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Registered Charity No.
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100 Club

Recent 100 Club winners were Julian Humphries (May), Bill Mitford (June) and Hilda Jones (July). All received a £50 cheque and Ammerdown received the same amount for its work. (To request more information, see response form)

A big Thank You to the Sisters of Sion

The Sisters of Sion sent Ammerdown an olive tree as a special 40th anniversary gift. We were greatly touched by it, not only because it is a beautiful tree but also because it is a symbol of peace - very appropriate for Ammerdown! The tree now has pride of place in our courtyard garden by the Russell room.

We could not have done it without you!

Ammerdown's own labyrinth, which was inaugurated on 8th June, is testament to the amazing generosity of Ammerdown's supporters. Together you helped raise over £8,000, which enabled the work to proceed. Thanks to you the labyrinth was completed on the eve of the anniversary celebrations! The only work that remains is to create flower borders worthy of this beautiful work of art... The labyrinth has already been put to good use by guests, who have been very complimentary about the experience.



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE!

Can you help?

We promised Ammerdown's kitchen that it would be the beneficiary of our next appeal, because our cooks are desperate for a new commercial food mixer. Sadly ours is on its last legs. Yet this is one of the most essential pieces of equipment in the kitchen. Without it there would, for example, be no delicious Ammerdown home-made bread! (We can hear the gasps of horror from those guests who have had the privilege to taste our kitchen's famous selection of bread and rolls...). The cost of a new commercial mixer is £1,400. Every gift however small will, as always, be very gratefully received. Many thanks in advance!



The Ammerdown Centre
A Place of Hospitality, Spirituality and Growth

Newsletter
JULY 2013

"I really don't like this", said a guest to me, pointing to the newly opened labyrinth. *"I much preferred the Quiet Garden which was there before".*

"I am sorry to hear this.", I replied, *"Did you often use the Quiet Garden?"*.

"Never", she said, *"but I got used to it being there."*

This is when I realised that her main concern was that her 'beloved' Ammerdown had changed, and she did not like it one little bit.

This made me ponder about change, and how one introduces it in a place like Ammerdown, which is loved by so many.

I know from personal experience that change can be threatening. However, life never stands still. Like it or not the environment in which Ammerdown operates has changed dramatically since 1973 – the year it all began.

Consider for example the decline of institutional religion and the growth in 'new spiritualities', especially amongst young people; or the changing face of ecumenism and of interfaith; or the rise in religious fundamentalism.

Think also about the ongoing technological revolution which has brought about brand new methods of communicating, learning and interacting.

The reality is that organisations like Ammerdown have to adapt to their changing environment in order to survive. The challenge is therefore not whether to change but HOW to change in a way that preserves the organisation's core mission, values and ministry.

Ammerdown is undoubtedly facing some hard questions as it looks to the next five years - especially so at a time of widespread financial squeeze and ageing clientele. The reassuring fact is that Ammerdown has, over the last 40 years, managed to adapt successfully without ever compromising its ideals or its ethos. With God's grace and guidance, I am confident that Ammerdown will not only endure and grow but also continue to be **"a place where heaven and earth meet"** (which is how, ten years ago, a Methodist leader famously described Ammerdown...).

With best wishes,



Ammerdown's labyrinth, which was opened on 8th June (see p 3 & 4)

Ammerdown's 40th Anniversary Celebrations



Lord Hylton (the only surviving founder of Ammerdown) and Kenneth Wilson (Chair of Trustees) cut the anniversary cake.



Lord Hylton and Margaret Shepherd NDS. Margaret was representing the Sisters of Sion, who have played such an important part in Ammerdown's life.

Over 100 supporters gathered at Ammerdown on 8th June to celebrate the Centre's 40th anniversary. The occasion was blessed by wonderful summer weather and also by the heart-warming gratitude and love expressed by all for a special place which has become 'home from home' for so many. After the afternoon Bach Organ Recital and Peace-Building presentation by Revd Donald Reeves, the evening's highlight was the inauguration of Ammerdown's own labyrinth, entirely funded by donations from supporters. It is a beautiful work of art and a wonderful 40th anniversary legacy to future guests.

Tatomir is one of our resident volunteers. He is a keen amateur poet who wrote this to give thanks for Ammerdown's first 40 years:

Ask me about the place where peace blossoms
Melted in sweet blessed perfume of prayer
Morning by morning like a beautiful song
Emerging from hearts to the heights of heavens
Revealing miracles born from grace and filling hopes
Diamond of natural wonders and spiritual growth
Only one place like this and is called Ammerdown
Worship and service, joy and goodwill all around
Now write this name in gold letters and say it aloud
... AMMERDOWN!

By Tatomir Ion-Marius



Guests in the garden listen to Lord Hylton reminiscing about the early days...



Kenneth, Benedicte and Lord Hylton mark the official opening of Ammerdown's labyrinth by releasing balloons.



Guests enjoying one of Ammerdown's famous buffet suppers...