

News from the Monastic Community, Old Amplefordians, the College and St Martin's Ampleforth

Ampleforth Diary



Issue 21 - Winter 2017

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Front Cover photo taken by Ampleforth's Electrician from the Abbey Church roof during the 2016 Remembrance Day service at Ampleforth.

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Introduction



For those of us in the northern hemisphere it is natural at the beginning of the year to look forward to longer days and a warmer sun and generally to embrace change. Ampleforth is no exception. The monks are facing the prospect of moving from our home of 120 years while the monastery building is refurbished. And in the next few years repairs to the Abbey Church and the old Monk's Bridge will benefit from the Heritage Lottery Fund award, as will improved provision for visitors.

Those changes are all physical, but they will have profound effects on Ampleforth and on those who live and pray here. More widely, who can predict the changes that are to come? To take just one example, the internet has already created a revolution. In many countries groceries, books, clothes, entertainment and travel can all be ordered, booked and paid for from the desk or the mobile device. From a computer you can check the weather in York or check the webcam on Sutton Bank. More importantly, anyone anywhere can watch the Papal ceremonies at Rome, Mass in Medjugorje or Lourdes or Walsingham, and those away from the Abbey can simply listen to the Ampleforth monks singing the Divine Office. Many do just this.

The world will never be the same as it was before, just as it was profoundly changed by the invention of printing. Some say that the internet revolution is creating a new sort of community, but true community involves mutuality, an

exchange of ideas, a sensitivity to the other in their joys and disappointments and a real commitment to help the other in need. The fact that in the old days everyone read the phone book did not automatically create community: that depended on the actual phone call being made, creating connection.

St Benedict says that the good zeal that monks should foster with fervent love is that "they should each try to be the first to show respect to the other, supporting with the greatest patience one another's weaknesses of body or behaviour, and earnestly competing in obedience to one another. No one is to pursue what he judges better for himself, but instead, what he judges better for someone else" (Chapter 72). St Benedict had grasped that the way to create community is through this sort of self-giving, self-emptying love, a love that imitates the love of Christ himself. Though he was writing for monks one and a half thousand years ago, his insight is valid for monks and all people today.

For us to create community in our modern world there needs to be a selfless commitment and a genuine love. Technology like the internet is not a good in itself. It is how we use it that matters. We need to find ways to take advantage of modern means to create genuine community as we try to live the true Christian vocation to which we are committed at our baptism.

Very Rev Terence Richardson OSB
Prior of Ampleforth Abbey



Br Ambrose Diaconate Ordination

On Wednesday 10th August 2016, the feast of St Laurence, Br Ambrose was ordained deacon in the Abbey Church by the Bishop of Salford, the Right Reverend John Arnold. In his homily, the Bishop spoke about the importance of service underlining the ministry not just of deacons, but of priests and bishops, too.

"Lord, look with favour on this servant of yours, whom we now dedicate to the office of deacon, to minister at your holy altar.

"Lord, send forth upon him the Holy Spirit, that he may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace to carry out faithfully the work of the ministry. May he excel in every virtue: in love that is sincere, in concern for the sick and the poor, in unassuming authority, in self-discipline, and in holiness of life. May his conduct exemplify your commandments and lead your people to imitate his purity of life. May he remain strong and steadfast in Christ, giving to the world the witness of a pure conscience. May he in this life imitate your Son, who came, not to be served but to serve, and one day reign with him in heaven.

"We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

(From the Rite of Ordination)



Extending the Ampleforth Welcome

You may have read recently the wonderful news that Ampleforth has been awarded a grant of £2.9 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This support will enable us to make the necessary repairs to the Grade I Abbey Church, Walker Organ and Grade II Monk's Bridge.

The grant will not only support the repairs needed to some of our most important buildings, but it will also provide us with the opportunity to grow the number of visitors to Ampleforth. We want to ensure that the Benedictine way of life is at the heart of the visitor experience and that people come here to see and understand the work of a monastery in the 21st century.

We will be encouraging visitors to explore the Abbey Church, attend services and events and discover our landscape with improved trails and interpretation. The Visitor Centre will also benefit from an extended exhibition space, which will mean we can develop new displays and ensure visitors leave understanding why the largest

Benedictine community in Britain is as relevant today as it was 1,500 years ago. More trained volunteers will support us in this visitor engagement with new talks, trails and traditional skills workshops.

Those of us who have lived, studied, worshipped and worked here will instinctively understand the importance of Ampleforth: its purpose and its beauty. We want our visitors to go away with that same understanding and appreciation.

Having the support of the HLF is a testament to the importance of the heritage and natural landscape at Ampleforth, both to Yorkshire and the nation, and that we have a responsibility to care for it for future generations.

Sir Peter Luff, the Chair of HLF said they were investing nearly £3 million in Ampleforth as they would like "visitors to see more clearly than ever the wonderful heritage of the buildings, of nature and of faith." I am sure this is a sentiment we can all agree with.

You might be forgiven for thinking that now we have the majority of the funding in place we can erect the scaffolding and get the builders in. Unfortunately that isn't the case and it is unlikely we will see any major building work to the Abbey Church and Monk's Bridge for at least two years. This is due to the process attached to receiving HLF support and the need for us to ensure we are delivering the best possible project for Ampleforth and our visitors.

Whilst the £2.9 million grant is a great boost to this project, we still need to find around £700,000 in match funding to complete the £4 million project. The Ampleforth community has been incredibly generous in supporting the various projects over the years and we hope this support will continue. Indeed, if anybody would like further information on this project and how they could help, please do contact Sue Fisher at sue.fisher@ampleforth.org.uk or 01439 766766.



It was a day of mixed emotions; sadness at bidding farewell to the Ampleforth Benedictines who have served the parish since its founding in 1780, but who have been active in the area as far back as circa 1690, and a sense of looking forward to the future as we welcomed our first Diocesan Parish Priest, Fr Mark Harold, who has returned to the Salford Diocese after spending eight years in Rome as Pastoral Director and then Vice-Rector of the Venerable English College.

It was earlier this year when an announcement was made that Ampleforth would be withdrawing from the parish before the end of the year. That time came on 31st August when Parish Priest, Fr George Corrie OSB, left to take up a new appointment at St John the Evangelist, Easingwold, whilst Assistant Priest, Fr Cassian Dickie OSB, continued in temporary charge at Our Lady and All Saints, Parbold. In the ensuing transitional period until Fr Mark's arrival, the parish had been administered by Fr Colin Battell OSB assisted by Fr Bernard McNulty OSB, both members of the Ampleforth community who had been resident at the neighbouring St Benedict's Monastery. To allow a degree of continuity, Fr Colin will now remain in the parish as Assistant Priest for at least the next 12 months.

New chapter for St Mary's

Bishop John Arnold of Salford was the Chief Celebrant at Mass and was assisted by Fr Mark, Fr Colin, Fr Terence Richardson OSB, Prior and Acting Religious Superior of Ampleforth Abbey, who himself had been Parish Priest at Brownedge from 2006 until 2011, and Monsignor John Corcoran, Dean of the St John Southworth Deanery and Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Valley. In choir were former Parish Priests Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, Fr Alban Crossley OSB and Fr Matthew Burns OSB. Also present were Fr Bernard McNulty OSB, Fr Xavier Ho OSB and Fr Peter James OSB.

At the end of Mass, Fr Terence reflected on the long ministry of the Benedictines: "On behalf of the Ampleforth community, I want to thank the parish for 236 years of support for your priests, and to wish you and Fr Mark every blessing in the future. The Benedictines started here at Brownedge in 1780 while the monastery was still in France and not yet at Ampleforth: the French Revolution had not yet broken out.

"But even before 1780 we know that monks were active in this area as missionaries, and before them other priests in other orders. The Jesuit Edmund Arrowsmith ministered locally

before being martyred in 1628. His last confession was heard by John Southworth a secular priest, another local man from Salmsbury, himself martyred in 1654. And of course the Franciscan Blessed John Woodcock, another local man, captured in this parish having only just crossed back from the continent, and martyred in 1646.

"Over the years, the faith has been nourished by Benedictines, Jesuits, secular priests and Franciscans. Neither should we forget the work of the sisters who have worked in the parish, and in the schools: The (Selly Park) Sisters of Charity of St Paul; the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph; the Sisters of Mercy and continuing to this day the Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission.

"Today a new phase begins in the history of this parish in its service of God. St Paul wrote to the Corinthians (3: 6-7): "I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God made things grow. Neither the planter nor the waterer matters: only God, who makes things grow. May God continue to make things grow!"



In the footsteps of St Benedict

In the October half-term, Brs Alberic, Ambrose, Benedict and Fr Kevin embarked on a pilgrimage 'in the footsteps of St Benedict', accompanied and guided by Fr Mark. As part of our monastic formation, we set out to visit some of the key sites in Italy associated with our patron and the history of Benedictine monasticism.

First stop, Rome. St Benedict might not have approved: the dissolute living he witnessed as a student in Rome disturbed him (as we read in St Gregory's Life of the saint) and he fled, abandoning his studies 'with learned ignorance and unlearned wisdom' for a place where he might serve God alone. Still, Benedict's Rule shows reverence for the apostles and the Roman liturgy and he dedicated his first monastery to Pope St Clement I, so perhaps he would agree that mass at the tomb of St Peter was a good way to begin our pilgrimage. A night at Sant' Anselmo, the Benedictine university in Rome, was also very appropriate, since it gave us a striking insight into St Benedict's legacy. We met Benedictines from all over the world (including the recently-elected Abbot Primate, Gregory Polan, who generously made time to speak to us), a testimony to the remarkable diffusion and enduring power of a sixth-century 'little rule for beginners' from Italy.

Next stop: Subiaco, about 40 miles east of Rome, where Benedict began his search for God living as a hermit in a cave. The cave is now contained within the 'Sacro Speco' shrine and we were able to pray there and reflect on this 'womb' of Benedictine monasticism where Benedict began to be formed into the wise and holy abbot he later became. Exploring the rest of the Sacro Speco was a highlight of the pilgrimage for all of us. Set dramatically into the mountainside overlooking a wooded valley (monks have always chosen their locations well), the shrine is covered with stunning medieval frescoes depicting episodes from Benedict's life and the gospels and even our own abbey's patron, St Laurence.

A little further down the hill was the Abbey of St Scholastica, where we ate and prayed with the monks and spent the night. Benedict established 12 monasteries at Subiaco; St Scholastica's is the only one to survive. The present buildings are late medieval but one of the monks kindly showed us the recently excavated remains of the original sixth century oratory. Touching these ancient stones and looking out at the unspoilt Subiaco countryside was a moving experience, as we glimpsed what Benedict himself would have seen and known all those centuries ago.



Facing hostility from a local priest, Benedict left Subiaco for Monte Cassino (between Rome and Naples), our next destination. There he founded the famous monastery and eventually died. He was buried there with his sister Scholastica and we were blessed to be able to celebrate mass with the Abbot of Monte Cassino just below their tomb in the abbey church. When the rest of the monastery was destroyed by bombardment at the 1944 Battle of Monte Cassino, the tomb, amazingly, survived when a shell which landed in front of it failed to go off. The buildings were entirely reconstructed after the war – exact replicas of those destroyed – and the vast abbey towers over the town of Cassino, a colossal monument to 1,500 years of monastic life. Destroyed four times, it has lived up to its motto, *sucissa virescit* ('cut down, it springs up anew') – rather like our own Congregation. This was a lesson which kept coming home to us on our pilgrimage: the continuing vitality and fertility of the monastic life, despite periods of decadence, decline or crisis.



Another witness to that was offered by the next monastery we visited: San Masseo, a small cell of the large ecumenical community of Bose. The monks and nuns of Bose – founded in 1965 – follow their own Rule, partly inspired by that of St Benedict. The five monks of San Masseo were tired out from harvesting olives when we arrived, but still took time to talk to us about their experience of a creative new form of monastic life. Situated in beautiful grounds near Assisi, the small monastery is housed in the buildings of a medieval Benedictine priory, now restored to life as an active monastic community – again, *sucissa virescit*.

