

Edition 03

Ottershaw Park Mansion

Newsletter

May 2022



Photo by Paul Arengo-Jones

A message from the Management Committee Chairman

Dear Fellow Residents,

I am delighted, once again, to welcome you all to the third edition of the Mansion Newsletter, though it is tinged with sadness and loss.

We all mourn the loss of Paul Arengo-Jones, who was our friend and a true foundation of our Mansion community. He served us all with great equanimity and grace, with little fuss, but with great efficiency and fairness. Without his leadership and guidance, much of what the Management Committee team has achieved over the past few years would perhaps never have been done, or at least not done so well, or on time. Paul was a true gentleman, always polite, even-tempered and charming, without exception. We will miss him in our community. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and love to Josephine and their two sons. A memorial service will be held in Paul's memory in due course, and details will be circulated.

We have also recently lost Tony Brooks who, as many of you know, gave so much to the Mansion and its residents over the years. His love of swimming has been recognised by naming the newly refurbished pool after him and I thank all those who supported Tony and Paul with the wonderful Pool and Recreation Room Opening Party. Tony's spectacular achievements in automotive racing are now there for all to see in the recreation room. Our deepest condolences go to Pina and their son and daughters. Like Paul, Tony will be greatly missed.

A huge thanks go again to Ben Townsend, not just for curating this newsletter, but also for facilitating the excellent communications channels at the Mansion which work better than ever, as exemplified by comms throughout the last winter storms and power cuts. He, and Paul Arengo-Jones before him, has provided the backbone of daily support for the Management Committee, who extend their deep thanks to them on behalf of you all.

Behind the scenes, the Management Committee and the Projects Sub-Committee, which reports to the MC, have been working tirelessly to keep Mansion affairs running smoothly and the continuing challenges of the Mansion infrastructure in as good a shape as can be. Water continues to be our main enemy, and the largest consumer of time and resource. We continue to review our response to this threat, through insurance and pre-emptive action.

As summer approaches, I am sure that the Pool and Recreation Room, as well as the beautiful gardens will come into their own. I truly hope that, with Covid restrictions now gone, normal service can be resumed in Mansion life at large.

With an increasing number of properties in the Mansion now up, or soon coming on, for sale or for rent, the community will itself be regenerating and I, for one, hope that we can, in the wake of Covid, infect newcomers with the ethos of a wonderful community and its improved amenities. Plans are afoot for a Mansion Platinum Jubilee celebration and a chance to pick up where we left off with the Pool and Recreation Room Opening Party.

Best wishes,

Russell Jacobs

The Garden Suite, No. 2

In memory of Paul Arengo-Jones



Paul had a fascinating and enviable career, perhaps three – and a half – would be more accurate.

Born into a military family in 1944, Paul was educated at Cheltenham College before attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1962. He was commissioned in July 1964 into his Father's Regiment, The Gloucestershire Regiment. Joining the 1st Battalion as a Platoon Commander in Cyprus and then in Swaziland, Chester and Berlin after which Paul was appointed as an ADC, unusually, to an Air Vice Marshall, Commander British Forces Near East in Cyprus. Tours as Signals Officer in BAOR and Northern Ireland followed, before an attachment with the Royal Marines at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone where he wore his green beret with pride.

Away from the Army Paul was a member of the British Trans-American Expedition in 1971-72, under the leadership of Major John Bashford-Snell, an expedition of 18,000 miles in Range Rovers from Anchorage, Alaska to Terra del Fuego southernmost tip of South America being known as 'Arrangement Jones'.

After tours in BAOR and Northern Ireland Paul attended the Army Staff College in Camberley, after which he returned for a tour in Northern Ireland where he was Mentioned in Dispatches. He moved back to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Chief Instructor before another tour in BAOR planning major exercises, followed by taking over command of the 1st Battalion in November 1984.

The ambition of all Infantry officers is to command a Battalion of your Regiment. In command Paul saw the Battalion in Tidworth as part of the UK Mobile Force and then in Berlin with exercises in Gibraltar and Kenya. A particularly proud moment was in May 1987 when the Battalion's Colours were trooped in front of Her Majesty The Queen at the Maifeld, beside the Olympic Stadium.

