

AMDG

STONYHURST association news



NEWSLETTER 321

FAREWELL TO BEVERLEY

SUMMER 2024



EDITOR'S NOTE



It may have escaped some readers' attention that there are changes afoot at Stonyhurst. You will go on to read about the changes and consider what it means for our school and how these changes may secure it for the future.

The change for the Association is primarily in relation to the retirement of Beverley Sillitoe – after more than 23 years as Office Manager – and the introduction of Jo-anne Brown who takes on the task of stepping into Beverley's shoes. We wish both Beverley and Jo-anne every good wish as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

This edition of the newsletter is full of joy for those celebrating important life events, sadness for those who have left this life, and admiration for those – such as **Fr Francis Wahle OS 47** and **Michael McGrath OS 82** – whose individual life's works have made a difference to others in very different ways. This also applies to **Tim Hetherington OS 89**, whose exhibition at the Imperial War Museum was enjoyed by over 40 OS and their guests in a mid-September Association event. More will be published about this in the next edition of the newsletter.

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With Fr Francis, Michael and Tim in mind, I leave with you a principle that my father (a local farmer) repeatedly urged me to adopt as I was growing up: to *'live your life as though it might end tomorrow, but do your work as though it might last forever.'*

If you have material for inclusion in the newsletter, please email it to me at j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRENDAN ROCHE OS 82



It's the end of an era. Beverley has retired after more than two decades of conscientious and devoted service to the Association, though we are fortunate that she will continue to look after the administration of the Pilgrimage Trust. When I was asked to take over from Simon Andrews as Chair of the Association, I made sure to ask Beverley about her retirement plans before agreeing. She promised me two years and, in fact, served three, so I cannot complain. I said a few weeks ago at the farewell Mass, celebrated by **Fr Brendan Callaghan OS 66**, in St Peter's Stonyhurst, that Beverley's retirement would be good for our faith. Instead of relying on Beverley all the time, based in her office at one end of the Avenue,

we shall have to turn 180° to the other end and seek the intercession of Our Lady of Stonyhurst! Thank you, Beverley, for all you have done.

And welcome, Jo-anne Brown. Jo-anne knows Stonyhurst very well, having grown up in Hurst Green and run the summer school for several years. Most recently, she has been the Alumni Officer for Giggleswick and she is surely as well prepared as she can be to step into the role of Office Manager. I know that our members will make Jo-anne feel very welcome and wish her the very best of luck in her new position.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HARRY DICKINSON OS 94



I am writing these words sitting in the house in Hayama, Japan, where my mother and five of her siblings were born. It is just after 6am, already 30°C outside, and the cicadas have just started the raucous chorus that they will maintain all day. And as I write, I first reflect that this country could not be more different than the green and damp rural beauty of the Lancashire countryside; second, and perhaps irrelevantly, that I am almost certainly the first President of the Stonyhurst Association that is half-Japanese (perhaps the first with East Asian blood?); and, finally, that I am truly honoured to be assuming this mantle while I have a son at the College and with an exciting programme of upcoming events that will further bind the Stonyhurst Family together.

Family is important to all of us. For me, first there is my immediate family – my German wife, Claudia, and children, Clara (at the University of Exeter), George (going into Rhetoric in September) and Isabel (we hope, off to the College in 2026). Then my six siblings, four of them OS. My Japanese mother, Tomoko – mother of five OS – and grandmother of fifteen (only one at Stonyhurst so far, but more to follow surely!). My English trilby-hatted father looks down from above with an ethereal glass of whisky in one hand, a cigarette in the other. Binding my family and the wider Stonyhurst Family together is one of my aims during my tenure as president, and this is also one of the aims of the Richmond Thirst Friday on 6 September at Richmond Rugby Club, which has become a wonderful opportunity for OS, current Stonyhurst families and friends to gather and to have some late summer fun!

Having fun will be a key motivator in the events that the Association will host in the coming two years of my tenure. In order to reap the benefits that a community like Stonyhurst can bring we need to connect to people, especially our younger members. I was delighted to be contacted recently by **Leo Higham OS 19** who wants to revive Stonyhurst Wanderers rugby which had fallen into abeyance. Leo had already organised an OS team to play the Mount in July. Such initiatives will have my full backing because they create communities that support each other in good times and bad, create great networking opportunities and remind us why we become friends in the first place – sharing interests and having fun!

In my life so far, the idea of service has found its expression at Stonyhurst and in the army. I spent a roughly equivalent amount of time at each institution, yet despite that brevity their impact was profound. First, most of my strongest friendships were forged in one or the other (or both!). There is much in common to both – for example “*Men and Women for Others*” at Stonyhurst, and the Sandhurst motto “*Serve to Lead*” are variations on the same theme; and “*Quant Je Puis*” could be a mantra for military service (although sadistic PTIs may have paraphrased it with: “Pain is weakness leaving the body”!).

Of course, Stonyhurst’s contribution to the armed forces has been extraordinary and Association members will be fully aware of our history. They may be less familiar with the fact that in Major John Cobb’s time alone as Commanding Officer of the Stonyhurst College Cadet Corps, one hundred and twenty-six former OS cadets received the Queen’s Commission in one or other branch of the armed forces. I therefore felt strongly that during my tenure we should celebrate that very fine marriage of Stonyhurst and the military with a dinner which will be held in London on 29 November this year. All serving and retired UK and overseas military are warmly invited to join us and reunite with old school friends and comrades and forge new friendships.

Finally, back to Japan. Catholicism was brought here by St Francis Xavier SJ in the 1540s; fifty years before Stonyhurst’s founding in 1593. For generations, the pull of a Jesuit education has drawn young men and women from the ends of the world to Lancashire, to brave near constant rain and dodgy food, and then send them back out again to make some positive impact. My kids are half-German, quarter-Japanese and a quarter English.

At Stonyhurst, it amazes me to reflect on the nationalities of George’s non-British friends – German, Italian, French, Mexican, Spanish to name a few; but it was ever thus. And this is one of the true values of a Stonyhurst education – an ability to get on with people from all over the world and to see what we have in common rather than what sets us apart. Such vital skills in today’s troubled world.

So, it is also my intention to lead a charge of Stonyhurst men and women reaching out to OS, young and old all over the world, to celebrate the amazing and diverse network that is the Stonyhurst Association; we will do this by gathering and having fun – **QJP and AMDG**.

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
12 October 2024	OS 14 Reunion	The reunion for OS 14 will be held at the College on 12 October.
8 – 10 November 2024	Ignatian Retreat at Theodore House, Stonyhurst	OS and current or former parents are warmly invited to the sixth Stonyhurst Association residential retreat hosted at Theodore House. This is a 'taster' retreat, exploring the life and works of St Ignatius of Loyola and learning how we can follow in his example. Led by Fr Nick King SJ , arrival will be late afternoon on Friday, and leaving on Sunday after Mass in St Peter's. This is a silent retreat and therefore only single rooms will be available. The cost will be £230.00 per person in a single room. This includes supper on the day of arrival, one day at full board, breakfast on Sunday and coffee/tea breaks during the day. To book your place, please complete the booking form on the Association website .
10 November 2024	Dermot Gogarty Cup – OS Rugby and Hockey Matches	If you would like to play in this event here at Stonyhurst, please email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk . Supporters will also be very welcome and refreshments will be provided after the match for players and supporters.
16 and 17 November 2024	OS 84 Reunion	A reunion for Poetry 1984 will be held at the College, and will include a tour of the College, the Collections, and dinner in the Top Ref. The booking link is available on the website .
29 November 2024	OS Military Dinner at The Cavalry & Guards Club, London	A dinner to celebrate the extraordinary contribution that Stonyhurst has made to the Defence of the Realm across the years. Open to all current and former military OS, the evening will commence with Mass at Farm Street Church, followed by a three-course dinner with wine at The Cavalry & Guards Club. Tickets are priced at £110.00 per person, with a reduced ticket of £75.00 for under 25s. Please see the Association website to book.
2 December 2024	Stonyhurst Carol Service at Farm Street Church, London	7pm Carol Service, all welcome.
10 December 2024	Association Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst	7pm Carol Service, all welcome.
8 February 2025	OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers	We are pleased to announce that the 2025 annual OS lunch at Hoppers will be on Saturday 8th February when the 1stXV are playing Otley. The price remains the same as last year at £35.00. If you would like to book a place, please contact Martin Hothersall at martinhothersall@outlook.com .

8-10
November
2024

Ignatian 'Taster' Retreat

Theodore House, Stonyhurst

- Led by Fr Nick King SJ
- 2 nights all-inclusive
- Silent Retreat
- £230 per person

“Step away from your busy world for 3 days and explore the life and work of St Ignatius of Loyola during the sixth Stonyhurst Association retreat”





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Website: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk

SEÁN MASKEY OS 75 REPORTS ON THE RIDE LONDON 2024 – CHILDREN AND WAR

After leaving Stonyhurst in 1975, I trained at Westminster Medical School and was a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist before I retired last year. In the early '90s I met a teenage girl after she had taken an overdose. She was a refugee from former Yugoslavia, who was struggling with a choice in her life; continue her A levels and apply to medical school, or return home and, as she put it, become a 'terrorist'.

We see and hear about the physical injuries children sustain in disasters and conflicts worldwide, but don't often consider the psychological harm they suffer, which is enduring. And unlike physical injury, it can and does pass on down the generations.

Children and War was started after the Balkan Wars by clinical and academic psychologists from the UK and Norway, several of whom I have been privileged to work with. They used solid clinical research to understand what really works and how to provide psychological help quickly, effectively and at scale to large numbers of children who have been exposed to life-threatening danger. This is achieved by training the local people, teachers and others responsible for children, to deliver treatment for the long-term, rather than dropping in transient help in the immediate aftermath. The evidence based psychological approach developed and taught by Children and War psychologists around the world helps children recover from conflict and disasters, regain their childhood delight in life and hopefully reduces the intergenerational transmission of trauma and violence. The alternative is continued experience of life as terrifying, after the conflict has moved on, without hope of resolution.

I wanted to join the 26 May 2024 Ride London Cycle Ride, as it was going to be fun, and mass participation sporting activities are great fundraising opportunities, so combining the two was, as they say, a win-win. 60 miles is further than I've cycled in a day previously, so some training was required; Essex is basically flat, after all. Sponsorship was through the Enthuse website and a quick browse through my email lists to identify likely "prospects", including school friends (**Niall Macfarlane OS 75** added a commemoration for **Dennis Unsworth**, whom many of us remember fondly), generated some £1300 for Children and War,



much of it gift-aided. It's a small organisation with a big reach, so the impact of fundraising for them is really significant.

Editor's note: Disappointingly, Seán has discovered that the cycle ride will not take place in 2025.



OS 71 LUNCH

A small group of OS 71 met for lunch in Manchester in early September.

(Pictured L-R): **Bernard Moroney, John O'Driscoll, John Mulholland** and **Nick Birkinshaw**. It was the first time Nick had been seen by the others attending for 53 years.



(Pictured L-R): **Chuba Nwokedi, Matthew Martin, Roisin Parish, Fuchsia Hart, Philip Leonard, Ben Warrilow, John Richardson, Tatsuya Kawahara, Stanley Vickery, Max Attard, George Riley, Gabriel Wenner, Jensen So.**

SEVERAL OF RHETORIC 08 GATHERED INFORMALLY IN LONDON ON 22 JUNE TO CATCH UP

Editor's note: Please keep the Association informed of such events – such a great way to keep in touch and inform others of similar activities.



(From L-R): **Dom Hartley OS 86, Hugh Dickinson OS 97, Michael Hurley OS 94, Harry Dickinson OS 94.**

HARRY DICKINSON OS 94 REPORTS ON TROOPING THE COLOUR

The occasion was the King's Birthday Parade on 15 June. This year, the Irish Guards (the Regiment in which both my brother Hugh and I served, as well as many OS) had the privilege of trooping the colour of the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards. The weather was changeable but behaved until His Majesty departed Horse Guards Parade in his carriage to lead his Guards down the Mall, at which point the heavens opened. This photo was taken en route to lunch as we partook of emergency refreshments – gin martinis – having taken shelter from the deluge.



(Pictured L-R): **Michael Sng – Stonyhurst Penang, Julian Tjia-Leong OS 92, David Ko OS 97, Lorraine Wright, Beatrice Chen (mother of Dylan Kuo), Leo Fattorini OS 92, Dylan Kuo OS 23, Yew Ting Kuo (father of Dylan Kuo), and Paul Sharples.**

SINGAPORE DINNER

Lorraine Wright (Deputy Head Academic) and Paul Sharples (Commercial Director) recently visited Singapore to promote Stonyhurst. During the two-day visit they had the pleasure of meeting several prospective and current families along with members of the OS community. It was an opportunity to catch up with four OS ranging from OS 92 to OS 23.

