

Degree News

Timothy Deer (2001) MA European Management Studies Upper 2nd Class Hons

Ben Morrison (2001) BSc Medical Sciences with Psychology 2:1

Daniel Fisher (2002) BSc Geography 2:2 UCL

Ben Freedman (2002) MEng 2:1

Matthew Harris (2002) BA Natural Sciences Class 1

Duncan Simmonds (2002)

BA Hons Geography Class 1

Hannah Bennett (2003) BA 2:1 Modern Languages Tripos

Nathan Wade-Gledhill (2003) BSc Medical Sciences with Pharmacology 2:1 (UCL)

Robert Lever (2005) 1st Class Part 1A Medical Science Tripos

Simon Smart (2005) Part 1A: Cambridge Natural Sciences: Class 1

Missing OPs

The last newsletter was returned to us for the following Old Perseans:

Maurice Reynolds (1940)

Robin Willimont (1946)

Roger Mowl (1960)

Colin Dennis (1971)

Nigel Maynard (1973)

Robin Cox (1975)

Philip Kingsley (1980)

Andrew Dean (1985)

James Whitton-Spriggs (1986)

Richard Edwards (1987)

Edmund French (1987)

Oliver Sargent (1987)

James Standley (1989)

James Munro (1992)

Toby Lincoln (1993)

Reuvane Simmons (1997)

Nick Emmel (1996)

Michael Lindsay (1996)

Stephen McWilliam (1996)

If you can help with any addresses/information, please contact Sarah Jones on alumni@perse.co.uk or 01223 403808

Report from (to quote the Daily Mirror) 'the British Army's most remote outpost...'



David Potter (1998) writes: We have just had the pleasure of entertaining two reporters from the Daily Mirror for a few days who managed to win no friends by headlining "...from the British Army's most remote outpost". Needless to say, the Royal Marine company I am here with were not amused!

Life here has been intermittently very exciting with various attacks, counter attacks, mortars, bombs and grenades exchanging hands. Needless to say the Doctor's well out of the way and my only customers have been Afghan civvies, usually with chronic illness. Half of the company are living in trailers on a nearby hill and recent unexpected rainfall has made life here rather wet. However the Taliban do not like the rain and the marines couldn't care less, so it is only the tan that is suffering.

I have, by default, become the platoon house vet: we have various stray dogs and cats in varying degrees of health.

I have seen Anton Fries, Alex Fries, James Hogan and Rich Reid recently, indeed I ran past Rich on the back ramp of a Chinook only yesterday handing over the Garmsir Doc's job!

Anton Fries (1997) – I've been here for two months and spend 90% of the time doing not very much – just as well because no-one wants the Doc to be busy...but I've been deployed forward to treat casualties a few times which has been a bit more full-on. So far I've been in contact once – my position was mortared by the Taliban and then we came under small arms fire. The Afghans we were fighting with took two casualties who I treated in the bottom of a ditch. One died instantly but I stabilised the other and we rushed him off to a helicopter on the back of a quad bike. It was unquestionably the most frightening experience of my life.

Otherwise I do general practice for the Unit and occasionally treat casualties in the A&E department. It's already been an awesome experience and definitely what I joined the Navy for!

Old Persean Society Annual General Meeting – Agenda

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | 4. President's Report |
| 2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM – Friday 12th May | 5. Treasurer's Report |
| 3. Matters arising | 6. Election of Committee |
| | 7. Any other business |

Old Persean Open day – Wednesday 9th May 2007

You are warmly invited to the OP Open Day in May. There will be the opportunity to hear about the latest news on the Perse development plans, watch the 1st XI cricketers take on Hills Road and listen to an excellent selection from the music department. The day will include the OP Society AGM and lunch.

If you are able to come along, please let Sarah know by 2nd May, by calling 01223 403808 or emailing alumni@perse.co.uk. If you would like to observe a lesson, it would very helpful if you could indicate your preferred subject.

