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Dear Alumni,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2025 edition of the Gossip Bowl. Once again, a heartfelt thank you goes to Emma-Lou Goymer and Terry Ilott for their incredible dedication in bringing together the stories, memories, and moments that make this publication so eagerly awaited each year.

As I reflect on my first year as president of the alumni, I remain truly moved by the kindness, enthusiasm, and generosity that flow quietly behind the scenes. Every effort made to keep our community connected ensures that alumni feel warmly welcomed—ready to reminisce, reconnect, and share the experiences that shaped them. Hearing from current pupils about their hopes for the future, and from former pupils—whether one year or twenty years on—about their progress and adventures has been a genuine joy. These conversations continually remind me how special our community is, and I look forward to many more in the year ahead.

This past year has brought even greater engagement from alumni, with more interaction, more shared stories, and more moments of connection. Our aim is simple: to create meaningful opportunities for alumni to support one another personally and professionally, to strengthen lifelong bonds, and to encourage friendships across generations.

So please, make a cuppa, settle in, and enjoy discovering what our fabulous alumni have been up to this year!

Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999)



Chantal Hopper

I think what has struck me most this year is the enthusiasm and engagement from our alumni of all generations. It gives me a warm feeling to see our older alumni chatting with the younger ones and finding out what has changed whilst recounting stories of daring deeds from times gone by. The sense of community is strong and that will only grow as we develop our alumni networking project (see more on page 41) we hope that giving our alumni the opportunity to connect both professionally and socially will bring benefits to all generations.

I hope to see many of you at the reunions and events which we have coming over the next year. Never before have I received enquiries about events a year before their date, and it is fantastic to see the fervour with which these reunions are anticipated.

So, come back, see your friends and enjoy spending time at the College, we look forward to welcoming you back.



Emma-Louise Goymer,
Alumni Relations

Thank you

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Gossip Bowl, without your input, the magazine would be a lot less interesting. Huge thanks as always to **Terry Ilott** (PPA 1968) for his guidance and advice. He has kept the bar high and made sure that the magazine is as good as I can make it.



Prior Park College: It makes a difference

By Ben Horan, Head of Prior Park College

Schools undoubtedly work in cycles and secondary schools these days tend to work in a seven-year cycle. Most, though by no means all, students will join us in Lower Three and go through to the end of the Upper Sixth. Leavers' Days can be wonderfully nostalgic occasions, as teachers see young adults departing who they remember as 11-year-olds taking their first steps into 'big school.' I have now been at Prior Park for seven years and so the current Upper Sixth were my first Lower Three. Seeing that cycle through is a sign that you've been at a school for an entirely respectable amount of time. Students will all know who you are, and hopefully, you'll know all the students.

I was minded to think on these cycles by the retirements of several long-standing teachers from Prior this past summer. The one that really stood out for me though was the retirement of Kate Trott, who had been a teacher at Prior since 1988. She has seen thousands of young people go through our wonderful school and had long been a Prior Park institution. Kate's retirement means that the last member of the teaching staff has now left who worked under every Headmaster of

“
*Wonderfully
nostalgic occasions*
”

Prior Park since the re-founding of the school in the early 1980s. It was fascinating to listen to Kate talk to about the changes that Prior had gone through in the 37 years that she'd been here. Shifts in how we teach, and what we teach, how young people have changed, and how they've stayed the same. Changes in how our school has operated and how the school has been led. Changes in how the school is monitored and inspected. All schools benefit from the institutional memory of committed individuals. Great schools though, thrive when people like Kate and all those other long-standing retirees care as



much as they all do. They will all be greatly missed.

On the national level, education also works in a similar fashion. Curriculum reviews happen every few years, tweaks to the exam system occur, politicians bemoan an education system that isn't properly preparing young people for the 'world of work.' Of late, the world of independent education has been

under real strain, and a host of schools have closed. We know of many who are struggling to adapt to a hostile government and a multitude of threats to their position. We are fortunate, here at Prior, to be in a strong financial position and one which is well placed to weather the storms that are buffeting private schools across the land. One of the reasons for this is the ongoing support of our engaged alumni community. We might point to the many financial donations which have allowed us to build, to refurbish, and to support members of our community in need. We can also point though to the many donations of time we receive from our alumni. Whether it is as trustees, or as external speakers, or as mentors, our alumni community continue to keep Prior in their thoughts. Most of all though is the fact that Bath is a village and nearly every prospective parent I speak to mentions someone they know who went to Prior. Someone who they admire, respect, and who speaks well of their time at our school. This word of mouth and subtle evangelising about the difference a Prior Park education keeps our school thriving and succeeding. Thank you for all you do for us. It makes a difference.



Developing a genuine love for learning

By Rosie Allen, Head of The Paragon

What an incredible year it has been at The Paragon. We are midway through the construction of a new classroom block, which will provide modern, spacious learning areas close to our beloved Dingly Dell. We look forward to cutting the ribbon on this exciting project in the spring term.

This year, individual academic growth has been at the forefront of our mission. Our dedicated teachers have embraced innovative teaching methods, ensuring that every child has the support they need to reach their full potential. The results are impressive, with many children achieving personal bests and developing a genuine love for learning. Many of our pupils moved up to the College with awards and scholarships, and we have been delighted with the progress made by every single child.

In the realm of Wellbeing for Life, we have expanded our programs to include mindfulness and emotional literacy, creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe and valued. Our Wellbeing Lead has championed open conversations about mental health, resulting in happy, confident children who are ready to engage with the world.



This year's Queen Elizabeth Day was a remarkable success, with our children, parents, and staff diving into over twenty community service projects. From volunteering at food banks to participating in environmental clean-ups, our children not only made a difference but also learned the value of empathy and responsibility – a reflection of the values instilled in them at The Paragon.



As we celebrate these achievements, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our alumni, for your continued support. Together, we are building a vibrant community that champions learning, wellbeing, and service.

Ed: We are also saying goodbye and thank you to Rosie as she embarks on a new adventure as head of a prep school in the Bahamas. We are delighted to congratulate **Malcolm Bond** (PPA 1995) who has been appointed headmaster of the Paragon from January.

Creating traditions that last

By Paul Martyn, Head of Prior Park Gibraltar

This September, we celebrated our fifth annual alumni gathering at the Sunborn Hotel. It was our best-attended yet. With our alumni community growing by another 20% in these early years, it was no surprise to see a record turnout. It was wonderful to see so many older faces return alongside newer graduates, the strength of these early bonds is proof that Prior Park Gibraltar is already creating traditions that last.

As my first year as head of Prior Park Gibraltar draws to a close, I have been struck by how energising these reunions are. My colleagues and I revelled in hearing not about universities or courses but much more about their fledgling careers and stories of personal growth. Our alumni are revealing the people they are

becoming and the role a Prior Park education has in that journey. The opportunity to reconnect with our alumni early each September provides the school with impetus to push forward, work hard, and deliver once again for a community like no other.



Our school may still be young compared to our sister schools in Bath, but the energy and warmth of our Gibraltar alumni make it clear that we are becoming firmly woven into the fabric of the Prior Park family. These early years will one day be remembered as the beginning of a much longer story, and it is heartening to see how strongly our community wants to stay connected.

Next year brings our first significant milestone: the 10th Anniversary of Prior Park Gibraltar.



It will be an opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved and to look ahead to the decades to come. I hope to see many of

our community back with us as we mark that occasion together.

So, while we may still be a few years away from celebrating those ten, twenty, or thirty-year reunions, we look forward to reaching those milestones in time. Setting off on the journey of becoming a long thread in Prior Park's rich history certainly inspires our community. As the fortunate successor to our founding head, Peter Watts, I can already see that from these early years, strong bonds have formed among our alumni. Just as tiny acorns grow into mighty oaks, we know these connections will continue to flourish and bring our alumni back for many years to come.



2020 5-Year Reunion

By Archie Dutton



Max Hall, Tom Hollingsworth, Joel Butler, Charlie Main, James Butters, Jack Beeching, Tom Downes, Lolo (Olivia) Lewis, Mila Sanghera, Eve Wagstaffe, Anna Motylova, Jemima Thursz, Ella Haythornthwaite, Ava Graham, Annie (Anastasia) Carruthers, Henry Sampson, Max Couling, Nicole Chu, Brandon Law, Amy Heath, Carolina Kakies, Charlie Mullin, Pablo Forero Mesa, Hamish Row, Izzy (Isobel Wylie), Joe Wallace, Ben Pearson, Henry Banda, Tufic Haddad, (Can't tell who is behind Ben and Tufic - sorry!), Archie Dutton, Jack Mitchell, Kiran Litt, Dr Trott, Tom West, Mrs Trott, Archie Carr, Archie Ewen, Mr Bond.



“ It was so nice to see lots of old faces ”



What an enjoyable day being back at the Mansion with the Class of 2020. Having not quite had the leavers' experience we might have hoped for five years ago it was so nice to see lots of old faces and catch up with what everyone has been up to since leaving Prior. The Mansion was looking slightly different to how it was when we left it, as were many other parts of the school,

although it was so great to see all the changes and what's been happening! Everyone was on great form, and it was so nice to enjoy one or two or ten drinks with lots of old faces! Special thank you to Emma-Lou for the organisation of it and thank you everyone for coming. Bring on the ten-year reunion!



2015 10-Year Reunion

By Lucy Boulton

Our 10-year reunion took place on the Mansion steps, overlooking the rolling hills to the Palladian bridge – a view I'm guilty of neglecting as a student. It was fantastic to see a healthy turnout and to hear about the different paths our lives have taken since we graduated. We enjoyed a couple of hours of drinks and canapés, and then wandered down to the Bath Brew House for

the rest of the day.

We were honoured that some of our former teachers also gave up their Saturday to attend, including Colette Byron, Amy Colquhoun, Martin Knights, Malcom Bond, and Lori Redman. Their support, both during our time at school and now, means a lot.

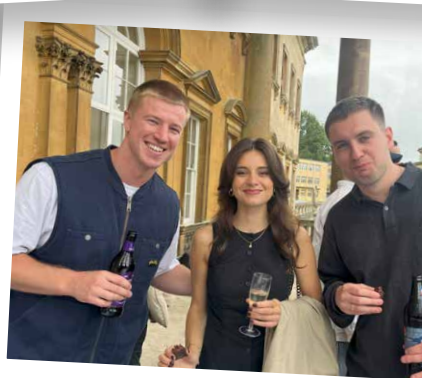
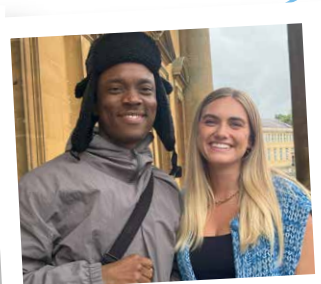
Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come.



Callum Smith, Sarah-Jane Hayley, Samantha Morgan, Sam Jones, Connie Redman, Lucy Boulton, Phoebe Baker, Tom Biggar, Arabella Johnson, George Pidgen, Edward Bisset, Alexander Bisset, Dominic Part, Miranda Woods, Tom Bradshaw, Kenneth Ezeiruom, Johnny Wordsworth, Ellie Knights, Olly Gerrish, Ash Griffin, Harvey Nolan, Ciaran Mullaly, Max Granger, Alice Guiton, Olly Williamson, Aysha Taylor, Kieran Kelly, Lucia Durham, Bradley Chiuri, Alexander Butt



“
Fantastic to see a healthy turnout
”





2005 20-Year Reunion

By Sian Roberts



L to R: Flora Blathwayt, Rebecca Pearson (Jeans), Katie Jason (Sainsbury), sara Budd, Matthew Osment, Sian Roberts (Gulliford), Emma Halliday (Stubbs), James Leach, Nina Forget (Spencer), Olivia Lawson, Izzy Burton (Graham-Brown), Daniel Dando, Aidan Stanley, George Constantine, Oliver Mcgivern, Sofie Fohlmann Elkins, Simon Foulkes, Alex Guy



“Many laughs were had, and a couple of old catchphrases were definitely said”



The class of 2005 had a lovely afternoon in June, catching up over a few drinks and the last 20 years whilst watching the alumni cricket match. Many laughs were had, and a couple of old catchphrases were definitely said (a bit too loudly)! After the event we took a walk down to another old haunt, The Ram in Widcombe,

taking in the stunning landscape gardens en route and definitely not being asked to exit via a side gate! It was absolutely amazing to see so many old friends, and it didn't feel like two whole decades had passed since we all drove our cars onto the mansion lawn on our last day, in the tamest prank of all time!



1995 30-Year Reunion

By Robin Sturges

In June this year, many from the Class of 1995 gathered at The Pig and Fiddle on a Saturday evening to catch up and relive the fun times we shared all those years ago. The night was filled with laughter, stories and fond memories and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Classmates travelled from as far afield as Bahrain and The Netherlands to join in, catching up on each other's lives and reminiscing about the past.

It was such joy to see so many familiar faces - some of whom hadn't seen each other in nearly 30 years, while others had kept in more

regular touch. The following day, many of those who had met the night before gathered again on the cricket fields at Prior, where we were greeted with bottles of bubbly and a delicious BBQ. The sun was shining, cricket was played and the conversations flowed easily, carrying on from the night before. What made the weekend truly special was how effortlessly we all slipped back into old friendships. It hardly felt like three decades had passed - our lives may have taken very different paths, but the bond we formed at school remains as strong as ever. Lucky us!



L to R: Rebecca Jackson, Robin Sturges, Roisin Embery nee Turner, Ellie Acland nee Gower Johnson, Tim Charlesworth, Anna Lynch, Sally Barker nee Price, David Symes, Charles Heal, Jonathan McEnery, Malcolm Bond, Pollyanna Buckley nee Brain, Penny Brook and Joe Fields.



The night before

“We all slipped back into old friendships”





1981 Reunion

By Grant Murdoch

A charming group of Old Boys met on weekend of the 7th-8th July 2025. Grant Murdoch (our organiser), Leo Chiu, Thomas Chan, Tony Marques, Eddie Chaffin, Andy Cullen, Jeremy Westoby, Mark Tobin and Jon Hale attended the reunion.

Many had travelled from across the world - Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Singapore and even as close as Somerset. Everybody was on fine form and recalled significant events/stories in our young lives

as we were escorted around the school; mostly unrepeatable here!

The dinner on Saturday 7th June at an underground restaurant called La Perla was memorable. The conversation was booming and echoed within the cavern! Leo Chiu generously provided some fabulous wine and whisky which helped recall old memories.

Hopefully, we won't wait another 40+ years until our next reunion.



“ *The conversation was booming* ”



L to R: Leo's nephew, Tony Marquis, Leo Chiu, Ed Chaffin, Jonathan Hale, Grant Murdoch, Andrew Cullen, Tom Chan, Mark Tobin, Jeremy Westoby





1975 50-Year Reunion

By Trevor Fernandez



Alistair Donkin, Simon Langley (PPA 1979), Anthony McQuiggan (PPA 1974), Christopher Liu (PPA 1979), Vivienne Liu, Andrew Goodman (PPA 1975), Trevor Fernandez (PPA 1975), Charles Harris (PPA 1975), Stephen O'Brien (PPA 1975)

“A day filled with nostalgia”

Saturday, 15th November 2025 – A Mansion Lunch to Remember



Martin Bury (PPA 1975), David Catlow, Simon Morgan (PPA 1975), Mark Baker (PPA 1975), Greg Hull (PPA 1975), Phil Hudson (PPA 1974), Lada Hudson, Joash Odhalo, Kat Odhalo, Shonagh Bury

What a day! The latest Mansion Lunch was nothing short of spectacular - another chapter in our alumni adventures. From my vantage point, the gathering spanned generations, with attendees from the early 1970s through to the mid-2010s.

The day began in the historic John Wood Chapel, where Tony Bury delivered a heartfelt speech and presentation that set the tone beautifully (see report on pages 20 and 21). It's inspiring to see how alumni from every era continue to stay connected and support one another.

From there, we moved to the Academy Hall for an exceptional lunch. For those of us who remember, this was once home to a grand piano. It was a music room in my time and the venue for our unforgettable Upper Sixth end-of-school party. Walking in always brings back a flood of memories.

The afternoon was capped by an energizing address from Headmaster Ben Horan, reminding us that creativity and the drive to be the best remain at the heart of Prior Park. Those values shaped my life, and it's reassuring to know they still thrive today.

Driving up Prior Park Road and Ralph Allen Drive gave me the same butterflies I felt on my very first day at school. At lunch, catching up with the Class of '75 was a highlight, laughing over the timeless stories that never lose their charm and sharing new ones from life beyond Prior.

It was a day filled with nostalgia, inspiration, and camaraderie. A huge thank you to the alumni team for making it all happen. Here's to many more gatherings that celebrate our shared history and enduring connections!



