

AMDG

STONYHURST

association news



NEWSLETTER 307

JANUARY 2014



St Francis Xavier Awards

- A minimum of 20%, up to 70% off boarding fees.
- Available at 11+ and 13+ for boarding students who would benefit from a Jesuit Catholic education.

"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"

Pope Francis

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS 2014

18th January (11+ Academic and St Francis Xavier Award)

25th January (13+ *St Francis Xavier Award*)

If you have a child who would be a potential St Francis Xavier candidate in 2014, then please contact our Admissions Department on 01254 827073/93 or email them at: admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk.



STONYHURST ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

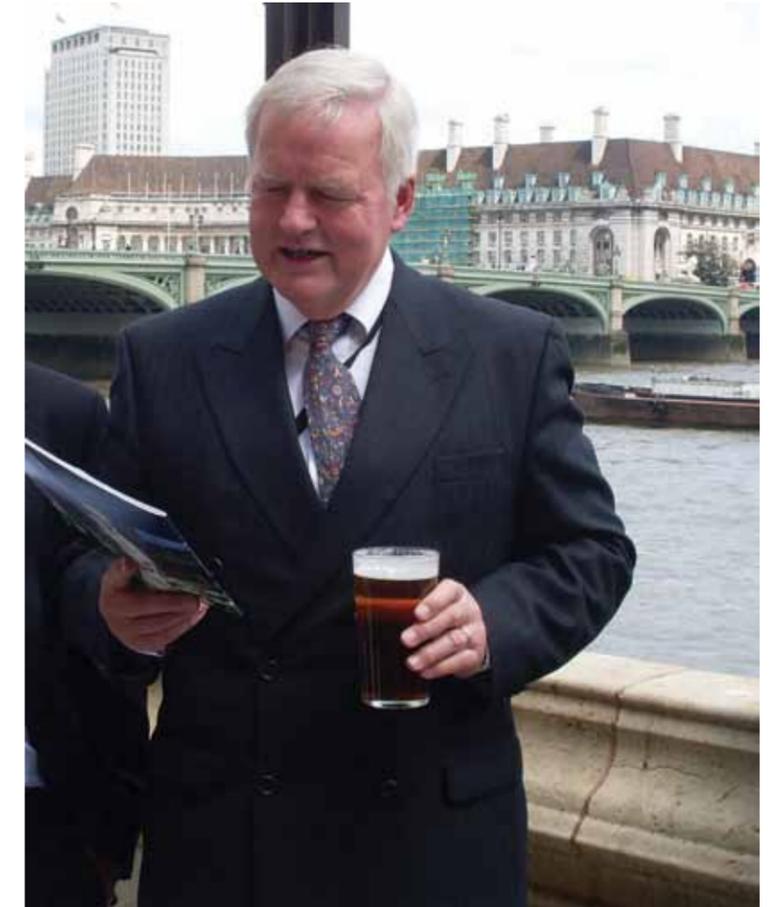
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JANUARY 2014

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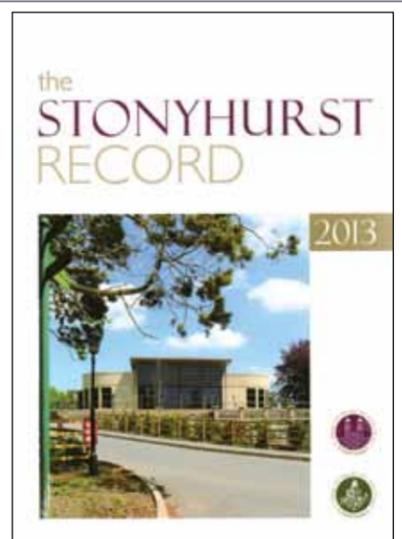
Enjoying the better things in life. Colonel Bob Stewart DSO, MP with the Newsletter outside the House of Commons.

THE STONYHURST RECORD

A record of the recent activities and achievements of the pupils and staff at the College and St Mary's Hall, many obituaries of former pupils and featured aspects of the history of the school.

The Stonyhurst Record is on sale only to current parents and former pupils. The support of OS subscribers is greatly appreciated and without which, the publication would cease to exist.

To become a subscriber, please apply to Beverley Sillitoe in the Association Office for an application form. To purchase a single copy of the current edition, please send a cheque for £12.50 to Beverley, made payable to 'Stonyhurst College'.



Front Cover: Lt-Col Paul Pitchfork MC, OS 84 - 89, in Afghanistan
Back Cover: the Front under snow.

Published by the
Stonyhurst Association
Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe
Lancashire BB7 9PZ
Tel: 01254 827043
Email: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk

www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

Editor: David Mercer
(d.mercer@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOMED: CONTACT THE EDITOR FOR INFORMATION

DIARY OF EVENTS

Details will be published on the web site (www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/association.shtml);
email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk with any queries



JANUARY 18TH 2014 OS LUNCH AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

On Saturday 18 January 2014 there will be an OS lunch at Preston Grasshoppers preceding the Hoppers 1st XV game against Stourbridge. The day will be quite informal, with no speeches etc. and is just an opportunity to get together. All OS, current parents and guests are most welcome. Hoppers have a long association with Stonyhurst having had a regular stream of players from the College playing for them and Dick Greenwood was player/coach in the 1970's. Currently George Erdozain (OS 1961) is Chairman and Martin Hotheralls (OS 1972) Treasurer and a number of other OS of various vintages are regular visitors. Older OS will also remember Hoppers playing the College each year before such matches were banned. The cost is £17.50 for a 3 course meal, Match Programme and admission to the match. Meet at 1200hrs for 1230hrs. Anyone interested please contact martinhotheralls@tiscali.co.uk

MARCH 26TH 2014 CONVIVIAM IN LEEDS

Save the date! Further details regarding location and time will be available shortly. This will be a get together for all the Stonyhurst family in the region.

APRIL 10TH - 14TH 2014 GREAT WAR HEROES TOUR 2014

On the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War I in 1914, you are invited to the first Association War Heroes Tour, the first part of an ongoing programme of recognition of Stonyhurst involvement throughout the Great War.

Lead by Battlefield Historian and St Mary's Hall history teacher Paul Garlington (www.paulgarlington.com) this tour will take us to the site of famous battles and also to the graves of OS, some of whom were awarded VCs. This tour is for up to 30 from the Stonyhurst Association, adults only, in non-smoking twin rooms. Please phone or email the Association Office to register your interest.

MAY 3RD - 4TH 2014 - SPORTING WEEKEND

The annual sporting weekend will take place at the College. If any OS would like to play in a team please contact the Wanderers representatives whose details are:

Rugby:	Marco Vagheti	email: vagheti586@hotmail.com
Soccer:	Rob Eatough	email: robeatough@hotmail.com
Cricket:	Richard Drinkwater	email: richard@richarddrinkwater.co.uk
Golf:	James Andrews	email: James.Andrews@bain.com
Netball/		
Hockey:	Natalie Crouch	email: natalie.crouch@hotmail.co.uk

Richard Drinkwater will be co-ordinating the event and can be contacted on the email address above.

APRIL 30TH 2014 CONVIVIAM IN THE WARDROOM, LONDON DIVISION ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE, HMS PRESIDENT, 72 ST KATHARINE'S WAY LONDON EIW IUQ

HMS President occupies one of the most coveted positions in the heart of London – just downstream of Tower Bridge, overlooking the entrance to St Katharine's Dock. This is a London convivium, for all the Stonyhurst family, arranged by the Association President, James Hanratty. Judge James Hanratty is a former officer in the Royal Naval Reserve in HMS President. Accordingly he has secured a special price and the tickets which are priced at £20 each are very good value, and have also been jointly subsidised by the Association, the College and James Hanratty himself. The tickets include wine, soft drinks and canapés. The evening will start at 6.30pm, a booking form is available from the Association Office and on the website.

MAY 17TH -18TH 2014 OS FAMILIES' WEEKEND

Following the first of these weekends held in 2013 and in collaboration with the College, this weekend will be repeated in 2014, for those with children approaching the right age, who might be interested in Stonyhurst. This will be a relaxed, informative and enjoyable weekend for all, to see the school with absolutely no obligation. Please contact the Association Office for full details.

MAY 23RD 2014 - GREAT ACADEMIES CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION FOR PARENTS AND STAFF

JUNE 14TH - 15TH RHETORIC 1999 REUNION

A reunion for OS 1999 is being arranged at the College. Robert Youlten is co-ordinating the reunion and a booking form is available from the Association Office or by contacting Robert at: ryoulten@stonyhurst.ac.uk

AUGUST 22ND - 29TH 2014 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2014 RHETORIC 2004 REUNION

A reunion for OS 2004 is being arranged at the College. Michael Fenton is co-ordinating the reunion and a booking form is available from the Association Office or by contacting Michael: Michael.Fenton@KPMG.co.uk

NOVEMBER 1ST 2014 - STONYHURST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

President: Dr Michael Atkinson KSG (OS 1967), Guest of Honour: Mr A.R.M. Little, Head Master, Eton College. To be held at the College, tickets £65, concessions for OS aged 25 and under £45. There is a booking form in this Newsletter mailing, and the form can also be obtained from the Association Office and the website.

NOVEMBER 7TH-9TH 2014 ASSOCIATION RETREAT 2014

NOVEMBER 15TH - 16TH 2014 POETRY 1989 REUNION

A reunion for OS who left in 1989 is being arranged at the College. Derek Fanning is co-ordinating the reunion and a booking form is available from the Association Office or by contacting Derek at: deputyeditor@midlandtribune.ie

CONGRATULATIONS

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

MARRIAGES



Peter Slater OS 92 - 97 married Kelly Ann Bird at St George & St Theresa Catholic Church, Solihull, on 19th October 2012.

Stuart Campbell OS 92-97 was Best Man and also in attendance were **Steve Turner OS 92 - 97** and **Michael Slater OS 95 - 00**.



Above: **Hamish Reid OS 2004**, son of **John (OS 1957)** and Alanna Reid, was married on 4 October 2013 to Vanessa Russell at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street. The Nuptial Mass was said by **Nick King SJ, OS 1966**, and the Best Man was **Ed Page, OS 2004**.

ACADEMIC HONOURS

Sophie Le Breton OS 05 - 10 has been awarded a 1st Class degree in Law from Newcastle University.

Lucy McFarlane OS 04 - 09 has been awarded a 1st Class degree in Children's Nursing by Oxford Brookes University.

Fuchsia Hart OS 06 - 08 has been awarded a 1st Class degree in Oriental Studies at Oxford University.

Samantha Leach OS 04 - 09 has been awarded a 1st Class degree in English and Education Studies at Durham University. (Samantha was Head of the Line at Stonyhurst and the association with Tolkien inspired her to write her dissertation about his work and that of J K Rowling from which we have a sample in the Correspondence section.)

Vanessa Platt OS 08 - 10 who graduated recently from Cardiff University, was named as the winner of the Literature category in the 2013 Undergraduate Awards, a prestigious and international academic awards programme.

As a winner, Vanessa will have her paper publicised in an international academic journal and was invited to attend the Undergraduate Awards Summit in Dublin where she received a medal.



Sarah Layzell-Hardstaff OS 00 - 03 has been awarded the degree of M.Phil for children's literature research by Cambridge University. She was presented with the Jacqueline Wilson award for the best Master's thesis. Above: Sarah with Dame Jacqueline Wilson.

OTHER

We are pleased to announce that the Association President, **James R A Hanratty RD** has been invited and elected to join the Royal Yacht Squadron, probably the most exclusive yacht club in the world.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Joseph Philip Roche OS 1934 - 1938

Pratap Chidamber, Baron Chitnis of Ryedale, OS 1948 - 1954

Fr. James Henry Brand OS 1947 - 1953

Mark Mitchell OS 1967 - 1974

Pauline King Associate Member

Peter Worden OS 1948 - 1956

Malcolm David Neale Shutte OS 1950-54

Stuart George McBride OS 1940 - 1945

Paul Joseph Scherer OS 1943 - 1952

Norman Francis Paul de Butler OS 1927 - 1937

Dr James Hanratty OBE, KSG OS 1935-1937

Friends or relatives, who wish to write the usual obituary for the Stonyhurst Record, are invited to contact David Knight at the College (d.knight@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

We also regret to announce the death from the wider Stonyhurst family of: Peter Ayres, former parent; and Bernadette Cimpoias, mother of Carl and Dane.

MISSING PERSONS

The following persons are out of contact with the Association. If anyone can give information about them, please contact: s.andrews@stonyhurst.ac.uk or by post to the Association Office.

