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MAKING LIFE A UNITY

CYPRIAN SMITH OSB

What follows is the final chapter of Fr Cyprian’s book on Spirituality for Monks and Lay People: The Path of Life, published in 1995 by the Ampleforth Abbey Press and reprinted this year. In his Introduction to the book Fr Cyprian, who has been Novice Master now for seven years and looks after up to five novices annually, writes:

Many people today are increasingly interested in the life of the Benedictine monk. Often they look at it with a certain envy and nostalgia, sensing that there is something there of incomparable value which they cannot share in completely — perhaps not at all. Are they right to feel this? What are the fundamental aims of Benedictine monastic life? What spiritual resources does it contain? How far can people who are not monks tap into these resources and pursue these aims?

My present book attempts an answer to these questions. My own conviction concerning the aims of a Benedictine monk is that they are not fundamentally different from those of the ordinary Christian. As for the spiritual resources of monastic life, some of these are fully available to the non-monk, others less so. How far are they available and in what way they can be used, it is the aim of this book to show. Not all people can be monks; it is neither necessary nor desirable that they should be. Those who do not have this particular vocation should not therefore feel deprived; their own way of life will contain its own strengths and resources which the monk cannot share in.

All the twelve chapters are based upon my conferences delivered originally to the novices and juniors of Ampleforth Abbey. They therefore deal with central themes of monastic life and spirituality. I have, however, adapted them and widened their scope so that they may also be relevant to people outside the cloister. If both monks and non-monks can read them with pleasure and profit, my aim will have been realised. My hope and prayer is that this may be so.

Laborare est orare — to work is to pray. This saying has been handed down over the centuries and is usually attributed to St Benedict. In fact, there is no evidence whatever that he actually said it. I do not believe that he could have said it. It does not represent his mind; and furthermore it is not true. Certainly work can be prayer; but that depends upon the attitude and frame of mind with which we approach it. A great deal of St Benedict’s teaching is devoted to showing us how to develop and apply this frame of mind.

We are touching now upon a very fundamental and important problem, which is: how to make the whole of our life holy. What we normally do is to divide our life into separate, watertight compartments. On the one hand there is the ‘religious’ compartment (if we are religious at all) — communal and private prayer, spiritual reading, and perhaps a few activities done for the local
church. On the other hand there is the ‘worldly’ compartment (though we may not call it that). This includes our work, our personal relationships, and the various experiences we undergo day to day. The tendency is for us to keep these compartments absolutely separate. There is no overflow from one into the other. There are even people who think that there should not be any such overflow, that it is something to be prevented at all costs. Perhaps most human beings incline to this view from time to time; but it is particularly common among the English. One of the most deeply-rooted convictions in the minds of many English people is that ‘religion’ must be kept strictly separate from ‘life’. This idea that religion might overflow and affect all areas of life is felt to be profoundly shocking, and even rather immoral. Some years ago I met a man who disapproved strongly of the Roman Catholic Church for this precise reason: that it calls its members to a total commitment involving all areas of life. In other words, the Roman Catholic Church commits the unpardonable sin of ‘not knowing its place.’ It is very important that religion should know its place and keep out of territory where it has no business.

Jesus of Nazareth most emphatically did not allow his religion to know its place. His devotion to his Father and to his Father’s work engulfed his life totally. He expected the same commitment from his followers. So did St Benedict. For both of these men the distinction between the religious and the worldly is impossible, because for them the worldly simply does not exist. It should not exist for any of us, either. If it comes into existence in our life then that is the result of sin, or imperfection, or weakness. It is a wound to be healed, a malady to be cured as quickly as possible. We have to act very promptly and resolutely, because if we do not then the malady spreads. The result of dividing life into religious and worldly is that the worldly dimension grows and grows until the religious dimension is eclipsed and finally disappears altogether. This is something which has already happened on a large scale in the modern western world. Many ills have resulted from this, and continue to do so.

To heal this rift, however, to bridge this gap, is by no means an easy business. It is made harder by the fact that very little guidance is available on how to do it. In any religious bookshop we shall find an enormous number of slim paperbacks telling us how to pray or meditate; there are plenty of books, too, telling us how to conduct our personal relationships, our moral and social lives; and we undergo training for our work, whatever it may be. But no-one tells us how to pull these various strands together to make a single piece of cloth, a seamless garment. No-one tells us how to bring the various clashing elements into some sort of harmony or unity.

So am I going to leap in with both feet and attempt what no-one else has attempted? It is with some degree of trepidation that I contemplate the prospect. If I do attempt it, then it must be clearly understood that I am not talking from the standpoint of one who has ‘solved it all’ and can therefore solve it for others as well. I speak as one who still has everything to learn, who struggles with the problem anew every day. Yet within the framework of Benedictine life there are certain guidelines and certain resources to draw on. These have saved me on many occasions, if not from all disaster then at least from total disaster. Therefore it might be worth trying to share them with those who might profit from them.

Let no-one imagine that monks are in some way immune to the problem of compartmentalisation. Most communities today work very hard, using modern means and methods. This puts them under the same pressures as those which affect people outside the monastic environment. We are all part of the late twentieth century world; there are the same problems, the same challenges, the same opportunities for us all. This is, of course, a certain religious structure to a monks life, pointing in a spiritual direction. This structure, however, has to be used, and it not always is. The gospel says that to those who have, more shall be given; but those who have not shall lose even what they think they have. Benedictine monks have many resources to draw on, but if full use is not made of them, then the monk is no better off than people in the world. He may even end up worse off. People in the world who establish a firm spiritual foundation to their lives, and learn to live their whole lives on that basis, are in a better situation than some monks. This present chapter aims at giving a few hints and suggestions on how this foundation might be laid and built upon.

Let us assume, then, that we are praying every day, as much as we can manage. Let us assume that we resort frequently to the sacraments. Let us assume that we do at least some lectio or spiritual reading each day, even if it is no more than a few lines of Scripture. Let us assume that we have at least some notion of what St Benedict means by listening, and of the substance of the three vows, and that we want to realise these ideals in our lives. How do we integrate into this all the other elements which our lives are composed of, elements which often seem resistant, if not actually hostile, to any spiritual aim?

St Benedict saw humility as the key virtue, the only secure foundation for any spiritual life. So it is. It is also the key to solving this problem, of how to bring all the disparate elements of our life and experience into some sort of unity.

First of all, humility must be the foundation of all our prayer. Everything that St Benedict says about prayer either states or implies this; yet it is a truth which is not always understood. We do not pray from a standpoint of strength but of weakness. If we rely only on our own natural resources we cannot actually pray at all. Prayer is only true and effective when the Holy Spirit takes over, praying in us and through us, whether we are praying the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours, or our own private prayer. Prayer, then, whatever form it takes, is first and foremost this act of surrender to the Holy Spirit, without whom nothing can happen at all. This is humility in prayer, whereby we recognise that God is everything and we are nothing. The more we efface ourselves before him, the more we cast everything upon him (including our boredom and distraction), the deeper and more valid our prayer will be. It is from this attitude of humility that our love for God will grow and flower. We only really begin to love God genuinely when we realise our total dependence on him...
surroundings, simply settling into the situation without interfering with it or in any way seeking to change it. Some people... becomes an icon and a place of encounter with God, through our having approached it with humility and reverence.

Some people who do this may well find that the mind gradually settles and grows calm as they become increasingly aware of themselves and of their surroundings, simply settling into the situation without interfering with it or in any way seeking to change it. Some have spoken of a Presence which becomes perceptible as the various elements of the situation align themselves around a Centre, like iron filings around a magnet – the Centre being invisible, imperceptible, and even, in a sense, empty, although it is the source of all life and meaning. At such times the mind often moves naturally into prayer, very simple and quiet. This comes from having accepted a perfectly ordinary, everyday, basic situation in a humble, docile, and receptive way. That situation thus becomes an icon, a reflection of God, a place of encounter.

Having done this in silence and solitude we can then move on to try it in situations where there is more movement and activity; for example, while walking down the street on the way to work. Again, we try to be relaxed and aware, open to everything which we perceive, but not fixating the mind on anything in particular. Buses passing, lights in shop windows, the faces of people hurrying by, the various sights and sounds streaming through the senses – we simply take all this in, not reserving any of it, not holding on to any of it. The more we do this the more the clashing elements of the situation are resolved and harmonised into a unity which we cannot express in words but nevertheless we sense to be there. Again, an ordinary, everyday situation is becoming an icon and a place of encounter with God, through our having approached it with humility and reverence.

It is much harder to do this in our relationships with other people – at any rate, for me it is quite hard, though others may well be better at it. We are not usually humble or self-effacing in our relationships with others. Rather our tendency is to be selfish and manipulative. We try to charm some, while freezing others off; sometimes we try to glitter and dazzle and show off, while at other times we are glum and uncommunicative. All of this comes from seeing others merely from the standpoint of self – how they relate to me, to my needs, to my hopes, fears, and wishes. This is pride, for I am thus behaving as though I were the centre of the universe, and other people’s lives, personalities, and activities have meaning only in relation to me. The famous absurdity of this becomes apparent the moment we advert to it. Usually, however, we do not advert to it. It takes perseverance, practice, and the grace of God to recognise that other people have value in themselves, for what they are and what there is of God in them, quite independently of me, of my aims and wishes.

There is a subtle spiritual art which consists of being quite empty and colourless in oneself, like a piece of glass whose transparency allows the light to shine through it unimpeded. Other people’s words, deeds, and personalities stream into us while we remain simply open and receptive, accepting without judging. This is humility, for it is effacing oneself before the mystery of others. However, there is an important difference here, which distinguishes this sort of situation from those more private ones described earlier; for here we have to make a some sort of response to these people whom we are encountering. We have to take a more active, rather than a merely passive, role. Yet humility can come in here as well, for all depends upon the nature of the responses we make and the initiatives we take with other people. Are we going to manipulate them, bend them to our own will? Or are we going to encourage them to be themselves, to draw them out, to help them express what they truly are? I once met a lady who was brilliant at this. In company she never tried to glitter, never tried to charm or repel people. She merely drew out what was in them. People talking to her found that they were expressing wise thoughts, or dazzling witticisms, which they would not normally have thought themselves capable of. They often congratulated themselves secretly on their remarkable performance, thinking that it was all due to themselves. It was not. It was mainly due to her. She had the art of drawing people out. And, who knows, perhaps God would occasionally allow her to meet her match, someone who perhaps would draw her out, help her to express what was deep inside her.

I have sometimes thought that we ought to approach other people rather like a skilful landscape gardener, who does not try to impose his own notions of order upon nature, but rather looks for the order already implicit in it, then, gently and delicately, helps this order to emerge more clearly. Therefore, instead of producing something like the monstrous and absurd formal gardens of the eighteenth century, where natural features are obliterated and trees and shrubs trained into bizarre and unnatural geometrical shapes, a truly skilful gardener would expend far less effort, but would simply round off a feature
here, trim a little there, not imposing his own meaning but simply drawing the landscape out, helping it to articulate its own inherent meaning.

We are aggressive and domineering with nature, as we are with each other, so the image of God is obliterated and we live in a hellish world, and society is simply the creation of our own diseased minds and wills. A little more humility might do much to mend this, so that the presence of God would become more perceptible, both in our world and in our society.

St Benedict says that we should pray before undertaking any good work. It is not at all a bad idea for us to pray, very briefly and sincerely, when in company and in conversation with others. This is particularly useful in situations of tension, when the atmosphere is electric with fear, anger, or hostility. Simply relax, open the eyes, ears, and heart, and settle into the situation, feeling intuitively for its centre. Pray briefly and sincerely to Christ, asking him to come and dwell at the heart of it. Then, do or say whatever seems necessary, whatever the Spirit prompts. This is all a form of listening, for we are seeking to be aware of other people as they really are, rather than what we would like them to be. It is also a form of humility, since we do not behave towards them as we feel like behaving, but simply do or say what the situation actually requires. This we cannot know unless we let go of our own ideas and wants, opening ourselves up docilely and receptively to others and their needs.

Such humility does not mean that there are no occasions when we have to be energetic and even rather stern. How could that be so? Moses, when he saw that a golden calf had been made, had it ground down and the dust scattered on the water and made the Hebrews drink it. That is quite stern action, yet we are told that 'the man Moses was very meek, the meekest upon the face of the earth,' (Numbers 12: 3). Similarly, the humility of Jesus is beyond question, yet he shouted at Peter, saying, 'Get behind me, Satan!' and drove the moneychangers out of the Temple by physical force. St Benedict also, does not expect the abbot to be soft, but ready to reprove and correct when necessary. Yet the abbot is also warned that he will be held to account to God for his treatment of the brethren. Sternness must not be motivated by caprice, or by ordinary human anger, bad temper, or pique. It must be inspired by God, by zeal for justice, and by real concern for the people involved. This needs to be borne in mind by anyone who has authority over others — not only abbots, but parents, employers, and superiors as well. We are trying to develop a sense of how to treat people which is based upon their needs and upon the will of God, not our own moods and desires. Here again, a brief, secret prayer in the heat of the moment can help us ensure that our words and actions are coming from the right place.

Humility in human relationships involves recognising the mystery in other people, that which we do not know and perhaps can never know. However close we are to a person, there will always be certain things which we cannot know about or share with that person. It is important to recognise this, and not resent it. A husband who grows jealous when he sees his wife sharing something with another man which he cannot share with her himself, is being neither realistic nor humble. He is not giving her space to be herself. For human relationships to grow and to last, we have to give other people this space. We cannot expect to be with them, on top of them, all the time. This is part of that generous self-effacement before others which is a large part of humility and is simply recognising the mystery which is in them. As C.S. Lewis says, we have to remember that no human being can ever totally fulfill another human being. We have to let our wives, or husbands, or children, be themselves and on occasions have the magnanimity to stand back and let others take over. This is all humility, letting God into the situation. If we are worried about the situation we should remain still and silent, committing it to God, not intervening unless we are fairly sure that this is the right thing to do.

I have sometimes found myself fretting because I have not heard from a certain close friend for some time. Yet how silly this is, and what a lack of trust it shows. My friends have their own lives to live, their own work to do. If they have not had the time, or felt the need, to write or telephone should I therefore conclude that the relationship is crumbling? Patience, trust in God, and the ability to stand back and wait are indispensable in all human relationships. It is selfish pride, not humility, if we expect our friends to be bombarding us continually with signs of affection and concern. Can we not let them be themselves, and let them express what they want when they want? Do we genuinely love them, or do we merely want to dominate them? There have been times when I have been horrified to see myself turning into a sort of pagan idol, who expects to be kept happy all the time by offerings and incense. I am not alone in this tendency.

Finally, something needs to be said about work. We all have to work, and some of us have work which is not very rewarding or fulfilling. It is not easy to integrate this into the spiritual life. Problems arise, too, when we do enjoy our work, for then it can become a form of self-assertion which undermines humility and drives out God.

The spiritual key to all work is the motive from which it is done. That is the reason why, in my own Benedictine community, novices are given only very ordinary, humdrum work, which is not at all exciting or rewarding. Since they cannot find meaning or fulfilment in the work itself, they are therefore obliged to find it in the motive underlying it. If what we do is for the glory of God and the good of others, and we remember this continually, then it ceases to be a meaningless chore. It really does, in this case, become a form of prayer.

We can, of course, sometimes do actual prayer during it. If it is boring, repetitious work which does not demand full attention — like shelling peas, peeling potatoes, or washing up — we can let the mind rest in God while doing it, perhaps with the occasional brief invocation. Most of us have a certain amount of this sort of thing to do each day. It loses much of its oppressiveness and tedium once we treat it like the other situations described earlier in this chapter, settling into it and feeling intuitively for its spiritual centre.

What of that work which demands our full attention, so that we cannot pray during it? We can, at any rate, do what St Benedict says, and pray before it
and after it, offering it all to God. However demanding it is there will be moments, too, when we pause to take breath or relax. Why not relax in God? Why not rest in God? Meister Eckhart once said that when we are tired and the day is long, we should rest in God, in whom there is no fatigue and no time. That is echoing the words of Jesus in St John’s Gospel, saying, ‘The Father, who is the source of life, has made the Son the source of life.’

To remain relaxed and calm while energetically working, to be at rest in the midst of action, is a great spiritual art. Time, practice, perseverance, and the grace of God are all needed in order to acquire it. To maintain the same attitude in situations of pain, dereliction and loss, is even harder. Yet it is possible. Jesus gave us an example of it in the cross, surrendering and submitting to the worst of all possible experiences, in the words: ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.’

It should be clear from what has been said in this book that the spiritual path of the monk is not fundamentally different from that of the ordinary Christian. In both cases the aim is the same: to ground the whole of our life and experience upon God. The monk is helped in this by having certain resources at his disposal. Many of these can be participated in by non-monks, though not to the same extent. They are more fully and continually available to the monk, and that is probably why some people are called to be monks – they need to have these resources fully available and could not survive spiritually without them. Others who are not monks can, nevertheless, share in them to some degree. If used continually from day to day they will give shape, meaning, and direction to our life. We shall grow steadily in our relationship with God and with each other. We shall learn to surrender to the magnetic pull of God in all circumstances. It will not always be easy or comfortable. Sometimes we shall be carried into turbulent waters and dark tunnels. Nevertheless, if we hold onto trust in God, we shall emerge safely from all these difficulties and adversities. We shall fulfil the purpose for which we were created. This is truly ‘the path of life’ of which the Psalmist speaks. Even in this present world we shall experience some of the reward which comes from following this path. The rest lies beyond the grave; we wait for and look forward to it in patience and in hope.

The Path of Life is available from the Abbey and College Bookshop. Please contact on 01439 766778.
MONASTIC LIFE AND MODERN CULTURE

VERY REV DOMINIC MILROY OSB

Fr. Dominic is a member of the Chevetogne Monastic Group, which has met twice during the last year, at the Cistercian Monastery of Levie (Southern France) and at the Russian Orthodox Convent at Grodno, in Byelorusia. He preached the community retreat at Kergom (a French monastery of the Solesmes Congregation), and has also given retreats to the clergy of the Hallian Diocese, the deacons of the Annitel and Brighton Diocese and the Amberly Easter Retreat. He was a member of the HMC team which inspected Markham College, Lima, and afterwards visited the Manquehue Movement in Chile. He took part in the Family Summer Conference at Mount Angel Abbey, Oregon. He also addressed the Benedictine Abbots’ Congress in Rome, the HMC Annual Conference in Glasgow, and the Annual Conference of the Woodard Schools.

‘As regards the world: one must not think to help it by following its ways of thought, its habits and tastes, but by studying it, loving it and serving it.’

(Pope Paul VI, Last Will and Testament)

Introduction
When I visited the Abbey of Ligugé last year, I was struck by two things as I stood at the bottom of the monastery garden shortly before Sunday Mass. The first was the relationship of this ancient centre of European monasticism to its natural setting. The river, the flock of sheep, the orchard; the paths leading up to the monastery; the sound of a Bach Toccata from the Abbey Church; the quiet preparation for Mass. It was as if nature and art were together pointing upwards towards a timeless act of worship.

The second thing was in total contrast to this. Across the garden at Ligugé, there runs the main railway line from Paris to Bordeaux. Across my vision of the Abbey there suddenly flashed the TGV — the modern world, with all its swift and noisy beauty.

At first, I was shocked by the contrast. The monastic quiet was briefly invaded by what seemed a totally alien presence. But, on reflection, it struck me that what I was seeing had the shape of a cross. The upright, the vertical, had its roots in the earth, and pointed upwards, passing through the orchard and the music, towards the offertory of the Mass. The horizontal bar, the TGV, represented the weight of the human and secular city.

In any cross, the upright has to make space within itself if it is to bear the weight of the horizontal. Each must also be at right angles to the other if they are to be solidly linked.

This is the image with which I should like to ‘colour’ our study of the secular world. Even at a superficial level, the TGV is an eloquent and beautiful symbol of modern technology, modern communication, even of transient modern communities. It represents, not primarily a threat, but a complex ‘horizontal’ culture waiting to be evangelised, a burden to be carried.
The features of this ‘horizontal’ culture are to be found, not only in the secular city, but in the monastery itself. At the heart of the process of conversion, whether in the novice or in the community as a whole, there is a constant engagement and tension between the upright and the horizontal. St. Benedict’s little Rule for beginners is, in a definite way, addressed to the secular world. Its purpose is not to condemn that world, but to appeal to it and to point it towards a different world.

This paper represents an attempt to ask some questions about the interface between monastic tradition and the contemporary secular world. How does this interface influence, in practice, the monastic life-style? What particular and distinct challenges does it offer, with regard to the formation of novices, the continuing education of more mature monks, the human and pastoral perceptions of whole communities? How does the ‘horizontal’ secular culture fit into the ‘vertical’ monastic one? In short, how should monks study, serve, and love the secular world without being ‘secularised’ by it?

The Secular World

The first obvious feature of the secular world is that it defies easy definition or description. When Jesus asked the Gerasene demoniac what his name was, the answer was ‘Legion’. There are many secular worlds, whether in terms of place or of spirit.

It is necessary to select and to simplify. This paper will not attempt to distinguish between different human cultures, nor between rich and poor ones. It will not consider specifically ‘the world’ in its Joanne sense as a place of darkness subject to ‘the prince of this world’: the required attitudes of the monastic world to this are sufficiently obvious.

It will focus, in a generalised way, on those aspects of contemporary culture which are specifically modern and sufficiently widespread to affect most monasteries. Most of these aspects belong primarily to western culture, but also, by implication, to those cultures which are undergoing ‘westernisation’.

The modern secular city is profoundly ambivalent with regard to the values and aspirations which the monastic tradition represents. It is this ambivalence, and the tensions which it creates, that we are considering.

The Technology of Communication

When I became a monk, my monastery possessed one car and one telephone. It was quite difficult to gain access to either. Things have changed since then. The secular city has been transformed by successive new technologies of communication. To what extent has this revolution changed the character of monastic life?

Most monks love driving cars, and welcome convenient methods of communication. To what extent is it against the spirit of stability, of the enclosure, of the Great Silence, to send a fax to New York after Compline?

The secular city has been transformed into a different kind of human society by the speed and the flexibility with which words, images and all kinds of data can be transmitted. How would St. Benedict, St. Anselm or St. Bernard, if they were to return, react to the computer print-out and the Internet?

They would surely notice at once a huge sense of speed and a deep absence of exterior and interior silence. The spaces, the distances, between human minds and events have been reduced to nothing. They would notice great changes in human behaviour, in the way people think, and learn, and converse with each other, and make decisions.

But, above all, they would wonder at the loss of the rhythms, the dialectic, of speech and silence. In their time, and until recently, silence was an unavoidable and important element in the lives of everyone. It was a part of the normal way of experiencing Time. The silence of monks was only a more intense and ordered version of what nature had ordained.

Today, the silence of monks seems to contradict the norm. Do monks find this more difficult than in the past? How far has the speed and noise of the secular city penetrated the lives of monks? How can monks best make use of the new technologies without being ‘secularised’ by them? What is the purpose, the message, of monastic silence in today’s world?

The Experience of Time

When I was in Chile two years ago, our Landrover sank into the mud one day, and had to be rescued by oxen. The oxen took about five hours to get there, and as I walked along beside them I realised that I was experiencing the passage of time as people had always experienced it. Now oxen-time has been replaced by fax-time, just as horse-power has been replaced by megaton-power.

The old attitudes to Time were the result, not only of the speed of available means of transport and communication, but also of natural rhythms — night and day, the seasons, the alternation of sowing and harvest and the slow rhythm of growth and decay and death. One of the basic human experiences was that of waiting — waiting for news, for rain, for the arrival of travellers, for light, for crops, for death. Almost the most necessary of human virtues was Patience.

The arrival of the railways (which figures so largely in the nineteenth century Russian novel as the transforming link between places hitherto remote from each other) was the precursor of a new world. Gradually at first, but in our times very rapidly, the rhythms through which Time is experienced have become man-made. ‘There is no night in a city’, said the English novelist, D.H. Lawrence. Electricity, radio, satellites and cybernetics have concentrated into an intense now a range of options and experiences which used to be subject to separation in both space and time. The need for patience has been replaced by the need for rapidity of judgment and choice, and by the ability to withstand, not boredom, but pressure.

It is not only silence and patience that risk being made redundant, but also the spirit of Repose. Repose can be called ‘re-creation’ only because it implies passivity, attention, contemplation. It neither earns nor spends money, and is therefore hard to quantify against the value, for instance, of a mobile telephone. It is not productive.
Time has become measurable largely in terms of productivity. There are two aspects of this which militate in a particular way against the positive aspects of human silence. The first is only the new version of an old phenomenon – the possibility of disproportionate personal gain. The new technologies have opened the possibility of an unlimited obsession with work and with earning. This obsession is incompatible with silence.

The second has to do with the noise of the advertising media. This noise invades the silence of the individual mind and the silence of the home, in order to plant seeds of discontent and of need which are often radically false. The modern economy depends on a commerce in unnecessary goods, and on the cultivation of an acquisitive restlessness which is injurious to personal peace.

These are aspects of the Free Market, and may be perceived as being intrinsically good. But the secular city's experience of Time seems to be passing through a phase of great imbalance. Is it inevitable that this experience should be so destructive and so flawed?

Is it conceivable that the monastic world, with its insistence on so many features of the older experience of Time – Stability, Tradition, Silence, Contemplation – might be able to offer a model of how the human spirit might absorb the new technologies, and the new experience of Time, without being overthrown by them? Can monks once again remind the secular world how to be human? What is, in the modern context, the right relation between the dignity of the individual, the value of the tools and the service of the community?

Monasteries have admitted, however reluctantly, the presence of the computer, the fax, the mobile telephone, even the Internet. Does there yet exist a coherent monastic doctrine, rooted in the Gospels and in the Rule, but open to the realities of contemporary life, which might teach monks how to marry the old experience of Time to the new technologies? Could there be a coherent monastic doctrine which, through its acceptance of the new technologies, and the new experience of Time, might absorb the new technologies, and the new experience of Time, without being overthrown by them? Can monks once again remind the secular world how to be human? What is, in the modern context, the right relation between the dignity of the individual, the value of the tools and the service of the community?

Consequences – Personal Ethics

The Internet is not only the symbol of a new way of experiencing Time. It also demands the constant exercise of free choices between different possibilities, and thus represents a fundamental feature of human behaviour in today's secular city. It is the symbol of a philosophy of wide options.

The ability to change options or channels at the press of a button is the fruit of technology. But it is also a very appropriate expression, when applied to the moral sphere, of the human ideal of personal liberty born of the European Enlightenment. This ideal is associated with the right to the 'pursuit of happiness' and with the autonomy of the individual, over against the limitations inherent in the concept of an objective moral law. This man-centred 'right' to choose between moral options, and thus to create his own values, is the modern equivalent of what St Augustine described as the central feature of the earthly city: the libido dominandi.

There are two main consequences of this. The first is concerned with the attitude to making commitments of whatever kind. The second is concerned specifically with sexuality.

If man is autonomous, and has the right to choose (and to change his choice) amongst many options, the concept of commitment is clearly problematic. To use the vocabulary of Existentialism, a commitment loses its validity when it is no longer experienced as being authentic; it may then be succeeded by a more authentic one. In the absence of objective and transcendent constraints, all commitments are bound to be perceived as being relative. They may last, but they may not. The climate is one of provisional fidelity.

In the context of sexuality, there is the added dimension of physical intimacy and pleasure. It is an important fact, that those for whom commitment is by its nature provisional and open to being changed without penalty, will only perceive sexual activity as being wrong if it betrays a present commitment. If no third party is involved, it is perceived as being the innocent exercise of a right, and as being a 'normal' way of giving expression even to quite superficial relationships. Once there is no longer a perceived and necessary link between sexuality and exclusive commitment, sexual activity (to whatever degree) simply becomes an available option.

This point is not being made in order to point to a situation of great depravity and permissiveness, but rather to describe what is considered quite normal by those who have inherited the assumptions of a largely secularised world; who, in good faith, find Catholic attitudes to sexuality somewhat incomprehensible.

Indeed, the point needs to be made more sharply. Not many of the young are promiscuous. Many of them opt for what has been called 'serial monogamy', often in quite an austere way. Some of these relationships grow into long-term commitments. Others cherish attitudes, however provisional, of generosity and selflessness, and often build bridges which are, in a mysterious way, stronger than their own foundations. They often seem, as it were, to borrow elements from Christian marriage, and, however provisional their fidelity may be, it has a certain guiltless dignity. Such relationships are, objectively, better than relationships of hatred and mistrust, and are generally accepted by the secular world as being preferable to loveless marriages.

Most Christians in the westernised world live in this climate of provisional morality and of generalised sexual activity. Whether or not it is a source of tension for them will depend on their level of Christian commitment. What is certain is that candidates for the monastic life, and monks already committed to it, are, to varying degrees, products of this society.

Do we understand sufficiently well what this implies for monastic formation? Do we appreciate sufficiently the 'generation gap' which separates those for whom sexuality tends to be automatically associated with guilt from those for whom it does not? Do we give sufficiently realistic help to those who are trying to embrace a style of absolute commitment which is alien to their previous habits of mind?
It is worth adding a parenthesis about another feature of modern life, which is so habitual as to be almost a norm amongst many people, and which is related to the evasion of absolute commitments. This is the acceptability, to a greater or lesser extent, of dependence on substances which alter the nature of human consciousness. Christ blessed wine and healed pain, but he did not advocate what we would call addiction, either in the field of self-indulgence or in that of medication. What is unusual about our culture is the easy recourse to stimulants and to analgesics as a first resort. The assumption is that solitude, anxiety and pain are simply undesirable, and that their elimination by artificial means represents an enrichment of human life, another modern 'freedom'. To what extent is this assumption in direct conflict with Christian and monastic attitudes? Is there a specifically monastic attitude towards it?

The interface between the secular and the monastic attitudes to commitment, to sexuality and to related problems of dependence is, for many, a confused and complex one. How can monastic attitudes and doctrine best show that the freedom to run, dilatato corde, in the way of God's commandments, is a freedom which transcends and can subsume the limited and provisional freedoms offered by the secular city?

Consequences - Social Ethics

Something similar may be noted at the level of social ethics. Community and Authority are familiar concepts in the monastic context; and, if they are sometimes problematic, this is partly because they are so problematic in the secular world.

The paradox of the secular community is obvious enough. The concept of Community is always an attractive one. It implies mutual support, shared vision and common benefit. But it also implies some sort of constancy, some sort of contractual obligation. It is very vulnerable to some of the dominant features of modern society - provisionality, mobility and the sort of competitive anonymity which characterises large concentrations of population. Precious and half-hidden examples of community-building are often to be found in the poorer sectors of great cities, and there are those who sustain a strong (or invisible) community life through the medium of the telephone. The secular city consists of a dense network of overlapping and shifting communities which are not identified with a particular place, which may be more important than the family unit, and which are by their nature unstable.

Such communities are 'unofficial', and usually exist in spite of, rather than supported by, the official communities of the city. On the larger scale, however, much is desired or discussed, community is very hard to achieve. The growth and mobility of populations, inequalities of wealth, the presence of unwanted minorities, the divisive awareness of ethnic differences, the phenomenon of urban fear and solitude - these militate against real community-building. For most people, the secular city represents a strange and contradictory mixture, a partially realised community which may be very supportive in some areas and deeply unsupportive in others.

Authority

Community may be a popular word in the secular vocabulary, but Authority is not. It is, for various reasons, ambiguous.

The concept of Authority has been debased, in modern times, by the abuse of power. The terms 'authoritarianism' and 'paternalism' speak for themselves. It has also been eroded by a generalised respect for democratic procedures and for leadership 'by consensus'. The 'authority-figure' is viewed with suspicion. The concept of 'obedience to authority' has a negative flavour.

There is, however, a paradox here. The opinion-poll may be fashionable, but it is also known to be volatile. Consensus, without the complement of leadership, is like an orchestra with no director. It is true that the expectations of an orchestra have changed radically in recent times. The players no longer want to be 'ruled' by a tyrant, by a remote figure whose arbitrary will is law. But nor do they want a mere secretary. What do they require of him? They expect him, first, to be a good musician, like themselves. They expect him, also, to know both his source (the musical score) and the particular qualities of the orchestra. This implies an ability to listen, to give attention, in both directions. A good director is, above all, a faithful interpreter, a clear 'window' between the source and the players. If he knows how to do this, his interpretation will be quickly recognised as having authority. He will be obeyed, not because he shouts, or commands, or looks like Herbert van Karajan, but because he has the particular integrity which his role requires.

Does this analogy correspond with what monks today expect of the Abbot? The Abbot's source is the Word of God, the Rule, the tradition of his monastery. This is the basis of the 'sacramental' dimension of his authority. His orchestra is his community. Does his paternal authority consist, above all, in being a window between the two? Is this analogy capable of bearing the weight of St Benedict's chapters on the Abbot, on Consulting the brethren, on Obedience to impossible commands?
What are the limitations of the analogy? One obvious one is that no orchestra-director has the status of Christ to his orchestra. The deep question is a human one: it has to do with style of leadership, and with belief in the value of real leadership. Monks have learned much from the secular world about the principles of good management. Can they, in their turn, help the secular world to rehabilitate, at least in human terms, the concept of real Authority, and the corresponding value of rational and obedient consent to it?

Work
A related area is that of Work. The modernised West has seen great changes in the relationship between Work and personal identity. Most people, at most times, have been limited and defined by fixed and inherited patterns of work - a fact true, in different ways, of both men and women. New technologies, the aspiration to sexual equality, the market economy and social mobility have changed all this.

The world of work is now characterised by some features which are largely new - multi-competence, flexibility, rapid diversification, and competitive vulnerability.

Work is less repetitive, more stimulating and less confined. But is also more fragile. The division between those who have work and those who do not has created a new kind of society. Moreover, those who have work often have too much. In addition to the 'underclass' of the long-term unemployed, there is the 'overclass' of the overworked and overpaid. The modern world of work is a world with many imbalances and many victims.

There is a further factor which tends increasingly to change the whole secular perception of work. This is the role played by Leisure. Leisure is itself now an 'industry', and a substantial part of the economy depends on it. Instead of being the normal condition of life for most people, work is often largely a means towards leisure. Week-ends, holidays, early retirement and increased longevity have had a deep effect on what people expect from life, as well as on their habits of spending money. This artificially enhanced 'standard of living' also widens the gap between rich societies and poor ones.

To what extent, and in what ways, are monasteries affected by these changed perceptions of work? Have the work and leisure expectations of monks changed? Do they need to have more 'career-flexibility' than in the past? Are they more inclined to find their work 'unfulfilling'? What problems does this create for Abbeys in allocating work? Do monks tend increasingly to see work as a means to leisure and as a preparation for retirement? What are the specific problems of communities with a large proportion of older and 'retired' monks? To what extent are monasteries being drawn into becoming part of the leisure-industry? How can such a development best be made pastorally fruitful?

Monasteries are, inevitably, part of the modern world of work. Are there ways in which they can challenge and correct the imbalances which characterise it? Monastic tradition, rooted in the Rule, has very specific views about the dignity of work, about the tools it uses, about the balance between work and other aspects of life (including leisure), about the role of those who cannot work.

If St Benedict were writing a chapter today on monastic work, what would he say that might develop the philosophy of work which the Rule already contains?

Glory - The search for fulness
There is one question which lies deeper than all the others, and which colours them all, especially those related to freedom and the pursuit of happiness. The 'restlessness' of the human heart, of which St Augustine spoke, is the human starting-point of all religions and of the universal quest for fulness.

The monk is not alone in seeking God. He searches in a special way, and the search expresses itself in ways that have a special kind of beauty. The songs and the silences of monks, and their liturgies, their buildings, their ways of working, have a special beauty. This is not accidental to monasticism; it is essential. If monastic life were not beautiful, it would die. The same is true of all religious experience: the search for God is inseparable from the encounter with beauty, and from the delight occasioned by it. The divine glory always manifests itself, becomes incarnate, when God is sought, and, especially, when he is praised. To the believer all beauty, whether in the natural order or in the order of human creativity, is, as it were, the smile of God. This is true of monasticism in a special way because it exists, and can be perceived, in a space 'set apart' from the secular city. Monastic architecture, for instance, and monastic chant represent a continually renewed attempt to show what the human city, and human song, can be like when penetrated from within by the smile of the divine beauty.

The presence of a monastery, whether within a city or in its own space apart, always represents a challenging tension between the secular and the sacred. The tension is not only one of contrast, but also one of overlap, of interpenetration. The monastic city uses secular elements; the secular city, in its turn, looks at the monastic city with a strange mixture of incomprehension, indifference, nostalgia and fascination.

The secular city has two levels. One is as described by St Paul in his Letter to the Romans — overwhelmed by noise, and prone to idolatry and corruption. The other is that of the noble Romans described by St Augustine in De Civitate Dei — aspiring towards the good, the true and the beautiful, but trapped by ignorance and by absence from God.

It is this 'absence from God' that produces the deepest contradiction in the secular response to the presence of a monastery. In my country, most monasteries are ancient and beautiful ruins. They belong to the Gothic Romanticism of Goethe, Chateaubriand and Sir Walter Scott. They are beautiful because they are old. A living, contemporary monastery comes as something of a shock. It is, however, less of a shock when the living monastery looks and sounds like an ancient one.
Why is it that the secular world wants monasteries to remind them of the past? Why does the secular world insist, rather more than monks themselves, on the importance of the imagery of the monastic habit? What is the secret of the romantic attraction of cloisters and of Gregorian chant? Why are Introits and Antiphons from Silos played in traffic jams in Los Angeles?

At the heart of these questions there lies a deeper one about the very nature of aesthetic delight in a world without God. Aesthetic pleasure, the experience of glory, the celebration of what is beautiful, are central to the higher aspirations of the secular city. Unspoiled natural places, opera-houses, galleries and museums of Art – these are its temples. 'Fruits of the earth, and work of human hands' – but placed on the altar, not of 'the God of all creation', but of man himself.

Is it the case that an act which monks regard as a function of worship, of the interpenetration of the secular and the sacred, secular man regards simply as the property of man and as a function of enjoyment? Is this why the secular world wants monastic buildings and monastic practices to be ancient? Is it because this makes them at once both more exquisite and less threatening?

Is monasticism perceived primarily as part of a museum culture? The mosaics of Ravenna, the sculptures of Michelangelo, the symphonies of Mozart – in today's world, these are 'options', which afford delight without demanding moral engagement. The so-called 'transcendental' – goodness, truth and beauty – have been separated and relativised. To what extent does the secular world choose to see monastic practices as being simply rather beautiful, without needing to worry whether they are good or true?

Is there some way in which monks can escape from the museum in which the secular world prefers to confine them, without betraying what is essential to monastic culture? In the area of aesthetic experience, what are the essential elements of that culture? Is the problem largely associated with Europe, where the monasteries happen to be old? If so, what can Europeans learn from monasteries in younger societies?

Or is the paradox, the barrier of incomprehension between two concepts of Glory – one drawn from, and pointing to, God, and the other owned by man – inevitable? Is this the special burden represented by the TGV crossing the garden at Ligéria?

The TGV is by its nature horizontal. Within its limits, and on its rails, it is useful, powerful and beautiful. As it crosses the garden, is it a hostile arrow aimed at the heart of monastic tradition? Or is it, rather, simply a burden, heavy with the beauty of the world, mysteriously elusive and hard to reach? Is it our main responsibility to remain 'at right angles' to secular society? If we are, in Pope Paul's words, to 'study, love and serve the world', how do we best create the appropriate space, so that the relation between the upright and the horizontal may be solid and close?
The history of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, CMAC, or Marriage Care as it is now known, is a story of which the church in this country can rightly be proud. As you well all know better than I, many thousands of lay people have given voluntarily of their time, professional expertise and money over the past 50 years to establish and maintain regional centres, always in a close partnership with local priests. Indeed, you were practising collaborative ministry long before the term became fashionable.

The work which you are undertaking today both within and beyond the Catholic community – whether in counselling, education or medical advice – is more important than ever. It is highly significant, I think, that during the discussions which took place before and during the recent passage of the Family Law Act through Parliament, Marriage Care was so often consulted and your work cited. It is a tribute to you, and a compliment to the Catholic Church, that your association is held in such high regard, and that the model of marriage preparation which you have done so much to pioneer and foster within the Catholic community is now rightly seen as deserving a wider application in society.

The passage of that Act focused attention in a powerful way on the state of marriage and family life today. Many people voiced anxieties about some of the long-term consequences of increasing family breakdown: the deep and lasting effects on children – in terms of educational attainment, health, and the ability to sustain committed relationships in later life; the difficulties for older relatives more likely to be separated from natural carers if families have been re-ordered; the growing burden on the state in benefits and housing costs when households split up and more become headed by a single parent.

In view of these serious long-term threats to our future social well-being over the next generation it is certainly encouraging to see explicit commitments in the Act to supporting the institution of marriage, and of more funding for marriage support services and research into family instability. These commitments must be honoured in practice, with sufficient resources being set aside to pay for them. At present I understand that Whilst over £200m is spent through the legal aid budget on family litigation, less than £4m goes on marriage support. This is a ludicrous imbalance. An adequate public investment in the establishment nation-wide of effective marriage preparation and guidance programmes and research is absolutely vital. Moreover, far from increasing public expenditure such an investment would lead to substantial long-term savings if it reduced, even marginally, the rate of marital breakdown.

What is needed above all, though, is a radical change in our culture. I have always been diffident, as a celibate, to speak about love and sex. A celibate lacks direct experience, but on the other hand he remains human and he is the
recipient of the confidences of other people. I do recognise that there is always a danger of celibates romanticising about marriage and the intimate union of a man and a woman in married life.

My starting point, and here I make no apology for restating views I have set out before, is the Book of Genesis. The two creation narratives, probably written at least 500 years apart, give us profound and complementary insights into human nature and the significance of family life. In the first we read ‘God created humankind in his image... male and female he created them. God blessed them, and said: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it”.’ (Gen 1:27-28). Both the male and the female are necessary if humanity is to reflect the image of God as creator. The gift of sexual potency is an extraordinary investment of trust by God in humanity, for it calls parents into partnership with Him in creating new human life.

The context within which this gift is to be exercised is given by the second narrative. There we read ‘God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner... Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh”.’ (Gen 2:18-24). What this reveals is the deep human need for intimacy: we are created to love and be loved. A sublime expression of that love in human terms is manifested in marriage, which is why the image of the bridegroom and the bride is so often used in the scriptures to express the mystery of God’s love.

The first creation narrative speaks of life, and the transmission of new life; the second of Love. These two — life and love — belong together and cannot be separated. Of course not all find that they are called to be married: single people and celibates have other and equally authentic ways of showing the love of Christ. But for more people marriage is... a life-long and exclusive. These are not externally imposed requirements, but the innate characteristics of married love.

The commitment of exclusive love in marriage calls for and finds its physical expression in a sexual relationship which strengthens and sustains it. At the same time, this sexual relationship has to be open to the possible transmission of new life. In this way the sexual union of man and woman serves both life and love. These two dimensions, the procreative and the unitive, cannot be artificially separated without distorting the true significance of the full sexual expression of human love. This, then, is the Catholic understanding of the nature of marriage and the rightful context of human sexual relationships. If, as seems prevalent today, it is taken for granted that there need be no connection at all between the unitive and the procreative, then the true significance of the full sexual expression of human love is radically distorted.

The Church’s teaching presents humanity with very high ideals — about love, the sacredness of sex, the exclusiveness and permanence of every marriage, and responsible parenthood. But if in fact the Church is only pointing to what it is to be human, and therefore what it is that human beings need for their deepest well-being and fulfilment.

The gap between the Church’s understanding of marriage and some values and attitudes prevalent in our culture today is all too obvious. The ideas of marriage as a permanent lifelong commitment, or of confining sexual relationships within marriage, are seen by many today as unattainable fantasies.

In fact, I would argue the exact opposite. It strikes me that in our society’s elevation of freedom of choice to the apparent exclusion of other values, and in the seemingly endless obsession with sex manifested in so much of the media today, what we are witnessing is the peddling of unreal fantasies about what it is to be human. The Church’s teaching, in contrast, confronts us head on with the realities of responsible choice and the obligations which flow from making binding commitments to others.

First, we have extended choice into the marriage relationship — beyond the choice of whom to marry into choosing whether to stay married. I was struck by the following comment made by Professor Gerald Rochford from Aberdeen University in a lecture last year. He said that the marriage vow:

represents the moment at which we move through choice to a sense of destiny... to create a sense of security within which a myriad of choices, and therefore mistakes, can be made in safety... For this vow to be retractable, as it clearly now is, places upon the spouse the burden of needing to be perfect without the security within which to be imperfect without being abandoned... The marriage vows represent the attempts to save ourselves from limitless and therefore insatiable choice... the irony is that limitless choice induces a sense of compulsion, the sense of being driven rather than free.

We have also extended choice into questions of whether to continue with a pregnancy, and through technological advances to base that decision on any of a whole range of factors. The frightening statistics on abortion today, and the public attention given to several recent cases, highlights the tragedy and human impoverishment which comes from idolising choice as the supreme value.

The second point is the extraordinary plethora of images of sexual intimacy. Sex, it seems, is everywhere in the public media. The reason, I recognise, is that it clearly sells. But what does this seeming obsession say about our society? I am struck by the fact that it coincides with a loneliness which many people seem to experience. There are no doubt many influences at work. But might not one reason for this preoccupation with sex be that, far from reflecting experiences of genuine love and human intimacy, it seems to offer a fantasy in compensation for the lack of such experiences?

Sex is a gift of God and therefore good. We must beware of a Manichean streak which seeks to demonise, or regard as suspect, this essential part of our humanity. Manicheanism has been a constant throughout history, and indeed can be found in our own day. On the other hand, however, we should avoid trivialising or vulgarising sex. It is fundamentally good, yet open to abuse due to our fallen natures. Sex needs reverence and respect, protection and self-discipline.
It is difficult to convey the Church's teaching when prevailing attitudes are that young people have no need to be chaste, only to be careful. How in such a climate can we begin to persuade people not to 'live together' before marriage, or to indulge in casual sex? How do we re-educate consciences to realise that sex outside marriage is wrong? How can we rescue the word 'love' from being synonymous with the word 'sex'?

How can you lead people to recognise the value of a permanent commitment, publicly expressed? If the child sees in its parents not a perfect marriage (for what marriage can ever be that?) but one that is good enough, then that example will fashion the child's own attitude to marriage. If, on the other hand, this is not the child's experience, then not only will it be disillusioned with marriage, more profoundly perhaps it loses its sense of trust in the adult world. The family is the first school of life and love; each of us is marked indelibly by our own family and childhood experience. In saying this, we must recognise the dedication and mutual commitment in very many families today including those who have suffered failure and loss.

I have spoken of the need for a change of culture if marriage and family life in our society is to be better supported. I have deliberately focused on some prevailing values and attitudes, but I recognise of course that we also need urgently to attend to a whole range of social and economic influences which greatly add to the pressures on families today. I do not have time now to develop the arguments, but you will know better than I how, for instance, financial difficulties, unemployment, the burden of caring for older relatives unaided, ill health and poor housing can contribute to family stress.

