

AMDG

STONYHURST association news



JANUARY 2023



'A Pot of Gold' by James Small OS 04

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STONYHURST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2023, AT STONYHURST,
GUEST OF HONOUR: LUCY HARDWICK OS 82

Last chance to purchase tickets for the dinner!



President: Dr Julie Macfarlane OS 78

Ticket prices include reception drinks, three-course dinner and coffee, table wine and a great band!

In order to make the Annual Dinner as accessible as possible to all OS, the Association is subsidising the cost of tickets. If you would like to help the work of the Association, helping us to maintain contact with and support our members, then we would be very grateful if you would do so by purchasing sponsored tickets at £125 each. This will help us to offer reduced-rate tickets to our young OS and encourage their attendance. However, there is no obligation to purchase these tickets and the standard price is £99. The reduced rate for OS aged 25 and under is £65.

Please ensure that you advise of any dietary requirements and food allergies when you complete the booking form. Please advise of any seating preference at the time of booking. Tables can accommodate up to 10 guests.

For further information please click [here](#)

To book please click [here](#)

Published by the
Stonyhurst Association
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Editor: Association Office

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Registered Charity Number 292122

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YOUR LEGACY THEIR FUTURE

Stonyhurst has benefited from legacies since its very earliest days. Each year legacies to Stonyhurst contribute a significant amount to our highest priorities, ensuring that what our donors were privileged to experience will continue to be passed on.

Leaving a gift in your will to Stonyhurst will make a life-changing difference to a pupil's Stonyhurst education, with no cost to you during your lifetime. Quite simply, your legacy could help shape their future.

Membership of the Thomas Weld Society is offered to those who have generously made a legacy gift to Stonyhurst, thus keeping up the connection with our first benefactor, Thomas Weld in 1794. We aim to hold a yearly lunch for members at Stonyhurst to thank them for their generosity and share memories with the Stonyhurst community.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift to Stonyhurst in your will, please do not hesitate to contact us:

E: development@stonyhurst.ac.uk T: 01254 827246



DIARY OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
11th February 2023	Second Saturday Walk	<p>The next Second Saturday walk in the series will assemble at 8.30am at the College swimming pool to depart at 8.45am and the walk will take around 90 minutes. At the end of the walk complimentary tea and coffee will be served in the Refectory. It would be very helpful if you could indicate that you plan to join us. Dogs are welcome on the walk, but not in the Refectory, however there is seating outside.</p> <p>We would welcome anyone volunteering to lead subsequent walks to continue this opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.</p>
18th February 2023	Association Annual Dinner at Stonyhurst	<p>Our next Annual Dinner takes place at the College. Dr Julie Macfarlane OS 78 is the President and Lucy Hardwick OS 82 will be the guest speaker.</p> <p>In order to make the Annual Dinner as accessible as possible to all OS, the Association is subsidising the cost of tickets. If you would like to help the work of the Association, helping us to maintain contact with and support our members, then we would be very grateful if you would do so by purchasing sponsored tickets at £125 each. This will help us to offer reduced-rate tickets to our young OS and encourage their attendance. However, there is no obligation to purchase these tickets and the standard price is £99. The reduced rate for OS aged 25 and under is £65. Ticket prices include reception drinks, three-course dinner and coffee, table wine and a great band!</p> <p>For further information regarding ticket and accommodation options, and to make your booking, please click the links below.</p> <p>Annual Dinner 2023 Booking Information Annual Dinner Booking Form</p>
11th March 2023	Second Saturday walk	Please see February walk for details.
6th – 9th April 2023	Holy Week Retreat	<p>As many of you may already know, Stonyhurst is delighted to host an annual Holy Week Retreat. Each year, families and friends of the wider Stonyhurst community join the Chaplaincy Team and guest Jesuit and lay speakers at Stonyhurst for a period of reflection over Easter.</p> <p>For further information and booking details please click here.</p>
22nd April 2023	OS 2010 Reunion	A reunion for Rhetoric 2010 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. A booking form will be available shortly, please refer to the Diary of Events on our website .
27th April 2023	Manchester Convivium	Stonyhurst pupils will perform at a musical recital at the Bechstein Centre, Tib Street, Manchester, at 6.00pm, followed by drinks and a get-together at Tib Street Tavern. It would be lovely to get a good turnout from our OS in the North West, as we have not had a do in Manchester for some years!
13th May 2023	Second Saturday Walk	Please see February walk for details.
24th May 2023	London Convivium during the Chelsea Flower Show	A convivium to be held in the Orangerie at The Chelsea Gardener, London SW3 6NR. All are warmly invited to attend this gathering during the week of the Chelsea Flower Show to enjoy drinks and light refreshments just a short walk away. A booking form will be available nearer the time.
3rd June 2023	Dermot Gogarty Memorial Cup Match	<p>This year the OS SMH v OS SJB rugby match will be played on Smithfield at Stonyhurst. As always, we are looking for players! If you are interested in playing, please contact Tim Hanley at t.hanley@stonyhurst.ac.uk</p> <p>There will be a hog roast and drinks after the match, spectators are welcome. Do come along and support!</p>

