



The Old Priorian Association Newsletter

Spring 2016

THE OLD PRIORIAN ASSOCIATION, ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL,
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President's Welcome

It is both an honour and a pleasure to welcome you to this, my second newsletter as President. This communicate spans the huge variety of the life of the Association. As a cross-section it would be invidious to highlight any one aspect of the contents of this community voice based in and around Ealing. However, whether the article you choose to read is the report of an OP local politician's visit to South America, or news of the recent very successful Careers evening with its global references held at the school or the perennial good news of constant progress

from the OPRFC, or just a Christmas reunion at the Benet Bar or update from one particular band of brothers, they all represent something of the vitality of the life of the School. All the articles and photographs reflect the inherent vibrancy and energy that enthuses the Association like a river, flowing and sustaining those who are nourished by its waters.

If after having read this brief introduction you feel that I may have omitted something of note, or if you would like to inform the Association of an event or occasion

you would like to have published why not submit an article for inclusion? Likewise, if you wish to write a letter to the Association then by all means get in touch with the editor (Edd Conway) via the OPA admin team. He will endeavour to utilise to best advantage the allocation of print. If by some miracle of charity, you would like to contribute to the sterling efforts undertaken by Council members generally then you will be very welcome indeed.

**Lewis Hill (OP 1975),
President OPA**

2016 President's Dinner

Last year, I had the privilege of being invited to the Old Priorian Association Dinner as the current head girl. It was an incredibly elegant event, different to any of the student-centred ones I had gone to previously. I remember the overly friendly atmosphere and even recognised some familiar faces. It gave the feeling that though all of us eventually leave St Benedict's, there is always the chance to come back and reminisce some nostalgic memories with others. When I received the invitation to attend the OP dinner again this year, I was delighted! I was curious as to what it would be like to attend, not as a student, but as an Old Priorian and this time "paying for my supper". This time, it was a different experience entirely.

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Chris and Tina Cleugh

Regretfully we again have been supplied with photo files that are unsuitable for reproducing in the Newsletter. We would greatly appreciate it if you could consider either adjusting the settings on your cameras when taking pictures that you may be sending to us or, if you have saved them to your PC, providing the largest images that you have. Many thanks!

2016 President's Dinner continued

Having already gone before, I at least had an idea of what to expect. Accompanying me was my friend, Oliver Lythgoe, who had left school the same year as me. We found the large and graceful venue to exceed expectations. Also at the dinner from the 2015 leavers was Sam Lewis, who last year had been Deputy Head boy, captain of the 1st XV and head of the orchestra.

This year, our Guests of Honour were Mr and Mrs Cleugh. It was an unforgettable dinner, filled with pride and praise for our beloved headmaster and his wife. Mr and Mrs Cleugh have truly created a comfortable and friendly environment for our school and it was only right for the Association to commemorate his time as headmaster. His speech brought back many memories and the Old Priorians at the Dinner from his era listened, laughed and reminisced, as did those of other generations.

Tables of year groups represented included 1976, whose 40-year reunion this was; 1977 and 1979; large groups from 2009/2010 and 2004/2005; the ever present 1984 table and of course, the OPRFC and 2008 who support the President's Dinner each year. It was lovely to see some Old Priorians from 1962 at their first President's Dinner, joining those from these years who attend every year. The OPA welcomed new Headmaster Andrew Johnson and his wife Dawn to their first President's Dinner and they had an opportunity to meet many Old Priorians that evening.



Andrew and Dawn Johnson



Chris Stevenson (OP 1964), Peter Hendricks (OP 1963) and Tara George (Development Officer)



Chris Sams (OP 1980), Paul Sturt (OP 1984), Paul McGill (OP 1984) and Giles Samarawikrema (OP 1984)



The Younger Generation

After that night, I would love to be able to take part in more OP events such as this; it was a wonderful and unique event which anyone would be lucky to attend. I truly

hope to see more of my old schoolmates there in the coming years.

By Alex Vangelatos (OP 2015)

News of Old Priorians November 2015 to May 2016

Perter Bicknell (OP 1955): Died 2001 in Australia, Aged 63. R.I.P.

