



Concordia



Spring 2020 - Number 19



Remembrance Day, November in the College Chapel. Thankfully many “partners” there; very difficult to recognise Old Xaverians from behind [or the front, come to that!].

The Chernuski Brothers - Clapham College and COXA stalwarts



Bene Benedict and Famous cricket icons



Bene with "Monty & Dickie" see page 14 for another COXA and "famous person" Photograph.



Mons and the Remembrance Service - loosely linked



Chairman chatting to family of Edmund Bulbeck, one of our WW1 heroes, who attended the Remembrance Mass. There are also photos from Mons [2019] and from the Avalon, [The George] after the Mass. Our Roll of Honour, The Mass, socialising, and our Battlefield Tour— COXA lives onjoin us; this is a thriving Association.....



Mons Pilgrims 2019 - how many will make it to Arras / Cambrai 2020?



The Chairman's Thoughts

Winter/Spring 2020

“Wash Your Hands” ...



..we don't want none of your Foreign Germs around here. I'm still feeling the great effects of a marvellous lunch, now 4 weeks ago. One of the best; thank you Mick Power, thank you, Eddie, thank you Monsignor Vlad. Almost 200 of this readership were there; if you missed it by accident, bad luck. If you missed it on purpose... Really??

The 8 hardy souls who went from Lunch to Hanover to bed (for a while) and to Heathrow for a ski trip in Les Arcs – man that's another great story. (Pictures on the website)

The 60th Birthday table is surely documented elsewhere in this issue. (Frank? Diesel? Tam?). Come and re-live the memories of that lunch at Norbury on 14th March for St Patrick's Night Celebrations. Live band and Irish Dancing girls (last year they were fabulous)- good Guinness If spared, I'm looking forward to a marvellous few months with The Old Xaverians. We have an official walking/rambling club now. Walk 3 was blown of course by Storm Ciara, but rescheduled soon. Please come along; bring your wife or significant other. A (McLoughlin) babe in arms was at the last one. It's 7 or 8 miles and easily reached from South London by train. Dan and I get the train because there's a pub involved at... (Walks 1,2 & 3 were Chipstead/Epsom -ish) Later this year there will be a walk based around Mayfield School. A “Battlefield Trip to Arras is booked and paid for, so “pilgrims”, please get yourselves booked and “pay” too. I've seen the itinerary (yet to be confirmed) and it will be a great trip, involving History, Geography and visits to several of our fallen Xaverian schoolfriends. Knock yourself out; bring a passport (Sarah). (Joe, they will let you by on iris recognition, I expect.) Late June: Come ON!! COXA Golf on the 26th, Jake's Garden on the 27th, and for those of a non-musical bent, Racing at Lingfield on the afternoon of the 27th with UB40 playing after you've lost your money. Jake's garden is in Tandridge. Google Chauffeur's Flat Tandridge and see what an unbelievable example of litotes this place is. (Thanks, John Gibb) As I have said before, a chance to pay some respect to a man and his wife, who were a major part of our youth. If you eat a better rock cake, anywhere, let me know.

So, that will get you past the Easter eggs and next time I write, we'll be thinking about not being able to go anywhere on our Summer holidays. Keep well, stop coughing. It is my continuing honour to be your Chairman.....David February 2020

Mons Trip 2019 ..continued...

Before I start with an "Advert" for the 2020 COXA Battlefield Tour to Cambrai, I thought I'd share some of the comment from the 40 Tourists who went to "Mons" last year.

Eddie O'Brien wrote...It never ceases to surprise me that every year the trip is different. Generally the same faces but new pilgrims always bring something different to our journey and this year Joe Williams and the Haley brothers made significant contributions. Bravo.

Mick, Bina, Scotty and Aidan continue to relate the tragedies of war with boundless enthusiasm, knowledge, and sometimes great sadness. That's what makes it brilliant!

Wasn't our driver Adrian a top bloke.

Congratulations all for a great weekend....and Mick please update your address book!...Eddie

Sandra Snowsill wrote Every box had been ticked x A Fabulous trip x always a pleasure to catch up with you all Sandra x

Hello All., Just wanted to express my gratitude to Bina and Mick for organising yet another great weekend and allowing us to track down our (and other) fallen heroes in Belgium and France. What a great weekend!

Also to Aiden and Scotty for their hours and hours of research so we could listen to their stories. And Eddie for leading our prayers and saying nice words. Also to our team at the front of the bus sending up refreshments and goodies throughout the weekend. The Haley's for their story of their grandfather.

The Williams brothers. Joe, for his story about Grandfather Williams and tracking the actual roads and villages where he stood and to Brendan for those two lovely (and strong) poems.

Also to everyone else in our party, for making such a lovely weekend. See you all next year. **Jimmy Burke**. PS. . and to those two Belgian coppers who wouldn't give Tony and I a lift back to our hotel . . "Up yours!"

Sharon Mannell said:-Well said Jimmy, I think you've ticked every box. Look forward to next year Sharon X

Well done Jimmy. I think you have encapsulated everyone thoughts..... and as for those Belgians coppers, don't get me started. Kind regards, **Mike O'Flynn** .

The Chairman wrote - I think you'll find that the correct form of Belgian-abuse is actually

"Up Yours Delors", Jim. Mick's right; you have nailed the thanks,

I echo those. Even the driver was a good tourist. **David Leathem**

Gents, I would wish to re iterate everything that Jimmy and Scotty have said, especially the thanks to our tour leaders. Our weekends are more than time away with our mates - honouring the fallen is what we are about . We are back in the UK. Let's not forget those who never came back . **Colin Garvey**

I would like to add my thanks to the Direction Centrale de la Police aux Frontières, Dover Port Police and UK Border Force for being such nice people ... and the rest of you for putting up with the inevitable delay, and not taking the p*ss toooo much. **Spike [Milligan]**

It was, as always, a great weekend. Thanks to all the hard efforts of those rightly mentioned. And thank you to everyone else who made it special by being there, honouring the fallen (Old Boys) and being reminded of the sacrifices made by these (mostly) young people. And thanks for all the well wishes for next Saturday. Much appreciated! Best wishes Richard





An absolutely marvellous weekend (with some bumps in the road!) I am still reeling from the emotion of visiting Haucourt and Ligny and the graves of Lance Corporal John Boland and other men of the battalion that died on 27th August 1914. Thank you Mick, Bina, Aidan, and Scotty, and to all the COXA pilgrims...and 'Sorry', again!

Williams Grandad photo attached. In the photo, reading left to right, L/Cpl John Boland is at position 2, with L/Cpl Hilary Williams at position 4. You can tell they are Lance Corporals from their shoulder pips. The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were nicknamed The Old Toughs (the 1st Battalion were

The Haley Bros thank everyone for welcoming us and making us part of the team on this special trip. We appreciate the way you scouted out at the cemetery to find our grandfather's, now no longer unknown, grave. The tracing of where he fought to where he died was something we never anticipated from this trip. We thank Aidan for his dedication in achieving this extraordinary feat. The trip has shown us how tough and determined our grandfather was, fighting from the start of the war at Mons, by the canal bridge, through till the German army was stopped at Ypres where he lies buried at Wulverghen. Thank you one and all. **Bill and Tony Haley** (I feel honoured to be named after him, Bill)

The point of these last two pages is to show the "variety" of different tourists who join us each year....it is not a closed club and newcomers seem to enjoy the experience as much as those "twenty-or so" who have been going every year. So if you fancy going for a three-day bargain of a trip to France with good company and well-run excursions; put you name down for Cambrai 2020 - Scotty

Introducing your Committee - Number 2. Brian Sanders

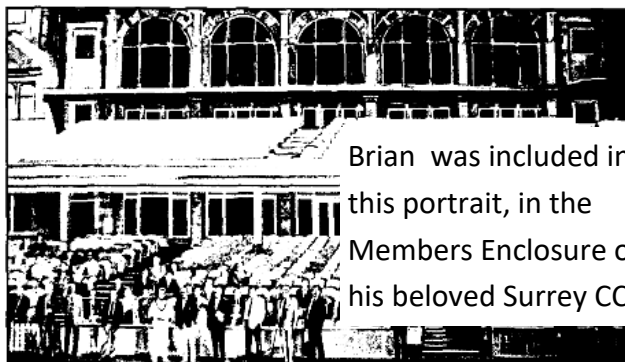
Following the “muted” response to Introducing your Committee Number 1, Ted Hayter [even from “himself”] I’ve decided to continue the feature with **Brian Sanders**.



You’ve been framed

A renowned painter, Jocelyn Galsworthy, is bringing 80 years of Surrey CCC to life

Visitors to The Foster’s Oval can be sure of a particularly humbling welcome in the pavilion. At the top of the stairs the venerable faces of a collection of Surrey’s greatest players peer down at any who push through the oak doors. These faces are of course part of a picture, painted in 1911, but a project due to be unveiled at the start of next



Brian was included in this portrait, in the Members Enclosure of his beloved Surrey CC



We are in the company of “Legend” here, Brian Sanders, Clapham pupil, teacher of French, HoD at Clapham. Followed the College into it’s final days at Battersea. Sportsman, [cricketer, footballer, table tennis]. Past Chairman, Committee Member for 50 years. All those trips to France; father of 4 Clapham College sons. Brian even tried to teach me French; never a cross word - a thoroughly nice guy! We are privileged he’s a Clapham Old Xaverian



Battlefield Tour June 2020 - "Let All go to Arras"

We are going on our Annual "Battlefield Tour" to the Somme 12th to 14th June 2020....please contact me [details below] 17 have "confirmed" More details will be released in March/April. We will be in a hotel in the **Hotel Moderne in Arras** near the City Centre. As usual we shall be using Kings-Ferry Coaches. Fantastic company, and leaving **Purley Station at 7.30 on Fri 12th June returning at 6pm on Sun 14th**. Going out by Eurotunnel [before "they" cement it up!] Returning by Ferry [a leisurely meal?]. We require names and numbers ASAP to book double, twin and single rooms – price £219 for those sharing / £290 per head for single rooms. Early numbers required to "hold" the rooms. Again email me or text [Scotty] donmiamac1234@sky.com or 07508001217—once you're in ..pay ASAP please..

COXA Golf Day 26th June -
check on **Website** or contact
Aidan

COXA Golf Day 2020

Friday 26th June

Surrey Downs Golf Course - First Tee at 12:00 pm

Further details and Invitation to play will be sent in the first week of May



Third COXA Ramble - Merstham about 7 miles [11kms] Sunday 26th March; 11.00am depart

Parking around the station [or take the train - who knows who you'll bump into on it!].

Leaving Merstham Station we join the North Downs Way, ascending to cross the golf course, and through Gatton Park. War Memorials - Reigate Fort..then...after 4/5 miles... descend on the Greensands Way to Reigate.

We pass the Tennis Club and Reigate's "millionaire row" to reach the railway station.

And a Pub ..as yet not chosen – [The Yew Tree is nearby]....maybe....

Then for those with cars a short train ride back to their "motors" outside Merstham Station.

See you there - 5 came on our first venture, 13 on the 2nd - 5 even turned up for the postponed one....it's a great day out...join us....

Scottytext me on 07958001217 or email donmiamac1234@sky.com if you are coming..

Father Terry Creech – Redemptorist RIP [brother of Fr. Michael]

The Redemptorists of the London Province have lost a dear confrère in **Fr Terry Creech** who died on Tuesday November 19 2019. He will be buried from St Mary's Clapham on Dec 9th following the 12:30 Mass. May he rest in peace. I had the privilege of living with Fr Terry Creech, a fellow Redemptorist, for seven years here at St Clement's in Chawton, the house of the Redemptorist community attached to our publications. After a busy and dedicated career as a parish missionary, Terry ministered in Lourdes for 18 years, first as director of HCPT and then as an English-speaking confessor for six months each year. It was his joy and special ministry. He spent hours in the confessional at the Lourdes shrine every day, listening to secret stories and whispered regrets and wretched mistakes, and was regarded as a wonderful confessor by so many pilgrims. Terry had time for everyone. He was an attentive ear and a gentle voice, responding to everything he heard with sympathy and understanding.

