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THE PERSE  
SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE

# Old Persean News

Summer 2011

## Future Events

### Old Persean Open Day

The Perse School, Cambridge  
29th June, 4:30pm–8pm

### Old Persean Annual Dinner

(Celebrating 50 Years at Hills Road!)

The Perse School, Cambridge  
1st October, 7pm–11pm

### Perse In America

New York  
5th–7th October

### Perse In Scotland

Edinburgh  
March 2012

Information about further events  
at The Perse can be found on the  
school website at:

[www.perse.co.uk/upper/  
school-information/calendar.asp](http://www.perse.co.uk/upper/school-information/calendar.asp)

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'The Perse School'



Twitter@Old Perseans



## In This Issue

### Welcome to the summer edition of Old Persean News.

2011 is set to be a busy year for the Old Persean community. In May reunions were held at The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford and at Lincoln's Inn, London. In June, a boarders' reunion takes place at 92 Glebe Road and the Old Persean Open Day has been moved to 29th June so that guests can join us for drinks and a barbeque whilst watching the OP cricket match. On 1st October we will be holding a special Old Persean Dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary since the official opening of The Perse School on Hills Road. The following week we head to New York for an event hosted by Old Persean, Thomas Campbell, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Turn to our OP Events section on pages 5–8 for more details.

Numerous Old Perseans have submitted articles for this issue, including England's most famous naked gardener, and there's also a special feature on alumni living Down Under on pages 10–14. In our OP News section we report on successes such as Chris Covey's world record-breaking Atlantic row, and you can find out which four OPs have their pictures at the National Portrait Gallery. On pages 8–9 David Jones provides rare photos of Princess Alexandra's visit to The Perse in 1961, whilst Ed Elliott, Head, writes about the life and vision of his most celebrated predecessor, Dr Rouse.

This is your magazine, and we warmly encourage you to submit an article for a future issue by contacting Amanda Augstein at the details below. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this edition of Old Persean News, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming Old Persean events.

Best wishes,

**Eddie Copeland** (OP)

Development Director



## OP In World Record-Breaking Atlantic Crossing

On 7th February, Chris Covey (2003) rowed his way into the record books by crossing from the Canary Islands to the Caribbean in 31 days, 23 hours and 31 minutes, beating the previous Atlantic record of 33 days. As part of six-person Team Hallin, Chris and his fellow crew members suffered seasickness, blistering and sores to their hands and backsides, attacks from flying fish and were almost run down by a Russian tanker. During the voyage each of the team lost more than two stone as they rowed two hours on, two hours off, around the clock. Despite the exhausting experience, Chris still somehow found the energy to propose to Perse teacher, Susannah Easton, as she met him at the finishing line! As well as breaking a record, Team Hallin used the crossing to raise money for mental health charity, Combat Stress. For details of their next challenge, visit: [www.teamhallin.co.uk](http://www.teamhallin.co.uk)



## Prep History Published

Celebrations for last year's Prep centenary culminated in the publication of 'The Perse Preparatory School 1910-2010'. This long awaited book recounts the cavalcade of boys, staff and events of The Prep in its first 100 years. Margaret Revell (member of Prep Staff 1971-1995) was invited by former Prep Head, Paul Izzett, to research and write this history. This very readable and illustrated book is now available from The Development Office for £5.00 + postage. Please email Amanda Augstein to request your copy.

A new history of The Perse by OP and Historian, Professor David Loades, which records developments at the school since 1945, will soon be available. To register your interest in purchasing a copy when it is published, please contact Amanda Augstein.

## Josef Behrmann Lecture held to remember Holocaust



On 20th January Holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke, visited The Perse to talk about her experiences with over 120 pupils and Old Perseans as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Eva was born in Mauthausen Concentration Camp, Austria, on 29th April 1945. She and her mother were the only survivors from their family, 15 of whom were killed in Auschwitz, including three of her grandparents, her father, uncles, aunts and seven-year old cousin, Peter.

Bruce Kinsey, Senior Tutor at The Perse, said: 'It was a privilege for us to welcome Eva to our school, and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced'. Eva's lecture was the first in what will now become an annual series of events held in memory of Holocaust survivor and Old Persean, Josef Behrmann, who boarded at Hillel House in the 1930s. Joseph passed through 14 concentration camps between 1941-1945. He was a key witness at the Nuremberg Trial of Nazi war criminals, and left a large volume of books about the Holocaust and the Second World War to The Perse in his will.

## Anniversary Celebration



Father Damien Walne (1951-57) celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on 27 June 2010 at a Mass presided over by the Bishop of Northampton. Father Damien is Parish Priest at Great Billing and Earls Barton and Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Northamptonshire.

## Paul Sykes (1999)

has been selected for the GB Palma Team to the World Long Range Championships 2011, held in Australia.

## Famous Faces

Following a recent visit to the National Portrait Gallery, one observant OP wrote in to tell us that he had spotted the pictures of four former Perse pupils adorning the walls. They were: Sir Peter Hall (founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company), Sir Donald Tebbit (former High Commissioner in Australia), Thomas Campbell (Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), and David Gilmour (Pink Floyd guitarist). If you've spotted famous Old Perseans in other places of interest, we'd love to know!

## School News

We report on a handful of the recent successes Perse pupils have enjoyed both in and out of the classroom in the last few months ...

### Science

In the 2011 Chemistry Olympiad, Perse pupils were awarded 28 gold, silver and bronze medals (which compares favourably to the 23 won by Westminster, and the 16 achieved at Winchester). Particular congratulations go to Upper Sixth pupil, Matthew Leach, who finished in the top 20 in Chemistry, and the top 30 in Physics.



### English

Sixth former, Molly Underwood, achieved the distinction of being shortlisted with five other students for the 2011 Christopher Tower Poetry prize. Molly attended a special reception at the House of Commons in May to celebrate her success. Our congratulations go to Molly for this impressive achievement, and we wish her the best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

### Technology

Our student-run Rocketry Society has won through to the final round of the UK Rocketry Challenge where they will be competing for the opportunity to represent the UK at the international finals in Houston.

### General Knowledge

The Perse General Knowledge teams are enjoying another successful year. The Senior Team (Laurence Knowles, Edmund Racher, Paul Bardsley, Daniel Adamson and Hugh Goddard) won the East Anglian Region of the Schools' Challenge competition with a series of convincing wins, including victory over the Leys by 980 points to 300 and in the final by 1280 points to 470 over Woodbridge. They then defeated Colchester RGS by 920 points to 550 in the inter-regional round. In the National Finals, held at Westminster School, the team finished a very creditable sixth in the UK.



The Junior Team has advanced to the regional final with victories over Wisbech GS, Thetford GS and Reepham High School. The photo shows the Senior Team with the East Anglia shield and Regional Organiser, Mr Roger Osborne.

### University Places

Perse sixth formers have excelled in their university applications this year, with a record 33 pupils gaining places at Oxbridge. Out of 25 pupils applying to read medicine, 18 have been offered places. This 70% acceptance rate is well over double the national average, highlighting the school's success in training future medics.

### Sport



Perse pupils Tom Sherrington-Scales and George Coy have been included in the Daily Mail's first ever Under 15 All-Stars rugby squad. Both boys were part of the

Perse squad which made it to the semi-finals of the Daily Mail RBS Schools Cup earlier this year. They were selected for the All-Stars squad by Daily Mail correspondent Jim Hooley based on their performances in the competition.

Keeping you updated



- For all the school's latest news and Old Persean events:
- 1. head to our website [www.oldperseans.org](http://www.oldperseans.org)
- 2. join our Facebook page (type 'The Perse School' in the Facebook search bar)
- 3. follow us on **Twitter: @OldPerseans**

## Teddy Brookes (2005)

Old Persean Teddy Brookes has returned to his roots after graduating with a Master's in Osteopathy from the prestigious British School of Osteopathy in London. Teddy, who joined The Perse Preparatory School and left the Upper school sixth form in 2005, was presented with his Master's degree by HRH, The Princess Royal. Teddy has now set up his own practice working out of The Therapy Room in Oxford Road, Cambridge. He would be pleased to catch up with old school friends and can be contacted on 07742 850 418.



## Fred Taylor (1940)

Would like to hear from anyone who remembers an Air Training Core at the school before the ATC was formed.

## Rick Mitchell (1962)

I was very interested to read Bryan Lambert's article in the Michaelmas edition in which he said that only four boys from the Romsey Primary school in Cambridge ever went to The Perse before him. If this is really true it makes me even more of an oddity than I thought! I came to The Perse in 1954 on a local authority place from the Romsey along with Ron Marriott and Ewart Gibbs. The following year we were joined by Clive

Welham who had actually been in the same class as us at the Romsey but I think was young for the year and stayed back to take the 11 plus exam the next year. How odd if the only Romsey kids – other than Bryan – ever to go to The Perse were all exact contemporaries. Are there any other Romsey Perseans out there, I wonder?

There was also a Perse girl from the Romsey in the same year: Carol Jordan, who was easily the brightest in the school. I wonder what became of her? But more eminent than any of us was our classmate Hayden, now Sir Hayden, Phillips who went to the County Boys school that year and rose to become Permanent Secretary of three civil service departments, and much else besides.

