

AMDG

STONYHURST association news



NEWSLETTER 319

THE PORTUGUESE CAMINO

SUMMER 2022



EDITOR'S NOTE

I have been the Editor of the Stonyhurst Association Newsletter for six years and have greatly enjoyed receiving the many articles and news items from the Stonyhurst family. I hope that you too have enjoyed reading the newsletter and that it has kept you informed of the many events planned by the Association and the wonderful achievements of so many OS. It is now time for me to hand over the reins and this Summer 2022 newsletter will be the last edition under my editorship.

Please do continue to send us your news, be it a birth or wedding announcement, an academic success or your involvement in charitable work; we will continue to celebrate the achievements of our Stonyhurst family.

Have you signed up to our exclusive networking platform Stonyhurst Link?

Join at: www.stonyhurstlink.com

Twitter: @Stonyhurstassoc **Facebook.com/stonyhurstassociation**

In order to be kept informed of news and events we need your email address, do let us know of any changes and please encourage other OS to keep in touch with us this way.

Contact: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk



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FRONT COVER: From Tui to Santiago de Compostela

DIARY OF EVENTS

Details will be published on the website www.stonyhurst.ac.uk
email: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk with any queries

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
2nd September 2022	Thirst Friday - Richmond	You are invited to join us at Richmond Rugby Club for a very informal Stonyhurst family social event, starting at 5.30pm. The first drink is on us and there will be a complimentary barbecue. We would love to see you there, children are very welcome. Do join us for what should be a lovely end-of-summer get-together! Address: Richmond Athletic Ground, Twickenham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SF For catering purposes, it would be very helpful if you could indicate that you plan to attend by submitting the booking form which can be found on the Association website under Diary of Events - Thirst Friday Richmond.
24th and 25th September 2022	OS 82 Reunion	A booking form for the event, which will take place at the College, is available on the Association website under Diary of Events – OS 82 Reunion.
5th October 2022	Gibraltar Convivium	There will be Mass at the Cathedral at 6.00pm followed by a drinks and tapas reception at the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club. All OS, parents and former parents and their families are warmly invited to attend this social gathering.
22nd and 23rd October 2022	OS 72 Reunion	OS 72 will celebrate their 50-year reunion at the College. A booking form will be available on the website shortly.
4th November 2022	Thirst Friday In the North-East	The next of our gatherings will be at 6.00pm at the Gibraltar Rock Hotel, 2 East Street, Tynemouth, NE30 4EB. All OS and their families are welcome to attend, first drink on us! Please register if you plan to attend, the link is on the diary of events on our website.
12th and 13th November 2022	OS 11 Reunion	The delayed 10-year reunion for OS 11 has now been arranged! Details and booking information are available on the Association website under Diary of Events – OS 11 Reunion
8th December 2022	Association Carol Service	To be held at the College at 7.00pm.
21st January 2023	OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers	The OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers will take place on Saturday 21 January, when the Hoppers will be playing Sheffield. The price will be £35.00 per head. As ever this is an informal event for OS, their family and friends. Prices are not yet available but anyone interested should contact martinhothersall@outlook.com
18th February 2023	Association Annual Dinner	Save the date! The dinner will be held at the College. Further information and a booking form will be circulated shortly and will also be on our website.
24th May 2023	London Convivium during the Chelsea Flower Show	A convivium to be held in the Orangery at the Chelsea Gardener, London SW3 6NR. All are warmly invited to attend this gathering during the week of the Chelsea Flower Show to enjoy drinks and light refreshments just a short walk away for the show. A booking form will be available nearer the time.

THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER PAN PACIFIC, LONDON, 26TH FEBRUARY 2022

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 2021 - 2022, DOM HARTLEY OS 86

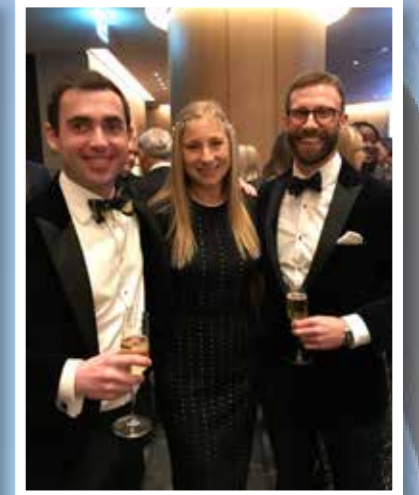
A highlight of the year was our annual dinner, the first in a long time, hence the decision to go big in London – and what an event it proved to be! Our guest speaker **Jimmy Nelson OS 86** gave an alternative and truly refreshing presentation, illustrated through his photojournalism work capturing lost tribes in the world's most remote locations. The Pan Pacific hotel's 4K screens did him proud as we were treated to a visual feast of stunning photography and on-the-ground anecdotes.

What I particularly appreciated about Jimmy's speech was that he proved that there are so many alternative paths to travel on leaving Stonyhurst, it does not all have to be university and corporate life, Jimmy is just one of many OS who have made a name for themselves doing something different.

Among the 238 guests who attended were OS from 1952 to 2020, along with current and former parents.

It was a wonderful evening and in the words of one OS 06 who attended:

"I just wanted to say thank you for organising such a fantastic event for the Association Dinner in London on Saturday. It was such a wonderful evening at an impressive venue and it was so nice to see so many people in attendance, especially after the last couple of years. I think it was one of the best Association events I have attended, so well done to all involved in organising it!"



JULIE MACFARLANE OS 78

It was a very proud, albeit humbling, moment to begin my Presidency by speaking to the parents of Rhetoric at Great Academies as the first Lady President of the Stonyhurst Association in May this year. I will do my very best to make it as successful as I can.

Following a consultation with those OS ladies who had provided Beverley with their contact details, I have come up with several ideas and thoughts about what I would like to bring to the Association during my year, these include;

- to promote the concept of service in our lives, that there is no ego in service, so as to foster the Stonyhurst objective of being 'men and women for others';
- to place an emphasis on using the membership to support the present students and those at the start of their chosen career pathway;
- to encourage female OS to leave their contact details with the Association Office for better involvement in Association events;
- to reach out to OS overseas;
- to encourage local activities reflecting the increase in local students and OS families at Stonyhurst;
- to encourage charitable activities which provide aid and service to those less fortunate in our communities.

Traditional events that the Association has previously supported such as the Lourdes Pilgrimage, Thirst Fridays, the Association Dinner and the Christmas Carol Concert will continue to be held as before.

In June I was given the opportunity to address students in Poetry in an attempt to engage their interest in the Association and to reinforce the benefits it can offer to them whilst they are at Stonyhurst and after they leave. The Poets had been discussing their career plans just prior to the meeting which made them responsive to my challenge to consider their own personal skills, knowledge and attributes, where they might find opportunities to develop them and how they might demonstrate them in their personal statement or applications. The help and information available to them from members of the Association who also wish to serve them in this way, in all walks of life all around the world, was also emphasised.

On 18th August, Niall and I are leading a walk – the Tolkien Trail – from Hobbit Hill. A shorter walk for little legs is also available.



Julie pictured with Paul Chitnis OS 79 at her recent birthday party

Refreshments are provided for those who participate but donations are invited for the Food Bank at Maundy Relief in Accrington, my chosen charity for the year, to support the outstanding work they do for the most disadvantaged in the area. We hope to attract local Stonyhurst families to join us, to help them meet other OS, particularly since the pandemic has isolated us from one another. For the same reason I wish to encourage Association support for parents of local students who have not had the opportunity to get to know each other over recent years and the possibility of providing coffee at a suitable venue following a short walk on some Saturday mornings is being explored.

I look forward to joining the Lourdes Pilgrimage in August as it returns in a somewhat smaller scale after the pandemic. It is many years now since I served as a 'handmaid' there but the blessings it offered, and provided, have influenced me throughout my life – as a health care worker and as a parent. We look forward to sharing the faith-affirming joy it brings to those who participate in it.

On 5th October the OS in Gibraltar, and its environs, are invited to attend a Convivium at their Royal Yacht Club. Mass at St Joseph's Church will be followed by drinks and tapas. The support to Stonyhurst by the Gibraltarians extends over many decades. It gives me great pleasure to support an Association event in this overseas territory.

The Association Dinner is now scheduled for the 18th February, 2023, at Stonyhurst. I am delighted that Lucy Leoni (née Hardwick) has kindly agreed to speak on that occasion about her work with Maundy Relief and the influence of Stonyhurst on her life and work. I do hope that many OS will be able to join us to celebrate the occasion.

On Wednesday 24th May 2023, the Association has planned an evening Convivium in London, to coincide with Chelsea Flower Show, in an unashamed attempt to encourage more female OS to attend an Association event as a result of the consultation exercise earlier this year. This Convivium will be held in the Orangery at The Chelsea Gardener, a garden centre close to the site of the flower show. I look forward to meeting you there.

I am pleased to announce that **Paul Chitnis OS 79** has agreed to be my successor as President of the Association whilst continuing his important work with Jesuit Missions. This handover will take place at the AGM in May, 2023.

Brian Douglas OS 83 was invited to the Conservatives Abroad Summer Reception in Madrid and as it coincided with the eve of the NATO Summit had been told to expect a "Senior Cabinet Member", which he thought might involve Liz Truss or Ben Wallace, but was interested to see that it was Boris Johnson himself, who with typical humour and confidence extolled the virtues of his time in power and some of his "successes."

Brian thought that perhaps a slightly humorous and cheeky "Brian Douglas insisted repeatedly that it was time for Boris Johnson to move on", would be a good caption to the photograph, but true to form, the then Prime Minister insisted that he would take on anyone and anything that could be thrown at him. Unbeknown to him at the time, his days were to be numbered.

In reality Brian was talking about the Charity that he is a Trustee of, the British Spanish Society, that **Jimmy Burns OS 71** is Chairman of. Brian asked Boris to join them for any of their events in London or Madrid, as he does know them, and especially Jimmy, but he failed to confirm whether he would! Well, he may have more time to be able to attend now!



James Cope OS 99 writes: 'As we all know, on 23 March 2020 the country went into lockdown to stop the spread of COVID-19. Each day since I have been completing a daily press-up challenge: one press-up for each day since going into lockdown! Given that I am now well over 800 press-ups daily, I thought that it was about time that I started doing it to benefit a charity. With some overseas travel restrictions still in place, the services of the RNLI are needed now more than ever. People are flocking to UK beaches, trying new activities in the water, and getting themselves into dangerous situations without even realising it. Too many people are still drowning. More than ever we need the RNLI's help. As a charity, the RNLI depends on our donations so it can go on saving lives and keeping us and our loved ones safe. RNLI lifesavers are our lifeline. They're the lifeboat crews who provide 24-hour search and rescue right around the UK and Ireland; including the lifeguards keeping watch on 240 of the busiest beaches in the UK and Channel Islands; and the RNLI safety teams and educators working tirelessly to stop people getting into trouble in the first place. With over 800 press-ups a day now, it would be amazing to hit my £10,000 target.

'To update the stats for you...to date I have completed over 350,000 press-ups in this challenge. If I get to day 1000 (195 days to go as I write), I will have completed over 500,500 press-ups for all for a charity who deserve every single one. As part of this challenge, I have now lost over 4 stone, in new money that's 26kg. If you would like to support this challenge please go to the link: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-cope5

'I also post a daily video of the challenge on my Instagram, Twitter and TikTok feeds on the following handles. **Twitter - @jamescope Instagram - jamescope TikTok - @jamescope**



Patrick Fagan OS 51: On 29th April 2022 more than 70 years after leaving Stonyhurst, Maj. Gen. Patrick Fagan (ret'd) was delighted to have the chance to visit the school and the collections, including the Arundell Library's book collection which had been acquired by his ancestor Thomas, 10th Baron Arundell of Wardour at a cost great enough to have bankrupted himself, and collected together expressly (and highly unusually) to be a bequest to support the education of future generations of students at his alma mater Stonyhurst. It was presented to the school after his death by his son in 1837. Patrick is the nephew of the late John, 16th Baron Arundell, who died of tuberculosis contracted in Colditz in World War II.

Dr Jan Graffius, Curator of Stonyhurst's Collections, gave generously of her time to show Patrick (accompanied by his son Daragh) round the Libraries including a preview of the then forthcoming exhibition Hot Holy Ladies (opened 8th July) and some of the most famous items in the Arundell Library, including a Shakespeare First Folio, the Prayer Book of Mary Tudor which was on the scaffold with Mary, Queen of Scots on the day of her execution, and the Prayer Book of John Colet.

It was an excellent morning, including coffee with the Headmaster, and a tour of the school with Suzanne and Lorna from the Development Team. While there had clearly been many changes since the 1950s when Patrick and his brother Michael were pupils, not least the ponds freezing solid from Christmas to Easter each year, it was wonderful to see the school clearly happy and thriving, and successfully retaining so much of the unique ethos that had served it so well since its inspiration of Thomas Arundell in the early 19th century!



John Cartwright-Terry OS 96

writes: 'I found myself at Richmond, London on the morning of the 7th May surrounded by some 350 similarly attired individuals, all intent on filling their weekend with a jog. Specifically, we were each aiming to run to Oxford, 100 miles along the River Thames. The Thames Path 100 is an annual race that draws competitors from across the world to take on the iconic century distance. For those who can complete the distance in 24 hours, a special "100 miles in a day" buckle is awarded: this was my goal.



'With little pomp, a horn sounded and we all sauntered off, armed with a myriad of energy drinks, gels, flapjacks and various bits of kit to sustain us for a continuous day and night of running along the Thames Path Trail. Passing through the suburbs of London, crossing off various landmarks along the way, I passed the Thames folk completing their Saturday morning routines; dog walkers, rowers, cyclists and shoppers, all glancing in interest at the endless procession of athletically clad transients trotting along their riverbank in the morning sunshine. As I ticked off miles, so the temperature crept up with alarming speed, and by the time Hampton Court Palace came into view, it was clear this would classify as a hot one. Despite my meticulous planning and promise of self-discipline, I found myself way ahead of my schedule, which, for those who know about these things, is a recipe for disaster later.

'I progressed through the checkpoints, each some ten miles apart, and each with a veritable banquet prepared for the weary runner (ultra-marathon running is commonly referred to as 'catered running'). Marmite and jam sandwiches (triangles, no crusts) with a healthy portion of watermelon slices became my staple for the day. Steady passage ensued like a Jerome K. Jerome novel, although with less pineapple, through Eton, Maidenhead, Marlow and to Henley (mile 51), where I met up with my support crew who would be guiding me into the night toward Oxford.

'Grant and Alex are army pals with whom I work, and they had agreed to run with me in shifts for the latter part of the race. Primarily, their role was to ensure I didn't take an unplanned bath in the Thames, but they were also to be my navigators, mobile caterers, medics and motivators. Into the evening, we forged a path through the sound of revelries from Reading and then Northwards into the serene countryside of Oxfordshire. By this stage my appetite for either running or eating had long since departed and my company must have presented a somewhat pitiful focus for my team's support. Resorting to hunks of white bread, washed down with water, my progress had slowed to an ambient walking pace interspersed with a little jogging, but I took heart that I was still going forward. By this stage, the trail was littered with the shells of fellow competitors, sobbing on benches, spread eagle on the grass, simply staring blankly at the floor; we must have been a sorry sight for anyone returning home after a night out.



