

AMDG

# STONYHURST association news



SPRING 2025



The first Association OS Military Dinner presented the **James (Joe) Jackman VC OS 34** currently on loan to the Collections and held here by Joe's nephew, **Kensley Green OS 73** and his great-nephew **David Green OS 99**

# EDITOR'S NOTE

I was delighted to learn from the headmaster that the Stonyhurst Record is to be re-established later this year after a dormant period of 5 years. I am sure that this will be reassuring news to all members of the Association who have long recognised its value.

Meanwhile, the Association has continued to publish obituaries on the website for OS who have died and whose families have shared them for publication. This will be a particularly useful source of information for the yet to be appointed person taking on the responsibility for the Stonyhurst Record. If you have an obituary for a recently deceased OS – with the permission of their family – and would like the Association to publish it on its website, please send it to [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

This is a particularly weighty newsletter, marking the start of the 125 years of the CCF at Stonyhurst, formerly the OTC, with contributions about a few OS who have demonstrated courage in their lives beyond the College.

We are all aware that for **those to whom much has been given, much is expected**, but we cannot fail to be inspired by the courage described in these articles about just a few of our OS – there are so many more OS, including more recent leavers, who have also demonstrated the values imparted during their Jesuit education at Stonyhurst, some of whom have asked to remain anonymous. It is by our actions that we are judged.

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

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



## STONYHURST LINK

### COMMUNITY

Reconnect with old friends & meet other members of the Stonyhurst Family

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Help develop your professional network. Search & advertise current job opportunities

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRENDAN ROCHE OS 82



AMDG.

Happy 2025 to you all. I am very pleased to report that the management of the Association office has passed smoothly from Beverley Sillitoe to Jo-anne Brown. Contact Jo-anne with any enquiries you have relating to the Association. Beverley will continue to be involved in running the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes and you are all warmly encouraged to take part in this (the dates this year are 22nd to 29th August). It is difficult to convey the joy and happiness that so many people feel when they go to Lourdes on pilgrimage. Do go and discover this for yourselves.

We are looking to recruit members throughout the UK and the world, wherever the numbers of Association members are sufficient to warrant this, to act as ambassadors (honorary consuls?) for the Association, encouraging links between members locally and assisting communication between local areas and the Association office; in other words, helping us to build the wider Stonyhurst Family. If you would be interested in such a role, please let us know by contacting Jo-anne at [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

We are also aware how difficult it can be for our members to find and maintain suitable employment. This can be for many reasons, including the destruction of traditional jobs by new technologies, including AI, the turbulent economy, obstructive job portals and the like. For this reason, we are

about to start trialling a new way of bringing prospective employers together with association members seeking work and/or advice relating to work. I thank you in advance, in anticipation of the active attention you give this.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all those who contribute in putting this newsletter together.

LDS.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HARRY DICKINSON OS 96



It has been a whirlwind start to my tour of duty as president of the Association and a most enjoyable one. Most rewarding has been to meet and see the enthusiasm of OS who voluntarily give up their time to make the Association such a thriving community.

It started with the Richmond Thirst Friday back in September where 60 or so OS and friends gathered at Richmond rugby club. Simon

Charles made the trek down from Lancashire to join us along with his wife, Carolyn, and his father-in-law (and Irish rugby legend) **Barry O'Driscoll OS 59** with his wife Beryl. Simon arrived at the College when I was in Grammar, back in 1990, and stayed for another 34 years! He coached the first XV to many successes with Stonyhurst 1st VII becoming Rosslyn Park National winners in 1996 and 1999. I didn't grace any of his teams, but I did chuck him a hospital pass at the Thirst Friday and forced him into making an impromptu speech. I am happy to report that he took the ball gracefully, tucked it under his jersey, showed a clean pair of heels, and dotted it down under the posts, before taking a victory lap around the clubhouse to much applause! (I exaggerate, of course).



Continuing the sporting theme, I was up at the College for the Association sports weekend on 9th and 10th November, which showcased the Dermot Gogarty Memorial matches as well as the Ampleforth rugby. Huge numbers of OS descended on the College to watch us give our friends from SHAC a jolly good hiding from the College 1st XV. Earlier in the day OS and Old Amplefordian cross-country runners competed for the Newton-Carter Trophy, with the race this year including a solo, and very welcome, Old Sedberghian! Despite good runs from both Ampleforth and Sedbergh the OS were delighted to win the trophy with **Will Metcalf OS 15** crossing the finish line in first place.

The following day, OS teams competed against each other in hockey and rugby in memory of Dermot St John Gogarty, former headmaster of St John's Beaumont and father to **Benedict Gogarty OS**. I knew Dermot – he was my headmaster at SJB, my boss when I was a gap year master at SJB and a guest at my wedding back in 2004. He was an extraordinary man – energy personified with a wicked sense of humour and impressive presence. He was also a man of great principle, a natural leader and a family man, so it was truly tragic that his life was tragically cut short in a motor accident in 2005 aged 47. His obituary in the Telegraph stated that he “...turned St John's Beaumont in Windsor into one of the most admired prep schools in the country”; this is true, as is the fact that he sent many boys up to Stonyhurst (including me and two of my brothers), so it is right and fitting that we remember him every year and his great contribution to all of us that fell under his sway. Recognition and thanks for the success of the Gogarty Memorial competition must be given to **Leo Higham OS 19**, who has taken on the role of captain of the Stonyhurst Wanderers rugby and who corralled and assembled the rugby teams and to his girlfriend **Hannah Charles OS 19** (daughter of Simon and Carolyn Charles), who did the same with the hockey teams.

Another Association event I attended was the OS Military Dinner, a separate report of which is elsewhere in this newsletter. I will keep it brief and only say here that it was a great success, most enjoyable and well attended. We will do it again and those that were unable to join us in November will have another chance in the not-too-distant future.

Of particular note, too, was the gathering of OS that visited the Imperial War Museum in London to see the remarkable **Tim Hetherington OS 89** exhibition. Those of us who know about Tim's life and work will recognise what an extraordinary OS he was – an artist of great talent with incredible personal courage and deep principles. We will remember him. Tim Hetherington was a latter-day hero, along with our VC winners and our distinguished former international sportspeople; but not all OS are heroes and many of our number will suffer periods of struggle and darkness at some point in their lives. In the last year we have had OS die needlessly young, and others – struggling with mental health conditions and addictions – reach out to the Association for support.

Many will be unaware that the Association has something called the “President's Fund” that is maintained to support our OS brothers and sisters in times of crisis and difficulty. It is not a large fund so we must use it prudently, as we have done this very week that I am writing these words. If any Association members would like to donate to this fund, it would be hugely appreciated by those of our number who find themselves at a last resort and needing a helping hand from their Stonyhurst family.

*Quant Je Puis.*





# DIARY OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
14th March 2025	Thirst Friday Leicester	From 6pm at The Bar at Voco Leicester The President of the Association, <b>Harry Dickinson OS 94</b> , and <b>Nigel Toussaint OS 87</b> warmly invite you to join them for an Association Thirst Friday. Enjoy an evening of good company; your first drink is kindly provided by the Stonyhurst Association. RSVP <a href="#">here</a> .
4th April 2025	OS Open Day	Join us for a staff-led tour of the College, including recently renovated spaces such as the Bayley Room, Do Room, Top Ref, Philosophers' Study, Syntax Common Room, and the new Unicorn Café. Enjoy a light lunch in the New Ref and reminisce about your time at school. Explore the beautiful Stonyhurst grounds and Jesuit Gardens in the afternoon. This event is free, but spaces are limited. The Stonyhurst Museum and Historic Libraries will also be open, showcasing treasures like Shakespeare's First Folio, Dürer prints, and first editions of Dickens, C. S. Lewis, and Gerard Manley Hopkins. <b>Access to the Museum and Libraries requires a separate ticket and pre-booking.</b> Booking forms for the 4th April and 7th July will be available soon.
17th – 20th April 2025	Holy Week Retreat	Join the Stonyhurst community for this family retreat including contemplative sessions, liturgies, and activities for all ages, guided by Jesuit spirituality. Highlights include personal reflection, spiritual direction, and a unique insight into Stonyhurst's rich history. Book your place <a href="#">here</a> .
15th May 2025	OS 1975 Reunion	<b>Niall Macfarlane OS 75</b> is hosting a Reunion for OS 1975 in London. Please contact Niall directly if you would like to attend: <a href="mailto:shireburn.house@zen.co.uk">shireburn.house@zen.co.uk</a> .
14th June 2025	OS Cricket and Croquet, Stonyhurst	If you wish to join the OS teams and take on the pupils, please contact Frederick Timmins for cricket, <a href="mailto:fredericktimmings97@gmail.com">fredericktimmings97@gmail.com</a> and Simon Whittle for croquet: <a href="mailto:s.whittle@stonyhurst.ac.uk">s.whittle@stonyhurst.ac.uk</a> .
5th & 6th July 2025	Rhetoric 2015 Reunion	A Reunion is planned for Rhetoric 2015 at The College. Book your place <a href="#">here</a> .
7th July 2025	OS Open Day	Details to follow. The booking form will be available soon.
19th September 2025	OS Golf at Stonyhurst	If you wish to play for the OS team against the pupils, with a dinner in the evening, please contact Colin Riddell: <a href="mailto:cefriddell@gmail.com">cefriddell@gmail.com</a> .
20th & 21st September 2025	Poetry 1985 Reunion	A Reunion for Poetry 1985 is planned for Saturday 20th September, with Mass on Sunday 21st. Accommodation is available at Theodore House. Reserve your place <a href="#">here</a> .
8th & 9th November 2025	Rhetoric 1995 Reunion	A Reunion for Rhetoric 1995 is planned for Saturday 8th November, with Mass on Sunday. Accommodation is available at Theodore House. Book your place <a href="#">here</a> .
4th December 2025	Stonyhurst Association Carol Service	The Stonyhurst Association Carol Service will be held in St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst, followed by festive refreshments in the Top Ref.

# NEWS



**David Brown OS 78** writes to us about his work in Kenya where he was Head of English in Peponi International school from 2011 until 2016. He recognised the disparity between his own school experience and that offered by the public school.

He writes:

I am writing to you about a school I first visited in 2011 – **Ndiini Primary**

**School**. It is a public school in the Kahawa Sukari district, about seven miles from the centre of Nairobi, Kenya. It is situated on Brookside Dairy Estate.

I was fortunate to be employed at Peponi secondary school from 2011-16. Peponi is also situated at Brookside. The juxtaposition of these two schools could not be more pronounced. Peponi is a thriving international school with first-class facilities and beautiful grounds. At Ndiini the children have to learn from battered books and play in stony surroundings. The contrast is staggering.

Peponi plays a part in helping to improve the lives of the children at Ndiini by supplying their gap students to help with teaching, sports



and activities. In 2015 a great friend of mine, Jess Sudbury, stayed with me at Peponi for six months to work at Ndiini.

While I was at Peponi, the **Ndiini School Food Programme** (Reg. Irish CHY No 20136) was started in 2012 by Margaret Dempsey, an Irish secondary school teacher, who had visited the school a year earlier and was appalled that the children went all day without having anything to eat. The programme is a non-profit organisation in partnership with Kenyan NGO **Food4education**, providing lunch for over 500 vulnerable students.

An annual fundraiser for the charity takes place on World Food Day, 16th October.



As Margaret has written: *'Education is the only way to escape poverty in Africa and these kids need a chance beyond primary school.'*

## What am I asking you to do?

Sadly, only about 25% of Kenyan children continue with schooling beyond primary school. This is almost entirely due to economic conditions. They simply can't afford to.

I am asking you to help to educate pupils from Ndiini Primary School through secondary school. The annual fees are roughly the equivalent of £500. It would be wonderful if you chose to donate any amount from £5 to the fund. This can be done through the Ndiini School Food Programme here: [www.nsfood.org/donate](http://www.nsfood.org/donate)

Through your help, our aim is to help finance as many children as possible to remain in school, for as long as possible.



Three OS nonagenarians lunched together in London on 11th February 2025 for one of their twice-yearly reunions in London. They were members of the College Committee of 1952/53.

From left to right: **Julian Bell OS 53**, **Joe Macadam OS 53** and **John Hartley OS 53**.





Jimmy Burns OBE, British Spanish Society.

## The British Spanish Society

Stonyhurst was well represented at the recent autumn reception of the British Spanish Society (BSS) at the British Ambassador's residence in Madrid on October 10th 2024.

**Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71**, who is staying on the Board but stepping down after more than ten years as executive of the BSS, spoke to some 200 attendees from the British and Spanish community in Spain.

**Brian Douglas OS 83**, and trustee of the BSS in Spain, presented the new British Ambassador, Sir Alex Ellis, with a BSS T-shirt. Other OS present included **David Hurst OS 70**, **Ed Condie OS 75**, and Jimmy's oldest brother, **Tom Burns OBE OS 67**.

The British Spanish Society [www.britishspanishsociety.org](http://www.britishspanishsociety.org) is a registered cultural and educational charity dedicated to forging links between the people of the UK and Spain. As well as hosting events in both countries, its fundraising supports British and Spanish postgraduate students with annual scholarships.

Jimmy is executive editor of the charity's magazine 'La Revista' which includes an advertisement by Stonyhurst College in recognition of a long history of Spanish speaking ties with Stonyhurst and amongst alumni.



Brian Douglas, British Spanish Society.



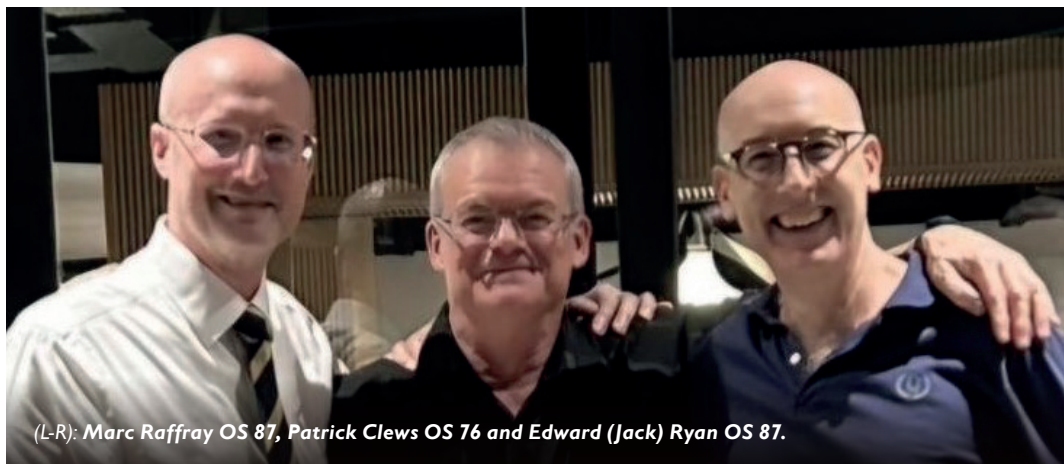
**Rickard O'Connell OS 93** has notified the Association of a visit to Derrynane House, Derry, the home of the 19th century campaigner for Irish rights, Daniel O'Connell by the (then) Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, in 1917.

O'Connell, who was born in the late 18th century, campaigned for Catholic emancipation – including the right to sit as MPs at Westminster.

The visit included a guided tour through the rooms where the man known as "the Liberator" lived and worked.

Rickard is seen here to the right of the photo, proudly sporting his OS tie, below a portrait of his illustrious ancestor.





(L-R): Marc Raffray OS 87, Patrick Clews OS 76 and Edward (Jack) Ryan OS 87.

**Edward (Jack) Ryan OS 87** reports on the 2024 Annual Dinner of the English Catholic Boarding Schools Alumni in Thailand.

A gathering of former scholars from Ampleforth, Downside, Mount St Mary's, Stonyhurst, and Worth currently residing in or visiting Thailand was held at the No Idea Café and Gastropub in Sukhumvit Soi 18, on Wednesday 4th December 2024. The event was well attended by 20 people and, although we all came from different schools, the camaraderie between the group was exceptional given our shared catholic boarding school heritage and the fact that siblings of some families had been split between the different schools, thus strengthening the bonds between the group members.

Among those who attended representing Stonyhurst were **Patrick Clews OS 76** and his wife Erica, **Marc Raffray OS 87** and his wife Sarah and **Edward (Jack) Ryan OS 87**. **James Valdes-Scott OS 97**, a regular attender at previous dinners, was notably absent due to a trip to the UK but was very much in all our thoughts.

Early the previous week, Marc and Jack also hosted **James (Seb) Whitehead OS 87**, at The British Club in Silom Soi 18, on the evening of Sunday 24th November, during his business trip to Thailand in his new role as Director of Education for Rugby School Group.

