

# Shiplake College

— Henley-on-Thames —

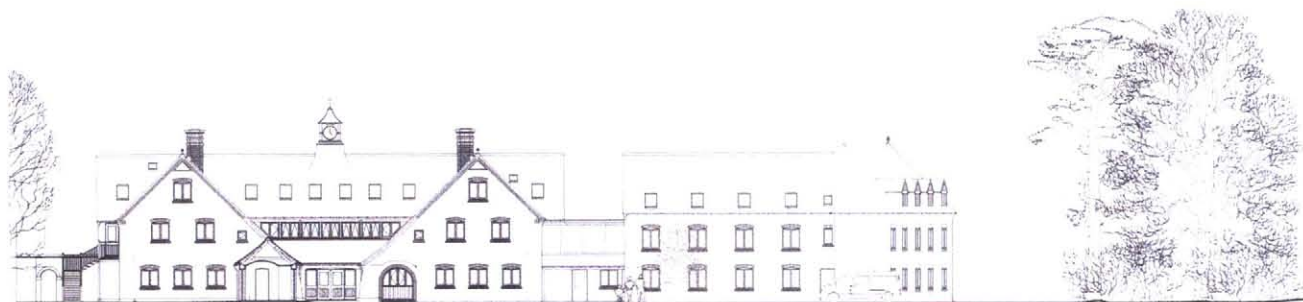
## The Court 2008 - 2009



# Gilson House: Opening September 2009



Northwest Elevation



Southeast Elevation

## The Court Magazine 2008 - 2009

Editor: Michael Edwards

Proof-reading: Lesley Lowndes

Photography: Gregg Davies, Michael Edwards, AJ Foakes, Robert Prance, Sally Satch, Richard Starr, Graham Young

Printing: TLC Print Management Ltd, High Wycombe [www.tlc-print.co.uk](http://www.tlc-print.co.uk)



*J14 A VIII  
celebrate  
victory at  
Thames  
Ditton  
Regatta*



## Bird takes his teeth out to get his message across

**John Bird, co-founder of  
*The Big Issue*,  
told us why he will not be doing  
another series of  
*Famous, Rich and Homeless***

"I won't be doing another series of *Famous, Rich and Homeless*," John Bird, co-Founder of *The Big Issue*, revealed to the audience at Shiplake College's Prize-Giving. "It is riveting television, and the BBC have asked me to be involved with another series, but it is so difficult and so moving to see people stripped of privileges, phones, money and luxuries such as toothpaste."

Bird was homeless aged 5, on probation at 10 and excluded from school at 12. "Born into a slummy family in Notting Hill Gate, with an aggressive, violent and abusive father, there was a predictability of failure." Now aged 63, a former inmate of Kidlington Detention Centre, Dr Bird has five children aged from 2 to 43.

"If you give the homeless another hand-out all you are doing is giving another hand-out. You will change nothing. What the Big Issue did was to give the homeless an opportunity, money and self-esteem. They may have been dealt the wrong cards in life but they can't live on that alone; they have to rise above the blame and self-pity. We have to give the poor social mobility," Bird told his audience as he took his front false teeth out. "I shouted at a recent meeting and my false teeth sprayed out over the front row."

"I visited the Brentford Homeless Users Group one day and there were 300 rough sleepers in there throwing chairs. I had to shout at them and give them leadership. It was an ugly form of leadership but it worked."

"Recently I was at an event with Prince Charles and a rough sleeper asked if he could go and speak to the Prince as they had been at school together. If you don't put the work in you can slip down the ladder. We all have a duty to rise above the problems of self-pity or plenty to shine and to be a beacon."

Before Bird's speech, Gregg Davies, Headmaster, had focused on the College's drive for standards, "We don't set our standards by others. It matters that shirts are tucked-in, that top-buttons are done up and that boys have shaved. If those little things slip then other standards may fall too."



*John Bird meets Alex Baker, Head Boy for 2008 / 9*

Departing Head Boy, Adam Middleton, told the audience "It has been a privilege to be Head Boy in the College's 50th Year. I have had a wonderful five years and wouldn't change a thing. Undoubtedly my biggest challenge has been singing *I'm just a little black rain cloud* as a duet with the Headmaster. I've learnt that the more you give, the more you get back and to take every opportunity. This is my last day but I know that those who remain will take Shiplake College to the next level."





# Prize-Giving

## YEAR NINE FORM PRIZES

Sam Baker  
Charlie Foster  
Samuel Morin  
Paul Vanner

## YEAR TEN FORM PRIZES

Alexander Barker  
Richard Fitz-Hugh  
Christopher Gabe  
William Laurenson  
Arthur Law  
James Wright

## GCSE PRIZES

Art and Design  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
English  
Religious Studies  
French  
Geography  
Music  
History  
ICT  
Mathematics  
Physical Education  
Science (Double award)  
Spanish

Auberi Chen  
Oliver Fogden  
Craig Henderson  
Toby Bownass  
Toby Bownass  
Tony Baylis  
Nicholas Woodford  
Nicholas Woodford  
Qahir Lalani  
Jamie MacLeod  
Nurdaulet Sarketbayev  
Sam Quelch  
James Warren  
Bertie Piasecki-Jarvis

## GCSE RESULTS PRIZE (2008)

Thomas Imlay  
Cornel Mgbangson  
Christopher Payne

## A LEVEL RESULTS PRIZE (2008)

Laura Cotton  
Elizabeth Orpwood  
Toby Raper  
Christopher Webb

## GOVERNORS' PRIZES

Art and Design  
Biology  
Bleackley Modern Languages  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Design and Technology  
Geography  
Physical Education  
History  
ICT  
Physics  
Mathematics  
Media Studies  
Spiers Award (Music)  
Theatre Studies

Freddie Marriott  
Adam Davies  
Jack Hyde  
Adam Middleton  
James Green  
William Nicholas  
Matthew Tyrwhitt-Drake  
Matthew Tyrwhitt-Drake  
Anne Elphick  
Alexander Meerman  
Alexander Meerman  
Nick Gong  
Emily Hatch  
Totie Southwell  
Freddie Greaves

## SPECIAL AWARDS

*Eaton Prize - Academic Development Award*  
Ashley Copeland  
*Expedition Society Endeavour Award*  
Alastair Galloway  
*J W Whittingham Prize - CCF Cadet of the Year*  
James Green  
*Larkin Prize – Contribution to Singing*  
Nick Gong  
*Rupert Mackay Prize - Contribution to Religious Life*  
Simon Mullins  
*Salmon Prize – Contribution to the Performing Arts*  
Jamie MacLeod  
Totie Southwell  
*Service to the Community*  
Curtis Tseng  
*Asclepian Prize – Contribution to the Visual Arts*  
James Gifford

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD

James Albon James Green  
Felicity Lowes Adam Middleton  
Jeremy Pattie

## SENIOR COMMON ROOM STAFF PRIZES

*Edinburgh Prize, for the non-school prefect who has contributed most to College life:* Edward Pinker  
*Matthew Bevin Cup, for the most industrious Year 11 pupil:* Edward Bowers  
*Peter Caston Prize, for the pupil who has shown notable determination and tenacity during the course of his or her College career:* Christopher Clifford

## HEADMASTER'S PRIZES

*Headmaster's Quaich*  
Outstanding contribution to the sporting life of the College:  
James Albon Jack Broome  
Sasha Burgess Tobias Frossell  
Anthony Kay Freddie Marriott  
Adam Middleton

## ALEXANDER EVERETT PRIZE

*Outstanding contribution to the standards and ethos of the College:*  
James Albon Jack Broome  
Anthony Kay Freddie Marriott  
Simon Mullins Matthew Tyrwhitt-Drake

## SENIOR GIRL

Olivia Bellhouse

## HEAD OF COLLEGE

Adam Middleton



## Past, present and future

**Alasdair Barron, the very first Shiplake College pupil began the service. It concluded with Huxley Loudon, who joins Year 9 in September 2009, representing the future**



*Pupils, teachers, governors, parents and Old Vikings poured into Henley's St Mary's Church for the College's 50th Anniversary Thanks Giving Service on 1st May 2009.*

### The very first Shiplake Pupil

I arrived at Shiplake in the autumn 1958, there was no school then, and nothing much in the building either, just empty spaces, including a sky-blue painted basement room that used to house emergency BBC wartime transmitters.

My room was at the top of the main stairs of what is now Skipwith House. I slept on an old hospital bed, and waited for the school to start.

Rather like Sleeping Beauty, the house was about to awaken to its new role. The setting was extremely beautiful and during winter floods, a sunlit silver sheet stretched as far as the eye could see, with the island curiously floating. A magical scene.

From the start adventure was there in large measure, encouraged of course by the rambling house, stable block, gardens, and quarry, and beyond that an endless expanse of possibility, stretching on past the island, on and on, to the ends of the earth.

*Alasdair Barron*

### Hans Wells-Furby, former Second Master, recalls the early days

Nineteen fifty nine is one of those years that is easily remembered. The summer was long and fine and in the brilliant autumn that followed, Macmillan won the general election associated with the slogan "you've never had it so good."

Everett subsequently wrote: "My school days were not the proverbial "happiest days of my life." So it was that at an early age I decided to start a school where all the boys would be happy, regardless of their abilities."

It was through Knight, Frank and Rutley that I discovered Shiplake Court which was purchased for £17,500. We moved to Shiplake Court late in 1958. Somehow everything was ready for the start of Shiplake College on 1st May 1959. We signed up 30 boys and turned away several pupils since I had ordered only 30 beds."



*Huxley Loudon and Alasdair Barron*

As I wrote in *Wish and Fulfilment*, "A 40 room mansion with a stable and garage block, three cottages, an island, a boat house and reasonably sized grounds constituted a first rate bargain."

Alexander Everett had a vision of a small, friendly and "different" school. Choice was to replace compulsion, there were to be no bells, few rules, staff and boys would mix freely and share common rooms and Christian names would be the tone of the tutorial system. A friendly atmosphere is the only relic of the earliest days.



## Tim Eggar recalls his father's time as Headmaster

The John Eggar who arrived at Shiplake in 1963 was a traditional sports-loving midlands housemaster. Shiplake changed him, and he the College by his retirement in 1979.

Unusually amongst headmasters of that era, he realised he was running a small business. Desirable educational spending had to be tempered by economic reality. He courted his market, the prep school heads, assiduously. The business success of the school gave him enormous pleasure. It was no coincidence that he took to teaching economics, a subject in which he was theoretically completely unqualified.

He had high standards and could be a forbidding figure but he was almost always seen as fair, and desperately wanted to give all the benefit of any doubt, sometimes it has to be said, wrongly.

He fought a career-long battle on hair length – slightly undermined by his three sons. He knew it was time to retire when he had to change the rules to stop No. 1 haircuts.

He hated smoking with a passion. Night after night I remember him disappearing on his anti-smoking patrols. I never understood why the boys didn't realize they were perfectly safe until 9.20 pm when the BBC news finished.

## Peter Lapping improves facilities

I was appointed to Shiplake in December 1978, in the middle of the winter of discontent. Strikes were rampant, life was difficult, inflation approached 20% and the top rate of tax was over 80%

By the time I took office the following September, Mrs Thatcher was P.M. and, despite all the aforementioned difficulties, the school, thanks to John Eggar's genius, was full. Perhaps the word full is an understatement. The houses had not been developed and boys occupied every nook and cranny. Many of the key buildings, classrooms, laboratories, JCR and catering accommodation were all temporary structures while the Chaplain operated out of an antique green caravan. So, on a practical note, it was my task to improve facilities and increase numbers.

While all this was going on, the key to the school's success was a combination of brave governors, hard-working staff and delightful, polite boys. While the academic results were modest, there was always an atmosphere of progress in the air and, indeed, much progress was achieved. Rugby, hockey and cricket all improved their fixture lists while on the river the Boat Club went from strength to strength. So too did drama with much success at the annual Kenton Festival and the start of Malcolm Woodcock's summer extravaganzas. The boys tasted success and enjoyed it and, more importantly, celebrated each other's achievements.



One of the highlights of the Thanks Giving Service was the College's astounding performance of Stanford's *Te Deum*, after countless hours of rehearsal.

"Arguably the greatest piece of music ever written, a triumphant shout of faith," Robert Prance had claimed as plans for the service were put together.



## Nick Bevan recalls another era

1988 seems a very long time ago, back in the dark ages before girls were invented at Shiplake, when the upcoming concert was more important than the deadline, when the match was more significant than prep, before computers and the internet overwhelmed our lifestyles; indeed when work was handwritten and research done from books.

During the nineties this all changed and we entered the 21st century with girls in the Sixth Form, computers in classrooms and ever more modern approaches to teaching and learning but when I reflect on 16 incredibly rewarding and happy years at Shiplake it is rarely on matters academic.



I think of a particular Tuesday evening; it's raining, the floodlights are up, the sound man is sheltering from the elements and the dress rehearsal has yet to begin. When eventually it does, it finishes shortly after midnight and those taking part stagger off to bed, tired, forlorn and worried. But the next day after bbqs and picnics on the terrace in warm evening sunshine an audience of parents, staff and friends enjoy a truly wonderful show...Was it *Oliver*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Shiplake 900*, *Pirates of Penzance* or *Macbeth*? It doesn't matter...

What mattered was that the community had come together at the end of an exhausting summer term to create a magical event made more memorable by the backcloth of Shiplake Court or the Stable Block in the evening sun and later cleverly floodlit. Who will ever forget the donkeys and horses, the low flying war plane skimming over us in *Oh What a Lovely War* and the fantastic feeling of achievement and of a team pulling together at the end of it?

## Gregg Davies focuses on the present and future

It is most unusual for prospective parents visiting Shiplake not to comment positively on the friendliness of both pupils and staff. It was certainly the thing that struck both Alison and myself when we arrived five years ago on interview for the headship.

We knew little about the school except that it had a fantastic sporting tradition and was not academically selective in a way that had previously sent me scurrying from a north London day school to a Scottish boarding school.

I hope the school is somewhat different now from when I took over; indeed the Governors would be questioning me if it wasn't. There is still the emphasis on holistic achievement which was so important to the school's founder and its subsequent headmasters. However, perhaps the balance has tilted more towards achieving academic results concomitant with the pupils' ability.

Shiplake is in an enviable position I believe, because it has within its Common Room men and women not only of great expertise but great passion about what they do which is their vocation.

There is no need to try and teach happiness at Shiplake. It happens naturally through the community. A community that embraces and values all from the Headmaster to the newly qualified teacher, from the Bursar to the junior groundsman. Unfortunately, there is still much to do. My vision for the school is that it becomes the independent school of choice for the local community.



## Slow down, guard those breathing spaces

A Chaplain arrives as Chaplain and leaves as Chaplain. By which I mean there is no question of promotion in any way in my mind. There are schools where the Chaplain becomes a Housemaster or even a Headmaster. The prospect of promotion is always tempting and I have had those opportunities; but, in my opinion, it has to be resisted. A priest is a priest, no more no less. As Chaplain you are in a hugely privileged position with access to every area of school life, and entrusted with the secrets of many, both staff and pupils. What is his main function? It may be obvious. It is to lead worship and to enjoy it, to be a person of prayer and to enjoy that, to be readily available and to enjoy that. But I believe above all else he has the responsibility of guarding the breathing spaces in a world where everybody is trying to grab time and go faster.

Some of you will recall (on more than one occasion!) my speaking of one of my father's earliest memories in Croyde in North Devon at the turn of the last century where, as a young boy he watched the whole village turn out to see .... a motor car drive through!!