When Fr Terry was not in the confessional, the vineyards of the south of France were nearby and, it has to be said, his devotions were not only to our Lady of Lourdes but to the vineyard of France. He shared his devotion to French wine with his dear friend from Clapham, Dr Coffey. When he returned to England 6 times a year the customs and excise were fully aware of the old tank he was driving, who was driving it and what was he transported: He was stopped once but never again for his regular wine shipments and pipe tobacco. The customs might have thought that, given the volume of wine, he was shopping for Waitrose.

When he was home Fr Terry was a wonderful chef; I was hopeless and so glad of his talent for cooking. (When he went into hospital my sister Ellen sent me a book, *How to Boil an Egg*). Fr Terry would cook dinner every day when he was home and when I suggested we could nip out for a meal to give him a break, he always demurred: why would you bother when he was the chef? Of course, he was right. He was a most gracious host to my family when they visited (my two sisters adored him) and to the many official meetings we had at St Clement's: he loved company and always had many stories to tell, many of which were recycled in a surprising way. A true Redemptorist.

When he was at home, he would drive into Sainsbury's every day and slowly hunt the shelves. When his sight worsened, I would drive him in and he would carry a large magnifying glass on his lap. When he was late to call me for collection and I got worried, I would drive into the supermarket, wondering if he had collapsed, and I would see Fr Terry still there peering through his magnifying glass, like Sherlock Holmes inspecting different wines, Fr Terry did a six month's tour of three hospitals: Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover. Of course, he was a character in all of them, and the doctors and nurses of NHS were truly wonderful. For the last 13 months he was resident in Westlands Care Home, where he was surprisingly content and peaceful as the resident priest. The staff was very fond of him and supremely caring. His brother, Fr Michael, was a regular visitor every week a great brother!. Fr Terry returned to the God he served, ever so quietly, on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 1:45am. He will be buried from St Mary's, Clapham SW4 7AP, on Monday 9th December at the 12.30 Mass. ..In Your Prayers Please Remember...**Father Terry Creech, C.Ss.R...**60 years professed as a Redemptorist ...54 years a priest and minister of the Word through missions in parishes and schools...Chaplain to HCPT charity for disabled children...Caring for the poor in Ace of Clubs, charity for homeless people.....Witness to God's mercy in the ---confessional in Lourdes.....May this loving Redemptorist priest rest in peace....**The Rector**

Xaverian Rambling Section “returns”

It's back [after 60 years].....the return of the Xaverian Ramblers Section



‘Have Boots Will Travel’....
or..... pass me the lineament.

You'd think we are a “Rambling Association”, an Association which “Rambles”, but in late 2019, Clapham “Rambler” were re-launched.

In November three intrepid “explorers” set out to resurrect an old Clapham activity “The COXA Ramble”, whether it will grow above the one effort, [it has] or if it will expand into a vibrant Section is open to conjecture.

Your Chairman brought up the idea over a lunch in the City, your Editor looked up old Concordias for mention of “Ramblers” and Tom McLoughlin [ex-captain of COXA 1st XI and public speaker] said “yes” ..after a few too many wines.... and there you are, a “re-birth”. Come to think of it, isn't this manner of decision-making the way all Clapham Sections came into fruition? Whist browsing 1930 Concordias I came across the “Ramblers Section”, it was in fact mooted in the very first Concordia 1928, with a large selection of different walks suggested in a Ramblers Diary. In the same issue there was a plan to create a Lacrosse Section [whatever became of that?].

So, after a little “Google” searching and the acquisition of an O.S. Map [I hope you were “looking down” Brother Christopher] the plan was hatched. All the 1920s walks were prefixed with..**Meet at Balham Station 10am [always a Saturday] and the 10.09 train to.....**

2019/20 brings with it differing travel arrangements, no longer is Balham Railway Station the centre of our Sporting Meet, [that finished in the late 20th Century after up to NINE COXA football teams decided that it wasn't any longer the easiest place to meet, pull up players from lower XIs..yes, that happened, or to get to places like Hendon, Enfield or Hounslow!. Waiting for someone to get over his Friday “hangover” and driving north to EBOG, often took over half an hour! Parking a Balham never seemed to be a problem and seemed such a great leap forward from “Derek's” ..meet 1.45, get the Underground to London Bridge, change onto the Circle Line, take a left out of the station and get the 174 bus [six stops to the ground [then a five minute walk down the High Street!!!].....heady days! ...So back to 2019, the main place-names were in the 1928 Concordia, all we had to do was plot a route on the O.S. Map, hoping the footpaths were not over-grown – or blocked – and that the anticipated pub.....

Paul West - joins our first Ramble...and writes....

At lunch in Leadenhall Market a month ago, Scotty mentioned that his research had unearthed a Clapham College walking club in the distant past (1930's) and wondered if there would be current interest in that activity. At the table, there was, so a route and date were agreed and we were off.

The inaugural route chosen was Chipstead-Bletchingly-Betchworth- Kingswood but due to inclement weather and shorter daylight hours, we chose to end the walk at Walton on the hill, a smidge over six miles from the start.

We started from Banstead Downs, traversing Fames Rough, turning left at Perrott's Farm and wending our way through woodland and over stile to Kingswood, where the rain "forced" us into the Kingswood Arms for a pint. With rain relenting to drizzle, we walked through Kingswood Warren, a housing estate built in the 1930's by Costain for wealthy stockbrokers but now one by one being replaced by mansions with mullioned windows, porticoes and floodlights much favoured by wealthy local footballers. We crossed the A217, the Dorking Road and onto more woodland leading to our destination, the Bell (or rat as it is locally known). This is the pub I recommended as it is a throwback to the 60's with a public bar featuring a lino floor, separate lounge bar, no food but great beer. It is a pub to discover as it actually is in the woods, with a single quarter mile dirt track to the location. However, unbeknown to us, it didn't open until 1730 on a Monday.

We quickly found another pub, the Fox, less than half a mile further on and in we trooped, wet but satisfied with our endeavour. After a couple of pints and a decent lunch, we caught the train back to Chipstead where we went our separate ways to reconvene in January where we will undertake another on the list, this time starting from Epsom.

A Monday very well spent by David Leathem, Scotty, Tom Mcloughlin, Dan Condon and myself.

Paul West



We'll that's the British Isles covered....



In the summer of 2019, whilst my daughter was at an Irish Dancing Competition in Kerry, I drove to Cork to visit the grave of PJ Herlihy RAF, a Clapham boy who died in Dec 1918, buried in Skibbereen (Chapel) Graveyard, Co. Cork, I visited the grave of his brother George in Sunderland [he'd died in Nov 1918] in 2015. What tragedy for that family. **Herlihy** is a popular name in the Cork area, as I discovered

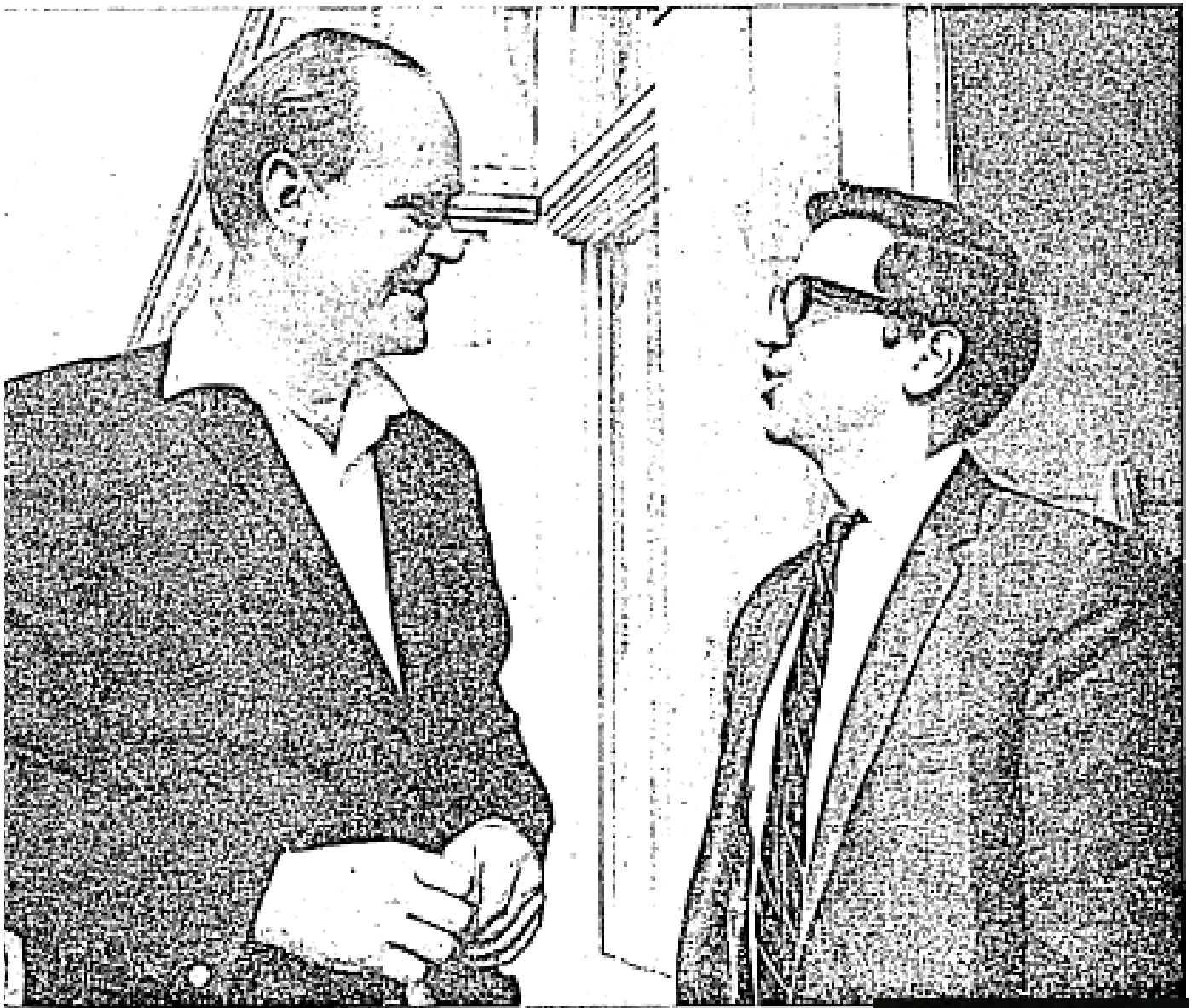
driving to the cemetery... only to discover that "UG" in the records stands for "Unmarked Grave"... it was a complete waste-tip of a place.... nobody knew it was there... However, driving back home [through Dublin], I stopped at **Grangegorman Memorial** [near Phoenix Park] where I found this memorial to + P.J. + May He Rest in Peace + Scotty



C.O.X.A. CRICKET, 1968

The 1968 season has been a successful one for Clapham Old Xaverians. Despite the weather, which washed out five fixtures, eleven games were completed, of which we lost only one.

Any prizes for the outstanding performances should go, without any hesitation, to "Dusty" Miller for batting, and Tony Steward for bowling. After an uncertain start, "Dusty" hit top



Brian Close and Tony Amura.

I've always been in awe of the "old Concordias", the quality of the English was beyond compare. They are the perfect magazines, perfect English Literature material. But after years of reading them [still a good read - check them on the Website.] I found a flaw, above is **page 9** of the 1968 Concordia a 3-page Cricket Report & this photo, but no comment - well **Tony**, please tell the story.



JOHNSON MATTHEY. — Long (J.) b Archer 13; Hinds lbw b Archer 1; Taylor c Alleyne b Burnett 13; Shaw c Archer b Burnett 4; Johnson c Burnett b Archer 20; Wilkinson b Burnett 6; Blackshaw b Burnett 0; Payne c Skinner b Burnett 13; Budd lbw b Burnett 5; Hutchinson lbw b Archer 3; Long (A.) not out 2. Extras 0. Total 81.

Clapham Old Xaverians beat Haddon Hall by 65 runs

Clapham pace bowler Ben Benedict wrecked Haddon Hall with a tremendous burst of seven wickets for 12 runs in 13 overs

Although they found runs initially hard to come by on a slow Norbury track, Clapham were revived by a fine fifth wicket stand of 63 by Paul Hixson (41) and Mick Power (34 not out) which enabled them to declare at 110 for 7.

