



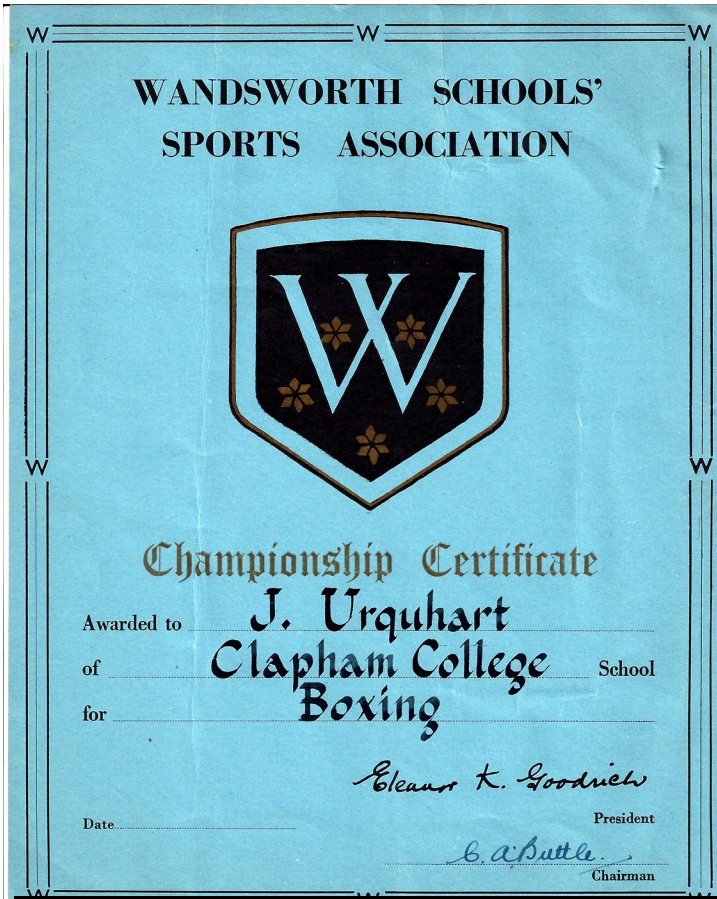
# Concordia



Spring 2021 - Number 23

John Urquhart

Clapham College Boxer



Lest we forget, the years Frank & Alan tended that Norbury pitch.

***This editions "add the caption" Competition***



***Clapham College "classic" - from Pat O'Connor ;also see Page 9***



*"The Brothers Taggart" - early COXA Golf Prize-giving*



*Whitbread Brewery Trip 1970??*



COXA Boys "bump-starting" the coach [and one praying]

***I recognise everyone in the photo - no names – unless “THEY” wish to write!***



***The “end” of a great COXA “Day Out “- would not have finished in daylight”.....***

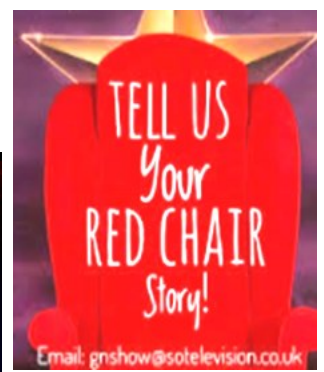
**Phillip Sanders marries Amy - at last a COXA Wedding for Concordia! and Tom Purcell!**



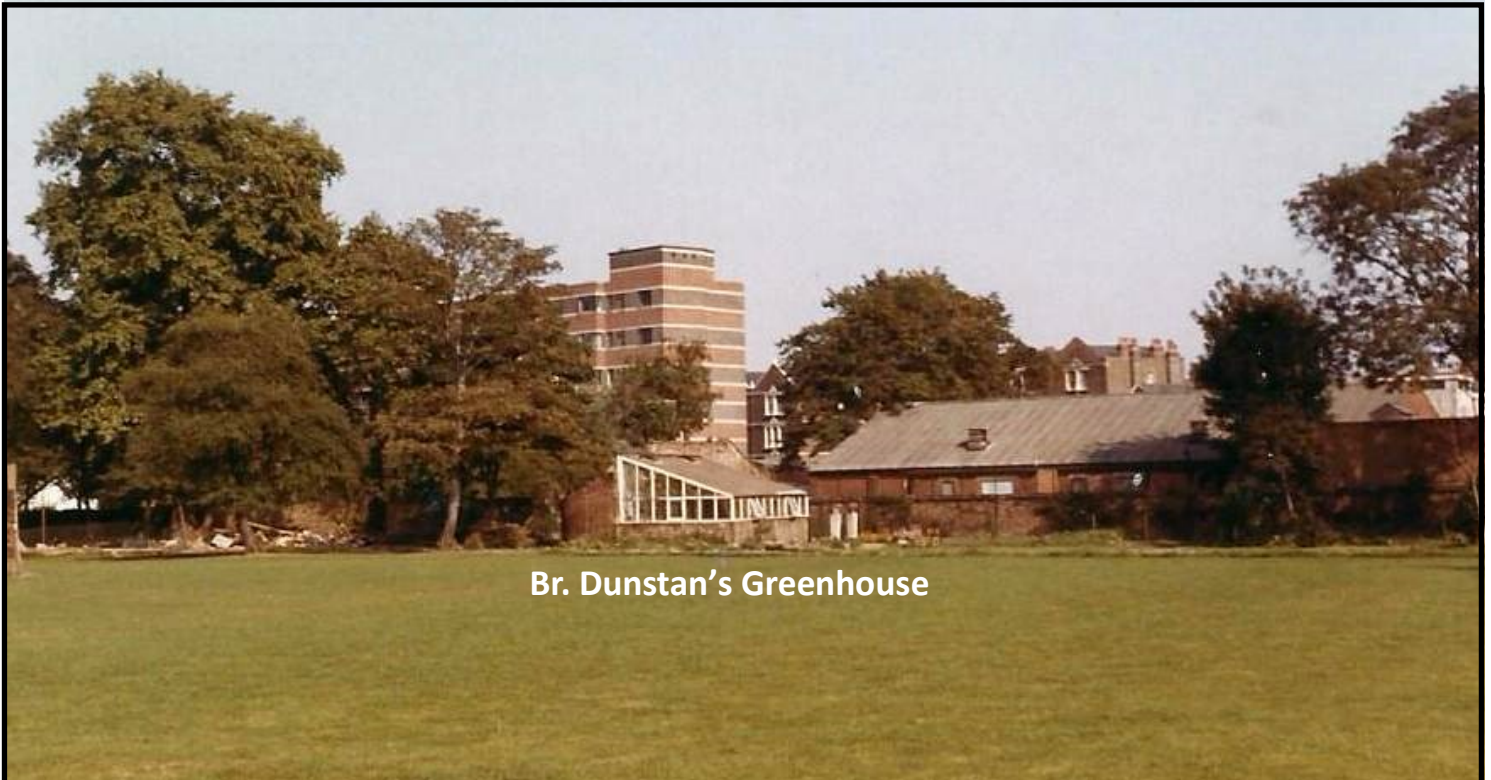
On December 11th 2020 **Philip Sanders** married Amy Clements at Woolwich Town Hall. Covid-19 restricted the wedding but COXA was well represented by Philip's Dad, **Brian** and brothers **David & Andrew** and [modern technology] **Stephen** in Vancouver. The party then assembled for a Champagne reception with photographs outside the Cutty Sark, Greenwich



Hi Scotty, I don't know whether this would be of interest but here's a photo of when I got to sit in the Graham Norton red chair in 2014. I didn't actually tell a yarn on screen, as I was simply there as a guest of the show's director, an old acquaintance. I've also sent you our Stamford Bridge story. Cheers, Tommy Purcell



*The view across the Paddock and Hollywood [from the Common]*



Br. Dunstan's Greenhouse

This beautiful piece of Clapham College greenery "The Paddock" now the site of SFX 6th Form College. The flats [the Westbury] are still there - the Police Block was demolished in 2019.



*Hollywood*

"Classic" photo - prefects at the window of the Prefects Room [in the 1970s?] - no names...



# Thoughts of Chairman Dave



## The Chairman's Concordia Message May 2021

Dear friends and fellow Old Boys, By the time you read this, opinions about “the current situation” have reached 60 million or 90% of the general population; the success of our leaders in getting a different opinion to everybody in the country who is eligible is truly something of which we can be proud. Now some good news; **The Chairman's Summer Lunch is on**, for the first time. It's slimmed-down and Low-Blether, but it will be an apt repêchage for January's losers. (I just wanted to type “repechage” and prove to Scotty that I wasn't just dashing this off.) See the website for details. It will sell out and maybe has done so by the time you read this. No complaints please, from less-IT-savvy types. The website is user friendly and your friends are in charge of keeping you up to speed.

Also by the time you read this, Clapham Ramblers will have arranged to ramble again. Kent footpaths will host 2 x 6 walkers and a Shoreham pub will bring beers and something to eat.

Your Committee have been meeting *even* more, and apart from one meeting, which your Chairman simply forgot about, and so missed, I can report that the Association is in great nick. Our Treasurer, Mick O'Sullivan deserves particular mention for his work on our finances and for securing Government assistance for our social headquarters at Norbury. Mick Power deserves a particular mention for doing absolutely nothing for The Association in 2021, on account of his retirement from the Committee after a lifetime of service to our Old Boys. We wish Mick (and Dot) the very best, and I can point you towards Dot's poetry on our website as an inspiration for those who wonder what to do once one has the time. More on Mick Power, anon. Ahead of us as you read this publication, is The Old Boys' Golf Day, Jake's Garden visit and a possible Mayfield Picnic. (Contact me/us if you would like the last to happen.) Battlefields Tour is off, obviously – France is closed, eh?, but that will be back next year, like so much. Enough of you reading this will have endured more tortuous privations than the past year has presented. It's almost behind us; I hope that we will enjoy each other's company again, and for a long time to come. Chin up.

Yours, **David**

[Chairman, Clapham Old Xaverians Association](#) [David Leathem](#)

[3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 - St Phillip and St James' Day.](#)

[\[ “Apostles!, and they have to share a day!” \]](#)



### **Apologies – on two counts ..bear with me...**

1. The poor quality of historic documents in recent Concordias.. there is a reason.. I wanted to share them with Xaverians as they are interesting [like the cricket score books, faded [and some in “pencil”] but worthwhile. When viewed “online” [which is how Concordia is collated] the quality is excellent. So please view on either of the **two Clapham Websites**, you can blow the documents/photos up to pick out the detail.
2. As I have said many times in the past Concordias I have been inundated by articles following my appeal last year, I had to “spread” them across three Concordias ..and when tidying up my emails, I found another half a dozen emails that I have not used .. but they will be published [some a year late]. Again apologies to those individuals [they were mislaid/not forgotten] KEEP emailing - **donmiamac1234@sky.com** **Scotty**

**Chairman's [SUMMER] Lunch 9th July 2021 - it's on!**



At the end of April, your Committee met to organise a **Summer Lunch** and although further arrangements (menu and capacity) are still to be confirmed, we need to move forward to inform Xaverians about the event. **The details are: COXA Summer Lunch at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ on Friday 9th July 2021 from 12 noon and Lunch from 1:00 p.m. The cost will be £50.00 per head.** This lunch will be a slimmed down event compared to “The Oval”. Capacity of the room is for **100 diners** with some 'wiggle room' if we exceed capacity [further negotiation with the Union Jack Club]. Early **booking and payment** will be essential in guaranteeing attendance. Full details will be made available once agreed with the UJC. **Overnight accommodation** will be available. Importantly a full bar will be available (cost of a pint is £2.80 and house wine £15.00 a bottle). **Further updates** to follow soon. **Check the COXA Website - Eddie** will be writing to our members shortly with all the information..... Keep in touch, watch the website - remember the limited capacity. Scotty

#### **XAVERIAN -TONY MINVIELLE ON**

#### **JAZZ FM [FRANK BARRETTA]**

Old Boy Tony Minvielle is to host a new regular Sunday morning Radio Show on Jazz FM starting Easter Sunday 4th April, 10am to 1pm Jazz FM is introducing a new look to its Sunday daytime schedule. Having previously hosted the late-night Sunday show 'Foldedspace' on Jazz FM, Tony Minvielle will now take the 10am - 1pm slot with a relaxed soulful selection of UK and West Coast US Jazz and Soul. Check COXA Website for the full article.



Even Tony's photo "oozes" Jazz

[Tony Minvielle - Article](#)



## ***A year late - not forgotten, just “mis-filed” - thanks Pat***

About a year ago I sent out a “plea” - the Chairman would say “a moan” to all Xaverians to send in their stories and photographs, as I was fed up researching Concordia on my own and writing all the stories. I was inundated by photos, documents and articles from over 40 Xaverians [over 10% of our Membership]. It’s taken me [and three Concordias] to publish everything received then, [144 pages!]. You’ve all been brilliant. This Concordia is the first for a year that hasn't been almost 100% “populated with documentation from last Summer. My point is not a “moan”, but a “plea”, would Xaverians like to dig through their old documents and photo and send me more? Last comment, apologies to **Pat O’Connor**, he sent me this message and photos a year ago “sorry it got buried”, Scotty

Scotty, thanks for the recent edition of 'Concordia' in which you asked if I had any photos etc. I've had a search through my old 'stuff' and have found photos taken in 1966. I attach an image scanned some time ago which you may or may not have seen. The photo below shows the new prefects, house captains and myself as 'Head Boy' taken around September 1966 in the saloon of the main house. I can put names to faces if needed. The photo on Page 45 shows myself, **Steve Toyne, Terry Shea and Tony Poplett** polishing the silverware before the prize-giving on the lawn at the College. I have about half a dozen other colour photos taken in what would have been July 1966 before the Summer break. These are also taken at the prizegiving and feature Brother Peter and other brothers together with **Messrs Gibb, Kidd, Pocock, Begley, Tope, Clegg** and others and an American teacher whose name I believe was **Lee**. And the pupils of course . **Pat O’Connor**.





