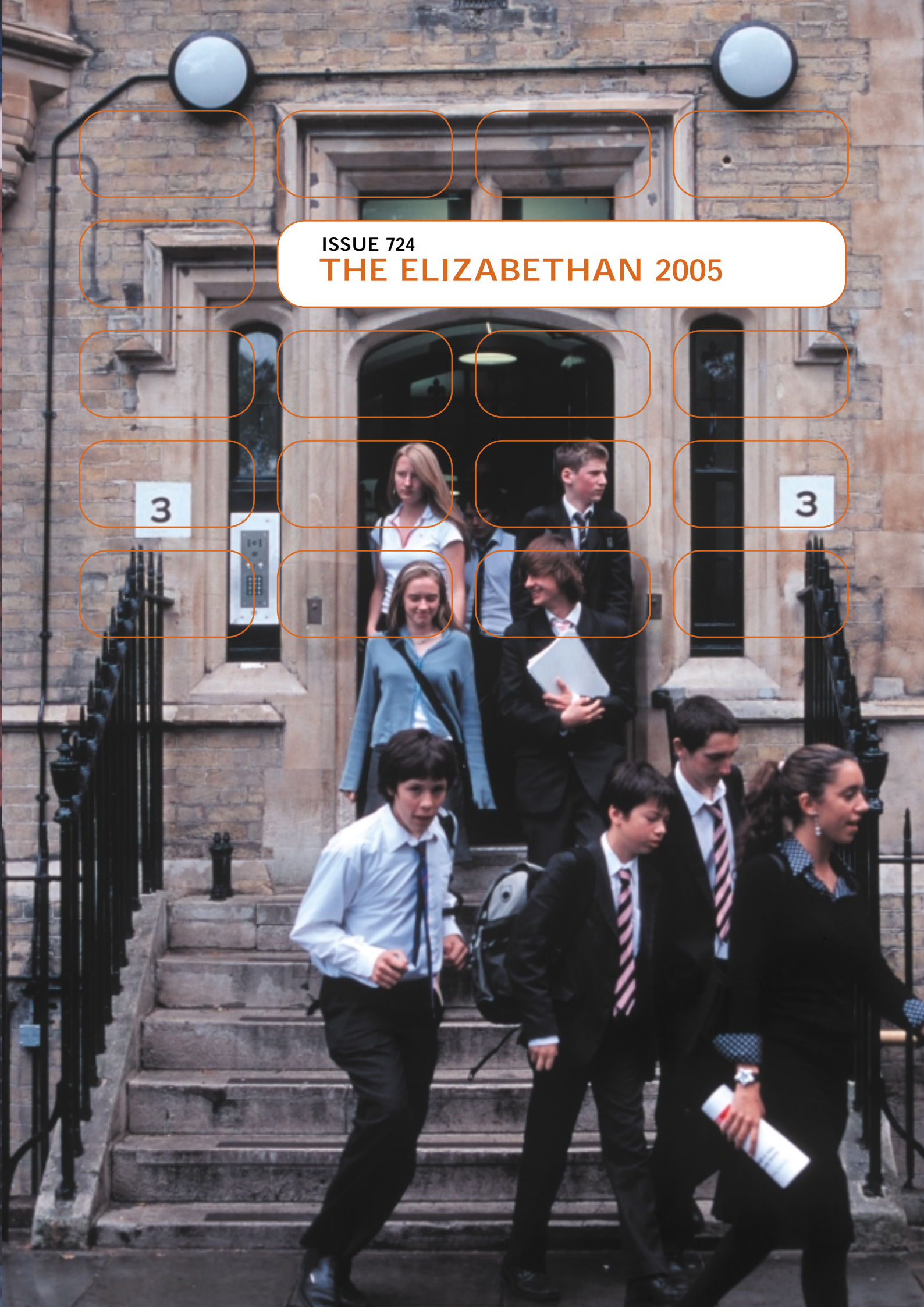
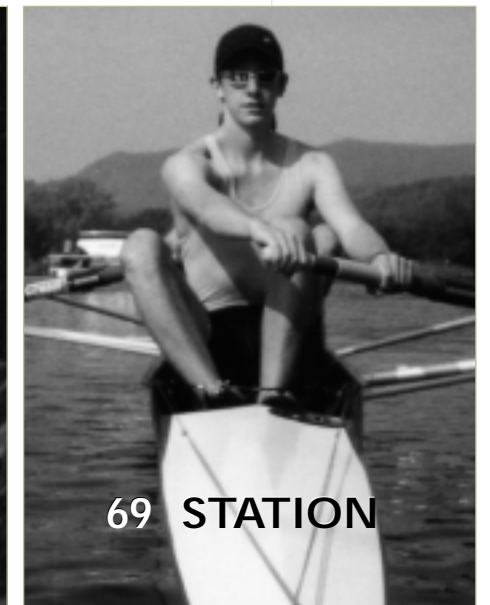
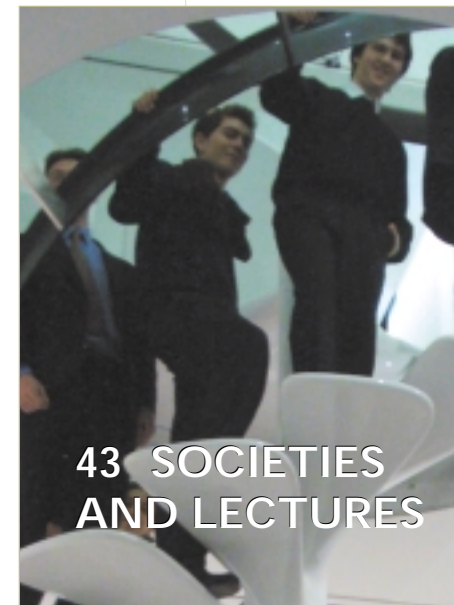
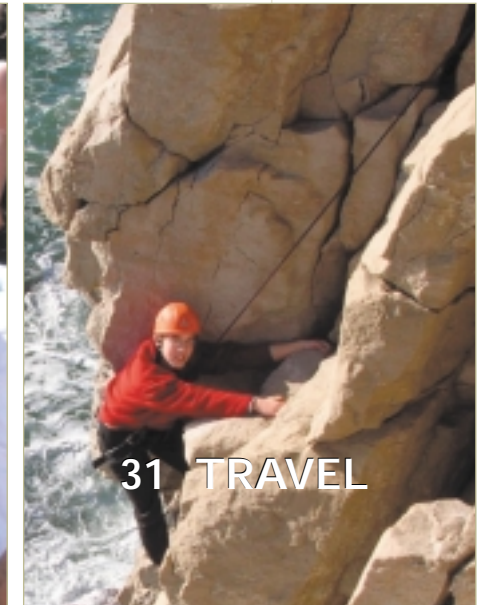


ISSUE 724

THE ELIZABETHAN 2005



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THE ELIZABETHAN
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"It was a complete accident that I went into teaching but I enjoyed it so I ventured into this profession. I would definitely do it again. I love teaching at Westminster which I would never change. It's great to teach at the best school in the country!"

See page 07 for TJP's valet and page 09 for his last interview...

"In the last few years Westminster has been transformed as never before in its history in such a short time."



"It has been very exciting to watch and David has done a fantastic job in overseeing this transformation."

See page 10 to read more...

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Front cover image
The Weston Building.
Photographed by Sandy Crole.

Back cover image
The Manoukian Music Centre.
Photographed by Sandy Crole.



CAPTAIN OF SCHOOL

I am sad to report I have taken advantage of none of the reputed privileges of office, and I must apologise to those who made me promise to grow a beard or ride a horse into school or drink beer at breakfast, writes John Reicher (CC), this year's office holder

The Captain's main jobs around school are to introduce and sum up the speeches at the John Locke society every Wednesday and, like the other monitors, to occasionally deliver the Latin Prayer on a Wednesday morning, to try to ensure that there is no trouble in the Tuck Shop queue – no easy task, given the occasional rowdiness and hunger of the Upper Shell – and hand out and collect hymnbooks in the Abbey. While the search for something sensible to say at John Locke can be stressful, speaking Latin in front of seven hundred people can be thoroughly daunting and trying to assert authority whilst retaining a degree of popularity can be difficult, but thankfully the job does not take up too much time.

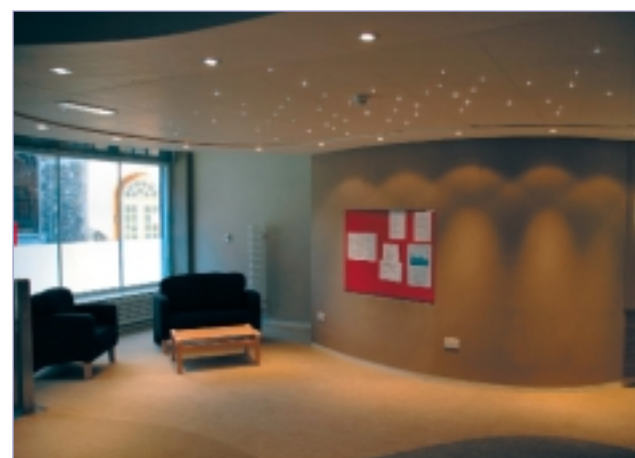
There have been other significant privileges associated with being captain. I have had the pleasure of seeing Ian Bostridge and Sam Coles performing at the opening of the Manoukian Centre, had lunch with a host of fascinating people at John Locke lunch every week and been invited to the Elizabethan and Election Dinners. Now that I am at the end of my school career, I will certainly miss many aspects of Westminster life, but above all the great wealth of opportunities available and the friends I have made over the last five years.

DEDICATING THE ROBERT HOOKE MEMORIAL

Dedications of memorials are very rare; there have only been a handful under the present Dean, writes John Reicher (CC). But on Thursday, March 3rd 2005, a small congregation gathered for a short service in the Abbey following evensong to dedicate a memorial to Dr Robert Hooke OWW (1635–1703).

The Under Master began the service with a summary of the great scientist's life at Westminster, and after the school's string quartet had given beautiful performances of two pieces by Purcell, the President of the Royal Society, Lord May of Oxford, gave the main address, which discussed the great breadth of Robert Hooke's academic achievements, from his work

in early microscopy to his architectural survey of London for Christopher Wren. This was followed by the laying of flowers next to the memorial, an inscription of "Robert Hooke 1703" on a black marble stone under the pulpit. It was a great privilege to attend such a special service, and to hear from such an eminent scientist about one of Westminster's most distinguished ex-pupils.



MANOUKIAN CENTRE

There had been talk for many years of a new music school to replace the older and smaller Adrian Boulton Centre, write Ellie Buchdahl (CC) and Katharine Howell (DD). This finally became reality in 2004, when plans began for a new building devoted entirely to music at Westminster, paid for by the A. A. Milne legacy and the generous support of the Manoukian Charitable Foundation. After months of hard work, the long-awaited centre was finally ready for use.

On 25th February 2005 Sir Roger Norrington (OWW), the world-renowned musician, famous for his work with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, officially opened the new music centre in a wonderful evening featuring the best of Westminster music. Pupils from across the school performed pieces by Bach and Brahms, as well as more modern pieces, such as Ligeti's Wind Quintet and Antonio Carlos Jobim's aptly named *Back at the Chicken Shack*.

The Manoukian Centre has benefited Westminster School musicians enormously, with its

superb facilities, from the acoustic umbrellas in the main hall that do so much for the quality of every performance held there, to the specialist jazz and percussion rooms, and even the simple advantage of more space. The only slight quibble is the lingering smell of glue, but we are sure this will fade with time.

The Manoukian Centre has been a huge success and is greatly appreciated by all who study music at Westminster. It is a tremendous experience to be involved in anything that happens there, whether it is playing, singing, or even just listening to music.

Left: Exterior and interior views of the refurbished Manoukian Centre.

WESTON BUILDING

The beginning of the Lent Term marked the opening of the new humanities building in Dean's Yard, reports Grace Benton (WW).

Everyone was pretty excited, mainly at the possibility of getting lost and so having a foolproof excuse for being late for lessons for at least two weeks. Stepping inside, the place screamed newness, bright white newness everywhere. The first task was finding out where to go. History of Art and Economics on the Ground floor, Modern Languages on the Second, then English, then History. Of course, no one knew that at the time. But, intelligent people that we are, we eventually managed it and had to get down to the boring business of actually learning in the place. This was made immeasurably more exciting, though, by all sorts of high-tech gadgets. Not just a computer and projector in each classroom for showing videos, DVDs or websites but lights that seemed to magically turn themselves on and off. Apparently there are sensors that adjust how bright they are according to the light levels outside. Even better, they switch off if no motion is detected for 20 minutes. Although this probably isn't of any educational value, it does give an incentive for everyone in the class to sit very still. Other exciting discoveries were the scary basement and the fact that for once there seemed to be more girls' toilets than boys'.

The first few weeks were a settling in period, the crush of people all trying to get downstairs at once comforted by Mr Tompkins' cry 'At least we're not Mathematicians!'

Things started to go a lot more smoothly after that and teachers took full advantage of having new classrooms all to themselves. The CD players in each meant we were subjected to their sometimes dubious taste in music. Given free reign to decorate the formerly identical white rooms, some teachers came up trumps. Miss Turner's room was soon full of posters, very artfully arranged, and the whole place began to feel a lot less like a sterile hospital, or even mental asylum. We have learnt more since then, like to beware of the broken door handle of room D12. If not then you are in danger of being stuck in there forever, or at least till someone realises and opens it from the other side. Some windowpanes, if leant on, are likely to fall right out and crash down onto the pavement below.

Comedy mishaps aside, the new facility is undeniably an excellent addition to the school and the classrooms more enjoyable to teach and learn in. The building is sure to develop in the future; already the walls have been spiced up by different shades of off-white and pinky-cream. All that remains now is to give it a catchy nickname, although this may take some time. 'The Weston Building' is very official sounding, 'the new building' can only last for so long, 'three n'three A' is a bit of a mouthful and the only other suggestion I've heard, the frankly bizarre 'Club Med', doesn't seem to be catching on.



Above: Exterior and interior views of the refurbished Weston Building.

JOHN LOCKE SOCIETY

This year the John Locke Society has welcomed speakers from many different walks of life, who have invariably educated and entertained us. While all the talks were engaging and interesting, every so often a speaker would have us hanging on his or her every word. John Reicher (CC) reports.

The first of this year's speakers to do so was Rick Gekoski, a rare book dealer, who provided us with an insight into his trade with great charm and numerous witty anecdotes. Ian Rosenblatt, the immensely hard-working and successful solicitor who sponsors his own opera recital series, compellingly presented his view that one's job is solely a means of providing financial security for the pursuit of other passions, a view which provoked much debate among members of the Upper School. Late in the Lent Term, the Panorama presenter Vivian White candidly spoke about his views on the current political climate in Britain and his concern about the lack of political interest among our generation.

Other speakers included authors Michael Dobbs, Mary Kenny, Ann Wroe and Dame Beryl Bainbridge; Alex Bellos, former South American Correspondent for The Guardian, who explained the cultural background to Brazilian football, and Tom Hodgkinson, who explained his belief that idleness is the key to

leading a fulfilled life. Politics was often discussed, particularly by former Secretary of State for Education Estelle Morris and journalists Adam Raphael, Mark Lawson and Trevor Kavanagh, The Sun's Political Editor. One of the best attended talks this year was by Helena Bonham-Carter, who spoke about having to go to 'Ape School' for her part in Planet of the Apes, while Stephen Poliakoff told us of various influences on his career, including his time at Westminster. We also heard a convincing statistical argument from geneticist Kathy Archibald against medical testing on animals.

The John Locke Society, run with absolute dedication by Mr Hargreaves, has been a magnificent success this year and was well-attended every week by pupils and staff; it is a great opportunity to listen to and learn from interesting and occasionally inspiring people, and the speeches are consistently thought-provoking and often expertly delivered. We look forward to the remaining speakers scheduled for later in Election term, including Boris Johnson and George Galloway.

SALVETE



SONIA AMOS

Sonia Amos is happy to have made the transition from leafy north Essex to the bright lights of London, joining Rigaud's as Matron.

Originally with a nursing background, she was in charge of tennis at Felsted School, where she coached for 15 years. Her days of full time tennis were numbered when her knees started complaining! She then became matron of a girl's house, caring for 50 full time boarders. Her two daughters are regular visitors to Westminster, and she looks forward to the new challenges which lie ahead.

PAUL BOTTON

Paul Botton joins the Chemistry department at Westminster, having previously taught at Marlborough College and Forest School. A graduate of Durham University, he played British Students football, and is now coaching the U15 squad at the school, and the ISFA U19 team.

PETER CHEQUER

Peter Chequer trained as an actor at the Welsh College of Music and Drama, and as a mime artist with Desmond Jones, Adam Darius and others. He has appeared on television in "EastEnders"; on film in "The Mummy", and in theatre for companies such as Hull Truck and the Royal National Theatre. He has created characters for video games; organised events in nightclubs and directed a number of Youth Theatres. He comes to Westminster from Peterborough and St Margaret's School where he has been part-time Head of Drama for eight years.

He says, "The Westminster Drama Department is fantastically lively and well-resourced, and I am very much looking forward to adding my skills and experience to the mix of enthusiastic class-work and productions".

CONTINUED...

Above (left to right): Sonia Amos, Paul Botton and Peter Chequer.

SALVETE...

DR FEI GAO

Fei Gao took has joined the Modern Foreign Languages department at Westminster to teach Chinese part time. Born in Beijing, she came to study at the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University in 1991 and has since continued to teach there. She took a PhD in Language Education at Institute of Education and taught for two years at the Chinese International School in Hong Kong.

SIMON HAWKEN

Simon Hawken, who has come to teach Economics, studied PPE at Worcester College, Oxford. Although a barrister and solicitor, he has worked mainly as an investment banker. His most entertaining job was setting up an investment bank in Prague, which explains the combat-level Czech. He has also advised governments on capital markets in Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Rumania and some in the Balkans. On a good day, he says, they will listen and act on your advice, hence the tie-in with teaching. He is an ECB

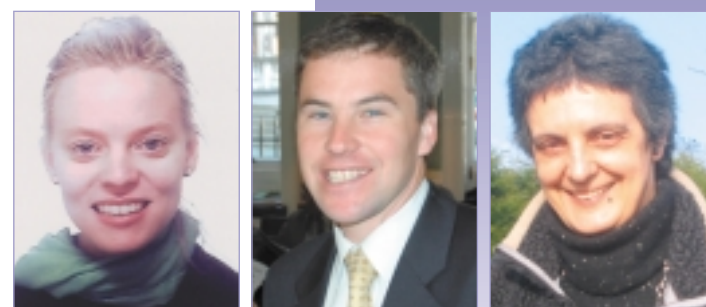
Level One cricket coach and for golf station is an accomplished driver, at least of the minibus. He is married with three off-spring (one sprung, two to go). As an annual penance, he competes in the London Triathlon, having undertaken six so far, aiming to finish the same day.

JON HIND

Jon Hind comes from hilly Sheffield in the downtrodden North: you can tell it's down-trodden because even the 'a' in 'the grass' is flat. He studied at Trinity College, Cambridge where he spent the better part of two years solving the same equation over and over again. Having had this taste of civilisation he decided the best way to get over it was to move to London to teach at Westminster.

SARAH HITCH

Salvete! Sarah was born and raised in Savannah, GA. She received a degree in Classics at Emory University in Georgia, before going onto Harvard for a masters degree in Classical Philology. She is currently working on her Ph.D. for



Above (left to right): Sarah Hitch, Nick Maloney and Carla Stevens.

Harvard on the topic, "Sacrifice in Homer". She moved to England in 2002 to study Linear B at Cambridge University, where she worked as a supervisor in Classics and also taught at the Leys School. She then taught at Winchester College for the academic year 2003-4. She finally moved to Westminster for the 2004-5 academic year as a replacement for Jonathan Katz during his sabbatical. She has immensely enjoyed working here and teaching such bright pupils. She accompanied the school twice to Greece: with the Remove to Rhodes and the Fifth Form tour around southern Greece, two wonderful experiences. She will return to Harvard in the Fall to finish her Ph.D, a beloved project seven years in the making. Many thanks to colleagues and pupils for a remarkable year! Valette!

NICK MALONEY

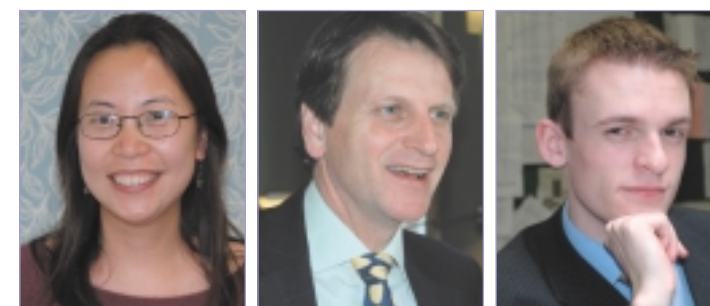
Nick Maloney studied economics at Cambridge and then went straight to Westminster to teach for two years. On leaving Westminster, he spent seven months in Africa, travelling

and working. After a brief spell helping Westminster rowers up Putney, he took a post teaching at King's in Worcester. Under his stewardship, the school boat club won four championship gold medals for the school at National Schools. Outside the school, he can be found with his wife wandering around second-hand bookshops and bric-a-brac markets.

CARLA STEVENS

Carla Stevens studied Psychology at Bristol and then taught Biology and Religious Studies for twenty years in the state sector. Ten years ago she qualified as a learning support teacher and has worked since, initially in Hackney, and then in the independent sector, with pupils with all sorts of learning difficulties. She loves left-handers, and those with organizational problems are a source of particular pleasure to her!

She already knows Westminster well having been Study Skills Coordinator at Westminster Under School since 1999, and has two sons Will and Ed, who were pupils here.



Above (left to right): Fei Gao, Simon Hawken and Jon Hind.

VALETE

TRISTRAM JONES-PARRY

HEAD MASTER 1998 – 2005

TJP, Westminster to the core, takes his leave after seven years as Head Master.

It was an audacious move on the part of the Governing Body to appoint Tristram Jones Parry to succeed David Summerscale in 1998. As a Headmaster, TJP does not fit contemporary moulds. He is a throwback to an earlier phase of public school life where the Head was expected to be an authority figure and administrator as well as a scholar. TJP believed that his primary job as Head was to ensure the delivery of a high class educational service both in the classroom and outside. And this he did. Secondary activities – marketing, public relations, fund-raising etc – he regarded as a diversion from his main calling and perhaps better left to others.

Relishing the hands-on executive role, he adopted from the start an autocratic approach, which set little store by consensus or consultation. He could not tolerate the meanderings of committees and the proliferation of paperwork. But bypassing conventional channels and dealing with problems on the spot inevitably meant trespassing on others' territory and sometimes on their sensitivities. At that price he introduced a



mood of urgent purposefulness into school life where both staff and pupils knew that if they didn't measure up they were likely to get a raspberry. He made a point of appearing in the most unlikely places at the most unlikely times.

Unashamedly TJP embodied the work ethic and he had little sympathy for those who didn't. In addition to normal duties, his work load included almost

half a teaching timetable and in his off duty moments he liked re-cycling lost property and ensuring Little Dean's Yard was free of litter. Colleagues smarting from some tart rebuke regarded his unflagging energy as a symptom of a compulsive disorder syndrome. But in more charitable moments they admitted that his commitment to the school was absolute and that allowances had to be made.

His affection for Westminster ran deep. He had been up Wren's in the early sixties when he smoked dope with his peers and developed a nicotine dependence which took years to break.

His later efficiency as game-keeper – he admitted – came from his know-how acquired as a school boy poacher. After Oxford and a brief spell at Dulwich, he returned to Westminster where he built up a legendary reputation as a maths teacher before becoming Housemaster of Busby's and then Undermaster.

Unlike most Heads, TJP's first love remained teaching, and this sympathy with the school's

CONTINUED...

TJP VALETE...



core function ensured that he was fully in touch with what went on across the disciplines. He had a detailed knowledge of the performance and problems of individual boys and girls and of the teachers themselves. Classrooms at Westminster remained uniformly well-behaved and well motivated. Standards across the board have never been higher.

But TJP was well aware that performance indicators – even if the school is top of the Premier League – are a crude yardstick of community health and happiness. He kept a close eye on those who – for whatever reason – were vulnerable or finding life difficult and ensured that pastoral support was always available. His enthusiastic membership of the PSHE team for the lower school reflected the same concern. For similar reasons he gave strong support to the school's extraordinary wide range of extra-mural activities which offer alternative options for self-expression and draw on the expressive energies of staff and pupils alike. Although there were occasional protests against his regime and despite the academic

pressure, boys and girls found Westminster during his stay a very happy place.

While bucking most trends TJP remained a creature of his time. The first mathematician headmaster, he presided over the consolidation of maths as the dominant discipline. In parallel he enthusiastically promoted the integration of IT into all aspects of school life. Sixty per cent of boys and girls now do maths at 'A' level. Symbolically and actually, the maths department has taken over Ashburnham House, reinforced by the large and well equipped computer room on the floor above. The Humanities have been relegated to the other side of the larger Yard. The Library – combining elegance with a buzzy cyber café atmosphere – maintains a balance between digitalised information systems and the endangered art of reading books.

Historically TJP's time as headmaster will also be remembered for the acquisition of prized real estate close to the school – including a sumptuous refurbished Edwardian theatre, a state-of-the art music centre, and a block of 72 stately rooms to the right as you come into

Dean's Yard. Owning few freehold properties a generation ago, Westminster has finally exploited to the full its positional advantages at the heart of the metropolis. Fuddy-duddy, shoe-string Westminster – with no invested capital and no collateral – has gone for ever.

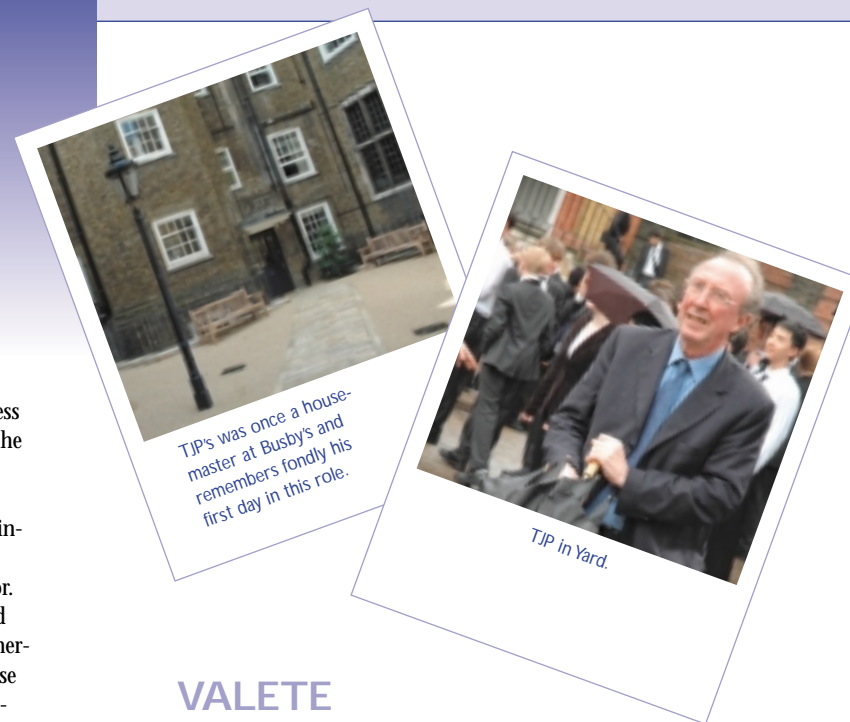
While TJP carried out with great efficiency the complex logistical chores involved in this expansion, I am uncertain how emotionally committed he was to the cause, remembering as he did, a Westminster where material and financial constraints made the school's remarkable assets and privileges understated. Displays of wealth are not to his liking.

At the end of most terms, when Thomas Arnold headed for Wordsworth and the Lake District to recharge his spiritual batteries, TJP made for Heathrow with his bicycle and a couple of friends, intent on exploring Third World countries where conspicuous consumption was not in evidence. Not for him the voyeuristic pleasures of modern tourism in poor countries. Instead pedal-power for 70 kilometres a day, local hotels and a simple diet. His addresses to the school on his return insistently stressed the moral imperative for Westminsters to

develop a global consciousness while earning their keep in the global market place.

TJP's time as Head sadly coincided with a period of acute stress in the maintained sector. Ministerial committees issued from Great Smith Street numerous initiatives designed to raise standards, reform the curriculum, combat truancy, recruit and retain teachers. But the problems of indiscipline remain unsolved. A short trip from their offices to watch TJP's 'Back to Basics' model in action might have helped officials in their deliberations. An authority-based approach to education is essential if a school – rich or poor – is to perform to the best of its ability. The continuing success of Westminster's academic, sporting, and cultural life confirms this truism.

But running a successful school is bought at a high social price. Few people have seen TJP shed his official persona. In the pub in the evening or on holiday a quite different figure emerges – full of fun, ready to laugh, and irreverent about authority. Furthermore, TJP is a voracious reader with a range of contemporary reference embarrassing to an English teacher. All this he sacrificed to his consuming passion.
Jim Cogan



VALETE

TJP

THE LAST INTERVIEW

Before he left the school at which he has spent a large part of his life, Christina Farr (MM) and Emma Thompsell (HH) managed to secure a personal interview with TJP.

Are you going to find it difficult to leave Westminster?

I will be excited to experience new and different things. However, it will be very sad to leave Westminster, I'll miss it. Especially those times when it's a summer evening in yard for example: it's beautiful.

What is your most memorable Westminster experience for each phase of your time here?

I'd say it was my first day as a housemaster at Busby's. There was a note on my desk saying 'Sorry sir, we've run away' and then the next thing I know, a call saying 'Sorry, sir! We're half way down the M1 – can we come back?'. I'll remember the fun of the Busby's Cabaret with the dancing on the tables.

Is it difficult to see the students who you've watched grow up then leave?

No, it's not difficult. The idea of a school is that people leave at 18 excited about their lives ahead. We hope they have left with great memories of Westminster.

What are the problems of being so well known as a school and as a person, in the media?

Well, many old Westminsters work in the media and they seem to have great interest in the school. Yes, I was surprised about the large amount of attention placed on the issue of my Maths teaching abilities but it must have been because there was nothing more interesting in the news at the time.

What is being done to include a more diverse range of students at the school?

We try to have diversity but the fees are very high here. I will often approach old Westminsters and ask if they can pay for half a Westminster for their five years. Some are generous enough to agree, especially if this new student is better at maths than they were! We do try to aid four to five students a year.

What personal quality to you feel has helped you most in your time at Westminster as head master?

As head master I know not to take myself seriously. I try not to be pompous and to have a sense of humour.

As a student did you have any particular influential teachers and do you feel that you yourself have been an inspiring teacher? Is an inspiring teacher necessarily a good teacher? My inspirational teachers were Adolf Prag for Maths and Stephen Lushington for English. I hope I've been a good and inspirational teacher but it's not for me to judge. There are very few eccentric teachers left but undoubtedly they are all passionate about their fields.

Did you change anything as head master as a direct consequence of your own experience as a boy at this school?

I watched people being bullied as a boy. As head master I particularly do not want this at Westminster and we aim to stop the problem before it develops.

What piece of advice would you most like to give your successor?

I would advise him to be around and available to get to know the students.

What has Westminster taught you that you've taken to heart?

Westminster taught me a great deal. I have seen how exceptionally talented people are. We have great musicians, dramatists and academics. The talent here is staggering.

What are your plans for life after Westminster?

