

OPNEWS

Winter 2011

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1st Scotland reunion

Weymouth 2012

*OP charts
Olympic course*

Keith Barry

*Your teacher;
my father*

Concorde to Cairngorms

*Spotlight on
Richard Marsh*



QUI FACIT PER ALIUM FACIT PER SE

THE PERSE
SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE

OVER TO YOU

Play your part
in the great
OP sports revival.

Cover photography by Steve Bond

LOOKING Ahead



2012 will be a year of change for the Old Persean community.

In response to numerous requests received from OPs, I am delighted to announce that we are now resurrecting an annual calendar of alumni sports events, in which I hope many of you will take part. Please see our article on page 2 for full details on how you can get involved.

Attendance at Old Persean reunions has increased fivefold in the last three years, and 2012 will offer more opportunities than ever before to meet with old friends. In March we will hold our first reunion in Scotland; in May, Ian Pollard is offering OPs a private tour of his spectacular home and grounds at Abbey House Gardens; and our next London drinks reception will offer incredible views at the top of the world-famous Tower Bridge.

As for this magazine, we want more space for your contributions, so we are moving to three issues a year: April, August and December. Do forgive us, though, when limits on space mean we still have to shorten some articles. We hope you like the new format, and we would welcome your suggestions for future features and articles.

The Development Office itself has changed: in June we were sad to say goodbye to Amanda Augstein, who has looked after the OP community with incredible dedication and enthusiasm for the past three years. As we wish Amanda all the best for the future, I am delighted to introduce your new Alumni Relations Officer, Lindy Clegg (pictured below), who will be pleased to assist you in any way she can.

Whilst The Perse and the Old Persean community may continue to change, one thing will not: whether you left last year or 60 years ago you are always welcome here at the school, and we hope you will have a chance to visit us soon.

With best wishes for 2012.

Eddie Copeland



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OP Sport

We know from speaking to you that there is a strong desire for more OP sport and we want to help develop a fuller and wider ranging sports calendar for all our alumni, both male and female.

Building on the best of what is currently available, we believe there is plenty of scope for a busier annual schedule of fixtures. We will help with promotion, organisation, catering and match reporting, so you can concentrate on enjoying the game! Perse PE staff have been very enthusiastic about the proposal.

Now we need you to tell us what you think. Where are the gaps and how should they be filled? Most of all we need names – OPs who will take part, rally support and be points of contact for sports or for individual events.

JOHN STEVENS XV

Fifteen Old Perseans came together to play for the John Stevens XV in the third annual John Stevens Cup, held in aid of Help for Heroes at Shelford Rugby Club, on a sweltering day in early October.

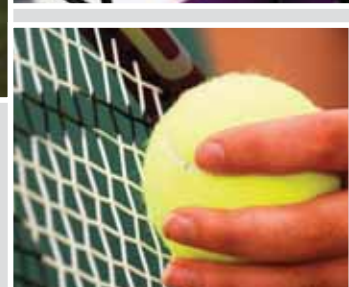
The event is held in memory of John, an Old Persean who tragically passed away in 2009 at the age of 21. He was a keen rugby player for both The Perse and Shelford, and the John Stevens XV is made up of a combination of his school and Shelford teammates.

This year saw a highly entertaining game played in conditions more akin to June than October, which allowed for a feast of flowing rugby, but placed particularly strain on the fitness of those who hadn't played since the corresponding fixture last year. Despite taking an early lead the John Stevens XV eventually went down to a better-organized Shelford XV by 40–15. Despite the loss everyone once again enjoyed renewing sporting combinations from their school days, and coming together to remember John.

OPs: Dean, G, Dean, R, Harper, J, Harper, T; Simmons, B; Simmons, E; Rogers, C; Howling, S; Chalmers, M; McNaught J, Jones, O; Ackroyd, C; Jackson, P; De Roij, L; Greenberg, A.



27th June 2012	OP Cricket to become a multi sports day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st and 2nd XI matches v OPs • Tennis tournament • Croquet competition – for all-comers, spectators welcome to pick up a mallet • Barbecue
September	Golf event	Matchplay competition with OP, Staff and pupil teams
October	John Stevens Memorial Cup	Shelford Rugby Club
December	Hockey	OPs v pupils
April 2013	Netball	OPs v pupils
April	Indoor hockey	OPs v pupils



OP Sport

Please send your views and / or register your willingness to take part as a player or on the organisational side. **Email, phone or write to Alumni Relations Officer Lindy Clegg, contact details opposite.**

SCHOOL Roundup

We were really proud of all our sixth formers this summer, and in these times of fierce competition for university places they clearly impressed the admissions tutors. The 164 Perse applicants to university received 564 offers, including 33 from Oxford and Cambridge and 18 for medicine.

Superb academic results and sporting achievement are what is expected of The Perse and a look back at 2010/11 confirms they are being delivered. But it is the breadth of excellence that is particularly compelling, with pupils also attaining success in fine art, music, dance, drama and in activities ranging from debating to gliding.

Starting with the academic side, The Daily Telegraph placed the school among the top 20 independent schools nationally for A level results, while The Times ranked it fourth in a national league table of exam results for co-educational schools. The Perse cohort as a whole broke all previous records, with 95% of examination entries awarded at A*-B and 79% gaining either A* or A grades.

At GCSE and IGCSE, Perse pupils amassed 678 A* grades; while A* or A grades were awarded to 88% of Perse entries. A haul of prestigious scholarships, bursaries, medals and prizes have been won by Perseans for technology, science, poetry, classics, linguistics, music and maths.

The 50 clubs and societies that met during the academic year gave further scope for personal fulfilment and team success in areas including public speaking, general knowledge, rocketry, dance, camping, community work and leadership training.

Young artists have been making a name for themselves, with their work chosen for display by agencies outside the school. GCSE and A level artists participated in a one-day printmaking workshop and also staged a magnificent Art Show of their own.

Drama productions - conceived, acted, danced, lit and engineered by pupils of every year group - included Journey's End, Arabian Nights, Pygmalion, The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler, The Crucible and The Fall of the House of Usher.

Musical concerts, recitals and masterclasses were equally wide-ranging. At the Lower School Arts Festival, for example, each form sang in a different language. From brass to swing, chorale to rock, pretty well all tastes were accommodated and encouraged.

Team and individual successes were recorded in all the school's major sports, but young Perseans also made their mark in disciplines including orienteering, judo, gymnastics, cycling and korfbal.

PERSE PLAYERS At the Edinburgh Fringe

Audiences were left with nerves pleasantly a-jangle when The Perse Players performed Steven Berkoff's adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's Gothic classic *The Fall of the House of Usher* at the Edinburgh Fringe. Some Perseans clearly have a talent for the macabre.

Also at the Fringe was OP Emily Precious (2008), who having finely tuned her theatrical abilities whilst at Oxford University studying history, was adding to her list of production credits. There were great reviews for both shows she was involved in - *Dinner*, a fast-paced black comedy, and *Mojo*, "brutal and hilarious".



SHOW Jumpers

Izzy Picton-Turbervill (Y10) and Lily Howlett (Y10) travelled to Buckingham to compete in the Jumping with Style and Show Jumping events at the National Inter-Schools Riding Championships. It was to be Izzy's day; a clear round in the final of the show jumping on Jack Frost II saw her crowned National Champion. Shortly afterwards she was the fastest competitor in the 1.15m open class, finishing second with four faults.



SHEER Poetry!

