



OPM EVENTS 2018

THURSDAY 7 JUNE

Golf Day | Yelverton Golf Club
Contact: rayroach42@gmail.com

MONDAY 22 - FRIDAY 27 JULY

Cricket Week and Beer Festival |
OPM Suite (from 14.00)
Contact: Chris Vinson (07866 616 956)

FRIDAY 27 JULY

Cricket Lunch in Cricket Week | OPM Suite

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

The Dine-In |
OPM suite, Ford Park (19.00, £24.00)
Dress code is lounge suits

NOVEMBER (TBC)

AGM | OPM Suite, Ford Park (19.30)
Copies of the AGM minutes are available
from the Alumni Office

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

OPM Christmas Lunch | OPM Suite
(£10 Ticket includes a glass of wine on the table)

FRIDAY 25 JANUARY

Burns Night | OPM Suite – (19.30)

Unless otherwise stated, contact the alumni office
for tickets and more information: **01752 505114**
or alumni@plymouthcollege.com

OPM SUITE CONTACT NUMBER: **01752 505166**
WEBSITE - www.opmclub.co.uk

OPM MAGAZINE 2018



OLD PLYMOTHIAN & MANNAMEADIAN CLUB



Officers 2018

President:	John Herman
Chairman:	Nigel Lyons
Immediate Past Chairman:	Tim Binding
Honorary Secretary:	Tom Clenaghan
Honorary Treasury:	Peter Webb
Chairman (House):	Matt Naylor
Chairman (Social):	Mike Turpitt/Craig Walker
Membership Officer:	James Friendship
Vice Presidents:	Pat Newnhan, Peter Organ, Nick Partridge, Tom Savery

General Committee

Tim Binding, Ed Keast, Nigel Lyons,
Chris Robinson, Jason Sweby

Bar and House Manager: Ashley Brown Williams

Headmaster: Jonathan Standen

Sports Section: Martin Finlay (Rugby),
Chris Vinson (Cricket), Jason Sweby (Mens Hockey),
Katie Warren (Ladies Hockey)

Lodge Rep: Lloyd Inwood

OPM Magazine

Editor: Chris Robinson

Design: Ben Robinson

OPM Club Trustees 2018:

John Herman (Chairman), Dave Hardy,
Ed Keast, Nick Holman

OPM REGALIA

Show your colours with a
Club Tie, available in various
styles including formal, sports
and bow – *ready-tied or self-tie*
... *silk or polyester* – as
well as Blazer Badges,
Polo Shirts, and
more.



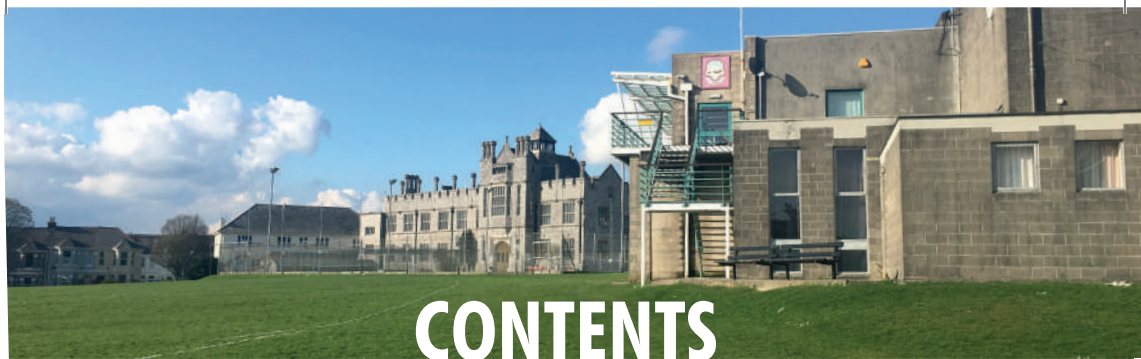
Contact the OPM Suite
by calling 01752 505166
via email opms@plymouthcollege
or The OPM Office, Plymouth College,
Ford Park, Plymouth, PL4 6RN



Welcome to the new **OPM Magazine**.

As ever we are dependent on members for information, images and updates.
If you see any address that you think may be out of date ... if you have
any news you would like to share, or if you have an article or item you
would like to contribute to next year's **OPM Magazine**, then please
don't hesitate to get in touch with Ashley using the contacts above.

You can also ring the Club during opening hours



CONTENTS

2017 / 2018

Editorial 2

Chris Robinson

President & Chairman 4

John Herman & Nigel Lyons

Treasurer's Report 6

Pete Webb

Headmaster's Newsletter 8

The Headmaster

Commonwealth Games 14

Plymouth College / OPM Success

School History 16

Chris Robinson

Social Events 24

Pictures and attendees

OPM Cover Story 30

Artist Daniela Raytchev

OPM Notes 36

News, pictures and stories

OPM Roundup 66

News, pictures and stories

Weddings 70

Daley, Trevarthen, Waters-Fealey

OPM Lodge Report 74

Steve Welsh

In Memoriam 76

Obituaries

OPM Golf 94

Ray Roach

OPM Cricket 96

Chris Vinson

OPM Hockey 100

Jason Sweby

Rugby Chairman's Report 104

Mark Turner

OPM 1st XV 106

Steve Cole

OPM Jesters 108

Matt Price

OPM Juniors 112

Jenny Trinder

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EDITORIAL

Old Plymothian & Mannamedian 2018

The OPM Club ... it's your club. Think about it. Is there anything you've ever wanted to do but just not had the right facility at your disposal? How about run a regular Quiz Night, a Bridge Club, Supper Club, Film Night, monthly Board Games evening, Cabaret, Comedy or Concert evening?

If you're reading this you're almost certainly an OPM or someone with a strong OPM link and therefore you potentially have the use of a 120 capacity venue (or 65 seated), with great views (especially in the summer), a bar

who has ever been a pupil at Plymouth College.

So if you have an idea and think that it might be worth testing then why not give it a go? Call in, or call up Ashley on 01752 505166.

And don't forget even if you don't have any notions of regular usage, it's an ideal venue for a birthday, special celebration or works party!

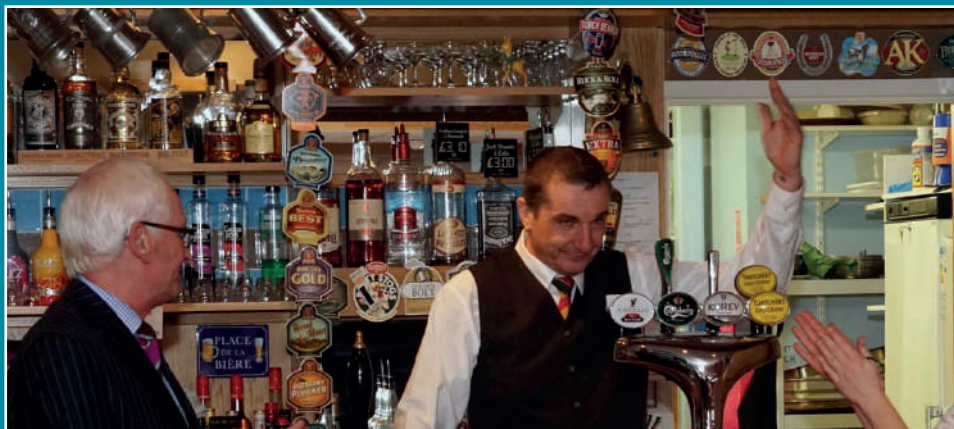
And while we're on the subject of 'what's yours' don't forget that this magazine



manager and kitchen facility that could be available on almost any night of the week (although Saturdays in the winter could be tricky but not impossible) at little or no cost depending on the numbers you could attract.

If you've ever fancied starting up your own venue, this could be the perfect way to test the market, call your own bluff or create an atmosphere and a regular event at Ford Park that could brighten up your life and enhance the viability of your club. Because it is your club: the OPM Suite at Ford Park exists purely for the benefit of its members and that is anyone

is yours too. So if you have any news of your own to share with us, please don't hesitate. Remember if you like reading about your peers, they probably like reading about you, and, as we're not mind readers, if you don't tell us about what's going on in your life, we probably won't know. We don't have the resources of Mark Zuckerberg or the advertising revenue to employ an army of info harvesters, so we largely rely on you. We particularly like to hear about OPMs meeting up in other parts of the county, country or wherever – whatever the circumstances, weddings, parties, reunions or even randomly through work!



~~~~~  
**IT'S YOUR CLUB...**

*if you have an idea for an event at the  
 OPM Suite or a story for the magazine,  
 we want to know*

~~~~~



PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN

John Herman & Nigel Lyons

The last twelve months have been occupied primarily with the Club dealing with the issues raised by the School concerning the potential transfer of the OPM Club's existing legal charge over School property.

We are happy to say that the legal framework in relation to this variation, as voted upon by members, has almost been finalised to the satisfaction of both parties. We would very much like to thank members for their support following the EGM held on this subject last year.

Can we use this report to make an appeal to the membership for assistance please. We have been unable to find volunteers to fill the posts of club secretary and social secretary/committee member with responsibility for the Club bar.

Tom Clenaghan had very kindly covered the role of club secretary with responsibility for the bar for the last year or so. However, he has now "sailed off" to join the Royal Navy. We wish him every success in his officer training at Dartmouth.

We are therefore looking for a club secretary as well as a successor to Tom. Can anyone interested in these important roles please contact us or any of the committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

The duties of social secretary have temporarily and, very ably, been fulfilled by Mike Turpitt who, along with his wife Dorothy, has done a fantastic job in promoting the four Dine-Ins: the Spring and Autumn dinners, the cricket lunch and the Christmas lunch. Every time there is an event we notice the appearance of fresh faces. Well done Mike and Dorothy.



A regular stalwart at these functions over many years has been Doug Martin and it was with great sadness that we learned of his sudden passing in January this year. Doug's wonderful singing voice leading the School Carmen can never be replaced, plus of course we will miss his unique rendition of The Ode to the Haggis on Burns' Night.

It is always fantastic to see members young and old at the Club, attending events, matches and functions. We are proud to say that School leavers, the future life blood of the Club, continue to join in droves. Long may that continue!

Just to finish, we both wish the School and its pupils, the Club and its members every success for 2018.

Please continue to support your Club and please come in to make and meet friends at the Club house.



~~~~~  
*We are proud to say that School  
leavers, the future life blood of the  
Club, continue to join in droves*  
~~~~~


HONORARY TREASURER

Peter Webb

This has been one of the most difficult years on which I have had to report. There have been a number of problems:

Negotiations with the school regarding the transfer of the lease from the unincorporated club into the limited company have dragged and continue to drag on. Last year, I reported that we hoped to bring this to a conclusion soon and yet we are still negotiating. However, this year, I feel reasonably confident that the transfer will shortly take place. I hope this is not a case of misguided optimism!

Following the EGM held earlier this year we have also been in protracted negotiation with the school regarding the variation of our security. Again, there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel.

Finally, and much to my embarrassment, we have encountered difficulty with our bank. In late April I received a letter stating that as I had not responded to previous correspondence and as there had been no movement on the account, the bank had transferred the balance to the unclaimed balances department. I was unable to find the previous correspondence and, given that we had had a dormant account which I had asked the bank to close, I was not especially concerned.



However, I thought a quick call might be in order to verify the position and was shocked to find out that the account in question was our Trustee deposit and that the bank were now holding our £100,000 as unclaimed! Apparently the fact that we receive interest and that we have other, very active accounts was not enough for the bank. There then followed a long period of correspondence and meetings to regain our funds. I am pleased to say that we have recovered our money and my thanks go to the committee and trustees, especially Ed Keast and Nick Holman who had to go through the rigmarole of attending the bank to prove their identity! A letter of complaint has gone to the bank.

And so to the accounts.

The figures are presented to you in the form used in previous years but will, in due course, be redrafted in accordance with the Companies Act for publication at Companies House.

These, too, make fairly depressing reading this year. At last year's AGM, I was quite optimistic stating that my initial budget for the year forecast a surplus. This was before we lost our tenant in the Saltash shop. You will therefore note a substantial reduction in income this year which, although we have also saved costs, has contributed to an overall deficit of £5,010 for the year compared with last year's surplus of £1,265.

On top of this, we will be required to pay Corporation Tax on the rental income we did receive amounting to £1,233 which will be due for settlement next June.

The main contributory factors to the loss were:

As mentioned above, the loss of our shop tenant.

A reduction in the level of subscriptions from the Head Master's scheme in the year. However, steps have been taken to increase the scope of the scheme and to simplify its operation which I trust will lead to an improvement over time. The loss from the OPM Suite which

increased from £5,514 last year to £7,361 this year. The notes to the accounts give a detailed breakdown and it is disappointing to note that turnover was slightly down this year with costs increasing. Part of these costs relate to our support for our sports teams via the provision of food on match days. The committee are looking at our pricing structure with a view to generating more income from the bar.

On the other hand, we did save costs this year through incurring less in the way of legal and professional fees (although charges are to be expected for the current work in connection with the lease transfer) and the completion of our agreed support for the Alumni office salary.

The balance sheet remains buoyant although our liquid funds have reduced as a result of the poor results suffered.

The committee will continue to monitor our expenditure and we are determined to eradicate any needless expenditure. Furthermore, a new tenant has been found for the Saltash shop so we should see rental income start to increase in the New Year.

I again repeat my plea from previous years to all members to use their club, otherwise we run the risk of losing it!

The full 2016/17 club accounts are available to view online.

Headmaster's Address

May 2017

Plymouth College entered three teams into Ten Tors 2017.

breakfast) and we headed up to the start. After a short address the cannon fired at 07.00 and 2,400 students set off. They were self-sufficient from then until they finished on the Sunday.

Once the wind had subsided midday Saturday the conditions were ideal and dry underfoot. We had a mixed team (pictured, above right) of 35 mile students from Years 9 and 10 who managed to finish together at 09.50, shaving 18 minutes from the school record. The other 35 mile team was made up of Year 9 girls who finished at 15.00. Katie Miles had to step in the day before as Poppy Vernon was detained by bad weather on her circumnavigation of the British Isles. Our 55 mile team was made up Sixth Form students, with one extra from St Bartholomew's School, Reading, who came in at 13.00. Unfortunately we had two students drop out from the event for medical reasons. The students were fantastic, they came together throughout the training and had, by the end of the event, formed into solid units which showed great resilience and could effectively deal with the challenges that came their way.



There is already talk of who will be walking which distance next year...

I am also pleased to report that this week our Young Enterprise team (pictured, right), Bamboom, comprising of George Asquith, Laura Cosby, Katie Mills, Tianchen Li, Paddy Hutchings and Josh Hellings were presented with the Award for Enterprise at a ceremony held at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. The award is on display in Reception. Over the year, the company created attractive cacti pots from sustainable UK bamboo, along with other products; pen pots and aperitif holders. They sold their produce at a number of events including the Christmas fairs at the main school and the prep school, Plymouth Piazza, and Plympton Ridgeway Christmas market. Grateful thanks to Mrs Lilley and to our "parent helper", Mrs Colam.

September 2017

The 1st XV Rugby tour to New Zealand and Australia was hugely successful, both on and off the pitch, at the start of the summer holidays. My thanks go to Richard Edwards and his team for organising the tour. The boys won four out of their five games, and I can sense their frustration at losing the fifth, a game they all felt they could and should have won. A Plymouth College Grand Slam was not to be, but off the pitch the staff and boys enjoyed the warm hospitality offered by our hosts, making many new friendships. It is often trips like these which students remember most



when they look back at their school days, and with good reason, as they provide a myriad of new experiences.

For several of the squad this was their last time pulling on a Plymouth College jersey, as they move on from the school having completed Sixth Form. They leave the nucleus of a strong team behind, and we look forward to a successful season ahead. I also wish our girls all the best with the forthcoming hockey season, under the direction of our new Head Coach, Simon Fenwick.

Our athletes enjoyed a successful summer too. Old boys, Ben Proud and Tom Daley won medals at the FINA: Ben a gold medal in the 50m fly and a bronze in the 50m freestyle; Tom a gold medal in the 10m platform. Felicity Passon and Kregor Zirk, both of who completed their sixth form studies this summer also competed. In the British Swimming Championships, Plymouth College posted 31 finalists and saw 40 personal bests. Amongst these achievements, Laura Stephens won gold in the 50m and 100m fly, Duru Tanir a gold



and Honey Osrin a silver medal. My thanks go to Robin Armayan, Roberto Pavoni and the team for preparing the swimmers so well. Our pentathletes also enjoyed an excellent summer. Old boy Miles Pillage, Head Boy in 2015-2016, made his junior World Championship debut. Georgina Mitchell and Emma Denton competed at the Youth Olympic Games qualifiers. Georgina Mitchell, Tomas Maksimovic and Anne Kleidon competed at the U19 World Pentathlon championships. My thanks go to Rob Flack and his team for their excellent coaching too.

The College recorded an excellent set of examination results in the summer. Our sixth formers entered A levels, IB, and Sports Baccalaureate exams. 43% of grades were A*-A and 66% of grades were A*-B or equivalent when we aggregate the results from these three qualifications. Students have taken up places at universities including: Bristol, St Andrews, UCL, Exeter, Warwick, Nottingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Bath, Loughborough, Birmingham, Sheffield and

Plymouth, which is a popular destination for many of our swimmers who continue to work with Robin and Roberto. GCSE results were also strong, with 43% of grades at A*-A and 67% at A*-B. I would like to congratulate all of our students on their results and for their hard work. We are not an academically selective school, and these achievements are therefore all the more fantastic. I would also like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication.

December 2017

It feels as if we have accelerated towards the end of term in these past couple of weeks. The School of Rock production, boarders' Christmas dinner and party, our swimmers at the National Winter Championships in Sheffield, the final sports fixtures of the term, Year 7 & 8 disco, house waterpolo, house music, house quizzes and, of course, the magnificent carol service at St Andrews, have kept students and staff busy.

OPMs are in the news with Ruta Meilutyte and Ben Proud doing very well at the European Short Course Championships in Copenhagen. Last night, Michael Cooper was named Man of the Match having saved two penalties in the Plymouth Argyle Youth Cup match in which they dispensed of Manchester City. Tom Daley, who was recently named FINA Diver of the Year, will be visiting the College in January to officially open the new gym. Laura Stephens set a PB in the Winter National Championships to win the national title in the 100m fly. We are also very much looking forward to welcoming last year's leavers back to the College at 5pm tonight, in the OPM suite, to catch up on all that they have been doing since the summer.

Henry Slade (Rugby) are nominated for the main award of Sports Personality of the Year. Henry is also shortlisted for the Champagne Moment of 2017 for his kick that took Exeter Chiefs to the Premiership Final. Two of our coaches are also nominated for Coach of the Year: Pete Barrett (Director of Fencing) and Karen Dent (Netball Coach). Congratulations to all of these.

January 2018

You may have heard the news that four of our current students have been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Australia later this year. Many congratulations to Erico Cuna who will be representing



Early in the New Year we will be attending the Herald Sports Awards where many of the Plymouth College family have been nominated for awards: Georgina Mitchell (Modern Pentathlon), Ben Andrews (Fencing) and Gemma Kerr (Table Tennis) are shortlisted in the Young Sports Personality category, whilst OPMs Tom Daley, Ben Proud and

Mozambique, Katie Kyle will swim for St Lucia; Stefano Mitchell and Makaela Holowchak will represent Antigua. I would also like to extend our congratulations to our former students, Laura Stephens (who left after A levels last summer), Tom Fannon (2016) and Jess Jackson (2016) and 50m Fly World Champion Ben Proud who have

REPORTS

been selected to represent England. Not only is this a great testament to their talents and efforts but also to the coaching team at Plymouth College, led by Robin Armayan and Roberto Pavoni, and our partnership with Plymouth Leander. In addition, we were very pleased to welcome Tom Daley back to the College this week. Tom held a Q&A session with the students and spoke articulately of his experiences as an elite athlete, his time at the College and his journey since leaving school. Tom has also been selected to represent England at the Games in the summer.

I was very pleased yesterday when the school league tables were published by the Department of Education, and confirmed Plymouth College's top position for 'value added' in the local area once again at A level. With a score of 0.29 above average and with an overall average grade of B-, the two scores illustrate the excellent nature of academic achievement at Plymouth College. Once again, I would like to congratulate students who performed so well last summer and the staff for their excellent teaching and pastoral care. This places us above all three



local grammar schools and significantly above our local independent competitor, Mount Kelly.

The UCAS process continues and our Upper Sixth students are receiving good offers from their chosen institutions for further education. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that Ben Gittins has been offered a place to read Mathematics at Robinson College,

Cambridge and send him our warmest congratulations.

Lastly, you may be interested to know that I have finally been brought into the modern age having begun tweeting, **@HeadmasterPMC**, if you would like to follow what I'm up to on school business. Thank you to Mrs Hayward for teaching me all about Twitter!





COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Gold Star OPMs on the Gold Coast

Plymouth College was well-represented at the recent Commonwealth Games – particularly in the pool. Current pupils Stefano Mitchell (Antigua), Erico Cuna (Mozambique) and Katie Kyle (St Lucia) were among those making the trip from Ford Park and Leander to the Gold Coast. Out there with them were OPMs Issa Mohamed (Kenya), Darren Lim (Singapore), Charlotte Atkinson (Isle of Man), Callum Jarvis (Wales) and, representing England, Thomas Fannon, Laura Stephens, Jessica Jackson, Tom Daley and Ben Proud.