## Eric Mival (1957)

As the final touches are being made to a re-mastered DVD version of his extraordinary film of a year in the life of The Perse School, Eric Mival recalls how he captured the school on camera over 50 years ago.

## Filming 'The Perse School Year'

Yes, I do find it hard racking my brains to remember why I made 'The Perse School Year' 53 years ago. Some things stand out. Thanks to OP David Newick (cameraman on my first film) I made a couple of successful 8mm silent films when I was 16 and 17, so when someone – the Head? – wanted a film of an entire year of Perse School activities I appeared to be a possible choice. I was already hoping to join the film industry, so a 16mm colour documentary (albeit silent with Stanley Stubbs, the head, narrating it) was a very attractive proposition.

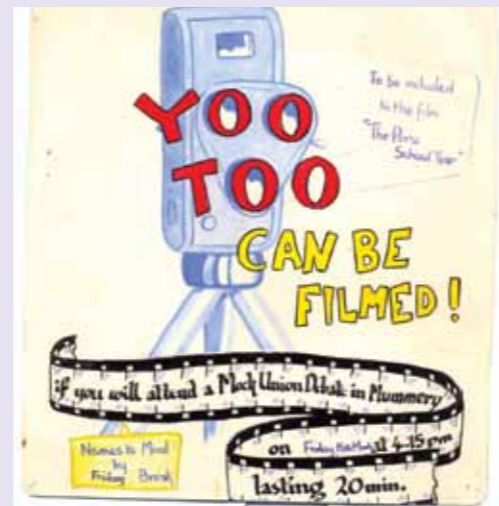
With a small budget of £35 and a borrowed 16mm camera I set about filming as many activities as I could that would not require vast lighting set ups – Rugby, the Triangle etc. Many indoor scenes were under lit due to only having a couple of floodlights, so I kept close to the subjects. The greatest fun was having masters, including the head, and prefects under my direction – quite a novelty and a foretaste of things to come, since I have worked as a film and television writer/director for the past thirty-five years.

The fact this film has become a unique record has surprised me. Having a DVD made of it is even more surprising, but strangely satisfying. It is as though my last sixth form year has still some value even though acquiring 'A' levels should have been my main preoccupation.

In 2010 some from our year gathered in London, and made comments whilst watching the film, which I have added to the DVD version. Hopefully they will impart enough information to expand on the pictures during its 40 minute run. It has even been cleaned up, and graded, making it more viewable than 53 years ago. I hope it brings back good memories to some and historical awareness to others.



Eric Mival filming Perse School Year



Poster inviting Perse students to appear in Eric's film

OPs who would like to purchase a copy of Eric's DVD when it is complete should register their interest my emailing [alumni@perse.co.uk](mailto:alumni@perse.co.uk)

## Geoffrey Williams (1946)

Looking through the past achievements of Perse men, I feel that I never got to the heights of my peers, but on reflection I have done a lot of things the average person never gets to do. On leaving The Perse in 1946, I joined the army and served in the UK. I was then posted to Hong Kong and Malaya where I was for three years and three months. On the troopship 'Strathnaver'

I met my pal Rodney Herbert who was in the Royal Artillery and we were both looking over the side only a few feet from each other (in February this year we made contact again after a decade or so). I then caught Poliomyelitis, which left me completely paralysed for six months. After 18 months, I left hospital, and was discharged from the army.

## Nick Williams (1988)



I have good memories of eleven years at The Perse, but the very best were not in the classrooms where others answered better than I. Nor were they on the games fields where

my peers tackled more skilfully. Instead, my most enduring moments were on the mountains far from Cambridgeshire, on adventures with the Scouts unbound by health and safety. I learned to read the thunderstorms, and to stay calm when adversity struck, and how it was fine to stray from the path, so long as I phoned my mum every evening.

On leaving school, I studied languages and worked abroad in Europe and Asia. Mountaineering made decisions for me, and I climbed everywhere from the Alps to the Karakorum. A career emerged in copywriting because I had enjoyed English, the work was creative and projects allowed time off. Eventually I settled in Edinburgh and worked on a new imprint of outdoor books with a local publisher. We sketched the idea on the back of an envelope, and called it Pocket Mountains.

My role was the fieldwork, writing and photography for the first eight guidebooks.

I joined the Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Co. Ltd in Regent Street, London, thereafter and married a girl I had known in 1939... we will be celebrating our Diamond wedding anniversary in 2012! I then joined Harrods of Knightsbridge for three years and became an outside representative for a couple of other businesses before returning to Harrods, where I stayed for 22 years, retiring at 60 due to ill health. During my time at Harrods, I trained as a special constable for the Metropolitan Police, where I served for 12 years and obtained a Long Service medal.

My wife and I have survived cancer, heart problems, lung, leg and various other

illnesses, including a motorcycling accident but we always come up smiling! Through the years we have had a caravan, then a river cruiser – sailing down many rivers in southern England and finally from the River Cam across England by canal to Llangollen in North Wales. We then bought a motor-home, travelled to Spain and spent a couple of months visiting various places in Europe.

At 82 years old, I feel my life has not been in vain, having two children; a boy and girl who have given us 7 grandchildren between them. May all my peers be as happy as I have been over the years!



For three years I roamed the Highlands of Scotland, alone for days at a time, crafting huge loops over the mountains. I marched through whiteouts and in darkness, sailed backwards through the Corryvreckan Narrows, and swam across lochs to avoid the long walks round. But, thanks to my Scouts training, I never got lost.

When the books were shortlisted for awards, the publisher extended the brand across the UK, and to biking, wildlife and

city exploration. Other opportunities opened for me. But it was never about the fortune, and always about finding myself, as if I was a schoolboy again. I am lucky The Perse introduced me to adventure. It has given me resilience, and a passion that will stay forever. Whereas all the years in offices blend into one long day, I remember every minute on sheer cliffs pressing ripples of stone under my fingers, or running over the tops with the sun on my back as the wind ruffles the slopes below.



Black Cuillin by Nick Williams

## Spotlight on:

In a new regular feature, Eddie Copeland reports on Old Perseans who have done something a little out of the ordinary...

### Ian Pollard (1963)

Ian Pollard is not your average Old Persean.

Residing in the beautiful market town of Malmesbury, he and his wife, Barbara, have created from scratch a garden paradise at their home, Abbey House. The couple bought the 16th Century property in 1994 and in autumn 1996 decided to turn the five-acre garden into one that would attract visitors from around the world, as well as the TV cameras from programmes such as Gardeners' World and Countryfile. But it is not only the plants which attract interest: clothing is also optional on certain days throughout the year, leading to Ian and Barbara being known as 'the naked gardeners'.



I asked Ian about this when I met him during a recent visit to the area. He explained that when money was tight as a young man, he found clothes expensive and so took to working in his garden au naturel, a decision which seemed to attract the curiosity of more than a few of his neighbours. So it was that his love of naturism began.

He and Barbara now spend nearly all their time tending to their gardens, and working on a new venture hosting weddings in the grounds. Ian comments, 'We both try not to take ourselves too seriously although we take what we do very seriously. It seems a person only has so much control in life and when you work with nature, especially the weather, you have to accept what happens because there is nothing else you can do!'

He confesses that he did not have a particularly positive experience at The Perse, largely due to the unfortunate intervention of Stanley Stubbs. He wanted to study Economics and History of Art for 'A' Level, and so applied to the local technical college. Ian was a Foundation Scholar so Stubbs wrote to the Head of the college advising him not to accept Ian's application! Thankfully, he still went on to have a highly successful career in architecture, property development and building construction, designing & developing iconic buildings such as Marco Polo House, near Battersea Park, London.

Ian describes himself as having an 'obsessive' personality and reads vast numbers of books on a wide variety of subjects, his current interests being global warming and evolution. He is currently writing a series of TV documentaries which he hopes to will be aired by the Discovery Channel.

If you would like to visit Ian and Barbara's spectacular gardens at Abbey House, please see full details at [www.abbeyhousegardens.co.uk](http://www.abbeyhousegardens.co.uk)



If you know of an OP who we should write about in a future Spotlight feature, please send your suggestions to [alumni@perse.co.uk](mailto:alumni@perse.co.uk).

## OLD PERSEAN EVENTS

Attendance at Old Persean events has more than tripled in the last two years and there are now more reunions than ever before to help bring OPs together. Don't miss out on your chance to join us for the upcoming get-togethers around the UK and beyond.

### Recent events

#### Perse in Oxford Evening

Continuing our series of regional events, on Thursday 5th May we were delighted to welcome 55 Old Perseans to The Pitt Rivers Museum for the 2011 Perse in Oxford evening. During this evening drinks reception the guests were treated to a private viewing of some of the Museum's remarkable exhibits. Professor Andrew Wilson, OP (1986), Director of the Institute of Archaeology, then gave a fascinating talk about his research, and recalled how his love of classical civilisation had begun long ago in classes with Mr Kern at The Perse.



## Perse in London Evening

Over 160 OPs accepted the invitation to join us in the stunning surroundings of Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, for the 2011 Perse in London Evening. Our guest speaker was Hollywood actor and director, Colin McFarlane, OP, who entertained guests with anecdotes about his time at the school.