That was a mere one hundred and nine years ago... a nat's crotchet of time. Today we barely look up at an aeroplane. See how fast we've gone. And today more working days are lost by stressed people who simply cannot cope with the pace of life, than any other form of illness. And it will get worse.

Despite the world of technology, despite all the advances we have in order to make life easier, time seems to be the one commodity we have less and less of. Every report which comes out about the world of computers, whatever their advantages, suggests that so far as society is concerned, they cause more problems than they solve since at the end of the day, all they do is make the pace of life go faster and faster.

Thus the one service the Chaplain does for the community in which he finds himself is to guard the breathing spaces ... the stopping points.

It is at moments like the Wednesday Communions or

the Friday morning service where you can, for a short time, stop and draw breath. It is so tempting to fill these with business, the extra lesson, the extra bit of sport, the extra rehearsal by well-meaning teachers. But if you block out the breathing spaces, a community suffocates itself with over-busyness, and the pace of life

simply increases. It is also the reason why I have always been

over-insistent that arrival at chapel should be a peaceful time. NOT because HE gets cross if you talk in 'his house' (yuk!) but because it is the one time in the day when time should slow down and stand still.

If I have done anything in my ten years here for which people may be grateful, then the one thing I would ask in return is that you help my successor guard and promote those vital moments of College life, which enable the community to slow down, draw breath, pause, and give space to catch up with oneself... possibly even with one's God.

*RP Prance*



Doves released after the Confirmation Service  
(Photo courtesy of Mrs Hewins.)



## Good to get out of Church sometimes



"It is good to get out of church sometimes," Robert Prance told his al fresco congregation from the College and Parish of some ninety people when they gathered on the bank of the River Thames for the annual Holy Communion by the river.

The weather was kind as the College Chaplain reminded listeners that many of the key events in Jesus' life had taken place outdoors. He recalled the events at the Sea of Galilee, The Sermon on the Mount, The Garden of Gethsemane and the Palm Sunday entry to Jerusalem.

"There is a danger that churches can become God-proof shelters," said Robert.

## "I don't do schools anymore," says Roger Royle

"Generally I don't do schools any more" said Canon Roger Royle when he gave the Ascension Day Address. "You are a frightening lot and you endure enough suffering without me speaking." Canon Royle, has been described by Terry Wogan as "probably one of radio's most brilliant communicators."

"A lot of loonies write to me," said Canon Royle as he pulled out the plan for the ceremonial *Opening Of Parliament* in November 1971 which had arrived with a mountain of other post at his house.

"The glory of this occasion contrasts with the dross we have all read of recently. We have paid for MPs' bathplugs, pornography and moat-cleaning. I'm due to attend the Mansion House soon with its splendour and silver, yet it is incongruous amongst all the greed of the surrounding banks and financial institutions.

Again on the internet we go from glory to dross. There is so much that is good about the internet then we learn of cyberspace bullying, from people who haven't got the guts to say what they think face-to-face. We should show the best we can, reflecting in the glory of God and reflect that we are of God."



Canon Roger Royle and The Reverend Robert Prance



# Battlefields tour



The setting sun spilled its last bloody rays out over the spires and towers of Ypres, four miles away down the long, shallow slope below, as we gathered beneath the Cross of Sacrifice in Tyne Cot British war cemetery. The looming landmark of the 90th anniversary of the Armistice, which finally brought the carnage of the First World War to end, added extra poignancy as 28 Year 9 students and four staff scanned the serried ranks of white headstones in silence during half-term. Almost 12,000 men lie there, 70% of them unknown, with a further 35,000 names of those who went missing in the Ypres Salient during the final two years of the war carved on Portland stone panels in perpetuity.

It is truly a sobering place and every pupil responded magnificently as they began to appreciate the military significance of the low ridge on which they stood, why there were four savage battles for a small Belgian market town and the bloody yard-by-yard fights for the German concrete pill-boxes they could see in front of them.

Later that evening, at the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing, they gazed up at another 55,000 names of men lost in action as the final silver echoes of the Last Post and the skirl of the pipes died away on an autumn breeze. 'They are not missing, they are here' said General Plumer as he inaugurated the gate in 1927. And indeed they are.

Early next morning and south to Picardy with a first stop at Serre, Valhalla of the northern Pals battalions of Lord Kitchener's New Army. There, standing on the edge of a shallow scrape marking the line of the British assault trenches, Dr. Purser, Mr Cane-Hardy and Mr Brown became officers and senior NCOs and the boys corporals and privates of the citizen army just like those thousands of men more than nine decades ago who worked together, joined together, trained together and then died together on a blisteringly hot Saturday morning in July 1916.

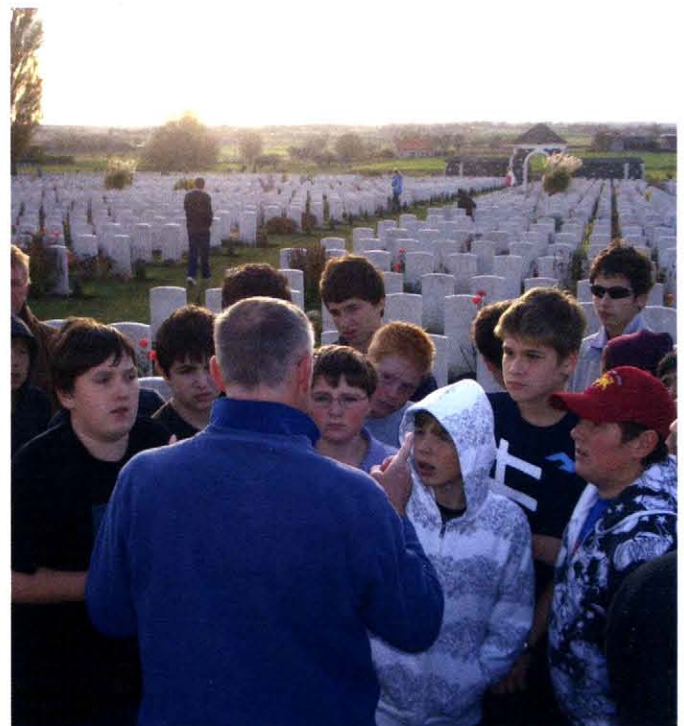
That morning, after a week battered by the British guns, the professional German soldiers on the other side of the wire were exhausted, hungry, thirsty and frightened – hardly surprising that they fought for their very lives.

The rest of the day was spent touring more of the 'Old Front Line' on the Somme; Newfoundland Park – 'dead men can advance no further' - the sepulchral Thiepval memorial, another 73,000 names of the lost of the Somme, the jaw-dropping Lochnagar mine crater - 60,000 lbs of high explosive which vaporised the German front line and its garrison. Here the very earth is scarred by war.

A final visit on day three took in the majestic Canadian Memorial on the Vimy Ridge; Dr Purser recounting the feats of the Canadians on 9 April 1917 as they seized the ridge from the Germans. One last stand to fit in and a swoop down the ridge to La Targette German cemetery, the largest on the Western Front and an opportunity to remember the dead of Germany and other nations caught up in the inferno. A time for key questions; 'Sir, why is there a Jewish headstone here?'

Many millions - soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians - all gone but not forgotten by these thoughtful, respectful Shiplake boys.

*JA Cooksey*





# Ballroom Dancing

## One of the glamour events of the Shiplake Social Calendar

AJ Foakes had no shortage of volunteers as she asked for models for a photo-shoot prior to the Queen Anne School's Ballroom Dancing Ball.



An avalanche of after-shave and a garden of red roses arrived at Queen Anne's Girls' School as 20 immaculately groomed Year 12 ballroom dancers from Shiplake took to the dance-floor. The Ball was the culmination of weekly dance lessons that had begun in September.

Dancers waited for a tap on the shoulder from the judges, to signify progress to the next round, as they competed in waltz, jive and cha-cha. Simon Mullins took the honours in the waltz and a number of Shiplake dancers made it to the head-to-head dance-offs.

Once again, Julie Knight, Welsh House Matron, had undertaken all of the organisation for the lessons and the final triumphant visit to Queen Anne's School. She deserved an elegant photo-shoot with the boys, in the Old Viking Room, prior to their departure.

Chris Alcock, Orchard Housemaster, had run a bow-tie tying masterclass earlier in the evening to ensure that all of the dancers were looking their best.





## Shiplake College then The Queen

Shiplake College was fortunate that Jeremy Houghton squeezed in a week as resident artist before painting Her Majesty the Queen later in the year. "Don't go to Art School," Houghton controversially told pupils as he gave his "Art of Business" lecture.

"They teach you how to be introspective, which is often what the market doesn't understand or need or even want!"

Houghton admits to wanting to be "the Jools Holland of the Art world" and he is well on his way. His CACTUS team, of young artists who provide art for homes, is growing fast, as are his BATS art tours.

Family pressure led Houghton to switch from an Art Foundation Course to a Law degree but he kept on drawing and painting, learning the essential skills, sometimes producing work of astounding quality using a humble biro.

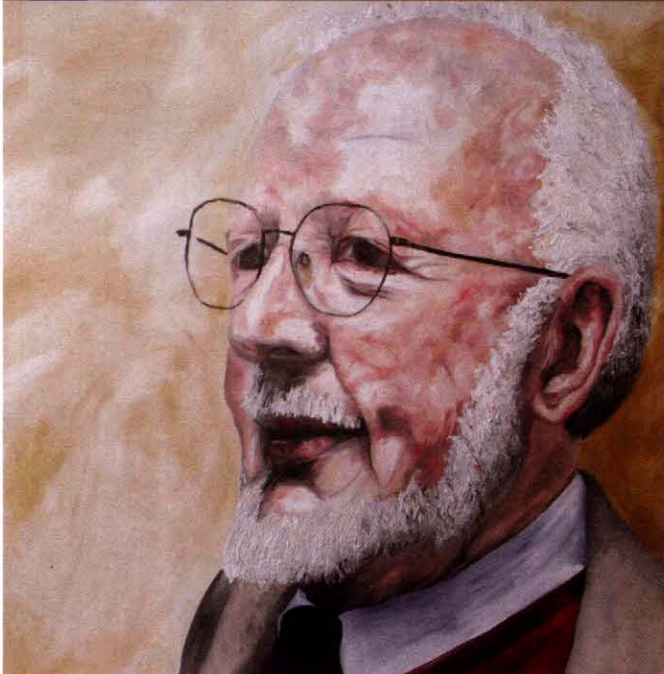
"This is a business. I spend 25% of my time painting and the rest working on the exhibitions, the sales, the Public Relations, the Marketing and the website ([www.iwantahoughton.com](http://www.iwantahoughton.com)). As my career develops I should be able to spend more time on art and less on business. You've got to find a Unique Selling Point and identify target audiences."

Houghton spent the week in the Art School advising classes from Year 9 through to A Level on their technique. Whilst at the College he also produced a number of watercolours, with a contemporary twist.

"I'm also willing to undertake specific commissions," said the artist, living out the spirit of his presentation.







## A gift that changed an artist's life

A gift from his sister, a painted carved wooden fish from Mexico, changed the direction of Jeremy Turner's career, and he spent a day at Shiplake passing on his love of woodcarving to Art pupils. Turner still loves working with wood, how it cuts with sharp tools, the feel and the smell of it.

Pupils began by producing their own drawings, many of the A Level pupils chose a theme related to their A2 portfolio, before trying their hand at carving. Turner, who had begun his career as an artist by constructing sculpture from timber hauled from the River Avon, was on hand to pass on a lifetime of experience.



# Aladdin

Thigh-slapping good fun and a shower of chocolate-money greeted children from St Mary's school when they visited Shiplake College for a matinee performance of "Aladdin".

Any first-time pantomime watchers were probably puzzled by seasonal cross-dressing. Panto is a very peculiar British ritual and this was the first time that Catherine Saker, in over two decades of teaching drama and producing plays had ventured into "He's behind you!" territory.

Panto always has a touch of satire and Ms Saker produced hilarious seasonal entertainment that packed Shiplake College's Tithe Barn Theatre for three nights and a matinee.

Following in the tights of Sir Ian McKellan, this version was based on the Old Vic production of 2004/5. James Gifford, as Widow Twankey, had a wardrobe to die for. He made the most of his Dame Edna Everage glasses and personal dresser and make-up artist.

A magnificently painted set created a sense of the Orient as winter temperatures plummeted, though that didn't prevent Freddie Greaves glowing as a bare-chested genie. In a script littered with appalling puns and topical asides, Dim Sum, played with a Yorkshire accent by Nick Woodford, suffered the brunt of many of them. Even the traditional pantomime cow became a credit-crunch cash cow.

Alice Brown, the Princess, and Totie Southwell, as Aladdin, slowed the pace with a beautifully sung duet for the show's Elton John number. But Hanky and Panky, frenetically played in Keystone Cops style, by the truncheon-waving Sasha Burgess and Charlie Uprichard, soon restored mayhem to the proceedings.

But panto needs a villain, and the urban turban of Abanazar, housing Ed Pinker, moved the audience to plenty of screaming participation as they reacted fearfully to his swirling cape and malevolent moustache.





# Christmas

## The Truth About Christmas

James Gifford wrote this poem for the Literary Society's Christmas bash. Sticking to the truth, the snowman photo was taken much later but he adds to the festive feel ...

The night before Christmas while all were awake.  
The same old story of Scrooge and his fate.  
You know what a baddie that miser be?  
But there are those in Dickens who are worse than he...

You see, no one's told you the truth of that night,  
while dear Scrooge was being spooked with fright,  
How the real villains destroyed Christmas for all.  
This is the story of the Cratchits and their fall!

It all started around that time  
After Scrooge had sadly watched them dine  
After all had feasted and went to bed  
Was then it started at midnight dead.

It was Bob Cratchit who was first to wake.  
A noise! Where? Down the stair...  
He tiptoed quietly as not to arouse  
The Christmas dreamers about the house.

Within the dark hallway, something lurked.  
Hunched by the tree, it silently worked.  
'Great Scott!' Bob whispered, his knees went numb.  
and he rushed upstairs to fetch his gun.

The rest of the Cratchits were shaken awake  
'Burglar! Downstairs! The presents he'll take!'  
So Martha, Belinda, Peter and Mum  
Swarmed downstairs, with brick, hammer, spade and gun!

Before the intruder could wish merry cheer  
Little Martha pounced and severed his ear.  
Dear Peter threw bricks with all his will  
A crash! A bang! A splat! Then all was still.

'A Merry Christmas to one and all!'  
They embraced and cheered within the hall  
While dear Mrs Cratchit fetched a light  
To see the spoils of such a brutal fight!

The candle was lit and they huddled with glee  
Around the lump below the tree.

Poor Tiny Tim then opened the door  
And seeing the body scream like never before  
'God help us Everyone!'  
And the Cratchits gasped at what they had done  
For in the pool of blood there lay  
Santa Claus, as clear as day...

*James Gifford Year 12*





# Threepenny Opera

**BRECHT:**

**FOR  
ADULTS  
ONLY**



Amoral, anti-heroic and a symbol for the corruption of the Krays' London, we know about MacHeath from the prologue's song, Mack the Knife, sung by Emily Hatch, before Ed Pinker even takes to the stage in Shiplake College's production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

Snooker ball stuffed in mouth, father slapping his daughter and snooker cues brandished as weapons, the threat of violence is never far from exploding. Lyrics are as bitter and brutal as the action. The Hangman's noose, dangling from the ceiling between bare light bulbs, is an ever present threat.