Tom picked up a gold in the 10m synchronised platform diving, while Ben picked up a couple of team silvers – in

the 4x100m medley, and in the 4x100m freestyle – and a gold in the 50m freestyle. Remarkably he also set a new Commonwealth Games record in his 50m freestyle heat. Tom Fannon made it through to the final of the 50m freestyle, while Erico Cuna came second in his 200m freestyle heat but just failed to qualify for the final. Stefano Mitchell finished fourth in the same heat.

Over 70 nations took part and if team Plymouth College/OPMs were to be considered a country in its own right they would have finished just inside the top 20 in the medals table!



(opposite) Ben Proud receives his Gold Medal; (above) Ben Proud and Tom Fannon in the pool; (top right) Daniel Goodfellow and Tom Daley with their Golds; (right) Erico Cuna of Mozambique [2nd right] and Stefano Mitchell of Antigua and Barbuda [far right] raced each other in the heats; (bottom right) Ben Proud and Katie Kyle [right] with the current Plymouth College swimming captains; (below) If Plymouth College/ OPMs were a country...



#	Country				Total
16	Botswana	3	1	1	5
17	Samoa	2	3	0	5
18	Plymouth College / OPMs	2	2	0	4
19	Trinidad and Tobago	2	1	0	3
20	Namibia	2	0	0	2
21	Northern Ireland	1	7	4	12



SCHOOL HISTORY

Changing Pavilions

A photograph from Andy Crocker's father's collection of the school showing the main school building with the old school pavilion as it stood in the summer of 1938, almost certainly the old pavilion's last summer, prompted a review of the archives to look at school pavilion provision at Ford Park across the years.

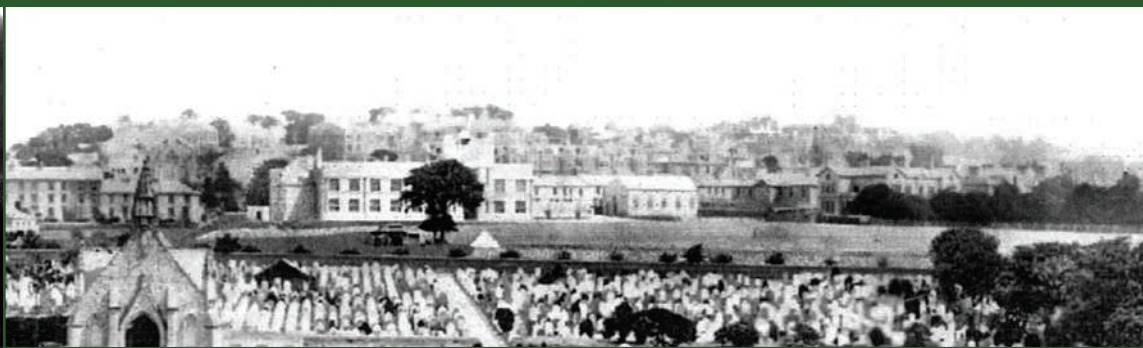
The first pavilion appears to have been built in the early 1880s against the garden wall of No 3 Shaftesbury Villas, which was then being tenanted by the Headmaster, George Bennett – although the house wasn't then part of the school's estate.

Around the same time a cricket pavilion was erected at the lower end of the school field (on a site later to be buried beneath the developments of Devon Terrace and College View – land the school was later forced to sell to help remain financially viable).

In the summer of 1892, helped by the good offices of an old boy, architect M Alton Bazely, who gave his services free, a new pavilion – 'a joy forever' was constructed and the following year 'a large number of trees were planted at short intervals around the field ... many of them presented by members of the council.'

It would appear however that this structure was not entirely fit for purpose and in his wish list leading up to Christmas 1911, the head, the Reverend Henry Chaytor, set down a number of what he termed luxuries: 'There are a number of improvements which most of us would like to see effected; the seating and extension of the gymnasium, the extension to include a cloak room, the roofing in of the fives courts, a new organ in big school, and an improved cricket pavilion ...'

Pictures: (top) 1938 last shot of the 20s building Pavilion ; (opposite, top) 1889 school from central park first pavilion by tree; (opposite) 1908 Cricket Pavilion.



The previous year, 1910, John Leighton Fouracre, another OPM architect, had, 'kindly provided plans for a new pavilion' ... plans that 'will include proper lavatory arrangements and more comfortable accommodation for our lady spectators.'

'The present structure,' we read, 'is not entirely weatherproof, and some expenditure either upon repairs or upon reconstruction is inevitable.'

However nothing appears to have happened in the short term. The Great War intervened: the school field was used as a military training ground and it appears that it wasn't until August 1921 that the School had a new pavilion.

Even that, it seems, was a pretty perfunctory affair. Built at a cost of £1,027, it was described by Dale (who had succeeded Chaytor in 1920) as being 'by no means elaborate or extravagant, but an adequate and useful building.'

Freddie Dale, doubtless, sorely felt the lack of a decent pavilion at his first Plymouth College sports day, Saturday 1 May 1920, as the rain fell almost continuously, causing several events to be rescheduled.

The new structure cost more than was available in the pavilion fund set up for the task, but the aim was to clear the deficit (£177) at the next school fete – an event that, in those days, was entirely organised by Old Boys of the school.

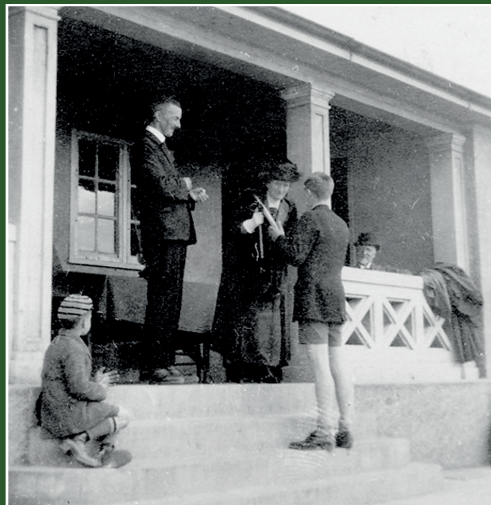
The deficit, it seems, was swiftly cleared and in 1926 a 'new annexe to the pavilion containing baths' was provided.

Notwithstanding these improvements, in 1933 we learnt that the sports pavilion was to be given an overhaul: 'The additions will consist of two features – a top room for team teas and lunches, faced with a balcony and some architectural embellishments to render the front attractive ... a clock has been promised.'



Loans and donations were sought – the estimated cost was £400.

'Because these are days of financial stress, though those competent to judge say there's plenty of money about, it is suggested to extend subscriptions during the period of next year. Quite a number will be willing to offer 6d, 1/-, or 1/6d (2p-7p) a month, some others may be willing to offer a fiver in instalments.'



Pictures: (top left) 1915 Great War mobilisation; (top right) 1924 Dale presenting prizes in the new pavilion; (above left) 1920 back of the old pavilion; (above right) 1921 The new pavilion – note the trees behind; (below) 1925 Aerial view of the school with the headmaster's house completely surrounded by trees; 8. 1939 The present pavilion when first opened (opposite page).



A dance was held to raise monies for the pavilion extension fund.

In an annual address that had 'a personal quality that softened the usual austerities of speech day,' Dale informed his audience in 1938 that a new pavilion 'may become a reality in the coming year' – welcome news to all of the school's sporting enthusiasts.

Not that the 'squat ugly block of concrete that has for some score of years done duty as a pavilion' had particularly stifled any sporting achievements.

In the event the new pavilion was opened on Saturday 20 May 1939.

'The pav is dead, long live the new pavilion,' proclaimed the Plymothian.

Dr John Murray, Principal of the University of the South West, performed the official ceremony, the band of the Royal Marines were in attendance. The afternoon was combined with an 'At Home,' held by the staff for parents, and a cricket match between the School and the OPMs.

And there were plenty of OPMs around that day. Indeed, as the Head said, the new Pavilion was a 'family affair' – 'designed by one OPM, Mr JL Fouracre, erected by another, Mr GL Wakeham, and paid for by the College.'

There was also a rumour that the new scoring board 'which had mysteriously descended upon the field, was rumoured to be the joint gift of Lieut NJP Revington, Mr GL Wakeham, Mr DI Davies and the OPMs.'

The Plymothian account, précising the Head's words, read as follows; 'After the erection of the iron gates, and the replacing of the huts by the new buildings, the pavilion represented

a new stage in the process of adding to the amenities of the College. Future territorial ambitions were not denied, but would be settled by peaceful negotiations: there was a hint that covered fives courts would be the next objective, after the completion of the hard tennis court near the physics lab.'

Reading between the lines of Dr Murray's speech, at the opening, one suspects he would have heartily approved the moves towards establishing tennis as a part of the school's sporting curriculum. The opening of the new building, he said, 'was a symbolic and almost sacramental rite in the English cult of the game. The pavilion meant, the better recognition of the imagination of muscle and eye working together and whipping up the intelligence.'



Today, almost 80 years on, the pavilion is still in use, and although it would benefit from some TLC, it is still much loved by the generations of OPMs who have passed through it, many of whom have etched their initials, or some other token of attachment, into the wooden panels within.

As of the summer of 2018 there is a proposal to adapt part of the first floor into an area that could be used to entertain parents and visitors when coming in to support sporting fixtures.

ON THIS DAY

12 July 1971

The following missive appeared on the Plymouth Herald letter's page on 15 July:

'With reference to your On This Day picture 12 July 1971. The picture shows my old boss, Mr Roger Hammick, handing over the key to a new building at Plymouth College.

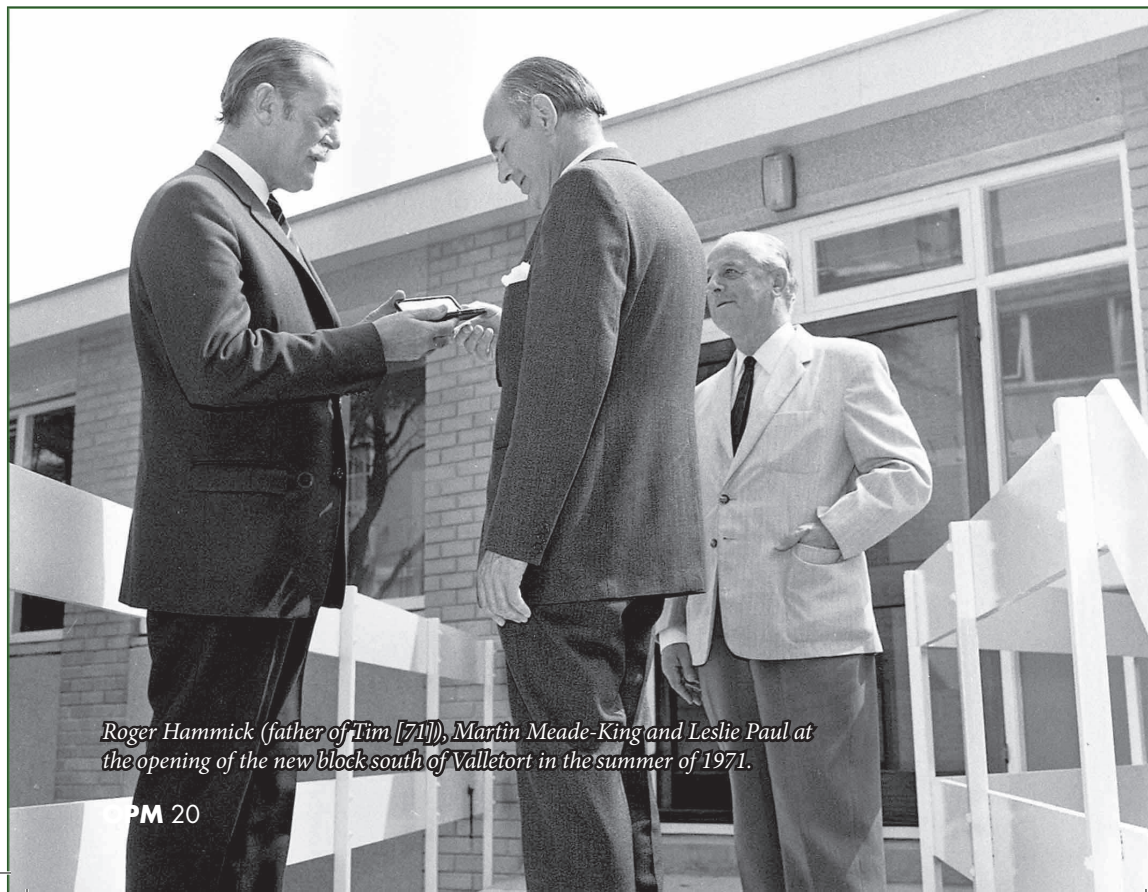
In the early 1960s I worked for Roger as a young architectural assistant at his offices in Kinterbury House. The practice was called HJ Hammick and Son, architects and surveyors and we had numerous commissions, both within the city and well beyond, from private individuals, companies and government

departments. We were a very busy office. Roger finished his war service as a colonel and was very well known and respected around Plymouth.

He always had some amusing story or snippet to pass on to his staff when he breezed in each morning – but he was a good boss in a crisis.

He left Plymouth some years ago to live in Warminster, but we met up for a chat from time to time after that.'

The letter was from Vic French.



Roger Hammick (father of Tim [71]), Martin Meade-King and Leslie Paul at the opening of the new block south of Valletort in the summer of 1971.

CARMEN COLLEGII PLYMOTHIENSIS

Words by JM Batten

Quid, si fasti sunt breves?
Spes est grandiorum.
Ni fiamus nos leves,
Max et splendorum,
Praebeamus fortiter
Studium, virtutem:
Consequamur acriter
Gloriam, salutem.

His ergo laboribus
Musarum, ludorum.
Digni sint honoribus
Mores puerorum:
Ut Deo verissima
Serviant virtute,
Patriam castissima
Ornet juventute.

Gloriemur nomine
Nos Plymothiorum:
Exultemus omine
Urbis et locorum.

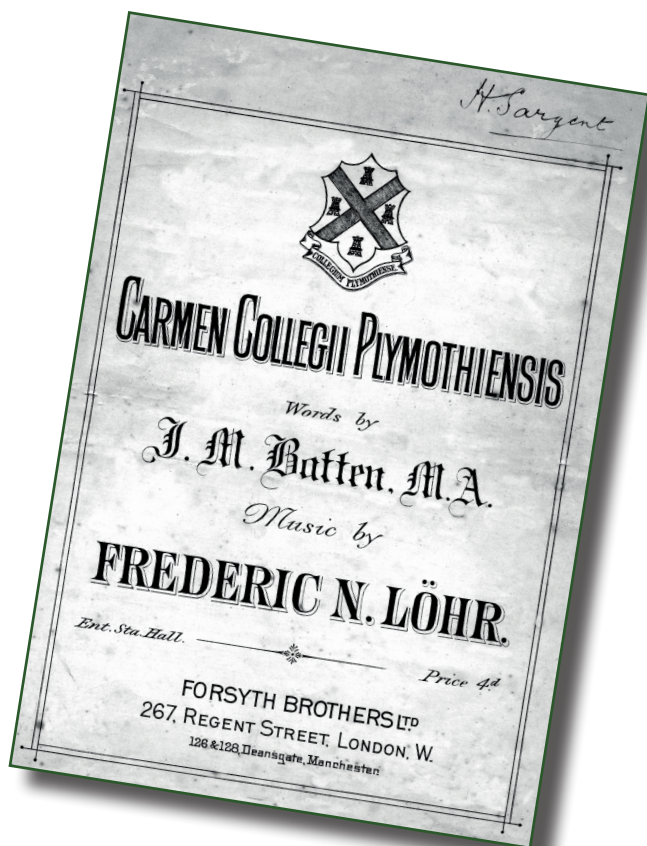
JM Batten M.A.
Headmaster Plymouth Colleg.

What if our history is a short one?
There is hope of a greater,
and, unless we become fickle,
presently of a brilliant one.
Let us boldly show
application and excellence;
let us pursue
good report and well-being.

So by these efforts may the
boys' behaviour be worthy

of honourable distinction:
that they serve
God with true moral excellence
and honour their country
in the purity of their youth.

Chorus
Let us be proud of the
name of Plymothians;
let us rejoice in the good fortune
of the city and its locality.



OLD SCHOOL TIES

Tim Lyddon

It's always a delight to read authentic voices of the past talking about Plymouth of old, and so thanks to Tim Lyddon (65) for the following stories that he recently found in the pages of various editions of the Emmanuel Church magazine published throughout 1908 and 1909.

Around a dozen past pupils of Mannamead School (which was later, in 1896, to be merged with Plymouth College), were invited to pen recollections of their time at the school which was set up just off Seymour Road, by the Reverend Peter Holmes, in 1854.

Benjamin Densham was the first to submit and for him, 'Dr Holmes was the most important personage in Mannamead ... and his school was celebrated from Barnstaple and Exeter to the Land's End.'

Interestingly enough Mannamead School itself was then pretty much at Plymouth's end.

As Densham notes: 'In 1863 I left the Metropolis of the west for the Great Metropolis.

'I have lately, when walking from the Barbican to Mannamead, often thought how amazed I should be at the changes which have taken place, had I not visited the town in the interim. Then there were practically no houses between Alton Terrace, North Hill, and Knackersknowle (as Crownhill was then known), except those in Mannamead proper, by which I mean Mannamead Avenue, Seymour Road, etc.

On the left of the main road it was all fields; Thornhill Road and Whiteford Road, etc., were not; and last, but not least, Emmanuel Church was not.

Elm Road was a rough almost impassable lane for vehicles, seldom used except when we adjourned there for our school fights, which I am happy to say to the credit of Mannamead School were few and far between.

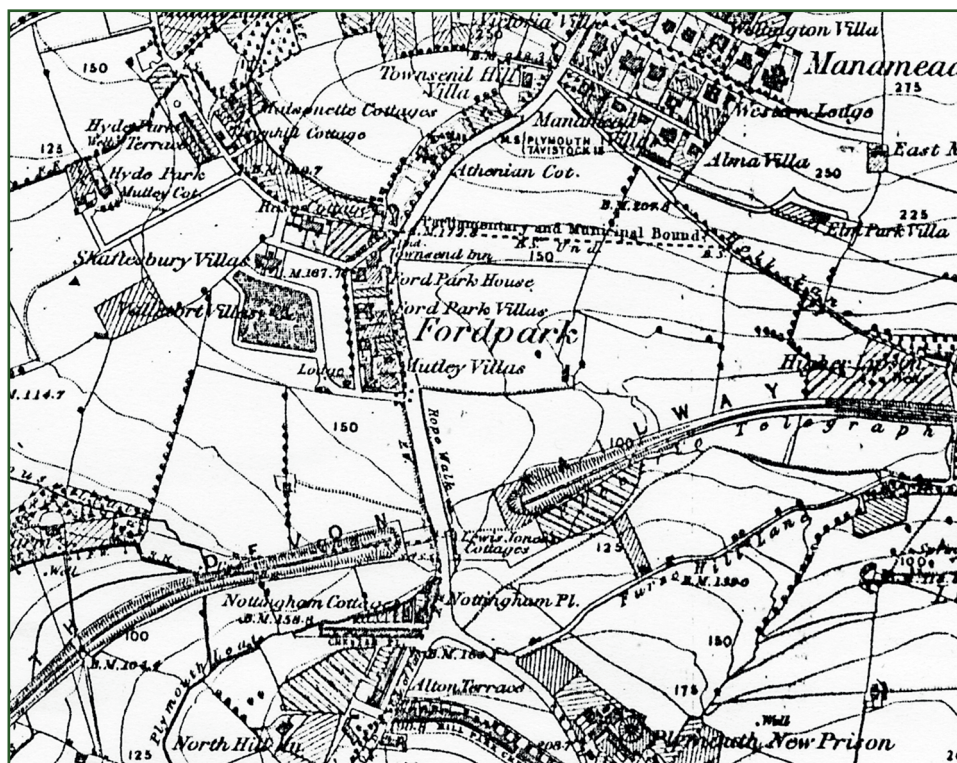
On the east side of Mutley Plain were no houses whatever. It was bordered by a very old hedge, low on the road side, but deep down to the level of the field, along which ran a rope-walk. The view to the lair and Saltram was considered very fine; indeed the walk along Mutley Plain was one of the prettiest in the town and neighbourhood.'

Another old-Mannameadian was Sir Roper Lethbridge, another Oxford graduate and former Conservative MP whose paternal grand-mother, whose maiden name was Thomasine Holmes, was a cousin of Dr Holmes – the family hailed from Buckland Monachorum.

'I was put under Dr Holmes' care at a very early age in the year 1851 (at that time Holmes was Head of Plymouth Grammar School), and remained with him till I went to Oxford in 1859, to Exeter College, with two other Mannamead boys, Alfred Croft and Pascoe Grenfell Hill.'

At Plymouth Grammar School, Holmes soon raised the numbers of the School, 'which,' said Lethbridge, 'became especially popular in Cornwall – to such an extent that the old buildings under the shadow of St. Andrew's Church were quite incapable of affording house-room for even a half of those who wished to come into the Headmaster's house.'

Another set of reminiscences came from another man of the cloth, the Rev JM Hones



who ended up teaching at Mannamead School after he too had gained a degree from Oxford University.

Hones had been a scholar of the Plymouth Grammar School under Mr Clase, who succeeded Dr Holmes, 'when he withdrew his personal following of pupils in order to found Mannamead School.'

As a past pupil of the old Grammar School in Catherine Street, the Reverend Hones was keen to devote a few lines of his narrative on 'that charming group of buildings – the old Grammar School, with its gateway under the shadow of St Andrew's Tower, its tiny quadrangle surrounded by the refectory, the master's study, the Schoolroom and the kitchen, a miniature copy of the typical Oxford Colleges rather than the Cambridge ones.'

