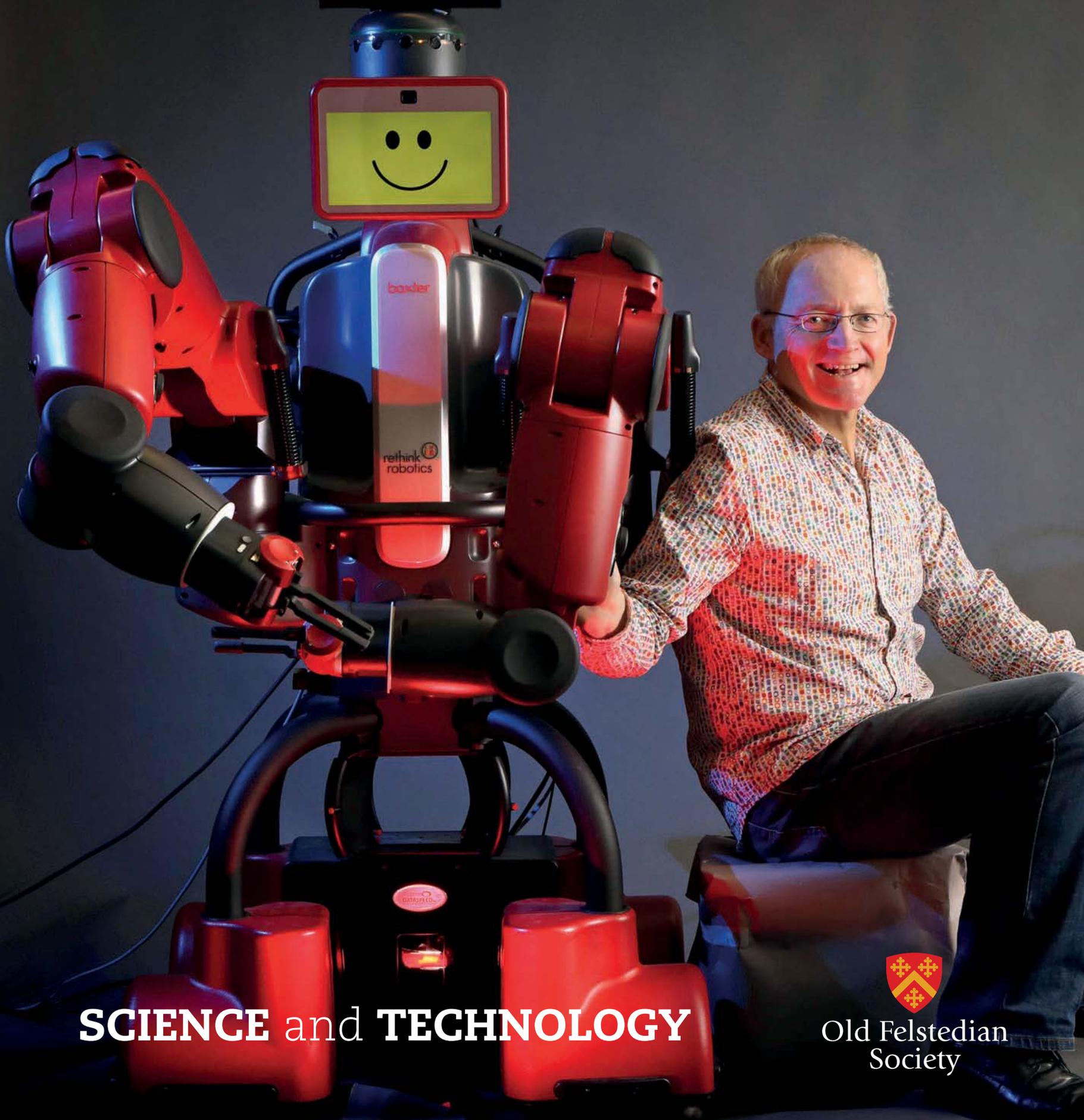


DECEMBER 2018

The Old Felstedian



SCIENCE and **TECHNOLOGY**



Old Felstedian
Society



Old Felstedian Society

2017-18

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Brian Lott OBE (a56-62)

Chairman

Michael Yeatts (e76-81)

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For full details please visit felsted.org/OldFelstedianSociety1

Please send your articles and OF News to:
Felstedian Liaison Manager
Selina Joslin
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Photo: Grant Turner/UNSW

Front cover

Toby Walsh (a77-82), pictured with Baxter the robot, is a leading expert in artificial intelligence. Toby is scientia professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales, Australia and fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He discusses the future of robots and his new book 2062 – *The World That AI Made* on page 14.



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Compostable wrapper!

The OF Society has this year opted for a fully biodegradable mailing wrapper to replace the plastic one previously used. The packaging for this edition is made of potato starch and will break down naturally and is fully sustainable.

A long legacy of OFs making waves in science and technology

What a pleasure it has been to edit this edition of *The Old Felstedian*, which celebrates the worlds of science and technology.

What's clear is that Felsted has an abundance of talent in the science and technology fields ranging from one of the first recruits to The Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology to one of the world's foremost thinkers in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Why is science and technology important? It has an impact on every aspect of our daily lives and it is a huge revenue driver in the UK economy.

Contributor



Chris Smith (fg83-91) is a medical consultant specialising in microbiology and virology at the University of Cambridge and its teaching hospital, Addenbrooke's. Chris is also the presenter of BBC Radio 5 Live's "5 Live Science" on a Sunday morning and founder and co-presenter of The Naked Scientists, one of the most popular podcasts available on iTunes. He has written several science books including the best-selling "Crisp Packet Fireworks", now republished as "Boom!". He lives just outside Cambridge with his GP wife Sarah and two children Amelia and Tim.

The innovation, research and technology sector contributed an estimated £32-36bn to the UK economy in 2012-13. It has a massive impact on growth and economic prosperity and it is a sector that the UK has traditionally performed well in.

Felsted too has a long legacy of producing scientists and technologists who have made life-changing discoveries or inventions.

Cast your eye back to the 17th Century and a certain alumni John Wallis. He left the school in 1634 and went on to become a Savilian professor of geometry at the University of Oxford before introducing the concept of, and the symbol for, infinity.

Great technologists in our brethren include Reginald Pierson who left the school in 1908. He was the chief designer of the Vickers Vimy aircraft that was the first to complete a non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1919.

More recently, we have the incredible capabilities of scientific medical researchers, such as Tony Hunter, Antony Galione and Lucilla Poston.

We haven't been able to cover all the amazing OFs currently making waves in science and technology, particularly in the field of medical research. But we have featured the inspirational Poston on page 18 and her research work at pregnancy charity Tommy's, King's College London and beyond, helping women overcome problems in childbirth and labour.

We also recognise the amazing achievements of Hunter on page 4, who has garnered a series of world-renowned accolades for his ground-breaking research that has led to over 30 new



and effective cancer drugs. Unfortunately, we didn't have the space to tell his story in more detail, but I hope we do so in a future edition.

I'd like to mention the immense fun I had interviewing and then writing our lead feature on AI with the phenomenal Toby Walsh on page 14.

Embrace this world OFs, as it is the future and if we don't engage with it, one, we will miss out, and two, we will not shape the way it changes the world forever.

Finally, thanks to those OFs who have taken the time to complete our survey on the workings of the OF Society. The initial results are covered on page 6, but I'm sure there will be more to follow as the society looks into its findings in the New Year.

Talking of which, there's just space for me to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Joel Garner (b85-90), Editor

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Visit the Old Felstedian website at felsted.org/ofs

TAKE A 360° VIRTUAL REALITY TOUR OF FELSTED

You can now enjoy a virtual reality tour of the Felsted School campus. The tour is available in standard desktop and mobile view as well as being compatible with 3D VR headsets. Visit bit.ly/FelstedTour and navigate your way around the site.



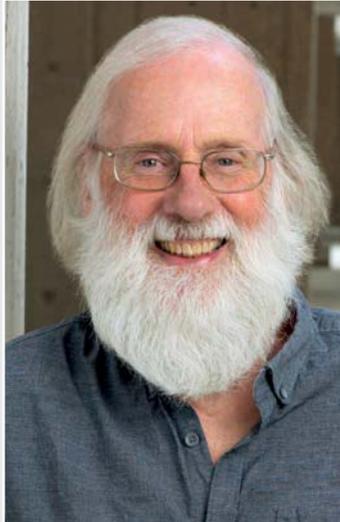
“noted & quoted” – a round up of OFs in the news

Prestigious prizes for cancer research

One of Felsted’s most recognised and lauded scientific researchers Tony Hunter (e56-61) has collected more awards this year in acknowledgement of his hugely influential work. Hunter’s groundbreaking studies of cellular processes have led to the development of new and effective cancer drugs.

In June, Hunter was jointly awarded the 2018 Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science, sharing the £1.2m (\$1.5m) prize winners’ pot with fellow cancer researchers Brian Druker and John Mendelsohn. One month earlier, Hunter was given the Pezcoller-AACR International Award for Extraordinary Achievement in Cancer Research, which is one of the most prestigious honours in the field of cancer research.

On receiving this award, he said: “We must continue to be relentless in our fight to end cancer and harness the best scientific minds in the world to develop breakthrough therapies to conquer one of the most devastating diseases facing humanity. I am honoured to receive this award, which I share with all the other researchers who are committed to this vital quest.” His phenomenal research has so far led to 31 enzyme-inhibiting cancer drugs being used worldwide.



new HQ, which opened in October 2017. Goodman worked on the development for five years from inception to completion. “This project was my pride and joy – an experience of a lifetime,” he said. “It absorbed several thousand hours of my life and has forever gained me a reputation of being a workaholic.” The completion of Bloomberg’s new London office ended Philip’s residency at Foster + Partners. He now runs his own property and investment business, URECO Property.

Wellbeing centre opens

Felsted School has opened the first in-school wellbeing centre in the country. The school’s centre puts pupil welfare at the heart of everything, said Headmaster Chris Townsend. “We have long had a range of strategies to help pupils negotiate the pressures of growing up and being adolescent in the changing modern world. “A massive support network underpins our care for each child, which includes a house parent, tutor, teachers, matron, chaplain, peer counsellors, house and school prefects and now an in-house wellbeing centre and counselling service.”

The new centre was opened in April by OF Simon Walker (fc80-89) and his wife Jo Walker. The Walkers have years of experience in the

field of student welfare and pastoral care. Their company Steer developed Affective Social Tracking (AS Tracking), a mental health tracking tool that enables schools to identify pupils’ hidden risks early.

The company says it has proved that AS Tracking improves whole school and individual pupil wellbeing by equipping teachers

with in-school, targeted action plans to reduce pupil mental health and wellbeing risks.

This tool is now used by Felsted, and many other schools, as a way to help identify and mitigate mental health problems in young people as they navigate their way through adolescence.

PhD student delivers wellbeing seminar

Chris McLeod (fc00-08) delivered a series of seminars to lower sixth students discussing the importance of nutrition and general wellbeing, with a focus on using food to fuel your body. McLeod is currently undertaking a PhD in eating behaviour at Loughborough University.



Photo: A P Wilding Photography

Runner-up in Essex

Young Musician of the Year

This summer Esme Smith (bn03-13) was awarded second prize in the 2018 Essex Young Musician of the Year Competition. Since then, Esme has starred as the leading role of Carmen in the Barefoot Opera production of Bizet’s classic. Barefoot Opera produces and performs operas around the UK, its aim is to change the perceptions and experience of opera.



Architect celebrates Bloomberg RIBA prize

OF architect Philip Goodman (fac02-09) had good reason to celebrate in October this year when Bloomberg’s new European headquarters located in the heart of the City of London was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architect’s (RIBA) Stirling Prize 2018. Goodman was part of the architect’s Foster + Partners team that designed the company’s



Royal Marine leads 2,000 mile challenge across Norway

Royal Marine Tim Pitcher (d07-09) led a team of eight soldiers on a 48-day expedition to navigate the 2,000 mile length of Norway by sea and land using bikes and sea kayaks starting in June this year. The physical challenge saw the marines cycling up to 200km a day, sea kayaking up to 50km a day and living out of a mobile base camp. The expedition, called *Norway 75 – Commando Spirit*, aimed to raise awareness and funds for the Royal Marines Charity and its efforts to support current and former marines suffering from mental health issues.



OF wins Essex boxing champion title

Angus McLaren (ac09-14) won the Essex Boxing Association southern area championship title this year. McLaren, who is a fitness instructor, undertook an intensive 10-week training programme before the match, which resulted in him losing a stone in weight. He beat the reigning champion to win the title in front of a packed crowd at the Brentwood Centre, Essex.



National rowing title for Georgie Plunkett

OF Georgie Plunkett (fb03-08) won a gold medal at the British Rowing Masters championships in Nottingham this summer. Plunkett won the women's masters A single sculls at the competition for the second successive year dominating the race to win by five seconds. She said: "It was satisfying to come back after the setback of injury and be competitive, I really look forward to working towards next year's races."



Clarinetist joins Coldstream Guards band

Charlotte Webb (fmbn06-11) became the newest member of the Coldstream Guards band in July having completed her musical training at the Royal Military School of Music. She took part in her first concert with the band at the Last Night of The Proms extravaganza in the grounds of Kneller Hall, Twickenham, London.



Internship at International Criminal Court

Amie Whittock (bn12-14) has been selected for an internship in the investigations department of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. Whittock, who is keen to become a freelance criminal investigator, applied for the opportunity at the ICC in the spring, having graduated from the University of Winchester in 2017, where she studied psychology and criminology.

