

# OLD PERSEAN NEWS

Spring Newsletter 2008



## A Message from The President



**After playing the last match of the season, the rugby team go on to win the East School's Cup.**

It has been a quiet time for Old Boy occasions since the Annual Dinner, but I'm sure this will change with the imminent launch of The Appeal and we look forward to our Open Day at The School on Wednesday 7th May.

I have, however, been busy on your behalf in the meantime, with visits to the excellent Carol Service at St. John's at the end of

the winter term and a windswept Leys field for the last match of the School's season, to see a very good School XV round off their year with an emphatic win over our local rivals.

There are changes at the development office. We say goodbye to Roly Owers and to Isabella Eastham. We will miss them both, thank them very much for all they have done for us and wish them well in their new posts. At the time of writing, Sarah Jones is looking after us with the help of Natasha Tyrrell.

## OP David Tang Receives KBE

Congratulations to Sir David Tang who received his knighthood in the 2008 New Year Honours. Since leaving the Perse in 1973, he has had a successful business career in both Asia and Europe and is best known as the founder of the Shanghai Tang clothing chain. He also owns the China Tang restaurant at the Dorchester Hotel, at which he very generously allowed the Perse to hold the launch of the Access to Excellence Campaign. In an email to the School, Sir David said "I am very proud and proud for the school"



## Events

### OP Open Day – 7th May 2008

Emails and letters of invitation will be sent out in due course. The annual OP AGM will be held during the course of the day at the school. More details can be found on page 5.

### OP Cricket Match – TBA July 2008

### OP Dinner – 3rd October 2008

The OP dinner will be held at Gonville and Caius College from 6.45pm. Tickets will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Specific year-groups to be part of the reunion are 1968, 1983 and 1998. If you left the Perse in one of these year groups and wish to be part of the representative teams for this year's dinner, please contact the Development Office.

# News

## Past Parents Event 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

Recently the School has decided to increase the number of alumni events for the families of past pupils. Parents whose children left between 2002 and 2007 attended the first Past Parents reception at the Upper School on Halloween, last term.



## OPs attend the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association

Old Perseans were well represented at the recent Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association (the major Classics conference in North America), which took place in Chicago on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Robert Tordoff (1996), now an



James Watson (2001)

Assistant Professor at the Classics Department of York University, Toronto and James Watson (2001), currently completing a Ph.D. at the Faculty of Classics, Cambridge, presented papers one after the other in the 'Greek History' session of the conference.

## New Civil Engineer Graduate Award 2007

Congratulations to Ben Freedman (2002) for coming runner-up in the New Civil Engineer Graduate Awards 2007. The award was open to civil and structural engineering graduates with one year's experience and was presented by the BBC's Dermot Murnaghan in November of last year. There were 104 entries from around the world this year and Ben was shortlisted down to the last six in October, when he had a presentation and interview before 15 judges on how to reduce the carbon footprint of BDP and the construction industry.

Ben adds "Since then, I have also been given the opportunity to act as Design Team Project Leader on a humanitarian project with the NGO Future Hope in Kolkata, India. For



Ben Freedman, (2002) – centre

the last six months I have been pioneering the notion of charity work for the company with the CEO and this is the first of (hopefully) a number of similar projects. Future Hope ([www.futurehope.net](http://www.futurehope.net)) is an interesting charity that supports street kids in Kolkata and at the end of January I will be visiting India for a week to investigate the site for the proposed sports park and to develop local contacts for the project"

## Elevation for Giles Betts (1993)

Congratulations to Giles Betts on his promotion to partner in the employment team of Cambridge's newly-branded solicitors Hewitsons. At 33 years old, it is probably safe to say he is one of the youngest law partners around. Having spent 10 years at Mills and Reeve, Giles joined Hewitsons in April and was made partner in November to help forge a new employment team for the solicitors.

"About half the employment team left around a year ago, so it was a terrific opportunity to get involved in building the team of people here." Said Giles.

He went on to add "I did some work experience in the City but some of the firms are big and impersonal. It was not my thing and I'm a Cambridge boy – I grew up in Royston and Foxton and went to The Perse School. Hewitsons is a very good law firm with a full service. There are a lot of established teams here. We are pretty approachable, unstuffy and plain-speaking"



Giles Betts (1993)

### **Nick Patchett (1974)**

I left the Perse in 1974 when Mr Melville was Headmaster and went on to attend Durham University where I gained a BSc in Applied Physics. I am now working within the Transportation and Distribution sector and living in Clapham with my wife and four children.