Today Camaldoli is split between two sites: there is an ordinary monastery but its monks can also spend periods of times in small hermitages further up the hill at the Sacro Eremo (where they nonetheless eat and worship in common). Our visit provided us with yet another experience of the diversity and creative dynamism of the Benedictine tradition.

A final word about the place where our pilgrimage, strictly speaking, should have begun: Norcia. We had already discounted a visit to the town where St Benedict was born, aware that many buildings were still fragile and many monks and nuns were still living in tents after the earthquake struck the area in August. Sadly, on our last day in Italy, the town was rocked by another earthquake (which we felt slightly even in Rome, as we prepared to head home), causing the 14th century Basilica of St Benedict – the centre of worship for the Benedictine monks of Norcia – to collapse, as well as much other devastation. Let us pray for the townspeople as they seek to rebuild, and for the monks, recalling again the motto: *sucissa virescit*.

After a Franciscan detour into the town of Assisi, where we visited the tombs of St Francis and St Clare, we made the long drive to our last monastic location, Camaldoli, situated in ancient forest in the Tuscan Appenines. We looked around us in awe as we drove up the winding hillside roads while the sun set behind the trees. Another spectacular setting for the monastic search for God: St Romuald chose wisely when he founded the Sacro Eremo (Sacred Hermitage) in this ethereally tranquil place in 1012. His band of monks (the pioneers of the Camaldolese Order) followed the Rule of St Benedict but combined cenobitic (community) monasticism with eremitical (hermit) monasticism.



NO PEACE
WITHOUT
PRAYER

TIMOTHY WRIGHT

ENCOURAGING MUSLIMS
AND CHRISTIANS TO
PRAY TOGETHER
A BENEDICTINE APPROACH

Abbot Timothy Wright

Since 2005 Abbot Emeritus Timothy Wright (T60) has been working for the Abbot Primate on Muslim-Benedictine relations: first to gain a PhD on the subject (see the book, No Peace without Prayer), second teaching in American Universities, and third putting these courses online, which starts in January 2017 (designed for an adult audience, easier than university). If you are interested contact him on his email, abbottimothy@gmail.com.

June saw a visit to Ampleforth by Fr Mykhaylo Lesiv, the Vice-Rector, and four seminarians from the Holy Spirit Greek Catholic Seminary in Lviv, Ukraine. They all stayed in the Monastery for two weeks learning about the Catholic Church in England, and in particular about the monastic life here. The four seminarians were Vitalii Baida, Ivan Shydlovskiy, Nazariy Lytvyn, and Andrii Volianskyi.

Though our guests all spoke some English, it was noticeable that they grew more confident as the fortnight went by. For all of them it was their first visit to England, and they kept encountering our strange ways: driving on the left, putting milk in tea, funny square-pin electric plugs, rain and cool weather during what we call summer. Nevertheless they enjoyed their visit and all felt that the experience was broadening.

The group visited York and Whitby. They were fascinated to discover that Constantine (to the Eastern Church, St Constantine) was proclaimed Emperor in York. They met our Bishop and attended Mass at the Cathedral for the visit of the relics of St Anthony of Padua; they visited the John Paul Centre in Middlesbrough where we heard about the social problems of the town, and the work of all the churches working together to assist refugees and asylum-seekers.

They visited the brand-new church of St Therese at Ingleby Barwick on the outskirts of Middlesbrough, and had a fascinating afternoon with a married priest in our diocese and his wife. In Ukraine most of the priests are married, and many of our visiting seminarians plan to marry before they are ordained deacon. The group celebrated Pentecost with the Ukrainian exile community in Bradford.

Earlier in the year, we invited members of the Ampleforth community to go to Ukraine to teach. Nicola Horn took up this opportunity and writes:

“Whilst one may consider this a country at war, if you delve deeply you discover a vast country with the Catholic University based on the western part of Ukraine in Lviv. This part of the country has been shaped by its European rather than Russian past and contains many beautiful Austrian buildings and a large



Ampleforth and Ukraine



tourism industry from Poland. The Catholic University of Ukraine welcomed me and 20 other teachers from America, Canada and Australia to help improve the English of their students. We worked six days a week teaching English in the mornings, followed by ‘electives’ in the afternoon. In the evenings we had tutorials – an optional one-to-one with students to talk about anything. The students varied in age, experience and gender, from seminarians to university students, to married people under 30, all wishing to improve their English. The country feels the pressure of Russia and worries about them taking over. Some students fought in the war two years ago and some have families in Kiev still fighting Russia. Each morning they sing the national anthem; they are proud Ukrainians who want their

country to survive but they feel vulnerable. Echoes of the past still resonate in their beautiful singing of Ukrainian folk songs, in their religious chants and in their pastimes happily dancing around bonfires, or singing or just chatting together as friends.

The church holds a truly important place in their hearts. On my first Sunday mass we had to stand outside because it was full. Even when we ventured into Lviv we could not sit down in the cathedral because of the congregation. I was made to feel so special by the summer school of Ukraine because I was from Ampleforth – thank you to the school and to Fr Terence for this opportunity.

Statue of Our Lady at Parbold

This magnificent carving of Our Lady has been carved from a tree stump in the Church grounds of Our Lady and All Saints, Parbold. The carving was done by James Lee, brother of the donors Clare Crossan and her husband Paul. It is in memory of Paul's son, Joseph Bleasdale who died this summer.





Ampleforth Centre for Theology and Spirituality, Hong Kong

by Carla Basto Clark

There are many reasons why parents choose an Ampleforth education: family tradition, academic or sporting reputation, for some lucky families perhaps even the locality. As for us, we chose to send our three children on a 6,000-mile school run for the Catholicism. The decision, as you probably know, is a hard one, and depends on financial means as much as other incentives.

We wanted our teenagers to grow up with a sense of belonging to the Catholic community, because we know that belonging is foundational for a happy life in faith. Hong Kong's international schools do not offer many opportunities to explore faith in general, let alone explorations into Catholicism. As in many parishes around the world, 16-30 year-olds are mostly absent from our parish communities. So how could our teenagers build that sense of belonging if their peer group was absent? It is hard for them to develop strong affiliation in isolation.

I have been teaching catechism for many years in Hong Kong, and the fact that my family can seek to resolve the gap in our children's faith formation because we are lucky enough to have the financial means to send them to Ampleforth does not sit well with my conscience. Faith formation should never be dependent on financial resources.

So when Fr Wulstan visited Hong Kong

in 2011, I asked him if I could use some of the Christian Theology materials that our son Will brought home for the holidays, to try to establish classes for confirmed young Catholics here in Hong Kong. It is a testament to Fr Wulstan's generosity that a few years later Ampleforth helped us to establish a charity called the Ampleforth Centre for Theology and Spirituality Hong Kong Ltd. Fr Gabriel chose the name for the acronym: ACTS Hong Kong. Fr Wulstan is one of our directors, along with St John Flaherty (D64), Agnes Chui Lee (mother of Christian Lee, St Dunstan's), my husband Rob Clark, Nick Allen and me.

The mission of ACTS Hong Kong is to offer high quality faith formation for young people, which is both academic and experiential, inspired by the Benedictine monastic principles of attentiveness, hospitality, stability and community.

Since our incorporation we have been searching for premises to begin teaching. Cardinal Tong has been supportive, but despite our best efforts it has proved impossible to secure a Church property, due to the very prescriptive nature of government land leases in Hong Kong. So we have organized one-off events at various locations, whilst looking for a more stable home for our work.

Fr Wulstan has given two talks for adults: one on Benedictine Spirituality

and just last month a Benedictine response to *Laudato Si'*, which were very positively received by participants.

We held a seminar on just war theory by a former member of Ampleforth's Christian Theology department who now teaches in Japan. We are now in the process of organising talks on the environment, business ethics and poverty by lay members of the community who have particular expertise in these topics. Our events all include a time of reflection and prayer, as well as opportunities for discussion and questions.

Fr Chad has visited us a couple of times to run events for young people, and in March 2017 he will visit us to run day-retreats at the Trappist Monastery on Lantau island, as well as other events on Hong Kong island.

Our ultimate aim is to provide an opportunity for young Catholics to explore their faith, and to inspire the English-speaking Catholic community of Hong Kong to offer young people a more enthusiastic welcome into the Church, inspired by St Benedict's open hospitality. We hope that Ampleforth Society members will contribute to this aim, and welcome all of you to contact us when you are passing through Hong Kong. In the meantime, please keep ACTS Hong Kong in your prayers.

The Path of Life

Discovering the life you were created to live

12

THE PATH OF LIFE

An invitation to begin a journey of discovery

“Who is there here who longs for life?” (RSB Prologue 14)

Perhaps, like many of us, you are searching for something deeper, something that makes sense, for a true direction that makes your life really worth living. Come and spend some time with others who can be companions on the same path. Begin a journey of discovery.

It could be a beginning that changes everything...

Who is it for? Anyone **between the ages of 18 and 35** who wants to explore their faith and the direction their life is taking.

An experience of simplicity and stillness in the peaceful setting of a monastery in a beautiful valley.

An experience of community and friendship, of time spent together with other people who are also exploring.

An experience of Christ, of discovering his presence in your life, listening to his voice within you, in the scriptures, and in those around you.

An experience of rest and space, of coming home to yourself and simply enjoying time spent together.

What does it involve? Coming to **any or all of three weekends** which follow on from each other but are also self-contained. Each, for convenience, is given twice.

If you find afterwards that you would like to explore further, there is also a more extended **two-week long summer residential experience**.

Further details are below. If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to contact our hospitality and pastoral team on 01439 766889 or pastoral@ampleforth.org.uk.

“Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire.” (St Catherine of Siena)



Weekend Experiences 2017

"You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence." (Psalm 16:11)

(1) Letting your life speak (27th – 29th January or 8th – 10th September)

"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."

Parker J Palmer, Let Your Life Speak

This weekend is an opportunity to listen to your own experience, to sense Christ already present there, and to begin to discern how life is drawing you and calling to you.

(2) To search and to find (10th – 12th March or 6th – 8th October)

"Knock and the door will be opened to you, seek and you will find, ask and it will be given to you."

Matthew 7:7

This weekend will explore Christ's invitation to come to know him and follow him. What does that mean for each of us? How do we begin (and continue) a journey of faith? What practical steps can we take to discover the life God wants for us and of us?

(3) You will show me the path of life (16th – 18th June or 10th – 12th November)

"For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfil our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be." *Thomas Merton, No Man is an Island*

This weekend will explore how we can live a life unified by a sense of purpose and by a growing awareness of our own unique calling. As we discern and follow the path marked out for us we begin to discover the life and the joy God wants for us.

Two-week residential experience (1st - 15th July 2017)*

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." *HD Thoreau, Walden*

This longer residential experience aims to provide a space for deeper discovery and growth. Time spent alone and together will help consolidate and deepen what began during the weekends, allowing more time for questions and answers to emerge, as well as helping us to grow closer together as companions on the journey of faith.

