

AMDG

# STONYHURST association news



MARCH 2024



President Paul Chitnis OS 79 and his family at the Annual Dinner

# EDITOR'S NOTE

This edition reveals a series of 'firsts'; having been first female President of the Stonyhurst Association I have now accepted the mantle as its first female OS editor – with a little trepidation. Little did I expect that my recent retirement, after forty years in dentistry, would allow me to keep myself busy in this way; I will do my best!

Stonyhurst will also be welcoming its first female Chair of Governors, Christine Keunan, from September. She will follow the exemplary work at the helm, for six years, by **Anthony Chitnis OS 83**. We thank him for his support of the Association over those years as we offer Christine every good wish in her new role.

Our Association is so much more than a network of past pupils. It supports those principles instilled in us whilst at the College; to be 'men and women for others' through our living faith. This new role has provided me with so many examples of how OS are achieving this, as well as keeping everyone informed of their interesting accomplishments. Their diversity of occupations, reports on activities and their service to others is illuminating and uplifting.

This edition contains news of OS who have been fundraising for Cancer Research; the use of radio as a medium to share the Christian message; how an OS has used his engineering initiative to hold back the floods, as well as news about those achieving plaudits in their chosen field.

All for the greater glory of God.

That you choose to share this information means that we keep in touch and gain inspiration ourselves. I invite you to keep the information coming by writing to [j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

Please let the Association office know if you have changed your contact details, so that we can keep you up-to-date with what is happening both within the College and in our wider communities.

Write to: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

I finish with a 'Thought for the Day':

"If you live without making a difference, what difference does it make that you have lived?"

A small pebble dropped in a pond will still make ripples...



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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRENDAN ROCHE OS 82



Welcome to the spring edition of the Stonyhurst Association newsletter. I am immensely grateful to Julie Macfarlane for stepping into the breach and agreeing to put this edition together.

At the end of July Beverley Sillitoe is retiring after 23 years of devoted service to the Association. I cannot praise Beverley too highly for the calm, wise counsel she has given numerous Chairs and Presidents; for the warmth with which she has greeted our

members when they telephone the office or on return visits to the College; and for the efficient way she has organised our Annual Dinners, our several retreats, the walking pilgrimages to Rome, Santiago and on St Cuthbert's Way, the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and many convivia and reunions. We shall miss Beverley very much.

The departure of Beverley is inevitably a moment to reflect on the activities of the Association and its interaction with the College. Under the guidance of the Headmaster, the external facing aspects of the College have developed considerably. Whereas in the past former pupils, parents and staff would have dealt primarily with the Association, now you are as likely to hear from the Development Office, Stonyhurst Experience and/or the Stonyhurst Foundation. The primary purpose of these new departments is to support the College today and going forward. For example, the goal of the Foundation is to build up a

substantial fund from which it can award bursaries to enable students to attend the College.

The objectives of the Association, available on our website, overlap with this but stretch more widely: they are to unite and associate past and present pupils and friends of Stonyhurst in the carrying on, promotion, advancement or support of all or any one of the following charitable purposes that is to say the advancement of education and of the Roman Catholic religion, the relief of poverty, relief and prevention of sickness, disease and physical or mental disability, as the Committee shall from time to time in its absolute discretion think fit (please forgive the formal legal language).

In summary, the role of the Association is to promote among the wider Stonyhurst family the values that are and were taught at the College. Where our activities overlap with College departments, our aim is to work more closely and efficiently with those departments so that we get maximum value from our limited resources and, hopefully, so that you don't get confused or worn down by the communications you receive from Stonyhurst.

One matter that is currently being closely considered by the Committee is what more support we can give to our members who are suffering mental health difficulties as a result of stress arising from poor physical health or disability, unemployment, marriage breakdown or any other reason. For obvious reasons, these members are often hard to reach. Furthermore, we are very conscious that we are not a health agency and must not offer more than we can properly deliver. If you have any ideas on this or on any other aspect of the Association and its activities, you are warmly encouraged to pass them on to us at:

**[association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PAUL CHITNIS OS 79



Groucho Marx's comment that he would not belong to any club which would have him as a member came to mind when I was invited to become the President of the Stonyhurst Association. By the time you have finished reading this piece, you may wish I had taken Groucho at his word!

Taking up the role has enabled me to see the Association from a different perspective. It has reminded

me that our members are not just OS but includes their spouses and parents, past and current members of staff, and other friends – the Stonyhurst family.

The Association is, and should be, more outward-looking than a club, more attuned to the needs of its members and those of the wider world. This, after all, is our mission: to maintain contact with members, encourage them to develop their faith, to support Stonyhurst; and to assist those suffering in any way.

The Association continues to reflect the virtues which Stonyhurst represents, including a commitment to people who are sick or disabled or on the margins of society. Today, Jesuit schools, like Stonyhurst, express these virtues in the Jesuit Pupil profile.

The Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes has been the highlight of my Presidential year so far. In 1978 while still at the College, I accompanied Simon Andrews and his group of disabled children on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. It changed my life so much that my first job was working for that charity. I have travelled to Lourdes innumerable times with countless groups of disabled people for several years after that but, until last August, I had not visited for 38 years.

It was as life-affirming as my first visit had been life-changing. I regret not going with the Association sooner and would encourage younger OS (though age is not a bar to pilgrimage) to sign up. Miracles do happen in Lourdes but it's best to be there to experience its mystery.

The commitment to others as an ethos remains strong in another charity associated with the Association: The Newman Holiday Trust. Established in 1981, it continues to provide 7 holidays for disabled children around the UK including one at Stonyhurst. Many OS are involved at all levels and there are exciting plans to involve recent OS and students from Rhetoric in its work.

Building community is a key part of the Association's mission. The range and diversity of events which seek to do this is impressive. I greatly enjoyed the Thirst Friday at Richmond Rugby Club organised by Harry Dickinson who will succeed me as President in May 2024. In a world of digital communication where people can easily hide behind screens, it is so important to encourage face-to-face gatherings and the Association is well placed to do this.

Celebrating two carol services led by the Stonyhurst choir was a perfect preparation for Christmas. The first at the Jesuit church in Farm Street was attended by an impressive number of Association members. The Stonyhurst Schola Petri sang superbly. The second at St Peter's at Stonyhurst was smaller and attended by many people from the surrounding locality. It was a reminder that Stonyhurst is as integral to this community as it is to the College.

For many OS, an invisible bond seems to bind us together. It isn't simply that we went to the same school or that we are part of a centuries-old pedagogical tradition. We also view the world through a lens which tries to find God in all things.

This was unexpectedly brought home to me some years ago in South Sudan, then a war zone of immeasurable suffering. I went to highlight the humanitarian crisis and to offer some support. I was accompanied by a young photographer called **Tim Hetherington OS 89**. One uncharacteristically peaceful evening, we sat under the stars, a goat roasting on an open fire, talking about our lives back home. It emerged that we had both attended Stonyhurst. We shared experiences, some happy, others less so. In that moment, a connection was established which I believe helped us understand why we were there, at some risk to ourselves, and what we needed to do. Tragically, Tim was killed while covering a similar conflict in Libya in 2011 some years later.\*

The commitment of OS to work for a better world remains impressive. As I write, the Association Dinner is to be held at the De Vere Beaumont hotel in Berkshire looms. The speaker is **Dominika Lasota OS 20**, who has devoted her time since leaving the College to leading a movement of young climate change activists in Poland working to reduce global warming. I am certain that the eminent nineteenth-century conservationist, **Charles Waterton OS**, would approve.

The connection with Poland continues as on 29 February when **Jonathan Plowright OS 78**, described as one of UK's "finest living pianists", gives a concert in London. Jonathan has spent much of career championing neglected Polish music and a recital by him is always a special occasion. Jonathan and I have something in common: we both had the same piano teacher at school. That he should have gone onto become a world-renowned musician (and I...well, let's leave it there!) says more about God's sense of humour than our respective talents!


I am grateful to those who have supported me as your President during the last year, especially the Association Committee and my family. I also acknowledge the kindness of many Association members, especially OS, I have been fortunate to meet during the year.

Groucho would be nuts not to want to join a club like ours!

