



Issue 22, 2021

The *Gossip* Bowl

The Alumni Magazine

*"And sometimes lurk I in a gossip's bowl" **



PRIOR PARK ALUMNI
A Community for Life



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New Year resolutions on steroids

By Carole Laverick

Is it age that makes us reflect on mortality? Certainly a global pandemic with the shocking lockdowns in the Western world, no individual untouched by loss, has had a focusing effect on so many of us. Being on furlough, redesigning, re-evaluating lives, picking out the wheat from the chaff, having time to think, reflect and improve (page 10). It has become a time which has become a gift for some, time with family, time away from commuting/office, it has been the opposite of avoidance. In opposition the lack of time, working twice as hard (page 18), with no time to think also gives rise to changes in priorities. Who and what are important? You are face to face with the attachment to life whether through deep spirituality (page 27) or insane adventures (page 18), this is New Year resolutions on steroids, now is the time to live your best life with a renewed sense of purpose. Such a cliché, but in all clichés are truth. And on that note I say my farewell to the alumni of Prior Park, thank you for everything that you have given to me. The last 11 years at Prior Park have been the most enjoyable of my career.



Carole Laverick

Cover image: *The Phoenix Alights the Mansion*

Interview by Bear Hutchison PPA 2015

Rachel Wright PPA 2002 found her love of art was ignited at Prior by **Mr David Wood** (former head of art), who she says went above and beyond, encouraging her to explore and think outside the box. She was only one of two students in her year who completed History of Art A-level, and went on to study Fine Art at university.



A couple of years later however, life (and children!) came along, and the art was put on pause. She returned to the profession after a visit to the school: when she was asked her profession by a chatty teacher, she realised she wanted to be able to say "artist" again without fear. Rachel opened her first exhibition almost exactly 10 years after her last one.

From this rebirth of her career, the artistic connection to Prior continued, and the artist in residence role first caught her eye as she admired **Peter Brown's** (parent and former Artist in Residence 2018) work at the school. The pandemic really amplified this connection as she followed the PPA's work in connecting alumni from all over the world. Rachel knew she wanted to help connect people in such a difficult time, and use her skills to spread joy, which led her to the artist in residence role.

The pandemic hasn't been all bad for the art world, with online initiatives like the artist support pledge helping those who could no longer exhibit their work in person. The residence role and the pandemic were the spark for the final idea to combine with the Gossip Bowl's cover: showing Prior Park's resilience in a crisis. The parallels between the school coming together as a community after the fire and its reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic felt like the perfect way to summarise the year in the magazine.



Living your best life

As President of the Prior Park Association I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the 2021 edition of the Gossip Bowl. May I first of all, on your behalf, congratulate **Carole Laverick** (with contributions from **Beatrice ("Bear") Hutchison** PPA 2015 and **Terry Ilott** PPA 1968) in putting together yet another informative and entertaining publication. Stepping into the shoes of my predecessor, **Terry Ilott** PPA 1968, an experienced and consummate writer and journalist, was always going to be a challenge but I'm sure, when you read what has been produced, you will agree it is a challenge to which all are more than capable of fulfilling.

However, I am very sorry to have to announce that Carole will be relinquishing her role as alumni relations manager over the summer break. This is a sad moment as she has been a great servant of both Prior and, particularly, the PPA. I know I speak for both myself and my predecessor, Terry Ilott, in praising her work and support during the years that she has been in post. She literally put her heart and soul into the job and I know that her many initiatives, particularly her efforts in seeking to ensure that those alumni who perished during the two world wars have been properly recognised, the creation of the online digital archive, the Buddy Scheme during the pandemic and the Heritage Facebook posts that she has produced have been warmly appreciated.

The theme for this year's edition is 'Live Your Best Life', a properly uplifting exhortation in these extraordinary and difficult times. We have all had to face significant trials over the last eighteen months, some more than others, and the college has been particularly affected by lockdown and its disruption to its pupils' education. We must all congratulate the headmaster, Ben Horan, and his staff for the professional and sensitive way that they have managed to keep as high a standard of teaching and pastoral care as they have. Inevitably there have been problems but all of them met with a calm and considered approach and I believe that we can be all very proud of the way that Prior Park Schools have dealt with this exceptional situation. There is no manual that sets out how you run a school in a global pandemic, no set of guidelines or



“ You will receive a heartfelt and empathetic welcome ”

instructions. They have had to meet and deal with this situation relying on what skills and experience they have and their inherent character and resilience. We can be very proud of them and their efforts.

I hope that you enjoy the magazine and find much within it to inspire and entertain. It is easy to allow the current situation to depress and despair but what is so uplifting is to discover how resilient so many people have been. Let us hope that the dislocation of their education will not permanently affect the futures of those members of Prior Park Schools pupil cohort who have had to contend with lockdown. Undoubtedly there will be casualties and as president of the PPA I am sure that I speak for all the alumni in pledging to do whatever we can to assist anyone affected to achieve their potential. Please, do not hesitate to ask.

Our time in lockdown has brought out many aspects which hitherto may have been ignored or deliberately avoided. One of these is the role of social media. On a positive side it has enabled people to stay in touch and

share various experiences but there is also a negative side and I am sure that you have all read reports in the press of how many of our young people have found themselves victims of online abuse. I was particularly impressed with the way that Ben Horan tackled this subject in his online assembly statement on the subject of 'hierarchies'. If you have not seen this then can I urge you to do so. It particularly resonated with me having been at Prior in the late 60's and 70's where a hierarchical structure was positively encouraged. You will find it on YouTube.

I was lucky in that it was a regime in which I was able to thrive, but over the years I have become increasingly aware that many of my contemporaries would have found it deeply oppressive and that it will have undoubtedly significantly affected the rest of their lives. I am also aware that this continued, although to a much lesser extent, after the departure of the Christian Brothers. I know that there are many people who still bear, probably literally, the scars of all their experience at Prior. To those people can I say that both the school and the PPA want to extend a hand of sympathy and understanding.

No doubt, many of you so affected have turned your back on the school believing that it has no sense of shame or acknowledgement of what happened to you. Let me assure you that this is not the case and I would like to end this piece by appealing to all those who feel alienated because of their experiences to get back in touch. I am sure that you will receive a heartfelt and empathetic welcome.

The sermon is over, please enjoy the magazine and my very best wishes to you all.

Deo Luce Deo Duce



Simon Morgan PPA 1975
President Prior Park Alumni



#givingback

The Inspire Conference in October 2020 for the sixth form went virtual and we were delighted to have **James Golding** PPA 1995 lead graphics programmer at Epic Games. James has spent the past 13 years of his career at Epic leading programming efforts across the studio's games and game engine technology. James has been intimately involved in architecting several areas of Unreal Engine 4, including the gameplay framework, physics, and Blueprint visual scripting system. He was joined by **Tom Brass** PPA 1998. As creative director of Jellyfish Pictures he has had to be bold and adventurous with his career and his business decisions and choices. Although there could be no breakout sessions with Tom giving Emmy-award winning demonstrations of his artwork as he had done before, he spoke with passion about making a living within the arts. If the aim of the day is to inspire the sixth form students Tom always manages to hit the nail on the head. To complete the trio was **Jack Ashby** PPA 2000 who studied zoology at Cambridge and now is the assistant director of the Grant University Museum of Zoology, London. As a published author he has been busy, from 2006 when he wrote: "Kingdom in a Cabinet: A Guide to the Animals of the Grant Museum" to 2017, an offering of "Animal Kingdom: the natural world in 100 objects," amongst a multitude of papers within his specialism in natural history of Australian mammals. Once more his passion for his subject enthralled the sixth form audience, even those not taking those subjects.

Chantal Hopper (nee Strawbridge), PPA 1999 and PPA committee member, kindly volunteered to talk to the CCF Navy section about a career in the Royal Navy. The contingent commander, **Natalie Cordon** PPA 2008, was delighted to accept. However, they are going to wait until they can achieve this IRL (In Real Life). When restrictions lifted slightly in June, Chantal was able to come in and talk to the Brownlow students for an assembly.

A huge thank you to **Francis Hornyold-Strickland** PPA 2005, barrister at 36



Group, Grays Inn, for accommodating one week's work experience in the law office in the summer of 2020 for current student **Martha Parsons** PPA 2021 who contacted him through LinkedIn.

Harriet Lord PPA 2015 lets the office know that she is a sustainability consultant and part of her job is researching and trying to tackle a range of social and human issues. She would love to talk about women's issues – social and economic equality, power, where we are now and the 'frozen' generation of feminism, as well as how we can move forward. She thinks it's something that would have benefitted her hugely back at school, and it would be such an important learning experience for the boys too.

Arnold Lesrado PPA 1985, whose son was starting at Bristol University, read the Gossip Bowl 2020. He wanted to pick **Caspian Johnson's** brains about work experience, the course, how he could get more involved with ecological projects etc. Caspian PPA 2007 went beyond the normal and contacted both alumnus and his son and offered to help. Arnold's quote: "It's a wonderful opportunity to see the illustrious PP alumni association at it's altruistic best."

Jonny Raby PPA 2011 not only offered to do MedSoc but also spoke to our L6th Oxbridge group about applying to Cambridge.



Within minutes of sending a request to **Oilly Liu** PPA 2014 who went to Berklee College of Music in Boston and graduated in May 2019 with 'Summa Cum Laude', a reply was sent...."I'd be more than happy to talk to Max about Berklee." Current student and gifted musician, **Max Montanaro** PPA 2022 needed some guidance.

Chris Bunting PPA 2016 currently in his 4th year as medical student at Barts and the London School of Medicine, has offered to help with applications for medical students. He is providing a service to assist with personal statement feedback, with online mock interviews to follow a bit later this academic calendar. We are hoping that a collaboration can be achieved with this very generous offer from Chris, and the offer passed onto MedSoc within the college.

Other examples of alumni giving back included:

Emma Allen, current parent who works as an associate consultant at Anthony Millard Consulting & Westrop Consulting contacted us to help with vacancies for alumni.

Max Hall PPA 2020, who helped with all the lighting and back stage production over 3 days of socially distanced filming of the carol service.

#TY



I still couldn't quite shake the feeling that there were 'Two Priors'

By Ben Horan, head of Prior Park College

This year marks 40 years since Prior Park College was 'founded anew'. In 1981, the Christian Brothers left Prior Park and the school moved into a lay administration. 40 years ago, our first lay Headmaster, Patrick Tobin, took up the reins of leading this great school. In September this year we will commemorate his life in a Memorial Mass in our Chapel after his death last year. I was born 40 years ago, at around the same time that Prior was moving into lay administration under Patrick's leadership.

Disraeli famously wrote of 'Two Nations' when speaking of 19th Century England. I have spent much time wondering about whether there are 'Two Priors'. Through conversations with many alumni, I began to idealise 1981 as a turning point in the history of the college. My naïve view was that it marked a point whereby the college became an almost entirely different entity. I spoke to so many alumni who had such a dim view of their life at the college in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. They spoke of the fear that pervaded the place under the stern eyes of the Christian Brothers. I soon realised though that this view of 1981 as a hinge point was hopelessly simplistic. As I spoke to more and more alumni, I realised that some had wonderful experiences before the 1980s and, in contrast, some had a dire time in the 1990s and beyond.

I still couldn't quite shake the feeling though that there were 'Two Priors.' The first to my mind is a wonderful school, rooted in community and a feeling of togetherness. It is the school we acknowledge and are proud of. There were those older alumni who had an objectively terrible time here, who still felt a great affinity and kinship with their peers. They were bonded by some pretty tough experiences and still feel real love for each other today – though not necessarily for the



“ Let's face up to our past and talk about it ”

school they attended. I talk to more recent alumni who recall the wonderful community that the 'post-81' school encouraged through its focus on love and kindness. However, there are still those other alumni I talk to, those who attended the 'other Prior'. A Prior Park that wasn't kind or caring. Those alumni struggle to come back to the school. They had a horrible time here and they talk of experiences which, were they to happen

today, would lead to emergency inspections and quite rightly, prosecutions. How can one reconcile these 'two Priors'? Our alumni community spans seven or eight decades, which is perfectly normal for an alumni association in an old and established school. However, it also spans wildly contrasting experiences as to what Prior Park was. Many, if not all, public, boarding schools of the mid-twentieth century were hard, uncaring places in which to grow up. However, Prior seems to have left more of an indelible mark than most schools on those of its alumni who did not enjoy their time here. What can the current school do to help bring together the 'two Priors'?

There are two things, the first is to talk more about who we are now as a school, what we do now that makes us different. I often talk about us as a school that has 'love at the centre of all we do'. This Gossip Bowl should, I hope, continue to show all of you what sort of school Prior is today. Why it is a school to be proud of and why it is a school to invest hope in for the future. The second thing we can do now is **face up to our past and talk about it**. You may have seen my assembly on 'hierarchies' from earlier in this academic year. As a school, it is vital that we talk to all our alumni, and don't let those who attended the 'other Prior' feel alienated from the school today. We are working on policies to deal with historic issues, but I'd also like us to do more than this. As we celebrate the anniversary of the 'New Founding' of our school in 1981, I'd like us to hold a day of 'Reconciliation' where we ask all interested alumni to return to the school and share their experiences. Experiences from the 'one Prior' we hope we still are, and equally from the 'other Prior' that we know we are not, but acknowledge that we once were. If you would like to be involved in such a day, then do please get in touch. If not, then please do visit anyway, we'd love to greet every member of our existing alumni community at some point over this coming year. You are all, always, welcome.



Rosie Allen, head of The Paragon School reflects on her first year at the helm

A prospective parent who visited the school recently described it as being like 'childhood bottled', and anyone who has visited The Paragon, or indeed knows it by reputation, will understand it when I say there is a magic to the school. It's not just the setting. It runs deeply through the ways and traditions of the school, in the relationships between pupils, staff and parents and in the wonderful environment which has been created for the children. I very much see my role as stewarding this magic, ensuring that we keep it alive and thriving.

Obviously Covid has presented more than its fair share of challenges to everyone in our community. However, our pupils have coped with the different way of learning utterly brilliantly. Their resilience and, quite frankly, joy through the various ebbs and flows of the pandemic has been nothing short of breath-taking. They have found the fun in everything and worked their socks off under such difficult circumstances. Not only that, but our recent assessments have shown



that great progress has been made in their learning. In spite of everything, it has been a successful year for each of them and we are all incredibly proud of their resilience and determination.

The school has also moved forward, and there are exciting plans for the future. It has been a challenge to remain focused on continual improvement, but we have done so and there are exciting times ahead. We have plans to significantly extend our outdoor

learning programme, to further develop our co-curricular programme so that it provides each child with expansive opportunities, and to build on our already strong community to instil in the children a real sense of global awareness as they grow into adulthood. We will continue to deliver a wonderfully broad and enriched curriculum in the classroom, with an emphasis on keeping alive in every child their natural thirst for learning. I have always said that academic success comes as a by-product of happy, engaged children and The Paragon has that magical quality which will make this a reality.

When asked what defines The Paragon recently, I answered that our pupils are allowed to be children. There is so much joy, adventure and purpose for them on their educational journey with us, and their time at The Paragon gives them a fully immersive educational experience. They have time and space to develop their skills and talents, to find out who they really are and what they have to offer the world. Ultimately, each child leaves our school as an even better version of themselves, and I think children and parents alike appreciate the natural and individual growth that The Paragon allows.

Gibraltar School Report

What is the quickest you have ever packed away a Christmas tree full of decorations? Asks Peter Watts, Headmaster

I would bet that my family's effort last New Year would beat it.

Enjoying a sunny beach barbecue, near Tarifa at the southernmost tip of Spain, on 2nd January, a social media post (so, some use after all then!) alerted me that the provincial borders in Andalucia and the international frontier with Gibraltar would close that evening at midnight in response to the 'exponential' covid-19 surge resulting after families visiting at Christmas. A somewhat scoffed (and sandy) sausage, a mad dash



to clear our house in the mountains (not including merely cling-filming the tree – if only I'd seen those YouTube clips earlier!) and we beat the border closure with a couple of hours to spare and were 'safely' back in Gibraltar. Two days later Boris Johnson locked down the UK, closed schools (again)

and cancelled public examinations for the second year in a row. The rest is, as they say, (and we must pray), history.

This summer's year 13 leavers are now as TAG'ed as they can be, and are hard at work on, what I hope, will be a truly long-lasting



Headmaster Peter Watts at the proposed site for the time capsule

project...the hard work of another two weeks of revision slog for A levels now seeming a sacrifice worth making! The plan is to capture the highs, the lows; the mundane, the sublime; the student voice, the staff voice; painting, music, writing, videos and photos from their two years of sixth form and to seal it all in a stainless steel and pressure-sealed time capsule. Their school careers have come to an end in ways unprecedented in human history, and, as the leaders of tomorrow, it is right that they should shape what will become the history of today.

The hope, with re-surfacing work due as part of the school's development plan, is to bury the capsule in the main school courtyard beneath a permanent copy of one of our 2-metre social distancing circles (photo), with a plaque above to explain what was left there, why, and when.

Wonderfully, although it didn't seem it at the time, last May, the students soon saw the markings as an opportunity to invent new games, such as 'How many of us can we fit in the circle' – it was impossible for the few staff in school, supporting the

early returners, to forbid fun and cancel childhood.

Gibraltar has fared rather better than the UK, and certainly Spain, in defending itself against the pandemic and we are 'almost' back to normal. Next week sees Sports Day, tomorrow sees a Summer Showcase for our creative arts faculty and we will have a Speech Day. Last week saw our first collective worship for Corpus Christi in the Cathedral for almost two years.

The calendar might be starting to re-normalise but we must acknowledge that it is going to take some time yet for all things to return to the way they were pre-Covid. Students' socialisation, staff responsibilities and parental expectations are three key areas where my senior colleagues and I are working hard to reduce concerns.

If nothing else I am looking forward to the time when greeting visitors to the school becomes re-'normalised' as the current handshake/fist-pump/elbow touch/hug/one kiss/two kisses/three(!) kisses conundrum is making reception look like a Morris Dancer training venue!

Gap year

Ava Graham PPA 2020 applied for the PPA Gap Year funding to work in the slums of Nairobi to help girls produce sanitary products.

Plans had to change and as she accepted her place at Exeter University for 2021 to study marine biology, though she would change her application to do an environmental project. Influenced by her mother, who had spent her childhood in Kenya, Ava headed to Watamu in January 2021. On completion of her PADI diving course she volunteered at the Local Ocean Conservation (LOC). Main tasks were to help with the Bycatch release, rescuing 3-5 turtles who had been caught in fishing nets per day. LOC taught her to record and analyze data on turtle health, population size and the beach profile. An essential skill for her (hopeful) future in marine conservation!

After 2 months in Watamu, she then transferred to Nosy Be Madagascar to start a 6 week programme in marine conservation. Unexpectedly the highlight of the programme was teaching the local staff and students of Madagascar about the environmental impact of overfishing and plastic pollution.

With all of this experience in the field it will surely give her a head start with her degree.

PPA Music Prize 2021:

Gabriella Chiu (Gabi) PPA 2021 has shown an amazing dedication to music at PPC, not only in her own studies as a Grade 8 singer as well as an oboist, guitarist and double bass player, but also in studying GCSE Music and in her regular commitment to school ensembles including the Senior Chapel Choir. She is a worthy winner.





People: from Matron to Mel

For decades, one of the most important female figures within the college for those boys who were away from their families from the tender age of 7 was the matron. Since 1982, girls were entered into the college, but the matron continues to have a pivotal role with the students and staff alike. This is a small tribute to some of the women who have generated such fond memories.

Nurse Maura Keighery Worked at PPC : 1942-1982 40 years service

After 25 years of service (in 1967) the PPA broke their stag rule for their annual dinner and invited Keighery to be their guest of honour. They returned to the stag rule for the following year!



"I entered Prior as an 11-year-old scholarship boy in the summer of 1949. This new regime of Christian Brothers dressed in full-length black habits and carrying straps in their pockets came as something of a rude shock, but the atmosphere was greatly improved by the presence of Nurse Keighery. Her Irish warmth and compassion in doling out treatment and medicine for the injured and sick. She was not above giving an occasional quick hug to any new boy in her care, perhaps missing his parents and feeling sorry for himself, and as a result of her ministrations feeling more able to face the daily grind of his new and unfamiliar environment. A very special lady and one whose memory is to cherish." **Peter Scott** PPA 1955

"Nurse Keighery struggled into Prior Park through the rubble left by the bomb which had devastated St. Paul's in 1942," states Brother Miller. "She rapidly became a second mother to the boys, looking after their every need. Apart from nursing, dressing the little boys, making beds and scrubbing floors which were all part of her daily routine, she shielded the boys from the wrath of righteous housemasters on occasions when she saw in her wisdom that the velvet glove might be more effective than the iron fist."

"She had a flat with a window overlooking the chapel in St Peter's which had been turned into a dorm because of the number of pupils.

She said night time prayers through that window." **Richard Sharpe** PPA 1967 (There is still a small spyhole which can be seen in the Clifford Rec Room)

"She was the reassuring female presence in the sea of testosterone." **Geoff Ferreira** PPA 1964

Sister Eileen McPeake Worked at PPC: 1982 – 2004 22 years service

Her career is documented in the obituaries as we lost her this January. These are some of the comments from the students she cared for:



"She was such a lovely lady and her infirmary was a sanctuary with her very warm and caring ways, particularly when we were younger and very much missing home as boarders. It was always a welcoming place, whether genuinely ill or even with a hangover in our 6th form days." **John Messenger** PPA 1993

"She was pure PPC DNA." **Marc Demarquette** PPA 1991

"She always used to give me sick notes for swimming. There was nothing physically wrong with me but I had huge body anxiety which she picked up on. Her kindness will never be forgotten." **Emily** PPA

"She didn't just heal our bodies, but our souls. She loved us like a mother and that "disappointed" look is more than enough to take us back to the right path when needed. I would go to the infirmary after dinners just to spend some time with her before prep, and more often or not, half of our group would be there already chatting away with the squash and biscuits..."

"The night with the big storm I was sick

and stayed in the infirmary over night for the first time. I was about 11 or 12, I was so scared because all the windows were banging like they were going to break at anytime but she would come in late at night to make sure I was OK." **James Chippendale** PPA 1993

Mel Gittens Current staff: PPC 2019



There are no formalities now of Sister, Nurse or Matron, or uniforms, it is just Mel to all, students and staff alike. The outrageous outfits, the extraordinary funky shoes (a complete passion), the coloured hair (there is always a theme, but we're just not sure what it is) make this Australian export an absolute gem and all of a sudden the Medical Centre is re-designed, re-moulded into the Wellbeing Centre. It was student-led in its décor and what was needed by them: space to be quiet, areas to have confidential counselling, the safety of being able to come in and talk to one of the three medical staff about anything. Nothing is out of bounds, no conversation taboo – you are entering "the cone of silence".

Mel and her team are leading the way with helping students recognise if and when they need help – they come and ask for it. They are attracted to the beautiful butterfly that is Mel, with the colours and the levity, her Australian lilting accent. In the years to come there will be so many testimonials from past pupils of the difference she and her team made to their lives.



