

Issue 23, 2022

# The *Gossip* Bowl

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The Alumni Magazine

*“And sometimes lurk  
I in a gossip’s bowl” \**



# President's Letter and Editor's Note

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## Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to the 2022 edition of the Gossip Bowl. Over the past year the Prior Park Association and Prior Park College have continued their return to 'business as usual' or as usual as can be achieved in these extraordinary times.

Alumni visits and events have taken place and there seems to be a genuine enthusiasm amongst alumni of all ages to continue their relationship with the college and long may that continue. Of particular significance was the unveiling of the wonderful bust of Ronald 'Toffee' Palmer in the Academy Hall in June. This was a labour of love by the sculptor **Gonzalo Sanchez Mendizabal** (PPA 1972) who attributes his subsequent successful career in the fine arts to the teaching of 'Toffee'.

Later in the year we held a Day of Reconciliation at the School. This was an opportunity for the college to face up to its past to provide a safe and tolerant space in which its staff and pupils could work and develop and a chance for those who felt that they had suffered to tell their story. I know a number of you had deep reservations about this project and I had a few concerns myself. However, I think I can say that, whilst it would be inappropriate to describe it as a success, it did achieve its aim.

The Mansion Lunch in October was, I thought, a very enjoyable occasion and we were able again to suitably celebrate this year's recipients of the Prior Park Association medal and sing the School Song! I also commend to you the Founder's Garden project. This will transform the space into a visually impressive and inspiring vista. It gives all a chance to be permanently remembered.

Much work has gone into the preparation of this edition, and I must commend our new Alumni Relations Officer, Emma-Louise Goymer, who has wasted no time in embracing her new editorial skills. We hope that you like it and find much of interest in it. All comments and suggestions will be welcome!

All the very best for 2023,

*Deo Duce, Deo Luce*

Simon Morgan (PPA 1975)

As I sit here and write this, it is nearly a year to the day that I started in this role and what a brilliant year I have had.

It is great to be part of such a thriving community and I find the enthusiasm to return to the college for reunions and events heartwarming. It has been great fun working with Year Reps to try and make reunions as special as possible and meeting so many alumni and hearing their stories past and present. It has been fascinating showing you around the college and seeing how things have changed but also stayed the same! However, it has not all been easy, Reconciliation Day was difficult but I feel beneficial.

So, I look forward to 2023 with a happy heart, eager to meet new faces, discover more nooks and crannies in the college and hear more stories of past exploits. Most of all I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you back to the college and I hope that you will come and visit soon.

Emma-Louise Goymer, Alumni Relations

## Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in articles, provided photos or posed for photos which have been included. I would also like to write a special thank you to Terry Illot who has been a guiding hand throughout my first foray into magazine writing. He has helped me enormously with editing and took on some of the more challenging pages. He has also helped to make the process less daunting and more fun – thank you Terry!







# Reconciliation: an apology

By Ben Horan, Head of Prior Park College

I have spent quite a long time considering what to write for this issue of the Gossip Bowl. I could have written about the return to 'normality' after Covid. However, there is no such thing as normal at any school and life at Prior continues to be as typically 'Prior Park' (chaotic, caring, and fun) as ever. I could have written about a particular aspect of student life which tells a story of who we are now and what we are about. I hope that it would have been interesting, but it would have skirted around a major alumni issue that we have been focused on for much of the past year. Back in 2021, I wrote in this publication about the 'two Priors', and that there were many alumni who 'had a horrible time here.' I suggested that we might wish 'to hold a day of 'Reconciliation' where we ask all interested alumni to return to the school and share their experiences.'

It was an easy thing to write back in June 2021, and it entailed a lot of work bringing such a day together. I am hugely grateful to **Simon Morgan** (PPA 1975) and **Terry Ilott** (PPA 1968) for all their help and support. Most of all though, I am grateful to all those alumni who took part in the day, whether through writing in and sharing some harrowing experiences of their time at the college or those who attended and shared their distressing stories in person. We were fortunate to have Tina Campbell facilitating the day. Tina currently holds an international safeguarding post, and her presence was welcomed by those who attended.

I thought that it might be of interest to all alumni to see what my response on the day itself was. I shared the following closing comments to all those alumni who attended:

*I think that, after a day like today, there are only two things I can say, the first is a heartfelt thank you to all of you for being so honest and so brave. I know that it cannot have been easy for any of you to come back here and be so candid and truthful. I am so grateful to you. So much of what you have said and shared comes from*



*a very different time, a time before legislation and proper guidance on what schools should and shouldn't do in relation to the safety and wellbeing of young people. Even those more recent experiences that have been shared today come from a time before the guidance for schools has, quite rightly, been strengthened and improved. However, even with all the many pages of guidance we are bound by, we try very*

“ **A heartfelt thank you to all of you** ”

*hard not to underestimate the importance of culture. The culture that sits at the heart of a school can easily become corrupted. If schools don't hold onto that central purpose of their existence – to serve young people – then students can rapidly stop being the focus, and then things go wrong, as they did for you all.*

*The only other thing I can, and I feel I must, say, is sorry. I was not here, so my apology cannot be a personal one for my own failings. The school that I now have the privilege to run is a place where I hope that none of the sorts of experiences I have heard today would ever happen, or if they did then we would, I am sure, deal with them properly and appropriately. However, I can say*

*sorry on behalf of the Prior we are now. This apology may not mean very much to you. It isn't an apology that comes from those who should have been serving you all better. It isn't an apology from those people who perpetrated horrible acts. It isn't an apology from those people who should have believed you and who didn't. However, it is an apology on behalf of today's school. It is an apology on behalf of the current headmaster of a school trying to do the right thing to make its current students safe and happy. It is an apology by a father, who would be horrified were he to hear of any of his four children experiencing anything like some of what we have heard today. It is, ultimately an apology from a man who would not ever wish this kind of suffering and heartache on anyone. Sorry, and please believe me when I tell you that we are trying to run a school today that can and will learn from the sort of experiences you have so bravely shared.*

Nowadays, we speak a lot about being a school with love at the centre of all that we do. I very much hope that the fact that we held such a day, the first such day that I have ever heard of in any school, and the manner in which that day was conducted, shows that the love that we hold so dear, is a love that extends to all of our community, including our alumni. Do please come back and see it for yourself when you are next in Bath. We'd love to see you all.



# Reflecting on a year at The Paragon

By Rosie Allen, Head of The Paragon

It has been another year of limitless discovery at The Paragon, with all manner of wonderful experiences and opportunities packed in for the children, and for our wider community. We are certainly a school that does not sit still! Much energy has gone into fostering a real love of reading amongst the children; with a newly refurbished library. With visits from celebrated authors Katherine Rundell and Emma Carroll and a new whole school Guided Reading curriculum in place, the children have enjoyed, and benefitted from, being immersed in books and all things literary.

Co-curricular life is as vibrant as ever. Over the course of the year, several concerts were held for parents, including a spring concert, a drumming concert, an arts showcase, an end of year concert at Prior Park College and a 'picnic prom' on the last day of term, in celebration of Year 6. Our Samba band busked in town at Christmas time to raise funds for the Rotary Club and we sang carols at a retirement home.

All year groups continue to produce an excellent level of artwork, sewing and pottery



“Plenty of exciting and vibrant learning”

projects which are displayed around the school. Eight pupils' paintings were donated in frames to the RUH for display, and the exhibition curators are making prints from the paintings to sell to raise money.

A full return to the playing fields saw lots of competitive and friendly matches. Of note: Paragon playing Millfield Prep in the semi finals of the U11 A Somerset Cricket Cup in

May, Year 5 playing rugby at Twickenham in November, the U10A rugby team unbeaten at Queen's College Festival in Taunton in November, Year 5&6 girls playing rugby with Bristol Bears captain and England player Amber Reed and weekly swimming lessons for Reception to Year 4. We hosted an afternoon with Tom de Glanville (alumnus) and Year 6 spent an afternoon at Bath University taking part in an Olympic activities event.

As well as plenty of exciting and vibrant learning, we have also fitted in two school plays, three major concerts, multiple school trips and three residential for our older children.

We are also delighted to now be casting our net a little wider in terms of our historic school community. June saw our first Paragon alumni evening, with 16 former pupils in attendance. There was certainly an appetite for this becoming a bigger event in future years with a collaboration between Prior and Paragon planned to contact pupils who may like to attend. Do get in touch with our alumni relations team if you would like to be included! We are always happy to welcome former pupils and parents to our happy, thriving school.







# What we did last ~~summer~~ pandemic... or ten lessons we learned during lockdown (and might have forgotten)

By Peter Watts, Head of Gibraltar School

We have all lived through *unprecedented* times since February 2020. PPE, 'bubbles', washing to 'Happy Birthday', shielding, self-isolation, contact-tracing, herd immunity, booster, close contact, epidemiologist – we all learned the new vocabulary together. And whilst in mid-2022 we might all want to leave behind and forget these terms, burying them in a Covid-19 capsule (which we will do for real this year in the school garden), my view is that we all learned some things during the lockdowns which we could do with remembering now we are back in the 'new normal'.

So, my top ten:

## 1. Being human needs human beings

For all that other people can be annoying sometimes, we have evolved to live 'in community'. And for our community to thrive then we would do well to be inclusive rather than excluding, to be generous rather than judgmental, and to remember the power of a smile, a greeting or a kind word or deed.

## 2. Family and friends first, especially the furry kind

Most annoying of all sometimes can be family, and friends, but most of us would choose to put them first, and lockdown reminded us all of how much better we are when we are around the people who bring out the best in us. It goes without saying that a (hu)man's best friend is a dog. Sadly, some in the UK seem to have forgotten this, and that 'a dog is for life, and not just for COVID'.

## 3. Technology can be crucial as well as cruel

Much-maligned platforms proved essential for distant family and friends to see and talk to each other. TikTok brought hilarity and entertainment to those stuck indoors and brought out the creative performer in many. And where would the school be without



Microsoft Teams (...umm, closed down is possibly the answer!)

## 4. Board games aren't boring

Film and TV production dried up during the lockdowns forcing families to choose different forms of entertainment – sales of board games rocketed.

Many turned their hand to new hobbies and interests given how much more free time they had. Home baking and bread-making saw supermarkets running out of flour ... I even (home-)made tagliatelle for the first (and, probably, last) time ... and Wordle was born.

## 5. Heroes wear gowns not capes

While the world hid away, and was told to 'Stay Home, Stay Safe', around the world, often with little or no PPE, nurses, doctors, porters, caterers, receptionists, ambulance drivers and administrators kept hospitals and care homes open. Next time we are tempted to moan about the GHA or the NHS, because we have to wait, we might remember why we choose to clap them at eight in the evening.

## 6. Key workers are... key

Bread flour, Scrabble sets and more essential items all needed delivery drivers and warehouse workers; the roads still needed cleaning, the emergency and armed forces kept working to keep us safe and the power station still needed to provide us with (even more) electricity – all that home-baking! Home-working became the normal, and

whilst for many this was a welcome change – others struggled to juggle work commitments and their family life in the same space.

## 7. Exercise is essential, especially when external

Joe Wicks, Peloton, Apple Fitness – homes became the new gym ... but more people realised the health benefits of exercising outside and walking for pleasure rather than under pressure to get somewhere. Gibraltar's Sir Herbert Miles Road became busier than Main Street.

## 8. Wanderlust is wonderful

How we missed holidays and travel. Even though we know how much easier the planet breathed, we missed visiting other parts of our planet.

## 9. Priorities need proving

Working and learning from home ... more relaxed dress codes for school and work ... examinations just cancelled ... schedules slashed ... Many of us had more time, had less to do, were less busy (gown-wearers and key-workers aside) and during lockdown we were all forced, sometimes very painfully (through separation and grief) to re-evaluate our lives and what the real priorities in life are.

## 10. ...does anyone know what day it is?

So, do I miss Covid? Of course not – the 'bubbles' and masks in school really made me question whether that was an education worth having. The worry for loved ones, the separation, the restrictions on gathering for life events like funerals, the vitriol on-line, having to trust the un-trustworthy and seeing science sometimes blamed for everything all belong to a time I will be glad to forget. But, will I ever see a fox roaming the streets of the Upper Town again ... will the night ever seem as quiet and calm, without the buzz of scooters or throb of ship's engines ... probably not. One thing is for sure though, I won't be making tagliatelle from scratch any time soon.



# 2020 Welcome Back Reunion

By Archie Dutton



Imogen Hurst, Wiktoria Fabian,  
Jenna Fleming



Jenna Fleming



Anastasia Carruthers,  
Wiktoria Fabian



Luke Singleton, Joe McMurtry, Nuno Sinde,  
Joe Wallace, Kiran Litt, Alex Veitch

“ It was just generally great to see so many familiar faces ”

It was brilliant to get together with the Class of 2020 again. Due to Covid, we didn't have a formal leaving party and it was so nice to see some old faces that we did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to. It was great to see how everyone has got on since we left school and what universities and paths everyone has taken. Prior put on a BBQ with drinks for all of us, and it was a great afternoon to watch the cricket.

Seeing some of our old teachers was also lovely and a real surprise and it was just generally great to see so many familiar faces. The sun shone and the BBQ and drinks went down very well!! I am sure I am not the only one who is really looking forward to the five-year reunion in



Jemima Thursz, Charlie Mullin





# 2017 5-Year Reunion

By Olivia Matthews



Renee Jonkhoff, Alice Perkins, George Hiscock



Hannah Rokkas, Kate Mosely, Izzy Cunneen, Meg Clayton-Smith, Alice Perkins and Renee Jonkhoff



Izzy Pollock, Ruby McCurdie

“ We laughed, drank and sang together just like old times ”

The Class of 2017 gathered in the Mansion in September to celebrate our five-year reunion, and it was a wonderful evening. Being back on the portico steps it was hard to decide whether our time at Prior felt as though it had been a lifetime ago, or that we had only just left the gates. However, as we once again looked at that view what was clear to us all was how lucky we were to have experienced life at Prior at all. It was so lovely to be reunited. Most of us have spent the last five years dotted across the UK, or in fact the world! There have been travels and charity work, university degrees, placement years and the beginning of many new careers. Despite the distance and restrictions,

it was amazing to see how easily we all fell back together. We laughed, drank, and sang together just like old times as we reminisced over Prior memorabilia and old yearbooks. The night continued down into town and, in Class of 2017 style, ended in Komedia (which we were pleased to learn had made very few edits to their playlist over the last five years).

With one of the largest turnouts for a Five-Year Reunion ever, we felt lucky to all have been able to share such a wonderful experience, both on this September evening and during our time at Prior. Thank you to the Class of 2017 for making it such a brilliant night. Looking forward to 2027!



# 2012 10-Year Reunion

By Joe Barron-Snowdon



“ It was a good laugh and heartwarming at times to reminisce ”

It was a lovely sunny day. We met on the cricket field to enjoy some refreshments under the shade of a marquee and enjoyed an alumni cricket match, although there was far too much to talk about to really pay attention to the match.

It was so nice to see familiar faces and any pre-event nerves about seeing one another soon vanished. It was lovely to hear one another's news and see each other again.

