



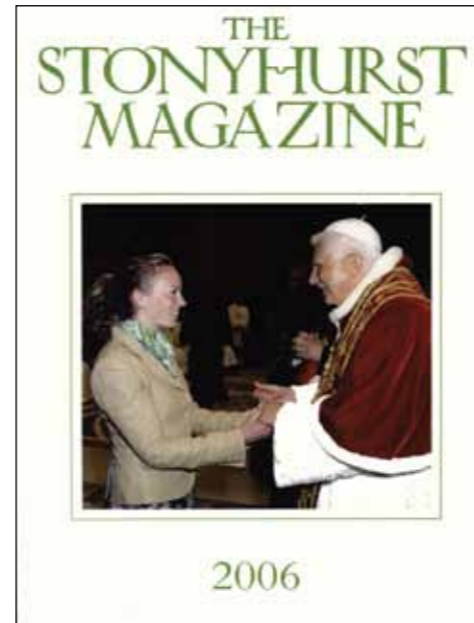
STONYHURST ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER 297

AMDG

SEPTEMBER 2008





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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Stonyhurst Association

(Extracts from Chairman Christopher Page's speech at Great Academies 2008)

What is the Association and what do we aim to be?

Put simply 'a caring, sharing, Eucharistic, community'.

What on earth is that? Let me start with community. Not all schools are communities. This is. Why?

Stonyhurst is of course a wonderful place. It is a beautiful, historic building in the most glorious valley. But community is not about place or architecture. 'A College' may mean a building in the shallow sense; at a deeper level it means much more than that. It means a group held together by common rules and values. What are they?

Stonyhurst has a great and long history and wonderful traditions. These are important. They give it a distinctive and distinguished character. 'A tradition' means a gift passed down. You do not throw gifts away lightly. Our traditions must not be lost: the strange vocabulary (I have translated this speech from Stonyhurstese), the Collections, the vestments, the libraries, the central heating system powered by the blood of the martyrs.

But traditions do not make a community.

Any school has its rituals and traditions. Here our rituals and traditions overlap with our faith. They include the celebrations of the great feasts, Champion Day, St Omers Martyrs, the great tradition of communal singing, the Pater Noster, but they do not make a community.

A community needs shared activities; a community that eats together and prays together will grow together. That is why this great room, the Old Ref, and the Boys' Chapel are so important to us; they resonate with old conversations, hymns, prayers and laughter. You can hear the echoes now. These communal activities help.

But ultimately a community comes to life, has meaning, and works, only where its members are formed in a communal sensitivity to each other, are protected from insensitivity, from discrimination, from injustice. That mutual activity of forming and protecting its members, the educating of the members to build peace into all their relationships,

The Stonyhurst Magazine was founded in 1881. Until 1935 there were six issues per year. Between 1935 and 1957 the number varied between three and six. From 1958 to 1975 there were three issues per year. From 1976 to 1986 there were two, since then only one.

Copies of most back issues from 1881 to the present time are still available. They can be purchased at £5.00 per copy, including postage/packing, from the Editor (for details, see below).

Today's Magazine contains almost 100 pages of illustrated and fascinating articles, all with a historical Stonyhurst connection, in addition to a full report on the year's activities, obituaries of former pupils etc. It will keep you entertained for hours!

To purchase a copy of the 2008 edition, please send a cheque for £10.00 (payable to 'Stonyhurst Magazine') to: The Editor, The Stonyhurst Magazine, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ.

To enrol as a subscriber, please email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk for an application form.

Front Cover: "It was the first and last time I was ever on a cayman's back", detail from the painting by Captain Edward Jones OS of Charles Waterton OS capturing a cayman in Guyana (Stonyhurst College).

From the landing we hopped into dugout canoes and started to paddle downstream for around one hour. We passed through an absolute fairyland, there were huge trees towering over us. Kingfishers, parrots, macaws and thousands of other birds flew in front of the boat in flashes of bright colour. In the water in front of us fish darted in every direction, fleeing from these huge invaders. . . A description of the Guyana jungle, not by Waterton or Jones, but by a contemporary OS, Giles Rous-Eyre: see *A Time of Gifts*, page 27.

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ensuring that those relationships are based on fairness and respect, on love; these are the things that build a community.

This love comes through and is exhibited in obedience, restraint, humility, and generosity. These material realities of a community make it sacramental, the means by which the hidden grace of Christ is given to the members. New members learn this grace through community life; they then become educated in the Eucharistic sacrament of service to others.

AT STONYHURST, WE
SPEAK OF CHARISM,
OF SOUL, OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THAT IS WHAT MAKES
A REAL COMMUNITY

That is a serving, sharing, Eucharistic, community. To quote Pope Benedict, 'we need to promote a spirituality of communion, making it the guiding principle of education'. Some schools talk of 'ethos', of 'culture', of 'tradition'. Here at Stonyhurst, we speak of charism, of soul, of the Holy Spirit; that is what makes a real community.

It is a fragile and precious thing which must not be taken for granted. In its first 400 years, the College had boys living in this community often for ten full years. They were here for months on end with rare holidays. The Jesuits really were in loco parentis. They had plenty of time in which to educate the boys in that spirituality of communion.

That is not quite the case now; new challenges face the College in the new millennium. We as the Association, we as parents, have a bigger part to play. The Association is here in part to give practical help. We talk to Rhetoric about the future, about the 'real world'. We have offered our help in careers advice. We have offered to help with talks, societies, with the Sodality, with sports tours. We include the College in our events and activities, for example taking Higher Line pupils to Lourdes. We give scholarships and prizes. We will always help with fundraising. We have recently restored the Sodality Chapel. We record

and uphold the traditions and history of the College, and of course keep the College always in our own prayers. But we are also the College's window or bridge to the world. As we mature our sense of 'what is our community' also matures. We move from school and family to our place of work, our place in the parish, our place in the world. What we have learnt here we should practise there.

We know that, just as the College is not simply a building, the Church is not simply an institution. It is the mystery of God dwelling in our midst. The Church, the body of Christ, means that we are one. That belief should drive us to share the joys and sufferings, desires and needs of all our neighbours, near and far. The Association wants to nurture the unbreakable bond between the love of God and the love of neighbour, all the best things that Stonyhurst represents, to be men and women of God for others. If we fail, if we are timid, joyless, afraid of the world and of each other, why should anyone believe what we say, trust what we do?

How do we try to achieve this? We talk of the College producing Christian leaders for the future. We could stand back and watch. We could just give prizes to those who perform well, to those worthies who have their portraits painted (a second-hand sort of Christianity); or we can ask ourselves 'If we do not act, who will? And if not now, when?' These were the questions asked by Father Kolvenbach at a congress of

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the World Jesuit Alumni. We here, we now, should take up the challenge to be leaders. Our children will look at us, parents and staff, and raise an eyebrow if what they are taught does not accord with what they see at home, or school. So what is this leadership?

Here it inevitably has a Jesuit stamp. It calls for humility in self awareness, ingenuity in a changing world, heroic ambition, the imagination and will to strive to shape an inspiring future, and above all, for a love which is used to enable and empower others to use their talents to achieve spiritual fulfilment.

IF WE DO NOT ACT,
WHO WILL?
AND IF NOT NOW,
WHEN?

It is that sort of leadership that we, staff and parents, must teach our children through our example. That is what the Association is for. Leadership is not about status; it is about action. But as St Ignatius reminds us, deeds are greater than words: for him there was no gap between decision and action. So this year the Association has been looking closely at itself. We have our reunions, our convivia, our pilgrimages, our walking retreats, our children's holidays, our grants to students. What more can we do?

We are looking at adult placements with Jesuit Missions abroad, with the Jesuit Refugee and Volunteer Services; they need doctors, engineers, administrators, lawyers. We are looking at family retreat and discussion days; we are looking at ethical debate, at political lobbying, at publishing more, at using the Newsletter for views as well as news, at acting as a network linking people, ideas and money, at supporting third world projects through Eagle Aid with our pockets, hands and hearts, at linking better with other Jesuit Alumni here and abroad, at encouraging our members in their spiritual growth for example through the 'virtual Sodality', in every possible way encouraging everyone's deepest urge, namely to serve and love others...

What I do is me: for that I came
(G M Hopkins SJ)



September 20th 2008

STONYHURST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

The dinner will be held at The Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, when the President will be Dr Jay Chitnis OS 50 and the Guest of Honour will be Bruce Kent OS 46.

October 11th – 12th 2008

POETRY 1983 REUNION

The reunion in October marks the 25th anniversary for those who left the College from Poetry 1983. We are currently planning this event and would be delighted to hear from any OS of that year who would like to come along. Mark Hurst and Anthony Chitnis are organising the reunion and their contact details are: Mark: mark.hurst@hdak-uk.com Anthony: a.chitnis@ipsgroup.co.uk.

DIARY OF EVENTS

October 22nd 2008

CONVIVIAM IN NEWCASTLE

We are planning to hold a convivium in the Catholic Chaplaincy at Newcastle University, with Mass at 6.30pm, followed by refreshments. Further details will be published on the website and a letter of invitation will be sent to those living in the area shortly.

November 12th 2008

CONVIVIAM AT CAMPION HALL, OXFORD

Mass will be celebrated at Campion Hall, followed by a talk by Father Nicholas King SJ with refreshments afterwards. Further details will be published on the website and a letter of invitation will be sent to those living in the area nearer the time.

May 1st – 4th 2009

1957 – 1963 REUNION

A reunion for all those who left between 1957 and 1963, along with their wives and partners. Please email the Association Office for a booking form, or contact Michael Joseph at michael@kenmoregroup.co.uk or Edward Gonsalves at edward_gonsalves@yahoo.com Accommodation has been arranged at a local hotel, with various activities over the weekend, and dinner in the Top Ref.

October 10th – 11th 2009

1987 REUNION

A reunion for those OS who left in 1987 is being organised by Richard Veys. He can be contacted at richard.veys@alliumtrx.com. Further details will be published on the website nearer the time.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...



STONYHURST PHILOSOPHERS, 1908.

MESSRS. J. VILLAS BOAS, J. SABATES, J. DE WOELMONT, M. TIEFENBACHER, C. COULSTON.
MESSRS. J. KAVANAGH, O. RYAN, C. RYAN, A. DE LICHTERVELDE, R. DE BEAUDIGNIES, G. FOX, H. WIBZELL, O. STOLBERG, A. COOKE.
MESSRS. I. DE LA TORRE, A. ASPHAR, A. LIDDELL, B. SMITH, J. PLUNKETT, J. JOSIKA, J. DE TROOSTEMBERCH.
MESSRS. K. CALLAGHAN, J. EYRE, F. TROUP, F. WALDBOTT.

Eight years later, Aidan Liddell was awarded the VC and then died of wounds and Joseph Plunkett was executed for his part in the Easter Rising in Dublin.

- ... The College was visited by Hilaire Belloc MP, who gave a talk on 'Truth in History', in which he paid tribute to Lingard's 'History of England'.
- ... George Archer-Shee (The Winslow Boy) left for Osborne, the Royal Navy college and subsequent, if temporary, ignominy. He later died in the second battle of Ypres in 1914.
- ... An edict went out that black coats must be worn on Sundays.
- ... The English Jesuits withdrew from Malta but their loss was the College's gain which received some of their sporting trophies.
- ... Alfred Harrison OS 77 – 84 continues to search for an Arctic continent.
- ... The redecoration of the Sodality Chapel was declared completed.
- ... The Archbishop of Glasgow, the Most Rev John Maguire OS 66 - 67 became President of the Stonyhurst Association.

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHS

Will Cooper OS 85-95 and his wife Deborah had a daughter, Catherine Winifred Joan Carmody on 18 January 2008

Joseph Lo OS 89-94 and his wife Nadja had a daughter, Ivy Anlei on 22nd May, 2008.

Alexander Malone OS 81-89 and his wife Charlotte had a boy, Oscar William, on 20 February 2008.

Richard Wotton OS 78-88 and his wife Emma had a boy, Joseph Xavier, on 3rd April 2008.

MARRIAGES



Above: **Jorge Gomendio Kindelan OS 80-83** was married in July, 2007, to Maria Belen Tristan in the church of Las Esclavas del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus in Madrid.

Christopher Lewis Malone OS 83-91 married Amy Louise Davis on April 28th, 2008 at Christ Church, Jebel Ali, Dubai followed by a reception at the Royal Mirage Hotel.

Dr James (Seb) Whitehead OS 82-87 married Miss Nicola Mary Searle Hinton at Worth Abbey on 15th December 2007. The Nuptial Mass was said by **Fr Nicholas King SJ, OS 60-66**. Other OS present were **Benedict Whitehead OS 84-91**, **Saul Quirke OS 82-87**, **Michael O'Maoileoin OS 82-87**, **John da Gama-Rose OS 83-87**, **Edward Burke OS 78-88** and **Charles Whitehead OS 52-61**.



Above: Seb Whitehead and his bride meeting Pope Benedict

IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following OS has been received since the last issue of the Newsletter.

Dr Alan Rebello KSG, KCHS
Associate Member

Gordon Benedict Hurst OS 40-48

John Michael Harrison OS 25-28

Peter Benedict Joliffe OS 56-66

David Plum OS 47-59

Michael Mellion OS 56-63

Terence Daniel Prosper Drake-Lee
OS 48-58

Donald J R Sheridan OS 41-46

Patrick Francis George Allardyce OS 35-44

Robert Roland Hull OS 36-44

William Harold Johnson OS 47-54

Michael Williams OS 43-52

Michael Osmun Stewart OS 54-58

Anthony Joseph Keig-Shevlin OS 33-36

Dr John Philip MacFaul OS 41-50

Dr David Reynolds Cheetham OS 49-54

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Friends or next of kin, who wish to write the usual obituary for the Stonyhurst Magazine, are invited to contact David Knight at the College.

VALETE

With considerable regret, we say goodbye to **Adrian Bidwell OS 69-74**, Stonyhurst Association Secretary, and his wife Gussy who are leaving the College. The Wanderers in particular have reason to be grateful for the enthusiasm and patience which he has applied to their affairs, the Sporting Weekends and the social events in connection with them. More recently he has used his talents and his gardening club work force, in producing the Rosary Garden to the great satisfaction of those involved in the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

In his speech at Great Academies, the Chairman, Christopher Page, said 'Adrian is a top quality gardener, an annoyingly good fisherman, and a brilliant cricketer. He has been a great support to the Association, a guest master to visiting OS and parents, an inspiration to our sportsmen and women in the Wanderers teams'. Fortunately, although leaving the College, he will be remaining on the Association Committee.

A natural gentleman, Adrian could always be relied on to raise the tone of a gathering and with his easy charm, ensure the smooth passage of a social occasion. He and Gussy will be greatly missed.

Photo: page 10

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANY

The article about OS in Scotland in the last issue should have included **Robert Belderbos OS 60-65**. He and his wife Sally run a Bed-and-Breakfast in Aberlady, East Lothian mainly catering for golfing visitors. Operating since 2002, they have welcomed people from all over the world as well as some OS (www.aboutscotland.com/lothian/aberlady.html)

Robert is also Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh and his main responsibility is Human Resource Management for Archdiocesan employees. He is chairman of several other committees, which are support services for the archdiocese and represents Cardinal O'Brien and the Trustees in a number of other areas. He says it is a very fulfilling post and he is lucky to be working so closely with such a holy and inspirational cardinal.

Anthony Fattorini OS 84-93 is still running strong in Australia and won the most gruelling ultramarathon, the Bogong to Hotham, in January, over a distance of 64 km in the Victorian Alps.

And **Adebowale Ademuyewo OS 96-01** was chosen for the Team GB 400m squad for the World Indoor Championships in Valencia. He normally represents Wales after moving to Cardiff in 2001 and also runs for Sale Harriers, Manchester.

The Alpha Global expedition ended on 21st May, 2008, when **Adrian Flanagan OS 74-79** entered the Solent in his yacht *Barrabas* to achieve a solo 'vertical' circumnavigation of the earth.

