

Lion Pride




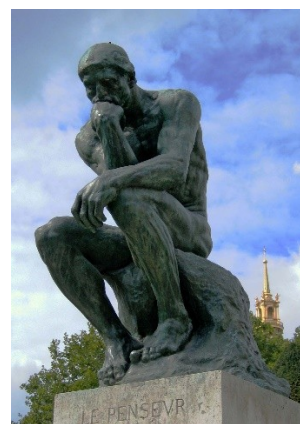
Pines School & Hendon's House in West Street.



Photographs by O.P. the late Duncan Pepper

Chapter 24: Closing Thoughts

Lion Pride	Chapter 24	
	Closing Thoughts	



A crisis, confusion, distraction and a solution. Please go straight to the end of the ensuing 6-page document for an explanation!

Explanation

The date of the completion of the Newsletter 21 below, was a time of great pressure in the preparation of this Lion Pride project.


It had been my intent to cease writing this series of outward, WP300, promotional contacts and so I thought that No.21, would be the final issue. It should have been, but it got lost in the pipeline. It had always been my practice that the “next” Newsletter would be underway whilst the immediate edition was in preparation and, in that muddled time, I sent in what should have been No.22, which was published as No.21, with the consequence that the proposed No 21 did not get published at all!

So, here it is, below, written back in September 2021, yet with a message that remains remarkably relevant today, to concerns expressed in writing the “Introduction”.

With subheadings in the now-released Newsletter, above, such as Where are we?, Change is a-coming, Concerns, A New Beginning for the Future, *nobody*, whether already a Member of the Society, or outside of it can rest unless they have given serious thought to these issues.

Committee membership is not essential to organise an event, participation in everything else is not expected for every activity, the membership scheme has been targeted for change that makes it attractive and relevant to present and future concerns. You don’t have to live in Fareham to help, and even if you are busily involved with organisations and activities, there is still scope for bring the SOP into a more productive relationship with its local community.

Up to this point, most SOP activity has been retro-focussed, but here is a chance for you, and lots of others to make a personal investment of time and experience to a better Fareham area community vitality, in the process refreshing the SOP energy into the future orientation.

 1721	<i>William Price</i> 300 th Anniversary Commemoration 22 nd May, 2022
	Newsletter 21

Lots of words, not many pictures, but some important content. Please pass on to O.P.s you might know

Where are we?

Had original plans transpired as imagined, we would now be in a new phase of SOP life. June and July might have been a time for completing follow-up tasks and for reflection. August is commonly a fallow time for organisations and if they are fortunate, September brings renewed vigour, creativity, ambition and determination to embark on another campaign that will prove enjoyable and memorable.

That hasn't happened for us, of course and instead re-confirmed and where necessary, altered. The substitute date for the WP300 event, **May 22nd, 2022** is but 8 months away and, subtract April as available for new planning and promotion, and Christmas time also, that leaves precious little time to offer an event on the scale we would like to see.

Early in September, we had our first Committee meeting for c. 20 months, focussed on the familiar pattern of activity, though it has been clear for some time, some reconsiderations of those events was due. The inertia of the pandemic era – itself not over yet – has created opportunities for organisations and businesses to re-think their plans, in an instantly changed social and economic environment. There have been impacts on outline plans for 2 of the 3 main events the Society promotes.

Change is a-coming!

A clear outcome of the pandemic has been the realisation that for national and local concerns things have changed and will not return to the previous normality. That saddens many of us, yet it creates new opportunities, and that certainly applies to the Society of Old Priceans. Change is difficult for most folk, who take comfort in the familiar ways. But change is not new. It is embedded within our lives and society. Bemoaning and resisting it is rarely profitable. Taking account of new chances and adapting to them is a better strategy. Sometimes new ideas don't have longevity, but it is no harm trying them out, after due consideration. It might just be a matter of timing, rather than the concept.

This Old Boys' club has waxed and waned over the years, and nearly closed at times. Branches have opened and closed. Long-cherished, events have had their day, and new premises have been used. The demolition of the old School was a dispiriting landmark event, no doubt.

