

Keeping a Welcome in the Hillside



9 page Rowlyn Special Feature

Also Inside:



Playing with Fire
Don't try this at home!



Masque of the Red Death
A very dramatic experience



Online Chat.
Who are your kids talking to?



Competitions, Quizzes and Puzzles



These boots were made for walking

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From the Head



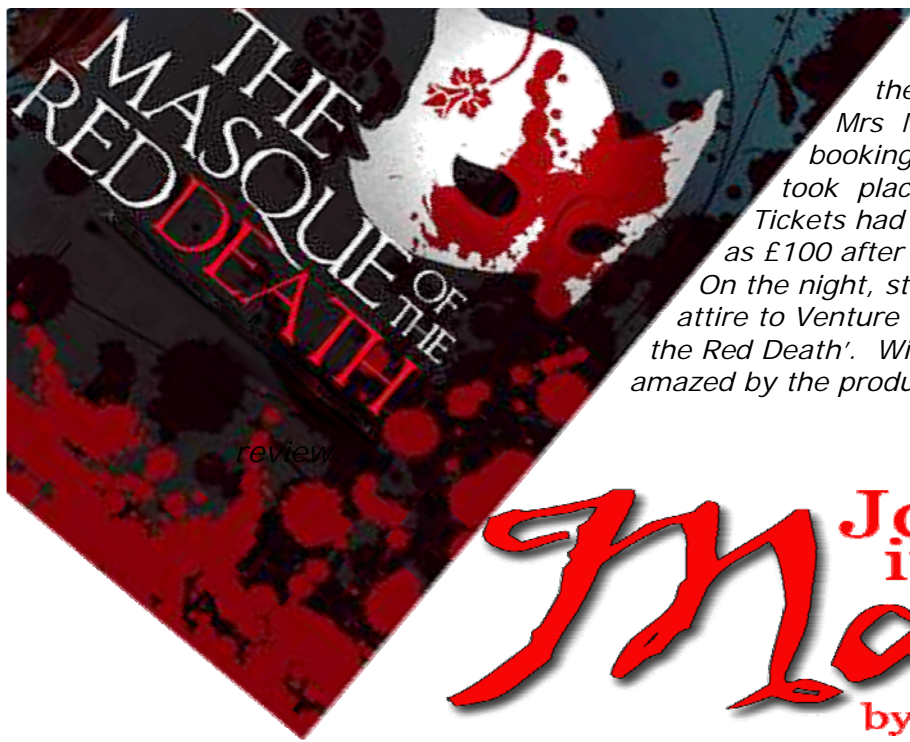
This edition of Langton News contains several articles about Rowlyn which has for many years been one of the most significant features of the Langton. Newcomers to the school are often surprised to learn of the facilities at Rowlyn, given our claims about its importance. The cottage has no water supply, drains or electricity and the students have to rely on calor gas for their heating and electricity. Yet for virtually all the students who have taken part in one of the Rowlyn weeks during year 9 or 10, the experience has remained one of their fondest and most vivid memories from the Langton. Indeed, a few weeks ago I was speaking with an ex-student of the school who left for university nearly 25 years ago. He told me that he could remember the names of no more than half a dozen of the boys with whom he'd shared a tutor group whilst at the school, yet he still knew all the boys in his Rowlyn group and has remained regularly in touch with all but one of them.

Our concern to support the well being and personal development of our students is central to the philosophy of the Langton and Rowlyn is one of the better examples of this philosophy. The boys find themselves in a very different and challenging environment, the activities can be very tough and the success of the week is determined by how well the boys support one another and share responsibility and leadership. It is a matter of policy that we try, as far as is possible, not to send boys in their normal friendship groups and the challenge of working alongside unfamiliar colleagues in difficult circumstances is a key component of the week.

Whilst there are many members of staff (both teachers and support staff) who have led numerous parties to Wales, I would like to express particular thanks on behalf of the school to Alan Jeanes and Richard Armishaw for their long-standing commitment to Rowlyn and for ensuring its success as an educational activity. The organisation required each year is considerable and complex and Mr Jeanes's work in overseeing all aspects of the trips is regarded as an example of the very best practice in arranging school visits. Richard's love and respect for the outdoors is an example which has had a profound influence on staff and students alike.

I am delighted that we have been able to extend the lease on the cottage for another ten years and that Rowlyn is now guaranteed as part of the Langton experience for at least the next decade. We are now considering how we might ensure the trips continue beyond the next decade and I will shortly be establishing a fund so that in the future the school can consider buying the cottage outright, or developing another facility in Snowdonia. I would be happy to discuss this fund with anyone interested in supporting this endeavour.

Email: headteacher@thelangton.kent.sch.uk



The Drama Department enjoy many theatre visits during a school year but Mrs Moore was thrilled to secure a group booking for a very special theatre event that took place on the first day back this term. Tickets had been exchanging on ebay for as much as £100 after Jonathan Ross spoke about the show. On the night, staff and students donned evening attire to Venture into the gothic world of 'The Masque of the Red Death'. Without exception, everyone was amazed by the production. Here is Dan Fisher's review:

Journey into the Macabre

by Dan Fisher Yr 12

The Masque of the Red Death' is the latest production from the critically acclaimed theatre company Punchdrunk, and for this venture they have decided to re-create a totally immersive world based on the short stories and poems by American master of gothic, Edgar Allan Poe.

When you first arrive you are forced to use a side entrance to the labyrinthine Battersea Arts Centre, entering through a basement door and, after showing your ticket, you are handed a peculiar looking mask, giving an early indication that you are about to experience something quite extraordinary. You must then pass through multiple curtains, guided only by dim candlelight that quickly disappears as you stumble forwards in the vain hope of finding a way out of this velvet abyss. It is at this point that you are told that it is best to spend the evening alone. It is true that for large parts of the evening you are completely isolated, it is even more terrifying when you encounter a large group of fellow audience members, many of whom have somehow acquired a cape and now resemble an ominous cult.

This is totally immersive theatre as you walk around the huge building, searching rooms for secrets and trying to find actors

who will perform on of the many stories by Poe. Until then you can simply marvel at the meticulously detailed rooms, looking through books filled with diagrams of sinister machines, newspapers giving details about the Red Death and providing some insight into the titular story of this production. In one such copy I discovered a battered piece of parchment that claimed to be a cure for the Red Death.

When you do finally discover the actors you are able to watch a performance of one of the stories, many of them involving stunning choreography which makes even the most disturbing events seem, perversely, beautiful. It is rare for you to be able to find a complete story as you follow members of the large cast through secret passageways, including one that involves walking into a wardrobe and shuffling out of a fire place on the other side. Of the stories, I only managed to watch two in their entirety; a thoroughly disturbing 'The Tell-Tale Heart' and the excellent 'The Fall of the House of Usher'.

What is truly brilliant about the Masque of the Red Death is that no one will have the same experience. There are so many secrets within the building that you have little chance of learning them all

and it is almost impossible to decipher the full layout of the building in three hours. Sometimes you are taken by a member of the cast to be shown something that other members of the audience will not get to enjoy—a séance, a puppet show, for example and, when you leave you will once again have lost any sense of where you are.

This is a truly unique experience, sometimes amusing, regularly terrifying and constantly amazing as you discover even more of what the production has to offer. If you get the chance to go you will enter the twisted world that dwells within the BAC. I promise that it won't disappoint.



Sponsored Read 2007

Report by Mrs P Walters

Once again, Year 7 responded magnificently to the challenge of the Sponsored Read, and raised over two thousand pounds for the library.

7G (now 8G) managed a fantastic total of £699 with 7B (now 8B) doing nearly as well with £617.38.

Oliver Brown contributed £58.50 and led the field in achieving the most sponsorship, followed by Tom Moloney, James Harris, Oliver Cramer, Richard Ladley, Joseph Ibrahim, Malcolm Kittle, Sam Brocklebank, Ellis Pointon and Ryan Walters.

More importantly, a number of the participants made excellent progress in their reading and were also awarded prizes – books, of course:

Oliver Brown, James Harris, Charlie Marriott, Louis Sharrock, Jordon Loft, Joe Dormer, Hamish Lillywhite, Tod Liebenschutz-Jones, Cameron Bigg, Sarosh Sethna, Satpreet Riarh, Oliver Cramer, Sam Brocklebank, Ellis Pointon and Ryan Walters.

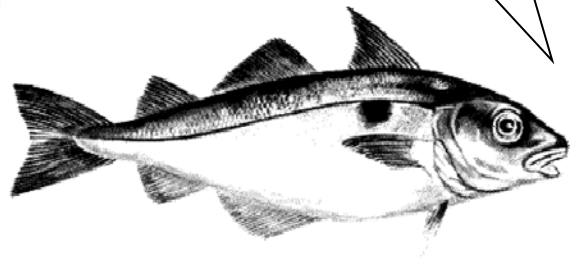
Special thanks go to every boy who took part and to all the parents, guardians, friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles and so on who supported, encouraged, bribed, persuaded and paid the participants.

No wonder we have such a fantastic library.



Harry the Haddock says

I always wanted to be somebody. Perhaps I should have been more specific.