Michael Rennie - Hollywood Actor - guest of honour.

This is a photo of him display during Michael Rennie Visit on College Fete [1946/47]. These gym displays were spectacular Pete is the one sitting on the ground [on the left and side] and **Fred Insole** is the chap in the centre - fantastic photos...



## Peter Steer writes from Suffolk

Primary School: Charlwood Rd Convent School Putney. I did the 11 plus but Sister Agnes at the school put all of us through the entrance exam for the College and we all passed. I remember **Brother Nicholas** was overseeing the whole process. I believe I started in 1944 when we went to Taunton and we were housed in Taunton School and I not sure whether it was 1949 or 1950 that I left and joined Barclays Bank before going into the Airforce in 1951.

**Family:** it's just my wife but I do have two children Suzanne and Robert. My family when I was at school was mum and dad two older sisters and my gran who I tended to look after as she was prone to fall over with blood pressure.

When I was at Taunton, I think I made a lot of progress as we had **Brother Dominic** for most subject and **Pat** and myself were with two families that encourage us but when we returned to Clapham, I felt the Maths and English was not as good as we had demobbed teachers, but most other subjects were pretty good. We were a lively bunch of boys and I think we all enjoyed the sporting activities although we did not have Norbury back then and played on shale pitches on the common. I used to ride my bike to school and go home for lunch, so I was doing 16 miles a day and was extremely fit as result.

I let you know the names of classmates when I had a think.....

Yes, I think you have covered all the Brothers I knew when at the College. I also remember **Denis Quin** as I used to bump into him the city when I worked in the City. He was as stated a very serious person who I imagine did well in whatever he did in life. I have put together a small list of people I would be interested in knowing what happened to them in life.

**Paul Gordon** my tennis partner

**Fred insole** My opposite number at full back

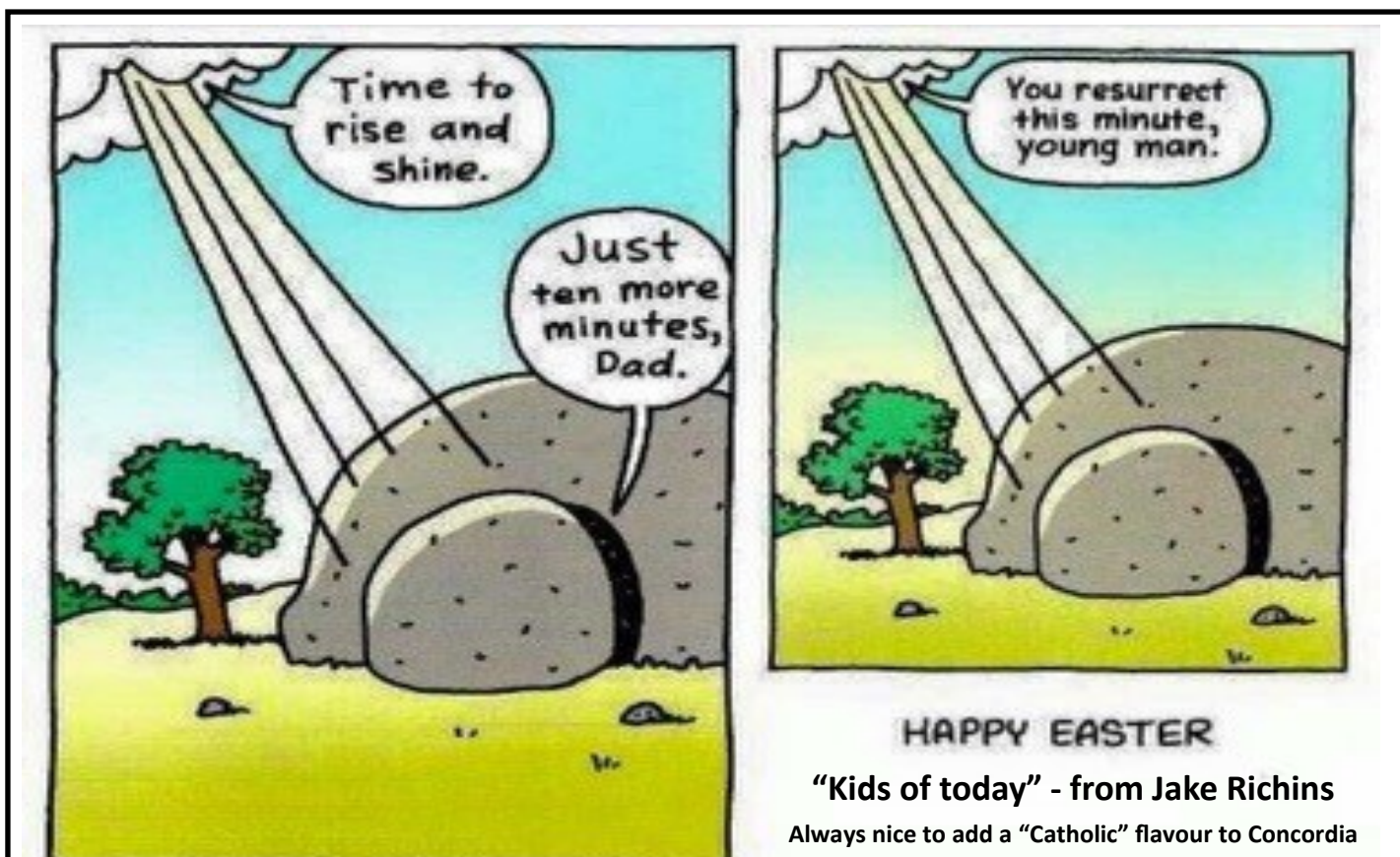
**Keven Carroll** Our right wing at school

**Eric Fone** friend whilst at Taunton

**Michael Gogarty**.....**John Humphries**, pal since junior school lived in Putney.

**Nigel Deveraux** also of Putney last seen at Hornchurch in RAF.

There are many more such as **Chris Swann** [RIP] but I am sure some of them are dead. if you know what happened to Chris perhaps you would let me know, **Peter Steer**





**COXA Rambling Society..**

In October 2020, the COXA Ramblers completed their fourth Ramble in what has been a challenging inaugural year, we've been blessed with the weather and the company.

Well inaugural is not quite true as the "COXA Ramblers" were an entity in 1929.

We started following the "walks" of the "Lads of '1929"....we tend to do only parts of their jaunts, they were up for the full day – 20 milers... our longest has been 8 miles and the shortest 5 miles, all very sensible and achievable. The routine, is morning start at a rural station, walk for 2 to 3 hours arrive at pub [for lunch and a pint [social distancing of course] and train home.

The average for the last three walks has been about a dozen Xaverians [and partners]... about twenty in all have dipped into the walks and I think there is a real disappointment if a " Rambler" has to miss a walk. The good aspect is the social nature, a mixture of Xaverians in terms of age, contact with COXA, wives and girlfriends, children and dogs...

The walks to date have been **Chipstead – Kingswood / Epsom - Epsom Downs / Mertsam - Reigate Hill / Leatherhead – West Humble**

Maybe it's rose-tinted glasses but everyone seems to have enjoyed every walk.

I haven't taken a register but here are the names I remember; I'm sure any I've missed will correct my omissions...

David Leathem, Dan Condon [and myself], have made all four to date, also joining us have been Tom Mcloughlin, Chris McLoughlin and family, Mick and Bina Mcloughlin, Vic Roszkowski, Paul West, Lynn Leathem, Sharon Mansell, Mike Collins, Eamon Kearns and Dennis Myers, Aiden Coletta, Paul West, Mick Burke .... Sorry for those I've omitted .. will add in the next Concordia.

It's a great "new" venture, good company and we visit some beautiful parts of the South of England. What makes it special is that we are following in the "actual" footsteps of Clapham Old Xaverians 90 years ago... this is a great Association....enjoy it.... All Xaverians are open to join us, all walking abilities, all ages, varied sense of humours and speaking styles, once we are allowed we have at least another dozen to savour.

## Stella Flannery, Principal of St Francis Xavier College, 2010- 2020.

### The Chairman's Lunchmate

Old Xaverians, there are many among you who would say that lunch with your correspondent is an unalloyed Bacchanalian and Epicurean joy; Stella is not one such. I have been delighted to sit in Stella's company on the last Friday of January on six occasions. My language and my "management style" vis a vis the "live running" of the Lunch are not best suited to the cultured ear, and my esteemed guest has displayed levels of diplomacy and stoicism that would impress the Ancient Greeks themselves. My "jokes" have brought forth Job-like demonstrations of patience and tolerance.

Notwithstanding, we have become very friendly acquaintances over the years, and since this is not about me, I will identify the sources of my admiration. This Association has endured many years after most such institutions are long past their "sell-by-date". Stella's pro-active support for the Association is a cornerstone of the continuing relationship with St Francis Xavier College, a vital (vital) ingredient for The Mass, and a link from the School, its Governors, and the wider Diocese to our Lunch which is fundamental to the success of the Lunch and the continuing health of the Association which the Lunch nourishes.

I hope that Stella continues to grace our table for many years to come.

**David Leathem**

### **Stella Flannery, Principal of St Francis Xavier College, 2010- 2020.**

In 1985, SFX opened on the site of Clapham College, which moved to Battersea, then closed in 1987. The archbishop at the time chose the College name - Francis Xavier - a move which met the approval of our Old Boys. SFX inherited from the College the extensive new block, built in 1975, the grounds, but not Broadoak, although the Diocese leased it back to SFX. Hollywood was leased out for a while to the Sisters of Notre Dame, then to Oliver House, a private school.

The first principal of SFX was **Bryan Snalune**. He was succeeded, in time, by **Bernie Borland**, who retired in 2010. Those years since 1985 were years of great success and financial stability for the College. For the first 20 years of SFX, there was a personal link with Clapham College - **Denis Quin** was a Foundation Governor - and a very influential and respected one too. When he retired in 2005, the Diocese appointed me to replace him, presumably to keep that link with the old Clapham College.

In 2010 **Stella Flannery** became the new principal of the College. She was the unanimous choice of the governors, especially as her experience was outstanding - an Oxford graduate, a teaching career (English) in a variety of schools, including Ernest Bevin School, in Tooting, where she taught the current Mayor of London. However it was her experience as Vice Principal of St Charles Catholic 6th Form College in North London, which made her the ideal candidate. She was the first female principal of the College. By 2010, SFX had changed from the College run by Stella's predecessors - as a result of the Diocesan plan of 1985, all Catholic secondary schools in South London lost their Sixth Forms, with those pupils going on to SFX or Christ the King College for Sixth Form. However by 2010, nearly all secondary schools had their own sixth forms back. Stella's new recruits now came from over 50 schools. Her response to this was to press for the highest academic results, and to maintain the Catholic ethos of the 1400 strong College.

Another problem in the last ten years has been funding for 6th form colleges, which has not kept pace with the needs of an Inner City college for 16-19 year olds. Again, typically, Stella worked hard to provide the best for her students, even with reduced resources. The result of Stella's magnificent leadership has been that the College that she handed over to Graham Thompson last September, is strong in numbers, has excellent results, is rated ' Good with Outstanding Features ' by Ofsted, is a caring Catholic community, and displays to all visitors a calm, welcoming community.

As Old Boys, we all worshipped in the school chapel. Five years ago, Stella concluded that it looked tired and in need of restoration. As public money could not be spent on it, Stella formed a partnership with the OXs to share the costs of renovating our chapel. We see the magnificent results every year at our Remembrance Mass ( including the Remembrance Plaques, which display the names of our War Dead.) It is a tribute to the closeness between Stella and the Old Boys, that she and Howard are ever-presents at the Mass.

Finally, Stella was always present at the Chairman's Lunch at the Oval each January. She knew she would be the subject of jokes about alcohol, she knew that she would hear dubious stories, but she still attended - hopefully because she knew she was amongst friends. It is one of the ironies of the Lockdown, that the Clapham Old Boys have not had the opportunity to thank Stella for her outstanding work as Principal, and to invite her to our next Chairman's Lunch !!!! **Colin Garvey** .

## Another tribute to Stella - from Eddie O'Brien - COXA's Secretary

Over the past decade my correspondence with Stella has always been cyclical. Asking permission to use the College Chapel for our annual mass in the autumn and our regular invitation inviting Stella to the Chairman's Lunch in the new year. As the reader knows these events form the bedrock of COXA's social and religious calendar. The annual mass over recent years has been elevated to a higher level due to Stella's vision for the chapel. We now visit a truly beautiful place of worship which Stella had redecorated a couple of years ago. The colour scheme is brilliant. The stations of the cross have also been reinstated giving the chapel a feeling of completeness. Without hesitation Stella has always allowed the Association use of the chapel and made the refectory available for pre and post mass refreshments. Stella and her husband Howard have always attended our Annual Mass of Remembrance.

When the Chairman's Lunch comes around I'm always pleased to receive Stella's acceptance. It's small way for the Association to say 'thank you' for being our good friend.

I hope that during her retirement she won't be a total loss to Catholic Education.