A posting to the Allied Staff in Berlin followed where Paul oversaw the dismantling of Check Point Charlie. Then on to the NATO Defence College in Rome before his final posting to NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

On leaving the Army in 1992, Paul's second career was being appointed Secretary General of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, which operates in more than 130 countries and territories around the world. For eleven years Paul travelled extensively setting up forums, encouraging and cajoling member countries as well as carrying out extensive fund raising. Paul was appointed a Commander of the Victorian Order (CVO) by The Queen on leaving.

For his third career Paul helped to establish the Brest Cancer Haven and was a Trustee. He was Chief Executive for five years, 2003-2008.

The half career was being appointed as an Extra Equerry to His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex in 2003, having worked closely together with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. He was still active at the time of his death.

Paul's interests included photography, adventure training, golf (he was Captain of the Royal Household Golf Club in 2017, the same year as Josephine was Lady Captain), flying (he had held a private pilot's licence – indeed, he flew The Royal Marines parachute display team) and boating all around the canals and rivers of northern Europe in his motor cruiser for the last 18 years with Josephine who he had married in 1976; Josephine steadfastly 'followed the flag' throughout their marriage. They have two sons Ollie and Tim.

Paul and Josephine both joined Sunningdale Heath in late 2019. In no time at all Paul was asked to join the Gentlemen's Committee as Vice Captain becoming Gentleman Captain in 2021 and Club Vice Captain in January this year with the expectation of becoming Club Captain in 2023.

Paul will be hugely missed by many, nowhere more so than at the Mansion.

A friendly hello from residents

We thought it would be a nice idea to continue our regular segment whereby two or three residents briefly introduce themselves to the Mansion community, even if they have been here for some time!

In Mansion Newsletters 1 and 2 we were introduced to William and Lesley Van Klaveren (Parkland Suite, No. 7), Oliver Waghorn and Amanda Gdula (Old Orangery, No. 1), Graham and Jean Hughes (West Wing, No. 22), Aya and Motoki Hirai (Marble House, No. 17), and Russell and Irina Jacobs (Garden Suite, No. 2). Now it is the turn of Paul and Yvonne Featherstone, and David and Jayne Paterson...

Paul, Yvonne, Adam and Anna Featherstone (Mirror Pond Suite, No.1): We moved to the Mansion 28 years ago, while we were working in The Hague. We first came to know about Ottershaw Park when the Old Orangery was converted but ended up buying The Mirror Pond Suite (garden level, East Wing, which used to be part of the Housekeeper's rooms). At that time Paul was working with Shell (35 years in all) where they called him a Global Geologist - but that just describes his shape. Yvonne is a solicitor and was the Senior Legal Officer at the UN Yugoslavia War Crimes Tribunal supervising the Tadic, Karadic and Milosovic trials. We have both travelled extensively with our jobs working in Turkey, Oman, Egypt, Australia, Kazakhstan, US, Switzerland, Tanzania etc. We would come over to the Mansion regularly for weekends, and have celebrated some major life events here, including our combined Silver Wedding/50th birthday event and a Golden Wedding party for Yvonne's parents.

Our lives changed when we had our twins, Adam and Anna, who are now 16 and taking their GCSE's at boarding school in Sussex. We both took early retirement and moved the family plus consultancy business to Paphos, Cyprus. Paul teaches occasional courses in Oil and Gas at a University in Nicosia and Yvonne enjoys singing in classical choirs in Paphos. Anna is a talented dancer and will move to a full time dance school, in Essex, later this year. Adam can usually be found in cyberspace, not only gaming but doing his own animation and design. Since moving to Cyprus we do find it harder to get back to Ottershaw as often as we would like (especially with Covid restrictions) but we all look forward to our time there.



David and Jayne Paterson (Balcony Suite, No. 11): Jayne was born in Shanghai and emigrated to Hong Kong with her parents in 1946. She was educated in Hong Kong and in the US and is a citizen of both. Jayne was married in the US and has one son who flies for United and one grandson. She worked in the fashion industry in California and latterly ran Jardine Matheson's Christian Dior Haute Couture division in Hong Kong.