Somewhat ruefully Hones noted that 'the loss of the Doctor and his personal following had inflicted a blow on the Plymouth Grammar School from which it failed to recover under Mr Clase's management. He resigned the headmastership, and the picturesque old buildings were diverted for a time to the use of the Plymouth Volunteers, the gardens and playground at the back of the School being turned into a place for drills and parades. After a time the site was cleared to make room for the Guildhall.'

Pic: Map circa 1860 showing Mutley Plain – although it's not labelled as such. Note the rope walk along the eastern side and the villas around Ford Park, on the western side of the Plain, now all part of the Plymouth College site and the Townsend Inn – the earlier incarnation of the Hyde Park Hotel.

CRICKET WEEK LUNCH

The OPM Suite – August 2017





AUTUMN DINNER

The OPM Suite – 29 September 2017



The September Dinner was, as ever, a very convivial affair, and a good time was had by all, largely thanks to the fine efforts of Mike and Dorothy Turpitt. John Herman gave his presidential address and the catering was carried out most agreeably by the school catering team.

Among those attending were:
David Hardy, John and Liz Herman, Nick Hales, Alan Scott, Ed Keast, club treasurer Peter Webb, club chairman Nigel Lyons, John Williams, Robert Lang, Martin Weeks, John Smerdon, Willoughby Cocks, Roger and William Elliot, Peter and Joan Organ, Roger Shaw, Geoff and Jill Martin, Nick Partridge, Pat Newnham, Pete Heath, Bob Foulkes, Peter Rutherford, Richard Creber, Roger Warne, Mike Holman, Peter Berryman, Chris Uren, Noel Blackler, Fernley Furze, Owen Walters, Richard and Penny Atkinson, and Chris Robinson.

Thanks to John Smerdon for the photos.



BURNS SUPPER

The OPM Suite - 27 January 2018

2017 Burns Night was a great success. Proceedings opened with a minute's silence for Doug Martin. Doug had been a major feature of many past Burns Suppers and ironically his funeral was earlier on that day.

This year Chris Robinson addressed the haggis and Charlie Hellyer, OPM Hockey 1st Team Captain, organised a very well-thought out Scottish themed quiz, much to the enjoyment of all who took part.



SPRING DINNER

OPM Suite – 16 March 2018

The Club President and his wife, John and Liz Herman, did an excellent job of sitting in at the last minute for Mike and Dorothy Turpitt, due to Mike being struck down by the flu and therefore absent from an event that he had done so much to pull together.

There was an excellent turn out from the usual suspects, plus a few 'new' faces at the table, among them brothers Eric and Fred Mercer.

Dave Hardy was happy to be alongside Eric Mercer once more, as back when he was 1st XV scrum half, he had Eric as flyhalf!

As has happened a few times now in recent years, there was a somber note at the beginning of the evening as news was shared of the loss of a notable OPM. On this occasion Keith Waters gave a brief eulogy to Tony Brooks, a larger than life figure, well known on the rugby field at Ford Park, Delganey and beyond in a career that saw him play for Oxford University, Bath and Rosslyn Park, as well as England U23s and the Barbarians.

The attendees at the Spring Dinner included many former PMC 1st XV players and although the evening was tinged with sadness it was nevertheless, as ever, a happy occasion in which memories were shared and stories of schooldays were told, and retold.

Among those contributing the nostalgia fest were **David Hardy, Eric Mercer, Fred Mercer, Graham Douglas, Mike Pearson, Barbara Pearson, Bernard Fowler, Rosemary Fowler, Chris Uren, Peter Rutherford, John Herman, Liz Herman, Tam Carson, Sue Carson, Ed Keast, Roger Shaw, Tom Waldock, Mike Parker, Mike Hockin, Diane Hockin, Geoff Bowden, Bob Foulkes, Peter Organ, Joan Organ, Fernley Furze, Jill Martin, Owen Walters, Noel Blackler, John Knowles, Nick Partridge, Pat Newnham, Ian Punchard, Chris Robinson, Keith Waters, Ian Johnson, Robert Lang, Julian Bacon, Tom Savery, Adrian Rundle, Symon Carder, Christine Carder, Penny Atkinson, Richard Atkinson, Peter Heath, Nick Roper and Kingsley Bishop.**

Thanks to Nick Partridge for the Photos.





DANIELA RAYTCHEV

Progress Not Perfection

Our cover photo for this year's OPM magazine is of artist Daniela Raytchev, who has been receiving serious international attention for her work on addiction and feminism.

Having studied at two of the world's most prestigious design colleges, St Martin's College of Art and Design and the London College of Fashion, she has gone on to participate in various shows around the world, most recently exhibiting her art chess set, 'Glass Ceiling', at the World Chess Hall of Fame Museum in the US.

It could all have been so different, however, had she not managed to overcome a life-threatening eating disorder, recovery from which would ultimately give purpose to her work.

Daniela came to the sixth form at Plymouth College having been successful in an Open Society Foundation Scholarship that brings kids from Central and Eastern European countries to private schools in the UK. Born in Bulgaria, she was brought up in Slovakia and was randomly allocated a place at Plymouth:

'I loved to study and was keen to get to know a different culture, and I enjoyed being at the college but I did struggle with the language at first,' confesses Daniela, who took Maths, French, Art, Economics and Business Studies.

'I have always drawn and painted in my spare time,' she continues, 'and was pleased to be able to study art here. My grammar school in Slovakia dropped art in favour of IT.'

After A Levels she was accepted at the

London Business School and St Martins. 'I'm always questioning my decisions and decided to opt for art and design at St Martin's.

'I did the foundation year there, and then continued to study at the London College of Fashion, from where I graduated. I guess I liked the idea of the glamour of fashion and thought it would be more vocational, but in the end it was too product-driven for me, there wasn't enough freedom to express myself – I like more conceptual work and I was advised to do art instead.'

Not that it was obvious how to make a living at it. But after signing up to an artistic mentoring programme with a gallery in London, the chess set ('Addictions') she created for an exhibition was featured in the Times, which got her name out there as a young artist to watch.

Twelve months later, a solo show further enhanced her reputation.

Throughout much of her time since entering the UK Daniela had been battling eating disorder Bulimia.

'I was always conscious about my weight and had tried various diets before coming to Plymouth' she explains. 'The Bulimia started in Plymouth – it would have happened wherever I had been at that point. I thought I had discovered the perfect recipe and it took ages to realise that there was something wrong.

'When I went to London it became worse as I was left to my own devices and I actually had to repeat my final year at college because of it, at which point I had to admit to my parents that I had a problem. I eventually went to a treatment centre abroad and it saved my life.

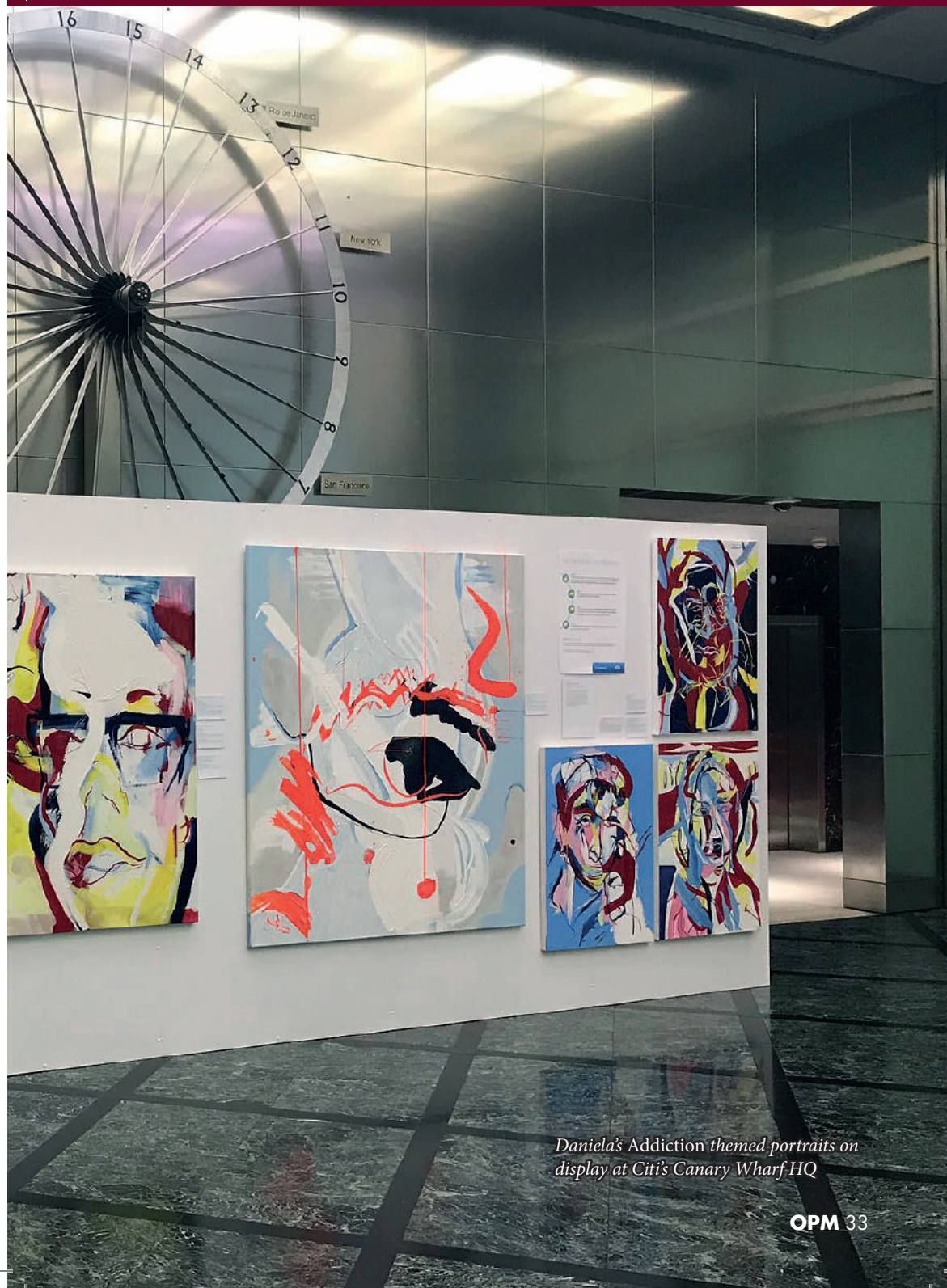
'The recovery was by no means a straight-forward journey. But I realised that what saved me was being honest to myself and to others and creating a support network.'

From that point, Daniela was on a mission, having found purpose to her work. In order to raise awareness of eating disorders she embarked upon a project, Progress Not Perfection, an ongoing inquiry about the human condition, that involved her in conversation with neuroscientists, researchers and other professionals from the mental health field.



'The chess set name Addictions is about the inner conflict between the negative destructive self and the toxic crutches we may hold on to as a result of fear and anxiety (Black pieces) against the self which is loving, positive and nurturing (White pieces).'





Daniela's Addiction themed portraits on display at Citi's Canary Wharf HQ

~~~~~

*"Working in this  
industry is especially  
tough for women"*

~~~~~

In 2015 she was selected as artist for the Beat Eating Disorders Charity, through which she met Gok Wan, TV presenter, stylist and fashion designer, who has himself had issues. He agreed to participate in her project along with many others:

'While I sketch my subjects I interview them, but never take photos' she says. 'Then on the second sitting I focus more on the facial features and depending on how far they are through the recovery journey I may request more sittings.'

Daniela is also committed to promoting feminism – 'it started again with my own experience: working in this industry is especially tough for women' – and among her works, recently shown in the US, is a sculpture of the head of the Statue of Liberty that incorporates part of the female form, that is both provocative and ironic.

She is now embarking upon the second stage of the addictions project, called 'Capital', that will broaden the reach to include other, 'modern day', addictions including gaming, gambling, shopaholism, technology etc.

'These are just the same as food, they can't be avoided.'

'People often say to me that they expect my work to be dark as the themes of the subject matter can be very dark,' she confides of her fabulously colourful creations, 'but I don't see it like that.'

'They also tell me how refreshing it is to be able to talk about these issues and I'm so humbled when somebody feels able to open up about their addiction as a result of seeing my work.'

Find out more at danielaraytchev.com



(top) Daniela's striking piece Liberty featured on a flyer for the UPRISE / ANGRY WOMEN Exhibition in New York - '[it] highlights the fact that a woman's sexuality is given more significance in the public eye than her identity'; and (above) at the exhibition's Artist Talk with Kristen C Williams, Annika Connor, (unknown), Audrey Lyall, Daniela Raytchev, Maidenfed, Maggie Dunlap, Rose McGowan and Ann J Lewis at The Untitled Space.



MICHAEL COOPER

A Pilgrim's Progress

It was a strange set of circumstances that saw recent school leaver Michael Cooper make his professional football debut in a League One game away to Blackburn Rovers. With starting goalkeeper Kyle Letheren going off injured, 18-year-old Michael came on for the second half.

The game finished 1–1. Michael was also a key member of the Argyle Youth Team who reached the last 16 of the FA Youth Cup. He made crucial saves in the team's wins over Manchester City and Burnley in the third and fourth rounds respectively.

It is believed that Michael is the first former Plymouth College pupil to play for the Pilgrims since the war, if not in over 100 years.

In what has been a very odd season for Argyle, Michael is one of seven goalkeepers to serve between the posts for the Plymouth side.

With his Argyle tracksuit on, Michael Cooper exited the Argyle dressing room at around 10pm on Tuesday, and turned right. His teammates had turned left, and out towards the

waiting coach, and a trip home to Plymouth. Cooper, though, was ushered towards a waiting, small press pack.

His first interviews, following his first first-team appearance, came with him still a little unable to process his evening to that point.

'It feels brilliant. It's surreal. I'm still shaking,' he said.

He was, too. But Cooper handled his questions as well as he had the shiny Mitre Delta that some Blackburn players seemed intent on getting past him and into a net, for some strange reason.

At half-time at Ewood Park, Argyle were drawing 1-1 with Blackburn Rovers, with Graham Carey's second consecutive wonder-goal being levelled by Bradley Dack's injury-time goal for the hosts. Four minutes of stoppage time, a long time for a first half, were played, mainly because of a thigh injury picked up by Argyle goalkeeper Kyle Letheren. At the interval, it became clear that Letheren could not go on, and his substitute, Cooper must replace him.

Second-year apprentice Michael Cooper.
18-years-and-nine-days-old Michael Cooper.
Fourth choice goalkeeper Michael Cooper.

Soon after the second half began, a long, high, deep cross sailed into the Argyle penalty area. A figure in grey with pink flashes hove into view, leapt and caught the ball cleanly.

Cooper was going to be fine.

'It was important that I did something well before I did something badly, to settle my nerves a bit, ease me into the game,' he said.



From the stands, Cooper appeared to be physically growing in stature as the game went on. He could be seen gesticulating to his defence, barking out orders and instructions.

'I get told to talk,' said Michael, 'and it helps with your confidence. It helps the defenders too in knowing where their men are.'

As the game drew to a close, and Argyle's excellent point looked safe, Blackburn pressed one final time. A ball rolled across the Argyle area, and it looked certain that substitute Ben Gladwin would break Pilgrim hearts.

Instead, Aaron Taylor-Sinclair threw himself headlong to block the ball, his amazing intervention causing the ball to loop over the bar, and out for a corner. From said corner,

Rovers had their final effort on goal kicked away by Cooper. Seconds later, the match was over.

'The ball got squared back,' recalled Michael, 'and the next thing I knew Aaron Taylor-Sinclair comes up to my left and pulls off a brilliant block. I knew it would be the last kick of the game, so I really focused. Luckily it came at me and I made the block, and the full-time whistle went. It's all good. You could see their class, they kept moving the ball, but our defence was too resilient for them.'

Approximately 15 minutes after first being taken to face the press, his duties completed, Cooper was free to get on the bus. Before he did, though, he came across Blackburn winger Elliott Bennett, who was leaving the ground to head home.

'You're the young 'keeper, aren't you?' said Bennett, stopping Michael in his tracks. 'I thought you were superb. What a great debut. Well done, and good luck.' Bennett shook Michael's hand, and headed off. It was a classy act; no doubt Bennett remembered his first game, and how he felt. He came through it alright, and has had a very good career.

In March 2018 Michael signed a two-year professional contract at Plymouth Argyle, having been part of the apprentice ranks since the start of the 2016/17 season.

He told the official club website: 'I am just really happy. All that hard work with the academy over the past two years has paid off, but I have got to keep going now. I'm 18, which is still young for a 'keeper, but I want to be pushing to play first-team football as soon as I can...When you start playing football when you are six, seven or eight, you think 'I want to be a professional footballer'. Now that the day has actually come it feels even better.'

GRACE ADAMS-SHORT

Catching up with former Big Brother contestant

From the Plymouth Herald 13 January 2018

Plymouth Big Brother star Grace Adams-Short is now expecting her third child, more than a decade after appearing on the reality show.

Many other BB relationships have fallen by the wayside but she famously fell for one of her housemates, model Mikey Dalton from Liverpool, and the couple are still together.

The pair met on the legendary 2006 series of Big Brother. They just clicked and spent four blissful weeks together in the house.

Grace was evicted on day 30 of the show, but on day 83 of the show, she was the first out of the selected ex-housemates to be voted back in to the 'House Next Door'.

On day 86 she was evicted again. She later appeared on – and won – *Cirque du Celebrite* on Sky One, which saw her performing circus stunts in spite of a broken foot.

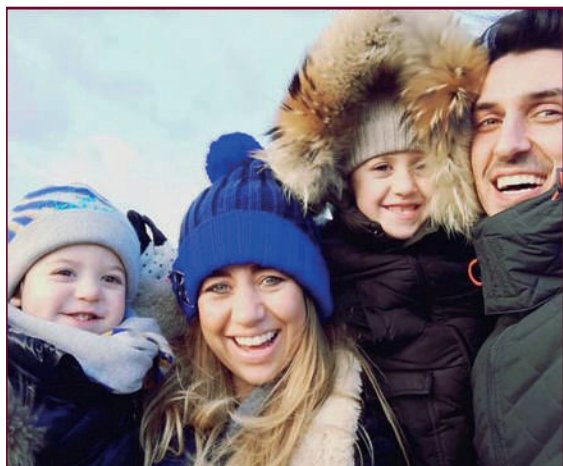
After the show they continued to date and just four months later he asked her to marry him. She and Mikey were married in 2009. Grace, now aged 29, turned businesswoman after leaving showbiz.

She set up the Grace Academy of Performing Arts in Plymouth – and it became such a success that by 2010 she had opened a second branch in Liverpool. Mikey, meanwhile, currently owns his own advertising company.

The pair have children Georgia and Spencer and Grace regularly shares pictures of her son and daughter, including a family portrait taken in Christmas 2017.

The couple revealed the exciting news of their third child on social media.

Writing to her 8,000 followers, a glowing Grace simply said: '34 weeks,' alongside a picture of her baby bump as she stands next to Mikey who is beaming into the camera.



LLOYD INWOOD

Terrace Cafe chef launches takeaway roast dinners

Lloyd Inwood left school in 2006 and after five years as a director with the family business, Southwest Sprayers, opted for a career change and went to work for Rick and Jill Stein at the Seafood Restaurant in Padstow.

After a year or so he started working as a private chef moving to the Alps with Verbier Exclusive and then spending 18 months as a super yacht chef out of Falmouth.

Having just recently become a father, Lloyd felt that a move back towards home would be a good idea and last year he started working with Sean Lynch at the Terrace Cafe above Tinside on Plymouth Hoe.

Earlier this year, Lloyd launched a new initiative for takeaway roast dinners.

He said: 'There is a company call Roast-2-go and that's all they do, but we still have the best views for a roast, or for any food.'

'It is a popular place here on a Sunday anyway, and I just wanted to produce a really good quality roast with a fantastic view to go with it.'

Lloyd will be serving his takeaway roasts in biodegradable waxed cardboard boxes, with no plastic waste, and will be offering two meat options, as well as a vegetarian or vegan option.

'I used to get fish and chips a lot on a Sunday and drive up on to the Hoe and eat it in my car or a bench, but I want to do that with roasts too.'



JEREMY FORD

From Plymouth to the Pro Peloton



It was early February 2016 when the idea first came to my mind. Being part of the senior marketing, business development and media relations leadership team for one of the world's largest global law firms, I was mulling over what to do with the optional two month sabbatical offered to employees who had given ten years service.

For context, I have been racing bikes and obsessed with cycling since around eight years old; I have been passionately involved in fundraising and charity work in East Africa for several years; and I had been mulling over moving away from straightforward fundraising efforts to focusing on more long-term 'pro bono' (the giving of professional services for no cost) support to a cause in which I truly believed.

At this moment, 'Team Rwanda' came to my mind! Team Rwanda is the US-registered not for profit organization which runs the Rwandan national cycling team and academy for the Rwandan cycling federation. I had been randomly introduced to a lady called

Kimberly Coats – who runs the team – several years before and I had helped them out with some legal questions, a visa application in Algeria through a friend there and shipped some bike kit to her in that time.

The team was established back in 2006 by a group of Rwandan genocide survivors to give the country a focus on rebuilding and reuniting through sport. Some ex-US pro cyclists got involved and Team Rwanda was born. Cycling had been a major part of Rwandan culture since Belgian colonial occupation and is the main form of transport in the country. Team Rwanda riders represent unity and teamwork to the Rwandan public and also act as ambassadors for post-genocide reconciliation and development.

I subsequently sent Kimberly a Whatsapp message asking if she had any need for a senior marketing resource to help them develop their strategy and communications efforts and a reply came back within minutes with a resounding 'Yes!' One month later I was on a plane to Rwanda for a two month stint with the team.

It was a life-changing experience.