Carole Laverick's diary

23 September 2020 No end in sight to this pandemic and the daily life here is continuing under new rules and regulations. Everyone wearing masks throughout, so much sanitiser everywhere – no bugs could possibly survive that! The weather has been glorious which has been a real blessing until yesterday when the madcap professor Boris stood and delivered his vision for the next 6 months and the clouds literally filled the sky and down came the rain. It is a very different school day in the rain. The al fresco dining disappeared, the outdoor classes and tutor times gone, the open doors and windows – now just cracked open rather than fully. The pupils have been amazing, resilient and adaptable. There is a holiday camp feel about the house in these strange days. Still able to access online lessons and yet be in their prep rooms, football tournament organised in the evening when all the day pupils had vacated and supper in house!



8 Oct 2020 Independent production company Mammoth Screen will be onsite tomorrow to film for the new series of Bath based detective series McDonald and Dodds. The filming has been fully risk assessed for Covid safety both by the company and in-house but will by necessity cause some disruption. It's a brave new world out there when you have 'fogging assistants' – literally their job is to fog anti bacterial spray over people and equipment. Who knew?

November 2020 Second lockdown looms, days away, but this time all students and staff to remain on site. My heart aches for the overseas boarders and the uncertainty of having just been here over half term, dreading a Christmas break unable to see family. Alumni news of redundancies increases. Daunting times ahead, with miserable



weather and dark nights, the optimism and war-time spirit of March seems to have evaporated....bit like that fogging machine. A Zoom Heritage presentation: Hidden Prior. Incredible feedback, so many questions that there will have to be a sequel. "Are there really bones in the tribune in the Chapel?" – sort of question that cannot be ignored, so up goes a drone (thank you Reuban Jackson PPA 2021) to take a look....just a lot of dust and building debris. To date over 1,000 people have seen the presentation and over 60 questions were asked that I didn't know the answer to immediately.



December 2020 Alumni choir, when we normally remember the lost alumni, was going to be a challenge with no Mass and no singing. Something different had to be created. The current Heads of School, Maya Everitt and Matthew Street PPA 2021, helped make a film. They read out all the names of the departed and links to the video were sent to all relatives. Roland Robertson, director of music, had produced a video in the summer featuring the school song, so that was used as a backdrop for the reading of the names. This triggered great debate over the value of the school song.



24 doors of Advent – short funny videos of opening different doors within the College, led to a host of memories, hundreds of comments and engagement with alumni of all ages. Still plenty of doors to cover so might do that again this year.

4 January 2021

After a solitary Christmas, notified lastminute.com that we are to work from home. Lockdown 3 is here as of tomorrow.



With no notice, and the estates, medical and clerical staff all having chased around today to set up a testing centre in the Bury Sports Centre – now defunct. But what about those students who had already travelled here from overseas? There are about 20 students who will now be here for the duration of this lockdown. The advantage of being onsite is that they can have live sports/activity sessions together at least. The house masters and mistresses have taken up the cooking role until the catering company can come back in, and the students have all moved into St Paul's so they have company. Boys and girls under the one roof – it can work.

8 March 2021 ...at last the students are back, nearly all of them. The joyous sound of their voices, laughter, even the ridiculous places they leave their bags for us to trip over. Only a couple of weeks before the Easter break, but so lovely to have them 'home'.

During the pandemic the PPA office went into overdrive. As external speakers were no longer allowed, suddenly we were really useful. Assemblies for Baines, Fielding, English, Arundell and Clifford. Fielding



came up with their own shield and motto as a result of the assembly. Baines House ran a photography competition and had some stunning images of the areas that Bishop Baines had influenced during his time here. General Studies sessions for the sixth form, led to most of the students signing up to the PPA community to be kept informed



in the future. www.thepriorcommunity.co.uk

Parental feedback after one of the sessions: "You have achieved the near impossible. I think the children don't 'see' the school very often as you have got to get to maths, head down, to physics etc etc. but getting them to notice things they normally don't, is a huge achievement."

And what the future will look like is unknown, but the Class of 2021 are ensuring that they will be remembered, creating their own time

capsule, with all the contents scanned and added to the digital archive behind an icon that will open only in 20 years time. It will be stored in a replica tuck box (thank you **Will J Lee** PPA 1970 for design help by supplying old photos) and placed in the Signature Room (high above the Chapel roof) until their 20 year reunion.



From the Archives

Pounds for a Pin

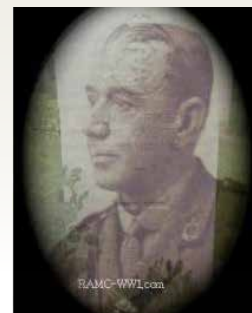
David Grant PPA 1981, based in South Africa, always on the look out for auction specials, spotted this OTC (Officer Training Corps) cap pin which then sent the alumni into a storm of activity.

A consortium from INTOAS (It's Not The Official Alumni Site) set up to purchase it, but it went for £320 on 21 October 2020. They were hopeful that it would come back to Prior, but not yet.

Simon Beck PPA 1969 did discover some fascinating research about the OTC at Prior Park which seems to have coincided with the Somerset Light Battalion who were stationed



here in WW1, rather than a college thing. Check out more of the details of the 1,698 soldiers that came through the college in that period on the digital archive.



David Grant also found a medal for the brother of Fallen WW1, **Benjamin Cortez Leigh** PPA 1886, **Frederick Augustus Leigh** PPA 1891.

Fielding – at last a logo

Fielding House was founded in 1994 (more about that in 2022 edition). **Kira Tenk** PPA 2022, designed this logo which will now be part of the archives.

The motto – Si decretum tibi non vitandum translated to: "What's for you, won't go by you", a lovely Scottish influence from **Anne Mallon** Fielding Housemistress since since 2005.

The quill represents **Henry Fielding** the writer (friend of Ralph Allen and their namesake)

The scales of justice are representative of Fielding's role in championing improvements to the prison system and being co-founder of the Bow Street Runners.

The flowers, carnations, represent the girls of Fielding. Pink carnations (Christian legend tells us that these flowers sprang from the earth on the places where the Holy Mother's tears moistened it on the road to Calvary, where her son was to be crucified).





Hong Kong Zoomunion

Prior Park College has a history of attracting students from Hong Kong that dates back well into the last century, writes director of development, Declan Rainey. For a variety of reasons, we have been unable to visit the territory ourselves, so in May we held a virtual reunion, our Zoomunion.

Twenty-five attendees joined us and the mix of past pupils, former teachers, current pupils and our headmaster proved an engaging

combination. It was very moving to see our former teachers recognise past pupils that they had not seen for years, and likewise the alumni were surprised to see their former teachers in such fine shape. Many of the attendees took full advantage of the networking opportunity that arose and quite a few digits were exchanged. Many thanks to **Kyran Sze PPA 1984** for his encouragement and help in pulling this off. We look forward to the next one.

Attendees: **Peter Laverick PPA 2013, Daniel Billig PPA 2009, Amy Li PPA 2009, Richard Hobbs PPA 1999, Michael Lam PPA 1997, Eric Yu PPA 1997, Jacky Chan PPA 1997, Alfred Chan PPA 1993, James Tsao PPA 1993, Stephen Tsao PPA 1991, Patrick Yau PPA 1987, Peter O'Donoghue PPA 1986, Kyran Sze PPA 1984, Kenneth Chan PPA 1984, Richard Tsun PPA 1983, Brian Wake PPA 1972, Tony O'Sullivan (former staff), Gerald Davies (former staff), Denis Clarke (former staff) and Ben Horan (headmaster)**

Mansion Lecture and Lunch 2021

We are hopeful that this event will proceed on Saturday 6 November 2021. We are inviting the four PPA medal winners (**Geoffrey Cardozo, Neil Tanna, Fabian Jowers and Tish Luck (nee Bullman)**) to give a brief talk on their work in the morning session when they will be presented with their medals ...finally. There will then be a reception in the Mansion as guests can mingle before going up for lunch in the Academy Hall. After lunch you have several options, stay at the table with the cheeseboard and chat, go on a tour of the college or perhaps you would like to see one of the matches? The choice is yours.

Tickets will be offered for sale to the medal winners, 40 year reunion attendees and over 55's with an early bird offer until September. Then it will be open to the entire community to join in.

The following day, Sunday 7 November there will be Mass in the chapel for anyone wishing to attend the Remembrance Service.



Coming out of Covid

There is an inherent resilience in Prior Park College as witnessed by the responses to departure of the Christian Brothers in 1981 and the fire only a decade later. These were deeply challenging events from which the school emerged perhaps even stronger than before. Now we are coming out of our latest test, this time the global Covid pandemic, and as the final restrictions are lifted we look forward to completely reopening the site to visitors, matches and in particular to recommencing our event programme in real life.



Transforming young lives

By Declan Rainey, director of development

As an independent school, Prior Park is first and foremost a charity, a charity that educates young people. Our goal is, of course, to ready our young people for professions and jobs – some of which may not even have been invented yet. But we would like to do more; we would like to give life-changing opportunities to gifted children from families that might not be aware that their son or daughter could be eligible for a full bursary at our school, or indeed at any independent school.

To achieve this we have teamed up with Royal Springboard, another charity that works across the UK's boarding and independent schools sector. Springboard identifies gifted children and teenagers who would most benefit from the chance to attend an independent school and all these young people require 110% bursaries (to cover all fees plus extras). We are delighted to announce that they have identified one such pupil who will join us in September.



This is by no means our first bursary student but it does represent the start of what we hope will be a sustained and growing partnership, the result of which will transform many young lives.

You may remember reading about Luca, a student at the College who received a bursary, thanks to a generous gift from an alumnus. Luca leaves us this year and after many years of leg-saving surgery, he has (fingers crossed) one more bout of surgery to go. He then hopes to go to university to study business and finance. Good luck!

“ I did not have one bad year at Prior Park. I was able to do everything I wanted to and I’m so grateful to the past pupil (Berni Gillan PPA 1956) who supported me ”

Luca Railton, 2021 Leaver

Would you like to be a part of this exciting initiative? Our aim over the next 5 years and beyond is to expand our bursary programme and to achieve this we need help. Below are a few examples of the difference even a modest direct debit can make over the 7 years a student spends here. Please contact the development office for more information.

Direct Debit for 7 years

| Monthly Direct Debit £ | Without Gift Aid £ | With Gift Aid £ | Donations needed for one Transformational Bursary* |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| 25.00 | 2,100.00 | 2,625.00 | 96 |
| 50.00 | 4,200.00 | 5,250.00 | 48 |
| 50.00 | 4,200.00 | 5,250.00 | 48 |
| 100.00 | 8,400.00 | 10,500.00 | 24 |

*Calculations include Gift Aid

History is just stories (*histoire* = story *French*) from the past and we want to share them...

The Heritage Society came into its own during the pandemic. Launched in November 2020 with the Hidden Prior talk by Carole Laverick, followed by a talk from Nick Lennard about Ralph Allen, the man who reformed the postal system. Richard Hill, former parent, will be taking on the Inhabitants of Prior Park in the Autumn of 2021. All done virtually and everyone welcome. Creating a passion for the preservation of this beautiful building.

 EVENTS

Prior Park College Heritage Society

Invites you to the second-in-the-series virtual event:
Ralph Allen, the man behind the Post
 Saturday 13th February, 2021
 11.00am, Zoom
 With
 Nick P. Lennard,
 Trustee and Treasurer of the Bath Postal Museum

The owners and occupants of Prior Park



How many do you know?



The Christian Brothers' legacy at Prior Park



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the departure of the Christian Brothers from Prior Park. They first came to Prior in 1895, taking a seven-year lease. They returned in 1921, to assume the running of what was then an industrial school. In 1924, with their customary energy and enterprise, they revived the old dream of Prior as a centre for Catholic learning, initially bringing boys and staff over from St Brendan's in Bristol. Thereafter, they enjoyed more than half a century of successful stewardship, creating one of the country's leading Catholic secondary schools at Bath and, from 1946, a corresponding preparatory school at Cricklade. However, their falling numbers eventually made it impossible for them to continue. They left in 1981, handing over to a lay administration.

Terry Illott PPA 1968 looks back upon the Christian Brothers' regime.

Forty years on, how do we assess the achievement of the Christian Brothers at Prior Park? There are probably as many answers to that question as there are alumni from that era.

The CBs were notorious for their muscular approach to education. They made free use of the strap, especially when we were very young. Indeed, at Cricklade it seemed that physical punishment, combined with rote learning, was their prime pedagogical method. Boys who failed to come up with the correct answer in class were beaten. Sometimes, the whole class got beaten. And the beatings were not token, mere slaps on

the wrist. No, they were ferocious: great thwacks on the bare hand with the leather strap, or sharp raps on the knuckles with the edge of a wooden ruler (sometimes two rulers held together). We spilled real tears, and we lived always in terror of our next infringement, our next failure. We were between seven and eleven years old.

The headmaster when I joined Cricklade was Brother Cassian Daly. It was he, I believe, who instituted the practice of making boys who wet the bed wear sailor suits for a week, presumably in the belief that redoubling their shame would somehow relieve them of the anxiety that caused the problem in the first place. It was Daly, too, who made the whole school assemble in the barn to witness the exemplary flogging of boys deemed to be guilty of particularly heinous crimes. (In one

“ They were humble men, all of them; they knew that they were sinners ”

case, the miscreant had put another boy's shoe down the toilet.) The aim of these public floggings was, first, to break the will of the boy being punished, and, second, to instil terror in the rest of us.

The punishments certainly achieved those objectives, but the objectives were unworthy. They just made us hate the institution and the adults who ran it.



Christian Brothers leaving PPC... 40 years on

Once we reached puberty, the regime of physical punishment, while not entirely abandoned, was less capricious, perhaps because adolescent boys, if pushed too far, can hit back. No, in St Peter's a different culture prevailed: one of incessant bullying. Were the CBs entirely unaware of what was going on under their noses? It seems unlikely. I do remember the headmaster, Brother Hooper, once opining that intellectual bullying was far worse than the physical kind. Since none of us had ever come across an intellectual bully but lived daily among thugs from the years above (and some in our own year), his argument seemed entirely abstract.

The bullying was made worse, I think, by the CBs practice of taking boys out of their chronological age group and fitting them in wherever suited their academic development. Hence, in our year there was an age range that, by the time we got into the sixth form, spanned a barely credible 31 months between the youngest and the oldest. There were three of us in our year who were more than a year younger than at least five boys in the year below. Put a bunch of adolescent boys in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of boarding school and then mix up the year cohorts so that boys two years apart in age sit side by side, the younger ones being, by definition, far brighter than the older ones, and you can

expect trouble. Trouble is what we got.

Add to this the fact that the CBs were not men of great intellectual distinction or cultural sophistication – the only pictures in the school, other than the inherited collection on the Mansion stairs, were religious pictures – and you might understand how two of my near contemporaries, both senior academics, left school with a single D at A-level each. (They re-sat elsewhere.) Academic underachievement was the norm.

What then were the CBs' qualifications for the task they had set themselves?

Here I can turn, with relief, to some of the positives. The Christian Brothers were true Stoics: the only ambition they took seriously was the ambition to be a saint. The rest was just noise. They were often enthusiastic and, for the most part, sincere. They were not wicked. For all their faults, they did not hold themselves to be elect, apart, saved. On the contrary, they were humble men, all of them; they knew that they were sinners.

By the same token, they were not snobs. They betrayed no hint of social superiority. And this, I am pleased to say, rubbed off on us (sometimes, perhaps, counter to the inclinations of our parents). Confused we may

have been – according to an acquaintance from Monkton Combe, we could appear feral – but we were always, and for the most part remain, down to earth.

The atmosphere in St Peter's and St Paul's was notably liberal. Pop music blared from the dormitory windows, our coach outings to play sports against rival schools could be uproariously ribald, and there was a general recognition that teenage boys could be trusted to find their own routes into adulthood. In all this, Prior coped at least as well as other, more celebrated schools in that difficult but liberating era (I left Prior in 1968).

In my view, the brothers' chief saving grace was their commitment to the inner life. Men who follow a rigorous regime of prayer and self-examination, and who have devoted their lives to teaching, are, for all their faults, extraordinary role models for a boy.

The final judgement of the CB regime can go to the school itself. Prior today is all but unrecognisable from the Prior I knew. It is still a mixed-ability school and doubtless it still has its problems. But its present achievements are the most eloquent criticism of its past. In many ways, the CBs' departure was the pre-condition for Prior's present success.

From the Archives: Bombing in 1942 ... can you send more money for tuck?

*Dear Mum & Dad
House took direct hit – all well.
Please send more money for tuck
Love James'*

(James Murphy-O'Connor PPA 1942, father of our previous headmaster of the same name.)

That was the postcard that he sent home after St Paul's was bombed.

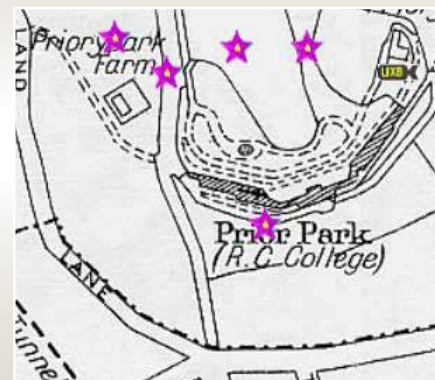
Found in a box in November 2020 a personal account from one of the Christian Brothers about the bombing...

"The night of 25 April 1942 will long be remembered by those who were resident in Prior Park at that time. It was the night of the

first deliberate raid on Bath – we had become accustomed to the wail of the sirens, the noise of the guns, the familiar throb of the German bombers. So far, however, these were things which did not disturb us. On this night, however, the sirens sounded at 11.20pm. As there was always the possibility of "stray bombs" falling, Brothers J S Roche, Borgia Ryan and Baptist Doyle went out on the portico. At first there was some gun fire over the eastern approaches to the city, as enemy planes approached from that direction. Within three minutes, flares were floating down over Bath, illuminating the city and district. We realised immediately that we were in for trouble. The alarm bells were set ringing in St Peter's, St Paul's and the Mansion. These aroused the Brothers, the domestic staff and two boys – Anthony McCarthy PPA 1942

(RIP 2000) and James Murphy-O'Connor PPA 1942 (RIP 2014) who had returned early – before the end of the Easter holidays."

Luckily no one was hurt.





Romeo, Juliet and Perspex... or Let's take a test before we kiss

Emily Redpath PPA 2014

Exciting to see former pupil Emily Redpath star in a new version of Romeo & Juliet.

First off, how was filming Romeo + Juliet?

Romeo + Juliet was a whirlwind of a process that felt like it took both 10 years and 10 minutes to film. The first audition came about through my agent. I wasn't told which part I was auditioning for, I just had to pick a monologue and send it in. Soon after I got asked to do a recall for Juliet. Again, it was a very quick turnaround. I taped Juliet's "Gallop apace" speech and found out the next day I got the role. The rehearsal and filming process came soon after in pretty much the same manner. We had two weeks to complete it, which ended up being about 8 days in total for me.

Due to Covid I met only a handful of the brilliant cast. When we could be in the room together we were all distanced with Perspex screens between us and all the filming was done separately on a green screen. The only day I was able to perform with anyone was when Sam (Romeo), Brandon (Malvolio) and I got Covid tested. This was the day we filmed all the intimate Romeo and Juliet scenes. Even with all these restrictions, it was an amazing experience. Apart from getting to know more of the cast, I wouldn't have it any other way. It threw us all in the deep end with no room for doubt and the lessons I learnt were invaluable.

What's it like not being able to perform to an audience?

It really depends on what I'm doing. I do miss the energy of live performance. My time at Queen Mary University instilled in me a love for performance art and clowning, both of which thrive off an audience. But with that said, I find the inner workings of film and TV production fascinating. There are so many moving parts and it has the capacity to be



Protected by perspex

so detailed and intimate. So in that sense I'm used to performing without one.

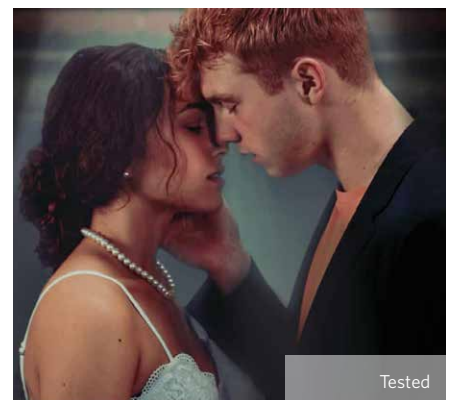
How was the transition from school to professional productions?

It actually doesn't feel like much of a leap when I look back. I learnt something different with each show, from improvising at Edinburgh Fringe to being on a BBC set. The only real difference is I'm surrounded by talented professionals instead of me trying to figure out the lighting desk.

What has it been like for you now, during the pandemic?

Lockdown has given me a chance to take a step back and grow more as a performer and Zoom has allowed me to meet lots of amazing industry professionals. I also managed to do a feature film called HELP alongside some other fun projects.

At the moment, like so many other professions, things have been tough for the creative industry. However productions like Romeo + Juliet have shown me how resilient it can be. New shows are in the works and I'm so excited to see what comes



Tested

out of this moment of "slowing down".

Any advice for people wanting to come into this industry?

This comes by way of my amazing acting teacher John Osborne Hughes. For anyone interested in theatre or film, no matter what sector that may be, give up all claim to any possible outcomes. That is, let go of your attachment to the job/ role etc. and instead put all your focus on what's in front of you right now. That way we can all get out of our own way, do our best and just enjoy it. It is play after all.



Lifetime Achievement Winner 2021

Fabian Jowers PPA 1968

Fabian was born in 1950 in Rio Tinto, Huelva, Spain to an English father and Gibraltarian English mother. He grew up in Spain and is bilingual in Spanish/English. In 1959 he started at Cricklade, moving on to "Big Prior" in 1961 and leaving in 1967. He excelled at tennis, being Captain of the school team, and was active in the swimming team. Fabian was very popular among his peers due to his keen, sometimes ribald sense of humour. His loyalty to his friends also characterized his time at Prior.

After Prior, Fabian was an export sales trainee and representative for British and Spanish companies, including British Leyland. After this he became a locally employed commercial officer at the British Embassy in Madrid. Eventually he decided to seek new challenges, and established a marketing consultancy. Clients included a large French distributor of wholesale costume jewellery for whom Fabian was responsible for sales in Spain and Portugal.

Later, Fabian assisted his wife Elisabeth with her classical and cultural music agency, and it was this that led them to become involved with Uganda. Having taken a choir from a children's home in Uganda to Europe on tour in 2005, upon returning they discovered that the children's home had been abandoned.

Fabian and Elisabeth didn't hesitate and took the decision to create their own home in Kampala for the children. Music and dance were the focus, hence the name chosen for the project: Music to Save Lives. Since then, some 500 children have been looked after at the home. All are orphans or disadvantaged, and they receive health treatment when needed and a full education. Some continue to receive assistance after leaving.

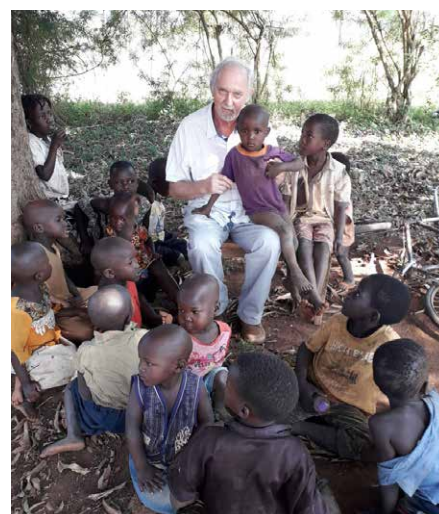
Among these, there are many success stories of children who have gone on to successful careers.