Name	Stonyhurst leaving date
Anthony L Atherton	1960
Philip R Bateman	1960
John M Bowder	1960
Christopher J Cheetham	1960
Michael P Clohessy	1960
Paul M Dempsey	1960
Brendan J Farrell	1960
David F Feeny	1960
Christopher Francis	1960
Herbert M Francis	1960
James R Grubb	1960
Paul A Grubb	1960
John M Hamer	1960
Dermot Hennelly	1960
Patrick J Heron	1960
Graham A Kirby	1960
Carlos A Munro	1960
Michael P Pirie	1960
Stuart J Pollock	1960
Michael J Smith	1960
Gabriel J Somorjay	1960

John L Warder	1960
Ian T Watson	1960
John D Wilcock	1960
Timothy F Baines	1961
Anthony E Bewlay	1961
Roy W Bullen	1961
Felix W De Bass	1961
David J Donegan	1961
Bernard A Drake	1961
Geoffrey D Gould	1961
Rodney C Gruzelier	1961
Francis G Guyon	1961
John D Knight	1961
Mark C Lang	1961
John McGee	1961
Christopher N Murphy	1961
Mark O'Connor	1961
Eugene M O'Donoghue	1961
William G Penny	1961
Christopher C Preddle	1961
Ian C Recordon	1961
Daniel J Sheehan	1961
Peter J Tabor	1961
Hugh R Trappes-Lomax	1961
Patrick J Tuck	1961
Robert C Volkers	1961
Stephen J Walters	1961

HOMILY BY FR. TWIST, COLLEGE CHAPLAIN, ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF TERM

"Calf and lion cub feed together....The lion eats straw like the ox." (Isaiah 11:6,7)

HE WAS WALKING across the country, near Stirling in Scotland, not too sure if he was on the right track, when he noticed that he seemed to have entered some open parkland, with the odd coach or car going through it at a very slow pace, about walking speed. In the distance he could see various animals, not too clear what they were, but definitely not the usual sheep or cattle. Later it dawned on him that he had probably walked through a Safari Park. The fact that no harm had come to him, illustrates a basic fact about wild animals, even lions and tigers: they do not attack people unless they are provoked; although admittedly it is best to stay clear of them until they have had their breakfast.

The human animal is different. We can generate quarrels and fights, even when we have enough to eat and drink. Wars are started because some country wants to feel big, or to show off, or even to get away from the boredom of peaceful life. The dreadful First World War whose centenary we will commemorate next August, brought about the deaths of millions, yet by the end of it, no one was quite sure what they were fighting about. Such can be the destructiveness of the human species.

And yet, if on the one hand, we humans generate conflicts, we are also the ones who have a unique ability to make peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers," said Jesus, "They shall be called the children of God." In this past week we have been given the example of Nelson Mandela, who showed an extra-ordinary ability to forgive, to build bridges, to bring about justice; all without becoming hateful, or

embittered, or seeking revenge. Yes, we humans are the very ones who can put things right; we are not programmed simply to fight each other.

All of this has a special significance for the season of Christmas. For confrontations and conflicts do not erupt only between nations and tribes; they occur in families as well. Statistics show that most family break ups come about shortly after Christmas, when the stresses of being together prove too much. It is not easy for people to be in close association for long periods: quarrels break out, misunderstandings occur, plans get frustrated. We need the help of God to stay together, and we should pray to achieve this.

What a blessing it will be if, in our family, we can rejoice that harmony and goodwill have prevailed over this season; if we can, so to speak, claim that among us the wolf has dwelt with the lamb, the calf and the lion have fed together. Although, no doubt, this is no time to work out which member of our family is the wolf, which the lamb, which the panther, which the kid, and certainly not which one is the viper!

What a blessing it will be if the words of Isaiah turn out to be descriptions of our homes: "They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters swell the sea."

There is a collection of homilies by Father Twist in a book called 'Netting Fishes'. It is on sale from the Association Office at £8.50

ANNUAL DINNER 2013

THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION Annual Dinner was held at the magnificent Hurlingham Club in London on 14th September with James Hanratty OS 54 - 64, presiding and Baron Hennessy of Lympsfield, guest speaker.

There was an excellent turnout of 230 and after a champagne reception in the Palm Court, dinner was called. Before being seated, the President, Judge J. R. A. Hanratty RD, arranged a minute's silence for Colonel Edward Loden MC who had been murdered in Kenya a week earlier. Grace was said by Father Philip Endean SJ.

The dinner itself was delicious, well served and presented, with wines well chosen by the President. After the Loyal Toast by the Chairman of Governors, John Cowdall, "Domine Salvam Fac" was sung as loudly as at St Peter's Church. During dinner, a magician entertained guests at table and a PowerPoint presentation showed beautiful pictures of Stonyhurst. A professional photographer took impressive pictures for later purchase.

Before his speech, the President read out a letter from Buckingham Palace in which HM The Queen sent her best wishes for a successful evening, and then he recalled some amusing incidents from his career at Stonyhurst and some serious lessons learned there which applied in later life. He welcomed the guests with a vignette for each and to loud applause, thanked Beverley Sillitoe for all her hard work for the Dinner.

The Guest of Honour, Professor Lord Hennessy delivered an amusing and thoughtful speech on the importance of a sound Christian education and the teaching of moral values. The Headmaster, Andrew Johnson, gave an interesting account of developments in the sporting and academic fields with an impressive list of achievements, including the introduction of The International Baccalaureate. The Joint Head of the Line, Harriet Shepherd, spoke movingly of the reasons she was sent to Stonyhurst and the many benefits and opportunities the education there had given her (see page 11). She sat down to a standing ovation. The Stonyhurst Chorus then closed the proceedings.

There remained over two hours after dinner for all those present to mingle and renew old friendships over drinks both inside the impressive building and outside in the floodlit gardens before a fleet of taxis carried guests away. It had been a spectacular and most successful evening.

The dinner was announced in 'The Times' and 'The Daily Telegraph'.

The next day, Mass for the Association was celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, by Father James Campbell SJ.



Above: Pamela Hanratty, Michael Joseph, Frances Joseph, James Hanratty.



Left: Stella Belderbos, Mark Belderbos, Michael Hargreaves



Above: Manik and Chaithi Santiapillai, Nicholas and Fahmida Gee



Left: Dawn and Andrew Johnson

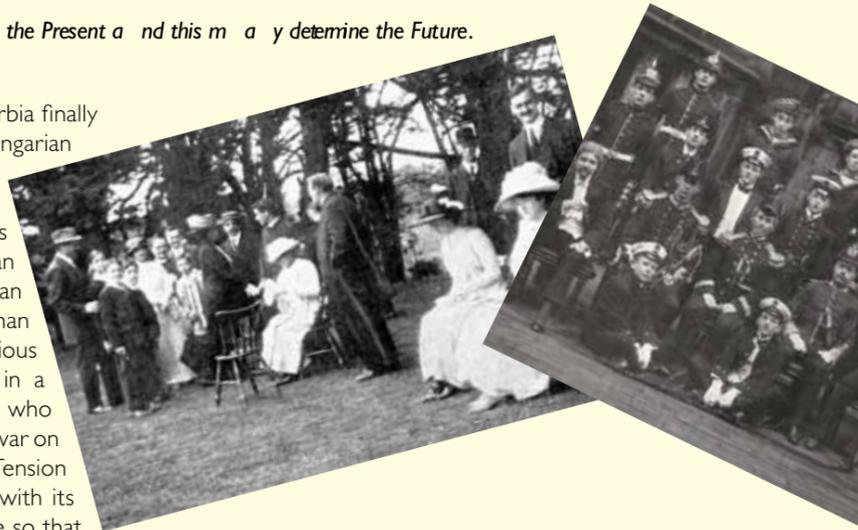


Right: Sam Hall, Paddy Page, Pawel Rzemieniecki, Mark Milrine

100 YEARS AGO

We should pay heed to the Past for it gives us the Present and this may determine the Future.

In 1913 there was trouble as usual in the Balkans with Serbia finally coming off best, causing some disquiet to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which contained a disadvantaged minority of Serbian race. In 1914 when the heir to the throne was assassinated in Sarajevo, admittedly by Austrian subjects but who were also Serbs, it was thought that a Serbian conspiracy was involved and perhaps even the Serbian Government. Learning that she could count on German support, Austria sent a strong letter of protest making serious demands from Serbia, most of which were accepted in a conciliatory manner but this did not satisfy the Austrians who withdrew their ambassador and three days later declared war on Serbia. The count-down for World War I had started. Tension had been mounting for a long time between Germany, with its frustrated ambitions of expansion, and Britain and France so that the quarrel soon escalated and Europe went to war. Britain was beset by domestic troubles, mainly over the Irish situation where either Nationalist Ireland or Ulster were expected to rebel and with only a small army on the verge of mutiny and a navy considered by many to be inefficient, there was little risk of her involvement in a European War or so it was thought.



Above left: Great Academies 1913, Tea on the Bowling Green.
Above right: the Shrovetide Play, 1913: "The Flag-Lieutenant"



Above: Harriers meeting at the Lions

At Stonyhurst life continued *omnia de mores* in its civilised fashion. Archduke Francis Charles (right), the brother of the heir to the Austrian throne was in Philosophers and reputed to be popular and enjoying his time there. The usual peacetime pursuits continued unabated with sports, plays and Great Academies.



The first official attempt at social work by Stonyhurst had begun with the St Francis Xavier Boys Club in Liverpool, started by Philip Walton OS. Father Bernard Vaughan OS 1859 continued his tour of the Far East as reported in the Tablet. Stanislaus Lynch OS 1845 became president of the Stonyhurst Association whose annual dinner was held at the Savoy Hotel in London (right).



John Francis Moriarty OS1870 (left) became Attorney General for Ireland perhaps inspiring his contemporary Arthur Conan Doyle OS 1875 to portray him as the villain in his Sherlock Holmes stories. The death of the Poet Laureate, Alfred Austin OS 1849 was reported in the Stonyhurst Magazine which also contained some valuable advice for newcomers, not completely inapplicable even today although the part concerning the punishment by *ferula* might now be considered obsolete.



ASSOCIATION NEWS



NEW CHAIRMAN

We are pleased to announce that Simon Andrews OS 1968 will take over as Chairman of the Stonyhurst Association, from Michael Joseph, in the New Year. His extensive experience of Stonyhurst as a pupil, a teacher and finally as Director of Studies, will be a huge benefit to us all. Michael will continue to be involved with the College, spending some time with Andrew Johnson and Rachel Hindle through the activities of the Development Office.

BEAUMONT UNION

The home of the Beaumont Union is at: www.beaumont-union.co.uk
The website has been updated to include the WINTER REVIEW, Vriil, Mongrel Jottings and Obituaries.
The 2013 Lunch Speeches are but a 'click' away
Please note that the JUST GIVING Page for HCPT remains open for donations – Thank you in advance.

REUNION '73

FROM GERALD SLOCOCK

THE 40TH (and first!) Reunion of those who left in 1973 and their contemporaries was attended at the College physically by thirty-nine diverse characters but attempts to "Skype" a 40th, Fr. Philip Endean, were sadly stymied by technical problems and so we settled for a video-recorded goodwill message instead. The generosity of those who flew in from abroad – from France, Spain, Germany, Canada, the United States, Sri Lanka and Timor – set the tone for a memorable week-end, ensured through the efforts of Beverley Sillitoe and her team in the Association Office.

We were blessed with one of July's blazing, sunny week-ends, elongated by a few keen golfers, the televised final Lions Test v Australia hosted by the Bayley Arms serving as a fitting gathering point and Murray's Wimbledon victory indulging our weary stragglers. The Lions party might have included our very own Joe Ansbro, already a member of a rare Scottish winning team in Australia, but for a major injury which forced his premature retirement. We gravitated from the Bayley to the Colledge, already light-headed having witnessed a memorable Lions series' victory, to enjoy a splendid buffet lunch before the admirable curator, Jan Graffius, spirited us away for a tour of the Collections. Despite the needs of her family, Jan had rescued many precious items the previous Christmas when rain damage threatened. There followed a wider tour of the Colledge's impressive facilities and major improvements since our day, perhaps most notably the new refectory. How fortunate we were to enjoy a balmy evening as we ambled in evening dress from Hurst Green back to the Colledge, knots of old pals gently ribbing one another as to who had or had not changed, dredging the memory banks for recollections of key moments.

We were joined in the Top Ref by our guests the Headmaster, Andrew Johnson and his wife Dawn, Fr. Michael O'Halloran, Wilfrid Usher and David Little who, just as we remember him, had in the days immediately before, been shepherding yet another fortunate athletics team at a competition. Inevitably all of life's joys and sorrows were reflected in the trawl seeking everyone, of whom only a handful remained untraceable. We paid tribute to four known to be deceased, enjoyed the good wishes expressed by many unable to attend and raised a glass to their memory, not that we lacked excuses! Many have expressed gratitude for providing the means to reconnect with old pals and much enthusiasm was also expressed for another gathering not many years hence, *Deo volente!*

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

We are very keen to gather as many email addresses as we can for the database. Emails enable us to contact you quickly, to send you invitations and news items. We currently hold email addresses for around two thirds of those we send the Newsletter to. If you have an email address and you don't think you have given it to us please do so now by emailing association@stonyhurst.ac.uk – and help us to stay in touch and save postage!