OS 96 DINNER

Greg Irgin OS 96 reports: On Friday 14 June, a mini-reunion of OS 96 took place at the East India Club in London. In a first for both the Club and for Stonyhurst, special permission was granted to fly the Stonyhurst flag outside the club. Fourteen alumni, hailing from all corners of the globe, including Australia, the Middle East, and various parts of England, gathered to celebrate nearly three decades of shared history and enduring friendships.



The reunion was a poignant reminder of the strong bonds forged during our time at Stonyhurst. Despite the passage of 28 years, the connections among us remain vibrant and meaningful. For many, this event marked the first time seeing each other in person for over two decades. The evening was filled with laughter, reminiscing, and heartfelt conversations, rekindling friendships as though no time had passed.

In reflecting on this enriching experience, we are reminded of the enduring value of our Stonyhurst education, which not only shaped our individual paths but also created a lifelong network of friends and colleagues. Here's to the next reunion, the grand 30-year reunion in 2026, and to many more years of cherished connections and shared memories. *Quant Je Puis.*



LISBON DINNER

Edmund de Freitas and **Fionn Molloy**, both **OS 87**, attended a dinner on Wednesday 10 April at the Grémio Literário, Lisbon, Portugal, organised by Mark Davies and Phil Dougall, Old Gregorians of Downside school near Bath. There were fifteen in attendance from the English Catholic public schools of Stonyhurst, Downside, Worth, and Ampleforth. This was such a successful evening that plans are now being made to hold the dinner annually and to additionally invite those living in the Lisbon area from The Oratory and Douai. *Editor's note: If you would like to be included in this invitation, please contact the Association Office so that your contact details can be shared with the organisers.*



LUNCH WITH FR MICHAEL BOSSY SJ

Philip Powell OS 69 informs us that their guest, **Fr Michael Bossy SJ**, was in splendid form, recounting numerous anecdotes from times past, when he attended a lunch in London on 16 April this year. It follows an earlier lunch this group held with him in November 2022.



(Pictured L-R): **Hugh Devlin OS 69**, **Mark O'Sullivan OS 69**, **Brian Holt OS 69**, **James Holt OS 70**, **Gus Orchard OS 68**, **Fr Michael Bossy SJ**, **Philip Powell OS 69**, and **Anthony Prosser OS 68**.

THAMES HARE & HOUNDS 72ND ANNUAL ALUMNI RACE

Hugh Dickinson OS 97 reports on the Thames Hare & Hounds 72nd annual Alumni race – 14 September 2024:

The Alumni Race has taken place for the last 72 years at the Thames Hare & Hounds Club on Wimbledon Common where competitive team cross country running started over 150 years ago. About sixty schools have entered the race since the competition and was originally comprised the more southerly schools. There was initially some ill feeling when the northern schools comprising Sedbergh, Stonyhurst and Ampleforth joined in more recent years and started appearing on the leadership board, but we have now been welcomed into the fold!

So it was that seven intrepid runners turned out on a warm September Saturday afternoon to represent the Old Stonyhurst team. These included Peter Pelly, the senior member of the team at 67 years old and Tom Everatt not long out of nappies in comparison!

Tino de Freitas OS 91, who was visiting the UK from East Timor was persuaded to run following a good dinner at the Cavalry & Guards Club late the evening before! He persuaded his cousin Sarah de Freitas to run only on the morning of the race – she was educated at Leweston but given long family connections with Stonyhurst was welcomed warmly into the fold.

Tim Navin-Jones OS 97 also joined us for the first time in many years and recognised several runners from the running club and bar "London City Runners" he set up in Bermondsey. OS runners are always welcome to join for a run or a drink at the clubhouse.

Regulars **Hideo Takano OS 84** and **Brian Thursby-Pelham OS 90** sadly could not join us this year. Hideo was running the Tor des Géants hoping to finish in under 150 hours and Brian is now living in Donegal.

The day was unseasonably warm and conditions challenging, particular for those of us used to the harsher conditions of the North. The leaders of the race set out at a blistering pace in the firm conditions. The most dramatic moment of the race occurred around the half-mile point when an enormous Alsatian suddenly launched itself at **Tim O'Brien's OS 83** throat. As one would expect from a former member of His Majesty's

armed forces, he warded it off and continued the race with a ripped shirt! Nevertheless, it was a lucky escape and we are very grateful no one was hurt. Tim Navin-Jones running alongside him at the time can testify to the ferocity and sudden nature of the attack.

Sedbergh won the race followed by Shrewsbury then Harrow School. The fastest runner completed the 5 miles in 27.23 minutes. Stonyhurst finished a very respectable 20th out of 33 schools. Tim Navin-Jones was the pick of our runners coming in a very respectable 70th out of 199 runners followed by **Tom Everatt OS 16**, **Tim O'Brien** and **Oli Donaghy OS 98**, being the scoring runners for the open. **Peter Pelly OS 75** was the sixth-fastest runner in the over-65s category.

Tino and Sarah put in a brave effort, particularly given the fact (and as they pointed out several times!) that they had run an extra kilometre because their taxi dumped them by the side of the road due to traffic.

There was a good turnout of supporters including Al de Montford and **Ollie Conway OS 90**, who have both run for us before (and hopefully will again!). I was injured this year but that meant my son Otto could also support wearing an OS running vest and he enjoyed himself immensely!

We all retired for drinks afterwards at the Green Man and were also joined by Old Amplefordian Rory Henderson who we know well and whose uncle was educated at Stonyhurst. We speculated why there was a good turn from those with military connections this year – maybe it was in anticipation of the OS military dinner in November. Oli Donaghy who was at Bristol and Sandhurst with me, joined the Engineers and is now a Colonel. Peter Pelly is former Green Jacket, Tim O'Brien a former Light Infantry, and I am a former Irish Guardsman.

It was very good to welcome a new generation of OS runners in Tom Everatt who promises to recruit more of his contemporaries. I am very keen for young OS and friends to join the Club not least because it tends to improve our results!

Please stand by for the return of the annual Old Stonyhurst versus Old Ampleforth at the College at a date to be announced.



CONGRATULATIONS

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

MARRIAGES



Congratulations to **Joe Hopkins OS 11** and Anna Skelly who were married in the College Chapel, Stonyhurst on 6 April 2024. Other OS present were best men, **Joe Weld-Blundell OS 11** and **Ben Warrilow OS 08**, along with **Tom Hopkins OS 12**, **Michael McCullough OS 11**, **Peter Shorthouse OS 11**, **Daniel Beestermöller OS 11**, **James Cathcart OS 08**, **Kavir Athimoolam OS 10**, and **Tim Hanley SMH 00**.

Joe, and Anna who is Australian, have now emigrated to Sydney. Joe is keen to get in touch with any OS there, especially ones based in Sydney. Joe has given permission to share his contact details, which are available from the Association Office on application.



Congratulations to **Conor Nealon OS 13**, who was married to Laura Thompson on 25 May 2024, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Street, London. A reception was held afterwards at the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House.

The following OS were in attendance: **James Scott OS 13** who was Best Man, **George Macquisten OS 13**, **Kit Nealon OS 14**, **Tom Kilby OS 14**, **Ivo Carre OS 14**, **Maddie O'Dwyer OS 14**, **Sam Eachus OS 12**, **Chris Lowe OS 11**, **Benedict Lowe OS 17**, **Colm Fahy OS 15**, **Tim Baker OS 14**.

The Stonyhurst Foundation was represented by Chair of Trustees Gene Nealon (Father of the Groom) and Trustee Fr Keith McMillan SJ, who celebrated the wedding.



Congratulations to **Caitlin Hoole OS 11** and Robert Griffin who were married on 2 April 2024 in the College Chapel, Stonyhurst. Also in attendance were her brother and Man of Honour, **Alfie Hoole OS 13**, **Klara Holmes OS 13**, and **Tom Calder OS 13**. **Nicholas Chen OS 11**, was remembered in their prayers. RIP.

If you have material suitable for inclusion in the newsletter, please email it to me at j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk



Julian Dineen OS 06 married Clementine de la Poer Beresford on 10 June 2023 at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Mottistone, Isle of Wight. OS in attendance were Julian's brother and Best Man **Alexander Dineen OS 09**, **Ralph Parish OS 06**, **Brendan Knight OS 06**, **Cecilia Savundra OS 06**, and **Fr Matthew Power SJ OS 79**, who gave the Nuptial Blessing. Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Phoebe Robertson OS 09** and Tom Rich who were married on 6 April 2024 at St Margaret Clitherow Church, Threshfield. Other OS attending included **Alastair Robertson OS 04**, **Ailsa Robertson OS 04**, **Douglas Robertson OS 06**, **Lucy McFarlane OS 09**, **Elizabeth Cohen OS 09** and **Gabriel Cohen OS 09**. Phoebe's brother, **Angus Robertson OS 12**, was remembered in their prayers. RIP.



Congratulations to **Sylvester Bamkole OS 11** and Emily Robinson who were married in August 2024 in Port Talbot, South Wales – a celebration which lasted several days. The Holy Matrimonial service took place at Our Lady of Margam RC Church, an Igbeyawo ceremony (traditional Nigerian wedding ceremony), with a wedding blessing at St Theodore's Church, Port Talbot.

Other **OS 11** in attendance included **Benedicta Bamkole**, **Margaret Adedoyin**, **Maria Oliveira**, **Preston Ideh**, **Babatunde Durosinmi-Etti**, **James Kazie**, **Ocheme Saleh**, and **Ewart Nero Okwa**.



Congratulations to **Joseph Lord OS 13** who married Natalie Whitehead on 7 October 2023 at St John's Church, Calder Vale. OS present included Joseph's brother **William Lord OS 10**, Best Man **Rory Pickering OS 13** and groomsmen **Josh Reilly OS 13** and **Josh Warrilow OS 13**.

Sheannan Lyons OS 09, is delighted to share news of her recent marriage to Karl Marcus Samuelsson. They were married on 13 July 2024, in an intimate ceremony in Kungsbacka, Sweden. Further celebrations to be held in Ireland next spring. **Todd Robinson OS 09** was in attendance.



Congratulations to **Emily Ashworth OS 11** and her fiancé Richard Stansfield, on the birth of their son Luciano John Ashworth-Stansfield on 20 January 2024.



Congratulations to Eliza d'Aquino-Nash, daughter of Michael and **Philippa d'Aquino Nash OS 04** who was baptised at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Street, London on 26 May 2024, by **Fr Nicholas King OS 66**. Also in attendance was **James d'Aquino OS 01**.



Congratulations to Laura and **Daniel Smalley OS 04** on the baptism of their second son, George Wilfred Smalley on 27 April 2024 at St Peter's Church Stonyhurst by **Fr Tim Curtis SJ**. A brother for Lucy and Joseph. Other OS in Attendance were **John Smalley OS 98**, and **Alastair Robertson, Ailsa Robertson, and Graham McEwan, all OS 04**.

Congratulations to **Lucasz Kolodziej OS 15** who reports:

I am writing to share some exciting news about my academic journey, which I believe will be of interest to the Association and the school community. As you may recall, I reached out to you last September while applying to US universities for further studies as I had been awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship.

I'd like to share some more news now as I have been accepted into Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (HKS) to pursue a Master's in Public Administration. In addition, I have been honoured with the John F. Kennedy Fellowship, which will cover all my educational expenses at Harvard for the next two years. I am proud to note that I may be the first Polish recipient of this fellowship at HKS.

I never expected this dream of mine to come true, but here it is. I am certain it would not have been possible without the help and support I received at Stonyhurst. As one of the Polish scholars, I was given an immense opportunity to join the Stonyhurst community, and I feel truly blessed. *Quant Je Puis!*





Congratulations to **Will Jolleys OS 16**, who was recently commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, into The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Will moves to Inverness shortly and wishes to reach out to any OS, particularly those serving or ex-military, who are in the area. Please email the Association office if you are interested in reaching out to him so that, with your permission, your contact details can be shared with him: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk



Congratulations to **Henry Russell-Blackburn OS 03**, who has recently been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and selected to command the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, from February 2026. The Battalion will be based in Weeton Barracks near Blackpool. ►



IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the March 2024 edition of the Newsletter.