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
10th June 2023	Wanderers' Cricket v the College	This match will be played on the Oval at Stonyhurst. If you are interested in playing, please contact Freddie Timmins OS 13 at fredericktimmings97@outlook.com Spectators and picnics are welcome! We will provide light refreshments during the break.
1st July 2023	OS 2012 Reunion	A reunion for Rhetoric 2012 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. A booking form will be available shortly, please refer to the Diary of Events on our website .
18th July – 23rd July 2023	St Cuthbert's Way, A Walking Pilgrimage	We are planning a walking pilgrimage from Melrose to Lindisfarne. It is suitable for those used to walking, and for senior school age children, as some parts can be strenuous. We will arrange bed and breakfast accommodation and luggage transfers, and the walk will be led by Richard OS 88 and Emma Wotton. Further information will be available shortly. Please do contact the office as soon as possible if you are interested in joining so that we can get an idea of numbers.
21st July 2023 and 14th August 2023	OS Open Days at the College	We are planning two open days at the College this summer. An opportunity for OS and families to come along for a tour in the morning, including boarding areas where possible, followed by a light lunch in the Top Ref. We will also be able to offer a Museum tour in the afternoon, however there will be a ticket cost for that. You will also be able to wander around the grounds after lunch before departure. Further information and a registration form will be available on our website shortly. Please note that tours of the College will only be available on these dates during the summer holidays.
18th – 25th August 2023	Lourdes Pilgrimage	We are delighted to invite you to join the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes in August. This year will see a return to taking our Pilgrims who need assistance as we shall be organising a medically supported Pilgrimage once again after the enforced absence due to the pandemic. Once again, we shall be part of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage, joining with pilgrims from different dioceses across England, together with The Glanfield Children's Group. The booking forms are being prepared and will be available on our website shortly. There is also information about volunteering and joining as an assisted pilgrim on the Catholic Association website .
1st September 2023	Thirst Friday London, Richmond	Following the enjoyment of the gathering held last year we invite you once again to join us at Richmond Rugby Club, for a very informal Stonyhurst family social event starting at 6.30pm. The first drink is on us and there will be a complimentary barbecue. We would love to see you there, children are very welcome. Do join us for what should be a lovely end of summer get-together! Address: Richmond Athletic Ground, Twickenham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SF. A booking form will be available nearer the time.
23rd September 2023	OS 2013 Reunion	A reunion for Rhetoric 2013 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. A booking form will be available shortly, please refer to the Diary of Events on our website .
7th October 2023	Thomas Weld Society Lunch at the College	Membership of the Thomas Weld Society is offered to those who have generously made a legacy gift to Stonyhurst. We aim to hold an annual lunch at Stonyhurst to thank them for their generosity. This year, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving at 11.30am, followed by lunch in the Top Ref.
18th November 2023	OS 1983 Reunion	A reunion for Poetry 1983 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. A booking form will be available shortly, please refer to the Diary of Events on our website .
4th December 2023	Farm Street Carol Service, 7.00pm	Stonyhurst College Schola Petri will once again lead this Carol Service, which will be followed by drinks in the Church Hall. All members of the Stonyhurst community are warmly invited to attend.
7th December 2023	Association Carol Service, St Peter's Stonyhurst, 7.00pm	The College Choir will sing and pupils will take part in the readings at this Carol Service, followed by festive drinks in the Top Ref. All members of the Stonyhurst community are warmly invited to attend. Please feel welcome to attend either Carol Service – or both!

NEWS



James Small OS 04

James took this photograph from Whalley Nab just after dawn in late August last year. James has moved back to the area with his wife, Sarah, and their two children. He is a Consultant Anaesthetist at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust. During the pandemic and after the birth of his first child he developed a keen interest in Photography. He said: "On this morning as I threw the kids into the car, I glanced up to be met by this sight and it felt significant enough to run back to the house to grab the camera!" He named it 'A Pot of Gold'!



Gregory Irgin OS 96

Greg reports that: "After 11.5 years in the Sands (Jordan, UAE, Qatar, UAE) I relocated with my family to South Korea in May 2021, during the pandemic lockdown. The relocation had its challenges in this period but was made much easier thanks to a wonderful friend and fellow **OS 96, Joo Hyun Ahn**.

Now the lockdown has lifted and travel is much easier, Joo and I welcomed **Tapiwa Sikipa OS 96** to Seoul during his business trip there. We commented on how lucky we are to have our long-lasting friendships; reflecting on old memories and stories of our time at Stonyhurst tickles the soul!

Should you be interested in our professional journey:

Joo is Head of AI at listed public company XIILAB.

Tap is Head of Strategy and Sustainability at World Bank.

Greg is Global Head of Insurance at Samsung.

I thought the attached photo of Joo, Tap and I might grace the Association publication. 26 years later, the majority of the OS 96 Playroom remain firmly in touch and great friends. It's a wonderful gift in life, not least during such tumultuous times."



Eleanor Russell-Blackburn OS 12

Eleanor has worked in sales across various financial services over the past ten years and is now the Regional Broker Manager at Haydock Finance. She was recently named in the Leasing Foundation's 30 under 30 index. The index is an annual celebration of the most influential and highest achieving individuals in the asset finance industry.



Geoffrey Fielden OS 07

Geoff joined the Royal Engineers after Stonyhurst and trained as an electrician. After leaving the army he gained a position as a service engineer but decided this was not the career he wanted.

Geoff decided that he wanted to go to university and chose the University of Central Lancashire, to enable him to be near his family. Whilst studying for his degree he worked for Pleasington Golf Club doing maintenance work, and for Rochcare in a similar role. Covid made everything that much more difficult as there were no face-to-face lectures at the university for two years, which required some disciplined study! He gained a 2:1 BA Hons degree in History. Geoff also started Astley Football Club which has grown over the last few years. He is currently helping with youth recruitment at Chorley Rugby Club and is also currently undertaking interviews with the Environment Agency.



Jim Lee OS 80

Jim's father John wrote to us to let us know that Jim was the first member of their family to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers and maybe the first OS to do so in its long history. John remembered one of the dinners at Great Academies during Jim's time was lit entirely by candles courtesy of a parent Master of

the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers. John and his late wife Joan were regulars at Stonyhurst, Joan attending many of the retreats.

Jim is registered on Stonyhurst Link and would welcome any way in which he could assist fellow pupils, either in a career – he works in Lloyd's of London – or as an introduction to Livery Companies/the City. He says: "The Painter-Stainers is a particularly fine example of a Livery Company which has its roots firmly in the art world – being artists of all specialisms, decorative art and any association, for example industrial coatings. You do not have to have a direct connection with art (my degree is in biochemistry, and I work in insurance); it is more the philanthropic aims and conviviality that are important. We are particularly interested in helping the younger generation and seeking an improved affiliation with this age group; however, if any OS were interested in further information, they may contact me at oak15@icloud.com."

