

ParkLife



THE NEWSLETTER OF SEAFORD COLLEGE

INSIDE



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MOROCCO



Fantastic helping of Oliver – full story inside

Brit award sets Tom on a path to stardom

OLD Seafordian Tom Odell is riding high after being named the Critics' Choice in the Brit Awards – the UK music industry's premier awards.

A delighted Tom, who left Seaford College in 2009, had his face flashed across worldwide TV after being selected by the music industry critics as the 'man of the moment'.

Rubbing shoulders at the Brits with the likes of Emeli Sande and Adele – both past winners of the Critics' Choice Award – Tom was linked romantically to American songbird Taylor Swift following the 02 award ceremony, where she too was a nominee – for Best International Female Artist.

Tom's first album – Long Way Down – is due for release this month and a hectic nationwide tour kicks off in October.

His face is also starting to get known on TV, having been part of this year's Comic Relief and a guest performer on the Alan Carr Chatty Man show – both within the space of a fortnight, last month.

Songwriting diploma

Tom, 22, left Seaford after sitting A-levels in Music, Music Technology and Chemistry, for a year at the Brighton Institute of Modern Music, where he gained a professional songwriting diploma and was singled out as 'someone to watch' by songwriter Felix Howard, head of A&R at EMI Music Publishing, who has worked with the likes of Amy Winehouse, the Sugababes and Beverley Knight.

Having originally trained as a classical musician, Tom, from Chichester, always had a love of writing individual alternative music using piano and guitar. He has been playing piano and guitar from the age of seven and writing music since he was 11. He honed his early skills in the College Music School and was a star performer in the annual Seafordstock.

Taking inspiration from a whole range of musical genres, his contemporary pop rock reflects the likes of Coldplay and Razorlight, while drawing on the influences of everyone from The Beatles, Bowie and Elton John to Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones and Debussy – and, consequently, is a hit with all ages!

He writes and sings about subjects not often talked about – questioning elements of life, death, love and society.

New team adds fresh impetus

SEPTEMBER will see a shake-up to the management of Seaford College, under the new headship of John Green.

John, currently acting headmaster, who takes over the reins of the College in September, has decided to restructure the school's senior management team and will have not one, or even two, but three deputies to start the new school year, each with differing responsibilities.

While Breege Jinks will remain academic deputy, two new faces will be joining the team, bringing fresh blood and new ideas to the College.

Major focus

Mr James Passam will become Deputy Head with a major focus on the Middle School (Academic and Pastoral), covering Years 9-11, while Mr William Yates will become Deputy Head with a major focus on the Sixth Form (Academic and Pastoral) and will work closely with Tim Gregory.

William is currently at Ackworth School, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, as Deputy Head and before this was a very successful Housemaster at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, so is familiar with the area around West Sussex.

“ I took the view I wanted to put more resources into strengthening the school's academic success. ”

JOHN GREEN



NEW APPOINTMENTS: James Passam, left, and William Yates

William is a keen rower and coaches rugby, hockey and cricket, as well as leading Duke of Edinburgh Gold expeditions.

Academically, William has an exceptional reputation as an inspirational and extremely successful Chemistry teacher.

James is currently a Housemaster at St John's, Leatherhead, and a former Head of English and AQA examiner – so, again, an excellent academic addition to the team.

Married to Zoë with two children, Rose, aged three, and Mary, eight months, James also has two black Labradors – Blake and Biggles – who will be a sure-fire addition to the

College menagerie!

James coaches all major team sports as well as having a keen interest in drama and film studies, which will be an asset in further strengthening both of those departments.

The appointments came at the end of a very thorough and rigorous interview process which produced a very strong field, leading to three rounds of interviews.

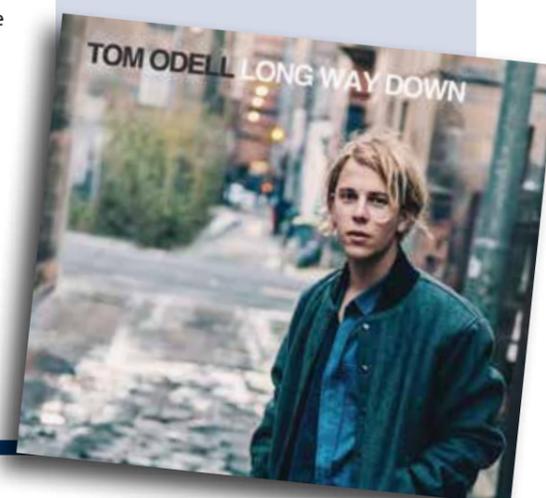
John Green said: "I took the view I wanted to put more resources into strengthening the school's academic success.