1968 Reunion

Reunion lunch for Fabian Jowers (PPA 1968)

By Terry Illott

Health issues recently forced the return of **Fabian Jowers** (PPA 1968) to Madrid after several years in Uganda, where he and his wife Elisabeth founded and ran an orphanage, launched a programme to alleviate the scourge of jiggers in rural areas and set up a fund to assist children's education. In March, he visited the UK, where his brother John organised a lunch for a group of his school friends. Fabian subsequently sent a note to those among his Prior Park contemporaries who have been supporting his efforts in East Africa: "Dear friends, it has been a while since we last communicated, but I would like to let you know that I am well, and my health is bearing up. Likewise, our sponsored children back in Uganda are also doing well and they are now in their second-term holidays, which will end soon. They then will resume school next month for the third term, which marks the end of their academic year... This programme is aimed at alleviating the challenges these disadvantaged children face by providing financial support and educational resources to give them an opportunity for a better education... Our dedicated colleague, Faith, who lives in Kampala not far from each of these children's homes, ensures that she visits each of the sponsored children at least once a month at their home and at school. She pays their school fees on time and supplies the learning resources that we get for them through

your generous donations. Since we started this programme, almost a year ago now, we have witnessed promising results in improving the lives of the children, not only to each of them as individuals but also positively contributing to their households and communities. I am very pleased with this arrangement, and happy to inform you that it is working very well. Thank you for your continued support."



L to R: Left to right (standing): John Evans, Diane Evans, Julia Cutcliffe, Jane Coates, Heather Wood, Monique Jowers, Richard Cutcliffe. (Sitting): John Jowers, Fabian Jowers, Peter Coates, Chris Cutcliffe, Terry Illott

Reunion in the Cotswolds

By Tim Heining

“Reunions... are the glue that keep us together”



L to R: Peter Coates, Kevin Steer, David Peckham, Terry Illott, John Evans, Ted Bennett, Niall Aston, Tim Heining, Ron Turley

Well would you believe it, here we are again! On 31st of May this year, the Year of 68 held a reunion at a wonderful venue in The Cotswolds: The Lords of the Manor Hotel. The event, which was very well attended with 19 of us, including partners, was masterfully organised by Dr Peter Coates. Many thanks Peter!

These reunions are becoming an annual event, and are the glue that keep us together through thick and thin. Ties of brotherhood and solidarity become stronger as the years go by. I venture to suggest that there is no other year group of our generation that has succeeded in doing so to the same degree. Long may it continue!!!



Alumnae Netball

By Fi Rae (PPA 2009)

It was a cold, wet day in early January and the scene was set for a clash of monumental proportions. Of course, it was the annual alumni netball match 2025!

Having been a desperately close match in 2024, the alumni had been undertaking a programme of intense and brutal training to ensure that victory would, once again, be ours.

Armed with the finest alumni players that Prior has to offer and some smooth tunes on the speaker, we hit the warm up strong and steady.

Straight into the first quarter, both the school and alumni teams were keen to set the tone and it was a close, hard fought start: alumni 10 - 7 school.

The alumni developed a highly effective strategy, with half the team focused on showing their competitive side and the other half with a more light-hearted attitude. This smoke and mirrors approach made it impossible for anyone (us included) to anticipate our next move. However, the school had found their flow; their precision passes and high balls were a challenge for us to beat and they just pipped us by one goal in the

second quarter. We managed to maintain our lead: alumni 21 - 19 school. But it was clear that no-one was going to give up this title easily!

After our customary - and delicious - half time oranges, we were determined to put on the pressure. This year, we were fortunate to coincide with the Class of 1995 reunion - and, try as they might, the school couldn't stop the flawless connections between Sally, Roisin, and Penny! At the end of quarter three, we were feeling confident: alumni 32 - 25 school.

But was a seven goal lead enough? We've been here before and been outsmarted by the sprightly school team. The alumni team gathered for one, final, strategic huddle and

“Smoke and mirrors approach”



joined forces (along with the crowd) for one final battle cry cheer. We were ready to give it everything in our last quarter. And I'm delighted to confirm that we saw out the match with a level of ferocity not before seen in the alumni game. An absolutely unparalleled final score of alumni 50 - 28 school. This is, I hope, the first of many half centuries and it was an absolutely thrilling match to witness.

As the alumni netball team continues to grow, we may even have to set aside time for a second (more fun) game for any social players who would like to get involved. So, if you or anyone you know is interested in playing a spot of netball, we're next getting together on Saturday 10th January 2025. Contact Fi Rae for more info: fionarae@hotmail.co.uk, 07747 604 558.



L to R: Back row: Emma (parent), Tamara (parent), Katie Hurst (PPA 2022), Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999), Keira Barry (PPA 2022), Hannah Brierley (PPA 2022), Heather Rae (PPA 2012), Sally Barker (née Price, PPA 1995), Penny Brook (PPA 1995)

Front row: Fi Rae (PPA 2009), Amelia Layet (daughter of Anne-Marie), Hermione Scattergood (PPA 2019), Anne-Marie Layet (PPA 1993), Roisin Embrey, (née Turner, PPA 1995).



Alumnae Hockey

By Amy Catt (PPA 2021)

Another year, another excruciating loss for the alumni. But what can I say, what we lack in goal scoring we make up for in spirit. It's always a pleasure to join in on the annual hockey match for the bit of exercise (full

game with no subs) and find muscles that I didn't even realise were there becoming painful the next day. The on-pitch banter is always hilarious between the alumnae and the College as we had lots of recent leavers, and they all know each other - it really adds to the fun atmosphere.

“*The on-pitch banter is always hilarious*”

A massive thank you to all the girls that showed up to play and to support and a massive thank you to Emma-Lou for the organisation. I look forward to next year, praying for a win this time!



L to R: Amy Catt (PPA 2021), Tyla Werrett (PPA 2024), Liv Jones (PPA 2019), Liv Finn (PPA 2025), Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023), Charlotte Brickell (PPA 2023), Gigi Ifil (PPA 2025) Front row - Connie Osborn (PPA 2024) Ella King (PPA 2025), Ava Sullivan (PPA 2025)





Old Boys' Hockey

By Adam Devaraj-Wortelhock (PPA 2020)

The match between the alumni and the College XI proved to be a thrilling and hard-fought contest from start to finish. From the opening whistle, both sides displayed immense skill and determination, with the College XI's youthful energy matching the alumni's experience and tactical awareness. The game saw end-to-end action, with the alumni going two goals up within the first half. However the College XI started to become more confident as the game progressed. This led to two quick fire goals to spark a spirited comeback bringing the

game to a dead heat. However, in the final minutes, the alumni capitalized through a slick assist from Charlie Lyons (PPA 2018)

“ Youthful energy matching the alumni's experience and tactical awareness ”

which led to a close quarters tap in to put the alumni up 3-2. The alumni were able to withstand the College XI constant pressure to secure the victory.



L to R Back row: Justin Avenell (PPA 2018), Jack Bunn (PPA 2018), Harry Parson (PPA 2016), Archie Parson (PPA 2019) Milo Young (PPA 2017), Freddie Talbot (PPA 2022) Louis Wright (PPA 2022), Ben Blazewicz (PPA 2022), Kit Schofield (PPA 2022), Rob Dymond (PPA 2022), Adam Devaraj-Wortelhock (PPA 2020), Finn Grant (PPA 2022), John Lowrie (PPA 2022), Will Cavaliero (PPA 2011). Front row: Zach Hayward-Rodgers (PPA 2022), Seb Crawford (PPA 2021), Raph Watson (PPA 2018), Charlie Lyons (PPA 2018), Ollie Squires (PPA 2023), Louise Huyton (PPA 2023), William Dabell (PPA 2011)



Alumni tennis



L to R: Ben Humphries (PPA 2023), Nick Fourie (PPA 2023), Lucasz Kiesel, Claire Kiesel (PPA 1993), Tom Williams (PPA 1996), JJ Williams, Victoria Williams, Jackson Zhuang (PPA 2024), Milo Platts (PPA 2024)

By Claire A Kiesel (PPA 1993)

It was wonderful to return for the third year to play tennis for the alumni team against the 1st team players from Prior Park. Some of the alumni team, having left for university, have the experience of participating in both teams, so it is fantastic to see the loyalty and support of returning tennis players for this sporting event each summer.

We arrived at the sports pitches in time to enjoy a barbeque lunch, a few soft cold drinks, and say hello to familiar faces while watching some cricket. There was also a lively jazz quartet playing in the background. So many talents to observe at once.

At the tennis courts, we were paired with a current pupil counterpart for the doubles matches. Everyone looked the part, Prior Park pupils in the iconic bright blue and

navy shirts, and alumni, with the freedom to wear any tennis style, bandanas being quite popular. This year I had the pleasure to team up with Indy, and we played an inconceivably long doubles game, by the end being very excited to win it 17 points to 15! Not at all exhausted, while the others were waiting, we then continued with some more matches.

“*It is fantastic to see the loyalty and support of returning tennis players*”

Each match was won by the first doubles players on court to reach 11 points, and in the event of a tie at 10-10, the match continued until a two-point lead was achieved. Several rounds of matches were played, and then a knock-out final to win the Cup.

This year, Milo Platts (PPA 2024) and Immy D won the trophy. Liv Jones (PPA 2019) and Dom M were runners up. I was particularly impressed though by Liv's game of tennis considering she was running in platform trainers. It was a fabulous afternoon of tennis, ending back at the cricket grounds, enjoying many conversations and catch-ups, and the eagerly anticipated afternoon treats of scones and tea.

A huge thank you to Sara for co-ordinating and organising the tennis games, and to Emma-Lou and Declan for inviting us back to the College, and always with such warm welcomes. It was an amazing day!

Some comments from Liv:
"It was brilliant to get back on court at Prior Park this summer - everyone brought such great energy, and the standard of play was incredible. Definitely one to look forward to next year!"



Milo Platts (PPA 2024) and Immy D





Alumni Golf Day

By Frank Ghaidan (PPA 1983)

On the 24th June, Cumberwell Park Golf Club hosted a lovely and lively mix of students, staff, old boys and even older boys for the annual Prior Park Golf Day. Great weather, banter-filled reunions, bacon baps and a break from work all made up for the amateur golf that followed.

Our fourball consisted of Finlay S, a Prior Park student with a buttery smooth swing, who reluctantly prised himself away from a day of lessons to endure a round of golf; Mr Ewins, off the back of an all-nighter preparing his bespoke Stableford spreadsheet system and Shaun Ghaidan (PPA 1981), who had just flown in from Sydney the day before.

Memorable highlights included Finlay's consistently majestic iron play, Mr Ewins' stunning succession of net birdies and eagles on the first five holes and, with a borrowed driver in hand and fuelled by jet lag alone, Shaun's scorching drive on the 14th which ended up a mere 2 feet behind Rory McConnell (PPA 2021) 's winning Longest Drive, while Tony Bury (PPA 1970) benefitted most from Mr Ewins' spreadsheet calculations, winning the Roy Cox prize for Best Stableford Score.



Tony Bury and David Verrecchia with three U6 who will be alumni when this goes to print Dan Corfield, Jonny Rowland and George Campbell-Jones (PPA 2025)

A tremendous day out, a very big thank you to Emma-Lou for all the organising and a determination to visit the driving range at least once before next year. Looking forward to it!

A lovely and lively mix



Tom Simcox (PPA 2003), Ben Todd (PPA 2003), Tim Ching (PPA 2000) and Harry Elias (PPA 2003)



Alex T, Dan C, Tony Bury (PPA 1970) and David Verrecchia (PPA 1973)



Andrew Devlin (PPA 1988), Peter O'Donoghue (PPA 1986), Zeon E and Joash



Dave Williams (PPA 1983), Jonty H, Ronan M and Mr Bazell



Frank Ghaidan (PPA 1983), Mr Ewins, Finlay S and Shaun Ghaidan (PPA 1981)



George H, Will Vowles (PPA 2023), Rory McConnell (PPA 2021), Charles Bibby (PPA 2023) and Ethan Teale (PPA 2023)



Simon Morgan (PPA 1975), Mark Baker (PPA 1975), Greg Hull (PPA 1975) James Spencer (PPA 1974) and Martin Bury (PPA 1975).



Alumni Cricket

L to R: Aidan Bramwell (PPA 2020), James Pitman (PPA 2024), Finn Grant (2022), Zac Haywood-Rogers, Ethan Theale (PPA 2023), Justin Avenell (PPA 2018), Ollie Kohut (PPA 2024), Jamie O'Brien (PPA 1997), Harry Elias (PPA 2003), Charlie O'Brien (PPA 1997) and Oliver Lawson (PPA 2005).

By Justin Avenell (PPA 2018)

As always, spirits were high as people arrived for our annual alumni vs 1st XI cricket match and this continued throughout the day. Captain Justin Avenell won the toss and chose to bat. We set a very good total through some fine performances from one of the youngest members of the team James Pitman, and a couple of the more experienced old boys, the O'Brien brothers. Former captain Harry Elias also put in a great performance despite barely being able to walk after pulling his calf while batting!

Having been set a good total, the 1st XI started slowly losing some early wickets



“ We set a very good total through some fine performances ”

and it looked as if we were getting on top. However, after the drinks break, star batter Luke S put his foot down and started to accelerate the score. With help from his middle order, the scoreline started to get very close with only a few overs left. Luke continued his scoring and, in the end, the 1st XI made it look easy, winning the game with an over to spare.

As always, it was a fantastic day catching up with old friends, connecting with new people and sharing old stories of Prior Park. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Date for the diary, next year's match will be on Sunday 7th June 2026.



Cavan and Aiden Bramwell



Leo, Ben and Finn





Rosslyn Park

By Emma-Louise Goymer

It was fantastic to see David Adair (PPA 1976) and Brimah Kebbie (PPA 1985) at Rosslyn Park in February.

David played in the College sevens team which won Rosslyn Park in 1976 so it was great to have him cheering on the current 1st team (see his account in the Memories section).

Brimah played rugby league for Widnes (among other clubs) and then went on to play rugby union for Saracens on the wing. He has also coached Imperial College, London. Brimah presented the current team captains with some pictures of his time playing rugby and his world club champion cap from 1989, when Widnes beat Canberra Raiders.

It was inspirational for the boys to see two old boys who have had huge successes in rugby and to hear their advice and experience.



Brimah Kebbie with captains Will Goymer (PPA 2025) and Josh Wake (PPA 2025)

“*It was inspirational
for the boys*”



David Adair, Will Hardwick-Adams, Will Goymer, Brimah Kebbie, Joe Brickell and Josh Wake (PPA 2025)



Friday night Hockey and Rugby under lights

By Emma-Louise Goymer

It was wonderful to see so many of our young alumni back to support the current hockey and rugby 1st teams.

The girls played Downside first and following a resounding win, we all walked

down to Combe Down Rugby Club to watch the 1st X1 play Downside and Monkton. We won both of those matches too!

The alumni were delighted to see many members of staff at the games, and it was wonderful to see the different year groups enjoying the fixtures together. We look forward to next year's matches!



Billy Clarke and Cav Bramwell (PPA 2025)



Ella King, Emily Midwinter and Ava Sullivan (PPA 2025)



Will Knight (PPA 2023), Justin Avenell (PPA 2018) and Stan Muigai (PPA 2023)



Freddie Jenkins (PPA 2024), James Rutherford (PPA 2024) and Joe Brickell (PPA 2025)

“ Wonderful to see the different year groups ”



Will Knight (PPA 2023), Justin Avenell (PPA 2018)



Ned Hannah (PPA 2023) and Freddie Osborne (PPA 2021)



Liv Finn and Huxley Suenson-Luke (PPA 2025)



Back row: Will Goymer (PPA 2025), Conor Quinn (PPA 2023), Stan Maigui (PPA 2023) and Harry Gardiner (PPA 2023). Front row: Oscar Anderton, Nate Murrey, Dom Morley, Louis Forsyth, Sam Marshall and Will Hardwick-Adams (PPA 2025)



Liv Finn, Ava Sullivan, Connie Osborne (PPA 2024) and Ella King (PPA 2025)



Mansion Lunch and PPA Medal



Brian O'Brien (PPA 1970), Kelly Minahan, Tony Bury (PPA 1970), Leslie Minahan, Will Lee (PPA 1968), Dominic Eedle (PPA 1970), Judica Dookran, Maria Lee, Julian Fonseca (PPA 1970), Ann O'Brien, Laura O'Brien

By Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999)

The annual PPA Medal Ceremony and Mansion Lunch once again proved to be one of the standout events of the alumni calendar. This was my second time attending, and—just like last year—I left in absolute awe of our medal winners, whose remarkable achievements and heartfelt reflections reminded us all of the enduring power of community, education, and shared purpose.

This year, two outstanding alumni were honoured. Clementine Brown received the

award for Inspiring Achievements Early in Her Career. Her speech was a beautiful tribute to the teachers and classmates who shaped her journey, illustrating with warmth and sincerity how small moments of encouragement during her school days helped propel her toward the successes she enjoys today.