CONGRATULATIONS



Joseph Wells OS 19

Congratulations to Joseph who has recently been awarded a 1st Class Honours degree in Business Management BSc from Lancaster University. He is continuing to study International Business and Strategy MSc at Lancaster.



New Year's Honours List 2023

Congratulations to **Khashayar Sharifi OS 87**, who was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List 2023. (Brigadier (Retired)) Dr Khashi Sharifi CBE has recently been appointed as Bursar and CEO at Giggleswick School.

Congratulations to **James Ashworth OS 98** who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List 2023. James is currently Acting Colonel in the Yorkshire Regiment.

MARRIAGES



Callum James Chester OS 03 married Imogen Josephine Jones on Saturday 13th August 2022 at St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst.



Vanessa Vaghetti OS 10 and **Daniel Eastwood OS 08** married on the 24th of June 2022 in Pietrasanta, Italy. OS present were Vanessa's brother **Marco Vaghetti OS 03**, **Jessica Eastwood OS 13**, **Isabelle Eastwood OS 13**, **William Bell OS 15**, **Kate Bell OS 15**, **Stefano Bragagnini OS 10**, **James Fitton OS 10** and **Jonny Cuddy OS 10**.



Samantha Jayne Leach OS 09 married Sean Dainty on 13th August 2022, in Tuscany. OS in attendance were bridesmaids **Charlotte Leach, Katie Harrison** and **Lucy McFarlane**, all **OS 09**, and **Emma Leach OS 14**. Also present were **Harry Wells OS 14**, and **Charlotte Dugdale-Tonks OS 96**.



Timothy Smith OS 03 married Caroline Mitchell on 21st of August 2021.

BIRTHS



Stefano Ghirardi OS 07 and his wife Giulia are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Livia Keza on 24th June 2022, a sister for Oscar.



Timothy Smith OS 03 and his wife Caroline are pleased to announce the birth of their son Louis Alexander, born on the 11th of July 2022.

Francie Page OS 11 and Charlie are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Bridget Alwyn Scotcher on 4th December 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Summer 2022 edition of the newsletter.

Paul Bede Johnson	OS 1941 - 1946	Thomas Anthony Harrison	OS 1951 - 1960
Robert (Bob) Sanderson	Former Staff	Javier Fernandez Cueto	OS 1986 - 1987
Jay Gopal Chitnis	OS 1944 - 1950	Nicholas John Weeks	OS 1958 - 1963
Richard Christopher King Alcock	OS 1945 - 1950	John George Denis Marechal	OS 1943 - 1947
Matthew Dominic Leddy	OS 1974 - 1979	Anthony Francis John Barrow	OS 1945 - 1955
Philip Stephen Anderson	OS 1966 - 1972	Nicholas Anthony Maxwell-Lawford	OS 1943 - 1954
Jan Marian Chrobok	OS 1944 - 1947	Barry Scott McCombe	OS 1950 - 1959
Edward Malcolm Martindale	OS 1950 - 1959	Stephen Gosztony	OS 1975 - 1980
Kevin Fenwick Ludlow	OS 1951 - 1960	Peter Charles Alexander Tait	OS 1957 - 1967

May they rest in peace.

STONYHURST COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, FARM STREET, 5TH DECEMBER 2022



Over 200 members of the Stonyhurst community came together in London for the annual Stonyhurst Carol Service at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, celebrated by **Fr Nick King OS 66**. A quite remarkable turnout with OS spanning 75 years (OS 46 – OS 21 in attendance) celebrating together.

The church was filled with the dulcet tones of the Stonyhurst College Schola Petri with readings by Eugene Nealon (Stonyhurst Foundation

Trustee), **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**, **Michael Hurley OS 94**, **Edward Belderbos OS 16**, Nuala Mellows (Stonyhurst Governor) and John Browne (Headmaster). There followed an equally enjoyable drinks reception at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre.

The retiring collection in support of The Stonyhurst Foundation (Rhetoric – St Aloysius Bursary Fund) raised £843. Thank you to everyone who came to the service and all those who generously donated.

SECOND SATURDAY WALKS



A small but hardy gang of twelve, a combination of current parents and OS and their various dogs all met up under pretty fair skies for the October Second Saturday walk. Our route took us from the pool and down to the River Hodder via the 39 Steps, and then downstream to the Cromwell Bridge where we briefly paused for a photo. We then tracked back up Knowles Brow and along the public footpath that follows the Southern boundary of SMH and followed the footpath up to Hurst Green. Time



was against us once again, each other's company and conversations proving to be the pace setter and so we turned onto The Avenue and back to the New Refectory for a well-earned brew and biscuits.

The Second Saturday walks continue into 2023, meeting at 8.30am outside the College swimming pool. See the website for more information.

POETRY 72 REUNION

BY TERRY HOLT OS 72

What a great weekend we had at Stonyhurst to celebrate our 50 years. I want to thank you all for making such huge efforts to be there, particularly to Warren Fox from the US and Anthony Dawes from Chile. Extraordinary. And David Little, driving himself from and back to Poole. What a star. For those who were there, the supper on Friday night at The Aspinall with 16 of us, was great fun with Chris and Colette Watson, such special characters.

Some highlights of the weekend that we shared:

The walk to the Hodder Roughts on Saturday morning, in the sunshine and seeing Pendle at its best.

The excellent buffet lunch in the beautiful Stuart Parlour and hearing the Headmaster, John Browne, bring us up-to-date with Stonyhurst 2022, with 525 pupils in the school and 275 at St Mary's Hall. And Stonyhurst Penang!