Haddon Hall were soon in trouble and never looked like mastering Benedict.

CLAPHAM.—Mansi b Thompson 8; Fry b Thompson 6; Power not out 34;

Geoff Foster

"Press Clippings" of great days of COXA cricket, Ben Benedict always to "the fore". A letter from **Nick Scott** declining our offer of a fixture v The House of Commons Team. Nick Scott was our "own" Clapham College MP [Kensington & Chelsea] he held various posts in the Thatcher Cabinet including Northern Ireland. As a cricketer



he scored over 2,000 runs for the Commons Team [averaged 238 in 1972] a friend of Ted Hayter [pity].

TOP TEN	
BATTING	
Boothroyde (13.11.1970)	n.o. 140
Dargie (Griffin)	n.o. 125
Miller (Clapham Old Xaverians)	n.o. 117
Kellman (Ewart)	110
Berry (Alley Old Boys)	n.o. 104
Tunncliffe (Blue Star)	n.o. 104
BOWLING	
Benedict (Clapham Old Xaverians)	7-37
Lawrence (Old Grammarians)	7-78
Patel (Dulwich II)	6-21
Chambers (Alley Old Boys)	6-28
Stevens (Lambeth Enterprise)	5-8



from: The Rt Hon Nicholas Scott MBE MP

29 January 1991

Dear Ben,

I am so sorry it has taken such a long time to reply to your letter of 30 November about the possibility of a cricket match between the Old Xaverians and the House of Commons.

I have raised this with the Committee but, alas, they feel that they are already over-subscribed in terms of their present Fixtures' List and they regret not being able to respond positively to your invitation. I too am very sorry: it was a splendid idea!

*Yours
Nick*

Ben Benedict Esq
COXA CC
73 Valley Road
Streatham SW16

TOP TEN	
BATTING	
Sims (Dulwich Wanderers)	n.o. 113
Hill (Mostyn)	111
Tuckey (Dulwich Wanderers)	107
Dargie (Griffin)	107
McCall (Carnegie)	106
BOWLING	
Benedict (Clapham Old Xaverians)	8 for 22
Oldfield (Dulwich Wanderers)	8 for 35
Millard (Old Lambethans)	7 for 57
Branch (Metropolitan Water Board)	6 for 36
Jarrett (Forest Hill)	6 for 92.

DR MICHAEL STRAITON – OLD XAVERIAN

At the outbreak of WWII I was evacuated from Stockwell, south London to live with my Grandparents in Edenbridge, Kent, near the Biggin Hill fighter aerodrome.

In September 1940 aged nine I watched the Battle of Britain being waged high overhead, the spent shell-cases rained down with tinkling on the roof. During morning break in the playground of our small school there was a massive roar and all went momentarily black as a disabled British bomber with only one engine functioning passed overhead to crash beyond the village. The crew had baled



out, the pilot saw that he was heading straight for us and managed to pass over before crashing. We believed that he gave his life to save us children.

In 1943 I won a scholarship to Clapham College in the footsteps of another Old Xaverian my uncle Liet.Col.Colonel Laurence Mahony. He was later to be in the first Allied Army brigade to relieve the Belson death camp in 1945.

I with other boys we were billeted at Barton St. Mary, a requisitioned Lutyens manor house a mile outside East Grinstead in Kent. Anthony Richins was billeted in the town. One day we learned that a bomber had crashed nearby so we cycled over to investigate. The Home Guard had bagged up all the ammunition so we shook some out and obtained belts of cannon shells and tracer bullets and other goods that we took back to Barton St Mary.

I unscrewed the detonator at the front end of one cannon shell, the size of a cigarette-end, which we took to the garden and put it on a stone bench. As we all stood round, one of us hit it with a brick. Unexpectedly there was a loud explosion and our outstretched hands were showered with tiny shrapnel fragments. Bleeding, we were whisked off to East Grinstead Hospital for dressing. While there we saw some of Sir Archibald McIndoe's "Guinea Pigs", the badly burned RAF airmen for whom the famous plastic surgeon had revolutionised their treatment.

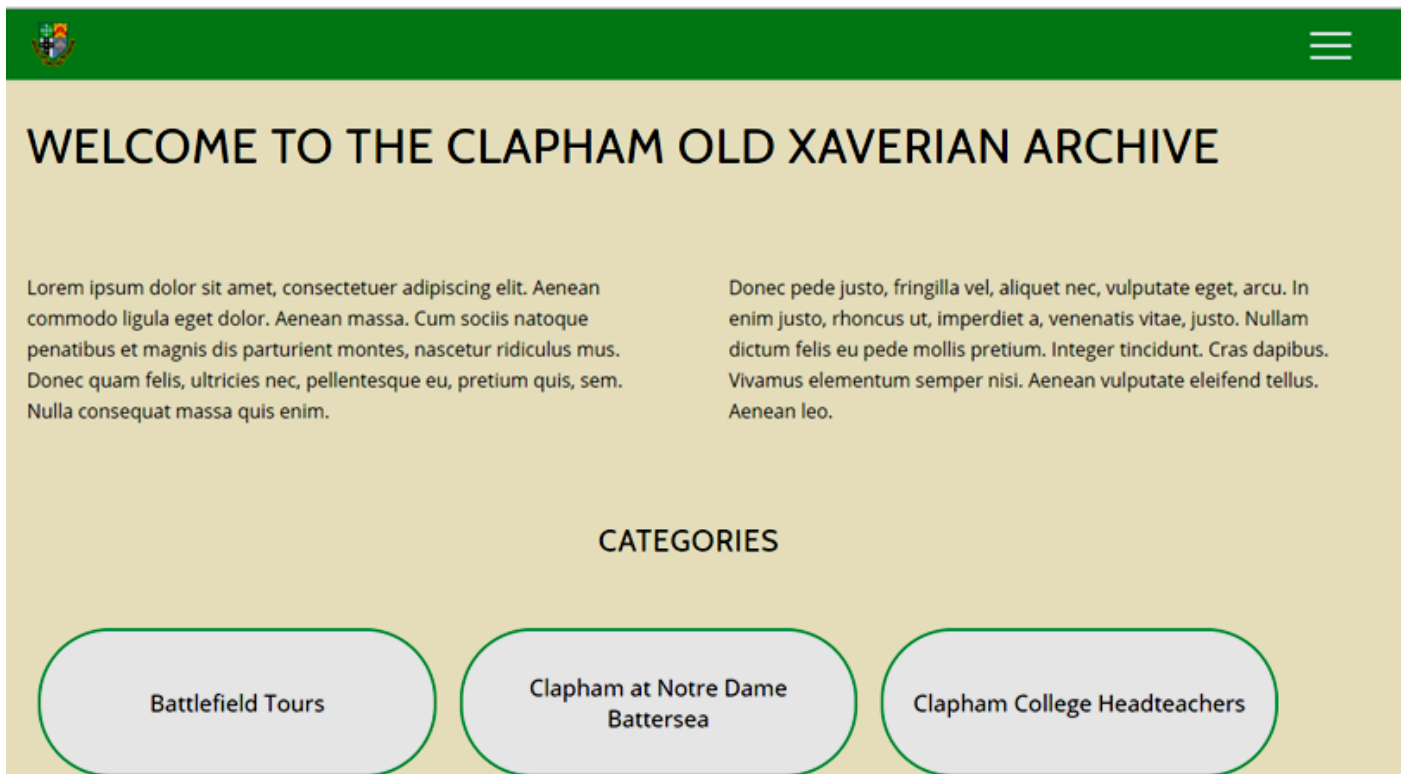
Soon there were V1 pilot-less "flying bombs" dropping all around us; one landed in the middle of East Grinstead leaving a massive crater of destruction. We were then transferred to Taunton, Somerset where we remained until the end of the War in 1945. We returned home to London and attended Clapham College in Nightingale Lane. After five years studying there, I passed the necessary exams, with the invaluable help of one teacher Ernie Wright, and was accepted as a student at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School where I qualified in Medicine in 1955. After serving in different disciplines I specialised in Ophthalmology and was on the staff of Moorfields Eye Hospital in London until I retired.

In 1980, after learning that the Holy See had a large and worrying annual deficit, I founded with others a new charity – **The Friends of the Holy Father**. The purposes are to pray for the pope's intentions; to endeavour to make his teaching better known and to raise funds to offer him gifts that would be useful, such as providing the first computers for the English Section of the Secretariat of State and for the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican Gardens, laser equipment for the Vatican Museums to clean ancient objects and frescoes, equipping the chapel of Pope John Paul's Peace Centre in Jerusalem, and many others. More information can be found on our website -

thefriendsoftheholyfater.org. Membership is open to all.

The picture above is me offering our *Peter's Pence* booklet to Pope St. John Paul II.

To every Clapham Old Xaverian- Visit our “New Website, an order, not a request



<https://claphamoldxaverianarchive.com>

The Clapham Archive is HUGE - the thousands of documents, photos, team-sheets, publications , videos [yes “videos”] letters and social events are held in various locations [mainly around the Editor’s home].

There are boxes at Norbury too and a few in the loft. In recent years, I have copied many documents and materials so they are held in an “electronic format”. There has been attempts to put some of this archived material [when and where relevant] onto our COXA Pitchero [Sporting] Website. The Website wasn't “built” for this purpose but to support the “Sporting Element” of COXA. Frank Barretta has done a great job on this over the years, keeping us up to date with Clapham events, Sporting fixtures and results. The Website has also been used for advertising COXA Events and for keeping us up-to-date with news of our Membership. This will continue to be the purpose of the main Clapham Old Xaverian Website as it’s the best and quickest way to inform us all of what is happening in “COXA World”. This “new” Website is only a store for Archived material, it is catalogued to give you maximum access to the areas you might be interested in.

Aidan's Coletta has a friend [Frank] who has great expertise in Website Building and this project is the product of his skills and labour. COXA have provided the documentation.

<https://www.claphamoldxaverians.co.uk> - Main COXA Website [..continued]

“New” Archive Website.... Continued....

.The Committee invested heavily in this venture and it is “OURS/YOURS” . The ideas of categories [were mine] If you have ideas for “better ones” or additional ones please let us know!

Older members, with low IT [computer] skills should get their sons/daughters, or their grand-children, to help “log on” and “browse” & access the site for them. It’s worth it.

The Committee had been pondering what to do with all our archive items we’ve amassing over the past century, now we have a physical place to make our available to all Xaverians. Please access this new Website and investigate areas you are interested in...the next stage is VERY important,. If you access an area, and enjoy it, please tell us [donmiamac1234@sky.com]. If you have something to add to the Website, or a comment on what you’ve seen again get in touch. Finally if you have got something wrong or you think of a way of improving this Archive Website, please tell us... it’s a new idea, and will, with your support, grow..

Report on our and “new” Archive Website -

On the next page.....

are some usage graphs from 14 November through to 15 January.

The Active Users Chart shows the number of unique active users [meaning “real” people] that have accessed the site within the past 7. 14. and 28 days [up to the 15th January 2020].

The “Users” graph shows the number of unique users for each week during that 29 day period. The “dip” in the graph is Christmas week.

The pages/session value of almost 10 is a positive sign as it indicates that folks are looking around at the content.

A “Bounce Rate” [the percentage of folks that browse to a page on the site and leave without looking at other pages] of 22% is pretty healthy for a “non-commerce” site.

183 “Unique Users” look pretty healthy for a site in it’s embryonic state, without much “word of mouth” or advertising.