No society can afford to neglect the health of the family. Families are the basis of community life, and the principal means by which all human societies propagate and carry their existence into the future. The nurturing of children is the most primitive and profound human endeavour, and we are very far from giving due recognition and support to parents who stay at home to devote themselves to this. A comprehensive family policy is needed to ensure that a range of Government policies, including employment, housing and the tax and benefit system gives better help and proper recognition to parents who wish to look after their own children at home.

The Church has both to preach and to live by the gospel. That means we have to be clear about moral principles, and unafraid to state unpalatable truths, such as that fornication and adultery are wrong. At the same time if we are to live the gospel we must always be compassionate, and do all we can to help and support those in difficulty or distress. That is why I am always anxious to support the Association of Divorced and Separated Catholics, whose original home was in fact here in Manchester. The Church has a special responsibility to give practical help to those who are single parents, for whatever reason; those whose marriages have failed or are in difficulty, or who may feel unable to accomplish successfully what good parents should achieve. You will know the saying 'It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'. You are such a candle, and I thank God for that.

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Robert Vincent or Richard Radcliffe (Downside)
There was a time — not all that long ago — when Catholics were defined in largely negative terms: no meat on Friday, no contraception, no divorce. How things have changed. Although the Church enjoins the need for penance on Fridays in memory of the sacrifice which Jesus made for us, meat is no longer banned. The Pope constantly reiterates the intrinsic evil of contraception, but repeated surveys have shown that the great majority of Catholics now practise contraception and continue to share the Eucharist. Divorce, once rare among Catholics, is now no longer a newsworthy event. When the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (now called Marriage Care) was established in 1946, the idea of a counsellor who was divorced was unthinkable; now divorcees who have not remarried become counsellors, subject to certain safeguards.

This evolution (some would call it revolution) in Catholic practice has spanned the lifetime of many of us, including Dr Jack Dominian, a Catholic, a psychiatrist, a researcher and prolific writer on marriage. His story caught the attention of Jock Dalrymple, a Scots priest, who has written this biography. It is, in fact, two stories in one; it is the story of the Church in Britain since the second Vatican Council and it is the story of Jack Dominian’s response to this.

Jacob (always known as Jack) Dominian was born in Greece in 1929, the third child of an Armenian Catholic father and a Greek Orthodox mother. When he was twelve years old, the family fled before the advancing Germans, first to Egypt and then to Bombay, where Jack learned English and was taught by Spanish Jesuits. After the war the family moved to England, where other members of the family had preceded them. Jack completed his schooling at Stamford Grammar School and went on to study medicine first at Cambridge and then at Oxford, qualifying as a doctor in 1955.

His early life was greatly influenced by his mother, an intelligent woman of great energy, who sought to live out her frustrated ambitions through her son. Jack’s relationship with his mother had much to do with his early decision to specialise in psychiatry. This decision was the first to bring him in contact with the negative aspects of the Church. A Jesuit — reflecting a widely held view of the time — told him that a career in psychiatry would imperil his soul. (Though not recorded in the biography, it was only the rector of the Salesian College in Oxford who gave him encouragement.)

Up to this point, Jack had been steeped in traditional Catholicism. Active in the Union of Catholic Students, he became its President. It was in the UCS that he met his wife, Edith, another important influence in his life. They were frequent attenders at the Dominican Conference Centre at Spode House where, under the wise guidance of Fr Conrad Pepler, lay people were being encouraged to develop their role in the Church. Another significant event
occurred in 1958 when Jack began voluntary work as a medical adviser and counsellor with the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council. Through his work with couples he learned that what the Church said about marriage was often far removed from the reality.

These influences were reflected in the articles he began to write, culminating in his first book *Psychiatry and the Christian* published in 1962. The second Vatican Council, in which Pope John XXIII sought to open a window to the world, gave Jack Dominian his great chance. Already active in the Church, he responded generously to the call for lay people to play an increased part in the life of the Church. Essentially, he sought to marry the insights provided by the secular sciences of psychology and psychiatry with those of revelation, particularly through the scriptures. In this, he greatly impressed a young Benedictine monk, Basil Hume, who many years later as a Cardinal—on the occasion of Jack’s retirement from the National Health Service—recalled him saying, ‘Human love is the instrument we can use to explore the mystery of love which God is.’

In saying this, Jack Dominian was reflecting the words of St John, ‘a man who does not love the brother that he can see cannot love God, whom he has never seen’ (1 Jo 4, 29). Jack applied this to the love between husband and wife. He pointed out that marriage is unique among the sacraments; the other six take material things, water, bread, wine, oils as their matter; marriage takes the living reality of the secular state of marriage, making it the outward sign of God’s grace. The permanent commitment of the husband and wife to each other to the exclusion of all others is the heart of the matter. This is uniquely expressed through sexual intercourse, which is no longer seen as primarily a means to beget children, but expresses and fosters the commitment, the giving of self, the love, which is at the heart of the relationship between husband and wife.

Thus began a process of change in Jack’s thinking, a process which was to lead to a radical reassessment of the Church’s teaching on marriage. He perceived that the attitude of the Church to sex had been very negative. This he attributed to three factors: lack of knowledge of the nature of our sexuality—a lack which could now be repaired by the insights of psychology; fear of sex, which was seen largely as an occasion of sin; and lack of any input by married people into the development of the theology of marriage. In particular, he was concerned about the attitude of the Church to sexual pleasure which it taught should be guarded against except as a means to procreation. Whilst he rejected the view that sexual pleasure is an elysium, something there to be enjoyed at will, as was currently being proposed by some in secular circles, he did not believe it to be tied to procreation. He saw it as ‘an instrument which brings about a communion in which two people, a man and a woman, acknowledge invite and accept each other as objects of love.’

His developing views did not go unchallenged. Responding to an article by Jack in the Bulletin of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, Bishop Cormac Murphy O’Connor, though not reaffirming the traditional view, urged caution in relation to the development of ideas about the place of sexual pleasure. In fairness to the Bishop, Jack was not always precise in his exposition of an idea; he was often swept along by a vision which could leave people uneasy about the precise import of what he had to say.

His insistence on the relationship between husband and wife as the keystone of marriage was vindicated by Vatican II. The old formula of procreation as the primary end of marriage was—after a struggle—abandoned; although the relationship between husband and wife was not put forward as the primary end, the ends of marriage ceased to be presented in a hierarchical form. Meanwhile, Jack was exploring the nature of this relationship. Making use of the psychological theories which had been developed over the preceding decades, he saw the earliest manifestation of relationship as the attachment of the child to its mother. Here the child experienced love and learned to love. This experience became the basis for a new relationship with a spouse when the child grew into adult life. From this it followed that defective attachment of the child to its mother, for whatever reason, sowed the seed for a defective relationship with the spouse. Jack brought these ideas together in a stirring address to the annual conference of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council in 1966 entitled ‘Vatican II and Marriage’.

His first endeavours in the field of marriage had been concerned with its positive aspects, seeking a new formulation of the meaning of marriage by bringing together what scripture and psychology has to tell us. But his work with the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council and as a psychiatrist, together with the rising tide of divorces led him to the conclusion that the breakdown of marriage was the greatest social evil of our time. His response was to establish an independent Marriage Research Centre at the Central Middlesex Hospital in London to study the causes of, and remedies for, marriage breakdown. He became increasingly impressed by the importance of social factors in marriage breakdown; he developed the view that psychosocial factors, rather than psychological factors alone, were the important influences in the relationship between husband and wife. In recognition of this he later changed the name of the Research Centre to ‘One-to-One’, acknowledging the fact that an increasing number of couples were forming stable and permanent relationships without any marriage ceremony, religious or secular.

For over three decades he has persevered in studying, and seeking to promote action, both by Church and State, in relation to marriage breakdown. The rise in the number of divorces from 25,000 in 1960 to 150,000 in 1990, far from disheartening him, has spurred him on to greater efforts with the publication of seventeen books and eighty-eight articles in *The Tablet* alone, as well as many elsewhere. In this he has not escaped criticism. It is said that he is inductive and intuitive rather than systematic in the development of his ideas; although steeped in scripture, he has paid little attention to the work of theologians. There is justification in this criticism but, no doubt, he would reply that it was the deductive approach of theology, working from principles to practice, that led to the divorce between the theology and the reality of
marriage. This he has sought to remedy by working back from the reality, as revealed in the consulting room or counselling session, to the principles. It is noteworthy that an increasing number of modern theologians now work this way: their first endeavour in any situation is to try to discover what is happening on the ground. Thus the first action of a theologian asked to advise an overseas charity on the use of its funds to combat AIDS was to go to Africa and see for himself what was happening on the ground.

In his campaign for marriage Jack Dominian has increasingly emphasised the role of the laity, quoting extensively from the documents of Vatican II. Bride and bridegroom are both the ministers and the recipients of the sacrament; it is they who have the living experience of it; it is they who are best able to present marriage as it should be to society. When Christ said, 'Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations' (Mt 28, 19), he was not addressing the clergy alone; he was speaking to all the baptised, to all the People of God. Evangelisation could be achieved through marriage both by the way it is lived and by the way it is presented by Christians. And, as Jack Dominian has shown, what they have to present is very attractive. The old formula that marriage is for children does not appeal. It makes people feel like cogs in a wheel or pawns in a game. This was especially so for women who were subservient to and economically dependent on their husbands and caught up in a seemingly endless chain of childbearing and rearing.

Putting the relationship between husband and wife at the centre of things brings an entirely new outlook which could be made to appeal to people today. Husband and wife recognise one another as people of worth, deserving of respect, deserving of love. They are not simply breadwinners or child-bearers but people, made in the image and likeness of God. In the words of the hymn, 'And when from dust he fashioned Adam's face, the likeness of His only Son was born.' Realisation of this gives people a confidence in themselves and a respect, or even reverence, for one another. This will be shown in the way that they love and serve one another. Through this love there comes the child. So the child is not merely an expression of duty, of an obligation which has been fulfilled, but is an expression of love between husband and wife.

Of course, the waywardness of human nature does not always make the pursuit of this relationship easy. Egoism so often spoils a relationship, but as people try — and many do — they learn to overcome their selfishness and secure greater happiness in so doing. The environment in which we live does not help. Openness about sex (which is to be welcomed in so far as it gets rid of the shame and hypocrisy of the past) has led to its trivialisation in the media where it is either the butt of jokes or is presented in terms of instant, physical gratification. Nowhere is it shown as a unique and pleasurable expression of enduring love. Equally, consumerism in modern society has encouraged the notion that happiness can be secured through material things rather than by the development of personal relationships. Likewise, the great increase in the intervention of the State in our lives has diminished the sense of personal responsibility. When anything goes wrong, the first reaction of many people is that 'they' must do something about it. The idea that 'I' may be in some way responsible is an alien notion. So people say their marriage failed rather than that they failed, or 'it didn't work out', rather than that they did not work it out.

Despite these very real difficulties there are thousands of couples who really work at their relationship. The popularity of marriage encounter groups of various kinds is evidence of this. And many who do not feel comfortable in groups work equally hard at developing a loving relationship which involves not only one another, but their children and the wider community beyond the family. These people are the backbone of our parishes whether it be in study groups, as ministers of the Eucharist, on the car rota for bringing the infirm to mass or in the humble, but important, task of cleaning the church. But they need encouragement. The evidence of marriage breakdown all around undermines confidence. And the statements of the official Church are still couched in largely negative terms. People should be made to feel that they are involved in a relationship of love which St Paul compared to that between Christ and his Church. They should be made to feel that in their marriage relationship they are ambassadors for Christ, showing through their lives what it means to love and to be loved.

It is unlikely that pronouncements by the official Church or enactments by the State will of themselves reverse the breakdown of marriage. But married people showing through their lives that personal fulfilment and true happiness can be achieved through marriage could reverse the trend. The breakdown of a marriage, no matter how it is handled, brings great pain to those concerned and to their children. Nor is it the end of their tribulations, for their chances of failing in a second marriage are high. They do not always find green fields or pastures new beyond divorce. The fields of an enduring marriage, though sometimes arid and in need of watering, are often happier places in which to be. But this is not how it is seen by many. Escape is what they demand, but escape to what? The challenge is to show that happiness can be found in what they have fled; it is only those living in and dedicated to the married state that can show this through the example of their lives.

This book is more than a biography of one man. It is an account of marriage in troubled times. It shows how Jack Dominian, psychiatrist and marriage counsellor, has responded to this. But it also shows how ordinary married people can help. It marks out for them an apostolate; an apostolate, not of teaching or preaching, but of example. May we hope that many, encouraged by Fr Dalrymple's very readable account of Jack Dominian's work for marriage, may be encouraged to follow suit no matter how modest their way.
COMMUNITY NOTES

FR ABBOT’S RETIREMENT

On 10 August Fr Abbot announced his intention to retire at the end of Lent in 1997. He was elected Abbot for the normal term of eight years in 1984. When his first term was completed in 1992, the Community re-elected him for a further term of eight years. The Constitutions do not allow for election to a shorter term. Next year he will have completed five years of his second term. He has decided, in view of his age, to retire in his eightieth year. The Conventual Chapter will meet on the evening of Palm Sunday, 23 March 1997, under the chairmanship of the Abbot President, Abbot Francis Rossiter, to elect a successor.

THE ABBOT PRIMATE

The quadrennial congress of Benedictine Abbots was held in Rome in September. One of the first acts of the Congress was the election of Abbot Marcel Rooney of Conception Abbey, Missouri, USA, as Abbot Primate. He is well known at Ampleforth, having given three week-long seminars on Liturgy to the Community in 1993. He started that series as Professor of Liturgy at Sant’ Anselmo, but was elected Abbot of Conception Abbey in April 1993. Now, after three years in his home monastery, he returns to Sant’ Anselmo in Rome as its Abbot and Primate of the Benedictine Confederation.

His election allows Abbot Francis Rossiter, Abbot President of the English Congregation, to return to England. He had been acting as Pro-Primate since the sudden death of Abbot Jerome Theissen in September 1995.

PROFESSIONS

Br Bruno TA made his Solemn Profession on Saturday 24 August. He was born in Vietnam in 1960, becoming a postulant with the Dominicans in Saigon in 1978. The community was dispersed when the communists took over and for the next ten years he worked as a carpenter and an auto-mechanic. He escaped by boat in 1987. He reached the Philippines and lived there for two years in a holding camp. He was a catechist to the younger Vietnamese in the camp, and experienced at first hand the intense pressure of living check by jowl with thirty other men and women in an overcrowded room with no privacy. He came to England in 1989 and immediately began to seek ways of following his religious vocation. In 1992 he came to Ampleforth, encouraged by the presence in the community of two of his fellow-countrymen. In addition to his monastic studies, Br Bruno is an assistant guestmaster in the Grange, looks after the bees and makes a very popular range of candles for sale in the shop and elsewhere.

Fr Paulinus Walsh and Br Paschal Tran made their Simple Profession on Saturday 31 August.

ORDINATIONS

Br William Wright and Br Raphael Jones were ordained to the priesthood on Sunday 23 June.

Br Kentigern Hagan and Br Oliver Homes were ordained to the diaconate on Saturday 10 August.

Br Anthony Maret-Crosby, Br Laurence Mctaggart, Br Oswald McBride and Br Bruno TA were commissioned as acolytes on Thursday 12 September.

APPOINTMENTS

In July Fr Abbot announced the following moves and appointments, to take effect in the autumn of 1996.

Fr Peter James to the monastery of Our Lady of Mount Grace at Osmotherley.
Fr Cyril Brooks and Fr Alberic Stacpoole to St Mary’s, Leyland.
Fr Charles McCaulley as parish priest to St John’s, Easingwold.
Fr Adred Burrows to St Austin’s, Liverpool.
Fr Felix Stephens as parish priest to St Mary’s, Warrington.
Fr Augustine Measures to St Gerard’s, Lostock Hall.
Fr Francis Davidson (Fort Augustus) as parish priest to St Mary’s, Brownedge.
Fr Stephen Wright to St Mary’s, Warrington.
Fr Alan Crossley as parish priest to Kirkbymoorside.
Fr Matthew Burns to St Mary’s, Brownedge.
Fr David O’Brien to the Abbey (to look after Helmsley).
Fr Edgar Miller and Fr Paul Browne to take up residence at the Junior School, Gilling Castle.
Fr Raphael Jones to Sant' Anselmo, Rome for theological studies at the Angelicum.
Br Maximilian Fattorini to Saint Benet's Hall, Oxford, to read English.

WORLD WIDE WEB

For those interested, the Abbey and College now maintain a site on the World Wide Web. To find the homepage, point your browser at http://www.ampleforth.org.uk

Members of the Community may also be contacted via e-mail addressed to monksname@ampleforth.org.uk (substitute the name of the monk you are trying to contact before the @ sign).

THE CHEVETOGNE GROUP

The group was set up after the 1992 Congress of Benedictine Abbots, on the initiative of the Abbots of Chevetogne and Kergonan, and with the blessing of the Abbot Primate. Its aim is to explore the possibility of monastic collaboration in the building of a Christian Europe, in the context of the new evangelisation to which we have been called by John Paul II, (Abbot of Kergonan). Previous meetings have been held in France and Spain. This meeting, the seventh, was held at Grodno in Belarus in May 1996. Fr Dominic represents Abbot Patrick and the English Benedictine Congregation at these meetings. The following is an extract from his report.

The Group spent a day at Minsk, four days at Mother Gabriella's Monastery of the Nativity of Our Lady at Grodno, and two days in Moscow. It was a meeting marked by much travel and by an exceptional level of hospitality and of ecumenical celebration.

At Minsk, the Group was warmly received by Metropolitan Filaret, and visits were made to the Orthodox and Catholic cathedrals. We also visited, from Grodno, the Orthodox Seminary at Jirovitsi and were again warmly received and lavishly entertained by the Abbot, together with Metropolitan Filaret and Bishop Artemie of Grodno. All these meetings were marked by a deep sense of joy as well as of mutual respect.

At Grodno, we stayed in the monastery, only recently reclaimed from its years as a Museum of Atheism. On Sunday, we shared in the Orthodox Liturgy and went to concelebrate in the Catholic Cathedral—a crowded and impressive Mass, with many young seminarians and a high level of participation.

The open sessions of the meeting, attended by several academics and journalists, took place in the Chemistry Faculty of Grodno University. Mother Gabriella had ensured the presence of a large icon. The juxtaposition of cultures was impressive. The meeting was inaugurated by Bishop Alexander (RC Bishop of Grodno), who spoke on the theology of Church Unity, using the Joannine image of the seamless and untrimmed robe as his text. The Orthodox Bishop Artemie then spoke of the spiritual and monastic traditions of East and West, celebrating the influence of St Benedict and the importance of maintaining a tradition of reciprocal learning; he also spoke of the spiritual history of Grodno, a city which had always lived (and suffered) 'between two cultures'. The Mayor of Grodno welcomed this event as a symbol of Grodno's present opportunity to become a genuinely pluralist centre of cultural interchange.

The Abbot of Chevetogne stressed the role of monasteries at a time of reconstrucion. Economic well-being needs to be underpinned by spiritual values. The young are looking 'for a society which will be authentically human'. It is essential to integrate the Churches in the dialogue. Grodno is a symbol of a millennium of co-existence between Byzantium and Rome, and the meeting, at once prayerful and scientific (Ora et Labora), indicated that 'we must be saints, but intelligent saints'.

There were papers as follows:

The Abbot of Kergonan spoke of BENEDICTINE LITURGY AND CULTURE. The RB represents both the humanism of being fully man, and the divinisation of that humanism, at all levels, by the Spirit, acting above all through the Psalms and through Lectio Divina based on the Scriptures and the Fathers. Architecture, music and the complex texture of human attitudes are expressions of a rich cultural tradition.

Dr Valery Tscherepina (Orthodox historian) spoke of his research into documents relating to the Orthodox monasteries of Belarus in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Abbess of La Paix Notre-Dame (Liege) spoke of the MONASTIC MISSION TODAY. We must start from where people are, seeking a true inculturation, not only in Africa, but in our own society. Both in our Lectio and in our apostolic work, we are sowing seed which must die if it is to be fruitful. The RB says nothing on the apostolate, but Gregory's advice to Augustine remains a classic text for us.

P Ignatii Loukovitch (Monk and Deacon teaching in the Orthodox Seminary, Jirovitsi) spoke of MONASTIC SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURE IN RUSSIA. Monasticism, from the 14th century onwards, became a powerful influence. The key figure was St Sergius. Established in solitude and simplicity, the monasteries exerted a strong apostolic influence, through schools, spiritual writings, support for the poor, and spiritual direction. Monastic holiness was an essential force in Russian society. There are many parallels with the influence of Benedict and Cassian.

The Abbot of Praglia spoke of Lectio Divina. This is the specific feature of monastic culture by which the monk truly absorbs the Word, allowing it to speak both through his own words and his silence.
THE AMPLEFORTH JOURNAL

P Taddeus (Professor in the Catholic Seminary of Grodno) spoke of NEW SOCIO-RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN BELARUS. The modern tendency is to search for Utopias. These often neglect the reality of sin and have a depersonalising effect. Catholic theology must not betray its roots. A return to truth is vital.

The Abbot of Chevetogne spoke of the TRADITION OF SPIRITUAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. The roots of monasticism (cf. RB ch 73) are found in the desert, in Syria, Egypt, Palestine. Pachomius was translated into Latin, Gregory the Great into Greek. The monastic heritage is a common one, and monastic saints belong to both traditions. Our Group is simply renewing an old tradition. In answer to a comment after his talk, the Abbot affirmed that one main motive for the Group’s presence was to witness to the need for a religious liberty not yet fully established.

A dinner on the final evening was attended by civic officials including the Vice-Governor of the Province, the Mayor, a representative of the Ministry of Cult, and the Chief of Police, as well as by the Orthodox and Catholic Bishops. The lay presence was a rather different one from that at previous meetings, and was symbolic both of the hopes and of the complexities of the monastic presence in a society still deeply wounded by seventy years of hostility and persecution.

In Moscow, the Group was received warmly in the Monastery of St Daniel, and shared in the Liturgy of the feast of the Ascension (Orthodox). The following day, there was a friendly and constructive meeting with P Victor, Vice-President of the Patriarchate’s department of Foreign Affairs, before the celebration of the feast of SS Cyril and Methodius, by the Patriarch, in a Daniel, and shared in the Liturgy of the feast of the Ascension (Orthodox). The Kremlin basilica. Some of the Group also visited the monastery (nuns) of Nvodevichi.

The next meeting of the Group is due to be held in the Abbey of St Andries, Brugge, Belgium, in March 1997.

In July Br Robert was in Norwich for a five day summer school with Br Anthony. Br Anthony writes:

NORWICH SUMMER SCHOOL
22 – 26 July 1996

1996 marks the 900th anniversary of the foundation of Norwich Cathedral. In common with many of the great Norman churches of England, it was conceived as combining both an episcopal seat and a monastic choir, and for nearly five centuries it was home to both the bishops of Norwich and a community of Benedictine monks. It was this latter element which provided the inspiration for a week long Benedictine Summer School, in which the sense of the past history of the Norwich community provided the backdrop to a series of liturgies and lectures. At its centre was the Cathedral itself, and it was fitting that the week should begin with Evensong in honour of its founder, Bishop Herbert de Losinga. His tomb, like his cathedral, has survived the vicissitudes of history, and though he was an apparently unlikely choice for a founding bishop – having bought his way to the title, few can have had so powerful a legacy as he. From Tuesday to Friday, each day began with a lecture by Fr Robert, who presented the spirituality of the Rule of St Benedict to the seventy core participants. His particular emphasis was on the intimacy offered to us by God, an intimacy into which we can enter through the familiar means of prayer, Lectio Divina and silence. Other speakers, including Br Anthony and Fr Aidan Bellinger of Downside, provided a historical dimension to the week, which was further augmented by a series of visits to monastic sites in the region. These included Binham, Castle Acre and finally Bury St Edmunds, Norwich’s great rival in power and prestige for the whole Middle Ages.

Yet the focus always returned to the Cathedral, the enduring monument to the spiritual ideals of the black monks of the city. Each day it hosted different liturgical celebrations, including an Anglican Eucharist at which Lord Runcie gave the address and a pilgrimage liturgy on the last day. Especially moving was a Catholic Mass on Wednesday the 24th, only the second such celebration to the spiritual ideals of the black monks of the city. Each day it hosted different liturgical celebrations, including an Anglican Eucharist at which Lord Runcie gave the address and a pilgrimage liturgy on the last day. Especially moving was a Catholic Mass on Wednesday the 24th, only the second such celebration since the Reformation. The homily was preached by Fr Dominic, who summarized both the historical and present day impact of the Benedictine message.

THE PASTORAL SERVICES OFFICE

The pastoral work of the Abbey is partly in our parishes and partly based at the Abbey. We serve four local parishes and ten in other dioceses in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria. At the Abbey itself there is a wide spectrum of pastoral work, which has grown steadily in the past twenty years. Already we receive up to ten thousand visitors a year who come for retreats, time for quiet recollection and involvement in courses to help them with new inspiration.

In the immediate future and in the years to come, lay people will be more and more involved in prayer and action alongside bishops, priests, deacons, monks and religious, in the life of the Church. All the signs point to a great and growing need for centres of formation in all aspects of Christian life and ministry in which laity and clergy can prepare themselves for this joint mission. The PASTORAL SERVICES OFFICE at Ampleforth has been set up to help meet this need.

Fr Abbot has appointed KIT AND CAROLINE DOLLARD to lead this development. Their commission is to build up our existing apostolate of retreat work and hospitality and to broaden it in ways that will help clergy and laity meet the challenges that now face the Church. They started work in July and are engaged in research to identify more precisely the needs and what can realistically be offered here to help meet them. If you would like to contribute to their research, please fill in and return the survey form which you will find with this edition of the Journal.
Kit and Caroline Dollard are married and have five children. Kit is an Old Gregorian. He left Downside in 1969 for Sandhurst and after Sandhurst joined the Royal Green Jackets. Over ten years he served in Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland, where he was mentioned in Despatches for services in Belfast. From 1979 to 1986 he worked in the City and was head of marketing for a leading firm of Chartered Surveyors. Caroline (née Edwards) is the daughter and sister of Old Amplefordians. For the last ten years, she and Kit have been working at parish and deanery level in the Archdiocese of Southwark. Caroline was educated at Farnborough Hill, and has been a trustee and governor there since 1986. She has a diploma in Pastoral Theology (the result of a two year course at Allen Hall, the Westminster Archdiocesan seminary) and before moving to Ampleforth was giving courses there for lay people and seminarians.

FR BENJAMIN O’SULLIVAN OSB

Fr Benjamin was born in London on 15 September 1961. He was educated at the Salesian College Battersea and left with six O levels and three A levels. He spent a year studying for a music degree at Goldsmith’s College but left to pursue his interest in a religious vocation.

After two years as assistant at Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre he joined the Ampleforth community and received the habit of St Benedict on 9 September 1984 in the Abbey Church at Ampleforth. He made his final commitment through Solemn Profession on 5 September 1987. From 1986 to 1990 he was resident at the Ampleforth House in Oxford, St Benet’s Hall, and studied Theology with the Dominicans at Blackfriars, where he completed his theological course for ordination. During his time of studies he always returned to his home in the Ampleforth community during the vacations.

He was ordained deacon in the Abbey Church at Ampleforth on 25 June 1989 and priest on 24 June 1990. On his return to full residence in the Abbey in that year he was appointed assistant to the Grange, our house of hospitality for guests who come here for retreats, reflection and participation in the daily sung Office in the Abbey Church. At the same time he was made assistant to the Vocations Director, doing much to respond to enquiries about monastic life and to encourage and inspire many young men whom he met in this work. It was also in 1983 that he was made Monastery Choir Master, and in the following year inspired and conducted the monastic choir in the recording of ‘Vision of Peace’. He was able to combine this work with quite intense study for an external Music degree of BMus at London University. He passed the first part of this with first class honours in 1995 and was, at the time of his death, working hard for the second part of this degree course.

It caused a terrible shock and profound grief to all the community when he was found dead on Saturday morning 1 March. He seemed to be his normal self on Friday to all who had contact with him in a community in whose life he was deeply involved. He was a gifted Choir Master with the ability often to elicit a good response even from those not musically gifted. He taught novices and junior monks and for special events the whole community. We all held him in great affection and esteem and remember now with grief his gifts, his cheerfulness and his open character and the idealism which always seemed to make him ready and eager to help others. Many in the community and among the friends of the community will grieve deeply for a long time over the terrible and inexplicable tragedy which overtook him. His loss to us all is irreparable.

We found in his pocket book two texts which he treasured. The first is a meditation of Cardinal Newman: ‘Dear Jesus, help me to spread thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with thy Spirit and Life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy Presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus.’

The other text is a prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian which must be the prayer, in their grief, of the community who have lost him: ‘O Lord, you gave him to us to be our joy and consolation. You have taken him away from us. We give him back to you without a murmur, though our hearts are wrung with sorrow.’

3rd March 1996
Fr Abbot

Fr ANSELM CRAMER, as Monastic Librarian, has published an illustrated pamphlet on the GREAT CHAMBER at GILLING and its HISTORY. It is part of a series ‘St Laurence Papers’ and was written by Hugh Murray. The 57 page text is partly descriptive and partly technical. There are eleven illustrations, four of which are in colour. Copies may be obtained direct from Fr Anselm at the Abbey — price £3.
The leading article of the July issue was by Bishop Hedley. He was one of the original four who planned the journal at a meeting on 12 March 1895: the others were Prior Anselm Burge, Fr Cuthbert Almond (the first Editor) and Fr Wilfrid Darby, a financial expert, also responsible for guiding the early financial steps of St Benet's Hall. Among other resolutions, they agreed, 'That the magazine be called the Ampleforth Journal, and be published three times each year, at Midsummer, Christmas and Easter; that the Magazine consist of about 100 pages.' Reality was attended as well: 'As the Committee think that an edition of 500 copies (100 pages, demy 8vo), similar in style to the Downside Review, can be printed for about £17 (illustrations and postage not included), the Annual Subscription would have to be at least 3 shillings per annum [15p].'

This article, Oxford and Cambridge, was unusually significant, for in it the Bishop tackled the hot question of the day, whether Catholics should be allowed to go to the two Universities. The mid-nineteenth century ban engineered by Manning was withdrawn by Rome in 1895, and October 1897 was to see our own foundation of St Benet's Hall, but the issue was not yet settled, and although Hedley was a prime mover in getting the ban repealed, his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by his motive was not so much the value he put on the University of Oxford (most of the pressure, largely social in origin, was directed at Oxford rather than Cambridge) as his realistic acceptance of the pressure from the upper Catholic party to be allowed in as the lesser of two evils. He was alarmed too by
... They are ready to form themselves into associations and to give up their time to help the poor, it is not too much to expect that they will band themselves together to keep up the brightness of their faith and to place their holy religion in full view of the little world in which they live.

But there is a matter which seems to me to be equally important as Catholic lectures during residence, if not more so... It is certainly not every boy that is fit to be sent to a place like Oxford or Cambridge. I am afraid that is where we shall find our chief rock ahead. Many parents, indeed by far the greater part, send their sons to the University solely for the purposes of getting them creditably through one or two troublesome years and of launching them into a society which will be useful to them in after-life. It is expected that they will obtain a pass; as for honours, very few of them try for them; and even the bare pass does not seem at all essential. Hence, numbers of young men are sent to whom the intellectual advantages of the University are of very little account. They form acquaintances, row, amuse themselves, and more or less keep out of mischief; and if they come away with a degree, well and good. Can we expect that a Catholic parent will keep his boy away from such a pleasant tyrocinium of life merely because he is an ignorant badly grounded in his religion, or too weak minded to stick to its practices? Yet this is what the Holy See requires. It is to be said that the uninstructioned lad will be saved from intellectual dangers by never studying and seldom thinking; and that such youths are often sturdy enough in their adhesion to their faith. But the danger at Oxford and Cambridge is not purely intellectual. It is that exceedingly subtle form of mental influence which arises from consorting with those you look up to and those you like... But no man can put his knuckle to a charged machine without getting a shock or a prick; and no one can consort with minds at the University without raising opinions and being affected by the men who express them. Want of capacity, therefore, is no safe-guard. No Catholic can escape because he is too stupid. And I may go further and say that he ought not to escape; because the immensity which he would owe to his want of brains would indicate dangers of another and worse sort. It is essential, then, that a young man who is to go to Oxford or Cambridge should be well prepared and of stout moral fibre.

The Commissioners felt themselves so much in the dark on the subject that they did not know of any body or association to which they could make application for information. Nothing could have better brought home to us the danger of our educational isolation. The situation was saved by Cardinal Vaughan, who called a meeting at Archbishop's House, Westminster. An invited speaker, an Inspector of Training Colleges, gave a paper on training, and (significantly) urged those present to send their teachers to Oxford or Cambridge. This idea was well received and, Burge writes, 'gave rise to curious reflections'. The Conference then constituted itself as a permanent Association, and Prior Burge was elected to the Standing Committee.

These men were Victorians, so it was not long before they were sitting down to an excellent dinner at the Victoria Hotel, the Cardinal taking the chair. Those looking to understand the growth of Catholic education, and in particular the expansion at Ampleforth, would gain by revisiting these articles.

+ John Cuthbert Hedley OSB

* * *

YEARS AGO: THE AMPLEFORTH JOURNAL 1896 AND 1946
Only nine boys remained during the Christmas holidays, says the Journal Diary in January 1896. One of the most violent wind-storms ever experienced: several of our noblest trees were rooted up... The winter was of arctic severity. From New-Year's Day we had a recurrence of terrible snowstorms. A train returning from Kirbymoorside was buried in a snowdrift.

1896 gave birth to the second volume of the Journal, which now rejoiced in an elaborately decorated cover, the work of Bernard Smith, old boy and architect of the monastery.

A more sombre note was sounded on July 1: 'Funeral of A. Swarbreck. He was buried in our little cemetery on the hill-side and after a dirge and solemn Requiem was carried to the grave, surrounded by his fellow students and professors and friends.'

Bishop Hedley, who was warmly thanked for his continued encouragement and support, 'has presented a copy of the first volume of the Ampleforth Journal to His Holiness, bound in white morocco, with the Papal arms stamped in gold on the cover. His Lordship's article on Sant'Anselmo has had the honour of translation into several foreign languages.'

There was also Old Boy news: 'Many old Amplefordians living in and near London have long expressed their wish to see revived, in some form or other, the London reunions that were so pleasurable in former days... After a pleasant supper in the Grill Room of the Holborn Restaurant... an adjournment was made to 8 Gray's Inn Square, where the members were hospitably entertained by Mr Bernard Smith (1866).'

* * *

The 1946 Journal was of course dominated by the recently concluded war: it contains a full list of Old Boys known to have served in HM Forces, which gives the figures Royal Navy 132, Army 693, Royal Air Force 193. Captain J.B. Jarrett (W39) wrote describing his landing by air at Kuala Lumpur:

Thinking our troops had arrived, my CO and I set off here and landed, to be met by Jap duty pilot, complete with white gloves and sword, while a bowing Jap duty crew wanted to service our fly-about. We didn't know the form then, and felt a bit lonely as they were all still armed... In the summer we welcomed back to the Staff Mr W.H. Shewring, Mr C.J. Acheson, Mr C.N. Watson and Mr A.T. Morison. The summer issue became very French. Br Maurus Green wrote France, a missionary country?, E.A. Cossart on French Intellelctualism, John Beckwith from Oxford on Current Trends in French Literature, and Robert Speaight on The Face of French Politics. Pictures appeared of the 1861 College wing entirely shrouded in scaffolding, for extensive repair work which will be continued for many months to come.' Another company was repairing and resurfacing all the many roads and paths, and further work was the considerable extension of the cricket fields:

The field begun before the war to the west of the present 'Top' field will be completed. The small 'Square' to the west of the old 'Field' Track will be extended north, west and south. Each of these extensions will be four acres and it is intended, by dividing them into one acre fields separated by low beech hedges, to provide a separate field for each House.

After serving on the School Staff for 39 years, Fr Dunstan Pozzi left to take up parachutal work, and Fr Dunstan Webb was ordained priest. The parish of St Chad, Kirbymoorside, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of its present church: there was an organ recital on its new organ by Fr Laurence Bevenot. In Oldstead, Miss Catherine Spensley died aged 87.

She was the great grand child of William Sotheran from whom Fr Bolton bought the cottage which is now our Post Office, and the two acres of land on which the College and Theatre are built. In 1918 her mother Mary Ann Spensley died aged 100, and Catherine was the youngest of the six children who signed the transfer of the Spensley land east of the College to Ampleforth Abbey (thus making possible the building of the Upper Building and Scott quadrangle 1921-36).

In the autumn issue we read 'By the time these pages appear in print an eighth house will have begun its career. Earlier in the year the Hermitage came into the market and was bought and has since been fitted up in time for the new school year. It will be called St Thomas's, and the Housemaster will be Fr Denis Waddilove. It will go some way towards satisfying the demand for further places in the School and can accommodate, at the moment, twenty-seven new boys.'

The French connection of the Summer issue was continued with two pages of smaller print which reproduced the graphic account Le Liberator d'Anvers which appeared in Le Metropole of 5 June, being an appreciation of David Silvertop (C30):

Nos compatriotes connaissent le nom (le nom seulement) du lieutenant-colonel Silvertop. En Septembre 1944, il commandait le regiment de blindés qui, après une audacieuse manoeuvre, a la reussite de laquelle collabora efficacement notre concitoyen le capitaine du genie Robert Vekemans, perca les defenses exterieures de la metropole et libera Anvers. Ils ignorent l'emouvante biographie de ce jeune officier anglais tombe au combat le 25 septembre 1944, trois semaines apres son entree triomphale dans la metropole belge...
The difficulty in writing an article on theatre at Ampleforth is to decide upon a date at which to begin. One could say that theatre began in 1814, when the first play on record, Gaius Cæsar, was performed; or one could take the date 1861, the year that the Study Hall building was opened, complete with a grand collapsible stage; or one could take the year 1910, when the present Theatre was opened. For the purpose of this article I will try to give a survey of dramatic activity at Ampleforth for its first 125 years, from its recorded beginnings in 1814 up until 1939. This does not claim to be in any way a fully comprehensive account, but it should give an insight into a part of life at Ampleforth which can often be taken much for granted, and which has, like so many aspects of Ampleforth life, never had much written about it.

The College never had many more boys than a hundred until the early part of this century, hence the number of students from which to choose actors was limited. The school may have been lucky with good acting talent, but this could not be guaranteed. In the nineteenth century people were used to devising their own entertainment; these were the days before film, television, radio and the Internet. The quality of the performer’s talent was not necessarily an important issue when it came to providing light entertainment, rather it was a question of enjoyment both for the performer and the audience. Hence if lines were fudged, forgotten or out of order it might raise a laugh, but it wouldn’t matter too much. The more professional approach towards the performing arts was not present then. An amusing article about Ampleforth’s operatics in the latter half of the nineteenth century illustrates this point; written by Fr Wilfrid Darby in 1893, in the Ampleforth College Diary, it shows the lighter side of the amateur theatricals. He portrays the great amount of fun boys had in being involved in theatre and recounts many amusing anecdotes of incidents...
In the early years, theatre at Ampleforth consisted of a play, preceded by a farce, performed as part of the Shrovetide entertainments before the beginning of Lent. The play (in condensed form) was usually one of Shakespeare’s historical or tragic plays (not until 1871 do we find a Shakespearian comedy: *The Comedy of Errors*) and the farce, often by Molière (e.g. *Dr Longhead*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and *Le Malade Imaginaire*). This would give both the junior and senior boys parts that would suit them. This is entirely in keeping with St Benedict’s principle that ‘the strong have something to yearn for and the weak nothing to run from.’ (RSB 64.19)

The year 1827 is the first indication of a change in the date of the plays for which a playbill survives. It lists *Henry IV pt I* and *Les Fourberies de Scapin* as the entertainment for the Exhibition on 31 July; whether this was the first public Exhibition or not is uncertain, but it may well have been. The public Exhibition would have opened the school up for external scrutiny of its dramatic and musical talent as well as its academic achievements. More effort would have been put into rehearsals and perhaps costumes and scenery as well, though neither could yet be compared to later productions. Permanent scenery, properties and costumes only began to be seriously acquired with the arrival of the stage in the Study Hall in 1861. From 1827 until the late 1840s the annual Exhibition served as the forum for most of the dramatic activity, with the annual Shakespeare play and farce.

In 1848 there is another addition to the programme, with six plays (two by Shakespeare, one tragedy and three farces) listed for the Exhibition of that year. The Exhibition by now lasted three days, so each evening there was a junior play and a senior play. These were not full two or three hour productions, it must be remembered, but usually one act plays for the juniors, with perhaps the Shakespeare plays lasting a little longer. This being the case, the set would have had to have been a simple affair, to cope with the variety of the staged performances. It must also be remembered that the room used for the plays could not have been very large; it was probably the same one that had been used in 1814.

The next development in theatre at Ampleforth came in 1850, with the first production of an operetta, or musical play, an adaptation of Sir Walter Scott’s novel *Guy Mannering*. This was the beginning of another kind of theatre at the College, which was to flourish over the next half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, and which was the precursor of the Ampleforth Opera. Although *Guy Mannering* was taken from a novel, many of the operettas were home-grown affairs. We have an account of them from J.C. Almon’s *History of Ampleforth Abbey*. In the beginning they were more after the style of pantomime extravaganza, a curious mixture of prettiness and burlesque, fairy-tale and topical allusion: *Ali Baba*, with its charming encomium of ‘Tea, soothing Tea’ and *Jack the Giant Killer*, where the Ogre, captured, but not killed and convicted in the last act of being a Fenian, is condemned by a judge and jury to the hard labour of “working at the Brook” (the first attempt at an outdoor swimming pool).

On Wednesday 13 November 1861, the new College Building was opened, amid much celebration, including the première of Dom Cuthbert Hedley’s *Ode to Alma Mater*. The new Study Hall contained ample space for the Exhibition to be held and also for a new, specially constructed stage complete with its inscribed motto: *Consamur Tenues Grandia* (‘we little ones attempt great things’), and artistic representations of Shakespeare, Sheridan, Otway, Massinger and Jonson. Having such a magnificent setting, the productions would have to do it credit. No longer was the stage merely the curtained off end of a room. This was the next best thing to a permanent stage, with a mechanical curtain that could be raised and lowered at the beginning, end and between scenes of productions - or at least that was the theory! In the 1890s a further improvement came with the introduction of gas lighting. There is in Fr Wilfrid Darby’s article from the Diary of 1893 an entertaining description of this stage in the Study Hall and of its effects, as well as mentions of some of the productions that were staged: ‘The stage was a drop scene, with a curtain preceding it, which shut our wonderland from our expectant eyes. It was a strange curtain and its freaks were so unaccountable as to make it almost human in its perversity. When down it often chose to stay down and no amount of coaxing or coercion could make it rise, till it chose itself to do so . . . sometimes it used to tantalise us by falling halfway down and then sulkily refusing to go further. I have seen it fall thus on a gory battlefield when the corpses of dead heroes strewed the plain, and the dying captain slowly sink to the paths of low
music, and has had to die three times, and the spirits of the heroes have stalked away in anger, while the few vulgar boys, with no reverence for the dead, laughed loudly. It was indeed a wonderful curtain... I am told however that it has abused the madcap frolics that disfigured its youth, and settled down to the sober docility that is always such a pleasant feature of old age.

He goes on to remark about the scenery:

"Then, if I remember rightly, we had only three scenes. One, a venerable old scene that survives was memorable for farces. It represented a room built in the domestic style of architecture, painted green, and decorated with a solitary picture by some very old master. It was indispensable in farces because unlike modern houses, it had a door that would shut and a window that could easily be opened, and, in those times, a farce was not a farce unless one, at least, of the characters entered by the window. We looked for that as naturally as we did for the fight in the tragedy, or the coloured light at the end. It was a very convenient window, too, one could step in and out quite easily, though sometimes we were told it was four stories high! And the burglars, like the boys, were polite in those days. They always raised the window, and never broke the glass. Why they did it always puzzled me until I discovered in after years that there was no glass to break. The second scene did duty impartially for the Senate house at Rome, a modern drawing room, Hamlet's Castle, and the plain of Agincourt, the witches' cavern in Macbeth, and the sandy shores of the South Sea Islands. But then you see, we had free imaginations then, and were fettered by the trammels of a despot realism."

On the costumes:

"Historical accuracy in the costumes was not much of an account. To people gifted with our fine imagination, it could matter little that the same dress did service for a Roman soldier, a medieval knight, and a cannibal king. As there was not much choice, the dresses were not a farce unless one, at least, of the characters entered by the window. We looked for that as naturally as we did for the fight in the tragedy, or the coloured light at the end. It was a very convenient window, too, one could step in and out quite easily, though sometimes we were told it was four stories high! And the burglars, like the boys, were polite in those days. They always raised the window, and never broke the glass. Why they did it always puzzled me until I discovered in after years that there was no glass to break. The second scene did duty impartially for the Senate house at Rome, a modern drawing room, Hamlet's Castle, and the plain of Agincourt, the witches' cavern in Macbeth, and the sandy shores of the South Sea Islands. But then you see, we had free imaginations then, and were not fettered by the trammels of a despot realism."

On the making up:

"The art was in its infancy. Paints, cosmetics and enamels were little known. Honest rouge et noir contented us; burnt cork and red raddle supplied all our wants, and I may say, supplied them abundantly. 'Mutilum non multa', was our motto, and quantity certainly concealed the want of variety."

In his 'Recollections of 1861-1866', in the Journal of 1936, E.H. Wilson recalls the getting-up of the Study Hall stage for performances. By New Year's Day, the stage was ready in the space between the west oriel window (from below which the Master's desk had been removed) and the doorway by the Prefect's room and the [clock] tower stairs. The two top-class rooms were available as dressing rooms, and the open space behind the stage, led up by steps on either side to the side wings. He also directs the interested reader to Fr Wilfrid Darby's article, which he says should be read, and though it is coloured somewhat by the author's imagination, the present writer can testify to its substantial veracity.

The early operettas were actually musical burlesques. Though much of the music was borrowed from popular sources, a part, and perhaps the greater part, was either by Fr Cuthbert Hickey (later bishop of Newport) or Fr Romuald Woods, with verses by Prior Stephen Kearney. The New Boy, produced in 1863, appears to have been a very popular opera, due to its stirring football ballad and other College songs. Topical allusions abounded, and prominent officials were caricatured in a way that modern theatrical propriety would not allow. From these early 'operatic' beginnings, came what might be termed 'legitimate opera', developed out of the 'King's Night'. For a description of this tradition I turn to J.C. Almond's account in his History: 'This, as the name denotes, was a shapeless survival of the 'Boy-King', one of the Christmas institutions of the English Colleges in the days of old. At Ampleforth it consisted of a full dress procession before the theatricals commenced, in which the actors and others took part. There was always a 'King' of some sort as an excuse for the name; and generally an extemporaneous interlude or some rearranged buffoonery ended the show. A little later, following a prevailing fashion, some minstrelsy, with the newest of old jokes and the most ancient of riddles, wound up the procession. This gave way to little musical interludes: The King of the Cannibal Islands, The King of Hearts and Solyman the Magnificent, all well put together; the last being a three act piece not wanting in dignity and dramatic pretence. They were sufficiently successful to warrant bolder and higher efforts.'

