

## Introduction

Gentlemen, welcome to the Connexion for Autumn 2012. Apologies it has been a while since I last wrote one but once I had recovered from the 40<sup>th</sup> Celebrations I have been very busy changing jobs (three times), moving home, yet again (new contact details at the end of this Connexion), and visiting my daughter (who having just turned to the tender age of 2 can already out sprint and outwit her Father). I hope you have all had a pleasant and thoroughly enjoyable summer and have been enjoying the Royal Wedding, the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics that we have been treated to in the UK over the past 12 months or so.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

In June last year the club celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we did it in splendid style. The day started with over 30 gentlemen heading to the beach at Cai Bach. Here we absorbed the beautiful view that was presented to us as well as the majority of gentlemen taking a dip in the pleasant sea. Despite clear messages that we were going to the beach some gentlemen had to swim in their undergarments as the thought of packing trunks had evaded them! We were blessed with gorgeous summer weather for our trip and had a game of 'touch' rugby on the beach; the result of this match is one of contention! To finalise the activities we decamped to a local pub in Aberaeron for a well-deserved couple of beers and some sausages and chips. I must thank Emyr Morris here for organising some superb 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary polo shirts, they were truly fantastic.



**AGM** - Late afternoon was absorbed by our AGM but preceding this we had a talk from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Trinity St David about the path the university is to take and his thoughts as well as a 'pitch' to us for funding to assist with the landscaping project. It was good to hear his enthusiasm from the Lampeter project and he had some good ideas to take the University forward and was expanding its weight in academic circles as well as location wise. I was buoyed by the Vice Chancellors words as I felt he was a man with clear passion for Lampeter and a reputation for getting things done. The University wanted us to be a potential donor to its landscaping initiative with us contributing £5k. It was made clear to us that this would not be at the expense of accommodation and student services (for example an astroturf pitch is finally available for use in town following a joint project) and was part of a larger project. They were questioned on the idea of 'a lake' where the hockey pitch used to be to be told that the plans were old and not considered final in any way. A discussion was held following the Vice Chancellors departure in which some members were keen to support the initiative and others not so. During the talk we were shown 'old' designs for what the campus could look like. A decision was taking by those present at the AGM for myself to write a letter to the Vice Chancellor, offering our tentative support for £5 to £10K, with half coming from what Peter left us and the other from those willing to donate to it. In the subsequent letter to the VC I said we were not going to fully commit until

we had seen further plans and wanted to ensure we were consulted in the process through a representative. However I did say that we were certainly interested in the scheme. Whilst it took me a little time to write the letter it was sent to the VC over 12 months ago and I still wait for a response! To be honest I would have expected some sort of correspondence by now but perhaps those in charge of our beloved institution can talk the talk but not walk the walk!

**Dinner** – The meal was to be held in the Old Hall of the University as I felt that it was the only suitable location to hold a meal of such importance. I must thank Sean Slater for his help and assistance in preparing the dinner. It was in June 2010 that the planning for this meal started with a meeting with the Vice Chancellor (which he was unavailable for!) and constant emailing and organisation since this point to ensure the food was of great quality and that the wine matched each course. We were treated to a superb meal from the College catering who exceeded expectations. A joyous occasion was had by all as we enjoyed a four course meal of local produce and excellence. Dinner was followed by port and cigars in the courtyard of old building before many gentlemen headed down to the Union to enjoy the rest of the evening. Several members made it up the mound post union for the traditional songs before more port was enjoyed until the early hours of the morning on the College greens. I was a little slow out of the Union and subsequently taught a valuable lesson for storing Port in my car and not being available to distribute said drink with quick enough pace. Mr Brits, graciously let my car tyres down! Sir, I have learnt my lesson!



*At dinner we were joined by the Vice Chancellor (a late 'invitation') and the much loved University President Dr Brinley Jones of Lampeter.*

**Donations** - It was decided that we should present something to the University in celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> year. We wanted to ensure it would in some way be something that would benefit the members of the College 16 and other students either directly or indirectly. As the Chapel in college has given support to many of the students in Lampeter over the course of our long history it was decided that a gift to the Chapel would be appropriate. The Chaplin, Matthew Hill, has provided support to many of the current students and is an inspiration to many of them. On discussion with the Chaplain it was agreed that we would purchase new candlesticks for the Chapel as this was what they needed. They were commissioned and in late summer of 2012, 6 new candlesticks were delivered to the chapel. I have received a very pleasant thank you letter from Matthew Hill, thanking us all for our kind donations.



In addition to this we agreed to part fund a new scrum machine for the Rugby club. However despite conversation and then emails the then Captain never got back to me. The new captain then declined our offer. However their loss if the Fencing Club's gain as they then asked us for some new equipment following a lack of funding from the Union and aging equipment. To this end we have donated to the Fencing Club some new equipment that we can guarantee will be put to good use as the lifetime President of the Club is our own Sean Slater. I have again received a warm letter of thanks from the current Chairman of the Fencing Club Joady Fogarty.