The Lifetime Achievement Medal was awarded to Tony Bury, whose long and impactful career has left an indelible mark on countless individuals and organisations. Tony's reflections weaved together stories from his school years with lessons learned



Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999), Emma Sandberg, Mark Gallon (PPA 1985), Marc Demarquette (PPA 1991), Declan Rainey, Malcolm Bond (PPA 1995), Amanda Zahringer (PPA 1998), Simon Beck (PPA 1969), Inge Beck, Julian Fonseca (PPA 1970), Ann O'Brien, Laura O'Brien



Tony Bury
(PPA 1970)
Clementine Brown
(PPA 2010)



Edward Gilmore (PPA 1959), Terry Richards (PPA 1958), John Ainslie (PPA 1960), Tony Watts (PPA 1959), Michael Stevens (PPA 1959), Ian Haddon (PPA 1962), Peter Haddon (PPA 1966), Christopher Lennon (PPA 1964)

across decades of leadership and service. He spoke with humour, humility, and an unmistakable sense of purpose, leaving the room inspired and admittedly a little emotional. Both speeches captured the spirit of the PPA medals perfectly: a celebration not only of achievement, but of the people and experiences that help shape it.

After a group photograph, we made our way to the Academy Hall for lunch. This year, we were joined by the Class of 1975, proudly celebrating their 50th anniversary reunion, adding an extra layer of nostalgia and celebration to the occasion.

“ Leaving the room inspired and admittedly a little emotion ”

The lunch was superb, the chocolate marquise with honeycomb ice cream was a particular highlight for me! Ben Horan’s headmaster’s update offered clear evidence that the school is not only flourishing but is in good hands for meeting the challenges of the future.

One of the most special aspects of the event was the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and network with fellow alumni from across the decades, everyone shared a warm sense of continuity—proof that the bonds forged at school endure long after we leave its classrooms.



Brian Wake (PPA 1972), Julian Roberts (PPA 1972), Anne Hickey, John Hickey (PPA 1972), Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964), Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999), Peter Hilton (PPA 1962), Debbie O’Bryan, Marie-Blanche Hilton, Neville Dyke (PPA 1972)



Clemmie Brown (PPA 2010), Tony Brannon (PPA 1969), Tim Heining (PPA 1968), Ben Horan, Margaret Hamerton, Phil Hamerton (PPA 1968), Niall Aston (PPA 1968)

The afternoon concluded, as tradition dictates, with the school song. The older alumni delivered it with unmistakable gusto – foot-stamping included – while some of the younger attendees continued to attempt to master the verses.

It was, once again, a truly enjoyable occasion: full of stories, laughter, reconnection, and the unmistakable shared pride of being part of a remarkable community. If you’ve never attended, or if you’ve been away for a while, please don’t be a stranger - please come along next year – you will be most welcome.



Giving back

By Emma-Louise Goymer



Thank you to **Harriet Lord** (PPA 2015) for speaking to the Sixth Form about sustainability. We learnt that equality was an important factor as well as reducing our carbon footprint. Harriet is working for South Gloucestershire Council as equalities officer where she works to make equitable and sustainable changes for a better future.

Ben Wetherill (PPA 1998) spoke to our students interested in systems engineering. Ben works for Airbus, and he brought in various heavy and expensive pieces of aircraft for the students to look at. The talk was superb as Ben's ability to explain the complicated systems in an enthusiastic and simple way was fantastic. The students were really interested and had plenty of questions.



Thank you to **Bonnie Kitching** (PPA 1999) who spoke to the Sixth Form in General Studies about heritage architecture. Bonnie shared some fabulous photos showing the work she has been involved in restoring old churches and other buildings. It was fascinating!



The BSR was rocking when **Tommy Pollock** (PPA 2019) and his business partner Toby came to speak to the Sixth Form about their business 'Lost Track of Time.' Tommy and Toby organise events and DJ, so look them up if you are planning a party!



Simon Beck (PPA 1969) aka 'The Archivist' met with Mrs Bonney, Housemistress of Burton House and the head and deputy head of house. They wanted to thank Simon for drumming up support from the Burton alumni for the boys who ran the Bath Half Marathon for Sarcoma UK. Over £6,000 was raised, so thank you to all our alumni who contributed.

Thank you to **Anna Curran** (PPA 2015) who spoke to the Sixth Form in General Studies about her work as a lawyer in clinical negligence. Anna's passion for this branch of law was palpable and has inspired a number of students to consider it.



Great to see **Annabelle Goymer** (PPA 2023) back in English House talking to the girls about university life and the steps that get you there.



Annabelle is studying Theology and Religion at Oxford University and was delighted to share her experience of student life.



Charlie Little (PPA 2022) writes: I have just finished the degree section of my degree apprenticeship, and I now have the rest of my level 4 Diploma to finish. I am still playing rugby each week for Old Sulians and I also played for Somerset U20s last year which was a great experience.

I spoke to the Sixth Form in their General Studies lesson, where I was able to share some of my knowledge and experience about apprenticeships with some students from the L5 and the L6. It was great to see the way the students engaged with this. Hopefully they now know a bit more about apprenticeships so they can consider this as an option in their post-18 choices. I really enjoyed seeing parts of the College again, especially spending some time with the boys in Burton and the chapel.

Toby Heaton (PPA 2014) came into the College and delivered a medicine interview practice day for students aspiring to be doctors. Toby was excellent at guiding the students through all of the important stages of MMI interviews, with a fantastic powerpoint which summarised a huge amount of important information very effectively. Added to this, his experience as a practicing doctor, meant he had first-hand





knowledge of the whole process. He was able to add very insightful tips and pieces of advice throughout the sessions, which allowed all of the students to leave with an excellent understanding of how to succeed at medical school interviews. Being able to practice MMI's with a doctor was also brilliant, with him placing heavy emphasis on how each individual could improve in their responses to the interviewer's questions, whilst keeping the atmosphere very constructive. The whole day was gold dust.

Layla Kanpulat (PPA 2024) writes: Going back to Prior today to show some of my first-year uni work felt a bit like coming home. I study Fashion Design Innovation at the University of Leeds, now going into my second year. I shared some of my fashion design projects with the photography and textiles classes. It was really special to be back in the classrooms where my own journey started. The students were curious, interested and full of questions, and it was lovely to talk about both my work and what life at uni is really like. I wanted to give them an honest glimpse into studying fashion design and hopefully inspire anyone thinking about taking that path. Returning reminded



me of how much this place shaped me, and I was proud to give something back.



Lauren Marchant (PPA 2010) is a senior clerk to the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Commons and she came in to speak to the Sixth Form in General Studies.

Lauren gave students a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of the UK Parliament. She explained the respective roles of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the function of Select Committees, and the important role of the whips in party discipline.

Drawing on her own experience, Lauren discussed her time working on an Environmental Select Committee, which contributed to the successful campaign to ban microbeads, demonstrating the real-world impact of committee work.

Bertie Lawson (PPA 2009) spoke to the Sixth Form about the political situation in Myanmar

and what it is like to live there.

Bertie has lived in Myanmar for 10 years growing his bespoke travel business @sampantravel and his knowledge about the country and it's history was phenomenal. He stayed with his old school friend and Spanish teacher **James Timbrell** (PPA 2009).



Thank you to **Elizabeth Mallon** (PPA 2012) for talking to MedSoc about life as a medical registrar.

Elizabeth manages medical emergencies and leads the cardiac arrest team at the Great Western Hospital. She spoke to us about the different kinds of emergency and patients she looks after.

Gap Year Fair



Great to see **Lolo Lewis** (PPA 2020) and **Kira Tenk** (PPA 2022) at the Gap Year Fair at the College.

Lolo and Kira spoke to the Sixth Form about their time after Prior, their travels, university and beyond.

Kira has written a piece on page 44 about her work and Lolo spoke about her role as a yacht broker and life working as a deck hand. The students were really interested in the different opportunities open to them and the College is really grateful to our alumni who give up their time to chat with the students and inspire them with different career paths.

Inspire Day

Kate O'Hara-Hatchley (PPA 2009) spoke to the Sixth Form from Prior and also St Gregory's Catholic School at the College Inspire Day. Kate spoke passionately about her work at McLaren Racing where she is Head of People Experience. Kate told us about how she moved on her own career path and the

different choices she had made. Her key messages were don't stay in your comfort zone and

take new opportunities as they arrive. She also spoke about McLaren and their ethos of continual improvement and moving forward, and not being afraid of feedback, in fact actively seeking it.

The students thoroughly enjoyed Kate's presentation and there were lots of questions afterwards, a great sign of a much-enjoyed presentation.





Life Lessons Learnt at the Three Rings Ranch, Hawaii

By Letty Allen (PPA 2021)

After two days of travel, the clouds part and the volcanic landscape of Hawaii's Big Island came into view. I collected my bag and headed to meet Norm, one half of my hosts for the next two months. After a short drive I met Anne, the brains and heart behind the Three Rings Ranch – the sanctuary that plays host to all manner of rescued animals, not just from Hawaii but from the entirety of North America and beyond.

Over the next several weeks, I was taught how to feed and care for the animals while learning how they had come to live at the sanctuary. If I tried to tell every story we would be here for years, but on the whole, it is the result of black-market traders and people thinking it is okay to keep wild animals as pets and act surprised when they act as just that – wild animals. I was surprised at how easily I became attached to the animals, some more than others. Like Elvis, Jerry and Larson the three Zebra foals who (though initially cautious of me) eventually



came to greet me at the gate and follow me in a line as I cleaned their enclosure. Or Donny the spider monkey (who had dementia and needed hand feeding), who would follow my voice to his platform and sit himself in front of me as I handed him grape after grape. Much of what I learnt was taught to me by Anne who had this sixth sense for the animals. It became clear very quickly that she was far more comfortable in their presence than that of humans. But a lot of my time was spent with the local volunteers. One in particular,

Kay. We initially bonded over the fact that her best friend was from Bath and that she had acquired a very English sense of humour. She is 73, and grew up in Mississippi, but at 22 broke off her engagement and ran away to New York City where she became an investment banker. Having never married, 20 years ago she retired to Hawaii. She showed me all the island had to offer, we spent days driving round the various volcanoes, saw turtles on Punalu'u black sand beach, and swapped stories over long lunches in various bars.



What I learnt

1. Travelling alone is one of the best things you can ever do, if you get the opportunity take it. It's terrifying and it pushes you to do things like make friends with strangers and eat alone in restaurants.
2. Looking after animals is a strangely effective lesson in perseverance – you get bitten...a lot, but every day you have to go in there and do it again – knowing how much it hurts – but you have no choice it has to get done, rain or shine. And finally, when it goes just how it's meant to, there is no better feeling.
3. Travelling is a completely different experience when you stay with locals or people who know the surroundings, and I have never come away from a foreign place feeling so connected to it. Museums and galleries are one thing but to see a place through locals eyes gives it a whole new shape.
4. Coffee is to Kona, Hawaii, like champagne is to France. I have never tasted anything like it.



Teaching in Tanzania



By Sophie Hunter (PPA 2024) and Alice Watts (PPA 2024)

During our gap year in Tanzania, we spent several weeks working in a local, rural school just outside of Moshi. Our main task was teaching English with very limited resources, so lessons were simple and improvised, focusing on basic vocabulary and conversation. The students were motivated, and working with them showed how much can be achieved with consistency rather than perfect materials.

We also helped run the school's meal programme, preparing and serving rice and beans each day. For many of the children, it



was their only reliable meal, and it made a clear difference to their energy and participation in class. Alongside this, we supplied books,

pens, and other basic items the school lacked, which allowed students to complete their work properly.

Another part of the trip involved volunteering at a local dog sanctuary. The work there was straightforward – cleaning kennels, feeding the dogs, and helping with general care, but it played an important role in keeping the animals healthy and safe.

Overall, the experience was hands-on and grounded. We met so many incredible people from all over the world and shared such an amazing experience with them. It showed us the value of practical, everyday support and how small tasks, done consistently, can have a real impact on a community.



Memories...

Memories of a boarder 1943-1948

By William Roche (PPA 1948)



I write this piece in May 2025 at the age of 94.

When I think of my time at Prior Park, what comes to mind immediately is the exceptionally severe and long-lasting winter of 1947. Snow started to fall in January and continued intermittently into March. Many communities in England were snowbound and isolated for weeks on end, and there was considerable hardship nationwide.

At Prior, rugby and other outdoor activities had to be suspended. I was 16 years of age and was one of two small groups that decided to construct toboggans from timber salvaged from the bombed-out St Paul's building that lay in ruins from an air raid in the early 1940s. We had great fun sliding from the Mansion down to the Palladian Bridge in the valley.

Although World War II ended in 1945, rationing of food, clothing and much else continued into 1947. Despite hardship, life at college was cheerful.

I also remember a Christmas concert that was organized and to which parents were invited. We staged a sketch devised by our English teacher (Brother O'Connell), in which a somewhat eccentric new rugby coach arrives at the College and has amusing experiences. The play was rehearsed so often that we found the quips were no longer funny and we became bored. There was no time for a dress rehearsal, and the pupils were left to dress themselves as best they could. The boy playing the part of the new rugby coach was my classmate Richard Buckley (PPA 1947), who chose to wear a pair of trousers borrowed from his older brother. The trousers were a couple of sizes too large, and he decided to stuff a cushion in the spare

space in the seat. It looked plausible yet ridiculous. It was hilarious. We were all in stitches including our English teacher and the whole audience. Richard was congratulated after the show by Hedley Goodall (one time elocution teacher) on a fine performance.

The damage to St Paul's in the air raid happened before my time at Prior. It occurred during college holidays and there were no casualties. However, air raids continued up to the end of the war and there many nights when we had to take to the air raid shelters in our dressing gowns. We passed



the time with sing-songs. One such song was the popular wartime ditty *In the Quartermaster's Store*. It had several verses that told of the illusory observations in the stores by a poor-sighted quartermaster who had forgotten to bring his spectacles. One such verse went "there were kittens, walking around in mittens, in the quartermaster's stores".

Another memory is of the way we made the most of the meagre food we got. A typical Sunday lunch at the College was a pork pie. We used to carefully remove the lid of the pie, extract the meat and make a sandwich of it. The empty pie case was filled with baked beans (provided by the pupils themselves (brought from home) and eaten as an extra course after the sandwich!

In my time at Prior, the College was operated by the Irish Christian Brothers with a Roman Catholic ethos, notwithstanding the fact that there was a sprinkling of Protestant pupils at the College. There was no prejudice against them. Indeed, a Protestant - Geoffrey Nightingale (PPA 1944) - was appointed head boy in my day.

As a junior pupil in St Peter's, I had an attack of appendicitis and had to be operated upon in the Forbes-Frazier Hospital in Bath. It was a private

hospital then because there was no NHS until after the war. I convalesced in the sick bay under the care of Nurse Keighery. She was always addressed simply as "Nurse" because of difficulty pronouncing her surname. I visited her many years later in retirement before she died, God rest her. She was highly regarded by all at Prior Park.

All in all, they were happy days spent at Prior Park, in spite of Spartan wartime conditions.

The end of an era: the Leahy family and Prior Park

By Brian O'Brien (PPA 1970)

On March 6th, 2025, my aunt, Dr Eileen Patricia Pardoe (née Leahy), passed away three days after her 100th birthday. Pat had been the doctor to the pupils and staff of Prior Park, with her brother Dr. Reggie Leahy, for almost three decades in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. She was the last of the 12 Leahy siblings.



Pat was the third youngest of the siblings; nine boys and three girls. Their parents, Thomas and Margaret Leahy, came to Bath in the 1920s during a time of political upheaval in Ireland. The family owned a business in Manchester, but they decided to settle in Bath. They lived at the Francis Hotel for several months before purchasing their house, Sunnyslans, on Audley Park Road.

My grandparents attended a luncheon to celebrate the centenary of Prior Park College, also attended by his Eminence Cardinal Bourne and Lord Arundell of Wardour, who was the President of PPA at the time. I have donated a copy of the original menu and order of the speeches to the PPC archives.

Four siblings — Des, Percy, Reggie, and Frank — attended Prior while

their brothers Ray and Lua went to St. Brendan's College in Bristol. Reggie, Des and Percy played on the 1st XV rugby, 1st XI hockey and cricket teams, respectively. Percy (later Msgr. Leahy of the Diocese of Bristol and Clifton) took a keen interest in Prior, and Des, a respiratory physician in Birmingham, was a frequent visitor to Bath. The Leahy family produced seven doctors in total and almost gained entry to the Guinness Book of Records for the most physicians from one family.

The next Leahy generation brought Michael Leahy (PPA 1965), Kevin Leahy (PPA 1967) and me to Prior from 1965 to 1970. Later, in the 1980s, my nephew Philip Powell (PPA 1998) also attended Prior.

Over the years it has been remarkable to observe the evolution and positive changes to Prior: the advent of coeducation, vastly improved sports and theatre facilities, and the broadening of the educational and spiritual focus.

“Seven doctors in total”

Dr Eileen Patricia Pardoe (née Leahy) was buried in Perrymead Cemetery on Ralph Allen Drive in April 2025, alongside her siblings and parents. The family were very proud of their association with Prior Park over the past century and they contributed much to the school.

(Brian returned to the UK in November to visit with family in Bristol and Bath and to attend the PPA Alumni Medal Ceremony and Mansion Lunch.)