The wonderful visit with Dr Jan Graffius to the Arundell Library, The Square Library and the Museum.

The Guided Tour with David Ridout to the Boys' Chapel, the Top Ref, The Galleries, The More Library, The War Memorial, The Academy Room, The Ambulacrum and the excellent New Refectory.

All pretty shipshape and very impressive. Stonyhurst is, after all, the oldest continuously active Jesuit School in the world.

The Dinner in the Top Ref and listening to **Julie Macfarlane OS 78**, the Stonyhurst Association President, and then hearing from our friend, Philip Anderson.

The remarkable experience of Martin Hothersall's wonderful videos and picture show. Michael Bossy, Michael Barrow and Melvyn Morrow, there with us, in October 2022, at Stonyhurst with loving memories and messages of goodwill.

The after-party at Theodore House, our excellent home for two days. What a facility. Photos on the screen we had never seen before,

stretching from 1960 onwards, of OS 67-72 growing up at Hodder, SMH and the College in classrooms, on rugby and cricket pitches, at pubs, on the athletics track. The length of hair! Mountaineering and potholing scenes with Fr Low and canoeing on fast-flowing rivers. Mowbray Berkeley. Skating on the lakes.

An awful lot of empty bottles. Happy reminiscences. Is it really 50 years?

Mass in St Peter's on Sunday morning. Gosh, how brilliantly Jesuits handle these things. Fr Tim Curtis hit all the right buttons and brought our journey, through the Gospel, into perspective. Singing hymns without an organ!

Goodbyes and then the drive home, down The Avenue and past the Lady Statue. Memories to ponder.

Finally, a massive thank you to Beverley Sillitoe from the Stonyhurst Association and her dedicated colleagues at the College for making it such a happy weekend.



Lower Grammar 3a 1967-68

L to R Back: Stratford Halliday, David Bruton, Gino Favretto, Terry Allen, Mark Brenninkmeyer, Kerran Coffey, Jeremy Floyd, Will Maloney, Tony Barry.

L to R Middle: Carlos Bernitt, Richard Graham, David Nicholson, Jonathan Muller, Jonathan Aird, Piers Eveleigh, Mike Kennedy, Taidh O'Malley, Charlie Blackwell, Robert George.

L to R Front: Edmund Godfrey, Simon Brady, Melvyn Morrow, Bill Bates, Martin Conry.



POETRY 82 REUNION

BY CHRIS THORPE OS 82

I organised our OS 82 25th anniversary reunion but sadly missed it due to being deployed to Afghanistan at short notice. Therefore, I was determined to make sure we had a 40th anniversary reunion and that I would be there. Organisation started in earnest in 2020 with a Covid-inspired Zoom meeting for OS 82 supported by the Association which was able to advertise it widely. From this grew the WhatsApp group and the ability to develop a reunion plan to suit as many as possible.

We finally came together at the College on 24th September 2022. As I walked towards Theodore House, where we were all to stay, I took one final look at the list of attendees, hoping that I would be able to recognise everyone and greet them by name. I have to admit that some of my schoolfriends were easier to recognise than others after 40 years but it wasn't long before the main topics of conversation for the whole weekend commenced: where we lived; how we had earned a living; what families we had; had anyone returned to the College since 1982; and, naturally for OS of our era, how many ferulas we had accumulated in our time.

From Theodore House we went to school reception to discover that security is taken a lot more seriously now; having collected our lanyards, we were escorted first to the Pieta

Gallery and then into the Stuart Parlour for a buffet lunch. Here we were greeted by the Headmaster with an outline of the College's continuing success and given the opportunity to learn about the Stonyhurst Foundation.

After lunch we enjoyed a tour of the school, enjoying familiar places like the College (Boys') Chapel, the Upper and Lower Galleries, our LG classes, the Academy Room (with memories of O Level exams) and the Music Basement. We also enjoyed seeing the refurbished More Library and the excellent Refectory, enjoying the fact that the 'New Ref' as we knew it is no more.

The later part of the afternoon was filled with activities familiar to all of us at the Bayley Arms before preparing for our formal dinner. This was held in the Top Ref (for some of us with memories of Scholarship examinations in May 1977). Aperitifs were followed by the 'class photo' and then an excellent dinner in a grand setting. We moved round after the main course to ensure we sat with different people during the evening and the Top Ref was filled with the sound of enthusiastic conversation and laughter. Escorted from the building after dinner, we retired to Theodore House for the rest of the evening with the remainder of the wine from the tables.

On Sunday morning we enjoyed a fine breakfast in Theodore House followed by gentle walks in the grounds, enjoying the spectacular and familiar views of the Ribble Valley. We could still see Pendle Hill so knew to expect rain. At 11am we filed into St Peter's for Sunday Mass with the school, looking forward to the hymns and, particularly, the Pater Noster. All went well until a fire alarm sounded at the start of the Eucharistic Prayer. Fr Tim continued gallantly on as the Headmaster ushered the school row by row out of the church. The OS 82 group was last to leave, valiantly trying to finish the Pater Noster before stepping outside. After only a minute or so, the all-clear was sounded and in we went, delighted that Mass recommenced with a reprise of the Pater Noster; the part we had most looked forward to.

Following coffee, we enjoyed a tour of the Museum before bidding each other farewell and committing ourselves to a less formal gathering in London later in the year and a promise to be back for our 50th anniversary in 2032.

I would like to record the sincere thanks of the 22 of us who were at the reunion. We had such a good time reconnecting, reminiscing and laughing about the past and finding out about our careers, families and successes over the



Rear L-R: James Rowley, David Lynch, Tony De Jaeger, Chris Atkin, Huw Williams, Richard Thorpe, Richard Weeks, Richard Williams, Damian Perry, Richard Coleman, Jonathan Hall, Tom Cahill, Chris Riley. Front L-R: Brendan Roche, Chris Thorpe, Trevor Fernandes, Alex Veys, Lawrence Leong, Michael Jackson, Eddy Newton, Angus Bruce. Joining on Sunday morning: Br John Bosco (Simon) Mills.

past 40 years. Some of us seemed to have had happier memories than others of our short few years at the College, but the fact that we were all there for the weekend speaks volumes for the fact that they were life-defining and particularly positive years, even if only in hindsight for a few.

