

## Old and young and in between

match on the day of the advertised reunion. I recognised the face instantly. Its owner had been in my house, as had his brother. I could picture him, and I could picture the boys' parents. I had liked all of them and I wanted to say 'hello George' but I hesitated. Was this George? Or was it George's brother? What was his name? And which was the elder one? When did he leave? Last year? Or has he now graduated? Perhaps he has his own children now?

He put his hand out to me. 'You certainly won't remember me, but I wanted to say hello. George D...' he began, before I could answer any of my own questions.

'Of course I remember you George, great to see you.'

Fortunately he did not tell stories of how much he and his friends used to get up to about which I had no idea. Instead, he related several stories of my catching them, all of which I had completely forgotten and could barely recall even when reminded by

him now, which he did with humour and evidently fond memories of his time at school. A decent boy who had grown up into a decent young man: one could almost be tempted into believing that we do a worthwhile job and that they do appreciate it.

'Quite a few of the boys from my year are here actually, and so is my brother. He was just telling me a hilarious story about his year group walking to the pub on the corner of the High Street when you thought they were going to the gym. I think he is on his way up to say hello now.'

'Oh. What a shame,' I began improvising. 'I am just rushing out to an important meeting with the headmaster. Do pass on my apologies to your brother.'

*OR Houseman is in two minds about the joys of la recherche du temps perdu*

## HERE & THERE

### Bryanston Equestrian Centre gallops ahead



'Having the right environment, support and encouragement is vital for any youngster looking to fulfil their potential in a particular sport without compromising the development of broader life skills and academic progress. For children looking to develop their equine skills, it's all the more challenging because of the time commitment and pressures that come with caring for a horse,' says Bryanston's Head of Riding, Sophie Starr.

Following extensive refurbishment and development of its equine training and performance facilities, the Bryanston Equestrian Centre has enjoyed its most successful year in equestrian pursuits with a record number of pupils, and is now looking to build on its growing reputation in this specialist area. Pupils compete at inter-school equestrian events as well as affiliated and unaffiliated events in all disciplines.

'Our Equestrian Centre has continued to develop over the past two decades, with former pupils having gone on to considerable success at major international events and fulfilling equine careers. Today's pupils now benefit from unprecedented access to first class facilities and expertise, including Bryanston's dedicated Performance Sport Programme.'

Highly commended by the British Horse Society (BHS), the centre features a range of outdoor arenas for show jumping and dressage, as well as an indoor training school, cross country schooling fields and extensive hacking options around the School's 400-acre estate. A team of BHS-qualified grooms and coaches are based at the centre, where there is also a full stable complex and bespoke care for pupils' horses, with input from one of the world's most respected experts in horse and rider performance analysis, Russell Guire.

A dedicated Performance Development Suite has been created as part of the School's major investment in facilities to promote sporting excellence and endeavour. This provides monitoring, insight and tailored training programmes to support the growth, conditioning and development of young sportsmen and women who excel in their chosen sport. All pupils who have chosen equestrian as their main sport are actively encouraged to embrace all other aspects of life at the School and all academic, sporting and social activities are underpinned with Bryanston's core values of creativity, individuality, resilience and personal fulfilment.