Michael Damian Leo Wright	OS 1944 - 1954	Godfrey Frank Basil Cyril Guy De Mendoza Taunton	OS 1959 - 1966
George Wilson	OS 1941 - 1949	Fr Francis Wahle	OS 1940 - 1947
John Charles Bambridge	OS 1967 - 1977	David Barnes	Former Parent
Mark Connolly	OS 2009 - 2013	Michael James Joseph Green	OS 1958 - 1965
Raymond Turner	Former Staff	Mick Thorpe	Former Parent
Dermot O'Flynn	OS 1988 - 1990	Michael Robert Volkens	OS 1944 - 1953
Stephanie Anne Barkley Link	OS 2008 - 2013	Christopher Arthur Hillman	OS 1966 - 1971
Jonathan James Whalley	OS 2010 - 2015	Angus Herbert Donald Robertson	OS 2007 - 2012
Richard Arthur Peter de Verteuil	OS 1953 - 1959	Helen Slinger	Former Staff
William John Drinkwater	OS 1951 - 1956	Christopher Beatson-Hird	OS 1967 - 1972
Guy Nathan Harriman	OS 1963 - 1971	Shirley Parker	Former Parent
Michael John Ashman	OS 1943 - 1947	David Gamage Parker	OS 1947 - 1954

May they rest in peace.

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.'



At a recent Stonyhurst Association Committee meeting, the Chairman asked me, 'What gets you out of bed in the morning?' It was a great question. Despite the daily challenges of running an institution like Stonyhurst there are a huge number of delights and surprises of working in this extraordinary place. Of course, these delights and surprises largely centre around the young people in our two schools. Delights range from the concerts, plays and sports matches, to the large set piece events such as Great

Academies, where our guest this year Sir Tim Smit – founder of the Eden Project in Cornwall, and soon to be in Morecombe – enthralled the College with his reflections on how to create the right environment for innovation. Personally, I enjoy the surprises more: a young person receiving an award at Assembly in St Peter's for the first time; playing a beautiful solo in a concert; or making an intervention in a Model United Nations Debate. I have the great privilege of meeting former Stonyhurst pupils and families on my travels around the world and am always humbled by the impact a Stonyhurst education has had on their lives.

It will not have escaped the attention of members of the Association that the Government have now announced the imposition of VAT on independent school fees. Whilst this was expected, the timing was not. However, Governors and the Executive have been planning for this for some time now, but there is no doubt this is a major threat to the independent school sector. Stonyhurst has been working towards being a more sustainable charity for some time now and innovations have included the establishment of the Stonyhurst Foundation to provide grants for bursaries and the opening of Stonyhurst International School Penang, Malaysia. By September 2025, Penang will be bigger than Stonyhurst UK! We are delighted that the Jesuit Provincial of Malaysia, who is a Penang Governor, has appointed a full-time Jesuit Chaplain to the school.

The major innovation for 2025/26 is the reconfiguration of St Mary's Hall and the College. From September, St Mary's Hall will go up to Upper Elements and the College will start at Figures (11+). There are many educational and pastoral advantages to this arrangement and in fact returns Stonyhurst to the pre-1946 structure. It will also ensure that we deploy our people and resources as efficiently as possible as we face the future. As part of this project, two new Playrooms have been created in the Old Gym for Figures and Rudiments and this will be known as Aloysius House. In other plans, St Mary's Hall will have a new Dance Studio and the Higher Line Centre is having a major refurbishment including a coffee shop to be known as 'The Unicorn'!

I should like to pay tribute to my Chair of Governors, Anthony Chitnis, who steps down from this important role at the end of August. Charitable governance is now a huge responsibility and Anthony has discharged this with great distinction and his constant focus has been on the experience of the young people in this global Jesuit school.

Some fun facts to end: we welcomed the 1st XI football team from St Ignatius' College, Riverview, Sydney; the College celebrated the 503rd anniversary of the Battle of Pamplona with a short prayer service at the Fronts with the firing of the cannons; via eBay in Ireland, we purchased the handwritten Stonyhurst College scrapbook of Captain P. Fogarty, one of the OS who fell at the Somme.



Finally, the swans on the canals have had four cygnets who are becoming social media celebrities and featured in a Headmaster's Assembly with a performance of 'The Swan' from *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saëns.



FRANCIS RAINSFORD MBE OS 73



(Above): **Francis Rainsford MBE OS 73**, wearing his insignia of the Sesquicentennial and Most Venerable Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Arequipa. He is considered to be the Stonyhurst Association's 'Man in Peru'.

The unveiling of a plaque in honour of a Peruvian nun adds a strand to the cord that binds Stonyhurst College and Arequipa's Sesquicentennial and Most Venerable Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

"A cord with three strands is not easily broken."
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Founded in 1870, the Arequipa's Brotherhood of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre is today titled the Sesquicentennial and Most Venerable Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. To date, four ex-alumni, or OS ('Old Stonyhurst') of the College have been members:

- **Manuel Fernando Alejandro Arturo López de Romaña Alvizuri OS 1864** (1846-1917) – known as Alejandro López de Romaña and who became a member in 1875.
- **Jose Gabriel Eduardo Octavio López de Romaña Alvizuri OS 1865** (1847-1912) – known as Eduardo López de Romaña and who was later elected the 29th President of the Republic of Peru from 1899-1903. He became a member of the Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 1897.
- **Juan Manuel Francisco Damaso López de Romaña Alvizuri OS 1867** (1849-1914)

– known as Juan López de Romaña and who was a founding member of the Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 1870.

- **Francis Rainsford OS 71** (1953) – I became a member of the Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 2016.

Alejandro Lopez de Romaña, together with his younger brother Eduardo, was sent from Arequipa to Stonyhurst College 1859 to receive a Jesuit education. His youngest brother, Juan, followed later in 1861. Alejandro finished his studies in 1864 and returned to Arequipa where he later pursued a political career with the Civilista Party and was appointed Prime Minister in the government of President Nicolas de Piérola in 1899; however, his refusal to sign the Civil Marriage Act into law, proposed by the Freemasons, led to his resignation from government just one month after his appointment, and Pope Leo XIII thereupon admitted him into the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George.

Alejandro went on to serve as a Senator from 1899-1904, representing Arequipa and coinciding with the period of his brother Eduardo's presidency. During his time in Arequipa's Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre he served on its board as Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director.

In 1900, he was president of a commission set up by the Brotherhood's board to propagate the life of Ana Monteagudo Ponce de León, born 26 July 1602 in Arequipa and, in 1619, took solemn vows as a Dominican nun in the city's Saint Catherine of Siena Monastery (Monasterio de Santa Catalina). There, where she remained cloistered for the rest of her life, Ana held the offices of sacristan, mistress of novices and prioress. Renowned as a mystic, prophetess and intercessor of Souls in Purgatory, she died on 10 January 1686, aged 84.

Alejandro's commission was named Monteagudo Circles and initiated a series of studies and works centred on aspects of Ana's life and on information about miracles attributed to her intercession after supplications by the faithful.

Better known as Sister Ana of the Angels Monteagudo, she was

beatified in Arequipa by Pope John Paul II on 2nd February 1985, proclaiming her Blessed Sister Ana of the Angels Monteagudo, the first cloistered nun in the Americas to be elevated to such heights.

For my part, and since I became a member of Arequipa's Brotherhood of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 2016, I have served on its board as a Director and am currently its Vice President.

In 2023, the Archbishop of Arequipa, Monsignor Javier Del Río Alba, asked the Brotherhood to organise a special homage and place a plaque to commemorate the birthplace of Blessed Sister Ana of the Angels Monteagudo as a means of promoting public awareness of her life and the ongoing case for her canonisation which continues in Rome.

I was a member of the commission of four brothers set up by the Brotherhood's board to comply with the Archbishop's request and, after securing the authorisation of Peru's Ministry of Culture and consent from Arequipa's civil authorities effective 10 January 2024, a commemorative plaque was unveiled on 11 March 2024 at the main entrance to the city's Mercedarian Convent of Saint John's Lateran – the nearest place to her actual birthplace, as in the 17th century her former family home (now disappeared) was located very close to the boundaries of said convent.



FAREWELL BEVERLEY

JULIE MACFARLANE OS 78 INTERVIEWS BEVERLEY SILLITOE ON HER IMMINENT RETIREMENT AS ASSOCIATION OFFICE MANAGER, 24 JUNE 2024

Julie: Good morning, Beverley, and thank you for coming to talk to me today about your long career here at Stonyhurst. You began work here in January 2001 – and stayed for over 23 years. What was your background before you started at Stonyhurst and became the Office Manager here?

Beverley: For most of my working life, I was in bookselling and publishing. I started off in a bookshop as a trainee and ended up being the buyer for three bookshops. I then made a change to work for Cambridge University Press as an educational representative, visiting schools in Lancashire, Bury, Bolton and Wigan. I did that for five years but then, unfortunately, I became poorly. It was very difficult as I had huge mobility issues, so I had to leave that job even though I was actually very happy doing it – I enjoyed it, it was good fun and I had a great team.

I had to leave because I couldn't cope with the driving, so, for two or three years, I was at home. It was whilst I was at home that I started to enjoy using the computer. I had never previously used a computer at all. I had an extremely clever uncle, Chris, who I loved a lot, and in spending time with him we got really interested in how this technology worked. It was a lovely time together, particularly as he enjoyed finding out things as well. Uncle Chris gave me my first computer to have for myself.

I started doing a few training courses because I couldn't move very much, but I knew that there was nothing wrong with my brain, and I could learn. So off I went to college and completed a couple of courses in computer science to get more proficient. One of the courses that I really liked was about databases and access, which then turned out to be a good choice of course because it meant that when I saw the advertisement for the Association job requiring somebody who could put a database together, I was qualified for it.

The job was advertised in the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* by **Michael Joseph OS 59**, who was the Association Chairman at the time. I just read it and thought, 'Oh, that sounds good!' I thought I could do that. So really, I think it was down to Uncle Chris, who gave me that first computer and instilled in me a sort of love of finding out how to work with computers.

I didn't know anything about Stonyhurst, only that as a child I would come with my mum, dad, brother and sister to feed the ducks. That was it, really, until I saw the advertisement and read up about it, in advance of the interview, to find things out.

Julie: What would you say have been the highlights of your time here?

Beverley: I think there were three things and they're all very similar really, because they are the pilgrimages; the Rome pilgrimage in 2006; the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage which



was in 2018, possibly '19; and the Lourdes pilgrimages. They've definitely been the highlights of my time here, particularly the Rome pilgrimage.

Rome was the first big pilgrimage. I mean, I've done Lourdes from 2001. But Rome was different – it was very, very different. Working with **Chris Page OS 76** was just amazing. We went out together; me, Christopher and his wife Celia, to do a recce; to work out how many days it would take and where the accommodation would be. We had to source what type of accommodation we could get, where we would eat, where would we need packed lunches. We did the whole thing. Christopher and Celia were amazing. They'd been to Italy before and they'd done a little bit of this sort of thing. They were great to be with and to work with – it was just wonderful.

On the pilgrimage, the age ranged from children up to people in their 70s. The rule was that as long as they were able to walk, everybody was welcome. It was done in sections and my Mike came as well. We were in the van doing the ferrying. We would see people off in the morning and then we'd follow the route with the luggage. We picked up all the packed lunches, so we'd have nearly 100 packed lunches in the back of the van, that takes up a lot of room! We paid the bills because people pretty much dealt in cash at the monasteries and the convents. We left the accommodation and then we'd follow the route and meet them at the stop for lunch. The

sight of all these people with their banners, coming down over the fields, the hills, was just amazing. Unforgettable.

We had Masses in just tiny chapels sometimes. Yes, we had Mass at the Jesu, and we had Mass at the Vatican and of course that was wonderful. But just as wonderful were the little Masses. The little ones where the kids were playing the flute, or on a violin, you know? They had brought musical instruments with them and, yeah, it was just like one big family – and we talk all the time, don't we, about Stonyhurst being a family like no other? And sometimes that gets a bit diluted somehow. But that was what it was. Yes. That was very much the Stonyhurst family all coming together. It was marvellous and a great memory, especially for Mike to have been with me as well because he thoroughly enjoyed it. Including some unexpected events, all sorts of things happened!

Adrian Aylward, who was Headmaster at the time, was with us, and a couple of times after lunch he would get into the van. He'd decided that he'd had enough of the walking and we would take him on to the hotel. He was just such good fun during those rides. He made us laugh out loud and was unexpectedly really, really fun.

On another day when, just as we thought that we had done what we had to do and that we had time to sit outside, have a glass of wine or beer or whatever in the sunshine, the phone went and there was an emergency. Somebody

in the group had been stung by a bee and had suffered a severe reaction to it. So, we got back in the van, got the map, and went to find where they were in the middle of Italy. They were literally in the middle of a field. Having found them, we then had to find a way from the field to the hospital in a town that we'd never been in before. I can remember that I said to Mike on spotting an ambulance, 'just follow that ambulance because it must, hopefully, be going to the hospital.' It was, and the poorly, semi-conscious person fortunately survived – all was well.

