



*Report to the AGM  
2025*



# *Note from the Chair*



The objects of The Ampleforth Society are clear and enduring.  
To promote the Catholic Faith and to advance education by

1. Fostering relationships between the members and associate members and other persons associated with Ampleforth Abbey and Ampleforth College
2. Engaging in activities which support the Abbey and the College and advance the education of the pupils attending the College

As we mark our 150th year, it feels particularly fitting to pause and reflect on our founding purpose and on the role the Ampleforth Society continues to play in shaping friendships and connections of genuine value. We are a community rooted in shared experience; bound not just to one another, but also to the College and Monastic Community that have both formed and guided so many of our lives.

In a world that can so often seem directionless, the wisdom of St Benedict remains as vital as ever. The life of Ampleforth - in its classrooms, on its playing fields, and in its worship - is grounded in that Benedictine Catholic heritage. As a Society, our responsibility is to help members carry these values forward: integrity, compassion, courage, and the insight that comes from faith lived in community; as well as ensuring these can be handed down to future generations in the school. As the Headmaster frequently reminds us, this is the intangible gift of an Ampleforth education lived out beyond the school: a formation that shapes character, inspires loyalty beyond reason, and helps us discern meaning even when the world feels uncertain.

Today, the Ampleforth Society is flourishing. I sense a renewed momentum and energy across our membership. The ties that bind us remain strong, whether you are a parent or an Old Amplefordian, and our collective desire to support and engage is palpable. My fellow Trustees and I are committed to safeguarding all that is good in our work, while continually adapting and growing to ensure the Society is as inclusive, relevant and impactful as it can be for the next 150 years.

The Lord Stafford DL (C72)



14,000 individuals eligible for Membership of the Society

8,500 active subscribers to The Ampleforth Society:

- 82% Old Amplefordians
- 15% Current and Former Parents
- 3% Monks, Staff and Friends of Ampleforth

Of active members:

- 75% resident in the United Kingdom
- 15% resident in Europe
- 10% Rest of World

Active subscribers amongst Old Amplefordian Members:

- 718 age 18-25 years old
- 855 age 26-35 years old
- 663 age 36-45 years old
- 696 age 46-55 years old
- 649 age 56-65 years old
- 529 age 66-75 years old
- 429 age 76+ years old

# *The Trustees & Officers of The Ampleforth Society*

## **The Patrons**

Abbot Robert Igo OSB – Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey  
Mr Jon Mutton – Headmaster of Ampleforth College

## **Chair of Trustees**

The Lord Stafford DL

## **Trustees**

Digby Walker  
Holly Ainscough  
John Dick - Treasurer  
Richard Tams

## **The Officers**

Fr Richard ffield OSB – Chaplain  
Emma Craig – Head of Development

## **Secretary to the Society**

Lizzie Rohan (to June 2025)  
Emma Craig (interim June – October 2025)  
Iwona Cristea (From October 2025)

## **Ampleforth College Development Office Staff supporting the Society**

Emma Craig – Head of Development  
Emma Darbyshire-Mezzanotte – Development Database & Research Manager  
Alex Deedes – Development Manager, Philanthropy  
Iwona Cristea – Development Assistant

## **Contact Details**

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# *The first 150 years of The Ampleforth Society*

The Ampleforth Society was founded in 1875, born from the instinct of Old Amplefordians and friends of the College to remain connected with one another, to retain a link with their old school and with the monastic community that had shaped their youth. In its earliest decades, the Society's centre of gravity was not in London and the South, as it is now, but in the strong Lancashire and Liverpool networks that gathered around Ampleforth's extensive presence in the Catholic heartlands of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 150 years later, reflecting the make up of the school, the Society's reach is truly global.

Originally, the Society functioned as a membership network only for Old Amplefordians, who paid annual subscriptions until attaining life membership. Over the early 21st century, this evolved into a more inclusive and accessible model. Membership was gradually opened to parents, staff and friends of the school, reflecting the wider community that grows out of the College. Subscriptions paid while pupils are at school confer life membership upon leaving; an important step in making the Society available to younger members at a key stage in life when its support, networks, and sense of continuity could be of real benefit.