'My saviour came in form of a Stonyhurst boarder's staple: Pot Noodle. Whilst I am not a food snob, I cannot recall to partaking of this particular delicacy since leaving university. However, at 4am in a car park somewhere South of Abingdon, manna was chicken and mushroom flavoured. With this succour and the dawn breaking, I was galvanised by our goal and with my energy restored, managed to break into a run. By this stage it was touch and go whether the 24-hour mark was attainable, but, having removed my watch, I placed my faith in my team to get me to the end.

'Arriving at the final checkpoint at Radley, I was immediately accosted by a marshal as my tracking chip was still registering me at the previous checkpoint. With no energy to argue, I offered my wretched appearance and physical presence as proof of my actual location, and this seemed to abate his suspicions. Only once remonstrations were complete did he inform me that I had four and a half miles to the finish and only 58 minutes to beat my 24-hour deadline. This was all the motivation that was needed, and despite my protests, Grant 'encouraged' me (like only the military can!) to pick up the pace. In my head I was sprinting, although video evidence suggests my movement was more akin to an inebriated stumble; but with only minutes before the countdown ended, the finish arch on Queen's College Recreation Ground emerged from around a corner. After 23 hours and fifty-six minutes I crossed the finish line, having run 102 miles from London. It turns out that 24 hours is only just enough time.

'I was invited to use this race to raise funds for the ABF The Soldiers' Charity. As a serving Army Officer, I am only too aware of the seen and unseen effects on those who are charged with the protection of Her Majesty's interests at home and overseas. The Soldiers' Charity supports serving and veteran alike, providing a complete spectrum of support to more than 60,000 members of the army family in 2021 alone, totalling £8.3 million. You can still donate at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tp100.

We are delighted to announce that John has since been appointed as the new Stonyhurst Foundation Director and takes up his new post in September.

Alastair Seymour OS 84 has recently moved to Panama, and would be delighted to meet up with any OS passing through. He is pictured here with **Luc Raffray OS 20** who is currently travelling through Central America.

Alastair's new address, that he would like to pass on, is:

Bella Vista, PH Prestige Bella Vista, apt. 27-A
Calle 45 Este, diagonal al Riba Smith de Bella Vista
Panama City PANAMA



The COVID musical, 'Scotch Egg', by **Jonathan Smith OS 87** and **Dominic Hartley OS 86** has enjoyed two successful runs in London this year. The first, in January at the Drayton Arms in Kensington, was followed by an expanded show at the larger Playground Theatre in May, a production which featured on Sky News.

Described by Daily Telegraph music critic Neil McCormick as "smart and funny", the show's title comes from the December 2020 ruling that pubs could only serve alcohol with a substantial meal – and the ensuing ministerial debate as to whether a Scotch egg fell within the definition. For Smith and Hartley, this symbolises the absurdity of much of the Government and public reaction to the pandemic.



The pair spent almost two years creating a show which joyfully mocks the powerful and the tragic absurdities of lockdown. Jonathan says, "although we deal with the horrendous political, social and psychological consequences of lockdown, the key aim was always to be entertaining." So, the show opens with an out-of-work actor driven to alcoholism and working for Deliveroo; there is a song sung by struggling burglar and one from an equally bereft sex-worker.

However, the show does not shy away from tragedy – one song 'Fading Away' shows a dying man being forced to say goodbye to his wife of 50 years on an iPad. Other comic numbers like, 'The Laws are Set in Stone', 'He's Gonna Save Christmas' and 'We're All Key Workers' (sung by a call-girl), satirise the inconsistent decision-making, dodgy science and the theatrical daily press briefings that, in the writers' view, lead to a disproportionate state of fear.

According to Dom at the keyboards, "It's really light-hearted and Boris is easy prey with guaranteed laughs as he duets with Chris Whitty in a rap-battle, but the message of the musical is more profound". He explains: "We're questioning the ease at which the Government's been able to manipulate people through hype and fear and the unintended future consequences of that."



Jonathan, a lawyer-turned-English-teacher, finds the parallels with dystopian fiction all too familiar. "Margaret Atwood said it best: 'Anything can happen anywhere, given the circumstances,'" adding that "the show asks all the big questions: what is the appropriate relationship between individual and Government? What makes a life well-lived? Does a Scotch egg really constitute a substantial meal?"

Dom and Jonathan are no strangers to political parody, writing and producing 'Crunch – The Musical', set to the backdrop of the financial crisis of 2008. Readers may also remember this duo's debut show, 'VISION', a modern retelling of the story of Lourdes, which has been produced many times in this country and abroad, including two runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Discussions are ongoing regarding a revival of 'VISION' in London next year. They are also hoping to develop 'Scotch Egg' and are on the lookout for producers and directors.

Please get in touch if you can help via the show's website: www.scotchegg.live/





Douglas Robertson OS 06 recounts his Tour de France experience as he cycles all 21 stages of the Tour de France route to raise vital funds to find a cure for leukaemia:

‘Those who remember me from my time at Stonyhurst will recall me as a perennially off-games sort rather than one of the athletic stars of the era. It’s safe to say that my name will not be found permanently engraved for posterity on the wooden boards by the glass doors, so this is a somewhat unlikely tale given my humble sporting beginnings.’

Q: How do you become convinced that cycling over 3,500kms/2,200 miles of Europe’s most challenging roads in 21 days is a good idea?

A: Wine and an underlying desire to do something big for a greater cause (oh, and a blindness for details like huge mountains, the training commitment and fundraising...)

‘In March 2021, my wife Kate and I went for dinner with friends, one of whom survived his fight with leukaemia several years ago and one whose brother sadly died from the disease. The conversation turned to how much work there is still to do to find a cure and better treatments and how amazingly, much of the best work at the cutting edge of leukaemia science is still desperately reliant on funding from the charitable sector.’

‘Too many glasses of wine later, on my return home with Kate, we discussed wanting to do something to help. Little did I know that a hungover me would wake up to the news from Kate that she had spent the small hours Googling and had submitted an entry form for me to ride all 21 stages of the 2022 Tour de France route with a team aiming to raise a collective £1m for Cure Leukaemia. I consoled myself with the knowledge that a) it was just an application form and b) I would never be selected as a quick glance at ‘off-games Doug’ would be all it took for the Cure Leukaemia selection panel to deliver the ‘we’ll call you’. Alas, several months later, I found myself on Zoom, being accepted onto the team by the legendary Leukaemia survivor and ex-England footballer Geoff Thomas. Time to get cycling and, more importantly, starting to raise the not insubstantial personal fundraising target of £30,000.’

Q: How does a father of 5 and full-time management consultant set about training to ride the Tour de France route and raising £30,000 for charity?

A: Make it a family affair and, drawing upon the best Stonyhurst tradition, find a lovely location for your friends, family, and colleagues to enjoy fine food and wine in exchange for generous support.



‘In retrospect, training was the easy part. I enlisted the help of a brilliant local cycling professional to put together a training plan and committed to combination of very early starts and evenings on the indoor trainer. Spoiler alert – the training involved a lot of riding my bike in the delightfully variable weather conditions on offer in the Yorkshire Dales in autumn, winter, and spring. In the period between October 2021 and June 2022, I would end up cycling over 5,000kms/3,100 miles including cycling the length of the UK with Kate (more on this shortly). In all honesty the process of getting stronger and being able to ride further, faster, and higher was extremely rewarding and, I hope, has left me fitter and motivated to stay so for life. I also hope it has provided a degree of inspiration to the kids, albeit hidden beneath indifference to parental cycling pursuits. The much more difficult challenge turned out to be persuading people to part with their hard-earned money to support the challenge. It’s a hard environment for medical fundraising with the cost-of-living crisis biting and the huge generosity of giving

towards the crisis in Ukraine. I decided to draw upon my only prior experience of raising large sums of money nearly 20 years ago – the Poetry banquet. Thanks to the huge generosity of The Angel at Hetton (a must-visit, wonderfully renovated Michelin-starred pub in the Dales) I was able to organise a fundraising lunch, raising £7,000 towards my goal.’

‘To combine training and fundraising my wife and I cycled from Land’s End to John O’Groats in May of this year. We did this in just 7 days averaging 220kms/130 miles per day. This translated into 12hrs+ a day on the road with several finishes well into the night – most memorably rolling into the bunkhouse on the Avenue at Stonyhurst for the night at 23:00 having got lost in Accrington. The weather was relentlessly unkind and just to make the challenge even harder we decided to camp with my aging in-laws as support crew in a very cramped VW camper! Crucially though we added another £10,000 to the fundraising pot. I also learnt that for multi-day endurance riding, no amount of food is enough – eat lots and double it and you might just about have put in enough calories to get through.’



Q: What is riding the Tour de France route as a complete amateur really like?

A: Brutally hard, rewarding and restorative in one’s faith in the power of teams unified by a shared purpose.

‘On 24th June, after months of training and fundraising I arrived in Copenhagen (this year’s Grand Départ started with 3 stages in Denmark) ready to start the challenge of a lifetime. The challenge ahead became strikingly real:

- 3,500kms/2,200 miles
- 21 riding days, 2 rest days & 1 transfer day (12 hours by coach from Denmark to northern France).
- 50,000m/165,000ft of climbing through the Alps, Pyrenees, Vosges, Jura and Massif Central mountain ranges.

The stages themselves varied massively, from the first day as a very gentle 13km ride around Copenhagen, to the brutal mountains of the Pyrenees.



A fresh set of riders on the start line in Copenhagen



‘It was the entry to France where the whole team realised what we had in store. Stage 4 in northern France was surprisingly lumpy (certainly in comparison to Denmark) – reminding me of home roads in many ways as we rode through St Omer where I was suddenly transported back to interline sports, competing (badly) in the brown/yellow of my line.

‘Stage 5 was a total shock to the system, mentally and physically – 20km of cobbles the size of your head, unevenly laid; an extraordinarily awful, bone-jarring, hand-blistering and mind-altering experience. How the professionals race over these things is quite simply beyond me. Next up, the longest day of the whole tour – 230km from the Belgian town of Binche and then back into France to Longwy. In Binche, the good mayor insisted on us joining him for coffee and a photo op. The relentless nature of the challenge continued to stage 7 with our first mountain finish on the Super Planche des Belles Filles – the ‘super’ part comprising of cycling up a literal ski slope of 25% gradient on gravel where you couldn’t decide whether to stand, sit or throw your bike off the mountain. The sense of team achievement, relief but also anxiety at the scale of the task ahead after our first mountain taste was all too real on the coach that evening. We also had the sad news that the founder of the event and 5-time Tour rider Geoff Thomas was having to withdraw as his knees could simply no longer deal with the strain the event was placing on them.



The savagery of Northern France’s pave (cobbles)



Cresting Col Du Granon – my hardest day on the bike ever

‘The next big challenge over stages 8 - 12 was the Alps. The heat of the pan European heatwave was now also really starting to bite with water stops, cramp, bad tempers and creaking knees all on the up. The climb up the Col Du Granon at 2,400+m altitude was a particularly low moment for me, being bitten to pieces by horseflies, beasted by 40°C heat as I ground my way up an unrelenting 13%+ slope for 14kms. Remembering why we were doing it, the money raised and being cheered on by fellow riders and support team were the only things that kept the pedals turning on that monster. I will remember the final day in the Alps forever as Kate came out and we rode this stage together – the biggest day of the lot with 5,000m of climbing including the iconic Galibier and Alpe d’Huez climbs – super tough but a real privilege to be able to ride together and really absorb the enormity of what we were achieving together.



The alps including summing the infamous Alpe d’Huez.

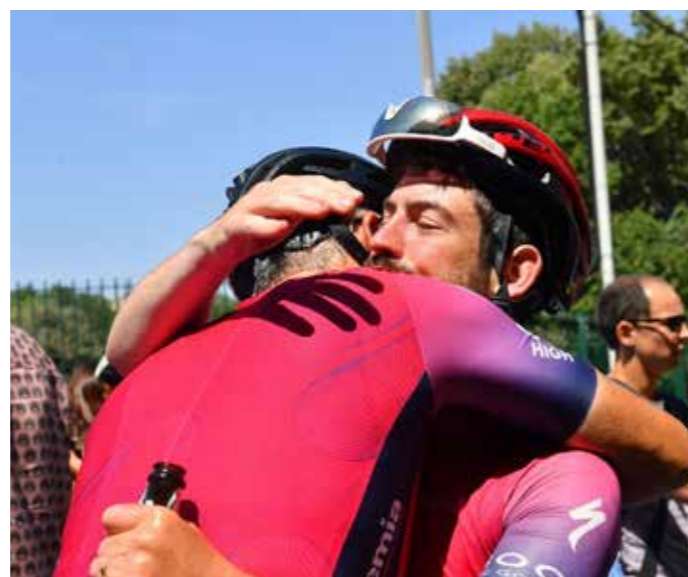


'Next up, some very tedious and hot transition stages to move us towards the next set of mighty mountains: the Pyrenees. By now the daily routine of eat, ride, eat, ride, eat, ride, sleep, repeat was engrained – essential given that the heat was now routinely touching 40°C and extreme fatigue was setting in across the board. The Pyrenees were harder for me in every way than the Alps; staggeringly beautiful but hotter, steeper, and frankly I was really missing home. The final stage in the Pyrenees started and finished in Lourdes – prompting more Stonyhurst flashbacks.

'After the Pyrenees, two relatively benign stages (quite amazing how 180km in searing heat can feel benign 19 stages and thousands of miles into an epic ride) before a long transfer to Paris for the final stage: a brilliant welcome party with friends and family. Then, suddenly, it's over – and life resumes at home. A few days afterwards I tried to reflect on it all, but to be honest I'm not sure it will ever sink in even now!

My best attempt at summarising it is as follows:

- All huge challenges and achievements start with saying yes.
- You really do make the best new friends when you put yourself in an extreme environment with people united behind a common goal.
- I have a rekindled faith in the power of teams to achieve amazing things – everyone had real low points, but as a team of 18 riders plus our brilliant Tour 21 support crew we have dug in for each other and overcome a monstrous challenge. Heatstroke, autoimmune diseases, dehydration, underfueling – you name it, we worked through.
- I learnt that it is possible to climb Europe's highest mountain passes in 40°C and not die.
- I have a newfound appreciation for the simple things – a baguette and a can of coke feel like a lottery win 160kms into another scorching day of hurt in the high mountains.
- You can never have too much chamois cream.



'If you are at all impressed or inspired by mine and the team's exploits, it is not too late to show your support by donating to the cause. As a team we are still a touch shy of our collective £1M target so please do donate at the link below which can be accessed by scanning the QR code.'



www.justgiving.com/fundraising/douglas-robertson2022

CONGRATULATIONS

Please send your contributions to the Editor: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk



Congratulations to **Tom Kilby OS 14** who has recently gained a first-class honours degree in Business Management from Manchester Met, and started work in July in the Houses of Parliament as a case worker for Tom Hunt, the MP for Ipswich.



Congratulations to **Andrew Finn OS 10** who has recently been made a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (MICE).