Frank

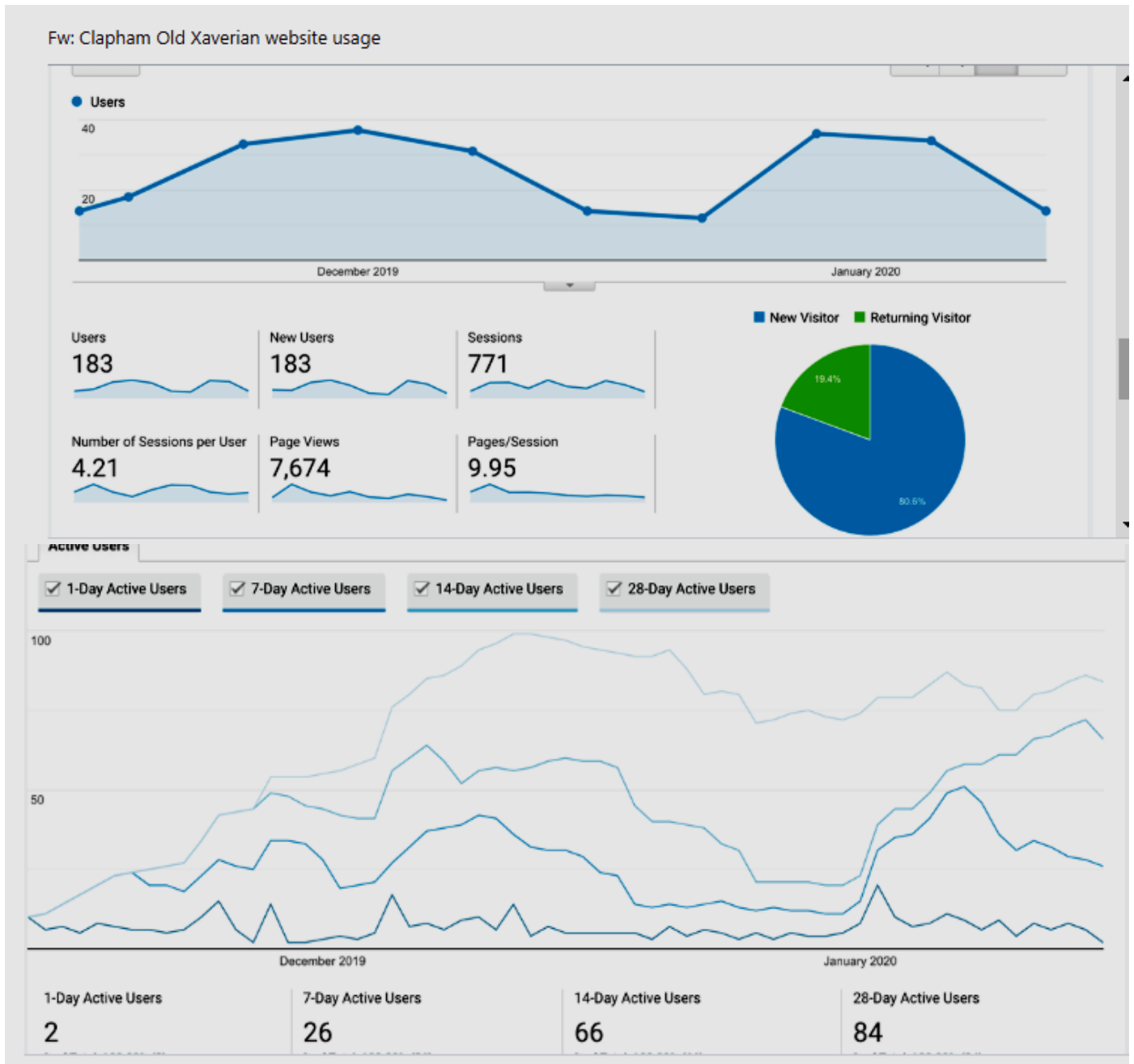
I’ve no real idea what all this means - but Frank seems to be very positive...

So now it’s over to you... I need Xaverian “action” from “YOU All”

In the next TWO weeks - log onto the new Website -

Open as many “categories” you are interested in - search and see if you feel anything is missing - then email me; cheers, Scotty

Graphs reflecting usage of our new Website for it's first month



Look very carefully you'll notice a number of Xaverians and their wives, at Plumpton Races



What did Jesus say about...Matt 18 - 22

18 Truly I say to you, Whatever things are fixed by you on earth will be fixed in heaven: and whatever you make free on earth will be made free in heaven. 19 Again, I say to you, that if two of you are in agreement on earth about anything for which they will make a request, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are come together in my name, there am I among them. 21 Then Peter came and said to him, Lord, what number of times may my brother do wrong against me, and I give him forgiveness? till seven times? 22 Jesus says to him, I say not to you, Till seven times; but, Till seventy times seven.

Well, I was trying to be “clever” here - but it could all blow up in my face... Look we are a Catholic organisation, and for many years we were “beseched” to join the quest for vocations to the priesthood, Concordia was used in this manner, to put the message out there. Some of my classmates left Clapham for Manchester to train to become Xaverian Brothers, Paul Griseri, Ross Wescott, Mike McGrath, Tim Kelly [God rest his Soul] and others...[I know they were secretly Man Utd supporters..but still... There were the collections for the Missions and attempts advertise membership of other Catholic Organisations. Many of the boys who left Clapham, and went on to become teachers [huge numbers at St Mary’s Twickenham] ended up teaching at Catholic Schools [dozen or so, at Clapham]. So there was some Catholic advantage of our education at the Nightingale Lane site.

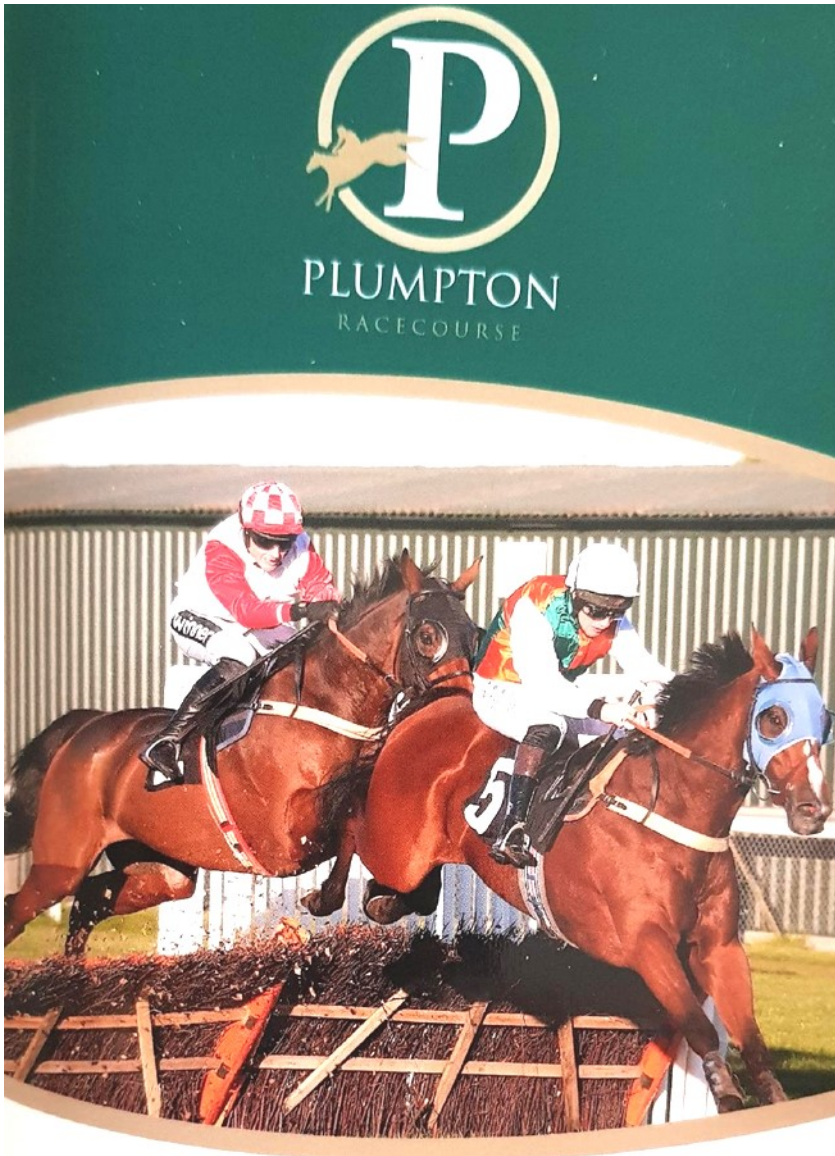
Today there are many parishes that still benefit from the 50 plus priests that left for Marks Cross or Wonersh [and the odd Bishop/Archbishop]. For all those who feel all that Cath Education went to waste..Catholic families, Catholic Govs, stalwarts of parishes, Papal Knights and Knights St Columa, choirs, Catenians..not all gone; Old Boys Rem Mass ,Mayfield. Brother’s Garden, our Battlefield Tours...etc...etc

Well this started as a “link” to a good idea, and got lots somewhere in translation!! We do make the effort to meet our old classmates and colleagues from Clapham and to some extent that why this conduit was set up 91 years ago so that we could record those meetings between Old Xaverians. This has stopped in recent years with the editor pulling up old documents and photographs from the past, and stories on The Lunch, Remembrance Sunday and the Battlefield Tours. So...if two or more of you do meet up...Jot down your years at Clapham, say where you met and a paragraph on “the conversation” and “hey presto” I have a 1/4 of a page of Personalia. So on the following page I have an article I shall call **COXA at Plumpton Races.....When two or more meet together it’s a COXA events...so send it in!!!**



Anyone recognise that ring?

COXA at the Races - Plumpton this time



LIVE AUCTION

A Box at The Royal Albert Hall

Enjoy a spectacular evening for five guests in a Second Tier Box for a night of your choice subject to availability, with £500 towards catering.

Kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Stuart Corbyn.



Where to start..COXA at Plumpton Racing, Clapham company [and for once female company], donations to a good cause, you can still donate if you wish. Bottom left corner shows "Agent Westy", obviously heavily backed...No, not a walking race, but Agent Westy walked in last.. Some you win. Still no worries Paul, I'm sure you'll get your five shillings stake back in time!



THE BOB CHAMPION CANCER TRUST

The Bob Champion Cancer Trust Charity Raceday
 Plumpton Racecourse
 Monday, 21ST October 2019

BOB CHAMPION CANCER TRUST CHARITY RACEDAY



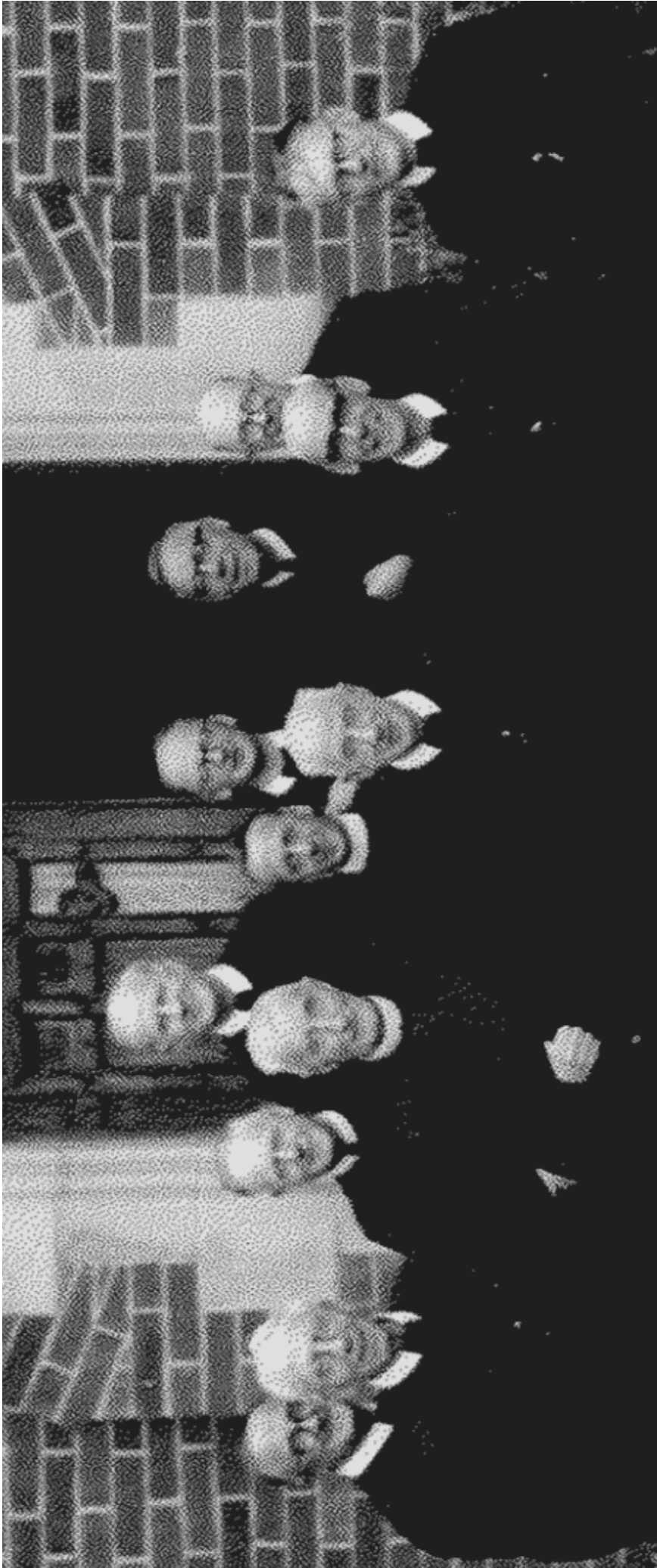
Drinks Reception	11.30am
Lunch	12.00pm
Live Auction	1.10pm
Shetland Race	1.45pm
First Race	2.10pm
Afternoon Tea	3.30pm
Raffle will be drawn	4.30pm
Silent Auction closes	4.45pm
Last Race	5.10pm



