



Waterfront

Issue 6 - Spring 2010

Christmas Celebration at The Royal Albert Hall

The 130-strong choir of the Royal Hospital School performed at the Royal Albert Hall in December by invitation of the eminent composer and conductor, Dr John Rutter CBE.



Described as 'the most successful and well-known composer of choral music in recent British History', John Rutter attended the Royal Hospital School Christmas Carol Concert last year and also opened the new Music School. He was so impressed with: "One of the largest, finest and most committed choirs I have ever found in a school," that he subsequently,

invited the choir to accompany the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at his Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall.

Peter Crompton, Director of Music at the Royal Hospital School, said: "This was such a wonderful opportunity for the pupils involved and an honour to be invited".

As well as the traditional carols, the choir gave the first ever performance of a carol by award-winning, composer Thomas Hewitt Jones. The new carol is entitled 'Child of the Stable's Secret Birth' and words were written by Timothy Dudley-Smith. They also gave the first performance of a new work by John Rutter, 'Carol of the Magi', which has subsequently been given a broadcast performance by the BBC Singers.

Mr Crompton went on to say: "This is another wonderful accolade for the choir, who had already performed at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Martin in the Fields, London. We have another busy term ahead with performances in the new Burns Recital Hall as well as the magnificent school chapel. Not only that, but following the Choir's performance at the Royal Albert Hall, they have been invited to accompany the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Ipswich Regent on Friday 10 December 2010".



Welcome to the sixth edition of Waterfront



We are now over halfway through the academic year and what a busy year it's been so far - as you will see from this issue of Waterfront.

Pupils at the Royal Hospital School enjoy a very active life with never a dull moment. So much so, that there are numerous articles we could have included about the achievements of many pupils. In the end we have picked a selection which we hope you enjoy reading.

Music, once again, has been a prevalent feature in the School calendar as the three articles here testify; the Reade Music School continues to be the focus of much activity and is the envy of every other school in the area.

We are very proud of all our students and especially those that push the boundaries to achieve more than is expected of them whether this is academically, on the sports fields, musically, or in community action.

I believe the Royal Hospital School is a very special place but don't just take my word for it, please come and visit us and see for yourself. I look forward to meeting you.

Howard Blackett MA (Oxon)
Headmaster

'Waste Not Want Not'

Pupils have been weighing the waste produced at breakfast, lunch and supper over an 18-week period. The amounts have been recorded every week on the 'Pork-o-meter'; a large pig-shaped chart on which targets and weigh-in results are displayed for all to see.

The incentive was the brain-child of the pupil-led Food Committee who recognised that far too much food was being left on plates after meals and subsequently being thrown away. Gavin Yuill, Catering Manager said: "Our concern is not just from the perspective of cost, but more importantly, the moral issue of food waste".

The first weigh-in came in at 118kg which shocked pupils and staff. However, according to catering staff, requests for smaller portions were evident during the following days.

Henry Munns and Sophie Roman, senior members of the Food Committee, said: "We hope that this incentive will change the culture of how we eat at the School". The Food Committee had set some tough average weekly targets of:



105kg by the end of the Term, 90kg by February Half Term, 70kg by Easter Holidays and 60kg by the end of May.

These targets have been consistently broken – maybe it's something to do with the incentive on offer - a slap-up steak and chips meal which the School caterers have bought with the money saved.



The start of the Jurassic Challenge

Record amount raised for Charity

Around 1000 guests congregated in the School's magnificent Chapel for a concert programme featuring the School's chapel choir, the choral society, orchestra and concert band, together with a number of chamber groups and soloists.

The talent and confidence of the pupils earned much praise. One of the guests, Mrs Penny Clarke, Babergh District Council, said: "The rendition of Cantique de Jean Racine by Fauré was absolutely stunning, one of my favourite pieces. I was so impressed that the School had invited so many local charities along - you should all be very proud".

The charities benefiting from the £7,000 raised are:

The Woolverstone Project – the School has supported the project for many years and pupils regularly help out with sailing for people with disabilities at Alton Water and Woolverstone.

