



The Old Priorian Association

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2011

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From The President, OPA

Dear Members,

Earlier this year, the Association and the School co-hosted our inaugural "School View", welcoming back many of our Members who had not returned to the School since finishing their education. Having reminisced about their schooldays with other Old Priorians and staff – past and present – and after an informal lunch in "The Cloisters" (winner of both Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and British Council for School Environments (BSCE) awards), Old Priorians were given a guided tour of the

School, with its array of new buildings and facilities for today's co-educated St Benedict's pupils.

Our thanks to Christian Dupuis (OP 1954) who both wrote his own account of the day and provided us with the photograph for this Newsletter.

Other successful events over the past few months have been another "cohorts" reunion lunch for Old Priorians of 1955-65 vintage, the Priorian Golf Day at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club and our first Old Priorian Netball 7s tournament, which was organized to coincide with the annual rugby 7s tournament at the Playing Fields in Perivale – all of which you can read about in more detail in this edition.

I hope you enjoy our 2011 Autumn/Winter Newsletter; as ever, I encourage you to send in your news, stories and photographs for our Spring/Summer 2012 edition.

Meanwhile, as the days grow shorter and the nights draw in as we approach the end of 2011, I leave you to enjoy this issue. I hope that I will have the chance to meet many of you in person at our ever-growing number of Association events over the coming months.

Godspeed.

*Paul Fagan (OP 1991)
President, The Old Priorian Association*

School View and Lunch May 2011

One morning of April 1954, my father took me to London by air. It was my first flight ever across the Channel. We met Dom Bernard Orchard at the then Ealing Priory School. He welcomed me; he was impressive and kind. And I was left at the house of Miss Sheilagh O'Hara in Sutherland Road, W13. My knowledge of English was limited: a few words from the ASSIMIL "my tailor is rich", "my tailor is not rich".

One morning some two months afterwards, thanks to Mr Hanley, the brilliant French teacher and Miss O'Hara who spoke perfect French, having studied philosophy at Louvain University in Belgium, I discovered, to my own surprise, that I understood English. To further my knowledge, I came back for one month in 1955.

Somehow, having taken life membership to the OPA, I was kept informed of its activities all through the following years and I had also kept in touch with John Wall (1955). It was the time when letters were still written on paper and sent by

Royal Mail!

When the announcement of the OPA lunch on May 8th came, after checking with John to find out if he was free that day, I thought it was a good opportunity to show St Benedict's to Marie-Christine, my wife, the Eurostar making the trip so easy now. I had hoped to be

able to walk again from Sutherland Road to the school, as I had done so many times half a century ago, a pilgrimage of sorts but we arrived too late at Ealing Broadway underground station and went straight on.

After 57 years, the houses were still looking the same along the streets. On



*(back left to right): Marie-Christine Dupuis and Paula Wall
(front left to right): Christian Dupuis and John Wall*

The Old Priorian Newsletter always welcomes contributions from Old Boys and Girls about their experiences at the School, life after school and details of reunions. Please contact the Editor, Mary Keal c/o The Old Priorian Association, St Benedict's School, 54 Eaton Rise, Ealing, London W5 2ES

the way, I did not quite recognize the buildings, apart from the Abbey Church where I met a Benedictine monk, as tall as Father Bernard was, who told me that Miss O'Hara had passed away.

Trying to live again one's past is curious as memories are blurred, a few names, Father Brown, Mr Hanley obviously, my house – Pickering, names of 6th formers – Vandaele (1954), from France, Wisniewski (1955), Styburski (1955), 2 other Polish students, (there were 4 of them I remember) and we went once together to Brighton in a very, very old

car; but nothing much remains in the memory about the buildings. Being there again, even if I did not recognize much, meeting again John Wall and Paula after so many decades, I felt I belonged and was simply, very plainly, deeply happy about it, conscious that the knowledge of English I acquired at St Benedict's had been the cornerstone on which the professional life of these last 57 years of mine had been built.

In the afternoon, while the participants were shown the new buildings I dreamt that in a few years time, I could, as my

father had done, send our daughter Alix, who is now 11 years old, to St Benedict's. Marie-Christine, who got to like the school during our guided tour agreed with me.

