

AMDG

# STONYHURST

## association news



JANUARY 2022



PALMYRA, SYRIA



EDITOR’S NOTE

I have been the Editor of the Stonyhurst Association Newsletter for six years and have greatly enjoyed receiving the many articles and news items from the Stonyhurst family. I hope that you too have enjoyed reading the newsletter and keeping up with all the news and events. It is now coming time to hand over the reins to another, and whilst I continue for the moment, the summer 2022 newsletter will be the last edition under my editorship.

However, it will of course continue, and as always, we would be delighted to receive your news, be it a birth or wedding announcement, academic success or charitable work; all the news that celebrates the achievements of our Stonyhurst family.

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

Join at: [www.stonyhurstlink.com](http://www.stonyhurstlink.com)

Twitter: [@Stonyhurstassoc](https://twitter.com/Stonyhurstassoc) Facebook.com/[stonyhurstassociation](https://www.facebook.com/stonyhurstassociation)

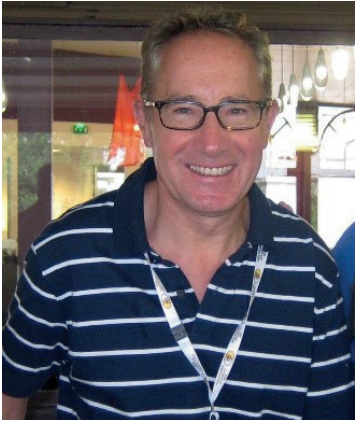
In order to be kept informed of news and events we need your email address, do let us have any changes and please encourage other OS to keep in touch with us this way.

Contact: [m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



STONYHURST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2022, AT PAN PACIFIC LONDON



President: Dominic Hartley OS 86



Guest of Honour: Jimmy Nelson OS 86

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THE DINNER!

We are going to have a huge celebration of all things Stonyhurst at the brand new Pan Pacific Hotel in London. It's going to be a wonderful evening in one of London's most sumptuous hotels thanks to calling in a few favours from my cousin **Christopher OS 86**. There will be a drinks reception, three-course meal and much more, and we've managed to line up an inspirational speaker, **Jimmy Nelson OS 86**.

Jimmy has travelled the world documenting 35 lost indigenous tribes and is an incredible photographer and TED Talk pro. The ballroom will have the most advanced screens in the industry where we'll be able to showcase his award-winning photography, as well as many of the charitable works that OS are involved with. 29 Fingers, the band I founded with **Tommy Lorimer OS 86** will also take to the stage for a gig into the early hours – so come prepared to party! For those wanting to make this a special occasion, the hotel has a fine spa, infinity pool, gym and is in a stunning plaza presenting opportunities for some retail therapy.

A mass will be held at Farm Street the next day, followed by an informal Sunday pub lunch for those that are not clapped out on the sofa.

Accommodation at Pan Pacific London

Located in Bishopsgate, Pan Pacific London is a new, luxurious 43-storey bronze tower, with a shopping plaza and wellbeing suite. We have arranged a preferential room rate and rooms can be booked directly with them. Please contact their reservations department: [reserve.pplon@panpacific.com](mailto:reserve.pplon@panpacific.com) or telephone +44 (0)20 7118 6888. Please use the reference 2202STONYH. The room rate is £250.00 per night and includes VAT and breakfast.

To complete your dinner booking form and reserve your tickets please [click here](#).

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

Email: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
[www.association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

Editor: Michael Hargreaves  
Email: [m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

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INTRODUCING OUR  
FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

JULIE MACFARLANE OS 78



My husband, **Niall OS 75**, and I met through the St Omer's Handicapped Children's Holiday Week shortly after I left the College in 1978. I offered my service as a handmaid in Lourdes on more than one occasion and have returned there, with Niall, independently of the College. We both continued to support the Handicapped Children's Week as helpers for several years whilst I was a dental student in Birmingham, and after our marriage, until the birth of our children.

I went into Oral Surgery for a couple of years before we moved to the south coast, whilst Niall progressed up his career ladder, and I entered community dental service and general dental practice. In 1991, with three small children in tow, Niall was given an opportunity to be based in Manchester which led me to set up a dental practice in Whalley, leaving him with that unenviable commute every day.

In my own career I have been fortunate to be given the opportunity to work to support my profession both locally, for the Local Dental Committee and as a trainer for dental nurses and newly qualified dentists, and nationally as Chair of the Fitness to Practise Panel at the General Dental Council (GDC) for ten years. Following this part-time tenure, I worked for many years as Associate Dean for Conduct

and Performance within Health Education England (HEE) supporting dentists in difficulty, based in Manchester, whilst continuing to work in my Whalley practice. It was my turn for the commute, albeit only once or twice a week!

Niall and I have maintained close contacts with Stonyhurst over the years – made easier by the close proximity of my family to it. We have attempted to raise our three children, **Ailsa OS 04**, **Jessica OS 05** and **Alasdair OS 08** to continue the aim of a Stonyhurst education to develop 'Men and Women for Others'. To this effect we have actively promoted a family ethos of service, through our working environments and also in our voluntary service within the community. Local organisations, such as Maundy Relief in Accrington, have allowed our children to volunteer their help during holiday periods and we hope that it has encouraged them to recognise that there is no ego in service.

Stonyhurst has been co-educational for many years and I am humbled to be asked to be the first female President of the Association in its history. My first question was; what is the purpose of the Stonyhurst Association – is it just a social club or is there an element to it that would stimulate more active participation by OS for the benefit of others?



As taken from the website;

**Founded in 1879 the objective of the Stonyhurst Association is to maintain contact between Stonyhurst and its past, present and future pupils, their parents and families; to help in the promotion, advancement and support of education, the Roman Catholic religion and the relief of poverty, sickness and disability.**

In my year as President I intend to continue the work already undertaken successfully by the Association and to actively promote the further inclusion of women into every strand of its activities to achieve its mission.

To begin to address this I have consulted with OS women who have provided contact details to the Association so that they may feed back to me any ideas they might have for the promotion of contact between them and Stonyhurst. With that information the Association will be

better placed to arrange events and activities that are more inclusive and are the sort of things that women would be prepared to attend.

I, additionally wish to support an active involvement of all OS – men and women – to consciously undertake acts of charity and voluntary service, whether small or great, to further our holistic Catholic education in being 'Men and Women for Others'. As we all struggle to emerge from the pandemic there is scope to offer our help in a multitude of ways to alleviate the difficulties suffered by those around us. Ask yourself - If you live without making a difference, what difference does it make that you have lived?

My hopes and aspirations for the forthcoming year are to encourage a desire in all of us to do as much as we can as often as we can, without fuss and self-glorification, for the benefit of those around us – those random, small acts of kindness that take relatively little effort but may make a big difference.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

Details will be published on the website [www.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk), email: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk) with any queries

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
22nd January 2022	OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers	The popular OS lunch at Preston Grasshoppers will take place on Saturday 22nd January when the Hoppers are playing Sandal. The cost of a three-course meal and entry to the match will be £25 per head. All OS, partners and friends are welcome and in the past this very informal event has attracted over 100 from all over the country. It has proved particularly attractive for OS years wishing to organise a mini reunion and details of convenient accommodation can be provided. To book or for further details please contact <a href="mailto:martinhotheralls@outlook.com">martinhotheralls@outlook.com</a>  There will be Mass in St Peter's on Sunday morning at 11.00am, and all are welcome to attend.
24th January 2022	Memorial Service at Farm Street for Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ	The service is at 6.00pm and will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.
5th February 2022	Memorial Cup Rugby Match at St John's Beaumont	A rugby match with OS/SMH v OS/OSJB teams at St John's Beaumont. The match will take place on the 5th February 2022 on the St John's first team pitch, Priest Hill, Old Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 2JN. Kick off will be at 14.00. Supporters welcome!
26th February 2022	Stonyhurst Association Annual Dinner	With our President, <b>Dom Hartley OS 86</b> and guest speaker <b>Jimmy Nelson OS 86</b> , the dinner will be held at Pan Pacific London, a new, luxurious 43 storey bronze tower, with a shopping plaza and wellbeing suite. We have arranged a preferential room rate and rooms can be booked directly with them. Please contact their reservations department: <a href="mailto:reserve.pplon@panpacific.com">reserve.pplon@panpacific.com</a> or telephone +44 (0)20 7118 6888. Please use the reference 2202STONYH. The room rate is £250.00 per night and the rate includes VAT and breakfast. Tickets are priced at £125 for a sponsored ticket, £99 for the standard ticket and £75 for OS aged 25 and under.  <b>Click here</b> to complete the dinner booking form and reserve your tickets.
14th – 17th April 2022	Holy Week Retreat at Stonyhurst	We would be delighted for you and your family to join us for this special weekend of reflection, talks, and Easter Liturgy. The weekend is very much a gathering of friends, united by a sense of shared faith and spirit of belonging within the Stonyhurst community. There is a separate programme for children from the age of four upwards, and whole family attendance is very much welcomed and encouraged. Further details will be released later this term, but if you have any questions, please do contact our Director of Christian Formation, Catherine Crombie <a href="mailto:c.crombie@stonyhurst.ac.uk">c.crombie@stonyhurst.ac.uk</a>
30th May – 1st June 2022	OS 71 Reunion	Andrew Lubienski is organising a reunion, to be held at Theodore House, Stonyhurst. Please contact Andrew directly if you are interested in attending.  <a href="mailto:andrewlubienski@gmail.com">andrewlubienski@gmail.com</a>
18th August 2022	Walk the Tolkien Trail, with our President, for Maundy Relief – save the date!	We are planning a circular family walk, starting and finishing at Hobbit Hill, where there will be parking and facilities. A family tea will be provided at the end of the walk. This will be a charitable event, in that we will ask you to bring appropriate donations for the local food banks – we will feed you, if you will feed them! Further details and a booking form will be available in early spring.
19th – 26th August 2022	Lourdes Pilgrimage	We are pleased to confirm that we are planning to organise a full, medically-supported Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year with the Catholic Association. We hope to be joined by as many Assisted Pilgrims as possible, subject to it being assessed as safe for them to do so by our medical and nursing teams.  More details will be available early in 2022, please contact the Association Office if you have any queries.

# NEWS



Major John Cobb and four OS met for a very enjoyable and convivial lunch earlier in the year. Great afternoon had by all!

