

MONGREL JOTTINGS SUMMER 1956

From The Beaumont Review

Current Events

Fr John Coventry was appointed Rector in succession to Fr Sir Lewis Clifford Bt - the man who gave Beaumont a wonderful spirit of friendliness, the country gentleman with the benevolent and faintly military aura was replaced by a classicist, an expert on Roman history and the Kings of Armenia.

Among the new members of staff was John O'Malley from Dublin and the return of Fr Brogan from Stonyhurst.

The most noted departures were firstly that of Hugh Dinwiddy – “it was not merely that he was a successful English master and games coach; anyone can be successful with talented boys; but Mr Dinwiddy was able to discern and foster talent where others would have ignored it; to stir up sympathy and imagination in a class of dullards; to give polish and vitality to an unpromising team. He had the rare gift of sharing the experiences with his pupils, in such a way that invariably they became not only his pupils but his friends”.

The second departure was that of Fr Joseph Corbishley – “The Bush” left after 15 years as both master and First Prefect. “The modern world is all too ready to excuse indiscipline but calling it freedom of expression or something equally remote from the truth; but it is to Fr Corbishley's undying credit that he never allowed the blinkers to be pulled over his eyes in spite of his genuine affection for those under his charge. Many a Beaumont boy has good reason to be grateful to him, and not least the delinquents towards whom he has been an upholder of high standards indeed, but ever ready to sympathise with – if not always to condone – the exuberance of youth”.

On Corpus Christie the celebrant and preacher at the Oak was the very recently ordained Fr Francis Hastings (39); after wartime service as a captain of the Kings African Rifles in the East Africa and Burma Campaigns and now priest of the Brentwood Diocese.

Rhetoric Guests included Miss Mary Malone who talked of her experiences as a reporter at the wedding of Grace Kelly to Prince Rainier in Monaco.

The Centenary Appeal was launched by Fr Clifford in conjunction with the BU to raise £100,000 for a new accommodation wing and a new boat house. – OBs in Malaya had already contributed a considerable sum.

The signatories to the Appeal included;

Charles Moore –Racing and Stud Manager to the Queen

Giles Gilbert Scott – Architect

Dallas Waters – Clerk of the Privy Council. President of the SVP.

Kevin Martin – General

Palmella – Duke and Portuguese Ambassador to the Court of St James

Edward Cussen – Judge and one time member of MI5

Andrew Clasen - Luxembourg Ambassador to the Court of St James

Charles Russell – future Lord of Appeal

Philip de Zulueta – Prime Minister's Private Secretary and Foreign Affairs Advisor.

Among the younger generation were Alvaro Holguin, Peter Churchill, Basil Bicknell, Mark Penney, David Peppercorn, Tim Ruane, Simon Nurick, John Walker and John Bedford (Captain of the School '55).

Beaumont paid for two seminarists at Chishawasha in Southern Rhodesia at the cost of £38-18s-6p "the cost is low as the natives live extremely simply and have to make do with very few teachers and secondhand books".

Midsummer Concert; of the piano soloists A Morrogh was vigorous, P Davies sensitive and N Sturridge a proficient technician. The violins provided an exquisite background to the warm tones of H Danby's clarinet solo.

Music Society; One of the highlights was a visit to "The Proms". The BBC Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent. "Unfortunately Sir Malcolm did not give us his best throughout the evening. Confidence was lacking in his performance of handling Mozart's "Prague" symphony and in the orchestral part of Beethoven's "Emperor" piano concerto. The soloist was Moiseiwitsch. This performance lacked the imperial quality that, as the name suggests the work contains. Nancy Thomas singing of Donizetti's "O Mio Fernando" from "La Favorita" was also disappointing.

The critic was Peter Brindley then President of the Society, a boy destined for Oriel Oxford and the law.

The Corps; No 2 coy reported that at the field day in the Park they succeeded in losing both the attack and the defence by failing to understand exactly what was required of them. Added to this was the betrayal of the location of their Headquarters staff to the opposition; it was not a rewarding day as far as far as they were concerned. (Ed. I am surprised there wasn't a Field Court Martial)

Scout Camp at Barlborough Hall; "Many that experienced trench warfare in the Great War told us that the worst enemy they encountered was mud. Without wishing to drive the comparison too far, those that attended this year's camp could sympathise with them. Mud in the Patrol sites, in the kitchens and along the paths of communication; thick clinging mud, mud on which you slithered and slipped and sat down unexpectedly, mud on your arms, legs, face and in your hair. It reduced your clothing of all colours to a common denominator of brown. It was nevertheless a camp full of fun and good fellowship".

Valete; among the leavers at the end of term were the cricket stars of the First XI David Bulfield and Peter Bird. Pete Smit - captain of Boxing and son of the WW2 diamond merchant. Anthony Miles – of Miles Madeira and Captain of Rugby. Kevin O'Sullivan future husband of the acclaimed author the Hon Victoria Glendinning. Kenneth Luscombe-Whyte future owner of one of the James Bond Aston Martins. Queen's Scout John Rossage. Adrian Vickers with an Exhibition in Classics to Merton Oxford. A couple of Princes – Guardino Rospigliosi and Guy de Mailly Nesle (later Pr.of Orange). Paul-Arnoux de Remusat to Sandhurst and the Irish Guards and for a Frenchman - chairman of the School's Current Affairs Society.

Sport.

Cricket

The First XI; at Downside, the two day match was lost despite early promise "Quinn scenting a fifty was bowled taking an airy swing for 48. He "shot a fine shoot" as Mr Justice Shallow once

remarked but we would have liked it to last a little longer. The grip on the game weakened and we never recovered our hold – there was a little glue in the consommé and we were in it”.