The two months in Rwanda just flew by. They were filled with meetings, getting to know the riders and staff, planning and strategy discussions, audio conferences with suppliers and prospective sponsors, discussions with the agents and management of professional teams in the top echelons of the sport to secure contracts, photo shoots, pitches to journalists for stories and writing a three-year brand, comms and commercial strategy for 2016-2018. There was even the odd bike ride where I would be destroyed by the incredibly talented 54-56kg riders...



The magical moment the four riders met Chris Froome a few weeks after he won the Tour de France. Hailing from Kenya originally, he is the hero of many young African cyclists.

What I learnt in Rwanda is that the potential of the local talent is huge. Seventeen and 18-year-old trainees could deliver power levels akin to those put down by Chris Froome in his Tour de France wins but their racing knowledge and experience was weak. Our main job, on the non-coaching side, is to ensure the cycling and sports world knows about these exciting young athletes and they get a chance to show their potential.

Following my sabbatical, I established a full social media presence for the team on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and a new website and it is through these we share our images, stories, projects and successes. We now have

over 40,000 followers across these platforms. This in turn yields \$2-300,000 in donations online for the team and the programme. We are constantly sharing and interacting with relevant content online at all times to ensure Team Rwanda has a high profile presence in the cycling community.

When analyzing the following of the team, I realized that there was a major US-based audience (around 85%) consuming the team's content but not much in the UK and Western Europe – the largest audience for bike racing globally. Reacting to this, we then developed a strategy for penetrating these markets.



Jeremy in his role as Directeur Sportif driving the Team Rwanda race car with the team mechanic at the Ride London Classic with Olivier and Paolo, journalists from Rouleur magazine, in the back.

NOTES

To this end, we needed to get the team to the UK and I organized the team's debut UK Tour in June/July 2016. This involved a sponsorship deal with Dassi Bikes (the UK's only carbon bike manufacturer), equipment being donated by our sponsors, huge media coverage including a 20-page feature in the prestigious *Rouleur* magazine, a film with the BBC's Get Inspired initiative and coverage in various other newspapers, as well as 12 races in 26 days! The culmination of this was,

due to the media coverage and some discreet lobbying, the team being invited to race in the elite Ride London Classic, alongside Chris Froome, Alex Dowsett, Andrei Griepel and many others. This was the highest profile race the team had ever competed in and the feedback was truly awe-inspiring.

From the four young riders promoted by, and after, the UK tour, two of these are now full time professional riders. We are hoping to

Joseph, Samuel, Jean Claude and Bosco of Team Rwanda see a royal palace for the first time as they soak up the atmosphere before they take on Froome & Co in the Ride London Classic!



announce some more of our riders turning professional soon in 2018.

Outside of the marketing and commercial support, I am also an official and UCI-licensed Directeur Sportif for the team and this enables me to drive the team car during races, feeding the team and giving tactics. This is a hugely exciting part of the role and having recently delivered this at the World

Cycling Championships in Norway and the All Africa Continental Championships in Egypt, it's amazing to see our riders with the world's best.

What next? We hope to see a Rwandan in the Tour de France before 2020 and more Rwandans signed to the elite professional racing teams...

#watchthisspace #rwandaracing



PETER SOMMER

Family Travels Win Awards

A small family run travel company founded by Peter Sommer (88), has recently won a prestigious nationwide business award for the second time.

Peter set up his own company, specialising in taking groups around ancient sites in Greece, Turkey, Italy and Croatia, having initially worked as an archaeologist and BBC documentary maker.



Peter Sommer Travels won the Tour Operator of the Year Gold Award, based on the highest scoring independent customer reviews given by the Association of Independent Tour Operators, the UK's most prestigious and leading organisation for specialist tour operators and travel companies.

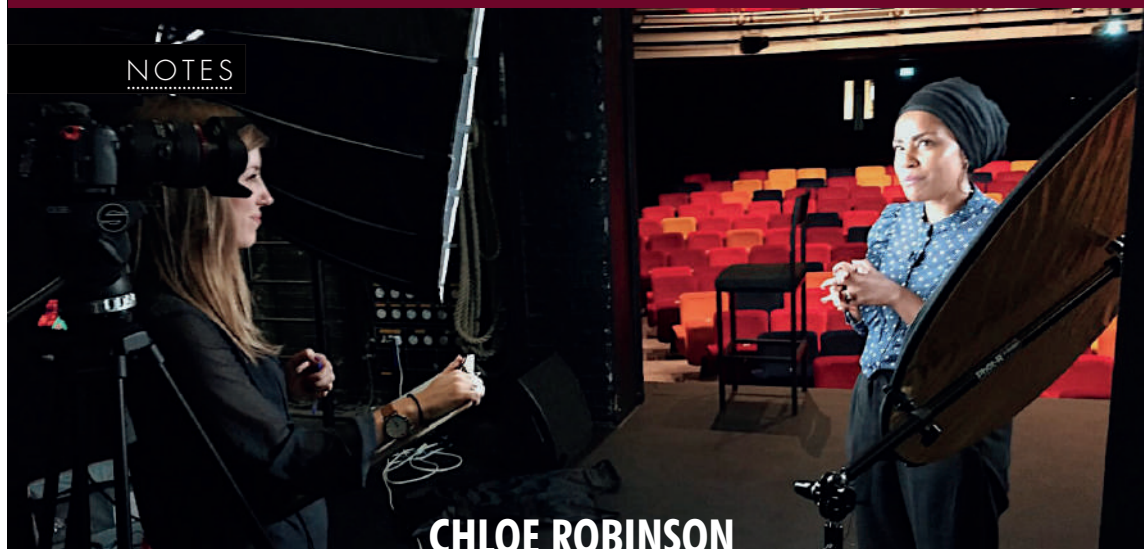
This follows the Silver award in February 2017 and the Gold award in February 2016, and sees them beating more than 120 other (often much larger) travel companies to this acclaimed award.

Executive Director of AITO, Kate Kenward, said: 'The award goes to the AITO member with the top-scoring reviews on the AITO website, based solely on impartial customer feedback. The top three all scored 100%, which means a score of excellent from every single customer review.'

'This meant that the AITO office had to delve further and measure genuine customer experience feedback based around the question 'would you recommend this company to your family, friends or colleagues?'.

'Peter Sommer Travels scored a perfect 100% again.'





CHLOE ROBINSON

Award-winning Film-maker

Three years into their dream of running their own filmmaking company, Chloe Robinson (09) and her fiancé Sam Johnson, aka The Visuals Team, have come a long way.

In that time they have built up a client list of top brands – including Penguin Random House, Comic Relief, Shelter, The Body Shop, Hyundai – and last year they won an international competition run by LaCie, a global hard drive brand, from which they picked up several thousand pounds worth of new equipment and an all expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas to receive the award.

It's a testament to their vision and hard work that they have come so far in such a short time, but it took a massive leap of faith in the first place.

'Sam had always been passionate about making films,' says Chloe. 'I had done A level photography at Plymouth College but I learned everything about video from Sam who is self-taught.'

'We had been talking about making videos together, having made a few for people we knew, and then one day this big opportunity

came up to make a film for Comic Relief. We couldn't do the film and continue with our jobs, so somewhat naively we quit and went for it!'

Despite plunging in at the deep end, they pulled it off but quickly realised there was much to get in place in order to run a full-time business.

'We spent the first few months getting our website and branding etc sorted and to start with we did jobs for very little money.' However, they discovered that they worked very well together. Because Sam had evolved his own style and Chloe learnt from him they developed their own, unique approach. They each bring a complementary skill-set to the table:

'Sam is very creative with all the big ideas,' explains Chloe, 'and I'm more of a realist who thinks about what would or wouldn't work. I tend to do the logistics, but we share the editing and colouring and do the conceptual side together.'

'What's really good is that different things stress us out so despite being in some

incredibly challenging situations at times generally one of us can calm the other down!’

In the beginning they said ‘yes’ to nearly all the work that came their way, a lot of which was not particularly well paid, but they learnt a lot about best practice while they worked out what they really wanted to do.

The team worked from home near Brighton but, finding that they were commuting to London most weeks, they eventually made another seamless leap, to the big city, and

well known personalities (including Reggie Yates, pictured below) for the Penguin Random House events team.

Highlight moments along the way include filming and interviewing Sir Richard Branson for his book launch for Penguin Live: ‘I was nervous before but it was such a whirlwind that we were running on adrenalin and I went into auto-pilot!’ says Chloe.

However she confides that filming and interviewing Nadia Hussian (opposite), Great British Bake Off winner, was even



currently operate from a work space in Putney.

Gradually the client list grew to be more impressive and as they took on bigger jobs they started to create an extended team of other creatives who they can now reach out to for larger projects.

From making a promo film for John Cotton, the biggest bedding manufacturer in Europe, they’ve filmed Facebook phenomenon ‘Fun For Louis’ in Amsterdam, and a whole host of

more nerve-wracking: ‘She was the first celeb we’d done up close – and I wanted her to like me as I’m a big fan of hers!’

Then to be present at the London Palladium Comic Relief televised live show to see our film being shown on the big screen was a very special moment.’

As well as doing paid jobs for clients, Chloe and Sam decided that they’d like to make films for their own satisfaction:

'Because we know a lot of people fulfilling their dreams with great stories to tell, we decided to make a series of films about them. The idea was that we could make the films exactly as we want, to showcase our techniques without compromise.'

Their first in the series was about Søren, a good friend of Sam's who was 'living the dream' as an 'extreme' photographer in the Alps.

'The footage sat on the hard drive for a year and a half before we had time to do anything with it,' confesses Chloe, 'but when we eventually put it online it got 50,000 views, 80 shares and our Facebook following doubled overnight!'

Sometime later Sam decided to enter the film into a competition run by their hard drive supplier LaCie for a film that fitted the description 'In My Element'. They sent off the film and thought nothing of it.

Several months later they received a phone call to say they'd won!

'We received \$15,000 of new equipment and also got to do a couple of presentations in Las Vegas at one of the biggest tech shows in the world,' says Chloe.

Their US visit took place in April before which Sam went off on a film shoot in Mexico for US company Surescripts.

While they have a host of exciting projects lined up in 2018, they like to allow time to be spontaneous and are always open to new challenges.

However, without doubt the most exciting event of all will be their own wedding, which is to take place at Port Eliot, St Germans, Cornwall, in September.

Find out more at thevisualsteam.co.uk





GARY LOVEJOY

Broadcasting International Athletics Championships

*From the Plymouth Herald 4 August 2017
ahead of the IAAF World Championships –
London.*

Gary Lovejoy might as well have vanished off the planet, as far as old-timers who recall his days as a Westcountry television sports presenter are concerned, writes Keith Rossiter in the Plymouth Herald.

'You alright, Gary?' neighbours ask when he returns to his Cornish village home after a spell of globe-trotting. 'Haven't seen you on the telly for a while.'

Not, in fact, since the 1970s and early 1980s, when he appeared on Westward Television and its successor TSW.

Now a high-flying sports television producer, he was instrumental in bringing the America's Cup World Series to Plymouth in 2011.

Mr Lovejoy, who was born in Plymouth and grew up in a council house in the city, is now heading up one of television's biggest challenges: as host broadcaster for the IAAF World Championships.

After the Olympics, it is the biggest thing on the athletics calendar; and this year's event will be in the stadium built for the 2012 London Olympics.

Tickets for the championships – which run from August 4-13 – have already almost sold out, with fans eager to catch a glimpse of megastars like Mo Farah and Usain Bolt in what will be their last major competitions.

Those of us who cannot get a ticket will have Mr Lovejoy to thank for being able to watch the competition from the comfort of our sofas – wherever we are in the world.



Mr Lovejoy gave up trying to persuade taxi drivers in Glasgow that he was involved in TV coverage for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. As far as they were concerned, it was the BBC that did the heavy lifting.

Behind the scenes at the London Stadium, the heavy lifting is done by Sunset & Vine Productions Ltd, which has the contract as 'host broadcaster'. Mr Lovejoy and his team of nearly 4000 people will provide the raw footage for all of the world's television broadcasters.

Small countries, Ecuador, say will take a direct feed.

The 200-person team of Japanese broadcasters will add their own bells and whistles. At least 88 international teams have asked for space at the London Stadium. And even stadium spectators will rely on Mr Lovejoy's skills if they want to watch the action on the big screen.

After the successful broadcasting of the 2014 Glasgow Games, Sunset & Vine tendered for the London project and won the host contract.

Mr Lovejoy has been developing the coverage plans since the spring of 2015.

He will have 75 cameras covering the stadium events and has to put in place all of the systems and facilities needed by other broadcasters attending.

The BBC will be joined on site by 54 foreign TV and radio broadcasters.

'They take our core coverage and create national versions of the World Championships – out put that will best suit their audiences,' Mr Lovejoy said.

The national teams of broadcasters will range from as few as two to 200 in the case of TBS from Japan. In all there will be about 1,100 overseas broadcast personnel on-site.

'For visiting channels and stations we have to provide commentary positions, studios positions,' he said.

He and his team have set up a two week

hi-tech TV village in a 10,000 square meter compound. Mr Lovejoy's team of about 380 is mostly made up of athletics specialists who know their sport inside-out. Mr Lovejoy's team provides no fewer than seven different live feeds.

The main one gives a balanced, all-round view of everything that's happening live in each stadium session every day.

There is also a pure feed of just the events on the track.

And there are up to five crews working on the various field events so that every throw, jump and vault is made available live to audiences around the world, who want to follow everything their athletes do in London.

'The aim is to make all visiting broadcasters and the many other athletics-loving channels around the world truly enjoy London 2017,' Mr Lovejoy said.



KEN BINGHAM

Putting post-war Plymouth back on its feet



At the end of last year Ken Bingham was a special guest at an event to commemorate a major refurbishment of the Pannier Market in Plymouth City Centre. Ken was the architect who oversaw the construction of the Plymouth Pannier Market over 60 years ago, when he was working for Walls & Pearn - the only local architectural practice to have been entrusted with one of the major post-war development projects. It was Paul Pearn who came up with the original designs and Ken who ensured that vision became a reality.

Twenty years before that particular job was on the drawing board, however, Ken had been a new-boy at Plymouth College Preparatory School.

It was September 1937 and as Ken recalls in his memoirs:

'The Headmaster was Mr Firman and his Deputy Mr Westhead. In the 1st Form (the

highest before moving on to the main school) we did a wonderful project as part of the mathematics subject. A large model house was built out of Bayko – a system where plastic base-plates had a large number of small holes in a grid into which metal rods of varying lengths were put. Between these rods, plastic bricks of various sorts, doors, windows, etc. could be slid into place. I had a large quantity of this and used to spend many hours playing with it when I was small! One of the pupils in the class, David Griffen, was the son of a builder and he brought all sorts of catalogues into the class and we worked out how many bricks and other bits of building material would be required to build the real house. Great fun, and, little did I know it at the time, possibly some influence on my eventual career.

Moving into the main school at Plymouth College, with its excellent playing fields facing Ford Park Road, coincided with the outbreak of the Second World War. Many changes took place, including most of the younger staff members going off into the forces. Air raid shelters were constructed in various places and an anti-aircraft balloon was set up in the school grounds as part of the ring of such defences around the city.

In the main school, I recall the bays on the north side of the ground floor corridor where each class would hang their coats, etc. We always had to use the door at the east end of the corridor. The first classroom on the left was where we would have scripture lessons, taken by Rev. Benskin, who introduced what he called 'happy readings'. Someone would be called out to the front read a few paragraphs from a religious text and, if they made a mistake, would be quickly punished but allowed to nominate who would be the next to read. A few scores were settled!

Maths was taught by Mr Bonser, French by Stafford Jackson, Latin by Mrs Butcher, chemistry by Eric Holman and physics, I think, by Mr Dufton.

Any infringement of rules such as running in the corridor, not wearing a school cap outside, chewing sweets and various other things would lead to a pupil's name being put on a Prefects' List on the notice board, requiring those named to report to the Prefects Room, which was halfway up the stairs at the west end of the corridor, at the end of school that day. Prefects were allowed to cane in those days, something that would never be allowed today. Also up that staircase was the Headmaster's study. Mr Ralph was the Head while I was there and he always took morning assembly in the Main Hall. I remember him as a kindly man and strictly fair in the way he dealt with various situations.

The desks in each classroom were wooden and very old, with a lift up flap under which books were stored. There was a recessed inkwell at the right hand side at the top, with a recess running the whole width alongside this. Health and safety being non-existent then, pupils often used to get some mercury from the labs and let it run along any grooves that they found in the well-used wood surface.

I remember Mr Heywood, the groundsman, always looking very cheerful; I think he also coached the cricket sessions.

I generally kept my head above water in most subjects, and did particularly well in chemistry, physics and maths, but did not get on at all well with Latin! A group of us were considered to be not good enough to sit the School Certificate in the subject and instead had additional French lessons as a substitute. Lessons were, of course, frequently

interrupted by air raid warnings, when we would all troop off to our designated shelters. On one occasion, while we were in morning assembly, the steel cable that tethered the anti-aircraft balloon broke and snaked down across the roof of the College with a loud crack. Fortunately, no one was outside at the time.

With the blitz, getting to school was often quite an adventure. I used to go by bus every day from Plympton to the top of Alexandra Road and then walk along Mutley Plain to the College but sometimes, after a night of raids, public transport could only go part way because of debris, fire hoses across the road, etc. and it was then a case of walking the remainder of the way. As schoolboys, we used to pick up all the bits of shrapnel that we could find and swap various souvenirs when we got to school. A small piece has been kept as a souvenir of the time. During my time in the main school, I was a member of the OTC (Officers Training Corps), later called Junior Training Corps. I gained my War Certificate 'A' on 26 November 1945. This set out my proficiency in drill, weapon training, map reading, field intelligence and section leading. It also recorded my physical efficiency regarding agility, endurance and strength. The training came in very useful when I later joined the Territorial Army and, in due course, did my National Service.'

Of course, the Plymouth that young Ken was now seeking employment in was a very different city from the one he'd know when he started his schooling, and it was a friend of his father, Clifton Bingham, who was then manager of the Plympton Branch of Lloyds Bank, who recommended a career path for the young man. He happened to be a retired London architect and asked about Ken's interests on leaving school.

It was put to Ken that there was to be a huge amount of work involved in putting Plymouth back on its feet after the devastation caused by the aerial bombardment of the city. Housing was of course the main priority but there were shops, schools, offices and factories, together with a wide range of other buildings that needed to be replaced or created as quickly as humanly possible. There was certainly going to be no shortage of work for the foreseeable future.

Thus it was that Ken, whose great, great, great grandfather Samuel Prout, and father of the celebrated local artist Samuel Prout, (watercolour artist to George IV) started work with a prominent local architect, J Leighton Fouracre. Ken joined the practice straight from school in 1946 as studying part time at Plymouth School of Architecture. An interesting and diverse range of projects came his way, one of the first of which was making alterations to the then thriving Millbay Laundry in Millbay Road – an area that Ken felt completely at home in, as his grandfather, William Scott Bingham, whom he barely knew as he died in 1933, had been managing director of the Millbay Soap

Company back in the day.

Ken also worked on housing projects at Beacon Park, cottages at Noss Mayo, the reinstatement of numerous war damaged properties and various specific briefs, like New Zealand House in Penlee Way and developments for the Plymouth and Octagon Breweries. He completed some eight years with the firm before undertaking his two years National Service with the Royal Engineers.

After initial training, he was posted to the Works Services office in Wiltshire where he added to his construction skills working on military projects across Salisbury Plain.

It was when he returned to Plymouth that the now more experienced Mr Bingham joined Paul Pearn and Herbert Walls in their relatively new practice in Halwell Street (in a building soon to be lost in the redevelopment that now houses a main block of the University above Glanville Street). Working for his new employers, the Pannier Market was the first of his charges and one of the most iconic, although it was swiftly followed by another classic period piece, the wonderful Plymouth Athenaeum – another striking and important post-war building that is recently enjoying something of a renaissance.

Interestingly enough, during the ten years that Ken was with them he undertook further work for Millbay Laundry, was involved with the Jaeger Factory in Union Street and completed a survey of Drake's Island.

He also married Jean Kelsey in 1963 and the couple were together until Jean's death in 2006.

In 1966 Ken made his third and final move



*Opening of the Pannier Market:
(L-R) Arthur Goldberg, Lord Mayor Percival Washbourn, Herbert Walls, Kenneth Bingham and Sir James Clifford Tozer.*

Cartoon produced by colleague Keith Fletcher on Ken's retirement in 1993.



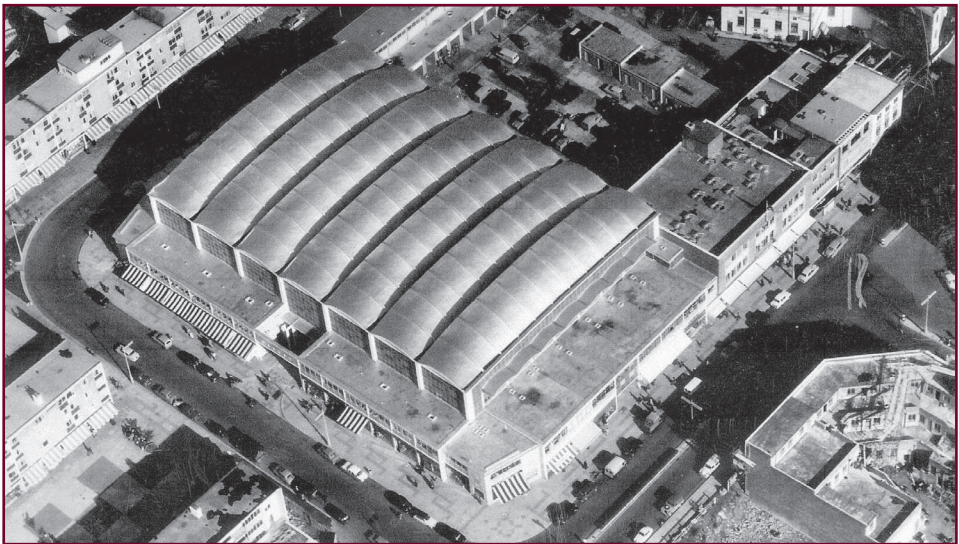
professionally when he joined the then Plymouth City Architect's Department to take on the Residential Nautical College in Portland Square, followed by the College of Further Education at Kings Road, Devonport. With local government reorganisation, the department became part of Devon County Architect's Department where he found himself working on a variety of educational establishments and other buildings across the city and the county.