"I was in complete shock being a shortlisted candidate but refused to begin celebrating until I knew it was a concrete decision. After various checks and exchanging of documents, on 30 May I received my acceptance email," she said.



National award for Tallinn University professor

OF economist Ringa Raudla (n96-97) has won a national research award in Estonia for her work into understanding the challenges to public finances and fiscal governance in the post-crisis period. Raudla, who is professor of public finance and governance at Tallinn University of Technology, explained that national

research awards were awarded annually to Estonian researchers. There is only one award per year in social sciences.



OF survey to guide society's offering in the future

The OF Society has recently conducted a survey of its members. We asked chairman Michael Yeatts why it had done so and what it hoped to achieve. Joel Garner reports

The survey's initial results were available as *The Old Felstedian* went to press and brief highlights are shown below. OFs wanting to find out more should contact the OF office at ofs@felsted.org. The full report will be available to view in the new year at felsted.org/ofs/of-society.

If you are reading this there is a high probability that you are an Old Felstedian and so will have been asked by email to complete a survey on the workings of the society.

The Old Felstedian Society (OFS) survey was an opportunity to share your views and suggestions on all aspect of the society, said its chairman Michael Yeatts (e76-81).

Yeatts, who has had five years as chairman, said that there were two main reasons for garnering the views of the society's members.

"Firstly, we have already developed what the OFS offers – for example the Felsted Network in the UK and abroad, and some less formal and sporadic events – and we want to see if we are on the right track.

"Secondly, we know that many OFs are unaware of how the society works, so we felt we needed to reveal ourselves."

The society, which was first formed in 1900, has been working well for years, said Yeatts, but he added there has been such huge changes in the way people communicate, and the geographical and gender diversity of OFs in recent years, that it is clear it needs "to adapt to keep itself healthy".

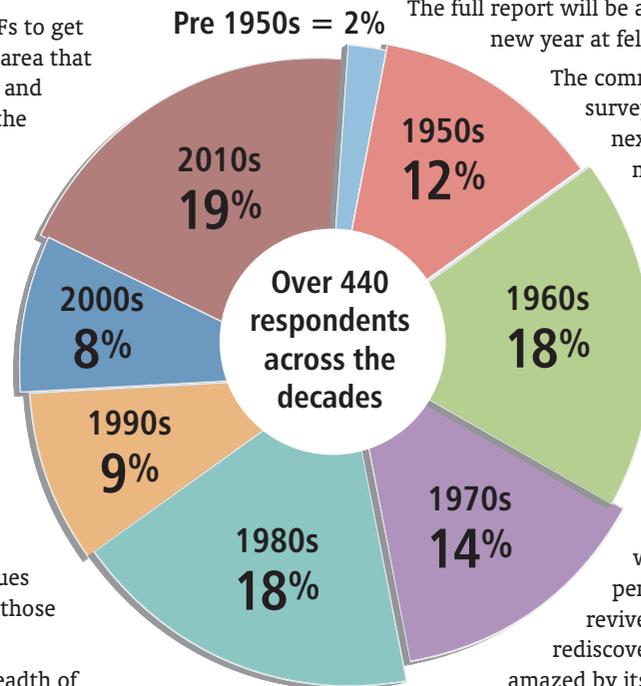
He said that the society's president Brian Lott had explained at the annual general meeting in May this year that the rules and organisational structure of the OFS were being reviewed by the committee to ensure it remained relevant and effective in promoting the objectives of the society and managing its affairs.

A rule change was approved at the AGM that permitted the election of ambassadors to represent and promote specific areas of the society.

"This allows OFs to get involved in an area that interests them and should widen the appeal of the society," said Yeatts. "I would be truly delighted to have the committee filled with both male and female OFs across all age ranges and ethnicities and hope that the survey piques the interest of those very people."

Despite the breadth of generations that exist with the society, Yeatts said it was entirely possible for the OFS to work for everyone and he said he hoped the survey would help achieve this.

"Our way forward is to identify what OFs currently enjoy about the society and what they would like in addition. I hope this will allow us to focus our resources in the most relevant areas – a good mixture of tradition and innovation."



The committee will review the survey's findings and discuss next steps at its next meeting in January, said Yeatts.

He added that he hoped one result of the survey would be greater engagement. "I really hope that OFs guide us, tell us what they want and then engage with other OFs."

Many OFs lose contact with the school for long periods of time, but it can be revived, Yeatts said. "When I rediscovered the school I was amazed by its incredibly positive evolution and warm welcome. The school's support of OFs is very powerful."

22%
have attended a Felsted Network event in the past 5 years

49%
connect with Felsted via social media to hear about OF news

94%
feel updated appropriately about OF activities, events and news about Felsted School

64%
are most interested in attending a reunion with their year group

56%
would like to see more news about Old Felstedian stories

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF FELSTED'S PAPAL BULL

NEWS ANALYSIS

An unusual discovery in Felsted's archives led to a two-year quest to uncover its history. Joel Garner reports

Sorting through boxes in 2015 Felsted archivist and former IT teacher Christopher Dawkins and assistant archivist Jules Wallis discovered a strange document folded into an envelope.

The document consisted of 50 lines of latin inscribed on a large sheet of old leathery paper.

"It obviously looked like a papal bull, but we thought it just couldn't be one," said Dawkins. "So we took it to the Essex Archives, who confirmed that it was a papal bull."

A papal bull is a type of public decree or charter issued by a pope of the Roman Catholic church. It is named after the leaden seal (bulla) that was traditionally appended to the end to authenticate it, but it was a mystery why such a document, if it was indeed proven to be one, would end up at Felsted.

"This document was of genuine medieval handwriting in iron gall ink on high quality vellum from an unfortunate calf," added Dawkins.

He approached the classics department, but they said it was beyond their remit as it was in medieval latin. A medievalist in Chelmsford also declined to translate it as it was in ecclesiastical medieval latin.

"Eventually we found an ecclesiastical medieval latin expert, Dr Stacey Harmer, who told us it was sent by Pope Leo X on 23 May 1521 to the Abbey of St Eustace in Nervesa della Battaglia placing the abbey under the control of the Count of Collalto."

Dawkins added that once Dr Harmer pointed out the places in the text that said 'Nervesa' and 'Sant Eustachio' the previously impenetrable writing became a little easier to read.

Further investigation on Google maps showed that Nervesa was about 10 miles north of Treviso (30 miles north of Venice) and Collalto was another three miles further north.

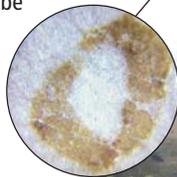
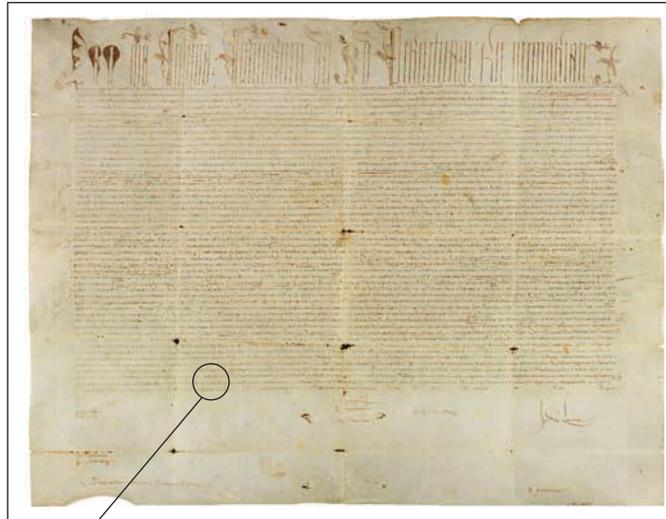
In October 2017, the team embarked on an exploratory mission to the Abbey of St Eustace in Nervesa della Battaglia and discovered several interesting facts that helped piece together the history of the papal bull and how it could have ended up inside Felsted's archives.

The abbey, which was being partially restored and was to house a new museum, was aware of the bull, but the only copy was an 18th-Century transcription located in a Treviso library.

Dawkins' team also learnt that the Count of Collalto happened to be personal assistant to Pope Leo in 1521 and hence he was the direct beneficiary of the bull's decree to transfer control of the abbey to him.

Another key finding was that during the First World War the abbey was occupied from December 1917 to March 1918 by British troops.

"We had been previously mightily puzzled as to how this papal bull, which had nothing to do with Felsted, could have found its way to us from Nervesa.



"Now it was obvious. British troops often bring back souvenirs from their foreign trips, and this bull would have been in the abbey's library," said Dawkins.

He added the next task was to try and identify which Felstedian might have been amongst the troops occupying the abbey.

"We then heard from Roger Dring (e52-57). His father Edmund (e21-25) and grandfather had been directors of Bernard Quaritch, antiquarian dealers in London."

Around 1925 his grandfather acquired the papal bull, possibly from a demobbed soldier trying to make a buck from a souvenir and presented it to the school.

It had been exhibited from time to time, but not within local living memory, Dawkins added.

"We are now attempting to find out who brought it to them, but a preliminary search of Quaritch's records has yielded nothing."

Dawkins said: "It was obvious what we should do. Unlike the Elgin marbles, the papal bull should be returned to the Abbey of St Eustace."

It was sent back in December 2017 and then in May this year, Dawkins and his team returned to attend the gala opening of the abbey and museum

"You can go and see it in a case of its own at the far end of the museum," said Dawkins. "One corner of a foreign abbey that is forever Felsted."

For more information on the museum opening times and places to stay, go to archives.felsted.essex.sch.uk/publications/PapalBull/



Christopher Dawkins (centre) with dignitaries from Nervesa

OF Weddings and Births

Amy Brett (mbn06-11) married Simon Treliving on 12 October at Little Easton Church followed by a reception at Blake Hall, Ongar. Other OFs in attendance were bridesmaid Leanne McCallum and Abi Claydon, Emma Gates, Tiffany Griggs and Charlotte Webb.



Robin Hillson (hc05-09) married Sharon Bugeja in Gibraltar on 25 August at the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned, with the reception taking



place until 6am in Sotogrande. The best man was OF Alexander Prior and others in attendance included Jack Brooke, Ian Davies, Phil Goodman, Calum Samaranayake and Mark Surridge.

Mike Marriage (fe94-01) married Faye Butler in Broomfield, Chelmsford on 30 June. There were many OFs present including best man Tom Belcher. Other OFs present were Christian Anthony, Nicholas Belcher, Sarah Burney (née Richards), Chris Burney, Simon Davies, Hannah Farrow (née Thomson), Kate Griswood, Luke Jones, Bree Lowing (née Cant), Alex Marriage, Robert Matthews, Charlotte Nissen (née Belcher), Tom Peacock, Nick Phillips, Jonathan Player, Will Richards and Jessica Spearman (née Brown).



David Rees (fe96-06) married Katie May on 1 June at Tetbury Church, followed by a reception at Elmore Court in Glos. David's father, Jeremy Rees, and Katie's father, Graham May, met at Felsted in 1969 and enjoyed playing cricket together. Over time the two families lost contact, but by chance David and Katie went to the same university and met not knowing about the Felsted connection.



Corin Greenhow (b85-90) and Holly Greenhow celebrated the birth of their son Herbert Frederick Edward Greenhow on 24 April, 2018.



Jonathan Leung (h95-97) and Cecilia Leung welcomed the birth of their daughter Imelda Leung on 1 May, 2018. The family live in Vancouver, Canada, and Imelda is a sister for her five siblings Rose, Thaddeus, Bernadette, Maximilian and Petrus.



OF EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

FEBRUARY

- 2 The Maitland Terrace official opening, Felsted School, 1.45pm
- 6 OF Lodge meeting, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London

MARCH

- 2 OF Golf – spring meeting, Aldeburgh Golf Club, Suffolk. Match manager: Tim Hedin

- 14 Felsted STEM Network, London, 6.45pm – 9.00pm

APRIL

- 3 OF Lodge meeting, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London

- 11-14 OF Golf – Halford Hewitt, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club. Match manager: Jamie Stammers

- 24 Felstedian Society Cambridgeshire spring lunch, The Park Brasserie, Cambridge Regional College

MAY

- 8 OF Golf – extra spring meeting at Braintree Golf Club. Match manager: Dudley Simpson

- 12 OF Golf – Grafton Morrish qualifier at Gog Magog Golf Club. Match manager: Phil Graham

- 19 Felsted v Bishop's Stortford polo match, Silver Leys Polo Club, Little Hadham, Ware

JUNE

- 8 Annual OF Lodge meeting and lunch, Felsted School

- 16 Cricketer Cup 1st Round, Felsted Robins CC v Uppingham Rovers (away)

JUNE cont'd

- 19 OF Golf – summer meeting at West Sussex Golf Club. Match manager: Oliver Stocken

- 21-22 OF Golf – match v Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club. Match manager: William Doe

JULY

- 11 Felstedian Society Cambridgeshire Group summer drinks party, The Fellows' Garden, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

- 11-13 OF Golf – Mellin, Burles and Millard scratch foursomes at West Hill Golf Club. Match manager: Tim Chetwood

- 13 25th anniversary reunion for 1994 leavers, Felsted School, 2-6pm.

SEPTEMBER

- 15 OF Golf – Mathews Cup, Essex public schools scratch foursomes at Thorndon Park Golf Club. Match manager: Phil Graham

- 18 OF Golf – autumn meeting at Beaconsfield Golf Club. Match manager: Howard Machin

OCTOBER

- 16 OF Lodge meeting, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen St, London

NOVEMBER

- 19 Felstedian Society Cambridgeshire winter lunch, the Upper Hall, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

Further event details and invitations will be sent out nearer to each event, but in the meantime please save the dates in your diary. You can visit felsted.org/ofs/events for up-to-date information throughout the year.