...Sailing up the Solent with the wind coming from astern and the sails goosewinged under a warm sun seemed majestically surreal. I remembered sitting at my desk three years before thinking about a name for the expedition and coming up with Alpha Global and now here I was completing the first single-handed vertical circumnavigation of the earth. Thoughts made real – a dream made concrete...

He is now finishing his book *Over the Top*, an account of the voyage, to be published in October by Wiedenfeld and Nicolson and his boat is up for sale. Adrian will

Right: Adrian Flanagan gets a welcome cup of cha from the Royal Navy on his return home



Adebowale Ademuyewo in action

Christopher Lee/Getty Images

OS golfers please note – the fee for playing at Stonyhurst Park is now £10.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Tomasz Mazur OS 01-03** who is now a graduate student at St Catherine's College, Oxford, after graduating there with distinction in Mathematics and Computer Science. He has a scholarship from the Leathersellers' Company of the City of London and says 'Working with students as a college lecturer and doing scientific research at the same time has already proved to be very rewarding for me, and I see a future career for myself in academia'.

Congratulations also to **Khashi Sharifi OS 81-87**, serving in Afghanistan with the Queen's Royal Lancers, who has this month been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.

...also to Captain **Andrew Noyons OS 95-00**, Welsh Guards. He has recently been promoted and appointed Equerry to HRH the Prince of Wales, a very prestigious post within the Royal Household.

...and to **James O'Donnell OS 00-05** and **Hamish Reid OS 99-04** who have been awarded 1st Class Honours degrees at Durham University, James in Economics and Hamish in Geography.

John Alletson OS 46-65 has written from Australia to say how much he likes the new format of the Newsletter and to say that averse to the often fatal effects of retirement he is on a working holiday around Australia. Now in its third year with one circuit completed, John and his wife plus a caravan and Landrover are now 'at home' on the road. Playing



Sam Coombes/TKZ

golf whenever and wherever possible – watching whales, catching fish – exploring National Parks – they have picked strawberries on the East Coast – fruit in the Murray Valley – grapes in West Australia, and learned to love wine even more. They have helped run a supermarket in Broome and managed real estate offices in Queensland. The weather is marvellous – the people they meet are wonderful, the only cloud in the sky is the price of diesel fuel.

He adds that should anyone think of a winter down under, he can always be reached through his home address: 10 Drury Avenue, Southport, Queensland, Australia.

From the same region, **Patrick Smyth OS 49-55** who had been out of touch, suddenly contacted us by email enquiring about the College. He had googled it on a whim and was astonished to find it co-ed. He complains he was born 50 years too soon and said he was retiring soon, probably to the northern NSW coast.

Jorge Gomandio Kindelan OS 80-83 has written to tell us of his marriage and some other news. After leaving the College, he completed his A Level equivalent in Madrid and returned to London to study architecture. After AA Diploma and RIBA membership, he joined the practice of Lord Richard Rogers for a year and then worked with Sir Norman Foster for four years, gaining the experience to set up his own office in Madrid.

He says he would like to thank the school for what he thought at first, was some kind of punishment but gave him confidence and will power. He also says that he would like to regain contact with his contemporaries and his email is: info@estudiogomendio.com

Patrick Baladi OS 82-90 is still successfully treading the boards and earned considerable coverage in Woman's Weekly. He recently played the part of Dodi Fayed in a documentary drama about Princess Diana and then appeared in BBC One's series, *Mistresses*. After a visit to Hollywood, he found it didn't appeal and says the most important thing is his family. He is married to Gemma and they have a young daughter Ava.

Leo Hollis OS 86 – 91 has written a book, *The Phoenix*, (ISBN 9780297850779) published by Weidenfeld at £20, about the

rebuilding and development of London after the plague and the Great Fire which in some respects was a blessing in disguise. The Spectator gave the book a favourable review saying that he made a formidably good case for his period being unique in the 'intellectual, economic and social ferment, which transformed the city and set it irrevocably on the path to modernity'.

Adrian Beltrami OS 76-83 read Law at both Cambridge and Harvard and is a member of Lincoln's Inn. He has recently become QC.

Kyran Bracken OS 85-90 former rugby star is now a professional ice-skater of equal celebrity. He is also the Honorary President of the rugby charity, Wooden Spoon.

We hear that **Charles Cuddy OS 94-05** has gained his Commercial Pilot's Licence and is employed by Virgin Nigerian Airways based in Lagos and should shortly qualify as a First Officer.

His brother **Tim OS 95-07** is following the same path and is presently studying for his Civil Aviation Ground School exams.

The noted pianist, **Jonathan Plowright OS 73-78** teaches music in Cheltenham and has been busy producing more CDs on the Hyperion label at £12.99: CDA-67562 with works by Paderewski and CDA-67630 with Piano Concertos 1 and 2 by Henryk Melcer.

Charles Stephenson OS 00-05 is studying in Montevideo as part of his Spanish and Business degree. He also needs to make a profitable business within three months and has created a pedalpowered smoothie-maker based on a bicycle. He uses this to make and sell fruit drinks around the city.

ADDENDUM

The last issue of the Newsletter carried an article 'Jesuit Connections' about a distinguished OS, **Eduardo Lopez de Romana** and the foundation of a Jesuit College at Arequipa in Peru. His elder brother **Alejandro** also deserves a mention. When Eduardo became President of Peru, Alejandro was Prime Minister but trouble with the Freemasons led to his resignation on a matter of

principle. The Freemasons had earlier prevented the College's foundation and in a letter to Stonyhurst College in 1887 Alejandro had said:

Our last battle with the Freemasons has been hard and rough, and notwithstanding our efforts, as we had the authorities and soldiers against us, we were defeated, and the three Fathers of the Society, who came to found a College in Arequipa were expelled by force; taken from the Bishop's Palace and sent to Bolivia.

A large number of Catholics (myself included) were imprisoned...We are not at all intimidated and will continue the good fight till our last moment. The Freemasons want to exterminate, if possible, all religion in Peru, and hate and fear terribly, the Jesuits...

The Colegio San Jose was finally established in 1898 (see p. 13, *From Peru*).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1989 REUNION

Dominic Medley is gathering emails in preparation for a planned reunion of OS 1989, SOMETIME and SOMEWHERE in 2009. Please contact: dominic@afrikamedia.com

SCHOLA CANTORUM

This elite choir is soon travelling to Germany for a concert weekend at St Blasien (21st–23rd November) and hope also to produce a CD of their work. They are performing on the following occasions, partly to raise money towards their expenses and are always in great need of sponsors.

Friday 26th September

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S, LIVERPOOL
Concert to mark the closing of the
Held in Trust exhibition.

Friday 17th October

TOP REF, STONYHURST
To raise funds for the German trip.

Thursday 23rd October

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MYTHOLMROYD
Concert as part of the
Ted Hughes Festival

Saturday 8th November

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL
To mark the opening of the
shrine to St Thomas.

Anyone interested in sponsoring or making a donation to the choir, please contact:

Dr Kevin Morgan on 01254 826345 Ext 318 or k.morgan@stonyhurst.ac.uk

CCF INSPECTION

THE BIENNIAL INSPECTION of the Corps on May 12th 2008, was carried out by **Major-General Nicholas Francis Vaux CB, DSO, OBE** formerly of the Royal Marines. He was at the College from 1946 to 1954 and this was his second inspection of the CCF.

This time he was accompanied by his wife Zoya and they stayed two nights, dining with the officers and RSM on Monday evening after watching the cadets go through their paces in the afternoon. They were also given tours of the College, Libraries and Collections and two signed copies of his book *March to the South Atlantic* (ISBN 0-907675-56-5) about the Falklands campaign where he commanded 42 Commando, were presented to the College. Contrary to rumour it was not Max Hastings but Nick Vaux and 42 Commando who were among the first into Port Stanley and put the flag back on Government House.

He gave an informative and stimulating talk to the CCF and expressed his satisfaction with all he had seen but when showing his wife his old room was surprised to find it considerably changed and now part of the Girls' quarters. He was an inter-Service pentathlete, point-to-point rider and skier and now enjoys shooting and fishing and training gun dogs. They live in Devon.

Below: General Vaux with Cadet Joshua McAllister



REUNIONS AND CONVIVIA

'82 REUNION — BRENDAN ROCHE



TWENTY-SEVEN OF THOSE who left the College in 1982 returned for a reunion on the 3rd and 4th of May, 2008. A great time was had by all. While a small group played golf on the Saturday afternoon, Jan Graffius kindly showed the rest of us around the newly restored Sodality Chapel and the Arundell Library. Larry Crouch then showed us St Mary's Hall. In the evening, after a drinks reception with the Headmaster, we dined in the Top Refectory. Our guests were Father Bossy, Peter and Brigid Hardwick, Simon Andrews and Wilf Usher. As is often noted by old boys returning to the College, the food seems to have improved enormously in the last 25 years or so, although there must have been something beneficial in the regime when we were at the College, because none of us had aged a day since leaving (please ignore the evidence to the contrary in the picture above). Simon Mills simply looked older because he had grown an enormous beard in keeping with his status as a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (the basketball-playing order from the Bronx). After a rather late session at the hotel, we returned to the

College for Mass on Sunday morning and then dispersed. We owe many thanks to Chris Thorpe who organised the reunion and then found himself unable to go due to a posting to Afghanistan. He sent us the following message from Kabul:

Stonyhurst was my life and I'm sure it was for many others. However, five years after leaving, when we all attended Great Academies as my youngest brother left, I feared that I would no longer feel any connection. But still now, after 25 years, every time I walk around the school galleries, I almost recognise the pupils and I have to take a second look to convince myself that I don't know the faces.

As you know, I am in Kabul at present and you may have heard about the attacks here last Sunday. I'm pleased to say that our Intelligence suggested some sort of trouble and that 20 minutes before the firing started, I had already been raised from my post night-shift slumbers to don helmet and body armour and take cover. We took some stray incoming rounds but no-one was hurt.

I hope that some of you will arrange a further reunion and next time I will be able to attend!

LONDON CONVIVIUM

WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL 2008 saw the London Association Convivium at St Mary Moorfields Church, the only Catholic Church in the Square Mile. We were privileged to have the Association Chaplain, **Father Billy Hewitt SJ, OS 41-50** come and celebrate the Mass for us, with fine cantors from Corpus Christi Church, the Jesuit parish in Brixton. About 80 people were there, the youngest being Conor de Blank and Haben Habtom, our two excellent servers from SMH, up to **Father John Grummitt SJ, OS 44-47**. Thanks to **Joe Egerton OS 65-69**, for his help in organising servers and cantors. In his sermon Father Billy reminded us of our duties to those less fortunate than ourselves in society, particularly migrant refugees, and these sentiments were further echoed in the prayers of intercession. One of the highlights of the Mass was the organist having a temporary lapse and missing his entrance when he was supposed to lead us in the Pater Noster...unperturbed the congregation sang with great heart acappella. At the end of Mass, wine and canapés were served in the Church Hall and it was wonderful to see OS and families of all ages enjoying themselves. Speeches were given by Christopher Page on the work of the Association, and Mark Leslie on College developments, and the wine glasses were large enough and the speeches short enough, to ensure attention throughout.

Toby Lees OS 94 – 99

NORTH WEST CONVIVIUM

HELD ON THE 5TH JUNE, this was a very special event hosted jointly by the College and the Association. Not only were Stonyhurst 'at home' but the numbers attending ensured its success and anyone within a reasonable distance seemed determined not to lose out: they were well rewarded.

After a few words of welcome from Mark Belderbos, Association President, Mass was concelebrated in the College Chapel by no less than five Jesuit priests, Fathers Adrian Howell, Michael O'Halloran, Hilary Thomas, Matthew Power and John Twist. Mark Belderbos read the Bidding Prayers and Adrian Bidwell gave



The Association Secretary at work: North West Convivium

the Reading and Father O'Halloran the Homily. We are grateful to Rosanne Allen who played the organ.

It had been planned to have the after proceedings outside on the front lawns and enjoy the summer evening and the new Rosary Garden, but the sun failed to shine on the righteous and at the last moment matters had to be rearranged and everything brought inside. Drinks were served in the Pieta Gallery as conversation grew apace until, the headmaster, Andrew Johnson, welcomed everyone on behalf of the College and Mark Belderbos spoke for the Association and thanked the Association Secretary, Adrian Bidwell, for his services. He is leaving to take up gardening and was presented with the tools of the trade as a parting gift. Look out for him on 'Gardener's World'.

It was then time for a buffet supper in the 'Do' Room and a delicious selection of sweet and savoury canapés and sandwiches followed by some very exotic cakes and tarts whilst the conversation flowed as freely as the wine and the hubbub grew louder. Encouraged perhaps by the lengthened daylight, and despite some having a long way to go, most were reluctant to leave and lingered on into the gloaming.

About 150 came to the evening, from as far away as the Lake District and Cheshire. Big numbers do not necessarily mean a big success but in this case it worked and most people voiced considerable satisfaction with the event. Mark Belderbos, Association President, and Andrew Johnson, Headmaster of Stonyhurst College would like to thank people for coming.

REUNIONS

During past years we have organised many reunions at the College and assisted with those planned elsewhere. It has been decided due to the growing popularity of these events, and the demands of the College calendar, to concentrate on 25 and 15 year reunions, being held generally in May and October respectively.

There are already plans being made for the coming 12 months, 1983 in October 2008, 1957-63 in May 2009 and 1987 in October 2009.

If your 25th or 15th year reunion then falls in 2010, 2011 or even 2012 and you would be interested in galvanising your year into action then do let us know. It is never too soon! The Association Office can assist with postal addresses and emails, but we are not always informed of changes, therefore any help you can provide with new details is always gratefully accepted.

Please contact Beverley Sillitoe at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk if you feel that you would like to be involved.



CONVIVIA

We are planning a cycle of convivia around the UK, with the intention of holding two each year. We are hoping to hold one in London and one either in the North/Scotland or the Midlands, rotating each year. We are currently planning one for Newcastle this October, and one at Campion Hall in Oxford in November (see *Diary page 5*).

We would be happy to hear from OS who may like to suggest venues, and be happy to assist with the organisation. The usual format would be to start with Mass, and then have refreshments afterwards. We would like always to invite the Headmaster, the Jesuit Superior and the College Chaplain to attend so we need to plan dates in advance to try and ensure that they would be available.

Please do contact the Association Office if you have any suggestions and can offer assistance.

WANDERERS

ADRIAN BIDWELL

THIS YEARS WANDERERS sporting weekend took place at the College at the beginning of the summer term. It was fantastic to see so many OS of many different eras making an effort to come and take part. That the pupils won most of the events only put a minor dampener on the occasion.

It was cold for the cricket on the Oval with a biting and persistent East wind but also mercifully dry. The Wanderers batted first and eventually amassed a good total around the 200 mark. Early wickets then fell when the boys batted and we felt a win in the offing. However the boys then rallied well and held out for an honourable draw. Many thanks to Richard Drinkwater for organising the Wanderers team.

It was cold and windy for the golf too making for some interesting golf. A strong OS team were a little too good for the boys this year and Eric Craven and his team won convincingly 4-1 in the end.

The footballers found the strong wind difficult too but Rob Eatough and his team were determined to put right last year's defeat. The boys however had just returned from their football tour to Malta and their stamina and organisation saw them through to win.

OS girls battled strongly against the current girls in the hockey and the netball but couldn't manage a win in either. Thanks to Charlotte Dugdale and Rachel Ward for putting together some very competitive teams though.

Everyone had fun on the Saturday evening. Drinks in the Longroom were followed by dinner in the Top Ref with OS and pupils mingling well. There was a very happy atmosphere – quite the best that we have had since this event began a few years back. It never ceases to amaze and delight me how easy it is for the different generations to get along together with their shared experiences of life at Stonyhurst.