From the late 19th century onwards, an annual record of College, Abbey and Society life was established in *The Ampleforth Journal*, a tradition that continued through much of the 20th century until later replaced by the *Ampleforth Diary* and more contemporary means of communication. These records capture the colour, character, and changing patterns of life in the Valley, and help sustain a shared sense of belonging for generations.

Over the years, as the Society grew during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, events around the UK and further afield became a regular part of the annual activities of the Society, and continue to make up the core of the Society's social offering. There has also been a continued focus on returning to the Ampleforth valley, as the centre of the Society's life. There has also been the development of groups of mutual support, whether this be careers networking groups, or groups with a common interest. The Old Amplefordians Clubs, while independent, are actively supported by the Society, as is the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Throughout its existence, the Society has made quiet but significant contributions to the development of the College. Providing support for scholarships, and later bursaries, has always been a part of the Society's mission, as seen in the Society Scholarship board, dating back to 1919. The War Memorial Fund, begun by Fr Benet Perceval in 1948, supported school fees for more than sixty years and now forms part of the general bursary funds that still support the school today, and contributed to the furnishing of the Memorial Library. Other gifts included the first shelving in the Upper Library, contributions to the Thompson carrels, and, in 1903, a centenary reliquary for the arm of St Laurence, a to mark the College's centenary. Most recently the Society made a significant contribution to the appeal for the new cricket nets and has provided support towards bursaries at the school, as well as to the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

The Society's history also reflects a distinctive relationship between the monastic community and the wider Ampleforth College network. While monks have always supported and encouraged the Society, they have recognised that it belongs primarily to the broader community: rooted at Ampleforth and arising from the school and with strong links to members of the community, comprising Old Amplefordians, parents, and friends. Individual monks have played significant roles in supporting the Society, including our current Chaplain Fr Richard Field, alongside others such as Fr Felix Stephens, Fr Robert Coverdale, Fr Benet Perceval, Fr Dominic Milroy, Fr Timothy Wright and Fr Edward Corbould. Today, this relationship is maintained in a modern context, through encouraging members to partake in the Abbey's spiritual offering, such as the Easter Retreat, or taking members of the monastic community to minister to the Society at key events.

Over time, the Society has also modernised to respond to the needs of its members and to be more active and purposeful in the way it provides value. Since the turn of this century, its operations have become increasingly professional, no longer relying on a single Honorary Secretary to coordinate all activity. The Development Office at Ampleforth College now provides dedicated support, resources, staffing and expertise, creating a more tangible and practical link to the valley and ensuring continuity, consistency, and breadth in the Society's work. The Headmaster acts as Patron, alongside the Abbot of Ampleforth, and the Trustees of the Society work closely with the Head of Development and their team to deliver a full and varied programme of opportunities for members. This professional structure still rests on, and is enriched by, the enthusiasm, goodwill, and practical involvement of Society members, whose contributions remain vital to helping its initiatives flourish.

Since the introduction of co-education at the College, and with the increasing presence of parents within the membership, the Society has steadily adapted its activities to reflect a broader and more diverse community. This evolution has been gradual, and there is still more to do, but important foundations have been laid. The appointment of the Society's first female Trustee, Holly Ainscough (M09), has been particularly significant in helping shape this direction, as was the contribution of Philippa Jalland (M13) during her time as Ampleforth Society Coordinator in the Development Office. More recently, Dionne Saville and Lizzie Rohan, both Ampleforth parents and former members of the Development team, played pivotal roles during their tenure in ensuring that parents and young Old Amplefordians feel genuinely included, helping to broaden the reach, relevance, and support offered by the Society.

Our thanks must go to the many Old Amplefordians and members of the Monastic Community who have served as Trustees of the Society over the decades. Their stewardship, vision, support, generosity and enthusiasm, often without recognition and thanks, has not only kept the Society going in times of turbulence, but has now ensured its flourishing for the modern era.

Today, 150 years from its founding, the Ampleforth Society continues to evolve. Its purpose remains unchanged: to unite Old Amplefordians, parents, families, friends, Oblates, monks, and the wider community in a shared heritage and a shared hope for Ampleforth's future. What began as a modest network in 1875 has become a global community rooted in memory, strengthened by friendship, and renewed by every generation that passes through the Valley.