Only over sixteens were admitted to this production but many of the lyrics and lines are very funny and would have appealed to a younger audience. Polly plaintively protests to her newly betrothed Mackie that it's not suitable to begin their married life with 'breaking and entering'. The dysfunctionality of the family, the bullying, the shouting and the beating are scenes a younger audience watch daily on the box and which are never far from the experience of many.

Peachum, every Glaswegian syllable relished by Freddie Greaves, tries to legitimise his protection business, with his talk of "The Firm" and neatly ruled accounts ledger. His shoes may be shiny but he and the other characters are living in the gutter. The action takes place in a dark subterranean club with blood-splattered walls, where a snooker table instantly converts into a marital bed for MacHeath and Fliss Lowes' Polly. A bar fuels the violence with alcohol.

Banned from the stage by the Nazis, Brecht's reworking of *The Beggar's Opera* is timeless. The company pitch their production at the time of the Queen's Coronation but Brecht's biting script worked as well in Weimar Germany and sadly will work as well in five decades' time. The police are corrupt, the vicar is bent, the play strips bare society's hypocrisy. Mrs Peachum, played ferociously by Francseca Haines, battles vainly against her daughter becoming a gangster's moll.

MacHeath is firmly in cahoots with Sasha Burgess' Chief of Police which initially keeps our anti-hero from the gallows, until betrayed by the Peachums. Then a parody of a happy ending, with a royal pardon and the gift of a castle, saves him.



# Red Shoes



## Homage to Pressburger, Hans Christian Anderson and Land Girl 1940s jitterbug style

*Red Shoes* pushes the boundaries. The Mad Dog Theatre company's homage to filmmaker Pressburger takes Hans Christian Anderson's fairytale into Hailey Woods. The actors' movement, a woodland trail replacing the Yellow Brick Road and the straw in Ed Harris' hair remind the audience that their surreal evening's entertainment also owes a heavy debt to *The Wizard of Oz*.

Freya Lester, the Wicked Witch, is a menacing old lady in her black attire, with elegant cigarette holder, merging into the woodland shadows. Aless Williams, cursed to dance forever in her red shoes, dances at her best with the soldier who is the love of her life. An exuberant jitterbug, with dashing soldier James Farrow and his trench coat, is one of the highlights of the evening.

The land-girls who populate the woods, work supremely well as a group, provide striking human architecture for the group scenes, often to a Forties soundtrack. Cycling to the woods, the cast had worked long hours on rehearsals.

Having charged along the woodland trail the audience were relieved to stop at the butchers where Kris Dyer hams up the slapstick comedy, as the butcher, armed with axe and saw, charged, with removing the shoes.

James Gifford, immaculate as an angelic airman, offers the girl a route to Heaven but the girl, now without her red shoes, rejects his offer. She returns, bloodstained, to her soldier and her community.

*Photography: Graham Young*







Year 9 brought a touch of Brazilian carnival to the Great Hall on Friday 7th November when they began the Autumn Concert with *Samba Batucada*'s latin rhythms. There was an eclectic feel to the evening with items ranging from John Lennon's *Can't buy me love*, through Bill Haley's *Rock Around The Clock*, to the String Group's seasonal performance of Handel's *La Rejouissance* from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.

It looked smooth and effortless but the music department had worked tirelessly in preparation since the beginning of the academic year and in recent weeks the calendar had been packed with rehearsals and the Great Hall had begun to look like a music store with drums and keyboards. Year 9 produced their smoothest vocals of the term as they enjoyed their take on *King of the Swingers* accompanied by the Lower School Band. The evening finished with an exuberant performance of the Jackson Five's *Blame it on The Boogie* from the Soul Band.

The musicians of Shiplake College have had an exciting, busy year. Preparations for the GCSE and A Level Recital and the Christmas Carol Service began as soon the Great Hall had been cleared from the Autumn Concert. The Carol Service was held as usual in St Mary's Church Henley. This year the successful Chamber Choir, directed by Louise Rapple, was joined by the newly formed Girls' Choir. Both choirs supported the entire college in the Rutter's demanding *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*. Melissa De Haan performed the traditional solo from *Once in Royal David's City* at the start of the service. Alongside preparations for the Spring concert students were also practising for Henley Youth Festival, the second GCSE and A Level Recital of the year (a joint concert with Queen Anne's School) the Inter-House music competition and the important 50th Anniversary Service at St Mary's Church in Henley.

They arrived in snow at the start of the Spring Term, but Year 9 brought a touch of Caribbean sunshine to the Spring Concert as five groups each performed a different calypso. With the move to the Parish Church, there was a seat for every one once they had completed their performance.

The evening was a triumph for the Chamber Choir in their performance of excerpts from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, led by an outstanding solo from Harry Griffiths. The performance from the Headmasters Choir produced many smiles with music from *Winnie the Pooh*, and some guest soft toys from nursery days. The saxophone ensemble performed a fun version of *Sesame Street* and a burst of the *Star Wars Theme* was provided by the orchestra. The Soul Band weighed in with a groovy *We are family*.

## Chamber Choir Join with Queen Anne's for Vivaldi's Gloria

Few moments in oratorio are as exciting as the opening section of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Fast moving, and demanding agile playing by the orchestra, together with clear diction from the singers, the choir at Queen Anne's, comprising participants from Shiplake, the Oratory as well as Queen Anne's, delighted a packed hall, (where extra chairs were being carried in at the last minute), by their precise and superb performance. Nor at any moment in the evening did the standard slip in any way.

The concert began with a masterly and stirring rendering of the far from easy opening movement of Beethoven's 1st symphony in C major. The fine orchestra included our own Director of Music Kate Harper (bassoon), with pupils David Hawes (trumpet) and Oliver Fogden (bassoon). The opening adagio moved with stylish confidence into the *Allegro con brio* section and richly deserved the resounding applause it received. This was followed by a number of individual performances of solos, quartets and trios, including Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi.

But the climax of the evening was undoubtedly the Vivaldi *Gloria* with its twelve contrasting movements. Vivaldi can sometimes give the impression of being an 'easy sing' but, like Mozart, the apparent simplicity can be deceptive as any singer knows.



The slower movements were sensitively performed, while the exciting and far from easy, fast-paced *Domine Fili Unigenite* displayed both choir and orchestra beautifully at one with each other.

Soloists Constance Petersen and Mary Hannah from Queen Anne's gave impressive performances, and with their voices still growing in confidence we shall no doubt hear much more of them in the future. Shiplake's Harry Griffiths was, very sadly, indisposed but we were all delighted that former pupil Tim Hill was able to stand in at the last moment. Now singing in both Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals, the once somewhat self-conscious Tim stood with assured confidence to sing his two sections, displaying a crystal-clear male alto voice with both sensitivity and measured variety of tone.

Several members of Shiplake staff, including the Headmaster out on the right wing, took part, together with many pupils. All are to be congratulated on providing us all with such a memorable evening.

## House Music Competition

This year's Inter-House music competition was divided into three sections; House Instrumental, Small Group Song and House Song. This new format meant that every student in the school participated in the House Song (Bon Jovi's *Living on a Prayer*) and every instrumentalist, from bagpipe to violin, had a chance to gain points for their House, keen musicians were able to work together to produce the Small Group song.

As usual the emphasis was on student leadership and there was very little help from teachers and Housemasters. Parris Bigley directed and choreographed the Welsh House song with clear authority, whilst Orchard focused on producing strong vocals. Burr's excellent performance was supported by a proficient band of musicians; however their success in the House Song did not manage to win Burr House the trophy. The final scoreboard showed Orchard to be the clear overall winners.



## Summer Term

The Summer Concert was held in the marquee on Monday 22nd June. This venue allowed plenty of performance space for orchestra, choirs, steel pans, samba and soul band as well as this year's Battle of the Band winners (Freddie Greaves, Tom Beacham, Alex Wallis and Emmanuel Mike).

The summer concert was a fantastic opportunity to bring together the best performances from throughout the year. The orchestra hit new heights when supported by local string players and the soul band, with the recent addition of a brass section, wowed the audience with tight performances of Stevie Wonders *Sir Duke* and *Blame it on the Boogie* by the Jackson Five.

It has been a very exciting and enjoyable first year at Shiplake College, and I have been overwhelmed by the talent and enthusiasm demonstrated amongst our students. My sincere thanks go to Amy Wanless, Louise Rapple and Paul Wisby for not only their musical flair but also their unwavering support throughout the year.

*KA Harper*





# Work Experience



## Welcome to the real world!

Work Experience week for our Year 12s took place mid-June and was a great success, with more pupils than ever before taking part. Our pupils visited a huge variety of companies, ranging from shops and museums to schools and City firms, and even including a surf school! Andrew Galligan and Olly Gould both worked at Pizza Express in Reading and both have been offered summer jobs there, while Deacon Brown found himself at home on the river working for boat hire company Hobbs of Henley. Hannah Fitzgerald spent the week at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley, where she had a great time and was a real hit with the other staff who said it was as if she'd been there for years! Tom Abbott spent his week at Oakley Veterinary Clinic, where he had to leave the room during an operation on a cat as he nearly fainted! Despite this, he had a great week and went down very well with the staff there.



Our thanks go to the Central Berkshire Education and Business Partnership, who found positions for 27 of the 72 pupils who undertook Work Experience. Work Experience is an extremely valuable exercise for all pupils, not only because it instils in them the discipline of arriving at a workplace on time, interacting with the public, working as a member of a team and carrying out instructions, but also because it gives them an idea of the 'real world' and greatly widens some of their horizons. These benefits are, of course, also recognised by prospective employers, and Work Experience can be a persuasive aspect of the Personal Statement that these pupils will soon be writing for their UCAS forms.

*L E Rapple*





## Ruth Cotton looks back on a year of plans, progress, hoovering and repairing for Deskscreen Solutions Ltd in their partnership with Shiplake College

The voice at the end of the telephone line maybe Marius, Adrian, Ruth, Michael or sometimes even Mark the Chief Executive Officer of Deskscreen Solutions Ltd. Whoever answers the phone or sits in the ICT Support Office, the aims remain the same to provide ICT back-up whilst the College is operating. This of course includes the holidays when reports are being processed, examination results are being received and Ardmore is discovering the vagaries of the College alarm systems.

Desksol do not just operate at Shiplake. They work for a number of schools including Bearwood College, Kings Bruton and Pangbourne College which provides considerable synergies and economies of scale. Currently Shiplake is at the cutting edge of Desksol's development of Sharepoint, used by the College as a Virtual Learning Environment and very familiar to pupils now used to gathering educational resources from the College intranet. Dividing the cost of a member of staff undertaking Research and Development on Sharepoint, for all of Desksol's schools considerably lowers the costs for those involved.

Taking the sharing of information one step further next year, there will be a trial for a set of parents with access to the College's e-portal system. Essentially the parents will enter a "portal" into the College's Management Information System to access information on their son or daughter.

This year Jillian Stanley has been appointed as the College's ICT Co-ordinator and she has worked alongside the Headmaster, Bursar and Desksol to develop the College's ICT facilities. One of Miss Stanley's first ventures was to purchase and trial a Smart Board. Although it is exciting to be working on strategic developments and new ventures much of our time is taken-up with the mundane and with routine maintenance. The more machines and systems you have the more maintenance and updating they require. Whining vacuum cleaners are one of the common sounds in the ICT Office as machines are cleaned out.

As the College expands so do the ICT facilities. New machines have been purchased for both the Year 7 study facilities and also for Gilson House. These machines need unpacking and software has to be installed before the machines are located to their new homes. Alongside these additional investments there is a constant programme of refurbishment. Other developments need to continue with their progress. This academic year saw the completion of the installation of Office 2007 throughout the College whilst wireless networking was provided for Burr and Everett.

## Janet and the Law

"It was like the first man landing on the moon, only with considerably more computing power," said Marius Teodorescu, from ICT Support, who had worked hard to set up the technological capability for Shiplake's new Distance Learning Law GCSE course.

Four Year 10 pupils were sat in the Stationers' Room, experienced law tutor Steve Harris was sat in the comfort of his living room in Somerset and Mrs Harris was busy preparing tea in the background.

Then there was Janet, the Joint Academic Network, which supplies an IP link. Steve Harris taught, the signal raced to Glasgow and down to Shiplake. Through a web-cam Mr Harris heard and watched his pupils' answers. Then the pupils e-mailed their prep to Mr Harris.





# Hockey Tour

## Malaysia Hockey Tour



The blinding lights of the Petronas Towers welcomed Shiplake College's senior hockey squad, of 15 boys and 3 coaches, to midnight Kuala Lumpur. After just a few hours sleep the squad was on the astroturf for an early morning practice before the temperature peaked at 32 centigrade.

"It was a privilege to play against our first opponents. They were the U16 state champions and we soon realised that Hockey, Malaysia's national game, is taken very seriously indeed. The 11 – 1 defeat was an annihilation but we learnt many lessons," said Peter Gould, Tour Manager,

With jet-lag receding the squad came together for a much improved performance in their second game, drawing 1 – 1 at half-time but eventually losing 3 – 1.

A three hour coach trip took the squad to Ipoh in the Highlands. "Walking out through the tunnel to play on a water-based astro in a 25,000 seat stadium was a jaw-dropping experience," said the Manager.

The match was against a local club team which included young novices and some senior state players edging towards retirement. Shiplake created more chances but were given a lesson in the art of finishing by the home team as they edged a tight game 4 – 2.

"The four senior players in the squad Jack Broome, Anthony Kay, Sasha Burgess and Alastair Galloway did everything they could to create a really inclusive team atmosphere. Every player had some game-time in every game and there was a fantastic team spirit," said Peter Gould.

The squad's final challenge took them to the island of Penang with its azure seas and a wonderful beach-front hotel. Against a local school, Shiplake played their best hockey of the tour as they led 3 - 2 with just a few minutes left on the clock. A short corner gave the home-team a well-deserved equalizer but Shiplake attacked once more and a penalty flick, awarded in the dying seconds, gave them a victory that long will be remembered.

Squad: J Broome (C), O Gould, S Burgess, A Kay, D Hawes, N Harper, J Wood, A Galloway, E Sykes, C Thomas, J Broome, D Bell, J Southwell, O Fogden, J Marshall

*PCJ Gould*





## Work is a four-letter word

Year 9 pupils found that work is a four-letter word when they took a tour of the College campus to see how the world earns a living. They were celebrating National Poetry Day and this year's theme of 'Work'.

Even though the sun was shining, the builders on Gilson House were not too impressed with their career choice. Other pupils tried their hand at manual labour, digging in the College's vegetable patch.

The Headmaster, working on the graveyard scene from *Hamlet*, was surprised to find his direction disturbed by a performance poem from another set as they looked at the different forms that work takes.

Chris Alcock could not resist getting out his guitar as his Year 10 set took on the role of a chain gang. Their backs tired and the rhythm dropped as they brandished their imaginary hammers. The message was getting through as they sang, "Got to get my money gotta get my pay."



## Forty years on Death Row

Pupils learnt of the plight of Hakameda Iwao, who has spent 40 years on Death Row in Japan, when they signed greeting cards in support of cases highlighted by Amnesty International. Iwao has spent 28 of those years in solitary confinement. He claims that he is innocent of murder but confessed after 20 days of intensive interrogation. In Japan Death Row inmates are only notified on the morning of execution.

Pupils came to discuss the stories of these individuals and were concerned to learn that people can be tortured, 'disappeared' and imprisoned without trial in some other parts of the world. Those who were most interested took booklets away to read more about the individual cases. Mrs Clark will feed back any news about the progress of the chosen cases over the next twelve months.