I've been offered a job teaching in Kampala. That should be exciting as I'd love to continue working and travelling. I won't stop to rest, I'm too much of an workaholic!

Do you have a high opinion of any political or church leaders? Yes, but mainly the maverick

figures such as Skinner or Tony Benn. However I don't really like politicians. I respect and admire Rowan Williams and Cardinal Hume.

What are the best parts of the job? And the worst?

The best part has been the concerts and plays, and of course the teaching. The worst has been those rare occasions when it is necessary to expel a student: I find it very difficult.

Have the pupils or teachers changed much in the last seven years? Or since you first joined the staff back in 1973?

Yes, Westminster has changed. Believe it or not, the students are more well-behaved now. We had a huge drug problem in the early 70's which I believe we don't have now. Perhaps, on Saturday evenings at parties but in the 70's when you saw students on a Monday morning, it was clear that drugs were a problem! The overall teaching standard has also improved now, which is excellent.

Which living person do you most admire?

At the risk of stating the standard answer, I'd have to say Nelson Mandela.

Will you often be seen at Westminster after the summer?

No, I'm afraid I won't be seen much at Westminster. It's not traditional for an old headmaster to return for another 10 years, unfortunately.

If you were starting your life again would you still go to Oxbridge, and teach at Westminster?

Oxford was very good, I wouldn't change that. It was a complete accident that I went into teaching but I enjoyed it so I ventured into this profession. I would definitely do it again. I love teaching at Westminster which I would never change. It's great to teach at the best school in the country!

VALETE DAVID CHAUNDLER BURSAR 1993 – 2005

We were a little worried before he arrived. A very senior Army man had said on a visit to the school before David arrived: "I hear you have a man called Chaundler coming to you". "Yes", I replied. "Very good at killing people is Chaundler" was the comment. There was little one could say to that. This is probably as good a qualification as any to be Bursar at Westminster School, writes Tristram Jones-Parry.

David Chaundler yomped into Westminster in August 1993. It was he who was parachuted into the Falklands to take over 2 Para when Colonel H was killed at Goose Green. David did not have a good start in the Falklands because he landed in the sea and had to swim ashore! Perhaps that was intentional by the Army! He then proceeded to have an "outstanding war", if that is the right phrase. It will be the battle before and the taking of Wireless Ridge for which he will be particularly remembered. His final posting in the army was as "Army Director of Manning" as a Brigadier.

When David arrived at the school, a large number of the buildings appeared to be in a state of imminent collapse. The problem was lack of funds. In some cases this was obvious such as when window frames fell out; in others it was concealed. 17 Dean's Yard had no remaining foundations and the 2nd floor of Ashburnham House was resting on one inch of rotten beams. Both have been sorted out. Then in around 1994 the Disney corporation became interested in

Winnie the Pooh and the first substantial royalties from them started to come in thanks to the Milne legacy which gave a share in the copyright to his old school. From being historically impoverished, Westminster began to be able both to look after its existing buildings and then to acquire new buildings in what is the most expensive area in the United Kingdom.

David has presided over an extraordinary transformation of the Westminster environs. Keeping control of architects, builders is a tough and time-consuming job. The Governors would sometimes start tutting if a £5 million project went £10,000 over budget but fail to realise that many came in well under budget. The list of buildings renovated, built and acquired under David's eye is impressive.

1995: The Boat House is rebuilt.
1996: Grant's Dining Room was extended and refurbished.
1997: The new house Milne's created.
1999: The AA Milne rights were sold to Disney, meaning we could contemplate buying buildings near to the school for the first time.

2000: The Under School was almost completely rebuilt at a cost of £6 million.
2001: In a major project, an empty shell is converted into The Millicent Fawcett Theatre. School is refurbished and the lighting transformed.
2002-4: Liddell's, College, Grant's and Busby's are refurbished and Busby's Yard created.
2005: The Manoukian Music centre opens. The Weston Building opens, providing an enormous 25,000 sq ft of new classrooms on Dean's Yard.

In the last few years Westminster has been transformed as never before in its history in such a short time. Apart from the major builds we have moved from the institutional to a much more family feel. One way this has been achieved is in throwing out the ghastly old strip lights and putting in lighting which lifts the soul. It has been very exciting to watch and David has done a fantastic job in overseeing this transformation.

A Bursar's job is more than just about money. Many of the jobs are unsung but involve simply

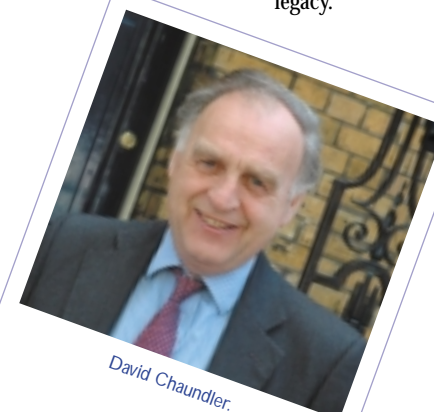
keeping the school happy. To be blunt Westminster food was not very good a few years ago and constantly complained about. It is now never mentioned, which whilst perhaps depressing for those who work so hard to bring it to the table, speaks for itself. Thanks to a tight cleaning contract Westminster now shows an excellent face. Of course there are niggles. Have the repairs been done during the holidays whilst pupils and teachers are away enjoying themselves? Not always. One gets the brick bats but not often the praise. There is the thankless task of producing those myriad of policies on Stress or Legionnaire's Disease.

We are, though, an organisation with a £14 million turnover and £20 million of investments. The interest on those investments goes to provide Bursaries and Scholarships at Westminster. It has been good to work with David in setting up our Westminster

11+ Bursary Scheme. David always visits the homes of Bursary applicants and has an eagle eye for the Mercedes carefully parked out of sight around the corner.

David will also be remembered for his addresses in Abbey, often preaching to us in the week of Remembrance Sunday. David gave us who live in safety some understanding of what war is about. He was never 'gung ho' about war. He told it to us in graphic detail. No one who was there will ever forget his images of having to break the legs of a soldier when rigor mortis had set in because the body would not fit into the helicopter, or of having to put weights into the coffin because there was nothing left of a soldier who had been blown to bits in Northern Ireland.

David takes no prisoners and it is perhaps not a good idea to be in the way when the juggernaut rolls. That forcefulness, though, has meant that Westminster faces the 21st Century in a good state and Westminster has much to be grateful to him for. We wish him well on what will be his now more frequent journeys to Uzbekistan or similar places: he always seems to choose his holiday country where a war has recently broken out. He leaves the school with an enduring legacy.



David Chaundler.



The Boat House was rebuilt in 1995.



The Millicent Fawcett Theatre was refurbished in 2001.



The refurbished Weston Building opened in 2005.

VALETE JENNY COGAN LEARNING SUPPORT PIONEER 1990 – 2005

Jenny was one of the first people in the UK Independent Sector to raise the profile of pupils who were very able and yet needed help. Jenny started helping Westminster pupils on ad hoc basis from about 1990, pupils who the English department felt were unaccountably struggling. In the beginning they were not diagnosed as dyslexic because "Westminster could not possibly have any pupils with 'Specific Learning Difficulties'" or so some said. How wrong they were, writes Tristram Jones-Parry.



Jenny Cogan.

Jenny's position at Westminster began to be regularised in 1992:

In 1996 she became a part-time member of staff and then in 1998 became full time. In 1994 there were very few, if any, trained Specific Learning Difficulties teachers in independent schools. Jenny, along with Mary Flecker who is now retiring from City of London School, was a catalyst for change. From 1995 at Emanuel School they trained teachers who, as part of the course, 'practised' on Emanuel pupils. Many of these teachers have since got jobs in other independent schools and spread the word. Several Emanuel pupils had their academic lives (and sometimes their lives as a whole) transformed. They understood for the first time that they had an identifiable problem, that they were not just 'thick or lazy' something they had come to believe from the comments of unsympathet-

ic teachers. Often pupils also had, for the first time, someone who was prepared to listen to them and discuss their problems one to one. This transformed their lives.

Apart from Jenny's work with individuals, as important at Westminster, has been the way that Jenny has changed staff understanding issues like Dyslexia and Dyspraxia. She has explained how some people 'get overloaded' and how with laptops and touch-typing the problem can be overcome. Where badly spelt and untidily presented work had once been thrown back at them with accusations of laziness or stupidity, with a laptop they can produce essays of which they can be proud. They then go from strength to strength. Jenny regularly met with departments to get them to

CONTINUED...

JENNY COGAN VALETE...

understand how pupils who may learn in different ways to the norm can be helped. For example the modern language departments have taken on different ways to get pupils to learn vocabulary. Westminster's overall approach to dyslexic pupils has been transformed. I feel proud that parents with bright dyslexic children are often advised to try Westminster because of the understanding atmosphere and the way that their children will be individually supported. This is down to Jenny.

On a one-to-one basis Jenny has been tireless in the way she has helped pupils, going to endless trouble to prepare ways to help pupils in a way unique to them. She has read the set books they are studying, talked to their teachers about vocab learning, got hold of the textbooks in English and History so that she knows what they are dealing with. She has even ventured into Maths and Science! She has developed strategies to help pupils revise for exams, which are now on the Intranet for everyone to use. Jenny has also acted as counsellor and friend to many pupils.

Over recent years Jenny and Mary Flecker have been working on a book so that their knowledge and experience will not be lost. In 2004 their accumulated knowledge and experience, "Dyslexia in Secondary School: A Practical Handbook for Teachers, Parents and Students" was published to much acclaim and is selling well.

Jenny has been much more than just a teacher to Westminster. I have kept her husband Jim out of the story until now but he has to burst in because one cannot mention Jenny in Westminster terms without Jim and vice versa. In September 1971 Jim was appointed Master of the Queen's Scholars and Under Master. So started an exceptional 16 years in Westminster's life. Jim may have been in charge of College but it was Jenny who made No 3 Little Dean's Yard the centre of that life. There were always colleagues, pupils or family dropping in for meals and the talk and the laughter went on into the night. It was their home to which new teachers gravitated and to both Jim and Jenny that pupils from all over the school would turn for advice. Jim and Jenny have had a profound effect for good on hundreds of boys and girls over the last 35 years. They have been the cohesive presence that all closed communities need. Jenny continued to entertain when they moved to 5A Dean's Yard, as she still does now in Vincent Square. It is always wonderful to meet old friends there as well as many, many interesting new people from varied walks of life. They have a great knack for involving people and not letting them get away. Jim and Jenny have been the heartbeat of the school. Westminster will be a poorer place without them both but happily they will not be far away in Vincent Square.

VALETE SUE BALDING SENIOR MEDICAL MATRON 1990 – 2004

Sue Balding joined Westminster in September 1990 as Senior Medical Matron and within a term had begun to revolutionise the health care structure. In her early days the Doctor's surgery was a small room at the back of College with the College games room doubling as the waiting room. It was Sue's vision, hard work and dogged determination which dragged Westminster's health care arrangements out of the dark ages and into Grant's. Sue's clinical skills were legendary and one did sometimes wonder if she did in fact possess second sight. Her ability to diagnose at fifty paces was surpassed only by her ability to sniff out a malingerer at a hundred, and for generations of Westminsterers, Sue was the scourge of the late LOs.

Sue managed to combine her role as Senior Medical Matron to the school with being a House Matron. When she joined in 1990, she was the Busby's Matron and in 1996 she moved to Grants to be at the head of the new clinical emporium. There was a period of about eighteen months when she was in fact Matron to both

houses, such was her efficiency and capacity for hard work and she took commuting in her stride. After a day tending to the sick, Sue would unwind by pairing socks, mending school jackets and rustling up omelettes and other gastronomic delights for those pupils in her House who had missed supper for whatever pressing engagement or other.

Sue was very much a presence around Westminster. She cared deeply for the medical care of the community, the welfare of the pupils in her House and also about the wider school community. She was also a cheery presence around the school with a wicked sense of humour, a very astute mind and an uncanny foresight. On reflection, she seems to have managed at least two full time jobs at any one time with tireless efficiency and considerable aplomb. With Sue's retirement in July 2004, Westminster has said farewell to one of its true characters. Our loss is her garden's gain.

VALETE BILL PHILLIPS HEAD OF ELECTRONICS 1987 – 2004

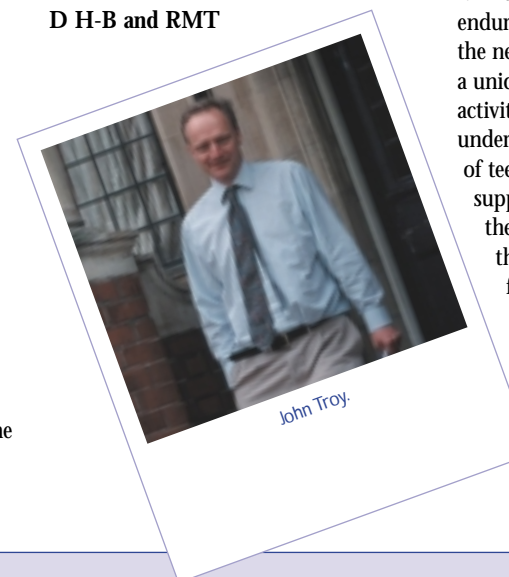
Bill was head of Electronics for 17 Years having joined the school from Mill Hill in 1987. Bill's original specialism was Biology and he became interested in the world of electronics while building monitoring equipment for his PhD on the functioning of the brain and nervous system in snails – perfect preparation for a teaching career at Westminster. He was responsible for the development of the Robert Hooke electronics labs and the study of Electronics at AS and A level. Always a keen follower of Information Technology, Bill developed a wide range of on-line teaching resources accessible to both Westminster Pupils and a wider audience via his on-line company DOCTRONICS. Bill was the co-author of the OUP A-level Biology textbook and also wrote a range of Electronics project books and computer learnware. Bill took an individual approach to the study of electronics and is responsible for generations of Westminsterers referring to microchips as 'beasties' and capacitors as 'buckets'.

Bill was an enthusiastic supporter of Westminster's outdoor activities, in particular walking, climbing and sailing. He led parties to the Picos de Europa, Ecuador and the Scottish Highlands where his unfailing sense of humour and culinary expertise helped both pupils and colleagues survive the

hardships of life in the great outdoors. For years he was a mainstay of the Lyke Wake Walk, with 'Bill's Café' serving up tea and hot sausage sandwiches in the gloom of a cold dawn at Rosedale Head. Few would forget the sight of Bill emerging from a seaside shack in Ecuador bearing a two litre poly bag of Coca-Cola – bottles not being permitted to leave the shop – or the six-day backpacking expedition setting off from Corroir Station into the wilderness of Glen Nevis, laden down by Sainsbury's bags bulging with steak and McEwan's.

Always ready to fly the flag for Scotland, Bill retired to Blairgowrie in Perthshire in July 2004 where he continues to write, joined by his wife Viv who is currently long-distance commuting to her work as Head of Maths at South Hampstead High School. We wish them bonny days and warm nights in Bill's beloved mountains.

D H-B and RMT



VALETE JOHN TROY HOUSE MASTER OF MILNE'S 1993 – 2004

John arrived in 1993 from a career as a solicitor, having previously been in the navy, serving with distinction on HMS Sheffield in the Falklands war. He brought with him a wealth of inspiring management experience uncommon at the school, and a passionate commitment to development economics. He made this latter area something of a new speciality in the department, encouraging pupils to look past the confines of classical economics to ideas and effects beyond the world familiar to most Westminsterers.

But it is as House Master of Milne's that he leaves his most enduring mark. He inaugurated the new day house in 1997 with a unique spirit of charitable activity, offering a tolerant understanding of the foibles of teenage boys and girls, and supporting them keenly in all their activities, while bailing them out of their more foolish endeavours and incompetencies. His distinctive and encouraging laugh could always be heard at house plays, booming out from

the back row however feeble the jokes on stage, willing young thespians to believe they were the next Gielgud, Ustinov or perhaps Eddie Izzard. On the five courts he played a fiercely competitive and energetic game, and not a pupil in the house escaped encouragement for any school activity they supported. It has to be said that he was lucky in finding kindred spirits to support Charlton Athletic but even here he found the best in people. Under his benevolent eye Milne's became famous for that rarity at Westminster, genuine house spirit; voluntary and charitable work has never been as much fun under John as anywhere else. With his tireless enthusiasm and good nature, many charities benefited from his plans to make Milnites walk the length of the Thames and sing carols, though not, fortunately, at the same time. He leaves to take up a position as housemaster at King's College, Canterbury and to spend more time with his beloved Sam. We wish him and Maggie the happiest of times with Sam in the shadow of another great ecclesiastical building. AC

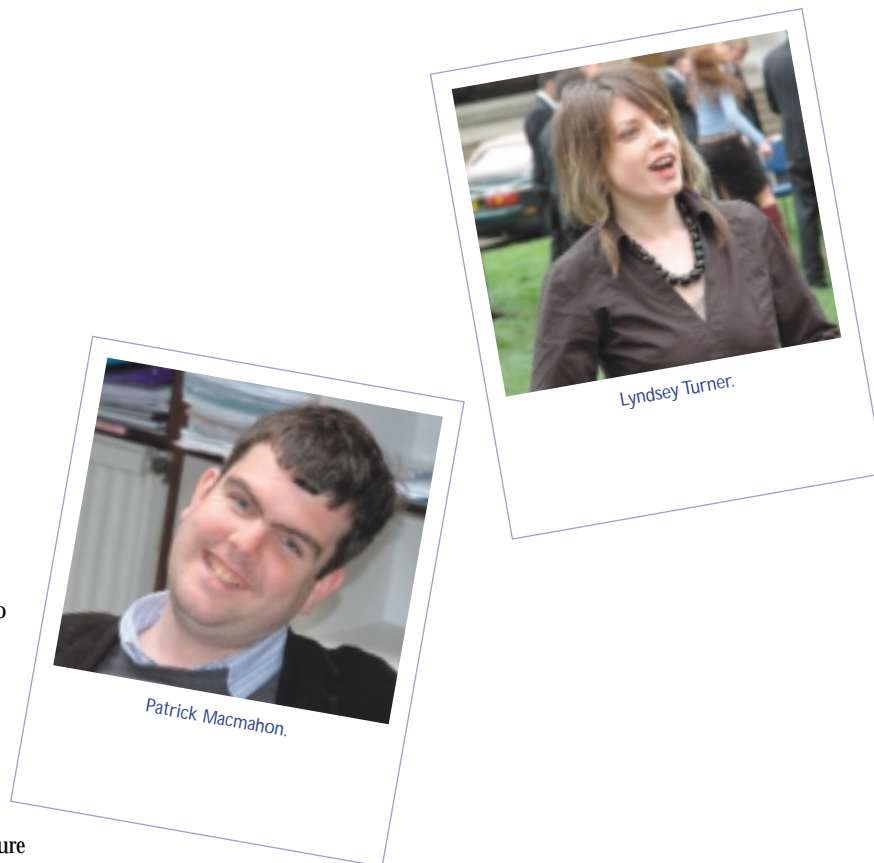
VALETE PATRICK MACMAHON MATHEMATICS 2000 – 2005

Paddy arrived from a very smart country girls' school where he was used to dealing gently and carefully with delightful and delicate young ladies. That it did not take him long to adapt is illustrated by the five minute harangue of a boy who had irritated him in his second week, reported by the awestruck Fifth formers who heard it, to have contained the word 'fathead' a total of twenty-three times. Since then, Patrick has become a most valuable colleague, not least for his contribution to the cheerful and mathematically lively atmosphere in which we would all like to work. As well as being an exceptionally talented cricket player and coach (he especially asked me to say that), Patrick has run Squash station for four years, coping remarkably well with the fact that the answer to his bi-weekly cry of "OK for the second session, Graham" always seems to be "no".

Patrick is a great autodidact, taking courses and degrees in his spare time in subjects ranging from Biology to Swahili though, of course, he is not the first

Westminster teacher to have learnt more than his pupils during his time here. Paddy and Lynne, formerly Choulerton, have given us the rare pleasure of a Common Room marriage and it has been wonderful to see them so happy together, especially with the birth of their daughter, Sally. Paddy is obviously a devoted and delighted new father, particularly now that he has discovered that the range of the baby alarm extends to the back bar of the Old Oak.

Patrick is leaving to become Head of Mathematics at Latymer Upper School, where I am sure that he will be as successful as he has been here. I hope that the fact that he will remain a Common Room spouse will mean that he can continue to be here for the important things in the School's life, such as Maths Department Social Outings, merely conducting the tiresome business of earning his living elsewhere. **MCD**



VALETE MRS YIH T'UNG CHINESE STUDIES 1995 – 2004

Mrs T'ung came to teach Chinese at Westminster in 1995. Although she taught pupils 'out of block', often at the end of the school day, she was a familiar face in the Common Room, engaging and chatty and many of us remember her with warmth and affection. She remained a lecturer at SOAS during her time here. She is a highly respected academic and a specialist in Chinese languages and culture. Indeed, McDonalds consulted her when devising advertising campaigns for a remote region

of China as the only person outside China who could understand the relevant dialect! She was devoted to her pupils and engendered in them a love for the language. Native speakers and beginners alike flourished under her tutelage, some going on to study Chinese at university. She leaves us to spend time working and travelling with her husband. In a typically kind leaving gesture she has presented the School with a selection of Chinese text books. Mrs T'ung left the school in July 2004. **CH**

VALETE LYNDSEY TURNER ENGLISH AND DRAMA 2000 – 2005

The generation of pupils who have had the pleasure of working with Lyndsey, will now remember Westminster as a place of dramatic educational excitement. Lyndsey came to us via Balliol College Oxford and St Dunstan's College and has been an enormously spirited and dedicated member of both the English and Drama departments ever since. She represents the best of an innovative teaching ethos. An unassuming but powerful educational enabler, she has offered fare ranging from Anglo-Saxon poetry to *Cabaret*. As well as turning her talents to a formidable number of texts and productions, Lyndsey has given up her own time to trips, expeditions, choreography, rehearsals, you name it! All her work has striven to engage her students by direct but demanding routes; her lessons have sparkled with academic rigour and sharp contemporary idiom. Published in national newspapers and academic journals herself, she has helped students to launch *Pink*, a magazine for Westminster's gossip-mongers and journalistic aspirants. Typically, Lyndsey gave full responsibility to an

editorial team; her approach has always been to work hard behind the scenes, but to give her pupils the limelight.

Lyndsey's perspicacity and humour have made her great fun to work with. She has given much valuable support to her colleagues for which they should stand her a Guinness and blackcurrant or two. The classroom and the studio (as opposed to Common Room and pub) are where she's cool however. Not much pleasure for Lyndsey in a free period: she prefers a classroom momentum that sallies forth to the stage of the Millicent Fawcett Hall, a workshop in Stratford Upon Avon, the British Library or by tube and train to plays, productions and (this summer) the Edinburgh Fringe. Pupils have been allowed to find their voice in the intellectually 'happening' environment she has helped to foster over the last six years. We all wish her the very best for an exciting future. **RJP**

VALETE CHARLIE ROBINSON BIOLOGY 2001 – 2005

Charlie joined Westminster Common Room in 2001 from an idyllic countryside life in his native Kent. Having spent many a hazily remembered evening with him at Oxford (we were both at D.Phil-ing at Teddy Hall and the Plant Sciences Department) it was interesting to see colleagues' reactions to him. Outspoken, but unafraid to listen, he certainly made a big first impression.

His passion for botany was occasionally misinterpreted as an out-and-out obsession but his fervent enthusiasm for animals was equally obvious to anyone dining with him. The biology department greatly appreciate his knowledge of the local butchers.

Significantly, a number of his pupils have truly excelled: a reflection of how much he could inspire the most able biologists. He cared about the pupils and their results and was willing to offer extra help to those who needed it.

Initially a tutor in College, seeing out the last of the Katz years, he then moved to Milne's and saw out John Troy's last year. He was not responsible for either housemaster leaving (but maybe there are some

breathing a sigh of relief now!). I'm sure that I speak for many of my colleagues in praising the commitment he showed to his pastoral responsibilities and the support he has given both current and past pupils.

He has contributed widely to the school: several riding expeditions giving the horses a good work out; Safari trip to South Africa; and most significantly as Master-in-Charge of shooting. Here was a station made for him and he seized the opportunity to make it a successful and well managed option for many keen boys and girls.

We will miss him, but given that he lives just around the corner I'm sure that many of us will bump into him again in the next few years. We wish Charlie and Sarah good luck for the future. **MJM**



VALETE JUSTIN MOSTON MATHEMATICS 2001 – 2005



Justin Moston.

Caroline Brooke.

When you think of 'Westminster' and 'Mathematics', 'self-effacing' and 'sensitive' are probably not the next two words that come to mind, so Justin has stood out here for the exceptionally professional and unselfish way in which he deals with his colleagues, but he has also shown absolute dedication to all of his rôles in the school. There are a considerable number of pupils who can attribute their startlingly good GCSE or A-level results to the willingness with which Justin has given up his time after school to help them.

Mathematician traditionally count their calculators as their only friends, but Justin has a remarkable range of interests outside school; also, he has a fiancée. He is a ball-room dancer, experiments in the Cambridge University fluid mechanics tank, and plays chess and hockey.

Newer teachers at Westminster usually have to work very hard to fulfil the demands of the job – teaching, station, expeditions, pastoral responsibilities – but few of them can claim to have made a substantial difference, in their first few years, to the way the school does things.

Justin, while more than amply mastering the former, has also achieved the latter – and in two ways. He has re-invigorated the Chess Club here – there are now House competitions, teams of all abilities playing in leagues and friendly matches, professional coaches and, most impressively, large numbers of enthusiastic boys playing chess in his classroom at lunch times, after school and in the evenings. He has also, amazingly, despite our limited space for games, been able to set up what has become the popular and successful hockey station. Fifty pupils now play twice a week, many of them not previously having been keen sportsmen.

Justin is now looking for a new challenge at the less salubrious end of the education market. He moves to Eton in September, where I am sure he will be equally successful and where we hope that he and Adélie will also be very happy.

MCD

VALETE CAROLINE BROOKE

Caroline Brooke came to Westminster for the Election Term 2004 and has been invited to return next September, 2005. Her students speak for her: 'Funny, witty, inspirational, big-hearted, a superb teacher who will be a gift to her new students' (Tom Gill); 'Caroline's enthusiasm for and knowledge of The High Renaissance gave us all an excitement for the period' (Esmay Luck-Hille); 'Caroline was both an excellent teacher and a great personality-she was truly inspiring!' (Venetia Thorneycroft); 'What a lovely lady!' (Alex Edwards); 'The Queen of Ways of Seeing' (Helena Bushman). We welcome her back!

VALETE MIKE MORRIS

Previously Head of Economics at Dulwich, Mike earned the immense gratitude of the economics department by coming out of retirement to join Westminster at very short notice for two terms to cover for illness. His experience and patience were greatly appreciated by pupils. Mike left in July 2004.

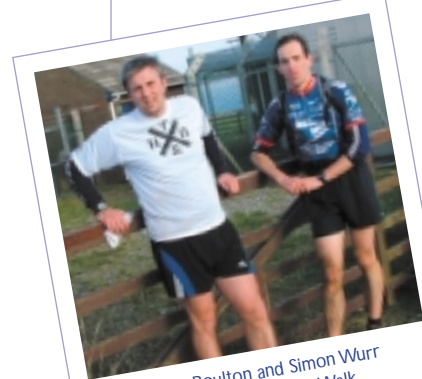
HOUSE SINGING

Ah, House Singing, sighs Karan Kanal (AHH) – a time for inspired revelry, a time to lay down the tattered shreds of your dignity (unless you're a new pupil) for the good of the many. And all for the honour of the House, obviously.

After a quick word on fire safety ("We'll all die doing what we love"), the ritual slaughter of the popular classics that we call House Singing began. As usual, there was a wide range of performances, from the excellent to the incoherent, with more houses participating than in previous years. There was much heated debate this year over Milne's, who may or may not have deserved to enter (I'm not offering any opinions here), but did anyway.

In addition to the storm over Milne's, there was controversy over Liddell's. For the last two years, Liddell's has failed to qualify and from some quarters there were murmurings that they had only been let in this year on a sympathy vote. One of the most memorable examples of 'House spirit' came from Busby's this year, who took every opportunity to cheer their name despite having been eliminated by the judges.

Rigaud's sold their sexuality to the Devil in exchange for victory, and to hammer the point home, they were allowed an encore. We walked out that night with a painfully clear idea of the message of 'In the Navy' in our heads.



Martin Boulton and Simon Wurr after the Lyke Wake Walk.

LYKE WAKE WALK

PINK!

THE MAGAZINE THAT JUST WON'T DIE

I was in the Fifth Form when my sister and her friends decided to start up a school magazine called Pink as an alternative to The Elizabethan, recalls Michael Stothard (BB), now himself an editor of Pink!

The focus of the magazine was Dean's Yard, dealing with mainly school issues. Although it was written and edited mainly by the Sixth form, it tried to appeal to all Westminster's. It was published under the guidance of Miss Turner.

The first issue of Pink looked much the same as today, twenty photocopied pages stapled together with a lovely pink front cover. It contained a feature on The Grease: Fight Club in disguise, an expose on the scandal of the enormous rowing budget as well as reviews of art, music, film and theatre. It was met with a mixture of excitement and hostility from its new read-

Most ideas are rejected as grossly implausible or just not funny; 'wouldn't it be great if we covered Dean's Yard in pink bubblewrap?', 'A camel with a Pink! Hat: wouldn't that be cute?' and 'Let's draw silly hair and moustaches on teachers'.

ership. On one hand there was an anti-Pink poster campaign, on the other, every issue sold out. Back then it had every chance of dying after the first issue; few would have thought it would become a permanent feature of Westminster School. Since then it has been run by Sixth formers every year, and

will continue for as long as there is interest in it.

Every year Pink! dies: When the Sixth form editors get too old and too busy to sprint after a pink van in search of a picture or commission articles on toast, Pink seeps out of their lives and out of the consciousness of the school for a while. Miss Turner never advertises or pushes for Pink to be reborn again; she wants us to put in the effort, to argue for its survival. This year Nikolai Cedraeus, Andrew Naughtie and I all approached Miss Turner separately wanting to start up the magazine. We met, pooled our ideas and recruited three other members to the team; Dan Brodie, Izzy

Finkel and Orlando Reade. With this elite team of editorial minds all working together there was nothing we could not do. All we needed was a magazine.

The best part of editing is the first brainstorming session. It is exciting when the ideas start flowing, everyone shouting out

thousands of ideas. Most ideas are rejected as grossly implausible or just not funny; 'wouldn't it be great if we covered Dean's Yard in pink bubblewrap?', 'A camel with a Pink! Hat: wouldn't that be cute?' and 'Let's draw silly hair and moustaches on teachers'. We are left at the end of the session with just enough credible ideas to make an issue.

The next stage is a fierce advertising campaign and commissioning articles. The first issue was the hardest as we had to get people excited about writing the magazine. Generally the process is the same; the articles come in, we edit them and arrange them to look good on the page. A great deal of this is done feverishly at the last minute, before Miss Turner spends hours photocopying two hundred issues. They are then sold the next day for a mere 50p.

Sadly, Miss Turner is leaving next year. A new teacher will be needed to help with Pink! I hope someone brave steps up to help.

The editing process is mad; for example last issue someone said, 'Let's all scan our faces and put it in Pink!', so we did, and two hundred people saw it the next day. An editor has the power to completely control Pink! and allows the rest of the school to express themselves through it. Pink! sends people on missions in London and then gets them to write about it, such as a restaurant review or busking. Striving to make Pink! just that little bit better than last year is always exciting, fun and fulfilling. I strongly recommend the current Upper Shell to take up the mantle of Pink next year: you wouldn't want to be the year that allowed Pink! to die.



