

Old Persean News

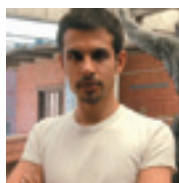
Summer Newsletter 2010



THE PERSE
SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE



Old Persean Wins International Writing Prize



Rana Dasgupta (1990) has been awarded the international title of Best Book for his novel 'Solo' in the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Dasgupta defeated competition from seven other finalists and claims £10,000 prize money alongside the prestigious title, which has previously been awarded to literary giants including Louis de Bernières, Vikram Seth and Andrea Levy.

'Solo' recounts the life and daydreams of Ulrich, a one hundred year-old blind man from Bulgaria, as he embarks on an epic armchair journey through a century of violent politics, forbidden music, lost love and failed chemistry, finding his way eventually to an astonishing epiphany of tenderness and enlightenment.

'Solo' is Dasgupta's second book and his first, 'Tokyo Cancelled' (a collection of thirteen folktales), was short-listed for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize (UK) and the Hutch Crossword Book Award (India).

Old Persean Becomes MP for Cambridge in General Election

Julian Huppert (1996) has become Member of Parliament for Cambridge in the May General Election. Until the election, Julian was working as a scientist at the Cavendish Laboratory.



Future Events

Saturday 18th September,

6pm: OP Dinner, The Perse School, including tour of the school's new teaching and library complex.

Tuesday 14th December, 7.30pm:

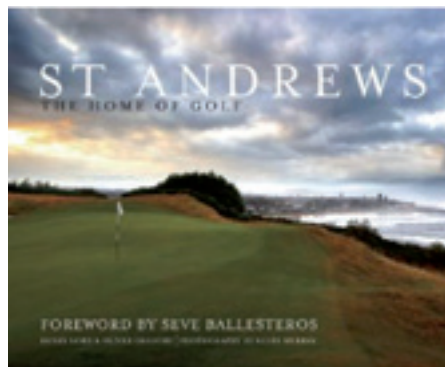
Carol Service, St John's College Chapel.

Please contact Amanda Augstein at events@perse.co.uk, 01223 403838, or fill in the enclosed form if you would like to attend either of these events.

Development Office,
The Perse School, Hills Road,
Cambridge, CB2 8QF
01223 403 808
alumni@perse.co.uk
www.oldperseans.org

St Andrews golf course inspires Old Persean author

Golf enthusiasts may be interested to pick up a copy of 'St Andrews, The Home of Golf', a lavish, full-colour exploration of the Scottish town whose name is synonymous with golf, co-written by Oliver Gregory (2002).



Cambridge to Casablanca



This summer, OPs Rory Davidson, Tom Doble, George Dean, Nat Gimson and Ed Pearson will be cycling around 2,000 miles from Cambridge to Casablanca. They aim to complete the ride in 28 days and in the process raise £5,000 for Acorn House, a home from home care centre at Addenbrookes hospital run by The Sick Children's Trust. To find out more or to donate online, please visit www.cambridgegetocasablanca.co.uk.

Twenty20 Varsity Match – OPs rule in Oxford vs Cambridge



The Varsity cricket Twenty20 match took place at the University Parks, Oxford, on Friday 4th June. Oxford University Cricket Club is one of the most prestigious sporting clubs in the country, and this is a special year for The Perse and Oxbridge cricket because between the two opposing squads, six players in the named 15-man squads were Old Perseans; Philip Ashton (2001), Richard Hesketh (2006), Edward Pearson (2006), Richard Stafford (2007), Matthew Swan (2008) and Mark Weston (2007). Oxford won the match by 53 runs. Oxford batted first and scored 178-2 in 20 overs. Cambridge were 125 all out in reply. Ed Pearson and Richard Hesketh were the only two OPs in the starting XIs (both Cambridge), with Mark Weston, Matthew Swan and Philip Ashton in the named squads, but not selected on the day.

Keeping you updated

To follow the school's news and to find out about the latest events for Old Perseans, head to our website www.oldperseans.org or join our Facebook page (type 'The Perse School' in the Facebook search bar).



Perse Loyalty Card goes live



This March, we launched the first ever Perse Loyalty Card, which was sent out to all members of The Perse community who live in the Cambridge area. All 4,000 cardholders can now benefit from a range of discounts on local goods and services, including special offers at Neals Yard Remedies, LA Fitness, ASuitThatFits.com, Millers Music and Noel Young Wines, to name but a few. Over 50 retailers are participating in the scheme, and the number is growing all the time. Full details of participating outlets and the deals on offer are available at www.perse.co.uk/loyalty. If you haven't yet received a card and would like to request one, or know of a business that might wish to take part, please contact Amanda at alumni@perse.co.uk. Happy Shopping!

Launch of OP Roadshow!



It's not always easy for OPs to get to Cambridge for events, so we decided to start holding reunions around the country to bring Perse alumni together no matter where they live. Here's a round-up of those we've held since April:

Norwich

The first leg of the Old Perseans' Roadshow started in Norwich on 28th April with a reunion at the historic Blackfriars' Hall. During the afternoon event, OPs and their guests were treated to high tea and were able to view photographs and copies of the Pelican magazine from their time at the school. There was an update on the school's progress from the Development Director and a showing of Eric Mival's film of the school in 1956/7.