The arrival at Ampleforth from Leipzig of Heer Placide von Tugginer as Professor of Music, in the late 1860s, saw the dawn of the first 'real' opera. He saw some of the operettas produced and surprised the school by not showing any great admiration of them. He promised he could do better and was not slow in keeping his word. He began with The Miller of the Sans Souci, which had sufficient striking to command interest, and the mounting was picturesque. He goes on to remark about the scenery:

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of Fr Anselm Borge, author of the music and Fr Placid McAulliffe, the librettist. Up to a certain point the success of these productions was cumulative with the progression of the years. Each fresh effort was undertaken with greater experience, greater mastery of musical difficulty and richer and more elaborate stage effects.

Often there were laudatory reports in the local newspapers. This extract from The York Herald of 1876 is representative: “The getting up of dramatic representations at Ampleforth involves much labour and study. First and foremost, elocution is the great aim; and secondly, the gaining of a correct knowledge of times, events, men and manners, costume and character. What are commonly known as ‘stage properties’ are studied with care and exactitude; hence it happens that dramatic representations on the impromptu stage at this college have attained no little celebrity in the past, and, judging from what I have seen, it certainly does not indicate any likelihood of loss of future prestige. The boys’ study, a large and lofty Gothic hall, is proportioned to the dramatic representations, and a pretty little theatre is built within it. The stage and orchestra occupied nearly one half the room, the rest being devoted to the audience . . . we have no hesitation that the audience was exceedingly gratified.”

The operas and operettas of the nineteenth century continued into the beginning of the twentieth century, but with less vigour than in earlier years. More serious full-length productions of Shakespeare were now absorbing much energy. This approach to theatre demanded new attention not only to the quality of the acting, but also to the details of the set and costumes. It required extra work for each production, and boys who had previously not been involved in either singing, acting or playing a musical instrument in the beginning of the twentieth century, but with less vigour than in earlier years. More serious full-length productions of Shakespeare were now absorbing much energy. This approach to theatre demanded new attention not only to the quality of the acting, but also to the details of the set and costumes. It required extra work for each production, and boys who had previously not been involved in either singing, acting or playing a musical instrument in the orchestra discovered that they too could become involved in a production. There was the need for artists and carpenters, properties and wardrobe assistants and general help in the construction and deconstruction of the stage. The first mention of a dedicated back stage staff is made in the Journal of 1903, in connection with its在一个世纪中的存在: ‘The indefatigable Green Room manager, Fr Maurus (Powell) is to be congratulated on securing a department whose existence threatens from time to time, to become merely an ideal.’ There is also a reference to the donation of Elizabethan style dresses, for the representation of Shakespeare. In the next volume of the Journal, we read that the Ampleforth Society gave the princely sum of £10 towards the expenses of the Green Room; it is noted that the money was used in erecting a fine wardrobe with sliding doors, which [Fr Maurus] hopes will be, like Thackeray’s History, ‘a possession for ever’. Indeed it can be confirmed to be still in use ninety-one years later. Yet if any one was in doubt as to why such effort should be expended, Fr Maurus wrote: “The expenditure of time and thought and labour and money over the production of a play, acted twice before the public, may appear to be out of all proportion to the pleasure felt and expressed by the spectators, but the good done to the boys themselves is beyond all price.” The cultural, constructive, team-building and educational good that comes of any worthwhile production wholly justifies itself.

1908-1939

Those involved in the theatrical side of Ampleforth had had to produce plays and operettas without a permanent stage or dedicated room since its beginnings in the early nineteenth century. Even when the Study Hall was built in 1861, the stage would be hurriedly constructed little more than a week before the performance, with a short time to construct the set and get the actors used to the stage. With productions becoming more and more ambitious and with numbers increasing in the school, the space of the Study Hall was becoming noticeably inadequate to fulfil so many different requirements, from concert hall to theatre, not forgetting its prime use for study. Thus it was to great excitement that, early in 1908, Mr Peter Feeny, an old boy of the school, with a brother in the community (Fr Basil), approached the Abbot and community of Ampleforth and offered to pay £2,000 towards the erection of a permanent Theatre for the College. There had been discussion of a project the previous year for the housing of a permanent stage for both concerts and plays, but the estimated cost of £2,300 had put an end to further discussion. Mr Feeny’s donation encouraged the community to go forward with proposals which would provide a permanent stage, adequate green rooms and seating for 400 people. Mr Feeny did however make two conditions on his offer: i. That the theatre should be entered from the ground floor; and ii. That his own architect, Mr Gilbertson of Liverpool, an old boy of Fort Augustus, should be employed in its design.

The fulfilment of the first condition proved to be difficult. The ground immediately to the east of the existing College Building, the present site of the science laboratories and the Lower Building, did not belong to the College and the owner, who did not die until 1918 at the age of a hundred and one, declined to sell, despite a handsome offer having been made to her. The land was acquired on her death, but at the time expansion eastwards was blocked, so that the Theatre had to be built running north and south, which required something to be built underneath it, to bring it up to the level of the Square. Suggestions for a small indoor swimming pool, changing rooms and clothes drying apparatus were thus put before Mr Gilbertson and the design which he submitted was accepted. The contract was given to Messrs Daniel Powell and Worthy, to whom was given the planning in later years of the next extensions. Meanwhile, there was speculation in the Journal as to what the ‘new building’ would be called: ‘We presume that our brethren at Downside would have called it the “Palace”. Our forefathers at Dieulouard would doubtless, following the French custom, have spoken of it as the “Salon.” We
fancy Drs Baines and Burgess would have called it the “Academy” or the “Athenaeum.” At Oxford or Cambridge it would be called simply the “Hall.”
This last seems to us to be the most august title, but we are not likely ever to dine in it, and that seems to be the most important use of the College Hall of our Universities. Moreover we have a Hall already, though only a very little one.’

The first recorded use of the Theatre (as it simply came to be called), was for the Exhibition of 1910, on 27 July, just after its completion. The remarks in the Journal about the “new building”, were favourable, that it was both handsome and elegant, both within and without, and was regarded as a welcome luxury: “only as a perfect razor, or a good fountain pen, a large-type edition, or (Mark Twain’s ideal) “as a separate pair of braces to each pair of trousers is a luxury.” It was also remarked with relief from some quarter that the Study Hall would no longer have to be pulled about and ‘stripped of its dignity, and disguised with painted canvas, in order to masquerade for a few hours as a place of entertainment and frivolity!’ As for the new indoor heated swimming pool, the comment made in the Journal was: ‘Tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as the Channel, but ‘tis enough, ‘twill serve and serve admirably.’ On 1 March 1910, Wilkin of Liverpool estimated that the raked stage would cost £225, which was accepted along with a gas lighting tender of £58 (electric lighting would have cost £242, and there was no electricity at Ampleforth anyway until 1923).

The first play in the Theatre was Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson’s Mystery Play, in honour of the Nativity of Our Lord. The play was relatively new, having had its first performance at a school in Cambridge in December 1907. The play was performed at Ampleforth on Sunday 18 and Wednesday 21 December 1910. The play had a marked effect on one critic in the audience, who composed a prose-poem review of the play, which appeared in The Tablet on 24 December.

At the Exhibition of 14 June 1911, it was noticed how infinitely superior the setting of the new Theatre was for plays, compared to the former temporary erection in the Study Hall and ‘perhaps for the first time in Ampleforth history, the audience was able to sit through the performance without feeling “cabin’d, cribb’d, or confin’d” for want of room.’ However a few years later, in 1915, the Exhibition was cancelled due to the war. Instead of the annual play, there were various smaller productions of the revue type, which were generally fund-raising events for various charities whilst the war went on. Thus in December 1916 there was a performance of Fr Benson’s Mystery Play, Bethlehem, in aid of the Red Cross Society, and an entertainment was arranged in June 1918 again for their funds and in November 1918 there was an entertainment in aid of The Public Schools Hospital. In 1916 Fr Stephen Marwood took on the running of the Theatre, with the assistance of Fr John Maddox, inaugurating the long run of the distinguished ‘Marwood-Maddox’ productions of the time.

Theatrical competitions between boys were also held for the first time during the war, which kept alive the dramatic spirit, until finally the Exhibition...
returned in June 1919, with a production of *The Merchant of Venice*. But in 1921 the Exhibition had again to be cancelled, because of a national coal strike. The boys did not complain, for they had an extra week of holiday after Easter. It must be remembered that there was no electricity at Ampleforth at this time, and coal was essential to the production of gas for the college, which had its own gas works (the present site of the two upper tennis courts). To supply this there was a tram-line from the railway station at Gilling across the valley to the gas works, to supply the coal, which came by rail. It was this same tram-line that led to several boys being punished at the Exhibition of 1898, for ‘riding a wagon down the tram-line in the middle of the night.’ The question of having a proper electricity supply had been raised when proposals for the Theatre had first been made, because of the obvious advantages it would give in stage lighting; the question had come up again with concern over the coal strike in 1921 and the possibility of further strikes; later in 1921 the absence of electricity was again noted when the school was given a cinema projector, which could not be used to its full potential, though it was able to give a satisfactory picture, with the use of a generator. Thus it was with great excitement that the *Journal* recorded that electricity was to be installed in 1923: ‘The Theatre will benefit greatly by the efficient lighting arrangements and controls supplied. Floats and footlights have been installed for three colours, each with its own dimmer. In addition, four “spotlights” have been provided. To supply the arcs for these and also for the cinema, now permanently established in a fire-proof box in the gallery, a special generator has been installed giving 75 amps at 70 volts. The installation of electric lighting and central heating at Ampleforth had indeed meant that the exhibition was again cancelled, with hope that it would be restored in 1924. The first play to benefit from the new lighting was produced on 8 December 1923, called *The Thirteenth Chair*. It was produced on the evening of the annual 1st XV match against Stonyhurst.

In February 1924, the school received its first visiting drama company, Mr Ben Greet & Co, who performed *Twelfth Night* to a full house, in order that the school might benefit from a professional representation. The night must have been a success, for the players were invited back in October, to perform *Julius Caesar*. In between the visits of the ‘Greet Players’ in 1924, the school produced *Macbeth*, which had been a success, for the players were invited back in October, to perform *Julius Caesar*. The unsightly false-proscenium and all the ‘old-wings’ were abolished and the stage was extended with the best modern ideas of staging. The unsightly false-proscenium and all the ‘old-wings’ were abolished and the stage was extended. This gave more height and depth to the scene, and the stage seemed more spacious than before.

From the early 1920s, the Dramatic Society had a flourishing membership and the Green Room had become more adventurous in the use of lighting and use of the stage. However by 1929 there was obviously a feeling in a certain quarter that the quality of the productions as described in the pages of the *Journal* was not actually so brilliant as it was made out to be. This criticism was not confined only to reviews of plays, but applied to all reviews of school entertainments. To dispel even the suggestion that the *Journal* had been too easy-going and uncritical in its appreciation, a second critic was appointed by way of experimentation. Consequently there appeared for the Exhibition play and concert two reviews, a feature that continued in the *Journal* until 1932, presumably on the departure of the aforementioned critic from the school.

On the 13 March 1931, a new beginning was made in school theatre, with the production of *Journey’s End*. Technically, this was not an official event, but was the inspiration of two or three boys who had never taken an active part in the theatricals, but wanted to show the kind of performance that “non-actors” could present, without assistance of any kind from more professional authorities. The play was wholly produced by boys, with a simple set also designed by them and was carried off with remarkable success, much to the surprise of the previously condescending. This was the first occasion that boys had been given such a free rein in any production and it was to pave the way for future ventures of a similar kind.

In December 1937 the Theatre and productions were taken over by Fr James Forbes and Br Robert Coverdale. In 1938 the first list of Green Room members appears in print in the *Journal*, under the various titles of ‘Stage Lighting’, ‘Sound Effects’ and ‘Stage Management’. The electrics among their number had been busy in adapting the existing system for the Exhibition production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 1938. They began the work during the preceding Christmas holidays and continued until early on in the summer term; the results were a great improvement, giving more versatility to the lighting arrangements.

By the year 1939, the Theatre had become a centre of culture within the school that would continue to develop throughout the remainder of the twentieth century. In the 125 years since the production of *Julius Caesar* in 1814, theatre at Ampleforth had undergone a progressive evolution: from the converted school room in the Lodge, to the Gothic setting of the Study Hall in 1861, to the neo-ecclesiastic-gothic look Theatre of 1910. A temporary theatre had been superseded by a permanent stage, oil and gas lighting had been replaced by electricity: things only dreamed of in the nineteenth century were now a reality. Ampleforth had progressed from Shakespearean sections to full scale productions, operettas and ‘operas’ had come and gone, awaiting their revival in later years, but the ‘King’s Nights’ were part of its history. Ampleforth’s colourful past was to continue into a challenging future.

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with grateful thanks to the archivist: Anselm Cramer OSB
CATHOLIC POETRY: FAITH AND PRESENCE

The Returning Wave: Sonnets and Other Poems by Lucy Beckett
(AMPLEFORTH ABBEY PRESS DISTRIBUTED BY GRACEWING; ISBN 0-85244-364-1)

A REVIEW

ANDREW CARTER

Religious poetry that takes faith for granted is rare enough these days; for poetry has hardly been on speaking terms with orthodoxy since Matthew Arnold listened in gloom to the 'long withdrawing roar' of the tide of faith on Dover Beach back in the 1860s. In the First World War, Wilfred Owen could still identify with the Christ of a roadside Calvary who had lost a limb in the shelling, but not with the Church which promoted hatred. In the same regiment, but a different stretch of the line, was a young private, soon after the war to become a Catholic and a greater poet than Owen. David Jones spent fifty years struggling in his art and writing to present his Christian vision of Western culture in 'valid signs' that could speak to a spiritually and historically dislocated. In a bitter image near the beginning of The Anathemata (1952) he pictures the contemporary action of the Mass, with priests like 'rear-guard details in their quaint attire, heedless of incongruity . . . unconscious that dead symbols litter to the base of the cult-stone'. Jones' solution was anxiously, lovingly to open up the backgrounds in the work itself, to delve deep into the layered past, to show continuities; but his work is painfully aware of breaks all around, so that everything must be glossed. Those eclectic footnotes are not, like Eliot's to The Waste Land, clever jokes, but part of the poem's rich interweaving. Even so, the writing is fraught and difficult. More frequently, religious poets have ditched the 'dead symbols' of Christianity altogether and ranged at large in the new territory of the unconscious. After her sessions with Freud, the Imagist poet H.D. wrote a remarkable sequence of poems during the London Blitz; she uses Egyptian, Hebrew and esoteric Christian archetypes to explore the religious thrust of the unconscious, in poetry of mysterious beauty and lyrical precision. Her Trilogy (1944-6) is a great, and neglected, religious poem. Edwin Muir rejected the revivalist Christianity of his childhood for utopian socialism, but towards the end of his life was discovering a distinctly Catholic sense of the Redemption in poems like The Horses and The Incarnate One, but he came at this . . . the more the world sinks into agnosticism, the greater the desire of poets (and their readers) to seek the religious.

Perhaps it merely needed some editorial work on the punctuation of the second line; but there are not a few instances like this where the density of ideas in narrow space has an oddly distorting effect on the grammar. But there are many others that are valid signs, that are 'presence', successful both formally and in giving us the authentic poetic thing. What strikes at once is how the volume is alive with a variety of forms: a predominance of sonnets perhaps, but also a lot of good free verse, properly guided by the ear, differently rhymed stanzas, and even a sestina and a villanelle. There is nothing flashy about this, but rather in each of the best poems a serious and appropriate shaping. After the occasional formless excesses of modernism, the sonnet has been making a comeback (one thinks of Geoffrey Hill, who is an influence here) and some of the examples in this collection undoubtedly add to the canon. I wouldn't include in this the sequences on the Seven Sacraments and the Mysteries of the Rosary, which are technically fine pieces, but remind me too much of those devotional exercises by recusant poets like Southwell and Crashaw. This is not poetry in the true sense, so much as meditation in verse. There is no reason why poetry shouldn't be of service to mental prayer, but much more exciting to my mind is the historical sonnet On Hadrian's Wall which ends the volume.
This is prefaced by a Latin inscription from a Roman soldier's tombstone, 'commixt procuravi', commissioned by his wife ('I wish the way that the poet or her editor had thought, like David Jones, of her readers without Latin, and provided here and elsewhere some footnotes). The poignancy of her farewell, with its evocation of both the cold wastes of the north and of a death without consolation, is captured in a beautiful image:

...to unforgiving spirits she let him go, his dust into a northern winter blown as flakes of snow are.

There is a clarity and lyricism in this poem that makes it reverberate in the imagination; it is rooted in time and place, and although the context of this meditation is 'the harrowing radiance of the truth' that had not yet reached the limits of empire, its real focus is the grieving woman who has disappeared from history.

There is a lot of history in these poems, and for many of them the agenda is set by a phrase from an impressive sequence called Requiem: 'The history of God's hung on the bones of men'. The men with whom God has written His story include monks from the medieval abbeys, the great painters of Renaissance Italy, Horace ('his only glimpse of paradise restored, / the great dog Cerberus licking his feet'), St Benedict and Bernard of Clairvaux, even Odysseus awaiting the 'long-feared, longed-for landfall' of faith. In Northumbrian Time we are taken through several hundred years of Christian history, to the 'foundered aisles' of ruined churches, in just four richly textured stanzas. The post-Reformation wasteland is presented again in images of Rievaulx dismantled, 'rater by rater they heave the roof in, crash together the echoes of psalms' in Requiem. There is also some marvellous evocation of landscape. In Incarnation, the poetry is driven forward in a minor-key invocation as it addresses Christ in the world:

Be hidden as the limestone hides the spring, as winter hides the flower, the bee, the plum in silence, and behind the ephemeral bark hides all the leaves that summer will become.

This rather Romantic music is not on the whole typical, though Landscape with figure: Tuscany is interesting with its (unconscious?) echoes of Tennyson's 'Come down, O maid' and its euphonic patterning of rhyme and repeated words. There are some good nature poems; I particularly like the opening of Solway Tide with its exact observation of both the sight and the sound of the tide going out over mud-flats:

Quietly the mud ticks after the sea retreats dying while the silver edge goes ... and the black rocks on a Northumbrian shore 'slabbed and seamed by water'. It is a shock then, in one of the sonnets, suddenly to come across 'the parking lot/ behind Asda'; this is Larkin territory. The poet is on a train however, and this is the sort of thing poets have been seeing from trains since that Whit Saturday in 1958. This poem also contains the only contemporary sound in the collection, as the sky is 'split with planes/sent shattering from Suffolk'. However the point is that it is the abbey of the tens that survive and outline this epiphany, albeit not for their original purpose: 'the eye blinks/tears at the sudden silences of stone/. . . their office gone'. Well, their pre-Reformation Latin office gone, certainly.

The historical perspective of many of these poems is set by, as I said earlier, an especially Catholic view of things, and this sometimes diminishes their effect as religious poetry, though it provides opportunity for meditation on many faces of our Catholic faith. In Cleopatra Dreams however, something more imaginative is happening: Shakespeare's Egyptian queen is transfigured into a Pietà, cradling the dead Antony, but (like the Roman wife committing her soldier-husband to the shades) looking into a bleak afterlife:

Who shall lead us from our ashy underworld where each to the other's blinded touch is lost in death?

The sentiment seems a dark reversal of Antony's erotic cry, as, in Shakespeare's play, he prepares to kill himself believing that Cleopatra is already dead: 'Stay for me, / Where souls do couch on flowers, we'll hand in hand,/And with our sprightly port make the ghosts gaze'; but Beckett's Cleopatra begins to sense an afterlife of a different kind. I'm not sure whether she sees Antony as a fore-type of Christ (the followers wash his wounds and prepare him for burial, 'where soldiers keep/their watch in vain'), or whether Cleopatra in her dream has an intimation of the Resurrection, but pagan love has somehow become Christian, and it happens at the end of the poem with the gentle force of revelation, as 'a sapling/uncurls to the first day its bright sweet leaves'. This is valid sign it seems to me, in the same way that David Jones' Palaeolithic and later pre-Christian forms are valid, as poetry does its work, resuscitating the dead symbols around the cult-stone. Cleopatra Dreams is a powerful poem, which doesn't explain but carries its meaning in images of the dying and rebirth of nature; and it works also because the natural rhythms of the verse follow movingly the process of Cleopatra's grief and withdrawal into new life. It is an illustration, set in the classical pagan world, of Murray's comment that 'we cannot build a satisfying vision of life upon agnostic or atheistic foundations, because we cannot get our dreams to believe in them'.

The readership for these demanding but often beautiful poems is likely to be small. They require time and proper reading, and they are about as far as it's possible to be from the slick stuff that passes for poetry, and is published by reputable firms, today; but they reward serious attention. The Ampleforth Abbey Press is to be congratulated on producing such an attractive volume. Discerning Christians with a sense of the historical and incarnational realities of their faith should certainly read them.
OLD AMPLEFORDIAN NEWS

OBITUARIES

JOHN GALE

born 31 July 1923 Gloucestershire, St Cuthbert's September 1937-December 1939, 11th Hussars, journalist with The Irish Horseman, Senior Handicapper of the Irish Turf, married Joan Shepherd 1947, died 27 August 1978 Ireland

John Gale was Senior Handicapper of the Irish Turf for about seven years. He was an accomplished and successful steeplechaser, riding a lot in England in the 1940s and 1950s, and later in Ireland. He was a journalist with The Irish Horseman. He was the only son of David and Doreen Gale and had been brought up first in Gloucestershire; later, when John was at Ampleforth, the family lived in Yorkshire and John's father, David, was Master of the Sinnington Hunt. John Gale saw war service with the 11th Hussars in Italy, at D Day and in the French campaign. He married Joan Shepherd, and they lived in Ireland — she still lives in County Kildare. They had two sons: Martin (now considered the best young artist in Ireland) and Dermot. John Gale died 18 years ago, but his death had not been noted in these notes.

NORMAN GLYNN MBE

born 9 April 1910 Co Clare, Ireland, left St Cuthbert's House 1928, married Evelyn Bett 1939, farmed in Kenya, worked for Kenya Agricultural Department, worked for the World Bank in Malawi, died 11 August 1992 Co Clare, Ireland

From 1938 to about 1980 Norman Glynn was in Africa, with the interruption of war service. In the war he served in Abyssinia and Burma. Both before and after the war he was a coffee farmer at Kitale in Kenya, near the Uganda border. Later he worked as a soil conservationist for the Kenyan Agricultural Department at Thompson Falls (now called Nyhururu — you turn right on the road from Nairobi to Nakuru) — and for this he was awarded the MBE. In 1972 he became a consultant with the World Bank at Muzuu in Malawi, and also did consultation work in Nigeria. He retired to Ireland in about 1980, living and dying in the same house in County Clare in which he was born. He had a son and a daughter. He was a notable golfer, always with a low handicap, and was Captain of various golf clubs in his days in Africa.

IAN MAXWELL-SCOTT

born 18 July 1927, St Oswald's House Sept 1934-April 1945, Balliol College, Oxford, married Susan Cook February 1958, died 27 November 1993

Ian Maxwell-Scott was the younger son of Rear Admiral Malcolm and Yerga Maxwell-Scott; his brother was Michael (OA40). After Ampleforth and years spent at Melrose in Roxburghshire, in the immediate post war years Ian did national service, being stationed in Palestine and for a time at Balmoral where the King would invite the officers to watch a film on Saturday nights. After that, he read Law at Balliol College, Oxford, playing bridge for Oxford and rugby for Balliol. He became manager of a casino in London, working with John Aspinall. He had become a connoisseur and much respected expert on wine; and from 1976 until his death in 1993 he dealt in fine wines, selling to private individuals and clubs. He married Susan Cook in 1958, and they had six children, including Malcolm Maxwell-Scott (J76) and Andrew Maxwell-Scott (W85). Living first in a small flat in Chelsea, then in Ealing, he and Susan later lived in a delightful country house at Uckfield in Sussex.

JOHN FREELAND GREEN

born 18 March 1922 Worthing, St Dunstan's House 1935-40, died 17 November 1995

John Green was a founding member of St Dunstan's House in September 1935. He worked all his life with the Prudential Insurance Company in London. He was a bachelor. His nephews are Nicholas Couldrey (O69) and Jimmy Couldrey (O69).

PETER BOYLE


Peter Boyle was the youngest of three children of Dr William and Ethne Boyle; he was brought up in Kenya. His eldest brother is Martin (T53). His years at Ampleforth were not happy, and he left after two years in St Wilfrid's aged nearly sixteen, and went to school in Geneva, becoming bi-lingual in French and English, and also a good German speaker. He studied PPE at McGill University in Canada. He returned to Switzerland and taught English. From 1967 until his death he worked for the World Health Organisation as a translator and later as an editor of medical documents, working successively in Brazzaville, Manila, Copenhagen and then Geneva. In 1990 he married a Danish girl Sonja Hyalkaf, and they had one son Alexander, born in 1991. Peter died as a result of a road accident involving a bus. He was a considerable traveller to almost all parts of the world. His sister, Alice Perceval, is the godmother of Richard Sarill (currently T).
Nicholas Wadham left Ampleforth aged sixteen to take his A levels, including one in Law, in London where he could combine them with working in an art school. At nineteen he became a porter in the picture department at Phillips where an observant and discerning eye helped him to learn a great deal very quickly. He applied for the job of cataloguer, although technically too young to qualify, and the Chairman, recognising his flair, gave him the job.

During the twenty years Nicholas worked at Phillips, becoming an Associate Director early on, his scholarly research led him to become a respected authority on 19th century English paintings. The same powers of observation which enabled him to make several attributions, combined with his natural ebullience and sense of fun, marked him out as a witty raconteur.

His last years were marred by increasing ill health and pain. He leaves three young children, Rohan, Jack and Susie, to whom he was devoted. He was the brother of Justin (A’70) and Julian (A’76).

Simon Dyer died on 17 February 1996 aged 56. At the time of his death he had been Director General of the AA for nine years. All his national obituaries praised his success in taking the organisation through a period of great change. He held many travel related posts both in the UK and overseas. He had joined the AA in the late sixties after qualifying as an accountant. He was awarded a CBE in the 1995 Honours List for services to motoring.

Simon arrived at Gilling in the summer of 1948. He was an outstanding boy. Good looking, able, intelligent, single minded, elegant and powerful, there could be no doubt in the mind of his contemporaries that he would make a success of his life. He was Head Captain of Gilling, Head Monitor of Junior House and many were surprised when he did not become Head of the School. He was, however, Head of St Bede’s. He did not have great ball skills but he was a strong running centre at Gilling and he finished his career on the wing of what must have been one of Fr Basil’s best sides, the 1957 XV which beat Sedbergh 19-3 (unusual in those days) with Simon scoring a try. He was Captain of Shooting, Senior Under Officer and won a Minor Scholarship into the School.

Simon’s determination could be daunting to his fellows and he never lost it. However, after a year spent mostly learning to speak French perfectly, he went up to St Edmund’s Hall, Oxford where he rapidly developed a balancing sense of humour. He could not have survived his Oxford friends’ cynical amusement at his perfectionism, particularly in his appearance, without one. Eventually socially, his sense of humour became dominant, and he loved nothing better than telling stories against himself.

Simon was extremely happily married to Gay Walsh. They had two daughters, Jemima and Louise, and he adored his family unit. He loved France and the family established a second home in Provence where he toiled in the vineyard with any friends who had been unwise enough to accept an invitation to stay at harvest time. He was a frequent visitor to Ampleforth both before and after his marriage; but then his growing family and increasing pressure from work gave him little time. But he was always eager to hear about Ampleforth and to gossip about Old Boys he had come across.

Simon’s last months were typical of him. He could see humour even in the surgeon who went out of his way to make it absolutely clear that there was no hope whatsoever; he told his friends there were advantages in dying young, he thanked his family for the happiness they had given him and spoke of how fortunate he had been all his life. He then worked for as long as he could, demonstrating once again his determination. He died after being anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick. His Memorial Mass was celebrated by his old Housemaster, Fr Basil, at Brampton Oratory and was attended by 700.

Richard im Thurn

Richard im Thurn died on 20 February 1996 aged 70. He had been one of Fr Basil’s best sides, the 1957 XV which beat Sedbergh 19-3 (unusual in those days) with Simon scoring a try. He was Captain of Shooting, Senior Under Officer and won a Minor Scholarship into the School.

Richard’s determination could be daunting to his fellows and he never lost it. However, after a year spent mostly learning to speak French perfectly, he went up to St Edmund’s Hall, Oxford where he rapidly developed a balancing sense of humour. He could not have survived his Oxford friends’ cynical amusement at his perfectionism, particularly in his appearance, without one. Eventually socially, his sense of humour became dominant, and he loved nothing better than telling stories against himself.

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WING COMMANDER MARTIN EDWARDS

born 6 November 1926, Avisford Prep School, St Oswald's House 1940-45, St John's College, Cambridge 1945 (six months – Reserve Place), RAF 1945-76, British Aerospace 1976-90, married Rosemary Tryon 1952, died 26 February 1996

Martin Edwards was the eldest of three children of Geoffrey and Betty Edwards; his grandfather, his mother's father, was Viscount Simon (Sir John Simon was between 1915 and 1945 Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord Chancellor — and, according to his great grandson Peter Edwards, had the lowest golf handicap of any Cabinet Minister this century).

Martin spent 31 years in the RAF, from when he left Ampleforth in 1945, with a diverse career: flying instructor, management training for NATO students, Commander of the London University Air Squadron, member of a fact finding team to West Africa and Ascension Island in 1958, analysis of foreign air defence systems between 1963 and 1967, responsible for phasing of 25,000 trainees per year into some 400 different courses from 1967 to 1970. He was responsible for RAF liaison with a number of universities. In 1976 he left the RAF and became Senior Training Officer with British Aerospace, responsible for graduate recruitment training until he retired in 1990.

He married Rosemary Tryon in 1952; they had four children and eight grandchildren. His children were Richard (T70), Caroline (married to Kit Dollard; Caroline and Kit moved to Ampleforth in June 1996 as pastoral advisers), Anne and Ben (D76). His grandson, Tom Dollard, began in St Dunstan's House in September 1996. His younger brother is Michael Edwards (062) and nephew Peter Edwards (currently E). ... poetry, music scores, history, bird books, Kipling, Bradshaw's train timetable, French and Portuguese novels, and always The Times crossword to be done. It has been recalled how much he loved his time as a boy in the valley at Ampleforth, and he had been intending to return to North Yorkshire to be near his daughter when he died.

Peter Corbett was a keen beagler at Ampleforth. From 1962 to the late 1970s he worked in the hotel industry. After training at the Savoy and Claridges in London, he worked at the Eiffel Tower restaurant in Paris and then for about eight years from 1966 as hotel manager at the Lantana Beach Colony in Bermuda. Returning to England in 1974 he continued to work in hotel management. From the age of 18 he had diabetes, and by 1977 the diabetes caused him to lose his sight — at this time he visited the miraculous medal chapel at the Rue de Bac in Paris, and his former Housemaster, now Cardinal Basil, wrote to him about his blindness, encouraging him ‘you may be blind now, but rejoice in the thought that the next time you are able to use your eyes you will see God’. He continued, despite his disability, to live an extremely active, courageous life, aided by a devoted guide dog. He joined Lloyds Bank and worked with them until early retirement, 18 months before his death. He indulged his love of sailing by joining Lloyds Bank Sailing Club of which he was a keen and active member. He organised and participated in the Sydney-Hobart race during the Australian Bicentenary and made three trans-Atlantic crossings. He was a keen rugby fan and enjoyed internationals at Twickenham and was a member of the Overseas League. In 1994 he moved to Weymouth, buying a cottage, gutting it and refurbishing it, in a most lovely way. He joined three yacht clubs and spent as much time as possible sailing. In the evenings he attended a course on film making at Weymouth College. He spent each day as if it was his last. On the morning of the day of his death a further letter from his former housemaster brought him much joy. His brother is John (H60).
MALCOLM BLAIR-MCGUFFIE

born 6 October 1912 Sussex, St Bede's House left 1931, McGill University 1931-35, married Agnes Comiskey (one daughter, three grandchildren), died 4 March 1996 Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Malcolm Blair-McGuffie was Head Monitor of Ampleforth in 1931. After Ampleforth, he went to Canada, studying Chemical Engineering at McGill University in Montreal. Between 1935 and the 1950s he worked in Scotland and Germany, and from the 1950s onwards lived and worked in Canada, at Chalk River, Kingston, Ontario. At his funeral, the officiating priest, Fr Joseph Lynch, spoke of his qualities: love for his family, his gentle humour, and ‘always his hope’. He went on to describe his faith.

A couple of days before he died he met again Fr Lynch. ‘He was calm; he was focused; he was serene; he was always the gentleman, making the effort to shake my hand and to thank me for taking my time — to talk about his life and his death.’ With the coming of serious illness in late 1995, he accepted the prospect of death ‘without bitterness or anger’ and with faith.

JOHN COX

born 15 December 1919, St Edward's House 1933-37, Fleet Air Arm, brewing, died in Canada 5 March 1996

John Cox had a colourful and varied life. He was the son of a Birmingham doctor, one of three brothers. His contemporary and lifelong friend Hugh Feilding (A38, died 3 April 1996) remembered him as an opposing scrum half in Set 3. At school he kept a gun at the Mole Catchers Cottage in the middle of the valley. After Ampleforth, he studied brewing in Birmingham, and would ride a Brough Superior motor cycle. He had many friends and at this time saw much of Edmund King and Hugh Feilding. In the war he was a pilot flying a Swordfish in the Fleet Air Arm. On his way to the East his ship was torpedoed and sunk. In the East he joined HMS Hermes, and she was torpedoed and sunk — but he flew his Swordfish to safety. Having lost his kit twice, he flew his Swordfish to Colombo to collect new kit, and then ditched in the sea, losing his kit for the third time. After the war he was on the fringes of the brewing trade, and was a schoolmaster in the South of England. He married Penny, a nurse he had met in the war. She had a job in Canada, so they went there and stayed. He became an estate agent in Toronto. He had been ill for two years. They had two daughters and a son.

JOHN MISICK

born 19 February 1958, St Bede's House 1971-76, died 10 March 1996

Talented sportsman, gifted artist, and friend to so many — John Misick will be remembered by all those who were at Ampleforth between 1971 and 1976. After a long, brave and dignified fight against cancer, John died on 10 March 1996.

After leaving Ampleforth, John’s flair for design was to take him to Art College and subsequently onto a successful career as a product designer, a career which, albeit anonymously, was to reach many lives. Latterly, John’s talents were directed towards the product design team at Dunhill International, from which the forthcoming ‘AD 2000’ fountain pen designed to mark the millennium, represents John’s most recent work. Be it from work, or the many activities which filled John’s busy life, each will have their own memories of time spent with John: common amongst these individual memories will be John’s loving nature and above all the fact that he was always so much fun to be with.

The determination, courage and dignity which John faced his having cancer were remarkable and an example to us all. It is a privilege to have been able to spend some time with John during the difficult period. John Misick will always remain a much valued friend to so many; from them all, our love and prayers for Jose, Alexander, Laurence, Oliver, his parents and all John’s family.

Nicholas Millen

BRIAN CONSIDINE

born 15 January 1920 Dublin, St Bede's House 1931-36, RAF 1939-45, Aer Lingus 1945-50, advertising and journalism, died in London 31 March 1996

After Ampleforth, Brian Considine joined Unilever, working in their export department. In the war he flew with the RAF, being what The Times (30 April 1996) described as 'one of only eight Irish citizens who fought in the Battle of Britain'. Before the war he had joined the RAFVR, and was called up in September 1939, completing his training at Grantham on the day Churchill became Prime Minister, 10 May 1940. After a number of successful missions from Tangmere with 238 Squadron, he was shot down near Bournemouth on 4 November 1940, and bailed out of his Hurricane, seriously wounded. In May 1941 he was posted to the Middle East with 238 Squadron — he ferried fighters for use in the Western Desert, and saw service in Egypt and Palestine. Later he joined 111 Squadron in Malta and Sicily. Back in England from December 1944, he flew Dakotas. During 1945 he was in India and Burma doing supply drops. Leaving the RAF, he flew with Aer Lingus between 1945 to 1950. Later he worked in advertising and journalism. He married Nuala Kierran, an air hostess he met while flying with Aer Lingus. He was a keen club cricketer and golfer. He and Nuala compiled crosswords for national newspapers.
Hugh Feilding was the fourth son of Viscount Feilding. His great grandfather, the 8th Earl of Denbigh, had become a Catholic through his friendship with Cardinal Newman. He had two brothers at Ampleforth, Basil (A33, died 1970) and Henry (A42, died 1994). On leaving Ampleforth he was articled to a chartered accountants' firm in Birmingham. As soon as war was declared in 1939, he drove his motorbike straight to the Coldstream Guards Depot in London to enlist; his brothers Henry and Basil were serving officers here, but he was told to go home where he would be contacted. This lack of urgency led him to join the RAE. Posted first for pilot training to Rhodesia (where he met his future wife), Hugh served later in many war zones, piloting Catalina Flying Boats in the Shetlands, Ceylon and the Persian Gulf — and was mentioned in dispatches, leaving the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve as a Squadron Leader. In 1946-47 he completed articles and examinations to become a chartered accountant. From 1947 to 1956, Hugh was a Director of an export-import firm in Mauritius. In 1956 he...
was wrong with him! I lost touch with him after this, but I believe the care with which he was treated in St Thomas's Hospital decided him to repay them by becoming a doctor there.

Later, of course, he became the school doctor in succession to Dr Vidal. He continued to play cricket when he could, and as village doctor often turned out for Ampleforth village. I remember him being amused when an opponent once carted his bowling for six and his captain promptly announced, 'Thank you, doctor, that will do' and took him off. He took up golf and fishing so holidays in Scotland gave him great pleasure. It was sad for one so physically talented that first diabetes then heart and arteries problems prevented him from enjoying his sports for long and made even a short walk difficult for him. He never complained and put a brave face on his suffering. His loyalty to Ampleforth was absolute and he often drove from his home near Northallerton for Mass in the Abbey Church. It was a great occasion in 1993 when some members of his 1943 Rugby XV assembled for supper in the Guest Room to celebrate the 50th anniversary of that season; he was far from well, but was his usual charming self and contributed to a most happy reunion.

Fr Benedict writes: In 1953 Kenneth was head-hunted from Guys Hospital by Fr Paul Nevill after Dr Vidal had announced his intention to retire. Ken was unable to come immediately since he was sitting for exams for his membership (MRCP), and completing an appointment as Junior Medical Registrar. His first task was to initiate an accurate medical record of every boy in the school and to see every boy on joining the school. His clinical expertise and his ability to inspire confidence in every patient young and old were recognised by everyone, particularly by parents of boys who came under his care. He settled happily as GP to Ampleforth Village and the surrounding district, building a new house and attached surgery and dispensary.

His 29 years as School Medical Officer saw a period of medical care which was exemplary and, despite his own handicap of diabetes, he never failed to set high standards of skill and diagnosis which gained him his reputation of being an outstanding doctor.

Fr Edward writes: In his later years Ken was dogged by ill health, and those sporting activities which he loved had to be shelved as he did part-time medical work with the Royal Air Force. His family and friends alone remained to these he was devoted. But as his physical health declined his spiritual life deepened. His faith was simple, direct and uncluttered and this was reinforced by a deep devotion to Our Lady. Visits to Lourdes, Medjugorje and latterly to Fatima were highlights in his life. A planned visit to Lourdes in July 1998 had to be cancelled at the last moment when he was admitted to hospital, and for the same reason he was unable to exercise his ministry as a Eucharistic minister, but these disappointments were accepted quietly as an indication of God's will. It was fitting that he should die on the evening of Good Friday while saying his rosary.

Ben Rochford was the son of Thomas (W64) and Pam Rochford, grandson of Thomas (OA1922, died) and Betty Rochford (now living in Aldeburgh), and the elder brother of Greg (W93). At St Wilfrid's House, he is remembered as quiet, refined and extremely kind and courteous, but these three years were not happy years, and as soon as he completed his GCSEs he left Ampleforth. He studied for his A levels at a local school in Hertfordshire, doing as one of his three A levels a Religious Studies course containing much philosophy and psychology. At Ampleforth he had been a member of the orchestra, playing the violin, and in 1993-94 he spent a year at The Musicians Institute in London, studying music theory and composition. He was a bass guitarist, and also played the keyboard. Someone described his composition as beautiful and technical. He helped his mother in her move from Hertfordshire to Blaby in Leicestershire in Autumn 1995. He spent some months composing in Cambridge, and came to live at home in Blaby in January 1996. Much time was spent composing. He built radios. He explored the Internet. He died suddenly of what has been called 'Adult Sudden Death Syndrome', his heart stopping without explanation, with no sign of any disease. Ben has many Ampleforth cousins – these include Mark and Damian Leach, and Fr Julian.

ANTHONY HUBERT BLAKE

born 15 June 1910 Lancashire, Ampleforth 1924-29 – St Cuthbert's House 1926-29, St John's College, Oxford, family engineering firm, married Mary Butler 1937, died 21 June 1996

Tony Blake was the youngest of triplet sons of Hubert (OA1879) and Marie Blake of Accrington, and was one of eight children: Sheila, Roona, Ursula (who became a Holy Child nun), the triplet boys Tony, John, Hilary, and then twins. The boys all started their education at Hedder, Stonyhurst, and then Tony and John (C28) were founder members of St Cuthbert's House – his other brother Hilary (B28) was in St Bede's. Besides these three brothers, there were many others at Ampleforth: father, uncles, son, grandson, nephews, great nephews. His father Hubert (OA1879) and uncles John Oswald (OA1879) and Wilfrid (OA1883) were the first generation at Ampleforth. Tony's son is John (B56), and his grandson is Peter Thornton (B – currently).
Tony had nephews at Ampleforth: Patrick Arning (W55) (son of Sheila); Andrew Blake (A64) and Robin Blake (A66) (sons of John); Mark and Charles Roberts; Martin Somervell (T65) (son of Roona). His great nephew is Chris Arning G92) (son of Patrick).

After Ampleforth, Tony attended St John's College, Oxford, where he studied Law and rowed in the College eight. When the war broke out he joined the army and served throughout these years with the RAOC earning his majority. After the war he forsook law and joined the family engineering firm with his brothers and became a director. One of the products manufactured by the company was Blakes Hydram – an ingenious water pump, invented by his grandfather John Blake, and which was world famous, providing water supply pumps to the Taj Mahal. In July 1937 Tony married Mary Butler; they had three children John (B56), Antonia and Frances. Sociable by nature, Tony loved and gloried in family gatherings. Perhaps one of the most enjoyable was the celebration organised for his 80th birthday and that of his surviving triplet brother, John, which was enjoyed by the whole family. He enjoyed country pursuits; was a keen fisherman, and was Honorary Secretary of the Vale of Lune Hunt Point-to-Point for many years. Tony was a real Christian gentleman, a man of principle and integrity and was devoid of guile or duplicity. He will be greatly missed by his family and a large circle of relations, friends and colleagues.

JOHN KNOWLES, LATER SENOR JUAN RUSSELL KNOWLES TAYLOR

John Knowles was the son of Edward Knowles and Halinka Norah Taylor of Broughton in Preston. He was a founder member of St Hugh's House, and is remembered as lively and full of fun. At Manchester University he read law (1961-64). He was Assistant Secretary of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce (1964-66), studying law in the evenings at the Inns of Court. He was then a concessions analyst with the Gulf Oil Company (1966-68). In 1968 he left Britain for Spain, first to work in the Spanish West African island of Guinea until 1970, then in Madrid from 1970 to 1992, and from 1992 in Fuengirola, Malaga. He held a variety of posts – as Zone Representative of the Gulf Oil Company of Equatorial Guinea, as management consultant, as a Board Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Madrid, as Fire and Security Consultant to the Spanish Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence, and other positions. He loved music, especially sacred music; at the age of three he would listen again and again as his grandfather played recordings of the Messiah, and in later years, visiting from Spain, would go to Mass at the Brompton Oratory to listen to the music. At Manchester University he played the trumpet with the BBC Northern Orchestra. He took delight in the visit of the Ampleforth Schola to Spain. He remained much attached to Ampleforth. Recently, he had adapted his name to Juan Knowles Taylor, thus a Spanish first name and the name of his mother (died 1989) and his aunt in Richmond, now Mrs Makiewicz, of whom he was very fond and a regular visitor over many years. He died alone of a heart attack in Fuengirola.

GEORGE BASIL KING OBE KSG

George Basil King died peacefully in his sleep in the house he had built in Aumit Lane at Ampleforth, on land owned by the monastery under an agreement that the house would become the property of the monastery. Basil had always expressed the wish to return to his Alma Mater and live there for the rest of his life.

After Ampleforth, Basil King went to Birmingham University, where he obtained a degree in Engineering. Due to his father's accountancy interests in a number of companies manufacturing needles in Redditch and neighbouring villages, he joined one of them – William Hall & Co – which soon became a member of an amalgamation of several small companies to become the English Needle & Fishing Tackle Co Ltd. Basil finally became Managing Director and was largely responsible for the building of a new factory at Studely (near Redditch) which incorporated the latest methods for manufacturing needles of all kinds.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Basil was asked to take over the management of the Midland Area of the Ministry of Production – and for this, he was awarded the OBE in 1949. After the war he returned to needle making and continued as Managing Director of Needle Industries Ltd until his retirement in 1953.

Basil's extramural interests were the Catholic Social Guild; later this became Plater College, Oxford (an offshoot of CSG), an adult residential college which provides men and women over 21 with the opportunity to gain an insight into the problems of society through the study of Social Sciences – and for this work he was given the papal award of a Knight of St Gregory. Between the wars he was Secretary of the Ampleforth Society, and more
recently a Trustee of the Ampleforth Memorial Bursary Fund. Basil’s other ‘loves’ were the design and maintenance of a beautiful garden, dairy farming and watercolour painting, all of which he enjoyed after his retirement. In his retirement years at Ampleforth, he and Ethne would come each day to the monastic Mass in the Abbey, and Basil spent much time helping to organise public concerts at Ampleforth. Ethne continues to live in St Chad’s Lodge, Aumit Lane.

David King

Basil was the eldest of seven children, including two sisters and four brothers at Ampleforth: Philip (OA1923, Fr Henry, died 27 April 1989), Edmund (OA1924, killed in a road accident 25 November 1981), David (A29) and Gabriel (OA31, RIP). Other Amplefordians are his nephews, the sons of David: Jeremy (A54), Michael (A57), Tony (A59), Stephen (A63) and Philip (A72); and Basil’s great nephews, the sons of Susan, Tim Blasdale (A80) and Christopher Blasdale (B88), and the son of Tony, Michael King (T92).

FR JOHN MCSHEEHY

born 15 April 1922 Wimbledon, Junior House 1934-36, St Aidan’s House left 1936-40, ordained 31 May 1947, for the Diocese of Southwark, later in Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, died 11 August 1996 Rottingdean.

