AMDG

# STONYHURST association news

NEWSLETTER 325 AUTUMN 2026



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS SINCE CHARLES WATERTON OS 1801,
CONSTRUCTED A PROTECTIVE WALL AROUND HIS ESTATE
AT WALTON HALL TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST RECOGNISED NATURE RESERVE

# EDITOR'S NOTE



So much has happened since the last newsletter – not least the installation of our new Headmaster, William Doherty. We all wish him, and his wife Terina, a warm Stonyhurst welcome, as he leads us into the next chapter.

We also say goodbye and thank you to **Brendan Roche KC OS 82**, who has acted as Chairman of the Association since 2021 with great aplomb. He is replaced by **Dominic Hartley OS 86**. We offer Brendan many thanks for his work on behalf of the Association over the last 5 years and wish Dominic every success as he takes on this role.

This summer marked the 200th anniversary of the wall around Walton Hall, Wakefield, built by **Charles Waterton OS 1801**, to create what is now regarded (by Sir David Attenborough, no less) as the first known bird sanctuary/nature reserve. I had the very great pleasure of 'meeting the Watertons' at the end of May to join in the 'WallFest' celebrations with our new President **Jonty Warneken OS 90**. I was a member of the 'Waterton Society' whilst at Stonyhurst in the '70s, so it was particularly poignant for me.

Thank you to all our alumni who continue to send in updates about their lives after Stonyhurst and to those who continue to demonstrate how they keep the bonds of their schooldays tight. We have a few new Ambassadors to introduce to you. Please let Jo-anne know if you would like to join this group, particularly if you have noted that there isn't one in your area of the world!

Please continue to send any material you wish to share in the newsletter to **j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk**

# CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman's Report | 3 |
| President's Report | 4 |
| Diary of Events | 5 |
| Ambassadors' News | 6 |
| News | 8 |
| Congratulations | 12 |
| In Memoriam | 16 |
| From the Headmaster | 17 |
| Charles Waterton OS 1801, the original known creator of a nature reserve | 18 |
| Max Buxton Holden OS 23 Richard Courteney Harris OS 76 | 21 |
| Peter Jordan OS 83 driving to Ukraine | 22 |
| Curator's News | 23 |
| The Catholic Association – and our alma mater | 24 |
| Reports on Events | 25 |
| Development, Foundation and College news | 29 |
| Stonyhurst International | 33 |
| Wanderers' News | 34 |
| Books of Interest to OS | 35 |



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

Email: j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk
association.stonyhurst.ac.uk
Editor: Julie Macfarlane



© Stonyhurst Association
Registered Charity Number 292122

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

DOMINIC HARTLEY OS 86



The Stonyhurst Association welcomes **Dominic Hartley OS 86** as it's new Chairman.

Dominic replaces Brendan Roche OS 82 who served the committee in this capacity for six years. It extends grateful thanks to Brendan for his excellent service.

AMDG.

As the congregation settled down for the sermon during the Great Academies Mass, a ringtone echoed across St Peter's.

Everyone instinctively reached for their pockets, relieved to discover it wasn't their phone. The call, however, was coming from the pulpit – from Fr Tim's phone!

To everyone's surprise, he answered it.

'I'm a little busy at the moment,' he said, before pausing to listen to the caller.

After a minute, he ended the call, turned to the congregation and smiled.

'That was Jesus. He just wanted me to tell you how proud He is of Rhetoric 2026 as they head out into the world, and how much He loves them.'

It was a fitting moment, as OS 26 prepared to leave Stonyhurst and enter a world where a grounding in being "*men and women for others*" has rarely felt more important.

But I am always slightly reserved about using the phrase, not because it isn't at the heart of a Jesuit education, but because in frequent repetition it can become diluted. I see it not as a description of who we are, but as a daily challenge for each of us – every day, as OS, we are called to ask ourselves: are we truly being men and women for others? What does that mean in the world in which we live and work? I say this not as an overly pious sentiment, but as chairman of an Association that has care for others at its heart.

One of the things I hear time and again from people not acquainted with Stonyhurst is how distinctive the friendships and camaraderie seem to be among OS.

'What is it about you lot?' they ask.

My answer would be shared values, forged under storm clouds and the occasional ray of sun, under one roof in the remote Lancashire countryside. The building itself playing a significant role, its vast galleries providing the headspace and sense of expectation for Jesuit education to thrive.

My RS teacher, Paul Warrilow, who so sadly died recently and who served the College religiously (literally!) for thirty-eight years, put it much better when I asked him: 'What is it about this place?'

Paul answered. 'We like to call it the Holy Spirit.'

I'd like to think that wherever OS find themselves – in boardrooms, hospitals, schools, charities, the armed forces and countless other places – people value having an OS in the room. While our individual sense of the world may differ, my instinct is that OS will continue to speak up when something doesn't feel right, and do so without pomposity, often with self-deprecation and a lightness of touch. I genuinely think people value our Stonyhurst-born judgement.

Those familiar with the Jesuit Profile will recall a tree designed with a list of virtues springing off it like branches (generosity, curiosity, compassion, etc.) summing up what a Jesuit pupil is steered to grow into. I often feel like grabbing a pen and adding humour to one of those branches; OS have a genuine sense of fun that transcends, as "generations come and go," in the words of our (mainly forgotten) school song.

I'd like to think OS are not cut-and-paste private school stereotypes. As one year group passes the baton to the next, the spiritual DNA of Stonyhurst endures. Our considerable number of international students adds to the richness, bringing together different cultures, perspectives and experiences all under one roof – sometimes literally, as Lancashire hotpot is offered next to paella and bratwurst!

This reminds me: Anne Nicolson from the College catering team deserves an extra special mention here, as she enters her forty-fifth continuous year working at the College – a remarkable achievement. To think she served me and our four children as well! Thankfully, she says they were a lot more polite!

Those of you who know me will know I love the College and all it stands for, and it is a lifetime's privilege to serve as chairman of the Stonyhurst Association. But I also recognise that, for some, their school days, and life beyond has not always been easy.

If anyone feels it would be beneficial to have someone to talk to who understands the Stonyhurst environment, we will genuinely welcome a call. OS do phone us and sometimes we are made aware of struggles. Behind the scenes, we have been able to help OS who have fallen on hard times, and we do have resources set aside for this, which is worth new parents knowing when they understandably ask: 'What is my subscription actually for?'

Mental health and the wellbeing of our members will become a priority for us, and we are currently seeking the advice of OS who work in this field as to how best we can provide meaningful support.

We have ambitious plans to raise the profile of the Stonyhurst Association, and you will hopefully notice changes. Thank you to everyone giving their time, enthusiasm and support to help make that happen. Jo-anne and Layla in the office live and breathe the Association, and our inspiring ice-swimming president **Jonty Warneken OS 90** has provided further details on our ambitions and activities elsewhere. Special mention should also go to **Brendan Roche OS 82**, our previous chairman, for his stewardship and whose wise judgement I will continue to rely on.

I am extremely excited about the future of Stonyhurst under the new stewardship of Headmaster William Doherty. William sees OS as hugely significant for the future success of the school and plans to meet with our growing network of worldwide Ambassadors soon.

The Stonyhurst Association exists to ensure those friendships, those values and that sense of belonging do not end when OS walk down the avenue, turn left, past the Alms houses, Bayley Arms, Catholic Club, war memorial, Shireburn Arms, Punch Bowl (well, it's just bricks now) and out into the world.

We are here for you, and we hope you will be there for others.

LDS

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## JONTY WARNEKEN OS 90



The Stonyhurst Association welcomes **Jonty Warneken OS 90** – your new Association President.

AMDG

***Quant Je Puis*** – as much as I can. Those words have accompanied generations of Stonyhurst pupils. They have accompanied me literally across oceans, from solo swims across the North Channel to setting Ice Mile world records. Whether in my passion for open-water and ice swimming, my work with adaptive sports, or my role as a trustee for countryside accessibility charities like Open Country, those three words remain my constant guiding compass. They are so familiar that it is easy to pass over their meaning. Yet, as I begin my presidency, I want to bring the Association back to its roots, and *Quant Je Puis* feels like the most natural foundation on which to base that. It serves as both an encouragement and a challenge: to ask what we can contribute, how we can help, and what more we might do for one another.

I have undertaken one or two unusual challenges in my time, but few have made me feel as proud, or as humbled, as being asked to serve as president. I am deeply grateful to the members for their trust, and I pay warm tribute to **Harry Dickinson OS 94** for the enormous energy and momentum he brought to his term.

Working alongside our new Chairman, **Dominic Hartley OS 86**, and the new Head of Stonyhurst, William Doherty, our ambition is clear: for the Association to be proud of its history without being confined by it. We must remain rooted in Stonyhurst's traditions whilst ensuring we remain increasingly clear, modern, and practically useful for all our members: Old Boys and Girls, their partners, parents, guardians, and of course the wonderful academic and facilities staff without whom the school couldn't function.

To achieve this, my focus will be on four core aspirations:

- **Clarity and inclusivity:** we will simplify our membership messaging, so everyone understands where they fit. That means we must ensure that our female OS are fully reflected across our leadership and networks. 2027 gives the College the opportunity to celebrate 30 years since girls joined SMH in 1997. This was the beginning of co-education at the College, with girls in every year throughout the school by 1999. Working with our Ambassadors, it also means warmly embracing parents, partners, and staff who form the bedrock of our community, here and overseas.

- **Support for younger OS:** we cannot expect younger generations to engage in identical ways to those before them. We must offer them real-world value, whether through career support, professional mentoring, accessible regional networks, or opportunities for just having more fun together!

- **Pastoral care:** true relevance isn't measured in mailing lists, but in how we support members when life presents setbacks. The President's Fund will remain at the heart of our mission, offering confidential, practical support and companionship whenever needed.

- **Protection of our values:** attending 'WallFest' at Walton Hall recently, my first event as president, was a poignant reminder of the legacy left by **Charles Waterton OS 1801**. His famous 'wall' protected what was vulnerable inside. The Association's duty is not to build walls around ourselves, but to protect what is precious within our community: care, friendship, and service.

The Jesuit ideal calls us to be "men and women for others." *Quant Je Puis* asks each of us what we can personally offer. None of us can do everything, but every one of us can do something. Whether by mentoring a younger OS, supporting the President's Fund, or simply reaching out to a friend who has become disconnected, all I ask of you is that you do as much as you are able.

*Quant Je Puis.*

LDS




# DIARY OF EVENTS

*Details will be published on the website* ***stonyhurst.ac.uk/alumni/stonyhurst-association/events***
*email:* **association@stonyhurst.ac.uk** *with any queries*

| DATE | EVENT | NOTES |
|---|---|---|
| ***Saturday 31 October 2026*** | ***Annual Dinner*** | We are delighted to share details of this year's **Stonyhurst Association Annual Dinner**, which will take place on **Saturday 31 October at Stonyhurst College**, hosted by our 2026 President, **Jonty Warneken OS 90**.<br><br>The evening will begin with welcome drinks, followed by a three-course dinner with wine, coffee and mints. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to return to the College and reconnect with fellow members of the Stonyhurst community.<br><br>**Timings**<br>6:30pm Welcome Drinks<br>7:15pm Call to dinner by the President<br>8:00pm Dinner served<br>12:00am Carriages<br><br>**Ticket prices**<br>Sponsored ticket: £120. This helps support the work of the Association and enables us to offer reduced-rate tickets to younger OS.<br><br>Standard ticket: £100<br><br>OS aged 25 and under: £80<br><br>**Click here to book tickets for the Annual Dinner** |
| ***Saturday 7 November 2026*** | ***OS 1996 30th Reunion*** | **Programme**<br><br>**Saturday 7 November**<br><br>10:45am Arrival and registration at Reception<br>11:00am Group tour of the College led by the Association and Development teams<br>12:30pm Buffet lunch in the Bayley Room<br>1:15pm - 2:00pm Tour of the Collections and Museum<br>2:00pm Depart for Ampleforth matches<br>2:00pm 1st XI hockey vs Ampleforth (astro turf)<br>2:15pm 1st XV rugby vs Ampleforth (Smithfield)<br>7:00pm Drinks Reception in the Top Ref<br>7:30pm Black Tie Reunion Dinner in the Top Ref<br>11:00pm Carriages<br><br>**Sunday 8 November**<br><br>9:30am Mass in St Peter's Church<br>12:45pm Hurst Green Remembrance Sunday Parade<br><br>Accommodation is available on a bed and breakfast basis in Theodore House (the Old Mill adjacent to the ponds), with the option to book Friday and Saturday nights.<br><br>Please be aware that Stonyhurst is a no-smoking campus. Smoking or vaping is not permitted within the College grounds or buildings, including the sports pitches.<br><br>**Click here to book the OS 1996 Reunion** |
| ***Friday 4 December 2026*** | ***Farm Street Carol Service, London*** | Please save the date for the annual Stonyhurst Carol Service at Farm Street Church, London. Booking will be required to attend the reception, with booking details to be released in October.<br><br>**Click here for more Event details** |
| ***Thursday 10 December 2026*** | ***Stonyhurst Association Carol Service*** | The Stonyhurst Association Carol Service will be held in St Peter's Church at 7:00pm. Refreshments will follow in the Top Ref. Booking will be required for the refreshments, and bookings will open in October.<br><br>**Click here for more Event details** |
| ***Saturday 6 February 2027*** | ***OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers*** | The 2027 OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers will take place on Saturday 6 February, when Preston Grasshoppers will be playing Otley.<br><br>**Further details will follow. For more information, please contact Martin Hothersall. Email: martinhothersall@outlook.com** |

# AMBASSADORS' NEWS

The Stonyhurst Association is pleased to introduce three new Ambassadors:

**Kayden Ko OS 26** in Hong Kong, **Cristina Garlington OS 04** in Paris and **Tom Platts OS 05** in Dublin.

The Association is keen to encourage local networking of OS in the region in which you live. If any of our readers would like to become an Ambassador to support the OS in the area of the world in which you live, please contact Jo-anne for more details at **association@stonyhurst.ac.uk**



HONG KONG
**Kayden Ko OS 26**
kaydenkocy@gmail.com
Tel: +852 5717 0219



PARIS, FRANCE
**Cristina Garlington OS 04**
cristina.garlington@gmail.com



DUBLIN, IRELAND
**Tom Platts OS 05**
tomjplatts@gmail.com
Tel: 07854 781430

Ambassadors for Yorkshire, **Chris Thorpe OS 82** and **Fr David Chadwick OS 12**, hosted spring York event.