May. The drinks reception was attended by over 130 past and present members of The Perse community who work in London. Guests chatted with friends and had a chance to meet with others working in a range of London professions. The evening was hosted by Michael Pooles, QC, and our guest speaker was The Hon. Mr. Justice David Lloyd Jones, High Court Judge and former Perse parent. This event is now planned to become an annual fixture so make sure you check the next newsletter to find out details for 2011.



Cambridge: OP Open Day and Histon Manor Tour

Following the traditional AGM and lunch at the school, OPs attending the Open Day in May were treated to a guided tour of the Histon Manor estate, the home of former Headmaster, Dr Rouse (1902–1928). The Perse was most grateful to Peter Biggs (OP), its current owner, who was our tour guide for the day. OPs were able to meander through the Manor's own woodland, wander through the secret garden and admire the old moat in spectacular sunshine whilst learning about its history.



Bristol

Old Perseans in the Bristol area met together at Bristol Zoo Gardens on Saturday 22nd May. Young and old mingled in the beautiful surroundings of the Clifton Pavilion within Bristol Zoo grounds. The event involved a film show, memorabilia, Lego building, brain teasers and high tea to complete the afternoon. A complimentary visit to the zoo was also included during the event which many attended.



London: Perse Professionals Evening

The Perse London Professionals Evening 2010 took place in the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, on 20th

OPs around the world



Did you know that of the 6,300 Old Perseans alive today, over 450 are living outside the UK? In fact they're spread across more than 50 different countries, from Mexico to New Zealand, and from Venezuela to China.

The map above shows where OPs are currently living, and in each of our next issues we'll be focusing on a continent at a time to report on which alumni live there, why they moved and what they're up to now. Next issue will focus on North America – if you have any stories about your life there, please email them to alumni@perse.co.uk.

Eric Mival film to be released on DVD



Many OPs have commented on how much they have enjoyed watching Eric Mival's incredible footage of The Perse in 1956/57, which is currently on the Old Persean website. We are now producing a much higher resolution version for DVD and this will be available to OPs in the near future. If you would be interested in purchasing a copy, please contact the Development Office.

The Cambridge Perse History Tour



David Jones, the school archivist and former History teacher, shows us that the history of The Perse extends well beyond the gates of Hills Road...

1 Gonville and Caius College

The chapel contains Perse's wall effigy of 1615, showing him at prayer. In Tree Court the North East corner has a statue of Perse holding a model building. It dates from 1870.

2 Holy Trinity Church, Market Street

Wall memorial to Sir Robert Tabor (1681), Persean and physician, whose discovery of the proper use of quinine saved the life of Charles II. Black tablet above North Door.

3 St Edward's Church, St Edward's Passage

Memorial floor slab in South chapel to George Griffith, Master of The Perse 1652-87. A generous benefactor, named in the Founder's Prayer.

4 Maids Causeway

Built with funds from Perse's benefaction.

5 Free School Lane

Site of the original school, 1615-1890. The hall survives within the Whipple Museum. Opening hours are posted outside, where a blue plaque (2005) commemorates Perse.

6 Emmanuel College

Two memorials to Robert Towerson Cory, first Persean to become Master of a Cambridge college (Emmanuel 1797-1835), and a professor. Long Latin inscription in the cloisters to the left of chapel door and an inscribed white floor tile inside the chapel to the left of the altar.

7 Newnham Road

Perse almshouses, facing Fen Causeway. Built in 1890 to replace the original almshouses in Free School Lane. The Perse shield can be seen on the right-hand gable.

8 Bateman Street

No. 62 housed the Prep School 1910-54. No. 12 home of FC Happold, taught 1922-8.

9 Gonville Place

Second site of The Perse, 1890-1960. Redbrick classrooms still visible from Harvey Road.

10 Trumpington Road

Leighton House became the new Prep site in 1954. Built in 1867 for Robert Sayle, whose shop now forms part of the John Lewis chain. His initials, changed to PS, remain over the entrance.

11 Glebe Road

Templemore Close, site of School House (demolished 2000). Home of Dr Rouse, 1911-28. No. 92, formerly Hillel House (1911-48) then Junior boarding house (1948-89). Now the Pelican Pre-Prep.

12 Hills Road

Site of present school since 1960.

Other sites on the outskirts of Cambridge:

Histon Manor and parish church

Rouse lived in retirement at the Manor, 1928-48. He is buried close by in the churchyard, west of the South Path. A Greek cross runs the length of the coffin-shaped flat stone.

The City Cemetery, Newmarket Road

Graves of Henry Caldwell Cook and Reginald Bainbridge Appleton, distinguished Perse masters. Cemetery staff will be glad to help find the graves, plots 2346 and 2344.

Ascension Burial Ground (St Giles Cemetery) Huntingdon Road

Graves of Stanley and Margaret Stubbs, John Tanfield, Michael Seymour and Arthur Peck. Also AC Benson (Governor 1911-19).