For many years Ken has been very active in the affairs of his profession and was first elected to the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1972, serving on a number of the national committees over the years. He served on the council of the statutory registration body for 19 years and represented the Institute on the National Joint Consultative Committee for Building where he

was privileged to sit as national chairman in 1991.

Since retirement in 1993 he has been heavily involved in the work of the Architects Benevolent Society and is now its vice-president.

'I've had an extremely interesting and varied career and I'd happily do all over again,' concludes Ken.



Unusual aerial perspective of the Pannier Market, note the Odeon Cinema still standing top right and the clear space, bottom right, where the recently demolished Barley Sheaf was about to be built.

TOM SAVERY

From pupil to Chairman of Governors

TOM SAVERY'S SCHOOL DAYS – Leader of Plymouth City Council, eminent local solicitor, Chairman of Governors for almost a generation and on the Board for over 40 years, Tom Savery started at Ford Park during wartime. As next year marks the 80th anniversary of the start of that war it seemed like a good time to catch up with the man who has witnessed so much of the goings on at the school at closer quarters, and over a longer period of time, than almost anyone.

Tom Savery's parents moved to Hooe the during the Second World War, and the young lad was dispatched to the local primary school where year groups were, of necessity, mixed to a greater or lesser extent.

'When I was nine the teacher there took the view that I was doing rather well and said to my parents that 'there was no point in Tom doing another two years here' and so it was that in September 1944, aged nine, I started at Plymouth College.

'We were observing double summer time back then, the war was still on, there was a huge water tank at the bottom of the school field, in the Devon Terrace/College View corner, a large air-raid shelter just below the Sports Pavilion, a barrage balloon, manned by members of the Australian Air Force (then based at Mount Batten) at the top of the school field and a Bofors anti-aircraft gun in the middle of the field manned by US Servicemen.

'The Prep then was in Valletort – the back of the headmaster's house, and we had our lunches in the Pavilion – they were around a shilling each, the same sort of price as a meal then in a British Restaurant' (one of those not for profit Ministry of Food communal kitchens set up in 1943 to help those people who'd been bombed out of house and home – they operated through to 1947).

Most of the eligible staff members had, by then, been pressed into military service. Bert Ralph, although still only in his 50s, had put off any ideas of standing down as Head and among those covering for the masters in uniform were a small contingent of



40-something female teachers - Ma Butcher, Katie Goad and Marjorie Sykes – as well as 22-year-old Pam Coulthard – ‘she didn’t last long,’ recalls Tom, ‘rather to responsive to the attentions of the sixth form I believe.

‘My career at school wasn’t especially distinguished,’ says Tom, ‘I played rugger alongside my second row mate, Roger Booth, and remember being taken here there and everywhere by Ted Mercer, a passionate rugby man who hated to see us lose and liked to see us drink.

‘He was refereeing one game and we conceded a try late on and were in danger of losing had the score been converted and the lad from the opposing team took so long to line up what was quite a straight forward kick that Ted blew up the whistle.



‘You’ve taken too long laddie,’ said Ted, invoking a rugby rule that was entirely valid but which none of us had heard of!

On another occasion we were coming back victorious from somewhere in the depths of Cornwall and we stopped off on the way home in the Garland Ox, in Bodmin. Ted asked us all what we wanted to drink. I asked for a lemonade. Ted faltered and asked again. I replied that I would like a glass of lemonade.



‘Well you can buy that bloody muck yourself!’ he said and walked off.

Hard to imagine these days,’ reflects Tom, ‘we were all under age!’

It was while he was in the sixth form that Tom met the great love of his life, Margaret.

‘It was one of those things, I’m sure it was just meant to be. I remember it was 25 March 1950 and the bus to Hooe was full and so I got on the bus to Elburton, happy to walk the three miles from there. There was only one seat on the Elburton bus left and that was next to Hazel Greening. We got talking and she persuaded me to go an interschool debate at Plymouth High. They were popular at the time and I went along, a little reluctantly, but it was there that I met Margaret and that was it ... she was the only girlfriend I ever had.’

(Sadly Margaret died in 2010 – this year the couple would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary).

Managing to secure a place at both Oxford and Cambridge with no A-levels – ‘I left school with a School Certificate – A-levels came in the following year,’ says Tom with a wry smile. Tom opted for Hertford College, Oxford. His education however was interrupted by a 21 month spell of National

Service – he just managed to avoid a two-year term by dint of joining early.

Ending up in the Signals, against his better judgement, he had opted for the Infantry, Tom says that National Service was a good thing overall, but it was tough for some. Arriving in Catterick, mid-January 1951, he has vivid, and not altogether pleasant, memories of doing PE in singlet and shorts in the cold.

‘Our instructor was the cricketer Brian Close.’

Although still in his teens, just, Close had already made his Test cricket debut – indeed he still holds the record as the youngest cricketer to play Test cricket for England – however Tom remembers him as being ‘a sadistic bastard.’

Nevertheless Tom says that National Service was good for him and particularly good for lads from humble backgrounds.

‘There were 20 of us to a hut. I was with a group that included a lad from Exeter, another from Yorkshire and 17 Glaswegians.

‘I think they saw me as a bit of a toff,’ says Tom, ‘it was hard, some of those lads couldn’t even read, but most of them soon learnt. The first weekend we were there we had to bundle our day clothes up and send them home. There was no radio and certainly no television. A lot of lads were homesick and I remember a couple of senior blokes talking loudly outside our huts saying that it had just been announced that National Service was being extended from two years to five – some of the lads started crying. It wasn’t true though!’

Tom’s National Service overlapped with the

Korean War and, on receiving a commission, 2nd Lieutenant Savery was rather hoping for a posting to the Far East or Hong Kong, however he ended up in Aldershot!

National Service over, Oxford beckoned and among Tom’s contemporaries were Roger Bannister and Michael Hesletine. As a student Tom organised the Law Society and on his return to Plymouth, armed with Second Class Honours Degree, Tom went into practice, firstly with Stroud, then Stitson, Foot & Bowden, then Goldbergs.

In 1966, and now in his mid-30s Tom joined the Board of Plymouth College. Meade-King was the head – ‘excellent,’ says Tom – and LF Paul was the Chairman – ‘I never really saw eye to eye with Leslie Paul.’

One of Tom’s first roles on the board was as secretary for the successful Appeal for the Meade-King Hall which stood him in good stead some years later when he steered the project to build the sports hall.

‘Ron (Merrett) wanted to put the sports hall where the pavilion is. ‘Isn’t that a matter for the Board,’ I asked him. ‘There’s nowhere else to put it,’ he replied. That’s when I suggested that we look into buying some of the land from the Territorial Army behind the Barton Building.

‘But there’s a road running around there,’ protested Ron.

‘Well let’s try and get it moved!’

That’s why there’s no serious structure above the sports’ hall foyer, there’s a main drain running underneath it.



The trouble with Ron was that you really had to fight to get any modern idea past him.

Oddly enough, Ron hadn't initially been the Board's first choice. We actually appointed John Goddard after Meade-King retired, Merrett was runner up.

But Goddard's wife was unhappy. She evidently cried all the way back to London and refused to come down here and live with him. Goddard didn't stay, he resigned the following July.

He had a foul temper. He gave John Spear a real bollocking over some minor issue. John was a real gentle soul. The staff took his side.'

And so it was that just like Meade King before him the man who was second favourite in the first instance ended up being appointed a little over a year later – in Meade King's case his predecessor had died in post.

Tom says that he liked Ron Merrett... 'but that didn't mean I thought he was a good leader. He was very prone to making decisions off

his own bat. He abolished Open Day without consultation.'

That said, Tom suggests that the most controversial decision that he was ever involved in was the abolition of Saturday morning school.

'There was more opposition to that than going co-educational,' he says, still with an element of bemusement. 'We thought that parents would be happy having more flexibility with their children at weekends, but it seems that not everyone agreed!'

In 1983, after eight years in post, Ron retired and was succeeded by Tony Joyce – 'a kind man, the children liked him.'

But of all the appointments made during Tom's time, perhaps the Head he held in highest regard was Alan Morsley.

'Alan was very good with the staff and very good at talking to students, but not down to students.'

MARTIN WISEMAN

Play to Win, Never Give In

Richard Davies [00] writes:

In 2008, I had arranged to move in to a flat, in London, with Martin Wiseman [00] - a friend from school who had since completed a Masters degree from Cambridge, and embarked on a high-flying career with CBRE. His drive ambition, allied to his vivacious personality and joie de vivre suggested this was someone who was destined to go far. However, we never ended up sharing a flat as Martin was struck with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome at the end of August 2008.

In the intervening ten years, Martin has been bed-bound. He has received care from many carers including those at the Leonard Cheshire Home into which he was admitted, before his parents rebuilt their house to accommodate his needs.

At the worst point, Martin's muscles had wasted to the extent that he required physiotherapy; he had lost the use of his vocal chords so communicated using a form of sign language; and he requires assistance from carers to wash and feed himself.

In 2010, I was training for IRONMAN France and prepared for the cycle leg by riding around Devon and Cornwall once a week, during which I would drop in on Martin. Having completed the race, I returned to Martin and gave him the medal to keep as a symbol of resilience, until he was strong enough to return it. Eight years on from the race (and ten years from the onset of his condition) the demands of a triathlon pale into insignificance when compared to the physical and emotional struggle that Martin has had to endure, having been confined to his bed for such a protracted period of time.



Questioning what I could do to help a friend who appears to have been ostracised from recent developments elsewhere in the medical community, I decided to share my training route in the hope that other cyclists might follow it and learn about the rationale behind it. The route is a loop, so can be embarked upon at any point, but the reason I have named it the Celtic Wiseman Perpetual, is that I hope cyclists will continue to ride it and be inclined to make a donation to ME Research UK, in order to help precipitate a decisive moment after which new treatments can be pioneered and help sufferers like Martin to move on to a new chapter in their lives.

As part of a team of six cyclists, I will be riding the gruelling 75 Mile Celtic Wiseman Perpetual Road Circuit, around Devon and Cornwall. We aim to raise awareness of Martin's medical condition and raise money for ME Research UK, in order to accelerate a break through in understanding and treating this debilitating condition.



Martin Wiseman, Rich Davies and Robert Barclay

The route will take the group from the start point, in Mt Edgcumbe, along picturesque coastal panoramas to Downderry, before they embark on a tumultuous climb from sea-level to Yelverton, tackling intimidating stages named 'The Escalator' and 'The Big Dipper'.

After the high point of Dartmoor, they will descend along Drake's Trail to Saltram House, before continuing to the delightful riverside villages along the River Yealm, and the final ride in to Plymouth's Barbican.

The team will be completing The Celtic Wiseman Perpetual on **Sunday 27 May**, starting (and finishing) at Rockets and Rascals on the Barbican, Plymouth.

Donations to ME Research UK can be made through www.justgiving.com/celticwiseman and you can track their progress on social media searching **#celticwiseman**.

The route can be accessed through Strava at: [strava.com/routes/9969848](https://www.strava.com/routes/9969848)



OLIVER HARBORTH

A Taste of Sunshine



Oliver Harborth [03] writes:

Zephyr began in 2016 after I had spent some time working in Los Angeles and fell in love with the food that Southern California (SoCal) had to offer. I got really into how the food was presented and more so, the mouth watering flavour creations. The influences from Mexico, Korea, France, Italy and other neighbouring American States interested me and I started getting ideas.

Back in London I started obsessing how over to recreate the experience I had in LA.

My background is in film making but my passion for good food has always driven me to love cooking. I spent all my savings on the bare-bones of a street food set up, and with a few valuable pointers from a friend working as a chef, I went gung-ho into it! Without much of a clue about what I was doing the experience was a huge learning curve. But with much experimentation and patience I'm proud to say that I've done it. I've secured some great suppliers, learned some invaluable techniques and nailed down a menu of vibrant flavours inspired by my time in Southern California.



Roping in my better half, Sheena, for the ride and a growing team of awesome people, we proudly offer a contemporary take on SoCal street food to hungry Londoners.

Zephyr have now completed Kerb Street Food Markets' inKERBator programme – a three month trial to become a regular trader at Kerb Market West India Quay. The inKERBator programme gives early stage businesses with raw talent but little experience the chance to accelerate traders' growth, whilst giving Londoners a regular injection of new street food to enjoy.

EMMA & LOTTIE LATHAM

Ladies of the English

'It's 1135 and King Henry I lies dying, his only legitimate heir is his daughter, Matilda. So why have we never heard of her?'

That's the question posed by director Emma Latham [09], in *Lady of the English*, a play she is developing to share the little-told story of 'a woman who should have been as famous and powerful as Elizabeth Tudor.'

Working with writer Amanda Lane, the piece is ambitious in scale and groundbreaking in style. Telling Matilda's story, the play explores how she very nearly came to rule as 'Lady of the English' and the bloody turmoil that followed her usurpation.

Although the play is still in development, as part of Wilton's Music Hall's Plays Without Décor programme, Emma was able to stage a 'progress production' in September 2017. The programme is supported by the Noel Coward Foundation and aims to help young or emerging directors workshop their theatrical ideas.



Anne Kavanagh, Roisin O'Loughlin & Lottie Latham in rehearsal for Lady of the English

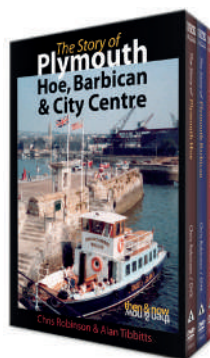
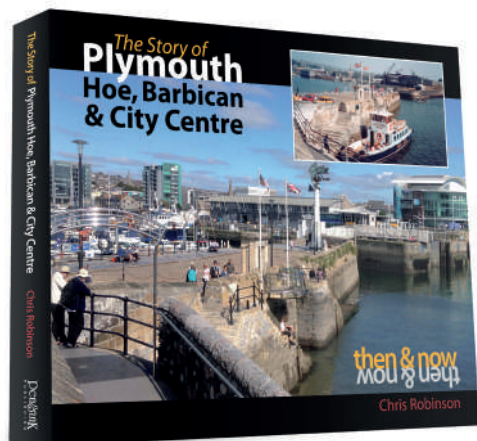
Based in London and on Dartmoor, Emma has directed work at the Brockley Jack, RADA, Theatre Royal Plymouth and Vaults.

Her sister, and former head girl of Plymouth College, Lottie Latham [06], led the cast of the limited performance. Lottie is also based in London and has appeared in a number of works for both stage and radio, including *The Lizzie Play* and *The Mousetrap*.



CHRIS ROBINSON

Plymouth Then & Now - in colour!



Last year saw the publication of yet another Plymouth book from the pen of our editor Chris Robinson [73]: it's another in his popular Then & Now series, but with a novel twist – this time he's gone full colour and not just produced single 'then and now' comparisons, but in many instances has included picture spreads that have several 'then' images, charting a number of changes over time.

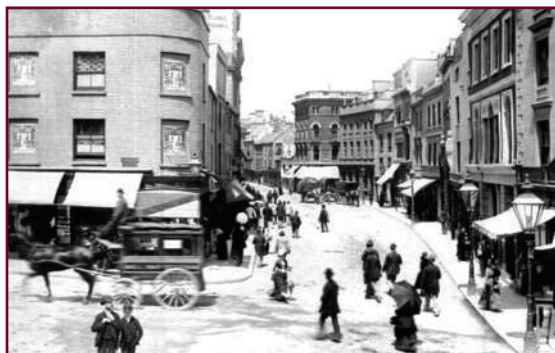
Plymouth, having arguably been the worst bombed city in Britain (per capita) during the Second World War, lends itself well to this approach and this fulsome volume is peppered with pre and post war images alongside the contemporary comparisons

Concentrating on the Hoe, Barbican and City Centre, what is perhaps surprising

about this collection is the number of post-war buildings that have already been demolished – like the Drake Cinema, the 1970s Drake Circus, the Co-op warehouse on the Barbican, the Trattoria Capri restaurant, the Hoe Theatre, the Mayflower Hotel, Bretonside Bus Station and the YMCA in Cobourg Street.

The present volume also differs from its predecessors in as much as the author has provided potted histories of his subjects rather than just a succession of 'spot the difference' style captions.

With photographic images from the last 150 years, this is, all in all, a fascinating and very worthy volume ... and one that may come as a bit of a surprise to anyone who's been away from Plymouth for a while!



Extract from the new book and three disc DVD box-set looking separately at the Hoe, Barbican and City Centre:

SPOONER'S CORNER

While the eastern side of Old Town Street was being pushed back to allow for a greater traffic flow in the 1890s, the western side remained very much where it was, even though a large number of the sites were redeveloped.

As fate would have it, the site that was most conspicuously refashioned on the western side of the road was the corner block that stood at the end of Bedford Street. Here the reconstruction work was not down to either a transport initiative or pure commercial pressure but rather fire. Two fires in fact, both afflicting what had come to be one of Plymouth's premier 'department' stores – Spooners.

Established by Joseph Spooner in Whimble Street in 1844, the business had grown

spectacularly and by the end of the century had come to occupy a handful of properties in Bedford Street and in Market Avenue and several in Old Town Street. Then, on 14 June 1902, the whole of their Bedford Street and Old Town Street operations were lost to a major conflagration.

Subsequently rebuilt, an even more devastating fire in 1910 saw another major reconstruction, only for the 1941 Blitz to wipe them out for a third time. However, Spooners rose from the ashes again, in 1953, but by this time the company had largely lost its local roots, and although for many years it continued to be branded 'Spooners' it has long since been known as Debenhams (the firm had actually taken them over back in 1929).

OPM ROUNDUP

News from around the city and beyond

Ollie Robinson [07] Law degree in Cardiff and masters at Durham, now in London and Associate Director of Markets Regulation at a global association for the hedge fund industry. Mainly not using golf membership or motorbike in his spare time.

Will Murray [07] PMC head boy 2006/2007. Moved to London via Durham Uni, predictably got a first. Now Nicorette Global Marketing Manager, Johnson & Johnson and married in Surrey last year to Naomi. Trying to stay fit without his shoulders dislocating.

Jacob Herman [07] Living in Landrake and engaged to be married to Ami in 2019. Senior Physiotherapist at Nuffield Health. Played OPMs rugby for a time but not enough lycra, now a keen runner, cyclist, and triathlete.

Ed Agobiani [07] Settled in Hangzhou, China. Busy raising his daughter Nola with his wife Carol and passing on his wisdom to pupils in English classes.

Charles Martin [07] Still in Plymouth, owner of one of the leading web and software development teams in Cornwall, Voice Group (and offers discounts to OPMs). Plays cricket for Philanthropists CC and Plymstock CC.

Simon Burkill's [05] wife Amy gave birth to Henry in September, their first. Henry is to be christened in the same church in Tiverton that the couple were married in

back in 2014. Simon is still in the Army and has been working in Bristol for the last two years.

**Jos Burkill [03]**

Last year Jos and his wife, Helen, also had a baby boy, Seth, a brother for Abbie who will be three this year. Jos is currently Assurance Senior Manager

in the audit section of Ernst & Young and like his brother is also based in Bristol.

Ryan Clark [05] Also enjoying fatherhood is Ryan Clark, with son Isaac, born in November 2015

Dave Webb [05] after a stint with Pirates (that's Pirates of Penzance not Penzance Pirates) at the London Coliseum is currently appearing in the English National Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's version of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the same venue.



David Webb, Ryan Clark, Andy Davies, Chris Hay, Leigh Jackson and Jon Bowden



The York Realist at the Donmar Warehouse

Nice to see Dominic Maxwell in the Times eulogising about **Peter McIntosh's [85]** beautiful farm cottage set design for *The York Realist* at the Donmar Warehouse in Earlham Street: 'As evocative as the cast of seven, who all look as if they have lived and breathed and drunk pot after pot of tea on that stage for years,' said the Times critic. While Tim Bano in *The Stage* described Peter's set as 'gorgeously detailed.' The production is scheduled to move on to the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

Pleasing to see that **Dawn French's** latest TV adventure – *Delicious* – was Sky's most successful drama series of 2017, securing a second series for airing this year. Also starring Emilia Fox and *Game of Thrones* star Iain Glen, the show, filmed in Cornwall (notably Pentillie and Port Eliot) attracted an average audience of 1.87 million viewers.

Bumped into brother **Gary French [73]** in Calstock, he's been living there about 20 years. He and Sarah have two children, a daughter currently working in theatre the stage manager type role, and a son at college in Falmouth. Gary still sees **David Wallace [73]** – was Lillicrap] and has a great affection for all things 1970s, including a boat, caravan, VW doormobile and an old car or two.