A few years ago, a group from the UK, including Prior Park alumni **Tim Heining** and **Peter Coates** (both PPA 1968), visited the home and



were very impressed with the dedication and affection with which the children are treated by Fabian and his team. Fabian's personal role includes the managing and running of the home onsite. In recent years, his personal social mission has grown with a project to combat the scourge of Jiggers, a disease caused by a parasitic flea. Fabian arranges treatment in remote villages such as Gwase to which he travels regularly with a small team. This Jiggers Outreach Project has succeeded in treating over 600 children, while at the same time assisting some 240 local people with a variety of ailments. These have included, among others, a young girl with a serious congenital condition, and an autistic boy with cerebral palsy. Thanks to Fabian they are receiving the treatment and attention that they deserve.

The overall impact of Fabian's work on life in these remote villages cannot be overstated. He and his team have made a big



difference to their lives. Fabian's many years of service and dedication to the improvement of the lives of those less fortunate makes him a worthy and deserving recipient of the Prior Park Association Medal - Lifetime Achievement Award 2021. He was nominated by **Tim Heining** PPA 1968.

To make a financial contribution to Fabian's work please contact Tim Heining on: timothyheining@hotmail.com



Laetitia Luck (nee Bullman) PPA 2010

Tish graduated from Bristol University having studied anatomical science in 2017.

Her sister, **Phoebe Bullman** PPA 2013, writes in the nomination:

"Tish has been working as a front line doctor in the Intensive Care Unit since the start of the Covid19 pandemic. She has worked tirelessly and modestly putting her own health at risk on a daily basis. She displays the grace, compassion, humility in service and incredible kindness that the Prior Park Alumni Association honours. I can think of no one more deserving for this award than her.

"Throughout the Covid19 pandemic Tish showed consideration not only for her patients on the ICU but also for her colleagues. Like many hospitals in the UK, the Royal Surrey struggled with PPE provisions. Tish reached out to Prior Park, who had been making face masks. Prior Park kindly helped the Royal Surrey to provide their staff with the necessary protective equipment for Tish and her colleagues. Tish from a young age has prioritised the needs of people around her before her own, something that has made her stand out from her peers.

"As a young female doctor working in an intensive care unit, Tish is a role model not only for her team but for aspiring Prior Park students. Her dedication has been recognised by her colleagues and patients alike. The hospital received numerous letters



words that can only begin to describe a truly wonderful human being."

Tish's mother writes: "Her experience has particularly been in ICU. I think this has inspired her in having the courage to apply for anaesthetics recently and she has now had her interview. She is just waiting to see if she gets a job in hospitals that would work for both her and **Josh Luck** PPA 2009 - (whom she married in Bath on June 6th.)

"Tish has gained so much knowledge in this field at the Royal Surrey. The team there became pioneers in intubation particularly in response to patients suffering from Covid and how to relieve them - and make it easier for medical staff." A laudable recipient of the Inspirational Youngster Award.

Thank you to all of our alumni who are in the service of looking after others, whether medical or care, fire, police, forces, social services, catering, cleaning - #respect.

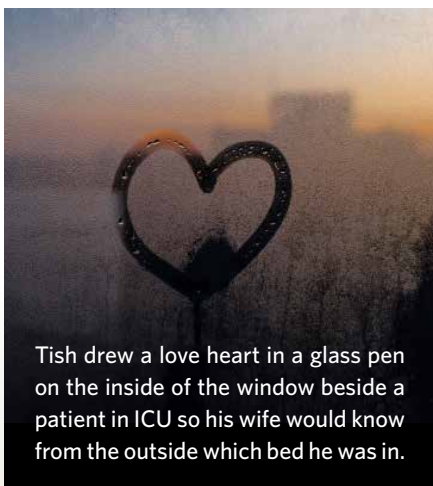
PPA Medal Nominations 2022.

Please do not forget to send in your nominations for the next recipients by Jan 2022 to the ppa@thepriorfoundation.com

commending Tish for her hard work and caring nature. Tish exemplifies the dedication to service, compassion and kindness that is fundamental to the College's values.

- Tish held her personal iPad for a patient to talk to his family and the wife completely forgot that Tish was holding it as she spoke with her husband - he was too ill to hold it. -

"These traits were initially sparked as Head of Baines during her time at Prior Park and have only helped her to progress in a career that demands so much from one person. Her work in medicine is not limited to patient care: she volunteered her own personal time to working on research, looking at alternatives to ventilating patients with Covid19. The results will be published once completed. Needless to say, Tish will give her time and attention wherever she can in order to care for others. Selfless and caring are just two



Tish drew a love heart in a glass pen on the inside of the window beside a patient in ICU so his wife would know from the outside which bed he was in.



The Last great First

Jack Hopkins PPA 2011

In 2019 Gossip Bowl we featured Jack, who successfully crossed the Atlantic, a 3,000 mile row, in 40 days, 23 hours and 33 mins...not that he was counting.

He's back on his rowing adventures and attempting to be the first to row through the Northwest Passage – from Pond Inlet in Baffin Island to Point Barrow in Alaska. The Last great First. A trip of 2,500 miles organised by Expedition Leader, Leven Brown, and planned for summer 2022. The gruelling challenge involves 2 hours rowing, 2 hours off, with 3 boats and 5 person teams, in perpetual arctic daylight, sleep deprivation, total exhaustion, zero privacy and complete social isolation. Traditionally only traversable by ice breakers, climate change



has thawed the route, allowing it to now be tackled by the rowers. They will assuredly hit

rocks and meet polar bears, they may well suffer hypothermia or get stuck in ice flows and yet these ordinary men and women are ready to do extraordinary things. God needs to be on their side. Jack's brother, **George Hopkins PPA 2013** skillfully and professionally films and documents all the preparations, and will travel with them into the arctic to capture the attempt on camera. **Michael Pitts** (former parent) and one of his sons, Ollie, were responsible for the solitary photo of the squad when they met up on a training session in Western Scotland.

In an inventive way, to raise funds for the expedition, Jack has launched a specialist gin: <https://nwpexpeditiongin.com/> Looks like a perfect gift to us.

David Thomas PPA 1980

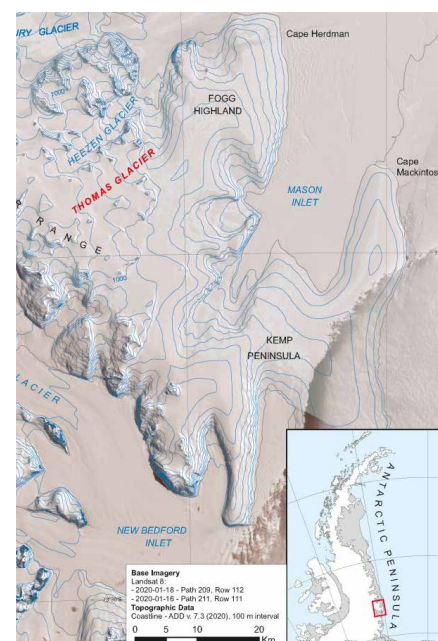
Fairly confident in saying this is a Prior Park College first... having a glacier named after you.

On 3 December 2020, to mark the 200th anniversary of the discovery of Antarctica, the government of the British Antarctic Territory announced 28 new place names to honour and celebrate scientists, explorers, logisticians and others who have made a significant contribution to the UK's scientific and exploration record in Antarctica. Those recognised represent leading UK Antarctic scientists from the last fifty years, whose achievements warrant highlighting alongside those of the early explorers.

Since graduating from Prior Park in 1980, and

then the University of Liverpool in 1988, as a marine ecologist, **Professor David Thomas PPA 1980**, has completed six expeditions to the Southern Ocean, and several other expeditions in the Arctic. He conceived the idea for, and edited the three editions, of the hugely influential book, *Sea Ice*, and has held senior roles at Bangor University and is now Professor of Arctic Ecosystems Research at the University of Helsinki. He has recently edited another landmark book, *Arctic Ecology*, published in January 2021.

Thomas Glacier can be found on Palmer Land, the southern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, and measures around 23km long and 3km wide. The glacier flows north from the Wegener Range, between Fogg Highland and Heezen Glacier and enters the Violante Inlet (72°51'S, 61°09'W).





Working with domestic abuse during lockdown

Interview by Bear Hutchison PPA 2015

Bridget Symonds PPA 2000 and Anna Searight PPA 2013 have both seen the effects of the pandemic on domestic abuse first-hand. Bridget works for Solace Women's Aid across Islington, Barnet and Southwark in London, and Anna works as a project officer for Kingston Council, specifically on domestic abuse and offender management.



Both agree that a common misconception is that domestic abuse referrals have skyrocketed in lockdown – what has in fact skyrocketed is the risk that victims are subject to. The services they work for have had to become more aware of how to deal with heavy caseloads after victims are locked up at home with perpetrators. Interestingly, the calls started coming more heavily a few weeks after lockdown began, once people were more settled and could find space and a safe place to contact services. Contact was a huge issue: many services were restricted

to lockdown. This has now created a huge backlog of cases, with language and gender barriers to battle with on top.

What is coercive control?

Coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. This controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour. (Source: Women's Aid)

works on a project called 'Silver Project', which deals with women over the age of 55, many of whom face more barriers and stigma when coming forward about their abuse. It's worth noting that much of the abuse that both Anna and Bridget encounter on a daily basis is not physical. Coercive control is a huge part of their jobs, as well as financial abuse. Many victims deal with a pattern of constant incidences rather than one "trigger event".

The good news is the dawn of the new Domestic Abuse bill that was passed in April 2021. Bridget and Anna agree that it will make a huge difference for victims, despite some things being overlooked (particularly when it comes to refugees and those without access to public finances). However, the laws will only make a difference when they're implemented – both women express how difficult it is to get a sentence in a domestic abuse case, but hope the new bill will be the first step forward to a better future in their sector.

The police recorded 259,324 offences flagged as domestic abuse-related in the period March to June 2020. This represents a 7% increase from 242,413 in the same period in 2019 and an 18% increase from 218,968 in 2018. (Source: ONS)

due to the difficulty of speaking to victims in a safe place away from the perpetrators or their children, and avoiding putting them in danger. Demand for refuge spaces far outnumbered supply, although Bridget highlights that this is sadly nothing new.

It's not just victim services that have suffered – perpetrators of domestic abuse are usually counselled in groups, which was limited due

Both Bridget and Anna found that the Sarah Everard case in London shone a new light on violence and abuse, one that was frustrating for many services after years of ignored calls for change. They agree that the awareness was much-needed, but worry that it may overlook some of the worst-affected. Many women felt the need to stay at home after the incident, but Bridget highlights that more women are at risk in their own homes from domestic abuse than otherwise. They both also point out that there have been huge increases in referrals from the BAME and older communities who aren't often represented in this public awareness. Bridget

If you are affected by any of the issues highlighted in this article, please get in contact with any of these helplines:

National DA helpline

<https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk>
08082000247

Male victims helpline

<https://mensadviceline.org.uk>
08088010327

Helpline for perpetrators of domestic abuse

<https://respectphoneline.org.uk>
08088024040

LGBT+ Domestic abuse helpline

<http://www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse/>
020 7704 2040



Racing into the future?

By Carole Laverick

Why would you want to read an article on motor racing if you are like me and have a zero interest in the subject? Then I met these three and it all began to make a bit more sense.

Holly Feeney PPA 2012, is an engineer with Thales and came to racing after her physics degree at Swansea. She has already had experience with F3 racing and is now a mechanic with a team racing Mini Coopers and JCWs and leading the championship (June 2021), having just competed and won at Snetterton. She is bubbling over with her enthusiasm – which is totally infectious, her irreverent sense of humour and humility at how lucky she was to fall into the industry impress me, she has ambition and is not afraid to throw down the gauntlet..." Come on girls, don't let the boys have all the fun, we need more girls, not only in science, but specifically in engineering" she says with a giggle and a huge smile.

Angus Fender PPA 2018, is a driver with Fender Racing. He watched his first ever race in 2006, the Italian Grand Prix, was transfixed, fell in love with the experience and has remained so ever since. He epitomises what everyone imagines a racing driver to look like, tall, handsome, calm and oozing a quiet confidence. Angus had just come away from a fixture at Oulton Park with a double win (so both he and Holly were happy with their weekend results).

Kyran Griffin PPA 2017, just finished his master's degree in automotive engineering at Brunel and is exploring positions with Formula 1 teams in research and development. It was his grandfather that influenced Kyran: he was an engineer and ran his own racing team in British BMW series. His father also drove racing cars for a while. His quiet and studious demeanour perhaps reflect the stage that he is at, literally weeks after he has finished his



“ Be prepared to work ridiculously hard and sometimes for free! ”

exams and the anxiety of waiting for that first break with interviews.

The Zoom interview began with Holly and Angus comparing weekend results from their respective races – both excellent wins, their mutual respect evident, as they graciously explain the different categories of racing to me.

How did Prior Park facilitate your unique interest in racing?

Angus: I was interested in racing even before I came to PPC and Prior were really accommodating in allowing me to attend race meetings that might have conflicted with lessons. It is such a hard interest for anyone to understand – unless you 'get it', you are alone, independent with your training, fitness and practice. I would have loved to have been awarded 'colours' in sports, but didn't because my racing took precedence over sporting fixtures. It is a small regret. My sport did not fit into a conventional sporting category.

Kyran: At Prior, engineering was pushed, but not this industry. However, I had a really good relationship with head of design & technology (DT) **Rob Faulkner**, who encouraged me. He also allowed me to design and make for my A Level, an electric ride-on kids car – which would not normally be allowed. He made a huge difference and the confidence that he inspired of my own capabilities has stayed with me.

Holly: Without a moment's hesitation I would have to say...**Sean Dorey** (former physics teacher – see Page 40) my physics teacher, who was my guide, advocate and mentor; he would always take time to explain things to me. I have credited him in my under-grad dissertation and my master's thesis – he was that important. I would not have gone to university to study physics without his guidance, I didn't even really think I was going to go to uni!





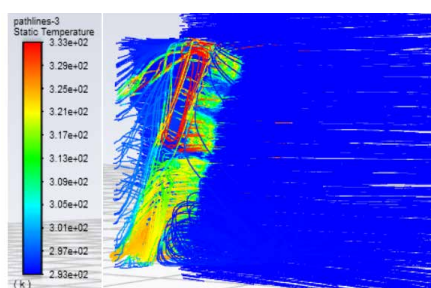
Angus: Do not expect success to happen overnight. I have been doing this for 12 years already (he is only 21!). Work your way up, if you want to do it for enjoyment, go for it. Contacts mean everything in this industry and be prepared to work ridiculously hard and sometimes for free!

Holly: Echoing Angus's sentiment of contacts – crucial – and luck. Put in the work and have a good attitude, prove that you can do it. Be prepared for the emotional range of this work... the highs are stellar and the lows are so low. Hours are super long and weird, you have to be self-reliant to get through all of this.

When Holly speaks of luck she has first hand experience of this element of her route into racing. Having sent out 150 CVs and only 4 responses, all were no. She was marshalling at Castle Combe, her name was entered into a draw for the marshalls to get a seat karting against the drivers. She won it and was placed right next to the karting track. A F3 monoposto car broke down and after she had ensured the driver was safely out started chatting to him. One thing led to another, she sent in her CV and got the job with them – the stars were aligned in her favour that day. Sometimes life can be that way, do not give up on it, keep putting yourself out there. If she hadn't volunteered to marshal that day... etc.

Like most industries, times are changing and they are adapting whether it is to environmental issues or the pay per view pushing this rich man's sport further into an elitist audience.

What comes across from these three is their unwavering passion, commitment, and their love for their industry which, to be quite honest, is infectious. At the end of the interview Angus informed Holly and Kyran that his team had just taken on a GT3 Dodge Viper and if either of them wanted any work experience they would be welcome to contact him to set it up. And guess what? Kyran already has. Thereby proving the advice, contacts are everything.



With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), is this making the future of engineers obsolete?

Holly: AI can speed up the delivery of data to the track side engineers in manageable chunks, when they could not process the wealth of raw information. It acts as a warning system, highlighting areas of concern for the drivers to deal with. It will not take over but it makes a massive difference in speeding up reaction times to issues in the cockpit.

Angus: Most innovations that are engineer led in the racing industry end up on road cars within 5 – 7 years. It is an exciting time to be involved with engineers on developing ideas and improvements.



Racing and the Environment – how can they co-exist?

Angus: There will be a difference between the experience of driving a fossil fuel car and an E car, but it is an inevitable stage, so we need to get on board with it, embrace the change and enjoy the thrills. The world has to take priority over the temporary thrill that might be achieved from a petrol engine. Roll with the punches otherwise you are in danger of being left behind.

Holly: Formula E (electric vehicles) and Extreme E highlight the new technology in an exciting format, showing off sustainable and environmentally safe racing in different eco-systems. Seriously watchable.

What advice would you give someone at College if they were thinking about going into this industry?

Kyran: If you take the engineering route, you may have to take a factory-based job to start with and then see how that progresses. The most appealing jobs are the most sought after (obviously). It is not the case of you not being able to get work in the industry, it just might not be the job of your dreams immediately. I would have loved to have been a driver like Angus, but I recognise I am not that fast behind the wheel, realising my limitations led to the acceptance of what would be another good way to be in the industry. (He is currently still at Brunel working with Brunel Racing building a single seater F1 inspired car for Formula Student UK with the students until the end of July whilst awaiting results of interviews.)

..... STOP PRESS: KYRAN HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED FIRST CLASS HONOURS



Clementine Brown creates CodeBrave

Clementine Brown PPA 2010 writes: I've always had a love for languages and took French and Spanish A Level at Prior Park. During sixth-form, I joined an all-female Arabic class at Bath's local mosque and adored it. I went on to study Arabic and Persian at Oxford, which in turn led me to Lebanon.

I've lived in Beirut for six years now. In 2018, while working for the UN as a data analyst, I got involved in a shelter for homeless children. I got to know the brilliant, funny and creative young people living there, and they inspired me and my friend Steven, a teacher and educational psychologist, to set up coding and robotics classes. Many of these children used to live on the streets and would return there after



leaving the shelter. By giving them the chance to develop marketable tech skills, we aimed to help them escape a life of poverty. We set up CodeBrave as a charity and have since worked with nearly 300 children across Lebanon.

We recently launched a private coding tutoring service called CodeBrave Tutors to help fund the project. Every session purchased funds one session for a child in Lebanon. So far, we've taught more than 500 hours to children aged 6-18 across four continents, which is helping us reach our target of enrolling 1,000 children in our two-year programme in Lebanon. Sign your children up for our summer bootcamps or weekly classes at codebravetutors.org!

Not all rubbish is rubbish...

Interview by Bear Hutchison PPA 2015

When Flora Blathwayt PPA 2006 first went on a beach walk along the Thames, she was shocked at the amount of plastic she picked up. Not only the things you come to expect, like shopping bags and bottles, but tiny bits that glimmered like jewels. Shoving a few of these "microplastics" into her pocket, little did she know they might become her lockdown saviour.

Later on, Flora was attending the wedding of her sister, Clare Over (nee Blathwayt) PPA 2002, who got married at Prior. Knowing that she was running a zero-waste household, she decided to make her a congratulations card with a twist – one that had these tiny bits of plastic included. The inspiration struck again when she moved to Peckham and wanted to reach out to her new neighbours during the pandemic: she made them each a "hello" card using the same small pieces of plastic.

What started as a friendly reach-out turned into a business when Flora became furloughed in lockdown. With more free time on her hands



and bearing in mind the enthusiastic reception she'd had to her creation, she launched 'Washed Up Cards' on Etsy. Since then she's had over 2,000 sales, runs popular monthly beach combs, and the story has been picked up by national and international media – she even collaborated with Adidas on their World Oceans Day initiative after they spotted her wearing one of their hoodies in a Channel 4 interview!



Flora's passion for the environment was only amplified by her time at Prior; she says she loved being surrounded by such beautiful

nature (which she often misses now in the big city). Although she expresses that she knows the cards are only nominal in the big scheme of things, it's the message they send (quite literally in the post) that is important: they make us think about how to protect our surroundings in a light-hearted and feel-good way.

For those in the PPA community who are hoping to do more, Flora says the important thing is to start small and remember that every little helps. Always take a bag on walks to pick up bits of rubbish you see lying around, and most importantly be aware and appreciative of your surroundings. Try to incorporate things that work for you.

For those who would like to get involved with Washed Up Cards (other than making a purchase of course), Flora runs monthly beach combs along the shore of the Thames, as well as occasional walks in other areas of the UK too. She's always looking for an extra hand from those with a crafty eye on the cards themselves!

Get in touch: [@washedupcards](https://www.instagram.com/washedupcards) on Instagram, [WashedUpCards](https://www.etsy.com/shop/WashedUpCards) on Etsy, or fblathwayt@hotmail.com



“The community still rose to the surface”

“On the afternoon of 16 August 1991, A level result day, the mansion caught fire,” says Jeremy Goulding former Headmaster in conversation with his niece, Rachel Wright (nee Crellin) PPA 2002. “It started at the west end of the roof in a room which was already ablaze when the alarm was sounded. For a while the school was advised that the fire would be brought under control – many staff and friends raced over to help rescue essential items from the building. We were fortunate to be able to retrieve pupil records for all new starters and we closed metal filing cabinets that we could not lift. (Weeks later, we opened the drawers and found that the files, though charred at the front edge, were still readable).” They are now part of the digital archive.

With a sense of dreadful inevitability on that hot, dry, sunny afternoon, a gentle westerly breeze fanned the flames, encouraging the fire to eat its way through to the other end of the building. And, in the hours that followed, the entire internal structure collapsed as burning timbers crumpled onto the floors below.

“It was at this moment, when the floor of the Academy Hall crashed in the Mansion that we realized there was no way we could recover from this without a rebuild.” Jeremy and bursar [Paul Turfrey](#) had taken themselves to the bank above the mansion (with a flask of whisky) to watch, as it was no longer safe to retrieve anything else. When

the floor came down they headed to Kent House (then the headmaster’s house) to plan.

It took three days for the fire to be fully extinguished and the bitter devastation could be seen clearly. It was not the first fire that had tried to test Ralph Allen’s stone, but it was time for restoration, perhaps even transformation, to begin.

Two weeks later the school was due to open for the new academic year – which, remarkably, it did; and it is testimony to the support of Prior Park families that not a single pupil was withdrawn, even though that iconic building would have to be out of action for three and more years to come.

How did you turn the calamity around and make it an opportunity?

“The Mansion had been burnt right out – thankfully it was not mortally wounded – we began to see an opportunity. Before the fire, the Mansion seemed an austere, remote building. Afterwards its doors would be thrown open to all – to go to the new library or music school, to visit the staff common room or school offices...or to enjoy coffee in the hall after Mass, taking in that breathtaking view from the terrace.” (Jeremy)

After the restoration, the Mansion could surely become the beating heart of the school. The John Wood Chapel, for example,



30 Years on: The Great Fire of 1991

could be transformed from an inadequate library to a fine concert room as part of a new music school.