Bikeactive – a charity providing assisted bicycle rides for people with disabilities based at Alton Water.

Breatheasy (Colchester Forum) – a support-group network providing support and information for people living with a lung condition, and for those who look after them.

Leukaemia Research (Ipswich) – a regional branch of the national charity dedicated exclusively to researching blood cancers and disorders including leukaemia, Hodgkin's and other lymphomas, and myeloma.

The Headmaster, Howard Blackett, praised the 'superb music-making and flawless co-ordination' of the Music Department and the Community Action Team.

Still on the fundraising theme; Year 13 pupil, Robert Henderson, undertook the ultra-endurance Jurassic Coast Challenge in aid of the Woolverstone Project.



The Challenge involved running a marathon a day for 3 days over hilly terrain. 95% of the distance was off-road and he covered 26.2 miles a day with over 10,000 feet of vertical ascent. The race started in Lyme Regis, Dorset, and followed the coast path to Studland Bay.

Robert said: "Muddy, hilly, painful and the best experience of my life so far. Thank you everybody, who helped me out by donating, you were an inspiration and helped me complete the course. Hopefully the Woolverstone Project will benefit greatly from the funds raised".

According to the organisers of the Jurassic Coast Challenge, Votwo Events: "It is a true test of fitness and determination for those who find modern life just a little bit too comfortable".

Jekyll & Hyde

This year's musical at the Royal Hospital School was the Broadway adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella by Leslie Bricusse (words and lyrics) and Frank Wildhorn (music) of Jekyll & Hyde.

Jekyll & Hyde tells the story of Dr. Henry Jekyll, a brilliant young doctor and research scientist who, distraught over his father's mental illness, embarks upon a quest to isolate the dual elements of good and evil that are constantly struggling for supremacy inside every human being. However, when his experiment backfires, Jekyll inadvertently gives life to Edward Hyde, his evil alter ego, a murderous being who will let loose a reign of terror on the city of London and those who had ridiculed Jekyll's research.

The sell-out performances, involving approximately 50 pupils and a further 20 helping backstage, were produced and directed by classics and drama teacher, Simon Warr and the music was directed by Director of Music, Peter Crompton.

Following the performance the Headmaster commented that the four stars of the production, Henry Laurie (Dr Henry Jekyll), Charlie Lambert (Edward Hyde), Jemima Watling (Emma Carew) and Jenny

Manwaring (Ludy Harris) were outstanding, but the entire cast supported by a wonderfully well-organised backstage crew, really did put on a show to remember. In addition to the main players, there were some marvellous cameo performances – Cameron Beaton (Spider the pimp), Hannah Welch (Nellie the prostitute) and Will Wood (Minister at the wedding) all stood out, but there were, of course, many other fine performances. As we are all aware, big stage productions require a huge amount of effort from a large number of people so a huge thanks to everyone involved.



Davies sets sail towards the Olympic Development Squad

Ben Davies (16), has been selected for the RYA Volvo National Transitional Sailing Programme in the 29er class – one of the three RYA pathway classes at this level. The Transition Training Programme, for 15 to 19 year olds, aims to support the most talented junior sailors to progress into the demanding RYA Volvo National Youth Squad. From there the very best sailors go on to form the Olympic Development Squad.

Ben is one of only eight of the Youth Transitional Squad to have been selected. He and his crew, Tristan Ellis, attended four squad training weekends over the spring in preparation for two national and two international competitions during the summer.

Ben started sailing with his family in Aldeburgh at the age of 9. He and his sister sailed an RS Feva taking part in local regattas and events. Since joining the Royal Hospital School, Ben has been able to sail up to four times a week at nearby Alton Water. The Director of Sailing, Andrew Nutton said: "Ben is a talented young sailor and we are all very keen to assist

him in his preparation over the next few months. I am sure that his name will be one to watch in the very near future".