*\*Editor's note: a small exhibition devoted to the work of **Tim Hetherington OS 89** may be viewed as part of the museum tour at Stonyhurst.*

# DIARY OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
<b>28th – 31st March 2024</b>	<b>Stonyhurst Holy Week Retreat</b>	<p>A family retreat from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Please scan the QR code for more information.</p> 
<b>20th April 2024</b>	<b>OS 81 Reunion</b>	<p>A reunion for Poetry 1981 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. <a href="#">See our website for booking information.</a></p>
<b>6th July 2024</b>	<b>OS 73 Reunion</b>	<p>A reunion for Poetry 1973 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. <a href="#">See our website for booking information.</a></p>
<b>26th July 2024 and 12th August 2024</b>	<b>OS Open Days at the College</b>	<p>Following the success of the Open Days in 2023 we will be hosting two more Open Days this summer for OS and their families. These two dedicated days will provide an opportunity for you to join friends and other members of the Stonyhurst Family for staff led tours of the College and light lunch in the Top Ref.</p> <p>You will have the chance to reminisce about your time at school whilst visiting recently displayed and renovated rooms, including the Bayley Room, the Do Room, the Top Ref, and the Philosophers' Study – and the Old Ref, which has been renovated and is now our Higher Line Common Room. In the afternoon, you will have time to wander around the beautiful Stonyhurst grounds and Jesuit Gardens. These Open Days are free, however, there are limited places per day and for catering purposes we require registration and dietary requirements. Booking information will be available in the spring.</p> <p>The Stonyhurst Museum and Historic Libraries will be open on these two dates, with displays including Shakespeare's First Folio, Dürer prints and books dating from 1471, including first editions of authors such as Charles Dickens, C. S. Lewis and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Please note that there is a ticket price for access to these spaces, and pre-booking is required. Booking information will be available in the spring.</p>
<b>23rd – 30th August 2024</b>	<b>Lourdes Pilgrimage</b>	<p>The date for 2024 is confirmed. Further details and booking forms will be available shortly. Do think about joining us! Anyone considering volunteering with the CA on our 2024 pilgrimage to Lourdes, as a helper, nurse or doctor can register their interest in advance of the application forms being available. This helps us get an indication of numbers, please go to: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/233445866025358">https://form.jotform.com/233445866025358</a> or visit our <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<b>21st September 2024</b>	<b>OS 74 Reunion</b>	<p><a href="#">See our website for booking information.</a></p>

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
12th October 2024	OS 14 Reunion	<a href="#">See our website for booking information.</a>
7th - 10th November 2024	Ignatian Retreat at Theodore House, Stonyhurst	OS, parents and former parents are warmly invited to the sixth Stonyhurst Association retreat, exploring the life and works of St Ignatius of Loyola. This will be a three-night residential retreat and booking information will be on the website shortly.
16th November 2024	OS 84 Reunion	<a href="#">See our website for booking information.</a>
2nd December 2024	Stonyhurst Carol Service	Stonyhurst Carol Service at Farm Street Church, London.
5th December 2024	Association Carol Service	Association Carol Service in St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst.

Please visit our Association website at: [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk) for up-to-date information and booking forms, or scan the QR code:



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR STONYHURST LINK?

Our own networking platform that helps you to reconnect with other OS and members of the Stonyhurst family, see news of events, develop your professional network and help younger OS to seek university and work mentors.

Explore here: [www.stonyhurstlink.com](http://www.stonyhurstlink.com) or scan the QR code.



# NEWS



## Patrick Clews OS 76

About 20 old boys from 4 English schools (Stonyhurst, Downside, Worth and Ampleforth) gathered for an Annual Dinner at the British Club in Bangkok on 15 November 2023 as guests of Mark Price (who attended Downside).

The attendees, mostly from Downside, included 3 OS, from left to right **Edward J Ryan (Jack) OS 87**, General Manager for Fosroc (Thailand) Ltd, **James Valdez-Scott OS 97**, housemaster at Bosgrove International School and **Patrick Clews OS 76**, consultant geologist for PTTEP.

It was a very congenial evening with drinks in the bar followed by an excellent à la carte dinner and then more drinks and cigars on the patio.

## Charlotte Leach OS 09

Charlotte has recently launched a consultancy business, providing political and communications advice to the private sector. Charlotte informs us that she is an experienced communications professional with a decade's experience in public affairs, policy, local government and public engagement. She spent eight years as a local councillor both in Lancashire and Cheshire and worked in Parliament for two MPs.

Since leaving Parliament, she has worked for some of the country's leading companies both in-house and at agency and has significant expertise across multiple sectors including housing, infrastructure, renewables, regeneration, retail and leisure. We wish her every success in her new venture.

To get in touch with Charlotte, you can contact her via her website on [www.cleachcomms.co.uk](http://www.cleachcomms.co.uk)



(L-R): John Mulholland OS 71, Bernard Moroney OS 71, David Clews, Philip Frank OS 71, and John O'Driscoll OS 71.

## OS 71

David Clews, former Head of Mathematics at Stonyhurst during the 60s and 70s, ran the 1st XV for a number of years in conjunction with Dick Greenwood. On 15 November, 4 members of his 1970-71 1st XV took David, now 94 years old, out to lunch at Mitton Hall.



## Jensen So OS 08

A career in medicine is not enough to keep Jensen busy. He is now working as a part-time fashion model, alongside his medical work, in Hong Kong. He says: 'I was invited to participate in the largest modelling event in Asia last year in November. It was Asia Model Festival held in Seoul, Korea, and I was representing Hong Kong as the Champion of Face of Hong Kong 2023.' Good luck, Jensen!





### OS 62-63 reunion, London

A gathering of ten OS was arranged on 20 February this year at the Sherlock Holmes Pub, St James's, London, under the watchful gaze of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, along with a framed photograph of his Alma Mater at his side.

(L-R standing) **David da Cunha OS 63, Peter Horgan OS 62, Raymond Low OS 62, Roger Austin OS 62, Fr Roderick Strange OS 63, Andrew Carrington OS 63, Anthony Summers OS 63, Christopher Flint OS 62.** (L-R seated) **Ian Southward OS 63, Christopher Ryan OS 62.**



**Br David Chadwick, C.O. OS 12** was ordained Deacon at the hands of Terence Patrick Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough, on Saturday, 17 February at 12 noon. The Mass of Ordination took place at The Oratory church of Saint Wilfrid, York Oratory, Duncombe Place, York, YO17EF. Ordination to the priesthood will take place in the near future, on a date yet to be confirmed.

David says: "I am very much looking forward to this exciting ministry, not to mention a number of OS weddings already in the diary!"



# CONGRATULATIONS



## Martin Flint OS 62

Congratulations to Martin who celebrated his 80th birthday in August 2023.

Martin celebrated with a champagne drinks party at his home in Putney, attended by over one hundred former work colleagues, family and golfing pals. Martin is an enthusiastic member of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club. He is seen here with his wife Venetia.



## Nick Cheuk OS 07

Congratulations to Nick who, on 25 November 2023 was awarded the Golden Horse Award, in Taiwan, for best new director for his movie *Time Still Turns the Pages*.

After leaving Stonyhurst, Nick studied film art in City University of Hong Kong, and worked as a screenwriter after graduation. This is his first time contributing to the film industry as a director.

His film tells the story of a schoolteacher who re-lives painful childhood memories after discovering worrying information about an at-risk student. It aims to reflect mental health problems especially in young people. The story was inspired after Nick himself experienced the loss of a friend who committed suicide.

Nick has recently been nominated for the Hong Kong Film Awards for "Best New Director", "Best Director" and "Best Montage". Nick would like to thank Stonyhurst, and specially Mr Eachus who taught him A Level Design & Technology, for contributing to his success.



## Richard Brumby

Congratulations to Richard who was awarded the Champion medal at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Street, London on 27th January 2024, by Provincial Superior Fr Peter Gallagher SJ.

His citation recognises *'with gratitude his decades of selfless service to the Province on the Investment Committee and his invaluable support to Stonyhurst College and their Lourdes Pilgrimage'*.

Richard is seen in the photograph with his wife, Gay, pictured with his son **Gerard OS 95** and other Brumby family members and friends at the award ceremony.

## Warren Fox OS 71

After 46 years in aviation, Warren retired his wings on January 7 2024.