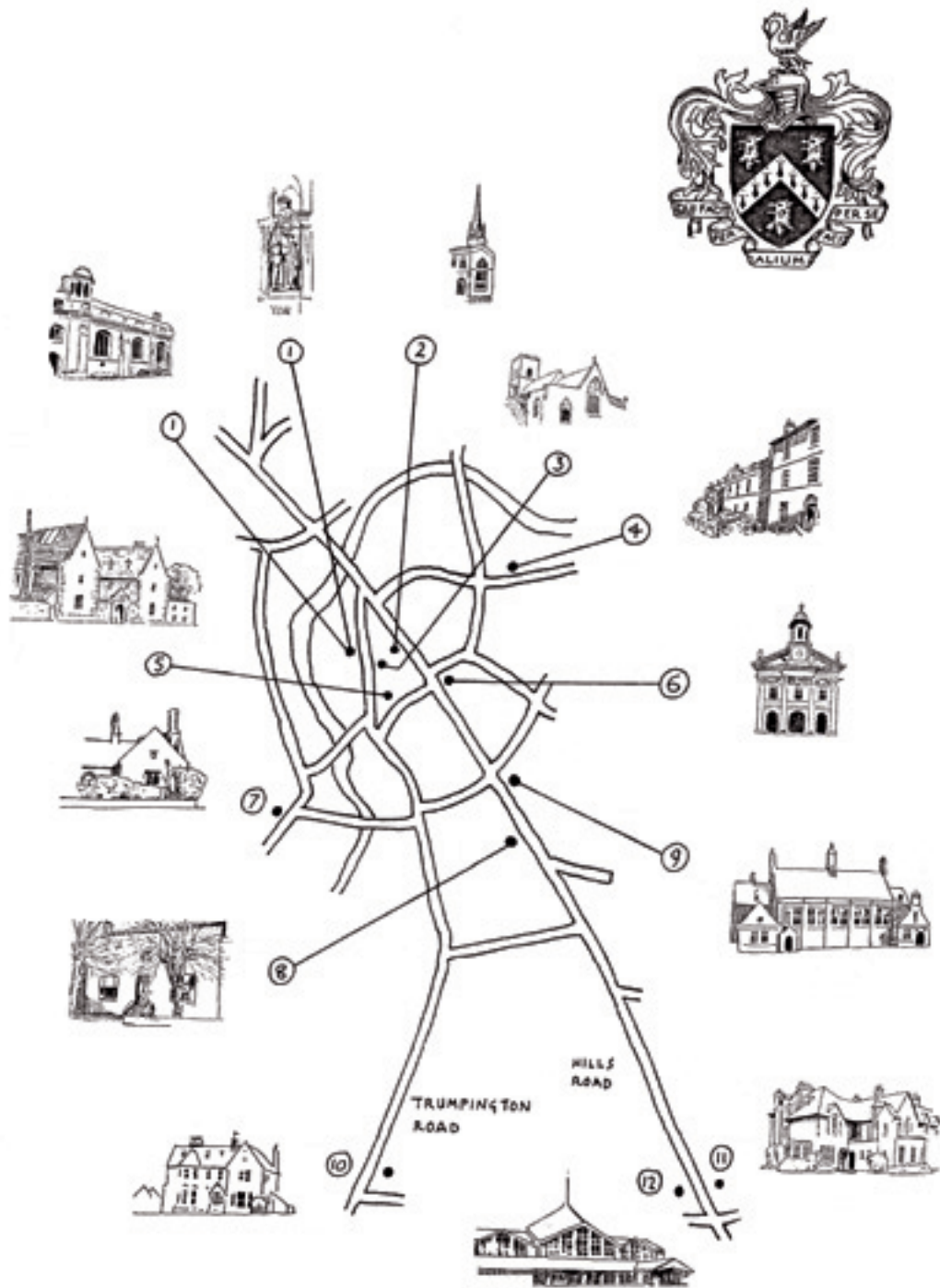
Nine Wells, off Granhams Road

Obelisk of 1861 marks the benefaction of Stephen Perse and others towards the creation of what became known as Hobson's Brook, cut in 1610. Inscriptions outline its history.

Barrow Road

No. 17 was home to Headmaster Hubert Wootton, and famously bombed on 15th October 1940.

This is a selection of principal sites. A longer list, with fuller descriptions, are available on application.



PERSE PLACES IN CAMBRIDGE

Founder's Day



Edward Elliott

Last year we focused on the initial successes of The Perse 395 years ago and the triumphs of its early pupils, such as Sir Robert Tabor (pictured), one of our first applicants to medical school, who went on to discover that the cinchona bark, whose active ingredient is quinine, provided a cure for malaria. In 1678 Tabor helped save the life of King Charles II using cinchona and was duly knighted. He went on to do the same thing in 1679 for Louis XIV's son and ended up £3,000 gold crowns the richer, becoming Cambridge's first bio-tech millionaire in the process.

If the early years of The Perse were successful, what followed was an abject lesson in failure. Indeed, the school's historian, S J D Mitchell, describes the century from 1687-1787 as the age of corruption and apathy during which The Perse went from being one of the greatest schools in the county, to a school in name only, with no pupils and rooms let out to house the original contents of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

The reasons for the 18th century decline were numerous and varied. Firstly, the salaries paid to The Perse teachers were very low and frozen at 17th century levels. At least one of the Ushers, the term given to the Deputy Head, ended up in debtors prison whilst cash strapped

Last year Edward Elliott, Head, reinstated the celebration of Founder's Day to mark the anniversary of the school's foundation by Dr Stephen Perse in 1615. On 25th March, the school's 395th birthday, he delivered the following address, focusing on the period from 1687–1787: the century of 'corruption and apathy'.