## Pollution levels fall on Isle of Wight

"The pollution levels are not as high as they used to be," reported Dr Snellgrove after the Year 12 Biology trip to the Isle of Wight. On the second of four days of research and investigation the 11 boys and 6 girls examined pollutants in fresh water streams. Shiplake biologists have been visiting the area for nearly quarter of a century on their annual field trip, so they have a long term perspective on their results.

Work had begun with study of salt marsh succession, through floral zonation, across the marsh, Shiplake being one of the very few schools in the country allowed to work on this National Trust protected site. A sticky, mucky investigation of estuarine mud had the pupils looking at pyramids of numbers and biomass, which was followed by a trip to the rocky shores at Bembridge. On the fourth and final day they investigated the effect on biodiversity by using coppicing as a Woodland Management technique.



## Community Service

Every Tuesday over 40 boys and girls go out into the community to help local people. A skilled gardening crew of 15 head for Shiplake to undertake gardening for the elderly for an hour and a half. Another group takes the minibus to a retirement home to socialise with the residents.

A number of pupils undertake valuable work for charity shops including Oxfam, Oxfam Books, Cancer Research and the Helen House Hospice. Pupils also help out at the Christchurch Day Centre and the Henley Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Shiplake's team of 8 chess gurus pass on their talent and tactics to pupils at Badgemore Primary School. Back at Shiplake many more pupils are involved in onsite service cleaning the school minibuses, undertaking estate work and even teaching children, who live on site, how to play golf.



---

## Did you know?

.....that the average British woman vacuums 7,300 miles and a man 850 miles in a lifetime? 'What can we infer from that?' asks Roy van den Brink-Budgen, the guru of Critical Thinking, who ran a recent student conference in preparation for the AS exam in May.

'Men are lazy!' shouts a young female from the front row.

'Possibly', he replies, 'but we may have been mowing the lawn!'

Nothing can be decided, accepted, judged, pronounced upon in critical thinking without careful consideration of a multitude of pitfalls, slippery slopes, straw men, sweeping generalisations, misleading statistics, assumptions and a host of others.

## Vintage crop

"The most encouraging aspect of this year's prefect selection process was that Housemasters and Housemistress put forward 34 boys and girls to the final interview. Over half of our Year 12 pupils were considered worthy to hold office", said Shane O'Brien, Deputy Headmaster.

Pupils were invited to submit an application letter and then attend a preliminary interview with their Housemaster or Housemistress. The final short-listed applicants then had a further interview with Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster or Senior Housemaster.

"Our key criteria were integrity, compassion and fairness. The twelve chosen convinced us that they had these qualities in addition to other leadership skills. With further training at the start of the academic year I know that this prefectorial team will be excellent. Good luck to the twelve selected candidates. However, it was an exceptionally strong field and I foresee that there will be one or two more pupils appointed as prefects during the next academic year," said the Headmaster.





## Island Adventure

Selecting a spot amongst the nettles and flourishing vegetation to settle down for the night on Shiplake College's very own mid-Thames Island has presented a challenge for Year 9 pupils this term. Every House has taken the opportunity to bed down for the night after Mr Foakes has transported them across the river in his narrow-boat. With just tarpaulins and string boys have had to use their engineering skills and imagination to create a shelter that will keep them dry and warm for their overnight stay.

Cooking supper, sausages, loins of pork and jacket potatoes, on a BBQ is also part of the survival exercise. As the light fades the boys sit around the camp fires. Sometimes they chat, occasionally they sing but often they like to revive the age-old art of story-telling. Then next morning it is back to school for a shower and breakfast.



## Walking theatre tour of London

The V & A Museum's Theatre Collection began Year 12 Drama and English student's walking tour of London. They studied the costumes for Diaghilev's *Ballet Russes* and Laurence Olivier's *Richard III* as well as hearing actors performing their lines for performances. The Globe Theatre was the evening's stop for a production of *As You Like It*.

The next morning they were up early for a back-stage tour of the National Theatre, seeing how props and scenery are constructed and an explanation of how the NT's repertory system works.

More walking took the group to the Foundling Museum. They were shocked by the sheer number of Foundling Children who had benefited from the society's work and surprised at the extent of work that the society still has to undertake today. Next year the group will study *Coram Boy* as their set A2 text.

Then it was indulgence time for Ms Saker as they visited a dilapidated, somewhat spooky, five storey house to see toy theatres sold on street corners in Victorian times. Finally it was on to the White Chapel Theatre, via The British Museum for Tim Crouch's *England*, a production about transactions in art and a heart transplant which left the audience open-mouthed in astonishment.





## Baked beans, faith and Religious Studies

"There will be those who do it without questioning," said Rupert Jarvis, as he peeled the label from a tin of baked beans. "There will be those who want to do it but can't quite believe and then of course there will be those who want nothing to do with it."

Safety goggles and five tins of baked beans were at the heart of the lesson on belief, atheism and agnosticism. Students had to hammer a tin of baked beans on to their outstretched finger. When the blow is timed, with the seam held in the palm of the hand, there is no pain, and the tin crumples as easily as a 1970s Skoda reversing into a bollard.

For the record three out of five believed and followed the instructions immediately and just like in life there was one who could not and one who did not want to. As George Michael, sang in his ragged jeans and dark glasses, "I gotta have faith."

---

## World Challenge for Year 12

Rarely has a collection of ropes, tyres, barrels, poles, blindfolds and five litres of water provided so many challenges to humanity and provided so much fun and laughter.

World Challenge, and their miscellany of equipment, arrived at Shiplake College to form Year 12 into teams who undertook a circuit of challenging tasks. They attempted to build a buggy, capable of taking two passengers, from barrels, planks and rope. Their engineering skills were tested by the mission of delivering water downhill via a series of pipes and their co-ordination was exercised by a complex relay race to deliver tyres in the assigned order.

Students took it in turns to lead their group and give a briefing on the task ahead. With the clock ticking leaders learnt to make decisions quickly and to how to command under pressure. Tasks were assigned, instructions given and commands followed-up.

Meanwhile other students took it in turns to be the observers, making notes and reporting back on developing team dynamics and the different roles that individuals prefer to take on. Some like to prompt and time-keep whilst others are the challengers or innovators.

Not only did the afternoon give some early pointers to perfect potential in Year 13 but it also helped many new Year 12 boys and girls to get to know their peers.







## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A new school year saw the launch of a new logo and new programmes for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are still four sections for Silver and five for Gold, but they have been revitalised. The old Service section became Volunteering to give a better idea of what is required. New guidelines have been prepared for this and the Skills and Physical sections, so participants have to be kept on their toes regarding making sure that what they plan to do is acceptable to the D of E.



27 pupils started their Silver Award in September and 12 the Gold. This means that there are 92 pupils involved in the D of E at Shiplake. Training for the expedition section took place throughout the winter for Years 10 and 12, culminating in a practical training camp in the Brecon Beacons in March. The weather was kind to us, although we could boast we walked through hail and snow as well as gratefully accepting the sun.

Year 10s doing their Silver Award did their assessment in the Paimpont area of France and gave presentations about their trip on the ferry on the way home. The Year 12 Gold walking expedition was postponed and is due to take place on Exmoor at the start of October. There are also four Gold Award participants who are sailing for their expedition; a first for Shiplake.

The D of E is successful at Shiplake College because of the large number of staff who get involved as well as the enthusiasm of the participants. Those who train and help in the expedition training and assessment are the obvious people, but there are even more who give their support by assessing the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. My thanks go to all of them. Finally, congratulations to all who passed their Gold Award during the year: Jamie Albon, George Goddard, James Green, Floss Lowes, Adam Middleton and Jeremy Pattie.

*B L Foakes*







## Record number of CCF recruits for Year 10



The CCF welcomed record numbers of Y10 recruits this year, along with several new Staff. The Corps has completed a very successful year's training, helped by the new intake's interest and enthusiasm. During the Autumn term we strengthened our links with Bearwood College CCF, using their grounds and facilities for a Tri-Section field day. Section attacks, assault course, raft building, .22 range were among the many activities the cadets took part in.

The majority of the spring term was spent preparing for our Biennial Inspection. Air Commodore Barbara Cooper CBE was the Inspecting Officer, and we were pleased with her very favourable report. Amongst her many comments she remarked "Although it is good to see that the cadets are enjoying exciting activities such as shooting and the climbing wall it is also very impressive to see the leadership skills and the team work that they display". The RAF section won the Drill and Turnout competition, and the afternoon's inter-House competition proved as competitive as ever, with Burr House the narrow victors. In addition to the normal stands of field craft and section attacks we were able to offer a climbing wall, self defence/hand to hand combat classes and a visit by a Merlin helicopter.

More cadets than ever are taking the opportunity to attend camps and courses, and again our adventurous training provided many cadets with the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The quality and variety of training on offer would not be possible without the help and assistance of all the CCF Officers and adult volunteers and I thank them on the cadets' behalf.

*Lieutenant G Lawson CCF RNR  
Contingent Commander*





## Summer Field Day

The Royal Navy section deployed in a range of vessels, from a narrow boat to open canoes, during the CCF's Summer Field Day on the River Thames. A variety of exercises included man overboard drills; mooring at locks, overcoming muddy banks and jetties and cooking lunch. An observation test revealed that it could cost twice as much (£1000 maximum fine) to leave uncollected dog poo on the Thames Path in Reading than to continue drinking alcohol after being asked not to by a police officer.

Another exercise challenged representatives from the Red, White and Blue watches to articulate what laws, duties and punishments would be applied if they were shipwrecked on a remote island with no prospect of rescue.



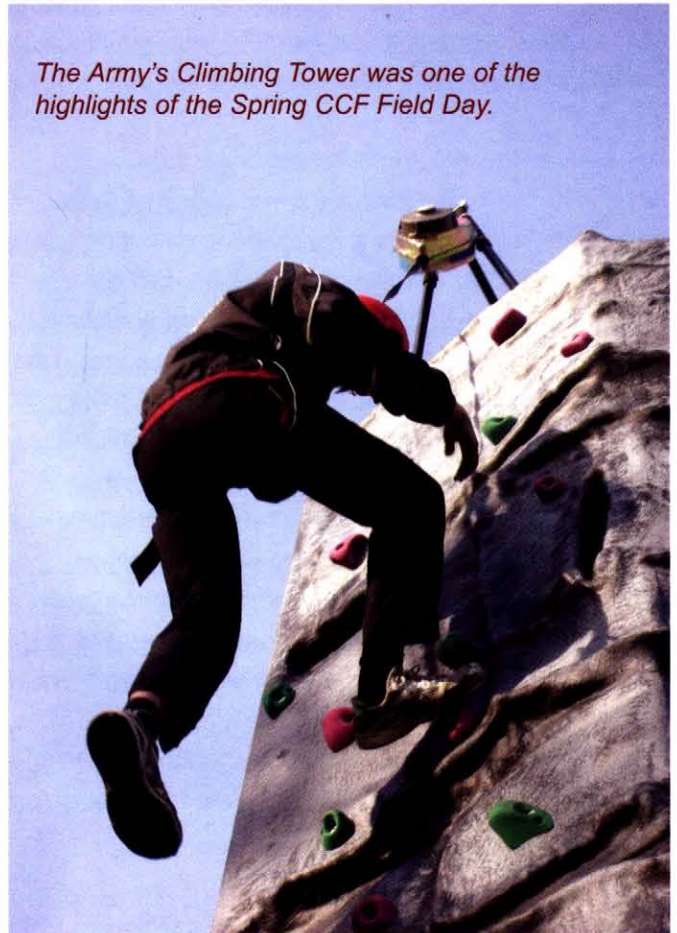
Meanwhile back on dry land in the College grounds the Army section was busy receiving instruction in the use of weapons in preparation for the Summer camp. For the afternoon session they moved into local woods to learn camouflage and concealment techniques, applying paint to their faces and making the use of the surrounding environment to provide discrete cover.



The RAF section visited RAF Odiham, a front line helicopter support base, working with Joint Helicopter command. The cadets were first given a tour of the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation, effectively the RAF fire fighters. Climbing on and in fire fighting vehicles, Airmen recently returned from active duty in Afghanistan, described how in addition to their fire fighting role they carried out casualty extraction and evacuation from roadside bomb attacks and repatriation of those killed in action.

This was followed by a visit to Air Traffic Control to see at first hand how the airspace around a military base is controlled and witnessed the procedures in action as a Lynx took off from the runway in front of the radar tower.

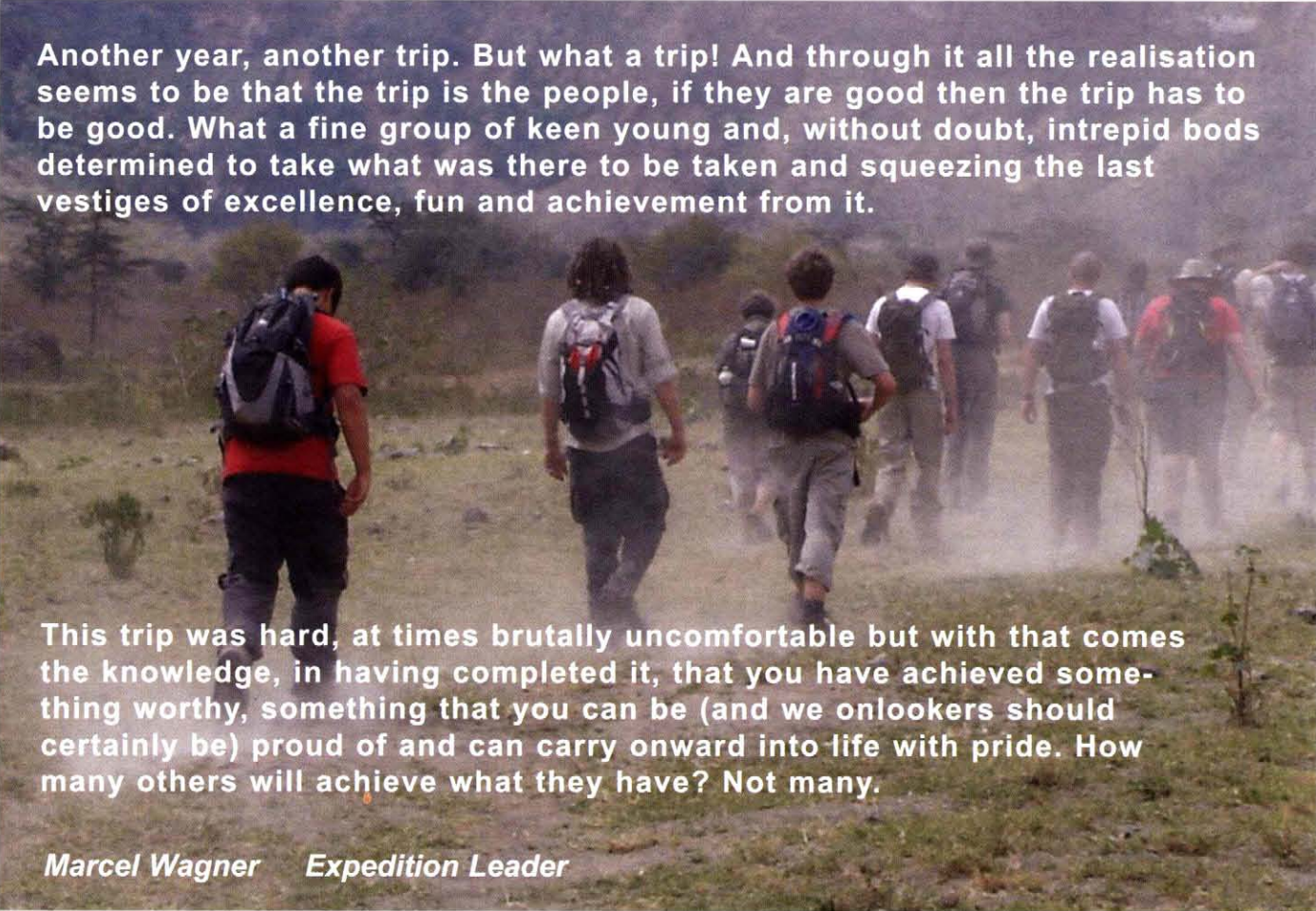
In the afternoon the cadets visited 27 squadron to learn about its role in supply and transport in Afghanistan and were given a tour of a Chinook. This was followed by a visit to the engineering support section, to see the typical repairs carried out both at home and on active duty, to keep the Squadron of 60 year old aircraft fit to fly on active duty.