John McSheehy was the fourth of five children of Oswald and Caroline McSheehy; as an army family, they lived in many places. On leaving Ampleforth in 1940, he went to Mark Cross Seminary in Sussex and then to St John’s Seminary, Wonersh. After ordination in 1947, he was a curate at Woolwich, and then taught science at St Peter’s School in Guildford. Later he was Parish Priest of Langley Green near Crawley, then for ten years Parish Priest at Godalming, and from about 1979 until death was Parish Priest of Rottingdean in East Sussex. He stayed at Ampleforth in July 1996, weeks before his death, his first visit for many years. He died suddenly. His nephew is Edward (Jim) McSheehy (O61) and his great nephews are William McSheehy (W92) and Thomas McSheehy (W93).

BIRTHS

1995
12 Jan  Moira and John White (O75) a daughter, Alice
20 Jan  Christine and Mark Hogarth (D81) a son, Oliver James
30 Jan  Deirdre and Jonathan Page (B77) a son, John Henry
25 Mar  Elspeth and John Geraghty (H79) a daughter, Alice Margaret
 6 May  Nicolette and Maurice Hill (J78) a daughter, Lily Kathleen
23 May  Amanda and Robert Toone (C80) a son, Maximilian
30 May  Eliza and Michael Jayes (H69) a daughter, Phoebe
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3 June
Juliet and Richard Burnford (H78) a son, Michael Christopher

10 June
Caroline and Roger Willbourn (H71) a son, Benjamin David

5 July
Victoria and James Aldous-Ball (C83) a daughter, Caroline Patricia

31 Aug
Susannah and James Steel (R83) a daughter, Rosemary

19 Dec
Rose and Alastair Campbell (J71) a son, Alexander

1996

9 Jan
Jane and Marcus Roberts (E83) a daughter, Alicia Jane

30 Jan
Marie and Tom Fattorini (O78) a son, Thomas Nicholas

11 Feb
Harriet and Richard Bland (A81) a daughter, Minna Mary

26 Feb
Jane and Thomas Dunn (C69) a daughter, Sarah Jane Frances

29 Feb
Anne and Rupert Symington (T81) a son, Oscar Alexander Offin

1 Mar
Melita and Stephen Gläster (T76) a son, Albert Constantine

7 Mar
Alison and Anthony Crichton-Stuart (E80) a daughter, Eliza Rose

14 Mar
Anna and Philip Hughes (T76) a son, Thomas Charles

16 Mar
Natasha and Alex McEwen (O81) a son, Maximilian Francis

20 Mar
Jane and Simon Hampshire (A79) a son, Edward Cecil Kassabian

22 Mar
Alison and Jonathan Baxter (E82) a daughter, Emily Charlotte Lund

22 Mar
Lynne and Guy Henderson (A79) a daughter, Elizabeth Maureen

24 Mar
Sarah and Nicholas Elliot (C83) a son, Charles Robertson

27 Mar
Kyría-Josephine and James Sewell (E79) a daughter, Hannah Bridget

30 Mar
Camilla and Charles Hadcock (W85) a son, Albert Charles Wilfrid

2 Apr
Ruth and Charles Plowden (E79) a daughter, Grace Katherine Lily

5 Apr
Fran and Peter Rhys Evans (H66) a daughter, Olivia Frances

9 Apr
Chantal and Charles Dunn (B78) a daughter, Rosalind Claire

25 Apr
Maria and Sebastian Chambers (E85) a son, John Moses

25 Apr
Gill and Michael Edwards (O62) a daughter, Annabel Mary Elizabeth

7 May
Clemencia and Robert Ferguson (D72) a son, Rory Nicholas

14 May
Victoria and Giles Baxter (E79) a daughter, Alice Daisy

14 May
Rowena and William Ferguson (C75) a son, George

16 May
Margaret and Patrick Geopertz (H79) a son, Luke

17 May
Fiona and Anthony Fraser (W77) a son, Rory Ivor Charles

19 May
Virginia and Sam Thomasson (W74) a daughter, Cicely

20 May
Amanda and Dominic Vail (C81) a daughter, Anna India Maria

23 May
Elizabeth and Antony Lennard (H69) a son, Andrew Michael

25 May
Laura and Jonathan Rick Keene (T71) a daughter, Daisy

25 May
Lisa and Timothy Hall (E79) a son, Louis Alexander Dalton

29 May
Gail and Richard Millar (E80) a son, Edward Christopher Bamford

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Hugh Bailey (E75) to Beth Ogilvie
Charles Berry (O70) to Ashley Jane Robbins
William Burnand (D86) to Aisling Mullen
Henry Bury (A80) to Jane Wilson
Edward Buscall (B73) to Sarah Hamilton
Andrew Chancellor (D79) to Camilla Morgan
Jonathan Conroy (C78) to Mary Candy
James Eyre (O87) to Sophie White
Edward Eyston (E87) to Alexandra Grounds
Thomas Fitzalan Howard (W70) to Joanna Mary Don

OLD AMPLEFORDIAN NEWS

1 June
Laura and Simon Jameson (T77) a son, Jerry Jocelyn Auldjo

3 June
Dorothee and Mike Giedroc (W76) a son, Melchior Ernst Graham Mathias

4 June
Emma and Francis Plowden (C75) a son, Alexander Edward Smart

8 June
Jonny and Martin Travas (D83) a son, Max John Paul

10 June
Fiona and John Ferguson (W78) a son, Alexander Rory David

18 June
Sara and Robert Bishop (A73) a daughter, Lucy Ruth Macnair

24 June
Lisa and Jeremy Duckworth (A83) a daughter, Charlotte Emna

14 July
Georgina and Edward Arundel (T74) a son, Philip

17 July
Claire and Harry Fitzalan Howard (W73) twins sons, Luke and Charity

20 July
Josephine and Richard Fitzalan Howard (W72) a son, Frederick Peter

20 July
Rachel and Michael Page (B78) a son, Christopher Fielding

20 July
Nick and Bruce Walker (T66) a son, Magnus Benedict Bede

30 July
Rose and Robert Murray Brown (B77) a son, Jerome

2 Aug
Pippa and William Dore (E82) a daughter, Emily Olga Suzanne

3 Aug
Mi-Lau and Michael Somervile Roberts (C84) a daughter, Elise

8 Aug
Charlotte and Mark Cunningham (O84) a son, Charles

8 Aug
Kate and Malcolm Mor (A76) a daughter, Matilda

9 Aug
Georgina and Kit Hunter Gordon (C75) a daughter, Hebe Elizabeth

10 Aug
Kate and David Beck (E81) a daughter, Theodora Philippa Grace

12 Aug
Lulu and Andrew Hampson (B75) a daughter, Camilla Elizabeth

16 Aug
Lucy and Benjie Fraser (O79) a son, Hugh Douglas

20 Aug
Frances and Paul Barnes (J80) a son, James David Vavasseur

20 Aug
Dhileas and Harry Lukas (O70) a son, Alexander

21 Aug
Henrietta and Simon Hare (J86) a son, Frederick Charles Spencer

29 Aug
Jane and Adrian Dewey (O81) a son, Charles Theodore

31 Aug
Sarah and Matthew Pike (E83) a daughter, Emily Elizabeth
MARRIAGES

1995
13 May
Anthony Kinch (W44) to Barbara Mortimer (St Edmund's, Beckenham)
7 Oct
Dominic Harrison (H81) to Caroëne Anne Baker (Holy Trinity, Sutton Coldfield)

1996
50 Mar
Adrian Millar (W43) to Susan Youngusband (Alresford, Hampshire)
19 Apr
Peter Barton (O41) to Bez Jones (St Wilfrid's, Northwich)
18 May
Daniel Jeffreson (B83) to Aline Malé de la Villelégé (St Malo, France)
18 May
Adrian Myers (A90) to Louise Denny (Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel)
25 May
Peter Savill (J65) to Ruth Pender (St Cocs', Kilcock, Co Kildare)
15 June
Tom Bingham (B85) to Sophie van den Bergh (St George's, Bickley, Kent)
22 June
Damien Marnié (D84) to Nicola Mason (St Mary's, Chiddingfold, Surrey)
13 July
Thomas Gibeve (T90) to Beth Martin (St Elizabeth's, Richmond, Surrey)
27 July
Benjamin Staveley-Taylor (B90) to Felicity Roberts (St Joseph's, Blacknall)

10 Aug
James Farrell (D84) to Caroline Ford (l'église de St Pierre, Jarnac, Charente, France)
17 Aug
Martin Trowbridge (W78) to Louise Osley (St John the Baptist, Knaresborough)
26 Aug
Peter Rosewinge (O75) to Kari Ann Smith (St Edward's, Whiteley Bay)
7 Sept
Christopher Morgan (W84) to Louise Etheridge (Jesus Christ the Saviour, Cranleigh)
14 Sept
Aubrey Greene (O86) to Catherine Moore (St Michael's, Minslow, Shropshire)
28 Sept
Thomas Judd (W77) to Christine Doghetti (St Lawrence's Abbey, Ampleforth)

AO DIARY

20 January 1996: OA Cross Country Match at Ampleforth
With a cold east wind and much mud, the School beat the Old Boys, with Raoul Fraser (B) finishing first for the school and Robert Rigby (T79) second, 80 seconds behind in a field of 26, and Hamish Ogilvie (E90) sixth, a further 59 seconds behind. Other Old Amplefordians running were James McFadden (O86), Adrian Myers (A90), Nicholas Kenworthy-Browne (E90), Peter Thomas (B86) and Oliver Hecht (E90).

23 February 1996: the 120th Liverpool and North-West Ampleforth Dinner at Liverpool
The Chairman of the dinner was Fr Felix Stephens (H61), and Fr Leo Chamberlain (A58) spoke at the dinner. Amplefordians attending were: Basil Blackledge (D44), David Blackledge (O32), Robert Blackledge (L75), Peter Drury (W51), Fr Piers Grant-Ferris (O51), Professor Cecil Grey (A31), Brian Hawe (A51), Thomas Heyes (B41), Francis Heyes (B82), Nial Roy (D67), Tony Sheldon (D62) and Dr David Slattery (D47). In addition, there were several friends of Ampleforth.

10 March 1996: Ampleforth Sevens
At the Ampleforth Sevens there was a luncheon party in the Guestroom. Amplefordians attending the Sevens were: Robin Andrews (O61), Hugh Billet (C61), Adrian Breman (W58), Peter Barke (A57), Simon Esterby (H93), Mark Edmunds (T93), Maurice Fitzgerald (C94), Andrew Freeland (J92), Thomas Gaynor (H92), Giles Gaskell (H94), John Gormley (W53), Roger Grooke (L95), Archie Hamilton (L94), George Hamilton (L94), George Hickman (D94), John Hughes (C90), Nicholas Hughes (C90), Nigel Judd (L67), John Kennedy (D95), Nicholas Klein (L94), Michael King (T92), John Leyden (L95), Edwin Lovegrove (L95), Toby Madden (E90), Hugh Marcelin-Rice (F94), Nicholas Marshall (C94), Fr David Massey (O54), Ted Massey (B51), David Mellor (J94), Hugh Milburn (J93), Fernando Ossa (W90), Christopher Pennicott (H90), John Robertson (T93), Philip Ryan.
13 April 1996: Ampleforth Gathering at Taunton

John Morton (C55) and Stephen O'Malley (W58) arranged a gathering at Taunton School, attended by Old Boys and other friends of Ampleforth, with people travelling from as far as West Cornwall and Gloucester. The meeting began with the Morning Prayer of the Church, and in the afternoon there was Mass. With an opening address by Fr Leo, lunch, a discussion chaired by Stephen O'Malley and tea, Ampleforth issues and wider questions were considered. Fr Leo and Fr Francis attended from Ampleforth.

Amplefordians who were present included: 1936: Col Michael Wilberforce (W); 1938: Col Ralph Campbell (0), Hugh May (W); 1940: Tony Sutton (O) and Gillian (sons are Philip (085) and Michael (086)); 1941: Dr Robert (Alphonsus) Ryan (A) and Mrs Ryan; 1947: George Beale (B), Ian Satow (O) and Mrs Satow; 1950: Anthony Forrester (D); 1951: Michael Simons (W) and Sonya (son is Mark (W91)); 1953: Richard Rothwell (T); 1954: Timothy Dewey (T) (brother of Terence (T52 - RJP) and Mrs Dewey (son is Adrian (O81)); 1955: Simon Gegg (D), John Morton (C) and Jane (sister of John Lawder (C65)); 1958: Chris Rimmer (0) and Jan, Simon Rothwell (C), Stephen O'Malley (W) and Frances (sons are Mark (D81), Charles (D85), Thomas (D87)); 1963: Michael Goldschmidt (A) and Margaret Goldschmidt, Richard Rowan (T); 1966: Richard Davey (E); 1968: Christopher Lofus (B); 1969: John Eddison (D); 1971: Mark Armour (D); 1979: Peter Griffiths (B); 1980: Anthony Calder-Smith (T), Paul Hemmings (H); 1981: Michael Hemmings (H), Andrew O'Flaherty (E); 1983: Julian McNamara (H); 1984: Frank Thompson (A); 1985: Dafydd Hall (T) and Martha, with George, Dominic Carter (D) and Maaike, with Hester and Sebastian, Peter Goggin (C) and Ruth, James Hare-Dyke (C); 1986: Simon McKeown (O) and Julie, with Christian and Joulia, Christopher Mullen (H), Robert Toome (C) and Amanda; 1987: Mark Andrews (E), Anthony Corbett (T), Edmund Vickers (B); 1988: John Goodall (E), Patrick Thompson (O), and his fiancée Paula Mendes; 1989: Adrian Gannon (O); 1990: Fernando O’Sosa (W); 1991: Edward Snelson (O) and Maria, with Daniel, Toby Sturridge (B); 1992: Marc Corbett (T), Gareth Marken (H), James Nicholson (W), Tim Reid (O); 1993: Charles Cole (T), Sam Cook (E), Hugh Milbourn (B); 1994: Julian Fattorini (O), Rupert Lewis (W), Michael Middleton (A), Jamie Savile (E); 1996: Simon McKeown (H), Andrew O’Flaherty (E), Gervase Milbourn (B), Christopher Quigley (B); and currently in the school: James Edwards (T) and Christopher Marken (H).

12 May 1996: 28th Rome Dinner

The dinner was preceded by Mass in the Church of the Gesu. Those present at dinner were: the Grand Master of the Knights of Malta, Br Andrew Bertie (E47), Louis Marcellin-Rice (T64) and Kate, Fr Joe Barrett (C30) and John Morris (D55). John Morris writes: The customarily postcard, signed by all present, was sent to Tony Brennan (E52) to be shown at his next Manchester Hot Pot to which we are twinned. As a postscript to these notes, one of our most faithful supporters, Fr Joe Barrett celebrated 60 years as a professed Jesuit on 6 January 1996, and his Golden Jubilee to the priesthood on 12 September 1996. On behalf of his many friends in the Eternal City and many others beyond the Alps, I wish him congratulations and Ad Multos Annos. The 29th Dinner was due to held on 9 November 1996 and the 30th Dinner on 11 May 1997.

St Cuthbert’s 70th Anniversary Celebration

The 70th anniversary of St Cuthbert’s House was celebrated in London with Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, at 6.30 pm followed by a dinner at the Cafe Royal on the evening of Friday 4 October. The Mass, in which the lack of an organist taxed the voices and memories of even the best singers present, was concelebrated by Fr Alberic Stacpoole and Fr Francis Vidal. Sadly Fr Gerald, who had also planned to be on the altar, lost his way and was unable to arrive in time. The Cafe Royal lies only...
a short walk away from Warwick Street and 139 guests attended the dinner which was splendidly organised by Lord Stafford. A short speech was made by Lord Stafford in response to that of the current Housemaster, Mr J.G. Wilcox, who attended with his wife, Pauline. It was gratifying to see so many years represented and especially to welcome Mr W.B. Atkinson who was a founder member of the House in 1926. In its 70 years St Cuthbert’s has had only three Housemasters: Fr Sebastian Lambert (1926-56), Fr Walter Maxwell-Stuart (1956-88) and Mr John Wilcox (Sept 1988 onwards).


**Awards and appointments**

Major General Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple (O44) was appointed Captain-General, the Queen’s Body Guard for Scotland, Royal Company of Archers, and Gold Stick for Scotland, (announced 29 July 1996).

In addition to the 1996 New Year Honours (30 Dec 95) previously noted, Bernard Devere Mathews (O55) was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, for financial services to industry and exports.

Sir Shane Blewitt GCVO (A53), Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to the Queen, was awarded the Royal Victorian Order (15 June 1996, Birthday Honours).

Col Thomas Fitzalan Howard (W70), Scots Guards, awarded OBE (15 June 1996, Birthday Honours). He was promoted to a substantive Colonel (30 June 1996).

Philip Baxter (E70) was promoted to substantive Colonel (30 June 1996).

High Sheriff appointments 1996: John Festing (C56) Northumberland; Sir Antony Pilkington (E53) Cheshire.

At the Sandhurst Sovereign’s Parade (9 Aug 1996), Commissions were granted to: Lawrence Brennan (E91), Marcus Luckyn-Malone (AV3), Nicholas Perry (E91).

Mark Armour (D71) Chief Financial Officer at Reed Elsevier plc.

Christopher Balfour (B59) Chairman, Christie’s Europe.

Charles Cole (T93) Organ Scholar at Westminster Cathedral, September 1996.

Philip Hughes (J76) Royal Humane Society Award and the Giancarlo Tofi Award (issued to commemorate the bravery of a man run over and killed in Italy in 1972 trying to stop the traffic to protect a fallen cyclist) for rescuing a trapped driver from a fire after a car accident.

Nicholas John (W93) appointed to organise the Liberal Democratic Party in Norfolk North for the 12 months from June 1996. He is taking a year away from university to do this work in the period up to the General Election.

John Marshall (D55) is Vice-Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council 1996-97.

Peter Maxwell (B61) appointed in charge of the Bosnia and Albania Fund for Save the Children Fund. Previously he worked in Bosnia for the Swiss charity Terre des Hommes.

Philip Murphy (H92) elected Sabbatical President of Aberdeen Students Union, achieving the highest victory in the history of the election.

Mark Shepherd (B62) Chef des Brancadours of the Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes 1996.
Working in Sudan
FERDINAND VON HABSBURG LOTHRINGEN (E87) visited Ampleforth in August 1996, and spoke of his work in Africa and currently in Sudan. After leaving Ampleforth in 1987, Ferdy achieved an Honours Degree in Archaeology at Durham University in 1990 and then travelled extensively in Latin America. 1991 saw the beginning of three years' work as an apprentice with a conservation project in the Kingdom of Swaziland where he graduated to assistant manager before moving to a similar project on the island of Zanzibar. In 1995 he took up a contract with Catholic Relief Services Sudan as a field coordinator in the displaced camps in SPLA (Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Army) territories in Southern Sudan. CRS concerns are movement and distribution of relief food and seeds/tools (to encourage self-dependency) for more than 100,000 displaced people in several corridors. Small community projects are also established and supported. In October 1996 he was planning to visit the war-torn Nuba Mountains, south of Khartoum, to assess needs of war victims. It is hoped that this will open the way to long-term assistance for the Nuba people. If you wish to contact Ferdy for information or if you wish to help, please contact FACE-FAW—Fr Francis—01439 766 797. Ferdy writes below:

New Kush

Displaced Peoples Camp, Diocese of Torit, Southern Sudan

Combni Fathers in the Diocese, being mainly Sudanese and Irish, work along with Sudanese and Ugandan sisters. Like CRS, the Diocese has offices in Nairobi. The Diocese is logistically supported by the Catholic Relief Services. New Kush is a camp of 10,000 displaced people coming from the war in the North. Children often walk hundreds of miles to find education and arrive in poor condition, if at all. Fr Tim and five sisters work here, with three aims in mind: religious development (increased faith); provision of schooling and health structures. Food is provided by CRS.

Projected assessment of needs for victims of war-torn Nuba Mountains, Sudan 1996

The Nuba Mountains lie some 400 kilometres south of Khartoum in Sudan—an area currently still crippled by a thirteen year old civil war that has thrown Christians and Animists against Islamic forces. In an attempt to stem the Jihad—holy war—which was declared by President Omar al Bashir and the National Islamic Front, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army has repeatedly launched counter attacks. Continuous fighting has left little very intact. Thousands have been displaced, losing families, homes, belongings, and have fled southwards. A genocide of terrifying proportions has been committed by the Islamic government in the Nuba Mountains largely unknown to the outside world. Those remaining have been left with little or no means to survive. Lack of medicines and basic home items (eg blankets, pots etc) has meant even greater suffering. It is reported that approximately 10,000 children died early this year of diseases such as chicken pox. Support for and access to this area barely exist, making such tragedies all too common.

Please pray for peace and justice in Sudan and for my endeavours. Salam ikum.

Living in a garden hut

MARTIN KEVILL (O44) has given his 17th century home near Leyland to the Sons of Divine Providence, and gone to live in a hut in the garden. The house is now used by the Order to provide holidays to the physically or mentally handicapped, and for their parents or carers. A newspaper cutting sent by the parish says: 'Now, instead of going to sleep in the seven bedroom £300,000 home, the 69 year bachelor curls up every night in an 8ft by 6ft shed at the bottom of the garden. The former Welsh Guards officer is honouring a pledge he made to himself more than 50 years ago as he lay crippled after a wartime accident. At this time he lay on his back for 18 months from a spinal injury that threatened to paralyse him. Martin said 'My shed is as comfortable as anywhere I know... Some people find what I have done embarrassing. One clergyman told me it was not right that an ex-public schoolboy and Guards officer should live the way I do. I told him 'Reverend, the chap you work for lived pretty much the same way'. Featured on News at Ten (August 1996), Martin Kevill has written an autobiography The Haunted Man.

Religious Profession, ordinations and novices
FR GUY DE GAYNESFORD (T87) ordained to the priesthood (1 June 1996, Dorchester — Diocese of Plymouth).
FR VINCENT-MARIE HOARE (A84) made his Perpetual Vows in the Fraternité Saint Vincent Ferrier, at Chêmeré-le-Roi, France on 21 April 1996.
GERARD WALES (T85) was one of five novices clothed at Ampleforth by Fr Abbots on 1 September 1996 — and he was given the name BR GILES.
FR WILLIAM WRIGHT (A82) was one of three ordained to the priesthood on 23 June 1996 at Ampleforth.
The Queen's Birthday Parade — Trooping the Colour — 15 June 1996

This was the 43rd time the Queen had inspected her Household Division. The Queen was accompanied by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Prince Jean (Colonel, Irish Guards) (A38). The Queen was attended by Major General the Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard (Colonel, the Life Guards) (B35). The Colour was carried by 2nd Lt Fabian Roberts (J90). Also on parade were Captain Christopher Ghika (E88) and Major Castan Roberts (B80). Lining the route in the Mall was Captain James McBrien (O87), and it was James McBrien who compiled the briefing information notes for the BBC TV commentary which is summarised below. The commentator, Julian Tutt spoke of the different roles of those on parade. Describing the Principal Officers of the Escort, he said: 'Furthest away from us, the Subaltern is Captain Christopher Ghika (E88), known as the Black Prince in the Battalion – his father (John Ghika (O46) – who was on parade in 36 Trooping of Colours) was a prince in the Romanian Royal family who came to prep school here in 1939, stayed because of the war, eventually joined the Irish Guards, became the Chief of Staff – Christopher watched this parade as an eight year old from the Chief of Staff's Office in the Horse Guards building'. (When Christopher Ghika, the Black Prince took over command of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Prince Jean (Colonel, Irish Guards) (A38), 7th Colonel of the Irish Guards, rode in the ceremony as one of the four royal colonels: HRH the Prince of Wales (Colonel of the Welsh Guards). HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh (Colonel of the Grenadier Guards), Field Marshal HRH the Duke of Kent (Colonel of the Scots Guards), General, HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, (Colonel of the Irish Guards). The commentator noted: 'Prince Jean is one of the very few foreigners to be colonel of a regiment in the British army'. As he came down the Mall to Horse Guards Parade, Prince Jean was riding Noble, a dapple 20 year chestnut. Noble had a new and specially designed harness, based on the decoration of the Order of St Patrick, with 'shamrock . . . everywhere as a reminder of the Irish. The emerald star of St Patrick, made in Birmingham, is a replica of the Star that belonged to the Duke of Connaught who commanded the British army in Ireland from 1900 to 1904, with the badge of the Order with the motto 'Who can separate us'. The harness is completed by a delicate chain of Tudor roses and knots, 'to for the Colonel's horse, with the Dublin harp on his brow and the star on his face'. Julian Tutt noted that on the right of the four royal dukes was the Grand Duke, Prince Jean. Who fought with 3rd Battalion of the Irish Guards in the Second World War, landing on the Normandy beaches in June 1944, taking part in the Battle of Caen, and being present three months later when his native country was liberated. He left the Irish Guards as a captain in 1947 and became the Sovereign Duke of Luxembourg when his mother, the Grand Duchess Charlotte, abdicated in November 1964. He is in spirit and in fact a true Irish Guardsman.' And then to the Colour itself: 'The Escort for the Colour is about to become the Escort to the Colour' Julian Tutt noted that Fabian Roberts (J90) had chosen as captain four other second lieutenants for the honours of carrying the Colour in the parade. The Guards combine ceremonial duties with operational duties, 'as the Ensign, Fabian Roberts, has good reason to remember. Another of his six brothers, Hilarion (Hilarion Roberts (J74 – died 19 July 1986)) had followed their father into the Welsh Guards and was one of those who suffered severe burns in the Sir Galahad in the Falklands war, tragically, he has since been killed in a car crash.'

At random

JAMES ALDOUS-BALL (C83) is an Associate Partner with DE Hicks and Partners, Chartered Quantity Surveyors. He and his wife hunt with the Wye College Beagles, and sometimes OAB.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN (D54) has retired after 31 years as Managing Director of Robertson Esponana, a subsidiary of an American company. He lives near Barcelona.

ADRIAN BUDGEN (J81) is the solicitor representing some asbestos sufferers, who have been claiming compensation from a company in Leeds resulting out of alleged negligence in the 1950s. Interviewed on the Today Programme (Radio 4, 26 March 1996) by James Naughtie, he spoke of the significance of the case for many asbestos sufferers.

RUPERT EVERETT (W75) made his début in the French theatre, as Algernon, in The Importance of Being Earnest (L'importance d'être Constant) in January 1996. He was already known to French audiences as the star in Yves Saint Laurent's Opium perfume advertisements. Subsequently he appeared in London in the drama Some Sunny Day.

LUCA FARINELLA (O95) works as a stockbroker in London.

SIR DAVID GOODALL (W50) had an exhibition of his watercolour drawings of India in the Oriental Museum at the University of Durham from July to October 1996. He had earlier exhibitions of his work in Berlin in 1979 and in Bonn in 1982. The brochure says: 'During his four and a half years as British High Commissioner, and on subsequent visits to India, he has travelled in almost every state of the Indian union; and following the example of William Hodges, the Daniels and the many amateur draughtsmen and watercolourists of the nineteenth century, he has always carried his sketchbook and box of watercolours with him. The result has been shown in one-man exhibitions in Delhi (1989, 1991) and in London (1992, 1994).'

CAPTAIN MARK JOHNSON-FERGUSON (O83) (Royal Engineers) has become a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (MICE) and is a Chartered Engineer.

CAPTAIN SIMON JOHNSON-FERGUSON (D85) (Royal Medical Corps) is training to be a GP, and has just spent six months in Bosnia-Hercegovina.
MICHAEL MALONEY (O73) has appeared in radio plays.

HUGH MARCELIN-RICE (J95) was running an ice cream shop in Germany.

JAMES MCBRIEN (O86) was a Press Officer with IFOR Medico-Operations Department in Banja Luca in Northern Bosnia-Hercegovina, from June to September 1996.

NICHOLAS MCDERMOTT (D95) worked on a kibbutz in Israel in the summer of 1996.

ALFRED PATRON MBE (W48) retired recently from Vice-Consul in Barcelona. He has been primarily concerned with British exports to Catalonia, where he has now settled.

NIGEL PITE (F75) is Headmaster of the family school, St Anthony’s Prep School in Hampstead. Appointed in 1994, the school has 290 pupils aged 6 to 13 and was founded by his great grandfather, Richard Paton, in Eastbourne in 1898.

FR ADRIAN SMITH (W48) has written his tenth book The God Shift (published June 1996). He has spent much of his life in Zambia.

TOM TURNER (T88) lives in Manchester, New Hampshire, where from 1993 to 1996 he has taught Spanish in a Catholic parochial school and taught Geography in a university.

GEOFFREY VAN CUTSEM (E62) was included in a feature in The Times (7 August 1996) on the top 40 estate agents. Described as an expert on shire property, he works in the Chelmsford branch of Savills. He is, said the article, 'the most pre-eminent residential estate agent in the country house market'.

JOCelyn WALLER (A62) floated Avocet Mining plc on the London Stock Exchange on 4 April 1996. Jocelyn is the Chief Executive of the company, which is doing gold mining and mineral exploration in Malaysia and Peru. At Cowes Week in August he won Class One overall in Silk 2, and won the Britannia Cup.

Honours degrees, summer 1996

DAVID ASHTON (J94) 1st — Mods; JAMES BRENNAN (O92) 1st — Archaeology at York University; ROGER EVERS (O93) 2.1 — Mods; SIMON JAGGARD (C88) 2.1 — History and Architectural History at Teesside University; PHILIP O’MAHONY (D93) 2.1 — Mods; RUPERT PEPPER (D94) 1st — Mods at St Anne’s College, Oxford, and was awarded a scholarship; MATTHEW SLATER (C93) 2.1 — Mods; PIERE TEMPEST (E92) 1st — Geography at Bristol University; MAXIMILIAN VON HARBURG LOTHRINGEN (E92) 2.1 — Modern History at St Andrews and is staying at St Andrews to do an MLit in Reformation Studies, as a platform for a PhD, probably on an aspect of the French Revolution.

In relation to SIMON JAGGARD’S award of a 2.1, his dissertation on Modern Catholic Church Architecture was awarded a 1st, and he has written in appreciation of help in his research from Fr Edward and Fr Bonaventure. He has, in the summer of 1996, been working at the Dorset Country Museum and has written a review of an Alfred Stevens Masterpiece for the National Art Collections Fund Review. In the Autumn 1996 he was starting an MA course in Heritage Management at Hallam University in Sheffield. After leaving Ampleforth in 1988, he had spent time working on a cattle station in Australia.

Other academic news

STUART CARNEY (A91), PAUL CAUCHI (H89), ROBERT CROSSLEY (B91), CHRIS O‘LOUGHLIN (C91) and EDWARD SNELSON (O91) have qualified as doctors. Stuart Carney was invested as a member of the Knights of Malta (24 June 1996).

JOSEPH TOWNLEY (T96) — University Cadetship.

Student Cross Pilgrimage to Walsingham

JONATHON DORE (A91) (leader) and MARTIN MULLIN (B91) walked on the Midland Leg Group of the Student Cross on the 126 mile walk from Leicester to Walsingham in Holy Week 1996. Starting on Saturday 30 March in Leicester, the group of 25 persons walked for six days until Good Friday, 5 April. Each day two stops or Stations were made, in which a member of the group witnessed to Christ in their life. Arriving in Walsingham, they walked the final mile from the Slipper Chapel into the centre of Walsingham in their bare feet. In Walsingham, they joined other groups in the liturgy of the Triduum and the celebration of Easter. RICHARD BEDINGFELD (E93) and THOMAS BEDINGFELD (E94) walked in the Birmingham group.

African coastal flight of 18,800 miles

JOHNNY BEVERIDGE (T82) has flown around the African coast, in what is believed to be the first circumnavigation of the continent’s coastline in a single-engine aircraft. The journey covered 18,800 miles, and was made in a Cessna U206A aircraft with two others over three months, starting and finishing in Tangier. An intention of the journey is to raise funds for wildlife, hoping to raise £130,000 for their Pan-African Conservation Trust. At the completion of the journey, The Times (5 August 1996) published a map of their journey, going first down the West African coast, stopping at such places as Nouadhibou, Banjul, Freetown, Luanda, and on to Cape Town, and then up the East coast, going inland to Maseru and Johannesburg, and then to Maputo, Beira, Dar es Salaam, and up to Luxor. Finally across North Africa, calling at Malta. One of Johnny’s companions spoke of the happiness they found in Africa: ‘I don’t think I ever saw a child crying, not in the way you see them crying in England’. Johnny told The Times, ‘We found the real joy was going to villages. I’ll never forget Arba Mintch in Ethiopia, a tiny place we had to land in because of bad weather. Everybody we met in that village couldn’t have been more welcoming.’ Johnny Beveridge as a banker and vice president with Salomon Brothers in New York.
MUNGO CHAMBERS (E95) spent the year from summer 1995 to summer 1996 in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia and the Cameroons. In autumn 1995, he drove out to the former Yugoslavia with his uncle PETER MAXWELL (B61). The first month involved working in the Terre des Hommes centres on the east and west sides of Mostar, as well as working for Medecins sans Frontieres helping to sort out the drugs which were being sent to the city as aid with a team of French pharmacists. The whole of the east side of Mostar had been shelled to the ground, all the old buildings. Both sides were totally separated and only UN helpers were allowed to cross between them. ‘My own experience was of the friendliness of the Muslims and the corruption of the Croats’. In the second month, Mungo worked at a small refugee camp near Split containing Croats mainly from the South of Bosnia. ‘A Croatian teacher and I went in each day to look after the children by playing games with them as well as doing art classes and teaching them a little English … I was so impressed by all that my uncle has done out there. When he arrived there were only three of them working out there and now there are well over a hundred’. Mungo wrote of Peter’s main task at this time as the localisation of all the Terre des Hommes projects, to get local people to take them over.

Then Mungo spent four months in a mission station in the Cameroons, at Batibo, a small town in the north-west of English speaking Cameroon. Invited by the priest in charge of the mission with its 24 out stations, he arrived in March having little idea what he would be doing, and found himself teaching small revision classes for A and O level, working with the doctor at the hospital, helping with parish activities and experiencing the different areas of traditional African life. In June he travelled around the Cameroons: he went to the semi-desert north, the homeland of the Muslim population ‘whose quiet and sedentary life-style could not be more different to the loud music and frantic lifestyle of the people in the west and centre of the country’, then to the south and south-east, home to the pygmies ‘who live in small enclaves in the tropical rain-forests, and whose solitary lifestyles are rapidly disappearing’. He climbed Mount Cameroon, 4,095 metres, the fourth highest mountain in Africa.

Others working overseas

MATTHEW BOWEN-WRIGHT (H95), ALEXANDER FOSHAY (W95), JAMES GIBSON (T95), PAUL SQUIRE (T95) were from March to September 1996 with Manquehue Movement, teaching in Santiago, Chile.

AUGUSTUS DELLA PORTA (93) went back briefly to Zagreb, to help the Missionaries of Charity; he spent nine months there three years ago. As part of his theology degree at Kent University, he is spending 1996-97 studying in Israel.

MATTHEW FESTING (C67) has driven Knights of Malta aid lorries to the Biluc area of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

THOMAS FLYNN (H95) taught English in a Catholic school in Hungary.

EDWARD HORNYOLD-STRICKLAND (C79) has worked in Laos since 1995; from 1990 to 1994 he was in Afghanistan.

PETER MAXWELL (B61) has moved from Terre des Hommes to be in charge of the operations of Save the Children in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Albania.

MATTHEW PROCTOR (W80) works in Bosnia-Hercegovina; he has negotiated the building of a youth centre for Muslims and Croats in Vitez, and is now attempting to achieve funding.

Film making

DAVID GRAHAM (E83), ANTHONY BULL (D86) and DUNCAN GRAHAM (E85) are making ‘a low-budget, gentle English comedy entitled Yo Ha Ho’, in a company called Rainy Day Pictures. They are due to be filming at Longest in late September. ROBBIE GRAHAM (E83) is soon to join the project. The brochure presenting the project describes David as ‘the dominant driving force behind the production team’.

KIERAN PARKER (C89) has with three colleagues set up his own film company, Simplistic Films Ltd. Their first film, Sally Kerosene, was shown by Channel Four in November 1995, and in the World’s best film festival in Houston, Texas, it won a gold award for the best film of the graduate section and took the silver award in the festival as a whole.

Tom Waller (A92) has set up a London based film company De Warrenne Pictures, and in 1996 was making the Peter Patil Read (W57) novel Monk Dawson into a film. When they were filming Belfast street scenes in Leeds, they were featured on local TV news, both live from the set on BBC Look North (6 Aug 1996) and on Yorkshire TV Calendar (6 Aug 1996). Tom was interviewed wearing the baseball cap he always wears for filming.

Journalism and television

HENRY FITZHERBERT (E90) is with The Daily Express. He researched and wrote an article on Helmut von Moltke, whom he describes as ‘Germany’s foremost anti-Nazi’. The article ‘Could this anti-Nazi be a bigger hero than Schindler?’ (2 March 1996) was written after Henry had interviewed some of the surviving witnesses; he describes how von Moltke saved thousands of lives, and was eventually executed for treason on 23 January 1945.

INIGO GILMORE (W87) is the Southern African correspondent of The Times. He is also running a charity for disabled children, which grew after a report he made to The Times during the Queen’s visit to South Africa.

ANGUS LOUGHRAN (B83) appears on BBC’s Fantasy Football League, known as Starto. He also works as a commentator for Eurosport and ESPN, the American sports network. He has recently written Starto’s Euro 96 Guide. There have been a number of press features on Angus in 1996 — The Independent (22 June 1996) published a profile headed ‘Starto, the king of soccer nerds’, and The Sunday Times Magazine (16 June 1996) published a section...
headed ‘A Life in the Day of Statto’. Both had photographs of him in pyjamas, his normal attire for Fantasy Football. He has his own fan club, with a membership of 5531, and they chant his name on the terraces: ‘Statt-oh’. The Independent said, ‘He is on an aeroplane most days of the year, travelling to sporting fixtures in all corners of the globe’. He has been described as ‘the most listened-to football analyst on the planet’ and as ‘the saint of sporting statistics’.

CAPTAIN JEREMY MCDERMOTT (H85) works as a journalist in Beirut, part of a team relaunching the Beirut English language broadsheet, The Daily Star of Lebanon; he also freelances on some UK broadsheets.

MICHAEL LINDEMANN (W84) works with The Financial Times. Previously for over two years, he was with Associated Press in Warsaw, covering also Slovakia and Lithuania; and then for 18 months with United Press International in Vienna, covering Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania. Since March 1994, he has worked with the FT in Bonn, and is due to work with the FT in London from November 1996.

JAMIE MUIR (D70) was director of Part 5 All Change of the BBC2 series A History of British Art, shown on 19 May 1996.

Across wild country — 360 miles in nine days

BENEDICT WEAVER (78) captained the South African team in the Eco Challenge in Utah in May 1995, completing the 360 mile course in just under nine days, and setting a course record for the canoeing section along the Colorado River (50 miles in 10 hours). He works for a corporate intelligence agency based in Cape Town.

Rugby

SIMON EASTERBY (H93) Yorkshire Under 19, winners of the Championship; MAURICE FITZGERALD (E94) England Under 21s; DANIEL MCFARLAND (W90) captained the English Universities against the Scottish Universities in February 1996, winning 36-10, and plays for Morley; DAVID CASADO (A89) played for Cambridge against Oxford in December 1995; STEPHANE BANNA (H96) played for England Under 18s; BRIAN PENNINGTON (B96) England A Under 18; ANDREW ROBERTS (W95) Wasps Under 21; NICHOLAS HUGHES (C90) Northampton 2nd.

The Old Amplefordian Rugby Football Club 1995-96 Season

Jon Hughes (C90) was Captain, doing what the Club Report described as a ‘marvellous job’. Matthew Winn (B87) was initially appointed Captain, but played with Harlequins. The Hon Secretary was Thomas Judd (W77). We received news of three matches: a draw 24-24 against Old Leysians (the game had started with only eight men, due to traffic delays; victory over Sedbergh 48-13 – with outstanding performances from the forwards: David Mitchell (E83), Daniel McFarland (W90), John Kennedy (D94) and Patrick Berton (H83) – and on the three-quarter line Patrick Bingham (B89), Patrick Hartigan (W87), Alexander Hickman (D90), Sebastian Wade (B88) and James Oxley (A89); and victory over Old Malvernians 52-14; at half time Old Malvernians led 14-12, but Simon Duffy (O85) at inside centre contributed much to the second half success. Several other matches were played, but details were not sent. A dinner and AGM were held at Chelsea Barracks, at the invitation of the Irish Guards. David Mitchell and Simon Hate (B80) retired from the Committee after much hard work over seven years. (The 1996-97 fixture list has 22 matches.)

Old Amplefordian Cricket Club 1996 Season

Season: played 22, won 3, lost 13, drawn 6 (Tour: won 1, lost 3, drawn 2)

Cricketer Cup, 1st Round. OACC 200-8 (R. Wilson 84). Lancing Rovers 201-5 (N. Derbyshire 12-0-22-1). Lost by 5 wickets.
OACC 225-9 dec (J. Carter 125). Hampstead 228-2. Lost by 8 wickets.
OACC 200 (Hon PB Fitzherbert 67*). Guards 179 (T Scrope 4-22). Won by 21 runs.
OACC 162 Ampleforth 1st XI 164-6 (R. Wilson 4-46). Lost by 4 wickets.
OACC 70 Ampleforth 1st XI innings did not start due to rain. Drawn.
OACC 162-6 dec (Hon PB Fitzherbert 46*). Yorkshire Gentlemen 163-4. Lost by 6 wickets.
OACC 152 (J Elliot 50). Felted Robins 154-9 (Evan Cutten 6-42). Lost by 1 wicket.
Old Greories 141-9 (J Kennedy 3-31). Drawn. Rain.
St Moritz 239-9 dec (D Churton 6-92). OACC 240-6 (P Field 70, N Derbyshire 50*). Won by 4 wickets.
OACC 238-7 dec (S Evans 53*, F O'Connor 51*). Oratory School Society 239-2. Lost by 8 wickets.
Emeriti 186-9 dec (S Evans 5-46). OACC 110 (M Cooper 44). Lost by 76 runs.
OACC 171 (T Scrope 43). Cryptics 172-9 (T Scrope 5-25, T Pinsent 2-20). Lost by 1 wicket.
Bluemantles 144 (F O'Connor 3-86, M Low 3-70). OACC 146-3 (J Elliot 58, M Hadcock 52) Won by 7 wickets.
Old Rossallians 249-7 dec (M Low 41, H Scrope 40). OACC 213 (F O'Connor 3-86, M Low 3-70). Lost by 36 runs.
Grannies 222-9 dec (S Evans 3-71), OACC 221-8 (P Field 77, T Scrope 52, M Low 40). Drawn
OACC 100 Free Foresters 101-4, Lost by 6 wks
OACC 210-6 dec (H Hickman 87), Stragglers of Asia 28-7 (J Kennedy 4-9, T Pinsent 3-12). Drawn — rain stopped play
OACC 234-7 dec (N Read 106, B Beardmore-Gray 66), Hurlingham 210-8 (D Churton 5-87, F O'Connor 3-39), Drawn
OACC 196 Kennedy 52), Gentlemen of Staffordshire 197-6, Lost by 4 wks
OACC 124 (F O'Connor 59*), Eton Rambler 125-1. Lost by 9 wks

The 1996 Season is not one that will stand out for special mention by historians of the game; nevertheless it may portend better things to come. In particular, it was good to find that more of the talented players from recent school vintages are able to give more of their time to the OACC. This is of particular importance for our future in the Cricketer Cup, where our showing has been poor in recent years. Special thanks are due to those who made it all possible: the Headmaster and the Guestmaster for the OACC weekend; Miles Wright (T62) and Caroline and Adrian Brennan (W58) for the tour; Dominic Harrison (H81) for captaining the Cricketer Cup side; Tom Scrope (E90) for his second year of tour management; Martin Hattrell (B52) for the fixture list; Ray Twogood (C71) for financial probity; Caris and Willoughby Wynne (B52) for the AGM; and Mr B for his off the field administration and support.

AB

Shooting — The Old Amplefordian Rifle Club
Each year, on the third Thursday in July, the Club takes part in the Veterans' Competition at Bisley, competing with other Old Boys. Two teams are entered, a total of ten, and in the evening a dinner and presentation is held. In July 1995 and July 1996 the two rising stars of the Club won the Utley-Ainscough Cup for the best Ampleforth performance: in 1995 JAMES ROBSON (A92) with a score of 48.4 and in 1996 MICHAEL PUGH (T94).

The Ampleforth Society: 114th Annual General Meeting
The AGM of the Society was held at Ampleforth on 6 April 1996. The 1995 Charities Act required changes in the Constitutions of the Society, and new Constitutions were approved to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners for clearance. Membership of the Society was 3,156.

Revenue Account — for the year ended 31 December 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>1994</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members' annual subscriptions</td>
<td>13,310</td>
<td>13,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life subscriptions</td>
<td>26,387</td>
<td>15,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>9,720</td>
<td>6,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and stockbrokers interest</td>
<td>2,554</td>
<td>2,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on investments</td>
<td>11,156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£63,127</td>
<td>£39,031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Income         | £63,127 | £39,031 |
|                      |         |         |
| Members' Journals    | 19,200  | 24,304  |
| Bursaries            | 15,000  | 15,000  |
| Administrative costs | 1,557   | 1,157   |
| Loss on investments  |         | 9,481   |
| Total Expenditure    | £35,757 | £49,942 |
|                      |         |         |
| Surplus (Deficit) for year ending 31 Dec 1995 | £27,370 | £(10,911) |

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>1994</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>135,921</td>
<td>129,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>68,178</td>
<td>47,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>204,099</td>
<td>176,729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuller accounts can be obtained from the Hon General Secretary, Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO6 4EN.
Future events

It is hoped to invite Old Boys to Ampleforth for the weekend of 30 August to 1 September 1997: to a celebratory dinner and the 1997 AGM of the Ampleforth Society. On the occasion of the Ampleforth Sevens on 9 March 1997, Old Amplefordians are invited to lunch -- please write/telephone the Hon Sec, 01439 766 797.

OA Notes are available on the Internet: http/www.ampleforth.org.uk/-college/oanews.htm

The Ampleforth Address Book 1996 was published in August 1996, and distributed in September 1996 to members of the Ampleforth Society and other Old Boys who requested a copy. The Address Book contains as far as possible the addresses, telephone and fax numbers of all Old Amplefordians; previous Address Books (the last was in 1990) were limited to the addresses of members only. Copies are available from The Hon Secretary, Ampleforth Society, Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO6 4EN, enclosing a cheque for £5 payable to The Ampleforth Society. It is intended to publish supplements of changes in November 1997 and November 1998, and a new Address Book in November 1999.

Army Officer

The Army has a continuing need for high quality young men and women who seek the challenge of leadership in service as Officers (Regular or Short Service).

We require graduates and non-graduates, technical and non-technical.

