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CHAIRMAN

Nigel Lyons



It's been another exciting 12 months for the Club.

We said a fond farewell to Jonathan Standen who has moved to warmer climes. We are looking forward to welcoming the new Head who is arriving later in the year. In the interim a big thank you to Jo Hayward and Sharon Lambie for maintaining the close working relationship the Club enjoys with the school.

Best wishes and thanks must go to John Herman who has stepped down this year as our Club President. A warm welcome to Bob Foulkes who has taken over in the role.

I am pleased to report that the lawyers have finally concluded the arrangements so far as the transfer of the OPM Club's existing legal charge over School property is concerned. The Committee would very much like to thank Steven Coles and his team at Curtis Whiteford Crocker Solicitors for all the help and support in this complex process.

As indicated previously, we would welcome any volunteers amongst the membership to fill the posts of Club Secretary and Social Secretary /Committee member with responsibility for the Club Bar. Can anyone who may be interested in taking up these important roles please contact Bob or I. We look forward to hearing from you.

The duties of Social Secretary continue to be most ably maintained by Mike Turpitt. Along with his wife Dorothy, he has done a fantastic job in promoting the four Dine-Ins (the Spring and Autumn dinners, the Cricket lunch and the Christmas lunch). Please continue to support these and all our functions.

We remain keen to encourage all the recent school leavers and younger members (those of you under 50!) to participate in Club activities. It has been fantastic to welcome the current head girl and boy to participate in several of our Committee meetings. I for one look forward to seeing Bob Foulkes Facebook and Twitter Accounts being set up very soon! I suspect he will become a "Snap Chat" fanatic quite quickly.

Speaking of the OPM membership, from the Senior Dine-in groupies to the younger ages....I had to laugh recently when Martin Finlay (via OPM Rugby) updated the Committee about the young "OPM Rats". No not the "Desert Rats"..... but what I understand to be U3 players in the OPM Rugby section! I am sure I speak for the whole Club, when I say we look forward, in the years to come, to watching them play for the school First XV and beyond. I suspect I will be long gone by the time the Senior Dine-in welcomes a current OPM Rat to one of its dinners. Their parents, however, might like to book a table for them with Mike and Dorothy for the Christmas Lunch 2066.

As an aside I know a certain former Chair... Mrs P. Atkinson....was a very proud mum recently as her daughter is a member of the School's hockey team that has recently achieved national success.

A personal thank you to Ash, with Matt Naylor's able assistance, in keeping the Club bar ticking over. Please continue to support your OPM Club and come in to make and meet friends at the Club house.

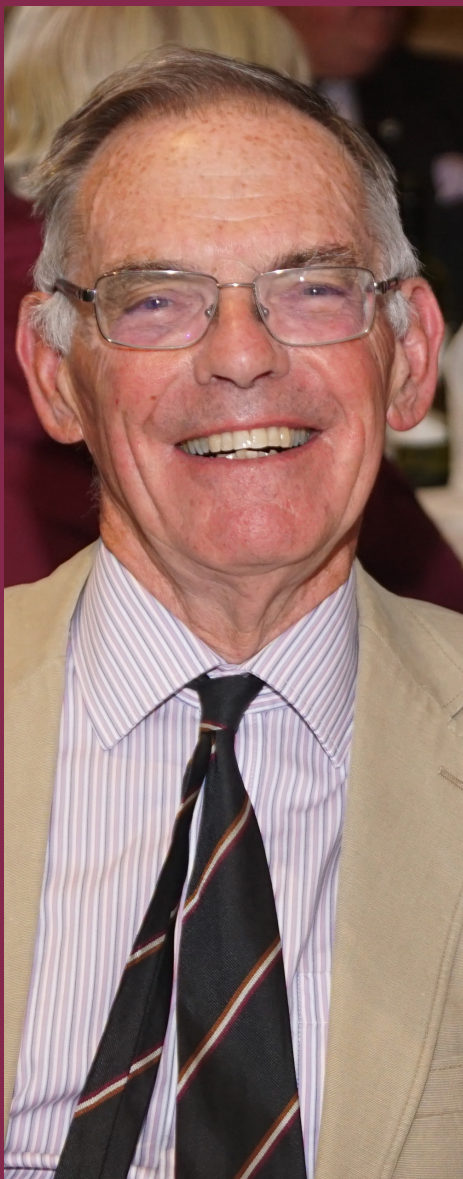
I wish the School, its pupils, the Club and its members every success for 2019.



*'Please continue
to support your
OPM Club
and come in to
meet and make
friends at the
Club House'*

PRESIDENT

Bob Foulkes



Sometimes we are all caught out by a real surprise. For me, this when I was approached by John Herman and invited to stand for election as your new president, in succession to him. It is a special honour to take on this role.

I want to start by expressing the thanks of the Club to John for his term of office. He worked tirelessly – very often behind the scenes – on our behalf. In particular, I recall the period when it was necessary to find a number of officers to ensure the smooth running of the Club. We all owe a debt of gratitude to him, and so “Thank you”, John for what you have done for us.

This year the School and the Club welcome a new headmaster, Jonathan Cohen. Club Chairman Nigel Lyons and I plan to arrange to meet him as soon as possible after his arrival so that the effective partnership between the School and the OPM Club can continue to operate as hitherto.