Brian Clancy (OP 1959): Contacted us concerning the *HMS Hood* Lecture which we recently advertised on behalf of the School which regretfully he was unable to attend. "What a lovely idea", he says, "to have such a memorial lecture; it gives the school a 'community spirit'. Would that this sort of thing was done more often; for different purposes; I am sure that we have many Old Priorians who would be well worth remembering for their public service to Country and society generally - they don't have to die to prove it, but dying is the ultimate proof!"

Peter Coke (OP 1960): Died 16th November 2015, Aged 72; Bother of Henry (OP 1972). R.I.P.

Philip Harvey (OP 1966): Died 1st December 2015 in Ireland, aged 67. R.I.P.

Julian Hopper (OP 1954): Emailing from Australia with greetings and regrets that he will probably not be over in UK to attend the 2016 President's Dinner.

Paul O'Mahony (OP 1964): Died 11th November 2015 in Ireland, aged 69. R.I.P.

James Murphy-O'Connor (OP 2003): And his wife Susie became proud parents of Emmett Peter on 31st October 2015, their first child and the first grandchild for Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976).

Richard Quinton (OP 1955): Died 17th April 2016, aged 77. R.I.P. After school, Richard went to Portugal to train to become a Priest but after two years he decided to leave and for the rest of his working life he worked in Catholic Approved Schools. He was totally dedicated to the job and after he retired he continued working as a volunteer and was the Chairman of a Housing Association and a member of the Independent Monitoring Board for Prisons.

Alexander Racicot (OP 2002): And his wife Katharine celebrate the birth of their second child Loic David Alexander on 13th October 2015, a brother for Annaliese (2½).

Michael Rapazzini (OP 1957): Phoned from Milan regretting that he is now unable to travel to the UK for OP functions; he sends greetings to all his OP friends.

Paul Shreder (Staff 66-92): Died 10th January 2016 in Wales, aged 82. R.I.P. In Early December 2015 Paul had emailed his latest news which we include here as a tribute to him: "I'm still busy in the art and music fields; four years ago, in 2011, I won a competition to design a Christmas Card for Oxford University, which they then had professionally printed and sold in their shop there. Another picture, one of several I sent to my old college (Jesus) earlier in 2015, is now being used by them on a notelet card. The music club I run at the house in Mount Park Crescent is still extant."

Martin Szamfeber (OP 2007): Emails: "I am wishing to target and contact fellow Surveyors/Chartered Surveyors/property professionals; I think it would be a good idea to create an OP network within the industry as it's relatively small and finite so there is a potential for OP paths to cross. Some sectors are very much based on who you know so if we were to bring people together it may result in some business benefit. In addition, it's a career path that isn't often discussed in schools yet is just as respected as law, medicine, finance and accounting so may benefit those who do have an interest. Also, to gain chartered status, we do undertake the APC (similarly with lawyers doing the LPC), so the younger OP surveyors may benefit from advice and experience from older OPs."

Anybody wishing to contact Martin about this can do so through the OPA Office.

David Wilding (OP 1943): Died 27th November 2015 in Norfolk, Aged 89. David taught in the Middle School from 1951 to 1960 and then left to found, with his wife Josephine, Claires Court School in Maidenhead; his sons Hugh and James are the current Principals of the school. R.I.P.

Hugh Young (OP 1961): Died 30th December 2015, Aged 73; brother of Christopher (OP 1958). R.I.P.

An Urgent Message from The Administrator

In spite of many requests there are still members who are paying their non-life subscriptions to bank accounts that are no longer available to us. Regretfully from 1st September we shall be "striking off" those who pay to any account other than:

Barclays Bank: £10 (Annually); for The Old Priorian Association; Sort Code 20-72-17; Account No 80305030

Thank you

Richard Baker (OP 1959, Administrator, OPA)

Juliano continues his Rio push

Juliano Fiori (OP 2003) continues to play a pivotal role in the Brazil rugby 7s squad, even Captaining the side at recent tournaments. He has recently been featured on BBC news as a result, with rugby returning to the Olympic Games for the first time since 1924. Juliano has taken a sabbatical from work to live in Brazil full-time in his bid to reach the Olympics. The coverage, and accompanying article, can be viewed at www.bbc.co.uk/sport/olympics/35588353



Juliano in action

We'll Meet Again...



Stephen Novy and Nigel Wilson



Mark Hanley and Bernard Stutt



Lunch is served...

