

The Chronicle 2009



Drama



Sport



Trips and Visits



Music





Preface

BY THE HEADMASTER



Mike Roden BSc NPQH

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2008/9 Chronicle. I am sure that, once again, this publication will show that the school enjoyed another highly successful year.

During the course of the year the boys have continued to be successful in a range of local and national competitions. We received news that Joht Chandan of the Lower Sixth had been awarded an 'Awkright Scholarship' for outstanding achievement in Design Technology. After success in the Birmingham competition, Jason Pereira and Kieran Dowling represented the West Midlands in the Cranmer Prayer Book Society National Finals – Kieran achieved an impressive third place. The chemists have achieved a record three commendations, two bronze, three silver and a staggering five gold medals in the recent Chemistry Olympiad Competition. George Mather and Alan Egan (Year 10) won the prestigious SCICAST 2009 short film award for their portrayal of the 'Formation of Crude Oil'.

Camp Hill Boys were also joint winners of the Schools' Aerospace Challenge which was presented by the Chief of the Air Staff, Sir Glenn Torpy, at a glittering occasion in the Institute of Mechanical Engineer's building in London. We were honoured again when the Chief Executive of the Royal Chemistry Society, Dr Richard Pike, came to the school to present the first and second prizes to Nathan Brown and Aled Walker of Year 12 for the 'Five Decades Challenge' on-line competition. Not to be

outdone, our star mathematicians continue to shine. Aled Walker (who recently had a solution published in the 'Mathematical Gazette'), Nathan Brown and Aaron Pereira spent time over the Christmas holiday at the UK Mathematics Team/British Mathematical Olympiad's training camp held in Tata in the western region of Hungary. In addition, Nathan took part in the Romanian Masters of Mathematics Competition and he has been selected (as one of nine) for the International British Mathematics Olympiad Squad. The school's Junior Mathematics team won the regional round and went on to achieve 18th place (over 1500 schools entered the competition) in the National Finals in London.

Our sportsmen have continued to excel, with the Rugby, Hockey, Football, Basketball and Cricket players enjoying busy seasons. The senior Rugby players showed their excellent form by being joint winners of the Greater Birmingham Sevens. The junior Rugby and Hockey tourists had an enjoyable tour to Carlisle and the senior players to the north-east of England. The U15 cricket team won the rain-delayed final which was played on the main square at Edgbaston to win the Docker Shield – reputed to be the world's oldest schoolboy cricket trophy. Tim Watkins has uniquely won the trophy as both a player and coach at Camp Hill Boys. Our chess teams continue to perform well in the Birmingham leagues.

We have also been fortunate to enjoy, and marvel at, the talent on show in our annual Music and Drama productions. From the concert in the newly refurbished Town Hall, to the Piano Concert via the Samba Concert and the traditional Junior and Senior Concerts – our musicians have once again demonstrated their amazing abilities. The Year 11 group 'Perrin' won the inaugural KE Foundation 'Battle of the Bands' competition hosted by Five Ways. In drama, we have seen three excellent productions – the Junior production of 'Lord of the Flies', 'Not About Heroes' and this year's main school musical, 'Sweeney Todd'. After a gap of ten years or so, CHAOS returned with their so called production (?) of 'Grimethorpe Revived Again' at the end of the summer term.

The boys and I are indebted to the continued energy, enthusiasm and dedication shown by all the staff involved in extracurricular activities. The list of curricular and extra-curricular trips continues to grow – this was once again recognised by the OFSTED Inspector in May to be a key strength of the school.

This year the school has invested in updating and improving the ICT resources available to staff and pupils. We are seek-

ing to develop further our communication between school and home through the use of new software. The new Teaching and Learning Group are working hard to develop further the quality of the classroom experience. After the third 'Outstanding' Inspection Report in a row, it is clear that the school is still committed to the 'pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life' (OFSTED Report, May 2009).

In the curriculum, all boys in Year 8 now have the opportunity to study both Spanish and German. Physical Education taught jointly with Camp Hill Girls was made available at A Level for the first time. Under the auspices of the Directors of Specialisms, Terry Law and Pat May - specialist college activities have continued to make a tremendous contribution to the range of opportunities available, not only for the boys at Camp Hill but also for the pupils in our local partner primary schools.

The academic year drew to a close with another fantastic set of GCSE and A Level results. School records were broken with 53% A* grades and 85% A*/A grades being achieved at GCSE. The Upper Sixth in addition to some fantastic individual performances, also beat the school record to achieve 90.5% A/B grades at A Level.

I was delighted that during the course of the year Mike Southworth's contribution to education over a distinguished career spanning 44 years was recognised when he was awarded the West Midlands region National Teacher 'Ted Wragg Lifetime Achievement Award'. At the end of the summer term we said farewell to Charlotte Dawson, Fiona Atay and Mari Gunning. Our two Graduate Trainee Students, Rebecca Baxter and Santiago Borio both passed their course. This year we also said goodbye to another Camp Hill stalwart in Sandra Thursfield who retired from her position as Head's PA/Office Manager. Their contributions are rightly recognised later in this magazine.

I have enjoyed immensely my first year as only the tenth Headmaster of Camp Hill Boys. I hope you enjoy the Chronicle which will give you a full picture of this wonderful school during that year. It remains an incredibly busy but happy community in which to work or grow up. I would like to finish by thanking Bex Lockyer for her endeavours in collating what will, I'm sure, be another impressive school magazine.

■ **Mike Roden**, Headmaster

Editorial

May I add my welcome to the 2009 edition of the Chronicle; fresh from a year of new and exciting developments at Camp Hill Boys. New Headmaster, new-look Chronicle, new editor, and plenty of exciting new ventures and activities... the list goes on, proving that this remains one of the most vibrant and active schools in the country, alongside its record results.

Following on from the departure of 'Vincent the Builder', and with the new English wing being put to good use, Mike Roden's inaugural year as Head has brought the winds of change and a dynamic sense of the future. From new ICT facilities, to a change of school database, an overhaul of Teaching and Learning alongside Assessment and Pupil Monitoring, the vision of the man at the helm of the good ship KECHB has guided us through one of the most successful years the school has known. But you know what they say about all work and no play... and Mr Roden has also proven himself to have a few surprises up his sleeve. There are

"...behaviour is exemplary and attendance outstanding..."

OFSTED REPORT

few who will forget the sight of such an auspicious commander-in-chief displaying his balletic skill, complete with tutu, in the revival of the legendary Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society...

An 'Outstanding' Ofsted report in March was a testament to the leadership of the school, the dedication of staff, and the range and calibre of activities on offer at Camp Hill. It was also a tribute to the boys themselves, their own hard work and commitment to their school, and of course the unstinting support of parents. Comments such as "behaviour is exemplary and attendance outstanding" and "the range of activities on offer is breathtaking" speak for themselves. The quality of the wider education the school offers through extra-curricular provision has been praised

before, but is stronger and broader than ever, as this publication confirms.

Mr Roden has already outlined many of the key successes and events of the past academic year, and what is perhaps the most remarkable is the number of new ventures. From a school allotment and growing number of live animals in the science department, to the extra drama

"...the range of activities on offer is breathtaking..."

OFSTED REPORT

productions, 'Planet Sci-Cast' film and Young Analysts Competition – on top of the existing sporting and musical activities and trips both abroad and at home – the life of a Camp Hill boy is rich indeed.

■ **Bex Lockyer**, Editor

Acknowledgements

It would be highly remiss of me to omit to thank Bob Weaver, of Byte & Type Ltd, for his inestimable contribution to this publication. As a new editor, I am indebted to his commitment of time and care to produce what I am sure you will agree is a wonderful record of our school life.

I am also grateful to Nathan Hill for the help and support he has offered throughout the 'handover' process, and for all his years as 'the Chronicle Kingpin'.

■ **B.L.**

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Leavers

Sandra Thursfield 1999–2009

At the end of term staff party in 2008 we witnessed the speeches on the retirement of Camp Hill luminaries Gabi Rudge and George Cookson. In July 2009 many people on the staff, in due deference to the other leavers, gathered to signal how much they think about Sandra. When we interviewed for her replacement, a common response to my inquiry about why candidates had applied for the post, was that such jobs do not appear very often.

Sandra was appointed by Mervyn Brooker in 1999, following a stringent selection process which involved making sense of something he had written. A tough task indeed... She succeeded Sylvia Webber (who herself had occupied the post for 18 years). So, in Camp Hill Headmaster's secretary terms, Sandra is still a relative whipper-snapper. My spies tell me that after visiting the school for the first time she could not understand why no-one from inside had applied for it.

Over the last decade Sandra has worked for and has organised the working lives of three Headmasters. As Office Manager, Sandra has led and managed what is recognised throughout the foundation (although I am of course a little biased) as the most friendly, courteous, and efficient front of house team. She cares passionately about Camp Hill Boys and everyone in it. Sandra is an amazing PA – how does she get through so much stuff so quickly and accurately? Sandra is also a highly valued colleague, a confidante to many when they have needed someone's shoulder to cry on or someone to whom they would happily seek their advice. She has played a full part in the life of the school, from fronting school drama and musical activities, to accompanying Kate Balkham's French expeditions and of course organising nights out for the girls. Now I must admit that it has proven very difficult to get information about what really happens on such occasions – 'what goes on tour stays on tour' seems to apply to these ventures!

She relishes a challenge, and I know I have certainly represented that this year. When I was deciding about whether to apply for the Headship post, I know that being able to work closely with someone as loyal, hardworking and able as Sandra was certainly a major pull factor. So you can



imagine then, that when she told me in the middle of the February Half-Term that she had decided to retire how shocked I was. Indeed when I told my family, my youngest who in the space of the last five months had discovered how vital she had been to me, said quite openly "how are you going to cope without Sandra?" Out of the mouth of babes...

Sandra has developed into nothing less than the lynchpin of our community. During her tenure the school has had three outstanding OFSTED Inspections and was declared the Sunday Times School of the Year amongst its many accolades. I would go so far as to say that Sandra has played a major role in making all of this possible. In appointing her successor, Sandra typically thought nothing of helping the school out by agreeing to delay the date of her retire-

ment until her successor could take up the post.

Sandra has been dedicated right till the very end... A keen walker, I look forward to receiving a postcard from her as she enjoys a five week visit to New Zealand in November. Richly deserved, we wish Sandra and her husband Bob a long, happy and fulfilling retirement together.

■ **Mike Roden**

Fiona Atay 2008–2009

Fiona was born and brought up on the borders of Kings Heath, and has the King Edward's Foundation flowing through her veins. She went to the High School for Girls, as does her daughter, and her son went to KES. Having completed her first teaching post at Langley School, she went on to teach for a short while at KES three years ago, where of course she has now returned in a full time capacity. It was inevitable, therefore, that she would eventually end up at Camp Hill, having first started here at Easter in 2008 for 6 weeks, and then returning to us at the start of this academic year.

Having only just got back into teaching after a short break, I was amazed by the amount of effort Fiona put into her work at Camp Hill. She rapidly got her 'Open book Club' up and running, and was always keen to take part in the extra-curricular activities

of the department; her contribution to the Junior Poetry and Music Concert was particularly good, highlighting a real talent for getting the most out of our able students. Fiona has a real desire to do the very best she can for her students, which in my book is a most commendable trait. Thanks to her combined degree in English and Ancient History, her subject knowledge is superb, and with the units of work she developed here, all I can say is that KES were wise to take her on-board; she is going to be a real asset to their department. I wish her all the best in her new job, and am sure that she will be a great success there.

■ *N.H.*



Charlotte Dawson 2007–2008

Charlotte Dawson joined Camp Hill in Sept. 07 having been at St Paul's previously. She settled in quickly at Camp Hill and in her role as 'Humanities Co-ordinator', she quickly adapted to the extra-curricular life of the school, helping out with many of the department's activities. However, within a few months of arriving at the school, Charlotte became pregnant and was to give birth to a delightful baby boy, Alexander, before the end of the academic year.

Charlotte has since decided to have a break from teaching so that she can

spend more time with Alexander and her husband, Steven. I wish them all well and would like to thank her for her time spent at Camp Hill.

■ *N.H.*



Marie Gunning 2008–2009

Marie started at Camp Hill as maternity cover for Charlotte Dawson in September 08, formerly being Head of English at St Ambrose College in Altrincham. She was an unassuming personality, who impressed me with her desire to just get on with the job with the minimum of fuss. Despite only working two days, she was able to run 'Debating Society' single-handedly, as well as joining in with a plethora of other activities.

As with Charlotte, Marie became pregnant during the year and has now

given birth to her second child, a beautiful baby girl named Gwendolen. I wish Marie and her family all the best for the future, and would like to thank her for the valuable contribution she made in such a relatively short space of time.

■ *N.H.*



School Activities

Engineering in Education Scheme

Aero Engine Control Team

This year the project for the Aero Engine Controls team was to come up with a way to get some rubber rings very cold without using up too much energy, time or workspace at the plant where it would be put into opera-



tion. Our solution was effectively a mini-freezer, a cylindrical tube with liquid coolant pumped around inside it. Although the idea sounds simple creating it was not and involved trips to the Aero Engine Controls facility in Hall Green, a visit to the final Celebration and Assessment Day in Solihull and most impressively a Birmingham



University Residential. Our team had a group of engineers from Aero Engine Controls helping us along the way and we met them regularly to discuss and improve upon our ideas for solving their real world problem. Particularly the chance to visit Birmingham University's Mechanical Engineering wing and work there for several days should not be missed by any student wishing to pursue a physics, maths or engineering related course or career.

■ **Joe Ling, L4**

Engineering in Education Scheme

Eaton Team

One bright early morning last October, 8 boys and one teacher from Camp Hill arrived at the Cranmore Industrial Park in Solihull, for the start of the 2008/2009 Engineering in Education Scheme. Little did we know what was in store for us over the next 6 months. After many free coffees from the canteen we settled down to some team building activities, essential skills for what was to come. We then found out which company we would be working with and met the engineer who would help and guide us along the project. We were working with Eaton, and our project was to design an "Aerospace Pipe Inspection Fixture" (don't worry, this meant nothing to us at the time either). After some explanation we discovered this meant we would be designing a system which could check the dimensions of over 40 different





pipes on a new development engine, a very daunting prospect at the time.

Back at school we met every week to discuss our ideas and to plan our work, with bi-weekly visits from our engineer, Ian. At Christmas we spent 4 days at Birmingham University where we developed and built prototypes of our idea. This was a great opportunity to see the University and use their fantastic facilities.

After our January modules we again settled down to weekly meetings, and now our task was to produce a final design, and compile a full report and a 10 minute presentation on our project. After a number of lunchtime and after school sessions we managed to complete this, then in April we traveled back to Cranmore for the Celebration Day. Here we presented our project



to a panel of engineers, and took questions about our ideas. They were all very impressed with our work and the quality of our presentation. We even managed to explain our project to Mr Roden so that he could understand it. A few weeks after the Celebration Day we also visited the Eaton

plant at Redditch to do our presentation in front of the Eaton managerial team. They were also very impressed with the quality of what we had done and the potential for our designs.

■ *Phil Trzcinski, L1*

Schools Aerospace Challenge 2009

See: <http://www.aerospacechallenge.org>

After the euphoria of last year's national Joint Winner position in this prestigious, annual industry and MoD sponsored competition had died down, we waited for the website to announce the January start of the 2009 competition.

The RAF Requirement for a concept proposal was perhaps the most demanding in recent years:

"a cost effective supply delivery system, which will achieve a touchdown accuracy of about 20 metres without assistance from the ground. The aircraft must be able to remain up to 3000 metres above the landing zone and ideally the system should be able to cope with surface winds of up to 20 knots at the landing sit."

So, not the usual "design concept for a flying machine" of some sort, but an entire delivery system. A delivery system requirement, that, we subsequently discovered from an invitational visit to the British Army's specialist 47 Air Despatch Squadron at Lyneham, was pushing the performance limits of the latest, special tasks only, £50,000 guided parachutes! We were briefed to drop humanitarian aid supplies; rice and flour and medicines. These materi-

als undoubtedly cost less than the presumably single use parachute, let alone the guidance system!

One team, "Team Condor," persevered in their endeavours to qualify for a place at Summer School:

In December 2008, Mr. Jackson announced

in Assembly that the challenge... for the Schools Aerospace Challenge 2009, was about to be set, and that he was looking for teams to take part. After hearing the presentation by the previous year's successful entrants, I was interested to see where the challenge would take me. So, by finding two like minded individuals, in this case Guy Morton and Mehul Rana, our team was formed ready for January 2009 when the challenge of a very accurate air drop was announced.

We met together to discuss ideas as to what would be the best way of meeting the design criteria. Many ideas were discussed, some involving giant elastic bands and large cannon, but in the end we were,



quite frankly, plummeting to disaster. Disaster that is, until Mr. Jackson pulled the ripcord and slowed our descent into madness down! By taking us to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire, home of the UK's only army air drop unit, we were able to establish that the accuracy set was quite frankly impossible. Our stomach went into freefall and we came crashing back to earth with the realisation that perhaps there was a reason that the best minds in the British Army hadn't been able to do it.

However, we then came up with the subtle, and incredibly cunning, plan of sticking a crate on an oversized remote control car and landing it wherever, then driving it to the drop-zone! How could we

not get through with such a genius plan? So we drew up the designs and submitted them and waited.

Several months past, and eventually the teams that had gotten through to the Summer School were announced and, amazingly enough, we were one of them! So on Sunday the 26th of July 2009 the three of us headed down to Cranfield University for what would be one of the best weeks of our lives!

During this week we were staying in the halls of residence that had been very recently built; each of us had our own room with en-suite. They even had the little mints on the pillow! We were fully catered for; as much food as you want at each meal and the food was truly tasty!

Our daily timetable consisted of talks in the mornings from some of the leading figures in the aerospace and defence industry, including people from Boeing, the RAF, Raytheon systems and Thales. The talks were as wide and varied, as they were interesting; we learnt how "lift" is generated by wings, how jet engines worked, what happened when birds flew into engines (including videos), how the Harrier jump jet and the Hawk were conceived, designed, built and tested and also what happened when



things went wrong and the operation of the systems put in place to ensure the safety of the pilots.

If I found the mornings enthralling, then the afternoons were something else! We got to go up in a fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter, with an instructor, and take over the controls of both! During the week we also got to go up in one of the Cranfield University Jetstream test aircraft where we could examine first hand how speed, maneuvers and altitude affected an airplane's performance.

■ **Ben Hunt, L1, Team Member**
of "The Condors"

Well, as the teacher nominally in charge back at base, I never actually do get to go to Cranfield University for the Summer School, with its "tasty food, free mints and en suite facilities;" our boys obviously have very clear priorities after six years at Camp Hill...

I got my reward at last year's London winner's presentation ceremony, and indeed every year, when our boys come back and tell me what a brilliant time they have had.

■ **C.J.**

Planet SciCast

Back in the early days of 2008, it was suggested to George Mather and Alan Egan that they might be interested in entering a competition to do with filming a video on chemistry for a competition called 'Planet SciCast', with a chance of winning prize money along the way. As it turned out, when the Chemistry department decides to enter a competition, failure is not an option, and so for the next academic year the two-man team faced the constant menace of an unhappy Dr Taylor.

Not being particularly brilliant with deadlines, after six long months 'preparing for filming', which involved an awful lot of mumbling and not a lot of script writing, and 'location scouting' which usually ended up with someone buying something, the SciCast team were ready to begin filming. Especially after they realised that the closing date was actually at the start of January. And so, with the rather dubious help of James Wallis, whose only input was to



constantly bemoan the lack of determination and make spoof videos while everyone else wasn't watching, the video was finally completed in all of its two and a half minute glory. After a serious bout of editing, in which the 42 takes required to shoot a certain scene were cut from the production entirely, and Alan injuring himself with a wheelbarrow was appropriately censored, it was finally ready to be sent off to SciCast HQ on the closing date itself.

Luckily, the film 'The Formation of





'Crude Oil' was nominated for the 'Best Earth Sciences Film' category, which angered Dr Taylor to the point that, even after winning

the actual award, he was still determined that it should have, in fact, been entered into the 'Chemistry' section. The prize was

presented at the Royal Institute in London by Kate Humble, who we're told presents Springwatch. The SciCast team still haven't bought Dr Taylor his chemistry book from Amazon with his cut of the prize money, for which they say they are very sorry and will get it to him by Christmas at the latest. Hoping to repeat their performance last year, the SciCast team have started work again on no less than four films. This year's line-up has already involved cutting a model of the world from polystyrene and choreographing a Matrix-esque fight scene.

On another note, the SciCast team have already gone over budget significantly this year and as a result all donations are willingly accepted. Please make cheques out to George Mather.

■ **George Mather, 10Y**

Young Analysts Competition

Our debut in this competition meant a trip to Nottingham Trent University for Aled Walker, Nathan Brown and I accompanied by Dr Taylor. Although a little oblivious to exactly what was involved, the team acquitted themselves well. We were left to perform various tasks ranging from titrations to high performance liquid chromatography and flame photometry. We determined the caffeine levels in coke and the sodium and potassium levels in a series of sports drinks. Eventually we delivered our results and in spite of the speakers lack of geographical awareness for where Camp Hill was it became apparent we were winners of the regional competition at our first attempt. This netted us book tokens each, a shield and a £250 cash prize, although Dr Taylor made perfectly clear to whom that prize was going.



As regional winners we had to make the slightly more torturous journey to Plymouth for the national finals. Although not quite as successful on this occasion we still enjoyed the experience and made light of the phenomenon of a British heat wave. Many thanks must go to all those on the

team and especially Dr Taylor for persevering with our futile but relentless attempts to beat him at card games (as well as the obvious support).

■ **Alexander Taylor, L2**

Year 8 Salters Chemistry Challenge 2009

In the morning of Monday 27th April a Year 8 team of four consisting of Thomas Chalklen, Jaskaran Rajput, Fraser West and Hok Yin Steven Chiu, headed by Dr Taylor travelled to Birmingham University for the Salters' Chemistry Challenge. The first activity was a test of our practical knowledge, where we had to identify several different white powders used in a murder case. We proceeded to don safety specs aprons and

gloves. After a strong start we were slightly stumped when trying to test chemical X2 and discovering we didn't know where to find it. Eventually the team recovered and finished with moments to spare.

After a half-hour lunch break to discuss tactics with Dr Taylor, we moved on to the second challenge. In this challenge we had to identify five colourless liquids. This challenge we fared well at, with Fraser identifying one of the liquids as litmus indicator when it turned purple with one of the liquids. This set us on a roll, with most of the substances identified by Jaskaran and Fraser while Hok and myself deciding which were the stronger and weaker acids and alkalis.

Then the team and Dr Taylor were treated to a demonstration of "Chemical Magic" including a demonstration of who could produce the most hot air, how Biochemistry leaves foam on the ceiling and why not to dip flowers in liquid nitrogen. Next we learnt about how to make artificial fluorescence. Finally all the teams from lots of different schools gathered for the presentation to the winners. Unfortunately for us King Henry VIII and KES won the competitions won. Despite not coming first second or third in either competition the team did well and enjoyed the day.

■ **Thomas Chalklen, 8M**

Domestic Trips

Year 7

Visit to Kenilworth Castle

On 17 June all Year 7 students took part in a visit to Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire. We were unlucky to select the only rainy day in mid-June but it did not prevent us from



being able to discover the ways in which castles could be attacked and defended, how people used to live in castles and how they developed over time. Highlights of the visit included a strenuous hike around the outside of the curtain wall under the careful guidance of English Heritage staff and using a large model of the area to show how Kenilworth Castle developed over the course of the Middle Ages. The visit has provided a focus for project work in the classroom allowing students to use their hands-on experience to inform their presentations.

■ G.N.H.



Year 11

Visit to the Cold War Museum

On an appropriately chilly and bleak November day, all year 11 history students made a visit to the brand new National Cold War Exhibition at the RAF Museum, Cosford. This was an



The Cold War 'Hangar'

opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of this crucial period in order to assist them with the International Relations part of their GCSE exams. The visit started with a lecture from a veteran pilot of the Berlin Airlift of 1948 who gave us a candid account of his experiences meeting the challenge of Stalin's blockade on the war-ravaged city. Students were then able to explore the rest of the exhibition and find out more about the technology, culture and developments which took place between 1945 and 1991. Of particular interest were the RAF Vulcan Bomber, casings for Britain's nuclear bombs and the infantry telephone attached to the back of a Centurion Tank (which had Mr Jackson in raptures). Following a spin in the Black Hawk flight



RAF Javelin

simulator and the opportunity to discover more about the science of flight, students were able to return to school with their interest and understanding enhanced.

■ G.N.H.

Prestatyn 2009

The day of Monday 8th of June began like any other disappointing British summer day – dull. We were brought down to Earth by the formidable Mr. Jackson, who was eager to tell us the consequences of misbehaviour! On that bombshell, we were escorted to the coach and put into our groups, and chose our coach seats for the journey. Soon, the atmosphere was again filled with excitement, mixed with random choruses of various Queen hits.

3 hrs later, we arrived at the wondrous Dinas Bran. Dinas Bran is a medium sized grassy hill, which seems small from the coach, but is in actual fact much bigger for some. We had a lunch stop about halfway up the hill, and everyone seized the opportunity to intake some energy before the back-breaking climb. Mr Duncan, however, had other plans. His crazed love for Pringles drove him to steal from innocent victims. No-one could fight back.