Perhaps I should say something about myself! I left the School in the early 1960s but have been fortunate to live and work in Cornwall since 1969. I retired from legal practise a few years ago. In my younger days I played cricket and hockey for the OPMs, not hanging up my hockey stick until the ripe old age of 50.

~~~~~

*“I am very much looking forward to meeting as many OPMS as I can during my term of office as your president.”*



This has enabled me to keep in close touch with the Club for many years, not least through the excellent Dine-Ins and the social activities of the hockey section.

Although a good deal of the Club's activities naturally revolve around our rugby, hockey and cricket section, your Committee is anxious not to lost touch with our members whether you live locally or not. This is a real challenge.

While the Dine-Ins continue to be a sell out (thanks here to the work masterminded by Mike Turpitt), it is not easy for younger OPMS who are not living in the area to keep in touch with the Club.

I really do hope that all OPMS whether locally based or not, whether recent

School leavers or not, will still feel able to contact us (details on the back cover) or better still, call in at the club house. A warm welcome awaits you.

I must express the thanks of all of us to the Committee, to everyone involved in the running of our sports sections and to all organisers of our other activities for what you do. We simply cannot manage without you!

Finally, I am very much looking forward to meeting as many OPMS as I can during my term of office as your President.

With every good wish for 2019.

***Bob Foulkes***

Christmas 2018 saw the departure of Jonathan Standen, the school's 16th Head Master. Jonathan has left Plymouth College for warmer climes having accepted the post of Head Master of Harrow Bangkok. Jonathan had been with us a little under four years, which makes his one of the shorter tenures of the Ford Park post, but not one of the less eventful or effective.

Major decisions were taken: Jonathan navigated the school through some difficult situations; the International Baccalaureate, despite its undoubted successes, was dropped due to a lack of take up on the part of pupils, while football was played officially on the school field for the first time in over 100 years.



*Jonathan Standen addresses his last speech day at Mutley Baptist Church*



*"I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed as the next Headmaster of Plymouth College a prestigious, progressive school I have admired for so long".*

In April 2019 the school extended a warm welcome to their new head, Jonathan Cohen, after a term in which Jo Hayward, Jonathan's deputy, simply due to timing issues, had overseen the running of the school.

Jonathan Cohen's appointment is his first in the top job having previously been the Deputy Head at Brentwood School in Essex. Prior to that he had worked at Haileybury College in Hertfordshire and King's Bruton in Somerset. He hadn't started his post-college career in teaching, however, as he had enjoyed a successful career in investment banking, working for Lehman Brothers and later UBS before entering the profession.

With a keen interest in sport, particularly rugby, football, hockey and cricket, Jonathan has played and coached extensively.

His other interests include politics and international affairs, the performing arts and, of course, education. He holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and is soon to complete his Doctorate in Education. He is to be joined in Plymouth by his wife Clare, currently a boarding housemistress and teacher of chemistry, and their three children, Charlie, Eleanor and Josephine.

Of his appointment Jonathan said: "I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed as the next Headmaster of Plymouth College, a prestigious, progressive school I have admired for so long. I look forward to building on the outstanding leadership of Jonathan Standen and working with the whole community at the College at what is such an exciting stage of its development. From my first visit, I have been deeply impressed by both the warmth of everyone I have met as well as their absolute commitment to enabling every pupil to fulfil

their academic potential whilst developing into happy and successful adults. My wife and I are very much looking forward to joining the Plymouth College family and getting to know all the staff, pupils and parents in the months and years ahead."



*Jonathan Cohen, the new Head Master*

# HONORARY TREASURER

*Pete Webb*



Last year, I reported that 2017 had been one of the most difficult on which I had reported during my time as your Treasurer.

Unfortunately, the 2018 year has stolen that mantle.

You will see from the accounts that we have again returned a substantial deficit of £11,693 compared with last year's figure of £6,243. The reasons for this are numerous:

- Subscription income fell slightly although sundry income and donations were up.
- Interest remained low although we have transferred £80,000 to a new bank on a 12 month deposit which promises to pay 1.25%, this being due in the Spring of 2019.
- Last year, I was hopeful that we would see an upturn in the rental receipts from Saltash. A new tenant had been found for the shop and although we had promised a rent free period for three months, we were confident that our income would build. Sadly, trading has remained very difficult and there have been a number of unforeseen difficulties which have resulted in the rent being behind. There have also been water



leaks, both in the roof and from the flat upstairs which have exacerbated the problem to the extent that our shop tenant has recently given notice to quit.

- The clubhouse has again suffered, a deficit of £12,341 arising. Detailed figures are shown in the notes, the main point being that turnover has again fallen, this year to £24,504. We have relied heavily on our sporting sections in recent years but the poor winter weather and the relatively low number of home fixtures for the rugby team curtailed their use of the clubhouse. We also undertook some much needed repair work.
- Other expenditure on the Income and Expenditure account remained fairly constant, the main change being substantial legal and professional fees in connection with the new shop lease.

As mentioned above, overall our loss was £11,354 before tax but there will still be a small liability on rental income and interest to settle next year of £365.

The balance sheets reflects the worsening position. In 2017 we still had £12,248 in our current account with a further £104,829 on deposit. We still hold £100,000 in deposit but our current account has fallen to £5,052. Matters have improved since the year end and

currently we hold around £14,000 in the current account but there are ongoing bills to pay. Furthermore there are urgently needed repairs at Saltash for which quotes are being sought.

These commitments will almost certainly mean that we will need to break into the Trustees' Funds. We have recently had a meeting of the directors of the OPM Club Limited and this has, in principal been agreed.

However, the Club cannot continue to suffer such losses and the Committee will be looking at ways to try and stem the tide. A new Headmaster starts at the school in the near future and we look forward to working with him to see whether new sources of income can be generated.

*'As I have said in the past, please use your club, it needs your support so if you have any ideas to help generate funds or indeed wish to use it yourself for an event, please contact the Committee.'*

*Peter Webb*

# OPM CLUB

## Income & Expenditure

### THE OLD PLYMOTHIAN AND MANNAMEADIAN CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

|                                                           | 2018   |                        | 2017  |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
|                                                           | £      | £                      | £     | £                     |
| <b>Income</b>                                             |        |                        |       |                       |
| Subscriptions receivable                                  |        | 5,979                  |       | 6,125                 |
| Donations and sundry income                               |        | 552                    |       | (430)                 |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                                  |        |                        |       |                       |
| Interest                                                  |        | 42                     |       | 59                    |
| Rent (net of expenses)                                    |        | 4,277                  |       | 6,105                 |
|                                                           |        | <u>10,850</u>          |       | <u>11,859</u>         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                        |        |                        |       |                       |
| Deficit from OPM suite                                    | 12,341 |                        | 7,361 |                       |
| Printing, postage and stationery<br>(including magazine)  | 4,331  |                        | 4,365 |                       |
| Legal and professional fees                               | 2,525  |                        | -     |                       |
| Secretarial and committee expenses                        | 224    |                        | 265   |                       |
| Website costs and contribution to<br>Alumni office salary | -      |                        | 1,500 |                       |
| Donations                                                 | -      |                        | 675   |                       |
| Insurance                                                 | 2,732  |                        | 2,590 |                       |
| Bank charges and interest                                 |        |                        |       |                       |
| Sundry expenses                                           | 51     |                        | 13    |                       |
| <b>Sub Sections</b>                                       |        |                        |       |                       |
| Golf                                                      | -      |                        | 100   |                       |
|                                                           |        | <u>22,204</u>          |       | <u>16,869</u>         |
|                                                           |        | <u>(11,354)</u>        |       | <u>(5,010)</u>        |
| <b>CORPORATION TAX</b>                                    |        |                        |       |                       |
| Provided for year                                         | 365    |                        | 1,233 |                       |
| Over provision in previous year                           | (26)   |                        | -     |                       |
|                                                           |        | <u>339</u>             |       | <u>1,233</u>          |
| <b>(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>                                 |        | <u><u>(11,693)</u></u> |       | <u><u>(6,243)</u></u> |

# OPM CLUB

## *Balance Sheet*

### THE OLD PLYMOTHIAN AND MANNAMEADIAN CLUB BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2018

|                              | £              | 2018<br>£      | £              | 2017<br>£      |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                |                |                |                |                |
| Freehold investment property | -              | 185,000        | 185,000        | 185,000        |
| OPM Suite                    | 478,926        | -              | 478,926        | 478,164        |
| Loan to Plymouth College     | 50,000         | -              | 50,000         | 50,000         |
| Loan to OPM RFC              | -              | -              | -              | -              |
| Stock (at cost)              | 5,273          | -              | 5,273          | 3,796          |
| Debtors and prepayments      | 4,475          | -              | 4,475          | 6,757          |
| <b>Cash at Bank</b>          |                |                |                |                |
| Current account              | 5,052          | -              | 5,052          | 12,248         |
| High interest account        | -              | 20,000         | 20,000         | 104,829        |
| Trustees' deposit account    | -              | 80,000         | 80,000         | -              |
| Cash in hand                 | 1,094          | -              | 1,094          | 997            |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>          | <u>544,820</u> | <u>285,000</u> | <u>829,820</u> | <u>841,791</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>           |                |                |                |                |
| Corporation tax provision    | 365            | -              | 365            | 1,233          |
| Creditors and accruals       | 3,866          | -              | 3,866          | 3,276          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>     | <u>4,231</u>   | <u>-</u>       | <u>4,231</u>   | <u>4,509</u>   |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>            | <u>540,589</u> | <u>285,000</u> | <u>825,589</u> | <u>837,282</u> |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>     |                |                |                |                |
| At 1 September 2017          | 552,282        | 285,000        | 837,282        | 843,525        |
| (Deficit) for year           | (11,693)       | -              | (11,693)       | (6,243)        |
| At 31 August 2018            | <u>540,589</u> | <u>285,000</u> | <u>825,589</u> | <u>837,282</u> |

The accounts were approved by the committee on 1 November 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

N Lyons  
(Chairman)

P M Webb  
(Treasurer)

# OPM CLUB

## Notes to the Accounts

### THE OLD PLYMOTHIAN AND MANNAMEADIAN CLUB NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### 2 VAT

All figures are stated net of VAT where relevant.

#### 3 OPM SUITE

The OPM Suite is shown in the accounts at cost as follows:

|                         | £     | £              |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Share of building costs |       | 474,145        |
| Equipment b/fwd         | 4,019 |                |
| Additions in year       | 1,405 |                |
| Less depreciation       | (643) |                |
|                         |       | 4,781          |
|                         |       | <u>478,926</u> |

#### 4 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

The Club's freehold investment property in Saltash was revalued in 2004 by Viner Fulfords at £185,000.

#### 5 LOANS

The loan to Plymouth College is unsecured, interest free and was reviewed in September 2005. No date has been fixed for its further review or repayment.

#### 6 DEFICIT FROM OPM SUITE

|                               | 2018   |                 | 2017   |                |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------|
|                               | £      | £               | £      | £              |
| Bar sales                     |        | 24,504          |        | 31,711         |
| Suite hire and rents          |        | 7,455           |        | 7,204          |
|                               |        | <u>31,959</u>   |        | <u>38,915</u>  |
| Purchases (stock adjusted)    |        |                 |        |                |
| Wet stocks                    | 11,011 |                 | 14,410 |                |
| Food, catering & bar sundries | 3,813  |                 | 4,218  |                |
| Wages costs                   | 25,117 |                 | 23,928 |                |
| Licencing and legal fees      | 497    |                 | 496    |                |
| Repairs and renewals          | 2,511  |                 | -      |                |
| TV rental & licence           | -      |                 | 741    |                |
| Sundry Clubhouse costs        | 708    |                 | 134    |                |
| Depreciation                  | 643    |                 | 502    |                |
|                               |        | <u>44,300</u>   |        | <u>44,429</u>  |
| Deficit for year              |        | <u>(12,341)</u> |        | <u>(5,514)</u> |

# ALUMNI

*Sharon Lambie*

As Head's PA, I'm used to wearing a lot of hats and I have recently taken on another, looking after the Alumni. It has been a real pleasure to have made contact with so many OPMs across the globe – all of whom speak fondly of their time at the school, the friendships made and the things they got up to! One of the main tasks for me is making contact with OPMs and to enable me to do this, I seek your help.

I currently have a database containing 8,499 names (which is incredible) but, sadly, about a third of these names do not have any details associated with them. So I ask you, please, if you are in contact with any fellow OPMs, can you encourage them to let me have their up-to-date contact information? I can be contacted either by phone – 01752 505104, email – slambie@plymouthcollege.com or by writing to me at the school address. Alternatively, they can go to the Alumni page on the school's website and click on the Update Details box.

We are always very happy to see OPMs visiting the school and encourage you to do so. I am sure you will find some changes but other things remain very much the same. The OPM Chairman, Nigel Lyons, recently had a tour of the school with our Head Boy and Girl and thoroughly enjoyed his trip down memory lane, 38 years after he left!

I am also in contact with John Sanders and Jonathan Cocks who are organising a 50-year reunion for those who left in 1968/69. There are places still available if you wish to attend. I have also had an enquiry from more recent leavers (2009) about a ten-year reunion and hope to be able to do something for this in the Autumn.

We are in the midst of fund-raising to refurbish the Pavilion in memory of George Stephenson (2011) who died in 2017 at 24. He was a wonderful young man who excelled in the classroom and on the sports field, as well as being a fine musician. If you feel able to contribute to this fund-raising initiative, please either visit the JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/georges-pavilion> or send a cheque payable to Plymouth College to the school for my attention. Anything you are able to donate would be gratefully received.

Alongside the Pavilion Project, we have also recently undertaken some decoration of the Old Gym so that it is now a multi-use area. We have unearthed some old school photos and these can be found on the walls (and we would be most grateful for any photos you may have to add to this). As well as using it for assemblies, we intend to use it for social events such as concerts and dinners. It is a lovely venue and we have great plans for it going forwards.

The London Dinner date has been set as Saturday 16 November at the Victory Services Club. It was a wonderful occasion last year and I hope that you may be encouraged to attend. Tickets can be purchased online via the Alumni page or you can send a cheque to me at the school. For leavers in 2019, 2018 and 2017 or for those who are still at university, there are special rates, please contact me for details.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that the school song has been re-introduced after a period of absence and in addition, our new in-house magazine has been named *Quid Si Fasti*.

# FRIENDS RE-UNITED

*A Reunion Revisited*



**B**ack in 2012, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of starting school, the Class of '62 held a very successful reunion with a weekend of activities staged around the OPM Suite on the school site at Ford Park. This year, seven years on, they are staging another, this time to mark the 50th anniversary of the cohort leaving the college ... and the date for the festivities has been selected as being Saturday 13 July 2019.

Furthermore, this time around, the goalposts have been widened a little to include the leavers of 1968 and 1970 as well as the reprobates of '69. Jono Cocks is looking after the '68 crew and John Sanders the '69ers and the '70 mob.

The plan is for an 11.30am brunch on the Saturday morning at the OPM Suite with a game of what might loosely be described as T20 cricket on the School Field from 2pm.

For those who fancy digging out their whites. There will be basic kit on hand, bats, pads and helmet, but do please bring your own box.

In the absence of sufficient volunteers a press gang will be out in force! The level of cricket will be appropriate rather than taxing!

For non-players and others there will be a number of school tours in the afternoon and/or a range of comfy chairs to chose from.



## *“Opportunities like this don’t come around every day...”*

When the cricket reaches the halfway stage there will be a cricket tea and then in the evening there will be a buffet. It is hoped that one or two surviving masters will attend sometime during the day.

If all goes well John Lang will be playing with his band, possibly including some of those attending, either at a local hostelry or possibly on site from 10pm.

The cost of the day will be £35 but if you don’t want brunch it will be £10 less, without the cricket tea it will be £8 less and the evening buffet will be £12 less.

Of course, the members of Classes of 68, 69 and 70 will take priority but those who might want to bring their wife/partner are welcome to do so provided numbers allow.

Clearly it takes time to organise something like this and those responsible have already performed wonders, however if you are learning of this for the first time now and fancy signing up then please don’t delay in making contact.

Your points of contact are either:  
John Sanders [johnsanders4@icloud.com]  
Jonathan Cocks [chilka@btinternet.com]

If on the other hand you are reading this and thinking, but I left in ‘79, ‘89, ‘99 or whenever, but are attracted by the idea of having your own reunion please contact Sharon Lambie at the school.

Sharon Lambie, slambie@plymouthcollege.com

Among those already signed up for the 2019 Reunion are those listed below, but don’t let that put you off. The last event was a great success and much enjoyed even by the most cynical of participants.

For those who haven’t been back to Plymouth for a long time, the city has much to offer, even if the idea of a tour of the school doesn’t greatly inspire you.

Opportunities like this don’t come around every day, so grab the chance while you can, as John points out, the next reunion is a long way off ... or worse, may never happen!

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Andy Ashley      | Peter Milnes    |
| Richard Baker    | Roger T Murch   |
| Chris Banbury    | Neil O'Brien    |
| Simon Carder     | Jon Pearn       |
| Ernest Carwithen | Dave Pepper     |
| Jono Cocks       | John Reynolds   |
| Phil de Jonge    | Chris Robinson  |
| Chris Earl       | Tony Russell    |
| Mike Everett     | John Sanders    |
| Angus Fletcher   | Stephen Serpell |
| Rob Gallagher    | Bob Siddle      |
| Dave Gee         | James Swales    |
| Brian George     | Dave Thomas     |
| Barry Hooper     | Mark Thomas     |
| Pete Isbell      | Dave Treloar    |
| Iggy Jones       | Roger Till      |
| John Lang        | Andrew Viner    |
| Fred Mercer      | Andy Westlake   |



## PLYMOUTH COLLEGE

### *Heads of School Speech*

**T**hank you, hello and welcome, I would first like to address my year group, the U6th, the glorious class of 2018: Congratulations, against all odds, we made it! Looking back, our journeys will all have been different, but I turn to the words of a much wiser man than myself, words that transcend all such differences. I of course refer to the renowned hip-hop mogul and street philosopher Drake, who once said; "We started from the bottom, now we're here".

But where is here? It is at this point, we find ourselves both looking back at our school journey as well as forwards, towards the exciting prospects that our adult lives have to offer. I'm sure these will include happy endings, dramatic climaxes, or perhaps an interesting cliff hanger. Either way, Plymouth College could not have equipped us better for the adventures on which we are about to embark. We all are the product of a school that truly understands that learning isn't a spectator sport. For this I believe we should all be grateful.

For those of you who don't yet know, it's no secret that when I arrived in year seven I was rather average in my ability: some may argue I still am! As someone who isn't particularly sporty, musical or clever, the daunting question soon arose as to where

I was to fit in and what was to become of me. I was, however, quickly thrown into busy school life, taking advantage of as many opportunities as I could handle and was soon made to feel a valued member of the Plymouth College family. My questionable appointment as the U15 full-back is a potential highlight that perhaps said more about the lack of alternative players than my prowess on the pitch.

The opportunity to wear the school colours, however, proved more valuable than I had first anticipated, learning invaluable lessons of teamwork and resilience.

Chances to participate in several Ten Tors events, membership of the Naval CCF section and countless other opportunities beyond the classroom also helped to develop a confidence I never knew was there.

However my biggest school achievement, was realised on GCSE results day, when after opening the envelope and scanning the sheet of grades, I discovered, after months of struggle, I had passed my GCSE French. It was at this moment I fully realized that it's generally not just our talents that determine our success but our determination to succeed, a lesson I have learned here, and one I will not forget.



U16 Rugby team at Rosslyn Park with Charlie Irish, Assistant Head, OPM, right. Below: PMC 1st XI Cricket

So to those younger members of the audience who perhaps are a little like I was, don't worry too much, I am proof that you don't have to be the best at anything to stand where I'm standing today. Take up every opportunity you are offered here, and see how things turn out, you may just be surprised at where you end up.

There are of course a few 'thank you's' to make, and it would be remiss of us not to do so.

My first is for the Headmaster. Through our weekly meetings and numerous whole-school assemblies, you have never failed to keep us informed and inspired, if not always awake. :) Of course, I joke, you are a perfect example of a visible and truly engaged Head, and I'm sure the whole school would be happy to attest to that. Thank you Sir, and we wish you all the best in Thailand next year.

The second goes to Mr Carr, my form tutor in Year Seven and now the Head of Sixth Form, it is therefore fitting just as you helped me and so many others join our community years ago, you are now the one to help us find our way out again. You are greatly respected within our Sixth Form community, your support and guidance has, and will continue to have, a lasting impact on the way we tackle the next part of our lives.





*Plymouth College Netball Team 2018*

Even though I had spent several years at the Prep School, and was already familiar with the College, moving into Year 7 was initially a bit of a daunting experience.

The Whiteworks trip, however, proved to be the perfect opportunity to get to know my peers and teachers. The sense of security and community generated during this experience was amazing and this feeling has continued throughout my time at the College through activities such as the CCF, Politics Society and my time in the class room.

Now, I would by no means call myself an athlete, but just by participating in team sports I have learned so much.

My efforts on the boys' cricket team in years 9 and 10, I thought, went rather well. The boys however might have a different opinion. Stopping a hard cricket ball on the boundary isn't as easy as it looks!

I was even fortunate enough to go to Barbados on the hockey tour which developed my sense of independence and adventure.

Playing in the school teams has helped to develop my leadership skills, resilience and confidence. This has also helped me in the class room where I have become increasingly confident in my ability to learn new things and face new challenges.

Being a proud member of Sargents, who incidentally have won House Drama and Sports Day, I feel that the house system has encouraged me to get involved in all aspects of school life and to discover new skills. For example, many of you may claim that Cross Country is your least favourite house event because at the end we're all exhausted. For me, however, this has proven to be my favourite event simply because it's so much fun. Students, teachers and parents alike all rally round to support us.

Not only has the house system encouraged my passion for sport, but also for other activities that I would not have thought I had much talent for — such as House Music and House Drama.

As I have already mentioned, the support in the class room at Plymouth College has been hugely valuable to me. The small class sizes





*The School's National Three Peak Challenge Team*

and individual attention have enabled me to realise my potential. There is real commitment from the teaching body to achieve the best possible outcome for each student. This motivates us, as students, to do the best that we can and for that I thank all members of staff at the College.

My time here has been thoroughly enjoyable. I've created some unforgettable memories and I have made friendships that I know will endure long after we have all left the school. Most importantly, however, I now feel prepared to move onto the next chapter of my life and I hope more than anything that at the end of your time here you feel the same.

The list of thank yous is endless, and we owe our thanks to everyone who has made our time here so valuable. We have learned so much over our time as Heads of School and give back a small part of all the College has given to us. It's been a pleasure to work with Hannah and James, our deputies and we couldn't have done it without you. We'd like to congratulate the new Heads of School Sydney, Peter, Kate and George and wish them and you all, the very best for the year ahead.



*George Asquith, Head Boy and Laura Cosby, Head Girl*

# CRICKET WEEK LUNCH



The 2018 Cricket Week Lunch was another great success. The school caterers provided some excellent healthy fare and Ash introduced his usual array of fine beers and ciders.

Amongst the usual suspects there were a few 'new' faces, and, although no-one was to know it, the occasion also marked what was to be the last time that Roger Elliott ventured