Brothers Louis Edward Dunstan Pius
1931
Clapham



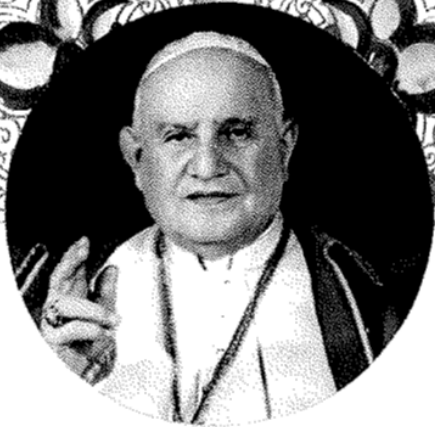
I have Brothers Louis, Edward, Dunstan, Pius in 1931 at Clapham College. The photo was taken in front of Hollywood and the Biology Lab. [I never, ever, went into that, or even looked into it, in my seven years at Clapham College] would seem to have had a great view over the Grounds / Paddock and Bro. Dunstan's greenhouse and bowling area. Even I can work out there are five Brothers in the photograph....any idea of the missing name? One there for the "older" Old Boys. If you want a closer look, view this Concordia online on the COXA Website. Is the standing Bro. omitted?



I found this old photo of the Brothers and straight away I recognised Brothers Dunstan and Christopher in t the middle. The other Brothers are beyond my memory...even the "notes" on the back of the photograph do not help me..can anyone out there help? Bernard, Francis, Sylvester...others?

Clapham College

*Bro. Christopher, Rodric, Niley,
Sylvester, ~~Henry~~, Bernard,
Francis*



Most Holy Father
Brother Dunstan
C.F.X.

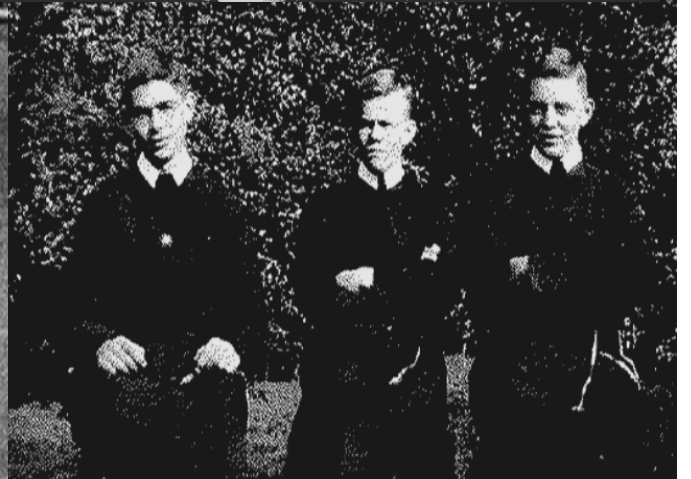
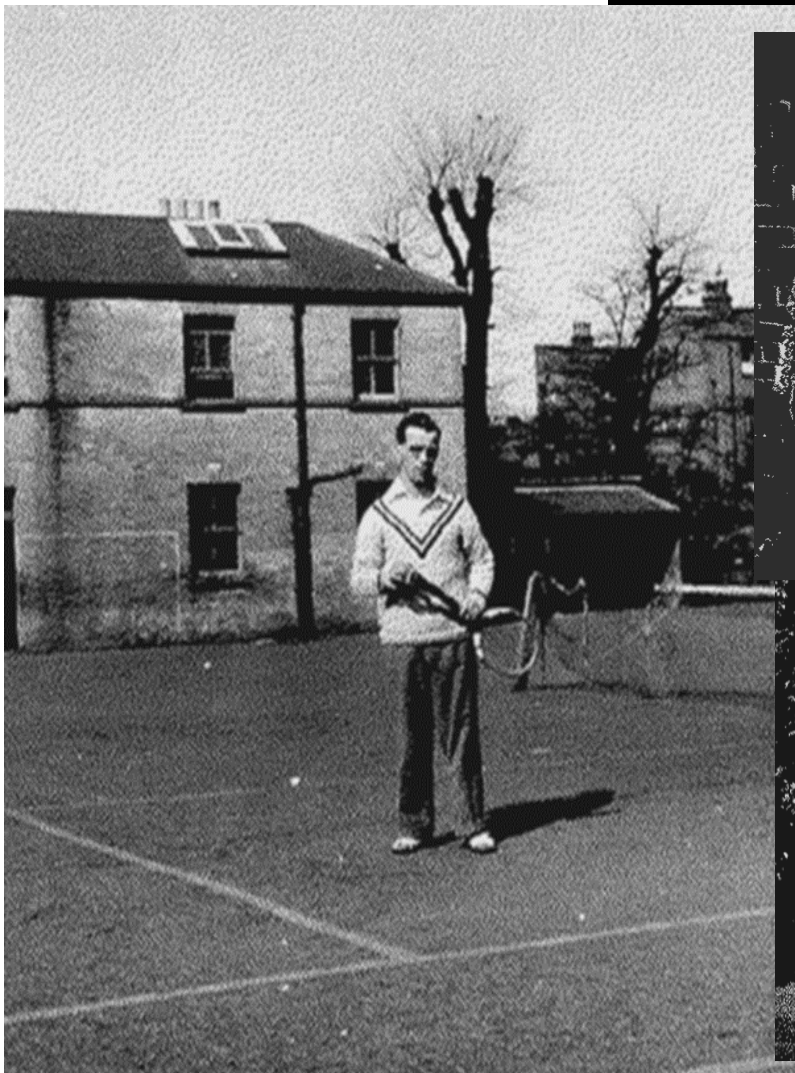
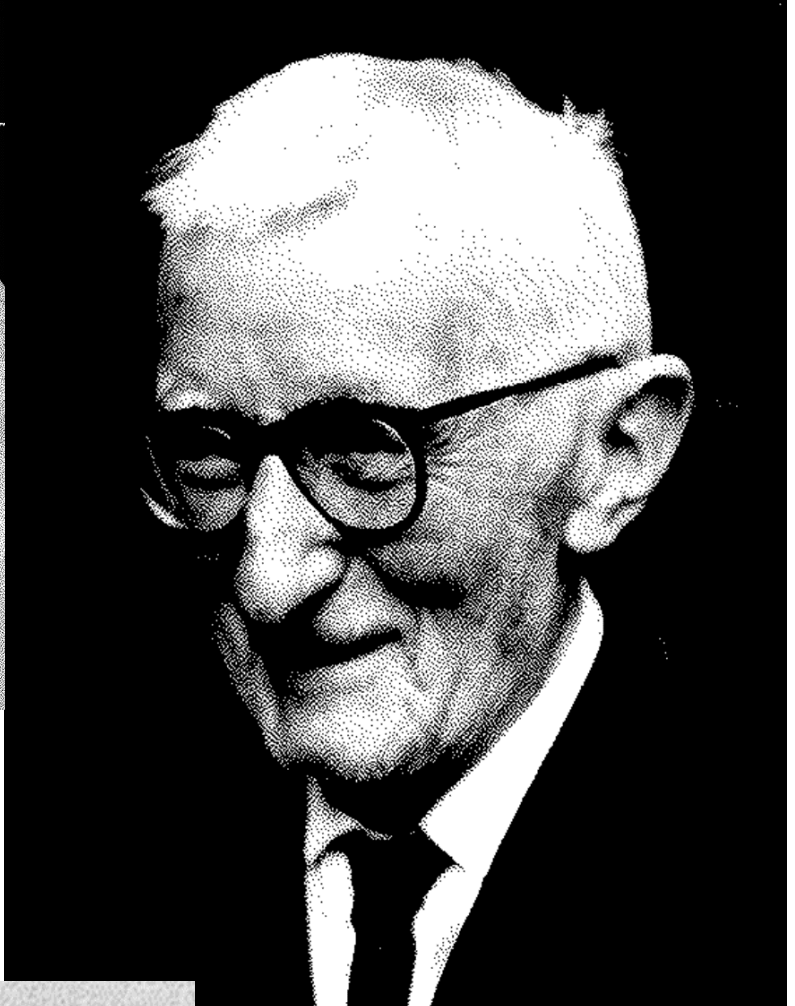
humbly prostrate at
the feet of Your Holiness begs the
Apostolic Benediction on the
occasion of his Diamond Jubilee
on February 4th, 1960 and a Plenary
Indulgence to be gained at the
hour of death on condition
that being truly sorry for his sins
even though unable to confess them
and to receive the holy Viaticum
he shall at least invoke with his
lips or heart the holy Name of ~
Jesus.

*Humis dominus benigne accipere precibus
Ex Archiep. Vaticanis die 15 Feb. 1960
+ Mennini
Archiep. Adanen*

More of Bro. Dunstan's handiwork - he was great wasn't he...?



Brother Joseph's "leaving cake" in the mid-1950s, another "snap" with the Dunstan "Brownie". But who are the Bros. in the photos?



“The Book” and the 400 Club



The Clapham Old Xaverian History

“The Book” is coming - you all had a copy of the “White Book” at the 2019 Lunch. Writing a book is not something that comes naturally!

Brendan Williams has “the ammunition” to complete “The Book” and has the “Frame” to hang it on... it will just takes a little time to pull it all together:- hopefully by the 2021 Chairman’s Lunch - [book your tickets early!].



400 Club Appeal

The 400 Club is one of the main sources of income for the Association. The funds raised are needed to pay our ever-increasing costs; the new archive web site, <https://claphamoldxaverianarchive.com/> three issues of Concordia posted to 400 members annually; Association running costs/repairs and renewals at Norbury. Started more than 40 years ago by Mick Power, the club in its heyday had over 400 members. Today that has fallen to **106** members, not surprising considering how long the school has been closed, but we do believe that there are many

Xaverians who could help us for £12 a year. Buy one ticket for £12 or multiples of 12. (John McGuire has ten tickets, as does Eric Tope, Brian Sanders, Mick Duffy, Sean Gavigan, Mick O’Sullivan and Phil Schwenk). If you are a member of the 400 Club, please don’t drop out - we do need your support. There are eleven monthly prizes of £100 and an annual prize in January of **£1,000**. **There are three ways to pay.**

A monthly **Direct Debit** bank payable to **COXA Sort Code 09 01 55. Account No. 83056903**

At the **same time, you pay for your ticket** for the **Chairman’s Lunch**

Cheque payable to **COXA and sent to COXA**,100 Epsom Lane North, Epsom, Surrey. KT18 5QA

Latest News. “As we enter a new year it is very pleasing to report an increase in membership of 20% - We now have **129** members with a total of 357 tickets sold.**Denzil Mascarenhas** won the big January prize of £1,000. Denzil invested £12 at the Chairman's Lunch and has one ticket in the draw for 12 months.If anyone else would like to support the Association, please follow the details to be found on our website”.

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/claphamoldxaverians/>

Aidan

After the Remembrance Mass - some of the more “senior” Xaverians know how to get organised, pre-booking a table for a proper Lunch..no need for “names”- all “legends” [and their ‘other halves’]...of course!