Battling tanks.



Bobbing for apples.



Makeovers.



Doughnut eating competition.



Common Room Rock.



Impressing the girls.



KDT supports his local team.

JUNE 2004 SUMMER SATURDAY

Awaking to the crisp, fresh morning air, bright blue sky and dazzling sun started off a day we had been meticulously planning for months, claims Ben Shillito (MM) who, along with Alex Gabriele (MM), helped create the day Westminster went ape for custard and doughnuts.

Back at Christmas 2003 a committee assembled in a small room at the top of Singletons. The plan was simple: to organise an afternoon which involved the whole school, raised a four figure sum for charity and was enjoyable for everyone. Piece of cake, we thought – but as it turns out these things are astonishingly difficult; from persuading the various authorities that we were serious to encouraging 700 pupils on a Monday morning that they want to devise and run a stall whilst also spending the family savings at all their friends' stalls. However as the day approached, in between AS levels, things began to fall into place and the degree of excitement exceeded that of apprehension.

As pupils loped into school on that June Saturday, they were greeted by a 10ft high pink structure designed solely to release up to 80 litres of College Hall's finest pink custard. By break, with the help of many willing teachers and pupils two stages had been built, pyrotechnics had been installed, sound systems checked and balloons distributed. As the event began, cross-

ing Yard became treacherous; dodging guitars, tables, water balloons, barbeques, bouncy castles, not to mention the 700 pupils who just been let off last period Saturday. The ingenuity was admirable: stalls where you could pay to throw an assortment of missiles at fifth formers, batter staff with pillows or vote to have staff dunked in custard. There was even a frappuccino stall, where lengthy negotiations had persuaded Starbucks that they wanted to provide equipment and staff free for the day. College Hall contributed a great barbeque to the afternoon that matched the atmosphere of the day perfectly whilst a variety of carefully chosen bands kept everyone entertained. The staff band had large numbers dancing, teachers included! As the finale approached there was a nervous air amongst the six brave teachers who had volunteered to be dunked, only one though would suffer this ordeal as the voting system came to a close. To a boisterous countdown, Mr. Moston was drenched by a huge vat of pink custard, and with a photo from Haklyuts, the day ended. We really enjoyed organising it and certainly enjoyed participating; whether it will happen again remains to be seen.

SIXTH FORM LECTURE DAY

To celebrate a month of Sixth form at Westminster, and perhaps try something different, a day of lectures from a range of speakers was organized on October 1st 2004, write Emma Thompson (HH) and Christina Farr (MM), new sixth formers at the time.

We began our day expecting an array of dry, middle-aged men preaching the evils of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. However, mid-way into the first lecture on our rights as young people, it became clear that we were there to be inspired and entertained. The lectures that followed included insights into Westminster life and information on life after school from a variety of Old Westminsters.

Perhaps the most enjoyable lecture was a talk from a representative of the Portman Group, on the primarily positive effects of alcohol, if taken in moderation. Particularly interesting was a talk from three parents on their experience of having a teenager at Westminster. It was insightful to hear how our experiences at this school affect other members of our family. The day overall was worthwhile and raised many issues for reflection.



A quiet moment in the Greaze.

THE GREAZE

2004 CAROL SERVICE

Tinsel, crackers and end-of-term exam panic can only mean one thing – Christmas is coming, as, like many other schools, Westminster gets ready for its annual carol service, writes Ellie Buchdahl (CC).

As someone new to the school, I wasn't sure what to expect, with descriptions I was given ranging from 'a traditional Christmas service' to 'the teachers' version of the House Singing Competition'. But I soon found out, as I was suddenly involved in the whole thing, carrying a candle in the procession – not a major task, but enough to conjure up images of tripping over my surplice and falling flat on my face, or spilling molten wax all over the headmaster.

The service is open to pretty much anyone in contact with the school – teachers, pupils, relatives and friends were all invited and, judging by how full the Abbey was, many took up the offer. For weeks beforehand, rehearsals had been

underway, with all the people who made up the Carol Service – singers, readers and musicians – practising like mad. The final result was a programme that was partly traditional, with the Nativity readings, the school prayer, and well-known carols like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', together with some more modern additions, such as a hymn by Philip Larkin. What amazed me was how relaxed and confident all the soloists and readers seemed to be, and how smoothly everything went, considering there had never been a full run-through of the entire service. Afterwards, friends and relatives told me how much they had enjoyed being part of everything: the singing, the Abbey, the candlelit prayers – and the mulled wine after, of course.

FUN RUN

Yawning and bleary-eyed, beginning to regret having sacrificed a precious Sunday lie-in, Julian Walton (BB) and Emilia Weber (LL) joined many other volunteer runners who tentatively crept under Liddell's Arch contemplating whether or not they could still go home to the comfort of duvets and tea.

Upon entering yard we were confronted with our companions for the next two hours, a gaggle of superheroes and other absurdly dressed charity runners (similarly bleary-eyed and yawning).

Mr. Hargreaves, Amelia Young-Abraham, Jenna Barclay and Mike Lim organised us fantastically and off we ran, feeling euphoric and surprised at how lovely London looks on a Sunday morning. Seven miles later we weren't feeling quite as euphoric and London was looking somewhat less lovely. The run split into the keen athletes, the not-so keen athletes, those who did not know the meaning of the term

'athlete' and the three-legged (in one admirable case, four-legged) participants. Though receiving many odd looks along the way and overhearing parents' commendable explanations to children about mad people wearing gorilla suits, it was genuinely fun and left one with a warm fuzzy feeling in the heart. The fastest times were Nick Maloney in 45.10 with the first student (John Reicher) in 46.27.

It was worth getting up for, and to all those who missed it, do it next year! Now all we have to do is collect our sponsorship money off stingy fifth formers.



Heroic endeavours.

The champ.

Avast there.

Monstrous team.

Too, too much.

PHAB 2004

July 2004 saw the 28th successive Westminster Phab course, writes organiser, Andrew Johnson.

My thanks go to all the hosts, guests, staff and supporters. They continue to make Phab special and also helped raise enough money to buy an electric wheelchair for Dorcas Munday, who all ex-Phabbers will remember fondly. Do stay in touch: phab@westminster.org.uk

2004 – 2005 CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

What is the link between bringing a tin of pineapple chunks to registration, performing in a school play, running seven miles and giving up your favourite chocolate bar?

These are all just some of the ways we have worked to support local, national and international charities in recent months, and it is good to see the results of these efforts in black and white for the first time in *The Elizabethan* in the summary on the right. However, these figures only reveal one aspect of a much richer picture. For example, there was the moment when ball games in Yard shifted towards Grant's as a group of local elderly folk were escorted by sixth-formers into Ashburnham Garden for afternoon tea and chat. More of that great British institution is enjoyed by sixth formers and older folk at the local community centre during Options on Monday afternoons, and tea is also provided in our Christmas hampers, already legendary at yet another local community centre just down the road. Thanks are owed to parents for the provision of sixty baskets, boxes of chocolates and some very tempting Christmas cakes. Jenna Barclay writes, 'visiting the weekly breakfast organised by In-Deep Community Task Force helped us to see the effects of our efforts. We felt very welcome during our visit and it was a pleasure to meet older people in the local community'.

Following the tsunami, a small group of Westminsters were keen to raise money for the benefit of its victims, and with the help of parents, we managed to find a specific project to support in Sri Lanka. The Rohan Special School for deaf and blind children was not directly hit by the tsunami, but

with the local community so badly affected, donations dried up and the situation became even more desperate. Through various events, including a 'Give Something Up Day', the fun run and a 'shag' (non-uniform) day, the £6000 required to renovate and equip the school has been raised. Paul Giladi writes, 'on behalf of the student organisers of 'Give Something Up Day', I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to all those who helped raise money for the Rohan Special School. The funds that have been sent have made remarkable improvements in all aspects of the school; from the most complex parts of the infrastructure to the most basic facilities.'

By the time you are reading this, we should have managed to produce exclusive Westminster charity wristbands (in Westminster pink, naturally) for the benefit of the Rohan School in Sri Lanka. There are too many people to mention personally here, but it is thanks to the inspiration of pupils, teachers and parents that our charitable endeavours have branched out into new areas like this one over the past few months. Linda Rickard is worthy of a special mention for her hard work and commitment throughout this time, and she will be missed as we work on new projects next year.
EB



Charity fundraising to contribute towards costs to repaint Rohan School in Sri Lanka.



Charity fundraising to contribute towards costs of repairing the drainage system at Rohan School in Sri Lanka.



Envision – cake sale for charity in the School Yard

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL CHARITIES				
Summer	Remove tea-towel	Thames Reach Bondway	£750	
September	Scratch Play	Alone in London	£223	
November	Edgar's House	Alone in London	£138	
	House Concert	Royal British Legion	£105	
	Shag Day	Westminster PHAB	£1390	
	Sale of Poppies	Royal British Legion	£228.24	
	Sir Christopher Wren's Birthday Party	Shepherd's Bush Homeless Project	£110	
December	Sponsored Walk	Trinity Hospice	£1223.15	
	Cantandum concert	The Loomba Trust	£230	
	Envision – cake stall and ribbon sale	Avert – Aids Charity	£377	
	Sleaze	Alone in London	£809	
	Carol Service	Sparrow Schools	£1716	
January	Send a Cow	Westminster PHAB	£1716	
		Collection including £214 Jazz Concert	£750	
	Play term	Hakluyt's 6th Form Sponsor a Child in Africa	£1 per month each	
	House Play	Alone in London	£189	
	Opera	Alone in London	£365	
February	Envision Krispy Kreme	Sunbeam Foundation China	£245	
	Shag Day Concerts	Rohan School Sri Lanka	£2774	
	Book Sale			
	Donations			
	Give Something Up Day			
March	Fun run	Rohan School/Community Task Force	£7000	
	Parents' Dinner	Trinity Hospice/Rohan School	£2160	
		Total	£22498.39 (approx.)	
	Associated Event	Diocesan Lent Appeal	£467	
	Cantandum Concert			

Fundraising events continue throughout the school year. Not all activities or funds raised are shown in the above list. Some figures are approximate.

ENVISION

It has been another successful year for Westminster's charity and community service team, Envision, report Ellie Buchdahl (CC) and Antony Smith (CC).

We began the year with an AIDS awareness campaign to coincide with World Aids Day in November; a display in the library and a speech in Abbey aimed at tackling the prejudice that HIV sufferers still have to endure even in the UK. We also raised funds for AVERT, an AIDS charity which works both in the UK and overseas, through the sale of red ribbons and our hugely popular cake sale. But the highlight of the year has to be the Krispy Kreme doughnut sale in aid of the Sunbeam Foundation which supports orphans and needy children in rural China when, thanks to the charitable nature (or perhaps sugar addiction?) of Westminster pupils, we managed to sell out within the first few minutes.

More locally we have established a relationship with the Gandhi Centre in Bow and two groups so far have visited to help with maintenance and redecoration work. We have continued and extended our recycling initiative, so now two highly talented collectors every week have the enviable task of dragging bursting bin-bags filled with paper through Ashburnham House, the Weston Building, the boarding houses and finally across Yard to the huge recycling bin. And they do it so well.

Thanks to the dedication of our great team as well as the unwavering support of our EYES (Envision Youth Educators) Tom and Aphrodite, we have had a tremendous year. Well done everyone!

SURVIVING THE TSUNAMI

Fanxi Wang (PP) was one of several Westminsters who were with their family and friends in the earthquake zone on Boxing Day when the tsunami struck. Happily for the school, no one at Westminster was seriously hurt in the devastating event. Here Fanxi writes about the experience.

Witnessing and, more importantly, surviving a tsunami, is the kind of experience that one never expects to have, especially not on a blissful day in a tranquil tropical paradise like Phuket. Disasters and deaths occur regularly in the world, but they are rarely close enough to cut deep. This was deep enough to make my blood run cold with the thought that there might have been an empty seat at the dinner table tonight. Or that I could be drinking eternal oblivion on the dark ocean floor, instead of eating dinner.

What was traumatic about such an experience was the shadow that grew in me after the event. After the initial mixture of excitement, numbness, and shock had died down, I watched the death tolls rise, endlessly. Hearing stories about those who were swept away, and those who lost loved ones, I was filled with an indescribable feeling of relief and guilt. I went back to a beach that

only a few hours previously had been filled with cheerful holiday-makers; it was now filled with awful debris – and perhaps later would be with corpses. The smooth, thunderous sound of surging water comes rushing back to my mind. I find it hard to picture what would have happened if I had gone snorkelling or windsurfing that morning, instead of being lazy and having a lie-in. Or, the most painful of all, the memory of how my mother was still swimming in the sea ten minutes before the wave came.

Now, in England, all those memories seem to belong to another world. Nothing in this life seems to have changed. But part of me seems to have been subdued a little, by the image of the inexorable waves that took all who came across its path, rich or poor, kind or cruel, tourist or native. Luck is too small a word. I am glad Westminster found a way to help afterwards.



MOCK ELECTION

On Thursday 5th May, as Britain went to the polls, the Westminster school electorate headed for the library to cast their votes in the Westminster School mock election, report Ellie (CC) and Sam Buchdahl (AHH).

Preparations began in March, when the framework was laid for five potential parties – Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Veritas and UKIP. Party meetings began, leaflets began to circulate around school and the Lib Dems put together a highly professional website. True to the spirit of British politics, we had our share of smear campaigns as well.

With the election looming, the rallies began. The Liberal Democrats had the privilege of the first rally, performing admirably. Next came Labour, who fought bravely against a tirade of heckling. Finally the Conservatives had their chance to shine, and did so amidst a barrage of questions, most of which had a distinctly Lib-Dem feel to

them. At the hustings in Yard on 4th May, excitement had reached fever pitch. The three candidates – Ben Golden (Labour, RR), Angie Rogan (Conservatives, CC) and Max Kaufman (Liberal Democrats, AHH) – shouted themselves hoarse as supporters and hecklers alike turned up to enter into the spirit of democracy and to taste some of the refreshments on offer from the various parties.

Congratulations to everyone especially to Mr Hargreaves and Mr Crole for their organisation, Giles Robertson, king of the opinion polls, and the librarians for supervising and counting the votes. And of course to all the parties and their candidates. The result? Oh yes – Conservatives 137, Lib Dems 130, Labour 84.

OXBRIDGE INTERVIEW

Every year, around October, tens of thousands of young men and young ladies around the British Isles get into an awful tizz, often going as far as barricading themselves into their bedrooms with only a large pile of books, a bottle of Jack, and a long rope for company (okay, maybe not the bottle of Jack), writes a world-weary Louis Jagger (CC).

The reason, of course, is that they are amongst this country's educational elite (hmm) and accordingly must convince a few academics at either one of our two most prestigious universities that they too deserve to man the decks of the good ship Oxbridge. But how, you ask, does one succeed in this most aspirational of aspirations? Well, for a start it might be helpful to know what sort of question you're going to be asked. Here for you, reprinted with the kind permission of my agent, is the sort of catechism you can expect to receive in a typical Cambridge English interview...

Subject: English **Date:** 08/12/04
Place: Peterhouse, Cambridge **No of interviewers:** 2

Academic Questions: 'Why do you think, then, that this book was loved and admired by so many readers – and fellow novelists – in its day, if, as you claim, it's the 18th century's equivalent of modern-day 'trash'? 'Why did you put a book that you didn't like on your personal statement? What is it about the poems of Hopkins that you like? I see you've read some Joyce. Why have you hidden behind the chair? I can still see you.' (Most questions related to what was on my personal statement.)

General Questions: 'How was the test then? So you like cricket? You met Harold Pinter? What did he say? You haven't had a ride on our shock treatment machine yet, have you? Is your seatbelt on correctly? Are your sacrificial robes clean? Do you still want to keep hiding behind that chair?'

Comments: One was extremely friendly (the English master) and the other, the Arts admissions tutor (a history 'beak'), was the sardonic, 'nasty' one. I showed him, though. Whimpering. Just whimpering. The affair was conducted in a plush, cosy room with an electric fire and comfy armchairs. The interview was meant to last 30 minutes, but was allowed in my case to go on for 45 minutes due to certain aspersions being cast about my mental health. I was allowed to be myself and got good vibes. Heartily recommended. Bring your own drinks. £10, no underage.

Well, there you have it. As you can see, playing the 'Joyce' card is a risky procedure indeed. I can imagine that other subjects have similar deathtraps; mentioning Dali in an Art interview, for instance, or maybe Caesar in Classics, or Eric The Red in ASNAC, or Bobby Moore in History, or even Superman in Physics. But as long as you play your cards safe, keep your finger on the pulse, and repel the urge to house yourself behind the lushest article of furniture in the room, I assure you that you're in for the smoothest of rides. Tally-ho!

HEADS, SHOULDER, KNEES AND TOES

On the 27th April at 4:20, Westminster set the Guinness World Record (pending ratification) for the largest simultaneous performance of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes', writes organiser Ed Cumming (BB).

Though rain threatened disruption, Westminsters are made of stern stuff when it comes to records, and in the end the 500 participants were rewarded with glorious sunshine, which showed the best side of the school. Everyone was on an equal footing, from the lowliest Fifth former to the haughtiest Remove, and tremendous fun was had by all. There was no shortage of willing recorders, stewards and photographers to capture the glorious scene for posterity.

WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

2004 LEAVERS' BALL

Emily Lim (OWW) reports on a hitherto well-kept secret.



As any OW will tell you, the end of Westminster feels like the end of an era. A-levels and year book forms done and dusted, we in the Remove found ourselves facing our last days in yard, in uniform, Up School and, on a cheerier note, at our long awaited Leaver's Ball. Kindly organised by Mrs Newton, Mrs Jackman, Mr Hargreaves and his hand-picked crop of pupils, the evening was a huge success and the perfect way to mark the end of our time at school. I am writing this article a significant number of months on and over 11,000 miles away, and from here a few things stick out in my mind amidst the nostalgia. Firstly, the surprising sight of almost our entire year dressed from head to toe in black tie; hair brushed, shoes polished, shirts tucked in. Secondly, the

even more surprising, but curiously unhealthy, amount of 80's pop music churned out relentlessly by the dj. Thirdly, Serge and Mrs Newton being the first of many acts to hit the dance floor (the Chaplain and Mr Hargreaves were swift to follow). And finally an amazing, electric atmosphere of (for want of a better word) fun.

It is difficult to say exactly what the evening meant for everyone there. Those who have had a last reunion with their school leavers' year will know the feeling, those who have not will some day. Thank you to everyone who helped organise such a brilliant send off; our all-singing, all-dancing teachers (whose knowledge of 80's lyrics is seemingly unsurpassed), and of course everyone in the Remove, wherever you are...

HOUSE REPORTS

COLLEGE

Oh, our College is a cocktail, not a stew:
You can taste the smallest, subtlest tones of anything we do.
If you strangled us and beat us black and blue
We'd still be recognisable:
The greatest house devisable,
Although you think it risible,
Is College through and through.

Each one of us knows every other name:
A scholarship itself's the one prerequisite for fame
And better: no two children are the same.
The forty boys light up the school
Around the clock, in warm or cool.
The six girls just quite simply RULE!
(This poem has no shame)

And we're rather good at winning tournaments.
In the Singing we was robbed, I say (let slip the arguments),
But in Running and in Netball we did sense
A stage on which to introduce
Our innate genius, and let loose
The sporting heroes who produced
Success, ladies and gents!

Amici usque ad aras, aras
Amici usque ad aras. Usque ad? Ad aras!
Usque, amici, usque ad aras
'Tis graven deep upon each heart;
The bouncy prep-school boy at start
In five years grows to be a part
Of 'usque ad aras'.

GRANT'S

Last year's house report conveyed that Grant's experienced an unexpected range of successes in academia, sport and the arts; that the house had disturbingly raised its head from the meagre security of bleak banality. To set the record straight, unlike Major Major in Catch 22, Grant's had never been "born mediocre, achieved mediocrity" or "had mediocrity thrust upon" it. And that is why,

to the great chagrin of some disgruntled and "precocious" curmudgeons, Grant's has in fact continued to succeed.

This year in the Long Distance Races, Grant's performed well with the Juniors and Intermediates putting in solid performances. Though the age-ravaged legs of the Seniors constrained their finishing, their raw grit and determination were more than welcome.

However, the star of the Grant's running team for the past three years has been young Tom Samuel. Since the 5th form, he has won the Long Distance Races and has continuously smashed record after record. He is an outstanding athlete and the house is privileged to have him as our number one.

The Bringsty Relay, run in bitterly cold weather, had less romance to it. Indeed, it was a shame that the house failed to defend its crown. Grant's finished sixth out of eleven. nonetheless, the promising Juniors' team did well and, yes, Tom ran the fastest time in the school.

In House Hockey, Grant's has struck fear into the hearts of the other houses under the awesome leadership of Tim Lai, the Captain of Hockey. The house eleven has dominated the hockey pitch and will continue to do so in the years to come, especially since the majority of the team are in the Lower School. (By the way, Tom's in it too!)

In Fives, Grant's, led by Paul Giladi, is looking its strongest in many years with all three pairs having represented the school in various competitions.

But Grant's is more than just serious about sport; the house has continued to excel in music and academia too. The Grant's Concert and the

School Concert have seen some of the most outstanding musical performances in Westminster's recent history. At the house concert we witnessed Benedict Vanderspar's virtuoso talent on the violin. The School's Choral Concert saw a moving performance by Katy Watson, our resident Soprano who is off to Trinity, Cambridge with a Choral Scholarship. Many congratulations should also go to Johnny Field (Rem), whose musical talent is nothing short of exceptional. Not only did he painstakingly train the house for the House Singing Competition, but he also amazed the crowd with his singing, had one of his compositions performed during the Carol Service in December and by starred as Gianni Schicci in Paganini's operetta.

Academically, Grant's has remained in the 'Ivy League' of houses, achieving phenomenal GCSE and A Level grades. Grant's is unusually both sporty and scholarly.

All this could not have been achieved without our House Master, Gavin Griffiths. He has supported and cared for his flock in an incredibly cool and generous manner. His comic skills, ranging from intellectual satire to slapstick, fill the house with laughter; he also provides us with a wide variety of music (mostly out of tune). Thanks for another great year.



Netball practice.



Summer Saturday.
June 2004.

RIGAUD'S

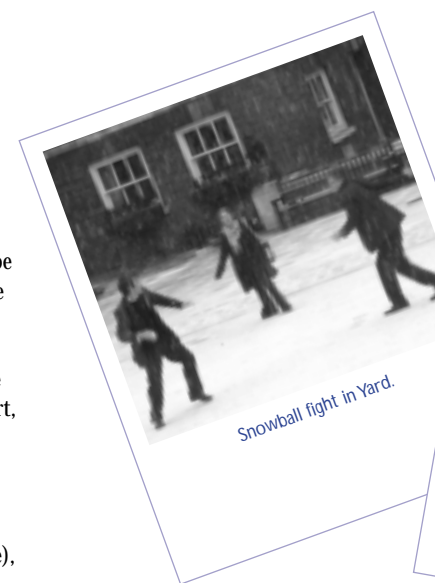
It has been a year of exertions. Mr Tompkins, coming, shall we say, from the wrong side of the blanket, Wrens, has turned his hand to boarder-management with distressing skill. He has been assisted by our shining beacon of a Matron, Mrs Amos, and our towering oak of a Head of House, Aleks Domanski. Last year, Rigaud's had a glut of achievements, winning the Tennis Plate and having stunning victories in House Hockey and House Fives. This year, we achieved nothing, but as Mr Tompkins suggests, last year's successes were but a warm up to Rigaud's most important and most laudable feat – the magnificent display at the House Singing competition. Rigaud's – ever-strong on the music side of things – trounced all opposition with a spectacularly flamboyant interpretation of 'In the Navy'. Following this wonderful high camp masterpiece, Rigauds proved itself more than a mere one-hit wonder with an equally impressive House Concert.

Despite the inevitable October to May lull, Rigaud's has seen marked progress on the domestic side of things. After a surprise discovery in the ceilings, the much-anticipated construction work has accelerated to a furious pace, as Rigaud's prepares to meet head-on the challenges of the 20th Century. As well as the prized "buried treasure" recently removed from the walls, Rigauds also parted ways with many other old traditions. The fifth form boarders no longer have to do their prep on the pool table, the plugs have been declared "OK" by the electrician, and we now have 900 satellite channels, all locked out. Essentially one year's hard toil has amounted to one real achievement but it was really rather a substantial one. So what has changed in a year of changes? In essence, nothing. But we did beat College.

BUSBY'S

In September, Busbites returned to an altogether more elegant house, thanks to a lick of turquoise paint and a courtyard replete with a Narnian lamp-post, befitting the fine young men and women it continues to produce. We hit the ground running, blowing away the competition at the Towpath and sportingly taking second place to College in the Bringsty relay and the Netball, as well as putting together our first fives team in years. Never a house for

sore losers (more than might be said for poor Milne's), we were content to abstain from the ruckus of house singing this year; we saved our musical fire for an impressive house concert, with Lower School musicians showing particular potential. With a strong presence in the drama sphere (including the Busbite-penned Edgar's House), not to mention another excellent edition of the College Street Clarion, we are simply unstoppable.



Snowball fight in Yard.



Relaxing after rehearsal, the Summer play.
Photographed by A-J Harvey.

LIDDELL'S

Another year, another tale of sporting success for Liddell's. Once again the house eleven-a-side trophy found its way to its rightful place in Dr Morris' office. We came third in the six-a sides despite missing our two best players to Spanish orals. There were notable performances from Gaby and Lucie Bishop and Matt Chen in fives, and with our defence of house cricket fast approaching, not to mention a sterling performance by Henry Hepworth in the Bringsty Relay, it is safe to say that our cup runneth over.

This is not to say however that Liddell's is merely a 'sporting' house: far from it. Of late, Westminster drama productions have been littered with Liddellite cast members. Edd Franklin and Edmund Digby-Jones are but two of many names that spring to mind.

In fact given the wealth of musical talent on show from the Liddellites in many school concerts it is a wonder that we did not do better in House Singing, although it is important to put things into perspective, this year – unlike the last two – we actually made it into the main competition!

Of course no year would be complete without exams and the like, however in Liddell's it is the case that we run a tight ship and so in addition to our efforts on other fronts we can expect to see, again, many very praiseworthy performances from Liddellites in all sorts of subjects and of all age-groups. Finally, we must look to the future and while it could be said that we are doing pretty well and should not be greedy, far be it from us not to strive for even greater things next year.

CONTINUED...

HOUSE REPORTS...

WREN'S

This year in Wren's has been the first full year under Mr. Feltham's energetic leadership. In some ways very little has changed: the pool table remains the largest in the school and the only one to require actual skill to play on; there were once again heroic, but ultimately unsuccessful, attempts at the House Football and House six-a-side; we failed in our efforts to defend our House Singing title, despite a repeat of last year's strategy of making the most of short skirts.

However, there were some notable highlights to make the year a memorable one. The victory in the House Chess competition – clearly showing the effect of having a Maths teacher as housemaster – was a highpoint equalled by the House Play, which saw the production of two works written and directed by members of the house, and completely without

staff involvement. The annual party for Sir Christopher Wren's birthday again exhibited the talent of the new members of the house, and this year saw them branch out from music and literature to magic tricks and juggling.

And there is the promise of more to come. The House Cricket and Tennis competitions could yet give the house a chance to exhibit sporting prowess, and the annual house concert, shared with neighbours Dryden's, will showcase the musical talents of the house: such is the diversity of Wrenites.



Football at Vincent Square.



Fun Run: the aftermath.



Lower School Greek Trip.

DRYDEN'S

Another year, another brilliant yet unrewarded house singing performance from Dryden's. This year, our rendition of "Love among the Linden trees" (maia hi, maia ha) greatly impressed the judges but, out of fear of Rigaud's hooliganism, victory went to our rivals across Yard. However, we expect our joint house concert with neighbouring Wren's on 29th April to reinstate us as leaders of the Westminster music scene. Also noteworthy is the victory we almost achieved at house chess.

On the sporting front, Dryden's added to its many skills; participating for the first time in inter-house hockey as well as most other inter-house championships. Particularly brilliant was our performance at the house six-a-side, being only narrowly beaten by Liddell's in the finals. Equally impressive were our accomplishments at the Bringsty relays where the Seniors won, leading to an overall third position. Naturally, we have high hopes for Athletics day!

Mr. Tocknell has been promoted to Senior Head of Administration and so, unfortunately, will be leaving us at the end of the year. After 14 years with Dryden's, we will miss him for his contributions to house spirit, expeditions and music as well as his ability to grin cheekily at all of our defeats. A tough act to follow! We wish him all the best at his new post. On a happier note, we welcome Dr Boulton as new housemaster next year and are all excited about the new era that now dawns upon us... At long last, a physics teacher with a keen interest in expeditions.



Mock election meeting.



Cooling off.



Fun Run. Photographed by A Domanski.

HAKLUYT'S

2004 has been yet another great year for Hakluyt's. Firstly, the highlight of the play term was the notorious House Singing Competition, where we maintained our high reputation, finishing third. We couldn't help feeling robbed, finishing behind the 'All Glorious' College. Next came our victory on the Towpath, winning both the senior and junior events. Pleasing, if not excellent, performances on the pitch from Tom Lloyd, Ian Clancy and Anthony Comminos ensured the return of the house six-a-side title to us. Unfortunately we didn't get the title in the eleven-a-sides, where we reached the final but lost to Liddell's. Fear not we do have a valid excuse: due to poor weather conditions, play was abandoned on one day meaning all matches had to be played during the next station afternoon and consequentially the team were knackered even before the semis.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to our prized mathematician Mr MacMahon this year, so want to thank him for all he's done for the house and his tutees,

and wish him all the best for the future. In return we welcome Mr Pyatt, head of the English Department who, I am sure, will make sure we are the best spoken house in the school!

The timing of the writing of this report is such that we still have the best part of a term remaining and therefore many events to take place. However we are looking forward to the Hakluyt's and Liddell's house concert featuring talented musicians from all stages in the house who consistently play with distinction and whom we are very lucky to have as part of Hakluyt's. Also coming up is Athletics in which we usually do extremely well followed by the eagerly-awaited House tennis.



Manoukian Centre entrance area. Photographed by P Grant.



Sumo wrestling at the fête in June 2004.



Leavers' Poster 2004.

MILNE'S

This was a year that saw the batons pass from Athill to Arnold and JCT to KAPW, but such is the spirit of this House, established beyond its years, that life at Pooh Corner has remained as busy and interesting as ever. Whilst it did not bring much (well, anything, in fact) in the way of silverware, the year did witness many heroic performances across the board. Chloe Pickup and Alex Elias have emerged as formidable debaters and will, no doubt go from strength to strength, whilst our Towpath and Bringsty runners, led by Alex Joseph, were up there with the best of them. Mention must be made too of Felix Baden-Powell, who ran one leg of the Brigsty having turned up, somewhat reluctantly, as a true act of heroism. Our hockey team, inspired by captain Andrew Lloyd-Harris, all but won the inter-house competition – the future looks very bright in this area and the team spirit was very much in evidence on the football pitch too, where, had the run of the ball gone our way, things would have been very different.