Geoffrey finds the issue of homework very stressful



Then he spots a notice in the corridor



Problem solved & Geoffrey couldn't be happier



FLAME FLINGERS

In a dazzling display Year 11 students Louis Evans, Alex Carby-Bennett and Richard Wickes showed off their Fire Staffing skills - twirling flaming torches around their heads, under their arms, across their shoulders - while the whole school looked on. The three boys practice their routines almost every day with *unlit* torches during their lunch time but persuaded Dr MacKay to allow them to set their batons alight for a once-only school-time performance.



NB Dr MacKay was on hand to ensure that all necessary safety precautions were being taken.



FIRE STAFFING

by Richard Wickes

All of us 'staff' for different reasons. I started fire staffing about four months ago when I needed something to vent some stress. A friend of mine has been "staffing" for about a year and a half on and off, and I ended up playing around with it now and then. Eventually you pick things up and begin to get really interested in it.

Lui on the other hand, has been learning circus skills since 1999, and has performed in quite a few different places doing a large variety of different tricks. My first encounter with Lui was on the Whitstable beach, where he and his dad juggled fire either side of one of my friends. Lui began to get more into fire staffing about the same time as I did, and since then we've both been practising every day. Alex however, is just crazy and discovered fire staffing at a folk dancing festival. He was re-introduced to it when Lui and I started to learn it seriously.

Why do we do it? It's fun; it looks good and feels good. I'd say that the satisfaction you can get from fire staffing is similar to that of playing an instrument. There are so many things to learn which eventually lead to learning other interesting things, such as fire breathing or fire poi. There's also a huge community of interesting people you can meet who can do all kinds of things. It's a little different from most hobbies, but it makes you a more interesting person to be with and to talk to.

The actual staffs are made from an aluminium tube, with a grip along most of the staff. Inside the tube are two pieces of wood at either end, which give the staff extra momentum while it's spinning. Finally, the most important part of the staff – the wicks. These are made of layers of Kevlar wrapped around and bolted to the staff. The wicks are soaked in paraffin or white spirit and then set on fire.

So where do we actually practice it? In the summer the circus school opens on Whitstable beach once a week where many other people from all over the area come to show off their skills and help pass them on to others. We're hoping to run a similar thing to this in school closer to the end of the year, where we'll perform a few times, and then try and teach a few others how to use the staffs and other circus skills.



Music Meltdown

Illegal music downloads have reached an all time high just as the growth of online social networking has shifted the epicentre of the music industry away from the major record labels, according to a new study.

The 2007 Digital Media Survey, carried out by Entertainment Media Research in conjunction with media lawyers Olswang, revealed that the popularity of social networking websites such as *MySpace* and *BeBo* is helping to "democratise" the music industry as more young people discover new music online instead of via the radio or music television.

REMEMBER...

If you're downloading music from a filesharing site and not paying for it and don't have permission from whoever owns the copyright, then you could get yourself into trouble. Record companies are cracking down on illegal downloaders who use P2P fileshare sites and let people download their music.

You also run the risk of letting a stranger access your computer and you may also download a file that contains a virus that might make your computer behave strangely. You could lose files or even wreck your PC for good.

The Arsonists by Geoffrey Walters (13LM)

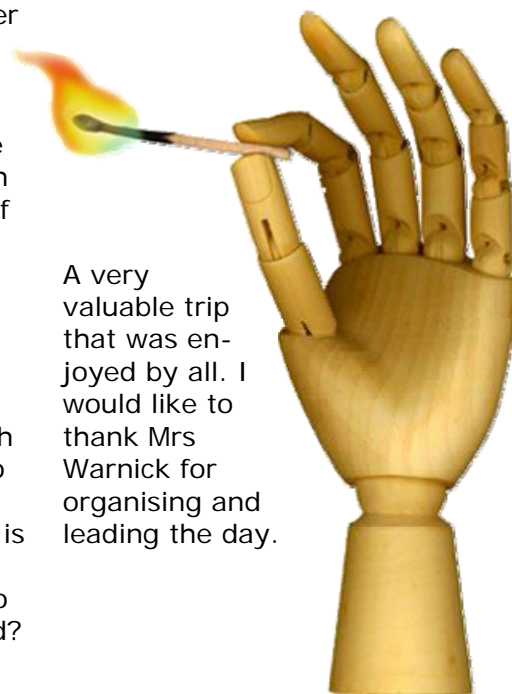
On 13th December last term a group of Sixth Form German and Theatre Studies students along with Mrs Warnick travelled to the Royal Court Theatre, London, to be treated to a sinisterly satirical new translation of Max Frisch's 'Biedermann und die Brandstifter' ('The Arsonists').

The plot revolves around Gottlieb Biedermann, a contradictory figure who, despite being a ruthless businessman at work, attempts to lead a life of exemplary middle-class propriety at home. Biedermann lives in an area which has recently become the focus for a series of arson attacks. One day, a homeless ex-wrestler called Schmitz turns up at his doorstep, asking to stay the night in his loft. Biedermann accepts, and soon Schmitz's mysterious friend Eisenring arrives and asks for the same privilege. It quickly transpires that the two men are both arsonists and are quite plainly planning an attack on Biedermann's house. The latter, however, is loathe to tackle the problem head-on, preferring to try and make friends with the two intruders in the misguided

hope that they will leave him be. He even gives them the very matches they need to burn his house to the ground.

Although written in 1953, this is a play whose dark message about the weakness of hypocritical liberal ethics in the face of evil is still very much relevant to the modern audience. The flawed actions of the central character, Biedermann, whose very name translates as 'Mr politically correct,' when he is sent running for the family silver at the slightest mention of the arsonists' disadvantaged backgrounds, is a much-needed wake-up call to a society where political correctness is rife. With a Brechtian chorus composed of firemen echoing their refrain of 'Woe unto us' to the audience throughout, the play also inevitably evokes memories of the 2005 London bombings. Besides terrorism there are certainly many great evils which the world is failing to face up to today; the audience is made to question which is the greatest: is it the destruction of the environment? Is it our failure to sufficiently help the Third World?

Or is it the violence perpetrated on the people of Iraq? Given the date of writing, this is a work perhaps best interpreted as a parable of the rise of Nazi Germany. Just as Biedermann ignores the threat posed to him by Schmitz and Eisenring, so several European leaders- including the Briton Neville Chamberlain- refused to acknowledge the threat posed by Adolf Hitler until it was too late, actively contributing to their own political downfall.



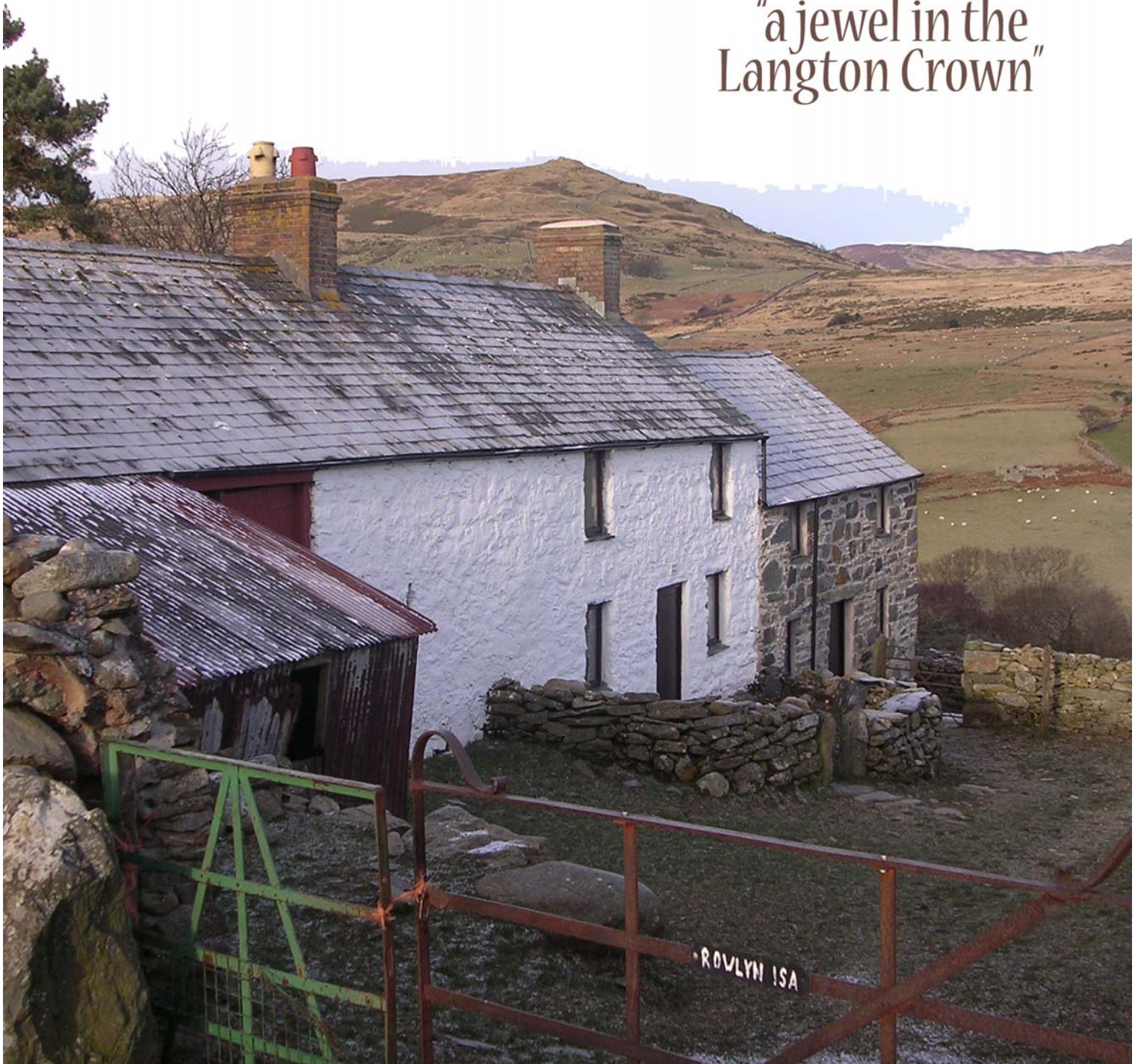
A very valuable trip that was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Mrs Warnick for organising and leading the day.