We have managed to get together a small group of about nine OS currently residing in Thailand, although we understand there are several more we have been unable to connect with. We are very happy to connect with any OS who are either already residing here or just passing through. For any OS currently residing in Thailand and unaware of our presence here as a group, we invite them all to connect with us. For any OS coming to Thailand who wish to get in touch, please feel free to contact Edward Ryan on +66 91 741 4073 (mobile) or email him at [jack@ejryan.net](mailto:jack@ejryan.net). We currently operate a "Thailand OS" LINE chat group and would be happy to include you.



**Christopher Burton OS 60** has discovered a photo of the College under 14s Cricket team from 1956 for your interest.

*Standing left to right: Kieran, Sheehan, Gibson, Burton, Ennis and O'Brien*

*Sitting left to right: Moran, Donegan, Scothorne, Metcalf and Schutz.*





**Sean Maskey OS 75** is pleased to announce that following his disappointment that the Ride, London Ride has not been arranged for 2025, **Children & War** has spotted an alternative – it's **Ride, Reigate** – basically a ride from North to South Downs and back again. Not quite to the top of each but still way more hills than Essex!

It is to be held on 13th July 2025. 100km and other options are available.

There is a team page, if you would like to join the fun [here](#).



**Messalina Morley-Alton OS 15** informs us that she produced, wrote, and was in a short film 'MugShot', which was shown in several film festivals over the course of 2024 and won Best Comedy at the Worldwide Women's Film Festival.

She is seen in the photo with her husband, **James Morley-Alton OS 15**. Congratulations to Messalina!



**John Eastham OS 89** has informed the Association of a local community project, in collaboration with various interested OS, hoping to work together for a common aim.

The historic pub, The Bayley Arms, for which so many of you will have fond memories, has been left to fall into a state of disrepair and has been put up for sale by the current owners. The project committee are hoping to put together a bid to purchase this hostelry as a community asset and keep it as a village pub and facility for visitors to Stonyhurst.

More information about the village project can be found at the link or QR code if you are interested in finding out more [here](#).





# CONGRATULATIONS



On 9th November 2024, **Fr David Chadwick OS 12** was ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Middlesborough, the Right Reverend Terrence Drainey, at St Wilfrid's Church in York. Many OS, friends, family, and parishioners were privileged to attend this significant day in Fr David's life.

The decision to join the priesthood is not one to be taken lightly. Fr David's ordination marked the culmination of years of discernment, study, and spiritual growth, but it also signified the beginning of a new journey. A particularly striking moment during his ordination was when Fr David lay prostrate before the altar – a powerful visual representation of his

commitment to his acceptance of God's invitation to the priesthood and the dedication of his life to one of service; a core principle of the Oratorian tradition.

It was also a privilege for those in attendance to receive a blessing from Fr David after the Ordination Mass, though the queue was very long, and Fr David had many people to bless. Stonyhurst, both past and present, showed great support for Fr David. Many OS travelled from across the country to witness this milestone. A contingent of current staff and pupils also attended, including Mr Turner, Mr O'Connor, and Mr Henderson, who brought members of the Stonyhurst Choir to contribute to the celebration of the Mass. It was particularly special to see former staff members, Mr Sharples and Mr Ridout, attending in support of Fr David.

Additionally, the presence of Fr Twist on the sanctuary alongside Fr David, and particularly during the "laying on of hands", served as a

meaningful reminder of the College's enduring role in forming the faith that we take into the wider world.

Following the ordination, an afternoon reception provided an opportunity to gather and congratulate Fr David.

In the evening, **Simon Whittle OS 13** and **Colm Fahy OS 16** organised a celebratory dinner, which was a joyous and convivial occasion, bringing together friends and supporters to mark this momentous step in Fr David's life.

In addition, Simon Whittle organised the gift of a chasuble to Fr David, to which many OS contributed.

The following day, on Remembrance Sunday, we gathered once more as Fr David celebrated his first Mass, a Mass of Thanksgiving. This was an especially memorable occasion, as he led the congregation in prayer and remembrance, embodying the deep sense of service and commitment that his ordination represents.

I am sure that the whole Stonyhurst community will wish to give their congratulations to Fr David and offer prayers for the success of his ministry. Readers might also like to know that Fr David celebrated his first Mass at St Peter's, Stonyhurst, for the Feast of the Saint-Omer's Martyrs on 14th February.



[www.yorkoratory.com/news/you-are-a-priest-for-ever](http://www.yorkoratory.com/news/you-are-a-priest-for-ever)

*Editor's note: It is particularly noteworthy in this edition of the newsletter, where we celebrate and gain inspiration from the courage of others, that the courage required to answer a call to the Vocation of the Priesthood is an increasingly rare and wondrous thing. All at the Association fully appreciate the life of service willingly and joyfully accepted by Fr David. May God bless him in his ministry.*



**Philipa D'Aquino Nash OS 04** informs us that St Mary's School, Hampstead, at which she is deputy headteacher, was delighted to host a Champagne Afternoon Tea in September 2024, welcoming local headteachers of nurseries and pre-preps, as well as education consultants and key members of the community.

The event was in celebration of St Mary's being rated in the Top 5 UK Prep Schools in the Catholic Good Schools Guide and was an opportunity to thank those involved with the school.

**Fr Toby Lees OS 99** attended as a representative of the community and as a keen supporter, particularly in his capacity as Director of Radio Maria England. The radio station was able to broadcast Mass live from St Mary's earlier in 2024. Philipa reports that 'It was lovely to welcome an OS to the school'.

Congratulations to all involved!





Congratulations to **Brendan Rouse OS 90** who, after too many years of playing club rugby, informs us that he has returned to playing Shinty which he learnt while studying at the University of St Andrews. Brendan is Captain of Bristol Camanachd who regularly play teams in Falmouth, Oxford and London. Sometimes described as 'full-contact golf', Shinty will be familiar to Highlanders but is growing in popularity in England too.

Congratulations to **Richard Clews OS 81** who has been appointed by the King to be a Circuit Judge on the advice of the Lord Chancellor, the Right Honourable Shabana Mahmood MP, and the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill.

The Lady Chief Justice has deployed him to the North Eastern Circuit, based at Teesside Combined Court Centre, with effect from 18th November 2024.

Richard Clews is the son of David Clews, Head of Maths at Stonyhurst from 1958-1992. His mother, Eileen, worked at SMH between 1964-1999, delivering marvellous dramatic productions fondly remembered by OS of that era. He is brother to **Patrick OS 76**, **Christopher OS 80**, and Katy (mother of **Fenella Lamle OS 20**).

Richard Clews will be known as His Honour Judge Clews. He was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1986. He was appointed as a Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) in 2006 and as a District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) in 2016.



Congratulations to **Messalina and James Morley-Alton**, both **OS 15**, who welcomed their second child on 4th August 2024 in Ridgewood, NJ.

Frederick David Morley-Alton was baptised on 16th November 2024 at St Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Wyckoff, NJ.





Congratulations to **Amelia Jansen OS 13** and Sam Keanly who were married on 14th September 2024, in Spain.

OS in attendance were: **Klara Holmes OS 13**, **Ella Isola OS 13**, **Ellie Elms OS 13**, **Sorcha Kelly OS 13**, **Charlotte Moore OS 13**, **Darcey Langstroth OS 13**, **Jessica Eastwood OS 13**, **Lydia Scarborough OS 09**, and **Gregory Jansen OS 11**.



Congratulations to **George Macquisten OS 13**, who was married to Clara Warner on 28th June 2024 at St George's Town Hall, London. A reception was held afterwards at a family home on Fournier Street, London.

Also in attendance were **Francis Isola OS 59** (Grandfather of Groom), his uncles **Julian Isola OS 86** and **James Isola OS 95**, the Groom's brother and Best Man **Nick Macquisten OS 14**, while **Isabella Macquisten OS 21**, **Mateo Isola OS 22**, and **Juan Isola OS 24** were also in attendance.



Congratulations to **Owen McDermott OS 13** who married Maddie Savage on the 13th December 2024 at The Fitzrovia Chapel, Pearson Square, London. OS present included Owen's brothers **Jack OS 11** and **James OS 22** and sister **Aimée OS 20**, **Josh Reilly OS 13** and **Will Spencer OS 13**. Owen and Maddie are pictured with their son Billy.



# FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE

AMDG



Stonyhurst has a proud and unique identity as a Catholic and Jesuit school. Part of that identity is the ability to adapt to the challenges of the times throughout its history. St Ignatius charged his early companions to have 'one foot in the air' ready for the next challenge.

Association members will be well aware that this is an incredibly challenging time for the independent school sector. The Governors and Executive are facing into

the issues strategically, calmly but with great determination! We have reviewed our strategic plan at the mid-way point and I look forward to sending you our new plan before Easter. The theme will be 'Innovation is our tradition'. It will have four strands: Stonyhurst as a Catholic and Jesuit school; Stonyhurst as a global school; Stonyhurst as an academic school and Stonyhurst as a boarding school. We are hugely fortunate that we have so much human, intellectual and cultural resource to take the opportunities which are presented at this time. The Governors are also taking the opportunity to rebalance some of our assets to ensure that Stonyhurst is in the best possible financial position to thrive in the future.

We are introducing a number of new academic offers from September 2025. A one-year Grammar stay can now be formed into a Grammar Diploma (to mirror the one-year fast-track GCSE programme in Syntax). We are also introducing a two-term English language/Stonyhurst immersion programme with pupils integrated into the existing boarding

houses. We also have a number of exciting curricular and capital projects which will be announced in the strategic plan.

Despite the financial challenges, families are still showing a strong interest in a Stonyhurst education. We are fortunate that we are still able to offer bursaries through the Stonyhurst Foundation. College bursary funds are being used to support current families. One of our strategic aims for the future must be to make Stonyhurst affordable for all young people who would flourish here.

The return of Figures and Rudiments to the College (under the patronage of St Aloysius) has been a great success by all metrics and the children are thriving in the College environment. We have also enhanced the pupil experience for the children at St Mary's Hall with the completion of a new art room and a dance studio.

We all enjoyed the Visitation from the Provincial, Fr Peter Gallagher SJ, who was accompanied by the Delegate for Education, Andrew Johnson (of course a former Headmaster of Stonyhurst). Fr Peter's homily was a meditation on the Silence Gallery and you could hear a pin drop in St Peter's Church. Over half term I travel to Stonyhurst International School, Penang, Malaysia for our annual visit. I am delighted to be accompanied by Christine Keunen, Chair of Governors and Lorraine Wright, Deputy Head Academic. Stonyhurst Penang now has 800 pupils and Higher Line will open in September 2025. 'One foot in the air' indeed.

LDS

## IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Summer 2024 edition of the newsletter.

Peter David Anderson	OS 1965 - 1970	George Christopher Karas	OS 1943 - 1945
Damian Joseph Peter Bond	OS 1975 - 1983	Iain Michael Andrew Macpherson	OS 1950 - 1960
Jonathan Robin Burt	OS 1955 - 1965	Pieter Willem Mommersteeg	OS 1946 - 1956
Maurice Cairns	Former Parent	Chris Moxon	Former SMH Staff
Katharine Mary Eddleston	Former Staff	Richard Barry O'Brien	OS 1940 - 1948
Timothy Edward John Floyd	OS 1961 - 1970	Alan Roberts	Former Staff
Stephen Hall	Former Parent	Michael Anthony Watkinson	OS 1949 - 1959
Miranda Highcock	Former Parent and Former Staff	Louis John Patrick Willems	OS 1948 - 1954
Lauren Stephanie Jackson	OS 2003 - 2005		

May they rest in peace.

# INTRODUCTION

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BY JULIE MACFARLANE OS 78

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There are several articles in this publication that are fine examples of the courage shown by a selection of OS from different spheres of life. This year is the start of the celebration for 125 years of CCF (previously OTC) and this newsletter is a great opportunity to look back at historic, and more recent, courage displayed by OS which may well have originated in the values picked up whilst at Stonyhurst.

Judith Hetherington, the mother of **Tim Hetherington OS 89**, has provided us with a few words on this subject, with particular reference to her son, Tim.

*“Courage may be defined as the power, or quality, of dealing with or facing danger, fear, pain etc. To have the confidence to act in accordance with one’s beliefs. To nerve oneself to form an action. There are many ways one can be courageous and it takes many forms.*

*Being courageous can mean taking risks, both mental and physical. Living life fully, being courageous, means taking steps into the unknown and will involve encountering choices, making decisions, making commitment, even possibly experiencing suffering.*

*The alternative of not being courageous, or taking risks, often means we just let things happen, we fail to grow, we stay stuck, trapped. The first reaction to the unknown, new situations, is often fear. But each time we face our fears we gain strength, courage and confidence to go forward to tackle the situation presenting itself.*

*Tim was driven by a sense of ‘mission’, he was dedicated to the principle of truth and justice through proximity. Tim knew that working in some of the most dangerous and challenging countries in the world entailed risk. He was aware of his own mortality. Tim was aware that taking risks in life, sometimes difficult risks, is necessary. He trusted himself and had the willingness to take risks to achieve his mission in life, his work, and to do what he felt he had to do. He took on challenge voluntarily, to make a difference in life. He could not afford to relax into a comfort zone and leave things to others. Taking risks is part of living life fully. If we become paralysed by fear, we will never change and develop fully or live life to the full.”*

I hope that you find the following articles both interesting and inspirational.

## TIM HETHERINGTON OS 89, PHOTOGRAPHER AND JOURNALIST

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IN HIS OWN WORDS

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The Stonyhurst Association is fortunate to have the cooperation of Tim’s mother, Judith, to assist us in collecting interviews and statements made by him over his professional life, until his death in Libya in 2011, to assist us in understanding how Tim drew courage and portrayed hope in his work. Taking an extract from Judith’s writing ‘*The Unfinished Tim – Courage*’ which was based on the 16 attributes of the Jesuit Pupil Profile, plus the additional attribute of courage, Judith tells us:

‘Primarily I knew from our discussions that he didn’t have a career path set out, but a direction which was propelling him. He was very particular, discerning, about the type of work he undertook. He had to be closely connected to his subject, it had to feel right and that it was in keeping with his ethics and values of humanitarianism, searching for truth, justice, and yes, he did want to do what he could to oppose violence, injustice and oppression wherever he found it. Tim wanted to expand his own horizons, and that of his world, as far as he was able. This was very much a part about what his Jesuitical education had

taught him. He was content and enjoyed his work at the Big Issue, there was hope, something was being achieved for the homeless, and he had a part in this. He was learning and challenged, he was going in the right direction.’

**In his Moscow Lecture of 2010, Tim states:**

*“In the early days when I became a photographer...covering any form of conflict wasn’t in my mind, consciousness, I had no idea what I wanted to do, my ideas were very limited, I thought maybe a feature photographer, maybe make regional newspaper, I just liked the idea that photography could make me free...*

*...I found myself going to Liberia and it was the first country I had been to on that continent...it completely turned my head around...and I couldn’t understand how I could live on the same planet this country existed on...and so for many years I searched to understand those kind of dynamics which were happening in West Africa in 1999...I also learnt in my work I was able to handle certain situations, able to confront my fears and still be able to work...*





## STEPHEN MAYES, DIRECTOR OF THE TIM HETHERINGTON TRUST

I wonder if Tim would have described himself as courageous. It's an attribute that is often applied retrospectively, usually by other people and generally marks the recognition of exaggerated behaviour, something beyond normal and cloaked in nobility. But we all have our moments of courage, many of them small and unrecognised by others as we overcome personal fears in ways that are unlikely to register on a public (or even a private) scale of "courage". More often than not, we don't assert courage when we do the right thing, we act simply because it is the right thing.

This is the place where Tim lived. He was determined and allowed few obstacles to stand between him and his mission to understand the world, driven by curiosity, honesty and justice. If his actions were measured in terms of risk and uncertainty, then much of what he did might be called courageous. But this also describes most people's lives and the temptation then is to point to the more extreme moments as though only heroic actions define courage. In Tim's life there were indeed many such moments, such as the time that he broke his ankle while working with American forces in Afghanistan and the only way out was to hike on foot for two days. Or in Liberia when Tim interposed himself between a rebel fighter with a gun and the doctor he was about to shoot. Or when he undertook to work undercover for the UN Security Council gathering evidence of illegal activity by guerilla fighters in the Second Liberian Civil War.

While these larger-than-life events are real, it would be a distortion to define Tim by such outsized actions. It was his day-to-day struggles that really shaped the work which is now his legacy. Biographies open the door to understanding more than curriculum vitae, and heroes (like statues) belong in museums. For as long as there are memories of Tim, we should allow him to live in our minds as fully as we can because he was (and his work remains) a vital and dynamic force in the world.

**Creative courage:** using unorthodox equipment and taking unusual editorial perspectives. For example, he used what he called a Trojan Horse technique to engage his audience in the horrors of war by photographing the resilience of young men who played various sports in the aftermath of conflict, many of them injured and disabled. The resulting work called Healing Sport was a way to address unspeakable violence in a way that could be understood without shocking or repelling viewers. Or similarly his work in a Liberian school for blind children who had lost their sight in acts of grotesque cruelty. To Tim, these were some of the truly courageous people in his life.