Our latest 50s vintage gathering took place on Wednesday 4th May 2016 when twenty-one of us lunched leisurely for four hours or so in Central London.

Two were joining us for the first time: it was a great pleasure to have Nigel Wilson and Mark Hanley with us, especially Mark who was here in UK for a short time from the States where he now lives and managed to "fit us in". His comments on the occasion were most supportive and we do hope to see him again when possible. Lewis Hill, President of the OPA, had been our guest in November 2015, but had so enjoyed meeting the older generation that he asked if he might come again, but this time meeting his own share of the bill; it was good to have him with us. As for the others - well the list speaks for itself:

James Anscomb (58)
Anthony Baker (58)
Desmond Baker (58)
Richard Baker (59)
Tony Brunning (57)
Ian Blackaller (57)
Brendan Caulfield (63)
Rob Davies (59)
Patrick Gardner (57)
Mark Hanley (72)*
Lewis Hill (75, President OPA)
Tony Japes (57)
Stephen Novy (61)
Anthony Phillips (58)
David Randell (57)
Bernard Stutt (55)
Brian Taylor (60)
Patrick Tobin (60)
Tony Trigg (59)
Gordon Wilson (60)
Nigel Wilson (63)*
* First Attendance

As usual four hours never seems long enough to catch up on family news, school news, general news, you name it, etc. On leaving *Shampers* we wend our way home, slowly perhaps, but fully satisfied that our little group of Old Priorians still manage to come together in true friendship, started for many of us over sixty years ago. Once again our grateful thanks must go to Ian Blackaller for the organisation he puts into these occasions.

Don't know where ...

Yes we do: Shampers, London

Don't know when ...

Yes we do: 16th November 2016

Book the date now!

By Richard Baker (OP 1959)

A chance School meeting led to a lifelong hobby

In 1953, I began to develop a serious interest in Traditional Jazz and I started reading books about the history of jazz from my local library in Ruislip. I soon realised that I needed to be listening to the classic bands of the 1920s like King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, Jelly Roll Morton's Red Hot Peppers, the Louis Armstrong's Hot 5s and 7s and the revival bands of the early 1940s. This then led to finding the specialist jazz record shops in Charing Cross Road where I spent the odd 'School Sports Afternoon' listening to 78s and buying one when funds permitted.

After a few months, I began to really like the sound of the clarinet but to buy one was way out of my financial reach. In 1954, while in LV(1), I was returning from lunch and heard the sound of a clarinet being played in the Chemistry Lab. I went in and found it was Peter Bingham-Daly (OP 1955, RIP) playing a green (very unusual) clarinet to two or three other boys. My immediate thought was that if he can have one, I must have one!

I left St Benedict's in July 1955 and did not see Peter again until 2009 when I met him at *Shampers*, the venue for Ian Blackaller's reunion lunches for Old Priorians of the late 50s vintage. When I told Peter that I remembered him playing a green clarinet in the Chemistry Lab. in 1954, he was absolutely astounded that I had remembered and told me that he still had it on his mantelpiece at home in Eastcote. Since then, I met Peter at *Shampers* several times and at events held at the school with his wife, Teresa.

Sadly, Peter died in March 2015 and I went to his funeral at Northwood. After the requiem mass, I spoke to Peter's daughter, Caroline, and told her the story of Peter playing the green clarinet in the Chemistry Lab. in 1954.

The clarinet was made in the 1920s and is of Russian origin. It was green in the 1950s and as it's made of Bakelite, I can only assume that the colour has faded uniformly. Peter told me that he bought it for £2 10s from a second hand shop in Harrow that sold all those things boys liked: air rifles, fishing equipment, musical instruments etc. Several months later I received an email from Anthony Baker (OP 1958) asking me if I was the OP who had spoken to Caroline about the green clarinet as she would like to give it to me. I contacted Caroline and told her that I would be very touched to have it and as a result she delivered it to Anthony who kindly brought it to *Shampers* at our gathering on 10th November 2015, carefully wrapped in a wine carrier.

