

Tim Brooke-Taylor

TIM was born in Buxton, Derbyshire. His father was a solicitor, his mother a Lacrosse International and his maternal grandfather, a parson who played centre forward for England in the 1890's.

After a bad educational start - he was expelled from his first school at the age of five and a half - he went to various schools in Buxton and then on to Winchester College. Before going to Cambridge he taught at two private schools - one in Hemel Hempstead and the other, one of his old schools in Buxton, Holm Leigh - but only subjects he knew very little about.

In 1960 he began an Economics and Law degree course at Pembroke College, Cambridge and, as a result of a promise he made to the Derbyshire Education Committee in return for a grant, he joined the Footlights Revue Club. It was in the Footlights that he first met, wrote and performed with Bill Oddie, Graeme Garden, John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle and Trevor Nunn and others.

The Footlights Revue of 1963, Cambridge Circus, transferred to London and then, via New Zealand, to Broadway. The cast returned to England where they made several radio series of I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. Its successor, a relatively unscripted show I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, is still running 32 years after it's beginnings in 1972. In 2002 it won a Sony award as best Radio Comedy.

Tim has appeared in many TV and Radio shows but will probably always be best known as a 'Goody'. The triumvirate of Tim, Bill Oddie and Graeme Garden made nearly 80 episodes of The Goodies for BBC Television. The Goodies also produced several best selling books and records. Who can forget the Funky Gibbon – well we can try. A DVD, 'The Goodies - at Last' was successfully released in 2003 and another is planned for 2004.

Tim has continued to work on radio and Television and recently appeared as a mad Chaplain in the sitcom 'TLC'. Also in 2003 he played Murray in Crossroads as the gay partner of Vince the chef – his 'soap' career was short because within a week he was dead – and shortly after that the whole series was cancelled!

In the summer of 2003 he co-hosted 120 quiz programmes for Channel 4 with Graeme Garden called Beat the Nation which started transmission in Jan

He is proud to have served for three hard working years as Rector of St Andrews University, and was highly delighted when the university awarded him an honorary doctorate. Dr. Brooke-Taylor was also, briefly and fairly disastrously, a director of Derby County Football Club and will always be, in good and bad times, a devoted fan. Perhaps as a result of this he is being awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Derby in January 2004

His golf handicap is currently 13. In 2001 and 2002 Tim recorded his dream job for the Discovery Channel, playing 30 different golf courses in 'Tim Brooke-Taylor's Golf Clubs'.

He is married to Christine, having met as two terrified beginners on a ski slope in Switzerland, even though they both lived in Derbyshire but has no intention of saying, 'And they've been going downhill ever since'. They have two surprisingly tall and married sons, Ben and Edward. And they are adoring grandparents.

Tim was awarded an OBE for his services to entertainment in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2011.