We wish to thank everyone who made the event a success: the staff at Theodore House; the caterers at lunch and, particularly, the wonderful dinner; the Chaplaincy team for remembering us in the Bidding Prayers; and, of course, to the joker who set off the fire alarm so that we could have two goes

at the Pater Noster! But most of all, thank you to Beverley and Layla for their patience, organisational skills and for giving up so much of their weekend to ensure our successful reunion.

RHETORIC 11 REUNION

BY SYLVESTER DEJI BAMKOLE AND NERO OKWA OS II

Ever since we were at the College, we have talked about and imagined what it would be like having our 10-year OS reunion and it always felt far away. However, when the time of our reunion did come round, it unfortunately coincided with a global pandemic which meant that virtual reunions were the way to go. After many good years at the College and a turbulent couple of years with lockdowns et al, it felt underwhelming to settle for a virtual shindig, so we rallied the troops and took the initiative.

A London summer reunion was the first plan of action, to get the momentum going and

to also signal to the College that there was a good group of us who were eager to have a proper, in-person reunion. After multiple back and forths, planning and organising for our big weekend, the day finally arrived. It had rained all week in Clitheroe, but even the weather was on its best form for us that day!

We were greeted at the Glass Doors by Michael Hargreaves and Lorna Goggin, who escorted us to the Pieta Gallery where we were then warmly welcomed by Beverley Sillitoe and Layla Heaton, and a few more from the Playroom! We were overwhelmed

with nerves, excitement, and happiness to see so many old faces! Some older and balder than others!

The tour was a welcome trip down memory lane, as each room, each hallway transported us all to a special moment in time. It was also very interesting to see some new developments. The highlight of the tour was the visit to the Ambulacrum, which still smells the same. It's indescribable. I guess that's what cumulative years of OS perspiration does.

We proceeded to the Bayley Arms to whet our whistles before the 1st XV rugby game



against Ampleforth XV. We all walked back to Smithfield where we welcomed the 1st XV with raucous cheers! The game swiftly kicked off after a moment's silence as it was Remembrance Sunday weekend. We spent the entirety of the game with one eye fixated on the game, and the other on our group, while catching up, mingling, and pinching ourselves to confirm if this was all a dream!

With the game over (and a Stonyhurst win might I add) we proceeded to the Top Ref to enjoy a three-course dinner that the College catering team had prepared for us. We started off with a drinks reception, a group photograph and then we sat down for dinner. The catering team had meticulously planned and executed a lovely service, even with the complexity of preparing for several dietary requirements. The dinner was swiftly followed up by a glorious rendition of Frank Sinatra's 'New York, New York', by our very own Deputy Head Boy, Henry Taylor. A trip down memory lane swiftly followed with a 15-minute slideshow of photographs of our time at the College.

As you can imagine, the merriment carried on into the wee hours of the morning as we made our way to a now-refurbished Rendezvous nightclub, and onto other bars around the area. The details of our post-dinner celebrations

are worthy of another blog post in of itself, so we will save that for next time!

Punchy-eyed and groggy, we all made our way to St Peter's on Sunday morning for Remembrance Sunday Mass – this really was the icing on the cake. The closing hymn was 'I Vow to Thee my Country' and I'm still unclear if it was the drinks from the previous night, or if onions were being chopped nearby, but I can confirm that a few of us did get teary-eyed.

We had the Collections tour by one of our Playroom, Joe Reed, who is now the Archives Manager of the Stonyhurst Historic Collections, Archives and Museum. It was an incredibly eye-opening journey through the rich and proud history of Stonyhurst. We were all reminded that every single one of us is a part of the College's evolving history and the very fabric of the Jesuit faith interwoven with education. It is a history to be immensely proud of.

Shortly after the tour, everyone reluctantly bid farewell at the Glass Doors again, and before we had even departed, we were already missing each other. The only regret we all now have from the weekend is that it did not last longer!

The favourite thing about this reunion was that it took us back to a very special and simple

time. Despite everyone having spread out to all corners of the world, with their new families, careers, and everything that life has to offer, this reunion reaffirmed that we we're all cut from the same cloth and uniquely bound by bonds of family and friendship.

Stonyhurst's mission is to develop the full human potential of its pupils to live lives of faith and justice as citizens of the world. Looking back at the weekend, all the amazing people who were part of the celebrations (including those who were part of the Playroom but not there in person) and all the memories we walked through (and those we created) it's fair to say, Stonyhurst has done a brilliant job with our lot!

Special thanks again to the following: Beverley Sillitoe, Layla Heaton, Lorna Goggin, Eva Fortune, Michael Hargreaves, Mr Ridout, John Cartwright-Terry, Joe Reed, Michael Jackson and Fran Ahearne at Theodore House, and the catering teams at both the College and at Theodore House.

Quant Je Puis!

FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE

The Easter Term is always one of industry and focused preparation for public examinations. Syntax were into mock GCSE exams on almost the first day of term! For the school too we are expecting our regular Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) Educational Quality Inspection this term. These visits occur every seven years and this particular inspection is now overdue. Over the past year or so we have had successful inspections undertaken by ISI for a Material Change (an increase in pupil numbers), by our Diocese as a pilot for the new Catholic Framework Inspection and also by the International Baccalaureate for the five-yearly Programme Evaluation. It is a testament to teamwork across the campus that these have been successful and most importantly to our children, our young people, who provide the best evidence of how we are performing at Stonyhurst.