Rowlyn

Over the last forty five years, students at the Langton have had the chance to enjoy the outdoor activities and personal development opportunities when they take part in what has become known as the "Rowlyn Experience."

The school has just secured a further 10 year Lease and to mark this Langton News celebrates all things Rowllyn - which has been described as

"a jewel in the Langton Crown"



THE LANGTON AT ROWLYN HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Richard Armishaw

To the first time visitor today, although the facilities are primitive, the house has been kept in good order, the walls are comfortably thick and the roof is watertight. There is a warm fire, we can cook on the gas hob or use the oven, the lamps work pretty well, the paint-work is bright and it's not too far to Hector's Grotto when nature calls.

We are told that the Langton has been coming here for years. What may not be obvious is that the Langton has been coming here for over 40 years. How did the school find the place, and when was it first discovered?

In fact the Langton has had a tradition of visits to North Wales for a lot longer than this. The "Langtonian" magazine records a camp near Colwyn Bay in the 1930s. It seems that similar camps ran over several years, using those huge Bell Tents which could accommodate 12 people comfortably. So the camps must have taken a large number of pupils. How long this tradition continued is not clear but I suspect it continued into the 1950s.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s there was a growth of interest in the outdoors, helped by greater leisure

time and better economic conditions. Two legendary members of the teaching staff began at this time to run trips with a slightly different flavour. One was Bernard Falconer, who joined the school in 1957 and spent his whole career there, retiring as Deputy Head in 1993. The other was Derek Bradford who was appointed as Head of Chemistry in 1960. As a graduate of University College of Wales Aberystwyth he was already an addict of the hill country and soon started to organise Langton trips, first taking a party by train to the Lake District in 1961.

In April 1962 Derek and Bernard led a walking trip to Snowdonia, again by train, staying in Youth Hostels and an RAF hut. The route started at Llanberis Youth Hostel, took in Snowdon Summit, down to Snowdon Ranger Youth Hostel, to an RAF hut at Bethesda then Ogwen Youth Hostel, finishing at Oaklands Youth Hostel near Betws-y-Coed. Why an RAF hut? Well, even younger teachers at the time would have done two years' National Service; in this case a colleague Lawrence Lyle was able to pull some strings to borrow the hut no doubt for little or no cost. As it turned out however the hut was in a terrible state with nothing working properly and not



even enough plates and cutlery. On the way home the party stayed at Chester Youth Hostel – not before they had taken the opportunity to make an educational visit in boots and anoraks to John Summers Steel Works however!

The "Langtonian" magazine for Summer 1962 gives a pupil's eye view of the visit, the author being identified by the initials R.J.E. who is presumably Egerton from the list of names. The "master" Mr Owen is John Owen, who plays a major role later.

Outside the East Station, we looked a motley crowd, the experienced mountain walkers swapping tales and slyly displaying battered boots and anoraks, the uninitiated nervously fingering new boots and shining anoraks. The experienced members of the party were the sixth formers: Hopper, Dunn, Pomfret, Simmonds, Mayfield, Wildman and Egerton; the uninitiated, the fifth formers: Foster, Taber, Daniels, Hetherington, Beckett, Cornell and Gray. The masters' ability was as yet unknown, but Messrs. Owen, themselves.

There is a wonderful description of the evening meal at the RAF Hut:

We cooked our, potatoes, peaches and cream. This was a most solemn meal. The sixth-formers alone had a tablecloth (by kind permission of Lord Beaverbrook). They treated the whole meal with the dignity it deserved, drinking toasts out of their engraved goblets (glorified Long-Life Tins). Wandering round in Bethesda in search of night-life, the sociologists noticed that as the pubs closed



on Sunday, the local populace certainly made up for it on a Saturday evening.

On leaving the RAF hut to walk to Ogwen, it would appear that the rain was lashing it throughout the day, and morale was low. However it was this day when an old farmhouse by the side of the road inspired Derek and Bernard to look for a permanent base in North Wales for the school. Back at school the idea was mooted and both the Headmaster Chris Rieu and the Chair of Governors Stanley Jennings were very supportive.

Soon Derek and colleague John Owen, accompanied by Bernard Simmonds (father of one of the pupils on the 1962 trip) went back to North Wales to explore the Trefriw area. John Owen was a key player – perhaps a secret weapon – as he was Welsh speaking and came from the local area. He was able to fix up a meeting with someone called Alun Roberts from the Power Station at Dolgarrog. Alun Roberts took them by Land Rover around various CEGB (Central Electricity Generating Board) properties to the west of Trefriw including a house called Siglen near the dam at Llyn Cowlyd (GR 742642). According to Derek, “they were all useless, but on the way back Alun Roberts told us that there was a possibility of a place near Coedty”. Coedty is the small reservoir a few hundred metres from Rowlyn. From there they turned left up the road and there was the owner Gwilym Roberts who just happened to be outside Rowlyn gate looking happy.....and the rest is history !

THE EARLY YEARS

Rowlyn had been occupied by the Roberts family – Gwylim, Florence and their young son Einion – from 1940 to 1949. The family then moved to Gwern Felin, the new house which they had built a mile or so down the hill close to the main road, to be near the local school and shops. The “new” Gwern Felin of course will be familiar to Langtonians as the place where drinking water is picked up and Mrs Florence Roberts will be remembered by generations of Langton visitors as keeper of the keys, supplier of water, eggs, milk, firewood, and for her warm welcome to every new group on arrival.

When the Langton took on the first lease of Rowlyn in 1964 the house



had been unoccupied for 15 years and quite a bit of work was needed to make it habitable. The windows were reglazed with some peculiar blue perspex, the fire range was repaired, primus stoves were brought in for cooking and tilley lamps provided for lighting. Most of the equipment was donated or scrounged from Derek's contacts in Canterbury. The beds – well, there weren't any. Derek's wife Val made up some person sized cotton bags which were filled with straw “borrowed” from the barn next door. I suspect that these so called straw palliasses were home to all kinds of insect life – hence the provision of ex army camp beds for the staff.

Although funding was extremely limited Derek recalls that the project was strongly supported by the Head and Governors.

While the house was being sorted out the school work parties camped in a field in the Crafnant valley a few miles south. Travel was by hired minibus - it would be some time before the school was able to run its own minibus transport.

From the first group to stay in the house in 1965 up to the early 1970s the only visits took place during school holidays. Derek's group with its amateur radio theme went during the Easter holidays while Bernard's group walked the hills over the New Year period.

Ian Earl's memory of an Easter 1968 visit is illuminating:

Like most who went on this trip, I was in the lower sixth. I remember going twice, so this was probably the second occasion. The teachers in charge were Derek Bradford and Brian Riley and we drove up in the school's 11-seater Commer minibus. It was a little cramped (an understatement) since all personal gear, together with all the food, etc, was stacked under and between the seats to roof height. Once in, we couldn't get out. DB also took his ham radio apparatus and a generator (so we did have electricity - but only for the radio!). On the roof we strapped a 30-foot aerial pole (in sections), and at the site we ran out yards of wire to act as a counter-poise (earth).

Of Rowlyn itself, I remember a very cramped, dark room downstairs, and three bedrooms upstairs. The teachers slept on camp beds in the small front room, we boys on the

floor in the other two. In the back room was only a skylight, and this had no glass. I woke up one morning with a dusting of snow over my sleeping bag. Cold it was! We also had little in the way of specialised gear. I borrowed leather boots to walk in, and wore a very 60s parka - no Goretex or cagoules. On another trip (not one I was on) it was reported that one teacher (name escapes me) was in agony because his beard froze!

It was not until 1973 when term time visits began. The inspiration for the term time visits came from a "difficult" year group. Headmaster Chris Rieu and Rowlyn supremo Derek Bradford persuaded the staff that what was needed was the short sharp shock of a semi-compulsory visit to Rowlyn. It worked! – and the Summer Term Rowlyns for Year 10 were under way with the very first one of the series led by Dave Lewis and myself.

Shortly before that visit a working group had installed bunk beds to the house. The kits, made up by the school Woodwork Department, were transported (probably against all traffic regulations) to Rowlyn in a huge box on top of a minibus, and the beds bolted together on site. It is a great tribute to their designer Mike Stevenson that they are still in good order 35 years later.

Indeed we had nice comfortable beds, but the interior décor was sorely in need of care and attention. A special feature of those times was the green distemper on the walls which tended to return home on your kit at the end of the stay. At first the Langton tended to make do with existing facilities – after all even a committed staff



member would probably be making only one visit per year. But as use of the house increased we realised that improvements were needed in several areas.