Ben said: "It has been a steep learning curve for me but the support of my parents and RHS has helped enormously. I am determined to develop my competitive sailing but at the same time GCSE's are approaching fast and I need to make sure that I keep a careful balance between my school work and sailing. I am confident though, and I hope to carry on into the sixth form at RHS to do my A Levels – there's nowhere else that I could have opportunity to sail and study in quite the same way".



Olympic medallist beaten by RHS pupil

Rowing champion and TV presenter, James Cracknell, opened the new Outdoor Adventure Centre store, Stanway, on Sunday 28 February. The store owned by RHS parent, Richard Garlick, sells a huge range of outdoor equipment and has a climbing wall and cycle track for trying the kit out.



Three lower sixth boys: James Rae, Charlie Stuart and Jonathan Illori, were invited to challenge James Cracknell on the climbing wall. James Rae outshone the medallist with his speedy ascent and Charlie Stuart's style impressed spectators.

Jonathan Illori, himself an aspiring Olympic in the triple jump, was thrilled to be able to speak to the double gold medal winner on the day: "To meet an Olympian was brilliant!" said Jonathan.

Great East Swim

The first Great East Swim was held at Alton Water Reservoir on a sunny Saturday last September and was the final leg of a series of four Great Swims across the UK, including: Lake Windermere, Glasgow and London. 1500 swimmers completed the one mile open water event including elite swimmers and Olympic hopefuls.

Year 12 pupil, James Rae, took part having received some useful tips from Olympic swimmers Keri-Anne Payne and David Carry during a visit to the School. The advice proved invaluable as James completed the swim in a time of 25.22 seconds and was placed 65th in the men's non-elite line up.

This was James' first open water swim competition but after the race, he claimed to 'have the bug'. With his

father, Peter, a keen open water swimmer himself, he will be participating in the next Great East Swim on the 19th June. James and Peter will be part of Team RHS, a group of 40 swimmers made up from pupils, parents and staff.



Hood House Re-opens

The next phase of boarding house refurbishment has reached completion and the girls moved back in to the finished Hood House at the start of the new term.

Housemistress, Nicola Mann and her husband Rob have worked hard to create the 'wow factor' in the house with the help of the resident

girls. The girls were asked what they would like in their newly refurbished house and amongst other things a lips sofa, juke box and coffee bar were requested. Mr Mann, an avid collector, then sourced a 1950's diner style bar and furniture, and the results, as you can see, are amazing.





The Congratulations go to Blake House who won with their Wellie Wheel.

The Big Thaw brings out Wild Wellies

The snowfall over Christmas and the New Year gave the School buildings an enchanting winter wonderland look. However, it also meant that by the time pupils returned to school the 'Big Thaw' had started to set in. Bring on the wild and wonderful wellies!

The humble Wellington boot has had a makeover in recent years and they are now being worn by the fashion conscious far from the farm. Rob Mann, Geography teacher, was so impressed with the variations in this rubber footwear he ran a photo competition for the best shot depicting the array of coloured and patterned wellington boots on show.

Making Music Appeal

The 'Helping us Make Music Appeal' was launched at the opening of the Music School in December 2008 with two aims: firstly, to improve musical talent by providing a greater range and number of instruments; and secondly, to increase the number of pupils who learn to play an instrument by funding specialist tuition for pupils who would otherwise find it unaffordable.

The appeal was closed at the Scholars Concert in March. This was an ideal opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to the supporters of the Appeal and so the Headmaster hosted a reception prior to the concert. There were drinks and nibbles as well as the opportunity to have a look around the building, and the grand unveiling of sponsored rooms.

The Appeal has raised a total of **£32,312**, and the money raised will go towards:

- A new grand piano for a teaching room
- A set of classroom percussion instruments
- Equipment for rock and jazz musicians – electronic instruments, recording equipment, microphones and amplifiers
- An oboe for one very talented pupil with enormous potential
- The first beneficiary to have his or her music tuition covered by the Appeal



Flower helps Cricketers Bloom

Veteran Essex all-rounder and former Zimbabwe Test player Grant Flower, paid a visit to his former Coach, Don Topley, now Master in charge of Cricket. Topley said "It was very special for the cricketers to meet Grant, who also offered some important coaching tips to help their game".