Eddie

## ***And now for something completed different.....***

Colin Garvey was clearing out his emails recently and discovered one from **Phil Gray** (who passed away three years ago). Phil had left a joke and hopefully his brother **Tony** won't mind, but we thought it was worthwhile sharing:-

***A grey haired very, very, dodderly old man turned up at the Dorchester Restaurant with a young lady companion. He was offered a table by the Front of House and asked if he was there for a special occasion. His young lady friend said no they were just enjoying a night out together. When "pushed" by the maître d', the young woman confided that her companion was the very last survivor of the Battle of the Somme. This created a wave of interest throughout the restaurant and he was told to order anything on the menu "with the compliments of the House". At the end of the evening of high dining and excellent table service, the maître d' with his entire staff made a guard of honour for their esteemed guest. Obviously overcome by all his attention, the old man turned, gave a broad grin and uttered "Danke Schoem, Mein Freund"..... [whoops] ..... [Thanks, Phil]***

**Pages 13 & 14 are a tribute to our oldest Xaverian, Bernard Fincham, who died, aged 97, in February this year. After a long break Bernard "re-joined" COXA seven years ago and wrote a lovely account in one of my earliest Concordias about his time serving in World War II. Below is a "snippet" of a lovely letter written by his daughter Angela to her....DAD**

**"LETTER TO MY FATHER"** - Dear Dad, I'm sitting in my garden on the first day of Spring looking for inspiration. And then I realised it's all around me. I'm smelling the honeysuckle bush which started life as a cutting from your garden at Braemar Gardens, cuttings that were lovingly nourished and given all they needed to grow tall and strong. Leading me on to think about the way you loved, nourished and tended to every need of your wife and children and enabled us to become strong and well cared for. Then at the weekends we would all traipse up the road to Clapham Common to watch you play football. Later, you always found time to take us out as a family on a Sunday afternoon and we loved our trips to Richmond Park or Wimbledon Common where you once got arrested for gathering firewood, or picking blackberries – I can't remember which it was. The park ranger told us that they belonged to the Queen and he let you off with just a warning. You, who was as honest as the day is long. We never, ever heard you say a bad word about anyone, although you did come close when Donald Trump was on the news.....

[apologies Angela, I just ran out of space, Scotty]

**++ Bernard Fincham Rest in Peace ++**



# A Celebration of the Life of Bernard Fincham

## COXAs oldest "Old Boy" 5th Oct 1923-19th Feb 2021

Scotty, I have attached various bits and pieces on our Dad. Feel free to use it as you want to. Have also attached 2 photos – one recent, Dad doing his favourite hobby, gardening and an older one from his army days. The third photo is a copy of his School Report. I tried to save it the right way up but the computer said "No!" Angela and Clare {Bernard's daughters}



Bernard, and his new bride, Anna on their honeymoon.

From  
The Head Master, Copham College, London, S.W. 4.

8/8/40.

### Bernard's School Report 1940

*Bernard Fincham has completed the usual school course up to School Certificate Standard and is awaiting the result of his examination. He is a steady, reliable youth of good ability, and he is also good at games. His behaviour has always been very satisfactory, and he is of excellent character.*

*J. Barry.*

# The Bernard Fincham Story

**Born 5<sup>th</sup> October 1923 to Louise and Frederick Fincham at 14 Spencer Road, Battersea, SW11**

Bernard attended Clapham College School until his evacuation to East Grinstead in of World War 2. At the age of 18, Bernard was called up for military service and joined the Royal Armoured Corps 55<sup>th</sup> Training Regiment as a Gunner Operator. He recorded in his Diary on 10 July 1944 “This looks like it. Tanks loaded on by 5pm and off we go” and continuing later: “Took a last sad look at dear old England. I wonder how many of us will come back.” He did, of course, took up his romance with Anna Furey, whom he married in 1950. They settled happily into married life at Elspeth Road. Their first child, Marianne, arrived a year later, then Angela, Veronica, Bernadette & Clare. Bernard and Anne were together for 62 happy years, the family expanded to 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Hi Scotty, Just some words about my Dad. He was born Bernard Rudolf Fincham on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1923 in Wandsworth, the eldest of three brothers and one sister. He attended Clapham College in September 1935, having been awarded a Junior County Scholarship, consisting of “free tuition and the use of books”. Brother Bernadine was Headmaster during most of Dad’s time at Clapham College, with Brother Pious being his Form Master in Year V. When the War started, Dad was evacuated to East Grinstead and billeted with a local family, although he used to cycle home every weekend to East Hill in Wandsworth to see his family. Dad’s last School report was written in August 1940, during evacuation in East Grinstead. When Dad was called up in 1942 he became a “tankman” and trained as a gunner/radio operator. Coincidentally, Dad came across another Clapham Old Boy, **Bill Bailey**, who was two years older than him and was in the Military Police, they went through the War together. During the War he took part in the Allied Pincer movement of the French Falaise Pocket – notably the Dives Valley, described by C-in-C “Ike” Eisenhower as “one of the greatest killing grounds” ever experienced by any sector of the war. When the War ended Dad was transferred to the UK to work in the British POW camps. He was finally released in 1947 he took up his friendship with Anna Furey and went on to marry in 1950. Dad very enjoyed keeping up-to-date with the various happenings of the old Xaverians and attended many reunions. In his later years, living in his care home at Coloma Court, he was obviously not able to attend any events, but avidly read and kept his issues of Concordia. I even found one from December 1945 containing the Victory Newsletter and the Roll of Honour. (This left me feeling very sad, but also very proud of my country – at least Dad returned home from the War physically sound). During the Covid Pandemic, we were not allowed to visit Dad in his Care Home, so communication had to be by “window chats”. Fortunately, we were able to keep him well supplied with books and jigsaw puzzles. He survived an attack of Covid, totally asymptotically, but old age caught up with him and Dad died peacefully in his sleep on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. 21, aged 97 years. He was very much loved and will be sorely missed. **Angela**



## Action shots from the Hudson Album

Three "Action Shots" from the **Graham Hudson** Clapham College Album. Graham's photos tend to focus on football and camping trips. I have included about half a dozen snaps in this edition [see also the "colour" section. I'm sure Graham [who was just their "part-time" coach can name all the players in the soccer teams]. They went on to wing national glory in schoolboy football - heady times. Congrats. Graham.



A "Hud selfie" - always that "hint" of West Ham in the kits!



Steve Curtis seemed to be a favourite. Breaking out of defence [above] and then heading off the line [left]

Steve Curtis clearing off the line

## “Mad” [Father] Vlad - the Clapham Old Xaverian Appeals....



### Organ Renewal Endeavour (CORE)

Our very own Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann, is stepping up to the challenge of raising funds for a new Chapel Organ at St Mary's University. **Vlad has always “GIVEN” to the Old Xaverians for ONCE he is ASKING** - Vlad says ...I woke up this morning with a slightly mad idea, now God is in/at the centre of everything, so at SMU that central presence is symbolized by the Chapel. It's voice – the organ – is silent. That voice needs to be restored. We need £500,000 to achieve that restoration – for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SMU in 2025.

To raise those funds, given my **52 years of priesthood and 83 years on this planet** (82 breathing, + 9 months in my mother's womb; rounded off to next integer); I plan to walk **52 circuits of the Sir Mo Farah running track for 83 days**; possibly - 5 a week =16.6 weeks. Currently, my plan - after 17<sup>th</sup> May [Boris's next Step Down] and as 20<sup>th</sup> [Comic Relief] - is to start Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

I intent covering 52 laps x 400meters = 20.8 k = 12.9 miles. At 4mph, that - with a comfort break or two - would take some 4 hours a day: 10.00am-2.00pm)

So, 83 days x 52 laps = **4,316 laps**. (Total distance around **670 miles**; some **25 marathons**).

To Reach £500,000 each lap would need to be sponsored to the tune of £120.

Please—“Sponsor a lap – or a multiple or fraction of one - for Fr Vlad”, “Old Xaverian”.

(Sponsorship of a full day = £120 x 52 = £6,240)

\*\*\*\*\*

### And from SMU:

**Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann is raising funds to support the replacement of the Chapel Organ at St Mary's University, Twickenham.** We have several ways detailed below, online, and off, by which you can support the fund with a gift.

If you have any questions about the Fund, or would like some help making a donation, we can be contacted at [development@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:development@stmarys.ac.uk)

### Donating Online via JustGiving

Donations may be made via our main JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/SMUChapelOrgan](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SMUChapelOrgan)

### Donating Online via our Website

You may make an online donation by card or PayPal online, via our website: <https://estore.stmarys.ac.uk/product-catalogue/development/donations/chapel-organ-fund>

By donating online, you will have an opportunity to allow us to claim Gift Aid.

### Donating by Cheque

Please send your cheque, payable to 'St Mary's University' to: Finance Office, St Mary's University, Twickenham, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4SX.

Please include a note with your name, address and contact details, and state that you'd like your donation to go to the “Chapel Organ Fund in support of Father Vlad”

If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please complete a Gift Aid Form, and send along with your cheque.

**Contact Us** You can learn more about the fund by visiting our JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/SMUChapelOrgan](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SMUChapelOrgan) .... **See update [overleaf]**

Just before this edition went to print Vlad gave us this update....

Today, I completed the first 52 laps.

Starting just after 10.00am they took just under four hours walking.

First hour I was entertained by young children laughing, screaming, shouting as, under the guidance of their coach they played at sport.

Second hour Dr Abbe Brady accompanied me and filled me in on Covid tests on site before any future walk.

The last two hours were helped along by Beethoven on Spotify.

Weather cool, 85% overcast. Dry.

Knees seized up while waiting 23 minutes for a number 33 bus to take me to Richmond!

I plan to return next week and spend time with sports science staff on nutrition, massage and the rest before taking another 52. Only 82 more days to go

Vlad [Prof. Msgr. Vladimir Felzmann, Dedicated to CORE] (Chapel Organ Rebirth Endeavour)@ SMU. Visiting Professor, St Mary's University (SMU).

Vladimirfelzmann@rcdow.org.uk

Yesterdays are taken. ....Today is mine to take.

## JAKE'S GARDEN VISIT

Time to get the sun hat, the sandwiches and that fine bone china mug for a cup of tea, we are off to Jake's Garden. Put it in your diary now!

**CONFIRMED** - Jake's Magnificent Garden Visit will take place on Saturday 26th June Chauffeur's Flat, Tandridge Lane, Tandridge, Surrey, RH8 9NJ [11am in Jake's Garden] (The Chauffeur's Flat) in Tandridge. Bring a picnic and mugs for tea, he would love to see his COXA friends. Numbers will be limited to 20, so please email Scotty if you wish to come along. email [donmiamac1234@sky.com](mailto:donmiamac1234@sky.com)

Jake has an award-winning garden and he and Carole are fabulous hosts... we drop a few pence into a bucket for their charities and COXA gets a Private Showing. The dozens of us who have been in the past will reiterate what a great day it is....there is a rumour that he might make some of his famous rock cakes if we're lucky!

Go to the Website "Jake's Garden - YouTube Video" and photos from previous years

Coming out of lockdown and the COXA social diary is filling up, don't miss out on meeting up with your old friends again. Dates for our upcoming social events:-

**Tuesday 11th May 2021** - the COXA Ramblers are planning another classic walk.

**Saturday 22nd May 2021** - Bumper Saturday 'Legends' social event at Norbury. We need you down at the Club to support our COXA sides in their last games of the season. Come along

**Friday 25th June 2021** - COXA Golf Day at Surrey Downs Golf Course will go ahead as planned. We have tees booked from Noon-1:30 pm. Refreshments on arrival and a light meal.

**Saturday 26th June 2021** - Jake's Garden Visit - Email [donmiamac1234@sky.com](mailto:donmiamac1234@sky.com)

**Friday 9th July 2021** - COXA Summer Lunch at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ from 12 noon: lunch from 1:00 p.m. The cost will be £50.00 per head

*John Rudd's photos then John Urquhart writes*



Scotty this is one of my favourite school-day photos was of **Steve Bradford** [RIP 2013]. **Mike Piese** and **Jim McMahon** supping Coke at Hastings from Mayfield Camp in 1959. In October 2004 when I met up with Steve in Spain on the initiative of Mike I found Steve had changed so little in appearance and personality. The three of us took another day trip, this time to Tangiers and I could not resist another snap when the pair of them sat with another Coke. At the time I still had a dreadful hangover and was still on water, **John Rudd**



Now I've had to spread **John Urquhart** across 3 sides [four if you include the Front Cover] - boxing stories to follow from John!

Xaverians responses are not always "instant" **John Urquhart** comments on this photo Page 21, Concordia 11, 2016, **yes, 2016** [see it and others under Publications, on the Clapham Archive Website—<https://www.claphamoldxaverianarchive.com>]



***PTO for the rest of John's story and photos***



Dear Scotty, some ramblings from a mature gentleman. Please answer a question that often comes to mind. How did Clapham College morph into a state school from a private school? The first group passing the 11+ would take up the first form and presumably the other forms were either empty or taken up with private pupils none of whom would be new after 1945. When I joined in 1950 there would be enough state pupils to fill the school but what was the process moving from private to state? **Answers please to me.. [Scotty]**

**Continued from Page 15...**Hello Scotty, On page 21 of Concordia Winter 2016 - Number 11 you said no "Scooby" to two photographs. The group on the left which was taken on the steps of a church in Paris during the Easter holidays. Here are some other photographs from the same trip. It was the school trip to Paris in Easter 1955. I was in the fifth form and I imagine it was for fifth and sixth formers only. I am the one in the centre with glasses and the smart cardigan (black & yellow if I remember) - the handsome fellow behind me looking to his left is Montangees [**Peter Montaganees?**] (probably Fourth Form but bright) - I do not remember the name of the fellow (with the open neck checked shirt) behind him, also looking to his left but he features in the photo attached - to Cecil's right looking glum with open neck shirt is **Paddy Sullivan** - in the first row second from the right is **Mick Ivers** with light open neck shirt - perhaps the fourth form were included in which case the lad to Ivers's right might be **Phil Leeder**.