**Financial courage:** like many self-employed people, many of Tim's projects were self-funded which constantly ate into his ability to set aside money for his own security and would put at risk everything he had already accumulated.

**Confidence:** to put himself in unfamiliar situations in the belief that he would survive and produce meaningful work.

**Emotional exposure:** all creative work exposes the artist to emotional risk of criticism or misunderstanding. For a traveling journalist there are other areas of risk in the strains placed on relationships, which can become very difficult to manage with potentially damaging consequences.

While the work Tim produced is exceptional in many ways, it was this sort of daily challenge that allowed him to achieve it: just like everyone else, he did what he had to do. I doubt very much that Tim considered himself courageous for simply following his guiding principles. Maybe adventurous, maybe (but rarely) rash...I'd suggest that rather than describing Tim as courageous it would be possible to talk about his life in a way that reveals the courage of many.

Which I think could also speak to another of Tim's attributes: **generosity**. He would be much more likely to credit the courage of others than he would to credit himself – he was never self-aggrandising and always alert to the qualities of the people around him.

*...So, I really believe in the idea of revealing things outside of myself. If the best photography is a mixture of the subjective and objective, then I'm slightly weighted to the objective point of view. I don't want to talk about myself all the time – so I continued to do work for Human Rights Watch...filming undercover in Sri Lanka (filming) executing Tamils whom they thought were funding the war, it was a very paranoid situation. I was followed...I continued this idea of witnessing, but understanding my privileged perspective of being a witness, and the importance of that and documenting these war crimes..."*

### **Speaking to the Washingtonian in 2007 about his work in Afghanistan:**

*"There's a personal thing inside it all. It's like a desire to explore that part of you and certain people want to do it and certain people have no desire to do it at all. There's a sense of testing yourself. I was interviewed once and someone tried to portray me as on a moral quest...in many ways I'm being selfish and doing it for my own good, my own reasons. In some ways it will do very little for a lot of people, but it's as much a personal journey for me as it is a mass communication journey. I would be lying if I said otherwise!"*



### **In 2008, after winning the World Press Prize, Tim gave an interview to London students in which he was asked why he changed from being a wordsmith to image-maker:**

*"I became disillusioned with words as I realised images can reach more people...they can reach people who don't speak your own language. If you think about it, images from Afghanistan, Restrepo, were beamed all over the world, 22 million on ABC, over 2 million people saw Restrepo in American cinemas alone, another over 2 million saw the images in Vanity Fair. Also, words are kept within a certain strata of society; I don't just want to talk to the intellectual classes and that's what words end up doing. If you have the reach...you don't need much education to understand images...words end up being controlled by the educated classes."*



AMDG

**Fr Tim Curtis SJ** is the chaplain at Stonyhurst. He invites us to consider the skills, knowledge and attributes we gain, or have gained, during our time at Stonyhurst. He asks us to consider how all those who have shown courage in their lives after Stonyhurst have demonstrated the values of the Jesuit pupil profile.

The Jesuit Profile was constructed after a process of consultation with all the Jesuit Schools in the UK. The purpose of Jesuit education is not only to impart academic knowledge and develop other skills, but also to form a person to be a loving individual ready to change the world. The virtues on the profile draw a picture of the kind of person who will emerge from a Jesuit school after this period of formation. When the profile is presented to parents, why would they not want their child to be outstanding in these virtues?

When we strive to develop musical talents or prowess on the sports field, for example, a lot of dedication and practice is required. Every day the individual has to give long hours to the chosen activity. This often pushes us to the limits of what we are capable of. Developing and growing our virtues does not require so much time, but it is something we need to bring to mind every day.

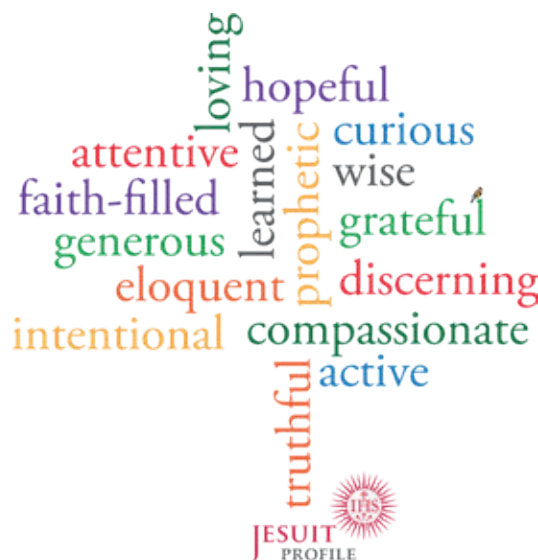
The Jesuit *Examen* is key to the helping us to grow and become a *Man/ Woman for Others*. The examen is a brief moment of prayer (5 to 10 minutes each day) in which we recall the key moments of the last 24 hours. With practice we can see how the events of the day have really been invitations from God to be more faith-filled or more hopeful. Each half term we concentrate on a single pair of virtues, so we can check up on how we have been able to develop these. Over time, we get to consider all the virtues that form the virtue tree.

Progress in sports or music requires us to do a lot of hard work. This is not the case in becoming a better person. Here we let God do the work. He is the one who is continually bombarding us with invitations to be generous or grateful. In the examen, we note how these invitations

have shown themselves. Maybe the Lord has placed someone in our path who needed our help, or maybe we have had the opportunity to thank someone? In the prayer we see what has happened and if we were able to respond to these moments of invitation. The key to spiritual development is to be aware of how God's grace is acting upon us and to monitor how we have responded to these invitations. If we have responded well, we can give ourselves a spiritual pat on the back; if we have ignored these invitations, we can resolve to do better in the future.

By being attentive in our prayer, we become discerning in our loving actions. The important thing is that we are faithful in monitoring these 'grace' filled moments in our lives. The examen does not take long but, making it a daily habit is very important.

Because spiritual growth happens so slowly, we are sometimes unaware of how we are changing. In most Jesuit schools there is a pause day, a moment when we can look at the bigger picture. We can take stock of how we have developed as a person and thank God that he has done most of the work.



LDS

## JONTY WARNEKEN OS 90

IN HIS OWN WORDS



It will be thirty years this May since I made the decision, at the age of 22, to elect to have my left leg amputated from below the knee, after damaging both my legs and having my face rebuilt, all due to a bad car crash at the end of November 1994. It was no surprise that this one decision altered the course of my life and obliterated everything I had hoped to achieve on the rugby pitch, in the military or in aviation. I have since gone on to have a quite successful career in wealth and investment management but am probably now more renowned for my achievements in extreme ice and open water swimming.

I am often asked about my brand of courage, and how did I – or do I – overcome my fears and, more frequently, just how do I swim in such cold water or even contemplate a Channel swim? People always assume it takes huge dollops of courage for me to do both. To be honest, I am not really sure how.

What I do know is that the decision to have my leg off was following the advice that even after 5 operations, over 3 years, I would only have a 30% chance of feeling my foot and life would have to be put on hold for all that time. Those odds didn't sit well with me, and I thought I would be better off determining my own future. Therefore, I decided in under ten seconds to have it amputated. I don't view this as courageous; both then and now I see it as just a decision that had to be made. Post operation, the surgeon confirmed this was indeed the right decision as the leg was beyond rescue. As a result, I have never been troubled by the decision I made and have just looked to the future ever since. That's not



just as a result of natural temperament though; it's just as much as result of my formative years and Stonyhurst education which helped develop that resilience.

However, what causes more fear and trepidation to course through my veins than my amputation – or any of the operations I have faced – is sitting on the side of a boat, waiting to be told it's time to get into a cold, inhospitable sea, full of jellyfish (or sharks!) that could do me some serious harm over the next 20–40 miles of swimming, some of which will be in the pitch black...even as I type this, I get an anticipatory shiver...and yet, from somewhere deep down in my core, I always find the courage to make that small leap – or that one step (it's an amputee joke!) despite everything telling me not to – and I do it.

What went through my mind on the day of my amputation, and still goes through my head every time I start a long swim (or am racing in 2°C water in Italy at the International Ice Swimming Association World Championships)? My answer to the former is simple: my leg was a decision of 'head' or intelligence over 'heart'. No-one wants an amputation, so the decision had to be made by logic and intelligence and, in reality, it transpired I had little (or, in fact, no) choice.

However, the decision to swim, or undertake other dangerous challenges, is different – I do have a choice, but, in a way, that only makes it far more difficult. Yes, I am scared before I start, and I truly hate the act of getting into the water; it challenges me every time I do it. And yet I do it, because I have the confidence in myself and my preparation. I know I can suffer. I know I have trained for it, I know I am capable of it, I take comfort from people whom I trust and have more experience, knowing they also have confidence in me to succeed. I know I can get out at any time (but I won't). I also know the joy of competing and completing as an equal; I am a swimmer with a disability, not a disabled swimmer. I have been appointed an ambassador to **Red Equipment** who are supporting me with kit and equipment [www.red-equipment.co.uk](http://www.red-equipment.co.uk) for my fundraising activities, so I am pleased to mention them.

So, I know it takes courage to get in; it takes courage to simply put your name down to do these things. But I am not compelled to do

what I do; I am not saving lives or rescuing anyone. I am just going for a swim. The motivation however could not be stronger...because perhaps others who have been through similar, or worse, will see what can be achieved and be inspired to challenge themselves. So, for me, being the best I can be, maximising the talents and abilities I have been given – all honed at Stonyhurst – and ploughing that new furrow, gives me huge satisfaction and peace of mind.

*Quant Je Puis*



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# MAJOR FRANCIS SUTTILL DSO OS 26

BY ANDREW SUTHERLAND OS 66



Whilst we of the Stonyhurst family are very proud of our seven Victoria Crosses, there are other former pupils who have shown similar but different bravery of whom we can be equally proud. One such person is **Francis Suttill OS 26** who was responsible for the setting up and running of one of the largest resistance networks in France during the last war until his capture in June 1943 and execution in 1945.

Since retiring to Hampshire, I have been a frequent visitor to Beaulieu, the home of Lord

and Lady Montagu. During the war, Beaulieu and its surrounding houses were used as accommodation for some Special Operations Executive (SOE) agents who were sent there to do classroom work and rehearse what they had learnt in other parts of the British Isles, such as armed combat and morse code, before being parachuted into France. Once there, their tasks would have included sabotage of factories and railway lines along with assisting local resistance groups. At Beaulieu, a house has been dedicated to a history of their training. On a recent visit I was very pleased to see a detailed exhibition about Francis Suttill curated by Lady Montagu. On contacting her to congratulate her on the exhibition, she told me that she had been in touch with one of Francis' sons – also called Francis – who had written a book about his father on which she had based her exhibition. This article is based on that exhibition, Francis Suttill's book, and other information he gave me.

Francis' father had moved to Lille to manage a textile business where he married a French woman. Francis was born in 1910 and was sent to Stonyhurst from 1919 until 1926. Unfortunately, little is known about his life at Stonyhurst, but he left early when he was diagnosed with polio and returned home to France. He was initially advised that he would never walk again – he proved his doctors wrong, although he ended up with one leg shorter than the other. He went back to school

in Lille and obtained his Baccalaureate. Whilst reading law at Lille University, he was accepted as an external student at University College London following which he moved to London where he qualified as a Barrister in Lincoln's Inn. He married in 1935 and had two sons, **William Suttill OS 55** and **Francis Suttill OS 58**.

When war came, Francis Suttill joined the East Surrey Regiment and was commissioned in 1940. Selection and training for SOE followed not only because of his fluent French but because he was considered a natural leader. After training he was chosen to lead the Physician network, based in Paris, stretching from the Ardennes to the Atlantic and known in France as *Prosper*, Francis' nom de guerre.

Earlier French networks had been closed by the Germans. Francis' task was to establish a new network. He parachuted into France in October 1942, following which he and his courier toured northern France exploring the possibility of setting up networks. In this they were highly successful and from late 1942 to mid-1943 the network covered large parts of Northern France with hundreds of local agents, members of the French resistance and some sixty sub-networks. Amongst other things his group stockpiled arms and ammunition from England in readiness for the Allied invasion of Europe, sabotaged power stations and attacked enemy goods trains.







Although Francis' agents were undoubtedly brave, security in SOE was unfortunately not as careful as it should have been. Even after his short visit to London in May 1943, when he again cancelled compromised letter boxes (where agents left messages), these addresses were still being given to incoming agents in June. Furthermore, the lack of wireless operators in France meant that many other agents had to contact Francis to communicate with London. At the same time the Germans had a well-practiced counterespionage service.

In June, the Germans arrested agents who had a package of documents for Francis and his radio operator, code named Norman, together with the latter's address. There they found identification cards and documents from which they were able to find Francis' address. Francis was arrested on 24 June.

Norman tried to warn London by sending messages worded to indicate that he was under German control. He did not realise that this enabled the Germans to decode all the messages he had sent previously which they had recorded but had not been able to decode till then, giving them almost complete information about the network's activities.

Norman felt he had no option but to cooperate fully to save the lives of those involved – but Francis did not agree. Two of Francis' agents reported that Norman had given away the circuit and *“that he had assisted at the interrogation of Prosper which lasted without interruption for several days and several nights and that little by little Norman completed or made Prosper give up the details that the latter wished to hide.”*

Following his capture, Francis was interrogated in Paris after which he was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp where he was shot on or around 23rd March 1945. He was awarded a posthumous Distinguished Service Order but has sadly not yet been honoured by the French. He is honoured on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial at Groesbeek in the Netherlands and the SOE Memorial at Valençay in France. Shamefully, his name is not included on the memorial to those SOE agents who died in

Europe at the Brookwood Cemetery twenty miles from where he lived. However, a plaque is due to be unveiled in March 2025, in his honour, at the house in Paris where he was arrested (please see note below). Francis Suttill is, however, remembered on the War Memorial at Stonyhurst.

Perhaps the last words about Francis Suttill should be left to Major General Gubbins in his recommendation for Francis' DSO:

*“During his nine months of clandestine work, this officer made a very great contribution to the organisation of resistance in northern France. The achievements he attained were quite unparalleled at that period. A magnificent leader, he was an inspiration to all who worked with him, both British*

*and French. He showed outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice, and he never failed to carry out personally the most dangerous tasks. It is strongly recommended that he be appointed a Companion in the Distinguished Service Order.”*

May a very brave man rest in peace.

*Editor's note: The unveiling of the plaque to Francis Suttill will take place on Monday 24th March at 1500 at 18 Rue de Mazagran Paris 75010. The Rue de Mazagran is off the Bd de Bonne Nouvelle and is between the metros Bonne Nouvelle and Strasbourg-Saint-Denis. If any OS would like to join **Andrew Sutherland OS 66**, please contact him on [legalese8@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:legalese8@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone at 01590 676604 or 07849 893193.*



## FEDERATION NATIONALE LIBRE RÉSISTANCE



Le Président et les membres du conseil de *Fédération Nationale Libre Résistance* vous prient de bien vouloir assister à la cérémonie au cours de laquelle sera dévoilée la plaque sur la façade de l'immeuble où il fut arrêté par la gestapo le 24 juin 1943 à la mémoire de :

### Major Francis SUTTILL DSO - 1910-1945

Chef du réseau action Prosper-PHYSICIAN, service britannique S.O.E. créé en 1940 pour soutenir les mouvements de résistance en Europe et préparer le débarquement du 6 juin 1944, exécutée à en mars 1945 au camp de concentration de Sachsenhausen ; qui se tiendra au

**18, rue de Mazagran, Paris 10e  
le lundi 24 mars 2025 à 15 heures**

avec le patronage de Mme Anne Hidalgo, Maire de Paris et de  
S.E. Dame Menna Rawlings DCMG CVO, Ambassadeur de Grande Bretagne en France

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# JOE JACKMAN VC OS 34

BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS

**Dr Jan Graffius**, curator of the Stonyhurst Collections, tells us of the story of **Joe Jackman OS 34**, who was awarded the Victoria Cross during World War II in 1942. This VC is on loan to Stonyhurst through the good graces of his niece and nephews, the Green and Fenwick families. Kensey and David Green attended the first Stonyhurst Military Dinner to represent Joe's family and were made warmly welcome – their family generosity in sharing their Uncle Joe's example with generations of Stonyhurst pupils was hugely appreciated.

"James Joseph Bernard Jackman, or Joe, as he was usually known, was born on 19th March 1916, in Waterford City, Ireland. He was the only son of Dr and Mrs James Jackman and came to Stonyhurst at the age of twelve, in 1928.