"Both James and William will work closely with Mrs Jinks as well as

having whole school responsibilities and, importantly, deputise in my absence if I am called away from the College for any reason.

"I am confident that these two new key positions will play a crucial role in strengthening levels of communication with the parental body – as well as ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the academic and pastoral workings of the College.

"I believe this new team will give a real driving force to the school to take it into the future and, needless to say, I am delighted and looking forward to have them both on board."





On the road to Morocco



SIXTH formers enjoyed a trip to the Kasbah as part of a four-night trip to Morocco in December.

Departing Seaford at the ungodly hour of 4.30am, the 14 students, accompanied by Julian Hart, Nick Angier and Diana Strange, boarded a flight from Gatwick for the somewhat warmer climes of Marrakech.

Staying in a Riad, in the historic Medina of Marrakech, for two nights, the group studied the urban structure and growth of Marrakech and visited the souks and (very smelly!) tannery.

They also examined the way in which the city is expanding today as a result of tourism. Studies complete, they then drove the 66km south to the Berber village of Imllil in the Atlas Mountains where they stayed in the

Kasbah d'Toubkhal for a further two nights. Imllil is in sight of North Africa's highest peak yet only just below the snow line.

The Kasbah was in a superb location, with a wonderful rooftop seating area and log fires in all the rooms - very useful, because, although the weather was warm during the day (20C), it dipped to near-freezing at night!

Away from the bustle of the city, life here was very different and the students looked at agriculture in a semi-arid environment, learning about rights to water and land in the mountains, irrigation and also about the devastation caused by the flash flood of 1995.

A wonderful field trip which gave the students a real insight into the problems faced in other countries and cultures.

A taste of where their future lies

THE school hosted a Careers Fair for senior school students, to give them an insight into a wide range of possible future opportunities - and the skills required to be successful.

The fair, held in March, lasted for three hours and attracted a strong list of exhibitors - 25 businesses from all across the South East.

Everything was there - from estate agents, architects and construction companies, to dentists and chiropractors, and educational establishments such as the University of Portsmouth and the European School of Osteopathy.

The retail trade was represented by the Arcadia group and Wilkinsons, offering ideas about retail management and HR, while forces options and local company Rolls Royce Motor Cars were also of particular interest, along with charities and financial institutions.



Chance to discuss opportunities

All the children in Years 9, 10 and 11, as well as the Sixth Form, had an opportunity to talk to the exhibitors and discuss opportunities for the future.

Many were able to find out about career prospects in these fields and what entry qualifications were necessary.

The exhibitors had the opportunity to talk to the young people at the college and give them advice as well as reassuring them that recruitment was still active despite the economic woes at present.

Richard Stather, who is in charge of careers at the school, was very grateful to the enormous assistance provided by Fiona Askew who did much of the organisation for the morning, as well as the exhibitors who gave up their time.

"The children were very enthusiastic and found the morning stimulating and thought provoking," he said.

Coveted awards are proof of excellence

SEAFORD College has scored a hat-trick, by winning not one but three prestigious awards for its teaching excellence.

The College has won a trio of Lucas Trophy awards from the Good Schools Guide, Britain's premier independent guide to both state and private schools.

The awards, presented annually by the Good Schools Guide, celebrate teaching excellence in individual subjects and in the 2012 awards, announced last term, the College English department received plaudits for its teaching of iGCSE English Language to both boys and girls, as well as its teaching of iGCSE English Literature to girls.

Recognised around the world

Edexcel's International General Certificates of Secondary Education (iGCSEs) are considered academically rigorous and are recognised around the world by employers and educators, and have exactly the same status as a conventional British GCSE.

The 2012 awards are based on last year's iGCSE results and Seaford College Head of English John Doy said: "This is great news for the College. The awards reflect the hard work and perseverance of the students, learning support staff and teachers of this crucial subject."

