

The Douai Society



Newsletter 2012 & 13

Editor's Note: I apologise for the non-appearance of this Newsletter in 2012 - this edition includes material contributed in both 2012 and 2013

Gerry Smith (37-42) writes: Yesterday (April 2012) Pauline and I had an emotional day. We were invited to the St George's Day Service at Arundel Cathedral. It was packed with local troops from the surrounding area, including Littlehampton. Where my youngest daughter lives with her family including her eldest Son, Thomas (Napper). At the end of the Service he was called forward to be presented with his Queen's Scout award, which he had achieved after a lot of work. One of the things he had done was to go on expeditions to the Italian Alps & the Pyrenees *partly funded by generous help from the Douai Society!*

Michael Coviello (41-47) writes: Thanks for the Newsletter; it keeps me in touch with various goings on. I remember Fr Romuald, as Philip, well. We were both in the sixth form Dormitory together. I do not remember what his subjects were in school nor do I remember his performances on stage; never the less reflecting on him does dig deep into old memories - stories best left untold but they still bring a smile to my face. At the moment I am doing my best to cope with severe Angina not being able to cope with an operation. I am violently allergic to anaesthetics and do not wish to leave life in that manner. Nearing 85 with a very happy life and wonderful wife, being able to get to mass and communion. What more could I want or need?

John Pecoock (41-44) writes: On 28th June 2012 we celebrated our Diamond Wedding anniversary, Father Anthony Baron having kindly officiated at our wedding in 1952. We have been very fortunate. I was sorry to read the notice concerning Father Romuald. I remember him having a very good voice when he first arrived at the school and he had a leading part in one of the G & S operas with Father Philip producing.

Carl Watkins (49-52) writes : Joanna, sister of **Gerald Giuseppe (42-46)**, and I are now fully retired having spent all our working life in catering. Gerald came over from Australia this Spring and spent 3 weeks with us, during which time **James (Jazz) Waller (41-46)** paid us a visit. Both he and Gerald left school as I joined, so it was very interesting to hear them reminisce about their times at Douai.

I am in frequent contact with **Derm FitzGerald (45-52)**; he now categorically refuses to fly anywhere, so we are very unlikely to see him over here at any reunions, He underwent major heart surgery two years ago; thankfully he appears to have made a total recovery. He tells me his brother **Desmond (40-46)** is still working and is a professor of cardiac research based in Manchester.

Turning to my sons, **Paul (76-81)** works in the City and is a Director of Clearnet, exactly quite what he does eludes me, but it keeps him well occupied. **Dominic (77-78)** is in the film world in Los Angeles, he is self employed as a design director and was responsible for *The Bourne Supremacy* and more recently *Snow White and the Huntsmen*; this was filmed at Pinewood, it meant he was

working in England for best part of a year so we saw quite a lot of him. It makes one very proud to see his 'window' in the credits at the end of a film. **James (82-85)** is also self employed and recently married a delightful Swedish girl, they are together, setting up a Yoga teaching business in Ibiza, where the weather is so much better than the UK.

Tony White (49-52) writes: Whilst at Douai Fr Hilary Palmer had encouraged me to join the RAF having been a navigator on Lancasters during the war. I had hoped to go to Cranwell when leaving Douai in 1947 but failed the test for pilot and could become only next best, a navigator, so I signed on for an eight year commission. After officer training I was sent to Canada, first class across the Atlantic. I spent five years in total flying in Meteors, Venoms & finally Javelins as Night Fighters eventually as a Flight Lieutenant until offered early release because of the scaling down.

I moved back to live with my parents in Virginia Water . I continued to play golf at Wentworth , a club I had joined at a preferential fee whilst in the RAF. I joined Esher Rugby Football club and played for their first & second team the Cardinals. Several old Dowegians also played there, Brian Waghorn, Kit Morton.

In 1960 I married Tessa in Sherborne having asked Matthew Ruane (Fr. Daniel) to officiate and been declined. I joined Burroughs as a salesman selling accounting machines in the City of London to the Merchant Banks. When the US government agreed to let Burroughs sell a commercial version of their military computers I was among the first to be offered the chance and quickly notched up successes with six of the American and merchant banks. During this time I played cricket for Tilford and always welcomed the Old Dowegians for their annual match. One commission cheque from Burroughs allowed me to purchase a block of flats in Reading to pay for my children's future education. I had 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls from that marriage. Three of the boys, Timothy, Russell & Christopher, attended Douai for some time until my business career collapsed for several years partly because of the Government Pay Freeze. After that set back I progressed to become European Marketing Director and then, after Burroughs took over Sperry to become Unisys, assumed responsibility for organizing the annual reward event for the top sales people and in 1988 age 53 took early retirement (made redundant!!).

After my divorce I moved to America, lived in New York and Las Vegas & built a home in Florida. I returned to live permanently in one of the flats in the block I had purchased years before in Reading. It had been a Georgian one family house with 4 floors, the basement for servants to work and the top floor to sleep & the other 2 floors for the family. There was a derelict stables and coach house which became the subject of my conversion attempts after updating the flats. It became my house and following a burglary, when Ela a charming Polish police lady attended to advise me on security and assist my acceptance of matters, a home for myself and her, my new wife. Until I had to give up driving & surrender my XJS 1988 Jaguar we regularly attended Mass at Douai and now that Ela has passed her driving test will continue to do so in future. It was always a joy to talk to Fr. Terence & Fr. Peter.

My eldest son **Timothy (74-77)**, now 51, has three children and has a senior role at Ernst & Young. **Russell (75-78)** works for IBM, is married to an American and lives in Florida. Christopher runs his own software company and lives in Farnham close to my ex wife and one of my daughters. My son Matthew and his wife have two children & live in Bath. My son Jonathan & wife have two children & they plus daughter Lizzy & husband plus two children have just returned from an exhausting holiday in the Canary Islands with my wife Ela & self. I host at least two family events annually, a Christmas party & an Easter egg hunt, which are well attended by everyone. Our latest gathering was in Cornwall in July when Russell hosted his 50th birthday party and a cricket match for all 35 of us took place on the beach at Daymer Bay.

I recently had contact with Carl Watkins, a contemporary of mine at Douai, having sent him my copy of the Penryn magazine which mentioned his prowess as a gardener, it was our prep school. I

also spoke briefly to Matthew Ruane who had been a great swimmer & is now living in Wales. He was two years my senior. He advised me that Hilary Palmer with whom I had lost contact many years ago, had left Douai and died a few years past.

Five years ago I fulfilled a life time ambition. Our local pub, the Horse & Jockey in Reading, was threatened with closure and conversion to a Chinese Take Away. I took over the lease and ran it for two years, serving a significant variety of Real Ales, until a much better qualified publican took over.

I continue to live in The Stables & Coach House in Reading I have added a log cabin which houses my train set for up to eight locomotives and is a delight for visiting grandchildren.

Godfrey Linnett (50-52-55) organised a reunion in October 2012 of those who joined the school in 1952, celebrating their Golden Jubilee, along with Her Majesty! He also reports: Fiona Waller , daughter of **Richard Waller (48/51/57)** carried the Olympic Torch in Deal, Kent. Apart from being a goddaughter of mine, her claim to fame is that a few years ago she with three other young ladies rowed across the Atlantic Ocean and a couple of years later they rowed across the Indian Ocean!!

Séan Duggan (51-53-57) is now living back in David, California after a year living in Montreal where his wife was a visiting professor at McGill University.

Adrian Strickland (54-58) writes: I happened to be near Oxford at the beginning of December, at the wedding of the daughter of an old friend of mine Ian Maitland. I was delighted to meet for the second time **Dermot McDermott (51-53-58)** and **Konrad Legg (57-62)** at the wedding! We had met at the marriage of Ian's elder daughter a few years ago.

Jacqui and I were in the UK to attend this wedding and found time to visit Newbury, where there was a Carol Concert in which our eldest granddaughter Nina was participating with her school. She mentioned that the school sometimes holds similar functions at Douai. She is at Downe House and has so far enjoyed her first term. Lara (Nina's mother), had flown in that morning attended the concert and then took a taxi back to Terminal 4 and was in bed at her home that same evening! The wonders of present day life! Certainly not like it was in my time. My first year at Douai, in September 1954, I had to wait till July before seeing my parents in the summer hols! My brother and I stayed in England with friend of our parents for Christmas and Easter!

Brian Quinlan (57-60) writes (in March): It. doesn't seem just two weeks ago that an ongoing migraine found me at A & E in North Sydney - an impressive, new hospital, where I was diagnosed as having suffered a minor stroke. I was in for a week and they did a great rebuilding job! I could have been paralysed, lost my sight and/or suffered sundry other unpleasant outcomes but - apart from being unable to drive again, I have a fair amount of sight, can read, can walk and have a national bus pass! When the possible alternative outcomes are pointed out to you, you quickly become appreciative of how lucky you have actually been! Thank goodness - if this had to happen, it happened here in Sydney and not in Thailand, where we had planned to go but obviously now can't. I will be on Warfarin tablets and statins from now until forever

James Bugden (55-59-63) writes: I retired two years ago after 44 years with Baker Tilly. I was articled to **Denis Blake (33-37)** who died in 2002 who was at the school with Fr Augustine. I am now enjoying the family, pottering in the garden and playing bridge.