ASSOCIATION RETREAT 2013 TO ST BEUNO'S IGNATIUS SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

From left to right: Terry Holt, Michael Parish, Fr Brendan, Penny Parish, Michael Belderbos, Henrietta Holt, Stella Belderbos, Robert Brinkley, Paul Fox (hidden), Stephen Fox, Mark Belderbos, David Hurst, and absent: Joan Lee

Retreatants taking part in the second annual Association Retreat took time out to enjoy the autumnal beauty and tranquillity of St Beuno's and the surrounding countryside from 8 – 10 November. Led by Fr Brendan Callaghan, who kindly gave up his time from being Master of Campion Hall in Oxford, we gained a deeper insight into the spirituality of St Ignatius and all felt the better for this.

Dates for the 2014 retreat will be 7–9 November 2014 (TBC) and will again cost in the region of £130 per person. Please email: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk to register your interest as soon as possible.

Family Weekend at Stonyhurst: 17 & 18 May 2014

Following the success of the 2013 Family Weekend, the Association is arranging a second weekend for OS families and other Catholic families who might be interested in a Stonyhurst education for their children. It is to be a relaxed, informative and enjoyable weekend for all to see what distinguishes Stonyhurst from other schools. There will be absolutely no obligation.

The costs of accommodation and meals will be borne by the College and the Stonyhurst Association.

If you are interested in attending the Family Weekend 2014, please send an e-mail to s.andrews@stonyhurst.ac.uk.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STONYHURST WAR RECORD

The Association would like to thank the OS of 1988 for funding the digitisation of the 'Stonyhurst War Record' and also the family who donated a copy of the 2nd edition.

A GIFT COMES TO LIFE

A group of OS decided to donate new kneelers for the recently refurbished Sodality Chapel. Michael Joseph OS 1959, approached the Heritage Volunteers at Birmingham Design and Fine Arts Society (of whom he is a member) for assistance. Margaret Forster, the National Textile Representative at NADFAS House introduced us to Helen McCook, a freelance designer and embroiderer. Helen was one of the team working on the royal wedding dress and has just been made an Artist in Residence at the National Portrait Gallery in Scotland.

A visit was then made to the College and Helen's designs for the kneelers were inspired by many of the items in the Collections, and by the Sodality Chapel itself. The Birmingham Heritage Volunteers started on the first two twelve foot kneelers, using five stitches – Tent, Upright Cross Stitch, Hungarian, Byzantine and Condensed Cashmere. The North West societies were then approached to help, and volunteers from Fylde, Ribble and Craven and South Lakes are now working on the kneelers. The photograph below shows two of the kneelers, as work in progress on display recently.

COLLEGE NEWS

FROM THE HEADMASTER, MR. ANDREW JOHNSON.

THERE HAVE BEEN quite a number of highlights in the Stonyhurst calendar this term. Many reading this will have attended the excellent annual Association dinner held at the Hurlingham club in September and organised by the current President, James Hanratty. I was also very grateful when James subsequently came up to the College in November to speak to staff, parents and pupils about life as an immigration judge.

In October we hosted the annual Thomas Weld Society lunch at the College, which was attended by almost 50 friends of Stonyhurst who have pledged a legacy to the College. We have also had two OS reunions at the College this term: I very much enjoyed meeting members of Poetry 1977 in early November, and more recently I was pleased to hear the lusty singing of Rhetoric 2003 at Sunday Mass in St Peter's!

Our pupils have been busily and purposefully engaged in College life. On the last Saturday of term I attended a tremendous production of *Fame* in the Academy Room. If you once took part in or enjoyed attending the Stonyhurst

productions, I am sure you will be pleased to hear that they continue to be of such a high standard. Concerts, both instrumental and choral, have been of an equally good standard. Schola Cantorum, in particular, have performed several times and are preparing their repertoire for their tour to Rome next February.

I have also been very pleased with interest in Stonyhurst from prospective pupils and parents at our open days this term. Open events both for 13+ and 16+ entry have seen double the number of people attending compared with similar events last year.

You may already have heard of the success of Stonyhurst sport this term. Our 1st XI Hockey team have been unbeaten in their regular Wednesday and Saturday fixtures, and our 1st XV rugby team have won every one of their matches so far this season, putting very many points past quite a few strong opposition sides. Also on the last Saturday of term, in a nail-biting match on Smith Field, they beat a very tough Leeds Grammar School team 6-3 to go through to the next round of the NatWest national competition.



We are keen to stay in touch with you. You would be most welcome to come back and visit the College any time. If you let us know in advance, we will happily provide a tour for you of the new developments at Stonyhurst. Finally, especially if you feel the College supported and helped you while you were here, I hope that we can also count on your help and support for Stonyhurst.

A STRONG SET OF VALUES

Harriet Shepherd, joint Head of the Line, spoke impressively at the 2013 Annual Dinner, remembering how she had been perfectly happy at a local independent school but that one day her mother declared she 'just knew' that something was missing and that something else was needed.



Above: Harriet Shepherd at the Annual Dinner (Photo © Barnie Jones)

Top: Mr Andrew Johnson, Headmaster (Photo © Charlie Hedley Photography)

MY EARLY DAYS AT SMH were glorious. The days when parents loitered in the corridors asking other pupils if they had any idea where their children were before mobile phones gave them a chance to send texts and threats to children who don't want the day to end...

In my first year at the College, I watched in wonder the Higher Line students in their business suits carrying takeaway cups of tea or coffee on the galleries going to subjects like Economics and Business studies and could not believe that I would get to that point... It seemed an eternity away and yet it seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. Suddenly it was GCSE choices, then exams, then Higher Line and now this!

My final year. My last Christmas term... but my first public speech...

I believe that the school has made me a rounded individual with a strong set of values. This has been partly developed by extra-curricular activities that I have become involved in. *Faith-that-does-justice* and *Arrupe* particularly have challenged me to live by the *men and women for others* motto. The recent holiday week was a humbling experience and one I look forward to doing again next year. I have realised that I have within me the power to change lives. A powerful statement but one that is so true. In tiny ways we can each do so much.

I feel sure that each of you in the room share the spine tingling euphoria that the *Pater noster* brings. Whether sung or shouted or whispered through tears, it's roof raising and passionate and I know will have that effect on me throughout my life.

After eight years, the overwhelming feeling of pride when rounding the corner by the Lady Statue and going up the Avenue has not worn off. In fact, I was heard to say to my mother one morning as we drove to school... "Yes mum... I know how lucky I am."

In conclusion, I have had the best times of my life so far – I feel prepared for university, I feel the world is an exciting place and not a scary one. I have values, I care about others, I have friends for life and I have the biggest collection of hoodies in the northern hemisphere!

I am proud to say I am a product of Stonyhurst.



TWS LUNCH

The annual Thomas Weld Society lunch was held on Saturday 12th October in the Top Refectory and was attended by OS, parents, friends, staff and Committee members. It was a delightful afternoon which started with welcome drinks followed by lunch and then ended with a very interesting talk, by David Knight, on the Top Refectory and its wonderful history.

Membership of the Thomas Weld Society is open to all those who have pledged

to remember Stonyhurst in their Will. Members are invited to an annual lunch, which provides an opportunity to meet like-minded people and be fully informed of Stonyhurst's development.

If you are thinking about including a gift in your Will, or would like to discuss it, or if you have already made this special commitment, please ensure the Development Office is aware of your intentions in order that we can invite you to next year's lunch.

TELETHON

From the 5th August to the 19th August, thirteen of Stonyhurst's recent leavers returned to the School to take part in our first ever telephone campaign. During the campaign, the callers phoned former pupils, former and current parents to hear news of activities and to find out what they have done since leaving Stonyhurst and to update them on this year's Annual Fund and to raise awareness of our need to fund our Bursaries.

The response to the campaign has been fantastic, with nearly £65,000 raised over the two weeks. This will finance our Bursaries, and the other projects in the Annual Fund brochure. The callers also loved hearing about the many entertaining stories from our OS about the antics they got up to at school.

Our callers also collected information on alumnae and many gave careers advice and have also given invaluable contact details to our younger OS and one of the callers has even been offered some work experience.

Right: Team Telethon!

DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

To be sent out in January, it details our fund-raising achievements to date. It will also thank those who have supported Stonyhurst and give an insight to the on-going fundraising and philanthropic bequests made to us.

HEADMASTERS OVERSEAS TRIPS

The Headmaster will be visiting Hong Kong and Mexico in 2014 and will be meeting current parents, prospective new parents

and OS. The dates for the OS receptions are as follows:-

Hong Kong – Monday 13th January 2014 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel at 6:30pm

Mexico City – Saturday 22nd February 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel at 6:00pm

The Headmaster would be delighted for any OS to join him. There will also be a visit to Malta in the summer, dates and details to follow. Please contact the development office development@stonyhurst.ac.uk or 01254 827051 to reserve a place.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

We would like to let you know that we have set up a Development Committee led by Matthew Riley who is a Governor and current parent and will be chairing the committee. Other committee members include the Headmaster, OS, Staff, Parents and an Association Committee member. The Committee will be advising on all development activities here at Stonyhurst now and in the future.

ANNUAL FUND BROCHURE

You will have recently received our new Annual Fund Brochure. Gifts to the Annual Fund provide unrestricted financial help which is essential in providing that 'little extra' for our pupils. Please do take the time to have a look through and contact us if you have any further questions. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

For further information contact Rachel Hindle, Development Director, 01254 827147, development@stonyhurst.ac.uk.



OS involvement on the rise as SCHAT celebrates its 40th Holiday Week

EARLY JULY COMES around and the academic year is finishing, term is winding down, the college is half empty and holiday plans are being made. For a dedicated team of staff, OS and 6th formers however holiday plans of a very different type are being finalised.

The SCHAT Holiday Week will be familiar to many OS, and in 2013 celebrated its 40th year, thanks to the dedication and hard work of many over this time. Most of the organisation throughout the year is carried out by the small band of trustee members from within the college teaching staff, an inordinate amount of work on top of their already busy professional lives. Liaising with local schools, in depth communication with parents, transport organisation and logistical and financial planning to name just a few of the necessary undertakings. A Rhetoric executive are also involved in the planning stages.

The whole ethos of the week remains the same as that inaugural week in 1974. However the legislative climate that forms the backdrop to the week has changed immeasurably. The Holiday Trust has had to move with these changes and embrace them, and to this end an OS Committee has been formed to provide the backbone of running the week itself and provide support so that Poets and Rhetoricians are still gaining such valuable and potentially life defining experience, whilst giving the children a holiday to remember.

The OS input is minimal throughout the year for logistical reasons. However even the process to finalise personnel for the Holiday Week commences just after Christmas to ensure that everyone has the requisite paperwork. The decision was taken 5 years ago to formalise OS involvement in the Holiday Week in response to both a growing interest from past executive members and also a growing need for a more formal support structure. The hardest task of leading this team is the necessity to sometimes turn down volunteers due to huge interest, an unfortunate necessity to avoid swamping the sixth formers and therefore ensure they have overall control of their week. There is now a settled team of 11 OS which is added to from every Rhetoric year as they leave, and inevitably loses members as time passes. However the importance of the week to

this team is illustrated by the fact that most plan to continue for as long as they possibly can through further education and into their professional careers. In the 2013 Holiday Week alongside myself (OS 2001) the team contained at least one person from every OS year since 2006, and had a cumulative experience of 70 Holiday Weeks.

This restructuring has led to another tier within the system and allowed the trustees to oversee the whole event and act as a fail safe, leaving the majority of the week's running to the OS. They in turn act as a guide, staying in the background as much as possible in order to allow the Poets and Rhetoricians to do the majority of the caring, but safe in the knowledge that there is always someone available to help, and who are working tirelessly in the background to ensure all the more mundane but essential tasks are always completed. The week is a huge challenge and often a culture shock for the carers, having responsibility for a child 24 hours a day is akin to nothing many have ever experienced before, but for many it is an experience they will never forget.



From left to right: John Golden OS 11, Maddy Cruz OS 12, Lucy Williams OS 08, Rebecca Powell OS 10, Alex Alcock OS 06, Matthew Porter OS 01, Katherine Porter OS 07, Tim Lewis OS 07, Sam Williams OS 06, Charlotte Leach OS 09.

The emergence of the OS Committee has been born from necessity in order to meet the more stringent demands of modern child protection policy, ensuring the week can continue to function to the great benefit of carers and children alike, and allows the Trust to have the flexibility and confidence to take on children with very challenging needs.

And so another week finishes in atypical glorious Lancashire weather, with more unique challenges faced and overcome on the way. There is an exhausted sense of pride amongst all those involved, the tiredness accentuated by the 1am fire alarm the previous night, however once again it is a huge success. Throughout the week during induction sessions and nightly meetings with the carers I am keen to remind them of the Stonyhurst ethos of men and women for others. From the moment I applied to become a part of the Holiday Week as a Poet at the turn of the millennium, I have always believed it to be the ultimate example of this ethos in action, and I consider myself very fortunate to still be involved in it so many years later. It is a testament to all those concerned that despite this ever changing climate the Holiday Week continues to go from strength to strength. Will it still be running in another 40 years? I sincerely hope so.

THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION AND STONYHURST

ROBIN MELLOWS

THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION was formed in 1891 to promote “unity and good fellowship” among Catholics, mainly by organizing lectures, concerts, dances and excursions of a social nature. The hierarchy had not long been restored in England and the aim of the Association was to promote and advance Catholic interests. The first Pilgrimage to Lourdes was in 1901.

