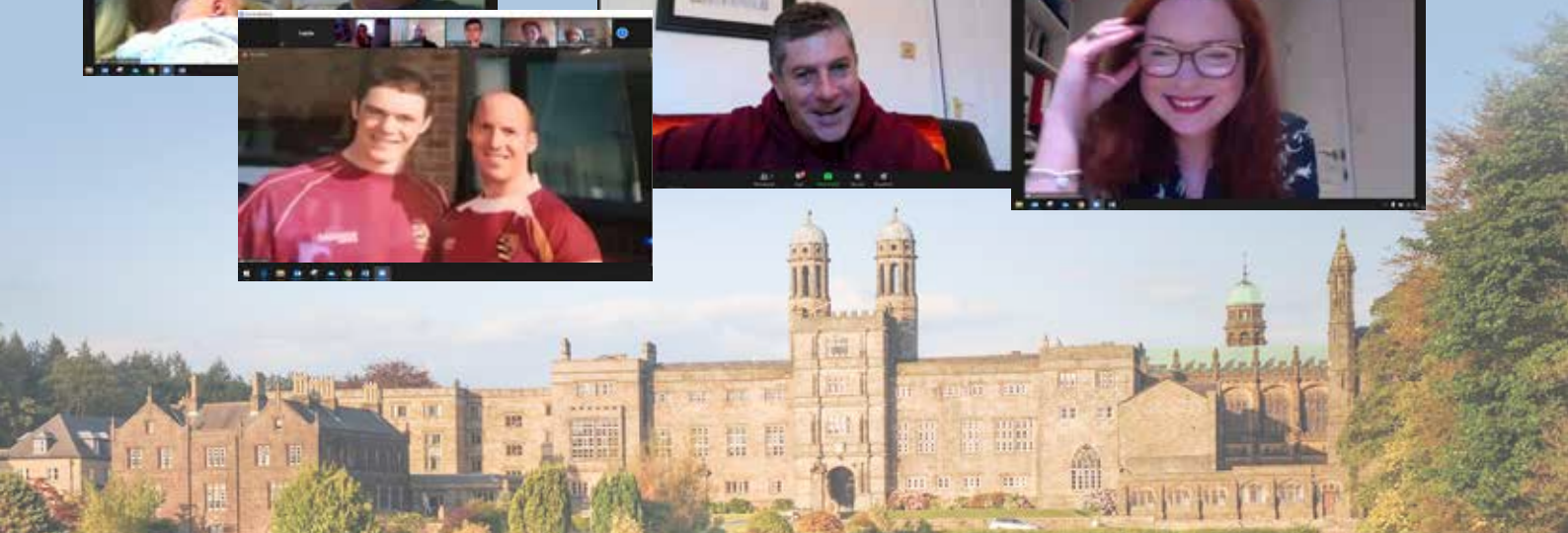
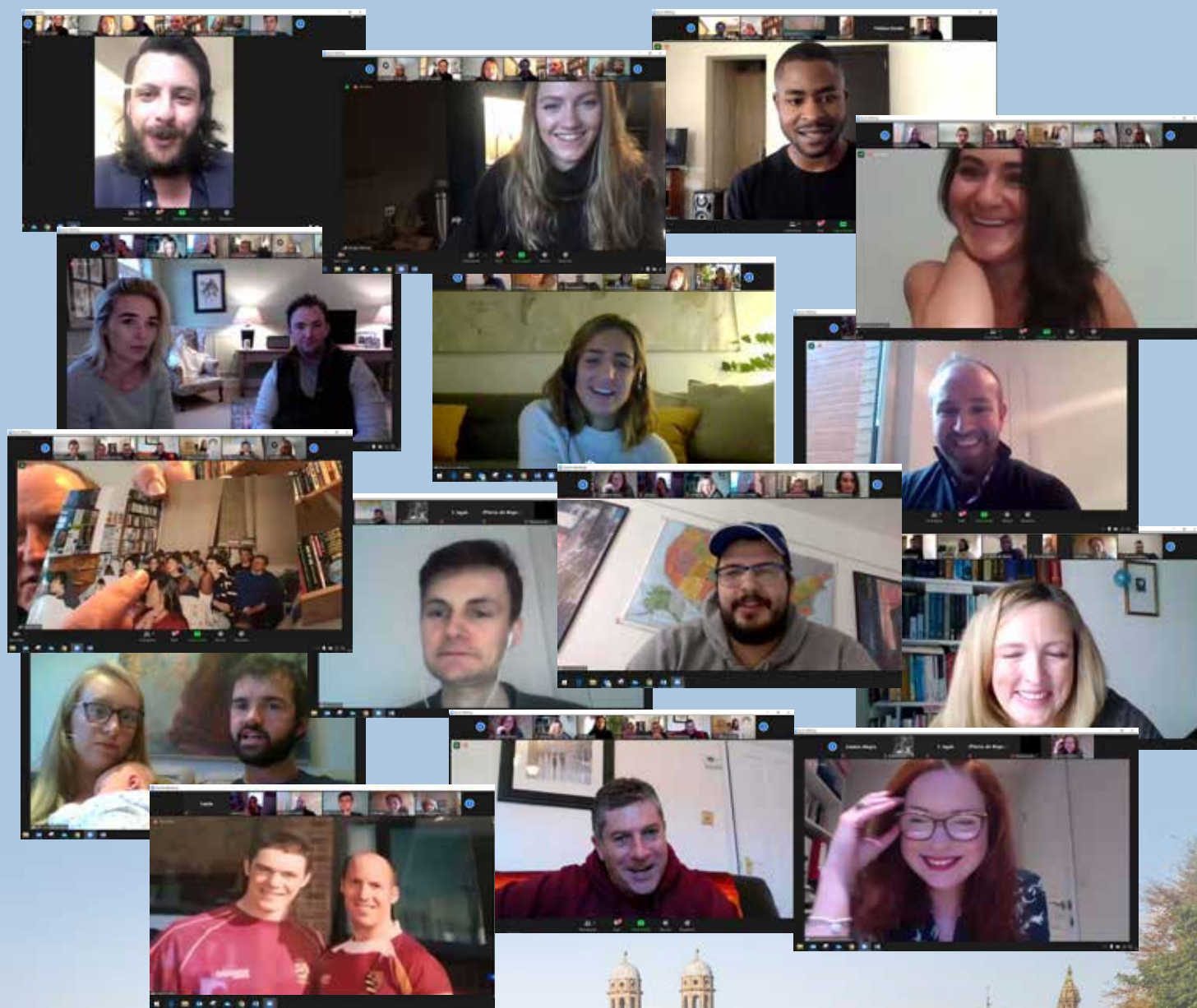


STONYHURST association news



FEBRUARY 2021



EDITOR'S NOTE

I am sitting here writing this on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. At 06.30 this morning, the first member of the public received the COVID-19 vaccine. A light at the end the tunnel at last? Hopefully!

We still have a difficult journey to completely eradicate this pandemic. But we now have greater hope for the future than we have had for many months. As we said in the summer, many of our Association events have had to be postponed or cancelled, however we have been able to be creative in a virtual way. Especially memorable was the Lourdes Pilgrimage which took place virtually over the week that we should have been in Lourdes. It was an acknowledged success, incorporating Masses, talks, time at the Grotto, a webinar, and even an outstanding "last night party"! Featured in this Newsletter is an article about the first of two webinar evenings that were hosted by Tim Livesey, the current President of the Association, and a report on the first ever virtual reunion!



May I wish you all a brighter 2021, and a return to a semblance of normality.

We would as always, be very grateful to receive your news and we are especially interested in marriages, births, other congratulations and any announcements which celebrate the achievements of the Stonyhurst family.

The Association has a Twitter and Facebook page and our exclusive networking platform Stonyhurst Link:

www.stonyhurstlink.com

[@Stonyhurstassoc](https://twitter.com/Stonyhurstassoc)


facebook.com/stonyhurstassociation

We are continuing to build up our e-mail database. If you or anyone you know has not informed us of their e-mail address but would like to receive our future e-Newsletters please contact me at:


m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk

ASSOCIATION SHOP


The Association sells a range of books, gifts and OS items. Please [click here](#) to visit our website to see the full range of items we have for sale and details of how to order online.




Cufflinks – Link
£28.00




OS Girls' Silk Scarf
£23.00




OS Knitted Silk Bow Tie
£27.00




Association Silk Tie
£27.00




Netting Fishes
£8.50




Notebook
£18.95



Dartington Claret Jug
£75.00



Dartington Tumblers
(Pack of 2)
£48.00



Dartington Flutes
(Pack of 2)
£48.00

Published by the
Stonyhurst Association
Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe
Lancashire BB7 9PZ
Tel: 01254 827043

Email: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk
www.association.stonyhurst.ac.uk
Editor: Michael Hargreaves
Email: m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk

© Stonyhurst Association
Registered Charity Number 292122

CONTENTS

President's Report	3	Lights and Sound	14
News	4	Curator's News	15
Congratulations	6	Report on Events	17
In Memoriam	9	Reunions	18
Teaching in the Time of COVID-19	9	Development News	20
A Sabbatical in the Caribbean	10	Foundation	21
St John Ambulance	11	From the Headmaster	22
Hugh Owen: Robert Persons' Spymaster	12	Wanderers' News	22
The First OS Couple to Marry at Stonyhurst	13	Books – of Interest to OS	23
Angels for Animals Foundation	13		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

TIM LIVESY OS 77

There is something to learn from even the toughest of experiences. Even if it is too soon to appreciate all that we had to learn in 2020, I do think 2021 will feel very different – if not quite yet! It has started with a jolting feeling of déjà vu. It seems extraordinary to recall that, this time a year ago, none of us had heard of COVID-19. The term had yet to be invented. The more globally aware may have had just an inkling that something troubling was brewing in a place most of us hadn't heard of before – Wuhan.

But none of us was prepared for the unfolding event that has since dominated all our lives, regardless of where we live in the world.

It wasn't just the pandemic we were unprepared for – with huge respect to the health professionals and others who have worked, heart and soul, to keep us safe and well since then. It was also the idea that so many things we have taken completely for granted can no longer be assumed as non-negotiable, always available, ours as of right. Relative freedom of movement, the right to go to school, a trouble-free university education, job security, frequent foreign holidays, even toilet rolls and pasta in the supermarket.

In reality these things have always been relative – hundreds of millions, in fact billions, of people do not, and may never be able to take such things for granted. Perhaps now is a good time to ask ourselves some uncomfortable questions: even if I can get in the car again to drive to work rather than cycling, or fly frequently again for holiday breaks, is that the right thing to do? Knowing what I now know, should I prioritise more time to be with family and friends?

We are more aware today than we were a year ago, of deep-seated inequalities in our societies; and how these have a material effect on people's life chances. The pandemic emphasised this in frightening ways. But they were there before the pandemic took hold. Have we allowed ourselves to become complacent because we have the means to ensure that inequality of opportunity doesn't affect us too much? In his new book 'Let Us Dream' – the subject of the first in the Association webinars looking at contemporary issues – Pope Francis reminds us of "the basic rule of a crisis...you come out better or worse, but never the same". To emerge better "we have to see clearly, choose well and act right."

The Association, and the College, have responded to the pandemic by developing new ways for friends to come together – a virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes, opening the Campion Mass to anyone who could Zoom in, launching Stonyhurst Link and inviting distinguished speakers to share



with us their perspectives on what a more responsible and inclusive political debate might look like: beginning with Austen Ivereigh, world authority on the Francis papacy, and Sarah Teather, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the UK. There is, of course, lots more we can do.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as President of the Association for 18 months. I hand over to Dominic Hartley in April. He will find new ways for us to meet, support, sustain and challenge each other; as well as to reach out more widely in our communities, in whatever ways we can, to be men and women for others, especially those most in need.