We offer Sixth Form and University Sponsorships.

If at school, see your Careers Teacher or write direct to:

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Barker OBE,
School Liaison Officer,
Imphal Barracks, York YO1 4HD
Tel: York (0904) 662402
Hawnby Hotel, Hawnby

(01439) 798202

Eight miles north of Ampleforth in the North York Moors National Park. Recently completely refurbished and now under the personal supervision of the Countess of Mexborough. Secluded old Water-Mill holiday cottage (two double bedrooms) also available.

George and Dragon Hotel, Kirkbymoorside

(01751) 433344

Welcoming Old Coaching Inn with log fire, real ales and lots of rugby and cricket memorabilia. Interesting fine food in bar and restaurant, fresh fish, shellfish, and game, available every lunchtime and evening. Sunday lunch a speciality. Good value accommodation with 20 ‘En Suite’ bedrooms refurbished and upgraded by resident new owners, Stephen and Frances Colling. Weekend Bargain Breaks. 18 Hole Golf Course on doorstep.

Ryedale Lodge, Nunnington

(01439) 748246

Once the village railway station, now a charming small hotel with renowned restaurant, personally run by Jon and Janet Laird. Set in a peaceful and tranquil location one mile from village. Seven pretty en suite bedrooms.

Fairfax Arms, Gilling

(01439) 788212

Country Pub situated by the stream. Close to Ampleforth Junior School and College Golf Course. Serving a wide selection of bar meals every lunchtime and evening. Two Holiday Cottages also available.

The School

OFFICIALS

Head Monitor: J.P.E. Townley (T)
Deputy Head Monitor: E.H.K. O’Malley (D)

Monitors

St Aidan’s: M.A. Hirst, R. Exposito
St Benet’s: B.T.A. Pennington, G.M. Milbourn
St Cuthbert’s: A.E.J. Hughes, M.S. Shilton
St Dunstan’s: R.W.A. Burnett, D.J. Brisby
St Edward’s: J. Brennan, J.P. Arlethamore
St Hugh’s: S.R. Barra, R.A.L. Brenninkmeyer
St John’s: J. Wong, W.M. Hobbs
St Oswald’s: G.E. Furze, J.K. Lomax
St Thomas’s: J.W. Gilbey, C.N. Luckhurst
St Wilfred’s: L.G.A. Doimi de Frankopan, B.R. Brenninkmeyer

Games Captains

Athletics: D.B. Freeland (J)
Cricket: M.A. Hirst (A)
Golf: A.E.J. Hughes (C)
Hockey: M.A. Hirst (A)
Rugby: S.R. Barra (H)
Shooting: L.A. Anderson (E)
Squash: M.S. Shilton (C)
Swimming: R.A. Jackson (T)
Tennis: A.J. Mallia (D)
Basketball: D. Herrera S de Vicuna (J)

Librarians


Bookshop

M.J. Asquith (O), H.A. Baderioch (O), P.C.K. Duncombe (O), P.B. Fane-Saunders (W), R.A.J. Fraser (B), J.M.J. Horsfield (D), C.M. Ogilvie (E), E.H.K. O’Malley (D), J.H. Strick van Linschoten (O), H.P.S. Thompson (O).

Stationery Shop

I.E. Campbell-Davys (T), A.E.J. Hughes (C), G.M. Milbourn (B), S.J.L. Walsh (A).
The following boys left the School in 1996:

March
S. Montes (D), M.I. Hertz (O).

June
St Aidan’s

St Bede’s

St Cuthbert’s

St Dunstan’s

St Edward’s

St Hugh’s

St John’s

St Oswald’s

St Thomas’s

St Wilfrid’s

The following boys joined the school in 1996:

June
P.J.M. de Raismes (A), G. de Vaulchier (J).

CONFIRMATION 1996

At the Sunday Mass on 5 May 1996, Bishop Crowley administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to the following boys: T.J.L. Anderson (C), M. Artiach (C), G.H.A. Bamford (B), C.A. Ban (H), V.H.W. Black (J), E.D.C. Brennan (E), J.L. Burns (W), J. Calvo (T), R. Cardenal (J), L.G. Charles-Edwards (J), K.M. Chen (B), A.T. Christie (B), R.S. Christie (H), F.J. Crichton-Stuart (E), G.X. De Phil (H), T.C.R. Dixon (B), R.R. Driver (A), B.C.K. Duncombe (O), R.M. Edwards (C), N.T. Elhajj (J), E. Elz (B), H.A. Elliot (O), T.B. Foster (H), J.T. Gaynor (T), C.N. Gilbay (T), E.S.D. Hall (E), A.J. Havelock (T), E.D.L. Hodges (W), R.C. Hollas (T), D.K. Ikwueke (C), A. Lau (A), D.F.A. Leach (O), H.M.O. Lukas (O), T.H. Lyes (O), R.D.L. MacHure (J), F.P. McHugh (B), C.A. Mbonbvirvichoendhi (A), S. Montier (H), H.P.W. Moore (T), P.J. Morrogh-Bernard (C), C.P. Noughten (E), P.G.E. Orrell (J), C.A. Radico (W), J. Perez-Corre (W), L.F. Poloniecki (H), J.W. Reardon-Carr (E), O.W. Reskell (H), R.C.W. Scrope (E), A.J. Sherbrooke (W), F.M. Sveridan-Johnson (W), M. Spitzy (C), M.J. Squire (T), W.E. Thomson (H), T.N. Todd (B), P.J.D. Tolhurst (C), M. Tomaszewski (T), G.S. West (H) and E.W.S. Williams (B).

In the period from October 1995 to May 1996, the preparation for the Sacrament had been led by the following: C.R.H. Acton (E), J.P. Arundrott (E), M.J. Asquith (O), A.S. Biller (A), T.D. Bowen-Wright (H), C.M.B. Eimer (J), C.R.H. Finch (W), D.B. Freeland (J), J.W. Gilbay (T), D.A.R. Grahame (A), J.A. Horn (J), A.E.J. Hughes (C), J.D. Lentaigue (H), A.D.J. Macdonald (B), J.X. Martin (H), B.J.A. Macfarlane (W), S.R.O. McNabb (T), G.M. Milbourn (B), D.M.N.d.W. Nicholas (H), D.P. Poloniecki (H), E.D.J. Porter (H), H.M. Sherbrooke (E), M.S. Shilton (C), H.P.S. Thompson (O) and N.P.J. Zoltowski (H). These boys were the leaders of small house groups meeting to...
pray, read the scriptures, listen to instruction and to discuss. Each year, those Catholics not confirmed (there were about 130 not confirmed in September 1995, from all five years in the school) are invited to consider the possibility of being confirmed in that year. About half of these asked to begin preparation in October and, at the end of the period of preparation, they can ask to be confirmed. The beginning of the preparation was marked formally by Mass on the Feast of Christ the King and, in Lent, there was a Mass amongst the Confirmandi about the sharing of the gifts of the Spirit. On the eve of the Confirmation all met with many parents and friends in the crypt for a vigil in music and word, organised by Fr Kevin.

HEADMASTER'S LECTURES

The first four lectures of the 1995-96 season were noted in the previous Journal. These were lectures by General Sir Charles Guthrie GCB LVO OBE ADC (Chief of the General Staff), Mr Stewart Purvis (Chief Executive ITN), Lord Rees-Mogg and Lord Donoughoe. A further six lectures are noted below.

19 January 1996: Mr Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent, The Independent. 'The Writer's Lot: How image dominates reality or the rooster lost its call'. Mr Robert Fisk discussed the way television reporting has changed the role of the print journalists. He illustrated his theme from extracts of a three part television series he had made on the Lebanon and Bosnia, and kindly gave us a copy of this film. Although academically his main studies have been of Irish history and politics, Mr Fisk has covered the Middle East from Beirut for 20 years, first with The Times and later with The Independent. He currently covers the Middle East (except Israel), North Africa, the southern part of the former Soviet Union, and sometimes the war in Bosnia (his American wife is Time correspondent for roughly the same area). At a time when Westerners were liable to kidnapping, and one of his best friends Terry Anderson had been kidnapped, Robert Fisk described how he avoided being captured — often confusing his potential capturers by setting false trails to the airport, and sometimes being traced through the streets of Beirut. The text of the first half of his talk was printed in the previous Journal.

29 January 1996: Dr David Butler CBE 'Why elections?' Dr David Butler talked about the meaning of elections and analysed the factors which decide British general elections. Dr Butler is a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford and of Nuffield College, Oxford. He ran a weekly seminar on British politics at Oxford for many years and is the author of the Nuffield series on British elections. The early BBC television election results programmes (eg 1955, 1959) had revolved around Richard Dimbleby, Robert McKenzie and David Butler. Dr Butler spoke of the factors which cause election results. In answering questions, he considered aspects of current British politics. He spoke of Black Wednesday as perhaps the decisive electoral moment of the current Parliament.

6 March 1996: Sir David Miers KBE CMG, British Ambassador to Holland 'Diplomacy in the Twenty-First Century'. Sir David Miers discussed the changing nature of diplomacy. He compared the nature of diplomacy in different periods, and explained the current roles of diplomats. Sir David discussed the challenges ahead for diplomats at a time of the changing nature of communications and of the questioning of the nation state.

13 March 1996: Mr Charles Moore, Editor, The Daily Telegraph 'Running a daily newspaper'. Mr Charles Moore had been Editor of The Daily Telegraph for about four months, having previously been Editor of The Sunday Telegraph. He talked about the role of a daily newspaper. Describing the evolving events of a day at The Daily Telegraph, from the first morning editorial conference to the developing events of the day, Mr Moore considered the practical and moral issues involved in making editorial decisions. He explained how television had changed the role of newspapers. He compared the differing relationships of journalist and newspaper in different newspapers and with different proprietors.

19 April 1996: Lord Nolan of Brasted, Chairman of Committee of Standards in Public Life (Nolan Committee). Lord Nolan (C46) talked about the Nolan Report. He spoke, explaining its background and the questions it raised. Questions were raised about the correct role of the press in a free society and whether the two reporters of The Sunday Times who tricked two MPs into paying money to ask parliamentary questions were justified in their action. It was this event that led directly to the setting up of the Nolan Inquiry by John Major.

10 May 1996: Mr John Greenway, MP for Ryedale 'Are we being too soft on criminals? and the work of the Home Affairs Select Committee'. As a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr Greenway talked about the question of the correct punishment of criminals in our society and also, as an overlapping subject, the history and record of departmental Select Committees set up in 1979 by Parliament (by the then Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House of Commons). In some detail, he explained the work of the Home Affairs Committee.
EXHIBITION PRIZES

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS AND ESSAYS

(SENIOR: ALPHA)
Julian Chan
The Hong Kong Economy (Mr McAleenan)

Garry S. Chung
The Gates of Heavenly Peace (Mrs R Fletcher)

Nicholas W. Lyon Dean
The Malayan Paradox (Mr Brennan)

Peter T. Sidgwick
The Relationships Between Climatic Change and the Adaptation of Man (Mr Brennan)

Thomas R.W. Strange
The relationship between gods and men in Homer (Mr Doe)

Thomas N. Todd
The Sultanate of Oman (Mr McAleenan)

(SENIOR: BETA)
Anthony J. Arthur
A History of Language in the British Isles (Mr Doe)

Alexis S. Biller
The Problem of Induction (Mr Béaum)

Timothy J.E. Coulson
Hunting: 'The Golden Thread' (Mrs R Fletcher)

Edward Ho
Something About Nuclear Power (Mr Levaat)

Paul N. Larner
Burma Under the British (Fr Davoid)

Edwin Leung
Uses of Production Above and Below the Line in the UK and the Far East (Mr McAleenan)

Raoul S. Sreenivasan
Kuala Lumpur City Centre: Meeting the Needs of the People (Mr McAleenan)

Jonathan B. Wong
Why is the new Hong Kong airport needed? (Mr McAleenan)

(JUNIOR: ALPHA)
Anthony E. Agnew
Animals in Poetry (Mr Carter)

Robert S. Christie
Culloden and the Forty-Five (Dr McCoy)

Patrick C.K. Duncombe
First Impressions of Paris (Mr Carter)

Christopher P. Larner
The Life and Role of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, Past, Present and Future (Fr Davoid)

Christian E.C. McDermott
Berlin: the West's Trojan Horse (Mr Connor)

(JUNIOR: BETA)
Kevin O. Anakwe
My Life (Mr Carter)

Peter M. Barrett
Middlesbrough Football Club (Mr Thurman)

HEADMASTER’S LECTURES ESSAY PRIZES

Jack P. Arbuthnott
(D)

Dominic J. Brisby
(E)

Edward H.K. O’Malley
(D)

HEADMASTER’S SPECIAL PRIZES

James H. Arthur
(D)

Paul R. Frouf
(J)

In their main GCSE year, they have unfailingly committed themselves to a wide range of musical activities, both performance-related and organisational – College Orchestra, Pro Musica, the Schola Cantorum, the Barbershop Quartet and the Ampleforth Singers which they jointly organise and conduct - without detriment to their effort in academic study, but above all with great goodwill and cheerfulness.
ELWES PRIZES

These prizes are awarded by the Headmaster for sustained and high-quality contribution to school life outside the classroom, in addition to an excellent academic and personal record.

Jack P. Arbuthnott (E)

For his work in the Panasonic Room and in the Theatre. He was both cameraman and chief video editor for the film version of Chekhov's Ward 6. His desk-top publishing and design expertise has for some time been behind the production of theatre programmes, school magazines (The Ampleforth News for almost as long as he has been here; Foot on the Ground for Exhibition 1995), and posters for School Society events. To all of this he has brought wit, intelligence, creativity and a strong underlying sense of quiet integrity. The award of a place to read PPE at Oxford is evidence of the true scholarship of his academic work, sustained throughout.

Piers D. Holier (H)

For some time he was active in the Theatre, helping with production and in the Greenroom. Last year he assumed the position of Secretary of the Natural History Society, and he is currently Chairman of the Co-ordinating Group of FACE-FAW. In this he has found a practical outlet for his deep-seated sense of justice and his genuine care for others, and has brought to the task a typically unpretentious dedication and generosity of his own time, against a background of sustained academic effort.

Abhijit Hosangady (D)

For his fine contribution to a number of areas of the School's life. Not only has he been a long-standing member of the Schola Cantorum and of the School Orchestra, but his general contribution to the Music Department has been significant. His work in the Panasonic Room too has been most instructive, and he has also managed to maintain his position as a regular member of the School Fencing team. His natural habitat is beyond the scenes, but the effects of his dedication, of his loyalty and of his genuine concern for the welfare of others, shine out. His academic effort in the sciences has been distinguished and the world of Medicine, in which he intends to make his career, will be the richer for his presence.

Samuel R. McNabb (T)

For his positive work as Secretary of the English Society, giving willingly of his own time to that Society's poetry and music presentation in the Helmsley Arts Centre, and to the Lenten meditations in the Abbey Church. A serious concern for the victims of oppression has brought from him an equally positive commitment as Secretary of the School's Amnesty International group. His work for the Theatre, where he has delivered a number of memorable performances, has also been notable, and we recognise here that, in common with all recipients of this particular Prize, he has never sought to draw attention to his merits, and has cheerfully sustained a full programme of academic work to a high standard.

ARMY SCHOLARSHIP

Michael E. Pepper (D)

SPECIAL PRIZES

Scholarship Bowl

St Dunstan's House

Edward H.K. O'Malley

Philip's Theatre Bowl

Michael A. Hirst

Grossmith Jelley Acting Prize

Samuel R.O. McNabb

Production Cup

Hamish A. Badenoch

Hugh Milbourn Magic Lantern

Edward E. Barlow

Determinate Music Prize

Abhijit Hosangady

McComigal Music Prize

Adam R. Wright

Choral Prize

Abhijit Hosangady

Conrad Martin Music Prize

Laurence D.O. MacPaul

Quirke Debating Prize

Dominic J. Braby

Inter-House Debating Cup

St Oswald's House

Inter-House Chess Trophy

Hamish A. Badenoch

Inter-House Bridge Trophy

St Dunstan's House

(Beadmore-Gray Trophy)

Gildas P.E. Walton

Yorkshire Contract Bridge Schools Pairs Competition

Michael A. Hirst

Bernard Sunley Centre Prizes

Swainston Trophy for Technology

Richard W. Thackray

Herald Trophy for Art

Peter T. Clark

Gaynor Trophy for Art (Photography)

Jacques-Michael Suter

Michael Barton Photography Bowl

Richard J.C. Farr

Spence Photography Bowl

Jack B. Brockbank

Tignarius Trophy for Craft

Christopher N. Luckhurst
The following prizes are awarded for work done in a boy's own time, independent of that done for examinations.

**UVI**
- A. Peter Haslam-Fox (W) Art Folio Alpha
- João de Macedo (B) Art Folio Alpha

**MVI**
- Samuel R. Allerton (C) Art Folio Alpha
- Guy J. Massey (D) Art Folio Alpha
- Andrew G. Riddell-Carre (E) Art Folio Beta 1
- George A.B. Blackwell (E) Art Folio Alpha
- Robert M. Carney (W) Art Folio Alpha
- Alan D. Dale (C) Trailer Beta 1
- Frederic P. Dormeuil (D) Bicycle Trailer Alpha
- Simon R. Harle (C) Art Folio Alpha
- Nicholas T.F. Hornby (J) Art Folio Alpha
- Michael B.E. Kerrison (W) Boat Launcher Beta 1
- Robert L. McLane (A) Weedkiller System Alpha

**Vth FORM**
- Christian E.C. McDermott (D) Art Folio Alpha
- Richard D.L. MacLure (J) Art Folio Alpha
- Julian J.L. Roberts (J) Art Folio Alpha

**IVth FORM**
- James R. Bradley (H) Mini Enterprise Beta 1
- Daniel J. Davison (D) Art Folio Alpha
- James M. Osborne (J) Art Folio Alpha
- Laurence E.A. Richardson (B) Submarine Alpha

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**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S GOLD AWARD**
- Charles R.L. Berry (T)
- Edward W. Carney (C)
- Adrian O.W. Chan (W)
- Simon C. Goodall (W)
- William R.J. Guest (W)

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**THE SCHOOL**

**MATHEMATICS COMPETITION**

**Sharpe Intermediate UK Schools Mathematical Competition 1996: Gold Certificates**
- Sandy T. Christie (B) (Best Performance in School)
- James S. Paul (J)
- Kevin O. Anakwe (A)
- Uzoma G. Igboaka (D)
- Daniel J. Kirkpatrick (B)
- James D. Melling (J)
- Thomas R. Westmacott (T)
- Anthony C. Clavel (O)
- Christopher J. Cowell (T)
- Michael J. Square (T)
- James W. Tarleton (C)
- Louis S.J. Warren (W)
- Robert C. Hollas (T)
- Philip J. Morrogh-Bernard (B)
- Julian J.L. Roberts (J)
- Robert S. Christie (H)
- John E.G. Shields (J)
- Alexander Chelepov (W)
- Thomas G. Rose (W)
- Killian Sinnott (J)
- Keith M. Chiu (B)
- Patrick J.D. Tohuit (C)
- Andrew G. Miller (J)
- John F.G. Shields (T)
- Alexander Chelepov (B)
- Philip J. Morrogh-Bernard (W)
- Julian J.L. Roberts (J)
- Robert S. Christie (B)
- John E.G. Shields (T)
- Patrick J.D. Tohult (C)
- Andrew G. Miller (J)
- John F.G. Shields (T)

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In addition Sandy T. Christie, James S. Paul, Kevin O. Anakwe, Uzoma G. Igboaka and Daniel J. Kirkpatrick were invited to take part in the second invitation round of the competition, where Uzoma G. Igboaka was awarded a certificate of distinction.

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**EXHIBITION CUPS**

**Athletics**
- **Senior Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St John's House
  - Julien A. Horn
- **Junior Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St Hugh's House
  - John A. Henningway

**Cross-Country**
- **Senior Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St John's House
  - David G. Jackson
- **Junior ‘A’ Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St Edward's House
  - Joseph Brennan
- **Junior ‘B’ Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St Dunstan's House
  - Edward H.Y. O'Malley

**Golf**
- **Ballieu Trophy**
  - St Cuthbert's House
  - Alexi E.J. Hughes

**Rugby Football**
- **Senior Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - (Chamberlain Cup)
  - St Thomas's House
  - Morcar S. McConnell
- **Junior Inter-House Challenge Cup**
  - St Hugh's House
  - Stephane R. Banna
- **The League (Lowis Cup)**
  - St Oswald's House
  - William R. Evers
Swimming
The Inter-House Challenge Cup
St Hugh's House  Raoul S. Sreenivasan

Squash Rackets
The Ginone & Unsworth Cup (Senior Inter-House Squash) St Hugh's House
Roderick A.L. Breninkmeyer
The Railing Cup (Junior Inter-House Squash) St Bede's House  Daniel J. Gallagher

SPECIAL AWARD
The Headmaster's Sports Cup  Diego Herrera S de Vicuna  (J)
Diego Herrera has represented the School with distinction at several sports including 1st XV Rugby, tennis, athletics and water-polo. He has always been committed and cheerful in all teams, at whatever level he was selected.
He has been a marvellous example to the younger boys in the School. He has been particularly supportive in House Games, where he has played with distinction and also supported others whilst they have been playing.

SUMMER TERM 1995: CUP AND PRIZEWINNERS

Cricket
Downey Cup for the best cricketer  Harry R.P. Lucas  (E)
Younghusband Cup for the best bowler  Thomas E. Pinsent  (C)
Best Cricketer Under 15 Colts  Edward M.H. Johnston Stewart  (D)
St Aiden's House
Senior Inter-House Cricket Cup  St John's House
Junior Inter-House Cricket Cup  St John's House
Summer Games Cup

Tennis
Doubles Cup
Singles Cup
Under 15 Singles Cup
Inter-House Tennis Cup

Golf
The Baillicue Inter-House Trophy  St Cuthbert's House

Swimming
Inter-House Swimming Cup
St Hugh's House
Individual All Rounder
Martin D.J. Hickie  (J)
Henry M. Bennetts  (H)
Andrew Lau  (A)
Martín D.J. Hickie  (J)

RICHARD GILBERT retired in July 1996 after thirty years teaching chemistry at Ampleforth.
A brief examination of the formative influences in Richard Gilbert's early life suggests that they left their mark. His mother, under the pen name of Ruth Ainsworth, was a prolific writer of children's books. His father was a chemist who made available a regular supply of spectacular ingredients for Richard's chemistry set. Early family holidays were spent on the hills. Richard and his twin brothers are separated in age by only a year and, in their teens, the threesome missed no opportunity to travel to the mountains in this country and abroad where they became largely self-taught but highly skilled and experienced climbers and mountaineers. His secondary schooling was blissfully happy at Saint George's, a coeducational boarding school in Harpenden. Add to these influences an early love of reading, of music and of sport and one sees very readily the origins of the many fine qualities which Richard brought to Ampleforth and which made him such a successful and well loved school teacher and colleague.

On leaving St George's in 1956, he gained a place at Oxford but the 'call-up' was in its final days and he went first into REME to do his National Service. Here he made unusually rapid progress to the rank of Captain whilst also becoming Southern Command snooker champion!
At Oxford he read Chemistry at Worcester College but his studies were always combined with a degree of adventure. Inevitably, he joined the Oxford University Mountaineering Club. In the 1960s the OUMC was one of the foremost mountaineering clubs in the country and Richard achieved the great honour of being elected its President. But his adventures were not confined to the hills. In his final year he survived being nearly killed in a motor cycling accident and spent several weeks in the Radcliffe Infirmary. It was while at Oxford that he met his wife, Trisha, and they were married in 1962.
After Oxford he began work in the confectionery industry and in 1965 he was with Rowntree of York as a graduate trainee in the products diversification department. His first proposal was the launch of a new fizzy drink. However, after several months and considerable development costs to the company the project was abruptly abandoned when it was discovered that the new drink corroded its container. It was perhaps no coincidence that at about this time Richard's thoughts turned to teaching! His first and only teaching post was at Ampleforth and he taught here for 30 years with great distinction. Rowntree's loss was unquestionably Ampleforth's gain and countless Ampleforth boys and
staff will be glad that he made this decision. Genetic selection could clearly be
given some of the credit for Ampleforth's good fortune and for Richard's range
of talents. Such an explanation would have satisfied him since, despite his long
association with this Catholic school, he could find no place for divine
intervention or an act of God. These beliefs did not, however, spare him from
carrying a very heavy Mass kit up several thousand feet for Father Michael on
one of the school's expeditions to Norway.

He joined the chemistry department in 1966 under Dick Goodman and
has taught the wide spectrum of Ampleforth's intake ever since. He remained,
perhaps through choice, an 'assistant' teacher in the department but his love of
the subject survived three heads of Chemistry and seven heads of Science as
well as countless changes of syllabus and examination structure plus the trials of
working in our ageing laboratories. Although a traditionalist who never
neglected the essentials, he managed to embrace many new ideas about his
subject and in 1985 took a sabbatical term at York University to keep abreast of
trends in its teaching. He had a wonderful knack of inspiring the gifted whilst
also being able to boost the esteem of the slowest pupils. He was not a slave to
the syllabus nor was he averse to introducing the odd 'red herring' on sport or
the latest school gossip when interest was flagging. If he had a preference for
any area of teaching it was for those heady days of seventh term Oxbridge
entrance when he could delight in stimulating the sharpest minds and pushing
them to their academic limits.

He was a good 'Common Room' man in every way. His wise counsel and
friendship was sought and valued by junior colleagues and senior staff alike. He
was a President of the Common Room as well as serving on a number of
committees. Ten years ago he chaired a group working on systems for staff
appraisal. The proposals were shelved but ironically, a decade later, a very similar scheme has been introduced — just...

It was in the mountains, however, where Richard was at his most assured, where he gained the greatest distinction and where he made perhaps his
largest contributions to Ampleforth life. In 1971 he became the one
hundredth person to climb all the Scottish mountains over three thousand feet,
(the Munros). He has been a prolific and well read author of books on the
outdoors, especially his beloved Scottish mountains. He writes a column for
High magazine each month and has done so since the magazine first appeared
thirteen years ago. He has had nine books published of which the third, Classic
Walks, went immediately into the Sunday Times best sellers' list and the last, Exploring the Far North West of Scotland, gained first prize for the best guide
Society and between then and 1989 led or accompanied parties all over the
British Isles as well as to Iceland (four times), Morocco, Arctic Norway (twice)
and, ultimately, the Himalayas. By 1977 Richard had schooled a vintage era of
boy climbers together with a number of experienced members of staff. This
and the support of Fr Patrick, the then Headmaster, made possible the first
schoolboy trip to the Himalayas. It was a spectacular success and earned
Richard the award of a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship which he
received from the Queen Mother. Those who wish to read more of these
expeditions should consult Richard's book Young Explorers or the unexpurgated
version in the article Now It Can Be Told in the Ampleforth News of June 1996.

In the classroom or elsewhere some of his qualities seemed as much in
conflict as complementary. Although a professed liberal he holds some extreme
right wing views. He loves wildlife but has an intense dislike of dogs. He loves
company but only of his own choosing, and has a Wainwright-like dislike for
other parties of walkers. He worked in the heart of North Yorkshire for over
thirty years but obstinately remains an ardent supporter of Lancashire cricket.

When he organises a visit for colleagues and wives to the opera or theatre, when
he writes him a bad report lest his parents should take him away from the school.
"Well it's been nice knowing you" was Richard's spontaneous reply.

Recently the kidney disorder which was a factor in his early retirement
takes the edge off his pace and endurance in the mountains and I and other
colleagues have been privileged to accompany him on many less demanding
trips into the hills. The ingredient for the success of these trips, as with
anything else which he does, is the unifying influence of Richard himself. He
has shared his many gifts and interests with his pupils and his colleagues in a
most unassuming way. His enthusiasm, never overstated, is infectious. It shows
when he organises a visit for colleagues and wives to the opera or theatre, when
he goes with a friend to the test match, when he leads a chemistry set through a well loved topic, when he describes the latest book he has read on, of course, when he leads a party of boys or friends in the outdoors, whether in the Himalayas or on the banks of the Rye. In his farewell address for Richard, Fr Leo paid a handsome and deserved compliment in saying that 'many who have been touched by Richard’s teaching, whether in the classroom or on the hills, have as a result become enthused'. Such is the mark of a distinguished schoolmaster.

Richard and his wife Trisha will now have more time to continue exploring the more remote and beautiful parts of the world. This summer they achieved another 'first' by visiting the islands of St Kilda and in January they open another chapter with a voyage to the Antarctic. When term begins in September they will be visiting friends in the Pyrenees. I hope they will raise a glass of wine to us. We will be thinking about them and wishing them much future happiness.

ALEXANDRA WESTON. It is not just the Classics Department that will sorely feel the lack of Alexandra Weston at Ampleforth this Autumn. For the three years she was a member of the Common Room, she was a source of lively inspiration to the boys and to her colleagues in every respect, whether in class, in the library, in the music school, in St Hugh’s, where she was a tutor, or in any one of the very many ways she gave her time unstintingly to the school.

Alexandra joined the staff in September 1993 fresh from her PGCE at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where she had also been an undergraduate. Immediately, she threw herself with great competence and efficiency into her work, and began to develop the relaxed and friendly teaching style that became her hallmark. It came as quite a shock to some boys to realise that they had been studying Greek for longer than their new teacher, who had only taken it up while at Cambridge. However, it was not long before the younger boys were grateful for her cheerful approach and boys in the Upper School came increasingly to respect her intelligence and lack of pretentiousness. They came also to respect her common sense and presence of mind when in a dramatic moment during the Classical trip to Greece, she successfully used her Demotic Greek to persuade a farmer to help salvage her car from the Boeotian field it had been swept into by flash floods.

Music played a great part in her life at Ampleforth. She played the oboe and cor anglais in the school orchestra, for which she regularly took sectional rehearsals and at one time taught GCSE chamber music. As well as playing in numerous school concerts and recitals, she was organist at St Hilda’s, Ampleforth, where she worshipped, and was a valued member of the York Guildhall Orchestra.

Alexandra was first of all First Year tutor in St Hugh’s, and then became tutor for the Sixth Form. Popular with her tutees, she was also a familiar face to all the boys of the House, often presiding at supper and looking after the house when Fr Christian was away. She divided much of her time outside the classroom between there and the library where she was a great help to John Davies and where her (and other teachers’) pupils would frequently go to seek her help with the latest unseen or prose.

However, it was in St Hugh’s that she met her future husband, Giles Nightingale, then a fellow Hugh’s tutor. After Giles left the staff, he came to visit her from London every weekend without fail, even taking the opportunity to learn to drive during Alexandra’s Saturday teaching. Following their wedding, they now live in West Hampstead, it turns out that Ampleforth’s loss has been gain for Haberdashers’ Aske’s School for Girls in Elstree. We all hope that they appreciate her considerable talents and wish her happiness and success for her future life.

ROBERT HALL was our post-graduate student teacher for the academic year 1995/96. He came to us from Bangor University where, in addition to his academic studies, he had been organ scholar at the Cathedral and had also taught brass instruments at a number of schools in the town. He taught class music at both the College and the Junior School, gave piano and organ lessons and coached boys for theory exams. He was involved with extra-curricular music-making, taking House Mass rehearsals, sectional rehearsals of the Schola Cantorum and Wind Band, supervising music practice and coaching U14 rugby. He was even prepared, on occasion, to dust off his counter tenor voice and help out the Schola in times of need. Although his ultimate intention is to teach, Robert has returned to Bangor where he is studying for a Masters degree.

IAN HOCKLEY. Ian initially joined us for one term. He had been involved in doctoral research at Birmingham University and his move to Ampleforth gave him the opportunity to test further his teaching vocation before making his next professional move. He proved to be an excellent class teacher: wide and deep knowledge of the subject (a number of his research articles had been published) ensuring that he gave his pupils a rich diet of music, broadening their horizons and sharpening their perceptions. Indeed he found success at every level, his General Studies course being extremely popular. Although
most of Ian's contribution to music centred on the classroom, he also assisted with Schola and, early music being one of his passions, formed a baroque trio. He was interested in the boys' and staff's welfare, sensitive to the tensions within the school and department and capable of defusing awkward situations by prompt action. We were pleased when his contract was extended but realised that Ian was keen to widen his experience. By Christmas the temptation was too great and he accepted the post of Director of Chapel Music at Guildford Grammar School, Perth, Australia. It is not only staff who are in touch with him but pupils and ex-pupils who in so many ways gained so much from his short time at Ampleforth.

IDL

The Common Room bid farewell in its customary manner to colleagues who left the School at the end of the Summer Term: Richard Gilbert (Chemistry), Alexandra Weston (Classics), Alison Lovat (Classics), Robert Hall (Music), Florian Abbenseth (German assistant) and Jerome Hulin (French assistant). We congratulate Pippa and William Dore on the birth of a daughter, Emily Olga Suzanne. Congratulations and best wishes were also conveyed to Alex and Giles Nightingale on their marriage in the Abbey Church in July. We are pleased to publish this sonnet, composed by Andrew Carter to celebrate the event.

DFB

The Cloud-Blown Summer Marriage Sonnet

for Alex and Giles

13 July 1996

Some are brief islands but some continents
that move in procession with the ice-
blue sky behind ridges of troubled green;
the summer of your wedding's been
fresh and moody, sunshine replaced by sudden
weight of darkness, clouds that rear on
the heart like Goya's monsters, hurling rain,
then light and the birds singing again.

Today there's warmer music, that watery sound
of larks under grey clouds, and a chuckling ground
of pigeons; and then up with fraught grace

an epiphany, as doves like quick silver form
bright contours on the spreading map of the storm,
for, like yours, love is its own place.

Andrew Carter

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Exhibition
HEADMASTER'S SPEECH 1996

LEO CHAMBERLAIN OSB

Welcome to Exhibition. I want to welcome you to a thoroughly inspected school. We had the Headmasters’ Conference inspectors here in the autumn and we had the Social Services on their second quadrennial inspection just last week. The message is that all is well. You come from all over the British Isles and from abroad to share this celebration with us and we take pride in this great gathering. That people should come so far occurs today in few schools indeed. I hope, though, that the length of this occasion will reflect only the importance that we give it. It is a particular delight to be able to commend so much effort and attainment now reflected in every individual boy who comes forward for his prize.

As we watch these splendid young men receive their prizes and as we go through the school year day by day we must constantly ask ourselves what it is that makes a Catholic and Benedictine education special. Why take all this trouble? Why not let other schools, who are so eager to recruit Catholics, do the job? Why do we ask you to travel so far for your sons to see that they get an Ampleforth education and why do other Christians now choose to join us? The attention given to Catholic education in the press reflects at least in part curiosity and even envy. There are deep worries nationally about the purposes and the success of education. SCAA, the inelegantly named School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, is running a forum on spiritual and moral values in schools to which we will contribute. We offer here a lot of things that any school should offer. We offer good standards of teaching, and I will talk about the HMC Report. We offer, I hope, a sound level of discipline— not uncaring but demanding. This year’s record, so far, is good. Please help us to keep it that way during Exhibition. I had to write to you about this at the beginning of term. The boys have been given very firm messages but it is always difficult especially with drink and especially around the cricket match.

And if I could give just one warning after accidents in the locality during days when a lot of parents have been here, the local roads, especially the road to the village, are dangerous and village streets are narrow. Accidents have happened, though not this weekend.

We offer you might then say, difficulty of access. But we offer also the stretching of the creative imagination, through special awards for the work done in the Sunley Centre, imaginative work of a high order. We offer, we hope, a care for each other and perhaps the HMC Report was not so far wrong in mentioning symbolically both the intensity of the 1st XV rugby practice and the boy who helped up the other he had just felled.

But we offer above all a life of faith which is integral to this Benedictine Community and school. We pray. We study the faith and we give time to it. There is no feeble talk about values. Whatever our failings, we teach virtue. And we remember, daily, St Benedict’s reminder in the Rule, that it must be done more by example than by words. It is a commitment for life and I am
Exhibition has been individual, voluntary no extra charge coaching for some boys who needed it for examinations. Our motives go beyond the financial. very far beyond the financial. As you all know painfully in your pockets it

said and if the inspectors had seen last night's performance of The Devil's Disciple

devotion of the teaching staff; the influence of the community and the tireless

casting or in the Green Room. There is the outstanding pastoral care and

are no weak departments. There are not many schools in which that could be

where the balance of that report li es. There are 30 teachers with exceptional

talent, that is fully half the staff. The other half are not exactly slouches. There

good will of the school and of the good will of the parents.

parents and its pupils. There are, of course, useful points made, and where they

that the College fully deserves its fine reputation and popularity with the

leadership in the most painful circumstances. In the school, our concern must

be to assure as absolutely as human powers can make it the welfare and security

of the boys, in all respects: in their growing up; in problems they may meet: in

triumph and in distress. Nothing will stand in the way of that. Nothing has

stood in its way. I have spoken as clearly and openly as I can where my own

responsibilities are concerned.

We do not work in negatives, or speak simply of safeguards. Our aim must

be to so bear ourselves that we create a community truly supportive of

everyone in it, in which there is a warmth of friendship and charity, filled with

the life of the Spirit. You might say that is a tall order in a school with growing

adolescent boys, and you would be right. Things can always go wrong.

Communication can fail, but I say with some confidence that I know of the

good will of the school and of the good will of the parents.

In fact we do have quite a lot to celebrate. In the HMC report we are told

that the College fully deserves its fine reputation and popularity with the

parents and its pupils. There are, of course, useful points made, and where they

could be met by swift action that has already been done. But there is no doubt

where the balance of that report lies. There are 30 teachers with exceptional

talent, that is fully half the staff. The other half are not exactly slouches. There

are no weak departments. There are not many schools in which that could be

said and if the inspectors had seen last night's performance of The Devil's Disciple

they might have said also of the theatre that there were no weaknesses in the

casting or in the Green Room. There is the outstanding pastoral care and

devotion of the teaching staff; the influence of the community and the tireless

devotion of the Housemasters. Any headmaster would be proud to lead such a

staff. There is the boys' pride in the school and their polite friendliness and

commitment. You do have, I believe, first class service and attention because

we all want the best for the boys at all levels of ability and talent. I just happen

to know that one of the things going on in this week of intense preparation for

Exhibition has been individual, voluntary no extra charge coaching for some

boys who needed it for examinations. Our motives go beyond the financial,

very far beyond the financial. As you all know painfully in your pockets it
cannot come cheap. Our costs continue to rise, especially with a significant and

proper rise in salaries and there must be a rise in fees this September.

I hope that you have been able to read the HMC report: the typesetting at

the Ampleforth Press has made it as approachable as it could be. But reports are

mostly rather dry and perhaps the iron of inspection has entered my soul,
because I had a novel experience just the other day. Whether I was waking or
dreaming, I am not quite sure.

It seemed that one of the inspectors had become so enthusiastic about

Ampleforth that taking a sabbatical this term he wanted to see some more, and

he came back heavily disguised in a Benedictine habit. I could hardly refuse his

request to poke around; I was rather busy, though, myself and I have to admit

my recollections afterwards had been a bit confused. It all fits round in a

dream-like way. I think he was here at the Confirmation weekend. He told me

how much moved he was by the Mass and the power of devotion that came

with the presence of the Spirit. Then it seems he also just went for lunch with

the boys in those temporary refectories in the old Junior House building; he

enjoyed it, and though he did not know, among the boys eating with whom he

talked there are also boys from two other Houses who should not have been

dead there but wanted to try it out - unknown to their Housemasters.

Then, I am told, he appeared in the Upper Library, expecting to have a

word with that nice librarian he had met before. He found John Davies but he

was so distraught; the place was thronged with debates and there was a girl

making a speech. He was surprised but I had to tell him later that, no, we have

not gone completely co-ed: they are guests. Andrew Doe is presiding over a

debate with some 75 present throughout and voting; the inspector talked to a

girl. 'We were rather pleasantly surprised!' she said, 'how charming the boys

were, that rather than attack us they stood up for us.' He was delighted to see

that debaters are beginning to make effective use of intervention and repartee

in their debates and he noted also that, since the inspection, the school's team

were runners-up in the Cambridge Union's National Competition.

From there he hurried up to the Alcuin Room and the Junior Debating

Society. He was reassured by this meeting because by a 2-1 majority the House

had just decided that churches were, after all, more important than pubs.

And then the inspector met an Old Boy in the passage who somehow had

translated himself from London just for five minutes but this kind of thing was

happening this week. The Old Boy buttonholed him and told him that the

skills he learnt in debate here have given him a real advantage at every stage in

his subsequent career. The Old Boy was a little forceful. The inspector, shaking

him off with difficulty, headed out of the door and down the hill, down that

rather uneven path (he was rather careful there because one of his colleagues

had told him that he had tripped up and fallen down on it, which was why it

was mentioned in the report) and he went to the New Music School and up to

the Schola Room with its photographs and reminders of past programmes and

successes to encourage the present, and there was a rehearsal going on. It could

have been Ian Little with the Schola or any number of things. In fact, it was Bill
Leary coaxing wonderful sounds from the Pro Musica. They all seemed to be smiling a lot. The inspector retreated and found a minute to call on the Director of Music and check the recent records. The Pro Musica had been welcomed in Thailand, with wonderful hospitality arranged by Chainarong Monthierwichienchat. In Paris, the Schola’s tour had come to a climax at the British Embassy. He was told that we had just been elected to Associate Membership of the Choir Schools Association and, said the Director of Music, there may be some new bursary resources available to us.

So he went downstairs and he called in to the Ampleforth Music Society room, the social scene of the music world where he was invited to stay for coffee but he, though tempted, did not stay because he wanted to go and look what was happening down in the valley.

Of course, he knew all about the 1st XV and John Willcox, that they had won most of their matches, and he knows about all the range of sports which are supervised by Geoff Thurman and a devoted staff.

But this is just an ordinary day and it is raining with a cold wind from the north. He sees three games of cricket going on and lots of boys in the nets with the 1st XI and the Colts practising determinedly in the rain and every tennis court is filled, in the rain. And over there at the outdoor range he notices all the improvements that have been made, thanks to the Territorial Army — new brickwork on the wall, shelter for the firing point. No cadets today, and he wonders why, but they are at Strensall shooting on the army range.

He is a very fit inspector. He ran up the hill because he wanted to see what was going on in the Sunley Centre. Of course he saw the Certificates of Excellence for two of last year’s leavers, for their work in Art and Design and he really wanted to see what was going on now because he had just read the records. He knows that another boy, Peter Barton, last year achieved the remarkable feat of election as an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society. Seven of last year’s leavers are going to Art schools and the one quite recent Old Boy, Brendan Kelly, has had his work displayed in the National Portrait Gallery — quite apart from undertaking the task of painting his former Housemaster to hang in St Dunstan’s House. He found that really difficult. And another, Alex McFaul, last year won an Award for outstanding merit from the Worshipful Company of Painters; and another, Adrian Myers, who left six years ago, has been nominated for an Oscar for (sorry about this) the Rolling Stones video. He morphed, as they say (now there’s a new word I have not heard before)

So the inspector, looking around at the paintings and the photographs all spread around the floor at this stage, sees John Fletcher and Paul King worrying about whether there is going to be room on the walls, and he sees a remarkable range of styles. He goes downstairs to the ceramics room which he knew had been doubled in size but is still bursting with work, overwhelming the room. Stephen Bird and the boys are carrying objects away to be displayed elsewhere.

He wanders in to the new design computer room and sees boys doing interesting things and many boys are working in the Bamford workshops. The first year are at work on their batch production, all sorts of useful things which are going to be on sale at Exhibition to the unfortunate parents — things like letter racks and back scratchers — and (I was somewhat ashamed when he told me) ashtrays. Seniors are working on all sorts of other things — a special chair for Fr Cyprian, a winch made to professional standard with inches thick of drawings and plans. The inspector was quite impressed.

He nipped up to the Headmaster’s Department avoiding the Headmaster himself, who by this time was getting worried about where he was and was anyway feeling rather lonely and kept looking out of his door. But he managed to bypass him and went to the examination records. He looked at Oxford and Cambridge results — not quite as strong as ’94, but in a highly competitive environment nine places had been gained, no mean feat. He looked at the A level results with 54% As and Bs — almost as good as 1995, with an average of 6.8 UCAS points per entry and 23.7 UCAS points per candidate. He noticed that on the very latest report of the ’96 modules that Religious Studies results are now showing notable and continuous improvement. In GCSE he was reminded that a more than ten percent advance from the 1994 results was greatly to the credit of all concerned (including even the boys) with 77% getting As or Bs. All these were scores of which any school could be proud, and especially one with our academic spread of ability. The inspector was glad to see the school had sensibly reduced to the more common standard of other distinguished academic schools the number of subjects taken and he admired again the ingenuity of the curriculum and the demands placed upon the most able.

The Headmaster had said he could go into a class or two. He did not have much time after all the other things he had been doing, but he popped in to see Miss Zheng busy teaching Mandarin. He was not here on the right day to hear the Chief of General Staff, or Robert Fisk or Charles Moore lecture the Upper Sixth but he did have time for a brief meeting with a parent who is talking to the A level Business Studies boys. Then he went off up into the Procurator’s Office where he saw Peter Bryan was working rather late and he realised the place was financially viable, and he realised also that everyone works rather hard.

By this time he had missed supper and as the Headmaster was wanting to give him supper and was over in the Guestroom waiting for him and getting even more worried, he thought it was better not to go and meet him again just yet. He went to the Theatre where things had been going on since he had been here last. There had been two plays — Inherit the Wind and Dorian Grey — and this term they were getting ready for The Devil’s Disciple. And he was told Charley’s Aunt was going to be put on by the Upper Sixth after the examinations. At that point you might have expected most teachers to be in a state of collapse but William Motley and Mark Pedroz seemed to be entirely cheerful about the prospect.

He was just in time to witness what seemed to be an attempted murder but the stage crew were not paying much attention. They were busy chatting
to each other and adjusting the lights. He was so fascinated by this that he wanted to wait for the end but he had to penetrate the inward depths to get down to the Green Room. It was not just full of costumes. He found video editing equipment and another intensely active group of boys. They were celebrating 75 years of film at Ampleforth with a video version of Chekhov's _Ward Six_ which he thought was a triumph and which he was told going to be on sale at a very moderate price. Nearly 50 boys and staff involved in all, but they also had time to produce an edition of _Ampleforth Video News_.

So he came upstairs braced if tiring in time to see Shaw's hero triumphant and leaving the stage at 10.30 pm. That was not the end: as he left the theatre looking for a cup of tea and his bed, he saw the stage crew zipping up their overalls and attacking portions of the set with their paintbrushes because it all had to be dry and ready for the next day and this was the only time available — a degree of tolerance had been begged from long-suffering Housemasters.