On Sunday there was a great crowd at Mass and as usual the singing increased in volume by many decibels. Then we had a new event organised superbly by Marco Vaghetti. He took much time and

care in organising 8 teams to take part in a seven-aside rugby competition on Smithfield. It was wonderful to see so many OS young and not young who had played there on many occasions before trying to reach the standards they once took for granted. The winning team was an invitational seven from Blackburn RFC which included 4 OS; Tom Barnes, Nick Barnes, Dino Radice, and Gareth Evans. However my favourite team was made up of the OS cricketers who played with panache and spirit but unfortunately did not win a game! Thank you to all OS who made the effort to come, some only to watch and I hope you will all be keen to come again next year.



SHIREBURN 100 WINNERS

January, 2008: John Denvir OS 1950; April, 2008: Neil Macfarlane OS 1975; July 2008: Huw Williams OS 1982.

The draw was made by Mark Leslie, Development Director at the College.

1988 REUNION

At the same time as the Sporting Weekend, a group of 1988 OSs decided on a reunion at Stonyhurst, but staying at Ribchester were mainly able to take only vicarious enjoyment in the activities at school. However as can be seen from the photographs they had a good time, revisited their old haunts and some managed a game of golf.



Around the table from the left are:

John O'Riordan, Jamie Malcolm, Andrew Warneken, Simon Dixon, Paddy Keown, John Koo, Chris Weld, Frank O'Friel, Eddie Burke, Dominic Carrington, Joe Fattorini.

CHARITIES

DAVID MERCER

Besides the charitable work carried out or supported by the Association and therefore indirectly by its members, there are many OS involved at a personal level. Here are just a few.

NEWMAN HOLIDAY TRUST

Dr Anand J Chitnis OS 76-81 is chairman of the The Newman Holiday Trust which organises high quality holidays for children with special needs, free of charge. (It was born out of The Higher Line Handicapped Children's Trust). The formula has changed only a little over the years but the challenge now is the change in statutory regulations and inspections, which are now undertaken by Ofsted. They have to supply a fully fledged children's home for one week, which is a tall order and an expensive one.

However last summer, the 27th year of holidays, the Ofsted inspector awarded the highest possible level for the care they provided. In the categories of 'helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do' and 'helping children make a positive contribution' their standard was adjudged to be 'outstanding'. Few professional Children's Homes achieve such a rating.

Below is an email linking to a video on YouTube about the Trust as well as how to volunteer and support it:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDv6oLLvLQ>

The Trust has grown quietly and now need over £50,000 per annum to comply with regulations. All involved are volunteers and apart from some nominal administrative costs, every penny they raise goes directly to running the holidays. Anand Chitnis says, 'We hope the young men and women at the College will see the NHT as a way to continue and develop their voluntary work. We need 150 volunteers each summer – **we would be delighted to have current Poets or Rhetoricians join our team of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.**' He adds that they are also particularly keen to hear from qualified and registered nurses.

If you would like to make a donation to the Trust, please go to:
www.newmantrust.org
 or www.justgiving.com

ST GILES TRUST FOR CHILDREN

Brendan Roche OS 78-82, Chris Atkin OS 77-82 and Eddy Newton OS 74-82 are among the trustees of the St Giles Trust, founded in Oxford in the early 1980s under the auspices of OS such as **Ronan Treacy, Henry Lubinski, Simon and Matthew Power, Finbar O'Callaghan and Paul Byrne.** They organise holidays at Ampleforth for children with special needs, taking about 15 children and about 16 helpers and following a programme

which will be familiar to those who have been involved in the children's weeks at Stonyhurst: trips to theme parks, swimming sessions, daily Mass but plenty of free play.

They are seeking helpers who can commit themselves well in advance, to allow for Criminal Records checks to be carried out. Any donations will be gratefully accepted and can be sent to: **Brendan Roche, 8 Blenheim Road, St Albans, AL1 4NR.**



BLESMA

After 36 years in the army, **Colonel Stephen Coltman OBE, OS 53-63** worked as the Deputy Chief Executive for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association from 1999 to 2006. The charity also looks after those who lose the use of a limb as a result of service and their widows or widowers.

BLESMA operates two Homes, in Blackpool and in Scotland, provides counselling service, gives advice on pensions, benefits and compensation and makes grants to those in need. It works closely with the MOD Medical Services, the Defence Rehabilitation Centre and the NHS. It also plans and organises rehabilitation events including sailing, ski-bobbing, parachuting, golf etc. Colonel Coltman's role was to run the

administration, personnel and liaison and he organised most of the Rehabilitation events.

He describes the work as extremely humbling, dealing with those who had suffered traumatic injury but who, with the assistance of BLESMA and fellow amputees, would come to terms with their injury and go on to lead (in virtually every case) a worthwhile life. Highlights of his time were organising an all amputee sailing crew in the Fastnet Race of 2001 to beat 100 other able bodied crews (above), and a male and female crew in the Atlantic Challenge (Canaries to St Lucia). The work was demanding but rewarding and he now continues in a voluntary capacity. As an ex-Serviceman himself, he feels he owes it to them.

JESUIT MISSIONS

*If I should walk in the valley of darkness
No evil would I fear...*

The words of the responsorial psalm had an ominous relevance: the Jesuit Missions Flora London Marathon runners had gathered for Saturday evening mass at the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, on the eve of the great day, all minds focussed on the challenge ahead. Look on the bright side, I thought, apparently we might be able to walk through this valley, whereas my understanding had been that we were contracted to run; well anyway, pastures green and quiet waters sounded like a good enough approximation to our finish line at St James's Park, and if divine help would ease my journey over the marathon course, so much the better.

Divine help was never far from us: in the morning the 21 runners gathered under the leadership ("I will lead from behind!") of Fr Tim Curtis SJ, Director of Jesuit Missions. He led us in a pre-run huddle for a prayer and a blessing, and then we were off. And lo and behold! We emerge from Greenwich Park rounding a bend on Charlton Road to come in sight of the Catholic church of Our Lady of Grace, and the parish priest, armed with holy water and *aspergillum*, sprinkling the runners with a "God bless you!" That's it then, I thought. I'm cooked. No excuses now.

The Missions team had an impressive total of six Jesuits running with us, while Stonyhurst was represented by four runners: Jonathan Sharples, who teaches languages at the College and was raising money for our twinned school, St Peter's

Kubatana in Zimbabwe. **David Hurst OS 62-70** was running his second marathon, raising money for the Makumbi mission in Zimbabwe, where he worked in the 1970s after leaving the College. **Brian Thursby-Pelham OS 88-90** was also running his second marathon, after a ten year gap. He was our youngest member, and our fastest, coming in below four hours despite wearing one of the Womble outfits (see inset). And then myself, **Anthony Eyre OS 70-74**, running in support of Jesuit Missions in Guyana where my son was working for XVP.



The Isle of Dogs is without doubt the Valley of Darkness. It is here that you have to confront the so-called Wall. David Hurst describes his particular experience: "It couldn't get any colder or more painful... I knew I was slow when I was overtaken by an elderly lady who was knitting a scarf while running. And then by an 85 years young man with a sign reading 'Running in. Please Pass.' I very nearly fainted at around the 20 mile mark but two other runners caught me as I was wobbling and the St John's Ambulance people helped me recover with excellent personal attention. I somehow got going again and was amused and stunned to hear the very next song on my iPod which was 'Knock Knock Knocking on Heaven's Door' – honestly."

The Jesuit Missions team raised £44,000, an excellent result; there is renewed interest at Stonyhurst to field a team for the 2009 Flora London Marathon. If you are interested in taking part yourself you should contact Alan Fernandes (alan.fernandes@jesuitmissions.org.uk), who has places available for next year.



Left: Andrew Hanratty OS 05-07 together with his mother, Krista Hanratty, ran the 2008 London Marathon and jointly raised over £11,000 for Meningitis Trust. Many individuals linked to Stonyhurst most generously sponsored them. Andrew finished in 3 hours 53 minutes and 42 seconds, 38 seconds ahead of his mother, so the honour of the College Cross Country Team was saved – just!



Above:

From Peru, **Francis Rainsford OS 66-71** writes to tell us that the Alumni Association (ASIA) of his local Jesuit school, Colegio San Jose in Arequipa 'adopted' the nearby school for handicapped children. This is state run but with very basic resources and the parents of the children are from the poorest of backgrounds. ASIA adopted the school in the 1990s and to date, has donated funds and equipment and built an annex to the building. Many hours of voluntary time have been invested by both ASIA and the students of Colegio San Jose with rich rewards in human terms. Francis, as an ex-Jesuit pupil also helps in their activities.

Adam Culley OS 96-98 wrote to say that he has been working in the UAE for the past 14 months but was returning to London to do an MSc. He planned to come overland by motorbike and raise money for 'Riders for Health' (below), a charity which provides for healthcare visits in Africa (http://www.riders.org/our_work.aspx). We have not heard since but hope he made it.



EAGLE AID HAS RECENTLY introduced two new projects, as well as rejuvenating another.

Stomatherapy and Wounds Clinic

Responding to a request from **Fr Gerald McCabe SJ, OS 41-49, Michael Gorman OS 39-49** seized on the opportunity to support this Harare clinic which was running out of resources. In particular the Clinic's transit truck was spending more time in the repair garage than on the road. With roaring inflation in Zimbabwe the cost of these repairs was quickly bringing the Clinic to its knees. Eagle Aid financed a new Mazda 4 x 4 that has restored the Clinic to its former state. The Clinic also needs help with buying the bandages, dressings and appliances needed for their work and Eagle Aid sent £7,000 to a Johannesburg company who are able to supply all that is needed. Eagle Aid is also sending £1,000 to help supply diesel for the new truck.

Milenje School, Malawi

The second new project is an appeal we received from a local Catholic School who have set up an initiative called SJB Africa to involve the whole secondary school in the rebuilding of a Primary and Secondary school at Milenje in Malawi, which are both derelict but continue to have almost 1,000 pupils, whom they try to teach in appalling conditions. The cost of this project is estimated at £42,000 spread over two years and it would be good if Eagle Aid could make a useful donation of perhaps £4 or £5,000 towards their target.



Upendu Unit, Kangemi

Eagle Aid has supported Kangemi Mission near Nairobi, in Kenya for almost ten years, but we lost contact with the Mission when Fr Gerry Whelan, SJ took a sabbatical prior to taking up a new appointment in Boston, USA. However, the Pedro Arrupé World Foundation, which promotes the Arrupé's scheme has recently focused its attention on the HIV/AIDs pandemic in Africa, starting with the work Fr Gerry began in Kangemi's Upendu Unit.

One frequently asked question is: *"How does Eagle Aid distinguish itself from Jesuit Missions and from CAFOD?"* The three charities are quite different. CAFOD is a major development agency operating on a very wide canvas. In particular, and especially when Eagle Aid was first established, CAFOD would not allow donors to specify the projects they wished to support, preferring to retain the right to determine the asset allocation of their funds.

Jesuit Missions are another major international player. They do not invite support other than during the London Marathon, when they run a major appeal. Jesuit Missions' main activity seems to be to act as a hard-currency banker for every Jesuit project overseas. They will, however, credit any donations received to the project of the donor's choice. Eagle Aid, on the other hand, is a small charity which selects specific projects to support; raises awareness of their needs and activities, and invites donations in support. At present we

support 8 projects, concentrating on their specific needs, which are beyond the reach of their available income. We do not, as a rule, support their day-to-day expenditure, as this can create a culture of dependency, which the JRS has taught us to avoid. We sometimes describe our support as 'enabling'; for example, our support for the Craighead Institute 'enabled' them to get started in Eastern Europe; or our contribution of £5,000 to repair the main water supply for the village of Borovica, 'enabled' the village to be rebuilt during the following year.

And from the Association Chairman, Christopher Page:

As our own charitable funds tend to be used for specific purposes (scholarships, bursaries, travel grants and our own administrative costs), and our fundraising efforts are usually Stonyhurst-centric, it seems very important to me that we should retain a wider context for the Association by supporting the excellent work done by our sister charity, Eagle Aid. It is an obvious duct for any fundraising initiatives we may have for the developing world, and has a well proven track record in choosing and monitoring suitable projects.

We hope to forge even closer links with Eagle Aid to develop the various ideas that Michael Gorman (past President of the Association) and his fellow trustees have pursued in raising and distributing the funds, ideally cross linking into other areas where the Association and OS are involved.

Eagle Aid: a new Web address

<http://eagleaid.typepad.com>

You are all invited to visit us now.

The site is constructed using 6 blogs, the 'parent' blog and the others covering projects in Africa, Europe, the Far East, India and the Middle East, and Central and South America.

The Xavier Volunteer Programme (www.xvp.org.uk) provides opportunities to young adults to continue to be 'men and women for others'. Last year Tom Leonard OS 2006 and Nick Crouch OS 2006 participated in the programme spending six months working in the north west of Ghana in the town of Wa. (see also A Time of Gifts, page 27)

WE VERY MUCH WANTED to do something that was worthwhile and would prepare us for the challenges of adult life so we volunteered for XVP and were chosen to work in Ghana. The dates of our posting allowed four months to earn extra money to add to what we had raised to finance the programme so I, (Tom) worked as a Gap student at St Mary's Hall and Nick toiled in local restaurants. We left our families in Preston and after a few days in London, flew out to Accra, the capital of Ghana in January 2007. As advised on the XVP Orientation course we had attended the previous summer, we carried enough medical equipment to set up a field hospital. In addition Nick had brought his guitar. It would be a long six months!

Two days in Accra and we spent thirteen hours reaching St Francis Xavier's school in Wa. It is known as a Junior Seminary but only a few become priests and the rest get a good Jesuit education. On the journey we had the opportunity to try the 'internationally famous' dish, Foo Foo – interesting to say the least, consisting of ball of sticky dough with a thin soup and meat, which in Ghana means any part of the animal. No orientation course could have prepared us for the culture shock of the strange food, unreliable transport coupled with discomfort, dust, and more dust. That said the Ghanaian people were very friendly.

We had a few days to settle in, meet the locals, attend a colourful funeral and get accustomed to our basic accommodation, only cold running water, electricity on occasion and creepy crawlies in the beds. Then we were let loose on the pupils of St Francis. These were roughly our own age but teaching was easier than expected because they were remarkably well behaved and eager to learn. Throwing ourselves into the work, we attended choir practice – a doubtful contribution – and sports, especially basketball and football and we found that everyone

was interested in our Premier League. We also helped a local primary school which had computers but no one to teach the skills. It was great fun starting from scratch and by the end, many of the children were proficient in the use of a computer.

Wanting to make the most of our time we were determined to join in with the community and make a difference to their quality of life so we helped at a local hospice and an orphanage. It was a humbling but enjoyable experience and would make anyone appreciate the services we have and take for granted in England. We soon began missing the simple pleasures of home, particularly food and drink. A simple basic diet was the order of the day and some of the local dishes took some getting used to but hunger is always the best sauce. However we did draw the line at dog's brain and rat on a stick!

It was not all work and we could travel at weekends and the holidays. One such

trip we went to a hippo sanctuary and another to the Mole National Park, a very beautiful place where one can see elephants, antelopes, snakes and many other species of wild life. At one point we were literally six feet away from elephants as they drank and washed in a watering hole. We also went down a gold mine and visited the fort at Cape Coast, built to house slaves before shipping them to the Americas and squealed with delight at the sight of goodies in the only supermarket in the country in Accra.

There were also celebrations. In March – Independence Day and the birthday of one Thomas Leonard, weddings and a memorable Easter Monday picnic in the park.

We enjoyed our time in Ghana and liked its people. They show great respect and care for the elderly – a lesson we could learn from, and in our experience at least, it is a safe and friendly place and one we should like to return to some day.

Below: Isabella Gee OS 02-07 teaching at St Ignatius School, Dodoma, Tanzania. She and Stefano Ghirardi OS 05-07 spent part of their gap year in 2007-8 working at the school on an XVP placement.



PILGRIMAGE NEWS

PILGRIM PATHFINDERS

'Life is not just about having new journeys with the same eyes but also about having the same journeys with new eyes' (Buddha)

Formed in January 2006 in preparation for the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Rome, Pilgrim Pathfinders is now approaching its 3rd year. Since then we have met 14 times and trodden over 140 miles in the cloud forest of the Ribble Valley (below).