Our annual London functions have now become the biggest event in the Old Persean calendar, attracting OPs of all ages from far and wide. We would be delighted to hear from any Old Perseans who may be able to help host gatherings of up to 200 OPs in central London in the years ahead.



## Perse Boarders' Reunion

Shortly after we went to press, at least 60 former Perse boarders were due to attend a special lunch at The Pelican School, formerly Hillel boarding house and later the Junior boarding house. School archivist, David Jones had prepared a vast array of memorabilia for the event on 18th June.

Hillel House - Glebe Road



Head Boy and prefects of 1961 - were you in this year?



### Victor Walne Past President Old Persean Society

Victor Walne and Professor John Clarke invite the leavers of 1961 to join them for a reunion of their year group at the OP Dinner.



## Old Persean Annual Dinner - Celebrating 50 years at Hills Road!

1st October 2011, Perse School, Cambridge, 7pm - 11pm

For this year's Old Persean Dinner, we invite you to join us to celebrate the 50th anniversary since the Royal opening of The Perse School's buildings on Hills Road. The evening offers a chance to reunite with old school friends over a three course meal and see how the school has changed. Partners and spouses are welcome. Over 100 OPs joined us last year and we hope to make this year's the biggest yet. OPs of all eras are invited to attend, and we will be making an extra special effort to reunite those who left 10, 25 and 50 years ago, i.e. the leavers of 2001, 1986 and 1961. If you can help us rally support from your year group, please get in touch.

If you're travelling from outside Cambridge and need accommodation for the night, there are numerous guest houses near the school. If you prefer a hotel, you may wish to consider: Basic: Cambridge Central Travelodge £70+ night; Mid-range: De Vere University Arms Hotel: £160+; Luxury: Doubletree, by Hilton, Cambridge: £220+.

### Message to Leavers of 1961 from Victor Walne

As the cohort of 1961 leavers, we were the first to complete a full year in the new school buildings, formally opened on 3 July 1961. A tour of the school shows how The Perse has flourished on the new site, having grown to nearly 900 boys and girls, enjoying the use of facilities which are indeed state of the art. The pastoral care, which oversees academic progress, careers education and university entrance was largely unknown to former generations. Following the lead given by recent Heads, the Development Office extends a genuinely warm welcome to visiting Old Perseans, organising, as they now do, the many social occasions accompanying the OP Open Day, West Road Concert and Speech Day, so we are in good hands for the forthcoming celebration on 1st October, which is planned to mark the 10, 25 and 50-year leavers' anniversaries! Please do let them know if you have any thoughts about how you would like to get the most out of the day and evening.

However long or short the interval since you last visited The Perse, they will ensure that your return to the school is made a memorable occasion. Please make a note in your diaries for the special OP Dinner on 1st October. John Clarke (OP 1961) and I will be delighted to welcome as many of our contemporaries (some of whom may have left before 1961) as are able to come. Do join us to recall past experiences and, as the Quarter Centenary of Stephen Perse's foundation approaches, to look forward to, and be part of the school's future.

## Upcoming events – Old Persean Open Day 29th June



Offering a chance to watch the famous annual OP cricket match, a special afternoon and evening reception will be held in the grounds of The Perse School. Guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the school and soak up some sport and music. Afternoon tea will be served from 4.30pm, followed by an evening barbeque for those arriving after work. Full details will be available on the Old Perseans website.

## PERSE IN AMERICA



### Main Event:

#### New York, 7th October 2011

We are privileged to be starting the evening with a drinks reception hosted by the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Thomas Campbell, OP (pictured), at 5:30pm in his apartment next to the Museum. The reception will be followed by a special dinner with Perse Headmaster, Ed Elliott, in the private dining room at Métrazur restaurant, located in the gloriously revitalized Grand Central Terminal.

There are over 180 Old Perseans living in North America, and we hope that as many as possible will be able to join us for this special event. OPs living anywhere else in the world are likewise invited to attend if they are looking for an excuse to visit New York! We will advertise some suggested hotels in due course for those who wish to enjoy a weekend in the city.

### Yom Kippur

We recognise that some members of the Perse community will be observing Yom Kippur at this time and will therefore unfortunately not be able to join us for the event. We would therefore like to extend a warm invitation to meet for dinner on Wednesday 5th or Thursday 6th October if any friends of the school are available during these Holy days. The school is also planning to hold reunions in the USA in 2012 and would be delighted to hear any suggestions for where OPs would like to meet.

### About Thomas Campbell (1980)

Thomas Campbell became the ninth Director of The MET on January 1, 2009. He had previously worked in the Museum's

Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts for fourteen years, rising steadily through the curatorial ranks as Assistant Curator (1995–97), Associate Curator (1997–2003), and Curator (2003 to December 2008). During this time, he conceived and organized the major exhibitions *Tapestry in the Renaissance: Art and Magnificence* (2002) and *Tapestry in the Baroque: Threads of Splendor* (New York, 2007; *Palacio Real, Madrid*, spring 2008), both of which incorporated drawings, paintings, and prints, as well as tapestries, and received widespread acclaim. The 2002 exhibition was named 'Exhibition of the Year' by *Apollo* magazine and its catalogue won the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award (College Art Association) for distinguished exhibition catalogue in the history of art (2003). Since shortly after his arrival at the Museum, he also served as Supervising Curator of The Antonio Ratti Textile Center, which houses the Museum's encyclopedic collection of 36,000 textiles and is one of the preeminent centers of textile studies in the world.

He has lectured and taught extensively on European court patronage and the relation of tapestries to the other arts, both to scholars and the general public, at institutions and museums in the United States and abroad. He has also published extensively on the subject of historic European textiles and their relationship to other art forms of their periods. His most recent book publication is *Henry VIII and the Art of Majesty: Tapestries at the Tudor Court* (Yale University Press, 2007), and his articles have appeared in leading scholarly journals such as *Burlington Magazine*, *Apollo*, *Studies in the Decorative Arts*, and *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*. He has been the recipient of awards and fellowships,

including the Iris Foundation Award (Bard Graduate Center) for a scholar in mid-career deserving of recognition for outstanding contributions to the study of the decorative arts (2003).

Born in Singapore and raised in Cambridge, Thomas attended The Perse School between 1973–1980, completing his B.A. in English language and literature from the University of Oxford in 1984, followed by a Diploma from Christie's Fine and Decorative Arts course, London, in 1985. While studying for his Master's degree at the Courtauld Institute of Art (1987), he discovered the extent to which mainstream art history had overlooked the major role that the tapestry medium played in European art and propaganda. During the following years, he worked to rectify this by creating the *Franses Tapestry Archive* in London (1987–94), which, with more than 120,000 images, is the largest and most up-to-date information resource on European tapestries and figurative textiles in the world. His early research culminated in several groundbreaking research articles and a Ph.D. from the Courtauld Institute (1999) on the art and culture of King Henry VIII's court.



### Calling all ex CCF/Royal Navy OPs from 1957–1966.

David Ward, OP (1962), would like anyone who belonged to the CCF, Royal Navy section to contact him if they are interested in attending a reunion later this year. He can be contacted on [dtw@januaries.co.uk](mailto:dtw@januaries.co.uk)

## Founder's Day Lecture

On 25th March Ed Elliott, Head, marked Founder's Day with the following speech about the life and achievements of Dr William Henry Denham Rouse, Perse Headmaster from 1902–1928, arguably one of the greatest Heads of any English school in the twentieth century.

During Dr Rouse's 26 year Headship, The Perse was transformed from a sleepy, near bankrupt, provincial grammar school into one of the foremost schools in the country. It was under Rouse's Headship that The Perse Prep School was founded, that the two boarding houses were built in Glebe Road, that games fields were acquired on Hills Road, and that the idea of The Perse moving from its Victorian site opposite the Catholic Church was first suggested.

Dr Rouse was only five foot tall, and was frequently seen in tweeds and half wellington boots. It was often said that with his neat beard he looked more like a farmer or a sea captain than a headmaster. Rouse certainly believed that all pupils should have an understanding of agriculture and where their food came from. Perse pupils looked after the school pigs at the boarding houses, while Rouse himself ran Glebe Farm on the land that is currently Glebe Road.

Rouse also thought that all students should spend as much time in the open air as possible, and wanted them to learn how to swim, skate and ride. He was a keen horseman, riding into school most days, and his passion for skating on the frozen fens meant that he would declare half day holidays for the school when the ice was at its best. In 1919 he granted five such half day holidays. He disliked motorcars and called them 'hell wagons' preferring to cycle whenever possible. He was opposed to the cinema and radio, and refused to have a telephone in the school. In Rouse's own words 'Civilisation lies in the mind and the soul not in machines'. Rouse wanted his students to invest time in the library, and in particular the reading of classical texts.

Cinema and radio were vacuous distractions from the serious business of academic study and self-improvement.