Julie: *This leads very nicely on to my next question. What have you been your biggest challenges? Was it finding the hospital in Italy – or have there been other, bigger challenges?*

Beverley: Finding the hospital was a big challenge, but I think sometimes that my challenges have really been more about coping with the workload and having everything done on time and having to deal with people sometimes when under pressure.

Layla's fantastic and a huge support. It would be completely impossible to have done the work we've done over the last 15 years without that additional support in the office, because for the first few years, it was just me. Although before then, I had the lovely David Mercer with me in the office quite often. He was such a friend and somebody that I could bounce ideas off. He was great at sticking labels on envelopes and holding things. It was always nice to have somebody to talk to about things, and to have that support. I miss him even now; he was a tremendously good friend and support to me and was passionate about the Association. He loved it. Fortunately, we got Layla and that made things easier. As for challenges: yeah, I think it's just working under pressure quite a lot because things have deadlines. Just getting all the resources that you need, you know, being able to book rooms, and venues. It can be quite challenging.

Julie: *How have things changed over that 23-year period? What would you say has been the biggest change?*

Beverley: It's been more like a series of gradual changes really, rather than one big change. Obviously, we've worked under three different headmasters so that brings its own changes with it because they all work in different ways, they have different styles and so on. Balancing the way the College works with the way the Association works can be quite challenging sometimes.

I've had different chairmen as well, of course, and they've all been male in my time. **Michael Joseph, Christopher Page**, then Michael Joseph again followed by **Simon Andrews** and now **Brendan Roche OS 82**. They all work differently. We have had to adapt and to be quite flexible, to get to know these people because they are mine and Layla's chain of command and so you have to learn how to work with people. Fortunately, they've all been lovely, so that's not really been difficult. I don't feel that there have been many changes really, just different systems and changes with technology. We are always learning new technology to maintain contact through various ways, and that's not changed.

Fortunately, we've had one constant in all that time and that's our Treasurer **Gerry**

Lagerburg OS 79, who has been there from my start, and who I think does an amazing job, without anybody sometimes realising just how much he actually does and what a tremendous support he's been through all this time. I mean, he's been brilliant. I love people where you ask a question and you get an answer and that's it – yeah, and that's Gerry.

Julie: *I'm going to move you on now to the OS reunions. Obviously, you've been providing the support for delivering reunions over the years and I want to ask you if you can remember your quirkiest or oddest reunion?*

Beverley: All reunions are different because you get a group of people, who haven't seen each other for years, and it doesn't matter what age they are, or how many years it is since they were last at the College because when they walk through the door, they become 18 again, and the nicknames come back out. That happens time and time again. Layla and I 'roll our eyes' at each other and say, 'Here we go!'

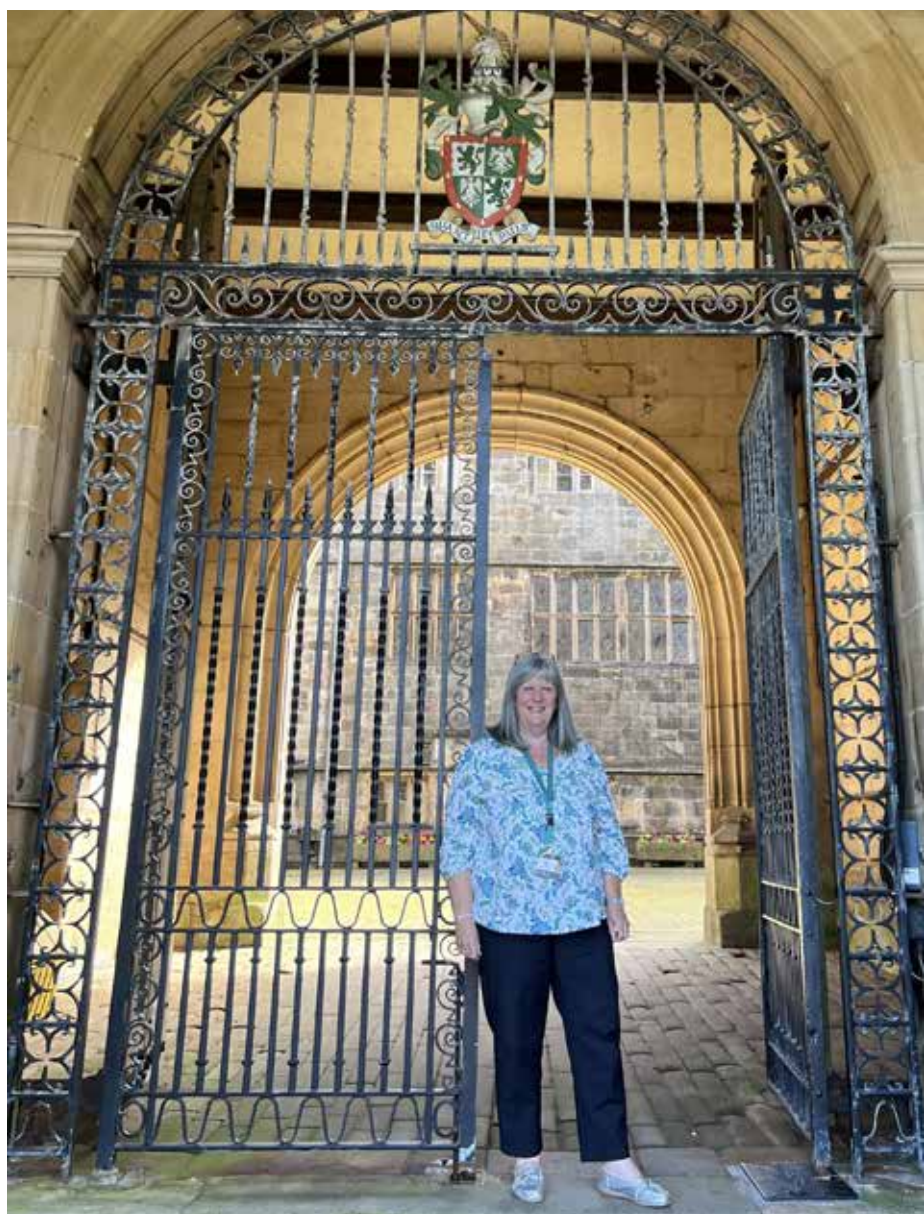
The stories that they start to tell are just fascinating. It really doesn't matter whether it's a 10-year group or a 40-year anniversary reunion, they become like teenagers again. It's good fun. For some of them it's quite hard for that first hour or so, especially if they haven't

been back for a very long time, or possibly if some of the memories aren't of the happiest and that can be a little hard. We see them change and relax as the reunion progresses and as all the chatter starts and they begin sharing stories and things. That's rather lovely.

I can't think of any one person who has been particularly quirky, but the chamber orchestra reunion was quite different because it was the first time that a reunion was held for anything other than a year group. It was for a group of musicians coming back who shared a passion for music. It was fabulous fun, and a very, very mixed group of ages.

Julie: *How valuable do you think the reunions are?*

Beverley: Hugely. Because people reengage, and sometimes it can be people who haven't actually spoken for years just because they haven't kept in touch. They left the College and their paths went in different directions. These people reengage with their year group, with themselves, and they reengage with the College. I think it can change their memories, to a degree, of Stonyhurst. For some of them, it's quite cathartic, I think, to come back, and to be here for a couple of days. They love to tell you about what's changed. Obviously, for the older ones, it's the presence of girls,



then the heating system and the food. We see how startled they are when they see the girls walking around. That's often commented on, but the one thing that they say has stayed the same is the smell in certain parts of the building. Quite often they will close their eyes and say that the smell just takes them straight back to when they were here – particularly in the Boys (College) chapel, which has a very distinctive smell of wood and candle wax and incense.

Julie: *You touched on Lourdes earlier. Why do you think that Lourdes became such an important part of your working life?*

Beverley: Lourdes wasn't even included in my original job description because it was done by a volunteer who came in 3 or 4 days a week. In fact, it was Jim Richie who asked me to take on the Lourdes administration on behalf of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage Trust (CAPT). In 2002, he asked if I would like to go to Lourdes because I was already doing all the administration. I'd never been before. I knew all about Lourdes, being Catholic and going to Paddock House Catholic Grammar school in Accrington. My grandma had always had Lourdes water in her home, brought back for her from Lourdes. Jim left in 2003. As I'd already been doing the administration for him over the previous couple of years, I was very happy to do it on a more permanent basis for CAPT. I think Lourdes encompasses everything that we are trying to do here at Stonyhurst and gives the students the best example of how they can change people's lives for the better, and how important it is to work as a team to get things done properly and to care for people who are, mostly, less privileged and more vulnerable than they are. It is just the most wonderful, practical way of showing our young people how they really can help somebody and how satisfying and rewarding it is when – even though they are shattered at the end of the day – they know that they've done something good and, in so doing, made a difference.

Julie: *How do you think we could promote Lourdes to the students at Stonyhurst so that they would be more interested in applying to join the Pilgrimage?*

Beverley: We're trying all the time to promote it. We didn't need to worry too much about promoting Lourdes until COVID-19. It was having the two-year break that made it difficult to get back to where we were. We used to have waiting lists for Lourdes and the students would have to fill in an application form, to say how they thought they were going to benefit and why they should go – why they should get a place. We had to limit places as we had so many applications. The two years without the Pilgrimage meant that when it became possible to arrange it again, there wasn't a single pupil in the school who had been to Lourdes. Previous Poetry and Rhetoric year groups had no first-hand experience of Lourdes so we didn't have anybody from previous years to talk to the next year group at our presentation event, to share their enthusiasm in the way that had happened in the past. The established pattern of recruitment had been broken by the pandemic, not just with the pupils, but also with the young OS who had previously come to Lourdes for several years running, but had then gone on to do other things during

COVID. It's made it really difficult to get it back together again, but we're getting there.

Julie: *Apart from the personal development of the pupils and the family members who go, do you think there are any other benefits to participating in the Lourdes pilgrimage?*

Beverley: Well, obviously there's a spiritual side of it, which is very important. I think Lourdes is a place where you can actually take time to think and to pray. It's hard to say you've got the time because it is such a busy, busy place. But it is a place, I believe, where you can just find some peace in the day.

Julie: *Do you think there's an additional outcome for Stonyhurst pupils who go to Lourdes, something that they can then take into their life beyond it?*

Beverley: I think so. I think that there have been many pupils who've changed their mind about the course their life is going after having been to Lourdes. We have pupils who have gone into areas of medicine, physiotherapy or occupational therapy or as doctors or nurses, which I think has been down to the Lourdes experience, and it has helped them realise that this is something that they could do with their lives. That's definitely happened. I hope that it gives them a really good understanding of how important friendships and working in a team are, and I hope they then have that in them when they come away.

Julie: *Would you say, looking back, that educational institutions and other employers in the workplace put any value on a pupil going to Lourdes?*

Beverley: If you mean does it look good on the CV, I have very mixed feelings about that because I wouldn't want a pupil to come just because they saw it as a tick box. That's not why they should go to Lourdes. It's fine if the experience has the advantage of allowing them to describe what they've done in an interview so that they can talk about the experience and how it's changed them in some way, perhaps made them stronger. If the student planned on going into medicine, for example, going to Lourdes would be a very, very helpful thing to do because when they spend time working in the Accueil, then they do see really poorly people there and it gives them an understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of people.

Julie: *Are there any aspects of your current role that you think would benefit from being changed to make your role work better?*

Beverley: I'm not sure. I might prefer easier access for people to just pop in but we have to be so careful with our essential Safeguarding measures. We just have to accept that, at a reunion for example, we have to be there during the evening to chaperone people to the loo and escort them outside for a smoke if they're that way inclined. I think systems have made things harder. But we can't change, change. So, we have to work with it. It is in working our way around all the

different systems, adapting to the changes, that we ensure that everyone gets a good experience.

Julie: *In your view, what is it that makes the Association so valuable to the Stonyhurst Family whilst at school and after leaving school?*

Beverley: Well, I suppose one of the big things I've always thought about the Association is that its strength is in its independence of the school. We're here not just for the pupils, but for the parents and for the staff. We must never forget that they are also our members and their welfare is important too. I believe that the parents need to understand the value of the Association from the first year that their child enters the College as we mutually support their child through the school and beyond it. Parents are welcome at our events and once they understand the role that we play for (and with) their children, they further understand that we can help them with careers and networking. You wouldn't believe the number of enquiries we get from past pupils wanting to be put in touch with OS in a certain country or in a certain field! It's just a daily occurrence. It's the sort of thing we do all the time. I think we must encourage them to stay in touch with each other and in touch with the College, through the Association, and I think people do value the independence of the Association; that it's for them and that they are our priority. There's no hidden agenda at all with the Association. Members come to an event, they can enjoy it and they know that we're always on their side which is what it's all about.