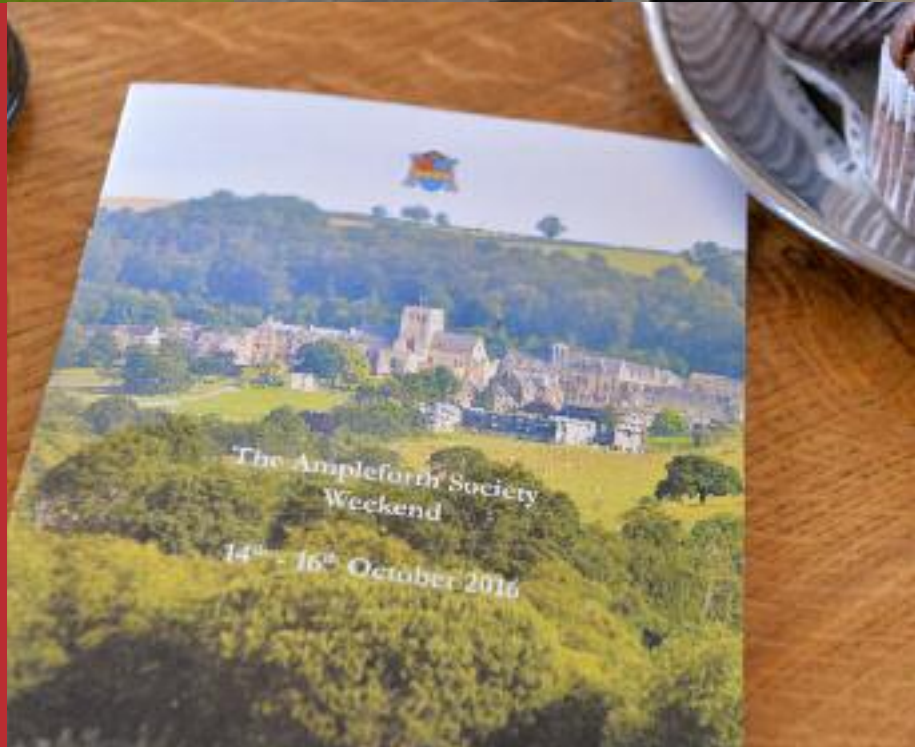
Please note that there is no charge for any of these events. Participants are invited, if it is possible, to make a donation that is within their means.

** In order to participate in the two-week experience it is necessary to have attended at least one of the "Path of Life" weekends.*

Ampleforth Society Weekend 2016

The Ampleforth Society Weekend took place in October. Over 100 members attended and it was a pleasure to welcome back a number of parents as well as Old Amplefordians. An energetic Development Office had put together a range of activities from quiet hours to clay pigeon shooting, chocolate making and cider tasting, as well as an array of sports. The AGM, in spite of an early start time on Saturday following on from Friday's supper and pub quiz in the Windmill (and a reunion with the White Swan for many), had the largest number of attendees in recent times. Members were able to hear reports from the Community, College, Development Office and the Society itself.

Fr Prior welcomed guests to the Society dinner on Saturday evening, which this year took place in the St Alban's Sports Centre, and the weekend closed on Sunday after Mass in the Abbey and hockey in the Valley.







Ampleforth Society

by Jeremy Deedes (W73)

2016 stands out as the year during which all Old Amplefordians, parents and guardians of Old Amplefordians and all of Ampleforth's many friends and supporters became members of a 16,000 strong global Society united by the Benedictine core values and the Ampleforth ethos.

EVENTS AND CLUBS

During the year there have been a number of Old Amplefordian year and house reunions including 1980 and 1985 Leavers Reunions and the St Dunstan's House Reunion. A well-attended reunion for St Thomas' Old Boys to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the House and 50 years since Fr Richard's Clothing as a Monk took place in November 2016 and Jon Mutton, the current Housemaster, was thrilled that guests included Old Amplefordians from the founding year, as well as recent leavers.

Regional Committees have also been energetic in organising events and a full list can be found in the Ampleforth Journal. Sports clubs continue to flourish and the Society supports a number of Old Amplefordian clubs such as the rugby, cricket, football, cross country and golf clubs. The Old Amplefordian Rugby Football Club celebrated its 30th Anniversary and saw the team crowned league champions

ensuring its promotion to the RFU Surrey First Division next year.

OUTREACH

The Society provided financial support in the 2015/16 academic year to the College Music School and the North Yorkshire Music Service to enable Ian Little, the College's Director of Music, to relaunch his North Yorkshire Music Outreach programme. This culminated in three performances of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* in the College theatre on successive nights in the summer term, in which over 250 children from 20 local schools participated.

THE FUTURE

Events are key to developing the Ampleforth community and the Ampleforth Society Coordinator will be working to arrange and facilitate a wide variety of events, which are published in this issue of the Ampleforth Diary. We would encourage all members to join us for these events and ask you to help us spread the word so we can reach as many people as possible.

We are also looking to develop religious and community outreach and encourage spiritual development. We constantly hear calls for more monastic interaction from Old Amplefordians in particular, as well as parents who have

become close to the monastic community during their children's time at Ampleforth.

Communication, community and careers form part of the Society's plans for this and future years. The Trustees want to build more local communities based on the Yorkshire and London models and the Ampleforth Society Coordinator is working on mapping the enlarged Society to identify local groups of members around the world and individuals who could lead such groups. Look out for a redesigned Society website and enhanced social media early in 2017.

IN CONCLUSION

The Trustees feel that the Society is in a strong position with increased membership, sound finances and an agenda that is designed to help members support Ampleforth College, St Martin's Ampleforth, the Abbey, the members themselves and the wider world. There is still much to do and it will take time. The prize is a global community united by Ampleforth and its values, which can work to maintain and strengthen those values. The Trustees cannot, however, do it all by themselves and pray that others will take up the baton and help us to achieve our goals.



Ampleforth Society Events 2017

Saturday 25th February

OA Cross Country vs Ampleforth College and Stonyhurst, Ampleforth College

Thursday 9th March

Edinburgh Drinks Reception

March

Reunion for all Old Amplefordians leaving in a year ending 7!

Thursday 20th April

Brompton Oratory Mass and Drinks

Sunday 23rd April

Yorkshire Branch Lastingham Parish Walk

Wednesday 26th April

Manchester Hot Pot, Manchester Tennis & Racquets Club

Friday 12th May

Dublin Drinks Reception

May

Farm Street Mass and Drinks

Yorkshire Branch Black Sheep Brewery Tour

Saturday 24th June

OA Tennis Club vs Ampleforth College

June

Summer Drinks Party, London, date and location tbc

Sunday 25th June

Yorkshire Branch Sandsend Walk

Thursday 28th September

Pub Supper, London

Friday 29th September – Sunday 1st October

Ampleforth Society Weekend and AGM

September

St John's 60th Anniversary Reunion, date and location tbc

October

Celebration of 15 Years of Girls at Ampleforth, date and location tbc

Saturday 25th November

Ampleforth Beagles Supper, Ampleforth Abbey & College

Thursday 30th November

Brompton Oratory Mass and Drinks

November

Newcastle Drinks Reception, date and location tbc

December

St Oswald's 90th Anniversary Reunion, date and location tbc

Ampleforth Society & St Benet's Hall Drinks Reception, Oxford, date tbc

All these events are subject to change. To find out more and keep up to date with any changes, please visit the events section on the Ampleforth Society website :

www.oa.ampleforth.org.uk

Or contact Philippa Jalland (M13):

01439 766884

Philippa.Jalland@ampleforth.org.uk

If you are planning to arrange an Old Amplefordian or Ampleforth Society event in your area, please do contact us, as we would be delighted to help spread the word!

'a genuine portrait of a time gone forever... a very good read'

ROSAMUNDE PILCHER

Ardnish Was Home

A NOVEL



ANGUS MACDONALD

Angus MacDonald (O77)

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ANGUS MACDONALD (O77)

Ardnish was Home is a debut novel by Angus MacDonald (O77). It has been extremely well reviewed and he has been touring the country promoting the book this autumn. Birlinn, a Scottish publisher brought the book out in late September.

The story starts with Donald Peter Gillies laid in a field hospital on a Gallipoli beach, blinded by the Turks. There he falls in love with his Queen Alexandra Corps nurse, Louise, and she with him. As they talk into the small hours, he tells her of life in the West Highlands of Scotland; farming, illegal whisky distilling, bagpiping, stalking deer and she in turn tells her own story of a harsh and unforgiving upbringing in the Welsh valleys.

Cut off from Allied troops, Donald and Louise make a perilous escape through Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and Malta, the first stage on their journey to a new life together in Donald's beloved Ardnish...however, there is a twist to the story at the end, an unexpected ending.

Angus' four boys all attended Ampleforth – Archie (O08), Patrick, (O10), James (O15) and Donald who is currently in St John's House – as did his father, Rory (O51), and grandfather, Andrew (OA26, died 1995). His great-grandfather, Colonel Willie commanded the Lovat Scouts during WW1 in Gallipoli, his brother meanwhile was to become Archbishop Andrew MacDonald of St Andrews and Edinburgh. In the novel the hero's brother is a Catholic priest and it has been frequently commented that the book reflects Catholicism in a very positive light.

Angus had a career in financial publishing and now owns businesses in renewable energy, recycling and internet education. However, he spends a lot of his time plotting the sequel to *Ardnish was Home*.

Philippa Jalland (M13)



New Ampleforth Society Coordinator

Why take up the position of Ampleforth Society Coordinator? Just one of the many questions I have been asked since taking up the role in August. In all honesty, it was a big decision to make. After being in London for three years studying Health, Exercise and Physical Activity at university and having a PGCE offer, it was a tough decision as I had become very much a city girl. However, I saw it as a brilliant opportunity to try something that I never thought about going into (Events) and in an environment where people would want to help you and see you succeed, I just couldn't turn it down. Ampleforth also has that draw of going home in many ways. Going into full time employment can be quite daunting!

Upon reflection however, there are many reasons that I headed back up

north to make the Valley my home again (quite literally, I live above the main hall!). At the Society AGM in October Fr Wulstan said that an Ampleforth education is an all-round education including spiritual, social and academic guidance. I would completely agree with him that my education involved all three of these areas and I am intending to incorporate them all into my new role. Spiritually: to increase the number of retreats/masses and involvement of the Ampleforth Community throughout the Society events calendar. Socially: to increase the annual events calendar, not just in Yorkshire and London, but across the country and globally. Academically: the Society will be working closely with the College to build a careers link between Old Amplefordians, the school and between other members of the Society.

The one thing that I have realised in the short time I have been in the job is what an amazing group of people are in the Society; we are privileged to have one common factor of being educated at Ampleforth or linked to the Abbey and College in some other way. If you would like to help with any events or have any ideas about activities we should be organising, then please do get in touch, as all ideas are welcome!

Philippa Jalland (M13)
01439 766884
Philippa.Jalland@ampleforth.org.uk



Thomas Burnford (H86)

Thomas Burnford (H86) has been appointed as President and CEO of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

“I am deeply honoured and humbled by the board’s decision,” said Tom. “I am grateful to have this opportunity to lead NCEA because, quite simply, I believe in and have great passion for NCEA’s mission to assist those who work so hard every day in Catholic schools to form faith-filled disciples, especially the teachers, staff, principals, pastors and superintendents.”

Tom was appointed NCEA Interim President in December 2015, while he continued to serve the Archdiocese of Washington, USA as Secretary for Education. At the Archdiocese of Washington, he managed the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Director for Catechesis, and 22 professional staff members. He had oversight of Catholic education, including executive leadership of a

system of 94 Catholic schools and 139 parish religious education programmes serving more than 50,000 students and 30,000 adults.

Some of the highlights of Tom’s two-decade career in the archdiocese include, developing and implementing policies for Catholic schools, including strengthening Catholic identity, establishing regional school agreements, and designing protocols for school viability planning; working with Cardinal Wuerl and pastors to increase tuition assistance to \$6 million (from \$800,000 in 2007) for students; lobbying and advocacy initiatives at the local, state and national levels, including support of the Opportunity Scholarship Programme; restructuring urban Catholic schools resulting in the successful Consortium of Catholic Academies that now serves over 700 inner-city students; executive planning for major events within the archdiocese, including archdiocesan catechetical days, large-scale strategic planning

events and two papal visits (Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and Pope Francis in 2015); transitioning the archdiocese from individual school accreditation to a comprehensive system accreditation through AdvancEd.

NCEA is the largest private professional education organisation in the world, representing more than 150,000 Catholic educators serving nearly two million students in Catholic pre-school, elementary and secondary schools.



Peter Rhys-Evans (H66)

After qualifying from St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1971, Peter trained in ENT, head and neck, and reconstructive surgery before spending a year doing a post-graduate degree as Resident in Head and Neck Cancer Surgery at the Gustave Roussy Institute at the University of Paris. In 1981 he was appointed Consultant ENT Surgeon at the Birmingham University Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and in 1986 was invited to take on the post of Chief of ENT/Head and Neck Surgery at The Royal Marsden Hospital in London. After 35 years as a consultant, he left his NHS post at the Royal Marsden in January 2016, but continues in private practice.