Prior Park College in the 1930s

By John Coulston (PPA 1942)

I was asked to give a talk to pupils on PPC in the thirties. I readily agreed but was never taken up on it. At that time, I made a few notes on an envelope which I kept and which I am using now as an aide memoire. I also have beside me a short essay by Derrick Vaughan (PPA 1941), a contemporary of mine albeit a year ahead of me at school, who became a friend in his later years



via Old Boys' dinners, correspondence and telephone chats. (See Derrick's memories below – Ed.)

My first connection with PPC was walking through the grounds with my dad in Oct 1933 (verified by his diaries). He told me (light heartedly I suspect) that we were trespassing and that we had to keep out of sight of the CBs (shadowy figures in black cassocks as glimpsed by a six-year-old), who might catch me and keep me. Little did I suspect that barely two years later I would be delivered to them for six formative years of my education.

I was driven to the school from our house in Fairford in September 1935. This was to be my first school and the very first time I had spent any time away from my parents and home. (My parents had taught me at home thus far). My dad, I remember, sought out some boys of my age who were also new and introduced me to them in an endeavour to find me some friends. Thus, I met for the first time Roger O'Dowd, Richard Hudson, and John Locke with whom I was to complete the small preparatory form, taught within the same classroom as Form 1. Richard and I shared the same classes throughout my six years at Prior. Richard later joined the Royal Navy and was farming the last time we met in the 1950s.

In the summer term of my first year, we were joined by Michael Baker, Neville "Nipper" Upham and Malcolm Andrade. Michael moved up with us in September 1936 into Form 1, where we were joined by an intake of about a dozen boys most of whom were my classmates until I left. Neville and Malcolm remained in Prep for a further year. Neville and I have remained friends and in touch with each other to the present day, sometimes exchanging holidays. We left school at the same time to join HMS Worcester.

My Dad also sought out an older boy (E Still) and asked him to be my mentor. He was kind enough to enquire later on if I had settled in OK.



PPA Dinner 1991: Hunter Bodkin (PPA 1939), Derrick Vaughan (PPA 1942) and John Coulston (PPA 1942)

Everything at Prior was rather strange at first, but exciting as well as daunting. Needless to say, as I had not had much experience with children my own age, I was wet behind the ears. I recall crying myself to sleep the first night in my dormitory cubicle.

The early introductions took place in the library, a place of solace, where many hours were spent. I remember particularly volumes of World War 1 (then described as the Great War) in pictures and bound volumes of Punch magazine with cartoons lampooning the great politicians of their day (Gladstone, Disraeli, Lloyd-George and Randolph Churchill). It also doubled for other occasions: silent films (!), talks, debates, and even, when tables and benches had been moved, boxing bouts.

this day, whenever I see a set sparsely laid out with table and chairs it takes my mind back.

Pastimes in those days were roller-skating (making great use of the rink at every possible break time), soft ball cricket using wickets chalked on outside walls, billiards, ping-pong, monopoly (a real survivor), and gardening (the beds outside the classrooms were allocated to those interested), with mustard, cress and radishes being favoured crops. In autumn, bonfires were lit in the drive and potatoes gleaned from the kitchens baked (burned) in the embers. The banks adjacent to the lower drive were heavy in clay and fashioned for games including amphitheatres where ants battled with devils coach-horses, centipedes and millipedes (small

of obligation, to Bradford-on-Avon, where we had a sandwich lunch, most of which was donated to the swans! The main attraction of such walks was the opportunity sometimes to lag behind to try to sneak into a village shop to buy tuck. There was a tuck-shop in St. Peter's (the junior school) but it was only opened two or three times a week and purchases were strictly limited (pre-war rationing).

The father of one of the boys at the school was a director of Fry's, the chocolate company, from which the majority, if not all, of the school stock was purchased. One remembers the delights of penny and two-penny bars of Five Boys, Chocolate Cream, Crunchies, Turkish Delight and Flakes, some of which are available under the Cadbury brand today. Also available were packets of a dozen lemonade, limeade, raspberryade and ginger-beer cubes, which, dissolved in water, formed an essential part of every boy's diet. One remembers a visit to Fry's to tour the factory, with the wonderful opportunity to try samples en route, plus the receipt of a six-penny presentation tin on leaving, containing three assorted bars and a two-penny tin of cocoa. What bliss in the austere days of long ago! At shops you could obtain gobstoppers, massive in those days, which lasted for ages and retailed at a halfpenny, or aniseed balls at ten-a-penny. The favourite and nearest local shop was George's "Handy Stores". To obtain access to this emporium one had to break bounds (risking dire punishment). George sold strange concoctions of homemade lemonade and ice cream. He seemed to have been established forever, and to my knowledge he was still going many years after I left.

Each morning Bro Hayes, junior school housemaster, directed a mass run up the steps and around the drive finishing at the skating rink. Response varied from a desire to win, on the part of ambitious/athletic types, to completion in comfort by the rest. The same techniques were skilfully employed on cross-country runs. I well remember perfecting this to such a degree that I once finished a run just before the school gates were closed.

The school was quite small in those days, having achieved a total of 100 pupils for the first time the year before I joined. The classes were also small, never more than 16-18 in my experience. The junior school had 60-plus boys and the senior house probably slightly fewer. As a result, I can remember the names of all

“ *Ginger beer cubes ... formed an essential part of every boy's diet* ”

Talkies were the rage then, and these were shown in the study at St Paul's (the senior school).

I recall particularly the junior house study room, which resembled a wooden amphitheatre. In addition to being the setting for our homework and addresses to the whole school, it was used for school drama. I remember vividly plays arranged by Brothers Michael and Clifford, Holdup Productions. The first one was a rendering of Sweeney Todd, which despite having a bare minimum of props and lighting still contrived to make an eight-year-old's flesh creep. To

boys following in Roman traditions of cruelty). In summer, battles took place on the slopes and hillocks using swords fashioned from flexible branches. Probably the most popular activity of all was swimming, and each form's turn to use the baths was eagerly awaited and announcements greeted with an excitement difficult to imagine today.

Treats on high days and holidays brought carefully policed walks in crocodile formation, two by two, around the byways of the downs and surrounding countryside. I remember one of epic proportions, on a holiday



can only remember two things about that season. The first was slightly straining a finger when a rugby ball hit it awkwardly and going to Nurse Keighery to see if she could do anything about it. Indeed, she could — she promptly put me off sport for two weeks. I was then confronted by an exasperated Brother Miller asking why on earth I had gone to the nurse. It was a lesson learned, and I didn't make the same mistake again.

The second memory was that, for the game against Cricklade, I, along with one other person, was not picked. The reason given was that we would make the team too strong. However, I suspect the real reason in my case was that my brother, who was eight at the time, had run away from Cricklade, making his way to Hillingdon in London via bus, train, and underground — with no money at all. It was a truly remarkable feat for an eight-year-old. He was returned the next day and stayed, but possibly the thinking was that, if I turned up, he might be unsettled again. My brother tells me that he didn't suffer any abuse or mistreatment; he just didn't like the school. Needless to say, my parents did not keep him there for long.

Nurse Keighery used to run a clinic in the mornings for boys who suffered from asthma, claiming that anyone who attended would leave asthma-free. The clinic involved a set of breathing exercises, and by the time I'd finished, I was indeed asthma-free. I stopped having to use an asthma pump for any sporting activities or when I had a chest infection. That has continued to this day, and if the exercises were responsible, I have a lot to thank her for.

At U14 we lost all eight games, and Brother Miller did not hold back in his criticism in the school magazine, commenting: "In general, whoever played, the side lacked the courage to tackle in the backs and the spirit to fight for the ball in the forwards". I remember that whenever a referee gave a scrum as "attacking side ball," it was never us who won it! At U15, we played nine and won two, with the general feeling that we were getting better as a team. My teammates will remember me for trying their patience with my remarkable ability to kick the ball backwards more often than they would have liked. I personally blame the slightly bulbous-shaped brown balls we sometimes played with then. I remember looking across with envy at the First team and their sleek, white



modern balls.

By the time I'd got to the Thirds, the year group had broken up, as the best players from outside the Firsts and Seconds were picked. Fortunately, I'd managed to stop kicking the ball backwards and, from the write-up in the school magazine, was a fly-half who could effectively pass the ball out to two good centres.

As I came to the end of the Fifth Form, my father was returning from his government overseas posting, and my parents could not afford to keep me at Prior without the overseas education allowance. The school, aware of this, offered me a 50% bursary in the Sixth Form, which was enough to allow the family finances to continue supporting me at Prior. I will always be grateful to the school for this.

And so, into the Lower Sixth. Mostyn Thomas and Brother Jack Keegan, who took the Firsts and Seconds for rugby, saw me as a fullback and put me there for the Firsts. The proviso was that I would only stay there if I could show I could kick with both feet rather than just my left — something I had never done before. Many hours were spent on the top field, but I mastered the art, and my backward-kicking days were definitely behind me. It was a measure of Mostyn's attention to detail and motivational skills that after a game in which I had used the "wrong foot" for a decent kick, he came up to me, noted what I had done, and complimented me on how I'd improved.

From the start, I was encouraged to be a running fullback and had the good fortune to play behind a strong pack and back line. John Palmer (PPA 1976) at fly-half — who later captained Bath and played for England — was an

exceptional player, always in control of the game and the back's moves. I know the 1974 team remembers me as the person who nearly cost us our unbeaten season. Playing at St Anselm's, and with us needing a try to win in the closing minutes, I knocked on a scoring pass with the try line virtually at my feet. Fortunately, we managed to get another opportunity to score, and my Gareth Southgate moment passed.

In our final year, ten of the previous year's unbeaten squad returned, including John. Jack Keegan summed the team up in the School Magazine: "They were outstanding in both the determination and the quality of their play. They moved the ball with a crispness and confidence that ensured ample space for each player, and when the opportune moment presented itself, were decisive in using the opening which this type of running and handling inevitably creates." We were unbeaten in 12 games, with a points tally of 465 for and 68 against — the most enjoyable fifteen-a-side rugby I had played. It was a tremendous achievement for a group of players who had become a true team, playing running and entertaining rugby — a tribute to the coaching of Mostyn and Jack.

“*Mud, bruises and triumphs made it all worthwhile*”

For the 1976 Sevens tournaments, I remember that four of us, including me, had played in the previous year's Sevens team, which was an advantage. Mostyn and Jack got us as fit as they could, and I recall trips to a nearby army assault course, carrying each other on our backs up the slope by the tennis courts, as well as countless Sevens practices. In those days substitutes were only allowed for injuries, unlike the rolling substitutions of today. However, not only were we fit, but most of us had a turn of speed as well. We also knew that in John we had one of the most talented schoolboy rugby players in the country and he would relish the space Sevens affords.

The week of Sevens competitions that year is something I will always remember. On Saturday, March 20th we won the Clifton Sevens, on

Wednesday March 24th we won the Rosslyn Park Sevens, and on Saturday March 27th we won our section of the Oxford Sevens. At Rosslyn Park, we were beaten on the first day, but because of the other results and our greater points scored, we made it through to the knockout stages. Sometimes you just need fortune on your side.

Ultimately, we won the final 32-0 — at that time a record number of points. As a team we had played to our full potential, and we later went on to win the Bath Sevens. My post-match memories are of boxes of champagne from Simon Spencer's (PPA 1976) family after each win, the coverage in the national press after Rosslyn Park, the support in the school, and the many congratulations from Old Boys. For me, the fact that my mother was able to see us play at Oxford, having been unable to come to Rosslyn Park, was an added bonus.

On leaving Prior, I went to Birmingham University. Full of trepidation at the number of people going to the first-year rugby trials and whether I would be picked, I was met at the rugby ground by Mark Baker (PPA 1975). Mark had been two years above me at Prior, had played for the First XV, and was on the university rugby committee. His first words to me were, "Don't worry — I've told them you know how to play." It certainly helped put me at ease, and I ended up playing fly-half for the university Thirds and Seconds, and then, in my final year, played on the wing for the Firsts.

My first job was in Bahrain, and I played the 1980/81 season for Bahrain on the wing on sandy pitches, having great fun travelling around the Gulf on away game weekends. That year I also played for Bahrain in the Dubai Sevens, when Dubai was not as developed as it is today. We didn't win, but I can say I have played in the Dubai Sevens! 1981 was the end of my rugby playing career, as I got married and travelling the Gulf at weekends was not really an option.

I may never have been the best fly-half, or even the best fullback, but ultimately the fun during training, mud, bruises, and triumphs made it all worthwhile. Those years on the field at Prior were some of the happiest and most formative of my life — and I'd do it all again, backward kicks and all. If you were to write an epitaph on my rugby playing days, it would be: "He was okay as a fly-half, but it probably wasn't his best position".



1950 – 1959

Hi fellow Prior Parkers! I am currently living in South Africa having absconded from the beautiful country of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, on independence in 1980. I chose to follow my 21 years in the British South Africa Police force where I ended up as a Detective Chief Inspector by opening a bureau in South Africa. I married my wife Elizabeth and had three children one of whom died at six months of age. One of my girls is in the USA in South Carolina and the other has taken over my Detective Bureaux in Pretoria. We have a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren who are also in the USA. We have now moved into a retirement home in Pretoria and will probably live out our days here. I wish all of my old school friends and brother Prior Parkers well. By Laurie Ibbitt (PPA 1958).

Michael Stevens (PPA 1959) writes: I was pleased to meet up with **John Ainslie** (PPA 1960) at **John Bogie's** (PPA 1957) funeral. I am vice-president of the Cirencester branch of the Catenians. I still play golf twice a week. As a life-long supporter I was thrilled by the success of Bath Rugby last season. I remember watching **Ian Reid** (PPA 1957) who was still at school play for Bath at the Rec.

John Ware (PPA 1958) called the office to say hello and catch up, which was lovely! John is still living near Harrogate in Yorkshire, and was very sad to let us know that his wife sadly passed away in April. May she rest in peace.

David Lumsden (PPA 1958) writes: I was at Prior between 1948-58 including Cricklade, so I knew **John Bogie** (PPA 1957) well. I have lost touch with other old boys since **Andy Owen** (PPA 1957) died.

I currently live in Twyford, near Reading, with my wife, Elaine. I am still involved with hockey and umpire for the local club. At school I used to play the organ for some services and I am still playing the organ at my local church. My health is good although I have Parkinson's, but exercise with walking and hockey is keeping me going.

My brother, **Malcolm** (PPA 1957), lives in Thornton, north of Toronto and tends his small farm there.

Manuel Ojeda (PPA 1959) writes: Dear Prior Park College former pupils, I live in Paris, and I am retired after a long career in international banking. At 82 years old, thinking back to school and studying maths and physics, I enjoyed it a lot.

Looking back, my years at Prior Park were wonderful, and I will never forget them.

I look old, white hair, and use a cane to walk. Other than that, I am doing great.

Best regards to all of you!

Barry Plews (PPA 1958) writes: I am well into the twilight years, so I am very thankful that I remain in relatively good health and continue to be mobile despite the onset of arthritis.

My wife Elizabeth and I celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary this week (October 1st) which is another milestone for which to give thanks. We hope we will be healthy enough to push the boat out next year with family and friends. That may be looking too far ahead (we don't buy green bananas anymore) and assumes Mrs Reeves leaves us some funds after her upcoming budget.

I have been retired for 25 years, living in the same house for over 30 so my life is stable. I still play golf twice a week but usually only nine holes with other ageing or ailing friends who can also walk the course. We rarely enter competitions or play inter-club matches. Like many golf clubs across the country, mine has gone through some difficult times in recent years but seems to be back on a firm footing now as it starts its 127th year. I still enjoy gardening but only if I can "potter". Nothing too physical.

In 2024 I agreed, with some golfing friends, to learn to play bridge. The jury is still out on whether

this was a wise decision. It is a game to be learned at a young age not when you are the wrong side of eighty, but I persevere in the hope that if nothing else it keeps the grey matter ticking over.

Our family consists of twin boys, now in their 50s, but living on separate continents. One in the UK with two grandsons and the other, in Australia, with a grandson and granddaughter who are both at university in South Australia. We are not as adventurous in our travelling as we used to be and have opted for more comfortable, relaxing short river cruises in different parts of Europe.

Over the years Prior Park has always been a special place for me. After my father was killed in Italy in 1943 my mother and I lived a nomadic existence, so I had no family base. Cricklade and then Bath gave me that and some friendships that have lasted through the decades. When one of my sons was married in the Lady of the Snobs Chapel in 2007, it was one of the proudest days of my life.

Keeping in touch with alumni from my generation is usually to communicate some sad news. Distances seem to get further with age and roads become busier and more congested. Happily, I get to speak with **Octavio Riberio** (PPA 1958) in Canada several times a year which is always a pleasure. He also keeps in touch with **Caesar Guillen-Nunez** (PPA 1959). They both had careers in the arts and were two of Ronald Palmer's star pupils. This was in the days before Ronald was renamed Toffee.

That is all my ramblings for now. Green bananas!

1960 – 1969

Ben Rosevink (PPA 1963) writes: All my family are well, so far, and I managed to get to 82 years this year. Also, I have acquired an electric bike to help up the hill around Mylor and Falmouth. I still go with a friend sailing round Falmouth.

