

The *Gossip* Bowl

The Alumni Magazine

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



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Dear Alumni,

It is astonishing to think that another twelve months have elapsed. Visits and reunions are on the increase so can I appeal to the Year Group Representatives to assist by keeping in touch with your cohort and with the College so that the 5, 10, 15 etc. reunions can continue to be the focus of friendship and camaraderie that we all hold dear.

I need to inform you about an important change that is taking place with regards to the PPA finances. Hitherto, students at the College had the option of opting out of a lifetime subscription to the PPA and a few of them did. This option has been withdrawn, and all pupils will become members of the association, and their subscription will be included in their fees. This now assures the association a regular income.

It also means that we need to be giving a bit more value for money and we have started to explore how we can extend our activities. We have offered discretionary travel grants of up to £500 to leavers who were able to demonstrate an interesting and worthwhile project for their Gap Year. We now wish to increase this to a total annual sum of £3000 and extend the offer to alumni. The only obligation is a suitably impressive report for the Gossip Bowl. We also want to support capital projects in the College as well assisting any students or alumni who are encountering difficulties. If you know of anyone then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I hope that you are now all aware of the PPA medals. This year we only awarded one medal. We usually look to make two awards. One for a lifetime achievement and another to a younger alumnus who has made a particularly notable contribution to society. I am sure there are many of you who deserve such recognition, but there was a disappointing paucity of nominations this year, so can I urge you to come forward with nominations for these awards for next year?

My six-year stint at the helm of the PPA is nearly up and I am delighted to announce that Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999) has agreed to put herself forward to take over as President. She will look to be elected at next year's AGM and, if successful, take over the role in January 2025.

Deo Duce, Deo Luce

Simon Morgan (PPA 1974)



Looking back at 2023, the most striking thing is the ever-increasing engagement with the College through all the generations and in particular the younger alumni. There is more activity than ever before and there is a real buzz and enthusiasm from those who visit whether on a tour, talking to the Sixth Form in General Studies or for one of our reunions. A couple of year groups have asked for extra reunions which have been so enjoyable, and it has been brilliant meeting so many alumni.

We also had our inaugural tennis day this year where alumni played doubles with a student which was really good fun.

I have been especially pleased with the enthusiasm for alumni events and visits shown by our younger alumni, indeed it was almost a relief when the 2023s finally started university or their gap years and were no longer popping up around the College (I don't really mean it!).

So please do keep in touch, and I hope that 2024 sees many of you back at Prior – you are most welcome!



Emma-Louise Goymer,
Alumni Relations

Thank you

Terry Ilott (PPA 1968) for his patience and good humour helping me to produce the Gossip Bowl – I couldn't do it without him! Thank you to year reps. And finally, Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964) who took a photo which has inspired the front cover.



Prior Park College: A Global Community

By Ben Horan, Head of Prior Park College

When I joined Prior Park College as Headmaster back in 2019, I knew that I had a job of work to do within the school itself. However, I was equally keen to visit other parts of the world and see the impact that Prior Park makes, and has made, across the globe. Little did I know at that point that the time was not far off when flights worldwide would be grounded, and when 'quarantine' would not be an arcane word that spoke of 19th Century plague ships and would instead be something that accompanied international travel. My job became focused on BA2 and, there were months when I didn't leave Combe Down, let alone Bath. Alumni meetings moved online and whilst the novelty was exciting for a while, we all swiftly became bored of yet another Zoom meeting and longed for some genuine human connection.

It was amazing then to be able to get out to Hong Kong in October of this year. Many UK Schools began a relationship with Hong Kong in the 1990s. However, Prior's links with this region are far more developed. We had students coming here in the 1960s from what was then a British Overseas Territory, and that link has never been broken. The strength of our relationship with Hong Kong continues right through to this day with students from Hong Kong making up a significant chunk of our current school population. Before I left, I met a goodly number of them to glean their thoughts on what I should try and do whilst I was there. They were unanimous that the most important thing I could do was to eat as much as I possibly could! There was little to no consideration for my waistline. The students were not uncomplimentary about the, honestly excellent, food that they get here at Prior today. However, it was clear that they missed that taste of home.

In Hong Kong, we had a wonderful drinks' reception and met Alumni from across the decades. The food theme continued though, with a group of Alumni from the 2010s confessing to their midnight rice cooking sessions. They assured me that such things



are almost certainly still going on! I wondered how those first Hong Kong students, so far from home and in a UK with little to no diversity in food choices coped! It was with real joy then that I was able to talk to the

“ A group of Alumni from the 2010s confessing... ”

Alumni about our plans for better cooking facilities within both our boys' and our girls' Boarding Houses. Plans are well afoot for St Paul's and St Mary's to have proper cooking facilities for our students. They will still have excellent food here for their three-square meals a day, but can and will supplement it (in an authorised manner!) with food they cook in their homes from home. The generosity of some of our Alumni and former parents has been able to kick start these projects, but there is still work to do. Our Alumni have been so incredibly helpful and supportive of so many of our projects of late. Our New Founders Garden

and our completely refurbished Sixth Form Centre are entirely the result of the generosity of former students.

What excites me most about the plans for new cooking spaces is that they speak to the sort of school that we are now. They'll be in the Boarding Houses, but will be used by students across the entirety of the school. They will provide spaces where we can educate all our students in the joys of cooking and provide them with education in the broadest sense. They'll prepare our students for life in the wider world. They will be able to be used by students from across the globe, from the UK, through Hong Kong, and onto to every other (populated) continent. At the last count, we had students from 25 countries here at Prior. Food, as those Hong Kong students and Alumni reminded me, is such an important part of the teenager's experience and of their identity. To have spaces where that cultural exchange can happen regularly and meaningfully will allow for even greater levels of integration in our school. Prior Park College is now more global than ever and what a wonderful thing that is for all our students, staff, and Alumni!



Hasta Luego

By Peter Watts, Head of Prior Park Gibraltar

Back in 2016 when contacted by a work colleague to write a piece for the 'Gossip Bowl' I was somewhat disturbed, partly because gossip, like Covid, is something I try to avoid and also because it suggested some sort of social media-esque posting site.

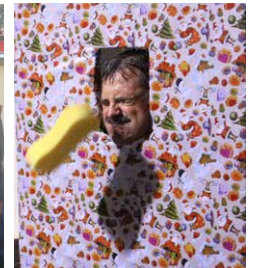
Eight years later, I am still being asked to write a piece, so I suspect my initial concerns have been relieved and the 'gossip' element is more like a 'chatter'.

But, have you heard....? He's leaving... It's true. I am stepping down as Headmaster of Prior Park School, Gibraltar, at the end of the current academic year ... with nothing really to gossip or chatter about.

Pure and simply, eight years after opening and establishing this remarkable school high up on The Rock, the time is right for me, my

family and the school, for us to return to the UK for a fresh challenge, and for someone else to lead our amazing community in such a wonderful part of the world.

Gibraltar the place is remarkable; geologically, historically and anthropologically - do visit if you get the chance. The people too are remarkable - still putting family first, balancing life with work in an enviable way, loving life and its celebrations, fiercely proud and endearingly idiosyncratic - with their own customs, dress sense and language. After eight years my Spanish has improved 'un poco', but I am still mystified by the mercurial meanderings of Llanito ... 'que pasa, bro'!



I'll leave you with my three favourite words and phrases learned in this part of the world - 'bienvenidos' - welcome, 'encantado/a' - delighted to meet you and 'hasta luego' - see you later ... As a family we have been welcomed, delighted and, who knows, might see Gibraltar and our school sometime later.

Developing Local Connections

By Rosie Allen, Head of The Paragon

It has been another year of learning, wonder and joy at The Paragon. We continue to drive forward along the five strands of our strategic plan - Individual Academic Growth, Wellbeing for Life, Boundless Outdoor Adventure, Globally Aware, Expansive Opportunity and Outward Looking.' The last of these strands has been a particular focus this past year, growing the whole Paragon community around a culture of service to others. The academic year 2022/23 saw us launch Queen Elizabeth Day - when our pupils, parents and staff spent a full school day engaged in nearly twenty different service projects within and around our local community. Some children visited residential care homes; others took part in community allotment projects which benefit the mental wellbeing of Bath's more vulnerable citizens. A group headed to Cleveland Pools to work with the team there on their heritage education project, which has



now been launched to local primary schools, and our youngest pupils staged a superb tea party and concert in the school hall for over 40 elderly and vulnerable neighbours. It was such a fantastic experience for everyone!

As a result of the day, the school has also been able to develop connections with local volunteers who have shared their experience

of making a positive impact through their volunteering. These connections foster a sense of camaraderie and unity, instilling in our community a feeling of belonging and purpose. Some of the various projects which the children were engaged with also provided opportunities for them to meet and collaborate with individuals from different backgrounds, facilitating cultural understanding and a sense of inclusivity.

This new platform also provides an opportunity for a sense of personal growth and satisfaction and allows our pupils to develop and refine skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and leadership. As they see the positive effects of their efforts, they will gain a sense of personal fulfilment, increase their self-esteem, and gain a deeper understanding of the power they possess to make a difference. After all, as Mahatma Gandhi said, "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others."



Hong Kong Reunion 2023

By Declan Rainey



Michael NG (PPA 1980), Ben Horan, Headmaster and Richard Tsun (PPA 1983)



Roche House Alumni



Daniel Ballig (PA 2009), Derek Au (PPA 2006)

The Headmaster, Ben Horan, hosted a Hong Kong reunion for College alumni during Michaelmas half term. Reunions tend to be organised around leaving year groups, but this being a regional reunion, meant we had such a diverse range of age groups made up of leavers from across the decades. As we celebrate 40 years of being co-ed, it was great to see so many alumnae in attendance.

Thanks to Dan Billig (PPA 2009) for hosting the event in The Hong Kong Football Club and thanks to all who attended. Thanks also to Christopher Liu (PPA 1979), Andrew Choy (PPA 1989) and Daniel Tung (PPA 1989) who helped us with our trip.

It was agreed that this should not be the last such reunion and already we're looking at plans for 2025!

If you find yourself in Hong Kong in 2025, come and join us!



2018 5-Year Reunion

By Fiorenza Dell'Anna



“Time stands still at Prior Park College, and what a luxury that is”

Irrespective of any changes made to Prior itself, few could argue that walking into the Mansion ever feels different than it did when we all attended Prior. Similarly, few could say that walking out onto the steps of the Mansion and seeing the familiar faces of our year group chatting in the sunshine at the reunion was uncanny, irrespective of how much time has passed since we were all last there together.

One thing appeared clear at our reunion: everyone is on track and exactly where they are supposed to be. Whether they have just graduated, are embarking on post-graduate degrees, or after many

years of very hard work, have been accepted into medical school, whether they have gone into marketing, joined the police force, become teachers, bankers, or lawyers, or even, in an unexpected turn of events, a scaffolder! Our reunion truly showcased the many opportunities that Prior gave us that have been eagerly grasped.

Despite our differences, the tie that binds all of us is our shared experience at Prior. We are all very much the same and it was absolutely wonderful to see everyone again. Although, many faces were greatly missed and we very much hope to see them at the next reunion. See you all in five years!



2013 Reunion

By Emma-Louise Goymer



L to R: Maria Glanternik, Mark Murmanov, Lauren Marchant, Lucy Lowe, Alinka Deane, James Smith, Jason Chiu, Robert Clayton, Eric Chong

“ Being back together at Prior cemented those childhood friendships ”



It was wonderful to welcome back the 2013s to their 10-year reunion. They had a wonderful day catching up and reminiscing about the fun times at Prior. They also had a chance to go to the Mansion and look at the breathtaking view.



1995 Reunion

By Anna Lynch



Rosh Embrey and Mrs Trott



Rosin Embrey née Turner (distinguished sports icon), Penny Brook, Sally Barker (née Price)



Ellie Acland (née Gower Johnson) - Anna Lynch - Rosh Embrey (née Turner) - Neil Clarke - Hugh Padfield - Tristan Johnson - Sally Barker (née Price) - Polly Buckley (née Brain) - Robin Sturges - Penny Brook - Charlie Heal - Tim Wilson - David Symes - Joe Fields - Tim Charlesworth - Rebecca Jackson - James Goulding - Ben Brodie - Sammy Mansoupour - Malcom Bond



Hugh Padfield and Ben Brady

“ Our schooling has bonded us and a sincere fondness for each other shone though ”

As we approached the top field on the delightful sunny Saturday Rugby was in full swing, and it became clear watching **Sammy Mansoupour** and **Sally Barker** (née Price)'s sons that time had bridged the gap between pupil and parent. ... We were now more akin to the latter despite still feeling like the former.

We headed for match tea in the Mansion and I entered the Hall with an ease that only comes with familiarity. We mingled among current pupils, parents and staff, finding each other for recollections and with stories flowing we met with teachers past (**Dennis Clark**), and present (**Malcom Bond** and **Kate Trott**).

We sauntered down the hill to Widcombe entering a parallel

universe, where perpetual adolescence resides ... well ... the Ring O' Bells and the promise of a drink to start the evening! Despite 27 years of other life experiences, ultimately, we are all the same people we were when we left Prior. Our schooling has bonded us and a sincere fondness for each other shone though.

It would be great to see more of the class of '95 so I hope this recollect can temp you to join us for the next meet-up. A huge thank you to **Polly** for organising the event. Please keep an eye out for details of the 30-year reunion and pass the message on to anyone with whom you are still in touch!



1993 30-Year Reunion

By Claire A Kisiel



Simon Brandon (PPA 1996), Thursten Clements, Dominic Campbell, Peter Brandon, Jonathan Hurst



Peter Brandon, Chris Hathaway, Josie Pettett, Anthony Neylan, Ami Baker, Eddie Ho, John Sayers, Suzi Belmont, Harriet Fletcher, Jo Bleakley, Matthew Hunt, Jonathan Hurst, Camille Rodskjaer, Catherine O'dea-hughes, Abi Purcell, Chris Eavis, Gwendoline Cardiff, Sarah Biagetti, Lucy Empson, Kate Craig Waller, Alasdair Francis, Dominic Campbell, Claire A Kisiel, Polly Wesley, Quentin Johnson, Thursten Clements



Eddie Ho



Harriet Fletcher (née Blakey), Camille Rodskjaer, Mrs Rodskjaer, Lucy Empson (née Cookes), Claire Y Williams, Ami Baker, Sarah Biagetti (née Hemmings), Claire A Kisiel (née Williams), Josie Pettett (née Cookes), Thursten Clements, Catherine O'dea-Hughes, Matthew Hunt, Jo Bleakley (née Hancock), Jonathan Hurst, Dominic Campbell, Chris Eavis, Peter Brandon, Alasdair Francis, Eddie Ho, James Tsao, Paul Bennett



Claire A Kisiel, Ami Baker, Lukasz Kisiel, Anthony Neylan, Dominic Campbell



Eddie Ho, Mrs Rodskjaer, Paul Bennett in the background, Ami Baker, Sarah Biagetti

“ Being at the school again felt very familiar ”

The air was filled with nostalgia and laughter as the Class of 1993 gathered for their much-awaited reunion. It began the evening before at the Ring o Bells in Widcombe where it was lovely to see everyone again. Some of us had not seen each other in more than 10 years. We were also delighted to meet and chat with Mrs Kimball.

The following day, our group arrived around 12.30pm at the cricket pitch. It was lovely to meet Mrs Rodskjaer and Mr Desmond, and conversations flowed effortlessly. Being at the school again felt very familiar even though we were seeing new layouts of pitches

and buildings. For those playing tennis, we did have to eat the delicious BBQ lunch fast, change rapidly and switch to a tennis match mindset!

Thank you to all the pupils, staff and Emma-Lou for being there on Sunday and coordinating a fabulous day of sport and food! It was a memorable occasion and weekend celebrating and reconnecting with old friends 30 years since leaving Prior Park. Each person departed carrying with them not just fond memories of the day but also a renewed connection with the College.



1968 55-Year Reunion

By Tim Heining

“ Bonhomie was flowing and everyone was in high spirits ”



L to R: Dominic Eedle, Rick Jarrams, Tim Heining, Joe Loughlin, Ron Turley



Simon Morgan, Phil Sales, John Evans, Diane Evans



Henriette and Ted Bennitt



Geoff Cardozo, Rick Jarrams, Pat Curran



John Evans, Tim Heining



John Evans, Geoff Cardozo



Chris Cutcliffe, Heather Wood, Margaret & Phil Hamerton

On the weekend of 9th-11th June this year, the illustrious Year of '68 celebrated their reunion in Bath, celebrating 55 years since we left Prior Park.

