



The Old Priorian Association

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2007

THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER

*Richard Sandys (OP 1962),
Hon. Secretary of the OPA,
reports on this year's
President's Dinner.*



Simon East

The Royal Over-Seas League was the venue for the President's Dinner which celebrated the Association's 80th anniversary with nearly a hundred alumni and

guests attending; double last year's numbers.

Amongst the guests were six past Presidents, two previous Headmasters (Anthony Gee & Tony Dachs), this year's Head Boy, Marco Diliberto and Head Girl, Natalia Kaminski and six other previous Head Boys. Unfortunately, our first lay President, Alan Niekirk (OP 1947), and Joe Kearns (OP 1950), first President of the revived OPA, were both unable to attend being out of the country.



Chris Cleugh

After drinks, Grace from our Chaplain Father Thomas, and a good meal there were three speeches. Firstly, Paul Fagan (OP 1991), our current President, mentioned all the guests and

introduced the two main speakers. Chris Cleugh, Headmaster, spoke about Father Bernard and Father Kevin and about the School as a whole and the "Heart of the School" project to replace the annexe in particular.

Our second speaker was Simon East (OP 1972) of the 70s vintage who regaled us with hilarious stories from his time at the school under both Father Clement and Father Casimir.

After the dinner and speeches the conviviality of the event was continued at the bar for some time.

The evening was a great success; a presentation was made by the Head Boy and Head Girl, on behalf of the President to Catherine de Cintra and Richard Baker for the great administrative work that they had put in "behind the scenes". The President's Dinner is definitely one to confirm for your diaries for next year! – Thursday 13th March 2008.



Catherine de Cintra, Natalia Kaminski,
Marco Diliberto and Richard Baker



Paul Fagan, President OPA

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, Gregory Stafford c/o The Old Priorian Association, St. Benedict's School, 54 Eaton Rise, Ealing, London W5 2ES

NEIL MOSS REUNION

Rugby fan Gordon Wilson (OP 1959) continues his tales of being reunited with his old coach Neil Moss when he returned to the U.K. last year!

The visit of Neil Moss to England in July 2006 seemed to me to be an ideal excuse to try and reunite him with as many as possible of those he coached all those years ago. So, planning a lunch party on the only day available I managed to contact twelve ageing super stars, stretching a point somewhat with my brother, Nigel, who was too young to have benefited from the Moss wisdom.

Even with help I was frustratingly unable to locate one or two obvious candidates and Chris Patten and David Beaumont were unfortunately committed to previous engagements. By far the most sterling effort was that of Basil Nickerson (Staff 56-94) and his wife Clare, whom we were not able to contact until after they had returned from Mass that morning, but who immediately insisted on getting into their car and driving all the way from Hereford to arrive in the middle of the afternoon. The weather was ideal for a garden party and I had managed to produce many photos, including several St. Benedict's teams and many had brought other photos of various sporting teams of those days, so we

had a really wonderful run down memory lane.

The memories were stimulated by a constant supply of Pimms and soon we all drifted into the garden for a big lunch of summer food and a steady supply of good wines from both hemispheres. The atmosphere mellowed even more and Edwin Heath, who had also toured New Zealand in 2005 with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir, gave several renditions of good rugby drinking songs in a fine voice.

It was a most enjoyable gathering for all of us and the years just disappeared as we reminisced about those past times and Neil was extremely touched and moved to have had such a reunion.



*Back row, standing: Michael Randell (62), Patrick Tobin (60), Edwin Heath (60), Neil Moss(Staff 58-61), Maurice Mulcahy (58), Simon Donan (59), Brian Mitchell (61), Brian Taylor (60), Hugh Young (60)
Front row, seated: Nigel Wilson (63), Gordon Wilson (59), Pat Cox (58), Michael Orton (59)*

FUTURE EVENTS

Priorian Golf Day: Friday 29th June 2007 at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Richmond
Annual Cricket Match and Family Fun-Day: Sunday 1st July 2007 at Perivale
Annual Old Priorian Fencing Evening: Friday 5th October 2007 at the School
Annual Remembrance Service and AGM of the Association: Saturday 10th November 2007 at the School
President's Dinner: Thursday 13th March 2008 at the Royal Overseas League, London

THE AFRICAN PULSE PROJECT – HIV/AIDS PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

Over the past two years, St Benedict's has been supporting an innovative educational programme which is enhancing prevention and awareness efforts in schools in South Africa. Old Priorian and former Head Boy, Peter Desmond (OP 1973), writes of his work as a Trustee of The African Pulse charity that works to equip children and young people with skills and resources to make informed life choices. St Benedict's was delighted to assist.