Kieran Shaw (PPA 1968). After university and nearly 20 years managing large petrochemical projects in Europe, USA, Africa and Asia, Kieran ended up in New Zealand managing the development of their first onshore oilfields. Kieran stayed, married, and later went on to be CEO of two NZ regional authorities and recently retired after many years working with government and business as CEO/Executive Director of ACENZ (association representing the NZ consulting & engineering industry).

Kieran paid his way through university as a sessions musician playing with some notable 70's performers. Throughout his travels Kieran continued his love of playing and composing music and started expat bands wherever he went. Memorable overseas music performances include a 70's re-election celebration for Sir Kenneth Kaunda (President of Zambia), 1980's HRH Sultan of Brunei's 34th Birthday party where playing the Dire Straits song *Sultans of Swing* angered the religious police but delighted the Sultan and, most enjoyably, an all-night post-match player's party at the Hong Kong Sevens.

However, his favourite performance was a solo tribute concert he played after the devastating Christchurch earthquake to honour the victims, and to thank Search & Rescue, civil defence and engineering/construction for their relentless recovery work. His rendition of Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here* was introduced live with a recorded approval and endorsement statement from PF drummer Nick Mason. The song and slideshow brought many to tears and a short excerpt from the concert can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/pd8wdzgIhIA>

Kieran's memorial tribute to eccentric PPC school chum **Michael Burton** (PPA 1968) (RIP) includes photos from 1960's PPC and can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/6mnPcXN8Bvg>

Kieran and wife Susie have a recording studio, guest accommodation and meeting facilities at their riverside lodge and estate alongside the vast National Forest Park in the Tararua mountains an hour from Wellington City.



Dirk Meerstadt (PPA 1967) and his wife Pat



Geoff Ferreira (PPA 1964)



Simon Beck (PPA 1969)



David Spackman (PPA 1963)



Tim Heining (PPA 1968)



Dirk Meerstadt (PPA 1967), retired in 2009 as a consultant paediatrician and Patricia retired as Deputy Director of Nursing for London 2010 and then a field health visitor in 2022. They live happily in Barnsbury, Islington, London where Dirk continues to restore their 1830s Victorian terraced house and is a volunteer gardener in a local park. They spend three months a year in the family home in Malindi, Kenya. The Boys, Kai, 52, a psychotherapist and Thomas, 35, a tech start up entrepreneur, are both married but no grandchildren yet. Dirk says "I thank PPC for my start in life which has been a largely happy and successful one."

Great to see **Geoff Ferreira** (PPA 1964) at the Summer Concert at the College. It was a splendid evening of student solos followed by the community choir singing Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

Some more plaques have been added in the New Founders Garden. **Simon** (the Archivist) **Beck** (PPA 1969) was delighted to see that his was now in situ.

Steve Sturton-Davies (PPA 1968) writes: **Ron Turley** (PPA 1968) and I had a mini reunion at our house in the Summer. We hadn't seen each other for 57 years, but got on like a house on fire, with so much to discuss. Both of us were in the RAF section at PPC and both became glider pilots as a result. We have agreed to meet again.

David Spackman (PPA 1963) came to visit the College on a tour with his family in the summer holidays. David had many stories to tell which were hilarious and a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Terry Illott (PPA 1968) writes: The members of the class of 1968 have reached that stage in life where the illnesses and the ailments of age are, for most, balanced by the joys of grandparenthood. They remain a close-knit group. Regular reunions, large and small, keep them together, as do their fortnightly Zoom meetings. About 20 members of the group attend these events, although fortunately never all at once (it would be a madhouse). Most meetings involve six or eight participants. A regular at the Zoom meetings is **Ted Bennitt**, who continues to enjoy retirement in the Netherlands. **Fabian Jowers** has returned to Spain after many years running an orphanage in Uganda. **Peter Rippon** is still in New York, although he is a frequent visitor to both the West Coast and to Europe, mostly to keep in touch with family. **Charlie Murray** is enjoying retirement in Bahrain. **Pete Marsden** is living in Manchester, where he spent most of his career as a lawyer. **Tim Heining** continues to divide his time between London and Brazil. He and **Rosnilda** also spend time in Los Angeles, to keep in touch with family. **Rick Jarrams** is still in his beloved West Midlands. **Will Lee** has revived his career as a photographer. He's based in Lincolnshire, as is **Pat Curran**. **Rob Camacho** is still living in Bristol, as is **Ian Wisloch**. Unlike most members of the class of 1968, **Dave Peckham** is still working as is **Ian Wisloch**. He and partner **Carrie** run an educational consultancy in London. Another one earning his crust is **Niall Aston**, a surgeon still doing shifts at Woolwich Hospital. He spends weekdays in London and weekends at home in Gloucestershire, where his wife, **Sarah**, a former GP, now runs a flower farm. **Joe Loughlin** is living in Dorset. He keeps in regular touch with **Spike Colter**, who is still in Jersey. **Spike** recently had cataract operations in both eyes and claims he can see colours completely differently than before. **Mike Brotherton** is down in Devon, recovering well from a bout of cancer. **Phil Hamerton** is still in Sussex. He and **Margaret**, who are continuing a year-long celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, are avid cinemagoers. They live not far from **John Evans**, who, with his wife **Diane**, divides his time between Sussex, a place in Portugal, and endless childminding duties in Cambridge and Solihull. **Kev Steer** is still in his hometown, **Brent Knoll**, in Somerset. **Ken Edwards** has a busy creative life down in Hastings, writing, publishing and

performing with his band, **Afrif Nebula**. **Chris Cutcliffe** is settled in East Moseley, just around the corner from Hampton Court. He is a volunteer for wildlife conservation, spending weekends uprooting invasive flora, counting butterflies for Butterfly Conservation, helping with the American Mink control scheme and patrolling his local nature reserve. Another wildlife enthusiast, **Steve Sturton Davies**, runs an informal animal hospital with his wife, **Sue**. At any one time, their house will be home to orphaned ducklings, owls, injured blackbirds and whatever other deserving cases are brought to their attention. **Steve** recently got together with **Ron Turley**, who, having recovered from multiple ailments, has bought himself a restored MGB. (He's too old to be having a mid-life crisis. More likely, it's a reward for having come through a hard time.) He and his family live in Norwich. The amazing thing about **Ron** and **Steve's** reunion is that, despite all the group activities over the last 20 years, they hadn't met face to face since leaving school, 57 years ago. They discovered they have a lot of interests in common, chiefly matters to do with aviation. Also in Norfolk is **Peter Coates**, a recent recipient of the PPA Medal. **Charles "Dixie" Dean**, a retired physiotherapist, is living in Yorkshire. He is a keen cyclist. He is also a Buddhist, going by the name **Saccavicaya**. **Norman Sparrow** has recently celebrated his 26th year living on Lanzarote, which he describes as "an island somewhere near Africa in the Atlantic Ocean". He is still working on the water and, with his hard-working wife **Liz**, runs a well-established whale and dolphin watching business from their base in Puerto Calero Marina. **Terry Illott** is mostly in London, where, when he's not scribbling at his desk, he haunts the art galleries. The rest of his time is spent in Cambridge, where he and his wife, **Heather**, enjoy cycling across the fens. **Geoff Cardozo** is in France, although he regularly crosses to channel to see family. He has a hectic life. He was recently in Poland, giving a presentation to NATO personnel on the subject of missing persons, then to Baku, Azerbaijan, to visit mass graves dating from the Nagorno-Karabak war. While there he had briefings from Ukrainian soldiers on the same subject. And he still works with the Fondation Sillery, which helps disabled young people get into work. In the new year, he'll be off to Brazil and Argentina, where he is something of a folk hero for his work in identifying (and burying) Argentine soldiers from the Falklands War. **Nick Callow** lives a quiet life in London. **Mike Callander** is living in Ireland. **Rafe Pigott** is still working as a solicitor in Essex. Former GP **Mike Maher** is retired in Warwickshire. Another former GP, **Marek Podkolinski**, is in Salisbury. Retired dentist **Frank Linares** is in Gibraltar. Retired entrepreneur **Tim Walsh** is in rural Somerset. Musician **Kieran Shaw** is down in New Zealand. And **Paul Brann** is in Dilton Marsh, south of Bath.

Paul Rowland (PPA 1967) writes: I am living in the centre of Lewes having retired from my business as financial adviser some six years ago. I am blessed with three children and nine grandchildren in Lewes to keep me out of trouble and entertain me.

I would be happy to meet up with and discuss old times with anyone in the East Sussex area who may have been in my year.

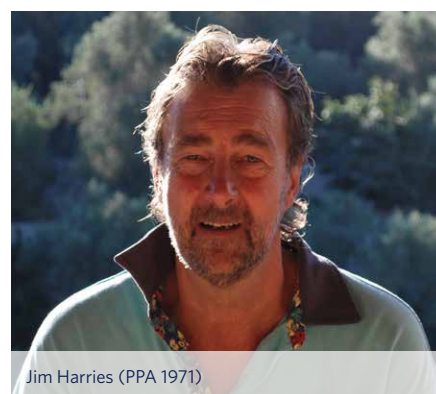
Tim Heining (PPA 1968) came for a tour of the College on Open Day. He was treated to experiments in the chemistry lab and chatted to various teachers including history, theology and French. He was also delighted to see his old dorm in St Peter's which is now the art room.

1970 – 1979

Brian O'Brien (PPA 1970) received his medical degree from Trinity College Dublin and completed post graduate training in Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa. He is still enjoying life in Ottawa and continues his private practice in psychiatry after



Brian Wake (PPA 1972)



Jim Harries (PPA 1971)

25 years of hospital based practice. Brian met his wife **Ann Marie** while working in Ontario and they recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. They have three children: **Laura** who recently obtained her PhD at McGill University; **Anthony** is an Environmental Engineer and **Philip** works for CBC Radio Canada French language service. Brian visited Bath in November to catch up with family and friends and also attend the PPA Alumni Award ceremony for his classmate **Tony Bury** (PPA 1970).

Brian Wake (PPA 1972) reports that he is settled just outside Chester with his wife **Sylvia** and dog **Bailey** (rescued three times from the Middle East!) who keeps him company on his walks to try to keep in reasonable fitness! He is still working as a solicitor specialising in minerals, renewable energy and telecoms. Brian's daughter, **Vicki**, is a shareholder in a 'small but perfectly formed' digital marketing company in Greater Manchester. She has a son, **James**, who is a keen member of the Air Cadets and who attended the 80th Anniversary of D Day remembrance in Normandy as part of the Air Cadet contingent. **Chris** is married to **Emma**, and they have two lovely children, **Amelia** (11) and **Ben** (8). Brian has recently reconnected with **Luiz (Sonny) Souza** (PPA 1973), they knew each other in Hong Kong.

Jim Harries (PPA 1971) writes: After leaving Prior I took a bit of "time off" before returning to further academics and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. I worked in the City of London for some 37 years before retiring and taking up residence in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Andalucia, Southern Spain, where I have now lived for some 14 years. I spend my time looking after a finca (farm) where I grow much of our dinner table vegetables and have chickens and rabbits for meat and eggs. I harvest and press our own olives and grapes for oil and "farmhouse" wine. I would welcome hearing from anyone who remembers me and would obviously be delighted to entertain anyone who is venturing to this part of the world.



Adrian Muir (PPA 1972)

Adrian Muir (PPA 1972) visited the College with his family during the summer holidays.

1980 – 1989

Rex Young (PPA 1980) visited the College in the Easter holidays with his son.

Martin Prendergast (PPA 1987) has recently started a new job as a senior director at Gartner and finds himself advising CEOs on best practices around AI. He keeps in touch with **Malcolm Cannon**, **Giles Watson** and **Tony Watts** (PPA 1987). Martin and his partner Selina have five children between them and are navigating two at university, two going to university and one going into the Sixth Form.

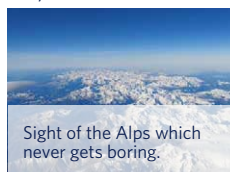
Gerard O'Donoghue (PPA 1987) writes: After changing careers from logistics in 2001 to follow my dream of becoming a pilot, and enduring a few turbulent years due to Sept 11th, SARS and European austerity, I finally commenced commercial flying in Greece in late 2008.

I eventually returned to the UK and have been employed by easyJet since 2011, operating as a captain based at London Luton.

As I enter the twilight years of my career I have reduced my hours to work part-time, so that I can spend more time with my wife, travelling and my motorsport hobby.

Currently living in Northamptonshire, but with my three adult children all pursuing their own careers and having left home, possibly looking to move north towards the Yorkshire dales/moors.

Always happy to welcome anyone onto the flight-deck (on the ground obviously) if they are travelling through Luton and hear my PA.



Sight of the Alps which never gets boring.



1981 hockey team sent in by Grant Murdoch



Rex Young (PPA 1980)



Charles de Montravel, Mark August and Sinan Ciddi (PPA 1996)

1990 – 1999

Dr Oliver Middleton (PPA 1996) and Katie visited the College. They're based in West Sussex where Oliver is a partner at a local GP practice. It was lovely to hear the boarding stories of the 90s and we racked up 8,000 steps touring every aspect of the school.

Wonderful to see **Lydia Matthews** and **Chantal Hopper** (PPA 1999) back at the College.

Lydia and Chantal spent a lovely couple of hours wandering around the College ending with a delicious lunch in the dining hall.

Great to see Lydia who was here from New Zealand.

Jane Mason (PPA 1995) writes: I moved to Port Willunga, South Australia in 2019 to help take care of my partner's father after he had a major stroke. Contracting in marketing and communications for the private and public sector and very much enjoying living ten minutes from a spectacular beach! Alex and I (we met in London when he was over there for a decade) went back to the UK to get married in October 2022 with a ceremony at Combe Lodge in Blagdon carried out by Prior's own **Jemma Crawley** (PPA 1995). No kids just one Spoodle called Bob Barker.

Tony Lee (PPA 1996) writes: I recently remarried, and my good friend and classmate **Sinan Ciddi** (PPA 1996) was my best man. I own my own personal training and sports massage business in Swindon and still manage to compete in CrossFit and Functional Fitness competitions across the UK.

Dr Mario Sofroniou (PPA 1995) writes: I was at Prior Park Preparatory School Cricklade 1986-1990 and Prior Park college 1990-1995.



Lydia Matthews and Chantal Hopper (PPA 1999)



Dr Oliver (PPA 1996) and Kate Middleton



Jane Mason (PPA 1995)



Tony Lee (PPA 1996)

Since 2019 I have held an Associate Professorship in Primary Care ("Hauptdozent in der Primärversorgung") at the University Hospital Freiburg ("Universitätsklinikum Freiburg") in the south of Germany (Baden-Württemberg) and continue to work part-time for the Wyvern Primary Care Network in Swindon.

I have an FRCGP (Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners) and MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in ENT), having graduated UWCM (University of Wales College of Medicine) in 2003.

I have been a professional opera singer (lyric tenor soloist) since gaining a Master's in music from Trinity Conservatoire London in 2009.

Since then, I have been performing in opera houses around Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the UK, the highlight of my career being invited to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Opera House (Covent Garden) in numerous Verdi and Puccini operas over the years.

Wonderful to see **Robin Sturges** (PPA 1995) at the Primary Schools' Music Day which the College organised for local primary schools.

Robin was singing with Freshford Primary School. The singing was fabulous, and Robin clearly enjoyed showing her pupils her old school.

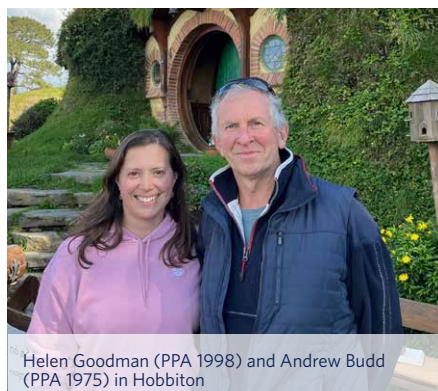
Charles de Montravel (PPA 1996) writes: I have been based in Washington DC., for the past three years, after many years working on United Nations peacekeeping missions across Asia and the Middle East. Life here has been a welcome change of pace,



Dr Mario Sofroniou (PPA 1995)



Geoff Chang (PPA 2000) and Caleb Hicks



Helen Goodman (PPA 1998) and Andrew Budd (PPA 1975) in Hobbiton



Jamie Vivian (PPA 2006), Giles Pruett (former Housemaster Burton) and Jimmy Wheeler (PPA 2001) at the Dubai 7s



Robin Sturges (PPA 1995)

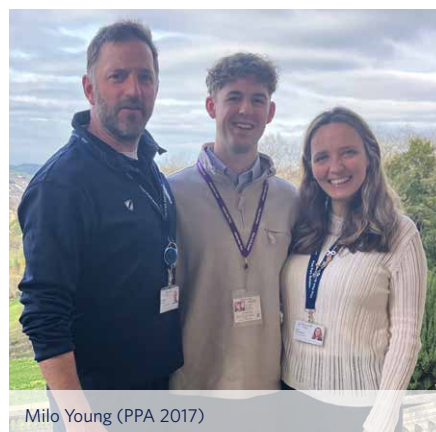


Charlotte Boyce (PPA 2000)

I feel I have managed that working with Santa on a Strawberry Farm, working in a coffee factory and of course getting out to see the beautiful country that is New Zealand. I have based myself in Auckland during my stay and have unsurprisingly found some familiarity by joining a local cricket club. The plan is to return home sometime in the UK summer before a return for another stint to see more of New Zealand and venture further this time to Australia whilst down this way. From there, who knows!