The timetable for the day is:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 11.00am | Arrival and coffee |
| 11.30am | Tours by School Prefects – Lesson Observation |
| 12.10pm | Drinks and AGM |
| 12.30pm | Lunch |
| 1.30pm | Music Concert |
| 2.10pm | School update |
| 2.45pm | Lesson observation – Live cricket |
| 3.20pm | Tea |

OLD PERSEAN NEWS

Spring Newsletter 2007



A Message from The President

A happy New Year to you all. Our Old Persean year rolls on and coming up this spring we have the Open Day to look forward to on Wednesday 9th May. The School goes to a lot of trouble to entertain us on The Open Day with an excellent lunch, a little concert and this year, as well as the usual tour, there is a cricket match in the afternoon. Not forgetting to mention our own AGM as an extra bonus.

There are changes afoot in the Office at school. Jennie Wallis has made such a success of coordinating the school's database and the Old Persean Society that she has been invited to take on a new and bigger role at the School, which will mean handing on her OP responsibilities. We send a big thank you for all she has done for The Society. We will miss her enthusiasm, humour and efficiency, and wish her well in her new post. The School is currently in the process of appointing an Alumni Officer. Until then Sarah Jones has taken over Jennie's role and she can be contacted at alumni@perse.co.uk or by telephone on 01223 403808.

You may remember in my last message I mentioned the map of the world I had for my birthday and asked for anyone to e-mail me at ashleyedgar@tiscali.co.uk with details of trips, hikes and heights they had achieved around the world. Well the pins are thickening (two of us have completed the Munros – what about that!) but I could do with some more. The Americas and Australia/New Zealand are nearly empty. Happy hiking.

Ashley Edgar



Perse Reunions in the US – 2007

The Headmaster will be attending two receptions in the United States this year:

- San Francisco
Saturday 21st April – 6pm
Encinal Yacht Club, Alameda
- New York
Thursday 18th October
Evening reception – venue to be confirmed

The School would be delighted to see as many Old Perseans as possible at these reunions. For further details please contact Roly Owers on alumni@perse.co.uk or telephone +44 (0)1223 403808. A list of those who are coming to both events will be updated regularly on the website www.oldperseans.org/events

UK Events

9th May – OP Open day
28th Sept – OP Dinner
For further details contact alumni@perse.co.uk



Jamie Waters (1996) was married on 9 September 2006. Guests included 9 OPs. Top left to right: Jarvey Moss, Jono Oates, Jordan Peters, Jamie Waters, James Garner, Jamie Parish. Bottom left to right: Dan Colquhoun, 'Gunner' Lorimer, Lucan Green, Dan Boden.

Graham Wade (1958)

On 15 June 2006, the London launch for the first part of Graham's biography of the great Spanish composer, Joaquin Rodrigo (1901–1999) *Joaquin Rodrigo, A Life in Music: Travelling to Aranjuez 1901–1939* was held at Schott's, 48 Great Marlborough Street. The guests of honour were Cecilia Rodrigo, flying from Madrid for the event, the Spanish Ambassador and his wife, the Count and Countess of Casa Miranda, Sally Groves (Director of Schott's and daughter of the conductor Sir Charles Groves), and the great British guitarist, Julian Bream.

Since leaving Jesus College, Cambridge where he studied English, Graham has been Head of Strings and professor of guitar at the City of Leeds College of Music (1975–1996), and tutor in guitar at the universities of Leeds and York.

Graham is an internationally acknowledged author on the guitar and Spanish music, (*Joaquin Rodrigo, A Life in Music* is his 21st publication), and among others, has also written five books on the life and art of the great guitarist, Andres Segovia. He has given guitar recitals and lectured on music worldwide including the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Kuwait, Spain, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Hungary, Czech Republic, etc as well as throughout Britain.



Chris Berrie (1975)

After my first degree, I moved to London and spent 7 years working in research at the National Institute for Medical Research. After completing my Masters degree part-time, I moved on to what was Smith, Kline and French Research in Welwyn.

After 3½ years there, I moved to Manchester University and then spent 5 years at Liverpool University, where I completed my PhD. In 1995, I followed my girlfriend, Emanuela Guerra, out to Italy to join the Mario Negri Sud Research Institute, in the Region of Abruzzo. We were married in 1997 in Fabriano, Italy, and now live in Cepagatti, near Pescara.