A few of us went off in small groups to do an informal tour of the college and it was interesting to see the various changes to buildings

and to share the memories that walking around the corridors brought back. It was a good laugh and heartwarming at times to reminisce. Although this reunion was less well attended than our 5-year reunion and there was a sadness not to see more of our lovely year group, it was such a wonderful and uplifting day overall and there was something nice about the intimacy of a small group where you had fewer conversations but more substantial ones. Thank you to Esther Scriven for organising it!





# 2002 20-Year Reunion

By Kate Fauset

“ I did still feel like a naughty teenager drinking on the school premises ”



Foreground: Jessi Baker, Emelia Lascelles, Clare Over, Tom Colla, Tom Fitzcharles, Ed Pascal. Background: Angela Vick, Kate Freeman, Louise Papadopoulos, Sarah Crone, Paddy Herrlinger, Lily House, Charlie Hare, TD Van Der Beek



Kate Freeman (nee Munton), Marina Mizuno, Sarah Crone (nee Jenkins)



Sarah Pritchard (nee Guy), Clare Blathwayt, TD Van Der Beek



Tom Fitzcharles, left and Ed Pascal, right (foreground), Paddy Herrlinger, left and Tom Eastgate (middle at the back)

Walking back through the Mansion, it honestly felt like I was going back 20 years! Opening the doors onto the steps and looking down towards the Palladian Bridge, I had forgotten just how beautiful our school is. Beating that view however, was seeing the smiling faces of my 2002 year group as well as being met with a glass of wine! At the tender age of 38, I did still feel like a naughty teenager drinking on the school premises though...

Turns out no one (in my eyes) had changed a bit. Within one minute of arrival we were reminiscing about the good old days and giggling on the Mansion steps. It was all about swapping stories and memories and comparing notes on what family life looks like for us all now. It really

did highlight how much fun we had had at school (as well as learning lots too!), and what a genuinely lovely bunch of people I got to hang out with every day!

The day continued for some of us down at a pub (or two...) followed by a late-night curry in sunny, central Bath. There were a few faces who wanted to come but couldn't make it, and they were very much missed. But that meant we all committed to meeting up between now and the next official reunion, and there's even a new WhatsApp group to hold us to it!

To those who did attend, thank you for the many laughs, it was so lovely to see you all.





# 1992 30-Year Reunion

By David Gibney



L to R Chris Donnelly, John Harcourt, Emily Wilford, Kasia Nesbitt (nee Mill), David Gibney



“ Our lives are all quite different but our time at Prior is the common thread ”

The 30th anniversary gathering of the Class of 92 mustered comfortably fewer attendees than our previous reunion in 2012, but a great afternoon was had by all five of us (quality over quantity!).

I had signed up to play in the cricket (for the 'old' Old Boys naturally) - a fantastic event in perfect sunshine - and I was able to join the 1992 crowd around a picnic rug on the boundary while the college played the younger alumni in mid-afternoon.

We had a brilliant time catching up. Amongst many laughs and a few glasses of wine, the subjects of conversation included the perils of getting older, the pubs of Hinton Charterhouse, Morris dancing on Reigate common, celebrity alumni siblings and the less glamorous side of being a GP. Inevitably though the most fun was had remembering

our school days - the many stories, some old but timeless, others heard for the first time, our favourite (or otherwise) teachers, Prior's less vaunted facilities of the 1980s, school sport (either a life opportunity or a curse depending on your viewpoint!) and tales of illicit drinking (not me obviously) and illicit liaisons (also not me!!).

Our lives are all quite different, but our time at Prior is the common thread and even having not met up for 10 years it was as easy as anything, reminisce and enjoy good company.

As I headed off to play the final cricket match of the afternoon our group went its separate ways, with a vow not to leave it another 10 years. We may not keep to that vow, but I hope it will be as much fun whenever we do next meet!





# 1982 40-Year Reunion

By Tony Jiggins

“ People don't really change! ”



L to R: Abass Arole, Chris Mizzi, Adewale Onabanjo, Darren Crawford



L to R: Alexander Atkinson, Roderich Pilars de Pilar, Rafael Cabezas, Tony Jiggins, Greg Whatley, Emilio Nella, Paul Wolstencroft, Tim Lamey

We were the so called 'lost years' at Prior who went through the difficulties of Prior transitioning from the Christian Brothers to a lay team, and this seems to have created quite a bond over three or four year groups that has been maintained to date. We had returners from Malta, Gibraltar, Spain, Germany and Jordan so we made a weekend of it, meeting up on Friday and seeing each other off slightly jaded on Sunday! Unfortunately, we had a few drop out at the last minute due to covid, train strikes or health matters, but God willing there's next year!

The day started with a very fitting **Andy Owen** Memorial Mass in the morning, followed afterwards by three very impressive medal winners in what we remember to be the Brothers Chapel. The lunch was exceptional this year and with great weather, a reminisce around the ground, followed by rugby made for a great afternoon.

A few messages from some of the group who came back:

*Great day with excellent lunch and drinks meeting up with people not kept in touch with for 43 years. Some of the lads I had grown up with since*

*Cricklade 48 years ago! School has changed quite a bit in the 42 years since I left but so much better now. **Emilio Nella** (PPA 1982)*

*It was great to see everyone, especially those who made the effort to come from abroad, **Kameel Saliba** from Jordan, **Chris Mizzi** from Malta, **Rod Pilars** from Germany, and myself from Spain, but it was really worth the effort. Talking with everyone was just like I was back in 1982 again! People don't really change! It would be nice if people see this and share contacts of others who have lost touch and motivate them to come back again. It really is worth it. It's not just the Mansion Lunch, but a whole weekend back in Bath with friends for dinner, lunch, seeing the sights again. Next year maybe a football match – it's **Tim Lamey's** idea – blame him! **Rafa Cabezas** (PPA 1982)*

*As a gatecrasher to the class of 82 reunion, I fortuitously had the best reunion I have attended since leaving Prior. It was great to see PPC legends like Jiggins, Lamey, Ghaidan, Sewell and Nella who were all in customary good form. RIP Andy Owen. **Abass Arole** (PPA 1984)*



# “Toffee” Tribute

By Terry Ilott (PPA 1968)

Saturday, June 11th, saw a flock of PPAs descend on The Mansion for the unveiling of a portrait bust of former teacher Ronald “Toffee” Palmer. Toffee, who was head of art and director of music from 1955 to 1975, had a big impact on many boys from that era. One of them, Madrid-based sculptor **Gonzalo Sanchez Mendizabal** (PPA 1972), decided that he would like to honour his old teacher by creating a portrait bust. Funds were raised from alumni not just to create and cast the bronze bust, but to transport it to the UK and install it on a pedestal in the Academy Hall. The day began with drinks in the Mansion, followed by lunch on the lawn. Guests then

gathered in the Academy Hall to hear an introduction by Emma-Lou Goymer, who read out a letter from Toffee’s son, Jonathan. This was followed by speeches from PPA president **Simon Morgan** (PPA 1975) and Toffee protégé **Terry Ilott**, who along with a handful of others from the class of 68, opted for art college on leaving school. A video was screened in which Gonzalo, who could not attend in person, explained the inspiration behind the initiative and talked the audience through a very interesting demonstration of the process of clay modelling and casting in bronze. After the video, headmaster Ben Horan made the closing remarks. It was an uplifting and spirited occasion, and it provided a fitting tribute to Mr Palmer. Those attending included

**Chris Lennon** (PPA 1964), **Tim Heining** (PPA 1968), **Geoff Cardozo** (PPA 1968), **John Evans** (PPA 1968), **Charlie Murray** (PPA 1968), **Rory Keegan** (PPA 1967), **Dominic Eedle** (PPA 1970), **Simon Morgan** (PPA 1975), **Niall Aston** (PPA 1969), **Simon Beck** (PPA 1970), **Jeremy Gilmer** (PPA 1970), **Adrian Good** (PPA 1971), **Brian Wake** (PPA 1972), **Terry Ilott** and **Chris Cutcliffe** (PPA 1968). A video of the event, produced by **Will Lee** (PPA 1970), was posted on social media.

**Neville Dyke** and **Malcolm Milne** both attended as part of the 1972 Reunion.

Headmaster Ben Horan unveils the bust



Jonathan Palmer (PPA 1963) stands in front of the bust of his father



Niall Aston and Terry Ilott (both 1968) talk to Phil Hudson (PPA 1974)





The Toffee Palmer fan club assembled on the Mansion steps



Jeremy Gilmer chats with Geoff Cardozo



Dom Eedle and others admire Gonzo's work



Simon Beck, Dom Eedle and Rory Keegan







# Old Boys' Hockey

By Jack Hannah (PPA 2021)

We were blessed with blue skies and a stunning sunset on the evening of the 11th of February on the Prior Park College Astro as the Old Boys' prepared to take to the field against the 1st XI. There was a chilly wind blowing and the air of expectation was heavy. It had been some time since the Old Boys claimed victory but hope was high!

It wasn't the perfect start however as we were two players down but with the help of the L6 goalie and John Jackson, Ireland international, we were able to field a strong looking team. **Arthur Kettelty** (PPA 2021) started at left back with **Joe Johnson** (PPA 2021) on the opposite side on the right flank. Holding the middle of the defence was **David Gibney** (PPA 1992), lending his much-needed experience, and **Freddie Osborne** (PPA 2021); both were solid at the back. In the midfield we had **Adam Wortlehock** (PPA 2020) holding the middle with **John Jackson** on his left and **Raph Watson** (PPA 2018) on his right. Up front at striker we had **Justin Avenell** (PPA 2018) alongside **Dylan Bunn** (PPA 2018) on the left and **Jack Hannah** (PPA 2021) on the right.

The fitness of the 1st XI was evident from the outset as was the crispness of their passing and teamwork. The Old Boys' were soon

struggling with the pace of the game, and the lack of subs meant that by half time we were beginning to slow down! A couple of quick goals from fast breaks caught the Old Boys' out and despite rallying with two goals of their own went on to be beaten 7-2.

The team still did themselves proud and it was a great occasion to be able to catch up and share stories from old Prior days. Honourable mentions should go to **Joe Johnson** for scoring an absolute peach of a goal from the edge of the D drilled into

the bottom left corner, **Arthur Kettelty** for a strong display and to **David Gibney** who proved to be a rock at the back and saved the scoreline from being far worse! A special mention should also go to **Jack Bunn** (PPA 2018) and **Malcolm Bond** (PPA 1995) for being fantastic referees and lending the occasional helping hand!

We hope many more of you will sign up for next year to give the current students more of a run for their money. Save the date **Saturday 7th January 2023**.





# Alumnae Hockey



Above: Amelia Owen (PPA 2022), Olivia Owen (PPA 2022), Louise Cattanach (PPA 2022), Libby Blane (PPA 2022), Charlotte Robinson (PPA 2016), Eliza Matthews (PPA 2016), Katie Marden (PPA 2022) and Harriet Haynes (PPA 2015)

By Eliza Matthews (PPA 2016)

The 10th of September was a lovely sunny day for the annual alumni girls hockey match. With only eight alumni players making the fixture, our heads were held high as we arrived at the pitch. Borrowing a few school substitutes to make up our number and after a minute's silence for The Queen, Mr Bond (PPA 1995) blew the whistle to get us underway.

Despite the alumni team coming from a wide range of past year groups and never having played together, we took early possession with much of the play in the school half. There were wonderful link ups between midfielders Katie Marden and Louise Cattanach, with excellent support from Libby Blane racing up the line. Harriet Haynes was calm and collected in defence, even with tired legs from her earlier game for Bath Buccs. Olivia and Amelia Owens both worked tirelessly throughout the game and a special mention has to go to Charlotte Robinson, who despite not having played hockey for three years, quickly rediscovered her past form and went on to score a hat trick.

The final score was a close 3-2 to the alumnae team and we celebrated in the Bury Sports Centre afterwards with pasties and a well-deserved beer.







# Alumnae vs College Netball Showdown

By Fi Rae (PPA 2009)

After a big 2020 for the alumnae netball team, we were gutted to miss out on a fiery grudge match in 2021. However, the two-year break gave us plenty of time to build up our championship team for the big 2022 rematch.

We started the day supporting the alumni boys hockey. Although the alumni score didn't reach dizzying heights, spirits were sky high and the team put up an incredible, nail-biting effort against a finely honed school side.

Keen to rebalance the scales and get a victory on the board for the alumnae side, the netball team decided that a proper warm up might be required and scurried over to the sports hall. We had our first ever parent, Louise Heren who was fearless against the college's unrelenting attack and led the charge in our

comeback. Some key defensive blocks from **Alys Redman** (PPA 2021), combined with the height and enthusiasm of **Chantal Hopper** (PPA 1999) turned the tide for the alumnae side and half time saw the two teams neck and neck.

“Going into the last quarter, we were feeling the burn”

Fuelled with the nostalgic orange slices, the ever-consistent **Emma Russell** (PPA 2012) dominated the middle of the court. Before long, we were maintaining possession and, with the usual standout performance from **Anne-Marie Layet** (PPA 1993), we were sinking baskets all over the circle and we had maintained our momentum in the third quarter.

Going into the last quarter, we were feeling the burn but, thankfully, **Amelia Layet** had mounds of energy and was fierce competition for the sprightly opposition. There was also some beautiful, calm and collected offence from my long-suffering sibling, **Heather Rae** (PPA 2012), which kept us in the game. However, we couldn't quite overcome the school's consistency and, at the close of the match, we managed to hold onto a respectable second place finish. A deserved win for the sharp and speedy school team. But, with a lot of the 1st VII in their final year(s) and looking to transfer to the alumni team, it'll be all to play for in 2023!

If anyone is interested in joining the alumni netball team, please get in touch with Fi Rae on [fionarae@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fionarae@hotmail.co.uk) / 07747 604 558.

Save the date **Saturday 7th January 2023**







# Alumni XI vs College XI Cricket match



By Harry Elias (PPA 2003)

It was with a light heart and a skip in my step that I arrived at College for the return of the much-loved cricket fixture. With the weather set fair and a large number of alumni lined up to once again don the whites, we were on for a cricketing feast! The numbers involved meant that the 'timed-match' format was scrapped 48 hours before the fixture in favour of a three team, 16-over per side tournament.

“ I am convinced that next year it will finally be the Alumni who turn out victorious ”

The first match was the College XI vs the 'old' alumni followed by the 'young' alumni, with the last match of the day to be contested by the two alumni sides. As in 2019, it came down to the very last over to decide who would take the spoils. The college emerged victorious after dispatching the first ball of the last over to the long on boundary for four. The second fixture between the 'young' alumni and the college XI was characterised by some aggressive free-flowing batting by the college followed by some tight bowling making it very difficult for us to get into any



David Gibney (PPA 1992)



Charlie O'Brien (PPA 1994) and Tom Simcox (PPA 2003)

kind of rhythm with the bat, resulting in a relatively comfortable win for the college.



Adam Wortelhock (PPA 2020)

After the BBQ, the Akers-Haddon Cricket Shield was presented to the college skipper and the students were given the opportunity to head home and revise/catch up on homework. Needless to say, many stayed on to watch the final and indeed to prop up the ailing alumni teams. After a hard-fought, quick scoring fixture, the 'old' alumni turned out eventual winners and a fabulous day of cricket came to an end.