Emma Craig  
*With thanks to the Ampleforth Abbey Archive*

# *Report on general activities of the Society, December 2024 - 2025*

This year was particularly special for the Ampleforth Society as we celebrated 150 years since our foundation, marked by a special weekend at Ampleforth in early October, which Richard Tams reports on later. It has been an exceptionally positive year for the Ampleforth Society, one marked by renewed momentum, growing engagement, and a strengthening sense of what it means to belong to this remarkable community. Across every area of our work, we have seen the depth of affection for Ampleforth translated into action, connection, and a tremendous amount of fun along the way.

## **Events**

December 2024 was marked by the Carol Service in London, in support of the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage, with 400 attendees at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington. It was certainly the largest gathering we have had in recent memory and it raised a healthy sum to support the Pilgrimage in the summer of 2025. The Schola Cantorum of Ampleforth College excelled themselves and the music was uplifting and moving in equal measure.

Events were held throughout the year, in the UK and across the world, nearly all in collaboration with the College, with many assisting with the recruitment of new pupils to the school, where the Society membership have a key role to play in acting as advocates and introducers to families.

There has been a real focus on bringing Society Members to Ampleforth, which has a dual effect of rebuilding connection and affection for “home base” and enriching the experience of the boys and girls at the school, while offering the opportunity to reconnect with the Monastic Community of Ampleforth Abbey. The Old Amplefordian Sports Weekend in March grew this year, with nearly 100 Old Amplefordians taking part and many parents coming to watch, all rounded off with an enjoyable evening in The Windmill (the school pub and social centre).

The opening of Becket House (formerly St Thomas’s House before its merger with St Cuthbert’s) as College guest accommodation has been very helpful for enabling more Society members to come and stay at Ampleforth. Alongside this, proactive engagement with the Abbey’s Retreat offering and accommodation at The Grange and Alban Roe House means it has never been easier for guests to stay at Ampleforth, with a range of options, opportunities and price points.

Society Members have been proactive in supporting the College’s careers programmes, with many giving talks at the school. A new feature of the Society’s activity is to extend the same opportunity to members to hear enriching talks, with Harry Blackiston Houston (EW14) offering the first “Speaker

and Social” event in London, talking about his inspiring work on the front lines in Ukraine through his charity Insulate Ukraine.

## **A Community Re-Engaging With Energy**

The reach of the Society amongst our potential membership continues to expand at pace. Our email newsletter audience has grown by an impressive 24% since this time last year - over 1,500 new subscribers who receive Society updates. Our Instagram community is now 1,653 strong, with a 14% increase since July alone. The Ampleforth Society LinkedIn Group continues to grow and will be the focus for our future careers and mentoring initiatives which will be equally open to parents and Old Amplefordians alike. These are not just statistics; they are signs of a community that is reconnecting, curious, and keen to be involved.

A major milestone this year was the launch of the *new Ampleforth Society website* in May. This fresh, modern platform has transformed how members access news, register for events, update their details, and explore opportunities to get involved. Importantly, it now sits as the digital home of the Society, a place where our history, our people, and our ambitions for the future are all brought together. Early analytics show strong engagement, and we will continue to develop the site as a key touchpoint for members around the world.

The online shop on the Society website continues to be a real success, not only being of value to members but also helping to raise funds for bursaries at the College, something the Society has always played a part in. As we approach Christmas, we encourage all members to consider whether an Ampleforth mug, set of cufflinks, tie, scarf, hat or even Monopoly set might just be the perfect gift for the Amplefordian, and through that you will help give the gift of education at Ampleforth to more children. Last year the shop generated bursarial support equivalent to a 15% bursary for a child in the Junior House.

## **Strengthening Structures and Support**

This year has also been about consolidating the Society’s internal foundations, within the Development Office at the College. Thanks to the Headmaster and his staff, the Society is supported by a professional team employed at the school, without whom the Society would not run. We said a sad goodbye to Lizzie Rohan as Alumni Relations Manager in the summer but Emma Craig (Head of Development and Officer of the Society) has welcomed new staff into the Development Office, helping to further professionalise event delivery, communications, and member services. In October, Iwona Cristea (Development Assistant) was approved by the Trustees as Secretary to the Society, Caroline Wilkie will join as Development Manager for Alumni Relations and Engagement from January, bringing strong family connections as well as professional expertise to the role. Alex Deedes (T15) joined in November as Development Manager for Philanthropy, on the College’s fundraising side, and we look forward to seeing him regularly at our events. Emma Darbyshire-Mezzanotte continues to oversee the Development Office database, through which the Society is run, to ensure we are keeping up to date with everyone’s contact details and inviting people to activities and events

that speak to their interests and relationship with the College and Society. The Trustees have also worked with the guidance of the Development Office to continue to refine governance, reporting, and financial oversight, ensuring the Society remains fit for purpose as it enters its next 150 years.