David was born in Warwickshire and was educated in the UK. He trained as an accountant with Price Waterhouse and then became an investment banker in London. He moved to HK in 1976 with one of the British hongks. Ultimately he founded a private equity management group in partnership with HSBC and retired in 1998. Since then he has been a non-executive director of a number of private and publicly listed companies in the UK, South Korea, Canada and HK.

Jayne and David met in HK in 1976 and married in 1983. Both were keen skiers in France and in Colorado and also went on a number of relatively exotic safaris in various countries in Africa. They are both golfers and belong to a number of clubs in the UK, USA, Spain and Hong Kong.

In 1998 they established a charitable trust, which provides Chinese graduates from a university in Beijing to study Law at Oxford University.

They expect to spend perhaps three months each year in Ottershaw whilst retaining their main residence in Hong Kong.



Events at the Mansion

We celebrated the opening of our new Pool and Recreation Room in October of last year with a ribbon cutting and party. Kindly hosted by Paul Arengo-Jones, Tony Brooks gave a wonderfully heartfelt speech of thanks. It was a special day for Mansion residents and their families. Thank you to everyone who contributed.





The Gardens

An update from our resident green fingers, Mary and Richard Turner (White House, No. 19): It's great that spring is here and our bulbs are beginning to come up. Daffodils are coming through, by the garages and along the upper road - looks like we're going to have a good display this year. Keep an eye out for the blue hyacinths in the lavender beds. We should also have spring displays in the pots with daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. Sadly, we've lost a few small pine trees and some big branches from old oaks during storm Eunice and the other storms. All things considered, I think we've escaped quite lightly given all the damage around.

Thanks to Oli and Amanda who have donated obelisks and lots of plants, including dwarf rhododendrons and climbing roses - they have replanted the long bed to the south of the parterre. Also thanks to our neighbour Keith Miller's kind donation, we've planted a row of willow saplings behind the tennis courts. These should provide some winter colour in that area eventually.

It's been good to see that our family of Red Kites have survived the storm and have been having fun in the meadow.

Jack and his team have done a sterling job in tidying up the bonfire/compost areas as well as the area behind the tennis courts. A big thank you from the gardeners for the welfare room and all the very kind and thoughtful donations. Congratulations to Jack and family on the birth of their son, Barnie Philip Gogarty, on Friday!





Projects at the Mansion

Currently there is a significant list of projects, which is perhaps not surprising given the age of our building and the extent of our grounds, which continue to require our close attention, such as: structural issues, water ingress (roof leaks and others not helped by the significant rainfall last year), drainage, decoration, improvements and repair.

Thanks to Scott Carey, all the roofing that needed repairing has now been addressed so we shouldn't have to re-visit them for many years to come, and the gardeners now have a new Welfare Room!

The new Mansion Projects Subcommittee meets on a frequent basis to assign tasks and responsibilities. The Subcommittee comprises: Scott Carey, Ben Townsend, Aya Hirai and Russell Jacobs. We are also incredibly well served by our Maintenance Officer, John McGowan, who works at the Mansion Wednesday-Friday.

Huge thanks go to Peter Bennett who dedicated so much of his time over the years to the maintenance of the Mansion but who has now stepped down from the Subcommittee for a well-deserved break. We also remember Paul Arengo-Jones who was the bedrock of the day-to-day at the Mansion.

Further project updates will be forthcoming at the next Residents' Meeting & AGM and through our usual communication channels. A Projects Action List has also been circulated to residents via email and is available on the Mansion website.