There would however be a difference to me, I had studied in Ealing Priory School. She would study in an Abbey School...

Christian Dupuis (1954)

Editor's Note: For the sake of History we have added OP years to Christian's article.

A Memorable Lunch at Shampers

“Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,

So do our minutes hasten to their end;

Each changing place with that which goes before.”

The opening lines of the only one of Shakespeare's sonnets which I can now remember.

Well, a considerable number of minutes have changed places with the ones which went before since I left St Benedict's in the summer of 1957. The only former old boy I have kept in touch with over the years has been Kevin Hannigan (1957). We were friends at school, although in different years, but what really kept us in touch was that Kevin was married to my younger sister, Monica, who sadly died in March 2006, after suffering a stroke.

I was aware that a number of old boys got together for a lunch in London twice a year. Kevin told me that my name came up from time to time and when I told him that I would be crossing the pond from the Cayman Islands, where I have lived for the last thirty-seven years, to attend my daughter Caroline's wedding in Barcelona, he asked if I would like him to try and arrange a special lunch so that I could meet some of my former colleagues from school. Naturally, I said that I would be delighted if it could be arranged. And so the plans went ahead.

Kevin came with me to Barcelona to the wedding, which was a lovely occasion, and we then returned to the UK so I could visit some relatives. I stayed with Kevin in Lechlade in Gloucestershire.

The lunch was arranged for Tuesday, 26th April, at Shampers restaurant off Regents Street where the biannual lunch is traditionally held. Kevin and I were the first to arrive, closely followed by

Bernard Stutt (1955) and Richard Baker (1959). I had been in contact recently with Bernard, who had made great efforts to trace me and sent me a long letter to the Cayman Islands. We have been corresponding by email and it was a very great pleasure to see him again after so many years.

Next to arrive in quick succession were Tony Japes (1957), Brian Taylor (1960) and David Randell (1957). I remembered Tony very well, but not Brian nor David. To be quite honest, I think that all of us would have passed each other in the street without the hint of recognition after the passing of so many years. *“Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth, and delves the parallels in beauty's brow”* – Shakespeare again!

Apologies were received from Brian Clancy (1959), who had family commitments, and I am sure that Dennis O'Keeffe (1957) would have been there but for his tragic accident. It is good to hear that he is making progress, although he has a long road ahead by all accounts. I wish him all the very best for a full recovery, as I know we all do.

After a drink at the bar, we all proceeded downstairs to the dining room to eat. Being seven in number, it was possible to talk to everyone and there was great deal of, “Do you remember so and so, and do you remember that time when...?” Names of former colleagues came up frequently and “Zolo” (Zoltowski) was mentioned more than once. The meal was perfect and both the wine and the conversation flowed smoothly. I had brought a couple of albums of photos taken over the years which I passed around with some slight embarrassment, since they were mostly all about me! But they seemed to generate some interest. I suppose that my life in the Army in Northern Ireland and Africa and my Colonial Police Service, again in Africa and later here in the Cayman Islands can be said to be a little out of the ordinary.

Before we knew it, the restaurant staff were indicating that it was time to go. Upstairs, there was time for one last photograph, kindly taken by Simon, the owner of Shampers, and then we were out in the street and heading off for our respective journeys home. As we walked along Regents Street, ablaze with Union



(left to right): Tony Japes, Richard Baker, Bernard Stutt, Kevin Hannigan, Kevin McCann, Brian Taylor, David Randell

Flags for the Royal Wedding, Richard Baker said to me, "You see, Kevin, we tried to make you feel welcome!" Well, I felt very welcome indeed and it was a great occasion which will be long remembered.

The next day, there was an amazing coincidence. Kevin and I were heading back to Lechlade along the M4 and we stopped for some coffee at a service area.

Was it a Costas we went to? Kevin headed for the toilet and I decided to follow. As I walked in, who should walk out with a, "Did I really see that?" look on his face but Tony Japes, who was on his way back to the West Country. He had just walked passed Kevin Hannigan. On any other day, he and I would have walked straight past each other. There was time for a quick chat and then we

were on our respective ways again.