onto the Ford Park site, almost 70 years after arriving for the first time as a fresh-faced school master back in 1949.

The relaxed informal atmosphere was enjoyed by a mixed crowd, with many OPMs bringing their wives.

It was also heartening to see one or two ladies who have lost their husbands in recent years, joining the happy band.







*Dorothy and Mike Turpitt, William and Roger Elliott*



*John Stevens with fellow OPM Roger Shaw*







Among those attending pictured here, John Knowles, Ed Keast, John Herman, Nick Partridge, Pat Newnham, Tom Waldock, Jay Foster, Rob Lang, Alan Scott, Kingsley Bishop, Tam Carson, Geoff Sargent, Owen Walters, and Peter Bidder.



*A few more familiar faces including Chris U'ren, Ashley Brown Williams, John Knowles, Bill Daw and Matt Naylor*



# PLYMOUTH COLLEGE FUNDRAISING APPEAL

## George Stephenson Pavilion



Close friends of Stevo, including team-mates, classmates and their families, have embraced the plan to name the restored building the "George Stephenson Pavilion".

It feels appropriate to link his name with the nurture of young sporting talent for generations to come. A powerful batsman, tenacious rugby scrum-half and talented athlete, the sports field and adjacent pavilion

were the scene of many of George's triumphs.

For some years, there was a rumour that if any cricketer managed to strike the pavilion clock with a ball, everyone would get the day off school. There was always the anticipation, when George went in to bat, that he might just be the one to manage it.

While the school will sort out the structural and other essential work, refurbishing changing rooms and showers for example, the "Friends of George" want to celebrate his memory by creating a unique space on the first floor of the building.

George was a hugely talented and passionate sportsman, whose death last year at the age of 24 left a gaping hole. "Stevo", who was also gifted academically, faced everything in life with energy and enthusiasm.

Even in the face of his illness, he was cheerful and upbeat, continuing to fund-raise for the cancer charity CLIC Sargent, while going through cancer treatment himself.

Now his friends want to help set up a lasting memorial Stevo, in the form of "George's Pavilion". His old school, Plymouth College, has decided to refurbish the historic pavilion on its sports field in Ford Park, in his name.



While the school will sort out the structural and other essential work, refurbishing changing rooms and showers for example, the "Friends of George" want to celebrate his memory by creating a unique space on the first floor of the building.

The plan is to create a hospitality area, where parents and visitors can support young players from the terrace, and enjoy post-match teas. The space will also be somewhere to commemorate Plymouth College's proud sporting achievements, with photographs, trophies and mementoes. The first floor renovation will retain, or replicate, many original features of the building, which was last rebuilt just before WW2, but whose first incarnation dates back nearly a century and a half.



We estimate that at least £10,000 will be needed for the extra work required to turn the pavilion into a special building worthy of George's name. Fundraising will start soon and any donation you can make to this project will be much appreciated and thoughtfully put to use.

# AUTUMN SENIOR DINNER

## *The OPM Suite*



Ever a happy occasion, the Autumn Senior Dine-In ticked all the expected boxes and some more. Chairman of Governors, David Woodgate came down from London with fellow governor Chris Morton and was joined at his table by the Vice-Chair, Penny Atkinson.

Achieving a consistent quality of catering and conviviality in recent years, the function appears to be increasingly popular with OPM wives and partners. Or perhaps it's just down to Mike Turpitt's powers of persuasion.

Whatever the reasoning it was another great success, which, as ever, augurs well for the next one!



*School governors and OPMs, Penny Atkinson (Vice Chair), David Woodgate (Chair) and Chris Morton*





Top left: Rob Lang, Tom Waldock, Will Cocks, bottom left: Pete Organ, James Friendship, above Nick Partridge. Below: Pete Heath and Owen Walters.



# DINNER



Above: Ken Hudson, Tom Thomas and Mike Pearson with their wives. Left: Ed Keast, Graham Douglas, Dave Hardy and Ian Punchard



Geoff Martin, Jill Martin, Liz Herman, John Herman





*John Eaton, Noel Blackler,*



*Adrian Rundle, Chris Robinson,  
above, Ian Johnson, Hugh Davies  
right.*



# SPRING SENIOR DINNER

*The OPM Suite*



The OPM 2019 Spring Dine-In was held on Friday 15 March and the sterling efforts of Mike Turpitt ensured a healthy turn out of the usual suspects, plus one or two less regular attendees.

In an interesting turn of events one of the sixth form boarders was given a spot at the beginning of the evening to give an outline of life at Plymouth College today.







As it transpired the young man was Max Symes, a German national who came to the school in 2012 and stayed. Max informed his enthralled audience that he was intending to join the German Army on leaving school.. Any opportunity to learn more was hampered by the fact that the Club President had given strict instructions that he talk for no longer than two minutes, considerably less than his

original brief so we can only guess at what gems we missed.

The President then welcomed us all to the OPM Suite and a minute's silence was observed for the much missed Roger Elliott. Thereafter the party started and as ever it seems a good time was had by all. The catering was excellent and Ash did his best to ensure that no-one ran out of wine.







Most attending were local to the Plymouth area, but it was good to see Dave Hardy make the journey down from the Midlands and Willoughby and Christine Cocks making their usual pilgrimage from Hertfordshire. Staff numbers were a little on the low side, with just Tom Waldock and Mike Parker waving the flag for the old brigade, but it was good to see Richard Atkinson in attendance

with Penny. Richard is currently teaching at the Main School. It was also heartening to welcome Sharon Lambie, the Headmaster's PA, who does so much to foster good relations between the School and OPMs, attending her first Dine-In with husband Tim. The OPMs have yet to formally meet the new Headmaster, Jonathan Cohen, but have high hopes of his readiness to embrace the alumni.





#### ATTENDEES:

Penny Atkinson, Richard Atkinson, Julian Bacon, Tam Carson, Sue Carson, Willoughby Cocks, Christine Cocks, Ben Collinson, Richard Creber, Bill Daw, Graham Douglas, John Eaton, Bob Foulkes (President), Bernard Fowler, Rosemary Fowler, David Harvey, Rodney Harvey, John Herman, Liz Herman, Roger Hind, Ken

Hudson, Viv Hudson, Ed Keast, Peter Heath, Jon Knowles, Ian Johnson, Sharon Lambie, Tim Lambie, Pat Martin, Geoff Martin, Jill Martin, Colin May, Pat Newnham, Mike Parker, Nick Partridge, Mike Pearson, Barbara Pearson, Ian Punchard, Chris Robinson, Adrian Rundle, Peter Rutherford, Roger Shaw, Mike Turpitt, Dorothy Turpitt, Tom Waldock, Keith Walters, Chris Uren.





## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

For those who like to leave their OPM Magazine in one of the smaller rooms of the house and dip into it every now and then across the year, there is perhaps one section, unless you feature, that you usually skip through, because it tends to show the same old faces magazine after magazine ... and that is the Dinner section.

Year by year these faces become a little more familiar, a little older, but generally they become no less anonymous, unless you know and recognise them in the first place. And so the chances are that the Dinner picture pages will be of little more than passing interest ... until now.

At the Spring 2019 Dine In Mike Turpitt relayed a request from your editor to all attendees to *'tell us a bit about yourselves.'* A piece of paper, not too big, was provided at each place setting, but with no writing implements or any kind.

As you might expect the request elicited a wide variety of responses, ranging from small essays, through random bullet points, to conspicuously blank sheets of paper — was it because they had no pen or pencil, were too modest, or simply had no inclination to take part? And who can blame them, I hear you say. Of course, the fact that the request was made early in the proceedings did not preclude the fact that already a number of attendees had already been to see our amiable bar manager on more than one occasion, so, for some it was a bit like sitting an O'level with a few pints under the belt already ... don't tell me, you've already been there and got the T-shirt, however even if you haven't — and perhaps you wish you had — I'm sure you can imagine the impact it may have had on your attitude to the whole process. Nevertheless we had a good level of quite revealing responses, and so it is, with a minimum of fuss, censorship and editing we present the results, with, where possible a mugshot of each author taken at a recent OPM function:



**Chris U'ren (52)**



**John Herman (66)**

**Chris U'Ren** was in Palmers House and left school in 1952, before moving on to West Buckland School which he left in 1957. He returned to Plymouth in 1960 after National Service and spent all his working life in the city. He played for Plymouth Cricket Club for 25 years, was captain for 11 years and was involved with Plymouth Albion for ten years.

**John Herman** is 'retired'.



**Colin May (53)**



**Bob Foulkes (62)**

**Colin May** married Jill Rogers (met at PHS dancing class aged 15). They have just celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Two sons Richard (82) and James (88) both went to the College.

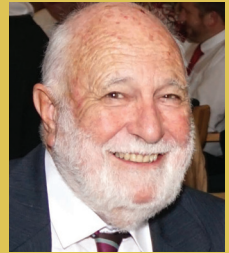
**Bob Foulkes** retired lawyer who is currently president of the OPM Club and enjoyed "great times" playing OPM cricket and 2nd XI hockey for 25 years or more (see report).



**Dave Hardy (66) Ben Collinson (79)**

**Dave Hardy**, College House, was Head Boy and Captain of the 1st XV, Devon XV, West of England XV and Coventry. A former manager of Peugeot in the UK and France, he is a director of the OPM Club and says he "finds lots of things to do in retirement".

**Ben Collinson**, lives in Norwich and works for DWVP. He is married with two children and still plays chess for Norfolk and cricket for Norfolk over 50s.



**Adrian Rundle (77) Pete Heath (59)**

**Adrian Rundle** spent 26 years with Lloyds Bank and 13 years as a new car sales executive for BMW. He played OPM hockey until last year, plays P&D cricket and follows historic motor racing.

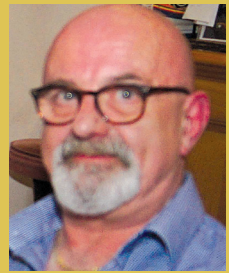
**Peter Heath** is a retired machinery design manager who has been/is vice-president of the OPM Hockey Club.



**Julian Bacon (79) Ian Johnson (79)**

**Julian Bacon** is originally from Crapstone and now lives in East Devon near Sidmouth. He has a German wife and five children, is still playing golf, chess and bridge and working for a French company. He has worked all over the world for French, German and Swedish companies.

**Ian Johnson** works as a primary school teacher in Plymouth and says he wants to do sport until he can't...



**Mike Pearson (58) Ian Punchard (72)**

**Mike Pearson** who was in the RAF CCF at school, went on to become a Royal Air Force Engineer (58-87). Hobbies included hockey and cross country and at the age of 78 he is still sailing. He has completed the Ten Tors 60-mile trek and also the Devises to Westminster 125 canoe race.

**Ian Punchard** joined Lloyds Bank after leaving school and retired in 2005. He says he's not a "gentleman of leisure yet, but hoping..."



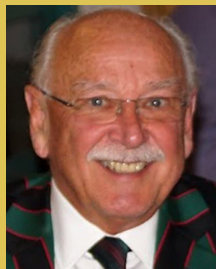
**Will Cocks (64) Roger Shaw (54) Graham Douglas (66) Mike Turpitt (54)**

**Willoughby Cocks** went to Sheffield University after leaving Plymouth College. He worked in the water industry as a chartered engineer until his retirement in 2010. He was the Chairman of the London OPM section in the 1980s and again in 2019 and has been Honorary Secretary of the London section at various times from the 1970s to 2018.

**Roger Shaw** says of his school career: "no achievements, no games but no truancy". He joined the army (54-58) then went to St Lukes teacher training college in Exeter (62-64). On qualifying he taught at Salisbury Road Junior School and Lipson Vale before relocating to Somerset. He was head of a primary school in Paignton (74-94) before retirement.

**Graham Douglas** played rugby with London Wasps, having played back row for Plymouth College. He enjoyed a career with BP and has now retired.

**Mike Turpitt** worked in London in Customs & Excise on leaving school. National Service in the RAF (55 to 57), after which he returned to HM Customs as Waterguard Officer on the Thames in London. Met Dorothy, then 17, in 1954 and married a year later and so are enjoying, "61 years of married bliss" this year. Mike came back to Plymouth in 1968 and got involved with OPM Golf in 1969 and has organised Senior Dine-Ins for many years. He started various businesses before retiring at the age of 66 in 2003.



**Pete Rutherford (61) Richard Creber (60) Rodney Harper (63) Tam Carson (61)**

**Peter Rutherford** is a former banker and stock-broker who played hockey for OPMs, Devon and Hertfordshire. He played in the first Premier League match for St Albans and other London clubs, United Banks and other representative sides. He also plays OPM golf.

**Richard Creber** is retired, "thank god!"

**Rodney Harper** is a retired motor trader and active Rotarian, who was in their Presidential Chair a few years ago.

**Tam Carson** left school in 1961 and is still lecturing part time. Wife Sue is a retired Senior Lecturer in Nursing and enjoys gardening and collecting anything.





**Ken Hudson (57)**



**Bill Daw (60)**



**Pat Newnham (60)**



**John Eaton (63)**

**Ken Hudson** was a scholarship boy and member of Palmers House who was offered a place at St John's College, Cambridge to read history. However by the end of the first term in sixth form he had become interested in training in medicine and asked Frank Jeffery, who was new, for help as there was no biology at PC until Frank arrived.

Ken gained an open scholarship to St Mary's Paddington in June 1957 after gaining three S levels in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In his final year he was head of house, gained the OPM prize and was made a prefect. He left school and was promptly called into Royal Marines and finally gained a commission and given deferment by the War Office.

He qualified in medicine in 1962 from St Mary's, worked in St Mary's and also Lewisham, becoming a junior surgeon. In 1966 he decided to try General Practice in Suffolk. He came back to Devon in 1970, firstly to Chagford finally Teignmouth, living in Shaldon.

Ken retired from general practice in 1998 but continued working as a radio therapist at Torbay until 2014. He also worked on a small liner, part time, for nine years and Maritime and Coastguard MO for 35 years.

**Bill Daw** Sargents House. An entrepreneur, he is proprietor of two businesses and has lived at the same address for 52 years in the parish of Shaugh Prior. He has been a member of the OPM Lodge (No 6279) for 31 years and claims to have been *'the last one to be beaten in Big School by Meade-King'*.

**Pat Newnham** joined the Prep in 1948 at the age of five and left the Main School in 1960. 'I joined the firm of Taylor Son and Creber and completed three years articles and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1965. I became a partner in 1966 where I remained until we sold the business to TSB Property Services in 1989.

I left Stratton Creber in 1992 and purchased Peverell Post Office where I was Postmaster for 21 years finally retiring in 2014.

I joined the OPM Committee in the mid 1960's and served as Secretary, Treasurer and Bar Chairman for about 15 years. I was very honoured to be elected a Life Vice President of the Club in 2004.

I played for the OPM Hockey Club for nearly 30 years and now organise a very popular and enjoyable OPM Hockey Veterans Club which meet five times a year for pub lunches and an annual dinner.

**John Eaton** a boarder at Colson House. Became a chartered accountant in 1970, and eventually senior manager at Price Waterhouse (Birmingham). Married Pam in 1978 and lived in Solihull. Stepson Nigel is a chef in Nottingham, two other children Helen (b.1980) is a teacher and James (b.1984) is currently a consultant with Thames Tideway. John sold his practise in 2006, went to live in Feckenham and took on a lot of voluntary work. He's now involved with accountancy group SME Strategies with cousin, David Eaton, specialising in business coaching and complex tax return. Has now "gone back to pottering and bell-ringing and my garden" and is "waiting to be a grandfather in May"

## SCHOOL TRIP TO SWITZERLAND AND ITALY 1960



Lugano Station: Ir - Landeryou, Bowden, Spear, DW Collinson, Di Colinson, anon.

Richard Spear sent in a couple of photos of the Easter trip to Switzerland and Italy in 1960: the party of 28 included Dennis and Di Collinson.

An account of the trip was featured in that year's September edition of the *Plymothian* under the title **Midsummer In April**:

The title of this article does not introduce a diatribe on the vicissitudes of English weather. No, dear reader, it is a reference to the remarkable climate of Southern Switzerland. It was there, in the Lugano area, that a number of us spent a week at Easter. Even then we were informed that this was comparatively cool! In fact, this change from England brought us an altogether new and

invigorating experience. Few of the party had ever been abroad before, and it was a pleasant shock to find one's British insularity shaken to the roots.

Or was it? Our first sight of the Continent was Dunkirk harbour at four in the morning. Sleepily we straggled through the customs: then we boarded the train. French trains are not all that some people think that they are. They are fast and clean, but the compartments are too narrow for a 13-hour trip from Dunkirk to Basle. Swiss railways were far more comfortable, despite their wooden seats.

We arrived at Basle on Friday evening and left again early next morning for Berne, where three hours before lunch were usefully

employed in sightseeing. This included a visit to the Federal Parliament buildings. Here the guide unravelled the marvels of Switzerland's "living democracy", which does not give women the vote. Then we continued through the tunnels and passes of the Alps, arriving at Lugano in the evening. From the pleasant Hotel du Parc at which we stayed, excursions were made to Milan, Pavia and Locarno, as well as several trips up mountains in funiculars, cable-cars and chair-lifts.

On several mountains a foot or more of snow contrasted sharply with the midday sun. The title of the most exhilarating ascent must be shared between the silent splendour of a chair lift on snow-covered Monte Cardara, and a drive up a tortuous mountain road in a motor coach. Its phlegmatic driver made no comment when his skill was loudly applauded on each bend.

So one might continue, describing the joys of a holiday in gay, prosperous, carefree Switzerland. The endless differences and surprised could fill volumes.

As the Plymothian does not run serials, this must be but a fragment of all that could be said. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and will, for a long time, remember how the manager and manageress of the hotel and their staff did all that they could to make our stay enjoyable. We thank Mr and Mrs Collinson for all the work that was put in beforehand to make the trip a great success.

If anyone has another opportunity to make such a visit, we thoroughly recommend him to take it. We would, however, tender this piece of advice:

"Sterling is exchangeable everywhere"  
Collinson.

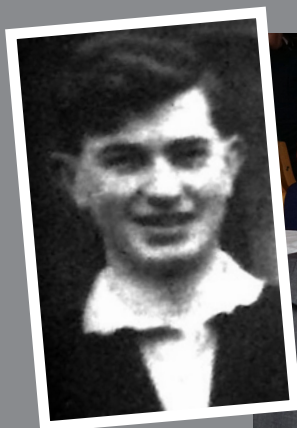


*"Sterling is  
exchangeable  
everywhere"*

**E. Pericoloso-Sporgersi** OPM

# MIKE PARKER

## *Past Masters*



*Mike Parker: from graduate and rugby player to long retired schoolmaster*

**M**ike Parker joined Plymouth College in the winter of 1962, from Glasgow Academy, the only independent school in the West of Scotland.

Those who lived through it are unlikely to ever forget that 'awful' winter when almost everything froze. 'We'd just arrived in Plymouth and we were living temporarily in Alexandra Road looking for somewhere to settle. We had no running water and the only place we could shower was at Derek Holland's house in Treveneague Gardens, which had somehow been spared the worst of the weather (Derek had arrived at PMC three years earlier to teach art).'

Before long Mike and his wife Sheila, whom he'd met at Knighton, had found themselves a house in Hermitage Road, near the school – and they've been there ever since.

Soon afterwards, coincidentally, Derek and Marjorie Holland had bought a place around

the corner in Mannamead Road. Mike and Sheila have artwork from both of them on their walls.

Knighton, for those who are unfamiliar with the geography of the East Midlands, is a suburb of Leicester. Mike's mother had decided to move the family there from neighbouring Oadby at the start of the Second World War. At that stage there was just Mike and his two brothers – one older, one younger – and his mother. 'I never really knew my father, he'd fought in the Great War, and died of lung cancer when I was two.'

Secondary education for Mike meant Wygggeston School: around 1,000 strong all-boy institution with a neighbouring namesake girl's school about a mile away – which is where Sheila went.

Leaving school in 1948 Mike headed off, 30 miles up the A46, to Nottingham University





1954: Mike and Sheila Parker, bride and groom

to read Classics. Clearly developing a taste for academia, Mike followed up his undergraduate success with an MA at Oxford, reading Philosophy at Wadham. This is where he first met Dave Parry, who would go on to teach history at Plymouth College (57-61) and become a lifelong friend (sadly Dave died earlier this year).

Back then the nation's youth had an extra challenge: over and above school and college, before they could enter the 'real world' there was National Service.

Introduced in 1948 the idea was that all

healthy young men – the Act didn't apply to women – were required, unless they were conscientious objectors, to complete a period of time in the armed services. Initially it was for a period of 12 months but in response to the Korean War the Government increased the service session to a two year term. Mike signed up for the Royal Artillery and was commissioned at Mons Officer Cadet School at Aldershot.

'I was told I could have a choice of up to three places to undergo my service, so I chose some exotic locations – Hong Kong, Belize ... But I ended up in Wales, in Towyn, on a site that covered a vast area. The camp had its own railway and railway station.

'One learned to drink, and to play bridge,' recalls Mike, who says he also used to fence with his commanding officer. More importantly, having now reached the grand old age of 26 he was able, with the C/O's permission, to get married, which he duly did. Two years to the day later, in February 1956, Sheila gave birth to twins Melanie and Michelle.

Mike had, by then, completed his National Service and the couple had moved to Scotland where Mike was to start his teaching career at Glasgow Academy.

'It was a very military minded establishment and before long I found myself taking the school shooting team to Bisley each year.' And that was where he was first destined to meet Roger Elliott, who by that stage was already something of an old hand with the Plymouth College shooting team.

'When I came down to Plymouth College a few years later Roger couldn't wait to hand over the rifle reins. He certainly saw me coming!'



*Mike Parker receiving the MBE from Queen Elizabeth II*



*1993, Mike's last year at Plymouth College with Dominic Fell, Howard Ingham, Christopher Guyver, Matthew Miller and Christopher Ainslie (front).*

*Bill Barnes, 'a nice, Cornish fella, who took me under his wing.'*

Arriving in Plymouth with a wife and two children, Sarah and Philip were soon to enlarge the family, Mike found himself in the Classics Department, in the safe hands of his new boss, Bill Barnes, 'a nice, Cornish fella, who took me under his wing.'

Hugh Dent, who like Bill Barnes had been at the school since before the war, was also in the department, as was Nigel Radford, who was of a similar vintage.

In the grand scheme of things Mike hadn't been at Plymouth College all that long when the Headmaster, Martin Meade-King, took him to one side and asked him if he'd like to take on one of the school houses.

Mike said he'd be honoured to, and so it was that he became the Dales Housemaster and what with that, Classics and his CCF responsibilities Mike was to be kept quite busy over the three decades that he was to teach at Ford Park.



*Mike with his fellow Rotarians presenting a cheque to the Mustard Tree Macmillan Centre*

Happy memories ... of 'developing a flourishing continuum going up through the school so that there was always a healthy pool of pupils wanting to read classics in the Sixth Form ...' and steering a good number of them into Oxbridge; of CCF camps with Roger Elliott, Mike Veale, Bill Fisher, Mac Forsyth and others in Berlin, Brecon Beacons, Wyvern Barracks, the Isle of Man, Folkestone.

So many memories in fact that Mike is more than happy to join the merry, but dwindling, band of 'Old Farts,' former teachers who meet up most months for a lunch somewhere to share stories.

'Doug Martin was for years our convenor, and Roger would always make it when he could — we've lost Geoff Moll and John Tresise too. But there's still Mac, Me, Bill Fisher, Tom Waldock, John Stevens and Adrian Lewis.'

Those regular lunches are just one date in what is still a very busy diary for our Mr Parker though, as he has regular commitments

at Emmanuel Church, with Probus, with Rotary, with South Devon Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the Royal Western Yacht Club. Not to mention grandparent duties and other family responsibilities.

There was also, for a number of years, the editorship of this magazine to add to his list of chores. Small wonder he was awarded a gong, the MBE, by the Queen, for services rendered.

If you want to get something done, ask a busy person, has been something of a mantra for the man whose nickname seems counter intuitive under the circumstances.

'I'm not entirely sure where it came from, other than perhaps 'pax pacis,' literally - the kiss of peace - hence Peaceful Parker. 'At least it was better than my nickname at Glasgow Academy —'Fess'— which came straight from the American actor Fess Parker jnr. who played the part of Davy Crockett in the popular Disney mini series in the early 1950s.



# OPM MUSICIANS

Phil Reed's obit, containing details of the part music played in his life, has inspired this section about OPM musicians; from those with a full time career in music to those who have at least been taken seriously enough to be recorded on disc. Starting with Phil, one of the lesser known of the bunch, we have details of a dozen or so OPM musicians from the worlds of pop, rock, jazz and classical – at least one of whom is a household name – who have enjoyed widely differing degrees of success, be it local, national or international.

But there are plenty more besides. Our extended list of musicians that we are aware of includes:

**Andy Mahler, Pete Isbell, Mark Stacey, Jon Graves, Ellie Pallot, Paul Greco, Steve Hajjianni, Rob Jack, Daryl McIntyre, Juliet Dean, James Smith, Ian Langsford, John Sanders, Jonathan Cox, Ley Perryman, Simon Westaway, Sam Johnson, Tom Eastwood, Rob Scott, Toby Keane, Richard Line, William Bersey, Matthew Midgley...**

We would welcome further info on all of them and we are also well aware that there are bound to be many notable omissions, but we had to start somewhere. Obviously we would welcome more names, and certainly more information, for future pieces.

**Clare Robinson**

(Music Journalist for the *Plymouth Herald*)

# PHIL REED



**Phil Reed (78)**, who died last November, grew up with a music room at home. This is where he would play music of hard rock band Led Zeppelin to mates until eventually they were brain-washed and started to like them.

He also used the music room to practise drums for many hours. He soon started putting together rock bands, which were named firstly Bad Shapes, and later on SPQR. These groups started gigging at church halls but progressed to performing in night clubs such as Woods and Metro and even supported big named punk bands such as Stiff Little Fingers in the then Poly Main Hall.

SPQR stayed together for many years even after Phil had finished his A levels. He and the band members lived in the Hague in Holland, Seattle in America and Vancouver in Canada, gigging and living life to the full for around five years in total, eventually returning to England and then choosing to live in London in the Islington area where he formed another band called The Waltons.

He worked during the day as an accountant for a modelling set company, however what he most loved was working in a recording studio on the mixing desks and meeting and working on the music and records etc.

He had formed his latest band, just before he died.

## DAVID CROSS



**David Cross (67)**, who plays electric violin, viola, keyboards and flute, is probably best known for being a member of prog rock band King Crimson during the 1970s and for his involvement with albums *Larks' Tongues in Aspic*, and *Starless and Bible Black*. After King Crimson, David formed a jazzy improv ensemble called *They Came from Plymouth* and later an outfit called *Low Flying Aircraft*.

In the mid-1980s, he formed the David Cross Band which continues to this day.

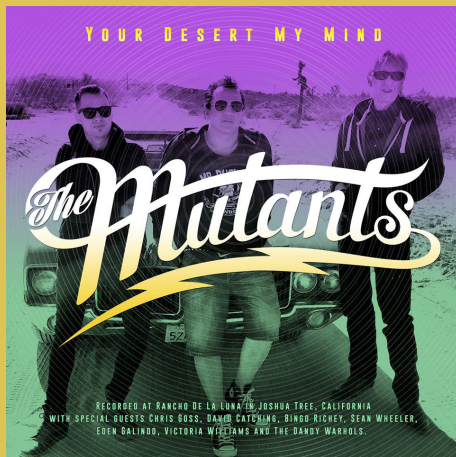
Former and current King Crimson members John Wetton, Robert Fripp, and Peter Dinklage, as well as guest lyricist Richard Palmer-James, have all guested on his solo projects.

David has also worked in theatre both musically and as an actor.

In 1998, he was invited by Geoff Serle to join Radius.

The following year, 1999, he formed Noisy Records, his own record label.

## CHRIS CONSTANTINOU



Bass player **Chris Constantinou (74)** started performing with school and garage bands and in the '70s supporting the likes of King Crimson and Sassafras. His career took off when he joined Plymouth boogie-woogie piano-man Diz Watson's and in 1977 he formed the Drill, and signed to Ebony records, then RCA, with whom they released a string of Chas Chandler produced singles.

As Chris De Niro he enjoyed success with Adam and the Ants in the '80s appearing on *Top of the Pops*, *Saturday Night Live* and at Wembley Stadium for Live Aid in 1985.

After a stint with SF Go, he formed JackieOnAssid in the 1990s with Bow Wow Wow's Annabella Lwin, releasing several singles and enjoying a song-writing partnership with Guy Chambers. In 1996 Chris took lead duties, they toured Europe, released two albums and supported Iggy Pop.