We look forward to a Visitation from our Jesuit Provincial, Fr Damian Howard SJ, to St Mary's Hall on Wednesday 1st February and to the College on Thursday 2nd February. This is always an opportunity to celebrate our Catholic life and mission as a Jesuit school.

The Feast of the Martyrs of St Omers is celebrated on Friday 10th February. This is a day of retreat. The Mass, to which parents and members of the Association are welcome (it will also be livestreamed), will be celebrated by Abbot Paul Gunter OSB, the Abbot of Douai Abbey. We are very excited that one of the speakers for the retreat will be Br Guy Consolmagno SJ who is the Director of the Vatican Observatory.

Some of you will be aware that Dr Nicholas Grigsby has been appointed as Head of Senior Schools at Haileybury School in Melbourne, Australia from the start of the Summer Term 2023. This is an exciting new role for Nick in the biggest independent school in Australia with some 3,500 pupils over five sites! Nick has made an enormous contribution to the experience of young people at Stonyhurst over the past five years and we wish him and his family well in this new adventure.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Alice McNeil as Senior Deputy Head. Alice is currently Academic Deputy Head at Worth School in West Sussex. Alice brings a wide range of skills and experience to Stonyhurst, having previously held posts with both academic and pastoral responsibilities as Director of Studies at Bedales School and Head of Christian Theology and Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Housemistress at Ampleforth. She holds an undergraduate degree in Russian and Philosophy, a Masters in Education and is hoping to complete her PhD from Cambridge next year. Alice is married with three children and we look forward to welcoming her and her family to Stonyhurst at the start of the Summer Term.

Dawn Lundergan joined the Stonyhurst team in November 2022 in a cross-campus role of Director of Stonyhurst Safeguarding. Dawn brings experience of Safeguarding from her role as Director of Safeguarding for Salford Diocese and previously as a Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) and is already providing invaluable support to our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) across Stonyhurst.

Simon Marsden has taken up a new role with Bury Grammar School as Chief Operating Officer and Steve Whitford has been appointed as Acting Bursar. We thank Simon for all that he has contributed to Stonyhurst in his time and wish him well in this new role.

Finally, if you follow our social media you will have seen that the official opening of our international school in Malaysia, Stonyhurst Penang, took place on 16th December 2022. Ultimately this will be a school of some 1,200 pupils. The Junior School is now full with over 300 pupils and the Senior School section will admit pupils from September 2023. The building is inspirational (even the door handles are in the shape of a St Omers Cross) and I am greatly looking forward to the exchange of educational ideas between the two schools over the coming years. St Mary's Hall and the Junior School in Penang are already starting to work together on projects.

www.stonyhurstpenang.edu.my



CURATOR'S NEWS

THE WATERTON COLLECTION AT STONYHURST

DR JAN GRAFFIUS

“Charles Waterton is well known as one of Britain’s great eccentrics. But he was more than that. He was one of the first people anywhere to recognise not only that the natural world was of great importance but that it needed protection as humanity made more and more demands on it. He created, after all, the first bird sanctuary in this country, if not in the world. It is very right and proper that his old school should honour him.”

Sir David Attenborough OM, CH.

Letter to Stonyhurst Curator, Jan Graffius, 2. 2. 2010

The unique collection of several hundred natural history specimens and ethnographic material known as the Waterton Collection, was put together by Charles Waterton during his lifetime.

Charles Waterton came to Stonyhurst College from 1796, aged eleven. Previous schools and tutors had completely failed to comprehend his passion for nature and imposed severe corporal punishment on this spirited young boy. On arriving at Stonyhurst, his Jesuit teachers quickly realised that he had a unique talent and struck a deal with the young Charles. He could spend half of his time rambling over the College’s extensive estate, which included farmland, moors, woodland and rivers, and half the time devoted to his studies. The compromise was very effective, and Charles Waterton left Stonyhurst at the age of eighteen with a deep devotion to his school and its teachers which never left him.

Once he was settled on his family estate at Wakefield in Yorkshire after his extensive travel in South America, he visited Stonyhurst every year and spent Christmas at the school. For the rest of his life, he wore an adapted version of his school uniform, and frequently voiced his deep gratitude for the imaginative and sensitive way in which his teachers had accommodated his passion for nature alongside his academic education.

During his famous ‘wanderings’ in Guyana in the early 19th century, Charles Waterton collected hundreds of animal specimens, and wrote many detailed descriptions of their habitat and activities. He was particularly fascinated with the effects of poisons and toxins on human and animal species and is credited with establishing the principles of modern anaesthesia, using muscle relaxants and artificial ventilation. He also established what is arguably the world’s first nature reserve on his return to England.



Waterton died in 1865, and in his will left his collection in trust for his grandson, Charlie, who attended Stonyhurst in 1874. In 1908, the College was approached by the Waterton family and asked if they would like the collection on loan. This loan was made an absolute gift in 1915, with Miss Monica Waterton writing: ‘I want to ask you if you will kindly accept it as a present for Stonyhurst, for I think there is no place more fitting for it, considering all that the Jesuits have done for me and mine.’

The deed of gift specified that it was given absolutely, to be regarded as part of the College’s Museum collections ‘so that the same shall continue to remain part of the exhibits in the Museum at Stonyhurst College... and shall not be parted with as long as such Museum is in existence.’

In July 1919 the Stonyhurst Waterton Room was created in what is now known as the Long Room, and there the collections remained until 1967 when, because of an expansion of pupil numbers, with resulting pressure of space, the decision was taken to offer the Waterton Collection on loan to Wakefield, as a suitable way of keeping the collection together in a context which respected Waterton’s family story.

The loan to Wakefield Museum was finally wound up in 2022, with the last, and most spectacular, artefacts returned just before Christmas. These included the famous ten-foot caiman, a huge boa constrictor, the Nondescript, a monkey modelled to resemble Martin Luther, and a beautiful narwhal tusk some eight feet high, amongst others. Unpacking and carrying out conservation checks on these fragile and still highly toxic specimens was something of a challenge.