He writes: 'Hard to believe that 46 years have passed. My aviation career began in 1977 as a young 23-year-old 2nd Lt in the US Marine Corps starting flight training in Pensacola, Florida. For the next 17 of my 30 years in the Marines, I flew light attack helicopters, deploying all over the US, Far East and Middle East. For the final 13 years I was one of the luckier senior officers who managed to continue to fly (not just a desk), this time flying the business jets that the military has for special purposes.

After my military time I entered the civilian corporate flying world. Most of that time was with NetJets Aviation. However, thanks to the poor economy from 2010-14, I was one of many who were furloughed and looking for other flying opportunities. Interesting times but I did find a home during those 4 years as a contract pilot. A good part of that period saw me back in Iraq and Afghanistan, flying some of the most challenging missions in the world of Intel, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. Electronic warfare was another flying mission I discovered, working with the US Navy and Marine Corps, supporting the major workups for the Carrier Task Forces before they deployed from the US.

However, once the economy turned around, I was back with NetJets for the final 10 years until my age caught up with me and it was time to make that final landing. I'm privileged, and at times amazed, to have had such a full career flying around the globe, in both peace and war.'

Warren recalls: "I think it was in my Grammar year, while in Mr Morrow's English class. He caught me daydreaming, looking out of the window, and told me to get my head out of the clouds and pay attention. I never imagined I would spend a good part of my life in and out of the clouds."

Congratulations to Warren on a long and fascinating career.



## MARRIAGES



**Ethan Carroll OS 14**, and **Emma Dean OS 14**, were married on 8 April 2023.

They are to be known as Mr and Mrs Dean.

OS present were Ethan's brothers **Elias Carroll OS 22** and **Francis Carroll OS 09**, **Ivo Carre OS 14**, **Nick Melchiorre OS 14**, Ethan's sister **Amelia Barton (née Carroll) OS 12**, **Kit Nealon OS 14**, **Madeleine O'Dwyer OS 14**, **Charlotte Duckworth OS 14**, **Lucie Lloyd OS 14**, **Harriet Shepherd OS 14**, **Joe Furey OS 14**, **Thomas Bannigan OS 14**, **Anastasia Laking OS 14**, **Harriet Grout-Smith OS 14**, **Ellen McCormack OS 14**, **Daisy Chitnis OS 14**, **Chidi Kazie OS 14**, **Owen Davies OS 14**, **Ellie Walsh (née Butschok-Brain) OS 14**, **Thomas Baker OS 14**, **Daniel Fitzgerald OS 14**, **Harrison Walsh OS 13**, **Harriet Lloyd OS 16**, **Patrick Porter OS 15**, **Lucy Metcalf OS 23**.

Can you spot the twenty-seven OS amongst the guests in this fun photo?



**Freddie Eaves OS 08** married Gini Newton on 7 July 2023 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London. There were 23 OS guests including Freddie's brother, **William Eaves OS 10** and his best man, **Patrick Clancy OS 08**.



**Rollie Sebastian Attard OS 06** married Agatha Sutcliffe in the Santa Gertrudis Catholic Church, Ibiza, on 16 September 2023.

Other OS present included **Maximillian Attard OS 08**, **Mark Richardson OS 06**, **Serena Marchetta OS 06**, **Felicity Thompson OS 06**, and **Miles Sharples OS 06**.





**Patrick Kennedy OS 04**, married Portia Hughes on 17 December 2022 at St Peter's Stonyhurst, and they have recently celebrated their first anniversary.

OS present were: **Paddy Hall OS 04, Michael Hall OS 02, Dom Copping OS 03, Paddy Reilly OS 03, Sean Kennedy OS 03, James Kennedy OS 07, Matthew Hicks OS 04, and Chris Moss OS 04.**

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## BIRTHS

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Congratulations to **Samantha Dainty (née Leach) OS 09**, and her husband Sean who welcomed their daughter Flynn Alexandra Dainty on 1 September 2023.

Congratulations to **Charly Rochford (née Redmond) OS 13**, and her husband John, who are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Niamh Frances Rochford on 18 December 2023.





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## IN MEMORIAM

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News of the deaths of the following have been received since the October 2023 edition of the newsletter.

Alan O'Hea	OS 1939 - 1944	David James Campbell Meehan	OS 1951 - 1956
Robert Anthony Lo	OS 1966 - 1969	Peter Harrison Black	OS 1953 - 1958
John Desmond Charles Kelly	OS 1940 - 1947	Peter Valentine Mitchell	OS 1956 - 1965
Michael Alexander Muirhead	OS 1960 - 1967	Stephen Peter Hamill	OS 1969 - 1980

May they rest in peace.

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## BROADCASTING ON RADIO MARIA

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BY TOBY LEES OP OS 99

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'We always said you had a face for radio, Lees!' That was the reaction when I told friends that I had been appointed Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Running a radio station was not something I ever expected to do. However, whilst working as a hospital chaplain during COVID-19, I had been asked to present a 30-minute weekly slot looking at faith and culture, which then led to an additional monthly 60-minute slot on sports and faith, and a year later to a request to my Provincial that I take on role of Priest Director.

Radio Maria is only four and a half years old in England but is one of a family of 84 stations all around the world, having begun in Italy as a parish radio in the 1980s. The broadcasting is roughly split into thirds: live prayer and liturgies; faith formation; and general human interest. That latter category has recently seen features on topics as diverse as hunting and foraging; the art of making coffee; the neurobiology of broken relationships; and long-distance pilgrimages. OS with interesting pastimes and passions, please do get in touch!

Two features of the radio are particularly precious to me. Firstly, we have no advertising. Your attention is not sold for the sake of stoking your desire to buy things. This makes us a rare place of sanctuary, but also reliant upon the generosity of donors. For that reason, not only are interesting OS invited to get in touch, but also anyone who might be able to help financially in any way. The widow's mite and the gift of the rich young man (or woman) – this time not wanting to walk away sad – are both welcome.

Secondly, the station being truly Catholic is part of a necessary rebuilding of a culture that nourishes, one which helps us raise hearts and minds to the transcendent. It offers better vision of what it is to be human than much of our media; a liberation from a cult of youth, looks, gossip, clickbait, cancelling, and celebrity. When Handel's Messiah was first performed, a nobleman hailed the work as 'a noble entertainment'. Handel replied: 'My Lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them:



I wished to make them better'. Catholics have always been 'both/and' people and not just in a 'Red or white wine, sir?' 'Both, please!' sort of way. Our cultural spaces can entertain and enrich at the same time. Radio Maria is a part of that work. Do get in touch and play a part.

*Fr Toby offers a short reflection daily Mon-Fri at 1.15pm. You can listen to Radio Maria England via [radiomariaengland.uk](http://radiomariaengland.uk); on the Radio Maria Play app; by asking your smart speaker to play, 'Radio Maria England'; and on DAB digital radio in London, Cambridge, Bristol, and South Birmingham. The podcast channel is also available on most platforms.*

You can contact Fr Toby on [director@radiomariaengland.uk](mailto:director@radiomariaengland.uk)

# MAKING SPORT SAFER

BY BARRY O'DRISCOLL OS 60



*'I warned about brain injury – now I have dementia.'*

Dr Barry O'Driscoll, part of a legendary Irish rugby family, has devoted much of his life's work to making the sport safer and, in an interview with Owen Slot of *The Times* in August 2023, he related that he had cautioned the game's governing body more than a decade ago.

This is a necessarily short extract from that article.

*'In the long and troubled story of concussion and rugby, O'Driscoll's is one of the most important voices. He had the courage to swim against the tide and the more we know, the more we can see that he was the one heading in the right direction. It is well over a decade ago that he was warning World Rugby (then the IRB) that it was not taking it seriously enough. He has also minutely documented his side of the story and is sitting on evidence that, in forthcoming legal battles, may prove devastating.'*

In the 1971 Five Nations, Barry O'Driscoll was given the first of four caps for Ireland, playing full back following a leg injury to Tom Kiernan who was Ireland captain and who had been the Lions' captain too.

*'The value of those four caps – what they mean to O'Driscoll – is hard to overestimate. Half a century later, they remain very much a part of who he is, sometimes surprisingly so.'*

*When he was finished playing, he thus remained passionate about the game and, in his position in the Mancunian wing of the family, he stayed involved with the various iterations of Irish exiles. The Irish RFU then asked him to sit on its medical committee. Then in 1992, the IRB asked for a medical representative from Ireland and he stepped forward. And that is how this whole story links up: playing rugby, attempting to save rugby players from dementia, now suffering from dementia himself.'*

A cache of communications from Barry O'Driscoll reveals his warning to governing bodies – World Rugby, the RFU and the WRU – of the risks of legal challenges if the return to play concussion protocol was reduced to six days instead of taking three weeks out following a concussion. He was particularly opposed to a decision, made simultaneously, that removed the requirement of a concussion assessment by an independent doctor.