MARRIAGES



Sam Williams OS 06 and **Corinna Atkinson OS 11** married on 2nd June 2022 at St Peter's Church Stonyhurst. OS Bridesmaids included **Maria Oliveira OS 11**, **Jordan McDermott OS 11** (née Riley), **Megan Crowder OS 11** (née Hindle), **Lucy Williams OS 04** and **Kara Kaaber-Gore OS 11**, along with a former SMH colleague Charlotte Collard, and the groomsman was **Joe Weld Blundell OS 11**.



Katherine Porter OS 07 married Scott Barlow on 22nd of May 2021. OS in attendance included **Matthew Porter OS 01**, **Charlotte Leach OS 09** who sang at the ceremony, and **Alex Alcock OS 06** who provided photography.



Katie Victoria Harrison OS 09, married James Edward Holland on the 19th of June 2021. The ring bearer was certainly unusual as it was their three-legged dog, River, who Katie rescued through the registered dog rescue charity that she founded in 2020. There were three **OS 09** in attendance: **Samantha Leach**, **Charlotte Leach** and **Alexander Dineen**.



Natasha Pace OS 09 married Stefan Zammit on the 25th of August 2021. The OS in attendance were **Yasmin Grech** and **Anthea Demajo** both **OS 09**.



Mark Brinkley OS 07 married Francesca Gigliotti on the 1st of December 2021. His father **Robert Brinkley OS 72** was also in attendance.



Eleanor Lamb OS 10 married Taylor Walsh at St Peter's Stonyhurst on the 12th of August 2021. There were a number of OS attending including Eleanor's brother, **William Lamb OS 16** and **Freddie Liddell OS 10** who was her bridesman.



Photo: John Alexander Photography

Ronan Mellows OS 10 married Chloe Weston at St Michael's Abbey on the 30th July 2022, the wedding having been postponed twice due to the pandemic. OS in attendance were the Best Men, his elder brothers, **Michael Mellows OS 05** and **Rory Mellows OS 08**, the Master of Ceremonies **Harrison Collins OS 10**, **Jonathan Richardson OS 10**, **Christian Cudd OS 10**, **Richard Ayres OS 10**, **William Eaves OS 10**, **Odo Ibeto OS 10** and **Richard Hargreaves OS 04**.

BIRTHS



Jonathan Smith OS 87 and his wife Laura Dixon announce the birth of their daughter, Mabel Grace Dixon-Smith, on 3rd April 2022.



James Morley-Alton OS 15 and his wife **Messalina Morley-Alton OS 15** announce the birth of their son, Walter, on 11th of August 2021.



Marco Vagheti OS 03 and his partner Megan Connolly announce the birth of their son, Albert Luca Vagheti, born on the 15th April 2022.



Dr Michael Mellows OS 05 and his wife Dr Pat Mellows announce the birth of their third daughter, Alice, a sister for Tilly and Maddy. Alice was born on the 11th May 2022, in Australia.



Katherine Barlow OS 07 (née Porter) and her husband Scott, announce the birth of their son, Oliver Scott Barlow on 28th April 2022.



Lucy Broughton OS 04 (née Williams) and her husband Mike announce the birth of Penelope Ivy Phyllis Broughton who was born on 9th December 2021.



Leo Page OS 10 and his wife Molly (née Aylward) **OS 06** are pleased to announce the birth of their son Alfred Adrian Aylward-Page, born on the 20th of November 2021.



James MacLean OS 04 and his wife Daryl announce the birth of their son, Henry, on 5th of April 2021, a brother for Lucy.



Amelia Tilney OS 06 (née Williams) and her husband, Oliver Tilney announce the birth of their twins Coco and Rupert born on 14th January 2021. Siblings for Iris who was born on the 8th July 2019.

IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Summer 2021 edition of the Newsletter.

Nuala Mary Brigid Mitzi Macey-Dare	Former Parent	John Raeburn Smith	Former Parent
James Gerard Malone-Lee	OS 1960 - 1970	Paul Declan Gordon-Saker	OS 1954 - 1962
Bruce Kent	OS 1943 - 1946	John Kerry McGoldrick	OS 1986 - 1991
James Robert Anthony Hanratty	OS 1954 - 1964	Michael Brendan O'Maoileoin	OS 1982 - 1987
Matthew David Hugh Robinson	OS 1982 - 1988	Brigid Williams	Former Parent
Charles Chimwemwe Phiri	OS 1984 - 1989	David Mercer	Association Office Staff and Former Parent
Anthony Charles David O'Kelly Gardner	OS 1966 - 1971		Former Staff
Howard Anthony Woellwarth	Former Parent	Patricia Massey	OS 1947 - 1956
Paul Christopher Webster	OS 1955 - 1960	Bryan John Finnigan	OS 1981 - 1986
John Paul Chu	OS 1981 - 1985	John Russell Barton	Former Staff
Frederick Duncan Taylor	OS 1949 - 1958	Robert Frederick Sinclair	OS 1965 - 1973
Thomas John Metcalf	OS 1942 - 1948	Christopher Max Wenner	Former Headmaster
Barry Leonard Macey-Dare	Former Parent	Peter Anwyl	St Mary's Hall
John Simon De Freitas	OS 1950 - 1959		Former Rector of Stonyhurst
Denis Thomas Miles Brennan	OS 1956 - 1960	Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ	OS 1948 - 1954
Hubert Joseph Michael Croghan	OS 1943 - 1948	Michael Patrick McBrien	OS 1962 - 1972
John William Christopher Gidney	OS 1957 - 1964	Paul Julian Fox	OS 1964 - 1967
Clemens Capelle	Former Parent	Anthony Arthur Reid	
Joseph Stephen Armstrong	OS 1956 - 1965		

May they rest in peace.

MARTIN'S MOUNTAIN

BY NIK HARTLEY OBE, OS 89



"I want to turn an act of terror into good."

One amazing reason to scale the highest African mountain using a wheelchair.

In 2017 Martin Hibbert took his teenage daughter to her first ever concert – the Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena. That night they were the closest to the terrorist bomber not to lose their life; both suffered lifelong injuries – Martin, a 'complete' spinal cord injury, leaving him paralysed from the waist down.

In 2019, Martin met **Nik Hartley OBE OS 89** who had just taken up the reigns as CEO of the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) – a charity that Martin attributes with rebuilding his life and his family's life. They very quickly became friends. Nik asked Martin to apply to join the charity's Board and within a matter of a months they were scheming something that no one thought was possible, let alone sensible: Martin would set out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa – over 19,000 feet – in a specially designed wheelchair! Martin's aim

was "to turn an act of terror into something good for the charity that rebuilt my life." And for Nik it was to raise awareness of an often misunderstood condition, spinal cord injury, and to raise £1 million for the charity to be able to serve anyone anywhere in the country just as they had Martin and his family in the days and months after the bombing.

The challenge went viral and the BBC decided not only to take up the item in regular slots on their main news channels, but to go with Martin up the mountain, and create a film. The final ascent announced on the BBC with Nik on the sofa is an emotional moment and worth a watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6Jkl6KoKMU>. As Nik says towards the close – if they can reach £1 million they will be able to get a clinical and advocacy team member for newly injured people in every

region of the country. Nik told the public: "Too many people cannot even leave their home let alone get up a mountain, just because of the lack of carers, the lack of proper catheter or bowel-management advice, the lack of mental health support...this is not right in the UK in 2022." We agree. If you want to support the incredible #MartinsMountain appeal – please head to their Martin's Mountain Just Giving page: <https://martins-mountain.justgiving-sites.com/> At the time of writing they are over half way to the £1million. Let's get behind this amazing work.

Nik was interviewed recently on BBC Breakfast about #MartinsMountain. If you want more information or would like to join the celebration fundraising dinner on 8th of September at the Dorchester Hotel, please get in touch with Nik at n.hartley@spinal.co.uk



Nik speaks with Sally Nugent and Jon Kay on BBC Breakfast about Martin Hibbert's Kilimanjaro climb.

STONYHURST GREAT ACADEMIES PRIZE GIVING, 28TH MAY 2022

GUEST SPEAKER ROBERT BRINKLEY CMG, OS 72

Editor's note: This is an edited section of Robert's speech concerning Ukraine (Robert was the British Ambassador to the Ukraine), because many who were present commented on its excellence, emotion, conciseness and particularly its relevance to all of us, considering the world we now live in.

Headmaster, Reverend Father, Ladies and Gentlemen, pupils.

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. Congratulations to all who have received prizes today.

St John Henry Newman, the great English saint of the Victorian age, said:

"God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission; I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next."

I left Stonyhurst fifty years ago. One of my early memories was of Father Jock Earle, the rather formidable College Headmaster, coming to preach in the chapel at St Mary's Hall and telling us to ignore "the smell of bacon coming up the stairs"! They say that smells carry strong memories!

Another SMH chapel occasion which has stuck in my mind was a sermon on the theme of Our Lord's teaching in St Mark's gospel (chapter 13): "Stay awake! Stand ready! You know not the day nor the hour."

For a long time, I thought this was about death: none of us knows when we are going to die. But it is also about our lives, and how God plays a part in our lives. Not just in stories in the Bible. But here and now. Today I am going to tell you about one person that God intervened in his life. Of course, there are many, many others.

A very brave Ukrainian called Myroslav Marynovych helped me to understand that "you know not the day nor the hour" is about life as well as death. He was a founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, which used the Soviet agreement to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 to campaign for the Soviet authorities to uphold their human rights commitments. For this, Myroslav was arrested, tried and spent years in a prison camp and then in internal exile in Kazakhstan. He told me how in August 1977, on remand in his Kyiv prison cell, he had experienced a dramatic conversion, not unlike St Paul on the road to Damascus.

He describes in his memoir 'The Universe Behind Barbed Wire', how he had a vision of the earth and of humanity, and in Ukraine a large figure appeared – Christ. He writes: "I felt a terrific tension, and then suddenly a flash of light covered the entire globe. A strong jolt made me recoil, and as I closed my eyes, I lost consciousness." He was in a trance for three days. As a young man brought up in the atheist



Guest Speaker Robert Brinkley CMG OS 72

Soviet Union, "rather indifferent toward religion", he found that God was preparing a major shake-up in his life. Imprisonment and exile only strengthened his faith. He is now Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, where I met him.

"God has created me to do Him some definite service."

After 2014, when Russia illegally annexed Crimea and fomented conflict in Eastern Ukraine, I realized that there were not many people in the UK or the Western world who knew enough about the realities on the ground to see through Russia's propaganda and lies. I was invited to chair the Ukraine Forum at Chatham House and the Ukrainian Institute London, which is an affiliate of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Since then, I have helped to build networks of people who could tell the truth about Ukraine and Russia. As you know, since 24th February this year, Ukraine has been defending itself against naked and brutal Russian aggression. Now – unlike 2014 – there is a broad understanding in this country, and the west more widely, that Ukraine is defending itself in a just war. Indeed, it is the most clear-cut case of a just war in my lifetime. Please keep on praying for peace and

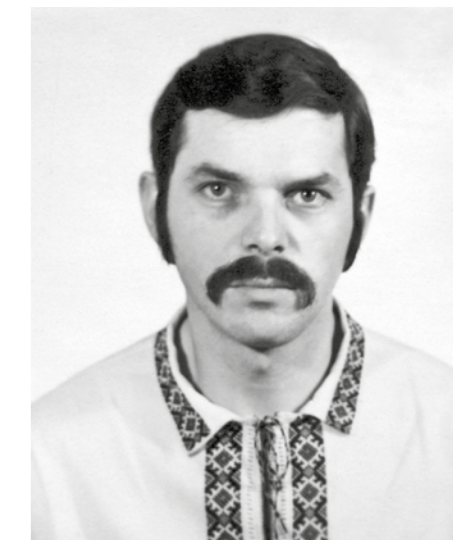
for Ukraine to be delivered from evil. The website of the Ukrainian Institute London suggests ways in which you could help. It offers practical information and advice for Ukrainian refugees and people hosting them in the UK.

In conclusion: for all of you who are about to leave Stonyhurst, I hope and trust you will take with you:

- A clear moral sense, able to discern right from wrong, good from evil.
- The ability to think for yourself, not simply relying on what others say.
- The courage to tell the truth, even when it is unpopular, unfashionable or lonely.

Remember that whatever you do in your life, God has created YOU to do Him some definite service.

So: "Stay awake! Stand ready! You know not the day nor the hour."



FROM BLACKBURN TO BLACK TIE

MY STONYHURST JOURNEY TO OXFORD MEDICINE

BY MATTHEW HOWARD OS 20

On the few occasions I gave speeches to parents at school, I always started with the anecdote that I only came to a Stonyhurst open day because I was promised a free lunch. This lunch was, as always from the ref staff, remarkably good; however, this is not the reason I chose to call Stonyhurst my home for the next two years.

I was mid cycle ride as I noticed Michael Hargreaves outside the Shireburn Arms the other month. Looking rather red faced and puffing harder than I would care to admit, I stopped to chat. As I cycled away smiling, I realised I had somehow wound up with an article to plan. I had agreed to write this piece for two reasons. First, Michael – being the lovely man he is – was very hard to refuse. Second, and more importantly, I owe a large part of my life to the readers of this newsletter.

I was fortunate enough to attend Stonyhurst with significant assistance from both a bursary and a scholarship, so I feel deeply indebted to you all for facilitating my education. I also feel equally obligated to show you (for lack of a better term) what you get for your money. Through my journey, I hope to illustrate just how much bursaries change lives – both during school and long after we leave. I had my first encounter with Stonyhurst in primary school, when SMH kindly invited some of the local schools to a Sports Day BBQ. Thanks to my Machiavellian, seven-year-old social skills, I quickly befriended a few kids from SMH and consequently declared that night when I got home:

“Mum, I want to change schools!”

“Why?”

“Because I made some friends, and they have a really cool playground.”

“Matthew, you’re not changing schools.”

I am not proud of the tantrum that ensued, nor do I claim that it was out of character at the time, but this one stood out because of how quickly it ended. As my mum attempted damage control, I could see her getting progressively more upset, culminating in a resigned “because we can’t afford it.”

I’m not going to pretend that my seven-year-old self immediately became aware of society’s inequalities because we all know that’s a load of rubbish. But what I did know was that “we can’t afford it” made my mum upset and that made me upset. I did not push the issue further.

Back to the end of secondary school and my friend invited me to an open day at Stonyhurst. Reluctance turned to mild excitement when dangled that most primal of motivators in front of me, free lunch. My preconceptions of school before this are perhaps best summed up in my hasty purchase of a sale price tweed jacket to wear for this open day. Despite being the subject of many a compliment from Mr Tim Hanley, as the open day progressed, I started to feel evermore ridiculous. I had totally misjudged this place. Sure, the halls were marble, and one could go shoot at lunchtimes, but I was made to feel more welcome here (ill-fitting tweed jacket considered) than I had ever felt before.

At the end of the day it was the SMH BBQ all over again. Feeling perhaps a bit too much self-pity I sat with my father across from Mr Hodgson. This time it was my dad’s turn to utter that fiscal phrase. In retrospect I do not know what we were expecting (security to come haul us off the premises?) but Mr Hodgson’s smile never wavered as he jovially walked us through the dates for the scholarship exams and bursary application.