L-R : John Cobb - Bede Etherington OS 82 - Jeremy Haworth OS 89 - Kent Haworth OS 85

## OS alumni gin



Damian Bond, OS 83 is pleased to make available our very own Stonyhurst alumni gin. He has been making gin in his distillery in Birkdale, Southport to a recipe he created in 2017.

Containing 15 botanicals the gin is packed full of flavour and complexity. The OS 83 group alone purchased 100 bottles during lockdown.

£50 per 70cl bottle, includes a free flavoured miniature (worth £5.00), shipping and an £8.00 donation to the Stonyhurst Foundation.

To order, e-mail [info@db5consulting.com](mailto:info@db5consulting.com) with the name, year of leaving Stonyhurst and your address. Please note we can only deliver to UK addresses.

After consultation with the Bursar, the Stonyhurst Association and the Stonyhurst Foundation, **Damian Bond OS 83** is pleased to offer OS alumni gin. Damian is a 4th generation distiller going back to his great, great, great grandfather. All 4 generations attended Stonyhurst, **Peter Houlgrave OS 1796**, **Peter Atherton Houlgrave OS 1831**, and **Peter George Houlgrave OS 1863**. Houlgrave being his grandmother's maiden name. Based in Liverpool they were not exactly distilling gin, but tar, as the precursor to petrochemicals to make varnishes for boats and paint for houses. Damian assures us that his product tastes much better and his year group can attest to this.



Congratulations to **Paul Chitnis OS 79** and his daughter, Marie-Therese who have cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats recently to raise money for the Newman Holiday Trust which Paul set up when he left Stonyhurst (See article in this edition of the Newsletter), and also to raise awareness of Jesuit Missions' work for COP26/climate change. If you are able to donate to this worthy cause please visit: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/mtchitnis/12>



# CONGRATULATIONS

Please send your contributions to the Editor: [m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:m.hargreaves@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



## Adam Whitehead OS 87

Steyning Grammar School (SGS) in West Sussex have announced the appointment of a new Headteacher, enhancing the school's leadership capacity as it continues its progress as part of the Bohunt Education Trust (BET) family of schools. **Adam Whitehead OS 87**, who will take up the position as Headteacher at the four-site, state boarding school after the Easter holidays in April 2022, is a highly experienced education leader, having worked in Sussex schools for twenty-five years. He is currently the founding Headteacher at Bohunt School Worthing, before which he was Deputy Headteacher of The Weald School in Billingshurst. He has also worked at St. Paul's in Burgess Hill and Oathall Community College in Hayward's Heath.

Congratulations to **Charles Whitehead OS 61** and his wife Sue, who have jointly been awarded the CARITAS IN VERITATE "2020 Charity and Leadership Award," in recognition of their international leadership and support of charitable causes.

CARITAS IN VERITATE, CiV, is a global missionary humanitarian foundation based in the USA, bringing aid and the Gospel to the poorest of the poor. Caritas in Veritate comprises 34-member organizations, with a total of more than 1.4 million people, including over 124,000 volunteers, who together bring "charity in truth" to 84 nations. The members of the confederation are each faithful to their own charism, whether responding with building projects, education, medical care, faith formation or the mobilization of volunteers.



**Michael Lewis Owen OS 71** has received a Gold Award from Zigzag Education for his recently published resource 'Spell Poems for KS3'. Zigzag gives these awards for 'highly efficient development and exceptional quality.' The publisher draws particular attention to the writer's creative approach to the teaching of spelling, the use of humour to provide enjoyment and the systematic method that helps to build learner confidence.

Zigzag also published Michael's 'Poetry 1380 to 1900' which is currently available on Amazon both as a paperback and eBook.

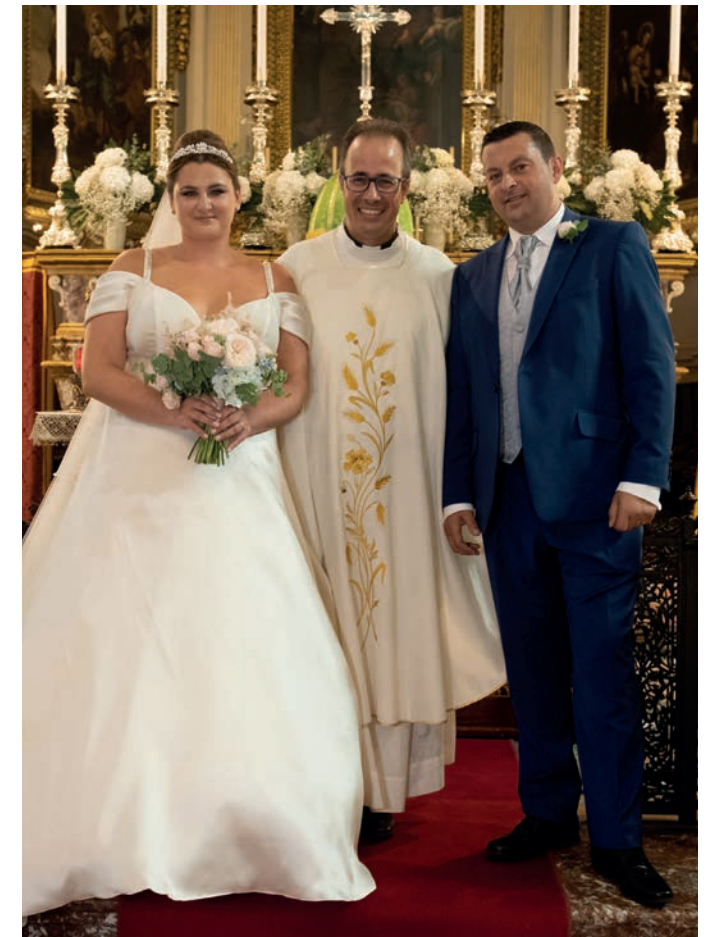
## MARRIAGES



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



**Katie Victoria Harrison OS 09**, married James Edward Holland on 19th of June 2021. The ring bearer was certainly unusual as it was their three-legged dog, River, who Katie rescued through the registered dog rescue charity that she founded in 2020. There were 3 OS 09 in attendance: **Samantha Leach**, **Charlotte Leach** and **Alexander Dineen**.



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

## BIRTHS



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





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



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

## DAVID HERBERT MERCER 29/03/1937 – 10/12/2021



David joined the Association Office in 1998. It was at this time that the Association was undergoing major change, looking to reenergise the office at the College, and streamlining the finances, including the way subscriptions were collected. David had some experience of the College as a parent, his son **Christian** is **OS 96**, but I wonder if he knew then what an important part he would play in the Association Office and how long he would be there?

David spent the first two or three years helping with the admin, arranging meetings and taking minutes and he was also greatly involved

in producing the first printed register of Association members. However, it was the newsletter that was his great love, and which he edited and produced until 2016. It is perhaps not always realised when reading the newsletters just how many hours of patient work the editor needs to put in: including planning the content, contacting people for material, contacting them again when it hasn't arrived, and checking the facts and OS dates. David did all of this with great dedication and with skill, and we were blessed to have him.

Whilst David handed over the editorship to Michael Hargreaves in 2016, he continued to come into the office on a regular basis. His knowledge of all things Stonyhurst seemed infinite, as did his knowledge of history and geography, and he put me right on many an occasion! David continued to support Association events and was a regular attender with his wife Frances at the Annual Dinner, where he would take photographs for the newsletter.

During this time David started his extensive research into OS who had served in WW2, knowing that the information we had on record was far from complete. He completed his work and we have the manuscript. We are delighted that David's work will be edited and published by St Omer's Press, and that the finished publication will bear his name.

David became a trusted adviser and a great friend over the years to all of us who worked with him, always asking how he could help and always generous with his knowledge. After spending a few hours or so in the office, he would take off his glasses, switch off the computer, and we would know that it was time for him to go and check out his beloved River Hodder. We will miss him greatly.

David leaves his wife Frances, his daughters Marie-Louise, Colette and Bianca and his son Christian.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Joseph Stephen Armstrong	OS 1956 - 1965	John Russell Barton	OS 1981 - 1986
John Raeburn Smith	Former Parent	Robert Frederick Sinclair	Former Staff
Paul Declan Gordon-Saker	OS 1954 - 1962	Christopher Max Wenner	OS 1965 - 1973
John Kerry McGoldrick	OS 1986 - 1991	Peter Anwyl	Former Headmaster
Michael Brendan O'Maoileoin	OS 1982 - 1987		St Mary's Hall
Brigid Williams	Former Parent	Fr Michael O'Halloran SJ	Former Rector of Stonyhurst
David Mercer	Association Office Staff and Former Parent	Michael Patrick McBrien	OS 1948 - 1954
	Former Staff	Paul Julian Fox	OS 1962 - 1972
Patricia Massey	OS 1947 - 1956	Anthony Arthur Reid	OS 1964 - 1967
Bryan John Finnigan			

May they rest in peace.

## ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER GUEST SPEAKER

JIMMY NELSON OS 86



Jimmy will be the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner on the 26th of February.

James Philip Nelson spent his childhood in Africa, Asia and South America, traveling around with his father, who worked as a geologist for International Shell.

In 1985, at age 17, he left Stonyhurst College and started to trek the length of Tibet on foot. He took a small camera on his trip and photographed his journey, which lasted about two years. Upon return, the collection of pictures he had taken in the formerly inaccessible country were published by the English National Geographic, to wide international acclaim.

Following this journey, Jimmy embarked on more trips, documenting a variety of war zones, including Afghanistan, Kashmir, Yugoslavia, Somalia and El Salvador, and started to work as a professional photojournalist until the age of 24.

In 1992 Nelson was commissioned by Shell Oil to produce the book "Literary Portraits of China". He travelled across the country for 30 months, together with his then wife, Ashkaine Hora Adema, who participated in the making of the book, and subsequently became his business partner.

From 1997 onwards, Jimmy began working in the commercial advertising field, and he continues to collect images of remote and isolated cultures.