In other matters Rouse was thoroughly modern. He instituted the first Perse no smoking policy for teachers and pupils, and required all pupils to receive what vaccinations were available at the time. Whilst in keeping with virtually every other Edwardian Head he did use the cane, he was famed for swishing not thwacking. Unlike his successor he barely hit pupils, and preferred to find other ways of disciplining errant boys. Rouse was also thoroughly modern in his cosmopolitan social outlook. He believed pupils learnt not just from their teachers but from each other, and the more socially diverse the school community the more pupils would learn. It was Rouse who oversaw the opening of the Jewish boarding house, and it was Rouse who recruited pupils from around the British Empire. Under his Headship, The Perse became a multicultural meritocracy, a move that raised conservative eyebrows locally. When in 1911 The Cambridge Town Clerk wrote to ask how many Jews and members of 'coloured races' attended The Perse, Rouse told the official to mind his own business.

Rouse did not believe in public examinations and refused to let boys sit them. Examinations he argued were 'quite misleading as a guide to comparative merit', and that accurate assessment of ability could only occur at the end of an educational journey – i.e. at university and not at an earlier school stage en route. It is somewhat ironic that the site of his Perse School was eventually sold to the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations Board. What Rouse did believe in was the correct and precise use of the English language. In one assembly he grumbled: 'Modern English is full of roundabouts, of metaphors without meaning, verbiage, shams. One talks of a one sided point of view: how many sides has a point? I look at my Times leader and read: 'The value of such a statement lies largely in the effect it produces': What other value can it have than the effect it produces?'

By his own admission Rouse was a poor administrator, but an excellent teacher and leader. He worked hard, leaving School House at 7am daily, teaching a full timetable of lessons, before returning to his study for academic research and headmasterly duties. He rarely went to bed before 2:00am. He confessed to not always replying to correspondence, but maintained that any letter that had not answered itself within three months was not worth responding to. Rouse placed implicit trust in those with



whom he worked and those he taught; he took it for granted that they would do their best and that they cared as much for the welfare of the school as he did. He was rarely let down. On this our 396th birthday, we remember Dr Rouse and are delighted to be able to name our new school library in his honour.

## Fifty Years On Bringing Dr Rouse's Vision Alive

As the school prepares to mark the 50th anniversary since the official opening by Princess Alexandra of its new site on Hills Road, David Jones, Perse Archivist, describes the day in this abridged extract from his book, *A Vision Realised*.

The opening ceremony on 3rd July 1961 could not have been a happier or prouder moment for the school and for Stanley Stubbs personally. The sun shone, the new buildings were pristine after a year of final adjustments, and the royal visitor Princess Alexandra, newly-married in one of the earliest televised royal weddings, was perhaps the most glamorous of the Royal Family. Her dignified informality and friendly interest delighted everyone. Nearly two thousand people were meticulously ordered for the two-hour visit.

The Princess flew to Marshall's airport and was driven to the school to be met at the gates by the Chairman of the Governors, Dr David Thomson, the Headmaster, and their wives. The Royal Party moved towards the forecourt, applauded by the boys and guests who lined the drive. A fanfare of trumpets and the unfurling of the Union Jack were followed by an inspection of a CCF Royal Guard of Honour. Then the Governors and the architect were presented to the Princess before she signed the Visitors' Book in the Headmaster's study.



In the Hall, proceedings began with a short service of dedication, an address of welcome by the Chairman of the Governors, and a short speech by the Headmaster, paying tribute to those who had helped to make the move a reality. 'To many, planning to provide these buildings was an act of courage and a declaration of faith,' he said. 'It is no less true that their completion is the result of a great effort, of earnest endeavour, and of careful preparation. It would be invidious to attempt to name all who have played their part in accomplishing this work and they themselves would no doubt be content with this silent witness that great projects be carried through when vision and faith are followed by action, perseverance and determination.'



The Headmaster then invited Princess Alexandra to declare the new buildings open. She replied and unveiled the commemorative plaque now fixed to the Memorial Gates. Addressing the boys, she said: 'Through each one of you the influence of this historic school can contribute so much to the value of the communities in which you live, and continue to realise the hopes and vision of Dr Stephen Perse more than three hundred years after its foundation.'



The Head Boy, Victor Walne, then thanked the Princess before she embarked on a tour of the School. Finally, she met the staff and their wives in the marquee on the School Field, before leaving to take lunch with the Governors and other guests at Sidney Sussex College (of which the Chairman was Master).



And so the idea that had surfaced in Dr Rouse's mind over fifty years before, finally came to fulfilment.



## SPECIAL FEATURE Old Perseans Down Under



Following our special feature on OPs in the USA and Canada in our last issue, this summer we invited OPs living in Australia and New Zealand to send us their stories ...



### Chris Goodwin (1973)

The Perse introduced me to a wonderful world of adventure. Camping with the scouts at West Runton, arduous training in the Cairngorms and sailing on the Norfolk Broads led to my lifelong love affair with the outdoors. Combine these factors with Mr MacFarlane's inspired geography lessons behind his fascinating wave tank and an antipodean Headmaster, Mr Melville, it is not surprising I now live in Melbourne close to some of the best surfing beaches in the world.

After leaving school I worked for a year for Westley & Huff in Cambridge, followed by the London Borough of Camden, Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Having qualified as a chartered surveyor I was employed as partner for a London West End real estate company specializing in industrial agency or colloquially known as a 'shed shifter'. Mid-life crisis struck and I headed 'down under' arriving in Australia two weeks before my fortieth birthday with two children under three, a heavily pregnant wife,

and no job. Some people say I was brave but the move was relatively easy especially with a lovely Australian wife to help me acclimatize. As they say the cream always rises to the top and five years later I was appointed a Director of Commercial Office Leasing for Knight Frank's Melbourne office.

Four years ago I established my own corporate real estate consultancy specializing in the provision of independent commercial tenancy advice to some of the world's leading brands. Fortunately for me Australia has so far lived up to its title the 'lucky country' having avoided the worst of the recession making my change from one end of the globe to the other a very positive move. Life has been good and the fishing even better! Contact details [chris@goodwinpropertyadvisory.com.au](mailto:chris@goodwinpropertyadvisory.com.au)



### Gordon Wright (1953)

Leaving school in 1953 and expected to go on to art school later (by Cecil Crouch), I spent the next two years of National Service in the Royal Navy submarine service, mainly attached to the Canadian Navy. After that, an art career seemed less inviting and I soon headed East on a somewhat larger P&O vessel to Singapore, to join a venerable British trading company. With the Malayan emergency in full swing, and a bellicose Indonesia threatening, I took up residence on a converted Japanese minelayer in Singapore Harbour as a Lieutenant in the RNVR, half-sailor, half-trader. I served as an ADC to the last Governor of Singapore prior to independence and witnessed many events and personalities shaping the history of the region then. Having left little other than sporting marks on my record at school, I continued to enjoy rugby, athletics and boxing, until a rugby accident ruled me out of contact sports.

I married Louise in Singapore and we lived in Kuala Lumpur for a while. We returned to Singapore where two sons were born and I became a director. Then in 1963, I was recalled to HO in London from where I

seemed to spend a great deal of my time on planes to Australia developing new business there. I joined the P&O Company in 1967 at the start of the so-called container revolution, which changed shipping forever. This took us to Sydney for a year's secondment in 1969 and we never returned. In Sydney, I had to quickly acquire some knowledge of the Japanese language at the Australian National University in Canberra, at the start of a 20-year involvement with Japan and Korea, developing and managing shipping services and, in the process, acquiring a great love and knowledge of both countries. I served 12 years as managing director in Sydney, at the end of which I was transferred to the USA HO in New Jersey as Senior Vice President responsible for developing new shipping routes to the Far East. After three years I came full circle back to Hong Kong as Far East Director for P&O Containers. From there I retired in 1997 to spend happy times with my wife between Sydney and our home on the beautiful Greek Island of Skopelos.

Widowed since 2001, I now live in the Blue Mountains, West of Sydney – travelling, fly-fishing and, at last, a painter again.

### Jim Willetts (1973)



I left The Perse in June 1973 and went on to Pembroke, Oxford, to read Engineering Science. After specialising in civil engineering, I joined Shell in 1976 as a petroleum engineer. The idea of seeing some of the world with an international company attracted me, and I thought I'd do it for about 10 years before returning to England.

Shell promptly sent me to Holland on a very comprehensive training course. This spanned six months and was something like an extra year in uni on good rates of pay. A great intro to working life and to be a monied Englishman in The Hague at this time was just awesome. Unfortunately all good things come to an end, and after the completion of training I was sent to Aberdeen to begin my productive working life, initially working week-on/week-off on the offshore rigs. There followed assignments to Qatar, Holland again, Oman, Brunei and Nigeria, all of which had their pros and cons in various wildly differing proportions, before Shell decided it would be a great idea to give me a spell in Australia. We came to Perth, on the west coast of Australia, in 1997 with the intention of being here for about four years, and have stayed ever since. I am now employed by an Australian oil company which is carving out a significant share of the world market in natural gas.