Since the 1970s the only purpose of the Catholic Association is to organize the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. There are groups of Pilgrims from the archdiocese of Southwark, and the diocese of Clifton, Northampton, Portsmouth, and East Anglia, from the British Province of Carmelites, from Stonyhurst, and the Glanfield group of children. In all between 600 and 700 Pilgrims travel together in the Catholic Association Pilgrimage.

The Stonyhurst group contributes in a significant way to the Pilgrimage. Indeed, see if you can spot three OS in the picture! The last two Chief Medical officers and the current and previous chief Brancardiers were OS, as is the current secretary of the Hospitalité. The current chief medical officer is an ex Stonyhurst parent and the current chief handmaid had three brothers at the College. Four of the five doctors on

the Pilgrimage this year were associated with the College – two of them OS.

It may seem that enumerating this list of people involved in the Catholic Association Pilgrimage is simply a way of inflating the collective Stonyhurst ego. That is not the intention – and indeed there are other institutions who can claim significant contribution to the running of the Pilgrimage. St Mary’s Cambridge has

provided more than its share of doctors and the most recent chief handmaid.

The point to be taken from this is that encouraging young people to go to Lourdes from the College – or from St Mary’s Cambridge – or from any diocese – sows the seed of wanting to continue to serve those who need and deserve their service. Once young people learn that it is better to help than to be helped, they return time after time.



OS CAREERS EVENING

On 28th June 2013, several OS of relatively tender years, came back to the College to give talks about the various careers journeys they had embarked on and the changes of direction they had made from their qualifying degrees. The idea was to use people who had only recently qualified and still knew the way in and the difficulties to be overcome. They could also express their opinions as to job satisfaction or otherwise, to explain changes of course.

The event was organised by Carol Anderton, Head of Careers at the College, and began in the Bayley Room with nibbles and drinks to inspire eloquence and of course to catch up on the gossip. Two surprise speakers were Toby Lees OS 94 - 99 and Sam Burke OS 02 - 04. Both qualified as lawyers but came to talk on the subject of the Dominicans because both have now joined that Order.

Other visiting speakers were: Rob Youlten OS 99 (member of staff), Alex Warner OS 07, Todd Robinson OS 09, Anthony Chitnis OS 83, Stefano Bragagnini OS 10, Natalie Russell-Blackburn Perkins OS 06, Kendall Sharples OS 06, Eleanor Lamb OS 10.

Chris Parkinson, employed by the school accountants, Baker Tilly and Paul Wilmore, Sims Account Manager at the College, also gave talks.



AMDG

Stonyhurst Great War Heroes Tour 2014

Led by Paul Garlington, Battlefield Historian
from St Mary’s Hall
Thursday 10 – Monday 14 April 2014

In the year of the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, you are invited to the first Association War Graves Tour, the first part of an on-going programme of recognition of Stonyhurst involvement throughout the Great War. Led by Battlefield Historian and St Mary’s Hall History teacher Paul Garlington (www.paulgarlington.com) this tour will take us to the sites of famous battles and also to the graves and memorials of OS.

The cost of the tour will be £650 per person based on a group of about 30. This includes: a fully guided battlefield expedition taking in sites relevant to Stonyhurst old boys who fought and died; all travel in a comfortable coach; museum entry fees; bed and breakfast in the Somme and Ypres hotels. In addition there will be a kitty for lunchtime picnics. Dinner will be in the Somme hotel and a specially selected local hotel in Ypres both of which are excellent and well priced.

It is advisable to arrange your own travel medical and travel insurances and to bring a European Health Card. A 4.00am departure on the first day will enable us to catch the lunchtime ferry from Dover. On our return a later ferry from Calais at around 6.00pm will help to avoid rush hour traffic and return to Stonyhurst by about midnight.

Hodder First Communicants 1906
Of these boys, 16 would be killed or wounded in the Great War.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1

4.00am departure from the College; lunchtime Dover ferry; via the English College at St Omers to the battlefield of Loos; 8.00pm dinner at hotel.

Day 2

All day on the Somme including Beaumont Hamel, Mametz, Montauban and the Bazentins before returning for dinner at 8.30pm again in the hotel.

Day 3

Morning and early afternoon on the Somme, then transfer to Ypres arriving about 5.30pm for dinner at 8.30pm in a local restaurant.

Day 4

All day at Ypres Salient with visits to include Hooge, Bellewarde, Tyne Cot, and Langemarck, ending the day with Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate; then dinner.

Day 5

Free morning in Ypres, visiting 'In Flanders Fields' Museum, departing at 1.30pm for visits west of the Salient, seeing Lijssenthoek, Brandhoek and Vlamertinghe, en route to Calais for 6.30pm ferry and Stonyhurst by midnight.

This tour is for up to 30 from the Stonyhurst Association adults only, in non-smoking twin rooms.

Please phone or email the Association Office to register your interest by 24 January 2014

Tel:01254 827043; email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk



Lt. Richard Gethin OS,
killed in action Loos,
25th September 1915

Lt. Michel Amoroso,
killed by a sniper while covering the
rescue of wounded from No Man's Land,
3rd July 1916

Lt. Raymund Binns,
designer of the Stonyhurst crest
killed in action Contalmaison,
Somme 10th July 1916.

AFGHANISTAN AND NORTH WEST FRONTIER OS

DAVID MERCER

YOU HAVE BEEN IN Afghanistan I perceive'. With these words, Sherlock Holmes greeted Dr Watson for the first time. It was a considerable understatement, for Watson had been wounded at the Battle of Maiwand and barely survived the subsequent retreat. It had been the 2nd Anglo-Afghan War in the period known as 'The Great Game' when Britain and Russia intrigued and manoeuvred to bring the region within their spheres of influence and was a buffer zone between them.

When not fighting an infidel like the British or the Russians, the tribesmen would fight amongst themselves, their natural warlike tendencies making them almost impossible to subdue. Foreign powers could only hope to contain them and fighting of some kind was endemic. Their religious leaders or mullahs could easily stir them up to fight the infidel in a Holy War and this they much preferred because if they were killed, they would go straight to Heaven. It was in such a war, started by the Mad Mullah of Swat that Major-General Costello VC, CMG, CVO, DSO, OS 1889, of the Indian Army won his VC in 1897.



Major-General Costello VC, OS 1889

His fort at Malakand had been under fierce night attack from three sides when he heard the cries of a wounded soldier out on the football pitch. So he and two NCOs went to the rescue under heavy fire and managed to save the man. Later in the same action, he was twice severely wounded.

After receiving his medal from Queen Victoria when on leave, he visited the College and talked to the boys. He said: "Well, you see, they are Mahomedan fanatics, all of them, and a Holy War is part of their religion. Then, again, they are by nature and birth and training fighters and don't seem to be very particular about the pretext...."

He told them about an old man who had come to their camp after a day's fighting and begged them to kill him. He had not much

longer to live and wanted to make sure of Paradise by being killed by an infidel. When nobody would shoot him, he went away crying and cursing them for their want of feeling.

Costello explained that the Mullahs had enormous power over the tribesmen and could apparently work 'miracles' by mesmerism and when things did not work out the way they should, they always had some explanation. 'Having eaten their bread and salt,' he said, 'one was usually safe enough but on leaving their village, they might consider themselves entitled to take a shot at you.'

A number of Stonyhurst people have spent time recently in the North West Frontier area and Afghanistan and we have some accounts of their experiences:

FROM WING COMMANDER CHRIS THORPE (OS 77-82)

When I watched the unfolding events of 11 September 2001 it was obvious that my expected career progression in the RAF would change considerably. Subsequently, in April 2008 I was sent to Kabul in Afghanistan to as a Director in the Air Support Operations Centre (ASOC). As I was briefed by my convoy commander on the actions to be taken if our short journey to ISAF HQ was ambushed I was a long way out of my comfort zone; I had joined up as an air defence fighter controller during the Cold War, expecting to spend my career working from within a hardened facility in the UK.

Prior to deploying I was trained to translate my core skills of coordinating and controlling air defence fighters into the unfamiliar Land environment to ensure that army commanders across Afghanistan received close air support when they needed it. Aircraft are expensive and there are not enough of them to allow every brigade to have its own dedicated assets. All aircraft, be they fighters, bombers, air refuellers or transporters are tasked centrally 24 to 48 hours in advance. The role of the ASOC, based within the Land HQ, was to manage the aircraft that had been apportioned to the HQ, responding to changes in plans. The most important role was to respond immediately to 'Troops in Contact', diverting aircraft from another mission to assist soldiers under attack from insurgents.

As Director I supervised a small team which communicated with the subordinate regional Land HQs to dynamically re-task our assigned aircraft in response to the changing situations on the ground. A key role for me was to communicate with the Air HQ in Qatar to discuss extensions or changes to airborne times if necessary and, in particular, to negotiate the launching of additional aircraft held at high readiness on the ground. There were a number of nations providing close air support aircraft and another of my responsibilities was to be an expert in their national rules of engagement so that we did not waste critical time sending aircraft to support a mission which they were not legally able to assist.

The ASOC teams worked 8 hour shifts but the 2 directors worked 12 on and 12 off. On my tour I completed 96 consecutive shifts from 6pm to 6am. I had to try to sleep through the heat of the Afghanistan summer, frequently disturbed by inconsiderate day

workers. Following my daily gym session I would sit outside in the sunshine reading for 20 minutes before retiring to bed and that was the only daylight I saw for over 3 months.

Forward planning, considering all possible contingencies and reacting very quickly when required definitely saved lives. But we had to make difficult decisions when higher priorities left other troops uncomfortably exposed or we simply ran out of aircraft, which happened all too regularly. It was an intense 16 weeks but extremely rewarding; I am in no doubt that I made a difference.

I am currently serving a 3-year tour in Washington DC with the Air and Space Interoperability Council which seeks to enhance the ability of the air forces of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States to operate together. As all defence forces face reductions and cut-backs, as a result of both fiscal pressures and the draw down of operations in Afghanistan, we all need to be able to do more with less, relying more and more on our coalition allies to support us.

I work in a small office at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland (the home to Air Force One) with four other officers, one from each of the other 'Five Eyes' nations, which provides a fascinating insight into our different air force cultures and methods; additionally, four of us have the opportunity to bring our American colleague up to date with all the latest international rugby and cricket news!

In the last two years I have flown over 200,000 miles both with work and in pursuit of the family's aim of visiting as many US states as possible!

In June 2013 Dominic Medley (OS 1989) completed three years as the Spokesman for the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan - see his article, right. He adds as a postscript:

It was my pleasure on a recent visit to Australia in November to meet, for the first time in 25 years, Andrew Price OS who was my Deputy as Head of the Line in 1989. In Kabul I also met Colonel Khashi Sharifi OS from our year and of course a few times over the years Tim Hetherington OS, also from the same year, who made the remarkable film *Restrepo* and was tragically killed in Libya.

Charles Pertwee OS and Dominic's brother Paul OS have also spent time in Afghanistan.

ELEVEN YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN

BY DOMINIC MEDLEY OS 79 - 89

In June I completed three years as the Spokesman and Media Advisor for the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan (the NATO ambassador). I have worked in Kabul for more than 11 years, since February 2002, but I am sure I will return, the place draws me back all the time.

I first came to Kabul, just three months after the fall of the Taliban regime. The city was so different then, so run down, so destroyed in many areas. Today there are repaired streets (even though everyone now complains about the delays from the road repairs), solar powered lighting, more shops and businesses, and a far larger population that is putting a strain on Afghanistan's historic capital city.

Everyone is using a mobile phone, or two or three, watching television and far more people are rushing about their daily lives trying to make a living. One of the best sights is always seeing young children, especially girls, on their way to school or university students lounging around the campus grounds. The thirst of Afghans for education, the respect Afghans have for their teachers, can only bode well for the future for the new young generation. And the new generation must include more women; a country cannot thrive without including more than 50% of its population.

The youth of Afghanistan are doing so much for their country. I remember the first athletes who attended the Athens Olympics in 2004 and then in China and then last year in London (an Afghan athlete won bronze at the last two Olympics). The Afghan cricket team has been a rising phoenix around the world competing in major international matches and more recently the football team has had international success as well. Music and film has taken off in Afghanistan like never before. In 2004 and 2007 I worked for the leading Afghan private television channel, which has introduced the equivalent of Pop Idol to the country - it's been a massive success. The flag of Afghanistan flies around the world. And even now I always search out an Afghan restaurant or embassy when I travel. Afghanistan's historic treasures have been touring the world's museums and the Kabul Museum has to be one of the most enjoyable experiences in Kabul.

The occasional high profile attacks in Kabul are still a concern. There aren't as many as there used to be a few years ago. What's different now is the quick response of the Afghan National Security Forces. They won't be able to stop every attack, you never can, but they will be able to contain the attacks and stop them killing even more civilians. In the south and east of the country there is still some heavy fighting but the Afghan forces are increasingly taking the responsibility for that. At NATO statistics tracked that 80% of the population of Afghanistan never encountered the insurgency or fighting.