The 2000s saw Chris reunite with former 'Ant', Marco Pirroni, to form The Wolfmen: their Bhangra/rock single *Two Eyes* topped the Asian Network charts and caused ripples in the global Asian scene.

The Mutants era started in 2013: a super-group comprised of Chris, Paul Frazer and Rat Scabies of the Damned, uniting stars of different genres, for a series of experimental albums.

Chris has worked with many other artists, including The Dandy Warhols, The Slits, Sinéad O'Connor and Nerina Pallot.

# MICHAEL BALL



By far the best known of the musical Plymouth College alumni, **Michael Ball**, who has famously stated that he didn't particularly enjoy his time at school, is a household name and star of stage, TV and radio.

He went to study at the Guildford School of Acting, after which his first role was in the Aberystwyth Arts Centre's production of *Godspell*.

His major break came in the mid 80s when he accepted the role of Frederick in a production of the *Pirates of Penzance* at the Manchester Opera House.

Within a couple of years he had graduated to playing Marius in *Les Mis* in the West End, taking over the part of Raoul in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*.

His popularity grew yet further when he performed in *Aspects of Love* in 1989, in the UK and US, and the single *Love Changes Everything*, taken from the show, shot to No 2 in the UK singles chart. Although follow up singles didn't do as well, in the early 90s he was chosen to represent the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest in Sweden and came second with *One Step Out of Time*.

This led to the release of his eponymous debut album which rocketed to the top of the charts, followed by three Top 10 LPs *Always*,

*One Careful Owner* and *First Love*, released between 1993 and 1996.

By 2002 he was back on the West End stage as Caractacus Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and went on to delight theatre audiences by playing Edna Turnblad in the 2007 production of *Hairspray*, for which he won Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical.

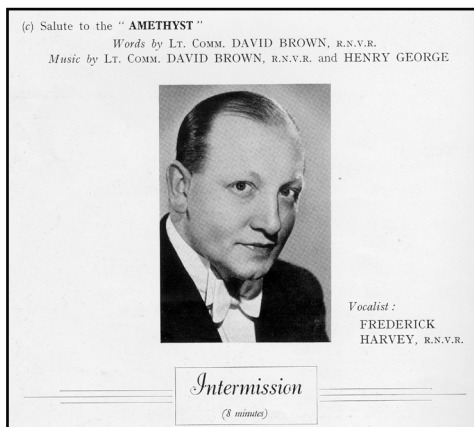
As well as taking further stage roles in the noughties, he also became a radio show host and continued to release albums. The following decade *Heroes*, that came out in 2011, featured Michael singing the songs that inspired him in the first place and, in 2014, *If Everyone Was Listening* presented him delivering a collection of his 15 favourite songs.

He released *Together* in 2016, a joint recording of Broadway show classics, with his chum, tenor Alfie Boe, which was so successful it not only topped the UK charts, it prompted a sell-out national tour and a further LP collaboration, *Together Again*.

Michael's latest album, *Coming Home To You*, his first solo chart topper in 27 years, was released in March and brings together a selection of timeless songs as well as brand new material penned by Michael himself.



# FREDERICK HARVEY



**Frederick Harvey (26)** was a great favourite on the BBC in the early days of radio. He made his first recordings, aged 21, in 1929, having won a prize in a competition sponsored by Columbia Records. He was probably the first former Plymouth College boy to appear at the Royal Variety Performance (Michael Ball also sang there many years later) when, in 1949, he sang at salute to Amethyst with the Royal Marine Band under Major Vivian Dunn.

A chorister at St Andrew's Church for 17 years, he had vocal training from the legendary Dr Harold Moreton, the church's long-standing organist and choirmaster. On holiday in Bournemouth the fledgling baritone was auditioned by Sir Dan Godfrey, conductor of the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra (now Symphony Orchestra). Sir Dan was impressed and recommended the singer to a friend of his, Sir Adrian Boult (conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra 1930-50). It was at that point that Frederick's career really took off.

A lieutenant in the RNVR, during the war, he recorded a number of sessions with the Portsmouth Royal Marine Band and after the war he sang in all the major venues across the country and was a regular on BBC's Friday Night Is Music Night and Grand Hotel.

# CLIVE JENKINS



For 19 years from 1976, composer **Clive Jenkins (46)** was director of music at PMC. Some of the psalm settings he wrote for commemoration services featured on local ITV performed by the school choir, which also broadcast his Christmas items. Oecumense later published much of this material. Clive's compositions often have West Country themes: like the widely performed cantata *The Mayflower Pilgrims* for Plymouth University; *White Bird*, a narrative work for string orchestra based on a Dartmoor ghost story for the Ten Tors Orchestra and *Five Pieces for Clarinet* for Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery. In the 1980s Clive directed the City of Plymouth Light Orchestra and presented many music broadcasts for BBC Radio Devon and Cornwall. He later became associate composer with the South West Sinfonietta. Since retiring from teaching, he has held a similar post with the Chamber Ensemble of London, which has recorded much of his string orchestra material for two labels, EM Records and Heritage, and performed it at major London venues – St Martin-in-the-Fields, Kings Place, the Purcell Room, the V&A, Conway Hall etc. His main publisher is Goodmusic (UK). Selah (USA) has published some organ pieces and Hohner (Germany) music for harmonica.

## DAVID WEBB



Tenor **David Webb (02)** post PMC went to the Truro Cathedral School before going on to study at the Royal College of Music International Opera School.

Among his many prestigious roles he sang Arsace in Cavalli's *Hipermestra* for the Glyndebourne Festival and the roles of High Priest, Abner, Amalekite and Doeg in Barrie Kosky's acclaimed production of Handel's *Saul* for Glyndebourne on Tour.

A Harewood Artist at the English National Opera, he has sung Frederic in the *Pirates of Penzance* and recently played Lysander in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as Messenger in a new production of *Aida*. Earlier in his career, he formed 'popera' group Amore with three of his opera buddies and signed a six-album deal with Warner Brothers. The quartet enjoyed a remarkable few years entertaining millions around the world, highlights of which involved singing in the Royal Albert Hall four times in four months, performing Nimrod in front of the Queen as part of the Festival of Remembrance and then again at their own recital at the classical Brit Awards. They also took part in the Flotilla for the Royal Jubilee as part of the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir and their subsequent drenching as they sang to the queen became the memorable moment of the event, sparking media coverage around the globe.

## JAMES ROBINSON



**James Robinson (02)** formed six-piece alternative pop band Two Spot Gobi with cellist Rob Lewis at Brighton University in 2005.

They quickly built up a strong local and south coast following as the result of headline tours and festival appearances but it was after Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter Jason Mraz saw them playing at The Hub in Plymouth, on his day off from supporting James Blunt, that things took off.

Jason invited them to open for him at a few shows in Brighton in the summer of 2007 and in the autumn of the following year TSG joined him as support for his US tour, and then again on his European tour in 2009.

They then spent three months in the summer of 2009, recording their second studio album, the *Sun Will Rise* in Jason's home studio in San Diego with top producer Niko Bolas (Neil Young, John Mayer). After leaving TSG in 2014 James spent three years fronting the James Robinson Band and released a couple of well-received EPs after which he went on to take a course in event management. He is currently senior producer with Nibbs Events and as well as freelancing for his former employers at Penguin Random House.

## HARRY STEPHENSON CHELSEA ORME-WILLIAMS



It was after meeting up on a night out in 2014 that former PMC school friends **Harry Stevenson** and **Chelsea Orme-Williams** had the conversation that lead to them forming their four-piece originals band.

Chelsea had been learning guitar since the age of 16, but the day after she graduated her father passed away and so, reluctantly, she took on the family Ice Cream business. Putting pen to paper and words to music was a therapy that helped with the grieving process and was an opportunity to get away from the chaos of running the business.

Meanwhile, well-known on the local scene having played acoustic covers around town since he was 16, Harry was focussed more on music since having to give up sport. At 18, he'd had lymphoma, a cancer in his neck which doctors thought may have been as a result of catching a bug from dirty water in Indonesia. He'd recovered from that but then had liver failure and resulting serious complications.

Since recording their first self-penned EP, *Mr Penguin*, a self-assured mission statement consisting of five hard-hitting, honest songs delivered in an angsty indie rock style, Double Denim have gone on to establish themselves as one of the most highly regarded originals bands on the local scene. However, Chelsea, who released a solo album earlier this year, has recently moved to the US and so for the time being at least, the project is on hold.

## JOHN LANG



John Lang first picked up a guitar in 1968 after hearing the music being played at a blues club during school lunchtimes.

He started his musical career in Commune, a school band that also consisted of Mike Behenna, Pete Isbell and Rob Scott and they played all over Cornwall in the late 60s but rarely in Plymouth itself, although they did perform at the OPM Club in Efford on several occasions.

John has been augmenting and honing his considerable guitar skills around the city and beyond ever since and has a reputation locally as one of the finest blues guitarists of his generation.

He has been a member of a host of semi-professional bands including Sweet Life, Credo, Tin Feather (with Chris Constantinou on flute), Quarry, Luncheon Vultures, Viv & The Sections, The Dodgers, The Band That Time Forgot, GBH, Le Band, Hottentot Figs, Lang & Wood, Fluke and his current combo, Blues Assembly.



## KERI FUGE



Keri studied at the Guildhall School of Music and The National Opera Studio with Marilyn Rees and was sponsored by The Glyndebourne New Generation Programme.

Operatic engagements have included Cupid/Rossi's Orfeo Royal Opera House, Covent Garden at the Globe Theatre, Poppea/Agrippina Brisbane Baroque in Australia, Flavia/Lucio Silla International Händel-Festspiele Göttingen, Amore/Orfeo ed Euridice Bregenz Landestheater, Atalanta/Xerxes Early Opera Company, Aquilio/Pergolesi's Adriano in Siria Slowacki Theater, Kraków, Despina/Così fan tutte and Dona Isabel/Indian Queen for English National Opera, Gretel/Hansel and Gretel, Barbarina/Le Nozze di Figaro, Chocholka/The Cunning Little Vixen for Glyndebourne. Recent and future engagements include Philidell/A Nymph/Honour in King Arthur and Créuse/Médée both for the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Sophie/Werther, Zerlina/Don Giovanni, Noemie/Cendrillon, Morgana/Alcina all for the Stadttheater Klagenfurt, covering Pamina/Die Zauberflöte for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Messiah at St John's Smith Square with La Nuova Musica, Mendelssohn's Incidental Music to A Midsummer Night's Dream City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (recording with Chandos and Edward Gardner) Elijah with The CBSO in Birmingham and Monte Carlo, St. Matthew Passion, St John Passion, Mahler Symphony No. 8 for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Mozart Requiem and Messiah at the Royal Festival Hall, a concert tour in the UK and Europe with venues including Kultur und Kongresszentrum, Lucerne, Bach Cantatas and Beethoven Symphony no 9 with the Gulbenkian Choir and Orchestra, Vivaldi Gloria with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, a concert tour and recording (to be released spring 2019) with Academy of Ancient Music, Tim Mead and Christian Curnyn featuring music from the early 18th century.

## ALAN ROWE



At school, **Alan Rowe (50)** seemed destined for a career in classical music, but the jazz bug got him and it changed his life. From piano he turned to the saxophone and by the early '50s he was a competent tenor saxophonist. He soon made his mark and moved to London where he played for Edmundo Ros and Basil Kirchin. He appeared on the airwaves regularly, gigging on Music While You Work on the BBC with the Ray Fox Orchestra and other bands. In the '60s, following his success, he gained a scholarship to the prestigious Berklee School of Music in Boston, USA, where he studied composition.

Alan eventually played tenor saxophone in the Stan Kenton Orchestra and toured and recorded with the band.

In later years a gum disorder put paid to his tenor playing and he reverted to his first love, piano.

Settling in Huntington Beach, he formed a trio with flute and bass and played for two American presidents. He died in California in 2011.

## FINN PETERS



Hailed as one of the leading flute and sax players in the UK, **Finn Peters** comes from a family of musicians which can be traced back to the 1600s.

He grew up surrounded by famous musicians, first started playing flute at five years old then picking up a sax when he was 11 and practiced nonstop in his teens.

Having studied musicology at Durham University and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he developed an all-encompassing approach to composition, working with some of the most progressive pioneering artists, including Giovanni Hidalgo, DJ Spinna, Sam Rivers and Sa-Ra, travelling the world as a session player while continuing to learn about music around the globe.

As well as working on dozens of recordings for other artists, Finn created his own recordings and the two Dr Seus EPs, released on his own imprint, Mantella Records, were played in clubs across Europe by high profile tastemakers such as Gilles Peterson and Mr Scruff.

Critics and musicians consistently laud his work and in 1999 he won the London Young Jazz Musician Award while in 2005, his collaboration with Bembe Segue, The Birds, was nominated for track of the year in the BBC Radio 1 Worldwide award.

With his debut release for Babel records, Su-Ling, he created a jazz album that sits comfortably alongside hip hop, world and classical music. Little wonder Jazzwise described him as being "head and shoulders above his peers".

## JONATHAN MALLALIEU



Freelance composer, musician, producer and currently artistic director of Beauville Arts, **Jonathan Mallalieu (88)** studied music at Oxford University and worked as a freelance musician before postgraduate studies at London University and St Andrew's University. He has had a distinguished career in the world of performing arts and has been director of music in several UK and international schools.

Jonathan has extensive experience as a theatrical director, having produced over 70 full-scale musical shows including *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oliver*, *The Insect Play*, *Grease*, *West Side Story* and many more. He has also composed TV theme tunes, cinema commercials and music for documentaries, video and short film, in the UK, Europe and the United States. In addition Jonathan has written many songs, piano pieces, orchestral works, educational music and a musical.







# RICHARD AND LAURA NEWNHAM



*Chatsworth Farm, September 2018 L-R: Pippa Smith, Pat Newnham, Laura Newnham, Richard Newnham, Johanna Timson, Jill Newnham, James Newnham.*

On 8 September 2018 Richard Newnham (99) married Laura Maxon at Chatsworth Farm near Blandford Forum. Son of Pat Newnham (60) and Jill (67 **St Dunstons**) the happy couple were joined by several other OPMs and family members, including Richard's sisters, Pippa Smith, Johanna Timson (who now teaches at the Prep), and brother James Newnham (97).

Other OPMs in attendance were Richard Creber, Rodney Harper and John Herman from Pat's era and Dan Conaghan, Patrick Phipps, James West and Gareth Walker from Richard's. There were also a couple of future generation OPMs at the event, Joanna's children Phoebe, who's currently at the Main School and Harry who's at the Prep.

## FREDDIE AND CLAIRE LOWSON

On Saturday 8 December last year at Marylebone Town Hall, Freddie Lowson married Claire Haddon-Grant. It was a family only affair, but in June 120 friends and family are going to

Corfu, where Claire's family have a house, for a more informal celebration of their wedding. A lot of OPMs will be attending, including Freddie's brother, Henry (01) and father Peter (67).



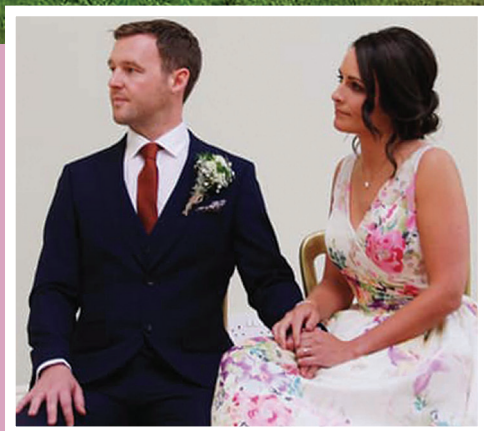
Nuptial shout outs also go to **Steve Cowsill** (04), **Nick Middleton** (04), **Sam Cloud** (07) and **Yerv Agobiani** (07) but at the time of going to press we had no further details.





## ADAM AND HOLLEE DABBS

On Saturday 6 October 2018 Adam Dabbs (04) married Hollee Currid in Temple House, Ballymote, County Sligo. The couple met at Stirling University, where groomsman and fellow OPM Rob Cowsill was also a student. Other OPMs at the wedding included cousins Jon Hall (10) and his sister Ellie (11).



Lr: Jon Hall, Dave Hay, Rob Cowsill, Adam Dabbs Ian Phillips, Alex Rose and Joseph Cashin





## CHLOE AND SAM JOHNSON



Chloe and Sam were married at Port Eliot in Cornwall on 15 September 2018 in beautiful late summer sunshine. The ceremony took place in the orangery and the reception was held in a marquee in front of the house. Of her six bridesmaids, three – Megan Palmer, Josie Hallett (Roper) and Stefanie

Hajiyanni – were OPMs and many more of her ex-school friends were guests including Brogan Cusack, Yasmin Hajiyanni, Isabelle Hajiyanni, Jemima Pezzella (O'Keefe), Lauren Autey, Charlie McCartney, Tom Burrell, Joss Pincet, James Steven and Harry Pincet.



James Steven

Harry and Joss Pincet



Charlie McCartney, Lauren Autey





*Stefanie Hajjiyanni, Naomi Johnson, Harriett Evans, Chloe Robinson, Megan Palmer, Josie Hallett, Gabi Smith*

Other OPMs present included brothers James and Ben Robinson, father Chris as well as her godfather Alan Harris. Recently retired teacher Richard Palmer, Megan's father, was also present.

Chloe had met Sam five years previously when he joined her brother James' band as drummer. They now live in Putney, London, where they work together in their own successful video company The Visuals Team.



*Megan, Richard and Jane Palmer. Right: Ben Robinson, Clare Robinson, Sam and Chloe Johnson, Chris Robinson and James Robinson.*



## Dr ANDY REES OBE



*Andy Rees receiving his OBE from Prince Charles at an Investiture on 20 February 2019.*

**M**y very small five minutes of fame getting an OBE in the New Year's Honours 2019 led to the editor twisting my arm to write a bit about myself, so here goes.

My association with Plymouth College goes back to when I started in Division 4 in the Prep School, in 1967, at the aged seven. After winning the form prize at the end of the year, I was put into the next class the year above, so then spent the rest of my school life nearly a year younger than the average class age. My memory of the Prep is getting hazy, but I recall the free school milk we all had (in small reusable glass bottles), the water fountain (no plastic water bottles in those days) and Mr Brigstock's woodwork lessons where I learnt the very valuable skill of tying a clove-hitch knot, which has stayed with me to good effect ever since!

Moving to the Main School at the age of ten, I was lucky to have most of my Prep friends join with me. Never the best at languages, Latin proved a particular challenge, but I managed to grasp French enough to get by. The sciences and maths were my best subjects. We were all fortunate to be taught maths by the indomitable Ted Mercer. A great character, but with a sharp aim with the chalk if you ever transgressed! His teaching skills were so brilliant that I think 13 out of a class of 23 of us got A grade one in maths O-Level when we took it a year early in the Fourth Form. Biology was my best subject, and I always rose to the challenge to get the best mark possible for Frank Jeffrey's homework. He worked us hard, but rewarded our efforts. I am forever in his debt for his inspirational teaching. He even indulged my interest in geology, stretching the Natural History



*'I now enjoy the challenge of routinely speaking about rubbish in front of audiences of many hundreds.'*



*Andy Rees in full flow, talking rubbish.*

Society to cover fossils and minerals, which I co-led for a while with fellow pupil Chris Thomas.

My other notable memory of Plymouth College was being able to do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. I learnt so many useful skills that have made hiking in remote countryside a life-long, and safe, passion. Our Silver Award expedition across Dartmoor is worth a mention. Canvas tents, nylon kagools, solid fuel stoves, and frame rucksacks were the order of the day then. Two days of constant rain and mist across a very wild part of Dartmoor were an extra special challenge that we overcame without hitch, despite being soaked to the skin.

An extra curricular activity that a number of us joined in with as 15/16-year-olds was

becoming active participants in Plymouth Youth Theatre, enthusiastically supported by the manager of Plymouth Arts Centre, Bernard Samuels, formerly a language teacher at Plymouth College. The improvisation sessions we did with the Youth Theatre, and the several productions we put together and acted in, all helped us develop as individuals. They certainly stood me in very good stead whenever I have had to do role-plays in management courses! I was sad to hear that the Arts Centre has recently closed.

A special mention of my time at the School must be that it was the first year that young ladies joined the school, four of them in the Lower Sixth in 1975. To say that they were a novelty is a bit of an understatement! Although they may have different memories, I recall we all fitted well, and the novelty eventually wore



*Running the Swansea 10k in September 2018.*

off. A final finale for me was attending the centenary dance in the Meade King Hall in my last year in 1977. Dancing to 'I Feel Love' by Donna Summer a few feet away from my parents was a bit strange!

Feeling slightly guilty that I was being disloyal to Mr Jeffrey, I started a degree in geochemistry in Reading University when I left school after my A-Levels, at the tender age of 17. I saw geochemistry as a pathway to working in the environmental field, my interest having been awakened by the long hot summer and drought of 1976. I thoroughly enjoyed life at Reading, boosted by the heady days of punk music, with bands often playing at the Uni. Managing to do a bit of work, I got a good enough degree to be able to go on to do a PhD at Swansea Uni, studying the geochemistry

of the mud in Swansea Bay. An academic career beckoned for a while, but after several environmental research jobs, including a spell in the Environmental Sciences Department at the University in Plymouth, where I met my future wife who was working at Plymouth Museum, I decided to go out and actively fight for the environmental cause by becoming a Pollution Control Officer with the National Rivers Authority in Derby. A move to the head office of NRA Wales in Cardiff followed.

After a decade and a half studying and tackling water pollution, the creation of Environment Agency Wales in 1996 afforded me the opportunity to move into the waste field. From there I became head of the Welsh Government's waste strategy team, where I have been ever since for the last 19 years. We started with Wales on a recycling rate of 7% and it is now 63%. Wales has moved from a position near the bottom of the world recycling league to now being third. I think this is the main reason why I was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours 2019, for 'services to the environment and recycling in Wales'.

On a personal level, I was never sporty in school, and remember particularly hating cross-county runs around Central Park! A pity I didn't make more of it, as in later life I've found I'm quite a reasonable runner (up to half marathon distance), though strictly amateur. I am now a proud member of a local running club in Swansea, and by an amazing coincidence so too is Dr Dean Hardie, who I was in the same class with all the way through Plymouth College! He is an amazing tri-athlete/ironman.

Although carrying the guilt of far too many carbon miles, I have travelled reasonably far and wide with my professional artist wife Rowan Huntley, who has a passion for painting all things snowy and icy. We have

been to Antarctica, Greenland, Iceland, Arctic Norway and several parts of the Alps and Dolomites. We have learnt what we will lose as global warming continues its path of destruction.

I still keep in touch with a number of my contemporaries, principally Kevin Axworthy (recently retired from a life long banking career, living in Plymouth) and Andy Finch (senior tax inspector with HMRC, living near Edinburgh). We have shared a common interest in Plymouth Argyle and The Jam. Every now and again I see Al Reeby, Neil Franklin and Nige Leehane.



*Wedding 1991 L-R: Kevin Axworthy, Andy Rees, Andy Finch*

Although Wales has done well in recycling, we are not resting on our laurels, and have so much more to do, not least in tackling the scourge of unnecessary single use plastic. As someone who used to be terrified of reading the lesson in school morning assembly, I now enjoy the challenge of routinely speaking about rubbish in front of audiences of many hundreds at national and international conferences! I think Frank would have approved.

*Plymouth Youth Theatre group at Plymouth Arts Centre December 1975. Plymouth College boys from back, left to right - back row Dave Hoath, Matt Bone, Andy Rees, Al Reeby; next row: Andy Finch; next row: Geoff Corless, Chris Lawrence, Phil Boucherat; next row: Mike Gilmore, Kevin Axworthy. [All but Dave Hoath and Geoff Corless were in my year, I think Dave and Geoff were in the year below].*







## RICHARD LATTO

I'm a multimedia presenter and producer for the BBC with a base in Southampton, where I live with my wife, Sabina, two children Myles and Rory and Ralph the dog — never a dull moment! My work takes me all over the country and around the world on a variety of projects for television, radio and online audiences.

In recent years I've made television documentaries on Jerry Lewis' contentious holocaust comedy *The Day The Clown Cried* and a fascinating cold-case murder trial called *The Porthole Mystery*, where we were able to question the death sentence given to a defendant in a very complicated case. I'm just about to embark on a trip to Switzerland to

present and produce a special for BBC TV on the 50th anniversary of the James Bond movie *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

For radio I present a weekly indie and alternative music show called *Stereo Underground* for BBC stations across the south, but my main passion is making documentaries on comedy for network BBC stations. It's been tremendous fun working with the family and friends of Tony Hancock, Peter Sellers and Kenny Everett amongst others, creating honest and warm-hearted reflections of some of the country's biggest names in comedy.

I recently produced a national documentary for the 60th anniversary of the *Carry On* films, working with Jim Dale who I was delighted agreed to present my special show. Amongst the rare material that we uncovered all over the country, was the last ever interview with Sid James, which had been recorded just before his tragic and sudden death on stage. It had sat disregarded in an attic for over 40 years. After remastering the audio we reunited it with his three children for a very emotional moment.

In my spare time I run my own multimedia business and work for other companies, supplying voice-overs and managing various projects. At the end of last year I produced my first feature-length documentary for the Doctor Who team at BBC Studios, which was screened at the BFI.



*Filming the Porthole documentary  
at Winchester Great Hall*

*To date Richard's documentaries  
have won him two Frank Gillard  
Awards, nine New York Int Awards  
and a Radio Academy nomination  
for Features Producer of the Year.*



*Jim Dale from the Carry On documentary.*

# John PICKFORD

College boy in the early Sixties



*Speech Day 1964: Professor N.G.L. Hammond, C.M.Meade-King, John Paton and John Pickford*

When John Pickford left Plymouth College he spent four years at Exeter College, Oxford doing a degree in Modern History and what was then a Dip Ed prior to becoming a teacher. From 1970 to 1974 he worked at Reigate Grammar School – then a state school. From 1974 to 2002 taught at Oxted County School on the Surrey/Kent border before taking early retirement from teaching responsibilities. John then continued to work at Oxted –

Oxted School as it had become – in a consultancy role associated with various quality standards such as the Charter Mark.

In 2010 he eventually retired. Having met his wife when she was the French Assistante at Reigate Grammar School the two are now settled in France, living just outside Lille.

What follows is John's personal account of his time at Plymouth College.



College boy in the early sixties – trying to avoid 'sensual snare' if you were lucky enough to find it !

The Headmaster, Mr. Meade-King was a formidable man. I think he only spoke to me once personally during my school career. He was an alumnus of Exeter College, Oxford, to which I was bound. I think it was a quick 'Congratulations and all the best'. We knew him initially as 'The Voice,' the heard-but-not-seen chief villain in the Gary Halliday TV series of the time.

Meade-King had a particular way of saying 'particularly' – a word he used a lot. A memorable moment involved an assembly in which he mentioned events linked to the twinning of Plymouth with Brest. 'There is a Brest exhibition in the Public Library which I think you will find particularly interesting'. There was, but it didn't live up to expectations!

These were pre-web days. An honest and inquisitive lad from St. Budeaux had to be prepared to don a scruffy raincoat and head down to Bonus Books at Frankfort Gate or the Plaza on Bretonside when the opportunity presented itself.

So it was that during one of the holidays a small but select group of us, keen to expand our knowledge, found ourselves offered an unexpected chance of a lifetime. It wasn't immediately clear from several rows back but on returning from an initial confirmatory identification foray/toilet visit to the front of the theatre, it was verified that a distinguished and perhaps unreasonably unloved maths teacher was indeed sitting a few rows in front of us.

An impromptu outbreak of staggered weak bladders immediately manifested themselves