As was the practice during our walking pilgrimage to Rome, there is the opportunity to begin the day with the 10 am Mass at St Peter's Church. Although we often cover familiar ground, be it over Longridge Fell, Dunsop Bridge, Whitewell or the River Hodder, Father John Twist continually surprises us with new paths and routes.

We would like to thank all who have continued to join us this year and welcome you again in the future. For further details, please contact us at emma.wottoni@btinternet.com or see the Association website for future dates.

Emma and Richard Wotton OS 78-88



EAGLE AID PILGRIMAGES

Maxinne Torrents dels Prats organises functions to raise money for Eagle Aid and an annual retreat and pilgrimage for the same purpose. One function this year was a piano recital by Rose Cholmondeley to be held at the Polish Embassy. Maxinne likes to use embassies because, when she asks 'Without fail, the Ambassador replies that he has been educated by the Jesuits or a relative has been, and he would love to cooperate'.

On the 2007 pilgrimage to Italy, she writes:

November 5th, without fireworks, was the departure date for the 2007 Eagle Aid pilgrims, twelve of us; though in the Departure Lounge we realised that our two most experienced travellers were missing: Pat Doyle from Indiana and Maureen Whelan from Dublin. They were able to take a later flight and join us next day. Meanwhile, we had arrived as planned at the Franciscan monastery of La Verna, a site originally given to St Francis and where he received the stigmata. At 1128 metres the beautiful buildings, some dating from soon after the time of St Francis, look over and contribute to an area of outstanding beauty and I, inhabitant of a busy London street, felt that my lungs might collapse under such pure, crisp air.

The monastery particularly commemorates the stigmatisation of St Francis and houses many works by Andrea della Robbia, notably the famous Altar of the Ascension of Christ. During our two days retreat we had a Mass with a talk from Fr Michael, morning and evening, and the opportunity to join the community and other visitors for the morning and evening office. The religious feeling was greatly enhanced by the surrounding countryside in all the glory of autumn. A group of Franciscan Sisters gave us excellent meals and on the third morning we bade them a fond adieu as we headed off, first to Arezzo and thence to Florence. It was in the rectangular chancel of the church of St Francis that we admired Piero della Francesca's frescoes of the story of the finding of the True Cross, realising also how fortunate we were to have with us so modest and knowledgeable a fine arts guide as Steven Fachada.

After absorbing some of the many beauties of Arezzo, we made our way

to our Florence destination, the comfortable Loggiato Dei Serviti. The façade of the building forms part of the early Renaissance colonnade forming the square in front of the Servite church. The Prior made us very welcome and arranged for us to have Mass together in a chapel adjoining the cloisters next to the church. Within the church there is still the 15th century fresco of the Annunciation, carefully preserved from the original building, in front of which St Aloysius Gonzaga offers his virginity to Our Lady. That was a good spot at which to pray for Stonyhurst through the intercession of its patron saint. Florence is totally absorbing. Donatello is a special study of Steven's so he saw to it that his work became a focus for us in the midst of so much, clamouring for our attention. On the Sunday we went together to the principal Mass in the Duomo and afterwards met up with Fr Gerry Whelan, Maureen's Irish Jesuit son who had come down from his lecturing in Rome to spend a day or two with us. We had one day in Siena, admiring the church of St Dominic and the great Duomo with its spectacular Biblioteca Piccolomini. Another day we wandered all over the lovely walled city of Lucca with its famous Volto Santo, a crucifix which is copied in the embroidery of one of Stonyhurst's old chasubles. Always however, we returned to our hotel beds in Florence and no matter how wearying the day, we were fortified by a meal at one or other of the splendid restaurants Steven had found for us when he, as it were, walked the course for us earlier in the year. The weather was seasonally kind. Only on one afternoon did it rain and that rather sadly was when we went to visit La Pietà, formerly the home of Sir Harold Acton. The interior was full of fine things but we would have loved a dry walk through the gardens. This year, the fact that we were pilgrims was underlined by the two-day retreat with which we started, but that is not necessarily part of the programme every year. Whether we are renewing old friendships or making new ones, those friendships are at the core of the holiday, expressed daily in our Mass together and by the varying connections we have with Stonyhurst.

Michael Gorman OS 39-49 is the well known director of EAGLE AID and he too has been organising annual pilgrimages to support and complement his work.

He reports on their visit to the Holy Land:

Eagle Aid completed its first Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2007. Michael Gorman organised the Pilgrimage and Frs Michael Bossy SJ and Billy Hewett SJ provided the spiritual content. We spent three nights by the Sea of Galilee, two in Bethlehem and five in East Jerusalem, based on the Mount of Olives. Although few – we were only 14 – this turned out to be an advantage, as we were able to go to places which could not accommodate a larger number.

The high point of the visit was undoubtedly our visit to Bethlehem, where we visited Bethlehem University, sang Vespers and then had supper in the Beit Jala Seminary and celebrated Mass on Sunday in the Parish of Beit Sahour.

We carried with us some £10,000 (or \$21,700) to distribute in the various places we visited. Some 60% of this used to replenish the 'Eagle Aid Humanitarian Fund' which the Latin Patriarchate administers on our behalf.

In our talks with Fr Faysal, he indicated areas where he would like to use our donation: to fund a mosaic for the Parish Church, of St Teresa of Lisieux, the Parish's Patron Saint, and to fund the cost of security bars on the school's windows.

We also met with the General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate, Fr Shawki Bateria, who explained to us how our contribution had been spent. From a 2007 balance of \$25,000, \$8,000 was shared between Taybeh Parish, Birzeit Parish School and Beit Jala Seminary; \$14,500 was distributed to 32 beneficiaries and \$2,500 remained unspent. The report provided 10 examples of the nature of these contributions. For example:

A four year old girl suffered head injuries in a car accident and needed urgent plastic surgery, at a cost the family could not afford. The Patriarchate gave \$5,000 so that the operation could go ahead, and they withdrew this from 3 Funds, of which ours was one; our share was \$1,500.

In another case, an old man from Aboud Parish developed severe abdominal pains. He needed an urgent operation, at a cost of \$4,000. The Patriarchate gave \$3,000 for the operation and withdrew this sum from 2 Funds, of which ours was one; our share was \$1,000.

We are delighted to help in this way and look forward to keeping our Fund in Jerusalem topped up on a regular basis.



ST THOMAS GARNET SJ

2008 marks the quatercentenary of the death of the College's protomartyr, St Thomas Garnet SJ, an event celebrated with a special mass in the Jesuits' Gardens at the College, and in London with a pilgrimage from the Tower to Tyburn under the direction of **Christopher Page OS 67-76**.

After meeting for Sunday morning mass at the Church of English Martyrs near the Tower, a group of almost 40 set off on foot for Tyburn Convent, pausing along the way for reflection and prayer (above: in St Paul's Church Yard). We were welcomed by the community at Tyburn, and after Benediction led by Billy Hewett SJ enjoyed a picnic in Hyde Park.

Right: Christopher Page with Billy Hewett SJ



STONYHURST AND GUYANA

DAVID MERCER

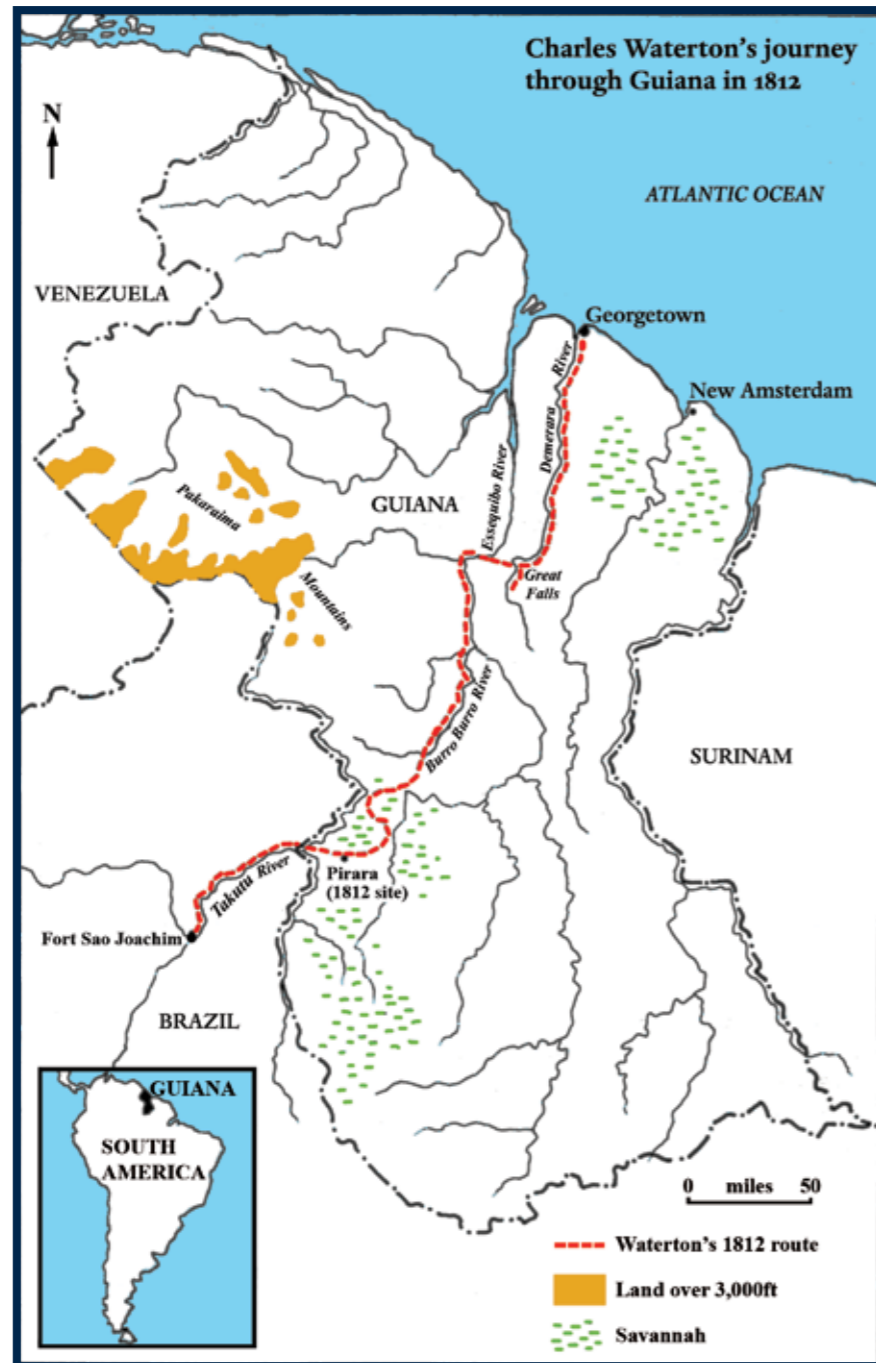
GUYANA IS SITUATED ON the N.E. coast of South America and occupies an area greater than that of Great Britain. The coast was first seen by Christopher Columbus in 1494 but he did not land. Sir Walter Raleigh sailed up the nearby Orinoco in 1595 and after him came English, Dutch and French traders and petty wars ensued, but the Peace of 1815 after Waterloo left Britain in possession of the colony, now called British Guiana.

From the sixteenth century, it had become a busy Dutch trading area with new settlers happy at first to treat the original inhabitants as commercial partners. Relations, which began as cordial, soured as the Guyanese were exploited financially, then worsened with outright ill treatment. Many, such as the Patamona moved up into the hills and to replace them the settlers brought in African slaves and later Indian and other Asian labourers to work their farms. The colony became independent from Britain in 1966, as Guyana and is the only English speaking country in South America.

In 1780, Fr Leonard Neale SJ, StO, later Archbishop of Baltimore, visited, but the Dutch who then held the colony would not let him do any spiritual work and he soon came away.

The next OS to be associated with the area was the famous naturalist, explorer and notable eccentric **Charles Waterton OS 1796 – 1801**. The Napoleonic wars prevented him visiting Europe in the

years after leaving the College and he had a yearning for a warm climate His uncle managed a sugar plantation there and his father had recently bought a neighbouring estate which needed someone to act as overseer and so in 1804 he arrived in Stabroek (Georgetown) the capital.



Always an oddity, he did not find the debauched social life of the colony to his taste and tended to say so and although he worked 'at intervals' as manager, he

detested the institution of slavery on which it was based. The settled parts and estates were along the coastal strip which very soon gave way to trackless forests inhabited by wandering tribes of Indians and escaped slaves and a very few Europeans who were 'Protectors' of the Indians and maintained some degree of contact with the tribes. A few more might be engaged in extracting the valuable hardwood timber or were plantation owners who preferred to live a safe distance from the swamps and mosquitoes of the coast.

Waterton returned briefly to England when his father died in 1805 but was soon back in the Americas and doing a considerable amount of travel. He was very pleased to be commissioned (as the first of his family since Queen Mary's time) to deliver dispatches to the Spanish Government at Angustura, 300 miles up the Orinoco River and this journey gave him his first real sight of the life that was hidden in the forests and wetted his appetite for more. His insatiable curiosity covered everything, people, animals and plants and he seems to have been greatly struck by the contrast between the areas touched by civilisation where 'the vice, ignorance and corruption' was the same, and those which were not. The people of

the forest had a dignity and spirituality which echoed the quality of their landscape and Waterton felt drawn to their world.



Above: Mibirri Creek

He had made friends with a timber merchant who lived far from the coast in isolation on the Mibirri Creek and from him and his family, he learnt about the wildlife of the forest and adopted their way of life. He gave up wearing shoes and soon was able to run and climb barefoot like an Indian and could live as they did from the forest.

In 1812 he set out to explore 'the far, extending, unexplored wilds of Guiana'. He chose a bad time – the start of the rainy season and when he got back four months later he was 'so careworn, sick and changed' and it was three years before he recovered from malaria and felt strong again. The expedition however to the fort of Sao Joachim in Brazil made him briefly famous and when he returned to Georgetown he carried the spoils of his travels – a ball of rubber 'delightful odiferous gum... about 150 of the most rare and beautiful birds and fine, fine blowpipes'. He also had quantities of the vegetable poison *curare*, which he had tested on an ox. He had watched the Indians preparing this but it was not known then that the bark of the liana vine contained the poison. His experiments with the substance helped to lay the foundations of modern anaesthesia, developed in the 1960s at the University of Liverpool. Some of these items he brought back to Europe and can now be found at Stonyhurst in the Collections.

In 1820 he returned to the abandoned house of his friend at Mibirri Creek continuing his activities in natural history and collecting specimens. He had a particular ambition to take a large cayman back to England and made an expedition up the Essequibo River for

that purpose. They caught one at last on a baited bunch of wooden hooks and then 'nothing remained to do but to get him out of the water without injuring his scales'. He was determined that his specimen should be unblemished. At first his party refused to cooperate and wanted to kill it but then he took the mast of their canoe and using it as a defence, placed himself between the cayman and the others who were to pull the reptile out. If it attacked him he would push the mast down its throat leaving the skin undamaged.