It's important to mention the sacrifices of so many who have given their lives to help and protect Afghanistan. In Britain the famous Help for Heroes organisation has inspired us all and helped wounded troops and their families. Afghan civilians have also suffered tremendously during the last decade. The tragic loss of life must never be forgotten and that means the progress achieved must not be put at risk or be in vain as the future relationship with Afghanistan develops.

On a professional level representing NATO for three years, the strategy is set. By the end of 2014 the international combat mission will end. NATO has stated many times that the Afghan National Security Forces are capable and growing in experience. They are doing the job now, they are suffering heavy losses as well, but they will grow in experience to defend their own country and that is only right. There will be a new NATO mission after 2014, it will be smaller and it will train, advise and assist. The international relationship with Afghanistan will still be strong but it will move towards a more traditional development relationship that occurs around the world, continuing humanitarian and government assistance, whilst ensuring at the same time that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for the planning of terrorist attacks like 9/11.

Personally, I also know from my long time in Kabul and from Afghan friends, that there is no going back to the dark days Afghanistan experienced. Everyone has been impatient for change, bemoaning why some things take longer than we want. Efforts will always be challenged and sometimes thwarted. But it is ultimately up to all Afghans to seize the opportunities that have been created in the last decade and lead the country forward. With the support of friends, Afghanistan can craft a better and brighter future.

WITH THE RED CROSS IN AFGHANISTAN

MARK BRINKLEY OS 02-07

MY EXPERIENCE IN Afghanistan was a short and intense one.

After three weeks of training not far from Geneva, I flew to Kabul for my first mission with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): sixteen months that would begin with a three or four month Pashto language course in Jalalabad, followed by twelve months stationed somewhere in central, southern or eastern Afghanistan. So far so good.

I flew in overnight via Istanbul. I watched *The Hobbit* on the plane, which felt apt, leaving the Shire on big adventures. In the dawn light I looked out over a brown, crumpled, snow-capped country. I arrived in Kabul's calm, clean and bright airport, to find that my luggage had been checked in only as far as Istanbul and in the name of 'Mrs Kupali' and that no one was there to meet me. I made a few phone calls, filled in a few forms and settled in to a long and pleasant chat with a friendly, curious, ginger-haired Afghan policeman who quizzed me about moral scenarios "over there in the West". Apparently anything goes. Then we moved on to the topic "foreigners in Afghanistan get paid too much", before I shot off in my flashy white Land Cruiser.

That day was apparently a holiday, so I turned up at my boss's office the next morning, still in the same clothes. He was somewhat surprised to see me, as the last he had heard from Geneva was that I hadn't got my Afghan visa. A paragon of the 'International Committee of Rapid Change', he was unfazed by my unexpected arrival and quickly organised a few packed days of briefings to introduce me to the wide range of ICRC activities in Afghanistan.

The operation in Afghanistan was one of the ICRC's largest, the organisation's 'poster child', exemplary in the level of constructive dialogue with the various parties to the conflict. This is in part because time and again, over the last thirty years of war back and forth, those who are detained get released and those in power are detained, so quite a lot of our interlocutors gain a good appreciation of the scope of the ICRC's work. The ICRC's activities are all oriented around its mission to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, at all levels, and in a completely neutral and impartial way. I was briefed on a lot of different things. I want to name only a few of them but still end up with a long list: water and sanitation projects; returning bodies across front lines for a proper burial; wheelchair basketball tournaments; phone links and video chats between rural Afghans and their family members detained in Bagram and Guantanamo; Red Cross Messages and tracing separated families; orthopaedic limbs and rehabilitation of amputees; ways of documenting violations of international humanitarian law (such as civilian deaths at firing ranges, attacks on medical personnel, or ill treatment of detainees) and how to discuss them, constructively and confidentially, with the perpetrators; First Aid training and public health programmes.

In my spare time, I enjoyed getting to know the cook, cleaner and guards in my new temporary Kabul abode, who were all very friendly and laid back and told me snippets from their remarkable life stories. They also laughed that I was being sent off to learn Pashto, saying encouragingly, "You know that sound when you rattle a stone in a can yeah? Well that's what Pashto sounds like," and "learning Pashto is like breaking a rock against your head".

Chatting to them helped me to get used to Dari. I had studied the Iranian dialect of Persian, also known as Farsi, at university. Dari is kind of like Farsi with a Glaswegian accent. This exposure was useful and much needed, as it wasn't long before I was put to work.

First I went on a dissemination workshop, where a small team of us went to the National Department of Security, sat down with prison guards from all over the country, and went through a presentation and question and answer session in Dari about the role of the ICRC in places of detention, worldwide and specifically in Afghanistan. Soon after that, towards the end of the week, instead of going straight off to Jalalabad for the language course, I was roped into a five day detention visit up at Bagram Airbase, a huge US and Afghan military base.

For me, Bagram was a surreal place, as an incongruous 23 year old Englishman in the midst of supersized American soldiers and supersized American meals, which itself all seemed pretty incongruous in the midst of the striking mountain views that surrounded us. We slept in US army tents, and spent our days talking to people who had been detained in the conflict, putting them in touch with their families, bringing any concerns they had to the attention of the authorities, and then sitting in our portacabin office late into the night sorting Red Cross Messages and entering case notes into the ICRC laptops.



A Red Cross Message, intricately decorated by a detainee for his loved ones. The detainee has written 'In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful'. This is basically the equivalent to AMDG in Afghanistan. (Courtesy of one of Mark's colleagues.)

After that it was back to Kabul for birthday beers, where I caught up with some friends I'd made in Geneva, and with the Brit who was working down on the border in Khost. He had been a gappie at Riverview, went to uni with my brother, goes out with the sister of an OS, did a Masters at Cambridge under my old Persian teacher, and is an old family friend of the Bidwells! Small world.

On Thursday the 9th of May I got in a little propeller plane (luggage now retrieved and intact, in case you were wondering) and escaped the dusty, frenetic capital for balmy Jalalabad, a lush green city in eastern Afghanistan that lies on the main road between Kabul and Peshawar in Pakistan, the same road that goes through the famous Khyber pass, where I'd looked across at Afghanistan from Pakistan with my family a few years earlier.

Jalalabad was chosen for the Pashto course for a few reasons. The people in Jalalabad, including all of our Afghan colleagues there, speak Pashto as their first language, but, in contrast to other ICRC outposts in the 'Pashtun Belt' like the Khost office and Kandahar sub-delegation, the Jalalabad sub-delegation was seen to be calm and safe enough to sustain a relatively large expatriate presence, which includes a couple of staff on Pashto training at any one time, without incurring unnecessary risks, or presenting an unnecessarily tempting target.

I enjoyed living in our place in Jalalabad, a collection of houses and mulberry-carpeted courtyards, their doors and gates always open, dotted along a quiet street where the occasional car would trundle by, children would play cricket, and an ice-cream man would peddle cold refreshment. I enjoyed fresh mangos and limes, Afghan lunches sitting on the floor with the local staff, warm evenings sitting out with the guards.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, my first mission with the ICRC came to an abrupt end. It was a phenomenal privilege to work with such quality people and for such an excellent organisation, if only for a short period. I feel overwhelmingly lucky to have gained some of the unusual experiences I've outlined above. I'd be excited by the prospect of returning to work for the ICRC before too long, but in the meantime, I'm happy to enjoy life back in the UK with renewed appreciation.

To find out more about the work that the International Committee of the Red Cross does in Afghanistan and all around the world, providing humanitarian assistance and protection to victims of armed conflict in an impartial and neutral way, visit <http://www.icrc.org/eng/>

While the ICRC's work is well perceived and widely accepted, working in conflict zones is not without risks. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the three ICRC staff, their families, friends, and their captors, who have been abducted in Syria and remain in captivity. <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/10-14-syria-icrc-staff-abductions.htm>

MY INTEREST IN JOINING the Army began at a young age, but it was during my time at Stonyhurst, under the mentorship of the wonderful Major John Cobb and the indomitable RSM Bob Sanderson, that the idea firmly took root. I left the College in 1989, studied Philosophy at Nottingham University and then joined the Army in 1994, commissioning into the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The start of my military career coincided with the beginning of an unprecedented period of operational deployments around the world for the British armed forces. For decades, the Army had been organised to face the Soviet threat on the North German plains; and for over twenty years, the only place a soldier could gain operational experience, with the notable exception of the Falklands War, was Northern Ireland. After an initial few years spent mainly in the Far East, I increasingly found myself involved in these deployments: Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone twice, Bosnia, Iraq. Each was very different and equally rewarding, but all fell into the categories of 'peace keeping' or 'peace enforcement' - except for Iraq, where I spent 8 months working as a planner in the UK headquarters in Basra.

In late 2006, rumours began to circulate that my battalion was to be sent to southern Afghanistan the following summer. After 13 years of soldiering, I was finally faced with the potential of going to war. And I'll be honest - like virtually every other soldier I have ever met, I was excited by the prospect and very eager to go. It became my focal point for many months, both professionally but also emotionally. I began preparing myself for what I expected would be a life-changing experience.

The more recent generation of young officers and soldiers who have chosen to join a British infantry regiment have done so with the expectation of seeing combat. Indeed, the protracted campaigns in Iraq and especially Afghanistan made it almost inevitable. Not so for my generation. For us, experiencing real fighting was an 'if', not a 'when'. We trained for many years, but I think it is fair to say that most of us did not expect to see combat. Yet fighting is ultimately a soldier's 'raison d'être' - it is fundamentally what defines us and our profession. Thus, on a deeper personal level, going to war was an affirmation of my identity as a soldier; a matter of professional fulfilment, but more importantly a matter of personal validation.

Everyone who has served in Afghanistan has had a very different experience. Accounts and reflections will vary widely. For me, the seven months I spent there was a deeply enriching experience, on both a professional and personal level. We were lucky, having what I have sometimes referred to as 'the perfect tour': we saw action, but were spared the horrors of war. The types of operations we conducted were always changing, we travelled widely across Southern Afghanistan and the casualties sustained by our battle-group were thankfully low.

I commanded a group that varied between 120-200 men and women, based on my company of Gurkhas but routinely with attached soldiers from other countries - Canadians, Americans, Dutchmen, and Afghans - as well as specialists such as engineers, dog handlers and forward air controllers from other British units. Our role was unique. The large majority of British units serving in Helmand were assigned a specific sector within which they operated for the duration of their tour. This 'modus operandi' did not apply to us. Our role was to deploy across the whole southern sector of Afghanistan, depending on where the general commanding this sector wanted to concentrate effort. We flew deep into the mountains by helicopter and subsequently lived out of our packs for weeks. We roamed the fringes of the desert in large groups of vehicles. And we patrolled the 'Green Zone' - the irrigated and heavily cultivated land beside the Helmand River where most of the population lived. Often we went to places where no coalition troops had previously been.

Our time in Afghanistan spanned the winter, beginning in September and ending in April. The intense fighting traditionally occurs in the summer months. We therefore had a relatively quiet time, with long periods when we saw no fighting. It may sound paradoxical, but the absence of combat does not necessarily translate to less mental and emotional pressure. I found the anticipation more challenging than actually being under fire. Responsibility rests heavily on a commander's shoulders when he knows the lives of his soldiers depend largely on his planning and decision-making. I remember one of my toughest moments of the tour, waiting to conduct a night time helicopter assault with my company into a Taliban stronghold. We expected the helicopters to be met with heavy fire from the ground, and prepared contingency plans for a helicopter being shot down. It turned out not to be the case, but that didn't make the waiting any easier. After perhaps two months I was able to recalibrate this anticipation: I no longer expected an encounter with the Taliban every time we went out on patrol and thus I was more able to appreciate the wider experience of what we were doing in Afghanistan. (Continued page 22)

PAKISTAN'S NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

ROBERT BRINKLEY CMG, OS 64-72, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN 2006-2009

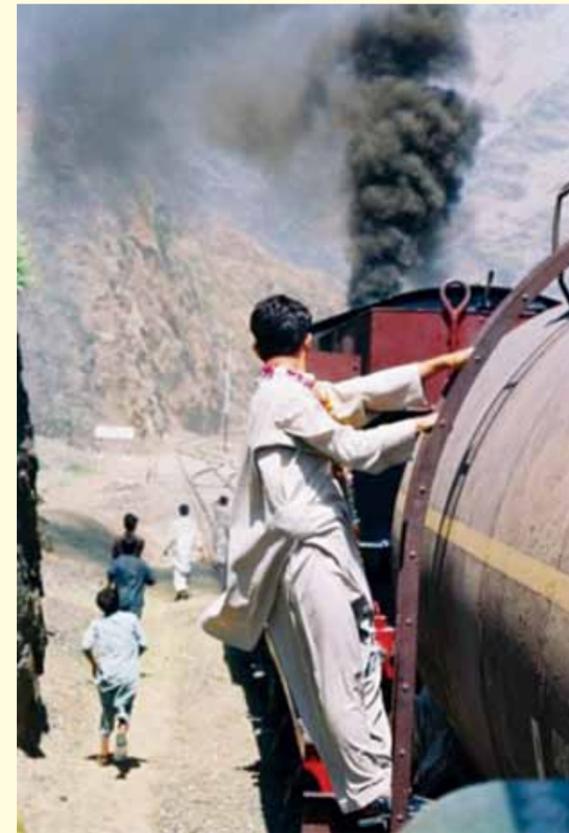
OUR PAKISTAN ARMY helicopter flew in fast and low over dusty brown mountains to the divisional headquarters near Miranshah in North Waziristan, the heartland of Al Qaeda's international terrorist web. It was August 2007. I was accompanying General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff, to meetings with a cross-section of the Pakistani military chain of command, from President Musharraf - also Chief of the Army Staff - to the divisional commander on the ground. The divisional base, deep inside hostile territory, looked like a US cavalry fort in a Western film - but with 21st century additions like machine gun towers and helicopter gunships. On arrival we were taken underground for a briefing, emerging only for our return flight back over the hills to Islamabad.

