

Issue 25, 2024

The *Gossip* Bowl

The Alumni Magazine

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



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Dear Alumni,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2024 edition of the Gossip Bowl! **Emma-Lou** and **Terry Ilott** (PPA 1968) have put in a huge amount of time and effort to collate your news and articles, and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

At the outset I would like to say a huge thank you to **Simon Morgan** (PPA 1974) for his fabulous work and memorable legacy as the outgoing president. I have some big shoes to step into. Having recently taken over the role, I have relished the opportunity to meet so many fascinating and compelling alumni at the Mansion Lunch. I had seen this event on the calendar for so long, but this year's was the first I have attended, and it was so enjoyable. I loved hearing the stories and experiences from different generations and catching up with those I remember from my era. I eagerly wait to see who will attend next year. If in doubt or if you are unsure, do come along. The more the merrier!

Throughout my tenure I would love to see greater involvement - whilst there is a strong contingent of regular alumni attendees, I am really keen to encourage a wider alumni engagement. There are so many events and visits in the calendar. It's your alumni, get involved and rediscover the joys of friendship and the spirit of Prior Park, whether you are a Baby Boomer, Generation X, Millennial, Generation Z or Alpha. As a collective it would be great to see you all!

Wishing you all the very best for 2025 and looking forward to meeting some of you over the forthcoming year.

Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999)



Chantal Hopper

Following another year packed to the gunnels with events, tours of the College and alumni volunteering, I am looking forward to 2025 and a new era with our PPA President **Chantal Hopper**. We have much to look forward to and I am excited to work with Chantal to grow and encourage your relationship with your old classmates and with the College. Chantal brings with her fascinating experience from her time as an officer in the Royal Navy and I look forward to helping her shape the alumni of the future.

There is also a hint of sadness as I write, that I lose **Simon Morgan** (PPA 1974), who has been fabulous to work with. He has steered the ship in a level-headed and eminently sensible way, and he has introduced lasting positive changes, including the payment of alumni subs within the school fees, thereby guaranteeing the PPA's income. I will miss Simon's good humour and kindness.

As I look at our current Upper Sixth, who will be alumni faster than they realise, I see that our future is bright, as they are filled with enthusiasm to join your ranks and be counted. Each year more of them engage with you to ask career advice, and you give your time and expertise willingly. This connection between the generations is something I love to see as we can all learn something from each other's time at the College and the experiences that made us who we are.

I hope to meet many more of you next year, so please do get in touch - you are always welcome!



Emma-Louise Goymer,
Alumni Relations

Thank you

I could not have put the Gossip Bowl together without the new ideas, cajoling and rigorous striving for perfection of **Terry Ilott** (PPA 1968). His help and guidance throughout has made the process fun and rewarding. Thank you, as always, Terry.

Thank you to **Simon Beck** (PPA 1969) for all his help with the archive over the last year and many more years to come!



Prior Park College: An Evolution

By Ben Horan, Head of Prior Park College

There are some years in the history of Prior Park College which stand out as being of significant import. In 1830, Bishop Baines established our school. In 1904, the College was forced to close due to lack of funds. In 1981, the school was saved from closure by the efforts of its lay community. In 1984, girls were admitted to the College for the first time. When further histories of our College are written, 2024 will undoubtedly rank alongside these consequential years. For it was in 2024 that the Trustees of Prior Park took the decision to change its faith designation, with the College becoming a Christian school in the Catholic tradition.

This is undoubtedly a moment of significance. After all, our College has been a proudly Catholic institution throughout its history. This school has changed a very great deal over its nearly two centuries of existence. Slowly, yet inexorably, the number of Catholic students in our school has decreased, to a position whereby fewer than one in five of our students are Catholic. This is reflective of a broader societal trend, with fewer and fewer people professing a religious faith. The nature of our community is now more international than ever, and more diverse than ever in a variety of different ways. These are the realities of our school today, and they don't sit well with the fact that our status as a Catholic school meant we had to narrow the educational, curriculum offering for our students. All these considerations were carefully reflected upon by our Trustees, and led to a revaluation of how well our College reflects our students today. We have reimagined what the future needs to look like for our College to remain relevant and attractive to those families choosing a private school education.

The pressures on all independent schools are more real than ever, with the new government leading the UK to becoming the only country in Europe to tax education. Independent schools across the country are closing. The religious status of Catholic independent schools provides little succour in the face of



those challenges and closures. If anything, a Catholic status does not appeal to many independent school parents and limits the pool from which we can recruit students. The years of significance listed above show that

“ Prior Park has evolved in order to thrive ”

Prior Park has always been at the forefront of change in our sector. We were one of the earliest Catholic schools established in the UK after emancipation. We were one of the first Catholic schools to become co-educational, more than 40 years ago. We were one of the first Catholic schools to be owned and governed outside monastic or diocesan control, and we were one of the first traditional boarding schools to confidently move into the

day sector. This move towards a new way of embracing faith is very much in line with our position as a market leader and will ensure our competitiveness over the coming years.

What does this mean for our alumni community? Well, many have written to us in support of the change. Others have written expressing understanding, but sadness at the realities we face. A few have expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision. Such a profound change to our school might give the impression that the very nature of the College has changed. It has not. Prior Park College is still an educational institution with love at its very core. It still has a strong sense of purpose and a clear identity. It is still a school which looks to transform the lives of all the young people we serve. We look forward to continuing to welcome back our alumni to see our school. We hope that they will see that, as it always has done, Prior Park has evolved in order to thrive.



40 Year Anniversary

By Rosie Allen, Head of The Paragon

It has been a particularly noteworthy year at The Paragon as we celebrated a significant milestone in the school's journey: our 40th birthday! Four decades filled with joy, laughter and happy childhood memories, and this year has held much of the same for the Paragon children of 2024. We held a series of joyful parties for children, parents and alumni, including a record number of renditions of Happy Birthday!



Celebrating our anniversary has not only been a time for reflection but also an opportunity to look forward. We will shortly be launching a major fundraising project aimed at securing the future sustainability of The Paragon and everything it offers. Our plans will help us to enhance our facilities, expand our learning spaces and, perhaps most importantly for that magical Paragon experience, provide even more enriching opportunities for the children in our beautiful grounds. I am deeply grateful for

the generosity and enthusiasm shown by our community thus far in supporting this project and look forward to sharing more about it as our plans progress.

In other fundraising news, we are hugely grateful to our PTA, who raised an amazing £26,920 over the course of the year. The energy and dynamism of our wider community never fails to impress us, and we thank them for being an

integral part of our journey.

We have had the usual plethora of highlights, showcasing the broad range of achievements, creativity and enthusiasm of our pupils. There has been a myriad of stories which reflect the spirit, determination and magic that define our school. Together, we are building a bright future for the children, forging lifelong memories, and inspiring the next generation.

Welcome to the new Headmaster

By Paul Martyn, Head of Prior Park Gibraltar

As you browse through the pages of this edition of Gossip Bowl, you will find photos and stories from alumni reunions spanning ten, twenty, or thirty years or even further back. In contrast, our oldest alumni at Prior Park Gibraltar are still only in their early 20s, with the first cohort leaving just a little over four years ago! It may seem as if we have little history to reflect on or new milestones to celebrate. Yet, each September, we are thrilled to welcome back our recent alumni before they head off to continue their university studies across the globe, flight school, Yeshiva or the next leg of the never-ending gap year.

Being a small, close-knit school, these gatherings have become cherished events

in our annual calendar. Gibraltar, a crossroads and gateway to the Mediterranean, attracts people from all walks of life, so when our alumni attend our annual event with their parents, we're continually amazed to hear about their adventures and successes wherever they are in the world.



Four short years after we opened our doors, it's hard to believe that our first alumni cohort boasted a total of just nine students, and COVID put an end to any thought of celebrating that milestone year. Yet, from that humble beginning, our alumni community has continued to grow, and we now send out invitations numbering in the hundreds. This growth reflects not just the increasing size of our alumni family but also the strong



bonds that keep them connected to Prior Park Gibraltar and each other.

As many reading this will know, Gibraltar has a long history with Prior Park College, and I hope those who have been a member of the PPA for many years, especially those based here in Gibraltar, continue to take an interest in our growth and development on 'the Rock'. I encourage all PPA with a connection to Gibraltar, both old and new, to stay engaged with Prior Park Gibraltar, whether it's through attending our annual alumni event, school functions, or perhaps even mentoring our current students.

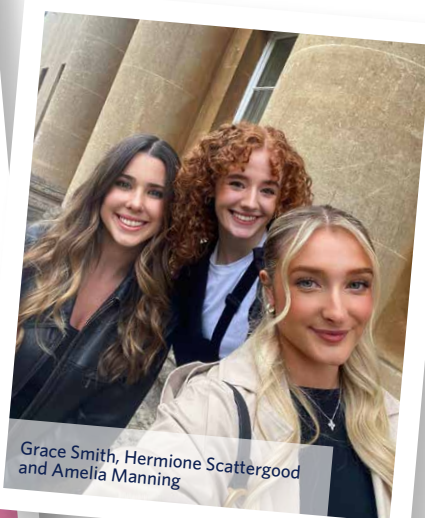


2019 5-Year Reunion

By Hermione Scattergood



Izzy Sigourney, Amelia Manning,
Hermione Scattergood, Molly Sell



Grace Smith, Hermione Scattergood
and Amelia Manning

“ Thank you... for all the Pimms... ”



Grace Smith and Izzy Sigourney



Archie Ansell, Mr Holmes and Luke Roberts

What an absolute pleasure, being back in the beautiful Mansion for our 5-year reunion. It was so lovely catching up with old faces, hearing about what everyone has been doing since we all left Prior. It was a very special day, and I am looking forward to the next reunion which will come round sooner than we all think! Thank you to Emma-Lou for organising such a wonderful day, and for all the Pimms...

Ed - I am so sorry but the photo stick which had most of the photos on it was lost. Come back for your 10-year reunion and I will make sure we take lots of photos.



2014 10-Year Reunion

By Anya Matthews



L to R: back row: Will Cole, Sophie Ward, Pete Dorey, Luke Tapsfield, Patsie Christie, Matt Mortimer, Martin Lui, Adam Dearing.
Front row: L to R: Charlie Small, Tessa Coombe, Lucy Chapman, Harriet Freeman, Anya Matthews



Ten years on from leaving Prior, Class of 2014 reconvened on a surprisingly warm June afternoon. It was lovely to catch up and hear what everyone is up to over a pulled pork burger. Our classmates are now spread across the globe, with exciting careers and lives!

We were lucky enough to get a tour of the school and have a look at

all the changes that have happened over the last ten years. We were particularly jealous of the new Sixth Form area and the Burton boys were surprised to see their old house is not the art room. Thank you to all the staff who organised the afternoon and thank you to all who came from Class of 2014. It was lovely to see so many people.



2004 20-Year Reunion

By Lucy Peters



L to R: Andrew Desmond, Matthew Fitzthomas Rogers, Lucy Peters, Simon Williams, Hannah Wiltshire, Joseph Baker, Charlotte Harrison, and Chloe Paton

“Glamorous spouses and adorable little ones were also in attendance”



L to R: Lucy Peters, Charlotte Harrison, Joseph Baker, Matthew Fitzthomas Rogers, Andrew Desmond and Hannah Wiltshire.

Twenty years after graduation, many of the Class of 2004 find themselves in the deepest thickets of parenthood and career-making. A small but stalwart group made it to the Prior Park reunion held on Father's Day 2024: Joseph Baker, Andrew Desmond, Charlotte Harrison, Chloe Paton, Lucy Peters, Philip Reed, Matthew Fitzthomas Rogers, Simon Williams and Hannah Wiltshire. Glamorous spouses and adorable little ones were also in attendance.

A second reunion was hosted by Kate Bristow – wrangling a

WhatsApp group containing 57 members – and held in London in November. Members of the first reunion group took the opportunity to clink glasses a second time, and were joined by Philip Berry, Kat Hudson-Reeve, Holly Lukas and Dan O'Neill. We raised a glass to Libby Hussey, whose funeral took place on 31 October 2024. A beloved member of the year, she will be much missed. While she hoped to attend the London reunion, Charlotte Harrison was, in the event, otherwise engaged, welcoming Elspeth Harrison to the world.



2003 Reunion

By Anne-Marie Jenkins



“ There was a very real bond that was felt within the group ”



Our 20-year reunion was such a special evening. We all gathered for drinks and nibbles on the beloved Mansion steps where many memories were formed over the years. It was like time hadn't passed - we laughed with one another and reminisced over the years we had spent there. Although our lives had moved on, there was a very real bond that was felt within the group. We all went into town to continue the evening and share stories, both old and

new, and there was a real sense of joy amongst the group. Many of us had stayed in touch, but it was so wonderful to see those with whom we had perhaps lost contact. We are all very much looking forward to the next reunion. Prior is a very special place, and I left the evening feeling very lucky to have been educated in such a supportive school.



1994 30-Year Reunion

By Caroline Paskell



Standing (combined two rows) L to R: Elke Haworth, Peter Haworth, Philip Huggett, Charlie O'Brien, John Lord, Marianne Walters, Will Acton, Steph McGaffin, Sarah Robbins, Vince Mehers, Matthew Burke, Antonia Donnelly, Ben Moylan, Claire Davidsen, David Mordant, Sophia Roberts, Katherine Marchant, Jemma Crawley, Caroline Paskell



After Mass for Emma Andreae (RIP)



L to R: Steph McGaffin, Richard Littledale, Natalie Manzi, James Moore, Sarah Robbins, Jonny Beck, Marianne Walters, Julian Jackson, Katherine Marchant, John Lord, Caroline Pearce, Sophia Roberts, Peter Haworth, Philip Huggett, Elke Haworth, Claire Davidsen

“ Links formed in teenage years can be stronger and easier to pick up than you might think ”

For some, a school reunion three decades on can be a daunting prospect, but the Class of 1994 leapt at the chance to meet again at Prior this summer. Coming from near and far, these old boys and girls enjoyed a weekend of feeling just a little younger again. Shared reflections on the years spent together were made more poignant by the evening Mass to celebrate the life of our friend Emma Andreae RIP. For the many who could make it after, there was an absolutely classic Prior night out; think the Boater, Crystal Palace and fine-(street)-dining at Schwartz Bros.

The day itself saw yet more from 1994 (plus families) enjoy reminiscing in the beautiful setting and familiar surroundings of the school. A highlight was the semi-official tour. Weaving through

areas off-limits (the old ball court), unbelievably unchanged (the day girls' portacabins, really) and dramatically altered (art in the boys' dorms?), the tour entertained all who weren't playing cricket (just Charlie who missed out then). Even some who couldn't join us kept pace with our photo log. Having taken the very long way round, the cricket match was a perfect backdrop for the 1994s to relax in the sunshine over tea.

What did we learn from returning to school? That links formed in teenage years can be stronger and easier to pick up than you might think. That it's strangely comforting to see those who are rising 50 as essentially just the kid you knew so well. And that there's a strong sense our year was the best...



1984 40-Year Reunion

By Nick Mumar



Standing (L to R) Claire Perry, Nicola Day, James Brazier, Kenneth Chan, Mariano Proetti, Bruce Woodford, John van Hoof
Seated: Back (L to R) Louis Gonzalez, Terry O'Neill, Justine Gallen, Adewale Onabanjo
Seated: Front (L to R) Kyran Sze, Robin Roy, Nick Mumar, Kameel Saliba



“ We reminisced, we laughed, and we enjoyed each other’s company ”

Our reunion began with refreshments on the Mansion steps followed by a generous lunch buffet on the Mansion lawn. There can be few architectural structures in Britain as breathtakingly beautiful as the Prior Park Mansion. This building has also captivated the appreciation and admiration of countless pupils and visitors; myself included.

However, what really made this event so special and enduring, was the opportunity to meet friends and classmates of 40-plus years ago. We reminisced, we laughed, and we enjoyed each other’s company. It was a pleasure to indulge in this trip down memory lane together and I recalled a particular event that occurred during an English lesson for my Class 4-Alpha in the autumn of 1979. Our teacher Patrick McMahon had led the class out to the pathway alongside the wings

of the Mansion. Gesturing to the trees that lined the right-hand side of the valley, he referred to their golden-red-brown shades as a metaphor for the journey of life and the unstoppable passage of time. Naturally, some of the class chuckled at the magnitude and depth of such wisdom, but reflecting on that distant event of so many years ago, I realised that we were now entering this “autumn stage” of our lives.

Just then, Gerald Davies, the former housemaster of Allen House, joined us and was as cheerful and enthusiastic in his greeting of us as we were of him.

Later that evening, we went out for dinner, the day of our reunion was still young and so full of promise ...Mike May, Ian Cordwell, Mark Webb, and Tony Jiggins joined us for dinner.



1976 and 1978 Reunion

By Paul Wrightman (PPA 1978)



L to R: Gabriel Makhoul, Anthony Chan, Eddie Chan, Gary Winch, Andrew Purvis, Lincoln Rupasinghe, Richard Morris, Alan Prentice, Martin Schimmer, Des Judge



Des Judge, Gary Winch, Carl Becker, Martin Schimmer, Richard Morris, Susan, wife of Eddie Chan, Eddie Chan, Gabriel Makhoul, Paul Wrightman, Andrew Purvis



“ We took turns recalling particular memories of our time ”

A truly memorable day started with five of us leaving PPC and heading off to Prior Park Cricklade; Richard Morris (PPA 1976), Gary Winch (PPA 1978), Des Judge (PPA 1978), Gabriel Makhoul (PPA 1978) and Paul Wrightman (PPA 1978).

The memories we recalled were the great fire of circa 1970, a lot of us were sent down to the basement for protection. We recalled the new Chapel opened whilst we were there. We enjoyed the many Saturday “family” evenings held in the large TV room, dressed in our pjs (!) for our weekly treat of jokes and songs. The Christian Brothers from Toddington were regular visitors and added a lot of fun and energy to the norm. Concorde trial flights used to fly so low over our playing fields, which amazed us at the time.

We returned back to the College in time to meet the others for a tour around PPC. We found that there has been lots of great redevelopment including the Bury Sports Centre, and we were able

to see a lot of the school as we originally remembered it including snippets of the old dormitory partitioning!

Our memories tended to revolve around our non-curricular activities such as weekly films watched in the Round Room (assuming you weren’t in detention), conflicts with Mrs Peel-Hobson (who “managed” the “dining” facilities), and the disco and acquaintances with the Royal school.

We rounded off the day with a first-class dinner and we took turns recalling particular memories of our time there. Alan Prentice (PPA 1979) asked us to toast and remember those who couldn’t attend this event and those who had sadly passed away: James Riordan (PPA 1978), Anthony O’Boy (PPA 1976), Mark Ashworth (PPA 1978), Richard Buckley (PPA 1979), Chris Anyaorah (PPA 1976) and Mike Dinga (PPA 1980).



1968 Reunion

By Tim Heining



John Evans and Terry Ilott



Tim Heining, Chris Cutcliffe and Kevin Steer

“ Ex-schoolmates who regard themselves as brothers ”



Peter Rippon and Phil Hamerton



Charles Dean and Rick Jarrams



Ron Turley and Dave Peckham

Not satisfied with meeting up only every five years, the indomitable Year of 68 gathered for lunch in London, organised by Tim Heining. The venue was The Abingdon in Kensington which provided ample space for fraternising before sitting down for the meal. In all, there were 13 of us, some with partners, making up a total of 25. Everyone enjoyed it and many are already asking if there will be a repeat next year. Will this become an annual event? Who knows? Anything is possible with such a fine group of friends and ex-schoolmates who regard themselves as brothers. Until next year!!!



Class of 1968 and their partners having lunch



Alumnae Netball

By Fi Rae (PPA 2009)

It was a cold and rainy day in January but, inside The Bury Sports Centre, two long term rivals were warming up for a hotly contested 2024 alumnae netball match.

The alumnae were out in force with a record breaking 15 players but the big question was ... would our strength in numbers be any match for the sprightly school side?

The game was off to a dramatic start with interceptions from both sides. The school's crisp passing and efficient conversions meant that, before long, it was 1-3. But the alumnae side has never gone down without a fight and clawed it back to 3-3. A final shot from the school whispered past the whistle for the first quarter, making it 3-4.

A new quarter and seven new players was just what the alumnae team needed. We saw some visionary long-range efforts and the two teams were neck and neck, 7-7 at half time.

With another rotation of players for the alumnae team, the tide continued with both teams showing superb athleticism and



Front row (L to R): Alys Redman (PPA 2021), Connie Redman (PPA 2015), Amelia Layet (Anne-Marie's daughter), Fi Rae (PPA 2009), Anne-Marie Layet (PPA 1993), Louise Heron (proud parent), Sukey Holder. Back row (L to R): Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999), Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019), Hannah Brierley (PPA 2022), Jessie Parsons (PPA 2021), Kirsty Rae, Zoe Strickland (2009), Deborah Barran (proud parent PPC and Paragon) and Emma Brandon-Jones (proud Paragon parent)

keeping the score close at 9-10 and all to play for going into the final quarter.

The alumnae side rallied and, after a brief strategy session and a roaring battle cry, gave it

“ After a brief strategy session and a roaring battle cry ”

everything. For the first time in the game, we had the lead, 12-11. With three minutes on the clock and everything to play for, the school improved their precision and - with no mercy - went on an astonishing four-point run; though they kindly let us have the final goal to end the match 13-15.

The saga continues and we can't wait to see what 2025 brings! If you're interested in playing for the alumnae, contact Fi Rae (fionarae@hotmail.co.uk). We're open to any alumnae, parents, or netball enthusiasts!





Alumnae Hockey

By Amy Catt (PPA 2021)

Another shocking defeat for the alumnae (5-1) but regardless a wonderful day to get out on the hockey pitch with the girls from across the year groups. Great to see some older and fresher faces as well!

