



# The Old Priorian Association

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

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## From The President

Dear Members,

As I write to you, the Old Priorian Rugby Football Club (OPRFC) has just one more league match to play in an unbeaten season to date - a superlative achievement. Congratulations to the OPRFC squad on its well-deserved promotion to London North West 2 next season; long may it continue its unrivalled winning streak.

Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976) recently joined us as an ex-officio

Council Member, by virtue of his recent appointment as Chairman of St Benedict's Governing Board. My thanks to Pat for joining us at this year's President's Dinner as our "Guest Speaker" and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the best in his new roles - both on the School Governing Board and on the Association Council.

Many thanks also to John Durden (OP 1967) for kick-starting our "Your News" section - following the appeal in our last Newsletter. I hope that you will enjoy reading about what the "Durden Clan" have been up to in recent years and that

it will inspire more Old Priorians to put "pen to paper" and share their news too.

You will find a whole host of Old Priorian events listed in our "Forthcoming Events" section; I sincerely hope that you will continue to support them and provide us with useful feedback, which will help us to identify any areas for improvement, investment or subsidy. Remember, this is *your* Association.

Godspeed,

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

## OPRFC Update

Since the last update at the end of 2012, the Old Priorian Rugby Football Club (OPRFC) has continued its outstanding season. At the time of writing this, the OPRFC remain unbeaten in the league and sit at the top of "London North West 3" with promotion guaranteed, as only three league matches now remain.

The run-up to Christmas 2012 was never going to be easy and gave an indication of the wet and sticky pitches that were to greet us through early 2013. The OPRFC had their first chance for revenge against local rivals Wasps in

December having lost twice to them last year, with the Old Priorians on the wrong end of a last minute score on both occasions. Wasps' poor league position was not reflected in their performance, as they upped their game to perhaps be the team to finally beat us. But it wasn't to be, as the OPRFC won 30-22 with some magic from Aristide Goualin (OP 2008), who made some incredible breaks to score and set-up tries for the OPRFC. The club then went on to beat Cheshunt comfortably 55-5 on a pitch that could equally have been called a swimming pool. There was no sign of the boys having had too much to eat and drink over the Christmas and New Year break (though most certainly did), as we kicked-off January with a 91-7 win away at Imperial Medicals - the old stomping ground for Old Priorians Peter O'Neill (OP 1999), Sam Codrington (OP 2000) and Joe Codrington (OP 2002). Sam added to his try tally with three on the day whilst Seb Oddi found his try-scoring form to gain four of his own (a feat he has subsequently gone on to repeat).

Matches against Datchworth and



*Adam Smith (OP 2005) runs with the ball for the OP Saints (2nd XV)*



*Captain Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008) carries the ball with Andrew Haston (OP 2009) and Will Clarke (OP 2008) in support*

London New Zealand rounded off January and it was the turn of Michael Simpson (OP 2008) to excel in both games; Michael scored two in the 37-13 win over Datchworth and followed this up a week later by scoring all three OPRFC tries in a bruising 24-6 win over London New Zealand. February was off to a disappointing start as the team travelled down to Maidstone for the RFU Vase London Semi-Final. With a Twickenham-based National Final on the horizon a comprehensive 38-0 loss was unexpected and disappointing. However Maidstone are an exceptional side and continue to destroy teams at this level following

*The Old Priorian Newsletter is published twice annually and is circulated free to Old Priorian Association Members. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of The Old Priorian Association.*

*Editor: Paul Fagan      ©The Old Priorian Association*

their relegation by the RFU as a result of an eye-gouging scandal.

The following two games seemed to suffer from a slight hangover from the Maidstone encounter and were classed as "could have done better" despite two more victories over Haringey and Welwyn. The wet weather was really beginning to set in and the heavy pitches were doing their best to slow down the jet-heeled Old Priorian back line. Saturday, 23 February 2013 will long be remembered as one of the best ever OPRFC performances, as we beat second-placed Twickenham 39-12 with a performance of stunning intensity and execution. Twickenham - a very good side indeed - had no answer to the suffocating Old Priorian defence that was led from the front by Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008), Adam McCulloch (OP 2008) and Andrew Haston (OP 2009). Joe Codrington was superb in attack, scoring a try of his own and firing the back line to create tries for wingers Seb Oddi and Rasheed Alawiye (OP 1995). Jack Dever (OP 2008) marked his long-awaited return from Ealing Trailfinders with a try to boot.