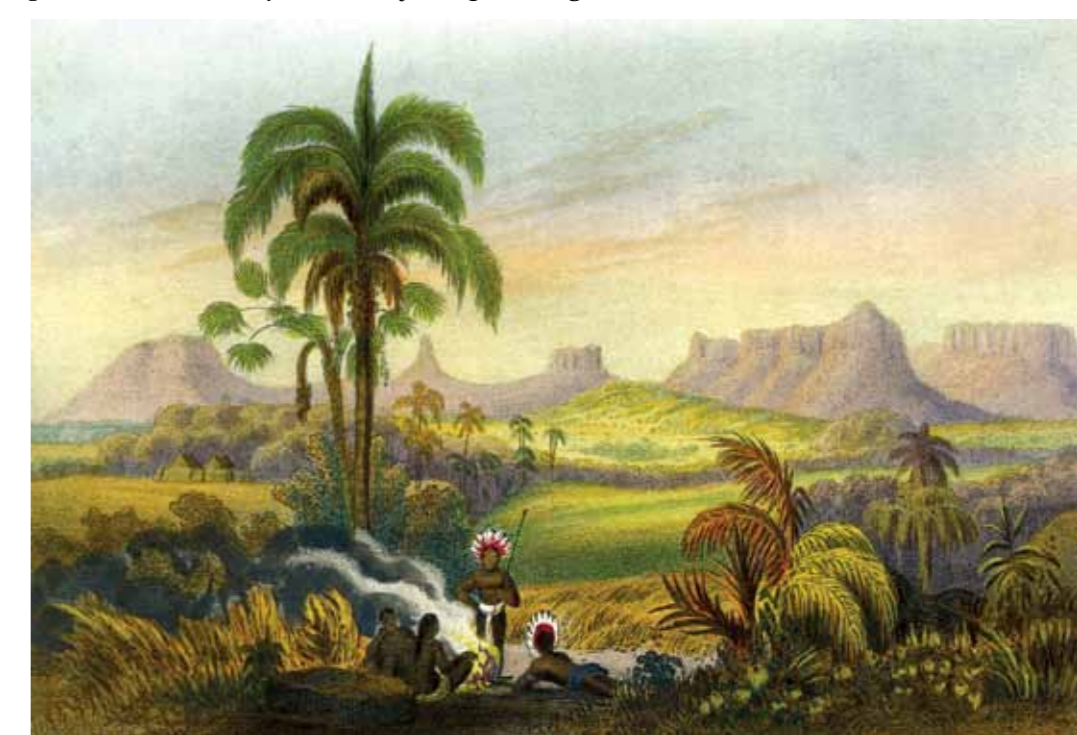
'This was an interesting moment. I kept my position firmly, with my eye fixed steadfast on him. By this time the cayman was within two yards of me. I saw that he was in a state of fear and perturbation; instantly I dropped the mast, sprang up, and jumped on his back, turning half round as I vaulted, so that I gained my seat with my face in the right position. I immediately seized his fore legs,

and by main force, twisted them on his back; thus they served me for a bridle.' (see Front Cover)

After a struggle, the cayman was finally secured and carried back to the site where they had their hammocks. 'There I cut his throat; and after breakfast was over, commenced the dissection'.

(*Wanderings in South America* – Charles Waterton)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle OS 1868 – 75 did not visit the region but heard fascinating accounts of it, especially the mountain plateaus such as Roraima (below) which lies on the border with Brazil and Venezuela. His active imagination peopled it with prehistoric monsters which had survived into the modern age and led to the book *The Lost World* – the original theme for *Jurassic Park*.



Evelyn Waugh was not quite OS but a parent of one and frequently visited the College. So his journey through Guiana in the 1930s and his subsequent book, *Ninety-two Days* deserve a mention.

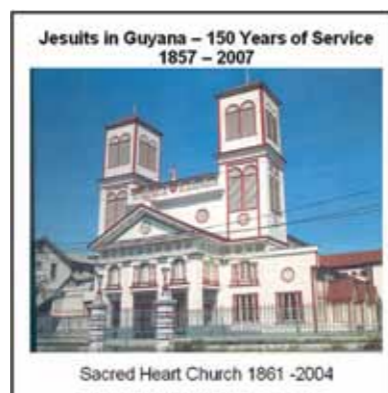
He visited Fathers **Mather** and Keary at St Ignatius on the Takutu and travelled a little with Father Keary (cf *Henry Cotton Mather*).

Travelling was still a very arduous and fairly dangerous business in the interior. As he remarked: 'There are a hundred excellent reasons for rough travelling, but good living is not one of them.' Provisions were always a problem and accommodation nonexistent unless he could find a ranch or a mission. He commented: 'It had been a hard and at times arid experience. I had taken enough strenuous exercise and suffered enough mild privation to justify myself in spending the rest of the year in indolence and self-indulgence....I had caused unavoidable pain to several horses. I had added to my treasury of eccentrics... including the fantastic Mr Christie' 'He asked me if I were a believer and I said yes, a Catholic. 'There are *some* good Catholics conceded Mr Christie...Only the other evening I was looking at the choir of the blessed singing before the throne of God and to my great surprise, I recognised the late Bishop of Guiana....'

THE JESUIT CONNECTION 150 years

When Britain became the ruling power more religious toleration was shown. Churches were established at Santa Rosa, Abram Zuil and Malgretout and later at Georgetown and New Amsterdam and in 1857 the Mission was handed over to the English Province of the Society of Jesus and last year saw the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the event. As missionaries, doctors, hospital workers and teachers, they established a strong foothold in the country carrying out valuable work among the Amerindian population, who held them in high regard. The Jesuits founded and ran two hundred primary schools and three secondary schools in addition to numerous mission stations. (See back cover).

A very fine cathedral in wood – the finest wooden building in the world – was erected in 1870. It was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1913 but immediately rebuilt in more durable material. The same fate overtook the equally fine Sacred Heart church in 2004. It is now



commemorated on a postage stamp (above).

Being a part of the English Province, the Jesuits themselves were mainly English and as such had a Stonyhurst connection. A number of them were OS and many had been at St Mary's Hall, which for a long time was a seminary, for part of their training.

The famous **Father Cuthbert Cary-Elwes SJ, OS 1881 – 87** was also an eccentric from his early years. Rather troublesome at school, he astonished **Alban Goodier** by telling him that he was at the College because he was going to be a priest, go out to the missions and be martyred. The future archbishop was aghast but straight after Stonyhurst, the pair began their noviceship at Manresa.



Unworldly as well as odd, nobody thought he would stay the course but he did and when he taught for a while at Beaumont, he won the respect of otherwise difficult pupils with his sincerity. After asking his Provincial, he was sent to British Guiana in 1904 and immediately asked the bishop to let him do a mission in the cathedral. The bishop was not encouraging but the mission was a great success and he had similar results training a male-voice choir. He showed great capacity to inspire, and a genius for making Catholicism attractive: he fully realised the value of ritual and ceremony. In 1909, he went with Bishop

Galton to the Takutu River to begin his missionary labours among the Indians at the station known as St Ignatius.

'For thirteen years he journeyed, instructed, baptised and did heavy manual work in the building of mission houses and churches. His mission field extended from the head of the Ireng among the Patamona Indians to the head of the Rupununi among the Wapishanas, a distance of 280 miles. He rarely travelled by boat, and very rarely rode a horse: practically all his journeys throughout this immense area were made on foot; and he nearly always walked barefoot.

His food was that of the Indians among whom he happened to be staying at the time: farrine, cassara bread, yams, salted or smoked fish or meat. Fresh meat was rare, and sometimes there was no fish or fresh meat for days on end. When at his headquarters, St Ignatius, he fared somewhat better; but his visits there were rare and brief.'

'...His love for the Indians, his very real zeal for souls, his hardy, self-denying apostolic spirit were perhaps his most prominent virtues; and they were closely interwoven with a gentleness, a prayerfulness, a shining holiness that drew people to him and very powerfully attracted Indians whose love and reverence for him are still strong.'

One of the qualities which impressed the Indians, was his utter fearlessness of danger. *The Wide World* magazine carried an article describing him taking a photograph at the top of the Kaieteur Falls. 'Father Cary stepped to the side of the camera, bent over, balancing on one foot, with the other waving in thin air above that awful abyss, and made the needful adjustments as though there had been a drop of but a few inches instead of a thousand feet beneath him'.

He became known over thousands of square miles as the 'Little Padre' a term of high distinction and honour and not for nothing does his picture appear on a postage stamp commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the Jesuits (left).

Henry Cotton Mather OS 1897 – 07 was of the same family as the famous American Puritan, Cotton Mather, but his mother and her children were received into the Church at St Wilfred's, Preston in 1893. From an early age he was noted for his considerable manual skill and an ability to repair things to perfection. He was also keenly interested in bird life.



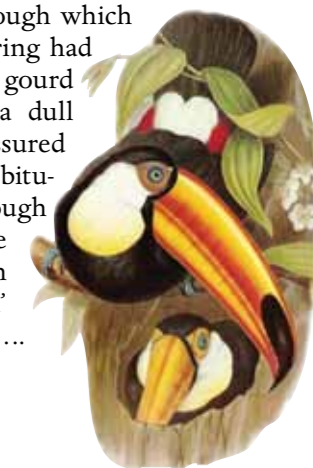
Left: Fr Henry Mather SJ

a mischievous little mocking-bird who upset everything and to whom I became particularly attached; he was killed by a cat during my stay. There was also a huge toad who inhabited the house, though he can scarcely be described as a pet; he had quarters behind a kerosene tin and woke up at sunset with a series of deep barks; he never appeared except by lamplight when he would come out, flopping along heavily; he had an unaccountable taste for burning cigarette ends which he would snap up and swallow with an insatiable appetite.'

Another writer, Michael Swann commented on his manual skills and also described him as an 'enchanting talker'. He relates in *The Marches of El Dorado*:

'We lunched in the mess adjoining the mission house, and to celebrate my visit, Father Mather unlocked a cupboard and produced a dust-covered bottle of Scotch whisky. He told me about Wapishana travelling hammocks that were a triumph of craftsmanship, the type of wild cotton they use, the special reeds from which they make their baskets; he told me about the excited dances performed on the flat surface of a rock by those brilliant yellow and orange birds, the cock-of-the-rock; he told me which part of the Kanukas I might go to if I wished to gather the leaves of the Erythroxylum coca, whose active principle is an alkaloid cocaine. 'The Indians use it as a tonic,' he said, 'chewing the leaves with lime and ashes.' An infusion of this leaf is the famous secret constituent of Coco Cola – or was.'

After lunch, Father Mather pointed out the highest peak of the Kanuku range and told him that an epiphytic liana grew there and without it the Makushis could not have become the best makers of 'urari'. Swann continues: 'Come with me' said Father Mather with the air of a man who knows he has made his intended effect. We went to a back room and from a locked cupboard Father Mather produced a dozen black gourds of various sizes each with two small holes on either side through which a piece of bush-string had been looped. Each gourd was heavy with a dull black substance, fissured like sun-baked bitumen. 'There's enough there to kill the whole Black Watch in Georgetown' said Father Mather...



He began his noviceship in 1907 and after his tertianship at Tullamore sailed for British Guiana in 1923. He was appointed to St Ignatius but had a bad attack of malaria on the way and had to divert to Boa Vista in Brazil and be nursed back to health by the Benedictines. He then found his way back to Georgetown by going down the Amazon and round by sea. He tried again in 1928 with Father Keary but their boat capsized in rapids and several of the party drowned but the two priests survived and were eventually taken back to Georgetown. The third attempt succeeded and they arrived safely at St Ignatius where Father Mather remained except for a brief interval, until 1944. He usually stayed at the mission base learning the difficult language of the Makushi while Father Keary travelled among the Wapishanas and the Patamonas.

Evelyn Waugh visited in the early thirties, describing him in his book *Ninety-two Days* as 'the kindest and most generous of all the hosts of the colony'.

He also says: 'Most of the simple furniture of the living

room was his work – firm, finely jointed and fitted, delicately finished, a marked contrast to the botched makeshift that prevailed even in Georgetown. He loves and studies all natural things, in particular woods and birds about which he has huge stores of first-hand knowledge. It is very rarely that he goes down to the coast; when he does the riverside scenery – to me unendurably monotonous – provides a luxurious orgy of observation; occasionally some call will take him into the hills, but for the most part his work keeps him in the desolate surroundings of St Ignatius.... It was as lonely an outpost of religion as you could find anywhere.'

Describing life at the mission, Waugh says, 'There were pets of course; a misanthropic and rather menacing 'bush turkey' which strutted about the gallery, shaking his scarlet dewlap; two toucans with vast disproportionate beaks, shaped and coloured like toys; they used to appear at meal times and catch pieces of bread with astonishing accuracy; if neglected they asserted their presence by pecking one sharply in the leg. There was

You've probably heard of it under its detective story name – curare. You remember the Sherlock Holmes tale? It's the original South American poison unknown to science and leaving no trace. Except that it's been known to science for donkey's years – they were using it for nervous diseases in Europe nearly a century ago.'



George Weld SJ, OS 1893 – 1901 was the grand-nephew of Cardinal Weld and the son of Walter Weld of Leagram. He had two Jesuit uncles in Guyana and was Vicar Apostolic for over twenty years becoming Bishop in 1932. He taught at Stonyhurst and went to St Stanislaus College, Georgetown in 1923, and was appointed headmaster the following year and under his direction the school flourished. During his episcopate, he quietly and calmly followed the work of his predecessors in the development of his Vicariate, greatly increasing the number of schools and churches especially in remote areas.

He has been described as 'a man of the greatest humility and selflessness. He thought little of himself or of his own comfort or convenience'. When he died, the Anglican Archbishop of the West Indies said he felt a real sense of personal loss. He said that on his arrival, Bishop Weld was the first person to call and welcome him and that they often took counsel together on matters of common interest and especially in dealing with government departments were often able to take common action. Bishop Weld would never compromise on a matter of principle, he said, but he was never obstinate about non-essentials and by his persuasive charm he helped others to emulate his own sweet reasonableness.

Francis Mayo SJ, OS 80-88 arrived in Georgetown in 1912 but he too soon went up country to St Ignatius, first to help Father Cary-Elwes, whom he had known when he taught at Stonyhurst,

and later when he was invalided home, as his substitute, until Fathers Mather and Keary took over. His father was a naval VC and perhaps he too had the sea in his blood. At the College he and his brother had made an ice-sailing boat and later in Guiana, he designed and had built a 30 foot boat with an outboard motor. Once on holiday at Barmouth with Cary-Elwes, the brothers hired a sailing boat which Cary-Elwes is said to have steered with faultless precision on to a sand bank. His luck in this direction did not improve and he and Bishop Galton were once capsized into the rapids of the Ireng when he gave the wrong order to the crew.

On his journey to the Takutu to help his ex-pupil, Mayo shipped his boat on to a steamer sailing up the Demerara River and then a short distance by train to Rockstone on the Essequibo where the boat, manned by a dozen Indians, was loaded with supplies for the mission to sail to the confluence of the Rupununi. The boat had to be loaded and unloaded many times for it to be lightened for negotiating the rapids. They finally went up the Rupununi to Upukari where they travelled with bullock carts across the savannah to St Ignatius. Evelyn Waugh later made much the same journey. Such expeditions of course like the life they led in the bush, were not without dangers. Besides alligators, the rivers held electric eels and the pirai or pirana which sometimes attacks without the stimulus of blood in the water. Father Mayo was asked by one of his crew to shoot an alligator to obtain its teeth but when he did so it was immediately attacked by myriads of pirai. It is fortunate that the Hodder holds no such monsters or Francis Mayo would not have been such a successful salmon angler or landed the fish which once won him the Moylan Salmonship.

Herman de Caires SJ, OS 20-28 was one of the best cricketers the College produced and would certainly have been an international had he not joined the Jesuits. He was a noted all-round sportsman although academically not so brilliant. Due to World War II he did parish and youth work in St Helens before returning to Guyana in 1947. Here he did parish work and was noted as a determined perfectionist and very direct. Once he went to watch cricket at Leeds to find the ground full so he asked to see Leary Constantine at the gate and was then admitted to the pavilion. 'Always go to the top' he would say.

In Guyana his contemporaries described him as 'always willing to help and absolutely reliable' and that 'he was deeply loved by many ordinary people'. There have been other OS Jesuits in this remote part of the English Mission and it is good to see that **Peter Britt-Compton SJ, OS 31-36**, maintains the Stonyhurst connection with the area. It is also fitting that two of our gap year students this year, **Paddy Page** and **Giles Rous-Eyre**, both leavers in 2007, were posted to St Ignatius almost a century after its foundation in 1909 by **Cuthbert Cary-Elwes SJ, OS 1881 - 87**.