Despite great Pringle casualties, the ascent of Dinas Bran continued. At the summit of the great peak, Mr Jackson had a treat in store – geography! We had to sketch the landscape as accurately as possible, for a chance to win a 'small edible prize'. Scepticism of the size, nature and the mere existence of it were rife among hopefuls. After sketching the hillside, we came down the hill and boarded the coach.

Eventually, the coach pulled up in Pontin's. After a hearty dinner at the Pontin's restaurant, the evenings activities commenced. Football and cricket were played at the first possible opportunity, with the world renowned Mr. Phipps defending. The swimming pool was also a popular haunt. Bed, of course was the last place you would look to find anyone.

The rest of the week passed well, with every second as exciting as possible. A wealth of activities were packed into such a short space of merely days. Tuesday brought the



spectacular scenery of Aber Falls with some biology subtly interwoven – measuring the amounts of pollution indicator species in the river. After lunch, a visit to Caernarfon Castle proved much more interesting than on paper to some. The old castle was the investiture site of The Prince of Wales, a fact which resonated little compared to the rest of the castle's epic war victories.

The high point of the week for most, and certainly for me, was the 2-day visit to the Plas-y-Brenin activity centre. In group of varying number, we all did climbing, dry skiing and orienteering, and while a lucky few did low ropes on the forested slopes of the valley, the rest of the groups did canoeing and kayaking on the lake. All activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all, even those

who hadn't even the faintest idea what a kayak was.

As the coach left Prestatyn for the last time, we all felt a great sense of achievement and satisfaction with the week, that is, those that weren't asleep. Packing in so much had taken a toll on most, and the coach was marginally quieter on the way back. The week was an experience that would surely be remembered for the rest of our lives. We are all indebted to the



teachers and the time they put in for making as it was.

■ **Edward Maclean, 8J**

St David's Outdoor Pursuits 2009

Once again, for the nineteenth consecutive year, we travelled to St Davids in Pembrokeshire for our outdoor events. In recent years we have encountered some appalling weather, so we earnestly wished for some changes this year. It was not to be. Several times we had to make changes to our planned routine and the last day was ultimately cut short with a few boys not having the chance to climb at all. Nevertheless, all the boys remained in excellent humour throughout the three days climbing and some even managed to brave the almost freezing temperature of the Irish Sea on a couple of occasion.

This year the standard of climbing was exceptionally good with one or two boys showing real potential and all boys made realistic attempts at most routes. In and around the camp site our boys were the subjects of several comments from members of the public; all of these being very commendable.

However, several things don't change. Mr Cookson's toast still awaits its three star rating; Mr Hardy's five star breakfasts simply improves year by year and Mr Downing has yet to master the skill of rope coiling (alpine style, that is!) Of course, Mr Bruten took control of all climbing issues with his usual efficiency and expertise.

Many thanks also are due to Mr Dinham, whose role as camp photographer (my words) is much appreciated – almost as much as Sid's Bolognese sauce.

Finally, it is the boys who deserve the praise for their patience and understanding in some trying situations, but ultimately they were rewarded with a valuable and memorable experience.

■ **P.T.C.**





Foreign Trips

Years 8–10 Trip to Bavaria May 2009

In the wee, small hours of Thursday 21 May, 33 boys and 4 staff left Camp Hill School by coach and embarked on a long overland journey to Augsburg, Bavaria. Everyone was prepared for the long trip with copious amounts of reading material, the latest mp3 and games technology and enough snacks to feed a small army. To maintain the cultural aim of the trip Mr Rogers brought along his copy of *Spongebob Squarepants: the Movie*. Boys and staff were accommodated with German and, in some cases, Turkish families in order to experience local life *aus erster Hand*.

On Friday, the first full day in Bavaria, we went into Augsburg, the third oldest settlement in Germany. First, we went round a Jewish museum and Synagogue, with the guide telling us about various rules and customs of Jewish culture, such as the ban on mixing meat and dairy products. The synagogue survived *Kristallnacht* only by virtue of it being next to a petrol station. Next, we went to the *Perlach* tower that gave a magnificent view of the whole town, but also contained a large numbers of bells. We reached the top just as the 11 o'clock peals and Mozart concert began. Mozart has familial connections with Augsburg and was resident there on and off. We had ringing in the ears for the remainder of the day.

Next, we made a visit to the *Fuggerei*, named after the rich, merchant Fugger family, and which is similar to Bourneville in its origins in that it comprises a large number of houses for the poor, paid for by a deeply Christian businessman, but with a few key differences: one had to be a Catholic who had lived in Augsburg for at least two years to rent one of the houses, and it is still very cheap housing; in fact, at 80 cents per annum it is 5 times cheaper to hold a house there for a year than it is to enter as a tourist.

On the Saturday, we went into Munich. We spent the morning at the Bavaria Film Studios, including remaking part of the film (*T*)*Raumschiff Surprise*, (a pun on "Raumschiff", meaning Spaceship, and "Traum", meaning



Four boys in front of a 'blue screen' at the Bavaria Film Studios

Dream). Other memorable features included Asterix and Obelix's village and a submarine from *Das Boot (The Submarine)*. In the afternoon, we first went into the city centre to see, among other things, the Town Hall on the *Marienplatz*, and the *Frauenkirche* (although from a distance). Finally, we went to the German Science Museum, although we did not have a massive amount of time. Nevertheless, we got a reasonable look around, which for me meant a return to year 9 physics lessons on refraction, playing with a complex array of mirrors, and looking at various devices that were insanely complex but had mildly interesting effects.

After a free Sunday spent with our host families, the last day of the trip was proof that the teachers had saved the best until last. We began by visiting the town of Oberammergau (which neither Mr. Rogers nor Miss Lynn could pronounce), a seem-

ingly small town but one that has over 2000 villagers: it is mainly famous for the Passion Play, in which selected local people perform every 10 years the story of Christ's life and death in thankfulness for being spared from the Black Plague.

The trip was rounded off by visits to two castles, Linderhof and Neuschwanstein. These were built by King Ludwig II, known as "the Swan King" and as "the Mad King", due to his penchant for massively expensive fairytale castles. He had great respect for Kings Louis the fourteenth and fifteenth of France, and Linderhof was a tribute to them, a sized down version of the palace at Versailles. Fortunately for the local economy, he died under what were repeatedly referred to as mysterious circumstances: i.e., despite being a very strong swimmer, he was found, apparently drowned, in a lake, along with his psychiatrist.

Unfortunately, this brought us to the end of the trip. The next day, we had another very early start for the return journey. Everyone had a very enjoyable trip, and we are sure that, if they get the chance, many of the year 8s and 9s will go again next year. Thanks to everyone who made the trip possible, particularly Mr. Surr for his tireless work organising the trip and Mrs. Balkham for staying sober throughout the time!

■ **Andrew Pearson, 10Y**



Group photograph at Schloss Linderhof

Ski Trip Cervinia, Italy

Great ski-ing conditions, fabulous scenery and some very friendly ski instructors helped to make this year's ski trip to Cervinia a memorable one. We had a very pleasant hotel in a delightful location [picture below shows the view



from the hotel] and all members of staff agreed that the boys were a great credit to the school. The highlight, at least for the more 'expert' skiers, was a day ski-ing in Zermatt, Switzerland which was apparently even colder than the -25°C in Cervinia! The boys skied extremely well and took advantage of the time made available through the extra sessions available during the week. Once again, thanks must go to all the staff who made the trip function so well and smoothly. We now look forward to 2010 in France at Alped'Huez – sorry all booked up at present! [Picture top right: Matterhorn]

■ P.T.C.



Art Study Trip to Paris

Once again we saw our intrepid Upper Sixth Art set visiting many of the attractions of the wonderful city of Paris. They also looked into a few art galleries and museums. We were unusually lucky to have Mr Russell with us this year. He was able to add that elegant 'something extra' to the week and managed to enthuse the boys with his customary, understated observations on a number

of topics. Many thanks to him and his wife, who perhaps wondered just what she had let herself in for! Mrs Watts also helped with a range of insights and suggestions to help the boys gather relevant information to help research their study topics. All in all, a successful visit which certainly left an impression as the boys, some of whom are returning in their own time to soak up more of the Parisian way of life. Let's hope the exchange rate improves slightly before then!

■ P.T.C.

St Malo, 2008

An update

First and foremost I would like to make an apology to **Daunish Negagar** who kindly wrote last year's article about our annual visit to St Malo. I had no intention to plagiarize his work but I omitted to pass on the right information.

Thank you again, Daunish, for a lovely account of our stay in St Malo.

■ S.R.

St Malo, 2009

On the 22nd May 2009, the 48 pupils of year 7 went to St Malo on the north coast of France. We set off at about five o'clock in the morning, and although Mr Renault had told us not to be late and that the coach would leave without us if we were late, he was the very last person to arrive as his car had supposedly 'broken down'. We then finally set off for Dover.

The coach journey was one of those journeys that are sooo...tedious and boring, but it seems as though it went in a flash with hindsight. We then got a two hour ferry to Calais which was the shortest part of the journey and at least half as long as the next section.

At last, we arrived in France. We then travelled from Calais to St Malo which took at least three hours which is surprising because we were only driving part of the way from the east of France to the west; most of us thought that it would be a relatively short journey.

We got to St Malo at about 9.00 pm local time, and for once, we were early! We then waited for our host families to arrive and we were sent away in a big brother eviction style (Chris was the last to be picked up). That evening we ate a meal and went to sleep.

The following morning we met back at the car park where we had been the previous evening at 8.00 am and boarded the coach to go to Mont St Michel.

Unfortunately, it was a bank holiday weekend and Mont St Michel was absolutely packed and because of that we weren't able to look at the church right at the top. That was a shame really because that was an incredible sight to see at the monument. But we went looking through the very crowded shopping area and looked at some spectacular views!

After going to Mont St Michel, we went



to the beach. Some members of the trip went to play in the sea while others played a big game of football. There was a rugby ball which a lot of people played with and a few people enjoyed getting buried in the sand and others just sat and ate their lunch. When we came back from the beach we went back to our host's house and enjoyed another French evening. The next day was the day we got to spend with our families.

On Saturday, we stayed with the host families. After spending the majority of the trip hoping and hoping that we would be going to Disneyland, although that seemed very doubtful on the day so, we went for a long walk around St Malo with Jean-Luc. We were absolutely certain that we were going fishing because the host family were miming fishing before we left; we were also walking right down the coast by the boats and harbour. Anyway, after that, we went

back home and had our lunch. Then, we went on another walk, but this time we went with my brother (Matthew Else) and his partner, Kabir Choudry.

The following day we went to the zoo. This was enjoyable as it was a very large zoo and full of interesting species of animals. We saw a lot of farm animals and got to milk a cow, we saw an angry chimp who tried to break through the glass, and two giraffes ... well, you can think of your own bit to put in there. The trip to the zoo was great and there was a souvenir shop at the end where the majority of people decided to waste their money.

The day we were travelling back we stopped off at a hyper-market where we were planning to spend a lot of

money. However when we turned up to the shops, most of them did not open until ten o'clock. Fortunately, the main shop, the supermarket, was open and we spent the whole time looking around there.

The drive home took a lot longer than the original approximation and we were in a traffic jam for around two hours. We got back to school for about 1.30 am and waited for our parents to turn up. When we eventually arrived we had been travelling for about 18 hours and by then we were glad to get back home.

■ **Thomas Else and James Ternent, 7M**



Youth Camp Kořen Czech Republic

24 July – 2 August 2009

At two in the afternoon on the 26th of July, the coach arrived to take 43 boys from Years 8 to 10, Mr May, Mr Duncan, Mr Caves, Mr Nash and Mr McDermott to the Czech Republic. The twenty two hour coach journey to Kořen began. About a day later, after passing through France, Belgium and Germany we finally made it to the camp. Happily, some free time was available and we were able to explore the facilities of the camp and settle into our chalets.

The next day when we awoke from our slumber, we were given some free time after



breakfast. Then we were divided into teams and so began the competitions. We competed in various sports ranging from football challenges to swimming races to volleyball tournaments. Later in the afternoon, we went for a 'short' stroll through 10 km of Czech countryside. After the evening meal we took the coach to Mariánské Lázně, saw the amazing singing fountain and enjoyed an ice cream.

On Monday, we visited the spa town of Karlovy Vary where we saw the world famous springs and did some shopping. Many people also decided to go to the top



of the nearby mountain providing picturesque views of the whole city. Many tried the delicious local Czech wafers, *oplátky*, made in the city. Later in the evening,



the dreaded singing competition reared its head, where many boys made fools of themselves but there was some great entertainment. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

On Tuesday morning, the sports competitions continued and in the afternoon a well deserved break was taken in Tachov where had a session of bowling and mini-golf. That evening, the first disco took place which gave us a chance to get to know some of the other residents. A good night was had by all.

On Wednesday, we travelled to the stunning capital of the Czech Republic,

Prague. We visited Prague Castle and the nearby St Vitus Cathedral. We then walked across Charles Bridge ('Mission Impossible') to the Old Town Square to watch the Astronomical Clock announce that it was one o'clock. We continued to Wenceslas Square where we were given lots of free time to shop and enjoy a meal. After an enjoyable afternoon in the blazing sun, we travelled back to Kořen. The evening saw the quiz, where the overall winner of the team competition was decided.

On Thursday, we visited Plzen Zoo and saw many animals; a pair of mating tortoises seemed to be the main attraction! Later we went to the beautiful city of Plzen, where we were given a chance to climb the steps up to the top of the highest church spire of the Czech Republic, the spire of St Bartholomew's Cathedral (103m).



That evening we returned to Tachov where we were given the opportunity to ice-skate and take part in ice-hockey training.

On our final full day in the Czech Republic we travelled to the picturesque old





town of Domažlice where we frequented the shops and haggled to our hearts content, buying replica watches and sunglasses for two hours. Later we returned to the camp where we had a final disco saying goodbye to the friends we had made from the Czech Republic.

On the final day we packed up all our bags, tidied the chalets, and relaxed until we boarded the coach and began the long

journey home. All the boys who went on the trip would like to thank all the staff at the camp and the teachers who allowed us to take up 10 days of their summer holidays. All the boys had a good time and really enjoyed themselves.

■ **Loughlan O'Doherty, 9M**





The Battlefields Tour May 2009

On a warm evening in the summer half term, 25 students from Year 10 set off for the World War One battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. We had an immediate wake-up call when we had to push Mr Southworth's broken down tank – alright, car – into the School grounds, to keep hidden from the Germans.

After our journey through the night, a rather bleary eyed party staggered into the Museum at Zonnebeke, which, although rather old fashioned, contained plenty of interest, including a reconstructed British bunker. We moved on to Ypres, where we explored the Menin Gate and searched desperately for a football. We also encountered the first of many cemeteries we would see during the visit.

On the first evening, we arrived at our hotel where Mr Bulloch assured us that a reasonable field on which to play football was within moments walking distance. After trekking deep into the French countryside, we ended up playing in the long grass and mud of a waterlogged meadow. We learnt our lesson and, thereafter, kept to the lawn at the rear of the hotel.

Next day was the busiest of the trip. We visited numerous villages, towns and cemeteries which saw action on July 1st, 1916, when the British army suffered the

worst day in its whole history, losing nearly 60,000 dead and wounded. Our second day on the Somme traced the subsequent fighting in a battle which went on for nearly 150 days. A highlight was the South African Memorial at Delville Wood ("Devil's Wood" to the soldiers of the day). Here the South Africans had their first taste of the fighting, losing x-thousand men in their heroic attempt to hold the line. We also saw a memorial to the Tank Corps, which was absolutely ... not terribly impressive!

It was back to Ypres for the last full day. We went to the impressively restored German trench system at Bayernwalde (Bavarian Wood) and to two cemeteries which made a deep impression. There were the mass burials in the cold and forbidding German cemetery at Langemark and then the biggest of the British cemeteries at Tyne Cot with its 12,000 burials, which showed us of the vast scale of the conflict, a horrifying reminder of why we were visiting these battlefields.

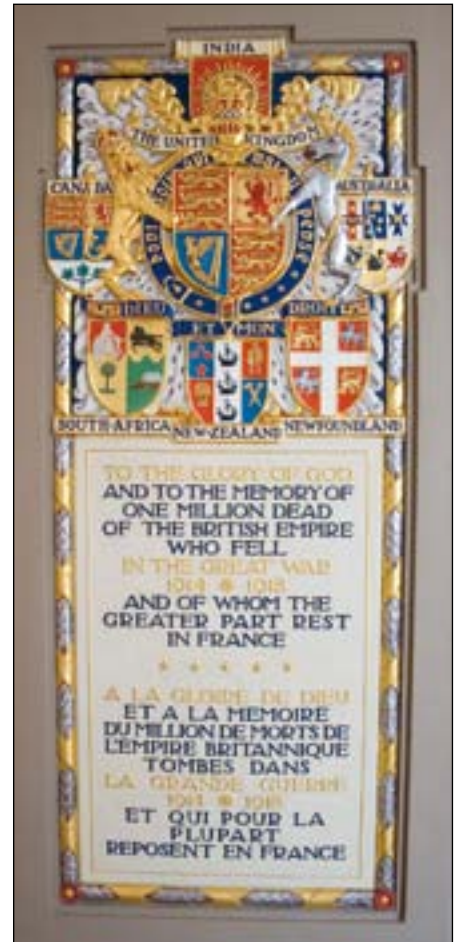
Our evenings past pleasantly; the food was very acceptable, although quiche did seem to figure on the menu rather a lot. Karndeepp Uppal found the combination of leek tart and Manchester United's humiliating Champion's League defeat in Moscow hard to swallow!

On the final morning, we set off for Calais, visiting the great Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge, which looked magnificent against a cloudless blue sky, in the bright sunlight. We also went on a tour of the tunnels under the Ridge, guided by a "cheery" Canadian student, called Colin.

Our thanks go to first of all our much loved driver, Andy and also to Mr May, the party's official photographer, who left a splendid record of the tour. And, of course, we should not forget our very own war veterans, Mr Bulloch and Mr Southworth.

■ **Kieran Ahern, 10W**

(in consultation with Lawrence Welch, 10W)







Maths Matters

The year began with three of our senior mathematicians (Nathan Brown, Aaron Pereira and Aled Walker, pictured below) utilising their con-



siderable experience to organise mentoring sessions for prospective **British Maths Olympiad** qualifiers, or any students interested in developing their mathematical skills. Between them they covered topics on Algebra, Number Theory, Proof, Combinatorics and Geometry. Their organisation of the sessions was impressive; they produced PowerPoints, handouts and thought carefully about the examples and questions used. Students from years 10 to 13 attended (including some from 'next door') and I am confident that they found the sessions helpful and informative. Thank you Aled, Aaron and Nathan!

Senior

In early November, by way of a welcome back from half term, AS level mathematicians and invited 'others', from years 10, 11 and 13, took part in the UK **Senior Maths Challenge**. This was a tough paper, testing the skills of students of all abilities. It was very pleasing, therefore, to see how well the boys had performed when the results were returned; between them they gained 19 Bronze, 18 Silver and 16 Gold certificates. Five boys qualified for the follow up BMO1, a challenge aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country; Aaron (as best in school), Nathan, Aled, Greg Evans and Tim Shao. Tim, entered for the SMC a year early, did superbly to qualify at his first attempt. In the end, 9 boys participated in the BMO1 [see picture below], including Andrew



Pearson from year 10. The results saw Nathan Brown, Aaron Pereira and Aled

Walker gain Silver medals for their superb solutions to some very hard problems. Aled top scored in this round and all gained Certificates of Distinction. Well done also to Greg Evans, Kieran Child, Guy Morton, Tim Shao, Andrew Southon and Andrew Pearson (year 10) for their performances. Aled, Nathan and

Aaron qualified for the follow up BMO2, which serves as part of the selection process for the UK **International Maths Olympiad** team. Four very challenging questions produced impressive solutions from Aled and Aaron but Nathan stole the show on this occasion with 39 out of a possible 40 marks; incredible! This superb performance secured Nathan an invite to the prestigious Olympiad Training Session at Trinity College, Cambridge where he worked with the top 20 mathematicians in the country. Wow!

Senior Team Challenge

Two weeks later, our senior team of Aaron, Nathan, Aled and Keiran Child were transported to the Watson building at the University of Birmingham to participate in the 2008 Senior Team Challenge. They had high hopes of repeating their 2008 trip to London to participate in the National Final once again but met with a 'steely' challenge from the teams at KEHS and KES. The first two rounds were incredibly close and so our performance in the new style relays would be crucial. Unfortunately, the accuracy of our working could not match the girls from KEHS and we missed out on the trip to London.

Before October half term, prospective further mathematicians from the top set in year 11 were treated to a day's conference at Cadbury College. Sessions on the relevance of mathematics to various real applications were presented by eminent mathematicians and the boys seemed to enjoy their experience. Thanks to Mr Willis and Mr Borio for accompanying them.

Intermediates

Following a relaxing winter break the Intermediate Maths Challenge was jeopardised by the snow of February but we were still



able to enter a large number of our boys from Years 9 to 11. There were 255 entries with the boys securing an impressive 72 Gold certificates, 66 Silvers and 51 Bronze. Well done to Andrew Jeskins for his Best in School award.

12 boys qualified for the IMOK, a two hour paper for the top 1000 in the UK. Sumant Kapoor and Serge Wicker gained certificates of participation, whilst Chris Carter, Sam Childs, Andrew Jeskins, Andrew Pearson, Robert Rossiter, Ed Thompson, Karndeepp Uppal, James Wallis and Staszek Welsh all gained merit certificates. [See picture above] Tim Shao and Jack Attack gained distinctions, placing them in the top 50 or so students. Jack's performance earned him an invite to the Summer School at Queen's College, Birmingham during July; superb!

36 others qualified for the European Kangaroo, a 25 question multiple choice paper sat by students throughout Europe. Of these, special congratulations to Jason Pereira, Scott Malwah, Ross Mackie, Ran Mei, Andrew Soltan, James Jordan, Daniel Pun, Ian Firth, Luke Pritchard-Cairns and Archie Woodrow for their certificates of merit, placing them in the top 500.

Juniors

The students in years 7 and 8 were not to be deprived of their opportunity to succeed; 183 boys sat the Junior Maths Challenge this year and produced some impressive results, gaining 72 Gold certificates, 61 Silver and 30 Bronze. Max Cheung produced the top score, an impressive 124/135, and 12 boys qualified for the follow up JMO, aimed at the top 1000 or so students in the country. The qualifiers did very well, with all receiving certificates, but special mention must be given to Robert Walters,

Robert Smith and Fateh Singh for their certificates of distinction and Bronze medals, that placed them in the top 25% of candidates. Robert Walters' medal followed the same award last year; representing a very consistent and impressive effort! Terence Wu had the honour of being the most successful entrant for Camp Hill; he gained a certificate of distinction, a silver medal and a book prize, showing he was among the top 50 mathematicians in the country, a fantastic achievement!

Heading for London

The spring term concluded with the Regional Final of this year's Team Maths Challenge, aimed at students from Years 7 to 9. The team of 4 (Xincheng Wang, Sam Childs, Robert Smith and Giles Moss) was selected from Challenge results and the ability demonstrated during extension mentoring sessions.

The competition had four rounds and they were superb throughout.

Round 1: 'Group Round'. They answer 10 questions as a team. They did them all with 20 minutes to spare! Full 60 marks.

Round 2: 'Number Cross'. They work in pairs (one pair across, one pair down). The boys completed the whole puzzle (difficult!) and made only two errors. 58/60 marks here.

Round 3: 'Mini relay'. 6 relays of 4 dependent questions. They started badly but reorganised their pairings and then scored full marks on the last three relays. 40/60 marks.

Round 4: 'Full relay'. 15 questions for each pair, organised as a relay. They attempted 29 out of 30 questions, another impressive feat. Their solutions contained some incorrect answers (they're only allowed 2 attempts) meaning 42/60 marks in this round.

They were incredibly, and justifiably pleased with their win (and their prizes!) and were very excited about a day trip to London in June.

So it was that, after the 'fun' of exam week, the boys convened early and travelled to London by train (Robert was very disappointed not to be in First Class!) and we walked the short distance from Euston to the Camden Centre, our venue for the day. The boys had already spent time researching 'Tiling' patterns, as this was the focus for the separate Poster Competition that began the final. They compiled their finished poster, answering some questions set on the day but it was clear that the boys wanted to get on with the main event. The first round did not go as well as they had hoped and they lost marks that they felt could have been earned. This placed enormous pressure on them to do well in the subsequent rounds and they rose to the challenge, scoring very well in the mini relay,

cross number and relay rounds. Unfortunately, the deficit was too much to retrieve and they ended the day in 18th place. This represented a considerable achievement for the boys as there were 72 teams in the final and 1500 schools had participated overall. They enjoyed the experience and at least two of them are hoping to be there again next year!

