

ODyssey

The Newsletter for
Old Dauntseians
Winter 2021



Head Master



It's good to be back – normal service has been resumed and spirits are high. This term has flown by and it has been a good one. The campus is vibrant, with a record 865 pupils enjoying their education and busy schedules. Alongside the extensive Performing Arts and Sports timetable, a packed clubs and societies programme is flourishing and offering a wide range of opportunities. This is a very important part of our provision.

The Hockey and Rugby teams have enjoyed a successful season, with many excellent matches and results, and the stunning performances of Legally Blonde were acclaimed by packed audiences over four nights.

Dauntsey's is in a strong place and good heart. Looking to the future, we have commissioned a research agency to help us map out the next stage of the School's development and to ensure we continue to move ahead in a positive and proactive manner. There is much to look forward to.

We welcome the warm relationship with the OD community and are most grateful for your support. Please keep in touch and come for a visit or call in if you are passing.

Mark Lascelles

Head of Foundation



It has been a busy term here in the Foundation Office, with many highlights to report in the newsletter. Thank you to all the ODs who have attended our various events and also to those who have sent in their news and views.

It was good to see so many ODs and friends of the School at the Memorial Service for Jim Hodges. It was a very special occasion as we celebrated Jim's life and his amazing contribution to our School. The proceedings were recorded and can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/642493465>

The class reunions, OD Golf Day and Match Day Entertainment Event have all been popular, enjoyable occasions. It has been a pleasure to welcome back to School a good few OD visitors too.

It is with great sadness we heard of the death of former teacher Bridget Green. Bridget enjoyed a long, prosperous career at Dauntsey's and remained in West Lavington after her retirement.

I would also like to pay tribute to OD Richard Slade (50-55) who died last year. Richard was a strong supporter of the School having been OD Chairman in the 1990s and the founder of the ODA Bursary Fund. He was always most kind and helpful to me and we miss his regular visits.

Finally, a quick plug for Nick Hale's book: *William Dauntsey – A Biography*. Details available from the author: dauntseybiography@gmail.com

My colleague Julie Romijn and I send you our very best wishes.

Mark Neve

OD Golf Day 2021

It was a lovely warm, sunny day for the annual OD Golf Tournament at Erlestoke Sands in early September. On a challenging course, some excellent golf was played, perhaps inspired by it being the first day of the Ryder Cup. It was good to see a few younger ODs on the tee for the first time. Congratulations to Robert Dolan who was the champion golfer and the winner of The Jim Hodges Cup with 35 stableford points, Bryan Fribbance was second and Jim Pickford third. The Bob Foxwell Cup for the team prize went to Michael Dolan, Nick Billing and Peter Silcock. The guests had a good day with Di Pickford in third place, Steve Lilley second and Michael Dolan taking the honours with a magnificent 43 points. Superb shots nearest the pin at holes 4,7 and 15 won prizes for Di, Bryan, and Steve. It was also a special day for Jim and Di as they celebrated their Emerald (55 years) wedding anniversary.

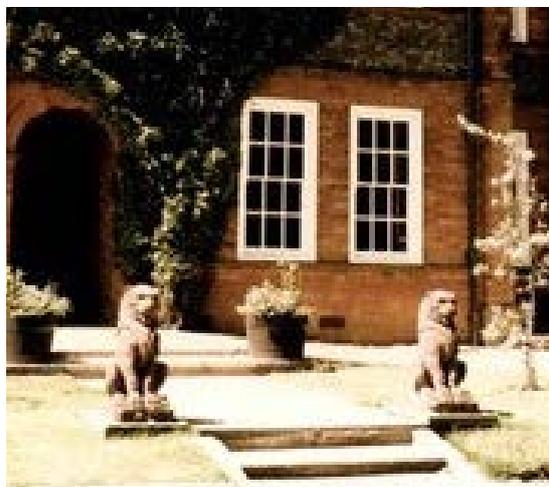


A Tale of Two Lions

Twenty years ago the School suffered what was probably the most audacious theft in its history. Under the headline “Thieves steal pride of school” the *Wiltshire Gazette and Herald* reported that “The two massive stone lions that for many years guarded the entrance to Dauntsey’s School in West Lavington were stolen on Sunday, September 16.”