Jeremy is a man who has insight and ability to not just see a disaster but a chance to adapt, improve and move forward, which is an attitude reflected during the pandemic by so many of the alumni community.

How did you come up with the vision of Prior Park College in the future?

"The path to restoration and, in effect, into the next phase of Prior's history was full of twists and turns, and there were many highly-skilled people who had a huge part to play. The work of all school staff, teaching and support, the input of governors and the encouragement of the whole school community were absolutely vital."

How did the Community come together and make it a success?

"Four particular thoughts come to mind:

"First, the bursar, an RAF Group Captain who had risen through the ranks in double-quick time was a recent appointment. He was hard-nosed in bursarial matters and brilliant when it came to responding to a crisis.

"Second, the wonderful gift from old boy, Sir Cameron Mackintosh PPA 1964, of the



Julian Slade Theatre was a 'God send'. The construction of this new building enabled us to anticipate something brilliant, fresh and uplifting at a time when spirits could otherwise have been seriously depressed.

"And the momentum grew from there. It was a time of great growth and restoration around the site. (1993 - National Trust took over the gardens, 1994 all weather Astro

completed and Ball court restored.)

"Third, music and music-theatre. The recently-appointed director of music, **Richard Dunster-Sigtermans**, despite all his teaching rooms having been burnt out, set to work in his temporary music school: the Mansion's distinctly unpleasant basement rooms which were damp, mouldy and stained by blackened water after the fire. He and **Richard Wells** (former staff) worked on 'Oliver!', a junior production which became the show to open The Slade. Sir Cameron attended that opening night (1993).

"Fourth, I think of **Father Peter Cornwell** who, as chaplain, said he would 'loiter with intent' and 'leave himself about the place'. Peter was a priceless priestly addition to the community. His being there, with no vested interest in anything other than the spirit and welfare of the community, was invaluable to more people than was probably realised at the time."

What were some of the hardest things to overcome?

"The staff common room was an unprepossessing, utilitarian Portakabin by the playing field. As summer changed to winter, with the difficult downhill trek to teaching rooms many times a day and



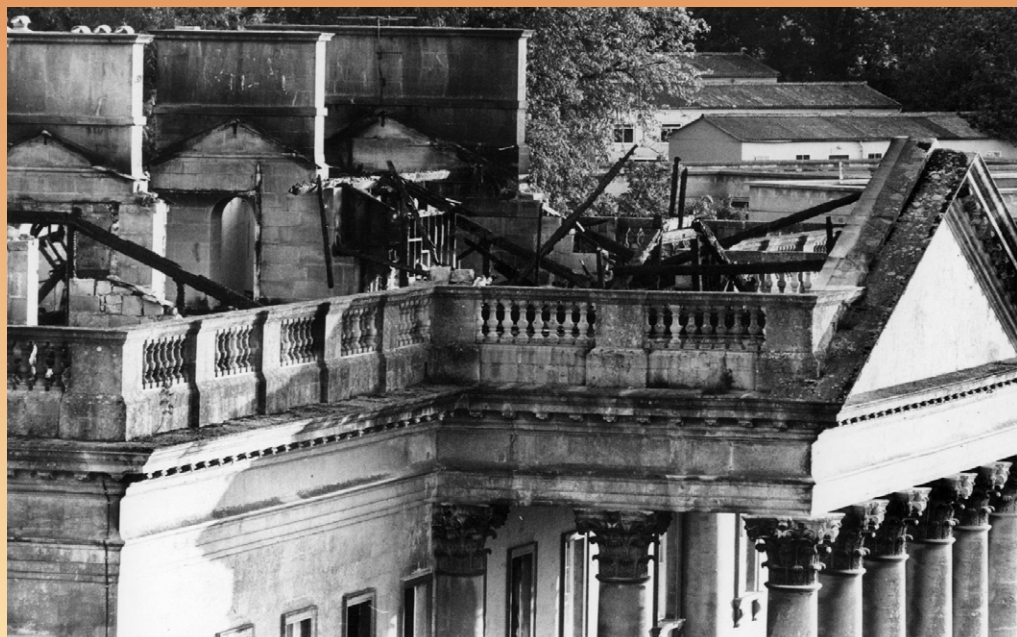


the mansion continually shrouded, the 'Dunkirk spirit' of the first few weeks after the fire understandably began to fade."

- Firefighters, 80 on site for 16 hours to beat the fire.

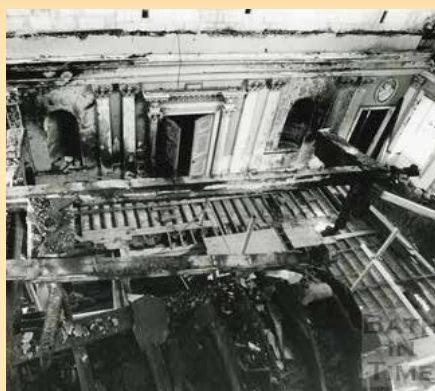
Two were injured:

- Gary Langford from Radstock station – when parts of the building collapsed he was burned and injured.
- Mike Sweet from Keynsham station – fume inhalation.
- Water was taken from the swimming pool and the lake to fight the fire.
- 100 foreign students were in the summer language school on site and were sent home the following day.

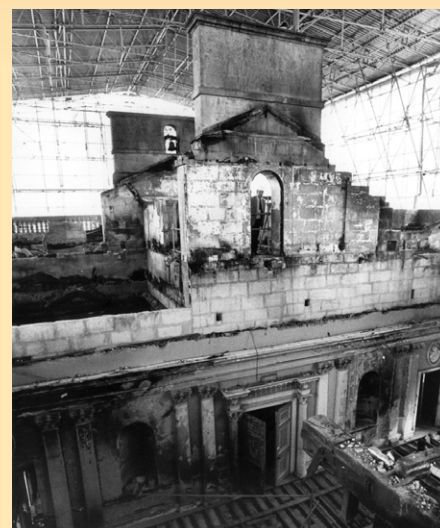


Terence Dickinson, 23 in 1991, from Yorkshire, was head porter at Prior and devastated that 9 of his 10 budgies perished in the fire, as well as £3k worth of belongings, including his train ticket home to Yorkshire.

Ruth Beresford (former staff) Every 16 Aug I remember. Etched on my memory. I called the fire brigade that day. Little did we know at that point it was going to turn out to be such a major fire. Portakabins for offices for 4 years. Constant battles with insurers. We also sourced photos of all the beautiful plasterwork scenes that were destroyed in the Academy Hall so that they could be replicated.



student, and not be proud of that stunning centrepiece of our school life.



Stephen Bowman PPA 1998 adds: I remember this all too well. My parents came back from eating out in Bath that night and told me that they had seen Prior Park ablaze, right from the centre of town! As a nervous child, fearful of starting my first term at Prior that autumn, the news of a 2 week delay to term start must have brought some devilish joy. Once school started, I recall walking past the carcass of the mansion daily, peeking through the windows at the blackened charcoal interiors, fallen beams and dripping water from a roof now open to the sky. Many of us longed to sneak inside and view the devastation first hand, but good efforts had been made to keep us out (and safe). When the Mansion finally reopened, even my teenage apathy was thrust aside by the beauty of that building, the intricate plaster craftsmanship, the old newness of it all. It's hard to be a Prior

An 'A' Level result day like no other, says Marc Demarquette PPA 1991.

I remember. It was the September that I started!!! Absolutely devastating watching the fire take hold. But what a fantastic job was made. Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes. **Edward Sage PPA 1999**

Chris McMahon PPA 1982: I remember it clearly. My father, known to many as Mr 'Chops' McMahon (former staff RIP 2003), had been playing golf at his Lansdown club when he saw the fire on his drive down the opposite side of Bath.

Credit must go to the staff that were around at the time, namely the wonderful groundsman (his name escapes me – Bill?) who time and

time again entered the Mansion to retrieve items and save them from the fire.

Horrendous to witness. However, in true PPC fashion what was then created was such an improvement and enabled the school to offer a standard of music education on a par with the top schools of the time.

Odd how fate works out sometimes!

Jeremy concludes: What shines through more than anything from this process of researching and listening is that, despite the centrepiece of school having gone up in flames, the beauty of the school is more than its stunning architecture.



Love is in the Air

In the absence of wedding news, we are bringing you some of the love stories that were made at Prior...

Tish Bullman PPA 2010 (winner of the PPA Inspirational Youngster Award see page 17) and Josh Luck PPA 2009 were married on 5 June. They have been together since they met at Prior and now they work together at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford. Josh and Tish got married at the Guildhall, Bath followed by drinks and photos in Parade Gardens and then onto a small reception in The White Hart garden in Widcombe. All the bridesmaids (bar one – a friend from Tish's Irish school) and groomsmen are ex Prior!

The line up is as follows: Sam Hill PPA 2009, Nell Byron PPA 2010, Oliver Robinson PPA 2009, Phoebe Bullman PPA 2013, Johnny Neville PPA 2009, Tish Bullman PPA 2010, Joshua Luck PPA 2009, Poppy Luck PPA 2016, Toby Luck PPA 2013, (Andrea), Pete Januszewski PPA 2009, Sophie Griffiths PPA 2010 and James Harper PPA 2009.

Victoria Hill PPA 2008 working at Prior Park in 2015, met Sam Crudge who was also working there. They got engaged the following Jan and married in the Mansion in the August. Still living locally and happy parents to two rambunctious boys.

Dominic Parsons PPA 1997. This is a favourite, what an example of the old Yiddish adage: "Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht" "Man Plans, and God Laughs."



"I had planned to get engaged on the Palladian Bridge, picked a sunny but chilly day (January), had been holding on to the ring for months, but put off proposing because kept being pipped by other school friends and my brother-in-law! Took my chosen lady to Bath. Let's go and see my old school, it's quite pretty. Took the nervous stroll down the valley to the bridge, with the damn ring burning a hole in my pocket. But was quite chuffed with myself, as she seemed to be impressed with the setting. Then approached bridge only to find a mother struggling with 2 screaming toddlers. Hung around for 15 mins or so waiting for them to move on (don't you realise I'm about to propose you selfish 2 year-old brat?!)) Then got put off the whole thing, and started walking back up the other side. She could see I was really distracted, and I thought, I can't go back home with this

bloody ring again so ended up proposing on the track up the valley amongst the trees. Was still lovely but not quite as planned. Still, it worked!!"

Justine Gallen (nee Chapman) PPA 1985 says: "I was the second cohort of girls to join prior at sixth form and ended up married to the boy in my year that I never spoke to at school, Mark Gallen, although we were in loads of classes together. We were re-introduced 12 years later by another boy in our year, Carlos Quintas. 20 years later still going strong. We got married at Prior and our youngest daughter, Daisy is in Year 10!"

Asha and Robin Francis (former house-parents to Roche House). Asha writes in "we got engaged on the Palladian bridge in May 2011. Robin just said we are going for a walk. Little did I know that Martin Knights (former housemaster) had gone down before us and hidden a bag on the bridge. Martin hid in the trees until he heard us coming. Robin then produced a ring and a bottle of champagne (which I nearly knocked into the water)!" Lucky that as a former England netball player, she had safe hands and retrieved it. Now living happily in Singapore with their three young daughters.





The less travelled road



By Terry Illott PPA 1968

Modern life presents young people with not just the same old problems but a host of new ones that are made more acute by social media and the pressure of our ever-accelerating, must-achieve, materialistic culture.

It is surely important for them to know that life doesn't have to be this way, that there are other models to follow, other roads to travel. Otherwise, what is education for? And if, in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, now isn't the right time to look for such models, when would be?

For, Covid made us concentrate on what's important. And what could be more important than our journey towards enlightenment?

For most of us this journey has to exist in parallel with our mundane, daily routine. Often, the two are in conflict. But for some, spiritual life and daily life are one and the same. These are the people of whom we say, they have a vocation.

Here are four such vocations from the PPA community:

Jane Livesey has the demeanour of one who is used to taking responsibility. She is calm and attentive, but the other obligations of her daily life are never far away. At the time of our interview, in January 2020, Jane was Superior General of the Congregation of Jesus.

A graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge (having started and soon abandoned a law degree at Bristol), Jane was for thirteen years the headmistress of St Mary's Shaftesbury and for six years until 2011 the chair of governors at Prior.

Jane describes how, when she was eighteen, she was struck by her vocation. "It was as though God was saying to me, 'You really have to do something about this'. If that had happened to someone else, I would have said it was all a bit melodramatic, but for me it seemed completely natural." She left the university and joined the Congregation.

Charlotte Cummins, who, after 20 years as a teacher of theology, left Prior to join the Congregation of Jesus (CJ), is funny, frank, friendly and fast-talking. She is one of life's natural enthusiasts. Born into an Irish Catholic family in Cheshire, she was educated at a Catholic primary school and a Catholic state secondary school. She was steeped in religion. From about the age of 12, she attended church daily. ("Not daily Mass," she is quick to explain,





"but I would call into church on my way home from school.")

She studied theology at Oxford. Just before her finals, when she was 21, she responded to an advertisement in the chaplaincy newsletter for a theology teacher at Prior. She started in September 1999. Twenty years on, sitting across the table in an office high up in the mysterious eeries of the Mansion, she recounts all this with a gleeful breathlessness, one word tumbling over another.

She loved her time at Prior, loved the community, and had great friends. But something wasn't quite right. A piece of the jigsaw was missing. The idea of joining a religious order, which she had often entertained in her pre-Oxford days, resurfaced. In the summer of 2019, she decided to give it a go, to see if her vocation was real.

Saccavicaya is the Buddhist name taken by Charles "Dixie" Dean PPA 1968. At school, Charles' had been a thoughtful presence, but he wasn't a boy you would have immediately picked out for a life devoted to spirituality and meditation. Popular with his peers, artistic rather than sporty or academic, he was, like

many, somewhat out of step with the ethos of the school.

He says he was intensely religious as a boy but left school an atheist, a nihilist and deeply disenchanted. "At Prior Park I completely binned Christianity and Catholicism... and became very religion-averse from that point on."

In his twenties, on the advice of his father, he took to reading Marcus Aurelius. His readings became more frequent and deeper, until he would meditate on a single sentence or phrase. In his late twenties, he read an introduction to Buddhism written by Christmas Humphreys and was impressed by it. "I liked its matter-of-factness," he says.

He worked as a physiotherapist in the NHS and was so stressed that a colleague suggested that he try a meditation group. "He thought I might have a heart attack or something. I was quite driven."

The meditation class was in a Buddhist centre. He became curious.

"And then I realized it was very much a



Nigel

continuation of Marcus Aurelius. It was liberating, really liberating. And it was healthy."

A few years ago, he left the world of paid work and went to live full-time in North Wales, running a Buddhist retreat centre.

Nigel Rawlinson, who qualified in medicine from Cambridge in 1980, is a Prior Park governor. He and his wife have two daughters, one of whom, **Anna-Fleur** PPA 2011, joined Prior in the sixth form, an experience that provided "a life foundation for her". Prior was "wonderful... transformative... it was a life changer," he said, when we spoke in July 2020.

Nigel, who had an "Anglican, Christian upbringing", was at Cambridge in the turbulent 1970s. "Being a young adult in that era, it took a while for the truth of the gospel to sink in."

When he was 30, preparation for his elder daughter's baptism put him "on the path back to faith". While working in A&E at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, he trained at the West of England Ministerial Training Course (WEMTC). He was ordained in 1999.

In 2016, when he was 60, the post of chaplain at the university of Bath came up. This was, he says, "an opportunity to work with young people – the next generation – growing up in a post-Christendom era, with much less exposure to faith than their parents." He got the job and left medicine to follow his vocation full time.



Saccavicaya



1930 – 1939

We were delighted to vie for space on the table with a card from the Queen to celebrate **Brian Warren-Peachey's** (PPA 1937) 100th birthday. Many congratulations, and we look forward to welcoming Brian and Jennifer back in November for the Mansion lunch. Brian writes: "How very kind of you to send me a card and what a card too!"

"I've never seen such a card before – you have even found a photo with me in, the others, being **Norman Cutler** PPA 1937 (RIP) and **Leonard Pardoe** PPA 1936 (RIP 2009), both sadly passed on now."

"I have had an amazing birthday, in fact a bit overwhelming: a card from Her Majesty, and many others herewith photo of them."

"We had a lovely luncheon with close family (not exceeding six) apart from my youngest daughter who lives in Paris and we were able to use Whatsapp to have a brief conversation with her."

"Hopefully we will be able to have a (Mansion) luncheon in November (I think it is) depending on the Covid situation."



Cutler, Pardoe and Warren-Peachey



Now in Devizes, he hopes he can spend more time with his 9 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild and revisit Prior when this madness is all over. He had just received his 2020 copy of the Gossip Bowl and called to give us his new address.

Daughter Aisling joined the archive site and informs us that Dad, **David Rafferty** PPA 1954, is in good form. In fact, he is amazing. He's still a full time carer for mum who has Parkinsons. He still walks every day and is in very good health thankfully. Sadly the only reference she found in the digital archives was when he was listed as coming third in his RE exams!

Brian Maher PPA 1957 updates the office with the news that he counts himself as having been very lucky in his life. He left Prior in 1955 and studied engineering before going to sea on cableships for Cable and Wireless. Then being a bit Irish (his words), he joined the Navy to get away from the sea, and flew for a few years in the Fleet Air Arm. In 1966 he left the Navy and came out to Australia to fly for Qantas and did that for about 35 years, flying mostly 747 Jumbos. He married a lovely French girl and in due course produced a son and a daughter. Now retired and counting his blessings, living on Sydney's northern beaches.

He enjoys receiving the magazine and would love to come back to the UK once the dreaded Covid 19 has been beaten. He would have given anything to have been there when **Adrian Beamish** PPA 1957 gave his lecture (Mansion Lunch 2019). They were very friendly back in the day, as they were both great fans of the Irish rugby team.

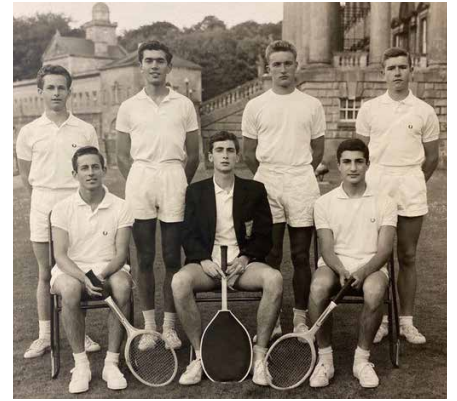
A worried email from former classmate **Laurie Ibbitt** PPA 1958 led to concerned emails flying back and forth to **John Ware** PPA 1958. Happily John and his wife Cathy are both well in Harrogate, and being very careful, but surrounded by beautiful countryside lifting the spirits. Enjoyed hearing about the current students safely at home with families worldwide and reminiscing fondly on his time at Prior – best ever.

Peter Harrison PPA 1958 arrived in September, the week before the students were due to come back in earnest after the summer holidays and lockdown, so the house was in general chaos and major clean up mode. Busy in his retirement with voluntary work as a governor, so well aware of the work that is involved in these strange times. As he stood in the Academy Hall he remembered fondly the experience of a new art teacher, **Mr "Toffee" Palmer** (below), making all the boys sit in a circle around a sprouting potato with paper and charcoal and being asked to draw. Such a unique experience for all of the boys who had never even held charcoal.

A different kind of teacher had joined the ranks, a teacher who made the boys look differently at everything and really appreciate not just art, but also music. Mr Palmer, after all, wrote the school song. Peter



was a priest, then left the clergy to marry and have 4 children. He is still passionate about religion and history and is undertaking to write a book on the Clifton Diocese and the building of the cathedral. Watch this space for further updates on the book.



Mounir El-Khoury sent in the tennis photo from 1959 first team tennis which was missing from the archives. Pictured back row, L to R: **Edmund Henderson**, **Patrick Balfe** (RIP 2010), **Roland Mazery** (RIP 2021), **Alex Mazery** and front row L to R: **Wilbert Henderson**, **Wilfred Garcia** (captain) and **Mounir El Khoury**.

It was, in fact, Edmund Henderson who let us know that Roland Mazery had passed away. **Wilbert Henderson** PPA 1959 writes in to add: "It is very sad news and it reminds me of our times together, the four of us, Roland, Alex, Edmund and myself Wilbert not just at school, but our Easter holidays in a hotel in Bournemouth." The tennis team are an example of the far flung reaches of the worldwide alumni community. Edmund Henderson – England, Patrick Balfe – Bahamas, Roland Mazery – South Africa, Alex Mazery – Mauritius, Wilbert Henderson – Mexico, Wilfred Garcia – Spain, and Mounir in Brussels.

1960 – 1969

Frances Stone, the sister to **Peter** PPA 1960 (right), **Michael** and **Anthony Field** PPA 1961, contacted the college after she had celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary to see if she could come back to the chapel to relive that beautiful day with her wedding album. Sadly, her husband was very ill so couldn't join her for the visit. She will bring the wedding album up when the pandemic has died down. She plans to visit her brother Peter in Texas as soon as possible, as he is currently suffering from bad health.

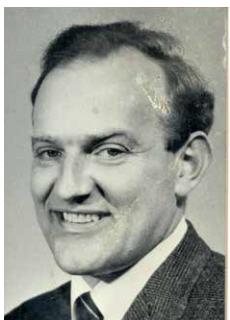


Wilfrid de Freitas and **Peter Hilton** PPA 1962 were convinced that there was reason to believe that Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote *Kubla Khan* whilst under the influence of opium on the slopes of Prior

1940 – 1949

Marie, a daughter of the late **Rae Carter** PPA 1949 (RIP 2013) came to visit the College with her son Lewis, who was very close to his grandad. Declan gave them an extensive tour of the school taking them around some of the places Rae would have spent some considerable time. Marie had lots of stories about the her dad's time at the school, so much so that Declan had little chance to share his knowledge of the school's history – a welcome result for all parties!

Rae was one of the natural leaders which Prior Park produced. He was captain of the 1st cricket XI, vice captain of the 1st hockey XI and a 1st XV rugby squad member. A great dramatist and he is probably best remembered as being head boy in 1949.



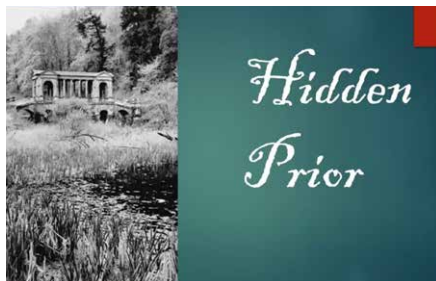
1950 – 1959

Geoffrey Sharpe PPA 1952 who was widowed in 2019, has moved to be nearer one of his daughters in Seend.



Park. Wilfrid remembers seeing something whilst he was at College in the period of 1956-1962. As he says, it is not the sort of thing you would just make up. He thinks he saw an article in Bath and Wiltshire Chronicle. Serious research ensued but unfortunately nothing was found.

In Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*, the poet claims to have received his inspiration in a dream, and the circumstances attending the composition of the poem are thus related by him: – "In the summer of 1797, being in ill-health, I retired a lonely farmhouse on the Exmoor confines of Somerset and Devonshire. In consequence of a slight indisposition, anodyne had been prescribed, from the effects of which I fell asleep in my chair at the moment that I was reading the following sentence, or words of the same substance, in Purchase's *Pilgrimage*: 'Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace built, and a stately garden thereunto, and thus ten miles of fertile grounds were inclosed with wall.' It was not Prior Park.