I do not know when I will visit the UK again. It is unlikely to be soon in the current economic climate. But the lunch was one that I will remember for many years to come and I am most grateful to all those who made it possible.

With best wishes to all,

Kevin McCann (1957)

Reunion Lunch September 2011

Three years ago Brian Taylor (1960) organised a most successful reunion lunch held in the Pavilion at the playing fields at Perivale; this was for those who had left school fifty years ago. On that occasion many expressed a wish to see how the School had developed since they had graced its portals so long ago. With that in mind, Brian again organised a similar lunch gathering, this time at the School and with a ten year (1955-1965) cohort span.

So it was that on Sunday 25th September Old Priorians, their partners and their guests gathered in St Benedict's School – sixty six in all of whom forty were Old Boys most of whom had either reached three score years and ten or were fast approaching that goal! Many had found that attending the 10.30am Mass in the Abbey was a most suitable way of starting their reunion with St Benedict's – for some it was their first "coming back" in over fifty years.

Before lunch we gathered in the Cloisters over drinks and nibbles; reunions were forged for many who had not seen each other since leaving School in the late fifties and early sixties. OPs had come from all parts of the country and it was indeed a great pleasure to have a representative from Canada with us – Frank Flower (1960). It was a great pleasure to have with us as our guests Cecil (53-66) and Maria Friedlander, Basil (56-94) and Clare Nickerson, Chris and Tina Cleugh (Headmaster since 2002) and Catherine and Paul de Cintra (Catherine has been Bursar for many years). For lunch we were also delighted to be joined by Dom Francis and Dom Dunstan from the Abbey; they certainly stirred many memories of the past.

Lunch was taken in the The Cloisters which is now the main Assembly Hall for the whole School; an excellent meal taken leisurely over two hours with much discussion and reminiscing. After lunch most felt that they could manage a



Peter Bingham-Daly, Theresa Bingham-Daly and Cecil Friedlander

tour of the School and its many developments which was ably conducted by a recent Old Priorian, Richard de Cintra (2010) who stood in for the "regular guide" who could not be with us on this occasion. Some decided that there was "too much to catch up on" and so remained in the Hall chatting with

each other over times past.

Four hours after starting, we departed to our homes determined for many that it would not be so long again before they met up with those with whom they shared their schooldays.

Richard Baker (1959)



School Lunch 2011 Style!

Old Priorian Golf Day

After a two year break, Priorian Golf returned to its birthplace: Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club in Richmond on 9th June 2011.

And it was clear early on that the majority had not used the intervening break to maximum effect on their game – nonetheless the day was very well supported by OPs, current school parents and their guests, making a field of 29 players. Prayers were answered when we were blessed with fine weather despite the ominous forecast.

Some entertaining play and dress raised a number of questions in the minds of the RMS members witnessing our Society:

Would Ian Poulter ever be seen sporting a pair of those trousers?

What is the lowest recorded Stableford score on the course?

Has any player ever spent so much time in the sand before?

What is the collective term for a group of Irish bankers playing golf together?

Are the Heath brothers actually allowed out together unsupervised under the terms of their probation orders?

After battling the fairways and greens of the JH Taylor course, the intrepid band quaffed a few well earned pints on the terrace before enjoying an excellent carvery in the private dining room.

Prizes were presented to the glorious winners; particular mention to Shane Samarawikrema (1986) who was the best old boy on the day and to Ruaidhre Boyle, whose very impressive round of 4 over, put him on the winner's podium this year. Well done gentlemen.

Sincere & grateful thanks were given to:

Frank Casali (1984) for all the graft behind the scenes in putting the day together; liaising with the club, buying the prizes and everything else that made the day such a huge success

The Old Priorian Council for their generous sponsorship of the prizes and day

The staff at RMS for providing such a good course, stewarding and feeding us so well

and to Peter Watson (1952) with his trusty camera for capturing the highlights for posterity.