At the Anniversary Celebrations, Father Holman, the British Provincial, described how 150 years ago, the Pope had asked the British Jesuits to take responsibility for the Catholic Church in Guyana. Father Etheridge was appointed as the first Superior in 1857. He was a remarkable man whose missionary style paved the way for the work of future generations of Jesuits who have since set up schools and missions, spirituality and interfaith centres and parishes, often in the most inhospitable and challenging environments deep in the interior of Guyana. In more recent years, the Jesuits launched the Catholic Standard newspaper and a Catholic television station, and were influential both in the formation of a democratic electoral system and in many institutions such as the Guyana Institute for Social Research and Action. Father Holman paid tribute to the people of Guyana and said the two important words he had to say were 'Thank you' 'Thank you to God, to the Church in the Diocese of Georgetown, to you who have worked alongside us and to the many more who with your kindness and friendship have supported us.'

(From *Jesuits and Friends* Issue 68)



Above: the Cock-of-the-Rock

GUYANESE ARTEFACTS

Jan Graffius

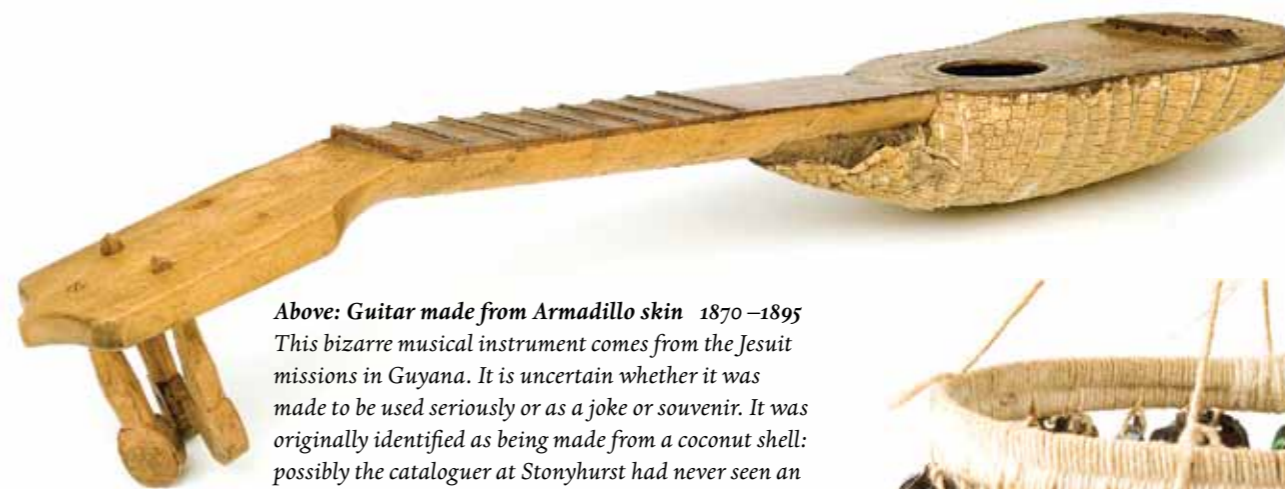
THERE IS A significant collection of Amerindian artefacts from Guyana held at the College, brought back by Jesuit missionaries and Charles Waterton.

Waterton was a great champion of the Amerindian peoples of Guyana and used his fame as a scientist and naturalist to plead their cause, although his case was often undermined by his numerous eccentricities. In 1817 he visited the Vatican to ask Pope Pius VII (1740-1823) to intercede on behalf of the Patamona tribe, but unfortunately while waiting for his audience he became bored and proceeded to climb to the top of the dome of St Peter's, leaving his gloves stuck on the lightning conductor. The Pope was unamused and made him bring them down and the subsequent audience was less than successful.

The following items from the Collections form part of the exhibition 'Held in Trust' at St Francis Xavier's Church, Liverpool, from 30th July until 27th September. The exhibition is one of the Liverpool's 'City of Culture' activities.



A Patamona Girl



Above: Guitar made from Armadillo skin 1870-1895
This bizarre musical instrument comes from the Jesuit missions in Guyana. It is uncertain whether it was made to be used seriously or as a joke or souvenir. It was originally identified as being made from a coconut shell: possibly the cataloguer at Stonyhurst had never seen an armadillo before.

Right: Arm ornament made from Beetle Wings 1800-1836
This unusual, and probably rather uncomfortable, armlet comes from Guyana and was catalogued at Stonyhurst in 1836. There is no information as to the donor, or the exact location in Guyana from which it comes, but it may well have originated with Charles Waterton.



Left: Beaded garment of the Patamona Indians c.1890
The Patamona people largely live in the highland forests of Guyana. Today it is estimated that there are about 6,000 Patamona living chiefly as hunters and farmers in the more remote regions of that country. The photograph above, showing a Patamona girl wearing such a skirt, was taken by Evelyn Waugh.



OS IN GUYANA

PATRICK PAGE & GILES ROUS-EYRE

Our special correspondents in South America, Patrick Page and Giles Rous-Eyre, both 2007 leavers, have managed to contact some of the few OS now living in Guyana and have sent us their news. Seniority of place must go to

Peter Britt-Compton SJ, OS 31-36 and who has been in the country over half a century. They write:

WE MET FR BRITT-COMPTON in Aishalton, one of the larger villages in South Guyana's interior where we had been sent to teach in a secondary school and help

out in other ways. When we came to ask Fr Britt if we could talk to him, he was buried quite happily it seems in his Baptismal Records.

Fr Britt is 89 and left Stonyhurst in 1936. He has been in Guyana since 1953 and is a mine of information. He articulates perfectly for an interview but he is quite deaf so we wrote our questions on a sheet of paper. He is in excellent health and seems unaffected by the standard tropical diseases and was delighted to help, he told us, because the Association has been kind in sending him the Newsletter.

He had a 'pleasant' time at Stonyhurst and sees it as a very valuable training for his time in Guyana. He felt fortunate to be taught by Crispian Hollis's father and because of this receives a Christmas card from the Bishop. In his characteristically modest way he told us that he was

a 'hum drum' sort of pupil at school, ex-

celling neither in academics or sport but he did enjoy the Cadet Corps and being surrounded by many young Jesuits inspired him hugely.....

...to such an extent that on leaving

the College he went straight into noviceship in Roehampton to 'learn the ropes' and took his vows for the Society in 1938 before going to teach at Wimbledon College. He was called up

at the outbreak of war but the government had done a deal with the Jesuits who would supply 50 chaplains and the other clerics would be exempted. To satisfy some quirk of Canon Law and to qualify as a 'cleric' the novices had four locks of hair cut off. But during the threat of invasion he happened to be cycling near the south coast in the usual shorts and top and had put his clerical garb in a bag to discover later and to his horror that this was the outfit supposedly used by German spies parachuted into England.

In September 1940, he went to Heythrop to study Philosophy and it was here that he met an aged Fr Cary Elwes OS 1887, the first missionary in western Guyana and to whom the strong faith of the Amerindians in the Rupununi (our area of savannah

and mountains in west Guyana) can be largely credited. In 1946, Fr Britt actually

taught at Stonyhurst for a year but was asked at the end of his tertianship if he would like to go to the missions in the then Rhodesia or Guiana. Like many people to whom we have spoken about our travels, and like us before we were to come here, Fr Britt didn't have a clue as to the whereabouts of the latter. He told them he would like to go to Africa and so was sent to British Guiana in South America. 'But' he said with the usual glint in his eye 'I'm very, very happy that I was, especially considering the way Zimbabwe has gone since then'.

He had been ordained in 1950 and arriving in 1953, like most missionaries then, did not expect to return. At first he worked in Georgetown, the capital, as a hospital chaplain and assistant at the Sacred Heart, which unfortunately burnt down on Christmas Day 2004, and then at other places in the coastal region involving much travelling by canoe in the creeks and rivers to visit schools and outlying parishes. Epidemics of polio had to be contended with and it was his sad duty often to be burying babies.

In 1982 he came out to St Ignatius, Lethem in the Rupununi where we are and where he is fondly remembered by the then children but has also visited Kurukabaru in the Pakaraima Mountains. He told us that over the years the biggest challenge has come from the evangelical churches who have rewarded converts with clothes, shoes and bicycles. He is now stationed permanently in Aishalton but is not retired or, as the Jesuits say, 'praying for the society' and calls himself 'semi-retired'. He does the time-consuming and essential work of issuing Baptismal and Marriage Certificates and gardening every morning in his 'togs'. We have never seen togs before which epitomize the word so perfectly!

He does not wish to be 'shunted' home and hopes that Aishalton is where he will finally 'end up'. When we asked him what was the best thing the Jesuits had done for Guyana he answered that they had been 'the core of catholicity' from the beginning.

(In the February Newsletter, there is a letter from Peter Britt-Compton asking for news of some of his classmates. Unfortunately we were not able to help because the people concerned were either deceased or out of touch. If there is anyone with information about them, please get in touch with Peter Britt-Compton. Editor)

Louis John Patrick Willems OS 48-54 very kindly arranged to give us time for an interview in his house, and then took us out for a delicious meal in a nearby restaurant (one of the bonuses of news gathering is the often lavish hospitality of OS!). He started his education at a Benedictine school in Trinidad but at the age of twelve and with the encouragement of Bishop Weld OS, he crossed the pond to St Mary's Hall to recover from the experience. This may seem a cruel banishment but Mr Willems said it was far from the case because his mother died when he was still young and his father did considerable business in Liverpool and was able to visit regularly. Moreover both his elder brother **Anthony** and his younger brother **Michael** were at the College and SMH.

Mr Willems loved his time at Stonyhurst. Not very academic, Mr Willems was, as seems to be characteristic of Guyanese OS, an extraordinary athlete. In particular he excelled in long-distance running. In cross-country there were three pools and on his arrival, Mr Willems witnessed the winner of the first pool cross the Lions before the runner-up had set foot on the Avenue. He was impressed, but in his own debut race, he won by the distance of the Avenue...plus five minutes! His athletic superiority well-established, he was asked before one race by two OS, who was going to win and he replied 'Me.' An arrogant remark perhaps but among the teachers and pupils, discussion was not 'if' but by *how much* he would win. He has a fond memory of a Stonyhurst race against Ampleforth when he lay second all the way but managed his trade-mark spurt at the end and just win to the delight of the Rector, Father Vavasour who can be seen in a photo of the event celebrating with not only his hands but also his legs in the air.

While at the College, Mr Willems also broke the record for the fastest one-mile run, previously held by Father McKenna and Cardinal Merry del Val, by one second in the time of 4 minutes 51 seconds. Like many, he loved the countryside around Stonyhurst and once with a companion ran to the source of the Hodder.

He was Captain of Athletics and of Boxing and played the cello in the Orchestra and the triangle in the Band!

Leaving the College and after experience in a sawmill, he took a course in forestry before joining the family business which he ran until it was sold in 2002.

Inevitably (...slightly at our insistence...),

the conversation turned to Forest Conservation. We raised the typical questions on wildlife and global warming. Mr Willems gave a valuable insight into the sustainability of Guyanese Forestry. The qualification 'Guyanese' is important. Basically, as he puts it 'we do not have a problem because the forest protects itself.'

He explained that their forest is generally poor and the trees very thin. The tree available in commercial volumes is the 'Greenheart' and so they practice selective forestry without the wholesale destruction one normally sees and so the forest remains largely unchanged, so much so that conservationists have mistakenly described them as 'pristine' and 'virgin' rainforest. Accepting the need to tackle climate change, he was dubious about the sincerity of some conservationists who as he pointed out live on the charitable donations to their cause.

Since retirement, he has been a board member of the Ethnic Relations Commission which can take much credit for the first bloodless elections in 2006 since independence in 1966. The country is a racial melting pot and the two main political parties are representative of the most numerous ethnic groups so that politics can have a very divisive effect. The Commission has the vital job of ensuring good relations between the ethnic groups in matters economic, sociological and political.

Mr Willems lives with his wife Mary (who makes delicious ice cream) in Georgetown. His son John, Vincent, Francis known by his third name **Francis**, who also went to the College died tragically in a boat accident. He also has two daughters, Dominique and Ruth.

We arranged to meet **David de Caires OS 49-55** at the office of the *Stabroek News*, Guyana's most popular daily newspaper of which he is the editor. We began by asking about his time at the College. Both his father and uncle were OS and had excelled at boxing and cricket (see *Report and Accounts for 2005*, and also page 22). Coastal Guyana is essentially Caribbean and the standard of cricket is high and much was expected of him. He was able to satisfy expectations in cricket to some extent but he had no background or talent in boxing as became obvious when pitched against the best boxer at the College and he emerged from the ring in a less than perfect state.

He did not enjoy living away from his family and missed the climate but feels



Above: Peter Britt-Compton SJ with his parish records. (Photo: Patrick Page)

A TIME OF GIFTS

PATRICK PAGE & GILES ROUS-EYRE

that a Jesuit education instils a sense of duty to others and to God and gives an idea of purpose and direction in life. On leaving Stonyhurst, he trained as a solicitor in England and returned to Guyana to practise law. When many libel actions were filed against the editor of the *Catholic Standard*, Fr Andrew Morrison SJ by government ministers, in an effort to close it down, he and others defended him free of charge. In an effort to avoid further suits, they asked to see proofs to pre-empt avoidable legal hassles. The paper was the only part of the media to speak out against the incompetence and corruption of the government of the time. Mr de Caires' job with other lawyers was to present the articles in such a way that the paper could not be sued for libel. President Burnham died in 1985 and his successor President Hoyte indicated an intention to liberalize. Under Burnham the media had been state controlled. It was in that context of *glasnost* that he started to print the *Stabroek News* in 1986 and two years later stopped practising law. He had thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of publishing a newspaper, which had led to a deep involvement in society, but wished that he had started twenty years earlier – when he had a lot more energy. His huge enthusiasm enabled the *Stabroek News* to become the most prominent 'daily' but what is the purpose of a newspaper? He answered himself by quoting the American playwright Arthur Miller: a good newspaper is a 'nation having a conversation with itself'. He has certainly fulfilled this criterion; the 'Letters' section is given a prominent place and more generally, the paper expresses the frustrations of the people. When he founded the *News*, then the only privately owned newspaper (and still the only respected one), two of their main editorial themes for the first few years were the need for fair elections and a return to democracy and the privatisation of parts of the economy – some 80% was in government ownership. 1992 saw the first fair elections since independence, although incompetence and corruption are still rife and Guyana's future remains controversial, many looking towards Brazil. Mr de Caires is confident that stronger links, if managed correctly, will be of economic benefit to the country, which traditionally looks towards Europe and the Caribbean. His newspaper keeps abreast of these contemporary issues.

David de Caires has two sisters in England and he visits regularly. He is the son of **Frank de Caires OS 20-27** who played cricket for the West Indies and the nephew of **Father Herman De Caires SJ, OS 20-28**, another noted cricketer. He also has a daughter, Isabelle, married to the cricketer Michael Atherton, so keeping the game well and truly in the family. His son **Brendan OS 80-88** worked with Amnesty International and is now a literary critic for the Caribbean Book Review. He lives in Canada with his wife and two young children.

Dominic Mendes OS 74-80 met us in the Oasis Café in Georgetown. His time at Stonyhurst seems to have been a combination of the disadvantages of long-distance boarding and the advantages of the unique 'Stonyhurst experience'. Despite being more used to a tropical climate, Mr Mendes remembers the 'Plunge' with an ironic fondness and says he enjoyed the game of 'Murderball'. This consisted of playing in muddy fields with a heavy round leather ball: fascinated, we enquired about the rules. We were told that the only rule was that there weren't any. Our experience of Stonyhurst led us to guess, correctly, that the aims of the game were to mutilate one's opponents (chosen on impulse and at random) and get as muddy as possible before 'washing it off' in the Ponds. Mr Mendes also has fond memories of CCF under Major Cobb. After the College, he studied Communications Electronics in Florida and joined the family business in 1987, but then became a pilot working for 'Trans-Guyana Aviation Ltd' in 1993. That year he also married Jacqui, with whom he has three children, Pascale, Rose and Benedict. He went on to Roraima Airways in 1997 leaving as Chief Pilot in 2001 to go back to Trans Guyana Airways where he was trained on their turboprop aircraft, going on to become Operations Manager before leaving in 2006. He then moved to the Caribbean Star airline, in Antigua, now taken over by LIAT. Last February he and his family moved to Vancouver, Canada. Like many Guyanese, he is frustrated by what he sees as the false promises and mismanagement of the current government. Some have optimistic views on the future of the Guyanese economy, particularly due to Brazil's increased interest in the country, but Mr Mendes believes that there are some issues that need to be resolved re governance.