Those who knew him at the College described him as slight of build, an avid reader and brilliant conversationalist, gifted with a fine sense of humour. He was widely popular with his peers, and was fondly remembered by one of his masters, Christopher Hollis, for umpiring a tennis match wearing an enormous cowboy hat, reading Rupert Brooke's poetry while adjudicating play. He won academic prizes, was a leading light in the Debating Society and was appointed to the Committee in Rhetoric. He was a keen member of the OTC (nowadays, of course, the CCF), serving in the Corps of Drums and as a Junior Under Officer.

Joe Jackman was at Stonyhurst briefly with **Marcus Ervine-Andrews** – who was also to win the VC in World War II – and the two of them took the steamer home to Ireland together in the holidays.

On leaving the college in 1934, it was expected that Jackman would choose either an academic or medical career after his father. It was, therefore, something of a surprise when he opted to join the Army, entering Sandhurst that same summer. He graduated with a prize for military law in 1936. Under advice from a senior Irish officer, Colonel E. Martin, Jackman elected to join the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939, Jackman's Battalion was based in Cairo and was swept up into the Libya Offensive in 1940. The British Army seized Tobruk some 350 miles off the Mediterranean coast. In April 1941, the German Army struck back, under General Rommel, and the British Army consolidated its position under siege. Captain Jackman's company was to remain in the besieged city for eight months.

Conditions were harsh. Water was severely rationed, and there was little or no fresh food, the troops subsisting on tinned corned beef, biscuit, bacon and cheese. There were daily attacks from German Stuka bombers and the

men lived in camouflaged dugouts. One of Jackman's colleagues in Tobruk, Lieutenant Sanderson, recalled: "He was a remarkable person, completely untroubled and never angry. Everyone was one hundred percent behind him... he inspired confidence and was completely unflappable... he was always a welcome sight regardless of the situation... he seemed to be running the whole war."

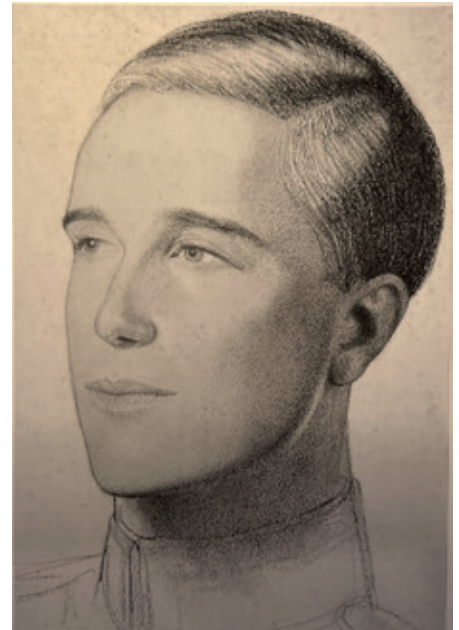
In November 1941, the order came to break out of Tobruk and join up with the main British Army. Jackman's company was assigned the dangerous task of capturing the heavily defended German position on the Ed Duda Ridge, overlooking Tobruk.

## The formal citation for the award of his VC reads:

*'On 25th November 1941, at Ed Duda, South East of Tobruk, Captain Jackman showed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty above all praise when he was in command of a Machine Gun Company of The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in the Tank attack on the Ed Duda ridge. His magnificent bearing was contributory in a large measure to the success of a most difficult and hard-fought action. As the tanks reached the crest of the rise they were met by extremely intense fire from a large number of guns of all descriptions: the fire was so heavy that it was doubtful for a moment whether the Brigade could maintain its hold on the position. The tanks having slowed to "hull-down" positions, settled to beat down the enemy fire, during which time Captain Jackman rapidly pushed up the ridge leading his Machine Gun trucks and saw at once that Anti-Tank Guns were firing at the flank of the tanks, as well as the rows of batteries which the tanks were engaging on their front. He immediately started to get his guns into action as calmly as though he were on manoeuvres and so secured the right flank. Then, standing up in the front of his truck, with calm determination he led his trucks across the front between the tanks and the guns – there was no other road to get them into action on the left flank. Most of the tank commanders saw him, and his exemplary devotion to duty regardless of danger not only inspired his own men but clinched the determination of the tank crews never to relinquish the position which they had gained. Throughout he coolly directed the guns to their positions and indicated targets to them and at that time seemed to bear a charmed life but later he was killed while still inspiring everyone with the greatest confidence by his bearing.'*

Thanks to Jackman's inspired leadership, the Ridge was taken and held. The next day British forces from the East joined the troops in Tobruk and the city was liberated. Joe Jackman's contribution to the relief of Tobruk was pivotal and cannot be overestimated. He is buried in the Tobruk War Cemetery.

The Victoria Cross was presented to Captain Jackman's mother by King George VI on 20th October 1942. Captain Jackman's sister



presented Stonyhurst with the painting of her brother which now hangs in the Top Refectory. Her children and grandchildren have generously placed Joe Jackman's VC on loan to Stonyhurst College, which is on permanent display in the museum cases in the Do Room, through which pretty much the whole school passes every day.

Dr Graffius goes on to say: "My role as Stonyhurst Curator is chiefly to share stories of significance of the amazing artefacts I am privileged to care for. Sometimes the quietest of objects speaks more powerfully than the renowned, glittering, historical big-hitters I also look after. A VC is, on the face of it, an unassuming medal – dull bronze and a plain maroon ribbon – it doesn't shout out its claims to bravery and glory. But it is recognised universally as the highest honour possible for courage in the British Armed Forces, and wherever it is displayed, or worn, it garners respect and admiration from all who see it.

Every VC has a different story – each story has the power to move and inspire in different ways. For me, the significance of Joe Jackman's extraordinary courage lies in the words of his fellow soldiers describing his behaviour in what can only have been a hellish situation in Tobruk – untroubled, confident, unflappable, cool, calm, determined – perhaps these qualities were already evident in his schooldays at Stonyhurst. It takes a great deal of self-assurance to umpire a tennis match of your peers in a Stetson while reading Rupert Brooke."

Let us take inspiration from his courage and consider those attributes he may have developed through his Jesuit education at Stonyhurst.



# LEO GRADWELL DSC OS 1917

BY ANDREW SUTHERLAND OS 66



What possible link could there be between a German battleship and a high-class English call girl? The answer lies with **Leo Gradwell DSC OS 1917**.

On leaving Stonyhurst Leo Gradwell went up to Oxford where he read Classics at Balliol College. At the time of his graduation, he spoke six languages. Come the First World War he joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman<sup>1</sup>. At the end of the war, he left the Navy and, following pupillage, was called to the Bar in 1925.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, he was commissioned in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a Lieutenant and in 1942, aged 43, was given command of HMS *Ayrshire*, a trawler converted for anti-submarine warfare with a crew of trawlermen.

As heavy losses were being sustained by British and Allied merchantmen, the Royal Navy was tasked with forming and guarding convoys bringing much needed supplies from Africa, Canada and the United States. Following a request from Russia, convoys also started to take supplies from England and the United States to the Russian ports of Archangel and Murmansk in northern Russia. Once a convoy rounded Norway it had not only to contend with German planes, submarines and surface vessels, but also the very harsh Arctic winters.

One such convoy was PQ17, which left the Icelandic port of Hvalfjörður in Iceland, where it had formed up in July 1942. As described by Jonathan Dimbleby in his masterly book *The Battle of the Atlantic*, from which I have derived most of my information, it consisted of thirty-three merchantmen, carrying 594 tanks, 297 aircraft, 4,246 trucks and 156,000 tons of general cargo; enough to equip an army of 50,000 men. Escorted by six destroyers, four corvettes, three minesweepers, four armed trawlers and two submarines, along with an oil tanker and two rescue ships, it was to enter the annals of naval history as a maritime disaster that Churchill would describe as "one of the most melancholy episodes in the whole of the war". The convoy had also been given close cover by three destroyers and four cruisers. The Home Fleet provided distant

cover with two battleships, an aircraft carrier, two cruisers and fourteen destroyers. It was a formidable armada that must have seemed impregnable to the merchant seamen whose lives depended on it to protect them.

The Admiralty had been concerned for some time about the whereabouts of the German battleships *Tirpitz* and *Hipper*. Admiral Sir John Tovey, Commander in Chief of the Home Fleet, who was responsible for the protection of the Arctic convoys, was increasingly concerned as to their vulnerability. Enigma decrypts from Bletchley Park indicated that the *Tirpitz* was at large waiting to attack any convoy that crossed its path. Unbeknown to the Admiralty, the German Kriegsmarine were also resolved to avoid any confrontation with the Royal Navy unless success was guaranteed.

Space does not allow for a full description of the tragedy that unfolded after the first attacks on the convoy on 2nd July. However, dangers were heightened when Bletchley Park were unable to decipher the messages received from the Kriegsmarine. Naval intelligence had found out that the *Tirpitz* had moved to Alten fjord but had inferred that it was still at anchor. However, this was not sufficient assurance for the First Sea Lord, Admiral Pound, who ordered on 4th July that the convoy must scatter, individual ships must make their own way to Archangel and that the warships had to leave the convoy. The escort commander, Captain John Broome, was aghast but as it was a direct order he had no option but to comply. If only Captain Broome had followed Nelson's example at the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 and refused to execute the order the safety of the convoy might well have been assured. Of the thirty-three ships that left Iceland only eleven arrived in Archangel. Remarkably only 153 Allied seamen were lost thanks to the efforts of the rescue ships, but the material cost was far higher with 142,000 tons of supplies being lost.

However, Lieutenant Gradwell had other ideas. Deliberately disobeying orders to proceed direct to Archangel, as he believed it would be suicidal, he decided to head north to the Arctic ice shelf and take three merchantmen with him. Using only a sextant and *The Times World Geographic Pocket Book*, as *Ayrshire* had no charts for this part of the Atlantic, he sailed north. On reaching the ice shelf his little convoy went no further as they risked being trapped in the ice. He ordered that the engines be stopped and banked. Finding that one of the merchantmen had a cargo of white paint he ordered that all the ships be painted white and that the cargoes be covered with white linen. He also ordered those tanks on board ships be fully armed with their barrels pointing skyward.

After two days he decided to move his little convoy along the ice shelf, eventually reaching the Matochkin Strait in Novaya Zemlya from where a Russian sea plane took a message

asking for an escort to Archangel. He and the escort arrived in Archangel on 25th July 1942. In September 1942, for his outstanding leadership, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He subsequently went on to command another ship during the war.

And what eventually became of the *Tirpitz*? The answer is yet another interesting link with Stonyhurst in that the father of **Peter Tait OS 67**, was Wing Commander (later Group Captain) James Tait DSO, DFC, the most highly decorated airman of the Second World War. He assumed command of the legendary 617 Dam Buster Squadron from Guy Gibson and led three raids against the *Tirpitz*, the last of which resulted in the ship capsizing west of Tromsø on 12th November 1944.

Fame had not done entirely with Leo Gradwell. Returning to his legal career after the war, he was appointed a stipendiary magistrate at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court. Shortly afterwards he contracted polio, but after successful treatment he resumed his career as a magistrate.

In 1961, it was found that John Profumo, the British Secretary of State for War, was sharing a mistress, Christine Keeler, with Yevgeny Ivanov, the senior naval attaché at the Russian Embassy. Profumo had been introduced to Christine Keeler at one of Lord Astor's parties at Cliveden by Stephen Ward. Most of their meetings took place in Ward's flat. Ward was also friendly with Ivanov. Following a range of sex scandals in government and high society, Ward was eventually charged with prostitution offences in 1963 and committed for trial by Leo Gradwell. Ward was convicted of living off immoral earnings but before the verdict was announced he died from an overdose of sleeping pills.



Leo Gradwell made the headlines once again. The British publishing rights to *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, a very racy novel, were acquired in 1966. Gradwell was the judge for the private prosecution brought by the public prosecutor under Section 3 of the Obscene Publications Act against the publisher. Gradwell agreed with the Public Prosecutor and ordered that all copies of the book be destroyed. As the order had no jurisdiction, outside the borders of the magistrates' court the publisher said the book would continue to be published. The prosecutor therefore brought criminal charges under Section 2 of the Act. The jury returned a guilty verdict, but the decision was reversed in 1968 by the Court of Appeal.

Leo Gradwell died in 1969 aged 70.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Wikipedia.

# LT COL LESLIE HUMPHREYS OBE MA OS 22

BY JOHN MULHOLLAND OS 66

Leslie Humphreys was a founder member of Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE) with the remit to 'set Europe ablaze' during World War II. Humphreys was the first head of SOE's F (France) Section but found his niche in 1941, when he set up DF Section, responsible for organising clandestine communication lines across German-occupied Western Europe. These lines were established mainly in France, Belgium and Holland for the movement of agents, resistance workers, downed airmen, documents, money, explosives and equipment.

In February 1945, Humphreys became Head of Section X (Germany) and in August 1945, the Head of the Western European Regional Section. He was one of a very select group of officers who served in SOE from its formation in July 1940 to its disbandment in January 1946.

Humphreys had a double connection with Stonyhurst: firstly, as a pupil from 1918–1922, and secondly as a master at St Mary's Hall from 1965–1973.

Leslie Alexander Francis Longmore Humphreys was born in Budapest on 4th July 1904, the only son of Richard John Edward Humphreys and his wife Elizabeth Agnes Lyons. His father taught English in Budapest, later becoming Commercial Secretary at The Hague, Budapest and Bucharest.

In 1914, Leslie was among the first batch of boys to arrive at Cardinal Vaughan School in Holland Park. In 1918, he moved to Stonyhurst. He did not excel in sport or academic subjects but was active in SUDS and the orchestra. He left in 1922 and spent a year at Faculté des Lettres in Dijon before moving to Magdalene College, Cambridge where he gained a Third Class in Modern Languages and History in 1926.

Humphreys then went into business but in 1931 he moved to Bucharest and worked as Private Secretary to his father who was Commercial Secretary to the British Legation. Here he joined MI6 in intelligence gathering on Nazi intentions on Romanian oil. His chief agent was Vera Rosenberg who he later recruited to SOE as Vera Atkins.

In early 1939, he joined Section D (Destruction) of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). In September he was based in Paris with the rank of Major and liaised with the French Fifth Bureau, planning sabotage lines from Paris and later a sabotage network inside falling France. He was evacuated from Bordeaux on 20 June 1940 and on the formation of the SOE in July 1940 he became head of its F (France) Section, charged with organising subversion in France. In December 1940 he was moved over to establish clandestine communications (DF Section).

He visited Lisbon twice during the winter of 1940/41 to investigate reported lines for passing letters, parcels and people into France. Unimpressed by what he found, he decided to construct links of his own designing the blueprint of a system that would serve SOE throughout Western Europe for secret travel and secret supply. His first agent landed in France in April 1941. Ultimately, Humphreys was responsible for establishing SOE's biggest and best escape lines: VIC and VAR. A strong administrator with a firm belief in maintaining secrecy, he



kept his people inconspicuous, and this was the main reason for his DF Section's run of successes. The effectiveness of his process was demonstrated when one of his 'lines' was penetrated by the German Abwehr in 1943 and none of the 11 arrested sub-agents provided any exploitable information to the German forces. DF's methods were sometimes unorthodox, bypassing regular, approved, channels to deliver results. The results of his section were remarkable with several hundred passengers carried without loss and the carrier's casualty rate of 2% was by far the lowest of any of SOE's French sections.

After the war he returned to the business world but, in 1950, he accepted an opportunity to serve in the Foreign Office spending time in Frankfurt, Pusan (South Korea), Vienna and finally London. For most of this time he was with MI6. In 1964, he left the Foreign Office and, in 1965, joined the staff at St Mary's Hall until his retirement in 1973 when he moved to Bexhill where he lived until his death on 19 December 1976.

*Author's note: my interest in this famous OS began in 1999 when I purchased the miniature set of orders, decorations and medals worn by Humphreys. I researched his life and I wrote a 7,500-word article on him for the Stonyhurst Magazine. I admire this OS as he was both competent and committed to oppose Nazi tyranny and did so in a very significant way, driven by his personal beliefs and values. JMH*



## STONYHURST COLLEGE AND ST MARY'S HALL PROSPECTIVE PUPIL OPEN DAYS.

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STONYHURST



# CURATOR'S NEWS

BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS

'Significance' is a loaded word for a museum curator. The term is somewhat overused, but in the fullest sense it should mean that an object has a natural and rightful relationship to one place, where it has a deeper meaning beyond its artistic or scholarly credentials. That it has a home, in other words, where it can be appreciated in a way not possible in any other place.

And last month, a truly significant object came home.

I was alerted to the fact that a Shireburn artefact was coming up for sale at auction. Investigating, it became apparent that this was an object which should find its way back to Stonyhurst. It is a very beautiful, gold and mother-of-pearl snuffbox, the lid of which is carved with the arms of Maria Shireburn and the 8th Duke of Norfolk. It dates from 1709, the year of Maria's ill-fated marriage to Thomas Howard.