and of course politeness – we were College boys after all – demanded a cheery 'Good afternoon, Sir' at each passage and return – an understandably hesitant and muffled acknowledgement inevitably followed – embarrassment should never gainsay politeness especially when utterly defenceless. We left just before the end of the film and never mentioned the business again – there was no need to, of course.

I had a great time in the Scouts – the 22nd Plymouth. It was widely assumed that the Scouts was the 'weedy boy' option for Tuesday afternoons – real men joined the CCF. This was certainly true in my case although I quickly learned that it took a special sort of courage to brave the sneering, but silent, mockery of the largely shopgirl occupants of the 43 bus from Ennesettle on a Tuesday morning in scout uniform before long trousers came in.

Camps at Werrington Park, Launceston, and at Chagford were great fun and travelling to and fro in the back of a lorry full of all the camp gear showed just how far health and safety still had to go. The Scouts also provided me with the College achievement of which I am most proud – we won the Plymouth Senior Scouts six-a-side football trophy on the huge pitches of the Laira arena – not bad for weedy boys from a rugby school!

Rugby was 'king' of course at the College, to the extent that I can remember pupils having to watch two First XV games a season. Prefects had lists and names were ticked off. I can recall doing just that at Pannycross Stadium. I can't imagine what happened to those whose ticks were missing. When John Gabbitas got his Blue at Oxford we had to watch the game in the tiered gallery of the science department lecture theatre.

Rugby, for those like me who were not school team players, meant meaningless treks to Elburton and Delganey for so called 'side league' games which were always entertaining but bore little resemblance to rugby.

When Argyle entertained Spurs in the 4th Round of the FA Cup in Jan 1962 last minute good sense prevailed and all rugby was cancelled for that afternoon. This meant that Ted Mercer could watch the match too! When Jimmy Greaves' first game back in England, following his troubled spell at AC Milan, was for Spurs Reserves at Home Park, Ted had us calculating how many cars his fee would buy and what percentage of the Argyle car park they would fill !

I enjoyed the teaching of some iconic practitioners – Dennis Collinson, Harry Travena, Ted Mercer, Hugh Dent, and the stately PM Parker. I remember being in the admin office half way up the stairs at the staff room end when Mr Parker took a call – 'Mike Parker here' he said. I was amazed to hear he had a real name, to us he was always PMP. Then there was Tom Waldock, Ossie Veale, TAP Pritchard, 'Muscles Martin' and, of course, Jimmy Edwards 'King of the Gymnasium' – I was Number 3 Team Leader and was very proud to have been chosen. I have never been as worried as when I had to tell Mr. Edwards that I had broken one of the gym windows during a Scouts event – he couldn't have been nicer – 'these things happen, old chap!'

What modest sporting prowess I had was deployed in the school hockey and cricket teams. It was a special moment displaying my braided PMC blazer badge for the first time. It was also special scoring 76 against DHS for the First Eleven – at least I thought it

was special until in the nets on the following Monday when Ted Mercer pointed out to all concerned that it was permissible to score runs on the off-side too!

We had Dickie Bird as First Eleven consultant before he became the best umpire in the world. One of the best features of sport at the College was going away as a Junior Colt or Colt with the Second or First Eleven. It was de rigour to pretend that we knew and understood all the words of the littyany of dubious bawdy songs – often about an engineer's daughter or her friend Dinah! You certainly got a rounded education at the College !

Sport included Sports Day at the Brickfields where I nearly won the hurdles coming a frustrating 3rd after hitting the last hurdle while in the lead. It did however avoid the shock of Dales having to come to terms with a grain of sporting success. Athletics meant standards – for me it was the 100 metres and the High Jump – I was over the moon when somehow I managed to add the 200 metres. My recollection is that College House won everything.

Becoming a Prefect was a very big deal – becoming a Senior Prefect even more so – I still have my gown! Prefects' Meetings were an unbelievable throw back to a long lost era – my friend John Beresford I think was the first Head Boy to decide that caning had no part to play in the Head Boy's armoury. Prefects could behave very badly as they did regularly at Len Hong's Chinese Restaurant by the Nottingham at the end of the Plain.

The set piece that was Speech Day was always memorable – the service in the morning at St. Gabriel's, where my friend Mike Treneer's dad was the Vicar, and

the Guildhall, echoing to the rafters with Jerusalem, in the afternoon, preceded by a trip to the observation platform at the top of the Civic Centre, newly opened and, believe it or not, considered if not exactly a thing of beauty then, certainly nothing for the city fathers to be ashamed of.

There were regular hymn practices in Big School and the subliminal influence of school music has survived long after the initial dosage. 'Lord Behold Us', 'Lord Dismiss Us', Jerusalem, of course, and 'Quid si fasti' are indelibly fixed in my school archive. 'Free from sloth and sensual snare' – what splendid ambitions – if only!

During my time I remember the squash court being built and the Valletort Quad becoming home to new classrooms, the Prefects' Room and the dining hall in a major building development. I learned how to play fives and as an early arriver did so regularly before school. There was also quite a big train-spotting fraternity amongst us and I remember a phase of dashing down to and back from Laira at lunch time.

I had been at the Prep – Headmaster Mr ECA Firmin – so continuing to be called by my surname seemed totally unexceptional. When Dennis Collinson called me John for the first time I realised something special was on the horizon and I was right. I enjoyed editing the *Plymothian* under the direction of Charles l'Anson, affectionately known as 'Stumpy'.

I can still recall Nigel Radford teaching us History in 3X. His technique involved filling the board with tiny writing which we then copied down allowing him to put his feet up for 20 minutes or so before the ritual was repeated. During his moments of repose clearly evident was proof of his idiosyncratic



*Valletort Quad is opened, without the Biology Labs.*

attitude to socks – he didn't wear them! This made him very distinctive, probably unique even, in the Plymouth of the early 60s – this was excessive even for those swinging times. Sadly for Nigel Radford once we realised that he intoned what he was writing we took it as dictation and as he finished one board and turned to his chair we were all ready for the next. Not to be outdone he would immediately clean the board to punish the laggards and start again.

Dr (Perce) Batrick was Deputy Headmaster. He was a distant figure especially if you were not a scientist. I found out later that he had been a distinguished AAA athlete when I found his name in an old Programme I came across at a collectors' fair.

George Bonser was in charge of the Second Eleven cricket team – he was a very clever mathematician – if you got to be taught by George Bonser you could certainly do your sums!

The staff seemed a happy bunch who enjoyed what they were doing. As students we probably didn't set them the sort of challenge that can make a teacher's life a miserable one. We enjoyed school too – I really don't think I can remember any of my friends being unhappy or stressed. My six years and a term simply flew by.



## CHRIS BRANT

OPM encounters on the other side of the world



Gareth Williams, Ellen, Chris Brant, Paddy (rtd. Supreme Court Justice, NSW), Jon Nicholls, Anette Williams

**Chris Brant (67)** and his wife Ellen had a couple of great reunions with fellow OPMs during their recent cruise to New Zealand and Australia.

They met up with **Chris Morgan (69)** and his wife Hillary. The Brants spent the day with the Morgans who showed them around the beautiful city of Melbourne. The last time the Brants saw Chris Morgan was at the blessing of their marriage 45 years ago in CTCRM Lymestone, Devon.

The Brants cruise continued and just a few days later Ellen and Chris had a memorable meal in downtown Sydney with **Jon Nicholls (66)** and his partner Paddy. Apart from a very brief meeting about six years ago the last meaningful conversation Jon and Chris had had in person was back at the College in 1966, 53 years ago. The three couples agreed to make their meetings more frequent. The next meetings will probably be in Fountain Hills, Arizona where the Brants live.

While in Sydney Chris and Ellen stayed with a fellow shipmate, former Lieutenant Gareth Williams RN and his wife Annette. Gareth, was duty officer the night Ellen Brant, formerly Keyes, arrived early for a cocktail party to be held on the flight deck of HMS Minerva. Minutes later Gareth was able to make the first introduction of Ellen Keyes to Chris Brant. That was back in August 1973 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



Chris Brant, Chris Morgan with Ellen and Hillary

## PADDY HUTCHINS

GBR Olympic Sailing Test Event selection

**Paddy Hutchings**, has been selected to represent team GBR at a test event for the Double Handed Mixed Offshore Olympic event, which will be held in Paris in 2024.

The test event will be held in May 2019 in Newport, Rhode Island, following a nine-day training camp to prepare for the event. The event will be 24 hours long, nonstop, and the whole race will be live-streamed.

Of his selection, Paddy said: "This is a huge break for me in my career as a sailor, I've dreamt of going offshore sailing for years. To have opportunities like this as a result of the new event in the Olympics, and to be involved in these opportunities, is amazing. This event is the first of its kind to be held so I feel really lucky to part of the select few to be trialling it."

Niall Myant, Head Coach of the British Keelboat Academy, said: "The Olympics are moving in a much needed direction of mixed gender sports, reflecting the way the world outside of sport is for most of us. For our athletes to get a chance to compete at this event in New York, representing their country, on the first event to follow this new Olympic format is very exciting. Not only that, but training alongside and learning from some of the best sailors in the world is vital at the start of this year's Olympic pathway."

Paddy is currently in search of potential new sponsors to support his Olympic sailing.



## SEB TOOKE

Seb Tooke, currently in the Upper Sixth, has been selected to tour Ireland in April with the England Counties' Under-18 squad. The 23-player squad was selected following a national development weekend at Stourbridge RFC, where players gathered together for several days of coaching and selection.

Prior to being selected for England Counties', Seb impressed while representing South West England at Under-18 level, playing in the inter-regional competition against The North, Midlands and London and South East.







OPMs at Albion this Christmas past, with Peter Lowson (67), and a school rugby crew from 2003 Matt Barker, Grant Murray, James Lampe, James Berry, Freddie Lowson, Sam Taylor.



Above Lance Black and **Tom Daley** celebrate the arrival of their baby, Robert Ray, while below we see **Alex Trevarthen (05)** briefly back from down under with his baby Archer



Another OPM dynasty that have recently welcomed a new edition are the Newnham, above, while **Caspar Craven (90)** was guest speaker at a recent PMC Speech Day.





## HENRY SLADE

# HENRY SLADE AT THE SIX NATIONS



"It was a coming of age: Slade had a monumental match in attack and defence - this was how he was always meant to play, he was everything England wanted him to be in midfield", was the summing up of Sunday Times sports writer Stephen Jones of the England/Ireland match in the Six Nations 2019. He awarded him nine out of ten for his performance.

The same Times sports supplement featured a picture of Henry on the cover with the caption:

"Moment of glory: Henry Slade touches down for the first of his two tries in England's impressive win over the Grand Slam champions."

Sports writer Rebecca Myers also commented that the Exeter Chiefs player "had his best

match in an England shirt" and contributed massively towards the final score at the Aviva stadium in Ireland of England 32, Ireland 20. Understandably ecstatic after the game, Henry commented:

"It's a great feeling to come here and get a win: it's a top place to play. The way we dug in today we had a lot of defending to do. The boys put in a big shift the past couple of weeks in camp.

"We had two weeks training up for this game and we know exactly how we wanted to play. We executed it perfectly. We put the bodies on the line defensively and it was a really enjoyable game.

"I really enjoyed it - it was the first time I've had the chance to play with the chief, Manu, and who knows, maybe we can carry on."



Tim Lyddon

## Compton OPMs who gave their lives in the Great War

I was intrigued to happen upon Tim Lyddon's *'Gazetteer of those from the Parish of Compton Gifford who gave their lives in the First World War'* in Mannamead News recently. Tim (65), a lay reader at Emmanuel Church since his retirement as headmaster of St Budeaux Foundation C of E Aided Junior School 15 years ago, has put together a tribute to the 93 parishioners whose lives were commemorated with the creation of the Memorial Window at the west end of Emmanuel Church in 1920.

It was Emmanuel's Jubilee Year and the window, the final piece of stained glass to be placed in the church, was unveiled by the Mayor of Plymouth, Lovell Dunstan, in the presence of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Sir Cecil Thursby, the General Officer Commanding the Garrison, Brigadier General Dudgeon, and, as you might expect, a full congregation.

The memorial contains the names of 'all belonging to the parish who have fallen, without regard to creed or class, Churchmen, Nonconformists, Roman Catholics, rich and poor alike,' and was also intended to be 'an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for Victory and Peace.'

The Gazetteer is organised street by street

and as Tim notes in his introduction 'living memories may have gone but the places they lived have not.' Furthermore, 100 years ago Compton Gifford Parish 'consisted of Mulley Plain, Higher and Lower Compton and not a lot more' and yet '93 men from our parish did not return from the conflict that we now know as the First World War.'

'Barely a street,' observes Tim, 'escaped the arrival of the "Death Telegram".'

The author adds that over half of the servicemen so honoured are buried in France and only one in ten in Plymouth.

In an intriguing statistical section at the back of the book Tim further notes that over half of the 93 were under the age of 25 and that all but a handful were either killed in action, or died of wounds or were drowned at sea.

From a Plymouth College perspective, it's also interesting to note that at least a dozen of them were 'old' boys of the school.

Having said that, Tim actually only identifies a few as OPMs, however a quick look through the School's Record of Service reveals a much bleaker figure.

Certainly the higher figure is not altogether surprising given the fact that a lot of the boys lived locally in those days; that the school had

a Cadet Force and over 100 past pupils made the ultimate sacrifice during the course of the Great War.

Among those past pupils Tim identifies were: **Lieutenant Reuben Hinton Smith** (pictured with cap) who signed up aged just 17 and who died in January 1918 giving bomb instruction - the bomb exploded prematurely - he was 20.

**Captain Percival Drew Pitts Butcher**, who died aged 31 at the Military Hospital, Devonport (now Devonport High School for Boys). Curiously enough, as Tim notes, Captain Butcher's record card states that as he had not served overseas, he would not be entitled to any medals.

**2nd Lieutenant Stanley Wolferston**, of the local family of solicitors, who was killed near Saint Quentin on 3 April 1917, had not long turned 19 when he met his end, digging in after an attack.

**Lieutenant Russell Winnicott** (pictured left without cap) was also just 19 when he was killed in aerial action near Cambrai, in December 1917. Russell had taken part in over 50 aerial actions and had brought down 15 enemy aircraft.

In a missive to Russell's parents, his commanding officer wrote, 'Your son was one of the bravest pilots I have had in my squadron, his death has robbed me of one who was more than a friend.'

Russell's padre was equally effusive: 'Everybody loved him for his courage and cheeriness; as a pilot he had a great reputation, not only in his own squadron, but throughout the Wing; we were all awfully glad when got his MC which he most thoroughly deserved.'

**John Icely Cohen** left Plymouth College in 1907 aged 15, after three years at Ford Park, and was mortally wounded at Ypres ten years later. Two years earlier he'd survived a campaign at Ypres that had seen most of his battalion wiped out.

**Lieutenant Dudley Collins Francis** was 11 when he joined the College in 1898 and left five years later, emigrating to South Africa as a

civil engineer in 1912. At the outbreak of war he came back to England and joined the Royal Fusiliers - he was killed in action in France in November 1916.

**2nd Lieutenant Alan Gordon Hambly** lived overlooking the School at one point. A pupil at the College from 1905, he left in 1914 and was commissioned a week after his 18th birthday in April 1916. The following May he died of wounds sustained at Vimy Ridge.

Tim also records two pairs of brothers who are commemorated in the Emmanuel window, and who, as it transpires, also passed through Plymouth College.

**William and Douglas Charles Douglass-James** and Henry and Edward Jago.

The Douglass-James brothers lived in Ingledene, in Seymour Road (now home of the BBC in Plymouth), as schoolboys and were related to Sir James Douglass who built the Eddystone Lighthouse in 1882. William was the eldest by two years but tragically they died within days of each other in September 1915 in France.

**Captain Henry Jago** was three years older than his brother, **2nd Lieutenant Edward Jago**, and was 22 when Edward was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Both lads had been in the same hockey team at school and both joined the Devonshire Regiment. Surviving his brother by two years, Henry was something of a hero — he was awarded the Military Cross and the DSO with Bar. However in April 1918 he too met his untimely end, on the battlefield in France.

It may not have escaped the notice of most reading this that all of the OPMs mentioned were officers, the experience of the Cadet Force at School all conferring an advantage when entering the services.

All in all, over 500 OPMs served in the Great War and over 100 lost their lives. It is hard now, over 100 years on, to fully comprehend the horrors of that conflict and to appreciate the difficulties even the survivors had to live with, long after the fighting stopped.



## ROMA WILLIAMS *recalls St Dunstan's before the war*



*Roma Williams (nee Dampney) outside her parent's house at Grand Parade at West Hoe – note the World War II pill box in the garden behind her.*

Roma Williams (nee Dampney) went to St Dunstan's Abbey School back in 1926. She really enjoyed her time there, but her last year was marred by an accident in which someone had accidentally banged a tennis racket down onto her foot.

'It was in a full plaster cast for six weeks and a partial cast for another six. Having always walked to school, prior to that, I then had to rely on my mother wheeling me in each day from West Hoe to North Road West – there was none of this 'parents driving their children to the school gate' back in those days.

'We thought nothing of walking to school in those days, rain or shine. My mother always insisted that I wore a sou'wester when it rained, but school rules dictated that we shouldn't wear anything except our grey school hats, so it was a question of switching over just before reaching school.'

The school was then run by the Sisters of

Wantage, principally, Sister Margaret Theresa, and the sisters also did most of the teaching. 'Sister Phyllis was my favourite, she was sweet, she taught history, I didn't like the sister who taught Latin.

'My injury meant that it was a struggle to get around to all my lessons at school. So I ended up taking typing, bookkeeping and shorthand lessons, in the commercial section of the school because that was all on the ground floor.'

It stood me in good stead because it meant that I got a job easily on leaving school. I went to work for Nevill, Hovey, Smith & Co. Chartered Accountants, who were based in Athenaeum Terrace, which was fine until war broke out.

Roma joined the Wrens and found herself working at HMS Defiance. 'It was a boat trip across the Hamoaze every morning as Defiance was moored off Wilcove. I was appointed as a writer to Commander Jackson,

he was a very nice man to work for. Before long however I was working in a female section under Superintendent Wilby, I wasn't used to that, but they were good to me and I was forwarded for a Commission.

After completing my cipher and signals training at Greenwich, then Petersfield, Roma thought that she would be sent to Portsmouth as most of the other girls were: 'But I was dispatched to Chatham. Their reasoning was that if I was at Portsmouth, it being that much closer to Plymouth, I'd be tempted to go home more often!

'Chatham was much closer to the action, we had V1 and V2 raids, one of them made a massive crater just outside our building, you could have fitted a double decker bus into that hole. They were real killers.'

On balance however Roma was pleased to be at Chatham and in June 1944 she found herself at the very heart of events, working throughout the night of the D-Day landings.

'Everything was delayed by 24 hours because of the weather. All the timings had to be changed. There were two of us shut in a locked office. We didn't stop all night, we started at 8pm and went on until 8am. We weren't allowed to tell anyone what we'd done, not anyone, not even the shift that came on after us. They had to wait until the news broke – they couldn't believe we hadn't told them. It was all very exciting and quite an honour to be so trusted.

Shortly afterwards there was a bit of a row between George VI and Churchill, they both wanted to go across to Normandy to proffer moral support. The government were reluctant for either of them to go. In the end Churchill went. He was heavily guarded and we received regular updates on his whereabouts. We were much relieved to get the signal he had returned safely.



Roma spent VE Day in London, with great crowds gathered around Piccadilly Circus. Given the option to stay on she declined and was discharged in December 1945. With the world settling back into some sort of order Roma got a job with Plymouth solicitor Roger Serpell and was with him until 1951 when her first child was born – she's lived here ever since.

It's interesting now to reflect on the fact that at that time Roger Serpell was clerk to the Governors, having succeeded his father Charles, in the role. Mr Serpell senior used to come into the office and ask me to type notes up for him on things he was doing, but Roger would always tell him not to bother me. (Nb. Charles Serpell produced the first history of Plymouth College – it was published posthumously in 1950).

Oddly enough, in the light of the merger of St Dunstan's with Plymouth College, 15 years ago, one of Roma's tasks as Roger's PA was to keep track of the payments made by parents in respect of their Plymouth College school fees. A far cry from the complex set up of the school finance department of today. But then that was 70 years ago!

Back to today, and asked recently if there was any secret to her long life, the nimble-minded 97 year-old said that walking everywhere and eating proper food, fresh food, no junk food, and not too much of anything either, had undoubtedly helped.

## THE STORY OF ST DUNSTANS



1924: The Terrace

**A**mong the bits and pieces that Roma Williams had in her collection of St Dunstan's related ephemera was an early history of the school written by Sister Margaret Teresa - Sister Superior at the school since September 1920, and several pages of typewritten material, some of it from the 1980s and some from 1956.

The School history was written in 1928 when Roma was a pupil there and is fascinating as it contains a number of photographs taken at the time and quite a few taken in 1907 when the school was handed over to the Sisters of Wantage — or rather the Wantage Community of St Mary the Virgin. The 1956 paperwork is very interesting as it tells us a great deal about how the school was saved from extinction that year, and the later material is revealing as it chronicles the key dates over the next 25 years of the school history.

The overall picture painted is a remarkable story of the ups and downs and uncertainties that have hovered over the establishment over the years.

In her account of the early history of the school Sister Teresa, looking for a date to

hang her publication on, took 1848 as being the year it was established and hence 1928 marked a major anniversary for St Dunstan's.

However, the truth is that 1848 was the year that 27-year-old Lydia Sellon turned up in Devonport with a friend and set up an educational enterprise of sorts in a room in Milne Place, Devonport.

Arriving in answer to a request from the Bishop of Exeter, Henry Philpotts, Miss Sellon assembled a group, initially 'The Devonport Society' and later 'The Sisters of Mercy,' around her through the Community of the Holy Cross. It was the first group of C of E nuns to come together since the Reformation.

Responding to an outbreak of cholera the following year, Miss Sellon and her sisters set up a temporary hospital on the site, above the Mere (the marshy, boulder strewn inlet that was once Stonehouse Creek).

Remarkably the Sisters treated almost 300 victims in a three month period, thankfully 177 were discharged, but sadly 121 died and many more succumbed without ever reaching the hospital. They were harrowing times.



The following year Miss Sellon bought the land on which the hospital had stood and founded St Dunstan's Abbey, named in honour of St Dunstan of Glastonbury, who had connections with the Westcountry and was noted for his educational work and his attempts at reviving the monastic discipline in the Anglo-Saxon church. There appear to be no proper grounds for using the epithet 'Abbey' although that is the name that has stuck throughout many changes.

Plans were drawn up, free of charge, by William Butterfield, architect and a follower of the Anglo-Catholic Movement (he was also responsible for Keble College, Oxford, founded by another Anglo-Catholic champion, John Keble).

The foundation stone was laid on 10 October 1850 and present among the dignitaries that day was Edward Pusey, a friend and patron of Miss Selon. Pusey had founded the small 'Community of the Holy Cross' in London and this undoubtedly influenced Miss Sellon, who had been a visitor there in 1845. It would appear that the choice of St Dunstan may

have been at Pusey's suggestion and certainly the Plymouth Sisters kept a small room above the school's entrance for Dr Pusey's use.

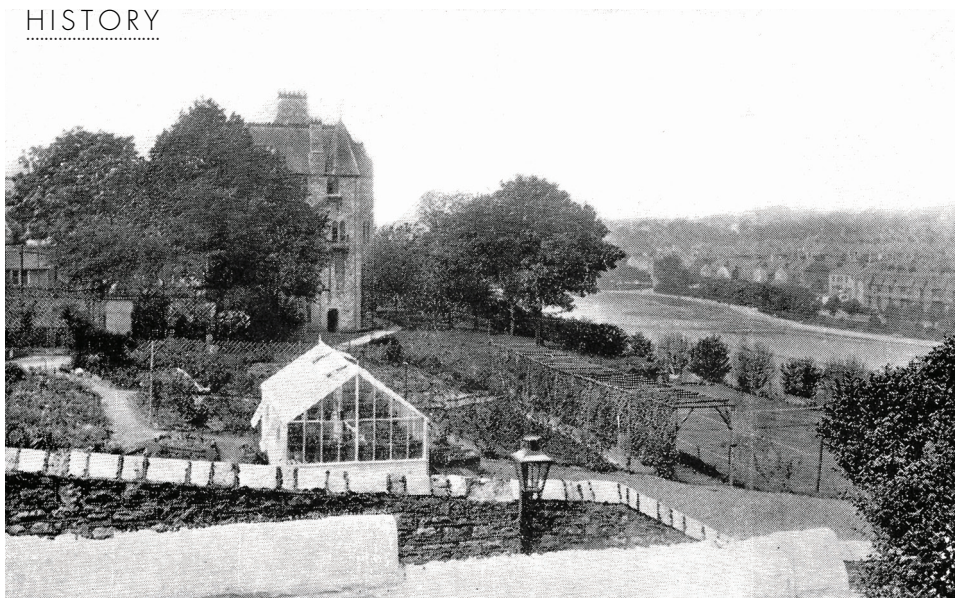
Miss Sellon was born Pricilla Lydia Smith in 1821, her surname and that of her father (a Commander in the Royal Navy), was changed the year before she came to Devon, it was in connection with a family inheritance. Her paternal grandfather, Thomas Smith had been receiver general to the dean and chapter of St Paul's, while her mother died shortly after she was born.

Notwithstanding all of the above, it is felt that the founding of the religious house was not the same as the foundation of the school as such, indeed the date for that eventuality is said to have been 1865, although the writer of the most recent set of notes that Roma supplied suggested that 'There is only fragmentary and no consecutive information on the establishment between 1853 and 1906.'

What happened in 1906 was that the Society of the Holy Trinity, whose Mother House was at Ascot, and who were then in charge at North Road, decided to pull out of Plymouth.



1908: Recreation room at St Dunstan's - note book cases, some sewing and a pram - no radio, no TV no Social Media!



1928: view from St Dunstan's across the relatively newly infilled section of Stonehouse Creek - Victoria Park.

Lydia Sellon had died some 30 years earlier and there was apparently no appetite for the institution here or its retention — the Holy Trinity Society were advised to demolish the buildings on site. It rather looked like the end of the school, which up to that point had had a girls' and a boys' element to it.

Step forward 47-year-old Father Hugh Downton, Vicar of St Peter's, who with the blessing of the Bishop of Reading, prevailed upon the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage, to add St Dunstan's to the Wantage group of schools.

And so it was, to cut a long story short, that in April 1907 St Dunstan's Abbey School was opened 'with 17 pupils, including seven from the previous St Angela's School, named from the original school rooms used, just off the main vestibule. Hugh Downton became the first school chaplain and on 6 June St Dunstan's day was celebrated for the first time at the school.

Before the year was out the foundation stone had been laid on the first of a series of new buildings — the Refectory.

Within a few years the numbers had increased to 132, 30 of whom were boarders. Gradually the numbers grew: in the summer of 1924 Public School status was achieved and that autumn the first three pupils to leave school for University, left St Dunstan's.

A public school it might have been, but most of the teaching, the administration and the day to day housekeeping was done by the Sisters, for no salary. It meant that overheads were low, and that fees could be kept low, but it wasn't sustainable.

In August 1955 'all parents were advised that school would close at the end of the Summer Term 1956.' Two reasons were given: rising costs and a lack of teaching Sisters. As the Assistant Mother General wrote 'this Community has a number of other schools and commitments of many kinds, not only in England, but also in India and South Africa, and the demands they make on our resources are very great. Not every Sister by any means is a School sister. All the good will and talk in the world cannot solve this problem.'



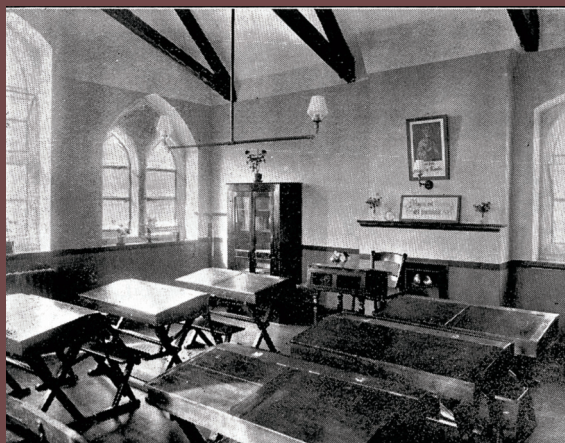
1908: The School Dormitory.

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*In August 1955 'all parents
 were advised that school
 would close at the end of the
 Summer Term 1956.'*
 ~~~~~