The Good Schools Guide bases its awards on the relative popularity of the subject, the relative and absolute performance of students, and the percentage of pupils who take the subject.

A spokesman for the guide said: "Subjects which are consistently well taught become popular over time, as pupils gravitate towards them. We measure the popularity of each subject relative to similar schools which offer that subject. As a measure on its own it can be a fallible indicator of quality - where a once brilliant department has faded, but pupils are still influenced by reputation, or where a preference for a particular subject area has become part of the spirit of the school.

"Likewise, we compare the performance of pupils in each subject with the grades that they got in all the other subjects that they took. Good teaching should lead, on average, to better performance."

A school which receives one of the Good Schools Guide subject awards means it has outperformed all other English schools in its category, (independent or state) for the subject and exam concerned.

Seaford College's academic results have gone from strength to strength in the past 10 years.

Headmaster Toby Mullins said: "We endeavour to make English as exciting as possible for our students, with a challenging and varied assortment of texts, supplemented by trips to the theatre."

Classic trips

CLASSICS A-Level students have enjoyed a number of trips in recent months, to attend a variety of lectures in key topics such as the Greek Tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides, Greek Epic (Homer's Odyssey) and Virgil's Aeneid. These have been held at London University and enjoyed by all.

The Classics group also enjoyed a recent trip to Guildford Grammar to hear a lecture on Virgil's Aeneid, so should be well-equipped when it comes to this summer's examinations!

Choirs unite for back to back concerts

A UNIQUE collaboration between the choirs of two Prep Schools took place last term, when Seaford College Prep School combined with the choir of Amesbury Prep for an aptly-titled Crossover Concert.

The Amesbury Chapel Choir is led by Head of Performing Arts, Mark Reynolds, an Old Seafordian who left the college in 1993.

Together with Sara Reynolds, Seaford's Head of Choir and Head of Voice at the Junior Royal Academy of Music, London, the two schools combined their resources to put on two exciting, ground-breaking evenings of choral music.

In the first, on Friday 8 March, choristers from

Amesbury, Hindhead, came to Seaford where each choir performed independently, before joining forces to create a 70-strong chorus which performed a uniquely diverse programme ranging from Oratorio to musical theatre and from Mozart to Coldplay.

The following night, Seaford made the return journey, to recreate the same concert at Amesbury! Seaford College has a rich choral tradition and the Chapel Choir has been going from strength to strength under the guidance of Sara Reynolds.

As well as proud parents, a number of Old Seafordians, some of whom were choristers themselves, helped to swell the audience.

A nose for sweet profits

SEAFORD'S Year 9 students decided to organise a cake sale to raise funds for Comic Relief - a guaranteed success, knowing the students' weakness for all things sweet!

In just 20 minutes, sales were fast and furious, raising a fantastic £250!

Parents and students from Middle School and Senior school, but mainly from Year 9, provided an amazing array of cakes and biscuits, many of them home baked.

It would appear that some of those who had been unable to get to school earlier in the week, due to the snow, had put their time to good use!

The Year 9s helped in every way - setting up, selling, and finally... buying and eating. "Thanks to everyone for their contributions, however large or small," said Year 9 tutor Shelagh Weekes.



Consider yourselves all stars!

SPECTACULAR scenery and stirring lighting effects added the finishing touches to a highly polished performance of the hit musical Oliver! by students at Seaford College.

The production played to packed houses each night, with an excellent response from the audience each evening.

More than 50 years after Lionel Bart's musical premiered in the West End, the College's highly talented students proved they could put in just as much pathos as half a century of Olivers and Nancys before them.

Adam Newman excelled as Oliver Twist, with Jamie Roberts as the cunning Fagin. Max Jukes was suitably sinister as Bill Sikes, while Jenevra Glavin performed beautifully as the ill-treated and, ultimately, ill-fated Nancy, and creative make-up and a careful choice of costume transformed Beci Eden into the likeable young rogue The Artful Dodger.

The 20-strong cast had put in hours of hard work to ensure their production was first class.

Monique Elsom came up with the choreography while Richard Bailey was musical director and accompanied the performance on piano, with Tom Holder on bass and Gerry Berkley on drums.