The Society's mission, to unite and support the wider Ampleforth community, is now more clearly aligned with the College's broader vision for its future and the Abbey's mission to bring more people into a relationship with their offering. Whether through mentoring, events, outreach, or communication, the Society plays a growing role in shaping and strengthening Ampleforth's wider ecosystem.

## **A Renewed Sense of Purpose**

Underlying everything this year has been a renewed energy around what the Society stands for: fellowship, service, and shared heritage. Our communications, our international networks, and even the simple joy of seeing old friends greet each other all reflect a community that cares deeply and wants to play its part.

The Society is evolving, not only celebrating its historic identity, but actively contributing to what it means to support Ampleforth in the 21st century. There is a stronger sense that every member has something distinctive to offer: as a mentor, as a volunteer, as an ambassador, or simply by staying connected.



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*“My time at Ampleforth was essential to making me become the person I am today. I think it taught me to be independent, curious about different things, but more importantly, it taught me to be a better person overall. I truly believe Ampleforth gives you a compass for life.”*

**Pierre Panhard, Old Amplefordian**



# *Society 150<sup>th</sup> Weekend:*

## *A celebration of community*

The Ampleforth Society 150th Celebration was, by every measure, a triumph, an expertly curated weekend that brought together Old Amplefordians, the monastic community, current and former parents, students, staff, and friends of the community in a programme that was as rich in substance as it was in spirit.

Over three days, the event showcased the very best of Ampleforth: its heritage, its intellectual energy, its sense of community, and its unbroken Benedictine tradition. What made the celebration so successful was not simply its scale with 150 guests in attendance, but the thoughtfulness with which each element was designed, delivered, and woven into a very special weekend.

From the opening moments on Friday evening, guests were welcomed into the warm embrace of the community. Vespers in the Abbey Church set a contemplative tone, grounding the celebration in the monastic spirituality that has shaped Ampleforth for over two centuries. The evening's lectures were a standout highlight: inspiring, diverse, and exceptionally well-attended. Whether exploring the power of storytelling with James Honeyborne, delving into global development with James Carty, or being carried along on a horseback pilgrimage across Europe with Louis Hall, attendees were treated to ideas and experiences that reflected both Ampleforth's global reach and its deeply personal formative influence.

Saturday continued the momentum, offering something for every age and interest. Conventual Mass followed by coffee with the monastic community reinforced the centrality of faith and fellowship. Throughout the day, the expansive programme allowed guests to engage with Ampleforth in ways both reflective and celebratory: the all-day Art Trail, the Heritage displays, the College Tours, house visits, fun swim sessions, and Manquehue reunion all contributed to the buzzing atmosphere. For me the highlight of the morning was being among the 16 society members (both OAs and parents) who mentored Year 12 on a wide variety of career paths, from estate management to aviation and accountancy to the dramatic arts.

The lunchtime speeches by Ampleforth Society Chair of Trustees Lord Stafford, Abbot Robert, and Headmaster Jon Mutton were well received and encapsulated the occasion beautifully, striking the right balance between appreciation of the past and an optimistic view into the future. Even the 20 children in the audience appreciated them. Sadly, due to the storm the planting of the Veterans Oaks Memorial to those who fell in the Second World War had to be postponed, but the tree itself is now in situ.

The afternoon brought gatherings both spiritual and sporting: Stations of the Cross with Fr Chad, college fixtures, and the OA cross-country challenge. Once again, the programme's variety meant that every attendee could find something meaningful to them. The evening reception and the 150 Celebration Supper were exceptional. Good company, hearty food, and a palpable sense of shared identity made it a night to remember. The after parties at local hostelrys and Beckett House were also memorable.

Sunday's culminating High Mass, celebrated by Abbot Robert and enriched by the combined Schola or College and Society members, brought the celebration to a fittingly powerful close. The booming recessional hymn taking many of us back to our days in the school. The final coffee gathering in the Main Hall provided a relaxed and convivial end to a weekend filled with memories.