Having watched and enjoyed the Hidden Prior video **Tim Newling** PPA 1962 had some additional comments:

- 1) The skating rink in St Peter's was very well used when I was there in 1956-58. However, the skates had metal wheels (this was before they were made of rubber) and were very noisy and slippery – basically uncontrollably dangerous.
- 2) There was a horse at Cricklade the whole time I was there. The one I remember was smallish and very workaday. We used to ride it after supper in the summer term. The problem was it was fed with oats during the winter months and by summer had so much energy that riding it was a real problem. For someone like me, who did not know how to ride, it was a life-threatening experience with it running out of control around the large field at the back of the school until it decided to stop. I, and others like me, would fall off. We did not have helmets. I don't know why the brothers would allow little boys to ride it.
- 3) There was a TV in the round room of St Peter's. It projected an image on a screen that was erected in front of the doors. The only show I remember seeing was 'Quatermass' in 1958/9, a famous scary Sci-fi series. The theme music stays with me.
- 4) The swimming pool was a mixed blessing, as the water was unheated for most of the time I was at St Peter's.
- 5) There was a mural on one wall of the dining room at Cricklade. It was a lovely pastoral scene which included a child (children) reading and dreaming. During one holiday it was painted over and lost forever – a great pity.

Thank you Tim, more treasures to add to the next episode of Hidden Prior.



Ian Haddon PPA 1962 who is organising a reunion for 2022 was reflecting on why as a year group they gelled. "We shared so much as a group, changing rooms, showers, teams, dorms, even the first year in St Paul's classrooms. It was very much the last year of the Tom Brown's school days atmosphere, there was an element of them and us so we had to stick together, grassing was totally taboo. The prefects were like grown ups and ran the place, some were or could be over zealous. Many of us shared adventures, creeping down the lakes to build rafts, fish, build tree houses or forts, catch rabbits, picking the lock of the boiler room to enjoy a smoke, or going to the pub with the back room, the masters drank in the front!! Going to the Copper Kettle coffee bar. So to sum it up we all lived together rather like a large family. But I think one thing stands out that on the whole we all just got on as a group."

On another note, Ian has just discovered that the Land Rover he used to undertake his World Tour 1967-69 is derelict on a farm. He has entered negotiations to buy it back and restore it as part of a lockdown project.

Anthony Lowe PPA 1963, known as Arthur, was transferred to live in a nursing home during the third covid lockdown and the PPA were contacted by his son, David, in the hope that some of his old school pals would contact him there to keep his spirits up. Now Arthur is very old school and has never really used a computer so neither Zoom calls nor emails were an option. The PPA network took it back to schooldays and put pen to paper and started writing cards and letters. Arthur was overwhelmed and as much of his life was dedicated to looking after others it was definitely payback time. His family want to thank the Prior Park alumni for their outstanding efforts.



Peter Haddon PPA 1966 tells the story: I have heard from my brother Ian PPA 1962 that "Arthur" has not been well and that he is presently being cared for. Whilst I was not in his year (Ian was) I did know him very well and since my reunion with, **Brian Akers** PPA 1965, **Bob Rayner** PPA 1964, **Chris Kershaw** PPA 1965 and **Simon Wallace** PPA 1964, when he was present, I have been in contact with him on several occasions.

Firstly the origin of the nickname. When we were at school one of our favourite programs was Dads Army. In this now famous series Captain Mainwaring was played by Arthur Lowe, hence the typical school boy thing of picking up on such an association and thus Tony became Arthur.

As you well know, cricket was and is my thing. Bearing in mind that Arthur was an extremely fast fast-bowler (He was the opening bowler for the First Eleven) I was well aware of his prowess and played a few games with him in my early days.

As my brother Ian recalled, we met him at Heathrow in 1963 and discovered that we were all going to Majorca. We stayed at "The Bahia Palace Hotel" which was at the time probably one of the best hotels on the island. Being English, both families naturally included in their cases evening wear, namely long evening gowns for the ladies and dinner jackets for the men. Thus we dined in style every evening. I think that either Ian or I probably have a photo to back up this story. Bearing in mind that it was winter, there was no sitting in the sun on the beach. In fact when we left Barcelona to go to Majorca they were skiing down the main streets. When we returned to England there was snow everywhere as well, really deep snow.

I know that Arthur loves his rugby as well and he had kept in touch with both **Brian Akers** PPA 1965 and **Noel Horrobin** PPA 1965 (RIP 2006)

From California **David McCann** PPA 1964 writes that on reading about **Geoffrey Cardozo** PPA 1968 receiving the PPA Medal for lifetime achievement (Gossip Bowl 2020), he recalled a story of schoolboy heroism.

"When I was at PP, I fell in the Guy Fawkes bonfire, must have been 1961 or 1962. I distinctly remember who pulled me out, it was Geoffrey Cardozo, he was in the same year as me I think. I left in 1964. Started his public service by probably saving my life."



In October 2020 we had a message from **Geoff Acton** PPA 1968. Over the years some strange things have been asked for: please look for my compass that I stashed under the floorboards in St Peter's 50 years ago was a classic. However, this request played straight to the heartstrings. "Can you replace my CCF RAF wings that I received in 1967? Mine were stolen along with all my personal belongings.

"When I left Qatar for Australia, ALL my property was lifted by the locals and lost forever, including all my original certificates, tomes, study material from Uni. Childhood photos. Heart-breaking. No use nor value at all to the thieves, but it was my life record I lost.

"I also lost my wings, gained in 1967 as a member of the RAF CCF. I attached a photo (above), taken by my father, of the awards day below the Mansion. I



wish to enquire if, on examination of the 1967 records, it would be possible to get a replacement set. They were awarded to me as a soloist glider pilot, and as my daughter has just qualified as a commercial pilot with Qantas they would be a wonderful thing to show her! She is 22 and I am 71!"

Let's see if this is a job that can be fixed. **Mr Tony Jenkins** PPA 1968 Current CCF Commander is helping out with the quest.

For the main part of the year, the focus was just trying to keep safe – so it was quiet, says **Chris Cutcliffe** PPA 1968. Sadly his mother, who had reached 100 years old, passed away in February. Very little windsurfing or conservation volunteering but quite a lot of walking in the countryside and he has remained healthy. Now Chris is looking forward to having the opportunity of meeting others again inside or outside (good old British weather permitting).

Peter Rippon PPA 1968, who has been based in New York with his own company Rippon Designs for the last 20 years, says that Corona virus was a mixed blessing. It meant that he could no longer go out to work, see friends, visit restaurants, and do all the other things everyone had taken for granted. Instead he was condemned to a life of huddling indoors and only leaving, when permitted, clad in masks and sweaty vinyl gloves.



However, the lockdown for him also meant that he was able to fully return to his original vocation

of art. Luckily, his workplace and home are in the same location, and he now has the luxury of time and concentration to really come to grips with his work. 2020/1 have been the most productive and contemplative years virtually since he first came to the U.S. many moons ago. The mirror in the photo, *Selva Desnuda* (Naked Jungle) 2021 is about deforestation in the Amazon; all the species used here were from sustainable sources! Check out his designs on: www.rippondes.com



Terry Illott PPA 1968 celebrated his 70th birthday in April. Modest, socially-distanced celebrations in the garden were spread over two days to accommodate family and a handful of friends. And, of course, there was lots of Zooming. Terry had not been looking forward to his birthday (who wants to be 70?), but in the event, he says, he found it all rather life-affirming.

Terry has continued to host fortnightly Zoom meetings for the class of 1968. About 17 PPAs have participated in these get-togethers over the past year, with typical attendance being between 6 and 12. The meetings, which usually last for 80 or 90 minutes, have become such a welcome addition to the social calendar that Terry expects them to continue even after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

"Getting together regularly with friends from New York, Rotterdam, Brittany, Jersey and all points of the compass in the UK has been great fun," he says. "We have a real mix in the group – a haematologist, a surgeon, a designer, a retired banker, a colonel, an orthodontist, and so on – and the pooling of our respective reflections on everything from the pandemic response in the Philippines to airframe construction (don't ask) makes for a very enjoyable exchange."

Phil (Tom) Hamerton PPA 1968 reports from Shoreham-by-Sea that he has finally retired from the South East Coast Ambulance Service after over 42 years in harness, where he was latterly a patient experience officer, the day before his 71st birthday – job done! If home-working hadn't been introduced, he would have stayed on for longer as it had been great fun working in an office with such lovely colleagues. Although having relinquished his roles with the local church as bar steward since 1994 and fundraising since 1989, he still works out on the track at the East Somerset Railway every month (since 1983). His wife Margaret, their two children and spouses, together with the four grandchildren are all keeping well and happy locally. He keeps in touch with **Paul Brann**, and had also regularly visited **Christopher (Soxy) Sullivan** (1967) up in Sheffield, but very sadly has to advise that Soxy passed away suddenly earlier in the year at the age of 72. He was a great character and friend who will be sorely missed. RIP.

Julian Lennon posted: "My old friend **Tony Brannon** (PPA 1969) co-wrote "Hope" – a song for the times, which will debut on March 1. Save the link and have a listen when it premieres. Jules x"

Perfect Strangers is an ensemble of some of the finest session musicians on the planet, who have all come together for a common theme – HOPE!

Everyone from Paul McCartney to pub entertainers and millions more have nowhere to play.

Lockdowns and quarantines shut down West End Theatres, Broadway, Las Vegas, stadium concerts, clubs and bars. It's been a global disaster for the performing arts, says Tony.



BUT – there is HOPE!

Hope is a song for the times – written by Barbadian, James "Jimmy" Duncan & Bermudian **Tony Brannon**. Lyrics in the form of a poem were sent by **Tony** to Jimmy inspiring him to write the music plus additional lyrics.



Michael Douglas ✓
27 February · 🌐

Hey guys! Have a little treat for you. My friend **Tony Brannon** and his band #PerfectStrangers are coming out with a new song called #Hope on Monday 3/1...And boy do we need a lot of that right about now! **Hope by Perfect Strangers**

The verses talk about the reality of not seeing any live music or fans going to a football game, be it soccer in Liverpool or any global sporting event. 2020 and 2021 feels like a long dark night – lonely prisoners in our homes. The Covid pandemic has resulted in millions of lives lost around the world. Businesses and livelihoods have been shattered.

Hope – is what keeps us alive when things don't go our way. Breathe in and out, hold on be strong, we are gonna make it through this.



1970 – 1979



Kevin Ilott PPA 1971, visited the Landscape Garden in October with his wife Sarah. Kev, (above) who has three daughters and two grandsons, lives in contented retirement just outside Minehead. Youngest daughter, Megan, is an intensive care nurse and has been on the frontline treating Covid patients in London. Kev, a keen sportsman in his schooldays, followed his older brother, **Terry** PPA 1968, all the way through from Cricklade to the Prior sixth form.

Brian Wake PPA 1972 says he is still working to keep the "little grey cells" active. He lives and works in Chester and has a nationwide practice as a solicitor specialising in minerals, environment, energy, renewables and telecommunications law. He thoroughly enjoyed partaking in the Hong Kong Zoomunion as he was born there and thinks that he can claim to be the first ever PPC student from Hong Kong. His daughter also qualified as a lawyer and spent 10 years as a commercial property lawyer in Manchester, and is now a director of a digital marketing firm in Greater Manchester, and has a son, James (10). Brian's son is a pilot on the A380 (currently "waiting recall" as a result of the closedown of international travel due to C-19) and is, with his two small children and dog, currently living with Brian in Cheshire pending a return to Dubai in August. Brian has "converted" to be a follower of Rugby League, although he still enjoys watching Union...!

Graham Sharp PPA 1974 has been made the lead architect at Network Rail for the North-West and Central Region (the old London North-West) which runs from the Lake District to Euston station. He's very much enjoying that; looking at stations all over the country from Birmingham International, Coventry, West Midlands (several), Brent Cross, Manchester, Liverpool, and further north too. Sadly, the South West is not in the region, but he's hoping to 'nick' one or two.

Kenneth Bonavia PPA 1975 featured in a programme that was aired in Gibraltar called Life Journeys in Law. Kenneth reflects within the episode about his early happy education at Prior Park Prep and College in the 1960's and 70's. Viewing here: <https://www.gbc.gi/tv/programmes/life-journeys-law-1103/episode/episode-5-kenneth-bonavia-8155>



Starting tonight at 9pm - LIFE JOURNEYS IN LAW .



We have regular updates from historian **Paul Kemp** PPA 1977 who often posts directly onto the Facebook page to share his discoveries. One of the graves that he visited in Gallipoli came up in May: In 1915 our PPC alumnus, **Sergeant William Coffey** PPA 1907 of the 1st Bn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, was killed at Gallipoli aged 25. He was killed leading a desperate counterattack on Turkish forces who had overrun the Inniskilling's positions. That night his friends recovered his body and buried it. After the war when the cemeteries on the peninsula were being reorganised, his body was reburied in Twelve Tree Copse cemetery. Unfortunately when the bodies had been laid to rest and the graves filled in, the IWGC officials realised that they had not noted who was in which grave - hence the inscription "Known to be buried in this cemetery" on his headstone



Mitch Davies PPA 1977, director, legal studies, Truman Bodden Law School, Cayman Islands, was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to legal education in the Cayman Islands in the Queen's birthday awards 2021.

Duncan Chilcott PPA 1977 visited the college at the end of August 2020. He travelled from his Devon



home with wife, Elizabeth, daughter, Mary and her partner, Barney. Although the boarding houses were out of bounds due to returning students being quarantined, the family did enjoy an extensive and rainy tour of the college.

Duncan particularly enjoyed being back in the Round Room where he remembered watching films on a Sunday evening, and all the family were quite taken aback by the remnants of the dorms in the art rooms of St Peter's. The chapel, as ever, had its usual impact on those who see it for the first time, and Duncan was impressed with the new art installation which commemorates those past pupils who have 'fallen' through the world conflicts.

Standing in the portico, Duncan remembered giving tours to American holidaymakers and remembered the cross-country track which was the park.

The family then headed off to the park, but not before giving a generous gift to the college's bursary fund.

Duncan and Elizabeth run their own auctioneers in Honiton and as they are only 'down the road,' we look forward to seeing them again, soon.

1980 – 1989

"Fortunately, here in the Caribbean we have not had it too bad, at least so far, but it's always best to take all necessary cautionary steps," reports **Larry Lequay** PPA 1980. "Prevention is definitely better than cure... though I hope one will soon be found!

"As for me, after having invested 35+ years in the corporate world of finance & banking, on attaining the age of 60 this year, I have transitioned (sounds better that retired ??) into my own consultancy. Still dealing with finance but more focussed on organizational structuring, strategic alignment and governance."

Sometimes the comments on Facebook are so engaging and this is one of them from alumnus **Emilio Nella** PPA 1982: "My father used to tell me every term on the way to college, you know your a very lucky person !!!

"It took a few years after I had left Prior to realise this invoice looks good in today's terms but back then a years fees would buy you a decent brand new family car."



John Mason PPA 1982 lets us know that he is still in Cape Town, South Africa and has survived the plague. He is running his own security risk company, Grail Solutions. On land, he looks after people and wind farms throughout Africa, and on sea, he provides security to super yachts especially those close to Somalia.

Enjoying staying in touch with the early 80's crowd and thankful they all seem to have survived the pandemic craziness.

Frank Ghaidan PPA 1983 writes that he "was reading through the 2020 copy of The Gossip Bowl - always a good read! - and saw a wonderful photo of our former



matron **Mrs Eileen McPeake**, who, I understand, is now living in Australia.

"Mrs McPeake was incredibly kind to me during my time in the sixth form and I have many extremely fond memories of popping up to visit her in the sickbay on the first floor of the mansion for a chat, a cup of tea and a biscuit or five.

"I would dearly love to get in touch with Mrs McPeake just to belatedly thank her for her past kindness and to share some old Prior memories and wondered if you had a contact e-mail for her that you could share, or alternatively you could give her my e-mail address and explain that I would love to get in touch?" A photo of Frank in his school days was sent on to Eileen's son who managed to pass it on to his mum before she passed away. She was delighted to be so kindly remembered. See Obituary Page 42.



Jack Fernandes PPA 1984 and family (above) made the most out of the temporary ease in Covid restrictions last summer and called into the college. Jack shared some of his PPC memories with his children, who particularly enjoyed the Round Room and the old Ball Court.

Peter O'Donoghue PPA 1986 enjoyed seeing **Denis Clarke** and **Gerald Davies** (former staff) on the Zoomunion. They have not aged a bit.

Inspired by **Martin Pike PPA 1986**, Peter, soon to retire as a governor after more than 12 years on the board, joined forces with **Carole Laverick** to find out what happened to the school song, *Deo Duce, Deo Luce*. The trail runs cold around 1989 so we think a fast-thinking but as yet unidentified member of the Common Room deleted it from the order of service before incoming Head, **Jeremy Goulding**, was any the wiser. Whether reports that the Common Room hated the song, and the foot stamping, had anything to do with that act, we shall never know. There are no plans to revive that song, which is news that will be greeted with, no doubt, a mixture of dismay and delight to readers of this august journal.

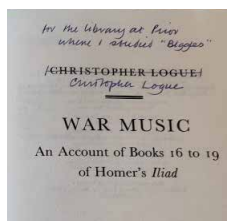
Please check out the free digital archive to see a rendition by **Roland Robertson** of the School Song.

Michael Morgan PPA 1986 contacted the college to say they are considering relocation and would like to look around with the potential of his daughter

attending Prior. However, with all the covid restrictions the visit had to be rescheduled.

Trevor Ryder PPA 1987 let us know that he is well having moved to Stockport from Bristol some time ago as his wife is from there. Still working for the MoD and enjoying life with 4 children two of whom are twins!

In 2016 **Giles Watson PPA 1987** came to the London drinks event with a book in hand which he found in a second hand bookshop. An edition of *War Music* written by **Christopher Logue PPA 1944**. It had been presented to the college by Christopher and signed by him "for the library at Prior where I studied Biggles." The story has now been picked up by researcher **Andrew Taylor**, who is writing a biography of Logue and was so excited to have this information about his time here from the digital archives but more excited about this book. So thank you to Giles for donating this edition, decades after it was given to the college library. What adventures it could share if it could talk.



Andrew Devlin PPA 1988 and his girlfriend, **Claire**, (pictured above) came back after a long weekend away. Andrew, who worked as a telecoms engineer for many years, has recently transitioned into the sales part of the industry. He found it interesting working throughout from home as the remaining team members were furloughed.

The tour with Andrew led to memories of having **Mass** said in the Bishop's Library – as always the new facts will get added to the next tour.

Isabel Cave (nee Newland) PPA 1989 whilst trying to help a recent leaver (**Jess Waters PPA 2017**) find a job in Canada, keeps us up-to-date with her family. "**Dominic** (PPA 1989) and I are doing well. I had recently finished chemo for breast cancer when we came over last year, and I'm happy to say I am in remission. **Dominic** is super busy as a paediatric anaesthesiologist and paediatric cardiac intensive care physician here at the Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton, Canada. I just read through the latest *Gossip Bowl* funny that we were down as the class

of 1990, when in fact we were the class of 1989-made me feel a whole year younger! I always enjoy all the news there, and not just for my year, but also for my sisters years, **Joanna Mackenzie PPA 1992**, and **Susy Jermin PPA 2000**. Thanks for all you do for us as a community, it is very much appreciated. I particularly enjoy all the historical facts you share.

"I completed my MA in Creative Writing in 2019 and am working hard at producing, so all comments are very much appreciated! **Julie McEnery, Elena Harries (nee Sartori) PPA 1989** and I were talking about how special our year felt. We were the first "big" intake of girls to the sixth form, and we became a very close unit. I am forever grateful for the lifelong friends I made."

In November, **Declan Rainey** caught up with 1989 leavers **Andrew Choy** and **Daniel Tung**, both now working at the same firm of architects in Hong Kong. They loved their time at Prior Park having managed to straddle belonging to a Hong Kong group of students whilst also making good friends outside it. They have good memories of **Patrick Tobin's** premiership and said the college was a fun period of hard work and socializing – and behaving most of the time! In fact, their only sadness was that, without social media back then, there are very few photographs.

They would love to hear about any Hong Kong reunions whether they be online or in person, not least because their year group somewhat lost their sense of cohesion after the very sad death of **Nick Flanagan (RIP 2017)**; Nick had been the main point of contact both within the Class of '89 and with Prior's news.

Meantime with a wonderful touch of continuity **Andrew** is hoping to send his own children to the college in a few years' time! And given the popularity in Hong Kong of a UK education who knows whether in 30 years' time this next generation won't be planning their own Prior reunions both in Hong Kong and elsewhere.

1990 – 1999



Carolina Dittmair (nee Linares) PPA 1991 came to visit the College with her family **Ella, Nina, Lola** and husband **Alex**. **Declan** welcomed them and showed them around the site. Carolina was impressed with the sixth form study area, which was once the art room, and was equally impressed with the new(ish) art rooms in St Peter's. All the family were taken aback by the old ball court. Carolina and her family are returning home to the Rock, to rejoin the Linares dynasty, a Prior Park dynasty as much as a Gibraltarian one. Good luck with the move.



The interest in historical Prior Park continues to grow with fascinating snippets coming in from all directions. Thank you to **Simon Ardron** PPA 1991 for the two interesting articles, one on the death of **Sir Seymour Hicks** PPA 1886 (who started the idea of musical and theatrical performances going overseas to entertain troops during times of conflict) and Sports Day 1925. This is really interesting because the college had only just re-opened in 1924 after a 20 year closure, the boys do not look particularly happy or warm, but there was no digital photography then, no re-takes. Thank you Simon.



Andrea Asbury (nee Green) PPA 1993 sends us a lovely update in Dec 2020 that "after working in orchestral tour management & opera, I'm thinking of a total change & am preparing an application to study midwifery! Never too late for a change of direction!"

Then in Feb 2021:

"I'm delighted to say that after 2021 I have been offered a place to study Midwifery at UWE Bristol (at the fair age of 46!) I've loved my career in music management, but it's time for a change!" Inspirational.

Daniel Hancock

PPA 1994 reports that just under 3 years ago he set-up his own business in Bath, Bath Insider Tours, offering private tours of Bath and the local area. You will be pleased to hear that Prior Park gets a regular mention in his Bath city tours! Needless to say it's been a challenging time for all self-employed guides. He has used the time to create a self-guided audio tour of one of his favourite gardens in Bath, taking in the Pulteney Estate, Sydney Gardens and the canal (Prior Park and Ralph Allen also get a quick mention!). As well as being an interesting tour for Bath's visitors it is also likely to interest locals who like to explore and get to know their area.



You can read more about the tour on his website here: <https://www.bathinsidertours.co.uk/bath-audio-tour-pulteney-and-canal>.