My thanks to everyone who works so hard behind the scenes to keep the Association, and its varied activities at home and abroad, functioning and lively, whatever the challenges. Special thanks to Beverley, Layla and Michael in the Association Office, and to the Association Committee led by Simon Andrews.

Together with them I'd like to wish you, and your loved ones, a happy 2021. It may have started in a familiar vein but it won't end like that. Last year certainly didn't. Hopefully we will have learned, changed and, amidst sadness and loss, have begun to see that we are stronger for the testing time we have had to endure.

NEWS



John O'Maoileoin OS 95, has been appointed as Group Sustainability Director to the CANPACK Group, a global manufacturer of sustainable primary packaging solutions. With over 12 years' experience of working in senior corporate responsibility positions of increasing responsibility, John's role will focus on helping CANPACK further improve its sustainability practices and reputation among external and internal stakeholders including colleagues, suppliers, customers, and legislators. In addition, John will also be responsible for creating a strategic, commercially robust response to key sustainability topics.

On joining the business John said: *"I am delighted to have joined CANPACK where it's clear that sustainability is a core part of the business' operation and corporate culture. It's exciting to be joining a company that covers the entire life cycle of packaging, from raw materials, manufacturing processes and supply chain, through to recycling and reusing products in order create a circular economy."*

Prior to his role at CANPACK, John was Corporate Responsibility Director at Aldi UK, where his responsibilities included packaging, climate change reporting, energy reduction, ethical trade, community programmes and agriculture. Before Aldi, he was Head of Corporate Responsibility at Dairy Crest (now Saputo Dairy UK), a major branded food manufacturer. Earlier in his career he worked in the Corporate Affairs department of Tesco.

Nick Corcoran OS 74, writes:

I found a photo of myself at Stonyhurst in the summer of 1974 just after 'A' levels.

After leaving Stonyhurst I was one of the very first 'gap year' students, except I spent my gap year going round the world with the Royal Navy, initially at Dartmouth Naval College and then in various warships before going up to university at Southampton.

After graduating, I completed my Officer training and navigated two warships – a minesweeper and a 50 Kt Fast Patrol boat – that was fun.

I then specialised in aviation and became a pilot in 1981. Apart from a shore job on the Admiral's Staff, I flew Lynx and Sea King helicopters from various ships and aircraft carriers until I left the Navy in my early thirties to become an airline pilot. I joined a company called Air 2000 in 1991 and 29 years later this company is now TUI. I flew mostly Boeing jets including the B757, 767, 777 and the B787 'Dreamliner'. I was one of the first pilots in Europe to fly the Dreamliner and I instructed other pilots to fly it, both in the simulator and on the actual aircraft. My log book says I have operated to over 250 airports worldwide and have landed and taken off from every continent except Antarctica. It was an amazing job and I loved it.

The left shows a picture of myself 47 years after leaving Stonyhurst, in the summer of 1974 just after 'A' levels. It was taken on my last ever flight, three days before my 65th birthday on the flight deck of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. I am now officially retired – a bit fatter and what happened to my hair?!

As I hang up my headset and prepare to put my feet up, I find myself busier than ever as my wife, Sarah, was elected as the Member of Parliament for Wrexham last year. I do all I can to support Sarah in her new role. Trust me, life is not boring!

THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN JR

During the inauguration of President Joe Biden, in January 2021, Fr Leo Donovan SJ gave a short speech during which he mentions John Carroll, a Jesuit and Archbishop of Baltimore, who went to St Omers and was the first Archbishop in the USA. He founded Georgetown University and was a cousin of Charles Carroll who also went to St Omers and Liege and was a signatory to the Declaration of Independence.

A video clip from President Joe Biden's Inauguration: [Click here](#)

History of Charles Carroll: [Click here](#)



Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71, Former Association President and Chairman of the British Spanish Society.

This may well be of interest to any OS looking for postgraduate funding. Awards have been made possible thanks to the generous corporate and individual donors who share the charity's mission of promoting educational exchanges between Spain and the UK. The successful students will be conducting pioneering research at leading universities in both countries. Their fields range from novel ways of minimising invasive surgery to the physics of photovoltaic materials, and from comparative studies of the economics of ageing populations in rural regions to English Catholic espionage in the 16th century. One doctoral study looks at complex legal issues around citizenship in a post-Brexit EU. Another is developing new frontiers in the cellular understanding of leukaemia. An outstanding cellist scholar will be heading to the Royal College of Music. At the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, the focus is on toxic masculinity in a migrant neighbourhood of Madrid and an artistic methodology to challenge it. Some 200 eligible applications were received. An independent academic committee whittled down the shortlist, looking for outstanding proposals which best fitted the charity's objectives of building bridges between academic institutions and the peoples of Spain and Britain. Since the scholarship programme was launched in 2008 the BSS has secured funding for more than 96 individual scholarships for some of the most talented and deserving postgraduate students, many of whom have gone on to establish distinguished careers.

(Right) Jonathan Roche, son of **Brendan Roche OS 82**, a postgraduate researcher at the University of Nottingham was awarded a scholarship by the charity The British Spanish Society www.britishspanishsociety.org whose chairman is Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71.

Jonathan, who has been an active participant in recent years of the **Catholic Association/ Stonyhurst** pilgrimage to Lourdes, is pictured above at a special ceremony 'Zoomed' from the Spanish Ambassador's residence in London last September, where the charity celebrated ten remarkable young winners of scholarships to support doctoral and masters studies in the coming academic year.



STONYHURST IN THE TATLER SCHOOLS GUIDE 2021

Stonyhurst has featured in a number of prestigious publications and in 2020, we were delighted to add the 'Tatler Schools Guide 2021' to that list. Tatler is a highly regarded publication in the UK and around the world, featuring 'the top prep and public schools in the UK'. To feature on this list is a true testament to Stonyhurst's renowned education. Tatler carries out 'hundreds of trips, interviews and research' in order to select the 244 'finest establishments in the nation', and we were pleased to welcome a representative to the College in 2019.

Stonyhurst received a glowing review as well as a wonderful write-up in the 'Tatler Address Book': 'Tatler Schools Guide'.



"Quant Je Puis" (as much as I can) is the motto here – and they certainly live by it. As the world's oldest Jesuit boarding school, Stonyhurst is firmly rooted in Catholicism but, in the words of a parent: 'This is not an overly pious place'. It was the school's distinctive ethos that attracted old boy, Stephen Withnell, to come back to Stonyhurst to take up the role of Deputy Head, leaving behind a job at Goldman Sachs. Since his arrival in 2018, Mr Withnell has spearheaded the creation of the new Stonyhurst Foundation, an independent charity dedicated to raising a permanent endowment for bursaries. 2021 brings another significant first: the opening of Stonyhurst International School in Malaysia.

Due to their unique 'Playroom' boarding system, integration is rarely a problem, and a family feel is cultivated by Headmaster, John Browne's 'five a day' initiative: five meaningful conversations with pupils over lunch.

With the oldest museum in the English-speaking world and five libraries at their disposal, it's no wonder academic results are strong. Success extends outside the classroom: the girls' cricket team are the 2020 indoor champions, 'Little Shop of Horrors' was a hit, and, thanks to a pupil-led initiative, a Syrian refugee family now lives happily in the local community. 'Quant Je Puis' indeed."

If that was not enough, we were thrilled, and honoured, to learn that Stonyhurst had been nominated for the 2020 'Public School of the Year' award, one of the six 'Tatler Schools Guide' awards. To be featured in the 'Tatler Schools Guide' and to be nominated for an award was a wonderful accolade and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Stonyhurst community.

When speaking about this nomination, our Headmaster, John Browne, said:

"We are honoured to have received this prestigious nomination. It is a wonderful recognition of the dedication of the whole Stonyhurst community in delivering Stonyhurst's world-class education. Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do in delivering an exceptional education and this nomination is also testament to their endeavours. Stonyhurst seeks to ensure our pupils are transformed by their education into 'men and women for others' – our aim is that a Stonyhurst education is a springboard to a life of purpose. This nomination celebrates that aim. Thank you to all those schools and friends who nominated us for this award. We are particularly honoured to have been nominated for this award alongside Sherborne Girls, Marlborough College, Reigate Grammar School and Oakham School."

QUANT JE PUIS.

CONGRATULATIONS

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

MARRIAGES



Matthias Beestermöller OS 08 married his long-time girlfriend, Lena-Sophie Koenig, on 4th September 2020 in Bavaria. Due to the pandemic, it was a very small but not less happy celebration. His younger brother, **Daniel Beestermöller OS 11**, was in attendance.



Samuel Ma OS 10, was married to Mary, in Hong Kong on 12th January 2020. The groomsmen are (back row from left to right): **Ian Or OS 11**, **Jason Kwok OS 10**, **Tony Lee OS 10**, **Hayman Chan OS 11**, **Chen Tan OS 11**.

BIRTHS



Gerard Brumby OS 95 and his wife, Jenny, announce the birth of their daughter, Alice, born 22nd October 2020, a sister to her two brothers, Daniel and Nicholas.



Gustavo Gomez-Lechon OS 97 and Emma announce the birth of their daughter, Liv, on the 29th July 2020 in Valencia, a sister for Ines.



Jonty Ashworth OS 04 and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the birth of their son, Albie Oscar Ashworth, who was born on the 3rd August 2020, a brother for Arthur.



Lizzy Iacomella OS 06 (née Grundy) and her husband, Peter, announce the birth of their daughter, Florence Ellen, born 8th January 2021 in Perth, Australia.

OTHER CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **Dr Anand Chitnis OS 81**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Newman Holiday Trust who has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours 2021 for services to the NHS, mental health and disabilities.

Anand qualified as a doctor from the Universities of St Andrews and Manchester, and is the senior partner in a GP practice in Castle Bromwich in the West Midlands, following in the footsteps of his grandfather who set up the practice in the late 1930s and his father who joined the practice in the 1950s. Anand became chair of the Solihull NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in 2012 – the organisation that commissions and funds the NHS locally for 240,000 patients. Recently he has been leading the COVID-19 emergency response in the area, organising GP practices and community services to respond to the pandemic. More recently, this has involved setting up teams to undertake the widespread vaccination of patients. For the last 20 years, Anand has been a champion on mental health issues. He has been closely involved in the training of health and social care professionals to offer a more patient and family-centred service, focusing on the 'recovery' of patients in a more meaningful way than just medication

and doctors' appointments. He has been lead tutor on the Trailblazers mental health course which extended for a while beyond the UK to the USA and New Zealand, and in doing so has helped develop services with 'trailblazers' at the forefront of mental health care.

In his commissioning role he was clinical lead on the development of psychological therapy services in all local GP surgeries making them more accessible to patients and their families, as well as developing children and young people's mental health services beyond the traditional ones, to be closely involved with schools, including teacher and parent support. He has been part of a national drive to ensure the physical health of those with mental illness and disabilities is looked after far more than has been the case in the past. This has included ensuring all GPs offer an annual health check to patients on their register. He has been closely involved in developing guidance for the health care professionals on behalf of the Royal College of GPs, on complex medical issues that are often difficult to explain and diagnose. He was awarded the Fellowship of the RCGP in 2005.