While tempted to join in with many of the popular melodies from the show, the audience managed to restrain themselves but were allowed to join in with the final reprise of Consider Yourself.

Director Jane Askew said: "The cast were an absolute pleasure to work with and it is to their credit that the show was such a resounding success.

"Everyone gave a highly engaging performance, whether playing a leading character or as part of the ensemble. The quality of singing and acting was superb and I am tremendously proud of them all!"



Five go running... in the Brighton Marathon

AS Park Life went to press, five feisty members of the Seaford staff were in serious training for the Brighton Marathon, which took place on Sunday 14 April.

Anyone spotted hobbling around school or sporting king-sized blisters as the summer term gets underway could well be a suspect but the quintet of culprits were, in fact, student teacher Ed Bowden, head of cricket Dan Joseph, PE teacher Georgie Sims, head of history Paul Griffin and WGW houseparent and business studies teacher Matt Pitteway.

The five decided to run the Brighton Marathon for the CP Sport charity, which helps people with Cerebral

Palsy get involved with sport from a grass roots level to paralympic athletes.

The fearless fivesome have been in training since before the New Year and were all hoping to complete the marathon in under four hours.

Not content with almost killing themselves on this occasion, Ed and another seven or eight members of staff are also planning to do the three peaks challenge on the first weekend of the summer half term, to raise funds for the Combat Stress charity.

This is a military charity which helps returning troops suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder

and a number of students at the college have already put their best feet forward to raise funds for the worthwhile cause.

The three peaks challenge has been on Ed's radar even longer than the marathon and involves walking the three highest mountains in Scotland, Wales and England in 24 hours - Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike, including driving in between.

In between time, Ed is doing a 24-hour cycle ride from London to Paris on 4 May along with an old schoolfriend, to raise funds for the mental health charity MIND, in memory of a colleague.



Packed chapel

SEVEN candidates were confirmed in the College Chapel by the Bishop of Horsham last term.

The Rt Rev Mark Sowerby, assisted by College Chaplain Rev Steve Gray, conducted the service in February in front of a packed congregation of families and friends.

The seven candidates were Adam Newman, Munroe Graham and Charlie Craddock from Year 9, twins Alexander and Tom Rees (Year 10), William Overton-Smith (Year 10) and Harry Marchant (Year 11). The service was followed by drinks and canapés in the Garden Room.

Chime in with cash to get bell ringing

SUPPORTERS, Old Seafordians and friends of the College are being asked to dig deep to help reinstate the ancient Chapel Bell.

The bell dates back to 1723 and is in need of some 'TLC' but, at an estimated cost of £6,350, the job doesn't come cheap.

The bell has been damaged and inoperative, and College Chaplain Rev'd Steve Gray is spearheading a campaign to raise money for its repair, so it might once again call the community to worship - something which has not happened for many years.

The Chaplain said: "If you would like to give something to this appeal we would be so grateful as the repair cost of £6,350 has so far only been half met!"

Special service

All donors will be welcome to join in a special service of thanksgiving and dedication of the new bell on Thursday 16 May at 6pm when the Bishop of Chichester has agreed to preach at a service of Evensong in the Chapel.

Drinks and canapés will follow the service on the terrace.

Rev'd Gray said: "This may particularly appeal to any of those who have been confirmed, baptised or married in the Chapel or for those that simply undertook duties on behalf of the Chapel's life while here at Seaford.

"In anticipation, many thanks for your help - and thank you."

Donations for the bell can be sent to Seaford College, clearly marked, and anyone intending to attend the service is asked to contact the Chaplain, or Society of Old Seafordians chairman Su Sayer, to confirm their place.

Staff rally round to soften the impact of snow

SNOW brought some unseasonal weather to Seaford at the end of last term, posing a few logistical problems for the staff.

David Nixon, Richard Illman and Philip Stephens worked tirelessly to clear and make the site safe in cold and difficult conditions, from very early in the morning, in order to try to keep traffic moving along the college drive.

Acting head John Green, Toni Rabin and Greg Burt were also up with the lark checking the state of the roads.

Some students - and some of the staff - simply could not make it into school, but boarders and those who did meet in the Assembly Hall where Breege Jinks took stock of the situation in an attempt to work out a manageable curriculum.

