

Hi Tim,

It occurred to me that giving my updated contact information in my recent email to you sort of begs questions like when "were you actually at the school, what's happened since then and what are you doing now ??? So here goes with a potted version of answers to those questions.

I attended Priory Boys School for two years from September 1960 until end of Summer term in 1962. I left with 9 O level GCEs and 1 A level GCE (grade 1 with distinction). As you might imagine the latter result was a tad unusual for a secondary school. The credit goes entirely to Mr. Stanbrook who taught the subject to three of us as a sort of hobby/experiment I suspect. Nevertheless, all three of us passed which speaks more of his prowess as a teacher than it does of us as pupils. I remember the two years fondly and I made some very good friends there notably Dave Paddon and Chris Godfrey. Sadly Dave passed away some time ago. Others that I can remember who were in my class were Chalky White, Dusty Miller, Fred Cawes, Rory Angus, Mick Preece, Tick College, Charlie Leigh, Dave Smith, Pat Robinson, Dave Rendle, Dave Freeman, Ralph Read and John Lashmar.

When I left school I joined Saunders Roe as an apprentice. As I'm sure you know, it later became British Hovercraft Corporation and subsequently was taken over by Westland. I was with them for ten years in all (including my apprenticeship) and after stints in most departments including one and a half years in the test tanks I ended up in the Sales Engineering department. I was in Sales for three years and travelled fairly extensively during that time with trips to Europe, Abu Dhabi, Canada, Bahrain, Corsica, Qatar, Italy, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc. During that time I attended college here on the Island and obtained ONC and HNC qualifications.

In 1973 I left BHC and joined Shell International as a Production Engineer. With them I spent one year in Holland, three years in Lowestoft (join Shell and see the World they said - they forgot to mention "starting with Lowestoft"), five years in Borneo, five years in Scotland, seven years in Oman and three years in Nigeria. I retired in 1996 at age 51 and of course, returned to the Island. Being now more than 24 years into my retirement I can honestly say that I'm still loving it..

I did attend a reunion with David George a few years back but am forced to admit that I didn't really recognise anyone. I think that that particular reunion was held because the school site was scheduled to be redeveloped in the "near future". Since retiring I have only been in contact with Fred Cawes (who was in my class), Ian College (his brother Tick College was also in my class) and of course Davis George. Dave Paddon died long before I had retired and returned to the Island. I did meet up with Chris Godfrey once when he was visiting the Island some ten years or so ago. At that time he was living in Norfolk.

Nothing more to add really so cheers for now,

Bas