As a UK pioneer since the early 1980s in new techniques of endoscopic laser and conservation surgery for mouth and throat tumours, voice reconstruction following laryngectomy, and head and neck reconstruction, Peter and his colleagues have developed many innovative techniques over the years to

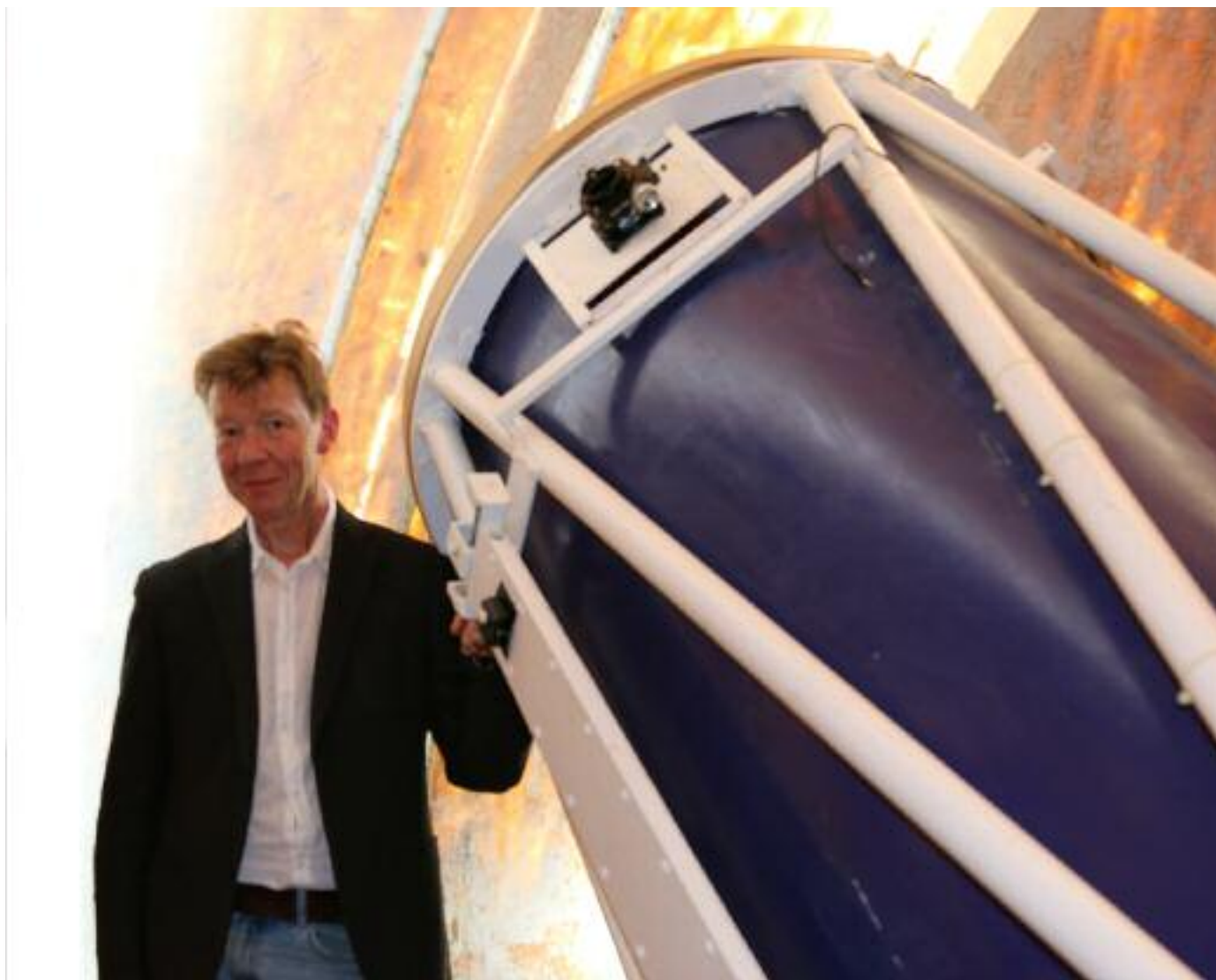
improve survival and quality of life for head and neck cancer patients.

With over 250 scientific publications, including five books, he has been an active contributor to the specialty. His award-winning textbook *Principles and Practice of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology*, published in 2003 with a second edition in 2009, won a prestigious prize from the University of London for the 'best international publication in Otolaryngology' during the preceding five years. His valued reputation in his specialty is reflected in his membership of national and international societies and committees, and in presenting over 320 major lectures in 26 different countries.

Peter was Founder and, for the past 14 years, has been Executive Chairman of the Oracle Cancer Trust based at The Institute of Cancer Research. This is by far the largest head and neck cancer charity in the UK. Since 2001 he has been responsible for raising over £5

million for head and neck cancer research and with his colleagues at the Royal Marsden Hospital, for establishing a very active research programme.

One of Peter's research interests since the 1980s has been in ENT aspects of a controversial theory of early human evolution and in 1992 he was a guest speaker at a conference organised by Sir David Attenborough on 'The Aquatic Ape.' In May 2013 he was Organising Chairman of a two day International Conference titled "Human Evolution - Past, Present and Future" in London with guest speakers including Sir David Attenborough and in September 2016 he was a guest speaker for a two-part Radio 4 programme, hosted by Sir David Attenborough on "The Waterside Ape."



Matt Dawson (A76)

Matt Dawson (A76) is currently Director of the Observatoire des Cotes-de-Meuse in northern France, which houses one of the largest privately owned telescopes in Europe. For ten years he has been surveying the ecliptic region of the heavens on behalf of the Luxembourg Department of Astrophysics. In the course of this work he has mapped the positions of hundreds of potentially dangerous Near Earth Asteroids, and discovered many new minor planets, including (181483) which he has named 'Ampleforth.' In this endeavour he will always be grateful to Fr Richard ffield for his boundless encouragement at an early age.

Matt writes: "the observatory is situated in the heart of the delightful Parc National de Lorraine, 20 minutes from the WW1 battlefields of Verdun and the Lac de Madine. Visitors are welcome for

weekends or holidays, and we look forward to showing you the wonders of the night sky through a large telescope (school groups welcome). Our 17th century farmhouse accommodation offers guests the traditional comforts of rural Lorraine, and includes breakfast and a well equipped kitchen for self-catering. The night sky through our 33" equatorial Newtonian telescope has to be seen to be believed.

Feel free to contact Matt for further details via the observatory website:

<http://observatoire.183.free.fr/>

Fitz & Fro

Old Amplefordians Tom Asquith (EW10) and Arthur Fitzalan Howard (O10) both shared a love of collarless shirts, but struggled to find them in the quality and style they desired. The solution? They packed their bags and headed out to India to create their own!

Whilst travelling around India they were able to source some amazing fabrics and had daily input into every aspect of the manufacturing process. The result is a range of shirts that are suited to any occasion and ensure the wearer stands out from the crowd!

Every detail of a Fitz & Fro shirt has been carefully considered to give it a unique look and feel, from the choice of the contrast button stitching to the packaging, with each shirt delivered in one of our signature canvas bags.

To learn more, please visit the website:

www.fitzandfro.com



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FRITZ & FRO





St Martin's School: Beginnings

by Ian Milroy, former St Martin's pupil

On the first Monday of September this year, as the first child to cross the threshold of St Martin's School at its foundation on the same day exactly 70 years ago, I had the great pleasure of visiting the School at Gilling Castle, wishing the new Headmaster, Dr David Moses, well on his first day in office, and chatting with many of its staff and students.

I was told that records of early life at the school are extremely sparse, and was asked whether I could write down some of my recollections from that time.

St Martin's was founded in 1946 and admitted its first nine students at Ganthorpe Hall 'under the sponsorship of the Abbot of Ampleforth and the Bishop of Middlesbrough.' It moved to the larger Kirkdale Manor at Nawton in the summer holidays of 1947. The school, though financially independent, retained strong links with Ampleforth. The owner and founding Headmaster, Mr Paul Blackden, had previously been a Master at Junior House, and before that at Gilling. The Chairman of the Board of Governors was the then Headmaster of the College, Fr Paul Neville. Our chaplain came over from Ampleforth twice weekly, and with

Benedictine versatility taught Religious Instruction on Wednesdays, after which he coached us in a game he invented called four-a-side Rugby. On Sundays he heard confessions in a very informal way, said Mass, and later in the day took us on an afternoon hike. The outcome of these links with Ampleforth was demonstrated in due course when seven of our original nine went on to Ampleforth College (I was the first to proceed to Stonyhurst).

In retrospect, it seems clear that in sponsoring the school and supporting it in many ways, Ampleforth must have made a strategic decision. In modern industrial parlance, seeing itself as an expanding system for the formation of educated young Catholic adults, the College at the end of the War must have decided to expand and outsource some of its activities in the preparation of young people for entry (its 'raw materials,' if you like). Perhaps the excellent resources at Gilling and Junior House could not be extended rapidly enough for the College's expansionary plans.

Although I did not realise it at the time, St Martin's was a progressive school. It was co-educational from the start

(although not later); the Headmaster's daughter, Philippa Blackden, was a normal member of our class throughout my time there, and I remember her as something of a star at the four-a-side rugby.

When I was made Head Boy (it should have been Head Child) in 1950, I was appointed as Observer on the Governing Council, which met three times a year. This was probably unheard of in those days and perhaps unusual even today. The Chairman, Fr Paul, made a point of asking for my opinion from time to time; however I had been admonished by the Headmaster not to open my mouth on matters which I knew nothing about! Only on three or four occasions was I asked to leave the room briefly while matters of a more delicate nature were discussed.

I want to acknowledge the key role of the Headmaster's wife, Bonny Blackden. She made the whole atmosphere, especially that of our first year, more like that of a large and happy family than that of a boarding school. After the evening meal we often congregated with the family in their large sitting room, playing cards or board games and listening to music.

Later, as the school grew larger, the family would join us in the bigger recreation room to carry on the tradition. As well as being the go-to person when any of us was in need of counselling, Bonny seemed to run almost the entire administration of the school, including keeping the accounts and being in charge of the catering. On that important task, for even an army of little schoolchildren marches on its stomach, she did a terrific job of coping with the fact that wartime food rationing was still in place, at least during our first year. We were all unanimous in our opinion that the food at school was far better than that at home during the holidays!

After that experience, I was pleased to learn on my recent visit at St Martin's Ampleforth that lay staff, mostly with families, are now in post not only in the Headmastership at Gilling, but also as Housemasters at the College.

I was asked to include one or two reminiscences in these notes about incidents in the early life of St Martin's. I vividly remember a dramatic event during our first winter of 1946-47, which was one of the severest on record. Quite often, with Mr Blackden and another adult, we tramped along the road between huge snowdrifts, for them

to skate and us to slide on the frozen lake at nearby Castle Howard. One day, late in the season, there was a sudden cracking noise and our Headmaster disappeared from view, to reappear up to his chest in the icy water. Some of us briefly thought it was funny, but it soon became apparent that this was a serious situation, as he was having great difficulty climbing out; the thin ice around him kept cracking under his weight.

Two of us were sent off to seek help and blankets from the Castle. Meanwhile, another boy and I were told to take it in turns to lie flat out on the thin ice (to spread our weight) and chip away at it with small rocks. Like human icebreakers, we made a path of clear water, along which he walked the few yards to the shallows.

Mr Blackden was confined to bed for at least two days after this incident (presumably with hypothermia), and it was rumoured by Philippa that the school doctor thought that another 20 minutes in the water would have finished him. We wondered, and I still do, what would have become of the school had we lost him.

Lastly, I recall an incident involving Gilling, which had been in existence for

more than 20 years when St Martin's was founded. 1951 was the first year in which we were old enough to play cricket against their 1st XI. We arrived at Gilling by charabanc (motor coach), and their Headmaster, Fr Hilary, climbed on board. "Welcome to Gilling" he said, "it's a great day for the race." I was the team captain, and our cricket master and I looked at each other with alarm. Had we come to the wrong fixture, with the wrong clothing and equipment? Were we expected to take part in a cross-country race or something, not a cricket match?