The scholarship exams were a bit of a whirlwind. On topics from ethical organ donation to Shakespeare’s closet Catholicism I scribbled until I eventually found myself toe to toe with the headmaster in his office. Perhaps less nervously than I should have been I told Mr Browne of my



time as a chorister at Blackburn Cathedral blissfully unaware that the man I was speaking to had a rather broad grasp of choral music himself. I think in the end my interview was saved by sheer coincidence. When asked what my favourite anthem to sing was I immediately responded with C. H. Parry’s ‘I Was Glad’ when Mr Browne gleefully replied, “mine too!” Swivelling around his notes as proof where he had jotted his answer next to the question.

Receiving news of my successful scholarship was a great moment, but the news that my bursary application was approved a few weeks later was one of the defining moments of my life. Normally these realisations are only had in retrospect but at that moment I knew my life was about to change for the better; and so, it did. There followed some of the best two years (well one and two thirds given COVID). I gained so many great lifelong friends at Stonyhurst, made all the easier by my scholarship allowing me to weekly board. Whilst at school I got to do some incredible things from working in the Collections with **Joe Reed OS II** to beating Sedbergh in our annual shooting match. My time as a JUO in the CCF was particularly special to me as I got to bring my experience I had as a CSM in the Lancashire Army Cadets to school. I would be remiss if I did not pay brief tribute to the late RSM Clare who meant so much to me and so many others who had the good fortune of being in his life. We miss you sir.

By the end of Poetry, I found myself by the grace of my peers as Deputy Head of the Line. A humbling honour that unfortunately I had little time to take in as university applications were starting to loom. I had known for a good while I wanted to study medicine but how and where one would go about doing that were still abstract concepts to me. Here the full weight of Stonyhurst’s support was brought forth in



2020-2021 Committee

many beneficial ways. First of which was a trip to Oxbridge facilitated by Mr Tim Hanley (Wadham) and Mr David Leigh (Trinity, Cambridge). This trip was great fun and gave some tangible motivation to those who very rapidly became smitten with the idea of sitting in dusty libraries for the next few years. The next step (and arguably less easy one) was to equip us all with a fighting chance of both securing and succeeding in an interview. In this regard I was masterfully aided by the Editor of this newsletter, as well as Dr Victoria Withnell who both ran a fantastic interview workshop for prospective medics. Despite deciding to put a “newborn” on the floor during this exercise, when my real interviews for Oxford rolled around they went rather more smoothly.

The instances of my invitation to interview and offer were both rather frantic affairs. The first I received whilst suffering fever in the school health centre. Stumbling down the lower gallery slightly delirious in my dressing gown I went to tell Mr Hanley, who after giving me a congratulatory embrace (which given my flu one imagines he regrets) promptly told me to get back to bed. On the day I knew offers were sent out, the school’s internet was down. To call it an anxious morning would do an injustice to the sensation. I vividly remember being on my way to chemistry when I saw an email notification flash across my phone’s lockscreen – if only I could get a signal to actually open the email! Hoping for good news and that my chemistry teacher would forgive my lateness I ran to the window of the More Library to lean out and squeeze the last modicum of signal from the St Aloysius statue. The email opened. I was going to Oxford!



A matriculation punt

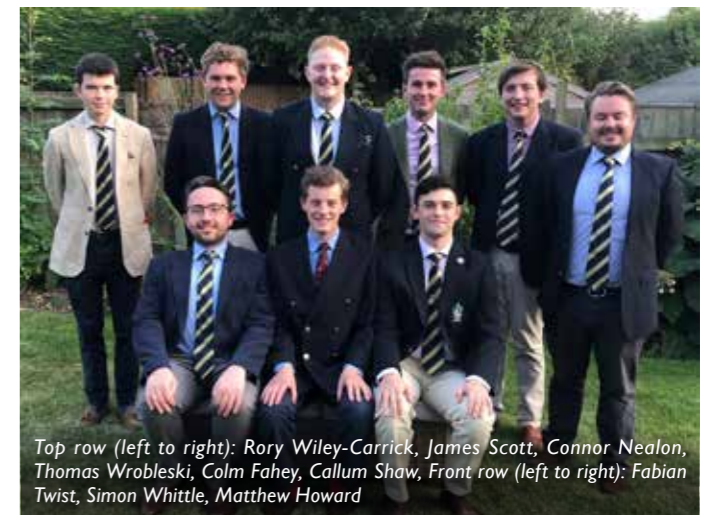
My two years thus far studying medicine at Hertford College, Oxford, have been wonderful. Amongst the scalpels and cadavers I even found time to manage the Hertford field hockey club to a victory in the “coppers” tournament. When one considers I had never (and still have never) played field hockey in my life the honorary nature of the manager title becomes clearer.

The presence of school is felt very much down in Oxford with **Fr Matthew Power SJ OS 79** at the Catholic Chaplaincy being a big aid in helping me settle in. A dinner held at Campion Hall to celebrate 100 years of OS at Oxford was a particular highlight shared with my



fellow OS, school staff and fellows of the hall. Aside from helping me get to Oxford the Stonyhurst community also still forms a reliable backbone of my social life.

The prestigious Stonyhurst Wanderers Croquet Division is perhaps the best example of this with many annual meet-ups dotted about the country for OS to partake in the great game and some drinks.



Top row (left to right): Rory Wiley-Carrick, James Scott, Connor Nealon, Thomas Wroblewski, Colm Fahey, Callum Shaw, Front row (left to right): Fabian Twist, Simon Whittle, Matthew Howard



I had planned to round off this article with thanks to all those who helped along my journey. When considered for more than a moment however the number to which I am indebted surpasses the printing budget of this magazine. Therefore I shall simply say this: thank you for helping me become as much as I can.

WELCOME TO THEODORE HOUSE

Once a corn mill built by the Jesuits to provide sustenance for the College community, Theodore House now stands on the Stonyhurst estate as a unique proposition for conferences, events, meetings and B&B stays.

Theodore House is the result of a complete and careful restoration of the 1840s site by The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst – an independent, Catholic, educational charity – as a study, retreat and conference venue. Architects Cassidy + Ashton secured the 2019 regional Building Excellence award from LABC for their work, which was opened in February 2019 by Lord Nicholas Windsor.

The Stonyhurst family needs no introduction to the beautiful and idyllic backdrop of the College's estate and the Ribble Valley beyond, but Theodore House offers a unique opportunity for accommodation and events literally on the College's doorstep.

Besides its use by the charity, Theodore House provides accommodation and a venue for external customers, and as such is of particular interest to anyone with connections to Stonyhurst.

24 ensuite bedrooms, with single or twin occupancy, and a comprehensive continental breakfast provide a fresh, modern and comfortable ambience for anyone wishing to stay on the Stonyhurst estate. Wi-Fi and complimentary tea/coffee facilities are all standard.

Theodore House's versatile facilities, together with a variety of catering options, make it ideal for a range of event types and sizes.

A spacious, modern and light-filled central atrium venue with excellent acoustics is complemented by two meeting rooms on either side. These offer a perfect space for a board meeting or small-scale event.

Whilst offering full sound-proofing and privacy, the partitions with the meeting rooms can be folded away to offer a much larger space for up to 150 persons, ideal for social events and receptions, as well as for conferences, lectures and PR launches. With all the necessary IT and audio-visual equipment, Wi-Fi, ample parking and onsite catering facilities, Theodore House is a flexible and ultramodern venue providing

a key element and stunning setting for the success of any event.

Theodore House has already proved itself an invaluable asset to the Stonyhurst community, hosting OS reunions, visiting schools, parents, student retreats and receptions, besides hosting a wide range of events for a growing userbase.

With its picturesque, peaceful location and its superb facilities, Theodore House is a perfect venue, be it for a quiet getaway, a corporate away day, a conference or a special reception.



For further details contact

E: bookings@theodorehouse.com

W: www.theodorehouse.com

T: 01254 827263

RIPON CITY OF SANCTUARY'S COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

BY RUTH FOULDS OS 15

I began volunteering for Ripon City of Sanctuary, part of the national City of Sanctuary refugee support network, in November 2020, and one of my first tasks was to research the Community Sponsorship scheme of refugee resettlement to see whether it was something our organisation could do.

I was really lucky that so many other Community Sponsorship groups around the country were willing to speak to me and offer their knowledge and advice about the scheme. Among those kind enough to chat to me was Catherine Crombie who headed up the Hummingbird Project, Stonyhurst's own Community Sponsorship project. I found out that if we could raise £9000, find housing for the family, get permission from our local authorities, and put together a detailed application for the Home Office to show that we have thought through how to support a refugee family, we would be able to resettle a family who have been selected for resettlement by the UNHCR.

I reported back to the Ripon City of Sanctuary committee and, once they had given their go-ahead, we launched the project in a public Zoom meeting on 7th April 2021, which over 70 people attended, including both the mayors of Ripon and Harrogate! The response to the launch was fantastic, with several people coming forward to join the main steering group. I was immensely privileged to be appointed Project Lead by the Chair of Ripon City of Sanctuary, and I put together a core steering group of 10 volunteers. Soon after this we partnered with a Leeds-based charity called Catholic Care who act as what's called our 'Lead Sponsor', taking the legal responsibility for the agreement with the Home Office, and offering us support and training.

Our first task was fundraising and, remarkably, although we had intended to appoint a specific Fundraising Lead for the group and actually never managed to, we had absolutely no problem raising the required £9000 (and even the larger £12,000 target we had set for ourselves based on the advice of other groups). The only fundraising event we organised as a group was a sponsored walk of the historic Ripon Sanctuary Way, the message of which fitted so well with the project, but the majority



of the fundraising came from individual donations or sponsored events organised by our supporters.

For example, one local primary school organised a sponsored walk around their playground and a guess-how-many-sweets-in-the-jar competition and managed to raise £1500 for us.

We knew from the outset that finding housing would be challenging, and this has been a particularly rocky part of our journey!

We found what seemed like an ideal 3-bed flat near the centre of Ripon, with a supportive landlord who could rent to the family at the Local Housing Allowance rate, and their tenants happened to be moving so it seemed like it was meant to be – nothing is ever so simple! After requesting a property check from the local police station (which is a requirement for the application) we were informed that they would not be able to approve the location of the property due to security concerns, and we weren't given a huge amount more detail than that!

We were back to the drawing board but Matt, our Housing Lead, put a call out on a local Facebook group for any landlords who might have a 2- or 3-bed property coming up for rent in the next 6 months. Within 10 days we had a new supportive landlord signed up to the project, who could provide us with a newly refurbished 3-bedroom house for rent at the Local Housing Allowance rate. Since then, we have collectively spent hours trawling through Facebook Marketplace and local bargain stores looking for affordable furniture and items to furnish the house. Again, the local community have been so generous. Often, when collecting something we have purchased off Facebook Marketplace, if we mention what it is for they will insist we take it for free. Recently, we needed someone to help us shift some furniture so we hired a local removal service and when we explained what the furniture was for, they wouldn't take any payment.

Since November we have been putting together our full application. There are different sections to this such as, 'How will you support the adult members of the family access at least 8 hours of accredited ESOL

[English lessons] provision a week?' and 'Which local schools have spaces available and in which year groups?'. These details show that we have researched and thought through how we will support the family, but also helps the Home Office match us with a suitable family once we are approved.

We submitted our full application to the Home Office in February of this year, and I was invited to a pre-approval meeting with the Home Office in March. I'm proud to say that the Home Office representative described our application as 'practically perfect', and we received full approval within a matter of weeks.

In the past few days I have been given the details of the family we have been matched with, and as I am writing this, we expect to welcome them to Ripon

I'm delighted to announce that we have since made the decision to make a second Community Sponsorship application, since we have raised the required funds and have a second supportive landlord offering a home.



Sponsored walk to raise funds for the project



The Group at a Christmas meeting

FROM KYIV TO PORT ST MARY

BY BRENDAN O'FRIEL OS 60

Brendan and Barbara O'Friel are hosting a Ukrainian family in the Isle of Man. This is the story of the challenges and difficulties of our family's journey from Kyiv to our Flat in Port St Mary – and the part played by members of the Stonyhurst Association.

PART ONE – THE JOURNEY

In 2018 there was a debate about accepting Syrian Refugees onto the Island which resulted in a decision not to take any – although the Island made a large financial contribution towards refugee relief.

In 2022, following substantial changes to the political leadership on the Island, the response to the Ukraine refugee crisis was very different. The Island's Government agreed to set up a 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme in March 2022 and invited Manx residents to open their homes to refugees.

For some 15 years, we had owned a "holiday flat" on Port St Mary Promenade used largely for our visiting friends and relatives. It seemed to us that this could be ideal for a refugee family. The flat had a large 'attic' bedroom – much loved by grandchildren – so could take a family with several children. We applied to the Manx Government to have the flat inspected – it was quickly accepted and I was subjected to yet another DBS check. By mid-April we were wondering how we could find a suitable family. We thought it most unlikely that any one in Ukraine would have heard of the Island and – if they had – it would appear to be a very long way away. Our son **Francis OS 88** – living in Devon – kindly took charge of searching on Facebook – a task well beyond me!

Meanwhile 'our' family living in Kyiv decided in mid-April that they had to leave Ukraine for the future of their three small children. The Government of Ukraine allowed the fathers of families with three or more children to leave the country.

So, our family loaded up their car – and a roof box – with a few possessions and headed for the Polish border. Once across the border they started looking for hosts. They had a contact in the Isle of Man who posted their details on the Manx/Ukraine Facebook and Francis spotted the post and alerted me to the possibility of us having found our family.

We agreed that we would host the family and started on the visa process. Francis did a magnificent job in getting these completed and in to the Home Office by April 25th. We settled down to wait for a result. On Island the local Ukraine community – a group I had been totally unaware of – set up a great networking opportunity at a coffee morning/lunch event in a Church Hall at St John's. We learned that there were some twenty-five well established Ukraine residents on Island and about thirty refugees had arrived – many to join families under the family scheme. We met lots of people – including key organisers within the Ukrainian Manx community – which proved very important over the following weeks.



The visas finally came through for the children late on 30th May. The parents' 'permission to travel' appeared a few days before. It was very difficult to find out how long visas might take to materialise – there was a suggestion of 10 days – but 36 days seemed a very, very long time. Needless to say we brought what pressure we could to speed up the process.

Our family meantime had moved to Warsaw and found temporary accommodation in an office block – certainly far from ideal with 3 children under 11. Communicating with them was difficult as they had limited English – but Google Translate and similar devices helped us all to get messages across. Getting the family and the car from Warsaw to Port St Mary was a challenge. The lengthy visa delays meant that the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company was in the middle of its annual peak of transporting over 10,000 bikes to the Island for the TT Races. There was no spare capacity for our family.