Michael Simpson (OP 2008) speeds past his opposite man against Twickenham

The OPRFC are determined to remain unbeaten in their league matches this season and have since recorded victories over Barnet (66-0), Cheshunt (36-5) and Finchley (48-5). Seb Oddi and Sam Codrington continue to battle atop the points charts, with a stunning 26 tries each this season. Three games remain as we seek an unbeaten season and first league championship win. Our promotion to "London North West 2" will bring with it a big challenge next season, but it is an incredible achievement for the club that has only played for five seasons.

The Old Priorian Saints (2nd XV) have battled against injuries and lacking numbers to reach the Middlesex Merit Table 2 Play-Offs as they seek promotion. The journey since Christmas has seen some undoubtedly poor performances, mixed with some of their best ever. An outstanding 24-17 victory over HAC 2s put the side back in the play-off hunt and saw excellent tries by Nahi Dib (OP 2011), Matt Dever (OP 2010) and Mikey Wade (OP 2007). Coach Peter Nathan (OP 2005) and Captain Joe Gleeson (OP 2004) have remained a strong and inspiring presence for the side and the HAC win provided great confidence to earn a 33-all draw against Rosslyn Park 5s and an emphatic 43-17 victory over Belsize Park 2s. The Rosslyn Park game was an end-to-end encounter and must have been a thrilling match for those watching.

Liam Dolan (OP 2009) was impressive, as was Charlie Stringer (OP 2008). The victory at home against Belsize Park 2s ensured a play-off place with Adam Smith (OP 2005) excelling in defence and Ben Adubi scoring a stunning hat-trick. The 2s have benefitted all season from regularly good performances from Joe Gleeson, John-Ross Mack (OP



Champions

2005), Adam Smith, Mark Machado (OP 2004) and many more as a slightly more regular starting team is paying dividends.

The OPRFC season closes on Sunday, 14 April 2013 against Hitchin and then the cherry on top is the Annual Club Dinner on Saturday, 11 May 2013. It is this event that will see the annual awards given out and promises to be an excellent night with more Old Priorians carving their name into the club's history. For more information please visit [www.rugby-in-ealing.co.uk](http://www.rugby-in-ealing.co.uk) or email [oldpriorianrfc@googlemail.com](mailto:oldpriorianrfc@googlemail.com)

By Edd Conway (OP 2005)

**Editor's Note** - As we go to press we have received this note from Edd:

*I thought it may be of interest to you to let you know that the OPs were confirmed as London 3NW League Champions on Saturday (6th April) with a game to spare. We beat London New Zealand 41-7 at theirs to take our record to 21 wins from 21 games in the league. The final fixture of the season is against Hitchin on Saturday 13th April.*

*This is a very big achievement indeed and next year in London NW2 will see us compete against big, established clubs such as Chiswick, HAC, Hammersmith & Fulham, Grasshoppers and more.*

## The Old Priorian Award

The Old Priorian Award is a discretionary annual bursary presented by The Old Priorian Association, the purpose of which is to enable its Members to undertake meritorious activities within their first five years of leaving St Benedict's School.

The beneficiary of last year's Award was Ben Elliott (OP 2007), who submitted his application after reading about previous Award beneficiaries Sinead

Leahy (OP 2008) and Nathan Garnham (OP 2010) in our April 2012 Newsletter.

Ben is currently a law student and over the past few years has been involved in a human rights organisation which campaigns to improve access to justice and human rights in South America. The Award helped Ben with the costs associated with a trip to Bogotá, where he joined an international delegation of human rights lawyers for a series of conferences, in an attempt to urge the

Colombian government to improve respect for human rights in the country.

The application deadline for the 2013 Old Priorian Award is *Sunday, 30 June 2013* and all applications must be sent in writing and addressed to the Association Office - either by way of post or email. All applications will be acknowledged.

For more information on the Award, please visit our website [theopa.org](http://theopa.org) or contact the Association Office.

## The President's Dinner

Around eighty people braved the Abracing London weather to attend the President's Dinner on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, which was held - as is now customary - in the Hall of India & Pakistan at the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) in St James'. A warm welcome (and sparkling aperitif) awaited the gathering of Old Priorians and a thoroughly convivial evening ensued, with a sumptuous three-course meal and - after the speeches - a late bar provided the chance to catch up with old acquaintances and staff.