On Friday 20 March, twenty-one members of the Stonyhurst family from across Yorkshire gathered to celebrate the arrival of spring at The Minster Inn in York for "beer and pizza". The group comprised eleven OS from an impressive fifty-seven years between 1958–2015, with family members and parents, one of whom taught at SMH. A very convivial and enjoyable evening was enjoyed by all with friendships both continued and started.

In attendance: **Malcolm Brown OS 71**, **Fr David Chadwick OS 12**, **Michael Crossling OS 86**, Briony Crossling (family), **Jules Finnegan OS 87**, Celia and Flavio former parents, **Claudio Ghirardi OS 96**, Chiara Ghirardi (family), Emilie Knight (family), **Tony Lawton OS 58**, **Colin Riddell OS 83**, James and Victoria Robertson former parents, **John Shaw OS 67**, Ann Shaw (family), **Beatty Smith OS 15**, Charmaine Smith former parent and former staff, **Chris Thorpe OS 82**, Katy Thorpe former parent, **Martin Thorpe OS 80**.

If any residents of Yorkshire wish to join this lively and hospitable group, please contact Fr David Chadwick (david@yorkoratory.com) or Chris Thorpe (christhorpe361@btinternet.com).






Munich OS Ambassador **Matthias Beestermoller OS 08** reports:

A successful Weißwurstfrühstück of Old Stonyhurst pupils took place in Munich on 7 March 2026.

We were thirteen people and the lovely spring weather allowed us to sit outside. Among the attendants were **Zephyrius Wolfsdorf OS 99**, with his son who will attend the college starting September 2026. I was also very pleased to see eight recent 'graduates' from last year's Rhetoric year group, who used our get together for a little reunion. They were happy to see their Rhetoric Playroom Master **Simon Whittle OS 13**, who now teaches English in upper Bavaria. They used the opportunity to quiz him extensively now that he is no longer their teacher.

Having attended the College almost 20 years ago, I felt old, but was happy to hear that some inspiring teachers, including Mr Turner and Mrs Timmins, are still around at the College – I pass on my greetings to them!





Our Association Ambassador for Nigeria, **Danielle Agbor OS 13**, reports;



On Thursday 28 May, sixteen Nigerian OS met up for a meal at a dinner club in Lagos. We spent time together, reminiscing about our time at school and the years that have gone past since then. The dinner itself was a flavourful medley, hosted by dinner club, Prawn and Spice, in the Lekki neighbourhood of Lagos.

Some in attendance hadn't seen each other since having left school; however, the camaraderie and community fostered by having spent our formative years at our home away from home, Stonyhurst, remained the same.

We discussed everything from careers and country moves to relationships and raising children. Yoma had collated some photos prior to the event – some more embarrassing than others – and we passed them around as the evening went on. A special mention goes to our recollections of our Nigerian Independence Day celebrations, the honourable efforts to recreate Nigerian food by the Stonyhurst catering team, and the green-white-green that engulfed the Top Ref for one night only.

In attendance at our convivium were: **Yoma Okwa OS 08**, **Fega Okwa OS 13**, **Nerhi Okwa OS 03**, **Simon Alkali OS 10**, **Deji Dabiri OS 11**, **Dipo Dabiri OS 07**, **Tolu Amsata-Awani OS 13**, **Keji Amsata-Awani OS 11**, **Bisola Bamkole OS 11**, **Tosan Wiltshire OS 10**, **Olisa Madichie OS 13**, **Babatunde Durosinmi-Etti OS 11**, **Danielle Agbor OS 13**, **Nnamdi Iheme OS 10**, **Olisa Nwokedi OS 10**, **Adaobi Anah OS 10**.

We now have a WhatsApp community that we hope continues to thrive and organise more meet ups in the near future – some virtual and some in person. We hope to arrange a London one very soon and would love to see any other Nigerian OS there.

It was a special evening, and a beautiful reminder that, after all these years, Stonyhurst still feels like family.



**Yorkshire Day gathering in Leeds – 31 July 2026**

**Ambassadors for Yorkshire, Chris Thorpe OS 82** and **Fr David Chadwick OS 12**

On 31 July, the eve of the Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (known in certain parts as Yorkshire Day), nine members of the Stonyhurst family gathered in Leeds. For some it was a renewal of friendship, and for all it was an opportunity to meet new friends. The evening, hosted by Archie's Bar & Kitchen in the centre of Leeds, built upon the success of similar events in nearby York. We hope to continue our tour of the county at our next event. Details will be advertised on the website and the Yorkshire WhatsApp group.



Those in attendance (L to R):
**John Mulholland OS 71**, Celia Ghirardi, former parent, Robin Smith former parent and former governor, Charmaine Smith former parent and former staff, **James Garrett-Campbell OS 15**, Hannah Scott, **Fr David Chadwick OS 12**, **Andrew Seed OS 10**, and Flavio Ghirardi, former parent.



How fabulous to see two of our Association Ambassadors catching up. Mexico Ambassador **Jose-Miguel Rosillo-Cevallos OS 10** and New England Ambassador **David Campbell OS 66** met at the Harvard Club, Boston USA, in Spring 2026.

**Richard Thorpe OS 82** is looking to re-ignite the Stonyhurst Association Alumni in New Zealand after a break of a few years.

He is interested to hear from you if you would be interested in being contacted and even possibly being added to a WhatsApp group as well. Contact him using richma@xtra.co.uk. Future plans would be to do drinks/meals get-togethers in Auckland and even further afield.

## THE HEADMASTER, WILLIAM DOHERTY

The Headmaster, William Doherty, will be hosting two Zoom video calls with our Ambassadors on the **4th and 18th November**. As well as an opportunity for Ambassadors to meet each other, William is keen to share College news with the Ambassadors and hear their thoughts on how they can help strengthen OS communities.



We have been asked to feature this photo in this newsletter. It is taken from a production of the Mikado in 1947, probably at Hodder House.

If anyone recognises themselves in the photograph, **John Stiller OS 53** would love to hear from them. Please contact the Association Office to be put in contact with John: **association@stonyhurst.ac.uk**



AMDG

**John Green OS 76** reports:

In 2009, when **Barry O'Driscoll OS 60** was the President of Stonyhurst Association, the Irish OS organised a plaque for the new Lansdowne Road stadium (it was a fundraiser) on which was inscribed:

**"Barry & John O'Driscoll Ireland Stonyhurst"**

At Barry's Association Dinner in Stonyhurst, I presented a replica of this plaque to him on behalf of the Irish OS.

On 26 April 2026, I was the guest of **John O'Driscoll OS 71** at the All-Ireland League Finals, and we took the opportunity to find the plaque and to take a couple of photos

Barry played four times for Ireland, thwarted by the legendary Tommy Kiernan (who was a guest at his dinner) for some five years.

On his retirement from playing rugby, Barry became Medical Officer for the IRFU and its representative at World Rugby Medical Committee level. He has been the leading advocate for player safety and eventually resigned when he believed that the issue of concussion was not being dealt with properly by World Rugby.

John was a legendary blindside flanker for Ireland, playing twenty-six times. He was also selected for two British and Irish Lions tours, playing in six test matches. He captained London Irish and played for Connacht. John was a Lions selector in 2001 and then spent many years on the IRFU Committee and was on World Rugby and European Rugby governing bodies for over a decade. His service to the game has been acknowledged by his elevation to the presidency of the IRFU.

These brothers, Barry and John, are truly two OS that the Association can be proud of. High achievers in their professions and high achievers in the field of sport!

LDS




The photo is of Barry O'Driscoll with John Green at Lansdowne Road

**Shaun Stephen OS 23** reports:




My time on Gladiators this year has been a hugely rewarding experience, and one that I don't think I would have had the confidence to pursue without the foundations laid during my time at Stonyhurst.

Having left in 2023, I still feel very strongly connected to the friendships and values developed there. It meant a great deal to have a number of friends from my year make the trip to Sheffield to support me. They were certainly among the loudest in the arena, and it was a reminder of the strength of that shared experience.

Sport played a significant role during my time at the College, particularly rugby, where I was fortunate to be part of the 1st XV. That experience helped develop not only physical resilience but also discipline and composure under pressure – qualities that proved invaluable on Gladiators.

Applying for the series was something of a leap into the unknown. With around 80,000 applicants and only a small number selected, I was fortunate to make it onto the programme. There was also a personal dimension, as my father had competed in the original series in 1995, which added an extra sense of motivation.

Competing in front of a live audience and television cameras was unlike anything I had done before. Being the youngest male contender brought its own challenges, particularly against more experienced competitors, but it was an opportunity I was determined to embrace.

One moment that stands out was during events such as Hang Tough and Everest in the semi-finals, where pushing through fatigue and refusing to give in became as much mental as physical. Those moments reinforced the importance of staying composed and continuing to give as much as possible.

That mindset is something I associate strongly with Stonyhurst. The idea of "Quant Je Puis" giving as much as I can has stayed with me, both in competition and beyond.

Alongside the show, I continue to train and compete in Hyrox events across Europe, while working as a degree apprentice with Rolls-Royce. I am also looking forward to taking part in the upcoming Gladiators Live tour later this year.

If there is one thing I would pass on, it is simply to put yourself forward and take opportunities, even when they feel daunting. You do not have to be the most experienced to challenge yourself, but you do have to be willing to try.

I remain very grateful for my time at Stonyhurst and the role it has played in shaping that mindset.

**Joe de Sousa OS 02** tells us that he was born in Zimbabwe and travelled around Africa for nearly a decade with his parents, until he had the opportunity to go to boarding schools in the UK at the age of 8, first was St John's, Beaumont, and subsequently Stonyhurst College.



His roots are from Goa and once finishing up in the UK he came back to join his family business. He came to his homeland as a stranger and over the years has assimilated into the beauty of the local culture and traditions that Goa has shown him. He ended up never leaving and has made it his home. His wife and he have a four-year-old son and run a small boutique home decor and lifestyle store. He has a passion for photography.

He says;

"I am no professional photographer, but I do make prints and commission some framed work for some people and businesses based on the content of the photos I take - most of which are daily life stills and portraits, and landscapes around the areas I live in."

**Click here to access his wonderful photographs of Goan life.**



**Mark Hussey OS 74** informs us that he has moved recently to West Hartford, Connecticut USA around the corner from his two grandchildren, Ayla James and Beckham Xavier!

Still happily retired!



**Michael Clarke OS 64**, informs us of his interesting career and the subsequent work he undertook in SEPSIBEL in support of people who have suffered from sepsis.

He is seen here with his close friend and OS contemporary, **David Barchard OS 64**, who died in 2020, and who was teaching journalism, at the time of the picture, at a university in Ankara as well as being an active journalist, previously with the FT.

**Click here to access Michael's story and learn more about SEPSIBEL**.

## David Hurst OS 70 attended and reports on the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress XI

29 July – 2 August 2026 on behalf of the Stonyhurst Association.

En route for the Congress he was able to meet **Jensen So OS 08**, **Ingram Cheung OS 09** and **John Kinney OS 18** at the Park Lane Hotel, Hong Kong, and **Brad Goss OS 12** the Association Ambassador for Sydney, Australia before arriving in Indonesia.

*'United in spirit. Leading with purpose'*

Dignitaries join Fr Sosa SJ to open WUJA XI Congress

Scan the QR code to read about trustee of British Jesuit Alumni/ae Charitable Trust (BJACT), **David Hurst OS 70**, and his experiences at the eleventh World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae (WUJA) Congress in Indonesia.

Or click on the YouTube link to view the speaker presentations, photo archives and news publication and share in the excitement of the Congress yourself!

www.wujayogyakarta2026.org

**Click here to read more.**



David meets **Brad Goss OS 12**



David Hurst in Hong Kong

# 30 YEARS CO-ED AT SMH

## AN INTRODUCTION BY CRISTINA GARLINGTON-DIHL OS 04



*"SMH Netball Team vs Highfield Priory: 1997.*

*The game started with real pace, but we still have to get over our lady-like ways and show more confidence…"*

I recently found the above match report folded neatly inside a box while helping my parents move. Amendments made at the top of the page in erasable fountain pen ink. I can remember standing on stage at the Centenaries Theatre, reading that humiliating 16-0 loss during assembly - as if we needed reminding! The rest of the team avoiding eye contact with anyone.

Looking back almost 30 years, it was nothing to do with failure due to "ladylike ways", I'd only beaten an Upper Figures boy at an arm wrestle earlier in the week (who later became a professional rugby player). It was more to do with learning to play a game while facing some of the toughest opposition in the country. With hindsight, I want to give every girl in that team a hug. Seven girls in our year meant enough for a netball team - with no subs.

We were as new to the walls of the school as the uniforms we are wearing. The *St Mary's Hall* Girls Uniform List included:

1 BLAZER

2 TIE(S)

1 GREEN WAXED JACKET

1 SCARF *Optional*

1pr GLOVES Waterproof - *Optional*

5 BLOUSES (School design only)

2 PULLOVERS Green long sleeves, School design

2 KILTS, School design...

My mother's crisscrossing is still penned into the margins of this list, which has yellowed over time. Her three boys were already at SMH; she was therefore used to rugby kits caked in mud, now thinking ahead to accommodate blouses - and a kilt!

The theatre productions at "Daddy's school" had always been comical. For decades, female roles had been played by boys in pretty dresses. It had never crossed my mind that one day I might join as a pupil, too.

Upper Figures A. 4 girls. Alex, Katy, Josie and me. An introduction to a variety of new subjects including Latin, taught by Mr Carter; a very strict man who would pace silently between the aisles of that small classroom. Discreet, supportive glances at one another, wondering why the room was so silent. Then, BANG!! A pile of textbooks he slammed onto a boy's desk in the front row. If we hadn't been paying attention before, we were certainly paying attention now, "Distribute!"

No other girls had yet sat at these desks or written their names inside the dog-eared covers of the loud textbooks. "*Quintus in cucina est*", someone read. I realised Mr Carter was now hovering by my desk, "Do I smell perfume??" An item that hadn't featured on the uniform list. Oh dear. But we were young girls from the 90s, obsessed with the Spice Girls - who isn't going to bend the rules slightly? Thankfully, Mr Carter walked on, remarking, "In all the years of teaching at SMH, the classrooms have never smelt this good". Phew!