"Rowlyn remains a unique place"

Rubbish disposal in the early 1970s was an environmentally disastrous – we simply buried any empty tins at the end of the week creating our own mini-landfill. Sewage disposal was always however done properly in camping style by digging a proper pit. The paraffin primus stoves and tilley lamps were efficient but required patience and some expertise to operate them properly. The house needed painting inside and out. The

gutters needed repairing. Something needed to be done about the windows.

Over the succeeding 35 years a great deal has been done to improve the facilities and comfort for Langton visitors to Rowlyn. Comparative photographs show what has been achieved. We now have a regular programme of redecoration inside and out, the windows are double glazed and the frames in keeping with surrounding buildings, we have proper sanitary facilities and sewage tank, we have a Games Room with Table Football and Table Tennis. However the basic principle has never been compromised. There is no electricity and no running water. Rowlyn remains a unique place where everyone needs to work together to create a great environment in those primitive conditions and to bring back wonderful memories.

Long may it continue!



"It was glorious fun and full of adventure"

Ian Earl
(former Langton student)

Year 10 student Jonathan Moss writes about his experiences when he visited Rowlyn last year

Before going to Rowlyn I was not sure what the whole experience was going to be like. I had heard many different reactions from previous visitors. Some had said it had been fantastic but others were not so enthusiastic.

However, when I arrived there I realized that I was going to enjoy it and in fact, my week at Rowlyn was one of the best weeks of my life- from the mountain walking to the van journeys – even doing the chores!

So what was so good about it? The first thing that makes Rowlyn so special is the house itself. Although the building looked amazingly small to hold us all we managed to fit in and the open fire kept it warm and was nice to sit around after a day's walking. When we were feeling more energetic there was always the games room to go to. We had a ping pong tournament and when I had lost that, I lost the table football tournament as well. There are tiny bedrooms and there is no electricity, which took a bit of getting used to, but Mr Moffat as chef made sure no-one went hungry and we even introduced Mr Shaw to scotch eggs.

However, there is a lot more to the Rowlyn trip than just Rowlyn itself. A typical day started early and after breakfast and chores we were on our way to the mountains. One of the best days of walking was when we went up Tryfan. This is a very rocky mountain so it involved a lot of climbing and scrambling. It was a misty day but the walk was very enjoyable so the fact that there was no view did not matter. After getting back to Rowlyn itself there was time to explore the surrounding area, eat and relax. At the end of the week I felt that I had accomplished something at the same time as enjoying it.

My Rowlyn Highlights:

- *Getting to the top of a mountain after a long trek.*
- *Making new friends on the bus journeys.*
- *Getting a whole week away from school walking in the Welsh countryside.*

My Rowlyn Low points

- *Having to use 'Hector's Grotto' instead of a nice clean toilet*
- *Having to do the washing up*
- *Living in such close proximity with other year 9s*

If you can deal with the things above, if you think you are up for a challenge, if you are up for walking in the Welsh hills, if you want to get away from your parents for a week then Rowlyn is the perfect week for you.



No change there then...

Right: Washing up 2006

40 years before...

Below: Washing up 1966



A long trek but the view at the top is well worth it

A Connoisseur's Guide to Rowlyn by Ken Moffat

The sadder of us members of staff often play a competitive game to see how much of our life we have spent at the school's cottage in Snowdonia, Rowlyn Isa. I, myself, am two weeks short of having spent a whole year of my life there, but this is beginners' stuff. Mr Jeanes has made over 106 visits and Mr Armishaw is well into the 130s. In fact Mr Armishaw can calculate that he has spent at least eight months of his life on the motorway travelling between Canterbury and Rowlyn.

And there's another thing. Which route to take? The 330 miles or so can be seen off in any number of combinations. The classic M1, A500, M6 route is currently in vogue, but connoisseurs fondly remember the scenic Shrewsbury and A5 route with its windy turns and dramatic countryside. Or is it worth a detour to the Horseshoe pass? Or a visit to the shop at Knocking where we all stop and take pictures of the Knocking Shop. Kidderminster anyone? Or for some there's the so-called "silly route" via Cambridge. Not obviously apparent, but it does avoid speed cameras and snarl ups on the M1 southern section. My current favourite is to take the detour through Loughborough and a run past the 300 Spartans Fish & Chip shop. Why anyone would name a chip shop after 300 computer enhanced ancient warriors defies any sort of logic I have ever encountered.

Upon arrival at the cottage it's time to unload the food. And there's another area of dispute. What to eat during the week? In the good old days (any time in the 1980s) this wasn't a problem. There was just one big pot to cook with and everything you tried to cook just ended up as a brown stew. Hence the answer to the question, "What are we having for dinner, sir?" was always "Brown."

I once cooked a marrow filled with curried beans in foil in the Dixie over the fire. It tasted vile and only Mr Jeanes would eat it, but it made a welcome change from the Brown. Some of the boys said it was so bad they threatened to go back home to Kent there and then. Things all changed when we got a cooker, called Vanessa. A pristine white and enamel gas contraption that brought the exciting dimension of an oven to the cottage. One New Year's Eve we discovered our adventurous culinary side and sized salmon and then best fillet steak over the roaring fire.

Hence the answer to the question, "What are we having for dinner, sir?" was always "Brown."

From then on things began to escalate. For the first time in 1995 we had hot pizza straight from the oven, shepherds' pie

and lasagne. In 1997 I gained my first Michelin star for my Rouget de roche with a salt cod brandade and followed this up with a second star for my roasted Dorset turbot with a caramel and liquorice jus. Not to be outdone, Mr Jeanes published two cookbooks in his *The Unwashed Chef* series: *Dried Herbs with Everything* (1998) and *Rare Bits from Wales* (2000) which topped the Christmas bestseller lists.

We've calmed down a bit now and settle for the more traditional pies and quiches, curries and pasta, jacket spuds or roast potatoes, though in sentimental moments I find myself popping the old faithful Brown back on the menu for old times' sake. And by and large the boys highlight the food as being one of the best things of the week. Sure, we have the odd argument as to whether a proper Marseilles bouillabaisse can really have langoustines in it or whether the oysters respond better to a splash of Tabasco or a squirt of lemon, but I think, generally, they are satisfied.



Preparing the 'Brown'

Mr Moffat shows off a piece of 'oh so butch machinery'.



And we all have our routines in the hills as well, especially as to which day we do whatever. Tuesday, for me, is always a visit to Blaenau Ffestiniog, now a sadder place since the purple and yellow neon sign of Myfanwy's Restaurant has deserted the skyline, and the misty and forbidding slate mines. On average, it rains 278 days of the year in Blaenau and the ever-present cloud and mist renders the whole landscape featureless, rather like the mines of Moria in *Lord of the Rings*. I once stumbled upon a lone Japanese tourist in the middle of nowhere with a puzzled look on his face and a map of Carmarthenshire in his hands. I gave him a quid and sent him off in the direction of the tourist railway.

Blaenau is heaven for the indus-

trial archaeologist, littered with rusted but oh so butch machinery, priming pumps, combustion engines etc, but for the poet or the romantic amongst the party a stroll along the Nantlle Ridge or Carnedd Llewellyn on a clear day should be about as close as one gets to paradise this side the grave. And everyone loves the scramble on Tryfan. Best of all, however, after some hard climbing on the smallest of the fifteen three thousand foot mountains, is to pop over the cattle grid by Ogwen Youth Hostel and in to Fat Man's Agony, a narrow crevice in the rock through which you shuffle along your back, push yourself up onto a gossamer light ledge and then, with a tremendous surge of strength, pull yourself back out into daylight through a tiny chimney at the top. Generally speaking,

women have two very good reasons why they can never manage it, but I would always reckon on getting a third of a Rowlyn party through. The remainder just clamber back the way they came.

So there are compensations for spending a week miles from home with a bare stream to wash in (or not, more often) and only a bucket in which to do one's business. There are reasons other than intensive psychotherapy that have made Mr Armishaw repeat the experience more than 130 times and it is generally a sad party that locks up the cottage and fits the shutters on the last morning. Oh, but then the other routines kick in Which service station shall we stop at on the way home? Do we make it as far as Keele on the M6 or stop at the last Little Chef in Wales on the A55. Or even push on as far as Hilton Park services in Birmingham. Now Toddington services has a Marks and Spencer, that's a must for a stop and maybe a cappuccino and something Danish. Clacket Lane to give the parents a fair estimation of time of return? Oh the choices, the choices.....

Jumping from 'Adam' onto 'Eve' at the summit of Tryfan.



Mother knows best ...

A look at Rowlyn from a parent's point of view.



Year 9 offers an exciting opportunity to stay for a week in the village of Rowlyn, in rural Wales. During the Rowlyn information evening photographs were shown of the mountains and ledges that the boys would scale, and what looked like death defying leaps across gorges certainly created some trepidation amongst the audience. This resulted in many questions being raised from

anxious parents. In reality, of course, the boys were under the guidance of experienced teachers and mountaineers.

My son thoroughly enjoyed his Rowlyn week gaining confidence in his own outdoor abilities. We live in a rural area, but as a family have not done any mountaineering, so this was a great introduction for him.

The groups are selected to ensure boys are not with their usual crowd and my son was unsure about not going with his closest friends, but as a parent I think this is one of the strengths of the trip. The boys have to move out of their comfort zone and socialise with others. My son met others from his year group that he did not know and has since made new friendships.