OF Lodge Meetings: contact rhkeys@btinternet.com for information.

Felsted seeks inspiration to attract new generations of science and maths students

Felsted has a long history of producing top quality pupils in science and technology and Headmaster Chris Townsend is keen to keep it that way. Joel Garner reports

Science and technology are crucially important to large numbers of students at Felsted both while they are at the school and afterwards as they forge their careers. It seems that science, technology and maths will only grow in their relevance as the UK economy reshapes after Brexit.

Currently, we don't fully know how the post-Brexit British economy will react to the Brexit deal or no-deal scenarios, but Felsted Headmaster Chris Townsend believes that for the current generation of students, knowledge and understanding in maths, science and technology has never been more important.

"A scientific foundation is critical to understanding how the world works and how it will work in the future," says Townsend, before he elaborates about the opportunities this brings.

"This is one area where there is a national skills shortage as the UK looks to compete with the rest of the world. So, there is a need, and a fantastic opportunity for this generation."

Proud record

Throughout its history Felsted has a proud record of producing top scientists, says Townsend. You can trace this right back to John Wallis, who left the school in 1634 and gave the world the infinity symbol, to recent leavers, such as technologist William Alexander (fec03-17), who successfully earned a place among the initial intake to the Dyson Institute. Another recent example is physicist Sam McArdle (fdc99-13), who won the Sir Arnold Wolfendale prize for physics three times at Durham, before securing a scholarship to take a PhD in quantum computing at Oxford University.

The school's science and technology education means all students sit all three science subjects to the end of GCSEs and computer science to the end of year nine, where it becomes a GCSE option.

All International Baccalaureate (IB) students must have at least one science, says Townsend, who adds that the school is working hard to increase numbers taking science at A level.

Initiatives such as two recently introduced sixth form scholarships in maths and the sciences are designed to attract pupils showing exceptional talent and whose aspiration is to study these subjects at the highest level and beyond.

For many students the cornerstone subject for science and technology is maths

The Hunter Scholarship is looking for students who will take two sciences at A level or IB and are likely to go onto study at Oxford, Cambridge or another top university. It is named after Tony Hunter to recognise his ground-breaking scientific research in cancer treatment, winning the Sjöberg Prize in 2017, and the Tang Prize in 2018.

The Wallis Scholarship is for maths students who will study maths and further maths at A level and challenge for a place at either Oxford or Cambridge. The scholarship recognises the formidable work of Wallis, who should be revered as one of Felsted's top mathematicians. He studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge before becoming a Savilian professor of geometry at Oxford University, tutored Isaac Newton, and was a renowned code breaker.

Townsend explains that for many students the key discipline for science and technology is maths and he says it's crucial there is a big take up in the subject through to A level.

"To do this it is extremely important that the school has excellent provision and teaching, inspirational role models and clear pathways for students.

Competitions

"These elements draw people towards areas that are beneficial," he says. As well as high quality teaching and facilities the school also encourages students to take part in global maths competitions and nationwide science competitions, such as the Big Bang.

"I think competitions beyond Felsted are important incentives," adds Townsend. "To reach the highest level you have to pit yourself against able students from not just from your school but

across the whole country. The competitions provide inspiration and give us an opportunity to draw the best out of our students.

"We want to inspire pupils to see that these are valuable subjects to be



studying and we want them to be passionate and interested in them from as young an age as possible."

Another initiative is the school's "Women in Science Day" for year six students, which involves local state and prep schools and hopes to boost interest in science for girls, among

whom science and technology are even more under-represented.

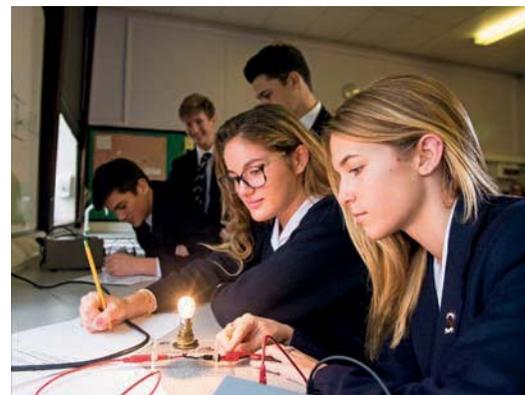
Artificial Intelligence

As well as encouraging students to engage with the subjects now, on the horizon is the challenge of artificial intelligence (AI), which will see educators having to respond to a new set of challenges as the structure of the workforce changes. Even in this field, Felsted provides one of the leading figures in the world, in Toby Walsh (a77-82) (see feature on page 14).

"There will be transformative impacts on the workplace," says Townsend. "I think it will be really important for schools to focus on things that can't be replicated by machines, such as creative thinking and empathy. These need to become the cornerstones of education in the future, because mechanistic types of tasks will be taken over.

"I think AI is an opportunity. Emotional intelligence will become ever more valued and this can be taught by schools just as well as facts can be taught," says Townsend.

Lessons in creative thinking and empathy may well be on the timetable for future generations of Felstedians, but in the meantime keeping science and maths as key building blocks in students' education remains an important priority at Felsted.



FELSTED NETWORK 2018

Felsted Finance and Insurance Network

The Felsted Finance and Insurance Network event at the City of London club on 15 March was a great success with over 60 professionals attending. The evening was hosted by OF Rob Brown (fd74-84), global chief executive at AXA Corporate Solutions. The event was a fantastic networking opportunity for current parents, OFs and Felsted sixth form students.



Alisdair Thomson travels to Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand

Earlier this year, former teacher Alisdair Thomson (1976 -2015) and his wife Vivienne embarked on a special around-the-world trip visiting Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. During their travels they met up with several Felsted friends including Ian Caplin (fc83-91), Darrel Chan (fc95-04), Marcus Chan (fc95-04), Henry Chung (fc01-06), Billy Lo (c04-09) and former teaching staff.



Left to right: Darrel Chan, Henry Chung, Alisdair Thomson, Marcus Chan



Felsted
Network



Creative Industries Network at ITV

Over 30 professionals attended the Felsted Creative Industries Network at ITV on 2 May. The evening was hosted by Felsted parent Mike Beale, managing director at Nordics & Global Creative Network, ITV Studios. The evening inspired students to learn more about the diversity of professions available in the creative industries, including acting, architecture, communications, digital design, film, music and TV.

San Diego Reunion

Tony Hunter (e56-61), John Pennant-Jones (b53-56), Marcus Thorp (d72-77) and Garo Yerevanian (d61-65) enjoyed a special reunion in San Diego earlier this year. Yerevanian explained: "The four San Diego, California based OFs along with their partners convene about once or twice a year. We always share a nice meal together and often reminisce about the school and the old masters."



Popular events for Cambridge Network

The Cambridgeshire group has organised three excellent networking events this year. In April, lunch was hosted at the Cambridge Regional College training restaurant, where students prepare and serve food and drinks as part of their course. Later in the year the group ran a popular summer drinks party followed by a winter lunch in the beautiful setting of the Upper Hall in Jesus College, University of Cambridge thanks to continued support from emeritus fellow Nicholas Ray (g60-65).



Edward Thackray (g60-63) and Edward Dodson (h77-82)



Why does Felsted need fundraising?

From the outside Felsted is a successful school with great facilities, so why does it need to raise more money from parents and alumni? Head of development and alumni relations Richard Salmon explains

As a fundraiser for the school, I am often asked, why should I give to Felsted? It is a challenging question and I wanted to share my response.

Other than good parenting, and faith, I believe the greatest gift we can give children is education. It brings opportunity, aspiration and hope to our young people. As I look at the history of Felstedians, I am inspired by so many who genuinely make a difference.

A leading cancer researcher; engineers who created the modern steel making process and designed the first aircraft to fly non-stop across the Atlantic; leading medics; academics; outstanding photographers; conductors and composers; actors and business leaders. The list is endless.

Perhaps more importantly for me, the greatest characteristic I see amongst Felstedians is confidence without arrogance. I think a great deal of that confidence comes from the school allowing each pupil the opportunity to find their strengths and know their weaknesses.

That may be through academia, art, drama, music, sport or service or engaging in wider co-curricular activities, such as debating in the Model United Nations or serving one of our four main charities. Whether you are successful in the world's eyes or not, that characteristic prevails amongst OFs I meet.

Giving a gift to the school enables Felsted to invest in inspirational facilities, provide means-tested bursaries and scholarships that allows the school to give the broadest education we can, whilst also giving opportunity for bright and able students from less fortunate family circumstances.



School fees cover our annual running costs and provide a modest surplus that is reinvested to improve the school. However, donations bring transformation to the way Felsted can deliver education. Examples include Courtauld Science Centre, Hunt Theatre, Barbara Karan Auditorium, Roed Hall, Stewart House, Bathurst Garden and Maitland Viewing Terrace.

During the last 10 years, over £5.1M has been gifted to Felsted. A large proportion of this will be used as the foundation fund to create vital new teaching and learning facilities that are currently being planned with further details to be announced in 2019.

Ultimately, the beneficiaries of donations to the school are Felstedians. If you can give a gift of any size, please contact me (via email res@felsted.org) and help the school to continue educating confident young Felstedians.



Hong Kong Felsted Network

Headmaster Chris Townsend travelled to Hong Kong to launch a new Felsted Network group on 27 November at Hong Kong Football Club. A great mix of OFs, current parents and former staff who live and work in Hong Kong enjoyed a lively and informative evening.

FELSTED NETWORK – GET CONNECTED

A new Felsted Network website has been launched this year at felstednetwork.com. You can message friends directly, see where people work, search the jobs board and offer to help others with their career. Signing up is quick and easy via LinkedIn, Facebook or email.



■ Thanks to the generosity of OFs, parents and staff, we have created The Maitland Terrace, a viewing terrace with new floodlighting for hockey, tennis and netball



Felsted
Future

The Naked Scientist tells us how the latest tech and science breakthroughs will advance health treatments



The human DNA sequences that also began to emerge were initially rather alarming until the butcher confirmed that his sausages were hand-made. He was clearly someone who likes to throw himself into his work.

More practically, almost every hospital laboratory now uses similar DNA technology to diagnose infections within a few hours by reading the genetic code of the culprit bacteria and viruses.

Previously, it used to take days, and cynics often said that we were only any good for telling people what they died of or recovered from. Now we can genuinely nip outbreaks in the bud before they even get started.

So what does the future hold? In healthcare the things to watch out for are artificial intelligence (AI) and a new kid on the biological block called “phenomics”.

AI is already making inroads into medical practice. One system recently taught itself to distinguish benign from malignant skin lesions and outperformed 20 consultant dermatologists. And an algorithm being developed in Toronto can detect which patients in intensive care are about to take a turn for the worse, 24 hours ahead of doctors.

As for phenomics, this approach measures the levels of thousands of chemicals in the body. This reveals how your genetic makeup is interacting with your diet, lifestyle and environment. Comparing the relative levels of the different chemicals being analysed reveals a “signature fingerprint” predicting the risks of different diseases.

It promises to be big business, but also fun too. My colleagues in Australia are having a whale of a time using drones to capture breath samples from exhaling marine mammals to investigate the cetacean phenomic fingerprint. You’ve got to love the Australians!

OF Chris Smith (fg83-91) has shot to fame as founder of The Naked Scientists, a chart topping series of science podcasts that reaches about a million people a week. Here he tells us what he thinks is hot in the world of scientific discovery

I work as a clinician at the University of Cambridge where I trained in medicine and did a PhD in gene therapy. I spent three years genetically altering herpes viruses so they could deliver therapeutic genes to the nervous system. Along the way, during idle moments in the lab, I also founded The Naked Scientists, which was spun out 10 years ago as an independent production company. I’m the managing director of this operation.

Our team makes science radio programmes and podcasts that reach about 1 million people around the world each week.

We’re on the BBC and a host of stations in other countries. We aim to bring the incredible and fascinating scientific and medical breakthroughs that are happening worldwide within reach of everyone.

And this really matters, because the majority of the biggest problems the world faces this century – climate change, overpopulation, food security, health and gender inequality, emerging infection, species loss and destruction of the natural world – will be solved by science, technology and education.

My business was born out of the tech revolution that spawned the mass adoption of the Internet.

Watch out for a new kid on the biological block...

We were one of the first podcasts to exist, we topped the iTunes charts several times and we remain one of the longest running podcasts. Recently, *The Daily Telegraph* listed us, along with Simon Mayo’s film reviews, in their best ever top ten.

The same technology revolution that got me started has transformed everyone’s lives in the last 20 years.

The project that first sequenced the human genome took years, an aircraft hanger-sized facility full of machinery and cost billions to complete.

Today, that same feat which I watched Nobel Laureate Sydney Brenner unveil at a small meeting in Cambridge in the year 2000, can be achieved in a matter of days for a few £1000s with a laptop and a gadget not much larger than a laser pointer. We demonstrated this quite convincingly on the radio recently when we walked into a local butcher’s shop and sequenced one of their sausages, revealing they’d used at least three pigs in the process.