Headmasters hit upon the idea of reducing pupil numbers to the extent that only one teacher, the Head, was needed. The Head could then draw both his and the Usher's salary and just about have enough to live on.

After a while, even this ruse was not enough to cope with rising prices, so pluralism became endemic. Many Perse Heads had four or five jobs, and as a consequence were rarely seen in school and this at a time when the Head was the only teacher. Thus Henry Goodall, Master from 1732-50 was a full-time Fellow at Caius, Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely, Archdeacon of Suffolk, and vicar of three parishes. No wonder pupils used to complain that they waited hours, even days for the Head to arrive, and then he only stayed a matter of minutes.

Perhaps the worst Head of the lot was John Wilson, a most uninspiring teacher, and in the thirteen years of his Headship, only one pupil made it to University. Others had greater success, albeit not at teaching. Perhaps the most famous of all was William Wilkins, the early 19th century architect who whilst Head of The Perse, designed Downing College. He was later the architect for University College in London.

The root cause of The Perse's decline was effectively money or more precisely, a lack of it. The Perse Trust, on which The Perse School depended for its income, was administered by the Master and four

Senior Fellows of Caius College who were able to dispense surplus trust funds as they saw fit. The accounts for 1799 show how this dispensement took place. Of the £2,000 income received by The Perse Trust, mostly from an estate in Essex, £840 was paid to the Master and four Senior Fellows of Caius. A further £800 was spent on Caius College repairs and new buildings, and just £53 and 10 shillings was extended to The Perse School, and yet the school had been the primary beneficiary of Stephen Perse's will.

So what lessons can we learn from the age of corruption and apathy at The

Perse? Sound financial management is essential, and good teachers deserve a good salary. Heads need to focus on one job and not many, and uninspiring teaching is a recipe for disaster. We can also be reassured that in the end good triumphs over adversity and that the citizens of Cambridge do care about their oldest school. For in 1836 the townsfolk of Cambridge began a

legal action against the Master and Senior Fellows at Caius College, to ensure that The Perse was properly funded and administered. The citizens of Cambridge won and in 1841 a revised scheme for the school was established which included within it provision for a Dr Perse's Day to celebrate the school's foundation in 1615. On this our Founder's Day we should remember both good and bad times, and recognise that instead of air brushing out failures we should learn from them.



Robert Tabor



Javid Abdelmoneim (1997)



Since graduating Medicine (UCL, 2003) I have undertaken an Emergency Medicine training programme and completed Royal College membership exams as well as the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London. Last year I took time out of training to join Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). I have

since spent six months in Basrah district general hospital Accident & Emergency department in Iraq. There I worked to introduce medical protocols and resuscitation procedures for trauma and cardiac arrest patients. My next project with MSF is six months in Haiti working to train local medical staff to take back responsibility for CHOSCAL hospital in Cité Soleil in Port-au-Prince.

After Haiti, I am joining Queensland's air ambulance service in Australia for a year to gain experience in helicopter rescue and aircraft transfers for critically ill patients. Finally, I hope to return to the UK to complete my training in Emergency Medicine as well as Intensive Care Medicine.

Simon Carr (1979)



After leaving The Perse in 1979 I was lucky enough to be able to take a gap year before University. I travelled extensively throughout Israel and Egypt gaining employment in a variety of bizarre roles from avocado tree painter to scaffolder.

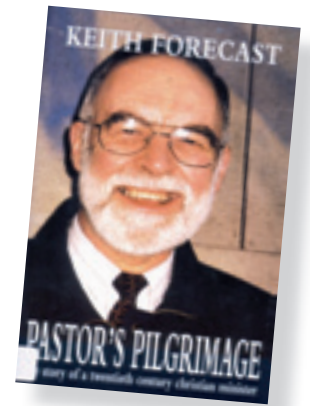
I graduated from Southampton University in 1983 and was called to the Bar in 1984. For the next twenty five years I pursued a wonderfully mixed practice covering all areas of criminal, family and civil law. By the end of my time of the Bar my practice was split almost equally

between criminal law and a personal injury practice. In 1990 I married Stephanie Farrimond who practices full time at the Criminal Bar. In April 2009 I was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge and now I am permanently based at Wood Green Crown Court in North London. The main purpose of this update was to allow those who remembered me from all those years ago to have a gentle smile, or worse, when seeing how I have to dress for work. Over the last twenty years I have been lucky enough to travel extensively and I have taught legally based courses in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Malaysia and Hong Kong. I have become heavily involved in wildlife conservation in Africa and I am a trustee of the Jane Goodall Institute attempting to ensure the protection and rehabilitation of the wild chimpanzee population.

If anyone wants to get in touch my email is HHJudgeSimonCarr@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk

Finding Old School Friends

Have you lost contact with any old school friends? The Development Office stays in touch with over 4,600 alumni, and during the past year has helped numerous Old Perseans reunite with their former school friends. If you would like help contacting someone, please email Amanda at alumni@perse.co.uk or call her on 01223 403808.