In the top photo I have my foot on the stag's neck, Paddy Sullivan was trying to fit his head in the stag's mouth and A.N.Other is struggling with the antlers, I can't remember his name but he was very sophisticated. This statue was either at Versailles or one of the parks in Paris. Obviously Cecil was not around. The group on the bench are from the left are Montangees, Ivers, me and faces I remember but not the names.



The group in the Paris school quadrangle [below] are me and Paddy Sullivan in the front and a mixture of Clapham pupils and a group from Rome. The common language was French but we did manage to communicate.

The group in the Paris school quadrangle [below] are me and Paddy Sullivan in the front and a mixture of Clapham pupils and a group from Rome. The common language was French but we did manage to communicate.

My own biographical details are, firstly I left Clapham in 1958 with three A levels (failed).

I went to Campion House, Osterley under the Jesuits to study Latin and ancient Greek as a precursor to entering St Edmund's seminary. It became clear to me and the Jesuits after fifteen that the priesthood was not for me. I was called up for National Service but decided to sign up for six years in the Intelligence Corps. After six months training I was posted to the Counter Intelligence Unit in Cyprus in December 1960 but in April 1961 I was involved in a road traffic accident and paraplegia resulted from which time I have been a wheelchair user. In 1966 I married Aileen Cooney, the sister of a Clapham old boy **Kevin Cooney**..... PTO



I was treated for eight months under the famous Dr Guttman at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, retrained in book-keeping, worked in the private sector then the Civil Service. I took early retirement in 1996 and retrained as a counsellor. Aileen and I moved to East Yorkshire in 2003. I am still counselling and am currently studying for a qualification in counselling supervision. Perhaps you can draw out something from this for your database.  
Best wishes John [Urquhart]

PS I'll come back later on the 1950 register....

*The Falcon at the Junction*

**The old hostelry at The Junction,  
known by name as *The Falcon*,  
on some few occasions each year  
collects a crowd of greyed old men,  
characters from an almost forgotten school  
which marked one side of the Common.**

**Quaffing ales, lagers, beers or ciders,  
we talk of yesteryears, so far away,  
and bring them near with jokes and chatter,  
of sport and mischief, friends and foes.  
We reminisce on masters, long gone,  
beatings not forgotten, but perhaps forgiven.**

**What happened to the boys we were?  
How came we to this day?  
This small band of brothers  
travelled life's varied roads.  
We meet in camaraderie as old soldiers might,  
to know the joys and pains of times past.**

**Tony Gilford - 3 May 2020**

The Falcon is the regular meeting place of Clapham College Class of 1954 - two dozen souls have attended from all parts of the world over the years. [Tony's poem written before or after!] - during?

## *News from "The North" [at last] Brian Pryke writes*

Scotty, I've run out of excuses for not dropping you a line from "up North".

It is 49 years since leaving London in 1972 for a new life in Bradford (Julie's home city). At that time there was plenty of work opportunities, property prices much lower and the beer great and cheaper. So we were able to swop our tiny terraced house in Brockley for a generous sized Stone detached house with a large garden, which is where we still live. I left the college in 1955 with three O-levels and worked for three and a half years as an insurance clerk and did two years national service. During that time I took further exams which allowed me to study architecture firstly at evening classes then having got a job with Southwark Borough Council on a part-time day course. I then applied for and managed to be awarded a mature student grant to join a full time course. After 7 years study and work experience I qualified, a week before Julie and I married. By the time we moved to Bradford we had two sons aged 3 and 1. Our third son was born two years later. The eldest, Andy, lives with his family in Toronto and the middle son lives locally in Bradford. Steve, the youngest, lives with his family in Germany. Both he and our grandson Thomas (16) play for Munich Cricket Club in the local league of 12 teams.

Once the boys were at school Julie studied for two degrees at the local college and university and worked as a community worker before teaching degree courses at Bradford and Ilkley College. Following retirement Julie has been writing and publishing children's books (6 to date). During my working life as an architect I was involved with the design of commercial and industrial developments plus several supermarkets as well as social housing. I was Chairman of our local church Credit Union for over thirty years and also had a spell as Chair of the cricket club where I played till I was 76, (having come out of 'retirement' in 1976). Just before I retired from work I took up running and have done the Great North Run eight times. It all came about following a challenge at a pub quiz when all five team members (including Julie) agreed to enter the run for the first time.

I was so sorry to read of the death of **Denis Quin** in the last edition of Concordia. He was such a good advert for the College and Xaverian Education.

I could have written the anecdote myself regarding his football exploit, which I have often recalled and told to friends. I think it was his first kick of the game which put the ball into the middle of the lake and brought about the abandonment. I believe that **Brian Sanders** was also playing in that game as was probably **Henry Pinsent** and **Ted Hughes** and possibly **John Mansi**.

I would like to thank you for all the hard work you put in to keep all the membership in touch with activities, events and Personalia. Especially for those like myself who live far from "the Capital", Cheers, and regards to all my COXA friends,  
**Brian Pryke**

PS I will see what photos I can find. Don't think I have any from school days but may have some family photos and local cricket cuttings from the past.

Brian was at Clapham College from 1950 to 1955 [according to the Clapham Records - could be wrong!] - says he was in the Alpha group, but no idea of his "House". Brian was an active footballer and served on the COXA Committee as well as editing COXA magazines. I remember [even at a young age] that there was a real sense of loss when he decided to move North "**type Brian Pryke COXAN**" into "Google" where "editorship" can be scrutinised!

## Ted Corrigan - then John Przednowek [he's Polish]—write.....



Scotty, as ever, Concordia is great reading where do you get the photos. I think it is me circled, and definitely a “Coletta” kneeling down next to me as, used to sit in front of me in Class, recognise the faces but cannot recall the names – also remember whilst down there going to a fruit farm to pick fruit for money, bloody hard work only went the once and also remember returning from the “pub” in the dark across the fields, cannot remember how old we were but some of people did not go onto the 6 Form so I would have been 15 or 16 either year 4 or year 5. I seem to remember Bill Kid coming down in his Triumph Spitfire with his girlfriend/ wife? Kind regards, **Ted Corrigan**

Scotty, I do not recognise many names on this list. [you sent] But - and **Mr Gibb** insisted that you NEVER start a sentence with and or but - I can confirm that **Mr Rathburn's** Art Mark Book (priceless indeed!) contains the full list of my class, **Class 1956 to 61/2, 3 Alpha**. I recognise very nearly all the surnames but only a few of the Christian names. Here are some brief recollections:- **Graham [#Bob?] Chambers** - self-proclaimed president of the Buddy Holly Appreciation Society. Prone to turning very pink when embarrassed and “wet himself” when it happened to me. **John Gilhooley** - Boycott type of batsman. Loved it when he went to the crease - the rest of us could go to sleep somewhere near the boundary. **Tony Gray** - another formidable cricketer. His first 150mph delivery on Clapham Common caught an “unsuspecting lad” in the goolies - no boxes in those days. Panic set in, an ambulance duly arrived half an hour later. The boy recovered - some of us never did - much to the relief of **Mr Marshall**. **Paul (?) Harrison** - the Edin Hazard/Jimmy Greaves of the day at playground footie with a tennis ball. One of his dribbles made me lash out at the ball which landed in **Br Dunstan's** prize petunia bed. My stealthy retrieval of the ball was observed by **Br Peter** - and the cane was brought into action - again! **John Keating** - featured in Concordia No 21. RIP mate. **Mac McFarland** , **David Romaine** and **Carlo(?) Manccini** were probably my best mates. Manccini and me had great fun in 'hanging' Loui - a silly game which occurred during most Latin lessons when **Br Loui** would sit on the front edge of the teachers' table and he would gently swing his legs off the floor. With one hand over ones eyes and just observing the legs only one could imagine an execution. Horrid boys!! **Kazik** (short for **Kazimierz** - Polish for Casimir) **Ostrowski**. Hated it when Br. Peter pronounced it “car-sick”. **Lionel (?) Smith** - a smashing gentle chap, got the female roles in the Shakespeare readings.

**(?) Whittaker** - the class clown. Severely punished by **Bill Blight** when during one of the first maths classes he spelled 'parallel' out loud with far too many r's and l's, for fun. He was made to bend over and received a sharp kick in the bum, he flew across the front of the class. Maths classes were trouble free after that. Those were the days!

I shall forward the COXA links to my brother in Canada, **Rafael**, (nicknamed **Perch** by Bill Blight – as was I, when I arrived in Bill's class) was at CC from 1950 onwards when we moved to Balham. Keep taking the tablets! Regards, **John Przednowek**

By the way I forgot to also mention, the Polish pronunciation of our surname - it's Pshednovек. “Simples” when you know; r=sh and w =v. **Colin Garvey** knows, he can pronounce **Zubrowka** correctly. [.....he would!]



**A plug for the Archive Website - Aidan**

Please go to the Clapham Archive and enjoy

**BROTHERS FAREWELL DINNER**

**REPORT**

The following report is reprinted from the Brothers' Community Bulletin, July 1970.

'On June 20th. the Clapham Old Xaverian Association held a farewell dinner to thank the Brothers before their withdrawal from Clapham. The dinner was held at the Connaught Rooms and was attended by over two hundred persons. A striking feature of the evening was the series of tributes to the Brothers and their work paid by six Old Boys each of whom represented an era in the life of the school from the present day back almost to its foundation seventy-three years ago. Warm references were made to the Brothers who had served on the Clapham Staff during the years, and a prolonged ovation was given to Brother Dunstan when he rose to reply to the speeches. The evening did not end until midnight, when the Connaught Rooms closed down. Special thanks are due to all those who took part in the organising of the evening and to whose efforts its great success was due.'

The Dinner really was a splendid occasion, and despite/sombre motive of the function it was a time for meeting old acquaintances and for renewing friendships with the Brothers and contemporaries. It was also good to see such a large crowd of old boys wishing to thank the Brothers and to bid them 'au revoir'. All of us who can look back on an education given by the Brothers at Clapham will always be Old Xaverians and proud of it.

**Putting "Names" to the "Faces" [Pages 26 and 27]**

The **two photographs on the centre pages** [overleaf] were sent to me by Terry Boley it shows the group photograph taken during Brother Joseph's Leaving Event held at the College in the late 1950s..

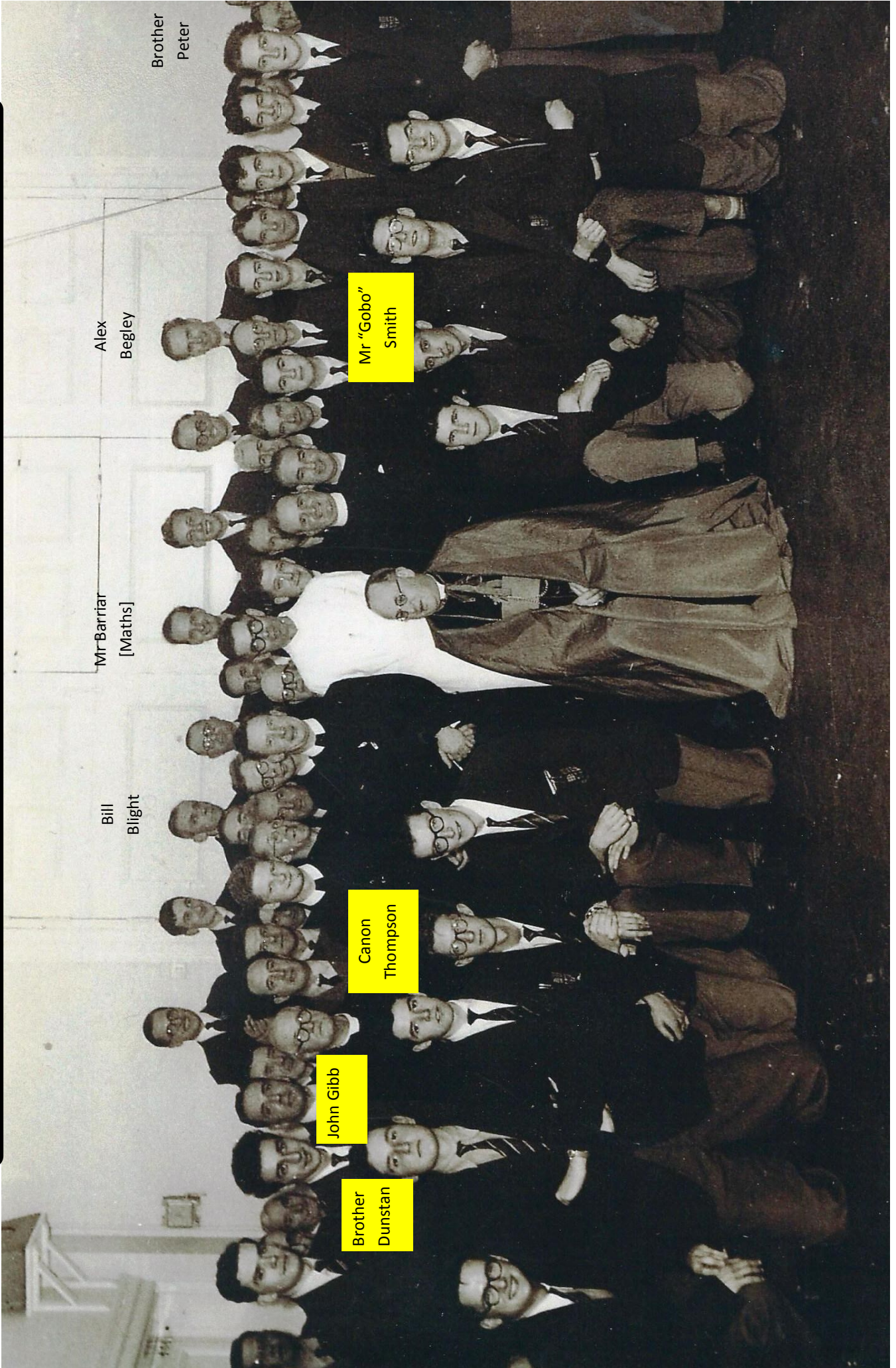
Terry sent me an original photography and a copy of the "annotated" one. Terence added a note stating he'd named all he could. However, with it now on the "**Publications Section**" of the **Clapham Old Xaverian Archive**, the scanned photo, can be "blow it up",. [Something I wish all Xaverians would do with the Archive, blowing it up to a larger scale means you can pick out the detail of photographs ].