As we arrived at the Mansion on the Saturday, we were warmly greeted by the Headmaster Ben, Emma-Lou, Simon Morgan and Declan all of whom made welcoming speeches and told us about developments at Prior which has clearly made tremendous strides since our day, in every way. Drinks in the main hall were followed by a very generous buffet on the lawn outside. The weather collaborated and we all had a great time in beautiful surroundings. A special mention should be made of Ron Turley who, despite severe health problems, insisted on participating. It was great to have him with

us, and he made a brilliant contribution to the event.

After the exertions of Saturday night dinner in Bath, many decided to make their way home. Some attended Mass and following this the group went up to the Top Field for the Alumni Cricket match. We had the pleasure of being joined by Spike Colter and Mike Maher whom we hadn't seen for a long time. We ate hog roast accompanied by beer or wine, and a good final time was had by all!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who made this a highly successful weekend, including the College, the PPA, the catering staff and, above all, the Year of '68 and in particular Terry Illott who has done more than any of us to keep us all together over the years.

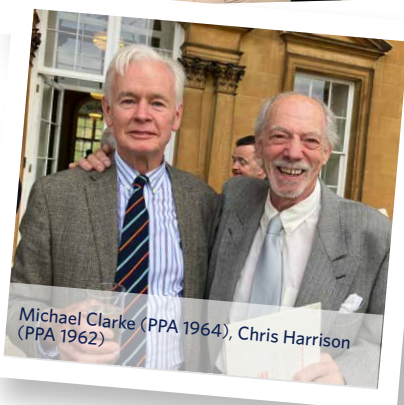


1960-1964 Reunion

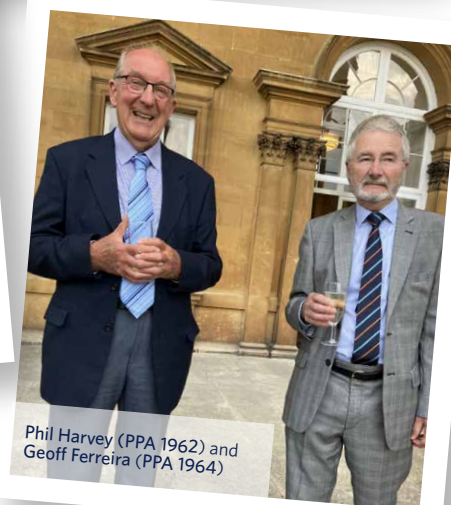
By Chris Lennon (PPA 1964)



L to R Ian Haddon (PPA 1962), Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964), Anthony Apperley (PPA 1960), Phil Harvey (PPA 1962), Michael Clarke (PPA 1964), Paul Britten (PPA 1962), Chris Harrison (PPA 1962), Chris Lennon (PPA 1964), Alan Forestier-Walker (PPA 1964), Simon Morgan (PPA 1974) PPA President



Michael Clarke (PPA 1964), Chris Harrison (PPA 1962)



Phil Harvey (PPA 1962) and Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964)

“ We were treated to culinary delights unknown in our day, served with wine, moreover ”

A highlight of the year for many of us was a double reunion for our year group and more, held on 9th/10th June 2023, some sixty years after we completed our schooling at Prior Park College.

The first, informal gathering, organised by Ian Haddon and generously supported by Drs Michael Clarke and Geoff Ferreira, was held on Friday 9th at our old coffee bar haunt in the City of Bath, the Salamander, nowadays an excellent restaurant.

Most, but not all, attendees then repaired to the College on Saturday 10th, for a more formal reception in the Mansion Hall and dinner in the refectory, where we were treated to culinary delights unknown

in our day, served with wine, moreover. It was followed by further refreshments in the Mansion to end the evening.

None of us is getting any younger and we toasted, not only absent friends, unable to join us for the occasion, often from afar, but also those, sadly missed, who are no longer with us, except in our vivid memories. The great thing about these reunions is the way the years fall away and very old friends, perhaps not often in touch, if at all, over the years, find themselves in animated conversation and unbroken fellowship.

Our thanks to all concerned for their initiative and enthusiasm and for the superlative venue and catering.



Alumnae Netball

By Fi Rae (PPA 2009)

The annual pupil-alumnae saga continued in familiar fashion in 2023. After watching some inspirational (but rainy) alumni hockey on the astro, we clambered indoors for the ultimate netball showdown. Another year older but would we be another year wiser?

With a mix of regular returners and an exciting injection of junior alumnae talent, we split ourselves into two lines: one all-out competitive contingent and the other a little more fun-focused.

For the first quarter, we sent out our ruthless competitors. And they delivered with lightning speed, pinpoint passes, and a generally terrifying level of intensity. However, they weren't the only ones - the College side was quick out of the blocks with fiery athleticism and razor-sharp decision making. By the end of the first quarter, the College had just edged in front.

Out of the first quarter, we deployed our 'social netball' seven who really delivered for the crowd with some delightfully ambitious plays. Excitement levels were high, but the College's points buffer became slightly higher.



Back row Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999), Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019), Lolo Lewis (PPA 2020), Eve Wagstaff (PPA 2020), Hero Murphy (PPA 2021), Amelia Owen (PPA 2022), Olivia Owen (PPA 2022), Hannah Brierley (PPA 2022), Freya Millhouse (2022). Front row Elysia Thompson (PPA 2021), Jess Parson (PPA 2021), Heather Rae (PPA 2012), Fiona Rae (PPA 2009)

After some refreshing orange slices at half time, we were refueled and ready to go. The two alumnae lines each had one quarter to

“ An epic battle that ended with a nail-biting final ”

go for gold. Whilst our two playing styles differed, both alumnae lines ended up being highly competitive. But alas, as the quarters progressed, the College side became more

precise, and we struggled to convert. Despite a high-adrenaline score from the alumnae side (which whispered past the net as the final whistle resounded), the final score was 26 for the alumnae and 35 for the College.

Much like it was for the England Netball Roses, this year was an epic battle that ended with a nail-biting final and a well-deserved silver medal for the alumnae!

The alumnae netball will return on 6 January 2024 - alumnae, parents, and +1s all welcome. For more netball in 2024, contact Fi Rae (fionarae@hotmail.co.uk) to get involved.



Eve Wagstaff, Heather Rae and Elysia Thompson



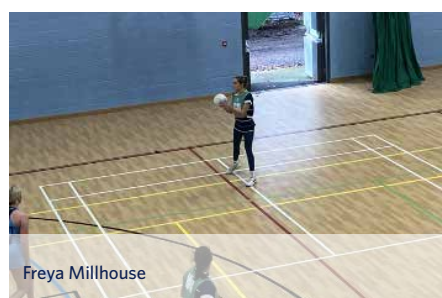
Freya Millhouse, Maddie Wagstaff, Fi Rae, Louise Heren and Chantal Hopper



Lolo Lewis



Hermione Scattergood, Jess Parson



Freya Millhouse



Alumni Tennis

By Claire A Kisiel (PPA 1993)

This year we held our first alumni tennis day, which was eagerly requested by the 1993s who were attending the College for their reunion and wanted to get a tennis day going. It was a great success and really good fun and hopefully many of you will read this and join the team for next year.

It was a wonderful experience to play on the new astro tennis courts at Prior Park against the first team and be part of the camaraderie between former and current pupils. The tennis was a high standard, with some incredible cross-court passing shots. One passing shot was delivered to our opponent. He was determined to return it, sprinting, and diving towards the ball, executing an ambitious slide but ended up doing an accidental roly-poly, which did draw some laughter from the spectators. Despite not winning the point, it was good to witness

such sheer determination and sportsmanship on the day.

Another of the highlights of the day was to play tennis and meet the genuinely nice pupils who we engaged in spirited matches. We played several rounds of 4 game sets rotating with the same partner. One alumnus with one current pupil, as well as a particularly talented father and son duo playing. Despite the weather being very humid and some light drizzle, we all played well, and I would recommend to any former pupils to take part in alumni tennis on the next occasions.

“ It was good to witness such sheer determination and sportsmanship ”



Alumni L to R: Claire A Kisiel (PPA 1993), Dominic Campbell (PPA 1993), Tom Williams (PPA 1996), Tom Reynolds (PPA 2022) Seb Morley (PPA 2022), Lukasz Kisiel and Victoria Williams



Alumnae Hockey

By Amy Catt (PPA 2021)

First, I want to say a huge thank you to Miss Duncan and Mr Burt for making the day possible. It was great to see the likes of Connie Redman, Louise Cattanach, Katie Marden, Libby Blane, Annabelle Goymer and Amelia Lavington representing the alumni team with Lolo Lewis on the sidelines. Even though we lost a devastating 5-0 to the College 1st team I think it's safe to say we all had an absolute blast, especially given the 30 degrees heat all day!

It was great fun playing with the girls and I think we gave a good account of ourselves! Louise had great ball distribution, Libby was fabulous at the overload and as right defence. Annabelle did a superb job of breaking up the press on the 16s. Amelia kept us in the game with some great saves especially against the drag flicks on short corners. Connie was solid in defence making fantastic goal saving tackles and Katie's fitness (she is training for the Bath Half Marathon) came in handy with her tireless work in mid-field.

Coming back to Prior for the day was a nice little excursion from my regular routine and it was really great to see the guys. Lovely to see how everyone is getting on with life after Prior. I don't know about the rest of the girls, but I hope to see them all and more girls again next year for the next alumnae hockey match where, with a bit of luck, we can bring back a win against the 1st team.



Connie Redman (PPA 2015), Amy Catt (PPA 2021), Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023), Louise Cattanach (PPA 2022), Katie Marden (PPA 2022), Libby Blane (PPA 2022), Amelia Lavington (PPA 2023) and Miss Kelly Duncan





Old Boys' Hockey

By Niall Hudson (PPA 2021)

The alumni hockey match had been something I was looking forward to since playing against them as a student. The day started off with some miserable weather conditions, which completely contrasted the overwhelming feeling of elation for each old boy seeing close friends and older old boys with fascinating insight into the College before the Sports Centre was built. I had the pleasure of being captain for this annual occasion and playing alongside old teammates and previous generations was really special.

“ Something I was looking forward to since playing against them as a student ”

A special mention goes to John Devlin, who quite literally put his body on the line, resulting in an early substitution just after his majestic slap into the goal. Sadly, the result didn't go our way, but after a couple of beers and a chat with the dodgy umpire (Darren Crawford (PPA 1988)), all was well. So, overall, I would definitely classify that day as a win in my eyes and look forward to the next one.



Freddie Talbot (PPA 2022), Louis Wright (PPA 2022), Kit Scofield (PPA 2022)



Jack Bunn (PPA 2018), Justin Avenell (PPA 2018), Raph Watson (PPA 2018) and Dylan Bunn (PPA 2018)



Finn Grant (PPA 2022), Rob Dymond (PPA 2022), Ben Blazewicz (PPA 2022)



The Clifford Boys: Greg Harden (PPA 2019), Mr Bond, Luca Railton (PPA 2021), Freddie Osborne (PPA 2021), Nate Fell (PPA 2021), Ollie Yerbury (PPA 2021)



Old Boys Cricket Report

By Harry Elias (PPA 2003)

Despite a fairly ominous forecast, I was greeted at the Bury Sports Centre not only by the welcoming smiles and handshakes of alumni and College staff alike but also blue skies and watery sunshine. Alas, this was not to last and shortly after the toss the heavens opened bringing not only rain but also the real possibility of the first weather related abandonment in years. With the covers stoically in place, we retreated to the safety of the sports centre for tea and cake.

After close to two hours, many discussions about possible formats, much hard work from the grounds team and a slight improvement in the weather it was decided that we would

brave the elements and attempt to play a 'timed game'. Having won the toss, the alumni team would have a bat and set a total for the College to try and chase with a maximum of 20 overs to be bowled after tea.

“ Fun, competition and respect has become synonymous with the fixture ”

Having pushed lunch back to take advantage of a break in the weather the alumni openers set about the work of amassing a competitive total. Despite an early loss, lunch was taken

with the alumni team in a good position to push on with just the one notch in the wickets column.

The post lunch session saw the alumni team do just this, with a boisterous 56 not out (retired) from **Dylan Bunn** (PPA 2018) providing a great launch pad for everyone else to go and play some shots. Contributions from almost everyone, including a quickfire partnership of 42 from 10 & 11 led to a declaration on 203-9 setting the College 204 to win off around 27 overs.

The College XI set about the chase with aplomb and despite an early breakthrough courtesy of **Greg Harden** (PPA 2019) equired around 150 runs to win at the tea interval.



Two Royal Marines



Bob Rayner (PPA 1964), Mindy, Peter Haddon (PPA 1966) and Lincoln Rupesinghe (PPA 1980)



Greg Harden (PPA 2019), Will South (PPA 2019) and Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016)





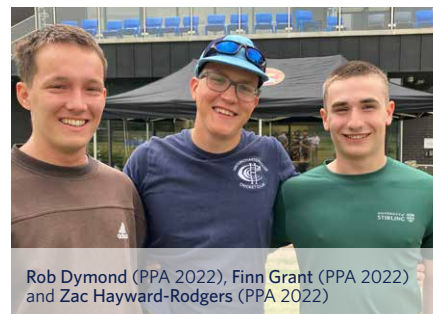
Henry Gibbons (PPA 2019)



Dylan Bunn (PPA 2018), Justin Avenell (PPA 2018), Mrs Colquhoun and Archie Parson (PPA 2019)



Harry Elias (PPA 2003)



Rob Dymond (PPA 2022), Finn Grant (PPA 2022) and Zac Hayward-Rodgers (PPA 2022)



alumni fixture played in tricky conditions but with the same sense of fun, competition and respect that has become synonymous with the fixture and made it a sporting calendar staple. It was great to see a couple of the 'older' Old Boys back this year including **Peter Haddon (PPA 1966)** and **Bob Rayner (PPA 1964)** with Peter able to present the Akers-Haddon cricket shield in person to the winning skipper. Their attendance personifies the commitment of everyone who makes the often-significant effort to attend and ensure it is always a fun and memorable day.

I look forward to seeing both old and new faces next year and hope some of you will be able to join us.

All the best.

From the editor: I would like to thank Harry on behalf of the alumni, College and Cricket teams for all the hard work and dedication he has shown over the last few years. It has been a pleasure to work with you Harry.

Harry passes the responsibility over to Justin Avenell (PPA 2018) who is looking forward to his first match as Captain on Sunday 16th June 2024.

After another fabulous spread provided by the College, the alumni set out into the field (fuelled by more tea and cake) with a view to regaining the much coveted, and recently elusive, Akers-Haddon cricket shield. Despite some tight bowling by the alumni bowlers, Ollie K had obviously had his Weetabix that morning and ably supported by Ned H and Josh B began, with alacrity, to reduce the target, often in chunks of 4 and 6 runs. Ollie was eventually out after a swashbuckling 74

runs. However, the damage had been done and the College were able to seal a deserved victory with an over to spare.

Ollie K was presented with the match ball after his classy and destructive knock as well as two wickets. I hope to see him and many more of the College XI donning the alumni cricket cap in the near future.

Another wonderfully attended and organised



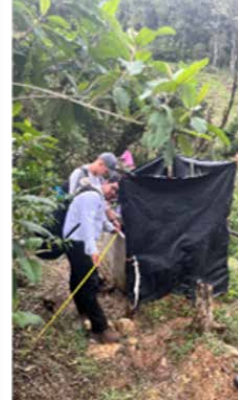
Alumni Travel Grant

By Rob Dymond (PPA 2022)

At the start of July, I led the second Engineering Brigade from the University of Birmingham out to the community of Montana Verde in Honduras. This was alongside the charity Global Brigades.

While out in the country we aimed to design a water system for the local community, map out all the piping required, draw up a budget for the proposed design, present all the plans to the local community and council and empower the local community

While we were in Montana Verde, we worked beside their local water council and other members who wanted to help us to map the location of all 120 households within the community and plan out the piping network



required. On the final day we presented the data and the proposed water system to everyone and they agreed that it would work for them and with ongoing support from the charity would be able to build the system. The whole community was extremely grateful for everything that we had done to help.

It was humbling to meet and work with people from a very different culture and learn more about how they lived and the daily struggles that they faced. This amazing trip has made me want to do more like this in the future once I have graduated from university.

By Katie Marden (PPA 2022)

During my travels in Southeast Asia I taught primary and secondary school children basic English for three lessons a day in Cambodia. I was welcomed into the village and stayed with a local family. It was amazing to see how eager the children were to improve their language skills and I practised with them in the evenings.