With 16,000 poems composed by over 7,000 entrants to choose from, judges of the Foyle National Young Poet Competition had a lot of reading to do. One of the 85 entries they singled out for a commendation was Peace by Misha Karmiloff (Y9).

Congratulations!



Hearty congratulations go to Alexandre Loktionov on his 7 A*s at A level, a remarkable result that earned him the 2011 Trinity Leaving Exhibition. With Russian, French, Latin, biology, history, geography and general studies under his belt, Alex has now moved on to Selwyn College, Cambridge, to read Archaeology and Anthropology. He is also taking classes in ancient Egyptian and ancient Syrian.

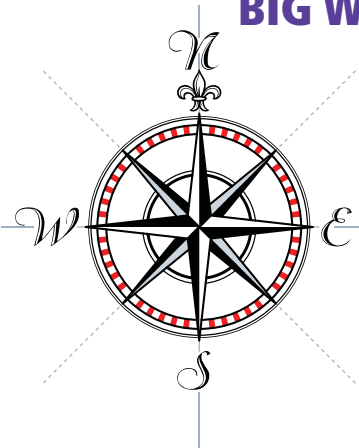
BIG WIN in Small Ships

Victory at sea: Twenty-three Perse pupils from Years 8 to 13 took part in the Small Ships Race in the Solent, sailing aboard three boats - the pilot cutters Pegasus and Annabel-J and the Edwardian racing yacht Duet, chartered from the Cirdan Trust & Island Sailing Trust.

In bright sunshine and good winds they raced 26 other vessels for the Aurora Trophy. Annabel-J and Pegasus finished third and seventh respectively on handicap, while Duet fought a battle royal with the famous pilot cutter Jolie Brise, three times winner of the Fastnet Race, sailed by Dautney's School. It was a close thing, but Duet triumphed, taking the trophy by five minutes on handicap.

KARTING Success

Lower Sixth student Sam MacLeod continues to build an impressive reputation in the sport of karting, racing in the European and World Championships plus the WSK event (an unofficial world championship). "Highlight of the year was a fourth place in the CIK/FIA European championship, along with a pole in WSK. This has been a great achievement for my first year in seniors and next year I am seeking to become World and European champion!" he said.



GOOGLE Visit

A young Perse computer whizz was recently offered the meeting of a lifetime thanks to an Old Persean. Tim Kilcommons, aged 14, was invited by Tim Carter (1994), now Head of Android Business Development, EMEA at Google, to visit the company's London offices. Tim had been impressed by a website that Tom had built for an Enterprise Conference held at The Perse. During his

visit, Tom received a tour of Google's campus (including a London bus meeting room, pictured) and was able to quiz some of Google's top engineers about their ground-breaking work. Inspired by the company, he asked what he would have to do to work at Google in ten years' time. Tim simply responded: 'Be awesome at whatever you do'.

HOLLY Race



It was a grand day out when Holly Race (2003) and Alex Beckett celebrated their marriage at Our Lady and the English Martyrs Church in Cambridge with a photoshoot around the city before heading off to the reception. Among the party was Holly's Man of Honour, Chris Massey who also left The Perse in 2003.

Holly is now living in Bristol and working full-time in the Feature Development department at Aardman Animations (of Wallace and Gromit and Chicken Run fame). She also freelances for Working Title and the British Film Institute.

It's been a busy year: Alex, a photographer, proposed to Holly during a backpacking trip around Mongolia in 2010.

NATIONAL Prize

Gap year work for The Technology Partnership (TTP) has earned OP David Katz (2010) a national prize. David designed and developed a prototype aseptic sampling device that has attracted interest from four major companies.

The device has won him an Innovation Award, sponsored by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, as part of the Year In Industry programme run by education charity EDT. The working gap year programme is aimed at students working in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Next step for David is a Mechanical Engineering degree course at Imperial College London.

SIR Peter



Like father like son: alumnus Sir Peter Hall (1949), founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company and former artistic director of the National Theatre, has been awarded an accolade for Outstanding Contribution to the stage by the Theatrical Management Association. His son Edward, also a theatre director, was honoured at the same ceremony in London for his touring productions of Richard III and The Comedy of Errors.



HELP FOR HEROES Cycle ride

Many hundreds of miles were converted into many hundreds of pounds for Help for Heroes when OPs Josh Gaw and Oliver Roberts (2010) took on a nine-day charity bike ride.

Bad weather and injury intervened but the charity for injured Services personnel has benefited to the tune of £1,100 thanks to the lads' perseverance.

The punishing schedule saw the pair cycle out to destinations around Cambridge and then return to the city before starting again the following day. Halfway into the seventh day Josh, who is now studying Politics and International Relations at Bath University, injured his back – but not before he had clocked up 450 miles.

Oliver, a History undergraduate at Exeter, held on to complete the schedule, covering 690 miles. The pair also lost a day due to bad weather.

Josh said: "We faced a number of difficulties along the way and I was very disappointed not to have finished it, but we did our best.

"We have done various fundraisers for Help for Heroes before, particularly when we were at school, and we were keen to do something together once more for the good cause."

To continue to support the pair, visit www.justgiving.com/Gaw-Roberts

FROM PELICAN To Bulldog

pietro.miozzo@yale.edu

Yale so far has been an intellectually stimulating place, and my six years at The Perse certainly gave me a good grounding upon which to start here. I'm a freshman in Silliman College, one of the twelve residential colleges at Yale (much like Oxbridge colleges, except that they don't serve any academic purpose). Until now, I'd never shared a room with anyone; I'd never lived with the people I go to class with. For friends back in the UK, having roommates is completely foreign. But, I've come to like it. On the one hand you never truly get to be alone when you want to be, but there's always someone there for you.

I'm in a selective, intensive freshman humanities course called Directed Studies, with three classes: literature, philosophy and historical & political thought. It aims to cover the Western canon over the year, and the rigorous treatment of Antiquity so far has been fascinating – Mr Kern's Latin classes have come in handy! In addition, I'm continuing my passion for sciences with a chemistry course.

I will always look back at my Perse years with great fondness: it is there I developed the passions I pursue now.



MOBILE PHONE Apps

Even before he started lurking in the computer room after hours, Jason Newman (1988) was hooked on writing software ... Post university, he spent a decade developing it for bigger and bigger firms, winding up in BSkyB's interactive TV team. Then almost as long again working for successively smaller ones ...

"Now I've reached the smallest size possible, working freelance, and developing mobile phone apps for my own company, Mousepickle Ltd (www.mousepickle.com).

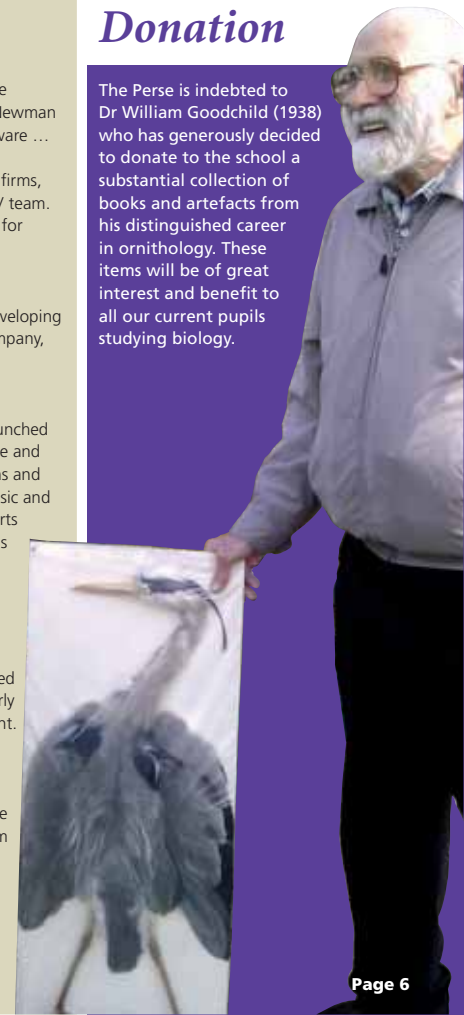
"Our first application, Tinkerball, launched in July ... It's a musical toy for iPhone and iPad, and draws on my love of maths and physics, as well as my interest in music and art. Casting my mind back to the sorts of things I enjoyed at school it seems almost inevitable that I should have ended up doing exactly this.