A huge thank you to all those who turned up to play. I look forward to seeing many of you again next year, along with friends and fellow alumni who were unable to make it this year and hopefully many new faces. I am convinced that next year it will finally be the alumni who turn out victorious.

Save the date Sunday 11th June 2023.





# A Day in the Life of the Prior Park College Stonemason

By Emma-Louise Goymer

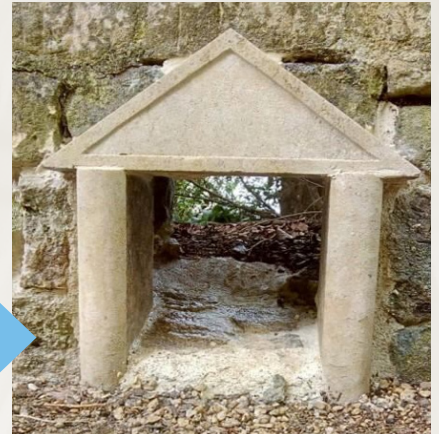
I was inspired to write an article about Fee our stonemason because of the wonderful badger/hedgehog corridor which she created in the Palladian style.

Fee has a degree in product design from the Netherlands where she worked as an Atelier for a well-known Dutch artist casting statues in bronze. On returning to the UK, she decided to study masonry at Bath College and then worked on various projects, from repointing the cellars

of Bath Abbey to repairs at the Jewish Burial Ground, Combe Down.

Fee describes her role as extremely varied. She tends to work on lots of distinct parts of the school in the same week, not just on one particular section until it has been completed.

Can you guess where this is? Answer on page 43.



“It is a privilege to work here,  
you can touch the history”







One of the jobs which Fee has completed is repair to the Baines roof. You can see the difference between the two photos and once the repairs have weathered, they will blend in beautifully.



BEFORE



AFTER

Over the winter, Fee is going to carve new mullion windows for the chapel where the stone is disintegrating. This will involve taking the glass out and sawing through the good stone and removing and replacing the bad. Fee loves carving and is really looking forward to doing this in the winter.



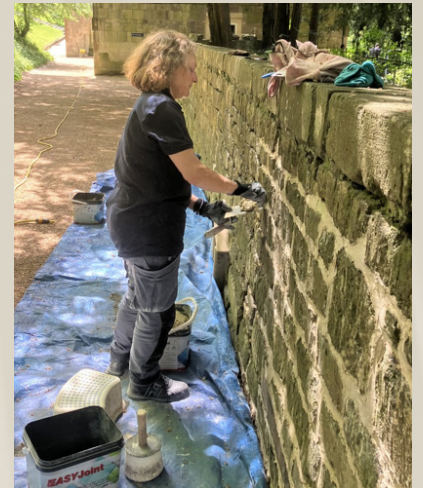
“ Repair and replace as little as possible ”



In assessing the priorities for work, Fee has established the jobs with urgent need. The Mansion steps are at the forefront as they are an iconic part of the college.

## Fee at work

There is little waste as all the dust created from cutting the stone is put into repointing material. Interestingly the mix which Fee makes of stone dust, lime and sharp sand traps carbon dioxide even when it is dry.



It is a slow process keeping a building like the college going and Fee wants to do the job properly rather than cutting corners. While this takes more time, it is better for the building and posterity.







# PPA Medal Ceremony...

## Andy Owen PPA 1957

Andy Owen, who died earlier this year, was a member of the PPA committee for more than 40 years. He was one of the small group of alumni who fought hard to keep the college open after the departure of the Christian Brothers. He served as both treasurer and president of the PPA and as a governor of the school. For his lifetime of service to the college, he was awarded a posthumous PPA Medal.



the PPA made a gigantic leap into the 21st century.

"Andy was a lovely man who devoted so much of his time for the benefit of others and who had a genuine love for Prior Park. A true gentleman but also very much a gentle man."



Andy's wife, Liz, accepting the medal on his behalf, gave a lovely speech about how much the college meant to Andy and how she herself felt like an alumna as she spent so much time here. Thanks to the generosity of Peter Scott (a former head boy), a plaque will be placed in the Errington Corridor in Andy's memory.

At Andy's memorial service, Peter Hilton said: "Andy loved the college... He had a very open unassuming and gentle way of communicating and this meant that he made friends very easily, friends of all ages no matter what their background. When we were trying to trace a certain someone and were getting nowhere, the conversation would inevitably end with the expression 'Andy's bound to know him'. At the same time, mention of his name to former pupils - many much younger than him - would often be greeted with 'Oh yes, I know him, he's a nice guy'.

"However, Andy did also have some faults, namely punctuality. He always planned to be on time for meetings, but the journey between the car park and the meeting room meant the strong possibility of encountering someone he knew. This of course led to the obligatory chat, fuelled by a dose of the Owen charm.

"Many years ago, we were having difficulties persuading the bursar to part with funds to pay for a computerised system for the PPA - to replace the ancient card index system. Andy sprang into action and organised a discreet lunch for the two of us with the chairman of governors where we pleaded our case. Shortly afterwards, with the additional intervention of the headmaster, we secured our funding and

## Dr Peter Coates PPA 1968

Throughout Peter's life, both as a doctor and in his charitable work, he has tried to help others and to improve the lives of those less fortunate. He was given the PPA Lifetime Award in recognition of his service.

Peter, a consultant haematologist since 1988, started his career at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn. There, his improvements to the education and development of junior doctors and his focus on the re-engineering of medical systems and procedures, were undertaken with the greater comfort and wellbeing of patients in mind.

Peter has also managed to participate in a variety of outside activities, several involving charities run by or through the Catholic Church. He has long been an active volunteer at the Norwich Prison and Kings Lynn Hospital chaplaincies. As secretary of Churches Together, he is actively involved in food banks and night shelters for the homeless. He has encouraged dialogue between churches in charitable pursuits, and he has lobbied the government on behalf of those in poverty through the charity CAFOD. Peter is also a trustee of a hospice providing end of life care.







# three lives of service

## Dr Bobojon Nazarov PPA 2003

Bobojon joined the Prior Park boarding community as a boy with very little English. But this didn't hold him back. From the outset, his determination, sincerity and great sense of humour shone through. He performed well in many spheres, especially in his academic studies and on the sports field, where he proved to be a tenacious rugby forward. He was fully committed to Roche House, and he was an excellent role model and very popular amongst his peers. In his final year, he became head of house. His excellent



leadership, spirit and hard work meant the house went from strength to strength.

Having left Prior, Bobojon went initially to Bristol University, where he studied biomedical sciences, before completing an MSc in finance. Then he went to Oxford to study for an MSc in pharmacology, followed by a PhD in systems approaches to biomedical sciences. He completed his education with an MBA at Said Business School, where he was a Pershing Square scholar.

When the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, Bobojon was immediately inspired to start researching the pathway of the virus. Within two months, he entered clinical trials to test two drugs that could be used as treatment. Bobojon is the founder and CEO of Latus Therapeutics, an oncology research and experimental development biotech company that, in response to the pandemic, refocused

its efforts as a not-for-profit initiative to find a treatment for Covid-19.

Bobojon is now working on fundraising for the oncology programme. His other initiatives range from human and pet health diagnostics to electric vehicle charging. He was awarded the PPA Inspirational Medal in recognition of his achievements.

There are two awards: one, a lifetime achievement award and the other for those who through some extraordinary deed or accomplishment have become an inspiration to us all.

*Please send any nominations for next year's PPA Medal to Emma-Louise Goymer [elgoymer@priorparkschools.com](mailto:elgoymer@priorparkschools.com). Many thanks.*







## Old friendships rekindled...

By Simon Morgan (PPA 1975)

The 2022 Mansion Lunch took place in the Academy Hall on Saturday 1 October and, after the great success of last year's event, there were concerns as to whether it would be as memorable. Fortunately, such concerns were short lived, and the day passed off with its usual mix of joy, sadness and reflection. As well as the more senior alumni we were delighted to welcome Class of 1982, who were here on their 40th anniversary reunion.

Events commenced with Mass in the Chapel for the repose of the soul of long standing PPA member and president **Andy Owen** (PPA 1957). We were delighted to welcome his widow Liz and other members of his family and friends to the Mass and afterwards to the lunch. The Mass was celebrated by alumnus



### “ Memories revived ”

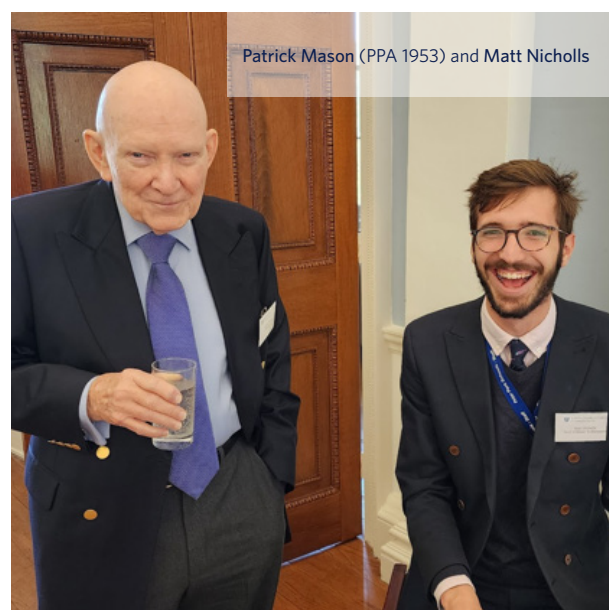
**Father Dan Mason** (PPA 1993). **Peter Hilton** (PPA 1962) delivered an affectionate and deeply felt eulogy which neatly captured the mischievous sense of humour that Andy will be remembered for. After Mass we moved

to the John Wood Chapel where the Prior Park Association medals were presented. Details of the recipients are given elsewhere in the magazine. Then, briefly pausing for the obligatory photograph, we moved upstairs for lunch and a well-deserved drink.

As ever old friendships were rekindled, memories revived and even some new friends made. Current headmaster Ben Horan

gave us a very encouraging description of the college's current position and, after a litany of those who left us in the past year, it was once again time for the lusty rendition of 'Deo Duce, Deo Luce.'

Next Year's lunch will be on **Saturday 7th October 2023**. Put it in the diary now! See you there!







# ... and even some new friends made



Simon Beck (PPA 1969), Phil Hamerton (PPA 1968), Margaret Hamerton, Chris Cutcliffe (PPA 1968), Neville Dyke (PPA 1972), Patrick Curran (PPA 1968), Tim Heining (PPA 1968)



Terry Richards (PPA 1959), Ben Horan, Bobojon Nazarov (PPA 2003), Geoff Ferriera (PPA 1964) Dee Miller



Jane Coates, Peter Coates (PPA 1968), Patrick Mason (PPA 1953), Peter Hilton (PPA 1962), Ian Haddon (PPA 1962)





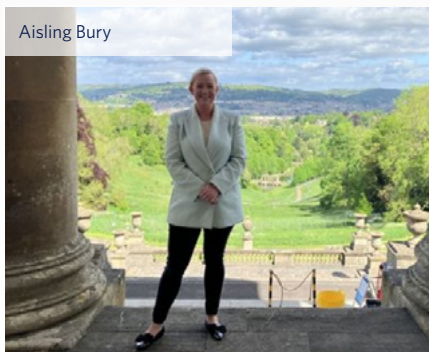
# Giving back

**Luke Price** (PPA 1989) visited the college from the Royal Opera House. He gave a masterclass to a number of the college vocalists and also spoke to the music scholars about his career in opera. It was a lovely afternoon with some beautiful singing and some great tips for the students.



Luke Price

**Aisling Bury** (PPA 2012) gave a lively talk to the sixth form about the hospitality industry and her career path. There was much laughter at the funny stories and we all came away with a very positive image of the industry. We also now know what not to do as customers!



Aisling Bury

**Dr Julie McEnery** (PPA 1989) has worked for a number of years in the field of high energy gamma-ray astrophysics and is the project scientist for the Fermi gamma-ray space telescope. She came back to the college to talk to the students and alumni, parents and local astronomers about 'exploring the extreme universe.' She presented us with mind-blowing facts about how the galaxy can be seen using Fermi, which she designed, built and sent into space. We had a real sense of the painstaking testing and retesting and the process of creating an instrument which would show us another way of looking at the stars. Julie explained some of the complicated physics behind looking at the universe through gamma rays and the unexpected discoveries she encountered. One of these is two enormous 'bubbles' each the size of the Earth which are in our galaxy, but which can't be seen using the naked eye through a telescope. They can only be seen using gamma rays. Julie said it was the most exciting discovery of her life and she wonders what else there is out there, waiting for us to discover it!

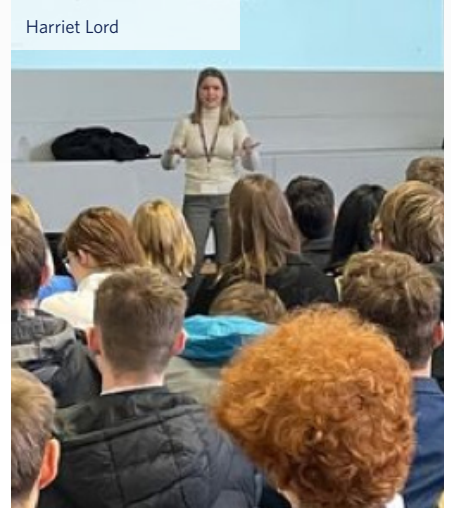
**Kieran Kelly** (PPA 2015) spoke to the sixth form about Oddballs the foundation he runs raising awareness about testicular cancer. He explained that testicular cancer can occur at any age and showed the technique for checking yourself. His relaxed and jovial style meant that all embarrassment disappeared, and the students left the chapel much better informed.



Kieran Kelly

**Katherine Upton** (PPA 2002) joined sixth form general studies lesson virtually from Toronto, Canada where she is working in marketing and advertising. Kat wanted to talk to the students about life not necessarily going the way you expect but that can be a good thing. Her message was to embrace the changes and see where they lead you – very good advice!

**Harriet Lord** (PPA 2015) spoke to the students earlier this year about a topic she has become more and more passionate about over the last few years - the importance of feminism



Harriet Lord

today. 'I think it's so vital that this age group, before entering either higher education, independent living and/or the working world, are informed about this issue so that they can be a part of the change we need to see, to enable the safety, health and happiness of all genders (but in this case women in particular) in our society.' During the lesson, Harriet discussed a range of topics relevant to feminism including impacts of the media, body image and beauty standards, toxic masculinity, power and control, unconscious bias, and intersectional feminism, and ended with some key action points for everyone to take away. 'I was so impressed with the level of engagement and the questions asked that demonstrated a genuine interest and desire to know more, or even understand some of their own conditioning (something we're all impacted by!).'





Graham Patterson



Rona Strawbridge



Kate O'Hara-Hatchley



Sam Hill

**Graham Paterson** (PPA 2006) came in to speak to both the sixth form and the U6 ICT students giving them some extremely useful advice on how to improve the apps they were designing. Graham works in venture capital investing, using his experience from Deliveroo and TransferWise to find the next European success story. He also works as an advisor to a number of tech startups, and if all goes well is soon to launch his own.