*The Army's Climbing Tower was one of the highlights of the Spring CCF Field Day.*



# Expedition

A group of hikers with backpacks walking away on a dusty trail. The hikers are seen from behind, walking along a dirt path that kicks up a cloud of dust. They are wearing various outdoor gear, including backpacks and hats. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape.

Another year, another trip. But what a trip! And through it all the realisation seems to be that the trip is the people, if they are good then the trip has to be good. What a fine group of keen young and, without doubt, intrepid bods determined to take what was there to be taken and squeezing the last vestiges of excellence, fun and achievement from it.

This trip was hard, at times brutally uncomfortable but with that comes the knowledge, in having completed it, that you have achieved something worthy, something that you can be (and we onlookers should certainly be) proud of and can carry onward into life with pride. How many others will achieve what they have? Not many.

*Marcel Wagner Expedition Leader*

Jambo! Karibu.

Our "safari" (Swahili word for journey) began with the pre tour briefings, then we flew to Kenya.

Hell's Gate National Park was our first stop. Our first taste of Kenya was a four and a half hour walk over rough lava slopes. There were towering basalt cliffs in this volcanic area; we also saw water-gouged gorges, stark rock towers, scrub-clad volcanoes and belching fumes of geothermal steam. Other scenic features were waterfalls, hot springs and boiling mud-pools in the water-worn ravine. Mountain-biking and rock climbing were great fun. Our next stop was Lake Naivasha, Masai for "rough water". It is a huge freshwater lake in the Great Rift Valley. The boat trip was one of many highlights. During our trip we all enjoyed kayaking. There we visited a geo-thermal plant, a crater lake and a snake park. Touching snakes was a weird experience.

After bagging a peak in the Aberdare mountains we made our way to Sagana which was our base camp for the ascent of Mount Kenya.

The Mount Kenya experience took five days. Mount Kenya is a densely forested area which straddles the equator but is snow-covered. Walking distances varied each day. Climbing scree slopes was challenging.

Summit climb day meant a 3.00 a.m. start in order that we could reach the summit when the sun rose. Mission accomplished. We made it. Altitude 16,385 feet. The experience and view were truly awesome.

A day of rest followed to tend our aching feet. Our descent of the Kenyan topography meant we headed for Buffalo Springs Nature Reserve. On our first safari drive we had a massive (British type) downpour. We had an amazing three days there seeing some of the Big Five; we saw lions, elephant, leopard, zebra, cheetah and buffalo. Frankie investigated hippos, a near death experience!

Overall the flora and fauna were spectacular. There were familiar birds, the masses of flamingos were a sight to behold and there were birds that we had never seen before. White-water rafting was a fantastic experience.



# Expedition



Back to Sagana again to prepare for our visit to the Kikunduku schools project. The school experience was a real eye-opener. We made thirty desks for the school, a computer-less environment. However, the pupils were very diligent and they loved playing football. We were entertained and looked after by the school community.

Our Kenyan experience ended with four days on the coast at Kilifi, the Indian Ocean was marvellous for snorkelling. Dhows plied their trade and sisal plants and baobab trees lined the shores.

For me the adventure was fantastic from start to finish. We started out as a bunch of individuals and welded together as a tight-knit team. We had bumpy journeys in trucks. DIY mass catering, where we had to peel our own potatoes, was a new experience. Cooking pancakes and toast duty are now part of our repertoire. Constructing and deconstructing tents, packing and unpacking the bus became a fine art.

The hospitality and kindness of the Kenyan people was overwhelming. For people who had relatively little they gave us everything, they gave from their hearts. Some of us gained pen-pals from the Kikunduku Schools project. We now have a different perspective on our lives.

It is hard to capture the enormity of our 28 nights in Kenya.

We survived without mobile phones, lap-tops, playstations and Sky TV! We even survived our own cooking: we made our entertainment with card games and inventing our own camp fire songs. We washed our own clothes and despite this by the end of the trip we all took on a distinctive smell. I for one can't wait to go back. The real heroes of our trip were Miss Arnold, Sally and Marcel and Mark Savage. Thank you to them for this life-enhancing experience.

*Alastair Galloway*



## Rugby round-up

Shiplake College's rugby circuit has never been stronger. The strength of our block fixture list is a measure of how much the school is progressing in this game. Week in, week out we have to perform at the very limits of our ability to get our just rewards.

There is one small note of disappointment that we need to register and hopefully rectify next year and that revolved around the lack of numbers involved in the senior squad. Without a regular 3rd XV, players become very complacent and consequently the competition for places at 1st team level is affected.

Pride of place amongst the junior teams went to the U15B side. Their playing record of 8 wins and 4 losses, including thumping wins over The Oratory, Pangbourne, Windsor, Claires Court and Bloxham demonstrates the emergence of real depth at that age group and we look forward to seeing them develop in the years to come.

To go unbeaten throughout a term's rugby you need two key components; depth in your squad and a little bit of good old-fashioned luck. The depth came from Mr Caston's dream team; the U16Bs themselves went through the term with just a solitary defeat at the hands of the Oratory School. The coaching partnership of Mr Dix and Mr Cane-Hardy came together for the first time with the captain, James Dobree-Carey, managing to secure victories from the jaws of defeat on a couple of occasions to steal the spoils. The whole squad set very high standards throughout the season in both training and match play. The side enjoys an abundance of power and pace, attacking skill and flair, and also a defiance in defence. The side developed all term, improving with every week, with a passion for winning and trying to play good running rugby at the same time. Hopefully individual and team strengths will continue to develop in the coming months to keep the College firmly in front of all our local rivals.

For their outstanding commitment to their team and Shiplake rugby, the following players received the Player of the Year Awards at their respective age-groups.

Year 9	Michael Glover & Piers Chen
Year 10	Zac Bigley
Year 11	James Dobree-Carey
Year 12 & 13	Adam Middleton

In addition to being the College's Head Boy, Adam Middleton also led the 1st XV this term. Always at the heart of the action, Adam and his team finished on a high with a magnificent 26 - 22 win over Bloxham School

*R B Curtis*



## 1st XV

In August Shiplake's Senior rugby squad convened for pre-season training at Loughborough University. The use of this elite facility for 3 days was excellent preparation for the upcoming season and allowed both Andrew Unsworth and myself the opportunity to assess the fitness & skills of our squad.

We started at home against Abingdon in a pre-season friendly. They had just returned from tour and were the better prepared and organised of the two sides running out narrow victors. Further pre-season games against Henley College and Desborough brought well earned wins as the 1st XV built towards the start of our regular season.

We opened with an excellent performance against an extremely strong and pacey Oratory side. A close 6 - 19 defeat showed a great deal of promise.



Unfortunately the side did not move forward and suffered defeats against local rivals Reading Blue Coat, Merchant Taylors' and Pangbourne. All were poor performances, and players and coaches alike were disappointed with the outcomes of these games. The side needed a lift and had a welcome and morale boosting victory over Lord Wandsworth College, followed by a 1 point defeat to Cokethorpe, a game that should have been won, but nonetheless put the 1st XV back on track. Adam Middleton was now developing into a fine skipper of the side, ably supported by senior players Jamie Albon & Jack Broome, as well as promising Lower Sixth boys such as Robbie Wright and James Black, were all beginning to perform. A fine victory over Milton Abbey finished the 1st half of term positively.

Windsor Boys' School were comfortably beaten, as were Claires Court, however a poor performance at Reading School in a close 10 - 12 defeat was disappointing. This was a game that should have been won and the squad needed to re-group for the final run in of tough fixtures.

Narrow defeats against Magdalen (20 - 25) & Reeds (14 - 17) did not reflect the quality of rugby now being played by the squad. In these two games Shiplake produced some outstanding phases of fluid and continuous rugby. The improvement in team play and individual performances was clearly evident as Shiplake played their best rugby of the season to date. The final game, an emotional occasion for our Year 13s playing their final match, was a fitting and superb end to the season.

An excellent 26 - 22 victory against a strong Bloxham side contained a performance of true character and determination, with our defensive effort superb throughout. This game epitomised the season, with luck finally going our way, the performance matched the result and the season ended on a real high.

Credit must go to the whole squad for their efforts throughout the season. The Year 12 members have gained valuable experience and we all look forward to Mr Dix's under 16s pushing for places next year. Freddie Greaves was named as our 'most improved' player, Jamie Albon as the 'coaches' player' of the season, and captain Adam Middleton as the 'players' player' of the year.

I would like to thank Andrew Unsworth for his help in coaching the side and the senior players, Adam in particular, for their contribution and leadership during the 2008 season.

*DT Swan*

Squad: A Middleton (C), M Holiasmenos, S Burgess, H Williams, C Payne, T Frossell, F Greaves, C Emerson, R Wright, A Baker, J Albon, C Yearley, J Hyde, T Whittingham, J Black, J Broome, A Kay, F Marriott, C Thomas, R Skinner, J Green, J Pattie, R Ritchie

## 2nd XV



The Second Team had a rather mixed season – there were heavy defeats and gritty wins. We often saw the best and the worst of them in the same half, let alone match. A faltering start is the best way to describe the opening to this year's rugby season. Two bruising defeats, possibly our two worst performances of the entire season, meant that morale and confidence were low. However, after much hard work during practice, the team started to play with more self-belief and, importantly, some aggression. As a result, they started to put teams on the back foot creating a little more space for the backline to weave their magic.

Thanks to Mr Southwell's patience and expertise, the team developed a sense of identity in terms of the pattern they wanted to play. Consequently, they began to win. Key players emerged and, supported by the rest of the squad, brought with them a competitive edge. By the end of the season, we were a difficult team to play against because of our rugged forward play and some rather dangerous runners out wide.



# Rugby

Fortunately, the end of the season was far more positive than the beginning as the team brought the season to a close with a well deserved win against Bloxam – a fine reward for all their hard work.

## *DD Seymour*

Squad: A Galligan, K Dyer, A Barker, S Mullins, J Purton, B Brassey, C Payne, A Baker, J Pattie, T Whittingham, R Ritchie, N Harper, W Nicholas, O Gould, J Foster, B MacPhee, J Farrow, B Hornsby, R Roets, C Drysdale, E Frezza, S Neal, O Basset, J Green, F Brenninkmeijer, M Rayburn, N McAllister, A Galloway

## 3rd XV

This season, despite starting with a large squad, injuries and losses from the 2nd XV to the 1st XV meant we could only field a 3rd XV on three occasions this term. However the result was a large competitive 2nd XV squad and all of the 3rd XV were fully involved with the training and all played at some point for the 2nd XV. Our first fixture was against Oratory and despite some committed defence and several storming runs on the wing from Welfare we lost 0 - 35. Next up we travelled to Merchant Taylors' where in a close fought end to end match we emerged with credit, despite running out eventual losers 43 - 12.

The whole team played well. Roets and Gould both crossed the line to score, but the highlight of the match was a storming pick up and run from the base of a ruck by McAlister who broke their defensive line and ran a full 30 metres to score under the posts. Our final fixture was part of a three period match against Henley College.

The 3rd XV took to the field for the second period and ran out confident winners 0 - 7. Strong defence, effective communication and good team work made this the best 20minutes of rugby played that afternoon. The fact that so many players turned out for training each week ensured competition for places in the 2nd XV was fierce, this exemplified the positive atmosphere within the squad and it was clear that all enjoyed their rugby this term.

## *GS Lawson*

## 16A

Thirteen proved to be unlucky for the opposition as Shiplake College's U16As completed the perfect season. An unbeaten season is a great achievement but for a small school like Shiplake almost every game gets David v Goliath billing.



## *16A Squad:*

R O'Connor, H King, J Jenkins, D Hawes, S Evans, M Thomas, A Roels, C Henderson, F Hegarty, C Andreou, J Wood, M Syropoulo, T Duthoit, J Southwell, E Quelch, J Dobree-Carey, S Quelch, D Bell, A Humphreys, H Richardson



The season began with a 12 – 17 win away at Abingdon School. No one had any thoughts of an unbeaten season when Shiplake were 32 – 19 down, away at Reading Blue School with just ten minutes left on the clock. In the corresponding fixture, at U14 level last season, Reading Blue Coat had won. Shiplake scored two tries, converted them both, and celebrated as the final whistle blew.

Into November the record seemed on the line again: With the squad due to play Magdalen College School, Captain James Dobree-Cary headed an ever-growing injury list. Five starters needed to be replaced but the squad produced a 19 - 3 victory.

Opposition coaches have been impressed by the team's ability to play for each other and to off-load the ball out of the tackle. There have been some halcyon days along the way with 60 points scored versus Lord Wandsworth College and 41 against local rivals Claires Court but it has not been an easy ride for the squad. They have spent long periods defending deep in their 22, with try-saving tackles being the order of the day.

*AD Dix*

## 16B

The U16Bs this year knew they would be in the shadow of the 16As and Oxfordshire champions, but we were determined not to let the U16 year down.

Unfortunately we couldn't help it as in our first match against The Oratory as Mr Caston decided to intervene. We were leading 14 - 0 with the match drawing to a close when Mr Caston made some questionable substitutions. The final score resulted in a 14 - 17 loss. We forgave him, however, and the team moved forward with confidence.

The Bs had then two convincing wins against Lord Wandsworth and Merchant Taylors', with the forwards starting to dominate and the backs making big carries up the middle. Mr Caston learnt his lesson and the season took off from there!

A 54 - 5 victory over Pangbourne set the tone for the rest of the season as we put in some superb winning performances.

This was an outstanding season with the entire squad making contributions. Toby Bownass won the "Player of the Season" award, Nick Hartley the "Most Improved", but everyone deserves credit for the way they performed throughout the term. Massive thanks to Mr Caston for his enthusiasm and passion from the sidelines.

Squad: T Bownass (Captain) Q Lalani, H Mills, P Brazier, R Coppock, B Piasecki-Jarvis, E Allen, R Armstrong, F Wilcox, J Ferguson, M Syropolou, T Woodford, C Moffatt, N Sarketbayev, E Sykes, N Hartley, J Hazell, J Warren, C Troup, E Johnson

*Toby Bownass*

## 15A

The success of a rugby team should not always be judged on their results but rather the progress that they make during a season. In the final game we played Bloxham School. Anyone standing on the touchline that day would have hardly recognised the team from the one that took to the field in early September. The balance of the team had to be re-structured from last season but in that final game it was clear that there were fifteen boys on the field who had learned the importance of playing as a team, something that had been holding them back and something they must continue to build on to make the most of their excellent potential in the years to come.

James Wright is a clear leader in this area and he did an excellent job as captain all year. Zac Bigley was voted the player of the season – his finishing on the wing was superb. Charlie Crane was awarded "Most Improved Player" and showed formidable footwork and ferocious tackling. Full colours were awarded to James Wright and Zac Bigley but all players deserve praise for the progress they made this year.

