

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

The third man

JOHN WILKINS writes in this week's *Tablet* of the friendship between Graham Greene and Fr Leopoldo Durán. The two men enjoyed several convivial summer jaunts round Spain in the late 1970s, discussing faith and doubt over long boozy picnics.

Carlos Villar Flor, a professor of literature at the University of La Rioja, suggests in a new book that Greene may have been using his trips to Spain as cover for intelligence gathering on Eta – who of course had links with the IRA – and socialist politics in the post-Franco era.

The journalist, writer and *Tablet* trustee Jimmy Burns is sceptical. "Greene's annual holidays with Fr Durán were focused on exploring his Catholic faith and his love of Spain," he told us. Greene's involvement with British intelligence in wartime is well known – Jimmy himself has written about it in *Papa Spy*, his book about his father, Tom Burns – but by the late 1970s there was no shortage of high-grade reporting on post-Franco Spain. "Whatever insights Greene, by then in his twilight years, might have shared informally with friends, it hardly amounted to serious intelligence gathering."

Jimmy tells us Greene's friendship with his



father, who edited *The Tablet* between 1967 and 1982, had begun prior to the war, and intensified when they found common ground in their love of Spain and their engagement with liberal Catholic theology. "They maintained discreet contacts with the murky world of British secret intelligence during the Cold War. My father, who spoke at his memorial, was shattered by the news of Greene's death. He died four years and half years later, on the 8 December 1995, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, having suffered from the same fatal blood condition as his good friend."

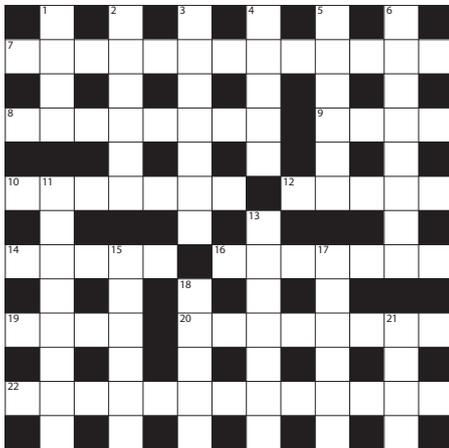
"Graham was not just much loved by my Dad, but also much admired by my Spanish mother Mabel, who found him thoughtful, kind and attractive," Jimmy says. "She once told me that he was the most attractive man she had ever met – 'After your father of course.'"

MARY REMNANT, one of the world's leading authorities on medieval music, died last Friday, aged 85. Her lifelong interest in early music was originally sparked by studying minstrels in church carvings. Her mother was a music teacher and her father was an art historian and architect who designed Benedictine abbeys and chapels in France. Mary grew up surrounded by medieval bric-a-brac and banter. She gave unforgettable lecture recitals, playing the medieval harp, tabor, psalter, rebec, fiddle, organistrum, pipe, shawm, horn and chimebells. She was a founder member of The Confraternity of St James and a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great. She was still coming to meetings of the Catholic Writers Guild at Farm Street in Mayfair a few months before she died, boldly navigating the narrow stairs to the basement of Delfino's for the pre-talk pizza.

Mary was much loved, and made a unique contribution to British cultural life and to the Church in the UK.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 708 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 23 May, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

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Across

- 7 Pharisee, possibly, who hosted Jesus in Bethany, "a man who had suffered from a virulent skin-disease" – TJB (5,3,5)
- 8 One of the Seven Deacons, maybe martyred at Philippi in 98 AD (8)
- 9 Grandmother of Timothy (4)
- 10 Popular, if derogatory, term for members of the Unification Church (7)
- 12 Philistine who became a commander in David's army (5)
- 14 Woman of Bethlehem, subject of her daughter-in-law's devotion (5)
- 16 Father of James and John (7)

- 19 City to which Lot fled after the destruction of Sodom (4)
- 20 Italian monk who founded a major religious order about 540 (8)
- 22 Sobriquet for 20, for instance, currently No 16! (5,2,6)

Down

- 1 Saul's servant in Jerusalem (4)
- 2 Follower of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (6)
- 3 One of the first Israelite judges; he stopped his people worshipping Baal (7)
- 4 Integral part of identifying or quoting biblical text (5)

- 5 Fervent, even militant, proponent of a cause; one sharing a name with 7 Across (6)
- 6 Unmarried person who has taken a religious vow of chastity (8)
- 11 Story, often biblical, set to music (8)
- 13 Daughter of Herod Agrippa I (7)
- 15 Famous OT sister and prophet (6)
- 17 Senior church officers (8)
- 18 Archimandrite, perhaps (5)
- 21 Eldest son of Ham (4)

SUDOKU | Challenging

3	1		4	9				
						9		
8								7
			5					9
4		7		8				2
	6			2				7
6								4
				6	8	3	5	
2					9			

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 2 May puzzle

9	1	7	3	6	2	5	4	8
3	8	4	1	5	7	9	6	2
2	6	5	8	4	9	7	1	3
8	4	9	6	2	5	1	3	7
6	7	1	9	8	3	2	5	4
5	2	3	4	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	6	2	1	4	8	9	5
1	9	2	5	3	8	4	7	6
4	5	8	7	9	6	3	2	1

Solution to the 2 May crossword No. 705

Across: 1 Lystra; 4 Hindus; 8 Marists; 10 Abbot; 11 Charity; 12 Clair; 13 Pantheism; 17 Enoch; 19 Adullam; 21 Cross; 22 Stainer; 23 Nathan; 24 Baasha. **Down:** 1 Lamech; 2 Syria; 3 Russian; 5 Isaac; 6 Diblaim; 7 Saturn; 9 Scythians; 13 Provost; 14 Idumaea; 15 Deacon; 16 Umbria; 18 Hosea; 20 Linus.