He wrote: *'There is increasing evidence that both repeated concussive and subconcussive hits to the head increase the chance of developing degenerative brain disease later in life.'*

In 2012 he wrote to the IRB Chairman to tender his resignation following a change in assessment protocol which allowed a player suspected of sustaining a head injury to continue to play. *'There are few principles that a doctor and a rugby person cannot be prepared to compromise on,'* he wrote. *'The return to play of a suspected concussed teenager on the same day, under any circumstances, is one of these.'*

This may well refer to his own experience of concussion whilst playing for the University of Manchester's medical school. His discharge note from Manchester Royal Infirmary neurology department in November 1964, states that he 'received a head injury during a rucker match', that the total period of unconsciousness was 15 minutes and for at least one minute he had spasmodic twitching of the right leg. He was discharged after nine days in hospital with concussion. That is a very long time.

The one question that he definitely cannot answer is the one that is central to his whole story. Was that concussion in 1964 – and maybe other rugby concussions too – the cause of his dementia?

If you wish to read this story in full, please access *The Times* online for the Barry O'Driscoll interview.

# KEEPING THE FLOOD FROM THE DOOR

BY NICHOLAS LUPTON OS 82

It has been inspirational to learn that practical solutions have been found to overcome the adversity of storms and rain damage. Nicholas made national news in his solution to the ongoing flooding in his area. He reports:

*'In 2016 we bought our house, which ordinarily we couldn't have afforded, in rural Worcestershire. A beautiful part of the world, a bit of land and a lovely property. With one drawback: it's right next to the river Severn and is prone to flooding. The house was originally built in the 1600s and was the Ferry Boat inn, the pub landlord was also the ferryman for the ferry across the river Severn. The ferry closed in the 1930s and the house became a farmhouse before passing into private hands in the 1970s. Over the years, flood water was left to come into the house and that was the way it was until, in 2009, the previous*





owners decided to put in place an extensive flood mitigation system which including pumps below the floor level, barriers on the doors and tanking (waterproofing) the walls of the house. My background



is in engineering, I am a chartered mechanical engineer and spent my career in the nuclear power generation industry. With that experience I could see that the flood mitigations were substantial and would prevent water getting into the house. We took the plunge, pun intended, and bought the house'.

Nicholas recently told the BBC that his property has been flooded eleven times since 2016. He has managed to keep his home dry, despite living in an area prone to flooding, after building a flood wall around his property following its purchase. Nicholas and his wife Annie have never had to claim on insurance, having been able to keep their home dry with various measures.



## REPORTS ON EVENTS

### ANNUAL DINNER, 10 FEBRUARY 2024 BY PAUL CHITNIS OS 79, PRESIDENT OF THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

There's something about a dashing white sergeant and a stripping of the willow that sets the heart racing and the lungs puffing. So, it was at the De Vere Beaumont hotel, previously the Jesuit College, Beaumont College, in February where the annual Stonyhurst Association Dinner took place and, for the first time, included a ceilidh.



Over 220 guests from as far afield as Pennsylvania and Singapore gathered to celebrate the gift of community.

The guest speaker, **Dominika Lasota OS 20**, had herself travelled from Poland especially for the dinner. It is unusual for a recent OS to be the speaker at such an event, but Dominika demonstrated why she is a supreme example of a 'woman for others' in an amusing and inspiring speech about her time at Stonyhurst and her leadership of the climate change young activists in her country. It was an urgent and timely call to action.

The Headmaster, Mr John Browne, took the opportunity in his short speech to reference the historic connections of Stonyhurst with Beaumont through the suggestion made in an 1874 debate that the schools were akin to ocean liners, operating in rough seas and calm waters, offering a whole world experience in one building before coming home to port.

Sebastian and Alicia, in replying for the school, established the qualities we have come to expect of Heads of Line as the former spoke to the achievements on the rugby pitch and the latter to the continued development of girls' sports and activities. Both were able to give





*(L-R): Fr Nicholas King SJ OS 66, Fr Matthew Power SJ OS 79, Professor Michael Barnes SJ, Fr Toby Lees OP OS 99, Fr Keith McMillan SJ and Br David Chadwick CO OS 12*

strong testament to the Stonyhurst values and continuing desire to be ‘men and women for others’ as they prepare to move from the College and into the next stage in their lives, hopefully armed with the necessary tools to succeed in their chosen field.

We were fortunate to be joined by several Jesuits and their presence not only reminded us of the continuing connection between Stonyhurst and the Jesuits, but also to the Jesuit school, Beaumont College, in which this event was held. The following morning, 100 people gathered for Mass in the former chapel in the hotel. Fr Keith McMillan SJ was the principal celebrant at which the usual Pater Noster and Domine Salvum Fac were sung with characteristic gusto. Goodness knows what the other hotel guests must have thought of it!

To finish on a poignant note, this dinner was the last Annual Dinner arranged by Mrs Beverley Sillitoe as she steps down as Association Office Manager in July this year. It has been my privilege to be the final President ‘under her wing’ and I thank her for her patience and kindness – as well as her almost encyclopaedic knowledge on all things Association – during my term. Thank you, Beverley, and God bless you and your family in your retirement.



## RICHMOND THIRST FRIDAY BY HARRY DICKINSON OS 94

The last Friday before the start of the new school year saw me packing off son, George, to Stonyhurst in the morning, and heading to Richmond Football Club (the second-oldest rugby club in the country, despite the name’s round ball connotations) in the afternoon to welcome sundry OS of all vintages, current Stonyhurst families and some gloriously eccentric friends for an end of summer barbecue jamboree!

Despite the District Line being unexpectedly out of action, an excellent turnout of sixty-plus made their way to the club. The Association generously stood the first round, and the sun obliged by coming out. While adults nattered over drinks, kids charged all over rugby pitches in emulation of their parents’ legendary exploits!



*(L-R): Harry Dickinson OS 94, Peter Slack OS 90, Hugh Dickinson OS 97, Paddy Lane-Spollen OS 97, Matt Hitchen OS 97, Joseph Walker-Cousins OS 97*

Reg Clark, CEO of Rhino Rugby, happened to be knocking around so was invited to join us – he supplied the scrummaging machine to Stonyhurst last year, recently retired from England senior team duty at Pennyhill Park. He was delighted to bump into one of his former Richmond 1st XV teammates, **Dave Chisnall OS 58**. Such are old friendships reformed.

Bravo to all of the Stonyhurst Family who made the second Richmond Thirst Friday event so much fun! See you there in 2024!

## PROSTATE CANCER UK'S "BIG GOLF RACE" BY FRED VAN OORDT OS 87

On 8 July 2023, Fred took part in Prostate Cancer UK's "Big Golf Race", playing 4 rounds of golf from dawn till dusk – '72 holes in one day'. This challenge arose during a poker game with friends – who also play golf!

Fred reports: 'If you are male, over the age of 40, a keen golfer and an avid user of social media in the UK, it is highly likely that the A.I. algorithms of "big tech" will draw your attention to Prostate Cancer UK. Every year, the charity encourages golfers to take part in a day-long golf challenge and to raise money for – and awareness of – research into prostate cancer; to help "keep men in the game for longer".'

Prostate cancer affects 1 in 8 men in the UK. It's a big deal and, with those odds, we knew that the message spoke to our demographic. The charity calls it "The Big Golf Race" (a kind of golf marathon). The idea is to play 72 holes – that's 4 rounds of golf – in one day! That equates to approximately 16 hours of golf, covering around 25 miles or 40km. So, after a brief discussion, four of us decided we would do it. We settled on "The Lords of the Pins" as our team's name, contacted the charity, set up an online fundraising page, and hoped for the best.

Over the next few months, the donations kept coming in (including one for £500 from one very kind friend!). Our target was to raise £2000 but we broke that easily. People's generosity was both humbling and motivating, in equal measure.