Keith Forecast (1954)

I was at The Perse from 1946-54. After RAF national service, university at Downing College, and theological training in Bristol I was ordained into the then Congregational Ministry in 1960. My life has been committed to that ministry and its subsequent fulfillment into the United Reformed Church. Within this comparatively small denomination I exercised positions of some leadership. I retired in 2000 but am still quite active here in North Wales. Realising that my lifetime had seen many changes in the world and in the church I wrote my memoirs which were published last year under the title of 'Pastor's Pilgrimage'. I cannot and would not claim any literary or scholastic credit for this book, but it is attractively produced and I have gladly donated a copy to The Perse School library.

Editor's Note: Copies of Pastor's Pilgrimage can be obtained from Amazon, or Keith will supply copies if you wish to contact him directly. His email contact is: keith@urcwales.org.uk

Retirement of Bob Smith



Bob Smith is retiring this year, after 38 years of service to the school. Bob has taught both chemistry and maths and has also run the chess club and managed the arrangements

for Speech day. His full retirement tribute can be found by clicking on the 'memories' tab at www.oldperseans.org.

Your stories and news

Paul Staniforth (1962)



At a recent Old Boys reunion in Norwich, Eddie Copeland, the School's Development Director, caught me off my guard and

talked me into writing a contribution for the OP Newsletter. I had earlier expressed how readers might find it interesting if old boys, particularly the wrinkly ones, were to pen a little of

their life's experiences before their relatives write their obituary.

I left The Perse in '62, went on the Wye College to read Agriculture before following a career in the then Ministry of Agriculture which led to my working around the country, including Whitehall.

I was not the model pupil gaining Oxford or Cambridge entry which The Perse sought to turn out but pursued a less academic career and took comfort in the knowledge that two fellow classmates who did not go to university became millionaires.

I retired at 50, on compassionate grounds to care for my dying wife, later remarried and quite recently have battled with throat cancer. Three years on I have renewed my active retirement and find time to pursue the many interests which work precluded as well as travelling the world. On the school website I have written a more detailed article about the challenges I have faced and have reflected more deeply on my life and what I have learned post Perse. This can be found on the 'memories' tab at www.oldperseans.org.

Jeremy Watson (1957)



My years at Perse started at Bateman Street Prep under the jurisdiction of Mrs. Carmichael. It was a fun place

but I do remember one year getting the cane from Mr. Lindeman on my birthday. He was a kind man because after giving me the cane he gave me a ruler for my birthday. Was I confused? Probably, but I just got on with life anyway. The walk from Bateman Street to the senior school, for dinner, opposite the Catholic Church each day let us all see the outside world and with pennies we could dig out some brick dust and polish our pennies up like new on the way back to Prep School. I soon realized that I was not as academic as most of the pupils, thus I seemed to get into more trouble than most. For example with a bad half year report, that had to be signed by a parent, I recall being asked why my mother would use yellow crayon to sign it. I didn't get away with that! I managed to get into the senior school and again had my share of getting the swish. In fact I was taken into Mr. Stubbs' office on so many occasions that I knew if Mr. Hawkins was there I would get the cane, but if he was not then it was only a talking to or some lines to write. Gee, my writing was so bad that I could not even read it myself. Only in later years have I found out that I suffer

from a form of dyslexia because even now I have extreme difficulty reading aloud, and times tables escape me.

After leaving Perse in 1957 I had two years at an agricultural college in Suffolk before finding that I could sell things, so changed direction and until my retirement four years ago have been associated with a sales and marketing profession. In 1963 I left the UK and came to live in Melbourne Australia. I actually wanted to go to Sydney, the centre of sailing in this country, but my geography was so bad I finished up in Melbourne. I had been sailing at the Cam Sailing Club since I was about ten years old, thus the chance of sailing in a country with much better weather than the UK seemed to be the way to go.

Two things changed my life, firstly when I was able to buy a calculator to fit in my pocket, and secondly a computer where I found I could write legibly. Although along the way in business, a good secretary was able to convert my doggerel into acceptable sales and promotional material. Business wise, I worked for NCR selling retail systems in the '60s, and through to 1973 for Kodak selling microfilm systems to corporate and government departments. An opportunity arose with Itek Graphic Products to market small printing equipment and phototypesetters to the lower end of the printing industry, instant print shops and corporate. At Itek I attended many conferences in the USA learning about new products and became Manager for the branch in Melbourne looking after twenty three

people in both sales and servicing. I did a two year stint in New Zealand setting up a branch for the company before returning to Melbourne.

I have two sons and a daughter and am now a grandfather three times. Two of my children went to Yarra Valley Grammar, a public school, (Australia calls them Private Schools) where I managed to help on the Fete Committee and enjoyed, once again, the school environment for about seven years.

Since retiring, my wife of 44 years and I have flown round the world visiting friends and relations, sailed our 31 foot yacht from Melbourne to The Whitsundays, inside the Great Barrier Reef and back, and toured with a caravan up through the middle of New South Wales, Queensland and Northern Territory, then coming home via Alice Springs and South Australia. I do volunteer work as a guide at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum one day a week which is ten minutes drive from where I live. We are busy in retirement. Future years mean more sailing, caravanning and overseas travel, and I guess the enthusiasm I have had to travel and do things could be somewhat contributed to my days at Perse, under the supervision of people like, Ken Symonds, Keith Barry and perhaps Doug Brown. I also survived some of the more 'unusual' masters, Tiddly Crouch for example, who once said, 'This boy will achieve nothing in life.' ...well Tiddly, you were wrong on that score, however I will agree my academic skills were not very good!