*BDP Pavey*

Squad: J Wright (captain), H Griffiths, B Holloway, B Francis, C Morley, A Law, D Goody, A Settle, W Laurenson, A Barker, H Laflin, H Breckenridge, H Grummit, C Crane, L Szewczyk, Z Bigley, R Fitz-Hugh, A Mustafa, C Dempster, O Horsburgh-Wade, B Hearn, J Cowmeadow, M Thomas, T Thornton-Smith.



## 15B

Under the inspired and dedicated leadership of Gap Student Mr Henry Wells, the U15B team had a hugely successful season. Their playing record was impressive but you had to be present on the touchline to get a real taste of the type of rugby played by these enthusiastic and skilful players. In any other year most of these boys would have held firm positions in the A team, but such is the depth of talent in the year group, they found themselves playing B team rugby.

The stunning victory over Magdalen College School in Oxford has to be the highlight of the season. The lead changed hands a number of times in this nail-biting game but the resolve and grittiness of our players, together with their impressive discipline won through. Jack Cowmeadow at fly-half, skipper Liam Collins on the wing, Teddy Hewins at centre and Chris Kerrigan in the pack, played especially key roles in the game. Matches against Merchant Taylors' and Pangbourne also provided particularly impressive spectacles.

As an assistant coach, I was hugely impressed by the way the players responded to the challenges they faced and by the way they rewarded their excellent coach, Henry Wells with such enthusiasm, spirit and dedication. Their response to him at the final whistle of the final game and his tears soon after spoke volumes.

*NJ Brown*

Squad: L Collins, T Hewins, J Cowmeadow, J Dempster, C Dempster, A McAlister, H Breckenridge, I Brown, J Cam, T Cottrell, B Hearn, B Holloway, O Horsburgh-Wade, C Kerrigan, A Law, J Love, L Maguire, C Miller, T Noyce, A Settle, M Smith, A Turton, C Uprichard

## 14A

Despite a quite horrendous playing record (one win all season), hopes for the future for this squad are quite high. They spent much of the term dealing with the basic skills of catching, passing and tackling and some very simple attacking and defensive structures. In addition, they developed a core fitness which should stand them in excellent stead for the years ahead.

Captain James Riley led from the front. Although small in stature he has a big heart and a keen eye for a gap. His work outside was complemented by the superb running lines and pace of Piers Chen who relishes the open field. Up front Michael Glover shone, putting his head in places most people would not dare to park their cars. Based on his performances this season, Michael has a great future in the game ahead of him.

The whole squad deserves much credit for the progress they made this term. 50-point drubbings in less than half an hour were common occurrences early in the season. In the last three or four games they produced some sparkling running rugby just being pipped at the post by both Magdalen and Bloxham.

Keep working hard guys, the rewards will come!

*RB Curtis*

Squad: N Arbuckle, H Birtles, P Chen, T Clark  
M Glover, M Lapham, H Milroy, S Morin  
D Pullman, A Rewcastle, J Riley, T Stevens  
G Davis, C Foster, G Jardine, Z Jones, S Al-Gharyani

## 14B

The Shiplake U14B squad have made a great start to their careers at the college. They won over half of their games and improved every week. As a squad they had great team spirit and I am sure they will go on to see more success in the future.

Some of the Bs had a chance at A team level and on the tour to Bath. Madden developed into a top try-scoring full back, Green played an outstanding game as centre, Henry Robinson showed his agility and tackling, whilst Jarrett, Leeves, Room and MacLaurin held the pack together. Watch out for this squad next year!

*J Southwell*

Squad: O MacLaurin, T Room, B Rose, J Donald  
A Kallipetis, H Leeves, J Forrest, C Foster,  
O Jarrett, K Bowerin, L Miller-Bains, H Robinson,  
M Green, K Dhillon, M Robinson, E Hildred,  
H Cheesewright, J Rossi-Bull



## 14C Rugby

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* has this to say on the subject of the Fourteen See rugby team

Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Thames in Oxfordshire lies a small unregarded set of rugby pitches.

Orbiting this and occasionally playing on them are a select group of utterly significant boys who are still so amazingly primitive that they think attempting a scissors move to be a pretty neat idea.

This team has, or rather had, a problem back in September, which was this: some of the players were unskilled. Many solutions were suggested for this, but most of them were largely concerned with an oval ball, which was odd, because on the whole it wasn't the ball which was unskilled. Yet by the end of the season most of the players, especially George Macphee, had improved immeasurably.

Then one day, led by their inspirational captain Jonny Donald, they played against a neighbouring alien species, Pangbourne, passing tackling and rucking with consummate skill and winning the match 14 earth points to 5 earth points.

The best way to entertain a Fourteen See is to chase him from one end of a pitch to another shouting 'I'm coming to get you', and the best way to annoy him is to ensure he plays flanker when all he wants to do is lurk at full back.

*CE Alcock*

Squad: S Cartwright, J Girling, E Elcock, H Heilpern, G MacPhee, N Bond, J Donald, J Shraga, B Rose, P Vanner, J Kilroy, O Kelly, D Causer, F Paoletta-Kemp, A Bhalla, C Effenberg, A Copeland, D Correa, T Merryweather, S Shelley, J Wilson,

## 1st XI Hockey

This year's 1st XI played some very exciting and exhilarating hockey, and enjoyed a good number of excellent victories. Although we narrowly lost the opening match against Pangbourne on a semi-frozen pitch, the team displayed a lot of pace, skill and character. A tremendous team performance at Lord Wandsworth brought about a confidence-boosting 3 -1 victory before playing Magdalen College School. We were totally outplayed in the first half losing 4 - 0, but with terrific determination and skilful play we got back to 4 - 3 but conceded a further goal in the last few minutes. Before half-term Sir William Borlase, Milton Abbey and Reading Blue Coat were all beaten convincingly, with solid defence and spirited midfield play being capped by regular goalscoring by James Luscombe and Callum Thomas.

At the start of the second half of the season a 3 - 3 draw against a very good Windsor Boys' team seemed like a defeat as we allowed them to equalise in the last minute. Even when playing below our best we were too good for Stowe and we beat Mill Hill in rather a feisty encounter. Rather disappointingly, in the final game of the season the team were well beaten in the re-match against Pangbourne.

Without doubt this 1st XI's finest performance was against Bloxham, the Oxon U18 champions. Ross Ritchie made a number of outstanding saves in goal; defenders were disciplined and tight in their marking; midfield and wingers worked tirelessly; strikers linked well and scored the vital goals. Jack Broome, an inspirational captain, led by excellent example by breaking up Bloxham attacks and setting up our counter-play with great vision and passing. This 3 - 2 win must rank as one of Shiplake's best ever victories.

In goal, Ross Ritchie grew in confidence and became a very difficult keeper to beat; in defence, David Hawes, Sasha Burgess and Anthony Kay were a solid and dependable unit; in midfield, the skill and energy of James Wood, Adam Davies, Olly Gould and Ed Bowers were key to our success. The wingers, Olly Watkins-Murphy and James Black, worked tirelessly and improved their play enormously.



# Hockey

The strikers, James Luscombe and Callum Thomas, whilst being powerfully individual, became a formidable combination with their stamina, pace and seriously good stick skills, scoring any number of great goals. Harvey Richardson and Charles Sampson also contributed significantly to the team's successful season. My thanks go to Jeremy Clark for his inspiring coaching and to Mrs AJ Foakes for her excellent umpiring.

*PCJ Gould*

1st XI Squad : R Ritchie, A Kay, S Burgess, D Hawes, J Broome, E Bowers, J Wood, A Davies, O Gould, O Watkins-Murphy, J Black, J Luscombe, CThomas, H Richardson, C Sampson.

## 2nd XI

The matches were played in all weathers, snow at the beginning through drizzle and fog and finally in brilliant sunshine at the end. It was one of our most successful seasons as we only lost two matches to Magdalen College and Pangbourne.

The Magdalen game was hard-fought and remained at 1-1 for much of the game before we lost to a late goal. It was the best result we have ever had against them! It was a whole team effort throughout the term and this allowed Joe Southwell to score an average of two goals every game!

The team enjoyed themselves so much that during our last game against Pangbourne in the sun, they were mentally lazing on a faraway beach somewhere whilst the opposition were out for revenge and managed to put four goals in against us! The side was ably led by Charlie Sampson and a good spirit within the side made it an extremely enjoyable season.

*R C Snellgrove*

Squad: D Bell, C Sampson (C), C Payne, R Armstrong, A Williams, T Imlay, R Skinner, O Gould, J Wilcox, N Harper, J Foster, H Richardson, J Southwell, H Lewis, R Roets



## 15A

We started the season a bit nervously with quite a few changes in position for lots of players in the team. Against Pangbourne we were unlucky to lose 1-0 as we were slightly the better side on the day, but we paid the price for not converting our chances. Our second match against Lord Wandsworth was lost fair and square against a better side. Even so we were beginning to settle into our ideal positions and starting to play as a team.

Then our season all changed with a great match against a strong Bloxham side to whom we had lost last season. We played a brilliant passing game with Charlie Crane and Zac Bigley finishing off our chances with some great goals. Jack Cowmeadow also started his very successful season striking penalty corners with a great goal to give us a 5 - 1 victory.

This started our winning run of seven games scoring 35 goals and conceding only 4. To beat strong Stowe and Magdalen sides in this run was a really good reflection of just how well the team played.

Sadly a very strong Abingdon side sadly ended our winning run, but we then went on to beat Pangbourne in a rematch (3 - 1) and it was great to turn around the early season's loss.

It was not all attack play and our defence, with Will Laurenson, Liam Collins and Teddy Hewins proved very solid and made the difference in quite a few tight games with Chris Morley in goal getting better and better as the season went on.



One important key to our success was the control of the midfield and Harry Laflin, Ben Francis and Jack Cowmeadow provided this control in most of our matches. Our great team performances were helped with some excellent width coming from our wingers Tom Butterfield and Tom Cottrell.

We finished the season with eight matches won, one drawn and three lost which was a great record and the season was thoroughly enjoyed by all the team. On behalf of the team I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Mannix our coach and to the many parents who came and supported our team on lots of occasions.

*Teddy Hewins Year 10*

## 15B

Not the best of seasons in terms of results but the squad pulled together on a number of occasions to perform strongly against Bloxham and also to record thumping wins over Milton Abbey and local rivals Pangbourne.

At the back Ed Marsh and Daniel Rubin made fine contributions snuffing out attack after attack. The midfield led by Aliyu Mustapha, a fine talent for the future, never stopped running and the poaching pair of Chris Baxter and Louis Tindall picked up any scraps after good inter-play to score the majority of the squad's goals.

With more comfort on the ball and a greater willingness to work on and off the ball, this squad should develop well and provide a number of quality players for the senior squads next year.

*RB Curtis*

Squad: E Marsh, D Rubin, I Brown, G Shaw, A Campbell, T Thornton-Smith, M Smith, B Hearn, L Tindall, O Horsburgh-Wade, C Baxter, A Mustapha

## 14A

The U14 team has enjoyed a quite successful season this year. Although the first two matches were losses to Lord Wandsworth College and Windsor boys the team learnt much from both fixtures. They won four of the next five games, including notable victories over Abingdon and Bloxham. Again they learnt much from their trip to Magdalen College School and they finished the season with a very close match against Pangbourne, drawing 1 - 1 and then a return fixture against Windsor which they won comfortably. Many thanks must go to Mr Robin Haywood who umpired many of the games and helped coach the team during the week.

During the season it has been a pleasure to see the potential and talent within the team begin to emerge. At the back Max Robinson grew in confidence in the goal whilst Henry Milroy, Henry Robinson and Lachlan Smith developed some good strategies for set pieces. Donald, Riley and Kelly were the mid-field engine room and Sam Baker showed some slick stick skills that impressed many opposition coaches. Sami Al-Ghariyani and Nick Arbuckle worked hard at the front to produce the goals and Tom Clark did an outstanding job of captain, playing out of his favourite position to direct operations from midfield.

*AJ Foakes*

Squad: S Al Ghariyani, N Arbuckle, S Baker, T Clark (Capt) J Donald, H Heilpern, O Kelly, H Milroy, J Riley, M Robinson, H Robinson, L Smith

## 14B

Our solitary win, defying both Abingdon and a bouncy grass pitch has been tempered by unlucky performances against Windsor Boys' and arch rivals Pangbourne.

The skill, dribbling and finishing of captain Shraga has been a highlight of the season and in all truth we've been lucky not to lose him to the As. Shelley and Wilson have been used as impact players whilst Dhillon's commitment to the cause has been unique. Our midfield duo of Correa and Rose has worked tirelessly to improve whilst the keeping of Jones has often proved to be the final stumbling block for an opponent.

*R Royal*

Squad: J Shagra (C), Z Jones, D Causer, A Kallepitis, M Green, K Dhillon, S Shelley, J Wilson, B Rose, O MacLaurin, J Madden, D Correa, A Bhalla



## Netball

This season has been a successful season for the netball club winning seven out of ten matches.

This season has seen a vast improvement from the both the A and B teams which has been reflected in the scores of our matches. This is due to our wonderful coach Lou and Miss Erasmus we could not have done it without her help. A special mention must go to Totie Southwell, Abl Tomson, Olivia Bellhouse, Kate Aldridge, Annie Elphick and Felicity Lowes for playing outstandingly throughout the season for the A team. Also credit must go to members of the B team who played with great determination throughout the season. As captain I am very pleased with the results of the season especially beating Pangbourne College, Reading Blue Coat and Queen Anne's. I would have to say that those three matches were the highlights of our season. Also ending the season with an exceptional 27 - 4 win over Thames Valley University I feel sums up our entire season.



**Squad:** A Southwell, O Bellhouse, A Tomson, N Mustapha, K Aldridge, F Lowes, A Elphick, O Rose, R Walmsley, T Merson, A Merson, C Stow, G Crane, H Fitzgerald, A Brown

*Nafisa Mustapha Year 13*

## Girls' Hockey

For the first time this year, Shiplake produced a 1st XI Girls' Hockey team. There was a huge range in skill within the group, from those who had not picked up a stick before to those playing at county level already. What was fantastic to see was the encouragement given by the latter to the former. Initial practice sessions with boys from the 1st XI saw all the girls improve their skills and mixed matches against Henley College gave invaluable experience to all the girls. However, it was with trepidation that the girls turned out for their fixture against Leighton Park. Playing better opposition can be demoralising but in fact the girls learned important lessons in tactics, ball manoeuvring and communication.

As matches were played so the team began to come together. Rebecca Walmsley made a good Captain, controlling the midfield ably assisted by Olivia Bellhouse, Nafisa Mustapha and Emily Hatch.

Aless Williams used her experience to control the defence, helping Hannah Fitzgerald, Alice Brown and Vicky Dovaston to keep the opposition offence at bay. Georgie Crane was outstanding in goal, in one match saving not one but two penalty flicks! The forwards began to gain in confidence with Jade Williams and Parris Bigley running interference and Totie Southwell, doing a good impression of a St Trinian's girl, terrorising the opposition defence allowing us to score goals! As a result two wins were recorded against Bearwood and Henley College and an honourable draw against Pangbourne.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts Commendations were awarded to Alice Brown, Georgie Crane, Hannah Fitzgerald, Emily Hatch and Jade Williams. Half colours went to Parris Bigley, Aless Williams, Olivia Bellhouse, Nafisa Mustapha and Totie Southwell. At the Sports dinner the trophy for Players' Player, and Full Colours went to Rebecca Walmsley and Player of the Year to Aless Williams. The girls would like to thank the two coaches, Mrs Jo Southwell for her patience in training and umpiring matches.