Prize Winners

Longest Drive Peter Burke

Nearest Pin Steve Davies



Shane Samarawikrema receives his trophy for "Best OP" from Phil Hopley Photo by Peter Watson

Best Team	Peter Jakob (37 pts off 14); Anthony Pireddu (35 pts off 22); Nick Pilgrim (25 pts off 26); Phil Hopley (28 pts off 17)	29 M Campbell; G Poyntz 30 D Howe 31 S Davies 32 T Greenwood; S Donan 34 S Samarawikrema 35 A Pireddu
Best OP	Shane Samarawikrema (34 pts off 22 h'cap)	37 P Jakob 38 R Boyle
Champion	Ruaidhre Boyle (38 pts off 6)	

Results

14 K Campbell

16 J Campbell

20 M Heath

21 P Burke

22 M Ainslie

23 E Heath

24 M Toolan; S East; M Cotter

25 N Pilgrim; D Farren; M-C Tsang

26 D O'Hara; G Griffin; P Coke;

J O'Sullivan; S McKee

28 P Hopley

Finally, many thanks to all the players who supported the day and for your positive feedback. We look forward to welcoming you back to RMS next summer – provisionally Thursday 14th June 2012.

As requested by some of you, we will keep the same format and also invite sponsorship for the prizes. It would be great to see more old boys, old girls and parents coming together so please spread the word. To help with our administration for next year's golf day, please send your email address to opa@stbenedicts.org.uk with 'Golf Day 2012' in the subject so that we can add you to the mailing list.

Phil Hopley (1984)

Old Priorian Cricket Day

What can I say – yet again on Sunday 3rd July 2011 the sun shone!! Two years in a row the cricket day has been fun and I am a very happy person!! The main event – being the cricket match between the OPA and the School 1st XI – was played throughout the day with the side event – the Junior Quik Cricket competition lasting about three hours. The latter was better supported than the former, with many parents turning up with large bags of yummy goodies happily cheering on their offspring in the sunshine. Eventually the

aroma of burgers permeated the air and many were tempted to partake of the wares we had for sale.

I can only apologise yet again for not knowing the scores of any of the cricket – whilst I can multi task as well as the next woman most of my time was spent popping tea bags into cups and cheese into burger buns. (I shall rely on my glamorous editing assistant to supply that information). Thanks must go to Mr Simmons and his Junior School team of staff and decans and to all the Old

Priorians who turned up to play or support.

Do keep an eye out for the date of the next cricket day – come down and see us even if you don't like cricket – you never know who else might be there!

Mary Keal (1983)

*From the "glamorous editing assistant":
School 167 for 7, OPs 163;
School won by 4 runs*

OPRFC Start Their Promotion Quest

2010-11 was an up and down season for the OPs. It was plagued by injuries for large periods of time; however some strong results were achieved in difficult circumstances. The club remained in Herts/Middlesex 1 as London Welsh Amateurs and rivals HAC were promoted. A difficult season was always going to occur at some stage however and the summer saw the club doing what it could to improve matters for this season. We'd like to thank Pete Fisher for his efforts as coach during a difficult time and wish him luck in Hong Kong. In his place the club appointed Peter Halsall and Paul Jackson as 1st XV coaches with Chris Hallisey also joining the coaching staff and taking the 2nd XV. We were also bolstered by some key signings, welcoming Joe Codrington (Imperial Medicals), Stefan Rowell (Leeds University), Will Rowan (Southampton University) and Mark Hyndman (Royal Holloway). It was great to see the return of Arnold Muisi and Sean O'Donnell to the club.

Pre-season was tough with the oft-mentioned aim to be the fittest side in the league. Strong Man circuits, car pushing and numerous sprints dominated Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings at Perivale. The effort made by all was superb, pushing themselves to their maximum. Pre-season fixtures were crucial to fine-tune our defensive strategy and patterns of play. They were also very welcome for all the players to finally have a hit out with some proper rugby following all the training! The club tour to Brighton was first up with good numbers travelling down for a fixture against the Brighton Blues – who unfortunately were not able

to get a team out! Changed and ready to go however we had a beneficial training session and divided into two sides to get some valuable contact play. Many impressed in the warm weather and all were delighted to get into the pavilion for the first of many drinks all whilst keeping the "Social Rules" close at hand. The tone was set early on and Brighton

Oceana provided an enjoyable end to the evening! In the following weeks West London RFC and Rosslyn Park 4s provided the final chances to increase our match fitness and sharpen up for the season ahead. Many thanks to Alex Wightman for organising the tour and to Adam Hanke and Ben Horan for their input to a great night out.