In my first few months in Pakistan, it was safe enough to venture into at least part of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), an autonomous part of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now known as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In April 2007 my family and I enjoyed an outing on the 1920s steam railway from Peshawar up the Khyber Pass. As the train puffed slowly uphill, we passed fortified Afridi compounds, their high walls topped by satellite dishes. Boys with mobile phones ran alongside the train. We saw the crests of British regiments, carved on the hillsides. Like the Roman legions' inscriptions on the stones of Hadrian's Wall, the carvings have outlasted the troops who made them.

By July 2007, the government's bloody siege of the extremist Red Mosque in Islamabad had triggered a deadly campaign of bombing attacks by the Pakistani Taliban, many in Peshawar and NWFP. These attacks were the backdrop for the rest of our posting and helped earn Pakistan the title "The world's most dangerous place" (cover of *The Economist*, 5th - 11th January 2008).

It became increasingly difficult to visit NWFP, although I did get to Peshawar a few times to see the provincial government and the Governor in his grand colonial mansion, with peacocks strutting on the lawns. Among others, I took Foreign Secretary David Miliband and my opposite number from Kabul, British Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles. In November 2008 Sherard hosted me on a return visit to Kabul, where I was able to debate the intentions of the Pakistan civilian government elected earlier that year, with President Karzai.

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas come under the Governor of NWFP, but are not part of the province and in many respects are not subject to the laws of Pakistan. This reflects a



history over centuries of Pashtuns fiercely loyal to their tribes and to Islam, and resistant to any outside control. Britain, of all countries, ought to be sensitive to this and humble in the face of Pakistani efforts to bring peace there. Between the First and Second World Wars, the UK waged ten major military campaigns overseas. Eight were intended to pacify these tribal areas. All failed. The recent Pakistani military campaign has not been for show: they have lost more troops there than the UK has since 2001, in Afghanistan.

The lawless FATA became a haven for a variety of violent jihadist groups. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979 - 1989), it was the base for the mujahideen resistance groups, armed by the US and financed by Saudi Arabia. In the late 1990s Afghanistan came under Taliban rule. The Taliban gave hospitality to Osama bin Laden and the Al Qaeda leadership, who turned their attention to "the far enemy". Their attack on New York

and Washington on 11 September 2001 precipitated the US and international campaign to remove the Taliban and Al Qaeda from Afghanistan. The Al Qaeda leaders escaped over the mountains into the FATA. From there they continued to train extremists and plot attacks, some of which succeeded, like the London bombings of 7 July 2005. Meanwhile FATA (and Baluchistan) were used by various Taliban groups as rear areas for harrying the international forces in Afghanistan.

By the time I arrived in Islamabad in December 2006, the FATA was the seat of the major threat to UK national security - international terrorism - as well as to the British and other forces striving to stabilise neighbouring Afghanistan. It was no coincidence that the two biggest British diplomatic missions in the world were in Kabul and Islamabad. There were no international forces in Pakistan, but we did our best to work with the Pakistani government and military to counter terrorism and to buttress the international effort in Afghanistan.

The High Commission in Islamabad, with some 140 UK-based staff from a dozen government departments and many hundreds of locally-engaged staff, was also busy tackling drug trafficking and illegal migration, delivering Britain's second-biggest development programme, and managing a huge volume of visa and consular work, reflecting the extensive links between people in Pakistan and the UK. Our Deputy High Commission in Karachi, Pakistan's major commercial city, took the lead on supporting British companies, while the British Council had a network of offices, including one in Peshawar until it became too

1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

dangerous, involved in educational projects and a big programme of examinations for Pakistani school children.

My wife Mary and I hosted a constant stream of official visitors in our house on the High Commission compound – ministers and politicians, military chiefs and senior officials. Apart from the value of getting to know and support them, the lack of other secure accommodation made this necessary. That was dramatically demonstrated in September 2008 when one of Islamabad's two international hotels, the Marriott, was bombed and set ablaze, with the loss of many lives.

As the security situation deteriorated and the attacks came to Islamabad, the High Commission looked more and more like a fort. Our compound was within the diplomatic enclave, with other embassies and high commissions, including the Apostolic Nunciature. On Sunday mornings we walked to Mass, celebrated for the foreign community in his chapel by the Nuncio, a Filipino Archbishop. Otherwise, whenever I left the enclave I had to travel

in an armoured vehicle with armed Pakistani police guards. There was no scope for spontaneous outings; even on our walks in the Margalla and Murree Hills outside Islamabad our guards came too.

In 2013 Pakistan still grapples with many of the same problems as always, although the threat from Al Qaeda in the FATA has been substantially diminished by US drone attacks. Unfortunately, the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 is unlikely to herald a golden age of peace and stability there and continuing strife in Afghanistan will affect Pakistan, as it has through over thirty years of conflict. It is encouraging that the civilian government elected in Pakistan in 2008 completed its five year term, and power passed peacefully to another elected government in May 2013. The UK will continue to be heavily involved: in many ways Pakistan is as much a domestic as a foreign matter for us. The million or more British citizens of Pakistani origin and two billion pounds annual trade turnover will help ensure that.

War has been popularly defined largely by people who have not experienced it, through fiction as much as fact. It is not all about the fighting, as so often portrayed. War is a fundamentally human experience – and this is why I found it such an enriching experience Facing adversity, and ultimately situations where your life may depend on those around you, generates very strong and intimate bonds with those people; the much used cliché, 'a band of brothers', is entirely apt. When danger is ever-present, all your senses are sharpened – and this extends into the relationships with your companions. Simple acts such as sharing a meal take on a richer significance. You feel the human bond much more acutely. Furthermore, I had professionally grown up with some of the men I commanded. I knew them well and considered them friends. For example my sergeant major and confidante, Suresh Thapa, had been a young rifleman in my platoon when I had first joined the battalion in 1995 as a second lieutenant. I do not have children, but I suspect the paternal bond between a father and a son is akin to that which I felt for my soldiers.

Whenever I reflect on my time in Afghanistan, my fondest memories are those which reflect that special bond. One afternoon, when patrolling on foot in the mountains during a very cold period, a heavy snow storm enveloped us. As darkness fell, we packed ourselves into some small derelict huts – the only shelter we could find. After orders for the following day had been received and briefings complete, we settled in, sharing tea and banter before bedding down literally shoulder to shoulder for the night. Under such situations, personal boundaries come down. Not since I was a child have I shared such intimate spaces as this. We felt like a big family.

Perhaps my most poignant memory is that of the last night of our final operation. That day we had been patrolling on the desert fringe in about twenty vehicles and we were 'laagered up' for the night, the vehicles parked in a protective square with sentries posted on each corner. Under a silent, starlit sky, as all but the sentries slept around me, I stood in the middle of the laager and reflected on what a privilege it had been to lead these unique and special men and to have their trust. In that quiet and personal moment, that intimate bond that I talk of was so tangible. I am not ashamed to say I shed a quiet tear.

The local Afghans were also part of the human experience. In a counter-insurgency, which the war in Afghanistan is, the local population is your primary focus, not the enemy. At the time I was there, I cared not for the political justifications and objectives for deploying troops to Afghanistan. My concerns each morning were my soldiers and the local Afghans I would encounter that day. Our endeavour was to make the lives of those Afghans better in some small way. Sometimes that wasn't possible, and on occasions our best intentions may have inadvertently made things worse, perhaps encouraging the Taliban to reassert themselves after we left. But there were times when you could feel that human connection, see it in someone's eyes, and know we had made a difference no matter how small – even if that was simply showing the villagers that someone else cared about them.

Beyond the human dimension, there was so much else that added to the richness of the experience. It may shock some to hear it, but war is often exhilarating. Being shot at makes you feel very, very alive. Successfully pulling off a plan against a wily and tenacious enemy (and some of the Taliban were), in difficult

and unfamiliar terrain, is very satisfying. Flying in helicopters in the dead of night, driving vehicles through remote mountains in deep snow, or undertaking long night marches with a hundred heavily armed Gurkhas is part of the reason we want to be soldiers – all this against the backdrop of stunning landscapes. We were lucky to be there in the early part of the UK's involvement in Southern Afghanistan. Things were still new, we didn't have the bespoke equipment or the formalised operating procedures that came later, and frankly we didn't have a good understanding of certain aspects of the operation at that stage. We had to learn and make things up as we went along, use our initiative and intuition – it was an adventure.

So was my time in Afghanistan the life-changing experience I expected it to be? Yes, I think so, but not in the way I and others had perhaps expected. As far as I could tell, I did not return a noticeably changed person. However, I did decide to leave the Army three years later, despite being selected to return to command my battalion – a decision that surprised everyone, including me. My time in Afghanistan was unquestionably the centre piece of my career in the Army, and looking back now I realise that it was also the final piece in a jigsaw puzzle. The picture was now complete. There was nothing more I needed to do as a soldier; I had achieved that personal validation. There were other reasons I decided to leave the Army, but I suspect that had I not gone to fight in Afghanistan I may not have felt as free to leave, still not fully satisfied. I may have chosen to serve on in hope of that elusive war. Leaving the Army was a very challenging personal transition, but I am at peace with myself knowing I did all that could be asked of a soldier. I can now move on to something new.

My first tour of Afghanistan took me to work with the Afghan National Army (ANA) in the region of Nahr-e Saraj. It was a mixed area with dense woodland known as the green zone, open desert land to the North and a mixture of poor villages dotted along a road that went to the capital of Helmand, Lashkar Gah. The area had little in the way of infrastructure; homes were made of mud and straw often with no power or any source of clean water. Our normal routine would see us deploying most mornings on patrol well before first light in order to get to areas of dispute. This would often see us arriving 4-8 km away from our base in order to show that we had the ability to move at night and we were free to go where we wanted. More often than not after prayers and breakfast, we would become engaged in a fight. It was interesting to work with the Afghan Army; they were brave and wanted nothing more than to kill their enemy; the problem was the enemy was exactly the same. The various fights that I was involved in with the ANA would see thousands of rounds fired in the general direction of the enemy, I was told by them that it was better to fire a thousand rounds and hit one man than to fire 10 rounds and hit 10. Hollywood had taken over many of them and they loved Tom Cruise and Arnold Schwarzenegger films. They would often fire their weapons like an extra in a film, not the most accurate way of doing business!

We were briefed that we had to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. This was in some cases not an easy task as we would often find hostility towards us for incidents that had happened years before our arrival. As a result of this they would shift sides depending on who was visiting them. If it was us they would state their allegiance to the Afghan Army and the British forces, offer us a cup of tea and some bread then wave us off on our way with a big smile on their faces; ten minutes later there would be bullets making their way to us from their compound. Often the only way to gauge how the situation was going was through the children. Normally they would be playing in the streets and would approach the patrols to talk to us and ask for food and they would always try and take something from our bags – we had to be on our toes with them! If the place was deserted however it meant that trouble was ahead.

The Afghan Army that I knew had some of the bravest men I have met. They didn't have the kit they needed and often the leadership from the officers on the ground was non-existent but the soldiers I mentored were willing to walk into the worst situation completely unprepared and not come back! If you advised them to do something then they would do it.

The saddest part of the tour was dealing with Afghan casualties. Casualty extraction is something that we, the British excel at and 90% of our own casualties were on a helicopter back to the hospital within 20 minutes of becoming injured. The Afghans had nothing like this and their medical training was almost non-existent,



their medical kit was out-dated and their natural reaction to a casualty was often panic. We regularly had to deal with the injured because the Afghans couldn't handle seeing a friend bleeding or the fact that he was missing a limb. Training packages on basic first aid were organised and we sent ANA soldiers on courses in Camp Bastion. Some of them returned but some were kept in Bastion as they were now experts and it was seen to be more important to keep the Medics together. Finally, the way we get a casualty off the ground is on a helicopter and the Afghans were using this as their method of extraction – not something that would continue when we left.