Back to Terry's photos on the middle two pages , even I, just born at the time the photo was taken, can pick out some of the "faces" - mainly "staff" [mostly in the back row], [I have marked them above their heads in the back row, and in years in the middle rows. Can any Old Boys look at the enhanced photograph on a computer and see if we can add a few more names? Scotty

Go on, login in to our archive -[claphamoldxaverianarchive.com](http://claphamoldxaverianarchive.com)



***My annotations on the 1953 Photo of Brother Joseph's Leaving "Do"***

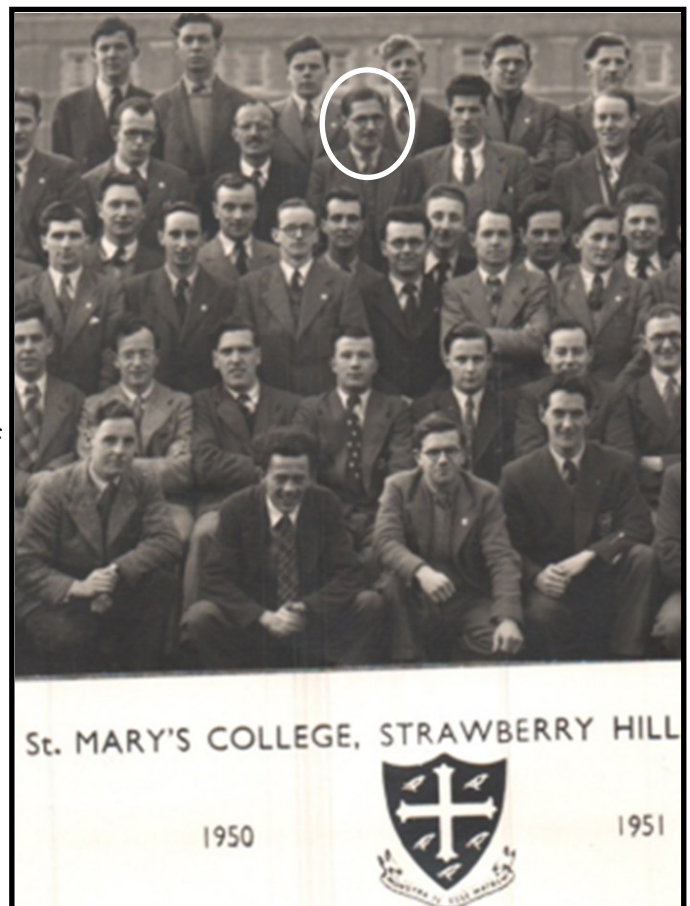


Terry Boley's Photos and annotations - please look at this online and add more names.



## **Tony Gilford [College 1951] writes**

Hi Scotty and Colin, Hope you and yours are all well. Cecil really stands out in that graduation picture. I've attached a page relating some recollections. If anyone can suggest edits please do, just great memories.



**Tony Amura, Bill Kidd, Przednowek and myself** among others, were in 1A in the spring of 1951. We had Mr Higgins for History. One afternoon at 2pm after assembly we came into our class room to see a detailed colour map on the board and a student teacher, **Mr Pocock** with his smart moustache and eyes gleaming behind his glasses. He took us for a couple of lessons and then. Almost 60 years later, Cecil in retirement, suggested he and I meet for lunch at the National Gallery. I asked him

about his student days. He remarked that Clapham College was selected by Strawberry Hill Teacher Training College for his student teacher practice. He then recounted that after his last day on teaching practice Brother Joseph interviewed him in the Office, offered him a post starting September. Brother Joseph told Cecil he had a plan to introduce many more young and gifted teachers to the College, his aim being Clapham College as the crème de la crème of boys grammar schools in South London. Brother Joseph was an Incredibly popular and young headmaster. We first formers of 1A in the hot summer of 1951 used to idolise him through the open windows, as he bowled in his whites at first XI prefects on the lawn, instead of paying attention to Bill Blight and his algebra.

I asked Cecil about his Cambridge years. I wish I could remember all he said. The most pertinent fact was that whilst at Cambridge he joined the Catholic Society and during those undergraduate years he decided to convert. This led him to apply for his PGCE at St Mary's. We both talked about our backgrounds. Most Sixth Formers seemed to know his mother was Russian. Cecil said his father worked for the Foreign Office as a diplomat and had been sent to Russia when after the revolution the F.O. planned to assist white Russians to escape the Bolsheviks. His father, a married man, fell head over heels for a young and beautiful emigre. Once back in England he had to divorce, which resulted in his expulsion from the F.O.. His father and new wife settled in Chiswick in the house where Cecil lived most of his life. We chatted about the Minibus Camping holiday of 1961 and Cecil said that was his second best ever holiday with the College. The trip with the school to USA was the most memorable. I recall after that fantastic France and Switzerland Minibus camping tour of 1961 Cecil invited us "campers" on 31 Dec 1962 to recall the trip with drinks, a colour slide show and photos to celebrate the arrival of New Year 1963. His mother was our hostess with her Russian accent. We left Chiswick as snow started falling, dropping off mates in Clapham, etc. The great blizzard and winter 1963 struck and brought Britain to her knees.....**CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE**

## **Tony Gilford's story on Cecil - continued.....**

Cecil always enjoyed a drink after umpiring a cricket match. The Norbury Arms was a favourite venue where he was ever pleased to introduce us to the pleasures of proper ale. Can you imagine the uproar today: schoolmaster who bought drinks for his school cricket team is a magistrate, borough counsellor, potential headmaster and mayor, ardent supporter of Brentford FC, Friend of Kew Gardens. I can only shout, "Thanks Cecil, for treating us as would be sensible adults and friends." I suspect Brother Joseph would have endorsed this sentiment,

**Tony Gilford**

### **The 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Stamford Bridge [from last Concordia]**

It was lovely to see our team photos and match line-ups in the last edition of Concordia. Such special memories of a wonderful evening back in June 2000. **Frank Barretta, Roy Hartnett, Micky Burke** and I were all in the same year (1976-78 leavers) and so we put our heads together to work out what we might do to mark our 40<sup>th</sup> mile stone. We were all lifelong Chelsea fans and as I had been working as a stand-in solicitor at Stamford Bridge for 18 months or so, straddling my move over to Cape Town, I was tasked with finding out if we could rent the pitch and a function suite. This was arranged with little trouble - our night was booked.

Who would make up the two teams? That wasn't easy and we could have had twice as many players on the night but we had to limit ourselves to about 8 family and mates each. It worked out well and we had lots of subs coming on and off during the 90 minutes.

Our surprise additions to the line ups were former school first team captain **Gary Chivers**, who went on to play for Chelsea between 1978 to 1983 and club legend Ron 'Chopper' Harris, who made close to 800 appearances for The Blues.

A large contingent of supporters made a lot of noise and the standard of football was surprisingly good, given that a lot of us hadn't done any sport or exercise for...a long time!! The match ended in a one-all draw [please confirm] and so it went to penalties with Tom and Mick's team coming out on top, after several footballs made their way over the bar and on towards Earls Court!

**COXA Archive Website - find "Videos" - 2010 - watch the glory and anguish of it all.**

**<https://www.claphamoldxaverianarchive.com>**

We then had a fabulous reception party and Ron Harris made a sort of after-dinner speech which clearly he normally delivered to male only audiences. He didn't have a radio-edit version of his stories and some squirming could be seen amongst the Mums and Grannies in attendance. No harm done though and he finished off by handing out medals and memorabilia to all who took part in the match, including our young mascots. [PS Loved the last edition of Concordia]. Can't believe that game was 20 years ago. You may have noticed that I wearing red boots. When we got back to Cape Town, our gardener Lucas went wild for them and I had to let him have them. He was so proud to wear the boots at his next township soccer match, with envious eyes on his shiny new acquisition. He ended up wearing them to work each day!

Another nice surprise was that the Chelsea chairman at the time, Ken Bates, kindly got the recently won FA Cup out of the vaults and had it brought up to the party.

We then went on to dance, laugh, sing and thoroughly enjoy one of our most cherished evenings with family and very many COXA pals. Struggling with the events of this year to be honest; it's really sapped my energy, but we plough on. Take care Scotty and best wishes,

**Tom Purcell Glasgow December 2020**

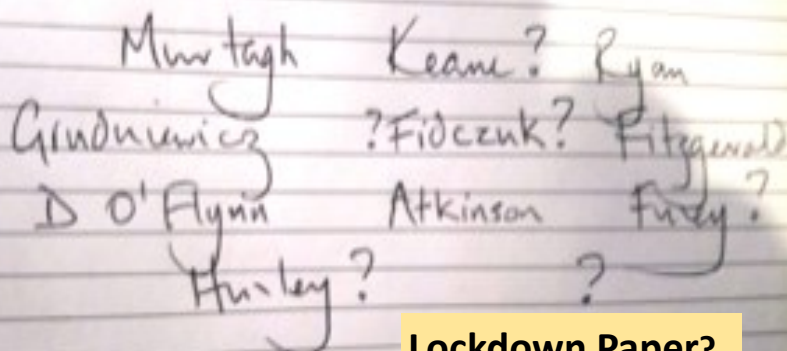


# Prefects Photo from the previous Concordia caused a “stir”

The “obligatory Prefects photograph”



Firstly - Chairman David sent me his “jottings” on the Prefects - I shared it , looking for clarity and a few Christian names.



Lockdown Paper?

Secondly - Hi Scotty, This is the only photo I've ever seen of me at Clapham! Never knew it existed. I think it's either 1972 or 73. I can identify the following:

- Front row:** With hands together: Pat Keane, who was School Captain.
- Second row:** Left: Me, with the huge triangular collars. Middle: Desmond Atkinson.
- Third Row:** Two Poles. Left: Chris Grudniewicz. Right: Pete Fidczuk.
- Back row:** Dave Murtagh. Right: Frank Ryan. I don't recognize the other four, but would be interested to find out. Thanks for Concordia, **Patrick Furey [Toronto]**



Thirdly - Scotty Between them, Pat Furey and Mad Boy have probably given you the same names - but here goes: Back row; Dave Murtagh, obscured (possibly Liam Morris or Peter Fidzuk), Frankie Ryan  
 Middle row: Chris Grunewicz, Nick Nabakov, unknown (and can't even guess)  
 2nd from front row: Pat Furey, Desmond Atkinson  
 Front row: (complete mystery), Pat Keane (head boy), Paul Carter?  
 I can still remember my (alpha) class register and most of the As - but  
 I can't put names to faces for some of these. In my defence, it was nearly 50 years ago! Dave Murtagh

1  
9  
7  
3



Investigation still “on-going”



Hi Scotty, hope you don't mind this shameless plug for the latest enterprise of my friend and fellow Old Xaverian **Paul Colairo** (started 1977, I think). Paul has been in catering all his working life and opened coffee shops in Norbury, Dorking and Caterham stations. He and his wife Lucy have now opened their most ambitious coffee and deli shop at 1 Westow St, Crystal Palace not far from their home in Streatham. They have devoted considerable time and effort to get the project off the ground and are both working there full time working seven days a week. He has obviously suffered financially from the Lockdowns but his enthusiasm is undiminished. He would, of course, be delighted to see any Old Boys there and I can vouch that his range of food and coffees are well worth the journey.

On another matter, I read an article in the last magazine on Old Boys who went to Hull University followed immediately by an article on Friends of West Norwood Cemetery. Coincidentally my brother **Sean Farrell** (1962 to 1969) went to Hull in 1969 for 5 or 6 years. He got a 2.1 in Chemistry and managed to stay on for a few years doing post grad research before getting a proper job with British Nuclear Fuels in Preston. Sadly he died in a drowning accident aged 44 while white water rafting in New Zealand. His ashes are interred in West Norwood Cemetery 1/2 mile from our family home at the time and near our church St Matthews. Hope to meet up on the next walk, Boris permitting, **Martin Farrell**

# Personalalia - "The "Jottings" of Clapham Old Boys



[or letters to the Editor]



Scotty I reckon this photo of me with **Paul Williams** must date back to about 1981. It was some fancy dress do at Norbury. Paul was a boxer ( very appropriate !!!) and Gill and I were a Red Indian couple. The three of us walked all the way home to Tooting. What a sight we must've been !!! Paul was two years above me at Clapham but through COXA and St Boniface we became good pals. Sharing the same on pitch temper probably helped !!! Cheers **John McGowan**

[just love that "Red Indian" hairstyle John!]