I have to say, seeing the green clarinet being played by Peter encouraged me to take up the clarinet in 1956 and I was very fortunate to be given one by my mother's uncle. To this day I still play in a busy band. Over the years, I have come across three Old Priorians playing jazz: Ian McClean (OP 1957), playing the piano in a pub in West Ealing in the early 1960s, Michael Barley (OP 1958), playing fine Jelly Roll Morton piano style in a jazz club during the interval at Rickmansworth c.1960 and via email I have discovered



Bernard Stutt playing in November 2015

that Chris Graham (OP 1957) plays trumpet in a band in Australia.

By Bernard Stutt (OP 1955)



Peter Bingham-Daly



The clarinet as it looked in 1954

Success for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Campaign

Earlier this year I launched a mental health and suicide prevention campaign at Ealing Broadway Station, the Ward that I represent on Ealing Council, and the Ward in which I grew up and went to school. Mental health and suicide are difficult things to talk about, but nevertheless, with suicide being the leading cause of death for men between 20 and 34 in England, it is an important issue to address.

The campaign calls for the introduction of suicide prevention phones at the station. Some studies have shown that these direct access free-to-use phones could reduce injuries and fatalities at the station by up to one quarter. I wrote to the Chief Executive of the Samaritans, the Managing

Director of Great Western Railway, and the Chief Executive of Network Rail, asking them to work together to save lives at Ealing Broadway Station.

The campaign generated great publicity, featuring in the Evening Standard and the Ealing Gazette. I was also interviewed on the Paul Ross Show on BBC Radio London, as well as the campaign featuring on BBC London News during the BBC's Mental Health Week.

Most importantly, this campaign has resulted in real change with the installation of a new retractable safety fence to limit access to some of the platforms. I have also received a concrete guarantee that Great Western Railway will consider

and look at the feasibility of placing suicide prevention phones at Ealing Broadway station when they remodel the platforms this year, in advance of Crossrail. This is a great achievement and the campaign is moving into its next phase as I arrange a workshop for some of the key people involved in tackling the issue. On top of this, there is now a call to roll out suicide prevention phones across the UK. If you would like to get involved in this campaign, then do please get in touch.

For confidential support call the Samaritans on 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org

By Alex Stafford (OP 2005)

The OPA Award - Josh speaks at St Benedict's

Josh Somerville (OP 2013) returned to St Benedict's on Friday 26th February to talk to the Upper Sixth about the value of the Old Priorian Association Award. The overriding sentiment was one of humility. Listening to Josh talking about his experiences in Zambia, building homes, working in an orphanage and spending time in the local hospital, it was clear that he gained a great deal from his trip.

Every year, the OPA make an award

of up to £500; the 2016 Award is available to all Members of the Old Priorian Association who left, or will leave, St Benedict's School from Summer 2011 to Summer 2016 inclusive. The aim of the Award is to further the recipient's broader education by giving back in a way that is close to their heart.

Applications for this year's award close on 30th June 2016 and must be made to the Old Priorian Association Council.



Josh Somerville with some of the current Upper Sixth

School helps OP with Research

Michael Vasileiadis (OP 2014) is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Queen Mary University, London and was able to utilise some students of St Benedict's to assist him with a recent project. The project's objective was to persuade young children, around the age of 11, to do STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects

at university through a science related toy. In order for Michael's group to work effectively and efficiently, they decided to collect the information through the form of a survey. The aim was to help them understand the children's interests and preferences so that they could make a toy or game that will have the highest chance of success for this age group.

The project was a huge success and was split into three separate sections which were the toy prototype, the business plan and the elevator pitch (a two minute video explaining the game and what funding was required). The project was graded as a First Class, a fantastic achievement - well done Michael!

British Councillor visits Alalay



Alex in Alalay

As a Councillor in West London I have been privileged to spend time with the Alalay Foundation in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. I visited both the Casa de Ninos in the city, as well as the Aldea outside Santa Cruz. During my stay, I engaged with the children, staff and volunteers, seeing first-hand the challenges of their work, as well as the many opportunities it has created. From the work of Jose in convincing the children to come off the streets in the first place, to the daily zumba lessons led by volunteers, which give the children the opportunity to build confidence and awareness. Alalay offers hope and opportunities, which many of the children would not normally have. Above all, the sense that I got was one of warmth and community spirit. From the warmth given to the children from the motivated and inspiring staff and volunteers, to the sense of community fostered between the children and every member of the Foundation.

