



Ampleforth Society
147th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13 December 2023
Postgate Room, Ampleforth College

Attending

<p>The Abbot, Robert Igo, OSB – Patron Patrick Tolhurst (C99) - Chair Lizzie Rohan, Alumni Relations Manager Lord Stafford (C72) John Charnock – Treasurer Jeremy Deedes (W73) Bernadette Baker Gerard Simpson</p>	<p>Peter Roberts, Headmaster – Vice Patron Emma Craig, Head of Development Fr Richard ffield, OSB Holly Ainscough (M09) Richard Tams (J86) - <i>participated online</i> David O’Kelly (C81) Sebastian Philips (C00) Emma Darbyshire-Mezzanotte</p>
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1	<p>Welcome and Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Patrick Tolhurst (PT) welcomed all to the meeting ii. Prayers were said by Fr Richard ffield OSB, Chaplain to the Ampleforth Society.
2	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Nick Channer (NC) & Digby Walker (DG) <i>Digby joined online during the meeting</i>
3.	<p>Declarations of any interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. PT noted RTs declaration as both a member of the St Laurence Education Trust and as an Ampleforth Society Trustee
4.	<p>Report on Society Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. General – PT - This has been a transition year for the Society and we have welcomed new Trustees and Trustees who will take office this coming year. PT mentioned that our financial situation has not been as productive as we would like but we have still made our Bursary contribution, supported other activities of the Society and contributed meaningfully to the development of the cricket nets. There was also a contribution to a project to improve the collection of data & we registered for Gift Aid. PT said that our objectives remain the same to support the College and Abbey by increasing our finances to a meaningful size to better our contribution. PT mentioned his time as Chair was coming to an end but that there was

much to be optimistic about with accolades from inspectors, Good Schools Guide and elsewhere including the news of two postulants starting at the Abbey in the New Year. PT commented that it feels like Ampleforth is moving in the right direction. PT said there was an enormous debt of gratitude to all those who had worked so hard over the year & to Trustees who support Ampleforth on the next phase of its journey.

- ii. Events and Membership Activities – LR reported on the activities over the past year, the momentum built during this time and the way ahead. Please read report [HERE](#).
- iii. Accounts and Approval of Accounts – JC reported on the Society’s financial accounts and position. It had been a successful year and good in parts. JC explained income was derived in two ways. Firstly, from the College where an amount is received on a termly basis and related to net fee income. Secondly, income comes through dividends & interest from our share portfolio. Thirdly, the occasional gift & bequest. The amount received from the College was roughly the same as last year at £67,000, and our investments saw an increase of 20% to £16,000. During the year there was a significant bequest of £150,000 to which the Society was extremely grateful to both the Benefactor and the executors. JC said that aside from 2 large grants the Trustees were continuing to support the College General Bursary Fund. The Society does not make awards itself, but allocation was at the discretion of the College and their criteria. During the year £77,000 was contributed to the Bursary Fund. In addition to this JC mentioned that the Trustees continued to support several Old Amplefordian sports groups and there were modest reimbursements to the Trustees, for insurance and auditors' fees. Two large grants enabled us to support the Ampleforth Beagles which the Benefactor was keen for us to support, and which have had some difficult years. A payment was also made to give a final financial push to complete the refurbishment of the cricket nets. The balance of the bequest of £70,000 was added to the investment portfolio. JC commented that the Investment Portfolio send a significant falling value from a high in December 2021. Management is outsourced to professionals who have discretion to act within the parameters set by Trustees. Uppermost being the level of risk the Trustees are prepared to accept on a scale of 1-7. We currently sit at 5 and an increase to 6 will be an early consideration by the Investment Committee. We have seen market fluctuations in the last 18 months and a dramatic increase in interest rates coupled with the risk level chosen by Trustees which sees the investment split at around 65% equities & 35% fixed interest rate. The rise in rates coupled with the disastrous mini budget in September 2022 has depressed the value of the fixed interest rate portion of our portfolio and hence the portfolio overall. The point is illustrated when we look at the portfolio value which from a high point in December 2021 was £816,000 has fallen to £686,00 at the yearend in August we strip out that extra capital for comparative purposes. Once we add that £70,00 figure back in the year end figure was £756,000. Other matters I am delighted that Larry Brennan has agreed to join me on the Investment Committee and brings a great deal of professionalism. JC said that in the last month the society had registered with HMRC to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations. Finally, the accounts for the year end 31 August have been published on the Charity Commission website as well as the Ampleforth Society website. JC recommended to the meeting that the accounts to the 31 August 2023 be received and adopted and would