Since the early 1980s, Anand has been involved with The Newman Holiday Trust, a registered charity that provides summer holiday breaks for children with disabilities. The Charity places special emphasis on giving holidays to children who would not usually be able to have one. He has chaired the charity since 1986 which runs holidays at six venues in England and one in Scotland. The charity has for 7 years received outstanding status from Ofsted. All the funds received to run the charity come through donations, and all the staff are volunteers giving their own time to support these special and wonderful children, and helping their families have a break. *"It is a great privilege to receive this honour. I must also accept this on behalf of the amazing people I have had the privilege to work with in my practice, the wider NHS and the many Trailblazers on mental health issues. The team of trustees and volunteers at The Newman Holiday Trust are truly extraordinary. It is so important that the efforts to improve the services and care for those with mental illness and those with disabilities are recognised."*



Michael Wright OS 54 and his wife, Cristina, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the 24th September 2020. Michael arrived at Hodder aged seven where he spent three years, moving to St Mary's Hall for a year before going up to the College for six years.



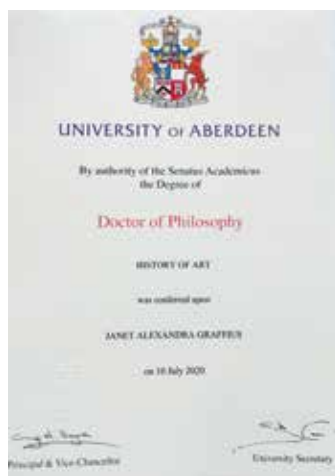
On the 10th October 2020, **Francis Rainsford OS 73**, British Honorary Consul in Arequipa, Peru, has been named by Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) 'For services to British Nationals in Peru'. Mr Rainsford has been the British Honorary Consul in Arequipa since 2010.



Jonty Ashworth OS 05, was named as "Young Property Person of the Year" by the OxProp-Awards-Programme-2020 because of his recent projects including the transformation of a derelict incendiary store into a stunning vintage Bentley engine shop, transforming a derelict gas store into a historic vehicle upholsterers, a derelict link-trainer building into a Heritage Skills Academy and received permission to restore and extend the derelict and fire damaged former Works Service Building to create a restaurant facility which is currently on-going. As well as project planning and delivery, Jonty is also involved in the commercial planning and funding arrangements for the major projects.

Congratulations to Dr Jan Graffius, the College Curator, on receiving her PhD.

Jan writes: "In the summer of 2020, I was looking forward immensely to graduating with my PhD at Aberdeen University. It was to have been a joyful day, shared with my parents, my partner Steve (who has suffered a good deal from my doctorate, while simultaneously working on his) and my children. As was to be expected, COVID-19 put paid to the in-person ceremony and I was awarded my degree in absentia."



The graduation was to have been the culmination of many years thinking, discerning and researching a topic dear to my heart; the Catholic relics accumulated at St Omers and their significance for the spiritual, cultural and educational formation offered there between 1593 and 1650 (ish). When I started the degree, I had a clear idea as to the outcome; it would be a straightforward analysis of these remarkable objects and their use among the exiled children of English and Welsh recusants in the 17th century. I knew it would be a slog, as I was still working full-time as Curator of the College Collections but didn't quite anticipate that the PhD marathon would also incorporate hurdles, cross-country, 100 metre sprints and, for good measure, what occasionally felt like the long jump.

The research took me to many fascinating places – Rome, Lucca, Saint-Omer, Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Paris, London, York and Durham. Of course, the richest primary academic resource was to be found in the collections, historic libraries and archive at Stonyhurst. As I began to read myself in, it became clear very quickly that this was a much more diverse, significant and fascinating project than I had anticipated. All PhD candidates are warned sternly against 'mission creep' but I couldn't ignore the revelations which were completely reshaping my original thesis plan. In short, the project developed from an examination of the use of relics at St Omers, and in the St Omers Sodality in particular, into a survey of the spiritual, cultural and educational formation offered at St Omers, drawing in drama, music, architecture, garden design, pyrotechnics, procession and public performances, salvaged vestments and manuscripts, along with the unique St Omers curriculum devised in the early 17th century by the revolutionary educational visionary, the third Rector of St Omers, Giles Schondonch SJ who died in 1617. He is, as you may have gathered, something of a hero to me.

Digging deeper into the Stonyhurst archives I uncovered extraordinary manuscript resources whose significance had lain unidentified for hundreds of years. At the amazing historic library in Saint-Omer I found a rare chronicle describing the daily events in that town from 1600 to 1630, penned in beautifully clear Flemish/French by Jean Hendricq, who had the gift of acute observation and a love of garrulous narrative.



A relic from the 4th century Roman martyr, Gordianus, from the Sodality Chapel.



A great combination after trudging through endless dry, formal texts. His description of the trials of the St Omers College (the local townspeople deeply resented the influx of penniless foreign child refugees crossing the Channel – sound familiar?) and the ultimate triumph of Fr Schondonch's canny public relations programme were worth their weight in gold. For me the best bit of my research was translating Hendricq's description of a 1622 celebration of the canonisation of Ignatius and Francis Xavier in Saint-Omer. This involved the construction of forty-foot painted wicker statues of the two saints, joined by fuses to two equally massive wicker statues representing Heresy and Ignorance, stuffed with fireworks and gunpowder. At the signal, the fuses were lit and fire leapt from the mouths of the saints resulting in the explosive destruction of their enemies, and causing most of the townspeople to be deafened for a good two days thereafter. I was delighted to discover that St Omers College took the leading role in all of these public performances because of the pupils' renowned musical and dramatic skills, and their decorous, well-drilled discipline.

I spent a happy summer in 2015 chasing relics around the Low Countries. Most of the St Omers relics were confiscated in 1773, when the Jesuits were suppressed. The paperwork had been scattered, and is now to be found in the state archives in various Belgian cities, but the relics themselves were not so easy to track down. My target was the renowned St Omers relic of the Bed of Our Lady. As yet undiscovered, but I will find it one day.

The result of all these deeply rewarding labours was my final 126,000 word thesis, somewhat laboriously entitled 'Bullworks against the Furie of Heresie: Relics, Material Culture and the Spiritual, Educational and Cultural Formation of the Sodality of St Omers English Jesuit College 1593-1650'. I am delighted that three chapters of my thesis have already been published by the Brill Catholic Christendom series through the university presses of Leiden and Boston. I hope, in time, to revise my full thesis (and add back in all the really good bits I had to leave out because of the mission creep rule) and see it published too.

I have to express my deep gratitude to the Headmaster and Governors of the College, who gave me the space to pursue this research, and to my long-suffering colleague, Joe Reed, who has been a stalwart support in tracking down archival leads and listening to endless rantings with good grace.

At the end of the day, I was a little disappointed not to have a proper Scottish graduation. It would have been really something, if my (long distant) MA celebrations at St Andrews were anything to go by. But at the time when the graduation would have happened, I received a gift from my parents which more than made up for it. A vintage brooch of the wings my father earned as an RAF Navigator, and a small note commending me for finding a path through it all.



IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Summer 2020 edition of the Newsletter.

John Frederick Austin Harbison	OS 1949 – 1953	George Weld-Blundell	Former Parent
John Robert Latham	OS 1947 – 1957	David Maxwell Barchard	OS 1956 – 1964
Dominick Scott-Flanagan	OS 1978 – 1982	Paul Michael Mathieu	OS 1959 – 1964
John Marshall Hudson	OS 1944 – 1953	Nicholas James Drake-Lee	OS 1954 – 1960
Hugh Philip Anthony Walker	OS 1937 – 1947	Patrick Charles Moore Vaughan	OS 1957 – 1961
Patrick Liam Francis Nelstrop	OS 1945 – 1948	Captain Michael Alfred Wenner	OS 1930 – 1940
Michael Peter John Ayres	OS 1949 – 1957	Richard John Philip Gwyn	OS 1945 – 1951
John Grosvenor Osbourne	OS 1961 – 1967	James Bloomfield	OS 1982 – 1985
George Francis Xavier Knuckey	OS 1950 – 1952	Anthony John Sheil Clarke	OS 1938 – 1946
Ninian Peter Neil Evans	OS 1948 – 1953		

May they rest in peace.

TEACHING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

BY SAMANTHA LEACH OS 09



Since graduating from Durham University, **Samantha Leach OS 09** has been sharing her passion for English with students all over the world. She moved to Toronto in September 2019 and launched her tutoring business The English Tutor that is founded on the belief that geographical location should play no role in the quality of education available

to students. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Sam and her team have put Stonyhurst's philosophy of being a person who lives "for others" into practice by offering free daily online guided reading courses to the children from the charity 'Big Brothers Big Sisters Toronto', a charity that supports the city's most vulnerable children.



Sam is also the co-founder in a school called Park Street Education, a school that exists to provide parents with accessible education options for their children, something that is especially important during a global pandemic where accessibility is an enormous issue. Park Street's goal is to provide an outstanding, multi-channel education that maintains the highest academic standards whilst simultaneously providing an environment in which individuals can flourish. The Park Street teachers want children to be intellectually curious, creative and resilient so that they are fully prepared to tackle life beyond school. Inclusivity and tolerance are cornerstones

of a Park Street education and the Park Street teachers want to ensure that students have a plethora of experiences that enable them to grow personally, fulfil their potential and feel ready and able to grasp the challenges of modern society.

Using an integrated curriculum designed by Sam and her colleagues, lessons blur the lines between different subjects as this is so often a barrier to learning and prevents students from seeing the cross-curricular links. Parents and students speak very highly of the school and teachers. One parent wrote: "I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for what you are doing for this class. I have never seen my son enjoy a class as much as this one. He is engaged. He is working hard. I don't have to remind him to complete his work. His quote to me was that this is how he thought school should be."

Sam and the Park Street team would love to collaborate with members of the OS community should anyone be willing to give their time and expertise to two brilliant ventures.

www.theenglishtutor.ca/
www.parkstreetedu.com/



A SABBATICAL IN THE CARIBBEAN

BY ANDREW FINN OS 10

A quarry in North Lancashire doesn't sound like the stereotypical place to start a hobby normally undertaken in the tropics. However, at a depth of 18m below the surface, 13-degree water, and no more than 3 metres visibility, I got it – scuba diving seems pretty cool. After training was complete, the Stonyhurst scuba diving trip to Egypt in 2007, organised by **Simon Andrews OS 68**, was my first real taste of the world of diving. Fast forward to 2019, with a few scuba diving holidays and 80 dives under my belt, I had the urge for a bigger trip. The house deposit had to take the backburner as diving would take priority. I agreed a 4-month sabbatical with work and on the 31st of December I got on a flight from Heathrow.



On Big Corn Island

24 hours later I arrived on Big Corn Island which is in the Caribbean off the East coast of Nicaragua. I was there for 6 weeks undertaking the PADI Divemaster qualification with my girlfriend who was a PADI instructor. The Divemaster qualification is the first pro level of diving in the PADI organisation and is normally undertaken as an internship – diving and working in the dive shop whilst working on skills. To pass the course I had to demonstrate my dive skills, guide tourists on dives, help out on courses, and do an exam on dive theory physics. The diving on the island was wonderful and after 120 dives my skills felt very honed.

I was very fortunate to dive the 'Blowing Rock' site 10 times whilst I was on the island. The site was visited by schools of fish, turtles, rays,



The volcanic dive site – Blowing Rock

sharks and it was common to hear whales too. A lot of divers passing through the island said it was one of the best sites they had been to in the Caribbean.