"I'd like to think that this return to my programming roots is indicative of something other than a completed career arc! It almost feels like the early days of computer game development. The technical and business support structures laid on for us today are hugely democratising; they provide an arena where home-spun software competes directly with offerings from big production houses. It's become a cottage industry once more."

Jason Newman (1988) pictured with another of his creations, son Callum.

ORNITHOLOGY Donation

The Perse is indebted to Dr William Goodchild (1938) who has generously decided to donate to the school a substantial collection of books and artefacts from his distinguished career in ornithology. These items will be of great interest and benefit to all our current pupils studying biology.



BOARDERS' Reunion

A Saturday in June saw The Pelican School resounding with voices from another era when Perse boarders reunited there. Formerly Hillel House and later Junior House, the handsome old residence in Glebe Road, Cambridge, has many tales to tell... (See feature page 15). More than 60 guests, including OPs from 1943 to 1994, enjoyed lunch, a photo display and a tour of the former dorms. One of their number, Sir Mark Potter (1955), gave an engaging address.



OPs Stephen Bacon and Charles Nevick enjoy catching up with former schoolmaster Keith Symons at the Boarders' Reunion.



A mellow summer's evening provided the perfect setting for a golden celebration marking The Perse's 50 years at Hills Road. Dinner was held in the school hall, centrepiece of the Hills Road campus. Head Edward Elliott congratulated ex-pat OPs Professor John Clarke (1961) and Jameel Ahmed (1986) on bringing the sunshine with them from California and Brunei. Emphasis had been placed on reuniting leavers of 10, 25 and 50 years ago, but the guest list spanned the generations.

A chocolate fountain proved a popular draw, even after the excellent three-course dinner. Those OPs whose time at the school coincided with the transition to Hills Road found particular interest in a display of photographs of the building works in progress and of Princess Alexandra's visit for the official opening. They included John Clarke, then a prefect, and then Head Boy Victor Walne, who had been tasked with thanking the Princess. Victor was called upon again at the dinner; this time to read the Perse Latin grace.

Many commented on how well the school buildings – erected during Stanley Stubbs' tenure as Head – were looking 50 years on.



LONDON Reunion

OPs may need a head for heights at our next London reunion which takes place in the walkways at the top of the world-famous Tower Bridge. The venue, which spans between the two towers of the iconic structure, provides an impressive platform

from which to enjoy breath-taking views over London and the Thames, stretching as far as Westminster and The London Eye. Whether you want to network with other London professionals or simply relax with friends after work, we hope you can join us for drinks and canapés in this multi-award winning setting.

*The event takes place from 7p.m. – 9.30p.m. on **Thursday 17th May 2012.***

EDINBURGH Reunion



There is no charge for this event, which is expected to run from midday until 3p.m.

Five star surroundings have been chosen for the first Perse reunion north of the border, a lunch at the Scotsman Hotel in the heart of Edinburgh. We know of 70 former pupils living in Scotland and hope as many of them as possible will join us with their wives and partners for the get-together on **Saturday, 3rd March 2012.**

Once the baronial offices of the Scotsman newspaper, the magnificent listed building was transformed into a boutique hotel a decade ago. Just three minutes' walk from Waverley station, it boasts views over Edinburgh Castle, The Firth of Forth, Leith, Princes Street and Carlton Hill, and is the perfect base for exploring the historic city.

An invitation to tour a world-class garden with its creator as guide is extended to Old Perseans and their families. OP Ian Pollard (1963) will host a lunch and tour of the famous Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury on **Saturday, 5th May 2012.**

May is a high point of the English gardening calendar and Abbey House will be at its spectacular best. Ian and his wife, Barbara – known to millions as "the naked gardeners" – have created their own little Eden in five acres around their 16th century home.

ABBHEY HOUSE GARDENS Lunch



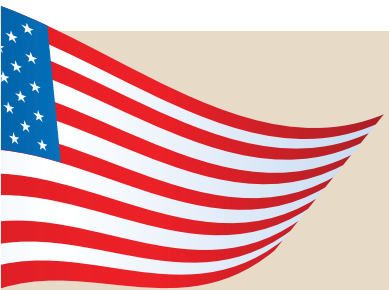
Our OP events and reunions are all the more enjoyable with a full house. We want to see you there! Don't risk being disappointed, register your interest by emailing Alumni Relations Officer **Lindy Clegg at alumni@perse.co.uk or by calling 01223 403808.**

The couple are happy to share the fruits of their labours: "...what would be the point of creating something lovely if no-one saw it?"

Timings will depend on attendance figures and whether there is one house tour or two, plus the number of questions asked. Meet at Abbey House from 11 a.m.

There is no charge for this event.

Photo: Rebecca Wingrave



NEW YORK Evening



In October, distance appeared no object for some Old Perseans who travelled up to 3,000 miles to join us in New York City for the Perse in America Evening. The main draw was the chance to meet the Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dr Thomas Campbell (OP), who generously hosted a drinks reception at his New York home. Following a short update about the school from Perse Headmaster, Edward Elliott, OPs and their families continued their evening in the private room of a local restaurant, where they shared memories of school life across the pond.

OLD PERSEAN Dinner



RICHARD MARSH *Spotlight*

Returning to the home of his “less than glorious” schooldays proved a cathartic experience for engineer Richard Marsh, whose boyhood enthusiasm for all things mechanical proved stronger than the dictates of his headmaster.

As the son and brother of physicists and with a clear preference for engineering, the young Richard was agast to be directed into the arts stream by Head Stanley Stubbs when he came to The Perse Upper. Without further discussion he was expected to concentrate on subjects for which he had no aptitude and felt little interest.

Richard “did appallingly and determinedly failed every exam”, leaving school at 16. But shaking the dust of The Perse from his shoes he set about making up lost time, passing three A levels in a year and at last able to pursue the goal of engineering at what is now the University of Westminster.

At the age of 25 he became a double Chartered Engineer in mechanical and electrical engineering. And in 2003 was awarded an honorary doctorate in technology by The Robert Gordon University in Scotland.

He found the treatment he received hard to forgive but a visit to The Perse in September proved a revelation. “The atmosphere today is wonderfully different from the horrible atmosphere of the past.”

Richard concedes not everyone feels the same about Mr Stubbs and knows that many of his contemporaries at the school will remember their headmaster very differently, but for him the happy atmosphere and high morale of The Perse today is a radical change for the better.

“I left the school in 1961 and for the first time in 50 years, three weeks ago, I felt proud to be an Old Persean.”

Starting as a graduate apprentice at Filton, Bristol, Richard worked on the design of the iconic Concorde aircraft as it went through successive stages into service.

He said the team was well aware aircraft was an economic nonsense compared with the Jumbo jet, but then it was the most advanced project in Europe, Concorde did go on to fly for 27 years and it was visionary – the NASA team then working on the manned moon landing has gone on record as saying Concorde was the more difficult job.

