



THE OLD PRIORIAN ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017



# President's Welcome

Welcome to this Winter 2017 edition of the Old Priorian Association Newsletter. Aside from the various excellent contributions about life in the Association and School, I am particularly pleased to note the School Careers Fair where many OPs contributed to its remarkable success, organised as it was by Tara George and Will Bedford from the Development Office. The inaugural Richard Baker Science Lecture, celebrating Richard's service to School and Association over seven decades was well attended and proved fascinating. The opening of the Junior

School "New Build - still The Ark!" although vastly different, marked another milestone in St Benedict's development and progress.

As for the "Older Generations", news of the 50th Anniversary Get-Together proved of great interest to me and will hopefully encourage more similar events. Shampers lunches sadly reports the death of Ian Blackaller who sadly died in October; Ian who did so much over the last fifteen years to enable the "even older generation" to meet regularly twice a year, will be missed by many, myself included. May he Rest in Peace.

The year has come full circle and the annual diary provides structure to its incessant turmoil. May I remind all of you about the forthcoming Annual Dinner to be held on 19th April 2018 - one of the many highlights of the diary for this coming year; our regular emails and our website contain full details of our events as they become available.

May you all be happy in 2018 wherever you find yourselves and whatever you will be doing.

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

## Opening of the New Junior School Ark

Professor Francis Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University, Twickenham, officially opened the new Junior School Building (on the site of The Ark known to so many generations of OPs) at St Benedict's on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Professor Campbell told pupils that they should always remember the three elements of "People, Place and Prospect" at St Benedict's. People, he said, create the school's ethos, "which hits you as soon as you walk through the door."

Secondly, the school's location beside Ealing Abbey is a constant reminder that it is part of the 1,500 year old Benedictine tradition, and that Catholic education is "the largest provider of education world-wide." Finally, he encouraged pupils to feel excited about their prospects; to "take inspiration from former pupils who have walked here before you, and who are now successful in all walks of life, doing the things they love."

Abbot Martin Shipperlee blessed the new building after which

Professor Campbell unveiled a commemorative stone. Guests included pupils, parents, alumni, staff and governors, who were welcomed by the Headmaster, Andrew Johnson.

The Junior School Headmaster, Mr Rob Simmons, thanked everyone who had contributed to the successful completion of the new school, and said that it had been a pleasure to be part of the project's journey, from the initial ideas and plans, through to its successful completion. The walkway linking



Rob Simmons (OP 1987), Junior School Headmaster



the old building with the new, he said, was one of the many excellent features, allowing views across west London to one side, and of Ealing Abbey to the other.

The new building, designed by van Heyningen and Haward Architects, is an extremely energy-efficient 'Passivhaus' construction - one of only a handful of schools in the UK built to this standard. A timber frame provides a high degree of

insulation, making the building up to 96% more energy efficient than older school buildings. Air quality and temperature are maintained by using heat recovery ventilation and all classrooms are south facing for good natural light. There is also a home economics room, and direct access to landscaped outdoor learning and play areas.

**By Dawn Johnson, PR Marketing Department St Benedict's School**



Andrew Johnson, Headmaster St Benedict's



Abbot Martin and Professor Francis Campbell

## ...way back in 1947

Let me stimulate some thoughts of ages past in those of you old enough to remember. When I came to the Junior School seventy years ago it consisted of one large old house and on the right where the new 2017 building now stands, a ramshackle single-storey shack serving as a cloakroom - "The Ark". On the left-hand side hung as it seemed in space a wooden extension which formed one of the classrooms. All the teaching facilities were contained within the house - just classrooms and little else, no dedicated rooms as there are today. My four years in the Junior School were overseen by Miss McElvogue in Lower Prep A, Miss Rowsell in Upper Prep A, Mr Russell-Jones in Form 1A and Mr Knight in Form 2A. My Headmaster for the first year was Dom Bruno Grogan and thereafter Dom Philip Clarke.

In LPA, music and Art were taught in the Junior School, but thereafter we went across to the Upper School for these; music in the single room of the Music Department (now part of the Sixth Form Canteen), "ruled over" by Mr Bowyer and Art in the adjacent room (now part of the Senior School Chapel complex), "ruled over" (more sternly I remember!) by Miss Vincent-Smith. Our lunches were taken in the Senior School refectory (a large tin hut where the Cloisters Hall now stands) and for Games (football in LPA and then rugby in the other years) we all went to Perivale on two afternoons a week.

On attending the Opening of the "New Ark" in November, I could only marvel at how the Junior School had developed with all its modern facilities in a vastly larger space than we had.

**By Richard Baker (St Benedict's Junior School 1947-1951, OP 1959)**

## Email Addresses

**D**o 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!

# The Inaugural Richard Baker Science Lecture 2017

In November 2017, we were very proud to institute the Richard Baker Science Lecture Series.

The lecture series is in recognition of a remarkable man's life-long relationship with St Benedict's: Richard Baker (OP 1959). Richard has a seventy year association with the school as a much-loved pupil, teacher, and volunteer. The Richard Baker Science Lectures have been very generously endowed by Dr Francis Cuss MA, FRCP (OP 1972). Francis, a former chemistry pupil of Richard's, attributes much of his passion for science, and his personally satisfying career in medical research, to Richard's inspirational teaching.

The evening started with an official CCF Guard of Honour for Richard. A very deserving nod to Richard's long relationship with the CCF, where he reached the dizzy heights of Lieutenant Colonel, before his retirement in 1991.

Victoria Szymanska, Upper 6<sup>th</sup>, opened the proceedings with an impressive presentation of her EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) project: *To what extent does prenatal music exposure affect the development of a fetus?*

The Lecture, aptly named *Science Education: more important than ever*, expertly delivered by Francis, was extremely well received and covered many fascinating scientific insights including the path to curing Hepatitis C and

harnessing the immune system to treat cancer. Francis closed his lecture with his own personal tribute to Richard, congratulating him on 70 years at St Benedict's and thanking him for his inspirational teaching and guidance to the many generations of St Benedict's Old Priorians over the years.