All the senior 1st XI squad players enjoyed a practice net with Flower. He then hosted a question and answer session with an audience of other RHS cricketers. 1st XI Cricket Captain, Freddie Seccombe also of Easton CC said: "He very much emphasised the mental side of the game and in particular, various important game plans for each facet of the game whether batting or bowling". Seccombe added, "He talked about facing great bowlers and bowling to great batsmen but he also mentioned how Murali always got him out – whenever he came into bat Murali came on to bowl!"

Grant obviously enjoyed his coaching role at RHS - he has since announced that he is leaving Essex to become the batting coach to the Zimbabwe squad.

Blake and Drake Official Opening

The two new Junior Houses were officially opened in November 2009 by Andrea Hill, Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council, and Councillor, Jeremy Pembroke, Leader of Suffolk County Council.

Drake House, the pastoral base for 11 to 13 year old boys, was opened by Jeremy Pembroke, and Blake House for girls, by Andrea Hill. These Junior Houses have been created specifically to aid the transition from a primary education to secondary education.

Mike Barraclough, Housemaster of Drake said: "The integration of boarders and day pupils, the opportunity to 'try out' boarding and having the whole of Years 7 and 8 together helps the boys to establish friendship groups and settle into school life. In just one year Drake House has become oversubscribed, which indicates the popularity and success of the concept".

Andrew Evans, Head of Lower School, explains the underpinning philosophy of the Junior Houses: "The House Staff and Tutors work together to develop a hunger and motivation for learning amongst the younger pupils as well as teaching them important values for life. This is a unique period in a child's school life and by instilling confidence and assisting their personal development outside of the classroom, great foundations are laid".



Dates for the Diary 2009/10

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| Friday May 14th to Sunday May 16th | Equestrian Team compete Royal Windsor Horse Show |
| Saturday 15th May 7.45pm | Summer Concert by the Choir of the Royal Hospital School* |
| Friday 28th May 7.00pm | Annual Ball – Diamonds Are Forever for parents, staff and former pupils* |
| Wednesday 2nd - Thursday 3rd June | RHS at the Suffolk Show Stand ?? |
| Friday 11th June 7.30pm | The British Army in Helmand Province – presentation by Col Rob Thompson in aid of Care for Casualties* |
| Saturday 12th June 7.30pm | Holbrook Choral Society and Orchestra Summer Concert* |
| Sunday 13th June | Charity Summer Fete |
| Saturday 19th June | British Gas Great East Swim at Alton Water Reservoir |
| Thursday 24th – Saturday 26th June | Junior Play 'Dandelion Time' |
| Thursday 1st July | Suffolk Schools Sailing Regatta at Alton Water Sailing Club |
| Thursday 1st July | The RHS Optua Games for People with Disabilities |
| Saturday 3rd July | Prize-giving and Commemoration Day with Sir Michael Savory |
| Friday 3rd September | New Entry Weekend and Sixth Form Induction |
| Sunday 5th September | Boarders return |
| Monday 6th September | Day pupils return |

*There will be a nominal entrance fee for these events and tickets can be purchased in advance on request.

Who we are...

Set in 200 acres of stunning Suffolk countryside overlooking the River Stour, the Royal Hospital School is an independent co-educational full boarding and day school for pupils aged 11-18.

As a seven-day-a-week boarding school for over 600 boarders, the accommodation and amenities are superb. As well as encouraging pupils to develop academic excellence

and to enjoy the rich programme of music and drama, the School offers outstanding facilities for sports and sailing and a continuous and eclectic mix of extra curricular activities.

For more information, please contact: Susan Lewis, Admissions Officer, The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk, IP9 2RX. Tel: 01473 326210 admissions@royalhospitalschool.org

Who's Who

Headmaster: Howard Blackett MA Oxon
Headmaster's PA: Ann January
Admissions Officer: Susan Lewis
Bursar: David Charlton
Bursar's Secretary: Maggie Cross
Marketing Director: Sophie Braybrooke

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