**Benedict Hastings** (PPA 2008) has been working more and more in puppetry recently and is excited to announce that his next role will be as Duggee and The Narrator in the



Dr Julie McNery



Ben Hastings

brand-new stage adaptation of Hey Duggee! A goal of his is to expand into puppetry on TV and film sets, enacting monsters and creatures on shows like Game of Thrones or getting involved in a Marvel franchise. He has always learned to expect the unexpected in this career, so who knows what's around the corner?

**Matthew Tobin** (PPA 1991) and **Matthew Mortimer** (PPA 2014) spoke to the sixth form at Inspire Day. They talked about not knowing which route to take when they were at Prior and then deciding to study law and what that means as a career.

**Dr Rona Strawbridge** (PPA 2000) came to talk to Med Soc about medical genetics research, academia and her career path recently. She is currently a researcher at the University of Glasgow using genetic data to try to understand the biological link between mental illness and obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Ultimately, if the mechanism can be identified, it could be possible to repurpose some of the medications available for diabetes and heart disease, to improve symptoms of mental illness and prevent or delay onset of physical conditions.



Katy Blane



Matthew Tobin and Matthew Mortimer

**Kate O'Hara-Hatchley** (PPA 2009) works at McLaren Racing as their Head of Diversity, Early Careers and Development. In her role she is responsible for the recruitment, development, engagement and wellbeing of the business and is particularly passionate about diversifying the talent pool entering the sport. She recently came back to the college to share more about her career and route into motorsport, as well as giving pupils an insight into the exciting career opportunities within the industry.

**Katy Blane** (PPA 2017) came in to talk to the sixth form textiles students about her experience and in particular her role at Ralph Lauren.

**Sam Hill** (PPA 1999) spoke to the sixth form about 'Bringing the City to Life' and 'What is the Bond Market' both extremely topical subjects. Sam spoke in such a way that none were left behind and his examples made quite complex topics very clear. There were a lot of questions at the end and a few students are now thinking about careers in finance who were not before.

# Thank you





# Good Luck to all

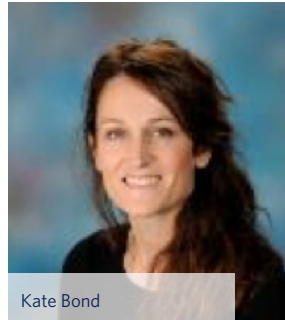
**Dr Graham Smith** taught chemistry at Prior for 24 years as well as 14 years as Clifford housemaster. He supported a number of trips to Berlin, The Battlefields, New York, and numerous geography field trips. On the sports field he supported and led teams in hockey, cricket, rugby and football. He 'performed' in two band nights and many science fair chemistry shows – he still has his toga, "just in case". Graham is a true and loyal friend to many staff. Throughout his time at Prior, he has shown himself to be a man of great moral authority and has helped instill a proper sense of right and wrong in so many students. Graham has been an outstanding chemistry teacher, bringing theatre to his lessons and leaving his students with confidence in ideas and the ability to think and problem solve for themselves. While his house assemblies may be the stuff of legend with students, staff may remember him better as the crossword guru, his love of jigsaws, or having an unsurpassable Candy Crush score. He will be much missed at Prior.

**Kate Bond** leaves PPC after 20 years' outstanding service to design, technology and visual arts. Initially a teacher of resistant materials, Kate gravitated towards her love for textile design by founding a textiles department, and over the last decade, enriched by her Master's level studies, textiles has flourished. Kate oversaw the move to St Peter's and her aspirational approach has created a subject boasting facilities and teaching of the highest calibre. Many of Kate's students have progressed to prestigious courses and careers and they hold her in great affection. For some years, Kate has been building her own Biophilic Design Studio which has gone from strength to strength. As she leaves to devote herself to this full-time, we wish her every success and offer much gratitude for all she has given us.

**Paul Hull** joined us from Dean Close School in September 2014 and took up the role director of rugby. Paul was a full-back during his playing days, was capped four times for England during the 1990s and was a one-club man appearing in 289 first team games for Bristol before



Dr Graham Smith



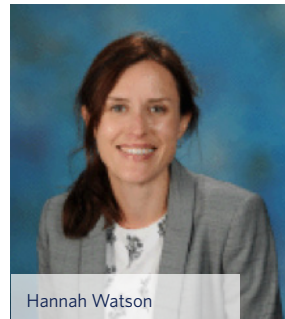
Kate Bond



Paul Hull



John Jackson



Hannah Watson



Lisa Seward

retiring in 1999. He then entered the coaching world where he is one of only a few coaches to achieve Level 5 status. After four years as director of rugby at Prior, Paul was appointed as housemaster of Burton House. During his time in the role Paul had a huge impact on the young men of Burton House. Not only did he transform the look and feel of the house, but he also utilised his experience in professional sport to create a tight team who support and challenge each other to be the best version of themselves. Paul will be missed and we wish him all the very best as he steps out of education to take up an exciting role of head of professional game match officials for the England Rugby Football Union.

**John Jackson** joined Prior Park as head of hockey and has been an integral member of the sports department, not only hockey. John is an outstanding teacher of curriculum PE, a natural when it comes to cricket, and a role model and mentor for our sports scholars. To witness John coaching hockey is a wonder to behold. His passion for his sport is unrivalled. What is most impressive is John's innate ability to get the best out of all the students he works with, whether they have been selected to play for England or

are new to hockey. For John, reaching national competitions has not been a rare occurrence. John has contributed greatly to the wider life at Prior including being a much-loved tutor in Allen House, and a live in boarding tutor. John builds a strong connection with the students he works with and they and staff alike will miss him greatly.

**Hannah Watson** worked part-time at first but latterly became full-time across all the year groups. Her lessons were always meticulously prepared and displayed great imagination and a real sense of joy in learning. Hannah attended many field trips and was very generous with her time away from her family. She was also a great mentor to trainee teachers on placement at PPC, with many future geographers benefitting from her experience. Hannah was a stalwart of Arundell House, with responsibility for the Form 4 girls. Her tutor group were always well cared for with a strong mixture of love, discipline, and encouragement. She also contributed to Duke of Edinburgh and girls' games. While it is sad that Prior Park College and teaching in general are losing a top-rate practitioner and colleague, the legal profession will gain a determined and dynamic professional with an eagle-eye for detail and a clear sense of justice.



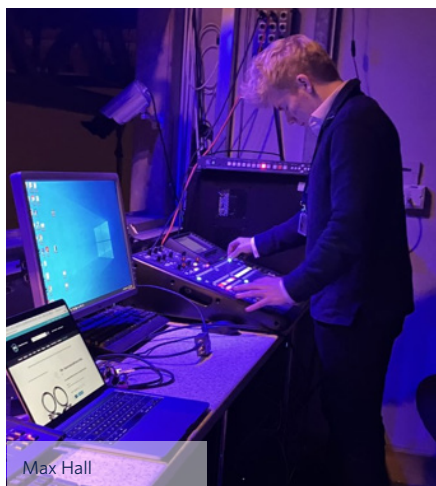


Lisa Seward has had a jam-packed time at Prior. She is a passionate, fun, and thoughtful colleague and PE teacher, taking a lead on the delivery of gymnastics and organising several sports days. Lisa was instrumental in developing the Sports Leaders Award programme, where she established wonderful links with Three Ways School, giving opportunities for our students to work with the students there. Lisa was an incredibly organised and caring housemistress of St Mary's. Many former boarding students would return to visit Prior Park and seek Lisa out with heartfelt thanks. We will miss Lisa's professionalism and great company, and we wish her much success in her new job at Stonar School.



L to R Olivia Matthews, Lindsay Bryant, Helen Goodman, Malcom Bond and Natalie Cordon

## Current Alumni Staff



Max Hall

**Max Hall** (PPA 2020) Having volunteered and contracted for the school as a technician since finishing A levels, he is now officially the new theatre and performing arts technician. His role is primarily focussed on technical operation of the theatre but he works on all aspects of events across the group of schools. He is part-time while also completing his real estate degree at Reading University where he is currently on a year long placement working for Fisher German in their utilities and infrastructure team completing work for clients across the country.

**Malcom Bond** (PPA 1995) is assistant head (co-curricular) responsible for all co-curricular activities in the college including the Saturday Active programme. Malcom is also a member of the sports staff and

coaches and referees all college sports. He is also involved in the Army section of the CFF. Malcom plays an active role in keeping the college going day to day and his dulcet tones can often be heard around the school either chatting to students or 'guiding' them on their behaviour.

**Izzy Burton** (PPA 2005) is assistant head (pupil interventions) primarily responsible for ensuring that students who need extra academic support are identified and given that extra help. She also teaches english and runs the drama club for the L3 and F3s.

**Nat Cordon** (PPA 2008) is assistant head (teaching and learning) responsible for improving the quality of education at the college. Nat is also a teacher of geography as well as being responsible for the Navy CCF section and oversees a really fun, educational programme for the students. Nat is a keen runner and can often be seen running around Rainbow Woods.

**Justin Avenell** (PPA 2018) came to work at the college after a year at university and he was involved in sports coaching across the year groups. He now works full-time as sports facilities supervisor and rugby coach for the 1st team and the U14s. Justin also coaches at Bath rugby academy with the U14-U16s.

**Lindsay Bryant** (nee Dawson) (PPA 2002) EPQ coordinator, teacher of history and member of the English House team. Outside of school she is mum to Alfred 6 and Edith 4.

**Helen Goodman** (nee O'Donovan), (PPA 1998), took on the role of housemistress of Brownlow House, (one of the two junior houses), in September and is enjoying the joys and the challenges that have come with this new position. Her husband is still enjoying his role as head of sport at The Paragon where their son Archie (10) is currently in Year 6, and their daughter Ava (12) is now in F3 at Prior.

**Emily Murphy-O'Connor** (PPA 2013) very much enjoys working at The Paragon as a Year 2 teacher and has recently taken on the role of Mental Health Lead. She is exploring ways to promote a happy, safe and comfortable environment for the children to learn in. Emily is very fortunate to now be teaching the child of a teacher who taught her!

**Olivia Matthews** (PPA 2017) graduated with a distinction from her masters in business management at Cardiff University and has joined the Prior Park College team as marketing and communications officer. She is also a member of the PPA Committee.



Justin Avenell





Philip Sales



Richard Sharpe



Ian Haddon



Robert Bracchi

## 1960 – 1969

The class of 1968 are looking forward to their 55th anniversary reunion in June, 2023. They first got back together in 2003, and they have held reunions every five years since. In addition, from the first lockdown in March 2020, they have held fortnightly Zoom meetings that typically attract between six and 12 participants.

There are 34 members in the group, ably marshalled by year reps **Tim Heining** and **Terry Illott**. Terry is living in North London with his wife Heather. He tells us that he is just finishing a book on politics. **Ted Bennitt** is now fully retired. He and his wife Henriette live outside Rotterdam. Ted has become an expert scuba diver. **Fabian Jowers**, a recipient of the PPA Medal, is in Uganda, running his orphanage and his medical outreach programme. Former GP **Mike Callander** is enjoying the retired life with his wife Ros in the West of Ireland. **Peter Rippon** is living in Manhattan with his film-maker wife Andrea. **Charlie Murray**, another retired GP, is living in Bahrain with his wife Awatif. Retired lawyer, **Peter Marsden**, is living outside Manchester, where he was a longtime partner in the law firm Brabners. **Rafe Pigott**, another solicitor, is still working in Essex. Retired GPs **Mike Maher** and **Rick Jarrams** are both settled in the Midlands. Rick is an avid fan of West Bromwich Albion, for whom he was once the team doctor.

Tim Heining and his wife Rosenilda divide their time between the UK and Brazil. They recently celebrated the arrival of their second grandchild. **Charles Dean** (also known by his Buddhist name, Saccavacaya) is living in Yorkshire. He is often to be seen out on the moors on his bike. **Rob Camacho** is in Bristol. Many of his weekends are spent in the Vale of Pewsey, in Wiltshire, where he and his brothers have a plot of land. Joe Loughlin is in Dorset. Joe is best mates with **Andrew "Spike" Colter**, who is retired in Jersey. Spike recently walked the Cotswold Way and is set to complete the Camino De Santiago in 2023. **Peter Coates**, another PPA medallist, is in Norfolk with his wife, Jane. The third PPA medallist from the class of 68, **Geoff Cardozo**, is living in Brittany. He was over earlier in the year for the unveiling of the Toffee Palmer portrait bust. **Niall Aston**, a vascular surgeon, is still working in London. He has to make a weekly commute from the family home in Gloucestershire. **John Evans** and his wife Diane divide their time between Sussex and Portugal.

Also in Sussex is **Ken Edwards**, who is busy writing books when he is not playing in his band, **Afrit Nebula**. Not far from Ken is **Steve Sturton-Davies**, who, with his wife Sue, is still rescuing abandoned and injured birds. (Their kitchen is like the sick bay of a zoo, with ducklings in the sink.) **Norman Sparrow** is in Lanzarote, taking tourists out to watch dolphins. **Chris Cutcliffe** walked his daughter Sophie down the aisle last summer. He and his wife Julia live in East Molesey. **Mike Brotherton** is still down in Devon, while **Ron Turley** is living in Norwich with his family. **Phil "Tom" Hamerton** finally retired from the Southeast Coast Ambulance Service the day before his 71st birthday in 2021. Keeping him busy, apart from his monthly forays to the East Somerset Railway Permanent

Way Department, is being trustee and membership secretary of the Shoreham Society, the Friends of The Keep Archives and the Brighton Tram 53 Society. The latter organisation is working hard to restore the last remaining tram that worked in the city. Tom sees **Paul Brann** (PPA 1967) once a month for a catch-up and keeps in touch with other alumni through the INTOAS Facebook group. Needless to say, four grandchildren keep Tom and his wife Margaret occupied as well. Several members of the class of 68 attended both the Toffee Palmer event in June and the Mansion Lunch in October.

**Chris Lennon** (PPA 1964) writes: Since leaving Afghanistan in late 2018, I have been retained by Insurance Corporation of Afghanistan, as a UK based consultant, handling claims on behalf of the company, but, since the change of government in 2021, continuing in business has become very challenging. Some staff fled the country; management moved to the UAE; international bank transactions have been disrupted. Both insurance and banking must be *Takaful*, conforming to the Islamic model, and operations remain in partial suspense, pending a renewed licence. Health insurance, funded by NGOs, continues to provide vital healthcare to thousands every month, but the need is greater still.

Government ministers are mostly "acting" appointments, the Minister of the Interior with a price on his head as a terrorist. Economic progress is effectively stifled by red tape and lack of capital. Secondary schools for girls remain largely closed; higher education restricted to 'approved' subjects, not including journalism, for example, but without the schools, very few girls will qualify for higher education in any case. The implications for Afghanistan are very serious, with half the potential working population handicapped and no urgently needed female doctors in training and qualifying; this in a country where an estimated 46 percent of the population is aged under 15.

**Jonathan Palmer** (PPA 1963) writes: I was unable to attend the unveiling ceremony on Saturday June 11th for the portrait bust of my father, "Toffee" Palmer, as I was rehearsing in Portishead for a choral concert that evening. However, I did manage to subsequently watch the video in its entirety without interruption; there seemed to be quite a bit of emotion flying around. I obviously feel affected by the comments in the speeches/tributes and keep wondering just what my father would have made of it all. As a teacher, you never really know the extent of your influence on your pupils until a long period of time has elapsed. That is now happening to me as I read posts/comments on social media written by students I taught forty years ago!