But first they had to reach the UK. Stena line – Hook of Holland to Harwich – offered free daytime passage for refugee families – and their vehicle. But no bookings could be made until the visas were available. On Tuesday 31st Stena told us that they had no room after Thursday 2nd – because of peak holiday traffic. So there was a frantic scramble to encourage the family to start driving across Europe to Hook of Holland for the 14:00 sailing to Harwich on 2nd June. Earlier in May, I had decided that we needed to try and seek broader help with the task of getting our family safely to the Isle of Man. We were uncertain as to their financial position – but we knew they were living on their savings and on charitable support from their Polish hosts.

On 5th May the Stonyhurst Association circulated an email explaining the problems. Essentially, we wanted support for our family "on their journey". The response was remarkable, speedy and effective.

It enabled us to put in place free accommodation for the family on their journey. Offers of accommodation in homes; provision of a free stay in a Rotterdam Hotel; offers to guide our family in unfamiliar places and offers of financial support all quickly appeared. This was especially helpful as ferry congestion caused by the peak TT Race traffic meant they had to wait for additional nights in North West England. The family set off from Warsaw on 31st May with 2 overnight stops and arrived safely for the Stena Line crossing on June 2nd. After a night in Harwich, they travelled up to Lymn in North Cheshire to stay for 3 nights in an apartment.

This enabled my daughter Mary to visit them – the first direct contact with our family. We received our first pictures of the family and Mary was able to tell us how they were coping with English speaking.

Meanwhile on Island, we had appealed for support for our family in our parish newsletter and – by talking about our plans with members of our local community – preparing the way for the arrival of our family. Gifts started to arrive in our porch – a child's bike and scooter



for example. Meanwhile the Manx Ukrainian Group were collecting children's clothes and bringing them down to our flat.

On Monday 6th June the family were booked on to the 18:15 sailing from Liverpool Pierhead to the Island on the fast craft Manannan. The ferry was very full with hundreds of TT bikers. When they arrived at the Pierhead, there was an issue about their roof box and the head room on Manannan – but the staff were great and solved the problem quickly, removed the box, transported it on the ferry's luggage wagon and restored it to the car's roof in Douglas.

At 21:00, I was waiting for their arrival at the sea terminal in Douglas with Karolina Davison, a Ukrainian who had married on the Island and a great networker for the local Ukraine community. Much frantic waving when they finally appeared – the roof box was very useful for identifying their car! Karolina was able to greet them in their native tongue and demonstrate that they were joining an established community. Then we set off for Port St Mary and installed the family safely into our flat about 10:30. So, despite the difficulties and obstacles, our family are safely in Port St Mary. The two shipping companies were helpful. The successful outcome was the result of the combination of the support of the Stonyhurst Association with our family in anticipating and overcoming problems.

To see three small children from Kyiv running down Chapel Beach into the Irish Sea at Port St Mary on June 7th – a lovely hot day – was a small indication of how our combined efforts have produced a very worthwhile result.

In Part Two – Brendan O'Friel will provide an update on how the family are settling into Island life. Readers may be interested in the link to an ongoing fundraising effort for essentials for our Ukraine family:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/adrian-shaw-123?utm_term=dxaN7KDM5



LIFE IN CHAPTERS

BY PHILIP ANDERSON OS 72



When I left Stonyhurst in 1972, I felt well prepared for the adventures of life beyond the constraints of boarding school. I was to discover Stonyhurst had strengthened my determination, resilience and ability to persevere regardless of challenges.

I met Philippa at a school dance in 1970, and we married in 1976, having both done Business degrees, she at Manchester Poly and me at Leicester Poly. We started married and working life in London. I joined BUPA as their

first graduate employee, where I was given many opportunities to quickly progress to senior management. After a couple of years in Singapore, where I was CEO of a joint venture of a group of small insurance companies, I returned to the UK and joined the board of the BUPA insurance business.

In 1992, I left BUPA and co-founded consulting and software development businesses. After exiting in 2005, I have been a senior executive coach, and facilitator in the development of business leadership teams, and in assessing strategically important intercompany business relationships. For over 20 years I worked in the criminal justice sector, on a pro bono basis, mentoring members of the leadership team in charities supporting young adults caught up in criminality. I have never felt hugely ambitious, and have been mostly driven by my interest in people and different cultures. I have had the good fortune of working with clients across Europe, the US, Mexico, China and India, which I particularly enjoyed. None of this has been as important to Philippa and me as the

joy of our four daughters, three sons-in-law, and now five grandchildren. We have been truly blessed. But little did I know, lurking inside me was the catalyst for life-changing adventures.

Still me

When something is clearly not right with your health – for me it was noticeable muscle wasting and occasional sudden falls – it is human nature to want to know the cause and underlying condition, and then to be told how it can be cured. I was to discover it is not as simple as that. In 2014, my GP referred me to a local rheumatologist who quickly became convinced I had MND (motor neurone disease). If there was anything certain in Philippa's and my minds, it was that this was impossible – 'This doesn't happen to people like us, he must be mistaken' – and we were determined to prove it.

I was referred to a neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square, London, and over the next five years, I had numerous scans, blood tests, a muscle biopsy taken from an upper arm for analysis, a heart operation, drug infusions and immunotherapies, during a dozen inpatient stays in specialist units in four different hospitals in London.

When it became clear it was not going to be safe for me to navigate stairs, because I was losing the use of my legs, my wife and I decided we would continue to live in our house but needed to adapt downstairs. Anticipating my need to use a wheelchair, doors were widened, carpets removed, and wooden floorboards laid. Our sitting room was adapted into my living/bedroom and adjoining wet room, with all the equipment needed to manage my care.

At the beginning of 2016 I 'moved in' or, depending how you look at it, moved out of my life upstairs. When I was alone in the house, I remember going upstairs, very cautiously using a walking stick and clinging to the stair banisters, for one last look around. I looked in

each room, opened every cupboard, looked at our books on multiple bookshelves, pictures on the wall, playing out in my mind family memories from the previous 25 years we had lived there.

Most poignantly, I spent time in our bedroom, taking in every detail. And then I stood at the window looking out over the garden I helped create and manage, in the knowledge this was the last time I would have this view. Every now and again I look at the pictures I took of the garden with a mixture of delight and deep sadness. Now, when I am in our hallway, I occasionally look at the stairs and think it's extraordinary I was ever able to climb them.



In view of world events, I feel embarrassed I ever felt sorry for myself and allowed myself to imagine I was like a refugee. I have not had to flee home abandoning everything other than a few possessions I can carry.

The good news is I do not have motor neurone disease. The bad news, after ten possible diagnoses, like 25-30% of all those with neurological conditions and muscular dystrophies, I have a condition which does not fully match a currently named condition. It is treatment refractory, and has developed into a rapidly progressive, degenerative, muscle wasting condition. Ironically, now akin to MND. I have lost use of my legs and my arms, I cannot eat (I have recently had a feeding tube inserted into my abdomen) and have a full-time carer. And I have banked my voice so a computer version will help me communicate if I lose my ability to speak.



What has not changed is my insatiable zest for life. I am determined my disability should not define me. If I was a book, the jacket has been removed, or changed. It's still the same book. If it were an autobiography, a new chapter is being written living with a chronic, debilitating condition. It is still about me.

My main concern, when it became clear I have a life-changing condition, was how my relationship with my family and close friends might be affected. I remember saying to my children, "the hardest thing for me would be if you regard and treat me differently to the way you have in the past". I may lose physical presence, but it does not make me a different person. It will always be the same me, still telling dad-jokes, even as my body and strength diminishes.

I need not have worried. Philippa, our family, my siblings, and stalwart friends have been wonderful. When OS contemporaries became aware of my situation, I have been overwhelmed by their kindness and encouragement. It is remarkable that more than 50 years after we left, when email and mobile phones were the stuff of science fiction, so many have reconnected and picked up the thread of our friendships as if it were just a year or two since we were last together.

Repurposed

Among other things, when I retired, I planned to write books. My condition and 'hate-hate' relationship with voice recognition software and other assistive technologies has put that out of reach. However, at the end of 2019, Frances Leckie the editor of Independent Living (the UK-based web platform which provides valuable information about products and services to help with daily living, mobility, and independence) asked me if I would write articles, which are hosted on her site.

Since then, my articles and poems have become an important part of my self-care. They explore aspects of life relevant to everyone, such as hope, touch, love, memories, patience, altruism, coming to terms with who you are, adversity and being mortal. They have connected me with hundreds of people, able-bodied and others with health issues, all over the world. Though exiled from the life I once knew, I do not feel alone.

You can find my articles, which include some of my poems, at www.independentlyliving.co.uk/philip-anderson. You are very welcome to leave comments. As you will see, you will be in the good company of other OS.

I have the privilege of seeing what matters in life from a new perspective. It is as if I was seeing life through a veil, separated from its essence. The veil has been lifted. I have learnt to focus on what really matters. The consequences of my condition expose me to unimaginable challenges and unwelcome experiences. Yet, they deepen my sense of self, and revealed a new path for me to follow. Repurposed, with my personality intact, positive, curious, determined, able to see the humour in my situation, and strengthened by my family, friends and faith.

As I wrote in my poem Good Fortune, included in my article 'How lucky are you?':

I am still alive and loved.

How fortunate am I!

You can learn more about Philip's life from the interview he had with Paul Sloane for his podcast series on 'Influences, turning points and lessons from the lives of some interesting people', available on Spotify, Google podcasts <https://bit.ly/3v0FiVW4> and on Apple podcasts <https://apple.co/3Bnu6XN>



A PERSONS FELLOW 2021-2022

BY WILLIAM JOLLEYS OS 16



For three months between October 2021 and January 2022, I worked as the Robert Persons Fellow in the archives of the Venerable English College, Rome, in what was the first overseas iteration of the Fellowship since its inception in 2010, having graduated in History from the University of Edinburgh in the Summer of 2021.

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to use my degree and gain experience of working in the heritage sector by learning about English and Welsh Catholic history though its material culture.

Aside from the chance to live and work in the ancient centre of Rome, with its rich architecture, museums and of course, food, the fellowship has allowed me to strengthen and renew my friendship with the English College community, who had welcomed me twice previously to their archives as an intern.

Under the astute tutelage of the archive director, Professor Maurice Whitehead, I began the construction of a 'virtual library' for the archive website with the aim of enabling academics to access digitised copies of key Catholic history books, journals, and reference material already contained in the archive library.

This initiative forms part of a wider strategy to make the VEC the home of a historical institute for English and Welsh Catholic history. The proposed institute will seek to collaborate with archives and libraries across England and Wales to centralise, preserve and promote material relevant to the history of Catholicism in England and Wales which is currently scattered, under threat of destruction, or inaccessible to scholars. The demand for such an institute was manifest; during my short time in Rome, Professor Whitehead and I hosted two dozen visitors, from PhD candidates and diplomats to priests and even two members of the Italian Tolkien Society! These visits made each day varied and illustrated the potential utility and benefits that a historical institute based at the VEC could have, not only for the College but for also for Catholic heritage institutions across the UK.

In parallel with the virtual library, the fellowship saw me involved in a myriad of other projects. I conducted research into the origins of The Venerable, the College's annual magazine, to assist the editor in publishing its centenary edition later in 2022, created inventories and reports on items in need of urgent restoration, and hosted visitors, alumni, and academics wishing to see the collections of the oldest English institution outside England. Additionally, Professor Whitehead and I were fortunate to travel to other archives, both in Rome and further afield, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of archival science and how its implementation differs according to each institution's unique history. On a visit to the General House of the White Fathers via Aurelia, I was fascinated by their large collection of 19th-century photographs taken by the first Christian missionaries to venture into North Africa. Similarly, just outside Florence, I was impressed to learn of the careful restoration techniques used by the Benedictine nuns of Santa Maria at Rosano to restore decaying manuscripts. These visits demonstrated how different types of archival material pose various challenges in terms of storage, preservation, and restoration, as well as illustrating the value of inter-archival relationships.

Beyond the immediate academic scope of the fellowship, I was privileged and delighted to be made so welcome by both the staff and seminarians of the College, who encouraged me to participate in and engage with their community.

Two highlights include celebrating on 1st of December the Feast of Martyrs' Day (known to OS as Campion Day) and representing the College in the annual 5-a-side inter-seminary football tournament. Both these occasions afforded me the opportunity to meet the men and women who work and study in the College, to listen to their stories, and subject them to my woeful Italian! In this regard, the fellowship provided a fantastic opportunity not only to deepen one's appreciation of the College's long and colourful history, but also

to gain some understanding of its current role and trajectory.

Added to this, whilst reading the correspondence of Robert Cecil, spymaster to Elizabeth I and James I, Professor Whitehead deduced that Fr. Robert Persons (Rector of the Venerable College from 1598 until his death in 1610) must have used a secret tunnel to come and go from the property without alerting Cecil's spies. Upon further inspection of the College crypt, a blocked-up doorway appeared to verify as much. As I departed Rome, Professor Whitehead was liaising with specialists to unblock the doorway and discover whether Fr Person's tunnel leads: hopefully this will be revealed in time for the next Persons Fellow's tenure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Whitehead and the Venerable English College community for hosting me in their archives and making me welcome in their community. Thanks must also go to Jan Graffius for doing much of the legwork in setting up the Fellowship, especially given the added logistics of travelling during a pandemic. I am also indebted to the Stonyhurst Association for providing the funds to give me what has been a truly wonderful opportunity. Between Stonyhurst and the English College, the Persons Fellowship is in good hands and I wish the next incumbent fellow all the best in their endeavours.



CURATOR'S NEWS

BY HATTY MAGILL OS 15, THE CURRENT PERSONS FELLOW

This summer a beautiful and spectacular wild garden is blooming between the Jesuit gardens and the beautiful meadows of Hall Barn Farm. This new creation has literal roots in English Catholic, and Stonyhurst, history.

The concept of the English wild garden dates back to the reign of Henry VIII. These gardens were, of course, not really wild at all, but were artificially contrived plantings, designed to prompt spiritual and philosophical inspiration.

The embroidered hay meadow, as such wild gardens were known, employed a range of planting mixes to achieve a mixture of wildflowers growing 'naturally' through the grasses, including cowslips, primroses, fritillaries, chamomile, wild strawberries, ragged-robins, wild hyacinths, violets, dogroses, woodbine, rosemary, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, selfheal, oxeye daisy, common sorrel, field scabious, hoary plantain, greater and common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, meadow buttercup, ribwort plantain, wild carrot, yarrow, wild grasses, such as bents, fescues and crested dog's-tail, red clover, honeysuckle and eglantine.

An embroidered meadow has now been recreated in the medieval field known as Little Stonyhurst. The clairvoyee at the far end of the Stonyhurst Jesuit gardens is a wood, stone and ironwork screen which divides the formal gardens from the more natural vista or view beyond. It was laid out by Nicholas Shireburn in the late 17th century and consists of wooden barley twist poles, fixed between stone plinths adorned with formal carvings of pineapples.

The pineapple was regarded as a symbol of lavish hospitality. The clairvoyee stretched between the two summerhouses, built in 1705, which were used to provide shelter from sun and rain and also as places where elegant sweets, candied fruits and wines could be enjoyed by the family and guests at the end of their walk in the gardens. The spectacular view from the formal gardens through the clairvoyee over the embroidered haymeadow to the 14th century barn, and beyond it to the fells and Pendle would have been regarded as a wild and thrilling finale.