After a period working on satellites and missiles, Richard moved across BAE to unmanned submarines for the oil industry – Concorde making way for Consub.

From these labs, the shirt-sleeved engineer was plucked by the hand of God... or rather called to the office of the Managing Director, a summons so unusual Richard suspected he might be about to be sacked.

It was a life-changing moment, heralded by a brief interrogation:

“Do you fart in church?”

“No, sir.”

“Do you pick your nose in public?”

“No, sir.”

“Do you know how to hold your fork and knife correctly?”

“Yes, sir.” (“Good school, you see.”)

“Right, you are in marketing now. Go to Aberdeen and sell this submarine...”

The demand for unmanned subs was there; inspection work on rigs and pipelines was perilous for divers. But the military spec vessels Richard was expected to sell were coming in at five times the price of anything else on the market.

He decided to form a company specialising in the technology; he would supply the brains and his Norwegians partners the finance. Bennico Ltd was the result.

Britain leads the world in sub-sea technology and the industry is worth some £8 billion per year. Richard said look beyond the livery and the unmanned sub like the Formula 1 car will almost certainly be British engineered.

The fact that Richard was making a great deal of money for his Norwegian partners spurred him to start a 100 per cent British company with partner Dick Wright and Trittech was born in 1991.

Advances freed ROVs of their kilometre-long umbilical cables and Trittech concentrated on the “clever bits”, inventing a world-class payload of tools: sonars, cameras and manipulators. It became the most decorated company in the North Sea business.

Times have changed for the military, too, and commercial off-the-shelf is now the way to go. The mine countermeasure Sea Fox ROV carries a Trittech sonar. As the vehicle destroys itself in taking out any mine the importance of containing costs comes to the fore.

Of course, each ROV can be used many times before it finds a target, and in eventually committing suicide the ROV is potentially saving many lives. Richard proudly relates the score:

Trittech 13 – Saddam Hussein 0.

In 2006 Richard sold the company and has since concentrated on mentoring young engineering ventures. He has an impressive record of shaming bank managers into helping worthy applicants.

Work aside, Richard is able to indulge a lifelong passion for cars. He owns a selection, including a Rolls Royce Silver Spirit and a classic Jaguar. The latest addition is a head turner from Down Under, a Holden 6.21 GTS VXR8. With badges sent out from Australia, it's a unique visitor to these shores.

Richard and his wife, Pamela, are fortunate enough to live in an A-listed

laird's house. As hosts of the Lonach Gathering, they share the stunning setting when 12,000 guests throng into their front garden to watch Highland games.

The couple have two children – daughter Fiona, a consultant surgeon in urogynaecology at St James' Hospital, Leeds, and son Jonathan (Johnny), who runs his own business, Envision Design Ltd.

The Marshs' next door neighbours and good chums are Big Yin Billy Connolly and Pamela Stevenson, who shot to fame as a comedienne but is now a respected psychologist, just as Pamela Marsh is.

Pamela Stevenson made a notable appearance as a contestant and finalist in the previous series of Strictly Come Dancing. Her dancing partner James Jordon and Australian-born judge Craig Revel Horwood have both been visitors to Strathdon.

Known for his scathing criticism of the amateur performance, former professional dancer Craig found himself at a loss when he was called on to take part in The Dashing White Sergeant. But help was at hand. Ever versatile Richard seized the moment and showed him how it was done. Fab-u-lous Dah-ling!



Following the success of a school photography competition this summer, we invite Old Perseans to show us what they can do. We will publish the winning shot in the next OP News.

We hope this will become a regular feature. Our first subject is **The Natural World**. High resolution photos, electronic or print, should be sent to the Alumni Relations Officer (contact details on page 1) before the end of February. Please note, entries will not be returned.

The inspiring shots shown here are (from top) by Alex Lysz (Y11), Luke Nunn (U6) and Sam Fabian (U6).

» Photography competition «



“People say your setbacks can often spur you on. I was forced to take subjects I hated. Seeing my peers doing the ones I wanted catalysed me to do so much after leaving school.”

Any old classmates wishing to contact Richard are welcome to email him at richardmarsh@aol.com

We want to follow up our features on OPs living and working in North America and Down Under, with a trip over the Channel. If you are based in Europe or have strong and interesting European ties, we want to hear your story.

Please send submissions of around 250 words by the end of January to **Lindy Clegg, Alumni Relations Officer, at alumni@perse.co.uk or the school address.**



Pictured at their party in Cambridge are Bob and Judith with a group of 1965/66 leavers who came to mark the day. From left to right... Stephen Perrin, Mike Spence, David Martin, the happy couple, Colin Chitty, Oliver Frankl and Jim Kedge, all with their respective wives.

Jim Kedge (1965)

Among the wedding guests (pictured right) is Jim Kedge (1965) with his wife, Barbara. He writes: In response to your quest for Romsey Perseans (see also Page 10)... I was at Romsey from 1954–58, one year below another Romsey Persean, Alan Sizer (1964), of Cambridge Footlights and music business fame, who tragically died in 2004.

Both Alan and I played football for Romsey in the same team as Bruce Rioch, later of Aston Villa, Derby County and captain of Scotland in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. (Incidentally, Bruce's Scots father, an RSM in the regular army, was associated with Perse CCF in 1958. I remember meeting him in the playground one Monday afternoon in my first year at the school!)

Alan and I also played rugby regularly for the OPRUFC in the late '60s and early '70s. Thanks to the persuasive skills of Phil Harvey, we commuted regularly back from London to play- a journey often necessitating speeds in excess of 100 mph on the A1, thanks to Alan's tardiness and the absence of speed limits back then!

After studying Economics and Business Studies at Manchester and Warwick Universities I worked in manufacturing for over 35 years, mainly in marketing, with spells at Miles Druce, Pye Ltd, Hornby Railways and finally Kimberly-Clark.

I retired in 2006, returning to university to study for a Diploma in the History of Art. I have Cecil Crouch, my art master at The Perse, to thank for kindling my interest in art and architecture – my O level knowledge of The Development of the English Parish Church has never left me. Apart from generating enduring friendships, one never knows where those Perse experiences will lead!

Robert Phillips (1965)

I left the custody of Stanley Stubbs in 1965 and earned myself a "sportsman's degree" in Chemical Engineering at Birmingham University, spending a significant part of my time on the rugby field for the University and for a while with the Old Perseans under the supervision of Phil Harvey.

My first career was spent within various chemical processes and the production of pet food for the Mars organisation. I then moved into the Financial Services Industry, assisting my clients with pension and investment advice... By 2000 I had a my sights set on early retirement and travel, and to this end I found myself an intriguing role as an usher in the Manchester Magistrates Court. I certainly got to see some very different clients!

Serious travel started in 2007 with a tour of some of the world's beaches... Seeing the Great Barrier Reef for the first time I met a charming lady on a bus trip around Cairns. We had some common interests: travel, golf, good food and her wine collection! Emails and then Skype conversations followed for the next six months before we met again in the UK.

I was invited back to Melbourne, where I sampled the outstanding array of sporting

events, in particular Aussie Rules, the vineyards of the Yarra Valley and some excellent golf courses. Judith and I were married in March in a delightful resort just north of Cairns then had a small celebration in Cambridge.

We are now based at Templestowe in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne.