### **Jim Salzman (1977)**

Since my one-year stint as "the Yank" in 3Alpha, I've graduated from Yale and Harvard, lived in Paris and London for 6 years in the early 1990s, and happily settled in North Carolina as the Samuel Mordecai Professor of Law and the Nicholas Professor of Environmental Policy at Duke University. My wife and I have 12-year old boy/girl twins. Though I only spent a year at the Perse, it spurred a life-long love for travel and living in other countries. Working in international environmental law and policy has provided opportunities to live as a family in Washington, DC, Northern California, Sydney (as a Fulbright Senior Scholar), and we are looking forward to spending next Autumn in Florence. This past Spring I ran the Boston Marathon (my sixth and last) and won student awards as the best teacher and for the most embarrassing moment in the classroom; I suspect they may be linked! I'd be grateful to hear what Bill Hartree, Dave Larcombe, Alan Beggs, and other classmates are up to.

### **Mark Emerton (1979)**

I left the Perse in 1979 to take up a University Cadetship in the Royal Navy and spent a year's naval training at Dartmouth and the Fleet, before going up to St. Peter's College, Oxford University to read Geography. During my subsequent naval career, I was sponsored to qualify as a barrister and completed a criminal law pupillage in London before returning to the RN as the Supply Officer of HMS Brilliant. I held a number of legal appointments including Deputy Chief Naval Judge Advocate. In 2002 I left the RN with the rank of Commander to become a

Commissioner at the Criminal Cases Review Commission. I also sit part-time as an Employment Tribunal Chairman, Immigration Judge and as a Legal Assessor to the General Medical Council.

### **David Bonnet (1984)**

I am currently working in Portsmouth as Operations Manager within a large American Engineering Company. I am married to Karen with four sons: James (10), Thomas (8), Jack (6) and Matthew (2), and spend most of my spare time driving this lot around!

### **Ian Gould (1984)**

I have been married to Karen for 14 years; we have 2 boys, William & James (9 and 6) who are great fun and provide endless entertainment. We live next to Grafham Water and enjoy long walks with the dogs, fishing and Mini Rugby with the invincible Huntingdon Stags. I have my own business supplying seeds and advice to farmers and landowners on Game Covers and Conservation crops. We work all over Northern Europe on some very large and well-known estates, as well as many local farms creating habitat for shooting and general wildlife enhancement. It is a great job and I get to work in some beautiful places.



*Ian Gould (1984)*

### **Amir Kazerouni Zand (1988)**

After leaving the Perse in 1988, I went to college in London. I subsequently moved to Vienna, Austria in 1990 where I learned German whilst supporting myself working in a casino. In 1991 I

travelled to Switzerland and studied Pharmacy at the University of Basel. Following my graduation in 1996 I was employed by Novartis for a year, but as I had always wanted to be a trader, I moved once again in 1999, this time to Chicago and started working for a brokerage. Since 2001, I have been a proprietary trader and a partner in a trading company, trading NYSE stocks out of Irvine, California; Chicago proved to be far too cold and I had to move to a warmer place!

### **Dr Robert John Harris Dunn (1999)**

I completed my PhD in X-ray Astrophysics in September 2006 and am now working in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Southampton as a post-doctoral researcher.

### **Emile Simpson (2001)**

Since leaving the Perse, I have joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Ghurkha Rifles and we have been involved with strike operations against the Taliban, including classical infantry fighting, clearing compounds and platoon attacks. Problems often arise due to a paucity of intelligence and the Taliban being indistinguishable from civilians once they lay down their weapons, and this, in turn, often leads to tactics advance and ambush. It can be hard for our men to repeatedly go out knowing that an ambush is imminent, however they tend to take it on the chin with really quite an impressive Ghurkha resolve!

My platoon (8 Platoon C Coy) had two of the biggest contacts on the last operation in the Helmand Province. In the first, I called in 10 airstrikes to get my platoon out of the killing area, some of which had to land about 40m away; the other contact involved being outflanked by the Taliban who had our men pinned down and exposed for a substantial amount of time before they could be rescued; we did, however, come away with only a couple of casualties.

Despite there being a greater presence of firepower, both on the ground and in the air, I still find it surprising how similar our tactics are to that of the CCF; perhaps a little more slick, but the same infantry principles still apply! The photo shows me and some of my platoon in the Balucchi Valley, Uruzgan Province.