The year has been awash with music: a superb evening in the Manoukian Centre (the first ever House Concert in the new venue) with star turns too numerous to mention, coordinated with typical expertise and enthusiasm by LTT; sadly her swansong, it turns out. And who can forget the House Singing Competition (try as one might), from which we walked throats raw but heads held high? Our link with Trinity Hospice has continued and burgeoned and we have been able, once more, to support their cause whilst enjoying ourselves with events such as the House Walk and the Parents' Dinner and Fifth form carol singing at Christmas. The cultural side of life has featured too, with memorable visits to the National Gallery, Greenwich Ice Rink and a couple of ventures into theatre-land. All this and we were redecorated too. Tiddley-pom.

2004 – 2005
SCHOOL YEAR



The IT Room.



Fun Run.



Art History Trip, Paris.



Revising on Green.



Detail from a Rodin taken during the Art History Trip to Paris.



Stage construction for Much Ado about Nothing.



Head, shoulders, knees and toes...



Water team in Philadelphia.



Snow in Yard.



The Weston Building during the refurbishment process.



Scene from Sleaze – a musical based on Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.



Westminster Coffee Club.



Nikolai – the snapper.



Mock election meeting.



Skye. Photographed by Martin Boulton.

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WALKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

...Alone With a few sheep, with rocks and stones, and kites... It is in truth an utter solitude.



Wordsworth's impressions were similar to ours climbing up to Allcock Tarn on our expedition to the Lake District last December, avow Bella Sanders (DD) and Lily Ash Sakula (GG).



While everyone else disappeared into the pub to celebrate the end of term, we mad walkers climbed into a mini-bus for an 8 hour journey up North. Each morning, fuelled with porridge and fried bacon and armed with packed lunches, beanies and gloves, we would set off for the highest mountain that Mr Hooper, ever in shorts, could find. One day we conquered Scafell Pike, the next we vanquished a snow-covered High Seat in varying degrees of pain and howling gales. Guided by Giles Robertson's fluorescent yellow anorak, we would reach the top and scour the mists for a glimpse of a view; if none could be found we would

comfort ourselves with singing *Jerusalem*, eating flapjacks and having snowball fights. Then there was the race against the encroaching darkness back down the mountain to hot showers at the hostel, hindered on High Tove by a treacherous knee-high bog. We filled the evenings with pool, Scrabble, trips into Keswick and, most memorably, Mr Ullathorne's famed spag bol. Our last stop was Castlerigg Stone Circle where we practised levitation before heading South, exhausted, but already missing the majestic hills of 'our green and pleasant land.' A huge thank you is in order for our incomparable guides, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Wurr, Mr. Ullathorne and Dr. Boulton.

Above and left: Lake District trip.

Above and right: Climbing in Skye. Photographs by Martin Boulton.

MOUNTAINEERING TRIP SKYE

This year's Skye trip was bigger than usual, says Tom Samuel (GG), and included a mixture of people doing Duke of Edinburgh Award and Climbing.

For most of the trip we split into those two groups for our activities. Having arrived in Inverness by the overnight sleeper train, we drove to the youth hostel at Glenbrittle and embarked on our first day's activity; a walk in beautiful weather up Corrie Lagan. The weather was so fine that we were even able to swim in the loch up there in March! The weather on the next day was much the same and, whilst the D of E people practiced navigation, we climbed the spectacular pinnacle ridge up to Sgurr nam Gilleann – the first mountain to be climbed in Skye.

For the remaining days of the trip our luck with the weather

did not hold, but this was just to be expected in north west Scotland during early spring. However, in spite of this, we still managed to fit in a varied programme including a mixture of rock climbing and scrambling. For me the highlight of the trip was definitely the climb up the pinnacle ridge, followed closely by an airy 40 meter rock climb near Lealt in the north of the Island. On Thursday, five days after we arrived, we reluctantly piled our kit into our battered Land Rovers, and set off for Inverness. I think the trip was definitely enjoyed by all.

CAVING IN THE MENDIPS

There were many memorable moments on our caving trip in February, remembers Jonathan McKinley (DD), and the second cave, Sidcot Swallet proved to have a vast variety of challenges.



Caving weekend in the Mendips. Benjamin Bonnerjea, Andrew Marshall, Nicholas Smith, Giles Robertson, Keen Yeung and Jonathan McKinley.

Photographed by Jan Evetts, who helped out on the weekend.



I was picked to take the lead, but after struggling through the tightest squeezes in my life, I eventually gave up, unable to find the way on. Mr Hooper pointed out the way on but when I reached the hole, I found only a squeeze that wouldn't allow my helmet to go through. Telling this to the master speleologist (caver), I climbed out and let him try. Confident that I was right and the end of the cave was nigh, I looked back to the others as they were coming through to the small cavern. But when I looked to where Mr Hooper should have been, I saw emptiness. I was about to shout a warning that the earth had swallowed the teacher up, but after descending further, I found the rabbit-hole sized path (and that's being generous), then followed. The fun did not stop in this cave as we ended up having to descend, then return, via a hole in the ground with no foot holds and few hand-holds, called the 'Lobster Pot'.

When we reached Swildon's Cavern the following day, we waited outside a cylindrical building in the middle of a field. There was a pond outside it, and we thought nothing of it until we were told to descend the hole in the little building that led into a fast moving stream. Unfortunately for us, we realised that the teachers were not joking and

prepared for the onslaught of cold water. But this was nothing compared to what lay in store for us. Waterfalls! We ended up having to climb down, and back up, a metal string ladder with the full force of the water falling on our heads. Fortunately the wetsuits, which proved far more of a problem to get off than anything we encountered in the caves, protected us from freezing.

All in all the expedition was enjoyed thoroughly by everyone, and it comes as a real surprise to me that there has been little interest in this trip in the last few years. I hope anyone who read this article will decide that this expedition is a necessary annual event and go along next year.



CLASSICISTS TRIP RHODES

For a week last October, nine pupils and three teachers from Westminster enjoyed a hot classical time in this beautiful island, reading, orating and catching octopus, opines Alistair Wallace (DD). Celestial, magnificent, inspiring and with brilliant teaching, bounteous food, blazing sun and bronzed skin, our blissful memories will last a lifetime. Many thanks to everyone for organising such a good trip.



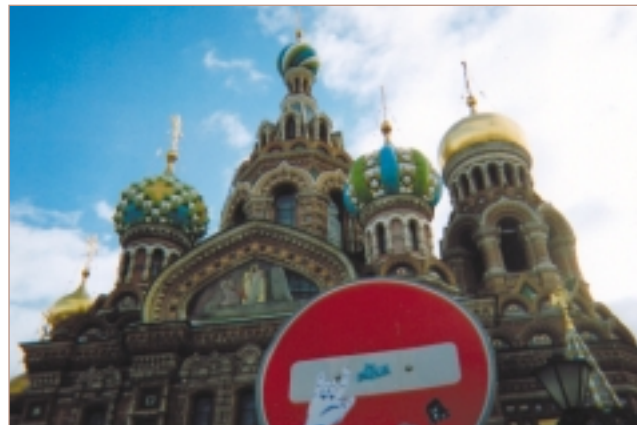
Top: Alistair rejoices – he knows there'll be dinner tonight.

Above (top): Los Pop Idolos Rhodos.

Above (middle): Mr Low and David sped ahead in the race to the top of the acropolis.

Above (bottom): Alistair concentrates on what really matters in life.

Below (top): The Russianistas.
Below (bottom): River Neva, St Petersburg.
Below (right): The Church of Spilt Blood, St Petersburg.
All Photographed by J Greenland.



Looking back over the vast residential area of Primorskaya, swathed in darkness and snow, we saw that all the huge apartment buildings were identical and we had no idea which one we had come from. That was the first night of the Sixth form trip to St. Petersburg and after finally finding our way back we sat down with our hosts our two week stay and tucked into a plate of pelmeni, a surprisingly addictive kind of Russian ravioli. We took lessons in the morning with our heartbreakingly patient teacher, Diana, at a nearby school and then would leave for other pursuits in the afternoon. We visited all the usual places of interest like the Hermitage, the cathedrals and the Russian Museum and also had the time for more unusual amusements.

One day the group headed for the country packed into a bus full of excitable, singing and dancing Russian students. When we got to the snowy Russian countryside we indulged in some time-honoured Russian sports such as boot-throwing, wheel-rolling,

wood-sawing and finally, ice-skating (which seemed pretty dull in comparison, I thought). The day proved really satisfying, mainly because one of the best ways to bond with Russians is to have them pelt you repeatedly with snowballs.

Probably the best thing we got from our stay in St. Petersburg was an understanding of the city and its people. For the first few days, some struggled with the idea of living a happy existence in the city. If it wasn't the dilapidation of the buildings, the filth coating the cars or the customary rudeness of Russian citizens, then it was the unmistakable taint of Soviet oppression that has left its mark on literally everything in the city. St. Petersburg, however, grew on me particularly quickly. I learned to appreciate the warm spirit of its people, the beauty of its architecture and the tones of its language. As my substantial new neighbour Victor said, staring into my eyes on the long bus journey back to St. Petersburg. "It must be love."

LOST IN ST PETERSBURG SIXTH FORM RUSSIAN TRIP

"No, seriously. Which one is it again?" cried one of Adam Grant's (GG) lost and confused companions on this year's Russian trip.

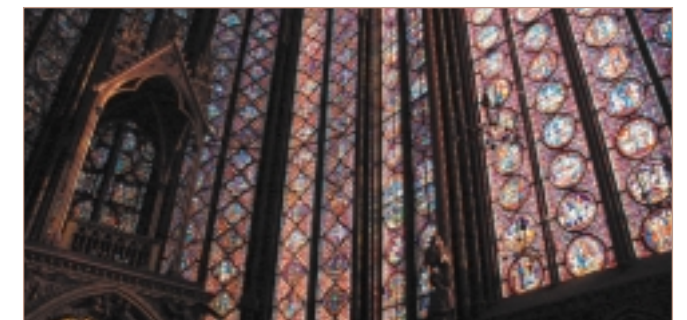


It was in the company of Doctors Cockburn and Jacobi and Mr Johnson that our group boarded the Eurostar, revision material in bags and thinking caps ready to go on. Tired, coffee-addled and suffering from morning hair, it might not have occurred to a passing stranger that the three days ahead of this group were to be not only interesting, but vitally fun. It is safe to say that studying Art History changes a student's experience of a gallery for the better. The word "schlep" did not even loom once over the course of the expedition. Not that it had time; on the first day, the group tackled a series of stunning gothic churches, including St Denis and St Chappelle, and over the next two days followed the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the houses of Rodin and Picasso, and the Pompidou Centre...not only that, but a full mock exam, a module each evening, was completed, the day's art still fresh in the group's mind.

Thinking back, of course, the trip was hard work. Yet we all came away truly inspired when viewing the striking paintings which we had been studying in

class. We all learnt about different artistic movements and styles and came across many works we had never seen before which we were eager to learn more about. Humorously, the strategies employed to get into some of the group-unfriendly museums created small sagas all their own, with the group splitting into twos and threes and pretending to be Russian, Australian, et al. Fortunately on our last night we were ushered into a near-empty Notre Dame, which appeared so beautiful that we were overcome and many shed tears. Following this, as no participant in the trip would dispute, there was the unforgettable evening we spent at a truly French jazz club not far from Notre Dame on the last night. "Sizzlin'!" only begins to describe it, and by the stroke of twelve thirty there was not a single pupil – or teacher – who hadn't thrown aside their inhibitions and danced the art away.

Many, if not all, of the group were sorry to return to London, and it is perhaps a gross understatement to say that on this year's Paris exhibition, a good time was had by all.



PARIS ART HISTORY TRIP

Ah, Paris. The city of love (and all things romantic), sigh Christina Farr (MM) and Andrew Naughtie (GG), who explored the great city artistically. As the Sixth form Art Historians discovered, however, there's far more to it than that.



GERMAN EXCHANGE LONDON TO BERLIN

As I made my way down Wren's corridor to meet Hendrik, my German exchange, for the first time, I realised my enthusiasm for having a German stranger living in my house for ten days had somewhat waned, admits James Wan (RR).

'Have you enjoyed yourself today?' I asked, having met him for the first time. 'Yes, many' he replied. This dialogue was followed by a series of long silences interrupted by the occasional question and one word answer. The awkwardness was not particularly helped the second time he saw me, as I turned up in skinny white shorts, a white shirt and a paper hat that read 'HMS Rigaud's', surrounded by a rowdy crowd of eccentric 'foreigners'. The definition of 'house singing' I had given him moments before seemed all of a sudden somewhat redundant.

By the time we got home that evening, he was hungry and exhausted. We were a little wary at first and I was worried he might not like the food. The memory of Antoine, aka 'Trotter', my French exchange, throwing up after eating rice for the first time had remained imprinted in my family's minds. So, we were relieved and pleased as he looked up grinning 'Chinese is good, chicken is good'. He was pleased so we were pleased and that is how I believe exchanges work. We did all we could to make him feel at home and he was the perfect gentleman, while at the same time being the perfect German.

His suitcase was a haven of order and efficiency; he re-organised his money after every Monopoly cash transaction and he was ready to leave the house every day at the exact time we suggested.

Hendrik was great to have around and every afternoon as I got to know him better, I enjoyed his company more and more. Having exhausted my mental list of conversation topics, we reverted to the common ground between any teenage boys: video games. We met up with other exchanges and I was pleased if not a little surprised to see that all my classmates were getting on with their exchanges as well as I was with mine.

I saw this again on the day they left, as we all gathered outside the school to say our goodbyes. The entire group was very close and although we all formed bonds with our German counterparts, I noticed in the nature of a few of the goodbyes that some people got a little closer than others...

I have promised to keep in contact with my exchange until Easter when we land in Berlin for ten days. I have no doubt that the Germans will be as hospitable as I believe we were to them. The only problem until then will be having to learn German.

LATER IN BERLIN...

Whatever my preconceptions of Berlin might have been, says Penny Wright, they were wrong.

Berlin does not have the architecture and tourist attractions that we are perhaps accustomed to visiting in other European capital cities. Whatever beautiful squares and buildings Berlin had in 1939 it no longer did so in 1945.

The one thing I particularly noticed about Berlin was that as a capital city it seemed to lack the hustle and bustle that one normally associates with a metropolis. It is a very clean city with wide streets, but there are no crowds or traffic jams. It is a tantalising mixture of the old, the very modern, beautiful and well designed and of ghastly 60s aberrations, particularly in the eastern side. Everywhere you go there is evidence of building construction, regeneration and repair. This is a city which, though financially bankrupt, is striving to regain its reputation as a city where things happen. The people are optimistic and proud of their city, and with very good reason. In 10 years time this city will be as bustling as any other European capital.

But don't misunderstand me. There is still plenty to do and see. And Berlin does have a history, though a more recent one than most tourists are used to. There is plenty of art too, and there is a thriving cultural life, with our very own Sir Simon Rattle wielding his baton at the Berlin Philharmonic, three opera houses, multiplex cinemas, and a cosmopolitan cuisine.

The atrocities of the war are not something that Germans have allowed to be forgotten. The bombed Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche in Kurfürstendamm still stands in a state of disrepair. Inside is a simple cross made from three nails found in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. A modern church has been built next to its predecessor. From the outside it looks like a hideous concrete block, but the concrete walls contain a grid of blue stained glass windows, and from inside the church it is both unexpected and beautiful. It was the quietest and most awed that I saw our 20 Upper Shell boys that week.

Our first day trip was an excellent walking tour of the city with

an English speaking guide. We started at the last remaining bit of the wall that still stands, and she brought the history of the war and the subsequent separation of the city alive with her detailed knowledge and anecdotes of daring escapes. I wonder how many people who pass through the Mohrenstraße underground station, realise that the marble walls and pillars actually came from Hitler's offices?

We visited the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, and travelled out of Berlin to the small town of Oranienburg to visit the memorial and museum at Sachsenhausen, a former Nazi and Stasi concentration/prison camp. There were poignant reminders of what the prisoners had suffered, and RPR displayed his impressive knowledge of the politics and events that brought about so much suffering. It was a depressing outing, but a very necessary one and as the pupils are now two generations removed from WWII, it is important that the lessons learnt are not forgotten, and the mistakes not repeated.

To consolidate all they had heard about the war we took the boys to see the German film Sophie Scholl. An excellent film, fortunately with English subtitles, it told the true and tragic story of a young resistance fighter and her brother. It was thought provoking, and engendered much discussion afterwards.

We also visited Europe's largest zoo, went up the Fernsehturm on Alexanderplatz, visited the Bauhaus and walked for miles! And of course the ice creams at Potsdamer Platz were a big draw.

The boys had trips out with their host families, and if all the gossip is true, did their best to further Anglo-German relations in the evenings. Apparently the Brandenburg Gate will never be the same again after a visit from Ming.

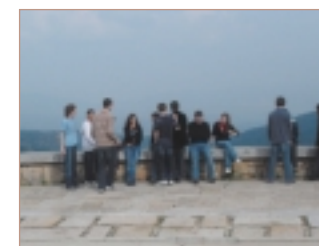


SPANISH TRIP 2005 VALLADOLID

This year the Spanish Trip contained all the trappings of an O.C episode; drugs, cat-fights, love-triangles and battles with ice cream addiction, imagines Ed Miles (RR), fondly:

Above:
The Valle de los
Caidos where
Franco was buried.

Below:
The Villa Romana where
most people caught up on
sleep and car-park football
was the only highlight.



Actually, we spent a rather uneventful ten days in Spain. We stayed in Valladolid, for the main part spending most of our time in the city, frequently travelling to places beyond the city in order to appreciate other cultural aspects.

The trips to Segovia, Avila and Salamanca passed without incident, each containing some construction of antiquity. In Segovia there was the castle, in Avila there were the walls and in Salamanca there were the churches. Unfortunately we had to limit ourselves to only the university and the pick of the twenty-eight churches on

offer, due to time restrictions, and our time was spent mostly examining the walls in the hope of seeing an eroded frog.

Elsewhere the Villa Romana and model village provided light entertainment, enlivened by a spot of car-park football. Equally successful was the tour round a winery, where many tried and failed to purchase wine; the fear of the "botellon" was too much for Mr. Bartlett.

Other highlights included a trip to El Escorial where the guide, Carlos, gave us an insight into the "very nice" surroundings and the history of the "donk". I think it's fair to say that the tour was the best event of the intensive Spanish learning course, although some might say that the chance to create a painting at the Museo Pateo Herriano was an opportunity to exhibit flair and a wealth of hidden artistic talent. Unfortunately, as the results showed, the more accomplished painters were in fact in Paris on the extended Art History weekend.

The whole tone of the trip was perhaps best represented by the Last Supper, in which most people gorged themselves and the Champions' League extracted emotions on a par with Mr. Bartlett's heart-warming closing speech.

LOWER SCHOOL GREEK TRIP

Three days from the end of the Lent Term we swapped the rigours of school life for the culture and comforts of Greece, boasts Jeremy Holt (CC), beginning a ten-day tour of the sites on the mainland and the Peloponnese.

The austere beauty of the Parthenon was incredible, as were the famous Caryatids holding up the porch of the Erechtheion. From here you can gaze upon the whole of Athens, including the newly built Olympic stadiums. We later caught the sunset at Sounion – a temple of Poseidon situated right on the tip of a headland and a favourite haunt of Lord Byron who carved his name into the Doric ruins.

For the next week we journeyed through the Peloponnese, down one side and up the other. First stop was the sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidaurus with its theatre famed for its acoustics. This was demonstrated by an employee of the site, who, hushing the various groups

into silence then reverently dropped a coin onto the stone tablet at the centre of the “stage”. The tinkle was audible right at the top of the seating.

After visiting Mycenae, the famous citadel of Agamemnon, we left the coast with its cold but fantastically clear water for Sparta and the Byzantine city of Mystras.

Set on the sides of the snow-capped Taygetus Mountains, Mystras is a magical and incredibly well-preserved medieval city. Its labyrinthine alleys and streets have caused many a group to be split up in the past. The only residents of Mystras today are the wildlife, a colony of cats and a group of nuns from one of the beautifully frescoed churches that remains.



Crossing the Taygetus range the next day, we stopped midway across to sample and buy some Greek honey. The owner served plates of yoghurt with more honey than yoghurt on them, and sold large jars and tins of similar honey. Figuring that the jars would break, I bought two tins. So I was surprised to find a large pool of honey in my bag when I came home.

Basing ourselves in Pylos for the next two days, we visited the island of Sphacteria, the site of an early Athenian victory over the Spartans in the Peloponnesian War, and the memorials there to the Russian and French sailors who died in the battle of Navarino Bay. From here we went to the Venetian fortress of Methone,

the “Camelot of Greece”. The causeway to the picturesque Turkish Bourzi tower shelters the bay from the choppy seas outside and also the hundreds of sea urchins that live in the shallow water near the causeway.

The bay provided us with our first real chance to sit and soak up the sun or play a decent game of football, the latter taking place in the shade of the fortress walls.

Back up the west coast we went, to Olympia and then onto Delphi, on the other side of the Gulf of Corinth. It seemed that with spring the two sites had suddenly exploded with life. Olympia was carpeted with thousands of wildflowers, filling in the gaps

between the ruins of the famous temple of Zeus and the workshop of Pheidias.

We had our second sprint race where the first Olympic runners would have competed, in a stadium designed to house 40,000 spectators. Mr Harrison and Theo Gordon easily outstripped the rest, though our leader, Dr Katz, would wish me to add that he came a near third.

Delphi, site of the famous oracle, was similarly covered with flowers which added to the immense beauty of the setting and the site itself. This shine was tarnished by an employee at the stadium above the temple. Within two minutes of our arriving he quickly hurried us out again, all the time looking up the mountain and speaking into his radio. The site closed at six but a complex alarm system would go off in the stadium if we walked around it at

twenty minutes to, or so he claimed. The following morning we made a return visit and saw things properly – and ran another race.

The last site to visit before re-entering Attica was the Byzantine monastery of Osios Loukas. The two churches here are famed for their mosaics and frescoes. It was breathtaking to discover the inside completely covered with these scenes, contrasting with the starkness of the exterior. To the side, we found the body of a lesser saint clothed in black and placed in a glass coffin, one skeletal hand visible.

We returned to Attica, before coming back to Athens and taking the plane home for London, considerably more cultured but exhausted, having completed a concentrated and highly enjoyable tour of Greece and three and a half thousand years of history.



CLIMBING IN THE PYRENEES

During the early summer holidays in 2004 a group of intrepid climbing Station members (Dennis Kolesnikov, Tommy Cattell, Tom Clinton, Ben Newmark, Will Pickering and Freddy Lyon) set off for a week's climbing in the Spanish Pyrenees, writes Freddy Lyon.

Under the expert guidance of Dr “Docky B” Boulton and Mr “Tockers” Tocknell, we were confident of a safe and successful trip, along with our superb and friendly guides for the week, Ollie and G (his full name being far too difficult and long to say), who some of us had met on previous trips. We travelled first to an extremely hot area of the countryside. Eating ice cream beside a lake, we reflected on the success of the trip so far. Higher into the mountains it was much colder and few of us had brought clothes suitable for these conditions. Despite this,

the cabin, the food and the hospitality of the local people were truly excellent. On the climbing front there was a huge variety of routes to challenge every member of our party ranging from tricky balancing granite slabs to overhanging buttresses. Of us all, top marks for effort went to Ben who battled against excess height and a slippery rock surface to complete a route after 15 attempts. Overall a good time was had by all with everyone performing to their own ability and beyond.

COLLEGE ON THE ALSTON TRIP



IMAGES FROM THE FLORENCE TRIP

Thames skyline. Photographed by Nikolai Cedraeus.

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ECONOMICS PRIZE HIDDEN CAPITAL AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIAL MOBILITY

Yusuf Blunt's (LL) winning Economics essay was a discussion of the concept of 'hidden capital', with application to understanding social mobility, particularly via education. Neo-classical economic theory is insufficient to explain certain economic or social phenomena, but the inclusion of these forms of capital into the model can facilitate an understanding of them. An extract is printed here.

As a society, we imagine that by limiting property and wealth inheritance, we have solved the problem that history poses for social inequality. Thus, even with the addition of inheritance of property, society should reflect the equality of opportunity, and an essentially classless structure. However, evidence suggests that this is not the case.

A 1997 study found that children born in the middle-classes had an 89 per cent chance of attaining a comparable position in the social hierarchy, whilst between 80 and 90 per cent of children born into less advantaged backgrounds would remain in a similarly unprivileged social position. The results are striking: class remains as solid as ever. This inequality is basically reflected in the academic achievement of the different class fractions. Ability tests scores show that the ratio of 'high' to 'low' ability sons of professionals is 87:13, whilst the ratio for the sons of unskilled manual labourers is 32:68. Class appears to be mediated through the differing levels of academic success between social classes; children from privileged backgrounds do better in education than children from less privileged backgrounds. A theory to explain this inequality was suggested by the French sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu.

According to Bourdieu, we can understand the problem by reintroducing hidden forms of capital into the economic

model. Besides economic capital (wealth), Bourdieu suggests that there are two other types of capital: 'cultural' and 'social'. Cultural capital describes knowledge, understanding or ideas. These are a form of capital because they can be used as an asset in the social or productive world. Cultural capital is described as 'embodied' when it is internalised by a person; it is the knowledge, cultivation, or the level of understanding and capability that a person has. It is acquired through learning. Accordingly, somebody who is highly educated has a large amount of embodied cultural capital, whilst somebody who is poorly educated will inevitably have a low amount of embodied cultural capital. In order to embody capital, a person makes an investment in himself in the form of an education. The cost of this investment is the time taken for the education to occur. Therefore, unlike economic capital, embodied cultural capital cannot be acquired instantaneously...

It is clear that an understanding of the hidden forms of capital allows for a greater understanding of the way in which the social world functions, and consequently the existence of, and the processes underlying social immobility. Current policies, inappropriate in education, and non-existent towards social capital, fail to resolve this immobility. If we truly desire meritocracy, then the first step towards its acquisition must be the recognition of the hidden forms of capital.

JOHN HOUSE ART HISTORY PRIZE LUC TYMANS

Alex Edwards (BB) won this year's prize with his essay on Luc Tymans. Below is an extract of his piece.

I became interested in the work of Luc Tymans after seeing his most recent exhibition at the Tate Modern (23 June – 26 Sept). My interest was triggered by the difficulty I found in viewing many of the works. I became uncomfortable and left the exhibition after seeing only half of it. I returned later because I was intrigued by why the seemingly banal paintings had had this effect on me...

Tymans' work is a vast 'repository of data', an extended patchwork of dissimilar painting styles. His work ranges from the banal (door handles, repeating patterns and Christmas decorations), through existential implications (mannequins, portraits and dolls), to history paintings of some of the most horrific events of the last century (the Holocaust, the political

turmoil of the Belgian Congo). It is for this reason that many critics find that 'Tymans' work is hard to compartmentalise.' In 2004, Tymans' work was exhibited at the Tate Modern where the Director described it as a 'paradoxical combination (of paintings),' and the exhibition was, unusually, not chronologically arranged partly for this reason. This view is compounded in an essay about the exhibition in which Jesus Feunmayor says that there is 'no obvious way of ordering it.' Tymans disagrees that there is no single thread linking his work and asserts: 'my work is a never-ending story' stating that the structure underlying his work is violence...

Violence is a recurring theme in Tymans' work. The violence inherent in Gaskamer1986 is a

particularly telling example, bleak corridors, unpopulated chambers and rooms represent the violence that took place in the gas chambers of the holocaust. Rather than a pictorial representation, the title itself infers the violence in the collective unconscious of the viewer. The empty room, through being empty, implies violence greater than could be portrayed and so the history painting becomes more graphic by being a dream history. In this way, the viewer paints the horror of the scene himself with Tymans providing the scenery. The atmosphere of the chamber is bland but a feeling of claustrophobia pervades through the absence of what you expect to see there. The blandness of the beige palette highlights what colour there is, and it is upon closer inspection that the dark shadows that decorate the floor become the stain of blood surrounding the drainage grates.

The underlying theme in Tymans work is the ability the work has to annihilate the expectations of the viewer and in doing so unsettle and isolate them. Tymans achieves this through his technique that detaches the viewer from the subject. This is the uncanny that imbues the most inanimate objects with horrific characteristics and robs human subjects of their humanity crowned by the overriding air of blandness that tries to tell a viewer that despite all the above intentions there is nothing going on in his work.

It is the passive aggressive stance he takes as the creator of these paintings that is perhaps the most consistently violent aspect of his work, as he himself says in the video that accompanied the Tate exhibition "the less spectacular the violence the more violent it is."

GUMBLETON PRIZE 2004

Nikolai Cedraeus (GG) won this year's Gumbleton creative writing prize with a poem in several parts entitled 'Memories of a Night'. We print an extract in which he takes the reader on a journey from a forest to a city suffused with orange light, then back to the shadowy depths of night.

III THE LAST GLIMMER OF DAY

Night had begun like an ever dimmer
Lightbulb filtered through clutching red fingers.
Over the horizon, sun slipped and shimmered

Casting rays of glow which seemed to linger
After the edge of darkness' sun had passed.
The eyes and mind remained deceived until

A sudden snapshot showed them that, at last,
The first real hours of night, slowly, onto
The glade had arrived. All the light had gone

And it was now the absolute blackness
Where nothing – neither the sun nor stars – shone,
And as my eyes adjusted, night was light-less.

It reminded me of nights as a small child
Spent in summer on the Spanish south coast.
Every evening it grew dark so fast that while

Outside, one could see the sun sink past the boats
That had set anchors to see the sea's waves
Turn into reds and golds as the world turned.

I would walk home along the dusty sand
Paths, still warm from midday when the sun had burnt
All on which it had shone. Cicadas had

Then begun to sing; little invisible
chirps merged as a symphony of shared
ad-libbing, an opaque combined babble

From the dry wire thorns innocently tearing
At my bare, scratch-covered ten year old feet.
And returning home, ceiling watching, lying back;

A frail insect net enveloped me, to keep
My blood to myself. Lights dimmed: sheer black...
In one forgotten moment I was asleep.

PHILLIMORE PRIZE THE CORRECTIONS

Below is an extract of his year's winning essay by Georgina Cox (GG) entitled: *To what extent is Jonathan Franzen's 'The Corrections' an attempt to 'correct' society?*

In writing 'The Corrections' Jonathan Franzen aimed to reflect the ills and anxieties of America and her culture through the tragic saga of a single dysfunctional midwestern family. Don DeLillo's perception of the writer as 'the person who stands outside society, independent of affiliation and independent of influence'¹, reflects Franzen's sense of 'responsibility to dramatise important issues of the day' and 'engage with the culture'. Indeed, he tackles many current issues such as alcoholism, mental depression, home surveillance and globalized greed. Yet the centre of the novel is the inner dynamics of an unhappy family and Franzen captures the small, deeply personal tragedies of life...

A 'blend of postmodern meganovel and Victorian family saga'³, Franzen constructs the first two sections of 'The Corrections' and the fourth and fifth as short novels, each revolving around a single situation, one dramatic event. Around this event, Franzen reveals the personality of each of his characters. The stately length of 'The Corrections' enables Franzen to accumulate perspective gradually and persistently, so that the reader gathers a real sense of each of the Lamberts. Franzen portrays the ironic culture of children looking after parents declining in authority, yet we see that none of the Lambert children are free, because they are still, above all, parented. Subconsciously, all the children's decisions are made in relation to their parents, to oppose or to appease. Family is the catalyst. Franzen develops the idea that

the 'correction' is the doomed struggle against this determinism. The Lambert children believe themselves to be living lives that correct those of their parents. Franzen writes of Gary that 'his entire life was set up as a correction of his father's life'. Franzen shows, however, that family determinism can turn correction into repetition. Despite the fact that Gary's favourite compliment from Caroline is 'You're nothing at all like your father', he has inherited his father's unhappiness and alienation from his children. When Gary accuses his father of being depressed, Alfred says that, on the contrary, he (Gary) is the one who is depressed, at which Gary bursts out: 'My life is on a fundamentally different basis than yours.' He is blind to this repetition. On the contrary, Alfred's favourite is Chip, his 'intellectual son', the son who is most unlike him, the son who has not repeated his own mistakes...