Junior School Headmaster, Rob Simmons (OP 1987) closed the evening with a fitting tribute to Richard with the announcement of

"The Baker Lab" to honour and to commemorate Richard's 70 years at St Benedict's. Presentations were made from the School and the Staff Common Room and there followed a celebratory dinner in the Heritage Room.

The next Richard Baker Science lecture will be held in early December 2018.

**By Tara George, Development Director St Benedict's School**



The CCF escort Richard in



**Front Cover Photo:**  
Francis Cuss and Richard Baker



Victoria delivers her EPQ Project



# Annual General Meeting 2017

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 11th November 2017. Because the Newman Chapel in the Abbey was not available this year we held the AGM in The Cleugh Building (the Sixth Form Centre) in the School. Immediately after the Meeting our Annual Memorial Mass was celebrated in the adjacent School Chapel, a most appropriate location as the School War Memorial is located just outside the Chapel entrance. After Mass all adjourned to the Benet Club for our traditional lunch; we thank Giovanni Persano

(Club Manager) for his hospitality and Concetta Vager for her lunch, as usual of the highest standard and enjoyed by all.

At the AGM members received the annual reports from the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Administrator and the Sports Clubs Representative. Annual elections to Council were held - the full results of elections for 2017-2018 can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

**By Richard Baker (OP 1959),  
Administrator OPA**



The School Field of Remembrance with the OPA wreath

## Contact with other OPs

The OPA Office is happy to act as a "Contact 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!*

## Old Priorians support the St Benedict's 2017 Careers Fair

The biennial St Benedict's Careers Fair, on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 was a huge success, providing a unique opportunity for pupils to explore their possible futures and career pathways.



Jess Taylor-Beirne (OP 2009) with advice on Paediatric Nursing

Over 150 companies took part, offering advice and expertise on a range of careers from accountancy to archaeology, music to medicine.

Six expert speakers gave presentations on law, careers

in academia, creative industries, STEM, theatre and interview techniques. The evening concluded with a keynote speech from Spotify's Global Agency Lead, Pete Beeny.

It was wonderful to welcome back nearly 50 of our Old Priorians to advise our students on subject choices, university options and potential careers. Students are always very keen to hear from our OPs directly and we are



Sean Taylor-Beirne (OP 2009) with advice on Army Careers



Anthony Searle (OP 2009) with advice on Law

very grateful to those who so generously gave up their evening to help support us.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with offering Careers advice or joining our Old Priorian Mentoring and Networking events, please contact: Tara George, Development Director by email at: [tgeorge@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:tgeorge@stbenedicts.org.uk)

**By Will Bedford, Development Manager St Benedict's School**

# The Years that have passed

**D**r Francis M Cuss MA, FRCP  
St Benedict's School 1961-1972

Francis Cuss is a physician-scientist, with a background in general and academic medicine, who has developed a broad experience, both in Europe and the USA, in pharmaceutical research, in clinical development and in executive management within globally-operating biopharma companies during a career of more than 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry, specifically with BMS, Schering-Plough and Glaxo.

Francis retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb in July 2017 having served as Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer since July 2013 and as a member of BMS's Senior Management Team since 2010. He joined Bristol-Myers Squibb in 2003 and as head of Research for nearly a decade Francis led a discovery organization which produced an innovative pipeline focused on helping patients prevail against serious diseases.

Prior to joining the pharmaceutical industry, Francis was a practising physician with a specialisation in pulmonary medicine in the UK. He received his education at St Benedict's School (1961-1972) and his medical training in the United Kingdom. He holds medical degrees from Cambridge University, and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on topics of medical interest.

**Richard Baker**  
St Benedict's School 1947-2017  
Pupil 1947-1959; Staff 1962-2000;  
OPA 1959; OPA Admin 2004-2017

Richard became a pupil in St Benedict's Junior School in September 1947 when he was 6½ years old. From then his life at St Benedict's has continued almost without break, for seven decades. His School days were happy and with a polished technique of avoiding most things sporty, four years in the Junior School

passed insignificantly as did two years in the Middle School and then six years in the Upper School. He coped then with School lunches in a "tin" refectory, sited roughly where the Cloisters' Hall is now, a large tin hut serving as the gymnasium - held together by flakes of rust, totally functional and probably a lot more fun than the state of the art Gym that the School has now.

"working life" at St Benedict's revolving around Chemistry, the CCF and for the last ten years IT, when at the request of the Headmaster, Dr Tony Dachs, he started up and developed the teaching of IT and the first school computer network.

One summer when the Games Department was so short of staff to take cricket at



*Contemporaries and great friends of Francis: L to R: Andrew Kemp, Philip Kenward, Richard Baker and Francis Cuss*

In the senior school most of his extra-curricular activities were devoted to the CCF where he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant in charge of the Signals Section. In the sixth form he studied the physical sciences at A/L especially developing a joy in Chemistry; in those days there were just three laboratories, Chemistry, Physics and Biology, but in 1958 the Science block as it is now, was built. And so after twelve years he then spent three years at Bristol University reading for a degree in Chemistry; during his time at University he became convinced that he wanted to teach, but with no plan to return to St Benedict's. It was the then Headmaster, Fr George Brown, who offered him a junior appointment in the Chemistry Department for September 1962. His staff appointment at St Benedict's was to last the whole of his working career with his paid

Perivale he was asked by Basil Nickerson to go down to Perivale and umpire; his talents as a cricket umpire were not fully appreciated and only lasted for three weeks, but his talents as scorer for the Staff cricket XI lasted for many years. His passion as an officer in the CCF lasted for 29 years from 1962, finally retiring in 1991 as a Lieutenant Colonel (the highest rank attainable to CCF officers), commanding the School Contingent for the last 13 years of his CCF career.