On 26th May 1709, Maria Winifred Francisca Shireburn married the Duke of Norfolk in London amid lavish celebrations. The bride was sixteen, and the sole surviving child of Sir Nicholas and Lady Catherine Shireburn. She was one of the richest heiresses of the day, bringing a dowry of £30,000 and an annual allowance of £3,000, not to mention her prospects of inheriting the Stonyhurst estate in due course. The groom was ten years older, and the premier Catholic peer in England. A match made in heaven, one might assume?

Sir Nicholas set about marking this prestigious alliance with conspicuous expenditure, recorded in his Goldsmiths Account book in the Stonyhurst Archives. He spent more than £400 on Maria's wedding clothes, entertained in London with extraordinary style, imported a choir from the Vatican to sing at the wedding and engaged his favourite goldsmith, Benjamin Pyne, to produce a silver dressing table set for Maria, which cost an eye-watering £660, the equivalent of nearly £70,000 in modern currency.

In addition to this princely gift, he commissioned numerous trinkets for Maria from Pyne, of which this snuffbox was one. It might seem odd to give a snuffbox to a sixteen-year-old girl, but snuff-taking was wildly fashionable, and young Maria would not have wanted to be behind the times in her new role as an elite society leader.

Maria and her husband visited Stonyhurst frequently in the early years of their marriage, and the room currently known as the Philosophers' Drawing Room was originally decorated for Thomas Howard and named 'The Duke's Bedchamber'. The snuffbox would, therefore, have seen many an outing at Stonyhurst.

The marriage was, ultimately, a failure. Maria, who was called Minxy, by her devoted father, had a strong will and a formidable temper. Numerous letters in the Stonyhurst Archive bear witness to her determination to manage Stonyhurst herself, not delegating any authority to her husband.

Thomas Howard, as the premier duke of England, was not of a mind to tolerate a wayward wife. In 1715 Sir Nicholas hosted a gathering of local Catholic gentry in support of the Jacobite rebellion. The duke refused to have anything to do with the uprising, which seems to have been the final straw for Maria, who had strong personal links with the Jacobite court in exile at St Germain. She accused her husband of 'truckling to the vile Usurper' and the marriage was effectively dead in the water from then on.

A legal separation was drawn up and Maria was pensioned off handsomely, but much of her personal jewellery and silver reverted to her estranged husband, including, presumably, her gold mounted snuffbox. Much of her silver, gold and jewellery were sold by the Norfolk family in the 19th century.

The duke died in 1732, and, with seemingly indecent haste, Maria married her St Omers-educated kinsman, Peregrine Widdrington – their relationship had given rise to some eyebrow-raising as it had commenced while her first husband was still alive. She built a fashionable new house for herself and Peregrine in Arlington St, which is now the clubhouse for the Royal Overseas League.



Controversial to the last, Maria is reported to have died at either Preston, Tunbridge Wells or London, on either the 17th or 25th September 1754. She lies in the Shireburn family vault in the medieval church of All Hallows, Mitton.



All of which provides ample support for the 'significance' of the Pyne snuffbox for Stonyhurst. When we became aware of the impending sale, we had to move fast. The Headmaster, John Browne, engaged in some high-level diplomacy to secure the box privately, before it went to public auction, where its estimate of £2,500 was likely to be exceeded. The snuffbox is now safely home, at a cost of some £3,200, which includes commission and tax.

Which brings me to a request. Would members of the Association be willing to consider helping with the purchase of this extraordinary artefact? The Collections do not have a dedicated purchase fund, but I couldn't pass up the extraordinary, short-lived opportunity to bring Maria's gorgeous snuffbox back home. It will be displayed in the Museum for all to admire and will form an important part of our imaginative and unique educational offer to college, and external, pupils.

If you would like to donate, I would be deeply grateful. The snuffbox could be named in honour of a donor contributing the entire amount, and significant donors would be welcomed as Patrons of the College Collections, with commensurate benefits, such as private views and personal tours.

I am taking the liberty of attaching the donations link and will be happy to answer any queries by email.

[www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/giving-back/support-stonyhurst](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/giving-back/support-stonyhurst)



# LOURDES 2024

BY JOHN HARTLEY OS 53

Sixty years have passed years since a small band of OS and friends set sail for France on the first Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The scope and character of the pilgrimage has changed a lot since then, but it has always been a joyful and spiritually rewarding annual event. After the tropical heat of Lourdes 2023, we were grateful for the cooler clime of 2024 which made life pleasanter for hard-working handmaids and brancardiers.



John Hartley and Shell Roca

We were a smaller group than usual, partly because there were only a few boys and girls from the College, and partly because there has been a general decline in attendances in Lourdes since the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Grotto in Lourdes is still a place of serenity, where the soul can be touched and where prayers are answered, Lourdes is constantly adapting to a world that is ever-changing.

The baths are still important, but a significant change following the pandemic has been the introduction of the beautifully simple and moving water gesture. This has replaced, for the most part, the long tradition of full immersion.

For the second year running we were able to attend Mass in the charming woodland setting of the nearby Cité Saint-Pierre, a place of

hospitality and tranquillity created in 1955 for pilgrims who could not afford the cost of a hotel in nearby Lourdes.

The Stonyhurst Group continues to play a significant part in the larger umbrella organisation known as the Catholic Association, which incorporates four diocesan pilgrimages and the Glanfield Handicapped Children's Group. The current Chairman of the CA is **Chris Page OS 76**, former President of the Stonyhurst Association and its Chief Brancardier is **Brendan Roche OS 82**, the current Chairman of the Association; while **Father Nick King OS 66** continues his long-standing service in the dual role of Chaplain to the sick and as Stonyhurst Spiritual Director. All three are well-known to the OS family.



In wheelchairs, Tim and Linda O'Flynn with pupils, Elliot, Gabriel and Magnus behind



Amanda Taylor and Jayne Wilde



Nuala Mellows and Yvonne Ayres

For the first time for many years Beverley Sillitoe, the pilgrimage organiser, was unable to be with us. But Jayne Wild, her assistant, despite never having been to Lourdes before, admirably assumed the responsibility, and saw us through the seven days without any hitches in the various planned daily activities.

Although the 2024 pilgrimage was thoroughly enjoyable, for young and old alike, we are hoping that many more boys and girls from the College will be able to join us in 2025, as well as friends and associates from the wider Stonyhurst family.





# A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO LOURDES

BY ELLIOT HARTLEY, RHETORIC



**Dominic Hartley OS 86** has given permission for the article his son **Elliot Hartley**, currently in Rhetoric, has written for the International Medical Association of Lourdes.

"Now, I know that on first impressions a trip to Lourdes might not be everyone's cup of tea, or *tasse de thé*. The idea of traipsing around churches in the hot summer heat isn't exactly an easy sell for a group of teenagers – but hang in there, the story gets better.

Firstly, a slight disclaimer: Lourdes has always been a special place for me. My parents met in Lourdes, and I've been going on pilgrimage there since I was a child with the UK's Catholic Association. I've spent many hours sipping *Orangina* (other drinks are available) in the Bronx café and paddling in the river Gave, as well as generally getting in people's way, while those around me are busy helping others. This summer everything changed. No more hanging around – I was to work as a volunteer, or *brancardier*.

The Accueil San Frai is one of the many hospitals in Lourdes. Working there is a daunting task, especially for someone that has little clue what they're supposed to be doing. Thankfully, I wasn't alone. Several friends from school joined me. Each came for their own reasons — some spiritual, others with no religious intent at all; some to find out what helping in the hospitals was all about, and a few looking for a party.

At a Mass early in the week, we heard of the need to balance both 'Prayer and Play'. A priest suggested that if you come just for a party and close yourself off to Lourdes' spiritual

significance, you'll have fun, but you won't experience the profound connection many others find. On the other hand, if you focus solely on prayer, you'll miss out on the full richness of the experience. To truly embrace Lourdes, you have to throw yourself into all aspects of it.

Take the hospital work, for instance. By volunteering to help the Assisted Pilgrims, I opened myself up to unexpected opportunities. I went into my shifts with low expectations, feeling in awe of the doctors and nurses who work tirelessly to serve others. During my time there, I helped a woman named Maureen, who had been unable to walk for two years, take her first steps again. It was an incredibly powerful experience.

Another memorable moment was spending time with Mary, a woman showing early signs of dementia. We talked for over an hour about her life, her family, and her longing for someone to simply listen. The conversation had a profound impact on me, and highlighted how important a trip to Lourdes can be, for the assisted pilgrims as well as the helpers.

On a separate note, Lourdes is probably the only place where you can finish a hospital shift, dash to a bar still in uniform, and belt out Don McLean's 'American Pie' at the top of your lungs. At first, I thought the midnight curfew was overly strict — we're young adults, after all! But by midweek, I was grateful for any extra sleep. Lesson learned: nap whenever you can.

Lourdes also presents unexpected opportunities if you stay open-minded. After a few conversations (and the offer of one, or two beers), my friend Sebastian, an avid

organist, managed to get access to play the organ in the Underground Basilica, the largest underground church in Lourdes capable of hosting 25,000 people.

One day, while rolling (Lourdes' slang for pushing a wheelchair) two pilgrims, Frances and Anne, we visited the Medical Bureau of Lourdes, where I met Sandro De Francis, the president of the International Medical Association of Lourdes. After chatting, he asked about my career aspirations, and I mentioned journalism. His response? "Why don't you write an article about Lourdes?"

These words you're reading now came from that very proposal!

So, my advice to anyone considering Lourdes? Go for it. Whether you're religious or not, you'll meet some of the most welcoming people on the planet. It also seems to me that in Lourdes we see the church at its very best, doing what it should be doing, not putting people off, but quite the reverse: a place where everyone is welcome and simple acts of kindness are everywhere. Give as much of yourself as you can, and I promise you'll leave with a life-changing experience capable of shaking off any late nights."

*Editor's note: Thank you to Elliot for this interesting and informative article which will be used by Beverley Sillitoe in her talks to those who have expressed an interest in volunteering to be a helper in Lourdes with the SCPT.*

# REPORTS ON EVENTS

## TIM HETHERINGTON EXHIBITION AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

**Tim Hetherington OS 89** was an intrepid and innovative storyteller. From photojournalist to humanitarian, and award-winning film director, he was determined to communicate with audiences in a variety of impactful and challenging ways.

Tim chose to get closer to people and immerse himself in human stories from the frontlines and beyond. From these experiences he made multimedia work which reveals a personal exploration of conflict, presented in ways which are more thoughtful and visually captivating than the news we watch, read or browse.

The Imperial War Museum (IWM) exhibition, held from April to September 2024, entitled 'Storyteller' brought together aspects of Hetherington's personal journey and perspective alongside his most engaging projects. The Stonyhurst Association arranged for a social event for its members, to take in the exhibition and follow it with a convivium at the Duke of Sussex pub nearby, hosted by our current President **Harry Dickinson OS 94** and past President **Julie Macfarlane OS 78**.

Judith Hetherington, Tim's mother, was unable to attend the event due to a family illness but Stephen Mayes and Art Blundell, who worked closely with Tim, were able to share their thoughts on his life and work. Stephen very helpfully read out the words written by Tim's mother for the opening of the exhibition.

*'When my family gifted Tim's archive to the Imperial War Museum I knew that "my" Tim, the Tim I personally knew, would be viewed from a completely different perspective, and he is now made public, presented for history. Since the day Tim was unlawfully killed, my journey to the present has been one of slowly letting go. Not just the grief, for there is no closure for those who loved him, but also relinquishing the 'presence' of Tim that I knew and loved so much. He is now everyone's Tim.*

*Tim, too, knew about letting go. When he addressed the audience on receiving the World Press Photo Award in 2008 Tim acknowledged that the work was no longer his: "It feels that in winning this prize, the image has been taken from me and nothing prepared me for such a personal image being scrutinised so publicly. I'm honoured that the photograph is now a keyhole through which we all can view the world."*

Founded as a memorial to those who gave their lives in conflict, the modern IWM reaches beyond memory to bring new life to those it memorialises. This exhibition offers an active engagement with issues that are still relevant to us today. The research, scholarship and curation behind this public presentation return life to Tim and his work. IWM has now contacted the Trust to inform it that an edited version of Storyteller will be shown at IWM North in 2026.



The Exhibition event was attended by:

**Paul B Adams OS 74, Thomas Belderbos OS 21, Mark Brenninmeyer OS 72, Joseph Bruce OS 89, Damian Clarkson OS 87, Lewis Cudd OS 11, Elizabeth Cudd, Laurence Denvir OS 94, Harry Dickinson OS 94, Ewan McIntyre, Hugh Dickinson OS 97, Onyiny Ekeanyanwu, Patricia Okenwa, Catriona Graffius OS 11, Fergus O'Mahony OS 72, Marcus Gunn OS 89, Nigel Toussaint OS 87, Christopher Flint OS 62, Jonathan Hall OS 82, Alex Holt, Gerald Slocock OS 73, Hugh Holt OS 09, Edward Hornby OS 89, Katherine Belderbos OS 18, Edward Harriss OS 18, David Hurst OS 70, Philip Leonard OS 08, Anthony Leonard, Raymond Low OS 62, Niall Macfarlane OS 75, Julie Macfarlane OS 78, James Mayo OS 87, Terry Holt OS 72, Cian Denvir OS 18, Julian Ribet OS 92, Philip Syborn OS 72, Martin Twist OS 89, Stephen Mayes and Art Bolland.**



# A REFLECTION OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF TIM HETHERINGTON ART BLUNDELL, FELLOW UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATOR



These are words taken from Blundell's 2014 essay about Tim and his work.

"You can draw a line through any two points, but to draw a straight line through three, they need to be in perfect alignment. That's a rare event. But in Tim, I see such alignment.

The first is the motivation for his work. Tim told me that his movies were to be a triptych answering: how is it that old men can get young men to use violence so that the old men can get what they want? After millennia of cultural evolution, how is it that society still sanctions such violence?

He regarded his first film '*Liberia Uncivil War*' as depicting 'The Other' fighting 'The Other': Charles Taylor and Sekou Conneh using children as fighters in a bid to gain or maintain control of Liberia and its natural wealth. The next film '*Restrepo*' was 'Us' versus 'Them': young US soldiers versus Afghan insurgents with dyed beards and kohl-lined eyes. The last movie was supposed to complete the straight line by showing 'Us' versus 'Us'. Tim talked about making a film of drug lords using their lieutenants like pawns – just as the generals

used the soldiers over a hilltop of ambiguous importance.

But his lines didn't always run parallel. Orthogonal to the violence in *Restrepo* was Tim's mediation on war & masculinity: '*Sleeping Soldiers*'. He was interested in how we (himself included) process trauma.

Such a narrative arc is why Tim didn't think of himself as a war photographer. He was an artist looking for a new language, a new media through which to communicate.

And here, his lineage of inspiration is clear (the shoulders on shoulders on which he stood): Christopher Marlowe through James Joyce – the archetypal 'innovators'. Like Tim, they sought to change the way we communicate: Joyce through *Ulysses* changes the English novel, and Marlowe sets the table for Shakespeare, breaking from cloying couplets to the freedom of blank verse. Watch Tim's Diary again and see the stream of consciousness that flows from Marlowe through Joyce. In fact, it flows back through *Ulysses* to the original *Odyssey*. Stephen Daedalus is Homer's Telemachus – the same name as Tim's middle name. Tim Alastair Telemachus Hetherington.

Bitterly ironic, Telemachus is Greek for "far from War", as he was Odysseus' son who, still an infant, did not go to the Trojan War.

Equally ironic is the story of Saint Telemachus: a monk in the fifth century who, disgusted with the blood sport, tried to stop a gladiatorial fight in a Roman amphitheatre, only to be stoned to death by the crowd. The Christian Emperor Honorius, impressed by his martyrdom, brought a permanent end to the gladiatorial 'games'.

The last night I saw Tim, he said he was tired of the stereotyped war photographer depicted as an adrenaline junkie unable to keep a relationship. I asked, "What is the right story?" and he said – referring to the influence of Kit Marlowe once again – "Dr Faust."



Tim explained, "It is the deal the photographer makes with the devil to gain that 'complete understanding of the inexplicable': war, as well as the immortality – or at least the feeling of it – needed to head to the front line.

In exchange, instead of the portrait-photographer stealing your soul, it is with each image made of the atrocities committed in war, the devil takes another piece of the war photographer's soul. Except, tragically, Faust is only a metaphor. But the metaphor extends to us all, not just war photographers – every time we compromise on our principles, we make that Faustian bargain."

And that's the line back and forth that Tim was traveling. Having studied *Ulysses* for his Oxford degree, the stories of Telemachus surely weren't lost on him. Last year, at the screening of Tim's biography at the wonderful Bronx Documentary Centre, *The New York Times* media critic David Carr said when he met Tim, he seemed like Superman.

I know what he means, but I suspect that Tim was much more interested in reaching Homer's *Everyman* because that is how he viewed himself trying to make sense of his world.