In 2002 I moved to a part-time English language role for the Department. At the

same time, I took up Freelance Science Writing, with my own, one-man, company. This mainly consists of medical writing around my attendance at various medical conferences throughout Europe, the correction of scientific manuscripts (clients in Italy, Turkey, Slovenia, France), and the writing of a few science and Italy-related articles, mainly for Science magazine's NextWave website. I also do Italian to English translation (with the help of my wife) and we have worked on four or five local guides.

Life continues to be interesting, and although our family extension (Frida Isabelle; born in August 2004) arrived late in life, she is also providing new experiences and rewards.



Ben Freedman (2002)

Between graduating with a 2.1 in Civil Engineering (MEng – Bristol) and starting work, I spent a month and a half travelling to Singapore, New Zealand and Sydney. I travelled the length of New Zealand, seeing the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and the extreme activities of Queenstown and I even bumped into another Old Persean (Michael Adlam 2001).

Although very drawn to the quality of life in NZ, I returned to Bristol and am now working as a Structural Engineer for Building Design Partnership, a multi-discipline practice of architects, designers and engineers.

At university, Ben's final year design project was runner-up in the (national) Royal Academy of Engineering "2006 Sustainable Development Design Project Competition".

Razali Koroh (1986)

After leaving the Perse, I went to do a LL.B (hons) degree and a Masters' degree in Area Studies (Southeast Asia). Presently doing a PhD in Geography (topic: Land Tenure and Indigenous Society in British North Borneo, 1881–1985). Also stood as independent candidate for Parliament during Malaysia's 2004 General Election. Would be pleased to hear from my ex-schoolmates or anyone having similar academic interests. razkoroh@hotmail.com

Carl Hammond (1998)

On leaving the Perse, Carl took a gap year and travelled to Australia where he spent 5 months working on conservation projects, including creating steps in the Blue Mountains and a further month travelling around Australia. He then took up his deferred place on a Biology degree course at Nottingham University and 3 years later passed with a First Class Honours Degree. Carl then went travelling again – this time to Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia. Whilst in Thailand he spent time working with a local doctor in the hill country.

On his return to the UK he gained a place at Warwick University to study

medicine on a four year graduate course. Carl worked from October 2005 to June 2006 as a Nursing Assistant at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge to gain experience before starting his course at Warwick. He has just completed his first term and has enjoyed it immensely although it is quite intensive.



Roald Knutsen (1945)

As the years roll past it is always of interest to read these short biographical notices, often in the hope of reaching back to one's own contemporaries, albeit a dwindling crew by now. For what it's worth here is a brief sketch of my own career. Just before WW II started in 1939 my parents left me in England with my grandparents and went back to Norway as my father was a serving naval officer. They also thought it was safer here (!). My grandfather, a head teacher, was evacuated directly to Cambridge and I entered the Prep School in September 1939 moving on to the Upper school in 1943. I left in 1945 when we returned to Boreham Wood, Herts, and I finished my education at the excellent Watford Grammar (three years) and finally at Lewes Grammar (two years). My parents, after several dangerous experiences in Occupied Norway, finally escaped to Sweden in January 1943 and reached England safely soon after. My father then commanded a wooden minesweeper until the end of the hostilities – but that is another story. Then came four important years in the army with the Intelligence Corps

in Egypt and finally Libya (1953–56), after which I embarked on my main career in advertising design, successfully freelancing for the next thirty-five years. However, my deeply interesting army service had prompted me to embark on a serious study of mediæval Japanese warrior history, the results of which have been, to date, four academic books, the last on the influence of the ancient Chinese philosopher, Sun Tzu, on early Japanese martial thinking. Both my wife and I have travelled in Japan many times and have been deeply involved for five decades in establishing traditional Kendo here in England. But from the Old Persean point of view perhaps the pièce de résistance is the reunion early last June between Rodney Dale, Anthony Coe and myself, close friends at The Perse until we parted company, as so many did, in 1945. We had a great time briefly reunited but I can't recommend leaving an interval of sixty-one years again, not really!