Most of their parents' main source of income relied heavily on the tourism industry in Cambodia. Just outside Siem Reap there were hundreds of advertisements tied to lamp posts from villages asking backpackers to come and spend some time teaching in their schools.

One of my classes involved children with learning difficulties and I could focus on improving the children's fine motor skills and creative expression through interactive activities such as painting and creative arts. With little resources in the classroom, it made me reflect on how fortunate I was to go to a school as incredible as Prior Park. This led me to give a donation so that they could buy

more textbooks, whiteboards and new arts and crafts materials. I will forever remember such a special time.





A Day in the Life of the Gardeners

By Emma-Louise Goymer

When they return to Prior, many alumni – especially those of an older vintage – remark on the transformation of the College gardens. This is the work of our gardening team, led by head gardener Zoe Parfitt.

At school, Zoe was a shy child so her teachers encouraged her to go and get involved with the gardening club, which took place in the school greenhouses. From the first time she walked in, that was it! She became fascinated with plants, and in particular orchids. Since those early years Zoe has developed a passion for orchid conservation that has taken her all over the world. She was awarded the Chelsea Gold Medal for her orchid displays.

It is no surprise therefore that Zoe found a Bee orchid in the meadows banks in front of the Mansion. The meadows are Zoe's big project as they are currently very grassy, and the grass has overtaken the wildflowers. So, Zoe spent the summer visiting successful meadows in the Southwest. There she learnt that those



with the best biodiversity and health, were ones with yellow rattle in them. Therefore she will introduce yellow flowers to the Prior meadows and then, once the grass is under control, she can reintroduce wildflowers.

Another project for this year has been the science border, which is the area outside of the Science Block. There used to be a large conifer there with a sad-looking birch tree, lots of bindweed and shrubs that were not flowering. It is a difficult area to grow plants as it is shady even in the summer. Zoe came up with the idea of making it a sub-tropical

border, using plants that survive well in shady, sheltered conditions.

Banana trees, palm trees, New Zealand flax, fern, ornamental rhubarb, bamboo and lilies were planted. Now the bed is full of colour in the summer and in the winter there is still structure.

Four years ago, the gardeners started work on the border just before the Mansion. They wanted to make it colourful and full. Zoe and Rebecca grow the annuals from seed every spring and they keep the tender perennials, and dahlias in polytunnels in the winter. Core perennials like ruby fools, Zebra grass, Hydrangea Limelight stay in the bed and Zoe also leaves the grasses and crocosmia so that when they die they give the bed structure in winter and provide shelter for hibernating insects.

The bed was designed to look best in September for the start of term. So far, students, staff, parents and visiting alumni have been very appreciative.



Area near Science Before



After



Stonemason Update

By Emma-Louise Goymer

The College stonemason, Fee Henderson, spent the summer repairing the first half of the long wall that runs along the drive outside St Pauls.



The Errington corridor, Fee noticed that the stone was crumbling in the window frames. The salts are coming out of the stone and she doesn't know why. She has repaired the windows and hopes that those repairs will halt the crumbling process.

Inside the chapel, Fee has cleaned the balustrades with mild detergent and a scrubbing brush. You will notice that she did not replace the ring around the spindles as she wished to repair it just how it looked.



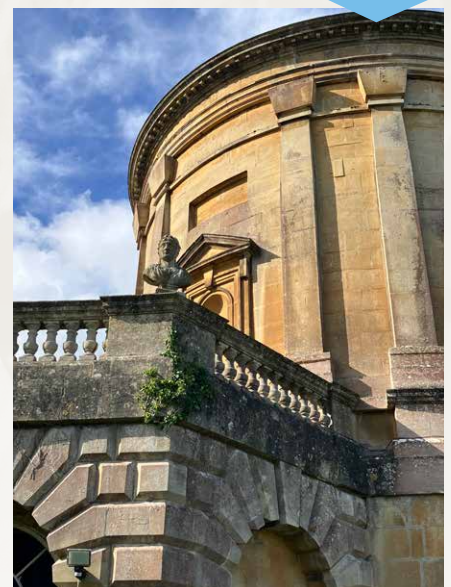
Outside the chapel at the front, Fee has cleaned the window frames, although she is struggling to reach the tops as you can see.



Does anyone know who wrote this? Own up? Maybe 1988 Alumni?



Every spring and summer, Fee clears all the weeds which sprout up in front of the chapel to try and prevent them from damaging the stone.



On the sides of the Mansion steps, one of Fee's projects for next year is to repair the stone using pieces taken from other parts of the building. She hopes that the gaps will be filled and the damage repaired.



“ It is best to preserve what is there rather than replace it. ”

Fee is also digging a trench around the front of the Mansion to try and help prevent damp from penetrating the stone. The trench will be filled with wood chippings and should allow the stone to breathe



BEFORE



AFTER



'When the technology broke down our lusty



L to R: Inge Beck, Rosie Heining, Tim Heining (PPA 1968) and Simon Beck (PPA 1969)

By Simon Morgan (PPA 1974)

The 2023 Mansion Lunch took place on Saturday 16th September. Due to the significant competition for attendance posed by the Rugby World Cup numbers were small but what we lacked in quantity we more than made up for in quality.

In view of the comparatively small number of attendees it was decided to relocate the event to the John Wood Chapel, which has its own unique intimacy and charm. However, prior to the lunch, guests gathered in the newly opened Founder's Garden, details of which appear elsewhere in this magazine, and were able to take in its unique ambience, view the Founders' Wall and take a tour, conducted by Headmaster Ben Horan, around the new Sixth Form Centre.

Back in the John Wood Chapel we presented the Prior Park Association Medal to the 2023

honourand Professor David Thomas who impressed us with a resume of his remarkable career in climate studies that lead to him being awarded the rarely bestowed Polar Medal.

Award and lunch over it was time to take part in what is now becoming a tradition: the singing of 'Deo Duce, Deo Luce'. I am delighted to report that when the technology broke down our lusty voices and our crunching heels did not!

Few though we were, I am sure everyone enjoyed their day and I must thank Ben Horan, Emma-Louise Goymer, Declan Rainey and the catering staff for all the hard work and effort that they put in to make it such an occasion.

Can I post an early advert for next year's event which will be on the 12th October 2024 and encourage you to come forward with nominations for the PPA medal.

I look forward to seeing you there.



Barry Plews (PPA 1958) and Michael Stevens (1959)



Michael Ng (PPA 1980) and Mrs Ng



David Thomas (PPA 1980) receiving the PPA Medal from Simon Morgan (PPA 1974)





voices and our crunching heels did not'



Terry Illott (PPA 1968), Inge Beck and Rosie Heining



The Haddon brothers Peter (PPA 1966) and Ian (PPA 1962)



David Thomas (PPA 1980), Steve Wigmore (PPA 1983)



Mrs Ng and Kameel Saliba (PPA 1984)



Alan Prentice (PPA 1979)



Simon Morgan (PPA 1974) and Julian Roberts (PPA 1972)



Terry Illott (PPA 1968), Tim Heining (PPA 1968), Niall Aston (PPA 1968) Simon Morgan (PPA 1974) and Ben Horan



Giving back

Elliot Booley (PPA 2007) spoke to the Sixth Form about his work in sports medicine and about working in a job you enjoy. Elliot also gave valuable advice that 'pub with friends' should not be given as an interest on a CV!

Elliot is married to **Jess (née Cresswell)** (PPA 2006), hopefully we will see them both back at the College soon.

Richard Klein (PPA 1976) returned to the College to speak with our Sixth Form about careers in television. Richard, who is Head of Documentaries at Plimsoll Productions, has had roles at ITV where he was their Head of Factual and spent 13 years as the Controller of BBC 4.

A hugely entertaining speaker, he kept the students and staff engaged with various Sizzles (90 second clips of programmes that are used when trying to pitch an idea to a commissioner). He highlighted the various jobs that are involved with bringing a show to the small screen and while luck may have some part in people's TV careers, getting your foot in the door and being open to all avenues within the sector can define how much or how little luck you will have.

Emmy Award Winner **Tom Brass** (PPA 1998) is the Creative Director at Jellyfish productions where he has been involved in the animation for many films and programmes, for example *Planet Dinosaur*, *Rogue One* and *How to Train your Dragon*. Tom spoke about his work and how he makes his initial storyboards into visual storytelling through visual effects.

JJ Tonks (PPA 2018) recently joined Bath Rugby and came to the College yesterday to catch up with **Justin Avenell** (PPA 2018) who coaches rugby by the College and to help coach the 1st and U16 teams in preparation for the Rosslyn Park 7s. The boys loved it and JJ really enjoyed getting involved.

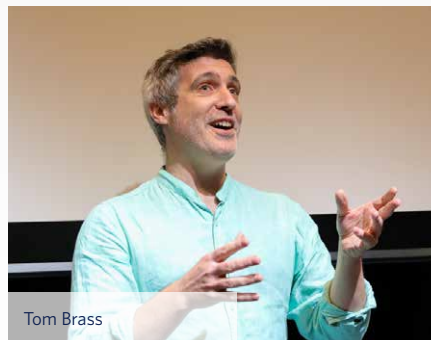
It was great seeing **Archie Carr** (PPA 2020) back at the College. He spoke passionately about his apprenticeship at PWC and really gave a great insight into the advantages of



Elliot Booley



Richard Klein



Tom Brass



Archie Carr

working and learning at the same time. Lots of food for thought for the Sixth Form.

His Excellency Martin Adamu (PPA 1986) is the Nigerian Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and he came to speak to the Sixth Form in the Chapel about a career in Diplomacy. He also helped to adjudicate the House Debating semi-final between Clifford and Burton (Clifford won!). It was wonderful to have Martin back at the College and the students were really engaged by his talk.



Martin Adamu



JJ Tonks



Martin Adamu and students

A big thank you to **Dylan Bunn** (PPA 2018) for coming into Sixth Form General Studies and talking to the students about the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and joining the Army. (He certainly made me want to join up again! - Ed.)

We were delighted to welcome back **Dr Phil Naidoo** (PPA 2002) to the College. He managed to catch up with former tutors and teachers and also one of his classmates **Lindsay Bryant** (PPA 2002). Phil spoke to Sixth Form General Studies and the Academic Scholars about his life as a Flying Doctor in Melbourne and was a great hit.

F4 Business Studies were lucky enough to have a trip to **Hugh Padfield's** (PPA 1995) farm Park Farm in Bath where they learnt about the cheese making process and also the business side of running a farm. Bath Soft Cheese is a family run business which produces a number of different cheeses including the Wyfe of Bath and Bath Blue Cheese. It is well worth a trip there to see how the cheese is made and to try some for yourself. Bath Soft Cheese (parkfarm.co.uk)

Professor Julian Roberts KC (PPA 1972) shed light on his career in Law, including 10 years on the Sentencing Council of England and Wales. We were also given real cases to



Dylan Bunn

decide what sentence we would use. It was fascinating to hear the variety of replies and also great to see our Sixth Form engaging with Professor Roberts on the sentencing system and what could be changed.

Professor David Thomas (PPA 1980) gave two lectures in the Round Room which explained how sea water in the Arctic and Antarctic is not freezing to the same levels that it used to and what that means for global warming and life in and around the oceans. It was fascinating to learn about the impact of sea ice and the negative effects of it not freezing. Many thanks to David for giving us so much of his time, it really was fascinating to hear him speak.

We were delighted to see **Graham Paterson** (PPA 2006) back at the College speaking to



: Phil Naidoo and Mr Sackett



Julian Roberts



David Thomas



Graham Patterson

the Sixth Form about his career in technology. After leaving Prior, Graham taught himself coding in his spare time and then went on to design the Deliveroo App. He also worked at Transferwise and used this experience to work as an adviser to a number of tech start-ups. Graham's latest business venture, Jitty, is a search engine to help people find and buy their perfect home. Graham has recently moved back to Bath with his wife and young children.

Thank you



Hugh Padfield with F4 Business Studies



By Matthew Nicholls, Director of Music

The PPA Cup was awarded to **Emma Kerrigan** (PPA 2023), in recognition of her remarkable contribution to music during her time at Prior.

Emma arrived from the Paragon School, having begun learning the violin with Jamie Hughes. Emma's violin playing developed into the most spellbinding performance of an entire Violin Concerto - 'Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, alongside a professional orchestra, at the Grand Leavers' Concert in July.

While at school, Emma also discovered a talent for singing, only taking up lessons in

the sixth form. The progression was immense – achieving her Associateship of the Royal Schools of Music qualification (ARSM) in singing earlier this year. This followed hot on the heels of winning the highly contested Oratorio class in the Mid-Somerset Festival of Music and Drama, against a set of competitors from specialist provision schools.

Emma's musical talents meant that she was much in demand for department and whole school events. She was often conscripted into performing for alumni at various weekend and evening events and Emma's final musical performance as a member of Prior Park Community was as a soloist, soaring over the top of the Senior Chapel Choir in the nave of Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona –

testament to the incredible progression that she has shown during her time at the College.

We thank Emma for all that she contributed to the musical and general life at Prior, wish her all the best for her continued studies in Music at Durham University, and look forward to welcoming her back to perform alongside our pupils in the future.

By Stephanie Seville, Head of Visual Arts

The winner of the William Genders Art Prize this year is Layla Wakefield. This prize is awarded annually to a F4 student who has demonstrated outstanding artistic talent/potential. Layla has impressed art staff from her arrival at College in L3, showing an extremely mature ability to draw and paint from observation. Her recent collection of studies of horses (oil on board) were a stunning showcase of her talent and potential. Congratulations Layla!



Andy Owen Plaque

By Peter Scott (PPA 1955)

This plaque is a permanent and deserved tribute to an exceptional alumnus whose name and achievements should not be forgotten. Andy's obituary (Gossip Bowl 2022) and Peter Hilton's touching speech at his memorial service (Gossip Bowl 2020) bear ample witness to his life story, character, many accomplishments and wide areas of interest. He was essentially a modest

person with an aversion to self-publicism and public speaking, but equally with an innate gift for friendship and well versed in the art of gentle persuasion. These qualities were buttressed by considerable financial acumen, a capacious memory for names and faces and a determination, via his lifelong membership of the PPA and long tenure of office as a school governor, to protect and maintain the survival and welfare of the College he loved.





‘Music was handed out and enthusiastically rehearsed’

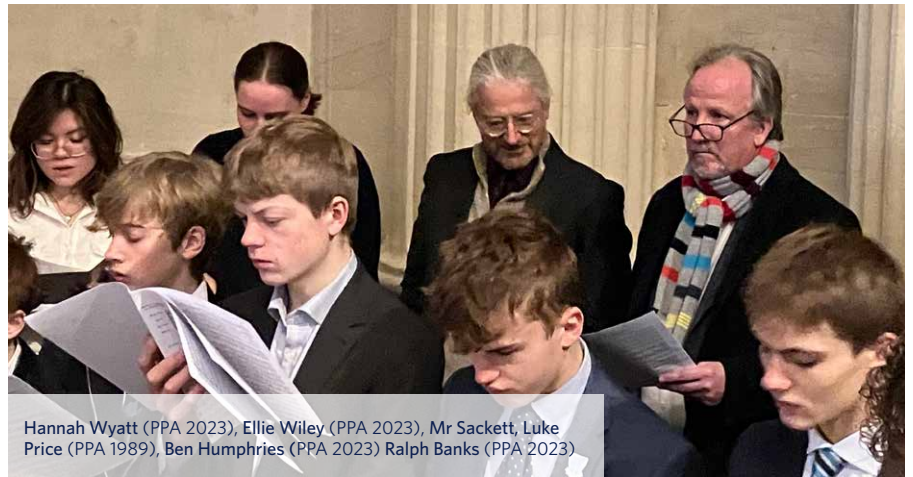
By Nick Blayney (PPA 1975)

I developed a love for singing whilst at Prior. I sang in the Jubilee Celebrations in '74 when the record was made, Ronald (aka Toffee) Palmer directing and I have sung in choirs all my life, wherever I have worked.

It was therefore an absolute delight to be invited to the Alumni Choir Mass in December last.

That there is a strong musical department at Prior was immediately obvious, in the very capable and talented hands of Matt Nichols and Dave Sackett. Music was doled out and enthusiastically rehearsed, some great and well-known pieces. I was sitting next to another alumnus who had a superb voice, so I told him so. It only turned out it was **Luke Price** (PPA 1989), tenor at the Royal Opera House! They say that the best way to improve your singing is to sing with a group that is better than you: that I certainly achieved. Luke works with the musical staff at Prior to offer singing workshops. You lucky people!