The embroidered meadow was composed of a carefully sown mixture of wild grasses and flowers which was allowed to grow until the early summer, when a scythed path was cut through, allowing the 17th century Shireburn family members to walk, enjoying the wildness on all sides, without wetting their shoes or expensive dress fabrics. Part of the pleasure of the wilderness lay in the scents of flowers, the noise of bees and birdsong, which were soothing to the soul, as described in Lydia Melford's rhapsody on the Clifton Downs in 1750:

The ground enamelled with daisies, and primroses, and cowslips; all the trees bursting into leaves, and the hedges already clothed with their vernal livery; the mountains covered with flocks of sheep, and tender bleating wanton lambkins playing, frisking, and skipping from side to side; the groves resound with the notes of blackbird, thrush, and linnnet; and all night long sweet Philomel pours forth her ravishingly delightful song.

In Catholic hands, these meadows took on a deeper symbolism. Sodality meditation gardens were a keystone of the silent interior

spiritual life adopted by Catholics in penal times and advocated by Jesuit writers such as Robert Southwell and Louis Richeome in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. These Catholic gardens were planted with flowers and plants that had additional symbolic and secret meanings relating to Mary's virtues, the road to Calvary, and supporting the Ignatian composition of place in the spiritual exercises, referencing the Jesuit missions abroad through the use of imported plants and seeds, while providing solace and comfort to a beleaguered community through beauty, the scent of plants and the sound of birds and insects.

It is no coincidence that many 17th century English recusant vestments employ floral symbolism alongside Jesuit metaphors to express the hidden faith of these communities. The work of Helena Wintour and the numerous floral vestments which have survived from St Omers reflect the significance of English Catholic gardens, using plants and flowers to support interior meditation.

The St Omers Lamb vestment illustrated below has golden embroidered borders, which represent clipped box hedges, containing a



variety of spectacular flowers, such as tulips, carnations and roses, surrounding a central image of the Lamb of the Apocalypse. It is a physical embodiment of the embroidered formal garden which was widely used in Catholic circles in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Jesuits saw the possibilities of devising gardens as a physical, meditative composition of place, involving symbolic planting to reflect spiritual themes, and included exotic trees, shrubs and flowers to call to mind the order's new mission fields in the Americas, Asia and Africa. The colours, scents, sounds, tactile and taste sensations provided by these gardens were prompts essential to Jesuit spirituality, transforming the garden into a vibrant and inspirational space for religious exercises.

For English recusants living in isolation amid state hostility, the Jesuit garden provided a way for otherwise powerless Catholics to bring

a seemingly chaotic and frightening external world under their control, and to gain access to the divine messages that they felt God had written into the landscapes of the world.



In these symbolically planted gardens recusants could make daily and meaningful contact with God, Christ, the Virgin Mary, the angels, saints and martyrs, drawing on their spiritual support and affirmation, without stepping outside the boundaries of their own property.

The newly restored planting of the Stonyhurst embroidered meadow has been chosen to attract bees and birds, in keeping with the ideal 17th century sodality garden – full of the scents and colours of flowers, resonating with the sounds of bees, insects and birds. The sights, sounds, scents and tactile experience of such a garden reflects the engagement of the senses in the spiritual exercises.

The embroidered meadow project has been planned to be sustainable and is in keeping with the principles of *Laudato si'*, encouraging regeneration of nature and supporting a mixed ecology.

The Stonyhurst embroidered meadow has been created thanks to many hours of skilled labour from the College's grounds staff under the expert supervision of Andrew Oddie, and the careful guidance of Catherine Crombie and the Chaplaincy Team. It is hoped that it will flourish, literally and spiritually, in years to come, and will provide hours of spiritual refreshment for the College's pupils and staff, as well as a natural resource for birds, bees and insects.



ARCHIVES UPDATE

THE STONYHURST PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

BY JOE REED OS II – COLLEGE ARCHIVES MANAGER

Since the last article (beyond the ever-increasing enquiries, educational work, and research visits) my focus has moved away from improved listing of the older manuscripts of the Muniments Room and towards the photographic archive. The collection houses many thousands of photographs and plate negatives from the 1850s to the 1990s, which have never been comprehensively listed or arranged. This archive of images records people and locations, both at Stonyhurst and further afield. Some are loose or pasted into albums, some mounted with (contemporary or later) named inscriptions.

Following a generous donation from **Dr Francis Sheng OS 74** to re-house the photographic collection, the first photographs have begun to be placed into their new conservation enclosures. This will help to ensure their preservation for many more decades to come.

I've prioritised the large mounted group photographs, given the greater risks to their safety, challenges in housing such large images, and to better preserve the wealth of information they contain. The main subjects include the Philosophers (1895-1915), OCT (1900-1918), Junior Cadets (1905-1918), Orchestra (1888-1900 with gaps), and Choir (1880s-c.1910 with gaps). The mounts contain the names of all sitters, which is a remarkable gift to be able to attach faces to names.

Alongside this practical work to preserve the items, one of our stalwart team of volunteers, Felicia Verner (who many OS will remember from her time as an English teacher at Stonyhurst in the years around 2000) has completed a digital listing of the portrait photographs, mostly held in small bound albums.

Felicia has now moved on to listing the names on the large photographs mentioned above. Once complete, Felicia's work will create the first searchable list of images of Stonyhurst individuals, spanning (roughly) the second half of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. Before long, it will be possible to supply images of individuals to enquirers, alongside the information they seek about them from the Archives.

There have been a few discoveries made along the way. These include photographs of the young Aiden Liddell VC in the Choir Orchestra in 1903. Below: Liddell is in the centre of the back row, holding his flute.



Above: Cadet Fife and Drum Band, 1901. Aiden Liddell VC is seated immediately to the left of Drum-Sergeant Taylor, appearing to stifle laughter at something.



Among the portrait photographs we've also come across a photo of Arthur Conan Doyle's closest school friend, James Ryan when at Stonyhurst. Photographs of individual pupils from the 1870s are very rare indeed, and this image comes from a small series of some boys each posing with their cricket bats.



In addition, we've also come across a very rare photograph of the 1858 cricket team, titled 'The Guns of the S.C.C.'

This has already been able to support other work, by providing lists of images of the Philosophers to a pupil volunteer project. Emilia and Elena, in Poetry, have spent much of this year collating a list of the Stonyhurst Philosophers who fought in WWI, and who may have gone unrecorded here on account of fighting on 'the other side'. By the end of the academic year, they were able to identify more than a dozen Philosophers who served in other forces. Perhaps more significantly, they have discovered two OS who were killed fighting in the forces of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires, and thus have gone unremarked at Stonyhurst. Emilia and Elena were able to find images of both young men at Stonyhurst. The eventual aim is to make more materials accessible and searchable online, and this progress is essential preparation.

EASTER RETREAT



It was wonderful, after a 2-year forced break, to welcome almost 200 retreatants to Stonyhurst for the retreat this year. Fr Tim Curtis SJ and Catherine Crombie, our Director of Christian Formation led the programme, which included speakers Austen Ivereigh and **Paul Chitnis OS 79**. **Fr Donal Godfrey OS 77** and **Fr Philip Edean SJ OS 73** were amongst the Jesuits present.

We were blessed with sunshine, which helped to foster the spirit of a happy and spiritual family retreat. After the Easter Vigil, retreatants enjoyed a drinks party hosted by the Stonyhurst Association.



BY DR ROBIN MELLOWS

Three years ago, in March 2019, a group of about 35 Pilgrims associated with Stonyhurst made their Pilgrimage from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino Francais.



It was such an experience that a second Pilgrimage was planned a year later, from Tui to Santiago along the Camino Portuguese. Little did we know what was coming! Less than 2 weeks before we were due to depart, the decision was made to cancel. A week before we should have left, the country went into lockdown. We really had no idea what was coming next – there was a plan to reschedule for 6 months later – little did we know! Finally, almost exactly 2 years after we originally had planned to return to the Camino, a group of 11 set off to start the Pilgrimage.

Airline tickets were easy to buy. Although COVID restrictions on travel had been lifted, there was confusing advice about what evidence of immunisation needed to be uploaded and where. And there was a totally baffling Passenger Locator Form to fill in. But

we all made it to Porto airport – and thence to Tui to start walking.

Walking through Galicia to approach Santiago from the South was just as green and beautiful as it had been from the East, although if anything we found ourselves spending a greater proportion of our time walking alongside roads and through towns and industrial areas than we did three years ago. That is the origin of one of the important lessons that you learn from your Pilgrimage. Your surroundings may vary, but your Pilgrimage does not.

You still have your fellow pilgrims around you – those you knew before you started and those you meet along the way. You are still welcomed and offered hospitality by the people along the route wherever it is taking you. It is like life – you walk everywhere with Christ at your side wherever you are and whether you realise at the time or not.



Arrival in Santiago brings a feeling of peace and a journey completed – but also of readiness to start out on the next one. It did not matter that it was not the first arrival in Santiago for most of us – the feeling was the same as before, just as the Camino had been the same this time.



Since we were last in Santiago the cathedral had been restored – it had been closed for over a year – and was resplendent in its ancient glory. We attended the Pilgrim Mass – not all the same one – but we all were present to see the Botafumeiro spreading clouds of incense. It is an emotional experience that we share with countless pilgrims over many centuries.

Arriving back home after the Pilgrimage is always a bittersweet experience. The next morning when you first open the door to your house to go outside, the scent of the cool fresh air makes you feel that it is time to pull on your boots and start walking. You miss



the Camino. But strength comes from the feeling that you have completed one journey refreshed and ready to start the next. You can face whatever is ahead.

You are actually still on your Pilgrimage. Christ still walks with you.



STONYHURST CENTENARY OF RUGBY

Rugby at Stonyhurst lies at the heart of our sporting heritage and 2021/2022 marked our first Centenary of Rugby. To celebrate this anniversary, we have redeveloped our rugby facilities with particular focus on Smithfield, where we have built a distinctive new pavilion. The pavilion, which overlooks the beautiful views of the Ribble Valley, has been named 'The Gibraltar Pavilion' in recognition of the cornerstone funding provided by our Stonyhurst Gibraltar community. This funding was supported by the 'Captains' Campaign', led by our historic 1st XV Captains, allowing us to complete the interior and exterior features of the Pavilion, as well as provide new rugby equipment.

After a year of all things rugby and numerous match wins, including successes against our sporting rivals Ampleforth and taking the cup at the Stonyhurst Rugby 7s, we brought our Centenary of Rugby to a close with our Decades Tournament and Gala Dinner.

On 3rd June, we welcomed many members of the Stonyhurst community to Smithfield for the blessing and official opening of the pavilion. Fr Tim Curtis SJ, Fr Michael Bossy SJ and **Fr Donal Godfrey SJ OS 77** blessed the pavilion before we heard from two rugby (and Stonyhurst rugby) legends, Richard Greenwood OBE and Brian Ashton MBE. The ribbon was cut, and The Gibraltar Pavilion was officially opened!



As the clapping died down, our OS teams took to the field. Smithfield and Cemetery Field were busy throughout the day with members of the Stonyhurst family watching matches on both fields whilst enjoying a variety of food options from local artisan stalls.



It was an exciting day, with an electric atmosphere capturing the essence of the renowned and much loved Stonyhurst 7s.

When the final whistle blew it was OS 20 who took the win, just edging out OS 19.

Celebrations continued long into the evening when 470 guests attended our Gala Dinner. This included a panel with our rugby internationals **Barry O'Driscoll OS 60**, **John O'Driscoll OS 71**, **Kevin Barrett OS 98** and **Joe Ansbro OS 04** plus live music, fireworks, and the opportunity to catch up with old friends.



This dinner was the largest school event held at Stonyhurst since the Centenaries Ball in 1993/94.



It was wonderful to see generations of the Stonyhurst family enjoying themselves whilst celebrating the past, present and future of Stonyhurst rugby.

The majority of the fundraising proceeds from this event will support the completion of the new pavilion and facilities on Smithfield and a portion will support the 2022 Stonyhurst Rugby Tour of South Africa.

On Saturday 4th June, the Centenary events drew to a close with Mass in St Peter's. Fr Tim SJ, the Principal Celebrant, was joined by **Fr Donal Godfrey SJ OS 77** and Fr Michael Bossy SJ. Fr Donal perfectly summed up not only the weekend, but our Centenary year and the hard work from so many to make it possible: "Pope Francis said to visiting rugby teams in the Vatican that rugby is about belonging – it marks the personal and collective memory, having the capacity to unite people, transcending language, race, religion, and ideology. The need for others, Pope Francis said, includes not only teammates, but managers, coaches, supporters, the family, groundskeepers, all whose dedication make it possible to give the best of oneself."



Hearing our OS sing the Pater Noster with such passion and gusto seemed a very appropriate way to end a weekend celebrating with the Stonyhurst Family.

Particular thanks go out to our Maintenance, Domestic, Security, and Estates Teams and to those that volunteered at the Gala Dinner; including Claire and Mark Ashworth, Paul Cooke, Ruth Crossley, Michael Hargreaves, Yvette Luker, **Alice Charles OS 21** and **Amelia Mastrobuoni OS 21**.

Special thanks must go to Steve Whitford for laying so many tables, and to Zoe Livingstone and Layla Heaton who helped on the day,

during the evening and in the days leading up to the weekend. Never faltering – no matter the task.

Of course, we cannot forget Beverley Sillitoe who helped organise, run and work this event with us from day one and Tim Hanley whose inspired vision for the tournament and Gala Dinner provided the opportunity to bring the Stonyhurst community together in celebration.

Stonyhurst's Centenary of Rugby has now come to a close and what an anniversary it has been. The Development Team is sincerely grateful to all those who supported this year. It was truly a team effort from so many here at Stonyhurst!



A CALL TO ACTION: THE WORLD UNION OF JESUIT ALUMNI

BY NICOLAS MARISCAL OS 18 AND JOANNA GEORGE OS 10



College of San Ignacio, Barcelona, where the Alumni Congress was held



Barcelona's San Ignacio College, at the heart of the renowned Sarrià quarter, hosted the 10th international congress of Jesuit alumni from 13-17th July 2022 in true Spanish style for the benefit of its international attendees. With **Jimmy Burns OS 71**, **David Hurst OS 70** and **Juan N. Garcia-Nieto OS 11** we represented Stonyhurst amongst a cohort of alumni from 827 schools and 204 universities coming from an assortment of countries which included, but was not limited to, the US, India, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Serving as a reminder of the wider spiritual community that we are part of and commitment that we must have as alumni towards social justice and the common good, we were the first ever collective to attend on behalf of the Stonyhurst Association Committee and to learn from the experience for the benefit of others within the wider Stonyhurst community. At its heart, the conference was a call to wake up from the nostalgia of our school years and to intentionally apply the common values taught whilst at school to bring meaningful change in our local and global society in the here and now.

The Congress was organised by WUJA, the independent lay-led international network of Jesuit alumni. Its aim is to build and foster relationships between alumni from both Jesuit schools and universities across the world, while nurturing Ignatian thought and spirituality. As well as a networking tool, the events and talks intend to stimulate and inspire Jesuit thinking across the world and a Congress every four years. The next one will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where there is a strong network of Jesuit schools and universities, with a Christian community dating back to 16th century Jesuit missionaries.