Newness does not imply less satisfaction, however – that might be out-weighed by benefits for many others. Newness does not need to replace past practices, it can simply add to them, with novel events and opportunities that others can enjoy – in some ways like opening birthday or Christmas presents. The relevance of the latter example is that, some forward planning is called-for, and the delivery embellished with some “bling” – all in the nicest possible taste of course.

Over the past 2 years of dealing with the publications aspect of the WP300 celebrations, I have had contacts with many Old Priceans, a majority of whom have not been Members of the SOP. Nonetheless, they have been pleased to be contacted and welcomed into the overall project, pleased that their story is valued and has worth. Many have had cause to re-live key moments of their past lives, to be reminded of characters long since faded from memories, saddened by the passing of friends, yet keen to contribute to the Price’s record. Some of the older folk are less able to operate via computers so, if you know such people, please help them get involved with a small service to them.

Concerns

The community of Old Priceans we seek to engage with is large, far larger than an SOP Members’ list. It is not a requirement that taking part has membership as a pre-requisite. Signing-on however, does have its advantages – see later – so, if you are not yet a Member, please visit the Society website to complete that task, at your earliest convenience.

People stay involved because they get some enjoyment from the process. Lots of folk have been in touch with appreciation for their inclusion.

But, it has to be acknowledged that a far larger number are not Members, and that from amongst their number are notable dissentient voices, some stridently critical of the SOP, its organisation and services. We are concerned at these findings and would want to have a chance to discuss with those who feel thus, ways of altering practice and outcomes that please them whilst still embracing the interests of older Members.

Remaining isolated and critical is no way of reducing a concern. It is surprising that from such quarters have arisen no suggestions about a new way forward or offers of help to do so. In such situations, how would any SOP Committee anticipate ways of adapting new events? That position has to involve an offer to make a practical solution. We have received one valued offer of help from an O.P. who does not even live in the U.K.!

What negative thoughts exist about the SOP and its activities? Here are some comments:

1. Dissatisfaction and resentment with the way that the School or some of its teaching operated, to their detriment
2. Lack of appeal for those in the years shortly after leaving school
3. Disinterest in the kinds of activities the Old Boys’ undertake
4. Pre-occupation with the past and glorification of persons, practices, titles and operational formalities
5. Lack of imagination involving speakers at events
6. No forward-thinking beyond the continuation of past practices. I.e. no investment in a future identity for the Society, or for its role in the community of Fareham
7. Elitism,

These are all internal issues, but any voluntary organisation exists within an external, social framework that has major impact on its interests. Such things affect the past-pupils' organisations of most schools, which have become victims of the Social Media phenomenon. The SOP Committee is afflicted by such a malaise, but has been intent for some time, to find a means of engaging with this opportunity to broadcast its aims. And at last, a Phoenix has arisen from the Ashes! We have someone who is now endeavouring to rectify that situation.

I was a slow learner at Price's, a consequence of the 4-year "O" level sausage machine. I have plenty of reasons to be dissatisfied with the School's workings, but that was all 60 years ago, and it has long-ago been set aside. In any event, it wasn't the fault of any other pupils that I struggled. I could easily have left at age 16, but three opportunities provided a *raison d'être* for continuing: athletic successes, enjoyment of the CCF and time in the Band, and the colossal impact of the arrival of 2 new teachers to whom I am forever grateful – Mike Oxford (Biology) and John Chaffey (Geography)

Even though there was a programme of Past v Present matches in those days, none of those sports appealed to me, and nor was there any endeavour to give reason to join and stay involved with the Old Boys. Legislation about duty of care affected School-organised adult v pupils contacts and that effectively killed-off that era.

Organisations of all kinds tend to publicise their successes, or what for their convenience they think the public will commend. For too long there was an obsession with Oxbridge matters, and sporting achievements. Lion magazines have been dominated by "good news stories" when in fact greater, real success is often apparent from those who progress in less conventional ways. Stories I have encountered are testimony to that fact, but the whole WP300 publication endeavour is predicated on the acknowledgement that the high achievers, whilst being worthy, are but a small fraction of a greater whole. Most pupils within which gain no real succour at the time from their quiet, productive and valued roles. Many flourish later as community members and, from such bases, folk have gone onto great things, had wholly fulfilling lives. But who are they, and what are their stories?