I am still active, directing Portishead Choral Society, organizing concerts, composing, and practicing my cello. Not just music, though - I spend a fair amount of time maintaining my 1964 Austin Healey 3000 and my 1968 Citroen DS21 Pallas.....!

**Philip Sales** (PPA 1969) retired as executive director of the Napa Valley Vine Trail project in December. Philip, who is a landscape architect, has been involved with park, trail and land conservation projects in the US and the UK for 47 years. He was honoured at his retirement party to be





presented with certificates of appreciation for his work by resolutions from both the United States Congress and the California State Legislature. In April, Philip spent a few days in Bath meeting with **Tony Bury** (PPA 1970) and **Jeremy Gilmer** (PPA 1970) as well as Declan Rainey. Philip is looking forward in his retirement to splitting his time between his home in California and spending time in the UK and Ireland with his family and of course friends from Prior Park.

**Dirk Meerstadt** (PPA 1967) and Patricia have been restoring their late Georgian house in London since 1984. It was a dump divided into two flats; naively they thought they would have it done in a year! Dirk retired in 2009 as a consultant pediatrician and Pat retired as a director of nursing after 50 years in the NHS. Kaj (49) and Thomas (32) live in London but no grandchildren yet. Dirk and Pat continue their regular trips to the family home in Malindi Kenya.

**Richard Sharpe** (PPA 1967) works for the Archives of IT, a charity recording those who contributed to the development of IT in the UK: [archivesit.org.uk](http://archivesit.org.uk). This involves research, conducting interviews and writing blogs. There are already over 200 interviews in the archive all open and free to read and download. The work combines his journalism skills with his interest in technology, although the best bit, he says, is the human stories. If anybody knows of those who should be included, please email him at [c.richardsharpe@gmail.com](mailto:c.richardsharpe@gmail.com).

**Peter Hilton** (PPA 1962) writes: I am regularly in touch with my very good friend **Sean Lacey** (PPA 1962) and our granddaughters still go to the same all-girls school in Hampstead. I am also frequently in touch with **Wilfrid de Freitas** (PPA 1962) who is still very active as an Antiquarian Bookseller based in Montreal. Wilfrid hasn't been back to the UK for nearly three years and will hopefully be back for next year's reunion.

## 1970 – 1979

**Richard Klein** (PPA 1976) left London after 35 years and has taken a job working for a TV production company in Bristol making blue chip natural history programming. His family are now living in the Mendips, and his 10-year-old twins go to All Hallows prep school. Next stop Prior Park?

**Robert Bracchi** (PPA 1972) writes: Thanks to the inspirational teaching of Biology by Mr Vic Ferguson I read biochemistry followed by a degree in medicine, both at Cardiff University. I worked as a general practitioner until retirement and since then I have worked as a medical advisor and head of research for the all-Wales therapeutics and toxicology centre, a directorate of the Cardiff and Vale UHB. I am grateful for my time at Prior Park as the project I carried out as part of the A Level biology course triggered a lifelong interest in research.

**Anthony McQuiggan** (PPA 1974) Having retired after selling his Essex based defence aerospace engineering company, Anthony McQuiggan (Class of 1974) was duly elected as the Essex county councillor for Galleywood and Great Baddow. Anthony now serves

on a number of statutory organisations and charities putting to good use his experience as a business developer. He is keen to make contact with any alumni in Essex. Anthony visited Prior in July with his brother **David** (PPA 1981) and nephew Sean who were in the UK visiting family this year.

**Simon Morgan** (PPA 1975), was elected as a district councillor for Maldon, Essex in May.

**William van Heesewijk** (PPA 1979) writes: I am one of four brothers who attended the college – **Francis** (PPA 1976), **William**, **Marc** (PPA 1979) and **Steven** (PPA 1984). I recently retired after over 40 years in the City specialising in investment trusts. I live in Effingham Junction, Surrey now enjoying travel and golf. I recently recovered from prostate cancer and celebrated my eldest son's wedding (31), also Freddie (19) been accepted to read Law at Guildford University of Law.

My eldest brother **Francis** lives in Cheshire and unfortunately suffers from Parkinsons. **Marc** lives in Atlanta with his 2 sons and **Steven** is married and lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**Julian Fonseca** (PPA 1970) pictured standing outside the Fonseca Family Chapel in our Lady of the Snows, college chapel. Julian, a former solicitor, lives on a farm with his wife on the edge of the Black Mountains in the Welsh Marches. They have a holiday cottage with visitors all year round, so there is always work to be done.

"We have four children and nine grandchildren who all spend a lot of their holidays and frequent weekends with us, so our house is bulging for weeks or months at a time and then as silent as the grave. We both cycle and have taken many trips across Europe and I play tennis (badly) three times a week so 'touch wood' am reasonably fit!"

"I am in contact with **Vivian Gallagher** (PPA 1968) and occasionally **Tony Bury** (PPA 1970), **Simon Howell** (PPA 1970) and **Dom Eedle** (PPA 1970).

**Tony Alves** (PPA 1977) kindly agreed to ring the bell at the cricket match to herald the start of the second match."

**Adrian Good** (PPA 1971) On the second weekend of September we had a family get together in Salisbury and of our gathering there were five of us who had Prior Park connections covering from the 1950s to the 1990s. I visited Prior in June to attend the unveiling of the marvellous bust in memory of Ronald (Toffee) Palmer, a great arts teacher at Prior. An excellent occasion meeting old friends from my era and **John Ainslie** (PPA 1960), a good friend of my older brother **Hervey** (PPA 1958).

I would love to hear from anyone who has a copy of the 1959 recording of Faure's Requiem.

From left to right - **Hervey (Harry) Good** (Cricklade and Prior Park in the 1950s), **Lucy Layet** (nee Tobin, daughter of the late first lay Headmaster, Patrick Tobin and his wife Margery, who spent several formative years living at Prior in the 1980s), **Adrian Good** (PPC 1971), **Margery Tobin** (Patrick's wife and PPC teacher 1980s) and **Ed Layet**, Lucy's husband (PPC 1991).



Simon Morgan



William van Heesewijk



Julian Fonseca



Tony Alves



L to R Harry Good, Lucy Layet, Adrian Good, Margery Tobin and Ed Layet





Doris and Terence Cheng



Class of 1987



Dr Julie McEnery and Elena Harries (nee Sartori)



Tim Lomas

## 1980 – 1989

**Doris and Terence Cheng** (PPA 1985) visited the college in July. Terence has not been back since he left so it was wonderful for him to see the boarding house and refectory which he remembered fondly.

A select band of 1987 vintage old boys and girls assembled for a tour of the college back in May – this proved to awaken the usual halcyon memories of yester year!! We had a lovely sunny morning for our tour so the college looked fantastic and we ended up in the Bury sports centre for cups of tea and coffee enjoyed overlooking the cricket pitch where the 1st XI were playing.

What's not to like.

People who attended the tour: **Paddy Nwagbogu**, **Jo Horton**, **Gerard O'Donoghue**, **Martin Prendergast**, **Ben Moorhouse**, **Suzannah Angelo-Sparling**.

In the evening they were joined by: **Malcolm Cannon**, **Nick Bishop**, **Anthony Fell**, **Richard Spilsbury**, **Rose Fry** (nee Eke), **Kit Johnson** and **Toby Watts**.

**Dr Julie McEnery** and **Elena Harries (nee Sartori)** (PPA



David Fields



Peter O'Donoghue



David Thomas receiving the Polar Medal from HRH Prince William

1989) **Julie** is an astrophysicist working at NASA on the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope which has unveiled a new view of the extreme universe. **Elena** is currently working as the international sales manager for a Welsh carbon steel manufacturer called Atlantic Service Company.

**Tim Lomas** (PPA 1981) visited the college on a beautiful March day with his friend and pupil **Pawel**. Tim has been living in Warsaw, Poland for some time and teaching English to adults. This was his first time back at the college since the early 90s when he was with his now wife at a wedding. It brought back many memories wandering through the corridors of St Pauls.

**David Fields** (PPA 1987) came to visit the college and enjoyed a great trip down memory lane!

**Peter O'Donoghue** (PPA 1986) writes: In the gap between sitting my last A Level paper and term ending in the early summer of 1986, I walked around the Prior Park estate one Sunday with my camera and took photographs of all my favourite views to capture the most evocative memories of the six years I spent at what I came to regard, as a boarder, as my home. In those days, when you finished a roll of film (typically 24 photos) you removed the film and sent it off and paid for it to be processed. Obviously the northwest view down the valley was one shot I took. Skip forward 34 years and, after I stepped down as a governor, I requested a bench to be offered for the use of members of the college community. I like where it is situated. I can imagine it being used by visitors, teachers, pupils and others as a cool refuge, away from the bustle of such an active school and a place of calm reflection. As you sit there, you might espy, situated at 11 o'clock, a copse of trees atop a distant hill. My eyes have been drawn to that copse since I first spotted it in 1980. My brother **Gerard** (PPA 1987) and I lived in St Austell immediately before we went to Cricklade (Prior Park Preparatory School) in 1979 and I recall, on one of my last days in Cornwall, spotting a similar copse of trees. Whether real or imagined, I made a strong link between what to me appeared two identical patterns of trees. Symbols of two important phases in my life. As I sat on the bench recently, I had a few moments dwelling on that familiar connection, reflecting on the life that I have had, that Prior gave me, and the life I might have had had I never come here. And how has the view changed since I photographed it in 1986? I cannot tell you. Alas, the film processing company lost my film and I never saw the results. Occupational hazard back then. No such jeopardy today with smartphones!"

**Professor David Thomas** (PPA 1980) has been awarded the Polar Medal by HM The Queen. This award is a recognition of David's research and leadership in both the Arctic and Antarctic, in which he has done much to enhance our understanding about the ecology and chemistry of the frozen realms of floating sea ice that dominate both the Antarctic and Arctic Oceans. He started his polar research in the early 1990s at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven. Much of his field research took place in the 24 years David held various academic posts at Bangor University (1996 to 2020). In 2020 he moved to the University of Helsinki where he continues his Arctic Research as the Professor of Arctic Ecosystems Research.



In recent years David has helped lead two major UK research programmes for the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Both investigated the major environmental changes taking place in the Arctic resulting from climate change: The £15million Arctic Research Programme (2010-2016) and the £20million Changing Arctic Ocean Programme (2015-2021). The latter was in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

This latest award follows that in 2020 by the government of the British Antarctic Territory who named an Antarctic glacier, Thomas Glacier (Palmer Land, Antarctic Peninsula), in recognition of the Antarctic aspects of his work.

The first UK polar medal to be instituted was the Arctic Medal in 1857. In 1904 it was renamed the Polar Medal and has been awarded to some of the most recognised UK explorers and scientists working in Arctic and Antarctic regions: including members of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expeditions in 1907-09 and 1914-17, as well as members of Captain Scott's Terra Nova Expedition to the South Pole in 1910-1913.

**Michael Ng (PPA 1980)** and Kelly, are pictured looking onto Monument Field.

**Robert O'Sullivan (PPA 1989)** dropped into the college to have a quick look around. He was with his parents Tony (who used to be a teacher here and retired 22 years ago) and Breedge and his son. Robert works in New York.

## 1990 – 1999

**Sam Hill (PPA 1999)** lives with his wife and two children in Surrey and works as an economist on the trading floor at Lloyds Bank in London, trying to fit in a bit of golf where possible, hence his rare return trip to Bath

**Daniel Delaney (PPA 1999)** writes: Nadine and I have been living in San Diego, California now for two years after moving from New York City. Our twins, Francis and Fleur recently turned three and we celebrated with a trip to Disneyland with both of our families. I still work in investment management for a local-based company. It was great to meet up with Anna Bonney (Burton housemistress) and family recently and learn of all the wonderful initiatives going on at the college. My brother, **Michael (PPC 2002)** recently visited with my parents. Mike is working in London, also in the field of finance, and stays in regular contact with his Prior mates. I keep in regular contact with **Graham Hogg (PPC 1999)** who is based on the East Coast of the US.

**Alfred Chan (PPA 1993)** organised for the 1993 leavers to have a tour of the college on a blustery Saturday in July. The biggest surprise was finding his old maths textbook in the Round Room!

**Adam Murphy (PPA 1992)** and daughter, Amaira came for a tour of the college as she may join in the future. Adam lives in Richmond and runs a boutique investment firm working with high-net-worth



Michael and Kelly Ng



Sam Hill



Dr Zena Kamash



Daniel and Nadine Delaney with Anna Bonney



Andrew, Liz, Rupert and Ben Haworth



Alfred Chan

individuals and family offices.

**Dr Zena Kamash (PPA 1996)** is a senior lecturer in archaeology in the Dept of Classics at Royal Holloway University of London. She is currently leading a project funded by the British Academy that is exploring the links between crafting, heritage and wellbeing for people in Iraq who have experienced conflict. When she's not working, she's happily planning her wedding to fellow archaeologist Pete Banks next year.

**Andrew Haworth (PPA 1996)** came to visit the school with his wife Liz and two boys Rupert and Ben. We



Adam Murphy and Amaira

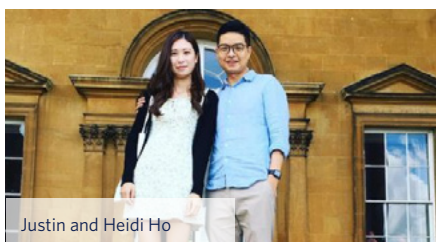




Hannah Fuller and Christine



Paul O'Hora with Mr Maxwell



Justin and Heidi Ho

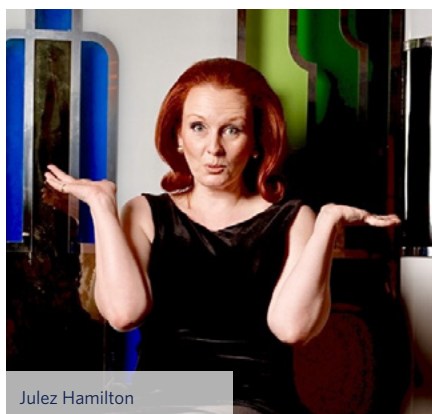


Sarah Hall

had a rare moment of blue sky amid the stormy rain and wind as we looked around the college. Fortunately we bumped into Dr Trott who remembered Andrew immediately. We found Andrew's name on the Head of Burton board and hilariously both his and his brother's surnames were spelled incorrectly. A great end to the family's February half term break.

**Julez Hamilton** (PPA 1996) writes: thanks to my husband being posted to Northwood HQ the family is back in London. Aside from the school run, I've been a producer and performer. This year I had a Stephen Sondheim review and Kander and Ebb show in June. In September it was the premier of my new show "Millie", celebrating the life of Millicent Martin. All at the Crazy Coqs in London.

**Joanna Mackenzie** (PPA 1992) lives with her Kiwi husband and son (19) and daughter (16) in Wellington, New Zealand and they have been there since 2006. She is a Registered Nurse, working in cardiology and cardiothoracics and she also marks post graduate nursing papers for Victoria University of Wellington. She mainly keeps in touch with old school friends online, and also tried to catch up in person when she does come back to the UK.



