



THE PREBENDAL SCHOOL

Chichester Cathedral Choir School

The Prebendal Associates | November 2013



A Warm Welcome!

Welcome to our first newsletter, a venture that we hope to repeat every term. Its aim is to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in the School and to let you know about events that are being arranged for Associates to join in. We will also have news of our former pupils, parents and staff as we are always interested to hear about what you are doing. We now have quite a large database of Associate email addresses but can I encourage you to forward this newsletter to any of your friends who have an interest in the School and then if they would like to receive a copy directly they can let us know by emailing us at associates.prebendal@btconnect.com. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at our hugely successful Open House this summer and I shall look forward to meeting some of you at our *Drinks with the Head Master* which takes place on Wednesday 4th December 2013 from 5:30pm at The Lansdowne Club in Mayfair, London. We hope that many of you will be able to pop in after work for a drink or two or indeed travel into the capital to see us for a few hours. The dress code is jackets and ties. In the meantime, please keep us up-to-date with all your news and if you would like to visit us please contact us and we will be very pleased to show you round.

With best wishes, **David Nason**

As we lead into the commemorations for the outbreak of World War One, we marked Armistice Day with a special Act of Remembrance and the whole school community gathered for the 11 o'clock silence. Mr Nason reminded the School of the sacrifice past members of The Prebendal had made in the cause of freedom. A representative from each Year group (Years 1 to 8) laid a cross on behalf of the six boys who are listed in the Canons Vestry in the Cathedral and two who we have recently discovered from the Second World War - one of which was a certain Lieutenant Over of The Royal Marines who lost his life in the disastrous Dieppe Raid of 1942.

After the ceremony Year 7 started some of their own research using the Headmasters' Register of names dating from 1879. Very shortly they were to discover that the six World War One dead were the Choristers and they found a number of boys who had not been listed as they were not in the Choir, notably Lieutenant George Edwards who won a Military Cross in 1918. This research will continue to establish a more accurate list.



The Prebendal Remembers



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Our Next Associates Event

Drinks with the Head Master

Wednesday 4th December 2013
from 5:30pm

at The Lansdowne Club
9 Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair, London W1J 5JD

Please let us know you are coming.
E: associates.prebendal@btconnect.com
T: 01243 520974

Dress Code:
Jackets & Ties

www.prebendalschool.org.uk



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News from our Associates

John Hutson 1943

"I left The Prebendal in 1943 and went to Chichester High School for Boys. I was halfway through my Higher School Certificate when it was decided that I could not be deferred from National Service and was needed to protect my country immediately. This I did for two years. When my working life began I got a post with West Sussex County Council as a junior draughtsman and after a while got married. Fifty-nine years later I am still happily married with two sons and four grandchildren.

After four years as a junior draughtsman I transferred to the Legal Department becoming the Senior Quarter Sessions Clerk and then the Chief Clerk of the Crown Court in Chichester. It didn't take me long to see that the Civil Service wasn't for me so I applied for the post of County Emergency Planning Officer for West Sussex. The Cold War was then rife and it was my job to make the plans for the county council to move to a war-time role if it became necessary. Happily, it did not and we were able to deal with the emergencies of peace such as floods, oil shortages and hurricanes.

Now, after 40 years of service, I am retired. My wife and I are both in our eighties but we do carry out voluntary work - she is at the Citizens' Advice Bureau and I am at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum."

Roger Kenyon 1953

"I was a six year old boarder in 1947. I wasn't a Chorister though in fact I spent many later years singing in choirs and I'm sure regular attendance at Matins and Evensong helped in that. I played cricket with some success and I now live in Mexico City with Mexican nationality and 35 years of residence."

Alan Quinton 1959

"I am retired and I now live in Eastbourne with my wife and my cat. I was a Chartered Accountant and worked in the profession until 1980 and thereafter in the voluntary sector. I was also the CEO of a medium-sized charity for seafarers until my retirement in 2006."



Jeremy Francis 1956

"I joined the school in May 1954, aged 11, and left at the end of the Lent Term in 1956 for St Edward's School, Oxford. After five years there I went on to the LSE where I graduated with an LLB degree. I retired nearly six years ago, having spent most of my working life in the media including many years with *The Daily Telegraph*.