There is a South American hummingbird named after Charles Waterton. It is called the long-tailed woodnymph hummingbird (*thalurania watertonii*), native to Guyana and is critically endangered. It is possible that a recently identified Waterton case of hummingbirds at Stonyhurst may provide one of the few known examples in existence.

In the 2015 encyclical *Laudato si’*, on the Care for our Common Home, Pope Francis wrote: ‘Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.’

Stonyhurst will host an online Climate Science conference in February 2023, focusing on the natural observations of Gerard Manley Hopkins and Charles Waterton. Organised by Rhetorician Cian, it will include a visit from the famous Vatican Astronomer, Br James Consolmagno SJ, and remote contributions from academics and experts worldwide. The proceedings will be streamed via the British Jesuit web platform.

In 2024 the Waterton Collection will form the nucleus of a permanent exhibition at Stonyhurst, showcasing the lessons which historical natural history collections can teach us, drawing on the wide resources of Stonyhurst’s astronomical and meteorological observatories and archives, Historic Libraries, manuscripts, artefacts and scientific collections.

But before then, selected highlights of the collection will feature prominently in the next Museum exhibition, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s *First Folio*, which will be open to the public



this summer. The exhibition will illuminate Shakespeare's plays through the use of artefacts. Unicorns, crocodiles, monkeys, and porcupines feature in his dramas. The mysterious and sinister caiman, though not strictly a crocodile will get an outing in the section on *Antony and Cleopatra* and may even upstage the fabulous *First Folio*:

LEPIDUS: What manner o' thing is your crocodile?

ANTONY: It is shaped, sir, like itself, and it is as broad as it hath breadth. It is just so high as it is and moves with its own organs. It lives by that which

nourisheth it, and the elements once out of it, it transmigrates.

LEPIDUS: What colour is it of?

ANTONY: Of its own colour, too.

LEPIDUS: 'Tis a strange serpent.

ANTONY: 'Tis so, and the tears of it are wet.

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

FROM ANTHONY MARTIN OS 76

At the personal invitation of Anglo-Belgian brewer **Anthony Martin OS 76**, a team of military veterans and serving personnel, led by professional archaeologists, have once again excavated at the site of Wellington's Field Hospital ("L'Hôpital des Anglais") on the world-famous battlefield of Waterloo in Belgium.

The charity Waterloo Uncovered has, for the third time, explored the farm buildings of Mont-Saint-Jean, where thousands of wounded soldiers received primitive first aid during the battle of 1815, which ended in the crushing defeat of Napoleon.

"Once the cannons opened fire, the farm buildings rapidly overflowed with the wounded. Mont-Saint-Jean became a place of suffering and endurance. As many as 6000 casualties passed through the place. Many men died there," says Professor Tony Pollard, lead Archaeologist for the project. "The site has never been excavated before. As an archaeologist this is a unique opportunity to look for evidence of the battle to save lives."

Waterloo Uncovered combines world-class archaeology with a programme of care and recovery. Many of the military personnel involved have experienced service-related wounds and injuries or suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Taking part on

the dig can help people rebuild health and confidence, learn new skills and interests and give them the chance to mix with people from a variety of backgrounds.

"It is thought-provoking and moving to be excavating on the site of the Field Hospital. Some of our team have themselves experienced battlefield first aid," says Mark Evans, Chief Executive of Waterloo Uncovered. "The men of 1815 would have hoped for very little. Many of those who survived returned to an uncertain future because of their injuries. The care and recovery process has changed so much today. Waterloo Uncovered plays its part by offering a nine-month programme of support. The dig is just the beginning."

The Waterloo Uncovered team comprises a mix of nationalities. Dutch military veterans will once again be working in the trenches this year, reflecting the important role played by the Duke of Wellington's Dutch allies during the battle.

"The Battle of Waterloo changed the face of Europe," says Colonel Ludy de Vos of the Dutch Veterans' Institute. "We're delighted for Dutch military personnel to be standing alongside British and international colleagues at a site so important to European history."

“Waterloo Uncovered has been excavating areas of the battlefield since 2015. In that time, they have made important new discoveries about the intense and bloody fighting and about the men who took part in the battle.

The dig in 2022 was once again made possible by the invitation of Anthony, who bought and completely renovated the listed buildings in time for the bicentenary of 2015. It now comprises a medical museum, working brewery and distillery and, since 2021, a completely new structure welcoming a new museum, interpretation and hospitality centre.”

The archaeological investigation exceeded expectations, and overall, 2022 must rank as one of the most successful seasons of work yet to be carried out by Waterloo Uncovered.

Metal detector surveys in the orchard at Mont-Saint-Jean have provided a tantalising picture of combat between Allied and French troops very close to the farm. The continuation of the survey into the field to the south, which slopes down from the ridge, has provided further evidence for this. Given the location of the farm it seems most likely that the French shot, some of which provides evidence, in the form of deformation, for being fired at close range (as opposed to dropping at the end of its range after being fired by troops a long distance away), resulted from cavalry actions. No further comment can be made on the nature of these actions until the shot has been more fully examined and the distribution patterns assessed. The cannonball has already been discussed at some length, but it does serve to remind that shot can arrive at its destination after missing the intended target, which might have been some distance away (in this case the Allied positions on the top of the ridge to the south).

The most striking archaeology was represented by the human remains, which on excavation were found to consist of three amputated legs, or parts thereof (the presence of an arm is also suggested by a single bone). Although the potential for the presence of amputated limbs was noted in the project design this was still a headline-making discovery, and the deposit represents a very rare example of amputated limbs archaeologically recovered from the site of a Napoleonic field hospital (at present the closest parallels seem to be from the American Civil War). There is clearly potential to learn more about the nature of the wounds and their treatment from these remains now that their removal to SPW’s laboratory has been completed. It is estimated that around 500 amputations were carried out on the day of the battle, with roughly 2000 resulting from the entire Waterloo campaign (Crumplin, 2015).