If anyone from the distant past to the present wants to contact me, my email address is: roald@knutsen.f2s.com

Matthew Lloyd (1976)

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union there was no real requirement for my specialist skills in hunting soviet submarines from helicopters so I abandoned my career plan (to be an admiral and have a knighthood) and left the Royal Navy. In 1993 with my new bride Katrina, I departed the UK for a new life in New Zealand. For eight years I put my electronic warfare skills to use running communications (satellite, radio, telephone, cellphone) for the Department of Conservation (DoC). DoC is very similar to the National Trust but with oversight of one third of NZ's total land area.

I now work for the New Zealand Red Cross and I am having a wonderful time. I design "disaster proof" communications systems and then visit island states in the Pacific to train the local Red Cross society in how to use the equipment. I am spending other peoples' money but I get all the thanks, a highly satisfactory situation.

I am having too much fun in my day job to really have any hobbies but I own 9 acres of gorse overlooking Wellington harbour on which I breed alpacas (who largely look after themselves).



Matthew Lloyd in the Federated States of Micronesia

Peter Clark (1963)

By a strange quirk of fate, Peter Clark is now working on the very site at 1 Hills Road where he started at the senior school fifty years before. As Programme Director at Cambridge Assessment he is helping introduce electronic script management and the on-screen marking of exams. "Any mention of poacher turned gamekeeper will be strongly denied" he said.

Graham Cooper (1957)

The answer to the President's question as to whether there are any other OPs ticking off the Munros is "Yes, I am." My first was Ben Nevis (in 1973) via No 3 gulley during a stay at the CIC hut just below. The latest one was Carn Dearg in the Central Highlands last September above Culra Lodge overlooking Ben Alder. I have still a dozen to complete; a good week on Skye (I have had four lousy ones so far!) would see me seven tenths of the way to completion.

Incidentally, Mike Neale (1955), a contemporary of mine has recently completed them with an ascent of Sgurr nan Gillean on Skye.

I remember a particularly foul day in the Cairngorms which moved me to pen this (with apologies to William Wordsworth):

Cairngorm Tribute

On Beinn a' Bhuid, in Cairngorm's Realm,
I struggled, soaked and fearful cold.
My spirit low I contemplated
Turning back, I felt so old.

But something kept me heading upwards –
Toward the lofty summit space
where other Munro boots had trodden
Savouring mountaineering grace.

The track had vanished, swirling cloud
Had wreathed the summit plateau. So,
My compass, faith and falt'ring steps
Would lead me where I had to go.

I wandered lonely in the cloud,
The wind and rain had chilled my bones.
Alas, I never came across
That host of little summit stones.

As I retreat through thick'ning the mist
The poet's voice rings out – and shrills,
"I don't know what you're looking for
But here there ain't no daffodils!"

Congratulations to James Davey (1995) who led Chantage to success as BBC Adult Choir of the Year at the National Finals in November 2006. James formed Chantage in 1999 after gaining his BMus in Performance from the Birmingham Conservatoire and singing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain for several years. He is currently studying for his MA in Choral Education.

Keith Tan (1997) – Having finished my BSc, then PhD at Imperial College London, I've left for the "sunny" climes of Canada, and can be found residing in Montreal. ksct97@yahoo.com

Amelia Sutherland (nee Lyon, 1997) – I spent a wonderful 3 years at Catz, Oxford. Am off travelling before settling into the city, working for Deloitte & Touche.

Lindsey Holley (1999 – nee Birks) and her husband Dawie are pleased to announce the birth of their son James Joshua Samuel, born on 27th December 2006.

David Birks (2001) is now a graduate trainee at Sellafield.

Giles Mallindine (2003) is now working in an advertising agency in London and doing the daily commute from Cambridge.