Science and technology historical OF timeline (Dates at Felsted)

Professor John Wallis

Savilian professor of geometry at University of Oxford and introduced the infinity symbol



1629-1634

1637-1642

Percy Gilchrist

Inventor of steel making process and vice-president of Iron and Steel Institute



1862-1867

1905-1908



Frank Halford CBE

Aircraft engine designer at De Havilland. The De Havilland Ghost jet engine was fitted to the world’s first jet airliner in 1945

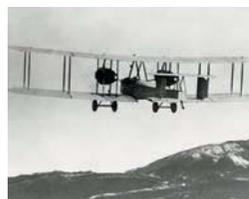
1907-1910

1947-1952



Professor Isaac Barrow

First Lucasian professor of mathematics and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge



Reginald Pierson

Chief designer of the Vickers Vimy aircraft, which was the first to complete a non-stop crossing of the Atlantic in 1919



Professor Michael Pitteway

Leading figure in computer sciences, including creation of the Pitteway triangulation in computational geometry

RETIREMENT WILL END SHIERS' LONG RUN AT CERN

An OF physicist of the highest calibre is about to retire. Here he tells us about CERN and his future. Joel Garner writes

One of Felsted's most-respected physicists Jamie Shiers (fd66-74) will retire in three years' time ending a lifetime's work at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

His retirement in 2021 will end his long association with the Swiss-based research centre in Geneva, which provides particle accelerators and infrastructure needed for high-energy physics research.

"I'd say I've given what I can to CERN," he said, before adding it was time for a younger generation to take the organisation forward. Retirement will also mean that he can spend more time with his British wife Samantha and young children, Lancelot, who is seven years old and daughter Kalinka who is five. This may also mean being able to enjoy his hobbies, sailing and skiing and complete some unfinished business.

"I have a project to finish the 10 Chopin waltzes where only the first line still exists – the complete scores were lost in a fire," he added.

By coincidence his retirement starts at the end of the second long shut down of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and as it prepares for its ambitious performance upgrade that will mean the scientists will be able to observe more rare phenomena and study other known ones in more detail.

Shiers, who is data preservation manager at CERN, created and maintained the current LHC computing grid, the world's largest, to collect, store and analyse the data from high-energy experiment and share it with the world.

Despite working in the IT department, he is a physicist at heart and has maintained his love for the subject which he has always found fascinating. He added that his knowledge of physics has been vital to his role. "If I didn't have a good understanding of what the scientists are trying to do it would be impossible."

CERN's LHC has already had considerable success six years ago discovering the existence of the Higgs boson or "God particle" that is believed to endow all other particles with mass. It will continue running experiments in high-energy physics for at least another two decades. The upgrade, which will be known as the High Luminosity LHC, will start collecting data from 2026.

Before then he will have retired, but in the next three years the computing department will continue to grapple with the challenges thrown up by the upgrade with IT researchers exploring innovative computing technologies, such as quantum computing to help deal with its future challenges.



The scale of the IT department's task in terms of safely storing and analysing the data from the experiments cannot be underestimated. He predicts CERN will be storing 10s of exabytes (an exabyte is 1bn gigabytes) of data by the time the LHC stops running in 20 or so years' time.

It's an enormous task, but I doubt he will ever lose his passion for the science and being part of the team that helps enable the physics and the research to happen.

"I find physics totally fascinating, while other things I just find boring," he added.

His advice for those hoping to enter the field of scientific research was to stay focused and hard working at the beginning of your career and be willing to learn from others with more experience.

"Now I'm in the position to give things back and that can make a huge difference to a career. Without education things can go badly wrong," he said. "If you don't make the effort in your early career then it can be hard to catch up later." He added that it was important to stand out from the crowd of hopefuls when applying for jobs or being interviewed and don't be afraid of hard work. "Even people like the great Roger Federer works pretty hard," he added.



Professor Tony Hunter
Prof in the molecular and cell biology laboratory and Director of the Salk Institute Cancer Center

1956-1961



Professor Lucilla Poston CBE
Tommy's professor of maternal and fetal health and head, school of life course sciences at King's College London

1958-1963

1966-1974

1970-1972

Professor Antony Galione
Professor of pharmacology at Oxford University. His work has been instrumental in elucidating new calcium signalling pathways in a cell. Elected a fellow of The Royal Society in 2016

1977-1981



1977-1982



Professor Sir Patrick Sissons
Established an academic division of infectious disease within the department of medicine and developed the infectious disease service at the University of Cambridge



Dr Jamie Shiers
Eminent physicist working on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research



Professor Toby Walsh
Professor of artificial intelligence and fellow of the Australian Academy of Science

Robots will be as clever as us and it's time to embrace it says leading AI expert

OF Toby Walsh (a77-82) is one of the foremost thinkers in the world of artificial intelligence. He discusses his new book with the OF Magazine.

Joel Garner writes

Remember the year 2062. It's 44 years from now and is predicted to be the most transformational year for mankind – the year when machines will be as intelligent as humans.

Up until that point, we as humans have been the most intelligent animal on the planet and that has made us the dominant species. Scientists are predicting that in the year 2062, machines or robots, will be smarter thanks to faster processing power and heaps of data.

It will be a seminal moment, a frightening moment, perhaps a daunting moment, but it will happen, says OF Toby Walsh, a leading expert in artificial intelligence (AI) and scientia professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia.

“We became the dominant species on the planet because we are the smartest. Not the fastest or strongest, but because we are the smartest, so it will be an interesting and humbling moment when we discover that we are no longer the brightest. And yes, it could be a confronting moment,” he adds.

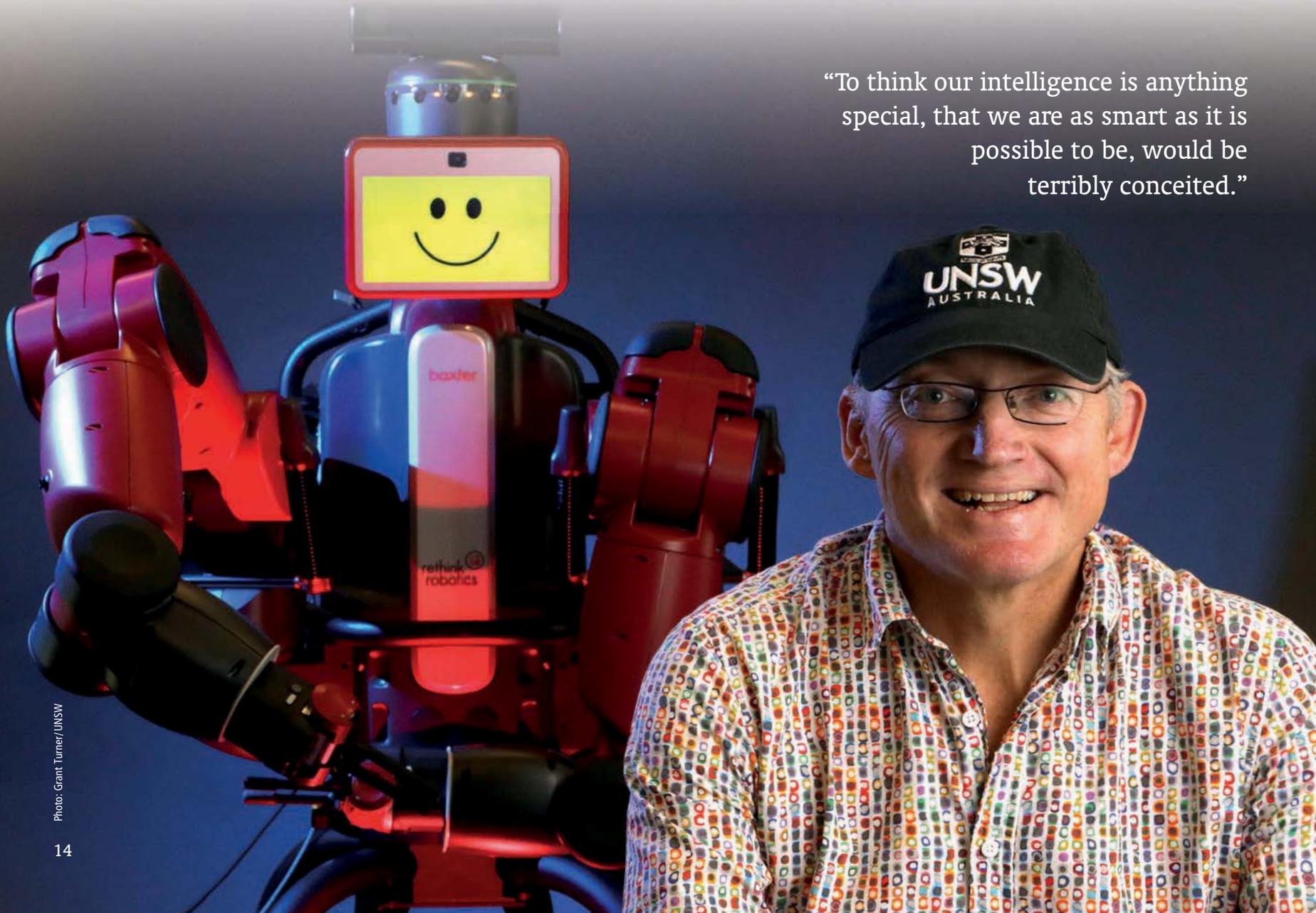
Walsh has spent the past 30-plus years studying AI. “I decided at Felsted that this was what I wanted to do, and it's taken 30-odd years for the rest of the world to catch up with the idea that AI is important.”

Will robots take over the world? Will they become conscious?

After Felsted, he studied maths and physics at St John's College, Cambridge, before graduating to Edinburgh University to take a PhD in AI. Edinburgh University is one of the founding universities in AI and the first to have a department dedicated to it.

Now Walsh, who is 54, is a leading authority and author in AI, gaining him hitherto unknown

“To think our intelligence is anything special, that we are as smart as it is possible to be, would be terribly conceited.”



notoriety both in his adopted country of Australia and around the world. He moved down under in 2004 to take up a post at the UNSW and lives in Sydney with his German wife Andrea and their daughter.

This summer he released his latest book on the subject called *2062 – The World That AI Made*. In it he discusses some of the big questions of our time. What will our future look like? How will life on our planet unfold when machines are as intelligent as us? What will be the impact of AI on work, war, politics, economics, everyday human life and indeed death.

Will robots take over the world? Will they become conscious? Will automation take away jobs?

Walsh's new book looks at these questions and describes the choices we need to make today to ensure our future remains bright.

Firstly, I ask him whether it is possible for machines to develop the same level and breadth of intelligence as humans?

"It would be very conceited to think that we are the smartest thing that there could ever possibly be. In all other aspects of life whenever we have thought we were better than we were, we have been proven to be wrong."

He points to previous moments of humanity's hubris. The sun doesn't revolve around the earth, he says. Darwin proved that genetically we are descended from the apes and no different from all the other animals.

"We have enough computer power to do things that even when I started weren't possible because computers weren't fast enough," Walsh explains. "Moore's law states that computing power doubles every two years, so computers will continue to develop. We know that we can build computers that do narrow tasks better than humans, such as play Go, chess or read X-rays, but there is still quite a way to go to match the breadth of human intelligence."

Progress on that front is being made by developing faster algorithms that enable deep learning. In time, we will build machines that can rival the human brain and that will have many advantages, says Walsh.

"They wouldn't forget things like we do. Wouldn't make mistakes like we do. Would have more memory than us and probably be far faster in processing things."

This will bring plenty of opportunities, he adds. "There are challenges we could overcome by having machines that think better and smarter, such as tackling climate change or dealing with the inequality in our society."

Walsh says that machines will be able to program themselves in a continual loop of self-improvement, which does prompt the question of whether this will threaten the survival of the human race.

While the existential threat can't be discounted, it is probably overblown, says Walsh. "There's a small risk. You can't completely discount it and there's nothing in the laws in physics that says it's impossible. You have to entertain the idea that this could lead to a Domesday scenario. At CERN, the scientists there had to consider the possibility that they would create a mini black hole that could swallow the earth."

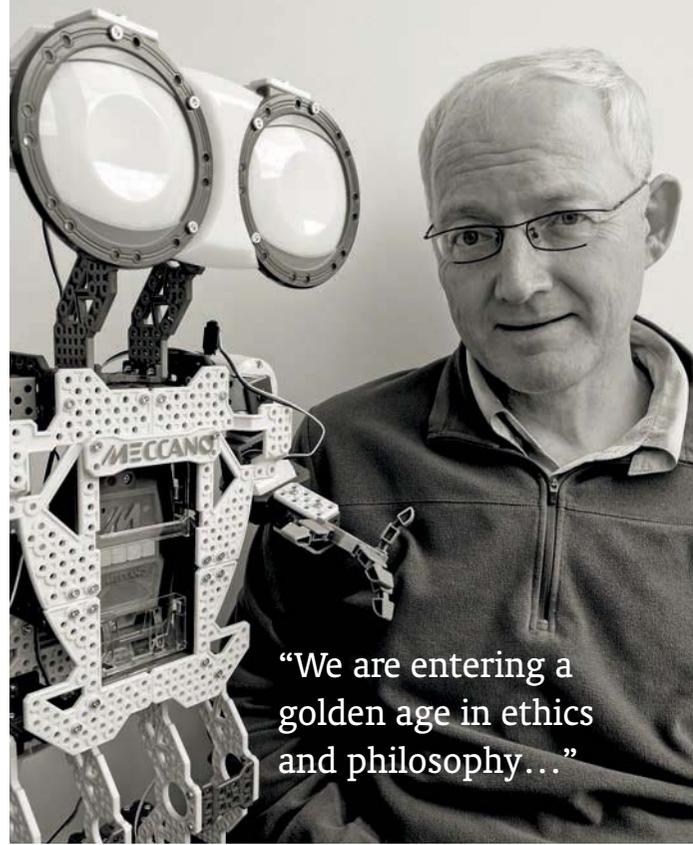
One big question that currently separates machines from humans is whether they will develop a consciousness or is that restricted to biological systems.