We need that ball!

At the time of writing the OPs have played four fixtures this season. First up was a tough fixture away at London Wasps Amateurs who had been relegated from London 3. The weather swung back and forth between sun and rain all afternoon, proving to be as inconsistent as our performance. We gave away penalties with alarming regularity and were continually punished by the boot of their good fly-half. Penalties were exchanged with us down 9-3 before Nick Farren scored in the corner following an audacious pass out the back from Jack Dever. This was soon followed up by a crisp backs move.

Rasheed Alawiye again showed his class, committing his opposite winger with a late pass to Edd Conway who was able to get to the line for a second score. The early stages of the second half again saw us attack superbly, rewarded with a Jack Dever try having linked up well with Rob Grant. 25-9 to us and seeming like we were about to run away with it. A period of indiscipline from both sides however led to a skirmish which delayed the game for a few minutes and halted our momentum. Wasps slowly fought their way back into the game and eventually got themselves to within a point. A late penalty from Conway looked like it would be enough; however Wasps then broke from their line on the last play and went the length to score the winning points. Like last year's 21-19 loss to HAC

this was another tough first game defeat that seemed hard to fathom given the position we had been in and the glimpses of class that we had shown in attack. The following training session saw a much needed re-focus and all put in a superb effort determined to immediately right the wrong and kick on.

Recently promoted Old Millhillians were next up as we had our first home game. Again our discipline proved to cause us issues as we spent the final 20 minutes down to 14 men following two consecutive yellow cards. Our defensive resilience was impressive however. A narrow 6-3 lead at half time had increased by this stage thanks to classic OP skill, fast handling allowing us to break from inside our half with David Wilkie showing his finishing ability to race in from 35 metres. OMs fought back though and gained a score of their own and we led 16-10. The tense final 20 minutes saw the OPs defend with great determination, often camped on our own line. Stefan Rowell often raced up from 12 to continually show his renowned defensive prowess. Injuries to Martin Borthwick, Sean O'Donnell and Joe Codrington were bad blows but the boys fought on and gained a valuable and much needed win. The following week the OPs travelled to Hendon who had proven to be somewhat of a bogey side in the past. We started well with a number of line breaks and typically good attacking play. However injuries began to disrupt our momentum. Edd Conway was first off followed soon by the

impressive Pete Nathan. The latter was playing only his second game in as many years following a bad knee injury and the club hopes that this new setback will not keep him out for too long. Captain Andrew Wilkie, Tom Jenkins and try-machine Seb Oddi were all on the scoresheet; however Hendon stuck with us and kept themselves in the game as we led 25-23 with 15 minutes remaining. Further injury issues ensued with Damian Langley having to go off and again the club had to finish the game with 14 players on the pitch. Our fitness and flair proved crucial late on with Jack Dever and Rob Grant carving through the opposition for two superb late tries and a 39-30 victory for the OPs.

Most recently the OPs delivered an impressive performance at home in record breaking temperatures to defeat Old Ashmoleans 85-0. Wightman, Rowan, Alawiye, Oddi and Stringer were amongst the many try scorers on the day. A confidence boosting result; however the club will not rest on its laurels in the quest for promotion and a Twickenham final in the RFU Junior Vase. Things are developing well and the pre-season work is starting to pay off and be visibly important within our games. Please come down and support the side on Saturday afternoons as continued hard work could lead to a special season. For fixture information and match photos head to <http://www.rugby-in-ealing.co.uk>

Edd Conway (2005)



Mine!

Old Priorian 7s and Netball Tournament

On the 18th September the annual OP 7s took place at Perivale alongside the inaugural OP Netball tournament. The netball was a success with 3 teams playing each other in a round-robin tournament. The school 1st team won both their games and it will have been a good run-out for them to get some practice in. The tournament showed good potential and it is hoped that as more girls come through the school the netball can be a very good occasion for them to catch up and play alongside each other again much like the rugby. Many thanks to Alison Yates, Holly Collison and Fiona Davidson for their help on their day off from school.