In 2000 at the age of 60 Richard could see retirement looming on the horizon and he felt it was the right time to go. Living out the rest of one's life "free of bells" seemed pleasurable - except he hadn't bargained for the OPA! The Association had been part of his life since



leaving school. In the mid-sixties he was invited and elected to join the Council as an ordinary member, but soon to be "elevated" to the position of Assistant Treasurer with special responsibility for Membership. In the early 2000s the School offered the Association facilities within the School - an office, telephone, computer and some part-time help from one of the Trust Office staff. At the 2003 AGM a volunteer was called for to help in the Association's work. Thinking that a couple

of hours work a month might be rather fun and keep him out of mischief Richard volunteered and so the ex-officio position of Assistant Administrator was born! Fourteen years later he is still a fixture in the OPA Office, now as Administrator and usually working one day a week. Telephone calls, emails, newsletters both electronic and printed, circulars etc. all emanate from the office for the hopeful benefit of Old Priorians.

A passing thought from Richard (culled from various sources) after

seventy years associated with the (Community of St Benedict's School:

*Remember: - Life is lived forwards but understood backwards; in our experiences of life we should not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness. Remember: - Do not walk behind me, I may not lead; Do not walk in front of me, I may not follow; Walk beside me and be my Friend - Friendship is surely one of God's greatest gifts.*

# The New Look Orchard Hall

The fully refurbished Orchard Hall was officially opened in October this year by Headmaster, Andrew Johnson. Mr Johnson was joined by Old Priorians, parents, teaching staff and students, and

all enjoyed wonderful musical performances from the Junior School choir and the Jazz Ensemble choir, and also a "Flash Mob" dance routine from the senior school Drama students.



Flash Mob Routine

The Orchard Hall is now a place of which we can be proud, and features a state of the art seating system, lighting and sound equipment.

This is the first major fundraising project undertaken by the Development Office and we are extremely proud of what has been achieved with the generous support of the St Benedict's parental and Old Priorian community who together raised over £100,000 towards the refurbishment.

By Tara George, Development Director St Benedict's School



The new seating in use

## War Memorial Refurbishment- update

The War Memorial Committee would like to thank all those generous Old Priorians who have contributed to the War Memorial Fund, which in November 2017 reached its £10,000 target and continues to attract donations. We hope to use any surplus to fund an annual War Memorial Bursary scheme. Next year the Committee and selected pupils will visit the workshop where the new memorial is being carved, where we will contribute to the carving of a few letters and decorations. If any Old Priorian would be interested in coming with us and leaving his or her mark for posterity, please contact me on [shullis@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:shullis@stbenedicts.org.uk). We may have to draw names out of a hat! Please also remember to save the dates mentioned in my letter which came to you in October.

By Shaun Hullis, Contingent Commander CCF and Head of Classics, St Benedict's School

# Old Priorians celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of leaving

Our group is made up mostly of boys who joined the Middle School in 1960, freshly out of their 11+ and were to leave between 1966 and 1968. This was our 5th reunion of a series spread over the last 20 years, but the first to be reported in the OPA newsletter. The initiative and organization have moved successively through different hands, may they all be thanked for their endeavours that have kept us together for much longer than expected.

Mike Strahan kicked off with two successful reunions in Ealing: 10 OPs in 1995 and 15 in 1999. A change of venue was decided for the next two reunions, organized by Peter Hearn and Pat Lavery at the Lensbury, Teddington: 14 OPs in 2009, then 14 again in 2011. Fresh faces turn up each time.

Early in 2016, Frank Arpino volunteered to open a search for those boys who had left school 50 years ago, a difficult theme! He trawled through Richard Baker's list of OPs, plus the contacts of previous attendees, social media and Google to finally identify 30 boys to invite. Many others, sadly, never turned up on our radar.

In spring 2017, twenty OPs attended our 50th Anniversary Reunion at the St George's Tavern, Pimlico for lunch and after-lunch drinks. Six others, busy working or out of the country, were kind enough to send us a word of apologies for their absence. Our best attendance to date.

What is it that brings together a group of Old Boys, aged mostly 67 to 68, many living a long way from London? Exchanging memories of times at school is certainly the main conversation starter. Remembering, cross country running in plimsolls every time Perivale was under water, Arduous Training and smuggling beer into Camp, Dusty Miller barking orders as we marched on the Black Pitch, early Sports Days and prizes for Throwing the Cricket Ball, later, Basil Nickerson threatening to "decimate" us for rowdy classroom behaviour, and many other events that cannot be published here!

Some boys re-discovered their personal claim to fame when F Arpino handed out a copy of the

Middle School Prize list for 1960-61. This was followed by the 1961 Pantomime Cast List for "Ali Baba" (and about 18 thieves).

We were honoured to find in our midst 3 Woodwork prize winners: M Habell, C Cave and R Hubbard (would have been 4 with M Jennings absent); 2 Art Prize winners: F Randell and J Mulvey (now an accomplished artist); a RI Prize for P Lavery and a Merit Prize for F Arpino.

The Ali Baba Cast List was to reveal long forgotten talents: F Arpino had the lead role Ali Baba, P Hearn was Mustapha, Leader of the Robbers, R Hilvert had travelled all the way from the Philippines to learn that he had been a Merchant, J Mulvey and C Denny were both Thieves and R Hubbard was either the Front or the Back-end of the Camel (the Camel's other half, G Warr, was not with us to jolt memories). The other topic, once we had exhausted School souvenirs, often inflated, always hilarious, was as usual, "What are you up to now?" It's amazing just how active we are, with most of us still in fairly good health, especially when compared with previous generations. Did regular sport and school dinners help? The Economist suggested recently that a new term be coined for our active generation. Might we be called Nyppies, Not Yet Past It or Owls, Older, Working Less, Still

Earning, or alternatively, Older, Working, Learning Still? Ideally, in time, this would have the same influence as "teenager" when coined for the 13 to 19 age group.

Despite starting around 12.30pm, having a long lunch together and playing musical chairs (without the music) to change partners, and finishing around 6.00pm, most of us were to leave with the feeling that we hadn't had enough time to chat with all our classmates! Conclusion: we must have another reunion in the near future. Going by the big smiles on all the faces, this was a most successful get-together, due in large part to the choice of venue and our very helpful waitress, Erika.