This year we had the 'Battle of the Sisters' with two of our alumnae **Annabelle Goymer** (PPA 2023) and **Jessie Walsh** (PPA 2023) playing against their sisters **Violet** and **Ruby** (PPA 2027) who are in the College 1st team. The competition was fierce between them and there was some unforgiving tackling, but both sets of sisters survived with their shins and relationships intact.

It was a pleasure meeting some of the girls who came this year but didn't last year, hoping to see a bigger turnout next year as

“ Great to see some older and fresher faces ”

well and as usual it was great to catch up with everyone. We are looking forward to next year girls, and hopefully we'll get a win this time!



Violet (PPA 2027) Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023), Jessie Walsh (PPA 2023) and Ruby (PPA 2027)





Tyla Werrett (PPA 2024), Sophie Hunter (PPA 2024), Evie Catt, Lolo Lewis (PPA 2020), Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023), Amy Catt (PPA 2021), Charlotte Brickell (PPA 2023), Jessie Walsh (PPA 2023) and Fi Rae (PPA 2009)



Old Boys' Hockey

By Dylan Bunn (PPA 2018)

A cold, yet sunny Saturday morning provided excellent conditions for what would turn out to be a very entertaining contest between the youthful energy of the current students and slightly less energetic but experienced alumni side.

An early lead for the alumni, provided by **Raph Watson** (PPA 2018), set the tone for what would be a high scoring affair. An inventive substitution of the whole team by manager **Justin Avenell** (PPA 2018) gave a much-needed rest to the increasingly tiring older legs while maintaining energy on the pitch. The current students fought back well

and with some excellent flowing hockey and they saw themselves in the lead 4-3 at the halfway point.

“ An enthralling back and forth game ended with experience defeating youth ”

However, a rejuvenated alumni team, aided with continuous use of the new full team subs, brought the game back to 5-5 with quarter of an hour to play. Having recovered from a short slump in form induced by some heckling on the sideline, some inventive

play by **Archie Parson** (PPA 2019) saw the old boys take the lead going into the final few minutes. As the final whistle blew, an enthralling back and forth game ended with experience defeating youth 7-5. Special thanks to **Mr Bond** (PPA 1995) and **Mr Crawford** (PPA 1988) who umpired the game excellently, and to **Emma-Lou** for organising such a fantastic day for all those involved.

Ed - I must sincerely apologise, the photos taken on the day have been lost and despite numerous efforts, cannot be recovered. I am very sorry and will make sure lots are taken for the next match.

Alumni tennis



L to R: Claire Kisiel (PPA 1993), Seb Morley (PPA 2022), Tom Reynolds (PPA 2022), Tom Williams (PPA 1996), Phil Reed (PPA 2004). Front row: Nick Fourie (PPA 2023) and Euan Hatvany (PPA 2023)



Julius and Euan Hatvany (PPA 2023)



By Claire A Kisiel (PPA 1993)

It was lovely to be welcomed back to Prior Park on Sunday 16th June to play in the second alumni v 1st team tennis tournament. The day began with a BBQ and drinks on the playing fields, while musicians from the school entertained with live jazz in the background and cricket was in progress. On arrival, we met a few familiar faces from last year's tennis tournament, as well as the Class of 1994, who were celebrating their 30-year school reunion.

Philip Reed (PPA 2004), tennis competitor and coach arranged the draw for the afternoon. Each alumnus was paired with a 1st team player. This year, it worked out that there were almost equal numbers of female and male participants, making mixed doubles more fun and balanced, with longer rallies playing out.



“ All players showed outstanding enthusiasm, competitive spirit and athleticism ”

We played short set tennis and the scores of the best of four were recorded at the end of each set and the top overall winners competed in a knockout finale. A bonus for the winners this year was to have their names etched onto a supersize winner's trophy, The Claire Kisiel Trophy (Ed included this not

CK!). In total, we played six rounds of four game sets, equalling 24 games of tennis, over about three hours. All players showed outstanding enthusiasm, competitive spirit and athleticism. There were some fast spin serves, drop volleys, and sprints to the net to return these low bounce balls back, as well as runs to the baseline to pick up any overhead lobs. I was partnered with Jackson (U6) who played a skillful game of serve and volley, and slice returns on the advantage side of the court. This year's winners were Euan Hatvany (PPA 2023) and Julius (PPA 2026).

After a very rewarding afternoon of tennis, we were invited to enjoy afternoon tea and scones, or drinks at the bar by the cricket field. It was a beautiful, blue-sky day to be at the College, appreciating the surroundings as well as participating in the sports activities. Thank you to Emma-Lou and Phil Reed for organising such a seamless and welcoming event, and we very much look forward to the next occasion.



Alumni Golf Day

By Suzannah Angelo-Sparling (PPA 1987)

Thursday 27th June was a dry bright, if somewhat windy, day which proved perfect for alumni golf at Cumberwell Park Golf Club.

We arrived to a welcome coffee and bacon bap which, for me at least, meant there was little time, or inclination, to warm up!

Most teams were a mixture of two alumni, a member of staff and a pupil which worked really well.

The course was in good condition and played well. I really enjoyed my round even if I lost a few more balls than expected!!



Suzannah Angelo-Sparling (PPA1987) and Peter O'Donoghue (PPA 1987) and Joash

“ Near misses, flukes or sheer class ”

We had welcome refreshments on our way round and then enjoyed a two-course meal afterwards during which there was much swapping of stories of near misses, flukes or sheer class.

There were some great performances with **Martin Woodhouse (PPA 1988)** who won the Pat McMahon Cup for Best Gross and also the Longest Drive and **Dave Williams (PPA 1983)** won the Roy Cox Cup for the Best Nett.

Thank you to Martin Woodhouse who learned his golf know-how in sorting out the handicaps.

I hope that I will be joined by some other lady golfers next year. Save the date for the next Golf Day: Thursday 26th June 2025.



Simon Morgan (PPA 1974) and Martin Woodhouse (PPA 1988) Pat McMahon Cup best gross winner



Darren Crawford (PPA 1988), Peter Smith (PPA 1988) and Martin Woodhouse (PPA 1988)



Dave Williams (PPA 1983)



Dave Williams (PPA 1983), Frank Guidan and Greg (PPA 1983)



Mark Baker (PPA 1975), Martin Bury (PPA 1975) and Simon Morgan (PPA 1974)



Suzannah Angelo-Sparling (PPA1987) and Peter O'Donoghue (PPA 1987) and Joash



Mr Baxter and Nick Bailey (PPA 1980)



Alumni Cricket

L to R: Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016), Rob Dymond (PPA 2022), Finn Grant (PPA 2022), Archie Parsons (PPA 2019), Ned Hannah (PPA 2023). Front row: Mr Bond (PPA 1995), Luke Singleton (PPA 2020), Juston Avenell (PPA 2018), Will Howells (PPA 2023), Jamie O'Brien (PPA 1997), Charlie O'Brien (PPA 1994), Andrew Barnes (PPA 2010), Seth Tapsfield (PPA 2010), Ed Singleton (PPA 2010), Edward Pearson (PPA 2010)

By Justin Avenell (PPA 2018)

Another fantastic year of alumni cricket saw the College 1st XI keep hold of the trophy for yet another year!

We held two T20 matches as there were large numbers of alumni who wanted to play, which is great. The first T20 saw the alumni pile on the runs with some quality batting from many including new alumnus **Will Howells** (PPA 2023). **Mr Bond** (PPA 1995) and **Mr Pandya** wished they had seen this whilst he was at school! The alumni went on to bowl really well and won the first game convincingly. This seemed to light a fire in the 1st XI who came out swinging, quite literally,



Dom Eedle (PPA 1970) and Tony Bury (PPA 1970)

“ The first T20 saw the alumni pile on the runs ”

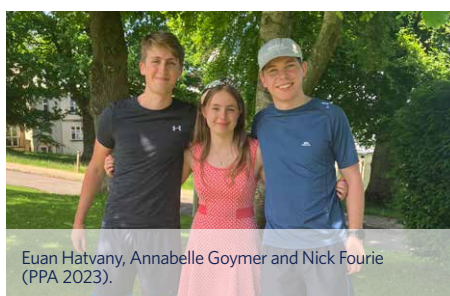
and were on 75 off 5 overs thanks to **Wilf Everitt's** (PPA 2024) 50. The school then went on to make a significant score which the alumni failed to come anywhere near chasing.

It was a great end to a tough season for the 1st XI with many of the players playing their final game for the school, hopefully they will be on the alumni team next year.

As always, all the alumni enjoyed the day connecting with former schoolmates and some that they had not met before. A massive thank you to **Emma-Lou** who, as always, put on a fantastic day for everyone involved. The wait for an alumni win continues...



Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016)



Euan Hatvany, Annabelle Goymer and Nick Fourie (PPA 2023).



Luke Singleton (PPA 2020), Archie Parsons (PPA 2019), Ed Singleton (PPA 2010), Rob Dymond (PPA 2022)



Rob Dymond and Finn Grant (PPA 2022)



Simon Morgan (PPA 1974) and Ben Horan



Malcolm Bond (PPA 1995) and Archie Parsons (PPA 2019)



Ned Hannah (PPA 2023)

Stonemason Update

By Emma-Louise Goymer

Fee Henderson, the College Stonemason, has been carving, restoring and sometimes demolishing stonework around the site. I sat down with her, in the freezing Ball Court where she was working, to discuss three areas she worked on in the last year.

The Old Ball Court has seen a resurgence for the game of Fives at the College this last year and so Fee has repaired the worst of the holes in the back wall. It is still an uneven wall but that adds to the skill required to play as the players never quite know in which direction the ball is going to bounce. She is also repairing the steps by the columns with lime based mortar which will take three months to go off and so the Winter is a good time to let it sit. There are some bigger holes where trees have begun to take root. Fee has battled with the trees every year and now has managed to pull out all of the roots and will fill the gaps with a 1:1:1 mix of lime, stone dust and sharp sand.

Fee has also spent time in the Chapel repairing the floor at the north entrance where a cloakroom has been built. Fee pulled up the old floor which was cement, restored the bath stone around the edges and replaced the concrete with reuseable pavement stone called Welsh Pennant Stone which is very hard wearing. It is a black/ grey/ brown colour and will not wear as quickly as Bath stone. Fee has also repointed some of the walls to make the entrance hall look smarter.



Repairs to colonnade

Fee sandblasting

During Winter of last year, Fee carved whole sections for the front and back of the Mansion to replace stone which has disintegrated beyond the point of repair. Stone found around the site was used so there is a good chance that the stone dated back to the time of the building of the Mansion. This is something that Fee hopes to continue.

“ Stone found around the site was used ”



Fee removing the concrete in the chapel entrance



Removing the concrete at the front of the Chapel



Repairing the steps of the Old Ball Court



Mansion steps



Chapel new floor and steps



Mansion Lunch and PPA Medal



By Terry Ilott (PPA 1968)

I had doubts about attending the Mansion Lunch this year. My classmates had gathered for a reunion in July; the core of the group gets together every fortnight on Zoom; and we have a lot of ad hoc interactions in smaller groups or one-to-ones throughout the year. The Mansion Lunch wasn't going to add anything, not as far as my year group was concerned. Clearly others felt the same, as I was the only one from 1968 booked to attend.

On the way down from Paddington, I anticipated that it would be a smaller gathering than usual. The thought occurred that that might have its consolations: sometimes a smaller gathering means more meaningful conversations.

I took a seat on the No 2 bus outside Bath Spa railway station. Two men of a certain age got on

behind me. They were obviously PPAs, although I didn't know them. Nor did they appear to know me. Still, I was certain they were going up the hill to Prior. You just don't see two men in blazers taking a bus in Bath on a Saturday morning. Then Rory Keegan (PPA 1967) climbed aboard. A friendly and familiar face. Rory and I chatted as the bus climbed the hill. Sure enough, all four of us disembarked at the school gates.

As ever, the walk to the Mansion gave us glimpses of the glorious view. Prior's ensemble of architecture and landscape exudes a massive self-confidence. It is hard not to be infected, to grow a little taller, a little more comfortable in one's own skin.

In the Mansion, there was a host of familiar faces: among them, Dom Eedle (PPA 1970), Tony Bury (PPA 1970), Ian Haddon (PPA 1959), Peter Haddon (PPA 1964), Chris Lennon (PPA 1964) - he was head boy when I was in St Peters



Kieran Kelly (PPA 2015)



Christopher Li (PPA 1979)



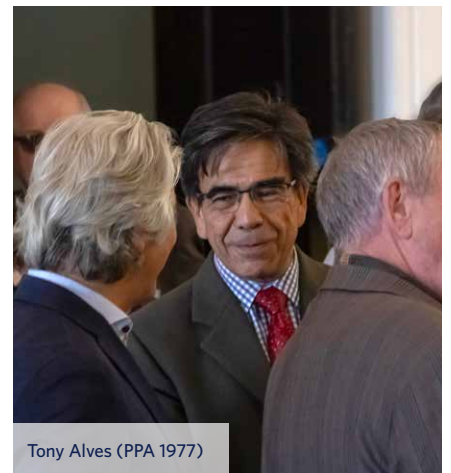
Andrew Choy (PPA 1989)



- Christopher Liu (PPA 1984), Mike Stevens (PPA 1959) and outgoing PPA president Simon Morgan (PPA 1974). I was greeted by Declan and, shortly after, by Emma-Lou. There were far more people gathered in the Mansion than I had expected.

After the obligatory walk out onto the portico to drink in the view – and sip my tea – we were herded into place on the Mansion steps for the group photo. I was aware that some of the old

were Tony Alves (PPA 1977), James Brazier (PPA 1984), Andrew Choy (PPA 1989), John Van Hof (PPA 1982), Emma White (PPA 1997), Yutong Li (PPA 2009) and Richard Rowly (PPA 1979). Headmaster Ben Horan gave us an update on developments at the College and explained the thinking behind the decision to cease formally to be a Catholic school. PPA president, Simon Morgan, then reflected on his (very successful) six years in post before introducing his successor, Chantal Marie



Tony Alves (PPA 1977)

“ It is hard not to be infected, to grow a little taller ”

stalwarts were not with us this year. Patrick Mason (PPA 1953), in many ways the architect of these Mansion lunches, was the most recent loss. His daughter Bernadette (PPA 1997) attended in his stead and in his honour.

We then took our places in the John Wood Chapel for the PPA Medal ceremony. Christopher Liu received the veteran's medal and Keiran Kelly (PPA 2015) took the medal for recent leavers. Declan read the impressive citations and both Christopher and Keiran made very engaging speeches in response. After that, we enjoyed a piano recital by the College's Director of Music, Matthew Nicholls, before we all shuffled upstairs to the Academy Hall for lunch. A trio of student musicians greeted us as we took our places.

There were 60 people in attendance, seated at seven tables. Among them, to name just a few,

Hopper (PPA 1999). Chantal made a brief speech in reply.

As we pushed back our chairs and prepared to seek out the friendly faces we hadn't spoken to yet, I was approached by Declan, who pressed



Simon Morgan (PPA 1974)

a book upon me, *Educating in Faith: a history of the English Catholic public school*. "You'll enjoy it, I know you will," he said. (Declan's largesse was not disinterested. I discovered later that he wanted me to chair a meeting of the PPA Heritage Society with the book's author, Mark Cleary.)

Then there was the usual mooching around, last-minute catch-ups, promises to meet or at least to stay in touch. Some went up to the Monument Field to watch the sports, others headed for the car park. I walked down the hill and caught the train back to London. On the way, I opened Mark Cleary's book and read it all the way to Paddington. As Declan predicted, I enjoyed it very much.

And so another very successful Mansion Lunch was over. I will be among the first to put my name down next time. Being at Prior, indeed being in Bath, is always a pleasant experience. I hope some of my year decide to join me.



Giving back

By Emma-Louise Goymer

Great to see **Kieran Kelly** (PPA 2015) back at the College speaking to the Sixth Form about testicular cancer and how to check for it. Kieran is part of the Oddballs team raising awareness particularly in young people. He also gave an inspirational talk about saying yes to opportunities which present themselves after Prior and taking a chance with something new.

Iheuk Duru and **Ali Osment** (PPA 2008) spoke to the Sixth Form in their General Studies lesson about being an army officer and a civil engineer (Ali) and an Ophthalmologist and working as a doctor in the NHS (Iheuk).

They also went on a tour of the College where they met a number of their former teachers which brought back some great memories and funny stories.

Thank you to **Richard Klein** (PPA 1976) Oscar winning (for *Man on Wire*) head of documentaries for Plimsoll Productions for talking to the Sixth Form in General Studies. Richard spoke about creativity and having the courage to have ideas and not to be too precious about them when they are rejected!

I cannot say that **Gabriel Vick** (PPA 2000) walked into the John Wood Chapel when he gave a musical theatre workshop to our music scholars and students. He arrived as a performer should by striding into the room singing in full voice – it was wonderful!

Gabriel's electric energy was inspiring, and our pupils all benefitted from his knowledge and coaching. Gabriel also gave a Q&A on his career and had a tour of the school with his former teacher Mr Sackett, before heading back to London to perform in *Mrs Doubtfire* that evening!

Great to see **Tom Simcox** (PPA 2003) being shown around the College by **Gabriel** (PPA 2025). Gabriel wrote to Tom to ask career advice and Tom has offered him work



Kieran Kelly



Iheuk Duru and Ali Osment sitting in the Round Room



Richard Klein



Gabriel Vick



Tom Simcox with Gabriel

experience this summer. Fantastic to see our alumni helping our current students.

Thank you to **Charlie Parker** (PPA 2021) and Ismail Muchhala who came to speak to the Sixth Form in their General Studies lesson about Apprenticeships with BT. They gave a very informative presentation which opened the students minds to opportunities other than University.

Thank you to **Aisling Bury** (PPA 2010) who spoke to the Sixth Form about working in the hospitality industry.

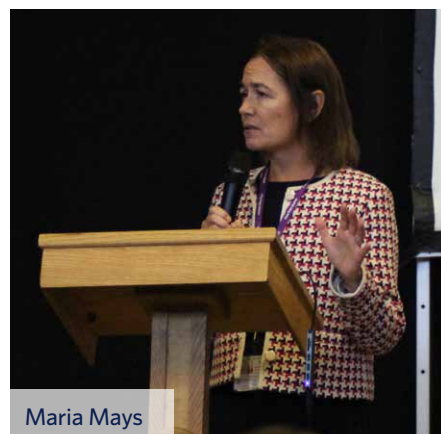
Aisling is the restaurant manager at the Olive Tree in Bath and along with some hilarious stories, she also had some excellent advice for the students about seeing what you need to do to progress, going for it and taking

the less exciting bits of your job on the chin.

Maria Mays (PPA 1993) spoke to the Sixth Form and students from St Gregorys Catholic College at the College Inspire Day. Maria spoke about her work in the British Virgin Islands and particularly leading the response to hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 and her humanitarian work in Cambodia. It was fascinating and truly inspirational.

Hugh Padfield (PPA 1995) started his talk to the Sixth Form in the best possible way, by bringing in various delicious cheeses for us all to sample. And they were absolutely delicious! Hugh runs his family business the Bath Soft Cheese Company, and he spoke to the students about the lessons he has learnt on the way.

We were delighted that **Sally Land** (PPA 1992) could come and talk to the Sixth Form about journalism, her career and about her current role as 'Dear Deirdre' at the Sun. Sally told us about some of her difficult experiences in war zones and also some hilarious stories about famous people she has met and reported on. Sally has travelled extensively, and she has written about women's rights in war zones, education projects in Africa and plastic surgery tourism.



Maria Mays

Thank you



Charlie Parker



Hugh Padfield



Aisling Bury



Memories...

Compiled by Terry Illott (PPA 1968)

Stephen Tobin
(PPA 1966)



It became a cliché that everyone would remember where they were, on November 22nd 1963, when they heard the news of President Kennedy's assassination. In my case, it was the upper hall of the Mansion, where we were rehearsing that year's Toffee Palmer choral offering. Kennedy's death cast an ominous pall over the optimism that had been ignited just two years earlier with the inauguration of the charismatic young president. Even if the cold war was at its height, after those long grey post-war years, he and the Sixties had ushered in a sense not just of change, but unbounded possibility.

I doubt many of today's pupils are more than vaguely aware of that devastating event, or the political assassinations that ensued over the next few years. But then why should they be? To them, they're as distant as the Boer War was to us. Then again, with the way the cultural aspects of that decade have been so incessantly rehearsed, maybe they are. Indeed, I wouldn't be surprised if everyone under the age of 70 is heartily sick of them. Certainly, my daughter, who's now in her early forties, groans at the least mention. At the time, however, and as they unfolded, they were nothing less than exhilarating.

Not for everyone, of course. Recalling the moment Brother Hooper's black cassock swept into the room, and his sombre announcement, it has sometimes crossed my mind how unlikely it would have been had a British Prime Minister been murdered, that the principal of some Catholic school in faraway Minneapolis or Wichita, would have similarly interrupted proceedings. That is a reflection, of course, on the irrevocable decline in our nation's status post-World War Two and, all the more drastically post-Suez, and

in this lay the rub. I can't pretend that as a 15-year-old I had any grasp of the political implications. For me, kicking over the traces with the emergence of satire and the all-conquering eruption of our own popular music was merely highly charged entertainment. And that it unsettled so many of my parents' generation just added to its allure. For we, of course, had not had to suffer the privations of conflict, nor felt reduced by the subsequent collapse of empire. To feel part of the tumbling of so many stuffy conventions was just hugely exciting.