Julie: *What are your plans after your retirement?*

Beverley: The best thing, at the moment, is not having any plans. Thank goodness I will not have to carry this diary with me. I won't be carrying the diary with me when I go to the caravan for the weekend. There are one or two things to plan for – we want to do the Scotland 500 next June and we want to have more time to spend with my family, with my sister and with my daughter and Charlie. So just to be able to do things, and have a little



bit more time with them, really, a bit more time in the caravan. We love being up in the caravan. it's our happy place on Bolton Sands. Beautiful, looking over the bay. It's lovely.

Julie: *The Association knows that it's going to miss your encyclopaedic knowledge of the College and all things Association. Do you feel that you want to make a clean break, or do you feel that you still want to be connected to the College in some way?*

Beverley: I think I would want to be connected. I'm going to carry on doing the Lourdes administration which I'm delighted about because it is something that I love. I

think that the connection with the College and the Association is such that I wouldn't want to just walk away. I've made lots of friends, and I would still want to come back to the carol service, for instance, at Christmas. That would be something that I wouldn't want to miss. It's something that I've really enjoyed. and it's an opportunity to catch up with people. I think the connection is in my heart now, and it's got me so I'm not going to just completely disappear...

Julie: *Is there anything else that you want to share with us about your time at Stonyhurst?*

Beverley: I'd just like to say thank you because I have met so many wonderful people. I've been met with courtesy and humour and people have just treated me so well that it's been a pleasure. It's been a pleasure to work with everybody, from the Association committee, to the Stonyhurst trustees, and to colleagues here.

Julie: *Thank you, Beverley, and best wishes in your retirement from all of us.*

FAREWELL EVENT

On 29 June the Stonyhurst Association held a farewell event for Beverley Sillitoe, seen here with Layla Heaton, her Office Assistant. Beverley retired at the end of July after over 23 years of service to the Association.

Mass was celebrated in St Peter's by Fr Brendan Callaghan, Chaplain to the Association, followed by a reception in Theodore House attended by as many past Presidents, and Chairmen, as could attend.

It was a testament to the high regard held by people towards Beverley when so many, from different parts of College life, either attended the event or sent messages of thanks and good wishes for her retirement. Everyone in the Association sends her their sincerest thanks and good wishes. Enjoy these 'Golden Years'!



INTRODUCING JO-ANNE BROWN

In her own words: Having grown up in Hurst Green, Stonyhurst has always been close to my heart and in fact gave me my first employment, whilst at school, when I worked in the kitchens at St Mary's Hall. After a 25-year career with Barclays Bank, I returned to Stonyhurst in 2013 to manage the International Summer School programme for a 5-year period.

In 2018, I left Stonyhurst, moving to Giggleswick School where I worked in the Alumni and Development team, helping the school grow its alumni community, managing alumni events and fundraising for bursaries and capital projects.

I am delighted to be back in the familiar surroundings of the College, using skills acquired in previous roles, as I take the baton from Beverley in the Association office.

I am already enjoying catching up with old colleagues and very much looking forward to getting to know our wonderful OS and Association family.

Please contact me at j.brown@stonyhurst.ac.uk

MICHAEL McGRATH OS 82 RECEIVES AN MBE

AT WINDSOR CASTLE FOR
SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Pioneering polar adventurer and founder and CEO of The Muscle Help Foundation (MHF) charity, **Michael McGrath MBE DL OS 82** received his Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award on 12 June 2024 at Windsor Castle from Anne, Princess Royal, in recognition for charitable services to People with muscular dystrophy (MD).

Michael's MBE award was first announced in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List, with the Honours system celebrating the people who go above and beyond to change the world around them for the better and seeking to reward those doing vital and extraordinary work across the country.

Operating a unique wish fulfilment model rooted in wellbeing, the MHF charity, which celebrates its 21st anniversary this year, organises and facilitates highly personalised interventions, called Muscle Dreams, for vulnerable children and young people (8–28yrs) across the UK living with the muscle wasting condition MD. Delivering physiological and psychological benefits that improve emotional and mental wellness, the personalised programmes are designed to be restorative and uplifting – with beneficiaries being empowered via the realisation of their Muscle Dream. From experiencing flight or being out on the open water to learning a new skill or interviewing a global movie icon, these transformational experiences are MHF's tangible fulfilment device, delivering both immediate and long-term positive impacts to recipients and their families.

On receiving the award, Michael said: "When I heard the news last year, I was totally overwhelmed. Being at Windsor Castle nearly one year on with my loved ones meant the world. I was so happy that my 88-year-old mum was there to witness the moment when Princess Anne pinned the award on my chest. This recognition is for all those who have supported the Muscle Help Foundation charity's journey along the way over the past 21 years.

My heart also goes out to every single beneficiary, their often-exhausted mums and dads, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties and all those who unconditionally and selflessly care for those living with this cruel and unforgiving condition that robs sufferers of their mobility, and finally for those with the most severe form, their lives. Right now, whilst care is at the forefront in a lot of people's minds, in 2023 the charity lost nine of its Muscle Warrior beneficiaries – the average age was just 19 years old. This is the harsh reality of a condition that is currently incurable.

"What the charity tries hard to do is change lives and give hope – our young people are the fuel that drives me to keep pushing on. It is such an enormous privilege to witness often the best day of a young person's life, the joy on families' faces and those precious smiles. Whilst much has been accomplished over the past 21 years, I must highlight the one person in my world who has also been a key part of the journey: my incredible wife, Sue. Through her love and enduring support, her patience, deep understanding and affinity with so many of our families, she is truly my rock, together with an army of extraordinary volunteers. As MHF moves towards realising its 657 mission and as we look to a future rooted in more wellbeing initiatives designed to not only uplift and restore mental and emotional wellness, but also fill a growing gap around the lack of respite, the need for our services will, I have no doubt, continue."



The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, the only granddaughter of Sir Ernest Shackleton, the great Irish Polar Explorer, said: "My warmest congratulations to Michael. I have had the privilege of knowing him as his Patron and friend for many years. His achievements in reaching both the North and South Poles and his continuing work with the Muscle Help Foundation charity has been exemplary. I believe Michael's qualities are best summed up by those listed by my grandfather Ernest Shackleton for a Polar Explorer – namely optimism, patience, imagination with idealism and, finally, courage."

When TV Presenter, Lorraine Kelly CBE, an MHF Patron, heard the news in June last year about Michael's MBE award, she said: "Michael is a superhero! He's done the most incredible things and changed the lives of so many children with muscular dystrophy through the charity's Muscle Dreams. I'm so pleased he is being honoured as he really deserves to be recognised for his achievement."

About Michael

Michael's journey started at 18 years old, when he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy (MD). Following his diagnosis, he chose a life dedicated to inspiring and providing hope for others living with MD.

To raise awareness of MD, Michael led expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic in 2002 and 2004 respectively, making history by becoming the first disabled person in the world to have led expeditions to both the North and South Poles. These expeditions were the launchpad for the MHF charity. He reached 90 degrees South (Antarctica) in 2004; the same year in which Michael was recognised by the late Queen for his 'contribution to national life' at Buckingham Palace – he was included in the 2004 Christmas Day broadcast to the nation by Her Majesty, reinforcing diversity as a strength.

Commenting on this amazing feat, Alexandra Shackleton said: "Michael's polar achievements are extraordinary triumphs of physical and mental endurance and should serve as a reminder to us all that, in his own words, 'our limits are often far beyond where we may assume them to be'."

The Muscle Help Foundation, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year (2024), has a singular focus on delivering *Muscle Dreams* – these are life-changing interventions and/or moments in time for children and young people with muscular dystrophy. In doing so, the charity serves a very special purpose in the broad MD space. The whole ethos of the charity is rooted in the idea that brilliantly executed interventions can be transformational in not just fulfilling a young person's dreams and aspirations, but they can also uplift, boost confidence and improve self-esteem, often giving desperately needed hope. An academic study that powerfully validates the charity's impact was also carried out by the Centre of Health Services and Clinical Research at the University of Hertfordshire. Their rigorous analysis academically validates the charity's impact in a way *never seen before* in the wish-fulfilment sector. The robust report found that the MHF's work has 'a lasting, transformative effect on young people and their families, giving them greater confidence and an invaluable sense of community and social connection'.

During the pandemic, the charity pivoted its work to deliver group virtual interventions including virtual *Muscle Dreams* focussing on laughter, music, improvisation and comedy, as well as wellbeing outreach programmes. Individual unique virtual *Muscle Dreams* included live chats with the England hockey team, while regular quizzes and Q&As with nearly 50 public figures through the charity's '*In Conversation With*' broadcasts built a sense of connection and community during a period of significant worry and isolation.

In addition, recognising the challenges being faced by his beneficiary community during the lockdowns, Michael also asked MHF Patron,

Lorraine Kelly CBE, to deliver a message of hope and support to those living with MD, who had been shielding during the pandemic. Miriam Margolyes OBE was announced last year as a Patron of the charity, that also has British actor, film director and writer Sir Kenneth Branagh OBE who has been associated with the charity since 2003, also as a Patron, and who at that time delivered a heartfelt video endorsement of the charity's work saying, 'this is a small charity with a very, very big heart'.

From being a long-standing DE&I advocate to having several 'thought leader' pieces published in a variety of journals, Michael has also been named in the Power 100 publication on four consecutive occasions, namely in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 as one of Britain's most influential disabled people. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts (2018) by the University of Hertfordshire, in 'recognition of his motivational and inspirational work for persons with a disability'. In his speech to graduates in 2018 at the Cathedral & Abbey Church of St Alban (Hertfordshire), he made a plea to graduates to 'make the discovery of their own purpose a key priority'.

Michael was appointed in July 2019 to represent the Crown as a Deputy Lieutenant (DL) in Hertfordshire – a voluntary role, and in September 2019, he was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Since returning from the poles some 20 years ago, Michael remains a sought-after speaker delivering inspiring keynote presentations to private and public sector organisations. Over several years, his speaking services have been repeatedly engaged with by different NHS Trusts across the UK to inspire frontline workers and NHS leaders including talks both pre and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael speaks at conferences, events and away days in addition to delivering bespoke masterclasses. Keynote topics include leadership, resilience, change, overcoming adversity, risk and teamwork. He has also been invited to speak in both mainstream, special educational needs (SEN) schools and hospices, capturing hearts and minds, as well as broadening the horizons of children and young people.

Editor's note: Congratulations to Michael. What an example of resilience and hope in dealing with what life sends our way. For further information about the Muscle Help Foundation go to www.musclehelp.com

FRANCIS SUTTILL OS

ANDREW SUTHERLAND OS 66 INFORMS US:

I am now living in Lymington, Hampshire, not far from the Beaulieu estate. I do not know if you have ever visited Beaulieu but not only is the famous Motor Museum to be found there but also the Palace and remains of the old Abbey. What is often overlooked is the Special Operations Executive Museum which was set up to commemorate the many SOE agents who were trained there during the last war. Lady Montague has curated a new exhibition there which features two agents, a woman and a man, Francis Alfred Suttill. The exhibition records that he went to Stonyhurst from 1916-1926 and was subsequently in charge of a major spy ring, Prosper, around Paris during the war. Tragically the ring was infiltrated and he was executed in 1943.

Like all OS, I have always admired the bravery of our seven VCs and was inspired to buy the book, *The Seven VCs of Stonyhurst College*.

Without in any way wishing to denigrate the bravery of the Seven VCs I have often thought that it took a higher level of courage to become a spy in German-occupied Europe not knowing if or by whom you might be betrayed leading to the most horrific torture and possible death. No mention was ever made whilst I was at Stonyhurst of Francis Suttill or of any other OS who might have become spies during the last war. Full details of Francis Suttill's life and career can be found on Wikipedia if you Google him.

Editor's note: Andrew goes on to suggest a small exhibition to commemorate an OS whose courage was, he believes, every bit as great as that of our seven VCs; what a good idea!

FR FRANCIS WAHLE OS 47

BY FR TERRY TASTARD, A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER,
AS TAKEN FROM 'THE PILLAR'.

Franz Wahle, known as Francis, died on 14 May 2024 at the age of 94. He was one of nearly 10,000 Jewish children who escaped Nazi Europe through the mass evacuation known as the Kindertransport, which took them to Britain shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

Francis was actually a cradle Catholic: his father had converted before he was born in August 1929, and the infant Francis was baptised in St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna. But with four Jewish grandparents, the Nuremberg Laws deemed him Jewish.