So the inspector slept well — I do not think he saw the Headmaster again at all. The Headmaster slept perhaps a little less well, but better than he might have done, because some of the worries which tend to keep headmasters awake are at the very least not getting worse. We can take some comfort from some aspects of the entry statistics. First of all there is always the good general's guide: if you are worried about your troops, just look how badly the other fellow is doing. Ampleforth's numbers are down by some 9% since 1983. HMC boarding on average is down by over 30% and Northern boarding by over 40%. The 13+ age group, a point to which attention was not drawn in the _ISIS_ publicity recently, was down nationally by 7% last September, whereas ours rose marginally, by 2%. But we can more cheerful than this. Registrations at Ampleforth for future entry on an annual basis have risen by 80% between 1993 and 1995. The Sixth Form is full and likely to be overfull in September, but I am not turning anyone away provided they have got some GCSEs at respectable levels. As for the Middle School entry, I do not know what the total will be yet (very few headmasters do) but I am very happy to report already a significant rise in entry from our prep schools which can be laid against a smaller Junior School year group coming in this year. I believe there is good news in the Junior School about entry.

Our entry scholarship standards remain high. We had a strong entry this year which delighted me, and I was even more delighted, but rather embarrassed that the Junior School has carried off four out of five major scholarships and one minor scholarship. The spread of abilities overall is significant. By our measures the performance of boys of average and limited scholarships and one minor scholarship. The spread of abilities overall is significant. By our measures the performance of boys of average and limited ability improves as they go up the school and our entry continues to be more cheerful than this. Registrations at Ampleforth for future entry on an annual basis have risen by 80% between 1993 and 1995. The Sixth Form is full and likely to be overfull in September, but I am not turning anyone away provided they have got some GCSEs at respectable levels. As for the Middle School entry, I do not know what the total will be yet (very few headmasters do) but I am very happy to report already a significant rise in entry from our prep schools which can be laid against a smaller Junior School year group coming in this year. I believe there is good news in the Junior School about entry.

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Development in the School continues. You can go to the Main Hall and see something of what FACE-FAW are doing and I am told that today you can even go and see the tug-o-war final which is another money-raising device. For several years now we have had nine or ten boys from Central and Eastern Europe in the school for varying periods during the academic year on full bursaries. It is the most that we could do without impacting on costs and your fees.

I am very pleased to tell you that this commitment on our part has now been recognised in the most prosperous of the newly free states, the Czech Republic. For each of the next three years we will take two boys into the new arrangements will bring benefit to the school and, even in the temporary conditions of the present, free Houses are well looked after by Patricia Edwards in Junior House.

Plans for the school are made in conjunction with an overall development plan: remember, no monastery, no school. We must provide for the young men of the Community above all and for the future. In the school we are looking to the remodelling of the Houses. We have made a modest start in Bolton House and St Cuthbert's. I know much more is needed. I hope to achieve further improvements in St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's as soon as we can. It is only possible to think in these terms thanks to devoted work by Fr Bede, the Procurator, and his team.

In Science we have commenced discussion on outline plans for new science laboratories as we have for a much more fundamental replanning of Bolton House. In Science it is not too much to say that Ian Lover, Alasdair Thorpe, Fr Christian and their supporting teachers have transformed the teaching. But they have got all sorts of problems with the laboratories. They must be replaced and it will not be cheap. It is a major school priority. The old laboratories will make excellent classrooms, solving almost all the problems in this area mentioned in the HMC report.

There will be continued development in our computing facilities. We plan this year to replace the computers installed just three years ago in the
computer room and since then the subject of a major upgrade and to cascade (another new use of words) the old ones for use in other places in the school.

I want especially to speak about our teaching staff and I must mention a number of individuals who, in the way that they have been at the heart of the matter, stand for everyone else. Richard Gilbert is to retire this year. He has been teaching chemistry here with great distinction for some 30 years. He was the organiser of Ampleforth expeditions more numerous than I can quickly add up but I remember especially the great expedition to the Himalayas. We lose him with regret but with very great gratitude.

Alex Weston has not been here anything like as long. Coming in from Cambridge with a First Class degree just three years ago, she departs to a school near London. She does not depart, I hope, entirely willingly. Unfortunately she has got engaged to be married but I need not say much more about that because she features in a number of school magazines, as does her fiance. But I am very grateful for what she gave the Classics Department and I know that she will remain a friend.

Lucy Warrack has made the most distinguished contribution here and at the Junior School for some years. She has worked mainly in the Junior School over these last years, but has still been able to help the Upper School a very great deal. She is not exactly retiring. She is going to concentrate on books she is contracted to write and so her contribution will be somewhat smaller, but I know that we will not lose sight of her. I do, however, want to take this moment to say how grateful we have been for all that she has done.

I welcome Barry Gillespie whose impact in Technology is already evident and Stephen Smith who has added to the strength of the Biology Department. There have been a number of new appointments, in Chemistry, Classics and Religious Studies. I am delighted to have been able to appoint academically exceptionally well qualified young people with much else to offer.

I have wanted for some time to give housemasters more support. The HMC report noted this need. We are committed to appointing assistant housemasters, and I announce now that Laurence McKell will be assistant housemaster in St John's, and Br William, to be ordained this year, assistant housemaster in St Dunstan's.

We have made changes at senior level to make the best use of the devotion and talent available to us. The monastic community shares responsibility at every level in the school with a devoted and highly professional lay staff. With a new Second Master, two lay housemasters, two lay assistant housemasters, and most Heads of Department, lay responsibility is greater than ever. Yet this school has now a uniquely high commitment from the Community. This is a special partnership, to the benefit of all.

There are so many others I cannot mention, the matrons (and there was quite a lot of minor illness last term), the secretaries, the technicians, the domestic staff, the estate workers, we depend on them all, and I thank them. You may notice a new reception area, where Sheila Hawkes, who typed my letters for the last four years, and deserves much gratitude on my part, works the new telephone system, set up by her husband Geoff, who also supervises our burgeoning computer installations.

In speaking of the staff, I do not forget those boys who have contributed much to the life of the school, especially the monitors. If I mention particularly the Head Monitor, Joe Townley, and his Deputy, Edward O'Malley and thank them for their integrity, steadiness and support, I must add that they are not alone, and the Elwes prize winners give an idea of the degree of commitment shown by many boys.

I think this year has shown the depth of our mutual engagement in a wonderful enterprise. Catholic integrity is the basis of ecumenism. I am constantly aware of the practical ecumenism of Ampleforth families. I quote with pride the words of Pope Paul VI when he spoke of the beloved sister Church in referring to our Anglican brethren, and I echo Pope John Paul II when he recently confided to the especial care of the monastic order the future of ecumenism with the Holy Orthodox Church, for 'the words of the east need the words of the west to build. Lord Rees-Mogg's Headmaster's lecture suggested that it was a question now of whether any institution could survive the corrosive criticism currently cynically directed at it. Cardinal Hume said the other day that our culture is 'opaque to the things of God'. Yet the very existence of the Church depends on a living miracle, the ever renewed call of the good news of Jesus Christ, source of unity and truth.

That is quoted in the new prospectus: we put plainly before all who come the need for an openness to the Word of God, the need for faith and the need to work for virtue — the power to do good. It is so easy to destroy, so difficult to build. Lord Rees-Mogg's Headmaster's lecture suggested that it was a question now of whether any institution could survive the corrosive criticism currently cynically directed at it. Cardinal Hume said the other day that our culture is 'opaque to the things of God'. Yet the very existence of the Church depends on a living miracle, the ever renewed call of the good news of Jesus Christ, source of unity and truth.

Tomorrow is Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit first came on the Church. We may believe the Spirit is with us still. Today is the Feast of St Bede, who died on the vigil of the Feast of the Ascension of Christ in 735 AD. He was a monk, living a hidden life in his monastery at Jarrow, and a teacher of the young — to his very last day. On his tomb in Durham Cathedral, once the Abbey Church of a great monastery, you can read some of his words:

Christ is the Morning Star
Who, when the night of this world is past
Brings to his saints
The promise of the light of life
and opens everlasting day.

We live in that faith and hope, and can pray, also, in whatever night we find ourselves, to our good God, Send forth your Spirit they are created, and you will renew the face of the earth.
ACTIVITIES

The following societies continue to meet but have decided not to contribute to this edition of the Journal.

| Basketball Club | Karate Club | Mathematics Society |
| Classical Society | Poetry Society | Wine Society |

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The Amnesty group is one of the longest continuously running activities at Ampleforth, and the window it opens on the 'real' world, and the opportunity to do something practical about its injustices and suffering, have always ensured a full and keen membership. Letter-writing is the group's main work, on behalf of long-term prisoners of conscience, or in quick response to news of some recent horror, political abuse of children's rights, torture or 'disappearance'. For much of the summer term, and at the fund-raising Exhibition Tea, which was (in spite of the attraction of posher fare across the valley) more crowded than ever, we have focused on the human rights situation in China, especially religious oppression there. It is at the Tea that we take donations which enable us to continue as a Campaign Group of Amnesty International in our own right, and we are most grateful to all those who bake for us and provide the delicious cakes and buns and scones and jam that make the Tea such a popular visit in the busy Exhibition programme. Thanks also to Alex Crompton (6) and Sam McNabb (T) who steered us efficiently through a productive year.

THE ARTS SOCIETY

In his second visit to Ampleforth College, the art historian N. Ross delivered another fascinating lecture on Italian painting. This time it was on the subject of the portrayal of the Magi in the Early Italian Renaissance. Mr Ross focused on a comparison between the Sienese Altarpiece, Adoration of the Magi 1423 by Gentile da Fabriano and the painting on the same theme by Sandro Botticelli completed in the early 1470s. These two major works, both now in the Uffizi Gallery Florence, show the development of painting in Quattrocento Florence — Gentile da Fabriano being an exponent of the International Gothic; Botticelli, at least until he came under the influence of the visionary Savonarola, a leading artist in the creation of the new Italian Renaissance style. However, Mr Ross believed that it was vital not to view the History of Art solely in terms of the development of style. To gain a deeper insight into any work of art he felt we must examine it in the political and socio-economic context of its time. This particular approach to the Art Historical discipline had been used in his previous lecture based on a comparison between a cycle of Italian Baroque ceiling paintings and an advertising campaign for Levi 501 Jeans. Mr Ross's analysis of Botticelli's Adoration of the Magi was equally captivating. The altarpiece was commissioned by the parvenu Guasparre del Lama who wished to ingratiate himself with the ruling clan of the Medici, whom Botticelli was instructed to depict as the Magi in the painting. Through further investigation of the imagery Mr Ross presented an insight into the political power struggles of fourteenth century Florence. This provided the boys with an opportunity to acquire a more sophisticated understanding of art, enabling them to differentiate between subject matter and content. This was given even greater substance when some of the boys from the audience were able to examine these two paintings when they visited the Uffizi Gallery in Florence later in the year.

Another noteworthy lecture was next given to a large number of boys by Norman Ackroyd, a Royal Academician, who sought to assess his own work. With the help of a vast array of slides he covered not only his etchings, for which he is well known, but also water colours and mixed media which appeared to be of equal significance to him. Indeed, the two latter areas offered evidence as to why this landscapist had to employ such a diverse and free etching technique. For, as he stated, even though he honoured traditional printmakers such as Durer and Mantegna it was the response of Constable and Turner to nature that truly motivated him. This, as he explained, necessitated his painterly handling of a wide range of diluted acids on his etching plates as he attempted to achieve those atmospheric creations which are now his trade mark. Line, at best, in such works is subservient to a myriad of suffused tones through which he seeks to speak of aspects of nature which can only come from someone in tune with its moods. This came across vividly through out the talk as did the humility and soul searching of the artist. Certainly, it was a privilege for his audience to be taken into such a uniquely personal world outside their normal experience.

THE BRIDGE CLUB

There has been some disappointment for our competitive bridge playing over the last two terms. Not only were we unable to attend the Regional heat of the National Schools Pairs competition because of heavy snow, but the club's best Upper Sixth pair could not be in London for the final of their competition at Chelsea Bridge Club. Despite these disappointments, however, the society had some good 'friendly' meetings, the most popular of which was surely the visit of ten girls from Queen Margaret's School, Escrick to play mixed pairs with boys from the first and second years.

THE CIRCUS

In January, Mr John Levy spoke to the Society about the position of Israel in the Middle East and the current state of affairs and the peace negotiations.
There followed a lively discussion on the issues involved. The view taken by Mr Robert Fisk three nights earlier in a Headmaster’s Lecture was discussed and contrasted with the arguments of Mr Levy, who had himself given a Headmaster’s Lecture some years ago. Later in the term, Mr Lou Tice spoke to the Society about the twentieth century mind. He is the head of an Oregon based institution, The Pacific Institute, and he came with several company executives, including Mr David Tate (E47) who runs the European operations of the firm. He explained how many people under-perform because they think in a negative way, and how the method of thinking affects performance. The title of the lecture, The Rock in the Middle of the Road, refers to the idea that, if you think negatively, you will see only the rock in the road and not the clear road, and so drive directly into the rock. There followed a good discussion and questions, and Peter Townley proposed a vote of thanks.

In March Mr Kalinin of the Embassy of the Russian Federation presented the economic and political issues facing the Federation. He spoke of the threats posed to Russian society by the Mafia, and of the increasing death rate in the 1990s. This talk came after the Parliamentary elections and before the Presidential elections, and these were also included in the discussions.

Our next speaker was Mr Graham Davies (Principal in the Cabinet Office) who talked about the whole civil service, not just his work in the Cabinet Office. He surveyed the recent history of the civil service, and in particular the progress made in the implementation of The Itis Report (Next Steps Agencies) of 1988. He said that 380,000 civil servants out of 500,000 were now working in Next Step Agencies — in 125 agencies, involving 26 major Government departments. The numbers working for an agency varied from 62,000 in Social Security to 35 working for the Conference Centre, attached to the Foreign Office. He distinguished between the two roles of civil servants as policy advisers to ministers and as administrators of policy, and discussed the nature of these roles. The Society was indebted to Mr Doe for arranging this visit by Mr Davies.

**COMBINED CADET FORCE**

The Lent term was directed towards the Field day. Once again we were assisted by Cadets of Leeds University OTC. O/Cdt Martin Lewin ran a course for the 4th and 5th year NCOs on tactics. The NCOs cadre (3rd year) were instructed by NCOs from the 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment and the Infantry Training Centre from Catterick. 1st year cadets were busy in the local area shooting, doing fieldcraft and orienteering. The 2nd year were out on the Saturday night doing a Self Reliance exercise on the moors, and they moved on to the Catterick Training Area on Monday for a tactics exercise. Both of these exercises were part of the competition for the Irish Guards Cup, which was completed by a Drill Competition a week later. The cup was won by No 1 Section commanded by UOs Roderick Brenninkmeyer and Hal Burnet-

**CAMP**

16 Cadets under Major McLean, Fr Edward and RSM Morrow spend a week in Sennelager/Padeborn. Our hosts were the Royal Dragoon Guards. Before our arrival the majority of the Regiment had deployed to Northern Ireland on an emergency operational tour. Captain Tom Courtall, the officer in charge of the visit, met us at Dusseldorf airport. We then moved by coach to the Sennelager Training Centre where we were to be accommodated for the week.

**VF McL**
The right note was struck at 0700 hrs on the first morning with 45 minute physical training. After breakfast equipment was drawn and the cadets deployed on foot to the Goldgrund, a local training area. A tactical exercise then followed covering patrolling techniques, section battle drills, and living and cooking in the field. Sunday morning was occupied by a period of drill and Mass in the Garrison Church. The afternoon was spent on a tour of Regimental Headquarters, visiting the Officers and Sergeants Messes, and cleaning up after the exercise.

On Monday morning the cadets visited the Armoured Workshops where they saw Challenger tanks and 8 ton Leyland Daf Drops vehicles which some cadets had an opportunity to drive. In the afternoon they visited 12 Regiment Royal Artillery where they drove a Stormer vehicle on a Scimitar chassis and mounted on top a Close Air Defence High Velocity Missile Launcher where Battlegroups, particularly their command elements, are exercised. In the afternoon it was back to the Goldgrund training area where members of the 1st Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment introduced the cadets to the Warrior Armoured Personnel Carrier followed by cross country driving with all hatches closed. Wednesday morning was spent using the Small Arms Trainer (SAT), a computer based simulator which uses SA 80 and LSW to fire a laser at a screen on to which a high resolution image is projected. The afternoon was spent waterskiing and in the evening the cadets drove Challenger tanks and visited the local cinema. The final morning was spent on a visit to Wewelsberg Castle built between 1603 and 1609 as a supplementary residence for the Prince Bishops of Paderborn. In 1943 the SS rented the castle and planned a centre to further the Nazi ideology and training of the SS Leadership. The afternoon was spent sightseeing in the town of Paderborn. We are most grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Faulkner (E73) the Commanding Officer, for having us during an extremely busy and difficult time for the Regiment and all those who contributed to making our visit a memorable one.

VFMcL
climbs of easy, hard and very very hard proportions. Sometimes the holds were
no thicker than the spine of this Ampleforth Journal! The last two days were
spent perfecting drill under the watchful eye of the camp Regimental Sergeant
Major. The parade was the highlight of the camp where everyone excelled
themselves, even though some did faint. Soon after it was time to come back
home after a challenging six weeks amongst great people and some of the most
amazing scenery in the world. My thanks must go to all the Canadian staff and
cadets and Ampleforth College CCF who arranged this spectacular trip.

Michael Pepper (D)

RAF

Easter camp at RAF St Athan in South Wales was a great success with
Ampleforth cadets putting on a good show in the various competitions
culminating in Sgt T Chappell’s (B) section winning the best flight award.
Flying was curtailed by poor weather but at least the cadets all managed to get
one flight. Air experience flying at RAF Leeming is now much improved since
the introduction of the Bulldog aircraft, which provides much better visibility
for the cadets and is an altogether better flying classroom than the Chipmunk.
Gliding continued at RAF Linton with Sgts J. Borritt (D) and C. Potez (O)
being offered a Basic Gliding Training course which teaches them to handle
the aircraft inside the Linton circuit and ultimately to commence landing and
take off procedures. Monday training during the summer term was given over
to preparation for the annual inspection. The cadets decided to improve on the
confidence course of last year, making it bigger and more difficult. Sgt Newton
deserves thanks for his efforts and organisation of this as the inspecting officer
was very impressed with the outcome. Congratulations to J. Borritt who
passed out of the RAF Halton course during the summer with a merit and the
most improved cadet award. This is a great achievement and an example to
younger cadets. We welcome Flt Sgt R. Hellman to Ampleforth, the new
liaison Flt Sgt based at RAF Linton on Ouse.

PMJB

SHOOTING

Forty nine schools took part in the Green Howards Country Life Small Bore
Rifle Competition, in which our 1st eight were runners up on the Landscape
target and placed 7th overall and the 2nd eight 17th. The cadet target rifle will
be returned in 1999. Once again the District and Bisley meetings had to be
turned into a service rifle match using the Cadet General Purpose Rifle
(5.56mm), shot at 200 and 300 yards. Eighteen teams took part in the District
meeting which we won with our B team placed 3rd. Best Individual Shot was
won by L.A. Anderson (E). We also won the Champion Contingent Trophy.

The schools' meeting at Bisley took place three weeks into the Summer
holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the twelve boys who took
part and their parents for their continued support. The results are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Entries</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Ashburton Shield</td>
<td>9th</td>
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<td>The Marling</td>
<td>4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Public Schools Snapshooting</td>
<td>L.A. Anderson (E) 3rd Engraved Silver Spoon and £3</td>
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<td>The Wellington</td>
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<td>The Iveagh</td>
<td>A.Y. Christie (B) Silver Spoon</td>
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<td>The Marlborough Cup</td>
<td>E.M. Fazalan-Howard (J) Silver Spoon</td>
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<td>The Schools Hundred Badge</td>
<td>F.Y. Ho (C) £1</td>
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<td>The Falling Plates</td>
<td>E.M. Leung (T)</td>
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<td>The Reserve</td>
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<td>The North of England Cup</td>
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Positions:

| The Ashburton Shield     | 9th |
| The Marling          | 4th |
| The Public Schools Snapshooting | L.A. Anderson (E) 3rd |
| The Wellington        | T.A.H. Steuart-Feilding (A) |
| The Iveagh            | A.Y. Christie (B) |
| The Marlborough Cup   | E.M. Fazalan-Howard (J) |
| The Schools Hundred Badge | F.Y. Ho (C) |
| The Falling Plates    | E.M. Leung (T) |
| The Reserve           |         |
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| The Reserve           |         |
| The North of England Cup |       |

The Inter House Competition was won by St Edward's, followed by St
Thomas's and St John's. The Anderson Cup for the Highest Individual Score
was won by L.A. Anderson (E).

VFMcl.
JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The society has debated a number of interesting and entertaining motions over the last few months. We began by debating This House believes that soccer should be formally taught at this school. After a lively session the motion was carried by a small majority. We then moved on to discuss This House believes that bloodsports should be banned. Predictably this motion caused many heated arguments on both sides before the motion was quite resoundingly rejected. This House believes that RS should remain compulsory to A level at Ampleforth College was the next motion to occupy the society. The debate demonstrated how topical and important the issue is to members of the society. After some cogent arguments from both sides the motion was carried by a large majority. Our next gathering dealt with This House believes that the death penalty should be reinstated for terrorist offences. Needless to say many good arguments were raised on both sides before the motion was finally rejected by a substantial majority. The media and modern technology were the subject of the next gathering with the motion This House believes that major sporting events should remain on terrestrial television. The House showed itself to be quite traditional by passing the motion comfortably. A closer debate followed with This House believes that pub houses are more important in our society today than churches. The House clearly enjoyed itself, not to mention the speakers, before the motion was rejected by a small margin. The final debate to take place was This House believes that the monarchy is slowly becoming irrelevant. The House was happy to maintain the established order and the motion was rejected by a margin of two to one. MJM

SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

Despite their success in the first two rounds of the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition, Dominic Brisby (D) and Hamish Badenoch (O) knew that they faced a tough day ahead when they attended the Final in Cambridge. Not only had their 11 opponents been selected from over 120 teams but they also had three debates to win in one day. The pair did well in the first two debates which put them through to the last four teams and the grand final. Here the motion This House prefers brain to brawn was debated and in a very entertaining session Hamish and Dominic were placed second after Kyle Academy, Ayr. Euan O Sullivan (B) and Justin Bozzino (C), despite showing early promise, were unfortunately knocked out of the first round of the Oxford Union Competition.

In the Summer term, it was decided to use the style of the Cambridge Union for the Inter-House Competition. A number of teams had difficulty with the new, more challenging format, but the final was a great success with St Dunstan's, St Aidan's, St Oswald's and St Hugh's all competing at a high level. Hamish Badenoch and Edward Barlow (O) came first with David Grahame and Damian Mullen (A) a close second. The new format was also adopted in the first ever debate with Queen Margaret's School, Escrick. Here Ampleforth was represented by Tom Rose (T), David Grahame, Dominic Brisby and Andrew Layden; not only was the debate excellent, with notable performances from Tom and David, but it was also a social success.

The year ended with one of the more entertaining debates in which Eleanor Fletcher and Miss Weston took on Fr David and Andrew Layden (as well as the entire Ampleforth establishment) to argue that a woman's place is in No 10. They did not quite convince their audience, but it was an excellent end to a great year of debating which will hopefully grow from strength to strength.

Hamish Badenoch (O)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD

The Scheme continues to attract very strong support from boys across the School. Numbers of participants now exceed 100, which has stretched the Unit's resources. In general, boys are more keenly aware of the sustained personal commitment that is required.

A full range of Awards was presented in March by the Vice Chairman of Ryedale District Council in a ceremony at Malton. Bronze level: M. Bennetts (H), D. Gallagher (B), C. Marken (H), L. Poloniecki (H), E. Richardson (C), A. Riddell-Carre (E), R. Russell-Smith (H), G. Villalobos (C) and K. Westley (H). Silver level: H. Badenoch (O), D. Grahame (A) and J. Pearson (C96). Gold level: A. Cane (C95), P. Langridge (D95) and A. Ramage (C95). D. Grahame was thanked for his comprehensive account of the Unit's recent activities to the usual large audience and for presenting our boys for their Awards. J. Fattorini (094) attended the annual County Reception for Gold Award Winners at Grantley Hall, Ripon in April. C. Berry (T96), E. Carnegie (C96), A. Chan (W96), S. Goodall (W96), and W. Guest (W96) have completed all five Sections of the Gold Award.

The Expedition Section has been extremely busy with Silver and Gold training organised by Dr Warren with Dr Biller, especially for the two capacity Gold groups who undertook their venture on the Isle of Mull, Scotland, in July. Training weekends in the Lent and Summer Terms took place in the Lake District and NY Moors, where we were grateful for the assistance of OAG staff and Dr Dorothy Warren, Mr McAleenan and Mr Gillespie. Expedition first aid instruction was delivered by Mr Hart, assisted by A. Law (J) as part of his Gold Leadership Service. Mull lived up fully to expectations, providing memorable experiences for all concerned. The two routes, covering 50 miles over the four days of assessment, sampled all of the island's scenic delights — hills, mountain passes, glens, forestry, lochs and a spectacular coastline. The boys were amply challenged by rough walking conditions, variable weather and midges. They all acquitted themselves very well. Group members were: A. Biller (A), L. Charles-Edwards (J), R. Horth (J), A. Law (J), G. Massey (D), S. Pattisson (O) and P. Sidgwick (C), N. Adamson (J), D. Grahame (A), J. Martin (H), J. Molony (J), D. Poloniecki (H), W. Riley (J) and M. Roskill (H). The ventures
Several Bronze groups have been receiving Expedition training from Mr Carter and Dr Billett, often assisted by experienced Gold participants. R. Sarll (T) has undertaken this task as part of his Gold Leadership Service. Two Bronze groups have successfully completed their assessment on the NY Moors with Mr Carter.

Boys have been busily engaged in a wide range of activities within the Physical Recreation and Skills Sections. Mr Carter has again organised Physical Achievement tests, whilst OAG have also provided opportunities in both these Sections.

The Service Section, administered by Dr Allen, has coped well with the pressure of numbers. Community Service placements in the Cheshire Home at Alne, Malton Hospital, the Croft Market Garden, Nunmungton Hall, Forestry Commission and as classroom assistants in local schools, including Helmsley Primary School for the first time, have been fully occupied. A long term conservation project at the lakes is well under way, in which Bronze and Gold participants are strengthening the lakeside to protect it from erosion. The CCF continues to provide an opening for Service at Silver and Gold levels. Several Gold Residential Projects have been completed during the summer holidays.

The Award Unit congratulates all its members on their wide-ranging achievements and thanks all those who have supported them in any way.

DFB
Bangladesh with the help of Charlie Strick van Linschoten (O95), and supported projects in Africa and Eastern Europe.

For Exhibition, the first year designed and made items in the Sunley Centre, selling them to provide wood burning stoves for people in the Bihac area of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Gervase Milbourne (B) arranged for the production and sale of T-shirts, designed by Anthony Murcombe-Chivero (T); Hamish Badenoch (O), Edward Barlow (O), Justin Bozzino (C), Thomas Rose (T) and Evan O'Sullivan (B) promoted FACE-FAW through the production of the magazine Grapevine. Simon Scott (T83) came on behalf of Scottish European Aid to sell raffle tickets through FACE-FAW, and at the same time provided balloons and extra life to the stand in the Main Hall. With the sale of prizes and the tug of war, all FACE-FAW activities at Exhibition raised over £2,000, but most of all these helped raise awareness of FACE-FAW activities. The special value of the first year project was in the involvement of the whole year.

THE HISTORICAL BENCH

The Historical Bench met three times during the Lent Term of 1996 in order to hear guest speakers talk on subjects as wide ranging as slavery at one end of the spectrum, and fish and chips at the other . . . in fact, with respect to their importance to the British economy it is possible that they were not that far apart at all! Our first speaker was Professor James Walvin from the University of York, who spoke to us on the subject of Black Ivory: Slavery and British Society. The talk focused on the importance of slavery to the growth of the British economy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, how the triangular Atlantic trade in slaves worked and why, by the end of the eighteenth century, an anti-slavery movement had begun and gathered in momentum. The talk brought to the fore issues of morality and racism, and it was particularly interesting to compare the views of today's society with those of earlier times. It is perhaps worth pointing out that, despite the very real impact of the work of humanitarians such as William Wilberforce, it was the fact that slavery came to be regarded as uneconomic, rather than immoral, which led to its eventual abolition in the early nineteenth century.

We were then privileged to be addressed by Dr Leslie Mitchell of the University of Lancaster, who spoke on the unusual and (according to him) much maligned and underestimated subject of Fish and Chips and the British Working Class. By the end of his address to us, few were left in any doubt as to the crucial contribution made by the fish and chip industry and culture to the economy and social fabric of Britain over the last few centuries: wars were won, triumphs achieved and progress made, and all because of fish and chips! Seriously, the talk was a refreshing reminder to all the audience of the importance of oral history, of social history and, indeed, of the fact that history has facets and aspects to it which go far beyond what GCSE or A level syllabuses are able to encompass.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES GROUP

The modular climbing wall in the Old Gym is now in use after hard work especially by T. Mackie (T) and J. Pearson (C) with Mr Adair. It offers a greater challenge than first envisaged. Outdoor climbing trips have been to various crags including Crookke, Brimham and Peak Scar. Particularly good route performances were put up by R. King (T), G. de Phily (H), T. Mackie (T) and J. Pearson (C) on a range of climbs.

Canoeing remains a popular part of the programme. St Alban's Centre echoed to the sound of clashing teams in the canoe polo sessions twice a term. Evening pool sessions helped boys with basic skills and eskimo rolling. River trips on grades 2/3 water tested out these skills with a few capsizes. The very dry conditions left water levels rather low for most of the river trips except for one very sporting trip in which T. Mackie (T) achieved his first eskimo roll in grade 3 rapids in his pocket size canoe.

Caving has been a very popular activity this year with a number of expeditions culminating in a trip down the winch into Gaping Gill, the largest cavern in Britain. It was quite an experience sliding down a cable strapped in a 'bosun' type chair for 345 feet. Other trips have involved the use of ladders as well as grevelling in mud and water! There have been some notable contrasting weekends in the Lake District for moonlight expeditions. White-out and windy conditions in February prevented the reaching of the summit of Glaramara although, after a cold night with snow, perfect conditions the following day gave superb views of the Lakes from the summit of Causey Pike. Very hot summer sun for the June expedition meant a sweaty carry to the high level camp at Blackbeck Tarn near Haystacks to enable high level walks on Haystacks, High Seat and Fleetwith Pike overlooking Buttermere.

Further developments in our storage and drying areas have improved the sorting and issue of equipment. Many thanks to Mrs Ballard for her help in getting things reorganised. It does mean that the equipment is kept in top condition to ensure that boys are properly equipped for all the activities undertaken. Further thanks to J. Pearson (C) for his help as chairman.

Our third talk was given by Professor John Walton of the University of Lancaster, who spoke on the unusual and (according to him) much maligned and underestimated subject of Fish and Chips and the British Working Class. By the end of his address to us, few were left in any doubt as to the crucial contribution made by the fish and chip industry and culture to the economy and social fabric of Britain over the last few centuries: wars were won, triumphs achieved and progress made, and all because of fish and chips! Seriously, the talk was a refreshing reminder to all the audience of the importance of oral history, of social history and, indeed, of the fact that history has facets and aspects to it which go far beyond what GCSE or A level syllabuses are able to encompass.
Ward 6 has finally been completed! This cry echoes round the now empty washrooms of Junior House, the Green Room, lakes, passage-way to the new central refectory and many other locations that have played host to our recreation of late 19th century Russia. This is no mean feat, and the condensing of thirty hours of footage into a one hour film could not have happened without the very latest developments in technology. Had anyone been a fly on the wall in the Panasonic Room at the start of the Summer term they would have seen Media 100, generously loaned to us by Newland Electronics, store all of our work onto disk. Meticulous documentation, computer skills and the dogged determination of boys and staff to get this done within the fortnight allowed has produced a film which has already caught the eye of Channel 4 and various leading newspapers. With at least 100 copies of Ward 6 sold, a new ATV News produced and a range of school plays and other activities recorded, the Panasonic Room has enjoyed its most productive time yet — and it’s going to get busier! We are committed to buying the most up to date Media 100 (2.6 and excess) equipment through Data Translation which will revolutionise our excellent current facilities so that the creation of television films will become much easier. Our next film is already ear-marked, as are a range of other ideas. Copies of Ward 6 and all other video work may be obtained by contacting William Motley at Ampleforth College Theatre on 01439 766738.

PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

The most interesting yet was Bill and Joan Spence’s reaction to entries for the Spence Bowl which was deservedly awarded to St John’s. The theme was Footwear and they were wholly impressed by the diverse nature of the photography, the technical competence of all prints submitted and in particular the highest standards of presentation.

J.M. Suter (O) was presented with the Gaynor Trophy for his intellectually rigorous image-making. Many of these photographs appeared as stills in a photo-sequence on Songs of Praise. His more conventional but exquisitely colourful landscapes displayed a visual integrity beyond his years. J. Brockbank (O) and R. Farr (T) shared the Michael Barton Trophy awarded to the most promising photographers in the Lower School.

Membership is increasing annually and the darkrooms are usually full to capacity during activity times and in the evenings. I am indebted to Mrs Denby and the Committee members for their contribution.

THE 41ST AMPLEFORTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

On this 41st Ampleforth Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 12 to 19 July 1996, there were about 250 persons, including about 60 sick (55 in Saint Frai Hospital, a few in the hotels). There were about 140 helpers (brancadiers or lady helpers): 24 of these were under 17, 39 between 18 and 30, 26 over 60. There were 12 priests. In addition there were six doctors and 12 nurses. Hugh Markay brought his US group, including boys from Portsmouth Abbey School. There
were girls from New Hall, Mayfield and Ascot, and also two nuns from New Hall, Sister Margaret Mary Horton, the Headmistress of New Hall and Sister Moin O’Sullivan.

Amplefordians on the Pilgrimage were: Jack Arbuthnott (E), Rob Burnett (D), Arnaud de Villegas (B), Richard Hobbs (D), Demingo Hormaeche (I), Gervase Milbourn (B), Edward Porter (H), Charlie Robertson (E), Matthew Roskill (H), Henry Rowan Robinson (T), Tom Shepherd (H), Christopher Shillington (E) and Nicholas Zoltowski (H). Old Amplefordians on the Pilgrimage were: Fr Walter Beale (H53), Richard Blake James (H95), Dr Benedict Blake James (H88), Dr Robert Blake James (D57), Fr Jock Dalrymple (E76), Geoff Daly (J72), David de Chazal (O66), John Dick (O77), Julian Fattorini (O94), Philip Francis (H76), Adrian Gannon (O89), Janie Gaynor (T73), Ben Gibson (C86), Toby Gibson (E87), Charlie Grant (O89), James Heagerty (O50), Patrick Heagerty (O47), Dominic Leonard (W93), Patrick Leonard (B51), Edward Martin (J90), Joseph Martin (H92), John Morton (C55), Philip Francis (H76), Adrian Gannon (O89), Jamie Gaynor (T73), Tom Shepherd (B63 - Chef des Brancadiers), Paul Shepherd (B68), Mark Shipsey (T76), Richard Tams (R66), David Tace (E47), Edmund Vickers (B87), Jean Felix Watteau (B95) and Paul Williams (T69). As for many years, Paul Reitchel (H65) organised the travel arrangements for the sick in Britain, but did not come to Lourdes. Members of the community were: Fr Richard ffiiel (Pilgrimage Director), Fr Francis Vidal, Fr Edward Corbould, Fr Alberic Stacpoole, Fr Francis Dobson and Fr Cassian Dickie. Other priests were Fr Walter Beale (H53), Fr Patrick Bluett (Middlesbrough Diocese), Fr Leo Gorman (New York) and Fr Jock Dalrymple (Edinburgh Diocese and E76). Br Caedmon Holmes (Portsmouth Abbey, Rhode Island) came with Hugh Markey’s group.

THE AMPLEFORTH STAGE GROUP AND THE HOSPITALITE

The 14th Ampleforth Stage group was in Lourdes from 28 June to 8 July 1996. It consisted of Simon Goodall (W96), Hamilton Grantham (H92), Julian Horn (H96), Joseph Martin (H91), James Morton, William Guest (W96), Tom Stevens, John Strick van Linschoten (O), Simon Thompson, Christopher Quigley (B96) and Fr Francis. De Paule Cauchi (H87) and Dr Christopher O’Longhin (C91) worked with the group for a time. Hamilton Grantham (H92) made his engagement as an Auxiliary Member of the Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes on 3 July; Philip Francis (H76) and Adrian Gannon (O89) made their engagement on 17 July, as did the matron of St Thomas’s, Bernadette Davie. This ceremony involves a commitment to the work of Our Lady of Lourdes within the context of the Hospitalité. The group worked with Stagiaires from many nations in the work of the Hospitalisations de Notre Dame de Lourdes at the station, airport, grotto, baths and esplanade.

Fr George (1-15 July 1996) and Fr Timothy (15-29 July 1996 – for the fifth time since 1992) assisted with the Day Pilgrimage organisation in Lourdes. A large proportion of visitors to Lourdes come unattached to an organised pilgrimage, and the Day Pilgrimage organisation provides the opportunity for any such visitors to join a pilgrimage for the day. Michael Kenworthy-Browne (W54) is the English member of the Council of the Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes. He is also the Leader of the Oxford Stage Pilgrimage. In addition to those mentioned earlier, stages were done by John Dick (O77), Nicholas Kenworthy-Browne (E96) – second stage, with the Oxford Pilgrimage) and Philip Francis (H76). Lt Col Richard Murphy (C59) was in Lourdes with the International Military Pilgrimage in May, as well as the Ampleforth Pilgrimage. Myles Pink (D90) was the Chef des Brancadiers of the Westminster Archdiocese Pilgrimage, and one of his assistant leaders was Alexander Hickman (D90). John Hickman (A60) was also with Westminster. Fr Guy de Gaynesford (T87) took a parish group to Lourdes. John Martin (H) was a brancadier with the Portsmouth Diocese. Other Amplefordians came with the Knights of Malta Pilgrimage in May.

THE ST ALBAN CENTRE

The St Alban Centre continues to offer a large range of organised opportunities to develop sporting skills through the Sports Development initiative. The Centre offers swimming courses from beginners right through to the competition level. There are adult, beginner and improver courses each week as well as aquarobics, parent and toddler sessions, time for the over-50s, length swimming and inflatable play sessions.

Dry sports range from squash through five-a-side soccer, basketball, badminton and tennis to table tennis and weight training. The latter is closely regulated and is dependent upon passing an induction course which is designed to ensure safe practice and maximise benefits. Its use is limited to adults and the Sixth Form only.

To mark its 20th anniversary, the Centre launched an appeal last year to purchase a hoist to assist swimmers with disabilities to gain access to the pool. We are pleased to say that through the generosity of very many people, the hoist is now installed and working well.

We offer thanks and good wishes to the Booth family. Frank, Chris and Richard have all worked in SAC and SDO for varying periods of time. Chris has not been well recently but he is now on the mend and we hope that the move will aid his continued recovery. They have moved to Buckinghamshire where Frank will take up a new post and they will all be nearer to the rest of their family. We wish them well.
MUSIC and THEATRE

MUSIC

This year Music department successes are headed by Laurence MacFaul (D) who takes up a choral scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford and by Adam Wright (1) who begins a four year course at the Royal Academy of Music, studying the trumpet with John Wallace.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

By Christmas of each academic year the Schola can be expected to have settled into a secure pattern of work and the Lent term can therefore be used to introduce new music. This year was no exception and Mozart's Missa Brevis in C was added to the choir's repertoire of mass ordinaries. Out of the deep by Adrian Batten, O salutaris by Thomas Tallis, Tantum ergo by Anton Bruckner and settings of Ave Maria by Gabriel Faure and Bouzignac proved welcome additions to the motet repertoire and formed part of the programme for the choir's visit to Paris in March. An account of the visit written by one of the senior boys follows this note. That in turn is followed by the complete tour programme and a full list of those who have served the Schola this year.

TOUR TO PARIS 21-26 MARCH 1996

Full of high hopes and spirits, the group of 41 boys and assorted staff and parents set off from the College Post Office somewhat later than first planned (even though, it was still a fairly unearthly hour) for the long drive to Dover. Our transport was an executive coach, driven by the ever-cheerful Jimmy, and we arrived at Dover in plenty of time for our lunch-time sailing. On arriving on the continent we could not travel as fast, so it was only after a long and tedious drive that we arrived at our hostel, via a roundabout route; we all turned in after a long day, having enjoyed a typical Parisian supper.

On Friday morning we got up at half past eight and, after a solid breakfast, we headed off to see some of the venues in which we would be singing later on the tour. Several petrol stations later we arrived at l'eglise de St Severin and had a successful rehearsal; vocally, things were looking very promising. After a quick visit to McDonald's we split into our various groups for free time. Due to the showery weather most opted for shopping and cafes, although some of the third years went up the Eiffel tower with Br William as their team leader.

Having returned to the hostel for supper, we arrived at St Severin just in time for our recital, which went off very well. On Saturday, we headed off for St Eustache in the glorious sunshine for a quick rehearsal for High Mass on Sunday. Mr Dore gave 'the mother of all organs' a quick once over and with our ears still in shock we made for Notre Dame. This was to be quite an arduous engagement as there was at least one camera flash per second and it was with considerable gladness that we beat a hasty retreat from the crowds of tourists. It was decided that we would again split into groups to see the city; some decided to go to McDonald's (again), others to spend huge sums on liquid refreshment and one highly valued member of the choir spent his afternoon sleeping on a park bench, much to the amusement of all who heard him snoring very loudly. At the appointed hour we all congregated outside Notre Dame (all those, that is, who had not got hopelessly lost) to await the arrival of Jimmy. We wanted the delay of our transport put us under pressure to reach our next venue.

Queues resulting from road directions threatened our punctual arrival at Sacre Coeur. Geoffrey Holroyde, the tour manager, confronted a phalanx of armed police with the result that barriers were taken down and the coach was given clear passage to the foot of Montmartre. Even so, even the most unathletic members of the group had to sprint up the numerous steps of the Sacre Coeur in order to arrive in time for Mass. Under the circumstances, we sang well — so well in fact that members of the congregation felt moved to physical ecstasy. Having quickly admired the view from the top of Montmartre, we headed back to the hostel, where the more senior members, suitably escorted, explored the outer suburbs to find what night life they could, namely a very emotional jazz duo, whilst Mr Dore paid a visit to his venerable aunt.

Sunday was yet another beautiful day and our breakfast chat-chat was livened up no end by the news that certain members of the choir had scored highly in the estimations of the matron of another school staying at the hostel. Mass at St Eustache was very well attended and Fr Leo proved himself to be a worthy linguist as he contributed to Mass in French with remarkable fluency. More free time then followed, with the majority seeing the city from a bateau mouche but a few broke off and dined on baby octopuses and steak, followed by a rest on the Champs-Elysées.

Monday was to be our busiest day and a fleeting breakfast was followed by the roundabout journey to which, by now, we were all getting accustomed. This took us to the British Embassy where an intensive rehearsal was conducted and followed by Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation in the Embassy's beautiful Music Room. The concert was next on the agenda and turned out to be perhaps the best recital throughout the tour. The programme was livened up with pieces from the excellent Barber Shop quartet and the similarly excellent David Pearce (W). We were well rewarded with very complimentary words of thanks from the Ambassador and an excellent buffet lunch. However, the glory soon passed as we decamped to St Thomas d'Aquin for another intensive rehearsal. We then went back to the hostel in time for a quick change and supper before returning to the church to give the final concert of the tour. This passed off very well, thanks to the incredibly dynamic and lively conducting style of Mr Holroyde, and the musical side of the tour was concluded.

We left the hostel early the next morning, some pining for the other
guests at the hostel and others rejoicing at never having to see its uniquely decorated corridors again. We arrived in Calais for a rather rougher sailing than before and, immediately on our arrival in Dover, made for the nearest petrol station. The group then split up and dispersed, some to drive back to the various drop-off points and others at Dover station and so a very successful and special tour was completed. Special thanks must go to Mr Little and the tour organiser, Mr Holroyde and special farewell to Jimmy the driver and Mr Hockley (who was there for purely recreational purposes) who has since left the school for a sunnier post in Australia.

Peter Sidgwick (C)

Tour members of Schola Cantorum:
Robert Furze (JS), Jonty Morris (JS), Harry Hall (JS), Peter Massey (JS), Christopher Hollins (JS), George Murphy (JS), Alexander Strick (JS), Thomas O'Brien (JS), Francis Townsend (JS), Dominic de Suys (JS), Thomas Gay (JS), Christopher Borrett (JS), Richard Flynn (JS), Gregory Carter (JS), Paul French (JS), Douglas Huggins (C), Kwan-Yu Lam (C), Daniel Walsh (B), James Osborne (B), Robert Hall, Timothy Sketchley (JS), Jack Brockbank (B), Lawrence MacFaul (D), George Walwyn (D), Abhijit Hosangady (D), Justin Costelloe (D), David Peace (W), Br William Wright, Peter Sidgwick (C), Dominic Halliday (B), Louis Watt (A), Uzoma Igboaka (D), James Arthur (D), Joshua Marsh (A), Peter Thornton (B) and Richard Chamier (B).

Tour Programme:
Frohlocket ihr Volker
Locus iste
Choral – O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig
Teach me thy way
Hide not thou thy face
Out of the deep
Thou knowest, Lord
Miserere mei
Offertoire stir les grands jeux
Ave Maria
Ave Maria
Maria mater Jesu
Ave Maria
Ave Maria
O salutaris hostia
Tantum ergo
In the departure
God so loved the world
Christus factus est pro nobis
To thee, O Lord
Te lucis ante terminum
Felix Mendelssohn (1810-1847)
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
William Byrd (1543-1623)
Richard Farrant (c1525-1580)
Adrian Batten (1591-1637)
Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
William Byrd (1543-1623)
François Couperin (1668-1753)
Richard Dering (1580-1630)
Guillaume Bouzignac (1592-1641)
J.P. Beicht
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
John Bull (c1562-1628)
John Stainer (1840-1901)
Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)
Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)
Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

The department's contribution to Exhibition began with choral mass on the Friday evening. Exhibition masses are always more elaborate musically than the regular weekly celebrations and fittingly so, judging from the numbers that attend and the appreciation that is expressed. The ordinary of the mass was sung to the setting in C by Mozart with motets by Viadana, Stanford and Tallis. Howells' setting of Nunc dimittis from his Collegium Regale service made an effective post-communion motet; the poignant solo tenor part was sung by Laurence MacFaul (D).

The format of the Exhibition concert has become standardized over the years. Blue Tango by Paris/Anderson and Tiger Rag arranged by Ployhar were the Concert Band's curtain raisers paving the way for the major work of the evening, Hummel's Trumpet Concerto. For Adam Wright this was his final performance before taking up his place at the Royal Academy of Music in September. He has served the department willingly throughout his school career and his potential as a trumpeter was clearly evident in this vibrant performance.

Always favourites with the public, Mozart's three Salzburg symphonies, better known as Divertimenti, are notoriously difficult. The Pro Musica's performance of K 136 in D with a break-neck final presto attested to the painstakingly detailed rehearsal that the group had undertaken. Borodin's Nocturne, an arrangement for string orchestra of the Notturno from his String Quartet no 2, proved a perfect contrast to the vivacity of the Mozart.