Three climb 'Everest'

A summary of 2008–09 would not be complete without a review of the achievements of three very special mathematicians. We'll start with a question. What do you do on the day after Boxing Day if you're among the top mathematicians in the country? The answer is that you jet off to Hungary to take part in the UKMT/BMO training camp in Tata, which is west of Budapest. This involved no less than three of our students; Nathan, Aaron and Aled. For a school to have one student at this camp is incredibly rare; to have this many students working at such a level is unprecedented. Aside from making the most of the experience and the surroundings they were working towards selection for the IMO9 camp at Trinity college, a camp that feeds directly into final selection for the International Maths Olympiad team. All three made the most of their opportunity and gained enormously from this 'once in a lifetime' experience (see separate report).

Following this trip and his invites following the BMO1 and 2, Nathan also received a very prestigious invite to represent the UK in the Romanian Master of Mathematics 2009. He found himself competing alongside some of the most talented mathematicians in the World and gained enormously from the experience, though he found the mathematics very challenging; hardly surprising. The other nations represented were very strong and he was pleased to be among the best students in the British team.

Nathan followed this up by attending the IMO training camp at Trinity College over Easter (stretching Camp Hill representation to 10 consecutive years). He obviously impressed as he earned an invite to the Oundle camp for the 9 top mathematicians nationally. As a 'youngster' in this elite group he did not quite make the final team of 6 but he did hold a reserve team place. Missing out on the IMO team (he still has one more chance to be part of the 2010 team in Kazakhstan!) did not deprive him of further International experience however, since he represented the UK once again in the Balkan Challenge. Building on his earlier experience he secured a bronze medal this time: an incredible achievement!

Another incredible year of participa-

tion, achievement, fun, ... the list goes on! The boys are always so ready to seek out the challenge and enjoyment in all that they are offered and their success should come as no surprise, since they are so willing to give everything their 'best shot'. It seems difficult to imagine they can improve on the last year but I bet they'll try!

■ P.A.B.

Romanian Master of Mathematics

As a result of BMO2, my performance earned me a place in a team of 6 chosen to represent the UK at the Romanian Master of Mathematics, an international competition whose inaugural affair had been won by the UK. So no pressure then!

Our team flew out on 26th February at some unearthly hour of the morning, but enjoyed the first couple of days where we had a chance to relax and see the sites of Bucharest. Unfortunately, we didn't realise that the organised trips were not optional. Our failure to go on the first day out meant that we missed out on a trip to the recording studios of Kiss FM who were following the event. The particular shame of this was our lack of "Kiss me, I'm a genius" T-shirts.

We did console ourselves with a large amount of sweets and chocolate however, in preparation for the 5-hour paper to be sat later in the week. One of the team, Peter Leach, bought over 1 kg of chocolate, intending to eat it all during the exam (which he did!). Perhaps as a result of this sugar rush, Peter got the highest score of any of the team with 15/28, and he was unfortunate to be 1 mark off the silver medal boundary. Four of the team got 10/28, myself included. This left us all 1 mark below the bronze medal boundary. I ought to explain here that, at these international competitions, around half of all contestants are awarded medals, and in the ratio of 3:2:1 for bronze, silver and gold. The sixth member of our team got a respectable 8/28 and was himself only 3 marks off a medal.

Sadly, our performance was not as great as last year and so we finished 10th ... out of 10. China claimed the overall victory, but we redeemed ourselves in anointing ourselves as the most sociable team, mas-termining games of Mafia with Italians, Russians and Americans. Oh, the company we keep!

Back in England, the next stage of the qualification process was an Easter training camp for 20 students at Trinity College, Cambridge. This camp is a little more intense than the Hungary camp. The afternoon of arrival started immediately

with two lectures, which I missed due to the Chemistry Young Analyst competition, and for thereon in, our time was taken up with 6-8 hours of sessions a day, with two 4½ hours exams to break the monotony. These exams formed the First Selection Tests, where each paper was a slightly dumbed-down version of an actual IMO paper, with 3 questions on each.

It should be mentioned that the evenings were more light-hearted, with a mathematical relay on the first evening, a pub quiz later in the week (which my team won!), and a cultural evening where some of the Hungarians whom we had seen over Christmas came back to Trinity and shared a little of their culture, including some fabulous ocarina playing.

The results of the exams would determine the 6 students who would represent the UK at the Balkan Maths Olympiad. The UK selection policy for this competition was that no one is allowed to go twice. This helped a great deal and I was lucky enough to be selected again. I will also add that all attendees were congratulated by the college on making it this far ... with a £120 cheque! Note for young readers – academic success is well worth it!

So my year continued with the Balkan Maths Olympiad. This was the fourth country I had set foot in within a period of 4 months. Second tip for young readers – maths is great for travelling! Unfortunately, we had a three-hour delay at the airport so we contented ourselves in playing cards, and from there on we didn't look back playing cards at almost all free moments. The card game in question combined a bit of card-counting, body language reading, misdirection, and occasionally a bit of maths! Anyway, upon arrival in the great country of Serbia, we had to wait again as our late arrival meant that we would share the last coach with the Turks. Another spare hour meant more cards! After that there was the small matter of a minibus that was too heavily loaded to start! Cue everyone getting out to push! International co-operation not seen since the start of the UN helped us on our way to arrival at the hotel where we would stay after midnight.

The team as a whole were far more successful this time around, in that all members of the team got medals, including a bronze for yours truly [see pictures top centre]. The best performance of the UK was that of Luke Betts whose silver medal foreshadowed the silver medal he would achieve in July at the IMO.

The selection for the IMO squad was to be made after another training camp at a school in Oundle. This one was more strenuous than any to date. True, we had afternoons off as a chance to play cricket or



frisbee outside, before more maths in the evening, but it was the gruelling ordeal of four 4½ hour exams on consecutive mornings between 8.30 and 1.00. Sadly I was not quite up to it, and I failed to make the cut this time. I was thus part of a team of three reserves ready to set up in case of illness. Thankfully, I was not needed and I'm pleased to say that the others managed fantastic results of 1 gold medal, 2 silvers and 3 bronzes. Five of the team of six were in their final year of school and so will be off to university this year (amusingly all are off to study maths at Cambridge, and four of them are doing so at Trinity College!), so the door is open for younger members of the set up to have a chance this coming year! Another busy year awaits!

■ **Nathan Brown, L2**

IMO Training Camp in Hungary

In the academic year 2008–9, Camp Hill achieved the remarkable feat of having 3 out of the 20 members of the UK's International Mathematical Olympiad Squad, the group of the country's most able mathematicians. Over the New Year, Nathan Brown, Aaron Pereira and I travelled east to meet the equivalent Hungarian squad for a week of mathematical fun and games.

After old acquaintances were renewed

and unfamiliar faces introduced, the activities began. The days would consist of 2 hours of Individual Problem Solving, a 4 hour lecture by an eminent Hungarian mathematician and 2 hours perusing the Hungarian Maths Olympiad papers in multinational teams. All of this was interspersed with table tennis, table football (at which the Hungarians were superhumanly good) and lashings of salty soup (of which there seemed to be an inexhaustible supply). In the evenings, we would play 'Mafia' or 'Psychiatrist', vaguely logical party games, or try our hand at 'Mathematical Pictionary' – attempts to convey 'The Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality' and 'Eisenstein's Irreducibility Criteria' using only pictures brought much hilarity.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the camp was discovering about the Hungarian education system. Mathematically gifted pupils are taken into one of eight special schools at age 11 and will then receive a heavily mathematics focussed education, taking different exams from everyone else. This is distinctly different from the grammar school system, as the schools are fewer in number but more removed from the rest of the educational establishment and far more elitist. All of the Hungarian IMO squad came from these schools.

The hotel was situated next to a surprisingly large lake, which was frozen for the entirety of our stay. We didn't venture onto it until on the final day when it was covered with a dusting of snow and most of the local town was out skating. In a fit of creativity, we decided to write various significant mathematical formulae in the snow.



I believe the term, "God's Whiteboard," was used. One immensely cold evening, the braver souls amongst the group walked up to the lakeside to stargaze. Despite the development of the local town, the light pollution was miniscule compared to Britain and the stars were utterly miraculous.

All in all it was a tremendous experience, both intellectually and socially. We even met Bela Bollobas, whose research student is none other than ex-Camp Hill Head Boy Bryn Garrod! The world is a small place...

■ **Aled Walker, L1**

Music

Christmas Events

Christmas Concert in Birmingham Town Hall



Birmingham Town Hall is one of the great concert venues of England, and we were delighted to be able to give our pupils the opportunity of per-



forming there in December 2008. The Hall has been closed for refurbishment for many years, but has now re-opened with new seating, and much improved facilities. Our three orchestras, three bands and school choirs all performed, and had a most enjoyable evening.

■ **S.F.P.**

The Carol Service

The Annual Carol Service is held in All Saint's Church, King's Heath, and is an important event for the School Choir. This year there was some particularly fine singing, and the boys felt that they deserved their mince pies afterwards!

■ **S.F.P.**



Carol singing in the Bull Ring

The School Choir were kept busy in the last week of term, as they also agreed to sing carols in The Bull

Ring for 'Heart Research UK' a very worthy charity. In just over an hour we were delighted with our collection.

■ **S.F.P.**



The Junior Poetry and Music Evening

In the Spring Term we combine with some of our local Junior Schools to work with them on music and poetry projects, and then present the results first to an audience of our own junior boys in an afternoon, and then in the evening to an audience of parents. For the musicians this is a valuable performing opportunity, and we were pleased to have had many excellent performances on a wide range of instruments.

■ S.F.P.



Music Outside School

Jamie Phillips in the National Youth Orchestra

I was delighted to be accepted for a second year in the National Youth Orchestra for 2009, following a rigorous audition process. The plans for the orchestra this year looked incredibly exciting, and they certainly did not disappoint. Based in Uttoxeter at Christmas, an intensive two-week course culminated in concerts at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, and contrastingly, the slightly unconventional Camden Roundhouse. Legendary conductor Semyon Bychkov led us

through performances of Berio's Sinfonia and Richard Strauss' epic Alpine Symphony – it seemed that it would be impossible to supersede this in the following courses.

But at Easter, conductor Paul Daniel led us through a concert of dance-themed music with concerts at The Sage, Gateshead, Leeds Town Hall and the Royal Festival Hall in London, achieving 5 stars in all the major national newspapers.

Again, a fantastic course, but the undoubtable climax of the year was the summer season, playing under Vasily Petrenko (the NYO's new Principal Conductor) at both the Snape Proms and the BBC Proms Live on BBC2 [pictured right]. We performed Tchaikovsky's famous 1st Piano Concerto, Lutosławski's Concerto for



Orchestra and Respighi's Roman Festivals. Playing with such a fantastic ensemble for these past two years has been such a valuable experience for my musical development and I will treasure my memories of the incredible performance opportunities I've had with the orchestra.

■ **Jamie Phillips, U6**



Joss Brookes in the CBSO Youth Orchestra

Rising Stars Concert

On 26th April 2009, David Todd and Aled Walker of Year 12 took part in the annual 'Rising Stars' concert organized by Solihull Symphony Orchestra, where young people are given the opportunity of playing a concerto with the orchestra. David played the first and second movements of Mozart's beautiful Piano Concerto Number 21 in C Major, while Aled brought off the Arutiunian Trumpet Concerto with great style and vigour. It was an extremely rewarding experience for both of them to play with an orchestra in this way, and with former pupil Asim Siddiqui also playing the David Trombone concerto, Camp Hill's presence was certainly felt!

■ **David Todd, L5**



The Senior Concert

The Senior Concert always comes early in term, and is the last event for our Year 13 musicians before the go on leave to prepare for their A levels. As usual it was an evening of impressive contrasts. Our main ensembles Concert Band and Concert Orchestra played very well, as did a number of medium sized ensembles directed by the instrumental teachers such as Clarinet Ensemble and Flute Choir. It was good to see a number of ensembles led by pupils in the event, and this included a fine Piano Trio playing music by Haydn

(Marvin Miu, Robert Smith and Tim Shao) and a Jazz Trio (Jamie Phillips, Aled Walker and Rupert Cole). Particularly pleasing at this event is the enthusiasm shown by the Year 13s, and Miss Hawthorne and I were delighted with the preparation that had gone into the now traditional 'leavers item'. This year it was in three parts: first an amazing version of 'three little maids' (Gilbert and Sullivan) sung by the boys, then a song for the Heads of Music to sing, then a song by all the leavers. With just Concert Orchestra playing 'Danse Macabre' after it, it was a wonderful end to a most enjoyable concert.

■ S.F.P.



The Summer Soirée

The last school musical event of the year is the Summer Soirée which features Junior and Intermediate level pupils. This is always an enjoyable evening, showing what talent we have coming up through the school. The evening began with Intermediate Orchestra which sounded particularly good this year. The Training ensembles were also well organised, and the audience enjoyed their contribution. It was pleasing to see pupils in charge of some smaller ensembles, and good examples were Guitar Ensemble (Terrence Wu, Max Cheung and Luka Nonovic) and Tabla Ensemble (Navdeep Bhamra and Devjeet Bhomra). An innovation this year was a

rock band, which the audience enjoyed. Wind Band played with good ensemble and variety of sound. They had an excellent trumpet soloist in Oliver Jebson (Year 7) in their first piece, and then concluded the concert with a thrilling version of Soul Bossa Nova.

This evening also demonstrates the importance of our Instrumental Teachers to the life of the school, shown in the improvements of their pupils and in the smaller ensembles that they



direct such as Flute Choir, Clarinet Ensemble and Double Reed Ensemble.

■ S.F.P.



Drama

Lord of the Flies

In the early start of June, the new Mrs. Lockyer took up the reigns of the Junior Drama production, and began the lengthy task of auditioning all the young hopefuls and aspiring thespians. This year's play was 'Lord of the Flies', written by William Golding and adapted for the Camp Hill hall by Mrs Lockyer. Alisdair Hurst and David Harvey also took up the brave mantle of co-directing the play, and so began the arduous process. Many hopefuls came forward but taking up the responsibility of lead



roles were the 'experienced' Year 9s.

The play follows a group of young English boys who end up ship-wrecked upon a mysterious island during an imaginary atomic Third World War. Older boys Ralph and Piggy immediately strike-up a friendship and Ralph is chosen to become the leader of the young boys. However over time, a more primal Ralph emerges his head and a deep and intense power struggle begins. James Featherstone took up the main role of Ralph with Loughlan O'Doherty taking up the brave role of 'Piggy' Ralph's consort and point of reason. Matthew Wears took up the role of primary antagonist 'Jack', and Ben Hall sensitively portrayed the doomed 'Simon'. Matthew Childs and Phillip McCahill played the role of 'Sam 'n Eric'. Ahmed Khattab, Sanjay Nath, Ed Thompson, Michael Walton, Samson Gahir, Laurence Scarrott, Talay Cheema, Ciaran Fitzpatrick and Ibrahim Mahmoud made up the rest of the 'Big'uns'. Torin Elmhurst, Tim Chatfield, Andy Featherstone, Joe Walton, Tom Baker, Bilal Khattab and Daunish Negargar made up the cast of 'Littl'uns'.

As rehearsals began we saw the 'radical' new ideas of Mrs Lockyer shine through. The main concept was an inverse theatre in the round, with the action hap-



pening on the stage and around the audience. This had never been done before in the Camp Hill hall, and it proved to be a fantastic idea, paying off in the four shows, another 'new' for Junior Drama. This provided a smaller audience and a more intimate production. The play was also more serious than its predecessors. With two people having to die onstage, the boys knew they had to pull a fantastic performance out of the bag.

After many lunchtime rehearsals, after school slots and Saturday marathons, the shows were nearly upon the cast. However, boys will be boys and it wasn't until three days from the matinee that everyone knew their lines and the play was running as smoothly as possible. After the small inevitable hiccups of the Primary Schools Matinee, the boys were ready for the three night shows.

At the end of an intense final week, the shows were over and a well-deserved feeling of satisfaction rolled over the young boys as the show was finished. It was a rip-roaring



success, with some calling it 'The best junior drama production to grace the school's walls.'

The cast would like to Mr Carman





and Mr Downing for the making of the set and also thanks to Mrs James and Mr Southworth for all their help with the show. Special thanks should go to Alisdair Hurst and David Harvey without whom we could not have made the production happen. Finally the biggest thanks go to Mrs Lockyer: from writing the script to pulling all the strings, to putting the final piece together. A truly remarkable performance and a hard 'act' to follow. 'Lord of the Flies' will be remembered for years to come.

■ **Loughlan O'Doherty, 9M**



Sweeney Todd

Mr Southworth's productions are always awaited eagerly. How was he going to follow up Oklahoma, Les Misérables and Fiddler on The Roof? Just how many musicals are there which feature wagon wheels?

The announcement that we were to be treated to Sweeney Todd was greeted enthusiastically by all except, perhaps, Mr Palmer, our musical director, who appeared to go pale and rock slightly. I gather the music is notoriously difficult – 'harder than West Side Story' according to Mr P. However, our musicians, like our actors, never shirk a challenge, and we all had confidence that, under Mr Palmer's baton, they would once again bring off a wonderful show.

Casting was keenly anticipated. For day after day there was a queue of girls from next door knocking at the staff room door, asking for Mr Southworth. This popularity gives Mr Southworth no incentive to complete the casting process, though I am certain his professionalism would not allow him to prolong it beyond what was absolutely necessary.

First, Mr Southworth had to find among the boys a nasty, vengeful, dishonest, blood-lusting, psychopathic serial killer. Spoilt for choice, Mr Southworth settled on Aled Walker. Aled needed a lover, and Mr Southworth procured Ellie Parkes for him, a woman whose willingness to put profit before such tender feelings as a revulsion at cannibalism ought to be brought to the attention of staff in another place.

The production itself was not as dark



as I had feared, with some delightful comic touches from Tom Dowling, whose Emerald Isle roots allowed him to delight us with a consistent and not unconvincing accent somewhere between Irish and Italian.

Luxi Sun, playing the beggar woman whose true identity is discovered tragically too late, gave a powerful performance. Simultaneously threatening and pathetic, she screeched, whined and snarled her way under our skin.

The remaining supporting cast were confident and believable; the female chorus was particularly strong and lifted the ensemble scenes. It is rare that a stage prop gets its own round of applause, but Sweeney Todd is one drama whose audience anticipates with excitement the arrival and use of one such prop. And the chair did not disappoint. Nor did those who made their exits from this life from it. Bradley Orford-Hall's departure, somewhere between a slither and a tumble, was the most entertaining, and he deserved the applause he shared with the chair.

No-one who saw the production will forget the range in which Mrs Lovett cooked her human pies. Well done Mr Downing for that magnificent piece of construction; you're obviously no stranger to pies. In fact the set as a whole was another triumph for him and Mr Carman. Staging the show was slick and organised thanks to the stage crew who, I am told, were particularly competent and capable of solving problems and managing matters in general without continual support and encouragement from the director.

And yes, the musicians did learn those fiendish parts. Mr Palmer trained the singers and rehearsed

the orchestra to a wonderful standard. The complex rhythms were tight and quick, the balance was maintained and the singing was assured. At times the soloists were let down by their radio-mikes, but the crew were quick to alert them and organise the swaps.

In their demanding lead roles, Aled and Ellie were impressive. We knew that they would both sing accurately, as we have heard them on many other Camp Hill occasions, and they did not let us down. Aled threw body and soul into his efforts to snarl nastily. He was unexpectedly convincing in his amorality. He was of course working against a tremendous disadvantage: we all knew he was Aled, and the suspension of disbelief he was demanding was massive. It has been something of a revelation to me





that his gentle, gentlemanly demeanour has all this time been a front.

Ellie was magnificent as Mrs Lovett. She did not play the part as overtly evil or nastily cunning. Instead she was charming as she beguiled to murder; sweet-natured as she baked us in her pies; and delightfully innocent as she explained her plan to turn all London anthropophagous. Every line she sang, she sang as a duet for voice and

sparkling eyes: sometimes her voice and eyes were in powerful unison, sometimes in subtle harmony; always the eyes were dangerously, hypnotically twinkling.

Congratulations, of course, to Mr Southworth, for all he drew from this talented cast. Any production of his will be well-paced, well-planned and beautifully staged. His actors have learnt to place total confidence in him which allows them to

trust him when he asks them to find something in themselves of which they were unaware. (Psychopathy in Aled's case.) One thing puzzles me, Mr Southworth; how will you now find a series of productions that require an oven large enough to cook a person?

■ **M.J.G.**







Not About Heroes

by Stephen MacDonald

Performed by Alisdair Hurst

and David Harvey

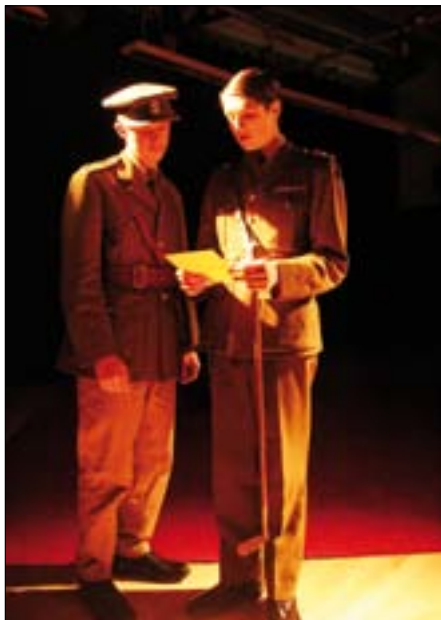
Directed and Produced by Bex Lockyer

July 2009

Not About Heroes was, without doubt, the most challenging production I have ever had the privilege to be involved in. With a cast of only two, merely the line-learning should have been enough to deter us, let alone such a fluid chronology; we had to understand the flashbacks and time shifts ourselves before we had a hope of communicating them to an audience! The content itself was also exceptionally difficult to get to grips with. Death, a doomed relationship and the psychological horrors of war all meant that the level of emotional intensity required from Alisdair Hurst and myself was incredible. I'm not ashamed to say that the whole process had a profound effect on us both.

This intensity meant that it made a lot of sense to use the Sports Hall Drama Studio as a performance space for the first time. Whilst there were many problems with using such a limited site, the end result was entirely worthwhile. Thanks must go to George Mather and Alan Egan for getting to grips with the technical demands of the new space. The intimacy of Sassoon's emotional recollections was greatly assisted by the small and simple set and Bex Lockyer's inspired directing meant that the venue was used to its full potential to create what was, to judge by audience response, an emotional and poignant production.

It didn't take us long to work out that although we were dealing with a fictional representation of these individuals, the basis of their drama is powerfully real. Both Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen left a very definite legacy behind, and many of



the lines are put together from letters, memoirs and poems; the play itself is based on a memoir of Owen that Sassoon attempted numerous times. It was difficult to achieve a balance between authenticity and clarity throughout the play, but hopefully nothing was lost through our interpretations. With so much concentration on these two 'characters', we spent a lot of time researching their lives. We read their writings, studied their poems and examined their surviving correspondence. By the end of the production, we had such enormous respect for Owen and Sassoon, and indeed all those who fought in or experienced the First World War, that we hope our humble tribute did justice to their memory.

■ **David Harvey, U1**





CHAOS

Grimthorpe Revived

...AGAIN – an 'Actor's' viewpoint

After a lengthy absence (by popular demand), Camp Hill's Amateur Operatic Society (CHAOS) finally returned to the school stage in June 09 (not by popular demand). Now, bearing in mind I'm in my sixteenth year of teaching here, this was only the third production the school had witnessed in that time, and therefore many students were completely clueless that such an organisation actually existed. Indeed, many of the newer members of staff were just as baffled, and when the call for volunteers went up, they foolishly signed over their souls to the diabolic



Mr Southworth (of course, the true genius behind this society). Little did they know, or the audiences who came to watch, what they had let themselves in for...

The real reason of course behind CHAOS's actual demise was lack of time; teachers are generally worked to within an inch of their lives these days and as such, no-one really felt they had the time any more for prancing about on a stage. Therefore, having joined the rehearsals somewhat later than everyone else (wrangles over agent's fees, identity rights etc.), I was rather amazed to find just how organised the whole affair had become. For the last CHAOS production, I can honestly say that the first time all of the cast met up was on the opening night, but this time people were there in abundance, willing (but maybe not so able) to carry out every Southworth command. In addition to this, each rehearsal was lasting hours, rather than minutes, with Mr Palmer barking out instructions, when Mr Southworth paused for breath. Never had I seen such a well-oiled machine, in such flawless operation!

CHAOS's success lies within the per-



fect marriage of its component parts; singing, dancing and of course, Shakespeare (none of which I know anything about – ask 11X!). Throw into the mix the fictional northern town of Grimthorpe and the eternal battle between Albert Heggibottom and John Arkwright, and the recipe for disaster is complete. Seriously though, CHAOS productions have always shown the true creative talent of Mr Southworth.



Harnessing as ever the brilliant comedic acting of Mr Phipps, it came as no surprise that the two shows put on were complete sell-outs (though the appearance this year of a certain Ms Baxter, may well have

helped ticket sales!).

As mentioned above, Mr Phipps in the role of Albert was as superb as ever, and much to the relief of those around him, he even kept the ad-libbing to a minimum for this production! Mr Jones again provided his perfect foil, relishing in the misery that is Arkwright. Of course special mention must go to Mrs Hallmark, an ex-teacher at Camp Hill, who reprised her



role as the 'delightful' Maud, Albert's wife, and Ms Baxter, who excelled in the role of Mavis, the woman who Albert wishes was his wife! To be honest (modesty permitting), I could mention everyone who took



part if I had the space, such was the calibre of both staff and sixth form students. However, no review would be complete without referring to the stunning ballet performance put on by the Senior Management team (and Mr Tucker), which very nearly stole the show. I'm sure it is only a matter of time before the Balshoi come calling...