Before the German takeover of Austria in 1938, his family's life had been comfortable. His father was a lawyer and judge. With the advent of Nazi rule, things changed with terrifying speed. His father had to resign his job under Nazi racial laws, and Francis' Catholic school ordered him to leave. His parents tried to shield him from what was happening, but he saw Jews humiliated and beaten on the streets. His parents decided to send him and his younger sister Anne to safety in Britain, obtaining places for them on one of the Kindertransport trains. The scene at the Vienna West Station was one of barely controlled anguish as hundreds of parents waved goodbye to their children, many of whom would never see their parents again. Francis and Anne arrived in England in January 1939. He was nine, she was seven. To their dismay, they were separated. He was sent to a home run by a Catholic committee for refugees, and she was taken care of by nuns. Francis quickly learned English and was given free education, first at a Jesuit preparatory school, before moving on to Stonyhurst, the Jesuit private school in Lancashire, North West England. During vacations, he and two other refugee boys boarded with a Catholic woman in Blackpool whose motherly care was exemplary.

Those first years of transition required adaptability and even courage on his part. You sensed in Fr Francis a resilience and stoicism born of his experiences. His sister was able to visit him occasionally.

They wondered what had happened to their parents. In 1945, they heard that their resourceful parents had survived by going underground. One of their ruses was to



The young Francis and Anne Wahle, courtesy of the Diocese of Westminster.

move from lodging house to lodging house, pretending they were lovers. Using false IDs, they would plead with landladies for accommodation. The Viennese, remarked Fr Francis wryly, always had a strong streak of sentimentality.

Travel was difficult after the war and he was not able to meet his mother until 1947, and his father even later. There was pain as well as joy in the reunion. He had left them as a nine-year-old and reunited with them as a young man. They were now nearly strangers to each other, and rebuilding their relationship took patience and tolerance on both sides.

Francis was sure that if he and Anne had not been sent away, they would all have perished, because his parents would have been unable to hide in the way they did. Francis took an economics degree at University College London and began a career in accountancy and management, but he gave it up when he sensed a call to the priesthood. After

studying in Rome, he was ordained a priest in 1965 and served parishes in the Diocese of Westminster.

At one point, he was also a hospital chaplain. He was once asked by the nurse in charge of maternity to stop giving new mothers a card, which had a scriptural verse on one side and chaplaincy notices on the other. Puzzled, he asked why.

She told him that sometimes the mothers laughed so much they burst their stitches. He looked again at the card. The verse chosen was Matthew 11:28: "*Come to me all you who labour under a heavy burden.*"

After retirement, he began a new ministry of listening to Catholics alienated by hurtful experiences in the Church. They would meet in the restaurant below his flat in Baker Street, near the home of the fictional Sherlock Holmes. Some of them were reconciled as a result, but his main aim was the healing power of the listening itself.

Fr Francis opposed any racism or xenophobia. Perhaps it was remarkable that he showed no resentment towards Austria, and that his faith as a Catholic was strong. The nation of his birth liked to portray itself as Hitler's first victim, but over the decades that story has frayed. Plenty of Austrian Catholics welcomed the Nazis. For that matter, both Hitler and Himmler were brought up as Catholics.

Fr Francis saw the rise of Nazism as a warning from history. As regards the Church, he was a student in Rome during Vatican Council II and welcomed the reforms, which he felt had not gone far enough. He was quick to speak up for Jews if he heard any disparagement of them. He once said: "I'm like a tree with two roots – my Christian roots, my religion; and my Jewish roots, my ancestors. I can make the Catholics less antisemitic and the Jews less afraid of Catholicism." Until recently, he would celebrate Mass once a month at a Mass centre for German-speaking Catholics in southwest London.

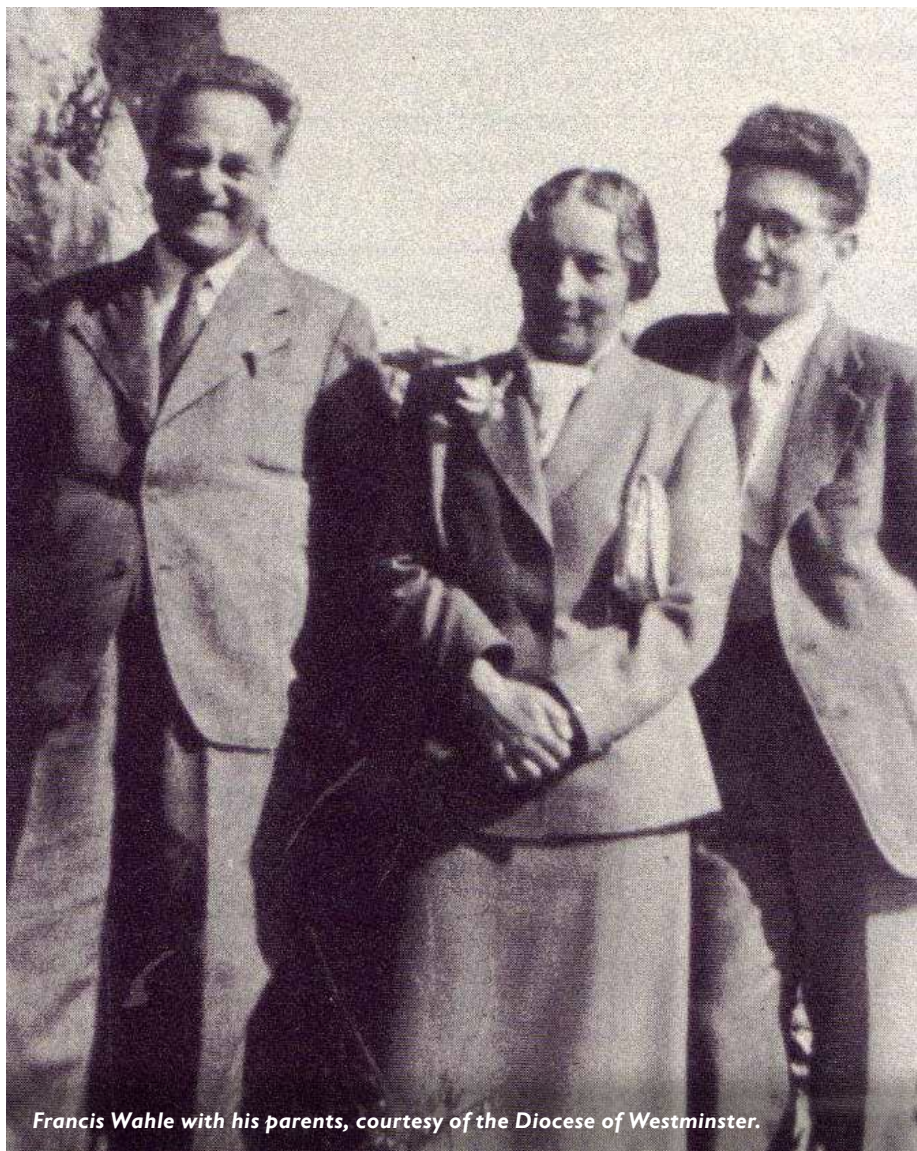
Publicly, he was a little reticent about his early life, perhaps not wanting to imply any resentment. Accordingly, he did not preach on his experiences to the German-speaking congregation. But young families would invite him to lunch afterward and pepper him with questions.

His sister Anne followed a similar pattern. She joined the Sisters of Sion, who turned away from an earlier conversionist history to become champions of Jewish-Christian reconciliation. Known as Sister Hedwig, she dedicated her life to promoting Jewish-Christian understanding. She organised tours to Israel, established a library on Christian-Jewish topics, and worked to ensure that textbooks were free of antisemitism. She died in 2001.

Fr Francis was a member of Britain's Association of Jewish Refugees. He was selected to be filmed and [interviewed for its 'My Story' series](#). The interviews were turned into books, and his story was one of those presented to the Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen when survivors visited Austria in 2022.

In November 2023, Fr Francis also met King Charles III, who came to a commemoration of the Kindertransport at the Great Portland Street Synagogue in London.

Fr Francis was one of those older people that the young found it easy to speak to, attracted by his openness and twinkling good humour. He always retained an intellectual curiosity and a zest for life, but he was disappointed



Francis Wahle with his parents, courtesy of the Diocese of Westminster.



by the return of war and ethnic hatred in our own times, and by the human incapacity to reform. He said that he did not have a message for younger generations. Humankind already knew what to do, he said, and still did not do it. His mind remained unclouded. In his final years, he was able to take himself on foot or

by bus to the midday Mass at St James', Spanish Place, central London, until even that became impossible.

He was not afraid of death, regarding it as life's last great adventure. When he died in London's University College Hospital, he was the oldest priest in Westminster diocese. RIP.

UPDATES FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Observatories Archive

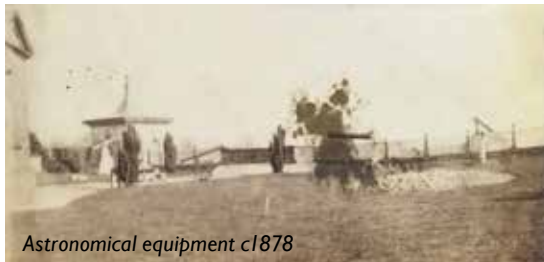
The historic records from Stonyhurst's observatories have begun to be listed and arranged, with advice from academics. This is a complex collection, comprising records of the observatories' work across many fields of study and observation, which included astronomical, meteorological, and magnetic research.

Stonyhurst was among the most highly regarded institutions in these fields of study in the UK in the 19th and early 20th centuries, led by respected Jesuit scientists including Alfred Weld, Stephen Perry, Walter Sidgreaves and Aloysius Cortie. These men were influential in the study of emerging scientific fields during their lifetimes, and were important members of scientific bodies such as the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Meteorological Society.

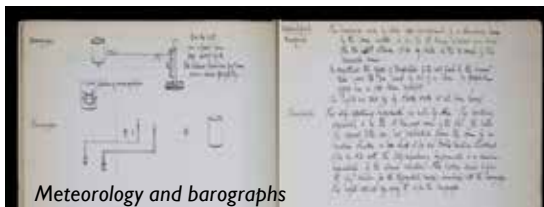


South Front construction from the Observatory c1878.

Work is ongoing to reconstruct these distinct collections and records series. Originally, they would have been arranged and maintained in their constituent subjects for easy use and reference by the Jesuit astronomers. However, at some point after the observatories ceased regular activity in the years after World War II, the archival material was placed into storage in the Front Quad. The materials were mixed and the original arrangements and associations between records lost. Through the work of Fintan O'Reilly, the observatories and their historic collections were preserved, which enables this progress today to work towards making this important collection available to scholars.



Astronomical equipment c1878



Meteorology and barographs



Fr Stephen Perry SJ

New displays in the Arundell Library

A new exhibition of materials was put together in the Arundell Library ready for Great Academies in May. While the focus of the exhibition is upon items from the Archives' manuscript collection (with examples from the 12th – 20th centuries), the displays also include Old Master prints, early photographs, objects and rare books. These exhibits will remain on display for twelve months, for those visiting the museum on the open days over the summer, or at other events in the museum calendar through the academic year 2024/25.



REUNIONS

Gerald Slocock OS 73 reports on their reunion held on 6 July 2024:

18 hardy souls gathered in the sunshine while rain poured over much of the country to celebrate the 51 years since we left Stonyhurst. We included 6 new faces compared to 11 years ago, remembered our departed and welcomed the good wishes of those prevented from attending in toasting absent friends.

The catering was excellent, provided in the refurbished Bayley Room where we were addressed by the headmaster, John Browne. The tour of the Collections included the Victoria Cross awarded in World War II to **Captain James Jackman OS**, a relative of one of our year group.

The reunion was also notable in marking the final College event involving Beverley Sillitoe, who over many years has oiled the wheels of countless Annual Dinners, reunions and much else. We were also indebted to the warm hospitality extended by the headmaster, Dr Jan Graffius, Curator of the Collections, as well as Suzanne Wheeler and Lorna Goggin from the Stonyhurst Development office.

The event was attended by **Paul Bunch, John Byrne, Damian Cafferty, Simon Eaves, John Garrett, Nicholas Gee, Kenelm Green, Andrew Hargreaves, Andrew Jackson, Trevor Johnson, Michael Llewellyn, Francis Middlehurst, Christopher Partridge, Peter Rogers, Joseph Sacarello, and Gerald Slocock**, some of whom are seen in the photograph.