Dawn French in Delicious

Rich Bullard [80] After 33 years in teaching, in five different schools across Bath and North East Somerset, 15 of them as a Head, Richard (below, left) has recently retired. Still a keen sportsman and a coach of many sports, he's been a mainstay of the junior section of City of Bath Hockey Club for 15 years. A great believer in giving children as many opportunities as possible to participate in sport, Rich is a big Bath Rugby and Plymouth Argyle fan. He's also a founding member, Trustee and President of It's in the Bag, a charity that raises awareness of and supports men with Testicular Cancer in the South West.



Malcolm Flanders [78] (above, right) One of Rich's contemporaries is currently enjoying life north of the border – in Edinburgh – where he's director of sales for Golden Charter, independent funeral directors. Malcolm used to work for Lloyds Bank which is where we find another local OPM, **Richard Davis [78]** who is currently Area Director for Plymouth and Torbay SME Banking.



Nice to see that **Tom Dinnis** picked a five-wicket haul playing for Cornwall against Herefordshire last summer. It was one of half a dozen outings that Tom made for the county side.

Meanwhile **James Burke** (above) had an early outing for Leicester last season but was laid low with a virus and then picked up a secondary illness as a result of it. A frustrating cricket free period was forced on him before coming back to the westcountry to play for Devon against Oxfordshire in a three-day minor counties game.

James left Surrey last summer after a couple of seasons with the county side and enjoyed some club cricket with Budleigh Salterton.



Sad to report that another prominent sporting OPM **Henry Slade** was sidelined with a shoulder injury at the start of 2018. Sustained during Exeter Chiefs Champions Cup game in Glasgow in January, it meant that Henry was unlikely to figure in Eddie Jones' line ups for the Six Nations, despite having been selected for the squad.

Success for **Josh Webb** [08], as part of the Swiss League C Champions RFC Yverdon Les Bains. The final, played on 17 June 2017 in 30 degree temperatures, was hard fought with Yverdon running out winners by 26-20. Josh, watched by his mother and father (Club Treasurer, **Peter** [77]) has been living in France and working in Switzerland since 2014.



Alex Pillage, William Knapper and Tom Dinnis



Josh Webb (top right)



Thanks to **Geoff Bowden** for this early school-related colour shot (above). Displaying all the signs of ageing Geoff says that it shows him coming back from a Plymouth College RAF Section camp in April 1963. 'Could have been RAF Gaydon or Geilenkirchen,' says Geoff.



Nice shot taken at the Albion v Coventry match in March 2018. Features **Mike Cox [59]**, far left – Mike has not enjoyed best of health recently, but is on the mend and driving again after a hernia operation a few months ago. In the middle is **Ray Roach [62]**, forsaking the golf clubs on this occasion and right is the former President of Coventry RFC, **David Hardy [66]**.

Spotted some 16 or so OPMs, some still playing cricket, at Mount Wise for the visit of the star-studded Lashings World XI last summer, including **Basil Cane**, **Ed Keast**, **Chris Uren**, **Ashley Phillips**, **Chris Hall**, **Nick Holman**, **Andy Sewell**, **Andrew Hirshman**, **Jay Foster**, **Simon Parford**, **Paddy Marsh**, **Martin Weeks**, **James Toms**, **Jake Luffman** and **Steve Luffman**. Current staff represented there too by, amongst others, **Jonathan Standen**, **Phil Mutlow** and **Matt Byrne**.



Iain Briggs [74] graduated from West Middlesex Hospital in 1980 and went on to complete a two-year rotational staff grade post at Ealing General Hospital.

After taking his first senior role in Australia, Iain returned to the UK and the Royal Preston Hospital physiotherapy outpatient department. 'As a keen rugby player,' he says, 'it was a pleasure to be appointed physiotherapist, along with Carol, my wife, to Preston Grasshoppers RFC in 1984. We provided a full clinic and match day service for 12 years before moving to Lancaster.

'I joined Carol working at Hest Bank Physiotherapy Clinic in 1992, and have worked there since, becoming full time from 2005 when I "retired" from the NHS.'

Father of three, Iain says he keeps in shape fell walking, mountain biking, playing tennis and dinghy sailing. In his spare time he enjoys playing saxophone with a local swing band and a saxophone quartet.

WEDDINGS

MARINA WATERS-FEALEY & JOE LEIGH



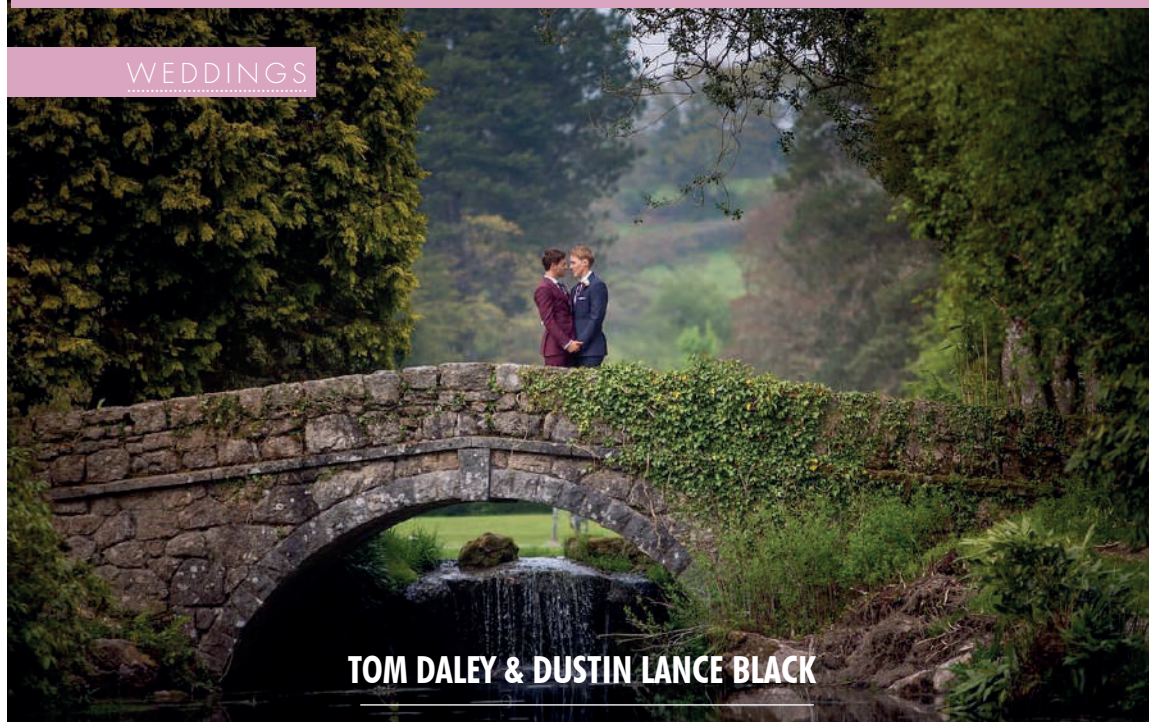
Marina [05] and Joe met at the University of Southampton in 2006 while both studying law. Over the following decade Marina and Joe lived in four cities and obtained five degrees between them. Within this time Marina went to drama school at Guildford School of Acting and achieved a life goal by writing and performing in the West End.

Marina and Joe got engaged in January 2016 and were married in August 2017 in Sorrento, Italy; a city with particular significance to them as it was the destination of their first holiday together. The ceremony

took place at the San Francesco Cloisters with 50 guests in attendance from as far afield as Australia. OPMs in attendance were Marina's brother James Waters-Fealey [02] and Hannah Evans [05], who was Marina's Maid of Honour. The couple hoped for warm weather on the day but hadn't expected a 40 degree heat wave! Guests were kept cool with gelato and plenty of local limoncello.

They are now happily settled in Exeter where Marina works as a Property Litigation Solicitor at Foot Anstey and Joe is a Regional Health and Safety Advisor for McCarthy and Stone.



**TOM DALEY & DUSTIN LANCE BLACK**

Tom Daley married his partner, Hollywood screen writer, Dustin Lance Black, in Devon at the stunning Bovey Castle in Dartmoor National Park on 6 May last year.

The couple, who got engaged in 2015, married in front of friends and family in an intimate wedding at the lavish five-star golf resort.

The ceremony took place in Bovey Castle's Cathedral Room, and afterwards guests enjoyed a three-course meal in one of the Castle's restaurants which boasts three AA rosettes for their culinary offerings.

The reception took place at the hotel's Dartmoor Suite, where guests continued to party until the early hours of the morning.



ALEX TREVARTHEN & RENEE BLOOMFIELD



Alexander Trevarthen and Renee Bloomfield are pictured above with their son Archer James, who was born 11 August 2017.

They were married 3 February 2018, in a lovely ceremony, held at the Bundaleer Rainforest Gardens, near Brisbane Australia.

Alex, Renee and Archer now live in Brisbane, Australia, close to Renee's family.

Alex is a physiotherapist and Renee is an exercise physiologist and they both work in private practice in medical and health centres in Brisbane.



At the February Lodge meeting a new candidate Mark Williams (77 – 83) was Initiated and welcomed into the Lodge. W Bro Bill Daw was then warmly congratulated having been Installed for a second time into

During the year the Lodge raised £1,050 with £500 given to our local Crime-stoppers charity. The Lodge also continued its support of very worthwhile local charity, Plymouth Christmas Basket Brigade, which donated 120 food hampers to needy local families nominated by the education welfare officers of Plymouth schools.

The Lodge meets at Manadon Masonic Hall, Smallack Drive, Crownhill, Plymouth at 6.45pm on the third Wednesday in each month, except June, July, August and December. Our monthly meetings are followed by a formal dinner (Festive Board), and this is always a very sociable part of the evening. The Installation meeting is in October. Committee meetings are held at the OPM Suite whenever possible.

Visiting Masons are warmly welcomed and OPMs of any era who wish to know more about the Lodge or Freemasonry in general, are encouraged to make contact.



Membership requirements for the Lodge are no longer restricted solely to former pupils and masters. If you have a connection with the School and would like to know more please contact the Secretary, Steve Welsh, or any of the members.

Steve Welsh
Tanglewood, 15 Abbots Road,
Mannamead, Plymouth, PL3 4PD
Tel: 01752 516436
Email: secretary@opmlodge6279.co.uk

DOUG MARTIN [TEACHER 60-96]

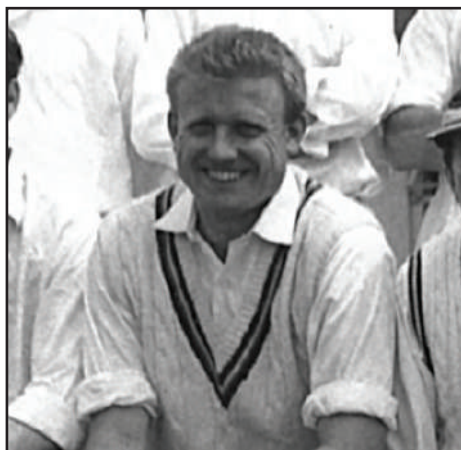
1936 - 2017

Jonathan Mills writes: I was lucky enough to have attended Plymouth College between 1971 and when I was finally booted out in 1985, with a French O level and a couple of others. I was also lucky enough to have been taught by the late great Muscles Martin and it's an honour for me to have been asked to share some thoughts and memories which fellow OPMs sent to his wife, Pat, and the family. It's a double honour, in fact, as they asked me to tell you about a man who, for the first three years I spent at school, terrified me!

Before joining the main school, as it used to be known, I remember hearing from friends with older siblings about the reputation of Mr Martin – he was a teacher who was clearly to be respected in every way.

His classroom was on the first floor of the school's grey Victorian building, and this is where Doug taught French to my schoolmates and me. The room was equipped with rows of ancient double seated oak desks with iron uprights, on which many a schoolboy had practiced improvised woodwork by carving their names into the desktops. You couldn't hide anything under them and escape was allegedly impossible, and as a nervous first form pupil, it was an intimidating place.

He was punctual, and when he entered the classroom, all 6'3" of him with a distinctive quiff catching a breeze, silence descended instantly and everyone stood. He would take the few steps to his desk, drop his leather briefcase on to it, turn and face us and invite us to sit. Every time. Without fail.



Respect towards him was a given or there was a fair chance you'd be invited to walk to the porter's office for a length of bamboo cane – Doug allegedly grew his own – but his lessons had order and he usually needed little more than his commanding voice to have control.

So, the lesson would begin. For those brave enough to raise a hand to ask a question, he would ask 'music lesson?', 'no sir' was usually the reply, 'feeling ill?' he would ask, 'no sir', was usually the reply again. He would then remind everyone that questions could be asked when he gave permission to do so, and he would tell you when that was.

With his class still silent he'd pace the room and ask if anyone wanted a pen friend – a friend in a foreign country, probably French speaking, to whom we could write and improve the vocabulary he was expertly teaching us during his structured lessons. During my six years at Plymouth College,



only one boy I know of took up the offer and I still think it was the deafening silence that prompted him to ask.

His teaching was animated. Muscles was clearly skilled as a performer and as we got to know him, we quickly realised respecting him was repaid with great humour, an education and encouragement to do our best, sometimes with the threat of a sound thrashing, but mostly with him leading by example – his passion for teaching and the school could not be ignored.

He inspired us – and many of us still think that we can actually speak French. Some actually can, but we all had the confidence to give it a go!

Many of his former pupils have written about his dittys - these gems helped two generations over his 35 years at Plymouth College, to pronounce, conjugate and retain vowels and vocabulary - and these have even been passed onto our own children.

Never pronounce a consonant at the end of a word in French!

LTU will get you through, and if you don't, it won't! For those of you who don't recall this, it stands for Look things up.

His vowel pronunciation and phonetics while beating time on the desk I will never be able to compete with.

His fondness for his pupils often resulted in them being given pet names – Brett Hardman became Hard Brettman. Alex Chevrolle was allegedly brother to Swiss Roll and cousin to Sausage Roll. There were many many others and his way of referring to each boy using his surname and initial gave uniformity but he remembered us all. And even after we'd left the school.

A number of 'Martinisms' have been remembered by the OPMS. These are special moments which have been etched onto the memories of the individuals on the receiving end of his charm, wit, discipline and unique style.

Walton C remembered an assembly where Doug strolled onto the stage with a cricket box on each shoulder, declaring that two boys had left their shoulder pads in the pavilion!

Ings I - remembers being summoned to the staffroom by him where he was told, 'I can't hear you while you have your hands in your pockets'.

OBITUARIES



Northover A remembers sitting in one of his lessons for several minutes after the bell had rung because no one had heard him dismiss the class. No one moved. He then turned with a grin and said what are you waiting for? Do you want more verbs?

Ford J recalls a former English teacher electing to use the Hyde Park pub as the preferred class room one afternoon. Refreshment was provided for all and as the teacher took a break for call of nature, Muscles walked in to see 10 to 15 lower sixth formers all drinking. The pupils were all petrified and just as the axe was about to fall, the teacher returned from the gents calling out 'hello Dougie'. He turned a blind – he was a class act!

His accuracy was well known – it was a given that the homework he set needed to be, but I'm actually referring to his ability to launch a piece of chalk, fondly remembered by Tunnicliff N and various others, and have it travel at speed towards a boy's head to regain said pupil's attention. This was something to be seen, not experienced! To continue to not pay full attention would be foolish and lead to an automatic upgrade to the board rubber which would be sent on a similar trajectory.

He was honest with his feedback – Wood C has written about exam results being handed out – I use the term loosely as they were often flung across the classroom. He returned the papers to each boy and commented – 'there is only one word to describe these papers. It's not a word that I would normally use, and a gentlemen should never use this word'. He then thoughtfully provided a list of reasons why one should not use the word – his

education was rounded – but he finalised the description of the exam results divulging, ‘but the word is, crap!’

Becker D recounts Doug invigilating during the end of year exams during the hot summer of 1984 when the strict silence and concentration was punctuated by road workers using a pneumatic drill nearby. Picking up his weapon he carefully picked his way along the wall to the classroom window, and seeing it had been opened a few inches he took aim and returned fire with his improvised umbrella rifle, much to the amusement of the pupils.

He was my house master for Chaytors, possibly the most successful house at Plymouth College, although others are available, and his passion for rugby and cricket was well known. He brought his love of sport into the classroom using hip swing rugby passes to return exercise books and he demonstrated his highly amusing air cricket – he practised forward defensive and other strokes while he taught. We will always remember his saying ‘if in doubt front foot out’.

Having retired in 1996, Doug was no stranger at Plymouth College. He regularly supported sporting events there and many of us thoroughly enjoyed spending time and the occasional drink at the OPM Club with him.

Some of you might know he was a part of the choir at this church and his enthusiasm for singing meant you could always count on him to lead the school Carmen with great gusto, but possibly his finest and most memorable hour was his wonderful Ode to the Haggis on Burns Night.

Words used to describe him have included; scary, entertaining, redoubtable, a tower of strength, gentleman, admired, inspirational, bonkers, dynamic, friendly, formidable, kind, respected, cricket guru, passionate but the word that appears most in the hundreds of tributes is legend.

He certainly was – and he made a lasting and positive impression on thousands of people. Rest peacefully, sir.



GEORGE STEPHENSON [97-11]

1993 - 2017

In the 2011 Plymouth College Yearbook George Stephenson was labeled the year's 'Is There Anything He Can't Do.'

'Despite being infuriatingly multi-talented, George is somebody you can't help liking.'

That was abundantly evident from huge turnout at George's funeral last October.

Taken from this world at the tender age of 24, his school chums had also said of him, that he was 'a dreaded opponent on the rugby pitch and a ferocious batsman at the crease. George stands out from the crowd,' they said, adding:

'Stevo's talent for sport, has, like a fine wine, increased with age.'

One can only wonder what George might have been able to achieve had fate not been so cruel.

At school he was an integral part of the team that were unbeaten until they reached the semi-final of the Daily Mail U18 Cup when they came up against the cup holders, Whitgift.

In the previous round, largely thanks to a great, between-the-posts try scored by George and another that he set up for his colleague and England fly-half Henry Slade, they edged past Stowe 21-17.

The team had pretty much been together since the prep and the previous year George had been on the hugely enjoyable First XV tour of Canada.

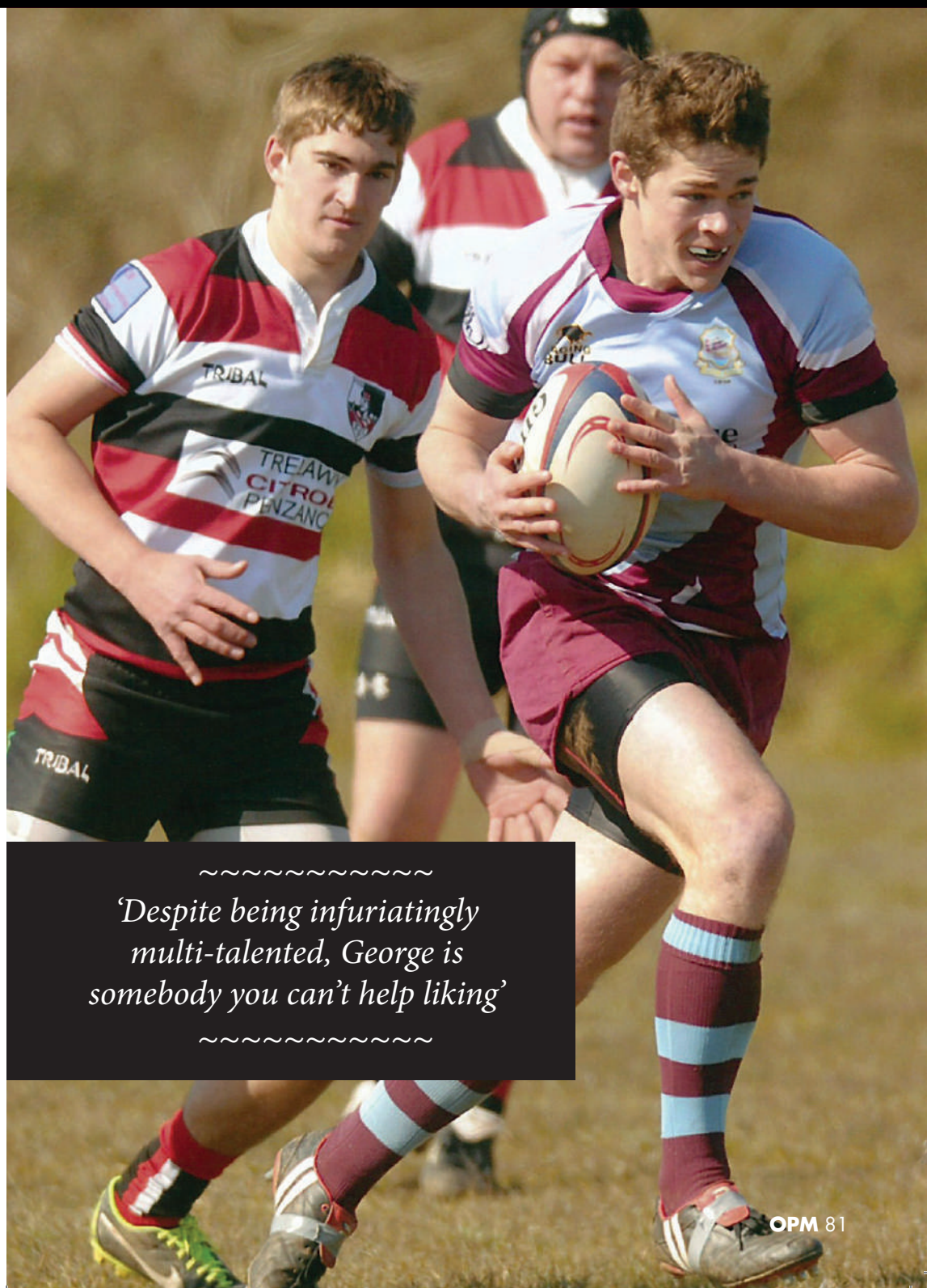
On leaving school he went to Bath University and was a regular in their First XV, he'd also played for Saltash, OPMs and had the odd game for Exeter Chiefs A team.

