

# Douai Society Newsletter

## Newsletter 2016

I would like to produce a proper Old Dowegians Newsletter (this letter is only a holding operation) but I have received very little news.

So, please send contributions about yourself, your children, or other Dowegians you know about.

Engagements, Marriages, Births, Deaths, Adventures, Awards, Dreams, Musings, Memories . . . All would be welcome, ideally in an electronic form (a convenient child or grandchild will help in this department).

Please send them to me: [oliver@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:oliver@douaiabbey.org.uk) or by post to Oliver Holt, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ

## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Foundation 1615 - 2015

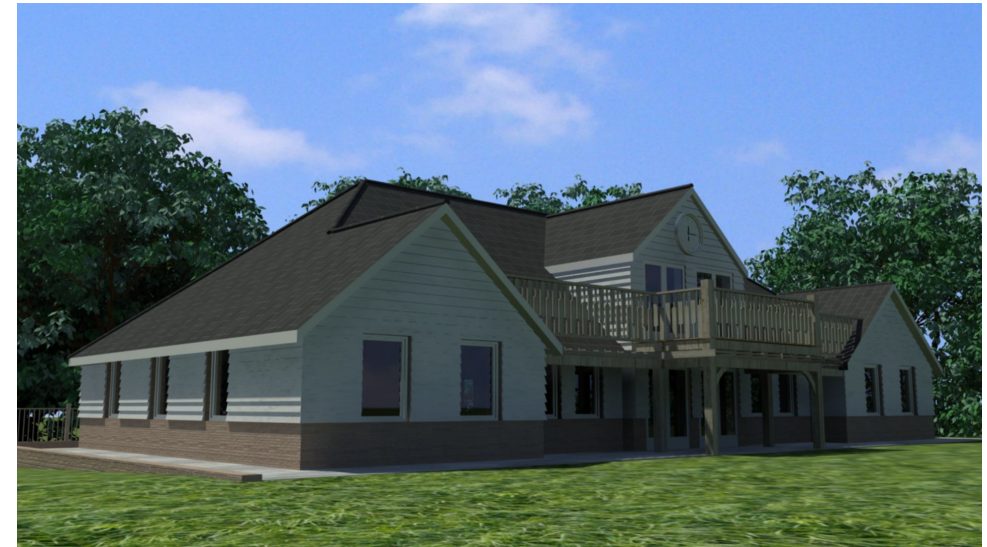
We have almost recovered from these celebrations but we have still have copies of the fully illustrated commemorative brochure available. Please send £6 (cheques payable to Douai Abbey) which includes post and packing.

## Monastery News

Fr Godric who was given the honour of Cathedral Prior of Worcester some years ago is to be installed as an Honorary Ecumenical Canon of Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 24 April.

## Contact Details

Every time I send something out to members of the Society, a few people reply and bring me up to date with their contact details. I would be particularly keen to know if more of you now have e-mail addresses which makes communication much simpler, quicker and **cheaper**. If you do have an e-mail address please let me know on [oliver@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:oliver@douaiabbey.org.uk) If you look at the address label which brought you this package, you will know if I do **not** have your e-mail address.



New Pavilion Design



Progress on site 18 April 2016

## **Message from John Wills, President of the Douai Society:**

I'm sure you recall those letters you once wrote home to your Parents, saying "Please send money!" Well the Douai Pavilion Appeal – after a year of campaigning, is still £26,000 short of the £100,000 target. £40,000 has been donated from the Society funds and £33,363 has come from 148 of you Old Boys. But that's just 8% of the 1800 of you who have been contacted by e-mail or personal letter. I have two points to make:

1. The construction is now happening – the new pavilion will be a reality.
2. The project to preserve the memory of our schooldays within the building has widened to cover, not just sporting achievement, but to mark achievement in all walks of life – in business, medicine, politics, the church, the stage as well as the battlefield.

With the construction now underway, we must complete the appeal this year. So please, come on chaps – dig deep, and help deliver our pledge. Go to: <http://www.findmeagrants.org/wberks/browse.aspx> type in the keyword "Douai" and this will take you to the Donation page. Alternatively send a Cheque to "Douai Park Recreation Association" at The Coach House, Upper Woolhampton, Berks, RG7 5TA All donations attract Gift Aid.

£150 from everyone will crack it!

Best wishes

*John Wills*

## **Memorabilia**

Two members of the Society Council, Chris Vale and Richard Sims, have been working on what will go into the upstairs room in the pavilion - to be known as the Douai Room. The idea is that this should include various memorabilia and archive objects which would tell the story of Douai School and not only its sporting aspects. Chris and Richard have spent time visiting other comparable school museums and trophy rooms and they are keen to collect suitable material. They have also absorbed the various

opinions and suggestions produced by the on-line survey which some of you may have participated in. Some people have already pledged items: an old school sign, hockey caps, and play programmes, but please contact Chris or Richard if you have anything to offer or practical suggestions including still or moving images, preferably by e-mail: [cvale8616@gmail.com](mailto:cvale8616@gmail.com) or [richardjsims@hotmail.com](mailto:richardjsims@hotmail.com). The plan is to make a short documentary film to form part of the display in the Douai Room.

Chris and Richard are also responsible for ensuring that the Pavilion's original function as a War Memorial remains very obvious to everyone who will be using it..

## **Future Dates**

### **Golf Day**

Derrick Reddin Clancy Trophy at Royal Wimbledon Club on Thursday 12th May.

Further details from John Kerr: [johndkerr@lineone.net](mailto:johndkerr@lineone.net) or 01344 776420

### **London Lunch at the Naval & Military Club**

There are now two regular lunches in London - always held on the last Friday in January and the first Friday in June. In January this year 25 Old Dowegians attended a lunch at The Star Inn in Belgravia. The June lunch is held at the Naval and Military Club in St James' Square and is also open to spouses. This year it will be on Friday 3 June and an application form is enclosed.

### **Douai Society Annual Mass, AGM & Lunch**

Sunday 14 August - application forms will be sent out in June/July

### **Douai Society Ties, Shields etc**

The treasurer (Chris Vale) has a stock of ties, cuff-links etc and in the past we have also had shields of the Douai coat of arms. None of these have been made for a while but we have been in touch with the manufacturer and they can be made, but probably only to order. We will have more news of this at the June Lunch or at the AGM in August.