Lieutenant Henry Edmund Bulbeck born April 1894 - Died 16th November 1916 aged 22
Henry attended Clapham College from 1905 to 1908 and then Battersea Polytechnic where he matriculated and passed the Intermediate Engineering Examination. He was about to enter his final year when war was declared. He was granted a B.Sc. Engineering war degree (Honorary)

He joined the 16th (3rd Public Schools) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London) based in Epsom in October 1914. The battalion became part of the 98th Brigade 33rd Division concentrated at Clipstone camp near Mansfield. He was trained in Falmouth and in March 1915 sailed from Avonmouth to serve with the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers in Gallipoli. Arriving on the Gallipoli peninsula on the 25th April 1915 the battalion saw action at the Battle of Krithia and Achi Baba Heights. Within two weeks of combat, Henry was wounded, shot through the

right arm. After three weeks in hospital in Malta, he had three months leave at home. Eventually, he took the musketry course at Hythe and the Royal Engineers signalling course at Fenny Stratford, obtaining his second star about this time. He had received permission to transfer to the Royal Engineers, but as his battalion, the Royal Fusiliers were running very short of officers, following the Battle of the Somme. On 1st July 1916, he was drafted back to the Fusiliers and sent to France and the front line, on 8th August 1916. His first involvement was to witness the death of his Captain and another officer on either side of him as they were going through a communicating trench.

This experience was the beginning of what Henry himself describes as "a bad twelve days in the push". On the 6th November 1916 in the Battle of Transloy Ridges, it was officially reported that Henry was shot through the head and killed while gallantly leading his men in a bombing attack and also that he was buried where he fell, on the road between Lebouefs and Transnoy,

This account was researched by **Aidan Coletta** and read at the Mass by Brian **Sanders**. It was wonderful that members of Henry's family attended the Service and joined us to commemorate Henry's life. + **RIP Henry** +

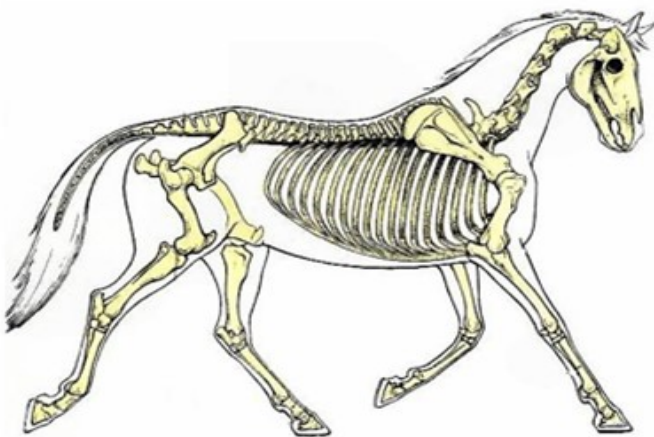


Peter Joseph Keast was born in Balham in September 1916, to Walter and Mary Keast [Walter was a qualified veterinary surgeon]. The family lived in Upper Tooting Park Road, but Peter spent some of his early years in Exeter.

Peter shared his father's love of animals and was keen to follow in his footsteps and to qualify as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Peter's bedroom in Tooting was on the top floor of the house, where, together with a number of stuffed animals and mammal skeletons, he also had a huge selection of books. .

The pride of his collection was a Christmas present, the skeleton of a fully-grown horse.

Peter was at Clapham College from 1927 to 1933, we know nothing about the quality of education he received at the College, but we can surmise it was not the best. However, with an endorsement from his father, Walter, he entered the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1933. But, in July 1936, he was suspended, having 'failed or been referred in one examination three times.' Still wishing to qualify as a veterinary surgeon, he secured a place the Royal Veterinary College in Ireland, Dublin, [hoping for an easier qualification route] he did eventually graduate MRCVS in December 1939. Britain was at War, when Peter returned to London, where he soon became frustrated with the reserved nature of the veterinary profession which prevented men like him from serving due to their protected profession status.



With no real opportunities to serve as a Vet at War; he finally managed to enlist as a soldier, and subsequently [due to his sharp wit] successfully joined the "elite" 3 Commando, [via 3rd Battalion Devonshire Reg. On 27th Dec 1941, Peter was involved in a raid undertaken by the Commandos, on Vaagso Island, Norway. Operation Archery, involved men from Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6 Commandos, a flotilla from the Royal Navy, and limited air support. Norwegians from the underground were also in attendance.

Peter Keast and the Raid on Vaagso...continued

Central to the operation was the destruction of fish-oil production and stores which the Germans used in the manufacture of high explosives. Another intention was to cause the Germans to move forces from the Eastern Front. The dawn landing was successful, and objectives went according to plan except opposition there was much stiffer than expected, as unknown to the British, a unit of crack German Mountain Rangers, experienced troops from the Eastern Front, were there on leave. Their experience in sniping and street fighting caused the operation to develop into a bitter house-to-house battle. The Commandos had destroyed four factories, the fish-oil stores, ammunition and fuel stores, the telephone exchange & several military installations, much of the town was in flames.

The Commandos sustained 17 killed and 53 wounded. The commandos accounted for at least 120 enemy killed and returned with 98 prisoners and a complete copy of the German Naval Code. The raid was enough to persuade Adolf Hitler to divert 30,000 troops to Norway, upgrade coastal and inland defences. Hitler thought that the British might invade northern Norway to put pressure on Sweden and Finland. Peter was one of those Commandos killed in that fierce hand-to-hand fighting on 27th Dec 1941. Peter's actions at Vaagso were reported in *The Daily Telegraph* of 5 January 1942, under the heading 'Commando's Vain Sacrifice on Norway Raid'; it described how [and I quote]

'A 25-year-old commando, Peter Keast, a veterinary surgeon of Tooting, London lost his life in a vain attempt to save his sergeant on the road at Vaagso. The sergeant was mortally wounded, and Peter attempted to drag him to safety. In the crossfire he has hit several times and died of these wounds'

The account had been sent to his father by an officer who saw him die. That officer had just seen his own brother killed when Keast was hit:

'He got it trying to save the section sergeant, Povey, who was also killed. Thank heaven it was an instant death.' ***"Doc" as the chaps called Keast, was one of the best men in the troop, always cheery and helpful.'***

Peter Keast is buried in Trondheim_Cemetery_where his headstone has the inscription

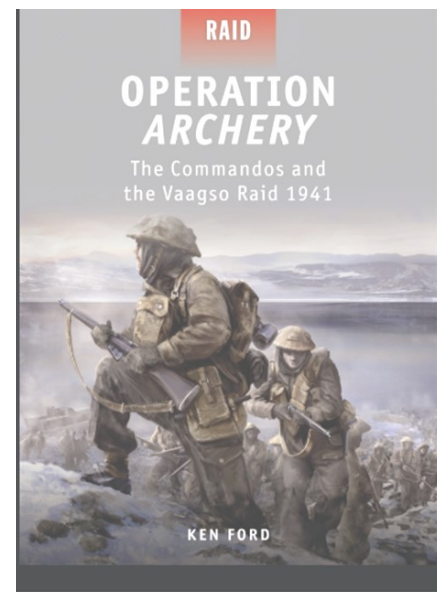
'He gave up his career. He volunteered to fight for a Christian way of life.'

Peter was a popular young man from an influential family

His name is recorded on our Roll of Honour in the Chapel
On the Royal Veterinary College War Memorial in Westminster
On the Commando Memorial near Ben Nevis in Scotland
On the Roll of Honour of the Devonshire Reg. in Exeter
On the new Memorial to the Dead of the Parish of St Anselm's
Tooting

And finally, he's on the Boy Scout's National War Memorial
listed under the 15th Balham & Tooting Scouts

There are books on Operation Archery and a film shot by a BBC cameraman John Reginald Dixon



Two photos from the Commando Raid where Peter Keast lost his life



John Nixon, who shot the film of the Commando Raids on Norway was also a Clapham College boy [from 1930 to 1936 he survived the Raid on Vassgo, but was killed reporting on the Middle East conflict following WW2.

John Reginald Nixon, the BBC's Middle East Correspondent, died when a civilian airliner en-route from Beirut to Amman was shot down by an Israeli fighter near the Transjordan border on 23 September, 1948. Nixon, 39, was a distinguished war correspondent and had risked death many times. On one occasion he was doing a live broadcast from Athens when there was a sharp crack and his voice disappeared. He came back a moment later to say a sniper on the roof opposite had just missed him. He narrowly escaped being killed when a bomb exploded at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in July, 1946, because he was late for an appointment and was still crossing the road outside. In a letter home, Nixon said he believed his luck could not hold out much longer. 'I have been in the firing line on sea, on land, and in the air for too many years now,' he wrote. 'I feel someone will get me in the end.'



On a completely different/lighter note, remember football matches that all you needed for total medical recovery from any type of injury, from a gashed knee, concussion, or a ball in the "goolies" was a wet sponge administered from a bucket of ice cold water. A touch of cramp? Leg snapped in two places, after a 50/50 challenge, worry not, because there was no football injury that a bucket of iced water (or, alternatively, scalding water, depending on the preference of the trainer) and a magic sponge couldn't cure. Watch football today, 2/3 physiotherapists with huge bags do the job of that yellow sponge - Life was so simple then.....



N.B.

24th October 2019

To celebrate Father Vlad's 80th birthday [6th May]

and

50 years of priesthood [31st August]:

There will be

The world premiere of Psalm 139 [verses 1-10]

[Vlad's favourite.]

As a motet at the offertory

Composed by Bob Chilcott.

Thanks to John Studzinski [Founder and Chairman of the Genesis Foundation].

This is the 25th sacred music commission by the Genesis Foundation.

'Genesis Sixteen' have provided six sopranos for the front row of the choir tonight.

At the end of Mass

please remain seated for just one minute

to give Vlad a chance to de-robe

and

be there to greet you

as

**having turned right as you exited the Cathedral,
you enter Cathedral Hall on Ambrosden Avenue.**



Vlad Feldsman celebrated his Jubilee as a priest at Westminster Cathedral in late 2019. A huge number of his friends went to the Mass and Reception [plus a few Xaverians]. He also celebrated his 80th Birthday. Vlad has always been loyal to the Xaverians, is a regular at the Mass and Lunch [and writes for Concordia] Congratulations Vlad.

Psalm 139 King James Bible- as sung tonight

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Jerusalem Bible – more or less; as Father V prays it

Lord, you examine me and know me, you know when I sit, when I rise, you understand my thoughts from afar. You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of my conduct.

A word is not yet on my tongue before you, Lord, know all about it. You fence me in, behind and in front, you have laid your hand upon me.

Such amazing knowledge is beyond me, a height to which I cannot attain.

Where shall I go to escape your spirit? Where shall I flee from your presence?

If I scale the heavens you are there, if I lie flat in Sheol, there you are.

If I speed away on the wings of the dawn, if I dwell beyond the ocean, even there your hand will be guiding me, your right hand holding me fast.



Vlad's work for the **John Paul II Foundation for Sport** continues unabated - if you want to find out more [or support his brilliant work for young people] - please look it up and do so.

The Psalm above is Vlad's favourite and was wonderfully sung on the night by a great soloist and supporting choir. Vlad went on to say that he really loves this Psalm as a prayer. As a Catholic Association it's nice to take a minute, read it and reflect.

THE CLAPHAM OLD XAVERIANS' ASSOCIATION AGM
AT THE NORBURY CLUBHOUSE, COUNTY ROAD

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2019

A blue banner with white and light blue text. The words 'Annual', 'General', and 'Meeting' are stacked vertically. 'Annual' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. 'General' is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. 'Meeting' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. There are some light blue abstract shapes and a bright light effect in the background.

Minutes of last AGM & Matters Arising - none

Chairman's Report - positive review of another successful year for COXA, well-attended events, financial security, shown ourselves as a Catholic Association, with Rem. Mass, attendance at Old Boys funerals and our Battlefield Tour. The Chairman thanked the Committee for all their hard work behind "the successes" of 2018/19. The dozen who attended the AGM were the same dozen who attended the 2017/18 AGM and all are/were on the COXA Committee. **David Leathem**

Treasurer's Report - delivered "electronically" by our financial guru, Sully in the South West.