## A SELECTION OF JIMMY'S CAPTIVATING IMAGES TAKEN DURING HIS EXTENSIVE TRAVELS



Marquesas, French Polynesia



Kazakh, Mongolia



Siberia



Marquesas, French Polynesia



Jimmy with the Samburu in Kenya



Himba Angola

## LANX SHOES

BY MARCO VAGHETTI OS 03



My name is Marco Vagheti and I left Stonyhurst in 2003, having attended the College and also St Mary's Hall from the age of eight. It is an honour to be asked to write something for the Association Newsletter. I very much enjoyed my time at both Stonyhurst and SMH, and I am very grateful for the skills and wonderful memories the school gave me.

I wasn't the most academic pupil at school, my attention span wasn't suited to more studious subjects. So, during my time at Stonyhurst I gravitated more towards the art room and the sports-field. I wasn't the best in any of these two fields, but I did try my best, "quant je puis" as they say.

After school I attended 2 universities, Oxford Brookes, to study Art Foundation, and Northumbria to study Fine Art. I didn't complete my 3-year course at Northumbria and instead decided to do the gap year my mother never wanted me to do. I packed my bags and set off to see the world. During my time away I visited the Hong Kong Rugby 7s, which left a lasting impression on me and the catalyst for my first steps into business.

On my return to the UK I started an events company and began organising sports festivals, most notably the Manchester Rugby 7s, which was a three-day rugby and music festival and attracted 150+ teams from around the UK and also overseas. Over the five years the event ran we welcomed some of the best 7s teams in the world and a host of world class rugby players who later gained international honours.

In 2014 I decided to change my career path away from events and started to specialise in marketing and more creative work. By chance I started working with some great fashion, footwear and sports brands, most notably working on the re-brand for Kukri Sports, a team wear brand who at the time supplied Leicester Tigers, England Commonwealth Games and Lancashire Cricket.



I very much enjoyed working in apparel and in particular footwear, so in 2016 I turned my attention to creating my own men's footwear brand. I had a problem though... I didn't know how to make a shoe, nor did I know where to source shoes from. So, on the 26th of July 2016, I packed my bags and set off on a six-month trip to learn everything I could about making proper shoes.

Fast forward to May 2018 and I launched LANX, a footwear company which specialises in "proper shoe, for the boardroom to the bar". Initially the company was just me on my own, selling shoes at local markets out of a van I borrowed from a friend. Over the past four years LANX has grown to now include eight staff, a new warehouse and we exhibit at a number of exciting events and festivals up and down the country. We have supplied footwear to the likes of Sale Sharks, Burnley FC and Lancashire Cricket Club. The business has also grown to now supply women's footwear, which was a daunting step we took around six months ago and has been a big success for us.

Making shoes is a very difficult and long process. It can take between sixteen - eighteen months to develop a new style, from sketches on paper to launching in the shop. We work with a number of factories who specialise in specific types of footwear and the majority of our styles are manufactured in the UK. We are also proud to work with a number of local suppliers, such as; Charlef F Stead in Leeds for leather, British Millarain in Rochdale for waxed cotton, and Marton Mills in Otley for tweed, the latter I believe also supply the material for the Stonyhurst green blazers and the tartan skirts.

Many OS and Stonyhurst parents pop in to buy shoes from our Whalley shop and it is always nice to share stories and many are pleased to discover some of our shoes are named after Stonyhurst teachers and pupils, past and present; Shireburn, Hopkins, Greenwood, Tasker and Hayhurst to name a few.

We have big plans for LANX and will be looking for new staff to help us grow. If there are any OS that would like a career in fashion or events please do get in touch. A recent Stonyhurst leaver, **Oliver Timmins OS 21**, has joined the company and has been a great addition to the team.





# AN ELEVEN YEAR STAY

BY CHRIS OSWALD OS 79

It started with a punishment. I was six-and-a-half years into an eleven-year stay at Stonyhurst. Playroom-wide detentions were sweeping and, at times, unfair. However, it has to be set against the many times we'd got away with illicit activity; retribution catching up with a few of us.

I don't remember the crime. It must have been bad to warrant the mass punishment, probably damage from over-exuberance with cricket practice in the corridor or an empty bottle tossed from an upstairs window to make a statement. My brother once tried to bring a grip-bag full of Martini at the start of term, forgetting about the clinking of bottles. Next term, he wrapped them in his pyjamas.

Fr McGuiness was our playroom master. We thought having a 1970s haircut and being a century younger than most, he would be a pushover. He was no pushover.

One hundred boys, fourteen-year-olds, given ninety minutes extra study when they should have been shooting the breeze, roaming the corridors, getting up to mischief. It was tough being cheated of freedom, kept to a desk rather than exercising the right to roam. But Fr McGuiness had the answer, a salve for our collective indignation.

"Everyone's to write an essay, subject is 'Friends'. There'll be a prize for the best one."

I wrote about a friend I'd fallen out with. I can't remember how or why, but I do recall being pleased with my essay. So was Fr McGuiness. I won first prize, a token for the school bookshop. I spent it on a guitar book. Fr McGuiness played acoustic, something that impressed me enormously in a member of staff. I went for an electric from Woolworths. It cost £11.99, a fortune in 1974. But what remained with me was that I wasn't too shabby at this writing lark. I parked it for half a lifetime but then came back to it with a vengeance.

Let me take you back to the day of sentencing. No, stretch back further to the original crime. I was a happy schoolboy in Hampshire, caring not one jot for anything except fun. At seven, my mother was called into my day convent-school; doing a strip tease in the classroom was not acceptable behaviour. Perhaps I should go early to boarding school. A few months later, my mother dropped us at Hodder Place. It was early September 1968, a few days short of my eighth birthday. My brother, Tim, was an old boy. I was a new squit. Tim kept me focused on the pond while my mother departed in her taxi. I turned to look for Tim, panicked to note that everyone looked identical in their Hodder cladding. That is my first memory of Stonyhurst. Hodder was wild and fun. Perched on the edge of Paradise, it stood above the Hodder River, the source of many happy days swimming; days at Hodder were always sunny.

The rugby pitches were down that way, strangely it was always raining when we played. The cricket-come-athletics field was above the school, behind which was a plantation of fir trees, home to some of our dens. There were gangs at Hodder. Each gang had a den. The object was to infiltrate another's den. If caught, you were thrown into the nearest patch of nettles.



Hodder House



Winter at Stonyhurst College



Hodder First Fifteen

Unless, of course, you had an elder brother. Tim and I fought from morning to night during the holidays. "Just you wait 'til we're back at school," he'd say. But the moment we boarded the train at Euston for the never-ending journey to Preston, he was there for me. That's family. It's also known as generosity of spirit. Tim's nickname was Brat. That meant I became Brat Jnr.

There was something about Hodder's roofs. We couldn't take the normal route down the stairs, along the corridor and through the boot room to outside. We had to go out of the dormitory window just outside Fr Piper's room (someone I hope one day to see again in life-everlasting) and either slither down to the ground by the big back steps or go further up the roof to adventure unlimited. This was mirrored in the dormitory at night where the main occupation was running along the top of the slender cubicle walls and dropping down unexpected on a friend.

We discovered a 'tunnel' at the back that led to Mr Ewer's study. He was the housemaster and a gentler, kinder soul you couldn't find. Mrs Ewer balanced him with the strictness that escaped her husband entirely.

Hodder sadly closed in 1971 and pretty well everyone moved to St Mary's Hall, but not Mr Mills, the everything-teacher of Upper Elements. He had a small but significant role in my writing career. Because I messed around in art, flicking paint at everyone, he started me on calligraphy. The book went from the rudiments of penmanship to advanced. I loved creating my own beauty on paper while others got on with their artwork.



Hodder School

There was another type of spirit-generosity at Stonyhurst that even I, as a hopelessly immature teenager, recognised while serving my eleven-year stay for standing on the desk and doing a strip tease to a fanfare trumpeted from below. You'll recall all the references to public schools being hotbeds of spiteful bullying and humiliation. Stonyhurst wasn't like that. I can count the number of such incidents on two hands. I was responsible for some, at other times the target, giving as much as I got. But it wasn't much at all. The school was austere, simple, monastic. But there was precious little cruelty and a great deal of honest companionship. I'll take that to the grave.

Let's linger on austere; the food was awful. The main meal was 'tea' around 4pm. There was an unwritten rule that you could take more than the prescribed four pieces of plastic bread; we usually plastered a huge pile of carbohydrates with bulk-buy margarine and sickly-sweet jam. Stonyhurst was at the 'forefront' of 1970s dining with a self-service system. Time and again, one would jump the queue to scan the stainless-steel trays for anything edible. More often than not, one was forced to rule out the idea of lunch or supper and seek calories from another source.

There was a tuck shop off the ambulacrum and a shop down past SMH, the latter often out of bounds. Both required money which generally wasn't available a few weeks into term. Initiatives included breaking into a storeroom near the refectory. Another opportunity arose with the Committee Members' Sitting room where they had tea and toast every afternoon. Sometimes, whether summoned or not, they would give you a scrap of toast.

But it was a risk; equally, they could give lines with the 'line of the day' being an exhaustively long quotation from literature – not a writing activity I enjoyed. Line inflation was a common phenomenon. I swear once at Hodder a boy was 'awarded' half-a-million lines. Writing lines for hire was a good earner, particularly when Andrew Mifsud invented a multiple pen consisting of Sellotape and six biros. I don't know whether he patented this ingenious idea.

SMH was a different beast to Hodder. For one, it was block-like, lacking obvious ways onto the roof. It did little for me, more of a passing through place. Highlights included a sudden prowess at rugby and athletics, mainly because I grew before anyone else and then stopped while others caught up. Sport was taken very seriously at Stonyhurst. Another was not so clever, the start of smoking. In the 1970s smoking separated out the cool kids. A friend brought cigars back with him when we were twelve. We didn't realise that cigar-smoke lingers. We stupidly chose the woods between school and Mr Carter's house, the headmaster. The usual punishment followed, Mr Carter bragging that his boys were classy, going straight for cigars.

One fun aspect of SMH was camping trips on the River Hodder. Aged thirteen, we trekked for miles to find a pub and hung around the entrance, lacking the courage to enter. We would have been laughed



SMH First Fifteen



Smokers at Sixteen

out of the place anyway. But the idea of pubs remained. The next attempt was from Stonyhurst during that delightful age when you can just about gain entry if the landlord isn't too discerning but still get half-price train tickets. The pub was several miles along a well-tramped track from Hurst Green. We got pints of mild, cheaper than bitter.