A round of golf is always fun, sometimes frustrating but always tiring – especially if you aren't hitting it straight (thus making the walk even longer!). We had no idea how we would cope with the challenge of doing it four times in one day, but we knew two things: (1) We had to start very early and (2) we had to finish before the bar closed (which also happened to be at around sunset)!

Suffice to say, the big day was a great success. We started at 4.30am, just as the sun was rising. We walked 3 of the 4 rounds (we used buggies for the last round to make sure we finished on time – as we had allowed ourselves a break for lunch). For our 3rd round we had helpers (including my eldest son, Joseph) to carry our golf clubs in buggies, although we still walked the course. That was the most demanding round of the day. We had already completed 36 holes and yet the finishing line still lay many hours, and even more miles, ahead.



We also had friends join us on the walk at various times of the day, some bringing out refreshments and sandwiches, and others lending support and good cheer.

The whole experience was very enjoyable and hugely rewarding. The day itself was very tough but we had a lot of fun. I'm delighted to say that we managed to raise £6,680 from over 140 donors. Friends, family and total strangers all showed tremendous generosity. My thanks go to them, to the Nevill Golf Club, and to my fellow Lords of the Pins: Gareth Scott-Davies, Shabeer Faisal and Darren Hynes.

As I reflect on the evening of poker when we set ourselves this challenge, I cannot help but wonder what hands we will be dealt with in the future. Surely none will be as memorable.

*Editor's note: since this phenomenal effort to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK, our King has also brought the condition into the forefront of the male mind. Raising awareness is just as important as raising funds for screening and treatment. Congratulations to Fred – seen in the photo 2nd in from the right and to the other "Lords of the Pins" beside him – for doing both!*

## OS LUNCH AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS RFC

### Bertie Kelly OS 23 reports:

I was recently privileged to attend the OS rugby reunion lunch at Preston Grasshoppers. I was lucky enough to attend with members of my family and friends, which included **Michael Jackson OS 67** who kindly extended an invitation to **Dilip Gosall OS 23**, and me.

The whole day was brilliant and thoroughly enjoyable. The vibrant and welcoming atmosphere I experienced whilst at the event is one that I have known since my first day of Stonyhurst, from when I was 3 years old in Hodder House, to when I was 18 in Rhetoric 15 years later.

Whilst at the event we watched the Preston Grasshoppers play Hull Ionian's. The Grasshoppers team included Stonyhurst rugby coach, Mr Josh Longson, and watching our old U14's coach play was certainly a sign of us getting older.

I was introduced to new faces from all walks of life, all of whom had been to Stonyhurst, and whether they were from Switzerland or Grimsargh, they were all a pleasure to be with.

It was great to catch up with old teachers as well, especially Mr Ridout, who always has a great story to tell.





## John Mulholland OS 71 adds:

*'A lunch with friends is an investment in lifelong memories.'*  
FmStatistics.Fm

A total of 97 OS and guests met at the Preston Grasshoppers RFC for a lively and enjoyable lunch on 27 January. After the meal the home team took on the Hull Ionians and the visitors were beaten by 44 to 35. This excellent event was organised by **Martin Hothersall OS 72**. Over the last 50 years Martin has been a player, Treasurer, and the Club's Chairman. It is an annual fixture and always well attended.

Although rugby enthusiasts often attend, the event is open to all OS and a number have no interest in the sport but are happy to mix with those who do and vice-versa. This was my fourth OS Hoppers lunch, and I am always struck by the warmth and goodwill on display. It is so enjoyable I just keep coming back for more. When the rugby starts a number (including me) stay inside and continue chatting. When I left at 7pm, several OS and guests were still in the bar catching up.

Rugby celebrities attending this year included Dick Greenwood, who taught at the College in the 1960s while captaining the England team which we thought impressive at the time and still do! Also present was **Barry O'Driscoll OS 60** who was capped for Ireland in the 1970s. It was pleasant to see **Dom Hartley OS 86**, a past President of the Association and his wife Clare, who teaches at SMH. I last saw them in SW France in August in a heatwave!

At our table were the irrepressible **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**, Director of the Stonyhurst Foundation along with **John Shaw OS 68**, **Malcolm Brown OS 71**, **James Goodier OS 70**, and the legendary **David Hurst OS 70**. We were also pleased to welcome Suzanne Wheeler and Lorna Goggin from the College's Development Team.

A notable OS present was 97-year-old **Brian Heyes OS 44** who arrived at College when WW2 was declared and left just after D Day. I am sure this sprightly OS has a few stories to tell. Brian was accompanied by his son Simon, pictured below. Overseas visitors included **Marcel Fok OS 87** from Zürich with his daughter Elodie, and it was a great pleasure to speak with them both.

This is a great informal event and one to put in your diary for next year. For details of the 2025 event, please contact Martin Hothersall [martinhothersall@outlook.com](mailto:martinhothersall@outlook.com)



## PIANO RECITAL, ROYAL OVERSEAS CLUB, LONDON BY JULIE MACFARLANE OS 78



On Thursday 29 February, **Jonathan Plowright OS 78** provided those attending the Royal Overseas Club, Park Place, London to a piano recital of the highest calibre.

Previously described by *Gramophone* magazine as "one of the finest living pianists" Jonathan has, over the past 30 years, attracted tremendous acclaim from critics, colleagues and audiences alike for his award-winning recordings and performances. Highly respected for his virtuosic, powerful and deeply poetic musical interpretations of both standard and unfamiliar repertoire, he has performed worldwide as a recitalist and appeared with numerous leading conductors and ensembles. He did not disappoint those attending on this occasion; delighting them with a programme which included the JS Bach French Suite No. 5 in G major, Brahms Scherzo Op.4 in Eb minor and Liszt's Six Consolations s172.

To reflect his special interest in Polish composers, he also introduced those present to the story of Ignacy Paderewski going on to play three of his Humoresques de Concert Op.14 before finishing the published programme with a flourishing Chopin Scherzo No. 2 in Bb minor Op.31.

Jonathan was able to draw in the audience through his amusing and interesting introductions to his choices for the programme, reminding us that concert pianists do speak! His witty rendition of *The Little White Donkey* from a suite of 10 pieces called *Histoires* by Jaques Ibert provided a fun 'encore' to wind up an excellent performance.

Among the 65 or so members of the audience, 9 members of his Stonyhurst year group (OS 78) used the opportunity to attend in his support, enjoying the plentiful refreshments supplied through the Association and reminiscing about life at Stonyhurst during the 70s.



(L-R): Mike Coffey, Paul Goddard, Mike Landers, Ben Foster, Julie Macfarlane (née Wilkinson), Jonathan Plowright, Philip Gudgeon, Christopher Dingwall and Chris Parry.



# FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE

## Stonyhurst Association Dinner 2024, De Vere Hotel, Old Windsor

*'A college such as Stonyhurst or Beaumont on board a sea-going ship is a good suggestion.'*



This was a motion for the St Beuno's Debating Club in 1874. The great Jesuit poet and Stonyhurst teacher, Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ, spoke for the motion and it was carried. It seems very appropriate to use this here in what was once Beaumont College!

I find the image of Stonyhurst as a great ocean liner charging across the high seas from port to port an intriguing one.

The ocean liner reflects the global Stonyhurst Family. I enjoy the great privilege of meeting members of the Stonyhurst Family who visit Lancashire. I also enjoy visiting them. I was in Hong Kong and Malaysia in October and will go to Vienna in March. At Christmas we hosted the 1st XV from St Aloysius' College Sydney, Australia (we beat them 38-12). This term we will enjoy exchange visits from Wah Yan College in Hong Kong, Regis High School in New York and Colegio Seminario in Uruguay. For a Stonyhurst pupil truly 'the world is our house'.

The ocean liner also reflects a ship's company. Once term starts you can't get off! Luckily, we have a very harmonious community who work hard, and we have a lot of fun too. To take this week Lower Grammar had a formal meal on Tuesday and we celebrated Chinese New Year on Thursday evening with fireworks and the lighting lanterns on the

canals. On Friday we celebrated the Martyrs of St Omers with great solemnity. The Stonyhurst Foundation currently makes it possible for forty-three pupils to attend St Mary's Hall and the College who would not otherwise be able to do so.

The ship is also in pretty good condition. In April 2023 the Independent Schools Inspectorate judged us 'excellent in all areas' – but we are never complacent. Last summer we refurbished the Syntax Playroom and two boarding houses. By September 2024 Stonyhurst International School Penang in Malaysia will have 800 pupils.