We were unable to meet **Edward Gonsalves OS 52-59** in person because he was working on a bridge over one of the largest rivers in Guyana, the Berbice, so he kindly gave us time for a 'phone interview'. He was sent to Stonyhurst due to the legendary and incessant encouragement of **Bishop Weld OS** and his daughter **Catherine**, also OS, was Second Head of the Line.

A very good athlete like many Guyanese, Mr Gonsalves played for the 'Bantams', the aptly named rugby team for the shorter members of the year, from the time of his arrival until the U16s. After that, his speed and skill were recognised and he went straight into the 1st XV to play alongside the future internationals, Barry O'Driscoll (Ireland) and Nick Drake-Lee (England). He was also a cricketer, wicket keeper in the 1st XI throughout Higher Line, when he also won the Hundred Yard Dash. He liked fencing, but enjoyed the CCF 'as much as I enjoyed the ferula'. We enquired what Stonyhurst had done for him and he gave an analogy: 'Products of Stonyhurst are like tractor tyres...' Fortunately he elaborated: 'they are hard to bore, can be bent millions of times and can withstand all kinds of pressure' He was careful to point out that he meant mentally rather than physically. He studied Civil Engineering in Montreal, Canada and then returned to play a major part in the difficult business of building up Guyana's transport infrastructure and has also worked on major projects in India, the USA, Japan and China. From his perspective as an engineer, Mr Gonsalves had interesting views on the future of the country and in particular, her relationship with Brazil. Many Guyanese believe that Brazil will tarmac the road from Lethem to Georgetown which is the only North-South route in Guyana, a longitudinal country. They think that Georgetown will be used as a harbour to export goods but he explained that they would first need to dredge it and make it deeper and keep doing it because it constantly silts up. He thinks they are likely to use French Guiana which has a better transport infrastructure and dismisses the Georgetown idea as wishful thinking. Mr Gonsalves has been keeping in touch with many OS and is planning a reunion in May 2009, for all who left in and before 1963.

January

WE ARRIVED AT ST IGNATIUS Mission, Guyana, on 26th January 2008, travelling overnight from Georgetown in 'the big bus'. It is a fourteen-hour reckless and rugged expedition by mud tracks across the interior, to the nearby township of Lethem, where we were met by Father Joachim de Melo SJ, a Goan Jesuit, with open arms and a big smile. The presbytery is a two storey building with a verandah on the top floor equipped with hammock. It is a minute's walk down the bank to the Takutu River, which forms the border with Brazil and only a ten second walk to the parish church (which we really appreciate at 6.00 in the morning!). Behind the numerous cashew and mango trees, one can see clearly the forested Kanuku Mountains. In the presbytery there is TV with DVD player (and some Hindu film classics) and broadband internet. Our rooms are comfortable and our food delicious if not very varied. Fathers Joachim and Kuru are fantastic company and have been at pains to make us feel at home. It must be the best Jesuit house in Jesuitdom although we have to share it with poisonous snakes in the shower and scorpions in the bed sheets, well one of each anyway, and lizards, frogs and the ever friendly mosquitoes. Outside in the compound there are chickens, two dogs, an evil cat and the occasional anteater. (cf *Evelyn Waugh's description*)

St Ignatius was a mission founded in 1909/10 by Father Cary-Elwes SJ and OS and like almost all Amerindian villages does not have a recognizable centre but describes a community covering an area of three miles radius. Sunday Mass is a vibrant occasion with much singing and guitar playing for a congregation of about 300, the majority children who have been very welcoming. We are involved in the parish but also work at the secondary school, a 10 minute cycle ride away, only helping at first but due to recent losses of staff, we are much more involved and now

Left: Paddy Page taking a junior liturgy class at St Ignatius Mission, Lethem

have our own classes. One hears from teachers in other developing countries, of keen and perfectly disciplined pupils. The children here are very charming and we enjoy teaching but there is simply no discipline. Pupils come and go as they like and truancy is a huge problem. After Mass, we teach Year A Catechism to small children and Year D syllabus to those approaching Confirmation which deals with more complex issues. We're learning a lot! We do youth work for the parish, meeting twice a week. On Wednesday we have prayers and sing the youth hymn (all about wanting a 'youthquake' to 'shake, shake, shake' the earth). Sundays we may pray with and help the old or ill members of the community or play games with the children or picnic and go fishing and swimming. We spend a lot of time unofficially at these activities and have had some wonderful experiences. Recently we both accompanied the Bishop on his Confirmation rounds. Giles went south to the savannah country and Paddy north to the villages of the Pakaraima Mountains. A huge advantage of being with the Jesuits is that we are not merely tourists and can interact with the Amerindian people who are on the whole quite shy. It was fascinating to see how they live.

June

OMNIA DE MORES – WE CONTINUE to be the abused climbing frames of the children – more scorpions and poisonous snakes – the mosquitoes and kaboura still enjoy their soft skinned fleshpots. But we also continue to have new and exciting experiences. Easter holidays gave a rest from teaching and parish work and a chance to climb the reputedly highest Kanuku mountain. At the top, Fr Joachim said Mass and washed our feet (it was Maundy Thursday). Then we spent a very cold night at 'base camp'. Easter is also the time for the Rupununi Rodeo and the dusty, sleepy town of Lethem opens its groaning doors to most of Georgetown (the capital), some Brazilians, the local vaqueros or cowboys from Guyana's ranches and the occasional rodeo fanatic from the USA. This is the Rupununi Festival with events such as calf-roping, bucking broncos, bull-riding and one called the 'The Greasy Pig'. The nature of this last event can be left to the imagination. On Easter Monday we helped with the Church Fair, raising money for the new roof with 'Hoopla'. At first we had little custom, with prizes of plastic kitchenware, but became a hotbed of activity by adding





Above: Fr Joachim with yet another poisonous snake

alcohol and money to the prizes. Mass on Easter Sunday however is always less of a success because most people are still hung-over from, or still celebrating, the rodeo.

The Jesuit Superior in Guyana, Father Dermot Preston took us south to Aishalton for a conference of Lay Ministers who officiate at weekly services in many villages when a priest cannot be had. We spent a week there and did some teaching at the secondary school where the pupils were smiley and willing and well disciplined. It was a huge relief and very rewarding.

Aishalton is the base of Father Peter Britt-Compton SJ, OS 31-36, aged 89. He has

been in Guyana since 1953 and has worked throughout the country but mainly in the South Rupununi Savannas. We had quite a talk with him to get material for the Newsletter and he seemed delighted to see us. (see OS in Guyana)

During their time at Lethem Giles and Paddy were also able to attend a jungle survival course, which consisted of ten days training in the jungle ending with a two day 'isolation' period. With mixed results:

Sometimes we did survival theory and psychology and jungle knowledge – basically the skills need to survive the last two days on our own. We were shown all the spiders, snakes, scorpions and ants that can give you excruciating



pain – it took the guides a mere half hour to find a huge assortment of these beasts. We learned skills of hunting, trap making, fire building, shelter building and the uses of the different plants.

Nuts were gathered from a kukrit palm, which when cracked open with machetes exposed fat little maggots – they didn't taste bad either. Unfortunately they were for the baitfish. We went in dugouts, using little lines with the maggots. We soon had several baitfish each and these were put on stronger hooks and we cast them. It was fantastic – through no kind of skill most of us had continuously tight lines and the fish varied between one and five pounds.



We went night spotting (above), moving silently down river in canoes with headlamps on. Thanks to the flash-back of the animal's eyes, you can in fact see more than in the day. We met a three foot cayman and with a lot of splashing (and swearing) one of the guides caught it and pulled it into the boat to take back and eat but he later felt guilty and released it. Other catches were a five foot anaconda and a baby black alligator (these ones grow huge). We took them back to camp to play with them. Unfortunately we have no photographs of either of us sitting on the cayman!

We learnt creek poisoning from the root of a vine cut up with machetes which we then beat into a stringy mess and dipped in the water. It is supposed to deoxygenate the water temporarily but having started we noticed a huge black lump just upstream. It was a haimara, the first of six of these monsters that we shot that day. They are dark, huge and immensely powerful and take maybe ten arrows to kill (an Amerindian may use about five).

Then came our 48 hour isolation for which we had been preparing. Our kit consisted of machete, bow and arrows, fishing line and hooks, medical kit, emergency radio, water bottle, iodine, flint and steel fire starter and the clothes we stood in. We were very excited.

We were taken to separate spots and made shelters and tried to fish – our only source of food. It is a common misconception that there are lots of fruit and berries in the rainforest. We caught baitfish in the approved manner but nothing else. Paddy had some of the maggots and found a carbohydrate called 'Heart of Palm' but Giles had nothing.

Next day was no better. Paddy caught a small fish and shot an iguana (about a foot away). Again Giles had nothing and decided to sleep until the morning when we were collected and revived with

Left: the Jesuit presbytery at St Ignatius, Lethem where we stayed



chocolate before paddling out of the jungle and trekking to the village and our survival course ended with a welcome beer – ice cold in the Rupununi.

Paddy's birthday was on the 28th May and so some of the older children of the parish got together and baked a cake and made some soft drinks. It was such a wonderful occasion. The children were between the ages of six and 15. Father Joachim arrived and turned the party round. He has a great talent and memory for children's games and we played Musical Chairs and other games involving nursery rhymes. Fortunately they know exactly the same nursery rhymes as us; unfortunately neither of us can remember them! However we joined in wholeheartedly...It wasn't the classic 19 year-old's party ('ba-ba black sheep' and 'pop goes the weasel' don't usually feature in these) but it was unforgettable.

The last night of our stay was made very special. They had organised some Guyanese songs, some poems about us, some funny skits and some Parishara (traditional Amerindian) dancing and then a good Rupununi supper. They also gave us two very nice T-shirts which had been hand-painted with a scene from the Rupununi and Ariwa Youth written on them.

It feels like we are leaving a lot of

Right: the return to the mission at Lethem and Paddy's birthday party. Giles cuts the cake.



Above: another cayman, another OS – just another unlucky day in the Guyanese jungle!

Left: the jungle survival party with their catch of haimara fish. Paddy is on the left, Giles is third from right.

unfinished business but it has been a fantastic experience and we have developed a strong affection for the Amerindians...They are very relaxed but when they need food, they will go and farm their cassava and go hunting or fishing. This laid-back attitude is epitomised in the phrase 'just now' for when something will be done. It means absolutely nothing. It could mean a second, a minute, a day, a week...If we bring anything back from Guyana to university, it will be that phrase... It remains to say thank you very much to all at Jesuit Missions, especially Hania Lubienska and Father Tim Curtis SJ, for

enabling us to enjoy these last few weeks. We would also like to express our huge gratitude to Father Joachim and Father Kuru who have been such good company throughout these months in Lethem, and especially to the parishioners of St Ignatius and most all to the children who have entertained us non-stop. It is impossible to say what we have done for them: easier to say what the experience has done for us. We have become more aware of the complexity of difficulties facing the developing world, but have also become more optimistic that things not only can be done, but are actually being done.



HELD IN TRUST

T E MUIR

Held in Trust: 2008 Years of Sacred Culture. A catalogue of an exhibition from the Stonyhurst College Collections, held at St Francis Xavier's Church, Liverpool, 30 July-27th September 2008. Editor: Maurice Whitehead. St Omers Press, Stonyhurst. 2008. £9.50.

ACCORDING TO THE MEDIA Liverpool's status as a 'City of Culture' is primarily associated with The Beatles. Yet obviously there is much more to the city than that. To a substantial degree it was a Catholic metropolis, and not simply due to nineteenth-century Irish immigration. This splendid exhibition shows the extent to which Liverpool's Catholic heritage is rooted in its Lancastrian hinterland which, at the same time, was plugged into an international religious scene. This is because St Francis Xavier's church, where the exhibition is held, was founded in 1840 by Jesuits from Stonyhurst. So, appropriately enough, the lion's share of exhibits comes from here. Yet by 1900 St Francis Xavier's College and parish numbered over 2,000 pupils, 11,000 parishioners and 25 religious. It had become the largest Jesuit missionary and educational enterprise in Britain.

The catalogue is planned around six essays by distinguished Catholic scholars. These cover the Medieval and Reformation periods (Norman Tanner SJ and Deborah Youngs), Lancashire Recusancy in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries (J.A. Hilton), the Nineteenth-Century Gothic Revival at Stonyhurst and Liverpool (Anthony Symondson SJ) and the Jesuits and the Wider World (Michael Barnes SJ). In their different ways they relate the contents of exhibition to their respective historical and social environments. To each are attached splendid photographs (67 in all) of a selection of the exhibits, many of which *should* be familiar to Stonyhurst denizens. However the critical notes by Janet Graffius, our curator, show how much our understanding and appreciation of this gorgeous heritage has been recovered and enhanced in recent years.

The whole is preceded by an excellent Preface and Introduction by Maurice Whitehead, the editor, and Tom McCoog SJ respectively. These do not just pull the various religious, historical and cultural themes together; they show how the concept of a museum was very much a Jesuit invention – the product of a genuinely holistic approach to education. Beautiful, curious and historically symbolic objects, when displayed around a building (not just left in cases) and *used* in religious worship and teaching, play a vital role in the enculturation of a sense of identity, of *belonging* to a supportive wider community, that is a true purpose of education. This is what the exhibition and its catalogue are about. It is something that many present day educators, trapped in modern humdrum standardised educational units of limited aesthetic value, are all too prone to forget. Buy it and see for yourself.

Held in Trust: 2008 Years of Sacred Culture, ed. Maurice Whitehead; 208 pages, paperback, illustrated in colour throughout. Price £9.50
Copies can be ordered from the Stonyhurst Association. Please add £1 for postage, make cheques payable to "Stonyhurst Association" and send them to: Mrs B. Sillitoe, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ.

Below: Tony Horan SJ, OXAV '47, (left) with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Muñoz



GLORIES AND MAJESTY REVEALED

THE *HELD IN TRUST* EXHIBITION at St Francis Xavier's Church, Liverpool, was opened on Wednesday 30th July by His Excellency Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. He spoke to a packed church, which included amongst many distinguished guests Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool and Michael Holman SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits in Britain. His speech preceded a concert which more than lived up to its title, the happy fruit of an opportunity which St Francis Xavier Church and the Catholic Record Society were able to give to Dr Peter Leech, who conducted *Capella Fede*, the musical ensemble he has founded to perform neglected pieces of 17th century choral and instrumental music, in their debut performance.

Peter Leech is a scholar as much as a musician: the concert had its beginnings in musical research over ten years ago, and as such was a unique event, with seven modern world première performances of pieces unheard for 300 years. The research gave the programme coherence and logic; the Stuart kings married Catholics, and the repertoire of the private Catholic royal chapels provided much of the material, dating from the later 17th century; in many cases it has only come to light after painstaking archive searches. St Omers was well represented: two of the première pieces were organ pieces by Antoine Seloche SJ, Director of Music at St Omers; and another première was from a St Omers play, *Sanctus Tewdricus*: a fragment found in the Cheshire Record Office.

However it was Peter Leech the musician who stepped onto the podium, and conducted an exhilarating performance glowing with energy: as he commented, hearing the black dots become music again was a transforming experience. The evening began with a lively *villancico* by Antonio Marques Lesbio and ended with a thoughtful and moving *Nunc Dimittis* by Innocenzo Fede SJ. In his introduction Peter Leech commented on how the fact that James II's prayer book was a mere 30 foot away, that perhaps James himself had listened to the same music whilst holding that prayer book, made the evening so significant. The concert gave the exhibition voice; glories and majesty were revealed, and that great guiding principle, AMDG, was again enshrined.