Julez Hamilton

**Sarah Hall** (PPA 1996) lives locally in Chippenham and works in the beautiful Cotswolds promoting a portfolio of cardiovascular medicines for a Japanese pharmaceutical company to Stroke departments and cardiologists. She has three children - one of whom has just completed her Masters from St Mary's University in Twickenham in Sports Psychology. Her boys Theo and James are 12 and 9 and keep her busy with sporting pursuits! Sarah spends her free time open water swimming and this year completed swimming Windermere end to end in 7 hrs 24 minutes. (11 miles).

Her brother **Simon Hall** (PPA 1995) who was in Roche when he was at the college works at Southampton University as a senior fellow in mental health nursing.

## 2000 – 2009

**Hannah Fuller** (PPA 2006), now Dr Hannah Scott, and her mother Christine, came 'home'. They picked a great day to visit as it was the first day of proper spring sunshine in late March. They bumped into Dr and Mrs Trott which was fantastic luck! Hannah is a vet and has recently acquired her own practice in Bristol.

**Paul O'Hora** (PPA 2004) just celebrated 10 years at Lubrizol, now project manager for engine oil lubricants. He enjoyed a sunny visit to Prior to reminisce and see how much the college has come on in the past 18yrs!!

**Justin Ho** (PPA 2007) visited with his wife, Heidi.

For the Class of 2005 and their families there has been a bit of a baby boom in the last year with a number of new arrivals: **Hannah Twiname (Smith)** - Bertie in August 2021, **Emma Halliday (Stubbs)** - Henry October 2021, **Sara Budd** - Cleo October 2022, **Sam Dawson** - Daisy March 2022, **Oli Lawson** - Oscar July 2022, **Oliver (Macca) McGivern** - Finn August 2022.

When not enjoying parenthood Oliver and his brother **Harvey** (PPA 2006) run a successful photography business called McGivern Photography, specialising in weddings and events. <https://mcgivernphotography.com>

There have also been several weddings this year with **Nina Forget (Spencer)** marrying Adrian in Bath in August. In September **George Constantine** married Polly in Marseille and **Aidan Stanley** married Fatima in Gdansk. All the weddings were well attended by former pupils across the year groups and were a great opportunity to catch up and reminisce about days at Prior and probably bore all the other guests!

Picture attached from George's wedding, an ode to many a picture taken on the mansion steps. L-R Alex Guy, Oli Lawson, Nina Forget (Spencer), Emma Halliday (Stubbs), Sian Roberts (Gulliford), George Constantine, Sara Budd, Naomi Stanley, Emma Constantine, Chris Constantine, Aidan Stanley, John Stanley.

## 2010 – 2019

**Jake Brooks, Andrew Reed and Max Wang** (PPA 2019) visited the college in July. They were delighted to be invited to lunch on Fish Friday!



Class of 2005





Fiorenza del'Anna, Clemmie Mortimer, Letty Allen and Ella Cogan



Patch Manovilas, Mr Holmes and Christie Yau



Matthew and Luke Roberts and Peter Phillips

Letty Allen (PPA 2021), Clemmie Mortimer (PPA 2021), Ella Cogan (PPA 2019), Fiorenza del'Anna (PPA 2018) and Luke Minghella (PPA 2019) came into the college in June to talk to the students about life at university. It was fantastic for the students to hear what they had to say.

Christie Yau and Patch Manovilas (PPA 2019) braved the rain to visit the college. Patch recently achieved a First-Class Honours in BEng Engineering (mechanical with business finance) from UCL, and he is now switching to Imperial College Business School to pursue an MSc in finance to further his interests in the financial sector. Whilst completing his degree at UCL, he was the project manager for UCL Rocket team, which developed a rocket to compete in the MACH-22 competition, finishing second. Christie just graduated from her LLB course at KCL with a 2:1. Despite the pandemic, the course was beyond her expectations, and she thoroughly enjoyed it. She is going to spend next year completing her conversion exams in Hong Kong while working as a paralegal at a law firm in preparation for her PCLL and training contract afterwards.

Matthew and Luke Roberts and Peter Philips (PPA 2019). Matt has recently graduated from Exeter Uni with a 1st in BSc biological sciences (microbiology and infectious disease) and now plans to spend a few months travelling before finding a job. Luke has recently graduated from the University of Southampton with a First-Class Honours degree in modern history and politics. He is looking forward to travelling or working abroad, and possibly studying for a masters in the future!" Peter writes: "It was so wonderful to see Prior after three years away. I am about to enter my penultimate year studying medicine at the University of Exeter, which I have massively enjoyed thus far. I have aspirations of specialising in dermatology in the future, potentially abroad! I look forward to revisiting Prior in the years to come."

Joseph Zhong (PPA 2016) is currently studying for his DPhil at Oxford University in materials and chemistry, working on photocatalysts that generate hydrogen from water.



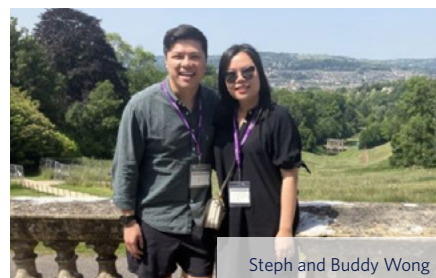
Luke Minghella



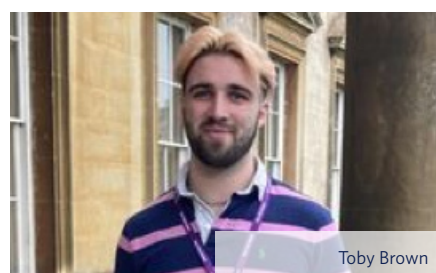
Mrs Mallon and Molly Sell



Joseph Zong



Steph and Buddy Wong



Toby Brown

Steph and Buddy Wong (PPA 2010 and 2012) are pictured on the Mansion steps. Since leaving Prior, Buddy went to Cardiff and Steph to Manchester for university before reconnecting in Hong Kong in 2015. While in Hong Kong, their offices were right next to each other, and after many lunches and eventually a date, things got serious... In 2021, they got married and moved to Sydney! They have now moved back to England and are excited for what the future holds.

Toby Brown (PPA 2018) came in to speak to potential Oxbridge students. He gave an insightful talk on life at Cambridge and advice on the application process.

Lenny Wu (PPA 2019) was in the Round Room talking to L5 students about participating in an experiment on how students respond to situations of ostracism



Andrew Reed, Max Wang and Jake Brooks

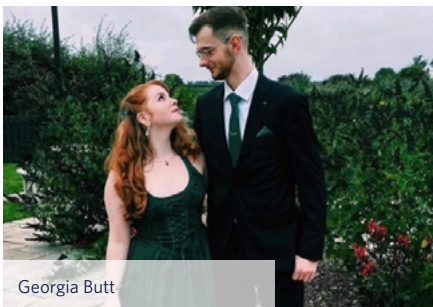




Miranda Dent-Young Holman



Lenny Wu



Georgia Butt



Matthew Streets, Kaan Kanpulat and Letty Allen

for his final year psychology dissertation at Exeter University. He was delighted to be able to contact his former teachers at the college to be able to involve the students in his research.

**Lucy Howlett** (PPA 2012) married Thomas Goodyear in August.

**Rosie Sanders** (PPA 2017) began working for Fermoie (an innovative textile designer and manufacturer) around five months ago. They design, print and sell bespoke fabrics and accessories. Rosie is currently a lampshade production technician and supervisor/trainer which means she is in the production team making the bespoke made to order lampshades, training new employees and supervising the rest of the team. She is based in Marlborough driving 1hr.15 to work every day but absolutely loving all of it!

**Molly Sell** (PPA 2019) popped into the college to say hello to Mrs Mallon. She has just started at a new job in Carmarthen working as an MSK physiotherapist. She volunteers with rugby teams and tennis teams as on side physiotherapist.

**Katy Blane** (PPA 2017) writes: after completing my placement year at Ralph Lauren, working in the menswear buying department, I came to speak to the U6 art and design textiles students about my experience. Explaining how I made the decision to do fashion buying and merchandising at university, the option of undertaking a placement year, and my personal experience at Ralph Lauren. I finished university in June 2022 and I took some time off to travel. I will be returning to Ralph Lauren in January 2023 as an assistant buyer for menswear.

**Theo Elwell** (PPA 2016) writes: I've never been very good at doing what I was told, something that the wonderful

(and very patient) teachers at Prior may remember... I'm excited to now be taking the leap and working for myself full-time as a violinist and composer for film & TV. I am currently scoring some exciting projects, including an LA-based film and an upcoming political series for the BBC. I also occasionally have the opportunity to collaborate with fellow Prior alumni on projects, a testament to the brilliant musical environment and education that Prior has offered over the years."

**Isabelle Sigournay** (PPA 2019) graduated in 2022 with a BA (Hons) Textiles and is currently looking for experience and openings in graphic design through work placements and internships. She specialises in visual design and creating digital surface patterns, with skills in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and XD. She is focused on encouraging discussions surrounding biomimetic design and the textile industry as a way of progressing peoples' mindsets to analyse the impact this could have on becoming more sustainable.

**Georgia Butt** (PPA 2018) is delighted to announce her engagement.

## 2020 – 2022

**Miranda Dent-Young Holman** (PPA 2020) has just finished her first year at Central St Martins studying Fashion History and Theory which she loves.

**Letty Allen, Matthew Streets and Kaan Kanpulat** (PPA 2021) The 2021 leavers made a Memories Box during Covid to mark their time at the college. Letty, Matt and Kaan carried it up to the room on the right above the altar ready for them to retrieve it at their 20-year reunion.





# Harley Lyons (PPA 2019)



**Harley Lyons** (PPA 2019), is the founder of Harley-Olivia Swimwear, a sustainable swimwear brand striving to be a part of creating a more sustainable and ethical world, especially in the retail industry. Harley studied art at A Level, and for her final piece, she created an immersive and interactive installation all about plastic pollution called 'What is to become of our oceans'. The idea behind this piece was to highlight

the impact plastic pollution has on our oceans.

Harley writes: "At the beginning of this project, I carried out extensive research into our oceans, plastic pollution, and coral reefs. One thing I found through this research was the devastating effect plastic has on the environment but especially the effect it has in our oceans. This gave me the idea to create a piece that would ultimately shock and inform. I wanted to get across the gravity of the issue to try and make other people understand the future of our ocean."

She began her final piece preparations by collecting plastic from home, school, friends, wherever she could find it. The plastic she collected ranged from plastic bags, bottles, lids and containers. She used the heat press to melt the plastic together to give the watery effect and finally hung it all up to create a sea of plastic.

"I am now studying textile design at Central St Martins as well as working in my spare time to create a sustainable swimwear brand. It's important for me that in the creation of this brand, I am bringing to attention

the issues our world is facing with ocean waste, plastic waste, and fast fashion. Instead of contributing to the problems, I want to find solutions. Every swimsuit and bikini from Harley-Olivia Swimwear is made using ECONYL® fibre. This is a regenerated nylon that is made from plastic materials found in the ocean, such as discarded fishing nets and plastic bottles, all the while maintaining a beautiful feel on your body. This material is twice as resistant to chlorine, suntan creams and oils to ensure it's not just your one and done piece."

"I want to make you feel happy, others happy and the Earth happy!"

For any further information, questions, or if you would just like to follow along the journey, please check out our socials!

[www.harleyoliviaswimwear.com](http://www.harleyoliviaswimwear.com)  
[f Harley-Olivia Swimwear](#)  
[@harleyoliviaswimwear](#)







# New Founders Wall

The college would like to thank all alumni who have supported the school over the last year. Support comes in many forms, be that donations, attending events or helping with our charitable work in the local community and we have had a record number of past pupils come back to the college to speak with current students. Thank you.

2020 was the 40th anniversary of the departure of the Christian Brothers and the beginning of the lay administration which shapes today's college. 2021 was the 30th anniversary of the most recent Mansion fire. Both these occasions caused the college to start again and none of these restarts would have been possible without the hard work, generosity and perseverance of alumni, staff, parents and friends of the college. These are the New Founders of Prior Park College.

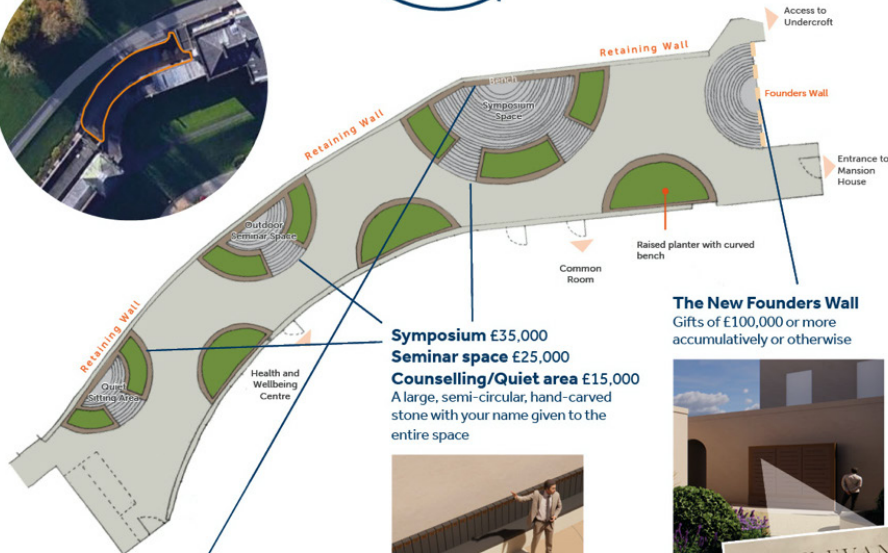
## New Founders Garden Campaign



Before



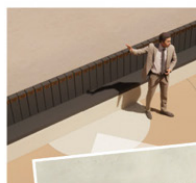
After



**Symposium** £35,000  
**Seminar space** £25,000  
**Counselling/Quiet area** £15,000  
 A large, semi-circular, hand-carved stone with your name given to the entire space

**The New Founders Wall**  
 Gifts of £100,000 or more accumulatively or otherwise

**Backs of seats along the wall**  
 £480 (or 12 x £40)



JESSOP FAMILY  
 (FROM 1984)



MARK EVANS  
 (PPA 1999)

To celebrate these achievements, the college is creating a New Founders Wall to thank those who kept the college afloat, when at times, it looked an impossible task. The New Founders Wall will sit in a soon-to-be landscaped, New Founders Garden, situated in the school's busiest walkway, leading from St Peter's to the basement floor of the Mansion.

This area houses the Health and Wellbeing Centre as well as the chaplaincy. A sensorily engaging quiet space in our busiest place will help create a tranquil environment for those students who are availing of these services.

You can play a part in helping create the garden by making a gift to the New Founders Garden appeal, and the college will thank you by displaying your name. By supporting this appeal, you will also help enhance the learning environment both inside and outside the classroom and help widen access to a Prior Park education.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact Declan Rainey, Director of Development and Alumni Relations on: [drainey@priorparkschools.com](mailto:drainey@priorparkschools.com) or 01225 835353 ext. 257







# Alumni Travel Grant



By Kira Tenk (PPA 2022)

When approaching the end of my A-Levels, like many I was faced with the newfound issue of lacking purpose and independence. I wanted to create a meaningful trip and to relate it to my personal background - I was adopted from Bangkok by my parents. Without them, I would not have had as many prospects growing up. Knowing that under other circumstances I would have led a life in the slums compared to living comfortably in Bath, I knew that helping people would be very fulfilling.