Although the usual school buses did not run, Greg Burt set up an emergency minibus service, using a vehicle fitted with snow chains, to get students and staff to school from Sainsbury's in Chichester and also managed to collect a few other 'stragglers' from outlying posts.

John Green said: "Fortunately, the adverse weather conditions didn't affect us for too long. My thanks go out to anyone else who assisted, in any capacity."



Join in charity's day of celebration

A NATIONAL disability charity is to celebrate its 40th anniversary at Seaford – the school where its seeds were first sown.

Su Sayer, an Old Seafordian and daughter of former headmaster Charles Johnson, set up United Response in 1973 and is still its driving force today.

The charity supports disabled people across the country, helping them live full, active and independent lives.

Su has been a tireless champion for people with disabilities for all of those 40 years and more – but she has never forgotten those first faltering steps when the charity began its work in West Sussex.

On Saturday 6 July, the College is therefore throwing open its gates to the public for a

fun day of events and activities, entirely free of charge, as a celebration of all that United Response has achieved.

Named United Response 4-Tea, the family fun day will take place from 2-6pm and include fun and games for all ages and a range of stalls, including a tombola, a raffle and the usual 'guess the weight' challenges. There will be a few short speeches and celebration cake-cutting on the school terrace at 3.30pm.

There will also be arts and crafts workshops, face painting, a bouncy castle, football, clay pigeon shooting and golf events, plus bushcraft activities in the new Forest School. Hopefully it will be a hot and sunny day, in which case there will be recreational swimming in the College pool. Everyone is welcome to attend –

the more the merrier.

At the time Su co-founded the charity in 1973, many disabled people were forced to live in long-term institutions, with few rights or opportunities. The first United Response house – the Old Rectory at Tillington – was a bold attempt to change that, by offering a community-based way of living to a few young adults.

Although the charity has grown so much and now supports over 2,000 people, Su has ensured the same ethos remains at the heart of its work.

Su has overseen many United Response efforts to improve the future for disabled people, including projects which have challenged the financial services industry to make money simpler, campaigns to tackle

the bullying of disabled people and a hugely successful campaign to give people with learning disabilities a fair and equal role in our democracy.

She received an OBE for her endeavours in 2000 and a CBE in the New Year's Honours List this year, for services to people with disabilities in the UK.

She said: "There have been so many people that have helped us throughout our journey, but I feel particularly grateful to the people of West Sussex. Without their early support and enthusiasm for our work, we would never have got to our fourth year anniversary, let alone our 40th. I really want to say thank you to them all, and hope they will join us for a party to remember."



ACTION-PACKED: Students have to decide how to tackle a toxic swamp; gain an insight into life in the trenches at Bovington Tank Museum; and below, learn some anti-terrorist drills



Cadets enjoy week of action at Weymouth camp

TWENTY-five CCF cadets seized the opportunity to spend the last week of term at Chickerell Camp in Weymouth, Dorset.

Weymouth was the venue for the sailing events in the Olympics last year, so of particular interest to our girls and boys.

Due to the demands on the accommodation requirement for Regular Army training, the school had to do the camp in the last week of term, rather than the usual holidays – and possibly found the best of the weather as a result! A week later and they would have been snowbound – or waterlogged!

Willing volunteers

The group comprised an excellent balance of 12 cadets from Year 9 and 13 cadets from Year 10, who came together as very willing volunteers to take advantage of the opportunity to do a wide range of activities in the five-day camp.

They were taken round the Tank Museum at Bovington by the museum's education officer, who gave them all a meaningful insight into life in the trenches in World War One, and the development of the tank as a response to the



entrenched situation in occupied France.

Cadets had the chance to get into two tanks and experience a bit of the routine of the tank crew, and were especially delighted to see on display the replica that was built for the film War Horse.

Dorchester Army Cadet Force staff laid on a day's training, comprising command tasks, air

rifle shooting, paintballing and climbing tower, all of which Seaford College Cadets loved and gained invaluable experience.

The session finished with the Dorchester Challenge, which brought together elements of the day's training and set teams against teams – great fun!

Tested to the full

Kart racing was a highlight of the week, and there was no shortage of aspiring Formula One drivers for the future. This day was completed with a navigation exercise along an inland path with two groups walking in opposite directions and meeting in the middle, crossing over and ending up back at camp.