In Ruds, we would quickly replace

• *GREEN HAIR SCRUNCHIES / ribbon for girls with long hair*

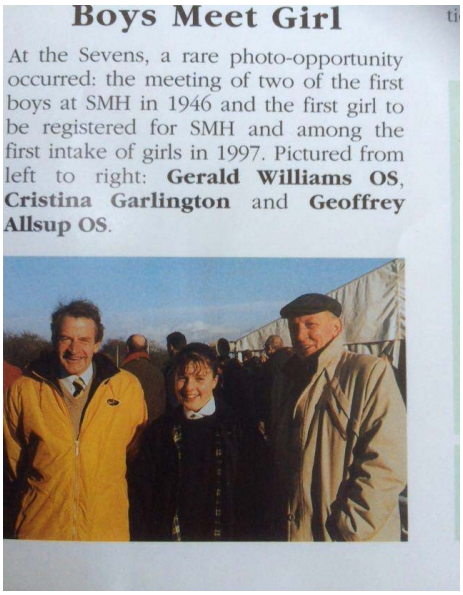
with illegal, rainbow-coloured clips that circled our ballet-style buns. And, by LG, when Stonyhurst was recognised as fully co-ed with girls in every year group, makeup would grace our blazer pockets. We were slowly making our mark in what felt like a 50-year-old time-capsule. While we tried to own the space and opportunity that belonged to our brothers, it did feel at times that we'd be forever renting it.

Almost 30 years later, and a chance discovery through some family lines, it turns out there were women historically, with links to our Jesuit heritage, who led the way to provide education for girls, 400 years ago.

Big personalities written into the margins of our Stonyhurst story:

***"Women in time to come will do much".*** Mary Ward (1585 - 1645)

In the lead up to our SMH Anniversary in 2027, a campaign will launch to tell the stories of our women, past and present, in the hope that it inspires and encourages our Stonyhurst girls at whatever stage they are in life. Netball games, career pursuits, the souvenirs from school that hold a special place in your memory, if you would like to participate, do reach out to me via the Association.



**Boys Meet Girl**

At the Sevens, a rare photo-opportunity occurred: the meeting of two of the first boys at SMH in 1946 and the first girl to be registered for SMH and among the first intake of girls in 1997. Pictured from left to right: **Gerald Williams OS**, **Cristina Garlington** and **Geoffrey Allsup OS**.

*"We must be a little more forceful and compete strongly for every ball. It is still early days, and we are gaining more and more experience with every match".*

Netball match report, 1997

QJP.

# CONGRATULATIONS

*Please send your contributions to the Editor: j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk*

## MARRIAGES





Congratulations to **Claudia Bovingdon OS 12** who married Joe McCluskie at St Peter's Stonyhurst on Friday May 29th, 2026. The wedding was well attended by the following OS in full voice at the Pater Noster;

**Fr David Chadwick CO** (celebrant) **OS 12**, **Danny Bovingdon OS 05**, **Robert Rainford OS 12**, **Daniel McNeil OS 12**, **Charlotte Bovingdon (née Tasker) OS 05**, **Tim Le Breton OS 12**, **Elvira Gusano OS 09**, **Dario Mastrobuoni OS 12**, **Georgina Gabbutt-Martin OS 12**, **Claudia Bovingdon OS 12**, **Catherine Laquis (née Mouttet) OS 12**, **Leah Paulden OS 12**, **Mariana Llorens Zabala OS 12**, **Jack Ford OS 12**, **Courtney Thompson OS 12**, **Matthew Nolan OS 12**, **Adam Rawkins OS 12**, **Dominic Knowles OS 12**, **Jacob Connolly OS 12**, **Holly Pearson (née Wood) OS 04**, **Faye Bovingdon- Bryant OS 04**.



Congratulations to Sarah Crabtree and **Pawel Rzemieniecki OS 10** who were married on Saturday 6th June, 2026, at Farm Street Church, Mayfair. The Nuptial Mass was celebrated by **Fr Matthew Power, SJ, OS 79**. Also in attendance were **Bex Waring OS 10**, **Lukasz Zielinski OS 11**, as well as Richard Brumby (former Governor of Stonyhurst).

Our photo reveals the groom gracefully sporting a Stonyhurst umbrella!



Congratulations to Léon Mandelbaum who married **Rosannagh (Rosie) Hall OS 06** in September 2025. The photograph shows the Stonyhurst alumni who attended the wedding.









Congratulations to Elizabeth Coates who married **James Cathcart OS 08** on Saturday September 12th, 2026, at St Peter's Stonyhurst.

Other OS in attendance included **Anthony Cathcart OS 06**, **Ayo Deji OS 08**, **Christopher Fitzgerald OS 08**, **Joe Hopkins OS 11**, **Rory Mellows OS 08**, **Rory Mitchell OS 06**, **Tom O'Donnell OS 08**, **Michael Olstowski Old SMH 07**, **John Richardson OS 08**, **Adrian Riley OS 08**, **Robin Sheppard-Capurro OS 08**, **Barney Vines OS 06**, **Joshua Vines OS 11**, **Ben Warrilow OS 08**, and **Anthony Satterthwaite OS 08** who played the violin as well as the organ for the service – seen in the additional photograph.

## BIRTHS

Ellen and **Dr Philip Alton OS 10** are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a son, Michael, born on 4th May, 2026.

Congratulations to Dr. Shomari Zack-Williams and **Marianne Alton OS 07** who announce the birth of a daughter, Amara Zack-Williams, born on 5th August, 2026.






**Abigail Shepherd OS 25** reports on her achievement:

I'm very happy to have attended a celebration event at Buckingham Palace Gardens in May 2026, to celebrate the completion of my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award.

The varied and rounded opportunities at Stonyhurst; the CCF, various sports teams and countless musical activities have allowed me to complete all of the required sections of the award.

In particular, the support of staff prior to and during my expedition on the Isle of Arran made the experience one of my favourite memories from my time at Stonyhurst.

As a product of the award and all the opportunities provided to allow me to achieve it, I have gained new skills and a confidence that I have transferred into my life as an OS, to cultivate various hobbies and friendships, and ultimately allowing me to be all that I can.



Photo, left to right:

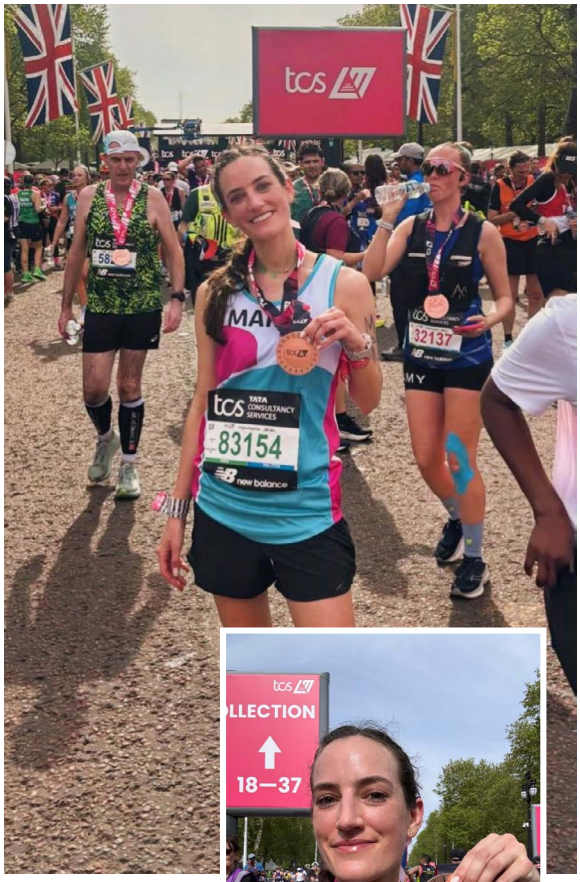
**David Lindsay OS 00**, **Ambrose Chiu OS 00**, **Tim Armitage OS 00** with his son Alex, **Christian Cordesmeyer OS 00**, Marco's son Henry Petrucci, **Duarte Saldanha OS 00**, **Andrew Brinkley OS 00**, Laura and Marco Petrucci, **Romano Petrucci OS 85**, **Alastair Ansboro OS 85**, **Michael Mullan OS 85**.

Congratulations to **Marco Petrucci OS 00** who celebrates the 10th wedding anniversary of his marriage to Laura Prentice. He has submitted a delightful photograph of his wedding day alongside several of his OS contemporaries – with baby Henry, one of his four children.

His fellow OS year group are, to this day, a very close group of friends. They still call and message most weeks and vacation together when they can. The friendships made in Stonyhurst are as alive now as they were in the halls of Stonyhurst.

*Editor's note: In case you missed it; Romano Petrucci was awarded an OBE in 2025 for his services to the community of Stranraer.*

Congratulations to London Marathon runner **Marie-Christine Obwaller, OS 11**, who writes to us as a proud Old Stonyhurst pupil.







AMDG; 'My years at Stonyhurst shaped me profoundly, and the motto "*Quant Je Puis*" has remained a guiding principle in my life ever since. The idea of striving to give as much as I can, in effort, in service and in commitment to others, continues to influence how I approach both my professional and personal life. In that spirit, I was honoured to run the 2026 TCS London Marathon for the second time in support of Dementia UK.

I ran the London Marathon in memory of my lovely Godfather, Josef Gurschler, who was an avid runner himself and who died because of Dementia.

For me, running the London Marathon for Dementia UK was so much more than crossing the finish line: it was about pushing my own limits "*quant je puis*", being part of the Dementia UK community, bringing people together and raising awareness and funds for Dementia UK, a cause so important to me and my family. The funds raised went directly towards supporting Admiral Nurses, who provide life-changing specialist care and guidance to families navigating this devastating illness.

'Giving back to the community' has been an important part of my life since my time at Stonyhurst, where service and responsibility towards others were deeply instilled in us. I have been tremendously grateful to the Stonyhurst Association and community who have supported this effort. Whether through a donation, sharing the fundraising page, or simply spreading awareness, your support has directly helped families in need and has meant a great deal to me personally. To have the encouragement of the Stonyhurst network behind me has made this wonderful endeavor even more special.

With the money I have raised leading up to the marathon, I really hope I have made a positive impact and contribution to the Admiral Nurses and to families affected by this disease.

I aimed to contribute and wished to instill hope to as many families I possible could by running the London Marathon in support of Dementia UK in 2026.

Thank you for your support!

"It was an incredible day and I am very proud to share that over the last 2 years I managed to raise a total of £10,000+ for Dementia UK, thank you again for your fantastic support!" LDS





Congratulations to Walter Rannoch Macfarlane, son of Mhairi and **Alasdair Macfarlane OS 08**, and brother to Arthur, who was Baptized at St Leonard's Parish Church Ayr on 9th August 2026 by the Rev Brian Hendrie. His screams were heard by the whole of Ayr until he was given back to his father!

Congratulations to **Daniel Losada OS 05**, who has been appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Sudan. Daniel joined the Spanish diplomatic career in 2014 and has served in Kabul, Baghdad, Mexico City and Lagos. Prior to his appointment, he was Spain's Special Envoy for Sudan.

Congratulations to **Ethan Stephenson OS 20** who writes:

It is with immense pride that I can inform the Association of my recent Commission into the Army following my training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. My training was both challenging and rewarding, and I wholeheartedly encourage anyone with interest in the Armed Forces to pursue the call to serve. It is an incredible honour to be following in the footsteps of many other OS and particularly our seven VC medal winners. I truly believe that my education at the College instilled in me the values that made joining the Army a natural choice and that those same values guided me through my time at Sandhurst. The College has always had a strong tradition of military service, and I am proud to continue that tradition.

I was also particularly happy to have several OS attend my Sovereign's Parade and Commissioning ball. In attendance were: **Neamh Stephenson OS 18** (my sister), **Jonathan Farrell OS 20**, **Max Leonardi OS 20**, **Lorenz Franke OS 20** and **Fabian Klose OS 20**.

I would also like to offer my services for any OS expressing interest in joining the Army and seeking advice on the application process or the training at Sandhurst.

*Editor's note: thank you to Ethan for this very kind offer. If anyone would like to contact Ethan about the possibility of taking this career pathway, please contact Jo-anne in the Association Office, to arrange a mutually agreeable means of communication with him.*

**Jonathan Farrell OS 20** and Ethan at Sandhurst parade ground.





Pictured: Lorenz Franke, Fabian Klose, Max Leonardi, Ethan and Jonathan Farrell (all OS 20)

# IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Autumn 2025 edition of the newsletter.
To read the full obituaries, please visit our website stonyhurst.ac.uk/alumni/stonyhurst-association/news/announcements/inmemoriam

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gerard Haig Eaton | OS 1946 - 1951 | Robert Arnold Chaning Pearce | OS 1947 - 1958 |
| Peter Barr | OS 1969 - 1975 | Simon John Bartley | OS 1965 - 1975 |
| Michael Francis Joseph Watson MBE | OS 1942 - 1945 | Leo Crabtree | Former Staff |
| Paul Warrilow | Former Staff | Tobias George Wylde Carrington | OS 1963 - 1971 |
| John Timothy Callaghan | OS 1950 - 1958 | Sean Lawrence Bellew | OS 1968 - 1979 |
| George Paul Tabor | OS 1952 - 1958 | Kevin John Gavaghan | OS 1961 - 1966 |
| Michael Hugh Theodore | OS 1954 - 1963 | James Patrick Wadsworth | OS 1951 - 1959 |
| Michael Cooper | OS 1969 - 1979 | Michael Lee | Former Parent |
| Patrick McNally | OS 1946 - 1955 | Roger Michael O'Shea | OS 1956 - 1965 |
| Edward Mervyn Gonsalves | OS 1952 - 1959 | Sean Patrick Downing McNally | OS 1978 - 1986 |
| Damien Richard Wren | OS 1964 - 1972 | John Hanratty | OS 1957 - 1966 |
| Joseph Mary Malachy Sacarello | OS 1964 - 1973 | John Patrick O'Ferrall | OS 1946 - 1952 |
| Michael Whitehead | Former Parent | Martin Robert George Barrett | OS 1977 - 1981 |
| Frances John Suttill | OS 1950 - 1958 | Charles Burton | OS 1971 - 1976 |

May they rest in peace.

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

WILLIAM DOHERTY



AMDG

As we commence another academic year at Stonyhurst, now well into our fifth century, it is a pleasure to contribute to this important publication of the OS community.