This year's speeches were entertaining, informative - and just the right length; our president Paul Fagan (OP 1991) spoke of developments in the Association and news from its Members. St Benedict's School headmaster Chris Cleugh spoke about achievements at the School and its transition to an independent Trust, with a governing board mostly consisting of lay-governors. And finally Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976), Chairman of St Benedict's Governing Board and Guest of Honour, spoke of his long connection with the

School (as an Old Priorian himself and father of three Old Priorians) and his excitement about future development plans at the School.

Old Priorians from 1952 to 2010 were in attendance and warmly applauded the speakers before settling down to enjoy the rest of the evening, chatting with old friends and meeting new ones.

by Catherine de Cintra  
(Bursar, St Benedict's)



*A good time was had by all*



*Chris Cleugh (Headmaster) entertains  
Peter Watson (OP 1952), former  
President of the Association*



*Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976)  
with Laura Makhoul (Head Girl) and  
Joshua Somerville (Head Boy)*

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## Recent Leavers' Christmas Party

The 2011 Leavers' Christmas Party reunion took place in the Benet Club just before Christmas 2012. Although many of us had seen each other since leaving St Benedict's, it was the first time that many of us had been together in the same place for quite a while. And the Benet Club made the ideal venue for our gathering because of

its proximity to the School (which many alumni gathered there that evening, had not yet returned to since leaving).

About half of our original year group were able to attend, making the evening a great success. On behalf of the 2011 Leavers, I would like to convey our

sincere thanks to The Old Priorian Association for their support and encouragement in organising the event (and for their much-appreciated subsidy!). We all look forward to our next year group reunion - which will hopefully be very soon!

by Eloise Blondiau (OP 2011)

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## WAYN - Where are you now?

It would help us to maintain our database records accurately and it would help the Careers Department of the School, if you would take a few minutes to visit the Website and complete the WAYN Form which can be accessed from the Button Link on the Portal Page. This applies especially

to those of you who have left School in the last few years and are now on the first rungs of the ladder in that great big working-world or still in further education; having said that, don't let us put the rather "Older OPs" off supplying their information - the occupation "Retired" can be just as

useful, providing of course we know what field it is that you have worked in! All information supplied is treated with the confidentiality you would expect. Many thanks in anticipation of your help; the following link will take you straight there!  
<http://theopa.org/contact-us/wayn>

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## Organising a Reunion

Reunions are now more popular than ever and remain a great way to get together with old friends and rekindle

school memories. If you are curious about what your fellow alumni are doing, then we are here to help - in many ways.

Details are available at:  
<http://theopa.org/events/reunions/>

## Award Stories: Human Rights Delegation in Colombia

The condition of human rights in Colombia has been an international issue for a number of decades. The country has been in an official state of civil war since the middle of the last century, funded on both sides by the drug trade and by international financial assistance. Although the war has essentially ground to a stalemate and peace talks are ongoing between the left-wing Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government, the Colombian government has been using this ongoing state of emergency as a pretext to commit various human rights violations.

Four years ago a delegation of international lawyers visited the country to investigate the state of human rights and liaise with Colombian human rights lawyers - the first Colombian Caravana. They discovered widespread instances of disappearances linked to the government and government-funded paramilitary organisations, as well as assassinations, intimidation, false arrests and extensive imprisonment without trial often for years. The civil war had also justified the government displacing over four million people from their land.

The delegation of international lawyers formed a charity, the Access to Justice in Colombia Group, and returned to monitor the situation in 2010 and planned that the third Colombian Caravana would visit in August-September 2012. As a student who had recently been called to the Bar I was invited to join the third delegation to investigate human rights abuses in Colombia.

The delegation was made up of 40 human rights lawyers from a number of

countries across the world including the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Spain, Russia and Canada. The delegates met in the capital city, Bogotá, for briefings and meetings with local human rights groups before dividing into groups to visit different regions in Colombia. Although I was the youngest delegate, my familiarity with the charity's work meant that I was appointed leader of the group that travelled to the Casanare Department in Eastern Colombia.