The influence of Tim's work is undoubtedly too early to judge. But there's no doubt time's arrow fell too soon.

At least its flight was true.



Sleeping soldiers series

## REUNIONS



**Paul Davies OS 74** reports on the 1974 Reunion held at Stonyhurst on 21st September 2024:

After more than 12 months in the planning and research, initially in the reign of Beverley Sillitoe, 29 of us returned to the Ribble Valley from around the world (Australia, Africa, USA, Europe and Chipping) to renew old acquaintances and share many fond memories of our time at Stonyhurst.

18 of our number attended our first reunion in 2004. 11 were newcomers. 17 of the 35 who attended last time expressed regret that they were unable to make this event. To make a longer weekend of it we started with an informal supper for 18 of us at the Inn at Whitewell.

On Saturday, following a buffet lunch in the Bayley Room, we were treated to a tour of the College under the guidance of Jo-anne Brown, Layla Heaton, Lorna Goggin and members of the school committee including the granddaughter of Pat Shepherd who was on the staff during our time. This was followed by an illuminating tour of the Collections by Dr Jan Graffius who shared her seemingly limitless knowledge of the history of the various artefacts on display in the Arundell and Square libraries.

Saturday evening saw us all in the Old Top Refectory for an excellent black-tie dinner, more reminiscences and recollections of absent and departed friends.

We were all in agreement that the event was a great success thanks to the hospitality of all at Stonyhurst and Theodore House and a resolve was made to meet again before another 50 years elapse!

The event was attended by **Simon Barnsley, Chris Barr, John Barr, Wulstan Berkeley, Adrian Bidwell, Simon Bloomfield, Simon Carter, Brendan Connolly, Nick Corcoran, Michael Cuddy, Mark Cunningham, Paul Davies, John Devereux, Eric Four, Elspeth Fox, Alex Godon, Shane Howie, George Lys, Harry Meade, Simon Morrison, Pete Moss, Kenneth O'Brien, Adam Rawicz-Szczerbo, Paul Skevington, Connor Skinner, John Watson, John Weld-Blundell, Matthew Wenner and Chris Williams.**







The OS 2014 Reunion was held on 12th October 2024.

It was attended by **Oritseweyinmi Ajagbawa, Olayemi Ajose-Adeogun, Harriet Arnone, Faith Aylward, Jonah Bacon, Thomas Bannigan, Jack Bolton, Ivo Carre, Daisy Chitnis, Anne-Marie Connolly, Owen Davies, Ethan Dean, Emma Dean, Thomas Douglas, William Downey, Sebastian Fischer, Daniel Fitzgerald, Mary Flanagan, Joe Furey, Hatty Grout-Smith, William Guiral, Desmond Guobadia, Alice Halpin, Alisha Jhalley, Alex Johnson, Tom Kilby, Anastasia Laking, Charlotte Lawson, Emma Leach, Lucie Lloyd, Peter Macalpine, Nicola Melchiorre, Yael Moorkens, Kit Nealon, Luke Nolan, Madeleine O'Dwyer, Praise Okwa, Robert Perkins, Daniel Pippin, Matthew Radley, Harriet Shepherd, Emily Smith, Cameron Till, Matthias Turner, Ellie Walsh, Harry Wells, Hannah Wright, Diego Zevada** and their invited guest, **David Ridout**.



The OS 1984 Reunion was held on 16th November 2024.

It was attended by **Richard Bushell, James Butcher, Tristan Cooke, Patrick Devaney, Thomas George, Jorge Gomendio, Andrew Harrison, Leo Heintz, Julian Hunter, Valentine Lovekin, Paul McCosker, Laurence McGinty, Bruno Moore, Andrew Skinner, Hideo Takano, Andrew Taylor, Robert Wilkinson, Tim Wolff, Justin Worsley** and their invited guest, **Charles Foulds**.





## FIRST OS MILITARY DINNER



**Harry Dickinson OS 96** reports on the first OS Military Dinner:

On Friday 29th November 2024, 63 serving and retired military OS gathered in the Cavalry and Guards Club in London for what, it is hoped, will be the first of many OS Military Dinners in the years to come. Also in attendance were Headmaster John Browne, Lt Col Andrew Barber (Contingent Commander of the Stonyhurst CCF), Major the Very Reverend Michael Dunne (former staff), **Fr Nick King SJ OS**, Fr Roger Dawson SJ (and a former Royal Green Jacket) and Dr Jan Graffius, the Stonyhurst curator who brought with her the Victoria Cross medal of Captain James Jackman VC. We were also delighted to have as guests Jackman's nephew, **Kensey Green OS** and his son **David Green OS**.

As all OS will know, Stonyhurst's contribution to the Defence of the Realm has been extraordinary. Not only our seven VCs and other decorated soldiers, sailors and airmen but also the many of us that have served without special distinction (such as myself!). Some of us were no doubt inspired by the fine example of our VC winners to join the Armed Forces, but many will have also been inspired by Major John Cobb, Commanding Officer of the Stonyhurst College Cadet Corps, for 21 years. In fact, during Major Cobb's time at Stonyhurst, no less than one hundred and twenty-six former OS cadets received the Queen's Commission in one or other branch of the Armed Forces. Some of these are still serving. In my year alone, six of our number joined the Army.

It was a pity then that, as a result of both distance and seniority, Major Cobb was unable to join us at the dinner; he was however, very much there in spirit. In fact, he was much involved in the planning, and it was thanks to his efforts that we were able to compile a comprehensive database of OS who had served or were currently serving. He also provided a message for me to read out at dinner, which I did after Fr Nick King had said grace and before we tucked into our salmon starter. I reproduce it in full below:



Mr President and to all of you attending the OS Military Dinner at the Cavalry & Guards Club this evening, I offer warm greetings and my delight in the support shown for this inaugural event; I am saddened in not being able to accept the very kind invitation to join with you.

I congratulate both you and those involved in establishing

this gathering and hope that hereafter it will remain a regular fixture in the OS Calendar.

*Stonyhurst College has a truly exemplary and enviable record of distinction in military service to the nation where valour, distinguished conduct and valuable service displayed by its former pupils has been both regularly recognised and honoured.*

*It of course delights me that so many of you here this evening I know well from our time spent together in the Stonyhurst College Cadet Corps. I have followed, where possible, with keen interest your involvement in the various Arms of the Services in which you have served.*

*I am naturally pleased when I learn of the importance felt by some, of their time when enrolled in the contingent and of the gratitude and affection felt for the RSMs who both expertly shaped and encouraged you. Sadly, they are no longer with us, but they will be fondly remembered.*

*I do so wish you well as you renew friendships here this evening and make new acquaintances; you will hopefully and happily have much to reflect upon. In conclusion may I just say how very proud I am of you all.*

*May God bless you, your families and loved ones and may Stonyhurst thrive in its mission – Quant Je Puis.*

After a hearty meal with lashings of claret and once we had made the Loyal Toast, Jan Graffius gave a fascinating speech about James (Joe) Jackman VC, his life prior to the World War II and the events that led to his award of the VC, and his gallantry on that fateful day that was also his last, 26th November 1941.

It was then **Kensey Green's OS** turn and he spoke briefly about his family connection to Stonyhurst, noting that: "My father James Green (former OS President) and his brother Kenelm, known as Kensie, after whom I was named, both came to Stonyhurst in mid/late 1920s as their mother/my grandmother was a Vaughan of Courtfield. The further significance is that opposite the Jackman portrait in the Old Refectory are portraits of Cardinal Herbert Vaughan and Fr Bernard Vaughan SJ.

*My uncle Joe also arrived at Stonyhurst in the late 1920s as his father had died and it was suggested by the family patriarch he should be sent away to school in England. During a visit my mother and grandmother made to the College to see Joe, by pure coincidence, they were introduced to my father, who was then Head of the Line. My mother, who was only 12 years old at the time, immediately fell in love with him and always said to us, that was the day that she said to herself, "that is the man I will marry". Obviously, many years passed before they became romantically linked in Dublin. As a coincidence I first met my wife Lizanne at Stonyhurst, now 53 years ago, when I was on Brother's Walk with my brother John at St Mary's Hall, which happened every Sunday after Mass in those days.*

*My uncles Joe and Kensie became close friends at Stonyhurst. However, neither seemed particularly ready for the Army – particularly Joe, who was*



known to be academic and famously noted to be found to be sitting in the umpire's chair during a tennis match reading Rupert Brooke. After leaving school, they both could see the Second World War looming and felt it their duty to join the Army and went to Sandhurst together."

These are poignant details and a reminder of that thread that binds together all Stonyhurst men and women, whether civilian and military, to those that have gone before us.

Finally, a toast was made to absent friends: our fallen comrades, as well as former College Corps Commanding Officer, **Col Fitzpatrick-Robertson OS** (who **Stephen Anselm Fox OS 1955**, sadly unable to be with us on the evening, asked us to remember) and also the wonderful soldier that was WO1 Bob Sanderson MM, former RSM of the Corp.

By this stage the dinner party was milling around the dining room in joyful high spirits with most guests retiring thereafter to the club's bar where, I'm told, whisky and cigars made an appearance, and with the author of this report retiring, after a most convivial evening, sometime after 2am! It was agreed by all to be repeated!



**Matthew Hopkinson OS 86 and James Hopkinson OS 83**



**Matthew Hopkinson OS 86, Christopher Dunn OS 86 and Justin Sheil OS 87**

OS in attendance at the Military Dinner were:

**Lieutenant Andrew Brand OS 56, Lt Colonel Giles Brand OS 80, Christopher Flint OS 62, Lt Colonel Kevin Lawton OS 62, Brigadier Raymond Low CBE OS 62, Captain Michael Conroy MC OS 63, Lt Colonel Anthony Hayhurst OBE OS 64, Captain Joff Bates OS 66, Fr Nicholas King SJ OS 66, Major Andrew Sutherland TD VRSM OS 66, Lt Colonel Philip Armstrong OS 67, Lt Colonel Nicholas Southward OBE OS 67, David Hurst OS 70, Captain Guy Fetherstonhaugh KC OS 73, Kensey Green OS 73, Major Michael d'Apice MBE OS 75, Lieutenant Peter Pelly OS 75, Captain Matthew Page OS 78, Major George MacGinnis OS 79, Trooper Michael Wylie Carrick OS 79, Lt Colonel Giles Brand OS 80, Brendan Roche KC OS 82, Wing Commander Chris Thorpe OS 82, Colonel James Hopkinson OBE OS 83, Lt Colonel Colin Riddell OS 83, Major Alfonso Torrents OS 83, Colonel Mark Weir OS 83, Lt Colonel Nicholas Woellwarth OS 84, Brett Fleming-Jones OS 85, Colonel Alistair Rogers OS 85, Corporal Christopher Dunne OS 86, Captain Sam Everatt OS 86, Colonel Ben Farrell MBE OS 86, Captain Matthew Hopkinson OS 86, Colonel James Hopkinson OBE OS 83, Captain Paddy Mayhew OS 86, Lt Colonel Piers Noble OS 86, Captain Justin Sheil OS 87, Trooper Nigel Toussaint OS 87, Lt Colonel Philip Haigh TD OS 88, Captain Jeremy Haworth OS 89, Colonel Richard Hayhurst OBE OS 89, Lt Colonel Paul Pitchfork MC OS 89, Brigadier Khushi Sharifi CBE OS 89, Lt Colonel Martin Twist OS 89, Brigadier Paul Hayhurst OS 90, Major Bill Murray OS 90, Captain Manus Nunan OS 91, Lt Colonel Robert Hayhurst OS 93, Captain Nicholas Burnet OS 94, Captain Harry Dickinson OS 94, Surgeon Commander Nick Newton OS 95, Major John Cartwright-Terry OS 96, Captain Hugh Dickinson OS 97, Major Joseph Walker-Cousins MBE OS 97, Lt Colonel Oli Donaghy OS 98, David Green OS 99, Captain Andrew Noyons OS 00, Captain Marco Petrucci OS 00, Lt Colonel Henry Russell-Blackburn OS 03, Major Charles Gale OS 09, Lt Colonel Andrew Barber, John Browne, Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Major the Very Reverend Canon Michael Dunne, Dr Jan Graffius.**

*Quant Je Puis.*

**Leo Fattorini OS 92** informs us of an informal mini reunion in Marylebone, London on 21st November 2024.

The OS 92 get-together was attended by **Nick Morgan, John Savage, Patrick Heneghan, Charlie Feeny, Dom Devine, Leo Fattorini and Tony Jarratt.**





## MARTIN HOTHERSALL OS 72 REPORTS ON THE 2025 OS LUNCH AT PRESTON GRASSHOPPERS

### OUTCOME: HOPPERS AND ENGLAND WIN, OS DEFEATED



Derek Collins, John Mulholland and David Knight

Ninety-six OS, partners, former masters and friends attended the 2025 OS lunch at Preston Grasshoppers on 8th February 2025. There was the usual mix of regular and new faces with the latter including five OS from the 60s: **Roger Austin**, **Peter Hogan** and **Tony Summers** all **OS 63**, **Dermot McGovern** and **John Dawson** both **OS 67** and two former masters in **David Knight** and **Derek Collins** from the same era. In many cases the latter two were meeting OS they hadn't seen for over 50 years and in **Malcolm Brown** and **John O'Driscoll**, both **OS 71**, former babysitters of their children.

Keeping the unruly Elements under control was a record contingent of at least nine former and current masters dining and on the field was **Ed Keohane**, current St Mary's Hall staff, in the Hoppers' centre. He met up with **Mike O'Hare**, who, 50 years ago, similarly taught at the College and played for Hoppers. Others present with dual qualifications were **George Erdozain OS 61**, **James Goodier OS 70**, **Martin Hotherhall OS 72**, **Will Mould OS 90**, and **Henry Erdozain** who went from SMH to Ampleforth, but we were delighted to welcome him back to the OS fold.

Representing the round ball game was the **Kelly** dynasty headed by former parent Alan Kelly Jnr (Republic of Ireland and Preston North End) his son **Bertie Kelly OS 23** and other members of the family.

In terms of family numbers, the Kelly family were outnumbered solely by the Jackson tribe headed by **Michael Jackson OS 67**, with his children and various in-laws.

After an enjoyable lunch, attendees who ventured outside were treated to a close fought game between Hoppers and Otley with Hoppers holding on for a three-point win. The next match, shown on various screens around the Club, was England v France which was even closer with England memorable one-point winners. Of course, these matches were mere warm-up fixtures to the main event of the day; the **OS 87** 'boat race team' v Hoppers 1st XV select for a beer drinking competition.

Team captain, **Nigel Toussaint** downed his pint in style (which to judge from later pictures of him, finished him off) but, by the time **Guy Fleming-Jones**, and **John and Julian Finnegan** had up-ended their empty glasses, Hoppers last man had finished and it was left to **Mike Cotton** to salvage a bit of pride from the defeat by downing the fastest pint of the night.

It is intended to repeat the lunch next year and it is to be hoped the **OS 87ers** put in some serious training if they are to challenge Hoppers.



Attendees second table (from L-R): **David Ridout**, **William Mould OS 90**, **Henry Erdozain OSMH**, **Julian Finnigan OS 87**, **Jonathan Finnigan OS 85**, **Guy Fleming-Jones OS 87**, **Nigel Toussaint OS 87**, **Norman Armstrong OS 87**, **Michael Cotton OS 87**, **David M Doran OS 87**.



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## CATHOLICS IN FUNDRAISING CONFERENCE



In September 2024, Stonyhurst Development collaborated with the Catholics in Fundraising Committee to host the annual conference. This conference, for those working in Catholic fundraising roles, provides an opportunity to discuss best practices and to learn new and innovative fundraising approaches.

In addition to the conference itself, attendees were given the chance to tour the Stonyhurst Museum & Archives, join in Choral Vespers and end the day with a networking reception.

The 2024 conference was the largest organised so far, with over eighty attendees travelling to Stonyhurst from all over the UK and Ireland. Topics covered grant writing, giving and its impact, corporate partnerships, and major gifts – subjects that are vital within the fundraising world.

## PARENTS FESTIVE LUNCH

In November, our Stonyhurst Parents Committee organised the annual Festive Lunch for members of the Stonyhurst Family. Attendees received a welcome drink on arrival, which they could enjoy whilst strolling around the Christmas market, buying gifts and decorations in preparation for December.

When it came time to take their seats at tables named after the 12 Days of Christmas gifts, they were treated to Christmas songs and carols brilliantly performed by our St Mary's Hall pupils, before tucking into a tasty festive lunch.

The profits raised from the Festive Lunch and other Parent Social Committee initiatives go towards supporting projects within Stonyhurst that will benefit current and future pupils.

Our Parents Social Committee work tirelessly to organise a variety of projects for the College and St Mary's Hall. We are very grateful for all their generous assistance, hard work and support for Stonyhurst.