Brian Lewis (59-62) has worked as an architect in Barbados for over 40 years. He has now formed a company called Lumis which provides architectural photographic services. His website is: <http://www.lumisphotography.com>

Tim Albert (56-60-65) writes: 'Having published four books on medical writing (and probably exhausted most of the possibilities therein) now I am officially retired I have been working on a

memoir. Not having done anything particularly distinguished – particularly compared with Stephen Wall and Paul Mahoney (though I did bag improved speaker in the debating society two years running), the main purpose of the book will be to report and reflect on what I have seen – and in particular the extraordinarily privileged lives we baby-boomers have enjoyed. The provisional title is *How we had it so good: a reporter's journey through the post war years*. We have just (April) come back from Australia where we got chatting to a waitress in a Melbourne fish restaurant and discovered she had the strange surname of **Reddin-Clancy**. And yes, her father was a year below me at Douai!

Paul Mahoney (60-63) has been appointed as Britain's judge on the European Court of Human Rights. He has worked for European Institutions for over 30 years. One of the other two candidates for the position was **Ben Emmerson QC (76-79)**

Michael Pragnell (60-64) writes: I saw **Stephen Wall (60-65)** at the UCL Council dinner (which he chairs.) I was his guest in my capacity as chairman of Cancer Research UK (which funds an important part of UCL's research into cancer.) He was on good form and referred to our past at Douai in his speech and even quoted in Latin some formal exchange between Abbot and Head boy that I couldn't recall.

Brian Leach (56-61-65) writes: I retired in 2007 after a career in medicine working initially in the army and then both in General Practice and in hospital medicine.

I am in regular contact with my old Douai Friends Stephen Pyne and Terence Murray and last year had dinner together in Steve's home town of Westbury, Wiltshire along with his younger brother Nick Pyne who is also an Old Dowegian.

My son, **Rupert (88-93)** works in the Oil Industry as the boss of exploration drilling rigs and is at present working in Iraq in the wilds of Kurdistan. He still plays cricket when he can but the wickets out there leave something to be desired! He is married with two children and lives in Scotland.

Jeremy Ribiero dos Santos (62-67) and his brother **Nicholas (66-71)** once again took part in the reunion of the Seventh Old Benedictine School Community of Brazil which includes former pupils of Downside and Ampleforth.

Tony Griffin (59-64-68) writes: I live in Devon near Exeter, am recently reduced to part-time soliciting, and am in good fettle!

Steve Barder (67-72) has been living in Southern California for many years since the late 70's where he has worked in the Human Resources profession for a number of companies in different industries. He got remarried in 2004 and has two adult children from his first marriage. Tim, his oldest, is a research scientist working in the pharmaceutical industry in Boston and Torrey, his daughter is an autism therapist working with young children. Steve was back at Douai a few years ago while on a business trip and was delighted to see Fathers Oliver, Terence and Nicholas.

Charles Morgan (62-67-71) writes: I continue to work for Law Debenture in the City, representing it as trustee or member of the trustee board of a number of company pension schemes; I have been doing it for more than 14 years now!

I am still a trustee of the Lay Community of St Benedict. We don't seem to have had any meetings recently at Douai, although I'm not sure why not. Worth and Oxford seem to be the most frequent venues.

I have just joined the nearby Malden Golf Club in order to get an official handicap and improve my golf, but it is a frustrating game and I seem to be going backwards rather than making progress.

Andrew Sullivan (63-68-73) writes: In March 2012, **Paul (58-60)**, **Martin (60-64-69)** and I began a pilgrimage that involved a total of 9 Sullivans (all related). Gathering from as far away as Thailand and Porthcawl, their destination was the Cathedral of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, where on Saturday March 17th they witnessed the miraculous and moving Winning Of The Grand Slam ceremony as their beloved Wales overwhelmed France. Yea, great was their rejoicing and as it has been written, "Duw, now there's a trip that was tidy beyond".

David de Freitas (69-74) and Miranda celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with many others celebrating significant anniversaries at a mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith at Southwark Cathedral in June. Fr Oliver had officiated at their wedding in 1987

Philip Williamson (69-74) is Deputy Head of Centre at Outward Bound Ullswater and Howton. He set off for a six weeks return visit to Kathmandu in December 2012.

Matt Wood (69-74) [formerly Farley-Wood] writes: I am now very happily settled in the United Arab Emirates with my wife Evelyn and working as a ground instructor at Horizon Flight Academy in the middle of the desert in Al Ain, training, amongst others, future Etihad pilots. We've been in the UAE for three and a half years now and before that I worked as Chief Ground Instructor at Clark Aviation in the Philippines... a much travelled man!

Scott Hunter (70-75) writes: IT contract work .. still at it but less often! Working on novel 5, still playing drums .. Bands are: UK, Steve Summers band, Italy: Analogy. Google will find various related websites. Had top 20 Amazon success with first novel, 'The Trespass'

Mark Manwaring-White (71-73) writes: First, after years of trying to work out what to do, I have finally managed to produce a daughter! We are living in Iligan City, Philippines! I built a house here back in 2007 but we are here preparing to bring young Stephanie M-W to the UK(now she is 18 months) as it is hopefully less stressful for her to travel the distance. Now for the other news... after years in the electronics industry, for which I will always be grateful to Father Wilfrid's encouragement and some times chastisement, I have now gone back 40 years and now proudly design, import and distribute very high end Valve Hi-Fi amplifiers! Wilfred taught me all I know, and the knowledge he passed to me has started coming back in spades! Sadly the Douai Radio Society junk box has long since gone, but many ideas spring from the projects that I built from it! So if you wish to look please head for www.mingda.co.uk! I have just had another delightful few days at the factory in southern China, on route to the Philippines.

Stephen Thomas (66-71-75) and **Dominic Myers (75-80)** joined old boys of Downside at the Muscat meeting of the Old Gregorian Society in December 2012.

Daryl Schofield (73-78) is Head of Global Marketing and Commercial Midstream for a company called Talisman Energy, based in Calgary, Canada.

Anders Lindberg (74-79) writes: I'm happily married (second time round) and am living in Stockholm. One boy from the first marriage (19) and a boy (5) and girl (8) from the second. They keep me young! I'm still with the oil business working for a Swedish oil company with shipping.

Eduardo Garcia -Sainz (75-78) is a pilot with Ryanair; he is based in Holland. He writes: "Sara is still ruling the house with absolute authority and Sarita has finally completed her course as conceptual artist for 3D animation. She is building her portfolio and is already taking part in some small projects. I think it will be a slow start but I suppose that nothing is easy in these times. Eduardo is making headway with his economics in Madrid – hopefully there will still be an economy here when he finishes! I was in Mexico recently to see Mauricio and my sister Victoria. We are still in the process of sorting out our parent's belongings so we can sell the flat. As you can

imagine it is always difficult to distribute and dispose of 50 years of things. They were both terrible hoarders! Mauricio is doing very well. His eldest son is half way through some computer programming degree that I can't understand. His twins, now 17 are wrapping up their IBs and don't know what they will be doing next. I was sad to leave but Mexico City is too chaotic for me now

Alex Sanderson (75-80) has moved to Edinburgh to become Head of KPMG's Audit Practice in Scotland.

Donal Brown (76-81) is Acting Director - East and Central Africa at the Department for International Development

Roland Carreras (76-80) is a managing partner with Galliard Healthcare – they have a very effective website: www.galliardhealth.com

Julian Webb (71-76-81) writes about the December 2011 reunion of his yeargroup: Myself, Nick Spinks, Don Joyce, Richard Windsor, Andrew Murphy and Tom Hall, made it this year. It was lovely to see everyone, but especially Richard and Tom who I do not think have seen since we left school. Tom I suspect is the man ahead in the game of life, he is due to be a grandfather in about 4 months.

Other news:

Ian Thomas is in the USA, doing an advanced leadership course in the army, I see him when he is in UK Mark Boag I saw in the autumn and he is a very well. Guy Farley sent his apologies this year, he was abroad. Antz Johnston was hoping to make it but his dad had only just got out of hospital, so he could not. I have been in brief e mail touch with Mark Norman (based in Oz now but comes back occasionally and I am trying to persuade him to let us know when next so we can get together, to suit him). Chris Johnson and I exchanged e mails a few months ago, but sadly could not make it. As you already know Donal was the lone attender in the December 2010 meeting have braved the weather, but could not make it this year.

John Lamond (73-76-81) recently visited Abbot Edmund in Rome. He writes: my wife Mei Lin passed away in December 2009. She had been suffering from cancer for about 2 years. I am in my 25th year here in Hong Kong now. I am General Manager Safety Security and Business Continuity for the Airport Authority. I have the same feeling for it as RL Stevenson had for Scotland I think; love and loathing together.

Nick Spinks (70-76-80) writes: During 2012 I worked for "The Prince's Trust" (attempting) to assist twelve 16-24 year olds with 'issues' back into full time education or work. One of the most stressful things I've ever undertaken...limited successes so far in a difficult climate. Let's hope things improve for these young people.