Paul Bruce OS 81 reports:

The OS 1981 reunion was held over the weekend of 20 April 2024, and brought together 41 OS, many of whom had not met since leaving the school 43 years ago! The majority stayed at Stonyhurst's Christian Heritage Centre, Theodore House. The group met for drinks, dinners, a tour of the school and a 'Collections Tour' in the Old Chapel Museum, with a wonderful full school Mass at St Peter's Church on the Sunday morning.

Some attendees enjoyed a round of golf, whilst others attempted a walk along part of the Tolkien Trail. The Headmaster, John Browne, addressed the group at their black-tie Saturday evening dinner in the Top Ref, and all 41 sung The Pater Noster before being seated for dinner.

The gathering was originally intended to take place in 2021 as a 40-year OS reunion, but the COVID-19 pandemic postponed it until 2024. Some of the year group worked in conjunction with the Stonyhurst Association so that our delayed celebration could be held. It really was a weekend to remember, and with some amazingly sunny spring weather too!

Those attending were: **Paul Bruce, Michael MJT Cleary, Richard Clews, Mark Isola, Bernard Perry, Kwesi Amiya, Laurance Desmet, Diarmuid Flood, Peter Palmer, John Terry, Christopher Pickard, Dominic Lipscomb, Patrick Byrne, Anand Chitnis, Derek Wong, Paul Unwin, Michael Cleary, Patrick Cleary, Romesh Rasanayagam, Kevin Barrow, Paul Denvir, Martin Johnson, Jonathon Symonds, Dunstan Vavasour, Dominic O'Neil, Andrew McCabe, Charles Condie, Edwin Beltrami, Tony Elliot, Mark Lavery, Christopher Lomax, Sean Landers, Robert Purcell, Adam Hayes, Jonathon Begg, Michael Loftus, Mark Lowe, Mark Maddox, Matthew Thompson, Robert Daniel, Andrew Lees.**

OS RUGBY



Leo Higham OS 19 reports on the rugby match between an OS team and OM team at Mount St Mary's on 6 July 2024:

They were competing for the inaugural **Higham Cup**, in honour of the grandfather of Leo, who was instrumental in turning around St Mary's rugby programme in the 1960s and who died aged 58 whilst Bursar at the Mount. The OS team, organised and captained by Leo, won the game with the last play of the day, scoring directly under the posts. We won't mention the score, it was too high and not really the point.

The OS team was made up of **Archie Whowell OS 24, Billy Bridgewater OS 24, Dan Rabette OS 24, Josh Ridge OS 24, Seb White OS 24, Adam White OS 20, Leo Higham OS 19, Harry Vause OS 19, Ben Rainford OS 19, Will Robbins OS 19, Oliver Foster OS 18** and **George Oyston OS 18**.

Leo's brother Mike also played on the OS team despite being an Old Ampleforthian!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

Leo Higham OS 19 is extremely enthusiastic about reviving Wanderers rugby and happy to take on the mantle of captain, secretary, head honcho, etc. He is currently working at Sedbergh so the team will likely have a northern centre of gravity. He has a readymade OS team already! It has been suggested that the Richmond Thirst Friday should become a de facto Wanderers rugby re-launch event. Watch this space – and Stonyhurst Link.

The Association can introduce Leo to former Wanderers rugby enthusiasts/captains that can help him with fixtures, etc. if you let Jo-anne Brown know that you are interested at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

TRIP TO GERMANY

In May, Suzanne Wheeler travelled with our Senior Admissions Registrar, Louise Hyde, and our Director of IB (International Baccalaureate), Emma Walker, to Germany. They hosted three events, in three cities, in three days! They said it was great to see OS, former and current parents and prospective families in Munich, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. We look forward to visiting again.



POETRY BALL

On Friday 5 July we held our Poetry Ball – our traditional fundraising event organised by our Poetry pupils. This year, our Poets fundraised for three Jesuit schools in Lebanon and for the restoration of one of our school's most important paintings, 'The Holy Family with Saints Peter and Paul' attributed to the workshop of Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

Our Poets voted on the theme of the Ball, 'James Bond' taking the winning vote. The pupils worked tirelessly writing the letter asking for raffle and auction prizes and the thank you letter for all donors, creating table displays, wrapping prizes and setting up the room. Their hard work didn't end there as they acted as servers on the night, serving the food and clearing the tables, as is the tradition for the Poetry Ball.

The event was a wonderful and successful evening, enjoyed by all. The Poets raised over £6,500 on the auction alone. We look forward to confirming the total amount raised once all reconciliation has been completed.

Our pupils will continue to fundraise during their Rhetoric year with the aim of achieving the target needed to restore the painting, which will be their Rhetoric Gift.



OS OPEN DAYS

We were pleased to host two open days this summer for OS and their families. This is the second year that we have organised these two dedicated days, with the aim of providing an opportunity for OS and their families to join friends and other members of the Stonyhurst Family for staff-led tours of the College followed by a lunch in the New Ref.

During the tour, they visited recently redisplayed and renovated rooms, including the Do Room, the Top Ref, the Academy Room and the Philosophers' Study, and had the opportunity to see the current work in progress on the Higher Line area, which is being renovated and extended to become the Higher Line Hub. The open days were well attended, and we look forward to next year's – watch this space for more details!



GIBRALTAR

Stonyhurst will be returning to Gibraltar during the Easter holidays of 2025.

The visit will include a Lower Line rugby fixture against Gibraltar RFU, an informal reception and the opportunity for prospective families to meet with our Admissions Team. More details will be released in due course!

MALTA TRIP

Stonyhurst staff members will be visiting Malta on 13 and 14 March 2025. We will be organising a variety of events including a black-tie 'reunion dinner', an informal evening drinks reception, and prospective families' meetings with our Director of Admissions and the Headmaster. Be sure to save the dates!

STONYHURST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 'FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES AND PATRONS'

In April, our Curator led part of a wine tasting event (in partnership with Whalley Wine Shop and the Stonyhurst Experience Team) to explore the museum, accompanied by tasting of wines. Objects on display were imaginatively connected with wines from around the world. We were pleased to welcome some of our founding Friends and Associates to the event. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful and insightful evening.

In amongst the flurry of Museum Public Open Days, our Curator hosted an exclusive event in the Historic Libraries at Stonyhurst for our Patrons and their guests. They had a talk from Curator, Dr Jan Graffius before having the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes and look at objects up close and in more detail, it was a chance to see what Jan sees and works with every day.

The Stonyhurst Museum & Archives 'Friends, Associates and Patrons' programme provides numerous benefits, such as:

- 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.

To find out more and to subscribe visit: 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.



THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

One of the most rewarding tasks that I have as the Director of The Stonyhurst Foundation is to meet with members of the Stonyhurst Association and bring to life the work and impact of the Foundation on the lives and outlooks of children at Stonyhurst. We are incredibly blessed to be allowed to support Stonyhurst as much as we do already, and we are hopeful that we can increase this support even more in the future: in these changing times, it is clear that the demand for the support of the Foundation to those wishing to attend Stonyhurst is only going to increase.

I speak for the Stonyhurst Foundation staff and Board of Trustees in saying that we are singularly driven by the difference we know we can make and that the life-affirming opportunity of a Stonyhurst education ought to be available to any child who is intellectually curious, able and aspiring, and who would benefit from a fast-paced and challenging curriculum. The Stonyhurst Foundation creates a deep and generational impact for the children we support. Stonyhurst remains a unique school in a unique setting that focusses on the development of the *cura personalis* (the whole person) unlike anywhere else. The Stonyhurst Foundation assumes that young people are all blessed with infinite potential irrespective of their background, and by placing

them in the right environment and by offering them a plethora of opportunities to learn and mature, a mindset of inquisition and self-discovery develops.

It is a fact that many children are missing out on that opportunity simply because of their personal or family circumstances where the associated cost is a barrier to them. The Stonyhurst Foundation assists through the award of bursaries to help recipients to overcome such financial barriers. To do this, we need your support.

Over the next few pages, you will see some of the engagement work that we have done to elevate our profile and garner your support for this most important mission.

If you feel that you might be able to support our work, whether joining the 1593 Club as one of our growing number of regular donors, through a single donation, or even considering making a legacy gift, you will help *Transform Lives* at Stonyhurst; please contact me directly.

John Cartwright-Terry OS 96



Lt Col Colin Ridell OS 83, with Kathy Thorpe, wife of Chris Thorpe OS 82, and Br David Chadwick OS 12.



Catherine Lawton, Cathie Butcher, Tony Lawton OS 58.

THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION SPRING RECEPTION, YORK

On a rare mild evening in April, the Stonyhurst Foundation had the pleasure of holding our Spring Reception at Petergate House in York, home of the York Oratory and kindly hosted by **Br David Chadwick OS 12.**

OS from across the generations (1958 to 2022) joined Chair of Trustees, Gene Nealon, Foundation Director **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96,** and Foundation Manager Cathie Butcher to introduce and update attendees on the transformative work of the Stonyhurst Foundation to remove the financial barriers to education at Stonyhurst College.

A brief overview of the work of the Foundation and its impact preceded a typically convivial mix of anecdotes and discussions about Stonyhurst. Of more fun was the significant number of alumni of St Martin's Prep School who had not, until that point, realised that part of their shared school days.

OS in attendance included **Tony Lawton OS 58, Denis Nicholson OS 65, John Mulholland OS 71, Martin Thorpe OS 80, Chris Thorpe OS 82, Michael Cleary OS 81, James Butcher OS 84, Jules Finnigan OS 85, Richard Wotton OS 88, Joseph Wylie-Carrick OS 22.**

THE MANCHESTER MARATHON & THE UNICORN CHALLENGE

On 13 April, **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96, Rory Mellows OS 08** and Matthew Butcher, the son of **James Butcher OS 84,** joined over 30,000 other runners on the start line of the Manchester Marathon. After months of dedicated training, they all completed the course and, in the process, raised over £3000 for the Stonyhurst Foundation.

As part of their fundraising efforts, John and Rory set up the Unicorn Challenge, with votes being cast to determine who will run the Manchester Half Marathon in October dressed as a unicorn. At the time of writing, it's too close to call, as to who will be donning the unicorn suit, so get your votes in via the Just Giving page below.

Of course, you could determine who runs the Manchester Half Marathon in October dressed as a unicorn by donating and voting 'Rory' or 'John' at: www.justgiving.com/campaign/stonyhurstfoundationmcrhalf24



John Cartwright-Terry



Rory Mellows



Matthew Butcher



THE 1593 CLUB RECEPTION

In June, the Stonyhurst Foundation invited its 1593 Club members back to The Antelope, Belgravia, Stonyhurst's unofficial London home and clubhouse. Our annual 1593 Club reception is an opportunity for the Foundation to update its donors on the impact that they are having and to thank them for their continued support of a monthly or quarterly gift.

Over 30 members of the 1593 Club, including OS and former parents heard, that since its launch at Easter 2023, the club has collectively raised over £20,000 and learned how that will soon directly contribute to building on the support already being provided to 43 children that the Foundation is already assisting. It was especially pleasing to see so many young OS getting involved with the Foundation and choosing to promote our work.

OS in attendance included **Tom Jackson OS 77, James Brotherton OS 87**, Neil Kay, Thomas O'Maoileoin, **Tim O'Brien OS 90, Ryan Timoney OS 96, Michael Fenton OS 04, Marcel Kawinski OS 14, David Richardson OS 19.**



1593 CLUB INVITATION

The 1593 Club is the Stonyhurst Foundation's regular giving club for all OS, parents, guardians and friends of Stonyhurst. The club represents a way to grow the collective efforts of our Stonyhurst community in support of our bursary charity without relying on large individual donations. Regular giving amounts are set at £15.93, £159.30, or whatever members feel they can afford, and the frequency is monthly and quarterly. All of this (as long as it is personal giving from the UK) is eligible for Gift Aid (25%).

"If one hundred OS were to give £15.93 each month for five years, it could raise nearly £100,000 for the OS Bursary Fund."

The 1593 Club recognises those who support the Stonyhurst Foundation with a regular gift. As an enticement, the Stonyhurst Foundation is offering all OS 1983 members of the 1593 Club a Stonyhurst Foundation tie or scarf on receipt of their first donation.

1593 CLUB – NORTH AMERICA

North America-based OS can join the 1593 Club tax-efficiently by making a regular credit card gift through the British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF), expressing your preference for the support of the Stonyhurst Foundation*. Scan the QR code below and select '1593 Club – USA'.

**Donors' expressions of their preference are respected by the BSUF, but all grants are made at its sole discretion, as required by the IRS. Contributions made directly to an offshore charity do not qualify for a tax deduction under the IRS code.*

To find out more about how you can be involved in this inspiring and selfless work, visit the Foundation website or scan the QR code.