To protect the lawyers and victims that we met, I cannot give specific details of all our findings (though I accept that it's unlikely that the Colombian police read the OPA newsletter) but can provide a general account. In Bogotá we met with human rights defenders who had suffered direct threats from government agencies and paramilitaries. Some had received threats against their families, others had been assaulted, and many now travel only in armoured cars for protection. A number of members of these organisations had disappeared or been killed. There is an ongoing investigation (an investigation that has been proceeding very slowly) into a government department that phone-tapped, profiled and deliberately intimidated human rights defenders for a number of years. Unfortunately there have been very few charges or convictions so far.

We flew to the city of Yopal in the Casanare region. The main threat suffered in this region is the seizure of land by the military and paramilitaries. The victims are local farming communities and indigenous communities (the survivors of the people who owned the land prior to the Spanish

conquests). They had lost a lot of land in the civil war already and were currently receiving threats from paramilitary groups. There is also strong evidence that much of the land seized is then being sold to multi-national corporations for mining and oil drilling. A few years ago it was proved that BP were actually using paramilitaries to seize and protect mineral-rich land.

The local leaders had reacted courageously. Rather than continue to be picked off one by one they decided to form an alliance to resist threats to their land. We were present at the formation of this alliance. The members lit candles, said prayers, and spoke of their hopes for the future. They cemented the alliance with a drink brewed by the local communities and a meal.

Over the next two days the community leaders discussed threats to their land from the army, paramilitaries, guerrillas and multi-national corporations. They were also enthusiastic to meet our delegates and to discuss threats and attacks on members of their communities.

Having met victims and listened to their concerns, the final stage of the delegation was to meet state officials to represent those concerns. The sad reality is that we, as international delegates, were far more likely to make an impact than the local campaigners. We met with commanders in the police force, ombudsmen, military personnel, ambassadors, judges and politicians. Most were very evasive when questioned about our concerns or when presented with obvious human rights violations. A regular response when asked about the paramilitaries was to deny their existence, because legally paramilitaries haven't existed since 2006. In reality paramilitaries are continuing their operations in conjunction with the government as they have for decades.

On the final day of the Caravana a press conference was held. It was attended by local officials and a number of television stations and was broadcast live. Representatives of the Caravana had the opportunity to present the delegation's initial findings.

I hope the above account of the delegation doesn't make the situation appear too grim. There are serious violations of human rights happening in Colombia but change is occurring and



*The formation of an alliance of local leaders. The priest (standing) says prayers for the safety of the communities*

the Access to Justice Charity has an important role in that process. We can't make the Colombian government investigate every murder, massacre or disappearance. Nor can we extract promises that the government will safeguard the land of local communities. But by going to Colombia and meeting with victims we offer them our assurances that the international community does care and is acting on their behalf. The people we met were immensely grateful merely that we came to meet them and listen to their accounts. Our presence gives them the confidence to form their own alliances, amongst local communities and amongst human rights defenders. Equally, even if the government doesn't radically change its procedures, our presence ensures that they know the world is watching and hopefully they will think carefully about the international reaction to future acts. Finally, a report of the Caravana's findings and conclusions is in the process of being compiled and will be presented to a number of governments and international bodies early in 2013. We hope to turn an international spotlight onto the Colombian government.

The charity's work is very important, but attending Colombia was very expensive and many additional funds are required to assist local campaigners in Colombia. The bursary that the Old Priorian Association has provided makes a huge difference and I would like to thank the Association on behalf of myself and the Access to Justice in Colombia charity for their generous award. Above I have focussed on the serious elements of the Caravana's work in Colombia but the trip was also immensely enjoyable and gave me as a delegate the opportunity to travel round the country as well as do some significant campaigning on behalf of human rights victims. It was a great honour to receive the financial assistance of The Old Priorian Award; the trip itself was certainly an experience and - I hope - fairly successful one (though it's difficult to tell how much attention the Colombian government ever take of such delegations).

As for me, having achieved an undergraduate degree in History at St John's College, Oxford (2007-10), I went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law (conversion course) at the College



*Ben Elliott, alongside a human rights lawyer from the Czech Republic, conducts a meeting with military officials*

of Law, London (2010-11) and then a Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) at the same institution the year after (2011-12). I was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in July 2012.