"It's an interesting question. Could you have something that is intelligent and unconscious?" asks Walsh. "Machines today don't have any conscious at all, they are not aware of what they are doing. It is probably the biggest question we have left as it's central to our existence from the moment we wake up in the morning to the point we go to sleep at night," explains Walsh. "Yet we have no understanding in a scientific sense about conscious, about what it is or where it is. We think it's somewhere in our brains, but we can't put a finger on exactly where it is, conscious could just be a figment of our imagination."

There's a theory that machines will develop "zombie intelligence" and be incredibly smart but without anything like consciousness. Another theory is that they would have to be programmed to behave ethically and morally, particularly as we will give machines power and influence over some decision-making, so in terms of ethics there is much for us to consider, says Walsh.

We are entering a golden age in ethics and philosophy, he says. It is not so much as inventing new ethics, as adapting what we have to suit new technology.

"Computers will do everything we tell them to do, so we have to be much more precise in our directions. It's painstakingly literal," he adds. Some things need to be carefully thought through because the implications of a decision can be a matter of life and death. For example, Walsh explains that there are advantages to using AI to match donated kidneys with the best patients rather than using consultants to make the decision. "It becomes fairer when computers make these decisions. They don't have the biases that humans have. We are terrible at making decisions. We make them without any evidence, with opaque working and no clear criteria as to



"We are entering a golden age in ethics and philosophy..."

how the decisions were made. Computers overcome all of those challenges."

Overall, Walsh is positive about the role that AI will have in our lives as its influence becomes ever more pervasive. "In the long term, the glass is half full. I think it will be quite a bumpy road to get there and already we see some challenges. We are going to go through a period of huge change. My book is trying to get people to think about where we want to let computers into our lives and it doesn't have to be all of our lives." A great example of where the debate is keenly felt is driverless cars. "Driverless cars will happen," says Walsh. "We will look back in 30 years and think it was like the Wild West due to the carnage that happens on our roads every single day. The major cause of death in most developed countries of men under the age of 30 is road traffic accidents."

Driverless cars will be far, far safer and we will get to the point where humans are not allowed to drive cars

The day a poor pedestrian was killed by a driverless Uber taxi, Walsh points out that 11 other pedestrians were killed by cars. "There was no uproar about the other 11 deaths. Driverless cars will be far, far safer and we will get to a point when humans are not allowed to drive cars.

"A good analogy is horses. At the start of the 20th Century we were transported by horses or carriages driven by horses, now horse transport is really a hobby for the rich.

... continued

“That’s what will happen to cars, it will be a hobby for the rich, where you pay for appropriate insurance and driving happens in an enclosed space where everyone has agreed to run the risk of an accident.”

He recently told his nine-year-old daughter Bronte that she will never learn to drive. “By the time she is 18 it will be far cheaper and easier to hail an Uber, which won’t have a driver.

“I will be happier too because she won’t be tempted to drink and drive and none of her friends will be tempted to drink and drive. She can get to parties and do things she wants and get home safely.”

Autonomous cars will be transformative, he adds. “We will give mobility to the old, the young and the disabled, which is fantastic. But what are the secondary and tertiary consequences?

“I’d suggest if you hold shares in NCP, I’d sell them as there won’t be the same need for car parks. It will open up our cities.”

Cars in the future may be designed more as offices, so our commute in the morning could be productive time. This could see people living further away from their work. “The knock-on effects of this could be quite interesting. It’s not just getting in a car and saying take me home, it may impact where we live, where we work and where we play.”

When the printing press was invented, no one could have guessed that Karl Marx would write the communist manifesto, and the impact this would have on the world, society and culture, adds Walsh.

While some of the changes to car travel can be foreseen, other less well understood transformative impacts will also take place in the workplace.

Walsh says that in the future machines will take care of the “four Ds”. “The dirty, dull, difficult and the dangerous. These are perfect jobs for robots to do. We should be celebrating the fact that humans will no longer have to do these jobs that are dirty and degrading.”

He says human employment and endeavour will be more focused in creative areas and we will continue to value things where particular skills are required like artisanship. “I’m not sure we will value things made by machines in the same way, even if we do program computers to have more creativity,” adds Walsh.

They still won’t write a cracking novel, he adds. “We expect novels to include big emotional themes such as love, loss, mortality etc, but machines can’t deal with these issues in the same way as humans because they haven’t experienced the hurt and pain that comes with them.”

Walsh is currently working with the Department of Education in Australia looking at how education needs to evolve so that it is providing a workforce with the suitable skills required for the future.

Certainly, 21st-Century skills like emotional and social intelligence will be increasingly important, he says.

Teaching the building blocks of education and equipping pupils with the skills to learn and study on their own will remain an important objective. “Certainly, being robust and having creativity and adaptability will be more important than learning the latest programming language,” says Walsh.

“Education does need to evolve. I think we are still teaching old skills and education is understandably quite conservative, but it is not just about teaching people the right skills for work, it is also about giving students the knowledge and understanding to contribute to our society, so they can be good citizens and have fulfilling lives.

“It is much the sort of education that Felsted gives you,” he adds.

Felsted was good at giving you the confidence to tackle any situation, says Walsh. He cites his own experience of being asked to speak at the United Nations four times.

“...21st-Century skills like emotional and social intelligence will be increasingly important...”

“The world is completely flat if I can end up in the office of the number two at the United Nations in charge of world disarmament to discuss the concerns that I and my fellow scientists have about autonomous weapons. I think it is important that we have these discussions, that’s why I wrote the book, to inform the debate about how we use technology as it develops.”

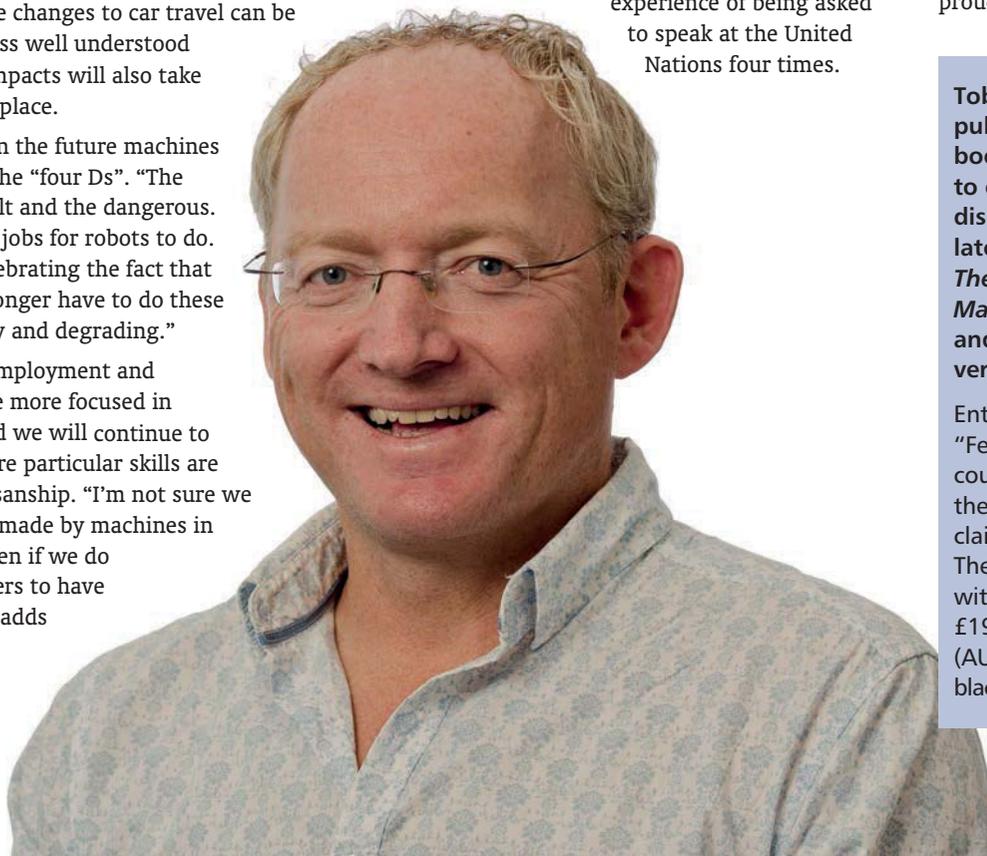
But he warns how some discussions need to happen sooner than others before it’s too late such as the health of political discourse. We want people with the best ideas to win elections not those with the best algorithms, he adds.

“We are going to have to sort this out, it’s not only money that can influence elections. We have strict rules about money and what can be spent on campaigns, but it’s not just people with the most money that win elections.

“We now know big data and the way algorithms can be developed can have a significant influence.

“We must decide to outlaw weapons of mass persuasion, because you can’t outlaw voters.” Political messages should be broadcast to everyone and not confined to the micro targeting of voters, with specialised messages designed for small groups. “It is having a corrosive effect on our political discourse,” he warns.

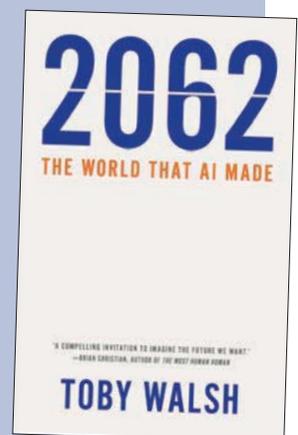
This and many other challenges thrown up by AI will need the brightest of our human minds to deal with them. What’s amazing for Felstedians is that one of our smartest alumni is leading that debate, something we can all be justifiably proud of.



Toby Walsh’s publisher Blank Inc books has agreed to offer OFs a 15% discount off his latest book 2062 – *The World That AI Made* in both print and ebook versions.

Enter code word “Felstedian” in the coupon section at the checkout to claim your discount.

The publisher can ship worldwide, but free within Australia only. The book retails at £19.34 (AU\$34.99) and ebook at £9.39 (AU\$16.99). Follow this link blackincbooks.com.au/books/2062



OF SOCIETY DONATION KEEPS VITAL SUMMER SCHEME RUNNING

by Selina Joslin

The long summer holidays can be a challenge for any parent with kids at school, but for those on low incomes it can be even tougher.

The reality for many families living in the Custom House region of east London is that they can't afford to do anything special with their children during the summer break.

This led the Ascension church in London's Victoria Dock, the home of the Felsted Mission, to develop a two-week long activity programme called 'Summer Scheme' in 2011.

It started with 12 children in the Garden Café, located just around the corner from the church, but has grown quickly and soon had to relocate to the church for more space. This summer was the most successful to date with 62 children aged between five and 12 years old taking part in arts and crafts workshops, cookery classes and sports clubs.

Earlier this year, despite the success and popularity of the project, its future looked uncertain due to funding cuts. A donation from the Old Felstedian Society to the Felsted Mission saved the programme and enabled it to go ahead.

This year's highlight was a day trip to Kidzania at Westfield in London's Shepherd's Bush, an indoor city run by kids, which would have been unaffordable for many of the children's families.

The group also visited Felsted School and despite torrential rain and getting stuck in traffic were amazed by the "food available in the school dining hall" and "the incredible buildings", said Hannah Binley who oversees the scheme.

"It's the highlight of the summer for many children, as they don't have the opportunity to go on holiday and may not have anything exciting to look forward to.

"Over the two weeks with us the children learnt many skills, made lots of friends and enjoyed new experiences."

Binley is supported by youth worker Phil Taylor, Reverend Dave Chesney and an excellent team of 18 motivated volunteers. Binley and Taylor rely heavily on the volunteers which include a trainee paediatric nurse, teachers, art and craft tutors, a qualified football coach and youth workers.



This year the volunteers were supported by seven youth leaders aged 14 to 18 years old.

"Everyone worked hard to provide the best scheme they could. Our young leaders learnt skills in communication, public speaking, safeguarding and ultimately how to work with children," Binley added.

Families do contribute a small amount towards the running costs, but the majority of the £4,000 needed to run the scheme is funded by donations.

This year's funding crisis means that the Summer Scheme programme needs ongoing financial support from the Felsted Mission and other charities to ensure it can continue providing vital respite to local parents over the long summer holidays.

The Felsted Mission has provided the funding for a full-time youth worker and qualified football coach, who co-ordinates an extensive youth activity programme throughout the year, for the last five years. For more information please visit ascensioncc.org.uk

Poston's groundbreaking scientific research saves babies' lives in the UK

Lucilla Poston may not be a household name, but her pioneering scientific research has saved and continues to save babies' lives. Selina Joslin reports

Childbirth may not be the threat it once was to women's health, but it is estimated that a quarter of pregnancies in the UK end in loss during pregnancy or birth.

Professor Lucilla Poston (m70-72) and her team of researchers at King's College London are making inroads into these figures both locally and nationally. Over 10 years, Tommy's research has reduced premature birth both locally and regionally, against a national and international rise in premature birth. Despite increasing referrals of high risk women, it has reported a 21% reduction in pre-term births at St Thomas' Hospital, London in the last year.

Poston is a leading expert in women's health and runs amongst other things the Tommy's London research centre which focuses on understanding, predicting and preventing premature birth.

Tommy's is the largest charity carrying out research into pregnancy loss and premature birth in the UK and it provides pregnancy health information to parents.

"I was working in the right place at the right time..."

Poston is Tommy's professor of maternal and fetal health and she became involved with the charity in 1995 when she was appointed its chair.

"Tommy's was a relatively small charity at the time and it wanted to find a chair to help lead its research. I was working in the right place at the right time. You could say it was my lucky break."

Tommy's is known for the extraordinary accurate information it provides to pregnant women and this all comes from an academic base. "We talk to midwives, doctors and other health practitioners on the front line and the continued income source from the charity helps fund our clinical research, individual research projects and PhD students."

Poston has also built up the women's research department at King's College London, where she now runs the department of women and children's health and school of life course sciences.