**New Chaplain at SFX.** ..."Scotty, thank you for your recent note and publication of Concordia. I began working at SFX as Chaplain in February 2020, and it's great to hear from you with your links to this place! Regarding the annual Mass, our Principal Graham Thompson said he is keen for it to go ahead in a Covid-secure way. If this is possible Mass is scheduled for 8th of November, [well we all know what happen ..but maybe we'll be OK for November 2021 - Ed].. Graham is in contact with Eddie regarding this. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help in any way". **Kate West, Chaplain SFX**

Hi Scotty, Hope you are keeping well. [Eddy write in response to the stained glass window in the Chapel "mystery"...I am pretty sure the image of the old window depicts St Francis Xavier. If not, then it may well be St Ignatius Loyola. I spent many a Sunday at the 10am Polish Mass in the College Chapel, 'glazed over' (pardon the pun) listening to another long winded sermon. I stared at the two stained glass windows, one on either side of the altar. I am sure they both had an inscription within the glass, saying whom they portrayed. Of course, I might be completely wrong, but I will ask my old Polish friends if their memories are clearer than mine, or even if they might have a photo; Best wishes, **Eddy Ojak** [writing from Yorkshire]

Hiya, Scotty.

I hope you, and all your family, are well and happy.

All is good for me and mine, thank God! 😊

Just to say that I received the Concordia and to say a big "Thank you!" for ensuring we all get to see it! 😊

I opted for the £10 per year payment, Scotty, as opposed to the "Life member" option so, hopefully, the tenners will keep coming for some years yet! 😊☐☐☐☐

If you have any Zoom meetings planned, that are not purely business, I'd love to say a quick "Hello!" to you and anyone who's zooming too! 😊

Keep safe!

Maggy x



## Personalia "snippets"

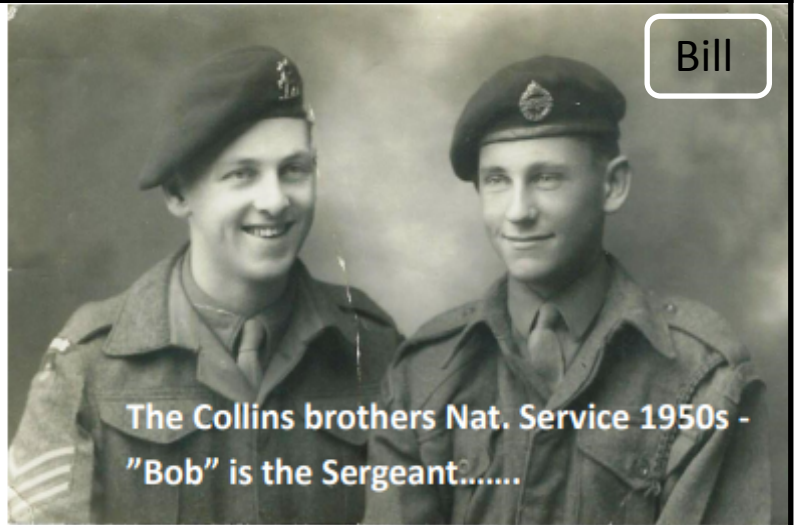
Hi Scotty, following my article in the last Concordia, and your query, Richard Fountain was a History teacher at St Gerard's and then at Clapham as the schools amalgamated. Colin and Mr Fountain taught me at A level (1976-78) so Colin will know more than I do. Hope to see you in 2021. **Nick Crean**

COXA Advert:- LOOKING FOR JOBS / WORK I'm pleased to report that all's well with me thanks. I have recently retired from work so I am trying to find my own niche in life but my wife has a list of jobs longer than your arm. Current public health restrictions doesn't help! "give us a job!" **Eddie O'Brien**

Good afternoon Eddie, I hope you are not totally bored as a result of the Covid restrictions .I had a call today from a longstanding football colleague from Carshalton FC informing me that **Bill Collins** died last week following heart problems. I introduced Bill to Carshalton and played with him for a number of years in the first team; he was a more than useful inside forward when we had such positions. Bill lived most of his latter life in Spain and that is where he died. He would often come over to the UK and indeed attended the Lunch a few times. He had a brother, **Bob**, who was a more regular attender at the Oval who I believe died a few years ago. Apparently Bill would have been ninety over the Christmas period. He was excellent company and had a good sense of humour and a raucous and contagious laugh + RIP Bill + **David Rowles**

### Sad Letter from EGHAM SURREY

Dear David [Leathem], This is to let you know that my husband **[Bob] Robert T .Collins** passed away on 16th January 2017 [Age 87] He always enjoyed Concordia for which I thank you. **William his brother now lives in Malaga, Spain.** When Bill comes to London he stays with younger brother **James M. Collins** in Beckenham KENT. Bob was Head boy in the 1940s but Bill will know more about that than I do. Sincerely, Sylvia Collins



Apt time to dig out an article from our Archive - **Concordia 12 June 2017** - what a fabulous photo of the **Collins Boys** - no apologies for re-publishing this article - Ed

Hello Scotty, **Pat Herlehy** is a friend who I first met at university. When I saw the name Herlehy written under the photo of a young football team in Concordia or website I mentioned it to him. He was very interested as he is tracing his family tree. I have failed to find the photo again! but your article in Concordia appeared at an opportune time. I can send him a copy, but have been unable to download, print or copy your photo of George Herlehy's grave. His family was one of many from his part of Cork who settled in the New Cross area to work at the docks. Very Best Wishes, **Bernard Plummer**  
Afraid I misspelt the name "Herlehy" it should be "**Herlihy**" Incidentally were you aware that my brother **Henry and cousins Laurence and Anthony Richardson** were all at Clapham in the 1950s.

*Tracing more "Plummer's"...following Bernard's letter....*

Bernard following your message I looked up the Clapham Archive and found the following:- **Plummer Charles Henry, Plummer Frederick Louis, Plummer William "Bill", Plummer, Lawrence Herbert [Upper Tooting and "Walsingham". Do any of these seem like your relations?** Again, following up your cousins - if found both Laurence and Anthony Richardson joining the College 1953/54 leaving in 1960, ["A" Form and Walsingham] - says Laurence was ordained in [Ordained in Madrid 1970] - Doctor of Divinity. Does this ring true Bernard? Please also "report back on your "Herlihy" contact!

*[I visited two Herlihy graves in Sunderland and Dublin, Scotty]*

Hi Eddie, greetings from Thailand!!!

Thank you for your Email detailing the Zoom meeting replacing this year's Chairman's Lunch, I do realise that numbers are very limited, and I would not want to prevent one of your regulars being excluded. However, if you are not fully subscribed and there is room, I would be very keen to join this virtual meeting on the 29th,

I have just received the 2021 Concordia and I continue to be amazed at the strength and resilience of the Clapham Old Xaverians Association since the school was closed so many years ago. You and the committee are doing a great job and it is great that us foreigners still have a link with our school days!

Thank you once again for keeping me informed, I wish you and all members of COXA a very HAPPY 2021 stay safe!!! Best regards, **Jim Howard 1955 to 1962**

**On Page 49 of THIS ISSUE is a photo of a Clapham College Football Team - sent it to the only person in the photo I recognised. Bren Walsh.....his reply below..**- Hi Scottie,

What a brilliant photo. This has had me scrambling through old boxes old photos and old trophies and medals. Brilliant really ,upsetting "the wife" ,it's fantastic really. I'm gutted I can't remember everyone's name. The West Ham kit is the easiest one to answer. There simply was no choice my understanding was that Graham [West Ham fan] **insisted** that that was the kit that we played in. I'm pretty sure that's the year of the famous "all conquering" team that played in the All England etc. We were two years below, we won three Cup Finals and obviously never got a mention! No jealousy, honestly., **[great then you won't mind seeing them "again" on Page 50! - Ed]**

Top Row. **Graham Hudson, Gerry McGowan, no, Peter Stapleton, Mark Fiddes, Franco Petrozzi , Paul Hartnet, ??**

Bottom Row. **Francis Crean, no!! Sean Beattie, Brendan Walsh, Paul Commerford, Mark Beresford, ??** If I remember correctly (don't trust me) this was the Catholic Cup Final at Dulwich Hamlet. I think the London Cup final was at QPR ground Loftus Road that year. That's the best I can remember at the moment but I'm not going to delete this email I'm going to keep it to remind me to keep going through old stuff. ...**Brendan Walsh [Now two teams who could write in with names/comment- Ed]** - maybe Tony Jimenez?

## Personalia continued



**Peter Steer writes...** I see I have fame at last in the magazine this time and I wonder if **Ted Hayter** recognises himself in the Streatham Rovers picture you have kindly put in your archives, I enjoyed reading the magazine and I note on one page you have Kevin Francis down as deceased and I wonder when this happened. *am beginning to think I am the only one left from that left . I have been isolating during the Covid19 fiasco and neither of us left the house for 20 weeks with all deliveries coming to the door from both supermarket and village store. It can get a bit boring but these people with mental health should have gone through the war when you did not know if you were going to be alive in the morning. As you can imagine it was not a nice experience to be a child at that stage in life. Hope you and all the members are keeping well in this difficult time Peter*

Scotty, Brother Peter kindly forwarded the latest edition of the COXA magazine. As always, interesting to see pictures of the Brothers and read your members' reminiscences. There is a mention of **Brother Kieran**, "young, energetic left 1960's?". Bro. Kieran was an old boy of Mayfield and trained initially as a PE teacher. At some point in the 1960s he went to Mayfield and eventually became Director of Boarding (to relieve the Headmaster of some responsibilities) and ultimately Superior of the Community. When the Brothers left the administration of Mayfield he came up to Manchester and taught Religion at Xaverian College. I lived in community with him for a brief while but he took a leave of absence from the Brothers and was dispensed 1982 or 83, though he continued to teach at the College until retirement in the mid 1990s. He died c.2016. Delighted to read the letter from Bro. Mario. Again fond memories of time in Manchester with him before his departure to the monastery at Prinknash. God bless and best wishes, Bro. Philip CFX USA.

Hi Scotty, the Footie Team photos. [Pages 49 & 50]. The ones in yellow are the squad that won / shared the All-England under-19 Trophy.

**Back row left to right:** Mick Cusack\*, Dave Mackey\* Tony Jiminez (capt)\*, Steve Curtis\*, Andy Beresford, Tony McGarahan\* Ray Gibbs\*

**Front row left to right:** Rob Petrozzi\*, Steve O'Neill\*, Brendan Costello\* Julian Remedios\*, Chris Heath\*, John Clynch. Those asterisked played in the Final, but Mick Cusack came on as a substitute and Chimeze Anawanyu should have been in the photo but is missing - I don't know why.

So far so good. I remember that lot like it was yesterday. They were all Clapham College boys, "pre-amalgamation" and I taught a lot of them. The other photo is causing me problems. It was taken, I think, under floodlights at Walton & Hersham's ground and is not clear. I don't remember the players so well. In addition, my eyesight is now quite poor (failed cataract op.). I can see best in the late afternoon (no-one knows why) so I'll keep trying to pick names out. The goalkeeper is **Brendan Walsh** so if you are in touch with him it might be worth sending him the photo.

I'll get back to you, **Graham Hudson**

### **Some detail on the last Concordia Number 22...**

Scotty, Thanks very much for the latest Concordia which arrived today, another great effort! On Page 9, (I think, no page numbers!) there is a picture (between photos of **Colin Luke and Phil Gray**) of a tall man about to bat and you want to know who he is. I recognise him as **Mick Ivers**. He was a Streatham boy like me and when I was a young altar server at the English Martyrs, he was one of the seniors. In fact, I think he must have been four or five years ahead of me so photo in the late 1950s. I think he must have been near **Brian Sanders** year. The reason I recognise him is that, after Clapham, he went to Womersley and was ordained into the priesthood and in 1967 he married myself and **Anne-Marie** (nee **Loosemore**) brother of **John Loosemore**, at Clapham 1956-61) at the English Martyrs in Streatham. I did not keep up contact with Mick [think he eventually left the priesthood, married and had a family, possibly in Australia]. ...***I did check these facts [Ed]***

I hope these snippets of info are useful for the archive. All the best to you and thanks again for your Concordia work – it is much appreciated! **Tony Cleather**.

### ***Ron Kirby RIP - Eulogy from his wife Iris***

Hi Scotty, thank you for the copies of Concordia for my family which was very much appreciated, as was your kind card. This is an abbreviation of the Eulogy I did for Ron on 15th August 2020. Ron was born in East Dulwich Hospital on 13 June 1940, the eldest of 4 siblings, 2 brothers and a sister. He went to St Joseph's Catholic Junior School and then to Clapham College. After 5 years in the RAF working on ground radar systems he joined Leo Computers in 1963 and stayed in the computer business for the rest of his working life. He travelled extensively all over the world during this period.