A new beginning for the future

Modern ways of group-functioning still require some formalities, especially in connection with money-management and equal opportunities, etc. but, there are ways of arranging management to be executive-based, rather than moribund committees with folk who are there for a social outing, and without a portfolio of responsibilities. Even those who do agree / offer to carry-out particular jobs do not need to be routine members of a committee, content to report on progress, maybe with occasional attendance

From amongst the lists of past Priceans, there are some obvious people with interesting stories to tell. Let us seek offers / suggestions from our Members. 2 extremes from the recent past - a very nice, lady Mayor spoke of the charitable focus of her year in office – an invited guest spoke of 2 books he had written accounting for hitherto unknown S.A.S. wartime activity. What contrasts, one soporific, the other invigorating. From the list we could also others willing to entertain at other, social functions.

Looking into a potential agenda for new activities has as its central pre-requisite, the recruitment of new persons of younger age, residing in the Fareham area and willing to extend their interests into a

new framework. Such people do not even need to be O.P.s but might welcome a chance to promote something in the area that is of interest to them, an event sponsored by the Society.

I venture to *suggest consideration of 4 new types of event:*

- i) A **Social event** in the New Year that is of a mixed entertainment genre. That might include a band, or individual soloists or invited performers based on an afternoon, tea event, or a lunch. A Debating evening, maybe?
- ii) An **annual Members' night** with a dinner and a couple of Member-speakers, or a guest speaker organised by a member. Recent work on the "Creative Priceans" has shown just how many achievers there have been / are with the O.P. ranks
- iii) A **high-profile, educational occasion**, probably afternoon, for local School Year11 and nearby Sixth Form Colleges, to be titled "The William Price Lecture" and which will focus on a Keynote speaker addressing an issue of Socio-Economic importance. This would need to be ticketed at a modest price, and subsidised by SOP funds, perhaps also supported by the WPCT. The two adjacent Universities could produce suggestions of speakers, and one – Southampton, was a place of work for F.E.C. Gregory.
- iv) An **annual Sports-centred function**, held at the College and focussed on Secondary pupils in Years 10 and 11, a potential client group the College ought to have an interest and involvement in. (And maybe this might make the College become a bit more orientated to the SOP.) This could include anything that there is local support for in. Might be early Summer, and 6-a-side soccer focussed, or a Rugby 7s event, or later, with a single-wicket cricket focus, or a Chess tournament, with parallel girls' events and ending with a local Sports star presentation, followed in the evening by an O.P. Sports Dinner!

i) & ii) could include a changing annual focus on different periods of time at School, or include an Armed Forces focus, or a 6FC focus, and could be an occasion for a n appropriate, modest exhibition of artefacts

ii), iii) and iv) could be bannered under the "**William Price Festival**" and, incidentally, provide an outing for flags and badges.

Competition structure would be of a "modified" format to engender interest, include as much activity as possible, and generate a sense of "fun". Yes, even Chess can be fun! That is how I kept my School Chess Club going for 13 years and developed an International 12-board team(x 35) event for 500 players! (Though, I am not a chess player.)

In these ways, not only is the obvious focus **new, different and relevant**, but with appropriate, expected adult involvement with teams etc, via local Clubs and other School, could well be a reason for attention for potential new Members with an interest in taking the Society forward.

Please take prompt action re: the WP 300 Lunch on 22/05/2022 at the Solent Hotel, Whiteley, as listed on the Society website, especially if you are a correspondent regarding entries for the publications.

If you have yet to complete submission of promised copy relating to your story, please do so by the end of September, direct to me:

thegoldrings@hotmail.com

A concluding thought:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

And so, my fellow Americans:
ask not what your country
can do for you... ask what
you can do for your country.

John F. Kennedy

J.F.K., 1961

Background

The seventeen most inspiring words in 20th century American history were spoken by John F. Kennedy, around mid-day, on January 20, 1961, in Washington, D.C. The occasion was his presidential inauguration, and came as he was concluding his inaugural address. He had just declared that the torch had been passed to a new generation of Americans – “born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage” – and pledged to “pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” Soon after, he spoke the seventeen words:

And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.