Congratulations go to Frank Arpino for his excellent organization and coordination: he wins a second Merit Prize for that. A special mention also for Barry Clark, our Treasurer of the Day, for his excellent, very diplomatic handling of finances (the lunch and bar kitties).

If you would like to join us next time, send an email to Frank Arpino (via the OPA Office if you don't have his email address). For a copy of the group photo and other pictures of the event, please contact Richard Hubbard at richard.hubbard@laposte.net. We look forward to seeing you all at our next reunion.

**By Richard Hubbard (OP 1967)**



*In the Photo, from left to right:*

*Standing: Dave Young, Chris Stevenson, Ray Mortimer, Peter Acres, Mike Strahan, Martin Habell, Frank Randell, Peter Hearn, Chris Lowney, Geb Ring, Pat Lavery, Ron Hilvert, Mike D'Alton, Barry Clark*

*Seated: Richard Hubbard, Frank Arpino, Chris Cave, Chris Denny*

*Present on the day, but not in the picture: Jerry Mulvey and Paul Tobin  
Absent on the day, but would have loved to be with us: Chris Haslam, Anthony Carter, Dave Evans, Owen Rafferty, Mike Jennings and Martin Doyle*



# Ian Blackaller (OP 1957) R.I.P.

Ian Blackaller, who for over fifteen years had organised a twice-yearly reunion lunch gathering for Old Priorians of the late fifties and early sixties vintage at Shampers in London, died peacefully on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 aged 77. Anthony Baker (OP 1958) represented the Old Priorian Association and the School at Ian's funeral.

Ian sadly died at the end of October and I was able to attend his funeral at Worth Abbey on 15 November - ironically the day Ian had chosen (a year previously) for the next Old Priorian lunch at Shampers wine bar. Anthony Phillips and John Lindley (both OPs) were also present with Anthony's wife Monica, so we represented the Old Priorian Association and the School.

The spacious circular church at Worth was respectably filled - perhaps around 200 people - for the Requiem Mass celebrated by Dom Stephen Ortiger OSB. Fr Stephen had visited Ian in his illness and referred to the Blackaller associations with Worth - Ian's Mother's funeral



*Ian Blackaller, R.I.P. 1940-2017*

was also held there and I think that of his brother in law. Perhaps unsurprisingly beyond Ian's wife and family the majority of the congregation were men of mature years, with an emphasis on locals - Ian had been especially active in reviving the local Chamber of Commerce. Predominantly the congregation was not Catholic,

so Fr Stephen used some of the homily to point out the significance of celebrating the Eucharist at a funeral. There were ecumenical touches too in that the vicar of the Newick church (to which Ian's wife Glenda belongs) read the bidding prayers and also arranged a separate distribution of Holy Communion for Anglicans and others who did not receive at the Catholic Mass. At the end of Mass an appreciation was given by a friend from Ian's youth with various references to thespian activities which had gone hilariously wrong. Ian's coffin was then carried out with the arrangement for family burial the next day at Newick church.

The large gathering after the Mass was well provided with refreshments in the spacious narthex of the church - what a useful assembly area. I was intrigued to meet an Old Oratory contemporary of Ian's who commented that Ian also organised very similar lunches at Shampers for his Oratory contemporaries. Ian was a convivial companion on all fronts! May he rest in peace.

**By Anthony Baker (OP 1958)**

## A Sad Shampers Lunch

1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 saw our next Shampers Lunch. This was to be a lunch with a difference. Ian Blackaller had arranged the date many months ago, before he had become seriously ill; he had managed to attend the lunch at the end of April, but none knew that this was to be his last. Ian died on 30<sup>th</sup> October. When the Baker twins visited Ian in his care home at the beginning of October Ian made it very clear that he wished that the tradition he had started should continue in his name.

So it was that on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, the day of Ian's funeral, eighteen of us gathered as usual at Shampers. It was a sad occasion and yet we had great happiness in being able to celebrate Ian's life and what he had done for our gatherings over many years.

James Anscomb, Desmond Baker, Richard Baker, Geoffrey Bennett, Tony Brunning,



*Kevin Hannigan, David Randell and Richard Baker*

Brendan Caulfield, Brian Clancy, Denis Costello, Andre de Moller, Patrick Gardiner, Kevin Hannigan, Mike Henderson, John Notley, Stephen Novy, David Randell, Bernard Stutt, Brian Taylor and Gordon Wilson attended. Three of our regulars, Anthony Baker, John Lindley and Anthony Phillips represented all Shampers Lunchers over the years at Ian's Funeral at Worth Abbey.

Shampers Lunches, henceforth to be known as IBLunches will continue in the spirit which Ian so solidly built for them. The photograph from this lunch shows three of the four pupils who joined the Junior School in 1947 at the same time as Ian; the fourth member of this group, Anthony Baker was at Ian's funeral.

**By Richard Baker (OP 1959)**

# Teaching a Way of Living

A few reflections on my life at St Benedict's... My first memories of St Benedict's, were of being greeted to the school through a small hatch by Mrs Mary O'Donohoe, the then Fr Benedict's mother and school secretary, and being ushered into a smoke filled office on the first floor of the Headmaster's House on Eaton Rise. As the smoke gradually cleared I noted an imposing figure seated behind a large desk, fag in one hand and the other stretched out in greeting.

"So you're the young man from Rosslyn Park Rugby Club who wants a position here?" he asked. Yes, I nervously replied; it was my first interview post teacher training, having abandoned life as a management accountant in search of a more rewarding life with longer holidays. At this, the figure looked at his packet of cigarettes, noted it was empty and uttered an expletive of exasperation. I fumbled in my pocket, pulled out a pack of John Players and offered him one. He accepted my offer and said "That's two things in your favour already, you play rugby and smoke the same cigarettes as me. When can you start?"