The Prebendal was such a happy school and after nearly 60 years I look back on my time at the school with warmth and gratitude for restoring my self-confidence and thereby enabling me to achieve again. The attainments of the recent Year 8 Leavers surely bear testament to the fact that what I have described as 'the Prebendal magic' is still as strong as ever! "

Nic Walker 2008

"I am now a choral scholar at Blackburn Cathedral for my gap year singing in six choirs, teaching the choristers and working as part of a team for an outreach programme across Lancashire to encourage young people to sing. We also toured Belgium this summer. It is a very different place from Chichester but the Sunday routine particularly reminds me of Chorister days although the stalls here are of a much more generous size! I'm also hoping to keep up the tuba with one of the numerous local brass bands."

STOP PRESS

Sadly Howard Trundell, Head Chorister in 1947, has recently died. His funeral took place in the Cathedral in November 2013.



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Josh Wynter 2000

Josh went onto Charterhouse in 2000 and he gained Grade 8 distinctions in Piano, Organ and Viola while also studying Drums and Percussion. At Charterhouse, he formed the band *Sound Avenue* and developed his talents as a writer and performer. He went onto Bristol University and gained a First in Music and then a Masters Degree in Film & TV Composition. He also began writing music for Bristol-based films and television jingles.

He moved to South Africa in 2011 to play keyboards in the *Phantom of the Opera* stage show and this led to *Cabaret* and *The Jersey Boys*. Josh continues to develop his career with an all round music production company from his base in Cape Town.



Barnaby Wynter 2008

Barnaby was the last Head Chorister under Alan Thurlow and while at the school gained Grade 8 Distinctions in Piano, Trumpet and Voice with Grade 6 for the Double Bass. At Charterhouse he gained his Piano Diploma and also furthered his Trumpet studies at the Junior Royal Academy in London. Barnaby developed a love of jazz, co-directed school performances, acted in drama productions and won a top Greyhound award for services to the school. Since leaving Charterhouse he has worked at the Edinburgh Festival in a busy Gap year for a production company and also at the Goodwood Revival as one of the actors. He is looking forward to travelling to South Africa and China next year before he begins studying at university in the Autumn.

Henry Ward 1998 and **Oliver Ward 2001** are both thriving. Henry is now an Associate Director with CBRE in the city and is a Chartered Surveyor in their Lease Consultancy department. Ollie took his Masters in Geoscience at Leeds a few years ago after his first Degree in Geology at Bristol and he is now a Geophysicist with Schlumberger. Earlier this year he returned from a training course in Oklahoma before returning to his oil exploration ship off the coast of Ghana.

"I first studied Latin at The Prebendal (1946-48) and was never very good at it. So it was a great surprise when I was asked by Penguin Classics to produce a new translation of *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis for them. The previous translation had been done in 1951. It is now and available at £9.99. The layout is good and the text is very modern but I hope readable and it is a book that has never been out of print since it was first printed in 1471. Bishop Bell's great friend Dietrich Bonhoeffer left his copy of the latin text to Bishop Bell when he was executed in 1945. I was confirmed by Bishop Bell so there is a small connection!"

The Very Revd Robert Jeffery (Dean Emeritus of Worcester)

Andrew Owens 1985

"I loved my time at the school and I'm now working in investment banking for Barclays in London. I live in Dulwich and am married to Zoe with a four year old son called Harry. I still periodically play the cello although I'm quite a bit worse than when I left!"

Congratulations to **Tim Ayling 2010** and **Emily Hill 2010** who have both been awarded Academic Scholarships at Cranleigh.



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Welcoming Royalty



We welcomed royalty on Thursday 24th October 2013 with a visit from HRH Princess Alexandra. She was welcomed by pupils, staff, Governors and friends of the School, toured the Pre-Prep Department, attended a short concert and unveiled a commemorative plaque. The visit had been arranged to mark the incorporation of the whole school on the West Street site.

During her visit she talked to Dominic and Edmund Harry whose grandfather, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore KCB KCVO DSC, was Master of the Household at Buckingham Palace from 1973 to 1986.

She also met with former pupil John Paine who was a boarder at the school from 1944 to 1948 and looked after her mother, the Duchess of Kent, when she opened the Memorial Garden in 1947. Head Master, Tim Cannell, said: "It was a lovely visit and all the pupils were very excited to be able to meet her."

