



## CLUB CONNEXION

APRIL 2003

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
RETURNING MEMBERS OF  
THE 16 CLUB

### BEHIND THE SCENES

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOP

Richard Jopling bowed out as RMO at last year's Double 16 AGM and handed over the reins to Chris Darnell. What can I say about Jop that reflects in any way what he has done for our interests. Jop has been an inspiration and driving force during his tenure. His has been real leadership through difficult times. The culmination of his tenure was The Double 16, at which the celebrations and activities were outstanding and the Dinner the finest ever. The Club owes him so much.

#### YOUR COMMITTEE

Back at Lampeter, **Peter Allison** (Keeper of the Purse) continues to provide fantastic service as the Treasurer and current link between 16 Club and Returners. Out in the shires of England the rest of the Committee perspire in their efforts to keep tabs on Returning Members. **Stu Tilley** (Master of the Electronic Abacus) has just updated the Club website and the link to this is:

<http://www.the-16-club.fsnet.co.uk>

If you haven't entered or updated your contact details then please do so – this would also assist **Robert Rosset** (Lord Registrar) who needs your information. Remember, we exist not only to maintain friendships and traditions, but to provide information and services to each other. The Committee reaffirmed our responsibilities to the 16 Club, and a record of our meeting about this is below. We sometimes forget, perhaps, that we can help each other. We can only do so if we occasionally make an effort to keep in touch.

#### 16 CLUB RETURNING MEMBERS

At a meeting of the 16 Club Returning Members Committee at Lampeter on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2002, the 16 Club Returning Members reaffirmed commitment to:

#### **Provide support to the current 16 Club in the following ways:**

1. Brief the Club Members on the 16 Club history, Code of Conduct and the role of the Returning Members.
2. Returners would emphasise their interests in mentoring the development of inter-personal and leadership skills and the benefits of networking in later life.
3. Returners would support the Club financially according to resources.

#### **Develop the Returning Members association and activities, for example:**

1. Continue to support the 16 Club Summer Dinner on a personal basis.
2. A Returners Dinner to be held each year alternating between Lampeter and (perhaps) London. Current 16 Club members would be welcome to attend this dinner.
3. Develop the Returning Members database further and maintain the names of Returners on record in perpetuity. It was agreed that the Connexion would in future only be sent to those who showed interest in the Returners and who usually paid an annual subscription. All Returners would, again, be encouraged to make an annual payment by direct debit.

### THE DOUBLE 16

We cannot commend too highly the success of the Double 16 Bash on the Glorious First of June last year. Success was due to Jop's meticulous organisation. Our presentation picture of Canterbury, executed in oils by a local artist, was delivered with style during the morning. It now hangs in the Library and is a constant reminder of the long history of Lampeter. Those who examine it closely will see the Returners' logo carefully printed on the mount. In the afternoon there was a quick game of mini-golf at Aberaeron - the bus departing Lampeter only three quarters of an hour late. As the Codex dictates a glass or two of sherry was taken prior to the meal and official business expertly handled. As for the meal in Hall...the menu included salmon and quail, there were specially acquired fine wines and vintage port. Undoubtedly it was the finest Menu seen in those surroundings for at least fifty years - possibly not since Victorian times. The toasts followed according to precedent. The usual high level talk of a philosophical nature is reputedly to have later taken place in the S.U. and a number of attempts were made to walk the pipe. The meticulous attention to detail, including, for example, a glass of iced water in the Quad half way through the meal and a superbly printed menu, ensured the event was historic (*even to the extent of securing a new Jokemaster Trophy - a female nether garment of evocative design & reputable owner pedigree - to replace that lost some years ago - RMO*).

The recent edition of *The Link* contained a photograph of the 16 Club Returners and a good description of the event.

### 16 CLUB NEWS

#### 3RD FEBRUARY 2003 - PRINCE CHARLES VISITS LAMPETER

During HRH's visit to UWL, Club President Maxwell-John Heinrich approached the Vice Chancellor in order to get permission to make a 16 Club presentation to Prince Charles. It was agreed and after some waiting around Max and Andy Holdsworth 'ambushed' HRH and made the presentation to him of a Codex and a tie.



*In the words of Max, Prince Charles was pleased with the gift and inquisitive about the club, asking many questions about what the Club does and the date of the next dinner*

#### 16 CLUB DINNERS SINCE THE DOUBLE 16

Alex Hartwell reported that the 16 Club had dinners in Hall (Autumn) and at the Ram Inn (February) and that they were great successes: 'perfectly organised' (*impossible!* - RMO), with name cards and a seating plan (*any food & drink?* - RMO). Emyr Morris (*son of Porter Bob Morris, who died sadly in March, and who is fondly remembered by those of us who knew him* - RMO), College Groundsman & part of Alex's 'business team', was invited to the February dinner 'for his services to the Club' (*fantastic, well done* - RMO).