The highest expenses for the year were on Memorabilia & Concordia [3 a year] minimal expenditure spent on the Website, Mass and the VIP Lunch. Major Income was from the 400 Club [thanks **Aidan**] £1,630, Interest on Savings £1,000, Lunch **PROFIT** £404 [well done **Mick & Eddie**], Subscriptions £411.00 Sales ties/badges//caps, [cheers **Frank & Aidan**] £291.00 and finally Tax Refund [cheers **HMRC**] £97.00. The COXA Account will continue to run at a loss of about £1,000 each year due to Concordia costs. However, due to the financial success of our "Sporting Sections", actual "money in the bank" of the Association has increased in the region of £2,000 per annum over last 5 years congratulations to Captains & Committee for their sterling efforts, [and **Eddie** preparing that pitch!] - more on this in COXASS

Election of Officers President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 400 Club Membership, Concordia Editor, Social Secretary, Auditor, Webmaster all were thanked for their efforts in 2018/19 and "went through on the nod" ..elected for 2019/20....

Well in all honesty they had to be elected [nobody else was there!].....

Any other Business - a Printer Scanner was agreed to be purchased for "Memorabilia" and an amount allocated for the "labour" required in setting up a Website for our Clapham Archive to be accessed by all.

The Clapham Old Xaverians' Association Sports and Social Club AGM
Thursday 17th October 2019 following the COXA AGM

Apologies for Absence..there were a couple, nobody from any of the "Sections" present.

The Chair decided it was best to vote in the 2019/20 COXASS Committee at the NEXT Committee Meeting in November, at a venue away from Norbury to allow easier access, a pub in the "Balham" area was suggested. The Clubhouse Manager and Bar Manager were voted in. The Bar made a profit of £6,894 - thanks here to **Bob and Mick** - and the **Pigeon Club** especially]. There was an "attempted Fraud" but our eagle-eyed reps spotted this early and monies replaced. The fraudster was an insurance com. employee.

COXA and COXASS AGMs October 2019 - continued

Treasurers Report continued [COXASS A/C]

The COXA main account - In future years any loses on this account will have to be funded from our [healthy Savings Account].....

COXA A/C (Sort Code 40-01-07 A/C 90232459) Nat. West Balham.

The Annual AGM of COXASS [the Sporting Limb] took place in the Norbury Clubhouse on 17th Oct. These meetings have rarely been well “publicised” of late, if that’s the correct term. The attendances have been around a dozen Association members [usually the COXA Committee] and the odd “one man and his dog”. The Oct 2019 AGM was no different, however, having looked at Clappers and COXANs in the 1970s and 80s, the AGM [or it’s minutes] covered a large percentage of the copy of those publications. The AGM [and it’s minutes] carried more interest “or weight”with Association Members and sometimes over 40 Xavierians made the effort to turn up at Norbury. Sometimes there even seemed to be competition for election to posts on the Committee...times have changed and I feel the Association will “die” when this Committee has run it’s course.. but lets not be morbid, we have another few years [hopefully] left in us!

Obituary for Bill (William Robert) Hipsey (1929-2019)

Bill Hipsey became an honorary life member of COXA a couple of years ago, nominated by Tony Gilford. Although Bill was **never a Clapham College schoolboy, he had lessons at our school between 1942 - 1944. His course at Brixton School of Building had been bombed out and the boys were moved to The Brixton Annexe (alias Clapham College) because our lot were enjoying life in East Grinstead and Taunton.**

After qualifying he joined the building trade, mainly as a carpenter, but he seemed to know a lot about most practical skills and soon became a kind of deputy foreman in spite of his youth. In his spare time he played the clarinet in jazz gigs at *The Welcome Inn* in Eltham. He became a keen cyclist joining *The Standard Wheelers* (Blackheath) where he first met and fell for Pic, his wife to be. Bill was a great cycling competitor in time trials, road racing (not really allowed in those days), They married in April 1955 but a few months later he was diagnosed with TB and was sent for bed-rest treatment to Bow Arrow Sanatorium in Dartford (a former fever hospital) where he was put in the bed next to mine [Tony Gilford]. They lived in New Cross and after a cycling holiday in the Pyrenees and Catalonia his wife found herself pregnant, producing Stephen in 1958. Bill often had to find jobs away from home and in 1960 was involved in building bungalows in Burnham-on-Crouch.

Bill and his family made friends wherever they went, especially on holiday. Bill had a knack of entertaining and teasing children, in spite of any barriers of age, language, race or religion. ! He was a leading member of the Maldon & District Cycling Club and a great organiser of local treasure hunts, devising humorous and challenging situations.

Bill freely gave his time and effort to helping out his whole family whenever a need arose. The last time I saw Bill was 22 Nov 2019. I miss his telephone calls, his stories and his great friendship. He leaves his wife Pic, children - Stephen, Susan, Martin, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. A man full of love for people, life and fun. **Tony Gifford**



Scotty,

The photo on page 23 captures the spirit of the 1963 camping trip to Ullswater. We camped on a farm, water from the stream, dug a latrine, and just look at the number of guy ropes on the tent. The men [lads] in the photo are Front L to R Len Staines, John Gilhooly, Johnny Utting, Bill Kidd teacher, Andy Davis, Bill Haley , Laurie Snaith, Alan Faulkner, Kevin Gregory, Middle Row L to R Terry Sullivan, Chris Smith At back Cecil Pocock. The names were put together by Chris Smith, Peter Fry and me. Chris and I both remember walking back in a group from the pub in a moonless black night, stopping on a hill top to sing, led by Laurie Snaith. Both Chris and I remember seeing our first falling stars, something we had never seen in Hoxton. I hadn't had a sheltered life by any means but the songs that Laurie knew, amongst them an account of what happened on the Top of Old Smokey, was a revelation. Bill Kidd lead us up to climb Striding Edge. I caught a trout with a worm. The experience was full of camaraderie. A joy that this photo lights up again.

Where did the photo come from? Bill Haley [sorry Bill - no idea - Scotty]

And more.....Cecil's Camping Trip to Ullswater (August 1964)

Tony Gilford

Cecil was the great organiser of the annual Clapham College summer camps. Usually at Mayfield, but more adventurously in 1961 to the Jura and Vosges areas of France/Germany/Switzerland. In May 1964 he phoned me up out of the blue. "Tony, I'm taking Bill Kidd and some sixth formers camping in the Lake District. I wonder if you'd like to join us." Well, of course I was up for it. "By the way, do you think you could borrow your mother's car - a Vauxhall Victor Estate with a bench seat in front could seat six! Bill Kidd had been with me in 1A in 1950 and was just finishing his fourth year of teaching chemistry at CC.

Early on a late July morning I parked CMX 928A next to OGY 400 on the grass in front of Hollywood. Bill was already there with his car - not a minibus in sight. We stacked the food, utensils, camping gear in boots and high up on roof racks and squeezed into the cars - three drivers plus some ten or so boys.

1963 camping trip to Ullswater. ...continued was it '63 or 64?

"Follow me Cecil - I know my way through North London!" I lost them before I'd reached the A1 at Apex Corner! I suddenly realise I've got four boys, tents and food for two days, and I don't know the address of the sheep farm - all I vaguely remember is the name Ullswater. We stopped at Sterling Corner for half-hour looking for OGY 400. Finally give up and drive north, turn left at Scotch Corner on the A66 to Penrith, and drive slowly along the west side of Ullswater towards Glenridding, and see a track on the right with loads of sheep on a hillside. At the end of the track are two cars and Cecil and Bill shifting tents up the hill. "What kept you? You came across the Pennines? Why didn't you drive via the Kirkstone Pass?" Bill complains about the dodgy farm track - his exhaust is hanging off! We drivers decide to treat the track with more respect - would-be passengers must walk.

First job is dig and set up a latrine (away from the stream). Rig the sleeping tents and a stores tent. Cecil, Bill and I share a tent. They've brought camp beds! I roll out my sleeping bag on the uneven ground down the middle. We finish our sandwiches and brew up tea on a Primus. Down the hill the farm is separating the lambs and shearing and dipping the ewes. We townies don't realise what will happen tonight. We bed down to the bleating of lambs and the raucous baaing of ewes. The lambs cannot scent their mothers and the ewes refuse milk to strangelings. This goes on all night just outside the tents. Next morning the farmer tells us they'll all wander off up the fells before sunset. That morning breakfast in the sunshine - Cecil has bought milk, eggs, bacon from the farmer's wife. Bill has found a handyman there to weld and fix his exhaust. We eat well on cereals, then eggs, bacon, fried bread soon appear after careful instruction from Cecil about using Primus stoves. Cecil pins up a daily kitchen duties rota for the boys. Then we drive into Glenridding with some of the boys and arrange to meet them later. Using his AA Handbook Cecil decides the Glenridding House Hotel is the best place to park and have a few pints. We find the bartender amenable - he plies us with endless bowls of olives, crisps and salted peanuts. I guess there's more profit to be made if you can keep the punters thirsty. There's even a pier with a steam boat nearby. Back to camp for lunch. We are making up a huge pot of soup from powder - I suggest it looks a bit thin. Try breaking a couple of eggs into it. An old recipe from Grandma Dietz. It looks fantastic to me! Some of the boys say it looks like cat-sick. Well I filled up on soup and skipped out on most of the sausage, potato and baked beans. Waste not. Want not.

It's early Thursday morning so who's vigorously rocking our laced up tent? Someone has left a gate open and cows have joined the camp. One is rubbing its itchy head on our guy ropes. Cecil sets up a day out for all in Penrith - boys can explore the town. We find a pub serving Younger's Tartan Ale. Cecil wants to have a day at home and read a book. He will take on all the kitchen duties after we wash up (water from the stream). Bill has the Ordnance Survey/Wainwright Map of instruction and leads us towards Hellvellyn (England's 3rd highest mountain 950m = 3117 feet). Bill keeps slowing down for us to catch up. I have 1.5 lungs due to post TB surgery and find uphill is hard work. Eventually Bill and the fitter members disappear and we remaining few include the smoking footballers and straggle up Swirral Edge into a fog-capped Hellvellyn. We ask some well equipped walkers going the other way, "Has anyone seen a fit guy with a map and a team of lads." Not in this fog. We see a man with a dog in front of us in the greyness. His body seems to be sinking into the ground. He's getting shorter by the second. Perhaps he's sitting down?. We lose the mirage as he disappears over the edge. Just a foggy convex slope down into more fog. Well if a shrinking man with a dog on a lead can do it let's follow. Perhaps he's blind and it's a guide dog? We crawl on our backsides into the void. Suddenly we are under the cloud base. There are people walking and crawling towards each other along this ridge about 400 m long about a fifty feet below, some going up and some going down. Don't look down at that tarn a thousand feet below! We scramble along down and make for the plains. Bill had said meet in the village pub and Cecil will pick us up? We get lost in the terrain and find no pub. Weary two mile walk back to the camp site along the road.

FOUND ON A WEBSITE: Striding Edge isn't particularly difficult or narrow, but it is exposed in parts and, particularly in strong crosswinds or in full winter conditions, can be **dangerous** – arguably though, the most **dangerous** part of the mountain is actually the shorter far side descent onto the start of **Swirral Edge** which, particularly in winter ... 10 Mar 2014....continued overleaf

It's Saturday and Bill's fiancée Ann who is practising nursing midwifery in Glasgow has a free weekend, so Bill books her a room in the farmhouse. That afternoon Bill and Ann go for a ramble. I lead a team up a scree and rock clad mountain side. It gets quite dangerous - no hard hats. The lads higher up seem to be inadvertently disturbing the terrain and its raining rocks and stones. Although Ullswater looks good for swimming the farmer warns us of the intense cold currents so Cecil organises a trip to the eastern side of the lake for a somewhat sturdy climb up Place Fell to an O.S. Trig Point. This is one of those fells where you think the summit is just over the next convex horizon. How does Cecil always know where the pubs are? It's Saturday again. It's the culmination of the Ambleside Fell-Sports Week. The town is crowded and in festive mood. None of us are keen to compete - content to be spectators. Several of us queue up at local bookie stands wondering whether to place a bet on Tom, Dick, Harry in the fell racing. They have various age groups from boys under elevens to mens over sixties. Even some robust women runners. There is Cumberland wrestling going on and a field where men shout and whistle at a dog chasing sheep. Lots of us are munching the Kendal Mint Cake which was supposed to be a present to take home..It's our last night already. We drive three cars into Glenridding and crowd the *Black Bull*. After a couple of rounds Cecil goes back early to catch up on his reading. Bill also offers a lift. There are nine of us left. Closing time 10pm time. I can give some of you a lift. Oh! Go on sir. You could fit us all in! How do you get nine people in a Victor Estate? Reminds me of that riddle. "How can you fit four elephants in a Mini? Two in the front and two in the back." Two sit on the bench seat next to me, four squeeze on the rear passenger seat, two squeeze into the estate luggage space. We reach the entrance to the farm track and fearful for my exhaust and suspension it's, "Come on now lads! Everybody out! This car has got to get us back to Clapham College tomorrow."