Greg Cooper PPA 1994 and his son, Billy came into the Mansion, just as lockdown was easing in August. Greg who had been sent to Cricklade at the age of 6. They were undertaking a last minute adventure, a boys' tour. Unfortunately Greg's wife had left 24 hours earlier with the three smaller children to go to France, when the isolation rules changed. It left Greg and Billy unable to join the family. Thus, they ended up in Bath for a few days before hitting London big time... well Billy was only 10 so it is going to be a sensible adventure. Had great fun wandering around the site and reliving



misdemeanours and fond memories. In the Chapel, Greg spent an inordinate amount of time looking at the stations of the cross, until he 'fessed up to having broken Jesus' thumb on Station 10 of the Cross as he was cleaning it as punishment. What a great essay title that would be: "I spent ages looking for Jesus' thumb". Well, Greg has very generously offered to help with any digital marketing analytics requirements.



Hannah Conway PPA 1995 was filmed on BBC during lockdown, having composed the most beautiful aria for a man who is suffering from MND (motor neurone disease). Paul Jameson is the namesake for Paul's Aria which is sung by professional baritone, Roderick "Roddy" Williams (above). Hannah explains that Paul's story is "told with Paul's real voice but also this imagined version of what his voice could be in its most expressive, powerful form. The permissions from Paul to hand over his voice to Roddy creates a really intimate moment and is the essence of what opera should be." The final words of the aria are haunting: "I know this is my voice and it sounds to me like my life had a soul."

In August when the photos went up OTDIH about the Mansion fire of 1991, **David Symes** PPA 1995 let us know that he had kept the original article from the Bath Chronicle. He faithfully sent it in and allowed us to add it to the digital archive site as part of the fire history. Terrifying details emerge from the article. Two firemen injured, 80 firemen on site for 16 hours, £6 million worth of damage, water drained from the college swimming pool and the Lake. The scale of the damage reinforces the relief that we were not 'in' school proper and the 100 overseas students who were attending summer school were based in St Peter's and St Paul's. Thank you David for helping us add to the archives to give a complete story. (See article Page 23 for full story)

Stephanie Lane (nee Johnson) PPA 1995 popped into Prior in May with an envelope full of archives for us. Her mother (**Mrs Odette Johnson**) who passed away in 2019, used to work at Prior in the languages department teaching French and had kept lots of the magazines. Belated condolences to both Stephanie and her brother, **Jeremy** PPA 1998 on the loss of their mother and thank you for the archives.



Mark August PPA 1996 and **Sinan Ciddi** PPA 1996 (above) discovered they lived relatively near one another (Mark in NYC and Sinan in Washington). So as vaccinated individuals, they decided to spend a day out in the big apple. They shared this photo and asked to be remembered to **Denis Clarke** (former deputy head and long term housemaster).

Brigid North nee Kennedy PPA 1996, with Chris, Barnaby and young Tabitha came to the college, fully masked up for a quick visit in August 2020. She found herself in the school photos along the very fusty refectory corridor (the children did comment on the smell). The house needed to be open to breathe and had become very stale so quickly, so it was an absolute delight to open doors and show them around. Brigid, a partner with Reed Smith solicitors in London, told us that she is in charge of the trainees and was chatting away to a couple of them who had gone to school in Bath. Turns out that both **Jess Wheeler** PPA 2011 and **Jonty Lord** PPA 2012 were astonished to find out that she was an alumna. Small world.



In contact with **Graham Hogg** PPA 1999 to sort out his new address for the magazine and he reports that 2020 actually was a good year for his company See6, New York. "I run a virtual team simulation company, so it's going well. The US election has dominated the airwaves and now everyone is looking forward to some stability."

We needed clarification on what a virtual team simulation company was, so here goes...

"We design robust, immersive, simulation-based experiences that evaluate teams virtual skills through a scientifically-grounded and data-driven process."

"We are a cross-functional team of L&D experts, technologists, analysts and product leaders who are expanding how teams think about real time experiences in many domains-and having fun while making an impact!"

Graham lives in NYC where his most cherished moments are at home with his young family... preferably watching rugby!

2000 – 2009

Daniel Keepax PPA 2000 has been busy during the pandemic as a firefighter in London, stationed in Fulham. A job that he absolutely loves. He also has a part time job doing fire safety on film sets. He has moved house to Petersfield, similar to Bath just a bit smaller he reports. Missing the Old Boys rugby which discontinued in 2015 because of Health and Safety regulations not allowing the physical game to be played with students.

Tom Hall PPA 2000 dropped into the old school during a Bank Holiday weekend break with the family. Declan, the director of development, was so engrossed in conversation with Tom, the global head of philanthropy at UBS, that he forgot to take the obligatory family photograph on the Mansion steps. Tom enjoyed the tour and his children did forgive him for bringing them to a school during their half-term break.

Jimmy Carroll PPA 2000, Pelorus co-founder, is once again listed as a Condé Nast Traveller top travel specialist for 2021, showcasing his expertise in adventure, family travel, over the top trips and yacht expeditions.

Jimmy's military background helps create some incredibly diverse experiences with expert military precision and planning.

Charlie Gage PPA 2001 and his fiancée visited in July hoping that they could sort out a venue for their wedding in August 2020. Unfortunately it was not to be, like so many other couples plans had to adapt again. However, it was lovely to see them both.

Jonathan Orchard PPA 2001 ran an ultra marathon fundraising for The Old Mill Fund, a fund to help local charities, community groups and individuals within Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire via their respective community foundations.



"Use it or lose it" is an expression that has been used for local businesses trying to survive the pandemic. With the incredible surge in online shopping, food deliveries etc and the loss of the high street as we know it. So delighted to find **James Barton** PPA 2001 at the Wheatsheaf, Bath had decided to open to takeaways during the lockdowns to help retain the staff, keep the business turning over and producing the most delicious home made goodies for the local community of walkers. Many people even took to driving into Combe Hay for their take-aways the quality was that good.

James Carlin PPA 2001, director, 3SG, was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to social enterprise, to interfaith relations and to the voluntary sector during covid-19 in the 2021 Queen's birthday awards list. 3SG is an independent membership network supporting the charity, social enterprise, faith and voluntary sector operating in Bath and North East Somerset. The aim of this Bath based charity is to raise the profile of its members, provide 1-1 support and give them a chance to influence local strategic decision making.

The company is called The Raw Pantry Ltd, which **Sebastian 'Bass' Price** PPA 2004 created as he lost his job as an executive chef in the first lockdown.



The company consists of himself and wife, Marta. Always on the hunt for a property to fulfil their dream of owning a coffee/brunch spot

It's a private chef experience in the comfort of your home. A supper club where #icookyouhost

Adapted during the lockdown with virtual live cookalongs - where he sends the prepped produce across the country to the customer and the family/friends. Everyone then would all log onto zoom and cook together in real time. He would leave the room and the client would have the starter and then rejoin and so so on until dessert. Everyone would prep, cook and plate together using 6 cameras in his home kitchen. Raw Pantry Ltd did a total of 50 zoom Cookalongs in 5 months Website: <http://the-raw-pantry.co.uk/>

After 13 years experience in the superyacht industry **Chester Bertuello** PPA 2006 has just started a new position as rotational chief officer on an 82 metre charter super yacht. Many congratulations.

Thomas Castley PPA 2007 started a new position as senior business analyst at Nomensa. Nomensa is a strategic UX design agency that combines expertise in psychology, user-centric design, accessibility and technology to create ground-breaking digital experiences. His 6 years experience gained working for Dyson will hold him in good stead in this new position.

Dr Amy Li PPA 2009 started a new position at UCL Innovation & Enterprise as a mentor. She has been a teaching fellow since 2019 in biomedical and tissue engineering especially in the area of nanomedicine and developing the new type of materials for the next generation of implants. She is also a postgraduate teaching associate (AFHEA), she likes to help people, share her knowledge and ideas whenever she can.

In March 2021, **Henry Appleby** PPA 2009 CEng MICE, announced on LinkedIn:

"I am delighted to (belatedly!) announce that I am now working as partner at AMP Structures Ltd.



full time! Taking the business from late nights and weekend working to a full-time operation is probably my proudest achievement.

"We have been providing structural and civil designs since 2017 for a range of projects, anything from the removal of a single load-bearing wall to large scale new build framed buildings."

2010 – 2019

George Hyde PPA 2010 contacts the office to say: "I'm reaching out in the hope I might be able to pick your brain in my search for PPC alumni who are involved in the advertising industries.

"Despite having had a thoroughly enjoyable stint as a music & entertainment lawyer I haven't been able to escape my musical proclivities and as such I'm (Confidentially) in the process of establishing a creative agency with my brother, **Will** PPA 2008. We are planning to launch in Q1 2021.

"Although **Will** and I have had success in the advertising sector trading under **Hyde Music** (most recently composing bespoke score for ad campaigns for Amazon and Dyson, respectively), one can never have too many contacts! And I have no doubt there are likely to be PPC alumni who work in advertising with whom I can connect." Please let the office know on ppa@thepriorfoundation.com if you would like to contact George and Will. Their campaigns speak for themselves. #helpingalumni <https://hydemusic.co.uk>

Jack Fisher PPA 2010, who is a brilliant film maker, came to the college to make a film for Open Days that now have to be done remotely. Setting up the best locations with insider knowledge that only a past pupil would have. It was a pleasure to see him in action, albeit behind a mask as well as behind the camera. Last year he took a poignant look at Bath during lockdown that was featured on local news.

Aisling Bury PPA 2010 set up a food and drink events company in lockdown and, as you can probably imagine, all her work is currently online. Over the festive season she hosted lots of virtual Christmas parties and even did an event for the PPC governors at the start of the summer. She also hosts weekly wine & wifi tastings which are open to the public and are very popular.

All her events are centred around food and drink, using her expertise and passion acquired through ten years of working in hospitality. For private events, she also includes games, quizzes and other activities which help to engage and entertain the guests.

She came up with some really imaginative alternatives for the 10 year reunion, which now hopefully, will happen IRL.

Dominic Liu PPA 2010, writes in to let us know that he has had an exciting year. He has been part of a music production and song writing duo called 'Kingdoms'. They have been working in London for 3 years now, writing and producing songs with/for contemporary pop and dance acts. In February they had a major release with Ed Sheeran & Ghetts - '10000 Tears'.

They also have upcoming song releases this year with: Sigala, JP Cooper and Raye to name a few. Many congratulations Dom, really exciting projects.

Having worked on the GBBO, **Georgia Smith** PPA 2010 is now working as an assistant producer for Love Productions on The Dog House - she still cannot believe this is how she spends her day, surrounded by gorgeous dogs of all shapes and sizes and finding incredible people to rehome them.



Born and raised in Bath, **Julia Kemp** PPA 2010 (above), who also has a master's degree at the University of Bath School of Management, travelled back from living in San Francisco in March 2020 to find herself in lockdown in Bath and wondering what she could do to help.

And so the new online business, Knowledge Recycled, was born, creating a community from the hospitality sector, giving a digital platform with a wide range of online classes, and sharing top experts' knowledge with small businesses. The classes are limited in number to enable a more personal and interactive experience.

Growing tired of online learning that was pre-recorded and lonely, Julia set out to create a community that placed emphasis on togetherness, being interactive and learning from experts directly.

Examples of classes currently listed range from 'Discover the world of wine with an award winning sommelier' at £9 per screen for an hour, to 'The art of plated desserts by top pastry chef Sarah Mountain' for £50 per screen for an hour. There is something for everyone. Check out the website and book classes from: knowledgerecycled.com

Leaving Edinburgh University in 2015 with a degree in theology, set up **Archie Pearson** PPA 2010 to start with Oiko Credit and work in marketing, capital raising and investor relations. After a 3 year period learning so much about the industry he then was promoted in 2018 and started working for Rathbone Brothers Ltd working in ethical investments based in London. Archie is looking forward to returning on 4 September to celebrate a 10 year reunion with the classes of 2010, 11 and 12.

During the research for the 10 year reunion for classes of 2010, 2011 and 2012, the best reason ever for not attending had to be that **Andy Barnes** PPA 2010 was getting married on the very same day. Wishing him and his future bride many congratulations.

When **Ehigie Oriakhi** PPA 2011 left PPC he went to study at Manchester for an engineering degree. He

then completed a Master of Science degree in 2017, now he is completing his PHD in construction project management at Salford University with a research project: The contributory role of social/cultural factors in the challenges of construction project management in Nigeria. Not sure what will be coming next but wishing him well with his continuing studies.

Ed Robinson PPA 2011 joined the England coaching team for the Guinness Six Nations campaign.

Ed, who is assistant coach at Greene King IPA Championship Jersey Reds, was part of Eddie Jones' staff for the tournament, following Jason Ryles' decision to stay in Australia for the spring due to the challenges caused by COVID-19.

At the time, Jones said: "We're looking forward to welcoming Ed to our coaching staff for the tournament and we'd like to thank Jersey Reds for their cooperation and support in making it happen."

"He's a talented young coach and will work to help the players improve. We understand and support Jason's decision and are expecting that he will be back with us this summer."

Harvey Biljon, director of rugby at Jersey Reds, said: "First and foremost we are really excited for Ed. It's a fantastic experience for a young coach and he deserves this opportunity."

"At Jersey we're very proud of our record of producing players that have gone on to play at the highest levels and it is very encouraging that one of our coaches is getting a chance to work at that level too."



Despite Covid regulations and restrictions in Hong Kong, **Jimmy Kwok** PPA 2011 managed to marry his fiancé, Cara, in October 2020 in a stunning series of events, with the traditional ceremonial dress and age old customs followed by a very modern, slick affair. He hopes to return and settle back in the UK in the autumn and continue with his physiotherapy. This of course means that he may well be back in the UK in time for the planned 10 year reunion.



Rob Dorey PPA 2011 is doing academic paediatrics training, currently working in paediatric intensive care in Southampton, which he is really enjoying. Basically it means he does a mix of research and clinical work. He is also getting married in July in Bath. Many congratulations. He has kindly offered to contribute to the MedSoc lecture series in the next academic year #givingback.

Adam Goodwin PPA 2011 is still using his fine arts degree from Newcastle University and is working as a photographer, filmmaker and in creative technical theatre. He has been freelancing for nearly 4 years. 2020 was a bit tough but it was for a lot of people. Things are definitely improving and there are some exciting new projects on the horizon.

Patrick Cronin PPA 2011, known as Paddy, spent many years travelling around Australia, living in New Zealand and then Canada before returning to the UK to be closer to family. He is now living in Bristol and has taken on a GM role at a venue opening this summer. It is a coffee, cocktail and small plate venue in Totterdown, Bristol.

Marni Elder PPA 2011 is currently in Melbourne studying for her PhD in gender, philosophy and human rights. Never one to sit idle, she is also working part time writing for an architecture firm in the city.

William Sexton PPA 2011 has joined HiETA Technologies, Bristol, as their senior mechanical engineer after 5 years with Dyson as lead research engineer (mechanical). Think it might be an opportune time to ask him to come back and talk to the students again about choices within engineering. His previous talk was so well met in 2016.

Kathy Rossetto-White (nee Dicken) PPA 2012 married Dominic in September 2020 just as the government changed the numbers down to 15 attending a wedding as opposed to 30! They still had a splendid time with family and then went off to Rhodes on honeymoon. "We were so lucky to have such a fabulous day with everything going on in the world!!" says Kate, "especially having already postponed from June 2020." Not an easy time to start married life, but many congratulations on your happy news.

Lucy Harris PPA 2012 who studied English and media arts at St Mary's Twickenham, landed a job in 2018 based in London with Mediaplanet. Just this March she was promoted to senior project manager based in Ireland. Many congratulations Lucy.

Joey Carley PPA 2012 went to Leeds Beckett University to do a sports and exercise degree (he always was impressive on the rugby pitch), but his life has certainly taken a turn with a solid spell at Smoothwall for 4 years as a business development manager and just this year he has joined Netacea. This company detect & mitigate sophisticated bots using intent analytics powered by machine learning. A revolutionary approach to bot management - implemented within minutes. Some of you might actually understand what that means.

Class of 2012 led by **Peter Vaughan-Fowler**, **Oli Dinwoodie** and **Joe Barron-Snowden** usually organise an annual carol concert on Christmas Eve in the streets of Bath to raise funds for a charity of their choosing. This year, they chose the Genesis Trust. Unfortunately due to the restrictions they could neither meet together nor sing, so with the advantage of technology a virtual recording of O Little Town of Bethlehem was produced and they raised a staggering £620. It opened up their talents and musical ability to a wider audience and was enjoyed by so many. Messages of thanks were received from across the alumni community throughout the world. The beauty of social media.



Contributors to the song included: **Theo Elwell**, **Miguel** and **Christina Bovill-Rose**, **Sam Quick**, **Rory** and **Jenny Dinwoodie**, **Annie de Grey**, **Fi Murray**, **Tabitha Hutchison** and **Hector Craft**.

Having completed his degree from Cardiff in accounting and finance in 2015, **Louis Tambe** PPA 2012 has single-mindedly pursued a career in investment and finance. He has already had jobs at Westhall Partner, Allocator and FE Investments. He started a new position as senior investment analyst at City Asset Management, London in February 2021 - many congratulations on your new role.

Caspar 'Cas' McCormick PPA 2012 was unsure if he would make the 10 year reunion in September 2021 as he is currently working abroad as a carpenter on a superyacht.

Thomas Sutton PPA 2013 lets us know that he is currently working as a software engineer in the space sector. He has worked on 3 separate projects in the last 3 years for the ESA including Aeolus, a weather projection satellite that successfully launched in 2018, the European Mars Rover Rosalind Franklin due to launch in 2022, and the joint ESA and China satellite mission SMILE that will be launching in 2023 to study the sun. We think he would have a lot to talk about with **Anthony McQuiggan** PPA 1974.

Abi Sargeant PPA 2013 successfully completed her anthropology degree from UCL with a first in 2016 and she has had some unusual and varied jobs since, including a spell as an intern at Ethiopaid. Then in early 2018 she joined the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women as a communication and event officer.

In late 2019 she joined the company Carousel. It is an award-winning creative hub, home to a revolving line-up of guest chef collaborations, workshops, exhibitions and events based in London. She has recently been promoted to a managerial position and is now an event manager. We wish her every success.

Joe Luca Smith PPA 2013 and his girlfriend, Izzie, popped in and were astonished to see all the students 'masked up' as they walked around the house in September 2020. Although only 25, he was fascinated to know how it was all 'working', what had to be adapted, how did the lunch queue work, how was the sixth form centre coping with the number of students, why were boys going down to the Priory? All valid questions and the answer has to be it is a work in progress especially with any government changes. Luckily the students were complying with the regulations of wearing the masks inside and outside as they went to lessons which made the whole process that much easier. Joe Luca is currently free from rugby injuries and back at home in Saltford, whilst he looks for a rugby club and a 'proper' job to start his normal career. Living the dream.

Emily Murphy-O'Connor PPA 2013 was recently appointed Key Stage One Lead at The Paragon and is loving her time there. Her brother **Joseph** PPA 2014 has been appointed as an assistant underwriter with Brit Insurance, specialising in terrorism. He continues to love life in The City, albeit in different circumstances! Sister **Sophie** PPA 2018 will be following Joseph to Warwick University in September as she has secured a place to read medicine, having enjoyed her biomedical degree at Plymouth University. Younger brother **Ben** PPA 2022 loves boarding at PPC and is looking forward to his U6th Year!



Nomso Okeke PPA 2013, having studied sustainable development and law at university, had returned to Nigeria in 2018 when he commenced his work as a project manager for Konung International. Now he starts a new chapter as a junior associate at Clean Technology Hub in Jan 2021 based in Abuja. Well done.

Liall Medina PPA 2013 has launched a new company called Etcho. "Trading today to transform tomorrow. Enabling everyone to make sustainable decisions with their investments. Driven by the UN's sustainable development goals."

Etcho is designed to help investors make money from the financial markets while tackling some of world's most pressing issues. Tell them what you care about most, and they will show investors companies that match their morals. <https://www.etchotrade.com/>

Eden Lavelle PPA 2014, former head of Roche, has continued with his passion for music and is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music. It came to the attention of the office that he was captaining a team for University Challenge in September 2020.



They fought valiantly against St John's Cambridge but sadly lost. Great fun was had by both teams and it was an absolute pleasure to see him again.

Malik Godunov PPA 2014, studied economics and finance at the University of Surrey and obtained a First in 2018. At the same time he went on to co-found a digital platform for recruitment in the catering industry called FLEXJOB, providing staff when the needs arise in 2016 – 2018. He joined Factset in 2018 and has certainly moved up the ranks and now is starting his new position as account manager.

FactSet's flexible, open data and software solutions for the financial industry bring the front, middle, and back offices together

In November 2020 heard from **Chloe Christie** PPA 2014 who is just finishing her last year of postgraduate medicine. "Finally leaving education! All four of us are spread out across the UK doing different things but will hopefully all be home for Christmas 2020!"

Chloe's twin sister **Patsie** PPA 2014 is at MOJU as a junior brand manager, based in London.

Her older twin brothers, **Frazier** and **Karl** were PPA 2011. Frazier was an international athlete, rowing for GB, now turned entrepreneur. Co-founder of a company called Freerider Co, which is an e-commerce maternity company created to empower parents through innovation and design of the highest quality products. He set this company up in 2017. Karl joined the military and both brothers have offered to come back and talk to students about their career paths. We certainly hope that this will be possible in the near future.

Alex Bouchard PPA 2014 completed his masters in accountancy and business management at UCL in 2019 followed by an internship as an analyst at Vertex Partners in London. Now he starts with Capco as an associate consultant.

Capco is a global management and technology consultancy dedicated to the financial services and energy industries.

Lucia Heseltine PPA 2014 graduated in 2018 from the University of South Wales with a first class honours degree in television and film set design. She is now working as a junior draftsman with Bad Wolf Productions working specifically on "His Dark Materials" Series 3 based in Cardiff.

Matthew Mortimer PPA 2014 studied classics at Edinburgh University and then went onto BPP Law School to study law where he achieved a distinction in 2019. He started with Slaughter and May as a trainee solicitor in March 2020, just as the pandemic hit. He is yet to spend much time in the physical office. So it

came as a bit of a shock when, on reading Gossip Bowl 2020, he discovered that one of the partners at S & M turns out to be a PPA, none other than **Matthew Tobin** PPA 1991.... small world. We contacted Matthew, who has promised to keep an eye out for him.

Charlie Burwell PPA 2014, who graduated from St Mary's University London in 2018 with a geography degree, has been working in London in the world of finance. In August 2020 he joined Moody's Analytics and was promoted to credit specialist in April 2021. We wish him well.

Lauren Bailey PPA 2014, who has really studied for the role that she aspires to, started with a business information degree at Westminster completed in 2017, followed by a luxury brand management degree. She joined the Chartered Management Institute having studied strategic management and leadership in 2019. After a valuable stint in luxury lifestyle specialism as Mayfair concierge she now joins Grifco PR as an intern.

Having graduated in 2018 from Oxford Brookes with a business management degree, **Alex Parsons** PPA 2014 went over to Madrid and landed a job with Varma as a marketing assistant. Varma SA is the most important company in the group with one of the best portfolios of international brands in the spirits market in Spain.

In March this year he joined Dictador Rum as a global private client advisor.

Having achieved a first class business management degree in 2020 **Alice Guiton** PPA 2015 writes: "With over 40 job applications, 3 national lockdowns, 1 global pandemic and my graduate year abroad cancelled... I am very happy to announce I am officially starting a full time position as an operations executive with tech start up Zen Locum in Jan 2021". Persistence pays Alice.