I then went on to police the Jubilee for HM Queen as she travelled the UK. My high-light was working as part of her protection team as she visited Hitchin, my home town, on the 30th anniversary of me joining the Met. I'm neither a republican nor an obsessed Royalist, but it was a fitting and privileged place to be on that day! Who would have thought 30 years ago when I signed on the dotted line that I would be involved as one of her close protection team touring the country with her during her Diamond Jubilee?

Then there was the Olympics and Para-Olympics...WOW!!! Probably the best professional time I've had in my 30 years, again, a real privilege. Managed to attend all of the venues with many and different members of the Belgian Royal Family who were my 'charges' during the events. London was such a wonderful place to be during the Olympics. Attitudes, tolerance and acceptance of others were of note, personally I was humbled by the solicitude of a great number of people, athletes and helpers alike. Mrs Spinks has had a more difficult time. With a change of nursing jobs, she found

settling down in her new job difficult and so has decided to take a career break. This has proved a boon to me, a housewife at home! Our daughter Chloe is now in her 2nd year at Sheffield Uni reading English with Linguistics. Must get her brains from her mum! She's into amateur dramatics, working at the student radio 'Forge FM' and going to the gym.

Nick Sutherland-Dodd (76-79) writes: All things are good with me. Married 2 kids 14/16. Working in London running a film company – ASD Lionheart.

Angus Foster (78-83) writes: still married to Jennie – 27 years Still living in the same house - 22 years. Maxine is now a policewoman & living with boyfriend in Ewhurst Wade is at St. Mary's University in Twickenham and playing rugby for the mighty Antlers as have many Old Dowegians in the past. Still see Charlie Stockwell & Micky Chesterman regularly. Attended James Murphy's 50th this year also present Charlie Whitworth, Adrian Jones & Phil White. Just reconnected with Mike Strong, Ed Caldwell & Gavin Delaney (who is married with two sons!). Also connected to many other ODs across the globe via LinkedIn.

James Hodson (78-83) reported on a reunion held by eleven members of his year group.

Damian Hoskins (78-83) has left the army (as Lt Col) and is now working for HSBC Investment Bank in Canary Wharf. He and his wife, Sasha, have two children at school, Sasha and Alexander.

Adrian Dally (79-84) visited Douai recently with his wife Lousie and was happy to introduce his two sons, Toby and Rowan, to the monastery and particularly to the sheep whom they helped to feed!

Jason Kent, (79-82), Christian McWilliams (81-86) & Brendan O'Connor (78-81-86) organised a reunion in Covent Garden through Facebook on 8 December 2012.

Miles Warde (79-84) is a radio producer for the BBC, based in Bristol. In November he travelled through Spain with the veteran broadcaster Misha Glenny, making a programme called *The Invention of Spain*.

Alex Wong (79-83) visited Douai in July 2013. He still plays the piano, but teaches Spanish in a public school in Baltimore, USA. He has a blog about food and he included some pictures of what he ate while he was at Douai: <http://www.wongeats.com/>

Edmund Liew (80-85) visited Douai, after a 17 year gap, for a Sunday Mass in May 2012 and arranged for about six others of his year group to meet him there and for lunch in The Angel, Woolhampton, afterwards

Michael Ward (81-86) writes: I am now running a catholic youth group in Oxford (ages 7-18) and would love to bring them down some time to see the abbey

Charles Antelme (84-89) has left the army and is now working for an oil company in Nairobi, responsible for security in their facilities in the whole of East Africa.

Peter Groom (84-87) writes: I'm living in a village in South Warwickshire, near Shipston on Stour, which itself isn't too far from Stratford on Avon. Coincidentally I went to mass in Stratford last Sunday and it was taken by Fr Alex. I knew the parish was linked to Douai and had heard he was there. It certainly brought back some very old memories. I didn't introduce myself as I left because I imagine it's possibly the worst moment of the week for trying to have a conversation as everyone shuffles out of the church. I'm sure at some point I'll be back there and might find the opportunity to say hello. I've been married to Becky (who's from Canada) for what is now approaching five

years and we have two children – Joseph who is two and a half, and Elizabeth who is almost ten months. I'm working in IT, specifically in the migration of data between financial service systems. I tend to keep that to myself as it's a great conversation killer! Experience tells me a follow up question is usually quite difficult for people to find. Obviously the main focus now for Becky and me is the children. In the early part of our marriage we led a rather transient existence and worked in SE Asia for a while (Becky had spent many years there previously) so the change to being parents and home-owners in a small English village has been a huge one. Thankfully we seem to be very contented and feel fortunate to be where we are.

David Petts (82-84-89) is now a lecturer in Archaeology at Durham University. In June 2013 he featured in a radio documentary about Lindisfarne.

James Roddis (84-89) is commanding 4th Scots Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, currently based in Falingbostel, Germany. He and his wife Helen have three daughters Lottie, Lucy and Ella

Edward Vickers (84-89) is now Assistant Professor of Comparative Education at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan where his wife, Aya, comes from. They have a son Tora (aged 2)

Angus Essenhigh (85-90) is now a Captain in the Royal Navy; in December 2012 he took command of HMS Daring.

Fortunate Fapohunda (85-86) recently stayed in the Guesthouse with his wife Laura and their son.

Adrian Hill (85-90) is working as an architect in his own practice in Dublin.

Simon Rossiter (83-85-90) writes: As a 40th birthday present last year my family entered me in to the Tour of Wessex, the biggest multi-stage sportive in the world. Over the second bank holiday weekend in May I will be riding 335 miles around Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. In order to make more of this event than just a personal goal, I have decided to fundraise for the Rotary Club (because of the amount of support they have given my school with our exchange with Uganda) and a local charity called Home Start West Somerset who support people starting new families.

Ben Vickers (85-90) works for the UN Food & Agriculture Organisation as an Asian/Pacific expert on climate change and tropical forest management. He is based in Bangkok with his wife Kunzanna and child Sami.

Simon Strong (86-91) is managing partner of The Elevator Consultancy which helps companies to grow and to manage their creativity (at least that's what it says on their website! www.elevatorconsultancy.co.uk)

Mike Wills (86-91) is teaching Maths in an evangelical school in California. He writes: The affiliated church is the Assembly of God although the school is officially non-denominational. I gather that this denomination has moved beyond evangelical into charismatic. Chapel services have been... an experience. The student chaplain often leads us in prayer. While her intentions are sincere, her delivery is interesting since every fourth word is `like'. I'd like to think that Douai boys were a bit more articulate although I probably give us a bit too much credit in that regard. After the student chaplain's prayer, we are invited to `altar call' which basically means going up to the front of the church and sing along with some Christian rock music while allowing God into our hearts. Not all of the students do this, not even the American ones. I'm not inclined to either. I doubt that I would have been inclined to when I was 13. It's just totally alien to my Roman Catholic experience which ultimately is still the branch of Christianity that I am most comfortable with. After altar call

we get to listen to a speaker. Most of the high school faculty get to be the speaker at least once but for obvious reasons I've been excused from speaking.

The reason that I am in chapel is to keep an eye on the students, especially the ones that act disrespectful. This typically means some of the international students who were not Christian to begin with coupled with those domestic students who are rebelling against their upbringing. As far as Christian rock goes- it really makes me appreciate Gregorian chant and English hymns.

Konstantin Eckes (89-92) is Director General of Lindt & Sprungli in Spain, based in Barcelona.

Tony Penny (86-89-94) is the International Competition lead at the Office of Fair Trading.

David Vickers (87-89-90) also lives in Japan; he works in Tokyo for a Japanese public relations and communication company. He hopes that this will develop into an opportunity for a career in creative writing, mixed with current affairs Japanese culture.

Michael Lynch (86-87-90) has left the Army. He was a Major in the 3rd Rifles, but his last post was Assistant Defence Attaché in Buenos Aires. He is now working for HSBC in London.

Duncan McClement (87-89-94) continues to serve in the RN as a Lieutenant Commander and having spent the last 2 years in a desk job in Portsmouth is now back at sea as part of the Sea Training Team for nuclear submarines based up in Faslane in Scotland. Aside from work he continues to referee rugby at a reasonable level for both Scottish Rugby Union though has been hampered by having to miss last season (2011-12) after snapping his Achilles tendon during a pre-season fitness test!

Christian Majer (89-90-95) writes: I still bump into Old Dowegians every now and again, most notably recent was Neville Wall at a random meeting in Heathrow Airport. It's a testament to the bonds of friendship that were forged at Douai that two people who haven't heard or spoken to each other for over 20 years can sit down for several hours and reminisce. I also enjoyed hearing about the story of Fr. Geoffrey performing the marriage service of Jeremy Cassar and his wife in Malta.

James McClement (88-90-95) has now qualified as a Small Animal Surgeon and is working as a referral surgeon specialising in small animal orthopaedics. He continues to be active in the fencing world although has given up competing in favour of coaching where he is already having considerable success.

Pablo Casado Blanco (94-95) is a Deputy in the Madrid Parliament for the Partido Popular for the Province of Avila.

Piers Nutbrown (94-99) is Publications and Online manager at the careers Development Group

Ronan Busfield (97-98) has been studying opera singing in Glasgow, after some years as a lay clerk at St George's, Windsor. He was also part of the choir which welcomed Pope Benedict to Westminster Cathedral in September 2010.

Benedikt Franke (97-99) is standing for the Christian Socialist Party in the German Parliamentary elections in September. He is also working for the party as a strategic adviser.