With that, I was taken over to the then Middle School via an old pigeon filled Nissen hut, which I was told was the Gym and exam room. Upon arrival I was greeted by the formidable Fr. Gregory and the even more formidable secretary Clare Cummins, and was introduced to the classrooms, house systems and classes I would eventually teach. This was followed by a visit to the school fields at Perivale - a then Elm tree lined field bordered by the River Brent and Ealing Golf Club. It was a Wednesday and Ian Stephen was running a session with the second XI; he enquired if I had ever wielded a bat, I replied "Yes, we occasionally play this sport in my native land but it is played largely in the rain". He invited me to pad up in the pavilion, a wooden building with a small kitchen and servery, and pointed to the changing rooms for the requisite equipment. I entered a dark gloomy building with lots of small rooms with coat pegs, scattered

shoes and clothing, eventually locating the pads, box and bat despite the dark and headed out into the blinding light towards the square. In my head I thought I might have a look at the bowling before I attempted to play any shots. The first ball whizzed past my ear before I could see it and I then decided to hit it before it hit me, and set about hitting the next three into the golf course. Little did they know that Hurling was a left-handed game, that the slither or ball was as hard as a cricket ball, and that I had played this game at home in Ireland. This fearlessness in the face of a fierce onslaught also worked in my favour in getting the post. Later, I learnt that I was the only candidate for the position!

This was my introduction to St Benedict's and I started the following September as a class and form teacher in the Senior School, teaching amongst other things English, Maths, R.E. and even Latin at a pinch, as well as my main subject, Geography. At this time pupils had to migrate to the senior school for Science and Art, as did the teachers if they were teaching upper school classes. Sometimes we would have to run the gauntlet of Basil Nickerson, the Second Master, patrolling the black pitch, pointing at his watch uttering "well!!!" in a cryptic fashion. Basil was prone to leaving similar messages in one's pigeon-hole, such as, "reading room 10:30?" Only after a number of years did one learn to decipher them. On one such journey from Middle to Upper school he challenged my late arrival. I replied that I had not as yet developed the skill of bi-location and that perhaps someone should take the simple measure of setting the clocks and bells in both places to the same time. This was an unheard of challenge to the man, who made everyone in the school quake in their respective boots when he spoke, and to my and everyone's surprise he agreed, and said he would see that it was done. Over my years of teaching in the school I came to realise that Basil was not as he first appears and that he had a deep love for the pupils. As he mellowed, with his marriage to the aforementioned Clare, the pupils realised what a kind man he was. My abiding memory of him, was of him patrolling the edge of

the 1<sup>st</sup> team cricket pitch with his daughter Lizzy hanging on to his coat tail. An old adage suggests that pupils should be seen and not heard. I personally developed the skill of being heard but not seen - "You boy, what do you think you are up to?" rang out on several occasions in my attempts to inculcate honesty, good manners and reasonable behaviour into the youths of west London. It has always been my view that manners maketh the man and that you can go a long way in life with these attributes. I have always had a soft spot for the naughty boys, who push the limits and own up to their indiscretions.

A particular highlight for me was when I was showing some potential future parents around the school and was mid-sentence telling them all about the glories of the reading room, when a pupil, whom I had had a few run-ins with as Head of Behaviour over the years, a typical Bennies naughty boy, stood up. My heart began to sink as he announced, "This man is a bloody legend, he managed to get me into the sixth form, why wouldn't you want to send your kid here for sixth form." My personal thought was that I was more of a leg end than a legend.

The school community has suffered some bad publicity over recent years, and some of our former pupils have been deeply scarred from their experiences under those who should have cared for them the most. We should never forget the harm that has been done to them, we should pray that they now have some closure to their pain and suffering over the years. The school is not the physical buildings housing the class rooms, nor is it the transient teachers who come and go. It is the pupils who went and go there, the care and love that they have for each other, and the bonds of friendship they have developed over the years. The Old Priorians are unique and different from other schools, in that they care and look after each other, long after their schooldays have finished. I am proud to consider a number of my ex-pupils as good friends and consider it a privilege to be part of their lives.



I have so many good memories of teaching and sports coaching days at the school, far outweighing any bad memories and far too many to put down in a short

article like this. Too much water under the bridge at Perivale - hundreds of anecdotes and incidents spring to mind. Perhaps I should write a book about it all, and as the

true school motto, now restored, says *A minimis incipe* - from small beginnings. Who knows!

**By Peter Halsall (Senior School Staff 1976-2015)**

## Cronk Cunis Tournament and Rugby Update

After a hiatus last year, Old Priorians returned to the Cronk Cunis National Under 21 Rugby Festival at Richmond this Summer. Phelim Kavanagh (OP 2015) and Jamie Spanswick (OP 2015) did an excellent job in assembling the boys and were helped by coaches (and Bennies staff) Myles Stringer (OP 2006) and Simon Jukes. The tournament is a far cry from where it was a decade ago but the boys enjoyed the run-out despite certainly feeling the consequences of visiting Notting Hill Carnival the day before!

Old Priorians continue to make their mark in professional rugby. Joe Simpson (OP 2006) enjoyed a superb Testimonial Season to celebrate his service to Wasps. He continues to play for the club as they seek to return to the Premiership Final this season. Jonah Holmes (OP 2010) signed for Premiership side Leicester Tigers in the Summer after impressing at Yorkshire Carnegie in the Championship for a number of seasons. He recently scored two tries on his Premiership debut against Wasps, the club

that he grew up with whilst at St Benedict's. Meanwhile, Conor Dolan (OP 2015) impressed on the 7s circuit and spent much of the Summer training with USA 7s at their Chula Vista Olympic Training Base. Finally, former St Benedict's and OPRFC Rugby Coach Adam Preocanin made his international debut this Autumn, featuring for Germany. I'm sure I can speak for all in the community in congratulating all four and wishing them well for the future.