I recovered my composure. "What race, Fr?" I enquired; "the human race boy!" was the answer.

The Gilling boys later told us that this was an ancient and boring Ampleforth joke, but it was new and disconcerting to us. However, our Cricket Master (who had played for Middlesex) said that this was clearly intended as an unsettling piece of psychological warfare on behalf of Gilling!

Writing this piece has brought back many happy memories of the early days at St Martin's. I am very glad to have been a member of St Martin's School for five of my young years, and to retain a connection with it today.





Christopher Burn (D59)

Publishing your first book at age 75 might be said to be arriving rather late at the party. Publishing a second book at the same age might indicate that you are at a different party altogether! Christopher Burn (D59) has done both recently and has plans for more.

At Ampleforth, Christopher studied Classics and played Rugby for the school – he continued to play after leaving, but mainly for the beer. After Ampleforth he trained as a Chartered Accountant in London, a task for which his A Levels in Latin, Greek and Ancient History rendered him singularly ill-equipped; he had never passed a maths exam.

Other challenges appeared later in his life, including a spell in rehab for alcohol dependence and compulsive gambling, 30 years ago. He has also at various times been a hotelier, tax consultant, taxi driver and journalist and lived abroad in France and Malta. Christopher says: “the important thing is to learn from your mistakes - I now consider myself a very learned person indeed.”

Christopher’s first publication *Poetry Changes Lives* is a book of daily meditations; a historical event each day, a poem and an uplifting thought, all loosely linked. He says that poetry has had a huge influence in his life; “it can excite, inspire or calm you in a totally benign way.”

He now works as a Psychotherapist and writes and gives talks on the dangers of addiction and the excitement of discovering a new life in recovery – including poetry. His second book *The Fun We Had* is a series of writings on the theme of becoming ‘better than well’ through recovery from addiction.

Christopher is married with three children and five grandchildren and divides his time between London and the Scottish Borders. His books are available in most book shops and Amazon and are also published on his daily website: www.poetrychangeslives.com, where he can be contacted.

Dillon Mapletoft (C12)

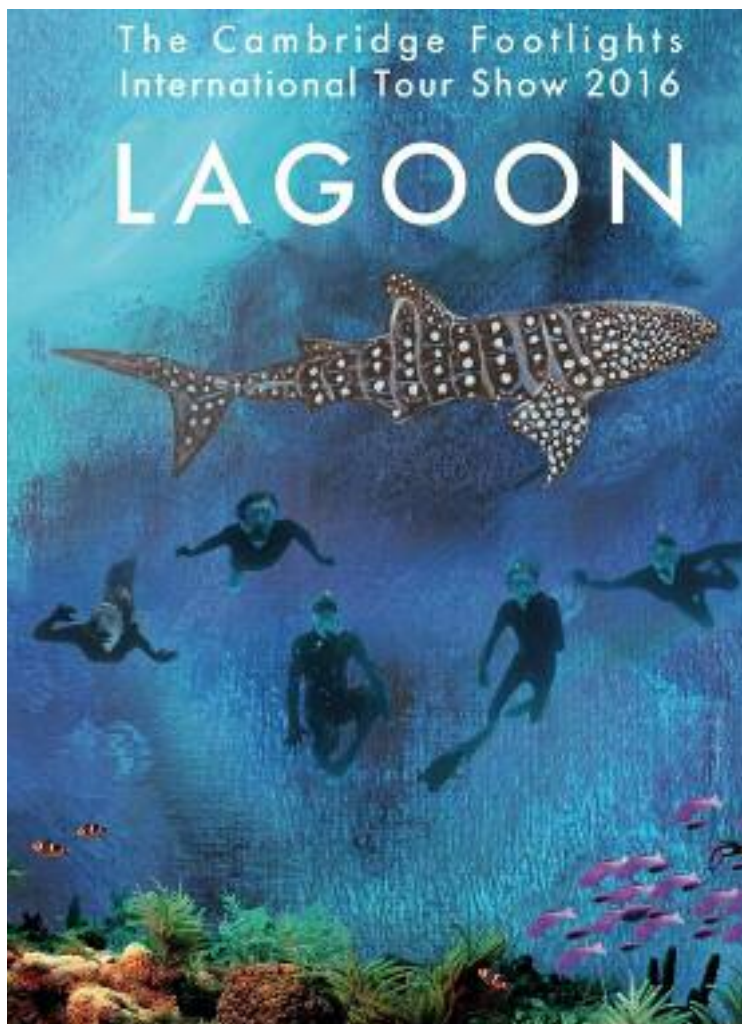
Dillon Mapletoft (C12) has been appointed the 2016-17 President of the renowned Footlights Dramatic Club at the University of Cambridge.

The society has shaped British comedic talents such as Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry, and past presidents have included the likes of Peter Cook, Eric Idle, Nick Hancock, Clive Anderson, Hugh Laurie, David Mitchell, Sue Perkins, and Richard Ayoade.

Last summer Dillon headed to the Edinburgh Fringe, where he co-wrote and co-directed *Lagoon*, the Footlights International Tour Show 2016, and at the same time wrote and performed in another sketch show, *Floss*. He then toured the United States throughout September with *Lagoon*, performing at venues including iO West in Los Angeles, Second City in Chicago and Upright Citizens Brigade in New York.

On becoming President of Footlights, Dillon said "It's an unbelievable honour. The society has a ridiculous legacy which I'm completely in awe of and if I can contribute to that even in the smallest way it would be amazing. It's really exciting to be in a position to support student comedy and I'm hoping to encourage a really inclusive environment and get as many people involved as possible."

Having gained a Double First in Spanish and Portuguese, Dillon was offered full funding from Cambridge to pursue a Master's degree in Film and Screen Studies this year. With experience previously gained writing for film and theatre companies in Brazil and Spain during a year abroad, he is hoping to make the most of his theatre opportunities in his final year at Cambridge with a view to working towards a career in comedy and writing. He will next be writing and performing in the Footlights Spring Revue 2017, before putting on two shows in collaboration with other student comedy societies at the Cambridge Arts Theatre.





Old Amplefordian Golf Society

This past year has been wonderful for golf, particularly in the Autumn sunshine and the final game of the year between the golfers (OAGS) and cricketers (OACC) at New Zealand GC was very memorable, albeit the batters won for the second year!

The Society had a rather lean year in the Representative Matches but this does not reflect the talent we have amongst our younger golfers. Mark Whittaker (J86) is again organising a warm up session in Spain so hopefully we will progress further in the 2017 scratch competitions.

What follows is a brief resume of last year's results.

A first round win in the Halford Hewitt against Greshams turned out to be an epic encounter with Ampleforth winning $4\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$. The 2nd round versus Fettes, another very strong golfing school, resulted in a close win for Ampleforth at 3-2. Ampleforth were drawn to play

Radley in the 3rd round but finally lost 2-3.

At Worplesdon, in torrential rain, Ampleforth had a first round win against Fettes but succumbed to Framlingham in the next round. In the Seniors Cyril Gray (combined age 140) our President John Gibbs (T61) and Secretary Nick North (O61) teamed up but lost in a close match to Framlingham.

We failed to get through the regional stage of the Grafton Morrish at Fixby GC. However, in another competition Ampleforth won again in the Russell Bowl at Woking GC. In the Alba Trophy, our pair came with a creditable score and we also came 3rd out of 15 in a new competition at Aldeburgh GC, the Dick Watson Trophy.

There were many other OAGS games throughout the year across the country, and also in Eire. A resume of these can be seen on the Ampleforth Society website – www.aa.ampleforth.org.uk.

The Ganton weekend this year was thwarted by the fact that the School was on Exeat but several Old Amplefordians enjoyed the delights of this course including a win against our old rivals, the Old Sedberghians.

The Society offers their usual thanks to all the match managers for their efforts throughout the season and for organising, playing and, in many cases, providing hospitality. The Society has welcomed a number of new members this year but still seeks younger members to join, regardless of handicap.

The AGM and Spring meeting will be held at Royal Ashdown GC on Saturday 20th May 2017. Any Old Amplefordian interested in playing should contact the Secretary: nopnorth@btinternet.com.



Old Amplefordian Hockey Club

The OA Hockey Club have had another great year, the highlight being playing against the College team over the Ampleforth Society Weekend.

The first five minutes of the game made it seem like the current Ampleforth girls had it in the bag and it would once again be a gruelling game for the OAs as they not only had to remember the rules of the game but also remember to tackle and win the possession of the ball!

Granted, the OAs were 1-0 down but if anything that was just a wakeup call! It

was evident as the first half came to an end that the OAs did want it more, and it was a tie. But this was not the end, and even though Julia Gargan (M14) gave up her hockey stick for a lacrosse stick at University, she clearly had not forgotten how to score. Soon, the OAs were 2-1 up and for once the OAs could see the O’Kelly Trophy in their sight!

The game grew far more intense as the OAs were giving away short corners as if there was no tomorrow. Yet, there was an incredible line of defence, and furthermore, Tara Vaughan (M10)

possibly did the “best saves she had ever done, like ever,” (literal quote from JJ Owen!)

And there you have it, in October 2016, the OA girls came, saw and conquered as they dominated and took what was rightfully theirs – the O’Kelly Trophy! Until next year.

Births

2015

- 8 December Audrey and Benedict Godfrey (O95) a son, Saul Benedict
3 July Angela and Rupert Manduke Curtis (D95) a daughter, Maria Isabella

2016

- 28 October Katy and Tom Waller (A92) a daughter, Taylin de Warrenne Waller
19 October Kirsty and Harry Lukas (O99) a daughter, Savannah Clare
10 October Kemi and Hamish Badenoch (O97) a son, Ralph Akintola Wolfe
16 September Sally and Charlie Evans-Freke (E00) a daughter, Alice Margaret Lois
25 August Teesi and Thomas Neave (O04) a daughter, Desiree Amelia
4 July Charlotte and Oliver Russell (H00) s son, Edward Patrick Michael
17 June Charlene and Charles Pacitti (W99) a son, Francis Emmanuel
16 June Annabel and Hugh Murphy (J98) a daughter, Jemima Elizabeth
2 June Janette and Nick Bianchi (D90) a son, Harrison Paul Luca
22 May Chloe and Mark Sheridan-Johnson (W99) a daughter, Verity Camilla

Marriages

2015

20 November Adelaide Staunton (A07) to Alexander Paterson

2016

5 November Christian McDermott (D99) to Chelsea Margaux Cunningham
 10 September Herman Sequeira (T06) to Alexandra Lloyd-Smith
 3 September Louis Wallace (C07) to Lucinda Bryson
 23 July Austin Sutton (D93) to Heather Blake
 25 June Patrick Waller (B04) to Cathy Lanigan-O'Keeffe
 3 April Daniel John (W02) to Elizabeth Platt
 20 January Jonathan Freeland (B94) to Josephine Melinder

Forthcoming Marriages

Konstantin Werhahn (H03) to
 Laura Friederidke Sasse
 Edward Heneage (EW06) to Julitta Ward (M06)
 Archie Alexander (E02) to Annie Bowles
 Frederick Kisielewski (H07) to Flora Beaumont
 Christian McDermott (D99) to Chelsea
 Margaux Cunningham
 Benjamin Charrington (O05) to Rebecca Flower
 John Critchley-Salmonson (E04) to
 Rebecca Owen