Kieran Brown (98-99) is a Captain in the Logistics Corps and is the Port Commandant in the Falklands.

Marriages

Adrian Hill (85-90) on 16 June 2012 in Ireland

Alexis Amor (86-91) at St Etheldreda's, Ely Place in 2012

Duncan McClement (87-89-94) to Trudy Somerville on 4 Aug 2012 in Glasgow

James McClement (88-90-95) to Lily Tran on 21 July 2012 at Woburn Abbey

Jonathan Lewis (94-95-99) to Trine Hoel in Normandy on 25 August 2012: Fr Oliver officiated

Philip Robinson (91-93-98) to Joanne Weetman near Florence on 18 August 2012: Fr Oliver officiated

Edward Botcherby (93-98) to Marie Elise Darge in Virton, Belgium on 24 August 2013: Fr Oliver officiated.

Geraldine Sheridan (97-99) to Christopher Ellis at Douai on 15 December 2012: Fr Peter officiated.

Births

Tim Benbow (80-82-87), a daughter Eleanor Marie born June 2012

Piers Hoskins (82-87) and Una, a daughter Kitty born in 2010, a sister to Paddy and Sean

Charles Antelme (84-89) and Margaret – a son Valentine on 17 November 2012, baptised at Douai by Fr Oliver

Andrew Narracott (86/88/93) and Rebecca - a son Benjamin born 2010, a brother to Maya (2006) and Lily (2008)

James McGinity (87-89-94) and Aine, a son Isaac born 21 November 2012

James McClement (88-90-95) and Lily, a daughter Amelie Anh born 7 May 2013

Robert Goldsworth (89-92-97) and Michelle, a son Samson Robert Demetrius Goldsworth born in November 2012, a brother to George

William Grobel (91-96) and Jo, a daughter Evelyn Susan Katherine, born 6 May 2012, a sister to Xanthe.

Luke Busfield (93-98) and Emma, a son, Evelyn born 2011

Thibaut Mervoyer (96-97) and Marine, first son Mathurin born 28 January 2010 and second son, Maxime born 25 December 2012

Benedikt Franke (97-99) and Sophia, a son Carl born 8 January 2012

Deaths

Desmond Carter (31-36) on 30 July 2012
Joseph Barnett (36-40) on 28 May 2013
Alec Cartledge (40-43) in 2008
Count Juliuzs Dembinski (42-43) in March 2013
Alan Blair (41-46) on 16 October 2012
Fr Romuald Simpson OSB (42-48) on 1 July 2012
Christopher Sheehan (43-46) on 20 November 2012
Matthew Ruane (46-52) on 9 May 2013
David Pendry (50-54) on 20 August 2010
Sir Brandon Gough (51-55) on 25 April 2012
Christopher Hince (51-54) on 23 May 2012
Frank Keating (52-55) on 25 January 2013
John Fletcher O'Donnell (49-52-57) on 17 October 2012
David Allanson (53-58) on 3 January 2013
Christopher R.P. Jones (53-58) on 13 March 2013
David Pugh (58-61) on 15 October 2012
Gordon Groundwater (54-59-63) on 28 March 2013
Chris McClement (58-62-66) on 17 November 2012
Peter Ashforth (63-67) on 5 October 2012
Ian Constantinides (68-71) on 15 April 2013
Nigel Furminger (74-79) on 27 December 2012
Kevin Maguire (Hon) on 2 June 2012

The following former members of staff have also died in the last two years:

Carmel Williams (Ditcham Secretary), Christine Walton (Girl's Housemistress), Chris Warren (Admissions Secretary), Sister Frances Martyr (Maths teacher) and Sheila Foss (Matron)

Obituaries

Peter Delaney (36-40)

Peter's brother **Brian (40-43)** writes: Peter went to Douai in 1936 and stayed until 1940 when he was called up and joined the RAF serving mainly in India and Ceylon. On return to civilian life he continued his studies qualifying as a Chartered Company Secretary.

Peter's years at Douai were happy ones - his interests were mainly in the arts, music and travel. He enjoyed his short acting career at school in the many Gilbert and Sullivan operas in which he took part.

Peter was a very active Catenian - being a member of the Association for 46 years - first in the Mid-Herts and later the Fleet Circle holding many offices.

In his retirement he played tennis well into his seventies with local Catenians. He was a member of the Douai Society attending many of the AGMs enjoying seeing his old friends. He also taught himself to play the clarinet and joined the prestigious Rushmoor Concert Band.

Peter was happily married for 62 years - he had two sons and 5 grandchildren of whom he was very proud. During the last two years of his life he did not enjoy good health, he was however well looked after by his wife Vicky and family. He died peacefully on April 13th 2011 just short of his 89th birthday.

His funeral mass was at St Michael and St George, Aldershot, the church he had attended for the last twenty years.

Frank Keating (52-55) – an obituary by John Samuel

Frank Keating, who has died aged 75, was the Guardian sports pages' prime columnist for more than four decades. Few modern sports writers have brought alive sporting people, past and present champions and also-rans, as Keating did. Few have written with such sympathy, able to laugh with them, not at them, at the same time minting fresh, inventive phraseology. He created a new language for the nation's sporting press. He was unique, and beloved by contemporaries, who saw his writing skills and awards as a guiding path for their own.

And yet, with inherent modesty, Keating, as he wrote in 2002, saw himself only as a Sancho Panza "sidekick" to the likes of John Arlott and Matthew Engel, David Lacey and Richard Williams, David Gray and Richard Baerlein, Pat Ward-Thomas and Peter Dobereiner, John Rodda and David Frost, all frontline Guardian sports writers over the years. His columns, he suggested, were the "wittings of a sports-mad whippersnapper", in which his heroes were heralded with schoolboy relish.

For many it was the Irish in this west-country boy that gave his columns an instant visual quality. Priest ("M'dear, much love ..."), scourge (Wimbledon, "the stench of armpits when it's wet and of armpit when it isn't ... Sorry!") and jester, he had an extraordinary gift for phrase and observation, people and places made sentient as rarely before on sports pages.

Never was it bettered than his homage to the ball in one Christmas column of 2001: "If not a reindeer on the roof, sheer excitement had woken me that wartime midwinter at dead of night. At the bottom of my bed was a brand-new blown-up, saddle-shiny, leather-fragrant football. From Ma and Pa – Happy Christmas. It remains a family legend, how, overwhelmed in childish delight, I proceeded to wake the whole household and frighten the dogs and neighbours by joyously, bashingly, slipping my prize around the bedroom's four walls and ceilings like a demented squash player."

His many readers could then expect the spread of verbals, as he traced the four-letter noun to the leather, sphere, orange, orb, globe, pill, pigskin, bladder, "thing". Then, relentlessly, cherry, turnip, crimson Rambler, fuzz, pea, pellet, puck, bead, aspirin and, finally, dimpled onion. Only Keating would have made it there. And then capped it with Ferenc Puskás's remark on Hungary's 6-3 victory over England at Wembley in 1953, "We would have scored 12 if your English ball hadn't been as heavy as a block of wet wood!"

Long Days, Late Nights (1984), a miscellany of Keating's articles from the Guardian and Punch (he also wrote extensively for the Spectator, New Statesman and Oldie), carried a foreword by Arlott, who remarked how an earlier book, Another Bloody Day in Paradise (1981), an account of the 1980-81 MCC tour of the West Indies, was one of the most admired by players. Keating's boyish enthusiasm was so well carried into maturity that men of both sides offered serious confidences. In High, Wide and Handsome (1986), he charted the progress of Ian Botham, England's renaissance man in the Ashes defeat of Australia at Headingley in 1981, but, typically, noted him equally for his epic walk four years later for a leukaemia charity – 874 blistering miles. As he reported, Botham gave a single-word press conference at the end of it: "Knackered!"

Writing about Botham in 1992 for the Guardian, he looked back 20 years to recall the MCC's grizzled old coaches, Harry Sharp and Len Muncer, thinking the gangling Yeovil youth might at best make a fair-to-middling, lower-order pro for a season or three. Then what? A carpet layer or a corner shop. Not their rustic, rumbustious pupil breaking every all-rounder Test record that was going, resurrecting the game as a sport and ending up as an estate-owning squire with columns framing the front doorstep, trout in the lake, horses in the stable, farm workers in the yard and a Mercedes on the gravel.

Such nostalgia permeated Keating's writing. On the 1980-81 West Indies tour, for example, although he would evaluate play professionally enough, he took particular relish in a visit to the Trinidad family home of Sonny Ramadhin, yet another of his boyhood heroes.

Keating was born on a farm in Herefordshire, son of Bryan Keating and his wife Monica (nee Marsh), and brought up in Gloucestershire. Boarding school with the Benedictine monks at Belmont Abbey, near Hereford, and Douai in Berkshire meant sporting nights listening to Raymond

Glendenning and Eamonn Andrews on the radio under the pillow. Briefly Frank was articled to a Cheltenham estate agent, before joining the Stroud News as a local reporter in 1956.

As a 20-year-old cub on the Hereford Times, he typed a report of a third-round FA Cup tie between Hereford and Sheffield Wednesday and posted it to the Manchester Guardian. It received a rejection slip from a Bill Taylor, thanking him for his trouble, but with encouragement enough to keep him trying for "the writers' newspaper" through stints in Guildford, Bristol, southern Rhodesia and Slough.