Franzen's writing is often simple, following Hemingway's idea that the novel should be easy to read and full of subtlety. While the writing and presentation seem effortless, there are sudden changes in tone with complex and lengthy sentences. The book is a blend between postmodern and plain and old-fashioned storytelling – making it easily accessible. Franzen often writes with an easy journalism of narrative style.

1. Don DeLillo
(1998 interview by Ann Arensberg)
3. James Schiff – News & Observer



GIBBON PRIZE HOLY WAR

How far was 'Holy War' the dominant theme in relations between Christians and Muslims in Outremer in the 12th Century? This abstract is by the winner of the Gibbon Prize, Clem Naylor, (CC).

In contrast to the Christian view of relations in the aftermath of the First Crusade – according to Karen Armstrong, the Franks fought a ceaseless war of expansion against the Muslims in the Crusader States' first fifty years of existence – it was not until much later that the Muslims even began to consider their conflict against the Christians as a 'Holy War'. Indeed it has been stated that Usama ibn Munqidh's writings are 'devoid of any sense of holy war' although the concept does seem to have entered his thoughts by Saladin's time. Holy War was an entirely Christian notion until Nur ed Din, in response to the unrelenting and seemingly unprovoked Crusader aggression of the previous fifty years, called for a 'Jihad' against the Christians. However, even before the adoption of the idea, relations were overshadowed by

conflict which, although perhaps not strictly recognised as 'Holy' by both sides, was effectively so in the sense that its basis was religious. The Christians' desire to expand their empire in the East was apparent throughout most of the 12th Century. It can be seen in the continuous expansionism shown by the first Settlers – the capture of Acre, Tyre and countless other towns in the Levant – that the Christians primary desire was not to settle and integrate but to attack and expand. Any possible rejection of aggressive, anti-Muslim ideology in favour of assimilation and integration was made unfeasible by the Christians' reliance on support from the West for manpower and money. Thus 'too many had interests and loyalties that lay outside the country' and the Crusaders became an 'outpost of a western world to which

they increasingly turned'. The Settlers, whatever their real desires, were forced to pursue the policy of Holy War and to remain 'emphatically not... integrated'. Apparently, 'nor did they ever seek to be' so. It is unclear exactly why this was the case: they might have been actively avoiding the development of relations or simply might have never thought themselves in a stable enough position to be able to interact with those who were fundamentally their enemy.

This is not to say, however, that Holy War was a concept embraced only by the Christians; Usama's comments on Saladin – 'he did not spend a dinar or a drachma except on the war' – show this explicitly. However, the time it took for the Muslims to adopt the idea and the fact that this was very much a reaction to the

Christians' aggression suggest that Holy War, and the detrimental effect that it had on interaction, was the result of the Christians' approach. Dr. A. Atiya writes that the Islamic 'Jihad' was 'the natural counter-action to Western incursions'. This view would suggest that, for Muslims, Holy War was not initially a necessity but a response that became necessary only because of the Crusaders' behaviour. If this is the case then it is not surprising that the idea of Holy War – although clearly extraordinarily dominant in relations in the East in the 12th Century – was not all-encompassing.

FIFTH FORM CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE PICTURE ON THE WALL

By Robert Ellard (HH) In this extract, a psychiatrist tells of a young patient's ghastly experience.

Sarah Cullen is an art graduate who discovers an old painting in the attic of her parents' home. Fascinated, she takes it home to copy, but not before she discovers that it is the portrait of a murderer who hanged herself in a mental institution after killing her husband.

Sarah seems happy enough moving into her fiancée's flat, but she is plagued by recurring dreams...

for assessment. That was how I first met this tragic lady.

At our first meeting, she sat down, and told me, in a level voice, whilst Fred sat in the waiting room, that she was being followed by a woman who had gone mad and died in a mental institution. I was disturbed by this statement, and asked her to give me more details. She described every aspect of her strange dreams, stuck in the corridor, walking towards the woman in the dress with the eyes she had once been so keen to copy.

However, when Fred came in, and I was able to see both of them together, it seemed immediately apparent that she didn't want to say anything about the dreams in front of him. I told her to keep a diary of the dreams, giving dates, details of events, and I told her that it would be advisable to maintain monthly meetings. What transcribed in those dreams was basically to build up more and more complete pictures of the face at the end of the corridor. After about our fourth meeting she had built a more or less complete image of the face, and at this same meeting, it transpired that her long-awaited wedding with Fred was the following day. I sent her away, telling her to have the best day possible, and went home from my practice hoping she would improve once matrimony had settled into a routine. She hadn't told me she was sleeping with a knife under her pillow.

Fred often talked of how she would wake up, often late at night, and call out, pleading with him to tell her that there wasn't a woman standing in the room. He viewed it as comical, and would at first laugh, and tell her not to be silly, and to go back to sleep. But after she had begun to do this with increasing regularity, and over a period of several months every night, he began to become worried for his love's state of mind.

I can see the dress now..... it is long, flowing, and a deep, emerald green. I can almost see myself wearing it; it is so beautiful, and it is so well made, and so fitting to the character that lurks behind those eyes. But still I see of her face only the eyes- I can't help but wonder what lies on that face.....

Fred eventually became so worried about what he described as his "darling's little sillinesses" that he took her to my practice

2004 PRIZE GIVING

Greek		
Remove	Stefan Sienkiewicz	Grant's
	Matthew Jayne	Wren's
VI	Nicholas Wareham	Wren's
	Edward Bataillard	Liddell's
US	Anthony Smith	College
	Adam Grant	Grant's
LS	Kevin Loke	Wren's
	Takaki Oshima	College
V	Ezra Rubenstein	College
	Sebastian Bray	Dryden's
Latin		
Remove	Emily Lim	College
	Natasha Forrester	Dryden's
VI	C Anna Sanderson	Rigaud's
	Theo Peterson	College
US	Nathaniel Gordon	Grant's
	Roland Grender	Dryden's
LS	Alexander Cardona	Hakluyt's
	Julian Newman	Milne's
V	Alexander Guttenplan	Busby's
	Michael Taylor	Wren's
Art		
Remove	Rebecca Lewin	Wren's
	Sofia Kaba Ferreiro	Milne's
VI	Sam Smith	Hakluyt's
	E Venetia Thorneycroft	College

US	Sebastian Nadal	Milne's
	Denis Kolesnikov	Wren's
Biology		
Remove	Charlotte Parker	Grant's
	Timothy Woodward	Hakluyt's
VI	Loren Lam	Busby's
	Edward Bataillard	Liddell's
US	K Yean Chooi	Grant's
	Antony Smith	College
LS	Benjamin Samuel	Dryden's
V	Nicholas Drake	Ashburnham
	Laurie Brock	Busby's
Chemistry		
Remove	Min-Kai Lin	Grant's
	Georgina Corbet Burcher	Purcell's
VI	Edward Gore-Randall	Ashburnham
	John Xue	Milne's
US	Darshan Vora	Ashburnham
	Alex Berend	Rigaud's
LS	Julian Newman	Milne's
	Andrew Marshall	Dryden's
V	Ralph Barton	Liddell's
	Alexander Guttenplan	Busby's
Drama		
VI	Sam Pritchard	Grant's
US	Richard Trainor	Ashburnham
LS	Ted Marcus	Dryden's
Economics		
Remove	Charles Willison	Liddell's
	Lavish Wadhvani	Dryden's
VI	Trevor Hines	Dryden's
	Khash Mohajerani	Ashburnham
Electronics		
Remove	Chris Ziegler	Dryden's
VI	Daniel Lee	Hakluyt's
US	Hugh Leonard	College
LS	Nicholas Keller	Rigaud's
English		
Remove	Pippa McCarthy	Hakluyt's
US	Antony Smith	College
LS	Frederick Weyman	Grant's
French		
Remove	Aditi Bagri	Rigaud's
VI	Harriet Mason	Purcell's
	Clem Naylor	College
US	D Charles Horten-Middleton	Wren's
LS	Rupert Eyles	Hakluyt's
V	Michael Taylor	Wren's
	Ezra Rubenstein	College
Geography		
Remove	Martine Sobey	Liddell's
VI	Nadira Lalji	Rigaud's
US	Antony Smith	College
LS	Adam Hines-Green	College
V	Aleksandar Nikolic	Dryden's
	Dara Barkhordar	Rigaud's
German		
Remove	Benjamin Kent	Wren's
VI	Theo Peterson	College
	Philip Aspin	Ashburnham
US	Frederick Farrell	Hakluyt's
	Hugh Leonard	College
LS	Rawad Marrouche	Grant's
	Adam Tanaka	Ashburnham
History		
Remove	Andrea Cox	Liddell's
	Eleanor Marsh	Rigaud's
VI	A Max Kaufman	Ashburnham

US	Nicholas Wareham	Wren's
	Edward Casserley	Liddell's
	Pen Stuart	Liddell's
LS	Maximilian Bryant	College
	Thomas Samuel	Grant's
V	Sebastian Bray	Dryden's
	Charles Howell	Busby's
History of Art		
Remove	Benjamin Martin	Wren's
	Rebecca Lewin	Wren's
	Francesca Church	Liddell's
VI	Helen Hodges	Purcell's
	E Venetia Thorneycroft	College
Mathematics		
Remove	Bilal Khan	Dryden's
VI	Jian Wu	Wren's
US	Antony Smith	College
	Alex Berend	Rigaud's
LS	George Barton	Rigaud's
	Rawad Marrouche	Grant's
V	Aleksandar Nikolic	Dryden's
	Joshua Borin	Wren's
Music		
Remove	Marianna Hay	Ashburnham
US	Gamal Khamis	Dryden's
PE		
LS	Thomas Boles	Liddell's
V	Thomas Lloyd	Hakluyt's
Physics		
Remove	Adam Newgas	Dryden's
VI	Jesse Fleminger	Dryden's
US	K Yean Chooi	Grant's
LS	Tom Henderson	Grant's
V	Aleksandar Nikolic	Dryden's
Religious Studies		
Remove	Thea Goodsell	Wren's
VI	Sam Pritchard	Grant's
	Stephanie Greenwald	Milne's
US	Julian Walton	Busby's
	Michael Stothard	Busby's
LS	Julian Newman	Milne's
	Thomas Dub	Busby's
Russian		
Remove	Alice Pillar	Dryden's
VI	Natalia Diaz	Dryden's
US	Nathaniel Gordon	Grant's
LS	George Barton	Rigaud's
Spanish		
Remove	Lavish Wadhvani	Dryden's
	Annabel Clifford	Busby's
VI	Clem Naylor	College
	Katy Lubin	Rigaud's
US	Sam Wilkin	College
	Eurion Leonard-Pugh	Dryden's
LS	Julian Newman	Milne's
	Alexander Critchley	Busby's
Technology		
Remove	Dev Sodagar	Milne's
	Basil Jadeh	Liddell's
VI	Aleks Domanski	Rigaud's
US	Denis Kolesnikov	Wren's
LS	Nicholas Smith	Liddell's
Commemorative Prizes		
Fifth form Creative Writing		
	Robert Ellard	Hakluyt's
Martin-Leake Fifth form History		
	Ezra Rubenstein	College

Adrian Whitelegge Award		
	Tim Lai	Grant's
Cheyne Mathematics		
Senior	Timothy Woodward	Hakluyt's
Junior	Takaki Oshima	College
Special VI Form Classics		
	Victoria Young	Dryden's
Special V Form Classics		
	Elizabeth Bennett	Greycoat Sch.
Special Drama		
	Jonathan Richards	Grant's
Fred d'ArcyEnglish		
	E Benjamin Arnold	Milne's
Gibb French		
	Galina Stepanova	College
Gumbleton English		
	A Max Kaufman	Ashburnham
Hugo Garten German		
	Harry Weeks	Wren's
The Martin Ball Piano		
	Timothy Woodward	Hakluyt's
Mitchell History		
	Edward Eccles	College
	C Anna Sanderson	Rigaud's
Neale History		
	Philip Aspin	Ashburnham
	Sam Pritchard	Grant's
John House History of Art		
	Pippa McCarthy	Hakluyt's
Ollie Bennett Drama Award		
	Chris Namih	Dryden's
	Chris Ziegler	Dryden's
Philip Webb French		
	Nabeel Bhanji	Grant's
Phillimore First prize		
	Rebecca Greig	Busby's
	Rose McLaren	Purcell's
Poetry Prize		
	Benjamin Wigoder	Liddell's
Stuart Leaf Modern Languages French		
	Oliver Eccles	College
Stuart Leaf Modern Languages German		
	Thomas Carter	Wren's
Stuart Leaf Modern Languages Spanish		
	Sofia Kaba Ferreiro	Milne's
Stuart Leaf Modern Languages Russian		
	Adam Grant	Grant's
Walker History		
	John Ashton	Wren's
Whitmore History		
	Emily Lim	College
Elizabethan Magazine Photography		
	Nikolai Cedraeus	Grant's
Harvard Book Prize		
	Timothy Woodward	Hakluyt's
Elizabethan Club Head Master's Prize		
	Dominic O'Mahony	College
Maundy Prize		
	Marianna Hay	Ashburnham
	Peter Kennedy	Rigaud's
	Johann Koehler	Milne's
	Alyson Thompson	Rigaud's
	Alexander Gabriele	Milne's
	David Thomas	Busby's
	Hamish Falconer	Hakluyt's
	Robin Low	Liddell's

ART HISTORY SOCIETY LECTURE

MURDEROUS SCREAMS OF RECOGNITION

The following account of the fascinating and often difficult relationship between the Abbey and the School is extracted from the lecture given to the Art History Society in March by John Field.

Those murderous screams were emitted in the Abbey on 28th June 1838, at the coronation of Queen Victoria, by the boys of Westminster School acclaiming her from the Triforium, to which they had been banished. They were so described by one of the canons present, who exposes the feelings of the Chapter for the School at that point in their long shared history. "It might have been as well", he adds, "had they been banished entirely from the Abbey."

The school has been in certain and continuous existence for 634 years, give or take a year or two. For 500 of those years it was a branch of the Abbey, initially a charitable school run by the Benedictines, then relaunched by two Tudor monarchs and governed and financed by the Dean and Chapter. It has had an independent existence of 137 years, barely one fifth of its long history. 1868 was like the separation of Siamese twins and the

rere-dorter, now called the Dungeons, belonged half to the school, half to the Abbey. The reconstruction of Little Cloister after bomb damage sealed the access to the Abbey half, which can now only be gained by crossing school territory.

The School's Origins

At various times before 1540 there were four different schools under Benedictine patronage: a claustral school for novice monks, an almonry school, a school for singing boys and a school for grammar children. The last of these is Westminster School's ancestor. The grammar children are listed in the accounts up to 1539; they were the promising sons of tradesmen serving the monastery, who were given a free education of an academic character, and a uniform – gowns of russet fustian lined with yellow.

We tend to think of the Reformation in England as a time of revolution, but in

The school has been in certain and continuous existence for 634 years, give or take a year or two.

consequences are with us still. The school had a gymnasium, but no legal access to it; the undercroft of the monastic

social and administrative terms the emphasis was on continuity rather than change. At Westminster the last abbot,

CONTINUED...

MURDEROUS SCREAMS...

Benson, became the first dean; several monks became prebendaries, and the terms 'master of the Scholars' and 'Grammar Children' are continuities which cross the divide. The 40 Grammar children educated in 1558, the last year of Mary's reign, were likewise confirmed by the Elizabethan statutes of 1560. Westminster School had been both nationalised and royalised.

The Age of Gold

Elizabeth honoured her father's plan for Westminster and extended it with Oxbridge connections at Christchurch and Trinity. The College was led by the Dean, whose responsibility for the school was greater than that of the Head Master. Crucially different from the examples of Winchester and

The Age of Silver

The monastic tradition of celibacy endured for about 60 years. Richard Busby maintained the celibacy of Head Masters until 1695; after him marriage was the norm.

Technically the school has had a longer continuous history than the Chapter. Despite two notable occasions when the scholars had rallied in support, first in 1641 when they helped defend the besieged Abbey against the rampant apprentices, and again in 1666 when Dean Dolben led them off to fight the Great Fire of London, Abbey and School were growing apart.

Two conflicts vividly characterise relations between School and Abbey in the age of silver:

Even when the scholars finally took possession of a new dormitory in 1730, there was still no internal staircase, and for 3 years they had to climb ladders to get to bed...

Eton was the collegiate life of Westminster. It was a family business. Dean, Prebendaries, Head Master and Scholars were required to dine together in College Hall. The stimulus of the commons in College Hall fostered the rise of the habits of public performance in the form of epigrams, declamations and orations which continue in some form in the school's bloodstream to the present day; likewise the performance there of plays in Latin, which are made mandatory in the 1560 statutes, as are music and games.

The common life of the College continued from time to time at a country base. The city was highly susceptible to plague, especially in the hot summer months. Dean Gabriel Goodman ordered most of the College to take refuge by river to Putney from June to Michaelmas in 1565.

the construction of the new Dormitory, and the remodeling of Dean's Yard. The story of the Dormitory is an epic soap opera spread over 25 years, beginning in 1708, with a cast including George I, Christopher Wren, a mad oculist, the courts of Chancery and King's Bench, the House of Lords, the Tower of London, Brussels, and a Dean at loggerheads with both the Chapter and the Head Master, who had been an old school friend when they were both in College, the institution over which battle was joined. Even when the scholars finally took possession of a new dormitory in 1730, there was still no internal staircase, and for 3 years they had to climb ladders to get to bed, at which level the blind windows in Burlington's façade prevented them from seeing what the wicked prebendaries were up to in their garden.

The story of Dean's Yard is much simpler. The Dean and Chapter had allowed the monastic farm at the south end of what we now recognise as Dean's Yard to degenerate into a warren of slums housing hundreds of poor labourers and artisans. In 1755 the Head Master, William Markham, put before Parliament an act to open up a square and build houses. The Dean and Chapter approved the scheme with one dissenting voice, that of

Prebendary Thomas Wilson, who published a vituperative pamphlet against the project under the anonymity of 'A Sufferer'. His rhetoric is memorable: 'behind the shield of public good we must expect to see the dagger of self-interest'; hundreds of innocent and industrious families will be dispossessed and starved; the concentration of boarders would provoke licentiousness; in combination no porters or gatekeepers would dare to with-

stand them and they would sally out to strike terror through the whole neighbourhood; an unenclosed school is best suited to the free spirits of a freeborn people'. He does not reveal that he had purchased a house adjoining the old dormitory, and also bought from the Bishop of Norwich his interest in two further houses that would be demolished under Markham's plan. His legal action failed, and he retired in a huff to Little Cloister. The school's prosperity for much of the 18th Century seems to have driven a wedge between itself and the Chapter. The age of lead is approaching.

The Age of Lead

All the great schools were susceptible to anarchic violence between the French Revolution and the Great Reform Act. In 1793 Samuel Smith at Westminster had scuppered a school rebellion by felling the ringleader, Francis Burdett, with a cudgel. In 1818 the Riot Act was read at Winchester, and troops called in to restore order. At Eton the formidable Keate was hissed and jeered all though prayers, and next day his great throne of state in upper school was smashed to pieces. At Westminster fighting, one another and the local jobs, was all the rage. "If you want to send a boy to rough it in the army", declared the Duke of York with approval, 'send him to Westminster School.' Individual fights in the Cloister Garth and violent games of hockey round the cloisters destroyed monuments and disturbed services. William Carey, Smith's successor as Head Master, encouraged fighting and set an example of brutality from the top.

But the school was dying. Between 1831 and 1841, numbers collapsed from 202 to 67. In barely 20 years Tothill Fields, Battersea, Belgravia had all been built over. Suddenly the school was hemmed in by

slums, the smoke of industry, wharves, prisons, and all the squalor of an exploding metropolis. Samuel Wilberforce, briefly appointed Dean in 1845, wrote: 'It is in a dreadful state, and very much from the need of greater comforts, cleanliness and attendance, which we ought to supply. If you treat boys as savages, they will be savages.'

The Commission was Westminster's last hope. It took evidence from 1861, and published a report in 1867 which was followed by the Public Schools Act of 1868. The School's reduced condition was painfully exposed. For generations the Chapter had regarded the School as a business venture, in which masters' income was provided by tuition fees and voluntary leaving presents. The Clarendon report recommended an independent governing body for Westminster, the regularising of its funding, the transfer of property from Abbey to School to give it more space, and the regular admission of all pupils to College Garden. The house occupied by the Sub Dean was to pass to the Governing Body in exchange for 4000 pounds when the canonry next became vacant.

The School now had property, but no freeholds; all was to revert to the Church Commissioners in the event of the school's move. A new epic soap opera had been launched: the Battle for Ashburnham House. Though the Chapter accepted Clarendon's proposals in November 1868, the prospect of the loss of Ashburnham rankled. Charles Broderick Scott, who had succeeded Liddell in 1855, believing that the occupant was away, took a ladder, propped it against the wall of Ashburnham and ascended for a reconnaissance. But a sash window opened and the chilly voice of Thynne, the Sub Dean

emerged: 'Not dead yet, Doctor Scott.'

Epilogue

Abbey and School parted on the most poisonous of terms. The Chapter published a statement in The Times, expressing relief at yielding up the arduous and thankless task of administering the School. And down

conduct. When theological lucubrations are swept away by a torrent of expletives outside the window, canons must wish, with the Shepherd in The Winter's Tale, 'that there were no age between 10 and 3 and 20, for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, fighting and wronging the ancients.'

...canons must wish, with the Shepherd in The Winter's Tale, 'that there were no age between 10 and 3 and 20, for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, fighting and wronging the ancients.'

the years the collective memory can still be stirred. A mention at the wrong moment of College Garden, Ashburnham House, or the use of Green is still capable of freezing smiles and raising hackles.

There have been leaden, silver and golden phases in the years of independence. In the 1930's a rotund canon used to rise very early on a Monday morning to write his name on the booking sheet for the College Garden tennis court during the only slot in the week available for masters and their families. When the moment came, he would unfold his deckchair in mid court and take a snooze. Certainly the impact of an ever-growing school upon the precinct is attritional, unrelenting. It is a rare teenager who has any idea of the effect on others of his or her stridency of language and

But silver, fortunately, has been the norm. By some mysterious symbiosis deans and head masters have been matching pairs, much to the advantage of the community. Alan Don and John Christie, Don again and Walter Hamilton: unworldly, shy academics; Eric Abbott and John Carleton polished, affable and well-connected courtiers; Edward Carpenter and John Rae engaging liberal mavericks. Perhaps the two institutions still beat with a single heart in appointing their chief executives. And there have been golden times enough to make the ancient neighbours grateful for one another. Religious, cultural, social events have witnessed the occasional resurgence of the old common life. Individuals such as Lawrence Tanner, John Carleton, Edward Carpenter, at home in both places, nurtured mutual understanding. Peter

Foster and Donald Buttress most generously welcomed school groups to the dizzy heights of the scaffolding during the long building works, and never pushed anyone off. Abbey and School share one of the most perfect urban living spaces on the planet. To all those at present living and working here, I urge you to use your eyes freshly every day to notice something new.



TERCENTENARY LECTURE JOHN LOCKE

If Professor Rogers of Keele University is right, then John Locke is England's greatest philosopher as well as Westminster's greatest pupil, and certainly the lecture successfully tried to convince us of this. This commemorated the tercentenary of the great man's death, focusing on the events of Locke's life, which included elements of his philosophy. Julian Walton (BB) reports.

Locke was a pupil of the legendary Dr. Busby (who he affectionately referred to as Buzz Buzz). Locke was concerned at the level of violence within the school, as he himself would have often been at the brunt of it. After his two year spell at Westminster, Locke went on to study at Christchurch, Oxford, which he did not enjoy. While there, he became interested in medicine. Proof that blood was circulated around the body by the heart had been recently demonstrated by William Harvey, upsetting Galen's long held theory that copious amounts of blood were constantly being produced. This triggered off a period of energetic medical research.

After the Restoration in 1660, many doctors migrated to London, due to there being more work being available in the capital.

Seven years later, Locke himself moved to London to stay with Anthony Cooper, who was to become the Lord Chancellor and the first Earl of Shaftsbury. While there, Locke supervised an operation on Cooper, who had a cyst on his liver and lung, saving his life. Shortly after this, Locke moved to France, perhaps in order to improve his knowledge of medicine. He was not impressed by the divide between rich and poor in France, and while there wrote his two treatises on government. After returning to England for a short time, he then travelled to Holland. This journey was possibly for political reasons, as it is likely that Locke was involved in a plot to try and stop James II from succeeding the English throne. While in Holland, Locke finalised his Essay on Human Understanding, the only piece of his work which actually bears his name. On 28th October 1704, after returning to England on the same ship as the future Queen Mary, John Locke died after a prolonged decline in health.

Professor Rogers was an excellent speaker and the audience wanted to hear more about John Locke's philosophy. It was clear that the professor had much more to say on this subject and he answered a string of questions from the audience in satisfying detail.



TRIUMPH AT THE BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Westminster School has an excellent record in this annual competition run by the Institute of Biology, but 2005 has proved to be the best year ever, records JAL, Head of Biology. Three of our students, Edward Bataillard (LL), Loren Lam (BB), and John Xue (MM) did so well that they all got into the final stage of the competition in Birmingham. But Edward and Loren capped even this achievement by both getting selected for the UK team bound for Beijing in July. This is both a first for Westminster and for the BBO. Our students are to be congratulated on their outstanding achievement and we wish them every success in the 16th International Biology Olympiad. John Xue reports below on his experience in the competition.

Birmingham to Beijing

When I found out that, along with two other Westminster Removes, I had got through to the final 12 of the British Biology Olympiad, I wasn't entirely sure if they hadn't got my paper mixed up with someone else's.

However, I wasn't about to turn down a trip to sunny

Birmingham, and so it was that we trotted off on a windswept Monday morning, each armed with a spanking new biology textbook that weighed roughly as much as a newborn child. When we arrived, we were plunged, without lunch, into the murky underworld of all things botanical, including a whistlestop tour of various 'old-school' plants, most of which

are unfortunately no longer considered plants. If that hadn't been enough excitement for one day, after supper we were treated to a primer on population genetics. By the time it finished, at 9.30pm, we retired to our rooms shuddering at the thought of being tested on all we'd heard.

The next morning, the first of our four daily exams was upon us. This meant struggling with a piece of celery for an hour and a quarter, until I managed to break my one successful slide. After the briefest of tea breaks, our second exam was a funfest for all the family, with about 30 obscure specimens that were each to be identified. Lunch was definitely a welcome break, but straight afterwards we had a two and a half hour experiment on germs. Although very swish pipettes with disposable tips were involved, my photometer gave up on me halfway through and threw up error messages that confounded our supervisor, and while they tried to find a replacement my germs slowly turned to a bright yellow sludge.

Our last exam was a theory paper, which I likened Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, only without any money and based exclusively on the more esoteric areas of biology. As a reward for the day, we then went out for dinner, where our end of the table discussed ice cream flavours while the other end talked about the ever-increasing entropy in the universe. Several

curries later, however, they were lolling about on the floor comparing the colours of each other's tongues, and so we were probably the more intellectual biologists at the table after all.

The final day contained two exams, the first a much-anticipated dissection timed impeccably to come just after breakfast; although fortunately we weren't asked to do much more than "not to get entrails everywhere". By then the end was within sight, and our final exam was on flowers, including a lightning round in which we had to put names to 20 plants in 8 minutes. The next two hours were anxious ones, as every single one of us convinced ourselves that our Olympic pretensions were to end here while the supervisors talked about us. As it turned out, my Olympic pretensions did indeed come to a close, but in a momentous first for both Westminster and the Olympiad, two of us were successful and will represent one half of the UK's team of elite biologists. Obviously I'm not bitter. In fact, the dreams about the entire IBO team being eaten by a giant Venus flytrap stopped last week.



CAMDEN LECTURE HENRY III AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The inaugural Camden lecture took place on Thursday 11th November, 2004, reports Julian Walton (BB).

It was given by Professor David Carpenter (OWW) from Kings, who, as well as being an old Westminster, was lucky enough to be an undergraduate at the same university as our headmaster, Mr. Jones-Parry. It started seriously as we were told that England had been transformed during the reign of Henry III, but that he had never got the recognition which he deserved. However the lecture was to continue in a much more light-hearted vein. First we were told about what Henry III might have looked like, and what his personality would have been like. He was apparently a "simple and god-fearing" man (Dante placed Henry in Purgatory in The Divine Comedy), fabled for the number of peasants he fed. Henry believed that by feeding the poor he could 'harvest' their prayers, and so go to heaven. On an average day he would feed around 150 peasants, on Christmas day around 450 peasants were fed, and on the two feast days of Edward the Confessor 1500 and 5016 peasants were fed. These facts show how important Edward the Confessor was to Henry III. Apparently having been

told that St. Edward dressed austere, Henry took to doing the same, he had a mural of St. Edward painted in his bedroom, and he named his eldest son after the saint.

Naturally, Westminster Abbey, being the burial place of Edward the Confessor, would have also been very important to Henry. It was Henry who designated Westminster as the fixed seat of power in England. Henry also appointed French architects in 1245 to renovate the Abbey. Unsurprisingly, the centrepiece of the Abbey would be a shrine to St. Edward. It is unknown whether Henry purely felt admiration towards Edward the Confessor, or whether he was trying to become a new Edward, and so trying to become canonised himself.

Professor Carpenter was an excellent speaker, and with our school being so close to Westminster Abbey, everything he talked about was especially interesting. This lecture was an excellent start to the Camden lectures; hopefully next year's will be just as good.

HOOKE LECTURES

Coming to Westminster for the first time this year the Hooke lectures have been one of the highlights of my first two terms, says Sam Mindel (MM).

The first topic was "Cyborg Engineering" given by Professor Kevin Warwick from the University of Reading. He told us about his experiments that he hopes will not only further the scientific understanding of the brain and computers but also could help physically handicapped people to regain function with the help of computers.

In the second lecture product designer Ross Lovegrove demonstrated some of the thinking at the forefront of the design world and gave the audience an insight into what it is like to be a part of it (For further details, see Lara Karady's report following).

In the third lecture Dr. Cyril Isenberg from the University of Kent enlightened us on "the science of soap bubbles". Dr. Isenberg explained the simple principles that underlie the science of bubbles and even demonstrated how these rules could be applied to use bubbles to solve problems in mathematics and in the wider world.

Next was Dr. Richard Wood from the Met. Office, an expert in the study of climate change, particularly the implications of global warming on the North Atlantic Conveyor,

commonly called the Gulf Stream. Some people fear global warming could cause the salt levels in the oceans to alter significantly due to large amounts of fresh water being added by melting ice. However Dr. Wood dismissed the apocalyptic predictions as being extremely unlikely but said that global warming in general was not to be underestimated.

The last lecture was given by Dr. Jeremy Tompkinson of the National Non-Food Crops Centre in York. Which collects data about research into using plant derived materials for uses other than food. This work covers an enormous variety of different applications, for example fuels and materials such as biodegradable plastics and even car body parts.

Overall the Hooke Lectures 2005 were a great success. I would like to thank all the speakers and Dr. Walsh for organising the series and I am sure we are all looking forward to another brilliant series next year.