Those words were positively electrifying. No president had ever challenged citizens, in peacetime, to sacrifice or commit to a larger vision. With that single sentence, Kennedy inspired people to new possibilities. He raised their expectations of themselves, and of their nation.

David Goldring 05/09/21

Personal Reflections

I like organising things that have substance and a purpose. That much was not apparent at the start of this WP300 project. Records of past information sources were not good, and much was in the minds and memories of folk with a long Price's history. Disappointing! But, I thought, there would be plenty of help from existing, active S.O.P. members. Some were willing to contribute an article, but not all. Only one had any semblance of how to deal with technical difficulties and there was no constructive help forthcoming to define any structure – some did later, but too late. Evident too, was the reality that the SOP had a dwindling membership, whilst in other *ad hoc* groups, there was activity better focussed on their needs that required more modern and forward-thinking projects. The SOP was limited by its Constitution and retro focus, with not a little disinclination to want to embrace other possibilities.

This project has revealed a great deal of willingness, however, from amongst past Old Priceans to place on the record outlines of the ways in which their School or College, had influenced their lives and careers. There has emerged a quite amazing array of tasks and jobs that Priceans have taken-on, and not many of which were predicted School-based evidence. What these have indicated is an adaptability over-lying a competence that has made it possible for folk to consider, analyse and respond to opportunities – all derived from the stimuli of their School years.

The successes of teams and their members has a consequence for others not directly involved, for such people develop in an enriching experience, aware that others' work and achievements really do affect the nature of the environment in which they live and operate. The middle-of-the-road boys, not in any team of prize list or other worthy enterprise will still be able to take note of, to wonder at and appreciate what, in three ways, their School and College has to offer. In these kinds of ways, those who, as spectators attend sports events or concerts, benefit from maybe, enjoyable environments and absorb the skills of others. Looking back on such a working and developmental environment, any person's experiences will have had a good foundation.

The high-flying, high-achievers have done well – there is an abundant record of that. Others also will have done really well, even exceeded their own expectations, but what of the majority, outside of that upper echelon? Considering these over the years amounts to thousands whose life and successes are not on the record. Who were they? Where are they and what kind of rich tapestry has their life been a part of? Sad to say that not a lot of these "invisible" folk have found any reason to want to remain in contact with others in the SOP, and for that reason, we have been unable to stay in touch with them.

So, let this publication be a testament to their role in the Price's School, and Price's College, acknowledging the worth of their times, taking a part in what was on offer, contributing modestly, not being in trouble, an asset to the educational process. And to that group of discontents, unable to accept the programme, formal and informal on offer, regret needs to be extended for what would be seen as a failure these days, a failure to identify a suitable educational package for them. Some dissentient voices were those of really capable pupils and students. These too, added variety and impact to the educational process.

Even in a selective educational process, and in institutions which do their best to be inclusive and accept diversity, Schools cannot be all things to all people. Some will slip through the net. There are just too many variable sat play. The complexity of present-day educational services rests on an analysis of need and availability to provide adequately that is not even a fully-fledged part of the educational process, now, let alone 50 + years back.

This has been an interesting, stimulating, educational and at times enjoyable set of tasks to work on, and I hope that others' will have enjoyed a larger truth of their School and appreciated what others have made of their time at Price's.

Due acknowledgement must be paid also to all past members of the Old Priceans' organisations for their participation and leadership roles that have enabled our Society to remain extant through some difficult times

And, ultimately, to recognise and remember the lives of past Old Priceans now deceased and that special group who made the ultimate sacrifice during their Wartime Service to the Nation.

David Goldring 04/09/22

Lion Pride Editor

What next?



From Then, to the Future*

Deinde in posterum

Depuis lors, à l'avenir

Von da an zur Zukunft

*might be a simple, meaningful strapline that embraces what has already happened
and enriches what the Society has to offer for the future

Elegy for the Class of '68

“Quiet at the back! Settle down now.”