David Dunkley (1998)

Grateful thanks to David Jones for the following:

David Dunkley, who died on the 20th July 2009, served the Perse for thirty-three years and became a highly-regarded figure. He taught Classics, commanded the CCF, was a housemaster for sixteen years and turned hockey into the school's most successful sport.

Following his education at Abingdon School he was called up for National Service. He joined Military Intelligence and was sent to Cyprus, where he had the satisfaction of arresting a bishop. In the mid-1950s, Cyprus was a hotbed of anti-British terrorism. The bishop was in conversation with a dubious-looking group and as he was speaking Greek, he must have supposed himself incomprehensible to young British soldiers. He was mistaken. David's schoolboy Greek was quite up to the task. Suspicions aroused, he ordered the bishop to remove his hat, revealing subversive pamphlets and leading to prompt arrest. David showed such soldierly qualities that he was invited to remain in the Army, but when his term of service ended he chose to take up his place at Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge, subsequently graduating in Classics. It

was at this time that he met his future wife Avril, and they married in 1962. After a brief time at King Edward's School, Chelmsford, David came to the Perse in 1965. He always said he was not a teacher but a schoolmaster, with all the commitment and activity beyond the classroom which that old-fashioned word implies. He joined the CCF, becoming Army Section Commander in 1968 and succeeding Tony Billingham as Contingent Commander in 1990. In 1972 he became Housemaster of School House. Being in loco parentis to thirty teenagers was hard work at the best of times. David took over when late '60s student revolt was still in the air and challenges to authority were common. David took it in his stride and stood no nonsense. His organisational efficiency meant that he never seemed burdened, though he also had the CCF and hockey to manage on top of his teaching. In the classroom the boys appreciated David's clear, organised teaching, his directness, his aggressive humour, his occasional fireworks of temper (unless they were the immediate cause and victim) and his uncanny knack of predicting Latin unseens in the public exams. His discipline was unquestioned and boys knew where they stood – usually in mortal fear of doing anything wrong. It was David who dragooned the entire school for the triennial photograph, a task few would envy.

His most notable contribution was the creation of the Perse's outstanding reputation in hockey. By 1987 a *Pelican* retrospective was calling it the school's most successful sport. Blues, county and international players began their careers here. At one point David ran all the Cambridgeshire County sides and as a Cambridge City player he was renowned for being, along with his co-defender, almost impossible to pass. He did his best to ensure that good hockey coaches were appointed to the staff and to obtain facilities like the Astro turf.

But David was more than a conventional games-playing master. He often attended classical concerts at the Corn Exchange and was familiar with composers then relatively unknown, such as Korngold. It

delighted him to spring upon the unwary the unlikely name of writer Oliver St John Gogarty, and one began to realise that there was more to this apparently stern and austere figure than met the eye.

David was shrewd and down-to-earth. He made no parade of his various enterprises and he disliked fuss. He preferred to do the job and let the results speak for themselves, once refusing to be put forward for a 'hockey coach of the year' award. He was perceptive about the school and could appreciate valuable and necessary change while being a forthright critic of change which was neither of these. In Lord Curzon's phrase, he knew his own mind and made sure others knew it. He cared a good deal about the school and the people in it. In his later years especially, he became an avuncular and reassuring presence in the Common Room.

In retirement he enjoyed having more time for his family and for travel, memorably to Canada while his son Christopher was working there, and to Sicily in pursuit of lesser-visited classical sites. Horse-racing was an especial interest and he also developed an unexpected fondness for model railways, perhaps a reflection of his liking for order and efficiency.

His father once said of him, 'he was always a soldier at heart'. This was evident in his conduct, his directness and his courage, notably in the way he faced his final illness. He leaves behind his wife, Avril, and his children Christopher and Claire. He also leaves the strong echo of a strong character, fearless, forthright, independent, never currying favour or courting popularity but doing what he thought was right.

Sad losses



Victor N Charter

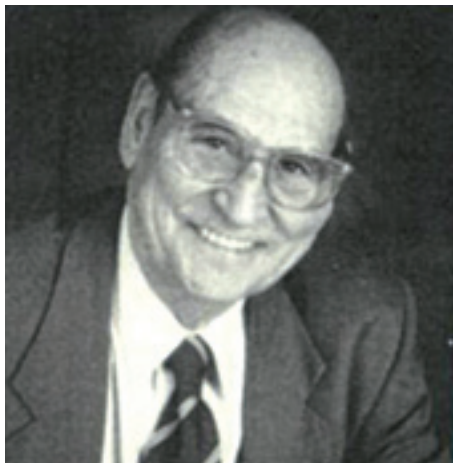
T Arthur Gregory (1928)

Alan G Laurie (c 1940)

James Poston (1963)

Henry Risbeth (1949)

Obituaries



Tony Cornell (c 1940)

Grateful thanks to The Cambridge Evening News (Obituaries 20 April 2010) for the following:

Tributes have been paid to a renowned Cambridge parapsychologist who has died after spending decades investigating ghosts. Tony Cornell, who died in April aged 86, invented the Spider – the Spontaneous Psycho-physical Incident Data Electronic Recorder – to aid his

investigations. He told the Cambridge Evening News in 1992 he was “highly sceptical” about the existence of ghosts but kept an open mind. He was born in Histon and educated at The Perse and Fitzwilliam College, then Fitzwilliam House, graduating in 1949. During WWII he served in the Army and Navy. He was posted to the Black Watch for service in India but volunteers were required for the Royal Indian Navy. He was trained as a naval officer and saw action off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, and in Burma. In India he had a number of experiences which stimulated his interest in the paranormal.