In South Africa, HIV prevalence continues to rise from a staggering 5.3 million of the population. Such

high rates are attributed to complex social-economic and development issues such as gender roles, deterioration of value systems, unemployment, poor education and health systems and sex work which are all strongly linked to both poverty and South Africa's history of Apartheid.

There is currently inadequate effective teacher training and tools in South African primary schools addressing healthy living and choices in the context of HIV prevention. Despite attempts to inform and engage young people, risky behaviour remains prolific and transmission rates are not being curbed.

New messaging techniques that are educational and embrace the many dynamics of HIV openly are required to improve the school's ability to fulfil its function as a change agent in this crisis. The African Pulse has developed a package of educational resources to assist teachers to deliver effective and accurate messages in an engaging but non-threatening or stigmatised format in the classroom. An interactive animated CD-ROM, a comic book, an activity book and teacher's guide provides flexible and user-friendly methods of delivering the curriculum and life saving information. The

African Pulse works alongside the schools to train teachers in new facilitation techniques, holds workshops on HIV and AIDS and is developing a strategy to directly involve parents and the local school community in the protection and education of their children and themselves.



St. Benedict's School has supported The African Pulse through fundraising events and printing the charity's newsletters. The School's great commitment and provision has been extremely valuable to the charity who have been enabled to further develop their programmes and also benefit from the increased awareness among potential sponsors and volunteers through the newsletter. The African Pulse is very grateful for this continued support.

OLD PRIORIAN FENCING EVENING

Matthew Gale, Head of Fencing at the School reports on a fantastic evening of duelling!

The recent OP Fencing evening was a tremendously enjoyable event, and marked the official return of St Benedict's to the competitive fencing arena. Old Priorians Adrian Kellett (OP 1957) and Amanda Raby (OP



Adrian Kellett

1991) managed to wrest victory from the hands of very determined competition from the boys and girls in the St Benedict's Fencing Club. 5th October has been set for a re-match in 2007!

The evening began with a fencing demonstration by 26 boys and girls from the club. Club Captain, Walid Hadad welcomed the Old Priorians and the many spectators who turned out to support. One of the youngest club members, Alex Reid proposed a toast to the Old Priorians to which Adrian Kellett replied. Here followed demonstrations of electric fencing, sabre fencing and a series of fiercely contested foil bouts. Mr Kellett, who had gone on to become a British Amateur Fencing Coach after leaving the fencing club, took the fencing club through its paces and offered some valuable advice to the young fencers. Finally, the parents in the audience were invited to take part in a novice challenge match. Mrs Matthews and Mrs Kelleher

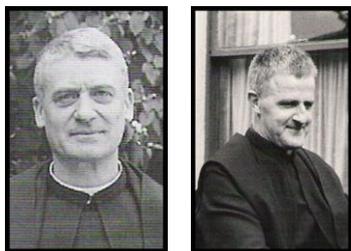
graciously accepted and entertained us with what turned out to be a most laudable encounter.

Finally, Mr Jennings, Master of Ceremonies on the night, presented the contestants with certificates and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Haddad and the Old Priorian Association for supplying the catering.



Amanda Raby
and
Matthew Jennings

DOM BERNARD ORCHARD and DOM KEVIN HORSEY R.I.P.



