

A tough job for teachers

Gresham's teachers Chris Cox, Ben Green and David Saker have completed their first Ultra Marathon, raising £2,745 for two charities.

The trio endured extremely hot conditions, rough terrain, severe cramp and aching legs to complete the South Coast Challenge, a gruelling off-road 100km race from Eastbourne to Arundel, during the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Chris and Ben took part in the challenge to raise money for Thinking of Oscar, a charity which aims to improve the experiences of young children and their families while they are in hospital and to provide for the development of research and development into and the provision of improved diagnostic techniques and technology for paediatric care.

David completed the challenge to raise money for The Alzheimer's Society.

Head of history Chris, who completed the race in 15 hours and 29 minutes, reflected: "The climbs were so much more significant than we had realised making progress difficult and the conditions were extremely tough. I am so pleased to have completed the race, and it all feels quite surreal now."

Head of biology Ben Green added: "The team spirit shown by all the other runners made the time pass and I was grateful for the moral support, especially as we entered the early hours of the next morning. To reach the finish line and be met by Chris, Dave and our families was amazing. We earned our glass of Champagne and I have never been prouder of a medal. To have raised over £1500 for Thinking for Oscar is a great feeling."

Head of physics David Saker said: "This was a real mental as well as physical challenge; the fact we were all running



for such important charities gave us the determination to continue as the miles racked up."

Chris, Ben and David will not be resting for long. Together with a team from Gresham's School, they plan to take part in the Cambridge Half Marathon next March.

New book by Holt authors

Holt residents Steve Benson and Richard Jefferson have got together to publish a book on James Olley, himself a resident of Holt for nearly a decade at the end of the 19th century.

Olley lived in Bull Street and trained horses from the flint building that is now part of Holt Library. He was the last Norfolk survivor of the Charge at the time of his death in 1920 aged 87. He had lived a long and colourful life.

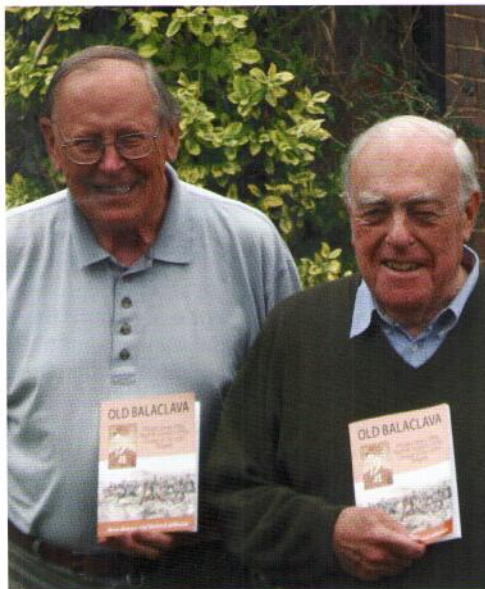
Steve originally wrote a piece on Olley back in 1982. About five years ago Richard showed him a photograph from 1887 relating to Olley and the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Richard said: "I had bought the picture in a junk shop many years before. Steve was excited about the find and, as he says in his introduction to the book, 'the file on Olley was reopened'."

The book is the conclusion of joint researches in the years that followed. All the proceeds from the sale of the books are being donated to Walking with the Wounded.

Steve and Richard met at Cambridge University in 1961. Steve was also head of History at Gresham's School in 1981 when Richard came to Beeston Hall School to also teach history. In retirement they now live about a quarter of a mile apart in Holt.

Old Balaclava Private James Olley, Norfolk



Survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade, is £8.50 per copy plus £1.10 p&p.

It is available from Walking with the Wounded on 01263 863900 or see www.wwtw.org.uk. Copies can also be purchased and collected directly from Steve Benson (01263 713605) or Richard Jefferson (01263 710120).

Concert date ends series

The 2016 FALCON Concerts programme is coming to an end on October 15, with the final date of the season at St Andrew's Church.

It's a 6.30pm start for Francina Moll Salord and Margalida Moll Salord in a performance which promises to be "truly breathtaking".

Held quarterly at St Andrew's, the concerts are arranged to help raise funds for FALCON (the North Norfolk based arts initiative Facilitating Arts and Literature for the Children of Norfolk) and St Andrew's Church Development Fund. Performers are drawn from the pool of young professionals, all ex-pupils from the Purcell School (an international school for young musicians of exceptional talent), who perform for expenses only.

This year saw a range of concerts, including, for the first time, a Chamber Orchestra concert, in early July, conducted by the internationally acclaimed conductor Peter Stark as part of a wider schools programme.

Grants prove to be a big help to groups

Several village and community halls will have improved facilities thanks to the latest round of Big Society Fund grants agreed by North Norfolk District Council.

The fund offers grants of up to £15,000 to voluntary and community organisations based in North Norfolk.

Since the fund started in 2012, just under £1,300,000 has been awarded to 164 community projects.

The panel which agrees the grants awarded six grants totalling £63,079.74.

The awards are subject to each group agreeing to formal terms and conditions. Grant awards in this round included:

- Briston Parish Council (£7,831.48) for the installation of a new heating system in the Briston Pavilion.
- Field Dalling with Saxlingham Village Hall (£5,248.26) to create two separate toilets from the existing single toilet, one of which to be for people with disabilities.
- Melton Constable Parish Council (£5,000) to create a new area dedicated to

football/ball games for nine to 13 year olds.

The next round of applications closes on November 7. Eligible applications will be considered by the panel on December 5.

A prospectus is available to applicants, and contains comprehensive guidance to support the application process.

To apply for funding, get in touch with Sonia Shuter on 01263 516173, email supporting.communities@north-norfolk.gov.uk or visit www.northnorfolk.org/big societyfund.