The week finished with a session at Brenscombe Activity centre for leadership and initiative tasks before lunch and high ropes after lunch. This certainly tested everyone to the full, and moved everyone out of their customary comfort-zone. Yet another action-packed, fun-filled enriching week with a splendid group of cadets!

CCF Commander, Major Nick Kyte.

A Real change for polo players

THE school's recently-formed polo team had to hang up their hats this season, as the weather meant too many hockey and rugby matches being re-scheduled, which clashed with the dates set for polo fixtures.

It proved far too complex to try and get the guys out of games fixtures to fulfil their polo fixtures, so Matt Pitteway decided instead to set up a Real Tennis Club.

He said: "Real tennis is a very difficult game to master and has a far longer history than lawn tennis. Having to deal with the jargon (the grandstand, the dedens, the chase) has been difficult enough, but trying to hit what is basically a cricket ball with an old fashioned tennis racquet (but with twice the string tension of a normal tennis racquet) into a court one and a half times the length of a normal tennis court (with the added excitement of being able to play off the walls) has been even tougher."

There are four boys currently going along to master the technique on a Wednesday afternoon (Bing Stanley, Ralph Richardson, Oli Crowe and Moses Soriano), using the historic court at Petworth House.

The four are receiving expert coaching from the club professional, Tom Durack, and hope to possibly get a team out at some point in the future

Dan strikes gold

CONGRATULATIONS to Dan Tarrant who, as reported in the last Park Life, fulfilled his ambition to be selected for the GB Junior Olympic Trap Team.

Not only that, he went on to win a gold medal at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival, held in January, in Sydney, for his clay shooting skills!

Dan has been awarded his England Cap and is now ranked the England No 1 Junior in his sport – and 10th overall in the UK out of 120 Olympic Trap shooters.

Dan, 16, left Seaford last summer after gaining a place on the Peter Jones Academy Entrepreneur Course in Chichester.

Chase for regaining title is over thanks to determined team

SEAFORD COLLEGE has hosted Charlton Chase, the West Sussex night navigation competition, for many years.

Teams from throughout the county converge on the College for the start – and finish – of the all-night exercise which sees teams of teens and young adults put their survival skills to the test in the South Downs hills and the Charlton Forest.

But it is more than a decade since the College came away with first place in the contest – the last outright win being in 2001.

The College was determined to make a mark on the competition ratings this year, and entered nine teams for this challenging night hike organised by West Sussex County Council Youth and Community Service, which tests teamwork as well as map-reading and navigation skills.

There were 43 teams entered for the Standard Entry category – and seven of them were Cadets



VICTORIOUS: Seaford's winning Chalton Chase team with the trophy

from Seaford College Combined Cadet Force! Unlike last year when the event had to be

abandoned due to snow, this year it was dry although muddy underfoot, and somewhat chilly when exposed up on the Downs.

Teams set off from 6pm on Saturday evening and returned in the early hours of Sunday morning after eight hours of map and compass work, having navigated themselves around given checkpoints, and carried out team tasks at the different locations.

All Seaford teams performed admirably, and congratulations are due to all, but most especially to Seaford H for finishing in 5th place (Harry Leleu, Dan Jones, Christian Disley-May, Toby Hindmarsh); Seaford F for taking 4th place (Tom Bolsover, James Watts, Oliver Parkes, Theo Ormrod-Davis); and accolades to Seaford E for taking a well-deserved and long-overdue 1st place with a handsome 466 points (Alex MacPherson, Ben Evans, Piers Tickner, Jack Ghinn).

The winning team completed the competition in just under eight hours, accruing 466 points, 25 ahead of the next nearest contender.

CCF Contingent Commander Major Nick Kyte, who helped prepare the teams for their challenge, said: "This is an awesome achievement on the part of all team members."

A total of 77 teams took part in the three classes of the 'chase' – in novice, standard and premier classes. The College entered nine teams in total – as well as the seven standard teams, the College also entered one team in the novice event and one in the premier section.

When Seaford last won the trophy in 2001, it was the third year of a hat-trick.

Major Kyte said: "We are looking forward to the challenge of retaining the trophy for a further hat-trick. The participants all exceeded my expectations – but not my hopes!"