In the meantime I had met and married my Dutch wife, Gabrielle, and we have two daughters, one of whom lives in Palma and the other is here. Why have we finally come to rest in Perth? Firstly, the prospect of more traveling with Shell to some of the less desirable and stable parts of the world began to lose its charm. Secondly, the culture here is in some respects very similar to England. Obviously it is English-speaking, and a significant proportion of the population has come from the UK. On the other hand, the life is very different – the climate is wonderful, the beaches are stunning, and the ability to plan and enjoy outdoor events (yes, even including

barbecues) leads to a quite different style of life. I enjoy sailing, bike riding, canoeing and until fairly recently running whenever I want to. Another difference, they support the other side when the Ashes are on. Over the years the number of concert tours of big artists visiting Perth has increased, while there is a vibrant local scene of classical, ballet, opera and plays. Outside Perth, there is the Margaret River wine area which is also fabulous for good food, scenery, beaches and surf. And these days with the internet it does not seem so far away from anywhere any more.

We do feel very lucky that we have settled here but there is always a hankering for home. After many years being tied to the Australian school year (the school holiday in mid-winter being too short to make the long trip back to Europe worthwhile, whilst the long break for the Australian summer is at the wrong time for England to be attractive) we last year managed a long holiday in England and thoroughly enjoyed spending time in Cambridge, Oxford and some of the West Country. This year we were planning a similar meander until family plans diverted us to southern France, but we will still be in Cambridge for a few days. Until then, take care mate!

### John Cope (1960)



Leaving The Perse in 1960 I travelled to Australia with my parents. After completing school in Sydney I went into accountancy, drifting into Data Processing (which we now call Information Technology) with IBM in Melbourne. I held various sales and marketing management positions over the years in Australia, England and Europe, finishing as a Regional Manager for AWA. Getting out of the 'rat race', my wife and I moved to Hobart, Tasmania some years ago – a decision not regretted. About four years ago I found out that I had the dreaded 'C', and have had a rough ride since. I would love to hear from any classmates: [jcope\\_vdm@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jcope_vdm@iprimus.com.au)

### Nicolas John Gladstone (1966)



I left The Perse in 1966 without a university place, but joined my more academically successful school friends, Peter Davy, David Gant, Chris Graves and Tony Pitman on a trip overland to India. Alex Lax travelled as far as Yugoslavia. We returned in August 1967, they to university, me to study 'something'. After a false start with Law, I attended Guildford Art School, leading to 15 months in London with architects Richard Seifert and Partners. I married Vivien whom I had met in Guildford and we decided to escape to Cornwall where I joined a small rural architectural practice. This was during Ted Heath's 'three day week' and after a year I was made redundant.

For three years I worked as a Coastguard, a jobbing gardener and a self-employed planning consultant. I then found employment with the County Council's Highways Department, moving to work in Traffic Management, specialising in accident investigation and prevention (AIP). I found this rewarding work, and gained an engineering qualification from Oxford Polytechnic. I became a Principal Engineer and Viv qualified as a Registered Nurse, working mainly in dermatology.

After 24 years with 'The County', in 2002 I was persuaded to help set up a Cornwall office for a West Country traffic engineering consultancy. We dealt mainly with one client, Bristol City Council. The work was fascinating; designing a tram network linking the centre of Bristol with Temple Meads, with all the engineering problems that involved. Unfortunately, government

funding for the project was withdrawn and we had to re-launch the Cornwall office as a separate company, obtaining work locally from developers and public agencies. Once the company was on its feet, Viv and I decided, following the emigration of our daughter, to apply for jobs in New Zealand. We were both successful. To my surprise at the age of 57, I was back in accident (or 'crash') reduction engineering, working on a highway management contract near Auckland, where we arrived in 2005.

We have recently retired and made our home near New Plymouth. I try to keep out of mischief as a volunteer literacy tutor and grandfather and as current President of the New Plymouth Astronomical Society.

### Peter Heron (1980)



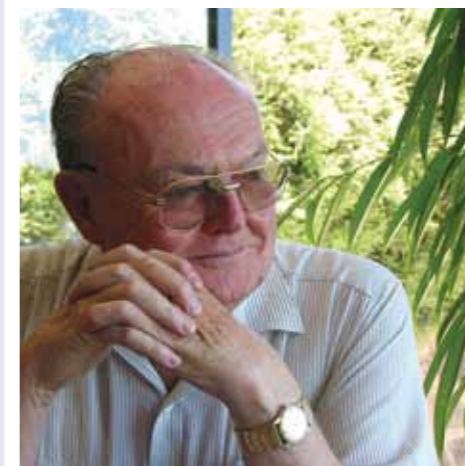
After leaving The Perse I attended Lancaster University gaining an Honours degree in Biology. I then took a PGCE at Chelsea College in London before starting teaching at Newport Free Grammar. Whilst teaching there I was skipper of the last regular Old Perseans' rugby team. After three years I then moved to Woodbridge School. At Woodbridge I became a RAF Officer with the CCF and this led to a career change.

In 1990 I joined the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant and served at RAF Lyneham during the Gulf War before spending three years in Cyprus at RAF Akrotiri. In this last posting part of my duties was as a Public Relations officer and I spent a day herding Cypriot journalists during the Queen's visit to our station during the Commonwealth Conference. Upon leaving the RAF I then returned to teaching as Head of Science firstly at Mary Linwood School in Leicester, then The Cathedral School in Wakefield.

In 2003 I emigrated with my family to New Zealand taking on the role of Head of Science, Health and PE in a large South Auckland School. The school was mainly Pasifika and Maori and was immense fun to work at. After two years there I was promoted to Deputy Principal and after a further year I took the position of Principal of Maniototo Area School in Central Otago. This school has 185 students aged 5 to 18 and covers an area with a 50km radius. We were two hours away from the nearest traffic lights, cinema and large shops. We loved our time in the rural community but after a further three years the time came to move again and I am now Principal of Papakura High School in South Auckland. I have 1,000 students, 60% Maori, 20% Pasifika and the rest are a mixture of New Zealand European and other races.

New Zealand is a wonderful country to live in, and although I played my last rugby game seven years ago I am looking forward to the World Cup in September. I have tickets for the England games and will be supporting my old country, except in the final against the All Blacks!

### Peter Manuel (1950)



I left The Perse in 1950 and spent the next twelve months in second year medicine at Guy's Hospital London. My aspirations to become a surgeon were curtailed when the Dean advised me that I could qualify in medicine, but not surgery, because I had a tremor in my hands. Therefore, In 1952 I transferred to study Economics at LSE and Land Agency at the College of Estate Management, London. In 1953 I could not defer National Service commitments any longer and joined the Royal Armoured Corps eventually serving with 11th Hussars attached to the 17 Gurkha Infantry Division in Seremban Malaya. This period of service was notable for the fact I can honestly say I played in Ted Dexter's cricket team and had a better batting average than my captain.

Little did I expect then, Ted would go on to captain MCC. Sport was always a big part of my life and included rugby with a Scottish XV, losing in the qualifying rounds at Wimbledon to J. Drobney and a golf handicap of 2, which I held for 52 years and until two years ago, when arthritis forced me to retire from all sport.

On demobilisation from the Army, I returned to complete my economics degrees, one a PhD in economics. Then in 1959 I became a ten pound POME migrant to Australia, where I have lived and worked since. As a migrant, I worked wherever I could – Diamond Drilling at Mt Isa Mine and perhaps notably as a technical representative in the Chemical Industry. My main claim to fame was helping to establish the cotton growing industry in Queensland, while working for the Shell Chemical Company.

During the early 1960s my wife moved from Brisbane to Toowoomba where I was to join a small part-time committee that founded what is now The University of Southern Queensland. Initially, we could not get funding for a full university. However, against my judgement the committee agreed to the establishment of a College of Advanced Education. Not wishing to stand in the way of development, I resigned. However, when University status eventually arrived for USQ I was saddened to learn Law and Medicine were excluded and that a PhD degree was not available.

In 1983 I became a student at USQ, studying Media and Journalism, graduating in 1986. Since 1986 I write as a freelance journalist, mainly for business publications covering the subjects of Politics and Economics. I also invest heavily in the Stock Market and over the years luck and a sound strategy have placed me well ahead. Even in retirement, writing has become my saviour from boredom, though in a more practical sense, I turn to woodwork, making small decorative wooden boxes and model ships. I keep promising to return to The Perse, but doctors have so far prevented me from flying, explaining that it could promote a third and perhaps fatal stroke. Having only recently become a grandfather I have no wish to fall off the twig for a few years.

I regularly contact M.J.S. Collins and David Forman who were school friends and fellow boarders at 90 Glebe Road. Collins, now retired, lives in Melbourne, Victoria.

### Richard (Rick) Matthews (1969)



I left the school in 1969 with 'A' level results that proved you could be both Head Boy and CSM of the cadet force with very little academic prowess. After working for a while in the family business, Premier Travel, the travel bug led me to migrate to Canada where I worked in surveying for the City of Vancouver. After a great year in Canada, the bug led me to Australia in 1971 I worked first in the then (and now) booming mining industry as a crew chief on a geophysics exploration team in the Great Dividing Range. Lots of great 4-wheel driving through the bush! Proximity of the mining camp and the nurses home in nearby Goulburn led me to meet Kate, my now wife of 37 years.

We moved to Canberra in 1973. Our children, Holly and Jacob, arrived and I started what was to be a 35-year career in the public service. This included studying part time to get a BA (finally some academic success!) and nearly 20 years in the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), where I finished as Deputy Commissioner in 2005. While in the ATO I led implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (Australia's VAT), which led to me being awarded a Public Service Medal in the Australian Honours List in 2001. After the ATO I became Deputy Inspector-General of Taxation and started contract work for the International Monetary Fund assisting mainly Middle East countries to improve their tax systems and implement VATs.