I was honoured to be asked to give Alalay a presentation on UK politics and the roles and relevance of politicians, which was received with great interest and enthusiasm. I also presented to the Foundation

specially commissioned portraits of HM Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of a member of the UK Parliament, Andrew Rosindell MP, with whom I had discussed the visit.

I left Alalay with a far greater understanding of some of the challenges facing young children in Bolivia, as well as an appreciation of the different solutions possible. Although many of the issues faced by children and young people in the UK initially appear different from those in Bolivia, there are many shared needs and hopes. From nurturing a sense of belonging, to feeling part of a wider community and learning the skills to support them later in life, these are some of the universal values of childhood.

I will take these lessons and experiences back to my political work in the UK and do what I can to both raise the profile of Alalay and to continue my work to support children facing difficult circumstances around the world. I hope that this is the start of an enduring and constructive relationship between the area I represent in the UK and the children in Santa Cruz.

By Alex Stafford (OP 2005)

AROPS Meeting March 2016

On the 10th March 2016, St Benedict's hosted the London Regional Meeting for AROPS (Association of Representatives of Old Pupils Societies). The event was very successful, enabling some interesting discussions, the fruits of which will hopefully be carried forward.

The success was due not least to the highly competent presentation on the School and its Past Pupils' Association by Tamlyn Worrall, and the organisation and admin from Richard Baker and staff. Despite the fact that other more pressing engagements were pencilled into the calendar, and difficulties with rail connections from all over the country, AROPS participants were made to feel welcome, and I hear that some AROPS members were very impressed by the school.

Tim Cunis, (Old Paulians and a member of AROPS Council) whose name is associated eponymously with the Cronk-Cunis Rugby Under-21 Festival asked if St Benedict's might consider being added to the list of viable schools for AROPS to hold their annual conferences and larger, day events in the future - clearly an accolade.

Despite the pressure, and almost last minute cancellation of the event due to low numbers attending, this was a good reflection on the nature of the school as a whole. It was an excellent showcase of all the good that occurs educationally and that is associated with the name St Benedict's, Ealing. May I say 'Congratulations'...?

By Lewis Hill (OP 1975, OPA AROPS Rep)



The AROPS gathering at St Benedict's

St Benedict's Careers Fair 2016

On Tuesday 2nd February the School held its 2016 Careers Fair; some statistics show its success:

Online Pre-registration:

680

Number of students and parents on the night:

852

Number of Volunteer professionals:

110

Old Priorian speakers:

15

Number of companies represented:

68

Number of Work experience offers:

35 and counting

Speaker Presentations:

3 - Accessing Academia (presented by Dr Richard Curtis), Law (presented by Mr Giles Crown) and Jaguar Land Rover (presented by David Aimable-Lina)

The Sports Hall hosted the Keynote speaker:

Ed Couchman - Head of External Agency Relations for Facebook and Instagram

The Sports Hall looked amazing with the special installation of atmospheric lighting and two 60-inch plasma screens to create the additional wow factor for our students.

Quotes:

Tim and Sian Knights, Current

Parents: "Sian and I were delighted

to be involved in the Careers Fair and thoroughly enjoyed the entire event. We had so many good conversations with enthusiastic students and their parents and we hope that we may have been of some help in providing them with career information in the field of physiotherapy. We both felt that the entire event was very well organised and helped to create a really inspiring atmosphere. Thank you for the lovely notebooks."

U4 Current Parent: "I just wanted to say well done and thank you for organising the Careers Fair on Tuesday. There was such a diverse range of careers advice available and it was so nice to see so many St Benedict's pupils engaged in conversation seeking advice."

L4 Current Parent: "To see so many companies there and so many pupils participating was quite uplifting, really, well done to you and the school."

Josh McCosh, VHH Architects, School Supplier: "It was good to take part, and the pupils were uniformly engaged, intelligent and (apparently!) appreciative. I would be happy to do it again."

Patrick Dixon, U6: "I can't thank you enough for providing me with this opportunity, a massive well done to you and everyone else



Dr Simon Valentine (OP 1980) offers advice



Orchard Hall Advice



Michael Simpson (OP 2008), Mikey Wade (OP 2007), Antony Andrews (OPRFC Coach) and Nick Farren (OP 1999)

involved in last night it was such a huge success."