#### Chris Massey (2003)

I have been involved with fellow Old Persean Holly Race's theatrical venture Mutabilitie Productions, which have been performing traditional folk tales in an unusual style – street performance – to Cambridge crowds over the Christmas season. We have been making use of the Cambridge ADC theatre for practice.



#### Memories of Prep School Natural History by Simon Scarisbrick (1973)

Those of my generation will recollect with much joy the natural history lessons of Miss Susan Taylor, in the early 1960's.

My own interest in nature can be ascribed in no small measure to Miss Taylor's love of her subject which was so evident in her

teaching. How can we forget the summer lessons and lunch breaks spent assisting Miss Taylor, recording and tagging birds caught in the fine mesh nets spanning the garden beyond the original classroom huts? Miss Taylor's affinity with flora and fauna was best demonstrated by the care with which she cradled the birds whose distress was swiftly allayed in her hands.

One particular experience which epitomised Miss Taylor's love of living things was her nursing of a starving orphaned tawny owl back to full health. My brother Peter had first sighted the owl perched on the edge of the woods directly opposite the pedestrian entrance to the School on Long Road. The owl still hadn't moved when I cycled to school the next morning; evidently all was not well. A chase ensued and the owl made a brave bid for freedom but finished up safely in my games bag. There were plenty of fellow pupils who wanted to know why my games bag had acquired a life all of its own, but there was only one person I wanted to find before morning registration and that was Miss Taylor. Following the briefest of examinations, Miss Taylor confirmed the worst. The owl was emaciated and close to death.

For an initial period of a week or so the owl's very survival was in the balance, but with Miss Taylor as nursemaid, we knew the bird was in the safest of hands. Over a period of several weeks, Miss Taylor tended to the owl single handedly and when she determined the time was right, the bird was released. During those weeks of recuperation Miss Taylor took every opportunity to share the experience with her pupils who were captivated by the process of recovery.

Who knows what became of that tawny owl, but I like to think it still retains a very small place in the School's history. A much larger place should be retained in the School's history for Miss Taylor – a truly remarkable teacher!



#### 'Cuisine Perse' by Ian Monroe (1943)

I had an interesting occurrence a couple of month's ago. I was driving along Sherbrooke Street (one of the main East-West arteries of Montreal) and being in the area where my wife and I lived when we first married, I decided to have a look around to see what had changed. To my great delight I saw a "Restaurant Esfahan" entitled "Cuisine Perse" so promptly decided to sample the menu. The food was good although I was a little disappointed to see the tea served without milk, and when a request for a little was made, I was unfortunately refused. One might say, when in a Persian restaurant do as the Persians do!

#### Deaths

**John Whitmore**  
(October 2007)

**Edward R Cook**  
(4<sup>th</sup> November 2007)

**Paul P Collins**  
(10<sup>th</sup> December 2007)

**Ernest T F Foster**  
(18<sup>th</sup> December 2007)

**David R Winkworth**  
(28<sup>th</sup> December 2007)

**Christopher T Morley-Smith**  
(1<sup>st</sup> January 2008)

## Open Day 2008

Last year's OP Open Day was a great success and we hope that many of you will be able to join us this year on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

The day is an opportunity for all OPs to see how the school has evolved and continues to do so. There will be lesson observations; a concert provided by our fantastic music department; and hopefully a chance to watch the cricket in the afternoon – depending on the weather! Last year, lunch was followed by, amongst other things, a rousing performance by the Samba band.

### The timetable for the day should be similar to that of 2007:

- 11.00 Arrival and coffee
- 11.30 Tour of School
- 12.10 Pre-lunch drinks and AGM
- 12.30 Lunch
  
- 13.30 Concert
- 14.10 School update
- 14.45 Lesson observations or Live Cricket
- 15.20 Tea



## AGM Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of the 2007 AGM & matters arising
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Elections
- Any Other Business



## The Kohima Educational Trust

Thanks to Colin Bartholomew (1940), the Kohima Educational Trust has come to our attention. Originally founded in 2004 by Kohima war veterans, including OP Keith Halnan (1938), the Trust is seen by its founders both as a means of sustaining the memory of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought and died in the battle and of honouring the Nagas who were their allies through assisting the education of succeeding generations of Naga children. Projects so far undertaken by the Trust include the establishment of a reference library for Kohima schools, a basketball pitch donated by a downed British airman to the village which rescued him, scholarships for nursing education and visits to the UK by six Naga school pupils. If you are interested in supporting the Trust in any way or simply would like more information, please address all correspondence to:

The Secretary  
Kohima Educational Trust  
5 Beechwood Drive  
Marlow SL7 2DH.