Wherever you might be around the globe reading this, whether still resident in the Ribble Valley or more broadly in the UK, or further afield on another continent, I do hope there is a positive sense of nostalgia and pride for you as this publication arrives at your door or on your screen.

As I commence my first academic year at Stonyhurst, I wish to convey the importance I hold in the strength and connectivity of the OS network. When a pupil joins our great school, they are not merely attending for a few years, they are connecting to an incredible family for a lifetime. I am passionate about not only engendering this sense in our current pupils, and of ensuring that the connections between the OS and the current school are real and valued, but equally of strongly supporting the ongoing connection and relationship that OS have with each other, across the generations.

Central to this is the simple action of ensuring all feel seen, heard and known. I look forward to engaging with the OS Association and OS support staff to this end. Making sure we have accuracy in our records and contact points, is the first step towards this goal. This can allow connectivity to be properly realised and then the untold capacity of the alumni breadth and depth to be maximised.

While there is enormous value in fostering these connections for the benefit of all alumni, there is also a wonderful contribution that the alumni community can make to the current and future generations of Stonyhurst pupils and the school in general.

I sensed this when many generously came back to the school this past June to contribute to a whole school, all day Careers event. Learning from the insights and wisdom of their OS forebears was greatly valued by our pupils and the event laid the foundation for further exciting opportunities in the future.

In writing to our parents ahead of the start of the academic year, I reminded them that each year brings with it the opportunity for growth; the ability to learn something from the previous year and to strive to do better in the next. I am reminding them and their children, our pupils, that Stonyhurst truly is a land of opportunity, with so many activities, courses and events for them to engage, learn and grow through such formative experiences.

But I also reminded them that opportunities and possibilities are not enough.

Attending Stonyhurst is not enough. The critical edge lies in HOW we approach the opportunity, in what we DO with the possibilities. Therefore, purpose, reflection, active engagement (quite different from simply participation), effective habits and considered aspiration are all elements that are critical to turn opportunity into transformational experience.

This remains as true in the years and decades post school as it does for those journeying through SMH or our Lower or Higher Lines. My challenge to our current school is how we can collectively enhance our pupils' sense of purpose, their aspiration to strive for something more or deeper or higher than last year, for it will take every adult – staff or parent – to not simply provide the thoughtful guardrails to keep them heading in an optimal direction, but also to provide the thoughtful leadership that invites and asks them to become something more than they thought they could be in this new academic year.

Again, these processes and this aspiration do not stop at the gates. As we strive in the challenges of life, we hope that those Ignatian characteristics of reflection, of gratitude, of striving for depth (the *magis*), of speaking truth, of serving others, of being compassionate, committed or courageous are virtues and qualities that we all still draw from and that burn brightly in our witness to those in our circle.

Again, attending a Jesuit school such as Stonyhurst is not enough.

It asks something more of us in how we spend our lives … if we dare. As I developed this theme with our current parents for the start of our academic year, I reminded them of those wonderful words from Theodore Roosevelt over a century ago, of daring greatly…

*It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.*

While noting that this was not written in our current era of inclusive language, the invitation and the point is very clear for all. Stonyhurst strives purposefully to be an arena of opportunity and possibilities encased by an atmosphere of care that prizes relationships, respect, faith and belief in the qualities and potential of every person. That is our mission this year, as it has always been.

Again, merely attending Stonyhurst is not enough.

The gift is not the place; it is the invitation to become – to become all that they can be. The realisation of the gift comes not by being present, but by being purposeful. Purpose comes with a clear intention to do, and through a constancy of support, to keep believing, to keep listening, reflecting, failing and rising again, to keep learning, daring and living life to its fullest – striving to give and do all that we can. May this belief never leave us.

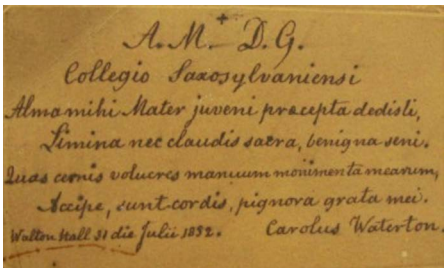
LDS

# CHARLES WATERTON'S SCHOOLDAYS

BY DR JANET GRAFFIUS FSA CURATOR OF MUSEUM, HISTORIC LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

*For the Greater Glory of God.*

*The College of Stonyhurst, My alma mater formed the young man… accept these tokens of my heartfelt affection.*


A.M.D.G.
Collegio Saxosylvaniensi
Alma mihi Mater juveni praecepta dedisti,
Limina nec claudis sacra, benigna seni.
Quas cernis volucres manuum monimenta mearum,
Accipe, sunt cordis pignora grata mei.
Walton Hall 31 die Julii 1852. Carolus Waterton.

*Feast of St Ignatius, 31 July 1852, Charles Waterton.*

This handwritten label is attached to a case of Waterton's bird specimens. His extensive and highly significant collection of natural history specimens came to Stonyhurst College in 1915, as the gift of his granddaughter, Monica Waterton. She specified that the collection should never be sold or broken up, and it was originally displayed in the Long Room. In later years it was dispersed around the College, and in 1967 sent on long loan to Wakefield Museum, near Waterton's family home, Walton Hall. In 2023, the Curator arranged for the return of the entire collection to Stonyhurst, its original home, where it now plays a pivotal role in the education of pupils, visitors and external schools, focusing on the Care of our Common Home.



Much is written about Waterton's famous 1820s Wanderings in the Amazonian rain forest, his pioneering work as a naturalist and conservationist, and, of course, his famed eccentricities. But little has been recorded regarding the influence of his schooldays at Stonyhurst. As the label above indicates, Waterton himself viewed his Stonyhurst education as the place that shaped him as a young man, referring to the Jesuit notion of a formative Ignatian education.

He was born at Walton Hall in Yorkshire in 1782, into an ancient Catholic family – Robert Waterton was a close advisor to both Henry IV and Henry V - and his ancestry included St Thomas More. Originally, the young Charles was sent to a small Catholic school at Tudhoe, near Spennymoor in County Durham. But his highly original and selective approach to what he was, and was not, prepared to learn, led to numerous beatings, and when he was fourteen his parents sent him to Stonyhurst.

He arrived with the label of being unteachable, but his Jesuit masters slowly and patiently unravelled the secret as to what drove the youngster to be so wayward. This took considerable persistence on the part of the teachers, as young Waterton frequently pushed the boundaries of acceptable behaviour, later recalling his rebellious activities -

*'Though it was innocent in itself, nevertheless it was productive of harm in its consequences, causing me to break the College rules and thus to give a bad example to the community at large. Wherefore, with a magnanimity and excellent exercise of judgement, which are only the providence of those who have acquired a consummate knowledge of human nature….they sagaciously managed matters in such a way as to enable me to ride my hobby to a certain extent and still, at the same time, to prevent me from giving a bad example.'*

This 'hobby' was his passion for nature, and unquenchable desire to roam the fields and woods around Stonyhurst, looking for animals to observe. Frequently the playroom staff removed hedgehogs and other wildlife from under his bed. But the Jesuits persisted in seeking to unlock the key to the boy's psyche, and to find ways of compromising between his need to explore the natural world, and the desirability of gaining a formal education.

*'By a mutual understanding, I was considered rat-catcher to the establishment, and also fox-taker, foumart-killer, and cross-bow charger at the time when the young rooks were fledged. ... I followed up my calling with great success. The vermin disappeared by the dozen; the books were moderately well-thumbed; and according to my notion of things, all went on perfectly right.'*

It is apparent from the sophistication of the Latin label quoted above that his education was more than simply 'right'.

Little attention has been paid to the lesson plans followed by the pupils at Stonyhurst in Waterton's day, but it is worth examining. The 1794 prospectus, written to coincide with the College's relocation from Liege to the north of England, provides evidence of a broad curriculum –

The scholars are taught Latin, Greek and all the branches of classical education, sacred and profane, Algebra and Geometry, with all the other branches of Mathematics including Arithmetic and Book-keeping. Particular care is taken that they learn to read well and write a good hand, and that they speak and write French with accuracy. There is a handsome museum or repository, extensive apparatus for the study of experimental philosophy, with a chemical laboratory and an adjoining lecture room for public exhibitions on the same subjects.'

As Curator, I am, of course, particularly gratified at the mention of the handsome museum, but the emphasis on science should be noted. Alumnus Thomas Hugh Clifford wrote to the Rector in 1796, emphasising the importance of providing an excellent scientific education for the pupils -

*'I should like that you take the best monthly reviews and literary journals; you should have professors of Botany which is so much a la mode and they should be adept in Chemistry, a science now become so fashionable and bewitching and in which such wonderful discoveries are daily making; it would give me great pleasure if one of your members could add FRS to his name, and if an ingenious paper from Stonyhurst now and then shine forth in the Philosophical Transactions.'*

All of this was to be offered to the pupils in the 1798 prospectus for the annual cost of forty guineas (approximately £3,300 in modern currency) including -

*'… clothes, linen, washing, lodging, board, fire, candle, table, school-books, pen, ink and paper, amusements, implements for play and school-rewards, so that nothing will remain to the charge of the parents but medical attendance, medicines, postage and such extra lessons of drawing, dancing, music etc which they shall choose for their children.'*



Charles Waterton left the College at the age of eighteen, destined to head out to Guyana to manage the family's slave-run sugar plantations. His encounters with the reality of slavery revolted him, and he left to explore the depths of the rainforests, working alongside the Amerindians. For the rest of his life, he spoke out strongly against the evils of the slave-trade.

One further piece of Stonyhurst formation was provided on his departure – the Rector took him to one side and informed him of the perils of alcohol in hot climates. Waterton solemnly promised that he would never touch a drop of drink – a pledge he kept throughout his life. Incidentally, he attributed the fact that he could afford the eye-wateringly expensive five-mile stone wall encircling his conservation estate at Walton Hall, to the money he had saved during all those years by abjuring alcohol.

A new display of some of Waterton's most famous natural history specimens, including the eleven-foot caiman, will shortly be installed in the Do Room. Watch the Museum website for more details.



# CHARLES WATERTON OS 1801
## - A LIFE AFTER STONYHURST

BY CHARLES WATERTON OS 65



**Jonty Warneken OS 90** meeting **Charles Waterton OS 65** at Walton Hall during Wall Fest.

A few years ago, a popular conversation topic was "Of all the people that have lived in this world across the ages, who would you like to have as a guest at your dinner table?" This would invariably lead to some fairly predictable answers: 'Jesus Christ', 'Nelson Mandela', 'Genghis Khan', 'Isaac Newton', etc. Well, if I had my choice, I would pick my great-great-great-grandfather, Charles Waterton. He would have been excellent company. Not only was he well educated (at Stonyhurst, of course!) and well read, with a fine sense of humour, but he also had a wide range of interests, particularly in the 'Natural Sciences', where a keen sense of scientific curiosity often took him into places and situations that would scare most of us away! A very well-known naturalist in his day (1782 – 1865), his fame has recently been resurrected by the recognition that he was probably the World's first conservationist, but his eccentricities have bolstered his 'fame' to the extent that he scored a whole chapter to himself in Edith Sitwell's 'English Eccentrics'. (Her qualifications as the author of such a book are well demonstrated by the photograph of herself on the cover of my Penguin edition of her book!)

This is not the place to paraphrase Dame Edith's book but his habit of hiding under a table or behind a heavy curtain in the dining room and then barking like a dog when his guests entered could be considered 'passing strange'! His dress sense was also not what one would associate with the Landed Gentry – his formal attire was his old Stonyhurst uniform of yellow waistcoat and blue, brass buttoned, swallow-tailed jacket. (History does not record if he had had to replace the actual items he wore when he was at school – but he was very thrifty – a true Yorkshireman!) When working on his estate at Walton Hall, he was much more casual than most Squires and was very often mistaken for an estate worker, much to the eventual embarrassment of the unsuspecting visitor and, I suspect, Charles' amusement. Another measure of his sense of humour can be gained from the knockers on each of Walton Hall's double front doors. A face (Charles', by family tradition) forms the base of each knocker, with a striker mounted in each of the face's forehead. However, one face is smiling and the other scowling and 'to fit the bill' the smiling face knocker is fixed and therefore unable to hurt anything, whereas the other works perfectly, to the knocker's obvious discomfort.

The Waterton family traces its lineage back to before the coming of Willam the Conqueror and had always maintained its Catholic faith so that, post Reformation, they became recusants and, as practising Catholics, had to pay significant fines, which very significantly depleted the Waterton resources. Charles maintained his faith and even considered becoming a Jesuit, like his brother William, but he also felt a responsibility to marry and



continue his family lineage. (Luckily for me!)

Charles was born and grew up in the family home of Walton Hall, near Wakefield, which is picturesquely located on a 26-acre ornamental lake and accessed via an iron footbridge. The estate surrounding his island-based home formed a natural playground for the young Charles and nurtured his interest in what we would now call 'the environment' as well as allowing the development of his acute powers of observation of the natural world. He was at his happiest when he was walking around the estate and observing the comings and goings of nature all around him. He loved climbing trees, which he always did in bare feet, even into old age, and this allowed him to observe the private life of nesting birds in their natural environment. He indulged this tree climbing habit throughout his life, perhaps with serious consequences in the future.

After completing his schooling at Stonyhurst and, with access to English universities impossible because of his religion, in 1806 Charles went out to Demerara, in what became British Guiana, to manage the two sugar plantations owned by his father. He settled in quickly, becoming life-long friends with his neighbours, Charles and Helen Edmonstone. Rather than the managerial duties the estates required, which were already being capably handled, he found the jungle environment that surrounded the Waterton's plantations much more interesting and so set out on the first of four expeditions into the jungle. During these journeys, he collected the bulk of the specimens that came to form the Waterton Collection, (now resident at Stonyhurst). Unlike common practice at the time, he didn't 'stuff' the specimens he collected but rather soaked them in Mercuric Chloride ($HgCl_2$), which allowed him to then form the 'shell' of the eviscerated animals into their natural shape as they hardened, as well as preserving them from the subsequent attention of insects, etc. Examination of the Collection today shows that another benefit of using $HgCl_2$ was that it preserved the colour of the specimens extremely well, with the bright colours of birds' plumage shining through, even after 200 years sitting in a glass case. He developed this technique, which he had originally been shown



by Charles Edmonstone, to the point where he became recognised as one of the world's leading taxidermists.