During the season the XI scored two hundred or over in five out of twelve innings and have contributed greatly towards the tradition of excellence of Beaumont cricket; every season has the same but a different story to tell as Christina Rossetti wrote;

It is over. What is over?
Nay how much is over truly! –
Harvest days we toiled to sow for;
Now the sheaves are gathered newly,
Now the wheat is garnered duly.

Lords;

Beaumont beat The Oratory by six wickets and with time to spare before tea.

The game was memorable for the innings by Peter Bird run out for 59. He hit four sixes, the first being over the score board by the tavern right into St John’s Wood Road. Quinn also landed two successive wallops amidst the startled company outside the Tavern – though one gentleman, carnation in button hole, statuesque in contemplation gave no indication of surprise and continued to puff on his pipe.

The only disappointment surrounded the Captain –Bulfield Major – caught first ball in the leg-trap as he tried to sweep one that lifted. Yet he had his hour two years previous when he made 80 and took all 10 Oratory wickets with his leg breaks; cricket teaches humility in even the greatest.

The night before the match a raiding party planted the Beaumont flag in The Oratory grounds and painted the gates in hues of blue and brown; no doubt these tactics will bring a suitable response in due course.

Boating.

The VIII had quite a successful season with eleven races won against four losses; the biggest disappointment was to lose at Henley in the first round Tiffin by just over four feet. Despite this the VIII reached the final in their two last Regattas and were semi-finalists in another. They beat the Schools record at Molesey. The culmination came at Staines where for the second year running they won the Junior-Senior Eights contested by sixteen crews and they had the satisfaction of revenge on Tiffin in the final. Maidenhead also saw a pleasing result, for although they lost to Eton Excelsior for the trophy, they beat Westminster on the way there, a crew that had already put out Teddies Oxford.

The VIII dinner was held at the Bells with Fr Rector and Mr Scott

Andrew Clasen became the first Beaumont boy to win a regatta when he took the title in the Junior Skulls at Staines.

Athletics

At the Public Schools championship at the White City Brian Baker and Janek De were both knocked out in the 100yds qualifying rounds though neither were disgraced.

John Wolff did not compete in the 440yds because of a badly torn muscle.

Beaumont Union.

There was a dance at Ouseley Lodge in June organised by Basil Bicknell, Mark Penney and David Peppercorn.

In the Birthday Honours Brigadier Malcolm Dewar and Group Captain Desmond Hanafin both received the CBE

Patrick Shelley (46) had a painting exhibition in Paris The Times announced “ A Colourist on the warpath, An Englishman makes a stir in Paris” acclaimed for his nudes, use of light and things to eat.

Howard Gee (31) who had spent most of the War as a POW in Colditz has been offered a Television contract by the BBC.

Peter Kelly (50) took his oath to the White Father’s Society.

Henri Brenier, one time the French Representative on the International Opium Commission of The League of Nations wrote of his friendship over the years with Frank Russell (2nd Lord) who he had beaten for the English Composition Prize in 1881.

Oxford Letter extracts:

Christopher Lord (Magdalen) is chairman of the Free Europe society and has had to turn down other appointments because of his social and cultural activities.

Eights Week saw Beaumont well represented – Peter Bailey and Ian Unsworth rowed hard for St Edmund’s Hall (Shaun MacLoughlin was too busy this year exercising his charms on the opposite sex). Lou Chmelar was again stroke for the Univ.VIII while Howard Lyle gave Lincoln the full benefit of his celebrated muscles. The most versatile performance was that of Anthony Leggett alternating between coxing the Balliol 2nd Boat and stroking the sixth to the bottom of the order. John Walker (Brasenose) is president of The Newman Society and chief instigator of a weekly lunch at The Elizabeth. The Roebuck is still reserved for Sunday mornings.

Robert Schulte (Jesus) has so far taken an interest in his study of economics as to devote evenings away to enjoy the gay life (Editor- gay of course in the old sense!). Terence O’Brien offers cordial invitations to the Univ. cellars at every opportunity.

There was no letter from **The Cam.**

Hatches, Matches and Dispatches.

Among the Births were a son for Sir Charles Russell Bt and a daughter for Sir Reginald Seconde and Hugh Clifford (future 13th Baron of Chudleigh)

Matches included Richard Bird (future 4th Bt), Richard de Ayala son of Edmond the French Resistance leader, Brian Dillon Capt. Rugby and Cricket and future Harley St Surgeon. Roger Unwin, member of the undefeated ’48 rugby XV. Michael Webber National Hunt Trainer.

Deaths – Major “Barty” Green late of the Cameronians, son of the Hon John Green and born in Bombay. A DSO in the Boer War and later an OBE. Painter and sculptor and designer of the famed Nyasaland “Leopard” postage stamp. Home in Madeira.

Golf. James Blackwell won his own Scratch Prize at the Union Meeting but got the dates mixed up for the Hewitt – telephone calls to his London relations evoked no positive response but a despairing call to his Scottish homestead was answered by the Laird himself; on being enlightened of his error he took the overnight sleeper from Perth to arrive in time to play a round at Sandwich the next afternoon with partner Lionel Gracey. Only Taylor and Pound were able to stem a King Edward's Birmingham side "brimful of talent".

Finally.

Among the Book reviews was one on "Hitting the Bottle". *Man Takes A Drink* by Fr John Ford SJ with a delightful preface by Andre Simon President of the Wine and Food Society.

"If you enjoy being regaled with scientific Bonne Bouches this book abounds with them. Not that Fr Ford contents himself with just offering tips on holding your liquor – "Wine was created from the beginning to make man joyful, not to make him drunk (Eccles 31:35).

Ed. Whether this Review was included with the BU in mind was not recorded