I may be biased, but this must surely have been one of the most successful CHAOS productions in many a year, with everyone who saw it raving about the performances. CHAOS ironically spells out all that is right about Camp Hill, none of which would have been possible without Mr Palmer, Mrs James and of course Mr Southworth. The legend lives on...

■ N.H.







Poetry Competition

The Hypnotist's Rapport

A slow sly smile
Spreads itself across my face.
Wide, beaming eyes;
You begin to feel the space
Between us start to shrink away.

I lean in closer;
Careful, with my finger trace
A parody of
Ancient runes on frail case
That houses storm and tempest old.

Sapped eyes shut;
Floodgates, heaving, open wide
Memories and
Thoughts once dead. I ease inside,
At home with all your demons dark.

I pace about
The place in which your fears reside.
I choose my tools
And crush your hope beneath my stride;
Tear down the flimsy walls that hide
Your love, your strength, your desperate pride;
Throw all the remnant faith aside
To unleash the beast you once denied:
Your loathsome hate – your envy's bride.

This shard of me shall now reside
Eternal where your beauty died.

■ *David Harvey, U1*



The Cobbler's Time

The Cobbler sits by gentle soothing flames
From candles all about his midnight palace.
His fist clenched tight about the awl he claims
Away from industry, his poison chalice.
And certainly this chalice did provoke
The sorrow which we see within our story:
His head's bent low upon redundant oak,
Whilst polished plaques all speak of former glory,
So motionless he lies, without a stir.
How different from the times when you would see
A craft so beautiful without an err.
Once shining eyes now hardened willingly
And sombre tears are just another sign,
He understands the Cobbler's had his time.

■ *Tom Dowling, 10W*



Madness is Masks

How do I bear the weight of these faces,
A skin-stitched, crammed-in bulging bag
That weighs me down...?

Can't remember when it started;
If I wanted it or not...
Hands met Masks,
I knew. Didn't ask,
Just slipped it on

Tied the lace,
Fitted like a glove.
Fitted us fine. Mask divine,
Nobody knew this secret of mine.

For a time I was another; simple secret,
Secret lover – That's us.

Then the problem went away,
Tried to take it off one day,
Back to normal – my skin was crawling,
Mask too tight for me,
Face in agony,
Urgency!
Take it off, off!

Something was wrong,
My face felt thin;
Hollowed out beneath the skin.
No longer hurting but not quite right,
I slipped a mask on in the night.
Just to see...

We saw.

Day broke into fragments,
I woke with sickening grin,
Out to the big bad world I wandered,
My soul was wasting from within
But without I was alive! Alive!

What mask was this? I can't remember.
I bore it through Spring straight to November,
Out into that coldest weather,
Forgot it, froze it to my face.

And when the fire of comfort thawed me,
Pain settled back and I ripped it off,
I was not me, I was not he,
My soul changed unrecognisably
During the winter of insecurity
I had become... this. The other.

The man with all the masks.

Somehow each time I slipped one on-
Those satin lined slivers of invisible change-
Something within my was deranged,
I tore up parts of personality,
Stitching memory,
Destroying dignity,
Continuity ending suddenly,
The masks were all that remained of...

Us.

It's simpler now... to start afresh
Than 'tis to delve down, seeking old;
That wrinkled husk that somehow holds
A straining sack of stapled skins
Is lost to me, to us, to they...
Matters little anyway,
There's naught left to see of a maskless face
But, staring from holes as deep as I'm shallow,
Eyes... shot with scarlet lace.

■ *Benedict Hardy, L3*



Derry Girl

How long ago she left her emerald isle.
How long ago she danced in Derry hall.
Now woven in, to frame her gentle smile,
Are wrinkles; sagging jowls show beauty's fall.
The copper locks which swung her jive each night,
Are dun, and sparse against her mottled cheek.
Pale blotches flecked on hands which clasped her
wight.
Alluring sapphire eyes now jet and meek.

The hall is long since gone, its music dead,
Its bands forgotten: Derry's girl lies old,
And tired, and fading in a foreign bed,
While friends and loves are lost and leave her cold.

But still her heart beats out a bodhrán beat
And still she dances; on unmoving feet.

SENIOR

HIGHLY
COMMENDED

■ *Andrew Leech, L5*

Townies

They came each year at winter's end
Barbours, wellies: this year's trend
Four-by-fours and dogs on leads
Gortex coats and worry beads
New, clean boots and wide-brimmed hats
Children mope like spoilt brats

To houses empty this last season
All shuttered up for no good reason
Where once whole families lived and played
In time there's very few that stayed
And those that left took with them whole
A tiny piece of village soul

Gawping at the rows of thatch
In puffy coats and hats that match
Or tucking into bistro food
At bistro prices, with their brood
And all the while she sits alone
Mustn't grumble, mustn't groan.

She gazes out into the street
Remembering friends she used to meet
All gone now, there's no-one here
Just townies with their weekend cheer
And Blackberries they call, not stew,
And, lost, she'd wonder 'who are you?'

With thermos flasks and mobile phones
They come again to their second homes
Migrating like those flocks of geese
In search of that idyllic peace
Which by their presence she has lost.,
They call it progress, but at what cost?

■ *Alex Pattison, 10X*

INTERMEDIATE
WINNER

'Gaia'

The monkeys hooted
And the parrots cawed
Dawn in the landscape
Dew dripped off the thick banana leaves
Snakes slithered through the emerald
Vines writhed and would around the trunks of trees
Beneath the sky it stood
The canopy,
Alive

The mist shrouded the branches
A flicker of green ignited the grey
It was new
That day it was different
Something about it was new
The sun rose in a crescendo of colours
The light hit the dew like a stone
The heat was felt all around;
The ruckus became louder

The soft clouds moved
And the light was gone
And down came the rain
Each drop. One by one
Hit the canopy
Dripping down through the undergrowth
The creatures scurried
Weaving through the roots
Looking for shelter

The storm came
Lightning crashed at the canopy
Thunder roared like a voracious tiger
Having taken its prey
It calmed

As the moon shone
And the stars twinkled
And the creatures came out to play
Running on the leaf-encrusted floor
The creature did
Being pursued at break-neck speed
Under a log it hid
Away from danger it thought

The predator sniffed
Scooping out the prey
It ran again
It found its home
Safe at last

The moon shone
And the stars twinkled
Calm befell the Gaia.

■ *Radu Thomas, 8S*

JUNIOR
WINNER

The Captain

As he steers his galleon at the helm,
He and his crew enter a magical realm,
Flames of red and orange engulf the sky,
Then the sun disappears and day turns to nigh.

On the horizon a small shape appears,
A small silhouette that all sailors fear,
A pirate ship that is attacking in the night,
The crew get ready for the fight.

As the ships meet, musket balls are shot and the cannons fire,
Like children, the pirates won't leave 'til they get their desire.
The captain and crew fought off the unwelcome guests,
Now they continue their journey heading south west.

The large lush forest on the land ahead,
Pulls them forwards after the blood they have shed,
They drop the heavy anchor in the foamy surf,
What secrets of people and culture will they unearth?

■ *Joseph McElroy, 7J*

JUNIOR
RUNNER
UP

Sport

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Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Some poor early season form saw us recording five victories and eight defeats in the Autumn term. This could so easily have been reversed and given a much brighter snapshot of the strength of Camp Hill first team rugby. Unfortunately, for a period of four games we got into a bit of a losing habit and did not play as positively as we were capable. Defeats by very strong Old Swinford Hospital and King's Worcester sides were followed by eminently more winnable fixtures against Bablake and KES which we still contrived to lose. But the disappointment of losing, particularly at KES, spurred us on to better things.

Our victory over Aston (22-7) was a remarkable recovery of form under the most intense pressure. We desperately wanted to avoid a second defeat by King Edward's Foundation opposition and our performance at Trinity Road was one of the most assured and confident of the season. Unfortunately it came at a cost, losing both Cameron Fraser and David Baker to long term injuries and leaving key positions vacant for forthcoming fixtures.

However, I was impressed with the way players came into the first team this year to replace our injured personnel. In total 32 boys played some part in first team rugby this year, a figure which shows considerable strength in depth in the rugby squad, despite the many other commitments of boys at Camp Hill. It is also indicative of significant potential for the future.

We were therefore able to build upon our success at Aston and gain victories at Wrenn School in Wellingborough in the Daily Mail Vase, and perhaps the hardest earned victory of the campaign, an 11-10 win over Lawrence Sheriff School. We went on to bow out of the vase at the next stage, losing to Queen Mary's Walsall, but, in both this match and our final defeat of 2008 to a

very well drilled Lichfield side, we showed considerable promise and none of the negativity that blighted our early season.

Jon Wilkes and Atta Khan were early contenders for try of the season with their efforts against Aston and Lawrence Sheriff respectively. But the impressive attacking ability of our back division was only made possible by the ball winning capabilities of our pack which improved tremendously over the course of the season. Reece Bennett and Alex Taylor consistently shone and, breaking into the team in Year 11, Akeel Hussain made a big impact.

The Spring term saw us play a further five matches, winning three and losing two. Unfortunately, this did not quite take us up to our 50% win target that we had set ourselves at Christmas, but at eight wins and ten defeats we still had two fixtures on tour to look forward to which might help us achieve it.

Highlights in the Spring term were the victories against Camp Hill RFC and KES. The School versus Club game is always a tough encounter but the conditions suited our style of play and we stuck well to our game-plan to run out comfortable winners in the end. If we could have played the rest of the season on dry, firm pitches like that I feel that we could have run a lot of sides far closer and even turned some of our defeats into victories. Against KES (this being our second meeting of the season) both teams fielded a number of younger players and it was nice to chalk up a win against our nearest rivals. Of course we ought to have beaten them at the first time of asking back in October!

Even in defeat we made a fairly good account of ourselves during the second half of the season, scoring three quality tries against a very well-drilled KE Stratford team for example. Atta Khan, Damien Bishop and Akeel Hussain all crossed for five points in their own inimitable style (two sports cars and a bulldozer) in that game. And in this match, like the rest of the season, Jon Wilkes kept the scoreboard ticking over with the boot as well as captaining the



side with some style, leading from the front and always uncompromising in defence.

And so to tour ... a new venture in the North East, but as usual the company was good and the boys saved their best rugby of the season for their final matches. A comfortable win against Gosforth RFC on an artificial surface which suited our speedsters and a rather harder fought victory at Alnwick RFC against a monstrous pack and a howling second half gale, saw us finishing the 2008-2009 in some style, hitting our 50% win target. Other tour highlights included the GHC carpet bowling extravaganza and fish and chips for forty at Kaz's dad's chippy (you had to be there!).

I would like to extend my thanks to all who have supported the 1st XV this year and to all 32 boys who have featured in the team. The final mention ought to go to those boys who have played a significant part in 1st XV Rugby this year. Reece Bennett, Phil Terry, Dorian John, Tom Swainston and Jon Wilkes have played in every game this season and many other senior boys have made important contributions. For all those leaving Camp Hill to play their Rugby elsewhere next year I wish them all the very best.

[Team picture below left - page 42]

■ **A.J.C.**

2nd XV Rugby

A very disappointed term saw very few fixtures, mainly due to adverse weather conditions and a few cancellations by other teams. Nevertheless, at long last, we were able to field something like a settled team and both the U16 and 2nd XV teams had good wins against Camp Hill Rugby Club. We look forward to the end of season tour to Newcastle and hope to end the campaign on a high note. Thanks to all players who have performed under some very stressful and difficult situations; your loyalty and good natured humour has been much appreciated!

[Team picture below]

■ **P.T.C.**



U16 XV Rugby

2008-09 was in some ways a slightly disappointing season for an under-16 team of considerable promise. With only four fixtures played there is little to report and you might forgive me for focussing on the several long term injuries that unfortunately came about from these few games. However, to cast a more positive eye over the proceedings of last year it must be understood that the lack of under-16 fixtures did not mean a lack of rugby as most of the players from this age group were playing regular 2nd XV rugby. As such the services of many quality players have been retained for the senior set-up in 2009-10 and I am hopeful that their experiences will serve them well.

In addition, let us not take anything away from the two victories that this team registered. Wins against Old Swinford Hospital School are to be savoured and the 17-14 winning margin represented a hard fought but much deserved victory for our team. The second win came at the other end of the season against a tough Camp Hill RFC team. Typically uncompromising, the club team provided us with stiff opposition but superior fitness and finishing told in the end and we recorded a satisfying 24-17 victory. Defeats came at the hands of Prince Henry's and KES in the North Midlands Cup (we won't dwell on that one) giving us a fifty-fifty season.

Well done to all those boys who played a part in fixtures this year. You should all be seeking positions in the 1st or 2nd XV in 2009.

■ **A.J.C.**

U15 Rugby

This year's campaign got off to a mixed start for the under-15 rugby team with impressive wins against Fairfax and Prince Henry's and a 19-31 loss to King's Worcester despite the best efforts of Chris Curtis who ran in two tries and converted both. The temperamental form was

carried into our *Daily Mail* Cup campaign with a comfortable 29-5 win in the first round against rivals King Edwards Fiveways followed by an early exit from the cup due to a 3-32 loss to a very well organised and strong Bromsgrove side. With the absence of *Daily Mail* Cup games the team could focus on the upcoming fixtures including the Greater Birmingham Tournament. We entered the tournament in incredible form, winning our last three matches including an impressive 46-0 win against Bishop Chaloners thanks to the notable performance of Alex Weir scoring a hat trick of tries at centre. Despite winning only one match in our group stages we still managed to make the final against a big Bishop Vesey side where we were let down by our defence missing vital tackles. From there our form deteriorated with the loss of several key players due to injury including Ross Mackie, Chris Williams, Jagatpreet Gill resulting in a first round exit from the *Daily Mail* Vase competition and a string of narrow defeats leading up to tour. Fortunately, by the time the junior tour to Carlisle came around in early March, many of the key players were returning from injury setting up what was to be a great tour. We played our first match of the tour against a dangerous Cockermouth School rugby team in what was a very even match, a theme that occurred throughout the tour. We performed reasonably in the first half however when it came to defending, we often missed the first tackles resulting in a couple of cheap tries. This was put right in the second half with a solid defence and fantastic support play in attack resulting in a hatrick of tries for Nathan Cornwall on the wing meaning we scraped through to a 29-26 win. It was an excellent start to tour, however we found out that planned fixtures had been cancelled and that we would be without games which put the success of the tour into jeopardy. However thanks to some great organisation and several phone calls from Mr Caves we managed to secure more fixtures than originally planned! The next four matches of the tour turned out to be very close encounters indeed. The first of the games was against Lymm RFC on a pitch that lacked even a single blade of grass and proved to be a tight, forward oriented match in which we just lost 5-0. However our fortunes changed and we saw ourselves on the other side of a 5-0 score in a win against Carlisle RFC in a match that rounded off a very satisfactory team tour performance.

Congratulations should go to the whole rugby squad for a great season long performance in which we managed to secure the Robinson Shield Team of the Year award. Special congratulations to David Williams for his service to the school

rugby team as he has not missed a single game since the first match in Year 7. A mention should also go to Tom Dowling, John Lutwyche and Alex Weir having missed only 2 matches since Year 7. Also special thanks should go to Mr Duncan and Mr Caves for dedicating their time to coach us and making our season even more enjoyable. A lot is owed to them for helping us achieve the Robinson Shield. We are now looking forward to another year of rugby.

[Team picture right]

■ **Lawrence Welch, 10W**



U14 Rugby

In my report on the first half of the season I said that we could look forward with some optimism to the remaining games. This optimum was not misplaced as the U14A team won four of their remaining six games, playing some open, attractive rugby in the process and only losing narrowly to two strong teams in KE Five Ways and Stratford. In the season as a whole they amassed 303 points, conceding 216, and it is fair to say that all players showed improvement and contributed to the development of a cohesive team structure.

Many of the U14 squad went on the junior tour in early March. After school on Thursday 5 March a fleet of school minibuses took to the road to head for the wind-swept outer reaches of north-west England. Carlisle was our base and the Edwardian Crown and Mitre hotel in the city centre our home for the weekend. The boys' first game on the Friday was played in Cockermouth against the magnificent backdrop of the snow-capped northern edge of the Lakeland fells. Camp Hill played some enterprising rugby and ran out convincing 33-12 winners. In our second and final game, the boys put up a celebratory, end-of-season performance beating Wigton Rugby Club U14 25-7, despite being refereed by an unscrupulously fair and unsympathetic Mr Carman.

Of course, the tour was also the opportunity for many boys to savour the social side of the game, bond with their team mates and dine in near civilised company. It was also the occasion for us to make awards for significant performances throughout the season. As previously mentioned, all our players have developed this season, but when given the opportunity to vote in a secret ballot, the boys, by some margin, made the following choices:

Best Forward – Sanjay Nath

Best Back – Nathan Quadri

Most improved player – Jake Yafai

The special Captain's Prize went to Josh



Bridgeman for his unstinting dedication, organisation and efficiency, and not least his initiative in volunteering to run some skills sessions for the backs. The highest try scorer for the season was winger Nick Wilson with a total of 8 tries. The final, but by no means least, award was for Player of the Tournament and for his customary commitment, leadership and decision-making the award went deservedly to Jack Lea. Mention must also be made here of Mr Bruton's

contribution who, in all weathers, has coached, refereed, cajoled and, on many occasions in Games lessons, played alongside the boys with enthusiasm. We would also like to thank all the parents for their support and encouragement this season.

We wish all the U14 squad success and, above all, enjoyment next season.

■ **R.A.S.**

U13 Rugby

The U13 team improved well over the season. We were able to use our close forward play to gain good wins over Fairfax, Aston and King Henry's. The quality of our spirit against Lawrence Sheriff was very impressive and the lead changed every score, but Camp Hill finally came out victorious with a last minute 20-19 win. Another example of this determination was against Lichfield where only 14 players pushed the opposition to the final minutes before losing 10-12 with Andy Hyde, Charlie Song and Radu Thomas deputising from the B team. We were 24-0 down against Bablake and staged an amazing comeback to finish 24-22 losers with a dubiously disallowed try at the end of the match. This was a good example of how the team always played with determination

and a desire to win.

The forwards were the heart of the team and their speed to the break down was notable along with the close support of the ball carrier at all times. Idris Mohammed was able to score 4 tries with his big strong forward running and low drives. The other prop position was competed for with Hamza Rafiq and Adil Ahmed both pushing for a place. Hal Smart at hooker improved significantly over the season. Tom Chalklen was all that you could ask for in a second row, he was always in the right place at the right time and was as good as anyone at securing the ball. Antony Featherstone was usually there with him and Edward Lawrence also contributing when available.

The back row would always take the opportunity to get the turnover if

there was ever a chance. David Watson would always manage to end up with the ball on Camp Hill's side almost magically. Tom Murphy's aggressive running gave him 14 tries and made him top scorer, but his hard tackles in defence were also an inspiration to the team. Ben Connolly also made a significant contribution in both attack and defence

After a hesitant start the backs made a significant improvement throughout the season and ended up being a genuine attacking threat. Alex Lloyd was an impressive scrum half when fencing allowed and put in a brilliant performance in the Greater Birmingham Cup. Oliver Lester's attacking running and distribution was a threat to defences. Gully Bates' restarts in the Solihull sevens tournament were amazing. Daniel Miller improved his handling as the season progressed and scored 2 tries against Camp Hill RUFC at the end of the



season. The position of wing was one that required patience to say the least, but Luka Novovic, Archie Atack and Alex Barwani-Rai were able to cope well and be able to make the tackle or chase the kick when they needed to. Ruari Morris and Andrew

Plimmer both occupied the fullback position over the course of the year. Hopefully we can avenge some of those close defeats next season.

■ **Ben Connolly, 8S**

U12 "A" XV Rugby

The rugby year started with games lessons in September. Some of us had played before but for most of the year group it was their first experience of rugby. And out of this, four weeks later, Mr Roden had put together a strong rugby squad which mixed experience players with talented newcomers. Most of the newcomers enjoyed the game so much that they have signed up with their local rugby clubs.

Our first match of the year was against Bishop Challengers' side who were very inexperienced and so we took the game with ease. In our first full game the side won a rare narrow victory (15-12) against Old Swinford Hospital School. One of the disappointing matches of the season was against Five Ways where we lost the match due to complacency. In the Greater Birmingham Cup, Camp Hill played extremely well against KES losing narrowly (0-7) and drawing with Bishop Vesey (10-10). We then defeated Fairfax (22-0) and Aston (15-5) to come runners-up.

The rugby season this year has been highly successful with five victories, two draws, and four defeats. With 18 tries the top scorer Jordan McDonagh, has helped us on our way to scoring 200 points against 153 however if he had put the ball down on the try line and not on the five metre line, it would have been even better! As captain of the team, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed playing with all of the boys and how Mr Roden has done so much for the team in the form of coaching and supporting us throughout the season. I would like to make special mention to Jacob Bruten who covered captain when I was unavailable. The team started off quite strong with



a number of players having already played for clubs and it has progressed even further as those new to the sport have come from a low level to a very high standard. At the end of the season the team as a whole had bonded and were working well together. It is fair to say that if the team continue to progress at the same rate as this year, we will become a successful rugby squad

capable of producing a winning season and we should become will be a tough side to beat. Congratulations to all members of the squad who represented the A team.

■ **Andy Featherstone, 7S**



1st XI Cricket

With new young talent entering the Lower 6th Camp Hill were looking forward to a strong and encouraging season, which unfortunately could not be achieved mainly due to the regular collapse of the batting. Despite the strong individual talents that were possessed we were unable to gel together as a team.

We met King Henry VIII in our first match of the season with a weakened side. We struggled and the rustiness of an early season performance showed as we were bowled out for 103 without batting through the allotted 30 overs. However, newcomer Marlon Wijendra showed patience and maturity with a score of 51 not out which would turn out to be the highest batting performance of the season. King Henry's comfortably chased down the target with 6 overs to spare.

Our second match of the season was against very strong opposition in the form of Solihull Sixth Form, where we stuttered to 138 after the 30 overs, which Solihull seemed to knock off with consummate ease thanks to a very strong batting line up. Bablake were next in line and a disappointing bowling performance saw the visitors score 163 in the 20 overs. In return our top order fell very cheaply and despite a late rally by Kaz Singh (39 no) and Devan Raindi (26), Camp Hill fell short by 24 runs.

Our only win of the season came against rivals King Edward's Aston. The bowlers performed well, restricting the opposition to 126 in the 25 overs with figures of 4/23 by Harris Hussain. Once again the top order struggled with both openers departing for ducks. However, a score of 45 not out by Harris and a pinch hitting 22 from Gurpreet Ubbey left Camp Hill victorious in a last ball thriller. However, we were unable to capitalise on the victory and were bowled out for 97 against Five Ways. We struggled in the early overs with the bowling and Five Ways took full advantage and looked as if they would score the runs with ease, but tidy bowling and great work ethic in the field put us in with a chance. Wickets were being taken regularly but in the end it seemed as if our batting total wasn't quite good enough and the Five Ways top order had done the damage. We managed to take 7 wickets but fell just short of a magnificent victory.

This left the ultimate contest, the staff versus pupils match. With reputations at stake the game proved a ferocious affair. After the Welsh workhorse that is Mr Bruten delivered a second ball wicket the staff



cheered vociferously between gasps of air and the blowing of cheeks. Yet new recruit Mr Azam wreaked havoc amongst the batsmen and even the rather young and hastily recruited new member of staff helped in the dismissal of Kaldev Bhogal. Mr Downing, at least, can be safe in the knowledge that he couldn't catch swine flu, or anything for that matter. The boys were quickly skittled out and watched on as their chief tormenter Mr Azam completely negated his lack of pace by placing most of his balls over the boundary. Needless to say the teachers fell agonisingly short ... in making this anything like a contest and secured both a compre-

hensive victory and the bragging rights, for a year at least.

Finally, I would just like to thank all the lads for their support and commitment throughout the season even during the strenuous exam period. Special thanks to captain Phil Terry for his excellent leadership and rallying the troops even in the toughest situations. Mostly, I would like to thank Mr Duncan for sticking with us through thick and thin and providing transport for all the matches in his own personal time.

■ **Harris Hussain, 12 Art**

2nd XI Cricket

The 2nd XI can rightly feel a little aggrieved this season at not chalking up a victory out of our four games played but in such a short season, dominated by examinations, there were numerous positives from it. The opening game against King Henry VIII was the closest of the games we played and having bowled well the game was for the taking with Haleem Aslam taking 2 for 16 off his 4 overs. However, as was typical of our whole season, the batting lacked any real depth and although the team's effort could never be questioned, that little bit of quality was always lacking. The fielding over the season has been called many things, but dropping seven catches in this innings made our task no easier. Akeel Hussain made a valiant and quick fire 41 but without any other batsmen prepared to stay in long enough, we missed out by 11 runs.