The more research I conducted, the more appealing building schools became - after all it seemed appropriate for me, leaving school, to contribute towards a chance for less privileged children to receive education. Eventually, I settled on Nepal.

Now it is really key to remind you that Nepal is one of the poorest third-world countries in Asia, so it is really no surprise that The New Modern English School is the opposite to Prior

Park College. Located in Lalitpur, a small area outside of Kathmandu, at first sight it does hardly seem an established educational institution, but rather a set of dilapidated but brightly coloured lime green and sky-blue sheds. When you arrive through the heavy and rusted gate, you are greeted by piles of red bricks, sand and gravel scattered over a boggy overgrown courtyard where stray dogs often explore. Yet despite the environment, The New Modern English School is an immensely proud private institution, providing the best it can for 150 students. Although the 'sheds' are rudimentary to us, they are a heavy improvement from the previous makeshift classrooms created.

During my two weeks on-site, I spent around 4-6 hours a day building new brick classrooms with 14 other volunteers who came from various international countries including, to my delight, another Brit. There were two main jobs, bricklaying and rod-binding. I learnt how to lay bricks, using only a piece of string in place of a modern spirit level and we used hand mixed cement to keep the bricks in place. I also tried

my hand at the rod-binding, which I found did not come naturally. We used this to make cages, creating the integral structure for each building, which were then boarded up and set with mortar. During the entire project, there were only mechanic's tools used, except one hand-held disc-cutter. These methods are commonly used for all infrastructure across Nepal.

We also had the chance to explore the cultural heritage of Nepal. We visited various local temples after work, one favourite being Swayambhu Stupa (a monkey temple!). Nepal is one of the very few countries around the world where so many religions operate at such a close proximity and share each other's festivals without conflict. Depending on the local temple, you can expect to see goat sacrifices, lucky fountains for throwing coins, a holy cow statue which you can whisper wishes to, bells which can be rung for good intentions and receive a tikki (which is similar to a bhindi). I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to help build the school and ensure the students have somewhere to study.

## Cycling for Ukraine

By Charles Hall (PPA 2022)

I woke up at 6am on Saturday the 20th of August in Brechin, Scotland. I drove three hours to reach my destination in the Cairngorms. I walked from the car park to the first peak, the Cairngorm Mountain. It was a tough climb and the weather conditions were poor, which

made my ascent slightly slow and I reached the peak at midday. I made my way down and then headed off to Ben Macdui. With tired legs the Ben Macdui climb was difficult and I had ascended the mountain at 4 pm. I got down at 6pm followed by a long three hour journey back to my residence. Overall, it was a big accomplishment and I raised nearly £600 for British Ukraine Aid made it totally worthwhile.







# So many smiling faces 'singing with joy'



Amy Jess (PPA 2018), Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019),  
Milly Manning (PPA 2019), Ariane Milewski (PPA 2022),  
Theo Elwell (PPA 2016), Anna Motýřlová (PPA 2020)

By Theo Elwell (PPA 2016)

With suitably nostalgic PPC classics and some slightly more ambitious repertoire (who picked that...?), Alumni Mass 2021 was a success as always. Masterfully led by DMS at the helm, it made for a morning of tranquility mixed with restrained laughter for those of us who perhaps haven't visited the higher notes since we were last in our uniforms.

It was a pleasant surprise that, despite a different mixture of voices coming together each year, often generations apart, the choir has the ability to blend as one; each voice returning quickly to its well taught muscle memory.

As well as being able to sing again in Prior's glorious chapel, Alumni Choir offers the opportunity to reconnect with those who one has lost touch with over the years. It remains a highlight in my calendar every December.



Hermione, Milly, Amy



Patrick Fulton (PPA 2019) and Theo Elwell





## Fergus Lyons (PPA 1949)

Stalwart of the Prior Park Association, first chair of governors of the lay administration of the college, patron of the Prior Park Educational Trust and one of the key players in rescuing the school after the Christian Brothers announced its impending closure in 1980, Fergus Lyons (PPA 1949) died in 2022 at the age of 90.

Fergus joined Prior in 1941. Gifted in both the classroom and on the sports field, he thrived at Prior. He was close friends with Gerald Walker, with whom he spent many holidays in Europe and walking the paths and byways of England. They shared many a pub lunch. Gerald was best man when Fergus married Mary in 1958. He was also godfather of Fergus and Mary's daughter, Sophie. It was Fergus who delivered a moving address at the funeral of Gerald's sister Mildred in 2006.

Fergus left Prior to become a solicitor. After qualifying, he joined the Royal Artillery and subsequently joined the Intelligence Corps. But he always maintained strong links with his old school. He became regional secretary for the PPA in the South West in 1962, and in 1973 he became president of the Prior Park Association. For many years, he was also a stalwart of the PPA Golf Society.

Fergus' chief contribution to Prior was the key role he played in preventing the school's closure after the Christian Brothers announced their planned withdrawal in March 1980. Working with the then PPA president, John Bogie (PPA 1957), and alongside fellow PPAs Denis Gilmer, PPA vice-president Chris Glover, Mervyn Scott, Ferdi Sanchez, Jim Coelho, Andy Owen and Gerald Walker, as well as teachers Mostyn Thomas, Sydney Ash and Pat McMahon, Fergus was instrumental, over a period of 12 weeks, in putting together a funded plan for the transfer of both the college and the preparatory school in Cricklade to a new, lay administration.

This was no small achievement. News of the decision to close Prior appeared in the Bath & Wilts Evening Chronicle on March 5th, 1980. Neither the PPA nor the parent body had been forewarned of the decision. Bogie asked for a meeting with the headmaster, Bro Miller. The Christian Brothers, Miller told him, had been mulling closure for a couple of years. Pupil enrolment was down, the Brothers themselves were dwindling in number, the finances of the school were not sustainable and the prospective costs of maintenance of the school fabric were daunting. Other Catholic orders had been approached to take over, but none was interested. A decision had been taken by the governing body of the CBs (not by the school governors) to close the school in July 1981. The buildings would be sold.

Bogie immediately proposed a course of action that the Brothers hadn't thought of: that a lay administration be formed to take over the running and responsibility



of the school. Miller, to his credit, agreed to support the initiative, as yet without reference to the CB hierarchy. A subsequent meeting with the Provincial of the Christian Brothers resulted in the postponement of the sale of Cricklade, already negotiated with a third party, pending Bogie's efforts.

Bogie and Glover convened the PPA committee over the weekend and an action committee was set up. Fergus, who was then a governor of the school and bound by loyalty to the old regime, could not join the committee until the Provincial of the CBs agreed. Approval was soon secured, and Fergus threw himself into the task. Funds had to be raised, a building programme devised to repair and upgrade the school fabric, a headmaster appointed, staff recruited, parents reassured, a marketing campaign launched, and so on. Meetings went on into the early hours. Fergus became the first chair of the Prior Park College Trustees Ltd, a company set up to run the "new" Prior. On May 29th, twelve weeks after the announcement of the planned closure, Bogie and his colleagues were able to tell parents, pupils and governors at Speech Day that the future of the schools was secure. Fergus devoted vast amounts of time and energy to the consolidation of the new regime over the ensuing two years.

John Bogie described Fergus at this time as "imbued with an overwhelming love of his alma mater. He was utterly conscientious, a regular and always welcome visitor... and as he was most generous with his praise, so he was in encouraging donations".

In 1955, Fergus had joined his brother Paddy in Lyons & Company in Bristol, subsequently becoming partner in Lyons Davidson on its formation in the 1970s. Fergus was the first public relations officer of the Bristol Law Society at a time when the profession was not allowed to advertise or tout for business. He became president of the BLS in 1975. For many years thereafter, he was a major figure among Bristol solicitors.

Fergus retired in the mid-1990s. He continued to enjoy his golf, and he continued to be an active supporter of Prior Park. He attended veterans' lunches and was present at the last Mansion Lunch before the 2020 lockdowns - resplendent, as ever, in his trademark bow-tie.

Fergus was a director of St James Priory, a residential care centre, of Penny Brohn Cancer Care, and of the Milestones Trust, as well as, for 11 years, of the Prior Park Educational Trust, of which he remained a patron until his death. He was made a Knight of St Gregory (KSG) for outstanding lay service to the Catholic Church.

His funeral was held on Friday, June 17th, 2022, in Clifton Cathedral.

## Desmond McGrath (PPA 1939)

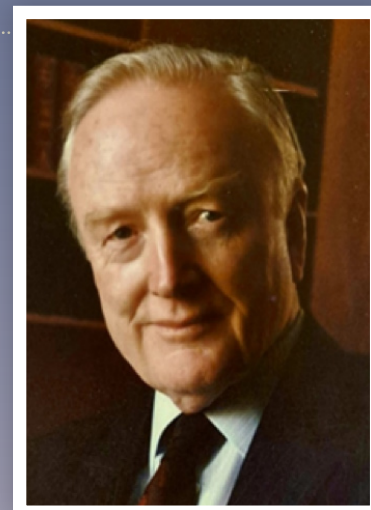
Desmond McGrath studied medicine at The Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin after leaving school. In 1951 he became the first medical director of St. John of God hospital and held the post from 1955 to 1991. Having trained and practised with some of the most eminent psychiatrists of the day in the UK, Canada and the USA, his story is a record of a time when mental health was undergoing profound changes.

Des worked in Grangegorman hospital while studying for his MRCP. It was an old psychiatric hospital that was grim and overcrowded but had caring staff. Des was struck by the almost magical effect of ECT and, to a certain extent, insulin coma therapy. After he obtained his MRCP, he went to Queen's Square in London to work in neurology. In 1948, he applied for a fellowship at the Crichton Royal Hospital in Dumfries, Scotland. His interest in psychiatry was confirmed and from there he moved to the Maudsley Hospital in London to work in the neuropathology department. In 1951, Des married Berno. Shortly after, he accepted

a fellowship at McGill University, Montreal, to work on the "psychological effects of fatigue in aircraft crew in conjunction with adreno-cortical function". The years spent in Canada were very happy ones for the newlyweds, and their first daughter was born in Montreal.

But Des and his wife both missed Dublin and they returned there in 1954. Des worked for a while as a director of clinical research before a post came up as medical director of St. John of God hospital in Dublin. Des soon became one of the most renowned psychiatrists in Ireland. He was also a lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and at University College Dublin.

Des retired fully from work in 1997, at the age of 75. He and Berno made the most of his retirement, with frequent foreign holidays, golf, and bridge. Des also learned computing skills. Berno died on March 30th, 2021, and Des died on September 20th, in his 100th year. They had been married for 70 years.



Dr. Sean Desmond McGrath - August 30th, 1922, to September 20th, 2021.



## David Hayes (PPA 1949)

David Hayes was a keen sportsman and musician. He was a star pupil of piano teacher Nora Hodges, and he was the duet partner of fellow pupil (and later cardinal) Cormac Murphy O'Connor.

After school, David spent a year at Bristol University before two years of National Service. He then took up a place to read engineering at Lincoln College, Oxford, graduating in 1955. Coincidentally, his first rooms at Lincoln had been vacated by his Prior Park contemporary and friend Gerald Walker.

After Oxford, David practised as a civil engineer. He married and moved to the Hereford and Worcester area. Subsequently, he moved to Pinner in Middlesex and became a lecturer, first in production engineering at Twickenham College of Technology, then in business management at Aylesbury College of Further Education. He moved to Buckinghamshire with his second wife in 1975.

A lifelong orchestra player and choral singer, he formed Aylesbury Opera Group in 1979, conducting

and producing fully staged opera performances until he was nearly 80. In this, he followed the example of his parents Herrick and Muriel Hayes, who had formed and ran Bath Opera Group for 25 years from 1951.

David retired in his early '50s, primarily because of a knee injury he had sustained during National Service. He leaves behind six sons, four from his marriage to his first wife Diane Booth and two from his second marriage, to Katherine Phillips.

**David Hayes** - 29th September 1931 to 26th September 2021



## Alan J Palmer (PPA 1970)

*Will Lee (PPA 1970) writes:*

Alan was the sort of guy who was naturally talented at most sports. He played in the rugby first XV (and rugby V11's), first X1 hockey, first X1 cricket and was a formidable runner in the athletics team. However,

hockey was where Alan was at his best. A report in the Prior Park Magazine at the time noted: "Our half-back line also served us extremely well, centred as it was on Alan Palmer, whose skill in attack and speed and reliability in defence inspired confidence in the whole team." He went on to play hockey for his university (Guildford, Surrey).



Above and beyond his sporting attributes, he was a great friend and a trusty companion, always ready to support when necessary. He always had a smile on his face, and close friends remember him as a most amiable chap with a great love of life and a great sense of humour. He was also a deep thinker and had a very focussed way about him which only those close to him could see.

When I first got to know him, he had already lost his father. He lived in Melksham, Wiltshire, with his mother, two elder sisters (Lorraine and Maureen), and his younger brother, John, who also went to Prior. Alan and I played in various teams together and we both ended up being prefects in Upper V1. As my home was close to Prior, we spent most Sundays during term driving around Bath in my dad's car, enjoying the sights and, of course, the local pubs. It was great release from school life.

Jeremy Gilmer (PPA 1970) adds: Alan was a constant. He was always cheerful and great company. He enjoyed the better things in life and loved his rugby. He often went with me to see Bath play. He was very talented as a player in his own right, and very proud of his younger brother John, who played for Bath and England. He enjoyed life generally and my family and friends grew very fond of him. We all loved his infectious laugh. However, above those enjoyments, he also worked very hard. We'd talk for hours. He was great with kids and also with my dog, Lupa. He once came for a weekend and stayed 18 months!

Alan's death came as a great shock to all of us who knew him. It was out of the blue, and we are all still recoiling from how it's affected us. We will miss his fun, banter and infectious laugh. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Marion, his brother John, and the rest of his family. May he rest in peace.

## Peter Ashworth (PPA 1946)

Peter grew up in Worthing. He was head boy at Prior and completed his national service before going up to Clare College, Cambridge in 1949. Peter was captain of the university hockey team by 1951 and gained his blue in the 1952 Varsity match against Oxford.

Peter enjoyed a long career in the brewing industry, joining Arthur Guinness in the early 60s and moving to Cheshire. After joining Greenall Whitley in 1972, he led the company's development as a beer, cider, and spirit producer. His leadership was recognised when, in 1986, he was honoured as president of the Institute of Brewing in their centenary year. After retiring in the early 90s, Peter became chairman of Broadgreen NHS trust.

Peter and Sara married 1960 and they had four sons:

Mark, Simon, John and James. Mark (PPA 1979), who died in 2018, was also head boy at Prior. Sara died in 1989. Eleven years later Peter married June. They enjoyed 22 years of happy married life. Quick-witted and with a wry smile, Peter was distinguished by his critical eye and fondness for returning to "first principles". His wisdom and humour will be keenly missed by his family.