Though not the Lower Sixth, who, affronted by my fervent espousal of the cultural shift, took it upon themselves to divest me of the Beatles-style fringe I'd been joyously cultivating. Shortly thereafter, the more literate of their peers took the opportunity to lampoon me in the June 1964 edition of *Priority*, the "unofficial" (as it described itself) school magazine, price 6d (old pence). Whilst the despoilation of my coiffure did

sensibility immortalised in the glorious film *Genevieve*. It's difficult to conjure now how inflammatory to such types (and indeed my own father) the issue of hair length was.

Convinced that just beyond the school gates "it" was all going on, I couldn't wait. Allowed down to Bath, I seized the chance to interrogate the barber, a lad maybe just a year older than myself, as to where "it" was happening. "The Arbye Carfey," he replied. "That's where we go." And thus armed, when next down in the city with my two close chums, Johnny and Rods, we went in search of this gateway to the scene.

For over an hour we must have ambled in circles with no one we asked seeming to have the faintest idea where or what we were talking about; until, finally, some one pointed towards a street where a short distance down we found the Abbey Café.

After dark is when it took off. On exiting the gym after the weekly film show one Sunday evening, we passed a

evening, I stood there avidly taking in the Top Twenty in my New Musical Express, their pianist, now leading choral conductor, Peter Broadbent, MBE, leaned over my shoulder and pointed to an ad for the Rolling Stones first single, *Come On*. "They're going to be big," he said. At which point, I'd only vaguely heard of them.

I still have my programme for **Cameron Mackintosh's** (PPA 1964) Christmas 1963 review, at which the Parkville Jazz Band took the roof off. And I have the following summer's edition of *Priority*, in which I was delighted to merit yet further recognition. Amongst a mock small ads column was one for "Steve, Johnny and Roddie's MOD SHOP, incorporating Bill's Boot Bar". Well, all publicity, as they say. John Walker died a few years ago, as a year or two later did **Bill Genders** (PPA 1966), what became of Rod Grant I don't know. All I'm left with are these much thumbled and faded mementoes.

By Mark Veale
(PPA 1974)

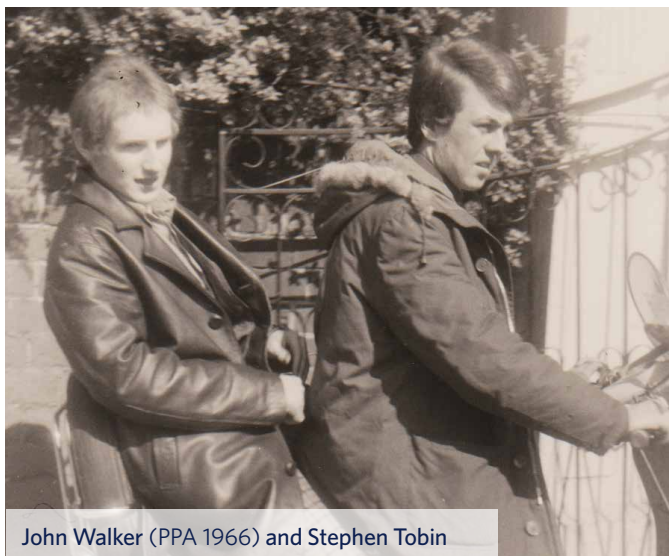
Remembering Philip John Anthony Veale (PPA 1972).

"He ain't heavy"

We arrived at Prior Park for the winter term in 1971. I went into Lower 5A and my brother Phil went into Lower 6A. Phil opted for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme under the generous, encouraging and ever watchful eye of Brother Jack Keegan, whilst my Wednesday afternoons were spent in the incredibly uncomfortable "hairy Mary" uniform of the RAF cadets.

We spent many of our holidays in Kenmare in Ireland, where mum had bought a house with an inheritance her aunt had left her. The name Greenane Cottage was not a true indicator of the shape or size of the property. For a start it was a two-storey building, not a cottage and, as it was located on top of a hill it looked a lot bigger than it was. An estate agent would have listed it as a pretty, whitewashed property with woodwork finished in red, with three upstairs bedrooms, a downstairs bathroom, a roomy kitchen with an Aga, and a sitting/dining room that took up most of the ground floor. Big panoramic windows looked over the extraordinary views across Kenmare Bay.

In the spacious sitting room was an open fire, with a knee-high, 15-foot-long marble hearth that provided additional seats to supplement the voluminous, brown, shaggy three-piece suite, which always reminded me of a giant reclining Star Wars Wookiee. But the *piece de resistance* of the entire house was, as our dad used to recite like a favourite



John Walker (PPA 1966) and Stephen Tobin

“ They were great pals at the time ”

distress me to a degree, I felt quite the reverse to be mentioned in print, albeit somewhat archly, as the school's "mod in gear".

With much glee, the authors went on to quote me as saying that I wanted to live in a world of long hair and guitars, which was absolutely true, though an ambition long since jettisoned, it was, as things have turned out, a sentiment more durable than they envisaged. But then the world to which they aspired was one of trad jazz and college scarves, a

group of older boys. Where would they head next, they were asking. For, as one declared, the night was still young.

For all that, I don't want to leave the impression that the antipathy my friends and I held towards those in the years above was absolute. One of my most resonant memories is of lining up in the corridor leading to the Lower Fifth refectory after prep and listening to Simon Wallace's Parkville Jazz Band rehearsing their peerless rendition of Duke Ellington's *Big House Blues*. One



one-liner, "the view from the loo". As this was upstairs, the view was nothing short of spectacular: four and a half acres of fields served as the baseline, leading down to the river at Templenoe Pier a mile or two away. The water, often as black as ink, stretched across to the opposite bank, over which stood the rising mountainside leading to Glengarriff on the opposite shore. On certain days, the water was so still that you could see the chevrons of a wake created by a single seal swimming near the surface. Although the weather and seasons changed - often in the same day - the water almost always lived up to its name, Blackwater.

This was the site of our adventures. Phil had gone to boarding school at a very early age (about eight or nine) in North Berwick, on the East coast of Scotland. I don't think his experience there was an altogether pleasant one and I believe that, with hindsight, it was much to the regret of our parents. There was no proof of maltreatment, just the customary heavy-handed discipline of the day, with the misguided notion of breaking the boy to mould the man, rather than support a creative, sensitive and free-thinking spirit. This created a slightly introverted, thoughtful boy.

In fact, Phil was often described as a quiet and serious young man and he was at all times conscientious and thorough. Other acknowledgements noted a well-liked, fit, useful member of the group, who showed compassion for weaker members. His alert mind and general dependability suggested he might have leadership potential.

But Phil also had a degree of self-determination one rarely sees, especially in one so young. As a premature baby, his stature was always slightly small for his age and, although he was two years in advance of me, we were about the same size until our teens. But his lithe build accommodated a deceptively strong and explosive powerhouse, one that you underestimated at your peril (for example, in a wrestling playfight).

It was this combination of size and energy that created the perfect characteristics of a very capable long-distance runner. Phil was a cross-country competitor from an early age. At Prior, he continued his interest in cross-country and middle-distance running. Indeed, his Outward Bound Report (completed within the DoE scheme), dated September 1973, recorded one of his many achievements: "Cross Country time: 37.20. Standard: Honours. Position: 2nd of 34".

We were unsurprised to hear that he was picked for a team to compete in the All-Scotland Schoolboys cross country race. There were nearly 350 participants, which must have made the start something akin to the battle scene in Braveheart. As a family we



Terrance Gomez-Mannion (PPA 1974)
Phil Veale, Dave Verrecchia (PPA 1973)

were positioned near to the finish. We settled in with a picnic and expected a long wait for the race to play out. As we completed our meal, the front runners started to arrive. Again, we expected a long wait to see the pride of the Veale family appear. But there, in 11th place, was Phil, our Phil, battling it out, mud splattered, sweating, but battling.

Afterwards, bursting with pride and firing questions at him, we noticed his distinct lack of exuberance at his well-placed finish. He explained that he was slightly annoyed, as he thought he could

as he must have got their agreement, at about the tender age of 13 he found an old Ford Anglia for sale in Killarney, some 30 miles away.

How a 13-year-old even found out about a car for sale, in those pre-internet days, still mystifies me. After paying £25 for the non-running car, the journey back to Kenmare was no easy feat. Firstly, the car had to be towed with a rope. Obviously, this required two drivers, one of them being Phil. Secondly, the route chosen was the same one adopted by the RAC Round-Ireland Rally, which passed right in front of our gate. It was

“
...our Phil, battling it out, mud
splattered sweating, but battling
”

have won had he not gone back for one of the shoes our mother had bought him for the race. It had got stuck in the mud and he thought she would have killed him had he returned without it!

The scope of his other interests included Highland dancing, golf, stamp collecting, photography, and cars, always cars.

I don't know or remember where his love of cars came from, but I do remember seeing a poster on his wall of a Porsche 911 Targa in a bitter chocolate colour with a silver rollover bar. That's where I got my love of cars. Phil's first foray into the motoring world was not to be restricted by the lack of attainment of the minimum age requirement. Much to the credit of our supportive parents,

a journey that included tight bends, mountain passes, and cliff roads that any competent driver today would approach with the utmost care.

Once safely home, one might imagine that the car would be made functional and used as a handy little runabout. Phil had grander plans! He dug a pit in the garden to renovate and paint the underside, painting some panels white leaving others black, which had the car resemble a panda, and covering it in promo stickers from various racing teams and products such as oils, petrols and tyres. The finished product had the desired effect: a rally car.

Phil then had the truly enlightened idea of a day trip to a demolition derby being held in Cork. This entailed a

14-year-old and a 12-year-old hitchhiking the country roads, 60 miles from Kenmare to Cork, and 60 miles back again. As it had been raining heavily in the morning, I was booted in my wellies and shorts, gear not best suited to hiking, least of all on tarmac. (I wish I had a selfie of that.) But off we struck after Sunday morning Mass.

What our parents were thinking of still baffles me to this day. It was slow going as you might imagine on a barely used country road but, as is afforded the brave, we had the extraordinary fortune of an American tourist on a driving holiday stopping to give us a lift. He was driving a dark green Porsche 911 - the very car, if a different colour, on the poster hanging on Phil's bedroom wall! (I found out later that the colour was, believe it or not, Irish Green.) We arrived in Cork barely in time for the last race before having to start on the return journey, by which time I had blisters on blisters. More importantly, as Phil kept saying, we got a lift in a Porsche!

The difference between Phil and lesser mortals was that he invariably acted on the ideas he had rather than discounting them as unrealistic or unwise. I was, more often as not, press-ganged into those that he could not execute on his own. Having completed the transformation of the Anglia, now rally car, he wanted action photos of himself driving at breakneck speeds around the circular driveway of the house. The action was artificially created with a 'yump' that launched the car into the air, at which precise moment I was to take a picture. It is firmly fixed in my mind to this day that Phil stuck his head out of the car window at the crucial moment, relying on some spiritual guidance to steer the car (well before Tesla), while his face was engaged in having its portrait immortalised in action. I was strategically, but not I think maliciously, placed in front of the car and slightly to the side as it whizzed by, leaving me more than a few times having to dive out of the way for my life. As Phil gained in confidence, I gained in life preservation and soon handed in my notice to "the boss".

"Mark, Mark, wake up, get dressed, meet me downstairs, and be quiet." Befuddled, when I got downstairs, I ventured to enquire, in whispers, as to why we were getting up when everyone else was asleep, as was I until five minutes ago!

"We're going into the Silver Slipper Ballroom dance in Kenmare" as if it was the most normal outing for a couple of sub-14-year-olds to undertake. This wasn't just ill-advised, it was also highly illegal and I think in hindsight, had it all gone badly wrong, I may have preferred to have been arrested by the police than found out by our parents.

So off we snook, pushing the Anglia down the drive so as not to awaken the household. When we reached the road,



Memories... continued

Phil turned on the lights and pushed the engine starter button - again and again as we rolled down the road - without success. Two miles down the lane, we reached the main road into Kenmare - still no engine noises. It was only then that Phil realised that he had forgotten, in the excitement of our clandestine subterfuge, to switch on the ignition. So, by the time we got the engine started, having had the lights on from home, the battery was flat.

Now we had the engine but no lights, and so, even with our vast experience in operational planning, we realised that our Thelma and Louise road trip had come to a premature end. God only knows what we were going to do had we reached our original destination at the dance, as I'm sure we didn't!

Now, without lights and in the dead of the country the nights were black as coal. Our (read Phil's) solution involved me sticking my hand out of the window and every time Phil heard me yelp from contact with the roadside briars, he would steer a little to the right. And on it went. I can't remember exactly how it ended, but I do know that although the mission was a failure, the "commandos" managed a successful return to base without alerting the C.O. or the rest of the camp.

After leaving Prior Park, Phil went on to do architecture in Leicester, where he truly found his calling, working for such notable firms as Yorke Rosenberg Mardall (later YRM), and BDP (Building Design Partnership). He went on to lead the design of a retreat centre in the most beautiful mountain setting of the Costa Blanca in Spain. It was here that he spent his last days.

Phil's sudden and untimely demise came at the very young age of only 44, but at a time in his life when he had found a purpose. In architecture, he had something that he believed in deeply and in which he found a deep sense of happiness.

Phil was universally loved and respected by friends worldwide; he was beautiful inside and out; and I was so very lucky to have him as a big brother. His final farewell was a joyous and love-filled occasion shared by hundreds of his friends, and it is that that we remember with happiness. His was a life well lived.

Phil Hudson (PPA 1974)

Can Prior take any credit for the remarkable sangfroid exhibited by Phil Hudson (PPA 1974) in more than three decades of architectural adventures and triumphs in Ukraine?

There was the day he planned to take a building by force from ransom-demanding Italian contractors. Then there was the running battle with goons hired by oligarchs who twice



filled the foundations of one of Phil's developments. This culminated in a stand-off between Phil's heavies and the oligarch's men that was broken up by the arrival of militia toting sub-machine guns. Also there was the decision, not taken lightly, to pursue the then president, Petro Poroshenko, in court for non-payment of fees. (The case is now in the European Court.)

Or there was the time when Phil hired a British citizen who later became the fixer for the Ukrainian oligarch who controlled the flow of gas funds. Monies were used to buy the allegiance of politicians, and not just in Ukraine. Or there was a hire sacked for siding with a rival developer, who unfortunately became Kyiv's chief architect (equivalent of chief planning officer in UK) and teamed up with a director of the rival developer who became Kyiv's chief building control officer - significant complicating factors, but as it proved not insurmountable ones, in securing permissions.

Or how about the long-running dispute with the freeholder of a property that Phil's company had refurbished and leased? The lady freeholder, a dentist, hired a team with oxy-acetylene torches to cut through the steel entrance door to seize the property. The matter went to court and Phil won. It was then that matters became complicated. Suffice to say that the lady sought to double-cross both Phil and the people to whom she had illegally sold the property. At the same time, she changed her name. The trouble for her was that her purchasers were a gang of former communists. Again, Phil won in court, only to learn that the lady had been thrown out of a window five floors up. When they recovered the body, the authorities found that all her teeth were missing. Phil wanted to see pictures of the body, reasoning that if she had previously falsified documents and changed her name why not fake her own death too. His lawyer advised that it didn't matter: as she was now officially dead, she could

not appeal the court decision.

It has been, as Phil admits, something of a wild ride. Through all the ups and downs, he has managed to build a successful business, which reached a peak of 50 staff in the late 1990s. Since then, he has altered the balance of work, with more reliance on rental income from the properties developed. He now has a staff of about 20.

"It is crazy," he admits, but insists that, over the course of more than 30 years, the conduct of business in Ukraine got "markedly better" and the wild stories less frequent. There was still the Orange Revolution of 2005, the Maidan uprising of 2013 and the invasions of 2014 to contend with, but the Russian invasion



camped out in the near-derelict family cottage that Phil inherited in West Coker, near Yeovil. Over the following months, he occupied himself by organising its comprehensive refurbishment such that it's now complete and offers a family bolt hole in the event Ukraine goes totally belly-up.

Phil and his wife are now mostly in Kyiv, where, he says: "The business is doing well. Everything we own is leased. The agency business is doing well. Construction continues but on an open-book, cost-plus basis. We can't commit to fixed prices or deadlines. There is too much uncertainty."

Phil has no doubts that the Russian invasion has solidified the sense of Ukrainian nationhood. While he can't say with confidence what the final outcome of the war will be, he tends to think an "East Germany settlement" will emerge, with the hope that in time a successful Ukrainian economy will contrast with a moribund Russian economy and cause eastern Ukrainians to vote with their feet and in pursuit of their wallets - as happened finally in Germany. For this to succeed, Ukraine needs the solid support and defence of the West, which now appears in the balance with the arrival of Trump and departure of the much maligned (but not in Kyiv) Boris.

At Prior, Phil was heavily influenced by both "Toffee" Palmer (art) and Tony O'Sullivan (economics). Together with English, these were his A-level subjects. He entered art school, but soon changed tack and was lucky to be accepted at the Architectural Association, arguably then the world's best school, certainly

“ It has been, as Phil admits, something of a wild ride ”

the most creative and adventuresome. Between art and architecture schools, he hitch-hiked to Istanbul and came back through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and hence saw "behind the curtain".

He worked for many years at Covell Matthews Wheatley, one of the UK's largest commercial architectural firms (a stark contrast to the arty Architectural Association). On the fall of the wall in 1990, he toured eastern Europe and wrote and subsequently published three editions of a major report on development there. By 1992, it had become essential to get on the ground, as companies who purchased his report were establishing themselves. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) commissioned



a market study in Kyiv, and with this Phil's company, Jones East 8, got off the ground. He met his wife, Lada, in Kyiv and together they built the agency operation. The design and construction side followed. Sweat equity and low fees in exchange for ownership share provided the way into property development.

Two daughters and a son attended Prior. It was really the friendly nature of the school, both staff and pupils, which persuaded Phil and his wife to send them, along with having attended Prior himself and feeling at ease on account of it. His daughter Katya Hudson (PPA 2017) resorted to writing a journal in her final term in Kingston University, which overlapped with the early months of the war. The result is *You'll feel it in the price of bread*, which is available on Amazon. She is now in Paris providing production support for not enough pay in the fashion industry, zipping between Paris, Kyiv, Switzerland, New York and soon Mexico. Younger daughter Beatrice Hudson (PPA 2019) has raised more than £25,000 for Ukraine in her final year in Glasgow School of Art. Son, Alfie Hudson (PPA 2024) is yet to decide on university, but is redressing the balance between art and commerce in the family with a prospective degree in economics and/or finance. For now, he is focussed on bread making in Yeovil's Tesco to save for a trip to South America in late spring.

Does Phil ever regret having committed his life to Ukraine? "As an architect, I could have achieved more in the UK, but as a business and a life, I don't regret it at all."

Freddie Osborne (PPA 2021)

The trip to help the people of Ukraine was an incredible experience. We left England in the knowledge that our vehicle and medical supplies would be saving lives on the front line.

We set off from university on June 13th, 2023. The trip had been in planning for a few months, organised by the Scottish-based charity Pickups for Peace (P4P). The aim of P4P is to deliver 4x4 vehicles to Ukraine. The vehicles are donated to the Ukrainian military (specifically the 24th separate Mechanized Brigade) for use on the front line. My friend Ollie and I drove a Ford Ranger filled with medical supplies, such as tourniquets, but also helmets, spare tyres and more. In order to afford the vehicle and equipment, we had set up a JustGiving page, raising £4,300 with generous donations from friends, family, and others interested in our cause.

We began with a quick drive from Bath to Folkestone, where we spent the night ready for an early Chunnel crossing in the morning. The next day, we were driving through France, Belgium and the Netherlands, ending in Hanover,



Germany. The drive took about 13 hours with regular stops to switch drivers and stock up on Red Bull and coffee. We enjoyed some well-earned beers in Germany and the following morning began the next leg of our journey, driving from Germany to Wrocław, Poland, where we met up with the 50 other members of the convoy. On the morning of the 16th, we had our phone tracking disabled to ensure we could not be tracked entering Ukraine, and we set off in convoy to the Ukrainian border.

The Ukrainian authorities were aware of our convoy, so we were able to fast track through border control where we joined up with police to blue light our convoy from the Polish/Ukrainian border to Lviv, where we would be leaving our vehicles. It was a surreal experience driving in police convoy through Ukraine, and one we will never forget. Eventually we arrived in Lviv where we had some food and rest. The next day, we officially handed over our vehicles to the military

ready to be driven to the front line. In the evening, we were hosted by the Ukrainians at a big dinner consisting of many local delicacies and good company. On the 18th, following a long bus journey, we walked back across the border into Poland where we flew back to London to round off a memorable six days.

We hope to do another trip in the near future and any support from the Prior Park community would be greatly appreciated.

Charles Cardozo (PPA 1894)

I was born in 1875 in India. I was taken by my mother to her parents in France at the age of about 12 months, and remained there till 1879, when I was placed in charge of the nuns at Bath Convent while my mother returned to India. I remained at the convent for seven years, including all holidays - summer and winter. There were few comforts, and the food as far as I can remember was poor, the sanitation terrible. The nuns were loving and kind.

In January 1887, I followed my brother to Prior Park where I remained for seven years, passing from the lowest to the top form. Winter and summer holidays were spent at the College, except when arrangements were made by the school authorities to send me to the care of some priest who took boys for holiday time. I went to Salisbury for two successive summers, Weymouth for one, and Ilfracombe for another summer.

“ It was a surreal experience driving in police convoy through Ukraine ”



But we preferred the holidays at the College, as the park was beautiful, with shooting and fishing, a large farm with the kindest of people at the farm, a Mr and Mrs Mapson.

Of education there was none at Prior Park, except for those boys who particularly exerted themselves to receive it. I managed with great difficulty to pass a College of Preceptors Examination. My true education commenced after I left College and did some reading for myself, being ashamed of my general ignorance. As regards recreations, cricket was taken seriously, and during my last year I got my colours in the first eleven. We played good teams such as the Somerset Club, Downside College, Emeriti, Lansdown CC, Corsham, and The Gunners Trowbridge.