Solihull Sixth Form with their vast pool of talent provided a master class in how cricket should be played and ran out deserved winners. Bablake was another game that got away despite an innings of 66 from Raj Atkar, the lack of a partner made it difficult for the team to post a big score. Although our bowling was economical, Gavin Bhangal conceding just 10 runs off his 3 overs, Bablake secured victory. A special thanks to Mr. Garrod and Mr. Smith for an enjoyable season which was an invaluable experience. All in all, 20 players represented the 2nd XI and although results didn't go our way, the team worked hard every ball and were a joy to captain.

■ **Raj Atkar, L4**

U15 Cricket

After the loss in the final of the Willis trophy the Camp Hill boys came back to playing cricket with a point to prove. Under the new leadership of the towering Milan Vashi the U15's started of their season against their fierce rivals, KE Five Ways. The toss was lost and Camp Hill were put into bat. We started slowly but the scoreboard was ticking over but wickets were falling at regular intervals without anyone making a significant contribution. But Mr Reliable, Asim Shoab didn't let this phase him as he made his way to a score of 65 before being bowled. There were contributions from Chris Curtis and Aman Sahota with 9 and 11 respectively before we were bowled out for 118 of 24.4 overs. This would have been a challenge to defend if it hadn't been for the solid opening bowling from Aman and Asim. Five Ways struggled for runs but wickets fell gradually and eventually we bowled them out for 84 with Sukhvir Lyall taking 3 wickets in 4 balls.

Next up for the lads was KE Aston whom in the past has been strong opponents. We won the toss and decided to bat first which proved to be a good thing as scores from the top 3: Chris 30, Asim 29 and Alex Weir 28 set us with a defendable target of 121-4 from our 20 overs. A 70 run opening partnership from Aston got them off to a good start but soon after wickets started to fall and runs were not being scored. Lawrence Welch bowled well with figures of 3/10. In the end we managed to restrict them to 102-7 off their 20 overs. Another win for the Camp Hill boys.

Two byes in the early rounds of the cup saw us 2 matches away from the final at Edgbaston without facing any opponents. Our first cup match was in round 3 against Baverstock. We batted first and scored 105 all out with contributions from Asim 26 and Oliver Palmer with 27 of 18 balls. When Baverstock batted our bowling was too good and we bowled them out for 59. We were in the semi final of the Docker Shield and we were playing KE Five Ways.

But before that we had to play Bablake. We were put into bat by the visitors and runs were being scored by the opening pair of Chris Curtis and Asim Shoab. Asim scored 55 before running himself out and a steady innings from Chris saw him reach his maiden half century in the final over. The total was 132-1 and we were hopeful that our bowlers would be able to defend from the start. Aman struck early in the Bablake innings and from then on wickets fell from one end as the Bablake no. 3 put up a valiant effort in saving their innings. Superb bowling from Adam Khan (3-15), Alex Weir (3-20) and Aman (2-19) and some solid



keeping from Milan (2 stumpings, 1 catch, 1 bye) meant that we bowled them out for 84. Another win for the U15's.

The semi-final of the cup was a very important match as if we won we would be playing on the same ground that many greats like, Sachin Tendulkar and Andrew Flintoff had played. This was in our minds as we were put into bat first by Five Ways. A rocky performance in the batting saw us bowled out for 76 with 19 of those runs coming from Oliver Palmer who got 19 runs of 6 balls. There was a lot to think about at the interval as we calculated that Five Ways needed 3.08 runs an over to win. This meant that we needed to bowl out of our skins. The display put on by the boys was the most economical spells that they had bowled whilst still taking wickets. There were 2 wickets each for Alex, Chris and Aman and 4 run outs as we bowled them out for 54. We had done it! We had made it to the final of the Docker Shield which also meant that it was our 4th final in as many seasons. We wanted to win. Our opponents were Holte whom we played in the final in year 8.

The experience was going to be something to remember as we were about to grace the hallowed turf of Edgbaston CC. A warm up was conducted with the purpose of going out to win. For the first time that season the toss was won by Camp Hill and we decided to put Holte into bat. The start of the innings was a bit shaky as in the opening over Asim was hit for 2 boundaries but Aman soon got the early breakthrough that we required. Another wicket fell but then a partnership started to build and we needed a breakthrough. That wicket

came in the 16th over through Alex Weir and from then on wickets came fairly frequently and with run outs from Chris and Milan we bowled out Holte for 137.

We knew this target was going to be a challenge but we had faith in our top order who didn't fail us. Chris got out in the third over but then Alex and Asim formed a partnership that 'never' looked to be broken. The flashing drives and the solid defences paid off as Asim and Alex both scored half centuries with Asim top scoring on 61 not out with Alex finishing on 54 not out. We had done it, and by only using 3 batsmen, we were the champions of the Docker Shield



[see picture above] and it was our third cup victory.

We were also unbeaten throughout the season which is something that we would hope to emulate when we move up to the senior side. I would like to say a special thank you to those who have played this season: Milan Vashi, Asim Shoab, Chris Curtis, Alex Weir, Sukhvir Lyall, Oliver Palmer, Robert George, Aman Sahota, Adam Khan, Jagatpreet Gill, Lawrence Welch, Josh O'Donnell, Jamie Taylor, and Jaipal Gahir.

■ Milan Vashi, 10X

U14 Cricket

The increasingly common 'monsoon' weather of our summer terms had a major impact on the cricket season this year. The number of matches, and their distribution through the term, did not allow the boys to generate any momentum and consistency to their performances.

The season started very well with a pleasing victory over KE Five Ways, a side that they had never beaten previously. A very patient, and important, innings from U. Ahmed (31) laid the foundation but he was ably supported with good knocks from J. Giblin and S. Nath. 96 runs might seem a small total but on a cold day with huge boundaries it was a very good target. Five Ways started patiently but their openers got a little bogged down and they fell well behind the run rate, thanks in no small measure to excellent bowling from S. Nath and O. Hamid. At the first change J. Bruten continued the tight bowling and took 2 for 7 from 3 overs whilst R. Luscombe kept things equally 'tight' from the other end. Eventually their No 4 cut loose but it was too late to save the game and the boys earned a very encouraging 9 run victory.

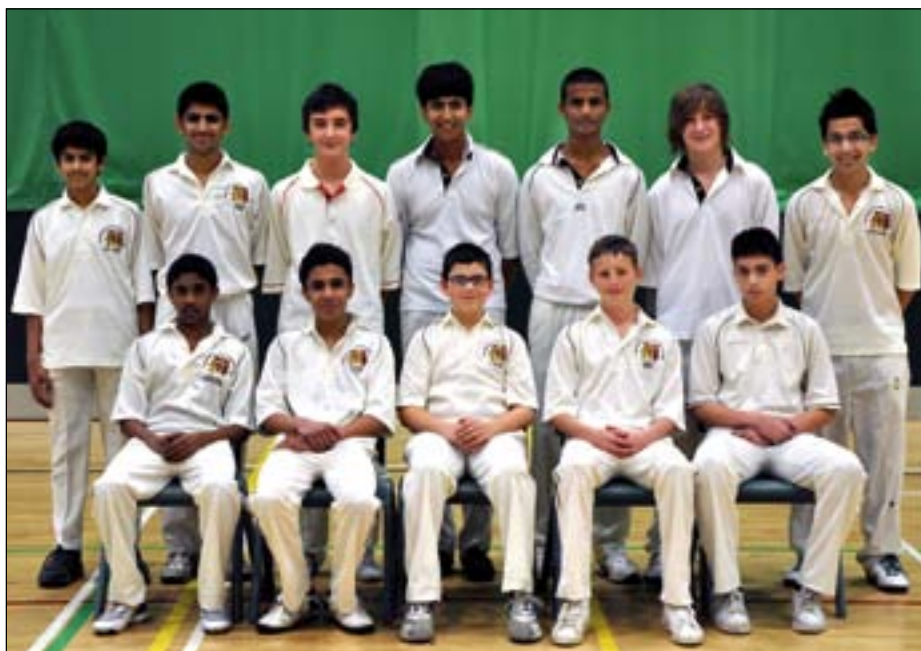
Next up, after a couple of cancellations for rain, were Wheelers Lane in the Cup competition. A superb bowling display, with O. Hamid's 3 for 10 being the highlight, saw Wheelers bowled out for 43. A revised batting line up saw us knock the runs off in 10 overs with T. Kostuch's 18 runs providing the basis of our reply.

More weather interruptions meant that preparation for the next round of the cup was not perfect. Five Ways provided the opposition and they were determined to exact revenge. The absence of captain U. Hanif from our line up meant that the batting missed the stability he brings and our total of 69 was never good enough. Their openers batted well and they passed our total with the loss of only one wicket.

Aston provided the next opposition and we took to the field first. A superb start from S. Nath (3 for 17 in 5 overs) who was ably supported by R. Luscombe (2 for 14) and J. Bruten (2 for 16) should have seen Aston bowled out relatively cheaply. Unfortunately we lost our shape a little and allowed them to score 20 or so runs more than 'par'.

Our reply got off to the worst possible start with the loss of U. Hanif in the first over but R. Luscombe (30) and F. Malik (28) put us within striking range after the slow start. Unfortunately, both ran themselves out and the remaining wickets fell to leave us agonisingly short of their 105.

The final game of the season, against



Bablake, produced another excellent all-round performance. We batted first and posted only 44 for our first 5 wickets. S. Nath (20) and F. Malik (40) then laid the foundation of our innings with J. Bruten (19) adding some important late runs as we posted 150 all out from our overs. A strong fielding and bowling performance put Bablake under too much pressure and they fell short by 19 runs. U. Ahmed took a very important catch off R. Luscombe's bowling to dismiss their best bat and O. Hamid's 3 for 28 provided the best figures of the match.

Well done to all who have contributed to a very pleasing 'season'. The general quality of batting is improving and there is a strong core of players that have shown they can stay at the crease and accumulate

some runs. The bowling has always been the stronger aspect for this team and this continues to be the case, with O. Hamid and S. Nath forming a formidable opening attack. If the boys keep working at the running between the wickets and ground fielding they will build on their success as younger cricketers.

Finally, thank you to Umar Hanif for his contribution as captain; he was well supported this year by his team but U. Ahmed and R. Luscombe, in particular, encouraged and advised when needed.

■ P.A.B.

U13 Cricket

This year, in a rain-affected season, we only managed to play 5 games, winning 4 out of the 5.

Our first match was against K.E. Five Ways, who we lost to by 50 runs last year. We lost the toss and were put in to bat. Captain Charanjit Kalsi top scored with 47, which included 7 fours and a six. The bowlers also gifted us with 47 runs from extras. The second highest contributor with the bat was Andrew Plimmer with 6. In the end, we scored 117-8, a score that was higher than any score we got last year. Their best batsman scored 51 before he was bowled by Andrew. Adil Ahmed took 2/15, Charanjit 2/16 and Andrew 2/26, and removed their batsman who could do the most damage. One of the catches of the season went to Jalees Hamid for an outstanding catch to get rid of their No. 8. In the end, we just won by 2 runs thanks to Adil who bowled a superb last over.

After this match, our next two matches were rained off. Our next match was against K.E. Aston, who we lost to by 8 wickets last year. We won the toss and put them in to bat. No one scored more than 12 as they stuttered to 64 all out. Adil bowled fantastically as usual for his 4-7. He took 3 wickets in 4 balls at one point. Andrew took 2-19. Our innings started slowly as the bowling was generally tight. Charanjit guided us home with 28 not out off 45 balls. I was excellently supported by Gully Bates who came in with a cameo of 16 not out off 12 balls. We won this by 7 wickets and 7 overs remaining.

Our next match was in the cup against Saltley. We were put into bat and our opening partnership was 21 off the first 3 overs. Charanjit ended up scoring the team's highest individual score, 80 not out off 72 balls. Adil scored a respectable 15 off 17 balls. Jalees batted nicely and scored an

unbeaten 10 off 12 balls. We scored 147-4, which is our highest team total to date. They started incredibly slowly and after 4 overs, they had scored 5 runs with the loss of 3 wickets! Adil put in another performance with the ball taking 3-9. Andrew also bowled well with 12-3. We won by 103 runs – our biggest margin of victory!

The next round of the cup was due to be played on the next day against Washwood Heath. The match was reduced to 16 overs per side because of our opponents arriving late. A few sloggers in their team brought them to 116-8. Adil took 3/23, Charanjit 2/16, removing a slogger, Andrew 2/27. To win this, we would need a good opening partnership, which is just what we got. We were 76-1 off 9 overs after Charanjit departed and we looked in the driving seat. He had scored 47 off 20 balls, facing just 2 dot balls. Our other opener, Arjan Nagra was the next man to depart, with 17 off 23 balls. Then there was a huge collapse and we found ourselves on 99 all out, with the last 5 people getting ducks! We were out of the cup after being the runners-up last year.

Our last game was a friendly against Bablake. We put them into bat and they posted 128-8. Their best batsman scored 46. Surprisingly, Adil failed to take more than 1 wicket. Andrew took 3-19. Narinder Phull also bowled excellently to get 2-16. Our first



wicket went for 45 runs and I soon departed for 38 off just 20 balls. Adil Ahmed batted brilliantly with his top score- 24 off 16 balls. Narinder was promoted up the order and he showed why. He held the innings together magnificently, scored 18 runs in the process. Archie Attack scored the winning runs to end the season on a high. Well done to our makeshift keeper of the match – Idris Mohamed who let just 4 byes through.

At the end of the season though, I was

the best batsman – batting at an average of 80 and scoring 240 runs. Adil scored the next most runs with 49. Adil also took the most wickets- taking 13 wickets, with a good economy rate. Andrew bowled well as well in the season taking 12 wickets. Well done to the team and thank to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Tranter for helping us develop as there were many signs of this in matches.

■ **Charanjit Kalsi, 8M**

U12 Cricket

Last season, the Under 12 cricket team had many highs and lows. We were unfortunate to be knocked out early in the Stacey Jackson Cup and lost many games due to the bad weather. The first match, a cup knockout match against K.E. Fiveways started on a high with Camp Hill winning the toss. It got even better as Fiveways were restricted to a total of 88 for 9 off 20 overs with Ahsan Khan and Mustafa Chaudhry taking two wickets apiece and Thomas Else adding another. However, the batting did not quite go to plan with a collapse after the fall of the two openers. This left us agonisingly short of victory by only 11 runs meaning that we were now out of the cup. The next match was a different story though.

We all travelled to K.E. Aston for a friendly and after winning the toss, chose to bat first. This proved to be the right choice as we quickly piled on the runs, Mustafa top scoring with 29 and Jacob Bruten adding a quick-fire 18 off 17 balls taking us to a defendable total of 112. Aston got off to a brilliant start scoring 32 runs off 4 overs but as soon as Dilan Parmar got the breakthrough, wickets quickly followed with Jaisimhan Diwaker gaining figures of 3 wickets



for 10 runs with tight overs also coming from Kabir Choudry and Nimreth Phull. This allowed Camp Hill to secure victory by 13 runs.

Our final match saw us play against Bablake School after an incredibly rainy morning. Choosing to bat first, we quickly suffered the loss of one of our openers leaving us in a poor situation with the score 7 for 1 after 3 overs. However we overcame this and set up a brilliant 122 run partnership between Chad Atkinson and Mustafa, Chad scoring 42 not out and Mustafa scor-

ing 64. This gave us a respectable target of 139 to defend, which led to us eventually winning by 33 runs. Giles Moss should be mentioned for an excellent debut.

Although we were knocked out of the tournament early this year, I believe with all the experience the players have gained that next season we can improve on ourselves and progress further in the competition.

■ **Mustafa Chaudhry, 7J**

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

The 1st XI got off to a promising start to the season with successive 3-3 draws against Bablake and KES 2nds, in both matches we were leading 3-2 with only minutes left but lapses in concentration led to us conceding very late on in both games. We followed this up with a disappointing 5-0 loss to King Henry's before recording our first win of the season, beating Solihull 6th form 2-1.

Unfortunately we then suffered several defeats including a thrilling 10-5 loss to Wolverhampton Grammar. Our best performance of the season came against Old Swinford with Camp Hill running out 8-4 winners courtesy of 4 goals from Jacob Plummer, 2 from Aamil Ghani and 1 each from Vignesh Shan and Devan Raindi.

There were many notable performances throughout the season with captain Greg Evans standing out amongst the defence and Tom Watson dominating the midfield. Jacob Plummer top scored with 17 goals including 4 hat-tricks. Joht Chandan and Ayman Bhukari both performed well in goal despite what some of our scorelines may suggest and Vignesh Shan, Sandeep Gopal, Jasdev Bhogal, Devan Raindi, Matt Cottam and Matt Dodd were all impor-



tant members of the team and will be sorely missed by next season's 1st XI.

Other regular team members such as Bhavesh Patel, James Rogers, and Gus Sidhu also played major roles in our season along with Keshav Gupta, Aamil Ghani and

Bilal Azam who rose to the occasion when asked to fill in. As usual the season had its ups and downs and with so many players leaving next season will prove to be a stern test for the team.

■ **Jacob Plummer, L6**

2nd XI Hockey

The 2nd XI had a fairly mixed season gaining a few excellent victories. Despite facing some stiff opponents, Camp Hill managed to score an impressive 14 goals in the first half of the season including an outstanding hat-trick from Keshav Gupta in Camp Hill's 5-1 demolition of Solihull School. Raghav Chandra, Bilal Azam, Jack Attack, Tim Shao and Bharath Varadharajan all contributed heavily to the teams attacking force each with two goals to their name.

The second half of the season was tough as many fixtures were cancelled due to the heavy snow. Camp Hill didn't get to play the number of matches they would have liked. However, the final game of the season did end on a high in a match against KE Stratford in which an impressive victory was secured at 4-3. Goals from Jack, Bharath, and Bilal proved enough to shrug the opposing team off. This match showed what the team were capable of and if only they were provided with more opportunities to showcase their talents, maybe more victories would have been recorded. Special mention must also go to Edward Cheung, Tim Shao, Pritesh Chohan and Robby



Williams who have started every match this season and Keshav Gupta, Aamil Ghani, Gus Sidhu, Bilal Azam and Sagar Patel who have at some stage all played for the

1st XI. Overall, the 2nd XI has had a good season of hockey and should be proud of their efforts!

■ **Keshav Gupta, 11X**

U15 Hockey

Our first match was against King Henry's school which meant a long journey up to Coventry. We started the game poorly conceding some early goals when meant we went into the half time break 5-0 down. We came out for the second half with the words of Mr Willis ringing in our ears. We played well for the second half with some strong tackling from the new captain Milan Vashi which a long with some good goalkeeping restricted the amount of goals scored by King Henry's. The game finished 8-0 to King Henry's.

Our next match was against the tough opposition of Solihull school, who we found out had some strong players from a Camp Hill Old Boy, Mr Anderton. We started the game well apart from the 3 goals that we conceded early on. They then scored 1 more before the interval but we had not lost hope. We came out and fought hard which meant that they only scored 1 more before the final whistle went. The final score was

5-0 to Solihull, although it felt like a win!

Next up for the U15's was King Edward Stratford, which incidentally was the only team we have ever beaten. The game started brightly with possession greatly in our favour but we were unable to convert any of our chances and King Edward Stratford got a lucky break and was able to scramble the ball into the net. Their lead was short lived as Jaipal Gahir sent a fizzing long corner into the D which was converted by Milan, meaning the score was 1-1. This was the score for most of the second half but a defensive error led them to scoring a late winner. The final score was 2-1 to King Edward Stratford.

We then played Old Swinford which proved not to be a tough challenge for the U15's as we went easily to a 6-0 victory with goals from Milan Vashi, Michael Bristow, Jon Fox and a Hat-trick from Aman Sahota.

Then we went on tour to Carlisle, which proved to be a good trip for the Hockey boys as an eventful few days saw us lose against Cockermouth 4-1, beat

William Howard School 4-3 and in a close game losing to Wigton Hockey Club 1-0. The goal scorers were Aman Sahota, Jaipal Gahir, Karndeepp Uppal and Jon Fox with the goal against Cockermouth given as a team effort as there was no definite evidence to the true scorer. A tradition on tour is that awards are given to people within the team. These were:

Aman Sahota – Most Valuable Player
Jaipal Gahir – Most Improved Player
Milan Vashi – for being the Captain through this eventful season.

A special mention must go to Mr Hardy for driving us up to Carlisle, Mr Willis for coaching us and finally all the lads who played throughout this season.

Milan Vashi (C), Aman Sahota, Jaipal Gahir, Karndeepp Uppal, Alex Wood, Dominik Brundler (GK), Tom Mitchell-Hewitt, Mitchell Harris, Hormoz Parsapour, Adam Khan, Chris Sherwood, Michael Bristow, Jon Fox, Hakeem Javaid, Michael Chalmers

■ **Milan Vashi, 10X**



U14 Hockey

We began the season with disappointment as all matches up until Christmas were cancelled or postponed. This meant all of our eventual opponents had a lot more game experience and this ultimately showed.

We started the campaign with a thrilling 3-3 draw against Stratford, an encour-

aging start, with goals from Andy Newman, Sam Archer and Umar Hanif. Unfortunately, there was only one Camp Hill goal (Elliot Black) in the next two defeats to strong Bablake and KES sides, before a convincing 1-1 draw with the U15 side.

We finished the season disappointingly with a 5-0 loss to Solihull, where we continued to pass and move the ball well but could not turn chances into goals. Well

done to Ben Evans, Dev Manu and Andy Newman (and myself) for contributing to every game and top scorer Sam Archer, as well as the rest of the squad; we have learnt valuable lessons from an encouraging first season and are looking forward to the challenges of a new year.

■ **Thomas Perkins, 9J**

Results Summaries

WINTER RESULTS		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
Rugby	1 st XV	20	10	0	10	418	416
	2 nd XV	11	3	0	8	152	311
	U16	4	2	0	2	81	92
	U15	21	11	2	8	400	307
	U15 B	2	0	0	2	15	102
	U14	16	9	0	7	357	247
	U14 B	2	1	0	1	20	31
	U13	13	6	0	7	252	291
	U13 B	4	4	0	0	85	44
	U13 C	2	0	1	0	49	15
	U13 D	1	2	0	0	20	10
	U12	11	5	2	4	178	153
	U12 B	7	2	0	5	76	215
	U12 C	6	2	0	4	47	172
	U12 D	5	4	0	1	60	52
	U12 E	1	0	0	1	0	10
	U12 F	1	0	0	1	15	60
	Hockey	1 st XI	12	2	2	8	29
2 nd XI		13	3	0	10	19	56
U15		7	2	0	3	12	26
U14		4	0	1	3	4	22
Basketball	U16	6	3	0	3	185	217
	U14	6	3	0	3	159	221
Football [Soccer]	1 st XI	11	6	1	4	33	23
	2 nd XI	6	3	0	3	18	20
Badminton	1 st IV	1	1	0	0	6	0
	U15	10	8	0	2	38	12
	U15 B	1	1	0	0	5	5
	U14	4	2	0	2	14	4

CRICKET	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	BEST BATTING	BEST BOWLING
1 st XI	7	1	0	6	Marlon Wijendra 51	Harris Hussain 4/23
2 nd XI	4	0	0	4	Raj Atkar 66	Raj Atkar 3/29
U15	6	6	0	0	Asim Shoaib 64	Lawrence Welch 3/10
U14	5	3	0	2	Faheem Malik 40	Osama Hamid 3/10
U13	5	4	0	1	Charanjit Kalsi 80	Adil Ahmed 4/7
U12	3	2	0	1	Mustafa Chaudhry	Jeisimhan Diwaker 3/10
U12 B	2	2	0	0		

TENNIS	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST
1 st IV	4	2	0	2
U15 A	5	3	1	1
U15 B	3	2	1	0
U13 A	6	5	1	0
U13 B	4	3	0	1
U12 A	1	0	0	1

ATHLETICS	TOTAL MATCHES	TOTAL TEAMS	FIRST PLACES	SECOND PLACES	THIRD PLACES
	18	12	5	6	1

Athletics

It is amazing that athletics matches are ever completed, given the appalling conditions of the 21st century British summers. But they are and once more, the teams achieved superb results.

The first match, as usual, was the Senior Foundation Match at KES, against Aston and obviously KES. Sadly KES were unable to produce any detailed results but if memory serves right, Cameron Fraser maintained his unbeaten record by placing first in the Shot (whilst also playing in the tennis match, fortunately being played close by); Callum Miller, one of Camp Hill's most successful middle distance runners, won 1500m; Damien Bishop took both 100m and 200m and the relay team finished the day off nicely with a comfortable victory. Year 11 found the competition tough and it is a little disappointing that some of the more capable athletes choose not to participate. However, the stalwarts of Jamie Blakeman, Jacob Hanvey and Sean Miller gave their all and Rajan Bhambra must have won discus! Ian Firth also impressed by jumping higher than the rest! This, unfortunately, was the only match for the seniors as it seems that exams are increasingly dominating the summer term; how sad!