HOOKE LECTURE ROSS LOVEGROVE AN INSPIRATIONAL VISIT

As a designer, Ross Lovegrove manages to intertwine beauty and functionality in his approach to modern products, writes an inspired Lara Karady (MM).

A small group of enthusiastic Westminsterers visited the work studio of one this year's most creative Robert Hooke lecturers. The talk introduced us to various design concepts and the steps he takes to bring these to life. Lovegrove's design explores the idea that the most successful products should stem from the convoluted patterns of the natural world. Hence he toys with the idea of artificial versus natural. Environmental issues are also of importance. He firmly believes that design inspired from nature should not in turn harm it.

Despite his over-booked schedule, which, along with a constant high pressure work ethic, is the daily lot of an eminent designer, Mr Lovegrove kept us captivated with a two-hour tour of his working environment. He surrounds himself with an eclectic collection of objects, and personal mementoes of his previous designs. A stunning example was his spiralling fibre-glass staircase, inspired by the double-helix structure of the DNA molecule.

One of the highlights of the outing occurred when he handed us each in turn a metal tool which belonged previously to Barbara Hepworth, one of the 20th century's most celebrate British sculptors. Feeling the rough surface and worked texture of the tool seemed to kindle a desire to create.

The visit certainly impressed everyone, and emphasized our natural human need for materialism in a new and completely positive light.

PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Adam Newgas (OW), shown above on the far left of the photograph wearing his Lyke Wake Walk tie, was the highest placed UK competitor in the British team at the 2004 Physics Olympiad which took place in South Korea. He won a silver medal, a remarkable achievement. The competition was attended by Professor Frank Close, centre, the distinguished particle physicist and author.

The photographs above show the British team at the Presentation at the Royal Society in London in April 2004.

On 5 November Westminster welcomed Professor Oliver Lyne, Fellow in Classics at Balliol College, Oxford. Professor Lyne, perhaps the most eminent Virgilian scholar of his generation, discussed Aeneas' departure from Troy. He compared Aeneas' loss of his wife Creusa with Virgil's own story of Eurydice, who is led from the Underworld by her husband Orpheus, but is lost forever as he looks back at her out of love. Lyne's lecture encompassed the theme of dying for love and what that might mean for Aeneas as a hero. The talk was very well received by pupils studying at all levels within the school. FGS

CLASSICS LECTURE



British Physics Olympiad Team.
Adam Newgas on the left.
April 2004.

British Physics Olympiad Team.
April 2004.



TIZARD LECTURE CHEMISTRY

It was about time, I thought, for the Tizard to go with a bang, writes JRGB, and therefore we should see whether a Chemist would be willing to give the lecture. So it was that Prof David Phillips, Hofmann Professor of Chemistry and Dean of the Faculties of Life and of Physical Sciences at Imperial College, came to ignite a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen both at the start and at the finish of his lecture in March. Not that this had much to do with the lecture itself, but chemistry is nothing if not theatre, and this was most effective theatre.

David Phillips has a long-held interest in the role that light can play in chemical processes, most specifically in this lecture with the ability to treat various conditions ranging from life-threatening malignancies to distressing but non-fatal psoriasis using chemotherapies that

can be targeted to the disease site and which can then be activated using light. The advantages are evident – the therapy is targeted very precisely and can be easily controlled. A particularly striking case was that of a sufferer from a sub-lingual tumour whose disease, had it been removed surgically, would

probably have resulted in loss of the tongue, whereas light irradiation of an active substance administered to the tumour resulted in its disappearance in a few weeks.

The earlier parts of his lecture – unusual for a Tizard Lecture in that Prof. Phillips brought a great deal of gear with him and did a number of experiments – dealt briefly with light-producing reactions in chemistry, a particularly nice touch for me since I have long held a notion of finding out what Will o'the Wisp is. I didn't find out (I don't think anyone knows) but the production of various colours of light by light-sticks was entertaining – and the fluorescence of tonic water nicely demonstrated.

Like many effective discoveries, the essence of the therapeutic technique is simple – you have a molecule that will bind specifically to the desired site; you attach a light-sensitive molecule to this; and you zap it with a suitable laser light. And like all virtuoso techniques the simplicity hides an enormous amount of difficult chemistry and biochemistry, and sometimes that most precious of scientific abilities, the ability to see what everyone else has seen but think what no-one else has thought. This was the case with, for example, the treatment of jaundice in new-born children; there was some evidence decades ago that light might have some helpful effect in treating it, but sadly the first attempts at treatment were a bit over-enthusiastic. The problem is that bilirubin, the yellow material, is not water soluble and therefore not easily excreted. Adults can convert the

water-insoluble (but fat-soluble) form into a soluble one, but babies can't. However, irradiation with a suitable wavelength of light will do the same thing. So, in the spirit of theatre, Prof. Phillips produced a large glass baby, with a tap in a rather obvious place, containing a solution of bilirubin in an organic solvent. Shake this with water (the treatment of the real baby is less dramatic) and the bilirubin stays where it is; after irradiation with u.v. light the shaking showed the dissolution of some of the yellow material into the water layer. The tap then proved its worth... Simple, but vital; bilirubin is damaging if not excreted. The lecture was highly entertaining, and the audience (with, encouragingly, numerous other schools' students present) went away very happy with what they had heard. Some certainly would have liked a more chemical explanation of a number of the points made, but the Lecture achieved exactly what I asked of it, to inform as well as entertain. I am very grateful to Prof. Phillips for the trouble that he took to make the 2005 Tizard Lecture a memorable one.

Information on Sir Henry Tizard, previous lecturers, and the text of some recent lectures, can be found on the Science Department pages of the School website. If you would like to be added to the invitation list – particularly if you would like to bring students to the lecture – please email the Head of Science: rod.beavon@westminster.org.uk

SENIOR DEBATING

“Good for UCAS, Good for YOU” ran the poster that kick-started Westminster's house competition in the Play Term, helping perhaps to draw impressive crowds throughout the course of the league and for the final itself, asserts Captain of Debating Richard Trainor (AHH).

League matches were entertaining and closely fought, providing an opportunity for new debaters to get involved and for more experienced ones to limber up for the coming season. After two rounds, Ashburnham, Grant's, Purcell's and Wren's debated the final motion “This House believes liberal democracies can have no room for religious fundamentalism” which was narrowly won in front of a packed Camden Room by the Ashburnham team of Max Kaufman and Richard Trainor.

Though not traditionally a big term for competitions, the Play term did offer some inter-school action. In the London School's Debating League: Emma Thompsell, Olga Polunina, Jamie Macfarlane, Chloë Pickup, David Alty, Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor all managed to get debates in before the organiser stopped running it, the latter four winning matches. Also in this term Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor competed in competitions at MPW and Dulwich College while Max Kaufman and Richard Trainor ventured north of the border to

finish second at Glasgow. The same team progressed through the first round of the School's Mace only to be knocked out in January proposing the same motion (“This house would build on the green belt”) that had cost us the London final two years ago. Oh Well!

Westminster's season really kicked off in the Lent term with David Alty, Max Kaufman, Jamie Macfarlane, Chloë Pickup, Olga Polunina, Edward Randell and Richard Trainor all making the journey to the first of the national competitions at Bristol University. We were delighted to see the quality of our squad rewarded with semi-final places for both the A and B teams of Max Kaufman, Richard Trainor, Jamie Macfarlane and Edward Randell.

For the Cambridge competition we were able to enter two teams of Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor as well as Max Kaufman and Jamie Macfarlane (all of whom have been 'A' team debaters this year). Both teams progressed to the second round and, though both were knocked out at that stage, we can take

some comfort from the fact that the team that beat them went on to win the whole competition. The Westminster team of Jamie Macfarlane and Richard Trainor also had a good run in the Oxford Union event, winning the first round in London before, after three preliminary rounds on finals day itself, reaching the semi-finals. We narrowly missed out on a place in the final after a staunch defence of the EU constitution.

The final competition of the year was the overnight Durham Union competition. Attended by nearly 100 schools competing in five rounds over two days, this was a gruelling and very enjoyable weekend with the Westminster contingent of

Max Kaufman, Olga Polunina, Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor acquitting themselves well over the many rounds.

Though without the big wins of last year, this year has seen Westminster performing consistently well at the top level of school's debating. More importantly, the glory has been shared amongst a large squad and participation, particularly in the house competition, has been very high. This year as always, debating is where it's at.

Thanks go to our coaches, Richard Allnatt and Sandy Crole, who both supported us and consoled where necessary, as well as judging all the house competitions.

JUNIOR DEBATING

Junior Debating provides a platform for both those who wish to complain about the general state of the world and those who wish to progress to competition level, declares Samuel Littlejohns (RR).

The focus is usually upon current affairs, with issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and the notion of compensating Germany featuring recently. The mood is often jovial, and despite Mr Crole's best efforts, the discussions are not always completely civil!

Our two junior teams won through to the Finals Day of the National Competition for Young Debaters at the end of April, with considerable success. We were faced once more with a challenge. Westminster B, James Shaw (MM) and Jonathan Tham (WW), performed admirably, but narrowly failed to make the semi-final break. Westminster A, Samuel Littlejohns (RR) and Dara Barkhordar (RR), debated excellently, gaining themselves a position in the National Finals, placing them in the top four teams in the country for their age group. This bodes well for the future of debating at Westminster.

ONE TRUTH ABOUT HUNTING

Only five years ago I was a strong anti, but after the government ban I decided I was going to take part in a hunt, writes Cassandra Lo.

My family and a friend, also going hunting for the first time, set off for the meet at seven in the morning. We were going to be joining the Duke of Beaufort's Hunt, where Prince Charles, Prince William, and the philosopher Roger Scruton, sometimes hunt.

When we arrived at the farm the horses from the hiring yard were already waiting for us, and soon we were being introduced to our companions for the day. I got a beautiful grey called Merlin and my friend Susannah got a pony called Ace. After mounting we rode back up to the farm and made our way down to a large field where there stood around eighty immaculately turned out horses and riders. As soon as our horses set foot into the field, we were offered some sherry and chatted to a few people. Everyone we talked to was very friendly, and extremely pleased to discover that we were hunting for the first time.

Soon we were off! A hundred horses trotted down the path leading onto the road in pairs, and then turned off into a field on the right. On reaching the field we stopped, but only for a few seconds. Suddenly I saw the horses in front cascading down the expanse of grass; the chase was on! An inviting stone wall lay ahead. Merlin cleared it beautifully and galloped on. Everything was going smoothly until I came to the third fence. My indecision made Merlin refuse at the last moment. I toppled over his right shoulder, landing in a soft

patch of mud. Unperturbed, I remounted and steered my horse towards the other fence, which he cleared successfully.

The feeling of galloping across country with so many horses is almost indescribable. Their excitement multiplies your own, creating an immense feeling of exhilaration. Time is of no importance; only the present moment exists. The hounds working together are a beautiful sight, especially when they go into a perfect single file after picking up the scent. Indeed it is easy to forget that you are in pursuit of a fox. People who are against hunting because they think that hunters take pleasure in the fox's death are mistaken. Most of the Field doesn't even see the fox, let alone witness its death. I still don't know whether we caught a fox or not.

Three hours into the hunt I found myself galloping across Badminton where the Badminton Horse Trials are held every year. I couldn't believe that I was riding where all the stars of the horse world come to compete. It was here that we had to return the horses. Although feeling extremely sore after galloping practically non-stop for so long, I raced my friend to the horseboxes. Reluctantly we dismounted and thanked our horses for giving us such a wonderful day.

Despite the months that have passed, I often think back to my first hunt and appreciate how lucky I was to experience something so wonderful. Ban or no ban, I would love to have a go at it again.



HISTORY OF ART SOCIETY

The History of Art Society has been spoilt this year, writes Ed Cumming (BB), with an unprecedented number of speakers coming to talk on a wide range of topics.

In the Play term the distinguished art critic Andrew Graham-Dixon came to lecture on the hidden details and stories concealed in well known pictures, and then Caroline Brook, an expert on Raphael who taught at Westminster for a term last year (and who is returning), talked about a less well-known side of the painter's history, the hundreds of drawings he made both as studies and as pieces in themselves. The focus of the Lent term's lectures was Westminster Abbey, to celebrate the Art History department's successful move from the bottom of Ashburnham House to a swish new suite of rooms up Weston. There were four speakers in the 'Abbey Lectures' series; Peter Draper, Tim Tatton-Brown, John Field and Paul Binski, and each covered a different part of the history of the building which has played such a crucial role in the

school's history. John Field's lecture, provocatively entitled 'Murderous screams of recognition' (see elsewhere in the magazine), was concerned with this specific relationship between the school and the Abbey, a union which has not been entirely harmonious over the centuries. In the Play term things took a more modern angle; in his annual lecture Professor John House (OWW) discussed the Turner Whistler Monet exhibition at Tate Britain, and Sean Rainbird spoke of the difficulties of exhibiting Joseph Beuys, an artist for whose work physical processes were fundamental. In all it was a very successful year for the Society; the various talks offered a mixture of focus on a specific theme, detailed expertise on slightly unusual histories and discussion of contemporary events in the art world. Hats off to Dr. Cockburn for organising it all.



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CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Clarinets do not, as a rule, come in packs of eleven, writes Giles Robertson.

Steve Reich isn't known for sticking to the rules, and his 1985 piece *New York Counterpoint*, performed by David Campbell (ten clarinets, recorded), and Beth Hardie (one clarinet, live) immersed the audience in an elegant – and almost incomprehensible – multiple canon. Elegant near-incomprehension characterised the concert, which featured works by twentieth-century composers, as well as more recent compositions by members of the school.

Gamal Khamis gave a sparkling recital of Schoenberg's crystalline *Opus 19: Six Little Pieces*. Janáček was represented by his first String Quartet; Ligeti by an early woodwind quintet, while Shostakovich's fiery third string quartet opened the evening with great panache.

Fanxi Wang played her trans-cultural composition *Mists of Avalon*, creating an ethereal sense of presence, offset by an emotive rendition on solo piano. Laurence Keegan-Fischer's interpretation of his own piano composition in rondo form provided an interesting contrast; he began composing it while his neighbour's house was burning, and so it is called "Fire Next Door".

Julia Gomelskaya's 1996 *Bagatelle*, introducing a solo French horn to this varied range of recent compositions, was performed by Charlie Hutchinson and Andrew Law, and provided a lively contrast to the surrounding pieces.

Jonathon Field's performance of three songs from Harriet Bushman's James Joyce song cycle – the words taken from Joyce's *Pomes Penyeach* – was

both moving and enthralling. Field later sang his own, very personal, song, *Bungee Jumping Today*, accompanying himself on the guitar.

Repeating their success last year, the Experimental Drama Group performed another 1969 piece by John White; this time, *Drinking and Hooting Machine*. As members of the group drank more from the bottles across the top of which they were blowing, the piece moved to greater discord, and finally concluding in a low, empty, unity – reminiscent of 1960's "mixed media" performance art.

A mesmerising and at times disorientating, quadraphonic pre-recorded soundscape from Charlie Allen showed what capabilities the new music centre in Tufton Street has given us. Flowing in all directions, *Starscape* was mixed live by the composer, and recorded by him and Chris French in the new studios.

Three of Stravinsky's *Four Etudes* – originally for string quartet, but arranged by him for orchestra – formed the penultimate item. Written in 1914, as the storm clouds gathered over Europe, the piece conveys the violent tension of that time, forming the seeds of his landmark ballet *Rite of Spring*. The concert ended with an enthralling sideways glance at twentieth-century orchestral neo-classicism. Composed by Gamal Khamis, the School Orchestra, conducted by Sinan C Savaskan, and led by Helena Bushman, the swirling melody powerfully encapsulated, in its solid orchestration, the mood of the evening.



ROCK CONCERT

The rock concert is one of the few events in the Westminster calendar which, I feel, allows pupils truly to let loose and be themselves, reports Andrew Naughtie.

Whether or not this is a good thing depends on your point of view, of course. However, you would have to be something of a killjoy to argue against the spiritedness which all this year's acts shared. There is nothing worse than a semi-audible, sub-Linkin Park group of schoolboys who not only waste the audience's time with overlong solos and derivative lyrics, but don't seem to enjoy doing it. This is, of course, the stereotype, and Pure Mannequin, who kicked off the event, tackled it brilliantly with short songs, original and engaging songwriting, and something which resembled actual musicality. Smothered in feedback they may have been at the start, but it worked for the Jesus and Mary Chain. Thankfully this set the tone for the rest of the evening. The next band were led by Alex Edwards, and while

their song choices were perhaps a little less striking than Pure Mannequin's, the musical connection between bassist Edd Franklin and guitarist Ed Cumming was tangible and made for tight, satisfying listening. And so the concert progressed, taking us through choices as unexpectedly diggable as "The King of the Swingers" (performed by Ed Randell and Adam Holmes' The Plurals) and finishing on a large but – for once – excellent Upper Shell band, the Young Hollywoods. While the rock concert will always suffer from the teenage band stereotype, and may only live on as something we regret when we're older, the release – and in this case, the pleasure – it provides is worth the occasional three-minute guitar solo. In short, a good time was had by all.

CANTANDUM THERE MUST BE SINGING

CANTANDUM IN CONCERT

The Cantandum concert was an impressive spectacle, writes Lizzie Samuels (GG). The audience was seated facing the organ and in front of it stood the Cantandum choir, professionally dressed all in black. The most striking feature was the large ebony harp that stood slightly off centre stage.

The concert opened with two anthems, the type that one might expect from this small *a capella* choir – Tallis' *If Ye Love Me* and Gibbons' *O clap Your Hands*. They provided an approachable introduction to the music that was to follow.

Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* had a striking effect – the hugely contrasting movements maintained the audience's interest through the long work. Although perhaps my abiding memory of the piece was the

Interlude (played on solo harp), which was stunning. The varied timbres the instrument can produce are marvellous and it was a fantastic instrument for accompanying.

However, my favourite piece of the evening was the Brahms – four songs for female voices, two horns, organ and harp. These songs were intrinsically beautiful and this can only have made them more difficult to perform, but the choir and instrumentalists carried it off very well.

Otcenas by Janacek finished the programme – a stunning finale. The writing for organ and harp made me smile at some parts and the lyricism of the writing for tenor solo, Teehan Page, brought a tear to the eye.

One thing that struck me most forcibly during the evening was the enormous professionalism and talent shown by the choir under the direction of Gilly French. I am in awe of the fact that not only do most of the people in the choir have excellent degrees and are high-class teachers, but are also often keen sportspeople and find the time to sing to a staggeringly high standard. Perhaps the idea of the Renaissance man/woman has not been lost. I'd like to thank them all for reminding me of how much we can strive for!

Cantandum is the Westminster Choral group that is becoming increasingly well known around the school, writes founder, Gilly French, long-time frustrated singer and choral conductor. It owes its name to Fiona Smart, Latinist member of the soprano section. After lengthy research into possible singers and venues to promote her own type of choral music, Gilly found it on her own doorstep. Membership is drawn from the wider Westminster community – academic, administrative and works staff and their spouses as well as OWs, parents and former parents and provides a cheerful means of social intercourse as much as anything else. Cantandum was born.

One has to offer an experience that members want to come back for more of: high quality singing, with a fine overall sound, quick learning and no lack of ambition. Cantandum is distinguished by the outstanding quality of the corporate sound made by a body of, on average, eleven singers. As ten good voices can sound like thirty, the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts, and if people are on top form the results are staggering.

Programme planning is another thing to get right, and absolutely the nicest thing about being a conductor is that you get to choose the music. Shorter concerts are always preferable to longer concerts, for both the performers and the audience, and a concert accompanied by, for example a harp, will generate much more interest than one accompanied by piano. Concerts in which nearly everybody gets to do a solo are nicer than those in which

one or two people do them all, and concerts in beautiful places are the best of all. In its short existence Cantandum has performed Up School and also at St Stephen's Rochester Row (great acoustic), Church House Chapel (a little masterpiece with an acoustic to dream of), Westminster Abbey and St John's Smith Square (both by invitation), and Ashburnham Garden, one of the most historically fascinating outdoor venues in London.

Sometimes it is appropriate to perform a major work with organ rather than orchestra, but more often it isn't and players have to be found. With a strict policy of free concerts we can't raise the revenue required to pay for musical accompaniment. With characteristic generosity the Westminster School Society sprang to the rescue, offering us a sizeable grant to help.



SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

On a fine midsummer evening, the sixth form's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in Ashburnham Garden proved a fitting climax in period costume to a year of dramatic triumphs, muses Ben Chesler (MM).

Although the play is known as a comedy, the actors' performances skilfully reflected the darker elements of the dual plot. Don Pedro, Prince of Aragon (played with impressive power and nobility by Edd Franklin), with his companions Claudio and Benedick, visits Leonato, Governor of Messina (an aged yet curiously vigorous Sam Pritchard), father of Hero and uncle of Beatrice. Claudio falls in love with Hero (a bond movingly developed by William Irwin and Olivia Percival). At the same time, Beatrice renews a teasing relationship with sworn bachelor Benedick, which becomes a duel of wit between the two (the bold and sprightly Kate O'Connor an excellent foil to Ben Arnold's elegant, merry joker). As the play progresses, each is tricked into believing the other in love, and this reveals a genuine affection.

Meanwhile Don John (a villainous Oliver Campion-Awwad), the malcontent brother of the prince, arranges for Claudio to witness a flirtation between his friend Borachio (played with outstanding physical presence by Tom Gill) and 'Hero' – really her veiled waiting-woman Margaret (Laura Stojcevic). The wounded Claudio publicly denounces Hero at the altar; she faints, and apparently dies. Outraged and grief-stricken,

Beatrice insists that Benedick challenge Claudio to a duel. Just in time, the plot by Don John and Borachio is exposed by the fumbling constable Dogberry (John Reicher). Claudio, mortified, promises to make Leonato amends for his daughter's death, and is asked to marry a cousin of Hero's; when her veil is lifted, it is revealed that she is Hero herself. Benedick then asks for the hand of Beatrice, to which she agrees. The play ended with a lively dance, skilfully choreographed by Lyndsey Turner and exuberantly executed by the entire company.

Ashburnham Garden was used to full effect, providing natural shrubby cover for those in hiding. The intimacy of the historic courtyard and the close proximity of the action meant that the audience became thoroughly involved with the unfolding emotions of the play. Not that this was without hazard – one spectator had to dodge an advancing spear. The twists and turns of plot and mood were complemented by beautifully played period music, which was sadly unacknowledged in the programme. Credit is also due to the whole production team, with Chris French, Alex Gabriele and Ben Shillito in charge of lighting and sound and Chris Barton as director, whose efforts made this excellent production a night to remember.



THE SCRATCH PLAY

RETURN OF THE GOTHIC

This year's Scratch play consisted of six themed pieces written, adapted and directed by Westminster pupils, records Michael Stothard (BB). In 2004 Westminster went *gothic*.

The first play, 'Home Again' by Andrew Naughtie introduced the running theme of morbid comedy when an evil husband-turned-zombie jumps out of a box. It was short, sweet, dark, and curiously funny. 'Tea', also by Andrew Naughtie, let us watch two characters drink poisoned tea and discuss all the things they deserve to die for. 'A Prudent Joke', by Ben Arnold, mocked the audiences (unreasonable) fear of little girls singing nursery rhymes through dark corridors. It had an excellent twist, which, in a ten minute play, is hard to pull off.

'Doctor Faust' was seamlessly edited and visually spectacular. With only two main characters, nine skimpily dressed 'devils' amply filled the extra space. They constantly ran, snarled and whispered for Satan around the powerful Faust. This accentuated his presence, power and menace.

'Man on stage, writing', by Ed Cumming, was a wonderful script focusing on a writer's imagination run wild. The brilliant dialogue seemed authentic enough, but the scene became more and more absurd: There was a transvestite and a beautiful dancing lady who seemed to love a monkey in a less than platonic way. Suddenly, one realised it was all just the man on stage writing. Hilarious, sinister bestiality, thought-provoking and slickly directed, this was the best piece of the evening.

The next was an adaptation of *Dracula* which was undercut by the comic morbidity of the previous plays. The previous plays were so funny that it was difficult to take the genuinely frightening *Dracula* as seriously as it was meant to be. Even so, the actors pressed on and came out with a well edited and suitably evil, almost *gothic*, end to the night.





EDGAR'S HOUSE

Edgar's House, a new play co-written by Ed Randall (BB), was premiered in October, report Emma Thompson (HH) and Christina Farr (MM).

This surreal comedy was hilarious and engaging. The story centres around a house from which no one can escape, whose occupants include: an evil mastermind, a Greek philosopher and a 'chav' Pope. There is no hero in this play, only the eternal presence of the landlord Edgar who controls the proceedings,

while the characters are unaware of this. The play follows two boys on a search for their father through a whirlwind of bizarre events like goose-eating or waging war on a bath. A superb cast heightened the hilarious script, and had the audience in frequent fits of hysterics. The atmosphere of weird and wacky was established from the beginning with several 'doozers', the representations of Edgar's invisible hand in the house who mimed and amused the audience. This play was refreshingly weird and witty; a great success!



SLEAZE

Sleaze was an original musical, based on Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, says Jamie Macfarlane (WW), relating the story of an acting prime minister using his temporary power to try and introduce radical laws on pre-marital sex, while at the same time abusing his position in his attempts to seduce an innocent young girl.

The production was flawless, with an exciting combination of poignant drama, comedy and large full company scores. The seamless transition between these various states was largely due to the phenomenal strength of the acting. The cast was led by Edd Franklin and Ed Randell whose joint ability genuinely to portray the complexity of their characters made their performances compelling. The diversity of the acting meant that the audience's attention was constantly switching from the comedy of Tom Hoare, Jake Robson and Tom Gill to the tragedy of the vivid relationship between Alice Rowell and Johnny Fields. The ultimate exhilaration of the production was

without question the ability of its lead singer. The audience erupted into spontaneous applause after every one of Katy Watson's songs, whose vocal strength was only matched by her ability to portray the isolation and vulnerability of her character.

The production successfully engaged the audience turning the play into a real experience. This was done through rapid scene changes, where the audience was smoothly transported from Parliament to a brothel, then to a club and finally to a prison. The inclusion of a live band meant that the thrill of the score was amplified by electrifying music, confirming that the play really was a major collaboration between music and drama at Westminster.

TRESTLE THEATRE

The Trestle Theatre company, founded in 1981, has developed into one of the country's leading group of mask actors, writes Jamie Macfarlane (WW).

The excitement of having a company of such renown was evident from the size of the audience that packed the Millicent Fawcett Hall in November. The reason for Trestle's popularity was clearly evident, with the actors' remarkable physical talent combining with a highly amusing and touching storyline. The versatility of the cast was only evident at the end, when it was revealed that the dozens of masked characters in the story had only been played by five actors. The evening was highly enjoyable and it was very exciting to be exposed to such an unusual and exciting form of theatre



WREN'S HOUSE PLAY PURGATORY AND BEDROOM LYRICS

Strolling along to the Millicent Fawcett Hall, we were unaware of what awaited us in the Wren's house plays, confess Mahima Sukhdev (LL) and Robertson Eccles (LL); *Purgatory*, written and directed by Jamie Macfarlane; and *Bedroom Lyrics*, written and directed by Matt Johnson, both of Wren's.

Purgatory, a harsh and cynical analysis of the human psyche when confronted with its true nature, was kept expertly afloat by lashings of black humour. The cast put on a magnificent performance. The ever-present Dan Brodie was captivating as Dominic, occupying his position with great power and poise, to the extent that the Chaplain asked him to repeat some of the lines during an abbey sermon. Isaac, a mentally-challenged tramp, was played by the wild-eyed Max Hoehn, who captured the essence of drunken trampdom to perfection, perturbing the audience by howling out the words to 'Jerusalem' at intervals before falling back into an alco-

hol-induced stupor. These performances highlight the excellent overall quality of the acting. Ultimate credit must rest with the director and writer, Jamie Macfarlane, who did an exemplary job at taking his ideas and translating them into a thought-provoking piece of drama.

Matt Johnson's play, on the other hand, was a sardonic look at the life of caricatures of Westminster students, focusing on the lives of two hedonistic characters, Ben and Nick played by, and allegedly based upon, real characters familiar to the audience. Nick, the unsuccessful one, reverts for a time to being a contemplative character, commenting upon the endless repetition of his life, yet forgetting these philosophical questions in favour of getting drunk and vomiting the night away. Tiffany Kaba, Rachel Griffiths and the rest of the cast were as good. The play was less hard-hitting, in terms of its emotional content, than *Purgatory* but certainly hit our proverbial funny bones. Together they made for a night of contrasting moods which was all the more enjoyable for it.



OPERA GIANNI SCHICCHI

On the last two days of term, Westminster pupils delayed their usual rush to see this year's opera, maintains Nicky Goulimis (DD). Together, the Music and Drama departments staged a production of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*.

A comedy in one act, this opera portrays the misery of Buoso Donati's relatives at his death, having just realized he's left them no inheritance. Desperate for Donati's wealth, they resolve to call in commoner *Gianni Schicchi* to save the day. He concocts a cunning scheme to fool the lawyer, Amantio, into believing that he, Gianni Schicchi, is really the bed-ridden Donati desiring to change his will. Schicchi's plan somehow means he ends up with most of the money himself, but the story ends happily for all since Schicchi's daughter,

Lauretta, now has the dowry necessary to marry her beloved Rinuccio, the true heir.

Chris Barton and Dee Shulman's set design was astute in its use of perspective and opulent throughout. With three performances over two nights and high notes all over, the consistent brilliancy of Gianni Schicchi's cast was impressive. Jonny Field's interpretation of the title role was perfectly poised between grouchy and humorous. William Blake and Katy Watson were passionate and moving as the lovers,

Rinuccio and Lauretta. Ollie Stevenson's portrayal of Simone and Bella Sanders's of Zitta, relations of Donati's, enhanced the humour thanks to their comic delivery as well as Ollie's formidable moustache. The couples, Marco and La Ciesca, played by Tim de Faramond and Sofia Barclay, along with Gherardo and Nella with their son Gherardino, played by Christopher White, Asma Mani and Max Gill, were amusing in their greedy false mourning whilst Lawrence Keegan-Fisher's impoverished Betto was somewhat more sympathetic in his distress. Ed Randell's lawyer Amantio, Tom Hoare's doctor Spinelloccio, and the will's witnesses Pinellino and Guccio, Adam Grant and Max Barton, added humanity as well as the suspense of potential discovery. Sam Pritchard brought Donati to life with his rendering of the

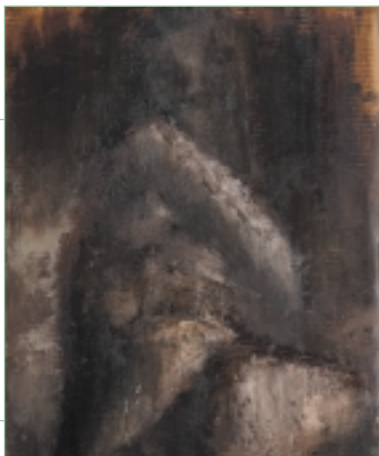
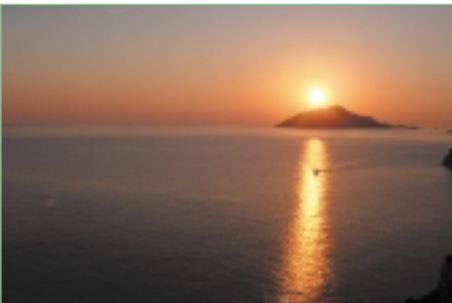
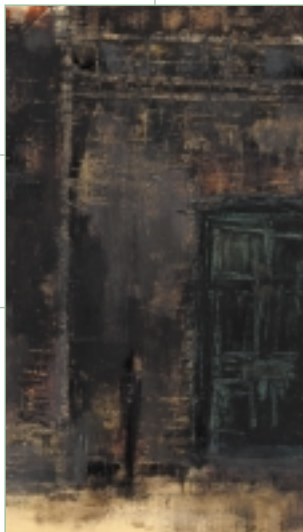
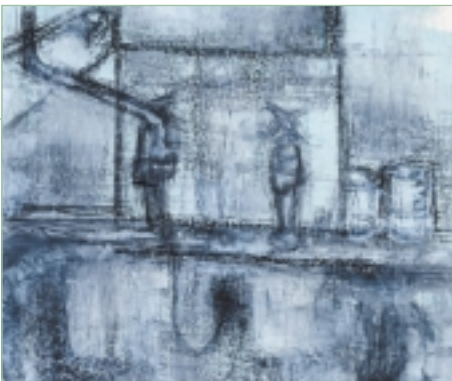
corpse. Guy Hopkins's conducting, Toby Purser on the piano and Tim Lai's percussion provided invaluable support. Overall, this was a great performance, funny and moving; a lovely evening for all.