Lower Sixth Reunion 1955 – 1956



Standing left to right: David Earl, David Tomlinson, Alan Weeds, Graham Cooper, Willie Johnson, Peter Mynott and Roger Harcourt. **And seated left to right:** Rick Free, David Busscall, Keith Symons, Ian Gordon, Geoff Pinfold and Barry McConnell.

We all met up, as for the Second Reunion, at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London, courtesy of Alan Weeds, who is a

member. Most of us, having met a year ago, did not have too much trouble recognising one other, but the "new boys", who in almost all cases had not seen any of us for about 54 years, had problems trying to marry up names and faces from the dim and distant past (Lower Sixth in 1955/1956), leading to much hilarity all round.

The icing on the cake for all of us was the presence of Keith Symons, one of our masters in years gone by, who was in excellent form, and looked as young as any of us; dare I say it, younger than some! I proposed a toast to the memory of Graham Sussum, who had been with us at the previous two reunions, but very sadly had died shortly after the second from prostate cancer.

If any of you out there were in our form and fancy coming along next time, please get in touch via the school.

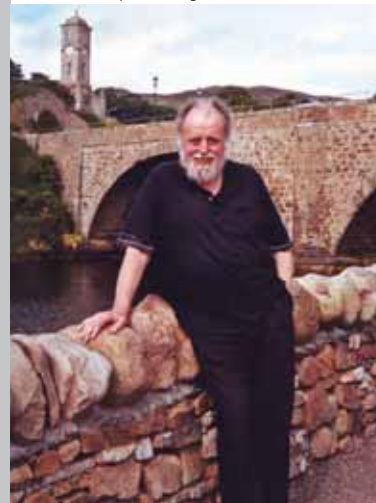
Rick Free

Roald Knutsen (1945)

While his father, a lieutenant in the Royal Norwegian Navy, was commanding a woodclad minesweeper and destroying magnetic mines – often by rifle fire! – the young Roald Knutsen (1945) passed the Second World War as a pupil of The Perse.

His own career took him via the Army Intelligence Corps to a lasting interest in military history, and particularly the tactics, swordsmanship and weaponry of old Japan. He has attained 7th dan in Kendo and somewhat better in the art of drawing the sword – lai-jutsu. A renowned expert in the field, one of the five academic books he has published was written in conjunction with his wife, Patricia, also a formidable Kendoka.

Read the full article at: www.oldperseans.org/memories



John Paton Philip (1943)

While Roald Knutsen's father was shooting mines (see above), John Paton Philip (1943) was tossing an incendiary bomb that had come down the chimney of the family home in Cambridge out of the window.

In adulthood, John specialised in agriculture: as an academic, in charge of a marchioness' farm and as a working shepherd. At The Perse he had starred on the sports field, captaining athletics, shooting and rugby.

"I remember Mr Barry writing that Philip was not a very good Rigger captain but always seemed to be in the right place at the right time."

His sporting prowess also caught the eye of PT instructor Miss Hincup, who "admired his posture." John went on to gain a rowing Blue at Cambridge and a First Class degree.

Read the full article at: www.oldperseans.org/memories

Graham Palmer (1963)

More on the Romsey County Primary School Boys: Graham Palmer (1963) writes – I can tell you who two of the "missing" boys were: David Robinson was one and I was the other. We were a year below Rick Mitchell, leaving the Romsey in 1955 to go to The Perse on state scholarships.

David Robinson, a friend of mine, did his first degree at Christ's College, Cambridge, and went on to do his PhD in Birmingham, I think... He then joined the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Invergowrie as a plant virologist, continuing his career there until his retirement. He lives in Dundee with his wife Judy; they have two children.

I did my first and only degree at Nottingham University. I then spent four years at Fisons Agrochemicals at Great Chesterford as a chemical information scientist, before moving to ICI Pharmaceuticals (now AstraZeneca) at Alderley Park in Cheshire in 1970. At Alderley Park I developed my interest in computer programming and systems development, and spent the rest of my career there in the development of software and database systems for chemical and biological research. I married my wife

Dorothy in 1986: we have no children. We live in Macclesfield.

I took early retirement in 1994, and since then I don't know how I ever had time to go to work! I am a past Chairman of our local AstraZeneca Pensioner's Association (social, not financial) and continue as an active member of its committee, as well as being on the committee of the Local Group of the RSPB in Macclesfield. I also do some computing for the Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society and for the Cheshire Border Girl Guides (Dorothy's influence there!).

For many years I was an active hill-walker, and after retirement I led walks for the retirees of AstraZeneca, until two knee-joint replacements finally finished that activity. However, I can still do a reasonable amount of birdwatching. Dorothy and I are keen concert-goers, enjoying orchestral concerts in Manchester by the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic, and chamber concerts in and near Macclesfield.

I will always be grateful for the education I received both at the Romsey and, of course, at The Perse. The Romsey is unfortunately no more, but the The Perse continues from strength to strength: long may it continue!



Geoff Ditcham (1958)

Geoff Ditcham was also moved to respond to Rick Mitchell's quest for Romsey Perseans: ... I can't let that go by unanswered! He was correct to assume that it would be strange if the only group to come to The Perse from Romsey were his contemporaries... who reached The Perse in 1954/5.

Theirs was certainly a bumper year, but prior to that the 11 Plus system had usually managed to send one boy to The Perse each year. I had that honour in 1953, following Terry Sweeney (1952) and, I think, Glyn Rogers before that. It's possible that Pete (BBC) Atkin, a year or two younger, may also qualify for that select group.

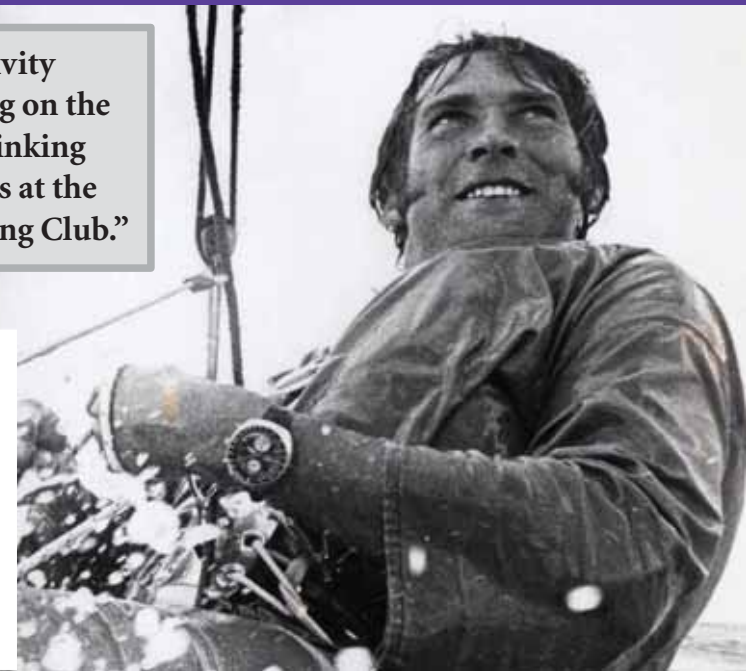
WILLIAM LEWIS DANN & GB's Olympic sailors

From paddling the family canoe on the River Cam to having a hand on the tiller of Team GB's Paralympic sailing squad, William Lewis Dann (1959) has steered a highly successful career on the water alongside his day job in medicine.

John Loveday and Lewis Dann on the wire in the 5-0-5 International Class at the World Championships in Bermuda, 1975. Picture: Alastair Black, Lee-on-Solent



“My only aquatic activity now is a bit of sculling on the River Debden and drinking a few pints of Adnams at the Felixstowe Ferry sailing Club.”