Saint-Säens' unusual but famous programmatic piece Danse Macabre offered the College Orchestra plenty of opportunity for individual and corporate display. Prominent and descriptive parts are given to solo violin (T. Rose (T)), xylophone (D. Halliday (B)) and oboe (E. O'Dwyer (T)). A selection of movements from Britten's Matines Musicales and Soirees Musicales based on themes by Rossini completed the programme. The music, light, charming and entertaining in character, presented the perfect conclusion to a well-balanced programme and was enthusiastically received by the large and appreciative audience.

CONCERT AT YORK MINSTER

On 11 February Ampleforth contributed towards the recognition of Education Sunday through the participation of the Schola in an ecumenical service at York Minster celebrating the day for the North East region.

The Schola (with Mr Simon Wright as accompanist) was joined by the York University Recorder Quartet which played Pachelbel's Canon and a local youth orchestra which accompanied the hymns during the service. The Schola itself sang Let all the World by Vaughan Williams and Locus iste by Bruckner. The service was well attended and complemented by the Archbishop's sermon.
which was both lengthy and inspiring. The Schola benefitted greatly from singing in this magnificent setting.

Laurence MacFaul (D)

AMPLEFORTH MUSIC SCHOLARS AT HOVINGHAM

Our expectations of all young achievers today, in areas such as sport or music, are perhaps heightened by publicity in the media — particularly, say, the BBC Young Musician's competition on television. So it was all the more exciting last Saturday evening, 22 June, to be surprised by the poise, ability and audience rapport that the Music Scholars of Ampleforth College showed in their concert in support of the Friends of All Saints' Church in Hovingham. The young men, all aged between 14 and 17, presented a varied programme of violin, guitar and organ solos, as well as songs for baritone ranging from Bach, Haydn and Mozart, to Elgar, Walton and Vaughan Williams. Their professionalism and calm assurance captivated their audience with the appeal and variety of their music with movements from concertos and sonatas. The subtle and magical sounds of the guitar (particularly in the Albeniz piece *Asturias*) were contrasted with the reverberance of Hovingham's organ in music of Bach and Vierne and of the two baritones who sang Italian and English songs with excellent diction. The four violinists showed their individual characteristics in virtuosic music of great charm and style and their coming together to finish the concert with the first movement of the Vivaldi Concerto for four violins was a fitting climax to a most enjoyable concert. William Dore was the excellent and inspired accompanist of all the soloists. Sir Marcus Worsley, in thanking the performers, echoed the warm response of the audience (who were supporting fund raising for the preservation of the church fabric which dates from the 11th century). The reputation of Ampleforth College's Music Department was enhanced by this display of sound achievement.

Alec Dalglish

THE AMPLEFORTH SINGERS

The Ampleforth Singers have had a quiet six months since their very successful tour to London and Essex in December. The main event during the Lent term was the visit to Westminster Cathedral Hall in February as a result of an invitation from the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. The programme consisted of choral works by Rachmaninov, Purcell, Stravinsky and Batten, and Barber Shop. These items were interspersed with instrumental and vocal solos given by various music scholars from the College. The two directors, James Arthur and Paul French have continued to build on their conducting experience, introducing new works to the choir outside the Schola repertoire. The Summer term was very short for the choir as many of the upper school members were sitting external exams after Exhibition and so rehearsals ceased in early June. However, the first six weeks were extremely busy with learning new material for the forthcoming tour to Germany in October. The choir looks very healthy for this tour with many new recruits from the Junior School sustaining the top line and we welcome Mr Adam Leslie, the Director of Music at the Junior School who will be singing alto.

WJD

WESTMINSTER WEEKEND

On Saturday 3 February the Ampleforth Singers and several Music Scholars left snowbound Ampleforth and headed for the South and hopefully better weather, to give a concert in Westminster Cathedral Hall that evening. We had a pleasant journey from York with boys divided into 'families' for the purposes of using Family Railcards. We arrived at Westminster in time for a good few hours' rehearsal and were cordially greeted by Cardinal Hume who managed to pick out a few ex-choir school faces. The hall was somewhat nicer than expected, it had recently been re-decorated and had quite a good acoustic for both singers and instrumentalists.

The rehearsal got under way, during the course of which the Barber Shop Quartet realised that a few extra rehearsals back at Ampleforth would perhaps have been wise. However, they only had twenty minutes to brush up their act and so made the most of it. After rehearsal we were given an excellent tea by the Headmaster of the Choir school and after tea there was just enough time to watch Noel's House Party before the concert began.

There was a good turn-out to the concert of about two hundred people, including the Master of Music of Westminster Cathedral, although what he made of it is yet to be discovered. Performances were given by Thomas Rose (T), Nick Wright (J), Sandy Dalglish (J), Kwan-Yu Lain (C), David Pearce (W), Edward Forsythe (T), Adam Wright (J) and the Ampleforth Singers. All played or sang excellently and were a credit to the school. Even the Barber Shop Quartet managed a slight improvement on the afternoon's rehearsal.

After the concert we were all taken out to a Chinese restaurant, courtesy of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. At the restaurant we were allowed to eat as much as we liked, which suited certain members of the group down to the ground. Then we were whisked away by our hosts for the night. Needless to say everyone was up bright and early the next morning for High Mass at the Cathedral. The Cathedral choir sang several old favourites of the Schola though we noticed a different approach to the music. There was just enough time after Mass for a cup of coffee before heading back for King's Cross for the return journey. Being a Sunday it took us a good three hours to reach York. We arrived at Ampleforth just in time, of course, for block prep.

James Arthur (D)
THE AMPLEFORTH JOURNAL

AMPLEFORTH MUSIC SOCIETY

The AMS has been very active this year, organising a number of informal concerts in and outside the school, as well as providing a social centre in the New Music School for its members to meet at breaktimes. Two visits to York to listen to the City of York Guildhall Orchestra proved successful, particularly the performance of Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*.

The main events in the Summer Term were the Exhibition Sunday concert and a visit to the Meeting House in Helmsley on 16 June. Both concerts were very well received and displayed a wide range of instrumental and vocal items. We are very grateful for the work put in by the committee, Abhijit Hosangady, Adam Wright and Laurence MacFaul, and we wish them all the best in the future. The new committee is Sholto Kynoch (T), Eamonn O'Dwyer (T), David Pearce (W) and Sam Allerton (C) who will continue to organise social and musical events over the next two years.

THEATRE

EXHIBITION PLAY 1996

*The Devil's Disciple* George Bernard Shaw

Audiences approach the Exhibition play in some trepidation, but there were no dead pigs or other nasty surprises this year. *The Devil's Disciple* was an inspired choice for the occasion: it's a relatively short play, entertaining and funny, but with plenty of grist for the intellectual mill. It is full of Shavian challenge to received ideas, as the title suggests, questioning notions of rebellion and heroism, and impishly kicking elements of the establishment (the church and army in particular) up the backside. It's a youthful piece; the dialogue has an almost Wildean wit at times, especially once 'Gentlemanly Johnny' Burgoyne is on the scene. Though Shaw set it in the 1770s, at the conclusion of the American War of Independence, he aimed his satire at late Victorian England. But, as the directors clearly saw, it has plenty of bite left for today.

This was a delightfully colourful production. The staging was simple, the set dominated by an attractive back-drop painted in reds and greens to look like a patchwork quilt of the period, and the patterns were echoed by the carpet on the stage itself. Furniture was used sparingly, and period costumes were mostly of blacks and reds, with white lace collars, all of which gave the scenes a clean, Puritan look, like some American primitive art. The set also provided an effectively dramatic moment towards the end, when the painted screen at the back swung open to reveal the gallows where Dick is to be hanged. He is saved, of course, in the nick of time by the victory of the American rebels; but somehow the presence of those soldiers in their festive red uniforms had hinted all along that he would be.

CAST: Richard Dudgeon: H.A. Badenoch (O); Judith Anderson: H.T.G. Brady (W); Anderson: M.J. Asquith (O); General Burgoyne: E.E Barlow (O); Major
UPSTAIRS THEATRE

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde
March 1996

The Picture of Dorian Gray was well directed by Hamish Badenoch (O) and Ed Barlow (O). Oscar Wilde's study of a creeping corruption was adapted for the stage by John Osborne. The short novel, full of epigrammatic wit, made for a wordy play, presenting some problems as a result. The moral deterioration of the eponymous hero played out in fin de siècle drawing rooms, lacks the dramatic impact of Macbeth or Richard III whose heroes' progressions towards evil are enacted in a wider context. Sybil Vane's suicide, although morally a murder, cannot compete with Duncan's murder in dramatic terms. The central conceit is Basil Hallward's picture of Dorian Gray, which catalogues Gray's deterioration, while he remains physically untouched. Gray can observe his own corruption in the picture and is consequently haunted and tortured by the monster he is becoming, assisted by the cynical Lord Henry Wotton, a suave Edwardian Iago.

The production was carried by outstanding performances by Eamonn O'Dwyer (T) as Gray and Mark Asquith (O) as the artist, Basil Hallward. O'Dwyer's performance had real pathos and he managed to involve and repel the audience at different times. Asquith's performance was marked by a passion and conviction which made the artist the perfect antithesis to the languid and cynical Lord Henry. Sholto Kynoch (T). Kynoch's performance was accomplished and authoritative but lacking in variety; I would have liked to have seen the character's evil emphasized more. The weakest elements in the play were the women. Patrick Duncombe's (O) Sybil strained a little towards pathos without really achieving it. The grander Duchess of Harley, Myles Joynt (O) and Lady Agatha, Eleanor Fletcher, lacked the brittle sophistication and diction demanded by the piece. There were the excellent cameos from Peter Fane-Saunders (W) as Lord Vernon and Tom Rose (T) as James Vane, Sybil's vengeful brother.

All in all it was an accomplished performance and a most enjoyable evening. The play's set was both beautiful and imaginative. I particularly enjoyed the sitting of the portrait, high above the set, so that it brooded over the action. The back-cloth silhouette of London, the marbled floor, flocked vall and imposing door were all extremely effective. Ed Barlow is to be congratulated. The lighting was highly dramatic, and the costuming, particularly of the men, elegant and professional. It was heartening to witness a boy-led production reach such high standards in so many of its aspects.

DOWNSTAIRS THEATRE

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead

Tom Stoppard
March 1996

Who could have thought in August 1966, that this insubstantial Festival piece, packed with scholarly frivolity, literary quips and abstruse allusions and fuelled by undergraduate humour would in time become a standard school text? Or that a two-hander whose protagonists are distinctive only for being nonentities and in theme is not so much a play-within-a-play as a play about plays, should have proved so lastingly popular with audiences?

Yet ACT in one of the most exciting evenings on the Ampleforth stage for some time demonstrated this term that its endurance is deserved, that Stoppard's verbal pyrotechnics continue to crackle just as fiercely and that Ros & Guil is only seemingly insubstantial. Ros and Guil genuinely touch us because their concerns are, perhaps surprisingly for two such flimsy figures, more real to us than either the Weltschmerz of the Prince of Denmark or the stark existential emptiness of Vladimir and Estragon.

Ros & Guil shares many of the preoccupations of both Hamlet and Waiting
for Godot, but moves us in an entirely different way because it examines problems of identity, meaning, purpose and death from the point of view of neither heroes nor anti-heroes but worse nobodies. It has been said that Ros & Guil takes place in the wings of Hamlet, (this production began with all the cast on stage earnestly ‘learning their lines’) but it might be truer to say that it takes place in an anteroom in Elsinore. Hamlet might count himself a king of infinite space; but Ros and Guil, inadequates abroad in a palace peopled by sinister potentates, must fall silent at their entrance, leave unanswered their own questions and become enveloped in someone else’s story to fulfill someone else’s heroic destiny.

These complex and difficult parts, demanding great concentration in all three acts, were played with confidence and panache by two seasoned ACT players, Sam McNabb (Ros) and Mike Hirst (Guil). Theirs was the tricky task of warming an audience unacquainted with the play (let alone the intricacies of Hamlet) to two almost indistinguishable figures in doublet and hose on a stage furnished simply with crates and boxes.

The secret, of course, lies in the rapport between the two characters which was quickly established, clear evidence of many long rehearsal hours and careful direction. Sam’s Ros, feckless, whimsical, unreflective and pragmatic, was the perfect foil to the troubled, by turns lyrical and morbid temperament of Mike’s Guil. They effectively portrayed the nuances of this symbiotic relationship: how Ros is, to start with, the butt of Guil’s scorn for being less concerned by their aim- and powerlessness; but how, despite their rows and interdependence as they realise that their only reassurance is the relationship, itself a perpetual struggle to establish who they are and even at times, pathetically, which one is which.

So much for the philosophy; what, however, makes Ros & Guil live for an audience is the quick-fire humour and dazzling wit, interspersed with elements of vigorous farce (Hamlet in antic disposition chases Ophelia (James Gaynor) pell-mell from the stage as Ros and Guil merely stare). It is testament to the zest of this production that Wednesday’s house was orily partially filled. It is testament to the poignancy of the moment when Ros and Guil are just ‘snuffed out’ at the end was not lost on the audience, nor its irony when the lights went back on to reveal the grisly outstretched bodies of the entire cast, playing dead.

Thirty years on, Ros & Guil still entertains, and as we discovered this term, can still shock. Stoppard’s mirror held up to nature may reveal some disturbing images, but ACT has shown us that it is worth casting at least an occasional glance into it.

CAST: Rosencrantz: S.R.O. McNabb (T); Guildenstern: M.A. Hirst (A); Player: T.B. Chappell (B); Tragedian: J.S. Paul (J); T.J.S. Hill (D); L.J.X. Watt (A); E.A.C. Davis (W); M.L. Delany (W); M.N.B. Detre (A), H.A.J. Weston-Davies (A); H.T.G. Brady (W); Hamlet: L.StJ. Warren; Ophelia/Pirate: J.T. Gaynor (T); Claudius/Pirate: A.M. Layden (J); Gertrude: A.T. Christie (B); Polonius: T.R. Westmacott (T); Courtier/Pirate/Horatio: J.E.A. Berry (T); Cousin/Pirate/Ambassador: P.S. Cane (A).

GREEN ROOM: Stage Manager: R.S. King (T); Deputy Stage Manager: J.O. Ayres (B); Lighting: L.F. Poloniecki (H); C.C.T. Morshead (E); L.J.X. Watt (A); Sound Manager: H.M.C. Zwaans (W); Senior Wardrobe Mistress: L.C. Carter; Costume: E.C. Fletcher; S.M. Dale; R.W.M. Hudson (O); Make-Up: D.F. Steuart-Fothringham; ASM: T.B. Chappell (B); L.StJ. Warren (W); J.J. Eltz (B); R.C. Hollas (T); A.J. Havelock (T); P.C.K. Duncombe (O); Theatre Laureate: J.P. Townley (T); I.C. Carter (O); J.O. Ayres (B); Programme: T.J. Davis (H).

Sandy Christie (Gertrude) gave the court scenes the required ludicrous majesty.

It is difficult to single out any particular member of the Green Room for their vital part in bringing off a production that was clearly the fruit of a team working on a project they all enjoyed and of which they felt justly proud. However, Imogen Carter deserves mention for managing costumes that shed their beads so liberally all over the stage and Luke Poloniecki is to be congratulated on a most effective lighting design. The poignancy of the moment when Ros and Guil are just ‘snuffed out’ at the end was not lost on the audience, nor its irony when the lights went back on to reveal the grisly outstretched bodies of the entire cast, playing dead.

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SPORT: LENT TERM

RUGBY: THE A XV

AMPLEFORTH 27 MIDDLESBROUGH COLTS 29

This was a bright start by the new XV on a still cold day which encouraged
handling and running. In an emphatic first few minutes the School showed that
they were not lacking in confidence, all but scoring immediately. But some
poor defensive work in their own 22 invited Middlesbrough to score under the
posts. The School's reaction was positive as they hustled Middlesbrough into
error in front of their own posts for Melling, making an impressive debut, to
kick a penalty. Better was to follow as the School backs went into overdrive
with Kennedy scoring twice, the second under the posts with the help of a
brilliant dummy: the forwards joined in when Melling made another break and
put McKeough in under the posts. But the School were not to enjoy their half-
time lead of 22-7 for long. For twenty minutes after the break, they found it
difficult to control the Middlesbrough pack and some poor tackling and
defensive errors mostly around the fringes of ruck and maul allowed
Middlesbrough the luxury of scoring two tries and a penalty to take back the
lead 24-22. The School were not finished, Kennedy ending a sweeping
movement with his third try. However the boys were tiring in what was their
first match and the Middlesbrough forwards had the last word, battering at the
School line until they scored. The attempted conversion hit a post. That might
well have been a crucial miss, for two minutes later Melling hit a post at the
other end with a penalty which would have snatched the game back. This was
a most encouraging performance in which the two halfbacks and the two
locks, as well as some of the older hands were all prominent. Kennedy indeed
had a game to remember.

AMPLEFORTH 54 HARTLEPOOL ROVERS COLTS 8

Notwithstanding the fact that the Rovers could not provide a full team and
that the School lent them three players, all forwards, this was a much better side
than the one that played in the corresponding fixture last year. Therefore the
School can take some pleasure in their comprehensive victory. They ran the
ball at every opportunity and Bowen-Wright showed an increasing aptitude for
his new position scoring three tries after breaks by Melling and Kennedy in the
first half. But chances were tossed away with alarming frequency, the fly-half's accuracy and common sense hardly matching his exuberance. After half-time
the forwards therefore decided to take matters into their own hands. A
formidable display by Rose encouraged Porter and McKeough to take
significant strides. Porter had one try and McKeough two, one of them at a
line-out in which aggression was matched by a wonderful sleight of hand. If
these three were the pick of the pack, Farr indicated increasing confidence and
others were not slow to show their paces. Melling added the icing to this cake
by converting all but one of the eight tries in difficult conditions.

MOUNT ST MARY'S SEVENS

This was only a marginally better performance than in the same tournament
last year. And it was again something of a disappointment. In awful conditions
of fetlock deep mud, the school did not have much of a problem in their first
group match. But the second game against Sedbergh was a tightly contested
affair. Sedbergh drew first blood when a tackle was curiously missed on the
blind side. But Kennedy put this to rights with a splendid try and took some
trouble to get in behind the posts. The conversion was missed! The school
played some splendid sevens in the second half and had by far the greater share
of possession but Sedbergh defended stoutly and having robbed the school of
the ball, kicked the length of the field to score and make the match safe. That
meant that the School had now to play Stonyhurst, the winners of another
group. An exceptional side, they had little trouble in defeating the school when
the tackling could only be described as sketchy in the extreme.

Results:

Group v Lady Manners

v Stonyhurst

Won 26-5

Lost 5-12

Lost 5-25

Standing: T.W. Rose (T), P. McKeogh (W), B.T. Pennington (B),
R. Farr (T), J. Melling (J).

Sitting: T.D. Bowen-Wright (H), A. Hemmingway (H),
S.R. Banna (H), D.A. Freeland (J), L.A. Kennedy (D).

JGW
HYMERS COLLEGE SEVENS

After a dreadful start, the team made rapid strides forward and ended up in a pulsating and enjoyable final which they lost by the very narrowest of margins to the team that they succumbed to more readily in their first group match. This first match against Hymers was quite simply dreadful. Most of the team looked slow, ill at ease and hardly gave the impression of enjoyment or for that matter determination, the tackling being almost non-existent. It was only Hymers' unfailing readiness to drop the ball that saved the side from annihilation. The second match v Silcoates was not much better, the team leaving it to the last minute to score under the posts and win the game with the conversion. It was in the third match against Pocklington that signs of life and improvement were detected. The winning of that match meant that the side entered the semi-finals as runners up to Hymers and had to play St Peter's, the winners of the other group. Here the team's collective will and spirit, exemplified by Banna's sparkling display and Kennedy's iron determination, were much too good for St Peter's and the school in the end had an easy victory. A repeat was now necessary against Hymers who had just demolished Woodhouse Grove, Sampson and all, in their semi-final. It looked as though they would do the same to the school, taking a lead of what all the players of both sides thought was 10-0 at half time. The school hit back in the second half; Melling's all consuming tackle enabling Hemingway to score under the posts. When Bowen-Wright scored and Melling kicked a good conversion the school were in the lead. It was short lived, Hymers scoring again under the posts but crucially failing again to convert. As time ran out the school were awarded a penalty and Kennedy dropped a wonderful goal. The school thought they had won. The referee did not. A first period of extra time passed, the tackling of both sides being excellent. But in the second period, Hymers were awarded a penalty near the posts which was duly converted. Hymers were embarrassed but should not have been as everybody was aware that two excellent sevens had fought each other to a standstill.

Results: Group v Hymers
v Silcoates
v Pocklington
v St Peter's

Semi-final v Hymers
Final

AMPLEFORTH SEVENS

If the seven had played well the previous Wednesday, they excelled themselves on this day. Pennington was away again playing for Rosslyn Park against the England Under 18 group and Banna, selected as a reserve for England, actually played against him. Freeland however was fit again and assumed the captaincy in place of Banna and Pennington. The first two group matches on a cold, still afternoon were relatively easy, Read School and Hymers second team not being able to cope with Freeland's pace or the ball-handling skill of the whole team. But Oakham in the third game were a different proposition altogether; physical and hard-running they drew the School side into a game down the middle and although the seven led 12-0, they failed in the second half, quite forgetting that they were the faster seven and tried to force their way through a robust defence. Mount St Mary's second team also caused problems early on and it was only in the second half that the team drew away to score more points in the group than Oakham had and thus to become group winners. The semi-final against Mount, the runners-up in the other group, was always going to be a hard-fought affair and so it proved; Melling's first try, Kennedy's bitting tackle and Rose's seizure of a loose ball being the features of the match. Hymers drew first blood in the final but a penalty try put the School in the lead. The try of the tournament followed as Bowen-Wright kept a ball alive down the right and beautifully timed and directed putting the ball in the Hymers' end. The School scored, hemmed in by a determined defence, Rose skipping over to score. The referee did not. A first period of extra time passed, the tackling of both sides being excellent. But in the second period, Hymers were awarded a penalty near the posts which was duly converted. Hymers were embarrassed but should not have been as everybody was aware that two excellent sevens had fought each other to a standstill.

Results: Group v Read School
v Hymers 2
v Oakham
v Mount St Mary's 2
v Mount St Mary's

Semi-final v Mount St Mary's
Final v Hymers

STONYHURST SEVENS

After Sunday's high this was a depressing low. On a bitterly cold day, the seven did not have to play well to despatch Arnold 2 in the first match. They clearly thought that they would have no trouble with Stonyhurst 2 who proceeded to teach them a valuable lesson in wanting to win. The tackling was non-existent and morale was further lowered when Rose left the field with a back injury. It was good to see that they picked themselves up after this heavy defeat by playing at a much more competent level against Kirkham; even here the match was closer than it should have been as yet another tackle was missed in midfield. But the victory in this match was enough to see the team safely through to the last sixteen to play Sedbergh. Once again there was a dreadful start with three tackles being missed in midfield; this meant a 19-0 deficit at half-time. At last the team began to play with some determination and had pulled back to 19-14 when disaster struck and Kennedy had to go off with a dislocated thumb. The school continued to press but they could find no way though a stout defence. Sedbergh hanging on for victory and eventually going through to face Stonyhurst in the final. Meanwhile the second seven, with a very young side, were finding things no easier in a much harder group and they were near to winning only one of their three matches.
ROSSLYN PARK OPEN TOURNAMENT
The School were drawn in a tough group, Hymers and Llandovery being obviously formidable opponents. The match against Hymers not surprisingly affected the whole group. The seven, inspired by the presence of Banna and Pennington, had a wonderful opening five minutes in which Hymers did not touch the ball and in which the school scored twice through Hemingway and Pennington. It was after half-time that things went badly awry. A tackle was missed for Hymers to score under the posts: Melling had to come off at the same time with a hip injury and Hemingway was reduced to a walk. Hymers took control of the game and scored once more under the posts as the match ended. Melling's importance to the team was underlined with the continual failure for the rest of the day to kick off properly. Morale was already sapped as Rose was also now deemed unfit and all three reserves had to be used, but an inability to kick the ball ten metres did not help matters. The team seemed suddenly to wish to pass the ball to the opposition or to kick it away. Any bite in the tackling vanished and it was unsurprising that the team lost to a moderate Swinford Hospital. With all this nobody expected them to hold Llandovery but the manner of their defeat was depressing. Hymers had beaten the school's final opponents 60-0. The seven contrived to lose 21-28!

THE SECOND SEVEN
The second seven were mostly young boys who showed great promise for the future. They were ably captained by E. Porter who had some games for the first team as indeed had Farr. The tournament at Durham was sadly cancelled but the school were able to take up an invitation to the Stonyhurst sevens along with the first team.

STONYHURST SEVENS
Results: Group v Mount St Mary's Lost 0-22
v Birkenhead Lost 5-19

1st VIII
Standing: M. Sheridan-Johnson (W), R. Haywood-Farmer (C), J. Arthur (D), S. Pattisson (D), C. Sparke (A)
Sitting: G. Milbourn (B), J. Townley (T), E. O'Malley (D), R. Fraser (B), D. Jackson (J)

The senior running eights had an excellent season. The 1st VIII won all its six matches, finished second in the Invitation Meeting, and third out of thirty-one schools in the Midland and Northern Independent Schools Meeting held this year at Shrewsbury. The 2nd VIII won all of its four matches.

Edward O'Malley (D), who had run for three years in the first team, captained the side with quiet determination; he gave an excellent example in training and always ran well. He had the great satisfaction of leading the team home to third place in the big Shrewsbury meeting at the end of term. Raoul Fraser (B) who showed such outstanding promise last year continued to improve, and had a distinguished season winning a great majority of the races. With two years to go there should be no reason why he should not break all the records before he leaves. Joe Townley (T) was the other old colour and
always performed well. Sadly he had to miss the Invitation Meeting through injury, otherwise we would have won that event too. The other three to make up the scoring six were Christopher Sparke (A) and David Jackson (J), both from last year's side, and Seymour Pattisson (P): all were not only talented runners but showed great determination both in training and racing. The remaining places were occupied by Gervase Milbourn (B) who completed three seasons of faithful service, Anthony Arthur (J) and two talented young runners Richard Haywood-Farmer (C) and Mark Johnson-Stewart (W). All this augurs well for next season.

The Old Amplefordians, organised once again by Adrian Myers (A90) and Oliver Heath (E90), visited us in January to start the season. It is always a happy occasion. The evergreen Robert Rigby (T79) led the old boys home, but not to victory. Durham and Barnard Castle were well beaten as was a strong Sedbergh side; indeed, the Sedbergh team differed little from that which defeated us last year. Norwich School who had tried to host us for the past two years, with snow preventing the journey on both occasions, themselves made the journey north and joined in our match against Stonyhurst. Although we won convincingly on points the actual race was close. Our visit to Welbeck was the occasion of an old boys' nightmare; a crucial marker was absent and the teams roamed the Nottinghamshire countryside with some runners covering up to ten miles! Our 1st VIII was well placed to win, but the 2nd VIII looked well beaten. The Invitation Meeting turned out to be a two-horse race between Welbeck and Ampleforth. The absence of Joe Townley proved crucial and we lost by two points. But the result was comfortably reversed the following week at Shrewsbury in the Midland and Northern Independent Schools Meeting. Here we ran well in a large field on a testing course finishing third out of thirty-one schools, behind Bradford GS and Shrewsbury. It was a good way to finish the season.


Results: 1st VIII v Old Amplefordians. Won 28-58
1 Fraser, 2 R. Rigby (OA), 3 O'Malley, 4 Sparke, 5 Jackson, 6 H. Ogilvie (OA), 7 Pattisson, 8 Haywood-Farmer, 9 Arthur, 10 Townley, 15 A. Myers (OA), 21 N. Kenworthy-Bowme (OA), 25 P. Thomas (OA), O. Heath (OA).

v Barnard Castle & Durham 1st Ampleforth 37, 2nd Durham 63, 3rd Barnard Castle 89
2 Fraser, 5 O'Malley, 6 Sparke, 7 Jackson, 8 Townley, 9 Pattisson, 10 Haywood-Farmer, 15 Milbourn.
JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY

The 1995-96 season looked to be a promising one as a number of last year's U14 had now graduated to the U15s and there were some encouraging time trials from the new U14s. The first fixture of the brief season for both the U14s and U15s was the three cornered match against Durham and Barnard Castle at Barnard Castle. Indeed this proved to be two excellent races on a typically cold and difficult day. The U15s won by six points from the hosts, with Durham a racing third with 90 points. Jeronimo Perez Correa (W) and Alex McCausland (B) led the team to a comfortable win. The story in the U14s was similar, winning by two points from Barnard Castle with Durham again third with 91 points. The team was led in by Hugo Brady (W) and Vladimir Chelepov (W) but the win was secured by one place by Josh Horsfield (D) who finished 14th and Ed Sexton (J) who finished 15th. The U14s next race was to prove their most difficult, at home against Sedbergh. Sedbergh were convincing winners by 24 points to 58. A number of personal bests were run but this was not enough to keep up with a very strong team. The U15s found their race against Stonyhurst a week later to be a variation on the same theme but a couple of the U14s featured well in the field, which bodes well for next year's team. All in all it was a brief and enjoyable season and credit must be given to the boys who turned out regularly for training in all weathers and who helped steward the courses for the home fixtures with good humour.

The following boys represented the school:

U14 Teams
H.T.G. Brady (W) (Capt), V. Chelepov (W), J.A. Fletcher (D), C.N. Gilbey (T), J.M.J. Horsfield (D), H. Hudson (O), Y.C.S.M. Laurenson (D), J. Molinero (D) (Vice Capt), B.M.A. Nicholson (D), A.G.P. Seilern-Aspang (O), E.T. Sexton (J).

U15 Teams
J.R.H. Cartmell (D), R.C. Hollas (T), J.A. McCallister-Jones (A), K.P.A. McCausland (B) (Capt), C. Monthienwichienchai (O), P.G.F. Orrell (J), C.A. Paccitti (W), J. Perez Correa (W) (Vice Capt), J.W. Riddell-Carre (E), J.J.L. Roberts (J), A.J. Sherbrooke (W), J.E.G. Shields (J).

1ST XI HOCKEY

Given the talented players available, the XI's results, while respectable, were a little disappointing. The only comfortable victory was a 6-0 success against a rather young and frail Ashville College side. Bootham and Sedbergh, teams which have been defeated by large margins in recent seasons, were beaten 1-0 and 2-1 respectively. These wins were achieved largely through athleticism, dogged commitment and acts of individual brilliance rather than cohesive team play and flowing hockey. It is, however, a mark of the progress made by Ampleforth hockey that the style of wins can be a subject for criticism. Another sign of the advance in the School's hockey is that the visit to Pocklington is now undertaken with the hope of victory rather than the certainty of defeat. The XI won by 2-1 to repeat the success of last season.

The limitations of the development of Ampleforth hockey, however, continued to be exposed by schools which provide better facilities for the coaching and playing of the sport. The Ampleforth 1st XI only competes against the St Peter's School 2nd XI, and this year was held to a 4-4 draw in a see-sawing game which saw the XI squander a 2-0 lead, come back to draw and in the process miss two penalties. Ampleforth was able to restrict Scarborough College to a 3-1 score line, but against Yarm School, on a plastic pitch, the essential playing surface for modern hockey, collapsed to a 7-1 defeat after taking the lead just before half-time, albeit much against the run of play.

The team's captain, and leading scorer, was Michael Hirst (A), Hirst's goals were scored from midfield, where he was supported by Sherbrooke (E), R. Burnett (D) and Luckhurst (T). The attack was built around R. Brenninkmeyer (H), E. Johnston-Stewart (D) and Fitch (J). Ainscough (O) kept goal behind a defence which usually comprised Stewart (O), King (T), Esposito (A) and J. Lentaigne (H). Other squad members were S. Banna (H), Crowther (D), Burke (A), Ellis (E) and Pérez (O).

Results:
- v Bootham: W 1-0
- v Ashville: W 6-0
- v Sedbergh: W 2-1
- v Pocklington: W 2-0
- v St Peter's: D 4-4
- v Scarborough: T 1-1
- v Yarm: L 1-7
This was a winning season, made all the more enjoyable by the fact that the set worked together extremely well both in practice and in matches. The team managed to win no fewer than four matches 3-2, showing great determination in some tight matches. Only one match was lost 3-2, to the Jesters, a new fixture, a welcome opportunity to play against older opposition. We also arranged a fixture against a local club, Stillington, which was a great success, marking the end of the season in a fitting manner.

The 1st V was a good set to work with; serious in preparation and matches, but always retaining a sense of enjoyment in the game. All of them improved over the season and worked hard at their shots and technique. Our no 1 player this season, Michael Shilton (C), was a good captain and an efficient leader. His attitude and approach were exemplary and he won those games in which he had a genuine chance; he came up against some formidable opponents but was never outclassed. It was also tough at no 2 for Chris Shillington, playing his first matches at this level so high in the order is demanding. However he faced it with his usual enthusiasm and belief and he won some tight matches; his experience at this level will prove invaluable next year when he will have to play at no 1. He should work on shot selection if he is to win at that level. Tom Sherbrooke was a reliable no 3, climbing quickly up the order at the beginning of the season. He did not miss a match and, if he learns to slow down, will be a difficult player to beat in the future. The best individual record in the team goes to Daniel Gallagher (B); he lost only once all season and made the no 4 spot his own with reliable performances and his own particular approach. A talented player, he began rather late to use his feet properly and consequently could look flat-footed. At no 5 Ben Brenninkmeyer (W) confirmed our strength in the lower order with some stirring performances.

Although the U15 team only won half of their matches the results do confirm a steady improvement on past years. The potential of our no 1, Paul Prichard (D), is clear to see but he needs to be more confident, as well as more aggressive, on court in order to improve. He has good shots and uses the whole of the court but he could be quicker to cover the corners. The no 2 position was confidently held by Bobby Christie (H) for most of the season and he performed well. His good style would be improved further by greater speed around the court. The most improved player in the group this year was Nassif Elhajj (B), a determined player who does not accept defeat lightly. He has made himself into a good squash player in a relatively short time, and there is a good chance he will progress even more quickly next year. Daniel Kirkpatrick (B), whose style of play is rather unorthodox but effective, also had a good season; excellent support was given at no 5 by Edward Williams (B) who also forced his way into the side and made the position his own.
With several players in the U18 team having been in the senior squad for three years there was enough experience to be hopeful of a successful season. However, the team developed more rapidly than anyone could have expected and eventually finished the season with an unbeaten record, an outstanding achievement. Everybody in the squad worked extremely hard in training and maintained their composure on court in matches, playing to the team strategy and showing patience when things were not going their way. These qualities were essential to their success. The objective, as in previous years, was to play a game based on fast-break basketball and aggressive defence. We were not the tallest team and therefore opted for a defence which combined security in rebounding with pressure on the opposition ball handler. James McManus (T) was a tower of strength at the heart of the defence. His aggressive rebounding was the key to our defensive strength and sparked many fast break opportunities. Diego Herrera (J), Raphael Ribeiro (A), Kevin Anakwe (A), and Diego Mesa-Betes (A) all played in the ‘triangle’ on defence. Julien Horn (J) was a real force in the open court, converting many opportunities with his powerful drives to basket. He was ably supported by Ricky Bernardo (A) and Peera Jungthirapanich (W) in the guard/forward positions. Grant Denny (J), Borja Herrera (J), Rodrigo Jolivet (H) and Dominique Lallement (O) all played at various times during the season and although their court time was limited, they made invaluable contributions.

The season started with a particularly difficult fixture against Durham School who were looking to extend their five year unbeaten record. Durham had quite a height advantage but good Ampleforth defence prevented them getting the ball ‘inside’ and when their offence broke down we were able to hit them on the break. Julien Horn scored an impressive 23 points and he was well supported by Diego Herrera (19 points) and Kevin Anakwe (10 points), who had an excellent debut match.

Bradford Grammar School were an enthusiastic team with some good individual players but they were short of ideas against the Ampleforth team, especially as they had to coach themselves. The game provided the opportunity to give the bench players some valuable court time. Diego Herrera held the team together with an immaculate display of outside shooting but the highlight of the match was a five-man fast break basket finished by Raphael Ribeiro, the ball travelling from one end of the court to the other without touching the floor.

The Sedbergh game was a much tighter affair. The teams traded baskets for the first ten minutes of the game but then Ampleforth increased their defensive pressure, forced several turnovers and quickly established a 12 point lead. Sedbergh were unable to close the gap in the second half of the game and Ampleforth stretched away to win by 25 points. This game saw the first outing of the long-awaited kit; only a season late!

The fixture against Bootham School was undoubtedly the most testing of the season. The Bootham court is less than half the size of a standard court and fast-break basketball was all but impossible. The Ampleforth team was below strength because of illness and exam commitments and found themselves up against a team of experienced and skilful players who were used to playing half-court offence. Ampleforth rose to the challenge: excellent shooting by Diego Herrera kept them in the match and tough defence ranked the Bootham players. The match was tied with five minutes remaining but Ampleforth held their nerve and eased ahead as the opposition challenge subsided. Stonyhurst were no match for a determined Ampleforth team in the final game of the season. Ampleforth held a 7 point advantage at half-time but surged further ahead at the start of the second half as their fast break eventually began to click. The team raced away to a 63-36 victory to round off a memorable season.

Much of the credit for the success of this team must go to the captain, Diego Herrera, who has been captain of the basketball team for the last three seasons. He passed the ball very well and had great vision at the back of the court. He could be relied on to score points, both on the fast break and with his outside shot and always demanded the highest standards in training and matches. Julien Horn and James McManus were also members of the senior squad for the past three seasons. All three players made immense contributions; the achievements of this team will be hard to follow.

The U15 team played only two fixtures but did enough to show that there is plenty of strength in the junior ranks of Ampleforth basketball. The U15 players certainly benefited from training with the senior squad and their passing game and well marshalled defence was too much for both Sedbergh and Stonyhurst. The most encouraging feature of this team was that all the players contributed at both ends of the court. The U15 squad was: Borja Herrera (J), Tom Foster (H), Stephen Lee (O), Antonio Morenes (O), Alexander Chelepov (W), Killion Sinnott (J) and Raphael Wu (O).

Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U18</th>
<th>U15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v Durham School</td>
<td>W 71-43</td>
<td>W 61-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v Bradford GS</td>
<td>W 64-20</td>
<td>W 57-39</td>
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<tr>
<td>v Leeds GS</td>
<td>W 55-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>v Stonyhurst College</td>
<td>W 63-36</td>
<td>W 63-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v Stonyhurst College</td>
<td>cancelled</td>
<td>cancelled</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

AST
**GOLF**

The term began with the Baillieu Trophy (inter-House foursomes) on the first weekend. Alexi Hughes (C) and Mike Shilton (C) won for St Cuthbert's with 10 over par, closely followed by St Wilfrid's (Rupert Finch and Piers Cartwright-Taylor) and St Edward's (Charles Ellis and Rupert Tussaud). This was in line with expectations. Four weeks later the other inter-House competition, the Fattorini Cup (Stableford for teams of 4), reversed the top two; St Wilfrid's retained the cup which they won last year beating St Cuthbert's by 5 points (James Balmer (W) and Mark Sheridan-Johnson (W) were the extra two members of the team).

The school team began with two wins, against the Emeriti Cricket Club (3-1) and Durham School (2-1). When we went to Stonyhurst the weather was wet and cold and we lost 1-3 and surrendered the Stonyforth Cup. The only bright note (apart from the kindness and warmth of our hosts!) was the play of James Balmer and Rupert Tussaud, our only winners. At home we beat Sedbergh 2-1, but lost to Barnard Castle by the same score. The season ended with two halved matches against Giggleswick and our own local members.

Three wins, two losses and 2 halves was a bit disappointing after being unbeaten for more than a year. The reasons for this are obvious: cricket and exams. Some of our best players were cricketers and even when able to play in golf matches they were not in practice. Others could not play enough to reach their best form because they could not afford the time owing to exams. It is true to say, however, that there is now a high standard of golf in the school. To keep it that way and to improve, we have regular visits from Tony Mason, the professional from Strensall.

The following played in the matches: A.E.J. Hughes (C), M.S. Shilton (C), R.B.L. Ribeiro (T), C.R.H. Finch (W), P.E. Cartwright-Taylor (W), J.J. Balmer (W), G.D. Camacho (C), M.P. Camacho (C), P.M. Cruickshank, F.M. Sheridan-Johnson (W). A.R. Tussaud.

The first three are old colours; C.R.H. Finch and P.E. Cartwright-Taylor were awarded colours at the end of the term, and the former was appointed captain for 1996-7.

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**SPORT: SUMMER TERM**

**CRICKET**

**1ST XI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Innings</th>
<th>Not outs</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. Field</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Jenkins</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Denny</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Melling</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Simpson</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>286</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>16.8</td>
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<td>P. Cartwright-Taylor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>156</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>15.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>*M. Hirst</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>41*</td>
<td>15.3</td>
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*B Captain* *Not out*

**Bowling (Qualification 15 wickets)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Overs</th>
<th>Maidens</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Wickets</th>
<th>Best</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
<td>T. Pinsent</td>
<td>210.1</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6-18</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Zoltowski</td>
<td>156.4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5-39</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Shillington</td>
<td>137.5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5-36</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*M. Hirst</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4-12</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The School team, statistically, appear to have had a moderate year. However those who understand cricket will realise that mere statistics in cricket can hide a lot. The year has been a very good one. They have been involved in some thrilling cricket. There is no hiding the fact that, in some games, the XI made mistakes, but they made sure that they learnt from their errors and therefore grew as a team as a result. They enjoyed their cricket both on the training ground and in matches. This was summed up in our trip to Pocklington, when the XI found themselves having to bat on what was, in the morning session, an unplayable pitch. They enjoyed the challenge and indeed the experience and also accepted it as part of the game, and did not feel sorry for themselves or look for excuses. They played with a marvellous team spirit and positive attitude, and did not have their share of the luck that is often needed in team games. When they made mistakes they were severely punished by the opposition, but on many occasions they were unlucky and played better than their results have shown.

In hindsight it may be fair to say that the XI should have scored more runs, but as the season progressed they began to approach their innings in a positive and mature manner. They were particularly good when they batted second and were organising a run chase. They showed confidence in each other's ability, and never panicked when wickets fell. They showed an intense desire to bowl and field well, and on many occasions they put their opposition under so much pressure that they forced errors from them. They fielded so well...
that they were able to support bowlers who were not having a good day. The team was quick to enjoy individuals' good performances but also quick to help those who were not performing so well. It was this team spirit that was the real strength of the side and the aspect that made them such a good side to coach.

P. Field (C) opened the innings and scored freely. He played several scintillating innings and was unlucky to be run out 5 short of his century against North Yorkshire Schools. A team player, he kept the team, the coaches and the umpires entertained with his refreshing approach and sense of fun. P. Cartwright-Taylor (W) opened with him on several occasions. He responded well to being dropped at the beginning of the year and was determined to claim his place back. He marked his return in style, scoring a superb 50. His fielding was a real asset. G. Denny (J) immediately instilled confidence. He is a talented batsman, who makes everyone feel comfortable at the other end and he has shown enough ability to suggest that success will follow next year. R. Simpson (C) played several important innings. The middle order developed well. A. Jenkins (J) had an excellent season: he learnt an enormous amount about 1st XI cricket and applied to show himself as an accomplished player. He has all the shots and at his best is an exhilarating batsman to watch. J. Melling (J) is an exciting batsman. He hits the ball cleanly and hard. T. Pinsent (C) also played some fine innings, with the ability to change the tempo of an innings with tenacious batting and hard running between the wickets.

The bowling attack was also spearheaded by Pinsent, whose left arm over the wicket was a handful for all the XI's opponents, be they boy or man. He has the ability to swing the ball and also moves the ball off the seam. He was ably supported by N. Zoltowski (H) who worked tirelessly at his action and rhythm. He developed the ability to move the ball away from the right handed, which, together with his natural 'in swing' bowling, made him into a very good bowler. Jenkins also bowled good spells with his 'away swing'. C. Shillington (E) had another good year with his leg break bowling. Things did not always go his way, but he is determined and time after time he fought back to claim vital wickets. Without a doubt the most improved player was J. Brennan (E). His wicket keeping was superb and admired by all our opponents. He claimed many victims through stumpings as well as catches, but the neatness of his general keeping was a positive influence on the team's fielding. As vice captain he was demanding of his fielders and allowed the XI to set high standards.

The team was captained superbly by M. Hirst (A). As a player he made valuable contributions both with bat and ball. He scored a magnificent undefeated 40 to beat the Old Boys. His off spin could be very economical, but also threatening. As a captain he was thoughtful in the field, and would never rest on his laurels. He was also loyal to his bowlers, in that he would persevere with bowlers when some would be less patient. He ran a tight ship but a happy one and the boys thoroughly enjoyed playing under him.
1ST XI

Standing: C.G. Shillington (E), A. Jenkins (J), G. Denny (J), N.P. Zoltowski (H), J. Melling (J), P. Cartwright-Taylor (W), P. Edwards (C) (Scorer)

Sitting: R.J. Simpson (C), P. Field (O), M.A. Hirst (A), J. Brennan (E), T.E. Pinsent (C)
AMPLEFORTH drew with WORKSOP

Remarkably the first day of the season was met with sunshine. Having lost the previous two opening day encounters against Worksop to the weather, this was indeed a bonus. The toss was won by the visitors and they chose to bat. They immediately began to seize the initiative from the School, the openers particularly effective in punishing wayward deliveries. They moved briskly to 70. Zoltowski was unfortunate as he had two chances dropped off his bowling. The fielding then began to tighten up, together with accurate bowling from Hirst and Melling, as the game took a new turn with Jenkins claiming 2-0 in 4 overs either side of lunch. However Worksop were able to declare at 236-6 from 61 overs. At 10-4 the School in reply had lost all hope of victory. Melling and Hirst batted well to steady the decline but at 59-9 Lyes joined Brennan and the two batted with confidence and assurance. Brennan in particular showed an authority to such an extent that the two players were able to bat out the last 14 overs.

Worksop 236-6 dec (Jenkins 3-19)
Ampleforth 89-9

AMPLEFORTH drew with EMERITI

Once again the XI found themselves in the field. Accurate spells from Pinsent and Zoltowski reduced the visitors to 40-2 from the first 25 overs. Shillington, returning from injury, immediately struck and appeared to be the biggest threat. The XI maintained its discipline in the field and held the Emeriti batsman to a score of 203-7 dec, which included a breezy 54 from A. Codrington (94). Having lost all front batsmen cheaply against Worksop, it was essential that the School made a good start and have a batsman set himself for a long innings. However Simpson was bowled in the 6th over, but Denny immediately began to bat with assurance and authority. He was ably supported by Jenkins and especially Harle, who showed patience and determination. The XI began to attack the visitors’ total after tea and Denny’s strength became apparent as he drove the ball crisply. Hirst added a sprightly 17 when joining Denny. When Denny was brilliantly caught for a superb 79 Hirst and Melling set about the Emeriti attack, with Melling in particular striking powerful blows. In the end the XI were to fall 8 runs short, but they gained confidence from the manner in which they played this game.