The next month was spent travelling around Central America. We climbed volcanoes in Nicaragua, explored the Mexico City metropolis and spent two weeks learning to surf in a small surf town. After a few drinks in a bar with some yacht crew we heard of a website called 'crewbay'. The website specialises in helping boat owners find novice or professional crew to help sail their boats. A few video calls later and we agreed to join Captain Jack Buckely on his 60ft sailing yacht. He was on a round the world trip and asked us to spend a month with him sailing down the West coast of Central America to Panama. He offered to teach us to sail and in return we pay a small daily fee for our food/upkeep on the boat. His boat had scuba diving cylinders on board so it sounded like a great plan.

In early March we joined Jack on his yacht. Over two weeks we had an amazing time sailing 600 miles down the west coast of Mexico, stopping off at ports along the way. We learnt the dos and don'ts of big boat sailing and the challenges of staying awake on a night watch.



On watch

We made use of the dive tanks and spent a few days diving near Zihuatanejo. The marine life here were a bit more feisty as we got chased by a moray eel and bumped into some very unfriendly crabs in an underwater cave.

Whilst returning from one of the dives a mother humpback whale and calf surfaced right next to the tender – I have never been



Shoals of fish at a sunken steamship



Returning to the island from a day's diving

so excited/scared exactly at the same time. Two days later and we left port for Acapulco.

Whilst Jack was a very good sailor he wasn't the best at looking after his equipment. Three loud thuds from the engine room indicated we had a problem. A local mechanic was quick to diagnose the problem and told us that the transmission had failed and it wouldn't be a quick fix.

The next few days were interesting – COVID-19 was starting to become a global problem and countries across the world started to shut their borders. After a few days of deliberating plans it seemed only sensible to fly home. The trip came to an unexpected end but the three months in Central America were some of the best months of my life.

Over the summer of 2020, I undertook my RYA day skipper training building on some previous sailing experience I had as a teenager. With a dive master and day skipper qualification under my belt the next adventure awaits, but where next?



Eagle ray with a playful Ramona (suckerfish)



Preparing for a gybe

ST JOHN AMBULANCE

BY DON LANDERS OS 80



I come from a family of medics – my uncle **Des O'Regan OS 47** was a GP and attended Stonyhurst in the 1940s, my grandfather was a GP and my sister, Aileen, is a hospital doctor. So I've always taken an interest in health and medicine but with science subjects not being my forte I was never going down the doctor route. Then early in 2019 I thought, what about doing something with St John Ambulance? It's a fantastic charity and essentially a support service to the NHS, present in the background at major events such as Twickenham rugby, the London Marathon and summer music concerts, but also playing its part at village fairs, school events, church services, etc.

Last year St John treated 65,000 patients and it is currently providing front line care in fifty-two NHS hospitals, supporting the 999 service with ambulances and providing COVID-19 trained nurses on the front line.

My time at Stonyhurst offered me many things, but foremost amongst them were self-confidence, the spirit of being supportive and caring towards others and I made some lifelong friends. I did some voluntary work at the school, notably a big sponsored cycle ride through England, France and Belgium, paying a visit to the school's roots at Saint-Omer (where of course it was founded in 1593) and raising money for the Handicapped Children's Trust. After university I then focused full-time on my career and did the corporate thing in marketing, but now that I'm self-employed I have more time for that elusive concept that many people talk about, but fewer practice: the work/life balance. St John fits into this perfectly: it is challenging, rewarding, educative and fun.

The training to be a First Aider is fairly rigorous: a selection day, four full days of clinical training, two exams and a practical assessment on various scenarios, such as dealing with a head injury, a fracture or anaphylactic shock. We are then assessed every year in Basic Life Support and are required to undertake at least 60 hours of service a year; in reality I do about 150 because I find the role enjoyable and fulfilling.

In the last year I've worked at Twickenham, Chelsea, Arsenal, West Ham and the Remembrance Sunday memorial service. Other events I had signed up to last year – the Hyde Park music concerts and Wimbledon amongst them – were all cancelled of course, owing to the pandemic, so I committed my time instead to helping the fundraising team, as the charity had lost millions in 2020 through lack of event income and needed to make that up.

Before Christmas, I signed up to be trained to be as a 'Vaccination Volunteer', which involved 13 online modules, seven tests and a full day of training. I'm about to be deployed in various locations in SW London and it gives me some sense of pride that 'I'm doing my bit' in the fight against this awful virus. I was always told at Stonyhurst that 'the more you put into the school, the more you get out of it' and I think this is also a useful guide to life. Stonyhurst gave me opportunities and encouraged me to make choices that I might not otherwise have had or made, and the latest one of those for me is doing voluntary work for St John. I highly recommend it!

If any OS would like to donate to St John Ambulance, [click here](#).



St John Ambulance



HUGH OWEN: ROBERT PERSONS' SPYMASTER

BY DR JONATHAN ROCHE

(Editor's note: See article "OS News" in this issue on British Spanish scholarship awards compiled by **Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71**, Former Association President and Chairman of the BSS who recommended this article of interest to OS.)

Stonyhurst College's founder, Robert Persons SJ (1546-1610), was a complicated figure and, consequently, he has been characterised at various times as an educator, a schemer, a traitor, a hero, and even a martyr. During the course of his life, he served as a missionary in England, raised and distributed funds for missionaries and seminaries, founded multiple educational institutions for English Catholics, wrote and published multiple books defending Catholicism in the face of Protestant criticism, and advocated for the English Catholic cause at the Papal Court in Rome and the Spanish Court in Madrid. Supporting his political activities and providing him with valuable information which shaped his arguments was an extensive intelligence network in England, run from Brussels by the Welsh Catholic exile, Hugh Owen. Through his connections to Robert Persons, Owen, who has evaded the detection of historians until now, rose to an influential position which saw him play a crucial role in the construction of Spanish foreign policy and military strategy throughout the Anglo-Spanish War (1585-1604). This article explores Owen and Persons' connections, and shows Persons' close ties to the secretive world of early modern espionage.

Hugh Owen was born in 1538 at Plas Du, a farmhouse on the remote Llŷn Peninsula in northwest Wales. After studying law at Lincoln's Inn, Owen entered the service of the Catholic Henry Fitzalan, twelfth Earl of Arundel, and, through Fitzalan, became entangled in the Ridolfi Plot, a Catholic conspiracy to depose Elizabeth and place Elizabeth's Catholic cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, on the throne. His involvement made him a marked man, prompting him to flee, joining the exile community in the Spanish Netherlands.

Owen swiftly established himself in the exile community as a trustworthy individual, able to smuggle messages into and out of England with the assistance of his servant, 'Parry', who concealed messages in his 'ryding rod' or in the soles of his shoes, and, on one occasion, resorting to eating a letter when he risked capture.

Over time, Owen slowly weaved an increasingly complicated web which evolved from a secret postal service into an espionage network.

As a spy master, Owen caught the attention of Robert Persons. During a visit to the Low Countries in 1583, Persons discussed with Owen a plan to rescue the imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots and place her on the English throne, married to Alessandro Farnese, the Prince of Parma and Governor of the Spanish Netherlands. Owen then travelled to Spain where he successfully proposed the plan to Philip II. In a letter to Mary, Persons explained why he had involved Owen in the scheme: he is a 'very active, diligent, "faithfull", and secret Solicitor'. Whilst this conspiracy was ultimately eclipsed by the disastrous Babington Plot – which led directly to Mary's execution in February 1587 – this episode shows how close ties were developing between Owen and Persons. These connections would only strengthen with time.

Website: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk

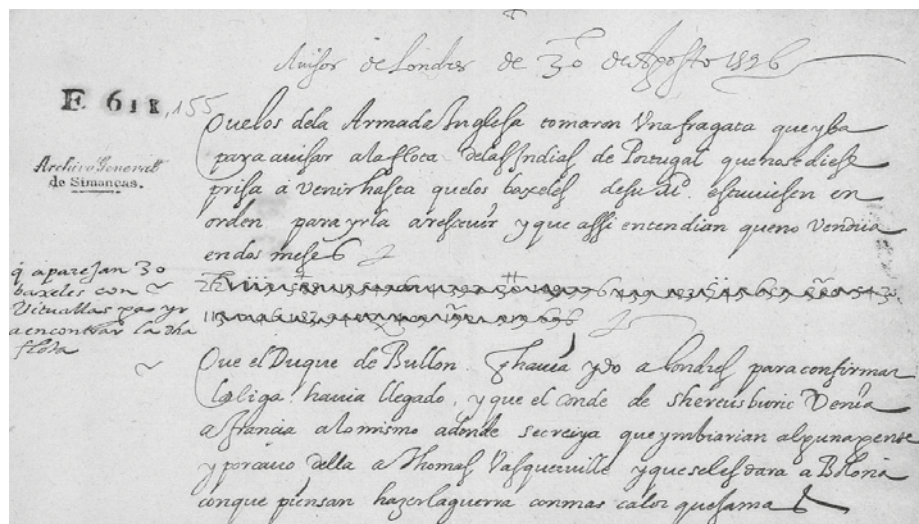
In 1588, Spain launched its first Armada against England. The result was a disaster and a major blow to Spanish pride, but the war with England was by no means over so Philip looked for lessons to be learnt from the Armada. During this subsequent evaluation, Spain realised the inadequacies of its intelligence-gathering apparatus in England. In 1590, Hugh Owen travelled to Spain and was given new responsibilities: he was to supply English intelligence directly to Philip II.

Throughout the 1590s, Owen sent regular intelligence reports known as 'avisos de Inglaterra' to Spain. Persons, though, believed that Owen could do more with his network, and lobbied the Spanish government to provide Owen with additional resources. For example, in 1596, Persons wrote a memorandum to his friend Martín de Idiáquez, Philip II's Secretary of State, entitled 'Principle Points to Facilitate the English Enterprise' in which he urged Philip to provide greater support for intelligence operations conducted by Owen in England, arguing that "the great point which ought to be considered first is to obtain very good information from England of everything which is being said or done by the enemy". Persons looked to use his personal connections to ensure that Owen had all the resources he could possibly need.

The intelligence from England provided to Philip by Owen had a profound impact on Spanish military strategy during the Anglo-Spanish War. This is most apparent in the Spanish Armada of 1597. Owen reported that the entirety of the English fleet was in the Atlantic, hoping to intercept a Spanish treasure fleet as it returned from the Americas laden with gold and silver bullion. Buoyed by this news, Philip ordered the Armada to sail at once, rather than wait as planned for additional ships and soldiers before launching. This swift advance caught Elizabethan defences off-guard, and, had it not been for a tremendous storm which scattered the Spanish fleet within sight of Cornwall, an unopposed landing at Falmouth would have occurred, drastically changing the course of the Anglo-Spanish war.



Whilst Robert Persons' work as a missionary, an educator, a writer, and much more has been extensively explored by historians, his activities in and around the secretive world of espionage have, hitherto, been overlooked. However, Persons was closely connected to an extensive network of Catholic spies in England, a network which was instrumental in shaping Spain's military campaigns during the Anglo-Spanish war. By exploring this network and Persons' connections to it, new details are revealed about British Catholicism, the Anglo-Spanish war, and the complexities of post-Reformation European politics.



An original intelligence report sent by Owen to Spain on 30th August 1596 (archival reference: Archivo General de Simancas, Sección de Estado 622/155).