OA Deaths

2016

16 December John Morris (D55)
 1 December John Scotson (A47)
 1 December Henry Hugh Smith (E56)
 30 November Richard Salter (B56)
 18 November Robert Ellingworth (W76)
 13 November Michael Donnelly (A73)
 3 November Peter Bishop (B49)
 1 November Peter Kassapian (T58)
 31 October Alick Dowling (O39)
 20 October Benedict Read (W63)
 19 October Patrick O'Driscoll (E51)
 21 September Douglas De Lavison (O50)
 13 September Alistair Plummer (A64)
 31 August John Loch (C62)
 13 August David Maunsell (O46)
 12 August Swinton Thomas (C50)
 1 August David Stapleton (C51)
 26 July James Young (T57)
 22 July Sir David Goodall (W50)
 11 July John Kendall (C48)
 5 July John Haddington (C60)
 26 June William Lyon-Lee (B51)
 21 June Ian Simpson (O52)
 29 March John Duggan (A44)
 9 February Philip James (B50)

Prayers are asked for others who have died

2016

6 December William Thomas Kynoch Sellar, grandfather of Charlie Edwardson (O) and Annabel Edwardson (B)
 1 December Sonya Simons, widow of Michael (W51), mother of Mark (W91)
 1 December Ruth Jackson, wife of Geoffrey (C58), mother of Charles (O81), Jonathan (C82) and William (C87)
 26 November Dominic Donoghue, father of Sebastian (J93), Charles (B01), Harry (O05) and Freddie (O05)
 23 November Richard Foley Dale, father of Oliver (D93)
 17 November Olga Beveridge, mother of Johnny (T82)
 25 October Norah MacWilliam, mother of Alasdair (T65)
 16 October Valerie Hunter Gordon, mother of Nigel (C65) and Richard (C72) and Christopher (C75)
 4 October James Goff, father of Barney (D08), Daisy (M10), Kitty (M13), Freddie (EW16) and Gabriel (H)
 1 October John Swift, father of Jonathan Swift (H85)
 1 October Geoffrey Anakwe, father of Raymond (A93) and Kevin (A98)
 1 October Frances Dunning, mother of Edward (W77), Nicholas (W80) and Patrick (W83, died 2002) Corbally Stourton
 12 September William Foshay, father of Alexander (W95) and William (W88)
 3 September Bridget May, mother of Marcus (C77), Tim (T78), stepmother of Peter (JH69) and grandmother of Sophie (B14)
 18 August Malcolm Valentine, father of Alexander (B86)
 10 August Christopher Leyland, father of Ben (C10)
 9 August Michele Kosarski-Lisk, mother of Benedict (EW)
 7 August Jaqueline Davison, mother of Francesca (B)
 27 July Gerard Noel, father of Philip (T77) and Robert (E80)
 27 July Rev Bernard Wrightson friend of Ampleforth
 23 July John Jowett, father of Imogen Jowett (B08)
 14 July Ellis Lavellen, mother of Ronan Lavelle (T89)
 27 March Monica Eyre, mother of Jim Eyre (O87)
 19 March Gillian Clayton, mother of Francis (D78), Jonathan (H69), Simon (D72) and Christopher (O64, died 1972)
 12 March Lucy Grant, mother of Robert (E77)



Headmaster's Introduction

Ampleforth College News

In his *Rule*, St Benedict says that the Abbot should arrange all things in the monastery in such a way that the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from. Realistically, we all know that we have both strengths and weaknesses, and so in the College we look to support each boy or girl in those areas in which he or she is in need of such help, whilst at the same time seeking to stretch and challenge them, so that they should grow and develop as good and rounded human beings.

Since taking up the post of Headmaster, I have been impressed by the many and different ways this principle of St Benedict is put into practice in the School. Ampleforth's holistic education, rooted in the Christian Gospel and the *Rule of St Benedict*, is concerned with the flourishing of the individual child in the context of a genuine community life

into which everyone is welcomed, whilst being expected to make a genuine contribution through respect of the other and service of the community. There are opportunities in the arts and music, on the sports field and in a range of different activities, spiritually and, of course, in and beyond the classroom. Our emphasis on the academic is not to the exclusion of care for the individual, but is rather an essential component of a modern education in which each child is enabled to give of his or her best and to achieve the academic results of which they are capable. This year's public examination results, including our best-ever GCSE results with 64% of all grades obtained being at A*-A, are testimony to this, as is our value-added score, which places us in the top 8% of schools nationally and the top 12% among independent schools.

I have much enjoyed meeting the students and their families, and have been repeatedly struck both by the commitment made by parents in sending their children to Ampleforth, and also by the friendships that are formed here and endure well beyond school. Parent visits in term time, part of the necessary partnership between the School and families in the education of their children, are very welcome, as is the growth and strengthening of our wider 'Ampleforth family.'

It has been a good first term of this academic year and I look forward to its successful continuation.

Fr Wulstan Peterburs OSB
Headmaster



Academic Highlights

At Ampleforth College, we strive to instil in all our students a lifelong love of learning. We ask of each student the very best that he or she can give. Academically, that challenge is created by a comprehensive range of subjects, highly professional teaching and first-class facilities for learning.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Our examination results continue to be excellent across the board with 45% of students achieving A*/A at A Level and 64% achieving A*/A at GCSE in 2016. This year's Oxbridge candidates all had their places confirmed, as did all applicants for medicine. More than 70% of our students will go on to Sutton Trust or Russell Group universities. At GCSE, our girls continue to excel in STEM subjects, with 91% of girls achieving A*-B in Mathematics, of which 63% gained A*-A grades. 92% of girls who took Chemistry gained A*-A grades and over 88% of girls who studied Biology and Physics passed at A*-B.

ISI INSPECTION & AWARDS

The most recent ISI Inspection Report judged the teaching quality at Ampleforth College as 'excellent.' We are dedicated to appointing the best quality teaching staff who recognise the potential in our students and help them flourish during their academic career. The report itself says that 'excellent teaching supports achievement in public examinations and in ensuring pupils develop robust and independent learning skills.'

Year on year, our students receive recognition for their various efforts. During the last academic year, we were delighted to achieve eight highly coveted Good Schools Guide Awards for outstanding examination results compared to all other independent schools in England.

ENHANCED ACADEMIC PROVISION & SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer a challenging and stimulating Scholarship Programme which allows our students with a particular talent to be recognised for their ability. Drawing on the expertise of our staff, we encourage debate, lateral thinking and intellectual curiosity. Our Headmaster's Lecture programme enriches the lives of our students and encourages them to consider the contribution they may make as they enter the world as young adults. Our visiting speakers come from all over the world and we are proud to draw on the talents of our Old Amplefordians and members of the wider Ampleforth family.



The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Congratulations to Year 12 student Oscar Anglim who has been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust is a registered charity that administers the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK. They identify, inspire and nurture future leaders in Engineering, Computing and Technical Design. Around 400 Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are awarded each year, after a rigorous selection process from thousands of applicants, including high-calibre students who apply when in Year 11. The engineering scholarships support students through their A Levels and encourage students to pursue Engineering, Computing or Technical Design at university and to pursue careers in the field. Every scholarship is sponsored by an industrial company, university, charitable trust,

trade association, professional institution, armed service, worshipful company, industry regulator or personal donor.

Oscar Anglim (O) successfully completed a rigorous selection process which consisted of a detailed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview hosted at a top engineering university. He was presented with the award at a ceremony at the Institute of Electrical Engineers in London on Friday 28th October 2016. Oscar will be sponsored by the Royal Engineers.

Dr Martin Thomas CEng FIET, Chief Executive of the Arkwright Scholarships Trust said: "I have been hugely impressed by the creativity, technical skills and leadership prowess of the young men and women receiving their Scholarships this year. It is well-

documented that the country needs 100,000s of new engineers to take the economy and society forward. But some of these newly-trained people need to also act as outstanding leadership beacons within industry and academia. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are the first step on that road to achieving such a vital position within UK engineering. Congratulations to our 413 new Scholars!"

Last year Ampleforth student Ben Sanders (D), currently in Year 13, also secured an Arkwright Scholarship and we hope Ben and Oscar's success will inspire our current Year 11 students to apply for this prestigious award.



In September 2016 we introduced the use of iPads for all Year 12 students to support their learning both inside and outside of lessons. This followed on from extensive research together with rigorous trials over the previous year. All teaching staff also have iPads and have been using them for over a year now to deliver lessons, curate and share resources, assess and plan work and improve workflow.

The phrase 'mobile learning' is used to describe the ability to tap into the tools an iPad provides anytime and anywhere. Engagement fuels learning and iPads offer a way in which to help provide rigorous, engaging and authentic learning. Students are using iPads to help develop their skills in independent research, to enhance their ability to collaborate, to aid creativity and to increase their digital literacy to help prepare them for the world beyond school.

One main focus of the development so far has been on using the app iTunes U. This Apple app was initially developed for use by universities to share course resources in a structured way, and has been expanded to include extensive functionality including online work hand-in, marking and feedback, collaborative discussion forums and a huge array of resource types. Staff have been busy creating and sharing courses, with many including relevant videos, web links, apps and commentaries, as well as our now standard learning booklets.

Other applications have been used to help support students in moving up Bloom's taxonomy of learning from

iPad Scheme



knowledge and understanding to analysis, evaluation and creation through apps such as Popplet, a mind mapping app, and Padlet, an app for collaborating both in and out of class on a discussion, debate or project. Short, focussed knowledge recall quizzes have quickly become a regular feature of lessons and preps through Quizlet and Kahoot enhancing the regular revision of key ideas that we have been promoting through the Flagged Assessment strategy.

Whilst it is still very early days in this project, and we are continually learning

different ways in which to use the iPad technology to enhance our provision, we are very excited about the opportunities this is creating for our students. A recent report from the OECD said that "Technology can amplify great teaching but great technology cannot replace poor teaching." We are always looking for ways in which to enhance the learning of our students and to improve their academic outcomes, and iPads are one of the many tools we are using to do this.

Raft Race

When an Army Sergeant Major drops eight oil barrels, six wooden planks and a load of rope outside my House on a September morning, my heart is filled with an urge to construct a barely stable, partially floating raft, purely for the purpose of travelling four lengths of bottom lake with eight students whilst desperately trying to keep the barrels from floating away and the rope from snaring my ankles! Fortunately, each year my wish is granted and each year all ten Houses decorate, construct and row their 'raft' across one of Ampleforth College's fishing lakes.

Themes this year included Brexit, Pirates, Alice in Wonderland and 'no theme.' Some started with eight barrels and finished with six, some went to sleep on Saturday night only to find that leaving the paint unattended and next to the raft overnight, was a poor idea and others managed to persuade their Housemistress to dress as the Queen of Hearts whilst atop the raft!





Student Abbots and Abbesses

Is faith a personal choice, a private hobby, an option for the individual? What does it mean to understand belief as a shared experience, to belong to the body of Christ? Families can provide the first point of reference in offering that early experience of a domestic church. Schools can then broaden that understanding beyond simply the family, to see faith as something shared with contemporaries. Just like families, however, schools can become introspective, and students benefit from the further breadth provided by a pilgrimage to Lourdes, or a World Youth Day or, more locally, by meeting up with other schools. A small scale initiative was developed this year when 30 students from the Benedictine schools of Ampleforth, Downside and Worth gathered for a retreat during the September exeat – which is, of course, a precious time for rest, for families and for UCAS. It was, therefore, some impressively committed students who signed up for this retreat, run by the two Manquehue communities at Ampleforth and Downside, the Chilean yin and yang of St Columba's and St Scholastica's, providing a good balance for co-ed schools. Their apostolic imperative of passing on what has been received was witnessed by the presence of several university students, who took a leading role as tutors for the different groups.

The sixth formers were encouraged by discovering what was held in common across their schools, but also learned from the particular emphases and developments in each school. The purpose of the retreat was to equip and train them for their role as Abbots and Abbesses in leading student lectio groups, and to challenge them to address the needs in their schools. It was a joyful event. The Saturday evening flowed from Mass to a fancy dress party with dancing and a strange combination of charades and Chinese whispers, to Compline and a time for Adoration, all without the need for any alcohol. The abiding memory was of the Ampleforth head girl finally leaving the chapel, offering a tired but respectful genuflection, in a pink tutu. Last year Downside were the hosts, next year it will be Worth. Slowly, within the English Benedictine Congregation, the monks, teachers and students are learning to work together.