The Junior Foundation match was cancelled due to rain and for the first time in 20 years we were not invited to our usual Solihull match in May! The English Schools' Track and Field Cup is a most enjoyable contest where each athlete competes in 2 events and scores points for each performance. These points are added together for the whole team. The Intermediate team

despite winning the district final, placed a slightly disappointing 7th in the Midland 'A' Final. The most improved performances were made by Josh O'Donnell, Nikesh Parmar, Robert George, David Williams and Nick Wilson. In the same competition, the Junior team enhanced their total score considerably from 294 points to 333. The highest individual point scorers were Kyle Reed, Tom Murphy, Alex Barwani-Rai and Charlie Song. The team came 2nd beating strong rivals such as Solihull School, King Henrys, Bablake and Alcester Grammar.

A few outstanding athletes were selected for the South Birmingham Team in the West Midland County Championships. Josh Bridgeman, Will Higgins and Josh O'Donnell performed well and John Lutwyche, despite achieving the qualifying time for England Schools, was just outside finishing in the top 3 in the 200m. It needs to be noted that he was competing as a year 10 against year 11 athletes. The highlights however were Rajan Bhambra who placed 2nd in Discus; Nick Wilson came 1st in Hurdles and Umar Ahmed came second in the Javelin and also 1st in Discus. Both Nick and Umar are therefore West Midland County Champions.

On the Tuesday after half term, we held the annual Camp Hill Athletics match. This is a special event of the year when we compete against other schools, and all of the different events are officiated very efficiently by Camp Hill staff. Although the match may seem to be slightly in favour of Camp Hill, we have always struggled with the fierce competition. This year was no different, as Arden, KES Stratford and Fairfax proved to be considerable opponents. In year 7, Jordan McDonagh won both his events and Andrew Elliot took the

discus. Out of 8 teams, the 'A' team came 2nd and the 'B' team placed an impressive 5th, Arden were 1st. Year 8 emulated year 7 by also finishing 2nd and 5th with the 'A' and 'B' teams respectively. Individual first positions were Charlie Song in Long Jump and Lewis Hedges in the 100m. First place went to KE Stratford. Our year 9 teams were closely matched and finished in 4th and 5th positions. The notable successes were Nick Wilson in the 200m and Umar Ahmed in Javelin. KE Stratford again came 1st. Year 10 have never been beaten at local level, but this time they were pushed to the limit. Fairfax led throughout despite a number of first places by John Lutwyche, Asim Shoaib, Howard Chew, and Josh O'Donnell. It was only by winning the relay that the 'A' team managed to hold on and tie for first place with Fairfax; the 'B' team came 5th. Final totals were extremely close with Kings Norton Boys 89, Handsworth 153.5, Arden 'B' 159, Camp Hill 'B' 229, Fairfax 280, Arden 'A' 290, KE Stratford 308 and Camp Hill 'A' 313; a narrow but significant victory.

In the final school match, the Junior teams competed against Solihull, Aston and the Royal Grammar School, Worcester. In year 7, Sam England won two events and came second in another. The team, despite not winning many events, came first overall, with Solihull second. RGS were too strong at year 8, but Camp Hill battled bravely to finish 2nd. Year 9 was by far the most improved squad. After finishing 4th in the preceding match, to place 1st this time was extremely gratifying. However, year 10, the strongest team in the school, finished the season in fine form. Victories by many of those named above, proved too much for the other schools. Final total results were Solihull 4th with 425, Aston 3rd 433, RGS 2nd 461 and Camp Hill 1st, with a remarkable score of 535, certainly the largest margin of success ever in this particular match.

Congratulations to all athletes for their endeavours, however the achievement of many athletes is due to hard work and dedication after joining local clubs, where they receive expert coaching together with quality competition. Prospective athletes should look towards these clubs and take advantage of the opportunities they offer.

■ G.H.



Badminton

Badminton City Championships

In the Years 7, 8 and 9 team, the school was represented by Danny Szucs, Faheem Malik, Gilad Grant, Osama Hamid and Yongwon Ju. They played Kings Norton in the first group match and emerged with a comfortable 4-1 victory. Their second opponents, Bishop Walsh had consistency in depth, a factor which proved decisive as Camp Hill lost a closely fought match 2 games to 3. Because of the grouping system, this effectively eliminated them from the competition. All played with grit and scored well – 16 points in each of their losing games. A little more consistency would have put them through to the final.

At senior level, for years 10 and 11, Camp Hill turned out a strong team: Wai Ming Yap, Aaron Hsu, Peter Liu, Asim Shoaib, and Marvin Miu. Operating in a single group, they played four matches. Kings Norton, Frankley, and Bartley Green were dispatched without dropping a game – all three matches were won 5-0. Much stiffer opposition was waiting in the form of Bishop Vesey who, with two county players, had also made short work of the other three teams. This was going to be the decider for the City Championship.

Camp Hill began strongly, winning both the singles matches. We then lost the next two doubles so the final game was to decide the issue. Aaron Hsu and Asim Shoaib won this with a comfortable margin for error. With hindsight, the opening titanic struggle between the two number one seeds had been critical. Wai Ming Yap had played a Staffordshire County player. With no extended games allowed, he held his nerve at 20-20 to emerge victorious 21-20. This prompted a court invasion by an over enthusiastic coach.

Following this victory, we went through to the West Midlands Regional finals in February as City Champions.

Well done to all players and a special word of thanks to Mr Smith who drove us there, and to the coach of the year, Clive Ke.

■ *M.R.*

British Schools National Championship – First Round

The first round of the British Schools National Championship was played at Bishop Challoner. In the Year 10 and 11 category, Camp Hill entered two teams made up exclusively of year 10 players. Bishop Challoner also entered two teams.

Our A team put in a predictably strong performance and romped home to a comfortable victory, 3 matches to 0, winning all 15 of their games.

The Camp Hill B team faced more competitive matches. To win second place they had to beat the Bishop Challoner A team in the last match. They secured victory on the last possible point of the match!

This left the Camp Hill teams in first and second position. The A team went on to compete in the City Championships in January.

■ *M.R.*

Badminton Regional Championships

As Birmingham champions, the Camp Hill Year 10 team represented the city against teams from Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire.

There was a definite step up in quality of opposition at this level. Nevertheless, Camp Hill scored a comfortable win over Kingswinford School by five games to nil. Paulet school proved more taxing, but Camp Hill beat them four games to one.

It soon became obvious that Solihull School would be the team to beat as they too had secured wins over the other schools. Camp Hill won the first of five games only for Solihull to equalise. Solihull then took the lead but Camp Hill fought back to equalise. All hinged on the last game of doubles. Solihull played very steadily and fought there way to a 20:14 lead. In a nerve jangling finish, the Camp Hill pair fought back bravely to 20:20 but lost the last deciding point.

As a young side they have done remarkably well and look forward with confidence to next year when as year 11s, they aim to convert their silver medals into gold.

Thanks, as ever, are due to their coach, Clive Ke who gave unstinting support and to Mr Smith who gave up his day off to drive us to Stoke and put up with Mr Russell's wayward navigating.

■ *M.R.*



Basketball

U16 Basketball

The U16 basketball team has had a fairly successful season, in which we played well, developing as a team and producing some good performances. After a long delay and many cancellations we hosted Bournville for the first game. After taking a convincing lead within the first half, the team underestimated the opposition and it ended in a tight finish, Camp Hill prevailing 23-18.

We then came up against a strong Bishop Challoner side, and although we lost 45-15, there were encouraging performances from Bharath Varadharajan and Keshav Gupta. Another loss followed against Kings Norton, but the team performed well in a close match, Veer Mann scoring 11 points. We then went to Shenley Court, who had only lost one match leading up to our game. An excellent team effort, especially from Jordan Clarke (12), led to a 35-32 win over tough opposition.

Buoyed by this, victory against Baverstock followed, in which nearly every player scored and Jordan, Jacob Hanvey and Sukhvir Lyall stood out for their effort. Our final game against Frankley was to be crucial in our chances of qualifying for the playoffs, however we were unable to capi-



talise on our lead and it ended in our 3rd loss of the season.

Veer, Keshav and Bharath played in all the matches throughout the season and Pavan Harnal and Garen Khaira should be commended for their contribution to basketball at Camp Hill, having played for the

team for the last three years. Anthony Li, Jacob and Jordan all posted strong performances during the season, while the year 10's showed that basketball at Camp Hill, has a bright future.

■ **Veer Mann, 11W**

U14 Basketball

The 2008-09 season was a balanced one where we won three games and lost three games.

Our first match was a defeat to Four Dwellings, 28-25. This was only the beginning of the season and the first time we had played as a team so we were getting to terms with the sport. Gilad Grant, Akshay Nathwani and Calum Paver kicked off our scoring for the new season but we didn't do enough to win the game.

In our next game we learned from our mistakes and we came out victors of a narrow win, 36-35, against Ninestiles when the match was very even. However we were brought back down to earth when we played the best team at our level, Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, and lost 72-6 when some of our key players were missing. The only scorers in that game were James Johnston and Amar Elaydi with two baskets.

Half way through the season we began to gel as a team and we finally started to get those vital baskets that evaded us in previous games. We also had two new additions to the team, Sanjay Nath and Zaheb Hussain who helped us win two of the next



three games. Our players managed to score higher in those matches with Tomasz Kos-tuch who got 24 points in the final three games, James Giblin getting 10 points in those games. Uhmair Ahmed managed to get a respectable 30 points in two games.

I am sure the team would like to thank

Mr Duncan for his great coaching and hopefully some of the stars of the U14's can use their talent when it comes to playing at U16 level.

■ **Gilad Grant, 9S**

School chess really moved to the next level during the academic year 2008–09. The lunchtime club, which had lived in Room 14 since it moved from Room 5 on the retirement of Mr Greenaway in 1991, moved up to Room 16. And very popular it was too, especially in the cold weather. Sometimes we needed two rooms: our tutor, Mr Walker, helped out this year with an “improvers” group from Years 8 and 9 as well as a Year 7 group.

We ran our usual Individual Competition, which attracted 89 entries. 62 made it to the end, and Aled Walker and Kieran Child played off for the championship. I think Aled won. 32 people qualified for the Megafinals in May, and some did make the effort to go: those who went to Worcester did very well, with Kyle Reed, Max Cheung, Kuran Rati, Andrew Pearson and Sophia Emanuel all winning prizes.

The first competitive event of the year was the “Invitational” Tournament, hosted at Camp Hill. “Invitational” means that the Birmingham League schools invite Nottingham High School, who then win by miles. This duly happened, although several features (including the school’s security system) combined to somewhat damage the evening, and we’re not hosting it again. Millfield was rather more fun. After a certain struggle a team of twelve players agreed to go, and we set off first to Winston’s Fish and Chip Shop on the Weston-super-Mare sea front, where the view of the wreck of the pier (burned down in the summer) was soon eclipsed in boys’ minds by the view of an enormous meal as several tried (and succeeded with) the Moby Dick Challenge. After a peaceful night in the Holiday Inn at Taunton, we got ourselves to Millfield to discover that this year only eight schools had entered, bringing thirteen teams. This meant that we had to finish in the top half of the qualifiers to get into the Championship division, which we just about managed, and despite battling hard through the remaining rounds, finished in last place. St Olave’s won, and to celebrate they brought their famous lady with them. We had some good games and the boys appreciated the tireless work of Mr Walker as coach. We’ll be back next year.

At the Under 18 Quickplay at K.E.S., there were only six teams. Nottingham provided two, both of whom were rather good; Haberdashers’ Aske’s came with their apostrophes and a slightly weaker team than normal, and then there was Norwich School whom we did not know but turned out to be good as well. Birmingham was



represented by K.E.S. and ourselves. We had a nice day, but finished with 0 points.

This theme continued at the quaintly-named ‘First Form’ tournament in January. This involved ourselves, Five Ways and K.E.S., who turned out to have some worryingly good Year 7s, and got more points than the other two teams put together. We escaped coming last, though, which slightly flattered us: at least one of our players proved to be black-white colour-blind, and put his Queen nicely where she could be captured by the opponent’s Bishop, thinking it was his own. Never mind. Then at the Under 14 Quickplay in March, we hoped to put out two teams of 8 players each, but one player didn’t turn up, so we had to borrow various reserves from other schools. The B team scored 2 points in the first round, but then had a torrid time, managing one draw from the remaining 32 matches. They kept cheerful, though. The A team did much better, with Ajay Dhunna winning a board prize and Oliver Whitfield (who is obviously a star of the future) coming very close, but K.E.S. pipped us to Best in Birmingham by one point.

Traditionally we do much better at the Closed Quickplay ‘stars barred’ tournament, and this year was no exception. I invited 69 people, and 37 accepted, although due to illness on the day we only fielded 35. This made four teams, three of which had rotating bottoms. (A chess term: the bottom three players each played in two of the three rounds.) Unfortunately inviting other schools had proved more challenging than inviting our own players, and only K.E.S. and Wolverhampton came. The Camp Hill A team achieved an early lead and extended this through the evening, eventually winning with 21 out of 24 points. I am sorry to say that I found it very satisfying when one of our B teams beat the K.E.S. A team into third place.

In the national competition formerly known as the Times, we managed to

progress as far as the national quarter-finals of the Plate. Having joined a local League, we managed to play three of the four matches, and won them all. The most interesting match was against Lutterworth High School. This was an 11-14 school (they do things differently in Leicestershire) and there’s an age handicap in this competition, so we played a young team except for Matthew Dodd at Board 1: an insider had told us that Lutterworth had one player of stratospheric ability. This proved to be the case, but Matthew’s greater experience told, and he forced a draw in the end-game. Thus we went to play the Zonal Final against K.E.S. We lost this, which we expected to do, but even this took us into the Plate competition, where our first match was at home against Kings Chester. They agreed to come by train, and I drove down to Bournville station in the old white minibus to collect them. We were then entirely unable to gain access to the rear of the minibus, so the boys and girl had to climb over the front seats, which they did without spoiling their rather fetching stripy blazers. This physical activity was not a ploy to unsettle them, but we did win the match. This took us into the last eight, and a match at Reading School, who were young (see above) but also good, which proved to be the decisive factor. Our departure for home was slightly delayed when Aled Walker got locked in a classroom block by some cleaners.

The venerable Birmingham and District Junior Chess League got up and running in November, and the programme sputtered along until April. Camp Hill fielded five teams. The League proved not to be in good condition, and was unfortunately ineligible for the Government’s £2,000 scrappage allowance, despite being over 70 years old and in desperate need of rejuvenation. Lots of matches (not involving Camp Hill, but involving me as League Records Secretary) weren’t played: in one case the chess teacher took the rather

extreme route of resignation rather than carry on (although maybe a new post as Head of Physics played some part in his decision) and it was all rather a mess. Anyway I did my best to sort it out, and after applying several mathematical theorems, found that Camp Hill had come second in Division I (out of 2 teams, but don't tell anybody) and in the Year 7 division, and had

won Divisions III, IV and the Year 8 division. One interesting sidelight was a "friendly" against Windsor High School, who hope to apply to join the League next year. Our Year 8 team won the match 6-0, but were more interested in the spicy chicken wings served as refreshments.

Many thanks are due to Mr Walker for all his help in so many areas this year, and

to our departing players from Year 13, especially Matthew Dodd, Kuldeep Samra and Kieran Child. That's half the first team gone and, with eight regular players due to leave at the end of this year, continuing Camp Hill Chess into the next decade will certainly be a challenge. But somehow we'll manage.

■ **A.M.R.**

Cross-Country

On Wednesday 1st October the school took part in the annual South Birmingham Championships near Becketts Farm. Last year we had an excellent set of results and this year once again the teams impressed. The year 10 and 11 age group proved to be the most competitive, with English Schools' runners vying for top places; our highest finishers were Josh O'Donnell 3rd and Sean Miller 7th and the team were 3rd. The combined year

8 and 9 team results were outstanding with James Giblin 3rd, Will Higgins 4th, Charlie Song 5th and Oliver Tonks 7th and therefore comfortably won their age group. However it was the year 7 team who stole the day. The team of 6 runners achieved the best individual results of any Camp Hill team for many years since all placed in the top 10. Ben Rigg was 9th, Alex Davis 8th, David Yate 6th, Jacob Bruten 3rd, Oliver Whitfield 2nd and Oliver Paulin 1st.

All runners who placed in the top 15 represented South Birmingham in the West Midlands Championships on Saturday 18th

October. In this race Oliver Paulin came 12th and Josh O'Donnell 5th in their respective age groups.

On a cold and frosty February morning (there was actually 3 feet of snow) with few spectators or competitors, the second West Midlands Cross-Country Trials took place. It was a hard race and the snow made it no easier. Again Josh ran quite strongly finishing 11th and Oliver also finished well and both qualified for the Inter-County Match against Cheshire, Leicestershire and Shropshire.

■ **G.H.R.**

Fencing

Another year has gone by and the fencing club is still running. However, after the sixth-formers left, our numbers fell slightly. So we have recruited about 8 new members, which I am looking forward to seeing back fencing on Thursdays this term.

Also, we will be more than happy to see more boys of Year 8 and above who are interested in fencing, to turn up on Thursdays at the Sports Hall after 3.35 p.m. I have often been asked the question, "Do

you have to pay after the trial sessions?" BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Many of our members have taken part in various competitions, including the British Youth Championships. Unfortunately, I happened to be busy every time one of these competitions came along.

In our sessions, we develop footwork and various higher-level techniques, in preparation for the regional and national fencing competitions which shall come up later throughout the year. We expect to be even more successful than in previous years, and we are looking forward with hope to future success!

Many thanks go to our coach, Professor Peter Baron, but sadly he has now left us and we wish to thank him very much for the great quality of his coaching. As Professor Baron leaves, our new coach, Mr Whitehouse, comes to take his place and continue successful coaching to the fencers of Camp Hill Boys.

For any enquiries, or any questions about Fencing Club, such as where and when to turn up, or any matters whatsoever, please ask Mr Duncan, although I will be more than happy to help as well!

■ **Hok Y. S. Chiu, 8J**

Football [Soccer]

1st XI Football

This was the first XI's busiest ever season, with 8 friendlies. In addition, we had our most successful ever cup run: bye, win, walkover to reach the dizzy levels of 4th round.

The statistics are a fair representation: we won 4 of the friendlies and lost 3; one match was drawn. Goals for: 24 (of which Danny Kerrigan scored 12); goals against: 16 (all lucky and against the run of play). Defensively, the team were well organised, and they grew in confidence and understanding as the season progressed. Yin Yin Lee, Amar Rajgor, Matt Mears and Agi Ourad were all tenacious ball winners, with Matt and Agi also proving dangerous going forward.



Most improved player of the season was Alex Blake in goal. His shot stopping was excellent; his heart stopping was good too, as he liked to parry simple shots into the path of an attacker and then dive fearlessly at his boots to tidy things up.

Ross Jones-Morris, Joshua Kelley, Henry Barber, Mikal Chawdry, Zainul Hathiyari and Liam Daly all played significant parts in developing attacks from mid-field; Joshua showed some beautiful ball skills; Liam at his best was outstanding, winning 50-50 balls and showing the best awareness of the game and the ability to distribute accordingly.

It is not my normal practice to select a man of the season; however, on this occasion I know such an accolade is fully deserved and will be begrudged by no-one. Danny Kerrigan was superb as a striker. If the team was thrashing the opposition, Danny would score 3 or 4; he would have scored more but I started to take him off early if I felt it was getting embarrassing. Much more significant was the fact that if we were well beaten, Danny was often on the score sheet. In other words, with little ball against experienced opposition, Danny could still single-handedly manufacture a goal from nothing. I lost count of the number of times referees commented on his pace and touch. In all the matches he played, he was clearly the most dangerous striker on the field.

Of all the names I have used above, only two remain for next season. Wish us luck, then, as we build a new team almost from scratch. And I hope the rest of you will continue to play football at university.

Many thanks to Mr Speake; he is responsible for finding us most of the teams we play against as well as coaching the players with enthusiasm and belief.

[Team picture left – page 58]

■ M.J.G.

2nd XI Football

With six matches, this was a busy season for the seconds. Won three, lost three. The goals total is more interesting: goals for 18, goals against 20. If you want to see goals, come and watch the seconds; if you want to see a solid defence, don't. That said, the defence did improve as the season went on, largely because of the organisation that Josh Jacobs brought to the team. In the three games he played we conceded only 5 goals; in the other three we conceded 15.

Up at the other end of the field, Joshun Sandhu was playing a captain's season: 6 goals in six games – there was only one match in which he didn't score. Clive Ke's strike rate was just as good, but he was only able to play in 4 games, so his tally was a couple short of Joshun's. Clive's blistering pace left many defenders floundering. Jack Harrison grabbed 4 well-earned

goals as well; he too showed pace and a good ability to cut inside from a wide position. Jayven Athwal (3) and Taran Cheema were the other goal scorers.

Others who worked hard for the side during the course of the season included Meghesh Shelat and Pavan Nahal, who proved dependable players who stuck resolutely to their task whether the game was going well or badly.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable team, both in keeping their spectators entertained, and in their excellent team spirit and cheerfulness. They seemed to be playing football for the fun of it, which is surely what it should be all about.

[Team picture below]

■ M.J.G.



Rowing (Indoor)

For the second time, the school entered the annual indoor rowing competition held at Nechells Leisure Centre. This year the event was held in March, which allowed us to enter a Year 11 team. (Last year the event occurred during the exam period.) We entered a Year 9 team (Tom Erafej, Evan Phoenix, David Peters, Jamal Syed) and a Year 11 team (Raj Bhambra, John Erafej, Dominic Fitzgerald, Usama Asif). Ankit Bhatt (Year 10), David Wen (Year 10) and Dominic Fitzgerald also entered individual events. Our rowers had only spent a short time of a week or two in preparation for this event, whereas we found ourselves

against a very professional Bishop Vesey team. I'm afraid that pushed our rowers into second place in all events (out of about a dozen in each case). All things considered, our rowers did well; just think how well we could do if we found the time for a longer period of training.

■ M.J.G.



Swimming

During the dawn of October 2008, Camp Hill Boys set forth upon their annual crusade to Bromsgrove School for a swimming gala. Sumant Kapoor of Year 9 set the pace, clocking his first sub-30 seconds for 50 metres freestyle whilst Vinson Yeung chalked up the solitary individual win. However, victories in the freestyle relays highlighted the strength in depth of Camp Hill swimmers but the points total did not do the Camp Hill swimmers justice. We were good, but they were very good.

Remembrance Day 2008 saw the swimming squad take part in the English Schools Relay Team Swimming Championships at Thomas Telford School. Once upon a time, a youthful Mr Jack had led a team containing a certain young, athletic Andrew Caves to qualify for the national stage. How would the class of 2008 fare? Would the elegant tops, kindly donated by Early Years, prove decisive? The event saw many county and national grade swimmers take part and despite the best efforts from the boys, we failed to reach the heights of the legendary Camp Hill old boy – for now. The seniors and intermediates achieved 6th and 5th placings, respectively but the juniors fared best with a very commendable third position.

As Christmas approached, the pool was put out of action, igniting a horrible *déjà-vu* feeling. In the few functional days during the three week period, a crew from the BBC came to film Gerry Thain and his fifty year old Camp Hill Edwardians swimming club. Mr Thain, British Swimming manager at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, served the school for thirty years as Head of P.E. For his commitment and work, which saw him produce British and Commonwealth swimmers, he had been nominated for and won the BBC West Midlands 'Unsung Hero of the Year' award, going through to the national final.

Before the end of the term, the pool was back into action and hosted a mixed 'intermediate' gala against Tudor Grange School; this saw the boys meet some people called 'girls'. Camp Hill's wins were restricted but commendation must go to Andrew Jeskins, Sumant Kapoor, Lewis Hedges and Ben Griffin. However, Camp Hill's greater strength in depth saw the boys win all their relays in both age groups.

The New Year

meant a visit to St. Martin's School with the neighbouring Girls' School for a mixed gala also involving Solihull School. All of the age groups swam well, with Lewis Hedges, James Scott, Ben Griffin, Nick West, and Vinson Yeung gaining wins. However, the plaudits must go to the Year 10 side of Ben Smith, Alex Owen, Josh O'Donnell and Aaron Hsu for winning all their individual races and relays. The Year Eights and Nines must also receive credit for their age group wins.

A junior gala with our neighbours against Tudor Grange School was reduced to a Camp Hill derby gala due to logistical problems for the intended visitors. The boys won the right to claim to be the best junior swimming team on Vicarage Road with wins for Lewis Hedges, Luka Novovic, Charlie Song, Andrew Elliott, Hamish Wells and Alex Zhang.

The House Swimming Gala could go down as the best this decade in terms of drama. For the past five years, the Swimming Shield has been residing on Mr Southworth's Beaufort silverware shelf, but what sort of effect would the 'Caves Factor' have on Seymour? Could Mr Carman's Howard finally reverse their fortunes as Beaufort did in 2004? Or would Mr Nash's Tudor finish victorious? The House Swimming Standards saw reigning champions, Beaufort lead Seymour by a mere two points whilst Howard had a two point advantage over Tudor. Jordan McDonagh of Seymour drew first blood in the Year Seven freestyle. This upset Mr Southworth's Beaufort troops who reacted by winning the Year 8, Intermediate and Senior freestyle events. As the other events took place, every point counted...