*by Ben Elliott (OP 2007)*

## St Benedict's School News

In February 2013 the school community celebrated an excellent Inspection Report published by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) following the school's inspection in November 2012. For the first time the Junior and Senior schools were included within one report which praised many aspects of the school's work and development since the previous inspection in 2009. The academic curriculum, the programme of co-curricular activities and the pupils' personal development were all described as excellent. The report recognised that the school has changed its governance structure recently and said that leadership across the school is "strong, caring and accessible and provides clear educational direction and support."

Headmaster Chris Cleugh and Junior School Headmaster Rob Simmons said: "We are pleased that the ISI Inspection Report has recognised the many strengths of St Benedict's School. Staff, parents and pupils can take great pride in this and we thank them all for their hard work and support. St Benedict's is a great school and the development plan for the next five years will ensure that the

school remains at the forefront of education."

From January the catering in the school went in-house. The Catering department had a very prompt inspection from Ealing Borough Council's Environmental Health Officer and came out with 5 stars - the maximum possible. Both the Junior School and Senior School Student Councils held meetings with the Catering department, culminating in the opening of a hot food counter for pupils after school, a very welcome initiative for many involved in after-school clubs and activities.

The New Year brought three Oxbridge offers for Upper Sixth students: Joseph Kelly to read History at Lincoln College, Oxford; Head Girl Laura Makhoul to read Natural Sciences (Biological Sciences) at Selwyn College, Cambridge and Bill Lansbury to read Natural Sciences (Physics) at Jesus College, Cambridge. Five students have now completed their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The History and RE departments, and also the Trethowan Society, organised a series of lectures for

Senior School pupils on topics ranging from current news issues to career choice and the question of whether God exists. Morning breakfast talks continued in the Senior School library. Maths Week provided vibrant activity across the whole school and the Science Fair, with the Third Form exhibiting their projects, drew crowds of parents and also pupils from local primary schools. The St Benedict's Model United Nations group came back from their conference at Tudor Hall School in Banbury with a host of awards, while fifteen students of English were inspired by a creative writing week in the ancient house of Totleigh Barton, deep in the folds of the Devon countryside. Pre-Prep pupils studied the topic 'Ice' and had a friendly family of polar bears and penguins gracing their corridor, courtesy of a local florist's shop. They also had a visit from Mr Edwards, an Antarctic geologist. Lower Preps enjoyed an Egyptian workshop and later visited Legoland to build some pyramids! World Book Day in March was marked with a silent half-hour 'Read-in' and for Citizenship Day everyone came dressed in their creative costumes, posing as 'Good citizens' - for example nurses, policemen, scouts and



*Joseph Kelly, Bill Lansbury and Laura Makhoul*

guides. An array of speakers gave the children a fascinating insight into some key professions - legal, medical, political.

The whole school celebrated St Benedict's Day on Thursday, 21 March 2013. The Rt. Rev. John Arnold, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, visited the school and saw the many charity activities taking part. In the afternoon he celebrated Mass in the Abbey with the Monastic Community. A total of nearly £10,000 was raised on the day for the following four charities: The Passage, Harrison's Fund, the Parish Lenten project - The Good Counsel Network, The Hearth of the Fathers. Charity work is a regular feature of the school programme and other events included fundraising for Children in Need (cake sale), for Crisis (two Upper Fourth formers shaved their heads), for Blue Cross (Pickering House Charity Day) and book sales organised by the Junior and Senior School libraries. The SVP ran their soup kitchen during the Rich Man Poor Man meal and Sixth Formers collected small change for Action Aid - making a big difference. Two events in particular stood out. Mr Scicinski organised a 'Recitation of Pi' for his Upper Fourth Maths set. The winner correctly recited 260 digits, smashing the previous record, and £1,058.09 was raised for the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) through sponsorship. That total was later surpassed by Barlow House who raised a massive £1770 during their Charity Day for Mind and the Life Foundation.

Bill Lansbury won the Flohouse Cup for a record third year in succession as he was crowned the overall winner of the Music Festival. The high standard of music at the school was reflected in the numerous concerts and recitals that took place. The Nursery and Pre-Preps

presented four very enjoyable and, at times, amusing Nativity Plays while the Junior School Carol Concert and the Senior School performance of Handel's "Messiah" provided a truly fitting end to the Michaelmas term. In addition to the St Cecilia Concert (Senior School) and the Spring Concert (Junior School), we had a very successful second Open Mic Night and a number of lunchtime recitals and Instruments Live performances. The Junior and Middle Schools combined to display a stunning ADT Exhibition in the Cloisters. A huge array of our younger pupils' artwork was on show, from ancient Egyptian canopic jars to collage and painting and from paper weaving to decorated pillows and masks. Judging by visitor numbers and the enthusiasm which the exhibition generated, it was the most successful to date.