There was always a possibility that more human remains would be discovered nearby – but they had no idea of the significant discovery they were about to make upon their return to the farm in 2022. For the two-week duration of Waterloo Uncovered’s excavation, the team carefully exposed the majority of a skeleton. When they had to stop work, they were joined by other archaeologists who diligently continued working to excavate the skeleton and the surrounding bones, and they gained a clearer picture of what the trench in Mont-Saint-Jean contained. The fully articulated skeleton appears to be that of a young, probably male individual; possibly a soldier who died during or shortly after the Battle of Waterloo. No evidence of injury has yet been discovered on the bones, and no musket balls were found associated with the skeleton, so this individual’s cause of death remains unclear. Metal detectorists working closely with the archaeological team have thoroughly investigated the site of the bones, however no objects or signals were detected in the area of the skeleton, and nothing that could give a clue to this individual’s identity or cause of death was discovered.



The bones will now be sent to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels, where they will likely remain for the next year. Further analysis by specialists will provide a more definitive idea of the age and sex of the skeleton. The research continues.

For further information, please see:

waterloouncovered.com/wu22/skeleton-update/

Or contact Anthony Martin at: **anthony.r.martin@johnmartin.be**

A HOMILY FROM THE GROTTTO

23RD AUGUST 2022

FATHER NICK KING SJ OS 66



Forty-two years ago today (though I have to admit that I can't be absolutely sure of the precise date!) I was concelebrating Mass for the very first time here in this Grotto with this same Catholic Association, having been ordained just a few weeks earlier. When it came to Communion, I found it a very emotional experience, distributing the sacrament to the large number of assisted pilgrims, in voitures and stretchers and, in those days, just a few wheelchairs, most of whom I had known on all my previous trips here as a young Brancardier. Now here I was, back as a priest, and offering them a completely different kind of service; walking ahead of me was Denis Ireson, a senior Brancardier from Clifton, whom I had known ever since my first pilgrimage; he was asking them all: "*Fr King is coming round with the sacrament – would you like to receive Communion?*" I followed him round, the tears slightly welling up in my eyes, as he put the question to them; it meant a good deal to me, and, I know, a good deal to them. And all was going well, until he put the question: "*Fr King is coming round; would you like...*" to one whom I shall call Andy, a young man on our ward, whom we should nowadays describe as autistic. Andy's response echoed round the Grotto: "*No – tell him to...*" and I did not quite catch what he said next, I'm afraid. But any sense of high emotion immediately disappeared, in the sound of appreciative laughter, and my tears were forgotten.

Which takes us quite neatly to the pastoral theme for this year: "*go and tell the priests...*". Was this because Our Lady was very clerical-minded, that the priests must always be consulted (for that is clearly not what the Pope, for whom "clericalism" is the great enemy, is asking of us these days)? Was that the point of what she told Bernadette at

the 13th apparition on March 2nd 1858? Well, no; if you notice, it is Our Lady who is giving the orders round here, and she is using as her emissary plenipotentiary this young child, Bernadette Soubirous, who was perhaps the least important person in the whole of Lourdes, and who was so overwrought that she forgot the second part of what had been said, about building a chapel; and so she had to go back to Mgr Peyramale with her aunt. In fact, the priest forbade her to go to the Grotto and sent her packing. So the priests were not especially good at responding to Our Lady's instructions; but it was she, as we know, who eventually won out. Priests do not always win; but what they must always do is remember that their task is that of unfailing loving service.

This is what you might like to reflect on from today's readings; in the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel is railing, not for the first or the last time, against the "shepherds" of Israel, who may be either its kings or its priests. They are being roundly rebuked for their failure to give loving service to the scattered sheep; but the Lord God declares he is going to: "*feed [these beleaguered sheep] on the mountains of Israel; I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep and I myself will make them lie down.*" That is what the priests must learn to do, here in Lourdes, and everywhere else. That is what God does for us, of course, good shepherd as he is; and this is made abundantly clear in our beautiful Psalm 22, where the singer declares that the Lord, and not any ordinary and fallible mortal, is our shepherd, even when we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. It is that insight, and not the reliability of any human shepherd, that makes us sing that "*goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever*".

Then the gospel was the concluding verses of Matthew's gospel (28:16-20); you might like to notice just a few things about it:

- In the first place, there were just eleven of them; there should of course be twelve, but one has gone missing. The Church, you see, has always been broken, from its very beginning.
- Secondly, they went to "the mountain which Jesus had appointed", and that is precisely what we have done, coming here to Lourdes and to its Pyrenean mountains.
- Thirdly, like us, at times at any rate "they worshipped him" (a very important word in Matthew's gospel, and it is what we are supposed to do when we meet Jesus).
- Fourthly, just like us, and certainly like the Lourdes priests to whom Bernadette was sent, "they doubted".
- Fifthly, just like us, they are sent on mission, to "make disciples of all the nations".
- Finally, and again just like us, they are to remember that the Lord is "with us, down to the fulfilment of the age". That is Our Lady's message to us who come to Lourdes at this time: the Lord is always with us.

Then there is just one final thought. That young priest-brancardier whom I mentioned at the beginning has now spent a good many years during which he has frequently returned to Lourdes, and has been back to Lourdes more times than he can easily count. Now however he is back in a different guise, having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, as many of you know; and that is a very interesting change of status, with implications that are for the moment unforeseeable. You will, I know, keep him in your prayers; but be assured that this strange new state of being in no way undermines all that he has learnt and taught all down the years. Our Lady and her very remarkable young messenger are still telling those priests what they are to do. And this ageing priest will continue to try to obey the instructions that come from these ladies.

ASSOCIATION SHOP

The Association sells a range of books, gifts and OS items. Please visit our website:
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



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Stonyhurst Group in Lourdes 2022 – do join us in 2023!