Life at school was very rough - cold water for washing at 6am summer and winter, the sanitation horrible (earth closets), and no baths. Food was good as regards the one principal meal at 1pm, but morning and evening we had only bread with a little butter. Pocket money was 6d a week.

I soon got in touch with the professors who were interested in music and through them I received much encouragement. Certain masters took me frequently at their own expense (not mine as I never had any money) to good concerts, and one master took me to London for two weeks to his mother's house in Hampstead (Mrs Oates, of Barnes & Oates, publishers) where we went to concerts, picture exhibitions etc. every day.

All the years I was at school, it was never suggested to me that I should select some profession to work for, and when I left Prior Park in 1893 at the age of eighteen I had nothing in view except that my father wished me to come to India. Much against my wishes, he induced me to enter the employment of a firm of East India Merchants - Messrs Parry & Co of Madras - of which firm Mr W.S. Shaw, a great friend of my father, was head partner. Thus, at the age of 19 (in 1894) I started in business in Madras.

Charles Henry Cardozo became a captain in the army, was wounded at the Battle of Loos in 1915, bought a farm in Devon, then moved his family to San Remo, followed by Geneva and, eventually, the Loire. He died in 1933. His bi-lingual son Frederick (PPA 1936) was a key player in the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during the war, fighting with the French Resistance and assisting in the unification of various resistance groups. He was awarded the Military Cross, the Legion d'honneur and the Croix de Guerre. Freddie went on to become both an instructor at the Ecole du Guerre and the college commander at Sandhurst. His son, Colonel Geoffrey Cardozo (Retd) (PPA 1968) - like his father and grandfather, he is adept at languages - was awarded an OBE for his work in burying the Argentine dead in the Falklands and a CBE for his subsequent contribution to Anglo-Argentine relations. Geoff is a recipient of the PPA Medal.



Memories... continued

Nigel Green (PPA 1939) [as interviewed by his son]

I was in school the entire week. We had classes from Monday through Saturday. Wednesday afternoon and Saturday afternoon were reserved for sports, for both practice and games. In the Autumn, it was rugby; in the Spring it was hockey; and, in the Summer, we played cricket.

For hockey, you had to go about a quarter of a mile out on a road at the top of the property. The rugby was usually in that large field above the school on which a farmer was encouraged to graze his cattle and when we played rugger there was no way we could avoid the cow pats. Because I was a second row or third row in the scrum, my ears were always filled with cow shit. We cleaned up in the showers in the basement of the school.

The day started with a basin and a jug of water. You were supposed to



Nigel Green and his son Dominic

use that to rinse your face and neck and arms before you got dressed. At 7 o'clock there was Mass. And then at 7:30 it was breakfast. Immediately afterwards was the first session of school and I think there were three periods before lunch and a couple after.

The thing about it is that I had had a European education before that, so they skipped a class for me. I was allowed to go to Upper Fourth without finishing Lower Fourth.

The dining room had tables jutting out from the walls that sat two each side. The food was uninteresting, but it kept us alive. You were not supposed to bring any things with you that would add to the food taste, but I always had a jar of Marmite in my pocket, and I used to use it to add some flavour to what was otherwise a nasty mush. There was a top table where the headmaster and others sat. The only chap I remember with any form of interest was called Kenny. He was a Sixth-Form master who was quite nice.

I don't remember particularly what we did when we weren't doing sport or in classes. There was free time, but it was really a waste of time because there were no facilities we could use to engage ourselves. What interested me was the little skiff that was in the bottom lower lake in which this pike used to live. I was



dead keen on catching him. He was huge, probably every bit of 24 inches.

There was also a brother that used to take an interest in me because he realized I liked mathematics, and he helped me develop it.

If you were to stand in front of St. Paul's, there was a flight of stairs going up the hill, and to the right of that stood a really big old beech tree - I used to spend hours under it eating the beech nuts. That's about the only fond thing I have to remember about that place. It was a very disciplinarian environment, there were no girls, there was nothing - not even a place where you could engage in a hobby like making a model airplane. And that was the last thing I said to the headmaster when I left. "You provide an education, but you don't provide for life, and you complain that we get into mischief buy you don't provide anything to engage us otherwise." Anyway, I left as head boy.

I became head boy basically because I got into less trouble than the rest of the boys. I was captain of the rugger team. The hockey team captain was called Nugent. He was dynamite with a hockey stick. He learned to play hockey in India, where hockey is played in the street.

A chap named O'Sullivan, who came from Guernsey: he was one of my buddies. When he went back to the island, the Germans had invaded. He tried to escape by boat but one of the German coast guards picked him up and executed him. His father was the local doctor on the island.

Unless there is a good reason, you don't really keep in touch [after school]. Most of us went our own way and the war spread us out and sent us in different directions.

Michael Hamerton (PPA 1949)

Michael was captain of the 1948 First XV rugby team that recorded just one defeat in the entire season. His vice-captain was PPA stalwart Fergus Lyons (PPA 1949), now deceased. He was also one of two boys, the other being his friend Peter Levi (PPA 1946) - later a Jesuit and Oxford Professor of Poetry - deputed to present a bouquet to the Duchess of Kent when she visited the

school in the autumn of 1938. This was just a few weeks after the visit of Queen Mary and her entourage, including various lords and ladies in waiting as well as the mayor of Bath. Michael remembers both events very clearly.

By his own account, Michael was not academically gifted, but he was he was more successful at sport, being captain of both the Rugby XV for two years and the hockey XI for one. He was also in the cricket XI. In addition, he rowed in the Head of the River race held prior to the Oxford-Cambridge boat race. (He played golf in the PPA tournaments until quite recently.)

Michael remembers that, under the presidency of Brother Robinson, "the College gave public performances of a dramatic nature", and he "had the honour of playing the lead role" in the initial play, *The Housemaster*. One of these performances fell on a Saturday, for which reason, and much to his chagrin, Michael was forbidden to play in the rugby match that day.

Michael joined Prior Park in 1938 and, like all pupils and staff, suffered from the "Baedeker raids" in 1942, when the Luftwaffe bombed Bath, York, Canterbury, Exeter and Norwich, in revenge (so it is believed) for the RAF's bombing of the historic town of Lubeck. (The Baedeker was a popular German travel guide at the time.) On two consecutive nights, on the 25th and 26th of April, bombs were dropped on the poorly defended city, doing considerable damage to its venerable buildings and the railway station. Fires blazed across the streets and 400 people were killed. One bomb landed in front of St Pauls. "It wasn't until many years after the war that full repairs were made," Michael remembers, "due to the huge demand for skilled stonemasons to repair all the buildings in Bath that had suffered the same fate."

After Prior, Michael did two years National Service, as an air gunner in Washington bombers. These had been handed over to the RAF by the USAF, where they were named B29's. He then joined British American Tobacco (BAT), working in Uganda, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and (for a long spell) the USA. At one point, he left BAT to join a rival firm, only for that firm to be acquired by BAT shortly thereafter. He eventually became BAT's director of European operations. His final appointment was



Michael Hamerton and Peter Levi

director of technical operations based in Louisville Kentucky, whence he retired.

"When retirement was due, I was pleasantly surprised to be offered employment by BAT in more or less any job I felt to be comfortable with," he says. "I declined as retirement seemed a better option."

"I retired in 1989 and now at the age of 93 I live in Charmouth with my wife. Our four daughters live nearby, and we are blessed with fourteen grandchildren and two great granddaughters, whom we see as they grow up."

Ray Poltock (PPA 1957)

Ray remembers sitting with group of friends upstairs in the Mansion, ("which is where they kept all the musical instruments"), listening to a rare 12-inch LP of Louis Armstrong's All Stars. "It was Armstrong and Jack Teagarden performing Old Rockin Chair," he recalls. It was the early 1950s, and to a group of English schoolboys, jazz was new and exciting. "I was hooked from that day," he says.

The enthusiasts, including Peter Apperley (PPA 1957), Sam Starr (PPA 1957) and Tony Hurst (PPA 1957), decided there and then to form a jazz band, with Ray on the trumpet. They had an idea that they might quickly be proficient enough to put on a concert for the school at the end of term. "The good thing about trad jazz is that you didn't have to follow sheet music," Ray explains. "You could improvise and find your own way." He has been playing ever since.

"In those days, musical life at school was all classical, plainsong and Gregorian chant," he recalls. "The Mass was in Latin. We were in Chapel every day. Some years before, the school had had a dance band. But jazz was something else. The Christian Brothers knew nothing about jazz. It was exciting; we were making it up for ourselves."

They started with the "simple stuff", 12-bar blues and the like. "We were soon waffling away like good 'uns," he remembers.

But it wasn't long before they got moved out of the Mansion and had to find somewhere else to practise. In those days, up the bank to the left of the old gymnasium (the Big School Room), there was a bunker, covered over in grass. (This was before the new classrooms were built on the site.) They were allowed to practise there.

"We had no guitar and no amplifiers," Ray says, "although, later on, a teacher joined us with a banjo."

Ray has nothing but fond memories of Prior. "My father was in the RAF, and I was moved from school to school through the war years. When I went to Prior it was permanent, a base. For me, it was wonderful. I was useless at science,



but good at the arts. I became very fond of the CBs. Bro Saunders was the first one I got to know. He left the order sometime later. I don't think he was keen on a life of celibacy. Bro Beattie was headmaster. He was strict but very good. My schooldays at Prior were the happiest days of my life."

Ray, who also studied classical piano at school, was a good athlete and a member of the First XV rugby team that recorded six wins, five losses and one draw in 12 games in 1955.

"It was a very masculine environment, of course," he recalls. "But it was character building."

After school, he became an art teacher.

"But because teaching was poorly paid, especially in the 1960s, I continued to play trumpet in the evenings and on weekends to earn some extra money," he explains. It was mostly trad jazz, but his band learned to be versatile (at weddings people would ask them to play rock and roll).

He kept on playing until last year, when, at the age of 85, he decided to hang up his trumpet.

As to the school concert, he doesn't remember if it ever happened. Perhaps someone out there could remind him.

Roger Mead (PPA 1961)



Roger Mead and friends including: Dave Foley, Sean Lacey, Spencer, Taffy Thomas, Roger Mead

I started as a student at Cricklade from 1952 or 1953 to 1955 and then at Bath till 1961, when, having failed all my A-levels and thus lost my place at university, I spent time in Cheltenham Technical College (now a university). I made up for that failure by gaining an HND in Mechanical Engineering and then joining Walker Crossweller, which made Mira showers, among other things.

After 15 years working my way up the ladder at the firm, I was asked to start a Citroen franchise in Hereford and, since I did not see a further promotion (at Walker Crossweller) in the next few years, and it was something different, I accepted the opportunity.

It was great fun, and we had several sales prizes of extremely luxurious tours abroad during the next 15 years. We then

sold the firm, and I became temporarily unemployed. I accepted a training place with Prudential and became a "Man from the Pru", until they made all their field staff redundant a couple of years later. I must admit I was terrible at selling insurance and pensions. After that, at the age of 57, I retired from gainful employment.

I married in 1969, and we started a family two years later. We had a very happy married life and four children, but things eventually went wrong so I was divorced in 1998. My ex-wife lost her life to cancer in 2007. I now have a weekend lady friend whom all the children love. They all live within 30 miles of me, and all get on together, so we have lots of parties and holidays together. We all have reasonable health and wealth, so life is good.

I am so glad to see the advances made at Prior since I left.

Incidentally, I introduced Prior to the joys of motorcycling, by once getting back from a home visit on my bike. We had hitchhiked and our parents were not at home to return us, so there was no other way to get back. The bike was confiscated of course, as Prior was extremely restrictive in those days. But it was released a week before the end of term so I could show my mates.

Chris Harrison (PPA 1962)

I left Prior Park with only two O-levels, in maths and physics, which I owed to the superb teaching methods of a new teacher. I was always top or second in French but managed to fail that and all the other exams as well. I left after O levels in 1960 and went to technical college in Birmingham to continue studying A levels, as well as the O levels I failed before. It was a big ask. I left after the first year, just turning 18, and I needed to find some work.

I had several different jobs, and I started a limited company selling and repairing cars. But government and financial changes made it difficult to continue a small business, so I took the offer of becoming a salesperson with a major BMC dealership. My father, who had been a successful entertainer in variety, then encouraged me to start a double act with my cousin, involving music, comedy, acrobatics, singing and dancing. My whole family were involved in the theatre, so it seemed a natural progression. This was very hard work with little financial compensation, until we managed to break into film work as extras, and then also as acrobats to do stunt work.

I managed to save enough to buy my first house, which was a complete



wreck. My cousin and I closed down our act as he had had an offer of a year's contract in Las Vegas with an acrobatic act. I married my long-term girlfriend and worked as a labourer for the builder working on my house, to bring the costs down. This is where I learned the basics of house building. I then went back to evening school, working during the day as a TV salesperson.

One Sunday, I saw an advert in the paper for aircrew in the RAF. As I now had sufficient academic qualifications, I applied. To my surprise, I was accepted for pilot and officer training. This was to be a turning point in my life, as I learned more about my own capabilities and teamwork. But I left after three years due to a big misunderstanding with a very senior officer. I could not see much future there.

However, I had sufficient flying time to convert to a civilian licence, which allowed me to have a long and rewarding career as a pilot, flying on contract with companies all over the world. This gave me the opportunity to engage with different cultures globally.

Sadly, one has to retire from civil aviation at the age of 65, regardless of how mentally astute or physically fit one is. So, in my 50's I again went back to studying and gained an MSc at London City University, and later a diploma in clinical hypnotherapy through the London College of Clinical Hypnotherapy at Exeter University. After my retirement, I started a new business using VR, hypnotherapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, and a cabin simulator to help people with a fear of flying. This was quite successful and had much media coverage, until 2008 and the economic slowdown. My overheads were large and, without people coming through the doors, I had to close down. I published a book to help people with that anxiety which is available on Amazon.

During contract breaks, and also whilst working within the UK, I built several houses and became an NHBC registered builder, as I really enjoy making things and using my hands. I also built a few light aeroplanes, which was great fun. Next year I will be 80, so I now write short stories, and I am told by my wife I should not consider building any more properties!

Chris "Morry" Morrell (PPA 1964)



I left Prior in the summer of 1964 with a moderate set of O and A levels and no idea what I should be doing post school. The only career advice I remember getting (from 'Syd' Ash) was to go into hospital administration - because my mother was a nurse! After a wasted year trying to improve my A-levels at the local college, I staggered into accountancy, and, after four-year articles with Thomson McLintock in Birmingham, qualified as a chartered accountant.

At that time, I was establishing myself at Moseley Football Club (Rugby Union) and after a couple of years in the lower teams became a regular first XV player and North Midlands County representative. In 1972, we played in the inaugural John Player Cup Final against Gloucester at Twickenham, ending the match narrow losers with only 12 players on the pitch - no replacements in those days!

Realising that I was clueless as to what it took to become a successful accountant, despite passing all the exams first time, I resigned and applied to go to Birmingham University to study a combined honours degree in Physical Education and Social Administration.

Before going up in 1972, I dislocated my shoulder in our first match of the season. That ended my serious playing career. A moderate degree after three years of study was followed by a year's PGCE at Loughborough College. After an interview at Stonyhurst, I was offered a teaching post at the then Windsor Grammar School, now The Windsor Boys' School, a 13-18 comprehensive.

Rowing was always in my background. My father, whom I never knew, was well known in rowing circles. I coached rugby and rowing at the school for many years until my eventual retirement in 2016. I now spend much of my time coaching at the school on a voluntary basis. I was honoured in 2012 to be awarded an MBE by the then Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace for "Services to School Sport" - basically doing my job!



A Journey of Service: my three months with Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone

By Sachin Padiachy (PPA 2023)

I have had the incredible opportunity to embark on a life-changing journey with Mercy Ships, being part of a mission that brings hope and healing to those in need.

For those unfamiliar with Mercy Ships, their mission is truly inspiring. This international charity operates hospital ships, providing free healthcare services to some of the world's poorest nations. Their focus is on delivering vital surgical procedures and medical training, bringing state-of-the-art medical care to regions where it's desperately needed. During my time on the ship, I was a part of the steward's team actively supporting the medical professionals and other volunteers who were directly involved in patient care.

Visiting Sierra Leone, a country still recovering from civil war and facing significant healthcare challenges, was an eye-opening experience. The resilience and warmth of the local people left a lasting impression on me. There were countless



times where I was shown such kindness by the locals. One time we were stuck four hours in land after our gear shift had broken. We had to stop in a rural village who welcomed us with open arms while we waited for a car from the ship to pick us up.

Witnessing the impact of Mercy Ships firsthand was truly humbling. I saw patients who had lived with debilitating conditions for years receive life-changing surgeries. The joy and gratitude on their faces post-operation were indescribable. During the 2023-2024 Sierra Leone field service, 1,979 surgeries were performed with over 1700 different patients served which was an incredible achievement to be a part of. One of the most rewarding aspects of my experience was the incredible community on board the ship. I met volunteers from all over the world with over 1,000 volunteers from over 60 different nations, each bringing their unique skills and perspectives to our shared mission. The camaraderie and sense of purpose we shared created bonds that will last a lifetime.

As I reflect on my three months with Mercy Ships, I am filled with immense gratitude. This experience has not only allowed me to contribute to a worthy cause but has also profoundly impacted my personal and professional growth. The skills I have gained and the perspectives I have acquired will undoubtedly shape my future endeavours.

Bula! (hello)

By Ben Humphries (PPA 2023)

I set off on a one-month expedition to Fiji with 24 volunteers from the UK and Australia to live in the rural village of Naboutolo in the Northeast of the main Island Vitu Levu. Throughout the month, we taught the locals lots of different coaching and leadership skills as well as developing their physical skills in a multitude of sports, (including rugby which didn't feel quite right knowing how big the Fijians are compared to the Brits!!).

I was in a home stay with a lovely family that included our Fijian parents, two-year-old brother, two sisters, the grandmother and many other relatives who would come in and



out of our little house throughout the day. There was only one room in the house, so the sense of togetherness was always there and the idea of 'personal space' was completely non-existent.

Some of the things I got to do in the village were unlike anything I could have imagined, such as chopping bamboo barefoot with a machete, eating on the floor with our hands

for every meal, and the most notable thing, drinking Kava! Kava is a local Fijian drink designed to cleanse any worries and stress and gives you a very strange numb sensation throughout your mouth. Fijians drink it in abundance on any occasion and as we were visitors, we of course were always offered it right up until we went to sleep (which usually wasn't until 2am if there was dancing and chanting involved!!)

Overall, my time in Fiji was something I will treasure for life because as much as we taught the Fijians lots of skills, they shared their amazing culture and lives with us which will be something I will always be grateful for. Oh and I will never take a knife and fork for granted ever again!

It wouldn't have been possible without the Alumni Travel Grant so Vinaka Vakalevu (thank you) for giving me the opportunity.



Belize reef rescue

By Hannah Wyatt (PPA 2023)

There's something to be said about looking out into the open sea—miles and miles of crystal-clear waters against a sky so seamless, the line between it and the ocean blurs. There's an eerie feeling of being stranded in the middle of a sparkling blue desert, where the only signs of the secret world teeming with life beneath the gentle waves are the occasional splash of flying fish or the sight of a nurse shark fin breaking the surface.

To the south lies the faint outline of Honduras, and to the east, the distant mountains of Guatemala. But beneath these waters, an unseen battle is being waged. Divers, armed with tanks and spears, fight against an alien species, guarded by venomous spines and driven by an insatiable hunger—both beautiful and deadly: the Pacific lionfish.

Lionfish are popular as exotic pets and aquarium fish, they were released into the Atlantic, and their population has since spread rapidly across the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Constantly feeding on small crustaceans and juvenile fish, lionfish dramatically reduce biodiversity in coral reef habitats, leading to reef destruction and unstable ecosystems incapable of



supporting larger species. Lionfish are incredibly adaptable, thriving in both warm and cold waters, shallow and deep. Their ability to survive in low-salinity waters has even led to some being found in freshwater on the mainland. With no predators and 18 venomous spines, there's no natural control on their population. Currently, the most effective way to manage their numbers is through teams of divers manually hunting them down.

For 10 days, I had the privilege of staying among the Sapodilla Cayes, off the coast of Belize. Each day began at 6:30 a.m. to prepare for the first dive at 7:00, followed by breakfast. Lunch came after a few hours of free time, then a short lesson on topics ranging from fish identification to marine conservation. The second dive of the day followed, and after dinner, the third dive proceeded with a similar routine. Every day, teams of divers set out with spears and cages, returning with an average of 80 lionfish per dive. On days with good weather, an additional fourth night dive allowed us to

explore a bioluminescent world and witness nocturnal marine life.

The hunted lionfish never went to waste. Each dive was followed by a lesson on how to safely fillet and dissect lionfish. Data was sent to marine institutions worldwide, fins and spines were made into jewellery to raise funds, fillets were used for meals, and the rest was dried to make dog food!

Alongside the daily dives, we participated in beach cleanups on nearby islands, monitored whale sharks, and, of course, played nightly volleyball tournaments that often ended with the losers retrieving the ball from the ocean. The food, though simple, was fragrant and filling, and the connections made with people from all walks of life ran deep, much thanks to the lack of phone signal and limited power.

All too soon, it was time to pack our things and say goodbye. A final volleyball tournament was held in the courtyard, and a large BBQ buffet was served to send us off. Each night, a group of nurse sharks and eagle rays would swim up to the docks; this time, it felt as though they were there to see us off. We boarded the boat one final time, our skin tanned and hair still damp with salt water. As I boarded the small hopper plane bound for the airport, I looked down and traced the rivers carving their way through the dense jungle and mangroves, filled with a newfound appreciation for the natural beauty of this faraway place.