Staff Member: "There was a buzz about the school and everyone I spoke to, or overheard speaking, was highly impressed with the comprehensive range of speakers. The event ran so smoothly that it belied the enormous amount of work that evidently went in to organising it, there was great attention to detail - polished and professional are the two words that spring to mind. It was a fantastic networking opportunity and I have no doubt that contacts made at the event, or interest sparked, will have long term influence on the pupils."

Current pupil: "The talks, atmosphere and excitement were great! It was really good and the highlight of my year so far".



We're here ...

Oxbridge Dinner 2016

On 5 February, the Old Priorian Association hosted its second annual Oxbridge dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London. The dinner was attended by 30 Old Priorians and we were very fortunate to welcome Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield (OP 1959) as this year's Guest of Honour.

With a career in journalism spanning over four decades, Lord Hennessy's insight into British government and politics is unparalleled. He shared stories from his fascinating career as well as his thoughts on constitutional



Guest of Honour, Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield

issues facing Britain today, namely the EU referendum and the future of Scotland in the United Kingdom.

A very interesting evening was enjoyed by all. This year's dinner also allowed us to bid a sad farewell to Chris Cleugh and to pay tribute to his many years of service to St Benedict's.

By Walid Haddad (OP 2010)



Walid Haddad (OP 2010), Alan Kenny (OP 2007), Alex Stafford (OP 2005) and Tom Cox (OP 2007)



Mark Fitzgerald (OP 1994), Tamlyn Worrall (OP Council) and Mark Leonard (OP 1993)

Old Priorian Spotlight - The Molony Brothers

Hundreds of Old Priorians will have been fortunate enough to have been taught by Mrs Molony in the Junior School. Among them, many of us will be friends with one, two or all three of her sons - John (OP 1998), Paul (OP 2000) and Michael (OP 2006). All three made a huge contribution to the school during their combined 46 years, notably on the rugby pitch. For this new feature, we follow up on the three Molony boys, whose lives have taken them across the globe.

John, the eldest sibling, lives in Maroubra, Australia, having moved out there in 2005. He is the Director of a recruitment company and is now married with children.

Paul (the self-proclaimed best looking Molony) explains that "I've been in Sydney since 2009, having come over here working in recruitment. I spent 4 years with the Ambition group before moving to Oracle and recently joined a smaller company called JXT where I head Business Development in Asia so spend a lot of time between Sydney, Hong Kong and Singapore. I live in the Eastern Suburbs and am still playing rugby mostly held together by tape, running out for Waverley rugby club. I'm recently

married and all are welcome who head down this way. My other hobbies include keeping tropical fish and lots of camping and hiking around Australia". Having spent New Year's Eve in 2011 in Sydney with Paul, I can recommend his hospitality!

Michael, the younger (and he stresses, slimmer) brother is now based in Los Angeles having moved to America working in recruitment. "I am living in Santa Monica, LA. I moved over in 2013 when I was offered a job with a company called GQR Global Markets and couldn't turn down the opportunity to live in the sunshine. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling around California, surfing and playing a bit of golf".

By Edward Conway (OP 2005)



L to R: Michael, John and Paul

Forthcoming events for your diary

Full details will be published in our email news and on our website:

Celebrating 60 years of girls at St Benedict's School
Thursday 23rd June 2016
St Benedict's School

OPA Summer Sports Festival
Sunday 3rd July 2016
Cricket, Tennis & Netball
St Benedict's Games Field, Perivale

OPA Annual General Meeting
AGM, Memorial Mass & Lunch
Saturday 5th November 2016
Ealing Abbey and Benet Club

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 or get in touch with our Development & Alumni Relations Office.

2010 Leavers Reunion

On 11th December 2015, over 40 Old Priorians from 2010 gathered in the new Sixth Form and Art Block for a reunion, celebrating five years since they left St Benedict's. It was a great opportunity to connect with old school friends and a great many of the teaching staff.

After a wonderful drinks reception, kindly hosted by Mr Cleugh and the school, we were shown round the



L to R: Emma Murphy O'Connor, Fabrice Goualin, David Wilkie, Chris Cleugh and Chris Wakefield

new Sixth Form and Art Block building, and we couldn't help but remember our time at the school and the differences that had occurred since we left, only five years ago!