This year's congressional theme was "united by values, moved by the future". Inspired by Ignatius' 500th year conversion after the battle of Pamplona the general of the Jesuits, the Venezuelan Arturo Sosa SJ addressed the Congress in the spirit of his predecessor's speech to the alumni in Valencia in 1973.

Referencing Fr Pedro Arrupe (who changed the course of the Society through his iconic speech 'Men and Women For Others'), Fr Sosa encouraged alumni to be "partners in the mission of reconciliation and justice in today's world". Whilst reminding us that the greatest gift of Jesuit education is that of "continuous discernment", this gift should be continuously expressed in "love and service" to others in all shapes and forms.

The Congress began with a day trip (and 7:30am start!) to two of the most iconic spiritual sites in the life of Ignatius: Montserrat, a monastery located in a dramatic and stunning mountain range; and Manresa, a cave in the outskirts of a beautiful Spanish medieval town; it was at these sites where Ignatius' conversion took place, laying down his sword and writing parts of the now famous 'Spiritual Exercises'. Taking in the surroundings of where he was inspired, it served as a reflection on our own personal conversion and everyday continuous discernment.

The Congress offered a variety of thought-provoking and socially relevant talks which appealed across all age groups and nationalities. This included talks on women, ecology, migration, technology, and

investment. Speakers such as Chris Lowney, former JP Morgan's senior manager and best-selling author of 'Heroic Leadership', reflected on the way forward for Jesuit alumni. Mary Evelyn Tucker, Professor at Yale University on Ecological Spirituality, paid tribute to the Jesuit palaeontologist, Teilhard de Chardin. Dr Lisa Hehenberger, from Barcelona's ESADE Business School, on ESG, discussed the influence of impact investing. Nuria Caldich, Secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, considered the role of women in the Church. These were all complemented with workshops for group reflection and to propel joint action plans for the future.

Alongside the talks, there was a programme which included social visits to Jesuit social organisations, such as "Migra Studium", Jesuit Refugee Service and Fe y Alegria schools. Encouraging alumni to get involved with their own local projects to help the most underprivileged and forgotten members of our society, it was a reminder of the importance of putting our faith into action.

The Congress opened with a solemn Mass celebrated by Fr General, at the iconic gothic basilica of Santa Maria del Mar and ended with a private visit with the architect of the (still in construction) Sagrada Familia. As young attendees, we became quite close with the youth wing over the four days, with new relationships formed over the vibrant city of Barcelona, culminating in a unique spiritual, cultural and networking week.

The Congress in Barcelona opened the eyes of the attending OS on the opportunities and potential of such a global and active network. As well as a unique and personal insight into the life of Ignatius, it reminded us of the importance of being men and women for others in our everyday life too.

DEVELOPMENT AND FOUNDATION



GIBRALTAR VISIT AND RECEPTION

In January, Suzanne Wheeler, Director of Development, and Helen Eastham, Director of Admissions and Marketing visited Gibraltar. For over 100 years, pupils from Gibraltar have been travelling to Stonyhurst to receive a Jesuit education and have contributed significantly to College life.

Much of the visit was spent meeting prospective families, briefing new pupils on what they can expect and look forward to in September, and thanking the Gibraltar community for their generous support for the new pavilion on Smithfield.



ODYSSEY OUT LOUD

On Wednesday 9th February, the Classics and Philosophy Society held a sponsored marathon reading of Homer's 'Odyssey' – one of the two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It follows the Greek hero Odysseus, King of Ithaca, and his journey home after the Trojan War. After the war itself, which lasted ten years, his journey lasted for ten additional years, during which time he encountered many perils. The Society aimed to raise £2,000 before the end of the reading. This sum equates to £100 for every year Odysseus was away from home. Thanks to the generosity of the Stonyhurst family the Society not only exceeded its target but did so before the reading began – the final amount raised totalling £3,605!

The Classics and Philosophy Society decided the money raised from this project will be going to the St Aloysius Rhetoric 2022 Bursary. This bursary will support the funds needed to cover the boarding costs for a pupil's time at the College, allowing the bursary recipient to join the Stonyhurst family and benefit from a Stonyhurst education. Prior to the event, we were delighted to receive an inspiring and supportive message from Professor Mary Beard. We were joined by 82 readers, 60 in-person and 22 via Zoom. This included pupils, staff, OS, parents, governors and a former member of staff. With one OS reading in Greek and our youngest reader aged just six! This exciting and unique event was initiated by Adrienne and Maddy in Rhetoric and brought members of the Stonyhurst family together to read this classic. Well done Adrienne and Maddy!



CRICKET NETS INSTALLATION

Over Easter a new 4-lane, all-weather cricket net facility was installed on the Cricket Flats. These state-of-the-art nets were funded by a generous bequest from **Duncan Brand OS 59**. The cricket nets have been named 'The Brand Cricket Nets' in his memory.



MEXICO RECEPTION

In June, Headmaster John Browne, with Suzanne Wheeler, Director of Development, and Helen Eastham, Director of Admissions and Marketing, travelled to Mexico on an Admissions and Foundation trip. During the trip, they visited several Jesuit schools and a reception was held for OS, donors, current parents and prospective families. A special Mass was held at the Chapel of the Iberoamericana University celebrated by Fr Daniel Stevens SJ.

Suzanne and Helen visited (pictured near left) Guadalajara where they attended a reception, organised by current parents, and gave a presentation about Stonyhurst



LEADERSHIP CHANGES

In January 2022 Stephen Withnell indicated his wish to retire from the College and from his role as Director of The Stonyhurst Foundation. Stephen will retire at the end of this academic year.

The Stonyhurst Foundation Trustees wish to thank Stephen for establishing the Foundation and for his leadership. Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees commented:

“In just 4 years Stephen has built an enterprise which, though not visible to all, means that hundreds of children are now able to attend Stonyhurst regardless of their family circumstances. It is an inspiring legacy for which the Stonyhurst family are enormously grateful”.

In January 2022 Ian Murphy also announced his intention to retire as Headmaster of SMH at the end of this academic year.



We are delighted to confirm that Ian will be remaining at Stonyhurst as the new Director of Partnerships. Ian's role will see him working to secure additional funding for the Foundation as well as working closely with the Stonyhurst Admissions Team on the organisation and identification of recipients for Stonyhurst Foundation bursaries. Ian will also help track and measure the progress of bursary recipients – bringing to life, for donors and potential UK boarding families, the transformational impact of bursaries. Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees commented:

“We are delighted that Ian will be spending so much of his time working with the Foundation. He is ideally placed to help us advance our mission and his links with staff, parents, and pupils are unique. He is critical to our continued fundraising success”.

STEPHEN WITHNELL'S FAREWELL MESSAGE



One of the first things that I did in preparation for returning to Stonyhurst in 2018 was an interview with the esteemed Editor of the Association Newsletter, Michael Hargreaves. It is, therefore, pleasingly apposite that this article for the Association Newsletter is one of the final things I am writing prior to retiring from the College over the summer.

It has been a hugely rewarding four years and I am incredibly grateful to the pupils and staff who have made my return to Stonyhurst so memorable. I am grateful to the

Headmaster, Governors, and the Executive for their support. It is never an easy to leave a place you love, especially a place that holds such fond memories – as a Pupil, Governor, Parent, Deputy Headmaster and as the first Director of the Stonyhurst Foundation. In 2018 we put together the External Affairs Team – a team which encompasses Development, Admissions, Marketing, and now also The Stonyhurst Foundation, working in partnership with the Association and the wider Stonyhurst family. I am incredibly grateful to all of the team members who have worked tirelessly during these four years; years that have encompassed the COVID pandemic and all the challenges that it presented.

In 2018 the school had no plans in train to celebrate our 425th anniversary as a school, the 225th anniversary of the school's return to England from the Continent, the 20th anniversary of full Co-Education at Stonyhurst, or the 100th anniversary of Rugby at Stonyhurst! There were also no plans to establish a permanent new charity to fund bursaries and widening access at the school. Quite a few things to get on with then!

In 2018/2019 we raised a permanently endowed bursary and held a successful Bursary Ball to celebrate our 425th anniversary, we also worked with the Collections to produce the translation of the St

Omers Customs Book. In 2019/2020 we welcomed our 225 Artist in Residence, Peter Brown. Peter created a truly impressive body of work, and now his impressionist paintings of Stonyhurst sit in galleries, homes, and private collections all over the world. We also raised another a permanently endowed 225 Bursary. To mark the significance the 20th anniversary of full Co-Education at Stonyhurst, we arranged for inspiring alumnae to return to the school to speak to pupils, and created Sisters' Walk, the natural partner to Brothers' Walk, joining the College and SMH. In 2020 we secured Stonyhurst's first ever inclusion in the 'Tatler Schools Guide', and also a nomination for Tatler Public School of the Year.

For the 2021/2022 Centenary of Rugby, we worked with our indefatigable Assistant Headmaster, Tim Hanley, to arrange the biggest alumni rugby tournament ever held at Stonyhurst, and the largest gathering of OS since the Centenaries Celebrations in 1993. We were able to partner with our Gibraltar OS to fund the construction of the beautiful Gibraltar Pavilion on Smithfield. A hugely successful Rugby Ball for more than 400 alumni and friends was held at the College, raising money for the Pavilion and for a Rugby Tour of South Africa.

One of the initiatives we are most proud of is the 2021/2022 Rhetoric St Aloysius Bursary. In early 2021 the two Heads of the Line, Tristan and Saskia, proposed that the OS22 gift to the school could be a full bursary for a pupil to attend Stonyhurst. Through their inspirational leadership and with the support of the Committee, they were able to raise over £180,000 for this initiative. What a truly amazing gift to give.

Perhaps the most important development of the last four years at Stonyhurst – apart from the existential triumph of the school surviving COVID, of course! – was the establishment of the Stonyhurst Foundation. The goal of the Foundation is to remove financial barriers, making a Stonyhurst education available to as many young people as possible. The Stonyhurst Foundation aims to be the largest ring-fenced independent bursary and fee assistance charity of its kind in Catholic independent education in the UK.

We officially launched the Foundation to the world on the Feast of St Ignatius, 31 July 2020. The Foundation has received truly remarkable support from the Stonyhurst family – it was able to sponsor 25 pupils in its first full year of operation and 34 pupils in its second year. The

Stonyhurst Foundation, from a standing start, has raised over £8 million pounds of endowed and reserved funds, and has made support and bursarial grants of over £2 million to Stonyhurst and SMH – a remarkable achievement. The Foundation has benefited from the support of a truly impressive Board of Trustees; its success has the inspiring nature of its mission garnering interest from the Times of London, the BBC, and many other external stakeholders. We are particularly grateful to the Stonyhurst Association for its dedication to making it a success – and for annually funding a full boarding bursary place at the school.

All of this has been made possible by the hard work of the External Affairs Team and all of our supporters within the school and beyond. Huge thanks to the full team, as well as all the very best wishes for the continued flourishing of Stonyhurst

Stephen Withnell



Christmas Term – 1995



Christmas Term – 2020

FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE



'A college such as Stonyhurst on board a sea-going ship is a good suggestion'.

This motion from the St Beuno's Debating Club in 1874 gave me an intriguing image for my Great Academies speech to reflect on the journey we have travelled over the past year and most importantly where we are going as we approach the new academic year.

A ship needs a strong crew. Without exception the whole staff has pulled together for our young people on what

has been a Herculean journey to return to normal operations in both schools.

A ship needs to be fully equipped. During the year there have been a significant number of projects to enhance pupil experience including: new lights and sound equipment for the Academy Room, state-of-the-art cricket nets (both girls' and boys' cricket is thriving) and the resurfacing of the outdoor tennis courts (just in time for a visit by Judy Murray OBE). We even restocked the Infirmary Pond with fish for fly fishing lessons although the herons and otters have also been busy. This summer there will be a multi-million-pound investment in facilities. The refurbishment of our Health and Wellbeing Centre is already complete and there will be renovations in boarding areas for Syntax boys, Syntax girls and Higher Line girls. This year the new Gibraltar Pavilion was opened on Smithfield to mark the Centenary of Rugby at Stonyhurst. Currently the Fronts are being restored thanks to a generous donation from a former pupil.

A ship has to have all of its checks to be sea-worthy. This year we have had two successful inspections. We were a pilot site for the new national Catholic Framework Inspection. Inspectors observed that the sense of 'men and women for others was observed in every area of school life'. The judgement on our Catholic life and mission was outstanding and that prayer and worship was 'breath-taking' in its quality and variety. Earlier in the year we passed an ISI Material Change visit with flying colours which allows us to welcome a record roll of over 800 pupils across the two schools in September.

A ship needs to be able to react to the weather. We demonstrated this amply in the way we responded to the pandemic with Stonyhurst Anywhere. However, no risk register could have foreseen in December that our electricity generators would literally need to keep the lights on at Stonyhurst for the school musical 'Oliver!' whilst the rest of the Ribble Valley stayed in darkness for nearly two days!

A ship's company needs to get along. I give an assembly early in the year based on a set of nine words for community living: 'Please. Thank you. I am sorry. I forgive you.' I hope that our young people bring this element of reconciliation beyond these walls.

A ship's company needs to have fun and for Stonyhurst this is also combined with a sense of Quant Je Puis! The comedy and atmosphere of the Line Lip Sync Battle is never to be forgotten. The Inter-Line Singing Competition was a personal highlight for me with the whole school standing and waving their phones to join-in with 'Sweet Caroline'. New traditions are important and this year we started a Lower Grammar play and 'Alice in Wonderland' delighted and surprised audiences. This year in another first – the boys' and girls' Rhetoric cricket teams challenged Upper Elements to the annual fancy dress cricket matches. Upper Elements won each match, as they have done since at least 1855, by a single run!

A ship is always in motion. This ship is to serve the young people in our care and needs to constantly adapt and change. A new five-year strategic plan has been discerned around a Jesuit vision of Human Excellence and this will be launched in September.

A ship visits different places and has visiting speakers to give passengers a wider perspective. Trips and visits have restarted and range from the Model United Nations Competition in Oxford to the Computer Science Department visit to Google in California. The Rugby team are currently in South Africa. Visiting speakers have included Maggie Nicholson, the Deputy Director of the Human Rights Commission in New York to **Mark Thompson OS 75**, a former CEO of 'The New York Times' and Director General of the BBC.

In terms of reaching out to new horizons next year we are delighted to be a hub for the National Schools Singing Partnership. This provides funding for a Choral Director to develop professional singing partnerships of music of all styles. Stonyhurst is the only school to be selected for the project amongst thirty-one Catholic Cathedrals. Stonyhurst International School Penang in Malaysia opens on 23rd September and I hope that this will be a source of creativity and innovation for all our young people.

A ship always returns to port. We hope that the College always provide a welcome for members of the Stonyhurst family and this year we hosted the Rhetoric Balls for OS 20, 21 and 22! Rhetoric 22 have left the remarkable legacy of the St Aloysius Rhetoric 2022 Bursary. Fundraising projects have been adventurous and creative including the 12-hour sponsored reading of Homer's 'Odyssey' (in English and occasionally Greek).