He issued his commands with casual authority as every other morning.
The Class settled down.

He took the register:
'Abbott?' Sir!,
Bolding?', Sir!
Carmichael?' ... Carmichael?'
DuValle answered: 'Think he's sick, Sir!'

He looked around at the boys with an air of pity almost. Then, speaking softly, so they had to strain to hear, he told them about the future:

“You know who in this class is clever, who is good at football, and who's the best cross-country runner – but in days to come none of this will matter. No! Not even Evans with his great mathematical brain, nor Foulkes with his goal-scoring wizardry, can be certain of their place in the world of tomorrow. Some of you will leave school as soon as you can; others will go on to University – perhaps even Oxford or Cambridge – and some of you may become Doctors or Captains of Industry. But most of you will lead uneventful lives, weighed down by personal duties and obedience to the rules that society demands. But more than that: those of you who are successful now have no guarantee of being so tomorrow; others among you who are presently unregarded, middling, unnoticed in the crowd – you will become, as luck would have it, recipients of admiration and remuneration, beyond your wildest dreams. And there will be no justice, for life is not a meritocracy. Your hard work may be rewarded or it may go unnoticed. You may rise or you may fall, and you will do so many times. And you will forget all that I have told you.”

The Master paused and looked around, as if saddened by what he saw. Then he composed himself once more and continued:

“And some of you will die young – much sooner than you thought. In a motorbike accident or drowned at sea; from a heart-attack or the bite of a snake; on holiday abroad, at home in winter, studying for an exam or marking essays. And some of you may die for your country.

And some of you will be condemned to exist into incontinent old age - the loss of body, mind and self. And your children will be as cruel as Lear's daughters and your Fool will desert you.

And some of you will see others die and wonder why you did not, and you will feel guilty and ashamed.

And others will feed on your grief and sorrow and take money from you, offering you the key to happiness.

And some will seek to change the world without changing their hearts. These men are false prophets.

And you will remember none of this.”

“Quiet at the back! Settle down now.”

‘Johns?’ Sir!,
‘Martyn?’ Sir!,
‘Peters?’ Sir!,

.....

© IMB

Co-Editor *Black Lion*, 1974-75.

Who will you remember? Who will remember you?

What was it all about?

Into the future -----

It is highly likely that, following the release of the “Lion Pride’s” 24 Chapters of the WP300 publication, and of its companion volume Price’s Who’s Who? (aka Gazetteer, Part 2), that some errors and omissions will be identified, and even new suggestions for topics to be covered. These publications have been a work of just a small number of people and thus, there have been limits to the scope and coverage possible.

Materials on offer after publication date should be sent to the Society of Old Priceans website, and marked for “future publication”.

It is conceivable that there might be a follow-up in time for any further Anniversary event .

Errors and omissions are regretted.

And regret extends to all Priceans who, outside of the limited address information available, have remained outside of the reach of this project.

Chapter sequence in the Lion Pride

Chapter No.	Title	Pages	File Size (KB)
1	The Cultural Life of the School	43	6630
2	Introduction	11	4030
3	Boarding and up to 1949	44	21,285
4	The Buildings	47	136,380
5	The 50s, 60s and 70s.	56	7,236
6	Extracurricular Life of the School	45	7,230
7	The Charity School and the Family Price	50	3,901
8	The Cadet Force	62	21,452
9	Price's Sixth Form College	82	55,700
10	The Major Sports: Football, Hockey and Cricket 1 st XIs	76	7,388
11	Price's Timeline	13	1,492
12	The Price's (9 th Fareham) Scout Troop	65	57,545
13	Minor Sports	112	43,857
14	The Library	21	14,578
15	Athletics and the Steeplechase	26	3,769
16	Spirit of Adventure	45	19,214
17	Academic Performance	66	12,925
18	The Lion Magazine and Other Publications	46	12,925
19	Price's Creators	142	30,009
20	The Old Priceans	76	17,703
21	The Tercentenary Celebrations	53	40,099
22	Religion in the Life of the School.	36	11,634
23	A Portrait of William Price	13	2,500
24	Closing Thoughts	11	23,214