The rugby this year was unfortunately hampered by injuries and late drop outs. Having had 6 teams on Thursday, university departures and injuries sustained while playing on the Saturday had a big effect on the day. We persevered however and those that were present joined together and played 5 games in a row despite the hangovers and tiredness! We were pleased that something was able to go ahead and in the future we will again assess the date when it is best for the tournament to take place so that it can go back to its glory days. Thanks also to Mary Keal and Alison Conway for their great efforts with the bacon rolls and bar.

Edd Conway (2005)



Our first ever Netball Tournament



This way!

Dates for your Diaries

Diarise Now! – Full details will be published in our monthly email news and on our website when available:

OPA President's Dinner 2012: Thursday 22nd March 2012, ROSL London

School View and Lunch 2012: Sunday 29th April 2012

OPA Golf Day 2012: Thursday 14th June 2012 – *Provisional*

OPA Fencing Event: Postponed from October 2011 to Summer 2012. If you are interested in fencing for the OPA please email us and let us know; we are very anxious that this event should continue with the success it

has had in previous years.

OPA Cricket and Tennis v. The School: Sunday 1st July 2012. This year after many years absence it is hoped to reintroduce the traditional Tennis Match; if interested in playing please email us.

Births, Marriages and Deaths May 2011 – October 2011

Births

1 May 11: To Andy (1989) and Elsa Oliver a daughter, Beatrice Rose

14 May 11: To Emma (1998, née York) and Paul Whitehouse (1998), a daughter Eliza Charlotte

Marriages

29 Apr 11: Pietro (Peter) Abate (1967) to Kathryn Mary Reddy, at St Edmund

Campion Roman Catholic Church, Maidenhead

23 Jul 11: Simone (Simon) Vannuccini (1992) to Anna Nicolini, at Ealing Abbey

3 Sep 11: Sophie Conway (2000) to David Bell, at Ealing Abbey

Deaths

12 Apr 11: Brian Early Cummings

(1935), Aged 89; Grandfather of Alexander (2008)

11 Jul 11: Timothy Dean (1961) Aged 67; brother-in-law of Michael I Davis (1964)

12 Jul 11: Christopher Anthony Stevenson (1956) Aged 73

3 Sep 11: Mark Green (1960) Aged 68; Brother of Joseph (1963)

Who has been in touch with us recently...?

Since our last published newsletter the following OPs have been in contact with the Association, mainly via the "Where Are You Now?" and "Find a Classmate" sections of our website:

1953 Peter Nielsen – Bucks

1955 David Brewster – Surrey

1963 Joe Green – Surrey

1966 Wojciech Liszka – Surrey

1967 Martin Habell – Middx

1967 Gerard Ring – Middx

1975 Eddie Bazil – Bucks

1981 Pierre Tchaikowski – Geneva, Switzerland

1982 Ian Potts (Staff 67-82) – London

1987 Massimo Bonaddio – London

1991 Gerald Casey – Berks

1994 Kwabena Mensah – London

1995 Paul Kirkcaldy – Italy

1996 Mark Bahoshy – London

1996 Daniel de Rozarieux – London

1996 Malcolm Lewis – UK

1996 Edward Taber – NSW Australia

1998 James Caldwell – London

1998 Saba Hammad (née Azam) – London

2000 Sophie Bell (née Conway) – Bucks

2003 Leonard Chandrajothy – Ontario Canada

Email Addresses

Do please remember to keep us informed of any email changes and encourage OPs who may not be on our emailing list to let us have their

addresses. Please **DO NOT** send us listings from your own address books – Data Protection prevents us from using them; addition of an email address to our

database requires an email from the person concerned!

Contact with other OPs

The OPA Office is happy to act as a "Forwarding Agency" for email contact – If you wish to contact an OP whose email address you do not have then email us and we will forward your email address to the person concerned

(provided we have an email address for them!) saying that you wish to contact them by email; he or she is then free to contact you if they wish.

Please note that we will not forward email messages – we will not act as a third party email source!