**Thanks** - I must thank the following for assisting me in the organisation of the 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations; Sean Slater (for being a constant support and liaison with college), Emyr Morris (for not only the Polo Shirts but also accommodating myself and Tristan in the days before the weekend as well as liaison with college), Stephen Raj (College 16 Chairman 2010-11) and the Executive of the Returning Members Rob Rosset, Stu Tilley and John Skinner.

### **College 16 Report 2011-12** (Edward LeBrun Powell Chairman 12')

The College 16' Club went into its 41st year in particularly high spirits and it is without any exaggeration to note that this positive feeling continued throughout the year. The Club appears to be going from strength to strength despite losing one or two important members. The Club has, however, had a few excellent additions of gentlemen with great character throughout the course of the academic year. The Club also, for the first time in many years, visited Y Talbot Inn in Tregaron and had one of the best evenings. The Redentes Dinner was held at the homely Castlegreen Restaurant to round off an enthralling 41st year in our great Club's history.

### **Returns 2012**

A dinner was held this year at the beginning of June for Returners in the Castle Green. Dinner was preceeding by traditional croquet on the college lawns and a few drinks to start the day well. A smaller affair than the 40<sup>th</sup> bash but I have been assured a good time was had by all. I am not quite sure what is going on for the post dinner photo here but some excellent photos of the day's activities are on the Facebook group.



### **Future Events**

- Firstly if you are attending **Old Boys** this year (first Sat in Dec) please get in touch with the Chairman for this year (Ross Webster-Slater) for information about a dinner on the Saturday evening.
- Myself and Rob Rosset are looking to organise a **post-Christmas Dinner** in London sometime in January of the New Year if there is enough interest. Please let one of us know if you are interested.
- A good time is always had at the gathering in **Banbury** around spring so keep an eye on the website and for emails from Stu Tilley for information on this thoroughly enjoyable lunch and afternoon.
- **Returns 2013** will be organised for end of May / beginning of June. I will start organising soon so keep your eyes peeled. Hopefully will be able to have a fantastic meal in the college and I am very tempted by another trip to the beach.

### **RMO Contact Details**

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### **And finally...The Authors Amongst Us**

The literary credentials of the 16 Club would seem to be boundless. Two members have recently published literacy masterpieces.

**Richard Jopling** (JOP), one of the earliest members of The Club, has written a novel entitled 'Had We Lived: After Captain Scott.' The central character in Jop's opus is the young landowner, Apsley Cherry-Garrard who was the youngest member of Captain Scott's fateful adventure. 'Cherry,' as he was known, survived the terrible rigours of a winter's journey in search of Emperor Penguin eggs and was chosen by Scott to go on the southern journey to the pole. However, he was not selected to be in the final five who were in the last leg of the journey. Later on Cherry led a rescue attempt to find Scott and his companions but failed to push far enough on to find them. The next spring they found their frozen bodies and realised just how close Cherry had been before he turned back. The realisation of his failure haunted him and he suffered ill health for the rest of his life. His fortunes also suffered and by the time of his death at the age of seventy three he had lost all his landed property and most of his wealth.

It is rumoured that JOP is currently working on a sequel novel which will feature Lampeter and the 16 Club. The title is understood to be: 'The Amorous Adventures of Erica in Antarctica.' Further information on JOP and 'Had We Lived: After Captain Scott' can be found on his website: [www.richardjopling.com](http://www.richardjopling.com)

**Chris Darnell** also released a new book recently entitled 'The Return'. Here is a short description. It is December 1985 and Northern Ireland's social and political future is once again in the balance. The Anglo-Irish Agreement is only a month old but is being rejected by Unionists and Republicans alike. For the British Prime Minister, the public outcry and the political resistance have come as a shock, and nothing must happen to make the situation worse. But down in South Armagh's Bandit Country, you don't care about politics, just about staying alive, because if you are a British soldier, no one is your friend and the countryside and what it conceals can kill you at any time. The men of the Scottish Infantry are days away from the end of their gruelling and violent operational tour, but all is not right. They have lost sight of the enemy. To their seasoned commander, Major Paul Stanton, the situation reeks of treachery, but he has no idea that he and his soldiers are about to be hit by a series of events that will shatter his personal and professional worlds forever. Forced to leave behind all he treasures and believes in, Stanton embarks on a perilous mission. Tasked personally by the Prime Minister and supported by the enigmatic Brigadier Charles Grace, Stanton is forced out into the twilight world of "deniable ops". Partnered with the beautiful and mysterious MI5 researcher, Christina Dahler, Stanton's search for truth takes the two of them from the killing grounds of Bandit Country to the Republican strongholds of West Belfast, and then into the dead-land of the South of Ireland. Living on his wits, in an edge-world where no one is a friend, and hampered at every turn by politics, Stanton gradually uncovers an unimagined picture puzzle of operational security breaches and military corruption. As the early months of 1986 grind on, the mission takes Stanton and Dahler into West Berlin's "Wall Zone", where the demented "Shaggy Drinkwater", the last piece in the puzzle, is at large and roaming free in West Berlin's black underworld.