The Chapel at Prior has a wonderful acoustic and I like to think that we did it justice with our musical contribution to the worship. It was very nice to be back. Refreshments in the Mansion House reminded me of the pre-Christmas excitement that I recall from my



Hannah Wyatt (PPA 2023), Ellie Wiley (PPA 2023), Mr Sackett, Luke Price (PPA 1989), Ben Humphries (PPA 2023) Ralph Banks (PPA 2023)



time at Prior: and that breathtaking view.

I am sorry to be missing it this year, but only because I am singing in a concert the night before. Next year, DV.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Great to see Alumni enjoying the end of term Carol Service. The Chapel looks beautiful, and the choirs sing magnificently. Many of you will remember the voice of an L3 student singing the first few lines of 'Once in Royal David's City' it is hauntingly beautiful.



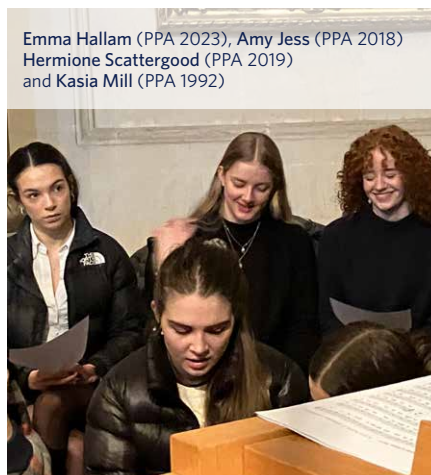
Letty Allen and Clemmie Mortimer (PPA 2021)



Tom Clark, James Dorey, Olivia Matthews (PPA 2017) and Bella Chicco (PPA 2022)



Nick Blayney (PPA 1975) and Patrick Fulton (PPA 2019)



Emma Hallam (PPA 2023), Amy Jess (PPA 2018)
Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019)
and Kasia Mill (PPA 1992)



We'll miss you and welcome

Alumni Staff News

We were sad to say goodbye to **Olivia Matthews** (PPA 2017) who spent a year at the College working in the Marketing Department as Marketing and Communications Officer. Olivia's enthusiasm and passion for all things Prior will be missed by staff and students alike.

After spending some time interrailing Olivia moved up to London where she is thoroughly enjoying her new role as Marketing Manager for Byron Burgers.



Olivia Matthews

Huge Congratulations to **Nat Cordon** (PPA 2008) on her marriage to Oli Kershaw on 17th December last year. Nat is Assistant Head (teaching and learning) responsible for improving the quality of education at the College. She is also a teacher of Geography and responsible for the Navy section of the College CCF. When she's not sharing her love for all things outdoors with the students,



Nat Cordon. Photo © John Cordon

Nat loves to spend time in the mountains and recently returned from a 5-week road trip mountaineering in Chamonix, Slovenia and the Dolomites. We are also delighted to announce that Nat and Oli are expecting their first baby in January. Their little pickle has already summited a few peaks, with more amazing family adventures surely to come - we wish them all the best

Justin Avenell (PPA 2018). Did you hear about the goal he scored during hockey? Best ever at Prior Park apparently... If you ever managed to find Justin



Justin Avenell

not playing, talking or watching sport, it would be a concern. With his unabated enthusiasm for all things Prior Park, pupils, boarding community, staff, catering, anything and everything, Justin was exceptional!

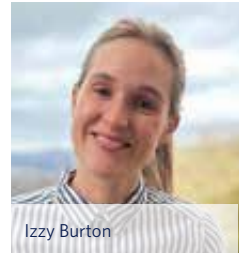
Justin worked as a rugby coach in the sports department, where he was extremely popular with the boys and coached the U14s to the quarter finals at Rosslyn Park. He also worked in the Commercial Department where he turned his hand to every job. He served at the bar at weddings, "no problem, let's add some specials to the board", fix a flow problem at the swimming pool, "let me see what I can do", provide weekend lifeguarding sessions for the boarders, "what time do you need me", nothing was too much trouble, or beyond the bounds, of what Justin was prepared to help with.

There were reports that he may have been a little mischievous as a student... not many will forget the stories told by Simon Cane-Hardy on Justin's last day.

We wish him all the very best at Millfield where he will join as a rugby coach, the only shock will be seeing Justin in different, non-Prior sports kit!

Many congratulations to **Izzy Burton** (PPA 2005) who was promoted to Deputy Head (Pastoral) this year. As well as teaching English, Izzy loves to spend time with her

two children, Olive (aged 10) and Bertie (aged 9). Olive will be joining Prior Park in Year 7 next year. Izzy continues to love running and writing and being on the sidelines to watch College sport on Saturdays.



Izzy Burton

Jemma Crawley (PPA 1994) has joined the LDP Department from her role at The Paragon and is also a tutor to girls In English House.



Jemma Crawley

Since leaving Prior Park she has had a varied career path, including a stint at the auction house Christies, before finally setting upon primary teaching. She moved back to Bath in 2012 and has had the great fortune of bumping into many other alumni all over the place. It does seem that Prior spreads its tendrils all around; once Prior always Prior.

James Timbrell (PPA 2009) has joined the Languages Department from Royal Wootton Bassett Academy. Since leaving, he has had the good fortune to study,



James Timbrell

live and travel his way to some wonderful Latin America countries and Spain. This led to a career in teaching where he can, on a daily basis, share and enjoy the process of learning about the amazing languages and cultures in the Hispanic world. He is also teaching Business and he enjoys coaching and refereeing the U15B Rugby team. It is his particular joy (and relief) that he is back in Clifford House, this time as a tutor.



Former Staff News

Dr Rob Trott joined Prior Park in 1990 from Epsom College. Impressing everyone with his professionalism and empathy, Rob quickly moved through the pastoral ranks at Prior, becoming firstly the housemaster of Burton in 1999, before he and Kate became residents of Prior when Rob took up the role of housemaster of Roche.



Rob Trott

At that time, Rob was a keen sportsman and very much part of the sports community at Prior. One dusty memory from the Rob Trott sporting archive was the time he was in charge of the U15 rugby side and amongst his charges was one Ollie Robinson. Ollie's father, the England Rugby Team manager at the time, was watching from the sideline – Rob said he never felt so nervous refereeing a match!

CCF was another area that Rob excelled in. On one occasion, whilst demonstrating how to get over a wall safely, another teacher, Mr Pearn, decided to lean against him at just the right moment to ensure that Rob's wrist was snapped and broken. Not wanting the boys to be aware of the injury, Rob said nothing and carried on for the rest of the residency. On his return to Prior he had to have an operation to sort things out.

As head of science, one of his many achievements was running the Operation Wallacea expeditions. OW is a biodiversity and climate research organisation, which also encourages students to become more involved in geopolitics and in supporting local communities. Rob has taken students to Indonesia, Cuba, Dominica, and, next summer, Honduras. These trips will ensure those lucky students will have life memories.

Rob is an incredibly dedicated and professional teacher and what a kind and caring human being he has always been. 'Service' is a very old-fashioned word, but Rob is the best example I can think of for a living demonstration of that particular attribute. Service to his community, to his students, to his staff and department. It is service based upon impeccable principles, standards and beliefs, backed up by a very honest work ethic

and intellectual engagement with his subject.

Rob has been an inspiration to so many, you are adored by all of us, and will be deeply missed. Thank you, and we all wish you the very happiest of retirements.

Simon Cane-Hardy has been a superb Deputy Head overseeing the pastoral focus of the school in his seven-year tenure. He has modernised our systems, developed new ones and he has given great leadership. They say a leader needs both integrity and an awareness of those they serve, and he has had this in spades. He is a fair, calm man, and he has always had the care of the students at the heart of everything he does. He knows and considers each individual child, and he has made a huge difference to many young lives. Simon has worked closely with the nine heads of house, and he has always given support and timely important guidance. Many of us have learnt our trade alongside him and we could not have had a better person to do this with. We will miss his wise counsel, warmth, and true friendship.



Simon Cane-Hardy

Away from his pastoral role, Simon is a keen sportsman, and he is often on the games field or watching the students perform in matches. He is a fine cricketer and tennis player. He leaves us this summer to take up his first headship at Gordonstoun and we know he will do a great job. It is our sad loss that he is moving but his new school have gained a talented leader.

Dan Moore joined Prior almost 20 years ago as a professional glass blower and he came to the College with the vision of making DT a subject to be proud of. He soon saw the fruits of his labour; student numbers increased, and the department managed to get investment in new machines, equipment, and more DT staff. Throughout all this success, Dan was the glue that bonded the department together and made it work.



Dan Moore

Dan has always been more than a DT Technician and he has consistently changed and challenged himself to move with the subject. He has learned and, in most cases, taught himself how to work with a wide range of materials and machinery.

Arguably Dan's biggest success from his time at Prior is how he developed into an outstanding teacher. Dan taught groups at Key Stage 3 and like the rest of the staff, they all absolutely love him. Dan also taught elements of the GCSE and A Level courses and is particularly good at mentoring students through their final practical piece. When they got stuck, there is always one person they could turn to – Master Yoda himself – Dan Moore. He is patient, kind and caring, and will go out of his way to help and support anyone.

Dan leaves us to fulfil his and his wife's dream of living abroad, renovating a house in France then hopefully setting up a small B&B business. I'm not going to lie; we are gutted he is going but we wish him and Dena all the very best.

Matt Jones joined the College in 2017 and was allocated to Clifford House as F4 tutor – Matt was and still is a wonderful tutor who puts the



Matt Jones

students at the very centre of all he does. He quickly earned the nickname of Tigger due to all the energy and enthusiasm he brought to the House. Clifford House values back in the 2017s were self-reliance, positive thinking and leaving people and places better than you find them. Matt did this superbly as a tutor, his annual outings to tidy up St Christopher's Church in Ditterage with his tutor group did not go unnoticed by the local community.

Matt has also been head of business and economics, producing fantastic results in both; head of digital learning – Matt was the driving force in getting Microsoft Teams, OneNote and many other platforms underway at Prior Park. He set up the first Business BTEC at PPC and was Lead on Gold DoFE. Matt was also coach and referee of many rugby teams, and his water bottle management skills have been truly outstanding. Thank you, Matt, for all you have done and enjoy your new role at St Joseph's in Reading.



Working the First Land Rover

By Ian Haddon (PPA 1962)

I had always wanted to work for myself, but prospects in the UK in 1965 when I left college were not good. The £10 passage to Australia, New Zealand and Canada was very tempting. But of course you had to stay in any one country for two years which was not something I wanted to do.

About that time I happened to read Tim Slesser's book *First Overland* about his and his fellow students' journey from England to Singapore in Series 1 Land Rovers. One was light blue (Cambridge) and one dark blue (Oxford). Why couldn't I do something similar, and work my way around the world?

So I teamed up with a friend Rick Bent who was a qualified engineer - a good decision as we never broke down. We bought a new short wheel base Series 2 Land Rover and in April 1967 left Taunton in Somerset and headed for France, not knowing what an adventure was ahead of us. In those days you could not get work in Europe but we managed to get a job on a French farm in the Chablis region where we fell in love with the French girls and spent what little money we had on them.

We moved on to Switzerland where lady luck was with us. Our contact knew all the right people and we soon had a work permit, a resident's permit, and a place to camp next to the depot where we worked for six Swiss francs an hour! Our earnings funded us all the way to India.

“ I had five Aussie dollars to my name ”

By a stroke of good fortune 1967 was the year of the tourist, so we didn't need visas for entry to most countries. Travelling through Persia was a joy it was so civilised. Afghanistan was a safe and beautiful country. You could park your unlocked vehicle in the



most remote village and enjoy the best tea in the East knowing that no one would steal your wheels.

From there we managed to drive through no man's land between Pakistan and India without them commandeering the Land Rover. Then disaster. Unbeknown to us, the Arab/Israeli war had started and the Suez Canal had closed, preventing any boats getting through to Bombay. We managed to get the Land Rover on to the last boat out of India to Freemantle, while we had to take the train to Madras, the SS Rajula to Penang, another train down to Singapore, and a flight to Perth.

I had five Aussie dollars to my name, but our contact in Perth, the lovely Mews

family, found us a room and by the next day we were both working. After Christmas, and retrieving the Land Rover from bond storage in Freemantle, we went north to Port Hedland. Rick got a job on the vast salt pans while I got a job driving a Cat 769 dump truck building the railway from Port Hedland to Mt Newman.

Seven months later and now with plenty of money, we drove across Australia to Sydney, then north to Brisbane where we met an old friend in Surfers Paradise and decided to stay a while. The town consisted of one bar and about 150 houses - unrecognisable today.

Then we took the boat to Panama via Tahiti and, teaming up with two Aussies, travelled



Around the World



up through central America. In Costa Rica we heard the volcano Mt Arenal had erupted, sending lava down on to the valley below. It wiped out an entire village except for a few inhabitants who had gone to the local market that morning. Because we had a four-wheel drive we managed to get to the scene a few weeks after; in fact my photos are the only record of the disaster.

We drove north through Mexico, crossing at Laredo into Texas and then to Canada where we worked at Sid Cohen's Sunoco Service Station pumping gas and covering the 24-hour breakdown service. After a very cold winter we set off for Vancouver with our new friends Rosemary and Shelagh to discover that Canada is a very large country. From Vancouver we drove all over the USA

which was very different to how it is now. The Grand Canyon was not over developed, you could walk alone around the ruins of the Mesa Verde, and explore remote abandoned gold mining towns. We also watched the first landing on the moon in a roadside diner with Ute and Navajo Indians.

“ We sold the Land Rover (one careful owner!) ”

Then we caught the QE2 back to Southampton and on to the Winchester Arms in Taunton for a refreshing pint of beer or two. We had been away two and a half years. We sold the

Land Rover (one careful owner!) and used the money to help start an incoming tour operation which we ran successfully until the business was sold in 1995.

About two years ago I found an old photo in my desk drawer with the Land Rover registration number on it. I put it into the DVLA website and it came up. The vehicle was eventually found on a farm in the Pennines and we picked it up and brought it on a trailer down to Quantock Classics in Bridgwater for a full restoration.

Harking back to Tim Slessor, sadly “Cambridge” was written off but “Oxford” has been found, restored and driven back from Singapore to London. It is now the subject of a three-part film and book.

Photos on this page © Classic Landrover



Laurie Ibbitt



Father John Twist



Peter Broadbent with HRH The Prince of Wales



Chris Harrison

1950 – 1959

Laurie Ibbitt (PPA 1957) writes: I retired as a Detective Chief Inspector and emigrated to South Africa and currently live in Pretoria and after 60 years am still married to my wife Liz. I have two children, both girls, one married and living in South Carolina, USA and the other living in Pretoria and working with me in BSAP Investigations. We have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I have kept in touch with John Ware who was in my class at Prior. In fact he and his wife visited my family in Pretoria a few years ago on a tour of South Africa. My Brother Chris became a doctor and emigrated to Canada. He too has now retired. My other brother Trevor lives in Swindon. Both were at Cricklade (PPA 1956).

I am still working on searching for ancient beneficiaries of British, American, EU and Australian wills. Love it.

David (Charley) Lumsden (PPA 1958) writes: I was at Cricklade and PPC from 1948 to 1958 – I was always interested in the extracurricular activities – cricket, hockey, shooting and music rather than the academic work! I played the organ at school and for the last 25 years have been the organist at Corpus Christi in Wokingham.

I have been a league hockey umpire since I stopped playing. Having been a trustee of the Jumbulance Trust I have been running “Berkshire Respite Holidays” for the less able, taking groups all over Europe for experiences they could never have had without our support.

Elaine and I have been married for 53 years and we have three children and three granddaughters and they all live close by, which is wonderful. My younger brother, Malcolm (PPA 1959), works a small farm near Thornton, north of Toronto. I see Charles Beard (PPA 1961) occasionally.

Andy Owen (PPA 1957) was a good friend at school and when he was alive he used to get groups together for golf or lunch – Peter Calnan (PPA 1955), Barry Pews (PPA 1958), Anthony (Jake) Saul (PPA 1955), Alec Motts (PPA 1955), Peter Cave (PPA 1957) and others when we laughed about the old times!

Father John Twist (PPA 1959) is presently working in Saint Aloysius’ parish in central Glasgow. He writes: I have been here for six years, but this is my second session here, as I was also in this parish in the years 1998 to 2005. In the 12-year gap between 2005 and 2018, I was chaplain at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire. My main recreation is walking, and Glasgow is ideal for this, being surrounded by great Scottish countryside (Loch Lomond is only 30km away).