For many years he was president of Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research, which met in the basement of his house in Victoria Street. He became an authority on the paranormal, publishing papers and books and making many media appearances. In the 1960s he became a councillor and was chairman of city and county planning committees over a 16-year period. His family said he

had the interests of an antiquarian and helped ensure preservation of timber-framed buildings opposite the Round Church. They said his greatest legacy was in suggesting a science park be built in Cambridge, proposing that councillors and Trinity College get together to establish one on college land off Milton Road.

News columnist Christopher South was a friend of Mr Cornell. He said: “He had a very surprising attitude. Most people who are interested in cult or strange events are trying to prove they are real and he spent his whole life proving they weren’t. “He was very, very difficult to persuade anything strange was going on. He would spend hours of his life in an empty room only to emerge and say nothing happened. He was a very interesting man.” Mr Cornell is survived by his third wife, Alison, and three sons from a previous marriage. A memorial and celebration of his life is being held at Fitzwilliam College on June 20th.



(Gerald) Ian Thoday (1932)

Kind thanks to Francis Thoday for the following:

Both sides of his family had lived in Cambridge for generations, although Ian was born at Hunstanton in 1918 as it was thought to have a healthier climate for birth than Cambridge. His father had returned from Canada at the outbreak of war and married in 1916, during a period of leave from the trenches – his service including Ypres and Passchendaele. His future father-in-law was a doctor from Auckland who served with the Anzacs at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. Ian left The Perse to board at Bishop’s Stortford College. He joined the army just

before the outbreak of war, and was posted to France in September 1939, returning from Dunkirk in May 1940. He was proud to have served in France from 1939 to 1940, but did not like ‘Dunkirk’ as it was a crushing defeat for the British army. He was so tired he slept throughout the voyage back to Britain, but not before sending his mother a silent message, “I’m alright, I’m coming home”. She always assured us that she received it. He served throughout the war. I knew he had been posted to Gibraltar but it was not until 1995 that I learned he was only there briefly as part of the force to be embarked for the invasion of Japan... until two atomic bombs ended the war. He was de-mobbed in 1946 and went to London to work for the Legal and General Assurance Company. At a dinner hosted by his godmother in Hornchurch, he met Roslyn, the daughter of the officer in charge of the New Zealand hospital in Hornchurch in World War I. They married in Cambridge, 1949 and lived in and around London until 1964, when the family moved to the Isle of Man. He started an agency for the Hodge

Group, in which the Standard Chartered Bank had a 22% stake, later increased to 100%. After retiring, he remained on the board of the Standard Chartered Isle of Man as a non-executive until he was seventy. The business he founded grew into Standard Bank Isle of Man, now employing over one hundred people. In 2001, after 51 years of blissfully happy marriage, Roslyn died. It was a terrible shock for Ian and he never recovered from it. Outside work and his family, Ian loved sport. When young, he had been a keen rugby union player. He was a single handicap golfer. He achieved an ‘albatross’ at Gog Magog Golf Club in Cambridge, and represented Legal & General for some years. At Castletown Golf Club he had a hole in one three times! He leaves a daughter, Rosemary, living in Australia, and a son, Francis, living in the Isle of Man. All who knew him described him as ‘a gentleman’, a man whose word was his bond.



RH Mike Stockbridge (1936)

Grateful thanks to The Times (Obituaries 16 March 2010) for allowing us to use the following:

Together with Paddy Leigh Fermor, Xan Fielding and George Psychoundakis – the “Cretan Runner” “Mike” Stockbridge’s name will live long in the annals of the resistance to the often brutal German occupation of Crete during the Second World War. An academic by inclination and background, he proved a highly successful gatherer of intelligence while under constant threat of discovery or betrayal of his pretence of being a village schoolmaster. His loyalty to the Cretan Andartes Resistance fighters was absolute, as was theirs to him. Ralph Hedley Stockbridge, always known as “Mike” on a personal whim, was born in 1917. He was educated at The Perse School, Cambridge, where he gained a scholarship to read classics at Peterhouse, providing him with a foundation for modern Greek and its Cretan dialect. He enlisted into the Field Security Service in 1940 and was posted to the Middle East as a linguist. Mussolini’s attack on Greece in October and the spirited resistance his army and air force encountered led Winston Churchill to brood on a possible British initiative in the Balkans. Among the measures set in train was the dispatch of Stockbridge – ostensibly as a civilian – to Heraklion on Crete. The German invasion of Greece in April 1941 resulted in the British and Commonwealth troops, who had arrived in March, being hustled out of the country in three weeks. Some 28,000 took refuge on Crete and were deployed

to defend the island, primarily against German invasion by sea. The parachute and glider-borne main assault threw the defenders off balance and they never recovered. Stockbridge accompanied the survivors to Egypt. He lost no time in requesting a return to the island and exploited his contacts in Heraklion as a means of gaining intelligence of the German occupying force and its intentions. He was put in touch with the Inter-Services Liaison Department, the cover name for the Secret Intelligence Service MI6 office at GHQ in Cairo. In company with Captain Jack Smith-Hughes of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), he was landed in October by the submarine Thunderbolt. In Cairo and elsewhere, SOE and MI6 had a troubled relationship, but the two got on well.