**By Edd Conway (OP 2005)**

## Old Priorian Cricket Club

2017 was another successful year for the OP's Cricket Club. More than 30 players represented the club across our extensive fixture list! Highlights for the year include the incredible tied game against the School on the Saturday followed by the Old Boy's retaining the 20/20 trophy on the Sunday, led by Harry Britt's (OP 2014) 105\* off 40 balls. A very young OP's side entered the Emeriti-Phillips Cup and finished as runners up with Ned Leonard (OP 2015) receiving the bowler of the tournament award. We are always looking for more players to join our fun, friendly and social cricket club - so please get in touch! Fixture list for 2018 will be posted in the New Year.

**By Matthew Codrington (OP 2012)**

Contact: Matthew.codrington26@gmail.com; 07879440502



OPCC Winning Team in their 20/20 match against the School

## 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 - do please contact us. Much useful information about reunions, including guidelines for claiming a possible subsidy, is available at: <http://theopa.org/events/reunions>

# OPRFC

After a tough start, the Old Priors Rugby Football Club have fought back admirably in recent weeks to position themselves well going into Christmas. Ravaged by injury and unavailability, the first six weeks of the season saw the OPs record just the one victory, a 19-14 win over local rivals Ruislip. However, the return of key players and the move to once-a-week training has helped the squad to manage a run of five wins in six games - the best form since their promotion from London 2NW in 2013-2014. After disappointing losses against South Woodham and Diss in October, the OPs showed promise against Brentwood. Unfortunately, Brentwood scored four late tries to inflate the score line. But to play so well against a well-resourced club was a positive step forward. Old Habs visited Perivale next in a crucial game for both sides. The game was an edgy affair for the first half, but OPs opened up in the second forty minutes and managed to gain an impressive 40-13 victory. The following week they travelled to struggling Letchworth and again wore down the opposition to enable a second half flurry of tries for a 56-12 win.



James Booth (OP 2008)

After the weekend off, the OPs travelled to high-flying Colchester and felt that they might be able to spring an upset. Despite dominating much of the game, the OPs were 19-0 down at half-time after some breakaway tries by the home side. The OPs refused to go down easily and fought back valiantly in the second half. Ultimately, it wasn't quite enough as it finished 29-22 to Colchester but it was another improved performance. The next three fixtures began to show what this side is really capable of. Eton Manor, who were fifth at the time, visited Perivale but returned home empty handed as they were out-classed in most facets of the game. The OPs managed an impressive



OP Scrum

25-10 victory. The following week was another big test, travelling to North Norfolk to play North Walsham who had replaced Eton Manor in fifth. A tight, tense game on a sticky pitch made for agonising viewing but the players dug deep to see out a 17-14 win. This was the club's first ever win at North Walsham, the long coach journey previously proving an insurmountable obstacle. With Christmas approaching, the OPs then took on struggling Saffron Walden at Perivale. The aim was simple - prove how far the team has come this season by winning convincingly. The players took to the task admirably. Captain Jack Dever's (OP 2008) early try set the tone for a quite incredible 101-0 result, which has been followed by wins over Ruislip (31-19) and Fullarians (48-7) that saw the OPs climb to 6<sup>th</sup> in the table. A number of players have impressed so far

this season with Captain Jack Dever and Vice-Captain Alex Ozegovic (OP 2012) leading by example. Special mentions must also go to Joe Wellings (OP 2010), returning Rowan Halsall (OP 2008) and scrum-half Si March. On the 9<sup>th</sup> December the club hosted the inaugural Supporters Club Lunch at Perivale prior to the Saffron Walden game. It featured the prize draw for Ealing Trailfinders and England Six Nations tickets, won by Adam Hanke (OP 2004) and Kevin Howe (father of David, OP 2013). The Supporters Club has now reached over 50 members and continues to grow. We aim to host another lunch in the new year. If you'd like further information on joining the Supporters Club (£25 annual membership) then contact OPRFC Director of Rugby, Edd Conway at [edd@edgerugby.co.uk](mailto:edd@edgerugby.co.uk).

**By Edd Conway (OP 2005)**



Conor Dolan (OP 2015)



# News of Old Priorians June 2017 to December 2017

## **Geoffrey Bennett (OP 1970):**

Geoffrey is the youngest, but no less welcome OP at the Shampers Lunches. At the recent lunch in November discussion revealed that his uncles were also Old Priorians: **Patrick Toal (OP 1944)** and **John Toal (OP 1949)**. Geoffrey subsequently emailed: Thank you very much for tracing my uncles. John is still with us and, as you can see, celebrated his 80th birthday this year. Pat died some time ago. I will contact John to see if I can discover anything that can be used in the OPA news. Pat's creativity in finding excuses for being late to school apparently translated later into being good at English, at least as I was always told by my mother. I did meet Pat's children recently. One of his daughters went on to do English at Cambridge which I found interesting.

## **Bertrand Boule (OP 1973):**

Is now living in Mauritius and works as a Stockbroker.

**Michael Barley (OP 1958):** After practising as a GP in Brighton from 1967 to 2000, Michael is now fully retired as from 2014 after doing locums. Still living in Hove. He has three grandsons, two of whom are twins.

**John Coffey (OP 1959):** Died 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Aged 76. Son of Brian Coffey (Senior School Staff 55-65). R.I.P.

**Andrew Deacon (OP 1967):** Died 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017, Aged 68. R.I.P.

**Simon Donan (OP 1959):** Emails details of the Hawaii Reunion that he is organising to take place in February 2018. My wife Lynda and I have just (May 2017) returned from New Zealand, where during our lengthy trip we had three splendid lunches with Neil Moss (Rugby coach 1959-61) and his wife Jacqui. Six years ago Neil organised a St Benedict's re-union in Paunui (south of Auckland); the occasion was highly successful with 18 attending. Well, breaking news - he and principally Michael Pohlmann (OP 1960) are

arranging another amazing event. The venue is Maui, off Hawaii from 21-28 February 2018. Duboudin, Reece, Bastable, Moss, Pohlmann and ourselves have already booked accommodation on the Island.

**David Everett (OP 1958):** Died 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Aged 77. R.I.P.

**Mark Ferns (OP 1983):** Died 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Aged 53. Mark was IT Manager at St Benedict's from March 2003 to October 2014. R.I.P.