Emeriti 203-7 dec (A. Codrington 54, Shillington 4-33)
Ampleforth 195-8 (Denny 79, Melling 26*, R. Wilson (H92) 5-65)

AMPLEFORTH drew with DURHAM

Once again the XI lost the toss, but this time were asked to bat. The wicket was quite low but Field and Simpson batted with a refreshing security and began what was to become a fine opening stand. They missed out on a lot of leg side bowling and the defensive Durham field placing began to strangle the XI’s batting. However, after a marvellous 100 opening stand, Field and Simpson took the XI to 147, when Simpson was bowled, trying to increase the over rate and Field was caught off a mistimed pull shot. Denny, Melling and Hirst all added useful runs and a final total of 223 was set for Durham to chase.

The visiting openers started well and moved quickly on to 68 before Shillington took a vital wicket. With Hirst bowling in tandem with Shillington, the XI placed pressure on the Durham batters, who were trying to increase their over rate. Two wickets in two balls by Shillington added to the tension and when Jenkins had the Durham captain caught at mid-wicket, the XI tried to press home their advantage. Durham, now realising the victory was out of their reach, batted sensibly and comfortably drew the game.

Ampleforth 223-7 dec (Simpson 68, Field 68)
Durham 181-5 (Shillington 4-79)

AMPLEFORTH drew with STONYHURST

This game had the added involvement of it being the first round of the ‘Emeriti Trophy’. This meant that it was to be a 55 overs match. Field and Simpson again batted well to give the XI a fine base from which to develop. Unfortunately the weather won the battle by lunch and the game was finally abandoned at 4.00 pm.

Ampleforth 92-1 rain stopped play (Field 56*)

AMPLEFORTH lost to SAINTS CC by 102 runs

A strong Saints batting team made steady progress as the School’s bowlers bowled straight but without ever really threatening to run through the opposition. All bowlers returned tidy figures and the College restricted their guests to 180-8. However the School struggled from the start against fine bowling from Flack (5-12) and never recovered from 35-5. The batting was very disappointing. Only Hirst offered resistance.

Saints 180-8 dec (Flack 60, Pinsent 3-32)
Ampleforth 89

AMPLEFORTH beat SEDBERGH by 54 runs

As Sedbergh arrived, the rain was pouring down on the match ground, so it was a great delight to see the players take to the match ground at 11.50 am. The School were asked to bat and Simpson wasted no time as he cut the first delivery away to the boundary. Field fell early on and was followed by Simpson, who was remarkably bowled by a ball he did not play at. Jenkins and Denny batted forcibly and scored 57 between them. Jenkins batted particularly well, driving the ball majestically. Sedbergh bowled and fielded tenaciously and never allowed the XI to run away with their scoring. In an attempt to score quickly, wickets were sacrificed and Sedbergh fought back well to bowl the School out for 152. In the field the School showed a determination and positive approach not yet seen this season. Pinsent and Zoltowski bowled aggressively and straight and reduced the visitors to 19-5. Sedbergh consolidated but Hirst handled the bowlers brilliantly and was backed up by aggressive fielding. It was appropriate that the last two Sedbergh wickets fell to
two brilliant pieces of fielding, by Jenkins and Simpson.

Ampleforth 152 (Jenkins 35, Chapman 38, Farnsworth 34)

Sedbergh 98 (McKerrow 48, Pinsent 4-14, Zoltowski 3-28)

AMPLEFORTH drew with MCC

The School approached this game with renewed confidence. This positive attitude showed itself immediately as Pinsent had the opening bat caught at second slip from the first ball of the day. This further spurred on the XI as Zoltowski and Pinsent bowled magnificently to reduce the MCC to 22-3. One difficult chance however went to ground and Flack, who escaped, moved majestically on to score 103 not out. The School stuck to their task and gave a fine all round performance. The XI began their response to this target in similarly positive vein and progressed to 44-1 at tea. Denny and Jenkins took the score on to 78 as Denny fell to Curness. At this point the School became mesmerised by the all spin attack and lost their way. Melling did his best with a bristling 46, but it was too late and the XI fell 32 runs short.

MCC 194-6 (Flack 103, Pinsent 4-14, Zoltowski 3-28)

Ampleforth 162-5 (Jenkins 41, Melling 46, Smith 3-31)

AMPLEFORTH beat the FREE FORESTERS by 4 wickets

Hirst installed the Foresters team and the XI made early inroads into the visitors' batting. Pinsent took two early wickets and Zoltowski one, to reduce them to 21-3. Aggressive batting raced the Foresters score on to 156-3 at lunch, and although the XI were more alert after lunch, the visitors were able to set a target of 218 from their 47 overs. Field and Cartwright-Taylor batted fluently and placed the School in a solid position at tea with an unbeaten opening partnership of 61 from just 14 overs. Cartwright-Taylor restored to the XI for the game played exquisite drives before he was caught, having completed a half century and shared a stand of 126 for the first wicket. The two set the tempo of the innings and although Field fell for 82, the rest of the team batted with purpose and Hirst and Pinsent saw the school to victory, reaching their target from 42.5 overs.

Free Foresters 218-4 dec (Milbank 95, Wilkinson 73, Pinsent 3-39)

Ampleforth 220-6 (Field 82, Cartwright-Taylor 51)

AMPLEFORTH beat OACC by 4 wickets

Exhibition Saturday matches have produced some scintillating cricket over the years and this year was no exception. The School bowled magnificently through Pinsent and Zoltowski, the latter being particularly penetrative as he claimed four Old Boy wickets. Hirst then made a superb bowling change and brought on Shillington as Lucas (E95) came to the wicket. This particular dual was to spur Shillington on and although Lucas initially appeared to be on top, Shillington managed to trap his prey just before lunch. This not only placed the Old Boys in trouble at 73-5 but had given Shillington back all the confidence that had appeared to desert him over the past few games. Codrington (94) rallied for the Old Boys as he scored a sprightly 39 before becoming Zoltowski's fifth wicket as Field took another catch at slip. Hirst then turned the screw by bringing Pinsent back to mop up the tail, and the XI bowled the Old Boys out for 161. Field and Cartwright-Taylor put on 51 for the first wicket in 16 overs but the XI needed to maintain the tempo. The entire team batted well and never looked like losing the game but, as Hirst went to the crease at the fall of Melling's wicket, it looked as though they would just fall short of their target. However Hirst had commanded the situation and led the side magnificently as he batted with an assurance that was nothing less than outstanding to steer the XI to a four wicket victory with a faultless innings of 41 not out.

OACC 161 (Codrington 39, Zoltowski 3-39)

Ampleforth 162-6 (Field 51, Hirst 41)

AMPLEFORTH v OACC Match abandoned

Pinsent and Zoltowski bowled with pace and accuracy to reduce the Old Boys to 16 from the first 10 overs when Zoltowski claimed the first wicket. Shillington looked threatening from the start and was backed up by fine fielding and field placing. He and the XI reduced the Old Boys to 45-5 by lunch. Hirst and Shillington destroyed the Old Boys' batting. Hirst completing a successful weekend as he took the last three wickets in his last over. Unfortunately the rain then arrived and the game was abandoned.

OACC 70 (Shillington 5-36, Hirst 4-12)

AMPLEFORTH drew with ST PETER'S

This game could not have made a more dramatic opening. The first delivery from Pinsent was pushed through 'gully' for 3 runs; the second ball produced a loud appeal for LBW. The third and fourth balls saw two wickets fall and Pinsent was on a 'hat-trick'! At 3-2 the School had had a dream start. However from then on the game never quite went the way the XI wanted. The St Peter's captain scored a superb 113 not out, and dominated all the XI's bowlers with the exception of Pinsent, who finished with 5-46 from 19 overs. To reach 214 the XI had to make a good start, but as the batsmen played themselves in they lost their wicket and consequently the XI could never really launch a major assault on the St Peter's total. What had started in such dramatic style, finished in a rather ordinary way.

St Peter's 214-7 (Codrington 94, NKay 66, Pinsent 5-46)

Ampleforth 155-8 (Pinsent 46)

AMPLEFORTH lost to POCKLINGTON

In a season where few days could have been sunny and warm, the day was beautiful but there had been torrential rain the previous evening, which had affected the uncovered wicket. Asked to bat, the XI immediately saw the ball rear viciously from a good length. They handled the challenge manfully and batted with pride and determination. They were unfortunate in that every
glove shot and edge went to hand and so, despite their courageous efforts, were bowled out for 76. The wicket was still difficult as Pocklington batted, but it had lost much of its sting. The XI bowled and fielded superbly, and found that the edges and catches just evaded fielders. Denny and Jenkins managed to capture two wickets each and Melling took three catches as the XI dismissed five of the Pocklington batsmen. But Pocklington managed to get home and win the game.

Ampleforth 76
Pocklington 78-5

AMPLEFORTH lost to YORKSHIRE GENTLEMAN by 7 wickets.
The visit of the Yorkshire Gentleman saw the XI win the toss and decide to bat. Field and Cartwright-Taylor gave the School a steady start before Field was bowled. From that moment on the XI began to struggle to bat with any real purpose. It was only when Hirst was joined by Melling that the XI started to make genuine progress. Pinsent added to the accelerating run rate and Hirst was able to declare the innings at 181-8. Pinsent and Zoltowski were unable to make inroads into the Yorkshire Gentleman's batting. It was an occasion when the XI were not able to create a breakthrough and H. Lucas (E95) and P. Lucas (E88) made them pay for their lack of penetration as they scored 69 and 44 respectively.

Ampleforth 181-8 dec
Yorkshire Gentlemen 185-3 (H. Lucas 69, P. Lucas 44)

AMPLEFORTH drew with NYSCC
The School lost the toss and bowled on a dampish pitch that offered early encouragement to the bowlers. Both Pinsent and Zoltowski had the early batsmen in a lot of trouble as they bowled with pace and penetration to reduce the North Yorkshire team to 28-4. However the North Yorkshire opening bat showed great maturity as he 'steadied the ship' and began to bat with authority. Two excellent stands, one of 62 and one of 134, for the fifth and sixth wickets allowed the visitors to declare at 263-6. The XI needed a good start but lost two wickets for just 15 runs. Field and Simpson together set about producing a marvellous recovery. Field used attack as the best form of defence as he drove and cut the ball tenaciously and it was not long before Simpson too began to take the attack to the bowlers as he drove elegantly. The boys batted with great maturity and when Simpson was finally dismissed for 73 the two had put on a stand of 167. Unfortunately Field fell just five runs short of a first century as he turned to try and complete a second run. It had been a great innings and one that had deserved a century.

NYSCC 263-6 dec (Inglis 122, Till 76*)
Ampleforth 210-5 (P Field 95, R. Simpson 73)

AMPLEFORTH lost to DULWICH COLLEGE by 4 wickets
This game was to produce the most unusual of starts. Dulwich won the toss and, with no hesitation, decided to field. The first ball flew past Denny's head and the XI lost their first three wickets with balls which left the pitch in an explosive way. It was when Simpson was hit viciously by a ball on a length that the umpires decided the wicket was too dangerous. It transpired that the wrong wicket had been covered, and so we moved to the drier wicket and started the game again — quite an unusual occurrence. It was clear that the School had been unsettled by the earlier experiences as they started to bat again. Nevertheless they batted with a lot of application and Denny particularly set himself for a long innings. He was well supported by Cartwright-Taylor and Melling. With Jenkins scoring freely when he came in, the School was able to declare at 165-5. Zoltowski bowled particularly well early in the Dulwich innings, taking 3-15 from seven overs. However Bhatti, the Dulwich captain, played with great confidence. The XI could not take the wickets they needed and Bhatti continued to move Dulwich ever nearer their target. There were several close calls for run outs, and eventually Pinsent bowled Bhatti one short of what would have been a brilliant 100. The excitement continued right up until the penultimate ball of the day when the Dulwich team scammed to victory.

Ampleforth 165-5 dec (Denny 55)
Dulwich 166-6 (Bhatti 99, Zoltowski 3-55)

AMPLEFORTH beat CANFORD by 1 wicket
The XI lost the toss and bowled on a dampish pitch that offered early encouragement to the bowlers. Both Pinsent and Zoltowski had the early batsmen...

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School. In between these matches, while there was a successful run chase fare well against other schools. Three matches were lost. There were heavy against a sporting declaration by the OACC during Exhibition, the XI did not as galling, when a winning position was squandered by sloppy fielding and

2ND XI P11 W3 L3 D5

The season began with a facile ten wicket victory over Worksop College and finished with a hard-won and exciting two wicket success against Bootham School. In between these matches, while there was a successful run chase against a sporting declaration by the OACC during Exhibition, the XI did not fare well against other schools. Three matches were lost. There were heavy defeats against St Mary's College, Middlesbrough, and Sedbergh School. The two wicket failure against Durham School was more closely-contested, but just as galling, when a winning position was squandered by sloppy fielding and nervous bowling. Five matches were drawn with only the game against Pocklington School seeing the XI pressing for a win.

The XI possessed some talented players but they seldom fulfilled their potential or gelled together as an effective team. The principal batsmen, struck and from that moment on the XI fought their way back into the game. Nevertheless Canford continued to score freely and reached 140-3 by lunch. The School recovery after lunch was so good that they bowled their hosts out for just 159 thanks to a fine spell from Pinsent that earned him 6-28 from 13.2 overs. Canford bowlers gave very little away and put pressure on the team. Hirst and Wilkie, in his debut, battled hard with them and after a break for rain and also the loss of Hirst's wicket, Mellin and particularly Wilkie batted with purpose, and placed the XI in a strong position from which to win the game. However the team contrived to make a simple task difficult. With nine wickets down the XI still needed 13 runs. The coolest heads belonged to Zoltowski and Shillington, who worked out their plan for victory. Zoltowski took the pace bowler, whilst Shillington patiently waited for the loose deliveries from the leg break bowler which he dispatched with clinical precision.

Canford 159 (Clark 46, Pinsent 6-28)

Ampleforth 160-9 (Wilkie 47)

AMPLEFORTH drew with BLUNDELL'S

Blundell's batted first in what was to prove to be the last game of the season. They immediately began to build a formidable total with Miller leading from the front. The bowlers bowled tidily without ever looking penetrative. The Blundell's batsmen were severe with any loose deliveries and progressed to 120-2 by lunch. The XI tried very hard after lunch to restrict the Blundell's batsmen, but Miller moved majestically towards a century and the XI were set a target of 241 to win in approximately 43 overs — a tall task indeed. The

Ampleforth 160-9 (Wilkie 47)

Canford 159 (Clark 46, Pinsent 6-28)

3RD XI P 6 W 3 L 1 D 2

The 3rd XI enjoyed a successful season, winning three of their six fixtures and having the better of the two drawn games. The strength of the side lay in its batting; with a more penetrative bowling attack the two drawn games would probably have been won. The side was captained by Edward Leneghan (A), who led from the front and encouraged his team to play attractive but competitive cricket. He was able to call upon many experienced U6 players including Alastair Lanigan-O'Keeffe (A), who completed a fourth season in the 3rd XI.

The season began with a drawn game against Sedbergh. Ampleforth batted first and posted an excellent 224 for 5 declared, built around a cultured 75 from John Henry (B). Sedbergh showed little interest in chasing and were content to block the Ampleforth spinners for the last hour. Ampleforth proved too strong for Ashville College who eventually declared at 109 for 9 with Lewis Charles-Edwards (E) taking 4 for 21 before John Henry (45) and Edward

Ampleforth 160-9 (Wilkie 47)

Canford 159 (Clark 46, Pinsent 6-28)

GDT

Cartwright-Taylor (W), Johnston-Stewart (D), R. Hobbs (D), Kennedy (D), Hemingway (H), Finch (W), Harle (C) and Murphy (J) all played attractive shots, and put together some entertaining thirties and forties, but managed to find either unlucky or careless ways of getting out when seemingly well set. Only one fifty was scored all season.

The bowling was never found wanting for enthusiasm but too frequently lacked discipline, accuracy and, consequently, penetration. The pace bowlers, W. Hobbs (J), Jackson (J), Lyes (O) and Troughton (C), were all capable of the occasional unplayable ball but tended to sacrifice control for speed; producing far too many fast full-tosses, half-volleys, long-hops and no-balls. Lyon-Dean (D) was the steadicest of the seamers and was perhaps under-used. The spinners, Arthkeen (E) and Murphy (J), were the most regular source of wickets and gave their often hard-pressed captain, Hemingway, some degree of control in the field. Even they, however, could lose concentration and let slips the advantage gained by their earlier efforts.

The XI was selected from a large and enthusiastic pool of players. Brodrick-Ward (A), Villalobos (C) and Froggatt (E) were given few opportunities to display their talents in matches but invariably made a wholehearted commitment to practices. Brodrick-Ward, when given his chance, was rewarded for his patience with a five wicket haul against Bootham tail-enders bemused by his flighted off-spin in the last match of the season.

In spite of their lack of collective success and individual disappointments, team members always played their cricket enthusiastically, cheerfully and in the best possible spirit towards the opposition.

PGW
batted of Damien Mullen (A), who defended stoutly and dispatched the loose balls to score 33 before he ran out of partners. Damien Mullen batted in four of the six fixtures and was never dismissed; quite an achievement.) The Yarm openers were rarely troubled on their way to 73 without loss.

The XI returned immediately to winning ways with victories against Barnard Castle and Pocklington. Barnard Castle were dismissed for 104 with Alistair Lanigan-O'Keeffe taking four early wickets and Anthony Osborne (j) cleaning up the tail with 3 for 4. Ampleforth faltered when they batted until Alistair Lanigan-O'Keeffe (44) arrived at the crease and dispatched the opposition bowling to all pars. He was ably supported by Damien Mullen (27*), the pair seeing the team to victory by 5 wickets.

Ampleforth continued to show their batting strength against Pocklington, declaring on 186 for 3 with fine contributions from John Henry (65) and Sam Walsh (A) (71*). Pocklington were then dismissed for 79 with Charles Ellis (E) doing the bulk of the damage with a spell of 4 wickets for 8 runs. The final game of the season against Crowtree Gentlemen saw Edward Leneghan score his first half century for the 3rd XI. Ampleforth declared at 178 for 5 but were unable to dislodge the Crowtree batsmen who ended up on 134 for 6.

**UNDER 15 COLTS**

The team opened the season against Worksop College at home in promising style, reaching 155 for 9 by tea and then bowling the opposition out for just 49. M. Wilkie (C) played a captain's innings, reaching 86, whilst M. Camacho (C) and P. Edwards (E) were particularly adept at bowling out awkward lower order batsmen.

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**UNDER 14 XI**

This was a successful season for the under 14 team. The side had an unbeaten record and both runs and wickets were shared by all members of the team. Five members of the team scored fifties and four members took three wickets or more in an innings. Three matches - against Worksop, St Peter's and Pocklington - produced thrilling finishes. The latter, in particular, was a match that will live in the memory with some fearsome batting on both sides. Pocklington's determination to chase a huge score meant that all results were possible almost to the end. There was an easy win against Durham. The Stonyhurst match had to be abandoned but was interestingly poised; and in the end Sedbergh proved a comfortable victory but not before we recovered from being 60 for 5 at lunch. We ran out of time against both Yarm and Barnard Castle - five more overs in each match would have seen further victories. At the end of the season we played two matches against visiting prep school sides (Beeston Hall and Farleigh School) where we selected sides from both the A and B teams.

The main contributors to the team's success were Ansell (O), Phillips (C) and Tussaud (E). Ansell was one member of the side who could destroy an attack and he did so most effectively against Durham, Barnard Castle and Pocklington. He does have a tendency to play shots too early in his innings and he was too often out cheaply. He captained the side well and with quiet dignity. He learned quickly and will develop some of the finer subtleties with time. Phillips rarely failed with the bat. He opened the innings and showed considerable concentration and determination and his fifty against Pocklington was a just reward. He bowled effectively, straight and reliably. Tussaud's bowling rarely disappointed and often baffled the opposition. He was prepared to give the ball plenty of air to get the necessary leg spin and he was not afraid to be hit. He collected 31 wickets in 100 overs. He also contributed useful runs, especially against Yarm. Horsfield (D) developed into a watchful opening batsman and formed an effective partnership with Phillips. Forsythe (T) was prepared to put bat to ball and his fifty against Sedbergh was perhaps the most important innings of the season for it turned the match in our favour and we played on a difficult wicket. Landon (E) grew in confidence and played very straight. As his concentration improves he will become an effective batsman. Nesbit (H) made useful contributions with both bat and ball. Mulvihill (W) was an enthusiastic member of the team. Few will forget his remarkable boundary catch against Pocklington which changed the game. Robertson (E) kept wicket for most of the matches and needs to work hard on his technique. Burton (C)
opened the bowling with considerable pace but found control difficult. He was joined by Kennedy (D) who learned to bowl a steady line and length and was rewarded with some creditable figures.

The members of the team thoroughly enjoyed their cricket and played always with enthusiasm and with a sense of fun. They will continue to develop next year and several of them should be aiming for 1st XI places in two years' time.

Team: D. Ansell (O), R. Hudson (O), S. Phillips (C), E. Forsythe (T), J. Tussaud (E), J. Horsfield (D), A. Landon (E), M. Nesbit (H), A. Robertson (E), A. Burton (C), P. Kennedy (D), J. Mulvihill (A).

TEEN TENNIS

1ST VI

The season started with a trip to Stonyhurst. Although we were made most welcome, the cold and wet weather was far from ideal. The slippery surface made 'serve and volley' tennis almost impossible. The first pair of Andrew Mallia (D), who captained the side, and Jonathan Wong (J) won all three rubbers. Both were established 1st VI players and had already gained their school tennis colours, having played in two unbeaten sides. Their experience shone through in these difficult conditions. The second pairing of Paul Larner (D) and Euan O'Sullivan (B) had also played in last season's unbeaten side. They were as strong a pairing as the first pair. They too played well; however, having won a first set 6-0 against Stonyhurst's second pairing, they failed to close out the rubber and lost the second set 3-6. They rallied to beat Stonyhurst's first pair 6-3 and then finished with a comfortable 6-3 win against their third pairing. Dominic Crowther (D) and Oliver Hurley (C) were selected to play at third pair. Last year they played at first pair for the Under 15 team. They won an error strewn match against their opposite numbers 7-6, 6-1. They then played better tennis against their second pair but lost narrowly 6-7. They finished the day strongly by defeating their first pairing 6-4.

In the following match against a strong Bradford GS team, Larner and O'Sullivan played exceptionally well to win all three of their rubbers, losing only two games in four sets of tennis, the highlight being a 6-0 win against Bradford's first pair. Mallia and Wong started slowly and lost the first set 4-6 to Bradford's first pair; however, they were quickly into their stride in the second set and won it convincingly 6-1. Mallia, who was on medication at the time, looked fine in this first rubber; however, he suddenly felt weak and disorientated. Wong could not carry him in the remaining two rubbers and they lost both. This sealed our fate. Crowther and Hurley tried hard at third pair but lost each of their sets narrowly. They were unable to win a point against established 1st VI players. Bradford eventually won the match 5.5-3.5.

At the Northern Schools Tennis Championships both pairs in the Under 19 tournament met very strong opponents in the first round. Mallia and Wong lost to RGS Lancaster's first pair and Larner and O'Sullivan lost to the title holders, Caldew (Cumbria). Both matches were tight and could have gone either way. Both pairs raced through the Plate competition and met each other in the final. It was to be Larner and O'Sullivan's day as they convincingly beat the first pair. In the Under 16 event, Hurley and Crowther progressed to the quarter finals before losing in a deciding doubles to a good pairing from Arnold School; Crowther, en route, showing that he has the determination and aptitude to make a very competitive singles player.

On the strength of their play at the Northern Schools Championships, Larner and O'Sullivan were promoted to first pair for the match against QEGS. They won two of their rubbers comfortably by the score of 6-1, but lost to their first pair 3-6 and looked nervous at having to cope with the pressure of playing as the first pairing. Mallia and Wong had almost identical sets scores. Crowther and Hurley, fired up by their relative success at the Northern Schools, played very well and managed to win all three rubbers. The 6-1 win against their first pair showed clearly that they were improving rapidly and were strong enough mentally to close out a match against good players.

Hymers came to Ampleforth on a glorious summer's day. Larner and O'Sullivan, again playing at first pair, drew their opening rubber against their first pair. It was becoming evident that the pair were starting to struggle against good opponents to win their own service games. Larner had a powerful first service but was missing too many of them. His first volley was being put under too much pressure on the second service for him to find any consistency. O'Sullivan, on the other hand, was serving consistently, but his serve lacked pace and penetration. He often made up for this with a very consistent first volley. They won their other two rubbers easily. Mallia and Wong, showing that they were coming back into form, won all three rubbers, the highlight being a 6-1 demolition of Hymers' first pair. Crowther and Hurley won two of their three rubbers; strangely they won against their first pair but lost to a far weaker second pair. They liked the ball arriving at pace as they felt their shots were more suited to this. High looped ball with no pace often resulted in poor timing and some appalling errors.

The match against St Peter's was a tight affair. In the first round we played up and won two of the three rubbers, as expected. In the second round with equal pairings, the first pair of Larner and O'Sullivan were soundly beaten 3-6, 1-6; Mallia and Wong won the first set 6-3 and then lost concentration and lost the second set 5-7; Hurley and Crowther rescued the situation by winning a very close rubber 7-5, 6-4. The match was poised for a draw, with St Peter's playing up in the last round and needing to win two of the three rubbers. Larner and O'Sullivan scored through a set 6-0 against their third pair to ensure that we could not lose the match. Meanwhile, Mallia and Wong, responding to earlier criticism, played some exhilarating tennis. St Peter's first pair had no answer to this onslaught and did well to win three games before going down 6-3. Crowther and Hurley were leaving nothing to chance and they too secured a 6-3 win, in their case against the second pair.
Pocklington arrived with a good young first pair who played well all day to win three rubbers, albeit with the aid of some undistinguished play by the Ampleforth pairings. They lacked a supporting pair of sufficient quality to trouble any of the Ampleforth pairings. Ampleforth won all the other rubbers convincingly to secure a 6–3 result.

Bolton were again our last school fixture, many boys returning to school to compete for the school team. Bolton were weak again this year and were convincingly beaten 8.5–0.5.

With the regular season over, the players were preparing for the trip to Eton to play in the Public Schools Tennis Championships. A report follows later.

We will lose two players this year, both of whom have played a major part in the success of Ampleforth tennis. In Jonathan Wong we are losing a steely, determined player who has developed a ferocious serve and hits his groundstrokes with great power off either wing. It was fitting that after ups and downs when technique at times let him down, he developed in his final year into a very good player. Andrew Mallia captained the team this year. He has played in the 1st VI for four successive years. This is an outstanding achievement in itself, but all the better when one remembers that Ampleforth has only lost a couple of matches in this period. He is undoubtedly a fine player, but one who always plays with a smile on his face. Unfortunately, a back injury earlier in his school career robbed him of pace on his service and made it difficult at times to get down to low balls. This year he was free from injury and gave glimpses of the player he will be in the future. He has been an excellent captain in all respects.

This year we have gained the services of Br Damien. He has worked throughout the year with both the 1st VI players. He is a good player and coach and I know that the boys have gained greatly from his expertise.

Fr Leo has been supportive of our efforts and has set in motion the resurfacing of the three courts surrounding the 1st VI courts. This will mean that we have six excellent match courts. It will be good to welcome back an Old Boys team in the summer of '97 to celebrate their opening. Lamer, O'Sullivan, Crowther and Hurley will still be here next year. The challenge is for those in the 2nd VI and those from the under 15s to make the transition to 1st VI players, as Crowther and Hurley did this year.

**Results:**

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rallied to take the second set 6-4. The final set was very close but Whitgift took it 6-4. They had the dubious pleasure of progressing to the quarter finals to play the national standard squad from Repton.

In the Thomas Bowl tournament, Larner and Leach got off to a very good start, beating Wellingborough's first pair 6-1, 6-4. In the next round they met Warwick's first pair. It was Warwick's turn to celebrate as their pair edged through to the next round.

Crowther and Hurley had a bye in the first round and then accounted for Wellingborough's second pair in the next round. They met a Millfield pair in the next round. They lost a tight opening set 4-6 but responded well to take the second set 6-4. The deciding set was finally won 8-6 by Ampleforth. It is not often that one of the major teams falls but Hurley and Crowther deserved their splendid victory. Unfortunately, in the last sixteen they drew Sevenoaks' first pair. Despite playing well, they were unable to repeat the feat of giant killing and went down 2-6, 2-6.

All the players were fine ambassadors for the School, both on and off the court.

2ND VI
The 1996 tennis season has certainly been a mixed one for the 2nd VI, in more ways than one: a mixed squad, gaining mixed results in very mixed weather, the latter ranging from freezing rain at Stonyhurst to an absolute heatwave at home to Bolton School at the end of term.

Several factors combined to produce a very mixed squad throughout the season – whilst we were certainly hit by injuries, most notably to the highly reliable Giancarlo Camilleri (O), arguably what devastated us most was the coincidence of the tennis season with public examinations. In many respects, the 2nd VI is destined mainly to be the bridesmaid, never the bride, in that its best players are frequently promoted to the 1st VI when gaps are needed to be filled, quite often at a time when we ourselves are depleted. For these reasons mainly, the team drew from a very large squad, ranging from Roderick Breninkmeyer (H) to Freddie Chambers (B) in the First Year! Several players distinguished themselves, most notably Charles Blackwell (D), James Dumbell (H) and Alex MacDonald (B), with invaluable support from Domingo Hormaeche (J), Dominic Poloniecki (H), Alex Brennan (H), Ludi von Salm (O) and the enigmatic Richard Campbell-Davys (J), to mention just a few, and to those the team owes a large debt.

Given the relatively unsettled nature of the team, it was not surprising that the results were equally unsettled, with hard fought losses to Sedbergh and St Peter's, York, but fine wins against Stonyhurst, Pocklington, Bradford Grammar, Bolton School and Durham School's 1st VI. Next year, I hope we will have a more consistent team which, with further training, practice and motivation, might have an excellent opportunity of emulating the unbeaten team of 1995.

PTC
The swimming team competed in a total of ten fixtures against other schools, obtaining a record of won four and lost six, which disguises a season of distinct halves.

A satisfactory opening was achieved with a narrow victory over Durham School, with the U16s making a strong contribution. This pleasing pattern of team-based victories was maintained throughout a further three home fixtures, and included very comfortable victories over Sedbergh School and Stonyhurst College. However, as our invaluable coach, Mr Legg, suspected would happen, the second half of the season was less successful: we faced several large city schools who were strengthened by club swimmers. Moreover, some of our team members who had performed well in the early meets moved on to other games. Despite a series of six consecutive defeats, albeit with reasonably narrow margins, our team remained in good spirits throughout, in no small measure due to the sustained encouragement from our antipodean games assistant, Tom Stevens. The captain of swimming, Richard Jackson (T), and his vice-captain, Tom Shepherd (H), led by example and deserve many thanks.

The seniors had a committed top year who swam almost until their public examinations and provided an experienced foundation for the team to build their performances upon. Their record was seven victories and three defeats. Individual contributions were recognised by the awarding of colours to four leavers: Richard Jackson (T), Raoul Sreenivasan (H), Tom Shepherd (H) and Morca McConnell (T) as well as James Edwards (T),

The intermediates ended with a record of six victories and four defeats. Most of this age group (U16) were second years as the majority of third years changed to other games and also needed to consider their GCSEs. Special thanks therefore go to Matthew Bennetts (H) for staying with us and making an important contribution.

At the junior level, the outcome was won four, lost six. However, increased promise was shown this season, in particular by Ed Davis (T). The additional training put in, both this year and last, is reaping benefits. Grateful thanks are made to Ampleforth College Junior School for providing willing juniors when U13 age groups were included in meets.

Andrew Lau (A) is to be congratulated on setting new school records for junior and senior 50m breaststroke (34.34) and junior 100m breaststroke (1.8.30).

Finally, the inter-House 50s swimming competition, held over three days, was won with some ease by St Hugh’s, with St Thomas’s as runners-up.
The intermediate team also had its outstanding performances. J. Martin (H) was the find of the season, winning the triple jump and coming second in the long jump. I. de la Sota was fourth in the intermediate, but this was an outstanding performance for a first year boy. He is likely to be in the same mould as Freeland, H. Billett (C95) and T Madden (E93)

R. Haywood-Farmer was once again a stalwart in the middle distance, often shouldering responsibility for two events when one middle distance is easily enough. P. Morrogh-Bernard continued to improve in the high jump. A lot will be expected of him next season. L. Robertson (C) and H. Lukas (O) also produced great promise for future years.

The Ampleforth invitation meeting was won by Stonyhurst, with ourselves coming second by a narrow margin. This was particularly galling since we were disqualified for being outside the box at a changeover in the relay. Otherwise we would have won the meeting. Stonyhurst had beaten us on their own ground by two points in a triangular match with Kirkham. We had the consolation of the intermediate victory. It was encouraging that five schools came to the meeting, but we still find it difficult to get good opposition. Matches with RGS Newcastle and Morait St Mary's did not materialise, though we had enjoyed beating both of them at Gateshead since they are both traditionally strong in athletics. The Sedbergh match was disappointing. Always a close contest in the past, we had little trouble in both senior and intermediate this year. The same was true in our home match against Durham.

Athletics teams win because of an accumulation of points in the lower order of events. It is easy to pick out outstanding performances, but it is the rest of the team that win the match. All those below have contributed, as did the rest of the set who turned out and maintained good humour throughout a dry, warm summer term.

Teams from: D. Freeland (I), K. Anakwe (A), C. Boyd (A), T. Telford (A), T. Dixon (B), R. Fraser (B), D. Gallagher (B), G. Milbourn (B), P. Morrogh-Bernard (B), R. Haywood-Farmer (C), E. Higgins (C), T. Kepre-Diaho (C), L. Robertson (C), E. O'Malley (D), I. de la Sota (H), S. McAleenan (H), N. McAleenan (H), D. Nicholas (H), D. Herrera S de Vicuna (J), J. Horn (J), R. Horth (J), B. Collins (O), G. Furze (O), H. Lukas (O), T.M. Philippes de Lisle (O), J. Strick van Linschoten (O), R. Farr (T), J. Perez Correa (J).

PTM/JGW

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Staff departures and arrivals
In January we welcomed, for three terms, three new student assistants from the Southern Hemisphere: Sam Wimsett (St Patrick’s, Silverstream, NZ), Lachlan
Scarr (Daramalan College, Canberra) and Will Rigney (Marist College, Canberra).

At the end of the academic year we said farewell to four members of staff, Fr Matthew concluded his second stint at the Castle, having known the boys here both as members of Gilling Castle Prep, and as ACJS. His contribution to French, to the liturgy here, to golf, to wood-turning and the pastoral life of the school will be sorely missed. He also leaves Gilling parish and takes up full-time parish work at Bamber Bridge, near Preston.

Andrew Garden, having completed two years with us as Head of French, finally took up the further study he had put off in order to serve us here. Clare Burns, one of the assistant matrons, has also left us in order to study for a nursing qualification in Canterbury.

Lucy Warrack, having been Director of Studies here for two years, has decided to retire in order to spend more time with her family and to enable her to write more books. She did a great deal to translate into reality for the Junior School the scholarly ideals and virtues traditionally associated with the Benedictine intellectual tradition. She specialised in those subjects which offer the most in terms of a unifying, human perspective of understanding: English literature, History, Theology and the Classics. She will continue to be a member of the Abbot's Management Group for the school.

The new Director of Studies, Mrs Josephine Attar, will also be Head of French. She has been for some time Head of French and Director of Studies (and lately also acting Headmistress) at Exeter Cathedral Choir School. We have also appointed a resident Director of Music, Adam Leslie, who will begin work in September.

OFFICIALS AND NEWCOMERS

| Head Monitor | D.J.H. Thompson |
| Monitor | M.R. Devlin, W.A. Leslie, H.S. MacHale, P.J. Massey, G.R.F. Murphy, A.C. Roberts, J. Whitaker |
| Day Dean | C.T. Hollins |
| Deans | M.T. Catterall, M.J. Gilbert, R.A.B. Judd, S.S. Lukas, D.E. Pacitti, M.T. Rotherham, W.A. Strick van Linschoten, P.M. Westmacott |
| Captain of Cricket | M.T. Rotherham |
| Captain of Rugby | C.T. Hollins |
| Captain of Cross Country | W.A. Leslie |

We welcomed the following boys to the school:

January 1996

B. Allerton

April 1996

60 boys saw the York Mystery Plays in the Theatre Royal, York on Sunday 16 May. These are performed every four years. The closeness between the late Middle English in which they are written, and present Yorkshire dialect and accent bridged the gap between ancient text and modern production. It was good to see these products of the video age enjoying such lively (and timeless) theatre. God was a woman — which almost worked, though some found it a distracting and laboured attempt at political correctness. The serpent in the Garden of Eden, however, was also female. Herod was impressively cruel and brutish, and Pilate’s wife gaudily vulgar. Jesus had the right sort of beard, and his down to earth straightforwardness was surprisingly impressive. His northern (Galilean) accent clashed pointedly with the BBC accents of Pilate and Caiphas. The crucifixion was felt by many to be the most moving and memorable scene.

SCOUTS

Despite freezing weather conditions the Scouts once again entered the Vale of Mowbray County Cross Country competition. Sadly, we were robbed of the junior and senior shields by one point. We did not come home empty handed as Mr Searle won an individual shield by coming second in the young leaders’ race. In the Ryedale District Swimming Gala, a disqualification in the relay and stronger competition from other troops meant we finished in fifth place overall. We were fortunate in having excellent weather for a trip to the Yorkshire Dales and a romp up Pen-y-ghent. The chosen route was to scramble up the scarp slope and then make a gentle descent down the dip. Fr Matthew decided the gentle descent wasn’t to be and led everyone down a steep track. Matthew Hampton managed to persuade a minibus load of boys to go mountain biking in Farndale. A fifteen mile cycle trip was enjoyed by all the participants. Also, a connection, made with Pinacles’ Outdoor Pursuits Centre on the outings day, was followed up and an opportunity given for some second years to try their hand at abseiling and climbing. The enrolment of 34 new scouts finally took place in May. The ceremony was followed by Mass and a special supper. At the ceremony Mr Simpson (GSL) presented Miss Nicholson with her warrant. Some of the cubs, or we should now call them junior scouts, are attempting their minute-man badge. This involves tying six specified knots in one minute.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

As part of the outings days, the first and third years each had a day incorporating caving, climbing and abseiling. We were lucky enough to be able to join the services of Mr Nicholls and his staff. He chose a most superb set of sites for our beginners. The cave was totally horizontal and essentially dry, so no really scary portions; muddy enough to make you feel you were in a real cave not Cheddar Gorge, yet not wet enough to make you uncomfortable for the rest of the day. The abseil was about 50ft; again, high enough to make you feel you had achieved something when you got down but not enough to be terrifying. The climbs were graded so that as the boys got more confident they were presented with something more challenging. As a result virtually all the third years did seven climbs, went through the cave and went down the parget of the viaduct and also the arch. The boys were very good, the first year in particular, as the weather was not the kindest. There were some great moments. The boys are of an age when they are quick to pick up new techniques yet naive enough to fall for stories, one first year group being persuaded to smear mud on their faces to deter non existent bats. On the next day repeated the mud smearing to stop their skin being irritated by the acid water (in limestone caves!) from the fertilizer used by the farmers. Alistair Roberts managed to knot his legs so that an instructor had to undo them for him! The sense of achievement was very evident. You could almost see the boys grow in front of your eyes.

NATIONAL MATHS COMPETITION

This year we entered 54 boys, 34 of whom gained an award.
Gold: George Murphy, Peter Westmacott.

Of the 120,000 entries nationwide, 940 were chosen to go on to the Olympiad (7% of the total) — for this a score greater than 75 was needed. George Murphy only just missed out, getting 68, and Peter Westmacott, with an outstanding 99, was selected and won a bronze medal (one of only 170 to win medals, nationwide).

RUGBY

1ST XV
The weather played a bigger part in the proceedings after Christmas than any other factor. Matches against St Olave’s and Mowden were abandoned, Aysgarth cancelled and the Bramcote game was played in dreadful conditions. Terrington was changed to a 2nd XV game as we were always going to be far too strong for them this year so a fair amount of uncertainty and disruption entailed. However, the games we did play were all won with the exception of...
the rearranged St Olave’s match. Chris Hollins celebrated his return to the side after injury by taking five against the head at Hyiners; Andrew Cooper, also returning to the side, played extremely well scoring two tries and gained his colours. At St Olave’s we played uphill and into the wind on their 1st XV pitch. Within five minutes Chris Hollins caught the very lively Olave’s scrum half behind the gain line, Simon MacAleenan drove powerfully on from the ensuing ruck followed by quick possession and quick hands from James Holdsworth. Matthew Nesbit and Igor de la Sota on our own 22 put Will Heneage away, and fifty yards later a swivel with Igor sent him in for a very spectacular try. The remainder of the half was spent in stern defence, Andrew Cooper, Igor de la Sota and Will Heneage being outstanding and Ignacio Martin putting in a superb tackle to save a certain try. All this into a wind that turned to a gale, then rain and finally sleet. After half-time and one score down, the elements were now in our favour and we quickly drew level. Unfortunately the cold was really taking its toll so regrettably we had to abandon the match. This was the start of much disruption. Cundall Manor were hit by illness and were far from full strength. We lent them players and continuously substituted in 2nd XV players. This gave invaluable experience to some boys who may well be part of next year’s 1st XV, Matthew Rotherham and Martin Catterall playing well and Matthew Gilbert certainly making use of the opportunity to impress. Matthew Nesbit, once he had settled, commanded affairs at stand-off and gave a pivotal point for the rest of the three-quarters. His quick hands released the pace outside and his towering and excellently placed kicks always made opposition backs just a little bit reluctant to come charging up in defence. The centre pairing of Igor de la Sota and Will Heneage was one of genuine class. Both have pace, both have excellent hands, both tackle superbly. Their attacking skills compliment each other so well: Igor with his strength and physical presence, Will with his ability to ghost through seemingly impossible gaps; simply a joy to watch. The pace on the edges — Ignacio Martin, Liam Robertson and Charlie Evans-Freke to finish what had been created inside — made it a very exciting three-quarter line. Special mention must be made of the captaincy by Simon MacAleenan. He has not only led by example but has been an excellent captain, taking all aspects of the job seriously and performing them all to a very high standard. The season has had very many memorable moments and thanks to the video camera many of them are there for us all to enjoy in the years ahead, but that cannot recapture the atmosphere and rapport which has made coaching this group of boys so very enjoyable. Thirteen of them move on to the senior school next year, we wish them well for the future and will follow their progress with great interest.

Team: Charlie Evans-Freke, Ignacio Martin, Will Heneage, Igor de la Sota, Liam Robertson, Matthew Nesbit, James Enwisle, Marcus Benson, Chris Hollins, Stephen Egerton, Tom Leeming, Jo Mulvihill, Eddie Gilbey, Simon
HOCKEY

In recent times Ampleforth College Junior school has not been known for its strength in producing talented hockey players, but in the second half of the Easter term around 22 of the boys attempted to master this skilful game. Many boys had never held a stick before in their lives but, as the training sessions progressed, talented players started popping up everywhere. Boys like David Pacitti and James Lawer would often steer the team in the right direction with their consistent play. It was exciting watching Alejandro de Sarriera weave his magic down the left wing and also to see the defence held strong by Alistair Roberts, a real stalwart. Naturally the boys were up against some rather tough opposition. The two early defeats by Red House Cleveland and Scarborough College were helpful in demonstrating to the boys their weaknesses and strengths. With such knowledge behind them it wasn’t long before they were scoring goals, giving teams a real run for their money and beginning to enjoy it. It was only fitting that the boys won the last game of the season against St Olave’s quite convincingly. It demonstrated the overall improvement of the boys and highlighted the fact that as a team they worked well together.

CRICKET

1ST XI

At their best, this season, they looked a very good side and their win against Aysgarth was a tremendous performance. At their worst they looked a very poor side, lacking leadership. Massey has shown glimpses of the ability he has with the bat and Whittaker similarly. Rotherham has realised what a difficult job it is to captain a side and to set an example for the side to follow. He has bowled well and consistently throughout the season. Leslie has gone from strength to strength. His knocks against Aysgarth and Terrington were the best batting I have seen from a schoolboy at this age for many a year. He is the only boy capable of taking an attack apart and his 54 against Terrington was a delight to watch. Danjo Thompson’s outstanding fielding and competitive spirit have improved the side in the field. Gilbert has kept wicket extremely well. The rest of the side is made up of younger boys and of these Egerton, Mulvihill and Davies look set to lead the talent next year. Allerton has fielded well for the side and has potential if he will work at it. Abascal has worked his way from the 3rd XI to the 1st XI and came into the side to boost the late order. His ground fielding in particular has been exceptional. He has the safest hands I have seen at this level for a long time.

2ND XI

After losing agains St Olave’s early on in the term (in weather more suited to rugby!) and then drawing with Malins away, the boys have not looked back. They beat Bramcote in a nail biter and then had the better of Aysgarth, beating them by 34 runs. In the Worlsey cup, where not much is really expected of our 2nds, they managed to beat Woodlief and put up a good fight against Gresham’s but were unfortunately out-classed by the eventual winners of the Cup, St Martin’s. Living in the shadow of the 1st XI may have caused regular changes with boys moving from one team to another, but it did however provide many of the 2nds with valuable experience. Players like Richard Heathcote who took in excess of 18 wickets for the season, Richard Judd who captained the side and was always confident with the bat, and Chris Hollins whose experience and leadership qualities held firm. Special mention must also be made for a boy who was new to the school at the start of term, had never played cricket before in his life, started off in the 3rds, then moved up to the 2nds and finished the year playing for the 1sts in the Worlsey Cup. For such improvement and natural talent Ignacio Abascal earned not only his colours but also the friendship and respect of his cricketing peers.

UNDER 11s

Last term’s U11 cricket set, although lacking in experience and knowledge of the game, has shown great enthusiasm and resilience, bouncing back from some heavy defeats early on in the season. They go into every match with impressive optimism and rapidly increasing skills. Tim Sketchley has born the brunt of the work for the majority of the season, particularly with some excellent bowling and fielding, but he is now able to share the responsibility with what is beginning to look like a complete cricket side. Nicholas Entwistle has batted reliably and with great style. Daniel Brennan has had some outstanding performances with bat and ball and Francis Townsend bats sensibly and keeps wicket with enthusiasm, giving invaluable encouragement to those around him. In recent weeks Jonathan Halliwell has emerged as a fast bowler of considerable talent.

GOLF

Normally at Lytham St Anne’s, the tournament this year was at Stonyhurst, wonderfully hospitable and organised. ACJS boys came away laden with prizes. The team of three won the best school prize: 1st out of 25 schools. John Whittaker (Captain) won the prize for best Under 14 score (3rd overall out of 79), Ignacio Abascal and Christopher Murphy came 3rd in the Under 13s and Tom Davies won the prize for the best score by a non-team member.