My second tour allowed me to understand the change that Helmand province was going through. On my first patrol I passed a brand new BMW 3 Series car, I visited the capital and found concrete buildings with glass windows, petrol stations, cafes with customers and more cars for sale than there were people in the city. It was interesting to see all this apparent wealth compared with the villages that I previously worked in only 20km away and not having changed at all since my last visit. The people of the city were a mixed bunch, taxed by the police on the roads and under a strange government of British/Afghan rule. This tour was different as we were to hand over power to the Afghan Police and Army and we were to stop going on patrol. To many of us, this was not natural. We began to turn into a force that would deal with Afghan "in extremis" casualties and only offer strategic strikes if the Afghans were in trouble. We wanted to help but the orders were set that we were to stay away and offer only advice. This was hard, especially when one night a very scared member of the Afghan Police came to see me to ask where an improvised explosive device was hidden. We saw it being placed in the ground from our array of cameras and we told the Afghans about it so they sent a sergeant to see me. The man could not read a map and it took a long time to explain where on the road the bomb had been placed but, he left after dark to deal with it and returned smiling the next day.

By the time I left the second time we were packing up all our bases. The job was done and the Afghans were capable of looking after the security themselves. In the twelve years since we first went into the country, there have been massive changes: the birth of an insurgency, the evolution of British Army tactics and kit, and the formation of Afghan National Security Forces. Although my six months mentoring the ANA was often tedious and very testing I look back at it with a warm sense of achievement. The officer I mentored has since been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and the area I worked in no longer has any British troops as the ANA are able to keep the peace on their own. The true test of our work will begin when there are no British troops in Helmand but the current Government is talking to the Taliban and there seems to be the beginnings of a peace deal which could see the country return to the thriving nation that it was in the 1960s.

MY JOINING STONYHURST was a coincidence. In 1999, my family decided that I should go to UK for further studies. Stonyhurst was recommended by an acquaintance. When I first saw the College and its ancient building structures it was “love at first sight”. By then our family’s business had opened an office in Blackburn and had established a guest house. Therefore, I joined Stonyhurst as a day scholar and regret not having experienced the boarding life. In addition to academic activities I took keen interest in sports. Horse riding, cricket and rugby were my passions. More importantly I made good friends; even today I cherish these friendships. After attaining my General Certificate of Secondary Education in 2001, I returned to Pakistan to complete my education and join my family’s business. I remained in touch with my Alma Mater through the newsletters I received on a regular basis.

Equipped with the necessary management / leadership skills, discipline, social skills and above all strength of character, which I owe to Stonyhurst, I joined my family’s business. By this time the business, consisting mainly of manufacturing and export of denim fabric and denim jeans for major brands in Europe and USA, had grown exponentially. I joined the US Apparel (Pvt) Limited Group of companies as a rookie learning the ropes in every aspect of the business. I spent time on the shop floor supervising manufacturing of garments, learnt the art of product development, merchandizing and marketing. Managing people came naturally to me therefore hiring, retaining and developing talent remains my area of focus.

Today, I am a Director on the Board of Directors of US Group of Companies with executive responsibilities. The Group is currently producing over 18 million garments per annum in five manufacturing units spread around Lahore. Fifty percent of our exports are destined for UK customers. The business is vertically integrated with a denim fabric manufacturing unit producing 22 million metres of denim fabric annually. The Group expects to increase the annual capacity of garment manufacturing to 38 million garments and denim production to 44 million metres by the year 2020. We employ over 14000 skilled craftsmen and highly talented managers and provide livelihood to thousands more employed by our suppliers, contractors, transporters etc.

I give generously of my time, expertise, and financial resources to make a difference in the lives of individuals and the community we operate in. A fund established for this purpose contributes heavily in the field of education and health.

I am married and have three children. In addition to my preoccupation with the business, I have deep passion for horticulture. I have landscaped the green spaces in our manufacturing facilities offices using rare and exotic plants imported from the Far East.

Below: Robert Brinkley, British High Commissioner (4th from left) and Mrs Brinkley with Saqib Javed Bhatti (3rd from right) during the former’s visit to US Apparel’s denim jeans manufacturing facility in Lahore, Pakistan; and a view of the office lawn landscaped by Saqib Javed Bhatti.



Colonel Warren Fox OS 63-71 retired from the USMC and then flew reconnaissance missions over Afghanistan from the NATO Air Base at Kandahar until August 2011. The photograph shows him after his final combat support mission

Tim Hetherington OS 81 - 89, RIP and his friend, the author Sebastian Junger, spent over a year ‘embedded’ with an American Army patrol in the Korengal Valley of Eastern Afghanistan where the Taliban were considered to have their greatest support. They shared the hardships, boredom and sometimes extreme danger with the soldiers, but only as photo-journalists. They produced two books and a film from their experiences.



Recently, in Liverpool there was an exhibition of Tim’s work at the Open Eye Gallery. He said of the above picture: ‘they always look so tough but when they are asleep they look like little boys.’

Also in Liverpool was the pre-premiere of Sebastian Junger’s affectionate memorial documentary about Tim called *Which Way is the Front Line from Here*. A small party from the College, including Tim’s nephew, Oliver went to see it and meet the director and Tim’s family.

Right: Tim’s nephew Oliver Rankin and Mr Simon Andrews meeting Sebastian Junger

John Butt OS 66 - 68 arrived in Swat, Pakistan following the Hippie Trail from neighbouring Afghanistan in 1969 and charmed by the beauty of the place and the lifestyle of its people, he decided to stay. He converted to Islam, trained as a mullah and has been there ever since except for periods at Cambridge as a chaplain.

However faced with the prospect of his adoptive homeland being wrecked by religious fanatics, spreading their ideas over local radio and threatening anyone who disagrees, he set up his own radio station in 2004 to counter their extremist message. This offers a more traditional and moderate interpretation of the Koran. He says the theology on which the extremists base their arguments is quite shallow.

Swat has been over-run in recent years with militants from the lawless tribal regions and despite efforts by the Pakistani Army to suppress the insurgency, a deal was made to allow the militants to impose Islamic Law on the area which worries him and he fears the arrival of a warped form of Sharia heavily reliant on corporal punishment.

In his visit to the College in 1897, Costello recounted a conversation he had with a chief who had said to him, ‘You know Sahib, in spite of all your show and success, if we really once got all our men together we could wipe you out of India.’ Costello then pointed to his fort containing four hundred men and said that a few miles away was another containing the same number and then away at Peshawar there was more than ten times as many and so he went on and said that if that was not enough, every man in England would volunteer and asked the chief what would he do then.

The chief was silent for a long time and then looked at Costello and said, ‘Well Sahib, even then in the end I think we should beat you.’



ARCHIVIST AND CURATOR

There was an error in the last issue of The Association News concerning the identity of the Stonyhurst Archivist. As it would appear that the roles of Archivist and Curator are often confused, this would seem to be an excellent opportunity to clarify the situation.

David Knight was appointed the Stonyhurst Archivist following the death of Fr F J (Freddie) Turner SJ in 2001, having worked as his assistant for the previous three years. David combines this role with the immensely time-consuming work of producing, editing, researching and writing articles and obituaries for The Stonyhurst Record (previously The Stonyhurst Magazine). However, he will be better known to many OS as a teacher of Geology and Biology for many years and as Joint Head of Science prior to his retirement from teaching in 1998.

The main purpose of the archives at Stonyhurst is to keep a record of all aspects of the history of the school since it was first founded on the continent in 1593, through its arrival on English soil in 1794 up to the present day. Other sections include the Shireburn family and the history of the mansion and estate before it became a school, together with local history, especially the history of the parishes close to the school. On a wider front, the archives also include material on Jesuit history and some of the Catholic families in other parts of England. A vast multitude of enquiries are made in relation to these aspects each year, from both within and outside the school, and it is the role of the Archivist to research and respond to these enquiries as well as preserving the records both in terms of breadth and depth of information and cataloguing the historical data.

David can be contacted by email at: d.knight@stonyhurst.ac.uk

Jan Graffius was appointed as Curator at Stonyhurst in January 2001, moving from London where she had worked in a variety of national and local authority museums and galleries, and also for the National Trust. The Curator’s role is to research, catalogue, conserve, display, teach, lecture, publish and make available the objects in her care to the pupils, both at the College and at a wide range of other schools, to the public and to academics and researchers. As the Collections have become better known, the job increasingly includes television, radio, press and other media work. In addition there are numerous requests from museums nationally and internationally to borrow items, and the Curator must assess these in the light of the conservation needs of the objects, often accompanying the object and supervising its installation. Recently the College has lent to the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the National Museum of Scotland, the Smithsonian in Washington, the Royal English College in Valladolid, the National Portrait Gallery, the Louvre, and the Tower of London amongst others.

The Collections cared for at Stonyhurst are exceptionally wide ranging, including paintings, sculpture, prints, photographs, medieval textiles, liturgical silver, relics, natural history, scientific and ethnographic artefacts, as well as collections from ancient cultures and civilisations. They are particularly rich in Catholic cultural artefacts, and the College is arguably the most important repository of English recusant material culture in Britain, if not the world. The Curator is currently undertaking a doctorate in the history of the relics held at St Omers- an area of research which is of increasing interest to scholars, and which has led her to work in El Salvador on the relics of the martyr, Oscar Romero. At present the big project is the restoration of the Arundell, Bay and Square Libraries, which saw the careful evacuation of some 42,000 books into store. Once the building work and interior restoration is complete, the books and museum artefacts will be returned and the libraries will once again be available to visitors and College pupils.

One of the most important aspects of the job is working with the pupils at the College, and over the years many children have taken advantage of the unparalleled opportunity to work closely with rare and precious artefacts. The Curator is particularly grateful for the Stonyhurst Association’s generous support for her work, especially through the Persons Fellowship scheme, which has enabled four OS graduates to work with the Collections, carrying out research and providing them with much valued work experience.

Jan can be contacted by email at: curator@stonyhurst.ac.uk

MISCELLANY AND CORRESPONDENCE

CHC Project USA

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst deserves the support of everyone who values Christian truth. - Paul Johnson OS

In October, a party from Stonyhurst, including the Curator Jan Graffius and led by Lord Alton and Lord Nicholas Windsor, Royal Patron of the Christian Heritage Centre project (right with his wife Paola and children Albert and Leopold), visited the Eastern United States. They took some exhibits from the Collections with them and gave talks and presentations in Washington to Congress and at Georgetown University. They made particular reference to the American Catholics who were alumnae of St Omers, such as Archbishop John Carroll of Baltimore and Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signatory of the Declaration of Independence.

The party moved to Baltimore and then New York for a presentation sponsored by parents, Mr and Mrs Morley and John Stiller OS, before finally visiting Boston and Princeton University and returning home.

Below: Architect's visual of the fourth and final stage of the project, the conversion of the old Mill



46 years since they last met but **Richard Huxford OS 60 - 68** and **Anthony de Bertodano OS 60 - 66**, who farms in Argentina, seem to be enjoying their reunion in Paris recently (above).

Paul Macey OS 78 - 83 has broken cover to tell us that he now brings expertise to the Words of Colour team. He has been in journalism for 25 years mainly freelancing for publications such as The Guardian, Evening Standard and Local Government Chronicle. He has contributed his knowledge and experience to a range of creative, innovative and successful projects such as the award-winning youth newspaper, The Cut.

Ed Dunbar OS 88 - 95 has written to tell us that: 'After a number of years based in the Lothians, in January 2013, I relocated with my wife, Caroline and two children Isla (4) and Samuel (2) back to the family owned Duffus Estate near Elgin. In addition to managing the farming and residential portfolio we also run two self-catering properties with a third to be added for 2014. I have joined local firm, Peter Graham and Associates Chartered Surveyors and Land Agents who specialise in rural land management, sporting, valuation and renewable consultancy across the North East and Highlands of Scotland.'

Michael McGrath OS 79 - 82, co-founder and CEO of national family charity, The Muscle Help Foundation carried the Paralympic Torch through the London Borough of Waltham Forest. He said: 'It was a tremendous honour to carry the flame. When my new Etac E890 powerchair raised me up into the standing position, I was overcome as I hadn't stood for over four years. I recall thrusting my left arm upwards and outwards and looking directly into the flame - I carried it as a symbol of hope, courage and inner strength for all our charity's Muscle Dream beneficiaries, past, present and future, as well as their families. I will never forget that moment.'

Sam Leach OS 04-09 - Extracts from her Dissertation on Tolkien and Rowling (see *Congratulations*):

...As in C S Lewis' Narnia stories, a deeper magic is present: love, self-sacrifice (and) the bonds of friendship [Duriez 2007, p199] are all more powerful and indeed more important than magic. Both Tolkien and Rowling champion the notion that love and friendship are the highest graces available to the human soul.

...when evaluating such mammoth works of fiction, exploring the focus on love and friendship has certainly been enlightening. Love and friendship are universal and bestride all cultures and religions - and music facilitates the transcendence of these themes.

As remarkable and intricate as both Rowling and Tolkien's worlds are, the Wizarding World and Middle-Earth are merely a backdrop for even greater stories: stories which will never fail to find resonance with readers as we are all enriched by love in our daily lives in all its forms. The triumph of love and friendship over evil is why both works will take their place among the 'indispensables' and why they will always have pride of place on my bookshelf.

A brief note from **Richard Pierce**, former member of staff: 'Annette and I jog along and are now grandparents twice over. Christopher OS05 took himself into organic farming in Italy four and half years ago and has settled on a remote farm in central Sicily, working on an organic olive oil farm and also teaching English at a language school to supplement his very modest income.'