She leads a large multidisciplinary research team which investigates disorders of pregnancy including premature birth, pre-eclampsia and the complications arising from maternal obesity. Poston's team works closely with paediatrics so



Tommy's
Funding research
Saving babies' lives

they can follow children's development as they get older. "The developmental origins of health and disease is a big new field for us to explore. It's not just about pregnancy but the health of the next generation. By working with experts in nutrition and mental health we can give each baby a better chance and set the scene of a healthy life."

Over the course of her career, Poston has published over 300 scientific papers. "The system of scientific research is proven to work well as it is peer reviewed and increases the knowledge base in the global community. There is an increasing focus on women's health in developing countries."

Last year, Poston was appointed a CBE for services to women's health and says it was "probably for the breadth of what I do".

The extent of her research work across local, national and international spheres is inspiring. She sits on the Medical Research Council global health group in the UK and was appointed president of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease last year.



Lucilla Poston with Marcus Setchell (c57-61) retired surgeon-gynaecologist to HM The Queen

“Everything in science is changing the whole time and technology is constantly improving...”

This organisation promotes research into the fetal and developmental origins of disease and involves scientists from many backgrounds. Poston is excited about this new role which will see her visiting researchers in many countries.

She was one of the first girls to join Felsted in 1970 and reflects on her time at the school: “My ambition was to always work in science and medical research but I never envisaged I would end up in women’s health when I left Felsted. I was simply motivated by enthusiastic supervisors and followed every opportunity I had.”

After Felsted, she went on to study physiology at University College London and enjoyed working with three nobel prize winners, which proved a wonderful start to her scientific career.

She then undertook a PhD, focusing on sodium metabolism and sodium transport pathways in liver disease at King’s College Hospital medical school and this eventually led her to becoming a lecturer in 1987.

“Teaching basic science to medical students was one of the best things I ever did as you need to know about the whole body. However, I was particularly interested in pre-eclampsia which can happen suddenly in pregnancy from 26 weeks onwards and it can be dangerous to both mother and baby.”

Does she feel that women are under-represented in scientific research? She said the profession still had a way to go to address the gender balance.

“Overall women are well represented in women’s health across a vast group of midwives, nurses and doctors. But at the level of professor women remain vastly outnumbered by men. The reality is that it’s extremely difficult to juggle your personal life, particularly a young family and work full-time in these positions.”

Despite the challenges, it is clear that Poston loves what she does and her enthusiasm is infectious. “Everything is changing in science the whole time and technology is constantly improving. It’s the most wonderful career.”

What is not in doubt is that Poston’s scientific research has helped save babies’ lives and made a difference to families across the UK, something we should all be thankful for.

For more information about Tommy’s visit
tommys.org

BUDDING ENGINEER TELLS US WHAT IT’S LIKE TO STUDY AT THE DYSON INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

OF William Alexander (fec03-17) is amongst the first cohort of pupils to study at The Dyson Institute, so we asked him what it was like. Joel Garner reports

William tell us about your degree at The Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology?

How long will you be there for and what type of degree will you end up with?

Hello! My course is four years long, I’ve done one year so far after leaving Felsted in 2017, so I’ve still got three more to go. By the end of my course I will have a lot of work experience and a bachelors degree in general engineering. Currently, the academic side of the course is delivered by The University of Warwick but The Dyson Institute is working towards offering its own degree soon.

How is the education structured and is it free?

Yes, our degree is completely paid for by Dyson, and we also get a day of lectures and a day of self-study every week between October and July. To support our development we get help from engineers across Dyson and academics from the University of Warwick on a one-to-one basis to make sure we are confident with what we are learning. When we are in the workplace we are in teams with Dyson engineers working on live projects helping to solve real world problems. I think that you learn the same amount, if not more in the workplace with the engineers.

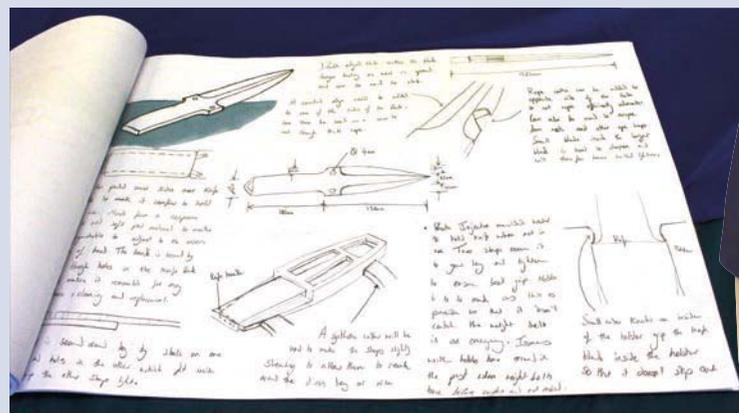
What happens at the end? Are you guaranteed a job with Dyson?

At the end of the course I am guaranteed employment if I get a 2:1 in my degree. This will be challenging but with the support of the academic staff and the engineers I believe it is achievable.

Is the course more practical? Do you still have lectures and what are these in?

The course most certainly has a practical aspect, although most of our hands-on experience comes in the workplace when we are working on real projects. We also have labs, where we work on practical examples to further our learning in the classroom, just like any other traditional university. Our lectures in the first year were on mathematics, materials, electronics, mechanics, programming and thermal energy systems. In subsequent years we will dive deeper into these topics and will have the option to either specialise or maintain a wider overview.

Continued overleaf...



Design & Technology A level project



Tell us about your typical day? How does it go?

On one day, currently a Monday, we have a self-study day when we can focus on preparing for the next day of lectures and work on assignments or coursework. Tuesday is our lecture day, starting at 9am. We have six hours of lectures and an hour's lunch break. This day is pretty busy and a lot of content is covered. However, lecturers do stop and answer questions, which is a positive of having a smaller lecture group. Wednesday to Friday are spent in the office working with Dyson engineers, making progress on our individual projects and working on certain products. I attend a fair amount of meetings but also spend time in the lab working on new concepts and running tests.

Where's The Dyson Institute based? How many students were there on the initial intake?

The Dyson Institute is based in Malmesbury, Wiltshire at Dyson's Malmesbury Technology Campus. We are less than an hour from Bath and Bristol by car so other students aren't hard to find. On the first intake there were 33 students. This year the Dyson Institute had an intake of 43 students, so it's growing every year.

What's it like? Are you enjoying it?

I'm really enjoying it so far. The lectures are challenging and it's great to be making an impact on real products. I've met some amazing people who have supported me through the course and I'm sure will be friends for life. I can't wait to specialise in my third year and gain a deeper knowledge of some of the more interesting concepts.

Oh, that's interesting. What is it that is sparking your interest so far?

Sadly, given how confidential everything is when you're working at one of the world's best engineering and technology companies, I can't tell you about what I'm working on at the moment. However, in my course I've learnt how to use Swift which is what iOS apps are written in and I've since then built apps in my own time which I now have on the Apple appstore.

What attracted you to the The Dyson Institute rather than a traditional university degree?

I have always been a practical person thanks to my love of design and technology at school and I liked the idea of real-world work and getting paid whilst completing my degree. Being able to put what we learn in lectures into practice days after learning it is something no other degree can offer.

Has Felsted equipped you well for your time at The Dyson Institute? Do you feel well prepared academically, socially and culturally?

Felsted played a large part in preparing me for my time here, particularly the maths, physics and design and technology departments. These teachers sparked my interest and allowed me to get to where I am now. As a boarder, I was also prepared socially and culturally to work with others in lectures and in the workplace.



‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them...’

Remembrance Sunday in Felsted was a poignant, thoughtful and reflective commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War. The day's events included a spitfire flypast, a thought-provoking address by Major General Tim Cross, fall of poppies in the chapel, one for each of the 259 Felstedians who gave their lives, the lighting of the Beacons of Hope and the reading of the names of the Felsted Fallen.

OF Society President Brian Lott (a56-62) was present on the day. "The boys and girls of the CCF were impressive in carrying out their duties and presenting the colours at the commemoration both at the memorial in the village and also in the school chapel," he said.

Brian spoke of his personal connection to the First World War earlier this year: "A particularly memorable day was the visit last year to the St



George's memorial church in Ypres to unveil a plaque for Felsted's fallen who are commemorated alongside those of many other schools and colleges. A place well worth a visit if you are ever in Ypres on a tour of the WWI battlefield sites. It had a special poignancy for me as my father fought at the Somme and was wounded at Passchendaele in 1917. Both he and his brother, who was killed in the war, were awarded the Military Cross."





Old Felstedian Society

We sadly report the following deaths notified to us in 2018

- APPLEYARD, Robert Philip (b52-55)
- BARBER, Dr Charles Gethyn (f52-57)
- BENNETT, John Boyce (a50-53)
- BURTON, Christopher John (c46-50)
- CAREY, Charles Eldred (g58-62)
- CARPENTER, Robin Rowntree (b66-70)
- CARR, John Michael Hutchinson (d46-49)
- CARTER, Colin Edward John (fa49-58)
- CHAPMAN, Anthony Hugh (a56-60)
- CLARK, Ernest George (e34-37)
- DENCH, Alan Robert (b49-52)
- DODDS, Rev Brian Martin (fc46-55) (Died 2013)
- DODDS, Christopher Dennis Martin (fc45-49)
- DODDS, George Derek (fc45-54) (Died 2014)
- DOWNING, John Cottrill Ralph DL (e45-49)
- EALLET, Anthony Frederick (fd44-49)
- FARNHILL, John Geoffrey (c52-56)
- FLEMING, John David JP (a47-51)
- FLEMING, Robert (fb43-49)
- FORREST,
Lt Commander Donald Alexander RN (b31-34)
- GAMMIE, Anthony Petrie (c47-52)
- GARTON, Nigel (g44-47)
- HADDOCK, John Michael Wynne (b42-46)
- HAMILTON, David Archibald Bernard (d61-66)
- HARCOURT-SMITH,
Wing Commander Brian (fg45-51)
- HAYLOCK, David Allen (a59-64)
- HOOK, John Robert Rowland (c39-43)
- HOWE, Michael David (c44-49) (Died 2013)
- JOHN, Peter Harrison TD (a48-52)
- KEEP, James Anthony (a54-57)
- LUCK, Martin Charles (fb69-78)
- MACINDOE, Francis Grey Smith (f39-39)
- MORGAN, John Lionel (c45-49)
- NOAKES, David Edward (a50-55)
- ORRIS-BIRD, Rex Charles Lewis (c48-51)
- PALLES-CLARK, Michael Anthony (b58-62)
- PORTER, Andrew Leslie (c29-31)
- RANKIN, Brian Henry (a49-51)
- REEVE, Edward (a56-61)
- ROBINSON, Jeffrey Nicholas (b57-62)
- ROSS RUSSELL, Dr David Andrew (h73-78)
- SCHILIZZI, Peter Miles (d70-74)
- SEWART, Dr John Hunter (b41-44)
- SISSONS, Mark William Irwin (c62-66)
- SMITH, Neil (fb53-62)
- TAYLOR, John Arnold (a28-32)
- THOMAS, Robin James Reid (fe45-52)
- TOTMAN, Rihia Barnes (e30-34)
- TOVAR, John Anthony (c53-57)
- WARING, John Kenneth (b59-64)

Former common room

THRONSDEN, Christopher John (1960-71)

Please visit felsted.org/obituaries for more information and to read full obituaries of some of the OFs who have died this year.

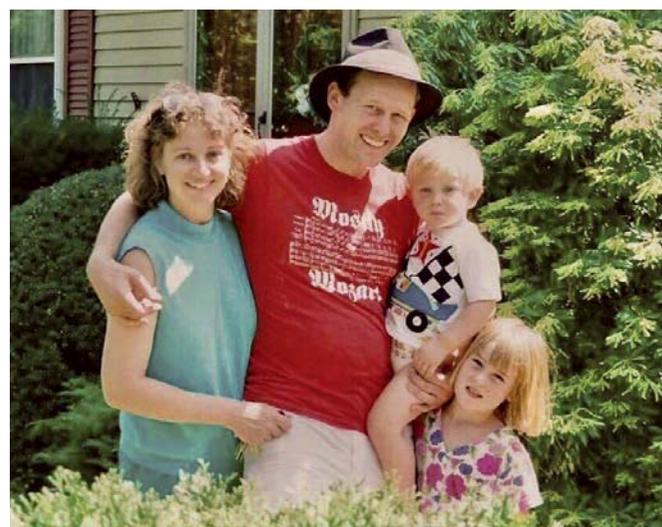
DAVID ROSS RUSSELL

David Ross Russell (h73-78) died peacefully aged just 57 in his home in East Haven, Connecticut, USA on 27 January 2018.

He was born in Bishop's Stortford and joined Deacon's house at Felsted in 1973 and was part of the 1978 rugby 1st XV which went undefeated for an entire season.

After Felsted, David went on to study at Trinity Hall, Cambridge where he read medicine. He met the love of his life, Dorothy Goldberg, while singing in a choir at Trinity College and that began a life of adventure and love.

Dorothy and David married in Oxford in 1984. In 1989, after completing general practice,



they moved to the United States where David completed two more years of residency and palliative care training through Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, New Jersey.

David was diagnosed in late November 2017 with pancreatic cancer. His wife Dot and children Rebecca and Adam survive him.

Donations in David's honour can be made to the David A Ross Russell Legacy Fund, thesmallthings.org/drr (a family organisation founded and run by his daughter Rebecca).

CHRISTOPHER JOHN THRONSDEN

by Paul Norton (d53-55)

Former teacher Christopher Thronsdén sadly passed away on 2 April 2018 in hospital, having suffered a heart attack days earlier.