"Each school gave a presentation on Lectio and how it fits into their school life and how it affects them. This was encouraging to a person in my shoes who was having to help organise a Lectio group in house. It renewed my spirit realising that all of us who were there were in or had been in the same place and all shared similar experiences

with such a powerful form of prayer. There were powerful moments such as during a Lectio session and during adoration on Saturday night and there were fun moments such as the 'Benedictine Olympics.' I made some friendships with lots of new people and reinforced friendships I already had in a new way which you can only do through such an unforgettable experience." (An Ampleforth Year 12 student).

"The retreat consisted of an intense programme of reflecting on how to strengthen our communities and how to become real Abbots and Abbesses of our communities within our schools. The motto was "they were to be his companions and to be sent out to proclaim the message" and in everything that we did we tried our best to encounter God and to realise how important it is to share this message with other people. I think we all felt leaving the retreat a huge sense of rejuvenation in our mission. The sense that this mission was never-ending. It is a journey something that we will carry with us for life." (A Downside Year 13 student).



Ampleforth Equestrian

Ampleforth has an impressive array of former students who have achieved success in equestrian sports - Christopher Bartle (A69), Michael 'Mouse' Morris (W66), Peter Savill (J65), Lissa Green (M07) and Thomas Tate (O65) to name a few - and now we are unearthing a wealth of new talent in the next generation.

A group of students from all years and nationalities at the College and St Martin's Ampleforth are enjoying riding lessons at Friars Hill Stables, Sinnington. These riders, both beginners and experienced, are having great fun on the flat and jumping.

Ampleforth is a member of the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA), an organisation providing inter-school competitions for teams and individual riders across the country. The membership of the NSEA for Ampleforth has grown to 19, with students from both St Martin's Ampleforth and the College gleaming in their new clothing range, which includes jackets, horse rugs and accessories depicting the Ampleforth crest and our own Ampleforth College Equestrian logo.

Our teams have enjoyed success in the NSEA National Championship Regional Qualifiers, with both a Show Jumping and Arena Eventing team qualifying for the National Championships in Buckinghamshire, and two students also qualifying as individuals in three separate classes.

Our four riders - Freddie Fawcett (C), Arthur Campion (D), Isabella Armitage (M) and Isobel Higginbotham (M) - proudly represented Ampleforth at the Nationals. With over 100 schools attending, the standard of competition was high. Freddie, who achieved the distinction of being one of the few clear rounds in the Arena Eventing Final, had this to say about being involved in the NSEA team: "No matter what level or type of riding experience you have, being in the Ampleforth NSEA team is a unique opportunity. The combination of being involved in a successful team environment, competing at national level, riding at world class venues and facilities, receiving coaching for all abilities, as well as riding with peers, is what makes Ampleforth Equestrian so special. Our recent qualification for the National Championships is proof that Ampleforth Equestrian is on a definite upward curve."

Eight students, one who had never ridden a horse at all, and others with limited riding experience also enjoyed a Polo lesson at the White Rose Polo Club. The weather was bitterly cold and wet but the students loved it. The lesson started with a brief introduction to the rules using toy racing cars on a game-board marked out as a polo pitch! The riders were quickly matched with their well-trained Polo ponies, and given instruction on how to stick and ball, to tackle and ride off their opponents. It ended with a short Chukka. They were desperate to keep playing and Eliz Cook is looking into the prospects of the team playing in an inter-school league during the summer.

So with these opportunities, and others planned for the future, who will be the next student from Ampleforth to pursue their career in the equestrian world?



Certificates & Awards in Cookery & Shooting





New. Performing Arts Centre

Ampleforth Youth Theatre

Earlier this year, the College were delighted to add a new, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre to their range of facilities. The new space includes a semi-sprung dance floor, wall mirrors, ballet bars, a fixed cinema screen and retractable seating for up to 150 people. The space is available for students at both the College and St Martin's Ampleforth.

To date, the Centre has been used for a number of activities including musical performances, St Andrew's Day celebrations, cinema evenings, concerts and fencing, to name but a few. It also provides the venue for the new Ampleforth Youth Theatre, which runs on Saturday mornings and is open to children aged 3 to 16 living in the local area.



Fun-filled and exciting training for children of all ages. Learn to sing, dance and act in this inspiring location.

On Saturday mornings we offer performing arts classes for children aged 3 to 16.

All classes take place at Ampleforth College, which boasts a dedicated Theatre and Music School, as well as a new Performing Arts Centre with a semi-sprung dance floor, wall mirrors and ballet bars.

Contact us today to register:

01439 766738
ayt@ampleforth.org.uk

Drama
Music
Dance



On Wednesday 23rd November the Ampleforth Highlanders had the honour of performing alongside the Red Hot Chilli Pipers at The Sage, Gateshead.

The pipers and drummers were led by Bryan Robinson and performed Highland Cathedral and Wake Me Up to the crowd of over 2,000 guests at the sold-out concert. The band were thrilled to have the opportunity to play alongside 'the most famous bagpipe band on the planet.'

The Ampleforth Highlanders, who appear in the tartan of Murray of Atholl, are reputed to be the largest pipe band south of the Scottish border. The band performs regularly at school events as well as externally; in October 2016 they played at Houghton-Le-Spring near Durham, in a festival which dates back to the 12th century, and on Remembrance Day the band visited nearby Terrington Hall School where they played while the children laid poppies by the school's War Memorial. Piping is just one of the 80 extra-curricular activities on offer at Ampleforth College, giving students an exceptional opportunity to develop their love of learning.

Ampleforth Highlanders

with the

Red Hot Chilli Pipers

Ampleforth Biology Trip

by Peter Anderson, Head of Biology

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BIOLOGY TRIP

Between Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th October, our Year 13 Biologists took part in their annual Biology field trip.

Twenty five students made the short trip to the Yorkshire Dales, staying and working at the Field Studies Council field centre at Malham Tarn. Though still in Yorkshire, the students were exposed to a vastly different landscape to the Valley – limestone pavement, upland streams and the internationally important tarn itself (and associated peat bog). Interestingly, Malham Tarn, at 377m above sea level, is the highest lake in England and one of only eight upland alkaline lakes in Europe. It is a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest and so our students are lucky to spend some time here.

Our biologists take part in the field trip each year in order to cover the ecology component of the Biology A Level specification and though many are reluctant to leave Ampleforth, all return having learned a lot and usually having enjoyed the experience! This year, we were blessed by some lovely Autumnal weather, which always helps.



On arrival, students learned about different ecological sampling methods, which they then applied to a variety of habitats local to the field centre from a limestone escarpment to an upland stream, through woodland and finally onto a peat bog. Every day, the biologists worked hard with sessions in the classroom, days spent in the field and sessions in the laboratory. The students are encouraged to plan investigations and a large part of their time on the trip is spent gathering and analysing data. Evenings in the classroom after supper are never popular, but everyone worked with enthusiasm to produce some excellent work. Sessions on statistics developed our students' mathematical skills, which is so important for the new Biology A Level that has a much greater emphasis on mathematical skills than in previous years.





An enjoyable day involved the students taking an hour's walk to Gordale Beck to undertake a river study – sampling water for invertebrates, identifying species found and relating species diversity to aspects of the beck, such as water flow speeds and pH. In the evening, the students set mammal traps in the local woods to learn about sampling for larger organisms and calculating population size. Inspecting the traps the following morning saw a great deal of competition to see if anyone had caught anything!



Sport at Ampleforth

WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Gemma Atkins is the newly appointed Director of Sport overseeing Physical Education and Sport, both at Ampleforth College and at St Martin's Ampleforth.

"This is the third department I have led since entering teaching in 2004. My first appointment was at a school in Liverpool where I spent nine years in total, five as Head of Physical Education. I was then appointed Director of Sport at a British co-educational day school in Dubai where I spent the last three years. Ampleforth College is a stark contrast to working in Dubai; I now enjoy meandering to work on country lanes, rather than sitting in traffic on a six lane motorway! The staff and students at Ampleforth have been immensely warm and welcoming since my arrival and I feel privileged to work in such a well-respected school and one which occupies so beautiful a location. Rugby, hockey and squash are the key focus during the Autumn term. These pages give an overview of how we are currently performing."

RUGBY BY WILL JAMES

As is becoming the norm at Ampleforth, the Rugby season got underway with a pre-season training camp held at the College with over 100 students taking part across four age groups. This early season preparation resulted in an opening weekend 1st XV performance and win against a strong Grammar School at Leeds side away from home.

The Northern schools Rugby fixture list is one of the strongest in the country and as we progress and develop there will be some challenges to overcome across all age groups. With the continued development of our strength and conditioning programme and fully inclusive skill development sessions, I am sure we are moving in the right direction. This programme is continuing to produce young Rugby players who are being selected for Yorkshire and are part of the England Rugby Developing Player Programme. The number of students going on to play at a higher level will only increase as we see more students buying in to the Rugby programme as a whole.

The half term gave the opportunity for over 40 students to experience their first Ampleforth College Rugby Tour. The Year 9 and 10 students had three days in Belfast playing against Armagh RFC, Campbell College and Bangor Grammar, which they enjoyed immensely due to the diverse and cultural excursions and team building exercises. The 1st XV departed to Lisbon for five days playing four individual fixtures, which proved a huge success as all fixtures were competitive and enjoyable with a one hundred percent win rate.

Girls Hockey at Ampleforth continues to thrive. The commitment and passion of our girls towards their hockey and representing the school is as strong as ever. Nearly 50 girls attended the hockey pre-season, which culminated in excellent victories for both the senior and junior squads against Worksop College. The season is progressing well and the U18, U16 and U14 teams have all been crowned District Champions, whilst we are winning most of our block fixtures against our regular competitors on Saturday afternoons. It is on Saturdays where all can see the development of our girls and the attacking philosophy which is always championed in our hockey programme. The 1st XI has had notable wins against Giggleswick, Yarm and Hymers but it is currently the 2nd XI who are sweeping all opponents aside. What is encouraging is the strength in depth of our hockey, with the 3rd XI only having one defeat so far this season and our Junior A team being undefeated. There is huge potential in the Year 9 and 10 groups; they themselves are successful sides who are playing the exciting brand of hockey that Ampleforth is known for. Having strong results is only part of the criteria for success; the girls continue to engage with their hockey in all aspects from games sessions, activity slots and in early morning strength and conditioning sessions, but the main factor is that the girls are enjoying their sport and that all are showing a desire to push themselves to achieve their potential.



SQUASH BY NICOLA HORN

Squash at Ampleforth in the Autumn term is the second boys sport to rugby. Over 30 boys in the school have opted for squash, making us the biggest school squash squad in the North of England. 22 matches were played in the Autumn term against a range of schools and clubs in the local area.

Barnard Castle are our strongest rival and we play at least two matches against them a term – to date we have beaten them at 2nd and 3rd teams this term and we await the 1st team match at the end of term. We play local clubs such as Chapel Allerton, Malton, Harrogate and Ilkley, which gives us a different perspective on life after Ampleforth. Next term we play the old favourite Sedbergh and we hope to win!

This year the team has been dominated by the Upper Sixth students – Captained by Bevan Fawcett (C) and including Michael Wragg (T), Finn Lambert (C) and Jacob Stephenson (EW). The youngest is Jack Clark (D) who despite being in Year 11 has made it to the first team. Aside from Senior Games we have a host of players coming through in Junior Games and some rugby players enjoy the game in activity time.



Train to Teach

A
AMPLEFORTH
COLLEGE



Diocese of Middlesbrough
Teaching School Alliance



Diocese of Middlesbrough Teaching School Alliance

Earlier this year Ampleforth College and All Saints School, York were designated as joint lead schools in a new Teaching School Alliance - The Diocese of Middlesbrough TSA. Although TSAs have been part of the educational landscape in England for a number of years, the Diocese of Middlesbrough TSA is unique in that all the partner schools have a common ethos and shared Catholic values firmly at the centre of their educational mission. In addition, this is an independent-state school partnership.