He was devoted to his large family and so enjoyed family get togethers. It was sad that his 80th birthday was in the lockdown period and therefore the big family party that was planned was not to be. It is also so sad that he didn't reach his 60th Wedding Anniversary which would have been in January 2021. He spent his retirement in the New Forest, becoming very involved in the community, especially in local history. He was a tour guide at Highcliffe Castle and Lymington Town Tours and wrote articles for local magazines as well as being a Trustee on the Committee of Milford Historical Society. He was a member of Probus and other clubs. He loved living near the sea and forest and made the most of the beautiful area he lived in. He also enjoyed seeing the world and travelled widely. Ron was a kind and helpful man to everyone he met and the numerous cards and letters received by his family reflect the heartfelt respect they felt for him. He was always ready to help others, be it family, friends and the wider community. He enjoyed many interests and lived life to the very full. Ron was calm and philosophical about his fate and managed to see almost all of his family and a few of his many friends in the little time he had left. He leaves a huge gap in all our lives. **Iris Kirby**      **[see Iris's poem on the next page]**

*Ron Kirby RIP 2020 - continued*

IF HE HAS GIVEN YOU DELIGHT  
BY OUGHT THAT HE HAS DONE  
LET HIM LIE QUITE IN THAT NIGHT  
WHICH SHALL BE YOURS ANON  
AND FOR THE LITTLE, LITTLE SPAN  
THE DEAD ARE BOURNE IN MIND  
SEEK NOT TO QUESTION OTHER THAN  
WHAT HE HAS LEFT BEHIND

Best wishes,  
Iris Kirby



*Ron 2020 on the  
Dorset coast*



*Ron in 1953 in his Clapham College blazer*

Nothing worse than a “virus” - and in my case a computer virus - brought on by a “hacker” in mid-2020 . Many Xaverians - re-emailed my account to rebuilt my “contacts”. My email was “Sky” not “Yahoo “, if you are still emailing me [“Scotty ”on a Yahoo email it’s NOT ME! ]- Below is Vlad’s response, nice to get a mature response from [octogenarian] **Vlad Felzmann the John Paul II Catholic Chaplain to Sport.**

Stinky Pooh  
Yahoo.

Stay well  
Keep smiling  
Don't let the Covid  
Or government  
Grind you down.  
X  
Vlad

Prof. Mons. Vladimir Felzmann  
Catholic Chaplain to Sport  
Catholic Chaplain to Canary Wharf



Scotty, My name is Peter Crawford and you sent me the attached a few years back. Unfortunately this was just as I was a difficult time for me, and so it was shoved in a box, with me occasionally and unsuccessfully trying to find it again, until 20 mins ago when, of course, I was looking for something completely unrelated. Anyway how is Cecil, if still alive? [Oh, yes!]. I do check the old boys notices on occasion and haven't heard anything so assume he's still OK. I'd be happy to send him a note via yourself if still appropriate. BTW, I was his last School Captain appointee I suppose. Apologies for the delay. Hope to hear from you. Thanks, Peter.



**BERNARD PERCY TOWNSEND**  
**'BARNEY'**  
**1941 - 2020**

Barney Townsend [Clapham College in the 1950s,] passed away in 2020, COXA was informed about this through his great friend **Tony Gilford**? Barney lived in Crystal Palace when he was at the College with Susan his older sister, and younger brother Trevor, he became a life-long Crystal Palace supporter. Barney married Sue in 1966 [where else but at Crystal Palace] and had two children and four grandchildren. They eventually moved down to live in Cornwall and Barney worked for Walls Pork sausages,

and later for the SWEB in Truro ending his working days working for the Council. Retiring in 2005 gave Barney the opportunity to take his Campervan to France and Spain, staying for weeks on end taking in the Winter sun.

Barney threw himself into local community week volunteering to work on the Governors of a local primary school, raising money for a swimming pool and worked in Youth Clubs. He was a Bodmin Town Councillor and a member of the Rotary Club. He became involved in the Bodmin Memory Café, which in the longer term became a great



source of support for Barney and Sue. He loved his walking and followed the Par and Camel Trails in Southern Cornwall. As you can imagine from the above, Barney was a man who loved helping others, he was easily pleased and would eat "anything" especially if a glass of red wine was on offer. He loved his favourite newspaper "The Times" and would spend most of the day with his head "buried" in it. "Always Cheerful" – "Always Smiling" – not a bad epitaph.

**+ RIP Barney +**

***Nobby Stiles MBE; RIP 2020 - World Cup Winner - 1966 [a Xaverian]***



An old one about Nobby (replicated for every hardman in the game - Chopper, Hunter, Mackay, Hockey - remember him?) Sir Matt came into the United dressing room before the game "Norbert, I want you to take Eusebio out in the first five minutes." "Do you mean just

For this game, or for life?" asked Nobby. Old, but probably true. **Colin GARVEY**. Did you read that he went to Mass on the morning of the World Cup Final? Nobby was a Manchester Xaverian, [notice the other Xaverian in the photo? A Brighton Old Boy?]

Hi, On New Years Day 1986 I was linesman to referee Dennis Hedges on the Southampton v West Bromwich Albion match. The game was uneventful with Southampton comfortable winners 3 -1. However, immediately following the game our dressing room door burst open and a furious West Brom manager, Nobby Stiles entered telling us precisely what he thought of our performance and that we had probably cost him his job. He was asked to leave and as he did so, he slammed the door with such force that the half glass door shattered into pieces. I never forget the expression on his face as he looked over his shoulder, at the three of us, through the now missing glass.

A month later, he did lose his job and never managed another club.

I was fortunate enough to be in the crowd at Wembley in 1966 to see Nobby Stiles dance around with the World Cup – that's how I prefer to remember him **Aidan**

***Help in analysing the "Brother Dunstan photo [in Concordia 22] from the USA***

Dear Scotty, thank you so much for the COXA magazine. It is always delightful to read the articles and see the old photos. The world of 11-18 Grammar schools was indeed a world apart, but so many happy memories. Time passes by and it is over forty years since I first met Bro. Christopher: he was still teaching at Clapham, for those few years after the community had moved out and he was living in Twickenham.

So many delightful reminiscences because of your photo of Bro. Dunstan with two unknowns! On the left and very much dressed for the outdoors is Bro. Osmund Roberts : old boy of the Jesuits in Stamford Hill, a brilliant, if eccentric Geography teacher; and dear Bro. Conrad Toohey, a Liverpoolian who spent his whole life teaching art and calligraphy at Mayfield. By the simple expedient of typing "castle on volcanic plug" into Google, I am almost sure that they were on Lindisfarne.

America is as crazy as always. If I get a green card between now and May I shall be here for years to come. If not, back to Manchester or thereabouts. We did not have a day off for the inauguration of a Catholic President but I was much relieved once he had taken the oath. The teachers are awaiting the call to the nurse's office to be vaccinated.

Take care. Best wishes. **Bro. Philip Revell [CFX USA]**



**Sad news of the death from cancer of Brian J Holohan (Walsingham 1946-54 ) in 2020 at the age of 85.**

Concordia ( Oct. 1954 ) reported that “ in the Sixth Form, of the fourteen who took advanced level nine have been admitted into the Universities” Brian was one of those, obtaining a University of London Degree in Mathematics at Battersea Polytechnic (which was later incorporated into the University of Surrey). After graduation he worked for De Havilland as a Dynamics Engineer on the Blue Streak missile programme. Subsequently he went into teaching, firstly as a Lecturer in Mathematics at the Borough Polytechnic (now the South Bank University) and then as Senior Lecturer in the Mathematics Dept. of Kingston University from 1965 until retirement in 2000. Brian was married for 60 years to Elizabeth, who was also a student at Battersea Poly, and they have 2 sons plus many grandchildren.

I attach a fairly recent 'photo of Brian taken at a Degree ceremony at Surrey University. The older 'photo is from 1952 and shows Brian with Ray Abrines (who was also one of the nine ) when they were in the Lower VI.

Regards **Terence Boley** (1948-54]

For your information another of the nine mentioned above was **Christopher Swan** (1947-54) whose obituary was published in 'Clapper' Autumn 2003. [see on **Archive Website**]



Was also intrigued about the mysterious team photos of groups of Xaverian Brothers from Brother Dunstan on page 17, I think one (picture attached) was absent back then. Happy to rectify the omission! **Gerry Morrison**



**Surely not!**



## ***Phil Manktelow, following Brian Sanders footsteps in Paris***

It was good to receive the Winter Concordia & wallow a bit down memory-lane. I was particularly interested in the piece by Brian Sanders and the annual trip to Paris as this was my only CC trip! That would have been back in the late 1960s and led by Mr Sanders & Cecil. Distant memories include a trip to the Louvre where Cecil made his annual joke about the Venus de Milo "She looks pretty 'armless!" and we were able to view the Mona Lisa without the customary long queue that you would be met with today.



We were staying in a school somewhere in the city [see John Boyd's article on the next page and the photo below] from memory, our 'dormitory rooms' were on a different floor to those of Mr Sanders & Cecil. One day a few of us located Mr Sanders' room while he was absent, moved all the furniture around and left a note saying 'a change is as good as a rest'. I am sure that Mr Sanders must have been pretty annoyed but being such a gentleman he made no mention of the event.

In the evenings we were allowed some leeway to travel around the local area on our own. On one such occasion a group of us were approached by some doormen of a club that specialised in displaying young ladies in various stages of undress. Everybody in our group successfully gained entry except for **Sean Farrell** and me, who were (quite rightly) told that we did not look old enough. Sean & I were pretty miffed at the time, but subsequently learned from the others that once inside they each had to buy at least one drink at very inflated prices that took care of their remaining pocket-money.

I note that in his write-up Brian makes reference to an indiscretion by 'one of the **Cassandro boys**' on one of the Paris trips. **Piero** (probably the brother referred to) and his younger brother **Kevin** were both older than me but I do remember them from Clapham as I was acquainted with them through my family. An aunt of mine, who was a midwife at a London hospital, was involved at the birth of Piero and subsequently became a close friend of their mother, Mary Cassandro. I remember once accompanying my aunt on a visit to the Cassandro home near Crystal Palace. As mentioned by Brian, the father, Mario Cassandro owned a restaurant in London (La Terrazza in Soho) that was frequented by celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Jean Shrimpton & Albert Finney. During my visit to their home Mario must have thought that I looked like I needed a bit of fattening-up, as he made me my very own plate of spaghetti. Being very much used to British food (bangers & mash etc) this was the first time I had tasted proper Italian cooking. It was rather good!

I am not sure exactly what became of the **Cassandro** boys. I was told that **Kevin** trained to



be an accountant. **Piero** seemed to have his father's spirit of entrepreneurship and established his own company importing tiles from Italy. I remember they used to have a large advertisement on the back page of the Evening Standard.

Stay safe & keep up the good work.

**Phil Manktelow**, [now Thame, Oxfordshire]  
Clapham College 1962-70

Thanks Phil [especially for the 1960s photo]



## ***“The” School Trip - Clapham College to Paris***

Inspired by Brian Sanders’ descriptions of school trips to France I was one of the lucky ones who went to Paris staying at a lycée called Janson De Saille, nearest Metro stop “Rue de la Pompe” in a fairly posh part of north-western Paris. We



stayed at this boarding school during the holidays in a long dormitory with individual cell-like berths covering the length of the room.

Brian and Cecil Pocock were our minders, leaders, guides, yes and finally teachers for the trip and we went everywhere. We saw all the sights, river trips, you name it we did it. At the end of the week when it was felt we had absorbed sufficient formal introductions to French culture we were allowed a free “rest day” to do as we wanted, (within reason).

Four of us decided this was a good opportunity to visit the Stade de Colombes. That very day France were playing Wales in a Five Nations match (it was only five then). None of us knew anything about rugby, did not have tickets, or any idea where the stadium was. However the British bulldog spirit came to the fore even amongst four 12 year olds.

Clutching firmly onto our jambons (available from the Cafe opposite) we took the Metro then a train to reach the stadium. How we did that with our school-boy French escapes me. Once at the desired station we followed the crowd to get to the game. As we approached the ground we started to encounter touts. Picking one lucky “monsieur” we started to bargain in ‘Allo, ‘ Allo, French. Eventually we struck a deal and marched off towards the ground. On closer inspection we had three tickets for the North End and one ticket for the South. Undaunted, the feisty four approached another tout and swapped our South ticket for the other end. Feeling really cocky now we went off to match. Who needs French lessons?

The game was a dour, hard fought affair, low-scoring and uneventful, apart from one moment when the French fullback took a penalty, the ball hit the cross-bar, he ran in, caught it and dived over for a try. The rest of the game was pretty dull to non-rugby enthusiasts. The journey back to Rue de la Pompe. It was a really memorable trip which I imagine would not be possible these days. It was a great trip and certainly opened your eyes to a whole different world.

The only other strange thing that happened was that the ferry trip back across the Channel encountered a gale. To say the least it was rough. As we left Calais harbour the boat started pitching and rolling. Very soon the toilets and passage-ways were full of people retching and vomiting. I remember rushing up to the deck and parking myself in a corner and sitting tight. I think all of our party were ill apart from one other notable exception:- **Donald Macdonald** was down in canteen eating saucissons et frites as fast as he could get them down his neck. Those were the days! - John Boyd Clapham College 1964] ***Cheers John! Scotty***

Scotty, This is just to let you know I have now moved back to France for my final retirement. After our last communication I returned to work full time, working for Thames Valley Police as a civilian investigator. Before that when I worked in the Civil Service, where I became a fraud investigator in the early 80s with the Department of Employment and continued with that job until 1989 when I joined British Telecom as an Investigation Manager. In the Department of Employment I had covered two areas, firstly the roughest parts of the East End of London and then I was moved to be nearer my home in Clacton at the time so I was given the Colchester area.