Being a rebel at Stonyhurst was tough; despite the threat of the ferula, there weren't actually many restrictions. I expect the bods in charge knew what we got up to and balanced it with the fact that there wasn't much else for teenagers to do in that most extraordinarily beautiful setting. Some got on with their education, others, less mature, were driven to elaborate plans to get into nightclubs, concerts and pubs all over Lancashire. I got a huge awakening in Upper Syntax. We had an Australian playroom master, Melvyn Morrow, also my 'A' level English teacher. He found me hanging around my bedroom one day during final rehearsals for the Upper Syntax annual show, 'A Song to Sing'. "I'm surprised you're not doing something for the play."



A Song to Sing

"No point, sir, don't want to be here anyway." Or similar words I cringe to remember now. He leant against the doorway and told me something about giving rather than complaining in true Ignatian fashion. In answer to my point that I couldn't act, he reminded me that putting on a play involved many skills. His words gnawed at my conscience. I asked another teacher (pride forbade me from going back to Mr Morrow) what I could do. I was a late arrival to stage management but threw myself into the role. I'm sure there's a parable about that somewhere, probably heard it in sermons many times. But it was only when Mr Morrow gave it to me with his Sidney-twang that it rang home. I guess that's part of getting an education. Mr Morrow has a lot to answer for. I told him that over supper in Sidney in 2012. His teaching was outstanding, confirming my early love of literature. By fifteen, I'd spent a million hours in the library, reading every book by Austen, the Brontës, Hardy and Elliot. I moved on to Steinbeck and Solzhenitsyn by way of H.E. Bates and C.S. Forester. By the time I started 'A' levels I was completely ready for his unique approach to English. We studied 'A Winter's Tale' but first Mr Morrow took us through every other tragedy and a few of the comedies too. It was an eye-opener, an excellent education right when I needed it. I left Stonyhurst with a lot to learn but what I did know was that giving is every bit as rewarding as receiving. The question was how to give? It took me many years to answer that last question, but the parable of the talents kept coming to mind. And the fact is, I'm still learning.



Stonyhurst College Class of 79

After moving to America and starting a business, Chris returned to his roots to follow his passion for writing. He specialises in historical fiction and thrillers with a strong history element but is also writing a unique detective series. You can see what he's been up to at <https://chrisoswaldbooks.com/>



# THE FIRST FEMALE HEAD OF LINE

BY FUCHSIA HART OS 08

*Editor's Note: As we prepare to welcome our first female President, it seems appropriate to find out what our first female Head of Line has done since leaving the College.*

While doing my A-Levels at Stonyhurst from 2006-08, my interest in languages and literature led me to choose English, French, German and Latin as my subjects. I particularly enjoyed Latin, especially reading the Aeneid with Mr Callinicos, and I think I always assumed I would apply to read Classics at university. However, I also had an interest in the Middle East. Growing up with countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq permanently in the news, I remember wanting to find out for myself about the countries and people which constituted the so-called 'axis of evil'. The present of a biography of Gertrude Bell from my father and a family holiday to Jordan tipped the balance, and I decided to apply to study Arabic and Persian.

In the end, I read Persian with Old Iranian Languages at Queen's College, Oxford. This gave me the opportunity to study the languages, literature and history of Iran ranging from the Avestan liturgical texts of the Zoroastrians, to the cuneiform inscriptions of Old Persian, and the renowned Classical Persian poets such as Hafez and Rumi, right up to the contemporary literature of modern, post-revolutionary Iran. While at Queen's, I also became interested in another OS associated with the college, as well as Iran, Herbert Weld, who in 1891, travelled to Iran to take casts of the iconic reliefs of the Achaemenid site of Persepolis.

I later returned to Oxford to read for an MPhil in Islamic Art and Architecture. Building on my undergraduate studies, my interests were focused on the arts and architecture of Iran and I wrote my thesis on the early-17th-century Shaykh Lutfallah Mosque on the grand Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan. After completing the MPhil, I carried straight on to my DPhil research which explores royal use and patronage of the major shrines of Iran and Iraq during the reign of the second Qajar ruler of Iran, Fath-'Ali Shah (r.1797-1834).



Graduating from Oxford with a MPhil: L to R: her father Anthony Prosser OS 68, Fuchsia and her mother Jane Hart.

While the pandemic has slowed the progress of my thesis more than I would have liked, the events of the past couple of years have led me to consider the connections between shrines and contagious disease. The first officially recognised cases of COVID-19 in Iran were found in the shrine city of Qom in central Iran, one of the three main sites which I examine in my DPhil thesis, alongside Mashhad in north-east Iran and Karbala in Iraq.

My interest in the tension between the shrines as potential sites of healing and simultaneously possible conduits for the spread of disease lead me to contribute a chapter on shrines and cholera in 19th century Iran to a recent multi-author book, exploring the relationship between disease and urbanism. My academic interest in Iran and the countries surrounding it has given me many opportunities for travel, study, and work in the region. My study of Arabic began in my gap year after leaving Stonyhurst, when I lived and taught English in Rabat, Morocco.



Fuchsia in Al – Ain

Later that year, I went to India, to meet up with three other OS to travel around the country. My second year of my undergraduate degree was also spent abroad, first in Damascus, learning Arabic, and then in Tehran, where I studied at the University of Tehran. Having moved to Damascus in September 2010, my friends and I watched the first sparks of the 'Arab Spring' erupt in Tunisia and then come to seeming fruition with the January 25th revolution in Cairo.

I was fortunate to travel widely around Syria before the time came to leave in April 2011, as the protests which would eventually lead to war started to spread across the country. A base in Damascus also provided wonderful opportunities for travel further afield and I have happy memories of visiting friends in Cairo, crossing the border to Lebanon for weekends in Beirut, taking the train to Istanbul, and taking many buses to reach the Kurdish region in the north of Iraq. Moving to Tehran for the next part of my study abroad helped get my Persian back up to scratch after focusing on Arabic in Damascus, and I happened to live down the road from the Apostolic Nunciature to Iran, which proved handy for Mass.



Palmyra, Syria

Having graduated from my undergraduate degree with a First, I swapped Oxford for Kabul where I worked for Turquoise Mountain, an organisation preserving and promoting traditional architecture and arts in Afghanistan. The first challenge was to adapt my Persian from a strong Tehran accent to the local Afghan dialect of Dari. The second, and greater, challenge was the project I was responsible for – the production and delivery of thousands of pieces of traditional Afghan art for a five-star hotel in Mecca. I spent a wonderful year in Kabul, even though it was unfortunately marred by a quickly deteriorating security situation once the US had announced the end of their combat mission in 2014.



Turquoise Mountain, Kabul

Since working in Kabul, alongside my studies, I've continued to use my knowledge of Dari to support and interpret for Afghans in Europe. I did two stints volunteering in the 'Jungle' in Calais, interpreting for medics, the first time, by chance, alongside two other OS.

More recently, following the Taliban resurgence, this meant volunteering with a local organisation in Oxford, Asylum Welcome, to help arrivals from Kabul begin their lives in the UK.



On the Camino

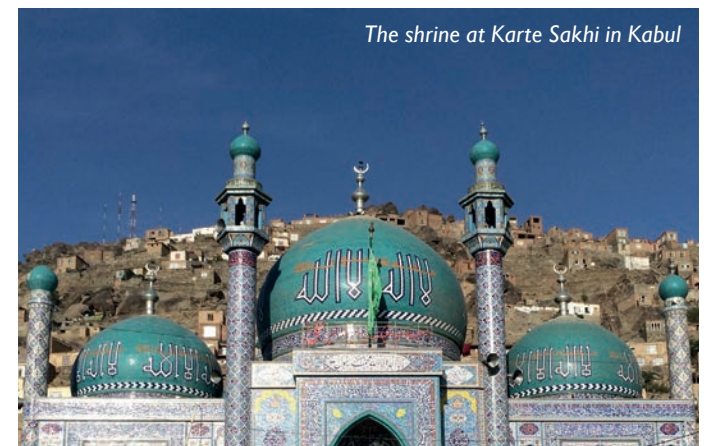
One of the most memorable trips for my DPhil was when my interest in shrines, and the pilgrimage practices associated with them, led me to walk the part of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela in Spring 2017. While there is not so much emphasis on the journey aspect of pilgrimage in Islamic traditions, until very recently pilgrims would have travelled overland by foot, donkey or camel. Walking the Camino alone gave me time to reflect on the concept of the pilgrim's journey, as well as my own. Shortly after this, and a couple of months spent on an archaeological dig in Azerbaijan over the summer, I moved to London for a year to take up a role at the Victoria and Albert Museum, working on the recent Epic Iran exhibition. I have continued to work with the V&A part-time as the course tutor on a very exciting lecture programme with explores the Arts of the Islamic World.

I currently write from the sandy shores of the Persian Gulf – the Arabian side, rather than the Iranian side, as travel to Iran is currently not very easy for British passport holders. In the opening poem of his *divan*, or collection of poems, the 14th-century poet Hafez writes: 'O Cupbearer, come, fill the cup and pass it round/ For love seemed easy at first, but then came the problems.' It is unfortunately undeniable that there are still difficulties in many of the countries that I have been fortunate enough to live and work in – those difficulties, of course, have far greater effect on those who are born there and live there permanently.



However, I would always emphasise that we must be careful not to define countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan as ones which are little more than sites of perpetual conflict. Their history, literatures, and artistic traditions demonstrate that.

Whether it's lecturing, writing, or something else, I'm not sure what I'll do once I've finished my DPhil, but it will certainly involve these places that I love, despite the challenges.



The shrine at Karte Sakhi in Kabul



# A FOUR-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE ALPS

BY JOE EVERATT OS 79



Oropa, the Basilica Antica



The Alps

It started with an article on the BBC webpage about how, unable to travel abroad this year, Italians are rediscovering their country's many hiking trails.

One of these is a route for pilgrims to the shrine of Oropa, one of the nine Sacri Monti in the Italian Alps.

A statue of the Virgin, said to be carved by St Luke, was brought from Jerusalem in the fourth century and installed in a niche in a rock there. A church was built around it in the Middle Ages, and several buildings were added in the 17th century. My dear wife and I set out on the Camino di Oropa this year to mark my 60th birthday.