When the Manor (strictly Market Lavington Manor) was built by Edward Pleydell-Bouverie in the 1860s it included a decorative brick balustrade running almost 300 feet along the southern terrace below the house and overlooking the valley. At the western end the terrace turned north, culminating in double steps proudly guarded by two lions, made of brick or terracotta and standing about a metre high. There, on an axis with the window of the drawing room, they would gaze out on the setting sun. The balustrade had been designed and made by Edward Box, owner of the nearby Market Lavington Brick Works – later to be sued (unsuccessfully) by Pleydell-Bouverie for using the design elsewhere. Presumably Box also manufactured the lions. The School acquired the Manor in 1929 and generations of Dauntseians based there would have known the balustrade and its west-facing guardians.

Then in 1969 came the new Head Master. With a programme of far-reaching changes to make, he was not one to let sleeping dogs lie – or lions for that matter. It was soon decided that the lions would do better at School House, gracing the entrance to the reception area and his study. With seeming disregard for the niceties of listed building legislation, they were removed in early 1970. Schoolchildren can be notoriously conservative, a characteristic that came very much to the fore with the early innovations made by Guy King-Reynolds. Manor pupils were so incensed by this act of pillage that they organised a petition and sought to prevent the dignified creatures being taken from their home of a century. But to no avail. *Roma locuta, causa finita*. We soon got used to the new régime and its ways. Was that too another feature of schoolchildren? By the end of the year the noble beasts even featured on the front cover of *The Dauntseian*. They went on to guard two further Head Masters and were to be seen in Bill Blackshaw’s 1992 watercolour commissioned for the School’s 450th anniversary. Meanwhile the Manor balustrade gently decayed, eventually being dismantled, removed and replaced. Perhaps the lions would have suffered a similar fate had they remained.



After adorning the main site for three decades came their sudden disappearance, discovered on the morning of Monday 17 September 2001. For all the newspaper coverage, report in *The Dauntseian* seems conspicuous by its absence. Furthermore, school communities, with their transient population, have short memories and there will be few now in the School who remember the imposing creatures, looking east to the rising sun, guarding the Head Master and so often being the first to greet him in the morning.

Where are they now?

Legally Blonde

Enjoyable, rousing and entertaining, the performances of the musical *Legally Blonde* certainly lifted spirits at the end of a long term.



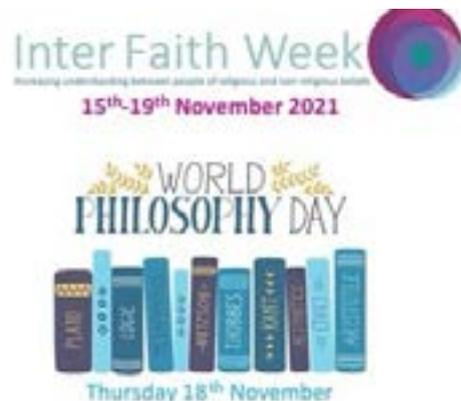
School News



Many congratulations to Annabel on winning the FA Rising Star of the Year Award 2021. Not only is she a super football coach, but she is a qualified FA referee.



A big thank you to our Estates Team, whose year-round work keeps our grounds looking so impressive.



Dauntsey's supported Inter Faith Week with a number of different activities and events around the School. The aim was to increase awareness of different and distinct faith communities we have in the UK and to appreciate the contribution they all make. Form 1 pupils hosted Tony Gordon from the Park Row Synagogue in Bristol and enjoyed learning about Jewish traditions.



Jack Butler enjoyed a fine cricket season in 2019, with the highlight being figures of 6-83 in the School vs MCC match. Jack was rewarded for this excellent performance with a trip to Lords for Day 4 of the England v India test, courtesy of the MCC. Jack is pictured receiving his achievement award from Kumar Sangakarra, MCC President and former Sri Lanka captain.



Jolie Brise has once again scooped first place in the ASTO Small Ships Race, winning the magnificent Aurora Cup. In challenging weather conditions, she was first to cross the line in the day-long race across the Solent. Congratulations to the crew members on their fine achievement.



The results are in and *MIND* is Dauntsey's chosen charity for this academic year. The pupils and staff are supporting this mental health charity, reflecting the impact of lockdown on not only some of our students, but also on the wider population. Raising money for *MIND* is one way to support those who have suffered during this difficult time.