Second of the three Dann Boys to go through The Perse between 1949 and 1962, Lewis Dann says his rather mediocre start at the school was turned around by his involvement in the Naval Section of the CCF and the discovery that he could play rugby.

On the field he was a member of the very successful 1st XV of 1957/8; in the CCF Mr Ken Symonds fired his enthusiasm for boats and the sea, and introduced him to sailing the section's RNSA 14-foot dinghy, which was kept at Fen Ditton. Lewis and Robin Davies were to spend many hours drifting up and down Long Reach.

Following medical school in Sheffield, Lewis specialised in anaesthesia. After a brief dalliance with general practice, he returned to Sheffield University's Department of Anaesthetics, first as a research assistant and then as a lecturer.

A temporary (five year) post as a locum consultant anaesthetist in Derby allowed him to pursue his "alternative career".

"The arrangement was that I would work most of the time, but would be given extra time off, unpaid, when we were travelling to important regattas. Eventually, after the 1980 Olympic Games debacle, when there was a boycott of the Moscow Games in protest against the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, I realised that life as a permanent locum was not ideal for a career in medicine," he said.

He took a definitive consultant post at Derby, where he went on to set up the obstetric epidural service, was Head of Department for a decade, chaired of the Derby Medical Advisory Committee and the Trent Regional Anaesthetic Committee, and held other positions in the National Obstetric Anaesthetic Society.

Lewis had honed his team racing skills in Sheffield University Sailing Club's fleet of Merlin Rockets. He moved on to South Yorkshire Sailing Club and bought the first of the five Merlin dinghies he was to own.

Despite trying hard, he never managed to win the National Championships in the

Merlin class, his best result being third. Around this time he joined forces with another medic, John Loveday, who was a faster sailor but lacked Lewis's knowledge of tactics, strategy and rules.

In the National 5-0-5 class the pair won numerous Open Meetings, as well as the National, European, Pacific and World Championships.

"We were approached about moving into an Olympic class, and at the end of 1975 obtained an old Flying Dutchman Class dingy, the first of six that we were to share. Luckily we had a good sponsor in Thorntons Chocolates! In this class we won three National Championships, the FD Cup and many regattas."

Five years in the Olympic sailing squad ended in disappointment when the political decision was taken to withdraw the team from the Moscow Games. At 39 and married, Lewis opted to concentrate on medicine.

For a period he did much less sailing, but when his son Robert took up sailing in an

Optimist dinghy, Lewis ensured there was some competition for him by starting a junior section at Swarkestone Sailing Club. He rediscovered many of his old sailing chums, who were also introducing their children into the sport.

Lewis's involvement with youth sailing culminated in his appointment as National Coach. He took several teams abroad to European Championships. The RYA used him simultaneously to run the team and train the team coaches. He was invited to join the Paralympic Steering Group and after two years was made chairman, a position he has only just relinquished.

Britain is a world leader in enabling large numbers of disabled people to enjoy sailing thanks to the RYA Sailability charity, but this is far removed from the business of serious International Disabled Sport

Said Lewis: "In my 12 years with the PSG I am really proud of two things. Firstly, we have established a coherent pathway into the sport, and I believe over the next few years we will find an increasing stream of

prospective competitors moving into our training programmes.

"Sailing is one of the most complicated sports to master, so we are not able to tap straight into injured Services personnel as many sports can. Curiously, many of our sailors have come through the able-bodied youth sailing programmes whilst carrying a disability serious enough to be 'classified'. Others were competent sailors before they became disabled.

"Classification of disabilities for international sport is very complicated, and many nations have bent the rules in the past. Basically, the sad fact is that the less disabled competitor always has a greater chance of winning. It takes five to ten years to develop an international dinghy sailor, and there are no short cuts.

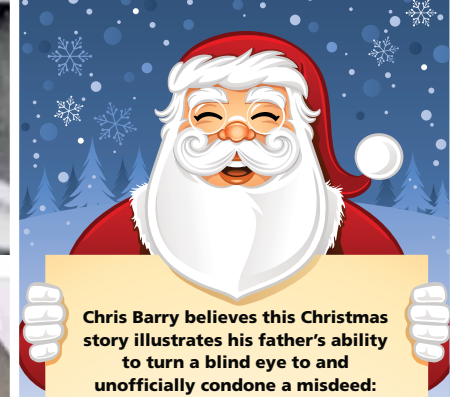
"The second major achievement is that we at the RYA have completely integrated the disabled and able-bodied squads, so that all athletes are treated identically. I believe this is unique in British sport."

"A very important part of preparation to sail at the top level is to train with other good crews that sail to a consistently high level. Over the coming months of preparation for Weymouth 2012 we will be using able-bodied sailors from the Olympic Programme who do not achieve selection for 2012 but who are intending to campaign through to 2016, to sail our tune-up boats."

Lewis said he would retire from the Paralympic Committee after the Games. "My only aquatic activity now is a bit of sculling on the River Debden and drinking a few pints of Adnams at the Felixstowe Ferry sailing Club."

He and his wife, Nancy, both retired from medicine, live in Suffolk and spend part of each year in Bardonecchia, on the Italian/French border. They keep fit skiing, walking and cycling. Their two children are studying for post-graduate degrees – one at Sheffield and the other at Oxford – neither in medicine, nor even science.

Inset: Lewis Dann and his daughter Kitty on the River Clyde.



Chris Barry believes this Christmas story illustrates his father's ability to turn a blind eye to and unofficially condone a misdeed:

It was the end of the Autumn Term; a friend, Laurence Rhodes (with whom I am still in touch) had obtained an inflatable Father Christmas. Late on the night before the last assembly he and I climbed up in the narrow window above the balcony into the apex of the Hall, above the stage. The climb necessitated the removal of all the light bulbs there; Laurie took them out and passed them to me, following behind with a bag. At the top, he lowered the Father Christmas on a string, to dangle it exactly over where the Headmaster sits. We came back down, replacing the light bulbs as we went – no vandalism there. In the morning Stubbs was incandescent; the Father Christmas was too high to reach, and only after a very tall step ladder was found and the very tall Head Boy (Nicky Martin) reached up with a long pole was it removed and a much-delayed and very quiet Assembly took place. That evening I happened to walk back down Glebe Road with my father. He said "Do give my unofficial congratulations to whoever did that". After a slight pause, I said "Oh – thank you". He spun round – "WHAT?!!!" We walked the rest of the way in silence, both of us smirking; nothing more was said.

MEMOIRS of a Teacher's Son

"My father had arranged for Hugh to send a telegram with my results; it arrived – 'Failed English Lit only. Laughing, Percival'."



So what was it like to be the teacher's son? Son of the "legendary" Keith Barry at that. To share the family home with a suspicious coterie of boarders who viewed one as a potential grass?

OP Chris Barry (64) tells all in *The Other End of the Boarding Houses*, a delightful compilation of "rather random recollections", abridged here but available in full on the Old Persean webpage.

"In my father's last years, my wife and I tried to persuade him to write his memoirs – his earliest memory was of a Zeppelin bombing London in World War I and in the speech he gave at the opening of the Barry Room he commented that he had known every headmaster The Perse had had in the last century!

"We were unsuccessful, though we did get as far as a title – *From Zeppelin to Alzheimer's!* I cannot emulate the depth and breadth of his memories, but I have always been aware that mine was the only year that had experienced both Prep buildings and both Upper Schools, and of course my experience of the boarding houses is unique."