Mansion Management Committee

The Management Committee serves the interests of all residents and meets regularly to agree budgets, work plans and responsibilities, which are then rubber-stamped by all residents, as appropriate. Your Committee members are:

1. Russell Jacobs – Chairman
2. Aya Hirai – Treasurer
3. Ben Townsend – Projects, Communications & Leisure Facilities
4. Michelle DeLay – Leisure Facilities & Tennis Courts
5. William Van Klaveren – Insurance
6. Mary Turner – Gardens
7. James Oxley – Fire Safety
8. Graham Hughes – MC Secretariat & OPEC Liaison
9. Peter Bennett – Member
10. Paul Featherstone – Member
11. Harald Karlsen – Member

Since the last Newsletter, we have welcomed William Van Klaveren and Michelle DeLay who have been rolling up their sleeves on your behalf!

Almost half of the Mansion 24 households at the Mansion are on the MC, which is great news and a testament to the community spirit we enjoy, even if passionate views are expressed from time-to-time!

Special recognition should always be expressed for Neil Drummond (West Wing, No. 23) who supports the MC, and all residents, with the Mansion accounts. Neil is an invaluable member of the team. Thank you, Neil.

Mansion Meetings & Events

- Tuesday 10th May: Residents' Meeting & AGM
- Saturday 14th May: Tanglewood Cottage Party
- Thursday 2nd June: Mansion Jubilee Party
- Tuesday 28th June: Management Committee Meeting
- Sunday 11th September: Old Boys' Visit

Communications at the Mansion

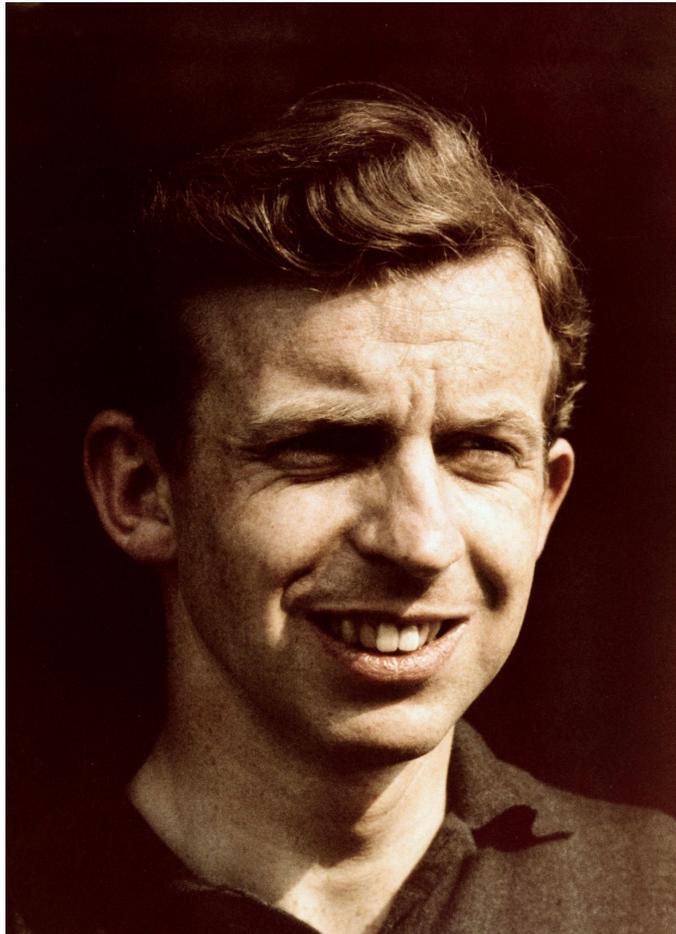
Residents receive regular updates and notices, such as Residents' meetings and AGM minutes, via email from the Management Committee team, including the Chairman (Russell Jacobs) and the Communications Officer (Ben Townsend).

A number of WhatsApp groups are in regular operation – Mansion, Mansion main building, and Ottershaw Park (KT16), in order to circulate important and targeted Mansion news quickly and efficiently. If you are not on the main Mansion WhatsApp group and would like to be, please ask Ben directly. For those not on the group and would prefer to keep it that way, please fear not! You will still receive all updates as normal via email.

Please also look out for the annual Mansion Owners' Guide and House Rules, both of which will be re-issued this summer, as well as this Newsletter, which you will receive twice a year.