The week is obviously a tried and tested one and the fact that the boys are very hands-on with all the domestic duties is a real bonus when they come home; if they can do washing and cooking with only a cold hosepipe, helping at home is a piece of cake! Talking of cake the cakes the boys supply from home are very

much savoured by all in Wales as they are seen as a real treat to be enjoyed in the evening after a long hard day.

In our experience there was no contact while he was away, just a phone call from him on the bus on the way home making sure we would be on time to pick him up from school. When we questioned him on this lack of contact, we were informed he had been far too busy with activities to call home!

"If they can do washing and cooking with only a cold hosepipe, helping at home is a piece of cake!"

I personally sympathise with the locals around Rowlyn as the only proper wash the boys have in the week is the swim in a local public pool on the Friday!

My son would definitely go again and has even suggested we should do some climbing together as a family, which I think is a very positive and lasting outcome from the whole experience.



For more information about Rowlyn visit

**[http://
rowyn.thelangton.
org.uk](http://rowyn.thelangton.org.uk)**

A Great Get Away - the final word goes to Mr Jeanes

Why have 95 Year 9 students opted for the Rowlyn "Experience" this season? It cannot be my magnetic personality, could possibly be my almost constant nagging, but most likely because they realize what an amazing opportunity Rowlyn is to develop their personal skills and a chance to "rough it" for a week at the cottage in North Wales. The magic rolls on...

There is no typical Rowlyn week - even after 108 visits to the place - every one is different in terms of weather, students and their personalities and capabilities. Rowlyn's great strength is the open access it provides to all students, (6th formers now accompany many groups, and the flexibility of its "experience". By the time that they return even the most hormonally-challenged student can display a level of cooperation and can help cook, wash-up, dry the dishes, prepare food, collect water and chop wood.

Just the skills that are needed in our hi-tech society!

The programme is designed to explore the opportunities of the Snowdonia area with a mixture of teamwork exercises, field-work, hillwalking and scrambling. Usually three days out of the five are spent building confidence and stamina on easy walks at first, (in readiness for the high-level ones which often include Snowdon and Tryfan.

The exact format is obviously dependant on weather conditions and no hillwalks are undertaken without qualified Guides, usually Malcolm Creasey and/or George Manley plus our own SLBS Mountain Leaders. If the weather is really foul we also have the option of the Beacon Indoor Climbing Centre near Llanberis where there are climbs of all grades and for all abilities. But the hills are the best preparation.

Rowlyn runs on few house rules but everyone is expected to pull their weight with the chores that need to be done so that the week runs smoothly and groups often devise incentives and/or awards for their stay. Indeed, when all the groups have returned, "Rowlyner of the Year" awards take place after Staff nominations from the groups.

Groups are deliberately composed to cross forms and friendship boundaries so that Rowlynians can establish and develop often enduring relationships. Old Langtonians often re-call their visits with great affection and remember who was in their group, even many years later.

Firmly part of the "Rowlyn Magic" is the open fire and its capricious appetite for kindling and logs, but since the adjacent Barn was renovated in 2002 the "Games Room" with its footy table and table tennis facilities has also proved a great attraction on murky Autumn nights. Upstairs is used to store the Waterproofs, Rucksacs and Boots that are provided for all Rowlynians - even up to Size 15! They do what it it says on the box in keeping the wearers warm and dry but perhaps do not win any fashion prizes.

It is amazing how the absence of electricity and running water can crystallize the most fertile imaginations to create various ingenious entertainments over the years.

The Septic Tank removes the need to dig "the hole" at the end of the week whilst waste and rubbish is re-cycled and disposed of during the week.

After 108 visits the magic still remains - its serenity amongst our frantic lives. One look at the view from the Yard down across to the Conway Valley uplifts any doubting soul and each group IS different.

It is good to "get away from it all".

Richard Armishaw is always interested to hear from present or former Langtonians who have been to Rowlyn. If you would like to share your reminiscences with him, he can be contacted through the school or at rowlyn@thelangton.kent.sch.uk



The Saddest Thing

Dealing with the death of a loved one can be traumatic for even the most mature adult, but when you have to live with loss as a teenager your world can spin out of control very quickly. Emotions can flood over you, leaving you frantic to go on with your daily life.

The important thing to remember when you are learning to live with loss is to accept that life will be different, but to remember that you are still alive and still have a life to live, no matter what.

Be Honest With Yourself - And Others

The most important thing you can do for yourself when you experience the death of a friend or family member is to be honest, both with yourself and with others. Acknowledge and accept your emotions, whatever they may be, so that you can move forward. Realise that whatever you are feeling is fine. The most common feelings are ones of sadness, loneliness, anger, doubt, guilt, shock, relief and frustration.

You may even feel numb or paralysed, as if you are unable to move or make decisions. All of these feelings are normal and quite natural.

Express Your Emotions

Once you recognise your emotions, you will need to express them before you explode! Keeping your emotions to yourself, whether out of fear, embarrassment or shyness, will only add to your frustrations. Before your emotions tumble out at the wrong time, let them out slowly and steadily by:

- Speaking with another family member or friend.
- Talking to a trusted adult such as a teacher, counsellor or member of the clergy.
- Writing in a journal.
- Creating a collage or scrapbook.
- Working on a poem or song.
- Joining a local support group.
- Speaking one-on-one with a counsellor or other professional.

Get Out and About

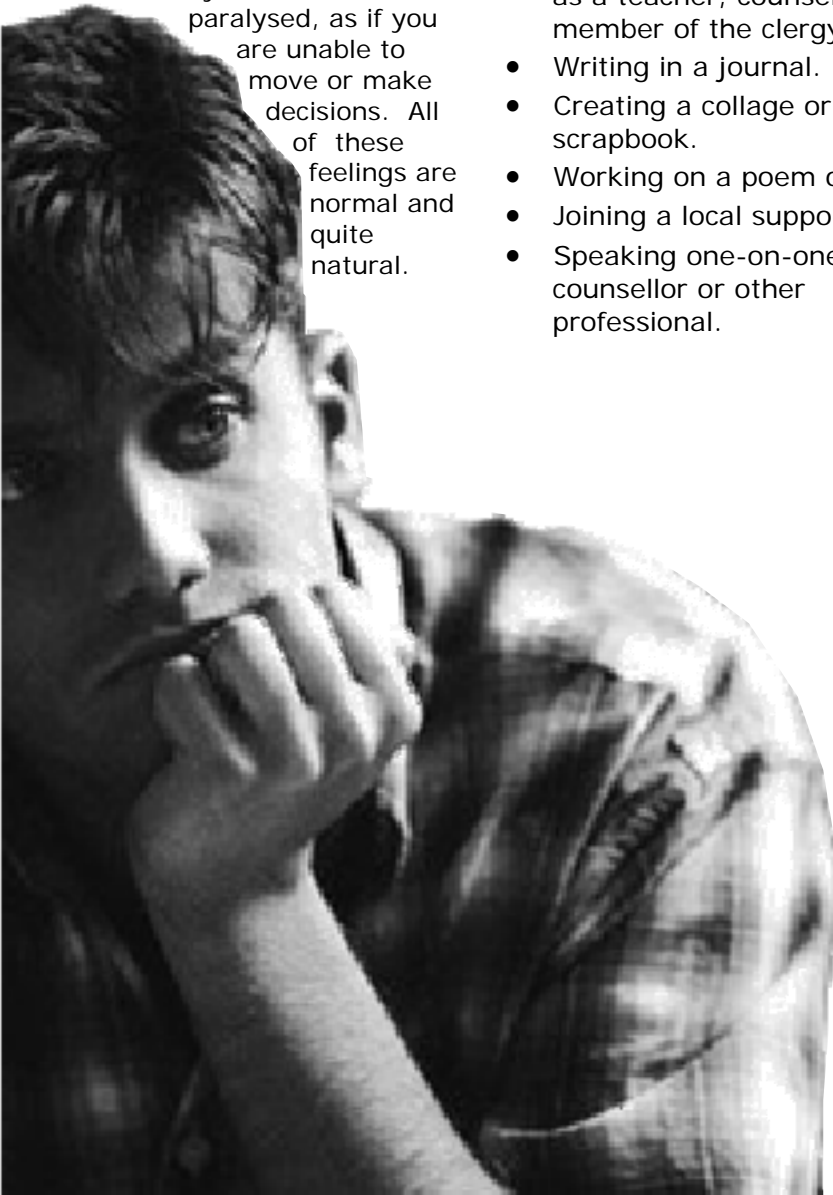
The emotional work of coping with death can be exhausting. Give your brain a break by getting out and about. The change of scenery will do you good, and sometimes all it takes is a new setting to lead you to a new perspective. Think about:

- Visiting with family and friends.
- Tiring yourself out with some exercise.
- Getting lost in a book or film.
- Planning a short ceremony at a place loved by the deceased.

Living with loss may require a long adjustment period, and that's ok. Coping with the death of a friend or family member is not a race, nor is it something you can plan out.

Everyone deals with death differently, and you must follow whatever feels comfortable for you. Your friends and other family members may be waiting to take their cue from how you act, so if they seem hesitant at first just understand that they may be unsure of how to help you.

Be patient with yourself, and everyone else, and life will begin to fall into new patterns and routines. This does not mean that you will forget those who have died, but rather that you will be living your own full and satisfying life - just as they would have wanted.