*AJ Foakes*



## 1st XI

The statistics show that this was a 50:50 season, seven wins, seven losses and a draw but this was perhaps flattered by three victories in the Twenty20 Tournament at Reading Blue Coat. There were fine wins against Blue Coat, Claires Court, SOA (Williams 4 for 28) and Pangbourne. Unfortunately we came second best against the stronger sides on the circuit such as Bloxham and Magdalen but against Reed's the team raised their game and showed the quality of cricket that we hoped they would be able to maintain for the rest of the season. The concern of not having batsmen who could regularly score 50s or 100s was well placed, although Sasha Burgess scored 62 against Claires Court and 60 against Bearwood. Wood, Williams and Broome in particular looked capable of this at times though.

Jack Broome (Player of the Season) certainly "came to the party" at Blue Coat's inaugural Twenty20 Tournament scoring 53, 109 and 30; he also captained increasingly well throughout the season and was an extremely gifted wicketkeeper. He also scored the most runs for the season, 414 at an average of 34.5; Oliver Gould had the highest average of 43, as he was not out five times. Victory in this tournament rounded off the season superbly, beating Reading, Windsor and Blue Coat. James Black (Most Improved Player) took 3 wickets and scored 38 not out in the final. Just as pleasing was the fact that four Y10 boys stepped in on the day and showed that the future of the 1st XI, with only four Year 13 leaving, looks promising.

From the regular bowlers, the highest wicket taker was James Black with 16, at an average of 19.9. Harry Williams took 15 wickets with his dangerous left arm in swing, and I would like to thank him, Jack Hyde, Sasha Burgess, Jack Broome, and Richard Armstrong, and wish them the best for their cricketing futures. Ross Ritchie, Oliver Gould, Tom Imlay and James Luscombe also bowled fine spells during the season.

I would like to thank Mr Cane-Hardy for coaching the squad, Richard, Mark and George for the grounds and all those who have supported the cricket club throughout the 2009 season.

*AD Dix*



Squad: J Broome (C), H Williams, J Hyde, S Burgess, J Luscombe, J Black, R Ritchie, J Wood, O Gould, T Whittingham, T Imlay, O. Watkins-Murphy, R Armstrong, J Dobree-Carey

## 2nd XI

Cricket is truly alive and well when Shiplake can muster a second team squad of twenty-one players. As a result of the large squad the match day team varied greatly and prevented our team from 'gelling'. However, there were a few outstanding performances: Ben Mitchem scored a classy 66, Peter Brazier contributed with both bat and ball and Alastair Galloway saved the team some blushes with a much needed 44 when our backs were against the wall. Generally the squad performed well and enjoyed the competition for places. Next year I hope we can improve on our 1 in 6 win ratio.

Squad: E Sykes, A Galloway, B Mitchem, T Morgan, H Richardson, C Sparks, B Downey, T Imlay, A Humphreys, C Smart, F Smith, J Pattie, H Coaker, N Hartley, C Moffatt, F Brenninkmeijer, H Wilson, T Whittingham, P Brazier, J Dobree-Carey, S Quelch

## 15A

This side has the potential to be a very good cricket team indeed. There are some very talented individuals and there is good strength in depth. On many occasions we lost our most promising batsmen for small scores but the lower order offered resistance and helped us to some decent scores. The bowlers worked hard this season but they need to work on a more consistent line and length in order to make batsmen work harder for their runs.



Batting highlights of the term were watching Henry Breckenridge and Harry Laflin develop as good openers. They will be looking to build on their averages of 17 and 15 respectively next season. Ben Francis not only captained the side very well but also scored a superb century (111) against Pangbourne. Matt Thomas, with 58 not out against Lord Williams, showed what an effective Twenty20 player he could become.

Harry Grummitt had many good innings but his best efforts were with the ball. He was awarded the 'Junior Bowling Award' this year, partly thanks to 3 for 4 from four overs against Faringdon. Matt Thomas and Zac Bigley should both develop into top opening bowlers in years to come. Ian Brown was always dangerous with the swinging ball and Thomas Butterfield was very effective and economic with his spin bowling.

The season ended in disappointment as we lost in the final of the Oxfordshire Cup. However, as the grumpy coach needed reminding at the time, we had done well to get there and the team should be proud of their achievements this year. Team work will be the key to their success in the future.

*BD Pavey*

Squad: B Francis (C), Z Bigley, H Breckenridge, I Brown, T Butterfield, A Campbell, L Collins, H Grummitt, O Horsburgh-Wade, H Laflin, M Thomas, T Thornton-Smith

## 15B

After early defeats versus Bloxham and Reed's, and that was by a mere six runs, when the batting line-up had been decimated by A team call-ups, the 15Bs did not want the season to end once they had hit an unbeaten run.

On three occasions the team exceeded scores of 160 in Twenty20 games. Cowmeadow and Miller soon saw off any threat from opening bowling attacks - they have the temperament and technique to do this at a higher level - then Shaw, with three fifties and Baxter with two, demolished the bowling.

Govani and Hearn proved to be the leading wicket-takers with Love developing into a good pace bowler. Back from injury Laurenson took a hat-trick against Pangbourne and Tindall's leg-spin developed. Billy Hearn, Captain, had the unusual problem of keeping everyone involved as the team rarely lost more than 4 wickets and then bowled the opposition out in less than the allocated overs. It was to his credit that he involved everyone and kept morale sky-high.

*M Edwards*

Squad: B Hearn, C Miller, G Shaw, C Baxter, L Maguire, L Tindall, W Laurenson, A Mustapha, A Govani, L Szewczyk, J Love, C Moore, J Lewis, T Hewins, H Griffiths, M Smith

## 14A

The U14 A team did not achieve the results they had hoped for over the course of the year but made huge strides both as individual cricketers and as a team unit. Three wins and seven losses do not reflect the progress made in all compartments of the game and they can look forward to next year with confidence.

Led well by Zac Jones, wins were recorded against Pangbourne, Claires Court and King Alfred's, while we lost only narrowly to Bloxham. Zac scored over 240 runs at an average of 41, including a brilliant unbeaten hundred against Claire's Court. He also took 4 for 16 against Pangbourne. Others chipped in with valuable runs. Duncan Pullman, Alex Kallipetis, Toby Stevens (joining after half term from rowing) and Tom Clark all played some decent innings. Lachlan Smith, bowling leg spin, Piers Emmerson, James Riley recorded decent figures at different times over the course of the season.

Some hard work is needed over the winter to achieve greater consistency of line and length and more wickets, and thus victories, will follow. Fielding highlights include some great catches from Emmerson and Pullman, while Donald and Smith were dynamite in the covers. Many thanks to Mr Chapman for his help with the coaching and umpiring and also to Ashley Copeland for scoring in the early part of the season.

*TPJ Caston*



Squad: Z Jones (C), N Arbuckle, D Pullman, J Donald, J Riley, A Kallipetis, A Bhalla, L Smith, O Kelly, J Madden, P Emmerson, T Clark, T Stevens, O MacLaurin

## 14B

Having elected to field, the U14Bs began the season well with a decent fielding performance highlighted by debutant Sam Baker's 5 for 23. Sadly, such penetrative bowling did not continue throughout the campaign save for some erratic spells by the, at times mercurial, Nick Arbuckle. Mid-season finds James Shraga and Harry Cheesewright both contributed with mysterious spin bowling and a lower order dash.

Yet inconsistency turned out to be Shiplake's undoing as very seldom did all eleven perform at once. The small squad from the outset grew almost day by day with the likes of Jack Forrest and Jack Madden joining stalwarts Ben Rose, Cameron Foster and captain Michael Green. Summarising the sublime, and the not so, was the penultimate game at home against Oratory; a dangerous opening spell from Ashley Steel saw two of their big hitting batsman walk back to the grass pavilion before rain, as the old cliché insists, stopped play.

*R Royal*

## Tennis

Tennis on four afternoons, professional coaching twice-a-week, regular matches, a choice of hard, astro or grass courts to play on – what more could our 1st VI wish for during this year's sunny season.

Our first pair, Ben Brassey and Chris Payne, grew in confidence and developed into a formidable partnership. The captain, Anthony Kay, and debutant Ed Bowers as second pair deserved the plaudit of 'The Most Improved Pair' as the season unfolded, finding consistency in their groundstrokes with ever more effective volleying. Has Shiplake ever had a more relaxed third pair I wonder? And yet, to be fair, Ben MacPhee and Josh Crawford did play very effectively at times, with Josh winning my personal award for 'The Most Improved Player'.

A disappointing defeat in the opening match at Pangbourne spurred on the team to practise hard and victories over Cokethorpe, Leighton Park and Reading soon followed. The Oratory and Abingdon proved to be too strong, but an excellent win against Lord Wandsworth restored the team's spirits and was to be our best performance of the season. The final match was against Radley, who were keen to avenge their defeat last year, and they showed our boys that we can still improve considerably. However, with only our captain leaving, the future for 1st VI tennis looks bright.

The 2nd team had a large squad to pull from and plenty of keen and able players. All those involved trained consistently well even though there were other college commitments dragging them in a multitude of different directions. As usual a number of the players found their way into the 1st team on occasions where they acquitted themselves well. The fixture list was not long but was testing for those who made the trips to Leighton Park, The Oratory, Abingdon and Radley. We came up against some very tough opposition along the way but we always fought hard even though success, in terms of winning, was not always evident. A large number of the squad are returning next year so we will endeavour to increase the fixture list. Unfortunately however we are always slightly curtailed by the pressures and logistics of examinations.

The juniors showed promise from the off. There were a number of boys from last year and some very able new Year 9s with plenty of tennis experience behind them. All utilised the professional coaching on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to full effect and worked hard on their game. The season was smattered with success but there were also afternoons where we were outplayed by cunning opposition. We played Pangbourne, Cokethorpe, Reading, The Oratory, Lord Wandsworth and finished up with a reverse fixture at home against Pangbourne. The future of the tennis club looks rosy if the boys continue to demonstrate the enthusiasm, commitment and skill displayed over the course of this term through to next year.

*AFJ Hunt*



# Rowing

The Shiplake College Boat Club continues to thrive with the ever growing numbers of all squads combined with the usual commitment and dedication from the coaching staff. This season all crews performed well, gaining two National School Medals which is a testament to the hard work that all members of the Boat Club have undertaken. In addition we continue to be supported by an army of parents providing much needed food and encouragement for both rowers and coaches at all races.

## J14s Make an excellent start

New coach Keith Settle arrived in September eager to make a good impression and with more than 30 boys to select from he certainly recognised the potential to have two good octuples. As always January proved to be a very challenging month with both flooding and snow but real progress was made and they soon started to scull competently. The first test was to compete at Hampton Head and Reading University Head where both crews performed creditably. This preparation enabled both the A and B Octuples to perform well at the National Junior Sculling Head.

The Easter holiday is when the real hard work began with an excellent Easter Training Camp at Shiplake where all boys gained valuable experience in Singles and practised the capsized test on numerous occasions. This hard work was rewarded at Thames Ditton Regatta where the A crew won their event in fine style. Both crews travelled to Nottingham in high spirits and full of confidence as the A crew reached the final and finished sixth. The B crew also performed well and should be proud of their performance in their first year of rowing.

This squad finished the season in style with some strong performances at Thames Valley Park Regatta and I am sure that there is much to come from this very talented year group.

J14 A VIII Squad: H Birtles, E Elcock, G Davis, S Morin, L Simmonds, M Lapham, G Jardine, J Rossi Bull, L Miller Bains

J14 B VIII Squad: N Bond, E Hildred, H Leeves, P Chen, M Glover, J Girling, T Stevens, G MacPhee, P Vanner

## J15 Continued Enthusiasm

Sally Satch continued the fine development of rowers in this motivated group of oarsmen. After much hard work two Eights were selected for the Head Race season and with the additional coaching of Nick Halford and Will Satch, both high performing rowers, morale was very high.

Encouraging performances at the early season races suggested good pace and both crews performed well at the Schools' Head with the A crew finishing in an impressive 12th in their category.

The J15s also enjoyed a good training camp and plenty of racing experience at the Gent International Regatta where all boys raced numerous times, Charles Simpson setting the record by racing five times over 2000m. This training prepared the A VIII and the newly selected Coxed IV for the regatta season that started well with some good performances at Wallingford Regatta and the Eton Regatta. At National Schools' the J15 Coxed Four finished eighth in the country in the Mariners Cup and the J15 VIII finished 11th in the Junior Colts Cup.

In addition to this there has also been a J15 A Coxed Quad made up of members from the Eight that have performed very well all season. Highlights for this crew include racing in the semi final at NSR and winning Reading Amateur Regatta for the second consecutive season.

There have also been two J15 doubles this season that have made tremendous progress and developed their skills throughout the season. They also raced well at Thames Ditton Regatta and Thames Valley Park Regatta.

This group should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication and I am sure we will see some excellent results in the next few seasons.

J15 A VIII: C Simpson, J Wright, R Fitz Hugh, A Barker, A Settle, A Clapham, A Rewcastle, C Gabe, J Wise

J15 Coxed IV: D Williams, C Dempster, C Kerrigan, J Oke, D Gooddy

J15 Doubles: J Cam, A Lloyd, D Plato, D Brady





## J16s Hard work rewarded

The J16s started the season well with lots of hard work and commitment as they focussed their training towards another strong season. The first race at Hampton Head resulted in a win for the crew that gave them confidence that their training would be rewarded. Further Head Races continued to show good pace but they struggled to beat Eton and had to settle for a number of second places. Unfortunately the crew did not race at Schools' Head due to illness but a strong training camp in Belgium and some good regatta racing at Gent including a win for the Coxless Four prepared the crew well for the regatta season.

The regatta season continued to show the pace that the crew had with further second places at Eton Regatta and Bedford Regatta as well as third place at Wallingford Regatta. The main focus as always was going to be National Schools' Regatta in which the crew secured the silver medal just behind Eton but ahead of a number of very strong rowing schools including Westminster, Abingdon, Radley and Kingston Grammar School. This was an impressive result and it is also the third consecutive year that the crew has been within the top three Eights in the country.



After National Schools' the crew continued training to try and gain qualification into the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Regatta. Preparations for this appeared to be going well with the crew winning three events at Reading Amateur Regatta but unfortunately they just missed out on qualification in this university event. In addition a number of the boys just missed out on qualification for the Great Britain Under 16 Team. Despite this I am sure it will inspire them over the next few years as they try and gain a seat in what could be a very strong 1st VIII.

J16 A VIII: E Quelch, J MacLeod, A Roels, E Allen, S Evans, C Andreou, T Bownass, O Vizard, C Troup

## Girls' Rowing

There has also been a strong group of girls rowing this season led by the excellent Emma Arnold. Although they have not participated at many regattas they have learnt the skills required for both rowing and sculling all of which have been new to these girls this season. Special mention should go to the Girls' Quad that raced at Thames Ditton Regatta and for the very enthusiastic Maddie Reynolds for all her hard work coaching various crews this season.

Girls' A Quad: F Lowes, K Aldridge, T Southwell, M de Haan

*Support for the  
1st VIII at  
Henley Royal  
Regatta*



# Rowing



## J18s achieve their potential

After a challenging season in 2008 the senior group of rowers returned highly motivated for what would be for many of the crew their last year at Shiplake. New Head Coach Hugh Mackworth-Praed set the standards exceptionally high and the squad soon settled down to some hard training with a real determination to succeed. Early Head Races showed inconsistent form with some good wins at Hammersmith Head but some slightly disappointing results. Schools' Head suggested that the 1st VIII was beginning to gain speed as they finished 15th but this dedicated crew was focussed on achieving even more during the regatta season.