## FARM STREET CAROL SERVICE

Members of the Stonyhurst Family gathered en masse for the annual Stonyhurst Carol Service at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London on Monday 2nd December.

We were pleased to welcome current and past parents, OS, and members of the wider Stonyhurst community to join us for the Service, during which the Stonyhurst Choir, Schola Petri, led us in song. The pupils were perfect ambassadors for the school, showing exemplary behaviour.

Following the Service, attendees joined us for drinks and snacks, providing an opportunity for everyone to catch up, see old friends and meet new ones.

It was a wonderful event, filled with joy, reflection and Christmas spirit.

Next year's Carol Service is already booked, and plans are underway – please save the date and join us on **9th December 2025**.

## FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES AND PATRONS



We have been so pleased to see this membership initiative grow and to welcome new members and welcome back recurring ones.

Over the last year, members have been invited to a variety of events. Our Curator, Jan Graffius, 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, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening.

In the summer, Patrons and Associates had an exclusive reception and private view of the Collections with Jan Graffius. The year ended with the opportunity for members to join us for 'Christmas in the Great Hall', during which Jan spoke about the Shireburn family and what Christmas would have looked like during their time in the family home here at Stonyhurst.

In between these in-person events, online talks and discussions were also on offer for those members that live further afield.

We have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time with the members and share the beauty and importance of our historical collections. This membership initiative allows you to sign up as a 'Patron', 'Associate' or 'Friend' of the Stonyhurst Museum & Archives. Membership has also been bought as gifts for loved ones, and our Museum & Archives Team would be happy to discuss these options with you.

*Benefits of membership include:*

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

If you have any further queries regarding this initiative, please contact us at: [museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk). To find out more and to subscribe visit: **Stonyhurst Museum – Support Us**

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

## PETE THE STREET

Peter Brown ('Pete the Street') has returned for a second Artist in Residency, and we are delighted to welcome him back to Stonyhurst.

Once again, the beauty of Stonyhurst is being perfectly depicted in Pete's paintings. Whether it be internal rooms such as the Long Room and the Arundell Library or external views from the Front Quad to the Fronts. He has braved all weather to ensure he captures Stonyhurst life...come rain or shine. Most recently he was spotted in the heavy snow and below freezing temperatures painting the College vista!

Pete's paintings will be exhibited during the Great Academies weekend for parents and families to see. If you would like to own your very own unique painting, you will have the opportunity to buy Pete's artwork in May.



## SUPPORT STONYHURST



Stonyhurst has a rich history of philanthropy. Indeed, without the initial support of King Philip II of Spain, subsequent support from the Weld and Eyre families and numerous important acts of generosity since, our school wouldn't be the place we all know and love today.

Since our foundation in 1593, our school has been committed to providing excellent facilities for our pupils. Over 430 years later, we remain committed to this aim.

Stonyhurst strives to provide immediate pupil benefit, providing opportunities and facilities for our current and future pupils to thrive. Our school continues to flourish, to this day, thanks to the generosity of our OS, parents, past parents and friends and we are indebted to every one of those donors for their kindness and generosity at every level.

We hope that you will consider supporting us in our ambition to provide immediate and future pupil benefit, ensuring Stonyhurst continues to develop and prosper.

If you would like to support us, please visit: Stonyhurst College – Support Us or contact our Development Team, who is always happy to help: [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk) or **01254 827026**





## 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 the connection with our benefactor, Thomas Weld. 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.

✉ [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

☎ 01254 827 026



**STONYHURST  
ASSOCIATION**

# OS REUNIONS 2025

**Poetry 1975 Reunion**  
 Date: 15th May  
 Location: London  
 Contact: Niall Macfarlane at [shireburn.house@zen.co.uk](mailto:shireburn.house@zen.co.uk)

**Rhetoric 2015 Reunion**  
 Dates: 5th and 6th July  
 Location: Stonyhurst College  
[\[Book Here\]](#)

**Poetry 1985 Reunion**  
 Dates: 20th and 21st September  
 Location: Stonyhurst College  
 Accommodation: Theodore House  
[\[Book Here\]](#)

**Rhetoric 1995 Reunion**  
 Dates: 8th and 9th November  
 Location: Stonyhurst College  
 Accommodation: Theodore House  
[\[Book Here\]](#)

## VISION THE MUSICAL STORY OF LOURDES – RETURNS TO THE STAGE

It is over 20-years since VISION was first performed at Stonyhurst in 2002. Directed by Larry Crouch, the musical featured a cast of nearly 50 pupils. Cut to 2025 and the show, written by **Dom Hartley OS 86**, and **Jonathan Smith OS 87** sees summer performances in London and Lourdes itself.

The musical tells the story of St Bernadette and her apparitions in Lourdes in 1858, yet it is set in a modern bar in the present day. Deliberately steering clear of schmaltz, the writers have been encouraged by the musical's universal appeal.

The production will preview in London, on July 11th, 12th and 13th, and there will be a special performance on the evening of **Saturday 12th July for members of the Stonyhurst community**, followed by an after-show party.

The talented **Francesca Fitzsimons OS 24** plays a leading role as one of the narrators, while Peter (current Rhetoric) also stars. Elliot (current Rhetoric) is on the drums and the show is being technically directed by parent **Mark Shepherd SMH**.

A quick reminder: VISION Performances: **London 11th, 12th, and 13th July, Lourdes July 24th – August 2nd 2025**

**Register your interest on the show's website for priority tickets.**

[www.visionthemusical.com](http://www.visionthemusical.com)



THE MUSICAL STORY OF LOURDES

**LONDON**  
 July 11, 12, 13  
 2025  
 PIMLICO  
 LONDON SW1

**LOURDES**  
 July 24 – Aug 2  
 2025  
 HOTEL SOLITUDE  
 LOURDES



By Dom Hartley OS 86 & Jonny Dixon-Smith OS 87  
[VisionTheMusical.com](http://VisionTheMusical.com)

# THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION



## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME by John Cartwright-Terry OS 96

This is a milestone year for The Stonyhurst Foundation, and we will rightly take a moment to reflect on its impact and the vital importance of your continued support. This summer, we will celebrate the Foundation's fifth anniversary – a moment to acknowledge the generosity of the Stonyhurst Family and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that a Jesuit education at Stonyhurst remains accessible to those who will benefit most from it.

In these unprecedented times, with mounting external pressures on independent schools, the need for transformative financial support for pupils is greater than ever. The Foundation was established to provide life-changing opportunities for talented young people who, without financial assistance, would never be able to experience the richness of a Stonyhurst education. Today, we are supporting 46 children, and we are confident that we can increase this number from September 2025 with your help.

Since October, the Stonyhurst Family has come together in remarkable ways to support the Foundation. The Stonyhurst Foundation Winter Ball, held in the magnificent Top Refectory, was a wonderful evening that highlighted the impact of the Foundation's work. The inspiring words of our guest speaker, **Jonny Warneken OS 90**, reinforced the importance of community and resilience. Similarly, the Manchester Half Marathon saw an incredible effort from our pupils, staff, and OS runners raising over £7000 in support of the Rhetoric 'St Aloysius Bursary'. Their dedication and commitment to raising funds for the Foundation demonstrated the strength of the Stonyhurst spirit. You can read more about both events below.

The impact of your support is best understood through the words of a pupil supported by the Foundation: *"Being at Stonyhurst has been an incredible experience, helping me grow not only academically but as a young person. It has been a life-changing journey in such a short space of time, and I cannot wait to see what happens next."*

As we mark the Foundation's fifth anniversary, plans are underway to make 2025 a landmark year for bursary provision. This is a moment of celebration, but also a renewed call to action. More than ever before, we must come together to ensure that Stonyhurst remains true to its Jesuit mission, opening its doors to those who have the potential to flourish here. Your support will make this vision a reality. Let us stand together as one Stonyhurst Family and uphold our tradition of generosity.

*Quant Je Puis.*



## THE 1593 CLUB

The 1593 Club seeks to involve the whole of the OS community in the future of Stonyhurst in a tangible and meaningful way. The 1593 Club is our regular giving club for all OS, parents and friends of Stonyhurst – the whole Stonyhurst Family. The club represents a way to grow the collective efforts of our Stonyhurst community in support of The Stonyhurst Foundation without reliance on large individual donations. The emphasis is on maximising the number of regular donors, irrespective of their individual contributions, relying on the laws of large numbers to deliver a significant recurring value of support. We have set regular giving amounts at £15.93, £159.30, or whatever you feel you can afford, and frequencies of monthly, quarterly and annually, all of which (as long as it is personal giving from the UK) is eligible for Gift Aid at 25%.

We are incredibly grateful to all our 1593 Club members who are supporting future generations of children at Stonyhurst with a regular gift. All members are part of an important network of like-minded individuals and in recognition of their commitment we award them the Stonyhurst Foundation tie or scarf to proudly wear (especially at Association events!). 1593 Club members are regularly invited to inclusive Stonyhurst Foundation events as well as recognised (by Playroom) in our Annual Report.

[www.stonyhurstfoundation.org/1593club/](http://www.stonyhurstfoundation.org/1593club/)



Anthony Hartley (former staff) receiving his Foundation tie from Eugene Nealon (former parent), Chair of Trustees.

## THE 1593 CLUB – NORTH AMERICA

North America-based OS can now 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\*.

We propose regular giving amounts of \$20, \$200 or whatever you feel appropriate, for parity with the UK's 1593 Club.

[donatenow.networkforgood.org/BSUF](http://donatenow.networkforgood.org/BSUF)

*\*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.*





## THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION AT THE MANCHESTER HALF MARATHON 2024



On Sunday 13th October, a Stonyhurst team comprising eight members of Rhetoric and 10 members of staff travelled to Manchester to join the 24,000 other competitors on the start line of the 2024 Manchester Half Marathon. Everyone had spent the last three or four months training to take on the 13.1 miles of this iconic course, and now it was time to put that training to the test. Of course, at the same time, each runner had committed to raise funds for The Stonyhurst Foundation. For all the pupils and some of the staff, this was their first attempt at an event like this, and the furthest many of them had run, so it was with some serious nerves that everyone got underway on a route that took them from Old Trafford down to Sale and back again. With each of our runners in their Stonyhurst Foundation running tops and one of our team choosing a unicorn outfit for his running attire, the team raced through Manchester streets, packed with bands, DJs and Choirs along with thousands of spectators all the way along the route. Soon, the finish line loomed, and for each of our Stonyhurst Foundation runners, it was mission accomplished. Whilst finishing times are not important, well done to pupils Peter and Johann, who were our first pupil finishers, crossing the line in 1:38, and Syntax Playroom Leader, Mr Norton Johnston, who roared home in 1:27.

However, the most fantastic news is that between the team, they have raised £7000 for the amazing work of The Stonyhurst Foundation. A special well done to Rhetorician, Josh, who has personally raised over £1000. This money will go towards the Rhetoric 2025 gift to the Stonyhurst Foundation's Rhetoric St Aloysius Bursary Fund, which is being grown through pupil fundraising at Stonyhurst and will support a future pupil to come to Stonyhurst. Find out more about **The Stonyhurst Foundation here: [Homepage](#) – [The Stonyhurst Foundation](#)**.

Congratulations to Rhetoricians: Lillia, Hima, Sophie, Philippa, Lea, Peter, Johann, Josh, Simon; and to Stonyhurst staff members, John McGarvey, Norton Johnston, Emily Nolan, Mike Lightbown, Paul Sharples, Clare Hartley (wife of **Dominic Hartley OS 86**) and **OS Simon Whittle OS 13, Kate Barr OS 04, John Cartwright-Terry OS 96, Adam Morgan OS 07, Sam Morgan OS 08**.

If you are feeling inspired, why not join pupils of Rhetoric 2026, staff and other OS at the Manchester Half Marathon on **12th October 2025**? Follow the link below to enter:

**[www.manchesterhalfmarathon.com/home/](http://www.manchesterhalfmarathon.com/home/)**





## THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION BURSARY

*The vignette below has been written by a current pupil who is benefitting from the support of the Stonyhurst Foundation's grant to Stonyhurst. It highlights the life-affirming effect that the Foundation is already having on the lives of brilliant young men and women at Stonyhurst, transforming them into men and women for others.*

"Being at Stonyhurst has been an incredible experience so far, helping me grow not only academically but as a young person.

I have been able to experience so many wonderful opportunities this year that I would not have previously been able to.

From the co-curricular activities, I have been involved with the museum curating exhibitions and attending the Psychology Society where we discuss new psychological research, to starting the first girls' rugby team at the College and Saturday night activities in boarding which brings everyone together after a busy week! There is always something to do and to get involved in which also helps us balance any stress of work and deadlines.



Since September I have changed a lot but in the best ways, I am more independent, living away from home has seen to that which is great experience as I hopefully go off to university after Rhetoric. I am more confident as I am continuously encouraged and pushed out of my comfort zone by reading in Mass and giving presentations in classes. I am more positive as I can complete studies more easily in nice, quiet spaces, which makes it much less stressful compared to a busy house and shared bedrooms at home or the disrupted classes I had been used to before.

I have gained so much from being at Stonyhurst...and have benefitted from such supportive teachers who encourage us to do our best.

It makes me feel incredibly lucky and proud to be a part of the college when I compare it to previous schools and experiences I have had. Nothing can compare, and it makes me realise how privileged we all are. I can see how far I have come this year by sharing my experiences and to see how this experience has enabled me to meet so many like-minded people and given me opportunities I could only ever have dreamed of.

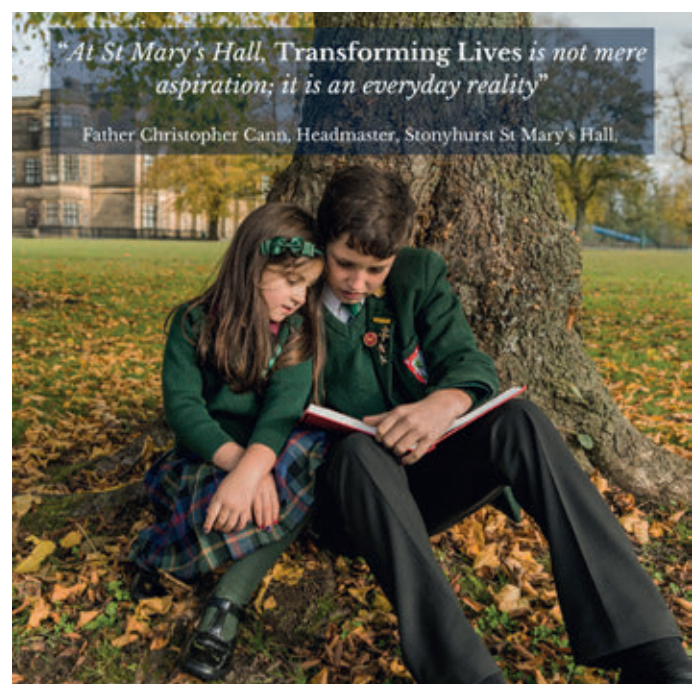


I am so glad that my family and I decided to take this opportunity and not let any doubts stop me from getting to this point.

I have many ambitions for Rhetoric year, studying three A Levels and an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). I am hoping for top grades to go on to a great university to study psychology.

For me, it has been a life-changing journey and in such a short space of time and I cannot wait to see what happens next.

It has also been a positive experience for my family and friends back home who have also been supported and listened to by the College when they needed it. They are glad to see me thriving in a welcoming and friendly environment. I could not speak more highly of my experiences here and will be forever grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a unique and special school. I know it will remain with me for an exceptionally long time after I have left, as it has become a part of who I am."





## THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION WINTER BALL 2024



On 11th December, The Stonyhurst Foundation hosted its inaugural Winter Ball in the magnificent Top Refectory at the College. It was a truly memorable evening filled with wonderful food, music, dancing, and the warm company of the Stonyhurst Family, including Foundation Chair of Trustees, Gene Nealon, Headmaster John Browne and **John Cartwright-Terry OS 96**.

It was an opportunity to showcase the College, primarily to parents, and to introduce the work of the Foundation and bring to life the life-affirming effect of a Catholic Jesuit education at Stonyhurst. It was great to have plenty of OS in attendance, including **Dominic Hartley OS 86, Richard Wotton OS 87, James Cleary OS 90, Jonty Warneken OS 90, Dominic Hewson OS 90, Anthony Quin OS 95, James Podevyn OS 98, and Kate Barr OS 04**.

We were honoured to have **Jonty Warneken OS 90** as our guest speaker. His inspiring words about overcoming adversity and achieving extraordinary things left a lasting impression on everyone present. Recalling the life-changing accident that left him with severe injuries and the loss of his left leg, Jonty spoke of the unwavering support he received from his family, his OS 90 friends, and the wider Stonyhurst community:

*"I left hospital with no job, no military or flying career, and most painfully, no rugby...(yet) I wouldn't look back. I would embrace whatever life opportunities came my way, and I would do 'As much as I am able.'"*

This determination led him to a successful career in investment, four Guinness World Records in endurance swimming, and historic feats such as being the first para swimmer to complete solo and relay crossings of

the North Channel. With characteristic humour, he admitted no-one is "more surprised than me".