I retired from the public service in 2009 to spend more time with family, especially our grandsons (now 13 and 9), and to continue some IMF work. I have now worked in all the Arab countries of the Gulf, and in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and The Gambia in Africa. Kate and I now live just outside Canberra on 40 acres of pretty tough land that supports a few cows and our passion for gardens.

I visited the school last year with staunch family friend and OP R.A.C. (Drew) Blows. Amazing to see the growth, and great still to be able to pick out some memorable spots from my time at The Perse.

### Robert (Bob) Eden (1959)



I never made it to the first XV, nor the first XI, or indeed any teams at all. My school reports didn't list me as top at anything, so by the end of the fourth form the headmaster's 'Failure' red ink stamp was already dry against my name! Clearly I was never going to win any 'brownie points' in the Headmaster's Conference de facto league tables.

Leaving school with 11 'O' levels and 3 'A' Levels plus a Queen Scout Badge (later the BP Award as well) and some RAF CCF credits as well, I launched out as a 'failure' into the real world. Initially I was employed by the Cambridge Instrument Company in a number of electrical and mechanical engineering roles. Subsequently in the R&D unit, where I was (in today's terms) a project engineer. The company was developing the world's first geological X-ray scanning micro analyser and this gave me opportunities to develop some creative solutions.

However, my ambitions were always to get into the field civil engineering and when the government changed the grant-awarding scheme I went to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Looking back they were still some of the best days of my life. One advantage of being a 'mature-age' student was that I could appreciate what a university could really offer in the way of character building by balancing study and life-activities; and I took full advantage of this! Apart from the study, there was the University Air Squadron where I successfully gained my PFB 'Wings', was JCR vice-president of a (then) large Hall of Residence, secretary of the University Engineering Society and chairman of a number of other clubs and societies. I was never sure, but winning the Engineering Society's Quach Cup in a lecture competition may have had something to do with my being offered a lectureship at the University of Southampton as soon as I graduated at Newcastle. An interesting challenge being on one side of the lectern one term and on the other side the next! (As well as being the youngest member of staff.)

During the long vacations I undertook some research work on glaciers in Iceland, Greenland and Arctic Norway. The university 'expeditioners' were trying to determine why these glaciers were receding. (In the early 1970s 'global warming' was unknown.) As a civil engineer I was involved in measuring glacial melt-water – challenging when you are gauging river flows while standing up to your waist in freezing water, not to mention living in tents for three months.

I had specialised in Public Health Engineering (basically, all aspects of water and the environment that impact on people), but as the new boy on the block I had to give lectures in a number of other subjects as well. After eight years at Southampton I took up an appointment at the University of Melbourne (Australia) for more than three years. During this time I was also a co-founder of the Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society (akin to BSES, but with a much more modern approach to getting young people involved in scientific research in remote areas). I subsequently joined the Victorian Government's Health Department as their senior public health engineer where I was involved in numerous projects, writing codes of practice and member of various Standards Australia committees.

Now retired, I still am involved in a number of voluntary activities, such as flying tug aircraft for a local gliding club, helping maintain a large steam locomotive in running order and continue to enjoy travel and meeting new people. Antarctica and perhaps the South Pole are still on my horizon, despite needing to walk with the aid of crutches due to an unfortunate accident a few years ago. So to those students who are at The Perse and feel that the headmaster's 'red stamp' is already against their name – Don't despair. Your time will surely come!

### Simon Winfield (1978) (Boarder 1971–1974)



I started at The Perse as a fresh faced 11 year old, with little knowledge of the educational demands of an academically focused school, having lived in Zimbabwe and Switzerland before returning to board

in my parents' home town. I managed to score fairly well in 'O' levels, but finding girls led to my demise in 'A' levels, both at The Perse and the subsequent retakes at the Cambridge Tech.

Toying with catering, food technology and biology led nowhere, until an ex girlfriends' father suggested I try my luck at the Stock Exchange in London. I fetched teas, sandwiches, ran messages, and quickly learned fractions and mental maths. I worked in management positions at major Investment Banks in London and New York, until a business closure 23 years later resulted in my release from a drug that today still traps many friends. Cold turkey lasted six months, until I understood that not everybody starts work at six in the morning, and that there is life out here to enjoy!

A year's round the world travel with family (kids 5 months, 5 and 7 years) led me to decide not to go back to those crazy hours, but to go to University for the first time (a year of self-indulgence in Edinburgh), and to think about the opportunities for us as a family. We came out to Byron Bay, New South Wales, four years ago, on a student visa (my wife Jennifer's!). Byron is a beach Mecca, ask all your backpacking children or friends, yet I still can't surf. We are living on a small pecan farm in the hinterland. Life is slow, and you have to create work opportunities. A course on Carbon Management at Bond resurrected learnings from science lessons with Harry Revel, Doc Powell, and Julian Pinhey. I have invested in a few Australian 'sustainability' oriented companies, and am working with one of them, a non-toxic paint company called Ecolour, to develop commercial opportunities here and internationally.

I keep in touch with old school friends, and often wish I wasn't so far away to enjoy reunions with classmates over a beer or three, ably organised by Pete Whitehead. I welcome any OPs to look me up when you are passing by:

[simoncwinfield@hotmail.com](mailto:simoncwinfield@hotmail.com)

### Tim Cook (2004)



Having arrived at The Perse in 1997 it was with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I left in 2004. After a gap year spent working in Cambridge and travelling in the US, I earned an undergraduate MA in International Relations and History at the University of Aberdeen. Whilst studying I pursued internships in Washington D.C. and London.

In February 2010, I attained a work placement with the Australian Institute of International Affairs at their National Office in Canberra. Less than 48 hours after my arrival, with wonder and jet lag, I was sat in the Brazilian Embassy, opposite His Excellency Fernando de Mello Barreto, Brazilian Ambassador to Australia, discussing the growth of 'middle powers'! This was just the beginning of a foray into the diplomatic corps of Australia that would take me to state functions, embassies and high commissions. Would you believe it however – not a single Ferrero Rocher in sight... very disappointing!

In July I moved to Sydney to work for a charity fundraising agency, where I have had the privilege to campaign for several charities, including Save the Children, The Australian Red Cross and UNICEF; volunteering for the latter when not travelling, sunning and playing rugby!

## Apologies

In our last issue, we mixed up the photos of David Daughton and Jim Salzman in our special feature on OPs in North America. Our sincere apologies to David and Jim for this mistake – please see their correct photos and articles below:

### Jim Salzman (1977)



I attended The Perse in 1977 for the 3rd Form and still look back on this as a wonderful and remarkably formative experience. Following college at Yale, I grew interested in environmental

policy. The first Harvard graduate to earn joint degrees in law and engineering, I was named a Sheldon Fellow upon graduation and moved to Paris, where I worked as a 'micro-diplomat' at the Environment Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and in London as the European Environmental Manager for Johnson Wax. I became a law professor in 1995 and currently hold joint appointments at Duke University (North Carolina) as the Samuel Fox Mordecai Professor of Law at the Law School and as the Nicholas Institute Professor of Environmental Policy at the Nicholas School of the Environment.

I work in the area of international environmental law, with a focus on water, trade, and conservation markets. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, I have lectured on environmental policy in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa, and served as a visiting professor at Yale, Harvard, and Stanford Universities, as well as at Macquarie (Australia), Lund (Sweden), and Tel Aviv (Israel) Universities and the European University Institute (Italy). I have been very happy working in the environmental field, amazed at its growth, twists, and continual turns over the past two decades. For better or worse, environmental protection seems destined to remain a growth field. Last, but by no means least, I'm a proud dad of boy/girl 15-year-old twins and still regard Fawley Towers as the pinnacle of television comedy.



I left the Perse in 1970 with A-levels in Art, French and English. After a gap year that included a job on the buses in Cambridge and 15,000 miles of hitch-hiking in the USA, I read English at York, where – to universal surprise – I was the team's top-scorer on University Challenge in 1972.

A life-changing brush with natural healing led to a series of food enterprises that included everything from operating the first café at York's "Alligator" to a Canadian import-export business in Chinese ginseng, product development at Québec's first organic tofu factory and, eventually a catering business for rock bands and film crews, where I cooked for clients, ranging from Bob Marley and Bruce Springsteen to Abba and Benji the dog. The food biz, coupled with a summer job at a children's camp in 1973, started a love affair with Canada that changed my trajectory and catapulted me into Canadian citizenship and a career focused primarily on Youth Engagement and Health Promotion. These days, I specialise in community-based economic development for the co-operative sector. I also work with a consulting business, "Healthy Community Partners", which focuses on personal and planetary health issues. I was the Recipient of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation's "Caring for the Earth Award" in 2000 and of the national "Worker Co-op Merit Award" in 2009. I live with my wife (and sometimes four daughters) by the water in Mermaid, Prince Edward Island.