Our new apiary, next to the pond on Mercers' Field, is up and running. Powered by its own solar panels, the facility provides two hives, a covered observation area and a classroom. The bee club meets every Monday afternoon and already has a keen band of young beekeepers.



OD Events
Class of 2011 Reunion



Classes of 2015 and 2016 Reunion Dinner



OD News



There was quite a reunion for ODs Aurora Paris (10-17) and Boyd Rouse (10-12) at the World Rugby 7s qualifiers in Monaco. Aurora was invited to be the physio for the Tongan team and rapidly became a lot more than that. Fitness, skills, drills and match tactics were soon part of her remit as she prepared the team for the challenges ahead. Not bad for someone who had graduated only three weeks previously. There was a special moment to come when Aurora bumped into the captain of the Zimbabwe team, none other than Boyd Rouse who was in the year above her at School. Aurora has been accepted for an MSc Physiotherapy course and been invited by the Tongan management team to continue working with the players.



David Carrott (72-79) now lives in Devizes with his wife Josephine and is rediscovering all his old walks and hikes in the marvellous Wiltshire countryside. David was born in America in 1961 and attended Dauntsey's as a boarder from 1972 to 1979. At the very end of his time he met and fell in love with Josephine Noble at a school dance. He always thought that America was his homeland and he left the UK in 1986 to fulfil his destiny. After 40 years in America as a manager in Information Technology and interludes as a Wilderness Councillor for troubled teens his mother became infirm and needed care so he flew back to the UK look after her. He rediscovered Josephine and found that after all this time they were still in love, The love story ends with a very happy marriage. After an early retirement, David realised that he still had a liking for all things metal from his early days in the Engineering department with Mr Watts. He went back to University taking classes in jewellery and spin casting. He now makes silver boxes, called Vow Keepers, that contain two scrolls where a wedding couple are invited to write down and keep their wedding vows. His work can be seen at www.vowkeeper.co.uk



Chris Saklatvala (55-63) is celebrating the publication of his first book Time of the Oak. Dedicated to Jim Hodges, it is an autobiographical fantasy novel. Dauntsey's in the 1960s features quite heavily and Chris's contemporaries might find it quite an interesting read.



The picture shows ODs Jim Cruttwell (68-73), Peter Dorrell (68-74), Phil Tinne (68-72) and Jon Lee (68-72) at Baden Powell House in London receiving their Devizes to Westminster canoe race completion certificates and The Sir Louis and Lady Gluckstein Trophy.



We have welcomed Jack Mynott (08-13) back to School as a Geography teacher and 1st XI cricket coach. Jack is also a tutor at the Manor.



Holly Risdon (04-11) shares two bits of very good news. She has been accepted onto a Doctorate Programme in Clinical Psychology at Oxford University starting in September 2021. Competition was hot, with some 660 candidates applying for 36 places. It was lovely to see Holly at the recent 10-year reunion event when she announced her plans to marry next year.



Former Head of ICT Trevor Medhurst (85-97), affectionally known as 'clever Trevor', retired from teaching just over 2 years ago. Trevor left Dauntsey's in 1997 to join King Edward's, Bath where he remained until 2019. Retirement clearly suits him well. He looked fit and healthy when he returned to School for Jim Hodges' Memorial Service having enjoyed an active post-retirement gap year travelling and walking in Europe.



Two Jeanne House pals were reunited recently, eleven years after leaving Dauntsey's. Jemima Walker (06-11), a successful freelance reporter, interviewed Captain Rosie Wild (03-10) for Sky News. Rosie was involved in the military operation to evacuate people from Kabul in August and spoke with Jemima about her experiences.

OD News



David Adam (56-59) attended Jim Hodges' Memorial Service with his contemporary Colonel Ivan Clarke (54-60). Now aged 77, David retired from the antique furniture business that he took over in 1961, although he still deals quietly. His website is: www.adamantiques.com

David has also retired from racing administration, having been a chairman of the Stewarding Panels at many racecourses. He was a member of the British Horseracing Authority's Stewarding Committee for many years, and then joined the Independent Judicial Committee which hears appeals from racecourses and the most important cases of breaches in racing generally. In addition, he has just completed six years as Chairman of *Racing to School*, a charity that takes over 15,000 children, many of whom have problems, to racecourses each year. This provides help with numeracy, self-confidence, social empathy and the like. David has been married for 56 years, has four children and ten grandchildren. His eldest grandchild is Will Stuart who is a tighthead prop for Bath and has twelve caps for England. Living in Piltown, East Sussex, he now spends about three months a year at his house in Trebetherick, Cornwall. Racing, eventing, shooting, golf, cricket and bridge are amongst his many interests.