Tony Watts (PPA 1959) is fully retired from his research and public-policy work in career development. He is now engaged in social-history projects and he recently published a history of the evacuation of London University Colleges to Cambridge in the Second World War. He is currently working on a history of club cricket in Cambridge (where he continues to live and is a Fellow Commoner of St Catharine’s College).

Barry Pews (PPA 1958) writes: I was contacted in May by Octavio Riberio (PPA 1958) We were both in Ronald Palmer’s Art class in 1957/58. We had not

had any contact until out of the blue Octavio sent me an email and we have kept in touch ever since. He calls me every couple of months from St. John, New Brunswick in Canada where he is retired after lecturing in Art at local colleges. He is still an active artist, exhibiting and selling his works locally.

In his own words he says.....

I taught in Bristol for seven years before moving to Saint John, New Brunswick after answering an advertisement in the Times Educational Supplement. Saint John is a small city which was very important in the days of sail. Hundreds of sailing ships, including those that took people to Australia were built here, as were the modern frigates. Alas, the shipyard has moved to Nova Scotia and there is little industry here now.

I tried to move to Ottawa and was told that I could teach in Ontario on condition that I got a Canadian degree. So, I got a B.A. in Art History and English Literature at Carleton University, and later did an Honours in Art History.

I could not find a permanent post in Ottawa so returned to Saint John and decided to make my life here. I retired in 1997 from teaching and rented a studio in town. I display my paintings in a commercial gallery and have had moderate success, but not enough to make a living out of it.

I keep in touch with Cesar Guillen (PPA 1958) one of Ronald Palmer’s star pupils.

1960 – 1969

Peter Broadbent (PPA 1964) received the MBE from HRH The Prince of Wales in December 2022 for services to music. Internationally recognised as one of the leading choral conductors in the UK, he performs, records and broadcasts throughout Europe. Peter also teaches conducting in the UK and Europe, appears on juries of International Competitions, and has examined for ABRSM in the UK, Singapore, Malaysia and the USA. He was awarded the Pro Cultura Hungarica by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture, for services to Anglo-Hungarian relations, and in 2016 he was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.

Michael Druce (PPA 1967) writes: Since I last wrote 10 years ago, life continues to be good in the US, we’ve been here since 1994. My family has grown, four sons, two daughters in law and two lovely granddaughters. I am still working and have owned my own company for the last 12 years, selling cosmetic packaging.

Chris Harrison (PPA 1962) I am just back from a week in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA where each year the world’s biggest air show is held. The largest and smallest aircraft are on display as are manufacturers of all the latest innovations in air transport. There are also symposia on all topics of aviation from universities to home building techniques. During the day there are air displays by fighter jets, formation teams of classic warbirds, fly pasts of World War Two bombers like B29 super fortress, B17 and B25. Also in attendance was the early transatlantic airliner the super Constellation. Spectacularly there was an air show after dark where a formation aerobatic team with pyrotechnics and smoke provided an astounding display. Approximately 11,000 visiting aircraft were present. This is a real Mecca for aviation fans.



Chris ("Morry") Morrell (PPA 1964). Belated news that Morry was awarded an MBE in 2012 for 'Services to School Sport' at Buckingham Palace by (the then) Prince Charles.

Phil Harvey (PPA 1962) Phil writes that he recently celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary with his wife Sue. He retired from teaching in 2004, he now lives back in Burnham-on-Sea on the Somerset coast, where he met and married Sue all those years ago. This year he also ceased to be a local councillor, having served 30 years as a district councillor, mainly in Chelmsford where he was council leader for five years, and 11 years as a town councillor in Burnham. He now has more time for gardening, reading and church activities.

Wilfred de Freitas (PPA 1962) On his recent summer visit to the UK Wilfrid met up with Peter Hilton (PPA 1962) and Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964). Wilfrid and his wife Susan continue their antiquarian bookselling business, travelling extensively throughout the United States, Canada and the UK. He's also in touch with Michael Somerscales (PPA 1962) in Oregon, Ian Short (PPA 1962) in Vancouver and occasionally with Sean (Michael) Biddulph (PPA 1962) and Philip Wight (PPA 1962), both in the UK. He sends greetings to any of his contemporaries and would be glad to hear from anyone by e-mail at wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com

John Green (PPA 1968) visited the College with his son Josh. John is back in the UK from his US home in Seattle and says he will be back next year for the Mansion Lunch 2024.

Chris Dowse (PPA 1967) writes: Five years ago I walked the South West Coast Path for Prostate Cancer UK and the Rotary End Polio Now campaign and managed to raise £14,000 with the help of many amazingly generous people. Prostate Cancer was important because I was successfully treated for it in 2008 and eliminating Polio worldwide is an important aim of Rotary of which I am a member. In 2020 I was diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia, hence my wish to try to raise funds for Blood Cancer UK.

For logistical reasons I decided to do the walk in two parts - Offa's Dyke in June and the Wales Coast Path from July through to October, finishing on my 75th birthday in October.

Christopher Ryland (PPA 1962) Chris has recovered from two operations- (double bypass & shoulder replacement) and is pleased to advise that all the new bits are working well-so back to the golf course 3 days a week. Chris retired from aviation (Hawker Siddeley) 24 years ago and he and Carol (married 57 years) now live on five acres at Coffs Harbour NSW (Australia) with two horses, two dogs and chooks- both involved in Probus, VIEW Club & Rotary.

In June, the class of 1968 gathered for their 55th anniversary reunion (see report on page 10). Meanwhile, **Ted Bennitt** has finally retired and is enjoying life with his wife Henriette at their home outside Rotterdam. Ted loves to ski and has recently become a proficient scuba diver. **Fabian Jowers**, who was awarded the PPA Medal a couple of years ago, continues his good works in Uganda. **Peter Rippon** is still living in Manhattan, making stylish mirrors while overseeing the family property portfolio in the UK. **Charlie Murray** retired as a GP in Croydon and is now

living in Bahrain with his Bahreini wife, Awatif. **Peter Marsden** and his wife Fiona are up in Manchester, where Peter, now retired, used to work as a lawyer. Another lawyer, **Rafe Pigott**, is still working in Essex. **Mike Maher**, a retired GP, is up in Warwickshire. Not far away, **Rick Jarrams** is still a keen supporter of his beloved West Bromwich Albion. Alongside his GP duties, he was for a long time the club doctor. He is now retired. Another GP, **Marek Podkolinski**, is in Salisbury. **Tim Heining** and his wife Rosenilda divide their time between Brazil, where Tim worked for Lloyds Bank for many years, and Kew. Their son George is moving from Madrid to Los Angeles to take charge of JCB's operations in the American West. This will mean even more travelling for the Heining's, if only to keep in touch with their grandchildren. **Charles "Dixie" Dean** is living a quiet, contemplative life in Yorkshire, where he goes by his Buddhist name, Saccavacaya. **Rob Camacho** is still on the north side of Bristol, although he spends many of his summer weekends in the Vale of Pewsey in Wiltshire, where he and his brothers still have a patch of land that remains from their parents' estate. **Terry Illott** and his wife Heather visited Rob there on a very hot day last summer. Terry spends most of his time in North London, writing. Another writer is **Ken Edwards**, whose *Collected Poems, 1975 - 2020*, was recently published by Shearsman Books. Ken has also published three novels and a memoir of the 1970s, *Wild Metrics*. He lives on the South Coast, not far from **John Evans**, who, with his wife Diane, seems to be constantly on grandparent duty for their children in Sussex, Cambridge and Sutton Coldfield. Also in Sussex is **Phil Hamerton**, who has finally retired after a long career in the Ambulance Service. **Dave Peckham** and his partner Carrie are successfully rebuilding their business, Mandarin Consult, which was wrecked by the Covid lockdowns. They coach international students, mostly Chinese, who wish to study in American and British universities. **Joe Loughlin** is living quietly in Dorset. He sees a lot of **Andrew "Spike" Colter**, who is still living in Jersey. Spike is a keen long-distance walker and has recently completed the Camino from both ends, the Cotswold Way and the South Downs Way. **Mike Brotherton**, who recently recovered from surgery on his jaw, is down in Devon. **Tim Walsh** is in Bristol, not far from **Kevin Steer**, who retired from the chairmanship of architectural practice, Stride Treglown. Kev spends part of his time helping to build housing in Nepal. **Kieran Shaw** is still down in New Zealand and still making music. **Chris Cutcliffe** is living in Surrey with his wife Julia. He spends a lot of time volunteering for wildlife conservation. Chris's twin daughters are nearby. **Steve Sturton Davies** and his wife Sue still have their animal hospital down in Sussex. Meanwhile, **Norman Sparrow** is in Lanzarote rebuilding his whale-watching business, which was badly affected by the Covid lockdowns. **Pat Curran** keeps in touch from his base in Lincolnshire. **Ron Turley** has gone through the wars healthwise. It was great to see him strong enough to attend the June reunion. He is recovering steadily. **Geoff Cardozo** is living in France, while **Peter Coates** is in Norfolk. Both are PPA medallists, and both are regular attendees at the fortnightly Zoom meetings organised by **Terry Illott**. These started at the beginning of April 2020 and, heading towards their 100th edition, are still going strong. Every time Terry suggests reducing their frequency (he is mindful that the lockdowns are long behind us and people might have other things to do with their time) there are howls of protest. So fortnightly they remain. The



Chris Morrell



Phil and Sue Harvey



Wilfred de Freitas



Chris Dowse



John Greene and his son Josh



David and Doreen Barber

68 vintage is generally beset by all the health problems associated with ageing, but they take it in good spirit. They are a tight-knit group.

David Barber (PPA 1961) and his wife Doreen visited the College as they wished to commission a painting from Rachel Wright (PPA 2002) of the Mansion. They had a lovely tour of the College followed by a lunch. It was 'Fish Friday' so they definitely had a treat!

1970 – 1979

Julian Roberts (PPA 1972) was appointed Kings Counsel (Hon.) in 2023. Julian is Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford, and Executive Director of the Sentencing Academy. The Academy is devoted to improving sentencing in England and Wales.

Peter Gravelle (PPA 1971) just found this self-portrait circa 1970 from a Toffee Palmer art class and he writes that he would like to try and make it back to Prior and see the Toffee Palmer bust.



Simon Morgan (PPA 1974), Maldon District Councillor, and **Anthony McQuiggan** (PPA 1974), Essex County Councillor.



Anthony McQuiggan and Simon Morgan



Nicholas Evans

Nicholas Evans (PPA 1973) is training to be a Mayor's Bath Guide. For his certificate, he has to do a short presentation on something he is interested in concerning the city and decided to do his on the John Wood Chapel.

Supported by PPC royalty!! **David Adair** (PPA 1976) - one of the PPC winning team at Rosslyn Park in 1976 went to watch the boys at Rosslyn Park where he also bumped into Mr Faulkner and Mr Baxter.



Mark Lunt

Mark Lunt (PPA 1973) writes 'After 43 years, five months and 24 days (not that I was counting) I retired from the patent profession in April 2021. I have been in both industrial practice, first for Burmah-Castrol and then later for Black & Decker, and in private practice. The last twenty years of my career as a partner in HGF Limited. I continued playing rugby after leaving Prior Park, both at Swansea University (where I read Oceanography and Zoology) and subsequently for Sefton Park and later Henley Rugby Club. But now I just play golf, tennis, cycle and walk, and ski! I married Alison in 1989 and we have three children and, since last December, a first grandchild.



John Mascarenhas

John Mascarenhas (PPA 1976) visited the College and thoroughly enjoyed wandering around. It was particularly interesting to meet someone who had actually walked around the chapel ledge!

John Budd (PPA 1973) writes: I had a wonderful career in the Probation Service lasting 35 years before retiring in 2015. I am still happily married after 43 years and have two children and two very young grandchildren who keep us both busy and entertained. Enduring the perils of advancing age, I have had two hip replacements which for a few years have curtailed the enjoyment of playing golf and travelling. It was only too easy to lose contact with old colleagues from



David Adair

Prior Park and for many years I had no contact with old friends. In more recent years, thanks mainly to the sterling efforts of the late and much missed Gerry Thwaites, we did have several meet ups in London where it was very good to see schoolmates again.

Tony Lombard (PPA 1975) writes, 'Earlier in the summer, **Michael (aka Micky) Davis** (PPA 1976) visited Gibraltar and took the opportunity to meet up with **Tony Lombard** and **Joe Holliday** (PPA 1977) and over luncheon at the Queensway Quay Marina, to joyfully reminisce over their many years together at Prior, with much banter and laughter, and with no one stopping to draw breath!

Joe was, of course, Head Boy of his year and Tony was Sacristan of the School Chapel and Deputy Head Boy, and Micky was a Prefect and longstanding Organist of the School Chapel. Indeed, such was Micky's exceptional and much admired musical prowess, that whilst at Prior, and despite his young age, he was requested to travel back to Gibraltar. There he played the organ at the Episcopal Ordination and Enthronement, of the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Edward Rapallo, as Bishop of Gibraltar. He has featured in a book, which has been recently published, about the saintly Bishop, on the 50th anniversary of the occasion.

Micky initially followed a career in teaching and, subsequently, in the financial sector, spending many years in Malta as chief compliance officer and MLRO for FIMBank plc. Currently, he is in London, heading compliance at a Saudi Arabian Bank, and he returns to Gibraltar periodically. He is married with three children and one grandchild. In fact, his eldest daughter is married to Richard Makhoul, son of old boy **Gabs Makhoul** (PPA 1978) who currently serves as Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland.

Tony followed a career in the law and has discharged numerous part-time judicial and public service offices, including having been appointed honorary consul of Poland at Gibraltar, and the Right Worshipful Mayor of Gibraltar.

Joe joined and succeeded to his father's multi-natured commercial enterprises, and also headed the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce organization, representing most of the major business enterprises in Gibraltar. He also embarked upon a political career, serving for over sixteen years, as a member of the Gibraltar Parliament and also deputy chief minister of Gibraltar, whilst discharging an additional twelve ministries. He is also a member of the Consultative Council of Gibraltar, and patron of the local Gibraltar Prior Park School. He is married, with three children and three grandchildren.

Tony took the opportunity to attend the luncheon wearing his old - [and very narrow!] - 1969 Baines House Prior Park Tie, and which has clearly seen better days.

'Memories' ... and as Tony always says: 'in the end, that is all we are left with'.

John Greene (PPA 1979) visited the College just before half term and he recounted how he used to jump up and hold on to the top of the arch in the Errington Corridor and then swing up and do a backwards handstand above the arch where no one could see him! Luckily he was dissuaded from having a try for old times sake!

Julian Fonseca (PPA 1970) framed some sports photos for us of teams including his father in the early 30s and his era, late 60s. The photos will all be added to the



John Budd



Tony Lombard



John Greene



Julian Fonseca



Martin Adamu

digital archive and I am sure many of you will enjoy looking at your younger selves. Thank you to Julian!

1980 – 1989

Martin Adamu (PPA 1986) is the Nigerian Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and he came to speak to the Sixth Form in the Chapel about a career in Diplomacy.

Ben Lumley-Smith (PPA 1982) tells us that one of his sons is studying architecture (part of the reason for visiting) and another sports science at Loughborough (and currently working for Virgin Media). He moved back from Asia recently and is doing a very long charity walk in Spain for the British Heart Foundation and a local charity (Orchard Vale) that helps older people with special needs.

Ben writes about his trek: 'On March 29th, I will be taking my first step on a 830km solo charity trek across northern Spain (the Camino Del Norte) in memory of my cousin Tom who sadly passed away three days before his 40th birthday with Sudden Death Syndrome (heart related). Tom always wanted to walk the Camino but unfortunately never got the chance. I am raising funds for two charities:

- 1) The British Heart Foundation ; and
- 2) Orchard Vale Trust (www.orchardvaletrust.org.uk), a registered charity, based near Wells, Somerset,

that provides four residential care homes for 31 residents who have a mixture of learning difficulties. The aim of the charity is to provide a home for life.

This is the link for the JustGiving webpage that I have set up specifically for my trek and where people can make donations that will go directly to the respective charities. I will be giving weekly updates as I progress via my charity Instagram account, and the relevant link is below.