His breakthrough finally came with the Manchester Guardian's desire for national status and the need for editorial staff to back its London printing. So in 1963, Keith Harper, a longstanding Bristol evening newspaper friend, by now representing the Guardian in the west country, helped arrange an interview for him for a general subediting post – he got the job, at £5 a week, rising by two guineas a week after a year's satisfactory service.

In 1964, Keating joined Rediffusion television as outside broadcasts editor. Then, from 1968 to 1970, he was special features editor of Thames TV, but although two Olympic Games and two World Cups were a part of it, the ITV of the time was frustratingly outgunned by the BBC. Backed by freelance football reports for the Times from the 1970 Mexico World Cup, he applied again to the Guardian, this time to the sports desk, and was taken on by me, initially as a subeditor.

It was something of a return gesture. A couple of years earlier, Keating had given four journalists, including me, a commentator trial at a Crystal Palace schoolboy event, me a little frivolously, since I was on the verge of being appointed Guardian sports editor. Keating's prize, as it happened, went to a young British Forces Network lad named Barry Davies, who had studiously interviewed every boy beforehand.

By the time of Keating's appointment, Guardian sport had been given a major boost by the management's backing of a full horse-racing service, and money and some space to go with it. Now Keating went to work with his soft smile, teasing out precious seconds for essential corrections on the stone, the 70s frontline of printer and journalist over hot-metal forms. More importantly for his subsequent career, he enjoyed the sports department's gift of weekend football or rugby reports, those on Jimmy Hill's Fulham an early sign of his growing minstrel flair.

Manchester's earthier subeditors were not amused by a style they deemed more Daily Express than Guardian, but, to an increasing number of readers, it was obvious a writer of note was trying to get out. When finally, under Peter Preston's editorship, the budget was eased to find him "outside work", the question was: "What work?" Outside his writing Keating had dozens of different answers, among them freelance TV extras, such as the sporting interview series Maestro, for the BBC, a softly toned re-engagement with long-time heroes such as Len Hutton and Tommy Farr, which ran from 1981 until 1985.

By the late 1970s he was in full stride as a columnist: "What with rugby union championship, Cheltenham races and St Patrick's day, March is the month for brogues. In the Catholic church, Lent relents ... They could print the race card in Latin at Cheltenham ... Hey ho, what a darling jig the Irish bring to a prim place."

His careful interviews for the Guardian, "wheedling" as he put it, drew unexpected responses from some of the more difficult men of sport. He told of Brian Clough's hospital visit with a bunch of flowers for a newspaperman who had given him constant stick; and of Geoffrey Boycott, and what he really thought of Yorkshire, Yorkshiremen and of course himself. "Perrier? I'm English. Go out and get some Ashbourne water ... WG Grace? I've scored a bloody sight more runs than that bearded old bugger, I'm telling you."

There were plangent memories, too, of Alec Bedser, chairman of cricket selectors by the 70s, but his eyes a sad grey-blue in remembering Len Hutton's Ashes-winning tour of Australia in 1954-55. Sickly with shingles for England's disastrous first Test ("one for 131 but seven dropped catches, mind you"), Bedser was dropped for the second Test. "Funny bloke, Len. Do you know, when I was ill on that tour I was in the next room, but never once did he pop in and visit." It was typical of Keating to extract such a memory.

Fervently anti-apartheid, Keating rejoiced in having his visa blocked when covering the 1980 Lions

tour, with the South Africans claiming he had not filled in the appropriate forms. Less politically, his rugby sympathies were more for the Celtic nations than for any "swaggering squeaky English". But a day training with Will Carling's England squad helped put that right.

Anti-establishment and anti-apartheid went with the man, but the historian had his practical as well as human side. The England bodyline captain Douglas Jardine might suddenly be reappraised in the same good light as a Harold Larwood. Well, almost. Or he might remind readers that Scotland lost more "caps" to the first world war trenches than England.

Together with his first wife, Sally Head, a prominent TV producer, Keating in his middle years enjoyed the ample, arty life of Holland Park and the Chelsea Arts Club in west London. His classic Victorian terrace apartment was stuffed with books, displays of sporting pictures, and albums, all carefully notated. His table at the Ark restaurant nearby would be still going far into the night. For the Guardian cricket team, his middle-aged leg-break bowling could be a captain's last, desperate move in the over before lunch, his fielding such that in the fading light he might be buried at mid-on. But well into the evening his sympathetic eyes would be drawing out the opposition's life stories.

In 1987, Keating was profoundly happy to return to Herefordshire with his second wife, Jane. With her strong support, many a Guardian column followed. Quick-wittedly aware, humorous or nostalgic, his way with words never failed him.

One of the worst days of his life was in 1997, and Hereford's 1-1 home draw by which on goal difference they lost their Football League place to their basement rivals, Brighton and Hove Albion. His chief alternative recreation, growing roses, helped get him over it. Hereford regained their League place in 2006, and all was well again.

Keating is survived by Jane and their children, Paddy and Tess.

Reprinted from The Guardian of 25 January 2013 with permission

David Allanson (53-58)

Selections from the tribute delivered by **Mike Horgan (50-53-58)** at Douai 4 July 2013

*Large was his Bounty and his Soul sincere
Heaven as a recompense did largely send
He gave to misery all he had ...a Tear
He gained from heaven ,twas all he asked, a Friend.*

That was a quotation from Thomas Gray's Elegy in a country churchyard...one of Davo's favourite poems, and the words of which, for me capture some of the main elements of Davo's character. His unstinting generosity - his integrity - his complete absence of bitterness or malice - and his pleasure in making and maintaining friendships.

One of the principal elements of Davo's character not covered by the poet's words was his wonderful sense of humour: usually dry, often self deprecatory, and something he maintained right up to the end of his life.

Davo and I first met in September 1953, on this very campus..as new boys to Douai School.

We spent the next 5 years playing together in the same rugby and cricket sides as we went through the school, and from teammates we became good mates and then best mates.

After school and after qualifying, we got together in the mid 1960's for two years in London as flat mates and in the early 1970's for a further two and a half years in Nairobi as house mates..

The next 25 years were spent pursuing our separate careers in different parts of the world , although we kept in touch and our paths occasionally crossed..

It was only after we retired in 2001 that we had the opportunity to again spend time with each other.

For the most part of the first half of Davo's life Rugby was the dominant influence. From his earliest school days He was noted for his exceptional pace and he was a star performer in the teams in which he played. The culmination of his school career was his role as the pivotal factor in the

school's success in winning the Rosslyn Park Schools 7 a side tournament .

Davo was quickly signed up by Rosslyn Park and spent the following years in their youth development sides ,before making his first team debut in 1961. He blossomed to such effect that in the 1962/3 season he was selected to play in the final England trial as a member of the Probables; He was also picked for a select London Counties team scheduled to play the visiting touring team and he was by then already a regular member of his Kent county side. Davo was not the greatest tackler ,and perhaps his lack of robustness cost him an England cap , but with what he had he was still some player. His final rugby offerings were given to East African rugby .

By mid 1968 D was looking for change of scenery and a change of career. An old friend put him in touch with a lawyer who was a partner with one of the big firms in Nairobi.

The partner was also the president of one of Nairobi's main rugby club, the Nondescripts.

For 3 years David did what he did best...playing good rugby ,scoring great tries and making a host of friends along the way, , but when he left, among the host of good memories was his particular role in the Mombasa match.

If Davo's sporting prowess came down through his mother's side of the family, as she claimed – (she herself having been a Victor Ludorum in her school days), it was from his father that he learned the appreciation and love of fine wines

Davo's father was Chief Ceremonial Officer to the City of London corporation, which amongst other things, meant organising the Guildhall banquets for the great and the good...and the choice of food and the accompanying wines were an area of his expertise.

Davo once told me how his father had confided to him an opinion of a fellow golf club member with the words...

“I don't trust that man ..he only drinks when he is thirsty.”

David left Nairobi to return to Europe in late 1972 and after 2 years spent in Luxembourg at the Courts of Justice, David, made a life changing decision in going to Paris to enrol for a MBA degree at Insead .

Apart from enhancing his cv, he there met the love of his life Genee, whom he married in 1979 .

After graduating he worked for ITT in Brussels and was then transferred to Munich where Diarmid was born in 1980. In 1982 they moved to Atlanta Georgia and Hamish was born later that year. 1986 saw the family return to France ,and settled in Gex - just outside Geneva.

David and Genee ran private consultancies for 5 years until David landed the job he was born to do;- he became Leading Counsel for a sports marketing company affiliated to the IOC in Lausanne. The job involved leading a small team of lawyers in the negotiation of contracts with the sponsors of the big sports events , and Davo's legal and business degrees plus his own highly developed sense of pedantry...were ideally suited to the task.

Genee was the daughter of a prominent Cape Town family and Cape Town now became the destination of choice for the family's own holidays.

It was not long before David fell in love again, this time with the Country and he and Genee purchased a second home in Cape town, - a lovely apartment in the suburbs, and following her tragic early death in 2007, David spent increasing amounts of time there and was in fact applying for permanent residency status at the time of his death. This wish came to pass as he is now buried in C.T. alongside Genee in the family plot.