Daniel Johnson (1991)

As ski jobs go, see if you can do better than this: "French radio and TV station seeks Brit to launch English service in picturebook alpine setting. Responsibilities include working with French blonde and skiing every day." Two years ago I signed up as le DJ for RLT2 Morzine and Chérie FM. On a good morning – this is dependent on my having to dig my car out of a snowdrift – I'll be in the office at 7am. Within the hour, I'll be sending out the first English weather bulletins, piste openings and events guides. Then I'll grab my skis and head up the mountain to check conditions which I'll phone in for the second piste report. I have a slot in my show called Don't Eat the Yellow Snow, in which you might hear such things as me asking Brits not to leave their hire car on the main road at night unless they fancy testing their policy for snowplough damage. With two seasons behind me I can still find enough reasons to justify getting into work six days out of seven – the main one being that the studio is just a snowball's throw from the cable car, with access to one of the largest and prettiest winter playgrounds on the planet.

You can hear Daniel on RLT2 Morzine 97.9 fm and Chérie fm Les Gets 101.5, during the winter season. His events guide is broadcast on Morzine-Avoriaz TV, channels 38 and 62. Email: daniel@mo2.net

With grateful thanks to Ben Letham of Ski & Board magazine (November 06) for allowing the reproduction of the photo and parts of the article.



Sigrid Edmundson (2002)

I am currently in my fourth year at university studying Chemistry. The first three years were at Imperial College London, but now I am doing my final year project on chemistry in Paris until May. During my three years I was a member of the University of London Officers Training Corps and in the last academic year 2005–2006, I was Senior Under Officer for the entire unit. As the representative of the whole Corps, my overall aim was to be a role model in every aspect of soldiering. My responsibilities were varied and

demanding. I had to communicate the needs and opinions of the Officer Cadets to the senior officers, keep the Commanding Officer informed as to the current state of affairs, maintain overall discipline within the platoons, ensure the correct use of the chain of command, organize social functions for over 300 people, represent the unit during VIP visits, including HRH Princess Anne, accompany the platoons on field weekends and act as the overall head and point of contact for senior NCO's and senior Officers.

Robert Dunn (1999)

I have finished my PhD at the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge (still need to have the viva voce though) and have started a post-doctoral research post in the Astronomy Group at the University of Southampton. Am currently still finding my feet, but am looking forward to the next two years. During my PhD I (somehow) managed to find time to take up archery and be awarded a half-blue, and also co-write a book, "300 Astronomical Objects." It was a busy 3 years!

David Armes (1961)

My classmates at the Perse included David Scudamore, David Driver, Tim Flack and Ted Glover. My career in the National Health Service came to an abrupt end in 1994 but was followed by a second career as a Care Assistant to elderly people for 6 years. My wife and I are now living in central south-west France where we have been joined by our daughter and grandson. Life is different but good.

Memories of the Corps and the Army Part 1 – Edward Lachlan (1949)

In recent editions there has been much coverage of the earlier activities and camps of the Scouts and, as an old soldier of 44 years service, I feel it is high time the dear old Corps featured in these pages. I joined what was then the Junior Training Corps (Army Section) in January 1945, following a year with the Scouts. Fortunately Uncle Mac took little persuading that I was likely to make a better soldier than continuing as an unenthusiastic scout so I was enrolled by the OC, Major Alec Storr, and started training for Certificate 'A' Part 1. I shall never forget the thrill and sense of adventure provided by my first cadet camp in the summer of 1945. The Perse Contingent, together with other local JTCs and Army Cadet Force units, went to Inveraray on the shores of Loch Fyne in Argyll. We travelled by special troop train, which left Cambridge at midnight and after a fascinating journey along the West Coast main line, by-passing

Glasgow, we detrained at Dalmally 16 hours later. We then clambered aboard 3 tenners for a drive through glorious Highland scenery, descending to our Nissen-hutted camp on the outskirts of Inveraray. Loch Fyne at that stage of the 2nd World War was an unforgettable sight, being crammed with every type of amphibious landing ships and craft. Following VE Day they had been concentrated here in preparation for the long voyage to the Far East for operations against the Japanese. During the 2nd week of camp news arrived of the dropping of an Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima on 5th August. The scientists among us were quizzed about the nature of this weapon, but to little avail. Our training programme continued with exercises in the hills and amphibious landings on the shoreline in glorious sunny weather. The only disappointment was the coldness of the loch when we ventured in for a swim!