## Obituaries

### Sad losses

- **Richard Burgess (c1927)**
- **Ian Saxton (c1936)**
- **Edwin Tucker (c1941)**
- **Ivan Wilmore (1943)**
- **Anthony Stranks (1944)**
- **Frederick I Forsaith (1945)**
- **Barry Pedley (1947)**
- **Gordon Waits (1948)**
- **Francis Badcock (1948)**
- **Andre Martin (1959)**
- **Alastair Gordon (1960)**
- **Michael J Wood (1964)**
- **Christopher Bethall (1998)**

#### Brian Marsden (1956)



#### Grateful thanks to David Cheng for the following.

Brian Marsden attended The Perse from 1948–1955. He and I became friends when I joined the school from 1951–1954. He had an interest in astronomy even then and completed an illustrious career in the subject to become a Supervisory Astronomer at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Director Emeritus of the Minor Planet Center. His death was announced by the Harvard Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics and obituaries have been published by the International Astronomical Union as a Minor Planet Electronic Circular (MPEC 2010 –W10: BRIAN MARSDEN (1937 Aug. 5–2010 Nov. 18) and in newspapers including The Guardian. These can be found on the internet: [www.minorplanetcenter.org/mpec/K10/K10W10.html](http://www.minorplanetcenter.org/mpec/K10/K10W10.html) [www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/nov/23/brian-marsden-obituary](http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/nov/23/brian-marsden-obituary)

This brief note records some recollection of mine on what Brian did when he was at The Perse.

Brian cultivated his interest in astronomy right from his school days. It was a time when there were sports every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon instead of lessons. It would be rugby football in the autumn term, hockey in winter, that was replaced by 'doing the triangle' (cross-country running) when the ground was frozen hard. The big triangle for seniors, the small one for juniors and a short-cut for those who managed to dodge the prefects and teachers. Round about Easter time, it would be swimming in the river. The Sports Master, Mr Finch, would have the water temperature tested. As long as it was above 40 F (15 C), we'd have to jump into the muddy water to thrash about among the tall reeds. And either tennis or cricket in the summer term. I do not know how Brian got away with it, he always came with notes to school from his mother asking for him to be excused sports because he was sick and he went off to the library of the Cambridge University Observatory for the afternoon.

The MPEC obituary about Brian stated that 'Together with a couple of other students he formed a school Astronomical Society, of which he served as secretary'. I was one of the 'couple of students'. He was the driving force of the group and co-opted me as president. I can see the scene even now: I was in the teacher's seat behind a long desk on a raised classroom dais, chairing a meeting of the society, and Brian would be hovering about directing the event. One Christmas holiday, he ran a competition. He compiled a list of astronomical questions. I spend many engaging hours in the Cambridge City Library researching the answers and won the prize, which was a book on astronomy, of course. He obtained permission for the Astronomical Society to be excused lessons so that the members could go to the school sports field to observe an eclipse of the sun. Just as he learnt from his mother, we learnt from him how to project images of the bitter sun through smoked glass onto paper.

England, only a few years after WWII, was still much deprived and the habit of having to cope with resources being scarce continued. In school, we were given rough notebooks to make notes in. Brian would use pencil and when the pages were all filled up, he would erase the pencil marks on every page so that he could use them again. We catalogued the school library one school holiday. He was a member of the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) and I remember him in his blue RAF uniform on parade days. As I write, I recalled that I invited him

to my home one time and he stayed for tea. I thought we would introduce him to Chinese food and my mother gave him a hard-boiled egg cooked in soya sauce to try. He did not like it because the egg had taken on the brown tint of the sauce. I cannot remember if it was Brian or not who originated the excavation of a corner of the school sports field for Roman remains. Nothing of significance was found. But someone unearthed an oyster shell and proudly showed it around. For a long time afterwards, he was followed around the schoolyard by taunts of 'Jacob and his oyster shell!'

There was little TV in England then, not until the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 put a boost to that. Home entertainment was listening to the radio. We all grew up with the many half-hour comedy shows on air: ITMA, Much Binding in the Marsh, Take it From Here, Educating Archie (a ventriloquist's dummy), Ray's a Laugh, The Arthur Askey Show, Hancock's Half Hour. Newly arrived in England from Hong Kong, I learnt my English while doing my maths homework accompanied by the anarchic Goons (Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Michael Bentine and Harry Secombe) in The Goon Show. Brian was inspired by all these and wrote comedy sketches that he and his 'couple of other fellow students' (that's me and Geoff Price) would read to each other. We performed one time at a Sports Concert on the evening of the school's Sports Day. We stood behind the curtained little stage under the school library balcony on the side of the packed school hall in Hills Road waiting to go on. We three shook hands with each other for luck just before the curtain went up. The headmaster, Mr Stubbs, sitting in the centre front row, laughed encouragingly. Later, after the performance and back in my seat among the audience, I saw to my chagrin that, well-lit behind the curtain, everything on stage was clearly on view through the reddish material, our nervous handshakes and all. Luckily, the audience was polite and no one tittered at us.

These are fond memories I have of Brian. When he went over the Atlantic Ocean to America, the distance was too far for us to keep in close touch. In 1984, 30 years after leaving Perse and returning from an international congress in Mexico, I dropped in on Brian and his wife, Nancy, in Harvard and Lexington. It was not until I began visiting America more frequently after meeting Carol, teaching English at East

China University of Petroleum in Dongying, Shandong Province in China, that I linked up with Brian again. We visited them in Lexington in 2008 and he and I reminisced about our times at Perse. We tried to meet up again in 2010, but his final illness was running its cruel course and we did not manage it. His Memorial Service was held at the Hancock United Church of Christ in Lexington, Massachusetts, USA, on 16 January 2011.

#### PS:

An incredible video was made in 1956/7 by Perse pupil, Eric Mival, showing a year in the life of Perse School for Boys fifty years ago. It contains many of the scenes that I have described above: the school sports field, rugby football, hockey, cross country running, swimming in the river, cricket, sports day and parade of the CCF. There is a link to it on the Old Perseans' website <http://www.oldperseans.org/> or it can be accessed directly, <http://www.oldperseans.org/videos/Extra/video1.asp>.

#### Ian Harper (1946)



#### Grateful thanks to Michael Harper for the following.

Ian Harper came to Cambridge from London in 1953 as a result of his father's new position as Branch Manager of the (then) Cooperative Permanent Building Society. Ian was very fortunate to get into The Perse Upper School on an 11-plus free place scholarship in the autumn of 1954 and he progressed at The Perse through to 'A' Levels in 1961. While at The Perse he joined the Naval Section of the CCF and among many other waterborne activities he enjoyed several Easter sailing weeks out of Malden, Essex, led by Keith Symons.

While growing up in Cambridge Ian was involved also in the scouts with 54th St. Georges Troop where he went on many outward bound activities including hiking, mountaineering and canoeing. He canoed down the Moselle before it was canalized and also the Wye River in 1958 and 1959 respectively.

After 'A' Levels, Ian left The Perse and joined BP Tanker Company as a Marine Engineer apprentice. He completed his engineering training through alternating periods of practical experience onboard ships or in shipyards and periods of study at Hendon College of Technology, attaining HNC in Mechanical Engineering. He added endorsements in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture. Between 1966 and 1968 he ploughed the waves with BP Tankers firstly as Junior and then Fourth Engineer. In 1970 Ian joined Shell International Marine where he worked as a Project Engineer involved in the specification of new ships through to commissioning and sea trials. In 1971 he married Cathy. They have three children, Robert, Christopher and Timothy.

Ian stayed with Shell until 1995 after which he branched out, initially as a freelance consulting engineer before he then joined Wavespec as Marketing Director in 1999. His role in Wavespec was both technical and commercial. Ian was involved in managing and overseeing large technical teams ensuring that the highest technical standards were achieved. In addition, Ian was directly involved in developing and implementing marketing strategies. Ian was one of the management team that took Wavespec from a small Marine Consultancy company to being acknowledged world leaders in LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) carrier design, construction and operation. Ian became a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers.

In his leisure time he enjoyed boating holidays with his family and in particular frequently piloted canal boats exploring many stretches of Britain's inland waterways. Ian passed away after a short illness on 30 November, 2010.

### Keith Graham James (1952)



*With grateful thanks to Tony Chaplin for the following.*

Keith entered The Perse School in September 1944 when the Second World War was still raging. He quickly established himself and became immersed in the school society. His academic interests were English, Latin and Greek. Keith gained 'A' levels in July 1952, leaving The Perse as a Senior Prefect and gaining school colours in rugby and 2nd cricket and athletics. He was also secretary of the Literary Society, chronicler of the Union Society and participated in three Perse Players productions. He was promoted to chief petty officer of the CCF (RN section) and became a patrol leader in the senior scouts where he gained the queen's Scout Badge. It was while he was at The Perse that he took up a hobby that was to become a life-long passion; he began sailing with a school friend, John Pope, in John's dinghy on The Cam.

After leaving The Perse, Keith was called up into the army for two years' National Service. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and was posted to Plymouth where he spent much of his time sailing. After National Service he returned to Cambridge to Clare College where he gained a degree in English. In 1957 Keith started work in the drum division of the Bowater organisation in Brentford. Whilst working in London he shared a flat with two other OPs, Richard Lovelace and Barrie Reed. Although based in Brentford, Keith spent some time in Disley, Manchester as part of his training.