I am hoping that Prior can help me spread the word so that I can generate as much support and donations as possible. I am humbly grateful for any support Prior can give.' (@benedict_camino_charitytrek) • Instagram photos and videos bit.ly

Scott Hadley (PPA 1988) visited the College with his family from St Vincent. We found his old bedspace and he remembered going to Mass in the John Wood Chapel to get out of prep!

Chris McMahon (PPA 1982) writes: "We met up in a bar in Cape Town, SA, in late Jan '23. **Martin Pike** (PPA 1982) has lived in SA for the last 14 years and is the founding partner and MD of BSP Group, focused on Executive Search for Emerging Markets.

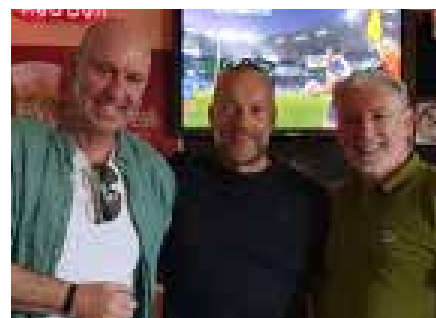
Paddy Mason (PPA 1982) is the founder and MD of GRAIL, an international Private Security firm based in SA. Martin and Paddy see each other regularly and I'm hoping to see him on my next trip to SA. Truly great to catch up.

For the record, I manage Ireland, the Middle East and Africa for an amazing Cambridge based software house, whose solutions defend banks and financial services firms around the globe against fraudsters and scammers. The scourge of the modern day connected world. Any data scientist out there, please get in contact.

Stephen Rodger (PPA 1984) sold his investment business and retired five years ago and can now be found either managing the family office from a comfy chair or skulking in the Scottish undergrowth as a wildlife photographer in pursuit of some animal



Ben Lumley-Smith



Chris McMahon, John (Paddy) Mason and Martin Pike



Scott Hadley

or other. He has been fortunate enough to have won some awards for his photography and has been shortlisted in 2024's upcoming British Wildlife Photography Awards. You can find him at www.instagram.com/stephenrodger He lives in Scotland just outside of Edinburgh with his wife Susan, and their three children.

Christine Gallaher's (PPA 1985) family popped into the College to have a look at her name in the New Founders Garden.

Tim Murphy (PPA 1980), **John Greene** (PPA 1979) and **Karim Ghaidan** (PPA 1980) visited the College and we went around all of their old haunts and many funny stories were remembered! They were amazed at the changes particularly the Sixth Form Centre and there was much racking of brain about what used to be where!

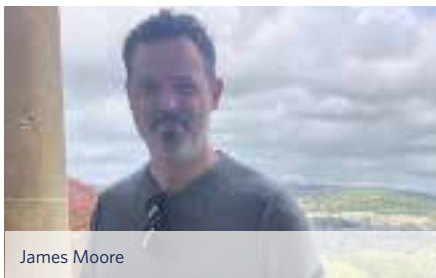
We are delighted to share news of **Dr Dominic Cave's** (PPA 1989) Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal award. Dominic is the zone clinical department head at Alberta Health Services. He also serves as board chair for Western Canadian Children's Heart Network.



Dominic Cave



Tim Murphy, John Greene, Karim Ghaidan



James Moore



Sally Land



Sam Robinson and friends



Sebastian Paschke

1990 – 1999

James Moore (PPA 1994) came to the College Open Morning with his wife and daughter who is considering joining Prior in a couple of years. Hopefully we will see another generation of the Moore family in the future.

Sally Land (PPA 1992) came for a tour of the College and was treated to a delicious lunch in the Dining Hall. Sally is a journalist with The Sun newspaper and writes the Dear Deidre pages.

Sam Robinson (PPA 1992) writes: 'So many of us have been meeting up over the years in various locations around the world from surfing in Indonesia to hiking in Cornwall. This year myself, **Jeremy Stratton** (NZ) (PPA 1992), **Simon Pearce** (USA) (PPA 1992), **Mark Taylor** (PPA 1992), **Andrew Littledale** (PPA 1992), **Edward Bodkin** (AUS) (PPA 1992), **Joseph Robinson**, **Sholto Sanders** and **Daniel Brightman** (PPA 1991) all met up and walked part of the south coastal path. Last year, all of the above also arranged a get together with some of the girls, **Kasia Mill**, **Emily Wilford**, **Alice Rose**, **Rachel Savine**.

Next year for our collective 50th year we plan a big cycling and hiking trip in France.

Sebastian Paschke (PPA 1999) joined Prior for the spring and summer term in 1998, where he was a Lower Sixth Form student at Roche House, studying economics, maths and physics. Sebastian lives in Bolzano, Northern Italy, where he is working as an architect specialising in residential and hotel projects. In 2019, he got married to his long-time fiancé Orsetta, followed by a three week honeymoon in Costa Rica. They both love to travel and during a roadtrip in Southwest England, they took the chance to visit Bath for the first time after almost 25 years.

Mark Hunt-Bryden (PPA 1997) came back to the College for the first time. We found his name on the Burton House board and saw the classrooms where he studied English and theology.

Jane Crozier (PPA 1997) and **Dominic Egge** (PPA 1994) popped into the College on their way into Bath. We went and had a look at the chapel which they both spent much time in as members of Senior Chapel Choir. Dom bumped into former classmate **Jemma Crawley** (PPA 1994) who has just joined the teaching staff at the College.

Paul Burke (PPA 1997) and his daughter, Georgia, came for a tour of the College. Georgia showed more than a polite interest in her dad's old school. Indeed, it's her dad's, uncle's and aunt's old school too.

2000 – 2010

Lea Stankovic (PPA 2003) lives in Belgrade and works in advertising and as a screenwriter internationally.

Hannah Lethby, **Mark Lethby** (PPA 2003) are at **Bobojon Nazarov** (PPA 2003) and **Nodira's** wedding which took place in the summer. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Sophie White (PPA 2001) collected a wonderful **Rachel Wright** (PPA 2002) painting of the College. Sophie was visiting as her son was sitting the 11+ exam.



Mark Hunt-Bryden



Jane Crozier



Dominic Egge and Jemma Crawley



Paul Burke and his daughter Georgia



Lea Stankovic



Hannah and Mark Lethby at Bobojon's wedding



Brian Harrall, a friend, Laurent Rathborn and Tim Birts in Malta, 2019



Sophie White



Camilla Polson



Benedict Hastings



Ashley Nicholls



Tom Strelczak

Fingers crossed we see the next generation of Whites in September.

Laurent Rathborn (PPA 2003) writes: I am currently working for the Home Office as an analyst in the Midlands. I'm enjoying it. There's something interesting every day. I also recently started up a works archery club, and I've been a coach in that sport since university. I'm looking forwards to moving back to Bath at some point.

Prior - friends for life.

Camilla Polson (PPA 2008), pictured left, with her fiancé and his friend from school, Simon Cane-Hardy, our deputy head. Camilla has just had a little girl, Daphne, and one day we might see the next generation of Polsons at the College.

Benedict Hastings (PPA 2008) starred in the Olivier Award-winning production 'Hey Duggee The Live Theatre Show'. Ben starred in the production in the dual role of Duggee and the Narrator. Ben is an actor, puppeteer, musician and singer.

Ashley Nicholls (PPA 2004) visited with Emily Walter whose mum **Hillary Westacott** (PPA 1987) was one of the first girls at the College. Ashley and Emily met in Australia where they now both live and realised they had a Prior Park connection!

Tom Strelczak (PPA 2003) is the Founder and Director of TWS, a specialist executive search firm covering the UK and US sustainable investment sectors. Recently, Tom has started to partner with a subgroup at Action for Addiction. He lives in South-West London with his wife Kelly, an Iyengar trained yoga instructor, and their dog Shiva. His two older brothers who also studied at Prior Park College live in nearby corners of London.

Greg Carine (PPA 2002) writes: 'I no longer work in the Defence sector for QinetiQ. I work for Sartorius in Biotech, as a project manager. I am living just outside Portsmouth and sailing or scuba diving whenever I can, with ski trips in the winter. I spent a month travelling around South Africa in December/January this year which was an incredible experience. I am planning on going to Singapore for my 40th.'

Hannah Scott and Dave Leach (PPA 2006) visited and spent a while in the Science Block. They enjoyed the classic school lunch - Toad in the Hole - and bumped into Mrs Trott.

Tor Tuckey (PPA 2009) is training to be a doctor and has just finished exams to be a registrar in anaesthetics.

Borja Afan de Ribera (PPA 2007), back on the altar for the first time since he served there in 2004.

Two St Mary's girls: **Alexia MacDonald** (PPA 2004) and **Fiona Subramanian-Ashby** (PPA 2004) visited. Wonderful to see how Prior Park College can make friends for life.

2010 – 2020

Amelia Manning (PPA 2019) came to observe L3 and F3 lessons as part of her PGCE. Amelia is currently studying at Bath Spa University.



Scott Leach



Alexia MacDonald and Fiona Subramanian-Ashby



Borja Afan de Ribera

She has really enjoyed being back at her old school and seeing school life from another perspective.

Ellie Cogan (PPA 2019) wanted to show her friend Mary from the States the College. Ellie completed her theology degree at Durham and is now studying the PDGL at the University of Law in Bristol. She holds a training contract offer with commercial law firm CML London.

Patch Manovilas (PPA 2019) came to say goodbye to Dan Moore. Patch also found the drawing for his GCSE project on the wall in DT.

Anya Matthews (PPA 2014) is working at the University of Bath, assessing the impact of bursaries, among other things.

Martha Handel (PPA 2018) spent a day working with the Health Centre team as part of her specialised community public health training. Martha is a qualified nurse training to be a health visitor.

Kelvin Lau (PPA 2011) visited with his wife who he met while at school (she was at the Royal High!). He had very fond memories of the Chapel and of course St Pauls.



Amelia Manning with Dr McGowran



Ellie Cogan



Patch Manovilas, Mr Faulkner and Mr Moore



Anya Matthews



Martha Handel



Kevin Lau

Jai Singh Bharj and Ben Threlfall (PPA 2018) were shown around the College by Justin Avenell (PPA 2018) who is a member of the sports staff. They bumped into lots of their old teachers and spent much time reminiscing with Dave Holmes (Housemaster of Roche) about the House and its inhabitants. They are coming back for cricket day and their five-year reunion, both in June.

Jae Woo Kim (PPA 2014), pictured right, his wife Annie and their beautiful baby Reuben.

Maia Campbell-Lewis (PPA 2018) initially went to Royal Holloway but transferred to the University of Bath for her final two years.

Maria Torres (PPA 2014) writes 'I started a new job with Mother Artists last September which was featured in Music Week here: <https://www.musicweek.com/management/read/mother-artists-expands-with-two-new-appointments/086622> I also participated in a panel at Iceland Airwaves: <https://icelandairwaves.is/speakers/maria-torres/> I have also taught masterclasses and participated in panel discussions at BIMM London & Bristol.

JJ Tonks (PPA 2018) visited Justin Avenell (PPA 2018) and had a look around the College before going to train the seniors rugby 7s.

George Tuckey (PPA 2011) is working in Babcock as an engineer.

Joel Grainger (PPA 2010) visited in the summer to record his music in the Chapel. He is currently working full-time on performing at events, a mix of corporate gigs for companies.

Here is the link to Joel's performance in the chapel www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLlo20AypJA&list=RDnLlo20AypJA&start_radio=1&ab_channel=JoelGrainger

James Luxton (PPA 2015) writes: I have been an officer at HMP Lincoln since May 2021. It is a very rewarding job where every single day is different, and you genuinely have no idea what you could be walking in to.

Cordelia Roberts (PPA 2016) writes: I am based in West London working as luxury travel specialist for a company called Villa Collective. If any alumni are looking for a holiday, please ask them to contact me! cordelia@villacollective.com

Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016) writes: I am still working in the Land of Bricks having switched to lead the events team. Happily returned to Prior for Old Boy's Cricket over the summer, it was nice to catch up with familiar faces.

Riss Obolensky (PPA 2014) writes: This year I performed in and produced my own solo show, Healing King Herod. It is a clown drag show about pyramid schemes, cancel culture, manipulation and accountability. It debuted its first sellout run at VAULT Festival back in February and was then offered a short run at Soho Theatre in the West End. They are now in talks with various producers and will be taking Herod back to the West End in 2024.

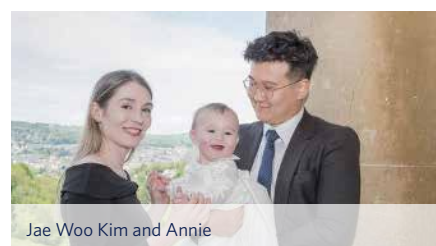
Andy Reed (PPA 2019) ran the Marathon des Sables in 2022, a 6-day, self-supported 250km ultra marathon



Brandon Law and Nichole Chu



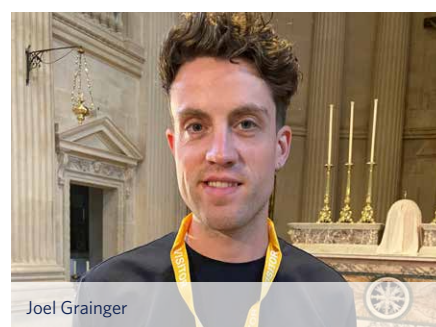
Jai Singh Bharj, Ben Threlfall and Justin Avenell with Mr Holmes and Dr Trott



Jae Woo Kim and Annie



JJ Tonks and Justin Avenell



Joel Grainger



James Luxton in the seat he used to sit on in his Theology class



Riss Obolensky



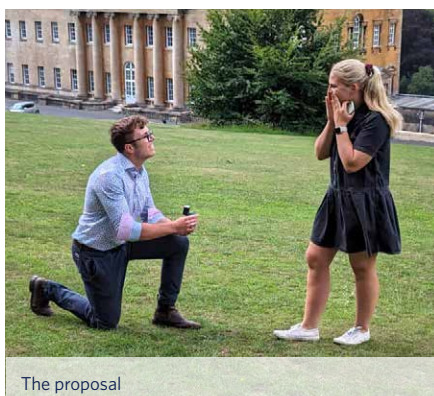
L to R: Lonneke Kertzman, Iona McNeil, Libby Willis, Sophie Ward, Verity Hunt, Anya Matthews, Chloe Root and Kit Hart



Tina Zhen



Eliza Matthews and Harry Threlfall



The proposal



Joe Murphy-O'Connor

through the Sahara Desert, carrying all you need for the full 6 days. He completed it strongly placing 1st, 18-24. He is now currently on placement year from Loughborough at BAE systems in Glasgow.

Eliza Matthews (PPA 2016) writes: Harry Threlfall (PPA 2016) told me that we had been invited for an alumni tour of the College. He seemed particularly keen on the idea which surprised me slightly. Towards the end of the tour, Harry suggested that we recreate the photo that we had taken together on our last day at school. Mr Jenkins was appointed camera man and captured the proposal. A massive thank you to Mr Jenkins for helping Harry pull off such a wonderful surprise.

Anya Matthews (PPA 2014) writes: Sophie Ward (PPA 2014) was married in Beckington Church near Bath. There were lots of Prior friends in attendance at the wedding including myself as one of the bridesmaids. It was such a beautiful and joyful day celebrating Alex and Sophie's marriage.

Tina Zhen (PPA 2019) called in yesterday to say hello and goodbye. She has just graduated from Bath University and is now going back to China.

Joe Murphy-O'Connor (PPA 2014) Joe writes 'It was lovely to be back at the school and to show off the beauty of it to my fiancée Kristy and my future mother-in-law Tamara, who had made the trip over from Melbourne.

After graduating in 2017 from the University of Warwick with a degree in History, I moved to London. I am now an underwriter in the terrorism & political violence space.

Ben Eyre (PPA 2012) was impressed with the changes to Allen House and had fond memories of time spent in St Pauls. As a keen cricketer, Ben was slightly wistful at how great the cricket square is looking compared to how it looked when he played on it! Hopefully he will come and play for the alumni team next year.

The CCF visited Britannia Royal Naval College - Dartmouth and were fortunate to meet up with James Dorey (PPA 2017). Having graduated with an engineering degree from Sheffield University, James is now five weeks into his officer training at the College.

Tara Kearney (PPA 2019) writes: 'I was a student at Prior from L3-L5, leaving in 2016 with my family to explore Thailand and then move back to our home, New Zealand. I felt particularly nostalgic visiting Baines House and seeing my name on the board as 2013 Junior Head Girl! I now live in Auckland, have



Ben Eyre



Mr Faulkner and James Dorey



Tara Kearney



Isabell Koerner

graduated from university there and work for an art school in the marketing team. Prior taught me and my family so many valuable lessons, and increased our resilience, appreciation of genuine, honest people, and strengths of character. I'm looking forward to returning again one day :).