A service of thanksgiving was held at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate on 5 May.

Thronsdén was born in 1935 and was educated at St Lawrence College in Kent between 1949 and 1953.

On leaving St Lawrence College, Chris took a National Service Commission and served three years in the Honourable Artillery Company, initially based in Malta.

On return, he entered Worcester College, Oxford and read modern history earning a degree in 1958. He played hockey and represented the Occasionals against Cambridge Wanderers in 1957.

After teaching a year at New College School, Oxford he decided to make his career in the profession. He was appointed at Felsted by Tony Eggleston to teach history. While there he met and married Francoise and subsequently completed the family with Isobel and Olaf.

In 1970 he took part in a Commonwealth exchange which took the Thronsdén family to Australia and an Australian school.

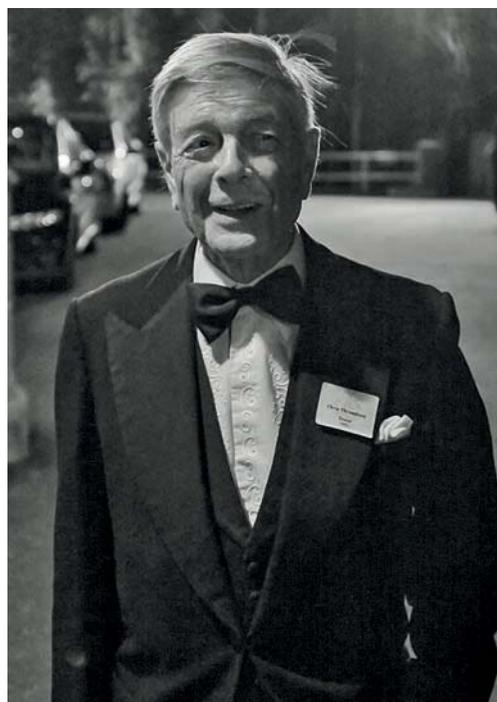
They returned to the UK in 1972 and he joined the staff of St Lawrence College, his boyhood school, to teach history. He became a housemaster and turned his hand to teaching other subjects including economics, French, geography and religious education.

He was a gifted sportsman and coached hockey, tennis, golf and squash.

He retired in 1987 after Francoise developed multiple sclerosis. In retirement he worked as a guide for Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours.

Always a true gentleman, he had style and was a colourful character. Francoise, Isobel and Olaf survive him.

Christopher John Thronsdén was born on 6 March 1935 and died on 2 April aged 83.



FACES AND PLACES

116th OF SOCIETY DINNER

The Old Felstedian Society biennial dinner returned to Felsted School for the first time in 19 years this summer. Over 110 OFs gathered at the school on 1 June for the 116th dinner. The event commenced with reception drinks and a live jazz band in the Bathurst Garden before moving to the Lord Riche Hall for dinner. The new Follyfield boarding house was opened for guests to stay and was fully booked with OFs attending from around the world. Guest of honour Adam Speers (g88-93), executive producer at the Ambassador Theatre Group, spoke of his enjoyment of the arts at Felsted and paid tribute to those teachers who helped inspire him.



THOMSON AND KEYS WATCH SPECIAL DEBUT

Stuart Keys (b83-88) and former Felsted teacher Alisdair Thomson watched Stuart's son Cameron make his first team debut for Stirling County against Watsonians, Edinburgh. Stuart said: "They say you never forget a great teacher and that is absolutely true. Alisdair taught me geography and PE, but most importantly he was my rugby coach at U15 and U16. It was a special day to see Cameron make his first team debut especially with Alisdair in attendance. I have got a huge amount of pleasure from playing, coaching and watching rugby and it all started with the enthusiasm of Alisdair, Alan Lerwill, Richard Feldman and Ian Gwyther."



1978 UNBEATEN RUGBY TEAM REUNITE

OFs from the legendary 1978 rugby team returned to Felsted in September to celebrate 40 years since they achieved their incredible unbeaten season. The team met the current Felsted 1st XV, visited their old houses, caught-up with former teachers over lunch and recreated their original team photo. They stayed to watch Felsted 1st XV secure a comfortable win over Haileybury, before ending the day with a drink in The Chequers. In 1978, the team went an entire season without losing a match, playing 13, winning 12 and drawing just one game. A special honours board to the team is on permanent display at the school.



Below: The 1978 team with current Felsted 1st XV

Below right: Felsted 1st XV in 1978





FORMER INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMAT INSPIRES STUDENTS

Matthew Kirk (g74-78) returned to Felsted to deliver a stirring talk to lower sixth students about his experiences and many different roles in the diplomatic service. Kirk was the British ambassador to Finland between 2002-06. He subsequently joined global telecommunications giant Vodafone as its group external affairs director until he stepped down in 2017.

FORMER DEACON'S MATRON WINS BOARDING AWARD

OFs gathered for a special Deacon's house celebration in June to honour two of its recent retirees. The event held on 16 June marked Margaret "Madge" Baverstock's Stephen Winkley Boarding Achievement Award from the British Boarding Schools' Association for her long and dedicated service to boarding at Felsted. Madge started the role 24 years ago in 1993. OFs also honoured the retirement of Charlie Knightley who stepped down as Deacon's housemaster in August after 13 years.



FELSTED HIGH FLIERS

Airline pilot Charlie Eve (fc99-04) bumped into another OF this summer in the cockpit of his aeroplane. Eve explained: "I found myself in the same cockpit flying to Kos with Captain Paul Sant at Gatwick. He was in Stocks's between 1978 and 1981 and I was in Windsor's and left 18 years ago. Small world."



2008 REUNION IN LONDON

Sarah Brook (gn06-08) and Marko Salopek (ac06-08) organised a reunion for the 2008 leavers at the Devonshire Arms in Kensington in September to celebrate their 10th anniversary since leaving Felsted.

CLASS OF 2018 LEAVERS' BALL

The Leavers' Ball for the class of 2018 took place on 30 June with over 400 guests enjoying a glamorous dinner in a marquee overlooking The Front, complete with fairgrounds rides and a casino.



OFs SUPPORT SUMMER SCHOOL

Over 30 OFs enjoyed working for the Felsted Summer School for six weeks during July and August. It was great to welcome everyone back for what is now considered Felsted's fourth term.



30 YEAR REUNION

The class of 1988 gathered together in a London pub to celebrate their 30th anniversary on 15 September. Carolyn Haynes (née Panzetta), Charlie Golding, Corinna Barrell and Lucy Wigley (née Rogers), who were all in Manor together between 1986 and 1988 helped to organise the evening. Haynes described it as a "fantastic night".



FRIENDS REUNITED IN TEXAS

OFs Henry Heil (g92-93) and Philip West (g88-93) reunited in Dallas, Texas in April. The meeting happened after Heil read West's article about his safari company in the OF e-Newsletter. Heil explained: "We had not seen each other in 25 years but it was as if no time had passed. I even got to see the scars from the croc attack."

Spring reviews nearly four decades of change at Felsted

Nick Spring recalls a male dominated Common Room when he started and a more outward-looking school when he left. The OF Magazine caught up with him in his new home in Spain to assess his time at the school.

Joel Garner writes

By my calculations you joined the school back in 1980? What were your first impressions of the school?

The school struck me as a friendly and sociable place, albeit quite rumbustious. The Common Room itself was all male, except for one part-time female colleague, and the majority were bachelors, so it was like joining a gentleman's club. Breakfast in the Common Room dining-room was eaten in silence over the newspapers, whilst collar-and-tie were expected at dinner.

In the ensuing 37 years the school has changed an awful lot. What did you notice change the most?

The range of opportunities available to pupils has expanded hugely over the years. The dynamics between home and school have changed a lot, too. Whereas in the 1980s, communication with parents was via the occasional meeting, phone call and end of term reports, nowadays the school is in touch with parents and vice versa, day-in and day-out.

A lot of the big structural changes, such as the move to full co-education and the introduction of the International Baccalaureate took place during the headmastership of Stephen Roberts between 1993 and 2008 and he ensured they were all very carefully planned and executed.

In your view, in what ways is the school for-the-better and for-the-worse as compared with nearly 40 years ago when you began your time at Felsted?

Felsted was a good school back in 1980 and is a good school now so I wouldn't want to talk in terms of 'for better' or 'for worse'. What I think is positive is that over the years the school has become more and more outward looking. The life of the school has been greatly enhanced by the contributions of its international students.

You've had quite a few different jobs at Felsted including head of English, Windsor's housemaster, head of careers and president of the Common Room. How have you enjoyed these roles?

I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to take on these different roles and to enjoy that variety whilst staying at Felsted from the start to

the finish of my career. I became head of English when the National Curriculum was being introduced and the challenge was to introduce common schemes of work whilst allowing colleagues to play to their strengths and enthusiasms.

As the youngest member of the department, a fair amount of diplomacy was required but it was an amenable department then, as it was throughout my time at Felsted.

In 1990, I became housemaster of Windsor's when the nature of boarding was changing rapidly with more contact between school and home becoming the norm. When I started, boys were allowed one Sunday out per term from after chapel to 9pm, and one Sunday lunch in addition to the home weekends.

A decade later the regime had become much more flexible, arguably too much so, to the extent that the boarding ethos was in danger of being lost. This was what was successfully addressed by the house restructuring in the mid-2000s.

The head of careers role also changed within a year or two of me taking it on as printed resources gave way to those online and the challenge was to help pupils find and use these effectively rather than being paralysed by information overload. Helping pupils with their ambitions was always immensely rewarding.

Being president of Common Room was more of a role than a job and included acting as a channel of communication between the Common Room and the headmaster.

It also involved keeping in touch with the alumni and former members of Common Room. It was particularly rewarding to be involved in the events of the 450th anniversary year during which headmaster Mike Walker ensured that the school reconnected with many OFs and significantly raised its national profile.

You were head of English for several years. What was your favourite A-level text and why?

A difficult question to answer as I would try to select texts which the pupils would enjoy and be challenged by, but also myself too.



One of the pleasures of being an English teacher is that you are always studying new texts or restudying familiar texts and discovering new things about them.

An important objective must be to develop skills of analysis and communication and to get the best results possible but I also see the study of literature as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of who you are, by taking you outside

of your own direct experiences, sometimes through 'breaking bread with the dead', as WH Auden put it.

Favourite texts that come to mind though are *Wuthering Heights* with its struggle for identity theme, *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Blanche Dubois's battle to reconcile her flesh and her spirit, and the poetry of Philip Larkin, with its unsettling but lyrical presentation of the nature of human existence.

If I had to choose one though, it would be *King Lear* – in my opinion Shakespeare's greatest play – with at its heart the question 'Who am I?'

Who inspired you to become a teacher and who in the Common Room was a guiding influence for you?

I was lucky as a boy at Radley College to have a variety of inspiring teachers, particularly in the sixth form where I studied English, history, economics and politics.

My A level English teacher in particular made a huge impact on me. Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate, wrote a poem in his memory which started: "My teacher, who reached down inside my head/and turned the first lights on." That's certainly what you want to do as a teacher and I aspired to do the same.

When I joined Felsted there were many long-serving colleagues from whom to learn, such as John Cockett and Tony Beulah.

A particular guide for me was my head of department Michael Craven who was always quietly but firmly supportive. As was headmaster Tony Eggleston who was keen to hear what the



younger members of Common Room were thinking and to encourage new ideas to enhance the academic and cultural life of the school.

How did you get into teaching in the first place and what led you to Felsted?

When I graduated, I obtained a place at one of the law schools with the intention of becoming a barrister.

However, as I was relatively young, I took a year out during which time I returned to Radley for a term to cover for a teacher and thought I would give teaching a go for a few years. When I saw the advert for the job at Felsted, I decided to apply because although I had never stepped foot into Essex, I did know of the school as my mother's stepfather, the aeronautical engineer Frank Halford, was a former pupil.

You were head of careers at Felsted. Are you a 'follow your heart' or a 'follow your head' kind of person when it comes to careers advice?

I would say to pupils to keep their options open and never think that decisions made at 18 are going to be cast in stone, as there's always a way of changing direction later. Also, give things a go, as you don't want to look back and say 'if only...'

You had a long stint as housemaster of Windsor's. Did you enjoy being a housemaster?

I always wanted to be a housemaster and was delighted when headmaster Ed Gould offered me Windsor's. He was an excellent mentor and helped me realise that however organised you were as a housemaster, on most days "events" will occur and you just have to buckle down and help people through them.

Those in Windsor's might remember my refrain of "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative" and I would like to think I encouraged everyone's individuality.



Windsor's housemasters: Nick Spring, Tim Lawrence, Alisdair Thomson, John Weiner and Francis Barrett

You've had such a long teaching career – what qualities do you think you have that have held you in good stead during your career?

I think a teaching career needs to be sustained by a desire to go on learning and in the classroom, I used to think of myself as a learner as well as a teacher.

I'm someone who likes to look forward rather than back and I think it's important to communicate an optimism to pupils so that they can see that when things don't work out as hoped for, you can learn from what has happened and move on.

I remember you as a considerate, intelligent, patient and thoughtful teacher, who had a good sense of humour. How would you hope your students remember you?

If some remember me like that, I would be very happy!

This issue is devoted to the 'sciences'. What does an English teacher feel about the sciences?

Education is all about developing a sense of one's place in the world. I believe that the study of literature can help you understand who you are, and I think alongside that the study of science can help you understand the physical world

you exist in and which helps shape you, as well of course as addressing how society can survive with finite resources.

You've retired to Spain. Why did you choose Spain and what do you enjoy doing most now you have left Felsted?