The Intermediate Relay epitomised the gala with the momentum swinging back and forth and Seymour edging Beaufort by 0.3 seconds. A special mention must go to the Victor Ludorum winners: Year 7 – Joseph McElroy (Tudor), Year 8 – Lewis Hedges (Seymour), Intermediate – Alex Owen (Seymour) and Senior

and six-time winner, Vinson Yeung (Beaufort). Seymour were crowned swimming champions due to their impressive strength through all age groups. Credit to Mr. Caves and his merry men in gold – they worked together to produce a great team effort and truly deserve the House Swimming Shield. On behalf of the swimmers, we would particularly like to thank the staff for the afternoon.

The beginning of the summer term saw the team travel to Bromsgrove School again to participate in the West Midlands Relay Gala. With quality swimmers competing, the team struggled to reach the finals despite both Intermediate and Senior teams achieving second placings in their heats. The season finished with a trip to the scenic Warwick School, involving a mixed four school, five age-group gala. The team finished second and Pablo Taylor has certainly proved himself to be an excellent addition to the senior squad.

This year has been successful and we look forward to more future meetings with Tudor Grange School. For me to omit the following would be unfair; we would like to take this chance to thank these boys for their contribution towards school swimming; Philip Trzcinski, Andrew Bentley, Robbie Williams, Tom Perkins, Benedict Evans and Gulliver Bates. However, the galas that we have written about would have been impossible without Mr Jack and we feel that he deserves a good old pat on the back!

We bid farewell and good luck to Greg Evans, who has served the school swimming team for seven fine years and departs to study Mathematics at university. The forthcoming year should prove interesting as we welcome Jack Wishart from Arden School and a new intake of swimmers in Year Seven.

■ **Vinson Yeung, L5**

■ **P.R.J.**



Tennis

The Tennis season began early at Camp Hill with the Seniors (Cameron Fraser, Cameron Maciness, Tony Song and James Rogers) participating in the Senior Students Competition with a league programme during the Autumn term. After winning their local league they found themselves drawn against future national finalists Warwickshire College and lost to a very strong team. During the summer term, four pairs from Camp Hill played KES for the first time in a number of years at this level. Matt Aldham, Garen Khaira, Robert Smith and Andrew Jeskins joined the 'A' team players, but KES proved to have too much strength in depth and we lost the match 4-12. Special mention must go to Cameron Fraser who played his last match for the school. Cameron has given seven years' excellent commitment to school

Tennis and his presence on the tennis court will be missed.

The U15 team (Kameran Ali, Ollie Palmer, Chris Williams, Luke Pritchard Cairns and Lawrence Welch) had a successful season, winning three and drawing one of their league matches. One of their wins was a pleasing 5-1 defeat of KES, but the crucial league decider against Bishop Vesey was lost. The U15-B team (Lawrence Welch, Ben Palmer, David Warren, Sukhvir Lyall, Tom Dowling, Ed Thompson and Chris Curtis) won their league with three wins. The U13 team (Charlie Song, Ben Miller, James Ternent, Giles Moss, Oliver Jebson and Fateh Singh) won four of their five league matches, but lost narrowly to KES 'B' on games 19-26. The U13-B team (Oliver Jebson, Dilan Parmar, Faaris Zaki, Fateh Singh, Kieran Bakhtiari and Liam Bradley) won three



out of their four matches. All the Year 7 players also took part in the Birmingham Slam Finals at Edgbaston Priory during the AEGON Women's Classic and achieved a very creditable fourth place out of twelve teams from the West Midlands.

■ **C.M.J.**

C.H. Old Edwardians Golfing Society

Founded in 1951, C.H.O.E.G.S. meets three times a year for golf, dinner and a catch up with old friends. Handicaps and ages vary considerably and all are most welcome to apply for membership. Our meetings are as follows:

—A **spring meeting**, where we compete individually for the Philip Holden Challenge Cup. Commissioned in 1951, the trophy is a fine and very valuable piece of silver. Since 1969 the runner-up is awarded the Crosbie Holden silver salver.

—A **mid-year match** against Aston Old Edwardians for the aptly named OE Old Friends' trophy.

—An **autumn meeting**, where we have played since 1963 for the Bert Leech (founding president) putters.

2009 Results:

Philip Holden Challenge Cup

— David Hudson

Crosbie Holden Silver Salver

— Mark McWhirter

Old Friends Trophy

— Aston Old Eds!!

Bert Leech Putters

— Alan Humphries and Mike Ravenhill

I know that both Alan and Mike will think back on the autumn meeting as a hollow victory. One of our finest young golfers, George Cookson, was unable to compete for the Bert Leech putters. An unfortunate incident with his newly self-installed Stannah stairlift resulted in a broken wrist forcing him to withdraw from the competition.

If you are interested in joining the society, please drop me a line:

warren@tinkertaylor.tv

or speak to Mr Caves at school.

■ **Warren Taylor**, *Hon. Secretary*

Camp Hill Rugby Football Club

Once again promotion proved to be 'a poisoned chalice'. After winning everything in sight in the previous year, we came down to earth with a bang, winning only 5 out of 22 League matches.

A combination of factors contributed to this scenario. We lost a number of influential, experienced players due to retirement or injury and the new players we recruited were mostly young and inexperienced at this level (this however should reap huge benefits in the future).

As a result of the Leagues being restructured, no relegation was enforced at our level, thus, despite finishing bottom of Midlands 2 West, we find ourselves in Midlands 1 West for the 2009-10 season.

The Victor Saville Award this year went to School 1st XV Captain Jonathan Wilkes in recognition of his efforts in fostering links between School and Club. Jon and a number of other School players represented the Club at both Colts and Senior levels along with many former pupils.

We continued to improve numbers of people playing each week. A situation most clubs struggle to achieve. Numbers of minis and juniors expand each year thanks to Chairman of that section Nick Freeman and his fantastic support team.

Following last year's international success we had three players making the step up. Chris Fox played for England under 18s. Jo Hart made the England Ladies under 20s squad, although she had to withdraw after selection due to injury.

Dan Toth played a full international for Hungary, our first full international since old boy Brian Wightman represented England in the 1950s and 60s.

The Ladies continue to acquit themselves excellently finishing fourth in National Championship One (North).

Two factors making a real improvement to the Club in the last 12 months have been the re-laying and drainage of two pitches and the fencing of the ground. The improvement to the ambience of the ground has been quite staggering. Our thanks to the Rugby Football Foundation and everyone else who made donations.

Mr Caves continues to act as School/Club coordination officer. Any boys or parents wishing to play for the club at any level can be sure of his guidance.

Finally we welcomed our new President Mr Mike Roden and look forward to seeing him on a regular basis.

■ **Dave Maiden**, *Chairman* (www.chrhc.co.uk)



Sports Day 2009





House Reports

Beaufort

The Golden Age of Beaufort continued in 2008–2009, with our fourth House Championship in five years. The margin of victory in the past two years has been very comfortable but this year, Seymour, urged on by young Captain Caves, pushed us hard and the title was not secured until the final week of the Summer term.

The year began with our very talented senior soccer squad winning both the eleven and five-a-side versions of the game; the Inters and Juniors fared less well but we were able to share the overall title with Howard. The Senior and Inter rugby teams won everything, ensuring that once again the Rugby title was ours and we repeated this triumph in the cross-country, where, notably, Callum Miller completed a unique success in winning the senior race, which meant that he leaves the School never, over seven years, having been beaten in a cross country finals race.

Despite these successes, we could not shake off Seymour. Our performance in the more minor sports was generally weak, although Matthew Dodd led the House to second place in the Chess. We also came a miserable last in the Basketball. Alarm bells really began to ring when we failed, for the first time in six years, to win the Swimming, pushed into second place by Seymour.

However, in a tense final struggle, we managed to hold Seymour at bay. After a shared victory in the Hockey, we did what was needed – just! – in Cricket and Tennis and enjoyed a splendid Sports Day. John Lutwyche in the Year 10 100 metres and the Year 10 Relay Team, of John Lutwyche, Ankit Bhatt, Nathan Cornwall and Chris Williams, both set new School records. Damian Bishop, John Lutwyche (again!), Nick Wilson, Alex Barwani-Rai and Kyle Reed, all either won or shared the Victor Ludorum in their respective year groups. Beaufort won by a mile!

Much of our success this year, and in the recent past, was due to our talented Upper Sixth lads, whose commitment to the House has been outstanding. It certainly made it difficult to choose a winner for the Vivian Bird Award. Because they had been ‘honoured’ elsewhere, John Wilkes and Callum Miller were passed over, as were Reece Bennett and James Smith, who led the House with enthusiasm throughout the Year. The Award finally went to two excellent Beaufort stalwarts, Danny Kerrigan and Billy Welch. The class of 2009 will be much missed.

On a personal note, this is my last full year in charge of Beaufort; a new Housemaster will be appointed by Christmas. I have done this job for a very long time; it has been a great privilege and a very real pleasure to lead the House and I wish my successor and the whole House every success in the future.

■ *M.R.S.*

Howard

Ending the year in 3rd place overall was somewhat disappointing and perhaps did not fully reflect the effort which was evident throughout the year. Although we did not win many trophies outright, we did improve in several key areas and ended the season on a high note, with the Intermediate cricket securing their section, which enabled us to ultimately share the trophy. We still need to make greater efforts to improve our situation in ‘standards’ competitions and to avoid eventual last place in these. Nevertheless, there are some signs, under George Symes and senior team, that we can look forward with confidence to better times.

To all the boys in the house, I would like to say that your efforts have not passed unnoticed and although we may not have won many trophies, you can hold your heads high in the certain knowledge that you have always done your best. The ‘renaissance’ of Howard is due very soon and we must all work together to ensure success for 2009/10, with our recently appointed house captain Harris Hussain leading by example.

■ *P.T.C.*

Tudor

So another year has been and gone, and it comes to the time to reflect on all that has happened in a typically busy year. This year’s championship has been extremely close and Tudor has had its fair share of ups and downs, with a slow start to the year in the House Rugby and revamped House Football competitions, where performances were encouraging if not wholly successful. However, the Green Machine soon picked up pace in the late Autumn term.

A particularly pleasing sight this year has been the enthusiasm of the Juniors. This was clearly evident in the strong performances in the House Cross Country standards and finals. Congratulations to Charlie Song on finishing first in the Junior section in a course

record. A great set of results on finals day saw Tudor finish in 2nd overall for the Cross Country. The Juniors were also in action in Table Tennis, a Tudor stronghold. Once again the men in green proved their worth and ‘battered’ their opponents in all three age groups to take a comprehensive 1st place.

The spring term saw a whitewash of two sorts. The first was the snow unfortunately interrupting Tudor’s attempt at retaining their surprise Chess title from last year. The second was Tudor stalwart Kuldeep Samra captaining the side to victory in all three matches to show that last year was no flash in the pan. Then came the centrepiece of the spring term – the Swimming Gala. Not Tudor’s best event, but one that was contributed to again by all members of the younger years through swimming standards. Once again, praise must go to the Juniors, in particular Joe McElroy who stormed to victory in all three of his races to take the Year 7 Victor Ludorum, and to Ben Smith who narrowly missed out on the Intermediate prize, finishing 2nd behind Alex Owen, whose house Seymour managed to overhaul long-standing champions Beaufort.

The traditional events of the summer term saw Tudor perform well in the Tennis 1st, and in the Cricket, though we were unlucky not to achieved better than 4th. The Athletics also saw Tudor finish 3rd but mention must be made of two Toms, Murphy and Kostuch who both claimed the Victor Ludorum in years 8 and 9 respectively. Similarly, Mr Nash wishes me to mention the great spirit of all Tudor participants and spectators, especially those younger members of the school who had to step in at the last minute in the wake of illness.

When I look back over this year, I struggle to see how we came 4th, even if only by one point. It is a position that does not reflect the hard work that all have put in and the great achievements of those involved. With victories in Table tennis and Chess, there are things to look forward to next year and things to improve on. Based on this years performances, the heart of next year’s revival will be a strong Junior and Intermediate section, whilst the Seniors know the business by now and have already started the campaign. Come on Tudor!!!

■ *Nathan Brown, L2*

Seymour

So it was not quite to be in 2008–09 for Seymour. Beaufort clung on this time but Mr Southworth is worried and looking over his shoulder. A second place finish in the House Championship this year is a big step forward for Seymour. And not only that, we have started to feature more prominently in the big competitions, winning the swimming gala and pushing

Beaufort all the way on sports day.

I would like to congratulate all members of the house who have contributed in some way this year. Whether you are a Victor Ludorum or have struggled valiantly to gain a one-point cross country standard, your efforts are applauded, appreciated and have counted towards a resurgent Seymour performance. So many boys have shown tremendous commitment and have acquitted themselves to the very best of their abilities. Of particular note have been our year 7 teams, performing consistently well throughout the year across all disciplines and also our senior boys who have taken on positions of responsibility and leadership with maturity and efficacy. Nowhere was this more evident than in the leadership of Cameron Fraser as House Captain, helped by the continued support of Vivian Bird Trophy winner Atta Khan and a strong suite of senior Seymour men. Cameron was, like so many of our senior boys, more than happy to be out supporting junior teams, offering advice and coaching and showing genuine delight in the many individual victories that we chalked up over the course of the year.

We certainly have our strengths in Seymour but we also have our areas for improvement! Football, cross-country, hockey and chess will all need to improve significantly next year if we are continue in our mission to gain first place in the House competition overall. And we will need to quickly inculcate the new Seymour cohort with the philosophy of teamwork and pride in the Seymour Gold.

We accept our second place with good grace and good humour, recognising the contributions of each of the other houses and hopefully using it to inspire us to victory next year. However, I think that we have shed our image as an also-ran. We are serious contenders and rest assured we will rise to the challenge again in 2009–10.

My final words ought to acknowledge those to whom we bid farewell in 2009. This year sees 29 Seymour House alumni leaving Camp Hill for pastures new. They will, no doubt, regale their new university chums with tales of how they beat Howard by three tries to one at rugger or how they gave Tudor a jolly good thrashing on the cricket square. Perhaps they will entertain people at dinner parties for years to come with their stories of how they scored the minimum possible points total in the House Festival of 2008. What is certain, however, is that they enter the big wide world as confident, upstanding and fearless young men who have faced down the worthy opponents of Beaufort, Tudor and Howard. And like gladiators earning their freedom, they stride out of the arena ready to seek new challenges. Good luck men. There is a part of you that will be forever gold.

■ **A.J.C.**

The House Quiz

This year saw the introduction of the House Quiz and although the competition did not count towards the final house tallies, it was still a fiercely contested tussle. The competition took place at three levels, starting with intermediate (years 10 and 11), then senior (Sixth Form) and finally junior (years 7 to 9). Each quiz consisted of a series of rounds in which individual and team competencies were tested. For 2009–2010, the House Quiz will become an integral part of the House Competition Calendar with points counting towards the final total.

Intermediate House Quiz

The year started with the Intermediate Quiz and it soon became apparent that the two outstanding teams of Seymour and Beaufort would be going head to head in the final fixture to delivery victory. Tudor gained the 'wooden spoon' following an earlier defeat to Howard. The final seemed to be going Beaufort's way, following rounds identifying capital cities and world dictators Beaufort held a commanding lead of six points, it was down to the final lucky dip round. Seymour were able to answer five correct questions with no reply from Beaufort leaving the score at 31 apiece, it was down to the captains to settle the championship once and for all. Seymour Captain James Jordan was unable to name the first dog in space, Alex Riley of Beaufort also missed out on Laika. So it was down to the last question... What is the British equivalent of Flushing Meadow? Alex was unable to provide the answer and it was up to James to answer Wimbledon and to give Seymour and thrilling and unlikely victory. Mr Caves' over-the-top celebrations were, for once, justified.

Congratulations to the winning team of Alex Owen, Veer Mann, Chris Carter and, as Captain, James Jordan.

Senior House Quiz

In the early summer term attention moved to the Seniors, the fixtures were brought forward to ensure participation from the departing Year 13s. The final round of the Senior House Quiz started in the remarkable position where any of the four Houses could win the tournament. The first fixture pitched Howard against Tudor and resulted in a victory for Tudor who sailed into a strong lead with a knowledge of things beginning with 'V' and never looked back. This meant that Tudor would emerge as Champions if the final fixture ended in a draw.

Seymour and Beaufort were evenly matched sides throughout, it was all-square in each of the first three rounds on things starting with 'Y', playwrights and Latin abbreviations. Seymour swung into a narrow lead following their commanding knowledge of Disney Film villains. The 'Lucky dip' round

started 19 to Seymour, 17½ to Beaufort. Beaufort were able to claw back the deficit by answering all three of their first questions correctly. With Aled Walker correctly answering his question as Captain for Seymour (Who is the closest British equivalent to Joe Biden? Harriet Harman) the scores were a nail-biting 23 to Seymour, 23½ to Beaufort. It was down to Beaufort Captain James Smith to seal the win with the very last question – Where in the World could you find Uluru? Australia (Aborigine for Ayers Rock). James answered Zimbabwe and the question was passed on to the Seymour team who answered correctly gaining the bonus mark and winning the tournament by 24 marks to 23½. The closest possible result. History repeated itself and Seymour took an almost unassailable lead in the overall House Competition. The final standing were 4th Howard, 3rd Beaufort, 2nd Tudor and 1st Seymour – congratulations to the Seymour winning team of Captain Aled Walker, Philip Terry, Andrew Briggs and Liam O'Brien.

Junior House Quiz

Following two narrow victories for Seymour in the Senior and Intermediate competitions, it was time to see if the other houses could claw back some pride and provide hope for future years. Earlier fixtures put Beaufort into the position of early favourites and they went into the final round with two wins against one for Seymour and one for Tudor. In the first fixture, Howard were able to restore some pride with a spectacular 18 point victory over Tudor, both teams were particularly impressive though on being able to name CBeebies programmes. This left it up to Seymour to take on the challenge for a clean sweep of the 2009 Titles, once again in a final fixture against Beaufort. Beaufort were at a slight disadvantage with two replacements in their team for the day but as the rounds of 'What K?', capital cities, art and the picture round on BBC News Presenters developed, it became clear that Seymour would not pull off another spectacular final question victory. Following the lucky dip, Beaufort came out unbeaten with a comfortable six point margin of success. This left the final standings as follows: 4th Tudor, 3rd Howard, 2nd Seymour, 1st Beaufort. Congratulations to all participants in the Beaufort winning team: Gethin Bradnam, Fraser West, Humza Waqas, Sanjay Nath, Thulitha Weerasena and Captain, Edward Thompson.

The overall result for the full House Quiz Competition: in joint 3rd Howard and Tudor with 5 points, 2nd Beaufort with 9 points, and in a comfortable 1st place Seymour with 11 points. Aled Walker, overall Captain of Seymour came up to receive the certificate for this year's achievement. Here's looking forward to further Quiz excitement over the coming year with House competition points now at stake.

■ **G.N.H.**

Camp Hill Old Edwardians' Association

Chairman's Report

This is the tenth year since we reformed and the majority of our officers elected then remain on the Committee. The Hon. Treasurer, who has done a sterling job, retires from office. We have circulated this vacancy in various ways and Will Hemming (1992-1999) has grasped the nettle.

Another concern is the number of members who are in arrears with subscriptions. It is felt we give good value for the £10.00 per annum subscription (boys leaving school £5.00 covers the first four years) by providing the School Chronicle which incorporates our section, the opportunity to join trips to various interesting places organised superbly by our Hon. Secretary Roland Staples and the Annual Dinner held at the school. The one held at the School in February was well attended; we had a welcome speech by our new President, Mike Roden, one from Eddie Saunders, the well known Rugby player and one from the Deputy Head Boy, James Smith. Generous funding was received from Sir Reginald Eyre and John Davis.

In order to recognise the services of George Cookson (Mr Chips) to the Association, we have lodged £500 to fund a prize in his name annually at the school. We have also done likewise in the name of Vincent Darby, Headmaster 2003-2008, who has taken up the Headship of Wolverhampton Co-Educational Grammar School. In the case of George Cookson, he was presented with a book with over 100 signatures and comments from staff, pupils and friends. We also have an old style Rugby cap with tassel. It has CHOE on the peak and embroidered in gold letters on the quarter above the peak "George Cookson 1969-2008". This is still to be presented to him – elusive as ever! The Association has also deposited £500 to provide a prize annually at the school in the name of CHOE Association for leadership and initiative.

Two former pupils, David Kay, former Head Boy and Alex Hammond, former Deputy Head Boy and 1st XV Captain have spent 3 weeks in Uganda with a non-profit charity called Soft Power Education. To help fund them, the Association provided £500 each. We hope to receive articles for the Chronicle concerning their Ugandan enterprise. The Hon. Secretary has organ-

ised further trips; to Cambridge University on 5th March, to Hook Norton Brewery on 19th May, to RAF Halton (near Aylesbury) on 14th July and to RAF Cottesmore (Oakham, Rutland) on 25th September.

On 17th June the tenth AGM of the Association was held at the school. The required quorum was just achieved. Once again this evidences satisfaction with the business carried out by the Committee. The election of Officers etc resulted in the following: President, the Headmaster, Mr M. Roden, Chairman, Mr K. P. Birrell, Vice Chairman, Mr M. P. Crutchley, Hon. Secretary, Mr R. L. Staples, Hon. Treasurer, to be appointed, Hon. Membership Secretary Mr D. W. Phillips. Committee: Mr A. Caves, Mr G. H. Cookson, Mr S. Holder, Mr J. Hutton, Mr P. A. Twiby, Mr T. F. Wellings, Mr A. Taylor (school boy representative). An Association's directory of members was well received and membership secretary, David Phillips, who instigated it, will supervise a new print as it needs updating with sadly a few deletions.

The sad news of Camp Hill Old Edwardians' Cricket Club merging with Tanworth in Arden Cricket Club is being carefully monitored as regards tenure of the ground by three of our members: Chairman of Governors, Jim Beeston O.B.E., David Phillips and Bob Brown. Should the Rumbush Lane ground go then those members/Old Boys who contributed and are now departed will not sleep though poppies grow in Rumbush Lane!

No further news to impart on the provision of the memorial stained glass window, the memorial gateway or the school panorama photographs. We will fund bringing up to date the carvings on the Headmaster's Chair. Paul Lewis of Leamington Spa will receive it and carve the new names upon it.

We have congratulated Norman Davies on becoming Mayor of Solihull. He was at Camp Hill September 1953 – July 1960. He attended Camp Hill RFC's Vice Presidents' Day on Saturday 3rd October. He and the Mayoress have accepted an invitation to our Annual Dinner at the School on Friday 5th February 2010.

Sadly we have to record the following deaths; John Bentley (1926–1932) on 13th August 2009, Stanley Lates (1929–1934) on 22nd March 2009, Ernest Price (1932–37) on 3rd March 2009, Donald Hudson (1933–1939) on 11th September 2009,

James Henry Ridsdale (1936–1943) on 24th February 2009 – he was a master at School 1950–1962, John M. Roberts (1941–1947) on 15th May 2009, Anthony Neville Jackson (1943–1949) on 27th September 2009, Graham Baugh (1944–1950) on 26th May 2009.

Resignations have been received from: Clive Biggs (1947–1953), F. J. Clough (1945–1950), Alan Lewis (1947–1951), Peter Munnoch (1936–1944) and Brian Tebbutt (1947–1954).

■ *K. P. Birrell, Chairman*

Congratulations Norman Davies

We extend congratulations to Norman who has been elected Mayor of Solihull 2009–10 and to his wife, Brenda, Mayoress.

Norman was born on 22nd May 1942, attended Camp Hill School from 10th September 1953 to 22nd July 1960 when he went to St Peter's College, Salford and trained as a Science Teacher. In 1963 he was appointed to the staff of Alderlea Boys Secondary School, Shard End. After five years he became Head of Science at Stockland Green Bilateral School in Erdington where he spent eight years and was promoted to Director of Studies. During this time, with other colleagues, he published Science Text Books for Robert Maxwell of the Pergamon Press.

From 1970 to 1979 he also acted as Head of the Adult Education Centre, Holte School, Newtown on a part time basis. From 1980 he had various appointments, the final one being in the Leisure Department as Assistant Director until early retirement in 1995.

In 1996 Norman stood as Liberal Democrat for the Olton Ward of Solihull Council and was duly elected as a councillor, a position he still holds. He was elected Group Leader and therefore leader of the opposition in 2005 until being elected Mayor of the Borough of Solihull from 12th May this year.

Trip to Cambridge

5th March 2009

On a reasonably sunny day in early spring 48 Old Boys set off from the usual car park for a guided tour of the Cambridge Colleges.

Our first port of call was the Three Tuns inn at Fenny Drayton about nine miles before the City of Cambridge. This inn has a long history being at one time a Guild Hall before later extensions. The meal was a fixed one but there was an alternative of fish and chips which some members preferred. We left there and soon ran up the miles to the Colleges.

As we were a large party we received three guides who were extremely well informed regarding the City centre buildings. We were met near the entrance to Kings by our lady guides and split into three parties who set off independently. I had

asked for a visit to Kings College but unfortunately due to afternoon lectures we had to call it off and our guides substituted, with our agreement, Pembroke which we found out later was one of the oldest and proved an excellent substitute.

Our first call was to this college designed by Christopher Wren and then we followed on to Trinity listening intently to all the history that these wonderful buildings provide and to learn of all the famous people who attended them. Interesting facts were explained by our guide about how the students fared in the cold winters that were prevalent in the middle ages and until twelfth century. The lack of suitable light was also an enormous handicap especially as the only illumination was a rush lamp. Apparently all work had to stop when the light failed and when conditions deteriorated in the winter the students went home and wrapped themselves in blankets sitting by the fire, if there was one.

