**Obituary on the life of Patrick Hickey for Ampleforth. 21st March 2019**

Born: 21st September 1923 Died: 12th March 2019

Patrick entered St Aidan’s House in 1937 where he was a keen member of the Beagles and of the Falconry Club and had such a good rapport with his housemaster, that he allowed him to keep an owl in his room, after which he was known by everyone in the school  as “ Bird Hickey”.

After leaving Ampleforth, he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery and saw service in the jungles of Burma with the Colonial Regiment of the Royal West Frontier Force during WW2, ending his service with the rank of Major.

Patrick was married to Bea in 1953 and was the much loved father of Anne, Madeline, Rosemary, Patrick and William and Grandfather of James, Sarah, Iain, Philip, Emily, Patrick, Robert, Alexandra and Beatrice, and Great-Grandfather of Isabella.

He worked on the sales side of the family engineering business W.H. Allen of Bedford for many years, which was subsequently bought out by Rolls Royce, before joining Nuovo Pignone an Italian Engineering company who manufacture equipment for the oil and gas industry in both exploration and refining. Every North Sea rig was fitted with their compressors.

With all this business and engineering experience, Patrick who had developed great “people skills”, was never afraid of coming up with all kinds of schemes to resolve practical problems. Armed with that lovely smile and twinkle in his eye and however impractical you thought of his solution, made friends with relative ease and they soon came round to his way of thinking, having left such a lasting impression.

He also had a love of nature and never lost his interest in bird watching and wildfowling so much so, that he had the foresight to buy some old Army Nissan huts back in the 1960’s near Stiffkey Marshes in Norfolk, which have now been turned into lovely holiday homes by the coast for the benefit of his children and grandchildren.

Above all, he was a wonderful family man who took a great interest in both sides of his family history and throughout his long and happy life had a love of everything Irish, his father having been born in Kilkee Co Clare on the West Coast of Ireland where he loved to go back and visit, and County Down Northern Ireland, from where Bea came from.

He kept his faith throughout his life as a committed catholic, attending mass weekly.

He was my uncle and god father and was responsible for introducing my father Robert Coghlan (A40) to his sister Ann after Sunday mass in Whitchurch Shropshire. They were married in 1951, after which as they say, the rest is history.

May God bless him for a life well lived.

Anthony Coghlan (J69)