MEXICO RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

During the June visit to Mexico, Stonyhurst hosted an informal reception for current, former and prospective parents, children and OS at W restaurant, Mexico City. With over 60 members of the Stonyhurst Family, there was a palpable buzz of old friends catching up, as well as OS retelling tales to prospective parents, and for a small group of younger attendees, their first time meeting fellow members of their Lower Grammar Playroom due to start in September 2024.

OS in attendance included **Juan Pablo Arce Audirac SMH 23, Inigo Fernandez OS 13, Fransico Ceballos OS 22, Jorge Sánchez Magallán Ortiz OS 08, Matias Lemus Nunez OS 14, Tomas Lemus Nunez OS 18, Jose-Miguel Rosillo-Cevallos OS 10, Cecilia Prieto Mariscal OS 24, Nicolas Mariscal Palacio OS 18, John Cartwright-Terry OS 96, Kate Barr OS 04.**

THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION MEXICO CITY DINNER

During the Stonyhurst visit to Mexico in June, the Foundation Director, **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**, and Headmaster, John Browne, hosted a dinner at the Colegio De San Ignacio De Loyola Vizcaínas in Mexico City to introduce the work of the Stonyhurst Foundation to a group of Mexican OS.

Organised by **Nicolás Mariscal Palacio OS 18**, the evening started with a tour of the incredible collections and museum at the college before moving to the chapel for Compline. Using the traditional setting used by the Stonyhurst Sodality, *Salve Regina* was sung, led by John Browne, and a meditation preached by one of the Jesuits from IBERO Ciudad de México. The evening culminated with dinner and concluded with the Director proposing the toast 'Stonyhurst'.

Amongst attendees, seen proudly waving the Stonyhurst flag with the visiting Stonyhurst team, were **Juan Abascal OS 01**, **Pablo Ballesteros SMH 96**, Federico Castillo, **Nicolas Mariscal Palacio OS 18**, **Alvaro Marical Palacio OS 19**, **Luis Pardo**, **Manuel Guzman Mendez OS 00**, **Pedro Ambrosi SMH 97**, **Eduardo Lopez Morton SMH 01**, **Andres Lopez Morton SMH**.

The generosity of the Mexico OS Community has allowed a dedicated fund to be established

to support a deserving Mexican child to benefit from a Stonyhurst education who would otherwise be unable to afford it. The seeds have been sown, and the Foundation is driving ahead to make this vision a reality.

Our strategy looks to the global Stonyhurst Family, and we will visit other countries to extend the reach of the Stonyhurst Foundation to allow us to widen access to Stonyhurst College. The diversity of the Stonyhurst community has been an integral part of our DNA. Please reach out if you think you may be able to help.



Those attending the Mexico dinner, pictured above, were:

(Front row L-R): Elena (wife of **Juan Carlos Abascal OS 01**), Elena de Gomez-Robledo (Head of Vizcaínas Foundation and the wife of Judge Juan Manuel Gomez, International Court of Justice), John Browne, **Alvaro Mariscal OS 19**, **Juan Carlos Abascal OS 01**, **Manuel Guzman OS 00**, **Nicolas Mariscal Palacio OS 18**, and **Luis Enrique Pardo SMH**.

(Second row L-R): Erica (wife of Andres Lopes-Morton), a Jesuit, Pilar (wife of Eduardo Lopez-Morton), **Eduardo Lopez-Morton Servitje OS 01**, Francisco Ruiz-Maza (former parent), Ernesto Gomez-Gallardo, Federico Castillo (former parent), **Pedro Ambrosi OS 97**, **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**.

(Third row L-R): Paul Sharples, **Kate Barr OS 04**, **Andres Lopes-Morton Servitje SMH**, and **Pablo Ballesteros OS 96**.

THE INAUGURAL STONYHURST FOUNDATION CLASSIC CAR TOUR

9 - 12 MAY 2024

DAVID HURST OS 70 SHARES HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF THE TWO-DAY TOUR:



My old school friend, **Patrick Hanratty OS 70** and I met at St Mary's Hall in 1962 at the age of 10 and we were set off from Weybridge, in the heart of leafy Surrey, 240 miles north to the wilds of Lancashire, near Clitheroe, to join the inaugural Stonyhurst Foundation Classic Car Tour, a clever initiative to raise awareness of the Stonyhurst Foundation and its aims and objectives.

The Stonyhurst Foundation was launched in 2020 to widen access to a Stonyhurst education to those who cannot afford the annual fees, currently more than £40,000 after tax, for a full UK boarder. The scheme aims to *Transform Lives* as the largest ring-fenced bursary and fee assistance charity of its kind in Catholic independent education in the UK.

The car I was enjoying was Patrick's much-treasured racing green 1959 Jaguar XK 150, the sleek daddy of the three XK series, with a bored-out 3.8 litre engine, twin carburettors and hardened suspension. It was a drophead coupé (DHC) which meant that my hair went wild (!) when the roof was down. Note: 'coupé' is a French word meaning 'cut down' and was first applied to horse-drawn carriages for two passengers with no rear-facing seats.



'There's a Jaguar on the Avenue!'



Photo credit: Vanessa Fry Photography

Seat belts had been retro-fitted as the law to wear them only came into force in 1983 and the driver's door suffered from variable-closure-syndrome which was interesting in the fast lane of the M6. Driving in a car that is almost as old as you are makes it weirdly familiar when, in the fast lane, you worry about bits of it deteriorating!

Concours d'Elegance

From Hurst Green, we drove down the always awe-inspiring Avenue, through the White Gates, over 'those' speed bumps, between

the ponds, through the Lions and parked up, with great care, outside The Front.

Patrick's Jag joined other classic cars (typically cars that are more than 25 years old) and a selection of vintage cars, defined as being made between 1923 and 1930. We had no veteran cars, defined as those made before 1919.

The twelve classic cars showing (or showing off!) in this first 'Concours d'Elegance' were, in reverse age order: 1997 Morgan 8+, 1989 Ferrari Testarossa, 1971 Ferrari Dino 246 GT, 1959 Jaguar XK 150 DHC, 1956 Bristol 405 Drop Head, a 1943 Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 Villa D'Este, 1953 Fraser Nash Targa Flori Mk II, 1938 Aston Martin 15/98, 1938 Delahaye 138 CS, 1931 Bugatti Type 43 and 1924 Bentley 3 litre.

Simon Glassbrook, a Stonyhurst Governor, arrived in his 1950s shiny black Morris Traveller, complete with bullnose bonnet, side indicators, gleaming woodwork and old-fashioned dashboard.

A group of Rhetoric boys, some of whom had recently passed their driving tests, took time off from sitting their A levels to ogle the super-cars, dreaming of what might come to pass in their future car ownership...if they passed their exams!

Our guest of honour, who joined us to inspect the Concours d'Elegance and for supper, was Sarah Atherton, MP for Wrexham, who visited with her husband, **Nick Corcoran OS 74**.



Ribblehead Viaduct, the Yorkshire Dales

The George Eyston and Joseph Higginson Routes

Over two days of driving we covered some of the most under-used roads, through exquisite countryside in the north of England and the moorlands of parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire near Malham Cove.

The driving tours were definitely not rallies and mostly followed fell routes, often on single track roads. The detailed itineraries had been located by **Michael Joseph OS 59** and had precise instructions with staged mileages recorded by both **George Eyston MC OBE OS 1907** and **Joseph Higginson OS 1881**. Tour organiser and driver, **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**, with me as navigator, had carefully driven and fact-checked both routes earlier in the year but even then, it turned out that there were some surprises along the way.



George Eyston MC MBE (OS 1907)

The pinnacle of George Eyston's car driving credentials was to set World Land Speed Records in 'Thunderbolt', a V12 aero-engine propelled vehicle that he designed and built himself. In 1938, on the Bonneville Salt Flat in Utah he raised his own world record to 345mph which was beaten the following month by John Cobb. NB that is not our Colonel John Cobb!

Tour Day 1 – 84 miles

On day one we drove east from the College, past Browsholme Hall and through Cow Ark, past the Inn at Whitewell and into Dunsop Bridge. We processed in convoy over the moors to High Bentham, past the White

Scar Caves and on to the stunning Victorian Ribblehead Viaduct with its 24 massive stone arches 32 metres above the moor, stopping for coffee at the Station Pub.

After this break we drove into the Dales National Park through a maze of drystone walls, passing Malham Cove, the 260-foot-high amphitheatre of limestone, before arriving for lunch at Beck Hall in Malham. We then passed through Kirkby Malham, Otterburn and Hellifield before turning west in Gisburn to head home via Whalley, Mitton and finally Hurst Green.

That evening, after a fascinating tour of the Do Room, the Historic Libraries and the Stonyhurst Collections by the Curator, Dr Jan Graffius, we enjoyed a black-tie dinner in the Bailey Room hosted by Fr Christopher Cann, the Headmaster of St Mary's Hall since September 2023, and the Senior Deputy Head, Alice McNeill. Following the Loyal Toast 'to the King, the Duke of Lancaster', Fr Christopher proposed the toast 'to Stonyhurst'.

Tour Day 2 – 56 miles

On day two we left the College, drove across Lower Hodder Bridge nodding to the right at Cromwell's Bridge and on to the famous Waddington Fell Hill Climb, site of the time trial won in 1913 by Joseph Higginson driving his Vauxhall 30-98. We were not trying to beat his time!

Following a short coffee stop at the delightfully named Puddleducks Café in Dunsop Bridge, we headed north through the Forest of Bowland and then drove uphill and into the stunning Trough of Bowland, passing the Boundary Stone which until 1974 marked the boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Heading towards Lancaster, we crossed the M6 and stopped for lunch at the Bay Horse Inn before turning back over the M6 and heading south through the little-known Beacon Fell before climbing Birdy Brow up to Longridge Fell and back to Stonyhurst.

As if we didn't have enough scenery or conversation to keep us engaged, we even stopped en route to find the answers to quiz



The Trough of Bowland

questions. We now know the time of the only Mass at St Hubert's Church outside Dunsop Bridge...all good fun.

Time for the Judging



Our judges get cosy in the winning car (Credit: Vanessa Fry Photography)

Later that day a group of bubbly car enthusiasts arrived to judge their favourite of all the classic cars. Year 3 children from Hodder House Pre-Prep were invited to stand next to the classic car that they most wanted to own. Then they all tried to cram inside their choice of winner (pause for drum roll)...the Ferrari Testarossa.

Finally, two of the children's teachers re-enacted their wedding day in a pre-war French Delahaye vintage car. Goosebumps!



Happiness is a pre-war French Delahaye (Credit: Vanessa Fry Photography)

After the second day's driving, we enjoyed a most convivial dinner, hosted by the Stonyhurst Foundation, at the Inn at Whitewell, sited on the River Hodder and famously the Queen's favourite hostelry, together with our guest the headmaster, John Browne.

The Foundation Director introduced the Headmaster, who spoke about not only about Stonyhurst in 2024 and the Foundation's vital contribution to the Stonyhurst mission but also his own long-held ambition to own and drive a Morgan 8. He does, however, proudly own his own model version!

Join us next year!

According to some, the love and ownership of classic cars is dying due to modern car design becoming more homogenous and an ageing population where younger people show less interest in this perceived 'rich person's hobby'.

The Stonyhurst Foundation Classic Car Tour will return in 2025, bigger, better and with added events to further enhance the experience for all. To learn more about this, including how to take part, please email foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk

To find out more about the Stonyhurst Foundation and their mission to *Transform Lives* at Stonyhurst, visit www.stonyhurstfoundation.org or email foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk

20  25
—THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION—
CLASSIC CAR TOUR

29TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST 2025



For more details, please contact:

email: foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk

Tel: 01254 827027



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 dinner, at Stonyhurst, for members of the Society to thank them for their generosity and to 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 P: 01254827246

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
£27.00



OS Knitted Silk Bow Tie
£30.00



Association Silk Tie
£31.00



Cufflinks
Link £33.00



Netting Fishes
£8.75



Red Wine, White Wine and
Champagne Glasses, boxed sets of four.
£51.50 per set



STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

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FAREWELL TO BEVERLEY



Presidents and Chairmen of the Association, both past and current,
who were in attendance at Beverley's retirement event from L-R:

Terry Holt OS 72, Fr Nick King SJ OS 66, Beverley Sillitoe, John Hartley OS 53, Julie Macfarlane OS 78, Dom Hartley OS 86, Fr Brendan Callaghan OS 66, current President Harry Dickinson OS 94, Barry O'Driscoll OS 60, Paul Chitnis OS 79, Simon Andrews OS 68, Christopher Page OS 76, and just behind them – current Chairman Brendan Roche OS 82.

LDS