Irrigation canals



Roppolo

The route starts at Santhià. We arrived there by train from Milan. Due to Covid, the lunch break and the language barrier, and also a certain lack of foresight, we could not obtain our credentials in the town; but we set off anyway, hoping to sort it out later, and left the town at half past two in the afternoon. After months of lockdown, and a day of travelling by air and train, it was exhilarating to be suddenly walking alone in the Italian countryside. The route was well marked: little stickers on lampposts, fenceposts, gateposts, and the backs of road signs told us which way to go. The path took us along gravel roads and around fields, a zigzag route between tall crops of maize and beside a rushing stream which turned out to be an irrigation canal. These canals accompanied us all afternoon, sometimes dry, but usually full of rapidly flowing water. It was hot, and we were glad to shelter in the shade of a poplar tree. We ate our sandwiches sitting on the parapet of a bridge that took a small irrigation canal over a big one. A harvester arrived, followed by three tractors and trailers, and began harvesting the maize crop in front of us. Immediately, all was noise and dust, and the sweet smell of freshly cut maize.

From a distance, the Milan-Turin motorway looked impassable, but our path led us to an abandoned tarmac road that took us up a slope and over the motorway by a flyover. The road was overgrown with grass and bushes; we had it eerily to ourselves, and hardly noticed the busy traffic passing below.

It seemed the dusty plain would go on for ever, but after rounding a line of trees we arrived at a hill, and there the route began to climb. We passed a plantation of kiwi fruit trees, occasional walnut trees lined the road, the crops of maize changed to pasture.

At Cavaglio we rested in a cafe until six o'clock and then set out again. The circuitous route climbed steadily through woods, until suddenly Roppolo came into view. With its castle on a hill, the town spreading out at its foot, and Lake Viverone beyond, it caught the evening sun in an extremely picturesque way.

Our hotel was comfortable, and rather plush. Before washing and changing for the 'pilgrims' supper', we went to have a look at the town. Wandering its narrow streets,



Magnano



Donato

we unexpectedly found the address where we were able to obtain our credentials, and so eventually we did. The route the next day skirted Lake Viverone. Clear but discreet signs led us along paths and byways. It was fortunate there were two of us, for one might have missed the small signs. By now we were walking between vineyards.

After a steep climb on a tarmac road up to the Sella Ridge, we stopped in a meadow for lunch, and headed for Magnano, a serene village of narrow streets, charming well-kept houses, and two Baroque churches, which hosts an early music festival.

From there, straight paths took us through woods of chestnut trees to the village of Torrazzo. The square in front of the church was full of children. We thought they might be able to help us find our bed and breakfast, and asked them: 'Dove Via Roma?' But none of them knew. A tiny boy with a serious expression pulled out his telephone and searched for it on the internet. Another boy with a bicycle pointed to a tourist map on the other side of the street and cried out: 'Mappa!' We looked, and then walked round to examine the street names. Naturally, we had been there all the time.

If Magnano was the cultural centre, Torrazzo was where local people go to play. Our bed and breakfast looked over a set of tennis courts, next to which was a bar with tables outside. This was where the older generation gathered. Some were playing darts; a table soccer game stood next to them. Many more were just talking: the conversation was very animated.

We had a three-course meal upstairs in the sports club, served by a smiling cook, who used

his telephone to translate for us. Apart from two Italian ladies, we were the only diners. Afterwards, we walked around the streets in the dark. The square was still full of children, some on scooters who sped right past us giggling.

Many of the houses seemed to be unoccupied. Some had signs up saying they were for sale. Our hosts told us that the village had a population of only 200. By the looks of it, most were children. We returned to our bed and breakfast, and could still see a row of teenagers sitting on the parapet in front of the church reading their telephones in the dark.

The morning was scintillating, with a heavy dew. It was Sunday. Our hosts had telephoned around, and found that we could make it for Mass in the next village if we arrived there by half-past ten. We walked briskly through pine and chestnut woods, overtook the two ladies we had seen the previous evening, and arrived shortly after ten.

Donato was a village on springs. Every village we passed through had a tap or a drinking fountain, but this was full of them. It was a spa town with a water-bottling plant, and it certainly had the atmosphere of a resort. After lunch in the cafe, we set off again and walked through chestnut and beech woods. We found a spring in a large and empty meadow, shimmering under the midday sun, with a plastic cup thoughtfully placed beside it.

Graglia, with its magnificent Baroque church, is another of the Sacri Monti in the Italian Alps. It perches high on a hill among beech trees. We stayed in a room on the second floor of the santuario which seemed to be suspended



Oropa, the Basilica Antica

in the air. A five-course supper was served in the refectory, where we recognised the two ladies from Torrazzo, and two others who had passed us that day.

The next morning we walked in silence, overawed by the woods, the views, and the peacefulness. It was mountain scenery: sinuous paths, stony ground, steep slopes, steps up, and steps down again. After the village of Sordevolo, the route became even tougher. There were abandoned farmhouses, with roofs made of huge stone slabs. The gradient was steep, the trees turned to birch, the forests were dark.

And then, after the toughest stretch of walking, we came to Oropa. We stepped out of the sombre woods into a huge car park. A collection of discarded sticks lying on the ground and leaning against a signpost told us that we were not the only ones to arrive on foot recently, but apart from the four Italian ladies, we had not met any other pilgrims. They arrived before us, but even they admitted it was difficult. All Italian hikers walked very briskly in the mountains.

After a day's rest, we spent two more days exploring. The mountains were crisscrossed by paths, indicated by signs, or just by faded marks daubed on stones. The landscape had changed from maize and vines to woods, and now it was bracken, heather and bilberries. On one hillside there were three herds of grazing cattle, with continuously tinkling bells.

The shrine was busy with visitors at first, but by our second day there were much fewer people, and in the evening a number of priests arrived. On our third day, we attended Mass early in the morning in the Basilica Antica, where the statue is usually kept. The rock was visible from the outside, running up half the exterior wall of the church, so that one seemed to be growing out of the other.

At ten to eight, there was already a group of people praying together. Due to Covid regulations, individuals were spread out around the church. When the prayers ended, about half of those present turned out to be priests and stepped forward to the altar. There were about a dozen concelebrants, and a similar number of people in the congregation. Mass was said by a young bishop, whom I had noticed the previous evening talking in the courtyard, although I had not realised he was a bishop.



He preached in Italian, but we recognised the words for ‘fraternity’, ‘charity’ and ‘love’. The service was both solemn and informal, what the early Church might have been like.

Oropa sits among trees at about 1,100 metres high. On our last afternoon, we walked above the tree line to 1,600 metres. Pope John Paul II, who was known for his love of mountains, also once took this path: it was easy to imagine him climbing nimbly among the rocks.

We left the main path, walked around the hillside to greener slopes, and came face to face with a deer drinking from a stream in a gully. After walking further around a herd of cows, we sat on a stone, and gazed at the foothills and the valley below baking in the afternoon sun.

At four o'clock we rose to leave, and as we picked our way across the grassy slope, retracing our steps past the cows, I saw the old, bearded farmer leaning on his stick and watching us, as he had watched us when we walked up there. I waved, and he waved back. It must be a lonely job all day there in the hills.

Our accommodation everywhere was very good; we booked it through the booking centre of Cammino di Oropa. One of the pleasantest experiences was the freedom of walking through the Italian countryside, after a long period of restrictions, during a gloriously warm September. It was a fitting way to mark such a milestone. We walked without maps in places we had never been to before, and yet, thanks to an invisible hand, we always knew where we were going.



## STONYHURST ASSOCIATION SODALITY CHAPEL KNEELERS

BY MICHAEL JOSEPH OS 59

On 13th October 2017, forty-five people gathered in the Sodality Chapel for a blessing, by Father John Twist SJ, of the first eight newly embroidered kneelers.

It had all begun eight years before in 2009 when the Stonyhurst Association agreed to commission new kneelers. They had funded the restoration of the chapel a few years earlier and this could be seen as a final embellishment.

The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts, (now called The Arts Society) Birmingham, has a group of volunteer sewers, they are led by Mary Price, who found a designer for us, Helen McCook, from the Royal School of Needlework

Helen and Mary visited the College where Jan Graffius introduced them to the Sodality Chapel and a collection of vestments and books of hours, which formed the basis for Helen's designs. (Helen also worked on the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress!)

Helen painted the designs for the twelve long kneelers to fit the choir style pews. She taught the Birmingham sewers five types of stitch to be used and in 2010 three more Lancashire groups of sewers joined; Ribble and Craven, South Lakes and Fylde.

The designs were painted on to canvas that is stretched on a long cradle, (see photo) This enables sewers to work on both sides of the canvas at the same time new bases were made and upholstery was carried out in Birmingham.

All the volunteers gave of their time freely and the complete kneelers can now be seen in the Sodality Chapel. John Browne, the Headmaster, thanked the sewers for this wonderful gift, reminding them that there was always the College Chapel and St Peter's should they wish to continue their embroideries! In his homily Fr John Twist SJ told us of Jacob's dream and the stone on which he rested his head. He said these kneelers are like the stone, they both remind us that this is the Lord's House.

Three further kneelers were installed in 2019 and now the twelve-year project is drawing to a close. The final ten-foot-long kneeler should be complete by Christmas 2021, with installation in the New Year. On your next visit to the College do have a look at them, all made possible by the Association.



## CREATED FOR A DEFINITE PURPOSE

BY PAUL CHITNIS OS 79, FOUNDER OF THE NEWMAN TRUST

If the definition of madness is doing the same thing more than once and expecting a different result, I'm in the stark raving category. Many friends told me so when I decided to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats – for a second time – with my daughter Marie-Therese. LEJOG I was in 1983, a few years after I had left the College. I was in my early twenties.



The aim was to raise money for the fledgling Newman Trust which I had set up in 1981. It was inspired by the holidays for children with disabilities organised each summer by Higher Line at the College.



The first Newman Trust holiday was held at St Bede's school in Staffordshire where the delightful Stafford Northcote family opened the doors of their home - and their generous hearts - to a group of young, noisy children and helpers. I cannot imagine what they thought when they saw a priest on an early holiday in drag dancing to "Like a virgin"!

Today the Trust runs seven holidays involving 150 children and 200 helpers each year. It costs £700 to take a child away with each holiday costing about £17,000 to run. OFSTED inspects the holidays and we have been graded "Outstanding" for at least eight years.