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 have 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 be now be working on **Lost Track of Time** full time, whereby he is launching a record label and is expanding the events across Cardiff, Bath and London.



Milo Young (PPA 2017)



Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016)



Mr Faulkner and Tommy Pollock (PPA 2019)

and one of its joys has been the chance to reconnect regularly with old friends from Roche House (1996), **Sinan Ciddi** and **Mark August**.

Helen Goodman (PPA 1998) writes: During our visit to New Zealand this summer seeing Toby's family, we took a day trip to Matamata to visit Hobbiton, the permanent set for 'The Shire' in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* film franchises. Part way through the tour, a man in our small group started a conversation with us, and very quickly we established our common link - he was also an alumnus of Prior Park! His name is **Andrew Budd** (PPA 1975), from the Class of 75, and he was over visiting his daughter who is working as a doctor in NZ. It was lovely to meet and chat with him.

Josh Freeman, **George Ross** and **James Timbrell** (PPA 2009) had a fun revisit to Burton and Clifford before heading into Bath to watch the rugby West Country semi-final, Bath vs Bristol Bears.

Madeline Silver (PPA 2007) writes: I have just had my fourth baby so have a son and three daughters and am working as a freelance journalist, living in Wiltshire.

Rob Little (PPA 2003) writes: I have built the first translation layer between classical computing and quantum intelligence. It solves one of the foundational problems in computational physics and quantum information

Henry Akerele (PPA 2007) writes: I am based in New York, working in finance, and I look forward to visiting the College next time I am in England.

2000 – 2009

Jamie Vivian (PPA 2006), **Giles Pruett** (former House Master of Burton) and **Jimmy Wheeler** (PPA 2001) participated in the Dubai 7s.

Lovely to see **Charlotte Boyce** (PPA 2000) and her partner Angel back at the College. Charlotte is a primary school teacher teaching English in Spain where she has lived for over a decade.

Geoff Chang (PPA 2000) writes: It was wonderful having a tour over the summer and introducing Caleb to the school. We were married recently (October 10, 2024, in Hawaii).

2010 – 2019

Milo Young (PPA 2017) popped in to see **Mr Bond** (PPA 1995) this week as he is considering teaching for his career. Mrs Colquhoun was so pleased to see him, and it was great to see them all catch up!

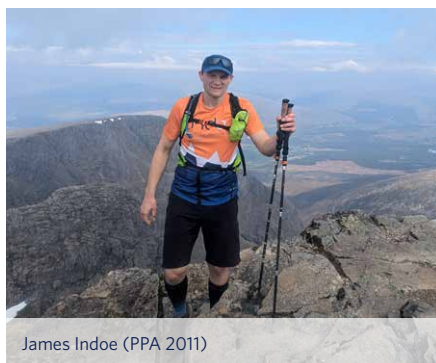
Hugh Doyle (PPA 2016) writes: After five years of rollercoasters, I embarked on an adventure to New Zealand for a working holiday in September 2024. The intention was to do something different.



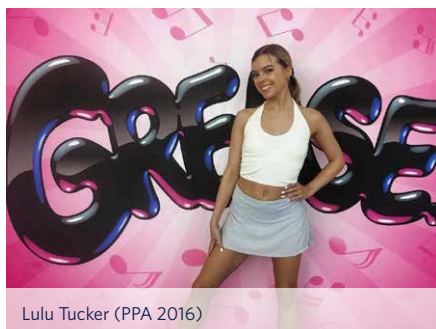
Lucia (PPA 2026) and Isabella Hayward-Rodgers (PPA 2013)



Malcom Bond (PPA 1995) and Jo Healy (PPA 2019)



James Indoe (PPA 2011)



Lulu Tucker (PPA 2016)



Felix Robertson (PPA 2018)

Isabella (PPA 2013) and Lucia (PPA 2026) Hayward-Rodgers were at the College as Lucia was performing in her Grade 8 Musical Theatre exam.

Isabella lives in London and is working as an actor and singer both on tour and in the theatre. She also teaches yoga and barre freelance.

Lucia is studying for her A Levels Spanish, Drama and RPE.

Jo Healy (PPA 2019) was at the College today with some students from St Gregory's College, Bath where he works.

Jo has just finished his PGCE and is teaching full time. He brought some of his students to bowl alongside students from Prior at the College cricket pro.

Jo was delighted to bump into Mr Bond (PPA 1995) who taught him cricket when he was at the College.

Renée Jonkhoff (PPA 2017) writes: After completing my Master's in International Human Rights Law at the University of Groningen in 2023, I took some time to travel through Australia and Indonesia — a great way to figure out what direction I wanted to take with my career.

Now based in Utrecht, I am currently working at the Court of Appeal in The Hague. I am also exploring the idea of moving abroad again — but this time for work. Who knows, maybe I'll find myself back in England one day!

P.S. If you're ever visiting the Netherlands, I'm always happy to share tips or recommendations

Felix Robertson (PPA 2018) writes: Since 2023, I have been working in the wine trade and now work in a wine merchants in Cambridge dedicated to English and Welsh wine. This is a fast-growing field (there is now a vineyard just a 20-minute drive from Prior Park!), and we have a brisk business selling to local customers, supplying restaurants and presenting regular tastings. I am always delighted to make suggestions or recommendations for anyone looking to explore this exciting new wine field. And, of course, you are very welcome to come to Grape Britannia if you're in Cambridge!

Lulu Tucker (PPA 2016) writes: I just finished performing as the principal role of Sister Mary-Leo in *Nunsense* at the English Theatre Frankfurt, Germany. I graduated Prior after U5 (2016) to start dance training full-time and have been working as a professional dancer in the United States for the past five years, but this was my first singing/principal role and first time working in Europe. All the best!

Toby Heaton (PPA 2014) writes: I boarded in Roche House from 2009-2014. I have many fond memories of my time there and it certainly defined who I am today. After leaving PPC, I studied medicine at Imperial College and I now work as a medical officer in the army. Throughout my time at medical school, I worked as a private tutor for school children, helping children from as young as five years old up to A level students and medical students in years below me. When I graduated in 2020, I began working for The Medic Portal, which you might have heard of. The Medic Portal aims to help students gain a place at medical school, offering support in all aspects of the application process. It was established in 2015 and is now the leading tutor in its market.

Recently, I decided to start my own tutoring company, building on my own experience and improving on what large tutoring companies currently offer. We believe that the most important factors in high quality tutoring are the personal skills, experience and passion of the tutor. This is what we can provide with our tutoring company, MedicFutures. All our services are delivered by my wife Ophelia (another doctor and experienced tutor) and me.

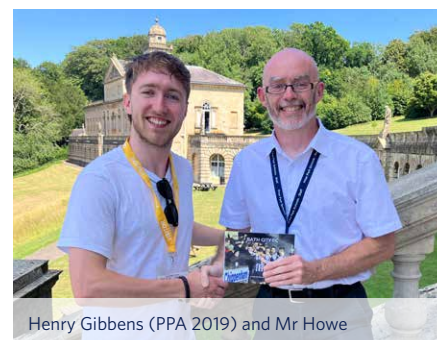
Heigie Oriakhi (PPA 2011) writes: I am now working with Bolton Council—turns out there's plenty of adventure close to home! Life is busy and happy,



Josh Freeman, George Ross and James Timbrell (PPA 2009)



Heather Rae (PPA 2012)



Henry Gibbens (PPA 2019) and Mr Howe



Eunice Wong and Anja Schmitt (PPA 2012)



Henry Akerele (PPA 2007)



Archie Ansell, Andy Reed and Max Wang (PPA 2019).



Ehigie Oriakhi (PPA 2011)



Renee Jonkhoff (PPA 2017)

married to my wonderful wife and kept on my toes by our two energetic kids. When I'm not juggling family life and council projects, I'm dusting off old hobbies, catching up with friends, and occasionally reminiscing about my Prior rugby career, how we all survived those good old boarding house days and the endless exams.

Eunice Wong and Anja Schmitt (PPA 2012) had a tour of the College. Anja was in the UK for their friend **Heather Rae** (PPA 2012).

They were delighted to bump into Mr Chard and also to visit St Mary's.

Henry Gibbens (PPA 2019) met with Simon Howe the College Exams Officer and he presented Simon with a book of photos which Simon had taken of Bath City FC. The completion of the book combined Henry's passion for sport and photography. Henry has just completed an Arts Management Masters at Bath Spa University. Lovely to see him back at the College.

Jake Brookes (PPA 2019) writes: I am currently coming close to two years living in Malaysia. I was a rugby development officer and a rugby player over here but have now transitioned into a full time PE teacher and about to complete my PGCE with IQTS. I am also playing semi pro rugby with Selangor State

and KL Tigers. Loving it here, so if anyone is ever passing through Kuala Lumpur or wants to know more, reach out please do.

Charlie Ansell (PPA 2019) writes: In April this year, I had the privilege of travelling around China with **Andy Reed** (PPA 2019) and **Max Wang** (PPA 2019). We began in Shanghai, where we spent some time taking in the modern cityscape and nightlife. We took a bullet train to Beijing where we explored some of China's most famous landmarks, including the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall.

Another bullet train took us on to Xi'an where highlights included seeing the Terracotta Army, taking a cable car up Hua Mountain, and watching a live performance of *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* - complete with some pyrotechnics that came a little too close for comfort! From Xi'an we also visited the nearby city of Baoji, where we were welcomed by Max's extended family and enjoyed an incredible meal together, which was a real highlight of the trip.

After I had to return to the UK for exam study, Andy and Max continued their journey south, concluding their travels in Shenzhen with a stay at Max's family home. The trip was an unforgettable experience, filled with history, culture, and ridiculous amount of food. Huge thanks to Max for being such a brilliant host and guide!

James Indoe (PPA 2011) ran the West Highland Way (96 miles) with five friends over three days from 24-26th May to raise money for the MND Association after a friend from Sheffield University was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease last year at the age of 29.

Heather Rae (PPA 2012) married Daniel Williman at St. Mary's Church, Tetbury, in early September 2025. Celebrating with friends made at Prior - **Anja Schmitt**, **Holly Feeney**, **Kirstie Tyrer** (Nee Ryder), **Emma Russell** (nee Piercy), and **Eunice Wong**.

2020 – 2025

Peter and Alistair (PPA 2024) had a great time bumping into their former teachers. Alistair is in his first year at Bristol University studying Engineering and Peter is at Brighton College doing his A Levels.

Karem Kupcu (PPA 2020) visited the College with his girlfriend and was delighted to bump into his former Housemaster, Mr Holmes. Karem is in his final year at university in London and is thinking about what he would like to do in the future.

Finn Quinlan (PPA 2024) popped into the College to see his former Housemaster, Dave Holmes. Finn is studying Physics at Nottingham University, and he is thoroughly enjoying it.

Callista Ong, Isaac Chan, Alistair Yeung (PPA 2024) came to the College to visit and see their former teachers.

Callista is studying interior design at UCL, Isaac is at Swansea University studying mechanical engineering (he loves machinery!) and Alistair is at the University of Bristol following in his father's footsteps studying mechanical engineering.

Pearl Wu and Cheryl Leung (PPA 2024) visited the College. Pearl is studying international management at Lancaster University and Cheryl is studying physiotherapy at Bradford University. They were lucky enough to see lots of their former teachers.

Ollie Kohut (PPA 2024) was at the College giving back a cup he won last year. Ollie has just returned from travelling in Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia for six months and was looking forward to starting at Leeds University in September where he will study economics and maths.



Peter (PPA 2026) and Alistair Yu (PPA 2024) with Mr Holmes



Mr Holmes and Karem Kupcu (PPA 2020)



Finn Quinlan (PPA 2024) and Mr Holmes



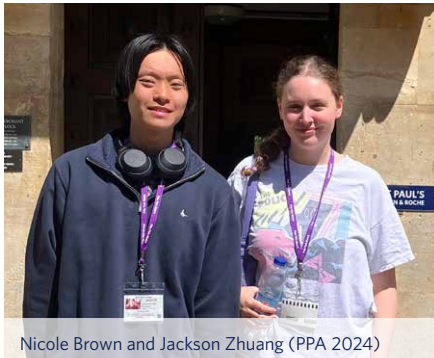
Mrs Carson, Callista Ong, Isaac Chan and Alistair Yeung (PPA 2024)



Pearl Wu and Cheryl Leung (PPA 2024) and Mrs Trott



Ollie Kohut (PPA 2024)



Nicole Brown and Jackson Zhuang (PPA 2024)



Anson Wong (PPA 2023)'s award



Anna Jaeger and Evie Rayner-Bentman (PPA 2024)



Cathy Zhang (PPA 2020)

Connie Osborn (PPA 2024) popped in to return her cricket trophy and catch up with friends. Having just returned from New Zealand, she is looking forward to starting at Nottingham University.

Lovely to see Anna Jaeger and Evie Rayner-Benton (PPA 2024) returning to the College with their trophies.

Evie came to the art department to collect her portfolio and she saw all the teachers who had helped her along the way. She also had a photo with the Head in front of one of her installations.

Evie going to Loughborough University to read textiles, design and innovation.

Anna has just completed a gap year where she travelled to Australia, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore. Having spent the summer travelling around Europe, she started at Warwick University in the autumn reading classics.

Nicole Brown and Jackson Zhuang (PPA 2024) were at the College and Jackson gave Mrs Seville his sketches to keep for posterity.

Nicole is at Queen Mary University in London studying Mandarin and French, and Jackson is at the University of Hertfordshire studying Concept Art (digital animation).

Anson Wong (PPA 2023) writes: I was honoured to receive the Reading SU Project of the Year award at the University of Reading's Celebration of Volunteering 2025, as the leader of Uni of Monsters. This is a project that introduces local primary school children to university life through tours and activities. Freddie Larbalestier (PPA 2023) was also one of the volunteers on this project.

Massive congratulations to Lewis Dowling (PPA 2022) on winning the Freeflush Water Management award for product design. Lewis is in his final year at Manchester Metropolitan University where he is studying product design engineering.

The title of his final project was 'Using Generative Design to Develop Knee Protection for Sports'.

Lewis studied A Level design and technology at Prior. Wishing him all the best for his future endeavours.

Henry Sampson (PPA 2020) returned to the College to shoot a music video.

Cathy Zhang (PPA 2020) is studying an MSc in global healthcare management at UCL.

She really enjoyed walking around the College and it was lovely to see her back.

Joe Hardwick-Adams (PPA 2023) came to watch his brother Will (PPA 2025) play rugby for the College 1st XV. Joe bumped into his former Housemistress Mrs Bonney on the side of a pitch.

Louis Wight (PPA 2022) visited the College with some friends and was keen to see the chapel and Clifford House.

Louis will start his fourth year MPSYC Psychology at Plymouth University and he hopes to study for a PhD next year.

He intends to go on a gap year to Japan and South East Asia as soon as he can.

Massive congratulations to former Head of Burton House - Charlie Little (PPA 2022). Charlie has just been awarded a first class BSc Honours degree in software engineering from the University of Lancashire. He achieved this through a degree apprenticeship with BAE. We wish Charlie all the very best with his next adventure. The photo shows Charlie proudly wearing his Burton House tie at his graduation ceremony.

Emily Fang (PPA 2022) visiting Bath with a friend and came to collect her artwork.

Katherine Ashley Easter (PPA 2021) writes: I have just graduated first class in politics and international



Connie Osborn (PPA 2024) and Ella King (PPA 2025)



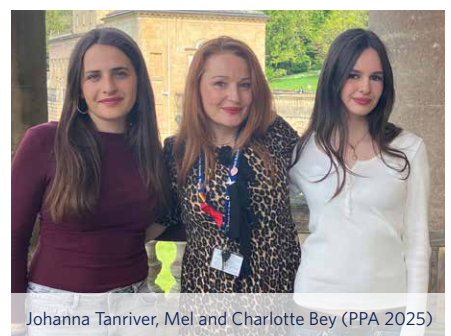
Emily Fang (PPA 2022)



Finlay Sage (PPA 2021)



Harry Sampson (PPA 2020)



Johanna Tanriver, Mel and Charlotte Bey (PPA 2025)



Joe Hardwick-Adams (PPA 2023) and Mrs Bonney



Layla Kanpulat and Daisy Gallen (PPA 2024)



Katherine Ashley Easter, Wiktor Fabian, Jenna Fleming (PPA 2020 and 2021) with Mme Justine and Mrs Mallon



Toby Heaton (PPA 2014)



Louis Wight (PPA 2022)



Sophie Green (PPA 2023)



Charlie Little (PPA 2022)



Mary Kelley (PPA 2021)



Elysia Thompson (PPA 2021) and Mr Burt

relations at the University of Bath, and I am starting my law conversion degree at BPP in Bristol.