THE FIRST OS COUPLE TO MARRY AT STONYHURST

BY PAUL JULIAN FOX OS 72

The date was Saturday 29th September, the year was 1979, and the venue was St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst College. On the arm of her father, **Paul Vavasour OS 46**, a 23-year-old bride, **Elspeth Anne Vavasour OS 74**, made a splendid entrance into the church at about 1.30pm and waiting for her at the altar steps with his best man, **Philip Powell OS 69** at his side, was the bridegroom **Paul Julian Fox OS 72**, who may well have turned, for a brief moment, to glimpse his bride's slow progress down the centre aisle towards him.

So why should this be an extraordinary event; weddings have taken place at St Peter's Church, over many previous decades? Well, to begin with, unusually for then, there were six priests on the altar and the bridegroom, **Paul OS 72**, and the bride, **Elspeth OS 74**, were the first OS couple, ever be married in St Peter's Church.

How did this event come about? Especially as we have only just celebrated 20 years of full co-education. Part of the answer goes back to over 400 years ago when the first member of the Vavasour family arrived in 1600 to be educated at the forerunner to the present College. Since then, generations of Vavasours have been educated here at Stonyhurst or previously abroad.

Paul Fox recounts: "I first met Elspeth when I was 18, playing the violin in a Chamber Orchestra Concert. It was literally love at first sight. Elspeth was 16, and looking around the College, to follow her sister, Kate."

Elspeth entered the College in 1972. But it was some time before their romance could blossom.

"We got engaged whilst on holiday in Scotland. Mass was late, a new Pope was announced, and Elspeth whispered in my ear that she would marry me!"



Above from left to right: Elspeth OS 74, Paul Vavasour OS 46, Tilly Vavasour OS 78, Charles Vavasour; Benedict Pathe (son of Elspeth and Paul's friend).



Left: Elspeth and Paul cutting the cake in the Top Ref.



Far left: Signing the Register – from left to right – Fr Magill SJ, Fr Dunphy SJ, Paul, Elspeth.

ANGELS FOR ANIMALS FOUNDATION

BY KATIE HARRISON OS 09

Katie works as a Regulatory Crime solicitor full-time for Gowling WLG, but in her limited spare time, she founded this year a UK-registered dog rescue charity named the Angels for Animals Foundation. The charity rescues stray, abused and abandoned dogs in Turkey, Serbia, China and Dubai, rehabilitates them and rehomes them in the UK and USA. They have so far rehomed 16 dogs in the UK and have another 13 due to travel over in February.

Click here for website with more information on why Katie founded it.



LIGHTS AND SOUND

BY BENEDICT O'CONNOR

The Lights and Sound Department aims to go undetected in the normal run of things. The best show, for us, is when we create an atmosphere in which the audience can be immersed in the world on stage. Since this year has been a little topsy-turvy, however, I thought I would take you behind the scenes to shed a bit of light on the exciting projects that are happening backstage.

Lights and Sound has been going for around 15 to 20 years. It acknowledges and is hugely grateful to the legendary input of Mr Gareth Thomas who installed much of the infrastructure we enjoy today. His infectious drive to provide a forum where the students could take real responsibility in programming and design, forms the foundation and fabric of the department. A number of students have gone on to work at much more advanced levels on the big stage, in particular **George Ainscough OS 15**. George, while in Poetry, decided to make a 'Fame' board for the show that year. Not only did he design the LED format and have it made up in China to spec., but he was seen for many nights in the D and T department, laser cutting 12 boards for the sign itself. He also taught himself a new programming language – all at 17! The final assembly took a whole team of carpenters and then the entire Physics department soldering all night to make sure it was ready for opening night! The sign performed flawlessly in production and is working to this day in Physics lab 1!

This self-motivation demonstrated by George is a key element shared by all the students in Lights and Sound. They are part of the entire process as, not only do they learn about programming, but also, in the shed, they learn how to repair, maintain and service the dimmers. Term to term, they can also be called upon at any time to set up sound and/or light equipment all over the college.

Despite the amazing foundation that formed the department, when I took over in 2018, we found ourselves in need of an upgrade. **Heidi Keung OS 19** and the team were fantastic with operating the old desk (a programmer's nightmare!). A three-step revamp plan was hatched.

Part one focused on programming control, and after taking a trip down to London to visit the best of British light desks, we replaced our desk with an operating board that is both intuitive for students and enables us to programme the lights virtually. Part two involved redesigning the lighting infrastructure and servicing the equipment. We completely reconfigured the lighting connections, so doubling our capacity for programming potential.

The third and final part – intelligent lighting – forms the most recent development in the department. We thought this step would be much further down the line. But just before Christmas the impossible happened! The Development Office, through Mrs Suzanne Wheeler, communicated that we had the green light to get four 'amazing' lights. But better was to come, as, in the year of waiting, new lights with better specs had landed with the firm and so we were able to get six. With moving wheels, prisms and frost features, U.V., sharp clear white and true colour, they are superb. And most importantly, it means we can also program proper light shows in the Ambulacrum for Rhetoric Ball and other events.

We have one major item left on our wish list – eight colour washes to make a full house, and this would mean that not only are we 'future-proof', but would never have to hire equipment in again. It is the work done by Gareth Thomas and George together with generous donations for equipment that has given the College this amazing platform. It has been tremendously exciting to see this all come together and that is why I wanted to share this article with you at this time.

As soon as lockdown ends, the students will be busy learning to program and working towards a competition at Great Academies to individually produce a one-song lightshow using everything! We hope that by that time, we will be able to have an audience and that you will be able to join us.

Website: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk



CURATOR'S NEWS

BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS, COLLEGE CURATOR

AN EARLY 17TH CENTURY DICTIONARY WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO A GROUP OF ST OMERS PUPILS

'Iesu converte Angliam': a new and significant acquisition for the Historic Libraries

The Curator, Dr Jan Graffius, wishes to acknowledge a deep debt of gratitude to the Association for its generosity in providing the funding to acquire an early 17th century dictionary which once belonged to a group of St Omers pupils. It is bound in its original leather cover, embossed with the St Omers Sodality motto in gold. Such books are vanishingly rare; there are only ten other recorded examples of St Omers Sodality bindings in existence, none of which are in Britain. Its significance for the study of the development of the St Omers Sodality is hugely exciting. Dr Graffius records the story here.

In the early New Year of 2021, a chance comment from the Archivist of the British Jesuits in London led to a hugely important discovery and acquisition for the College. Rebecca Somerset, the Jesuit Province Archivist at Mount St, mentioned in passing that she had been offered a 1602 dictionary, with numerous scribbles, by an antiquarian dealer, who had identified it as being of Jesuit interest. Rebecca said that it seemed to relate more to St Omers and maybe I would like to have a look?



One glance at the description from the dealer set off major alarm bells. The book was bound with the emblem of the St Omers Sodality, and inscribed with sixteen pupil ownership marks, at least six of whom were previously unknown to scholarship. Moreover, various sections of the dictionary were extensively annotated, chiefly those areas concerning roses, vines and architecture, both ecclesiastical and classical. The dealer seemed to think that these notes might relate to essays or studies set for the pupils.

I immediately realised that this book provided confirmation of my recently completed PhD thesis relating to the St Omers Sodality of the 17th century, and its use of performance, gardens and architectural structures to underpin the unique St Omers Spiritual Exercises. The Collections has no formal acquisition budget, and I knew that I would struggle to raise the £2,500 requested by the dealers. I knew also that this book could not be allowed to pass into other hands; certain prestigious US libraries were sniffing around who would not be able to comprehend its real significance. And so I asked for the Association's help, and once again, they responded promptly, generously, magnificently.

What is this marvellous book? It is a scarce 1602 German edition of Junius's famous polyglot dictionary, 'Nomenclatur'. The author, Hadrianus Junius (1511–1575), also known as Adriaen de Jonghe, was a Dutch physician, classical scholar, translator, lexicographer, antiquarian, historiographer, emblemist, school rector, and Latin poet. In April 1544, on recommendation of various English Catholic exiles he had met in the Low Countries, Junius headed for London, where Thomas Howard, third duke of Norfolk, appointed him as his personal physician. Howard's son Henry, the poet Earl of Surrey, enlisted him as a tutor to his children. Junius spent much of his time at the family's castle of Kenninghall. He divided his time between private instruction to the children (about whose behaviour he consistently complained) and on various scholarly projects.



The alliance with the Howards came to an abrupt end when Thomas and Henry Howard were imprisoned on allegations of high treason by Henry VIII. Junius lost a large part of his library when his patron's belongings were confiscated. With his mind bent on salvaging his career, Junius sought, in turn, and

unsuccessfully, the support of the Protestant Edward VI, the Catholic Mary Tudor and the Protestant Elizabeth I. Junius had the misfortune to be tainted with Catholicism in the eyes of Protestants, and vice versa. Back in the Low Countries he dedicated himself to scholarship.

The 'Nomenclatur' was one of his most successful publications. Divided by subject, the work comprises hundreds of definitions in Latin, Greek, German, Dutch, Italian, French and Spanish for a huge variety of technical, literary, classical, scientific, medical and theological words. The subjects comprise nearly one hundred different areas, including quadrupeds, worms, anatomy, botany, clothing, boats, coins and money, architecture, musical instruments, precious stones, cooking utensils, medicines, soaps, military and ecclesiastical titles, crimes, diseases and geographical terms.

It went through numerous editions in the 16th and early 17th centuries, although its success in Catholic countries was hampered by the fact that the book was placed on the Index of Prohibited Books by the Inquisition in 1559, as a result of Junius' dedication of various works to the Protestant Tudors, Edward and Elizabeth.

This makes the fact that the 'Nomenclatur' was owned and used by pupils at St Omers all the more interesting. Jesuit Rectors were given considerable leeway over the acquisition and distribution of books in their schools, but books that were accessible to pupils were very strictly controlled. Books on the Index were particularly scrutinised. Schondonch's library rules state that no pupil might own a private book without the express permission of the Prefect of Studies. No pupil might share a private book with another pupil without the express permission of the Prefect of Studies. No pupil might donate a private book to another pupil without the express permission of the Prefect of Studies.



© Stonyhurst College

And yet, this copy of the ‘*Nomenclatur*’ shows clear evidence that it passed from pupil to pupil between 1602 and the mid-1630s. The accepted formula for ownership at St Omers was an inscription on the flyleaf, which was witnessed by the Prefect of Studies. The book was then entered into a central catalogue of books accessible to pupils. The accepted formula for passing it on to a subsequent owner was the erasure of the owner’s name and the inscription of the new owner’s name underneath. In the St Omers copy of the ‘*Nomenclatur*’ no fewer than sixteen pupil’s names are inscribed before the final passing of the book into the ownership of the House Library of St Omers, sometime in the mid-1630s. Clearly the book was permitted to be owned and passed over nearly three decades, and at each change of ownership the book was authorised by the Prefect of Studies. It must have had some extraordinary quality to allow such official exemption from the Index.

Which brings me to the hitherto unknown existence of a St Omers Sodality Library. The cover of the ‘*Nomenclatur*’ was embossed with the gilded motto ‘*Iesu converte Angliam*’. These words were carved and gilded over the doors to the St Omers Sodality chapel and formed part of the unique St Omers Sodality prayers for the English martyrs used in litanies to Our Lady for the conversion of England. Examination of other known St Omers books scattered around the libraries of Europe indicates that ten other early 17th century volumes bear the same embossed binding. They are the rare survivors of an early 17th century St Omers Sodality library. The St Omers Sodality was unique, even among Jesuit sodalities, and its extraordinary history bears some examination.