Whilst at The Perse Keith had participated in the social evenings held with The Perse Girls School. He was attracted to a young lady named Patricia (or Tricia as she prefers to be called) and eventually in 1958 in Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, they were married. Keith was still being sent hither and thither as part of his training and acquiring understanding on drum manufacture and

use, but moving around was not so easy now that he had a wife to support. Around this time, the powder moulding process for the manufacture of large plastic drums was developed and Keith went to South Wales to run a new factory making the drums. He was now working for the Butterfield Harvey Group and he persuaded them to start a new company in Huntingdon called Harcostar where Keith pioneered the development and manufacture of the 40-gallon 'water butt'. His children came along next; Claire in March 1962 and David in April 1965, and the family lived near Huntingdon until 1976. During this period he became ill and was hospitalised for a while. He recovered but the illness was to recur several times in the future.

Being of independent nature, Keith had tired of working for others and in 1976 formed a new company, in partnership with an entrepreneur, based in Skelmersdale, Lancashire-Polythene Drums Ltd. This company grew and business was good. But then tragedy struck. In 1988 the Skelmersdale factory caught fire and was burned down. Keith had the courage and determination to start again, rebuilding the business and factory. A few years later, the business was sold, the site closed and the plant moved to Lancashire under a new owner. Keith settled for a quieter family life with lots of sailing and travel. He was much involved with the Plastics Institute and known as 'The Drum Major' by his colleagues in the institute.

In 1989, when the family had grown up, Keith acquired a boat and apartment in Port Grimaud, Gulf St Tropez, France. Keith could now indulge in sea sailing when business permitted. Keith and Tricia also enjoyed travelling and visited New Zealand, cruised the Russian Rivers and the Nile amongst their trips. Keith had two other indulgences – music and the love of wine. He enjoyed many concerts in the Bridgewater Hall. His knowledge of wine and vine-culture became extensive, which led to his being inducted as 'Un Chevalier de Tastevin', and honour of which he was immensely proud.

Keith's life took another twist in 1999 when he and Tricia were involved in a serious car crash which smashed both of Keith's legs. Fortunately, Tricia was not hurt badly but Keith had to face a long period in hospital followed by a long recuperation before he could walk again. That he did manage to walk again unaided was due to the unstinting care of Tricia, and his courage, persistence and determination. He had to give up sailing and the apartment in France but discovered that he could play croquet

well and joined the Bowden Croquet Club. As part of his recovery to improve the articulation of his legs, he and the undersigned walked across Morecombe Bay (whilst the tide was out!).

But fate had not yet finished with Keith. In 2002 whilst playing croquet he tripped over a hoop and damaged a hip. More time in hospital, more recuperation. Once again he recovered and began to enjoy perhaps the greatest passion of his life; his grandchildren, Oliver, Harry, William and Freddie and of course Maya. Keith indulged them shamelessly and was a granddad par excellence.

Keith was taken ill again in 2009 with a recurrence of the problem he had had earlier. He endured more stays in hospital and unpleasant treatment for many months, but eventually passed away on 22nd January 2011.

In 1998 four Old Perseans living in the Northwest met up at a party and resolved to meet regularly with their ladies and an annual croquet match at Mere. Sadly only the author of this piece remains – the three others have passed on. The croquet matches are consigned to history; Barrie Reed, Mike Kay and now sadly Keith James are now gone and are greatly missed.

### John Gross (1948)



*With thanks to John's son, Tom Gross, for the following.*

My father was an exceptional person. I have known that all my life, of course, but nevertheless I have been taken aback by the outpouring of grief and admiration for him in the last three days, including wonderful letters and emails from all over the world and magnificent tributes in the press on both sides of the Atlantic, and in continental Europe too.

My father had an outstanding intellect. But because of his modesty I hadn't quite realized to what extent his intellectual prowess went back to his earliest days, until reading some of the tributes this week.

On Wednesday, in The Times, a Mr Derek Taylor wrote a letter to say that he had been at the Perse school in Cambridge with my father. Mr Taylor wrote: 'There was a school debate one day in 1946. The speakers were always sixth-formers. But John was 11 at the time and astonished the audience by standing up to make his point, quoting for his purpose the Russian Foreign Minister of 1927. It was a moment not to be forgotten.'

And yesterday in The Times, Gillian Tunkel wrote: 'I have never forgotten the comment that John's English teacher wrote to John's parents at the end of one of John's essays when John was 14: 'I am not sufficiently equipped to mark this!''

People who didn't know my father, might have assumed that someone as erudite and bookish as he was, might somehow be deficient in common sense or worldly wisdom. Nothing could be further from the truth. He had unerring judgment and good sense in matters great and small. He was unfailingly kind and sensitive too. He was always courteous and patient. I've never heard him be rude to anyone. He was immensely generous in every way, especially with his time and with his knowledge and advice. He would spend hours on the phone with people he hardly knew who had rung to pick his brain. And, as one of the many friends have written to me said, he never looked over anyone's shoulder at a party.

He remained friendly and totally unpompous to the end. Two days before he died, when I was urging the staff at St Mary's, Paddington to do all they could to comfort him, a West Indian nurse said to me 'Oh we all know about Mr Gross. He is the best conversationalist we've ever had here'.

My father's intellect was also intact until his final days. When he was almost unconscious, one of the doctors said to him: 'Mr Gross we are moving you now, from the Samuel Lane ward to the Zachary Cope ward'. And my father, with his eyes still shut, suddenly mumbled 'Ahh, Dr Zachary Cope – the famous abdominal expert who wrote an article about Jane Austen's last illness.'

My father loved London. He delighted in taking visitors round tours of the East End, and literary and other places of interest elsewhere. As one American friend, Roger Kimball, wrote to me yesterday 'John knew the city as well as any London taxi-driver – better in fact, because he could not only take you to any address you named but he also knew what had happened there from the time of Julius Caesar until the day before yesterday.'

## A legacy of learning

There is good news for those wishing to leave a legacy to charity in their wills. In his March Budget, George Osborne announced that the rate of inheritance tax will be reduced by 10% for those estates leaving 10% or more to charity, from a rate of 40% to 36%.

Following the Leaving a Legacy campaign we launched in November 2010, we were delighted to hear from 36 Old Perseans who have pledged to leave a legacy in support of the school. The Perse has always relied upon the generosity of Old Perseans to help the school flourish, and to ensure that those from less fortunate backgrounds can benefit from a Perse education. This September, an 11 year old pupil will be starting at The Perse thanks to money received from legacies last year.

If you would like more information on how you can support the school in your Will, please visit:

[www.persedevlopment.org/legacies](http://www.persedevlopment.org/legacies) or contact **Eddie Copeland in confidence on 01223 403 835.**



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# Thank you

My son James had always been a bright child but I didn't realise quite how bright until a parents' evening at his primary school. Following his SATS mocks, his teacher told us that he had never seen such a mathematical brain at James' age. I realised then that he would not be fully stretched in just any school. Two days later I was flicking through the local paper when I saw an advert for The Perse entrance exam. What caught my eye was that bursaries were available, and knowing The Perse's reputation my husband and I downloaded the application form, filled it out and delivered it by hand the next day – the closing date for entry.

The following Saturday, when most of Cambridge was closed due to snow, James nervously attended the exam. It had been a shock to him that he was even attending such a test as although I had always known he truly deserved the sort of education that only The Perse can provide, I had assumed it would be outside our financial capabilities. He did extraordinarily well, and thanks to the bursary place we were offered he started the following September.

From day one he was stretched academically and thrived on it. The pastoral support and the respect the teachers have for the academically able pupils who attend The Perse undoubtedly helped to shape him into the high achiever he has become. Although he had been in the top of his year at primary school, I assumed he would prove an average student at The Perse. How wrong I was! Academically he shone and The Perse has lit a light in him for knowledge and education that has fulfilled him totally. The Perse has also enabled him to become a rounded person who was not jibed for doing well and who could enjoy being with peers of an equally academic nature.

I have never drummed into James how great an opportunity he was afforded the day he was offered a bursary to go to The Perse. I have not needed to. His pride in attending the school is obvious; he has loved the school and truly appreciates all it has done for him in every area of his life and has said so often. This year he has begun a Physics degree at Oxford University. To see the young man who has set out into the world with so many opportunities at his feet is amazing. It will also impact down through the generations of our family as James has already spoken of his desire to be able to provide the same educational opportunities for his own children.

I hope you will pass on my heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed to your bursary fund, and made James' time at The Perse possible.

This message was sent by a parent of a pupil who left The Perse in 2010. Only the pupil's name has been changed.

Last year, Old Perseans helped raise over £400,000 towards our Annual Fund and Access to Excellence campaigns, enabling us to provide three additional bursary places (lasting 7 years) for pupils who could not otherwise afford a Perse education.

**On behalf of the 120 pupils who are currently able to receive means-tested financial assistance towards their school fees, we would like to thank all our donors for their incredible support.**

This summer, we will be holding a telethon to raise money for Annual Fund bursaries so that we can help more pupils like James in the years ahead. We hope that as many OPs as possible will feel able to support the appeal. Every gift makes a difference.