Ultimately, the success of the 150th Celebration lay in its ability to honour tradition while celebrating the living, breathing community that continues to flourish at Ampleforth. It was a milestone marked with grace, joy, and deep gratitude. It was a weekend truly worthy of 150 years and a credit to those who worked so hard to make it happen.

**Richard Tams**

## *Chaplain's Report*

There were 57 OAs, as well as lots of their wives, parents, grandchildren and friends, among the 315 on the Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage in July of this year.

Of the hundred or so Oblates of Ampleforth, 14 are OAs and one died during the year.

32 OAs are known to have died since the last AGM. They are prayed for at the end of Matins in the Abbey by name for a week and the Chaplain offers Mass for each of them and endeavours to be in touch with the family. Of course, all members of the Society are remembered at Matins every morning.

The Chaplain has discovered, in his copy of the Report of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society in 1924, 101 years ago, that he is also supposed to celebrate Mass on the first Friday of every month for the living and dead members as well, as on or about the day of the AGM. So he has some catching up to do but will forego the prescribed stipend of five shillings for every Mass said according to these rules.

This year's Lord Mayor of Westminster, Robert Rigby (T79) has frequently referred to his Ampleforth education as the source of his Benedictine values and is only one of many OAs serving the community in all sorts of different, and often original, ways.

The Society Dinners, preceded by Mass, celebrated in the various regions have not taken place this autumn due to the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations, but it is noteworthy that it is very rare for anyone to turn up to the dinner but not the Mass.

**Fr Richard ffield**

# *Updates from the Old Amplefordian Clubs*

## **Old Amplefordian Chess Club**

The Old Amplefordian Chess Club continues to flourish having achieved another fine mid-table finish in the latest season of the online World Chess League. Notable results included a 6-0 thrashing of Hull University in the Yorkshire derby, with Headmaster Jon Mutton, OA Chetan Deva and OA parent Michael Trounce winning both games- but most enjoyable of all of course was the 4-0 victory over Eton College!

The club met up in person in March to play a historic match against The UK Parliamentary Chess Club and celebrated our thrilling 8-6 victory afterwards in the Red Lion. Peter Hornsby (T12), Henry Kirk (D16), Digby Walker (T11), Magnus Walker (T14), Tim Mayer (J18), Ben McDonnell (J18) & Nicolas Rouquet Lopez (J18) participated in a well fought game at the Palace of Westminster for a memorable experience we hope to repeat again next year.

We are continuing to expand, all ages and abilities are welcome so if you are interested in joining the club, please contact the captain Peter Hornsby at [pbhornsby@gmail.com](mailto:pbhornsby@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +447528665226

## **The Old Amplefordians Cricket Club**

The 2025 season was full of sunshine, camaraderie, and memorable moments for the OACC. While runs were sometimes hard to come by, the team showed resilience and flashes of brilliance throughout the summer. A standout highlight was our superb bowling performance that secured victory over the Eton Ramblers—a fantastic response after an earlier Cricketer Cup setback against the same opposition.

Exhibition weekend brought excitement and variety: a spirited win against I Zingari on Sunday capped off a weekend of competitive cricket, even if Saturday's clash with a youthful College XI didn't go our way. The Southern Tour began in style with a draw against the Free Foresters and a convincing win over the Grannies, setting a positive tone before challenges later in the tour.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the season was the influx of talented under-25 debutants. Their energy and enthusiasm promise a bright future for the club and underline our commitment to growth and development.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce our Cricketer Cup fixture against Repton Pilgrims at Ampleforth on 17 May. It's set to be a fantastic occasion, and we warmly invite Old Amplefordians to get involved in the season—whether on the field or by the boundary. We are also excited about the launch of the OACC Ladies XI in 2027 and early indications from those looking to play are very much encouraged. For more details, contact us at [oldamplefordianscc@gmail.com](mailto:oldamplefordianscc@gmail.com) or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, or via [www.oldample.play-cricket.com](http://www.oldample.play-cricket.com).

Here's to an exciting season ahead - full of runs, wickets, and great cricketing spirit!