We take up the story in 1954. The Prep School has moved to its present home at

Leighton House, former residence of the retailer Robert Sayle: "...the fact that my father was a teacher at the Upper School was not of much significance to anyone, with the exception of the boarders... we lived at one end, the boys at the other, and the resident staff lived above us on the top floor.

"Their fire escape was a rope, which ran through a braking device; each end had a sling. You were supposed to get into the sling and cast yourself out of the window; there was a runner across the outside of the window sill, which is still there! I remember going down it for fun, but I doubt if the cook or maids ever did!"

Chris remembers family life as fairly normal, given that he was an only child. Breakfast was always a family affair, but lunch and tea were with the boarders. His parents were loving and tactile, but he did feel isolated.

"...if any boy's misbehaviour was found out I was automatically blamed. No-one seemed to understand that, for that very reason, the last thing I would do was to tell my father about any misdeed of which I was aware!"

Another only child, Richard Johnston, became a friend – as did the Barry and



Johnston families, sharing many holidays. – Chris and Richard built a den, complete with model railway... "But there was still a barrier – on occasions, Richard would be with me at the Junior House and come in for tea; a certain amount of jeering and sniggering went on."

Other friends were few, but included John Cheney and Russell Cheng, who taught Chris how to use chopsticks.

"But don't feel too sorry for me – relationships with the day boys were more normal, particularly in the Cubs, Scouts and, later, the CCF, where shared interests mattered more than who came from where."

"In term time there were always problems to be sorted; I remember what seemed like constant knocks on the door – boys for my father, domestic staff for my mother. In holiday time the domestic staff were still there with their attendant problems; Joyce, the cook, was particularly temperamental. I remember on one occasion my father and I had to go into her room and disarm her of a knife she was threatening to use!"

Ahh, the days before Health and Safety was writ so large. Chris was reminded recently by an OP of his father getting eleven people into his Triumph Roadster – "...and being stopped by the police after going rather fast down Brooklands Avenue!"

"... Three in the front, three or four more standing behind the front seat, two on the 'dickie' seats in the boot, and a couple more squeezed in there. Both he and Keith Symons would take boys out for a spin in their cars for a treat – hugely appreciated! All this was long before the days of seat belts..."

Chris concedes there was some bullying at The Upper, unlike the Prep, but it was limited and never seemed to be related to the fact he was the son of a teacher. The most bizarre thing was being

taught by his father, and being called Barry and responding to Sir.

Shortly after the move to Hills Road, Keith Barry took over the Senior House when Mr Stubbs moved into the headmaster's house in the grounds. Now dinner was taken with the Matron and House Tutor and grateful boys were often invited to join the family for Sunday lunch...so again privacy was hard to come by.

There were advantages however. Chris had set his heart on medicine at Cambridge and was in the last batch for whom Latin O level was a requirement. It was hoped that a lot of private coaching from his father's great friend, the Latin teacher Hugh Percival, would get him through his worst subject. The results came out while the Barrys were holidaying in Spain.

"My father had arranged for Hugh to send a telegram with my results; it arrived – 'Failed English Lit only. Laughing, Percival'."

Read the full article at: www.oldperseans.org/memories

Dr ROUSE Biography

The Archivist, David Jones, is writing a biography of Dr Rouse and appeals to Old Perseans for recollections, however trivial. The numbers remaining who knew Rouse personally will be few, but the writer is also interested in how Rouse appeared in the minds of later Perse pupils. The accumulation of apparently insignificant small details can be unexpectedly informative. Mr Jones can be contacted at djjones@perse.co.uk or by writing to the school address.

Obituaries

Deaths notified:

Mr Bernard Walkling (1940)
Mr Ernest H. Collins (c1938)
Mr Kenneth Bloomfield Mosdell (1942)
Mr Geoffrey A. Halnan (1929)
Mr Robert W. Fozzard (c1949)
Mr Douglas A. Shopland (1966)



John Martin (1963)

John Martin MBE FRICS MRTPI, founder of John Martin & Associates, died at his home in Woodnewton in July after a courageous battle against cancer.

Born in Cambridge in 1946, John spent much of his early life in that city. He greatly enjoyed his education at The Perse, where he joined the Cadet Force, which gave him his life-long love for sailing. After leaving the school he joined the Cambridge-based firm of Carter Jonas as an articled pupil. After qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor he joined the Peterborough Development Corporation, where he was active in the redevelopment of the city centre.

In 1973 he joined the estate agency practice of Ekins Dilley & Handley, where two years later he was made a partner. He became National Land Director of the Prudential when it bought out Ekins Dilley & Handley, and subsequently transferred to the Woolwich when it in turn acquired the Prudential's planning business. In 1993 John set up his own planning and development consultancy, John Martin and Associates, in Godmanchester.

John had been a member of Peterborough Cathedral's congregation throughout his time in the area. He became involved with its fundraising appeal in the 1990s, contributing greatly to its success, and as a result of his efforts was appointed MBE in 2001. Up until his death he served as a Lay Member of the Cathedral Chapter.

His life-long interest in politics led him to meet his future wife Jane, whom he married in 1986. With her he shared his passion for boats and sailing, most recently embodied in his proud ownership of a classic wooden Thames river boat. He was also Chairman of the Trustees of Samuel Pepys' house at Brampton.

John is survived by his widow Jane and daughter Rebecca.

Barry Pedley (1947)

Barry Pedley was born in Cambridge in 1931. Both his parents, Frank and Lois, worked in the motor trade, and from an early age he was brought up into their business orientated world.

Although not particularly well off, the family did have the use of company cars and during the 1930s spent summer holidays at a remote Cornish moorland farm.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Barry went to live on this farm, initially attending the local village school. He earned a place at Launceston College before returning to Cambridge and joining The Perse School in 1944.

From childhood he showed a practical aptitude and was greatly influenced by his father, a talented manager and engineer. Through his mother, he was also encouraged to follow up on his keen interest in writing, music, cinema, and most of all the theatre, but always from a technical standpoint. These interests lasted a lifetime.

While still at The Perse, Barry got a part time job back stage as a junior electrician at the prestigious Cambridge Arts Theatre, joining full time on leaving school. He always thought this to be one of the happiest times and the contacts made with many artists stood him in good stead many years later.

Called up for National Service in 1949, he opted for the RAF and latterly became personal assistant to the principal dental officer at HQ Command. This post involved considerable travel, mostly on his own motor-cycle and almost always via Cambridge! He used the enforced two years' Service life to master typing and office routines.

Prior to demob, Barry applied to BBC TV for an engineering post. Whilst waiting, his father's employers offered him free-lance work setting up a completely new business, selling the latest record players and Hi Fidelity sound equipment. The company involved was King and Harper, one of the oldest, largest and most respected retailers in Cambridge. Through their five branches they sold everything from tractors to televisions. This variety gave Barry a lifelong interest in electronics in engineering.

He joined the firm full-time and his original marketing campaigns, making use of PR and his contacts in local cinemas and theatre, eventually led him to take control over all its promotions. He later became Sales Director.

In 1964, K&H was bought by a public group, Oliver Rix. After the inevitable executive shake down, Barry was appointed Managing Director with the unenviable task of divesting his old company of all non-motor activities. Two years later, this was achieved and he was moved to Liverpool as MD and also to run the recently acquired North West Motor Group.

A few years later, Barry returned to Cambridge after election to the parent company Main Board with specific responsibility for marketing the now national, diversified business – ironically as varied as the one he was told to dismantle years earlier. Three years later, Barry became Deputy Managing Director, moving to Northampton, as by now he was also a Director of another related public group in that area.