As was the case for all crews the Easter Training Camp proved a real turning point for the 1st VIII as they began to quickly pick up speed and row more efficiently at a higher rate. This form resulted in four events being won at Gent Regatta although disappointingly they narrowly lost the Eights race to Monmouth School. At the start of the summer term the crew remained at Shiplake to continue training hard but they performed very well at Wallingford Regatta. At this regatta the 1st VIII reached both finals of the events that they entered. In the morning division they finished third in the IM3 event ahead of St Edward's and Radley's 1st VIII. In the afternoon they also finished third in the J18 B Vllls just being beaten by Kings College School by 1 foot. The final preparation race before NSR at Poplar Regatta resulted in an excellent performance with the crew finishing in second place in an impressive time of 5.59 in the IM2 category.

At National Schools' the crew entered the Child Beale Cup and progressed well into the final after finishing fourth in the time trial and second in the semi final.

### Senior Squad:

R McKellar  
J Albon  
M Tyrwhitt Drake  
F Marriott  
C Emerson  
J Goddard  
M Turner  
J Briggs  
T Frossell  
A Middleton  
J Dempster

In the final the crew won the Bronze medal behind Bedford Modern and Kingston Grammar School. Although they had aspirations to achieve an even better result they should be very pleased to have won the bronze medal in this very competitive event. On the Sunday of racing the VIII broke down into a Pair and Coxed VIII with the Pair coming 5th in the Championship event.

The other highlight for the season for the 1st VIII was racing at Henley Regatta and this year the crew really performed well.

In the first round on Wednesday they drew Norwich School and dominated the race from the start finishing 3 and half lengths ahead of Norwich. On Thursday the crew raced local rivals Pangbourne College and despite pushing Pangbourne hard they lost by one and a half lengths. Overall this top crew should be pleased with an encouraging season and the six members of the crew that leave Shiplake they should be congratulated for being excellent role models throughout their time in the Boat Club. The returning rowers should be prepared for even more hard work next season.....

## The Future

As these reports suggest it has been a strong season for the Boat Club and I look forward to watching all crews develop and enhance the growing reputation of rowing at Shiplake. I would also like to thank all the coaches and staff at Shiplake for contributing so much and for giving such excellent coaching to all the crews. I look forward to the 2010 season and I am confident that it will be another great season for Shiplake.

*TE Crisford*



# Leavers

## Judith Smail



Judy Smail's three decade association with Shiplake College began in 1979 when Andrew, her husband, joined the College as a teacher. Then in 1982, Robert Southwood, a teacher of French, died and Judy was asked to take on some lessons part-time. For the next twenty seven years the Modern Languages department benefited from Judy's immense care and professionalism. Even on her last day she was still concerned as to whether her GCSE pupils would fulfil their potential on results' day.

As a Housemaster's wife Judy helped to develop Burr from a House where some boys lived in caravans whilst others did their prep on the garden shed. The Thursday evening hot chocolate, chats and games evenings were immensely popular with the boys.

In 1997 it was time to move on from Burr and the marriage ended. Judy moved to Henley but kept her part-time teaching position. The Modern Languages Department was expanding and it was Judy's immaculate preparation and meticulous attention to detail that was required. In 2001, after nineteen years as a part-time teacher Judy took on a full-time timetable. She also became a Skipwith Tutor. The years in Burr has shown Judy's skills as a patient listener; many of the pupils from those long-ago Burr days are still in touch. It may have been another era but Judy's traditional skills of care, concern and listening were as valuable to Skipwith as they had once been to Burr.

The Headmaster had one last challenge for Judy. She was asked to create a Community Service programme for those pupils who had not opted for the CCF on a Tuesday afternoon. In a remarkably short period of time Judy found places for dozens of pupils at the Old People's Home, the Henley charity shops, gardening for the elderly and at local primary schools. Creating the system was only the tip of the iceberg. Regular contact had to be maintained with these local organisations.

Judy has been part of the Shiplake bedrock for over three decades, a pillar of the community, singing in the choir, attending hundreds of school events and adding a wise and practical voice to policy debates. As she retires, with a little more time to spare, there is no doubt that Judy will be a regular visitor to Old Viking Society events, meeting once more with the alumni whose success she has helped to shape.

## Robert Prance



Robert arrived at Shiplake at the most tragic of times. Tom Stafford, a Year 11 pupil had died in a tragic shooting accident. One of Robert's first duties was to conduct Tom's funeral.

By the time he arrived at Shiplake he had been a school Chaplain at Sherborne School for 9 years, a parish priest for a further eighteen years and he had experience as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor and Bereavement Counsellor.



Robert found the words and tone both to remind us of the joy of Tom's precious youth whilst at the same time helping us to deal with the profound sense of loss. Those of us present knew that Shiplake was fortunate to have acquired an outstanding Chaplain. Being a School Chaplain is not an easy job and Robert had arrived at a time when the Chaplaincy needed rebuilding, Robert was the right man, at the right time, to take on that long term task of putting in the belief, immense energy and architecture.

Getting the little things right was at the heart of Robert's philosophy. He knew that asking after a new puppy or a poorly Granny meant so much to pupils, particularly if they were a little home sick or unsure of themselves.

"My job is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable," was the credo at the heart of Robert's preaching and teaching. He saw himself as a Chaplain first and a teacher second. Yet numbers for GCSE Religious Studies grew and results and enthusiasm for the subject developed to the extent where he was able to introduce A Level Theology.

As a Parish Priest in rural Dorset, Robert was very aware of the rhythms and rituals of the Christian Year. Harvest Festival, All Souls' and Ascension Day were all occasions that were marked with a relevance and gentle humour that induced even the staunchest of enthusiasts to reluctantly open half an ear.

Unbelievably Robert had a reserve list of Sxith Formers ready to rise at six o'clock in the morning to celebrate Ascension Day with a service on Maidensgrove Meadow and a game of rounders in the long grass, shining with the morning dew. His reports on the heavenly clash between the Deputy Head Chapel Warden and the Head Chapel Warden were inevitably full of typical *double-entendres*.

Although retirement and a move to his beloved West Country had been on the agenda for many years, Robert could not resist one more challenge before that well-deserved retirement. For just a year Robert steps into the breach as Chaplain at St Edmund's School, Canterbury.

## Lowri Cook



Immaculate organisation, impeccable preparation and utter professionalism were the hallmarks when Lowri Cook arrived from Queen Annes' School, nine years ago, to become Shiplake's Head of English. It was a department already buzzing with enthusiasm and creativity. Lowri championed the traditional rigours of careful spelling and sound grammar. Preserving the apostrophe became a personal crusade for her. Pupils, with firm discipline, came to achieve more than they thought they could. With excellent GCSE results behind them the number of pupils opting for A Level English increased.

Many Old Vikings still remember Lowri's delightful production of *P'tang, Yang, Kipperbang* and the way she elicited entertaining debuts from an unlikely combination of Year 10 boys and Sixth Form girls. Throughout her Shiplake days Lowri made a much appreciated contribution to the College Chamber Choir.

Lowri's talents for organisation and shifting immovable mountains were required on a larger stage and she moved onto the wide-ranging role of Senior Teacher. Arriving from Queen Anne's school Lowri had little experience of using a computer. She flourished on the Intel Teach to the Future course and discovered that her precise logical thinking enabled her to achieve far more than she initially believed. With the installation of a new School Management of Information System Lowri was able to assimilate the training rapidly and provide a vision of how the school could benefit from the opportunities provided.



# Leavers

A new reporting system was designed and implemented and lesson registration became a reality. Huge amounts of valuable pupil information were stored and readily available to every teacher and tutor.

Lowri was adept at organising and chairing meetings. She had an ability to see the need for change and to introduce it quickly. GCSE Law, through distance learning, was introduced, and Lowri taught the new subject of AS Critical Thinking to Year 12.

Lowri retires to spend more time at home, whilst her husband Nicholas, a former Shiplake governor, continues to work hard. Her retirement is not entirely education's loss as she will continue to provide wisdom as a Governor of Queen Anne's school.

## Simon Dennis

Four years ago Simon arrived at Shiplake with a unique entry for the academic staff list. He had an MBE. Simon had been a member of Great Britain's gold medal winning VIII at the 2008 Sydney Olympics and had been recognised in the Queen's Honours List for that immense achievement.

Although Simon had considerable experience as an oarsman and rowing coach he had to develop his skills as biology teacher. Pupils came to value the calm and relaxed atmosphere in his laboratory. Tutoring was also a new experience for Simon who spent many a duty evening in Everett House, becoming an important member of the Everett pastoral team.

Yet it was on the river where Simon spent much of his time at Shiplake. Coaches and pupils looked up, quite literally, to a man, who had achieved the summit in competitive racing, an Olympic Gold medal. Simon was Master-in-Charge of Boats for three-and-a-half years, presiding over the Boat Club's most successful National Schools' Regatta ever when the Shiplake medal haul placed them third in the NSR medal table.

When the rugby fields flooded and oarsmen rowed between the rugby posts the media came flooding to Shiplake and it was Simon that they wanted to interview.



With his good looks and media experience he was a natural interview star and the television producers were very happy with their segments for the evening news round-ups.

Yet Simon felt that the rowing chapter of his life was coming to an end, he wanted to move on and away from rowing. He moves to Marlborough College for September 2009, in search of new challenges, and we wish him well.

## Toby Purser

For a historian, an appointment as Head of History and Politics, in the country's oldest school, founded in 597, is an opportunity not to be missed. Dr Toby Purser left Shiplake at the end of the 2008 Autumn Term to become head of a department of eight teachers at The King's School, Canterbury.

Toby arrived at Shiplake with a reputation as a successful text-book author and a respected historian. It was soon apparent that he was an active advocate for his subject as he addressed us on the Battle of Trafalgar and Remembrance Sunday, which have shaped the world in which we live. He instigated talks for Year 9 from a Holocaust Survivor and from a renowned First World War military historian and archaeologist.



# Leavers

Nor did Toby neglect the practical side of history, re-enacting medieval battles in his classroom with plastic cricket bats. Toby liaised with John Cooksey and Chris Bridgeman over the construction of a section of First World War trench and loved guiding his classes through the mud and rain.

As soon as a Year 9 cohort arrived they were signing up for more history during their half-term holiday on the Battlefields Trip. Older pupils enjoyed their educational visits to the site of the Battle of Hastings and Hampton Court Palace. Numbers taking GCSE and A Level History grew and results saw an upward trend too.

Toby's enthusiasm for teaching and a willingness to experiment and make a success of new teaching techniques brought a promotion to the position of Head of Teaching and Learning. Away from the classroom Toby continued to be busy as a Skipwith Tutor and as a very patient coach of the U15B cricket team.

As Toby, his wife Cerys and one year old Elgan depart for the ancient walls of Canterbury we wish them well and look forward to seeing Toby's future publications selling well in the bookshops.

## Ru Jarvis

We first met Ru when he came to preach as part of the selection process ("preach offs" are an innovation the Church of England would do well to adopt!). Getting past that formal and military exterior there was a compassionate and loving man who has all the pastoral qualities that we could have hoped for. Boys and girls alike found him a friendly and ready listener, an inspirational teacher and someone who got involved in many areas of College life.

If a measure of a good priest is partly in his preaching, then Ru's sermons were highly successful and memorable. Fear of the depths, delivered at a riverside communion; the ability to worship in a field, by a river or even in the deserts of the Middle East without the trappings of English church architecture; a lesson on making mayonnaise to illustrate patience; tying the College and visiting congregation from Harpsden up in red tape at Harvest Festival and admitting to accidentally shooting one of his dogs.

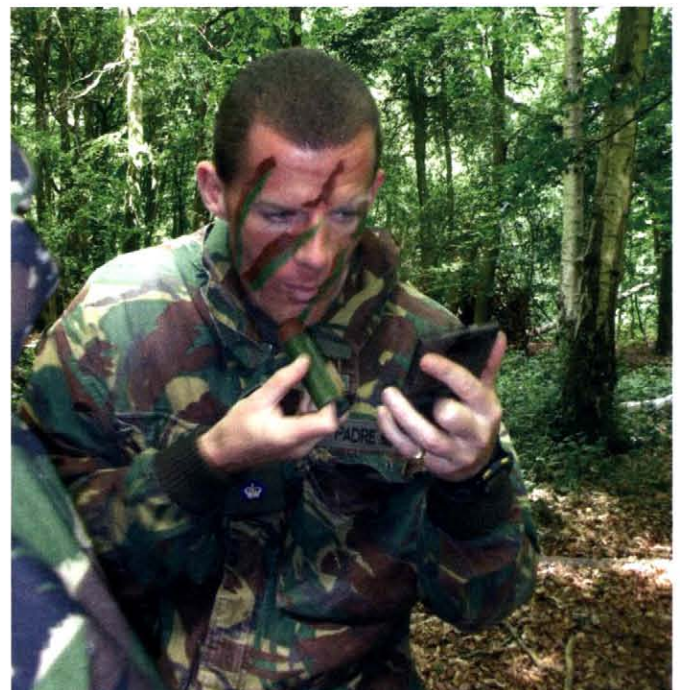
His A level Theology students were always challenged and stretched and frequently returned from lessons in which weird and wonderful things have happened; smashing tins of baked beans with one finger and destroying watermelons were just two of the ways in which he presented the complex issues of morality and religion.

Out and about, Ru was heavily involved with CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. His skill and expertise in these areas were huge assets and the contribution he made was massive. From his strict application of smartness and discipline to more practical skills, his experience was invaluable.

Ru also helped with the coaching of rugby and was never far from a touch line (normally with dogs and family in tow) encouraging teams with his own brand of motivational comments. Years of barking military orders were clearly a huge help to his touchline cheering. I personally, thoroughly enjoyed his company in the Chamber Choir. His love of choral music and his wonderfully full and deep bass voice were a huge addition to this group.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Ru, Eliza, Euan and Patrick. However, we wish them all the very best at Denstone College, Uttoxeter.

*NJ Brown*





# Alice in Oxford

Audiences of over 2,000 watched performances of scenes from the Alice stories in Oxford's Botanical Gardens in July 2009. Term may have been long gone but Shiplake College's *Mad Dogs' Theatre Company* entranced hundreds of families and Lewis Carroll fanatics as they celebrated a historic anniversary.

On 4th July 1862 Charles Dodgson, Oxford Don, later to write as Lewis Carroll, took Alice and her sisters on a boating picnic up the River Thames; on the way he created the story of *Alice in Wonderland*. Nearly a century and a half on Shiplake's actors contributed to the weekend long celebration of the anniversary in Oxford and Abingdon.

The promenade included some of Carroll's most famous and most loved scenes. There was a game of croquet with human implements, and an exceptionally mad Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Craig Henderson made Humpty Dumpty a hair-splitting down-to-earth pedant with the most northern of accents. Jenny Unwin returned from university to take on the role of a very tarty Red Queen and Alice Brown was wonderfully forgetful as the White Queen.

Freddie Greaves, as a Cheshire Cat, a little too preoccupied with his nails, developed elastic knees and changed species to become the star of the Lobster Quadrille. Against a stunningly beautiful lily pond backdrop, Sasha Burgess made the most of his memories of Mock Turtle School Days. Aless Williams ran through the gamut of emotions from bewilderment to fascination as Alice goes on her astounding fantasy journey.

Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee, played by Christian Young and Jade Williams became favourites as they posed with the audience for photos and answered questions in character.

The Mad Dogs' Theatre Company is now in talks with the National Trust, discussing the possibility of further company performances at National Trust properties.