A county standard squash player his other true great sporting love was cricket. This was very much something of a family tradition, his father Phil, a long-serving and recently retired member of the Prep teaching staff, had kept wicket for Plymouth, and his grandfather Harold, for Somerset, indeed his grandfather is said to have been the most successful keeper ever for the county side having taken over 1000 dismissals.

In 2015, after graduating from Bath, George flew out to Western Australia as an overseas cricketer for Perth that winter, however within five weeks he was back home having discovered a lump on his neck.

Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia George then underwent eight months of treatment at Derriford Hospital. It was a difficult and painful process and George lost all of his hair and some 20 kilos (over three stone) in the first few weeks of treatment, although as he began to recover so he managed to regain some of that weight loss – and his hair.

Positive throughout George's cancer opened up a new window in one of his other passions – music. He'd long since been singing and playing drums in a band with his older brother Harry, also an OPM, who also plays cricket (for Plymouth) and rugby (for OPMs). Harry, incidentally had already had



~~~~~  
*'Despite being infuriatingly  
multi-talented, George is  
somebody you can't help liking'*  
~~~~~

OBITUARIES

his own issues with serious illness having had lymphoma when he was 18; then his liver had failed when he was 23, which meant he had to have a transplant.

Meanwhile, introduced to other young people who were undergoing the same treatment by CLIC Sargent, George built up a new friend group with other patients which, as George noted, helped 'ease the process.'

Signing up for a music workshop as part of CLIC Sargent's support process George and his musical talents were quickly spotted and it led to an invitation to part in a series of seven concerts performed by the CLIC Sargent Singers as fund-raisers for the charity.

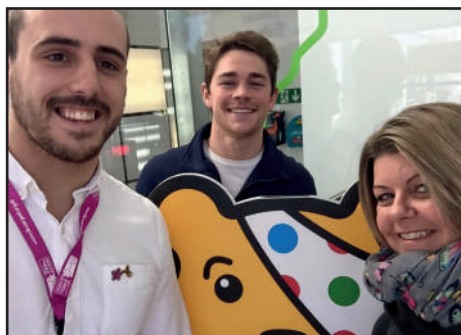


The tour opened in Gateshead in Christmas 2016. One feature of the gig was George performing solo a song that he'd written. The gig attracted a crowd of around 2,500, but at the next stop – Bridgewater Hall in Manchester – they attracted twice that number. An evening at Exeter Cathedral drew another four-figure crowd, as did a gig in Norwich, while the biggest event of them all saw the singers playing to a full house at the Royal Albert Hall.

'I feel incredibly lucky to have been included and would certainly go again if they invite me,' said George, who was on maintenance chemotherapy at the time of the tour

'I was most nervous by far at Exeter Cathedral. I had a lot of family and friends travelling from nearby to watch the gig.'

Given the all-clear in March (2017, although the treatment was scheduled to run through to March 2019), in August last year George started playing a few games for Plymouth Cricket Club – three for the 2nd XI, one for the Firsts. 'I scored maybe 160 runs, so it wasn't a bad little season,' said George.



Then, as the rugby season approached George looked forward to running out whenever his hamstring would allow it.

Tragically however fate was to intervene one final time and in October he lost his long battle with the illness.

George's wake was held at Plymouth Albion and the marquee was absolutely full of friends and family. Parents, Phil and Jane had

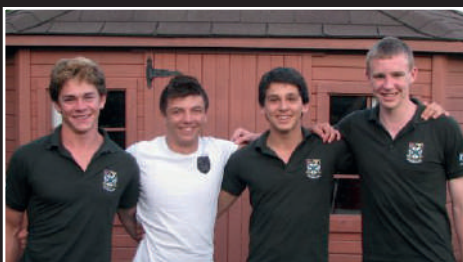
requested that mourners wore bright colours and most obliged as a happy atmosphere as George's relentless positivity pervaded the sad and moving occasion.

Unfortunately however the family woes were by no means over and just weeks after the funeral, George's mother, Jane, who had been too unwell to attend, lost her own and much longer battle with cancer.

It has been the most incredibly sad of sagas and I'm sure all OPMs would wish sincere condolences to Phil and Harry and wish them and the extended family a bright and happy future.

Cricket coach Alan Swift, who knew George well after taking him on tour to South Africa in 2008 with Devon U15s, expressed it well when he said that George was more than just a talented sportsman.

'He was a thoroughly pleasant and likeable young man who made the most of every opportunity.' Such a pity he didn't get many more of them.



RICHARD ASSER [45-48]

1930 - 2018

Richard joined the school in 1945 when he was 15, but he quickly became an integral part of life at Ford Park. A member of the rugby 1st XV in 1947 and 1948, he was leader of the pack under Harry Roskuge. Richard was also part of the school fives team and a mainstay of the school shooting team. In 1948, under the captaincy of Sgt RK Asser, the team won Division II of the Plymouth Small Bore League, losing only one of their 14 fixtures.

Taking part in a major sketch in the 1947 Christmas Entertainment alongside Ted Mercer and Francis Scott's wife, he was also the secretary and a driving force of the school debating society. Interestingly enough one of the last debates he attended was 'This House deplores Compulsory Military Service,' all of which makes for interesting reading in the light of Richard's post school life which was supplied by his family via his daughter, Caroline.

Richard spent his childhood in Egypt (his father worked in Alexandria). When he was 12, the Eighth Army came within 60 miles and, in later life, he never forgot the sound of distant artillery fire from that time. He, his father and older brother were arming themselves for guerrilla warfare until El Alamein fell and Rommel retreated.

Immediately after the war, the family moved to England and Richard attended Plymouth College and then went up to Hertford College Oxford, becoming President of the JCR in his final year. After going down, he helped his father run an import-export business. He



married Jane in 1956 and the family moved to Tadmarton Manor in north Oxfordshire in 1961, where he and Jane lived for over 50 years and brought up their three children.

In the 1960s, he set up a company based in Newcastle-under-Lyme, producing baking machinery. Richard's machines were so well innovative and well-built that he had to continually find new markets for them. The machine which made Mr Kipling cakes was an Asser (still working to this day), and Richard also sold machines in Japan, Mexico, Australia and the USA, and Europe. Characteristically, when he retired and sold the company on, he made sure his work-force were well provided for.

He owned a 200-acre farm and in his 'spare time', he farmed it himself under the guidance of, and with the practical help from, a neighbour whose family had farmed for generations.

Like other young men of his generation, Richard was conscripted. He went to Eaton Hall to train as an officer and was given

ALAN B KING [TEACHER 50-69]

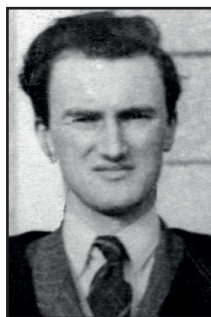
d. 2017

the Sword of Honour for best cadet. By the time he retired from the TA in 1967, he had become second-in-command of the Battalion.

Richard also found time for many other, unpaid, responsibilities in the Banbury region. For many years he also helped raise money for the Cell Surface Research Fund and was a long-time trustee, and chairman of the Duncan Norman Trust. Colleagues from these institutions have been writing to Jane since Richard's death. Their letters say time and again that Richard was a source of wisdom, probity and strength in the running of organizations, large and small. He would never give up, however apparently hopeless the cause, and very often his persistence would pay off.

He had little time for hobbies but was a talented amateur painter who could copy old and new Masters (the house is lined with 'Braques', 'Picassos' and even an Asser 'Stubbs'). In retirement, he was an active member of a local sculpture group, which became one of the later gatherings to enjoy Richard's encyclopaedic collection of funny, often scurrilous, stories and jokes.

Richard was fond of quoting two Latin epitaphs. Above Christopher Wren's tomb a carved plaque reads: 'si monumentum requiris, circumspice' ('if you seek his monument, look around you'). On Richard's school report, a master once quoted Samuel Johnson's epitaph for Oliver Goldsmith in Poets' Corner: 'nihil tetegit qui non ornavit' ('he touched nothing which he did not adorn'). Many would agree that either of these might also be a fitting epitaph for Richard.



Writing about the departure of Alan King from Plymouth College in 1969 'Gastropod' opened his comments thus: 'Whenever it has been talked of, it has been talked of as a happy and co-operative staff common room. Made such, of

course, by the young as well as the old. Of those who created this convivial atmosphere, few can have contributed more than Alan King. He was never found wanting when asked for a favour. He bore the burden of school fencing (how many knew that he had fenced for the university at Cambridge?); such elan as was in the Christmas Entertainments was often his; he demanded, and obtained of his madrigalists and recorder groups the highest standard of musicianship; his fifth and sixth form teaching was most conscientious; he was a much admired first form master.

But when I think of Alan, it will always be of someone who brought delight to what could often be dry and long days – speech days and the end of term – by his graceful playing of the organs at St Gabriel's and St Andrew's. He loved this instrument. When he played Bach, the music 'melts in the throat.'

Joining the school in the same year as Arthur Addis, 1950, Alan King was a music graduate from Cambridge. Plymouth College was Alan's first teaching appointment and he was to stay here for 19 years before moving on to Bridlington School in 1969.

GERRY CROCKER [32-39]

1920 - 2017

Son of Walter and Lilian Crocker, Gerry gained a scholarship to attend Plymouth College. He excelled at athletics and swimming, represented the school at rugby and was also member of the school's OTC.

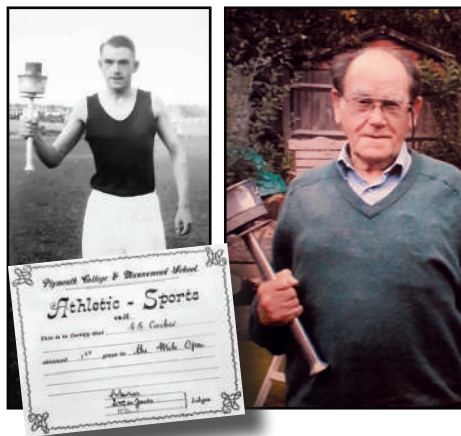
Gerry left school in 1938 or 39, and joined the Royal Navy, spending most of his time at sea on several ships without undue incident.

Then he joined a new ship, HMS Spartan, which was deployed to Italy on Operation Shingle, providing anti-aircraft cover and fire support for troops inland and on the beach.

On 29 January 1944 a radio-controlled glider bomb hit Spartan with a big explosion and subsequent fire. There was total loss of power and lighting.

Gerry eventually got out of his area and, as he put it, 'slid into the sea'. At this point he was concussed and both palms were very badly burnt. Luckily he was a good swimmer and he helped other shipmates in the water get to a life raft and assisted them into it while he remained in the water. He helped get the life raft onto an American landing craft which had lowered its ramp for them although Gerry himself was unable to climb the scramble nets as his hands were too badly burnt.

That effectively ended his war. He spent time in hospital being treated but he was never able to fully open his hands again. After the War he returned to Devonport and was awarded BEM for his work when Spartan was lost.



He carried on running for RN & RM Athletic and was selected to carry the Olympic Torch (for the London Games) on its relay through Devon from Wembley to Torquay for the sailing events. On 1 August 48 he carried the torch for 1.8 miles from Dawlish Fork Road, Alphington, to Kentbury House, Peamore.

After the Navy, he joined the Civil Service. Like his father before him, he was a life-long Plymouth Argyle supporter.

He married WREN Vivienne Thomas on 18 Dec 1950 and is survived by her, (his wife of 67 years), a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He died peacefully at home in Sidford aged 97.

As he says himself (he wrote his own eulogy): 'Dying when I did deprived me of my last ambition – that of living to 100...and then being shot by a jealous husband!'

ROGER JOHN ELLIS JENKINS [57]

d. 2017

When Roger and I were in the CCF we said we would join the Territorial Army after leaving PMC ... and we both did. He went to the Devon Regiment, 5th Battalion, located in Mutley Barracks adjacent to the school, joining as a private, rising through the ranks and gaining a commission.

When I last saw him with his first wife, he gave me a card bearing his name and address. I noticed that he had been awarded the MBE and he was then a Major. He later earned the TD and was further promoted to Lt Col, by then serving with the TA battalion of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, having transferred in order to attend training sessions locally where he was living.

Roger and his first wife had two sons but they later divorced. Tragically she was later killed in a traffic accident, both sons being in the car with her. The boys have since grown up and the eldest son has taken U.S. citizenship and lives in the States. The younger one is something to do with TV and his name, apparently rolls up with the programme credits on a line of its own.

Roger remarried but that marriage ended in another divorce. He subsequently married a third time and now leaves Sylvia as a widow. A keen mason, Roger spent many years working for Ordnance Survey.

He died on 25th July 2017 from a massive heart attack after having been admitted to Southampton hospital a week or so earlier after an earlier attack.

Roy De St Croix

JOHN QUARTERMAN [45-51]

d. 2017



John Quarterman joined PMC in 1945. He was very bright, and English was his great love – besides buses! When we were about 15 years old, he, Roger Prout and I cycled from Plymouth to London, taking four days going up and three returning, stopping off at Youth Hostels. John persistently had to find the local bus stations en route to make notes of all the vehicles.

He went into the RAF straight from school and took a short service commission. He trained as a pilot and eventually commanded, as Wing Commander, the first squadron of Jaguars in the Air Force. He took the then Secretary of State (Fred Mulley I think) for a flight, ran short of fuel, had to divert, and the Minister missed question time in the Commons. John spent a short time pen-pushing at Air Ministry, left the service, and joined an Anglo-French air company. He had, during his Service time, married Margaret, and become a Catholic.

John was a devoted father and grandfather. He and Margaret retired to Benson in a house adjacent to the Airfield. Latterly he developed Parkinson's disease and spent his last years in a nursing home in Abingdon.

Edwin Barnes

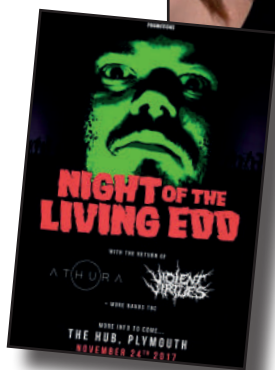
EDWARD (EDD) HADDON [00]

1982 - 2017

Edward's sudden and untimely death was a terrible shock to all those who knew and loved him, especially to his parents Peter and Jane and also to his brothers and sisters, Catherine, Sarah, Aimee, Claire, Sophie, Jeremy, James and William. In his short life he touched the hearts of many as was clear by the outpouring of affection.

Describing himself on a social media platform Edd wrote 'I like riffs and electronics. The odd bacon roll here and there is also welcome. Ale, Sega Megadrive, John Carpenter films and dancing girls top it all off nicely.' A huge music fan mainly of heavy metal, Edd worked as his father Peter's office manager for 18 years. Never one to readily embrace a collar and tie, he would generally sport a graphically illustrated black t-shirt reflecting one or other of his cultural interests. Universally loved and liked, the heartfelt tributes that followed his untimely demise testified to the affection in which he was held by those he'd met in his 36 years on this planet.

There were numerous tributes online - Jon Heavens put it quite poetically when he said 'The light that burns twice as bright burns half as long, and you burned so very, very brightly Edd. You revelled in your time and showed me what was truly meaningful. Thank you for being my friend'. Another tribute made was 'One of the most genuine people I have ever met, Edd made people smile everywhere he went and people fell in love with his kind



nature from the first time they met him'. Someone else quoted that 'His ambition for music and film took him far and wide, he met so many amazing people all of whom were touched by his sheer passion and his love for the things he enjoyed. The most gentle of souls'.

A crowd-funding exercise and a tribute concert, featuring some of Edd's favourite bands – including his brother Jeremy's band Athura – was held at the Hub in Bath Street. Billed as 'The Night of the Living Edd' it was promoted with a poster that Edd would have loved.

It was fitting that at his funeral there was evidence of his great ability to encompass all, by the attendance of so many of his old friends, especially those from the world of heavy metal music. St Germans Prior Church was filled, with standing room only and during the service Peter paid a fitting and emotional tribute to his eldest son.

GORDON WALLACE [T65-68]

1938 - 2015

Appointed by Martin Meade-King in 1965, Gordon Wallace came to Plymouth College from Callington Grammar School, having graduated from Glasgow University over a decade earlier.



A chemistry teacher who was involved with the Naval section of the CCF, Gordon's stay at the school was brief as he moved onto Thornbury Grammar School in 1968.

From the Plymothian of Summer 1968 we read: 'Mr Wallace leaves us to become Head of Department at another school near Bristol. As a member of the Chemistry Department for four years, his experiments never failed to terrify, and his interest in industrial chemistry and geology fostered interest throughout the school.'

Do you have any memories of Gordon Wallace you would be willing to share?

Gordon's son George is compiling reminiscences for Gordon's grandson Charles to one day enjoy reading: funny stories, an episode that sticks in the mind, a phrase you often heard him say, anything at all. If you would prefer your comments to remain anonymous, please say. From a few lines to a few pages all contributions would be most gratefully received.

George Wallace
george.sensei@gmail.com

TONY BROOKS [77-84]

1960 - 2018



On his social media account (@brooksie8888), Tony Brooks described himself as a proud husband and dad, businessman, ex-rugby player, coach and artist.

The tributes that poured in following his sudden and unexpected death bear testament to the regard with which he was held in each and every one of those categories.

The 57-year-old former Bath back-rower died at home while watching his beloved rugby on TV on Mothering Sunday.

Tributes from former team-mates, fellow coaches and parents of youngsters he coached spoke of a 'gentleman', 'mentor' and 'true legend'.

After attending Plymouth College and Oxford University, Tony played for Bath and Rosslyn Park and his list of representative honours on the Maidenhead club board where he served as Director of Rugby, included the Barbarians, England U19s and England U23s.

Tony leaves wife Caroline, to whom he had been married over 30 years (plus, as he claimed, seven years' apprenticeship!) and three children – Charlotte, James and Annabel. Earlier this season James made his debut for Esher against another of Tony's former clubs –w Plymouth Albion.

PETER DAWSON VITTLE [35-41]

d. 2018



Peter Vittle joined Plymouth College in 1935, some 21 years after his father, Donald, had left Ford Park. Peter's father was a keen sportsman at school, representing the college at cricket, hockey and rugby - he was also Victor ludorum in his last year, 1914, at the school sports day.

Cast very much from the same mould, Peter played rugby, hockey and cricket at school where he also boxed and won several athletics titles. Completing his wartime education at Wellington, Peter did his National Service in Italy, returning home in 1947 to carry on with his sporting activities in Plymouth. He played all three major sports with the OPMs, turned out for Plymouth

Cricket Club for the best part of 25 years and broke his collar bone in his first outing for Plymouth Albion! Somewhat unusually, at one time or another Peter represented Devon at rugby, cricket and bowls.

In 1966 Peter took on the family newsagent business at Hender's Corner, Mannamead Magazine, with Joy whom he married in 1955. The couple had two daughters and ran the business for over 20 years together, eventually retiring in 1988.

By that time Peter had swapped his cricket whites for those of the Sir Francis Drake Bowling Club, for whom he played into his mid 80s and was awarded life membership in 2016.

Peter's memorial service was held at Emmanuel and among the numerous OPMs present were Tim Lyddon, who conducted the service and Richard Line, who played the organ.

The congregation then transferred to the bowls club in Whiteford Road, where many a humorous incident in the life of Peter was recounted, and many a Vittie Special consumed in his memory.

GEOFF MOLL [T58-89]

d. 2018

Geoff arrived at Plymouth College from Merchant Taylor's School, Crosby, to teach chemistry in 1958, aged 31. Having earlier gained his degree from Sheffield University. Over the next 30 years Geoff was a mainstay of the Chemistry



Department, becoming Head of Department and Deputy Head prior to his retirement in 1989. Geoff decided to enter teaching while in the Army Intelligence Corps; he believed that we could make a better world and teaching was one of the ways of doing it."

GODFREY JOHN SPARGO [59-65]

1947 - 2017



Godfrey Spargo, who died suddenly at the age of 70, was born in Redruth, only child of Frederick and Sheila Spargo. He worked for BBC World service for 33 years, latterly as broadcast duty manager.

However it is through Speedway that he is perhaps best known and loved.

A familiar face on the Westcountry speedway scene he also helped the St Austell Gulls and the Plymouth Devils as well as countless individual riders with their machinery and sponsorship.

'Without his help a lot of riders wouldn't have been able to ride,' said John Pearn, a good friend of Spargo's. 'It really is a sad loss to everyone. You'd go and see Godfrey and say: 'oh, I fancy going to the speedway, but I can't really afford it' and Godfrey would sort it out so that you could go.'

Spargo moved to Plymouth in 1959, aged 12, and was a keen follower of the original Plymouth speedway team that rode at Pennycross Stadium. He moved away from the city to work for the BBC before returning to the Westcountry and riding with the 'Wall of Death' which was a motorbike stunt show. However, he always retained his love of speedway and after spells as promoter of St Austell Gulls and Trelawny Tigers, he attempted to buy the Devils from former owner Mike Bowden in 2012. After weeks

of protracted negotiations between Spargo's consortium, Bowden and the governors of St Boniface Arena, who own the land, a deal was struck and Premier League speedway returned in 2013.

In recent years Spargo played more of a back seat role, but was always on hand to help riders.

Tributes came flooding in from the speedway fraternity: 'A very gentle and kind hearted man' said one, 'Always had a smile on his face and sandals on his feet whenever I saw him' said another.