The Stonyhurst liner has the proud livery of *Quant Je Puis* on the side representing the very essence of a Stonyhurst education.

There is no doubt that we may be heading into choppy waters if a prospective Labour government imposes VAT on school fees. Fr Matthew Power SJ said to me once that there is something in the DNA of Stonyhurst which is good in a crisis. We came out of the 1794 skirmish with Napoleon with Stonyhurst Hall in Lancashire – so I'm sure it will be fine!

Ultimately ocean liners always return home to port. This dinner and many other smaller gatherings during the year emphasises that Stonyhurst is above all a family of people who share the same Jesuit values. Thank you for who you are and all that you do for the Stonyhurst family.

*Quant Je Puis.*

## CURATOR'S NEWS

### MEETING STONYHURST'S REMARKABLE MANUSCRIPTS

BY JOE REED OS II

The last few months have been very busy in the Archives, with many projects proceeding apace. There has been a particular focus on the historic manuscripts which are at the core of the archival collections. With the expansion of the education programme led by the Museum Education Officer since the start of this academic year, it has been important to make sure the remarkable manuscripts and archives can continue to contribute to teaching and learning at Stonyhurst.

This work has been supported by the re-evaluation and re-cataloguing of many of the items in the collection, in some cases discovering new significance in the items, often supporting an educational outcome. Revisiting a two-sided page (images 1 and 2) from Boardman MS 26 – which is a mid-12th

century compendium of a number of historical and scientific works – has indicated that the page was compiled by a writer extracting sections out of three different Anglo-Saxon histories. This article could have been written entirely about that one fascinating page! The potential of such an object is remarkable, in the options it provides to illustrate to different age groups about the Anglo-Saxon understanding of their history, the transfer of knowledge in the Middle Ages, and our wider understanding of historiography.

By way of another example, a Higher Line pupil volunteer (who is supporting the re-listing of the contents of 18th and 19th century letterbooks) came across a reference to inoculation in a letter of the 1770s from Fr Reeve to his brother, who was teaching at the



Image 1



Image 2

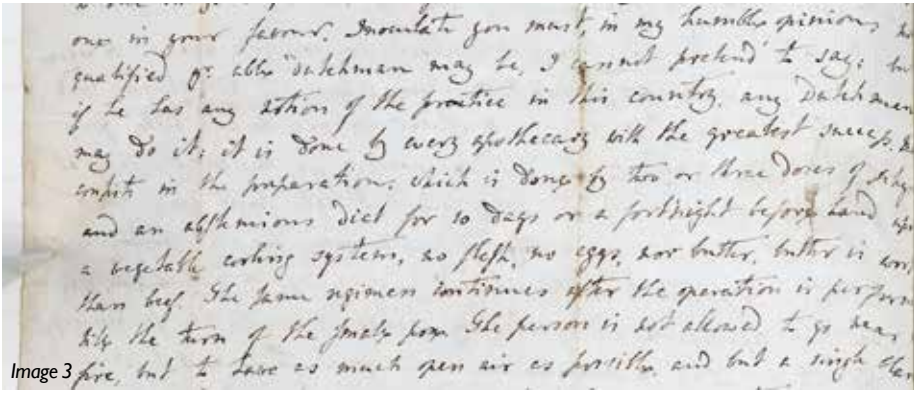


Image 3

College in Liège. There had been an outbreak of smallpox at the College, and Fr Reeve provided his younger brother with advice, including that they should vaccinate the pupils. (image 3) In addition to being a remarkably early example of inoculation in a school setting, this provides (among other things) an interesting example of how people accessed and exchanged medical advice and information between friends and family, without necessarily seeking the help of a doctor. For GCSE pupils studying the history of medicine, this example may hopefully help to illustrate a topic they are exploring, but placed within a familiar context. Towards the start of the academic year, the medieval manuscripts collection was assessed by a professional book conservator, to inform us about the condition and conservation needs of these most important objects. A report has been written to provide cost estimates of conservation projects on each manuscript, and to highlight any 'causes for concern' on individual volumes in the collection. The work has been funded through a generous grant from the National Conservation Service, and the information gleaned will inform and support

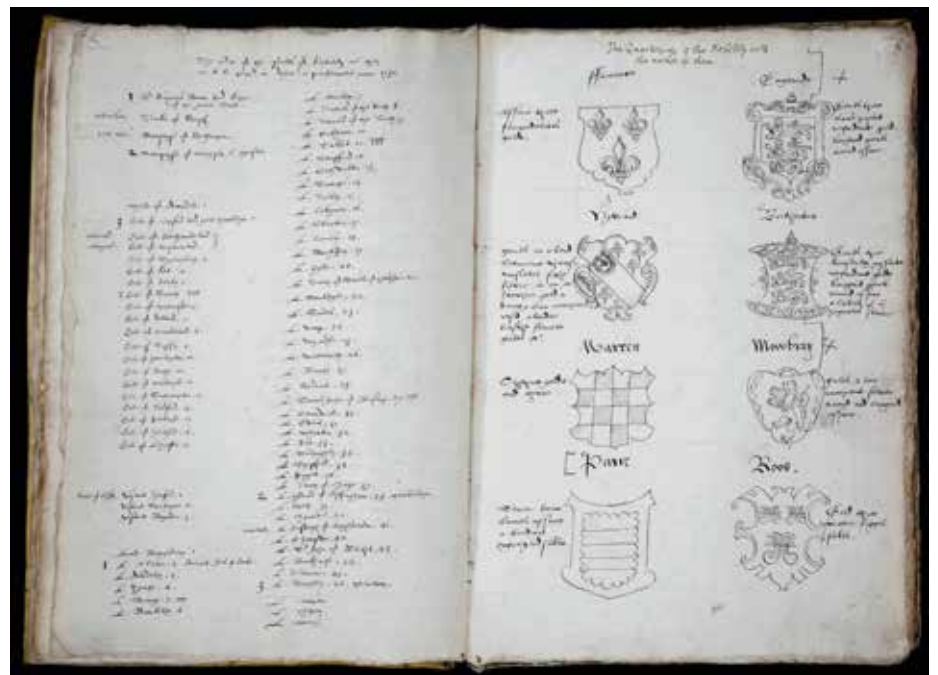
other funding bids for conservation on the medieval manuscripts. Conservation work will be essential to ensure these manuscripts are able to be displayed and accessed in the future, for the benefit of our pupils, the public, and visiting academics and researchers.

Over the course of 2024, the Archives is publicising a 'Manuscript of the Month'. Each month, a new historic manuscript is placed on display in the Do Room, and an introduction and images accessible on social media. The aim of the programme is to draw attention to the less well-known manuscripts held at Stonyhurst, but which nevertheless hold interesting stories and unrecognised significance. In addition, it is hoped that our pupils, and the wider community, will be able to engage with the many facets and aspects of each single book, where usually only one or two may be mentioned.

Every manuscript is, and must be, unique; each embodies the circumstances of its creation by one person at a moment in time. Manuscripts necessarily reflect the people



who made or used them: their characters and characteristics; their behaviours and abilities; their beliefs and priorities. This is the greatest joy and challenge in studying manuscripts, and perhaps also the greatest educational opportunity: to be able to decode and understand all aspects of an object or piece of information, reach a reasoned conclusion about it, and establish what lessons can be learned.





# STONYHURST DEVELOPMENT

## THOMAS WELD SOCIETY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND DINNER

On Saturday 7 October 2023 we hosted our annual Thomas Weld Society (TWS) event, with over 50 guests joining us for dinner in the Top Ref. Dinner was preceded by a Service of Thanksgiving in St Peter's, celebrated by the College Chaplain, Fr Tim Curtis SJ. During the Service thanks was given to all our generous donors, who do so much to support the College, and we took time to remember those members of the Society that have sadly passed way.

A special mention and thanks must go to the members of the pupil Committee who looked after our guests and proved to be interesting and knowledgeable dinner companions. Additionally, thanks must be given to our Director of Music, Mr Andrew Henderson, and the pupils who provided the perfect musical accompaniment for the evening.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy gift to Stonyhurst or about the Thomas Weld Society, please do not hesitate to contact our Development Office via [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk) or 01254 827246.