St Peter's life-line

By Charlotte Brickell (PPA 2023)

I travelled out to Kenya in October to stay with St Peter's Life-Line charity in the rural area of Kajuki, just east of Mount Kenya.

The charity provides education from primary school up to secondary, hot school meals, micro finances for women and people with disabilities. They have tirelessly worked to eradicate the practice of FGM in the community and provide an alternate rite of passage for the girls. They have also worked with Loving Humanity (the charity provides sanitary pads for women in war zones)

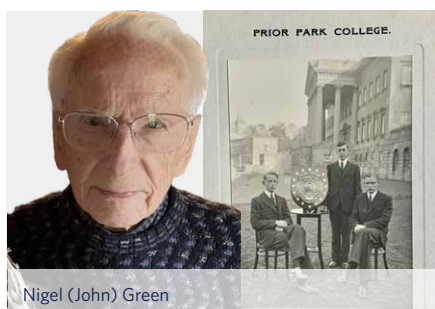
who provided cotton pads to the girls so that they are able to go to school and continue their education.

St Peters Life-Line has funded two schools, one of which I was luckily enough visit and talk to the teachers and well as the students. There is a free clinic at St Peters that treats over 120 children and also provides physiotherapy. I also visited several schools in the surrounding area as well as a school for the deaf, many of these



schools grow their own crops and have accommodation for the students to live in. We visited the local market in a huge two-story building that had hundreds of market stalls selling everything from sugar cane to sandals made from scrap tyres. Many of the women selling food were from the micro-finance project that lends money to help create a startup business which they can then grow and support their families with and help them become more independent.

I really enjoyed my time in Kenya, and it would not have been the same if I hadn't been able to travel with David (the founder of the charity) and his family. They were very warm and welcoming and so were all of St Peters staff!



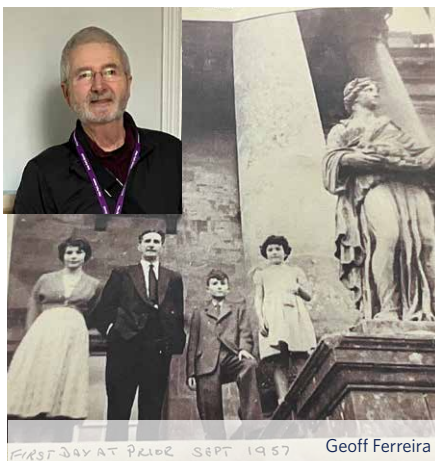
Nigel (John) Green



Jonathan Palmer



Dan McInerney



Geoff Ferreira

1930 – 1939

Nigel (John) Green (PPA 1939) writes: Still in McLean, Virginia and life is pretty slow these days. I retired from the World Bank in 1987. I am really afraid of what might happen to allow Trump to destroy the USA.

1950 – 1959

Denis Headon (PPA 1955) writes: My wife and I have moved to live with our daughter in Preston. It was difficult to leave Upminster after 55 years, but a large house was becoming impossible to maintain, and we did not want to end up in a care home.

My eldest son is a priest in Ilford (Havering) having celebrated 25 years ordained and is now a canon in Brentwood Diocese.

Three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren keep the mind active remembering family anniversaries.

George Good (PPA 1958) writes: I am still an active bell ringer at St Mary's, Bruton and look after the small amount of funds we have. Oddly, the vicar who does not get involved in tower matters, asked why we didn't attend services. It was pointed out that apart from a few, the ringers were either Catholics or atheists. We had a laugh!

Tony Watts (PPA 1959) writes: My final book, "Town v. Gown, City v. Village: A History of Cricket in Cambridge", has now been published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians. I continue to live in Cambridge, where I am a Fellow Commoner at St Catharine's College. My passions are my family, cricket and early music.

My younger brother **Paul (PPA 1962)** is now 80, but continues to surf regularly, as well as playing golf, when he lives for half of the year in Ocean Shores, Australia. The other half he spends in Dunchurch, Warwickshire, where he plays golf and goes with his wife Jane to many chamber music concerts.

1960 – 1969

Jonathan Palmer (PPA 1963) donated his father Toffee Palmer's books about art to the College. Toffee Palmer was a much-loved teacher not only of art but also music and culture. The books have been gratefully received by the Art Department.

Charles Louis (PPA 1965) writes: Once I left Prior Park, I lost all contact with the school and don't think I ever ran across anyone from there subsequently. After my B.A. in Chemistry from Trinity College, Dublin, I completed my D. Phil. in Biochemistry in July 1968 at Oxford University. My love of Chemistry having been inspired by the wonderful Brother Ryan at Prior Park. After a post Doctorate at Stanford University, I returned to a faculty position at Leeds University in 1970 leaving for the US in 1977. I was subsequently Professor of Biochemistry at several universities including the Universities of Connecticut, Minnesota, Georgia State, and finally as Vice Chancellor Research at the University of California Riverside from where I retired in 2012. My time in American academe was quite wonderful as I always had plenty of federal funding for my research, published hundreds of scientific papers, trained many graduate students, and served on the boards of several scientific professional societies. I was very fortunate!

My wife and I met when we were graduate students at Oxford (she is also an academic - Social

Anthropology) and we retired to Houston where both our adult children (and grandchildren) live. My wife is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and her stories to the children when they were young about the wonders of the state convinced them to both come here over 30 years ago - and they have never left. I had no option as to where we would live on retirement!

Dan McInerney (PPA 1960) visited the College with his wife and friends from Sweden where he lives. A former Burton boy, Dan was pleased to see how inviting the Houses are now and he recalled a special treat on Sundays was to have a sausage and some porridge for breakfast!

Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964) visited the boarding house and was amazed at how much was familiar on one hand and how it was so much more homely on the other.

He also brought a photo of his first day at the College with his uncle and two cousins.

Peter Hilton (PPA 1962) writes: We were well enough to go to the funeral of my good friend **Patrick Mason (PPA 1953)** RIP earlier in the year in Exeter. Patrick and I were instrumental 22 years ago (with the added help of **Andy Owen (PPA 1957)**) in persuading the school to invest in software to modernise the record keeping of the PPA. He was kind and generous, the epitome of the English gentleman but to my surprise we discovered at the eulogy that he was also an accidental arsonist before being sent to Prior as he had set light to a field of stubble. His parents obviously felt that Christian Brother discipline was needed.

Debbie O'Bryan was also at the funeral, and we had lunch beforehand to catch up on family news, especially the delights of grand parenting.

During the summer **Wilfrid de Freitas (PPA 1962)** made his annual trip to the UK with his wife Susan and we had lunch at his place where we were joined by **Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964)**. I have the occasional exchange of texts with **Rolando Sanchez (PPA 1961)** who is well and enjoying life in Hyderabad. He is hoping to visit the UK soon.

Sean Lacey (PPA 1962) and I frequently chat on the phone. Our Granddaughters are at the same school in Hampstead, and we promised each other a joint celebration to rejoice in the fact that we were both 80 within two weeks of each other in June. So far for different reasons, mostly medical, that has not been possible, but we live in hope that it will happen before Christmas.

My most amazing PPC encounter was three days ago when I was being discharged from hospital and was chatting to the porter who took me to the patients lounge. The subject got round to rugby, and it turned out he was an ardent fan of Bath. When I told him I was at Prior he told me that he was a close friend of **John Palmer (PPA 1976)** our famous England International.

This very friendly man lives a hundred yards from me in Fleet.

Tim Heining (PPA 1968) reports that on the 3rd of November Mike and Roz Callander, Steve and Sue Sturton-Davies, Tim and Rose Heining ate lunch at the Landmark Hotel in London. All from the Year of '68, of course!!

Roger Mead (PPA 1961) sent in the photo opposite. The photo includes **Nigel Lacey (PPA 1961)** RIP, second from the left and **Dion O'Leary (PPA 1962)** RIP sitting on the bike.

Terry Illott (PPA 1968). About 34 members of the class of 1968 continue to stay in regular contact with each other and with the school. A fortnightly



Zoom meeting, which started at the beginning of the Covid lockdowns in April 2020, is still going strong. It involves about 20 regular or occasional participants, of whom between six and nine join in at any one time. Tim Heining organised a very successful lunch for 22, including partners, at the Abingdon, off Kensington High Street, in July. **Mike Callander** hosted a lunch for six at The Landmark Hotel, Marylebone, in November. **Ted Bennitt** is enjoying retirement at his home near Rotterdam. He and Henriette recently took a holiday in the South of France. **Fabian Jowers** has returned to Spain after a long spell in Uganda, where he ran an orphanage and a project to alleviate the scourge of jiggers, especially among children in rural areas. **Peter Rippon** is still in Manhattan, and still riding his bike. **Charlie Murray** now lives permanently in Bahrain with his wife Awatif. **Pete Marsden** is up in Manchester. **Rafe Pigott** is still working as a solicitor in Essex. **Mike Maher**, long since retired as a GP, recently moved to **Fenny Drayton**, near Nuneaton. Also in the Midlands and also a retired GP, **Rick Jarrams** still follows his beloved West Bromwich Albion. Saccavacaya, the Buddhist name of **Charles "Dixie" Dean**, is living a quiet life up in Yorkshire. Like Peter Rippon, he is an avid cyclist, sweeping over the moors and through the dales. **Rob Camacho** is in Bristol, although he spends many weekends in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire, where his brothers have a smallholding. **Dave Peckham** is working as hard as ever with his partner Carrie. They run an educational consultancy company, advising mostly Chinese clients on opportunities in colleges in the UK and the USA.

Also still working as hard as ever is **Niall Aston**. Although Niall is a surgeon in East London, he and his doctor wife Sarah live in Gloucestershire. Niall does a weekly commute. Another former GP, **Mark Podkolinski**, is in Salisbury, not far from **Joe Loughlin**, who lives in Dorset. Joe keeps in close touch with **Andrew "Spike" Colter**, who lives in Jersey. Spike is a great long-distance walker, having completed a number of long-distance routes in Europe (including the South Downs Way, the Cotswold Way, the Camino and Hadrian's Wall). **Phil Hamerton** is enjoying retirement down in Sussex. He and his wife Margaret are great movie enthusiasts and seem to see every new film as soon as it is released. **John Evans** and his wife Diane are nearby. They divide their time between their grandchildren in Cambridge, the Midlands and Worthing, and a holiday house in Portugal. Not far away is **Ken Edwards**. Ken has recently published another novel and a book of poetry. He also plays in a band that is popular in and around Hastings, where he and his wife Elaine live. **Kev Steer** is still living in his hometown in Somerset. **Chris Cutcliffe** is enjoying being a grandparent. He still finds the time - and energy - to windsurf. **Steve Sturton-Davies** and his wife Sue continue to look after injured or abandoned wild animals that are brought to them by neighbours in Crowborough. **Norman Sparrow** is still working in Lanzarote, where he has run a diving school and a whale-spotting business for tourists. Norwich based **Ron Turley**, recently recovered from major cancer treatment, is about to celebrate his elder daughter's coming of age. (This is Ron's second family.) Also in Norfolk is **Peter Coates**, who continues to do a lot of volunteering in local hospices and hospitals. (He's a retired haematologist.) **Terry Ilott**, who recently chaired a session on the history of Catholic public schools in England for the PPA Heritage Society, is in North London, still working on a book about politics. He started work on it in 2019, completed the first draft in 2022 and has been revising it ever since. And **Geoff Cardozo** is ensconced in Brittany, although he makes frequent trips to England to see his grown-up children.

Phil Hamerton (PPA 1968) writes: As we get older, we seem to do more not less! Our family still lives locally with the four grandchildren aged 7-12 maturing nicely in their own ways with the support of their parents and regular input from Margaret and me! Meanwhile I have ended my 40 years working on the tracks of the East Somerset Railway moving to the slightly smaller ones of the Volk's Electric Railway in nearby Brighton, where I am a Trustee and Membership Secretary, as well as for three other charities locally. And of course, running the Brighton Railway Rifle Club!

John Ainslie (PPA 1960) and his wife moved to a retirement village in Bristol in 2022. He is still much involved with church music - see his website at www.benedicamus.org.uk His brother **Christopher** (PPA 1954) lives with his wife in Yate and is still producing amazingly creative artwork - see <https://cgs.org.uk/artists>.

1970 – 1979

Chris 'Gus' Lynch (PPA 1974) writes: I retired in 2018 after 39 years working as a geologist in the oil industry. Most of that time was spent working in the field overseas, including South America where I lived for five years, the USA, North and West Africa, Europe and Central Asia. I ended up as a lead operations geologist in Chiswick, London, looking after some ultra-deepwater projects around the Atlantic margin.

Despite working in a relatively hazardous industry and losing some friends and colleagues in offshore disasters, I absolutely loved my job, the camaraderie and the technical challenges. I found myself in a couple of civil wars and border conflicts and there were a few near-misses, but thankfully I came away unscathed.

In retirement, I look after a few rental properties, I enjoy yachting and powerboating, hill walking, gardening and dog walking. During Covid lockdown I embarked on tracing my family history from Ireland and Portugal to India and back again. Ten years at boarding school was good training for spending half the year away from home, isolated in various deserts, forests or on the high seas. Working a one-month rotation gave me the time to always have some project on the go at home. I later discovered this was perfect training for retirement!

Great to welcome back **Philip Handley** (PPA 1976) after 30 years. He and his wife had a lovely tour of the College, and we were delighted to hear all his stories! Philip lives in North Wales and has a horticulture business.

Eamon Moloney (1972) retired after a career first at sea and then in maritime law and insurance. Eamon specialised in marine casualty response, attending shipping casualties around the world on behalf of ship owners and their insurers. From time-to-time Eamon's work involved hostage negotiations, including in Lebanon, Pakistan and Venezuela.

In 1992 Eamon married Isabel, a clinical psychologist. They live in Newcastle upon Tyne and the Scottish Borders and, in retirement, Eamon sails, gardens and is active in a range of conservation projects, including the Farne Islands.

Mostafa Jafari (PPA 1977) visited with his friend Nasser Raee last week as he was in the UK before returning to the States.

Mostafa was delighted to meet some of the 1st rugby team who he told about his rugby playing days at the College and their record of being unbeaten for



Tim Heining



David Power, Nigel Lacey, Dion O'Leary and Roger Mead



Chris 'Gus' Lynch



Philip Handley



Eamon Moloney



Mostafa Jafari and friends



Mostafa Jafari



L: Ian Fox, C: Stephen Fox, R: Andrew Fox



Charles Beatson's children



Andrew Goodman and family



Dimitris Tsilimago

three years! Mostafa was delighted with the changes at the College, in particular the Bury Sports Centre.

Clifford Lasrado (PPA 1979) writes: I have recently semi-retired having established a business serving the oil and gas market in Qatar and in the region. The business was established in 1989 so is 35 years old. The company was listed on the Qatar stock exchange in June 2023, and I am still involved in the business as managing director. I currently live between Qatar and Spain and our children are all gainfully employed and living all over Europe. The greatest joy for both of us is our three grandchildren.

Philip North-Coombes (PPA 1976) writes: I travel the world on my assignments, capturing imagery for top international fashion, lifestyle, sport and advertising brands. I have made two BBC documentaries, with Indus Films, at Everest base camp spending nine weeks there each time. Capturing the life and incidents that occur at an emergency hospital set up for the season, "Everest ER". I have worked with charities and am an ambassador for 4Ocean, The Ocean Foundation and Save Wild Tigers iDiveblue.com – a community of ocean lovers whose content and donations fight to preserve our precious oceans. [idiveblue.com/ocean-plastics](https://www.idiveblue.com/ocean-plastics)

I am fascinated and inspired by the natural world that surrounds us and its preservation. My work has taken me to the stark grandeur of Everest, Siberia, the slums of India, the barren beauty of Iceland, the fragile state of Zimbabwe, the mesmerising landscapes and wildlife of Namibia to the oceans of Hawaii and the Seychelles.

I combine stills and video to produce imagery for all media content. Lauded by the British Journal of Photographers and an Association of Photographers award winner. "The essence of photography is capturing a moment in time". In the click of the shutter time stands still, telling a story without end.

Founder of Photographers United. Instagram: @photographers_unitedpro and a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/135206643871630/>

Cordell Bailey (PPA 1975) writes: Aloha all After I retired from the US Air Force in 2001, I joined the Department of Health and worked with caring for Native Americans in California and Hawaii. I actually traveled more in my new job than in the military and it was very enjoyable. I did make it back to Prior while I was on vacation in Italy and the UK.

I am retired again enjoying life in Hawaii. I live 15 minutes from the ocean, and the weather is always a nice 80 degrees with trade winds.

In Hawaii I swam with sharks, manta rays, and green sea turtles. I take people to see is the volcano on the big island, it has been erupting since 1982 and to look into the crater is amazing. To us locals the volcano is the home to Madame Pele, the goddess of fire, who does not like you to take her lava. Many folks do not believe and every day the post office receives packages of lava being returned as it brought bad luck to those who took it.

My wife and I knew the entire cast of Magnum PI and some from Hawaii 5-0. Aquaman's family lives one street over from me, and when he is on island, he has to sneak up to visit family to avoid the tourists. Another favourite here is The Rock. He shows most of his new movies free to locals.

You should come and visit one day. In Hawaii we never say goodbye so *A hui hou* (ah-hoo-wee-ho-oo-uu) Until we meet again.

Stephen Fox (PPA 1977) writes: We came together earlier this year to celebrate my daughter Louise's wedding held in the Mansion, Prior Park College on May 25th, 2024.

I live in Berkshire and retired at Christmas in 2023 after enjoying 40 years in sales and marketing for the

IT industry. I am married and have three boys and a daughter. When not spending my time offering DIY and other assistance to my family, I like to travel to visit the extensive family network around the world, especially those near the wine regions my wife and I enjoy so much!

Ian Fox (PPA 1986) is living in New York City where he has been enjoying a long career in banking and where he met and married a British girl with whom he has one daughter. He still enjoys sport, in particular triathlon both training and competing, as well as riding up the Tour de France hill climbs just for fun!! In September 2024 Ian finally became a US Citizen!

Dr Andrew Fox (PPA 1982) lives in Plymouth with his second wife and has two boys and two girls all grown and flown. Andrew worked as a civil engineer for many years offering his experience in the Montserrat volcano disaster, Turkish earthquake disaster and as director of housing in the Seychelle Islands amongst many other projects. He received his doctorate from Plymouth and is currently a vice dean at Brunel University.

Nick Blayney (1975) has settled into nearly full-time retirement on the Welsh Marches in Hay-on-Wye. An acre of garden, a polytunnel and seven grandchildren leave him wondering how he ever found time to run a veterinary practice. Some professional links also keep the grey matter active: as a veterinary adviser to the Royal Kennel Club and at Crufts he knows more about canine genomics than he ever thought he would. He enjoys keeping up some contact with Prior as year rep for the alumni association.

The children of **Charles Beatson (PPA 1974)** came to visit the College. Charles sadly died in 2019, so it was wonderful to meet the young Beatsons, keeping their dad's connection to the school very much alive.

Last week we had the real pleasure of welcoming back **Andrew Goodman (PPA 1975)** and his family.

Many thanks to **Dimitris Tsilimago (PPA 1979)** who sent in three photos. He writes: The first photo is from the annual PPC Cadet Force. It was published in the Bath Evening Chronicle on 10th June 1976, and the three students shown, from the right, me, **Paul Simpson (PPA 1979)** and **Charlie Fleetwood (PPA 1979)**. The second is from 1975 at Athens International Airport, me, **Gabriel Makhlof (1978)**, and his brother **Pierre (PPA 1982)**, on our way to PPC. And the third is from 1972, are the same people at Gabriel's house in Athens. Behind us, was my house, so we were next door neighbours, only for the summer holidays, when the two Makhlof brothers spend them in Greece.

Jose and Alberto Jimenez (PPA 1977) visited the College and it was really lovely to show them around.

Richard Morris (PPA 1976) worked for several major insurance brokerages before setting up his own brokerage in 1996 specialising in insuring small / medium sized businesses. He has three grown up kids, all at university and recently returned to the UK from Montenegro to care for his Mum.

Gary Winch (PPA 1978) headed off to Queen Mary College, University of London after Prior. There followed a stint in the RAF and a few years later, on returning to London, and a career change: Gary completed a post-grad in Business Computing. Gary then joined Swiss commodity trading company Marc Rich & Co which eventually morphed into Glencore. Gary remained with Glencore for the rest of his career, until after the company was floated on the LSE, eventually retiring in 2016. Gary and his wife



Fiona spend their retirement travelling and splitting their time between homes in London and Spain.

Des Judge (PPA 1978) spent 20+ years as a quantity surveyor specialising in contract claims and dispute resolution whilst living in Ireland, Morocco, Germany and Switzerland. He has returned to his hometown, Birmingham, where he runs a small property business.

Gabriel Makhoul (PPA 1978), currently governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, previously secretary to the New Zealand Treasury and before that in the (UK) Civil Service - Inland Revenue, HM Treasury - which he joined after studying at Exeter and Bath Universities. Coincidentally, his son is married to the daughter of **Michael Davis** (PPA 1976), who used to play the Chapel organ.

Paul Wrightman (PPA 1978) writes that he is semi-retired having previously created and sold a number of leisure businesses including TeamSport Indoor Karting and Red Kangaroo Trampoline Parks.

Eddie Chan (PPA 1978), a retired dentist after working for 36 years in London, spends his time on the golf course and working in various local charities.

Anthony Chan (PPA 1978) took a biochemistry degree and then converted to law. Presently chief adjudicator, Environment and Traffic Tribunal, London.