The Trust is run entirely by volunteers from all walks of life: policemen, teachers, doctors, nurses, students, lawyers, car salesmen, civil servants.

Sadly, the pandemic has led to the cancellation of most holidays over the last two years despite the need for the children and their carers to have a break being greater than ever. Furthermore, income has dried up over the last two years.

Which is why I decided to do LEJOG 2 – in my early sixties. You might think the memory of the cruel hills in Devon and Cornwall, the pain in surprising (and unsurprising) parts of the anatomy and the diet of Jelly Babies would be deterrent enough. As I say, quite mad!

The Trust was named after St John Henry Newman, a man associated with Birmingham where I lived. Newman's famous text: "God has created me for some definite purpose" speaks powerfully to the raison d'être of the Trust. The Newman Holiday Trust was created by young people for young people. It gives them responsibilities far above anything they will experience at work and, because of this, they learn that it is ALWAYS better to give than to receive.

The helpers learn that their laudable desire to serve the children is reversed. They discover it is the children with disabilities who help us because they throw new light on our perceived strengths and their perceived weaknesses.

To say the Newman Trust "changes lives" is no mere strapline – it is a fact. Innumerable lives have been changed because of these holidays: careers abandoned for another vocation, marriages made, fears confronted, talents uncovered.

There won't be a LEJOG 3 for me. However, I learnt something important on the ride.

There were many days on which I was not sure I would make it on my own. So, I found myself chatting to God, like St Ignatius encourages us to do, as one friend to another. I said: "I'm finding this very difficult and I won't make it without your help. So, if I keep turning the pedals as best I can, please help me along." And my prayer was answered - abundantly. It felt as if a hand on my back was gently pushing me along. Marie-Therese and I made it to John O'Groats in 15 days. We raised £19,000 including a wonderfully generous gift from one OS.

Our definite purpose was realised.

If you would like to support the work of the Newman Holiday Trust, please go to [www.newmantrust.org/donate](http://www.newmantrust.org/donate)





# CURATOR'S NEWS

## AN UPDATE FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY JOSEPH REED OS II, COLLEGE ARCHIVES MANAGER

No small corner of the world has escaped Covid's comprehensive impact. The Archives at Stonyhurst were considerably affected, and closure and furlough interrupted many plans and projects. However, the last 6 months have seen some significant 'leaps forward' for a number of aspects of our work, many of them new to the Archives.

First and foremost during this recent period has been the move of the Collections and Archives stores from the Old Ref, to make way for new spaces for Higher Line. While this has been a hugely challenging project to create a new temporary home for the Archives, the work has been hugely beneficial. A full list of the historic manuscripts in the Archives has been compiled for the first time since 1882. Undertaking the essential administrative tasks of such a move – listing contents, assessing the stability and conservation needs of the manuscripts before and after moving - has led to some truly remarkable discoveries.

Due to constraints of space here, only minimal details of these can be recorded. However, the most notable have included: a manuscript guide once belonging to Charles, Prince of Wales (later Charles I), which explained the new sundial in Whitehall Gardens constructed for him in 1623; - Appendix 1

A letter to Mary of Modena (wife of James VII/II) from the Duc de Villars, the senior general of Louis XIV's armies in Europe - Appendix 2

The earliest copy of a liturgical work by Catholic composer Thomas Arne (best known for his music for 'Rule Britannia' and the National Anthem) - Appendix 3

A supposed 11th century charter of William the Conqueror to Battle Abbey, forged by the monks of the Abbey in the 13th century to award themselves more rights and independence as a royal peculiar - Appendix 4

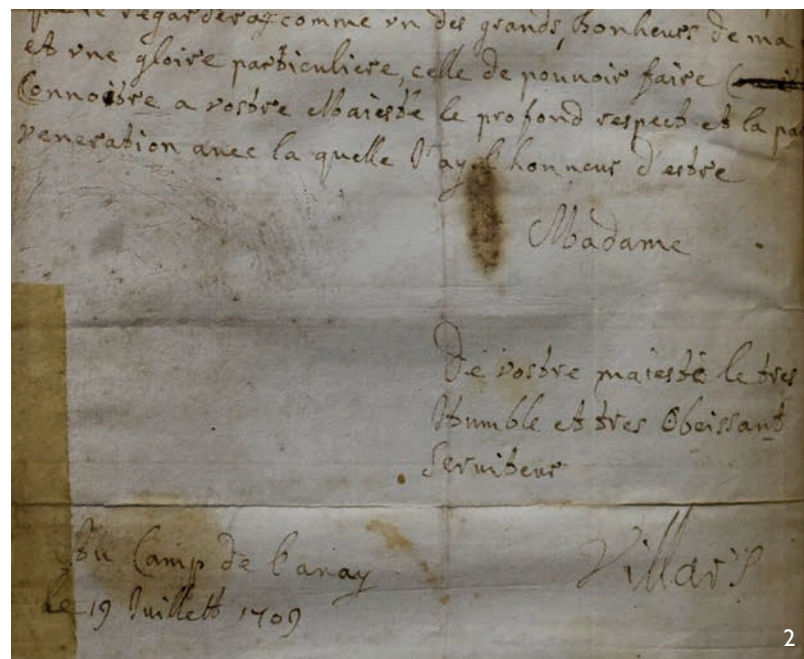
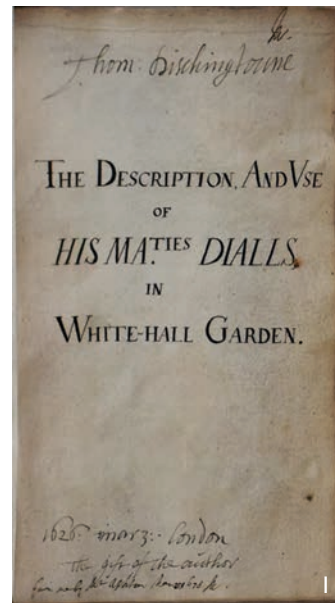
The work to list the historic manuscripts also facilitated some 'happy accidents.' The first item discovered in one early 18th century 'Arithmetica' manuscript, probably from St Omers, is a short mathematical text hypothesising 'How to Calculate the Credibility of Human Testimony.' Following a few brief discussions with the Director of International Baccalaureate (IB) at Stonyhurst, Debbie Kirkby, a lesson was put together using this 5-page manuscript to introduce the 'Theory of Knowledge' course. The course challenges pupils to explore epistemological questions, and forms a core part of the IB Diploma. From this initial project, exciting discussions are ongoing to explore more ways to utilise the experience of staff in the Archives, and the extraordinary materials held, to support a unique IB teaching and learning programme at Stonyhurst - Appendix 5

Another very significant project nearing completion has been the creation of a definitive list of former pupils of the College when at Liege (1773-1794). One of the Archives' undergraduate volunteers, Samuel Holden, currently in his third year in History at Lancaster, has spent over six months cross-referencing a number of account books and other records series to produce as accurate and comprehensive a list as is possible from surviving sources. Previously published lists of Liege pupils numbered fewer than 250 names, with this new list counting around 700. This is a major development in the research of the history of the College.

Website: [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)



Muniments



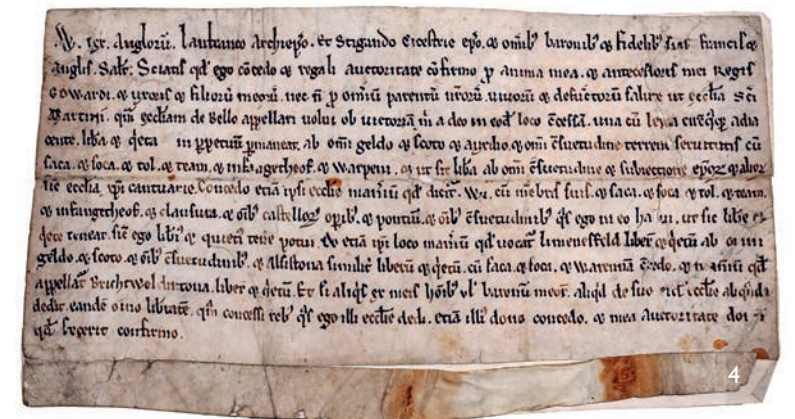
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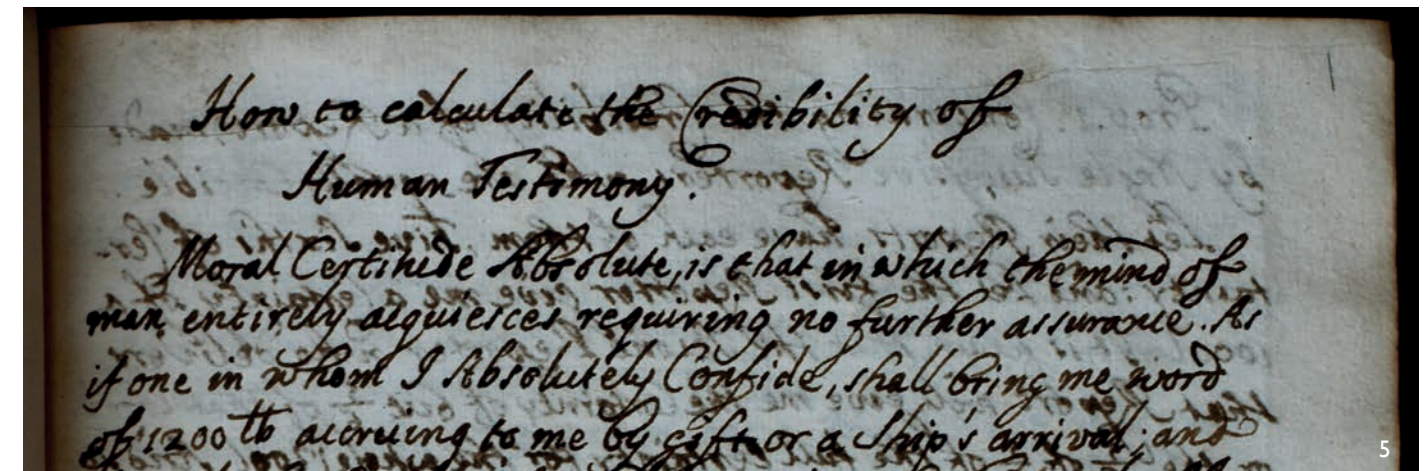
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The next stage for the Archives will be to accession 20th century records, and design and implement collecting procedures and retention schedules for the College's records from now on. No such methods have yet been established here in the modern era. Though not the most exciting aspect of an archive's work, it is the essential 'next step' for the continued preservation of the history of this nearly 430-year-old institution.

