**Peter’s Legacy or The 16 Club Pool**

Maybe I am just getting old but I have been thinking and reminiscing more than perhaps I should or is good for me. Time has a habit of running away with us and to me it doesn’t seem so long ago that I was an undergraduate at Lampeter and then before you know it was the sixteenth dinner of the 16 Club (Chaired by Mr Graham Taylor) and just a blink later it was the sixteenth annual dinner. Who remembers Peter’s famous ‘Time Capsule?’ Various treasures were put in the time capsule-a goblet, a menu card, Bill Blincoe’s underpants etc. Then we set off on a great march over the hills to bury the time capsule. It was light when we came to the chosen spot, we were all soaking wet and nobody had a clue as to where we were. Nonetheless, we all had to swear a terrible oath never to revel the whereabouts of the time capsule. All very well but then came the realisation that nobody had thought to bring a spade and we had no means of burying the thing. Eventually a hole of some sort was scraped with a stick, the great time capsule dropped in, and we all trooped back to Lampeter as fast as we could.

I also remember the celebrations for the Double 16, which were held in 2003. We dined in the old College Dining Hall, surrounded by pictures and memories. The whole event was a great success and we gave an original painting of the old Canterbury Building to The Coll. which is now proudly displayed in the Library. After the event and celebrations I was about to take my leave of Peter and in a mood of post celebration gloom asked Peter what we should tilt at next as a club.

‘Why, the treble 16 of course!’ was Peter’s reply.

I remember wondering at the time where we would all be in the year 2018-it all seemed such a long time ahead. But now it is getting closer and soon will be a reality.

The matter of the prospective Treble 16 came up at this year’s Banbuy Luncheon (Incidentally a wonderful event organised by our own good old Tilley and not to be missed by the more discerning gentlemen) It may be some year’s ahead but now is a good time to begin the planning stages certainly as regards the possibility of making a Treble 16 gift to College. Some ideas were raised at the luncheon but the port decanter had done brisk work and it would be fair to say that they were not of the best. So in more sober and considered mood now would be a good time to initiate some thoughts on the Treble 16 and what we should give as a gift to mark this great occasion.

Harking back for one moment to one other event in The Club’s past, Peter’s farewell celebrations have to be acknowledged. Our own dear RMO organised the dinner in Hall and there was a festival of fun by the Dulas. The final act was, if you remember, was to fulfil Peter’s wishes and to:

‘Chuck his ashes in the Dulas.’ This was duly done. Peter also left a legacy to The 16 Club and this has been used since wisely and well for a number of laudable purposes and also has enabled us all to enjoy ourselves so much the better for many a good year. It seemed right and proper to us all at the Banbury luncheon that Peter’s legacy should empower us to make a very special gift to College in recognition of The Treble 16.

Since Banbury I have given the matter of the gift much thought. I really do believe that it has to be something physical and meaningful. Let’s discount all ideas of scholarships and incentives. I had enough of those in my days in charge of scholarships at Harper Adams to know that they are very difficult to administer, hugely expensive and in the end just don’t work for the people they are intended. No, it has to be something that will endure and be appreciated by generations of students at Lampeter now and still to come.

I have been reading Roger Deakin’s book ‘Waterlogged.’ He enthuses about swimming in all parts of the UK –moats in Suffolk, estuaries in Cornwall, lochs in Scotland and mountain pools in Wales. It made me think of wild swimming in Lampeter. Sometimes immersion in the Dulas was unintended and ‘The Pipe’ was the scene of many a revelry. But then in that wonderful summer of ’76 we post grads swam most days in a pool in the Teifi.

So, now-at last-I come to it. As our gift to Lampeter why don’t we create a pool on The Dulas which can be specifically used as a wild swimming pool? This would fit in with those plans we were told about by The VC to landscape at the same time as offering a unique facility for students etc. I’m not talking about serious swimming but something truly wild, primeval and truly in the spirit of this great club. How expensive would it be? I don’t know the answer to this but it would need a proper plan from an engineer then it would be no more than a day’s work for a JCB and the basic job would be done. Anything more than this would be at our discretion and dependent on costs.

So, there we have it. Please let Stuart have any thoughts, comments or expletives to put up on the website and let’s get some thinking and planning put in hand for a decision to be made in good time for our great day.

Gaudeamus semper

JOP