When a notification that someone has just received a distinction in broadcast journalism at University of London, having already gained a 1st class honours in Modern Languages at University of St Andrews you know to reach out for help with the Gossip Bowl. In Jan 2021, **Bear** (short for **Beatrice**) **Hutchison** PPA 2015 (above) started as a planning intern with CNN in London but thankfully still had time to help with some of the interview content of the Gossip Bowl 2021. Ask a busy person...

2021 started well for **Alex Lord** PPA 2015 with a new position with Colliers International as a graduate surveyor – many congratulations. Alex has also very kindly offered to come in and talk to the students

about the career path in property....when pandemic rules allow. Many thanks.

In March 2021 **Ellie Ball** PPA 2015 was promoted to marketing and programme manager at Summit Events. From their website a great explanation of what they do: "A Summit is a meeting of people who share a passion for the same topic. Our events are for experienced HR professionals dedicated to finding the best approach to delivering business success and interested in meeting like-minded peers to discuss how best to achieve that.

"Summit Events Ltd has been running high quality HR b2b networking events for the UK and Middle Eastern markets for over 25 years. Our aim is to provide a personalised service to our clients, and ensure that they get the maximum value from our events."

Tom Dabell PPA 2015 has started a new position as business development executive at EngageTech Ltd having successfully completed his international management degree at University of Manchester with first class honours in 2020. We look forward to hearing more about his career in the future.

Aysha Taylor PPA 2015 received a first class honours degree from University of Exeter in English Literature with an advanced proficiency in French in 2019. She joined Sky in July 2019 and has climbed the ranks since. Early this year she started her new job at Sky as a copywriter and editor working on several channels, including Sky Kids, Sky Cinema Premiere and Sky Nature. Aysha writes copy for everything from marketing campaigns to synopses.

Many people may associate **Marina Meyjes** PPA 2015 with her passion and skill at dance. Certainly on leaving Prior she took two years to dance with RAE Agency in San Francisco, performing with great artists such as Bebe Rexha (Gossip Bowl 2017). Then in 2017 she went to the University of California to start a degree in history with a dual focus on Middle Eastern history & 20th Century South East Asian history. Sadly in the second year of her studies she fell seriously ill, so grave, she thought she may have to drop out. However, her illness awoke her curiosity and an interest in medicine to further understand what was happening to her own body as it was a genetic-based issue. Whilst completing her history major she started taking genetic's classes and is now even considering taking up medicine. Her illness in the future will be able to be cured with genetic engineering.

Meantime, she is interning for a company that is currently working with a non-profit dedicated to finding a cure for EB (epidermolysis bullosa) through genetic engineering, and is hoping to work with another non-profit that provides resources to families caring for children with complex medical needs.

Marina graduated with summa cum laude and strangely enough does not have time to continue with her dancing but she does still teach!

In March 2021 **Caterina Perciballi** PPA 2016 started as a trainee at European Banking Authority having successfully completed her MSc law & economics of insurance and finance at Uni Bologna. Hopefully she is still keeping time aside for her music.



Currently working as an awards marketing executive at Foodbev Media, **Lily Benham** PPA 2016 is still based in Bath.

Foodbev Media is a company which tracks the latest news, trends, analysis, interviews and podcasts from the global food and beverage industry, interpreted to help you improve your business.



Livia Ng PPA 2016, (above) founder of Neucruit, has been nominated as a One to Watch by Women in Health.

Ng, a neuroscientist, founded Neucruit as a “match-making” platform for patients and researchers to deliver more successful outcomes in patient recruitment for clinical research. Past studies show that 19% of clinical trials were terminated early because they could not recruit enough participants.

At just 23 years old, she has completed her neuroscience degree from UCL and a masters from Imperial in innovation, entrepreneurship and management. We agree with the magazine, she will be one to watch. We are hoping to entice her back to College to talk to students with MedSoc in the near future.

Ng has first-hand experience grasping issues with recruiting patients for research projects during time she spent in various research roles. Neucruit, which aims to achieve “research for all patients, patients for all research”, secured funding from Innovate UK in 2020 to accelerate development and is about to begin running recruitment for three Covid-19 trials as part of the UKRI-Innovate UK Covid-19 grant.



Lulu Tucker PPA 2016 popped into College on 12 April (the day the country opened the door just a crack) to see the grounds after so long away. She has been busy since we last heard from her. She graduated with BA(Hons) degree from the Urdang Academy (2016-19). Before graduating, she was also lucky enough to secure her first professional job performing in Grease

the musical in America! She was the lead female dancer, 1st cover Frenchy and 1st cover Patty (who she played on several occasions). She is hoping to go back once the performing industry can get going again.

Lovely message from **Emma Dowty** PPA 2016: “I am a Psychology BSc (Hons) graduate from Oxford Brookes University. I am passionate about mental health and my goal is to become a counselling psychologist. I’m currently gaining experience within the field by working as a community mental health support worker with Bath Mind and also as a healthcare assistant with AWP.” Please message the PPA office if you might be able to help Emma achieve her goals.

Joe Torjussen PPA 2017 let the office know that he has just graduated from LSE with a BSc in geography with economics and is about to start on the Civil Service Fast Stream in Westminster. The stream involves him moving between different government departments with the aim of achieving a fast tracked senior leadership position. Keep us posted Joe, sounds interesting.

Rosie Sanders PPA 2017 is in her final year as an undergraduate student at Bath Spa University studying textile design for fashion and interiors. She showcased her extraordinary talents when she came back to help with costumes for Beauty and The Beast in 2018. Look forward to seeing what comes next.

2021 saw **Jess Waters** PPA 2017 finishing her degree at University of Birmingham in liberal arts and sciences. Before she undertakes her Master of Arts at the University of Alberta in May 2021 in communications and technology she took on some work as a research interviewer at The Times.

Max Gall PPA 2017 has co-founded Leather of London Ltd. He states : “I am a 22-year-old who has always had an eye for business. I’ve always loved the idea from a young age of building up a business with a brand that I can call my own and be proud of. So I started a personalised leather company with my business partner Jude Samuel. We have managed to keep product quality high while being able to be at a price point that is competitive enough to have an impact on the industry. We are growing rapidly and we are excited for what the future holds for us and the company.”

Alice Perkins PPA 2017 started a new job in March 2021 as a content creator at We Are the News (WATN), which is a new news-based social media platform. They are committed to telling the news from all sides, which is why they always to want to hear your views.

Olivia Tiley PPA 2017 has been studying psychology at Cardiff University, recently completed a year working at Broadmoor Hospital as a research assistant as part of her studies. She was delighted that the research led to a publication – we look forward to hearing more about that and her career in the future. The paper is called “Examining the relationship between neuropsychological functioning assessed during admission to a high secure psychiatric care hospital and vulnerability to long-term segregation” and it’s published in the Journal

of Forensic Practice. The citation is McMichael, Tiley, Broyd and Murphy, 2020.

Elizabeth Rigby PPA 2017, who completed her degree with a 2:1 in philosophy and religious studies from Cardiff in 2020, simultaneously studied for her TEFL course which involves over 120 hours of study. This enables her to teach English as a second language and she has been based in Bangkok during the pandemic at the Bromsgrove international school as a graduate gap year student – what a year!

Moving house and having a massive sort out, **Celia O'Brien** PPA 2018 contacted the college to see if tennis racquets, golf clubs and cameras were of any use ... Nearly biting her hand off, we happily transported them to the college within the hour and they found homes within minutes. Thank you for thinking of us. She also offered to be at the end of a Zoom call for anyone who was at university in London and might need a bit of a boost or chat about how challenging these times have been. Kind hearted through and through.

Wonderful news that **Felix Robertson** PPA 2018 has been awarded a senior scholarship in theology at Peterhouse, Cambridge for 2020-21, following his first-year exams (he came second in the year).

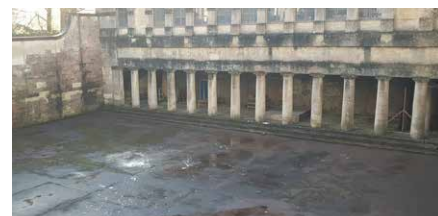
A credit to his PPC tuition. And a reward for all that Biblical Hebrew in lockdown! He enjoyed meeting up with **Charlotte Cummins** (former staff) in Cambridge recently.

Dylan Bunn PPA 2018 will be finishing his sports management degree at Loughborough University in 2021 and is delighted to let us know that he has been accepted to join the infantry, training to start at Sandhurst soon. He wrote in to thank head of sixth form academic, **Amy Colqhoun**, for all her help.

Eliza Gibb PPA 2019 joined University of Exeter doing a BSc in neuroscience in 2019. What a challenging first year at university that must have been. At least medical students are having more IRL (in real life) teaching sessions. It must be so challenging with all lectures being online. Good luck to all.

Nick Gardner, Caitlin's PPA 2016 father, watched Hidden Prior and had this to say about Fives in the Ball Court:

“I loved the ball court. It is quite common to find these old fives courts around, particularly in public schools. Although rarely as grand as this one! However, my Uncle (7 times national doubles champion, 1 time national singles champion and President of Universities Fives until 2017!) would be disappointed to hear it described as an ‘ancient’ sport! Elitist, absolutely, but not ancient! And still thriving in a few public schools and some universities.





Martin Knights writes: "Greeting from Kuala Lumpur. I hope this news update finds everyone within the Prior Park College community safe and well. Life in Kuala Lumpur has sadly, like most places in the world, been very challenging. We have remained in lockdown or MCO (movement control order) for 464 days and it's still going. However, the vaccination programme is beginning to gain traction and this gives us hope. As I write, we are one week away from ending the summer term and the start of our long awaited summer holiday. Online teaching and learning has kept the educational wheels turning but has, without question, taken its toll on students, parents and teachers. It's just not how education is meant to be. My hope is that September brings a sense of 'normality' and we are able to welcome our students back into school. We have watched the UK closely throughout the pandemic and celebrate your vaccination success and new freedoms. I hope that September is a bright and lively start to an exciting new beginning for you all. Here in Malaysia, King Henry VIII College remains a great and inspiring challenge to be a part of. We have established an amazing community and I am lucky enough to work with remarkable and resourceful colleagues without whom the past year would have been unbearable. For Lisa and I, we still see ourselves being here for at least two more years and after that, who knows? We have big plans to travel further and hope to take a year to conquer Australia and New Zealand before coming home. Sending my best wishes to you all."

We hear from former French teacher, **Anne Lynch** (1997-2006) that since her retirement as principal of The Royal School in Haslemere, she and her husband Ian have moved back to Monmouthshire and taken up Welsh with the National Centre for Learning Welsh. She is really enjoying it, as it is quite different to the Romance languages which she studied and taught in the past, and it is an excellent challenge. "Like my former pupils, I am now having to learn verbs and vocabulary!" she says.

She has also joined the Board of ELO Séjours, a French educational charity, which she has been supporting since her days at Worth School. She is hoping to teach at their



Isobel Burton, Louise Blake, Natalie Cordon

summer school in the Cantal area of France this summer, depending on restrictions on international travel being lifted.

She is looking forward to being able to meet up with friends from Prior Park again, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Sean Dorey joined the Prior Park community in 2003 in the physics department. But he threw himself into life here and is known for his involvement and leading roles in the CCF, head of Navy section, and the Dof E – both which gave so much fulfilment to so many of the students. He also was a tutor, ran sailing activities for Saturday Active and has an interest in astronomy. It was this interest that led to many nights camped out with sixth form students, telescopes and hope – looking into the skies for a glimpse of an astronomical body. He led trips to Cern to view the Hadron collider. We are not sure who was more excited, him or the students. As a parent to three boys who all came to PPC, **Rob** PPA 2011, **Pete** PPA 2014 and **James** PPA 2017, he saw all sides of Prior and gave 100% to all aspects of it. He will be missed. Our apologies for not having noted his leaving in the last edition. Anyone would think a pandemic pushed us off the rails for a bit. Sean left in 2020.

A thousand apologies for omitting a leaver's note to our very dear and respected **Louise Blake** in the last edition of the Gossip Bowl.

Not only as a member of staff, but also as a mother of two alumni, **Todd Mercer** PPA 2012 and **Hannah Brierley** PPA 2022.



Sean Dorey

Simon Cane-Hardy, the deputy head writes: Louise Blake left Prior Park at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year after 29 years of outstanding service.

As a geography teacher, Louise was dedicated to ensuring students combined a strong knowledge with a keen enthusiasm of the geographical world. She is an excellent teacher and, along with her colleagues in the department, she achieved sustained successes.

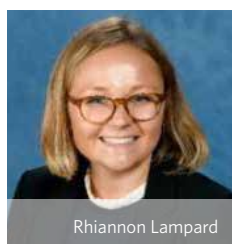
Louise contributed so much that one can only scratch the surface of her achievements and involvement. However, a hugely successful tenure as housemistress of Fielding must be one of them. Can it be a coincidence that so many of Louise's former Fielding students have returned to the college as teachers and are now forging their own successful Prior Park careers? (**Natalie**



Corden PPA 2008 and **Izzie Burton** PPA 2005)

In 2016, after a number of years as an assistant head, Louise became Prior Park's deputy head of operations. It was in this role that we witnessed her meticulous organisation and planning (some might call it OCD), her huge reliance on Post-it notes and her encyclopaedic knowledge of the college and its routines. So many members of the community have benefitted from her work. Louise will be greatly missed.

Rhiannon Lampard PPA 2011, is leaving at the end of the summer to join Bristol Brunel Academy as their deputy



Rhiannon Lampard

curriculum leader of science. She will be missed at prior as head of chemistry, head of junior science AND Brownlow tutor. Since she joined in 2018 she has brought nothing but professionalism and a great smile. She also managed to find time to serve as a committee member of the PPA.

Elias Valdueza Garcia has been a valued member of the languages team since 2018 and he leaves this summer to be a modern foreign languages teacher at Harrow International School, Hong Kong.

Ben Horan, Headmaster, writes: "When a long serving member of staff chooses to leave any school, it can be difficult to replace them. When that member of staff is a teacher of the calibre of **Roland Robertson**, then all Bath and the world of musical education know that a giant is stepping off the stage. Roland has been at Prior Park since 1996, 25 years in which he has shaped the education of thousands of young people. I met earlier this week with a headteacher of another HMC school, an alumna of Prior Park, **Fionnuala Kennedy** PPA 1998, who asked to be remembered to Roland. She said that she didn't realise it at the time, but that he was an extraordinary teacher who shaped her life, mentoring her to achieve all she could, and who went the extra mile whenever he could. I am confident that there will countless former students of Roland's who would say similar."

A planned celebration in June has had to be postponed until Sunday 5 Dec to say farewell to Roland from the alumni.



Roland Robertson

Laurent Rathborn PPA 2003 writes: "The utter genius of **Roland Robertson** as a teacher and communicator was revealed to me in one moment: when, as a fresh 4th form pupil after one of my first assemblies, I heard him pull most of the organ stops out and dismiss the school to the sound of the Star Wars overture I knew. It was one of those little moments that let me know that Prior was a special place."

Roland has plans to move to Cambridge, where he studied some years ago, and where his son is completing his degree. He will be continuing to teach and exploring new performing opportunities.

"We all know that Roland's shoes will be difficult to fill, and so I am grateful to him that he will be heavily involved in the appointment of his successor," adds Ben Horan. "His love for Prior is such that he will want to do all he can to ensure that his legacy of outstanding music at our school is nurtured over the coming years. There will be time in the summer term to say farewell properly, but for now we will simply say thank you for the music."

Kate Ryan, who started in Sept 2020 as head of modern languages, is leaving after one year to join the team at QEH, Bristol as head of languages. Keep in touch Kate.

Judith Eatwell is taking a well deserved retirement from the world of economics and business studies at Prior Park at the end of Summer 2021. Mother to alumni, **Laura Alcock (nee Eatwell)** PPA 2006

and **James** PPA 2010 she has been at Prior since 1998, During her time here she has held a variety of roles within the economics department including head, instigated the trip to New York (2004) which has become an iconic Prior Park trip, been part of the Fielding House system and a devoted, valued teacher to so many students. Her tireless energy and intelligence is appreciated by all within the community. If you are prepared to put in the hard work, she will support you relentlessly. Enjoy your retirement with your family, Judith.



Judith Eatwell

Cathy Williams left Prior in 2015, having been head of girls' games and an integral part of the life in St Marys for over 8 years. She went to work in New Zealand. We were delighted to hear that she and her partner, Jason, have just welcomed a baby boy, Robert Arthur in May 2021. Many congratulations.

Laura Stotesbury, who has been at Prior since 2015 as head of economics & business studies and most recently deputy head, is now joining St Joseph's College, Reading as headmistress. Wishing her every success.

James Blackwell has been at the college since 2015 teaching history and involved with Allen House. His wife, Samantha, had also worked in The Priory for the St Mary's girls as matron for a couple of years. This summer he is off to start his new role as deputy head (sixth form) at the Oratory school near Reading.

Maria Huntley, English teacher and a valuable member of English House, is leaving this summer to go into semi-retirement.



Father Peter Cornwell

Born: 19 May 1934 At Prior: 1992-1998

Died: 1 March 2021 Age: 86

His earliest pastoral challenge was to give constant support to a community struggling with the aftermath of the devastating fire of 1991. He joined the college knowing that the Mansion was unusable. (Indeed, their son, James, was a Prior pupil.) By 1992 the initial Dunkirk spirit was flagging. Fr Peter's priority was, in his words, to 'leave himself about the place'. He celebrated Mass in the Chapel at 8 a.m. every day, providing a spiritual anchorage, gathering the needs of the community, keeping the vision.

Fr Peter, the then headmaster Jeremy Goulding states, 'was one of those rare people who was known to be so approachable and accessible, yet never intrusive; who would listen carefully and be a source of sage advice, yet never be presumptuous; for whom every person with whom he came into contact mattered and could be guaranteed his regard as a fellow human being, whatever their age, station or situation.'

I first met Fr Peter at my headship interview in 1995 (impressed that the selection panel included the chaplain). His warm kindness, and delightful humour were rather disconcertingly matched by a rapier-sharp mind and probing questions. Caroline and I soon had the privilege, as did countless others, of forming a lasting friendship with Peter and Hilary.



At Sunday and whole-school Masses, house Masses, Speech Day, reconciliation services, retreats, carol services, school assemblies the chaplain was high-profile. His sermons always hit home with all, whether in Baines or elderly visitors. He loved to sit in the Mansion Hall at break-times, chatting and laughing with all and sundry as they passed, old or young. He

called this 'loitering with intent'. He loved watching matches (especially cricket), plays and musicals, and listening to concerts and the chapel choirs. On exam results days, he congratulated, consoled, encouraged, listened. Many sought his counsel in his office (the sacristy). He knew almost everything going on and frequently some things that nobody else knew. He had an uncanny knack of identifying and helping those who were unhappy or in difficulty. If principles were at stake, he was robust, prophetic even. He mocked himself for being a 'layabout' priest. The truth was that he worked very hard, but in ways that were outside routine.

Like Newman, his hero, he brought his rich Anglican experience into his Catholic ministry, which included prison chaplaincy and many links through The Tablet. He distilled these experiences and prodigious reading into his sermons and writings. He also brought to Prior Park his family life, Hilary's wonderful support, and their wide network.

After Prior Park Fr Peter served Bath parishes and wrote his masterly Prior Park history, *The Phoenix* (2005), re-issued in 2018 with excellent additions by Denis Clarke.

His Prior Park ministry was transformative. He drew people closer to God. May he now enjoy God's everlasting friendship.

Written by Giles Mercer, headmaster, 1996-2009.

Sister Eileen Theresa McPEAKE

Born: 14 Nov 1936 Former staff 1982-2004

Died: 24 Jan 2021 Age: 84

Her son, Ed, writes of his mother's incredible life, the light and laughter, the eternal traveller (60 known destinations), her unique sense of humour and her ability to make a haven for so many of the souls that she touched in her lifetime.

Whenever and wherever she travelled, whether it was the Galapagos Islands or Tanzania, she connected with the people and the culture. Having been born in Belfast to a strict Catholic home, she never missed an opportunity to connect with the Lord. She had a simple childhood with her siblings and nothing ever went to waste, she showed early

signs of independence and sense of adventure.

After her midwifery and nursing training in Yeovil she had a couple of educational jobs before she came to Prior Park, "her forever home". Her medical centre was more of a social hub and the walls of her rooms were decorated with postcards from all of the past pupils and their travels - many inviting her to visit or sparking her imagination for her next adventure.

Sadly in 2014 there were signs of her memory loss and by 2016, Edward returned to Bath in a whirlwind trip and brought her back to Australia to be with the family. She leaves behind her only beloved son, Ed and his wife Evie, the favourite and only grandson, Jacob and favourite and only granddaughter, Jessica.

When her death was announced on social media the outpouring of memories was overwhelming from across the globe, some alumni had even kept hand written notes 30 years on! Her contribution to Prior Park will never be forgotten.



Judith 'Judy' Howarth

Born: 26 June 1950 Former parent and governor

Died: 21 April 2021 Age: 70

Judy died after a long battle with cancer in April 2021. Sadly, she didn't live to see her youngest son, Joe PPA 2009, get married in May. Nor did she quite see the fiftieth anniversary of her marriage to John. Her father, Alex(ander) Graham PPA 1938 was a Prior Park boy.

All six of her children attended Prior Park: Peter PPA 1994, Andrew PPA 1996, James PPA 1999, Matthew PPA 2001, Clare PPA 2001, and Joseph PPA 2009. Her passion for her faith and Prior Park were legendary, she had an etching of Prior in her hospice room and wrote her own eulogy. "For what I have failed to recognise as gifts from God I ask forgiveness, but you will all know that I have had a wonderful life, for the entirety of it I have been loved as are you all. I am so grateful, Deo Gratias." She leaves John her husband, her 6 children and their partners and 13 grandchildren. RIP



Edith Mason

Born: 10 November 1921 At Prior: 1963-1975
Died: 20 November 2020 Age: 99

Edith and her husband Frederick worked at Prior Park for many years. Frederick as the CCF Commander and Edith in the Headmaster's or President's office as it was then called.

Edith worked under both Brother Keegan and Brother Hooper before retiring in 1975. Her family have donated a painting that was done by the art teacher, John Pascoe, who gave it to Edith. It has been added to the digital archive in her memory.

Charles Murphy

Born: 1934 PPA 1952
Died: 2019 Age: 85

Charles had a career as a surgeon and had been based out in Perth, Australia. He passed away in 2019.

He had been married to Margaret (nee McCarthy) and they had three children, Catherine, Denys and Anna. There is a lovely comment in the digital archive on the arrival of his three children: "and therefore he feels fairly committed to the national policy of 'perpetuate or perish'."

Charles had been Mayor of his town of Cottesloe, Western Australia (1987-1994) and at that time was able to 'naturalise' another alumnus, Michael Leahy PPA 1964 in 1993.



David John Crook

Born: 20 December 1931 PPA 1950
Died: 10 December 2020 Age: 88

The Crook brothers were sporty, academic and members of the orchestra, theatrical performances and Sodality of Mary Immaculate. Their names appear throughout that period in the late 1940's and 1950's. They epitomised maximising every opportunity going at Prior Park. David was also a Baines prefect - when there were just four Houses: Baines, Brownlow, Clifford and Burton.