Georgia Butt (PPA 2017) writes: Jake and I met five years ago in the pub I worked at. He came in everyday while he was on leave from the Army.

We have now moved to High Wycombe, after I started my new job at The Warner Brothers Studios, and are due to be married early 2024.

Isabell Koerner (PPA 2017) writes: After my time at Prior, I went back to Germany. In Berlin, I did a few internships in bilingual primary schools. During those internships, I started to develop a passion for the

All the Gossip



Harriet Gillingham

teaching profession which led me to study education and pedagogy at the University of Leipzig in Germany. In January of 2023, I finished my studies. Now I am a primary teacher in Berlin where I teach the subjects: English, Mathematics, German and Science. I am currently teaching first, second and sixth graders.

Great to catch up with Harriet Gillingham (PPA 2014) in her new offices near Chancery Lane.



Charlotte Brickell



Mrs Mallon, Ariane Milewski and Mrs Colquhoun

2020s

Ariane Milewski (PPA 2022) visited the College and had a great chat with Mrs Mallon and Mrs Colquhoun. Ariane has swapped her university course and has just started studying Music at Southampton. A big change from Maths at McGill University, Canada.

Brandon Law and Nicole Chu, both PPA 2020, popped in to say hello and goodbye. They fly back to Hong Kong after finishing their degrees in Manchester.



Tom Hollingsworth and Archie Carr



Houan Yue, Mr Stroud and Bolun Zhang

Bolun Zhang (George) (PPA 2024) and Houan Yue (Andy) (PPA 2020) came back to the College to see some of their former teachers. Bolun is currently taking his 'A' Levels at Warwick School, fortunately he managed to see lots of his classmates when we walked around. Houan is in his second year at UCL studying History and Politics.

Tabi Clark (PPA 2020) writes: I am running a half-marathon for charity in summer time.



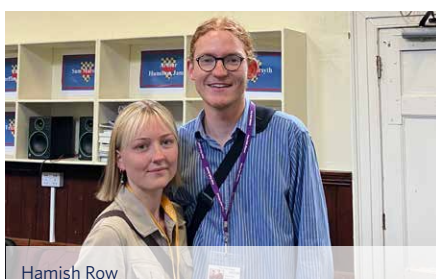
Finn Grant

Hamish Row (PPA 2020), writes:

'Buenas, I am reading Spanish and Geography at the University of Glasgow, which I recall an ex-teacher at the College describing to me as 'like Bristol, just less gentrified and rougher round the edges'. I was sold, and so to my parents' horror (or joy?) I was off to Scotland. I would certainly recommend the city to anyone considering it (although parents, brace yourselves for your child having the revelation that 'Scotland just does it better, I think I might stay after uni' within their first few months of being there. Aside from learning the language, studying Spanish at university has allowed me to explore Hispanic literature and meet many like-minded people, and of course given me the opportunity to go to a Spanish-speaking country.



Rob Dymond



Hamish Row

This year I have embarked on my year abroad to sunny Spain. I secured a placement in the not-so-sunny North, in the world's largest fishing port - Vigo. Becoming a fisherman for the year didn't seem the right move, so I secured a placement as a language assistant, which is proving to be one of the most memorable and impactful years of my life.



Letty Allen



Mr Blaikley, Ethan Teale and Will Vowles

From navigating the minefield that it Spanish bureaucracy, and learning the hard way that the 'mañana syndrome' is no myth, to working as a teaching 'assistant' (by name only - as it took about thirty seconds before they entrusted me with the planning and running of my own lessons), I can undoubtedly say I have grown a lot from my experiences abroad. Highlights have been: my travels to Barcelona and around Galicia, the ludicrously cheap menú del día, becoming accustomed to the rather laid back way of life (sorry mum), the insights into what is said in a staffroom, and the insurmountable feeling of independence and accomplishment that speaking



Will Vowles, Charles Bibby, Conor Quinn, Ned Hannah, Will Butters (PPA 2022), Nick Greene and Ethan Teale. 2023 leavers back to watch the 1st team play rugby



Alys Redman



the language and working in a community while living abroad has given me.

Ethan Teale and **Will Vowles** (PPA 2023) popped in before a 1st team rugby match to say hello. Ethan will be starting at Reading University soon and Will will be working a ski season in Canada from November. Mr Blaikley, in the photo (p40), was gently sending them on their way!

Charlotte Brickell (PPA 2023) spent a wet Saturday afternoon watching her brother play rugby for the first weekend of the season. Charlotte is about to start her year off with a trip to Kajuki, Kenya in October where she will volunteer in projects run by St Peter's Life-Line charity.

Tom Hollingsworth and **Archie Carr** (PPA 2020) came to visit the College. Tom is in his second year at Royal Holloway and Bedford studying Classics and Archie has recently completed his apprenticeship at PWC and is about to take a year off in Australia.

Rob Dymond (PPA 2022) is at Birmingham studying Engineering. He popped into the College to hand back a trophy before prize giving.

I was delighted to bump into **Finn Grant** (PPA 2022) and steer him into my office to sign up for Alumni cricket. He is thoroughly enjoying life as a student at Swansea University.

Lettie Allen (PPA 2021) came into the College to inspect the new-look Mansion.

Alys Redman (PPA 2021) has just completed her first year at Edinburgh University and has been helping to invigilate the A Level and GCSE exams. Great to see our alumni getting involved!

Joe Johnson and **Niall Hussain** (PPA 2021) came to visit David Holmes in Roche House. Joe writes: I am in my second year at Cardiff university studying human geography. I am really enjoying my course, being at university and playing football with my university team. Since leaving Prior I went travelling in South America on my year out and am hoping to go to South-East Asia in the summer.

Katie Marden (PPA 2022) popped in to see Amy Colquhoun to discuss her options for next year.

Ray Safarova (PPA 2021) writes: I started screenwriting when I enrolled on a screenwriting module, I am currently working on a script (for a short film) about racism, titled "A Chink of Light". My personal goal of screenwriting is to allow readers to have a safe space for self-reflections or reflections on the world.

Louis Wright (PPA 2022) was interested to see the new banners in Clifford House when he popped in to the College.

Caspar Summers (PPA 2023) is pictured chatting to Roche Housemaster David Holmes about all things automotive. Caspar has just started his degree in Motor Sports Engineering at Wiltshire University.

Amy Catt (PPA 2021) writes: Since leaving Prior I've worked at a variety of jobs ranging from a shift

manager at McDonald's to a bar and lounge supervisor at a 5 star hotel. Currently I'm working towards joining the RAF as an air operations systems officer which if all goes to plan I should be looking at undergoing the basic 24 weeks training at the beginning of next year! **Archie Dutton** (PPA 2020) and **Lolo Lewis** (PPA 2020) came to watch the alumnae hockey. Sorry to see Lolo unable to play as she was injured but hopefully, she'll be able to play next year.

Katherine Easter (PPA 2021) writes: Having not moved very far from Prior starting my first year at the University of Bath pursuing a degree in Politics and International Relations. It was wonderful to visit the college and remember all the happy times I had there and see lots of my old teachers. Such a lovely day!

Oli Tometzki (PPA 2021) writes: I am now a second-year student at the university of Liverpool studying mechanical engineering. It was great to see my old teachers again, especially those in the maths department, as I still miss the 1-on-1 further maths lessons where "loads of work got done" ... It was actually Mr Elliot who told me to apply for engineering and I am glad he did. Currently I'm applying for my placement year as he suggested. Recently, I was able to take part in the university musical *Footloose* and was so happy to finally be back on stage since the last one I was in closed due to Covid. I have also taken up bouldering and have been to a few competitions over the last term.

Wai Chung Lam (PPA 2021) visited at the end of the Christmas term from York University and bumped into Mr Holmes, Mr Lovat and Carrie Jenkins.

Last week **Wang Hoi Sun** (Chloe) (PPA 2022) and **Ng Enson** (PPA 2021) visited to show Chloe's mum the College as Covid restrictions prevented her from ever visiting.

It was great to show all Chloe's artwork which is dotted around the College and lovely for her to meet teachers and see where her daughter spent the last four years.



Archie Dutton and Lolo Lewis



Niall Hussain and Joe Johnson



Mrs Colquhoun and Katie Marden



Ray Safarova



Caspar Summers and Mr Holmes



Oli Tometzki, Dr Trott and Katherine Easter



Wai Chung Lam



Wang Hoi sun, Ng Enson with Mr Stroud and mum



New Founders Wall

By Declan Rainey

On a very warm Friday, as we approached the first weekend of the new academic year, Alumni from across the globe came to join the school community to celebrate the unveiling of the New Founders Garden, the New Founders Wall and a new Sixth Form Centre, which was donated to the College by **Andrew Shin** (PPA 1985).

Regular readers of the Gossip Bowl will know that the idea of a New Founders Wall can be traced back to 2018 when the leadership of the College made a conscious decision to preserve and remember in perpetuity the names of alumni, former staff members and friends who helped save the school in 1981 when the Christian Brothers left quite abruptly. The story has been told many times before, but it can be distilled down the saving and re-founding of the College by a group of alumni and friends, led by the likes of **Andy Owen** (PPA 1957) and **John Bogie** (PPA 1957).



With their various working groups and with the backing of local and national politicians as well as leaders of the Catholic Church, the College remained a catholic school, run by a lay administration, evolving into the College we know today.

Names as displayed on the New Founders Wall (listed aesthetically by the architects):

John Bogie PPA 1957, **Bernard Gillan** PPA



1956, Peter Wells PPA 1964, **Jim Coelho** PPA 1959, **Mostyn Thomas**, **Christopher Liu** PPA 1979, **The French Family**, **John Whittaker** PPA 1960, **Matthew Tobin** PPA 1991, **Fergus Lyons** PPA 1949, **Tony Bury** PPA 1970. **Andrew Shin** PPA 1985, **Jeanne Bisgood**, **Cameron Mackintosh** PPA 1964, **Gerald Walker** PPA 1948, **Andy Owen** PPA 1957, **Robert Rayner** PPA 1964, **The Medlock Family**, **Cormac Hewitt** PPA 1955.

New Founders Garden

The New Founders Garden has transformed what was one of our darkest, dampest walkways that had been unloved for many years. It has always been one of the College's most used spaces and it's where our Health and Wellbeing Centre sits, next door to the chaplaincy.

It is now transformed into a garden walkway that is far more sympathetic to its surroundings and invites passersby to stop and take a moment, be that on their own, or with friends and colleagues. **Elena Harries** (PPA 1989) on social media said: "we used to have to lie out on the grass when we wanted to meet up - this area was just dark and oppressive in the winter - what a transformation."

The Garden has two outdoor learning areas named after their sponsors, **Christine Ward** (PPA 1985) and **HRH Prince Adan**



Czartoryski-Borbon (PPA 1959) and the College is extremely grateful to all who have supported this project and in turn, helped us help more children fulfil their potential at the College. Thank you.

Names as displayed in the New Founders Garden seats (listed aesthetically by the architects):

Zhiyang Joseph Zhong PPA 2016, **William Lee** PPA 1970, **INTOAS founder**, **Sebastian Bamford** PPA 2027, **William Chan** PPA 2000, **Paul Lee** PPA 2000, **Tim Ching** PPA 2000, **Geoff Ferreira** PPA 1964, **Amalie Johnston** PPA 2029, **Borja Afán de Ribera**, PPA 2007, **Paul Ryan** PPA 1963, **Kyran Sze** PPA 1984, **Philip Sales** PPA 1968, **Godfrey Kyte**, PPA 1959, **Simon Morgan** PPA 1974, **Andy Owen** PPA 1957, **Michael Wilding** PPA 2023, **James Wilding** PPA 2025, **Bryan Wilding** PPA 1956, **Emma Sandberg**, **Declan Rainey**, **John Mascarenhas** PPA 1979, **Elinor**, **Tessa & Hannah Hart** PPC 2018, 2028, **The Brayton & Grant Family**.

The New Founders Wall and Garden is a living project that allows for more names to be added to the space. If you'd like to be part of it, please contact **Declan Rainey**: alumni.ppc@priorparkschools.com



Our New Sixth Form Centre

As we unveiled the New Founders Garden and Wall, the whole of the Sixth Form, staff and Trustees gathered in the portico to thank **Andrew Shin** (PPA 1985) for his very generous gift to the school which allowed us to create a new Sixth Form Centre in the bottom corridor of the Mansion.

The new Centre is proving very popular with our Sixth Form, as it gives them the space to both study independently and to socialise. There are study pods and a state-of-the-art classroom and there are booths in the pantry for socialising and group study. There are booths in the pantry, allowing for socialising and group study. The new spaces allow for a

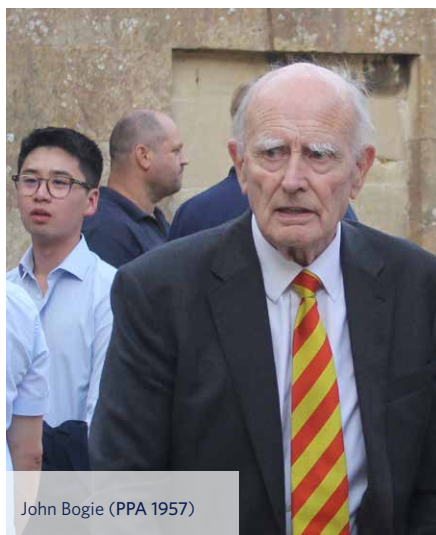
much better blend of the two years as in the past, lower sixth and upper sixth had their own self-designated areas to hang out.

Also, the location of the Centre next to the New Founders Garden, gives it an outdoor element. Thomas Roblin, Head of School, said: "Having the New Founder's Garden backing right into the Centre and being able to go out and enjoy the garden so easily, makes it feel like an extension of the Sixth Form Common Room".

We invite you, our alumni and friends to visit us and have a look at these new spaces.



HRH Prince Adan Czartoryski-Borbon (PPA 1959) and his wife Princess Josette Czartoryski



John Bogie (PPA 1957)



Andrew Shin (PPA 1985) and Headmaster Ben Horan



Mike Hodges (PPA 1950)

Celebrated film director, Mike Hodges, has died at the age of 90. Born in Bristol, he grew up first in Salisbury and then in Bath. At Prior he served as the St Peter's librarian. After school, he took accountancy exams (to please his parents, it seems) and served two years national service in the Royal Navy. He soon abandoned accountancy and found a lowly technical job in the emerging world of television production. His big break came in 1963, when he joined Granada TV's World in Action as a producer-director. This acclaimed current affairs show, which nurtured many young talents in British film and television, gave him experience of making short documentary films, many of them with strong, social themes. In 1969, he moved into fiction, producing, writing and directing a downbeat feature, Suspect, for the ITV Playhouse strand. The following year he made the thriller, Rumour, which featured a hard-nosed anti-hero (subsequently to become something of a Hodges trademark).

By now in his late 30s, Hodges had the right experience and creative interest to make the crossover into the world of feature films, which in those days was dominated by the realist, "kitchen-sink" school of British writers and directors. His debut was Get Carter (1971), starring Michael Caine. A powerful crime drama set in the milieu of gritty, low-life Britain, it quickly became a commercial and critical success (albeit the violence was not to everyone's taste).

Unfortunately, Get Carter's rapid elevation to iconic status did Hodges no favours. Every subsequent film was compared, usually unfavourably, with his debut. Studios in Hollywood and distributors here in the UK wanted another Carter. Although Hodges made a string of good movies thereafter, including Pulp (again with Caine, 1972), The Terminal Man (based on a Michael Crichton novel, with George Segal, 1974) and Flash Gordon (1980), his career was mostly deemed a disappointment. To pay the bills, he returned to television, making several small-screen dramas.

His move back to the big screen with the comedy Morons from Outer Space was a critical and commercial flop, while the film that followed, A Prayer for the Dying (1987), in which Mickey Rourke played an IRA man who tries to leave the



organisation, was thought to be so violent that it was re-edited by other hands before it was released. Then came Black Rainbow (1989), which was judged too weak for wide cinema release and instead found its audience on television.

By then, Hodges' reputation was at a low ebb. But his fortunes changed again when Channel Four commissioned Croupier, starring Clive Owen (1998). Initially, this, too, was thought only suitable for television, but the good reviews and strong word-of-mouth when it opened in a limited release in the USA led to cinema screenings in the UK. Suddenly, the world was taking notice of Hodges and a re-evaluation of his earlier work got underway.