In 1812, his good friends and neighbours, the Edmonstone's, had a daughter, Anne, and they asked Charles to be her Godfather. Waterton family tradition has it that not only did he fulfil that role but he also declared at her christening that when she grew up, he would marry her! Which he did when she was 17 and he was 41! He was devoted to her but she died a year later from puerperal fever, having given birth to their son, Edmund. He never got over her death, never remarried and, from that time, slept every night on the hard wooden floor of his room in Walton Hall, using a wooden block as a pillow.

A pillar of his legacy to the scientific and medical worlds is his bringing back to the Western world a sample of wourali, better known today as curare. Wourali is the poison the native Indians used on the tips of their poison darts. It is a muscle relaxant that kills by paralysing the muscles used in breathing. A derivative of wourali is still used in medical science today, albeit a synthesized version. In 1814, Charles took part in a famous experiment at the London Veterinary College to demonstrate the effectiveness of wourali/curare. A 3-year-old female donkey was inoculated with wourali and died ten minutes later. An incision was then made in her windpipe and a set of bellows were inserted and used to regularly inflate her lungs. After a total of four hours pumping, "she rose up and walked around"! Charles then renamed her 'Wourali' and had her returned to Walton Hall, where, after a convalescence of a few months, she became 'fat and frisky' and a feature of the island on which Walton Hall is located. She died on 15 February 1839, almost nearly 25 years after the initial 'fatal' experiment!

In 1817, aged 35, no doubt through Catholic 'connections', Charles arranged to visit Rome for an audience with Pope Pius XI but, immediately prior to the papal audience, he bumped into an old friend, Captain Edwin Jones. They had spent many happy hours as boys, climbing trees together and now, in Rome, they spotted a climbing challenge – the dome of St Peters! They ascended to the top of the dome without much difficulty (for them, at least!) and then Charles decided to shin up the 13-foot lightning conductor that sits astride the dome. When he got to the top, he left a white glove over the end of the conductor as proof of his visit. They then descended without too much difficulty, managing to evade Vatican security on the way out. The pope wasn't pleased! He ordered his 'people' to go up and get the glove down, but they couldn't find anyone who could (or would? do it). So, the pope 'asked' Charles to bring it down. As an obedient Catholic, he obeyed the pope's instruction; the glove was brought down, but Charles never got his promised Papal audience!

On his third journey in 1820, he recovered the largest specimen in his collection, a caiman (or South American crocodile), which he subdued by riding on its back after it had been 'hooked'. Generations of Stonyhurst scholars would have noted this very beast as they queued outside the infirmary whilst waiting for Matron's ministrations! It is an example of Charles' valour in his relentless search for specimens. On a smaller scale, he was also fascinated by vampire bats. Having heard stories from the native Indians about them taking blood from humans as they slept, he would sometimes sleep with an uncovered foot outside his tent. Alas, to no avail!

When he returned from his third South American journey in 1821, he began construction of a wall around a section of his estate. This was built to keep poachers, bargees, foxes and other 'undesirables' out of the enclosed area, while encouraging birds



and animals to nest there. He also built hides and other vantage points, so that he and any visitors could watch the various 'comings and goings' in what is probably the world's very first nature reserve. A man ahead of his time indeed. The wall was 3 miles long and mostly 8 - 10 feet high and took five years to build at a cost (then) of £10,000. (It took so long to build because Charles hated debt and so had the wall built in sections whenever he had a spare 500 guineas. When the money ran out, work stopped!) The wall was eventually completed in 1826 - 200 years ago.



A major pillar of his legacy is his book 'Wanderings in South America' which was first published in 1825 and which has been continuously in print to this day. This book, which is a fascinating read, details his four separate journeys to the New World. In 1837 Charles also published a number of Natural History Essays, separately describing 45 different animals, 1 insect and 7 plants. He also published 12 other essays, including one on cannibalism and another on the methods of preserving insects. These writings are the learned results of the studies and observations of a venerable man of science but they also give a fascinating insight into the man himself.

Of course, Charles lived during the time of what is now known as the Industrial Revolution and Yorkshire was one of the major centres of this revolution. Although the tranquillity of the Walton Hall estate would have been disturbed by the construction, in the late 18th Century, of the Barnsley Canal that runs through it, further impacts resulted from the construction of a soap factory on land adjacent to the estate. Charles observed the serious negative impacts that emissions from this factory were having on the plants and animals on his and neighbouring estates and so he took legal action, which was successful and which Simpson, the factory owner, ignored! Charles tried again the following year and was successful this time, with Simpson being ordered to pay £1000, but this didn't even cover the legal fees incurred. Charles did win in the end, when Simpson found a better site elsewhere for his soap works, with better transport connections, etc. Charles then bought the factory and demolished it. Of course, all this legal activity did nothing to promote good relations between Charles and Simpson and the bad blood generated affected the relationships between both parties for years, even after the deaths of the main protagonists. A final blow in the contest landed in 1877, 8 years after Charles' death, when his son, Edmund, sold the Walton Estate to Simpson for £117,000: A huge sum at the time, justified by the coal deposits that had been identified beneath the estate. Charles would have turned over in his grave.

And, talking about graves, Charles died on 27 May 1865, a week short of his 84th birthday. His biographers tell us that he tripped over a bramble as he was walking back to the house, but I was told when I was child that he died falling out of a tree he was climbing. Some might have thought that this would not have been a dignified way to die and so might have 'adjusted' history. We'll never know but I'm not sure the 'Old Gentleman' would have agreed.

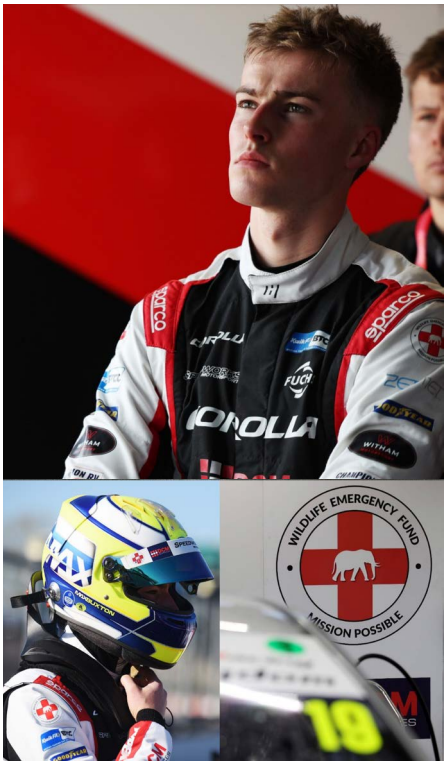
Charles led a full and varied life with a huge range of experiences. He was a good man, loved by many. However, he was part of the contemporary scientific community, having been (in modern parlance) mentored by Sir Joseph Banks (who went to Australia with Captain Cook) and he, in turn, mentored Charles Darwin (the 'Origin of the Species' man). He was also a good friend of William Thackeray, the poet. Today, Sir David Attenborough considers that he is probably the world's first conservationist who set up the world's first nature reserve.

Charles, I would just love to have been able to sit round a dinner table with you.

*From your great, great, great grandson.*

***Watch this film trailer of 'Radical Common Sense' featuring Sir David Attenborough talking about Charles Waterton. It includes Sir Michael Palin reading extracts of Waterton's letters. Full film to be released later in 2026.***

# MAX BUXTON HOLDEN OS 23



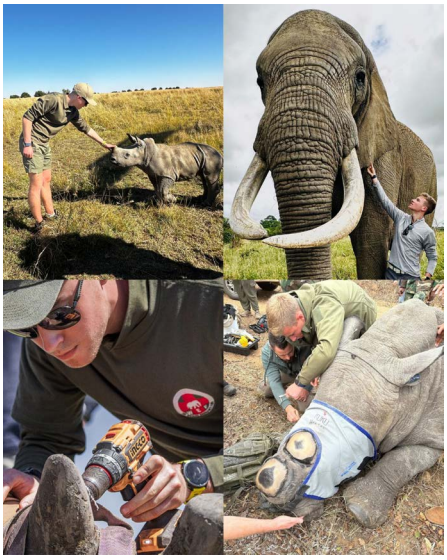

The Stonyhurst Association is proud to support **Max Buxton OS 23**, who is competing in the 2026 British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) behind the wheel of his Toyota Corolla.

Max is taking on the challenge of one of the world's most competitive racing series, but his mission extends far beyond the track. As an official Wildlife Emergency Ambassador, Max is using his platform to raise vital awareness for endangered species and frontline conservation efforts.

Inspired by the Stonyhurst motto "*Quant Je Puis*" - as much as I can - Max is pushing himself not just to compete at the highest level of motorsport, but to make a meaningful difference for the natural world.

For Max, this season is about more than just the race. It's about giving back to a cause close to his heart. Support and awareness raised will go towards the Wildlife Emergency Fund, providing urgent care and protection for animals in crisis across the globe.

If you would like to follow Max's progress and support his advocacy for wildlife, you can do so here:



Instagram: Max Buxton Holden | BTCC Driver (@maxbuxton19)
Fundraising: Wildlife Emergency Fund (@wildlifeemergencyfund)

# RICHARD COURTENEY HARRIS OS 76




**Richard Courteney Harris OS 76** describes how he went from a Schoolboy Train Spotter to Steam Locomotive Trustee.

My interest in steam locomotives and heritage railways began in childhood and has remained with me throughout my life. Like many schoolboys of my generation, I was captivated by the sight and sound of steam engines. However, a long military career left little time to pursue this enthusiasm seriously until my retirement. Ironically, it was through the Army that I eventually became involved in one of Britain's most remarkable railway projects.

In 2020, I met an old friend and colleague from my former regiment. A lifelong railway enthusiast, he had recently stepped down as Director of the National Railway Museum in York and was about to become Chairman of the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust. He invited me to join the Trust as a Director and Trustee, an opportunity I was delighted to accept.

The Darlington-based A1 Steam Locomotive Trust was founded in 1990 with a bold ambition: to build a brand-new Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific steam locomotive. At the time, many believed the project was impossible. Yet after years of engineering effort and fundraising, the £3 million locomotive, named Tornado, entered service in 2008.

What made the achievement extraordinary was that Tornado was not a restoration but an entirely new main-line steam locomotive, built from scratch and funded largely by donations from enthusiasts. Since entering service, the locomotive has become well known beyond railway circles. It appeared in the film Paddington 2, featured in Top Gear's "Race to the North", and in 2017 became the first steam locomotive for more than fifty years to reach 100 mph on the main line. It has now travelled over 130,000 miles and has hauled three Royal Trains.

The Trust's success with Tornado encouraged it to undertake an even more ambitious challenge. In 2013, work began on a new Gresley Class P2 locomotive, based on a famous 1934 design. Named No. 2007 Prince of Wales, it combines historic engineering with modern technology to address some of the weaknesses of the original locomotives. When I joined the Trust, I was honoured to become Project Director for this exciting venture.

Progress has been steady, although not without setbacks. The Covid pandemic affected both construction and fundraising, while the loss of our brilliant Chief Engineer, David Elliott, to cancer was a severe blow. We also had to leave our long-established workshops and move into a new facility in Darlington.

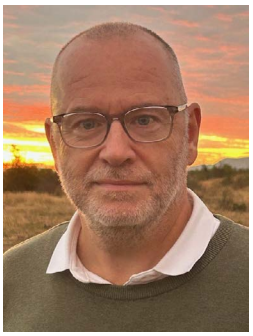
Despite these challenges, important milestones continue to be reached. Earlier this year, the locomotive's boiler, worth more than £500,000 and often described as the heart of a steam engine, arrived in Darlington. Its delivery marked a major step towards completion.

People sometimes ask why we build new steam locomotives today. The answer is simple. These projects preserve valuable engineering skills, celebrate Britain's railway heritage and inspire future generations. In Darlington, the birthplace of the modern railway, they also provide a powerful link between our industrial past and our future.

Long may steam continue to thrill and inspire.



# PETER JORDAN OS 83 DRIVING TO UKRAINE



Somewhat unbelievably I turned 60 last year so I am smack bang in the middle of sniper's alley*. A couple of my friends had already been taken out and a number had flesh wounds. As a result, I decided to drop work to 90%. What to do with that time though? Well, obviously, one thing was to drive a vehicle into a war zone. So, at the end of March, I drove a second-hand 4x4 to Lviv in Ukraine.

Driving Ukraine have undertaken 58 convoys taking over 340 vehicles to Ukraine. The vehicles are a mixture of 4x4s and ambulances and are used to evacuate wounded soldiers from the front and deliver humanitarian supplies. The Russian/Ukraine war has transformed Modern Warfare with the use of drones making the extraction of injured soldiers highly dangerous and many vehicles are destroyed in the process.

The cost of driving each vehicle over including the purchase, required works to the vehicle, fuel etc is about £8,000 which you are asked to raise.

I was in the 57th Driving Ukraine convoy which was made up of 12 vehicles with two drivers in each. It was an eclectic bunch. The journey was a 3-day drive of some 2100 kms. Day 1 started in Bicester, and we drove via ferry (Dover to Calais) to Dortmund in Germany. An overnight stay and a late bar with an early start followed. The next day was the longest drive - 1000k to Katowice in Poland followed by an overnight stay and an even later bar with an even earlier start. My travelling companion was an old friend of mine and although there was a lot of driving, I have no sense of it being a chore or too demanding. There were a lot of quiz questions, old stories retold and reflections on life. There was also a lot of "brown food" consumed in petrol station cafés.



The third day was the most interesting of the 3 days driving as we were heading into Ukraine. We had a 4-hour drive to the Poland/Ukraine border where we were met by a 2 mile queue of vehicles. Our lead vehicle took the view we were no longer in England so there was no need to queue and drove past all the vehicles (mainly lorries) almost to the front. It still took 2 hours to get into Ukraine.

Immediately you could see the difference. Poland is a European country whereas Ukraine is clearly ex-Soviet bloc. The architecture changes immediately with not much thought to design other than functionality. However, dotted around are astonishing orthodox churches with gleaming golden domes. The app we had downloaded to our phones immediately started going off with a siren advising us to go to a shelter due to drones coming in with the ominous warning "your confidence is your weakness". We of course ignored them rather proving the point.