Paul Featherstone has kindly agreed to take over the Mansion website from Peter Bennett who managed it so well for so long. If you have any ideas for the website then please drop Paul a line.

In memory of Tony Brooks



Racing driver known as the 'flying dentist' who with Stirling Moss led a British revival in Formula One during the sport's deadliest era

The trainee dentist Tony Brooks was poised over a patient's mouth when he received a phone call offering him his first drive in Formula One. The dental student almost dropped the filling down his patient's throat. Rodney Clark, principal of the Connaught team, had to wait for his answer as Brooks sought permission from his tutor to race at the Syracuse Grand Prix in Sicily in 1955.

Having hardly practised for the race because the Connaught team did not want to risk damaging the unreliable car, Brooks hired a Vespa and learnt the circuit at 30mph. The next day, the unknown young Briton lined up for his Formula One debut against the Maseratis of the Italian drivers Luigi Musso and Luigi Villorosi that had comfortably qualified fastest.

Three hours later Brooks had stunned the partisan crowd by demonstrating how good handling and raw driving ability could trump power. He took the lead over the Italians on the tenth lap and won the race by 50 seconds. It was the first international grand prix victory for a British car since 1924. "Obviously I was very pleased, but it didn't really sink in," recalled the slightly built Brooks, who retained his courtesy and quiet dignity through the triumphs to come. "All I could think about was my exams. I remember swotting on the plane all the way back, too."

His reward was a berth in Formula One during the sport's deadliest era when the unstable front-engined cars were driven at 155mph on brutal tracks in races almost twice as long as today's, featuring drivers in papier-mâché helmets not wearing seatbelts. The great Juan Fangio, the most successful driver of the era, said that between 1952 and 1957 he lost 33 friends on the track.

During those years Brooks, the "flying dentist", would lead a revival in British motor racing along with Mike Hawthorn, Peter Collins and of course Stirling Moss (obituary April 12, 2020). Unlike the latter, who courted publicity and described himself as a "crumpet chaser", the self-effacing Brooks, a practising Catholic, shunned the limelight. And while Moss fully embraced the ample opportunities afforded by the F1 circuit for "wine, women and song", Brooks was content with a game of tennis and "half a glass of wine with the odd meal". Yet Brooks and Moss's minds met in a sporting generosity of spirit; Moss admired Brooks's fluidity when taking tight corners, enabling him to keep more powerful cars at bay once he had gained the lead.

"Brooks was the greatest — if he'll forgive me saying this — 'unknown' racing driver there's ever been," said Moss. "He was far better than several people who won the world championship." Indeed, between 1955 and 1959 Brooks won 50 per cent of the grands prix he finished and only Fangio, Moss and Alberto Ascari won more over that period.

To Brooks the most important achievement was to have stayed alive. "I always felt it was morally wrong to take unnecessary risks with one's life because I believe that life is a gift from God," he said. "If you ever made a mistake in those days you were risking your life. I drove up to the limits of my capability and no more."

Charles Anthony Standish Brooks was born in 1932 in Dukinfield, then in Cheshire, to Charles Brooks, a dental surgeon, and his wife, Irene. Tony attended the Jesuit-run Barlborough Hall School and Mount St Mary's College, both in Derbyshire, which he left in 1950 to study dental surgery at Manchester University.

His parents were racing enthusiasts: his father had competed on motorbikes in his youth at Southport Sands; his mother was the proud owner of a MG TC roadster. As soon as he was old enough Tony bought a BSA 350 motorbike, which he later upgraded to a Triumph Thunderbird 650, and would hone his skills in tours over the Pennines. At the age of 19 he persuaded his mother to trade her MG for a Healey Silverstone. With her permission ("she was a really good sport") he entered the car for his first race at Goodwood in March 1952 and began to make a name for himself on the club racing circuit.

After his triumph at Syracuse, Brooks signed to the BRM team for the 1956 Formula One season. He described his car as "diabolical" and after a throttle got stuck at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1956 he crashed into a barrier, was thrown from the car (which promptly caught fire) and was lucky to survive with a broken jaw.

