



## Greetings from Mandeville Place, London.

**2012 marks our 75th anniversary**, since opening classes in 1937.

Over decades, that's a lot of classes, many discussions and a lot of tea! So it's a good time for us to say thank you. If anywhere in the world, you enrolled on a course, served in the School, tutored a group, or just came to a lecture, your participation has contributed to bringing the School to where it is now. None of this would have been possible without you. I hope you will enjoy reading about others' contributions and work in the School, below. Go to [Schoolinsight](#) for sign-up form, back issues and other material.

With very best wishes,

**Christine Lambie**, editor



*For 20 years he was the secret link between the IRA leadership and the British Government, leading to the present settlement. Brendan joined the L'Derry School, a branch of the Irish School, in 2000, part-way through these turbulent events. This article is reconstructed with the help of Brendan's daughter, Shauna, and a BBC documentary made about this remarkable businessman, who suffered a stroke 2 years ago.*

## The Link Brendan Duddy, Northern Ireland

### Fish and chips

In the early 1960's I used to run a fish and chip shop in Derry. I loved every second of it. I would still say I was the best - I understand potatoes and I understand fish.

Hamburgers were also on the menu, delivered by a young Martin McGuinness. He would deliver the hamburger meat to the chip shop, put the meat on the counter and

then have a chat with the girls. I remember him from those days as polite, innocent, with absolutely no interest in politics.

In the late 60s, the civil rights movement opened a new chapter in the tortured history of Northern Ireland. Peaceful protest climaxed in violence. The leaders of the radical left hung out in my chip shop. They would go in for their tea and chips at 2 am to discuss the night's events.

In the shadows at that time, were those who believed that peaceful protests would get nowhere. A resurgent IRA emerged, intent on driving the British out of Northern Ireland. To get away from it all, I would retreat to the lonely hills near my home. While out hunting one day I had an experience that I never forgot. This beautiful hare just stood in front of me. I shot it with a .22 rifle. When I looked at this beautiful creature that I had just murdered, I realised what violence was all about. Then the thought of men shooting at men – the futility of that, and the understanding in an instant, that this is not the way to live.

## Bloody Sunday

As events unfolded, I despaired, watching the city burn in protests and riots, powerless to stop the mayhem. Then came an opportunity to act. I was asked by Frank Lagan, the police chief, to help keep the IRA guns away from the march due to take place. On Sun 30th Jan 1972, around 20,000 turned out for the march. But in half an hour 13 civilians were shot dead, 7 of them teenagers. The army said they had come under fire from the IRA. Eyewitnesses said all those killed were unarmed.

Bloody Sunday was a turning point in the conflict. Violence seemed out of control. Hundreds queued up to join the IRA. Martin McGuinness was now commanding officer in Derry. The IRA demanded British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. Dialogue got nowhere. The repercussions were horrific. Everybody in Northern Ireland remembers a bag and pieces being shovelled into it. And I was completely aware that this wouldn't add to Irish freedom – that was somebody's father, mother, brother. There comes a point in your life when you just say 'No'.

## The Link

As a result of my connection with police chief Lagan, in 1973 I met with Michael Oakley, one of Britain's MI6 officers sent to Northern Ireland. In the following months, our family life was changed forever. Our home became a fortress where absolute secrecy became the rule. It was days of clandestine meetings and coded phone calls.

On New Year's Eve 1974, I was driven to a secret location outside Dublin. I was the first outsider ever to meet the IRA's ruling army council. I didn't want to see road signs, I didn't want to ask. I told them that I had been talking to a servant of the British government, and that the British were prepared to talk about this war. By now the IRA was hitting soft targets in England, bombing pubs in Guildford, Woolwich and Birmingham. 5 soldiers and 23 civilians were killed. Even my friends had no idea that with Oakley, I was trying to encourage the IRA to end its increasingly violent campaign.