After the tour we had an interval before the start of the evensong service in Kings College chapel which most spent finding a cafe for tea but certain members found a pub which had an aeronautical flavour with Second World War air crew signatures on the ceiling made by using a candle. Round the walls were many pictures of aircraft and artifacts of the local area.

Finally we met outside the Chapel just as the sun was beginning to drop towards the horizon and from inside we were able to watch the slow progress of the setting sun through the beautiful stained glass windows. When the service ended we were almost in darkness apart from the candles. A truly memorable day out which will be remembered for a long time. We returned to our starting point about 21.00 with thanks to Basher provided by Ken.

■ **R. L. Staples** ('Basher')



Visit to Hook Norton

19th May 2009

On 19th May 2009 a second coach trip was arranged by Basher to visit Hook Norton Brewery... our driver took us out in a fifty-seater with only 30 on board. This gave us an opportunity to 'move around' and chat up the ladies who regularly join us on these tours.

Everyone was on time from Sydenham Notcutts and after some misturns south of Banbury (Basher's fault) we arrived before mid-day and were subdivided into groups of 10 to be taken around by three of the staff. We were warned that there would be six flights of very steep stairs and given due notice that we must be careful with hand-rails, slippery floors, noisy machinery, etc.

The history was explained to us from the 1850s; founded by farmer John Harris and today is the only brewery driven by steam, the use of 30 shire horses and drays in the beginning delivering beer up to a 20 mile radius, now only three such horses travel to local pubs within 3 mile radius (Consul, Major and Nelson).

The whole procedure and source of ingredients, malt and hops from Scotland, Kent, Worcestershire and other neighbouring counties, clearly made this a true British product. The machinery on six floors was belt driven and very noisy when operating. The aroma did not make one heady but did create a desire to sample the product when the tour was over. It was noted that the water source was in the valley where the village and brewery were at the lowest point.

There was a sad note in the Hooky News of the death of the late Chairman, Richard Gilchrist, while out riding with the

Cheshire Hunt. The board and staff are bent on continuing the family business for long term success.

Concluding the tour in the barrelling shop we then adjourned to the bar to sample seven different brews. Some of us took to the coffee quite well and purchased Old Hooky Beer Mustard as well as other souvenirs.

Leaving for lunch to be repeated at the White Hart Eynsham took us quite some time, a journey some 20 miles south west. The weather was dry but cool and did enable us to play a sport involving six wooden sticks to throw at an Aunt Sally. We ate all that was laid out and took a drink or two before boarding for home with the majority having a good snooze. Hook Norton would

welcome private visits any time by pre-booking. You can buy their bottled beer at Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose.

■ **Trevor F. Wellings**

(not a beer drinker but accompanied by his son Peter who must have learnt the art at Solihull School!)

Visit to R.A.F. Halton 14th July 2009

On the 14th of July a party of 36 Old Boys and friends set off for RAF Halton from Notcutts in sunshine on the 33rd trip. The journey took about an hour and a half through Aylesbury to the village of Wendover. The station has no airfield as such but covers a very wide area with many gates and is centred around the lovely old house originally owned by the Rothschild family and given to the services during the First World War. Firstly used by the Army, it was taken over by the RAF in the 1920s as a training establishment for their engineers under the guidance of Lord Trenchard. It continued in this role until the Second World War and those trained there were called 'Brats' and are still known by this name. It is now used as an initial training wing for recruits. On the day of our visit there was a passing out parade

attended by parents which unfortunately we had to miss.

Our first call was to the museum which was most interesting and very well described by our guide, there was a cockpit from a Hawk trainer which several members used for action photos. While we were luckily inside the Museum the parade ground received a terrible downpour which could have prematurely ended the parade but fortunately the sun came soon afterwards. We then were escorted round to the Officers mess receiving an introductory talk in the anteroom from the custodian Mr Larkin (ex Group Captain) who now lives on the estate.

So we went in to lunch which was praised by all, there was a choice of Lasagne or the good old English dish of Curry. Then it was a guided tour of the house with the good Group Captain who had superb knowledge of the contents and

general artefacts interspersed with stories of famous visitors. No doubt we will all remember the one about Mrs Thatcher who apparently thoroughly enjoyed her time there. We returned to the anteroom and the RAF photographer (F/Lt) arrived and took pictures from the balcony, followed by our own members. The backdrop of stairs and curtains was a perfect place for the group photo and the ones taken by our man Brian Cox were first rate. We then were invited to purchase some of the books and stories of the Station which sold very well and then it was back to the coach after thanking our hosts for a most enjoyable day.

We were invited to return to witness the passing out parade sometime in the future which we would be happy to do. Thanks were given for the organisation of the day to 'Basher' who thanked Maurice Powell for the suggestion of the trip.

■ **R. L. Staples ('Basher')**





Visit to RAF Cottesmore 25th September 2009

This was our last trip of the season which took place on a very sunny Friday at the end of September and was the 34th trip since the trips were started in 2002. As usual the start was from Tesco's car park near junction 5 of the M42 motorway in a 44 seater coach supplied by Johnsons.

The airfield was built in 1937-9 during the expansion of the RAF. Originally a bomber station it now is home to the Harrier force of 2 RAF and 2 RN Squadrons who spend three months in Afghanistan turn about with other Squadrons.

Arriving at RAF Cottesmore, just outside Oakham, spot on time as requested at 10.15 am, we were met by Sergeant David Craven who had arranged the day for us. David was in charge of the hanger facilities and apparently enjoyed a very responsible

position despite his uncommissioned rank. We disembarked from our coach and followed Dave into one of the original buildings, now a briefing room, where we had a very interesting talk from the Wing Commander in charge of the station organisation including a short visit from the Group Captain CO, who managed to spare a few minutes of his valuable time to welcome us.

We were then taken over to the ivy-clad Sergeants' Mess building for coffee and biscuits and for informal chats with the four NCOs who spent the day with us. Shortly afterwards we went to lunch in the mess where we had a single course of fish and chips. Despite the single course everyone enjoyed the meal and the drinks at 80p per pint and similar low prices for wine. Unfortunately there had been a small fire in the kitchen which delayed some of the meals but all was well.

Afterwards an RAF coach arrived and we were taken to the hangers to meet the pilots and see the aircraft close up. Interestingly they were planning for a welcome

home for some personnel returning from overseas during Friday evening and a Spitfire had been brought into the hanger creating much interest for our group. An interesting evening looked to be in store for the personnel and families. We were able freely to talk and photograph as we liked and even sit in the Harrier cockpit under the eye of a very well informed avionics expert. We were then grouped up and the official RAF [lady] photographer climbed scaffolding and took the picture which turned out to be superb and copies will be circulated. While we were all together I was able to express our heartfelt thanks to the RAF for their help in making our day so memorable, and to let them know, we would be able to leave a cheque for £60 for their sponsorship.

Sadly it was time to be taken back to our coach for the return journey; however the final sight was of a Harrier hovering over the runway and slowly sinking to the deck, a perfect end to a perfect day.

■ R. L. Staples ('Basher')

A review of the trips and the future

The first trip was to RAF Uxbridge in 1992 the only time we picked up from our OB's rigger ground in Haslucks Green Road. Almost all the following trips were by kind permission of Messrs Tesco near junction 4 of the M42 and I give our thanks which have saved cost and trouble.

There followed 33 further trips to various locations and many to places where individuals would not be able to reach. Fortunately I managed to use contacts which

enabled us to visit these mainly service sites which proved extremely interesting but recently I was a bit disappointed at the number of the OB's who attended. The trips are governed by the size of the coaches and the numbers, which I made up from friends who have been very supportive and saved us having to resort to much higher prices. Over the time that the days out were run we have lost ten members, two of whom brought their wives so there was this to be made up at a time when costs are rising significantly. I also am getting older and finding it more difficult to handle, if

only there were less Hospital appointments! (and this applies to me as well). So after due consideration I have decided to take a rest and severely cut down the frequency of the visits next year. I am sorry because I have had enjoyment from organising them and spending the days out with old friends.

So it will be next year when I will have another look at the situation, anticipating your support and thanks for the super days we spent between 2002 and 2009.

Most supported days were: Cambridge: 48, Wroughton: 46 and Uxbridge (2nd): 46

■ R. L. Staples ('Basher')

Vice Presidents' Day 2009

The picture below was taken at Camp Hill RFC's Vice Presidents' Day on 3rd October 2009 and shows Club Chairmen, past and present.

Back Row: Martin Crutchley (Chairman 2000–06), Jeff Baldwin (Chairman 1986–94), Dave McConnell (Chairman 1994–97), Brian Trumper (Chairman 1977–80), Brian Burton (Chairman 1983–86), Alistair Hayward (Chairman 1997–2000).

Front Row: Mike Roden (Headmaster and President 2008–date), John Daniell (Chairman 1964–71), Councillor Norman Davies (Mayor of Solihull), Dave Maiden (Chairman 2006–date), Ken Birrell Chairman (1974–77).



Messrs. Crutchley, Baldwin, Trumper, Burton, Daniell, Davies, Maiden and Birrell are all former pupils at Camp Hill School.

Only two surviving former Chairmen

are missing from the photograph: Roy Lawrence (1952–64) and Ron Walker (1980–83), both again former pupils.

Soft Power Education: Uganda

Before embarking on our journey, neither David nor I had ever been out of Europe and certainly had never been in contact with a community who lived and survived in the poverty that we imagined we would see when we arrived in Uganda. The little I knew about the country itself was that it was situated right on the equator in East Africa and had suffered under one of the most notorious dictatorial regimes in recent history, that of Idi Amin. We had received lots of information from the charity with whom we would be working with (Soft Power Education) but still could not really imagine what kind of environment we would be working and living in for the next four weeks.

So 20 hours after departing from Birmingham airport, we touched down in Entebbe, Uganda's main airport. Once through baggage control, we were picked up by a taxi driver who would take us on the 3 hour drive to our campsite in Jinja, Uganda's second largest city. As we bumped along the dusty roads through Kampala (the capital), we gained our first glimpse into the real Uganda. The country is very green and far more verdant than we had expected, evidently due to being at the edge of Lake Victoria and the source of the river Nile. Everywhere we looked, there were tiny huts made of mud and corrugated iron with children appearing from everywhere waving and shouting as we drove past. As we hit a jam in the centre of Kampala, street sellers swarmed the cars desperately trying to sell us their kebabs, bananas, water, watches and a whole host of other items as our taxi driver shooed them away. When we

finally arrived at our campsite for the first weekend, the whole experience of the drive had been quite overwhelming and took a while for it all to sink in but as we soon discovered, sights such as those above were commonplace when white people are spotted by the locals and we soon became very accustomed to practices like bartering with the local sellers and at the same time getting to know many people who helped us out with directions and recommendations.

At 9.00am on Monday morning, we were picked up by the soft power truck and taken to our school, Musima Primary School in the rural village of Musima. As soon as we arrived, we very quickly realised that we would get to know the 300 pupils of the school very well as the second we jumped off the truck, many of them ran over to introduce themselves and ask how we were and how our journey was. This was our first glimpse into Ugandan hospitality, something that humbled and amazed us throughout the project.

Once settled in to our 'home' for the next four weeks, a small empty room at the side of the preschool classroom, we were introduced to the foreman of the project who welcomed us to his team (there were also 13 local builders working with us on the project) and outlined the main jobs that we would be doing every day. These included carrying bricks to the new building, digging the mud out of the ground to make the bricks from, carting this mud the 300m stretch to the brick maker and making the bricks themselves.

For our first few days these jobs proved pretty exhausting and working in a heat that we weren't used to, we had to

take regular breaks, drink vast quantities of water and apply lots of suncream, much to the delight of the children who had never seen it before and found it highly amusing to cover themselves in it and then go to class amid screams from their other classmates. Once we acclimatised to our environment, the work became far more enjoyable particularly as we were joined by a group of 11 Canadian students and an Irish couple and so our new classroom building began to shoot up very quickly.

As our time in Musima progressed, we began to form some very strong friendships with the builders, the teachers and the children, many of whom were desperately keen for us to visit their families in the village. Eager to learn more about the culture, we tried to do as many of these visits as we could where invariably we would be greeted by an entire extended family who had turned out to meet the 'mzungus' (Ugandan for white people) and were always offered hot tea and usually something to eat. For me this just summed up the generous spirit of the Ugandan people who although comparative to us had nothing in the way of material possessions but always insisted that they made us food and tea.

When we weren't working, we spent



a lot of time talking to the children and exchanging knowledge about each other's cultures, something that proved highly fruitful in understanding the way of life and daily practices of people living in a country such as Uganda. Also while off building time, I got the opportunity to teach a singing lesson to a class, an experience I will never forget as I have never met a group of children so eager and willing to learn. This as I discovered is because education is viewed as top of the priority list within Ugandan communities and so is held in very high esteem.

By the time that we left the school, our school building was finished except for putting the roof on, which was a job only the builders could do. We drove away having learnt so much about a group of people that we had previously known nothing about. We are still in contact with a number of these people and continue to learn about the development of the village and the country as a whole. We returned home exhausted but having had one of the most eye opening and rewarding experiences of our lives. So all that is left to say is thank

you to the Old Boys Association for helping us to get there in the first place! We are hugely indebted to you all for your generous support, thank you from ourselves and from everyone at Musima Primary School.

■ **Alex Hammond and David Kay**



Obituaries

James Henry Ridsdale (Jim) 1925–2009

Born 8th August 1925, died 24th February 2008. He entered Camp Hill School 15th September 1936. He captained the School 1st XV 1942–43 and held the office of joint Head Boy. After leaving school, Jim served in the Fleet Air Arm as a Meteorologist in India and Ceylon. After demobilisation, he entered the University of Birmingham, graduating in Geography and P.G.C.E.

He had a most successful career with the Old Boys Rugby Club and Cricket Club. Although a very useful cricketer – a most tenacious opening bat – it was for his performances on the rugby field he is best remembered, making 107 appearances at fullback or on the wing between 1946 and 1953. Kicking 28 conversions, 19 penalties and scoring 20 tries, he was awarded his Colours 1950–51. He played in the first Teddy Parker Memorial match in 1950–51. In the 1953–54 season, he dislocated his shoulder early in the match versus Walsall on 26th September 1953. We lost 9–16 – no replacements in those days.

He was the School representative on the Rugby Club's committee 1949–1962. He joined Camp Hill School's teaching staff in 1951 and became Head of Geography in 1952. After a short time he found a new outlet for his interest in rugby by assuming responsibility for the 1st XV. He threw himself into the work with characteristic energy and enthusiasm and had the great satisfaction of seeing several boys attain International honours. His work in this field received recognition, when he was invited to become an England selector.

But for all his tremendous enthusiasm for rugby, he never neglected the wider aspects of education. On numerous occasions during the summer holidays, he organised trips to various European countries. With his wife Margaret, he took many visits from Edgbaston High School.

In 1962, he was appointed Deputy Head of Birchfield Secondary Modern School. Many said this was 'professional suicide', but he knew better; he needed experience if he was to succeed in his ambition to be a headmaster. In 1964 he was appointed Head of Sheldon Heath Comprehensive Middle School; in 1968 he was appointed Headmaster of St George's Church of England Comprehensive School – the first church comprehensive school in Birmingham. His final appointment was

in 1978 as Headmaster of Shenley Court Comprehensive School, from where he retired.

He established a link with the L.E.A. and church education, based on 25 years as a deputy or head and became involved with the Diocesan Board of Education; Vice Chairman 1972–82 and Chairman 1982–94.

He became Honorary Secretary of Greater Birmingham Schools Rugby Union in 1952, R.F.S.U. selector for 15 years, R.F.S.U. Team Manager of the 15 Group for 6 years. He was made a Life Member of R.F.S.U. for services rendered to schoolboy rugby. He was also Chairman of the Friends of Edgbaston High School 1978–9.

He was involved with the work of the West Midlands Examination Board; a member of the Subject Panel 1964–68 and a member of the Council of Examinations Subjects Committee 1968–87.

Jim's passing was a blessed release; he had been suffering from Parkinson's Disease since moving to Basingstoke, about 14 years ago. He was courageous and brave in his suffering, never complaining. Having been so active, it was terrible for him to find any movement painful and a problem. He had not walked for 18 months before his death. He was in a nursing home for 22 months and his wife Margaret spent several hours with him each day.

Jim's funeral took place at All Saints Church, Deane, Basingstoke on 5th March 2009. The church was packed and we were represented by John Constantine, Bob Evans and Neville Hall, who gave an address.

We extend once again our condolences to Jim's wife Margaret, daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and David and grandson Christopher. We are grateful to Margaret, for many of the above facts.

■ **K. P. Birrell**

Graham Baugh 1933–2009

Graham Baugh died on 26th May 2009. He was born 12th March 1933 and entered Camp Hill School 20th September 1944 and left 8th June 1950. At birth Graham was 10lb 4oz which accounts for his solid frame in his Rugby playing days!

When Graham left School at 16 he joined Dunlop at base store now known as Fort Dunlop (for whom his father worked as a Chief Engineer and in Dunlop's employ travelled the World). He served an apprenticeship in the factory which subsequently helped him pursue a successful career on the sales side. Between 1950 and 1953

Graham served his National Service in the RAD Corps in Cirencester.

A passion of Graham's was motor-bikes; he began with a Bantam 125 and progressed to a more powerful bike which he used to travel between the Cotswolds and Birmingham. Returning home one night he had an encounter with a coal lorry. He always said that he was lucky to have survived and as the years passed by proudly he would roll up his trouser leg to reveal coal dust in his ankle.

Whilst at Dunlop Graham met Doreen in the late 1950s, they married on 30th January 1960 and lived in Pedmore, Stourbridge. Graham became a member of Blakesley Lodge and was Master of the Lodge in 1971.

Graham had a ritual every Christmas morning, a sugar lump soaked in Brandy and topped up with Champagne – how the Turkey was cooked after this was anyone's guess. Graham finished any party by being persuaded to stand on his head with a pint of Beer and sing the odd risqué rugby song!

In 2000, out of the blue, Graham suffered a heart attack and in 2004 he moved to a ground floor apartment at Home Lodge in Lichfield where he could focus totally on caring for Doreen whose health had also deteriorated. She is in Hammerwich Hall Nursing Home where she is receiving excellent care.

At School Graham took part in many sections of School life; in 1944–45 he was in the Scout Troop, Music Society (Violinist), Chess Club and swam. He captained Rugby 2nd XV (1946–47), House Cricket Captain (1948–49) and played 1st XI Cricket; ably captained the 1st XV Rugby side and was awarded his colours. He was described as a fine straight running Fly Half whose defence was first rate, very quick off the mark and could swerve either way. As Captain did a great job and as Fly Half used to the best of his ability every chance offered to him.

At Camp Hill Old Edwardians Rugby Club he made over 200 appearances for the 1st XV between 1950 and 1961 scoring 149 points (E&OE). He was Captain 1957–58 and Vice Captain in several seasons. Coupled with this he also carried out Match Secretary duties for several seasons. He received his Club Colours in 1952–53 and became a Vice President in 1968.

At School he was described as 'a very good fellow in every respect, intelligent, keen and conscientious.' Everyone with whom he came into contact would endorse this.

We extend our condolences to Graham's widow and family, particularly his daughter, Helen, to whom we are grateful for much of the above detail

■ **K. P. Birrell**

Stanley Alan Lates 1918–2009

Stanley Alan Lates was born in Birmingham on the 1st July 1918. His family lived in Woodlands Road, Moseley and he attended College Road School from 1923 to 1929. He started at King Edward VI Grammar School for Boys Camp Hill on the 18th September 1929.

Upon leaving school on the 27th July 1934 he commenced an engineering apprenticeship as a toolmaker at the Sherlock Street factory of Fisher and Ludlow Ltd which he completed just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

He volunteered for the army in 1939 and went with the British Expeditionary Force to France before war was declared. He was a despatch rider and had to leave his motorbike behind when he was one of the last to be rescued from Dunkirk.

He was then called out of the army for specialist war work but managed to rejoin the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and served in North Africa, Egypt and Iraq. When he was demobilised from the army with the rank of Major he joined the territorials.

After the war he joined his father at Lates Agencies and in 1952, together with his brother Jack, bought Whitmarley Engineering Ltd, a company he continued to be associated with until his death.

He attended the Central Technical College in Suffolk Street where he subsequently taught engineering and finance. He became a Bachelor of Science, University of Aston in July 1969.

During his lifetime his great interest was in Freemasonry. He was initiated into Concord Lodge No. 3239 in 1947 and during the following years became involved in every Order in Masonry holding Grand Rank in each. In 1992 the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent appointed Stanley Lates as the Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, an office he held until 2001. Such was his expertise as a Freemason that in 2002 he became one of only twelve holders of the Order of Service to Masonry in the United Grand Lodge of England.

He leaves his wife Rosemary, whom he married in 1950, a daughter Hazel, two sons Geoffrey and Roger, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He was very proud of the School and was a member of the Old Boys' Association from 1935 to 1939 rejoining when it was reformed a few years ago.

Stanley Lates died on the 22nd March, 2009 in his ninety-first year and his funeral service was held at St. Alphege Church, Solihull on the 6th April.

■ **M.J.P.**

Donald John Hudson 1922–2009

Donald started at Camp Hill in 1933, left in 1939 with a good academic record and started training as a surveyor. In October 1941 he joined the Royal Air Force as trainee air crew and was sent to South Africa for training. Returning to England he joined 109 Sqdn Pathfinders as a navigator flying Mosquitoes, eventually becoming a Flt/Lt. In 1944 he was sent to the Far East for the Pacific war but they were not required and so he left the RAF and was demobilised in 1946.

He entered Cambridge University and obtained an M.A. at the same time as another old boy John Daniel who came from service in the Royal Navy.

Donald married and had two daughters: Angela born in 1952 and Jane in 1954, both of whom were to provide Grandchildren. He was a member of Rotary for many years and joined the Round Table in 1952.

For a time he had his own business as a valuer and also worked for Bright Willis in the same capacity, retiring from there as his last job.

He had not been a member of Camp Hill Old Boys Association for very long and due to his loss of memory and mobility was unable to join our activities. He was always immaculately dressed in smart clothes.

In his latter years he lived in a very nice flat in Dovehouse Court close to our other old boy Wilf Meadows who sadly died two years ago.

The service for Donald was held at St Alphege's, Solihull on Thursday 1st of October 2009.

■ **R. L. Staples**

Ernest Price 1921–2009

Born 21st November 1921, died 3rd March 2009. He was born at Fir Avenue, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. He attended Tindall Street School and was admitted to Camp Hill School 1st September 1932, left 23rd July 1937.

During the War he served in the Royal Artillery in Scotland, Egypt and Italy. After the War he trained as a teacher working at Billesley Secondary School and Moseley School of Art. He became a keen proponent of Judo and despite competing well his first love was teaching the sport. He coached, founded and supported clubs at St John's School Sparkhill, Hardy Spicer Club and Moseley School of Art. He was also a keen musician and played a variety of recorders in orchestras such as the Heart of England.

He loved knowledge for knowledge's sake, taking several 'A' level exams for fun in his later years including Italian, Spanish and French. He appeared on *Mastermind* and *15-to-1* on TV. He was fascinated by history and enjoyed the work of H. G. Wells (a *Mastermind* subject). Wells' well known quote 'human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe' perhaps sums up his view on the centrality of education in civilised society.

With thanks for many of the above details from Iain Adams son of Ernest's lifelong friend Doug Adams who died in 2008 (also a Camp Hill former pupil).

■ **K. P. Birrell**

John Meredith Roberts 1930–2009

Born 11th April 1930, died 15th May 2009. John entered Camp Hill School 1941 and left 1947. Retired as Sales Manager for a bullion company. His funeral took place at St Mary's, Moseley on 27th May 2009 and we send condolences to his wife Margaret.

■ **K. P. Birrell**

John Bentley 1916–2009

John Bentley, actor, died on 13th August 2009. He was born on 2nd December 1916, entered Camp Hill School on 19th September 1928 and left in July 1932. Whilst at School, John won the Camp Hill Old Edwardian Elocution Prize in 1932. His best known appearances were in *Crossroads* from 1965 to 1977. His versatility meant that he could turn his hand to many different types of character. During a career spanning more than six decades he was equally adept at playing Reporters and Policemen to Doctors and Solicitors.

His big screen debut was in 1947 in '*A Musical Romance*', '*The Hills of Donegal*', followed by a string of hastily produced low budget films during the 1950s including '*She Shall Have Murder*', '*Tread Softly*', '*Black Orchard*', '*River Beat*', '*Final Appointment*' and '*The Flaw*'. He had a brief spell in Hollywood in 1957 playing with Errol Flynn in '*Istanbul*'.

In the early nineties he was forced to retire after breaking his ankle whilst on stage and arthritis set in. Since 1950 he lived in a Georgian House in Petworth near the Sussex Downs. He is survived by his second wife, Patricia, and a son, Roger, from a previous marriage dissolved in 1955.

■ **K. P. Birrell**

Specialist School Activities



Competitions and Challenges



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