



# TENNANT LECTURE SERIES

**Tuesday 7th May**

7.30pm for 8.00pm, **CAWTHORNE LECTURE THEATRE**

## A HISTORY OF TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

A TALK BY DAVID TENNANT

Tonbridge School was founded in 1553 by Sir Andrew Judde as a free Grammar School. The charter was granted by Edward VI, the Headmaster's salary was set at £20 per annum and the school was to have as its Governors the Worshipful Company of Skinners. Over the next 465 years the fortunes of the school have varied, but largely thanks to some exceptionally able Headmasters and the support provided by the Skinners' Company, Tonbridge has grown, prospered and developed into one of the most popular Public Schools in the country. David Tennant, the past Chairman of the Parents' Arts Society, who has taught at Tonbridge for 35 years, will review its history, discuss various aspects of the school as it is today and speculate on some of the challenges it might face in the future.

**Thursday 6th June**

7.30pm for 8.00pm, **CAWTHORNE LECTURE THEATRE**

## LIFE AS A WAR ARTIST IN AFGHANISTAN

A TALK BY GRAEME LOTHIAN

Graeme Lothian joined the Parachute Regiment at the beginning of the 1980's, until a parachuting accident curtailed his career and gave him an opportunity to follow his first love, which was painting. After a distinguished early career – he exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery - Graeme went to Afghanistan as artist to the Royal Army medical Corp, based at Camp Bastion. This resulted in an exhibition at the Royal Society of Medicine, which attracted over a thousand visitors a day. He was the official War artist on three Afghan tours and in June 2013 he was shot and wounded by a Taliban sniper south of Sangin. After his recovery he went back to Afghanistan as artist to the Gurkhas 2016 tour in Kabul. Three of Graeme's art books have been published to date; one on the Thames, another of London and his Afghanistan book came out in 2014. Graeme will tell us what life was like as a war Artist in Afghanistan at the height of the conflict.

**Tuesday 11th June**

7.30pm for 8.00pm, **CAWTHORNE LECTURE THEATRE**

## CAN ART CHANGE THE WORLD? ART WITH SOMETHING TO SAY

A TALK BY VAL WOODGATE

This lecture concentrates on those artists who have used their art to communicate ideas, opinions, criticisms or fears about their world and, in doing so, tell us a great deal about the historical context in which the art was created. Throughout the ages, artists such as Goya, William Blake, Picasso, Grayson Perry, Ai Weiwei and many more have created powerful, exciting, moving and, sometimes, disturbing works of art. They deal with topics as varied as social unrest and poverty, feminism and gender politics, race, prejudice, war and propaganda. Valerie Woodgate is a well-known and popular lecturer who has given many Art Study days at Tonbridge for members of the Parents' Arts Society. She is a lecturer at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, and has lectured all over the world.

**Thursday 20th June**

7.30pm for 8.00pm, **CAWTHORNE LECTURE THEATRE**

## SISTER EDITH APPLETON OBE AND THE BATTLES FACED BY WWI NURSES

A TALK BY DICK & LISA ROBINSON

Sister Edith Appleton RRC OBE was born in Deal in 1877 and served as a professional nurse in France from October 1914 until Christmas 1919, often close to the front line. She wrote an amazing daily journal throughout WWI, describing the mixture of grinding ghastliness she experienced as well as her time off-duty, appreciating the natural beauty around her. In this fully illustrated presentation, Dick Robinson (Parkside 1955-60), Edie's great nephew who knew her well in the 1940s and 50s, will tell her story and his wife, Lisa, will read extracts from the diaries. A book about Sister Edith Appleton, entitled 'A Nurse at the Front', has been published by the Imperial War museum.