**Helen Galatis (OP 1983):** Helen emails to inform all of a formal change of name to: **Mercury Black**. She has been living in Vancouver, Canada since 2001. She retrained to qualify as a legal secretary in 2003 and works for a Canadian law firm which has expanded its presence worldwide over the past 10 years. Home life is busy and fun with partner, Trent, and his four children, plus one crazy, adorable, deaf cat.

**Tomek Herbich (OP 1977):** Has now retired after 39 years in the Finance Industry. Currently, he is Club Captain of Ealing Golf Club. He lives in Ealing just round the corner from the Abbey and School.

**Richard Hubbard (OP 1967):** Sent in a report and photos from the 50-year reunion organised recently by **Frank Arpino (OP 1967)**. This article appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. He comments: We were able to make contact with 30 old boys of whom 20 turned up and 6 others were "absent, excused". This was our best score to date and we were happy to meet a number of new faces. You may be asking why we have never applied for a Reunion Subsidy from the OPA Association - simply put, we find the "before the event" paperwork too much of a bind! It's difficult enough getting everyone to agree on a date and a place to meet. We would be happier sending in our bill and proof of presence "after the event", accepting the risk that funds might not be available at that moment. As for white cells getting rusty, we all have our fair (or unfair) share of those and that is part of the explication behind the enjoyment we have at each

reunion re-discovering the same stories, partly forgotten since the previous reunion!

## **Dennis Johnson (Staff 66-86):**

Died 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Aged 91. Dennis joined the Senior School Staff as Head of English in 1966 and served in the capacity for twenty years. R.I.P.

**Richard Klim (OP 1973):** Died May 2016, Aged 61. R.I.P.

## **Nicholas Lane (OP 1988)**

Now living in London, working as a solicitor specialising in construction and property law.

## **Armen Mardirossian (OP 1986):**

Visited the School in June 2017. He is now working as a Periodontist & Dental Implant Surgeon in a Specialty Dental Practice in Southern California; USA. He comments: *I still have fond memories of our great chemistry teacher and fond memories of times had at St Benedict's. Tara (George, Development Director) was most kind & considerate in showing me around school; so much has changed & I was impressed at what new talents in Arts & Musical Theatre Stage the students are engaged in now!*

**Barry Murphy (OP 1964):** Died 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Aged 72. Bother of Alan (OP 1958). R.I.P.

## **James Murphy-O'Connor (OP 2003):**

James and his wife Susie celebrated the birth of their daughter Ciara Anne on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017, a sister for Emmett (2). He will start a new role working in Geneva with Trafigura who are one of the world's largest independent commodity trading houses. They will start their new life there in December 2017.

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

Pat is Chair of the Board of Governors of St Benedict's School. He very politely pointed out that the Administrator had made a glaring error in his email news, confusing the two "James". **James (OP 1978)** is Pat's brother and is Headmaster of Prior Park College, Bath and Principal, Prior Park Schools;

**James (OP 2003)** is Pat's son. (my apologies, RB, Adm). He recently gave the Eulogy for his uncle - Cardinal Cormac at Westminster cathedral which he enjoyed very much. Otherwise, he is happy with life and very happy and thankful that all is in its right place.

**John McGrath (OP 1958):**

Emails: Your recent email (July 2017 regarding the School War Memorial) about the visit to the grave of one of the community who fell in Normandy coupled with my visit a short while ago to Monte Cassino and the War Cemetery there, prompted the following idea. If the team who look after the School's War memorial were to generate a list of those fallen, their burial places (cemetery and plot number) or memorial (tablet, column) by name and cemetery, it would enable those of us visiting such sites to go to the grave and say a prayer. Just an idea but it may be worth pursuing. Mr Shaun Hullis, (*Head of Classics and Contingent Commander, CCF*) *Chairman of the School War Memorial Committee has produced such a list which can be obtained by contacting the OPA Office.*

**David McLean (OP 1960):** Now living in New Zealand, emailed back on receiving our email (25 May 17) about Simon's proposed Reunion and seeking contact with Neil Moss

**Federico Paci (OP 1978):** Lives now in Torino, Italy, where he is a self-employed Sports Agent representing professional football and basketball players. He was able to visit the School in June 2017 and commented after his visit: *I was really happy to get the chance to interact with my former Junior School. I would like to bring my daughters and my family there sometime soon. I really have fond memories of the rugby matches and of the cricket that we do not play here in Italy unfortunately. I would also like to track down one of my school mates. His name is Michael Irmiger. We were both in the Junior School Rugby Team, our coach/PE Teacher was Mr O'Brien. Unfortunately the OPA has been unable to help tracing Michael - we have no details; if anyone can help then please contact the OPA Office.*

**Jack Peffers (OP 1968):** Now living in Middlesex; he worked

until 2015 in the Institute of Education. Jack is busily arranging a Rugby Reunion in April 2018 for 1968 1st XV players. Jack emails: "There will be a reunion of the 1967-68 1st XV in 2018 and the organisers seek any clue to find the following missing members of the team: Edward Graham, Martin Doyle, John Dodd, Martin Foot, Chris Beith and Andrew Gladwin. Please contact Jack Peffers at either jackpeffers@hotmail.com or 07775 518108".

**Max Ponnampalam (OP 2015):**

Max Emails: I am now midway through my politics degree at Exeter University; at University I am part of the Student Group 'Raise and Give' who complete challenges throughout the year to raise phenomenal amounts for charity! Last year we raised almost £250,000 for local and national charities. On 21st October 2017 I will be running the Bilbao Marathon to raise money for the *Meningitis Research Foundation*, a charity for which I have a great regard. I am hoping to help fund the fight against meningitis and septicaemia, helping to save lives and support those who are affected by meningitis and septicaemia on a daily basis.

**Demetris Soukeras (OP 2014):**

Has been awarded a 1st Class Hons BEng in Materials Science and Engineering at Swansea University; he is currently at Imperial College, London studying for a PhD in Plastic Electronic Materials.