“The aim of the youths being trained in this family is different from that of youths from other schools. The latter frequently have in view ecclesiastical or civil posts, such as may add to the honour of their parents’ distinguished families [...] but the young men here, however noble be that when they return home where the Catholic religion and right living is so hotly persecuted by the heretics, they may stand strong in faith and steadfast in virtue. And secondly, that amid so much false doctrine which they will have to face in England, they may see a right path themselves and lead the way for others.”

This quote comes from Giles Schondonch, the third rector of St Omers from 1601 to his death in 1617. He was a key figure in the history of the College, whose achievements, practical, spiritual, pedagogical, Ignatian and pastoral, have long been overlooked. In particular, his formation of the St Omers Sodality in 1609 played an extraordinarily influential role in shoring up the determination of the College’s pupils to maintain their proscribed Catholic religion when they returned home to England.

Hubert Chadwick, in his 1961 classic history,

‘St Omers to Stonyhurst’, echoed this view:

“In the course of a long and benign rectorate, with tact and skill and push and faculty of organisation Schondonch did more than bring the College to full maturity. Under his direction, and with his energetic help and encouragement, St Omers reached a standard of spiritual fervour, of keenness in studies, of classical attainment, such as was never surpassed in later years and which gained for the school a wide reputation quite out of proportion to its age and numbers.”

The Sodality was an elite spiritual gathering, formed of boys who wished to deepen their faith and work towards the chosen end of the Sodality, namely the conversion of England back to Catholicism. To prepare themselves for this momentous task, the boys undertook a rigorous programme of devotions, prayers, charitable acts and, above all else, weekly spiritual exercises. Schondonch was aware, as an experienced schoolmaster, that adolescent boys had difficulties with concentrating, and that the intellectual rigours of the Ignatian spiritual exercises normally required of all sodalists, needed something in the way of concrete support, if they were to be successful with schoolboys.

He cut the official exercises down into brief, punchy and emotionally engaging fifteen-minute segments. He drew in metaphors from the boys’ daily environment encouraging, amongst other examples, the boys to imagine themselves sitting at table with Christ at the Last Supper, when they were eating their daily meals in the Refectory. His exercises combine a Jesuit spiritual composition of place alongside the imposition of practical table manners, presumably necessary for teenage boys.

“If anything in your clothes, cap, neckband, sleeves, stockings, were worn off, ripped, discoloured, or untidy, anything which offended the eyes; with how much care you would inspect yourself before the entrance to the table of the Last Supper! Nobody will unfold the napkin before the right time. The bread will be gracefully cut without the loss of crumbs, lest Christ may publicly say: ‘Collect the fragments lest you go to waste.’ The spoons will emit not any noise, the tin no clanging. The food will not stain the tables. The gestures will be mature, without looking around at anybody with the neck turned round. Our Lord will increase our joy if they keep their clothes clean from food. He does not love anything tainted. Without doubt, if these things are completed, Christ the Lord will say in the presence of the Angels, those clothed in Purple, and the Chosen Ones about this, his Table: ‘My delights are to be with the sons of men.’”

Schondonch went further than the imagined transposition of the Refectory to the Table of the Last Supper; he created physical architectural structures in the Sodality gardens in which his spiritual exercises could take place. These included scaled reconstructions of the Holy House of Loreto and the Portico of Solomon, to enhance the boys’ ability to place themselves mentally and physically in biblical and spiritual settings. In addition, Schondonch managed a series of highly successful public events within the Sodality gardens, drawing on the Jesuit traditions of public processions, including drama, music, declamation, pyrotechnics and other special effects, showcasing the youthful attractions of the pupils as choristers, acolytes and actors in a variety of spectacles designed to

demonstrate the boys’ talents and piety.

Schondonch specified that the Sodality gardens were to contain symbolic plantings and carved inscriptions and emblems relating to the virtues of the Virgin Mary.

“So that unique Piety for the Virgin Mother of God, our Patroness, be further increased, an enclosed garden is given to each sodality in this fashion: the whole lower garden with its fountain, trees, inscriptions of the sayings of the Blessed Virgin, the garden above the Theatre with inscriptions, with everything surrounding the porticos of Solomon and Wisdom, are given to the First Sodality.

To the Second Sodality the Peristyles of the Golden House, and those of the Throne of the Highest are given, likewise their inscriptions of all things pertaining to the Blessed Virgin.

It is the personal duty of the Director, the Prefect and the officials of both Sodalities, to make sure through their sacristans (to whom alone the right to enter is to be granted) that the gardens of the Blessed Virgin are kept well-guarded and meticulously clean. Likewise take care if there is a Drama in the garden that the related temporary inscriptions are placed apart lest any of the inscriptions of the Blessed Virgin be lost or damaged.

The sacristans will likewise see that the plants and trees in the gardens of the Sodalities of the Mother of God do not lack water and stay fresh. On those feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the litanies are not sung in the Temple, they can be sung in Greek or Latin in the Enclosed Garden, if provided for by the Director and Prefect and approved by the Superior. A list of all the things which relate to the garden of the Blessed Virgin is to be [...] kept in the catalogue of the Archive of the Sodality (of which the Sacristans must have a copy).” It is clear, therefore, that the Sodality sacristans were expected to tend to these spiritual gardens as diligently as they did the sacristy of the Sodality Chapel, implying a conflation of these sacred spaces.

The importance of these gardens is made clear in an extraordinary account dated 1610, which describes a procession to celebrate the opening of the new Sodality Chapel where the pupils sang the Litany of Loreto in the gardens amid emblems and the engraved titles of the Virgin, including “the fountain of living water, the Tower of David, the Ark of the Covenant, the



© Stonyhurst College

Tabernacle, the Rod of Aaron, the Morning Star, and others” and declaimed litanies to the Virgin “in twenty different languages, beginning with Hebrew and ending with Irish, after which they cried three times ‘Holy Mary, Pray for England!’”

With this in mind the fact that the early 17th century pupil inscriptions in the Sodality copy of the ‘*Nomenclatur*’ relate mostly to descriptions of architecture and of the care of plants and trees, and most specifically of roses and vines, begins to make sense. It is obvious that the Sodality used this book to assist them in the care, pruning and identification of the symbolic plants in their gardens, laid out beside the architectural structures of the Temple of Solomon and the Holy House of Loreto.

These carefully planted, ambitious, inspirational architectural and garden spaces were designed principally as physical supports for adolescent boys seeking to find spiritual inspiration and growth within them. As Schondonch knew only too well, his beloved St Omers pupils, youths of special promise as they might be, were also boys who needed a lot of practical help as they grew towards their goal as fully fledged Sodalitys: a return to their native land and the seeding of a Catholic renewal.

I am hoping, as I work through this extraordinary book, that the Sodalitys’ annotations will help me to identify specific plant varieties and the nature of the inscribed labels which each plant/shrub/tree bore. My (highly impractical, I acknowledge) dream would be a recreation of Schondonch’s rose garden and vineyard, with emblematic sculptures and an architectural reconstruction of the Temple of Solomon, in which all-comers might seek spiritual refreshment and inspiration. I am (sort of) confident that if vines could grow in the cool, damp climate of northern France, they will be able to flourish in the cool, damp climate of the Ribble Valley. Let it be noted that I am not forgetting Schondonch’s spectacular use of fireworks, drama and procession in this imagined scenario.

The ‘*Nomenclatur*’ is indeed a deeply significant acquisition. I hope that it will have further repercussions for the Historic Libraries, where an area dedicated to the College’s rare recusant books might provide a scholarly, historical and spiritual resource for the Association, whose help for the Collections is so deeply appreciated and whose support has been so instrumental in furthering scholarship and spiritual understanding.

I will report back when I have completed my research. Watch this space.

© Stonyhurst College



© Stonyhurst College

REPORT ON EVENTS

ASSOCIATION WEBINAR SERIES

FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT TIM LIVESEY OS 77



Austen Ivereigh is by profession a wordsmith. He can effortlessly carve a narrative arc with either the written, or in this case, the spoken word. Listening to his webinar was like watching a master-potter shaping clay. It was never in doubt that his inaugural webinar in the Association’s series – looking afresh at politics, economics and social policy through an Ignatian, inclusive lens – would be brilliant.

His listeners found the webinar fascinating and full of hope, at a moment when hope and inspiration seemed to be in short supply.

Austen was keen to stress that while words may be his thing, working with the words of a non-native English speaker, prone to juggling phrases in Argentinian Spanish and Roman Italian, was a whole new challenge. One that was further complicated by deadline-conscious translators working in multiple languages, trying to pre-empt his text to their

advantage – even before the ink was dry on his page. Words are one thing; translated words quite another.

And as for the translation and re-rendering of idiom...at this point in the webinar Austen seemed to be visibly reliving the tension. Francis is nothing if not idiomatic. His rootedness in an Argentinian way of thinking and speaking poses intriguing challenges for the English thinker and writer. (Spare a thought for his Japanese translator.)

So, while Austen knows how fortunate he was to receive in response to his highly speculative “How about us working together to refine your message to the world?” email, this very Franciscan reply – “Yes, but I will rely on you to do the work” – he had no idea the world of trouble he was getting himself into. Nor the terrifying deadline his publishers would impose: a mere six, COVID-19 affected, chaotic months from that initial email in April, to publication.

The result is a magisterial little book entitled ‘*Let Us Dream*’. It is inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic, which Pope Francis refers to as a crisis from which we will all emerged “changed, for the better or for the worse” – he encourages for the better. The book treats the pandemic as a lens through which Francis is able to focus, laser-like, on the fundamental challenges of our times – global, local, personal. He asks us to consider how we might emerge from the COVID-19 crisis, awakened and enlivened to live more authentic, courageous, generous, and sustainable, lives. Subtitled ‘*A Path to a Better Future*’, it is a blueprint for personal and global renewal, in the light of the gospel. Pope Francis is drawing on a lifetime of personal discernment. Austen had the extraordinary privilege of helping him to order his thoughts.

He proposed, and the Pope agreed, to organise his reflections under three pillars imitating the see, judge, act principle, beloved of the Latin American church. In the book these translate into three core chapters: a time to see, a time to choose, a time to act.

Pope Francis insists that we there is a lot wrong with the way we run our politics, and the global economy (this review was written on the

day that the Capitol building in Washington was stormed by Trump supporters). We have exploited rather than nurtured our planet, and its resources. We have exploited rather than respected the value of labour. We have turned a blind eye as economic value, created by poorly paid workers, is hoarded by a tiny self-serving global elite. We have allowed the market to dictate who and what we are, stepping aside from our individual and collective responsibility to be agents of positive and sustainable change. Pope Francis is calling us out in love: it is time to act differently. It is time 'to dare to dream'.

I urge you to borrow, or buy, a copy of this inspiring collection of papal reflections, to read it and then to read it again.

This webinar was a perfect introduction to the Association's series which seeks to explore what a better politics might look like. Next up is Sarah Teather, Director of JRS, who will explore why the way we treat refugees is such a key pointer to what kind of society we aspire to create. She also will be looking through a distinctly Ignatian lens.

Click here to re-listen to the Austen Ivereigh webinar.