We had an 80km dash to Lviv to deliver the vehicles to a workshop. The vehicles are checked over, and we met several soldiers. One of the vehicles was immediately set upon by ex-local graffiti artists who turned it overnight into a camouflaged vehicle. It would be fair to say that up until this point the trip had felt a bit like being in an episode of "race across the world". Meeting and talking to the soldiers changed all of that. What they told us about what it was like at the front and what they had done and seen brought home their reality and why what Driving Ukraine does is so important.

The next day was the most poignant. We were taken to Lviv's military cemetery. Some 1,200 men and women of Lviv have been killed in the conflict with many more injured. The cemetery was astonishing. Every grave had a photo and personal effects capturing the person. No solitary vase of plastic flowers on some white gravel was in sight. The impact of what I saw was heightened by the daily announcement going off via a ticking clock from the loudspeakers round the town. Every day at 9am everything stops. People stop talking, cars stop, buses stop and, other than the sound of a ticking clock, there is a minute's silence.



We then drove in convoy and parked up in front of the town hall where we were met by the Deputy Mayor and the cathedral choir. Speeches were made, traditional Ukrainian songs were sung, formal handovers of keys and drone detecting devices were made and conversations with Ukrainian medics were had. Promises of keeping in touch with people who three days ago were complete strangers were made and, so far, are being kept. The vehicles were driven off to the front and then it was over. The adrenalin that had kept us going over the last few days dropped and a lengthy afternoon snooze in our hotel followed.

Having left our vehicles in Lviv there followed a train, planes and automobiles journey back to London via Krakow. It was a truly remarkable trip on so many levels despite the challenges of the miles, being in the same car with someone for 3 days, seeing so many graves of men and women the same age as my children and the lack of sleep (some of which self-imposed!). I would highly recommend it.

One thing that I constantly think of is my conversation with a soldier who had spent four years at the front. His call name was Barman as that was what he was before the war. An ordinary 25-year-old living an ordinary life thrown into extraordinary circumstances doing extraordinary things with stoicism and bravery.

By way of postscript one of our vehicles was destroyed within a couple of days by a Russian kamikaze drone. As the occupants had the drone detection device we supplied, they saw it coming so were able to get out so no one was injured or killed.

*The term Dr's use for something random that will take us out.

**drivingukraine.org**



# CURATOR'S NEWS

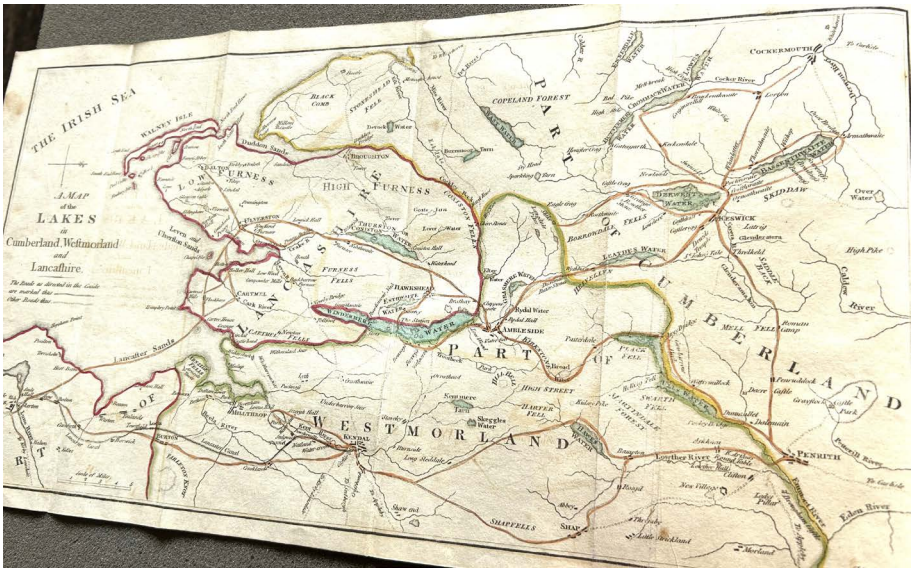
BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS

**The Northern Connection**

**The historic work of the Jesuits in northwest England from the 17th century onwards**

An exciting collaborative exhibition will open in late October in Stonyhurst College's museum.

Drawing on the College's rich collections, libraries and archives, in conjunction with the extraordinary historic loan collections from St Francis Xavier's, Liverpool (SFX), the Wonersh Seminary, the Taylor Treasure loan, plus artefacts and images from Jesuit churches in Manchester and Preston, from the Province Archive in London and the Harris Museum in Preston, the exhibition will examine the many stories of the Jesuits' long involvement in the north of England.




The Jesuits have significant histories in Manchester, Preston and Clitheroe as well as in Liverpool- at one point there were over fifty Jesuit parishes and works in Lancashire alone. The exhibition will chart the story of recusancy and mission in the north, displaying vestments, relics, paintings and relics relating to underground Catholic life in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The exhibition examines the literary, spiritual, architectural and educational histories of Jesuit parishes, drawing on archival records relating to writers such as Gerard Manley Hopkins and Arthur Conan Doyle, and renowned Victorian architects such as JJ Scoles, Charles Buckler and Edmund Kirby.

SFX, whose loan collections will be on display, include some highly significant Gothic Revival textiles and church plate. The church was founded by a group of eight OS businessmen who met in1840 at the Rose & Crown pub in Liverpool. Their aim was to build a church which would be run by the Society of Jesus, whose Provincial was then based at Stonyhurst. But the history of Jesuit involvement in Liverpool goes back to the 17th century – a story documented in the exhibition.

The famous Gothic Revival vestments of SFX will be displayed beside medieval 17th and 18th century examples from Stonyhurst's collections, providing a rich visual resource for parishes, historians, artists and scholars. Historic silver gilt monstrances and chalices from Liverpool will be displayed alongside the stories of the parishioners who donated them, many of whom left spectacular pieces of family jewellery to further adorn the church plate.

The exhibition will feature letters and documents from the Preston Jesuit mission, including the prestigious Preston Catholic College, highlighting the trials encountered by the 18th and 19th century Jesuits in establishing the school. In addition, there are artefacts lent from the Harris Museum, highlighting the extraordinary story of the Preston Gas Company, established by Daddy Dunn from Stonyhurst, which saw Stonyhurst as the first public building in England to be lit by gas in 1811, and Preston as the first town in England with gas street lighting.

Gerard Manley Hopkins' remarkable creative literary output is demonstrated through his poems and diary entries from his time at Stonyhurst, Liverpool and Glasgow. While in Liverpool, he acted as summer chaplain to the Lightbown family at Lydiate, which inspired one of his most famous poems, Spring and Fall: to a young child. Interestingly, this poem was also prompted by Hopkins' family visits to Whitby.

One discovery highlighted by the research for this exhibition, was the groundbreaking work by the late 18th century Jesuit, Thomas West, who was educated at St Omers. His guidebooks to the Lake District, published in the 1780s singlehandedly altered public opinion about the wild, natural beauty of the region. A landscape previously seen as savage and uncivilised, was transformed into a sublime, wild beauty, through West's glowing descriptions of the lakes, which inspired generations of Romantic writers and poets such as William Wordsworth and Jane Austen. His works put the Lake District in the same category as the European Grand Tour for adventurous spirits.

Archival resources, photographs and artefacts from other Jesuit churches in the north will provide a full document the history of the rich network of Jesuit ministry, education and social work in this part of the world. The exhibition will focus on the extraordinary stories of the great Jesuit schools of the north, in addition to the numerous other ministries and works carried out by the Province.



An essential element of the exhibition involves an oral history project, which will run throughout the twelve months' duration of the exhibition, capturing memories of parishioners from SFX, Clitheroe, Hurst Green, Manchester and Preston, as well as further afield.

Full details of opening times and public access will be posted on the **Stonyhurst Museum website**.

# THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION – AND OUR ALMA MATER

## MATTHEW BETTS OS 98 REPORTS FROM LOURDES




### Lourdes

Saint Bernadette was a sick girl from probably the poorest family in Lourdes in the Pyrenees – and yet, Our Lady appeared only to her on 11 February 1858 (and seventeen more times afterwards).

During and after these apparitions, crowds of people grew and grew – flocking to the Grotto and the small town in answer to the requests of Our Lady to come to Lourdes. The first pilgrimage from outside France was the Belgian national pilgrimage in 1874 - only twenty-seven years later, the Catholic Association (CA) of England arrived in September 1901.

This year all of us on the CA Pilgrimage were able to enjoy a week of celebration as it reached this unique (amongst English-speaking pilgrimages) milestone of 125 years of pilgrimages to Lourdes (with only three breaks – WW1, WW2 and Covid-19). The CA itself was founded twenty years earlier in 1891.

### Stonyhurst

*We should select any person from the 1.5 billion inhabitants of the Earth—anyone, anywhere at all…I believe that using no more than five individuals, one of whom is a personal acquaintance, he can be connected to the selected individual.* – Frigyes Karinthy, 1929

The above quote is never truer than in the context of Lourdes and Stonyhurst (except there are not 1.5 billion people on the pilgrimage). Since 1963, fellow OS (not always in plain sight) and friends are to be found throughout the CA Pilgrimage (in Lourdes and for the other 51 weeks of the year for the charity to prepare/afterwards) as volunteers helping to bring more people to Lourdes. This OS support of the message of Lourdes also extends to the many different pilgrimages that come at other times too including the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes, HCPT and many others.

Just to magnify down a little bit within the CA – one small but brilliant group called the Glanfield Children's Group (since 1987 have been taking sick, disabled and disadvantaged children for a life-changing experience of fun, faith and friendship) had at least five OS as part of the group this year (including our chaplain, me, etc) – and some of the founders in 1987 were OS too.

It is also important to recognise all those involved with the CA that are part of the ever-expanding Stonyhurst families – originally through OS or not. They too are integral to the success of the pilgrimage.

I have been helping on the CA pilgrimage since I was in Poetry. There were only twelve places at the time, and I did not reach the first twelve. However, luckily for me one of my fellow year mates cancelled and I reached the list – and haven't looked back since. Nearly thirty years later, I can happily say that I have made life-long friends, met my wife Terri there, and we now bring our children to Lourdes. I am therefore always grateful to Stonyhurst (and the fellow year mate for cancelling – but worry not, they were able to come in 1999) for this opportunity.

Please know that there is no intention to over inflate my, or our collective Stonyhurst, ego but rather to emphasise how each OS involved continues those traditions of our education of 'men and women for others', 'AMDG', 'LDS', 'Quant je puis' – and many more.

And of course, being an OS does not and should not alienate others – we are all part of the universal church and do not sit separately



from it – the CA is a pilgrimage of many experiences, new and old which makes it a great entity to be a part of. All of us are equal in making sure the best care is given to all pilgrims.

"*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*"

**Today**

Today Lourdes is a place full of people praising God because of a 14-year-old who was visited by Our Lady. Indeed, there has been a particularly special group of people who visit Lourdes since then: the sick (or assisted pilgrims/APs) joining the CA. Like Bernadette - who was sick herself - many APs people come to the Grotto to pray and find hope. Nowhere in the whole world is there a place like this, where those with disabilities are at the front of every single queue.

**Encourage**

The best part of the Catholic Association is that it continues to encourage people (of any age) to give Lourdes a go. Encouraging people to go to Lourdes (wherever they live) continues these Stonyhurst traditions to help one other and to do as much as we can.

Of course, the CA's anniversary pilgrimage was not simply a celebration of the past, but it was also an opportunity to look towards the future, giving thanks for the generations who have travelled to Lourdes before and praying that many more will discover the transforming power of pilgrimage, community and encounter with Christ.



# REPORTS ON EVENTS



## CAREERS DAY EVENT

On Friday 26th June, on one of the hottest days of the summer, 45 enthusiastic volunteers comprising of parents, OS and local business leaders came together to give wise career advice to Stonyhurst pupils ranging from Figures through to Poetry.

Staged in the rather warm Ambulacrum, pupils had the opportunity to 'speed date' a wide selection of careers from armed forces through to working in TV. Our volunteers were very impressed with the varied questions and entrepreneurial ideas coming from the pupils. Before the event, pupils had been handed a 'Careers Day Pack' which contained profiles on all our visitors, enabling the pupils the opportunity to make wise decisions on which careers they wished to explore further.

The event was arranged collaboratively between the Association Office, Careers Department and the Development Office, enabling the Association office the opportunity to demonstrate to pupils how effective working with the Association office can be when seeking employment.

In collaboration with the College, the next Careers event for the pupils has been set for **Friday 26th February 2027**. If you would like to represent your industry on this day, and share your advice with the pupils, please may we ask you to register your interest with the Association office.





# JULIAN DINEEN OS 06 REPORTS ON THE RHETORIC 2006 REUNION



The Rhetoricians of 2006 met at the College for their 20-year reunion on 18th April. The weekend began at midday in the Pieta Gallery, although for some it unofficially began at the Shireburn Arms the night before. We were greeted by Jo-anne Brown and Layla Heaton from the Association, who had kindly laid out old photographs from our time, and gave us an update on recent goings on, a striking fact being that girls now make up approximately 45% of the pupils, considerably more than when we were there, with several of the girls in our year among the first intake at SMH. Lively conversation ensued as we reminisced and caught up with friends, some of whom hadn't seen each other since our 10 year reunion, or even since we left in 2006. A great effort had been made by many to be there, travelling from all over the country and abroad; a special mention should go to **Tatsuki Yabashi** who had travelled all the way from Japan!

Lunch in the Bayley Room followed and then an insightful tour of the libraries and new museum. It was fascinating to hear of the work Jan Graffius and her team are carrying out, to see so many interesting objects and to hear that access for students to the libraries and collections has greatly improved. Perhaps the most fascinating discovery for our year group, though, was the realisation that the museum space was our higher line playroom, and where Tim Strain's bar once stood are now priceless objects!

After the libraries, our tour continued around the College, which took far longer than anticipated due to almost every room bringing with it old memories excitedly discussed; Jo-anne and Layla's patience was truly wonderful! It was lovely to bump into Judith Parkinson, who had taught some of us Latin at SMH and the College, and is perhaps the only teacher left from our time there.