On St David's Day the Club held a dinner in the Old Hall with the Vice Chancellor and many other guests. Max Heinrich reports that the attendance was so oversubscribed that 2 stalwart Club Members (Shawn & John Evans) gave their places up. Max also reports that the food was below par for the standards of the Club (*disappointing; particularly since College gave us the best dinner I can remember for the Double 16 - RMO*). Despite this, the evening was a great success.



*This is Ben (Vice President of the Club) & Ollie (potential new Member) with Sara Edwards of 'Wales Today'*



*No names - but most of those who attended the St David's Day 16 Club Dinner*

## RETURNING MEMBERS NEWS

### THE OLD CANTERBURY BUILDING PAINTING

The *Camarthen Journal* of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002 reported on 'Painting brings back memories', referring to the presentation by the Club to the College (coinciding with the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) of the original Nick Beall painting, commissioned and funded by the 16 Club, of the Old Canterbury Building. As Keith Robbins stated, 'We are very grateful to the 16 Club for the generous gesture as part of the College's 175 anniversary celebrations.' Keith also wrote to Jop on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2002, expressing his thanks. The painting hangs in the Library.

### MAE RONSKA

We received a letter from the late Mae Ronska's daughter, Helena (still living in Lampeter), expressing her appreciation that the Club had remembered Mae at the Double 16. The Ronska's hospitality and friendship at the Plough will live forever as part of the indelible

memories of SDUC days in the 60s and 70s (*How we miss those days... - RMO*).

## RECENT GATEWAY PRESS RELEASES

*'Historic Building Recalled on Canvas...The 16 Club presented it (the Old Canterbury Building oil on canvas) to the University on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May. The 16 Club is a Dining Society of the University established in 1970.'*

I found it interesting that the *Gateway* also contained excerpts concerning the standing of UWL as the leading university in Wales in helping 11 graduates in winning entrepreneurial scholarships - to found their their own businesses - funded within the knowledge exploitation fund supported by the Welsh Assembly and EU. As a key role for the Returners, let's be alert to anything we might be able to do to help Members.

In his message in the *Gateway* Keith Robbins referred to the strategic issues being discussed within Wales regarding UWL's future. Trinity College Camarthen and Aberystwyth may play a part in the future. We shall need to be alert to the outcome and what if any will be the impact on the heritage and future nature of the Club.

Keith Robbins also gave notice of his impending retirement - he will retire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003. His successor is Robert Pearce currently a professor of law at Buckingham.

## FORTHCOMING DINNERS

Returners are to contact the organisers if they wish to attend the following dinners:

**The Lampeter Society London Branch Annual Dinner** in London on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2003. *Contact Richard Haslam.*

**The 16 Club Summer Dinner** will take place in Lampeter on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2003. *Contact Max Heinrich & also let me know, please.*

**The Returners Dinner 2003.** It was agreed that the Returners would hold an extra-Lampeter Dinner every 2 years. 2003 is the first target year and I have agreed to organise it. It is planned to hold the AGM at the same time. The provisional date is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2003, in London. *Please contact me to sign up.*

## OTHER ITEMS

**Photograph.** Brendan Somers has kindly donated a photograph from 1994 showing Members of the Club entertaining Sir Anthony Hopkins. The picture is now in the Minute Book.

**Mr A E Dyson.** Tony Dyson was a great man of letters; a university lecturer specialising in Dickens, R S Thomas amongst others. He also co-authored the Black Papers on education, which although criticised at the time, contained ideas that are close to Government policy nowadays. On his death in July 2002 he left his Hampstead home to the University yielding a sum over £650,000. Founder Member Brendan Somers was charged in his Will with scattering his ashes in a most beautiful part of Monmouthshire. Why should Members and Returners be interested in this academic? Simply because he was a close friend of Cliff Tucker - after whom a lecture theatre is named. Cliff, of course, was a stalwart supporter of the Temperance Society. In 1994 Tony Dyson planted a tree in Cliff's memory, an event attended by Club Members. A further tree was planted last November close to the Dulais. Tony specifically asked that members of the Club be present (the letter is held in the University Archives). We are pleased to report that Members once again turned out and assisted in giving thanks for the life of this great man.

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