	<p>be delighted to answer any questions. PT asked all those in favour to raise their hands. All hands were raised, and the accounts approved. PT thanked JC.</p>
5	<p>Report from the Patron on the Monastic Community</p> <p>i. Abbot Robert reported that the Community is moving forward. Having been in survival mode to get through each day during the intense scrutiny that they had been under, the future has seemed far too distant to think about. However, the Community has passed through a survival mode and turbulent period, and this was due to the immense resilience of the monastic community. The Community has faith, and this was the most important thing. The Community had volunteered to be audited by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency and were the first Catholic community to do so. The result was a testimony to the huge amount of work that was done beforehand and in 3 of the 8 standards The Abbot reported the Community came out as Exemplary and in all the other standards achieved the second highest rating which is Compliance is Assured. All this gives huge confidence to the Community looking towards its mission. The Community is not for maintenance but for mission. The Abbot said they are called to evangelize our nation; there to help people transform our society and have a mission to be part of revitalising the Catholic church in England and Wales. The Abbot said that there were 4 signs of life to look to – the refurbishment of the Grange, the Alban Roe project coming alive in March when the tearoom and gift shop would be open. The offer would also include school & conference facilities and a visitor centre. On the 19 March Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate conventional Mass and Bless and open Alban Roe House. Hospitality was going to be through the Community where they welcome people in order to carry out 3 things – evangelization, transformation and revitalization. The third shoot is the number of people who would like to collaborate with us by trying to breathe new life into the Oblates. The Abbot reported that there are lots of enquiries. Collaboration with the Lay collaborators is key. The final piece is the relationship with PR. The Abbot said they meet weekly, and they share the same vision, but are separate. The Abbot said we were 2 separate institutions but with a common mission. Because of the separation we can work in a unified way. PT thanked The Abbot and said we would strive to work better and closer together.</p>
6	<p>Report from the Vice Parton the College</p> <p>i. PT welcomed PR. PR shared the main theme from the Michaelmas term assembly. Please read the report HERE.</p>
7	<p>Development Report</p> <p>i. EC delivered the annual report from the Development Office which you can read HERE.</p>
8	<p>Retirement of Trustees</p> <p>i. Col. Nick Channer OBE (D81) - PT said what a major source of support Nick had been and noted his thanks to Nick for everything he has contributed too.</p> <p>ii. Patrick Tolhurst (C99) - Immeasurable thanks from the Ampleforth Society for his sterling command of the ship during the last 10 years.</p>
9	<p>Appointment of new Trustees</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Chair – The Lord Stafford (C72) - proposed by PT, seconded by DOK, all hands raised and voted on the Board. ii. Holly Ainscough (M09) - proposed by PT, seconded by LR, all hands raised and voted on the Board
10	<p>Appointment of Honorary Life Vice Presidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lt. Col. David O’Kelly (C81) - PT proposed, seconded by HA, all hands raised in favour ii. Jeremy Deedes (W73) - PR proposed, seconded by JC, all hands raised in favour
11	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. PT mentioned that JC had touched on the good news that Larry Brennan (E91) was joining the Investment Committee and that they might be another position available on this committee soon. ii. It was also agreed that SLET Governors would be welcomed to the Society as members. iii. Next year may see Constitutional changes to shorten terms and raise the number of Trustees on the Board. iv. Future AGMs will take this format in the future.
8.	<p>Prayers and List of Deceased Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prayers were said by Fr Richard who also read the List of Deceased Members. Read the list HERE.

The Ampleforth Society was established on 14 July 1875 and is registered under the Charities Act 1960, registration no 529626