## ORGAN RECITAL

In February 2023, the College was delighted to receive the gift of a Lammermuir 54 organ from a former member of staff, in memory of his parents. It stands proudly in the Top Ref at the College. This instrument is possibly the best instrument of its kind in any school in the country and we are lucky that it is used daily for practice and teaching. It will further enhance our Organ Scholars' experience at Stonyhurst.

More recently, in September, our Director of Music, Mr Andrew Henderson, organised a visit from Prof John Butt OBE. Mr Butt, together with a small group of musicians gave the inaugural recital on the organ, to which we were able to invite those who generously donated to the Lammermuir 74 organ in the Sodality Chapel.



## DERMOT GOGARTY MEMORIAL CUP MATCHES

The weekend of the 11-12 November 2023 was one of sporting battles.

On the 11th, our pupils took on our oldest rivals, Ampleforth, in hockey and rugby. We achieved excellent results across all games



and the teams should be extremely proud of themselves. The whole day was a true example of outstanding hockey and rugby skills!

The following day, the 12th, we hosted the Dermot Gogarty Memorial Cup Matches.

Despite the best efforts of the wind and the rain both our OS Hockey and Rugby matches were a great success, with lots of support from the sidelines. The winning hockey team was the Valkyries, captained by **Hannah Charles OS 19**, with the Stonyhurst Vikings rugby team, captained by **Leo Higham OS 19**, taking the win later that afternoon. After the cup presentation, the day came to an end with drinks and pizza in the Catholic Club. A big thank you to all those who played and to all those who supported.

We look forward to hosting the next Dermot Gogarty Memorial Cup Matches in November 2024. If you would like to take part in either the OS Hockey or OS Rugby matches, please contact Mr Tim Hanley: [t.hanley@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:t.hanley@stonyhurst.ac.uk). We hope you will be able to join us.

## FARM STREET CAROL SERVICE

Stonyhurst held its annual Carol Service at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London on Monday 4 December. We were joined by current and past parents, OS, and members of the wider Stonyhurst community. The Stonyhurst Choir, Schola Petri, travelled down for the Service, leading the congregation in song. The pupils showed exemplary behaviour and were perfect ambassadors for the school.

Following the Service, attendees were invited to join us for drinks and mince pies, where everyone could catch up and enjoy seeing friends, both old and new. We were delighted to be joined by so many members of the Stonyhurst Family – the largest attendance to date! – for what was a lovely evening of joy, reflection, and Christmas spirit.

Next year's Carol Service is already booked, and plans are underway. More details will be released in due course, but for now be sure to **Save the Date** and join us on **2 December 2024**.

## GORDON TSANG OS 91, OS HONG KONG WHISKY

Gordon has decided to honour his Stonyhurst past by co-creating/overseeing the bottling of a premium, collectible and one-of-a-kind OS 1991 whisky. He hopes that fellow OS who love whisky as much as him will be keen to collect a bottle and he has generously offered to donate a percentage of the net profits from each bottle sold to Stonyhurst to support the College. Bottles from this limited edition run of 209 bottles are priced at HKD1993 and can be purchased directly from Gordon by



emailing him at [kenobil203@hotmail.com](mailto:kenobil203@hotmail.com) Each bottle comes boxed, complete with its unique number. For bottles purchased in Hong Kong Gordon will ship directly to you and UK purchases will receive theirs from the bonded warehouse Volpe & Castello.

Gordon spoke to us about his whisky odyssey: 'I love almost anything to do with Scotch...I love the history and the journey of the process from grain to glass, the nose, the palate, and the finish. Whisky takes me back time or place of celebration and so when my son was born, I bought a barrel for him. Now that it is ready for bottling, I wanted to celebrate both his birth and my education at Stonyhurst. The label was painted for me by Anthony Choy, an artist

and friend of mine, who has won numerous awards and collaborates with brands including Chow Tai Fook Jewellery (Hong Kong) and the Korea Tourism Organization. I asked him to include the colours of green, white, and red as a reminder of the Stonyhurst school uniform.

The whisky is a single grain, from the North British Distillery which is one of Scotland's oldest and largest Scotch grain whisky producers. It has been aged for 30 years.

**Nosing:** Drunken cherries, strawberries, refreshing tropical fruits, nougat, ice cream, sponge cake, peachy perfume, Hubba Bubba. **Palates:** Creamy smooth texture, assorted fruit salad and vanilla, toffee, and liquorice. Good balance with solid body

followed by wood spices and peanut oil. **Finish:** Heartwarming bonfire, roast coffee, coconut candy, butter scones and red tea aftertaste.

I hope that you enjoy this whisky as much as I do!



## STONYHURST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 'FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES AND PATRONS'

This programme provides the opportunity to sign up as a 'Patron', 'Associate' or 'Friend' of the Stonyhurst Museum & Archives.

### Benefits include:

- A complimentary welcome pack
- Discounts on Museum & Archives literature
- Regular communications
- The opportunity to attend Museum & Archives events
- Unlimited free entry to the Museum & Historic Libraries during the summer public opening times.



If you have any further queries regarding this initiative, please contact us at: [museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk).

To find out more and to subscribe visit: [www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/support-the-museum](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/support-the-museum)

Stonyhurst has been, and remains, indebted to the generosity of others to ensure the work of the Museum & Archives can continue to flourish.

# STONYHURST FOUNDATION



The Stonyhurst Foundation continues to transform the lives our young people. Since September, we have been supporting 43 pupils at Stonyhurst and St Mary's Hall, thanks to the generous support of our incredible donors. Witnessing these young people's enthusiasm, dedication, and blossoming potential makes the mission of providing this opportunity so thoroughly worthwhile. It remains at our core purpose to open access to Stonyhurst to as many deserving young people as possible who might not otherwise have access to it.

We remain very conscious of the need to keep the balance and character of Stonyhurst unchanged and have been careful to ensure both 'deep' and 'shallow' bursaries are available and offered. For some, these bursaries are genuinely transformational and worth above 70% of the school fees; for others, traditionally 'means-tested', they range from 50% to 30%. Resisting the temptation to offer nothing but high-value, transformational bursaries is essential to ensure we don't unintentionally build a community of 'haves' and 'have nots'. Working closely with Stonyhurst, our approach has confirmed that Stonyhurst's classless character, based on merit, ability, and a desire to develop 'men

and women for others', remains. With potential attacks on the whole of the independent sector on the horizon, The Stonyhurst Foundation must be able to step up to allow the school to attract talented pupils from all backgrounds. Stonyhurst is nothing without its diversity.

This can only happen with your support. I therefore invite you to contact me to consider how you might be able to assist current and future OS through the gift of a bursary at: [foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

I encourage you to follow us on social media for details of upcoming Foundation-sponsored events and opportunities that might appeal to you. Whether you join us for a luncheon, a vibrant convivium, a scenic Classic Car Tour, or a Golf Day, your participation will directly contribute to transforming the lives of young people. Every interaction and every contribution brings us closer to reaching our vision of ensuring that a Stonyhurst education remains accessible to deserving young people, regardless of their financial background.

Together, we can nurture minds, ignite passions, and shape the future of our remarkable young people. *Quant Je Puis.*

**John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**  
Stonyhurst Foundation Director

**T: 01254 827027 x552 E: [j.cartwright-terry@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:j.cartwright-terry@stonyhurst.ac.uk)**

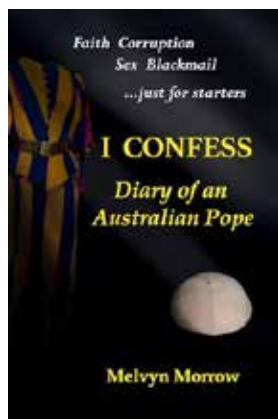
# BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OS

## A Wild Ride by Ross Calvert OS 64

Taken from a review of this book on Amazon:

'In this memoir, Ross Calvert shares his experiences as a teacher and coach working with military families in different countries. The book takes the reader on a journey through Calvert's life, starting with his childhood and early years in education and sports, to his time overseas, working with the children of military families in different parts of the world.

One of the things I appreciated about this book is the way Calvert weaves personal anecdotes and stories into his larger narrative. His stories are not only entertaining but also add depth and insight into the challenges and joys of working with students from diverse backgrounds. As a reader, I felt like I was getting a first-hand account of what it's like to be a teacher and coach in a military community, which was both eye-opening and inspiring.'