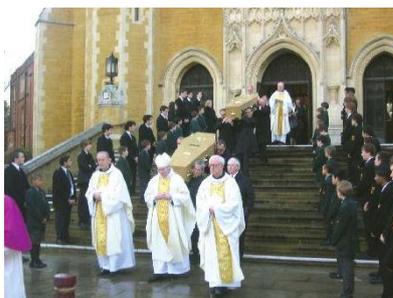
From the Headmasters

In the early hours of Tuesday morning Dom Kevin Horsey died peacefully in his sleep, aged 92. Within the hour Dom Bernard Orchard, aged 96, also died. Both were the only surviving, founding monks of St Benedict's School and were great servants of the School, the parish and the Abbey community. They will be greatly missed.

Dom Bernard's association with St Benedict's is legendary. He was a pupil at Ealing Priory School from the age of 10 and distinguished himself in many ways. He left the School in 1927 and was its first pupil to go to University when he gained a place at Cambridge. Fr Bernard entered monastic life at Downside Abbey in 1932 and

was sent to Ealing to take over the Headship of his own school in 1945. Before he stepped down from the Headship in 1960 he invited the school inspectors in to prepare a report for his successor and in June 1960 they recorded that his contribution had been "outstanding" and that his absence would be "keenly felt". His unshakeable faith in the School's future, his tireless energies and his qualities as a man and a teacher enabled him to overcome the day-to-day difficulties and to keep the School on the course that he had early charted for it.

From 1965 to 1969 he served a second term as Headmaster during which his confidence was undiminished. Apart from his work as a teacher and Headmaster, Dom Bernard was a great scripture scholar and ecumenical activist and his many achievements are too numerous to detail in this letter.



Dom Kevin was born in New York in 1914 and at the age of eight sent to school in England. Ordained a priest in 1941 Dom Kevin was sent to Ealing Priory in 1942. Between 1942 and 1965 he taught Geography and Religion, was a Housemaster and Upper 5th Division Head, commanded the C.C.F. and from 1961 to 1965 was Master in Charge of the Middle School.

Thereafter he transferred to the Parish team and served the district for over 20 years. Dom Kevin founded and was Group Scoutmaster of the 20th Ealing Scouts from 1942-1970. He was awarded the Silver Acorn, the movement's second highest decoration, and the Silver Wolf - the Chief Scout's personal award for distinguished services to scouting.

The Requiem Mass for both monks took place in the Abbey Church on Tuesday, 5th December. After the service, in accordance with School tradition, pupils from St Benedict's lined the route from the Abbey Church to the graveyard in the Abbey gardens.

Please remember Dom Bernard, Dom Kevin and all the Monastic Community in your prayers.

DEATHS

It is with great sadness that the OPA announces the following departed:

- 28th Nov 06: John Bernard Orchard O.S.B. (1927); Aged 96; Brother of Lawrence (1930) (R.I.P.); Monk of Ealing; Headmaster of St. Benedict's School 1945-60 and 1965-69
- 28th Nov 06: Carroll Kevin Horsey O.S.B.; Aged 92; Monk of Ealing; Contingent Commander of St. Benedict's School C.C.F. 1942-58
- Jan 07: John Bannon (1985)
- 19th Feb 07: Peter Charles Becker (1949) Aged 75; Father of Mark (1976) and Philip
- 21st Mar 07: Terrence Christopher Little – Dom Francis of Downside Abbey (1935); Brother of Patrick, R.I.P. (1932), Denis, R.I.P. (1939) and Michael, R.I.P. (1940) and Uncle of Richard (1973), David (1975), Peter (1978) and Philip (1980)
- 6th May 07: Stella Stirzaker, nee McNair (Staff 1965-1972); Wife of David (Staff 1961-1990), Mother of Bernard, Roderick and Hugh (all OPs) and sister of Robin (1963) and Duncan (1974)

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

- 16th Feb 07: Bernard (1979) and Claire de Haldevang, a daughter Beatrice Cecily Caroline, a half-sister to Harriet (17) and Maximilian (15) and a sister to Imogen (2½)

ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: BERNARD IS ONLINE

<http://new.stbens.org.uk>

The School have activated an online learning environment which has been called **Bernard** in memory of the late Dom Bernard Orchard OSB and his great contribution to Education as Headmaster of St Benedict's School.

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