When David was in his late teens..his father proposed him for membership of the local golf club. A neighbour and close friend seconded the application , and in his commendation wrote....

“In all the years that I have known him David Allanson has conducted himself to HIS entire satisfaction”

How perspicacious was that? 50 years on and you wouldn't change a word... The expression comes to mind of “see yourself as others see you” D. loved that view of himself...and as a basically conservative guy, he loved to think that he was seen as a bit of a “Jack the Lad”.

However I shall remember him as a Special Guy, and a Special Friend.

Chris McClement (58- 62-66)

Chris' son **Duncan McClement (87-89-94)** gave this address at his funeral

11 years ago a man stood in a church, behind a lectern like this and in front of a similar collection of friends and family. He talked about a man who was not just a rock for those around him but the lighthouse on top of that rock; a visible sign that someone was watching out for them, someone they could lean on and a beacon for anyone requiring shelter from the storm of life. That day Dad was describing his father (**Reggie -32-38**) ; he could just as easily have been describing himself.

Dad was born in Hong Kong on the 15 Feb 1949 to Winnifred, a doctor, and Reginald McClement a Captain in the Royal Navy. After moving around the world and a number of schools from Wellington in New Zealand to Ditcham House in Hampshire he joined Douai School in Berkshire at 11 where he boarded for the remainder of his education and, judging by his school reports, really began to flourish; making those lifelong friendships that seemed to come so easily to him. Indeed one of his school friends is Fr Oliver who is conducting this service.

From there he followed in his father's footsteps joining the Navy at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth for his basic training and then on to RNEC Manadon to do his degree. Whilst there he went to a 21st birthday party at the Captain's house where he met the daughter of a Royal Marine General, whilst romance quickly blossomed, it did take three proposals before Pod said yes!

Scraping a pass in his degree, and with a distinction in rugby and socializing in his pocket he began his career in submarines travelling the oceans. At the end of the seventies Jamie and I came along with Daisy arriving a few years later. The family continued to move around the UK every couple of years with a quick jump across the channel for a 2 year stint at SHAPE (the NATO headquarters) in Belgium at the end of the eighties. This job in particular is one that has a special place with all of us, as not only were we having Superb Holidays at Parents/Public Expense, but we made some very special friends; though when a family of 5 spends 4 weeks living in a cabin in the mess and go on runs-ashore with the single livers in it is difficult not to! In the course of his career he rose to the rank of Commander with many finding it baffling that he did not go much, much further!

After taking redundancy in 1996 he joined MW Kellogg where, with the exception of 9 months with Westinghouse Rail Division in 2001, he worked until he died.

We quickly realised that there was no point in trying to work out why he had got cancer; he had it and all our energy should be about what we could do. He said to us, as he did to many of you on many an occasion, 'We are where we are'.

He may have left the Navy almost 20 years ago but it was always in his blood and there have been lots of military and naval analogies to describe what was going on. We had carpet bombing to describe chemo; precision attack as a euphemism for targeted radiotherapy; an all round look on the periscope to portray a routine consultation, but the underlying one that has been there from the outset has been the one of preparing to go on his last patrol.

Whilst there is no doubt that Dad won the moral fight against the disease, he did lose out in the end and ultimately we want cancer to be the one that loses. So we, as a family, will do anything we can to continue this fight.

I strongly believe that we haven't lost Dad; I just have to look at Jamie, Daisy or Bella to see that he is living on as part of us and who we are.

In the end Dad died, with all of us around him, as the clock struck 5; he was able to go peacefully and quietly, under cover of darkness and akin to an early morning sailing, leaving no evidence of his departure come daybreak; his final handover complete.

As we would say onboard; 'Dad; we have the watch'.

Ian Constantinides (68-71) – an obituary by Clementine Cecil

Ian Constantinides, who has died of cancer aged 57, was one of the most innovative figures in recent British architectural conservation. Through his company, St Blaise, he brought together the worlds of building and conservation at a time when the latter was seen as marginal and impractical. With St Blaise he worked on a huge variety of projects, from great castles to bridges and follies. He helped to restore Windsor castle after the fire of 1992 and rebuilt St Ethelburga's church in Bishopsgate, London, after its destruction by IRA bombing in 1993. Ian, a tall, wiry man with huge energy, also trained a large number of others – in his adventurous, hands-on style – who continue to play a central role in conservation.

He believed that each building held the answers about the best way to repair it if you looked closely enough. The human eye was the best tool, he would say, "better than the tape measure, the set square and the water level". The test of a good repair, he said, was whether it functioned and was beautiful. "If it fails in either, then it is not a good repair." He invited people from all the trades on to each building site and encouraged them to learn from each other.

Ian was born in Amritsar, India, where his father was an industrialist. At the age of eight he was sent to boarding school in England: first to a preparatory school called Penryn (now Winterfold House), near Kidderminster; then to Douai Abbey, Berkshire, a community of Benedictine monks. He sat and resat his A-levels, but when he eventually got them but he decided not to go to university.

Instead, he spent a year working underground in the Purbeck clay mines, went on to do an apprenticeship in precision engineering and spent a time working for the Atomic Energy Authority. However, by the end of the 1970s he had discovered his real passion: a love of Saxon literature, history, art and architecture and a particular interest in Dorset churches. He took a job as a trainee to the restorer and master builder Robert de Steiger and continued to develop his skills working with the sculptor and conservator Rory Young.

Ian set up St Blaise in 1982. Under his direction, it was involved in the repair of some 150 historic buildings. The company tended to operate at the highest academic end of building conservation, for English Heritage, Cadw (the Welsh historic environment service), Historic Scotland, the National Trust and the Landmark Trust, as well as major sites such as the British Museum, where it was involved in the conservation and restoration of the stone. At the time of his death, Ian was consultant to a conservation project for the James Gibbs building at King's College, Cambridge. It was St Blaise that replaced all the joinery at Uppark House in West Sussex after a fire in 1989. The carving was in soft Russian wood, one of the most difficult woods to carve due to it having been bent in the wind. To choose the wood, Ian went down to meet the boats coming in from Finland carrying Russian timber. He would pick out one piece in every 300 or 400. It had to have more than 24 growth rings per linear inch and fewer than five knots per square foot of surface. The work, when finished, was one of the greatest repair jobs of 18th-century wooden carving in modern Britain.

Passing Windsor castle in 1992, Ian called a colleague at St Blaise to say he could see flames. He was on the site while it was still smouldering. Despite the fact that his estimate was higher than the others, he won the restoration contract because he was direct and frank in the interview.

St Blaise ceased trading in 2002, but was shortly afterwards resuscitated by Stonewest Group. Ian was never a great businessman. He lost interest in St Blaise as the heritage industry became more established, even though this was to some extent due to his input. While delighting in the increasingly widespread care for old buildings in Britain, he despaired of the bureaucratisation that came with the growth of the industry, and a certain loss of idealism.

He started to travel to share his skills and worked for the Institute of Traditional Afghan Arts and Architecture, founded by the Turquoise Mountain charity in Afghanistan. He also went to Russia to look at village churches that were being repaired by the Village Church Society, to whom he gave

excellent advice.

Ian bought the Ebenezer Chapel in Burrowbridge, Somerset, in 1997. He repaired it beautifully and used the chapel auditorium to hold lectures under the title "Ebenezer Presents". Speakers from all over the country were invited to lecture on subjects ranging from Russian wooden churches, European opera houses and modernist poetry to the Soviet-Afghan war.

From an early age, Ian had a passion for restoring motorbikes and for speed. He often had to employ someone to drive him, since he regularly lost his driving licence due to exceeding the limit. He was also a fearless sailor, regularly sailing off the west coast of Scotland and on the river outside his house in Somerset.

For his funeral, Ian gave instructions that his coffin be made of scaffolding planks with rope handles.

He is survived by his wife Sarah, whom he married in 2007, his son, Bede, three stepchildren, two sisters and his father.

Reprinted from The Guardian of 28 May 2013 with permission

Douai Society Bursary Awards

Matthew Zasada (formerly Busfield) (94-98) was given a Bursary to enable him and his wife to take part in the HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes. He has been frequently in the past and thought that an account by a first-timer in his group might give a better idea of the experience. Here is the account of Patrick Kigal:

Thank the Lourdes for that!

My name is Patrick Kinal and I living in Dorking and have been going to Mass at St Joseph's since I was a small child. Last Easter I was at mass I and heard Matt Zasada speak for the first time about HCPT Group 1 and their annual pilgrimage to Lourdes with disabled children. I was struck by the idea of living my faith in acts of service and volunteered to be a helper with the group. Matt first travelled with HCPT at the age of 15 after hearing about the work of HCPT whilst a pupil at Douai School. Hearing of his experiences I felt I would be able to use my skill to help care for the physical and spiritual needs of the children we would be taking. Group 1 was made of 10 helpers and 6 children from around the local area. It only really struck home how important the work of HCPT is when we had the opportunity of meeting the children and their parents for the first time in the church hall and realised the size of the task ahead. The children had a range of needs including down's syndrome, learning difficulties and profound autism.