Lizzie Watson (00-06), pictured second on the left, and three other women are rowing 3000 miles across the Atlantic as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge in December 2023. The team, called Ace of Blades, is raising money for three charities: Prostate Cymru, Macmillan and The Outward Bound Trust. Of the three, it is Outward Bound that is closest to Lizzie's heart. Like many Dauntseians she enjoyed Moonrakers camp at Aberdovey. Then, post GCSE, she attended a 3-week expedition course in Scotland. Her adventurous spirit was certainly developed and fostered during her schooldays in West Lavington. But not all children and young people are as fortunate. Lizzie wants to raise money for this wonderful charity to help as many people as possible experience and benefit from their courses. To follow the journey or support the team, visit teamaceofblades.com



With the Dauntsey's spirit of adventure, Lydia Borwell (07-14) is heading to the Arctic Circle on an expedition to raise money for *Refuge* in March 2022. *Refuge* supports women and children experiencing domestic violence and other gender based crimes. You can find information about the trip here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/arcticlydia> Having had a bad experience herself, Lydia is particularly passionate about young girls being prepared for these situations and empowered to know that there are organisations and individuals out there that care and can help. She would be most grateful for support from the OD community.



It was a pleasure to see Chris Clifford (95-00) back at School with his wife Mandy and daughter on her first day at Dauntsey's.



High Garden is the highest vineyard in Gibbston, New Zealand on schist rock soils sloping towards the north with very long sunshine hours, making it one of the warmest sites in Central Otago's coolest sub-region for Pinot Noir. The High Garden Pinot Noir vineyard is owned and the fruit grown by Robin Tedder (66-71). Robin has been growing grapes and making wine since 1993 and became a Master of Wine in 1997. He first arrived in New Zealand in 1976 from Edinburgh and had a happy return to NZ with his wife Rita after several decades living in Australia. <https://www.highgardenvineyard.com>

Martin Richardson (69-74) found some old negatives behind the Fives Courts before he left School and he has now placed scans of the photos on Google drive. The pictures might well be of interest to ODs from that era. The link is: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Pr-jnCjKLEma1pSGzp54umX4Ob6nhk?usp=sharing>

ODyssey

OD Visitors



*Ted Hackett (56-60)
and John Rendell (64-71)*



*Jonathan Lee (68-72)
and Peter Dorrell (68-74)*



*Ian MacLaclan (55-62)
and Robert MacLaclan (53-59)*



*Michael Hillier (40-44)
with his wife*



Vicky Morris (née Maude) (95-00)



Tom Salter (88-93)

OD Match Day Entertainment



A group of ODs and friends of the School attended Match Day on Saturday 13 November. After lunch and a few drinks, we were entertained by the 1st XI Girls' Hockey Team playing a tremendous match in a 5-0 win against Bryanston. The rugby was just as exciting, with the 1st XV defeating Kingswood with a display of attacking, running rugby in a convincing 36-10 win.

Obituary



It is with much sadness that we report the death of Bridget Green at Salisbury Hospital on Thursday 7 October 2021. Bridget was a teacher of English at Dauntsey's from 1975 to 1992 and held the post of Housemistress of Scott House for many years. She was an astute and skilled professional, inspiring pupils in the classroom, and a warm, friendly face in the pastoral team. Her funeral was held at West Wiltshire Crematorium on Wednesday 27 October.

In Memoriam

Vivian Marciandi (41-44)
Amédée (Pat) Turner (43-47)
John Coggan (44-48)
David Cakebread (50-54)
John Henry Leach (53-57)
Bridget Green (75-92)
(former teaching staff)

Contact details: Mark Neve: m.neve@dauntseys.org
Julie Romijn: j.romijn@dauntseys.org



Dauntsey's
West Lavington
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 4HE

01380 814500

info@dauntseys.org



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