This summer we say farewell to Stephen Withnell who moves on to pastures new from being Deputy Head External, leaving us the remarkable legacy of the Stonyhurst Foundation. Ian Murphy steps down after eight hugely successful years as Headmaster of St Mary's Hall and I am delighted that he will take up a new role as Head of Partnerships here at Stonyhurst in the autumn. We look forward to welcoming Fr Chris Cann as Headmaster of St Mary's Hall.

So we enter the new academic year in good heart and with great enthusiasm and optimism. For interest Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ spoke for the motion at St Beuno's in 1874 and it was carried.

REUNIONS

OS 71 REUNION

BY JOHN MULHOLLAND OS 71

This was the first ever reunion for OS 71 and was held at Theodore House, adjacent to the Mill Pond at Stonyhurst. It was officially our 50th anniversary of leaving in 1971, but the event was delayed a year because of COVID.

After 18 months of planning, the successful staging of the reunion was due to our capable organisers, Andrew Lubienski and Richard King, who both displayed the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job! Many of us had not seen each other for five decades but our shared history provided an immediate bond. A total of 15 OS were present with four brave wives/partners and **Fr Nick King SJ OS 66**. A few joined the event remotely which was enabled by the technical wizardry of Timothy O'Neil-Dunne.

OS attending were **Andrew Lubienski, David da Silva, David Northey, Dominic Boddington, Edmund Wright, Richard King, Malcolm Brown, Matti Foncha, Mike Downey, Michael McCabe, John Mulholland, Timothy O'Neil-Dunne, Peter Morey-Weale, John Walter** and **Andrew Wenner**.

On the first day our intrepid organisers did 18 holes on the golf course while lesser mortals opted for the five-mile Tolkien Trail which delivered us to the Shireburn Arms for lunch. While fewer attended the reunion than we had hoped, the conversations were varied and, perhaps, deeper with a smaller number. Later Jan Graffius, curator and **Joe Reed OS 11**, archivist, gave us a fascinating tour of the treasures in the Do Room, Arundell Library and the Museum. A brief tour of the College brought back many memories, especially outside No 10, where we received our ferulas! This was followed by a drinks reception hosted by Beverley Sillitoe in the Pieta Gallery where we were addressed by **Stephen Withnell OS 95**, Director of the Stonyhurst Foundation. After dinner, some of us shared the ups and downs of life in the last half-century. This included a written contribution from Philip Anderson who was unable to attend because of an illness which he bears with fortitude, faith and hope. Over breakfast one morning Matti Foncha gave us a masterclass on how to make a perfect cup of coffee using samples from his own company. He also generously gave us and staff at Theodore House samples of his Cameroon Boyo (www.cameroonboyo.com) blend. Among our year are a number of published authors who kindly donated their books for a raffle in aid of the Jesuit Refugee Service. The following day we shared memories of deceased OS 71 which included a moving tribute by Dominic Boddington to his friend, Andrew Hammill. This was followed by a Mass in the Angels Chapel, in memory of the 14 deceased members of our year, led by **Fr Nick King SJ OS 66**. We were impressed to see in our rooms at Theodore House copies of the Bible, translated by Fr Nick.

This was followed by a more formal lunch with very brief speeches at the Shireburn Arms. Later in the afternoon, a number of us met with Fr Michael Bossy SJ who was up for the Rugby Centenary Celebrations later in the week. Michael was our Poetry Playroom Master and it was excellent to see him in such fine health, 50 years on.

David da Silva commented: *There were some present who I hardly knew at College but I left the reunion proudly counting them as friends. This may seem strange after so many years but we have a shared history as we experienced good and difficult times together which provided us with a sense of mutual support and solidarity. We also absorbed some common ethical and spiritual values in our shared time, and we are all now a small part of Stonyhurst's long and amazing history.*



OS 62 AND 63 MEET UP AGAIN AFTER THE ENFORCED SEPARATION!



To celebrate the end of lockdowns and return to our 'old normal' a group of OS, who first met at SMH got together for lunch at Brown's Restaurant, Covent Garden, London.

Left to right: **Roderick Strange OS 63, Roger Austin OS 62, Christopher Flint OS 62, David da Cunha OS 63, Raymond Low OS 62, Ian Southward OS 63** and **Andrew Carrington OS 63**. **Chris Ryan OS 63** (not pictured) also attended.

WANDERERS' NEWS

WANDERERS CRICKETERS VS COLLEGE 1ST XI

FROM RICHARD DRINKWATER OS 91

A breezy day down at the Oval started with the College XI 'winning' the toss and electing to bat, keen to show their strength in depth this year and put on lots of runs. However, the Wanderers had different ideas and bowled exceptionally well in the first 10 overs restricting the College to 32-4. **Charlie Fogden OS 09** bowling his first overs since last year's match, and **Will Metcalf OS 15** steaming in from the pavilion end, kept the openers honest and were rewarded with wickets.

In his first over Fogden found the edge of Gordon's bat and **Richard Drinkwater OS 91** duly snaffled a sharp catch at second slip, and then in his 3rd over had the other opener too, playing onto his stumps. 18-2! A cracking start for the Old Boys! Meanwhile Metcalf was working up some pace, and allied with a bit of movement, had the batsmen hopping around in the crease. He was rewarded with the 3rd wicket, clean bowling Reader and with the very next ball dispatched the No 5 batsman, with Drinkwater (now with sore hands!) holding onto a very quick nick in the slips.



So by the end of the 11th over, the College were reeling on 32-4 and perhaps pondering their decision to bat! Sadly the hat-trick wasn't to be, and the College's star player, Liberty Heap, was now at the crease and showing her evident class, by attacking the bowlers and picking up anything short or too straight through midwicket and mid-on. She raced to 41 and looked pretty settled until Drinkwater, replacing Metcalfe with his now military medium, pushed one through her defences and castled middle stump. At this point, the score was 88-5, and the Wanderers thought a quick finish might be on the cards, but the batsmen dug in for 4 or so overs until an inspired bowling change brought **Joe Hopkins OS 11** leg spin to the fore, and he was rewarded with 2 identical wickets in his first over, with both batsmen steering the ball comfortably into **George Joliffe OS 09's** hands at gully. 102-7, and perhaps an imminent collapse?

The college's No 8 batsman, Cort, had different ideas and batted really well for 32 runs, whilst wickets fell at the other end. Hopkins picked up a deserved third wicket, with a great running catch from Metcalfe at mid-off, whilst Tom Sandham, a Syntaxian guesting for the OS, took the 9th wicket and leaving Fogden the task of



closing out the innings by clean bowling the dangerous looking Cort. The innings finished on a respectable 159.

A delicious lunch was had by all, with the Wanderers openers priming themselves for a gallant knock. They made hay! Joliffe and Damien Morley (guesting for the Wanderers) started very well, with George in particular looking dangerous. With the score on 35, Joliffe may rue his decision to wear trainers; he called for a quick run, was turned back, slipped and was duly run out at the non-striker's end for a respectable 15.



Morley too was playing well, and with score on 78 fell to a great yorker from Liberty Heap. This brought **Charlie Gale OS 09** to the crease to join Freddie Timmins, who himself was batting with care and conviction. Gale lasted 18 balls before succumbing to the spin of Cort, with the score on 92-3, bringing Hopkins striding to the crease. 7 balls later, he strode back to the pavilion without troubling the scorers, and Metcalf, helmetless, wandered out to face the spinner himself. On being asked by his partner, Timmins, as to the lack of helmet, he calmly stated his intention to take it to the bowler, however the hint of irony award is never far away on a cricket pitch, and a subsequent top edge into his

own nose led him off the pitch bloodied, and mollified, retiring hurt. With the Wanderers still needing 66 to win, the College felt they had a chance to overturn the opposition, but the partnership of Timmins and Drinkwater kept the runs coming, and with Freddie bashing it to all parts, and Drinkwater nudging the ones and twos, the Wanderers managed to win the game with 3 overs left. Freddie was unbeaten on a fabulous 76 n.o, and Drinkwater 19 n.o.

So, a fabulous rare win for the Wanderers was capped off with a brilliant hog-roast organised by Beverley Sillitoe, and one or two refreshments were gladly taken, both at the Oval and the Bayley!

Many thanks to all that played, supported and watched. We had a hugely enjoyable day, and are looking forward to the fixture next year. On a personal note, after 24 years of running the Wanderers cricket, it's about time to hand on the reins to someone younger, fitter and more in touch with the recent OS, so I am thrilled to announce that **Freddie Timmins OS 13** will be your new Wanderers' cricket secretary, and I am sure he will do a brilliant job, with your support. To the many that have supported me over my tenure by turning out for the OS, thank you. I will miss playing cricket with you all.



OS VS STONYHURST ANNUAL CROQUET MATCH

BY EDWARD BELDERBOS OS 16



After a two-year break from the honourable game, the OS team once again ventured north to Stonyhurst, their spiritual home, to do battle on the philosopher's lawns. The opponent were the finest mallet wielders the College had to offer. We felt confident in our abilities, preparing for the game ahead with a team tactics session consisting of local cheese, port, and crab-apple vodka. On game day morning, the OS ambled down the avenue, slightly fuzzy from the night before, mallet in hand and Panama on head. As the familiar towers loomed over us, the figures of 8 poets could be picked out of the drizzle, poised and eager to fight for the honour of the College. I would be lying if I said we weren't a little nervous as we saw them achieve shots with accuracy thought only achievable through precision engineering. While the OS had been idle over the last year, it was clear that the croquet team at the College, under the tutelage of Mr O'Connor and **Mr Simon Whittle OS 13**, had been practicing. As the clouds parted, bathing the lawns in glorious Lancastrian sunshine, it was time to answer the age-old question, can the wisdom and experience which comes with age, triumph over the energy and tenacity of youth?

Having dispensed with the necessary pleasantries, the first round of games began. We had high hopes for **Colm Fahy OS 16**, who possesses the unique ability to take himself out of the game, observing from above like a pigeon atop the eagle towers. Nevertheless, he and **Fabian Twist OS 11** were no match for Felix and Alberto who made quick work of the OS. Luck would have it that

Arthur Chitnis OS 16 had agreed to pick up the mallet at the last minute. He wielded it as if it were a scalpel making surgical shots which secured the first OS win of the day. One passer-by said "if he is as good a doctor as he is a croquet player Exeter hospital is in safe hands".

As the afternoon continued, many such duels had been fought, with casualties mounting on both sides. By the time the rain forced us to break for tea the score was even. It was at this point that the young poet's stamina really started to show, as Mathias and Benedict ensured **Thomas Belderbos OS 21** and **Nick Leigh OS 13** suffered their second defeat. It was down to elder brother **Edward Belderbos OS 16** to rescue his sibling, and after tough resistance from the poets, was able to turn defeat into victory, winning a third match to ensure the OS secured a bonus point. On the opposite lawn, the final game was underway. The OS secret weapon, Mr O'Connor, the boys' own tutor, was delivering a masterclass on the beautiful game. As he went through hoop after hoop, his unrivalled experience paid off. At the same time Simon Whittle's knowledge of the lawn, its every bump and tuft of grass, began to pay off. "He was an artist," said **James Scott OS 13**. The lawn his canvas, the mallet his brush. After every stroke the masterpiece became more and more visible, "it was a privilege to watch a master at work", said one passer-by. Victory had finally been assured and the question answered: youth is no match for experience and wisdom.

It is always a great privilege to come back to the College and play croquet, and the OS would like to thank all of the staff who made the weekend possible, we are very grateful for all that you do. It was also a pleasure to meet the current pupils who did themselves and the College proud. The Stonyhurst Wanderers Croquet Division is always eager to recruit more members of all skillsets to boost our number. If you are an OS of any age and interested in joining, please contact a member of the club committee either directly or through the association office. We look forward to seeing some new faces at our next match, currently scheduled for early September in Oxford or at our end of year dinner in London.



THE HALFORD HEWITT CUP 2022

NICK PAUL OS 94

The Halford Hewitt took place at Royal Cinque Ports in Kent. Overall it was a very successful week, which considering the conditions at the start of the week, and for our first round match, is a testament to how good our team is now becoming. For the first time in a very long time we had a squad to pick from. Thirteen people came down for the week with only ten players required for the competition, so that led to some good competitive practice rounds with people vying to ensure their position in the team.

Our pairings were eventually confirmed as: Mike Downes and Nick Russo, Paul Harben (c) and Brendan Taylor, Nick Paul and Oliver Drinkwater, Jerome Saulet and Ben Dowds, Clive Burrows and Jack Milton.

Ben Dowds was making his second appearance at the Hewitt, having made his debut in September last year, and Jack Milton was this year's debutante. Both are very welcome and capable additions to the squad and played a big part in our progress through the competition.

Our first-round match was against Mill Hill and the weather conditions were difficult with winds reaching 55mph at points during the day! Mill Hill are a strong side and we had to play our best golf to get past them. Indeed we managed to get the result we needed with a narrow 3-2 victory and a place in the second round against St Bede's. Conditions were significantly calmer for round 2, but the opposition was just as tough. The tie was tight in all matches with wins coming from Mike and Nick, myself and Oli to give us 2 on the board. Paul and Brendan and Jerome and Ben were unlucky in defeat, meaning that it came down to Clive and Jack to win if we were to progress. Their match (the 4th pair on the day) went down to a dramatic sudden death shootout on the 20th hole. Our debutante Jack pulled off the shot of the day with a 50+ft putt from off the green, finishing dead weight next to the hole to secure a memorable first



The team photo from left to right: Standing - Eric Craven OS 83, Nick Paul OS 94, Rupert Evans OS 87, Ben Dowds OS 19, Paul Harben OS 94 (c), Nick Russo OS 74, Clive Burrows OS 03. Kneeling - Jerome Saulet OS 94, Brendan Taylor OS 95, Mike Downes OS 06, Oliver Drinkwater OS 92, Jack Milton OS 09.

point for Jack and a place in the third round for the team!

Our opponents in the third round on Saturday morning were Bradfield, a very good golfing school and a strong team. Captain Paul changed up the order for this match, looking to match our best pairs with theirs who normally go out 2nd and 3rd pairs. Oli and myself went out first at 7.45am on a sunny and calm Saturday.

We were unbeaten in our last 5 matches so confidence was high going into the match. Our first 11 holes were won by one pair or the other, but neither pair was ever more than 1 up. Our opponents were strong and didn't really put a foot wrong all day, and despite our best efforts we lost 3 and 2.

This was the case throughout the match. The team played as well as we could but the opposition was just too strong and we

eventually had to admit defeat and bow out of the competition. The team is so close to making moves deeper into the competition and we are now a team that not many schools want to face as they know we will be tough to beat. This is an amazing feat and recognition needs to be given to Rupert Evans for his recent captaincy of the team, which was the catalyst for this upturn in performance. Under Rupert's reign the team has only failed to progress past the first round once and that was in his first year as captain. Paul has now taken on the mantle of continuing this run of success and the signs are good that we will only get better! However, the OS golfing calendar continued and the next event for the team was the Grafton Morrish qualifying at Worplesdon on 22nd May.

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View from the Embroidered Meadow