**Jacek Szajdzicki (OP 1964):**

Emails: An old friend mentioned the reunion lunch on the 15th October 2017, could you please let me have some details of this event. I have looked on the site and I was surprised that there was nothing there. *This event was regretfully cancelled because of lack of takers; details had been removed when we had to cancel. The original information had been emailed to all those of appropriate vintage whose email addresses we hold and those who had booked were emailed about the cancellation. Perhaps this shows the importance of letting us have an email address should you wish to receive information about events.*

**Paul Tobin (OP 1966):**

Emails details of the Westminster Cathedral Ordination Mass celebrated by the Cardinal in June 2017; at the Mass, Paul was an Assistant Master of

Ceremonies. *On Saturday 24th June, the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist, The Rev Michael Jarmulowicz (OP 1968) was ordained to the priesthood, his twin, John (OP 1968) was involved in presenting the priestly vestments to his brother immediately after the laying on of hands and the Prayer of Ordination. Two Old Priorian priests, Canon Colin Davies (OP 1966), currently Parish Priest at Burnt Oak, and Fr John Deehan (OP 1967), currently Parish Priest at Eastcote, were among over one hundred priests who concelebrated the Mass with the Cardinal and newly ordained Priests.*

**Malcolm Upton (OP 1961):**

Emails with comments on the newly released School Promotional Video (see General Email Distribution 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017).

**Peter Willis (OP 1944):** Died 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Aged 89. Bother of David (OP, R.I.P). Peter was a retired Dental Surgeon living in Bedford. R.I.P.

**Anton Wills-Eve (OP 1960):**

*Anton is on our Email Sick List* I must thank everyone who is praying for me. It is incredible, but all your prayers really do work. I was given six months to live in the spring of 2000 when my cancer was diagnosed. At that time, apart from the chronic mental illness I've had all my life, I already had a broken spine (Vietnam 1970 when my first wife was killed), and was recovering from a stroke. This naturally limited everything I could do for the past 17 and half years. But despite four more strokes, two ulcers, and regular worsening of my cancer (3 more terminal prognoses have passed), I am still going strong and have broken the Merseyside record for longest regular treatment for the same cancer. My parish priest believes that prayers on four continents really are keeping me going. So could everyone please carry on saying their prayers, they must be awfully good! One tip to any immobilised OPs like myself - You'll never get bored if you can write. I've had six books published in the last five years and it keeps me sane, but my sons and wife rather bemused! All my best wishes to everyone at St Benedict's.



**Gordon Wilson (OP 1960):**

Emails (Aug 2017): Life has been very hectic over the past four months, in the middle of which Jenny and I spent five weeks in Australia and New Zealand spending two periods with my youngest daughter and her family in Sydney and, sandwiched between them, following the Lions in their superb series against the All Blacks. Since then life has been even more active. Jenny's son was married five days after our return. Meanwhile there have been lunches, trips to

Glyndebourne, three funerals and, naturally, I had to attend every day of the World Athletic Championships. Oh for the calm, organised and predictable life style all those years ago at School!

**Christopher Winder (OP 1958):**

Died 4th November 2017, Aged 77. Brother of Richard (OP 1958, R.I.P.). R.I.P.

**Tamlyn Worrall (OP 2016):**

Emailed prior to a UK visit in August when she paid a visit to the School: What a delightful OPA Spring 2017 Newsletter! We

thoroughly enjoyed reading the news and I particularly appreciated all the new elements such as the FB and Twitter logos at the back, photos of visits by OPs to school and details of the Legacy Society too. I will email Tara and Will (Tara George and Will Bedford, Development) to congratulate them on the many ongoing initiatives and the work they have done to bring it all to reality. The OPA goes from strength to strength! I am in London in July and early August and very much hope I will be able to pop into the OPA office to see you.

## WAYN - Where are you now?

**I**t would help us to maintain our database records accurately and it would also help both the Development Office and 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 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>*

## Forthcoming Events for your Diaries

**F**ull details will be published in our email news and on our website:

**War Memorial Lecture  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
Orchard Hall, St Benedict's School: 6.30pm**

*"The Remembrance Revolution - How the work of the CWGC has changed the way we remember the War Dead"*

Given by Peter Francis,  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

For more information regarding tickets please contact Mr Will Bedford in the Development Office 020 8862 2223 or [wbedford@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:wbedford@stbenedicts.org.uk)

**St Benedict's Annual Jazz Soirée**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018  
Orchard Hall, St Benedict's School: 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

*Featuring live performances from the School Jazz Choir and Band. For more information regarding tickets please contact Mr Will Bedford in the Development Office 020 8862 2223 or [wbedford@stbenedicts.org.uk](mailto:wbedford@stbenedicts.org.uk)*

**OPA Annual Dinner 2018  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Lansdowne Club, London:  
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

*Full details will be emailed and published on the OPA Website.*

**OPA Annual Golf Day 2018  
Date and Time tba  
Ealing Golf Club**

## Your News

**I**f 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 the OPA Office.



Facebook /theOldPriorianAssociation

## Social Media

The Old Priorian Association has a presence on social media. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date with events and news. We'd love to build on our ever-growing network and get you connected to fellow Old Priorians.

Twitter @oldpriorians



Instagram @oldpriorians



## The Old Priorian Association - Founded 1927

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 (see OPA Website), 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

**Kumaran Perinpanathan (OP 2009)**

Honorary Treasurer

### Council Members

**Frank Casali (OP 1984)**

**Edward Conway (OP 2005)**

**Alex Pereira-Inacio (OP 2000)**

**Christopher Stevenson (OP 1964)**

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

**Jessica Taylor-Beirne (OP 2009)**

**Luca Uberai (OP 2010)**

**Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008)**

### Ex-Officio Council Members

**Andrew Johnson**

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

### Jean O'Brien

Society of Parents and Friends

**Richard Baker (OP 1959)**

Administrator, OPA

**Tara George**

Development Director,  
St Benedict's School

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

**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: <https://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1>

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