The Langton Promotes Equality and Values Diversity

February 2008 was LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) History Month which was acknowledged and celebrated across KCC as part of their ongoing work to promote equality and value diversity. A few months previously, in September 2007 a new anti-bullying, web-based resource for schools was launched which has been widely welcomed by both the education sector and the gay community. *Safe to Learn* includes innovative guidance on homophobic bullying, providing school governors, heads and teachers with access to a dynamic source of practical strategies to challenge the endemic problem of homophobic school bullying.

Every child in every school has the right to learn free from the fear of bullying, whatever form that bullying may take, the guidance points out. And it adds that everyone involved in a child's education needs to work together to ensure that this is the case. It emphasises that schools should play their part to create a society in which people treat each other with respect and insists that both preventing and responding to homophobic bullying must be part of existing bullying strategies.

Stonewall, one of two groups commissioned to produce the guidance, welcomed the publication, especially its section on homophobic bullying, *Preventing and Responding to Homophobic Bullying in Schools*. "Stonewall is proud to have been commissioned by the DCSF to produce this guidance. The life chances of children bullied at school are often permanently diminished," Stonewall's chief executive Ben Summerskill said. "This tool represents an essential and much welcome step forward in the development of joined-up thinking that will help schools and teachers address all forms of

bullying effectively."

The principal teaching unions have consistently been united against homophobic bullying.

"This is the first time that such clear and in-depth guidance on homophobic bullying has been published," commented Steve Sinnott, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

"Homophobic bullying is the favourite weapon of bullies who pick on pupils who appear different or vulnerable. Good, experienced teachers can be driven out of the profession by homophobic taunts."



Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:
"Homophobic insults should be viewed as seriously as racism."

Launching the guidance, Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, pointed out that "homophobic insults should be viewed as seriously as racism."

Even casual use of homophobic language in schools can create an atmosphere that isolates young people and can be the forerunner of more serious forms of bullying.

Stonewall's recently-published research into homophobic bullying in Britain's secondary schools, demonstrated that almost two thirds of young gay people have experienced homophobic bullying. A staggering

ninety seven per cent of gay pupils regularly hear homophobic insults at school, the research found. "Homophobic bullying creates an ugly climate of intimidation and makes it harder for young people to come out," Harriet Harman MP, Secretary of State for Equality, pointed out. "Teachers and schools can tackle homophobic bullying and this guidance will help them," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, Gill Frances, director of well-being at the National Children's Bureau said: "We are so pleased that we now have such strong anti-homophobic bullying guidance from Government. No young person should feel frightened and threatened – all students can now feel safer knowing that school staff can address homophobic bullying with confidence and the support from government."

If you are affected by any of the issues mentioned in this article, you can speak, in confidence, to either your Year Head or to Dr MacKay.

Other useful web-sites:

www.lgbtyouth.org.uk



www.eachaction.org.uk



www.fflag.org.uk

**SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY.
GET OVER IT!**

Idle Chatter?

Although chatting online can be great fun, young people can sometimes find themselves in situations where they can feel out of their depth. Risks can arise when young people give out their personal details to strangers.

The online world can often seem very different to the real world for young people, and they can be tempted to say and do things that they wouldn't dream of if they met someone face to face. This can include giving out personal information such as mobile numbers and pictures of themselves. If they are talking to another child there is a risk that they will misuse this information - for example, by texting abusive messages to the child, or by posting their image on a website; but there is obviously a greater risk if the person that they are chatting to is an adult. Unfortunately, paedophiles use the internet, often with the intention of talking with and meeting a child. Young people can be naïve to this risk, and often feel that they are invincible, or that 'they would know if someone was lying'. Young people will often 'swap friends' through IM, and therefore can be chatting to strangers who they feel they trust because a friend of a friend knows them. IM is a very intimate form of communication - more so than a chat room with many participants, and therefore child abusers will often use this as a means to extract personal information from a young person.

What Can Parents Do?

Know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used.

Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends - personal information includes their messenger id, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends - if your child publishes a picture or video online - anyone can change it or share it.

If your child receives spam/junk email & texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them.

It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain - it could be a virus, or worse - an inappropriate image or film.

Help your child to understand that some people lie online and that therefore it's better to keep online mates online. They should never meet up with any strangers without an

adult they trust.

Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Teach young people how to block someone online and report them if they feel uncomfortable

When Things Go Wrong

There are people who can help - www.ceop.gov.uk/reporting_abuse.html or for more advice and support go to www.ceop.gov.uk/get_advice_further_support.html

This is a place where you can report any inappropriate or potentially illegal activity with or towards a child online. This might be a conversation with someone online who you think may be an adult, and is treating a child in a way which makes you feel uncomfortable, or you think may be trying to meet them for sex.

Content that you have seen online, which you consider to be potentially illegal, can be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation - www.iwf.org.uk.

There is no need to contact the police directly as the Internet Watch Foundation are qualified to judge the illegality of the material and will report to the police if necessary.

Where your report goes

The Government has set up the CEOP Centre to take these reports and make sure that young people are safe online. This Centre is staffed by specialist police officers and investigators. Your report will go to straight to them, however if the report is deemed to require immediate action outside of the Centre's operating hours the information will automatically be passed to one of the Virtual Global Taskforce www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com all of whom are law enforcement, who will look at it and decide if it requires immediate action and send an alert back to the UK if required.

What happens next?

Your report will go to law enforcement experts who are specialists in the internet. They understand how easy it is to be tricked online and your report will be believed. A police officer/specialist investigator will be then be in touch with you.

ALL CLEAR for the Langton Equestrians

Henry Dingle (Year 9) is a keen horseman and when he discovered that fellow Langton students, Ben Murphy (Year 10) and Sarah Bell (Year 13) were also members of the East Kent Hunt Pony Club, he came up with the idea of the three of them joining together to form the Langton Equestrian Team.

The team's first outing was in the qualifying rounds for the Team Show Jumping Tournament (run by the National Schools Equestrian Association) at Blue Barn Equestrian Centre in Ashford on 22nd February.

There were 22 teams competing and in order to get through to the jump-offs three members of each team had to jump clear rounds. The pressure was on for the three Langton students – they could not afford even the smallest of errors - all of them had to perform perfectly. All of the other teams had more members and so they enjoyed a greater margin for error.

Henry, Ben and Sarah pulled it off, each one of them clearing the fences at a height of 2 feet 9 inches, to make it though. In the Jump-Offs the team were doing well (a clear round

for Henry and only one fence down for Sarah) until Ben's horse decided that he did not like layout of the course and that he preferred to jump it in a different order. Unfortunately, this spelled the end of the tournament for the team who were eventually placed 6th.

"All of us, horses included, really enjoyed the day" said Henry whose palomino horse, Hatty, is only one of a huge menagerie of animals kept by Henry and his family on their farm. "We hope to take part in a dressage competition next month and will be entering further showjumping competitions in the future. We are getting Langton Equestrian Team sweatshirts to wear in future events so will be easy to pick out from the crowd."

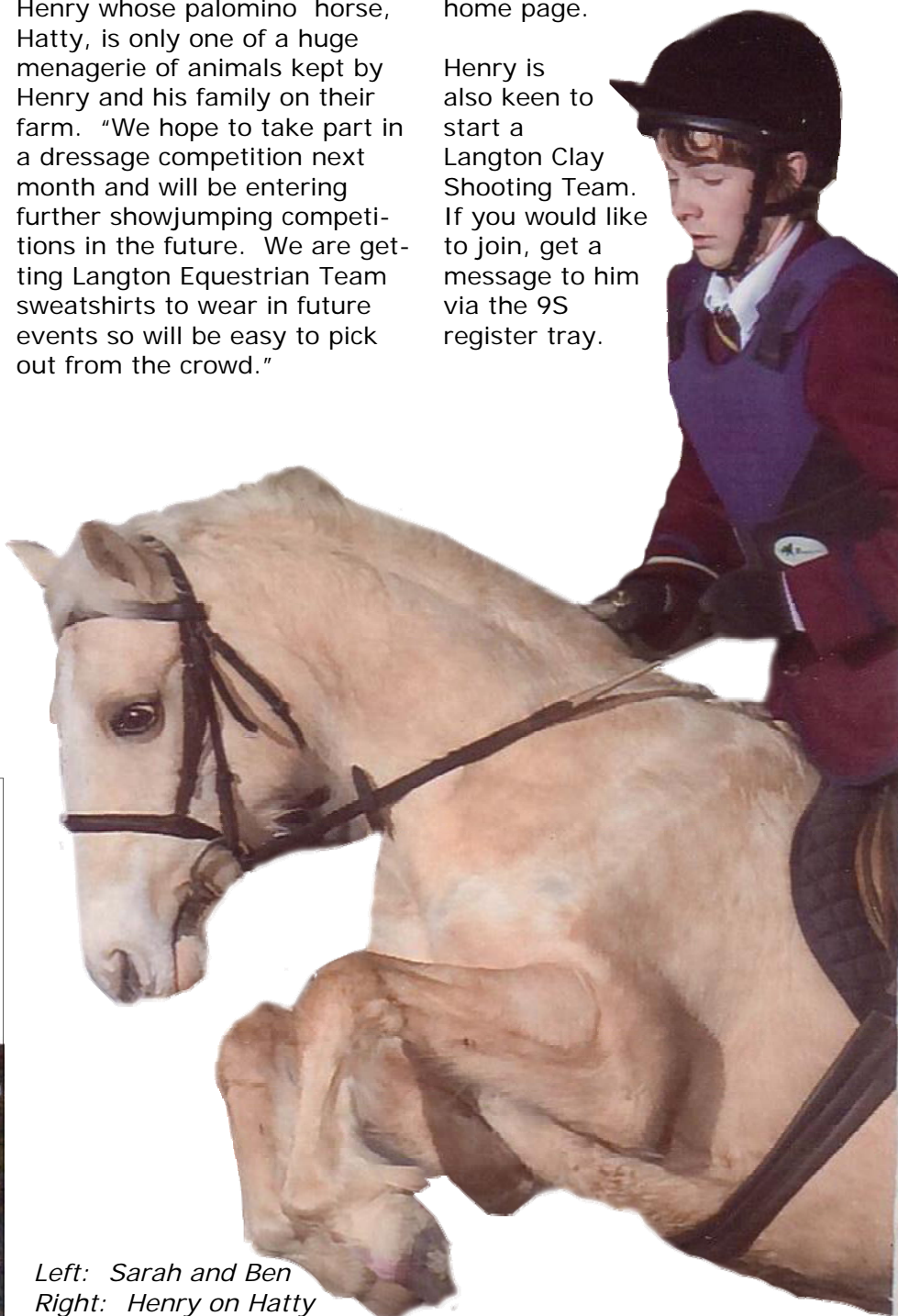
Henry also does swimming, running, and air pistol shooting which, together with his horse-riding make up the 4 sports of the Tetrathlon athlete – the only discipline where the riders have to work harder than their ponies!