In 1946 annual camp was held in Firlie Park, set in the beautiful South Downs near Lewes. My only memory is of a Saturday afternoon's R&R spent in Brighton with James Dagleish! By the Easter holidays in 1947 I had successfully passed both parts of Certificate 'A' and was allowed to attend a week's course at the Royal Artillery Officer Cadet Training Unit, then at Deepcut near Aldershot. Here we were able to drive 15 cwt trucks and ride motorcycles, but the highlight was a day on Salisbury Plain firing artillery guns and having a flight in an Auster light aircraft. Attendance on that course determined that I should become a Gunner on leaving school. Annual camp in 1947 was held in Norfolk, which I was prevented from attending because of a polio scare in the School Boarding House.

To be continued in the summer.

Tributes to Beryl Barry 1912–2006

During the war years senior boys helped to bring in the harvest on Roberts' farm. Keith and Beryl were very much part of the enterprise in a working capacity. I particularly remember Beryl bringing us breakfast in the field consisting of hearty bacon and egg baps and coffee – other refreshments followed during the 12 hour working day. Beryl came across the field on her bicycle dressed in a pair of snappy shorts. She helped in so many ways in the harvesting that the four weeks slipped by.

Neville Day (1943)

My father is Ian Monroe, currently living near Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He attended The Perse, 1936–43.

On reading the 2006 Winter Newsletter, he wanted to extend his deepest regrets to Keith Barry. My father knew Mrs Barry while he was a student at the Boarding House. He remembers her as a charming lady. My parents also had the pleasure of meeting the Barrys on a visit to Britain in the early 1990s.

My father extends his best wishes to the School and the Barry family for 2007.

John Monroe



Junior House 1951

I can remember her as Miss Boothroyd when she first arrived at the Prep school, and our instant attraction to such a pretty, charming and excellent teacher. She kept good discipline without harshness, we all adored her. We felt greatly let down when she later married Keith as we felt 'cheated'. We felt privileged when we were able to meet her again at a reunion a year or two ago when she and Keith were guests of honour at a dinner party of some of her and Keith's old pupils. She and Keith hardly seemed to have aged. She will be sadly missed.

John Milligan (1944)

The year 1936 was when I entered the Perse School House as a boarder. During my first year my main contact with Beryl was for the weekly rally of the cub pack. There was a mix of fun and learning; I can clearly recall a picture of our cub mistress in her smart khaki safari outfit directing our acting out of Kipling's Jungle Book.

The wartime years saw a party of senior boys, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Barry, helping with the corn harvest on my family's farm. Beryl partnered my mother in organising the catering arrangements. One of the daily excitements was the 'elevenses' milk delivery; Beryl delivered

this on a tricycle and the elegant sight of her resting her feet on the milk crate as the pedals spun round became legendary.

Those harvests were the beginning of a great friendship with my family which has spread over three generations and it was my privilege to have been with Keith and Beryl and enjoyed their company barely three weeks before her death.

John Roberts (1946)

I was very sorry to hear of the death of dear Beryl Barry. I first met her when I arrived in the 4th Form at the Prep in September 1940 and was introduced to the French language by her. On becoming a boarder in School House in 1943, I enjoyed wider contact with her, firstly as the House Tutor's wife and subsequently as the House Master's wife. She was a delightful, even-tempered lady and was greatly adored by the boarders. I count myself very fortunate that both she and Keith came out to our house in Over for lunch in late January 2006 when she also met my brother Charles who she had not seen since 1943. It was a very happy occasion and a treasured memory.

Edward Lachlan (1949)

I have today received the Winter Newsletter 2006 and was shaken to learn of the death of Beryl Barry. It is

odd how one has a clear recollection of certain periods of one's life and she was certainly part of mine.

In 1940 my Perse career started at the Prep based in Bateman Street. The Headmaster was Lindermann, a great character former through his 3 conduct marks qualifying one for 6 of the best. Happy days!