David left Prior Park in 1950, his brother Peter PPA 1946 (RIP 2013) having left to go into medicine and his younger brother, Brian PPA 1952 (RIP 2013) just a couple of years behind David who went off to go into dentistry.

David progressed to University of Bristol to study electrical engineering and left with a BSC Hons First Class. By 1962 he started his life long love affair with flying as a flight officer in BOAC, taking on

the challenging long-haul flights to Tokyo, Singapore, Australia and South Africa. That year he also married Ann in Westbury on Trym. So began their married life and the advent of children Nick, who followed in his father's footsteps as a BA pilot, Sophie who works in IT and Paul who became a doctor. A good life indeed.

By 1994 David had retired from British Airways as a senior pilot and was enjoying retirement with his wife living in Bath. In 1998 he had been serving as a deputy flight commander at Colerney flying Bulldogs but now he really did retire.

In recent years David and Ann came back to visit and enjoyed reminiscing about his time at College.



James Lionel Osborne

Born: 20 November 1934 PPA 1952
Died: 27 March 2021 Age: 86

In March this year we were notified by the daughter of James Lionel Osborne that he had passed away. He had run a successful timber business throughout his working life. He thought highly of Prior Park. In his library he kept the framed photo of the actress Margaret Leighton surrounded by all the boys (he was one of them) when she came to film the Elusive Pimpernel with David Niven in 1950.



Carlo Eugenio Pio Colombotti

Born: 23 August 1939 PPA 1957
Died: 25 November 2020 Age: 81

Carlo had lived a life full of variety and adventure.

Cousin, Gino Berni PPA 1957 reports that Carlo, besides being an academic was a great sportsman ie victor ludorum at Prior and a player in the Sevens at Rosslyn Park circa 1956.

He left PPC in 1957 and obtained his LLB degree at University of London in 1961 with honours and qualified as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1965.

Carlo lectured at University College London and was President of the British Italian Law Association, past chairman of Sheffield United plc, past chairman of the Italian Hospital, vice president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce and a member of the executive committee of the Club di Londra.

Carlo advised several Italian institutions, including the Italian Embassy in the UK and a number of high profile personalities and entrepreneurs.

Carlo, known as "Count" to his friends, was prominent on the London social circuit and his firm counted the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, among its clients.

Carlo was made Commendatore of the Italian Republic twice, and, in 1997, he was designated Cavaliere Ufficiale (Knight) of the Ordine Dinastici di Casa Savoia.

His brother, Antonio PPA 1953, informs us that although he died in England after contracting pneumonia, he will be taken back to their home town in Italy Credarola which is a small village aprox. 5 miles from Bardi. "We all go home in the end and there is something comforting about knowing where you will end up, with all your loved ones."



Patrick James Maher

Born: 1 November 1936 PPA 1954
Died: 2015 Age: 79

Patrick had been taken into a nursing home in 2015, for palliative care and passed away soon after. Patrick was one of three brothers who came to Prior, Michael PPA 1950 (RIP 1990) and Brian PPA 1957.

Brian writes from Australia: "Pat left Prior in 1954 and spent quite a few years seeing the world in the Merchant Navy. He married a Canadian girl and lived in Plymouth for quite a few years. His wife died fifteen years ago and as they had no kids, Pat lived a very quiet life and finally he died in 2015 in a nursing home in Plymouth."



Obituaries

John Joseph Camps-Campins

Born: 1935 PPA 1953

Died: 9 May 2021 Age: 86

It is not clear when John Camps-Campins PPA 1953 actually arrived at Prior Park from his home in Trinidad and Tobago. However, it must have felt quite homely with his brother, Bernard PPA 1955 (RIP 2002), his cousins John MacKay PPA 1954, Michael MacKay



Jonathon and 10 grandchildren.

PPA 1955, Stephen Farinha PPA 1955 (RIP 2011) and Peter Farinha PPA 1953 all at Prior at the same time. John had suffered from dementia and was being cared for in a hospital close to the family. John passed away peacefully on 9 May 2021. Father of Stephen, David, Andrew, Gylla, Johanna and

Jermone David Smithson

Born: 1935 PPA 1953

Died: 15 August 2017 Age: 83

Jerome peacefully passes away at Mary Shapley Rest Home, Whakatane, New Zealand. Husband of Jean and father to six, grandfather to three, cherished brother of Sue, John PPA 1954 (RIP 2011), and Martin.

We learn from the digital archives that in 1962 J. Smithson was with the Canadian Marine Co. and attached to the Royal Canadian Air Force. As much of his important work was done in the frozen wastes of the North he was to make use of the helicopter. He was amply rewarded for his years of study and his keen interest in things electronic. In 1966 Jerome had returned home after his adventurous world tour and in 1974 he had started a fruit farm in Ootiki, New Zealand. He married a New Zealand girl, Jean McKay, in 1972. The farm continues to be run in the family name.

John Christopher Smithson

Born: 23 June 1937 PPA 1954

Died: 16 October 2011 Age: 74

In 1965 he married Anne Waggett at the Immaculate Conception in Clevedon, Somerset. In 1974 John was farming in Walford, Ross-on-Wye. He passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 16, 2011, aged 74 years. A much loved brother of Suzanne, Jerome and Martin.

Kerry Richard Harding

Born: 1936 PPA 1954

Died: 20 August 2020 Age: 84

Kerry died from an inoperable brain tumour on 20th August 2020, aged 84. He was born in Cornwall in 1936 and post war the family moved to Bath where Kerry and his older brother, Michael PPA 1952 (RIP 2014), attended Prior Park - their father's old school (Albert E Harding PPA 1928).

On leaving school, he joined the Army, commissioning from RMA Sandhurst into the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1956. He served with the KOYLI in Cyprus, BAOR, Malaysia and Borneo. Other tours included Germany, Shrewsbury, Bath and Kent.

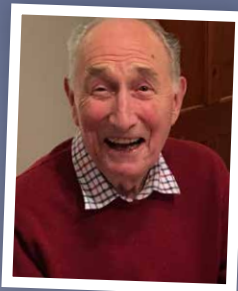
Kerry married Mary Ann in 1970 and they were blessed with 4 sons and a daughter. On leaving the Army in 1978, the family moved to Goring-on-Thames. Kerry then spent 21 years commuting to London working mainly for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, first as Deputy Secretary and then Secretary-General, roles in the legal field which he enjoyed enormously.

He actively supported Mary Ann in raising the children and also involved himself in village life and local politics. He served two terms as a Parish Councillor

and in 1998 was elected as a District Councillor. His Christian faith strengthened in latter years and he became more involved in the church, helping to run several ecumenical courses. Also on retirement he took up golf again and played regularly until June this year. He joined Probus in 2007, was Secretary for 3 years and Chairman in 2014. He ran the U3A Current Affairs Group for 11 years.

The grandchildren started arriving in 2010 and Kerry loved watching their characters develop and adored them all, as they did him. Kerry had a very positive outlook on life, was always cheerful and had a great interest in people. He had a lovely sense of humour and was well known in the village for his bear hugs! He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Mary Ann has written to say "He was surrounded by family and it was a very peaceful ending to a long and full life. Naturally, we are all devastated but have many happy memories to draw on. He was a wonderful man and I was so blessed to be married to him for 50 years".



HMS Eagle

HMS Eagle

HMS Eagle 1953, this photo came to light in a file with some of the names on the back. Research highlighted that sadly some had passed away without our knowledge. We wanted to give them this last entry to close their chapters.



Front Row L-R: Darby Tannian, Officer, Philip Withers, A Light, Admiral Hughes Hallett, Patrick Hopton, Kevin Gibbons, G Spillebeene, Anthony Pickford, David Hinks.

Row Behind Metal Partition L-R: Bro Robinson, James Cussen, John Khyat, Kerry Harding, John Camps-Campins and *(Bernard), D Farrell, Donald Pringle* (Charles), Anthony Turnbull, Edward Connolly, Paul Wigmore, Rodney Foster, Bro Ambrose, David Beames, James H Peden, Terence W Nichols, Unknown, Mackay, Simon Litchfield, Officer.

Lower Row on gun turret L - R: J Robinson, Geoffrey Barratt, Fred Maher*(Patrick), Nicholas Tranter, Richard Broughton, Jerome Smithson, Anthony Corrigan.

Upper Row on Gun Turret L - R: Brian Auty, Roger Drury, Vince Fabry, Francis Brooks, Sean Lytton-Anderson.

*sibling deceased

Edward Connolly

Born: 5 September 1935 PPA 1955

Died: May 2020 Age: 84

Edward PPA 1955, died last May after 15 months of illness (not Covid related). His widow, Dr Pamela Hagan Connolly, contacted us. She feels lucky that they have two lovely children and grandchildren who have been looking after her at this difficult time. Harder still was a funeral with just 9 attendees, however, she felt reconciled that a priest had been with him in his last moments in this life. His faith being of such importance to him..

Charles Barrett Pringle

Born: 10 April 1937 PPA 1955

Died: 13 July 1971 Age: 34

Charles sadly died many years ago at the very young age of 34 but it had never been registered in the Gossip Bowl.

He gained a B.Sc. (Hons) in aeronautical engineering at the Imperial College of Science, London. He was a member of the University Air Squadron.

The R.A.F. offered him a permanent commission in General Duties Flying, having obtained an honours degree. The Bristol Aeroplane Co., De Havilland's and Vickers, all offered Charles a position, but he selected the R.A.F. By 1966 he became a flying instructor.

In 1971 Charles (2783012) was serving at RAF Cranwell but probably died in the RAF Hospital at Wroughton as his death occurred in Swindon. He is buried in Church of the Holy Family, Torrington, Devon.



Anthony G Saul

Born: 2 January 1937 PPA 1955
Died: 12 January 2021 Age: 84

Born in 1937 in a military hospital in Rawalpindi to join his family of 3 older brothers. The dawn of WW2 saw the Saul family leave India and return to Farnham, where he was to return to play his beloved cricket many moons later.

His halcyon days in Cairo where his father had been stationed, were abruptly placed on hold when he was sent back home in the Autumn of 1950 to board at Prior Park School in Bath. Largely due to the change in climate to which he had become so accustomed, it took him some while to settle in to life in Bath. Although he grew to love his time there, he always said what a shock it was when he first arrived as it was so ridiculously cold and how he had to break the ice to shave. Showing somewhat greater promise in the co-curriculum, his talent on the rugby and hockey pitch and at the cricket crease was soon recognised and became the thread which defined his success and legacy during his time at school.

Following his National Service in Germany (for the most part playing cricket) he joined the National

Exchange in London. In 1961 he met his wife, Jean. They married on the 29th December 1962. Leaving the bright lights of London for the gentler sea breeze of Sussex. His career then changed as he took on the role of insurance broker in London.

Three beautiful and beloved daughters, Harriet (AKA Harry) and Bridget (AKA Biddy) and Francis (AKA Fran sadly RIP) arrived to complete the home.

The only other love of his life was cricket and the ultimate prize was to become a playing member of the MCC where he would later be able to savour the utmost of views over Lord's cricket ground from the Pavilion. He spent many a Test Match at Lord's.

His daughters write that it will be his kindness, easy laugh, warm heart, great cooking and fine sense of humour that will be forever remembered as they say their farewell to his final innings.



Martin Bijayendrayodhin-Silpajai

Born: 1941 PPA 1960
Died: 26 June 2020 Age: 79

Martin passed away in summer 2020. The college was notified by his son. Martin worked with the Thailand Telephone Service and then became Director of Telecoms Technology in Bangkok. Married with three children, he loved the fact that he thought he had been the only pupil to have come from Thailand.

Peter Fish

Born: 6 Jan 1947 PPA 1965
Died: Unknown Age: 70

Having left Prior in 1965 he then spent 4 years in the Merchant Navy followed by 5 years with Special Branch in the Lancashire Police Force. In 1974 he served until his retirement with the Ontario Police Force. He married in 1969, Evelyn Lakhani at St Mary's, Morecambe and they had a son and a daughter.

He visited the college in 1994 on a trip back from Canada and it was only recently that his post had been returned from his address in Toronto.

Sadly he had been reported missing in April 2017, found again in May, but once more missing in June. On contacting the Toronto Police Force it is presumed that he is dead.



Roland Egon Jean-Marie Mazery

Born: 15 August 1940 PPA 1960
Died: 5 June 2021 Age: 80

Originally Roland and his brother Alex PPA 1962 came from Mauritius and were schooled at Prior Park. Alex returned there, Roland emigrated to the beauties of Cape Town, South Africa which is where he met with the staff and students in 2016 who were partaking in a sports tour.

"Roland started working at a well known company Molins Cigarette Manufacturing Machines, but we did not smoke!" says Mounir El Khoury PPA 1959. "We were close friends at school, French speakers, internationally minded, loved sport and Roland was a real athlete. Bullet serves at tennis, we were the first PPC tennis team. Sadly we never met up after leaving school. But we have very good memories of our years at Prior Park." Mounir also lets us know that having heard from one of Roland's sons, Roland junior, he would like to add: "Dad spoke fondly of his time at school. In fact, growing up, some of my favourite stories were about Dad's adventures at boarding school. (Although these stories did result in me being quite mischievous at boarding school myself!)"

"He did indeed enjoy his sport. We were all encouraged to play rugby and he was at all our games shouting encouragements from the touchline. He also taught me to shout loudly at the TV, when my favourite sports team isn't

performing, which my kids find very amusing.

"When Dad retired from work, he bought a small farm in Howick where he made the effortless transition from business-man to farmer. He ran a very successful Bed and Breakfast, but I think his enduring legacy will be the hundreds of trees he planted on the property, all of which he could identify by sight, including their Latin names. He never lost his fascination in world affairs, nor his enjoyment in debating the hot topics."

His colleagues at Saiccor described him as French born, schooled in Bath so with English mannerisms which could not disguise his French temperament. He was intelligent and highly reactive, an unguided missile. He had the courage of strong convictions and always defended his people. He led Saiccor during a very active period and retired from his position of managing director in 1996.

In the archives we found this reference to his life in SA: "He lives at 1100 metres on his small estate in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands, tending to his arboretum. He has four grown up sons, all married with children: Rad in Durban; Adrian in New Malden, Barnes, near London (who bought Roland a PPA tie whilst in Bath); fanatical surfer Julian, also in Durban, and the youngest Marc in a small coastal village outside Melbourne, Australia." RIP



Peter Jeremy Gillies-Reyburn

Born: 1950 PPA 1968
Died: 25 June 2021 Age: 71

Hugh Reyburn PPA 1970 writes: It is with sadness that we announce the death of my brother, Jeremy Reyburn, at school known as Peter Jeremy Gillies-Reyburn. After leaving Prior, Jerry worked briefly in England as a teacher before moving to Western France where he stayed for the rest of his life. He was a secondary school teacher of English becoming promoted to the University of Caen and finally responsible for all English teaching on the Cherbourg peninsula. He was a devoted husband to Agnes, a local dentist, and father of Alice (now a social worker in Vancouver) and Simon who works in finance in Paris. Jerry was a true Francophile, spoke French with an accent that the French couldn't quite place, but maintained his love of English cricket and rugby.





Adrian 'Fitz' Fitzgerald

Born: 18 September 1948 PPA 1967

Died: 13 February Age: 71

Adrian was the second son born to a Royal Navy family which involved frequent upheavals to new homes both in England and overseas, Portsmouth, Lee-on-the-Solent, Malta, Felixstowe, Malta (again), Barrow-in-Furness and Waterlooville in Hampshire. In between, of course, there were always the memorable visits back to relatives in Bolton.

Given the frequent upheavals in their lives and the lack of continuity in their education, their parents decided that David PPA 1963 (RIP 2003) and his brother, Adrian would benefit from the stability of a boarding school education. Consequently, the remainder of their secondary education was spent at Prior Park College. There he excelled not only at sport, but a passion for maths, physics and further mathematics was awoken which he continued at university and into his career.

Fitz always took a close interest in everything Prior Park and the PPA were honoured with his efforts as year group representative and all the help he gave on the committee.

Chris Dowse PPA 1966 writes of his dear friend, Fitz:

"Fitz and I go back all the way to Cricklade days. I went in 1957 and Fitz (I learned from him only recently) a year later - I always thought we had gone the same year. We played violins together (Fitz was a far better musician than me) and were in the orchestra when we got to Bath. We were both prop forwards (Fitz was loose head and I was tight head) until he outgrew me and I moved to wing forward. We were promoted together in the CCF going to annual camps in Hampshire, Dartmoor and Thetford. We had adjacent beds in the top dormitory in St Peter's and for several summers, with other friends, went somewhere on holiday. I left in 1966 but Fitz returned to school and in August/September 1967 we both hitch hiked across France before taking a train across Spain to Estepona to stay a week or 10 days with Jamie Forsyth PPA 1967



(RIP 2018) before returning to UK and University - Fitz to Edinburgh and me to Reading.

"From going to University we were only in sporadic contact so rather lost touch until we retired to Scotland nine years ago; Fitz and Pat turned up one day quite out of the blue and that was the meeting which gave rise to our 50 year reunion in 2016."

He qualified as a civil engineer at Edinburgh University but after two years gave up this career and joined a London Computer Bureau. This involved commuting between London and Edinburgh anything up to four times a week. He returned to University to do an honours degree in Computer Science and Accountancy. Adrian was married in 1972 to Patricia with another alumnus as best man, John Allen PPA 1967 (RIP 2016).

Fitz passed away at home, Penicuik, suddenly with his beloved Pat at his side. He leaves behind their son, John Maurice.

Philip Chi Hong Woo

Born: 23 March 1968

PPA 1986

Died: 29 July 2020

Age: 52

Philip Chi Hong Woo born March 23rd, 1968 would have been 53 years old this year. Born in Hong Kong, Philip and his brothers, Peter PPA 1985 and



David PPA 1990 came to Prior Park College for their education. Philip focused his academics in art, textiles and fashion design. His love for fashion and travel brought him to the Big Apple (New York City) where he continued his obsession for denim and passion in menswear. He was most remembered for his big smile and sharp-wit humour.

Philip bravely battled cancer and passed away peacefully on July 29th, 2020 with his partner Winnie close by his side. She writes that she feels so fortunate to have been on a 7 year journey with him. She will cherish their time together from New York to Asia. She says that Philip had no regrets and expressed he had lived to the fullest. Thank all of you whom have touch his life in his journey!

Robert 'Rob' Thomas

Born: 09 March 1952 PPA 1970

Died: 16 August 2020 Age: 68

Andrew Colombini PPA 1968 writes:

"I turn the clock back to the mid sixties at Cricklade where I first met Robert Thomas, he was a quiet and gentle boy. He was from Bridgend and had a distinguishable Welsh accent and I recollect how he finished his comments with "Is it". He used to talk a lot about his older brother back at home with fondness and with obvious admiration because he was a Mod. Robert, albeit quiet, had a certain swagger about him and when we reached Big Prior he was sporting a three quarter parting haircut as did his hero Steve Marriot of the Smallfaces.

Rob came to London a few times during the school holidays and stayed with me. I have to admit that he was my guide to Mod culture and fashion and we spent a great deal of time in Carnaby Street

back when it was 'hip to be there'. We parted company after Prior Park College in 1968 and sadly lost touch until the early noughties where we met across Facebook. We exchanged a few telephone conversations and we promised to meet up, but alas we never did. I remember Rob as a good friend and a boy who never had a bad word about anybody. I thank him for his friendship and may he rest in peace."

Robert's working life was as a web designer and he is survived by his daughter, Laura. His last few years have been challenged with firstly a stroke which put an end to his guitar playing and then he was diagnosed with bowel cancer which subsequently metastasised. He was given only a month to live, but actually survived for a further year. He had lived quietly in Wales.



Other deaths

Bernard Camps-Campins (Right)

Born: 27 February 1935 PPA 1955

Died: 25 November 2002 Age: 67

Bernard had three daughters, he died at the young age of 67.

Sean Lytton-Anderson

Born: 6 October 1934 PPA 1954

Died: December 1996 Age: 62

Sean, a Burton boy was also featured in the HMS Eagle photo

Christopher 'Soxy' Sullivan

Born: May 1948

PPA 1967

Died: 2021

Age: 72

Notified by Phil Hamerton





PPA committee updates

Tim Heining PPA 1968

Tim has joined the committee. He was at Cricklade from 1960 to 1962 and then at Prior Park from 1962 to 1968.



After leaving Prior, Tim spent 9 months in Florence, learning Italian, and then went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge where he spent 3 years, graduating in 1972 with an Honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Italian).

After that, Tim obtained a scholarship from the British Council for a year's postgraduate study in Mexico City. Upon his return he decided that an academic career was not for him and joined the Bank of London and South America – soon to be taken over by Lloyds Bank. He spent his entire banking career overseas, mostly in Brazil, but also in Ecuador, Canada and the US.

Tim's last posting as a Lloyds employee was as assistant chief manager, Brazil. He retired in 2003 and was immediately employed back as a consultant to the bank in Brazil, assisting with the liquidation of the Brazilian business.

He finally retired in 2015 and moved back to the UK, where he lives in Kew with his Brazilian wife, Rosenilda. They have two children and one grandchild.

Sue Hall (nee Miles) PPA 1988

Sue joined Prior Park for sixth form and studied English, History and classical civilisation for A levels. She decided that a financial career lay



ahead, becoming a qualified chartered management accountant. Sue has worked across a range of private, public and charity sectors in senior board level roles for the past 20yrs and is currently the finance director of Historic Royal Palaces with her office in the fabulous Hampton Court Palace.

Sue lives with her husband and a very naughty Wheaten Terrier in East Molesey near the River Thames where she runs regularly and competitively. Thankful that the area is mainly flat, unlike her memories of cross country at Prior ending with having to run up Ralph Allen Drive!

"Tell it like it is" corner

Peter Levi PPA 1946, poet and author of the title "The Flutes of Autumn" which features autobiographical elements and an in-depth look at his time here at Prior Park College, when it was run by the Irish Christian Brothers. In one passage he perfectly describes the stubborn and intransigent nature of the brothers:

"We wore stiff collars and black suits on Sundays from which it was very hard to remove Tate & Lyle's Golden Syrup, and everyone passed their exams; all the same, the school was very, very IRISH. It even kept Irish time instead of British Summer Time."

"The history and politics I was taught at school were so wickedly prejudiced and so crazy that I automatically ignored them. Many years would have to pass before I began to understand, I think it was at Oxford, that the English really had treated the Irish badly, and the terrible stories about the Black and Tans were true."

CALENDAR

2021

Saturday 4 September
Speech day for leavers PPA 2021

Saturday 11 September
Alumnae Hockey (girls)

Saturday 9 October
PPA AGM and Year Rep

Saturday 6 November
Mansion Lecture and Lunch to include 40 year reunion and PPA Medal presentations

Sunday 7 November
Remembrance Service

Note
10 Year reunion was to be 4 September, now postponed to join Old boys Cricket 2022

2022

January
Deadline for PPA medal nominations
Alumni hockey (boys)

June
Alumni Cricket to include 10 year Classes 2010, 2011 and 2012, 50 year Classes 1969, 70 and 71 and 60 year Classes of 1961, 1962 years reunion date TBA

As a thank you for his years of editorial service, Terry Ilott (former PPA President and editor of Gossip Bowl) was gifted this portrait painted by Callum Eaton PPA 2015. It shows Terry and his wife Heather at home.





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