## Dialogue

We had IRA leaders at my house for meetings. It's a simple sitting room in a simple family house. The notion that big things happen in the Oval Office in Washington or in the grand hall of the Kremlin – actually it doesn't happen that way. It happens less formally. You get a situation where eventually someone is dying for a cup of tea and says 'I'll make a cup of tea' and you have to ask someone who you are not very happy about; 'Would you like sugar?' It breaks down the barriers.

My wife and children didn't have much information about it all – they knew the IRA were coming here for peace talks, and they certainly knew about the secrecy and tension we were living in. My life was under threat all the time. People were living on the very edge - there would have been no tolerance for someone who said, 'Well you've got to try and understand, let's talk'.

I wanted to show people that actually the world can be changed. The first thing to do was to replace bombings and killings with dialogue. It seems simple but that was the essence of everything - dialogue.

Every day of peace was a life saved.

## Ice Age

Following the hunger strikes in the Maze prison of the 1970's, we went into a frozen period which lasted another bloody decade. But I always believed that the thaw would eventually come. During that time, I used to come up to the hills behind my home every single day. It was a place of personal internal freedom, a spiritual recharging, which brought me back to being a person. I knew the British would be back. It was a matter of simply waiting.

On 28 Nov 1990 when John Major entered Downing Street, the ice began to melt. But by this time Oakley was due to retire. We managed to bring Oakley and McGuinness together for a meeting. This important meeting helped lead eventually to the peace process with the first IRA ceasefire in 1994.

But on 7th Feb 1991, just a few weeks later, the IRA mortared Downing Street. This is the strange way it works: one department bombs, while the other department talks.

## Message

In Derry, 4 months later, I reluctantly agreed to meet an unexpected visitor, who turned out to be an MI5 agent called Robert with a letter from Peter Brook (secretary of state for Northern Ireland). For almost 2 years Robert gently played himself in, secretly feeding me advance copies of government speeches to be passed on to the IRA. They indicated political flexibility if and only if the IRA ended violence.

In Feb 1993, the government received a remarkable secret message that suggested the IRA was in a mood to do business. It said, *'The conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close.'* But the message wasn't sent to the British government by me, or by Martin McGuinness. Could it have been sent by Robert, the government's own agent? It now put my life at risk, culminating in an interrogation in November (below).

That message was a time bomb waiting to explode. The government responded 4 days later and I began preparing the ground for new secret talks. But just 3 days before the talks were due to take place, the IRA bombed Warrington (20th March 1993), injuring 56 people and killing two little boys aged 3 and 12.

Warrington actually spurred me on. But it almost stopped the process. The difficulty was continually renewing the dialogue in the midst of these events. After Warrington the British government pulled out of the scheduled talks. But 3 days after Warrington, the two sides met in my house, with Robert (probably going against instructions) representing the British. Robert managed to persuade the IRA to a two-week suspension of operations.

Towards the end of Nov 1993, the IRA paid me a visit. Four senior members took me to an upstairs room and questioned me for 4 solid hours. That questioning was very intense, not abusive, but very intense. If I had been guilty of anything, I wouldn't have liked to have been sitting in that room. And at the end of that they said that the time had come for them to be doing their own business – the Link (me) was no longer necessary to the peace process.

When the government found out that Robert had disobeyed orders and met the IRA, he vanished. Before he left he gave me a farewell Christmas present, inscribed with a quote from Virgil. 'One day it will be good to remember these things.'

*Brendan Duddy alone didn't bring peace. Many others played crucial roles from John Hume and Gerry Adams to British and Irish prime ministers. But it was Brendan who put in place the crucial IRA ceasefire from which all else flowed. Read more at [BBCNews](#)*

## News Review

## 1. Art in Action UK

The wettest summer on record caused the cancellation of major shows across the UK. Art in Action was also in question. Five days before opening, the local farmer declared his fields, the car park, unfit for use. Within 48 hours organisers found a disused airfield nearby and hastily hired buses to bring visitors to and from the site. On day 1, traffic arrangements and 6,000 visitors' patience were severely tested; it was still a wonderful show. As the sun finally blessed the event, numbers reached over 23,000. Art in Action 2012 was a triumph over seemingly impossible odds, largely due to the magnificent efforts and goodwill of visitors, demonstrators, staff and volunteers alike. **See this year's film: [art.in.action](#)**

## 2. Day School closure

The Board of the Philosophy Day School in New York has announced that with regret, the school will close at the end of this school year, in summer 2013. This is caused by the general challenging economic conditions in the community and consequent declining enrolments. All possible efforts are being made to help parents find suitable places for the children.