We set out for Lourdes on the Easter Saturday meeting at Gatwick at 6.30am! Everyone was excited and we all knew a huge adventure lay ahead both for the children, but also for me! I knew there were several hundred groups in HCPT but it was not till we arrived in Lourdes, that it hit me about how big HCPT is – there were HCPT groups from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and from as far afield as Croatia, Slovakia, the West Indies and the USA. All travelling to take part in this one special week and bring thousands of children with disabilities to Lourdes to give them the opportunity to learn more about themselves.

Throughout the week we had many different activities planned; visiting Bernadette's grotto - a time for thought and prayer; going deep into the historic Grotte Bethram caves; enjoyed a "Petit Train" ride around Lourdes seeing all the sights; visited the castle of Lourdes and climbing high into the tower; going to the village of Gavarnie high in the mountains where St Bernadette went to recover from illness, but most impressive of all going to the HCPT Trust mass with all the HCPT groups in the underground basilica which is the largest underground church in the world and filled by HCPT and their friends. My favourite day had to be going to the animal park where we saw a wide range of creatures from the birds to the bears and the children were even able to feed the goats! Every evening the group had a quiet time when we shared a moment of peace and reflected on the day that

we had shared. Group 1 also lived up to their name (and number) and came 1st in the regional sports day events!

Going to Lourdes with HCPT made me realise how important it is for these children to go away on holiday, be away from their normal routine and have fun in a safe and loving environment. With

the confines of their daily lives removed they seem better able to be themselves and forget the normal hardships of everyday life, something that was valued by the children and their families alike.

I have never been so proud of something that I have achieved in a group. The week was hard work with some sleepless night and running around after an autistic child who does not understand that we're just keeping them safe can be stressful. But a high five or a hug from one of the children made the difficult times worth it and my heart would melt when the little girl in our group with autism suddenly seemed to join us and would look me in the eyes and laugh and smile for a few moments before retreating into her own world again. Before we went to Lourdes Matt said we would be sharing a week of love and that we should open our hearts and listen for grace, and it was in such moments that I knew he was right.

When we arrived back at Gatwick and the children were picked up by their parents I could feel that something special was coming to an end and that I felt very proud to have been part of it and feel sure that it somehow made a difference to all of us who went to Lourdes. Although I still think about our time in Lourdes my attention has now turned to what can I do to make next year even more special and I know in a few months time the cycle of preparation will start again. I hope to part of that preparation and to share next Easter with another very special group of children and their helpers.

Abigail Morbi (97-99) wrote this letter to the Douai Society to thank them for her Bursary

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to say thank you very much for the bursary that you gave me, to allow me to go on a medical elective to New Zealand. I had the most amazing time whilst I was there, learnt a great deal and saw some incredible operations. I have come back invigorated and ready for finals and for starting work in August.

Regarding the latter point, I got my first choice job at Southampton General Hospital, doing an Academic Paediatric job. This means that I will be doing research in Paediatrics for 4 months of my junior doctor training. My first year jobs will be in Upper GI surgery, Gastroenterology Medicine and Vascular Surgery.

The experiences that I had on elective, both in the hospital and during my travels, have broadened my outlook, given me a better understanding of what I want from my career and life and have made me realise that I can do whatever I want to do and can achieve whatever I want to achieve. It may sound cliché, but I truly had the best 9 weeks of my life in New Zealand and I want to say thank you for helping to make this elective possible, by helping me to fund it.

I won't bore you with pages and pages about the operations I assisted in and all my travel stories, but I wanted to share just a bit of my experience with you.

I did the medical part of my elective from Monday 26th November until Friday 11th November, at the Hutt Valley Hospital. I was based in the plastic, maxillofacial and burns unit, which is one of the four regional units of its kind in New Zealand. As such, there is a large team of consultant surgeons, each specialising in a different area, such as breast reconstruction, paediatric craniofacial work, onco-plastics and burns. The unit is very well set up, with the new state-of-the-art theatres having been completed just before my arrival.

The team was very friendly and keen to teach and I attended teaching sessions at 7am every morning, before ward round. There were plenty of interesting surgical procedures going on every day, with at least 2 separate elective lists happening at the same time, as well as an acute list. I was able to scrub-in and assist in theatre every day and therefore gained a lot of experience not just in terms of learning about different conditions and their surgical management, but also in terms of improving my own surgical skills. This was a priceless experience, which has cemented my determination to be a surgeon and has improved my competence and increased my confidence in my practical and clinical abilities.

I made sure that I assisted in as many different cases as possible, to ensure I came away with a

broad understanding of the specialty as a whole. I saw paediatric cases, which included congenital vascular malformations, cleft palates and skull deformities. Adult cases included breast reconstructions, excision of lesions, such as skin cancers, complex neck dissections and tendon repairs. There was even a finger re-attachment, which took over 9 hours, to re-attach all the individual vessels and nerves using microsurgery.

I was lucky enough to get teaching from Professor Swee Tan, who is eminent in his field, not only for being a superb surgeon, but also for his contributions to research. His particular interest is in how to develop medical treatment for children with haemangiomas, to avoid the need for surgery. He allowed me to assist him when he was operating and made it clear that I was more than welcome to return to the unit if I wanted to do a PhD in the future.

I made so many friends on my travels and was over-whelmed by how friendly everyone was. They really went out of their way to make me feel welcome. I would be sat on my own in a café, and someone would come and sit with me and make conversation. Or I would be on top of a mountain, asking a kiwi lady to take a photo of me, and not only get the photo, but a tour-guide around the city and a new friend. Everyone in the accommodation at the Hutt looked after me and I already miss them. One of the registrars even lent me his car for a weekend, so that I could go off exploring.

In New Zealand, I had time to think and space to be on my own and I can't explain how refreshing that was. I had got so caught up in city life, being at university in London, that I had forgotten how much I used to love horse-riding and the outdoors. I did so many things that I have not had the opportunity or nerve to do before, such as an all-day hike up a glacier, a volcano crossing and grade 5 white water rafting. I felt healthier, more energetic, more optimistic and generally more content than I had felt in a while.

I would, without doubt, recommend that everyone visits New Zealand and takes the opportunity to explore the Fiordland, the rugged coastline, the beautiful beaches, the glaciers and the volcanoes of the Tongariro Crossing. I do not think anything can compare to the natural beauty of the landscape.

Thank you again for helping to make this elective possible. I know that I will be telling people about my travels for a long time to come and I know that the experiences I had during the 9 weeks that I was in New Zealand will stay with me forever. I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to go there and very much hope that I will be able to go again in the future.

Editor's note: Abigail wrote a full report of her elective with many photos which is available from me electronically: oliver@douaiabbey.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE 138TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DOUAI SOCIETY
held at Douai on 14th August 2011.

Attendance:- Michael Skivington; Chris Vale; Denis Hopkin, Kevin Murphy-O'Connor; Fr Romuald Simpson; Fr Oliver Holt; Michael Lockyer; Leopold Antelme; Charles Antelme; John Priest; John Beresford; Michael Treays; John Wills; Martin Kendal; Richard Sims; Christopher Simpson; Fr Bernard Swinhoe; Godfrey Linnett; David Albert; John Shaw; Matthew McCabe; Bernard Funston; John Hoshimi; Godfrey Caldwell; Brian Quinlan; Hugh Berry; Finbar Murphy-O'Connor; David de Freitas; John Kerr; Abbot Geoffrey Scott

1. Opening and Prayers.

Hon. President Michael Skivington opened the Meeting. In the unavoidable absence of the Society's Chaplain, Fr Boniface Moran, Abbot Geoffrey Scott led the meeting in Prayer and remembrance of all those Old Boys who had died since the last meeting, including:-

John Eric Ryan (33/35); Peter Woollett (29/31); Desmond Ryan (34/390); Peter Delaney (36/40); Peter Wallis (34/38); Michael Wauchope (37/42); Peter Pryer (41/48); John Waller (43/46); Robin Newington (52/54); John Cubbidge (55/60/63); David Pugh (63/67); Christopher Hamilton (63/68); Treffry Thompson (62/67/72); Richard Turner (81/85);

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were recorded for:-

Frank Keating; Quentin Hall; James Anderson; Patrick O'Donohue; Frank Hind; Tony Burton; Pat Chambers; Michael Lund-yates; Michael Pragnell; James Morris; Nigel Morris; John Burke-Gaffney; Tony Wills; Tony White; David Smallwood; Christopher Allanson; Carl Watkins; Hugh Sinclair; Bill Brister; Stephen Botcherby; Fr Boniface Moran; Aubrey Balhetchet; Fr Terence Fitzpatrick; and Alan Simpson.

3. Minutes of the 137th Annual General Meeting – Matters Arising.

The minutes, having been circulated before the Meeting, were duly approved. There were no Matters Arising, but Abbot Geoffrey took the opportunity on behalf of the Community to offer to the Members of the Society a warm welcome to Douai Abbey. He outlined some of the changes of responsibility among the Community during the past year and was pleased to note that it was in good shape, balanced by experience and a welcome infusion of younger blood. The highlight of the year had been the formal Opening of the Monastery Library, attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams and our own Henry Mayr- Harting. He offered the Meeting a conducted tour of the new Library after the lunch which would follow the Meeting.

4. Hon. President's Report

Because he had not had any opportunity to say any word of thanks to those who had elected him as Hon. President Michael Skivington started by saying how deeply honoured he felt to have been so elected. His father, his father's two brothers and two of his mother's three brothers were Old Dowegians and, had they been alive last year, would have shared his delight.