All images by permission of the Governors of Stonyhurst College



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## UPDATE FROM THE COLLECTIONS AND HISTORIC LIBRARIES

BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS, CURATOR

It has been a remarkably busy year in the life of the Collections, with many projects undertaken and challenges overcome. As Joe has mentioned in his article, a good chunk of the year was taken up with the short notice relocation of the Collections and Libraries store, into new premises in the Shireburn Quad. While the move was prompted for excellent reasons - the College roll for 2021 is the highest ever, and more space was needed for HL pupils – it most definitely concentrated the mind. Ensuring that the disparate elements of the Collections with their very different storage and conservation needs was catered for, that the necessary preparation work was done at high speed, and then the packing and relocation of everything from vestments to stuffed owls, from oil paintings to fossils, not to mention historic books and

the contents of the cupboard known as Hell...well, let's just say it was an interesting summer.

The constraints of Covid have forced all of us to think in different ways, and the ground-breaking Junior Curators education programme has forged a new path by going online. This has meant that it can be shared with a much wider audience, reaching schools and children unable to travel to the College.

Similarly, I have branched out into virtual exhibitions and, most recently, film-scripting – keep an eye open for the short film of the *Life of Helena Wintour*, which will be premiering on our new collaborative Jesuit Collections web platform.



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To coincide with my new Museum display featuring unsung recusant women and their heroic efforts in preserving, rescuing and commissioning Catholic works of art at risk of destruction during the Reformation and 17th century. The exhibition should be ready for Easter 2022, and it is to be hoped that it can be accessed during the Retreat.

More imminent is the new display telling the story of the College Collections, which will focus on the fabulous Henry VII Cloth of Gold Cope, on loan to Stonhurst from the British Jesuit Province, prior to its departure for a tour of the US. The new display will be set up in the Do Room in the new museum-grade secure display cases. It will, therefore, be available to all pupils and visitors, and it is to be hoped that it will provide new insights into the extraordinary range of objects, books and manuscripts we hold at Stonhurst. The Cope is the founding object of the College Collections: worn in 1609 at St Omers by a visiting Cardinal, it was described as a 'rich and rare memorial' of England's Catholic past. This description as a memorial object provides the basis for the Collections' claim to be the oldest museum in the English-speaking world. The exhibition will detail the scope of the Collections since 1609 and examine some of the startling stories behind the objects and their donors. The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated short history of the Collections – the first such telling of this extraordinary narrative.

Meanwhile the work of research, cataloguing, writing and conserving continues apace. I have just taken delivery of a brand-new bio-medical chest freezer, which, I must admit, I have coveted for ages. It freezes to minus 40C, which is a bit chillier than the average domestic freezer and is a lethal weapon in the management of moth infestation; a constant battle and scourge for curators. And so, every historic textile in the Collections, carefully protected and bagged in museum costume cases, will be deep frozen for 48 hours to ensure the annihilation of moth eggs and larvae. This process will take several months, as only a few vestments can be treated at one time.

Then it will be the turn of the natural history specimens. I have always wanted to freeze that Eagle Owl.



## REPORT ON EVENTS THIRST FRIDAYS

BY DOM HARTLEY OS 86, PRESIDENT OF THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION



Dom Hartley OS 86 and Julie Macfarlane OS 78  
Enjoying the festive spirit at a Thirst Friday gathering in York

The Association's Thirst Fridays have seen informal gatherings in local hostelrys across the country on the first Friday of each month. The idea has been very well received! We began in Brighton at the end of the summer, then hit the Antelope Arms in London a month later, before heading to Preston on a wet and windy evening in the autumn. At the time of writing we are planning on a night in York, at the Gillygate pub where there seems to be a good range of ages planning on kicking off the Christmas season. **David Chadwick OS 12**, a seminarian studying at Petergate House, York Oratory is coordinating the event. (Since writing we can confirm that a great night was had by all!)

The format for Thirst Fridays, wherever the venue, couldn't be simpler – turn up, get given a voucher to use at the bar and then enjoy a convivial

Website: [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

drink, or two with friends. No one really knows who is going to turn up, or how many of us and that's the beauty of it. Each time there are always one, or two who turn up who perhaps haven't connected with other OS for a long time.

That's what this is all about, informality is the name of the game. There are some who pop in on their way from work, while others make an evening of it, including the Chairman and President!

We'll be taking a pause in January as most people will be partied-out, but business should return to normal in early February before we have our big Association dinner on February 26th in London. I hope to greet as many of you there, for what is building up to be a wonderful evening. Do come!

## WEBINARS - TOWARDS A BETTER POLITICS

BY TIM LIVESEY OS 77



When I was starting my year as President of the Association I was looking for a project. I went to see Damian Howard SJ, the Jesuit Provincial, to talk about something related to the Jesuits' Apostolic Preferences, with their focus on justice issues, the environment, and young people, as well as the spiritual life. He took me a bit by surprise. 'Why don't you do something related to politics?'

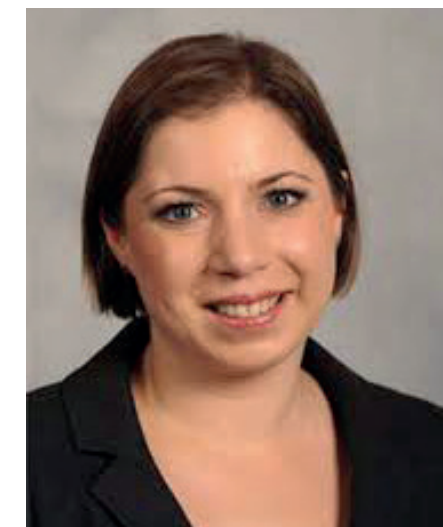
I think what he was suggesting was that, just as religion isn't only for priests and religious, politics isn't just for politicians. It should be part of a wider conversation. Why wasn't the Association, OS and the wider Jesuit alumni network, thinking about what we might have to offer? Pretty much everyone thinks our politics is broken. So, what are we going to do about that? What does the aspiration to be women and men for others mean when to applied to politics and public life?

After some delay because of Covid, and unable to meet in person, the idea of a webinar series was born. We called it *Towards a Better Politics* with an emphasis on the positive. The idea is simple: to invite people with insight to engage with Association members, and friends, to talk about what politics means to them, and what aspects of our politics they think could be done better.



First up was Pope Francis – well, Austen Ivereigh, talking about Pope Francis' sometimes trenchant views on what good politics looks like: laser like focus on the common good, with people – especially the poor – and the environment, right at the centre. The small book he co-wrote with Austen, *Let us Dream*, is startlingly relevant. Pope Francis has strong views and powerful insights. His discernment about politics, and economics, started when working with ordinary people, and especially the most disadvantaged, as a bishop in Buenos Aires. His is one of the most resonant voices in world politics. Which underlines the point Damian Howard made right at the start. Pope

Francis, through Austen, set the tone for our series. Ignatian discernment has a lot to offer, and we should all feel challenged, and encouraged, by the opportunity afforded us by our Jesuit education, to ask some tough some difficult questions.



Sarah Teather has been a professional politician – an MP for twelve years and a Minister for three. When I approached her, for reasons I completely understand, she did not want to talk about her experience as a politician. She has put all that behind her. But she was keen to talk about her current role as Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the UK. She wasn't short of things to say about current, and past, governments' refugee policies. It wasn't hard to see how for her, this new vocation has become what politics once was: a personal call to work to change the world for the better. This was people-centred-politics in action.



Which was also the subject of Angus Ritchie's talk. Over two decades Angus, an Anglican priest, has worked with hundreds of ordinary people in East London practising politics from the bottom up – people led politics – as exemplified by Citizens UK. People come together to discern what their community need from politicians, and work to make it happen. It begins with getting their voice heard. This is people politics, not populist politics. It's designed to change lives for the better, not to manipulate people's fears for electoral advantage.



Jon Tonge our fourth speaker, Professor of Politics at Liverpool University and a leading authority on Northern Ireland, treated us to a magisterial overview of the politics, parties, personalities, positives and current challenges Northern Ireland politics. He held his audience spell-bound, peeling back the layers of conflict, reconciliation, continuing and complex daily decision-making.



Our most recent speaker was **Simon Fell OS 99**, Conservative MP for Barrow and Furness in Cumbria. Why, you might ask, has it taken us so long to invite an actual MP? If politics isn't in the best shape, and needs to improve, practising politicians are one part of the solution, but only one. We are all in some small way political players. I'm writing this on Remembrance Sunday. Hundreds of thousands died in the last century to make sure we could enjoy the freedom to vote, to express our views, to come together to influence how we are governed. We shouldn't take the privilege of living in a democracy lightly. We all have a part to play, however minor – even if it's just exercising our right to vote.

So why not come along to the next webinar in our series? They are only an hour long, from 6 to 7 pm, mid-week: half an hour of expert input and then the chance to put forward your own questions, or reflections. *Towards a Better Politics* is a safe way to discuss, debate and learn more about politics. So, watch this space and think about joining the conversation with more top quality speakers in 2022.



# DEVELOPMENT AND FOUNDATION

We are pleased to share with you some of the fundraising appeals and initiatives completed by the Development and Stonyhurst Foundation Teams this term. We have worked to provide opportunities and facilities so that our pupils, at both Stonyhurst and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, are able to thrive and develop.

## THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION GRANTS £751,268 TO STONYHURST

In November, The Stonyhurst Foundation made an inaugural grant to Stonyhurst of £751,268 – an astonishing achievement. This grant will support 34 pupils at Stonyhurst and SMH. Annual Fund 2021/2022 – LAUNCHED

## ANNUAL FUND 2021/2022 LAUNCHED

The response by parents and OS to the 2021/2022 Annual Fund continues to be very generous and we are very grateful to have received the funding for a new state of the art cricket net system at SMH, which will allow year-round coaching sessions and provide a quality facility for superior technical development.