### **The Old Amplefordian Cross Country Club**

Another great year for the Old Ampleforth Cross Country team. It started with the traditional January fixture between the college and the OA's; the first Corbould Cup race since the sad passing of Fr Edward. The OA's took a superb victory in a well fought race. The College took revenge with victory at the OA sports weekend in March however once again the OA's prevailed in October at the 150 year weekend. As well as this Ampleforth was represented at the annual Alumni Cross Country race held at Wimbledon Common in September.

It's been fantastic to see recent leavers join the Old Ampleforth Cross Country team this year blending a mixture of youth and experience. Many thanks to Brendan Anglim and the college for helping to keep the OAXC race going and hopefully it will continue to do so for many years.

### **The Old Amplefordian Football Club**

This year has been particularly special as the OAFc celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> season as a club, with a fantastic dinner held in PJs in Fulham. It was great to see so many of the stalwarts of the Club there, including founder Louis Robertson, and fantastic speeches were made. The Club has brilliant camaraderie and dedicated members, many of whom were recognized on the night for their contributions over the years. It was great to see recent leavers there as well as founding members, the club is always keen for new recruits to keep momentum behind them and ensure enough players are available for fixtures as they aim to climb the divisions.

The OAFc returned to the valley for the Super Saturday of Sport again in March, which is always a highlight for the College to play against them. The OAFc also hosted their Arthur Dunn Cup fixture against the Old Reptonians at Ampleforth in October half term. It is always a pleasure to have these key fixtures back in the valley.

### **The Old Amplefordian Golfing Society**

The 2025 OAGS season featured a packed schedule of competitive and sociable fixtures across many of the country's finest courses. Results were mixed, beginning with a heavy 11–3 defeat to Aldeburgh, despite several promising OA debuts. February's double-header at Royal Cinque Ports and Royal St George's saw strong individual performances, with Alex Faulkner and Hugh Jackson sharing the Watson's Quaich. A narrow but spirited 4.5–3.5 win over the Old Gregorians at Sunningdale followed, before the College dominated Super Saturday at Gilling.

A narrow loss came against the Old Radleians over two days at Royal Liverpool, though performances were competitive. In the Halford Hewitt, a youthful squad battled hard but exited in the first round against Uppingham before making a strong run in the Plate. The AGM and Spring Meeting at Royal Ashdown produced excellent golf in fine conditions, with multiple trophy winners across foursomes and singles.

Victories followed against the Old Sedberghians at Royal Wimbledon and the Old Cranleighans at Woking, while the Cyril Gray team reached the final of the Plate after a dramatic week at Worplesdon. The Invitation Day at New Zealand GC attracted record numbers, and the OAs retained the Russell Bowl at Royal Ashdown. The Northumberland Meeting and Northwest Tour were well attended, featuring close matches and memorable hospitality. The Autumn Meeting at Ganton saw a comprehensive victory for the College on Friday with competitive fields and several impressive individual winners on the Saturday. The last match of the year saw a draw against the Old Paulines at

Royal Ashdown.

### **The Old Amplefordian Hockey Club**

The Old Amplefordians vs the College on the Savill Field has become a real highlight of the OA Super Saturday of Sport each March. Both women's and men's teams took on the school once again in nail biting fixtures, with a huge amount of fun involved too.

The OA women fielded a 16 strong team, who in the last 5 minutes did appear to all be on the field before the referee noticed, but sadly they still suffered a loss to the school. Hardly surprising considering they are a scratch team and playing against the northern schools champions. However, if teamwork, camaraderie and fun were what mattered, they had it in spades.

The OA men had a very tense match against the College, with some stellar players taking to the field against a very strong College side. Their defeat was narrow and there were moments when it was clear it could have gone either way.

The OA Hockey teams are certainly where the most family links lie, with Joe Mitchell (H22) being cheered on by his sister Annie (M25) from the sidelines after her fixture against the OAs just minutes before. The James sisters are always a central unit within the OA girls team, and luckily they finished without injury this year.

Building on the success of recent years against the College, the OA Hockey Club will become a formal Club within the Society, with our OA women taking the helm in driving this forward.

### **The Old Amplefordian Rugby Club**

In the 2024/25 season, OARFC finished 6th in Counties 2 Surrey. After a summer dedicated to strengthening and developing the squad, they've started the new campaign in excellent form. A number of familiar young OAs have stepped up, with Tate Usher, Ben Duckworth and Julian Boecker now established as regulars after steadily bedding into the side in recent seasons.