Martin Schimmer (PPA 1978) is retired although he remains involved in voluntary work. He spent most of his career working for Sony, project-managing broadcast system installations throughout Europe.

Andy Purvis (PPA 1978) trained as a barrister and has held many board positions in legal, compliance and risk management within the investment management and insurance industries. He is on the board of Aviva, Grant Thornton and MT Capital Management Ltd.

Alan Prentice (PPA 1979) captained the cricket 1st XI in 79. He left Prior and attended Plymouth Polytechnic College gaining a mechanical engineering degree. He lives in Gloucester working in the UK's nuclear industry with EDF. He has three children and four grandchildren.

Carl Becker (PPA 1976) still enjoys working, having been an accountant all his life. He has married twice and has three children. He enjoys football, cycling and catamaran sailing.

Luke Anyaorah (PPA 1979) gained a masters in crystallography and joined the fight against AIDS. He became a further education teacher, and with the support of his younger brother, Ubaka, and his wife, he set up two companies, established three children's nurseries and a further education community college.

1980 – 1989

Kelly Sze (PPA 1987) brought the photo opposite with him when he visited the College. His old bedroom in St Peter's is now part of Burton House Common Room.

Rose Ghaiden, wife of **Frank Ghaiden** (PPA 1980) and her niece **Soraya** visited the College. They went into Brownlow where Soraya's parents first met each other at a party. The family connection runs deep as Rose's twin brother is **Chris Borton** whose children **Edward** (PPA 2010), **Peter** (PPA 2012) and **Georgina** (PPA 2017) all attended the College.

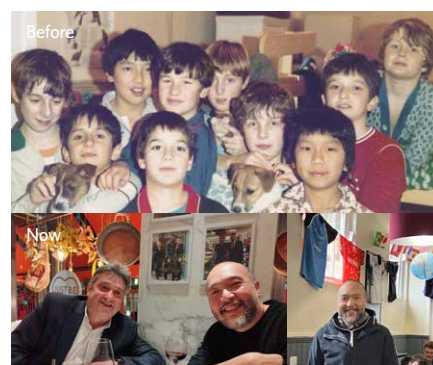
Dave Williams (PPA 1983) came to the College for a tour and was interested in chatting to the students in the Art Department. Dave used to work at Laura Ashley and enjoyed chatting with the textiles staff and was amazed at the variety of lessons the school now offers. He also commented on the enthusiasm of our teachers and how our pupils seemed to 'like being in school'. Dave studied Maths, Physics and Chemistry at Prior and then went on to Liverpool to study sports science. He was very pleased to see the Bury Sports Centre, especially as there was an A-Level PE class going on in the classroom, something he would have liked to have studied had it been available in 1981. Hoping to see him back again in June for the alumni cricket and golf.

Andrew Shin (PPA 1986) enjoyed chatting to the students on his last visit to the College. He was keen to find out from the students how they were finding the new Sixth Form Centre - excellent, they love it! Andrew also went to have a look at the Science Block to see what investment might be made there.

Lincoln Rupesinghe (PPA 1980) qualified as an electrical / electronic engineer and ran his own company for 25 years and also contracted with **Vernon** (PPA 1980), his younger brother's building company. His biggest passion and influence is his faith in Jesus Christ, and he is actively involved in many areas of Christian ministry created with his wife, both nationally and internationally. He is also a writer and a teacher/trainer at his local FE college.



Jose and Alberto Jimenez



Kelly Sze and Paul Mills Hicks, "Reunion after 42 yrs and nothing has changed."



Jo Kangurs



Rose Ghaiden and her niece Soraya



Fr Dan Mason and Christopher Mason



Dave Williams



Ben Please and friends



Andrew Shin



Tristan Johnson and Gabriel



Julie Ackerman



Michael Mould



Abbie Purcell



Maria Mays



Jordaine Ward



Sinan Ciddi



Iheuk Duru , Mrs Trott and Ali Osment



Daniel Luke



Ned Ellis-Jones

1990 – 1999

Jo Kangurs (PPA 1995) came to the College Open Day with her husband. Hopefully we shall see the next generation of Munro/Kangurs in the next couple of years.

Ben Please (PPA 1997) writes: I've been in The Bookshop Band for a number of years, with my wife Beth Porter and we are just about to release our 14th studio album, produced by and featuring rock legend Pete Townshend (The Who). We will be on tour around the UK this summer and beyond. We

have also been composing music, recently scoring Aardman Animations Oscar nominated animated musical Robin Robin, where we picked up an Ivor Novello Award nomination for best score. And Tweedy and Fluff, a children's animation on Channel 5. I was cinematographer on my first feature film too last year, Stella, set in Scotland's Book Town, Wigtown, where we now live. Photo credit Martin Tompkins, shot in Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights.

Nick Boon (PPA 1994) writes: I have been in Dublin for nearly two decades now. Since moving here, I did a fine art degree specialising in printmaking and joined a print studio. I have been playing in bands since I left school and enjoy being part of the Dublin music scene. I do software development work to keep body and soul together.

It was a pleasure to welcome back to the College the Mason family. Fr Dan Mason (PPA 1993) and his brother, Christopher Mason (PPA 1996) who is back from Sydney. Christopher's sons were also with them.

Sinan Ciddi (PPA 1996) writes: I live in proximity to two other boys from my year, Mark August (PPA 1996) Roche and Charles De Montreval (PPA 1996) Allen. We try to meet up frequently and spend long afternoons together or meet up in destination cities like New York or Philadelphia. Mark is a schoolteacher in New Jersey and Charles works for the UN. I am a professor of Security Studies at the Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College. We last met up a few weeks ago in Alexandria, and Mark and I took a separate trip to Boston for a boy's weekend.

Tristan Johnson (PPA 1995) came to the College to chat to Gabriel (PPA 2025) about careers in finance. They chose to have their discussion walking around the boundary while the 1st team were playing Kingswood. Tristan also bumped into his old best friend Malcolm Bond (PPA 1995) (College Deputy Head - Activities) and they went off to chat about the old days in the pub!

Julie Ackerman (PPA 1990) visited the College with her two friends on a rather windswept day. They admired the view and Julie remembered a couple of stories of her time at the College and then they continued their walk in the National Trust gardens.

Michael Mould (PPA 1999) and family called in yesterday to see the old school and say hello. Michael is an anaesthetist based in Australia and the older brother of Anne-Marie Jenkins (PPA 2003).

Abi Purcell (PPA 1993) brought her daughter Berrie to have a look around the College to see if Berrie would like to join in September. Berrie enjoyed her visit, and we look forward to seeing more of Abi and her family at the College. Berrie and her sister joined the College this academic year which is fantastic news!

Maria Mays (PPA 1993) Maria has been back in the UK for three years (following 17 years in the Caribbean) and is loving life in West London with her husband Ben and cat Bean. She, Andrea (née Green), Emma (née Tobin) and Fra (née Wright) met up earlier this year for a weekend away, and it was like time had stood still - the friends you make at Prior are lifelong friends.

Maria has a portfolio career working with a number of different clients including Macmillan, Algbra (a fintech) and a high net worth individual.

Jordaine Ward (PPA 1999) came to visit the College having moved back to Bath. She was treated to a delicious lunch and thoroughly enjoyed the tour around her old school.



Fi Rae



James Timbrell



Filipa Ivo



Maggie Choi, Paola Motka and Maylee Speller



Connie Redman



Ed Borton

2000 – 2009

Iheuk Duru (PPA 2008) Iheuk has been working as a doctor for the last 11 years and is currently training in Ophthalmic Surgery in the Northwest of England. He enjoys keeping fit in his spare time and playing basketball. He managed to play basketball in the Irish Super League whilst completing his foundation medical training in Northern Ireland. He has very fond memories of Prior Park and feels his experiences at Prior helped shape him tremendously.

Daniel Luke (PPA 2001) writes: I run a customer service training business with my wife. I am kept busy with my two children aged two and eight. I often reflect on the happy memories from my time at Prior. Sometimes, I can't believe how much time has passed since I left!

Ned Ellis-Jones (PPA 2006) We have moved just outside of London now and bought a house here. My career as a TV camera man has been going really well post Covid. I have been working a lot on shows like C4's A Place In The Sun. But my new show is BBC The Traitors. I worked on Season 2. And we are about to film season 3 in May and June. But other than that, all is well with me, my wife and our cocker spaniel Biscuit.

Fi Rae (PPA 2009) represented GB in Ultimate Frisbee at the World Masters Ultimate Championships in Los Angeles.

James Timbrell (PPA 2009) teaches Spanish at the College and has recently moved into St Paul's boarding house. James was enjoying his walk in his back garden having just returned from the College New York trip.

Filipa Ivo (PPA 2004) visited the College from the States. She was delighted to see St Mary's and visiting the Chapel brought back memories of serving thee when she was a student.

Maggie Choi, Paola Motka and Maylee Speller (PPA 2002) enjoyed a tour of the College, spending some time in St Mary's which brought back many memories. Stories were shared and there was much laughter! Lovely to see them back.

Wonderful to see **Nat Cordon (PPA 2008)** and the absolutely adorable Indie. Nat is on maternity leave at the moment, and she looks as if she is thoroughly enjoying it.

2010 – 2019

Connie Redman (PPA 2015) and her tutor group from Twerton infants school met Her Majesty the Queen earlier this year when she visited Bath. Connie teaches Year 2 at the school and has been working with the Mrs Colquhoun (Head of Sixth Form) to establish links between the two schools.

One of the initiatives Connie has started is for the L6 to go into the Year 2 classes and listen to the children read as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. What a wonderful experience for the students from both schools.

Ed Borton (PPA 2010). As part of a wider tour of the Southwest, Ed visited the College on behalf of his new business, ESB Consulting - a school search, advisory and placement service for domestic and international families looking to access schools in London, Surrey, and Southwest England. Before co-founding ESB, Ed worked in senior leadership at one of the UK's leading independent schools,



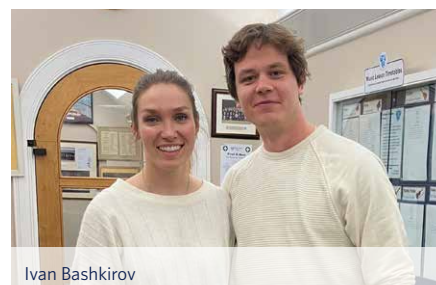
Nat Cordon



Rhiannon Woods



Justin Avenell



Ivan Bashkurov

King's College School, Wimbledon, having taught at Whitgift School and Clifton College in the earlier stages of his career.

With years of teaching experience in the bank and a range of assessment tools at his disposal, Ed places particular importance on guiding parents to choose the right school(s) for their children based upon their academic ability, character, and wider interests.

Ed was delighted to bump into a number of his former teachers and see how the College has changed and modernised in the 14 years since he was a pupil. He was also pleased to see the College's sense of community was as strong as ever.

Rhiannon Lampard (now Woods!) (PPA 2011) married in August 2021 and welcomed little John into the world in November 2022! Striving to find a bit of a work-life balance, still in secondary education part-time, whilst enjoying activities such as forest school, swimming and toddler bounce and rhyme on my days off (the best days!).

Justin Avenell (PPA 2018) came to say hello to the boys who he knew from his time coaching rugby at Prior while we were at Rosslyn Park.

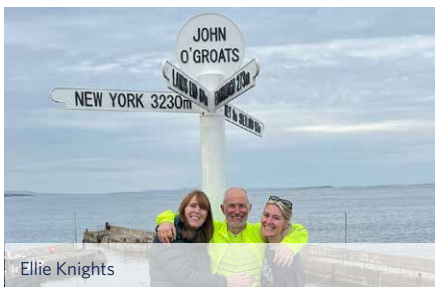
Justin's U16 girls team went through to the final that day which was a fantastic achievement.



Rosie Brundrett



Carolyn Ammann



Ellie Knights



Sophie Atkin



Theo Elwell



Sean Barry, Mr Holmes and Henry Gibbens

Ivan Bashkurov (PPA 2010) (photo on previous page) was delighted to see Dave Sackett in the John Wood Chapel where there was a rehearsal for the Grand Leavers Concert. Ivan found that the music practice rooms were just as he had left them 14 years ago. We hope to see Ivan again at the Alumni Choir Service.

Finlay Eaton (PPA 2018) writes: I'm currently working for three separate companies:

- 1: A tennis coach for AELTC whereby I coach at various different locations, including schools, Raynes Park and main site Wimbledon.
- 2: A tennis coach at the national tennis centre which is the home of the LTA. I work within their community programme coaching players of different ages and abilities.
- 3: I am the tennis coordinator at the University of Roehampton.

Rosie Brundrett (PPA 2010) visited the College as she was dropping something off for one of the teachers and she mentioned she used to go to school here. Rosie is an artist, and she has agreed to come and speak to the Sixth Form about her work and life as an artist.

Jake Brooks (PPA 2019) writes: I have recently moved out to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to take the roles of rugby development officer and player. My working week will involve going into numerous schools and running rugby sessions in order to develop the general ability in the area. I am also responsible for coaching all the age groups in the club as these ages start from three all the way up to 65 with the vets. On Saturdays I will be coaching all the junior age groups in the morning and then straight into the academy where I am head coach. After, I will coach the senior women's team. I also play for the 1st team in the premier division in Malaysia. I am loving my time here so far and always up for a catch up to anyone who travels through the area.

Ed Robinson (PPA 2011) Ed came to visit the College with his wife and young son during the summer holidays. Ed is currently living in Japan where he is coaching rugby.

Carolyn Ammann (PPA 2011) popped into the College as she was in Bath for a wedding. Lovely to see her.

Along with a team of cyclists, Martin Knights (former Housemaster of Roche), **Ellie Knights (PPA 2015)** and **Jack Knights (PPA 2013)** cycled from Lands Ends to John O'Groats - 1000 miles in ten-days.

They are raising money for Dementia UK, Kidney Care UK, Skincare Cancer charity and the Royal Marines Association.

Sophie Atkin (PPA 2016) Works in PR and communications and in particular video games. She wants to speak to the students, in particular the girls, about the video game industry and how many opportunities there are in this industry.

Theo Elwell (PPA 2016) and his friend Lucy visited the College and had a look around the Mansion, St Peter's and the Chapel. Theo was delighted to go into the John Wood Chapel and acquaint himself with the Fazioli.

Sean Barry and Henry Gibbens (PPA 2019) bumped into Mr Holmes while they were having a look at the Chapel as part of their tour around the College. Sean is back from the States and applying for jobs in Newcastle where he went to University and Henry is writing his dissertation at Bath Spa University.

Great to see **Jack Fisher (PPA 2010)** at the College filming students and lessons for our new marketing

material. I managed to catch him while he was filming the student debating teams in the Round Room. He is really enjoying spending a couple of days at the College and will return next year to talk to the Sixth Form about his career and careers in the film industry.

James Luxton (PPA 2015) James writes: I have been an officer at HMP Lincoln since May 2021. HMP Lincoln is a Category B Men's and Young Offender establishment, and we serve the local courts as well as dealing with transfers from across the country. I started on Echo wing, which is Lincoln's Vulnerable Prisoner wing, before moving to Alpha wing (Lincoln's biggest wing which holds around 220 prisoners) and I am currently working in reception. Due to the prison estate's current population crisis, we are incredibly busy on a daily basis in reception, often not finishing until around midnight when we start at 07:00. Despite this, I love the job. It's



Jack Fisher



Emma Hallam and Mr Langley



Adrian Shum



Nigel Tam and Mr Holmes

incredibly challenging at times and I have had to deal with some exceptionally difficult incidents, as well as some demanding individuals in my time here. However, I have also had prisoners when it comes to their release, who thank me for the support and help that I have provided them, which makes the difficult times worthwhile. 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.

Three years ago, whilst studying at the University of Bristol, **Tommy Pollock** (PPA 2019) co-founded an event company called **Lost Track of Time**. LTT started by revitalising underperforming venues hosting sold-out music events on a weekly basis.

After having hosted nearly 100 events, they gained a lot of recognition in Bristol and beyond. Most recently, they have started running events consistently at one of the most renowned clubs in the world - Motion. Tommy just finished his degree and will now be working on **Lost Track of Time** full time, whereby he is starting to launch a record label and is expanding the events across Cardiff, Bath and London.

2020 – 2024

Emma Hallam (PPA 2023) returned to the College to watch the theatre production of *IT*. She was delighted to see Mr Langley, and I sense he was just as pleased to see her. Thank you for coming back and supporting the students, Emma!

Adrian Shum (PPA 2024) visited recently from Bristol where he is at College and was delighted to play the Fazioli again.

Nigel Tam (PPA 2023) great to see Nigel popping back from his first year at Reading studying urban planning.

Wilson Tse (PPA 2023) writes: My most recent trip back to Prior in December made me realise how much this place meant to me - it's home. I am currently pursuing a Journalism degree at the University of the Arts, London. I am (still) involved in photography after my two-year role as "principal photographer" at Prior. Now I photograph in Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, Dulwich Hamlet FC and various artists. I also bartend in a jazz bar near Liverpool Street. University is likely to change you, it has made me a workaholic; hoping I will finally settle and raise my family in a seaside cottage.

Amelia Lavington (PPA 2023) picked up her artwork from the Art Department, it was a struggle fitting it all into the car, but we managed!

Anson Wong (PPA 2023) writes: I was appointed as a school governor at a local authority primary school in Reading. I was appointed at the age of 18, making me one of the youngest school governors in the UK.

Additionally, I have informally taken on the role of EAL consultant/advisor for the school. I am responsible for advising the school on EAL (English as an additional language) related issues and policies. This is an important role, as over 40% of the pupils in that school are EAL.

Fernando Gomez (PPA 2022) wanted to visit Allen House and Mr Lovat before returning to Mexico - great to see him back.

Gabriella Chiu (PPA 2021) writes: I started screenwriting when I enrolled on a screenwriting module at University and 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-reflection or reflections on the world.



Wilson Tse



Amelia Lavington



Anson Wong



Mr Lovat and Fernando Gomez

Eugene Chan (PPA 2025) Eugene came back to the College to meet with Carlos who is in the 6th Form. Eugene is studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths for A Level in Chelmsford. Basketball is his favourite sport, and he is hoping to study finance or biology in the future.

I bumped into **Aidan Bramwell** (PPA 2020) at QEH in Summer 2024. He was watching his younger brother **Cavan** (PPA 2025) who was playing in the College 1st team cricket match.

Great to see **Ethan Teale**, **Will Vowles** and **Charles Bibby** (PPA 2023) in the boarding house yesterday having a catch up with Carrie and Tony Jenkins. Looking forward to seeing them at alumni cricket.

Ben Humphries (PPA 2023) was home from University when he came back to hand in his awards from last



Eugene Chan - centre and Mr Stroud



Aidan Bramwell



L to R: Charles Bibby, Ethan Teale, Will Vowles and Carrie Jenkins



Mr Nicholls and Ben Humphries



Caspar Berridge



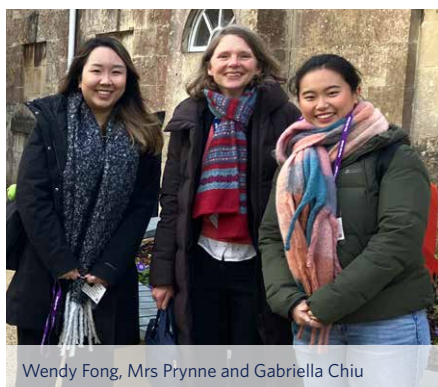
Victoria Corfield



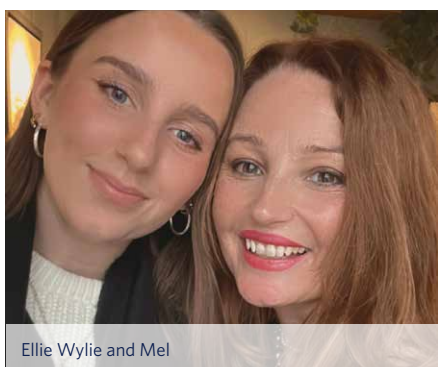
Evie Rayner-Bentman



Ned Brady with Mrs Bonney



Wendy Fong, Mrs Prynne and Gabriella Chiu



Ellie Wylie and Mel



Bagila Komekbayeva with Mrs Carson

year and was persuaded by Mr Nichols to admire the Chapel which is set up for the Grand Leavers Concert!

Caspar Berridge (PPA 2022) called in to say hello. He is having a great time at Sheffield University studying Economics & Politics.

Bagila Komekbayeva (PPA 2023) was lucky to bump into Mrs Carson when she visited the College with her Mum and little sister who she hopes will come to Prior in a couple of years.

Victoria Corfield (PPA 2024) came into College to see the headmaster and deliver a card. Victoria is looking forward to starting at Oxford University and the Head gave her the best advice of all 'Have fun and enjoy it!'

Evie Rayner-Bentman (PPA 2024) has her first art installation displayed in the Honey Willow shop window on Pulteney Bridge in Bath. Evie is helping with jewellery making and modelling at HW during her gap year.

Ned Brady (PPA 2024) popped in with his friend from New Zealand to show him the school. Ned is taking a Gap Year and is planning a trip to Southeast Asia and possibly Australia and New Zealand. We were lucky enough to bump into Mrs Bonney and Mr Baxter and Ned is hoping to come up and watch the 1st team play rugby over the next couple of weeks.

Wendy Fong and Gabriella Chiu (PPA 2021) visited the College and were delighted to meet Mrs Prynne whom they had hoped to see.

Ellie Wylie (PPA 2023) came back to see Mel in the boarding house. Lovely to see our young old girls keeping in touch.

Alix Williams (PPA 2023) catching up with Mel in St Mary's.

