



## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



A busy holiday programme was initiated at the beginning of August. Participants in the Yale University Young African Achievers Programme were resident at the College in the second week of August. This involved a Team from Yale and fifty students (including four of our own) from twenty African countries. This was an intense week of academic exercises starting at 7.30am each morning and finishing often at 11pm in the evening. This programme is now highlighted on the Yale University website.

Refurbishment continued throughout the holidays with new flooring in classroom 2, refurbishment of the staff room (first time in half a century!) and a complete upgrading of the Form Two students boarding facility.



Yale University Young African Achievers Programme



Our refurbished Staff Room



Our Cricket T20 Tournament was held in the third week in August and by all accounts was a great success. Thanks must go to the Cricket parents committee for organising such a complicated event. Proof, if proof were needed, of how proactive parents can be in assisting with College functions.

It was a pleasure to welcome students from each form to the termly Imperators' Breakfast. Some familiar faces present but great to see so many new faces of students who are excelling in their studies.



Imperators' Breakfast



St George's College CABS Smashing T20 Cricket Tournament

The school Drama Production "Inigo" ran from Thursday 14th until Sunday 17th September and what an excellent play it was. Big performances from all the Cast and great production from Ms K Render, ably assisted by Ms C Hall and all those involved backstage.



The school Drama Production "Inigo"

Congratulations to our Senior Debating Team who placed first in the recently held CBZ competition

## SGC @127 YEARS

### Earliest building on Hartmann Hill!

Most pupils at the College will have learned that the school reopened its doors on the Hartmann Hill site in January 1927, having moved from the centre of Bulawayo, but few will know that the Jesuits have owned and occupied the property for 131 years - since September 1892! Seven months later, two Jesuits from Chishawasha Mission, Br. Loffler and Br. Lindner, under instruction from an Irish bricklayer, a Mr Gaynor, began the construction of what was to be one of the very earliest.....

### Story continued on page 2

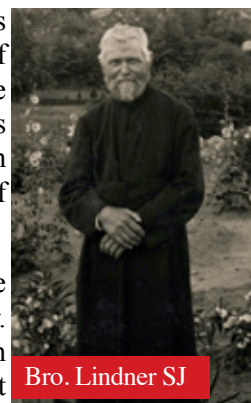
### In This Issue:

- Yale University Young African Achievers Programme
- Cricket T20 Tournament
- NIAA competition
- Refurbishment
- The school Drama Production "Inigo"
- Senior Debating



## Earliest building on Hartmann Hill!

Most pupils at the College will have learned that the school reopened its doors on the Hartmann Hill site in January 1927, having moved from the centre of Bulawayo, but few will know that the Jesuits have owned and occupied the property for 131 years - since September 1892! Seven months later, two Jesuits from Chishawasha Mission, Br. Löffler and Br. Lindner, under instruction from an Irish bricklayer, a Mr Gaynor, began the construction of what was to be one of the very earliest brick-built houses in Harare.



Bro. Lindner SJ

The land, which was initially about 19.7 hectares in extent, had been given to the then Jesuit Superior, Fr. Henry Kerr, by the country's Administrator, Dr. Jameson, and it was Fr. Kerr who gave it the name, Hartmann Hill. This was in recognition of the services of Fr. Andrew Hartmann, both as an early Jesuit missionary, and as a Chaplain and interpreter to the British South Africa Company when it had formally occupied Mashonaland in 1890. Incidentally, given the prime location of the land, it is believed that Jameson later made an offer to buy it back from the Jesuits on behalf of Cecil Rhodes, and others have cast covetous eyes at the property over the years, including the new Zimbabwean government in the early 1980s. There were also occasions in the very early years when some of the Jesuit Superiors themselves doubted whether they had any real need to hold on to it! Fortunately, they were persuaded otherwise.



Hartmann Hill house, c1905

After its completion in August 1893, the house was occupied by Fr. Victor Nicot (later one of the founding Fathers of St. George's in Bulawayo). At the time he was the Parish Priest at the town's Catholic Church which was located three kilometres away within the grounds of the Dominican Convent. However, both he and his successor in 1895, Fr. Aloysius Leboeuf, found the distance very inconvenient, especially in the case of sick calls, not only because there was no actual road, but also because lions had been encountered occasionally along the route. As a result, Fr. Leboeuf took to

staying in the Church presbytery during the week, leaving a Jesuit Brother to look after the house and to run the small farm that was being developed nearby.

Meanwhile, because Jesuit Brothers from Chishawasha Mission had helped to build the house, the founding Superior there, Fr. Francis Richartz, regarded it as a town base for the Mission and would often stay there on his business visits into Salisbury, following a track from the south east that cut through what is now Army and Veterinary Research land. This arrangement continued for some years and accommodation arrangements in the house were further complicated when, in 1902, the new Parish Priest, Fr. Gillet, was instructed by the Jesuit Superior to base himself back at Hartmann Hill. By then, fortunately, dirt roads had been developed and he had the use of a primitive cart drawn by donkeys – his 'two Jerusalem ponies' as he liked to describe them! A competent carpenter, Fr. Gillet also made some of the furniture used in the house, including a sideboard that was still in use in the refectory until well into the 1960s. He also replaced the original thatched roof with corrugated iron which substantially altered its appearance.



Hartmann Hill house, c1915

When a new Parish Priest, Fr. Edward Parry, was appointed in 1911, he pensioned off the donkeys and used to commute instead on a bicycle, as did most of the other Jesuits – at least around the town, and it wasn't until 1923 that a motor car



was acquired. However, it was principally for the use of a new permanent Superior of the Mission and Prefect Apostolic, Fr. Robert Brown, and since he wanted to make Hartmann Hill his headquarters, a new four roomed brick cottage was erected in 1924. Located adjacent to the original house, it also helped accommodate the influx of Priests and Brothers sent in to begin the construction of the new school buildings in 1925. Included among them was Fr. Leboeuf, after an absence of 23 years, except that his

role was now that of Architect for the new school. Another new arrival was Fr. Hartmann himself, now aged 73 and effectively in retirement. Born in Austria, and having served most of the previous 30 years, like Fr. Leboeuf, on the missions in Matabeleland, he used to refer happily to Hartmann Hill as his Mashonaland ‘Schloss’ – his German castle! At the time of his death on 27 December, 1928, Fr. Hartmann actually had a room in the Community wing of the new administration building.

Located as it was about 70 metres in front of the new teaching wing (approximately along the north western edge of the swimming pool), the original Hartmann Hill house was demolished in about 1930. As for the 1924 vintage cottage, it was finally pulled down in 1965 to make way for the swimming pool: it had been used in the intervening years as a clinic, as accommodation for some of the lady teachers, as classrooms for the Grades 6 and 7 boys until the construction of Hartmann House, and, finally, as a printing room.

Hartmann Hill house, c1927 – top of Loyola Hall in right background.



### SCENES FROM OUR INIGO DRAMA PRODUCTION