As everyone was aware, this was the last chance our year group would have to bid a fond farewell to Mr and Mrs Cleugh, and it was fantastic that he could join us and say a few words about our time at the school. We would like to take this opportunity again to pass on our sincere best wishes to Chris and his whole family for a long and enjoyable retirement - hopefully with Everton performing slightly better in the league!

David Matkov said, "It was great to see so many faces from our time at school. A lot of people from the Junior School turned up as well so it was a good opportunity to meet up with them after such a long time!"



... and others

The evening continued, thanks to the generous subsidy from the OPA, at another familiar haunt for many Old Priorians - *The Haven*. Plenty of drinks were had and memories of school were exchanged and it was great that several of the teachers joined us there.

Thank you to all those at the school and the OPA who helped organise the event and hopefully it won't be another five years until we see each other again!

By Oran Doyle (OP 2010)

2014 Christmas Reunion

On a cold December evening just before Christmas in 2015, over half of the class of 2014 leavers gathered excitedly in the Benet Bar for our first official reunion, a year and a half after parting ways. There was a great buzz of excitement and anticipation at seeing friends again, some for the first time since leaving. The Christmas decorations around the bar added to the jovial mood, and as people began arriving it soon became clear that things would pick up right where they had left off, with laughs and smiles all round. It was great to see that although everyone had changed and matured in the time that had passed, the same characters were still there, and soon it was easy to forget that any time had passed at all from our lunch breaks in the sixth form area.

It was a great chance to catch up and compare stories of what we had been up to since leaving, with tales of the first year at university, the world of work and gap year adventures featuring regularly. Old stories were told too, and we reminisced fondly of our time at St Benedict's together.

Those who could not make it were greatly missed, especially our dear



friend Andre Abramian, RIP, whose 5th anniversary had just passed. We will never forget him, and it is on occasions like these that we are reminded especially of him and of his presence with us still. In his memory we had a small collection for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Overall it was hugely successful event and thanks to a generous subsidy from the OPA we were able to put on some food, which helped to make it a most memorable evening. Many thanks to OPA for making this possible, and especially

to Tamlyn Worrall, without whom it would not have happened.

It is a testament to the ethos of our school that we are able to come together as a community again so easily, as if no time has passed at all. Fr Thomas is definitely right; you never truly leave St Benedict's! And if any more proof were needed, look no further than the end of the evening, where talk all round turned to when the next reunion would be! The answer, we hope, is soon!

By Joe Curran (OP 2014)

OPRFC End of Season Review

The OPRFC endured a tougher second half to their season than they had expected; largely due to key personnel either being injured, away or training for marathons. The year started with an agonizing last minute loss, with a penalty try being awarded in injury time, with the OPs down to 13 men in a game which they led the whole way through. However, to their credit the boys produced their best performance of the season at home to Chingford the following week. In a game where everything seemed to click, the Twisters ran out 45-0 winners with skipper Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008) and Aristide Goualin (OP 2008) leading the charge with two tries apiece. The following week the Twisters faced bottom side Luton who had struggled all year and, even though it took a while to get into our stride, we left with full 5 points in the bag with a 39-21 score line.

However, this was to be the last win of the season for the Twisters. As the injuries mounted and the ground became worse the boys were always going to be up against it. Three rare losses at home to Thurrock, Chelmsford and Harrow were then backed up by away losses to Civil Service, Ruislip, Amersham and Chiltern, Tring and Brentwood. To their credit nobody ever gave up, which can be reflected in three of the games being lost by less than a score, with a bit more luck and another year of maturity these sorts of games could go either way. One glimmer of light was the away

draw to North Walsham. It was a game where current schoolboy Matthew Ilube made his debut on the wing. North Walsham has always been a difficult place to go and win, and a four-hour drive doesn't help. It took a last minute set piece move to work space for Matt to go over in the corner to tie the game up; a try on his debut went down very well for the journey back home.