If you would like more information about the Tetrathlon, go to www.pcuk.org and click on the 'what can I do' link on the home page.

Henry is also keen to start a Langton Clay Shooting Team. If you would like to join, get a message to him via the 9S register tray.



Left: Sarah and Ben
Right: Henry on Hatty



Ypres Trip

Year 10 students Steven Mayes and Christopher Wickington joined Year 9 boys on the annual Langton trip to Ypres.

On Monday 5th and Tuesday 13th November the Year 9 pupils took the long trip to Flanders to visit sites of the Great War. Despite the horrendous weather, all Year 9 pupils applied themselves very well and looked forward to the trip ahead. The first site they went to was a former trench site called Hill 60. This was a new experience for both of us.

The next site was Langemark Cemetery - this was one of the only four German war cemeteries built in Belgium, then on to the largest British war cemetery in the world - Tyne Cot. Approximately 11,000 war dead are buried at Tyne Cot with another 25,000 names listed as missing

from the Great War. Afterwards we moved on to Saint Julian to listen to the fascinating story behind the first use of chlorine gas in warfare.

Sanctuary Wood is home to one of the last remaining trench sites from the First World War. Despite torrential rain, the Year 9's paid tribute to the site and were very interested by its fascinating trench system. The final site that we visited was the Menin Gate memorial in the centre of Ypres. This remarkable memorial is home to thousands of names of people who died in the Great War as well as more soldiers who are still accounted as missing.

As always to finish the trip, they spent to their hearts content buying Belgian chocolate in the two shops in Ypres town centre. Everyone enjoyed the trip and in general it was a big success.



*Above:
Photograph of a Gun Team at Hill 60
Several British battalions fought on the
Battle for Hill 60 and casualties were high.
During this fighting four Victoria Crosses
were won*

Laughing all the way to Lille

On 10th December boys from 7B and 7L accompanied their teachers on a trip to the French town of Lille.

Nathaniel Shaughnessy and Ben Walker tell all...

Nat: We may have thought that the purpose of the trip was for us to enjoy a day out and get some Christmas shopping done but, of course, its real purpose was to experience French culture and to practise our French.

Ben: We wasted no time in investigating the city of Lille. My group checked out the old town and then the Christmas market where we were introduced to strange and new tastes, smells and sounds. The strange tastes included chocolate brioche, hot apple juice and maple tea, the strange smells were of mulled wine and cakes and the strange sounds those of French people buying goods. We soon split up

and scoured the market for bargains.

Nat: The market was spectacular and sold absolutely everything from personalised necklaces to a didgeridoo! With one token you could get three rides on the Great Wheel (which is higher than the London Eye) and get a view that stretched over all Lille and beyond. In the town there was every possible store imaginable – Game, Thorntons, JJB sports, and the Disney Store included.

Ben: We then invaded the town of Calais for a taste of French cuisine. The waiters extended the international hand of friendship – a plate of chips and beef bourguignon.

Nat: There was a vegetarian option available – a pizza. We finally waddled onto the coach to start the journey home.

Ben: All too soon we were listening to the really annoying message alerts at the Channel Tunnel station that told us that our return crossing had been cancelled. Cue more message alerts as the problems were

sorted out and we were sped across towards England.

Nat: We are all anticipating the next visit with joy hoping to put all our newly learnt culture and language to use.

Ben: Yes and we would like to thank all the teachers for taking us, especially Mrs Jayne for teaching us the lingo quickly and effectively before we went and Mrs Motley, for organising the trip.



*Above:
Lille Market*

A Trip to the Royal Society

by Jonathan Rogers

Though it is an oft-quoted truism in Physics lessons that the speed of light is unsurpassable, Mrs Parker dashing up onto the platform of Faversham station just as the train arrived did appear to demonstrate a somewhat greater rate of change of displacement than most photons I am wont to observe. The occasion was of course an important one, for it is only in anticipation of the most extraordinary circumstances, like period one Sixth Form lessons, that such feats may be seen. This particular momentous occurrence was, as it happened, a trip of a group of Langton boys to the Royal Society in London for the Michael Faraday Prize Lecture for the Communication of Science, which was won this year by Jim Al-Khalili, Professor of

Physics at the University of Surrey and a renowned public speaker.

Having leapt off the train at Victoria and taken a rather brisk tour beside Buckingham Palace, we arrived a little breathless at the Royal Society, striding up the great steps past hordes of scientific enthusiasts who were, alas, bereft of the special advance booking that was ours. Once inside the building we were escorted to our priority seats and found ourselves placed directly behind David Attenborough, who was engaged in animated conversations with other great personages. Not wishing to arouse remark, we played it cool with him and refrained from requesting an autograph. The lecture itself concerned a number of great Arabic scientists whom the speaker considered to be somewhat unjustly neglected in scientific literature and whom he would actually place in the top ten scientists of all time. Did you know, for example, that the word

'algebra' is actually derived from the Arabic *al-jabr*, literally meaning 'the reuniting'?

After some pretty fierce questioning from the audience, the assembly broke up and we had the opportunity to be introduced to Professor Lord Rees, who, despite not perhaps being quite as iconic a figure in popular culture as Attenborough, is a fairly bright fellow, holding a number of decent jobs down at present, including being President of the Royal Society, Astronomer Royal and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The return journey was just as eventful as the way there, with another brisk walk cum run across London and a dive onto another train, timed with mathematical precision just before it set off.

All in all, it was a brilliant time and an absolutely fascinating experience – one which must be repeated some time soon.

Comenius Project by Joe Adams

Recently a number of students from the school have taken part in a number of meetings with people from all around Europe.

The Comenius project is an initiative which aims to bring together ideas from our partner schools in the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain and London. A few weeks ago, three students from the four schools came to Simon Langton to discuss the current topic, the student voice. The foreign students had a chance to view the Lower School Council and Student's Union meetings held and comment about them. Similarly, our students listened to presentations about the other schools. The project ran beyond the boundaries of school, all of the foreign students were hosted by people here and got the chance to live with their host families and experienced normal school life at the Langton. All of the

students taking part enjoyed themselves and got on well and subsequently, many great ideas came from it. We hope that relationships will continue to develop further and that many more productive ideas can be dreamt up. The next meeting is in Barcelona in April and we are all looking forward to it.



