

The Ilkley meeting at the lovely Ilkley GC is the first meeting of the year and we celebrated the 10th anniversary this year. Unlike the previous year when we played in short sleeves, this year we returned to norm with a typical early Spring day in the Yorkshire dales! Cold, wet and miserable but 18 hardy folk took to the course to help celebrate with Martin Scriven his tenth anniversary of organising the event. The winner this year was local member Paul Hanson, his 4th win in the 10 years of the competition!

The golfers were joined for dinner by their partners and some other OGs and friends of Gordonstoun to toast Martin's magnificent contribution over many years to both the School and OGGs.

LONDON SCOTTISH SCHOOLS GOLF SOCIETY – JUNE

After our success of last year when we finished third in this team event this year proved to be a great disappointment as we ended up well down the field at Denham GC in Buckinghamshire. Bill Logan, our captain for this match, was very unhappy with the performance of his team made up of John Mckimmie, Andrew Gordon, David White and Bill Logan. Our results yet again proved the fickle nature of the game of golf. There is always next year!

The great compensation for a poor round of golf at Denham is the truly wonderful lunch. One of the very best golf club lunches in the London area.

LUFFNESS NEW - AUGUST

This was the secondnd year the Edinburgh meeting, organised again by Harry Waugh, has been held at Luffness, yet another excellent Scottish links golf course. This year a field of 12 met for drinks to be followed by lunch and an afternoon of golf for what must be the ugliest trophy in golf. The winner this year was the captain of OGGs who scored 36 points and who has been negotiating with his wife for the last few months as to where at home he can proudly display this trophy. Andrew Gray was 2nd with 35 points.

This year an Over 70s competition was also played and was won by John Nicholson.

COOMBE HILL – SEPTEMBER

After two years at Denham we moved the London meeting South of the Thames to Coombe Hill reducing the turnout of players to one third of the previous two years! The field of four players may have been small but a very enjoyable fourball match was played to a high standard and we were blessed by the most beautiful weather at a stunning golf club.

Javier Navarro off 6 handicap partnered Philip Campbell (20) against Andrew Gordon (7) and Andrew "Macduff" Lyall (18). Javier started extravagantly by chipping in for a birdie at the first hole but the team from Moray was not to be put off and stood three up on the 14th tee. The youthful and highly talented Javier then proceeded to birdie two of the next four holes and the match was all square on the 18th tee. The previously cocky Gordon/Macduff team were by now shell shocked and Philip Campbell managed to make their day worse by scoring a net birdie at the last to win the match for him and Javier. All that was left was for Macduff and the OGGs captain to proceed to the bar with their tails between their legs and dig deep into their pockets to buy lunch. An excellent day out.....

I would like to finish by thanking all the organisers of the events and in particular Martin Scriven, our treasurer, and Brian O'Connor, our secretary, for the time and commitment they have given to delivering a successful programme of events in 2016.



The OGGs captain receiving "that" trophy from Harry Waugh at Luffness.



David White - 'the best dressed golfer'

GA DAY & THE GA 200 CLUB



The Gordonstoun Association
requests the pleasure of your company on

GA Day at Gordonstoun Elgin, Moray IV30 5RF

Saturday 29 April 2017

This year GA Day coincides with the Junior Highland Games at Gordonstoun
and will conclude with dinner in the evening.

Please contact the GA Office if you would like to attend.
E: ga@gordonstoun.org.uk T: 01343 837922

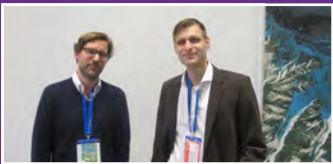
THE GA 200 CLUB YOU COULD BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING £1000!!!

The GA 200 Club requires more members. Membership of the GA 200 Club costs just £30 a year. If you join the GA 200 Club you will be doing your bit to help current students. The surplus money that GA 200 Club generates goes into a fund known as the Student Support Fund which is available to students who require financial help in order to participate in overseas projects, such as the Thailand Water Project, the Romania and Ethiopia Projects

Consideration is currently being given by the GA Committee to increase the prize fund to the following top annual prize of £1500 (from £1000) May & Nov to £750 (from £500) and the remaining months to remain at £40. Final go ahead can only be given once the number of members has increased from 110 to 145. In the interest of all please apply for membership as soon as possible, multiple numbers can be held.

The annual GA 200 Club £1000 prize is drawn during the AGM, which this year will be held on GA Day, at school on Saturday 29th April 2017. As well as the £1000 prize drawn in May there is a £500 prize which is drawn in November and also a £40 prize drawn during each of the ten remaining months of the year.

If you are interested in becoming a GA 200 Club member, please contact the GA Office by email ga@gordonstoun.org.uk or phone 01343 837 922 to request an application form.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE GA ANNUAL LONDON DINNER

Fino's Wine Cellar, London
Friday 10th March 2017

CALCUTTA CUP WEEKEND

London
Saturday 11th March 2017

THE GA YORKSHIRE DINNER

Ilkley Golf Club
Friday 31st March 2017

GA DAY 2017

Gordonstoun
Saturday 29th April 2017

THE GA ANNUAL EDINBURGH DINNER

New Club, Edinburgh
Friday 18th August 2017

YEAR GROUP REUNIONS

OGGS MATCHES 2017

ILKLEY

Friday 31 March 2017 to be followed by
GA Yorkshire dinner

OGGS V THE SCHOOL

Thursday 27 April 2017 at Nairn
AGM to be held in Nairn GC
boardroom prior to the match

ANNUAL OGGS TOURNAMENT

Friday 28 April 2017 at Castle Stuart