In 1975, after almost 25 years with the Group, he and his partner – David Neill, a longstanding friend and colleague – left to set up an investment group of their own. Business rapidly expanded with considerable diversity. One of their companies even undertook marketing tasks for their former employer.

Barry's generosity to counsel and support numerous people over the years, by sharing his experience, continued to last.

“Dad always reminded me that behind every successful businessman is a supportive woman. Whatever he achieved in business, Dad always remarked came in no small measure from the help, encouragement and quite remarkable selflessness given by his dearest Anne.

“Whilst not a religious person, Dad was the most remarkable Christian person if judged by his daily deeds, I have ever met. He will be forever with us.”

Excerpt from speech made by Mark Pedley at his father's funeral.

Harry Davis (1944) Comments on “Mike” Stockbridge's Obituary

I am a keen reader of the OP Newsletter and its obituaries. Regarding the latter, may I suggest that more data about an OP's achievements at School could sometimes be provided. For instance, in the recent obituary of “Mike” Stockbridge, it was not mentioned that for some years (unless I am mistaken) he held the school long jump record: 19' 10”.

On a personal note, I recall a cold March day on the playing fields in 1944, Keith Barry officiating, when this record was broken with a jumping of 20' 3” by John Denson destined to become H.M. Ambassador in Nepal. One onlooker who warmly applauded this feat was, if my memory serves, Mike Stockbridge himself.

Now, however, reading about his courageous undercover exploits in wartime Crete, I wonder if he would have been granted home leave at that particular moment in time. Was it a case of mistaken identity on my part and, thereafter, of letting “frail thoughts dally with false surmise”? The uncertainty will persist unless someone, also present on that distant occasion, can confirm or otherwise the accuracy of my recollection.

Eric Cunningham Dax (1927)



Eminent psychiatrist Eric Cunningham Dax AO, who died just months short of his hundredth birthday, came from a family of medical innovators and went on to make his mark as a pioneer of care in the community and as “the father of art therapy”.

His distinguished role in reforming mental hospitals and making mental illness socially respectable has been honoured at a memorial service Australia, his adopted home, where “Dr Dax” became a household name, still resonating with many today. Internationally respected for his professional achievements, he was also held in deep affection.

Dax was born in 1908 to a Nottinghamshire family. His mother Alice established a Nursing Federation and social services for miners' wives, while his father Henry qualified in both pharmacy and optometry.

While at The Perse School (1918–1927), young Eric Dax excelled in both academics and sport. He went on to take a degree in medicine in London, securing the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Prize, and began specialising in psychiatry.

In the mid-1930s he met nurse Katie Thompson. Their marriage was to last more than 60 years, until her death, and produce four children. In 1939, only 12 years after he had left school, Dax was appointed Deputy Superintendent at Netherne Hospital in Surrey. By 1942 he had been promoted to Medical Superintendent.

Under his stewardship the institution became a beacon of best-practice for the care of the mentally ill. Pioneering methods included editing a handbook for psychiatric nursing, the introduction of tailored care for different mental illnesses, the administration of general anaesthetics for electroconvulsive therapy, psychosurgery, and music and art therapy.

PS: The person, ideally, who could cast a light on the event I mention would be John Denson himself. But I have an idea 1. that he resigned from the OP Society several years ago, and 2. that he died around 2007–2008. Unfortunately, I am unable to gain access to the relevant Who was Who to check this.

In 1952 the family moved to Australia in order for Dax to take up his appointment as Chair of the Victorian Mental Hygiene Authority, a post he held until 1968. In his book Asylum to Community he wrote that when he first arrived many of the mental hospitals were in a deplorable state of neglect and disrepair, with bored, unkempt patients sleeping on straw mattresses. His vision transformed these Bedlam-like wards into light, bright places where “everyone had their own clothes and their own beds”.

Dax's pioneering efforts in Victoria also encompassed separation of care for the intellectually disabled from those who were ill, development of occupational therapy services, professionalisation of psychiatric nursing, development of in-prison psychiatric services, separate services for the elderly, the development of day hospitals and the abolition to a great extent of the stigma of “madness”.

He moved on to become Co-ordinator in Community Health in Tasmania and then to establish a Department of Psychiatric Research.

Dax's work, coordinating research on the few families with multiple problems that consumed a significant proportion of welfare services, is still in use today. He also led the expansion of voluntary services to the mentally ill or disabled. He was a firm believer in progressively moving the care of mentally ill people into the community and involving the community in that movement.

In 1978 he started a private practice, which was continued when he returned to Victoria in 1984.

Over the next two decades he combined that practice with assembling a collection of artworks produced by psychiatric patients; artwork he used both to assist in the diagnosis of mental disorder and as a tool for its treatment. The Cunningham Dax Collection of over 12,000 pieces is one of the largest of its kind in the world and exhibitions of works are regularly held.

Wilfred Court (1946)



Wilfred was born on 2nd July 1929 in Nottingham. His family later moved to Shelford near Cambridge and he went to The

Perse School and then studied Architecture at Caius College, Cambridge. He maintained links with both his school and college throughout his life and loved going back for reunions and dinners.

He was a conscientious objector, so instead of doing National Service he was sent to a voluntary work camp in Italy, where he

oversaw the building of a school. This was quite an experience for him and he made many friends from different countries. He then travelled to India and Pakistan to continue his voluntary service. He was given a travel grant from UNESCO to report on the educational work done at Mahatma Gandhi's ashram in Sevagram and completed a solo walk in the foothills of the Himalayas. He returned home on a meandering route through Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Italy.

Wilfred then moved across the globe to start working as an architect in Ghana. He helped organise the independence celebrations in 1957 and, although it was Kwame Nkrumah who lit the Flame of African Freedom in Independence Square in Accra, it was Wilfred behind the screens who made sure it stayed alight!

Wilfred's next job was in Nigeria where he worked at the Ahmadu Bello University in Kaduna. After marrying Elisabeth in December 1963, they headed back to live in Nigeria. Life in Nigeria was becoming very unsettled and dangerous due to the Biafran civil war and in 1968 they returned with their two daughters to England.

The family finally settled in King's Cliffe, in Northamptonshire, where their youngest daughter was born in 1969. Wilfred worked for several architectural practices – Scott, Brownrigg and Turner, and Priestman, Williams and Bennett in Peterborough before setting up his own practice with Paddy Morpeth. In later years, he set up his own one-man practice and also worked as Architect for Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, which he loved as he had a real passion for the preservation of beautiful old buildings.

As an architect, Wilfred left a legacy of buildings all over the world - from a bus station in Pakistan, leprosy hospital buildings in Bangladesh and university buildings in Nigeria to Peterborough Regional Swimming Pool and the old Sainsburys in Bretton. He didn't really want to retire, and continued to design houses well past the age when others would have left the drawing board behind - most notably the Crown House in Hall Yard in King's Cliffe and Baz Clarke's aptly named “Court House” in Ketton. He was highly commended in the Natural Stone awards by the Stone Federation of Great Britain for this building.

Wilfred loved King's Cliffe and got very involved with village life. He served on the Parish Council for 30 years and was chairman several times and he was also a member of many societies and committees. One of his main achievements was the renovations to the village hall of which he was very proud. He continued with many activities well into retirement, including reading audio books for the R.N.I.B on a voluntary basis.

Wilfred was diagnosed with prostate and bone cancer in April 2008, an illness which he approached with his usual calm and uncomplaining fortitude. He died on 29th April 2011.

Dr Stephen Perse's legacy has been helping to change lives for almost 400 years.



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