...and a longer one from **Michael Malone-Lee OS 49 - 59**, former president of the Association: 'We moved to Oxford about four years ago after I retired as Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University. I was inspired by the example of some of my colleagues who had been in the Civil Service with me, to return to being a student and to attempt a doctorate. So I returned to the classics which I had abandoned over forty years previously when I entered the Civil Service. I did an M.St. in Classical Languages and Literature at University College, Oxford and am now at the end of my second year working on a D.Phil. I was apprehensive that my Latin and Greek was so rusty that I would not be able to last the course but to my surprise it all came bubbling to the surface. I started Latin at 10 and Greek at 12 and throughout my time at school was very well taught by inspiring teachers like Fr Freddie Turner, Russell Coleburt and Peter Levi. I am now doing research onto Cardinal Bessarion and his influence on the transmission of Plato in the 15th century. My fellow doctoral students are in their late twenties. The experience of being among a group of other graduate students who are more than half my age was surreal at first but now I don't even notice the age difference. I cannot speak for them of course.'

And an even longer one from **Christopher Riley OS 74 - 82**, somewhat abridged here:

'After a cracking 28 years of living and working in Hong Kong, the



time finally came to bid farewell to the colonies and return to a more sedate European existence.

On leaving the College, I went to Bristol University, obtained a degree in Politics and then instead of turning left and joining the Infantry as Major Cobb had arranged, I turned right and joined the Royal Hong Kong Police as a one-pip Inspector. In the eighties we were mad, bad and dangerous to know as we walked the streets of Kowloon dispensing arbitrary justice while intermittently returning to the Officers' Mess to be cooled down by the air conditioner and a refreshing pint or two of San Miguel.

Finally the time came to get a better job and I joined a trading company that bought and sold toys, textiles and the like from factories in China, as a 'Mercantile Assistant'. It wasn't quite Noble House, more like Faulty Towers but we continued to consume vast quantities of alcohol, sleep as little as possible and pursue the mighty Hong Kong dollar and the local young ladies.

...I then moved into quality assurance, working my way up the hierarchy in a major toy testing laboratory until in 2003, a few customers were kind enough to support me in my endeavours of setting up my own company, Sercura Ltd.

...In September 2012 my Yorkshire business partner and I sold Sercura to a German competitor who was keen to get into the English speaking market. My partner did the negotiating while I sat and looked sad and after many months of discussions, the German resistance crumbled and we reached a mutually beneficial deal that included me staying on for three years but being based in the Head Office in Munich. In June this year my wife packed the contents of our apartment in Hong Kong into 123 boxes and we were gone.

Bu selling my business allowed me to realize an ambition I have had for many years which was to be in a position to provide my own children with the fine public school education I was given by my father when he sent me to Stonyhurst. Anthony, my nine year old, started in April at an all-boys prep school in Berkshire. It is fascinating that within one term already his American style accent acquired at an international school in Hong Kong has disappeared and he is sounding more like an English gentleman already. I have him down for several fine schools which will include Stonyhurst, while Nicholas, my six year old will have to suffer two years learning German in our local village school before he can join his elder brother.

...I invite any OS, old friends or anyone with Stonyhurst connections to get in touch if they are in the Munich area....And of course, once my three years are up I am open to interesting business propositions, non-executive directorships, coaching, mentoring and other money-making opportunities.'

I can be contacted through the personal email: sercura@gmail.com

POPE FRANCIS

DAVID GARDNER

Readers of the Financial Times will have seen some of the contributions made by David Gardner OS 66 - 71 and may be interested in his observations made in September, about the appointment of Pope Francis.



THE NEW POPE is bringing glasnost to the Vatican. No one knows how his ideas will fare – but everybody senses they challenge conservative power

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, almost unknown to the world before his ascent this spring to the chair of Saint Peter after the sudden abdication of Pope Benedict XVI, is creating a real stir in the Roman Catholic Church. After long decades of papal intolerance that tried to silence debate and snuff out the flames of dissent, Pope Francis has just called for a “new balance” to prevent the two millennia-old Church collapsing “like a house of cards”. A discourse unheard inside the Roman hierarchy since the Second Vatican Council convened by Pope John XXIII in 1962 is being revived by this Argentine Jesuit.

The impassioned debates that fizzed and then fizzled through the 1960s and 70s – on everything from clerical celibacy to liberation theology – were shut up in the deep freeze of dogma by Popes John Paul II and Benedict. Francis has now opened the freezer. Nobody knows how these ideas will fare once they thaw. But everybody senses they challenge conservative power – from the Curia, the Vatican bureaucracy, to the reactionary Opus Dei order favoured by John Paul and Benedict – in ways that could change the face of the Church.

Quite how this has happened is a mystery. John Paul and Benedict, absolutists on questions of doctrine and papal prerogative, had more than 30 years to pack the conclave of cardinals, which chooses the pope, with prelates like them. Mystery still surrounds the (almost) unheard-of resignation of Benedict “on health grounds”. And Pope Francis himself, long reputed a conservative, looks an unlikely harbinger of perestroika and glasnost. But the signs of change keep accumulating.

He broadcasts his austere style, and that the Church of Jesus Christ is the Church of the poor. Whether denouncing the “idolatry” of money before jobless Sardinian miners, or telling his bishops to be shepherds who “smell more like the sheep”, Francis is sincere in casting his lot with society’s have-nots, something he dramatised by not moving in to the Vatican’s well-appointed papal apartments but instead to a priestly commune.

But the Catholic Church is about conserving an immutable core of orthodox belief, century after century, and while tone may vary, substance cannot. Can it be looked at in a different way? In recent weeks Pope Francis has fired off headline-grabbing statements on controversial themes, from homosexuality (“If someone is gay and is looking for the Lord, who am I to judge him?”) to atheism (“God’s mercy has no limits,” he said, “the issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience”). The contrast with Benedict, a subtle and retiring theologian with no pastoral background but a long history as John Paul’s doctrinal enforcer, could hardly be greater. Note, though, that the Church has, so far, changed no doctrine whatsoever.

But then came the Pope’s private meeting this month with Gustavo Gutiérrez, the Peruvian priest who in a 1971 book popularised the ideas of the theology of liberation. These ideas, declaring structures of injustice that enshrined poverty as incompatible with the Gospel, became a call to moral arms for priests and lay activists across the developing world. The Jesuit Pope’s meeting prompted some Catholics to remember that it was the former Jesuit superior general, the Basque Pedro Arrupe, who in a letter to his Latin American

priests in May 1968 first used the term the “preferential option for the poor” – which became the foundation of liberation theology.

John Paul used papal power to try to extirpate this current, which he equated with Marxism, as well as to roll back the modernising ideas of the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Benedict, was his principal instrument, in a battle that in some respects resembled the cold war. Hélder Câmara, the late archbishop of Recife in Brazil, a big influence behind the scenes at the Second Vatican Council, summed up the predicament: “When I give food to the poor, I am considered a saint. But when I ask why they are poor, I am called a communist.”

Pope Francis is no liberation theologian. But his ostensible relaxation of old anathemas has clearly worried organisations such as Opus Dei. The Pope’s long interview this week with Jesuit magazines – arresting in its clarity – will not have reassured them.

A pope enumerating his faults, for instance, can hardly hold up the banner of papal infallibility. “I have never been a rightwinger,” said Francis. “It was my authoritarian way of making decisions that created problems.” He compared the Church to a “field hospital after a battle” where the doctors were obsessing about cholesterol levels. “We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods,” he said.

The Pope is taking action too. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the secretary of state of the Holy See who said the media was responsible for the impression that the Church was obsessed with sex and private morality, is out. Pietro Parolin, a skilled diplomat who will have to tackle everything from reform of the Vatican Bank to restructuring the Curia, is in. His observation that celibate priests are a clerical tradition, not a doctrine, did not go unnoticed. There appears to be a purge of individuals associated with the child sex abuse scandals that have so devastated the Church; this is not transparent.

There are demands for the reinstatement of sanctioned theologians, such as Hans Küng and Leonardo Boff. John Paul and Benedict manufactured hundreds of like-minded saints on assembly lines that devalued their sanctity. This pope may expedite the canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a modern Thomas Becket shot down by death squads while celebrating mass in San Salvador in 1980.

Francis’s first encyclical, moreover, will get straight to his point. It is said the title will be *Beatis Pauperes* – Blessed are the Poor. Anyone who wants to be more papist than this pope better get the message.



A Grand Day Out: Saturday December 14th 2013 at the Thames Hare & Hounds Running Club, Richmond for the Schools Alumni 5 Mile Race. The OS team (above) was put together by **Hugh Dickinson OS 92-97**, and acquitted itself with suitable honour. In the Open we beat Sedbergh to come 4th in a field of 22; in the Under 40s and the Under 50s we finished in second place, behind Ampleforth and Charterhouse respectively; and in the Under 60s in third place. Our best individual runner was **James de St John Pryce OS 91-96**, placed 9th in a field of 161. Sadly **Brian Thursby-Pelham OS 88-90** missed the chance of carrying off the Under 40s trophy as a result – apparently – of some sight-seeing en route; whilst **Michael McCabe OS 66-71** was robbed of the Under 60s trophy by a mix up. Subsequently his honour was repaired and he reported that *On a much tougher and muddier course I managed to win my first ever county title yesterday. I’ve been running the county cross-country on and off for 40 years, but this was*

the first occasion that I won my age group... Also the Portsmouth marathon before Christmas with 3:22 in shocking conditions with shingle, mud, puddles and wind. 3:22 would be an impressive time for a man half his age – respect!

Fr Michael O’Halloran SJ was there to lend support, and sustenance in the form of mulled wine was supplied by the Thursby-Pelham parents. Post races the crack continued at the Green Man, where Fr O’Halloran found himself being quizzed about the history of the ferula. Michael McCabe records it was *rather mean of me to remind him that he had once ordered me ferulas for getting my French irregular verbs repeatedly in a muddle. My French is still pretty crap, but as Fr Michael recalled “One day we decided to stop corporal punishment -we did not tell the boys we just stopped doing it. We found that it had no effect”.*

If you are interested in joining the team in 2014, contact Hugh Dickinson at hughdickinson@hotmail.com.

Tony Fattorini OS 84 – 93 (right) who was captain of Cross-country was selected to run for Australia in the World Long Distance Mountain Running Championship which took place in Poland in August. He finished 21st, a very creditable placing.

Hidemi Takahashi OS 78 - 83 wrote in August to say ‘I am in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan at the moment, assisting a colleague of mine who has brought a group of students here. I was in Uzbekistan too for a few days before coming here, visiting Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand, as well as climbing up some hills in Urgut near Samarkand in search of Syriac rock inscriptions. Much stronger linguistic presence of Russian on the streets here in Kyrgyzstan than in Uzbekistan. I’ve also been bumping into statues of Marx, Engels and Lenin still in place here in Bishkek.’



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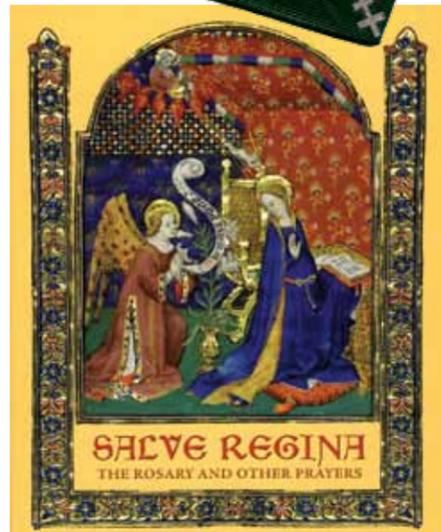
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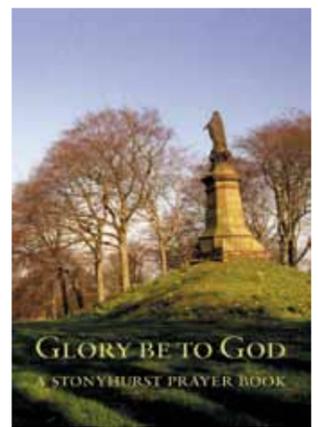
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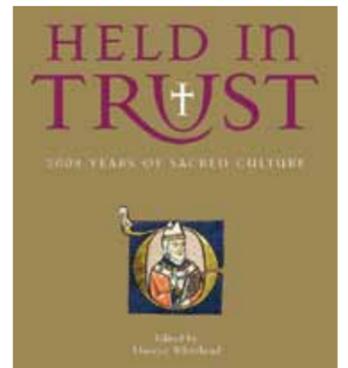
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Held in Trust: 2008 Years of Sacred Culture

Edited by Maurice Whitehead, this is the beautifully illustrated catalogue of the exhibition of the Stonyhurst Collections held at St Francis Xaviers Church, Liverpool, during that city's year as Capital of Culture in 2008. Many learned articles, and extensive captions by Jan Graffius, Stonyhurst Curator.

St Omers Press, 208 pages, paperback. £9.50





STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ Tel: 01254 827043
email: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk www.stonyhurst.ac.uk