Teaching Schools are outstanding schools that work with others to provide high quality training and professional

development for experienced school staff and new entrants to the teaching profession. To be awarded this status the lead schools must be judged as outstanding and have a proven track record in delivering Initial Teacher Training and supporting other schools.

Ampleforth has been involved in Initial Teacher Training for many years. We are now working with Leeds Trinity University (formerly Trinity and All Saints College) to design our own teacher training programme, with the first trainees starting in September 2017. Numbers will be small – our plan is to recruit high-calibre graduates and practising Catholics who, once trained,

can go on to fill vacancies at Ampleforth and in our partner schools.

If you know of someone who has the potential to be an outstanding teacher and is interested in training in a Catholic school, we would be grateful if you could make them aware of this exciting new initiative.

Further information can be found can be found by visiting:

www.ampleforth.org.uk/college/domtsa



Head of School's Introduction St Martin's Ampleforth News

What a warm welcome to St Martin's Ampleforth Clare and I feel we have had! The year has started well. Academically, St Martin's Ampleforth ended last year on a high with its best ever Common Entrance results and we are working hard to build on that success. A feature of our first months here has been meeting parents at the drop-off each morning. It has allowed me to get my finger on the school's pulse quickly and to know those better who have made the commitment to the Ampleforth family. We can truly say that St Martin's Ampleforth is a family school, and a cornerstone of the Ampleforth family and community.

Quickly, we have adopted some important words: safe, secure, spiritual, studious and supported. Like the College, we are a school for the Lord's Service, and that means that we care for each individual child in the full knowledge that they are created by

God, and that they have been given talents that God needs in the world. Our aim has become to find out what those talents are and to enable each child to realise their potential. Our approach is to help each child to achieve academic independence, to develop individual interests, and to shine in all areas of their life. We aim to give them the essential spiritual and moral tools – a compass for life – which will enable them to freely and maturely negotiate and flourish in adult life in the outside world. Through excellent teaching and outstanding pastoral care we aim to draw out those personal qualities that allow our children to live and work well alongside each other.

We feel we have been at Ampleforth for a long time; everything we do is informed by our Benedictine ethos, which means that in caring for each individual girl or boy it is our intention to develop pupils' talents so that they

can develop academically, emotionally and spiritually to the full. Being at St Martin's Ampleforth is the first step along a road that can lead smoothly and seamlessly from nursery to university. It is a journey guided at every stage by St Benedict, whose Rule and its values of listening, hospitality and community are as relevant today, as they have always been.

We have found St Martin's Ampleforth to be unique, and much of what is on offer distinctively different enough for us to say that what is the exception elsewhere, is the norm at St Martin's Ampleforth. We are delighted to be here, and are immensely grateful for the warmth and support shown to us by all.

Dr David Moses
Head of School



Friends of St Martin's Ampleforth and the Gilling Parents Association

Over the last few years the Friends of St Martin's Ampleforth have raised funds for a number of items to enhance the educational provision of pupils at St Martin's Ampleforth. The list of purchases is very long but does include the outdoor classroom in Pre-Prep and a number of mountain bikes and associated safety equipment. In the last year, the Friends have paid for an overhaul of the climbing wall including purchasing new harnesses and the group has recently bought new cricket nets. This year, the Friends have contributed towards a Year 10 DT project that is going to provide play equipment in Gilling Woods for our children and is in the process of purchasing easels and a light box for the Art department. We owe a great deal

to the efforts of the Friends and all that they have provided for the children at St Martin's Ampleforth.

In September 2015, the Gilling Parents Association was formed and the Friends as a separate body ceased. The fundraising element of the Friends has now become part of the Gilling Parents Association.

The Gilling Parents Association provides opportunities for parents to engage in activities which support the pastoral care of boarding and day children and to support other parents. It is also a way to gain better understanding of the education and facilities offered by the school, raise suggestions and help identify areas for further development.

Each year group in the school has a parent representative on Gilling Parents Association.

The Secondhand Uniform shop is now run by a parent on behalf of the Gilling Parents Association. As well as fundraising events, the Parents Association has run social events for parents. A Christmas Fair for the children is being organised for December and the parents are running Christmas discos for children in Years 3 to 8.

David and the staff at St Martin's Ampleforth offer their thanks to the Friends for their support over the years and look forward to working with the Gilling Parents Association in the future.



Macbeth

comes to Forest School

The school woods are being utilised in many ways from Forest School sessions to mountain bike riding as well as to enhance our school curriculum. In November, Year 8 went up to the woods to act out sections of Macbeth, a fire was lit and the cauldron bubbled. Following are two accounts of the day:

“On a wet Tuesday afternoon we went up to Forest School armed with costumes and props. The scene was set with a bubbling cauldron filled with the witches’ potion of grotesque specimens. We sat on logs around the fire and acted out the witches’ scene. Also, we were joined by Dr Moses and his Year 7 English class and they watched us act it out. After a quick practice, we performed it for real. Acting it outdoors helped to make it more realistic. The atmosphere with the bubbling cauldron, the fire, the wind howling and the rain hammering on the ground was very menacing and sinister. Estrella, Florence and Jimena were the three witches; Charles was Macbeth; Charlotte was the first apparition, Alex was the second and I was the third. Just before we left Forest School we each had a cup of hot chocolate from the cauldron! At least, we think it was chocolate...!”

Annie Aspinnall

“As the rain lashed down on a dark Tuesday afternoon, a group of Year 8 pupils headed up to the forest, costumes and props in hand. The bubbling cauldron centred the stage with the haggard witches circling and chanting their spells. Without the dark woods and pouring rain, the scene would have been barely set, as the play is challenging to imagine without that. The props also added to the disturbing atmosphere, such as the bloodied baby doll which represented the caesarean birth and the helmet that was a

reminder of Macduff. The drum that was masterfully played by Mrs Wood added tension. The Year 7 class shared in our performance in order to add to the atmosphere and to help make the play easier to understand. We were very grateful to Mr Harrison for lighting the fire, preparing the cauldron and for providing the magic dust to make the flames turn green!”

Jessica Gill





St Martin's Ampleforth Cookery

Cookery is very popular at St Martin's Ampleforth. The children in Nursery and Reception have been busy cooking this term. They have made mulberry jam using mulberries from the tree in the Pre-Prep Playground. They have chopped apples and courgettes to make chutney and have baked banana bread. The children have decorated peppers to look like faces. The peppers were then stuffed and baked. They were delicious.

The older children in the evening cookery activity group have made a variety of scrumptious treats from chocolate chip cookies and apple muffins to creating their own supper of salmon, broccoli and pasta bake.

In January 2017, David Moses will be taking the boarders to the College to use their new cookery school. He is going to give the children a cookery demonstration to enable them to bake their own supper. David is a trained chef who is keen to pass on his cooking skills to the children – not to mention the fact that he is also a Master sommelier!





Roald Dahl Day

Tuesday 13th September 2016 was the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth. To celebrate this, all the pupils at St Martin's Ampleforth, joined in with many schools nationally by dressing up as their favourite Roald Dahl character. We had some wonderful costumes from the children and from the staff including characters from *Charlie and Chocolate Factory*, *The Twits*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *The Witches* and *Matilda*.

Dr Moses gave a Roald Dahl themed assembly to the children in Pre-Prep and the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed Roald Dahl stories in the woods whilst using an open fire to concoct their own version of George's Marvellous Medicine.





Year 8 Play The Mikado

One of the highlights of the school year is the annual Year 8 play. This year under the direction of Mr Vincent Conyngham, Director of Music, the Year 8 production was Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

The children were taught the music in their music lessons, so by the time it went into production, it was fairly well known: at least that was the theory!

The Orchestra played magnificently: it comprised many of the instrumental staff of both St Martin's Ampleforth and Ampleforth College, led by Miss Nicola Rainger. We also had a member of the former D'Oyly Carte Orchestra in the Brass Section, so he knew the piece intimately! Special mention should be made of James Laczko-Schroeder, Year 10 (Trumpet 2) and his brother, Christian (Percussion) in Year 12, who both played so competently.

The Mikado of Japan (Hugh Child) eventually managed to subdue his prospective daughter-in-law (Katie



Pickstone) and Nanki Poo (Gabriel Laird) won his bride Yum Yum (Erin Anglim). James Hepden was a suitably pompous Pooh-Bah, just what Gilbert would have approved of and Rupert Pomroy, Joshua Connor, Nwomiko Diugwu and Ingrid Sykes provided suitable support. Wilf

Duree had the daunting task of mastering all of Ko-Ko's dialogue, not to say all the music, and he proved most able, giving a display of bravura with great insight and integrity; in fact, it was a revelation!

Year 8 Trip to Italy

Following the Common Entrance Exams the Year 8 students headed off to Manchester to fly to Milan and from there up to Ponte di Legno in the Alps. This visit was a great success and the hospitality received was second to none.

Having settled in, the pupils and staff enjoyed the first of many delicious evening meals and tired from the journey, were happy to retire to bed. On the first day, the challenges included were mountain biking and climbing. With excellent instruction on offer, the pupils with very few exceptions, managed to scale some very tricky climbing walls. Several children worked hard to overcome their fears and reach the top feeling a great sense of satisfaction. Similarly, the mountain biking taught pupils some advanced skills in managing obstacles on a downhill slope used by skiers in the winter.

On the second day they were rewarded with wall-to-wall sunshine for their trip to the water park which thoroughly exhausted staff and children alike. A visit to the piazza in the village and a short tour of the shops in the evening enabled staff and students to purchase delicious local cheeses to take home. The first disco was met with much enthusiasm.

On Thursday morning, they all took the gondola up on to the glacier where they could see the last vestiges of snow. It was cold but bright and everyone managed to scramble up to the memorial built to commemorate the loss of Italian and Austrian soldiers who fought at the White Wall. They walked through the tunnel which now serves as a museum. In the afternoon, it was orienteering and the high ropes, with some death defying leaps through the trees, again under the expert supervision of the instructors. This was followed by a swim back at the hotel and another disco, a great opportunity to celebrate the excellent CE results which were given out before supper.

On the final morning, they went to the AC Milan museum, which was interesting especially in the lead up to the European championship. It was a great week with new friends made and friendships further cemented and many new experiences to reflect upon.





Pre-Prep Harvest Festival

Pre-Prep held their annual Harvest Festival at the end of the first half of term. The children in Reception and Nursery sang a song about the weather and Years 1 and 2 sang about how the little seeds grow. They had been practising their songs each week with Mrs Cooke in their music lessons.

The chapel was decorated with a selection of pictures and sculptures that the children had made in the classroom. Years 1 and 2 had been learning about sculptures and material and they enjoyed using a salt dough to create beautiful life sized models of cabbages, carrots, onions and peas. Children in Nursery and Reception had painted pictures of a variety of fruit and vegetables that was displayed up the stairs and around the chapel walls.

All the children brought in contributions of fresh and tinned food that formed a stunning harvest display – further augmented by homemade bread courtesy of the youngest children in Pre-Prep. The food was then shared amongst the Gilling community and a local food bank.





St Martin's Ampleforth Sports Development

The Sports Development programme has been running for three years now and is aimed at Year 8 pupils, especially those who are considering putting themselves forward for a Basil Hume Scholarship at the College. The programme itself covers a wide spectrum of content from practical based sessions to classroom seminars. The main focus of the course is to increase the pupils' knowledge of sports performance and to improve their decision making in all areas.

Within the programme the pupils cover key practical skills including: running

mechanics, agility sessions, endurance training, balance and coordination work, flexibility sessions and muscle strength and stability training. The seminars are aimed at improving the pupils' knowledge in important areas such as nutrition and its importance for performance (physical and mental), and how to balance their studies and sporting commitments, both now and as they get older.

The programme is run by Mr James (Head of Rugby, Sports Development and Performance) and helps to prepare pupils for the demands of the College

and beyond. This process is an excellent example of supporting the transition from St Martin's Ampleforth to Ampleforth College; there is continuity across the KS2 and KS3 Core Physical Education programmes, alongside the Ampleforth College Sports Department playing an integral part of the Games sessions at St Martin's Ampleforth.