Stewardship of Creation is one of the ten defining features of a Benedictine school and environmental issues are an



*Ms Becky Machin (Junior School Teacher) and Dom Andrew with Erin McCarthy*

important part of the curriculum at St Benedict's. The Junior School now has its own Eco Prayer. Following a competition in which all the pupils participated, Dom Andrew Hughes OSB, the Junior School Chaplain, chose the entry by eight year old Erin McCarthy as the best. The Junior School has also recorded its own Eco Song, titled 'The New Trend', which encourages pupils to walk to school rather than sit in the car. The Eco message is going out loud and clear! Fairtrade Fortnight kicked off with a Fairtrade 'Pudding Competition' which the Senior School also took part in. Children had to come up with a recipe for a dessert that contained Fairtrade products. The dessert was then cooked by the catering team and served during lunch on Friday, 1 March 2013. Congratulations to seven year old Luke Ainslie and his winning recipe for banana cake and syrup! Arthur Miles-Kingston's entry - vegan chocolate brownies - won the Senior School competition. The whole school Travel Plan is currently being updated.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF), now also including students from Cardinal Wiseman School, won the first round (a Quiz Evening) of the new Ealing Inter-Cadet Championship. Two Field Days went ahead in pretty appalling weather and the cadets gave a good account of themselves in trying conditions. In the Lent term the boys embraced a full set of hockey fixtures for the first time. Alexander Curtis (Lower Fourth) and Monica Clifford (Lower Fifth) represented Middlesex at Hockey. The girls played netball and scored some notable victories against other schools in all age groups, among them the Under 11s who beat both local rivals, St Augustine's and Notting Hill and Ealing High School. Rugby Sevens success came for the Under 11s in the Donhead tournament and for the Under 12s in the London Oratory tournament. The Under 13s reached the quarter-final of the National Sevens at Rosslyn Park and several other teams were losing finalists in other tournaments. Fencing has been re-invigorated with the arrival of new coach Denis Cranwell. In the Battle of St Benedict's, the annual School Championship, Duncan Ashby triumphed in the Junior Foil and Max Mathias won the Adrian Kellett Senior Foil trophy. For the first time there was also a Senior Epee competition, which was won by Charlie Worthington.

*by Marek Nalewajko  
(Marketing Director, St Benedict's)*

## Your News: The Durdens

By way of info on the “Durden Clan”, I am still running my construction company called KIM Construction which operates in the Bedford, Milton Keynes area, but hoping that as I hit 63 in a short time I can persuade my children to get more involved (they both live and work in London as surveyors). Brother Nick (OP 1969) is still a GP in Finchley running his own practice, and Chris (OP 1971), who lives in Aberdeen, has just retired from BP, having worked for them for 35 years or so. He is doing three days consultancy still, but is busy as he is chairman of the Institute of

Mechanical Engineers in Scotland. Last but not least is David (OP 1982), who lives in Dursley and works in local government. He has just had a new hip, replacing the one he has worn out running and biking, which he is still doing and is very keen on it! The thought makes me tired - I get my exercise playing tennis once a week and golf more frequently (or at least will hopefully do so when the weather gets better). I grin as I read about the Old Priorian rugby, as my nephew Seb Oddi plays for the OPRFC team, but he was not “one of us” - he went to the Oratory

School; presumably with an Old Priorian father, Robert Oddi (OP 1970) and four Old Priorian uncles this gives him playing rights!

*by John Durden (OP 1967)*

### Your News

If you would like to share where life has taken you since you left St Benedict's with our readers, please get in touch! Simply complete the “Where Are You Now?” form on our website [theopa.org](http://theopa.org) or get in touch with our Development & Alumni Relations Office.

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## In touch with us recently...