The OARFC have carried that momentum into the new season, opening with four wins from their first six matches and picking up two losing bonus points in the narrow defeats. They currently sit 5th in a 12-team league, well placed for a strong run to close out 2025 on a high. This performance has been powered by a remarkable collective effort - 44 players used so far, most of them SHAC alumni. The rugby on show has been some of the best in recent memory, with dominant wins and defeats that have gone right to the wire.

With the recent success on the pitch at Ampleforth, there's real optimism that this tradition can continue, ensuring a steady stream of young talent coming through to strengthen the squad for years to come.

# *A view to the future*

The Ampleforth Society Trustees have established their strategic pillars for the coming years, to ensure the Society meets its objects and continues to offer value to members in a way that is meaningful to them. The Development Office, Society Trustees and a new series of sub-committees and volunteers will now drive forward the initiatives that will sit within these pillars.

## **Engaging & Strengthening Our Community**

*To foster a strong, connected, and engaged global network of Old Amplefordians, current and former parents, staff, and friends of Ampleforth, reinforcing the Ampleforth identity across multiple generations. To inspire and support members in their pursuit of intellectual, professional, and spiritual growth, ensuring that learning and faith development continue throughout their lives.*

## **Pathways & Professional Development**

*To empower members through career guidance, networking, and mentorship, ensuring that Benedictine values shape ethical and impactful professional lives. Including the development of structured careers groups, expanded mentoring for pupils and young alumni, professional networks and early careers support. A clear, long-term framework for supporting Society members at every stage of life.*

## **Fostering a Greater Sense of Belonging**

*To ensure that Ampleforth remains a welcoming spiritual and emotional home for all members of the Society, strengthening their lifelong bond to the valley. By fostering a deep physical connection to Ampleforth, members are encouraged to return with friends and family, engage with the community, support education at the College and experience the beauty and traditions of the place that shaped them.*

## **Culture of Giving Back**

*To nurture a culture of service and engagement, where alumni, parents and friends actively give their time, skills, and opportunities to support fellow members and current Amplefordians, contributing to meaningful initiatives aligned with Benedictine values.*

# *Deceased Members since December 2024*

The Development Office has been notified of the following deaths of members since the last AGM. Apologies for any omissions or errors, please do get in touch so we can ensure our records are up to date.

## **December 2024**

Patricia Petit (Former Parent)  
Charles Ogilvie Forbes (W62)  
Simon Brett (H60)

## **January 2025**

Laurence Kenworth-Browne (O51)  
Michael Bufton (B57)  
Hugh Meynell (E48)  
Charlie York (C19)  
Timothy George (C51)  
Conor Carr (T52)

## **March 2025**

James Fuller (B74)  
Colin Crabbe (C60)  
Richard Mostyn (W63)

## **April 2025**

Duncan Ellison (Former Staff)  
Robin David (P55)  
Anthony Green (E55)  
John Goldschmidt (A62)  
Mark Faulkner (E73)  
Harry Stobard (W57)  
Peter Pernyes (D47)

## **May 2025**

Diana Williams (Pilgrimage Director)  
Rory MacDonald (O51)  
Dr John Irvine (D56)  
Ladislas (Laci) Nester-Smith (W53)  
Anthony Pastore (C66)

## **June 2025**

Thyrza Gaynor (Former Parent)  
Kestrel Selby Boddy (H17)  
Helen Goodman (Former Parent)

## **July 2025**

Keith Gay (Former Parent)  
John FitzGerald (T59)  
Caroline Deedes (Former Parent)

## **September 2025**

William Walmesley Charlton (O53)  
Anthony Umney (A57)  
George Brocklehurst (B58)  
Hugh Stafford Northcote (W57)  
The Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank (Former Parent)

## **October 2025**

Lt Col Nicholas Robinson (O64)  
Duncan Davidson (T59)  
Timothy Baynham (D86)  
Simon Ashworth (C75)

*Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.*

*Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.*

*If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?*

*But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.*

*I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.*

*I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.*

*Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.*

*He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.*

*Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord! And let perpetual light  
shine upon them. May they rest in peace.  
Amen.*



# The Ampleforth Society

*A global fellowship of Old Amplefordians, parents, monks, staff and friends bound by shared faith, friendship, and the enduring values of Ampleforth College and Ampleforth Abbey.*



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