Anthony Eyre

The Held in Trust exhibition ends on Saturday 27th September, 2008.

On Friday 26th September the ending will be celebrated with a concert given by Stonyhurst's Schola Cantorum, which you are encouraged to attend. Further details from the exhibition office: 0151 298 1911.



Above, l to r: Dr Peter Leech and Professor Maurice Whitehead OXAV.

Below: Sr Mary Walmsley CJ, Stonyhurst Governor, Dawn Johnson, Jan Graffius, Curator and Andrew Johnson, Headmaster.



HELD IN TRUST

2008 YEARS OF SACRED CULTURE



Edited by
Maurice Whitehead

THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

CLASSIFIEDS

The Association Newsletter has an estimated readership of almost 10,000 like-minded people, an ideal target group with shared interests and values. Rates are competitive – £8 per column centimetre – and enquiries should be sent to association@stonyhurst.ac.uk

AIMS & ACTIVITIES

FOR THE MEMBERS

To maintain contact with and support members of the Association, other friends of Stonyhurst and Jesuit schools worldwide, through:

Contact database; newsletter; student grants; reunions; annual dinners; sport; other annual events.

FOR THE CHURCH

To encourage members to develop their faith and support of the Church, through:

The Association Prayer Book; the College Easter Retreats; the Lourdes and other Pilgrimages; the Sodality; the Association's Chaplains.

FOR THE COLLEGE

To work closely with the College and to provide, where possible, support for the College in the achievement of its objectives, through:

Association Office, giving support to the Development and Admissions office; scholarships, prizes and bursaries; publications through the Association's St Omers Press; careers advice.

FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

To provide comfort and support for the disadvantaged, particularly those suffering from bereavement, poverty, sickness, mental or physical disability, through:

The Annual Stonyhurst Lourdes pilgrimage; supporting holidays for children with special needs; Eagle Aid; promoting the Xavier Volunteer Programme and other Jesuit projects; benevolent funds.

The Stonyhurst Association is run by its officers, committee and full time Office Manager, through its office at the College, and is funded through subscriptions and investment income arising from gifts made over the years by members.

GRANTS

The Stonyhurst Association has some funding available for student grants in the following categories:

OS students at university undergoing financial hardship; Medical Electives; and Travel Electives.

In 2007 we awarded £3750 to OS students who made successful applications.

The Association will consider grant applications at the end of each summer term before the next academic year. All grants are subject to the availability of funds. In the case of financial hardship grants then the applicant needs to demonstrate that there is a real financial need. The application should include a letter of support from the applicant's University Tutor or Head of Department, and in the case of medical and travel electives it should confirm that the arrangements being made will be beneficial to the student's degree.

All applications should be sent to: Mrs B Sillitoe, Stonyhurst Association, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PZ.

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Anthony Eyre OS 70-74

Victor Fauvelle OS 80-85

Michael Goodier OS 58-66

Michael Joseph OS 55-59

Toby Lees OS 94-99

Tim Kearns OS 76-78

Sarah Knight OS 87-89

Niall Macfarlane OS 66-75

Brendan Roche OS 78-82

Jerome Saulet OS 90-94

Charles Whitehead OS 82-87

Emma Wotton

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BELGIUM

John Martin OS 59-67

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Richard Drinkwater OS 84-91

GOLF

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RUGBY

Marco Vagheti OS 98-03

MEMBERSHIP

Full membership of the Association is available to all pupils leaving the College and its prep schools, to their spouses and parents, to all past and present members of staff, and to those relatives and friends who wish to support the objectives of the Association.

Associate membership is available to parents or guardians of current pupils, and to current staff members.

Applications for membership should be made to Mrs Beverley Sillitoe at the Association Office, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ.

Benefits of Membership

Golf

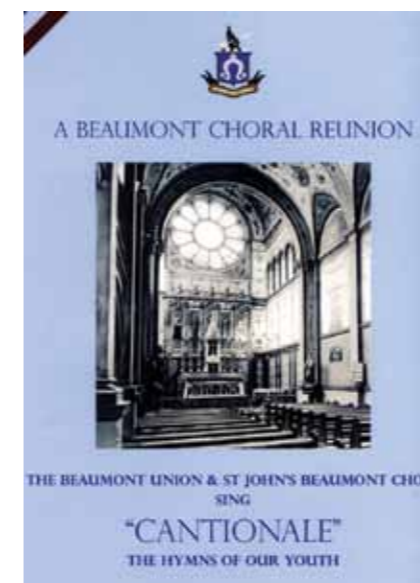
The Stonyhurst Golf Club allows members to play golf when visiting the College for a fee of £10, which is payable at the Bayley Arms. It would be advisable to check to ensure that the green is not closed for competition purposes. Their telephone number is 01254 826478

Fishing

Any member who might be interested in fishing on the Hodder or Ribble can contact Mrs Beverley Sillitoe at the Association Office (association@stonyhurst.ac.uk). Permits can be obtained for the day, but alas this is for members only and not friends. Good trout fishing can be had from mid March to September and the sea trout fishing is at its best in June, July and August. Salmon start to run the rivers from mid summer until late autumn. Fly fishing is the preferred method but in certain conditions spinning is allowed.

Weddings

Members who are to be married can have their wedding ceremony in St Peter's, subject to the date being available and with arrangement with the Parish Priest, Father Adrian Howell SJ. We are also able to offer a champagne and canapés package following the ceremony, and the College grounds of course provide a perfect setting for the wedding photographs. For further details please contact Mrs Claire Eddleston at DevCo@stonyhurst.ac.uk, or telephone 01254 827014.



THE SPIRIT OF BEAUMONT

The older members of the Stonyhurst Association will remember that 41 years ago Beaumont College Old Windsor closed and Stonyhurst saw a substantial influx of Beaumont Boys. The boys of that generation of both Jesuit schools shared the same repertoire of hymns. While it is more than 40 years since the closure of Beaumont, the Beaumont Union is not merely surviving – it and the Spirit of Beaumont is very much alive, with 145 attending its annual dinner last October and 200, including families, the Remembrance Sunday Mass at the War Memorial in the grounds of Beaumont.

The Beaumont Union, as part of its fundraising effort for the Lourdes charity, HCPT - The Pilgrimage Trust and for the Dermot Gogarty Memorial Trust (in memory of the late headmaster of St John's killed tragically in a car crash in 2005), marked the 40th year of the closure of Beaumont by producing a CD entitled "Cantionale – The Hymns of Our Youth" which is a recording made in the St John's Chapel in 2007 by members of the BU of the hymns sung in the Beaumont Chapel in the 60s and before. It is accompanied by an illustrated souvenir booklet designed by Andrew Flood (OSJ 91).

The proceeds of the 290 copies already sold have to date given each of the charities £2,000. We envisage that the nostalgic delight that this CD has engendered for the BU will be replicated for the Stonyhurst Association. An order form for this unique recording is available from me at john.flood@westhylands.co.uk or West Hylands 71c Dorking Road Epsom Surrey KT18 7JU or on 01372 725951 and the cost is £15 + £1.50 p&p.

John Flood



Villa in the Italian Dolomites

Villa Gordon, in the Italian Dolomites and two hours from Venice, is available for rental in 2009. Sleeps 15, surrounded by lakes, mountains, castles and abundant good food.

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QUANT JE PUIS RUGBY



QJP RUGBY is an invitational rugby sevens club, competing in a number of highly competitive tournaments in the UK and abroad, and seeking to live up to its motto both on and off the rugby pitch: all tournament winnings are donated to the SCHAT, the Stonyhurst College Holiday Trust.

Marco Vagheti (OS 98-03) is always looking for sponsors to help with the growth of the club. If you are interested please go to www.qjprugby.co.uk for contact details and more information.

SHOP!



GOODS AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

Left top: Association tie, £19
 Middle: OS tie, Knitted silk: £19
 Bottom: OS tie, printed silk: £17
 Below: OS bow tie, knitted silk: £19



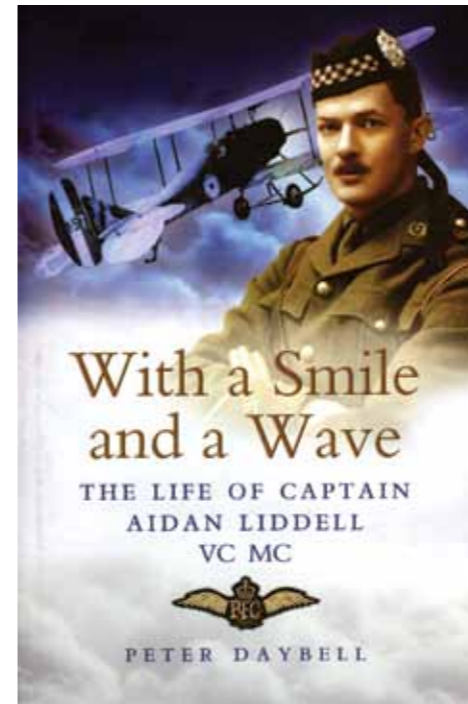
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 Shields, £24.00
 Pre-tied OS bow tie £15
 OS silk cravat £30
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 Chain Cufflinks, £17.00

Left: Wanderers tie, £19

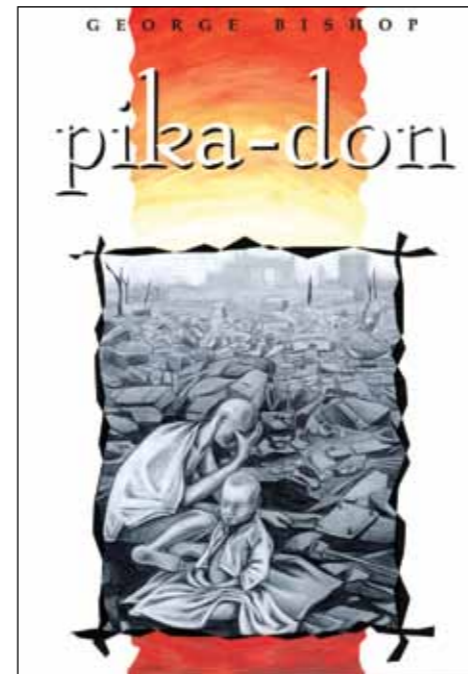
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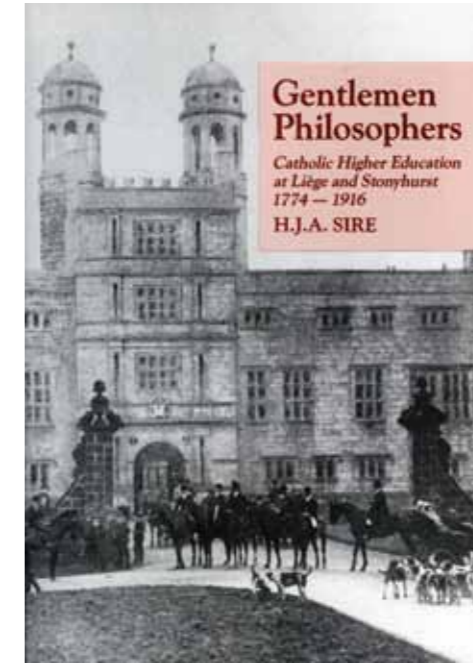
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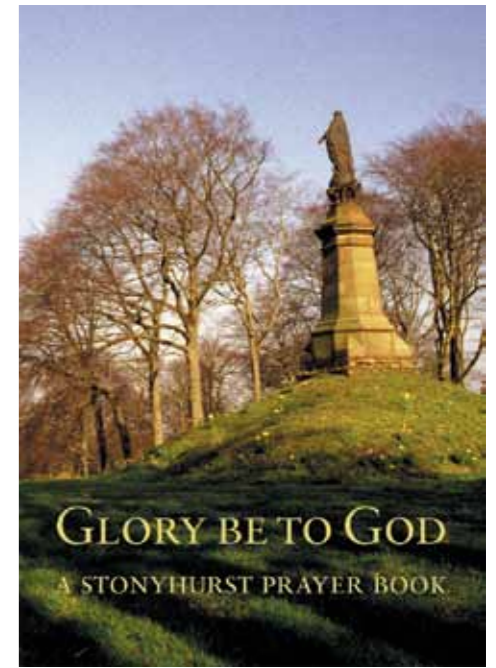
Above: Aidan Liddell (OS 00–08) won the fourth air VC in 1915. In *With a Smile and a Wave* Peter Daybell (OS 69) makes use of a wide range of source materials including many previously unseen family papers and photographs. *With a Smile and a Wave* provides a vivid picture of the squalor and danger of war, the backbreaking hardship of trench life and the challenges of pioneer air fighting. But it is a story not just of war, but of growing up in a devout and prosperous family, of a Jesuit education at Stonyhurst, and of Edwardian Oxford before the Great War. *With a Smile and a Wave* by Peter Daybell, published by Pen & Sword Books. 304 pages, hardback. £19.99.



Below: In this well-researched and readable account HJA Sire (OS 58–68) describes the role that Stonyhurst played as one of the principal providers of Catholic university education in England. For over 50 years students followed courses of Thomist philosophy developed by the Jesuit community for degrees awarded by London University. The students—known as Philosophers—were drawn from an elite of the Catholic gentry, national and international. A high-spirited and privileged group, their life outside studies – hunting, shooting and elegant entertainment – is vividly drawn in this inside view of the leading Catholic school of its day. *Gentlemen Philosophers* by HJA Sire, published by Churchman Publishing. 196 pages, paperback. £8.95.



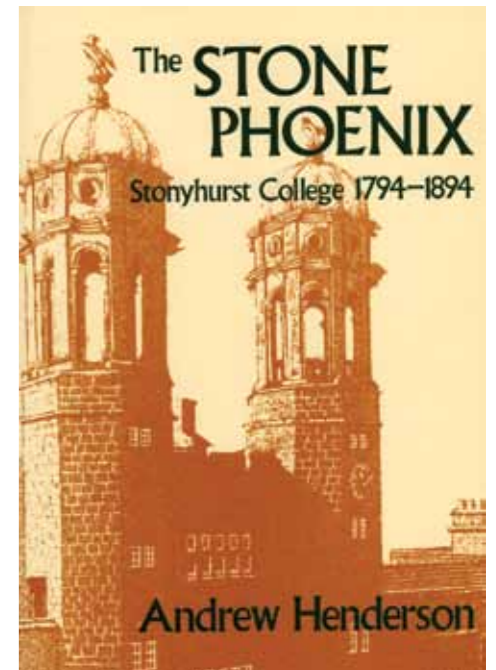
Left: Hiroshima: hundreds of thousands annihilated in a split second, in the 'flash-bang' – 'Pika-Don' in Japanese. Death, excruciating pain and unexplained sickness scarred humanity. Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ was among the survivors, leading a small Jesuit community; their experiences of the aftermath, and their Christian response to the suffering, forms the central theme of this book. This is a true story, but as gripping as any novel; read it and you will walk through the ruins of Hiroshima with Pedro Arrupe and his colleagues, and witness the horrors they saw. *Pika-Don*, by George Bishop, published by Fisher Miller Publishing. 160 pages, paperback. £10.00.



Above: *Glory be to God*, a Stonyhurst Prayer Book, St Omers Press. Second edition, with minor corrections. 128 pages, hardback. £9.95.

Books can be ordered from the Association: please add £1 for postage per item.

Below: Many OS will remember Andrew Henderson, who taught art at the College for 18 years. This is an exciting story, drawn from eyewitness sources, of the 100 years which saw the college go from a small group of refugees to the leading, trend-setting centre of excellence in Catholic education of its time. *The Stone Phoenix*, by Andrew Henderson, published by Churchman Publishing. 180 pages, paperback. £9.95.



MISSIONARY MAP OF BRITISH GUIANA