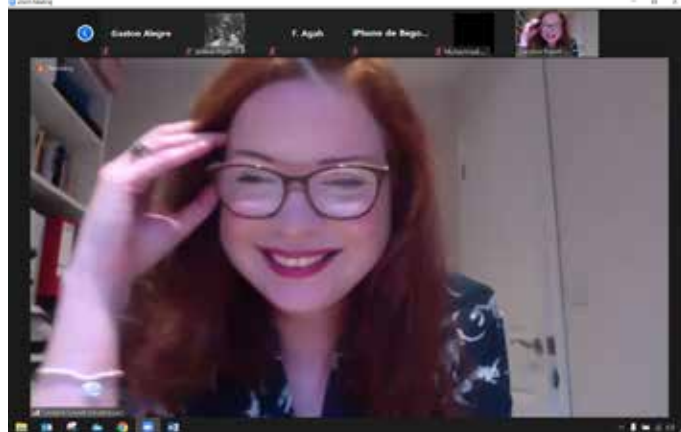
REUNIONS

THE GREAT RHETORIC 2010 RE-ZOOM-ION

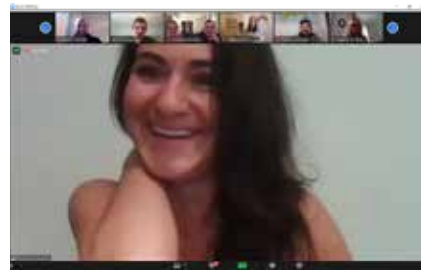
BY CAROLINE POWELL OS 10 (NÉE SHORTHOUSE)

After months of uncertainty and anticipation, Rhetoric 2010's ten-year reunion was cancelled due to COVID-19. Yet thanks to the determination of our lovely Association, we still got together during November's Lockdown 2.0, courtesy of Zoom.

It's fair to say that there was some trepidation ahead of the event. Nobody knew how a reunion over Zoom could possibly work. We hadn't convened in over ten years, and we were all a little fatigued by having to mime "you're on mute" twelve times an hour. Day in, day out. Could we really have meaningful conversations across a sea of Zoom-weary faces? Would anyone turn up? Does Stonyhurst even have Wi-Fi? Thankfully, these concerns were unfounded. The reunion was both joyful and hilarious: the perfect antidote to perpetual lockdown.



Seeing so many familiar faces was a warming spark amidst this darkness and we picked up where we left off, like all good friendships. We were even graced with the presence of a very fresh and cuddly VIP: a member of Rhetoric 2039.



After hearing Mr Browne's reflection on the admirable ways in which Stonyhurst has dealt with COVID-19, we began reflecting on our own memories of school, and updating each other on where we're at now. Ten years on from Stonyhurst and it's evident that striving to be the best we can and dedicating our lives to others continues to underpin our lives. It manifests itself within our careers and our successes as well as the challenges we are experiencing. Most of all, it's clear from the love and respect we continue to show one another. Many of us may have been out of contact, but our genuine concern and care for one another remains palpable.

It wasn't just us OS. We were delighted to welcome a number of teachers to our reunion. I have always had the utmost respect and gratitude towards our teachers, but as a teacher now myself, I am in awe. How they worked so hard for us without even a weekend to recover is beyond me.

And we weren't always easy! Yet here they were again, continuing to care about us a decade on. Leading the laughter: Mr Ridout's impressive collection of embarrassing photographs was a particular highlight. He reassures us that his office door now opens beyond 30 centimetres, but I'll believe that when I see it.

The countless characters within our own year group did not disappoint. A significant proportion of the event was spent playing "Where in the



world is José-Miguel?" But nobody won. (10 points to whomever can give us a straight answer to this question. 12 if you're in St Omers.) And sadly, our age did begin to show when one OS denied the existence of the campus' swimming pool. Which is no mean feat, considering it is older than we are.

The Zoom was a timely reminder of how lucky we were to grow up at Stonyhurst. For a few hours, we forgot the global crisis we are all experiencing and embraced our community across time zones and

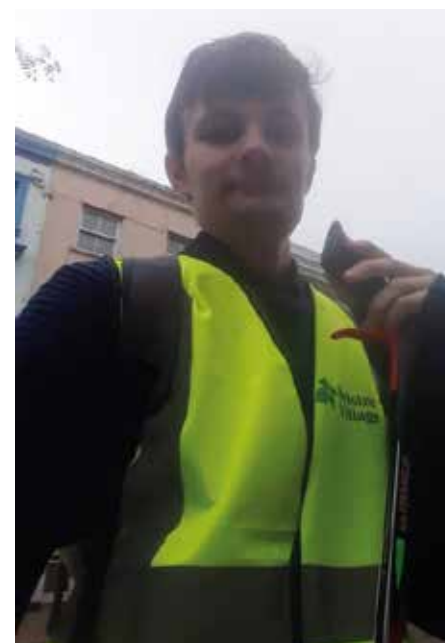


continents. It was a true "reunion" in a much larger sense; it was a reminder that we are part of a bigger family, undivided by media, politics and pandemics.

It was a reminder of all that is truly important. We all owe a huge debt of thanks to Beverley and Layla for going above and beyond to organise this event. Without their resolve to bring us together, this reunion would never have happened. Thank you. The only sadness is that we did not meet in person, soaked in the white wine glow of a Stonyhurst gathering. At least we may actually remember this occasion. And as is befitting the Stonyhurst ethos, we will (hopefully) get to party twice. Every cloud.

See you soon, Rhetoric 2010!

FROM ALEX PIZZONI OS 10



10 years ago, I was leaving Rhetoric to go to university and throughout this time, there has been so much happening. We never would have realised that life would be so different in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic; this shows our lack of care for the planet and our need to act fast. Thankfully, I have a full-time job working in a charity which is regularly engaged in prayer and focused on these pressing issues. Working from home has been a new experience; both challenging and fulfilling.

There have been so many developments, both with technology, climate change and the

environment. With regards to technology in this day and age, we have become online and virtual; mainstream television is not viewed as much, DVD players have become something of the past and Zoom is the new method of communicating. Climate change, the increased use of fossil fuels, emissions, and constant travelling have all made an impact, however in the lockdown we have seen less of this, which is better for the world and reduces our carbon footprint.

I am on a journey of faith, 10 years ago I saw Pope Benedict XVI in London when I visited with the Shrewsbury Diocese. Since then, I have been on two World Youth Days in Krakow 2016 and Panama 2019 with Westminster Diocese, a gap Year in Consett in the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, Easter Retreats at Stonyhurst, and pilgrimages to Walsingham and Rome. I work at Tearfund, a Christian Charity working with other charities including CAFOD, Oxfam and Christian Aid to combat poverty and homelessness. I regularly attend Holy Apostles parish in Pimlico and am part of the local community. Never did I imagine I would have explored my faith this far!

This year, we have not been able to travel and see the world, like old times. I started to feel that I was really missing out; thus, I decided to tune into virtual travel experiences. This is a great way to experience being in another country, without having to pay the flight costs or move! There are several 360 degree virtual reality videos which allow you to explore remote areas with cool sound effects

and scenes, such as Yosemite National Park in the US, Machu Picchu in South Peru and a tour of Paris' famous sites. This was something I enjoyed on several Friday nights! Fingers crossed next year we can visit places again and appreciate the natural world even more.

I have learnt a lot about myself and what I most enjoy doing. I am a food fanatic and love different cuisines from all over the world – regularly blogging about food I have either cooked or tried when eating out. I also delight in exploring new places and going on long walks. Currently, on The Capital Ring Walk around London, 15 routes altogether. I like reviewing on Google Maps both places I have visited for interest, and restaurants and cafes I have stopped at. Lately, I have been appreciating the local community more and once every week, buy fruit and vegetables at a local outdoor market – it has both saved me from buying in the supermarkets, and allowed me to have friendly conversations with local people. I also support a local café and go there every Saturday to buy a breakfast sandwich and have a chat! I joined fellow residents and councillors recently, to help clean up Belsize Village. Volunteers set about removing litter from the Belsize streets as part of a nationwide effort – the Great British Clean.

And this year, I was planning to attend my ten-year school reunion at Stonyhurst; sadly, this was cancelled due to COVID-19, but we did communicate over Zoom – ah, the wonders of technology!

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Professor Leung OS 89 is the Dean of the Hong Kong Medical School at Hong Kong University, an eminent Epidemiologist and an advisor to the World Health Organisation on COVID-19. The Development Team, with Mrs Haworth, Head of Biology, organised the seminar which took the form of a "fireside chat". Mrs Haworth asked Gabriel questions about his time at Stonyhurst, medical training, his work with the WHO and his insight into COVID-19 before opening up the floor to questions from some of the sixty plus Syntax and Higher Line pupils who had asked to attend the seminar.

HONG KONG ONLINE RECEPTION



The reception was introduced by the Headmaster and our guest speaker was **Lawrence Leong OS 82**. Lawrence was featured on Stonyhurst Link back in the summer when he became the 1000th member! Lawrence reminisced about his time at Stonyhurst – accompanied by some amazing drone footage of the College that he took when he last visited in 2016.

He reflected on how the skills and values he absorbed whilst a pupil had helped him personally to deal with the current situation, and how these same values will continue to equip future generations. This was followed by conversation between all the participants, during which time David Ridout shared several photos taken of the guests whilst they were pupils at the College and team sheets recording their sporting activities. After a very enjoyable hour and a half the reception drew to a close.

THOMAS WELD SOCIETY ONLINE RECEPTION



Every October we host an annual service of thanksgiving followed by lunch for the members of the Thomas Weld Society. Membership of the Society is offered to those who have generously made a legacy gift to Stonyhurst, keeping up the connection with our first benefactor, Thomas Weld in 1794.

On Saturday 3rd October, we hosted a lunchtime gathering on Zoom. During this, the President of the Thomas Weld Society thanked all those who had chosen to leave a legacy to the College. He explained that legacies can be assigned to specific areas, including bursaries through the Stonyhurst Foundation, the Collections, the Archives or somewhere most meaningful to the donor. The gathering broke up nearly two hours later! If you are considering leaving a gift to Stonyhurst in your will, Suzanne, Head of Development, would be pleased to speak to you about your intentions (s.wheeler@stonyhurst.ac.uk). To discover more about legacy giving please [click here](#).

USA AND CANADA ONLINE RECEPTION

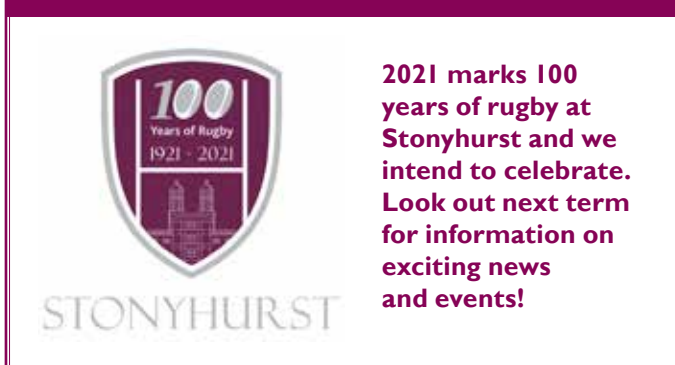
The second in our series of planned virtual gatherings with OS, parents and prospective parents was on Thursday 19th November. We were joined by thirty OS and one prospective parent from USA and Canada for an evening hosted by the Headmaster, with our guest speaker **Mark Thompson OS 75**. Mark is the former president and CEO of 'The New York Times'. He spoke fondly of Stonyhurst and in particular the role of certain teachers, including Peter Hardwick and Fr Freddie Turner SJ. The other OS joined in with a lively and interactive conversation, as old friendships were resumed with many promising to meet up in less challenging times.

We are looking forward to hosting our Mexican and Spanish Receptions in early February.

Website: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk



RUGBY CENTENARY



Team, was delighted to assist the College's preparations for the new term with this gift, to help keep our pupils and staff safe. *Quant Je Puis*.