At that low point in the war for Britain, intelligence on German intentions in the eastern Mediterranean and the Levant was of acute importance. Greece and Crete were key sources for this, leading MI6 and SOE to send agents into both countries. But the opportunities for SOE-inspired subversion and sabotage were limited by geography and the threat of high reprisals against the civilian populations. Both MI6 and SOE were heavily reliant on the Cretan Resistance, the Andartes. Writing about them after the war, Stockbridge acknowledged: “Everything depended throughout on their magnificent loyalty. Without their help with guides, informants and suppliers of food, not a single one of us would have lasted twenty-four hours.” Commissioned in the field – a concession MI6 and SOE enjoyed – in January 1942, Stockbridge declined an offer of return to Cairo for a break. Four months later, the situation worsened under German pressure and he was betrayed and evacuated to Egypt. There his service on Crete was recognised by the award of his first Military Cross. He was insistent that he could re-establish himself on Crete and, in early 1943, he and John Stanley, his wireless operator, were put ashore by submarine. In his book ‘Hide and Seek’, Fielding wrote: “Of all the British agents on the island, Stockbridge was the most subtly disguised. He washed and shaved carefully at least once a week, wore shoes

rather than boots, an overcoat and horn-rimmed spectacles. His appearance, stumbling walk and mannerisms were exactly those of what he was pretending to be: a village schoolmaster.”



Ian Robert Searle (1977)

Grateful thanks to Ian’s brother, Alan, for the following:

Ian began his schooling at the Prep, and left The Perse in 1977 for Kent University. He

enjoyed all sports at school and was the captain of the athletic team. His 400 meter school record stood for many years. After university he worked for the NAAFI, and spent several years with the North Wales Police. He was personable, cheerful, and well-liked. However, the dominant factor in his life, which led to his early death at the age of forty-nine, was alcohol. He started drinking at age sixteen and never stopped. His family grieves the lost opportunity for relationships, and the loss of a life destroyed by alcoholism. They hope someone reading this obituary might be spared such a life by learning of the reason for Ian’s early death. He is survived by a son, Daniel, daughters, Katie and Sophie, by his mother, Olwen, and his brother, Alan.

A legacy of learning

The establishment of The Perse School in 1615 as a “Grammar Free School” was the main provision of the Will of Dr Stephen Perse. Ever since this original bequest, The Perse has relied upon the generosity of many Old Perseans and other friends to help the school flourish, and ensure that those from less fortunate backgrounds can benefit from a Perse education. If you would like to find out about how you can leave a legacy to your old school, please visit www.persedev.com/org/legacies or contact Eddie Copeland in confidence, on 01223 403835.

60 Second Interview

With Eddie Copeland (EC), Amanda Augstein (AA) and Roxanne Yahaya (RY) from The Perse School Development Office



Who are you and what do you do?

RY: We basically look after three things: anything that involves Old Perseans, links with companies and other organisations, and fundraising for the school.

What did you all do before working at The Perse?

AA: I used to work at Kings College, Roxanne has recently joined us from the RSPB, and Eddie's an Old Persean who worked for Accenture.

Why does a private, fee-paying school like The Perse need to fundraise?

EC: We spend well over half a million pounds a year on providing bursaries to make sure that a Perse education is available to children from less advantaged backgrounds and to support current pupils who face hard times. There's no longer any government funding available, and if we paid for this just by raising school fees (now more than £13,000), we'd make the school less accessible rather than more open. Our charitable status also saves us over £500,000 every year in reduced taxes and rates, helping us keep fees down.

Why are you still fundraising when the Access to Excellence Campaign only finished last year?

RY: That campaign has had a huge impact on the school – not least in the three new buildings we were able to build as a result. Unfortunately, the recent economic downturn has led to some donors being unable to fulfill their pledges. Since we can't start a child on a bursary aged 11 if we can't guarantee funds are available if they need them when they're 18, and given that we have no permanent endowment, we have to keep fundraising.

Why do you keep asking Old Perseans to support?

AA: Unlike other charities, independent schools basically have just two main communities to ask for help: parents and alumni. At The Perse, that's around 8,000 people of which OPs make up 6,300. We hope that OPs will feel proud of their association with the school and wish to help others have the same opportunities they did.

What will the school be fundraising for next?

RY: As well as our Annual Fund which supports both Entrance and Hardship Bursaries and school projects, we will soon be raising money to vastly improve the scout hut to create a dedicated outdoor pursuits centre. Longer-term, it's likely the next major campaign will be framed around the school's 400th Birthday which is only a few years away.

What is your approach to fundraising?

EC: I don't believe in the hard-sell, but I do think it's right that we invite all members of The Perse community to give. The ideal outcome is that as many people support as possible, at a level that's comfortable to them.

How can people support the school?

EC: Stay in touch. Hold a reunion. Offer to give careers advice. Make a donation. Pledge a Legacy. We appreciate any support offered by OPs and are hugely grateful to those who already contribute so much. To find out more, please visit our website www.persedevlopment.org, or contact us in the Development Office on **01223 403808**.