Wiktor Fabian (PPA 2021) writes: I am currently in Pennsylvania, USA, for my nuclear engineering internship. I will be graduating in journalism and in engineering in 2026. In October, I will be going to China for my next engineering internship program, so a lot of travelling and learning for me this year.

Louise Cattanach (PPA 2022) is excited to begin her philosophy and politics degree studying abroad at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. She will be taking modules in philosophy, public administration, media, communications and art. Erasmus is renowned for its entrepreneurial spirit, innovative teaching and commitment to sustainability. She is looking forward to exploring the city, participating in events, developing new skills and connecting with an international community.

Yuesheng Song (PPA 2020): after leaving Prior Park, I went on to study Philosophy at University of St. Andrews, and I am now continuing my graduate studies in Paris. Alongside my academic work, I am also involved in a few independent projects at the intersection of philosophy and information technology, the ideology critique of online community, and algorithmic designs, among other things.

Lovely to see **Elysia Thompson** (PPA 2021) back at the College with her friend from Australia.

Elysia is studying at Birmingham University having spent last year at Melbourne University from where she was able to travel extensively in South East Asia and Australia.

She was delighted to bump into Mr Burt and Mrs Colquhoun.

Natalie Humphries (PPA 2022) came to the College to visit Fran Evans and discuss the psychology degree which she has just completed.

Natalie starts work next week with a charity which supports children in schools with trauma issues, attachment issues and neuro development concerns.

Joshua Tse (PPA 2025) was at the College to collect some paperwork. He was delighted to bump into Miss Oliver who taught him photography and Mr Francis who gave him his first ever lesson at Prior.

Joshua has recently returned from Hong Kong and is taking a gap year before studying engineering at Bath University.

Wonderful to see **Finlay Sage** (PPA 2021) at the Primary Schools Music Day, which the College organised for local primary schools. Finlay was with Roundhill Primary School.



Joshua Tse (PPA 2025) and Miss Oliver



Mrs Evans and Natalie Humphries (PPA 2022)



Epiphany Service

By Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023)

Whilst the surprise appearance of a fallen tree delayed the alumni carol service, the resulting Epiphany Service was a great success. If I were poetic, I would say that the effortless (maybe not for Matt Nicholls) blend of harmonious voices from Prior's past and present spoke to the ever flourishing and vivacious community that Prior prides itself on.



Emily Murphy-O'Connor PPA (2013)



Annabelle Goymer (PPA 2023), Annie Frere (PPA 1995) and Amy Emberson (PPA 2024)



Giles Pickford (PPA 2024) and George Campbell-Jones (PPA 2025)



Matthew Tobin (PPA 1991)



Hannah Wyatt (PPA 2023)

Prosecco and Stollen

By Liv Matthews (PPA 2017)

The lights are already twinkling across the city, shopping centres may have had their festive displays up since October, and conversations everywhere seem to revolve around to-do lists and travel plans, but for me, and I know for many other alumni, the true magic of Christmas doesn't begin until I'm sitting in the Chapel, surrounded by candlelight, listening to a Baines student sing that opening solo of *Once in Royal David's City*.

The Carol Service was, as always, magical. From the first note to the final prayer, the choir filled the Chapel with that unmistakable warmth and nostalgia that instantly transports you back to school days and Christmases past.

The new addition of the Prosecco and Stollen gathering hosted by Emma-Lou set exactly the right tone: festive, friendly, and full of cheer. With alumni of all ages chatting and catching up it was the perfect warm-up to the evening ahead. If you didn't attend this year, it's one not to miss next time!

As always, I left the Chapel feeling that particular blend of joy that only this service brings — a reminder of what makes Christmas at Prior Park so special.



Louis Huyton (PPA 2023) and Ben Horan



Amy Emberson, Layla Kanpulat and Harriet Martin (PPA 2024)



Alys Redman (PPA 2021) and Tommy Pollock (PPA 2019)



Sachin Padiachy (PPA 2023) and Mrs Colquhoun



Liv Matthews (PPA 2017) and Niamh Quinn (PPA 2021)



Hannah Wyatt, Mrs Redman and Serin Johnson-Stefiuk (PPA 2023)



Simon Beck (PPA 1969) and Mr Watkinson-Trim



Clemmie Mortimer, Katie Ashbee and Letty Allen (PPA 2021)



Tor (PPA 2008) and Caspian Johnson (PPA 2007)



Farewell from Dee

Writing this for the Gossip Bowl means that the time has come for me to retire from Prior. I started 27 years ago, although I very nearly didn't make it to interview. Walking through the gates I was met by a squad of CCF students marching down the drive, all apparently armed. Having just come back from living in Kenya for five years, seeing someone with a gun coming straight towards you meant there was a strong likelihood that you were going to die! However, I am glad that I persevered. A slightly daunting, formal interview in the head's study with the head, the bursar, the head of the common room and the president of the PPA resulted in my appointment. Over time I worked with three PPA presidents,

Andy Owen (PPA 1957), Suzannah Angelo-Sparling (PPA 1987) and Peter Hilton (PPA 1962) and together we took the Gossip Bowl from a few A4 stapled pages to a black and white magazine and then finally in my last year to the introduction of colour. Over my time with PPA, I forged many lasting friendships which have remained in place throughout my time here. It was truly a privilege to work alongside our alumni, and I have been delighted to see so many of them both old and young, returning to touch base with the alumni office. Now it is finally time to find "Room to be Me!" I will miss the alumni, I promise I won't be a stranger, and I am grateful to have been part of the Prior Park journey.



Dee Miller (Bailey)

London drinks

By Emma-Louise Goymer



Amy Li (PPA 2009) and David Adair (PPA 1976)



Caroline Paskell (PPA 1994) and Ed Borton (PPA 2010)



Matthew Tobin (PPA 1991), Mark Lethby (PPA 2003) and Amy Li (PPA 2009)

On a cold February evening, we hosted London Drinks at the Wolfpack in Fulham. It was great to see a number of our alumni from different generations chatting and talking about the changes and how things were in their day.

The beer flowed, the food was delicious and the stories and

experiences shared made this a wonderful evening. Thank you to all those who attended.

Peter O'Donoghue (PPA 1986), Mark Lethby (PPA 2003), Caroline Paskell (PPA 1994), Matthew Tobin (PPA 1991), Amy Li (PPA 2009), Ed Borton (PPA 2010) and David Adair (PPA 1976)



Eight Journeys, One Community

By Declan Rainey

This year, eight pupils are thriving at the College thanks to fully funded places made possible by the generosity of our alumni community. Without your support, these young people simply would not have the chance to experience a Prior Park education.

Through our transformational bursary programme, they are not only benefitting from the classroom but are also immersed in the full boarding life of the College - taking part in sport, music, drama, and all the many activities that enrich their education.

It is a privilege to witness, day by day, the profound impact this opportunity has: the confidence, joy and sense of belonging that radiates from these pupils as you meet them in the lunch queue, on the playing fields, or racing past you on the Mansion's winding staircases.



“*Confidence, joy and sense of belonging*”

With your continued support, we can open the doors of Prior Park College to even more young people whose lives will be transformed

by the education and experiences it offers. If you would like to help us extend the reach of the Transformational Bursary programme, please contact Declan Rainey, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at alumni.ppc@priorparkcollege.com

Together, we can ensure that eight journeys transform into many more - building one thriving community.

Prior Park Palladian Forum

How to work a network?

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the enduring sense of community it fosters. This spirit of belonging doesn't end at Leaver's Day - it evolves. As pupils become alumni, their shared experiences take on new meaning and purpose. Our challenge, and our opportunity, is to celebrate these connections and turn them into something practical, inspiring, and valuable for everyone.

That's why **Marc Demarquette** (PPA 1991), together with the PPA, is launching the Prior Park Palladian Forum: a professional network created by alumni, for alumni. This is not a school-led initiative: it will be owned and driven by the PPA for the PPA.

Marc explains: "For years, we've talked about how powerful our alumni community could

be if we had a way to connect meaningfully and with value. The Palladian Forum is about giving that idea structure and momentum. It belongs to the PPA, and it's there to serve alumni - a network we can all benefit from and be proud of."

Why now?

The Forum has been created to strengthen the value of belonging to the PPA and to open doors for career support, mentoring, and collaboration across our community. It will also serve as a platform to showcase and celebrate the achievements of alumni, while giving today's pupils the chance to benefit from the generosity, guidance, and wisdom of those who came before them.

How will it work?

At its heart, the Forum will be an online hub where members can connect, join sector

groups, find mentors, and share opportunities. Alongside this, a dedicated business directory will highlight alumni-led businesses and services, helping to promote and support one another's ventures. The network will also come to life through events and meet-ups organised by and for alumni, and through a strong mentoring and careers strand that offers advice, internships, and job opportunities to younger alumni and current pupils.

What does it need?

For the Forum to thrive, it needs the active involvement of the PPA community. Whether through mentoring, attending events, sharing opportunities, or stepping forward as sector or regional champions, every contribution will help build momentum and ensure the network grows into a truly valuable resource for all members.



My flight in a Spitfire

By Wilfrid de Freitas (PPA 1962)

"The risks encountered are considerably greater than those associated with flying in an airliner and may result in death or serious injury."

These are among the opening words in the obligatory reading I received prior to my flight in an original Spitfire. Not exactly the kind of reassurance one expects having already purchased a product, but clearly one imposed by the insurance company. But I'm getting ahead of myself, so let me start at the beginning as the well-known song says, a very good place to start.

Having had one uncle in RAF Bomber Command, and another in RAF Ground Logistics, and ever on the lookout for an unusual birthday present, my sister thought that a flight in an original WWII Spitfire would be the perfect entrée to my ninth decade. And so it was on Monday, June 2nd, a group of us headed out to Biggin Hill in Kent. Our party consisted of my sister, Gillian de Freitas, my wife Susan Ravdin, my equally ancient school friend Geoffrey Ferreira, who you probably know, and of course me. My companions were to accompany the Spitfire in a chase plane.

Having donned my flight suit, the (again obligatory) pre-flight video demonstrated what to do in case of an emergency. The



phrase "jump, jump, jump" and instructions regarding the non-automatic opening of the parachute - "right hand across the body and pull the manual release handle" (lefties take note!) - spring to mind.

The Spitfire, usually a single-seater, had been modified into a 2-seater. My pilot (I was going to say co-pilot) Barry, welcomed me on the tarmac and, once strapped in, we were off. After what seemed like an impossibly short stretch down the runway, we were airborne. I think the chase plane had gone ahead of us, but we were soon flying in tandem, sometimes seemingly impossibly close; think wing-tip to wing-tip (I exaggerate only to emphasize). I could see the others in the chase plane taking photographs and they could see me clearly.

After flying over Leeds Castle, Maidstone and the surrounding Kent countryside, Barry asked me (we were both wearing those old-fashioned helmets like one sees in the WWII movies) if I'd like to do some aerobatics. I said "Well, I'm here now so let's go for it" so he took us into a victory-roll (which involved flying upside down for a few seconds). It was so intoxicating we did two more before resuming what by now had become just a routine flight in a Spitfire, before heading back to base. As we landed, Barry asked, "How did you like it?" To which I replied: "It was the second most exhilarating moment of my life." When he asked, "what was the first?", I could only reply "never you mind!"

If you're ever offered the opportunity of a flight in an original WWII Spitfire, take it!

Stumbling across climbing

By Lucy Adams (PPA 2005)

I stumbled across climbing after graduating from Newcastle University. I fell in love with it immediately and was soon desperate to take the skills from the indoor centres and into the wild.

I moved from Newcastle to Bristol, where I found grassroots outdoor climbing communities like the Avon Mountaineering Club, whose teaching, lifts, borrowed kit and tall tales have spurred me forward. I don't come from an outdoorsy background, so training up to become independent in the mountains has been an incredibly steep learning curve, but worth every second.

I have been awarded a place on the John Conville Memorial Training course (JCMT), a prestigious alpine mountaineering programme for young Brits. The course allows me to tackle challenging routes with expert guidance. I will then take on more serious routes with my JCMT team, after which I will climb with veteran alpinists from the Avon Mountaineering Club. After that, I have one of the funded scholarship places on the Womens' Alpine Adventure Club meet in Cormayeur.

There's no substitute for training in the Alps, and the opportunity to complete multiple 4000m routes and build my independence as a mountaineer will be invaluable. Most of my training so far has been with men 10-20 years older (who have nonetheless been wonderful and helpful) so I'm particularly excited to partner with climbers my age on the JCMT meet, and then to take on hard routes with other women in Cormayeur.

From living in a tent for four weeks, to 3am starts, to the obvious physical challenge of 18-hour days climbing thousands of metres, this will undoubtedly be the hardest thing I've ever done, and training has been very intensive. I believe that taking on this challenge embodies Prior's value of courage. It will also require deep collaboration and teamwork, both of which were instilled in me at the College and especially in English House.

I'm an avid follower of pioneering climbers like Fay Manners and Freja Shannon, and I aspire to climb in the Greater Ranges one day, particularly with all-female projects like the Galtitude expedition in Kyrgyzstan last year. I'm very keen to make mountaineering progress visible and accessible to other young women.

I am keeping an informal blog for my friends, which gives you more of a window of my day-to-day. (Warning: colourful language!)



It's not a job for everyone

By James Luxton (PPA 2015)

I have been an officer at HMP Lincoln since May 2021, a career decision that came after stints in retail and contemplating joining the police. HMP Lincoln itself is a male Category B "reception and resettlement" prison, sitting at the top end of Lincoln city, opposite the hospital, with views of Lincoln Cathedral.

Reception and resettlement essentially means that we serve the courts, holding prisoners who have been remanded by a judge or magistrate prior to going on trial or being sentenced. We also take prisoners who have been recalled to prison due to breaches of their license conditions by probation and the police. As well as this, we accept prisoners from other establishments on transfer who are from the local area for local release, as well as housing those on short sentences and preparing them for release.

Since we serve the courts and police, we take individuals who have committed any crime deemed severe enough to warrant time in prison. This creates challenges daily for staff, especially in the current climate of civil unrest and division.

HMP Lincoln consists of four wings, holding (at capacity) around 720 men, aged 18 and above. I have worked across the establishment, starting on Echo wing, the vulnerable prisoner (VP) wing, which predominately houses sex offenders, before moving to Alpha wing, then reception, and I am now back on Echo wing.

I have also been on detached duty at HMP Woodhill, HMP Lowdham Grange, and HMP Wandsworth (following the escape that took place in 2023).

Each prison is different in terms of processes, security level and prisoners. However, each prison I have worked in has the same issues, which can be seen across the whole prison estate, and more recently in the media: overcrowding, violence, drug use, self-harm and suicide are prevalent throughout. Add to that understaffing, inexperienced staff and staff corruption, and it makes a very unstable environment to walk into every day. "Every day is different" is an understatement. You genuinely don't know what you may be walking in to. A prisoner that you had a good rapport with one day



James Luxton (PPA 2015) and Carrie Jenkins

may suddenly take issue with you the next and this can escalate to violence all too often. I have been assaulted, witnessed self-harm and suicide first hand, split up fights involving weapons and have found drugs during cell searches. There aren't too many 'normal' days in the prison service.

You do what you can for the prisoners in your care, with many having poor or no form of education, and many suffering from mental health issues. We offer work and educational courses where prisoners can earn real qualifications such as GCSE's and Open University degrees, to bricklaying and forklift driving licenses. Some prisoners engage well with the courses, and it is genuinely good to see someone achieve a qualification that will aid them on release, and even better when you don't see them again as a result. You see the good that rehabilitation can achieve. However, from my experience rehabilitation solely comes down to whether the individual wants to be rehabilitated.

Being a reception prison in a small city means that you see the same faces repeatedly. A couple of prisoners have been in and out of the prison at least 10 times

in the four and a half years I have worked there. You try to get these men into work so that they can gain qualifications, work with probation so that they have suitable housing on release and work with internal agencies so they can gain basic things like a bank account for release, but unfortunately with some of these men you know it is just a matter of time until you see them again. It can become frustrating because after working with them for so long, you do form a rapport to the point where you want to see them succeed, but they seemingly just don't want to.

The above sounds negative and absolutely screams "why would you want to do this job?!", but I genuinely can't see myself in another role. The bad days can be truly horrendous, but the good days get you through it. Some of your colleagues become like family as you face incidents together, and they get you through it with brutal humour and camaraderie. They make the job tolerable during the tough days and make the good days better. It's a challenging job that throws everything at you and it has definitely changed me as a person for good and for bad. It has made me more cynical and less trusting, but it has also made me more confident in myself. It is not a job for everyone, but it's a job that is for me and I love it. I'm in the process of applying for search dog handler roles within the prison estate and if that comes to fruition that will pretty much be me set for my career... so fingers crossed!

Art and tech

Richard Klein (PPA 1976) has started a Substack art blog, the Cantankerous Art Critic, proving, if you will, that old boys can (vaguely) come to grips with new tech. It is free to subscribe, and you get a new posting every week or so. Keeps people alert to art shows and other related events and topics. Here is the link: https://richardklein12.substack.com?utm_source=navbar&utm_medium=web





Clean up that beach!

