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*Chairman's report 2011*

Members will recall that last year I was asked to make contact with the Price's Charitable Trust in order to initiate informal discussions. Among the topics to be discussed was to be a coordinated response to Fareham College who had asked us to consider awarding prizes. A letter was duly sent to the Chairman of the charity but I regret to say that following their November meeting (at which Old Priceans on the Trust declared an interest and retired from the room) the invitation was declined. In their own words the 'Trust would now like to draw a line under its involvement with further correspondence with the College.'

Earlier on Thursday 21 October 2010, Fareham Sixth Form Centre was opened by HRH the Princess Royal. I received an invitation just in time and attended on behalf of the Society. Our Lion had been found and was given pride of place in the Centre. Indeed it was so striking that it attracted the attention of Princess Anne who asked one of the senior staff accompanying her, what it was. I heard afterwards that he had informed her that it marked the spot where Price's School had once stood!

There are a number of staff members at Fareham College who value the heritage and who would like the College to be involved with the Old Priceans. However, despite all the ceremony, there is no evidence yet that Fareham Sixth Form College will achieve high academic success. We therefore propose earmarking £500 for the first student and £100 for each of the following five students, who gain entrance to an Oxford or Cambridge College to read a well established academic subject as a result of having studied for at least two years at Fareham College. It is unlikely that the Society will have to ask the Treasurer to provide this money but if it does it will mean that Fareham College is a centre of academic excellence.

Remembrance Day was observed, as it was last year, at the War Memorial in West Street Fareham, by Old Priceans and their wives reading aloud the names of those who lost their lives in one of the two World Wars or in subsequent armed conflicts.

Regrettably, the Christmas Lunch on 4 December 2010 had to be cancelled owing to atrocious weather conditions preventing many Old Priceans from getting to London and indeed in some cases from getting out of their own homes. The committee greatly regrets that this action was necessary. Unfortunately some members did arrive only to be told of the cancellation by the RAF club. This is the first time that we have had to cancel this event and we hope it will not be necessary to do so again. This year the Christmas Lunch will be on Saturday 3 December.

The Summer Luncheon on 5 June 2011 proved more successful. It was preceded by a short ceremony at the grave of William Price. Civic dignitaries were invited and we were pleased that a representative of Fareham College attended. Our Guests of Honour at the lunch were Mark and Fiona Hoban. Mark Hoban is our local Member of Parliament and also a Minister in the Coalition Government.

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# THE SOCIETY OF OLD PRICEANS

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There were two committee meetings during the year on 13 January 2011 and 2 August 2011. There was also a President's Day of cricket at the Rose Bowl on 14 September which was relatively well attended. Unfortunately the President himself was unwell and unable to be there.

A subcommittee has been formed with a view to arranging a Sportsmen's Lunch to coincide with the Olympic Games. David Goldring who suggested the idea is pioneering this event.

Lastly I thank the officers, the committee and other Old Priceans who by their sterling efforts enable the society to continue to function.

Charles Evans