Adaline Kariy (PPA 2020), Ray Safarova (PPA 2022) and Abdulaziz Amanullayev (PPA 2023) visited the College as they wished to spend some time thinking about their friend Andrii Sendziuk (PPA 2020) RIP. As we walked to the Chapel, Mr Blaikley stopped his car to come and say hello, which was a lovely surprise.

Georgie Dutton (PPA 2023) was spotted watching her sister Martha (PPA 2025) play hockey. Georgie has just returned from her gap year and is looking forward to university.

Ella Brown and Leyla Kanpulat (PPA 2024) came to watch the alumnae hockey team play against the 1st team. Great to see our newest alumnae supporting the team.

Finn Grant (PPA 2022) was watching his brother Leo (PPA 2025) play cricket for the 1st team. He was delighted to have his photo taken with another member of his family.



Alix Williams and Mel



Adaline Sauveterre, Mr Blaikley, Ray Safarova and Abdulaziz Amanullayev



Georgie and Martha Dutton



Leyla Kanpulat and Ella Brown



Finn Grant and Ben Horan

Prosecco and stollen

By Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023)

Without a doubt, the merry atmosphere of the alumni's reunion in the iconic Bishop's library last year made this already promising event a must-attend for the future. With past pupils from many generations, the room was full of people whose experience at Prior had left them running back for more at every opportunity. There was a particularly impressive turn out (if I may say so myself) from my year group, the 2023 leavers, so it was such a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends that I had

gone from spending time with every day, to seeing only a few times a year.

The icing on the cake was the College Carol Service, which I am sure many alumni will remember as being one of Prior's crowning jewels. The nostalgia of being in the Chapel, hearing all the familiar songs, back with my friends again was really special. I would encourage everyone who has such fond memories of Prior Park to join in at this event every year. I certainly will be.



Elysia Thompson (PPA 2021)



Emma Hallam, Hannah Wyatt, Amelia Lavington, Annabelle Goymer and Charlotte Brickell (PPA 2023)



Hermione Scattergood, Amelia Manning and Patrick Fulton (PPA 2019)



Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964)



Euan Hatvany, Sachin Padiachy, Ben Humphries, Nick Fourie, Louis Huyton and Henry Allen (PPA 2023)



Patrick Fulton (PPA 2019) and Martha Handel (PPA 2018)



Alumni Choir Mass

By Ben Humphries (PPA 2023)

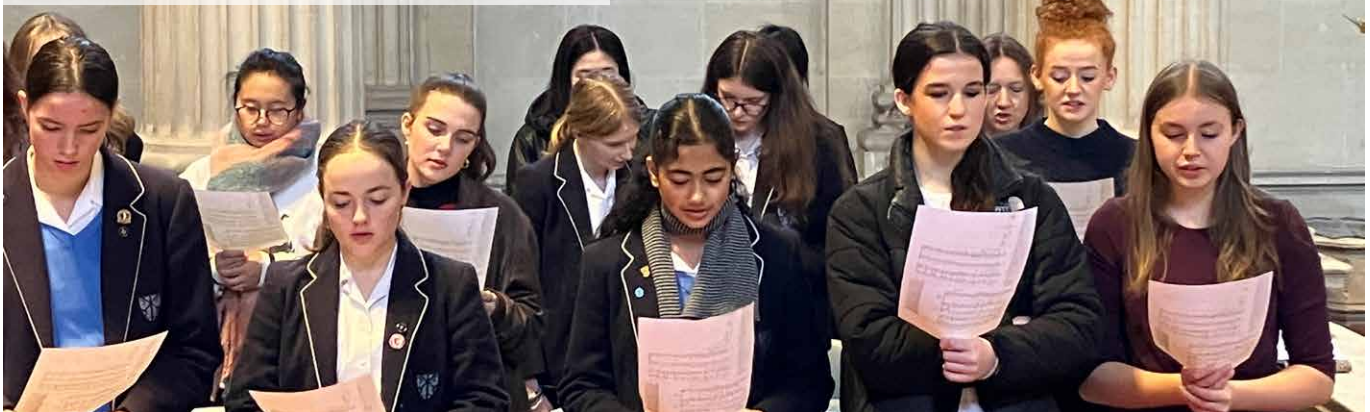
It was a beautiful crisp morning when, once again, I walked into the Chapel excited to sing with some of my old school friends and the rest of the alumni choir. It was a great morning of singing and recounting memories from previous years in the choir. Spirits were high as we met in the Chapel and Mr Nicholls led an hour rehearsal to get all the alumni up to speed with all the different arrangements we would be singing.

Although it felt strange being back, as soon as the service had started, it felt like we had never left and was such a lovely opportunity to be able to be back in the Chapel singing! Thanks so much to Mr Nicholls and Mr Sackett for arranging such a lovely service and we can't wait to be back singing with the Chapel Choir again next December!



L to R: Hannah Wyatt (PPA 2023), Gabriella Chiu (PPA 2021), Ella Brown (PPA 2024), Kasia Mill (PPA 1992)

L to R: Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019) Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023)



L to R: Ewan Hipperson, Nick Fourie, Ben Humphries, Ralph Banks (PPA 2023)



Sixth Form Careers Fair

A number of alumni attended our Sixth Form careers fair and spent an afternoon in March talking to many students from U5-U6 about their role, career pathway and top tips for pursuing a career in that field.

The feedback from the alumni was full of praise for our students approach to the event. It was clear that they were really engaging well and asking excellent questions. Many inspiring interactions took place and a huge thank you to those who took part. If you would like to be involved next year, let me know – Ed.



Thank you to:

Christopher Lennon (PPA 1964) Insurance;
James Luxton (PPA 2015) Prison Service;
Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999) Royal Navy;
Mark Mouranov (PPA 2013) Licencing in film;
Sophie Aitkin (PPA 2016) Gaming industry;
David Leech (PPA 2006) Law;
Charlotte Parker (PPA 2021) Apprenticeships with BT;
Charlie Little (PPA 2022) Apprenticeships with BAE.



Prior Park's debt to John Bogie

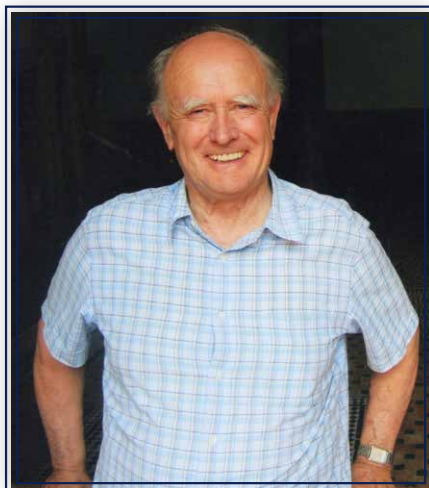
By Terry Illott (Based on John's own account, written in 1990)

The recent death of John Bogie brings to mind the enormous debt that Prior owes him.

On March 5th, 1980, he was returning home to his flat in Newbridge Hill only to see in the *Bath & Wilts Evening Chronicle* that a decision had been made to close the school. He was, in his own words, "distressed though not dumbfounded". As president of the PPA, he had picked up what he called "strong vibes" that not all was well at the College. (The Christian Brothers had recently refused a gift from the PPA to build squash courts.)

John called the then headmaster, Bro Miller, who confirmed that the news was true. They arranged to meet that evening. Miller explained that the CBs at the national level had been discussing Prior's fate for much of the past two years. The school's finances were precarious, and the CBs had suffered a significant drop in vocations. Miller had approached other religious orders to take over the running of the school, but none was interested. All were facing similar problems of their own. Hence, the college would close in July 1981.

John proposed a course of action that the CBs hadn't considered: that a lay administration take over the running of the school. (One wonders how long this thought had been germinating in John's mind.) But for that to happen, they would have to move quickly. Parents would have to be reassured, otherwise the student body would simply disappear. The coming weekend would see the College host the Old Boys' Mass and hockey match. John asked if he could use the occasion to drum up support. Miller agreed. But he stressed that any final decision would depend on the Provincial of the CBs, and he was away in Rome until the following Thursday. Crucially, Bro Miller volunteered that in his letter to the parents (in response to the press report) he would not only confirm the planned closure but would refer them to John's initiative to replace the CBs with a lay administration and thereby keep the schools (both the College and Cricklade) open.



That weekend, the PPA committee turned itself into an action committee. A letter went out to all parents on Sunday, setting out the plan in outline. An outline was all there was.

John and his deputy in the PPA, **Chris Glover** (PPA 1957), agreed to devote themselves to the cause, John on a full-time basis. He worked the telephone, contacting, in the first instance, three PPA bishops – Mervyn Alexander, Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Aloysius Ward. All three pledged support. **Fergus Lyons** (PPA 1949) and **Mervyn Scott** (PPA 1933), both local governors of the College, also confirmed their support in principle, although they were presently inhibited by their obligations, as governors, to the CBs. John then contacted the head teachers of all the Catholic independent schools, urging them to resist the temptation to accept pupils from Prior until the College's future was clear. Apparently, parents had already been making approaches.

He backed this up with a media campaign that involved local and national press, radio and television.

The crucial meeting with the Provincial of the CBs was held the following Thursday in the Priory (now St Mary's House). The atmosphere, according to John's account, was "courteous though cool". Bro Titus Coffey, installed as the leader of the English province of the CBs in 1978 and the driving force behind the "rationalisation" of the CB schools (a plan that involved a number of possible closures), had been briefed by Bro

Miller, but he felt that there was insufficient ground for serious discussion. The CBs had no interest in passing the schools over to a lay administration. Indeed, Coffey revealed that Cricklade had already been sold, subject to contract. The CBs, he said, planned to sell the College and the Priory, probably in two lots.

John was able to demonstrate a significant wave of support, from the bishops, alumni, Catholic head teachers from other schools, and the parents. He also pointed out that the laicisation of Catholic schooling was inevitable. It was either that or closure, and not just at Prior Park. The Jesuits had recently closed Beaumont College, to universal dismay. Surely the CBs didn't want to go down the same route?

What John wanted, he said, was time, and the endorsement, in some form or other, of the CBs.

Coffey was partially won over. He didn't appear to believe that John and his action committee could pull it off, but he was willing to give them the opportunity to try. He would delay the sale of Cricklade by three weeks. John insisted that three weeks wasn't enough. The CBs should withdraw Cricklade from the market pending John's efforts to find alternative support. Coffey agreed. But he insisted that three months was the absolute longest he would allow.

John left the meeting elated. Now all he had to do was to a) find a way of reassuring the CBs that Prior's Catholic identity would be guaranteed, as this was a non-negotiable condition insisted upon by Coffey, and b) launch a financial appeal that would quickly show sufficient results to convince Coffey of the plan's viability.

Bro Miller, delighted by the turn of events, threw himself into the task of providing the action committee with every assistance. Offices were made available in the Mansion, fitted with telephones, filing cabinets and furniture.

Meanwhile, Fergus Lyons and Mervyn Scott were waiting to be free from their obligations to the existing regime so that they could join the action group. Theirs was to be a crucial contribution to the cause.

John met with Bishop Murphy O'Connor, who not only agreed to become a trustee of the



new administration but persuaded the Duke of Norfolk, in a phone call made there and then, to become Patron of the revamped Prior Park Schools. Abbot Farwell of the Benedictines, Conservative MP Norman St John Stevas, and up and coming politician Chris Patten MP, as well as Bishops Alexander and Ward, were all recruited to the board of trustees in short order. It was an impressive group.

A blizzard of media coverage followed. The phones rang non-stop. At John's second meeting with Bro Coffey, the atmosphere was very different than the first. Coffey was all warm smiles and handshakes. He was impressed by the progress being made by the action committee and by the list of trustees. He pledged his full support. He confirmed that Cricklade had been taken off the market.

John had been working entirely independently up to this point. He knew there had to be some sort of day-to-day accountability. So, under John's chairmanship, the action committee was formalised, with

Chris Glover as John's deputy, Fergus Lyons and Mervyn Scott (now freed from their obligations to the old regime) and Denis Gilmer (PPA 1937). The headmaster of Oratory School was co-opted, and Mr Sutton was appointed as legal adviser. Lt Col Dowden, deputy lieutenant of Devon, was also elected. John and a full-time secretary were to be salaried.

The appeal raised £130,000. This was less than the committee had been hoping for, although they recognised that a "failing" school was not a great prospect for donors. Even so, it enabled the committee to set to work on a building and refurbishment plan for the College, the appointment of a bursar and the recruitment of a new headmaster. (Patrick Tobin left his post at Tonbridge School to undertake the task.) Similar work was soon underway at Cricklade.

The formation of a limited company to run the schools necessitated a new governing body. Fergus Lyons became the first chair,

throwing his enormous energy and expertise into the task. Meetings were frequent and lengthy, often running into the early hours. Meetings of the Trustees were also frequent, as approvals were needed for a host of matters.

At Speech Day, on May 29th, 1981, a mere 12 weeks after the story of the school's closure appeared in the *Bath & Wilts Evening Chronicle*, it was announced that the plan to secure the future of the schools was in hand.

At the end of the Summer Term, 1981, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held in the College Chapel. Afterwards, Bro Coffey presented John with a cheque for £200,000. It came with the good wishes of the Christian Brothers' Congregation.

Prior Park, and the preparatory school in Cricklade, had been saved.

John was appointed headmaster of Cricklade, a position he was to fill with distinction.

Countess Isabella Jane English, a Benefactor of Prior Park College

By Simon Beck (PPA 1969)

Isabella Jane English was born in Bath on 5th February 1814 into a staunch Catholic family and she was the third of ten children. Three of Isabella's brothers were educated at Prior Park College which perhaps explains her later generosity towards the school.

There is no record of Isabella's childhood until 1835 when her mother, Frances, took her Thurnham Hall, Lancaster to meet an old school friend Miss Elizabeth Dalton, who became the sole heiress to the Dalton estates in 1837.

Elizabeth Dalton was so taken with Isabella English that she invited her to stay at Thurnham Hall as a companion and hostess to the many visitors to the Hall, an arrangement that lasted for 26 years until Elizabeth died in 1861. On Elizabeth's death, a number of properties including those at Glasson Dock, passed to Isabella English. A condition of the inheritance was that Isabella should spend a large proportion on charity, and she did this with alacrity divesting herself of around £30,000 (worth £2.5m+ today) within six months.

Where did the £30,000 go? In June 1861 Isabella visited Rome with her brother The Very Reverend Dr Louis English and Isabella suggested that she direct a substantial proportion of her inheritance towards a convent and her brother suggested she might consider the Benedictine nuns in Hammersmith, where her sister went to school. Isabella readily accepted this idea, and her generosity meant that a new home for the nuns became a possibility.



In September 1861 a letter from Isabella said that she and Abbe Lapotre had viewed a property, "Dun Esk" near Teignmouth, Devon and both declared it as suitable to build a convent St Scholastica Abbey, so she decided to purchase it.

In 1862 Isabella went to Rome and returned with a personally signed blessing from Pope Pius IX for the new convent. By late 1863 the Abbey was completed.

Isabella died in September 1888 and much of her estate was left to Prior Park College. Isabella donations included the High Altar, the organ and the swimming pool.

Copyright Countess Isabella Jane English - Teignmouth Old Cemetery



A thank you from the Director of Development



Tony and his wife Breedge

By Declan Rainey

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 classroom and there are booths in the pantry for socialising and group study. The new spaces allow for a much better blend of the two year groups.

Also, the location of the Centre next to the New Founders Garden, gives the sixth form an outdoor element. **Thomas Roblin** (PPA 2024), Head of School (formerly known as

Head Boy), 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".

“ Alumni helping push academic aspirations with new subject prizes ”

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

Two new subject prizes were donated to the College by alumni remembering and thanking two iconic teachers from Prior's recent history.

Dr Michael Clarke (PPA 1963) has created the **Vic Fergusson Prize for Biology**. Michael

donated £25,000, creating the prize in perpetuity, remembering the former Biology teacher who taught at the school from 1955 until 1988. At the 1988 Prize Giving Speech, the then Headmaster, the late Patrick Tobin said of Vic:

"A master of the one-line report, deflator of Common Room, Biology teacher extraordinary, operator in chief of a highly efficient Careers Department, dry wit, stern taskmaster, and a man who cares deeply about Prior Park and its pupils."

Michael's very generous gift allows for two annual biology awards. One for academic performance and one for the pupil who has made the greatest progress, displaying resilience and commitment. Prize winners receive a voucher of £200 to buy books or study equipment.

The **Tony O'Sullivan Prize for Economics** was created and inaugurated during the summer term. Tony taught at the school from 1966 until 2000 and was head of economics for much of that time. The prize was established by his former pupils as a way of thanking him for his dedication, enthusiasm and life lessons taught.

Tony's family also made a very generous gift to the College to enhance and update the swimming pool. The pool was an important part of the O'Sullivan's life at Prior and his children want to ensure that today's young swimmers are able to enjoy the facility. Their gift also ensures Tony's legacy lives on as his name is now etched into our New Founders Wall.

New Alumni Prize

We were delighted to receive an email earlier this year from Miss Hilary McDermott who wished to commission the **Christopher John McDermott Cup for Creativity** to be presented to the student for outstanding creativity.

The first winner of this prestigious award was **Evie Rayner-Bentman** (PPA 2024) who was thrilled to be awarded the cup at Leavers



Day this year. Since leaving the College, Evie has had her first art installation displayed in the Honey Willow shop window on Pulteney Bridge. It celebrates her love for circles. Circles symbolise infinite love, strength, protection and inclusivity. Evie is also helping with jewellery making and modelling at HW during her gap year. A most worthy winner of this impressive cup.



Brian Warren-Peachey (PPA 1937)

Brian, in recent years our oldest living alumnus and regular attendee at the Mansion Lunch, passed away

peacefully in his sleep on 21st March, 2022, aged 101 years. He was the much-loved husband of Jennifer, cherished father of Jill and Jane, step-father of Sue and Steve, and adored grandfather of Hayley, Lyndon, Georgina and Grace. Brian will be greatly missed and always remembered by his family and many friends.

Melton Harry Tuck (PPA 1948)

Known to his fellow classmates as Mel and later in life as Tony, Melton arrived at Prior Park with his brother Barrie around 1944. Apparently, they were known as "those boys from Yorkshire!"

Melton was not very academically minded but loved his sport, and he was a crucial member of both the cricket and rugby team. So the story goes, his Latin master, who was also the rugby coach, gave up trying to teach Melton classics and instead just talked tactics for the next rugby match at each lesson.

He later had trials as a fast bowler for Nottinghamshire. However, dissuaded by his father

from taking up a career as a professional sportsman, he joined the army as a Royal Engineer and draughtsman. He was posted to Trieste in Italy. It was whilst stationed here that he met his future wife, Renata. They married in 1952 and went on to have three children.



On leaving the army in 1953, Mel came back to his home town of Doncaster and began a life-long career in insurance, first with General Accident and then going on to run his own Insurance brokerage, until his retirement in 1991, aged 60.

Sport continued to play an important part in his life. He played cricket for Doncaster Town and was an avid golfer for many years.

He spoke very fondly of his time at Prior and enjoyed a reunion with fellow students about 15 years ago. He looked forward, each year, to receiving the Gossip Bowl to find out what was happening, past and present.

Melton Harry Tuck, born 29th June 1931 died July 19th, 2023.

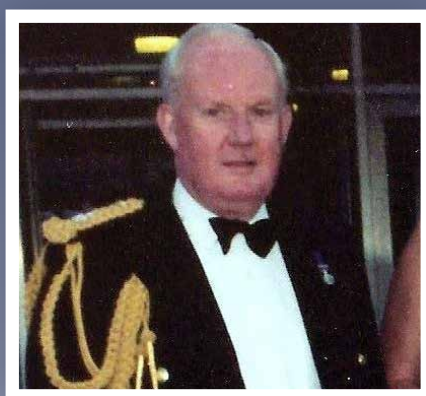


Geoffrey Dagleish Sharpe (PPA 1952)

Geoff, who attended Prior from 1947 to 1952, was born in Dar-es-Salaam in East Africa. His parents had been there since 1923, when they left Hull after his father got a job as an accountant for the East Africa Railways. Geoff was an only child, and his staunchly Catholic parents sent him on a three-day boat and train journey to a Catholic Boarding School in South Africa from the age of seven. Later, he attended another Catholic school in Nairobi where he was able to live with another family who also had boys in the school.

In 1946, the family relocated back to UK due to his father's poor health, and it was on the long boat journey back that Geoff's parents got friendly with a missionary from the Christian Brothers. He recommended that Harry and Hilda send their son to Prior Park.

Geoff became a boarder in 1947 at the age of 13. He had happy memories of his time at school. He swam and played rugby - until he smashed his collarbone during a match. He was hard working and industrious and achieved his exams a year early. He must have greatly enjoyed school life as he elected to stay on for



an extra year and do more exams when he discovered that he was too young to start university.

In 1952, Geoff went to Bristol University to study dentistry on a naval bursary. He loved flying and obtained his pilot's licence in July 1952. But unfortunately when he applied to the RAF for a dental bursary they were not taking dentists, so he had to settle for the Royal Navy.

Geoff married Judy Ingram in 1958, having met her on the naval rifle range in Chatham. They went on

John Anthony Marengi (PPA 1951)

Father Matthew, parish priest, writes: On the 29th May, 2024, John died after a short illness at the age of 90. He was a devoted husband to the late Peggy Marengi, father to Susan, Marcel, Christine and



Vincent, grandfather to Heloise, Nicholas, Emma, Richard, Christopher, Jonathan and Rebecca, great grandfather to Emilia, Max, Harry, Grace, Olivia, Oliver, Gus, Emilio and Theo Benito, and brother to Patricia, Angela and the late Michael Marengi.