We would like to express our thanks to the WhiffAway Group for their generous donation of multiple hand sanitising stations across the Stonyhurst campus. Their Director is **James McLean OS 04**, who, after being contacted by the Development



THE STONYHURST 2020/2021 ANNUAL FUND

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents, grandparents, OS and members of the wider Stonyhurst community who have made donations to the Stonyhurst 2020/2021 Annual Fund. This fund seeks support for special projects, which will have an immediate positive benefit for our pupils, enhancing their co-curricular experiences. We are extremely grateful for this generous support, particularly during these very challenging times. So far, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to complete three out of seven projects; purchasing the 'moving-spot-head-lights' for the Lights and Sound Department, the Basketball Courts in the Ambulacrum will be refurbished during the February half-term, and a new outdoor basketball court will be installed at Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall and our new Stonyhurst horsebox coffee shop is due to arrive by Great Academies. We have also received substantial donations for two of our other projects, with gifts of new fly-fishing rods to encourage fishing on the Hodder and two shotguns to allow us to form a Clay Pigeon Shooting Team, which we hope will follow on the success of our Stonyhurst Cadet Corps shooting team.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, so that all our pupils can benefit from the 2020/2021 Annual Fund then please go to:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/stonyhurstannualfund2020 or www.development.stonyhurst.ac.uk/annual-fund/

Your gift, no matter the size will make a difference to our pupils. Thank you.



FOUNDATION

STONYHURST FOUNDATION GRANTS £456,688 TO STONYHURST

In November, The Stonyhurst Foundation made an inaugural grant to Stonyhurst of £456,688, an astonishing achievement. This grant will support 25 pupils, 19 at SMH (16 boarders, 3 day) and 6 at the College (5 boarders, 1 day). This is the single best year ever in Stonyhurst's history for fundraising for bursaries and awards, and with your support we hope to be able to do even better next year.



In November, **Mark Thompson OS 75** was announced as the inaugural patron of The Stonyhurst Foundation.

[Click here](#) to view the press release.

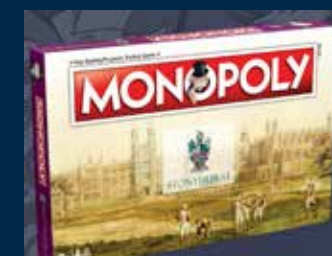


THE ADRIAN AYLWARD AWARD

The Adrian Aylward Award has been generously supported and the value of the award, including all received donations, stands at over £170,000.

THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION ONLINE SHOP LAUNCH

[Click here](#) to buy Stonyhurst Monopoly, socks and more!



FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE



We continue to experience one of the most challenging of times in the illustrious history of Stonyhurst. As I write, we have the whole school accessing teaching and learning and in fact every aspect of a Stonyhurst education via our innovative online platform *Stonyhurst Anywhere*. We have the children of key and critical workers coming into the College and St Mary's Hall each day. In addition, we have nearly 150 boarders in residence across

Anywhere Newsletter which gives a snapshot of the plethora of things which happen every week is worth a read. *Quant Je Puis* has never been more relevant. Looking to hopefully better days ahead, we have been working with Governors to re-imagine what we want Stonyhurst to look like post-pandemic. We have been using the new book 'Let Us Dream' by Pope Francis (in conversation with Austen Ivereigh) for inspiration. Francis talks about 'overflow moments' to shake up our roles and our thinking. Very Jesuit!

Prospective parents are looking to the future beyond the pandemic and planning for their sons and daughters. Admissions numbers are very strong for both schools for September.

Sadly, we cannot welcome prospective families or other visitors at the moment, so we have created a virtual tour of the two schools and I very much hope you will enjoy a leisurely walk through the campus wherever you are – [click here](#) to view.

Finally, I enjoy making connections and noted the prayer written for the Inauguration of George Washington in 1789 being used for the same ceremony for President Biden in 2021. The connection is, of course, that the author of the prayer, Archbishop John Carroll, attended St Omers 1748-53.

(See article in the News Events section named "The Inauguration of President Joe R. Biden Jr.", in this Newsletter edition.)

both schools who arrived before the latest restrictions were announced. All of this in a very fluid and uncertain national and international context. We have a new understanding of complexity at Stonyhurst. The priority has been ensuring the continuity of education for our children and young people and their families in the most challenging of times. We continue to engage with our wider Stonyhurst family to help and support pupils. A highlight last week was an enthralling talk by **Charlie Peters OS** about his fascinating career as a playwright and film director. If you have the opportunity, the weekly *Stonyhurst*

WANDERERS' NEWS

STONYHURST WANDERERS AT THE PENDLE AND CRAVEN ASSOCIATION CROQUET TOURNAMENT



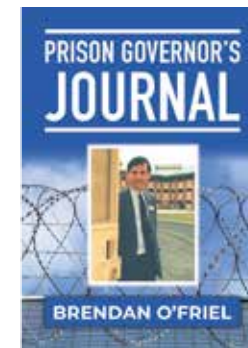
On Sunday 11th October 2020, Benedict O'Connor and **Simon Whittle OS 13** (joint masters in charge of croquet) represented the Stonyhurst Wanderers at the Pendle and Craven Association Croquet tournament. They played a whole day of croquet in the lovely Pennine village of Earby. Opponents came from across the North, with a couple even travelling down from Scotland.

Because of the broad range of skill and experience of the players, the tournament was 'handicapped', meaning players with less tournament experience had some free shots to play with, and the most experienced had the unenviable task of 'peeling' some of the balls through the hoops (that is, scoring points by forcing one ball through with another). The game, with only a few additional protocols (e.g., about moving balls with one's feet or the mallet), lends itself well to COVID-19 regulations, and many a friendly conversation was had across the croquet lawns. As the age profile of croquet players tends to be on the older side, there was much enthusiasm, and support offered, for the fledgling croquet club at the College, and there is hope that we may be able



to organise some external coaching and tournaments for the pupils at some point. Neither of the Stonyhurst players took first place, but they did come away with some more 'wins' against their names, and having strengthened links in the croquet community.

BOOKS – OF INTEREST TO OS



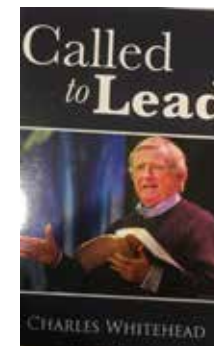
Prison Governor's Journal by Brendan O'Friel OS 60, LAUNCH – APRIL 2021

Prisons in England and Wales have weathered a succession of crises since 1947. Brendan O'Friel considers the impact of cell overcrowding and regime destruction on both staff and prisoners. The consequential inability to reduce re-offending, he argues, generates continuing threats to public safety. Drawing on his decades of service as a Governor, he explores some "unanswered

questions" arising from the chronic prison crises.

He provides insights into life within the seven penal establishments in which he served, including the "explosion of evil" – his story of the Strangeways riot of April 1990. From being involved in the difficult formation of the Prison Governors Association in 1987, he describes the work of the Association to influence and improve penal policy and practice.

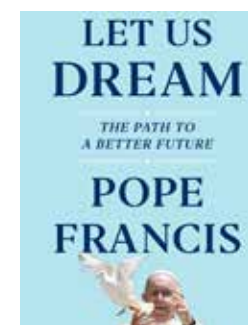
The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has added substantially to the prison crisis but Brendan O'Friel suggests it may also offer a surprising opportunity for radical change. With 260 pages, the book is illustrated with photographs, verse, drawings and cartoons, and captures the realities of the prison crisis. ISBN 978 152 62 0847 7



Called to Lead, by Charles Whitehead KSG OS 61

Charles strongly believes in the importance of good strong leadership in the Charismatic Renewal in the Church generally, and in this book he encourages those who exercise any kind of leadership responsibility to give serious thought to how they have responded to this call from God. He uses his own experience to ask a series of questions, particularly for lay people, to stimulate constructive thinking on a wide range of issues facing leaders – paramount among them the importance of each one's personal relationship with the Lord. The book

is written in such a way that it can be for private reflection or for small group study and discussion.



Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future, Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh

Editor's note: If you missed the Zoom webinar held on the 10th December 2020 with Dr Austen Ivereigh, [click here](#) to watch it.

In the COVID-19 crisis, the beloved shepherd of over one billion Catholics has seen the cruelty and inequity of our society more vividly exposed than ever before. He has also seen in the resilience, generosity, and creativity of so many people, the means to rescue our society, our economy, and our planet. In direct, powerful prose, Pope Francis urges us not to let the pain be in vain. He begins 'Let Us Dream' by exploring what this crisis can teach us about how to handle upheaval of any kind, whether in our lives or the world at large. With unprecedented candour, he reveals how three crises in his own life changed him dramatically for the better. By its very nature, he shows, crisis presents us with choice:

We make a grievous error if we try to return to some pre-crisis state. But if we have the courage to change, we can emerge from the challenge better than before. Francis then offers a brilliant, scathing critique of the systems and ideologies that have conspired to produce the current crisis – from a global economy obsessed with profit and

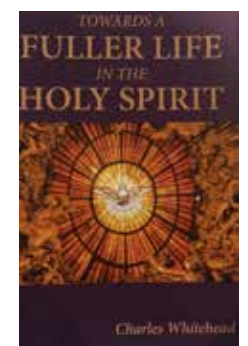


Your Way to Heaven: St Gerard Majella by Gerard Eaton OS 51

The soul which is the infinity of man which every person has within them, is the place where God is and yet, ready to be found. The course St Gerard set on uncharted waters of human frailty were his Resolutions, a pact between him and God. His first resolution was total conformity to the will of God and his total obedience to his superiors. We often make resolutions and break them; Gerard made them and kept them. He found

the will of God as a tailor, a gardener, a sacristan and a doorkeeper. He wore the coat of obedience exactly and absolutely and, through his penances and prayers, a soul committed to God emerged. There followed the great virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith displayed by the marvellous miracles he won from God; Hope in the miraculous counsel he gave to men and women; and Charity in his commitment to poor and suffering souls.

After leaving Stonyhurst, Gerard was commissioned into the army from Sandhurst. He left the army to try a vocation to the priesthood but left St Edmunds after two years Philosophy. He is married to Imelda, has two sons and three daughters and is now retired. He is president of a charity for homeless young people.



Towards a Fuller Life in the Holy Spirit by Charles Whitehead KSG OS 61

Charles is convinced that the Holy Spirit is the Church's best-kept secret, and in this book he encourages us all to take a fresh look at the person and the promise of the Spirit, as revealed in the Scriptures and through over 2,000 years of Church teaching and history. It is presented so that it can be as a resource for small group study and discussion as well as for personal teaching and encouragement.

heedless of the people and environment it harms, to politicians who foment their people's fear and use that to increase their own power at their people's expense. He reminds us a Christian's first duty is to serve others, especially the poor and the marginalised, just as Jesus did.

Dr Austen Ivereigh is a British writer, journalist, and Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, University of Oxford. He is author of two biographies of Pope Francis: 'The Great Reformer. Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope' (2014) and 'Wounded Shepherd.

Pope Francis and His Struggle to

Convert the Catholic Church' (2019).

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, he collaborated with Pope Francis on his vision for a post-COVID-19 world: 'Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' in conversation with Austen Ivereigh was published by Simon & Schuster in December 2020.

He is a regular contributor to a number of publications, including 'The Tablet', 'Commonweal' and 'America' magazine. In 2019 he moved with his wife and dogs to a small farm near Hereford, where he is learning ecological regeneration inspired by Pope Francis's *Laudato si'*, which provides material for a Tablet column called 'Wild Faith'.



STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

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

'Iesu converte Angliam': a new and significant acquisition for the Historic Libraries