A wander around the College grounds and a quick change into black tie preceded a drinks reception and dinner in the Top Ref, where we were joined by Fr Curtis and two of our former teachers, John Hopkins and David Ridout. It was such a pleasure for all of us to reminisce with these two stalwarts of Stonyhurst. Speeches followed, where we took a moment to remember **Mani Emerhor**, **Ellen Riley-Charleuf** and **James Lusekera** who are sadly no longer with us. Conversation continued to flow until we eventually made that well-trodden journey up the avenue to, in the absence of the Bayley, the Catholic Club, where the reunion continued into the early hours. The following morning there was a healthy attendance at mass in St Peter's, with memories stirred by a rousing rendition of the Pater Noster.

The whole weekend was an enormous success and a great time was had by all, with many friendships rekindled and many messages exchanged in the coming days expressing just how much they had enjoyed it. Huge thanks must go to Jo-anne Brown and Layla Heaton in the Association Office who did so much to make this reunion the great success it was.

# JOSH KATZ, HEAD OF THE LINE FOR OS 16, REPORTS ON THEIR 10-YEAR REUNION



It was a real pleasure to return to Stonyhurst College for the OS 16 10-year reunion weekend on Saturday 4th July 2026. For many of us, it had been the same amount of time since we had last seen each other, but from the moment everyone arrived, old friendships and familiar conversations quickly returned. There was a wonderfully warm atmosphere throughout the day, with plenty of laughter, shared memories and stories from our time at the College.

The visit began with a tour of the school, giving us the opportunity to revisit familiar parts of the College and to see how the school has developed over the years. Walking through the Lower Gallery, Chapels and Playrooms prompted countless memories of lessons, teachers, friendships, sporting occasions and the many experiences that shaped our time there. Although much has naturally changed, there was still a strong sense of familiarity, and it did not take long for recollections of our fondest memories to begin. Special thanks go out for the warm welcome message we received from Ed Allanson, and to David Ridout, Peter Ansell, and Jo-anne, Layla & Lorna of the Association and Development teams for their time in guiding the tour parties.

The tour was followed by a few libations in Hurst Green, where the group had the chance to properly catch up, before a black-tie dinner in the Top Ref. It was fascinating to hear about the different directions people's lives had taken since leaving Stonyhurst, including careers, families, travels and the many experiences that had followed our school days. As the evening progressed to the Catholic Club, and perhaps another establishment in Whalley that will remain nameless, it became clear that, despite the passing of a decade, the friendships and sense of community formed at Stonyhurst remain as strong as ever.

The reunion was a wonderful opportunity not only to reminisce, but also to reconnect and create new memories together. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped make the weekend possible and hope it will not be another ten years before we all meet again.

# OS 76 REUNION REPORT PROVIDED BY SIMON BAER OS 76

Friday 15th May 2026
– The Savile Club, London

Sunday 17th May 2026 – Stonyhurst College

A gentle reminder to **Christopher Page** about our forthcoming 50th anniversary rather rebounded on me, and I somehow found myself organising the celebrations.

The first task was to track down as many members of our year as possible. In the end, I managed to contact around 75 contemporaries by phone or email, and most were delighted to join what quickly became a lively WhatsApp group. It proved an excellent way to rekindle old friendships and break the ice before we met in person.

Forty-nine of us gathered for a wonderful dinner at the Savile Club. We are extremely grateful to **Julian Malone-Lee OS 75**, the Club's Secretary, whose assistance made the evening possible. **Christopher Page** said Grace, and throughout the evening there was a genuine warmth and camaraderie born of our shared experiences at Stonyhurst. One of the highlights was recreating a photograph of the front row of the First XV—50 years on.

The following day, a dozen of us attended Mass at Farm Street, celebrated by **Fr Nick King SJ OS 66**, who then kindly hosted us for coffee afterwards. Lunch followed at a nearby pub, giving us more opportunity to catch up.

A smaller group, including several who had been unable to attend the dinner, then travelled to Stonyhurst, where we attended Sunday morning Mass. The organ sounded every bit as magnificent—and perhaps even louder—than we remembered.

**Enrique Valles Tormo** had arranged for a number of trees to be planted in memory of the 11 members of our year whom we know to have passed away. Following Mass, a plaque was unveiled and blessed in a moving ceremony that provided a fitting opportunity to remember absent friends.

We then enjoyed a buffet lunch in the Bayley Room and had the pleasure of meeting the new Headmaster, Mr William Doherty. Jo-anne Brown, the Association Manager, who had so ably coordinated our visit, then arranged a tour of the school, followed by a fascinating visit to the museums with Dr Jan Graffius.

After an exhausting, memorable and highly successful weekend, the unanimous feeling was that we should not wait another 50 years before meeting again.











# HARRY DICKINSON OS 94 REPORTS ON THE THIRST FRIDAY IN RICHMOND ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Gale-force winds and torrential rain during the morning of Friday 4th September did not prevent an impressive turnout at the Richmond Athletic Ground (the home of Richmond rugby) in south-west London. Having experienced record-shatteringly hot weather for weeks on end, this breaking of the levee reminded us not only that we are the proud products of a tough northern school where constant rain is the default setting, but that cancelling our planned rugby match due to hard pitches was perhaps a trifle premature! Notwithstanding, while the lack of rugby may have reduced attendee numbers, it certainly didn't reduce the general conviviality – we had a terrific party!

Of particular note was the excellent showing from the **OS 93** cohort, namely **James Doyle**, **Olly Wraight**, **Jim O'Shea**, **Rickard O'Connell** & **Matt McCullagh** (the latter a classics master at St Paul's; he cites John Trappes-Lomax and other classics teachers at Stonyhurst as his inspiration to follow the pedagogical path). There was also a very good showing from the Stonyhurst Lourdes pilgrims, back from France a mere seven days beforehand: our splendid Association Chairman, **Dom Hartley OS 86**; the wonderful Wager Family; the absolute trooper that is **Terry Holt OS 72** (immaculately turned out, no pun intended, as he was every day in Lourdes); the eminent journalist, author and our fellow pilgrim **Jimmy Burns OS 71** and the core of the **OS 25** brancardiers crew consisting of **James Wager**, **Elliot Hartley**, **Peter Lorriman** and my long-suffering son **George Dickinson**.



Also with us were **Roisin Cleary OS 22**, whose parents I first met in Lourdes whilst still in my teens, long before she was born; and her Stonyhurst contemporary **Saskia Dodd OS 22**, new to London with a job in finance. It was also excellent to have another O'Driscoll with us: **Danny OS 03**, son of the famous **John O'Driscoll OS 71** (who has just finished his term as president of the IRFU) and nephew of **Barry OS 60**, who attended the Richmond Thirst Friday two years ago when we celebrated the long service to Stonyhurst of his son-in-law Simon Charles.

Apologies to those that I haven't mentioned, such as the ever-indomitable Mrs Maxinne Torrents Dels Prats.

My evening finished over the road in the Sun Inn with Dom Hartley & his son Elliot; Elliot's contemporary Peter Lorriman; my brother **Edward Dickinson OS 03**; and **Pete Slack OS 91** (former surname Owens and a cousin of Pryors and Rogersons). All of us different ages and generations but united by family, friendship and Stonyhurst. And an appreciation of the character-building quality of foul weather!

Quant Je Puis





Spot the Hartley at Richmond



**Terry Holt OS 72** with **Gerald Slocock OS 73** and his daughter.

# OTHER REUNIONS



**David Hurst OS 70**, reports that, on Tuesday 9th June 2026, in the upstairs room at the Duke of Sussex Pub in Waterloo, 18 septuagenarians still standing gathered for an OS 70 reunion.

*Clockwise on the photograph:* David George, John Shirley, Francis Matthey, Tony O'Brien, Stephen Roche (organiser), John Wylde, William Fricker, John Blackwell, Richard Martin, John Callaghan, David Llewellyn, John Hargeaves, Sebastian Calnan, James Holt, Patrich Hanratty, Hugh Gregory, Richard Dawes (Head of the Line 1970), Konrad Wallerstein, David Hurst.

# DEVELOPMENT, FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE NEWS

## A LASTING LEGACY: THE ORANGE POT BY WILLIAM DOW



Earlier this year, we were delighted to receive a very special gift for the Stonyhurst collections: *The Orange Pot*, a painting by former Stonyhurst staff member William "Bill" Dow.

Bill joined Stonyhurst in 1936, but when war broke out, his career took him in a very different direction. He joined the Royal Navy and went on to command one of His Majesty's ships. In 1946, he returned to Stonyhurst, becoming the first layman to be appointed Head of the Modern Languages Department, where he taught German, French and some Spanish.

Bill was equally passionate about life beyond the classroom. He was instrumental in establishing tennis as a serious summer sport at Stonyhurst, encouraging as many boys as possible to take up the game and helping to raise standards with the support of a professional coach. He also took responsibility for cricket.

Following his retirement, Bill was able to devote more time to another great passion, painting. He produced a number of beautiful works and even exhibited his paintings in Skipton, allowing others to share in his artistic talent.

We are therefore particularly pleased that *The Orange Pot* has now found a new home at Stonyhurst. The painting was generously donated to the College by Mrs P. Wilkinson, a family friend of Bill's, who also kindly presented us with photographs of him.

Mrs Wilkinson visited Stonyhurst, alongside Lieutenant Colonel **Nicholas Southward OS 67**, to deliver the painting. During their visit, members of our Curatorial Team were delighted to meet with Mrs Wilkinson and formally take receipt of this wonderful piece.

After handing over the painting, Mrs Wilkinson and Lieutenant Colonel Southward joined our Development Manager for lunch and a tour of the College, providing an opportunity to revisit the place that had played such an important role in Bill's life. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Wilkinson for her generosity and for helping us preserve and share Bill Dow's legacy with future generations. We look forward to welcoming her back to Stonyhurst soon.

STONYHURST



## DIRECTOR UPDATE

Hello, Everyone! My name is John Coggin, and I started at Stonyhurst in March to lead development efforts, both for the College and for the Stonyhurst Foundation. In my first few months, I have had the great pleasure of immersing myself in the rich life of the school. Beyond the grand setting and historical significance of Stonyhurst, I have found a community brimming with warmth and vitality. I have been awestruck at the talent of our pupils in theatre, sport, and music, uplifted by their passion for worship and spiritual development, and inspired by their commitment to serve the world as students and future global leaders. I am also thankful for the welcome I have received from so many OS from around the world.

The path ahead for Stonyhurst is exciting. We are operating in a moment of historic challenges for independent schools, but we also benefit from a strong sense of mission, a group of talented and visionary leaders, and a community that is dedicated to our future success. I look forward to working with you all to ensure Stonyhurst continues to be a global bastion of Jesuit education and a place of empowerment and inspiration for all its pupils, both while they are studying here and throughout their life course.

As I continue to settle into life at Stonyhurst, I am eager to meet as many members of the community as possible. If you would be up for a chat, in person or via the wonders of Teams, I'd welcome a chance to learn more about your Stonyhurst story and hear your thoughts on how we might work together for the future of the school. My email is **j.coggin@stonyhurst.ac.uk** and my phone number is +44 (0) 1254 827277. I look forward to meeting you!

THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Foundation's 2025 Annual Report is live on the Foundation's website. We are delighted to confirm that the Foundation is in good health – having received donations of £1.6M to YE 2025 and making a grant to Stonyhurst for bursary funding of £1.5M during the year.

The report also highlights the impact that the Foundation funding has had on individual pupils and the life changing opportunities the chance to receive a Stonyhurst education has had on pupils. In 2025, Foundation supported pupils were awarded 22 prizes at Great Academies, were awarded colours in Rugby, Football, Tennis and Music and two were awarded Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

You can view the report at **www.stonyhurstfoundation.org**

## LONDON EVENT JUNE 2026



The Stonyhurst Foundation was pleased to host a small event at the Chesterfield Hotel, Mayfair to introduce William and Terina Doherty to a number of Foundation donors and members of the 1593 Club on Wednesday 24th June 2026.

William told the assembled guests how delighted he was to have joined Stonyhurst and that he was pleased to say that he found the College in good health and well placed to respond to the many challenges facing independent schools.

The event followed the Foundation's summer Board Meeting at which the Trustees had been joined by a previous bursary recipient who spoke eloquently about what her bursary had meant to her, the amazing opportunities she had taken advantage of whilst at Stonyhurst, the making of lifelong friends and her onward plans for university this autumn. She is a marvellous ambassador for the work of the Foundation and the generous support it has received to date.

On one of the hottest days of the summer, the reception was a lovely way to wind down after a busy meeting and catch up with supporters.

## CAR TOUR 2027

The Stonyhurst Foundation are in the planning stages of the third Classic Car Tour. The event is provisionally booked for the week commencing the 26th July 2027 and will be based at Stonyhurst. The two previous tours have been very well received and lots of fun!

If you are interested in finding out more about the event, please email **foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk** for more information.




## YOUR LEGACY...STONYHURST'S FUTURE




A gift in your Will is one of the most meaningful ways you can support the future of Stonyhurst. Legacy gifts make an invaluable contribution to our work, helping us to deliver projects and opportunities that enable the College to thrive for generations to come. Your gift could make a life-changing difference to a pupil's education and future, and there is no cost to you during your lifetime.

By choosing to remember Stonyhurst in your Will, you can leave a lasting mark on a place and a cause that matters to you. Your generosity will help preserve the ethos and mission of Stonyhurst, ensuring that future generations of pupils can benefit from the extraordinary education, opportunities and community our school offers.

*Quite simply, your legacy could help shape their future.*

**The Thomas Weld Society**

Those who have generously chosen to leave a legacy to Stonyhurst are invited to become members of the Thomas Weld Society, named in honour of the benefactor whose generosity provided the building the College has called home for over 230 years.

Membership is our way of recognising and thanking those who have chosen to support Stonyhurst's future in this special way. We hope to welcome members to an annual gathering at Stonyhurst, providing an opportunity to reconnect with the College, share memories and enjoy time with fellow members of the Stonyhurst Family.

**Find out more**

Leaving a gift in your Will is a deeply personal decision, and we are here to help. If you would like to learn more about leaving a legacy to Stonyhurst, please contact a member of the Development Team. We would be delighted to talk to you, answer any questions and provide any information you may need.

Email: development@stonyhurst.ac.uk Telephone: 01254 827 026

*Your legacy can help Stonyhurst flourish for generations to come and help shape the future of the pupils who will walk the Galleries like so many before.*

# BRING A LITTLE STONYHURST HOME THIS CHRISTMAS

Peter Brown, better known as Pete the Street, has captured the spirit and beauty of Stonyhurst in a remarkable collection of paintings. From the grandeur of the College buildings and surrounding estate to the everyday moments that bring the school to life, Peter's work encapsulates something truly special about Stonyhurst.