John was a talented artist and sculptor, who inspired the many lives he touched through his professional career as a lecturer, schoolteacher and a masterclass specialist, sharing his knowledge, craft and experience with all those keen to develop their artistic talent. A skilful and dedicated rugby and hockey player, achieving recognition in both sports, John was instrumental in developing youth hockey in Gwent. John was a humble and modest person, a devoted servant to the poor, sick, homeless and needy in the communities of Wales.

John gave so much during his life, to his family, the Church, the St Vincent De Paul Society and the St. David's community. He will be greatly missed and truly deserves his heavenly reward.

to have three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They were posted throughout UK, from Scotland to Plymouth, and also did tours in Hong Kong and twice in Gibraltar. After he became an oral consultant, Geoff worked mainly at the Naval hospitals but also did ground-breaking work in jaw reconstruction whilst seconded to St Thomas' Hospital, in London.

Geoff was a great pistol shot and represented Great Britain many times in the 1960's and 70's. Unfortunately, he just missed out on Olympic selection a couple of times.

In 1980, Geoff and Judy settled in Alverstoke, Gosport, and lived there for the next 40 years until her sudden death in 2019. He sang in numerous choirs and volunteered with many charitable groups, including visiting families for the SSAFA charity to assess applications for financial help. He also manned the reception desk at the local hospice. His hobbies were too numerous to mention but included many which required fine dexterity. He was extremely creative.

In 2020, Geoff moved to Wiltshire to be closer to family and it was only in the last couple of months of his life that his health deteriorated. He died peacefully in June 2024.



Patrick John Hopton (PPA 1953)

Patrick's early education was in Wells, Somerset. Because of the war, he was sent to Shepton Mallet Convent boarding school at the tender age of four. He delighted in recounting how he had been the only boy in his class there.



From the age of nine, he became a boarder at Prior Park (no girls this time!) where he spent the next 10 years.

After leaving Prior, he completed two years National Service in Germany before joining the Bank of England where he spent the rest of his working life. It was here that he met his lovely wife, Sylvia. They were married for 63 happy years. Patrick retired back to his childhood city of Wells. This gave him the opportunity to pursue his hobbies including writing several novels and short stories.

Patrick died at the age of 88. He will be greatly missed by Sylvia, their three children and seven grandchildren.



Peter Anthony Scott (PPA 1955)

Peter Scott was born in 1937 and, having been evacuated several times during World War 2, he arrived at Prior Park on a scholarship. He was unfamiliar with the ethos and practices of a public school. Even so, he thrived. He discovered his love of acting and the English language, performing in many school plays over the years. He finally took on the mantle of head boy.

On leaving Prior, he was conscripted into National Service, spending time in the Middle East and Cyprus. He subsequently spent several years with Air France, and the remainder of his working life within the world of finance.

Peter died suddenly but peacefully at home on April 9th, 2024, at the age of 86. His wife and son were by his side.

John Bogie (PPA 1957)

November 2024: Notice of the death of John Bogie, former headmaster of the prep school in Cricklade, came too late for a full obituary in this issue. Please see page 44 for John's tribute.



had also been educated at Prior Park. As time has passed, friends from my year at Ampleforth now have their children at Prior Park, a beautiful place with a mild climate compared to the harsh winters of the Yorkshire Moors.

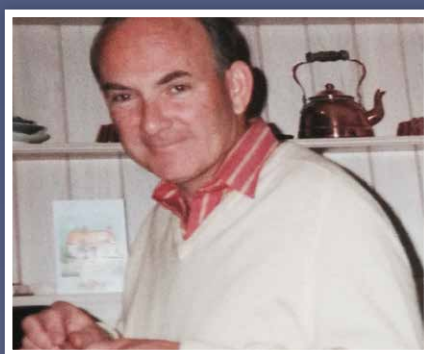
I vividly remember the day I finished at Ampleforth. My father drove me to Prior Park to watch the old boys' cricket match. As we walked around the 1st XI pitch, one of his old masters recognized him and welcomed him back. My father wanted to share with me his fond memories of his time at school. We walked through the school grounds and the Chapel, making it a place that, although I have visited only once, holds a significant place in my heart and our family's history.

Thank you for being a part of my father's life and for the joy Prior Park brought him.

Patrick Mason (PPA 1953)

Bernadette Mason (PPA 1997) writes: My father Patrick was born in July 1936 in Dudley, the eldest of five. The family later moved to Bournemouth. Patrick attended St Joseph's Catholic School until age 11, when he got a scholarship to Dudley Grammar School. But his mother felt he would benefit from more discipline in his life, so he attended Prior Park Preparatory (Cricklade) in 1947/8. He said that he survived the austere post-war conditions thanks mainly to his involvement in rugby and cricket. Patrick later moved to Prior, where he again enjoyed the sporting side of life and made life-long friends. Patrick would always tell us stories of his antics while at Prior with such affection, which always had us laughing over the years.

Patrick had a successful career in finance, which started at Lloyds bank aged 18. He said that his first job was to make the tea. He then progressed and his work took him all over the world, including Uganda, Aden, Pakistan and Kuwait. Patrick met his wife Jennie in Aden, where she was working as an RAF nurse. They went on to have three daughters. Patrick worked for a number of companies including National Grimeleys and the London branch of the Union of Arab and French Banks (UBAF), with the latter leading to the opportunity to move to Bahrain in 1983 as the general manager of ALUBAF Arab International Bank. He described the move as "the luckiest day of my life" and he remained in Bahrain until 1996, after which he returned to the UK.



During retirement, Patrick lived in Heytesbury with Jennie, and he was actively involved in supporting the local community, as well engaging in his many hobbies, including supporting his beloved Hampshire Cricket Club. He was also vice president of the PPA for three years and was instrumental in setting up the Veterans' Lunch (now the Mansion Lunch).

Jennie sadly passed away in 2007, and Patrick then chose to move initially to Bradford on Avon before eventually settling in Exeter in 2016. There he continued to fully embrace life, joining PROBUS as treasurer, playing Bridge regularly and continuing to enjoy going to the gym and long walks. He also loved being close to his three grandchildren.

Patrick was always very thankful for his time at Prior and how it shaped his life, especially the close friendships he formed.

Anthony Lowe (PPA 1963)

David Lowe writes: I am writing with a heavy heart to inform you of the passing of my father on Easter Tuesday. During the Covid lockdown, the support he received from the Prior Park family greatly uplifted his spirits, for which we are profoundly grateful.

My father had a lifelong love affair with Prior Park, where he cherished playing cricket and rugby and made friendships that remained dear to him throughout his life. On Easter Sunday, I read him an extract from the Gossip Bowl, which mentioned several of his peers. He fondly recalled stories about them and asked me to reach out, but sadly, his passing interrupted this intention. His eulogy reflects the deep affection he held for his school days and why those memories were so cherished.

He proudly shared the story of breaking the school record for the cross country run. He went on to play for the school 1st XV and 1st XI and had the honour of being selected to play for Somerset County Cricket 2nd XI as a promising schoolboy. He later enjoyed some impressive seasons with Hartlepool Cricket Club, where his bowling was a great asset.

After Prior Park, he went to Constantine College and at the same time worked for his parents at their Fairgrounds at Seaton Carew and Crimdon Dean. He developed his parents' business in a new direction with the introduction of gaming machines in local pubs and clubs across the North of England. His genial personality, engaging smile and bright blue eyes were an asset.

Although he chose to send me to Ampleforth, I found a connection with other boys whose fathers



Michael England (PPA 1958)



Mike sadly passed away on 17th August 2024, aged 83. Mike worked for Lloyds Bank for over 37 years, starting in Swansea in 1958. He worked in Portishead, Cheddar, Wells, Frome, Warminster and finally Trowbridge, taking early retirement in 1996. He was married to Pip for 46 years and was blessed with two children, Vicki and Stuart, and grandchildren Enzo and Arianna. Mike and Pip volunteered for The Cinnamon Trust for nine years, walking and fostering numerous dogs and one cat. Mike loved sport all his life, especially rugby, following his beloved Wales and local team at Wells.

Patrick McGinn (PPA 1959)

Barry Plews writes: With great personal sadness I have been informed by his daughter that Patrick recently passed away peacefully at his home in eSwatini (Swaziland).

He had been ill for some time, but he experienced severe setbacks when his tyre business in Mbabane was burnt to the ground by a local faction trying to overthrow the king. He later contracted a strain of

malaria that attacks the brain. His family were with him when he died.

We had been good friends since 1948 when we met at Cricklade, and he was best man at my wedding 58 years ago. We were able to meet up from time to time in South Africa, UK, Portugal and eSwatini.

Some alumni might remember his younger brother Michael, who tragically died in a car accident in 1970. His father, Dr. Maurice McGinn, was a governor of the school for many years in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Olivia Smallwood (PPA 2004)

On 30th September 2024, Olivia Margaret Kate Smallwood (née Hussey) passed away suddenly at her parent's home in Bath. She was a loving wife to Guy Smallwood, a daughter to Bob and Louise Hussey and a sister to Victoria, Pippa and Toby. Guy and her family are deeply saddened by their loss. To anyone who knew her at Prior, we would like you to know that when she passed, Libby was really happy in her life. She was in a loving, committed marriage and they had plans. She was also a greatly valued member of staff at the Little Willows Nursery in Bath, and the children there will miss her enormously. Libby has left a big hole in all our hearts.

She loved and was loved in return.



Sir Adrian Beamish (PPA 1956)

Antonia Beamish writes: It is both a huge honour and an enormous responsibility to be writing and delivering Dad's eulogy because Dad was a master of words like no other. He was a diligent letter writer, and his letters were never boring - not just because deciphering his elegant hand demanded particular concentration but because they were personal, insightful and transportive too. A grandchild's birthday card never just said Happy Birthday; there would always be some words of wisdom and more often than not a funny anecdote.

Dad was an avid poetry fan. Indeed, he recently said that poetry was one of the reasons he joined the diplomatic service. Through his English studies at Christs College Cambridge, he was aware that a number of our great, and not so great (his words), poets had been, if not in the Diplomatic Service, sent abroad on missions of one sort or another, and this seemed to him an interesting thing to do. And do it he did.

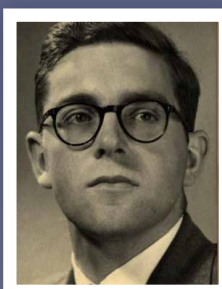
During Covid, he and Mary-Rose organised an online poetry recitation competition. It was amazing: 20 or more family and friends, of all ages, gathered on Zoom and reciting poetry. Prizes were awarded and it then became an annual event. This year's was to have taken place on his birthday. Organising it with Mary Rose really kept him going in his final weeks.

Dad was an adventurer and a bon viveur. He delighted in beautiful buildings, art, music and language. He loved people, wine and food. I remember as a child going to a restaurant with him. He ordered steak tartar.

I liked steak but had never heard of steak tartar. (I wasn't much more than seven.) "It's raw," he said. "Raw steak topped with a raw egg" Obviously I had to try it; if only to impress him (which I hope I did).

I got my own back many years later when I was living in New York. One evening I took him out for sushi (at that time still a rarity outside of Japan). When he asked me what the green paste on his plate was, I told him simply that it was mustard. Dad loved mustard and always had lashings of it. I watched as he slathered it on his eel sashimi. I did feel a little guilty when his eyes were streaming and his mouth contorting, but he took it on the chin, and we had a good laugh. Dad was always good for a laugh. The day before he died, when his granddaughters came to visit him in the Royal Free, one of them asked him who his favourite poet was. "I've written a few poems myself," he answered wryly!

Family was extremely important to Dad. His immediate family was dis-located early on when he lost his father aged eight. Aunts, uncles and cousins have always played a significant part of his life, and I think it is safe to say that a large, happy family was one of his ambitions. His two marriages would bear testament to this; both mine and Kitty's mother Caroline, and Mary-Rose, Emma and James' mother, Antonia, came from fantastically large and welcoming families and our life was enriched immeasurably when Emma and James became a part of it and Mary-Rose



was born. And our children will be hanging out with their children, and on and on it goes.

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that Dad's poetic zeal was on a par with his deep religious faith, and I am confident that these two elements were an immense comfort to him all his life, and especially in the last two years. Although we knew his illness, which was diagnosed in early 2022, was incurable, we did not expect him to be taken so soon. His stoicism in the face of terminal illness was extraordinary and his determination to retain his independence and not be a bother to anyone was remarkable.

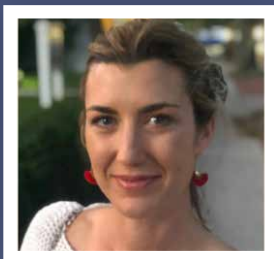
In the last three years, he was a fairly regular visitor at the Royal Free. My sisters and I were touched by the nurses who befriended him, especially Elena and Celia from the haematology department. Dad spoke to us about them at length, he was so impressed with them. And they and his friend Stella clearly made his final years and months easier than they may have been otherwise. Everyone he met enjoyed his company because he was endlessly interesting and interested, funny, charming and full of knowledge. Ask him anything about past or contemporary situations on the global stage and after explaining in depth he would then offer possible solutions. He was always self-effacing, however, never smug.

During his final days, while sitting with him at the Royal Free, watching him struggling to survive, the word that kept coming to me was Titan. After he died that was all I could think. Our dad was a Titan: a person of great strength, intellect and importance. He was a titan of diplomacy, his intellect was titanic, his strength too, and of course he was the most important man in our lives. R.I.P. dear Dad.



Isabelle Lawrence (PPA 2003)

Isabelle was the light of our lives. She was courageous and took all life's opportunities without fear, showering love and kindness on her friends, family, and children along the way. Endlessly inventive and creative, she took her biological sciences degree from Oxford and applied it towards communicating positivity in the world. Her projects were as diverse as her passions, reflecting a curiosity about people and our culture that inspired everyone lucky enough to spend time with her. We remember her as a soul mate, beautiful daughter, sister, devoted mother and wife.



Jeanne Bisgood (Trustee)

Charles Freeman (former bursar) writes: Jeanne Bisgood, who died earlier this year at the age of 100, was a trustee and a strong supporter of Prior Park in the early years after the departure of the Christian Brothers. She not only took her duties as a trustee very seriously but also was a benefactor. A trust which she controlled donated generously to the purchase of the College freehold from the Christian Brothers about 25 years ago. I also have an idea that the giant painting of French cavalry on the main stairs may have been given by her father. Aside from Prior Park, she was a world-class amateur golfer who won three English national titles in the 1950s and also the championships of several other European countries.

A great lady who supported the school through some challenging years.

Andrii Sendziuk (PPA 2021)

Belinda Lee writes: Andrii Sendziuk died on September 14th, 2024, in New York, where he was working as an analyst for the Bank of America. He was buried in his hometown of Zalishchyky, Ukraine.

Andrii was born on July 17th, 2002. In 2018, he won a scholarship to study at Prior, after which he went to Georgetown University in the USA for an undergraduate degree.

There, Andrii majored in finance, and operations and information management. He minored in mathematics. Outside of his studies, Andrii founded the Georgetown University Ukraine Society (GUUS) after Russia's 2022 invasion, and he served as its president during the remainder of his time at the university. His student friends saw this as a testament to both his character and leadership abilities.

"He was a doer. He was not a talker. He would just set a goal, and he would work toward it," Iryna Tiasko, a former GUUS member and Andrii's childhood friend, said. "Between the time the war started and a few days after, there was a fully formed club."

He also engaged in broader advocacy work for Ukraine, continuing after his graduation. He was active in the American Coalition for Ukraine, helping to coordinate their Capitol Hill advocacy to support his country. Andrii also spearheaded the student branch of the Ukraine Action Student Summit in April 2024, which offered student-oriented programming and advocacy work for Ukraine.

"He had such empathy and this can-do attitude, this positive ambition to make the world a better place in all of the things he was involved in and just bringing

100%, if not 110%, to everything," Vera Berezhny, who met Andrii as a freshman through GUUS, said. "When he was there, it was all of him. Even if it was the smallest thing, he would take it with equal importance."

People close to Andrii described him as energetic, positive, kind, and intelligent.

"Andrii would walk into the room, and his personality and charisma would take over," Tiasko said. "Everybody was always smiling, laughing around him."

PPA alumni remember him fondly: "Andrii was someone I didn't know I needed in my life until it was too late, you always understand too late that you never got to say thank you. He was someone who made an impact without realising or putting too much effort - he was just himself. He was smart and took the subjects that I would never pass. However, being book smart is not what drew me to him. His bright optimism, belief in the good, and warm and tight embraces are what I miss the most. He was responsible but still had fun and let loose with trusted people, and I'm glad I was one of them. His empathy went beyond what I could have asked for. Words he didn't think twice about left an irreversible mark on my life. I wish I could turn back time and tell him how much he meant to me. I don't think I could ever be the person I am today



without his example." Adaline (formerly known as Alexanderina) Kariy (PPA 2020).

Andrii was an incredibly bright and considerate person. Not only in the meaning of being educated, smart and wise, he was bright in his ability to preserve his inner light and the same ability to give it to others. Like a radiant beam, he not only illuminated any place he entered, but he also guided to the right path with his endless support and selfless help. Even during the most difficult times, including the war in our homeland, he remained strong and knew how to share that strength, bringing people together. There are not many people like Andrii, and I am deeply grateful to have known him." Sofia Zaitseva (PPA 2020).

In loving memory of Andrii, a hard-working school senior we all looked up to. His smile and boundless positivity lit up every room, leaving a lasting impact on those around him. His kind heart will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all. RIP. Ray Safarova (PPA 2022).

Andrii was a sparkle of light in people's hearts. I can remember how each afternoon, he stormed into St Paul's office with laughter and positivity. He cracked jokes, told anecdotes, and shared his stories with everyone around him. He knew how to cheer you up when things went wrong. His wise words and optimism would help you realise that the mundane problems of school life are just temporary and that everything will be fine in the end. His presence made boarding life less daunting. Andrii was a great friend whose absence will be missed. I will forever cherish my friendship with him." Abdulaziz Amanullayev (PPA 2023).

Andrii is survived by his parents and five siblings.



Neil Chilcott (PPA 1978)

Des Judge writes: Sad news from the 1976/78 year group: Neil "Chilli" Chilcott passed away in February following some years struggling with ill-health. Neil retained the characteristics we best remembered from our schooldays: he was fun, vibrant, never predictable and of course mischievous. Neil, along with his brothers Ian (PPA 1980) and Duncan (PPA 1977), attended PPC between 1972 and 1977. Steve McCullagh and I had the privilege of serving as pallbearers at his funeral. We extend our condolences to family and friends.

A bright light, faded too soon.

Neil Chilcott, born November 7th, 1959, died February 11th, 2024.



Archivist's Report

By Simon Beck (PPA 1969)

During the last year I have been primarily involved in preparing further photos, documents, and magazines for inclusion in the PPA Archive as well as adding, amending, consolidating and removing the archive headings to better reflect the contents. In addition, I have been undertaking research into various questions raised by members of staff on the history of Prior Park. For example, you will see a Gossip Bowl piece on Isabella Jane English, Contessa of the Holy Roman Empire who was a very important and generous benefactor of the school, the Catholic Church and after whom our own English House is named. I have to admit that most of the actual research on Isabella English was compiled by various others and I simply pulled it together into a fascinating (I hope) story.

I have also looked at the records to find historical mentions of our fives court that many of you may remember as an empty and unloved building adjacent to the much more recent carpark where we used to play soccer, or association football, out of sight of



the CBs who did not look too kindly on this sport. My latest search involves the question "Did Admiral Lord Nelson stay at Prior Park before it became a school?" Although he is well documented as a regular visitor to Bath I've found no connection to Prior Park but perhaps a reader knows differently?

I am also collecting old objects of our past school life through the ages to create one or more displays. If you have old school objects (ties, caps, badges or documents) that you're happy to donate (not your old school trunk!) do get in touch.

Thank you to Josh (L5) for the photos which he took for the Mansion Lunch. Thank you also to Wilson Tse (PPA 2023) for the Cricket and tennis day photos.

Good Time Cooking

Rosie MacKean (PPA 2008) writes: My debut cookbook, *Good Time Cooking* will be published by Pavilion Books on 12th September 2024. *Good Time Cooking* is THE ESSENTIAL dinner party cookbook. With 20 different delicious, vibrant and highly cookable menus (over 90 recipes) to suit different moods, occasions and needs, each one meticulously planned out so you can spread the work and enjoy your own parties. Cooking for a good time should be a good time, no? There's a menu for the First Barbecue of Summer, A Big Birthday, for when you have 2 Hours' Notice or when you are WFH. There's a Plant Based menu, a menu made from Storecupboard Saviours, a Roman menu and a menu for when a Game is On. There are of course menus for all the obvious calendar dates - Christmas, Bonfire Night, Valentines and my ultimate Sunday

Roast. Every menu is meticulously planned out for you, so you can spread the workload and spend more time with your guests, having a good time at your own party.

Rosie has spent the last nine years working first in London's restaurant kitchens, and then as a freelance food stylist, home economist and recipe writer for book, film and TV. More recently she started the popular *Substack* newsletter, *The Dinner Party*, sharing her ultimate menus, recipes and tips for hosting, upon which her book is based.



Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th June

2020 5-year reunion

Sunday 8th June

Alumni cricket

Alumni tennis

1995 reunion

2005 reunion

2015 reunion

Thursday 26th June

Alumni golf day

TBC September

PPA Committee Meeting and AGM TBC

Alumnae hockey

Saturday 11th October

Mansion Lunch and PPA Medal Ceremony

1985 reunion

TBC December

Alumane Choir Service

Prosecco and Stollen

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

Website - Please do visit the alumni website to find out what events are coming up, look at the archive, update your contact details and other alumni related information. which is not there.



Welcome to the Prior Park College Alumni.
We hope to help you reconnect with the College and with old friends.
We hold numerous reunions, sporting and musical events each year which will

Alumni Publications

see www.priorparkschools.com

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



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