Jonty powerfully reminded us that Stonyhurst is not just a school – it is a family:

*"The buildings are magnificent, but they are not what makes this place special. It is the people: the pupils, teachers, parents, priests, and staff who give Stonyhurst its soul. And just as every voice enriches a choir, the Stonyhurst Foundation ensures that deserving young people, regardless of background, can add their voices to this family."*

Urging us to consider our own *Quant Je Puis*, Jonty issued a heartfelt appeal: *"Imagine knowing your child had great potential, but lack of resources held them back. The Foundation can change that – not just for the child, but for us all."*

As he looks ahead to another year of extreme challenges – including representing Great Britain in ice swimming, Arctic ski racing, and possibly a two-way North Channel swim – Jonty encouraged us all to embrace the new year with the same spirit:

*"No matter your resolutions, you will get the most out of them if Quant Je Puis is at their heart."*

Jonty concluded, by proposing "Stonyhurst", before giving way to the DJ for dancing and merriment through to the early hours.

Our thanks to the whole of the Stonyhurst College Team, particularly Andrew Henderson, Director of Music, for accompanying the event so wonderfully and the irrepressible **Dominic Hartley OS 86** for his impromptu festive sing-along to conclude the evening.

We are hopeful to make this an annual event to allow more of the Stonyhurst Family to fully enjoy the warmth of the Stonyhurst Family.



# WANDERERS' NEWS

THE STONYHURST ASSOCIATION SPORTS WEEKEND  
9TH AND 10TH NOVEMBER 2024



The annual **Dermot Gogarty Memorial Cup Matches** took place in November on, perhaps, one of the busiest weekends of the Christmas Term. The Stonyhurst Development and Association Teams worked with the Games Department to build the overall OS experience during the weekend. The memorial matches are played in memory of Dermot St John Gogarty, former Governor of Stonyhurst and Headmaster of St John's Beaumont (SJB), with the teams playing representing Old SMH and OJB.

The weekend began with pre-booked tours of the College for OS and their families, providing an opportunity to visit familiar places and enjoy new locations – the new Unicorn Café was very popular!

Tours led on to the Newton Carter Cross Country Race, with OS taking on OA, Old Sedbergh and current pupils. There was a great sense of camaraderie, with cheers heard as each participant passed the spectators – support was certainly shown for all who took part, no matter their alma mater. However, it was Stonyhurst's weekend as **Will Metcalf OS 15** crossed the line first.

Once the race was finished it was time to warm up with a light lunch and hot drinks, organised by the Association and the Stonyhurst Catering Team, before gathering on Smithfield with pupils, parents and other OS to support our 1st XV against Ampleforth. The atmosphere was electric, but Stonyhurst's winning streak for the weekend seemed to be continuing as our 1st XV won 32–22.





The Saturday drew to a close with a lovely buffet in the Hurst Green Memorial Hall. Organised by the Association, parents and OS with their families were invited to attend. It was a lovely, relaxing evening, in preparation for the Sunday matches. Thank you to **Niall Macfarlane OS 75** for his help in coordinating this.

On Sunday 10th, OS joined the Stonyhurst Remembrance Sunday Mass in St Peter's, the parade to the village and the Service at the War Memorial in Hurst Green. Following this, and despite the onset of rain, OS, parents, pupils and staff met at the all-weather pitch, Harry Meadow, for the first of the Dermot Gogarty Memorial Matches – the OS Hockey. Whilst enjoying warm drinks and pastries, our spectators watched the OS Team play against our senior 1st XI Hockey Team in an exciting and skilled match.



It was the OS Team that lifted the cup, with a 4–1 win, but congratulations must extend to our pupil team who played on both Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend wasn't over as we still had the second Dermot Gogarty Memorial Match, the OS rugby game, to enjoy. Despite the continuing rain, spectators lined the side of Smithfield to watch our two OS teams battle it out on the field. A BBQ and warm and cold drinks were on offer, thanks to our Catering Team, providing refreshments for all. The players played with skills and teamwork that were reminiscent of their school days and, when the final whistle blew, it was the 'SMH' team that lifted the cup.

The Association extends a huge 'thank you' to all the players, to **Leo Higham OS 19** for leading the Rugby Wanderers and helping to rally players, our Games Department, our Deputy Head Co-curricular, all the supporters and to the staff that assisted throughout the weekend.

We are already busy planning the 2025 matches. More details will be announced in due course.





# BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OS

## **Stonyhurst 1884-1914**

by **H. J. A. Sire OS 68**

provided by **Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71**

**Henry Sire OS 68** is a historian who doesn't pull his punches. The short biography of the author mentioned inside the jacket cover of his latest book names only two previous books 'of special relevance to Stonyhurst': a history of the former lay Philosophers' course and a biography of the English Jesuit Father Martin D'Arcy, which both are covered in his latest tome.

Sire may have a controversial track record, but his latest offering is a beautifully illustrated and type-set coffee-table sized book with a great deal of interesting information on Stonyhurst in the years 1884–1914, which some OS may find worthwhile.

For the author, the thirty-year period he covers was a Golden Age; a time when Stonyhurst was a major centre of Jesuit life in England, in his words 'first and foremost run as a religious school, not as the ineffective imitator of the Protestant public schools that it became in the nineteen twenties, nor as the secularised institution, with its attendant moral scandals into which it turned from the sixties onwards.'

In 1884, Stonyhurst was staffed almost entirely by a Jesuit community made up of 46 priests, scholastics, and lay brothers led by a Rector who was both the religious and academic superior, an organisation that persisted until 1914 when the impact of the First World began to force change.

In the late 19th century and early into the 20th, the Stonyhurst estate extended over 2,000 acres, making the Rector a member of the circle of local gentry; Hodder Place was a school of between forty and sixty boys, aged mainly between nine and twelve; St Mary's Hall was usually known as the Seminary for it housed some sixty scholastics, most of whom followed a three-year philosophy course, while a few studied for London University external degrees.

By the mid-1880s, Stonyhurst had established itself as the most popular Catholic school at the time with over 300 pupils. Within the College, the most distinctive pupil element of subsequent years until WWI was the lay Philosophers' department where a select group of the brightest pupils enjoyed a privileged undergraduate regime, taking degrees under the direction of wise Jesuit professors.

Sire highlights as a strong characteristic of the period, the self-confidence of the Catholic Church in England, presenting 'doctrinal clarity and spiritual depth against the weakening liberalism of the Anglo-Catholic mimicry of the Church of England'. According to this perspective, Stonyhurst took an emblematic role.

Highlighted as Stonyhurst's most prominent representative is the **Herbert Vaughan OS**, who as Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster in the 1880s oversaw the building of Westminster

Cathedral and who lifted the ban on Catholics attending Oxford and Cambridge previously imposed by Cardinal Manning.

Sire takes issue with various unnamed commentators, who with 'a crude approach and little detailed knowledge,' have described Stonyhurst in the nineteenth and early twentieth century as a school aimed at the 'elite'.

The policy of the Jesuits was to keep Stonyhurst as inclusive as the economics of a boarding school permitted, notably in the years 1880–86, when fees were kept down even though numbers were booming and when money was urgently needed for a building programme, such as the playgrounds, remnants of which survived the modernisation of later years.

The use of the *ferula* was a classic instrument of punishment dating back to the days of St Omer's and destined to survive well into the 20th century. Boys were beaten on the hand with a black strap, made of gutta-percha stiffened with whalebone, administered by a Jesuit other than the one that had ordered the punishment. The practice is lightly excused by the author as a 'precaution against sadistic tendencies in the application of corporal punishment.'

Sire tends to devalue too easily OS with dark memories. Thus, one pupil's description of his school career between 1892–1896 as a 'religious jail' is dismissed as 'too slap-dash to be reliable'.

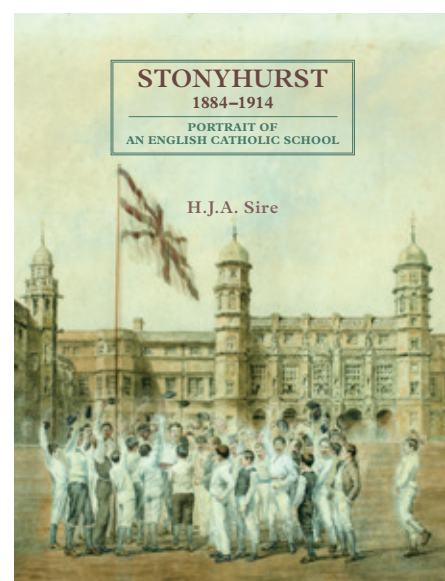
Elsewhere Sire romanticises the past. He shows a clear preference for the 'comradeship' cemented between Jesuits and schoolboys by ramshackle old traditional Stonyhurst ball games in the playground and which, in the 20th century, gave way to international popular sports in which male pupils excelled, such as cricket and rugby.

With his passionate traditionalism and unwavering religious orthodoxy, Sire writes eloquently of a generation of Jesuits who most current OS, let alone current College pupils, would never have heard of. He respects them as the heirs of a rigorous legacy, one forged in hardship, in the years of martyrdom and exile – a cultural and spiritual continuum from the days of St Omer's.

The College life Sire writes about is permeated by religious practice, with numerous liturgical practices in the school calendar so that even Saturday nights had almost the character of a small retreat with benediction followed by confessions.

The rollcall of honour of old alumni from the period in the book's final chapter is an impressive one. Along with influential Jesuits, there are war heroes and gentry, but also Irish rebels, social workers, academics, sportsmen, craftsmen of the printed word, and an MI6 intelligence officer who, when Hitler came to power, devoted himself to helping Jews escape from Germany.

Sire, born in 1949, belongs to a generation of OS that was at the College during the 1960s, a



period of change in the Jesuit order and within the school that reflected the evolving history of the world, and the Church's place in it; what the late former Jesuit Peter Hebblethwaite called 'the manifest turbulence' in the Catholic Church in the aftermath of the Vatican Two Council, prophetically anticipating the papacy of Pope Francis.

While four years younger than Sire, I too experienced the 1960s at Stonyhurst, benefitting from the memory of my OS father's time at the College during the interwar years. Sire and I emerged from the experience differently, following our faith in ways that led us down different paths.

Sire considers the time we, and some of our predecessors were at the College in the 20th century, as one of decadence and decline. I recall it as one of enlightened change and call to action. A decline in Jesuit vocations was well under way in our school years, but those Jesuits and scholastics who were still among us seemed a healthy mix between the traditionalist and less dogmatic, with a growing intake of lay masters and mistresses sharing an exemplary vision of what it is to be human.

Even without it being staffed by Jesuits, a co-educational Stonyhurst in the 21st century has got rid of corporal punishment, retained an excellent reputation for high educational standards and sporting achievement, with improved diversity and health and safety policies. The school incorporates elements of Jesuit spirituality like the midday examination of conscience and becoming men and women for others through an extensive voluntary service programme. It is also receptive to a Pope that far from being a dictator speaks a language of compassion, and ecological engagement.

*Note on the reviewer:* **Jimmy Burns OBE OS 71** is a journalist and author. His published books include *The Pope of Good Promise*, a biography of Pope Francis.



## Carry Your Shoes and Come by Michael Lewis Owen OS 71

Reviewed by Fr Seán Deegan

In comparison with its near neighbours, Wales is a 'low profile' country. Its social or religious difficulties don't draw world headlines. It seems the Welsh people play their rugby, sing in their choirs and get on with life.

*Carry Your Shoes and Come* is a lovely expression of that world, of Welsh faith. It's an invitation to 'come on a journey now... sharing wonders, marvels, hopes, truths' (p 14). On that journey author Michael Lewis Owen (a Catholic) is joined by his two friends Chris (Church of Wales) and Ann (Welsh Presbyterian Chapel) to 'offer a small example of Christian Unity in action' (p 4).

As is to be expected 'in this world of song' (p 5) there are numerous musical suggestions provided to embellish the texts. It's as if the written word alone doesn't fully convey the message. And the choice is eclectic – ranging from well-known classical pieces to Leonard Cohen and Cat Stevens with several Welsh tunes interspersed.

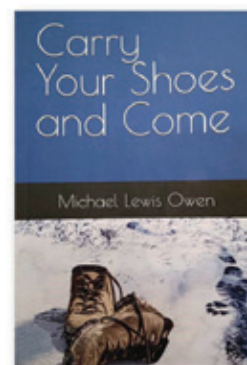
The book consists of 102 reflective poems composed by the author during the tumultuous events of 2020, an extended uninvited period for musing on life's meaning! The 'volume's subject matter is quite intriguing' (p 2). However, there is no doubt what lens the author looks at life through: these are faith-based poems or better, Bible-based pieces. There are Bible references given for each piece in the appendix. Some are from the Old Testament but the majority are from the New.

For my own part I like prayers and reflections grounded in scripture. It keeps them rooted in Christ and not totally dependent on the author's imagination. What we hope for is some little original light or spark to make the Bible text live, something to briefly stop us in our tracks.

We're familiar with Peter's reaction at Christ's Transfiguration but never quite imagined it as '*Sheer brilliance – and Peter starts / Babbling about making three tents*' (p 58)! And the Samaritan woman who met a thirsty Jesus at the well and hurries back to town '*To tell my friends my new found truth, / Leaving more than my drinking jar*' (p 81).

What of the woman of ill repute who bathed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried

them with her hair, covered them with her kisses and anointed them with her ointment? (Luke 7:36-50) '*Her reputation's bad / But her devotion's great / She knows his forgiveness*' (p 88). Her devotion wins the day – we need to hear that. And similarly, the famous story of the prodigal son '*“My father, I have faults to tell...” But no more than that is spoken / The strong embrace absolves the wrongs*' (p 90). This picture of God's forgiveness rhymes perfectly with Pope Francis' message to our broken world.



Little gems pass by almost unnoticed. At the crucifixion '*Look at his clothes / In piles of four / As booty. / A touch of his hem would I Cure*' (p 112). '*Where are the other nine? he inquires / Knowing full well what we are like / Quick to ask but so slow to thank*' (p 70). We are given numerous examples of what all the languages might have sounded like on Pentecost – a treat for linguaphiles! (pp 132-134).

*Carry Your Shoes and Come* is like a box of rich chocolates. Eating them all at one sitting might prevent us savouring the taste of each one. It can be dipped into whenever one feels disorientated, because '*Deep down you know, don't you?*' (p 15) It will illuminate dark steps on the road.

*Carry Your Shoes and Come* by Michael Lewis Owen. Independently published. Available from Amazon.

€10 / \$12 Approx.

All royalties from this publication go to Hope House Tŷ Gobaith in Wales to help fund their care for children diagnosed with life-threatening conditions.

[www.hopehouse.org.uk](http://www.hopehouse.org.uk)

Fr Sean Deegan is a former editor of Africa magazine, he is now working in Brazil.



**"Tŷ Gobaith has long been a beacon of hope in the local community."**

Those are the words of a respected author who has chosen to donate all profits from his latest book to our hospices.

**Michael Lewis Owen OS 71** has penned *Carry Your Shoes and Come*, a collection of over 100 poems reflecting on both Old and New Testaments in the Bible.

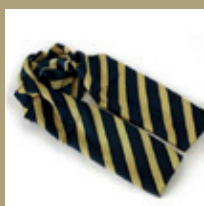
Edited by his friend Ann Tegwen Hughes, both were adamant that they wanted to support the hospices.

Michael said: "*Tŷ Gobaith is a place that cares professionally for the most vulnerable children and their families. We have supported them over the years with buying raffle tickets, playing their lottery and donating the funeral collection from a much-loved grandfather, father and husband. I recall my wife and I pushing our son in a buggy up and around the lanes above Llanfair TH to raise money for Hope House/Tŷ Gobaith on a sponsored walk. This was as long ago as 1990.*"

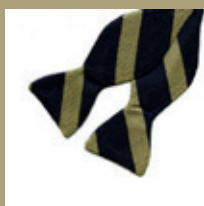
His new book came about during the lockdown periods of the COVID-19 pandemic in which Michael had time to write the poems and then take his body of work to retired university lecturer friend, Ann Tegwen Hughes who offered to edit the collection for him.

## ASSOCIATION SHOP

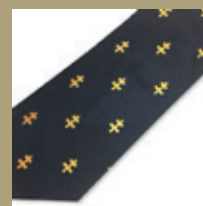
The Association sells a range of books, gifts and OS items. Please visit our website: [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk/shop/](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk/shop/) to see the full range of items we have for sale and details of how to order online.



OS Girls' Silk Scarf  
£27.00



OS Knitted Silk Bow Tie  
£30.00



Association Silk Tie  
£31.00



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LDS