By Flora Blathwayt (PPA 2005)

Just before the pandemic I went on a beach-cleaning event and it really hit home the importance of communities coming together to bring positive change. Not only is beach cleaning great for the environment, but it's also brilliant for mental health; it helps you to connect with nature and honestly brings so much joy.

This inspired me to create Washed Up Cards, a social enterprise that aims to promote wellness through group beach cleans and workshops to create products from the plastic and rubbish we collect.

We sell handmade cards decorated with plastic we collect that help spread a message of goodwill, hope and care for the planet we live in.



We can't all do everything but Washed Up Cards helps you discover the little things you can do to make the world a slightly better place.

Deeply into denim

By Kira Tenk (PPA 2022)

Hello Gossip Bowl! I am entering my final year at Goldsmiths University, studying BA Design. Over the summer, I was required to organise compulsory internship work to qualify for my final year; this is intended to strengthen my professional network and increase my chances of employment after graduation.

The most notable of the companies I worked with was the start-up LaundRe — the UK's first sustainable denim hub located in Canning Town, East London. All denim in the UK is imported, with most manufacturing offshored to Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Turkey; this has led to several issues, including high emissions from international transport, long lead times (which often cause designs to miss trends and not sell), and little awareness of denim consumption. Denim itself, before being made into a garment, is called "raw"—meaning it has the qualities of being very stiff and dark indigo. In short, the finishing processes (lightening the colour and adding textures) add most of the garment's value. LaundRe aims to disrupt the current system, by offering these finishing services in a way that promotes sustainable fast fashion.

For unsold stock, new finishes can be applied to make garments suitable for resale.



Traditionally, this was done manually scraping the indigo from the cotton yarn and manually using a Dremel to create rips. LaundRe uses a laser technology to produce the same results in seconds, guided by BMP graphics. Similar to a workshop laser cutter, it harnesses concentrated light to burn away the indigo surface in controlled patterns. Raw denim that needs tinting, desizing (removing PVA or starch used in weaving), or lightening can be processed in LaundRe's specialist washers, which mimic stone washing and bleaching with 80% less water and no chemicals. A corrugated drum retains water during rotation for greater efficiency, while a nebulising system creates tiny water molecules that penetrate the denim with less overall water. Indigo reduction can also be achieved through ozone treatment. This involves a large machine and a process often used for



hospital-grade sanitation. While ozone is toxic to humans, it effectively removes odours and excess colouring from denim.

As I look ahead to my third-year degree show, I'm eager to study denim in more depth — the information above only scratches the surface. During the month I spent at LaundRe, I helped with production for clients and sat in on meetings with Stuart Trevor (founder of All Saints), eBay Europe, Fat Face, Nudie Jeans, ELV Denim, Hugo Boss, River Island, M&S, and other notable denim producers. LaundRe's CEO, Salli Deighton, has generously offered her support for my final year in any way possible even offering to secure me an industry pass to Amsterdam's Kingpins event for research opportunities. Feel free to follow my final-year journey or message me with any denim-related questions on Instagram at @tenkiedesigns!



Christine Nicola Ward (née Gallaher) (PPA 1985)

Founder and CEO of Rockflower Inc, the global venture philanthropy fund, died at home in Little Compton, Rhode Island, USA, on March 27th, 2025, aged 57, following a long illness borne with characteristic good grace and great fortitude. Proud and steadfast mother of Francesca, Lulu, Isabella and Rex, loving daughter of Magdalene Ashman-Marr and the late Christopher Gallaher, stepdaughter of Alexandra Gallaher and beloved sister of Deborah. Tine, as she was known by all who knew her, was one of the first girls to join Prior and a trailblazer in so many ways. She bettered the lives of many girls through her foundation, which connects global capital to community-based social enterprises and relief projects around the world, including water and sanitation programmes, public health initiatives, housing, education and humanitarian relief.

Tine achieved success by eliminating barriers at individual and organizational levels through the creation of deep, trust-based partnerships that prioritized people, relationships and ideas above all else.

As founder of The Darfur Project, Tine linked key figures in the financial community to an effective mode of providing essential emergency relief to those caught in a complex humanitarian crisis. From 2006 to 2010, \$17.5 million worth of medicine and essential aid was delivered. Through first-hand experiences in conflict zones and natural disasters, Tine understood the critical nature of ensuring money gets into the hands of those best placed to use it. In the majority of cases, those hands belong to women in their communities. Tine founded Rockflower because she understood that, by unlocking access to capital to improve the lives of women and girls, a new economic paradigm is possible.

Those who worked with her said that Tine didn't wait for perfect decks or media moments. She moved



with instinct, led with heart, and supported from a place of trust and radical belief. To be seen by Tine was to be changed. To be funded by her was to be believed in, fully and fiercely. Tine quietly invested in millions of women and girls globally. Not for applause, but because she knew it mattered.

"Listen to your heartbeat," she once said. "That's where the truth lives."

They say that Tine wasn't just a funder, she was a force. A mentor. A confidant. A friend. A really good friend. She knew that the best kind of support doesn't come with conditions. It comes with fire, kindness, and presence.

Tine's simple yet transformative philosophy continues to inspire and uplift countless lives around the world. In Zimbabwe, the Women Advocacy Project (WAP) has been one of Rockflower's partners since 2016 and is testament to Tine's unwavering conviction that incremental, daily improvements can collectively move mountains.

WAP's executive director, Constance Mugari, writes: "Tine Ward's enduring legacy ignites a beacon of loving kindness, inspiring all who knew her to carry forward her torch of compassion and empathy. Rest in power, Tine. Your impact extends far beyond a lasting legacy – you launched a movement that will continue to uplift and empower generations to come. Your light hasn't faded; it has illuminated the path forward, guiding us toward a brighter future. We love you now and forever, and we will cherish the memories of your extraordinary life."

Aline Bontogho of the Association Burkinabé des Femmes Battantes (ABFB) writes: "Mrs. Christine Ward was a messenger from Heaven to help women and girls in Africa. Even though she is no longer physically here, her legacy will endure in our lives. Her absence teaches me how precious her presence was. Her departure teaches me to value every moment of my life and to love with intensity as God asks us to. Now, rest in peace in the arms of God."

Asma Gardezi writes: "Tine Ward was a beacon of light and a true force for good in this world. Her unwavering belief in community-led change and her tireless efforts to uplift women and girls have created ripples of empowerment across continents, including here in Pakistan, where her vision and support gave hope, courage, and opportunity to so many. Her legacy is not only in the lives she touched, but in the generations she inspired to believe in change from the ground up. Thank you, Tine, for standing with women, for believing in the power of compassion, and for reminding us that real leadership begins with heart. Love and deepest respect from Pakistan."

Alec Motts (PPA 1956)

Alec was born in 1937 in Woolwich, where his father was in the Royal Artillery. Alec's grandfather was a master butcher with his own slaughterhouse in Norwich, and all Alec's uncles became butchers. During the War, with his father on active service, Alec lived with his maternal grandparents at Larkhill in Wiltshire, where they looked after 120 horses for the Ministry of Defence. Alec became a proficient horse rider.

Alec went to Cricklade at the age of nine, and then on to Prior Park, where he played cricket, hockey and rugby for the school and passed three A-levels. He did his National Service in the Royal Artillery and then moved back to the family home in Norwich, where he supported his beloved Norwich City FC.

Alec's first post-army job was working for Charrington, Gardner & Locket (London) Ltd, becoming assistant manager of their Norwich depot. He managed 30 coal lorries, five oil tankers and some

50 men, his boss mainly dealing with the customers. It was here that he met and married June, the director's secretary.

With the decline of the solid fuel industry, Alec joined Lloyds Bank in Norwich in 1962, aged 25. He subsequently moved to the bank's Cambridge branches, to Southwold as assistant manager, to Norwich as non-accounting sub-manager of three branches, to Great Shelford as manager with eight staff, to Newmarket with 22 staff (as well as several famous trainers on the books), and finally to Lowestoft as senior manager. When he retired from the bank in 1997, aged 60, he joined Klyne Tugs as a director.

Alec and June had three children: Julia, Anne and John. Alec was very proud when John was selected to play rugby for England Under 16s. John had started his rugby at Cambridge RUFC, where the somewhat notorious Jeffrey Archer encouraged Alec to coach. Alec later appeared as a guest on *This Is Your Life* when Archer was featured.

After Alec's retirement, he and June returned to Cambridge to be nearer to their children. They had seven grandchildren. He was actively involved in the Round Table.

Over the years, Alec played cricket for Brooke and for Carrow in Norfolk, and for the Travellers and Stapleford in Cambridge, becoming president of Cambridgeshire County Cricket Association. He loved golf and was a member of the Gog Magog Golf Club in Cambridge from 1976. He also enjoyed playing and coaching rugby, coaching at Cambridge, Lowestoft & Yarmouth, and Shelford rugby clubs. He was president of Cambridgeshire RFU from 1999 to 2001, and chairman from 2001 to 2004 and from 2006 to 2008.

Following a stroke, Alec had various medical conditions that limited his activities in his last few years. He died on April 17th, 2025, aged 87, surrounded by his family. His requiem mass at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge was attended by many old friends and colleagues.

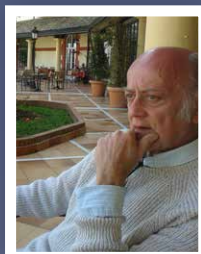


Michael Newling (PPA 1960)

Captain of cricket and hockey, keen actor (often playing female roles, including Cecily Cardew, left, in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and the wife of Jesse in J M Barrie's *The Boy David*). Member of the RAF cadets and older brother of T J Newling.

Steven Cole

Steven died on August 25th, 2025, after a long fight with cancer, at his home in Wells, with Rosemary and his three daughters at his bedside. After retiring as head of sixth form at Millfield, Steven did some brilliant English teaching at PPC. Rosemary and family are in deep mourning.



was gardening in North London, sailing with his late father on the Costa del Sol and the Med, or his love of cooking. He always had a project on the go. He was a perfectionist in everything he did and was always happy to learn new skills.

Harry had a great personality. He was very intelligent and loved by all (including pets!). He was not judgemental nor did he discriminate. He truly was a special person, an English Gentleman through and through (and a native Spaniard when necessary).

He was full of kindness, generous and never short of advice. Friends and their families were important to him, and they all cherish the time they shared with him. He was understanding, supportive and accepting.

Harry's funeral was held in London on October 3rd, 2025. His wish to be cremated and his ashes taken to Spain will be honoured. A memorial donation page in his name has been set up, naming the Prior Park Educational Trust as beneficiary.

Harry was a remarkable man, and he will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Susie Homes

Many of our alumni and former staff will fondly remember Susie, who was so much more than the Headmaster's PA following the Christian Brothers departure in the early 1980s. We are deeply saddened to share the news of her passing. Susie's funeral took place on Monday 22nd September at Haycombe Cemetery. Our thoughts are with Jeremy and all her family and friends.

Peter James Walsh (PPA 1959)

Peter died in December 2024. He attended the sixth form at Prior. He appreciated his time at the school and was proud to have benefited from his excellent education. He went on to have a successful business career and a very happy marriage of 61 years, and to be a committed, involved member of the Catholic Church. He was a life-long Catenian, a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and a recipient of the Order of Australia for services to the church and business.

Harry Francis Van Heesewijk (PPA 1976)

Died on December 8th, 2024, after losing a battle with cancer. The much-loved brother of William, Frisci, Marc, Yetta, and Steven. He was not married at the time he died, but he left behind a former wife, Jane, and two children, Rose and Christopher.



Harry Xavier Plummer (PPA 1973)

Harry died on September 15th, 2025. Emelia, Harry's wife, writes: It is with a heavy heart that we announce the peaceful passing of my beloved husband Harry Plummer. After a short illness at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, in May this year, Harry passed away at the Whittington Hospital, Highgate, at the age of 71.

Harry was born in Malaga Spain in 1954 to British parents, Harry and Marita Plummer. He was sent to Prior Park Prep school in Cricklade before attending Prior Park College. He spoke highly of his time at school and highly of all the friends he made. He enjoyed and had fond memories of completing and achieving his Duke of Edinburgh award as well as being in the CCF. Harry left Prior in 1973.

Harry went to Canterbury to study and pursue a career in architecture, becoming an architect in the office of Sir Frederick Gibberd in London. Harry's notable achievements were Coutts Bank in the Strand and London Central Mosque, Regents Park.

Harry lived in London for 44 years. His passion for Art (inspired by "Toffee" Palmer, the art teacher), photography and sports never diminished, along with his creativity in other interests, whether it

Elizabeth Parker

Liz was appointed as a teacher of Mathematics at Prior Park in 2004 until her retirement in July 2015. She will always be remembered with the greatest gratitude, professional respect and personal affection. Liz was truly committed to the progress of all her pupils, helping them day in and day out to make real progress.

Liz had endless patience with those who struggled and had a truly remarkable ability to inspire them to greater ambition and lifting their self-confidence. Rightly and cheerfully, she set very high standards and there was no doubt that she regarded teaching as a vocation. As a colleague, Liz was full of warmth, kindness, sharp intelligence and of course renowned

for her sense of humour and that lovely twinkle in her eye.

Liz adored her family - Katie, Amie and Scott - and talked about them often to anyone who would listen. Her five grandchildren brought her endless pleasure, and she always found time to dance and sing with them in the kitchen.

We are truly grateful for the example she set to students and colleagues and for her company. We are all richer for having known her.



Other deaths

Howard Coulson-Smith (PPA 1958)

John Teucher (PPA 1954).

John M L Carter (PPA 1962).
Died November 2024.

Eddie Chan (PPA 1978). Our condolences to his wife Susan and his children. Thinking too of his brothers Thomas (PPA 1981) and Tony (PPA 1978). We last saw Eddie back in the school in 2023.

Arthur Ellis (PPA 1980). His funeral was held in New South Wales, attended by John Greene (PPA 1979).



Archivist's Report Call to Arms!

By Simon Beck (PPA 1969)

I am pleased to say that the volume of unrecorded documents and photographs still to be added to the online archive is much reduced but it is apparent that there are a number of gaps that exist, particularly in the team photograph records. However, some of those gaps can be filled by referring to other Archive records such as photos in the old school magazines, e.g. The Gossip Bowl. So my next aim is to either copy and paste the missing team photos or insert details of where the missing photo can be found so that a full chronological order is achieved. Where gaps cannot be filled I propose to insert a "Missing Item Label" with an appeal for any alumnus who has a copy of that missing item to send a close-up photograph of it to the Alumni Office. Additionally, if you have a photo that you feel would be appropriate for the school's archive please submit it, e.g. your arrival at the school taken by your loving parents and kept on the home mantelpiece for all to see.

Besides missing photographs there is a section "Reminisces," which enables the budding wordsmiths amongst you to record your memories of your days at Prior and/or Cricklade, or perhaps even memories of a specific single event. Contributions are always welcome including such events as nearly burning down a tree in Rainbow



Woods using a large mixture of chemicals "borrowed" from the Chemistry Lab by two young men in St Paul's. I'm prevented from describing the detonation process but it worked and no significant damage was done to either the miscreants or the tree.

Don't forget that if you want to look at past school magazines, or check who was with you in your chosen sport/team, just log onto the Archive.

Enter "Prior Park Alumni"

Go to "Prior Park College Archive," and click "Here"

Enter your username and password OR select "Register New User" and follow the instructions

New Leavers' Day Prizes

Martin Fisher (7th October 1940 – 5th June 2024) was a teacher of classics and a guiding light in thousands of lives. A Roman Catholic convert, he became the first lay senior deputy head of Downside School in 1995. In 2004 he joined Prior Park College as head of classics and taught at the College for 16 years. Throughout his teaching career of 60 years, he was unflinching in his encouragement of others and steadfast in his belief in the power of language and memory to change

lives. This prize is dedicated to his memory by his daughter and son-in-law, Rosemary and Adam Baylis-West.

We are also delighted to announce that the **Maddon** family added a further cup to recognise improvement in hockey. They also donated an award to recognise outstanding effort in mathematics during the A Level course.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 10th January 2026

Netball and boys' hockey

Saturday 25th April 2026

1996 30-year reunion

Saturday 6th June 2026

2021 5-year reunion

Sunday 7th June 2026

Cricket, tennis, 1986 40-year reunion, 2006 20-year reunion and 2016 10-year reunion

Saturday 9th October 2026

Mansion Lunch and PPA Medal Ceremony

Attention all 1976s!

Robert Armstrong (PPA 1976) is proposing to organise a 50th reunion of the 1976 Cohort in 2026, probably in November (exact date to be confirmed). At this stage, he is particularly interested to hear from old boys who haven't been receiving his emails in recent times. They can get in touch with Emma-Louise at the college alumni.ppc@priorparkschools.com

Robert is still living in Essex, semi-retired with much to keep him engaged.



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.

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



Ralph Allen Drive, Bath BA2 5AH

Tel: +44 (0)1225 587498

Email: alumni.ppc@priorparkschools.com
www.priorparkalumni.com



Prior Park Alumni



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