Perhaps not, but, largely thanks to the efforts of three parents Harold Gambrell, Ronald Harper and Arthur Lyddon the school was saved, again.

Harold Gambrell was the main motivator and Arthur Lyddon (OPM and father of Tim, referenced elsewhere in this Magazine, and Mary, then aged 11), was his right-hand man and Ronald Harper (father of Gail and Rodney OPM) it was who called the meeting.

On 19 September 1956 the re-constituted school opened for business with May Tamplin the new Headmistress. A further period of expansion ensued and in 1959 Lady Astor bought the old Royal Naval Hospital Cemetery for the School. Norman Clarke, the Bishop of Plymouth, had suggested the idea



1908: The Form Room.

and the plot subsequently became known as the Bishop's Garden.

After 24 years at the helm Mary Tamplin was succeeded, in 1970, by Hazel Ably, who would herself serve over 20 years before handing over to the school's first male head, Robin Bye, in 1991.

This development takes us beyond Roma's paperwork, she served as a Governor of the School herself for a number of years, and for the benefit of those who perhaps are unaware of what happened next ...

It was not long before Mr Bye found himself in the unenviable position of having to move the girls from their original home in North Road West to a 'new' location in the grounds of the former Royal Naval Hospital, now known as the Millfields.

The school was never quite the same however and in 2005 it merged with the College. After much debate Plymouth College Prep moved from Hartley Road to the Millfields and most of the girls then at St Dunstons moved up to Ford Park to join what had already been a fully co-ed establishment for ten years.



# LODGE

## Report 2019



Lloyd Inwood

Worshipful Master

At the Installation meeting in October 2017, Lloyd Inwood was installed as Worshipful Master of the OPM Lodge and 51 members and brethren attended and dined.

At the November meeting W Bro Bill Daw gave the Walking Charge which is primarily for the benefit of those members who have recently been raised to the Third Degree but always interesting for all.

The January 2018 meeting was kept as brief as possible to ensure plenty of time for the popular social evening that followed. The entertainment was well received and this proved to be the usual popular event enjoyed by all the wives, partners and guests who were present.

At the February Lodge meeting W Bro Colin Gale presented Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros Nigel Deacon and Mark Williams who were then warmly congratulated on achieving Master Mason status by the Worshipful Master and Lodge. W Bro Gale then gave a very interesting account of the history and

development of the masonic dining tradition known as the Festive Board.

In March, a ballot was taken for a potential new member and the Lodge then worked sections of the First Degree in preparation for the April meeting when Michael White was Initiated. In May W Bro Stephen Welsh presented the Explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board.

In March a delegation of Lodge members attended a fraternal visit to Royal Albert Edward Lodge No 906 in Bath. This was at the suggestion of W Bro Bernard Veale, Past Master of OPM Lodge and a regular member of Royal Albert Edward Lodge. It is hoped that a return visit will occur in 2019 and become a regular event.

On 31 May R W Bro Robin Osborn, Past Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire and an Honorary Member of the OPM Lodge passed to the Grand Lodge above. At the following meeting the Brethren stood in silence as a token of respect to departed merit, having heard a eulogy delivered by W Bro John Smerdon.

The September meeting was busy with the usual election of officers for the ensuing year and the Second Degree ceremony for Bro Michael White. W Bro Lloyd Inwood was elected to serve as Worshipful Master for a second year in succession.

During the year the Lodge donated £1,800 to support our local Crime-stoppers charity and the very worthwhile local charity, Plymouth Christmas Basket Brigade, which donated 130 food hampers to needy local families nominated by the education welfare officers of Plymouth schools.

The Lodge meets at Manadon Masonic Hall, Crownhill, Plymouth at 6.45pm on the third



Brendan Brookshaw presenting Crimestoppers with the Lodge donation

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 which includes the singing of the Carmen. 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. Male relatives of pupils or those with a connection to Plymouth College or St Dunstons may be eligible. If you 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](mailto:secretary@opmlodge6279.co.uk)



Volunteers packing the Christmas hampers

# Roger ELLIOTT

7 March 1922 – 7 March 2019

**Teacher at PMC 1949-1987**

Roger Elliott died on Thursday, 7 March, 2019 on his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Roger was born in Barnet on 7 March 1922 to Walter William Elliott from Edinburgh and Maria Margherita Elliott (nee Traversa) from Novi Ligure near Alessandria in Northern Italy. He was their middle son with an elder brother William and a younger brother Oliver. All three boys grew up speaking English to their father and Italian to their mother. The family moved to Bedford while Roger was still a young boy and he attended Bedford Modern School. When war broke out Roger joined the Local Defence Volunteers which later became the Home Guard.

He was called up and, after a period of time in the ranks, attended RMA Sandhurst from where he passed out in early 1944. He served in the Reconnaissance Corps in Northern France and at the end of the war he went up to Cambridge University to read modern languages. His father had attended Fitzwilliam College and Roger found no problem in gaining entry to the same establishment – he was told that “their loyalty to Old Fitzbillians bordered on the criminal”. In 1949 he was interviewed by Headmaster, BH Garnons-Williams to teach languages at Plymouth College, where he thought he would stay for four or five years. In fact he stayed for the whole of his teaching career, retiring in 1987.

Roger will be fondly remembered by hundreds of pupils for his dedication to teaching French, running the School

Shooting Team and as the Commanding Officer of the Combined Cadet Force. He was made an OBE in 1985 for his contribution to the CCF.

Doreen, Roger’s wife, was also well known at the school, frequently visiting and talking to the boys. Roger and Doreen had met in Bedford to where Doreen had been evacuated from London. They lived in Clearbrook for most of their years together and Roger’s popularity was evidenced by the frequent visits by old colleagues and especially by old boys who were taught by him. He had an excellent memory and could remember the names and subsequent careers of a large number of the old pupils who called on him.

Roger is survived by William, his younger son, Barbara (William’s wife) and their two daughters, Louise and Laura. William’s elder brother Philip was Head Boy at PMC in 1970/71 but died in 1988 which understandably caused great heartache to both Roger and Doreen. Although William lives in Yorkshire, he regularly visited his Dad to “check up on him” and he always found him spritely and in good health even managing to attend OPM lunches and dine-ins, enjoying the company of ‘boys’ that he taught during his time at school. He also enjoyed winning the bottle of wine for the oldest attendee! Although his physical strength deteriorated during the early weeks of 2019, his mental capacity remained as sharp as ever. Roger will be missed by everyone who knew him.







William Elliott with Roger at what proved to be his last OPM function, the 2018 cricket lunch.

Some comments from OPM's on Facebook to William following Roger's death:

Paul Voisin: such sad news on the passing of the great man.

Jeremy Coles: you were blessed to have him live to such a great age

Gordon Lamb: he was a fine man, a great teacher and a splendid CO of the CCF. It was a privilege to meet him again after so many years back in 2014. I believe that he was the last of those teachers who really made an impression

Nigel Moore: Many memories of Fuzz from PMC days. Even though initially I met him at your house (in Clearbrook), I found him quite terrifying but with the CCF and particularly the Brecon camps at Easter I came to know him much better. Like Gordon (Lamb) it was a real

pleasure to see him again at the 2014 reunion. For many of us, another link to the past has slipped away.

Stephen Collier : As you know, Roger had a significant positive impact on my life... a thoroughly good man.

Jonathon Moore: Your father was one of the great characters of many of our youthful lives. His passing reminds us of what some respectfully call "the greatest generation". Evidently that character was undimmed by the years. A great innings.

