

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Seán's last voyage

THE FIRST state grammar school boy to gain entry to Dartmouth Naval College, after serving in the Royal Navy for over twenty years, Seán McGrail, who died on 28 June at the age of 93, went on to become a world authority in maritime archaeology, able to reconstruct a ship's history from carpentry marks preserved along rotted sections of hulls.

He joined the Royal Navy as a seaman officer in 1946, becoming a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm flying fixed-wing aircraft with deck landings day and night. He served on *HMS Glory*, and subsequently commanded 849 Airborne Squadron. At the age of 40, he enrolled in the University of Bristol, and went on to gain further degrees at London and Oxford. He was chief archaeologist and Keeper at the National Maritime Museum and Professor of Maritime Archaeology at Oxford's Institute of Archaeology. He carried out fieldwork in Europe, Ireland, Britain and Asia. Seán's many books included the magisterial *Boats of the World: From the Stone Age to Medieval Times* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

A long-time *Tablet* subscriber, Seán found



resonance in readings from Mark's gospel in the final days of an illness he met with characteristic gentle strength. In spite of his two illustrious careers, his proudest achievement was his family: he is survived by Anne, his wife of 66 years, four children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A fine man and a great mind, his loss will be felt keenly by all who knew him. Seán will have a family funeral on 13 July at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Tisbury, Wiltshire; a memorial service will be held in the autumn.

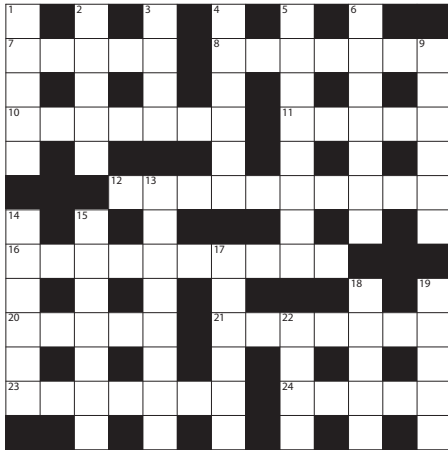
KEVIN TURLEY's three-year term as Master of the Keys – the Catholic Writers' Guild, which has just passed its ninetieth birthday – comes to end this December, and Pierpaolo Finaldi has agreed to succeed him. Finaldi is the author of several children's books, the father of seven children and runs the Catholic Truth Society.

Before the Great Interruption, members of The Keys met every month or so after the 6 pm Mass at Farm Street church for supper at Delfino's next door, and then wandered back to the parish hall for a talk and a discussion. For the last year or so Turley has been marshalling his troops by Zoom. The lack of pizza hasn't kept them from showing up online, but Pierpaolo welcomes the news that members can soon gather in restaurants and parish halls again. "I can't wait to return to the in-person talks and convivial meals that make membership of the Keys so enjoyable and edifying," he told us.

"It's a great honour to be asked to lead an organisation so closely tied to G.K. Chesterton's circle." Finaldi would like to expand the Keys' horizons and sources of inspiration. "As a keen reader and follower of the Catholic literary scene abroad I intend to invite some writers from beyond the Anglosphere to speak to us."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 764 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 10 July, *The Tablet*, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

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Across

- 7 Member of the main religion in India and Nepal (5)
8 How the FIUV, an international lay association of traditionalists, is usually known (3,4)
10 Load-bearing decorative feature of vault above church nave (4,3)
11 Massenet opera featuring an interlude for Meditation (5)
12 One of 18 manifestations of Our Lady at Lourdes (10)
16 Member of fringe Protestant group that includes Amish and Mennonite sects (10)
20 Mount upon which Moses received the Ten Commandments (5)
21 Paolo -----, fifteenth-century artist, works include *St George and the Dragon* (7)

- 23 Harry Christophers famously conducts Sixteen (7)
24 Elder Roman philosopher and writer, victim of Vesuvius (5)

Down

- 1 Light cavalry lancer of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European armies (5)
2 Site of the National Shrine of Our Lady in Ireland (5)
3 River flowing near Cologne Cathedral (4)
4 Edmund -----, English composer and convert, works include the (ninth) *Resurrection Symphony* (6)
5 Chosen by the Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot (8)
6 Country wherein the region of Transylvania located (7)

- 9 Member of Jewish sect associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls (6)
13 Member of politico-religious sect who opposed the Sadducees (8)
14 Orlando -----, prolific Renaissance composer who developed polyphony (6)
15 Cardinal -----, successor to Wiseman, wrote *The Eternal Priesthood* (7)
17 Statement that, ipso facto, cannot be denied (6)
18 House of Stephen, last king before the Plantagenet dynasty (5)
19 One of thousands of creatures forming a coral reef (5)
22 An orthodox Christian of North Africa, mainly Egypt, from antiquity (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

		7		1		5		
5			9		3			4
7			8		5			6
		3				7		
	8		2		9		5	
	2						9	
				4				
		1	6		7	4		

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 19 June puzzle

7	9	3	8	6	4	5	1	2
6	8	2	9	1	5	3	4	7
1	4	5	2	3	7	8	6	9
8	6	7	4	5	9	2	3	1
2	3	9	1	7	8	6	5	4
4	5	1	3	2	6	7	9	8
9	7	4	5	8	3	1	2	6
3	1	8	6	4	2	9	7	5
5	2	6	7	9	1	4	8	3

Solution to the 19 Jun crossword No. 761

Across: Sects; 4 Alsace; 9 Chimera; 10 Thane; 11 Neot; 12 Antiphon; 14 Phalanx; 19 Paladins; 20 Lima; 22 Irina; 23 Surfers; 24 Goethe; 25 Goose. **Down:** 1 Second; 2 Chinon; 3 Shem; 5 Latvians; 6 Apathy; 7 Exeunt; 8 Saintliness; 13 Shadrach; 15 Spring; 16 Blaise; 17 Cicero; 18 Parsee; 21 Brag.