For the 1957 F1 season he joined the Vanwall team owned by the British ballbearing tycoon Tony Vandervell. That year he crashed at Le Mans and was trapped under his Aston Martin until it was hit by a Porsche coming round the corner. Finding himself free and miraculously alive, Brooks hopped up and jumped over the fence to safety. Three weeks later he left hospital after recovering from severe leg abrasions, and got back in a Vanwall to qualify third for the British Grand Prix at Aintree. When his team-mate Moss retired from the race, Brooks gave up his car for Moss, who went on to take the chequered flag. He and Brooks were declared joint winners.

For the 1958 season Brooks matched his more colourful team-mate Moss win for win (each secured three victories). Brooks proved his technical brilliance by winning on the treacherous circuits of Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium and Nürburgring Nordschleife in Germany and at the Italian Grand Prix at Monza. He considered the German Grand Prix his greatest win, but victory was marred by the death of his close friend Peter Collins who crashed his Ferrari while chasing Brooks. Mike Hawthorn won the championship in a Ferrari, Moss was second and Brooks third with the consolation of having helped Vanwall to win the constructors' championship the first time it was held.

Moss's only criticism of his friend was that he was "never very interested in crumpet". Brooks's riposte was that from the summer of 1956 he never needed to look beyond Pina Resegotti, a beautiful student from Milan who spoke four languages. He quickly bought himself a *Teach Yourself Italian* book. "I've never been keen on the macho type," she recalled. "They make me run." She and Brooks married in 1958 and she never told him how terrified she felt when he raced. She survives him along with their children Caroline, David, Michèle, Julia and Stephanie.

The Italian book came in handy after Brooks signed to Ferrari for the 1959 season. Brooks won over Ferrari fans by finishing second behind Jack Brabham at the season opener on the streets of Monaco despite being nauseated by cockpit fumes for the entire three-hour race. He went on to win the French Grand Prix at Rheims on a day so hot that the track began to melt and Brooks recalled that taking corners was like "driving on ball bearings".

However, throughout much of the season luck deserted him. Ferrari could not produce a car for the British Grand Prix at Aintree because of striking mechanics. He competed in an uncompetitive Vanwall instead, donated by his old friend Vandervell, and finished 17th. Then the Belgium Grand Prix was cancelled; Brooks had won his three previous races there.

Before the Italian Grand Prix a miscommunication with Ferrari's mechanics led to his clutch being replaced before the race. The new clutch burnt out on the first lap, costing Brooks victory; he finished second behind Moss. Victory in the German Grand Prix enabled Brooks to enter the season finale at the Sebring circuit in Florida, still in with a chance of winning the title. On the first lap he was shunted off the track by his inexperienced Ferrari team-mate Wolfgang von Trips.

"My natural inclination was to carry on," Brooks recalled. "But I made myself come in to have the car checked over. I lost half a lap doing that, and still finished third. Stirling retired, and Jack Brabham [the eventual champion] ran out of petrol near the end." Brooks never regretted his decision to put safety first despite the fact that it probably cost him the title.

On his retirement from racing in 1961, he said the only thing he would miss was the close bonds with the other drivers, wishing each other good luck before a race knowing they might never meet again.

Brooks noted that the sport had changed with the transition to rear engines. "I couldn't believe how easy it was. It reduced the capacity of the driver to show his superiority because the car was doing so much for you. The balance, the braking and the roadholding were so much better," said Brooks, adding with rare tartness that many famous modern drivers would have been "found out" by front-engined cars.

Over the next 30 years he built up a chain of car dealerships in Surrey for Austin Rover, Lancia, Fiat and Ford and also served as *The Observer's* motoring correspondent for ten years. In 2010 he reluctantly published a memoir after family, friends and journalists "turned up the pressure to unacceptable levels".

Looking back, Brooks was just glad to have been able to watch his children grow up. "Of course I would love to have had the label world champion, but I had a pretty good innings."

Tony Brooks, Formula One driver, was born on February 25, 1932. He died on May 3, 2022, aged 90

The Times, Obituary, Thursday 5 May 2022

Parting shot



Photo by Paul Arengo-Jones