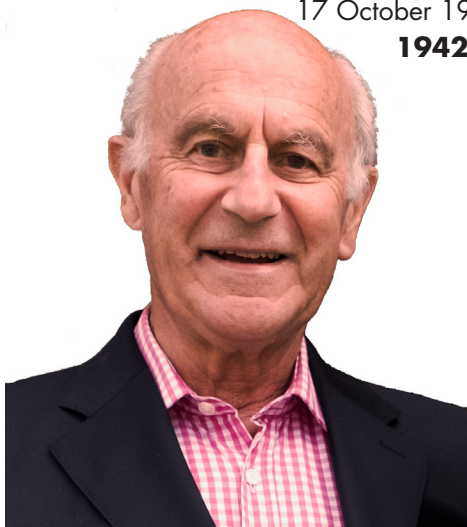
Dave Hall – What a guy! One of my favourites from school.

Chris Robinson: I was flogged for chewing gum in his class, but have very fond post school memories of buying Roger's classic green Standard Ensign, of trying his home brew and of sharing a glass of wine with him at various OPM Dine Ins.

# Graham JONES

17 October 1933 - 1 May 2018

**1942 - 1950**



Graham was the younger of two brothers. His brother, Alfred was seven years his senior. Both attended Plymouth College, Graham leaving at the age of 16 after he had finished his School Certificate exams.

During his time at the College, he made many friends and enjoyed playing hockey both at school and afterwards when he became a member of the OPM hockey club whose members were referred to on one occasion as "the Mops". He played into his 30's and continued after his marriage in 1966.

On leaving Plymouth College he became an articled clerk to St Aubyn Estates successfully completing his exams leading to his RICS qualification. He later moved to Plymouth City Council and was promoted to the position of the City Estates Surveyor in 1974 and continued in this role until his retirement in 1994. He had a passion for Plymouth and the role enabled him to do all that he could to promote its qualities which he considered to be many.

He was an incredibly good organizer and communicator and will be sadly missed by his family and friends and remembered always.



*OPM Hockey team MOPs - Paignton: Easter 1953. Bryan Johnson was the team captain and his brother, Geoffrey, was also in the side. Ken and Richard Paulk were another pair of siblings in the side. Back row; 1- Derek Pring, Ken Paulk, David Cutler, Peter Walker, Bryan Johnson, Graham Jones and Richard Paulk. Front row; Geoffrey Johnson, Roger Garnet, Jimmy Sims and Gerald White.*



# Ralph HOARE

18 July 1908 - February 2019

1916-1926



It's hard to think that Ralph Hoare joined Plymouth College over 100 years ago, and yet only took leave of this world in February of this year.

Dubbed by the press 'Britain's oldest gambler,' Ralph was the country's third oldest man, when he died aged 110.

Just before his passing he'd asked his family: "What was the Plymouth Argyle score on Saturday?"

It incidentally, 1-1, Argyle having snatched a late-equalizer against port rivals Portsmouth.

From the Plymouth College perspective, however, was more of a rugby man and had been a founding member of the OPM Rugby Club, the year he left school, in 1926.

In recent years he became a relatively regular pitch-side supporter, generally managing to come down once a season to watch the team he had seen from the very beginning.

Ralph grew up in Devon, but had lived in Gloucester for the past 60 years. He lived through two world wars and saw five monarchs ascend to the throne.

An RAF veteran, he loved a gamble on sports and horses and last year was guest of honour at the Cheltenham Festival. His daughter Kate said:

"He was not a big gambler, but a persistent one. He would often bet 10p on a race, 50 would be his maximum. My father was a very sensible chap.

"He liked all sports.

When he was younger he played cricket, rugby and athletics. He would keep up with matches on the radio.

"On the food front he liked anything sweet.

He loved bourbon biscuits, sweetened grapefruit, prunes and Ready Brek with sugar on it. He was also keen on tripe and onions



*Ralph Hoare resting on a mantelpiece in the old school library in 1925 with Messrs Straw, Hendy and Whitmarsh. 'We were outcasts,' Ralph claimed, 'in the sixth form but not going on to the Army, University or Church. We were left to our own devices with plenty of free periods.'*

which he found easy to digest.

"His last words to my brother were: 'What was the Plymouth Argyle score on Saturday?'" Argyle came from behind that week to draw with Portsmouth. Rick Cowdrey from PAFC said:

"We hope we provided him with the result he wanted."

Even after turning 100, Ralph still enjoyed nine holes at Gloucester Golf Club and tending roses in his garden. At the age of 104 he took to Twitter to offer gardening tips. In an interview with the Mail Online six years ago he said he spent his early years in Plymouth with his parents Elsie and Charles, and two younger siblings, John and Margaret. "We had a small east-facing garden. Mother grew roses and Father grew huge marrows," he told the website. "World War I began while we were young and Plymouth saw a lot

of action. I used to hide under a table with a cushion over my head when the German Zeppelins were expected. But whatever happened, we always had flowers in the garden."

Mr Hoare was married to his late wife Dorothy for seven decades and they had two children, Kate and Michael. He had six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He met his future wife at a friend's house in Wellington – but the course of true love was a long one.

"I heard someone playing the piano", he said. "I opened the door and sitting at the piano was a girl with black hair and a green dress. She was very attractive with a nice pair of legs. I thought there and then this was the girl I was going to marry – but it took me nine years."



*The photograph above can be seen in large format inside the entrance to the OPM Suite. It shows Ralph Hoare coming second, to Everett, in the final of the 100 yards at the School Sports Day in 1925. Note that the OPM suite today dominates this view from the school field.*

## *“Peeing on your garden can be beneficial”*

### **RALPH HOARE’S TOP TEN GARDEN TIPS**

- 1** Pour boiling water on parsley seeds once they are in the soil. It helps them germinate.
- 2** Planting marigolds with tomatoes will stop the tomatoes getting greenfly.
- 3** Surround small plants with crushed up seashells or spiky gravel to keep slugs away.
- 4** If you have an unruly pampas grass, burn it down. The root will remain and re-grow.
- 5** If your plant is an iron lover, put rusty nails in water for a while then use this as a fertiliser.
- 6** Prepare your soil in the moonlight, as this discourages weed growth. Seeds can’t germinate without sunlight.
- 7** Plants that spread rapidly, such as mint, can be contained by planting them in a long pipe, buried vertically. The roots have to go a long way down to spread.
- 8** Most plants like warmth so water them with warm water.
- 9** To keep cut flowers fresh for longer, put a penny in the vase. The copper helps to kill bacteria.
- 10** Peeing on your garden can be beneficial. The urea contains nitrogen, which soil bacteria convert to ammonia so it can be taken up by plants. Peeing on tomato plants can apparently double their fruit production.



# David PARRY

1933-2019

**PMC Staff 1957-1961**



When Ralph told his nurse Rachel Bucknell from Gloucester that he was an avid horse racing fan, she arranged a special trip to the 2018 Gold Cup fixture. He kept up his winning streak with three winners and two seconds, turning a profit of £3.50.

A spokesperson for Cheltenham Racecourse said: "We were delighted to welcome Ralph and his family here to the racecourse – I gather he had a wonderful time."

*(with thanks to the Plymouth Herald and Keith Rossiter)*



*Ralph Hoare and Simon Adams on the occasion of Ralph's visit in 2009.*

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of David. He died on 2nd April 2019. He was 86 and had suffered from Parkinson's disease. It was in the porters' lodge of Wadham College in Oxford that the names Parker and Parry could be found in the pigeon-holes. It was where we got to know one another at the start of what was to become a lifetime's friendship. David read history, a subject he was to teach after graduation, first at Plymouth College, then at Harrow School, Dennis Collinson, head of the history department at PMC describing him as a very good historian (v.OPM Magazine 2017). At Harrow he was to become Housemaster of West Acre. (It was whilst on my interview for a post in Classics that I met David when I travelled down from Glasgow Academy.)

In his undergraduate days David, always keenly athletic, was awarded a half- 'blue' for hockey. He was also a great hill-walker, on occasion meeting members of our cadet Corps in the Brecon Beacons engaged in outward-bound training in the Easter holidays. We would see him striding off into the hills, usually alone! In the days of compulsory National Service David and I had both been commissioned in the Royal Regiment of Artillery which was another bond between us. David served in Egypt. Privately, our two families met together on many occasions, sometimes joining with Mike and Judy Veale camping abroad.

David and Shirley (also an Oxford historian who taught at the prestigious London Collegiate school) had a second home in Wembury, where we would often meet up with them.

To Shirley, Drs Anthea, Jenny and Alister, we offer our deepest condolences as we reflect on David's long life filled to the full with a not inconsiderable record of fine achievement.

*Mike Parker*

# Jonathan HILL

12 September 1960 - 6 January 2019

**1969-1978**



*Jonathan Hill sporting the badge of his adopted club, Bath RFC*



*OPM RFC 1982 Easter Tour to Brittany. Back row: Jeremy Galpin, Simon Dove, Mike Pyper, Andy De Boo, Kevin Penny, Keith Waters, John Ruben, Dave Pickup, Gary Wesley, Jon Hill. Front row: Nigel West, Ernie Bolster, Steve Chipman, Adrian Lewis, Martin Weeks (Captain), Richard Wood, Alan Taylor, Paul Shelley, Jamie Clynh.*

Jonathan was born on 12 September 1960 and spent his early years living in Singapore where his father's job had located the family. He joined PMC in 1969 and left in 1978. He played rugby for OPMs and was a member of the infamous tour to Brittany in 1982.

A lifetime lover of motorbikes, he became a fully qualified motorbike instructor soon after leaving school.

At school he joined the Army section of the CCF and qualified as a 'Grade A' student for Sandhurst but decided to pursue a different career.

On leaving school he started working at Devonport Dockyard for the Ministry of Defence, then in Bath and Bristol developing his skills to become an expert computer programmer.

Jon enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the MOD, latterly working in several Government buildings in London. At his funeral his wife was presented with an award

for services to his country by his colleagues. The award bore the motto of M15.

For 31 years he lived in Midsomer Norton, near Bath, with his wife Julia and three children.

There he was a School Governor and member of the Church Council.

In October 2018 he became a grandfather for the first time.

Having always enjoyed his rugby Jon was a regular supporter of Bath RFC.

In June 2017, however, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and finally succumbed to his illness on 6 January 2019.

His funeral at St John the Baptist Church, Midsomer Norton was held on 29 January 2019 and was attended by over 200 people including fellow OPMs Jeremy Galpin, who read a fitting Tribute, Keith Waters and former Head Boy Simon Dove (all 72-79).

A true family man, he was one of the most kind, thoughtful, generous, compassionate and loving men one could ever meet.

# Malcolm McKEE

1 April 1931 - 2013

**1939-1949**



Malcom McKee was born at 9 Molesworth Terrace, Stoke on All Fools Day, although his mother was at pains to point out that it was after midday.

Malcolm's father, a GP, Thomas Barrington McKee was in partnership with the Lander firm and Malcolm became a lifelong friend of his contemporary from Plymouth College, Michael Lander. Starting school before the war, for a period during the height of the Blitz both boys were evacuated to Mortonhamstead and Michael recalls seeing Plymouth burning, lighting up the night sky in 1941.

Malcolm returned to Plymouth College in 1943 and Michael came back to the city with his mother soon afterwards. Both boys remained at Ford Park until 1949 when Malcolm went off to Hertford College, Oxford, and Michael went to QMC London to pursue a medical career.

After Oxford Malcolm enjoyed a succession of different jobs, working for the English Speaking Union, Hansard and latterly the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Malcolm's mother and sister had moved to London, Kingston-upon-Thames, when he was in his early teens, following the death of his father.

Possessed of a powerful intellect and an encyclopedic memory Malcolm was well respected wherever he worked.

Best man at Michael Lander's wedding, Malcolm had a number of relatives in Australia and in later years would visit on annual basis. Malcolm died a few years ago, but news of his death has only recently reached the OPM office.

# Victor TOMPKINS

**1940-1948**

Went to Keble College, Oxford University after school, Victor spent working life in HR department of Grant Thornton accountants. Retiring to Wimbledon after his working career, Victor died shortly after Christmas 2018. Unmarried, he left no immediate family.

# Nick KIRKE

**1987-1993**

Tragic early death, Nick was a keen rugby player at School. He leaves a son, Rowan at the Prep.

# Anthony HALL

22 January 1951 - 13 April 2018

**1961-1968**

After school studied at Gonville & Caius, Cambridge. A family man, he was living in Tewkesbury at the time of his death.



## Jeff CHISLETT

9 January 1964 - 31 October 2018

**1976-1983**

Went to Keble College, Oxford to read geography after leaving school. Won Blues as hooker for the University side in 1986 and 1987. That same year he played in the Roli Jones memorial match between Plymouth Albion and the President's XV.

Post University he had a very successful career in the City and was a regular at OPM events as well as OURFC bashes and Vincent's Club Alumni events.



## Neil MOULT

December 1960 - 25 May 2016

**1972-1978**

Some 20 years ago Neil set up a business looking to create careers for those who perhaps hadn't performed too well at school.

It tapped into a massive gap in the market, particularly among 25-60 year-old looking to retrain. Creating Careers became hugely successful and developed into vision2learn described as 'the first complete, integrated and accredited e-learning service designed specifically to satisfy the further education sector in England.'

A much-loved friend, father and family man, Neil died in 2016 but news only reached us at the OPM Magazine this year.



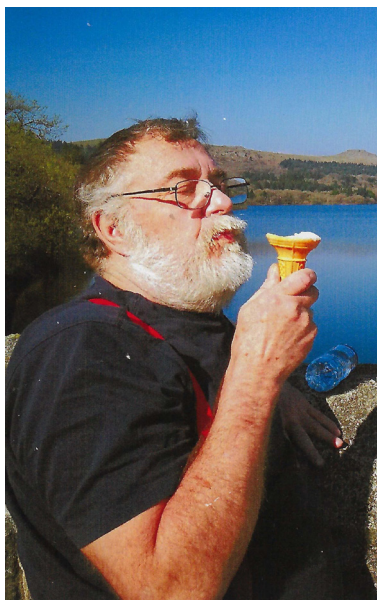
# Nigel BYRNE

24 December 1952 - 19 December 2018

1964-1971



*Plymouth College 1st XV 1970. Standing: Mike Daniel, Dave Grant, Tony Naraysingh, Pete Noble, Kim Nicholson, Nick Stout, Mike Warren, Mike Waddington. Seated: Mike Penhall, Pete Solomon, Martin Baxter, Nick Tamblin, Ian Smith, Martin O'Gara, Nigel Byrne*



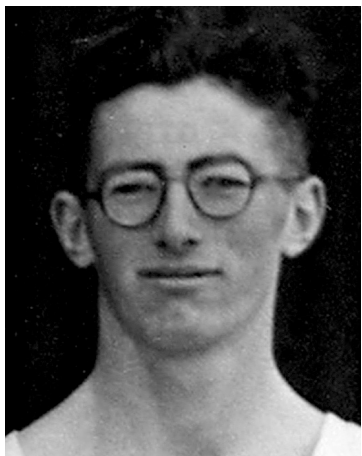
Nigel was diagnosed with narcolepsy and catelepsy some years ago which led to an early end to his working career. However his funeral was a happy celebration of his life, albeit a life ended too soon. Described as 'cantankerous, amusing and loving' by his older brother, Michael, also an OPM, there were few present who disagreed. Everyone had their own amusing anecdote about this lively, bon viveur. A lifelong ice-cream and rugby fan he claimed to have seen every major rugby team in the world beaten by England.

Although in his later years his condition prevented him from driving, Nigel retained ownership of his beloved MGB until the end and left instructions for his sister Wendy to make sure it was at the funeral service, which was held at the Yealmlton Woodland Burial Ground.

Other OPMs present included Tim Hammick, Alan Harris, and Phil Byrne, Nigel's younger brother, while the school flag was waved by Matt Byrne, Nigel's nephew, who currently teaches at Ford Park.

## Rod FEDRICK

1941-1952



Rod Fedrick represented the school at cricket, hockey and athletics. Was a Civil Servant in London after doing his National Service, and was ever a cricket fan, he was a member of the MCC from 1989. He retired from work five years later, having retired from actually playing cricket back in 1975.

## Roy De St CROIX

15 July 1939 - 3 May 2018

1951-1957

Roy joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps after leaving school and spent many years in the Armed Services, including a spell in the TA.

On leaving the Army full time, largely because he was struggling to find a young lady who wanted to be married to a soldier, he started work with Network Rail and met and married Avril. The couple went on to have two children, Charles (b.1970) and Richard (b.1975).

Roy's own father had died when Roy was at school, and he and his younger brother Lawrence, also an OPM, now living in Australia, lived above their mother's flower shop — The Pixie Flower Box — on the corner of Central Park Avenue and Dale Road.

Roy died in May last year and was buried in Donnington Church



Plymouth College 1st XI, 1952: Back; BN Williams, TJ Stevens, J Truman, DG Porter, A Richards, DM Webb. Front; DS Cutler, RE Southern, MA Congdon (Captain), RC Fedrick, JW Watson.



# Phil REED

10 March 1962 - 23 November 2017



Phil was an excellent raconteur and story teller, an entertainer who knew his mind and spoke it. He could appear authoritative because he relished the political fray and he enjoyed being controversial. But alongside this occasionally combative demeanour was a man with heart and humour and decency. Oddly vulnerable, he was terribly good at making enduring friendships and was utterly loyal and loving.

He had twin loves of sport and music. He could play several instruments but he liked the physicality of percussion and played in several bands (see OPM Musicians). Effectively prevented from much active participation in sports due to his disability, he was a tireless commentator whose analysis and understanding of many sports was second to none.

As a toddler he was not expected to walk, let alone travel around the world, but he achieved much by sheer will power and determination. He was a linguist, appearing to be able to speak languages as required.

He worked in London as an accountant for a modelling set company, but preferred working

mixing desks in a recording studio. In the last five years he had a whale of a time.

Despite excellent A Level results from Plymouth College, the universities insisted on an Access course which was plainly unnecessary for him but it was a confidence builder. He thoroughly enjoyed International Relations at Exeter and was invited to apply for one of the Vice Chancellor's PhD places.

When it became apparent he couldn't complete the last module of the Masters the academic board awarded the degree as he already had sufficient marks – that was ten days before he died. This was around the same time as he formed a new band...

Valiant, is an unfashionable word, but Phil could be thought of as valiant. He was scared of everything, terribly anxious, but courageous. He showed great balance and dignity through his last illness. He learnt not to project into the future or dwell in the past but to live the life in front of him each day.

He reminds us to act as though an individual can change things in the world.



*In the absence of a formal cricket report this season, your editor found this account of the high-scoring game that the OPMs played against Philanthropists on the Thursday of Cricket Week, 26 July 2018.*

*One or two of our readers may spot the names of a couple of OPMs who are regular members of the Philanthropists side - Charles Martin, Adam Dabbs among them. And so it is that the fixture always has traditionally enjoyed a degree of added interest.*

*So much so that it has been decided this year to switch the fixture, which has historically always been played on the Thursday, to the Friday ... so that those attending the OPM Cricket Lunch may have a little more in the way of entertainment on their menu. Or perhaps not, cricket can be a funny game.*

Where do I begin? Let's try the start. It was red hot. A good turn out for a pre-match drink. We looked a confident team. Even the late withdrawal of Footcrusher didn't sway our focus and drive. Capt. Martin had a glint in his eye, luckily we got it out. He won the toss and batted. Excellent. The pitch was like rock. Thousands of runs to be had. After two really good matches and fine victories could we add a third. Read on.

Jon Hearn and debutant Luke Dennis walked

out with a jauntiness rarely seen in the Mutley area. Jeffery was padded up at three, helmet on in expectation. Jon started off like a train. Luke was more subdued but not in trouble apart from the sitter Chris Vinson dropped.

In eight overs the 50 came up: Hearn 44, Dennis 3. Jeffery was still padded up. Both openers looked immovable. The ball was mercilessly punished. Soon Jon had his 50 and Luke was catching up. In the 16th over there was 100 was on the board. 250 was on the cards.

Drinks came and went. Then in the 28th over the club record opening partnership fell. The 140 attained by C.Wood and M.Charlick in 1990 was surpassed. Luke got his 50, looking more comfortable by the minute. Jeffery was still ... well you know.