PRIVATE LIVES

As a child I used to listen over and over again to my father's LP of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence performing excerpts from *Private Lives*. So there were moments during this production when certain passages of dialogue suddenly echoed with a distorted familiarity. Distorted, because through the eyes of this cast the characters had a rougher, more cynical edge. Where Coward and Lawrence played to the hilt the yearning ache of a love too powerful for its own comfort, Nat Gordon portrayed Elyot as more of an amoral roué, complacently self-satisfied with the after-shocks of his own bad behaviour, and Lara Karady's knowing Amanda was nobody's dupe. More conventional (if occasionally shrill) support was provided by Ed Digby-Jones and Nicky Goulimis as their respective wounded partners, and Ellie Buchdahl wasted not an insolent moment of her brief appearance as the stropky French maid. Mike Lim's set

did enthusiastic battle with the Camden Room, and we were quite prepared to accept that we were in the South of France and later Paris; though I suspect that the cast would have preferred a little more room to swing their thespian cat. The (uncredited) costume design was effective, despite one or two items of clothing seeming to take on a life of their own. Emilia Weber and Cleo Nisse directed with energy and conviction, and are to be congratulated on pulling the whole thing off with only minimal support from staff.

WESTMINSTER
ART AND
PHOTOGRAPHY



A Critchley and F Tusa at Banjoles.
Photographed by Oscar Mitchell (MM).

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SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Played: 26 Won: 5 Drew: 3 Lost: 18

Trying to put a positive spin on this season's results may look like an impossible task, but without compromising my integrity, and acting as an eternal optimist, I feel ready to try. It may sound like classic Colemanballs but our problems this season stemmed from an extraordinary inability to finish off promising moves, leaving us bereft of anything to work with when games became tight. To compound our misery we were unable to defend with sufficient skill to keep even moderate sides from scoring – in many cases we contributed significantly to presenting easy opportunities in one-on-one situations. So, unable to stop sides scoring and an inability to score ourselves sound like a poor side. This would be unfair, as throughout the season we played attractive and expansive football based upon

good movement and good ball retention. In addition, there was an excellent team spirit which remained undimmed throughout the season. The side was drawn from two year groups who had struggled to find success as junior teams and so some of their performances this season as senior players were very pleasing and a testament to a good attitude and some good technical work.

Our pre-season pitted us against a robust and effective Blackburn side and a talented OW side. We suffered heavy defeats but learnt in the process. We continued to strengthen our high reputation in the ISFA sixes with a semi-final spot in the plate competition and were beaten 0–1 by Bradfield who went on to win the trophy in the final. Good performances against Ardingly

and Witley gave the side some confidence and an opportunity to develop a style of play. Our frailties were exposed by a direct and athletic Eton side that capitalised on some defensive indecisions and were not made to pay when we created rare chances. An excellent winning performance against a competitive John Lyon side (Byron Orme outstanding) gave us a lift before the first round of the cup. Ely felt confident when they arrived at the square but were quickly disabused of this by one of the best Westminster displays of the season. The side worked the ball around the pitch very effectively, stretching a bemused Ely eleven. The Forest result was hard to bear, because although a successful school side themselves, a result of 3–0 flattered them. Lancing was an ugly affair and with a few minutes to go before half time and having edged ourselves back in the game at 1–1, we managed to fashion a classic defensive fiasco from a position of dominance and concede a vital goal before the break (cf. England v Brazil 2002). After a rousing team talk from the master i/c we contrived to concede a third immediately after half time and

from then on were having to work hard to stay in the game. With the help of a player who could throw the ball into the box from the half way line, Lancing finished us off by the unsophisticated but effective tactic of launching the ball into our box at every opportunity. Our weakness in the air was exposed and two more goals followed. Yet again we played some really good football in patches but left Sussex empty handed. Latymer and Alleyn's were tight games but Charterhouse again presented us with a direct style of football which relied on pace and early delivery – we couldn't cope effectively with this and went down to a heavy defeat. Other results demonstrated our vulnerability to sharp and pacy attacks but Aldenham reversed that trend for a game and the 3–1 win against their best side in years was gratefully received. The Hampton result was perhaps the most dramatic but we were playing an excellent school side at the top of their game just prior to their meeting with Millfield in the final of the ISFA Boodle and Dunthorne cup at Filbert Street. This is perhaps an opportune moment to remem-

ber that our fixture list is very strong, comprising the best footballing independent schools in the south of England. Conceding a goal in the first few minutes and last few seconds made the result against Harrow seem emphatic but the 'bit in the middle' was very evenly contested. The team managed to raise themselves for a final flourish, avoiding defeat against St. Paul's and winning comfortably against King's Canterbury.

During the season, the side was captained by Assadollah Rashidian who led by example on the pitch and never failed to give of his best – my thanks to him and all the Remove who will be leaving us this year.

Special mention must be given to IRM for his tremendous support and commitment and to JB who will sadly be leaving football station next year to pursue a long held desire to promote basketball at

Westminster and to afford him additional time to follow his beloved Liverpool – we will all miss him and hope his return will be swift. JAI was there at the birth of the 3rd XI and has become inextricably linked to its fortunes.

House Competitions;
Winners of the 6-a-sides HH
Winners of the 11-a-sides LL

JJK

THE PLAYERS

A. Rashidian, H. Hepworth,
J. Lloyd-Thomas, N. Grosse,
A. Joseph, J. Reicher, A. Byrne,
C. Cooke, A. Hall, H. Kahn,
J. Kember, B. Scrace, L. Jagger,
A. Cominos, B. Golden,
H. Feridun, M. Baghdadi,
B. Orme, T. Lloyd, M. Zamkow.

As always huge thanks to the dedicated team of coaches who make it all possible: IRM, PAH, JB, PDH, MHF, CIU, PB, NIJ, AJ, JDK, JAI, RRS, MNR, KAPV.

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL 2ND XI

Played: 18 Won: 7 Drew: 2 Lost: 9

This was no ordinary season even though the team's record might suggest otherwise. What these results can't reveal is the dedication and commitment displayed by each player over the past year. Everybody concerned was determined to improve. This eventually resulted in a 2nd XI team that was able to compete admirably against some of the strongest football schools on the circuit. Wins against Forest (1–0), Lancing (0–5), and Bishop Stopford (3–2) were particularly satisfying, while narrow defeats later in the season against the quality teams of Hampton (2–0) and Bradfield (1–2) were testament to how much the 2nd XI team had improved.

Twenty two different players represented the 2nd XI but of these only thirteen were selected on a regular basis. Sam Allen was our keeper for most of the year and as his confidence in goal improved so did his performances. Louis Jagger replaced an injured Sam for the last three games and performed extremely well. Tim Hunter-Jones, Alex Hall, Mark Baghdadi and Ben Deanfield worked tirelessly in defence. In fact, Tim Hunter-Jones was probably our most improved player over the season.

Our regular midfield players included Ben Scrace, Martin Briscoe-Wilson, Tom Steuerman, Rohan Chapman, Dan Brodie, Alex Estorick and

Tommy Cattell. A great deal was asked of them, from defence to attack, and as their fitness improved so did the quality of the team's performance. Martin Briscoe-Wilson worked like a steam engine in the middle of the park and the quality of his football began to match his outstanding effort in the later stages of the year. It would certainly be appropriate to consider him our player of the season. In attack, Jack Kember battled away as our solitary striker and scored a memorable hat-trick against Lancing. When Jack was called up to the 1st XI, Alex Asher took over this position and scored two vital goals in our impressive victory against Bishop Stopford. Several other players made a significant contribution to the team at one point or another during the season and they included Max Zamkow, Tom Gill, John Reicher, and Hamza Khan.

All in all it's been an entertaining season peppered with highs and lows. And from my point of view, it's been a pleasure to work with such a highly motivated bunch of players. Well done team!

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U16 A

Played: 11 Won: 2 Drew: 1 Lost: 8

There was a frustrating element to our first three matches of the season. The plan had been to make a pass-and-move side based around a midfield of Hines-Green and Orme in the centre and Taylor and Theodosiou out wide. This had entailed changing the defence from the previous year and, in particular, finding new centre backs to replace Burnett, who was to struggle with his fitness all season, and Hines-Green. Astaire and Musciacco took the roles in the first match but struggled in windy conditions in a 2–1 loss to Ardingly. Thomas replaced Musciacco for the Eton match, where we twice came back into the game through excellent finishing from McPherson only to lose 4–3. McPherson showed the ability to take the ball with his back to goal, turn and run at and beat defenders.

The match against Lancing was in a similar vein. They scored with their only two opportunities of the game in another 2–1 loss. The defence was now starting to settle down. Knox was dependable at left back though he found the faster players a handful. In the centre Jelly was coming to terms with the new role, accompanied by either Burnett or Thomas. At right back Brent was able to fill in though Scantlebury was to claim this place later in the season.

For the Alley's match Porter replaced Grovit in goal and Astaire took the place of Orme in midfield. I was confident that we would give them a good game but at half-time we were 4–1 down after some superb goals from the opposition. What followed was a stunning comeback. We finished 5–5 with

goals from Taylor, Yuen, Astaire and two from McPherson. Yuen had now scored in each of the last three games and Taylor was always productive down the left wing. Astaire, too, in midfield was starting to exert an influence on proceedings.

After this game a bad knee injury to McPherson, sustained playing yard football, made him unavailable for the rest of the season. Although Donovan and Zeimer both showed promise in replacement, we were to struggle against the better opposition. Against Charterhouse (6–0), Bradfield (6–2) and Harrow (6–1) we played with super character and determination but were soundly beaten by excellent sides. Our win against Aldenham (8–0) was too one-sided to be really satisfying but more pleasing was the 3–2 win against Chigwell where we probably played our best football of the season.

It was encouraging to see the players develop. By the end Thomas was an accomplished centre back who may well see first eleven football before too long. Taylor scored 7 goals from midfield and has as good a left foot as anyone else in the school. Yuen has good anticipation and excellent pace and managed 7 goals. Hines-Green is a thoughtful and skilful player who will fit well into any side. The rangy Astaire and hawk-like McPherson are both players of considerable potential. Our scores were disappointing but the positive attitude and hard work of the players, who showed themselves ready to listen and try out new ideas, have made this a tremendous season for all involved.
MHF

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U16 B

Played: 8 Won: 2 Drew: 1 Lost: 5

The season started off well with an excellent performance away to Ardingly, the win setting us up in good stead for the season to come. Unfortunately a loss to Eton dented the confident mood, but a hard fought draw against a physical, and in some cases over-aggressive, Lancing team put us back on track. However in the match against Charterhouse a 2–0 lead for the team was thrown away due to complacency to lose 3–2, a gutting result. The rollercoaster ride continued with a well deserved



Photographed by Richard Green.

win against Chigwell – one of the highlights of the season, but injuries and illness took their toll, and the remaining matches were too much for the depleted side. Keeping Harrow to nil-nil for much of the match was the only real highlight of the second term, although the mood was confident before the St Paul's match, only for them to pull out at the last minute (some say they were scared of losing...)

Now to mention the fine band of men that formed the squad this season. The goalkeeping was initially performed by Will Porter before his rise to the first team led to Adrien 'Rocky' Roux dit Buisson admirably stepping up, and filling the number 1 shirt with style. In central defence the likes

of Jamie Stoker, and Edu Musciacco were solid, and difficult to get past, both taking on captaincy duties when called upon. Cem 'The Diamond' Kemahli came into the squad later on, and showed a talent for aggressive tackling, including some crunching tackles on the coach! The early season captain, Joe Scantlebury was soon spotted for his talent and moved up to the A squad. In midfield Arthur 'Mad Dog' Campbell and Rupert 'Rolling in the' Eyles prowled the wings,

whilst Hugh Logan-Ellis, Max Ziemer and Joe Smith all dominated the centre of the park. Hugo 'Beefie' Brent was a player who never gave up, and showed impressive determination and strength on the ball. In attack Tom Brutton, and Chris Donovan always looked dangerous, later supported by Misha 'The Bear' Kaletsky. The squad showed depth with 'The Angel' Gabriel Chipperfield, Joe Bakes, Kobe Arthur, Shiv Shah, and later Naveed Tafreshi and Vikesh Kirpalani all representing the team.

Finally a mention for the player of the season – not missing a game, or indeed a tackle, at right back, was Julian Harvard-Barnes.
CJRU

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U15 A

The season began in style with a record equalling seven successive victories. This spell included defeats of Ardingly (10–0), King's Ely (6–1) and KES Witley (6–2), but arguably the most impressive performance was saved for the touring side from Brisbane Boys College. Westminster matched their impressive opponents for skill, speed and determination and recovered from a 2–1 deficit to record an astonishing result. A late 30 yard strike from Lloyd gave us a 3–2 win. Following the record sequence, an influx of Chinese hats, and a little tinkering ensued, and the desired effect took a little more time to materialise than anticipated. Once the strongest team settled into its most effective structure, Dulwich and Highgate were overwhelmed by the intensity of their opponents play. The team began playing as a cohesive unit, with quick, accurate passing, and selfless running becoming a theme to their football. Defensively, they improved considerably. The tenacious back four of Flynn, Sasaki-Nasseri, Harrison and Herbert were ably supported by Clancy in his role as the midfield anchor. His tireless defensive work in the midfield, gave free rein to Lloyd and Benson to cause havoc, at times, in the opponents third. At their best, this midfield trio were difficult to match. Width was provided by Wheeler on the right and Johnson on the left, with top scorer Rubenstein the focal

point of our attacks, notching up 19 goals. Alex Shashou deserves special mention, as the player who regularly started, with the versatility to play in a variety of positions. Hadcock and Khan shared the goalkeeping role, and both proved valuable members of the team. Whilst it was Hugo who ended the season between the sticks for the A team, Rameez was the decisive player in the ISFA sixes Plate final victory, saving a crucial penalty after extra time.

The team finished the season with a 3–0 defeat of rivals St. Pauls, with an Alex Shashou hat-trick.

The unique difficulty encountered this year was that posed by the embarrassment of riches at our disposal, and how to decide on the best starting XI. Praise must go to all the 15B players who played their part in the team. Athill, Bengier, Dunning, Godfrey-Faussett, Howell, Imrie, Langton, Mepstead, Noorani and Pimlott all featured, and will help to maintain the competition for A team places next year.

Well done to the players for persevering during the demanding phase of the season, and showing commitment throughout in training. Thanks also to coaches Hinze and Johnson for settling me into Westminster football.
PAB

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U15 B

Played: 17 Won: 11 Drew: 4 Lost: 2

Let's get straight to the point; the U15B team was the most successful team in the School this year. We played 17, won 11, drew 4, and lost only 2. We scored 57 goals and conceded only 18. The lads should be enormously proud of this and it was thoroughly deserved. A real team spirit developed this year, which was fantastic to see, great to work with, and certainly contributed to the results on the pitch. In every position we had quality of a standard that in other years would have

Howell, Noorani and Mepstead. The midfield was anchored superbly by Meadows who fed the driving runs of Bengier and Godfrey-Fawcett, as well as liberating our skipper Dunning to support the attack. Up front play was orchestrated masterfully by Pimlott, who tore apart defences with his incisive passing and helped Athill to a personal goal tally of 18.

Whilst that may have been the first choice 11, so many others played vital roles and in true



graced an A team; indeed, several players played for both A and B teams. Highlights included the opening day 7–0 thumping of Ardingly, the 8–0 demolition of John Lyon, and the 6–1 and 7–1 local derby triumphs over Dulwich and Highgate respectively.

It is hard to single out individuals, so instead let's comment on the team's overall shape and style. At the back both keepers (Hadcock and Khan) played vital roles (and I hope Rameez remembers his penalty save at the ISFA six-a-sides that won us the tournament plate). Our defence was built around the organisation, commitment, speed and muscle of Langton,

premiership style this was a squad season. Praise and thanks must go to B Shashou, Capildeo, Wheeler, Imrie, Obiekwe, Rose, Start, Johnson, Harrison, Duchateau, Rothschild, Wilkins, Behchet. Many of these players would in a less spectacular season have been regular starters in the B team. Thanks to you all.

Finally the management would like to thank each other – Hinze, Johnson and Botton – for the mutual support, Chinese hats and general enthusiasm. We've all had a great season – staff and squad – that will be remembered for a long time. Well done!
NJH and AJ

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U14 A

Played: 16 Won: 1 Drew: 4 Lost: 11

If truth be told this was not a vintage season for the U14s, although they were always likely to struggle in comparison to the previous year's excellent side. However, this is still a team that promises much for the future, and that kept on working hard throughout the season despite results not going their way. Although they lost a number of games, they battled gamely at all times and were only seriously defeated on two occasions.

In terms of results, the best happened early in the piece. First up came an excellent 2–2 draw with a confident Ardingly side thanks to a brace from Charles Chichester. The team did go one better in the next game, comprehensively defeating a King's Ely team by 6–0 with Chichester this time notching an excellent hat-trick. However, this early promise was to remain somewhat unful-

filled as this was the team's only victory of the year.

Following our first two defeats, there came a frustrating 4–4 draw with John Lyon. This really was a game we should have won with another hat-trick from the prolific Chichester, but we conceded some soft goals and the chance was lost. Unfortunately, events then took a turn for the worse as, despite all efforts from coaching staff and players alike, we went on an eight game losing streak either side of Christmas. To be fair, the opposition during this time featured many of the best football schools on the ISFA circuit.

The run was finally broken with an outstanding 2–2 draw against Harrow, and then came that strangest of U14 scorelines – a 0–0 draw (only the second such result in some 11 years of taking football matches at this

level!). This happened away to St. Paul's, although credit must be given to the St Paul's referee who rightly disallowed a winning goal to his team from the very last kick of the game.

Most importantly, credit must be given to those players who worked so hard and with such enthusiasm throughout the year. I feel certain that, with continued efforts, results will turn their way as they progress up through the School.

In goal, Jeremy Holt was dependable and reliable throughout, and, was particularly well-shielded by the outstanding defensive efforts of Tom Surr. At the back, Hunter Farquhar-Thomson was fearless in the challenge, and Maxwell Dikkers improved immeasurably during the season. In midfield, Joshua Benson and Hugh Sultoon were the outstanding figures in the centre, ably

supported by Sammy Talalay and Mark Fellows out wide. Up front, Charles Chichester led the line admirably with determined help from Guy Nakamura and Nicholas Tolkien. Special mention must also be made of Ben Collis who performed constant heroics in goal for the B team, and would, in most other years, have been an ever-present for the As. Thanks also to Oliver Rees, Sam Fishwick and Thomas Hierons who all performed with distinction when called upon.

I thank all of the above-mentioned for their efforts this season and wish them all the very best for the rest of their football at Westminster. I would also like to thank all those staff connected with U14 football for their untiring efforts this year, and, all those loyal parents who gave the team such devoted support throughout.

JDK

SEASON: 2004 – 2005 FOOTBALL U14 B

Played: 15 Won: 0 Drew: 2 Lost: 13

This has not been the easiest season for the U14s. They did not quite sustain the early promise they showed and the loss, which is only, one hopes, temporary, of several important players from the Station did not help. The best football was played in an exciting 3–3 draw at Lancing (scorers N. Tolkein, H. Asher, J. Northover) and in a hard-fought 3–1 reverse at

Chigwell (scorer O. Tagi). Undaunted after several heavy defeats, the boys finished their season on a high with an excellent, free-flowing and gritty performance at St. Paul's (1–1, scorer B. Collis) in a game we really should have won. Defensive frailties handicapped the team all season but when these boys become stronger physically their technical ability

and commitment to a crisp passing game will pay rich dividends. Many thanks to all who have played and well done for keeping heads up during long, fruitless away trips. The team's stalwarts were Alex Stephens, Humphrey Thomas, Alex Allen, Ben Collis (whose outstanding goalkeeping would deservedly win him a man of the season award), Tom

Hierons, Amar Patel, Kushaal Ved, Orfeo Tagi, Oliver Rees, Hannibal Asher and Ed Myung. Alex Fiskien looks a good prospect, too, as does Milan Vadher. Francis Jagger, Peter Smith, Jonathan Roberts, Haroun Hickman, Kempe Brydges and Gabriel Broadhurst also played for the team this year.

JAI



WATER

Westminster School Boat Club had a fairly successful summer regatta season last year. At the National Schools regatta the first eight unfortunately went out in the semi finals of school eights. The J15s managed an impressive bronze in J15 eights, with the two halves of the eight both making the final in the fours event with the 'B' four snatching another bronze and the 'A' four finishing 5th. The first eight redeemed themselves slightly by a having a great row at Marlow regatta, losing by just a canvas to Bedford. WSBC qualified the 1st 8 for the Princess Elizabeth Cup for JM8 at Henley Royal Regatta. They raced St Andrews School

(USA), the silver medallists from the American equivalent of National Schools, sadly losing out in the first round by a few lengths, despite one of their best rows of the season – the Americans just proved too big, and too strong for our boys to beat them. After a well deserved summer break and with some new arrivals at Westminster, WSBC got down to training in September. The J14 squad, coached by the experienced Nick Maloney, have proved to be a very promising year, with over twenty 5th formers participating. The top octuple looked like very serious contenders going into the school's head, but unfortunate-

ly they snapped an oar within the first minute of the race and ended up a rather miserable last! However, having picked themselves up from that mishap and with a new set of oars, they trained hard on their camp in Seville.

The J15's also have improved as a squad, coming 8th in the school's head. Special mention has to go to Guy Arnold and Jo Gross, impressive in small boats in the winter and Bronze medal winners in doubles at the Inter-regionals.

The J16's have matured as a squad and having undergone some gruelling training over the winter are now all set for a fruitful summer season. They came an impressive 7th in J16 8's at the School's Head Race, one of the most competitive events. They finished the term with a resounding three-nil match victory over local rivals, St. Paul's.

Early in Election term a four from the J16 eight took silver medals at the Inter-regional championships in Nottingham, following a successful Easter training camp in Philadelphia and Princeton, together with the Girls' eight.

WSBC has had an ever growing Girl's squad over the past few years, and this year proved no exception. The top four of Jenny Ellis Logan, Sarah Linthwaite, Lucy Webb Wilson and Emily Smith have been very successful this year, winning at Hampton Head and in Philadelphia. They are in a strong position with only a few weeks to go before the National Schools Regatta. The novice girls' eight have also demonstrated their potential with a solid performance in the school's head.

Westminster's top four this year consists of Matthew Neve, Charles and Jamie Moran and Phillipp Braunwalder. The top pair consists of Charles Royce and Alex Murley. We endured much suffering over the winter season racing in single sculls, and produced some sound results in the winter head races. We came a team second to Eton at Pangbourne sculls and put in a solid performance at the Armada Cup in Switzerland. The Armada Cup is a prestigious international sculling race near Berne at which the J16s and a few select girls accompanied the top squad. Congratulations to Sarah and Jenny who, despite being knocked into the freezing lake, climbed back into their boats and finished the 9km race, the consolation prize being an interview on Swiss television! The top squad then began to train in pairs and have just returned from a productive training camp in Seville. They, like the girls four, have had a good season, winning Hampton head and coming an impressive second at the school's head, frustrated by RGS Worcester who were victorious by a mere two seconds!

Bill Mason, top squad coach, has done a fantastic job this year and expectations are high for the summer regatta season. Many thanks to CD Riches who manages to hold the whole operation together, coach the J16's and (by far the most impressive feat) run the London Marathon in an Elvis suit!

Matthew Neve (HH)
Captain of Rowing

For more information,
news and results go to
www.wsbc.org.uk



Cricket Club 1st XI, May 2004.
Photographed by Everitt Photography.

SEASON: 2004 CRICKET 1ST XI

Played: 10 Won: 5 Drew: 4 Lost: 1

For the 1st XI, 2004 was in many ways an annus mirabilis which saw the team achieve its most successful season since 1987. This was a side whose sum proved far greater than the total of its parts in winning five games, drawing four and losing only one (with four more unfortunately lost to the weather). All this seemed highly unlikely during the cheerful, but bracing, pre-season training sessions Up Fields in April, and my hopes and those of the coach, Jonathan Hall, were not terribly high, if truth be told. How wrong we were.

The season began with a relatively gentle loosener against the Lords and Commons, and all was progressing quietly until Charles Cooke sauntered to the crease and proceeded to play the first of several devastating innings for the year.

He smashed 73 not out off only 44 balls with seven 4's and three 6's, and was ably supported by several cameo knocks, chief of which was Dan Brodie's 37. This enabled the School to declare at 222-6, leaving the opposition the same amount of overs to get the runs. In reply, the parliamentarians seemed completely shell-shocked by the blitz their bowlers had endured and stuttered to a paltry 99-8 off their 41 overs. Robin Low did most of the damage taking 5-15 with some excellent swing bowling. He was well supported by Gopalan Radhakrishnan ('Goppers' for short) who took 2-42 with his gentle off-breaks. A word also for Joe Smith who took a wicket with his third ball on his 1st XI debut. A good start then: maybe it wasn't going to be such a barren season after all.

Next up was a Butterflies side whose powerful batting line-up eased effortlessly to 195-5 declared, leaving themselves 39 overs to bowl us out – or so they thought! In the first of several extraordinary chases for the year, the School set off slowly with the captain, Daniel Bamford, anchoring the batting in his first appearance after a recent bout of illness. At the start of the final 20 overs Westminster required a further 151 runs with 8 wickets left – a draw maybe, but no chance of victory surely? At which point, Bamford (78), supported by Brodie and Cooke, unleashed a fusillade of shots until he perished with 25 still needed off only 3 overs and 4 wickets left. Time to shut up shop? Not so, according to Robin Low, whose flailing bat sent the ball to all parts of the ground as he smote 19 off only 7 balls to win the game with 3 balls to spare. Cue the jubilation – as well as the generous congratulations of a bemused, but impressed, opposition.

The weather then intervened as three of the toughest matches (Charterhouse, M.C.C. and Merchant Taylors) were all abandoned without a ball being

bowled. Yet we hit the ground running in the next game as we turned in our best bowling and fielding performance of the year, squeezing the life out of Aldenham to skittle them for only 95 with Cooke taking 2-27 and Goppers, an outstanding return of 5-31. With 42 overs to get the runs, we were cruising at 67-3 with 16 overs to go and Tim Hunter Jones (37) going well. However, his dismissal saw the wheels fall completely off in the face of some valiant opposition bowling and fielding. Even a 'dolly drop' at nine down with 6 runs needed couldn't save us as we capitulated to 90 all out and defeat by 5 runs. This was a very sobering and frustrating experience, but it was one we learnt from, and we did not taste defeat again.

Next up came another strong adult side in the shape of the Old Westminsters who had several Cricketer Cup players on display. Radhakrishnan (3-67) and Low (2-20) were the only wicket-takers as the Old Boys eased to a generous declaration of 185-5 off 40 overs leaving the same amount in return. After a slow start, Bamford and Brodie put together the

outstanding partnership of the season to take the score from 14-1 to 169-1. Unfortunately Bamford (94) missed out on a well-deserved century but Brodie (68*) survived to see the team through to an outstanding seven-wicket victory with three overs to spare.

There then followed a couple of competitive but rather tame draws against Alleyn's and Chigwell. In the former, several dropped catches cost us dear as the opposition were restricted to 154-7 off their 40 overs with Goppers taking a very creditable 4-49. In reply, no Westminster batsman was able to build a substantial innings, and it was left to Hunter Jones (22*) and Peter Kennedy (21) to secure the draw at 112-6 off 35 overs.

Having started quite slowly, Chigwell were able to score 130 runs off their last 20 overs to reach 188-8 declared with Low, Bamford and Radhakrishnan all taking two wickets. At 6-3 and 28-5 in reply, defeat seemed a genuine prospect until Cooke (47) and Low (37) steadied the ship with a partnership of 63, before Rajiv Patel (21) made sure of the draw.

Next up came a visit to Eton and a 35 overs-a-side match against their XXXIII. This saw the worst bowling and fielding display of the season as the opposition reached a daunting 197-3 off their allotted overs. Useful knocks from Bamford (30), Cooke (36) and Hunter Jones (25) kept Westminster up with the rate before Low (25*) and James Lloyd-Thomas (11*) applied the 'coup de grace' for a 5 wicket victory with three balls to spare.

The team was bolstered by the presence of a couple of 'guest' staff members in the next game against the traditionally strong Trinity Grammar School from Melbourne. However, the Aussies did not live up to expectations as they struggled in the face of accurate bowling to 151 all out off 60 overs with Cooke and Low picking up a couple of wickets each and JAI scooping 4-37. A poor start placed the result in doubt before brutal hitting from Cooke (41 off 36 balls) and Simon Massey (54 off 27 balls) allowed Bamford (28*) to guide the team to a four wicket victory with plenty of overs to spare.

The next match against Kingston Grammar was all about the batting of Daniel Bamford as he finally scored a well-merited century. His 117 came at quicker than a run-a-ball, containing fourteen 4's and one six, and dominated an imposing total of 198-6 off the allotted 37 overs. The draw was never really in doubt as Kingston tried to accelerate too late in the face of good medium-pace bowling from Low (2-40) and Bamford (3-23).

The last match of the season saw Reigate Grammar make a generous declaration at 171-5 off 38 overs despite the excellent efforts of Low (4-51). This left the School 37 overs to try and end the season on a real high, and solid efforts from Adam Hines-Green (30) and Brodie (26) left the stage clear for Cooke to do what he had done for most of the season by taking the bowling apart. His 56 not out came off only 49 balls and contained ten 4's which was enough to see the team home to a comfortable six wicket victory and the perfect finish to an outstanding team effort.

In summary, some may say that the results were flattered by the abandonment of three of the toughest fixtures. But who is to say that this surprising unit would not have obtained positive results in those matches as well. This was an efficient bowling and fielding side whose real strength lay in their ability to engineer exceptionally mature and 'professional' run chases. Bamford and Cooke were the outstanding batsmen, both scoring over 300 runs at averages of 48 and 52 respectively, although Brodie also scored consistently well. Low was the leading all-rounder,

taking 20 wickets at 17 apiece and scoring 146 runs at an average of 48, and, he received excellent support with the ball from Radhakrishnan, who took 19 wickets at 23 apiece.

Although the statistics are dominated by five players, there were useful contributions throughout the team with each member playing their part, and particular mention must go to Jake Robson who showed great potential by keeping wicket most ably throughout much of the summer.