Although I was very happy with my job I applied for the BT job which was advertised in the Daily Mail just out of interest and, after a rigorous selection procedure, I was offered the post which I just did not expect. This meant a huge upheaval as I had to move to Milton Keynes as the Investigation Department was relocating from London to MK. It also meant leaving the town where my three children lived which was also a wrench, especially as they were very young then. At first I wasn't sure I had made the right decision as I was very much the new boy at BT as with my previous job I had well established myself as being a very effective investigator and manager running a team of 18 investigators.

I spent many very happy years at BT. I enjoyed my job immensely and the camaraderie and the laughs and entertaining stories/anecdotes everyone had. It changed my life and fortunes and I made many long lasting friends there. Despite my poor academic record at Clapham College I managed to get a BTEC Level 7 in Investigative Practice which is [equivalent of a masters degree]. I'm not so sure about that though. I also ended up with a deputy commissioners commendation from the Met Police for work I had carried out on a massive 3 year joint investigation with them into Police corruption. So when I returned to work in late 2017 I had been approached on Linked In by an agency looking for civilian investigators for the Police. Thames Valley Police were interested in recruiting me as a civilian investigator working in Force CID. I did miss the cut and thrust of investigation work during my retirement so I was very interested. Based on my BTEC, and my experience of crime investigation in BT I was offered the job. At first I worked at High Wycombe which was an arduous long journey every day by car and then I was transferred to Milton Keynes Force CID when a position became available.

Another two years of enjoyable work with TVP making new friends as well. However, by mid 2019, my wife Sue and I decided that, at my age, I should really take retirement. We had bought a house in the Dordogne in France in 2018 as a holiday home with the intention of moving there permanently. So the decision was made to retire on 31st December 2019 and then to move to France. We had sold the house in the U.K., so we were living like travellers in our motorhome on a farm near MK while I commuted to work everyday. We finally moved to France in January this year. We are about to get our official French residency cards, so we are relieved about that, especially as Brexit will make things difficult. Sorry this has been a long rambling email, wasn't intended as such - the words just start flowing! I do wonder if they could be continued to be sent to my home here in France, [Siorac-en-Périgord]. I do hope all those who attended or taught at Clapham College are keeping safe from "the virus". These are not very good times, at least there is some light at the end of the tunnel [vaccines]. Fingers crossed, Tony Lever. *Best wishes Tony, now here's the thing, after many years "away" from COXA Tony got in touch a couple of years ago [his surname "L" in 1A, 1964] he sat in the desk in front of me that whole year, "Alphabetical Order" [apologies for my behaviour Tony] - good luck in the Dordogne] - Scotty*

## The Chairman's "Virtual" Lunch January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Chairman's Lunch DID take place this year, there were EIGHTY "plus" diners on a "Zoom" link up magnificently hosted using the skills of **Brendan Williams**. There was alcohol [consumed in one's own home], guests, speeches by **Colin and Chairman David** which set the "tone". There was then "breakaway groups when bands of six to a dozen Xaverians chatted and reminisced.

Great to see so many smiling, recognisable faces, **Laurie Mullane** and **Jim McLoughlin** joined us from the USA; **Arthur Williams** from Australia; and **Jim Howard** from Thailand. We toasted the Association, got details of "The Grand National Sweepstake". Hopefully, I'll be reporting another Clapham success-story later in this edition. **Adian Coletta**, who had the idea of the "sweepstake", also did the 400 Cub Draw and pulled out **Tony Cleather** for the £1,000 First Prize [Tony has since gone "X-Directory"].

**Colin** made an impassioned speech praising the work and commitment of **Stella Flannery**, the retiring Principal of SFX and the Association promised her an IOU for a proper Clapham "send-off" when these painful restrictions are lifted. Colin from his role as College Governor praised Stella's effort and her central role at the academic and social successes of SFX. Her ten years at the College have been a real success story. Stella will also be missed by the Association who have benefited from her efforts and kindness, and her aim to keep that special "link" with SFX and the Old Boys of Clapham College. She offered us access to the site, attended all our Remembrance Masses and Chairman's Lunches, and accepted any "stick" doled out to her by Colin and David with real grace! The refurbishment of the Chapel was her vision [some financial support ]from COXA Members.

**Brendan Williams** needs to be congratulated for his efforts in creating the Clapham Slide Show which brought back some great memories, hopefully it will become available on our COXA Websites. Most of our "guests" enjoyed the experience as the majority were still

going strong over two hours into the event. What a great concept, during a Pandemic Lockdown; Covid-19 tried, but failed to stop the "COXA steam-roller", this virus has been sent to try us, but COXA still marches on with success, after success. Will we be free to organise a Summer Lunch 2021, who knows, but if not, could a second "virtual" Lunch be on offer?

**Scotty**



Hi Scotty, Hope you and the family are all in good nick. You, being a man of the world knows everything and thus I need some guidance on Dot's behalf. Lock-down has seen Dot putting pen to paper and she has produced some 28 sheets of verse which chronicles the period to date. Her efforts have entertained the Bowling Club members and a number of women's associations and she is keen to produce her work in book form. Dot feels that Concordia is the appropriately sized booklet that would suit her purpose. So how does she go about this? Any "pearls of guidance" would be much appreciated .A sample of her efforts are attached to give you some idea of her work. I suspect that the months ahead will also give her plenty of opportunity to pen more. Well done on visiting Alan Webber last month, and its great to see the Rambling Society taking off. I'm seeing "COXA Walking Tours" next, on the horizon [now there's a thought Michael, once we escape from our Coved-incarceration]. I would love to join you all on a walk, but those COXA football injuries have finally caught up with me.

Another thing - "**Warrilow**" -recognise the name. Here's a clue - Quarr Abbey. The gentleman [monk] passed away a number of years ago and when I did a bit of "Editorshipism", he was helpful in writing to me with messages of good will and news of Greenstock etc. [Quarr Abbey was a monastery on the Isle of Wight]

On Saturday, I opened a box in the garage which I had long thought contained some of Dot's knitting patterns. But no, there were 6 or so video cassettes covering 1987 Glastonbury, Sutton v Norwich, CP v Man Utd. One was just marked Warrilow and of course I no longer have access to a machine to play the recording. It may have been my way of hiding my porn collection but I do have a vague memory of a tribute from the Archbishop of Canterbury [he's the wrong side isn't he?] arising from his many spiritual conversations with Warrilow over the years and which had held him in good stead.

[**and from Dot Power..**"Hi Scotty, Michael and I are not very good with new technology, as you have probably realised! However here goes. I am sending you a number of attachments which I hope you will get. They consist of a number of poems titled Life in Lockdown and are numbered 1 to 7 they are interspersed with some Rhymes for the Times and some other verse there is no particular order for these and they have been slotted in to fill space. How do you convert to A5? Bearing in mind my readers are probably advanced in years [like most Xaverians, very small print is not good. Feel free to use any of it for Coxa. Some has already been shared with one of our members wife's singing group and the Uni of the 3rd Age! It may be that the website would prove the right home for this item but do you want first dibs. . Hopefully this is not a wild goose chase. "

Keep well Keep safe **Mick [and Dot] Power x**



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hours,

house,

I remember, I remember,  
The Club where I would bowl,  
Where I would spend such happy

Till the Virus took control.

In China did the trouble start.  
Who'd heard of far Wuhan?  
We said "This will not trouble us.  
This will not spoil our fun."

The virus now it had a name.  
At first it was Corona.  
Fond memories it brought to mind  
Of lemonade and cream soda.

But later on they made a change  
To something much more sinister.  
"Covid 19, we'll call it now"  
Said Matt Hancock the Health Minister.

I remember, I remember,  
The day when Lockdown came,  
When we were told to stay at home.  
No more to play our game.

We weren't allowed to leave the

Except for food and medication,  
And just an hour for exercise.  
They had quarantined the Nation.

We weren't allowed to hug or kiss  
Or even shake a hand.

"The N.H.S. it must be saved",  
Was heard throughout the land.

We couldn't meet our families  
Or loved ones far or near.

Two yards apart we had to stay,  
So we were filled with fear.

And some of us, the more mature,

Coronavirus (COVID-19)



## COXA Grand National "sweep"

# COXA



GRAND  
NATIONAL 2021



[COXA] Grand National Aintree Apr  
I won't go into the competition "rules" of COXA Grand National "sweep", but suffice to say well over 100 tickets were sold at £10 [prizes of £700]. The Association made a profit [to help offset our Covid Losses]. Forty Xaverians "drew" a horse. A wonderful effort from **Aidan Coletta** in organising the event...

1st	MINELLA TIMES (IRE)	88 Gerry Morrison	<b>£500</b>
2nd	BALKO DES FLOS (FR)	81 Will Skipsey	<b>£100</b>
3rd	ANY SECOND NOW (IRE)	73 Tom McLoughlin (tic)	<b>£50</b>
4th	BURROWS SAINT (FRA)	22 Paul Shimell	<b>£50</b>
5th	FARCLAS (FRA)	150 Mark Preece	
6th	BLAKLION	94 John Gilhooley	
7th	DISCORAMA (FRA)	90 Martin McGrath	
8th	JETT (IRE)	57 Aidan Coletta	
9th	CABARET QUEEN	141 Peter Flaherty	
10th	SHATTERED LOVE (IRE)	2 Scotty Macdonald	
11th	ALPHA DES OBEAUX (FRA)	52 Phil Roderick-Jones	
12th	HOGAN'S HEIGHT (IRE)	3 Scotty Macdonald	
13th	ACAPELLA BOURGEOIS (FRA)	27 Michael Power	
14th	SUB LIUTENANT (IRE)	106 Mick O'Flynn	
15th	CLASS CONTI (FRA)	37 Mick Powell	

## **MATTHEW BARNAVILLE RIP**



BY FRANK BARRETTA

**Clapham Old Xaverian Kevin Barnaville recently informed us that his son Matthew Barnaville has died aged 29.**

**Clapham Old Xaverian Kevin Barnaville recently informed us that his son Matthew Barnaville aged 29 was tragically killed in an avalanche off-piste near Verbier, Switzerland, on Monday 18 January.**

**Many Old Boys will remember Matt's wonderful voice when he sung at our annual Remembrance mass in the College Chapel (see video link on the Clapham Old Xaverians Website, below). He was an extremely talented vocalist and musician completing his first choral scholarship at Lichfield Cathedral after sixth form at Reigate Grammar. Following this he went on to gain a degree in Music at Cardiff University, winning another choral scholarship at Cardiff's Llandaff Cathedral. His other real passion in life was skiing and he obtained his BASI Alpine Coach and Instructor certificates so that he could go on to teach others the joy of skiing and skate boarding.**

**Kevin wishes to convey his heartfelt thanks to everybody for their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.**

**A "GoFundMe" page has been set up in Matt's memory for anyone wishing to contribute. Remembering Matt Barnaville - *GoFundMe* [the video of Matt in the Chapel is on the Website]**

**Video - COXA Remembrance Mass - Soloist: Matt Barnaville Organist: Glyn Morris  
+ Rest in Peace Matthew Xaverians who heard you sing in the Chapel will ever forget +**



***“Macho, Macho Man” - teachers were “built” differently in the 1970s.***



See the “Brendan Walsh” message [Page 34]

# Clapham College, the English Schools Cup Final winning Football Team



This was really "Graham Hudson's Team" he managed them to victory [the names the team on Page 35]

I asked Gerry Morrison to send me a “flavour of his Sporting Life - “boy came good”.

## Gerry Morrison Walsingham 1969-1976 Life After Clapham College



Above left - With BBC racing commentator Peter O'Sullivan, champion jockey Lester Piggott and legendary Irish Trainer Vincent O'Brien

**1976** Joined the BBC to work in Artists Contracts Department

**1978** BBC Graphic Design Department working on live TV Shows such as General Elections, Newsnight, Nationwide, Panorama, Top of the Pops, Whistle Test and Sports shows including Grandstand, Sportsnight, Open Golf, Athletics and Horse Racing

**1988** Stepped up in to TV Sports Production, working on live Olympic Games, Football, Athletics, Rugby, Boxing, Formula 1, Equestrian events and Horse Racing

**2008** After 32 years left the BBC to go freelance working on Horse Racing and Equestrian Sport

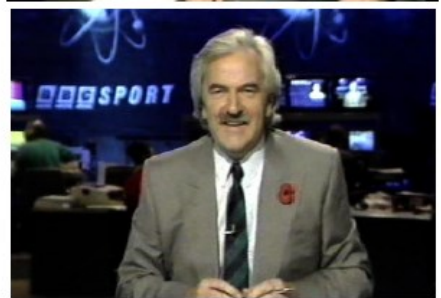
**2012** Directed live host coverage for Equestrian events in Greenwich Park at London Olympic Games

Best memories of Clapham College are the years spent in the Sixth Form.

I left in 1976 with 3 A Levels and opted not to go to University but accepted a job at the BBC starting in a clerical role in the Artists Contracts Department.

It turned out to be a great move as eventually I was able to work on many of the great sporting events with some broadcasting legends

# Gerry Morrison's Sporting Life ..continued



As a graphics sports operator was a regular on Grandstand in the days of David Coleman, Frank Bough, Des Lynam, Steve Rider and Bob Wilson. In the Studio I used to sit next to John McCririck!



**2016** Directed live host coverage for Equestrian events in Rio de Janeiro

Thanks to my involvement with Horse Racing I have been fortunate enough to visit Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen and Queen Mother, and have met the Aga Khan in France and Sheikh Mohammed in the UAE.

Left: **2019** Bayeux Normandy 75th Anniversary of D-Day