The nearest he came to a Get Carter sequel was I'll Sleep When I'm Dead (2003), again starring Owen. Unfortunately, favourable reviews and an immediate cult following didn't translate into commercial success.

Hodges married Jean Alexandrov in 1964. They had two sons, Ben and Jake, but divorced in 1982. In 2004, he married Carol Lawes.

Michael Thomas Hodges, born July 29, 1932, died December 17, 2022.

Rory Gibbons (PPA 1957)

Rory died peacefully in hospital on July 27th, 2023, at the age of 83. At Prior, he was a good track athlete and a very good cricketer, being vice-captain of the First XI. He scored 76 not out in one match and sustained a partnership of 244 with Ian Reid (PPA 1957) on the celebrated occasion when Prior beat the MCC by ten wickets. After school, Rory studied civil engineering at Trinity College, Dublin. After completing his doctorate in Princeton in the 1960s, he joined Ove

Arup and Partners, working initially in the London and Johannesburg offices before settling down in Cardiff. His wife Llewela died in 2021 and his brother Desmond, also a PPA, died in 2021. He is survived by four siblings, PPAs Kevin and Richard, and Maeve and Eileen, and by his nieces and nephews. The funeral and cremation took place in Port Talbot.

Roderick Charles Gibbons, born March 5th, 1940, died July 27th, 2023.

Chris James (PPA 1967)

Caroline James writes: Chris arrived at Prior Park as a boarder in 1962. Having had a difficult childhood following the death of his only brother and his mother by the time he was seven, he referred to his time at Prior Park as the happiest period of his childhood. On leaving in 1967, he initially studied law for a year in Liverpool, before deciding it wasn't for him. He moved to London and worked with the homeless at the Shelter Housing Aid Centre, where he and I met. We married in 1973. Subsequently he trained as a social worker and worked for the London Borough of Lambeth, before moving to St Thomas's Hospital as a psychiatric social worker. Later he moved into child guidance, and eventually trained as a systemic family therapist. At the time of his retirement in 2012 he was a consultant family therapist for CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) in Greenwich.

We had two children, Matthew and Beth, and four grandchildren. In 2010, we moved to Headcorn in Kent, where we both enjoyed an active retirement. For many years, Chris volunteered as a bereavement counsellor. In the early years of our marriage, he enjoyed playing cricket and tennis. After retirement, he took up badminton. In his last year, he had a late introduction to golf. He died in August 2022, just two months after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour.



Chris Blunden (PPA 1959)



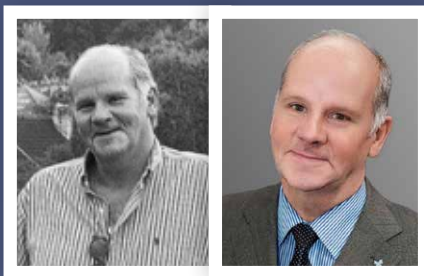
An outstanding sportsman in his schooldays, and, until age and illness overtook him, a stalwart of the PPA golf society, Chris died recently at the age of 81 after a long struggle with dementia. His daughter, Emma, notes: "My dad had been a boarding pupil at Prior Park and often came back over the years for old boys sporting fixtures and Alumni get togethers, and I know the memories (particularly the sporting ones) and life-long friendships he made from school meant a lot to him".



Simon Howell (PPA 1970)

Simon Howell (PPA 1970) died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in France on February 8th, 2023, after suffering a heart attack or major stroke. An inveterate (some would say relentless) joker during his school days (and after, especially in the company of his old school friends, with many of whom he kept in close contact), Simon was destined to be a Prior boy from the day he was born, for his father had been at Prior from 1926 to 1932 and all the family's important events (weddings, christenings and so on) took place in the school chapel. They lived just a few miles away in Midford. And so it was that Simon joined Prior in 1964. At school, he was a keen actor, appearing for example in *The Monkey's Paw* and *The Long and The Short and The Tall*, and a fair sportsman.

After Prior, Simon, at his father's suggestion, took a gap year before studying at Oxford Polytechnic. Thereafter, he worked in the NHS, BUPA and IBM. In



2002, he joined the British Dental Health Association as director of campaigns. In 2014, he was made redundant and consequently retired.

In recent years, he served as a committee member, then president of the PPA. He relinquished the latter position when he and his wife Julie moved to France. He once described their daily life there, probably with tongue firmly in cheek, as revolving around "lengthy

discussions about where to eat lunch". Simon was very engaged with a gang of old school friends, via email, social media and in person. He was happy to admit that his "main currency was humour".

He is survived by Julie, son James and two grandchildren.

Will Lee (PPA 1970) adds: Simon was seen off in style at a celebration held in July in the garden of the old family home in North Leigh, Oxfordshire. As I arrived, a Lancaster bomber flew overhead. I thought, "Blimey, only Howell could arrange such a feat. Magnificent!" There were eulogies from Simon's son, James, and from close friends. The atmosphere was emotional, of course, but also upbeat, with a multitude of hilarious stories about Simon's antics. I am sure this is how he would have wanted it. Among the school contemporaries present were Julian Fonseca, Jeremy Gilmer, Philip Sales, Simon Beck, Tony Bury, Martin Bury, Mark Baker and myself.

Roy Batters (former staff)

Born on the May 27th, 1954, in the Bangsar Road Hospital in the Bangsar district of Kuala Lumpur, Roy was raised in Malaysia, where his father had found employment with the Alliance Engineering Company.

The Batters family lived in the humid jungle heat, amongst the snakes in the gardens and the luscious smells of the jungle canopies. As the British companies paid their ex-pats very well, Roy was brought up in a spacious house, with two cars, servants and chauffeur. For 1954, it was a privileged way to live.

In the early 1960s, the family returned to the UK, in the process touring the world on their westward course home. The travelling and constant moving continued in Roy's early life, as his father searched for employment. The family lived in 10 houses in 14 years, until finally, in 1967, they settled in Coleshill, Birmingham, where Roy attended the King Edward's School.

In 1972, he went up to Cambridge to study classics.



While at university, he also enjoyed rowing, beating Oxford in the 1973 "bumps" race, and he developed his passions for music and choir. He was blessed with an outstanding counter-tenor voice and sang with several leading choirs.

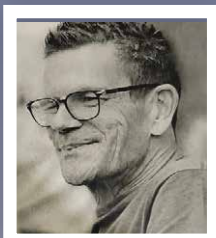
Ros Kimball adds: Roy Batters and I both arrived at Prior Park eleven years ago. It was Patrick Tobin's last year, and the school was a smaller place then. Roy's work in the Classics department and later running Careers touched only slightly on my History of Art

teaching. But Roy came on the first Sixth Form Florence trip, and it is in this context that I got to know him best. That trip proved to be one of many that we would take together. Over the years, we had many superb moments in Florence, but one that particularly stands out for me is the time that Roy sang Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* in one church after another. His late afternoon performance was pure magic. On another occasion, inspired by Roy's enthusiasm for Bronzino's portraits in the Uffizi, I spent a quiet forty-five minutes there prior to closing time - it was unforgettable. Roy was always surprised, even shocked, by wonder, whether it was Fra Angelico or sudden sunshine at the College, and that is one of the things that I loved about him. Roy did an enormous amount for the College and in particular the Sixth Form. I can think of so many Sixth Formers who will remember with great affection a unique teacher and friend, someone hugely intelligent, very discerning and astute, but also touched by an acute sense of celebration, and vulnerable because of it.

Roy Batters, 1954 - 2023, died at the age of 68. His funeral took place in Rugby on May 10th.

Philip Elliott (PPA 1986)

Simon Yeo writes: Philip was a close friend for many years and had bravely struggled with health issues for decades. That said he was always extremely jovial and put a hilarious irreverent slant on situations. We shared many skiing and scuba diving holidays to the far reaches of the world. Travelling to Cozumel, Sulawesi and Palau in the mid Pacific. Although I lost touch with him a few years ago I will always have fond memories of our hilarious times together. Sadly, he bravely suffered extreme ill health in later years, and I hope he has found rest and peace from this suffering.



Neal Spurrell (PPA 1994)

Two years after the diagnosis of a brain tumour, Neal died on September 23rd, 2023, at the age of 46. A beloved husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend, Neal had been a keen sportsman at Prior, not only receiving rugby colours in 1994 but playing for Somerset Schools. In adult life, he became a helicopter pilot. The funeral took place at Temple church, Bodmin Moor, on Monday the October 2nd, followed by a cliff-top scattering of ashes and a wake at Trevone.





Angela Vick (former staff)

Angela Vick, former housemistress and teacher of English and theology, died on February 26th, 2023, of a brain tumour.

Giles Mercer (former headmaster) writes: The best teachers are able to combine the richness of their own life experience with their natural gifts, their professionalism and their love of their subject, and to do so, day in and day out, in creative ways that are focused on the needs of their pupils, each treated as unique. Angela did at least all of this throughout her eleven years as a teacher of English and Theology at Prior Park.

In fact, Mrs Vick's relationship with Prior extended over 20 years, the time her six children (Daniel, Antonella, Tom, Gabriel, Caspar and Serafina) were at the college. Her experiences as a mother flowed into her care for her pupils and gave parents immediate confidence in her. Her previous teaching experience in the maintained sector in Middlesbrough (her childhood home), Edinburgh and Frome, as well as her years as a governor at All Hallows School and chair of governors at Norton St Philip School, gave her a rich hinterland from which to draw.

In 1993-4, Mrs Vick gave voluntary assistance to the English department at Prior and helped with the production of "The Tempest". She proved a talented director, and her witty productions were to give much pleasure in the years ahead. In April 1997, she was appointed to a part-time temporary post in English, soon to be made permanent, full-time and combined with theology. Immediately Mrs Vick inspired, encouraged, stimulated and extended the horizons of her pupils. She gave hugely to them and rightly expected much in return (another mark of the best teachers). Lessons were never dull. There were surprises and imaginative techniques to enliven the



rigour. She knew every pupil well and understood them with shrewdness and affection.

Mrs Vick's pastoral gifts displayed a remarkable mixture of high expectations, serious intent, warmth and sheer fun. Boys in Clifford and then Allen, where Mrs Vick tutored, were the first to benefit from these qualities (and from some cookery and sewing classes!). Then it was the turn of the girls in English House, who gained full measure, with cup over-flowing, from Mrs Vick's seven years as housemistress, as any English House girl or parent will tell you. Somehow, amidst often very hard-pressed days of teaching and meetings, she was able to advise and encourage an individual, while leading the community. House assemblies and prayers were treasured memories.

At the same time, countless young people - and parents - in the school as a whole benefited immeasurably from her co-ordination of the Personal Development Programme, a vital dimension of the school's mission. Mrs Vick's Catholic faith was at the centre of her professional, family and personal life. The Prior Park community was indeed fortunate and blessed in her gifts.

Clare Peplar adds: Mrs Vick, Angela, was highly sophisticated yet completely natural. Day in, day out she brought to Prior a bundle of crazy energy and a real no-nonsense approach, encouraging so many to exceed expectations.

Who could forget her rendition of Hey Big Spender during charities' week? Or her commissioning of a ball gown from a very talented 15-year-old couturier in the making. She had suggested sludgy green as a colour - he gave her feathered fuschia pink! Much more appropriate! When the Chronicle arrived for a photo shoot, she kicked off her shoes and took off at full pelt across the mansion lawn - pictured laughing, a woman in full control with, a grinning, incredibly proud protégé in tow.

Many of her former students remained in touch - a recognition of what a huge influence she had on their lives.

Underlying everything was a serious intent. With her son Dan (RIP), she volunteered at La Jungle in Calais, driving refugees around in a minibus. Nor will I ever forget the day when, a year after the loss of Dan, she discarded her mourning clothes and dressed in white, a woman determined to move forward. Shopping with Angela was highly entertaining - whether adding to her extensive range of hats, acquiring beguiling lingerie or stunning dresses, or yet more footwear, or especially, when spoiling her adored children

Emma Andreae (PPA 1994)

Gemma Crawley (PPA 1994) writes: Emma breezed into Prior, with a bit of a backstory, and blew our pretty un-worldly LV minds. She was sparky and vivacious and frankly, never far from trouble. I now appreciate how lucky we were growing up in the '90s, as we romped through our days with nothing recording our antics other than a few poorly shot, grainy photos.

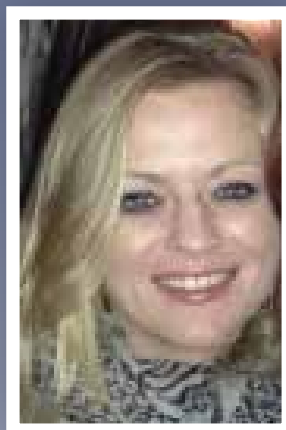
The life of a boarding house girl is an intense one, sharing dorms and the minutiae of every little thing and then suddenly leaving, going our separate ways and perhaps even losing touch. This was certainly my experience with Emma, although I know that both Catherine Tomlinson and Stephanie Shea retained their tight friendship with her.

And then the greater part of twenty years had passed when I next bumped into Emma, this time on a West London Street. Before long, she had moved in with me whilst her flat was being redecorated. Like that original whirlwind she blew in and out of my life within a few months. As is the way with old friendships, it was like nothing had changed, even though many

things had.

Other than the odd Facebook snoop or occasional message our lives drifted off in different directions again; Emma off to Wales and marriage and me into motherhood and eventually, Bath. She is and will continue to be missed. Forty-six is far too young an age to die.

One thing is for certain though - I can never hear a song by The Cure without thinking of Emma Andreae. Emma Andreae 3rd March 1977 - 26th May 2023.



Other deaths

Brian Noon (PPA 1950) died February 26th, 2022, a few months short of his 90th birthday.

Brian Auty (PPA 1952) died in a care home not far from Downside. In 1946, he and Tom Bird organised an Aeromodelling Club at Prior. Brian was a frequent visitor to the College for reunions and lunches, notably the 60th anniversary reunion in 2009.

George Heftman (PPA 1959). In 1951, George, an inveterate inventor, introduced the making and using of crystal radio sets to Prior. In 1955, it was noted in the school magazine that "Guy Fawkes' night seems to be gradually dying out. Even George Heftman failed to concoct one of his 'fireworks'!"



Archivist's Report

Simon Beck (PPA 1969) writes: I am a voluntary PPA Archivist (or "Archie Vist") and since starting the role in 2022 I have been busy sorting through the collection of records, photos, documents, historical items and ephemera to identify those which can and should be added to the online archive to which all alumni are able to access. One of my concerns is that the sports team photos seem to allow for only the 1st teams and I am keen that anyone representing the school be it in the 1st team, the 4th team or the U12's should have their individual or team photograph in the archive.

The work involves a lot of research and this is an area where the alumni, past and present, parents and pupils, staff and anyone else with access to the PPC Digital Archive can help.

I also intend to create a section in the archive to house unidentifiable photographs that are without dates, names, etc. with an invitation to viewers to provide any details they may have. Again any help extremely gratefully received.



I invite all to add to the archive. The sort of content we are looking for is photos or documents of daily life in the school, trips to "exotic places", Duke of Edinburgh participation, CCF events and trips, school plays, etc. Do, also, feel free to suggest other categories of archived material that you would like to see. Digital formats preferred.

The archive has always been well supported by our alumni and indeed it was generous donations from the alumni which made the archive possible in the first place. So please do join the archive priorparkcollege-heritage.daisy.websds.net/ and give us any feedback as to how we could improve the service.



Dates for your diary

2024

Saturday 6th January
0930-1100 PPA Committee Meeting
1200 Old Boys hockey
1330 Alumnae netball

Sunday 16th June

Alumni cricket
Alumni tennis

1994 Reunion

2003 Reunion

2004 Reunion

2014 Reunion

Saturday 7th September
PPA Meeting and AGM

Saturday 14th September
1984 Reunion

Saturday 12th October

Mansion Lunch

1973 Reunion

1974 Reunion

1979 Reunion

2019 Reunion date TBC

Update contact details - please send updates for your contact details, mobile, postal address, job title, company and email to alumni.ppc@priorparkschools.com

Website - The alumni website has been completely revamped and now has all the information you will need to find out about events, contacts and any alumni related information. Please do take a look and let me know what you think and if there is any information you would like which is not there.



Welcome to the Prior Park College Alumni.
We hope to help you reconnect with the College and with old friends.

Alumni Publications

www.priorparkcollege.com/welcome/prior-park-alumni

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