At that time Mrs Barry was the Form Mistress and specialised, if my memory is up to the mark, in English. A charming and capable lady for whom all of us at that time had a deep regard. She, with Woolman at the Upper, gave me the love of our language which prevails in spite of the efforts of our media 'et al'.

Of course one developed in rugby at the Upper and came into contact with another great influence, namely her husband Keith.

John Bartaby-Russell (1951)

I have fond memories of both of them as being fair, kind and strict. Most of my early days at the school I was home sick, but this was in no way associated with either of them. I have the school to thank for giving me an education which has stood me in good stead throughout my life, and enabled me to retire reasonably

comfortably, and spend more time with my hobby, engineering and building small gauge locomotives.

Stuart Ravell (1956)

I remember as a new(ish) pupil finding 'KB' presenting the aspect of a stern and forbidding teacher, and I must have mentioned this to my father. He told me that he remembered him as very young teacher, who was the centre of School gossip, as he was pursuing the very attractive French teacher!

My other recollection is of the School Contemporary Music Society targeting 'KB' when he was standing in for the Head at morning assembly. The attempt was in the form of an announcement that the record being played that lunchtime would be something by The Kinks – a popular 'beat combo' of the time. Needless to say he never fell for it!

Mark Pattison (1976)

Deaths

Arthur M Levey died 2001

Tim Gouldstone (1964)
died 12 November 2006

Recollections of Douglas Brown by one his pupils at Reading University (1963–1964)

From a letter to Professor David Loades:

First of all, thank you so very much for sending me the Perse School Tribute to Douglas Brown. I have read it from cover to cover, and it all resonates truly with my memories and with my experience of Douglas.

I went up to Reading University to read English Language and Literature Honours in the Michaelmas Term of 1963.

You say in your introduction that further contribution could be welcome. He meant a great deal to me in those brief formative months at the beginning of what proved to be a very fine degree course, and like everyone else I felt his loss keenly.

*Yours sincerely
Margaret Masding*

Dr. Brian Morris and Mr. Douglas Brown were the first people I met in the Faculty of Letters at Reading University in 1963. The Paddington train had brought me straight from my London senior sixth-form to an entirely unknown situation and I was struck by how courteous, indeed, how unexpectedly kind they were in interview.

Early in the Michaelmas Term of 1963 came the introductory lecture for the degree course that lay ahead. Douglas Brown's fearless opening statements held the packed lecture theatre rapt. It was not what undergraduates in the early Sixties were expecting to hear: – words to the effect: "If you want to be proper

students of English Literature, you know, you must read your Bibles – or you will not succeed." Of course, he was quite right.

Douglas clearly brought to Reading something of what he had formerly given the Perse School. I guess I would not be far from the mark to suggest that it was through him we experienced Haydn string quartets, and Peter Katin in the Great Hall; and Wilson Knight himself one late evening, in what must have been Douglas' own home, talking to an awed group of freshers seated round his feet.

There can be no doubt that my most powerful literary memory of Douglas tallies with that of Robin Alexander. I

too have retained copies of Douglas' three versions of Sonnet 129. Having carefully dispensed with the numbing Victorian punctuations, his rendering of his own 'proposed text for study' was something never-to-be-forgotten. The passion in his exposition, I am sure, resonated with his own disciplined, spiritual life's journey.

My last, most powerful, personal memory of Douglas was when I was going down the Faculty of Letters stairs, shortly before he could lecture no more (he had had to rest on a high stool to speak to us). Douglas was coming up, his academic gown drawn after him; a gown now too long because of the ravages of his illness. The only way he

could ascend was by clawing at the handrail as he climbed each stair, hand over hand. As he passed me he turned with a quick, kind glance of acknowledgement, and his eyes blazed with the fire of his determination, and with an inner spiritual power.

We will not see his like again. Whatever did happen to his manuscripts on Haydn's String Quartets?

Margaret Masding, October 2006

We still have a few copies left of 'Douglas Brown – teacher and man of letters' published by The Perse School in 2005 and if anyone hasn't received a copy and would like one, please contact Sarah Jones.