I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with cricket Station for their efforts throughout the year, and especially Jonathan Hall for his knowledgeable input and constant cheeriness in running the 1st XI with myself. I owe Tony Japhet an immeasurable debt for continuing to score for us, as I do to the groundsman, Ian Monk, and his able assistant, David Wicks. Also, special thanks to the venerable Ray Wallis (Methuselah himself!) for his umpiring services throughout. Thank you also, for their devoted support, to the many parents who came to Vincent Square throughout the season.

In summary, it was a record-breaking and hugely enjoyable season in the company of a group of talented, committed and very personable pupils. I thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm and wish them all the very best with their cricket. Particularly, I would hope that all those School-leavers continue playing regularly, whether it be in League cricket or elsewhere. There is too much ability there to let it go to waste! **JDK**

LEADING BOWLERS

R. Low 20 wickets at 16.85
G. Radhakrishnan 19 wickets at 22.95

LEADING BATSMEN

D. Bamford 382 runs at 47.73
C. Cooke 309 runs at 51.50
D. Brodie 180 runs at 25.71
R. Low 146 runs at 48.67

SEASON: 2004 CRICKET U15

Our opening match against Kingston Grammar School was dominated by an outstanding all-round performance by one of the opposition. Kingston scored an impressive 229 of their 32 overs with a 100 from their number 4 batsman. Taylor was the pick of our bowlers, finishing with 5 for 44 from 10 overs. The centurion turned out to be a promising fast bowler who then quickly broke through our top order. Despite dogged resistance from Thomas and Knox we were unable to hold on for a draw. This proved to be the pattern of many of our games. Our batting never quite fulfilled its promise and despite bowling steadily we struggled to dismiss the better opposition batsmen. As always, we would look back at half-chances in the field that would have made a difference if taken.

We played well against St Paul's but failed to post a sufficiently challenging target. Hines-Green and Taylor both batted steadily but neither made it to 50. Aldenham's total of 198 for 5 off 25 overs proved out of reach but Orme batted with great fluency for 41 in our reply. Allyn's also provided tough opposition; Jelly and Thomas batted well but we could not match their total. Steady contributions from Hines-Green, Burnett, Smith and Thomas helped us to 128

against Eton and we took six wickets as they chased down the total. Taylor batted well for 43 in pursuit of Chigwell's score but again he lacked support and we came up short. In the London Cup we beat Ernest Bevin School comfortably, with an unbeaten 50 from Hines-Green and wickets for Taylor and Smith; we lost a close game against Latymer in the next round. Throughout the season we played with great spirit and determination.

It was disappointing not to win or draw more games but there is much promise in this group. Taylor, Smith and Donovan all bowled well and Burnett, Jelly, Thomas and Enoch also provided steady support. Neither of the spinners, Cardona and Hines-Green, really settled down but it was good opposition batting that did not give them the chance to settle. With the batting, Hines-Green has shown that he has the ability to occupy the crease and will score more fluently as he grows in strength. Taylor has a wonderful eye but needs to continue to work on his foot movement. Orme has a graceful cover drive and the potential to take his game a lot further. Many thanks to Simon Massey and Michael Milner for their enthusiastic and informed coaching. **MHF**

SEASON: 2004 CRICKET U14

Played: 7 Won: 2 Drew: 2 Lost: 3

The statistics do not reflect what was a good season from a very talented year group. The new-ball attack of Josh Benson and Frederick Johnson, backed up by man-of-the-season Ross Wheeler as first-change seamer, proved a handful to all opponents. Alex Scott supported them ably with his leg-spin and, when he learns how to bowl consistently when under pressure, will certainly join them as future First XI players. The batting was underscored by the indefatigable wicket-keeper-captain Ian Clancy and led by Hugo Hadcock, assisted by Johnson and Wheeler's middle-order fireworks. Several players also showed great promise. Maatin Patel, whose tactical nous and undoubted ability augur well, and the very steady all-rounder Laurie Brock are just two of them.

The boys began with a competitive draw against Kingston, which should really have been a victory. An innings of 66 from Frederick Johnson propelled the U14s to 160-6 dec. By the close the opposition were reeling at 78-8 (Johnson 8-0-16-3). After having the worse of the draw at St. Paul's (129-9, with Laurie Brock 6-0-21-5; Westminster 70-8) they moved on to an excellent victory over Aldenham by 20 runs. Hugo Hadcock made 66 (Westminster 144 a/o) and Johnson again starred with the ball (8-2-17-5). At this stage in the season the team were playing their best cricket and Allyn's (71 a/o) couldn't cope. Josh Benson 6-1-11-3 and Johnson 5.1-0-10-3 led the rout and, after a stutter, Ian Clancy and Alex Scott saw the

U14s home to win by 4 wickets. The most disappointing performance was at Eton where technical deficiencies on a difficult pitch led to the boys being dismissed for 81 and losing by 3 wickets. Honourable mentions, however, for Clancy (23) whose application was a lesson to his team-mates, and Benson (5-1-22-2) whose hostility nearly won us the game anyway. This knocked the team's confidence and they lost to Chigwell 171-6 (Benson 7-0-26-3) who beat Westminster 139 (Clancy 34). The best match of the season was also the last, at Harrow. In a win/loss 25 over match, Harrow exploited an indifferent Westminster's performance in the field to score 140-8 (Benson 5-1-28-2) and beat Westminster 139-8 by the grand total of one run. Needing to score a boundary off the last ball, the team's man-of-the-season award winner, Ross Wheeler, could only manage to hit it for two after Clancy (30) and Johnson (38) had provided the platform for the run-chase.

Many thanks to all who represented the School at A and B team level and I very much hope that they will continue to enjoy Cricket Station further up the School. They are Frederick Herbert, Ikenna Obiekwe, Karan Rangarajan, Matthew Bengier, Michael Taylor, Sam Clarke, Tom Harrison, Stephen Howell, Sahil Kanani, William Denton (B captain).

Special thanks also to Mr. Ullathorne, Dr. Walsh and coach Valence Similien for all their efforts throughout the season.

FENCING

This year has been another highly successful one for fencing station. The season ended with Westminster winning the Public Schools Fencing Championships for the fourth year in a row (though this time tied for equal place with arch rivals Brentwood). The school also won the Paddy Power Cup for the best results in all the junior events which bodes well for the future.

Individually, notable highlights included Marcus Mepstead (LL) beating Rashid Ajami (HH) in the Boys Junior Foil final, and Basil MacDonald (LL), Sami Start (HH), Nicholas Wareham (WW) and Jonathan Tham (WW) all finishing in the top 8 in various events. Other strong performances were seen from Lucian Trestler (WW) and Oliver Campion-Awwad (RR) in the senior events, and Edward Wormington (RR), Serge Isakov (AHH), Sam Carr (GG) and Damian Winter (GG) in the juniors.

These excellent results were followed soon after as two Westminsters represented Great Britain at the World Championships. Marcus Mepstead finished 37th in the U17 boys foil, and Sophie Troiano (AHH) fenced spectacularly well to finish 23rd in the U20 women's foil, going out to the eventual runner-up. These results followed a season in which both fencers had performed to a very high level, with Marcus ranked as the UK's Number 1 U17 foilist after making finals in international competitions all over Europe and Sophie achieving the bronze medal in the Women's Senior Championship. Both Marcus and Sophie train almost every night a week at their club, Salle Paul, and dedicate a huge amount of time to fencing in order to be able to perform to such a high standard.

A number of other Westminster fencers were also involved in international competitions this

year. At foil, Lucian Trestler and Rashid Ajami both represented Great Britain at the Leon Paul Cup, an international U20 competition. In epee Nicholas Wareham and Oliver Campion-Awwad went to U20 world cup events in Pont-de-Sor and Luxembourg, and Basil MacDonald and Edmund Wareham (WW) were both selected to fence in the U17 international in Dinant, Belgium. Edmund Wareham also qualified for the England U16 team for the Junior Home International in Northern Ireland.

This year has also seen the continued rise in the profile of epee and sabre within the station. This year's fifth form epeeists are a particularly talented group, and the potential in the younger years is very encouraging for the future. The emergence of Westminster's first international fencers at epee this year is a sign of the huge progress that has been made over the past four

years in particular, and Westminster fencers continue to train at London Thames Fencing Club in the evenings.

This year, Jo Maynard has taken over the role of sabre coaching, David Buist has joined to coach epee, and Maciag Wostkowiak, former member of the Polish U20 team, has joined to coach foil and epee. These three join Tomek Walicki and Leo Suarez our foil coaches to make up a very impressive coaching team. The coaches' tireless efforts both at station, and in travelling to competitions with fencers, continue to be of great help, and we thank both them together with Russell Dudley-Smith and Tom Kennedy, who both continue to put in a large amount of their time organising the station and arrangements for competitions, for helping to giving the members of the station the opportunity to train and compete at a top level. **Nicholas Wareham (WW)** Captain of Fencing

HOCKEY

With last season now a distant memory, the squad of 2004/5 season had a lot to live up to. A more than convincing victory against UCS and a last gasp draw against Haberdashers' Askes were prevalent in the minds of those who remained with us.

There were huge holes to fill after over half of the Senior XI went their separate ways, but with fresh talent from the new-

comers and some members of the Lower School, notably Alexander Scott and Benedict Vanderspar, the Hockey Team fared rather well. The old guard though was considerably bolstered by our star goal-keeper, Leon-Sing Foong, and Olga Polunina. So, the void left by the departures was somewhat alleviated.

It was a shame that only two interschool matches were

arranged, and that both of these were cancelled at the 11th hour, leaving only the two matches against the Common Room. Nonetheless, this was more than enough to display our intricately mastered penalty corner routines which, even by Premier League standards, were excellent.

To finish off the season, we held a House Hockey competi-

tion. All houses played excellently, although the title went to Grant's, who came back from behind to beat Milne's in a sudden death play off in the final.

While this season was marred by frustration and less success, amiability and team spirit were more than welcome as suitable replacements. **Tim Lai (GG)**

CROSS COUNTRY

This year has seen the School's cross country team make significant progress: more runners have been involved, the strength of performances have improved and the team has built on its previous successes. There is now ability in every year in the School, and it is hoped that with continued effort and application, some of the current crop of athletes can make the step up to compete at an even higher level.

The towpath races in September demonstrated the improvement in standards, as all three races were the strongest they have been for nearly ten years. Individual victories were earned by Alex Joseph (MM), Oriel Carew (WW), Felix Hale (BB) and Tom Samuel (GG), the latter setting a new course record of 14:14 for the 2.5 mile course, with Busby's comfortably winning the overall team event. The School team comfortably dispatched the Common Room and OWs in the Towpath Cup as Nick Drake (AAH) led the

field home, before the B team won their category over the gruelling 5 mile course at the King's Trophy on Wimbledon Common. The RGS Guildford relays were one of the highlights of the year as out of 28 teams our A, B and C teams finished 6th, 12th and 15th respectively, with Tom Samuel running the 3rd fastest time of the day out of over 160 runners. Such was the strength of the School's performance that all three Westminster teams beat St Paul's and Latymer's A teams, and this was largely due to an emerging crop of younger runners: Laurie Brock (BB), Tyrone Cummins (AAH) and Tom Jelly (CC).

After such a good start to the season, the Senior team continued their fine run of success in winning the London Schools Championships over a testing course on Hampstead Heath. Jamie Moran (DD), Alex Joseph (MM), Matthew Neve (HH) and Alex Murley (MM) were the victorious quartet and showed the Inters (4th) and

Juniors (7th) how it should be done. After a run of good performances, the School was invited to compete in the Radley Relays where our teams more than held our own against some very high quality opposition. Tom Samuel's run of 9 mins 53 second for the undulating 3 kilometre loop was easily the fastest Intermediate time of the day and was only bettered by one Senior, whilst Felix Hale was the 5th fastest Junior and helped our Fifth form team defeat the hosts.

The Bringsty Relays provided the usual mixture of surprises, storming performances and slippery corners with Dryden's Senior and Busby's Junior teams taking the individual spoils, whilst superb consistency from College brought them the overall title and the coveted Bringsty baton. Given the strength of performances at the Bringsty Relays, it was therefore unsurprising that even with a slightly weakened team, the School claimed their best

ever finish in the Ranelagh Schools Cup in Richmond Park two days later in finishing 2nd out of 14 schools. Tyrone Cummins (AAH) had the race of the day in 18th out of 140 runners despite giving away three years to most of the other competitors. After such a set of performances, it was fitting that three Westminsters (Jamie Moran, Tom Samuel & Felix Hale) were rewarded with selection for the prestigious English Schools Cross Country in Norwich in their respective age groups – a terrific achievement in itself.

As summer approaches, it is hoped that as many Westminsters as possible will take the opportunity to race in the Assembly League – a set of three mile road races held from April to September. The School team has shown what it is capable of this year, and it is hoped that as virtually all of the current team will still be present next year, these can be bettered next winter. **SDW**



plagued his summer, and Tom Samuel was 2nd in the final of the 1500 metres steeplechase. Dominic Parsons was subsequently selected to compete for London in the English Schools

Championships where he ran 51.5 seconds in the semi-final, a time he would easily have bettered were it not for his recurring hamstring injury. **SDW**

ATHLETICS

Hakluyt's retained their title in the Athletic Sports, marginally ahead of Grant's and Milne's. Dominic Parsons (HH) and Tom Lloyd (HH) were instrumental in helping Hakluyt's to victory as they dominated their respective sprint events, whilst Peter Kennedy (RR) showed tremendous versatility in winning three individual events. Robin Low (LL) powered his way to a win in the Senior Shot and Tom Samuel ran a gun to tape victory in the Inter 1500 metres. The best performance

of the day however came in the Girls 4 x 100 metre relay as a well-drilled Grant's team annihilated the School record with a time of 57.3 seconds.

At the London Schools Championships, three athletes represented the borough – Nikolai Cedraeus was 8th in the Intermediate 800 metres, Dominic Parsons ran 53 seconds in his heat of the 400 metres before being forced to pull out with a recurrence of a hamstring injury that had

TENNIS

The 2004 season began with our traditional fixture against the American School at Paddington Recreation Centre. We took a 1st IV comprised of Marc Baghdadi and Vadim Varvarin as 1st pair, and Ned Younger and Jamie Cochran as 2nd pair. Our 2nd IV consisted of Annabel Clifford and Felix Garthwaite and Matt Webb and Chris Anguelov. The team achieved a resounding 9-0 win which was completed just before the heavens opened at 5 o'clock. Baghdadi and Varvarin were so strong that they did not actually lose a set.

On Saturday 8th May the school played Putney Tennis Club at Vincent Square. We once again fielded a 1st IV and 2nd IV, and won a close match 8-6. Baghdadi and Varvarin were invincible once again, but everyone played well, and it was extremely encouraging that Matt Webb and Ben Vanderspar won 2 of their 3 matches, particularly as Ben was only in the 5th form.

On Tuesday 11th May, we took a 1st VI, U14 VI and U15 VI to Eton. Although Varvarin and Baghdadi won all their 3 matches, we were out-classed elsewhere, and the final result has been conveniently mislaid. However, the players gave it their best shot, and, at the junior level, Peter Noorani and Harry Rose both impressed in particular.

On Thursday 13th May, we took 24 players to Harrow. We won the senior match 6-3, but, suffice it to say, came second in the juniors. Varvarin and Baghdadi simply outplayed every opponent, not dropping a single game in four sets

against every opposing pair. They were a complete pleasure to watch, chalking up 24 sets, and their games drew rueful gasps from their opponents on the rare occasions when they gave away a point. Our 3rd pair, Garthwaite and Vanderspar also won all the four sets they played.

On Tuesday 18th May, we took 16 players away a new fixture at Winchester. It was an idyllic summer's day, and we arrived to the pleasant surprise of discovering we would be playing on grass. The 1st VI halved their match 4½ - 4½. Amazingly, although Baghdadi and Varvarin managed to win all 4 sets that they played, they did actually lose 7 games along the way. Webb and Cochran halved their match against their corresponding pair, and Vanderspar and Garthwaite managed a point from their match. In the U15s, Amin-Smith and Morris played well to win both their matches, whilst the U14s played well despite losing 6-3.

On Thursday 20th May the School played the Common Room, but seeing as I have no record of the result, I can only assume the School must have won by some margin.

The match against Highgate produced very mixed results. In the seniors, the team won 8-1. Baghdadi and Varvarin were, as usual, 1st pair, Jamie Cochran and Ned Younger 2nd, and Annabel Clifford and Matt Webb third. The U15s lost 7½ - 1½, however, Tom Tredinnick and Rupert Eyles did play well to beat their 3rd pair 6-2, and Karnig Manoukian and Daniel Stoker did manage to scrape a half.



After half-term, with the deluge of examinations, competitive matches were restricted to the housematches and our second year in the Youll Cup. As regards the former, Hakluyt's, in the guise of Marc Baghdadi and Babak Eslamian, beat Rigaud's convincingly in the final. Babak definitely made all the difference.

extremely confident, but, although Marc played his heart out, it was not to be, and we were knocked out. One slight consolation is that King's went on to win the final. Regardless, we should be extremely proud of reaching the semi-finals of the Independent Schools Association's most prestigious tournament, a competition which is represented by the best sporting independent schools throughout the country. **SC**

In the Youll Cup, we had very high expectations, as our draw was good, and we were able to field our top 4 players: Marc Baghdadi and Vadim Varvarin (1st pair) and Jamie Cochran and Ned Younger (2nd pair). After sailing through the early rounds, we then faced KCS Wimbledon in the semi-final. We drew the 2 doubles matches which then meant the tie would be decided by a single set rubber between the two top players from each team. I was

ETON FIVES

It has been an outstanding year for Eton Fives at Westminster. Matthew Wiseman was brought in to coach for both Station afternoons and Friday afternoons. His increased presence has had a profound impact on the game here; we are lucky to have his services. We have been ably assisted by James Harrison, Richard Huscroft and Richard Stokes over the year and staff interest generally remains high. Charles Ullathorne and I competed in the Northern Championships at Shrewsbury, only to be knocked out of the Festival by the eventual winners of that competition: Will Illingworth (RR) and a player from St Olave's Grammar School.

When I took over from Ken Zetie four years ago, I would not have predicted the explosion in interest within the school and wealth of talent currently available. We have three courts whereas the big four schools i.e. Eton, Shrewsbury, Highgate and Harrow all have at least twelve each. If we can

compete with these schools then we have achieved something special at Westminster.

One of the catalysts for recent resurgence has been the girls starting to play. Esmay Luck-Hille (DD), Lucie and Gaby Bishop (LL), Oriel Carew (WW) and Laura Stojcevic (MM) surprised all of us by carrying on with immense dedication through their Remove year. The current 6th Form will be captained by Sasha Mitiukova (AHH) next year and I predict that our girls' team will achieve great things over the next few years.

2004 saw the return of the Westminster Individual Challenge Cup. A lovely cup last awarded in 1937 was presented to Alex Leese (DD) by the Head Master at the end of a close final match.

Results against other schools were generally good. We can now send teams to good schools knowing that they will put out their best players rather

than their D team. This is a clear indicator of the regard in which we are held. I was particularly impressed with the U15s and U16s where we have some exceptionally good players who look as if they are winners on court (a trait rare in the Westminsters that I encountered when taking over!). So much of the game is about body language.

The Schools' National Championships were held at Shrewsbury. I think that it is fair to say that it was the most successful ever performance by a Westminster team. In the seniors, Krespi (DD) and Peterson (QSS) failed to adapt to the northern conditions and under-achieved, reaching only the 3rd round. They have been the lynchpin of the seniors and are excellent players. Expect to see them back playing for the Old Westminsters soon. The girls did fantastically well. The Bishop sisters were beaten in the Semi Finals and Luck-Hille and Stojcevic were robbed in an agonizing plate final. Leese and

Amin-Smith reached the 3rd round of the U16s but look a talented pair for next year's seniors. In the U15s we had unprecedented success: Bourne (MM) and Rankine (RR) were beaten in the semi final by the same Harrow pair that eliminated Brock (BB) and Bott (GG) in the quarters. To have two pairs get into the quarter finals was a stunning achievement. To add to that Illingworth and Duchateau won the plate competition. In the U14 beginners, Burrell (WW) and Leese (DD) put a poor run of results over the season behind them to get to the quarter finals. They played with great determination and maturity.

It is with some sadness that I pass on control of the station to James Harrison. He inherits a large group of boys and girls who show great determination and potential. Matthew Chen (LL) and Ed Miles (RR) have been appointed Captain and Vice Captain, Alex Leese will be Secretary. **MJM**

NETBALL

After the beginnings of some success last year, led by the National player Jesse Meyers, we decided to work really hard as a team this year and to 'go for gold' ourselves.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and organisation of Mrs Sharp, our brilliant 'Coach (not)', the dedication of my fellow players and a little militant encouragement from yours truly, we were successful. The team remained unbeaten for the first two months of the netball season, finally just

losing to City of London. However their coach was surprised at the marked improvement and suggested we enter the tournament. We then went on to beat South Hampstead (who had recently come from a netball tour of South Africa) and Godolfin and Latymer, amongst many other victories. Finally, wearing our own regulation kit with a 'Westminster pink' trim, we entered into the Middlesex tournament where we came third to City of London and North London Collegiate.



We are now proud to have been one of the most successful sports teams at Westminster in 2005 and to have played not only in the rain, but in the snow and hail (whilst the football team sat in the library). Thanks again to Mrs Sharp, Mrs Jorgensen, Dr Cockburn, Miss Harrison and Mrs Harris for making it happen. Let me see you one two-step. **Elle Graham-Dixon (WW)**

MARTIAL ARTS SHOOTING

2005 was an excellent year for the Martial Arts station, which has gone from strength to strength. We have had a number of additional fixtures at which last years grading successes were converted to an

clearly the independent schools competition at High Wycombe which we missed last year. We entered seven players and walked away with four medals. Everyone fought very hard and congratulations should be given



excellent success rate in competitions. The station has continued to flourish with boys participating from the full range of years. We have also seen a growing number of girls participating. Larry, our coach, has continued to keep the Judo training sessions lively and entertaining, with clear dividends being paid for his (and station member) efforts in the form of competition results!

We were involved in a total of 6 competitions. The only blemishes to our record were the home and away results against Eton, mainly due to an unbelievable number of "lucky" decisions going Eton's way. Against Charterhouse we got a 2-2 draw at home, with wins from Sebastian Nadal and Marc Scrimshire. We also won away against Harrow-sweet revenge after being beaten last year.

The London Schools' competition saw excellent performances from our two entrants - Sebastian won a silver medal and Tom Moore won a bronze. The highlight of the year was

to the whole team. Edmund Fokschaner won a bronze in the open weight, Sebastian and I won silver medals and Hugh Leonard won gold. We also came significantly higher than Eton in the school rankings-perhaps reflecting the nature of decisions made in the friendly competitions against them!

Well done to all the station members. A particular mention should go to Natalia Diaz - although she didn't get the opportunity to fight in any competitions she beats most of the lower school with ease. Thank you to Mr Allnatt for running the station, supporting us and organizing all the competitions. **Marc Scrimshire (BB)**

We are thankful for another brilliant year in Shooting Station. Though members and staff alike were unsure if we would be able to live up to previous standards, we have remained as proud of our efforts as ever. The first VIII have shot in a series of matches; both home and away against Harrow and a postal match against Wellington. Our friendly Play term fixture at Harrow produced a comfortable win of 737 to their 681. Robin Burkill, Loren Lam, Ed Jeffrey, Keunyoung Oh, Gamal Khamis, Ted Marcus and, new-comer to the team, Moonhee Hong shot both ten-spot deliberates and skirmishes, proving our mettle in both disciplines. Following games, such as a five-spot deliberate postal against Wellington and another home match with Harrow also produced victories, with scores of 737 vs 736 (which was close!), and 732 vs 715 respectively. This has resulted in our third year of being unbeaten in small bore matches.

Now a yearly tradition, we also took part in the British Schools' Smallbore Rifle competitions in the Play term 2004. Despite only dropping six points from 600, stiff competition from other schools with strong shooting backgrounds unfortunately landed us with fifth place. Our score of 594 in five spot deliberates is admirable nevertheless.

With respect to full-bore rifles, we were not so lucky in a match against Wellington at Bisley shooting grounds during election term 2003. Their superiority at 300m resulted in their marginal win, but the Westminster squad, most having never shot these rifles before, put in a credible performance. We hope to face them soon in a rematch!

New to Shooting this year was our very own station website thanks to Loren Lam. By far the snazziest page on the Westminster School net, station members can now look up information about upcoming matches or personal averages at www.wsrc.tk.

On the range front, with help from a modest budget increase, we have acquired a new left handed rifle and new ear defenders, though the purchase of a new gun cabinet has been delayed and our tasteful purple and green jackets will still have to have some life in them. We have also tidied up the range, having thrown out all the junk or moved it out of the way. Perhaps a sofa for next year?

Thanks to the station's ban on Lower Shell being lifted, talent is already emerging amongst our numerous new faces. Congratulations to Captain Robin Burkill who currently holds the station's highest average of over 96. Although he was submitted for the British Schools Team, his application was unfortunately lost in the post, we hope for better luck next year amongst our promising sixth formers.

Finally, thank you to Mark Pearce for his coaching skills, dedication and kind advice. Thanks to Ms French and Ms Turner for their patience and efforts in keeping the station running. And last but not least, thank you to the master in charge, Dr Robinson, who always strives to improve shooting station and keeps everybody in high spirits. Good luck for the future; we will miss the Station sorely. **Robin Burkill (WW) and Keunyoung Oh (BB)**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

BURDETT
COUTTS
PRIMARY

The kids in 4F can never quite get over the fact that I live at home with my Mum and Dad and go to school just like them. To them I am enormous and a fully-fledged grown up; 'Miss Grace'. Some of several interesting things about going to Burdett Coutts Primary has been getting to know some of them and remembering just what it was like to be nine years old. I have been going to the school once a week since September to help out and it has proved to be a really enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. It has given me a great insight into just how much hard work it is being a teacher,

which I had definitely underestimated. I had also underestimated just how tough it can be being in Year 4 if you don't always know the answer or just don't like school. One of the best days I had there was when after persevering all afternoon, three children on my table finally got the hang of telling the time. Hopefully I've helped them out a bit and they have enjoyed Thursday afternoons as much as I have.

Grace Benton

COMMUNITY SERVICE

PULLEN
DAY
CENTRE

The Pullen Centre is a day care centre for old people who live around the Pimlico area. It has had strong links of friendship with Westminster for a long time. Each year, a number of pupils visit the centre every week for Community Service, and they have always found the experience immensely valuable and enjoyable. Many of the members have had rich, diverse and fascinating experiences in their lives, and we learn a lot from their lively and spirited approaches to happiness in old age. The courage and compassion of the staff are also admirable.

Fanxi Wang

LEAVERS 2004

Pooja Agrawal	PP	Benjamin Goldsmith	LL	Jonathan Mendelowitz	AHH
Kareem Ahmed	MM	Thea Goodsell	WW	Keren Mitchell	WW
Kenichi Akito	GG	Fred Gordon	CC	Harry Moore	LL
Azzam Al Kadhi	HH	William Gore-Randall	AHH	William Mulholland	WW
Helen Alexander	BB	Rebecca Greig	BB	Chris Namih	DD
Danny Amliwalla	RR	Matthew Greig Taylor	RR	Lara Nassif	AHH
James Anderson	LL	Simon Hammond	BB	Adam Newgas	DD
John Ashton	WW	Christopher Hanges	RR	Bertrand Nicoli	MM
Freddie Athill	MM	Joshua Hardie	BB	William Oates	LL
Nicola Atkins	CC	Marianna Hay	AHH	Dominic O'Mahony	CC
Nezam Bagherzade	DD	Luke Hearn	AHH	Ben Paget	GG
James Bagnall	WW	Theo Hessing	BB	Rupert Paines	MM
Aditi Bagri	RR	Tomas Hirst	BB	Yong Park	CC
Anton Baker	LL	Arthur Hobhouse	GG	Charlotte Parker	GG
Daniel Bamford	LL	Andrew Holgate	DD	Alice Pillar	DD
Nabeel Bhanji	GG	Si Si Huang	PP	Sanjay Pindoria	MM
Thomas Borsay	HH	Georgie Hunt	WW	Gopalan Radhakrishnan	GG
Philippe Bradley	RR	Nikolai Japp	HH	Jonathan Richards	GG
Henrietta Brooks	LL	Matthew Jayne	WW	Sarah Rogers	DD
Nick Budd	GG	Darius Jehangir	HH	Harshavardhan Sancheti	MM
John Bussetil	WW	Alexandra Jenkins	WW	Andrew Sanderson	RR
James Buxton	HH	Benjamin Jones	MM	Ned Scott	MM
Ray Cai	GG	Basil Jradeh	LL	Gerard Scott	GG
Thomas Carter	WW	Sofia Kaba Ferreiro	MM	Deepon Sen Gupta	BB
Sarah Castor-Perry	RR	Christos Kaplanis	RR	Chaand Shah	GG
John-William Chaldecott	BB	Christopher Karageorgis	HH	Benedict Sheppard	GG
You-Jin Chang	DD	Peter Kennedy	RR	Manraj Sidhu	BB
Grace Chatto	BB	Benjamin Kent	WW	Stefan Sienkiewicz	GG
Phin Chooi	GG	Bilal Khan	DD	Max Silver	GG
Hamza Choudhry	RR	Sasha Klimov	AHH	Michael Smith	MM
Francesca Church	LL	Johann Koehler	MM	Martine Sobey	LL
Olivia Ciardi	AHH	Ilya Kondrashov	AHH	Dev Sodagar	MM
Kristina Clark	MM	Charlene Kong	MM	Anthony Staples	BB
Annabel Clifford	BB	Jake Levy	CC	Galina Stepanova	CC
James Cochran	GG	Rebecca Lewin	WW	Toby Stevens	DD
James Cook	RR	Emily Lim	CC	Bobby Talalay	HH
Arjun Coomaraswamy	CC	Min-Kai Lin	GG	Athavan Thirunavukarasu	RR
Georgina Corbet Burcher	PP	Serge Lioutyi	DD	David Thomas	BB
Andrew Courousopoulos	RR	Nicholas Loder	GG	Alyson Thompson	RR
Andrea Cox	LL	Kenny Loke	AHH	Cornelius Trestler	WW
Bill Day	LL	Robin Low	LL	Erim Tuc	GG
Samuel Dub	BB	Andrew Luk	GG	Antonia Turrell	PP
Harriet Dykes	PP	Oliver Lyttelton	HH	Vadim Varvarin	RR
Anthony Ellis	AHH	Thomas Mackenzie	BB	Oliver Waddington-Ball	AHH
Adam Fair	RR	Christian Malagon	BB	Lavish Wadhwani	DD
Hamish Falconer	HH	Nathalie Malamatinas	HH	Matthew Webb	BB
Jack Farthing	BB	Sabrina Malpas	HH	Harry Weeks	WW
Thomas Fitzgerald	GG	Jamie Manfield	CC	Charles Willison	LL
Charlie Fitzgerald	DD	Natalia Marrin	AA	Jack Wolton	WW
Miia-Mari Forbes	BB	Eleanor Marsh	RR	Timothy Woodward	HH
Natasha Forrester	DD	Benjamin Martin	WW	Philip Wroe	BB
Andrew Freedman	WW	Nickil Mashru	AHH	Ned Younger	LL
Robert Freudenthal	HH	Lydia Mason	PP	Osman Yousef	HH
Robert Furber	CC	Pippa McCarthy	HH	Alexander Zafiriou	DD
Pia Gadkari	HH	Carina McLain	BB	Adley Zayan	GG
Oliver Garthwaite	AHH	Rose McLaren	PP	Chris Ziegler	DD
Murat Gokmen	CC	Jesse Mears	GG		