And this came from the Sam Simota Speedway team:

'Godfrey discovered this young up-and-coming rider from the Czech Republic and, in 2005, introduced Sam to the UK track at Reading Racers. This was to be the beginning of a firm friendship which would continue for the rest of Godfrey's life. He always ensured that Sam and the team had everything possible from the start to the finish of each season. Sam and all at Simota Speedway team, along with their families and the sponsors would like to thank Godfrey for his selfless, passionate attitude, support and most of all friendship to us all. Forever in our thoughts and memories. Goodbye old friend!' His funeral was held at Weston Mill at 10.45am Tuesday, November 21.

ROBERT DANIEL [35-41]

1933 - 2018

Tom Savery recalls that Robert Daniel displayed something of his entrepreneurial skills while still at school, selling Dinky toys around the school tuck shop. He was also, despite being at a rugby school, very much a football man and would play with schoolfriends in Central Park around the six pine trees below Pounds House.

On leaving school in 1950 Robert went straight into the family business. His father, Edward, had just died in 1943 aged 38. The family then had dairy-cum-poulterer and general store in the Stonehouse section of Union Street – at No.84 between Phoenix Street and Battery Street, on the south side. In 1954, after completing two years National Service, he married Rita, whom he'd known since they had been 11 years old.

They opened their first business in the old ambulance station in Emma Place, keeping their huge supply of eggs and their A40 van in the double garage on the ground floor with their offices above.

Soon afterward they moved to Sawry Street where they installed cold stores and increased their range to include ham, cheese and Ulster bacon and their van fleet. As the business expanded from being wholesale provision merchants in early 1967 they took on No.1 Warehouse at Millbay, then No.2, then



No.3 ... and then number 4 Warehouse. This was the beginning of their Cash and Carry enterprise. Robert had been out to America – Daytona – and had seen a hypermarket in action there and had got some very good ideas. Ideas which, when he put them into practice here, saw the business thrive.

He also found time to pay some attention to his other great loves – family and football. In 1964, aged 31, following the removal from the board of Ron Blindell, he became the youngest football league club chairman in the country.

Significantly one of the first actions of the board under Daniel was to appoint a new club manager, Malcolm Allison, who, at the tender age of 33, was then the youngest football league manager in the country. Two other new directors joined the Home Park boardroom that year: restaurateur Stafford Williams and property developer/builder Douglas Fletcher.

Keen to emphasise their localness, and equally keen to drive the club forward through the heady days of swinging England, this new board core determined to revitalise the club's image. Accordingly they decided to capitalise on the long-established Pilgrim connection and introduce the Mayflower motif to the club





badge. Increasingly mindful of the impact that Continental sides were making to the game they also opted for a new Euro-style shirt with a single hoop around the chest, into which the new crest was placed.

Robert Daniel's first stint in the chair was for the 1964/65 season, the directors opting to take turns in the chair for a while. Although that league season was relatively unremarkable, they had a great run in the then relatively new Football League Cup, reaching the semi-final and narrowly losing 3-2 and 0-1 across two legs to the defending cup holders Leicester City.



The following season Robert stood aside and Malcolm Allison went to Manchester City. However in 1968 Daniel took on the chairmanship again, and, after relying on Billy Bingham and Ellis Stuttard for a few

seasons, the board appointed former England international goalkeeper, Tony Waiters, to the managerial role. Waiters then took the team to their second League Cup semi final in 1974 and secured promotion for the club in 1975. Sadly their rediscovered Second Division status was to be short lived and in 1978 Robert Daniel brought 'Big Mal' back to Home Park.

Allison's second stint at Home Park was no longer than his first but Robert's second spell as chairman lasted until 1983 and his total of 16 years in the chair gave him the joint-second longest reign of any Argyle chairman. Outside of the club, but still within football, Harley Lawer recalls that Robert was 'one of the youngest ever elected to the FA Council and spent years travelling to and fro London. He was also elected Chairman of one of the FA committees and brought in several good business ideas to the FA from his own local business experience, e.g. catering, bulk buying and hospitality. He also used his influence to attract under-23 Internationals to Home Park during Sir Alf Ramsey's reign.'

For many people however, especially those not into football, it was Robert's business acumen and his hugely successful Cash'n'Carry business and the Robert Daniel Food Group that he is best remembered for. Married for over 63 years to Rita, Robert had three sons, Steve, Chris and Gary all of whom attended the school.



GOLF

Nick Holman

2017 saw another memorable annual competition in May. 15 members attended at the sun-drenched Yelverton Golf Club.

Despite the low numbers there was keen competition with the Bowering Bowl (for overall winner) won by Simon Law with a creditable 35 pts. The Spear Plate (for those with handicap up to 18) was won by Peter Rutherford, while Roger Hind won the Woodrow Salver (handicaps 19 and above).

As always there needed to be a prize for the person who showed most endeavour for the least reward and the proud recipient was Jay Foster!

The Golf Society continues to flourish. After May 2017's successful golf competition, Ray Roach has handed over the reins to the new Society Secretary Nick Holman.

Anyone interested in joining the Society for our events in 2018 can e-mail Nick at nholman56@gmail.com or call him on **07896769216** (mobile) or **01822 258326** (home).

Next is the Late Spring Competition:

7 JUNE 2018

AT YELVERTON GOLF CLUB

Entry fee £38 (£18 for Yelverton members). More details to follow about a second event in September.

2017 WINNERS

Bowering Bowl

Simon Law

Woodrow Salver

Roger Hind

John Spear Plate

Peter Rutherford

Meerkat Trophy

Jay Foster



Attendees pictured above (from L-R): John Lyddon, David Smerdon, Ray Roach, Simon Law, Ian Russell, Richard Rabin and Alan Crickmore

And below (from L-R): Doug Fletcher, Richard Warne, Nick Holman, John Lyddon, David Smerdon, Peter Rutherford, Alan Crickmore, Roger Hind and Julian Bacon





Chris Vinson

MONDAY 24 JULY: OPMS v PLYMOUTH CC OLD BOYS

Plymouth CC 252-6

Steve Luffman 67, Ian Wheaton 51, Dave Watson 33; Sam Betts 2-34

OPMs 234-4

Henry Webster 106no [maiden century], James Degg 41, Sam Betts 34no; Phil Taylor 1-10

Plymouth CC won by 18 runs

An enjoyable annual reunion saw bat dominate ball in both innings. Some huge sixes, missed run-outs and a maiden century. In fact, it must be the only century on record where the batsman scored the first 50 with left handed gloves and the second 50 with right handed gloves!



TUESDAY 25 JULY: OPMS v YELVERTON BOHEMIANS

Yelverton 165-9

Ben Evans 31, Eddie Foskett 21, James Casey 18no;

Christian Vinson 3-39, Tom Watkins 2-23, Toby Morgan 2-35

OPMs 167-3

Tom Watkins 72no, Adey Laughton 28no, Sam Betts 27;

Ben Evans 1-15, Stephanie Hutchins 1-28

OPMs won by 7 wickets

A good game between friends. The younger players looked more threatening with the ball – Christian Vinson (U13) and Toby Morgan (U15). OPMs just needed to stay in to win – this they duly did. Tom Watkins yet again showed what a good bat he is.

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY: OPMS v PCOS

PCOs 202-7

*Stewart Yetton 79, Mike Burnett 48, J Banks 25;
Hakeem 2-14, Christian Vinson 2-53, Luke Edmonds 1-16*

OPMs 206-6

*Faizan Rias 63, James Degg 59no, Hakeem 27, Giles Beauchamp 23no;
Alex Ramsden 2-34, Phil O'Connell 2-43, G Barnicott 2-49*

OPMs won by 4 wickets

This was a game full of talented players on both sides. Three players with international experience graced Ford Park with their presence. The game was actually much closer than it looks, due to it being a limited over game. With the scores tied and one ball to go, the OPMs skipper advanced down the track attempting to score a 6 to win the game...

A dropped boundary catch ensured victory for OPMs.

THURSDAY 27 JULY: OPMS v PHILANTHROPISTS

Philanthropists 205-4

Charles Martin 103no, Peter Haddon 29no; Trevor Brazier 2-37

OPMs 152 ao

Trevor Brazier 42, Sam Betts 22; Adam Dabbs 5-24, Chris Robinson 1-14

Philanthropists won by 53 runs

OPMs knew they had to get A Division batsman Charles Martin out early, particularly as he scored a century in last year's fixture. OPMs skipper, Chris Vinson, had spotted a weakness and placed himself at short mid-wicket hoping for a catch. The first chance came with Martin on 22... dropped. A second chance came with Martin on 38... also dropped!

And that was that, Trevor Brazier being the only glimmering light for OPMs. It should be noted, however, that Philanthropists Dabbs, Martin and Robinson are all OPMs.

FRIDAY 28 JULY: OPMS v DEVON DUMPLINGS

Match postponed due to rain



BOWLING AWARD

Christian Vinson (PMC U13), 6 wickets

(retains the award from last year)

Sam Betts, 2 wickets

Ian Dawe, 2 wickets

Toby Morgan (U15), 2 wickets

Trevor Brazier, 2 wickets

Tom Watkins, 2 wickets

BATTING AWARD

Henry Webster, 106 runs

James Degg (U17 PMC), 100 runs

Sam Betts, 88 runs

Tom Watkins, 72 runs

FIELDING AWARD

Ollie Parsons (U18)

BATTING PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK *Charles Martin*

MOST PROMISING YOUNG PLAYER *Toby Morgan (U15)*



PLAYERS REPRESENTING OPMS DURING THE WEEK (24)

Chris Vinson, Sam Betts, Ian Dawe, Ollie Parsons, James Degg, Ashleigh Phillips, Henry Webster, Fred Smale, Josh Stevenson, Toby Morgan, Christian Vinson, Jake Luffman, Tom Watkins, Ben Pearson, Frazer Reed, Adey Laughton, Hakeem, Faizan Rias, Danny Samarakoon, Luke Edmonds, Giles Beauchamp, Trevor Brazier, Dudley Tolkien, Eby Sebastian.

Special thanks to Plymouth College and the OPM committee, Karen Tidy for the sumptuous teas, Ashley Brown-Williams for providing fine beverages (and everything else), Dave Gates for organising all the umpiring, Sammie Dawe for scoring and John Stevens for his annual support and providing the prizes.

OPM CRICKET WEEK 2018 WILL BE

MONDAY 23RD JULY-FRIDAY 27 JULY 2018.

Feel free to contact Chris Vinson on 07866616956,
The OPM Suite and/or the OPM website/Facebook pages for more details.



Jason Sweby

Another year passes and OPM Hockey continues to grow.

In 2011, OPMs were fielding two men's teams. In this current 2017-18 season, we are fielding five teams, three men's and two ladies. Playing numbers have almost hit 100 for the first time in the club's history.

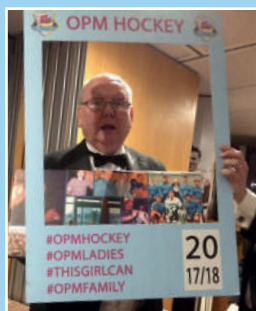
Last season, our new ladies' team completed their first season and finished an incredible third place in Trelawney II, winning 15 of their 22 matches. At the time of writing at the start of February 2018, they are currently in second place, with 12 wins out of 17.

Despite losing some players as they moved away or were tied up with work, several others filled the void and joined the 'OPM family'. Led by Katie Warren and Pippa Jephcott, they are the second highest scoring team in their division, boosted by a mammoth 15-0 away win at Caradon in October.

Buoyed by success and growing numbers, the club took the bold decision to start a second ladies team, under the leadership of Kirsty Bates. Playing in the Sunday Plymouth & District League, the Ladies 2nd XI have also enjoyed some great results, with goals coming from all sources.







The men's 1st XI suffered an unexpected relegation last season, and are currently placed fifth in a very tightly contested Southern II. Another series of inconsistent results (four games unbeaten followed by four defeats, for example) have meant that the team isn't quite ready to bounce back up this year. Charlie Helyer is at the helm again, and has given the opportunity to many of the younger players to test their mettle in the higher leagues. Jake Abbott once again continues to lead the goal scoring.

The men's 2nd XI are attempting to go one better than last season, where they narrowly missed out on promotion into the same division as the first team. At one point, they put an eight-game unbeaten run together, and are currently fifth, where the top five teams are separated by only four points. Teenager Josh Budgen has been brought into the second team and is scoring freely, and the IIs have scored over five goals on six occasions so far this season.

The men's 3rd XI are this season captained by regular first team player Laurence 'Loz' Peacock. Loz scored the goal of the season last season, in the final seconds of the final game, but seriously injured his shoulder in the process. He has taken this season to recover, managing a team consisting of many of the younger players that he has coached since they were at Lipson Lions. The youngsters are joined by the experience of Ian Johnson, Adrian Laughton and Chris Vinson, who has returned to the club after many years away from the game. The team are 8th out of 10 in South West II, having lost several very closely fought matches, but also having four solid victories.

As ever, the players and club members are looking forward to the annual end of season dinner and awards evening. A chance for everyone to relax after a long season and socialise together, enjoying the highlights (and lowlights!) of the season, rounded off with awards voted for by the players.



Another enjoyable event is the annual OPM Hockey vets dinner, arranged by the ever-sociable Pat Newnham and well attended by other vice-presidents and players from the days of grass pitches and ridiculously shaped hockey sticks. Pat started this dinner many years ago as an event for his peers, but over the years, more and more of the current OPM players have found themselves in the age-bracket where they're also eligible to attend (not sure this is A Good Thing)! It's always a fun night, with great food, plenty of wine and the promise of Pat's annual address in which we are regaled of tall tales from the past where things that shouldn't have been legal still were!

A massive thanks goes out to all those who volunteer their time and effort into making this club such a success. The captains (Charlie Helyer, Joe Meldrum, Laurence Peacock, Katie Warren, Kirsty Bates); the club umpires (Rob Logan, Graham Smith, Charlie Helyer, Jordan Round, Jake Abbott – apologies to anyone I've omitted but thank you);

and the coaches (principally Laurence Peacock and Charlie Helyer).

Special thanks to the committee members, Rob Logan (secretary is just one of the many hats he wears) and Ian Johnson (chairman), who help ensure the smooth running of the club; to Jayne Logan, and Ashley Brown-Williams at the OPM Suite for the food and hospitality. This remains a club house to be proud of and we appreciate everything that they do on match days.

The club is thriving but we are always welcoming to newcomers. If you think you'd like to be a part of this vibrant and social club, anyone can turn up for a few training sessions to see if they enjoy it.

Follow us on Twitter [@opmhc](https://twitter.com/opmhc),
Facebook: facebook.com/opmhc
or our website: opmhockey.co.uk.



RUGBY

Chairman's Report

OPM RFC narrowly missed out on promotion in the 2016/17 season finishing in third after leading the league for much of the season. This was despite the huge efforts of coaches, managers, physios, players, committee and everyone else associated with the club. Although disappointed not to be promoted, the club had been able to instil a more positive club feel and approach to playing which had allowed larger numbers to both train and play matches. This was all rewarded by a fantastic and nail biting final which allowed the OPM Jesters to win the Pedrick Cup against a Plympton Victoria first team and watch John Readey hold the trophy aloft to his adoring fans!

This season has seen the club continue to build on good training numbers, ability to play against team throughout Devon and Cornwall but also support clubs with current player issues. OPM RFC have been credited by Devon RFU as a club of inclusivity and have combined with other teams throughout the season to ensure that matches can be played locally.

There has also been sad news with the passing of George Stephenson, a young OPM and player of immense talent in the last year and also Doug Martin, a fantastic OPM and gentleman who regularly spectated at Elburton. Both hugely sad losses this season, however OPM RFC are involved in a game for George Stephenson in May and will be also commemorating the 10 year passing of former player Jamie Hutton in July.



Unfortunately, we now know that the 2017/18 has ended in similar disappointment for the club in terms of promotion after building huge momentum after Christmas and





steamrolling most teams, it was not to be. A 8-5 loss to North Tawton when a win by 8 points or more was required means another season in Devon Two. Our second team, OPM Jesters, have achieved some credible wins this year against many teams and our numbers have been nothing short of amazing this season for the majority of the season.



Social events have also been to the fore this season, with our 90th Anniversary dinner going down in folklore especially with Thomas Waldron. Vice Presidents days have been the best attended for years including firsts, seconds and a prematch from the Juniors on the day with all associated with OPM RFC enjoying the OPM suite far more than we have done for years. Massive thanks to Chris Harmer and co. in terms of all of the organisation and successes that have come from this season.

OPM Touch continues to develop in number and runs twice a week, on a Monday and Wednesday. Regular sessions full of fun, fitness and enjoyment continue to make Touch Rugby

a huge success at the club. Sessions have now moved to Plymstock on a Wednesday night to provide more pitch space and this has been seen as a very positive move. Attendance at South West tournaments, social events and even a dedicated 6 Nations league have made for a great environment for anyone interested in attending. Our big thanks go to Dee, Mylo, Shaun, Chris, Megan and Ernie for running this so well.



The Juniors have continued to improve with numbers increasing and a new age group also developing. The current age groups have seen some fantastic results against teams across Devon and we have also seen the creation of the U12s to support the OPM Juniors further. Regular sessions on a Thursday night at Elburton and Plymstock have allowed for player development and improvement at all levels. We continue to be supported with our 'Junior Breakfasts' by GA Solicitors and our Bring a Buddy days have seen a terrific reaction from attendance from the local

1ST XV

~~~~~  
*“Our numbers have been  
nothing short of amazing for  
the majority of the season”*  
~~~~~



community and schools. We would like to thank, as ever, the tireless Jenny & Rik Trinder, Tim Smale and all of the Junior committee and coaches for their efforts, time and commitment in making OPM Juniors such a part of the Plymouth rugby scene.

We continue to improve the facilities at Elburton with major developments due to take place in the summer of 2018. These include further improvements to the lighting with a new generator and fencing to enable the lights to be left in situ throughout the season allowing for improved training. Throughout the summer, we will be looking to redevelop the current social section of the Elburton facility with internal walls being demolished, kitchen & toilets being renovated, a new referee's room being developed and social area being fully refurbished. We hope that this will assist in improving the facilities for the Juniors and Seniors at OPM RFC.

The OPM RFC committee has seen the same consistency as the playing side with continued efforts and support taking place for the last season. Further improvements and developments have been made in all areas of the rugby club to ensure that OPM RFC builds for the future. We would also like to thank our sponsors & vice presidents who have continued to support us throughout the season financially and voluntary as well as Chris Pascoe and Pete Organ who have led this aspect so well again. Unfortunately, we have seen Ryan Yeoman step down as honorary secretary for the club. Ryan has been involved with OPMs for many years, four years as secretary, and I would like to thank Ryan for his hard work, commitment and support to the committee and club as a whole and we wish him all the best for the future.



All information on all aspects of OPMs is available on our website: opmrugby.com, or follow us on Twitter [@opmrugby](https://twitter.com/opmrugby), and join our Facebook page: facebook.com/opmrugby

As always, this is very much a club effort and I would like to thank everyone involved: players, coaches, committee, sponsors, spectators and many more in making OPM RFC such a great club to be involved in. I am continue to be a very proud chairman and hope that our future plans for Elburton and the club continue into next season and beyond.

Matt Glastonbury

2 JESTERS

ND XV



The 2017/18 season has been another success for the Jesters.

As more clubs struggle to fulfil fixtures due to lack of numbers we are regularly fielding two strong teams most weeks.

We've had some fantastic results this season against some tough opposition. Beating Plymouth Uni, Plymstock Albion Oaks, Tavistock, Totnes to name but a few. These are all clubs that are in higher leagues and positions than ourselves.

We've been sticking to our 'if you train you start, if you turn up you get a half' mantra which has seen us on more than a few occasions field a team of 30 players.

We have even joked we could field three teams on certain weekends which is something not many clubs even four or five leagues above us can provide.

Recruitment has been on point this year and as a result, some fantastic guys this season have joined us and really taken on board the OPM way of life. We've seen the return of a few old heads too, all wanting to put a shirt on to get back onto a rugby field, as well as a few father and son combinations this season.

It's great to see the players that have recently joined us starting their first few games for the Jesters and then being selected for the 1sts.

It's a true achievement to have so many players wanting to play for this club, in either the 1st team or the Jesters, and the knowledge that any player who trains will be in the mix for the 1st team.

I can't think of a time going back through the years when the club has had a better looking back row. See you on the pitch.

John Readey, Captain



SPORT

PEDRICK CUP

OPM Jesters – 2017 Champions





JUNIORS

Jenny Trinder



It has been a busy year within the Junior section, promoting OPM to the parents and children of Plymouth. We were the proud sponsors of Plymouth Schools Sports Partnerships Tag rugby tournament held at Albion. This saw 50 primary schools take part, so we got to talk to the teachers and children, and show our love of rugby. Later in the year, King George V Playing Fields hosted firstly the Year 7 Schools rugby tournament, followed closely by the Year 8 one. This was such a success that it is to become a yearly occurrence.

One of the tasks of this season is to form an U12 side. We have coaches in place and recruited some players, and are hoping to field a full team before the year is out.



This year also sees us reach the furthest growth of the Juniors so far. Our U13 coaches have put forward 13 players to try out in the hope of playing for Devon. These boys are very excited and training hard in the hope of representing the club in a county game. Good luck to them all.

Elsewhere the teams are growing, and we are always ready to welcome new players and parents. We have dedicated coaches and lots of eager children wanting to play rugby, weather permitting! Sunday mornings are very busy down at King George Fields, with the kitchen open for bacon rolls and hot drinks during training and matches, and always a warm welcome.



As always if you can support us in any way possible it is much appreciated, from bringing a budding new player, volunteering to help or an offer of sponsorship, please get in touch!