A lot of positives are still to be taken from this season even after a run of bad results. In a time where bodies were limited it paved the way for new players to be brought through, a consecutive run of appearances for the Twisters will prove invaluable experience. A new crop of players also made their mark, with Fred Tucker (OP 2014) and Mark Makram (OP 2013) making their debuts; with both returning from University this year we are sure to see more of them and let's hope they can bring down as many of their year group as possible. The challenge now in front of the club is to regroup and get excited about the new season with a fresh start. With a full strength squad, we have the ability to beat anyone - evident from us beating everyone in the top 4 in the first half of the season. With a new influx of players, this will hopefully be attainable as we push up the league with National level rugby just one promotion away.

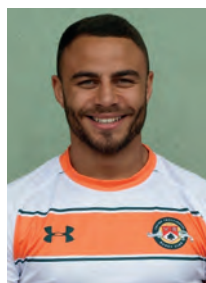
By Jack Dever (OP 2008)

Ealing Trailfinders survive in the Championship with help from OPs

Ealing Trailfinders recently secured their place in the Championship, which is the second tier of professional rugby in England. Old Priorians Arthur Ellis (OP 2008) and James Stephenson (OP 2008) were part of the squad and contributed to a tough, if ultimately successful season. The club will now be hoping to build upon this and climb up the table next season.



Arthur Ellis



James Stephenson

OP Cricket Club Fixture List

After a highly successful season in the Summer of 2015, the Old Priorian Cricket Club will be hoping for a dry Summer in 2016 as they continue to build. Led superbly by Matthew Codrington (OP 2012), and ably assisted by Ranjan Waas (OP 2008) and Ben Horan (OP 2005), they take on a variety of opponents including Old Merchant Taylors, Brentham, the School and more. Their fixture list is below. If you'd like to play, support or get involved in any way then please contact Matthew Codrington at matthew.codrington26@gmail.com

Sunday 8th May 2016

40 overs vs OMTs (A); Match Manager (MM): Ranjan Waas

Sunday 15th May 2016

40 overs vs Finchley (H); (MM): Ben Horan

Sunday 22nd May 2016

40 overs vs Brentham (A); (MM): Ranjan Waas

Wednesday 1st June 2016

20 overs vs Northfields (A); (MM): Ben Horan

Sunday 12th June 2016

40 overs vs Teddington (A); (MM): Matthew Codrington

Wednesday 15th June 2016

20 overs vs Staff (H); (MM): Matthew Codrington

Saturday 2nd July 2016

Declaration game vs school (H); (MM): M Codrington

Sunday 3rd July 2016

OPA Sports Festival, 20/20 Tournament (H); (MM): MC

Sunday 17th July 2016

40 overs vs Emeriti (H); (MM): Ranjan Waas

Sunday 24th July 2016

40 overs vs Northfields (H); (MM): Ben Horan

Sunday 7th August 2016

40 overs vs Old Actonians (A); (MM): M Codrington

Sunday 14th August 2016

40 overs vs Roehampton (H); (MM): Ranjan Waas

Sunday 21st August 2016

40 overs vs Old Amplefordians (H); (MM): MC



The Old Priorian Association

Founded 1927

The Old Priorian Association

The Old Priorian Association was formed on Friday, 1 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 which 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

Lewis Hill (OP 1975)

President

Marina Ranger (OP 2009)

Honorary Secretary

Ayelsha Patel (OP 2004)

Honorary Treasurer

Council Members

Frank Casali (OP 1984)

Edward Conway (OP 2005)

Sinead Leahy (OP 2008)

Kumaran Perinpanathan (OP 2009)

Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960)

Luca Uberai (OP 2010)

Peter Watson (OP 1952)

Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008)

Ex-Officio Council Members

Chris Cleugh

Headmaster

Rob Simmons (OP 1987)

Headmaster, Junior School

Catherine Bedwin

Bursar, St Benedict's School

Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976)

Chairman, St Benedict's Governing Board

Mary Boyle

Society of Parents and Friends

Richard Baker (OP 1959)

Administrator

Tamlyn Worrall

Director of Development, St Benedict's School

Full details about the Association and its activities can be found at: www.theopa.org

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

Email: opa@stbenedicts.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8862 2249

Post: The Old Priorian Association, 54 Eaton Rise, Ealing, London W5 2ES



Your Newsletter

Please do let us have your news and views for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Full details of the Association can be found at: <http://www.theopa.org>. Current School news can be found at: <http://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/Latest-News>.

Please also remember submitted image files should be of high resolution and as large a file size as possible.