**Peter Ashworth** - born in July 1928, died in February 2022 at the age of 93.



## John Dunbar (PPA 1949)

John Dunbar moved to Prior Park for his A Levels, having been educated initially in Liverpool and then at the Catholic Benedictine monastery in Hertfordshire. At Prior, he played in the rugby and cricket first teams and was selected for the Liverpool schools football team. He went on to play rugby for London Wasps, rising to the 1st X1. On leaving Prior, he turned down a place at Cambridge, and instead joined the Metal Box Company in Liverpool, where he was promoted into the audit team. He met Maureen Harris in 1955, and they were married in 1958.

John had a varied career: working for a textiles company in Buenos Aires; back to London where he was technical director of management services for Whitbread; European vice-president for the defence contractor Litton Industries; and, in the late 60s, pioneering the first machines to read bank notes and credit cards. He also helped to develop and launch the original automatic ticket machines for

London transport. John subsequently became the managing director of British Steel Corporation Industry, a subsidiary dedicated to finding new jobs when British Steel was closing mills. He oversaw the creation of more than 50,000 jobs and was appointed an OBE for services to industry.

John and Maureen had four children, two sons Simon and Richard and two daughters Catherine and Anna. In 1988, Maureen and John divorced, and the following year he married Gillian Smith, who owned a chain of pharmacies. John retired in 1999. But his plans for an active retirement were thwarted by a back operation. He consequently spent much of his time travelling with Gillian and enjoying the company of his children and grandchildren.







## Dion O'Leary (PPA 1962)

Dion was born in South Wales in 1944. His father was killed in action in Normandy just two months after his birth. Dion was brought up by his mother, Eileen, at the house of his grandparents, Mansel and Ruth Jones. The house was bursting at the seams with people. Every day, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and neighbours would pop in on the off chance of a cup of tea and a Welsh cake. Food was at the heart of the house, in spite of post-war rationing. Grandpa Jones had two fields, a couple of cows, a few pigs and a flock of hens. These provided fitches of bacon, fresh full fat milk, creamy yellow hand churned butter, rich cream you could stand a spoon in, home-made whey and curd cheeses, an endless supply of newly laid eggs, and, on high days and holidays, a crispy roast chicken. Food, tea, chat and cigarettes were the currency of the house. Many was the night when the women spent so much time talking and putting the world to rights that they forgot to go to bed. They just staggered on through the next day on yet more tea and cigarettes. It was a kind and loving household even though money was in short supply. Water was provided by the one cold tap in the kitchen. Washing was done outside in a stone trough with cold water, and the lavatory was in a lean-to at the back of a shed. The old black iron range in the kitchen was always on the go for cooking, heating water and keeping the house warm. It was very, very basic. But Dion grew up as part of a privileged generation. Thanks to post-war policies and generous scholarships, it was possible to go to a good school and through university straight into a well paid job with all the perks: long-term contracts, private healthcare, a company car and generous expenses. It was possible to work, buy a house (even in London), enjoy life and look forward to the future with optimism. After his studies at Prior, Dion moved to London where he obtained a degree in mathematics. After

graduation, he worked for a small number of companies before settling into a sales career at Comshare Ltd, an Anglo-American IT and software company. He was promoted to director at Comshare in 1979 and stayed with the company until 1997, working for his last year as senior vice-president of international sales at the company's head office in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dion was an active member of the CCF during his time at Prior. This experience sparked a lifelong interest in competitive target rifle shooting. He represented Wales 21 times in the National Match and 24 times in the Mackinnon, captaining the team on a number of occasions. He represented Wales at two Commonwealth Games. He was chairman of the Welsh Rifle Association for many years, before becoming its president. Individually, he won two Queen's Final badges and two Grand Aggregate Crosses. He also toured Canada with the 1981 Great Britain Rifle team.

Dion was a man of quick wit with a keen sense of humour and a sharp eye for fun. In addition to shooting, he loved classical music. This was a passion fostered at Prior and which stayed with him all his life. Generous with his knowledge, time and advice, he was a much loved and well-respected friend, colleague and dedicated family man who will be missed greatly by those who survive him: his wife Sylvia, five children and six grandchildren.

Dion O'Leary - 1944 to August 11th, 2022.



## Leslie Michael Hewitt (PPA 1955)

Les Hewitt enjoyed a long career in the City, starting in the 1950s and wrapping up in the early 2000s. As an insurance broker within Lloyd's of London, Les forged many business relationships both here and in the USA that became lifelong friendships. Les excelled in that era of face-to-face trading, and his career afforded him the opportunity to see some far-flung parts of the globe. Following his retirement, Les enjoyed a new network of friends at his local Cuddington golf club. Ever enthusiastic and warm spirited, playing and watching golf remained his key passion, alongside spending time with his family. Les was fortunate to live a healthy life: he died in the comfort of his own home after a short period of deteriorating health. A memorial golf day was held not long after what would have been his 85th birthday. All who attended recalled countless tales of a character full of integrity who had enjoyed many fun times throughout his life. A life lived to the full.

Happily married for over 50 years, Les leaves his wife, Shirley, and his two children, Rhett and Fleur, who each have one daughter.

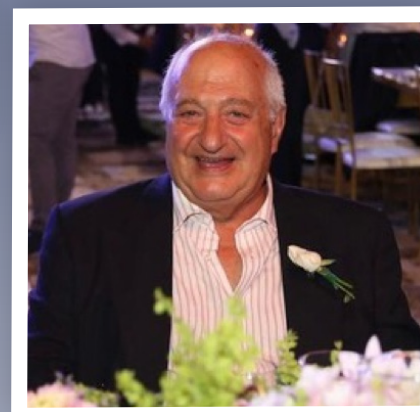


## Mounir-el Khoury (PPA 1959)

Barry Plews writes: Mounir was the youngest of three Lebanese brothers who attended the school in the 1950's. He played for the 1st XV as hooker and the tennis team. A rugby contemporary John Hely commented "He punched above his weight but punch is not a word you would associate with Mounir." His son Alexander also attended the college.

Whilst his brothers Rafik and Samir remained in the Lebanon, Mounir travelled widely.

Mounir-el Khoury 1941-2022.



## Brian Williams (PPA 1970)

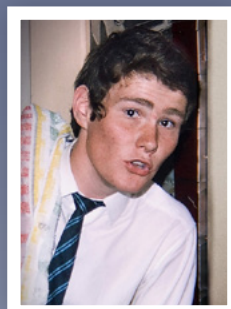
William Lee (PPA 1970) and Simon Howell (PPA 1970) write: Brian will be remembered by all of those who were at school with him as a thoroughly good guy - generous, utterly reliable and above all always true to himself. Brian was also a great sportsman and represented the college at the highest levels in many sports, most notably in rugby and in athletics, where he threw the hammer. He also represented the school in the more subtle art of fencing. If ever the phrase "all-rounder" in sport applied to anyone, it was Brian.

Brian's confident, quiet manner belied an inner strength and toughness. Not a lot seemed to faze him. At Prior in those pre-Internet days, we were allowed to order a daily newspaper. Many of us took advantage of this and had the New Musical Express delivered, whilst others opted for the News of the World - its content being something of a contrast to Sunday Mass. Brian, however, had The Times delivered daily, into which he buried himself each morning after breakfast. One day, Pete Minahan decided to interrupt

Brian's concentration by setting fire to his newspaper. Within seconds it was ablaze. Yet, instead of exploding as one might expect, Brian looked at Peter and a slight smile passed across his face as he quietly muttered: "I was reading that".

It was no surprise when Brian was appointed prefect. Unlike some of those elevated to this lofty status, he remained unphased and unchanged by the appointment. The only change was his prefect's tie.

Deep shock-waves and sorrow were felt by all of us who knew Brian, especially as his sudden death came only weeks after that of his friend Alan Palmer, whose funeral he and his wife Lynn organised. We all miss Brian hugely and our love and sympathy goes out to Lynn.





## Kevin Alan Tucker (PPA 1952)

Kevin Tucker died of a stroke aged 87, at home in Nairobi, Kenya. He was born in 1934 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania, and he attended Prior between 1947 and 1952. He followed one brother, Brian (1946 - 49), and preceded another, Colin (1957 - 59). Kevin excelled at sports. On leaving Prior, he trained as a chartered accountant, then returned to East Africa to work for Metal Box Ltd. There he met Geraldine Tweed, and they married in 1963. They had two children, Stephanie and Philip. In 1968, Geraldine was involved in a car accident which rendered her quadriplegic and confined to a wheelchair. The family stayed in Kenya thereafter. Kevin worked for a number of firms

before becoming self-employed and running a few successful businesses. He retired from work around the time of Geraldine's death in 2012. He continued to enjoy his later years in good health, enhanced by the odd game of golf, in the peace and tranquillity of the Karen neighbourhood in Nairobi. Kevin is lovingly remembered by Stephanie and Philip, family and friends.



## Jeremy Smyth (PPA 1974)

*Graham Sharp writes:* Jeremy arrived at St Peters as a boarder in 1968 at the start of the Michaelmas term. Brother Carey was his housemaster and Jem settled in well. Being tall, well-built and a good sprinter, he was soon picked for the rugby team. He was truly full of life, with a genuine ability to make friends easily. It is difficult to recall him without his ready smile and his giggle. He was good looking as well - apparently! We all warmed to him, and he remained a good friend until he left college at the age of 17, to work as a trainee bank clerk in the NatWest, London. Ever restless, he soon moved on to run a successful wholesale business in the jewellery quarter, Birmingham. Generous to all, he readily shared his newly found wealth with his many friends.

He married in the late 70's, had two daughters, and went to live in Droitwich. Sadly, the marriage failed. His wife insisted that the children be separated. She went to live in the USA, leaving Philippa in Jem's care. He kept her safely by his side for the rest of his days. Unfortunately, a dramatic fall off in the wholesale trade in the 1980's caused the demise of Jem's business. He simply carried on, and went to Portugal with one of his brothers, Rod (also deceased), to invest in the property trade, selling villas. That market, too, declined and it was to be the last of his truly legitimate enterprises. Still full of imagination and a will to succeed, Jem decided to borrow money from banks without paying any back, at which he was successful for some time. But he eventually ran out of luck. He served time, becoming the principal inmate in an open prison assisting the governor. (No mean feat given the privileges that went with the role.) His sole priority remained Philippa and he ensured that she was kept safe and well until he returned home. Thereafter, he never gave up hope of repeating his early successes and he continued to seek business opportunities. Sadly, poor health eventually got the better of him, and he died of Covid.

Jeremy Smyth, October 9th, 1954 - 26th August 2021.

## Tom Clancy (PPA 1963)

*Chris Lennon writes:* Thomas John Clancy was born in Pontypool, Monmouthshire, in 1944, the only son of a dentist father, to whom he was close. Pontypool was to be his home for most of his life. Tom was a proud Welshman and a huge enthusiast for Wales and its people.

At Prior, Tom was popular and excelled at sport, as well as being thoughtful in the classroom. He played for the Rugby First XV and First XI cricket. The latter I remember particularly, as my hopeful father had given me a Harrow size bat when I was younger and it suited Tom, who was small and wiry of stature, better than a full-sized bat. So, he would borrow it for matches, always asking me politely and unfailingly returning it afterwards. I still have the bat, manufactured by Gunn and Moore. It was characteristic of Tom to be polite and conscientious. It was a measure of Tom's steady character that, in

his final year, he would sometimes be asked to drive the school bus.

After leaving Prior in 1963, Tom was articled to a firm of solicitors, coincidentally called Gunn and Gunn, later Watkins and Gunn, where he qualified, eventually becoming a partner. He specialised in property and probate law and was regarded by both colleagues and clients as a very patient and caring member of the profession. He was "always a gentleman".

Tom continued to play cricket for local clubs into his late thirties. In retirement, he moved to Cardiff, where he became involved with local charities, particularly those concerned with wildlife and the environment. It could be tricky luring Tom out of Wales, but he did memorably attend an unofficial reunion of contemporaries in 1994. He married Christine in 1973, and she survives him. There were no children.

Thomas Clancy, 1944 - 2018.

## Other deaths

Gerald Walker (PPA 1948) passed away on September 30th, 2022. Gerald was always proud to be an alumnus of the college and was exceptionally helpful to the alumni office. Gerald was very specific in that he did not want a eulogy, nor a printed obituary.

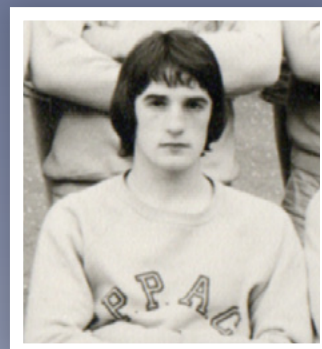
Nicholas Tranter (PPA 1954) died in November 2021. Father Nicholas was parish Priest at Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, from 1985-86 where he was celebrant at Mass for Cricklade's Prize Giving Day. May he rest in peace.

Alex Morley (PPA 1993) died in April 2022. He was a pupil at Cricklade before joining Prior Park College. May he rest in peace.

James Cordey (PPA 1995). Malcom Bond (PPA 1995) writes: James was a superb sportsman who represented the First XV Rugby team for 3 years and the First XI Cricket team for his 6th form years. He was a very kind and funny young man who would never be far from a friend during his time at College.

"I remember playing cricket with James and facing nearly 20 overs to secure a gritty draw against a strong KES school opposition when in L5. I recall how at the end of every over James would make a joke or mimic the KES umpire to release some of the tension and to make us both smile."

James leaves behind two sons and their mother. His brother, two sisters and his parents survive him. James Cordey 1977-2022







## Dates for your diary

### 2023

**Saturday 7 January**

PPA Committee Meeting 09:30

Old Boys' hockey vs 1st team midday and  
netball vs 1st team 13:30

**Saturday 25 February**

Year Group Rep drinks 1400

**Saturday 10 June**

1960-1963 Reunion Supper

**Sunday 11 June**

1968 Reunion light drinks and canapes

Cricket vs 1st X1

Tennis vs 1st team

1960-1963 Reunion continues at the  
cricket!

1968 Reunion

2003 Reunion

1983 Reunion

**Sunday 7 October**

Mansion Lunch

**Reunions with dates TBC**

2018 Reunion

2013 Reunion

1973 Reunion

**Update contact details** – please send updates for your contact details, mobile, postal address and email to [elgoymer@priorparkschools.com](mailto:elgoymer@priorparkschools.com)

**Digital Archive** – our archivist Simon Beck (PPA 1969) has uncovered a wealth of interesting articles and photos and these will shortly be added to the digital archive. Why not take a look at [priorparkcollege-heritage.daisy.websds.net/](http://priorparkcollege-heritage.daisy.websds.net/)

**Website** – our alumni website will undergo a transformation in the new year. Watch this space!

### And finally...

**Answer:** The badger/hedgehog Palladian corridor from page 18 is on the wall which begins at the end of St Peter's (swimming pool end). When I asked Fee why she chose to make the Palladian corridor she answered that on her first day she saw a badger shoot through the hole in the wall. She believes in integrating a building with the animals around it and so she wanted to keep the hole in the wall which was being used. She found a triangular piece of stone and then decided on the idea to make a feature of the 'badger run'.







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Prior Park Past Pupils



Prior Park College (PPA) Alumni and Friends



@priorparkalumni

\* William Shakespeare - A Midsummer Night's Dream - Act II, Scene I