## 3. New Classes

Readers may be interested to know that philosophy classes are now being offered:

- In Hebrew in Tel Aviv with the assistance of a New York student who travels to Israel for 6 weeks at a time,
- In German in Wiesbaden (45 kms from Frankfurt) and near Schleswig in Northern Germany,
- In Polish, in Szczecin, 150 km from Berlin.

## Two residential weeks in New York in summer 2012

The New York School hosted two week-long courses at its beautiful Walkkill property. Students from USA, Canada, Trinidad, and Venezuela attended. Two views from these events:



## Philosophy in Action - one student describes his practice

### Rocket Science

***Jerry Baylock, New York, is working on Orion, the manned mission to Mars planned for 2030.***

About two years ago I joined a team of electrical engineers to design and analyze a new circuit board for use in the "on-craft network," allowing the

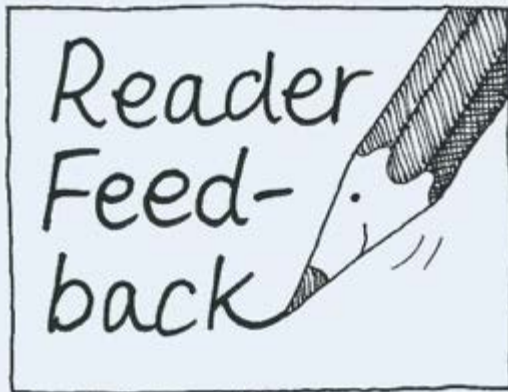




different computers on the spacecraft to talk to each other facilitating navigation, communication, etc. I worked on the Crew Exploration Vehicle, the section the astronauts will live in. To accommodate longer time in outer space, Orion is larger than Apollo, has more advanced electronics, and provides better protection from dangerous cosmic rays.

I've always had a fascination with outer space and mankind's desire to explore. Much of the technical work takes place in the mind first, so the fundamental practice of meditation helps prepare that inner space for the work ahead. Keeping the attention on the task at hand is very valuable for increasing the productivity and accuracy of the design and analysis work. The Orion project is appealing to me because it allows mankind to continue our outward exploration of the universe, potentially to benefit all mankind.

*Learn more about [orion](#).*



## Reader Feedback

*'Thank you so much for emailing insight issue 2. I enjoyed the articles. . . They reminded me of the goodness that is all around and that all things are possible through that goodness. This reminder has been very encouraging especially with regard to the present physical condition I am faced with (broken bone). I look forward to the next issue and love being part of this world wide family.'*  
Gauteng, South Africa

*'Thanks for the latest newsletter which afforded some good reading. I checked out the Eric Whitacre site and we played it to the groups that were here last night.'* Wellington, New Zealand

***Outstanding in the spectacular 2012 Olympic games were the 70,000 smiling volunteers. Two London students relate their experience as part of this tremendous team.***

## Games Makers

**Penny Moss and Raymond Cook, London**

### Penny Moss says:

Having always enjoyed sports, I volunteered to be a part of



something extraordinary, something exciting. This was an opportunity I could not miss. I was just one of 250,000

applicants!