In the 24th over after a slightly nervous nineties Jon Hearn got his ton and retired for 102 off 83 balls. Jeffery, still padded up, replaced him.

Would the carnage continue? Could OPM's get into the game? Well yes & no. Luke and PJ carried on. The 200 came and went. There were regular mid wicket discussions. We decided 250 was our minimum but more importantly could we carry on to the end and not give Charles a bat?

But, cricket is a fickle mistress and with the score on 222 the first wicket fell. PJ chopped onto his stumps for 29 off 27 balls.

Disappointment is too small a word for how I felt at getting out. As I passed Charles he said 'bad luck' but really meant at last he was in with nine overs to go.

Again would the carnage continue? You bet it did! Charles, in a Charles-like-way smote the ball to all corners. Luke carried on and reached his run-a-ball century in the last over. A great innings by a decent bloke who was a joy to bat with.

Jon Ward was now at the crease facing the bowling of Richard Atkinson's son, George. With the last ball of the innings Wardie (1) chopped on as well to give the youngster a wicket and make Richard a happy dad. Charles ended on 43 not out off 31 balls.

Off 40 overs Philanthropists were 297-2. The second highest score in the club's history. The first time that we had two tons in the same match.

After a well earned tea we set about our task of bowling them out. The OPM bowlers had tried and didn't give up but it was a tough pitch to bowl on.

I think in fairness we were a smidgeon confident we wouldn't concede 300. We were also up to 11 with Dr Tim appearing on the scene.

Dabbsie opened with a tight spell: five overs for eight with one wicket. Second debutant Matt Cole opened with him and although he didn't take a wicket there was promise there. All we have to do is not coach him and let him get on with bowling.

To be honest it was a fairly uninteresting second half until the last three balls ... more later.

Wickets fell fairly regularly. Good catches from Ward (2), Luke (1) and a blinding catch from John Shaw. Charles performed well behind the stumps, dropped a skier that he couldn't see with the helmet on. Apart from Matt and yours truly everyone took a wicket. Although I should state I only bowled because the kids were batting (more than capably I should add) and we were saving Dabbsie.

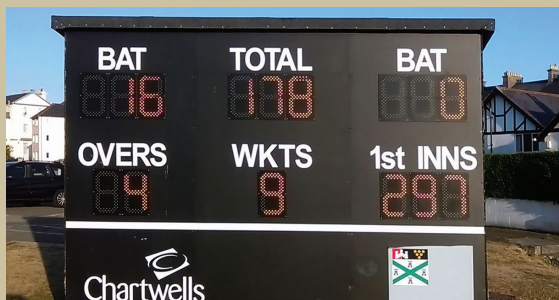
Now to the last three balls in the 37th over. Chris Vinson batting at 11 arrived at the wicket with the score 178-9. Despite some great past efforts he wasn't likely to score 100 in 3.3 overs.

But could he? No. Adam's first ball hit him in the nut area. The second one Chris charged and was hit in the chest with a full bungler. Dabbsie apologised and Chris who had charged the bowler was incredulous it wasn't a 'no ball'. Both umpires said it wasn't.

Next ball Adam sent his middle stump cartwheeling out of the ground. OPM's all out for 178. Dabbs 3-14, Cole 0-30, Ward 2-34, Shaw 1-25, Tucker 2-36, Dennis 2-2, Jeffery 0-26. Philanthropists win by 99 runs.

Post match it was up to the OPM Suite for some fine ale and food (thanks Ash).

It was nice to be joined afterwards, by one of the OPMs, Dudley Tolkien.





# OPM CRICKET



**OPM CRICKET LUNCH**  
**Friday 26 July**  
**12.30 for 1pm**

**Tickets Contact Mike Turpitt**  
**01752 484038**



# WEEK 2019



**CRICKET WEEK 2019**  
**Mon 22 - Fri 26 July**  
**5 GAMES 5 DAYS**

To play: Contact Chris Vinson  
07866 616956

**Bar open daily 2pm**

OPM BEER FESTIVAL  
& CRICKET WEEK



# HOCKEY

*Liam Jonas*



*Back row, L-R: Laurence Peacock, Charlie Helyer, Pippa Jephcott, Luci Barber, Katie Warren, Hazel Russell, Joe Meldrum, Rob Oades, Kat Pitcher, James Frost. Front row, L-R: Jason Sweby, Matt West, Paul Evans, Geoff Flowers, Cathy Hugill, Vanessa Scott, Ola Mac*

It has been another successful year for OPM Hockey with the club's membership continuing to grow. The club continues to attract new players to the game for the first time and coaxing others back to the sport after a long absence.

Last season the ladies 1st XI narrowly missed out on promotion finishing 3rd in Trelawney II. The season has been hard fought with the team, captained by Katie Warren, winning 16 out of 22 games and scoring an incredible 106 goals on the way to finishing 2nd in the league and securing promotion to Trelawney I. To further underline the strength of the ladies section of the club they had an excellent cup run, being knocked out by Dart in a well played and close semi-final.

The ladies 2nd XI has continued to grow in numbers and strength, with many of last seasons regulars stepping up to the 1st team. Kirsty Bates has lead the team to some excellent results, finishing in 3rd place in the Plymouth & District Sunday League.

Having narrowly avoided relegation last season, the Men's 1st XI took this season to rebuild. Lead by new captain Matt West the team trialled a new formation, tactics and fielded a new look youthful team. They had mixed results, managing to upset the form book by beating teams from the top of the league and struggling against teams scrapping to avoid relegation. In the end this hotly contested league proved too much for the 1st XI who have been relegated to South West I.



The men's 2nd XI, who have been pushing for promotion for several years, have this year achieved it, and will play in Southern II next year. Consistent form saw the team finish 2nd in a very tough league, with Chris Vinson leading the line setting a new club record for goals scored in a season at 45, including an impressive triple hattrick against Plymouth University.

The men's 3rd XI have had another strong season finishing 6th in South West II. They continue to drive the development of players with recent graduates of the 3rd team breaking into the 1st and 2nd XI.

Several club players have enjoyed success away from the sky blue and maroon. Maddie Rolls, ladies 1st XI goalkeeper, has been selected for Devon playing several times

already. Three OPM Ladies 1st XI regulars were part of the Plymouth College team who won the under 14 national championship. With Leigh-Anne Hooper being listed in the Hockey England team of the week where she was praised for the ease with which she transitioned from defender to forward scoring four and assisting a further two in a comprehensive 12-1 win.

With a vibrant social side, the club is just as active off the pitch. The annual OPM Hockey Vets dinner was a resounding success, being well attended by a mixture of players past and present. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Pat Newnham who continues to work diligently to ensure the event was well organised and well attended. This year the committee organised the largest End of Season Awards Evening to date.



Back row, L-R: Matt West, Joe Johnson, Jake Abbott, Rhys Logan, Joe Meldrum, Jamie Smith, Liam Jonas, Nathan Sharpe, Paul Evans, Luke Cook, Jacob Barry, Sam Burston, Alex Dodimead, Jack Henderson, Mike Dennis Front row, L-R: Chris Vinson, Piran Rolls, Dan Sharpe, Nick Dodderidge, Josh Budgen, Martin Rattle, Jason Sweby, Adam Clark, Brandon Newcombe Front: Charlie Helyer



Held in the MK Hall, the event was a fun for all with players being recognised for the outstanding achievements and contributions to the club over the previous season.

The club could not run without the dedicated volunteers, the captains (Matt West, Laurence Peacock, Charlie Helyer, Rhys Logan, Matt Kirby, Katie Warren, Pippa Jephcott, Kirsty Bates and Penny Rolls); the club umpires (Rob Logan, Graham Smith, Andy Dawes, Charlie Helyer, Jordan Round, Jake Abbott, Luke Cook, Pete Smith, Penny Rolls and Maddy Rolls - apologies to anyone I have omitted, but thank you); and the coaches (Kirstin Clark, Chris Frude, Laurence Peacock and Charlie Helyer).

Thanks must also go to the committee who do so much behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the club, and of course Ashley Brown-Williams at the OPM Suite for the food and hospitality. Ours is a club house to be proud of and we appreciate all that is done for the club.

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

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OPM HOCKEY

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YRS  
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CONTACT KATIE (KATIE@THE-WARRENS.ORG) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION





## *Chairman's Report*

Despite a terrific push, OPM RFC finished the 2017/18 season in third place in Devon Two which was just outside the promotion places. However with a league restructure taking place, we began the 2018/19 season in Devon One with a renewed energy to prove ourselves at a higher standard in both league and cup competitions. This was fantastic reward for two seasons of effort, dedication and commitment to improve OPM RFC's league level.

The 2018/19 season continues with the same mantra of 'Lets enjoy our rugby' and 'If you train, you play' being followed and the majority of individuals continuing from a very enjoyable previous season. We have had our proactive and energetic Club Coach, Howard Turner, and hugely knowledgeable assistant coaches, Rick Orkney and Warren Dunkley combined with improved training facilities.

This has meant that their huge efforts have continued to build on last season in terms of improving players, providing enjoyment in the game and ensuring that OPM RFC continues to be a special rugby environment for all who venture into it. Thanks will always go to the superb support team of Billy Garrett, 1st Team captain for his first season, who has developed throughout the year; John Readey, Jesters captain for his ability to provide a weekly team; Sean

Cook and Richard Atkinson, the First Team Management; OPM statesman, Ernie Bolster and Dave Hooper moving into a Second Team Manager role, plus the superb club physioing of Hayley Hoskin, Paris Westmore and Kate Wright. A terrific support team they have yet again put considerable effort and commitment into making the club a terrific place for the players and supporters each week. With the huge amount of effort that goes into this, including that of Rich Atkinson, our superb fixtures secretary, our thanks will always go to them to ensure that we train, play and enjoy rugby so much.

This season has seen the club continue to build on good training numbers, with the ability to play against teams throughout Devon and Cornwall but also support clubs with current player issues through having such a flexible second team and so many players wanting game time.

Performances, especially at the start of the new season, have been very encouraging especially due to the improvement in fitness and standards required in a higher league. Sadly, we have also said farewell to Ralph Hoare, who passed away recently and was the last surviving member of the original first OPM RFC Match in 1926. He will continue to be toasted at the bar as part of the OPM Toast in memory of all players involved in this terrific club.



## *Touch Rugby ... fast becoming “a huge success at the club.”*

Social events have also been to the fore this season, with our End of Season dinner being its usual enjoyable night, VP days being the best attended for years including first, second and a prematch from the Juniors on the day and all associated with OPM RFC enjoying the OPM suite far more than we have known for years. Massive thanks to Chris Harmer and co in terms of all of the organisation and successes that have come from this season.



*Touch Rugby, fun, fitness and enjoyment!*

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 at Plymstock which provide more pitch space have meant that this is a positive move. Attendance at South West tournaments, social events and even a dedicated Six Nations league have made for a great environment for anyone interested in attending. Our big thanks go to Dee, Shaun, Chris, Craig and Ernie for running this so well.

The Juniors have continued to improve with numbers doubling this season and a new age group also developing. The current age groups have seen some fantastic results against teams across Devon & Cornwall and we have also seen the creation of the OPM Rugrats 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 provide Bring a Buddy days which have seen a terrific reaction with attendance from the local community and schools. With the development of the social section, we have now appointed a Kitchen Manager in Val Noaden who regularly feeds over 100 children after matches with nutritious and warming food. Thank you so much for all you have done this season.

We would like to thank, as ever, 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 of the new social zone being opened in September 2018 which has meant that both seniors and juniors have been able to use these facilities to their maximum this season.

We have also improved the lighting available on training nights for improved visibility and coverage for our ever increasing numbers. Further plans on providing a bar area and added AV equipment to the social area should be concluded this season so that by the start of the 2019/20 season, it will be fully self-sufficient and welcoming to all teams as required. We are also developing our relationship with Sherford in order to recruit and link with their community projects in future.





*Touch Rugby, fast becoming a huge success at the club.*

The OPM RFC Committee has seen the same consistency as the playing side with continued efforts and support taking place for the last few seasons with additional individuals adding further enthusiasm to the cause. We would also like to thank our Sponsors and 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. We continue to improve, develop and ensure that OPM RFC is fully sustainable at all levels to support the local community and rugby in the Plymouth area.

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

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 continue to be a very proud Chairman and hope that all can see that our plans especially at Elburton are developing the club into next season and beyond.

***Matt Glastonbury***

## 1ST XV



*Matt Naylor, Lewis Harmer v Totnes 27.10.18*

The season of 2018/19 was definitely an eye opener for many of the OPM 1st XV players this season, having been promoted from Devon 2 into Devon 1.

Devon 1 offered many challenges to OPMs but despite that we started the season with big numbers at training and a positive outlook on what we could achieve.

The continued support of Howard Turner, Sean Cook and Richard Atkinson along with the help from Rik Orkney and Warren Dunkley on the coaching side has meant we have had consistency within our coaching and management of the 1st XV which has then enabled us to work on our structures and game plan.

Devon 1 is a new challenge for many at the club and playing in the bottom tier of senior rugby is not somewhere the club would like to be. But still the main aims of this season have been: to build a strong squad of hard-working and committed players; get as many players up to training each week and most importantly getting people back at the club enjoying their rugby again!

**OPM** 108



*Paul Roberts, Chris Hayes v Torriington 20.10.18*

We have already achieved this through numbers at training, socials and sideline support. We regularly have 25 or more at training and week in week out, we are seeing the whole rugby community play with smiles on their faces and share the stories of how great we are in the OPM suite afterwards.

As captain, it has been an absolute pleasure to play alongside the many players I have worn the claret and blue jersey this season.

I want to personally thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication which makes this club such a special place to play.

A big 'thank you' must also go out to those behind the scenes as without them we couldn't function the way we do. All I ask is that we continue to play for that man next to you and that badge upon your chest. With this attitude, I believe that OPMs will get to where we deserve to be.

**William Garratt**  
1st team Captain





*“....we are seeing the whole rugby community play with smiles on their faces and share the stories of how great we are in the OPM suite afterwards.”*

Henry Matthews

Rhys Phillips



# 2 JESTERS

## ND XV



*Pete Regan and Ritchie Fenton enthralling the crowd in Boxing Day action at Argaum*

This season's brief is very much like the last. Get players onto the pitch and enjoying rugby regardless of results. We've seen a big increase in numbers to our games irrespective of the general trend of teams losing players and even seeing certain 2nd sides fold completely.

I feel we've closed the gap further still between the 1st and 2nds. We are now really becoming a club with two teams and not the 1st having their own players with the rest being Jesters. We are seeing it more week in, week out where if you've had a good run of games in the 2nds, come training and you're straight in the mix for the 1st team. This proves a right headache for Howard and the rest of the coaching staff!

We've managed to get a team out almost every week and found opposition regardless of not being in a league as such which is a fantastic achievement in itself!

All of these are really positive for the club as we continue to play some great rugby against teams in higher leagues than ourselves.

What I find so fantastic about this current crop of OPMs is the fact that they all play with a smile on their face. Lose or Draw (with some wins along the way) they are happy to come and play in all-weather to represent the club. The amount of players we have recruited through friends, saying 'come down and have a game' is unparalleled from speaking to other teams.

We've had possibly the highest influx of players for many years: Callum Morgan, Matt Stace, Harry Connor, Prem Nathu, Antonio Matus, Jack Metric and Luke Green to name but a few, are all regular starters for the Jesters and have all come from current players bringing their mate along because they want to get back into rugby.



Mark Turner

I've thoroughly enjoyed this season and am already looking forward to building on for next season, where we have started the ball rolling by asking to put ourselves into the Devon Merit table. Games will be easier to come by, but possibly harder still to get wins. Saying that, we've certainly proved ourselves where we've pushed some great teams right to the wire. On more than one occasion, proving that on our day we can be a match for any team, and against one particular team players have said, "get them next week as we want to play them again" such is the hunger.

Lastly a big thanks has to go out to everyone behind the scenes. David Hooper who is there week in week out taking the kit and equipment and more often than not having to lace his boots up, hanging the kit up and generally doing the dirty work. Sean Cook for telling me off for not speaking to Ash to let him know the details. Atco for always being on hand to speak to teams, rally troops and the amusing additions to Jesters News.

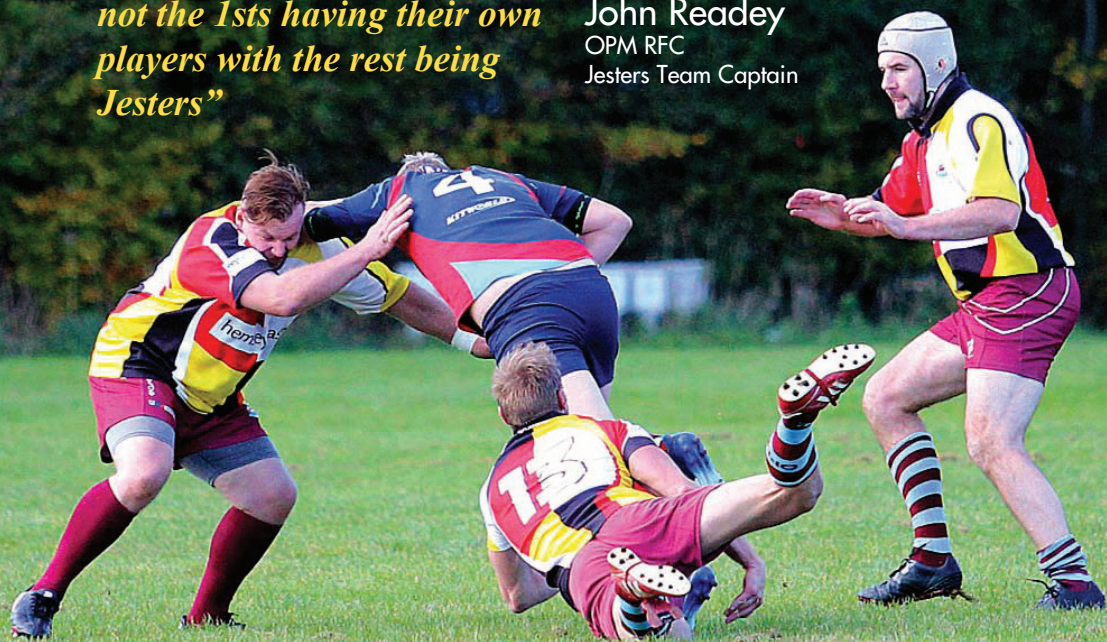
***"We are now really becoming a club with two teams and not the 1sts having their own players with the rest being Jesters"***

Howard also needs to take credit for never leaving the Jesters short for the benefit of the First team.

**John Readey**

OPM RFC

Jesters Team Captain



Matt Glastonbury busy thinking about the one that got away



# JUNIORS



This season has seen a big growth in numbers, which have doubled so far with hopefully further improvements to come. This is great news to us all, as we have put so much work in to promote the club, and the rugby fun we can provide. The facilities have been given another make over and Sunday mornings are a hive of activity both on and off the pitch.

We have continued to support the Plymouth Schools Sports Partnership with the sponsoring of events and playing host to senior school tournaments, and hopefully will continue to do so.

For the first time we entered an U14's team into the Devon RFU Fishermen's Cup, and they made it through to the quarter finals where unfortunately they lost their first game in 18 months, but returned to their winning ways the week after!

The U12s made a great impression representing the club recently at Plymouth Albion, where they were given a training session by one of the Albion players, and then made a tunnel of maroon and blue,

where their support inspired a great home win!

The other age groups down to U7s are training or playing week after week, and every age group is growing in player numbers and improving their skills with a dedicated team of coaches. Our door is always open, and anyone wishing to come along to try rugby will be given a warm welcome.

The most recent addition to the Juniors are the 'Rugrats'. These are preschool and foundation year children, who come along for some rugby inspired fun on a Sunday, come rain or shine.

I would like to thank everyone who is involved with the Juniors for continuing to support this amazing bunch of players. All the coaches, committee, team managers, parents and grandparents, and anyone else who helps to get the children here and make this all happen, without you there would be no us! Here's to another year of our children playing some amazing rugby!

*Jenny Trinder*