He referred to the three Bursary Grants made in the last eighteen months to assist voluntary projects by young people with Douai connections and encouraged anyone whose children or grandchildren were considering voluntary or vocational work to take advantage of this considerable benefit.

He welcomed the success of the first "tailor made" Old Boys Retreat run by the Community during the year and the intention to repeat the Retreat in the coming year.

He also referred to the proposed development of the old Cricket Pavilion by the Douai Park Users Association and the request made by the Association for volunteers from any who might have experience of raising money for development from bodies who make grants for sport projects. They

had also asked whether there was any Old Boy with surveying expertise who might be able and willing to carry out an inspection of the Old Pavilion with a view to preparing a report on its condition to assist the Association in deciding on what level of funding might be required. If a volunteer was available the Council would like to hear from him or her.

He promised that in the coming year the Society's Council would be taking steps to revamp the Society's Website with external expert advice about which he hoped to be able to say more next year.

There were three Bursary Grants in the year covered by the Accounts but none had been requested in the current year for regional or year group functions, apart from the annual "End of School" group reunion and the "George's Day" lunch which enlivened the year of the 1950's Old Boys and urged individual Old Boys to take advantage of the grants available for these kinds of functions.

Finally he recorded his own thanks to the Council who had worked hard to support him during the year and offered the thanks of all Old Boys present to Fr Abbot and the Community for their hospitality and care for the Old Boys not just at this Meeting but throughout the year.

5. The Hon. Treasurer's Report.

The Hon. Treasurer, Chris Vale, presented the Society's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010, prepared and audited by Berringer & Co., without charge, in memory of John Berringer (1952/55).

He was pleased to point out that, despite the lack of any School Leavers to affect the position, the accounts showed an increase of over £600 in the amount of Subscriptions received in the previous year which was itself an increase on the amount received in the year before that. He could only assume that this resulted from a delayed effect of Fr Oliver's extended mailshot containing reminders to non-payers sent out in 2008.

The Society's General and Bursary funds continued to perform satisfactorily, but were subject to fluctuation in response to market forces in an extremely volatile though depressed period and the accounts showed only a snapshot in time, and that itself had been taken two thirds of a year ago. Generally the finances were in good shape.

There being no questions the accounts were adopted on the proposal of David de Freitas, seconded by John Kerr.

6. Election of Officers.

The Hon. Treasurer, being willing to continue, was re-elected on the proposal of Michael Skivington, seconded by Kevin Murphy O'Connor. David de Freitas being willing to take on the duties of Hon. Secretary was elected on the proposal of Michael Skivington seconded by John Kerr. To provide the new Hon. Secretary with support during his first year in Office Denis Hopkin agreed to continue in the role of Temporary Secretary for that period.

7. Election of Councillors.

Kevin Murphy O'Connor's term as Councillor expired at the meeting and he was not eligible for re-election until next year, although it was open to the Council to co-opt him, if required, during the year. Chris Cundy, nominated by the Council to serve as Councillor, was elected on the proposal of Godfrey Linnett, seconded by Chris Vale.

8. Election of Chaplain.

Fr Boniface Moran, who was unable to attend the Meeting, but willing to continue, was elected Chaplain on the proposal of Denis Hopkin, seconded by Godfrey Linnett.

9. **Sports Secretaries' Reports.**

Richard Sims reported that it was practically impossible to raise a side for eleven-a-side Cricket because so few Old Boys now played Cricket, though he would continue to try and we would certainly continue with the Rick Byrne Trophy.

On behalf of the Golf Secretary, Aubrey Balhetchet, Denis Hopkin reported that the Reddin-Clancy Golf Trophy had been won this year by John Kerr.

10. **Douai Park Recreation Association.**

The enquiry from the Association, referred to in The Hon. President's Report, about whether a Surveyor from the Society's ranks could be found to carry out the required assessment of the state of the Cricket Pavilion was discussed. It was established that the assessment would have to be undertaken free of charge but with the right to recover reasonable travel and other necessary expenses. All present were asked to consider possible names of suitable "volunteers" and to pass the details on to the Hon. Secretary. The need would also be advertised in the next Society Newsletter.

11. **Overseas Members.**

It had not yet been possible to find a satisfactory method to implement the solution authorised at the last Meeting but the Council was investigating the position and the possible use of the "PayPal" internet system.

There being no other business to discuss, the Hon. President brought the Meeting to a close.

MINUTES OF 139TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DOUAI SOCIETY held on Sunday 12th August 2012 at Douai Abbey

Present: MA Skivington, JD Kerr, Fr Oliver Holt OSB, CJW Vale, CA Cundy, , DGVF de Freitas, GO Linnett, MM Mc Cabe, CJ Allanson RJ Sims KJT Murphy-O'Connor, DWB Hopkin, A Mc Lean, H Berry, R Brocklesby, B Quinlan, L Antelme, R Morris, B Funston, Fr Geoffrey Scott OSB, C Simpson, J Hoshimi, B Caldwell, J Beresford, A Fenn, A Wills, M Lund Yates, S Botcherby, T Price, Fr Bernard Swinhoe OSB, M Hoyle, J Shaw, J Priest & A Burton

1. **Opening Prayers:** Fr Oliver led prayers. Prayers were said for the souls of the following Old Dowegians whose deaths were communicated to the Society in the past year: Desmond Carter, Henry Duggan, Fr Romuald Simpson OSB, John Pendry, Brandon Gough, Christopher Hince, Chris O'Donovan and any others who have died unknown to us
2. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from A Balhetchet, J Burke-Gaffney, M Lockyer, W Brister, A Simpson, Fr Boniface Moran OSB, Fr Terence Fitzpatrick OSB & J Wills
3. **Minutes of the last AGM:** Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by D de Freitas and seconded by J Kerr and duly approved and signed
4. **Matters arising from Minutes:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Hon President's Report:** Michael Skivington reported on the two initiatives that have occurred in the last year: regular meetings of ODs of all ages and the Society website. Progress had been made on the Society's website thanks to help from an OD Roger Morton. An initial lunch at Armoury House proved to be a great success. Whilst this cannot be repeated at Armoury House in the future, Council is exploring other options. Michael reported on four bursary awards that Council had received reports on in the last year:

Abigail Morbi, Rosemary Wills, Matthew Zasada (Busfield) & Benjamin Napper. There was a second retreat for OD's and their wives on 9th – 11th December 2011. The Society contributed £10,000 to the Douai Park Recreation Association to help with the renovation of the old school cricket pavilion that was built as a memorial to those Old Boys who had given their lives in World War One. Thanks were given by Michael for all the support he had received from all during his presidency and for the Abbey's spiritual and temporal support. Thanks were given to the Council and particularly Denis Hopkin

6. **Hon Treasurer's Report:** Current account was £5,293 and Business Reserve was £2,051. Bursaries had been paid to Ben Napper and Matt Zasada for £200 & £1,218 respectively. The £10,000 cheque for the Douai Park and old school cricket pavilion was also paid. Various reunion subsidies were also paid. Income and expenditure was also discussed and it was noted that this was broadly similar to what it was last year. Investments had fallen in value, but this was in keeping with what was expected given the state of markets and as we did not need to raise any capital, this was not considered to be an issue. Generally the finances are in good shape. There being no questions, the accounts were adopted on the proposal of R Brocklesby and seconded by R Sims
7. **Election of Officers:** The following Officers were elected all were proposed by Denis Hopkin and seconded by Fr Oliver Holt OSB: J Kerr as Hon President, J Wills as Hon Vice-President, D de Freitas as Hon Secretary, C Vale as Hon Treasurer & D Hopkin as Hon Assistant Secretary.
8. **Election of Councillors:** Anthony Mc Lean and Liam Donnelly were elected as Councillors on the proposal of D de Freitas and seconded by M McCabe. M McCabe and R Sims were co-opted to the Council for the ensuing year.
9. **Election of Chaplain:** Fr Boniface Moran OSB, who was unable to attend the Meeting, but, being willing to continue, was re-elected as Chaplain on the proposal of R Sims and seconded by Fr Oliver Holt OSB
10. **The Hon Sports Secretary's reports:** R Sims reported that the annual Rick Byrne Trophy was the only regular cricket fixture and the family feel that this trophy has run its natural course, so there is not expected to be further cricket reports. On behalf of Aubrey Balhetchet, it was reported that Johnny Coombes won the Reading Clancy Trophy
11. **Park & Pavilion update:** Richard Morris (Hon Member having taught Biology at the School) reported that it is intended to raise the profile to enable the raising of £200,000 to update the facilities. They have appointed professional fund raisers and had a good fund raising event in the Summer with a match where Fr Oliver bowled the first ball. They have a wall full of memorabilia of the School to be looked after. There is an intention to make the facilities available to local schools, clubs etc who have shown a keen interest, including interest from 'Sports England' that channels funds from the various Lotteries.
12. **Any other Business:** Kevin Murphy-O'Connor asked the Society to consider funding either a cleaning of the gravestones or a record of the names in the monastic cemetery. John Kerr proposed a vote of thanks to Michael Skivington for his work during his two-year term as president; this was seconded by Godfrey Linnett and enthusiastically endorsed by all present.