As a trained first-aider I was on the medical team. During the Olympics, I was allocated to The International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre, a 24-hour media hub for 20,000 broadcasters, photographers and journalists. At the Paralympics I looked after spectators and workforce. Some of the ideas central to the training provided by the organisers were:

*Every interaction you have with others should be meaningful and leave them with a positive lasting impression . . .*

- *Be inspirational – behave in a way that inspires others.*
- *Be distinctive – provide the personal touch – let yourself shine through.*
- *Be open – be approachable and honest to people.*
- *Be alert – you are the host so be aware of people’s needs.*
- *Be part of the team – you’re central to a united team – make your mark.*

*‘A Games Maker is . . . someone who has the opportunity of a lifetime to push beyond their personal best and inspire others to do the same. Yes, you! We all have a great honour and a great responsibility to be the best hosts we can be.’*

## Giving Freely

Being involved was brilliant, though tough at times, with long hours and little time to catch up at home. Giving freely was uplifting beyond measure. Also to witness the dramas, the hopes and aspirations of the participating nations, and the goodwill and support of our own nation was unforgettable. Memorable moments? Generally I worked late shifts, 3.30 pm - 1.00 am. I remember one moon-lit night walking through the Park in the early hours of the morning when it was empty and quiet, feeling ‘that mighty heart lying still’, a great stillness and presence.

The Olympic Park development was built in a sort of ‘no-man’s-land’ of obsolete industries and new industrial estates criss-crossed by canals and turgid rivers. This was a waste land which could have inspired T.S. Eliot.

I never doubted that the far-sighted proposals for the regeneration of this forgotten area and the visionary idea of a legacy to ‘inspire a generation’ would be a success. But what a success! Not just in the creation of beautiful venues, sustainable gardens with thousands of trees and riverbanks, but the creation of sheer joy, happiness and love experienced by visitors and TV viewers alike.

Volunteering? I would wholeheartedly recommend it. To give without any expectation is freedom. It generates happiness in the recipient and the giver. If an opportunity presents itself, go for it! I have already registered my interest for Rio 2016!

## Raymond Cook says:

It was seeing the 2000 Sydney Games being so well run that inspired me. This was, in no small part, due to the efforts of volunteers. Many of them had given up their vacations to be there and I decided that if ever the

opportunity arose, I would do the same.

During training in London, I met a young student who had flown down from Edinburgh. He told me that during the Games he would be commuting from his friend's house in Bristol! (100 miles away) Another young man from Ireland had taken a fortnight's holiday and was paying £300 a week for accommodation. These were just two of the many examples of sacrifices being made, just to be involved.

## My Job

My shifts were from 6.20am to 3.00 pm, for 12 of the 15 days. I was part of Event Services whose role it was to 'be present'. Spectators streamed in from 7am, needing help in finding sporting venues, water, times of events, where best to watch the big screens, maps, ticket sales, wanting photos taken against the backdrop of the wonderful stadium etc. Each day there was a crescendo of enthusiasm for the sheer size of the Olympic park, beautiful landscaping and friendliness of those on duty. My time with visitors was brief but constant.

As Games Makers, our breaks were short and although it wasn't hard work, when I got home I was quite exhausted. However, serving the needs of others came first and foremost. The happiness and thrill of the Games Makers in being able to help seemed to rub off on everyone, including the paid security, maintenance, and general staff.

## Volunteering

The act of volunteering, of serving, was the catalyst for unifying the whole event. Although the tasks may sometimes have been quite menial, the Games Makers played a huge part in the success of the Games. Their presence and their enthusiasm caught the imagination of the whole country.

I was interviewed by a Guardian reporter who asked why I'd volunteered, and had I volunteered on any other occasion. It was only then that I realized that of course, everything in the School is voluntary. I had just completed 8 days at Art in Action with months of preparatory work. Volunteering was something I had taken for granted, and until that moment I had hugely underestimated its potency. Through voluntary service, people are united – something very special.

## Thanks for reading

Subscribe Free – click on the link below to sign up.

Please keep that feedback coming. I need all your suggestions of personal stories, insights, links, articles, cartoons, video clips – anything that will be of interest to our philosophy community. Do you know someone in the School who has an interesting story to tell? E-mail me at: [editor@seslondon.org](mailto:editor@seslondon.org). Thanks again for reading, CL

The views in expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Fellowship of the School of Economic Science

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