Since our last published newsletter the following Old Priorians have been in contact with the Association, mainly through the “Where Are You Now?” and “Find a Classmate” sections of our website:

**John Bastable (OP 1958)**  
Queensland, Australia

**Jack Diamond (OP 1961)**  
Berkshire

**Jonathan McNamee (OP 1961)**  
New Jersey, USA

**Peter Brandl (OP 1964)**  
Hants

**Simon Codrington (OP 1964)**  
London

**Ron Farrell (OP 1968)**  
West Midlands

**Mark Tymieniecki (OP 1970)**  
Surrey

**Mark Crane (OP 1971)**  
Victoria, Australia

**Simon Barry (OP 1973)**  
South Africa

**Richard Kemp (OP 1977)**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
USA

**Ian Assumption (OP 1978)**  
Australia

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## Births and Deaths

### Births

#### Thursday, 20 December 2012

To Sophie née Conway (OP 2000) and David Bell, a daughter Savannah Mary Alta

#### Thursday, 14 February 2013

To Martin Borthwick (OP 1999) and wife Jessica, a daughter Elizabeth Camilla Jessica (a sister for two year old Arabella)

### Deaths

#### Peter Eldridge (OP 1957)

Passed away on Monday, 12 November 2012, aged 71

#### Conor O'Donoghue (OP 2013)

Passed away in December 2012, aged 17

#### Adrian Davis (OP 1967)

Brother of Michael J. E. Davis (OP 1960) passed away on Monday, 28 January 2013, aged 64

#### Jeremy Rodda (OP 1970)

Passed away on Monday, 28 January 2013, aged 60

#### Maurice Mulcahy (OP 1958)

Brother of Richard Mulcahy (OP 1954) passed away on Saturday, 9 February 2013, aged 71

#### Margaret Crabtree

#### (Junior School Staff 1964-1986)

Passed away in March 2013

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## 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!**

## Forthcoming Events

Some dates for your diary; full details to be published in our monthly email news and on our website:

### Priorian Golf Day

On Friday, 14 June 2013 our annual golf competition makes a welcome return to Ealing Golf Club. This competition is open to all: Alumni, staff, parents and friends.

### Netball Tournament

On Sunday, 23 June 2013

### Cricket Day

On Sunday, 30 June 2013

### Fencing Evening

We hope to re-introduce this annual event this summer at the School; if you are interested in partaking, please contact the OPA Office.

### 1955-60 Reunion Lunch

On Sunday, 6 October 2013, St Benedict's School will host a reunion lunch.

### AGM, Remembrance Mass and Luncheon

On Saturday, 9 November 2013

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## 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!

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## The Old Priorian Association

Founded 1927

### The Old Priorian Association

The Old Priorian Association was formed on Friday, 1st July 1927 with the name reflecting its beginnings within Ealing Priory School, which was the name of St Benedict's School at the time.

The Association was established to form a centre of union for former pupils of the School and to hold meetings to renew old bonds that connect its Members and alumni with the School and Ealing Abbey. A vital role of the Association is to forward and promote - in every practical way - the interests of the School, whilst conducting its business according to The Rules of The Association, which form the structure within which it operates.

The Association is governed and run by a Council consisting of three elected Officers, no fewer than four elected Members and a number of Ex-Officio Members.

### Elected Officers

**Paul Fagan (OP 1991)**

President

**Lewis Hill (OP 1975)**

Honorary Secretary

**Mike Ainslie (OP 1980)**

Honorary Treasurer

### Council Members

**Frank Casali (OP 1984)**

**Edward Conway (OP 2005)**

**Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960)**

**Peter Watson (OP 1952)**

### Ex-Officio Council Members

**Fr Thomas Stapleford**

Chaplain

**Chris Cleugh**

Headmaster, Senior School

**Rob Simmons (OP 1987)**

Headmaster, Junior School

**Catherine de Cintra**

Bursar, St Benedict's

**Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976)**

Chairman, St Benedict's Governing Board

**Giles Codrington (OP 1980)**

Society of Parents & Friends

**Margaret Moore**

Administrator

**Richard Baker (OP 1959)**

Assistant Administrator

**Marek Nalewajko**

Marketing Director, St Benedict's

Full details about the Association and its activities can be found at: [theOPA.org](http://theOPA.org)

The Association has office facilities within the School and may be contacted by:

**Email: [opa@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:opa@stbenedicts.org.uk)**

**Telephone: 020 8862 2249**

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