Come rain, snow or the occasional glimpse of sunshine, Peter embraced the Lancashire weather, demonstrating that Stonyhurst has a unique beauty in every season.




**Give the gift of Stonyhurst this Christmas**

If you missed the opportunity to purchase one of Peter's original Stonyhurst paintings, there is still a chance to own a piece of this special collection.

Imagine bringing the warmth and character of the **More Library** or **Long Room** into your home, looking out across the Stonyhurst estate towards **Pendle**, or gazing down **The Avenue** from the comfort of your favourite chair. Each painting offers more than a beautiful work of art; it captures a Stonyhurst memory to treasure.

With Christmas approaching, an original painting could also make a truly unique and memorable gift for someone special. Whether for an OS, a parent, grandparent, former pupil or anyone with a connection to the College, what could be more personal than giving them a little piece of Stonyhurst to enjoy for years to come?

For more information, and to discover whether there is a painting that captures your favourite Stonyhurst memory, please visit **www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/giving-back/support-stonyhurst/pete-the-street**

**Limited-edition prints**

Two of Peter's Stonyhurst paintings have also been produced as limited-edition prints, offering another opportunity to own a piece of his work, and making a particularly special addition to the home of a Stonyhurst enthusiast.

To find out more or purchase a print, please contact **development@stonyhurst.ac.uk**.

*Give a gift with a story this Christmas, a lasting memory of Stonyhurst to treasure.*

# A NIGHT OF PHILANTHROPY, FUN AND MYSTIFYING MASQUERADE

On the 30th June, the final day of term, the Poetry Ball brought the Stonyhurst community together for an unforgettable evening of glamour, mystery and celebration. Pupils and parents embraced the Masquerade theme, creating a wonderfully atmospheric evening and, importantly, raising funds for a cause chosen by the pupils themselves.

As is tradition, the Poetry Ball was held in support of the Rhetoric Gift, a special gift from our leaving pupils to the College as a lasting expression of gratitude for their years at Stonyhurst. The Rhetoric Gift is often used to restore or conserve an important artefact from the Stonyhurst Museum, allowing each generation to leave its own mark on the College and preserve its heritage for those who follow.

***Restoring a piece of Stonyhurst history***

This year, the Poetry Playroom chose to support the restoration of the Madonna of Hodder Statue, originally housed at Hodder Place, the statue now stands proudly at the front of the College.

This beautiful and much-loved statue is in need of specialist cleaning and repair to restore her to her former glory.

Any funds raised beyond the restoration will be used to purchase new vestments for our Chaplain, Fr Tim Curtis SJ. These will be named the OS 2027 Vestments and registered under this name in the Museum Catalogue. In this way, the generosity of the Poetry Playroom will become part of Stonyhurst's history, something future generations will see, remember and hopefully be inspired by.

***A remarkable achievement***

The Poetry Ball raised an incredible £20,000+, a phenomenal achievement and a wonderful testament to the generosity of everyone who supported the evening.

We are particularly proud of the Poetry Ball Committee, who went above and beyond to make the event such a success. From organising the decorations and sourcing prizes to creating the event booklets and even taking on the role of auctioneers on the night, they showed tremendous initiative, creativity and commitment.

What began as an evening of masquerade and celebration has become something much more lasting: a contribution to the preservation of Stonyhurst's heritage and a gift from one generation to the next.

*A magical night to remember, and a legacy that will continue long after the masks have come off.*




## STONYHURST COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE IN LONDON

**Friday 4th December 2026**

Stonyhurst will be returning to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mayfair, London for our annual Stonyhurst Carol Service. Further details and a registration form will be shared in due course. Until then...save the date, we hope to see you there!

# HELP US PRESERVE OUR SHARED HISTORY

It is wonderful to see our **Patrons, Associates and Friends'** initiative continuing to flourish, with membership steadily growing. The generous support of our members makes a real difference, enabling the Museum & Archives to care for, protect and add to the remarkable collections that tell the story of Stonyhurst and its Jesuit heritage.

Become part of the story

By becoming a **Patron, Associate or Friend of the Stonyhurst Museum & Archives**, you can play a direct part in helping us preserve and enhance our collections for generations to come.

Membership includes:

- A complimentary welcome pack
- Regular communications and updates
- Opportunities to attend Museum & Archives events
- Unlimited free entry to the Museum and Historic Libraries during public opening times

Membership also makes a thoughtful and meaningful gift for a loved one. Our Museum & Archives Team would be delighted to discuss gift membership and the options available.

Alternatively, you can support the Museum & Archives with a one-off or regular donation. Every contribution, whatever the size, helps us to care for these extraordinary collections and ensure that the stories they hold continue to be told.

Stonyhurst has always been indebted to the generosity of others. With your support, we can ensure that our Museum & Archives continue to flourish, protecting the treasures of our past while making them accessible to future generations.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Patron, Associate or Friend, or about making a donation, please contact **museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk**.

To discover more and become a member, visit **Stonyhurst Museum – Support Us**.




# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Virtual Meet and Greets with William Doherty, Head of Stonyhurst**



## ANTON BUSH, HEAD OF 6TH FORM, REPORTS:

**From Penang to the Ribble Valley: A Historic First for Stonyhurst Penang's Founding Higher Line Cohort**

History was made in June this year as ten pioneering pupils from Stonyhurst International School Penang embarked on a momentous journey to the United Kingdom. As our founding Higher Line cohort, these pupils represent a vital bridge between our vibrant campus in Malaysia and our historic sister school, Stonyhurst College UK.

This landmark inaugural visit serves a dual purpose: immersing our pupils in the rich traditions of the Stonyhurst family while exploring world-class higher education opportunities through a tour of UK universities, including Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Cambridge, and Imperial College London.

Following a smooth journey with a brief stopover in Singapore, the group arrived at Stonyhurst UK on Sunday. The approach to the college is famously awe-inspiring; seeing the magnificent towers rise from the Lancashire landscape left an indelible impression on our pupils.

We were met with a warm welcome from Mrs Lorraine Wright and then settled into our accommodation. After a spectacular brunch in the Ref (the first of many fantastic meals), we were introduced to Father Tim Curtis SJ and Mr Allanson before meeting our assigned buddies, who gave us a guided tour of the wonderful campus. Exploring the school's historic, labyrinthine corridors and walking down to the local village filled our first afternoon before we settled down for an early night.

On Monday, the cohort attended the Headmaster's Assembly—an inspiring showcase of the school's talented pupils and achievements. After a group photograph with the Headmaster, Mr Doherty, our pupils attended lessons alongside their buddies. This experience gave them a wonderful chance to compare the similarities and differences between school life in Penang and the UK; all of our pupils loved the opportunity and were thoroughly impressed by the academic environment. The evening provided some well-deserved downtime, including a quick trip to the cinema to see Toy Story 5.

Tuesday took us into the heart of the English countryside with a trip to Lake Windermere. Blessed with beautiful weather and spectacular panoramic views, the pupils took to the water on a boat, enjoyed a classic picnic in a park, and stopped for souvenir shopping in Bowness.

Wednesday shifted the focus to future academic paths with a visit to Manchester. Despite some travel disruption caused by hot weather delays, the group arrived safely at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Here, they received a detailed overview of the diverse opportunities MMU offers, followed by an excellent campus tour. The highlight of the afternoon was an interactive Minecraft activity that the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. A bustling evening commute—complete with a traffic jam courtesy of a local school prom—welcomed us back to campus just in time for supper.

Thursday offered a true taste of traditional British boarding school life with a day packed full of activities. The morning began with singing practice, followed by a guided tour of the highly impressive Stonyhurst Collections and regular academic lessons. For lunch, everyone enjoyed a classic British roast dinner complete with sticky toffee pudding, providing the perfect fuel for the afternoon, where most of the cohort participated in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) activity, learning vital survival skills and cooking over open fires in the woods. The day concluded with a wonderful evening, starting with a lovely visit from Lily Gillespie, an OS who previously completed a gap year with the PE team at Stonyhurst Penang. While the pupils enjoyed a lively game of volleyball on the lawns, the teachers met with the Stonyhurst Governors for drinks and a buffet featuring the ultimate English treat: scones with clotted cream.

The week wrapped up on Friday with an informative Careers Event, where pupils listened to industry professionals and engaged in small-group discussions about their futures. The day was rounded off by attending a stellar production of *Mary Poppins Jr.* at St Mary's Hall, which was enjoyed by all!

Our final full day allowed us to visit Clitheroe to experience a typical market town, followed by joining the rest of the school for the youth mass on Saturday evening. We then had great fun at the end of term event on the front lawns, enjoying food, music and the England football game with the rest of the boarders.

This inaugural visit has been a resounding success, seamlessly blending heritage, academics, and adventure, and it sets a magnificent precedent for future generations of Stonyhurst Penang pupils.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the staff who made us feel so welcome throughout our stay, and we look forward to being able to repay the hospitality over in Penang in the near future!

Quotes:



*"It was very surprising for me to see the way modern technology and old architecture meets in Stonyhurst UK. I would like to come back again to experience the unique atmosphere in the college."*

*"I was initially surprised at the staggering amount of hospitality and receptiveness from teachers, pupils and staff alike but most of all I was surprised how easy it was to integrate into their system and social circles despite a difference in cultural backgrounds. I loved the fact we got to experience a variety of classes from P.E to economics. There was an eye-opening amount of courses."*

*"It was a unique experience that only Stonyhurst could have provided. What I liked the most was making connections with complete strangers from a complete foreign country."*



# WANDERERS' NEWS

**Wanderers Croquet vs Pupils, Saturday 13th June 2026**

On Saturday 13th June, the Wanderers croquet was pleased to return to the College for their annual match against the College pupils. Very much a family affair this time, the Wylie Carrick family represented the majority of the team. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all involved and we look forward to the 2027 game.

Photo (L-R) **Michael Wylie Carrick OS 79**, Mrs Ayten Wylie Carrick, **Rory Wylie Carrick OS 19**, **Joseph Wylie Carrick OS 22**, Benedict O'Connor, Former Staff, **Jensen So OS 08**.




**Stonyhurst Wanderers Golf vs Pupils**
**Saturday 12th September 2026**

On a damp 12th September, the Wanderers golfers travelled to the College to take on the students in the annual match. A few OS were fortunate to hone their skills at the Royal Lytham St Annes links the day before helping the team feel ready to tackle the challenges of Stonyhurst Park Golf Club.




The formidable OS team was made up of: **Colin Riddell OS 83**, **Warren England OS 83**, **Eric Craven OS 83**, **Rafa Marin OS 93**, **Paul Harben OS 96**, **Michael Downes OS 06**, **Dom and Marcus Rigby OS 93**, **Chris Brennan OS 02**, **Sam Morgan OS 08**, **Ben Dowds OS 19**, and, making his debut, **Rob Kellett OS 19**. In truly authentic Stonyhurst weather conditions, all combatants were thoroughly soaked following a heavy downpour, but undeterred, the Wanderers battled on to record a strong win 4 1/2 - 1 1/2. On reflection, perhaps the inclement weather took its toll on the handful of Southern European college golfers used to playing in drier conditions. Following the match, all players returned to the College to be treated to an excellent 3-course meal in the Top Ref. The whole event was superbly organised and hosted by Jo-anne from the Association and Mark Walmsley and Adrian Davies from the College Sports department. Whilst dates are still TBC, the Wanderers hope to return to the College next year in early September to allow the students to get their revenge.



**Hoppers**

**Martin Hothersall OS 72** informs us that the 2027 OS Lunch at Preston Grasshoppers will take place on **Saturday 6th February** when the Hoppers will be playing Otley. Please put it in your diary!

# BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OS

**My Dear Mother: Letters home from an English Soldier 1933-1951** edited by **Hugh Trappes-Lomax OS 61**

A bundle of letters, sent in the final decades of the British Empire from India, Palestine and the Gold Coast, including a Prelude from his time at Hodder Place and Stonyhurst, **Nicholas Trappes-Lomax OS 1929**, a soldier whose army career began in the Lancashire Fusiliers and ended in the Pay Corps, writes to his mother in Lancashire. These letters have been transformed by their editor into a life of his father, a family history and a spotlight on a fast changing, now largely vanished world, in which peacetime infantry life, Catholic recusancy, and 'the 2nd lieutenant's speech' all play their fascinating part.

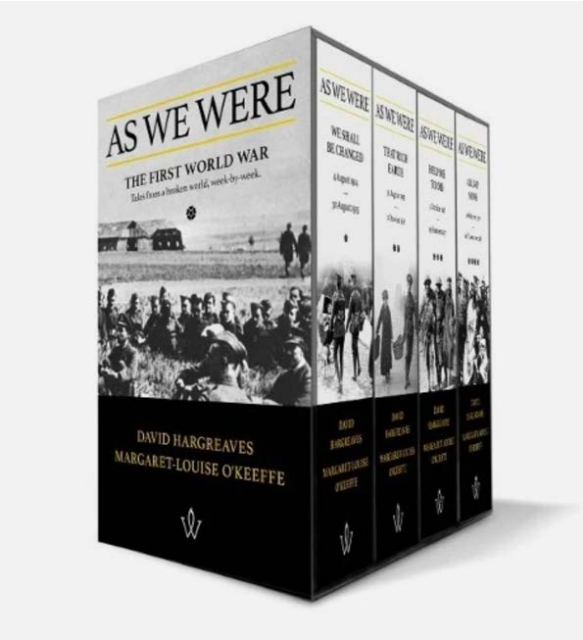
Copies of this book can be purchased from the Association office. Priced at £15.00, all proceeds will go to the Stonyhurst Association.



**David Hargreaves OS 74** has donated of a four-volume history of The First World War *(As We Were)* to the College which he wrote and was published in 2021. These will be placed in the More Library for use by the pupils.

The books can be obtained via bookshops, or online.

After they came out in 2021, the books enjoyed a moderate success, making it on to the shortlist of the Sunday Times History Books of the Year, and winning some decent reviews in *The Spectator* and from Dominic Sandbrook in *The Sunday Times*.





## STONYHURST LINK




*Keeping you in touch with the Stonyhurst Family*



# STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ Tel: 01254 827043
email: association@stonyhurst.ac.uk web: association.stonyhurst.ac.uk

The Lady Statue on the Feast of the Assumption




LDS