## A GOLF SIMULATOR

Golf is an increasingly popular sport and pastime amongst our pupils; however, the Ribble Valley weather often prevents play, therefore we are very keen to purchase a golf simulator enabling more boys and girls to enjoy golf at Stonyhurst whatever the weather!



## BENCHES FOR THE MEADOW GARDEN

Stonyhurst has recently rewilded the field behind the Jesuit Gardens as part of our commitment to Caring for Our Common Home. This space will be used for retreats, environmental learning activities and to take time for quiet reflection and contemplation. It will support our pupils' connection to their natural environment and further opportunity for environmental learning. We are seeking the funding for four wooden benches for the garden.



## MUSEUM CASE FOR THE HENRY VII COPE

The magnificent Henry VII Cope, on loan to the Stonyhurst Collections from the British Jesuit Province, is the foundation stone of the Collections, and the Cope is known to have been at St Omers as early as 1609. The Cope will be the centrepiece of a new display by the Collections, located in the Do Room, the heart of the school. Its display will demonstrate the breadth of the Collections and tell the stories associated with the growth of the museum, its key and unique role in the cultural, educational and spiritual life of the College since the 17th century, highlighting the importance of former donors and collectors.

If you would like to find out more about this year's Annual Fund projects, please visit the Stonyhurst Development website. If you would like to donate to the Annual Fund 2021/2022, please visit our JustGiving page.



## PODCAST

Cathie Butcher, Foundation Manager and Suzanne Wheeler, Head of Development, recorded a podcast with the CEO of IDPE so that fundraisers in other Independent Schools can hear what the Foundation does, and learn about its journey. The podcast is a great, short refresher on what the Foundation and the Stonyhurst Development Office have been doing during COVID and a summary of achievements to date.

Huge thank you to Cathie, Suzanne, Eva, and Lorna for their hard work, and to all staff who help the team in so many ways – Stonyhurst is the only school to receive this recognition so far this year. The podcast is available to listen to on The Stonyhurst Foundation website, here.



## THE CHAPEL ROYAL, HAMPTON COURT

On the 23rd August 2021, Stonyhurst was delighted to be part of the Choral Evening Prayer Service, in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court, on the occasion of the 'Gold and Glory' exhibition which was on display at Hampton Court Palace. Stonyhurst was honoured to be a major supporter of this extraordinary exhibition, lending the Henry VII Chasuble, among other artefacts. The Service was well attended by members of the Stonyhurst family, including OS, current and past parents, all of whom joined us after the Service for a drinks reception in Hampton Court.

Our pupils in the choir, as well as pupils from other British Jesuit schools, were treated to an in-depth educational visit to the exhibition, led by our Curator, Dr Jan Graffius FSA, before giving a beautiful choral performance in the Chapel. This special occasion was a combined effort between the Collections, the Music Department, the Development Team, The Stonyhurst Foundation, the British Jesuit Province and Hampton Court. Our thanks go to the team at Hampton Court, without whom this event would not have been possible.



## THOMAS WELD SOCIETY MASS OF THANKSGIVING

On 13th October, a Mass of Thanksgiving for members of the Thomas Weld Society and supporters of Stonyhurst and The Stonyhurst Foundation was organised. The Mass, which took place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, was concelebrated by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and Fr Nick King SJ and was well attended by members of the Stonyhurst family. Following Mass, guests were invited to a sparkling afternoon tea, providing the perfect opportunity for everyone to catch up with old friends and meet new.

Our thanks go to Fr Dominic SJ and Fr Nick King SJ OS 66, for a wonderful Service and to Catherine Crombie, Lay Chaplain at Stonyhurst College, for her assistance. This event was very popular and allowed Stonyhurst to thank all those who do so much to support the school.



## CRYPTOCURRENCY PRESENTATION

On the 5th November, staff and pupils were treated to a presentation by **Joey Garcia OS 97** on Cryptocurrency. Joey is considered to be one of the global pioneers for the regulation of the virtual currency and distributed ledger technology space. He was recognised by Chambers and Partners as one of the top 12 lawyers in the world in this space in the first Global ranking, as well as being a Band One Chambers Fintech ranked lawyer. He now acts as a Consultant for the United Nations in assessing a number of jurisdictions around the world on their approach to the regulation and use of developing blockchain technology. The talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Tim Hanley who helped organise this talk.



## OXFORD OS DINNER

100 years ago, on the 30th November 1921 an Oxford OS dinner was held at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford. Almost exactly 100 years later, at Campion Hall, Oxford, we held a similar dinner for OS who are currently studying or working at Oxford University and for members of the Campion Hall community. Prior to the dinner, Mark Thompson OS 75 and Patron of the Foundation, gave a talk on 'The Real Battle for Free Speech'. We were thrilled to be joined by members of the Campion Hall community and Oxford University, together with over 120 people watching the livestream. This included Rhetoricians and OS from across the UK and the globe, including Thailand, the USA and Newfoundland.



Mark Thompson Talk, Campion Hall



The lifting of COVID restrictions has allowed us to host a number of in person events both in the UK and overseas. In October, members of the Development and Admissions teams travelled to Dubai for the Anderson Education 'UK Boarding School Exhibition'. During the visit, we hosted a reception for our OS, past parents and prospective families. Everyone enjoyed an evening of recollections of times at Stonyhurst, friendships were renewed and new families looked forward to joining the Stonyhurst Family. After the challenges of last year, it was a pleasure to catch up with the Stonyhurst Community in person. However, following the success of our online receptions last year, we have continued and will continue to organise these for members of the Stonyhurst family around the world. On Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd December we held an online USA and Canada Reception and a Mexican Reception respectively. It was lovely to see so many members of the Stonyhurst community virtually joining us from their various locations. The evenings provided everyone with the opportunity to catch up and reminisce about their time at Stonyhurst.



### THE 'PASSING IT ON' APPEAL

A new pavilion for Smithfield in recognition of the contribution of the Gibraltarian OS and families to Stonyhurst life, and in particular to rugby at the College, the pavilion will be named 'The Gibraltar Pavilion'. Building will begin in the Easter Term and we look forward to this new and exciting Stonyhurst development. Stonyhurst is continuing to celebrate its Rugby Centenary, by reminiscing about past games, tournaments and achievements, as well as looking to the future and the many rugby-playing generations to come.



## ASSOCIATION SHOP

The Association sells a range of books, gifts and OS items. Please visit our website: <https://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk/shop/> to see the full range of items we have for sale and details of how to order online.



OS Girls' Silk Scarf  
£23.00



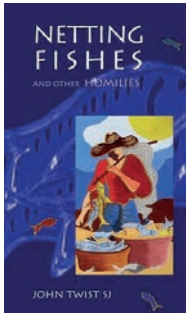
OS Knitted Silk Bow Tie  
£27.00



Association Silk Tie  
£27.00



Cufflinks  
Link £30



Netting Fishes  
£8.50



Notebook  
£18.95

## STONYHURST REUNION OS 1990

BY NEIL KAY OS 90



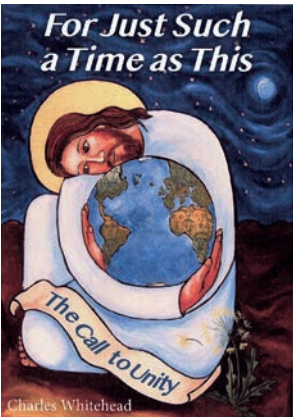
Back Row – Tim O'Brien, Paddy Baladi, Phil D'Souza, Iain Anderson, Liam O'Doherty, Will Mould, Neil Kay, Vince Gradillas, Jonty Warneken, Hugh Ottewell, James Cleary, Brendan Rouse, Hugh Elphick, Dom Hewson, Greg Tomlin, Dan Faillace, Ben Halligan, Charles Gracey, Olly Conway

Front Row – Ted Bell, Alistair Falzon, Makoto Takano, Huw Jones, Mr Charles Foulds, Mr David Rawkins, Paul Hayhurst, Tim Banks

Quant Je Puis, or rather, when it came to arranging the OS 90 Reunion, Quant Nous Puis. As it had to be arranged multiple times due to you know what. However, we prevailed and the reunion finally went ahead on the weekend of the 16th of October. And a grand affair it was too. For the early arrivals on Friday, there was afternoon drinking in the Bayley then an evening in Clitheroe. Saturday saw an early(ish) start for golf on the Stonyhurst course (immaculate), fell walking and then all to the Bayley for the afternoon, where we were joined by Professor Steve Grigg and David Ridout (neither of whom could make the evening) before a wonderful evening in the Christian Heritage Centre where we were joined by Messrs Charlie Foulds and David Rawkins. A fun time was had by all, or so they told me!

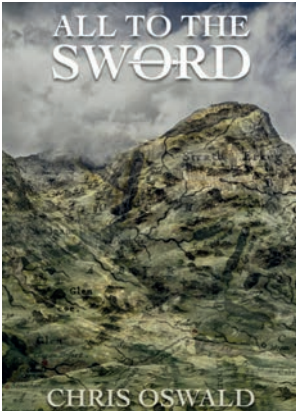
A special thank you goes to Beverley Sillitoe and all the team at the Association Office, and also Stefan Kaminski and Frances Ahearne at the Christian Heritage Centre for making it all possible and such a success.

## BOOKS – OF INTEREST TO OS



**For Just Such a Time as This**  
**Charles Whitehead**  
**OS 61**

One of the most encouraging things of today is that Christians everywhere are beginning to recognise their unity. It's God's call to his Church and each of us has a vital part to play in making it a reality. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church, has been irrevocably committed to working for unity with ever part of the body of Christ – Orthodox, Protestant, Pentecostal, and New Independent Churches. It is not a question of comprising deeply-held truths, but of understanding what each of us believes and grow in mutual trust, and respect and love as we build friendships and committed relationships under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



**All To The Sword**  
**Chris Oswald**  
**OS 79**

Thomas Davenport receives an invitation to design a magnificent new house. When his sister, Grace, Countess of Sherborne, hears it is deep in the Scottish Highlands, she decides the invitation should include the wider Davenport family. They depart in the summer of 1691, not realising that their travels will put them in the midst of the Glen Coe Massacre, one of the most horrific acts of a government against the people in British history. They flee desperately, while the forces of government flex their muscles and threaten their liberty, their lives.





# STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ Tel: 01254 827043  
email: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk) [www.association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

Location Filming on Cromwell's Bridge



LDS