Photos: Rhys Bayley



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Chichester Cathedral Choristers' Association (CCCA)



For a Cathedral that is over 900 years old and a school re-founded over 500 years ago, its old Choristers' Association is very young, founded in 1976. The membership of the CCCA includes past and present Choristers and their parents, Lay Vicars, Organists, Assistant Organists and Organ Scholars of Chichester Cathedral, as well as being open to teachers at The Prebendal School and others who wish to support the Choir and the Choral Foundation. Three main events are held every year - the Summer Reunion, the Advent Reunion, held after the Advent Procession, and a Beer & Skittles evening with teams from the CCCA, Close and Chorister parents. The Summer Reunion this year was held on the day of the Memorial Evensong for Dr John Birch, Organist and Master of the Choristers 1958-1980.

The photograph above is of our former Choristers at the Reunion, which took place in Vicars' Hall. We had 20 past Choristers singing Evensong with the current Choir that day, in what was a rather more robust sound than usual! As well as the social events, the CCCA Scholarship Trust Fund, a registered charity set up in 2000, currently supports four boys in the Choir with Bursaries. We also sponsor the Organ Recital when the Southern Cathedrals Festival is at Chichester. This year's recital was given by Mark Wardell, formerly Assistant Organist at Chichester and Director of Music at The Prebendal. We try to keep in touch with as many past Choristers across the decades as we can, so if you are a past Chorister and would like to make contact with us, please use the website or email or even the snail mail address. We always need copy for our newsletters, so please share your memories of the Choir and The Prebendal with us. Our next event will be the **Advent Reunion** on **Saturday 30th November 2013**. We meet in the Quire at 5:45pm and afterwards have supper in The Vicars' Hall, Cathedral Green.

News of Past Choristers from the 90s

Peter Buisseret is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick. **Matthew Chinnery** is now the Chichester Diocesan Registrar. **Philip Craven** is now a Lay Vicar at Lincoln Cathedral.

Benjamin Ruffer has left the Band of the Life Guards to rejoin Kneller Hall, Corps of Army Music, where he is on the Bandmaster's course. Hopefully he will be in charge of his own Band in three years' time. Benjamin was the Field Officer's Trumpeter to the Sovereign's Escort for this year's Trooping the Colour. He is pictured opposite on the grey.



Contact the CCCA

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Open House at The Prebendal



We were delighted to welcome over 100 people to the School in the summer for our Open House. Lots of families came back to see how the School had changed over the years. They included Tony Plumridge, Roger Gooding and Peter Hamel-Cooke (photo) who had not seen each other since their schooldays in the 1950s.

"Thank you so much for giving us all such a lovely day. It was hugely enjoyable and very fascinating to see all the new and old buildings. We all felt that the charm and history of a wonderful old school are still very much present but we were also impressed by all the new equipment."

"Thank you for organising the Open House. I enjoyed attending, having not been inside the school for some 41 years. Bishop's Palace brought back many memories of what seems like a very long time ago!"

"I was glad of the opportunity to visit the school to see if I could find the old bits that I remember. I was staggered to see how big it has got - it seems to extend the length of West Street now. I found the old corridor and the cellar we used to play in. I went up the old circular stairs we used but the rest was barely recognisable! The cellar we used to go to when the air raid warning went off was underneath the building where the toilets are by the playground somewhere and we had bunks down there made of carpet. If there was a warning during the night we didn't have to get to school until 10 o'clock in the morning. I was very happy at the school and it was good to see the old place again!"

"I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon at The Prebendal. It was nice to see how much the school has changed since I left but also see that some things have stayed the same. It was great to see old friends and teachers."

Photographic Appeal

We would like to continue to build our archive collection of photographs so if you have any old school photos please do email a copy to us. It would also be very helpful if you can name as many pupils in the photos as possible before sending them. We would like to have a comprehensive photographic record of The Prebendal covering all decades and all year groups so we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

Contact Us

You can contact either David Nason or Suzanne Warner by emailing associates.prebendal@btconnect.com or calling 01243 520974. Please do also follow the School via Twitter and our regular news and information are posted on our school website at www.prebendalschool.org.uk. You can also post your news to:
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