## I Confess by Melvyn Morrow

'For one who always envied those who belonged to that mysterious club, alas, whose secrets were never to be known unless one "turned", Melvyn Morrow's hopefully largely fictional diary is a delight, a page-turner. Written with love and respect, *I Confess* chronicles a whole new world of religious shenanigans ...beneath the worship of plaster saints. *I Confess* is a witty, wicked and strangely moving concoction of saints' days, liturgy, politics, family confession and dogma, all told with

larrikin Australian humour, heaps of passion, sentimental care and astute observation. Saints be praised!'

Stuart Maunder AM, Artistic Director Victoria Opera, formerly artistic director of State Opera of South Australia and New Zealand Opera. He has also directed for Opera Australia, West Australian Opera and Scottish Opera.

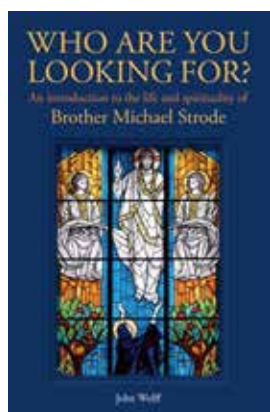
### About the Author

Melvyn Morrow's first revue scripts were for Australia's biggest TV satirical hit, *The Mavis Branson Show*. Melvyn's musicals (books and lyrics) include: *Postcards From Provence*, *Offenbach in the Underworld* and seven *Christmas at the Opera House* pantomimes including the nationally popular *Santa Meets the Bushrangers*. His musical *A Song to Sing, O*, the story of Gilbert and Sullivan and George Grossmith, was produced by Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte at London's Savoy Theatre and directed

by the author. It then toured Australia. He has adapted book and lyrics for Opera Australia's G&S productions. He received the Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Libretto for his musical, *Shakespearean Idol*. He is the co-writer of the Australian musical hits, *SHOUT!* and *Dusty – The Original Pop Diva*. He wrote book and lyrics for and directed the musical *Dorian Gray Naked*. Melvyn is an international member of the Dramatists Guild of America. He co-wrote the musicals *Peter Dawson – Off the Record* and *Here Comes Showtime* and the lyrics for the song *Lest I Forget* (*Rebel* the movie starring Matt Dillon). Melvyn's plays include *Beating a Retreat*, *A Touch Of Paradise*, *Vice*, *Acts of Faith* and *Pope2Pope*. His Victorian vaudeville, *Dickens Down Under*, premiered at Sydney's Genesis Theatre. He devised and directed the cabarets *Broadway Bard*, *Tae Kwon Shakespeare*, and *Mozart and ME*. In 1996, Melvyn was nominated for a Mo Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Musical Theatre. He was producer, writer and director of *Cabaret in the Day* at Mosman Art Gallery where seasons have included: *Glorious Mud!* (Flanders & Swann), *Our Glad* (Gladys Moncrieff), *Gilbert & Sullivan Forever!* (starring Andrew O'Keefe), *Of Bing I Sing* (Bing Crosby) and *Poisoning Pigeons in the Park* (Tom Lehrer). With composer Dion Condack, he wrote and directed the musical *Dorian Gray Naked*, starring Blake Appelqvist. The musical received rave reviews and was the only original Australian musical nominated for the 2019 Glugs of Gosh 2019 Sydney Theatre Awards.

*Editor's comment: no mention of Mel's productions of Frank Ass, with John Mallord, at Stonyhurst during the 70s: OS at the College during that era also had the pleasure of seeing our current Association President, Paul Chitnis OS 79, playing George Grossmith in A Song to Sing, O. Unforgettable!*

Recommendation submitted by **Martin Hothersall OS 72**.



## Who Are You Looking For? by John Wolff

A chance meeting has recalled a lay teacher's subtle influence on a succession of boys at Stonyhurst. Tim Wolff, son of John (former Stonyhurst Governor), recently came across **Raymond Turner**, who taught there in the 1960s and 70s.

Raymond (now in his late 80s) was about to read – for the third time – John Wolff's book *Who Are You Looking For?* It brilliantly recounts the life and spirituality of Doctor (later Cistercian Brother) Michael Strode who founded HCPT, the charity that takes thousands

of disabled or disadvantaged pilgrims to Lourdes each year. From its small beginnings in 1956, HCPT attracted support from Beaumont boys which continues to this day despite Beaumont's closure in 1967. Perhaps because of the success of its own pilgrimages, Stonyhurst involvement in HCPT is less evident, but significant nonetheless.

During his time at the College, Raymond encouraged boys to give their time to others, whether at a psychiatric hospital or Leonard Cheshire Home or in other voluntary service. His involvement in HCPT's northern reunions at Stonyhurst led to his becoming a group leader with the Easter children's pilgrimage. A number of OS have followed as helpers or leaders. My own experience has continued in several ways, including 9 years representing HCPT to the Lourdes authorities as Pilgrimage Director – a true privilege.

In the late 1960s, the Boston National Pilgrimage started taking disabled people from the East Coast to Lourdes. Frère Brassard, its French-Canadian organiser, asked HCPT's Chief Brancardier, Freddie



Wolff (OB, father of John) for 'six young men who can speak passable French and have initiative'. As Beaumont had now amalgamated with Stonyhurst, Freddie turned to Raymond for help. As a result, some boys or young OS joined the Boston pilgrimage (including **Nicholas King SJ OS 66** and **Michael King OS 67, John Martin OS 67** and Desmond Keane (OB)). As it coincided with Easter, several of those later became involved with HCPT.

Although he modestly claimed that it was the boys' initiative, it was maybe Raymond's example that led to the foundation in 1972 of the Higher Line Handicapped Children's Trust (later Stonyhurst Children's Holiday Trust) holidays for disabled children at SMH and, later, St John's Beaumont. The staff and boys' enthusiasm spawned other charities such as the St Omers Trust, St Giles Trust and at St Aloysius Glasgow.

Raymond might credit all this to the inspiration of Michael Strode. As **Michael King OS 67**, writes Michael 'was a signpost for so many of us in our comparative youth, though he would never have admitted it.' In a ground-breaking move, he insisted that disabled children (and adults) should live their pilgrimages with their helpers, rather than being isolated in the rather less comfortable Lourdes 'hospitals'<sup>2</sup>.

Michael Strode spent most of his medical career at Chailey Heritage, a school hospital for children. On his retirement, he became an oblate brother at Caldey Abbey, the island monastery near Tenby. There he lived a life dedicated to prayer, always showing his concern for others.

After his death 4 years ago at the age of 96, some said 'that man was a saint'. Before long, the Committee for Brother Michael's Cause (CBMC) was founded to seek his eventual canonisation<sup>3</sup>.

So, I would recommend John Wolff's book about Brother Michael. It not only explains his influence through and beyond HCPT but, to quote one Catholic publication, it 'delves into the innermost thoughts of a man who was too humble and self-effacing to want his life to be



written and...explores his spiritual life, his doubts, his self-professed shortcomings and his intuition.'

<sup>1</sup>Available online £19.75 including UK postage:

[www.brothermichaelstrode.org/book](http://www.brothermichaelstrode.org/book)

<sup>2</sup>To his credit, a young but persistent **Peter Hanratty OS 75**, on the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage in about 1967, persuaded the Lourdes authorities to make two concessions that were then quite unheard of: sick people in the Sept Douleurs Hospital (now Accueil St Frai) were to be allowed after-dinner visits from their helpers; and later to be taken out for a tour of the town and tea (funded by a generous donation from an OS and using wheelchairs supplied by HCPT).

<sup>3</sup>See footnote 1

**Richard King OS 71** Chair CMBC

## WANDERERS' NEWS

### OS FOOTBALL MATCH AGAINST THE STONYHURST FOOTBALL XI

FROM BERTIE KELLY OS 23



In early November 2023, Stonyhurst Football XI played a match against the OS 23 XI, on the top flats. The OS team consisted of players from Spain, Italy, Germany, England, Argentina and Austria. Our old 1st team coach Mr Michael Lightbown (known colloquially as the greatest Stonyhurst football coach of all time) managed our side to a loss, with the final score of 5-3 to Stonyhurst Football XI.

The day was great fun and a great opportunity to catch up with friends from all around the world.





# STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

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Feast of the Epiphany 2024



LDS