I'm living in Sitges, a seaside town 20 kilometres south of Barcelona. It made sense to me to make a clean break and have a complete change of environment.

Having been brought up in Jersey, overlooking the sea, I did feel rather landlocked at Felsted so it's nice to be back by the sea, albeit the Mediterranean rather than the Atlantic.

There's lots going on here and I have joined a writing group, but time will tell if 'that' novel ever gets written!

Do you think you'll miss Felsted and the village life that you were part of for so long?

Yes, of course I will, but life moves on. I hope to stay in touch and will probably slip into The Chequers for a catch-up when in the locality.



101 terms at Felsted Prep

After 33 years of dedicated and tireless service to Felsted Preparatory School with 24 years as deputy head, Tristan Searle retired this summer. He joined Felsted in 1985 and saw the school grow from 150 boys aged 7-13 to over 500 boys and girls aged 4-13.

Tristan said: "Little did I know that when I arrived in Felsted from Hazelgrove House prep school in Somerset to become head of maths and master of cricket and rugby in January 1985, that I would still be here over 33 years later."

He trained to teach mathematics and PE; it was the ideal job for him, with highlights being a number of unbeaten seasons with his rugby and cricket 1st teams. "I always intended to move back to my beloved West Country and indeed, did have a sniff at a few jobs back down that way, but internal promotion to become firstly director of studies and then deputy head kept me at Felsted.

"Felsted has been a fantastic place to live and work with my wife, Nicky and our family.

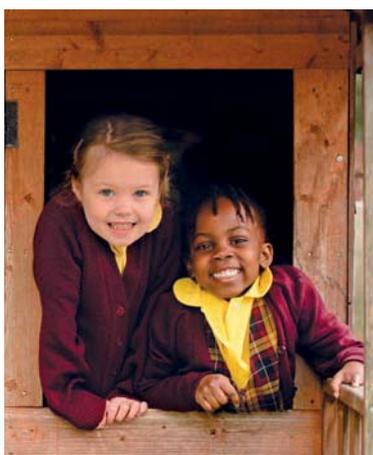


"My time at Felsted has taken me on an incredible journey, but I must now hang up my boots, dust off the golf clubs and leave the day-to-day running of Felsted prep school to others younger than myself. I will cherish the memories of my 101 terms at FPS for the rest of my life."



Above: Entering into the Christmas spirit at the 2017 Felsted prep Christmas feast

Below: Celebrating the opening of the prep school's new eco garden this year



Felsted Robins welcomes female members to the club



Robins Secretary Ed Hutley reports

At the committee meeting in October, the Committee agreed to elect female members, this is a wonderful decision and one which will hopefully result in some exciting new fixtures for the club. Please let us know if you are keen to play via ofs@felsted.org.

The first round of The Cricketer Cup saw Felsted Robins travel to take on Stowe Templars. The Robins were asked to bat first and Chris Huntingdon got the side off to a good start making a valuable contribution passing 50 in just 52 balls (including 10 fours). As the innings drew to a close, Sam Burrett hit some lusty blows as he too made 50, sharing a valuable partnership with Josh King (43*) helping the Robins to 239/8 after 50 overs.

Bertie Blackwell (captain) and Charlie Duke opened the bowling and almost immediately made a breakthrough. Josh King brought another breakthrough with the first change and bowled a probing line throughout. The Robins took the game by the scruff of the neck with 3 wickets falling in 6 deliveries after the drinks break – first a catch on the boundary, then a sharp run out by Charlie Douglas-Hughes and lastly a lovely delivery from King which beat the batsman, taking his off stump. Stowe Templars were bowled out with plenty of runs to spare. A very solid performance from the Robins.

The Robins fielded a stronger side for the second round but were not able to overcome a strong St Edward's Martyrs side. The Robins again lost the toss but this time were asked to field. Set 230 to win, the Robins were bowled out for 174.

Cricket week began against The MCC. The game started with the unveiling of two new portraits in the pavilion of Alastair Grierson Rickford and John Cockett, painted by David Smith. The MCC batted first and were 247 all out with year 10 student Kit Morley-Jacob taking 6-70. A fantastic achievement. In reply, the Robins lost several early wickets but managed to guide the game towards a draw.

The Robins had several other fixtures including two hard-fought games against the Mount and Refreshers. The Robins defeated The Mount by three wickets chasing 204 (40 overs). Wickets from Will Devitt and runs from Nick Harrison all helping the cause. Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the running of the club serving teas, umpiring and indeed those who make themselves available to play.

Felsted Robins play Uppingham Rovers away on Sunday 16 June in The Cricketer Cup first round.

FELSTED GOLFERS MISS OUT IN TEAM EVENTS

By Stuart Mott, president of the Old Felstedian Golf Society

The OF Golf Society has had another enjoyable year and we are indeed fortunate to play on some wonderful golf courses.

However, in the team events there were mixed fortunes and qualifying for Grafton Morrish finals is proving elusive. We missed out again by just a few points. We will get there one day.

In the Halford Hewitt, for the umpteenth year in a row, we had a tough draw against a strong Rugby side in the first round.

Having lost that, we then had a good run in the Plate, defeating Aldenham and Blundell's before eventually succumbing to Edinburgh Academicals in the quarter-finals.

It was good to welcome Billy Holmes to our Hewitt side and he made a most impressive debut.

In the Mellin, we were delighted to draft in three new players – Ted Dunn, Tim Hedin and Chris Olley. This gave us an extremely competitive team which knocked out Oundle, one of the best sides in the tournament.

We went on to the semi-finals, where we lost by the narrowest of margins to Haileybury.

In the Peter Burles Plate (for over 65s) our side did well reaching the finals before losing to Shrewsbury.

It was our turn to organise the Essex Public Schools foursomes (Mathews Cup). Captain Phil Graham did an excellent job and his team performed creditably, finishing just six points behind Forest, the winners of the trophy. Given that this year the contest clashed with the last day of the Ryder Cup – there was some conflict of interest.

The society's meetings as always provided excellent days of entertainment, although for the first time that I can recall the Aldeburgh meeting was cancelled due to the course being under snow.

However, in the other events Oliver Stocken organised a great day at West Sussex and Dudley Simpson at Colne Valley and The Berkshire.

As ever, we owe much to Dudley who continues to do a lot of work for the society and plays a huge part in its activities.

The friendly matches against Deal, Bancroft's, Brentwood, Chigwell, Forest and Framlingham were kindly organised by Messrs Doe, Houlder, Mott, Keys, Dadd and Skinner. These matches, which are played off handicap, are great fun.

If you play golf and are interested in our activities please send me an email to find out how you can get involved – stuart.mott@ntlworld.com.

Winners of the OFGS trophies

Colne Valley – Handicap Cup: Robert Cullen
West Sussex – Handicap Cup: Anders Beatty
The Berkshire – Handicap Cup: Sir Martyn Arbib



Mellin team in July (left to right): Chris Olley, Ted Dunn, Tim Hedin, Robert Cullen, Tim Chetwood, Stuart Mott

OFs win at Gosfield Lake

A fantastic triangular golf tournament took place in May at Gosfield Lake Golf Club, with OFs taking on the Common Room and current Felsted students. OFs were victorious with a narrow win over staff and took home the coveted Claret Jug. Tim Platts (centre) had the highest score.



Schools' Championship Polo Match

In May, a group of talented OFs fought hard in a close polo match against Old Stortfordians from Bishop's Stortford College at the Schools' Championship tournament hosted by Silver Leys Polo Club.

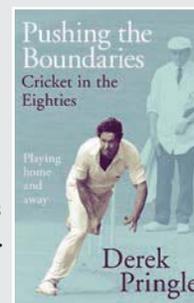


Sadly, the team lost 4-6 but delivered a thrilling match for spectators. With thanks to the OF team: William Hopkins (ac09-11), Alex Rayner (current parent), Emil Benz (ec09-14), Will Almond (e03-05) and Olivia Houlder (fg97-07).

Felsted's most capped cricketer pens memoir

By Joel Garner

Derek Pringle, Felsted's most capped England Test cricketer, has written his memoir 'Pushing The Boundaries – Cricket in the Eighties'.



The book is a trip down memory lane for Pringle as he lays bare life as a professional cricketer in the 1980s, a decade where the professional's approach was more free-spirited than it is today.

It's his first memoir, taking him seven months to write, working mostly at weekends.

He told the OF Magazine that he had great fun composing it. "Who doesn't enjoy a self-indulgent trawl through one's past?" he added. "What was fascinating during the process is how the mind constructs memories that don't always withstand the closer scrutiny of facts. I had to reassess several incidents I'd long held as truths."

He said that the book reveals how much cricket has changed in the last 35 years. "My county Essex were a coach-free zone but were the best team of that decade. Now players can't move for coaches, which makes it a more prescriptive environment in which to develop. As I say in the book, the '80s was about fun, joy and self-expression not the endless, and often futile, quest for self-improvement."

He acknowledges that the England team Graham Gooch inherited at the end of the '80s played better when adopting a disciplined, more professional approach. However, he doubts whether we would have seen Botham's Ashes heroics in 1981, or some of the brilliant innings played by David Gower and Derek Randall, if this ultra professionalism had happened earlier.

"I'm not so sure; they were freewheeling improvisers who rarely stuck to plans," he added.

Pringle didn't rule out more books in the future. "I've always enjoyed writing and have harboured fantasies of writing a novel. This memoir had ready-made subject material, so it was just a matter of recalling it and assembling it in a coherent manner but inventing a whole fake world would be a very different challenge," he added.

□ □ □ □

OFs can claim a 40% discount on the hardback version of 'Pushing the Boundaries: Cricket in the Eighties' by Derek Pringle by calling this orderline: 01235 827702 before 31 March, 2019. The offer means the book will cost OFs just £12. You must quote PRINGLE40 on the orderline to claim your discount. There's free post and packaging within the UK.

Felsted OFFC nets first official fixture with many more planned

Joe King (fhc08-15) has almost single-handedly launched Old Felstedians' latest sporting club. We catch up him to find out why and how it's going. Joel Garner reports

Joe, tell us why you started the Old Felstedian Football Club (Felsted OFFC) and when did you get it off the ground?

The OFFC started as an idea around November last year but was officially founded on 4 February, the date of our first fixture, when we took on a select Felsted School XI.

I started it due to the success of a parents and OFs annual fixture against the Common Room, which my dad had started. Additionally, I saw the OFFC as an opportunity to appeal to younger OFs who do not stereotypically participate in OF events.

The number of OFs who were interested in playing against the Common Room grew each year to the point where we could form a squad. Thanks to the time and generosity of the Old Felstedian Society and alumni office at Felsted, we have been able to turn a fixture into a football club.

We currently have around 20-25 players signed up, an app, an online teamwear store, and we play a few games a year.

Felsted isn't well known for its football is it? It didn't even have a football team or pitch when I was there. Was it easy to get a group of players together?

Despite being a 'minor' sport at Felsted, football is flourishing. From my time in 2015, a 1st and 2nd XI were able to participate in fixtures and now there's a girls' team too. The OFFC are lucky to share the football pitch with the school teams and the grounds staff keep the pitch in top condition all year round. Anyone would be hard pressed to say they have played on a better surface than that of Prysties for amateur clubs across the country.

Football is the most accessible and popular sport in the world, which made it easy to gather a squad. All OFFC members purchase their own playing kit, meaning our members are fully committed to the cause and make themselves available for any fixtures despite other commitments.

Did you play football at Felsted?

I had the pleasure of playing football in the prep school and senior school in the sixth form with some talented players. Like Felsted teams across other sports, we punched above our weight in

respect of the number of players other schools had to choose from, losing only two games in two years due to some dubious decisions by opposing officials.

Alongside playing football all week at Felsted, I would play youth and men's football for various local outfits. I captained the school team in my final year and won player of the season, although it should have been awarded to Oliver Grayson who had been the difference in conquering Common Room teams in previous meetings.

How many matches have you played so far and how has the team done?

As a fully-fledged outfit, we have only managed one fixture which was against a fitter school side. The team-bonding process was in its infancy, with post-Felsted diet and exercise not playing in our favour. Subsequently, two games have been cancelled, one due to snow and another scheduled against Bishop's Stortford old boys was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

We are always looking for more players to join and more teams to play against. I would like to invite anyone interested in playing for us or who knows of some opposition that are looking for fixtures to get in contact with me.



What's the plan? Are you hoping to play a few games every year?

I am hoping we can arrange some more fixtures, particularly with other schools, as we value the social side of playing football. Now we have a position to work from, the plan is to expand our membership base and try to convince other schools to play against us having witnessed how successful this OFFC project has been so far.

What's the standard been like? Are your players fit enough and doing any training?

The standard has been impressive, with most members playing for other teams, whether that be in the Mid-Essex, Braintree or Chelmsford leagues. In the run up to games, we do have some indoor sessions to see who has looked after themselves and to view new talent. Recently, we have added talented players who came to the indoor sessions purely out of interest and I would encourage more OFs to do the same.

I take it you're a big football fan Joe? Who do you support?

Football runs in the family; my godfather won the League Cup with Tottenham Hotspur and my dad managed Braintree. I support Ipswich Town and became a FA qualified coach when I was 16.

So apart from getting the OFFC off the ground, what else keeps you busy?

Arranging the indoor sessions and getting the kit together takes up a large amount of my time. I have just graduated from Cass Business School with a degree in investment and financial risk management.

What's been the best OFFC moment so far?

In terms of the team, beating the Common Room football side consecutively ranks highly. Individually, Harrison Flynn's top-corner volley against the school side in March this year is the best goal I've seen since forming the club.



Felsted OFFC team