Postscript. Three weeks later driving up Friday Hill in Chingford the oil light came on and the car refused to restart. An AA tow me to our local Vauxhall dealer. "The bad news is your oil pump failed and your big-end is mashed. The good news is although you bought it second-hand it's still in warranty." Wow! Might have happened going up the A1 at 90mph. Always look on the bright side. **Postscript.** We left the tents and equipment for another group to use. They camped for the next two weeks when high winds, rain-storms, hail lashed them mercilessly. The tents were trashed.

CONCORDIA 18 Page 23: Photo - Ullswater Camp 1964 Standing:Cecil Pocock & Smith L to R: Baker, Gilhooley, Yates, Bill Kidd, XX, XX, Sullivan (shirtless), XX, XX, XX Can anyone identify these correctly?

The Three "French Brothers" - Clapham College - A Sad Tale..

Three brothers, Charlie, Tony and John have sadly all passed away in the last twelve years. All three attended Clapham College and I knew the family well as their parents were very friendly with mine and we spent quiet a bit of time together growing up in South London. Charlie was the eldest and was in my year (1969-70) while Tony was next and was in the same year as my brother, Peter, (1972/73) and John was again about two years later but I am not exactly certain. John French, their father had heart problems and had passed away suddenly in his 40s. That heart condition was congenital and sadly was passed on to the three boys. John, the youngest was first to die, some 12 years ago and would have been in his late 30s to early 40s. Tony who was the long-time landlord of the Beehive Pub in Stockwell followed a few years later. Charlie died last summer and I attended his funeral in Whitstable to where he and Lorraine had retired; he would have been 68. What is very sad about the lads' departure is that their mother, Phil, is still alive and approaching 90. In fact she is in fine fettle with all her faculties very much intact. They also have a sister, Michelle. I spent some time chatting with both of them at the celebration of life for Charlie in Whitstable and Phil was resigned to the acceptance that all the men in her life had been taken away in some plan that God had that she couldn't understand but nevertheless accepted. She had remarried after her husband, John, and father of the boys died. Her second husband, Tony, had also passed away a few years earlier. There will be many in COXA who will have memories of the French boys, hence my e-mail. May they all rest in peace. ..Ciao for now

TJ (Jim) Kirby

Lovely photos of two of our recently deceased Xaverians



Jackie Gavigan [Sean Gavigan’s wife] died in August 2019.

A lovely photograph of Jackie in her nursing days

Jackie Gavigan

Born 22-11-1945

Died 10-08-2019

R.I.P

As a nurse, watching Old Boys football at Norbury, Jackie was astonished at the rapid recovery powers a cold, wet, sponge waved at an “injured” player engendered.

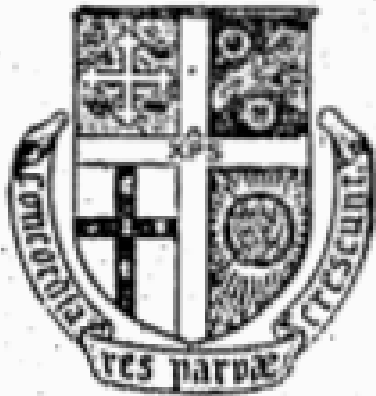
[Sorry Jackie, it did work!!]

Best wishes Sean, [hope things are well for you]. **Jackie’s observation led to the rather random piece on Page 31**

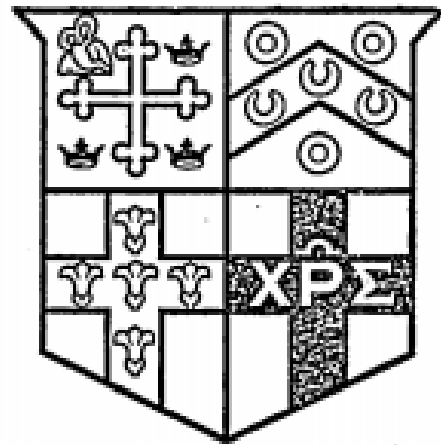


Photos of Father Terry Creech RIP. At his beloved Lourdes and in a family photo in his Clapham blazer





Vol. III.



Concordia res parvae crescunt

Vol. IV

API

The Clapham College / COXA crest has changed over the past 50 to 60 years - Father Anthony Richins RIP was an expert on these - I've added a snippet from him below... These three crests were used on the Front cover of various Concordias in the 1940s and 1950s. It was clearly evolving, but no idea why...????

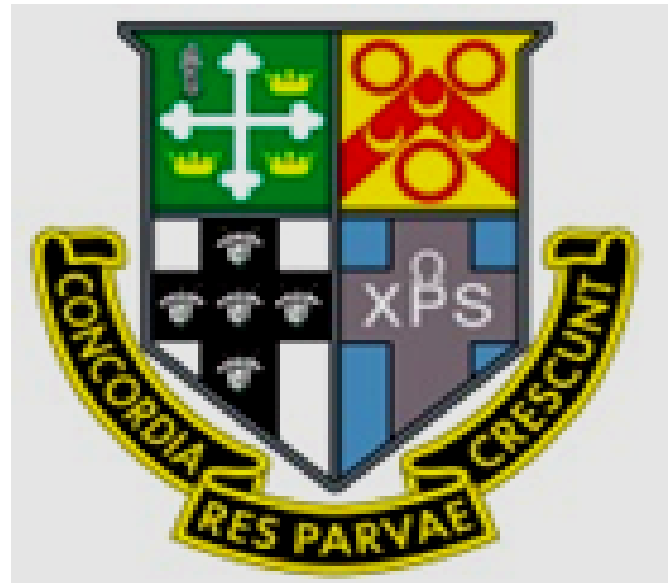
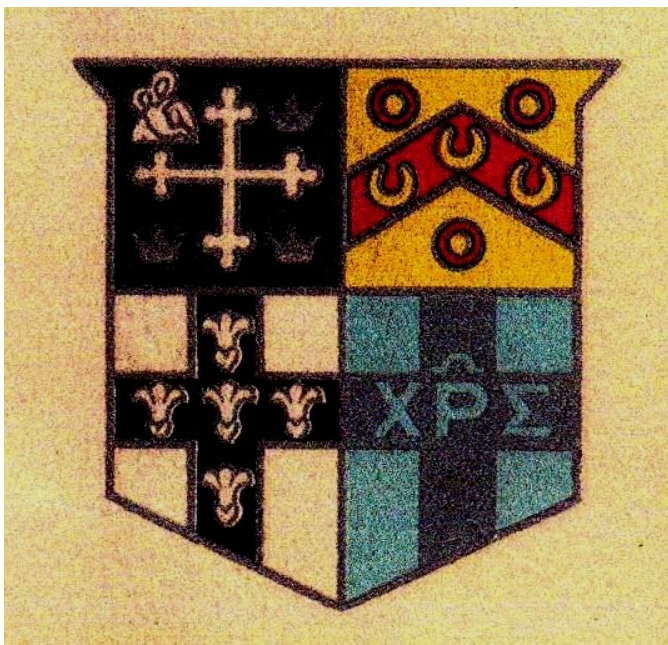
Anthony Richins... *it is not often that I publish a message from one of our deceased Members, but I found this email in the "Spam" [I don't know!! on my "old. old" computer. It was a message from Father Anthony Richins, replying to request about the change of the Clapham College crest in the 1930s*

The four Houses have appropriated the arms of the monastic houses (all English Cathedrals apart from Salisbury and Wells) had monastic chapters. The reason for the Impalement of Canterbury at Clapham College was that the lower right panel was claimed by the "arms" of the Xaverian Congregation. It is perhaps best not to show this to an English Heraldry enthusiast although... We are now in the EU (for the present). Kind regards. AR [apt!! - Ed]

Up to 1932 we used the Xaverian Crest common to all the Xaverian schools in England. It was then, a few years after Clapham Old Xaverians were launched that we started using the Clapham College crest we all recognise and love....

CommentsPLEEEEEEESE !!

Clapham College crests - our brilliant badge - changed over the years - think order is correct



The Two Aspects of COXA Rambling



Health/Fresh Air

- just take in those views.

Good Pubs -

there has to be a place for Lunch and socialising...

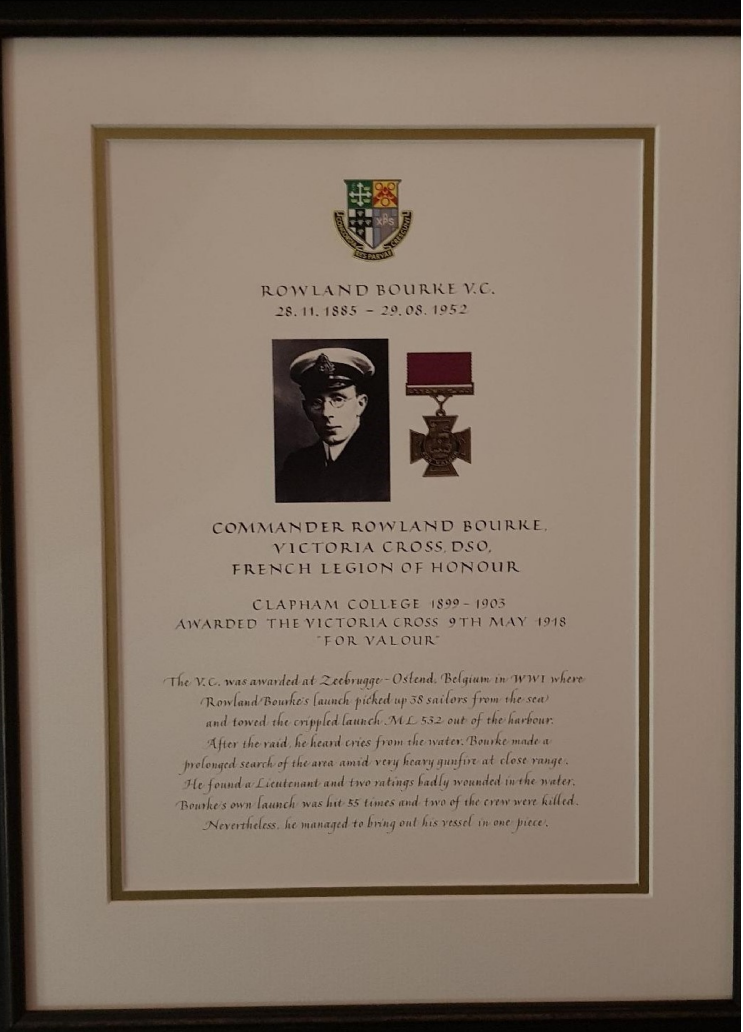


Next Jaunt -Merstham

26th Mar 11am



Recent and "final" additions to the Chapel Wall



These are the three new memorials in the College Chapel. The Principal, Stella Flannery, kindly let the Xaverians add these to the other Clapham College memorials on the Chapel walls. The wooden memorial is to Brother Joseph, Head at CC in the 1950s, he tragically died in Africa. To many, he was one of best-ever Heads at Clapham College; this engraving was the end of a personal quest [over decades] of Ted Hayter. The scrolls are 1. Our "V.C." Rowland Bourke; 2. the second is the final list of those Old Boys who gave up their lives for our future. These became the focal point of the Remembrance Service . + **May they Rest in Peace** +

January 2020 The Chairman's Lunch at the Oval

Just a "flavour" of the 2020 Chairman's Lunch