Sainsbury's

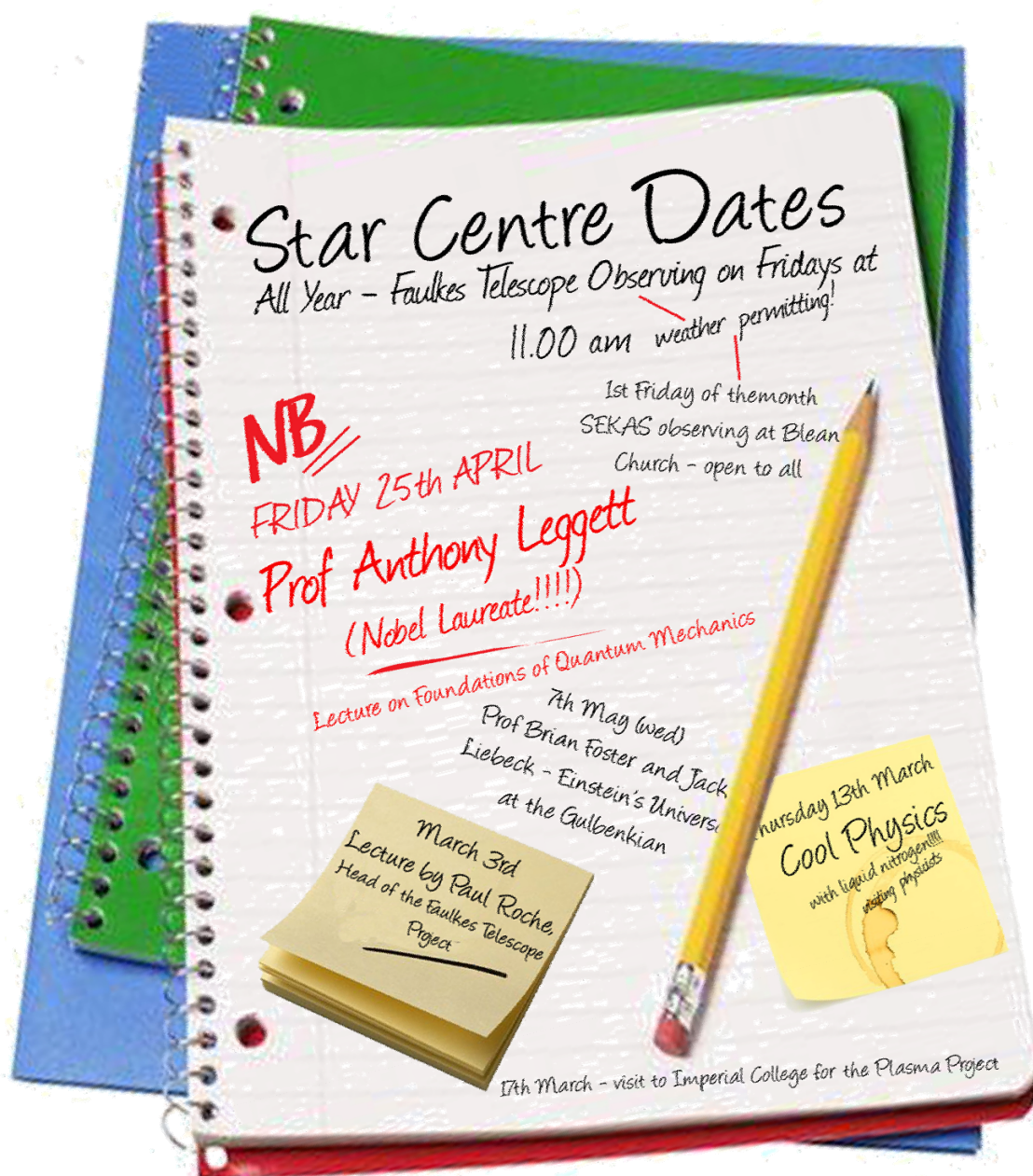
Active Kids



Please remember us when you go shopping...



collection boxes in reception



Star Centre Update

By Mrs B Parker

The Langton Star Centre has got through to the final round of bidding to the Science and Technology Facilities Council for funding to establish and host the UK Astronomy Teacher Training programme which will be part of the Faulkes Telescope Project. If we do get awarded the funding from this research council it will be the first time a school has ever received a Large Award in the ten years the scheme has been running. The Large Award scheme was originally set up by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council in 1998 to provide funds for projects which are expected to have a significant national impact.

There continues to be lots of activity within the Star Centre:

We are entering a competition to fly an experiment on a Surrey Satellite Technology satellite launch in 2010 and working in collaboration with CERN and Virgin Galactic on this.

The Imperial Plasma project continues apace with the support of a grant from the Royal Society, the UK's national Academy of Science.

We have more students than ever being members of the Faulkes Student Academy and making significant contributions to galaxy, supernova and asteroid imaging. We took part in imaging and calculating the trajectory of wd5 2007, the asteroid that may impact with Mars on 30th January.

A bit closer to home we are planning to observe the Lunar Eclipse in the night of the 21st February. No robotic telescope with this one, it will be a case of thermals and hot flasks! The lunar eclipse will start at about 3am and the total phase lasts nearly 50 minutes. Let's hope it's a clear night!

Good Question.

Answers on a Postcard Please

By Mrs B Parker

'How do you use spectral analysis to find the geometry of plasma emissions from distant stars?'

Good Question.

This was put to a large group of Year 12 and Year 13 physics students recently as Professor Steve Rose, Head of Plasma Physics at Imperial College held a research seminar at the school.

In order to be in a position to answer this question using new data from the XMM satellite the students need to tackle some challenging problems first.

With funding from the Royal Society for this research project our students will visit Imperial on the 17th March to work with Steve Rose's research group, and members of his research group will be resident in the Star Centre in July. This interplay between students and research gives our students a fantastic insight into the real world of physics and has contributed to substantial numbers of students continuing studies of Physics at University.



THE STUDENT UNION

it's all about you

By Nat Clark
SU President

It would come as no surprise to you if I told you that you deserved to be at the Langton. However you came to be here, you did something that others could not. This statement seems obvious but it isn't: think how many private and comprehensive schools there are which don't have students who have gained a place through their own merit.

This is what differentiates the increasingly rare Grammar school from pretty much everywhere else. Don't feel too smug though: if you've finished the race only to realise the reward at the end isn't worth having, one wonders why you bothered running the race in the first place.

So how can you make the 'prize', this school, better? *You* can make it better! Another obvious statement, but, again, is it? Too many pupils at the Langton leave it to 'someone else' to improve the environment they inhabit. If you want somewhere to sit in your room, you don't expect your parents to know the problem you have as they don't spend any time in your room. You have to tell

them about your problem so they can buy you a chair. This is exactly the same situation at the Langton. The staff cannot possibly know all the problems you have during your school career in the same way your parents don't know all the problems you experience at home. If they don't know the problems, they can't provide you with a solution. This is where you can help.

Whatever you think of the Students' Union and the groups surrounding it, its effectiveness is categorically linked to two things: those who run it, the students, and those who are a part of it, the students. And that means that if you aren't coming to see us about the problems you have with your teachers, the three strikes system, the food or anything else you have an issue with, you only have yourself to blame that nothing is done about it.

So how can you make your school better? Well, you have a number of options.

The simplest is to write down the problem on a piece of paper, with your name and form if you want, and put it in the SU suggestions box in the reception area. One of your SU repre-

sentatives will read it and get back to you about it, proposing what we can do about the problem. We don't care how petty or how unsolvable your problem might be: even if we can't do anything about it immediately, we might be able to improve the situation in the future. Alternatively you could also come and see one of your SU reps directly.

You could also run for one of the positions in the Student Voice around the school: these vary in time commitments but they are all rewarding, look good on a CV and are a good opportunity to help the school make the school better. Elections for many of these positions, for example, elections for the Students' Union and the Lower School Council, are held at the start of each academic year so if you think you would be good in one of these roles, run for the position in September!

Any business, organisation or government would fall down without the support of the people. The Student Voice needs yours, in order to make your school life, and the school life of future Langtonians, better.

Who are you calling Stupid?

By Mr Dan Knapp

Stupidity is hard to quantify. Some would say stupidity is walking when you can sit at home and watch TV. Some would say it's being awake when you can sleep. Some would say stupidity makes you give up a weekend of your life that you'll never get back, and waste it by walking 36.2 miles through the Cotswolds, at night, for charity.

By that definition I'm pretty stupid.

On the weekend of the 9th and 10th of February I could be found walking in the Cotswolds. Not that you'd have seen me, because it's pretty dark at night in those hills. I was part of a four person team who were taking part in the Cotswolds Marathon, a bruising 36.2 mile trek to raise money for cancer research.

I'm not the fittest of guys, so when I was asked by a friend if I would step in at the last minute because someone had dropped out I understandably had a few misgivings. But no, I thought, I'll be alright. It's only a walk, how hard can it be? I walk occasionally. I even run sometimes, when the ice cream van is driving away. I'll manage.

I began to question my decision when we lined up to start at 5pm. I could see the first hill in front of us, and it was a beast. We don't have hills in Kent, I have decided. It was at this point that I received my first supportive "Your feet are really going to hurt" text from Herr Moffat, who even woke up especially at 5am to send 'supportive' messages. Such overwhelming confidence from my colleagues made me want to cry like a little baby.

Walking that far is an interesting experience, and one that is hard to put into words. It doesn't make you break a sweat, apart from when you're trying to fight your way up a steep hill (have you seen the cheese rolling contents in Gloucester on TV? Yes? Well that hill and I had a falling out at the weekend. I called it things you really shouldn't say to a glorified heap of mud). What hurts is simply the relentless pounding on your feet, as step after step becomes a chore.

I don't want to go into the details of the walk too much, because a walk doesn't have many interesting features. I'm sure that if it had been daytime and I'd been able to see it would have been beautiful, but it was dark, so I couldn't and therefore it wasn't. There were a lot of stiles, plenty of mud and some horses. There was a cow at one point, but I was past caring by then. I relieved myself into a hedge, round about the twenty mile mark, which was nice.

It took us fourteen and a half hours in all, and by the end I

was feeling sick as a result of drinking too much red bull and taking too many ibuprofen. It was like being a student again, but with exercise.

It was, by far, one of the most unpleasant ways to spend a night that I can think of without having to give a statement to the police afterwards. I can't get over the fact that the whole endeavor was legal. Where's the Nanny State when you need it? If they can ban smoking in public places, they should ban acts of public stupidity and walking, especially when combined to such an appalling extreme.

Would I do it again? Yes. It may have been horrible, and I may whinge about it for the next few months, but we raised a lot of money for a good cause. My grandmother is going to live out her days with bowel cancer and if the money that we raised will make even a tiny bit of difference, it's worth it and more besides. Charity doesn't have to be enjoyable, but a good cause can make you feel good about it anyway.

And at least I wasn't one of the mentalists who ran it.

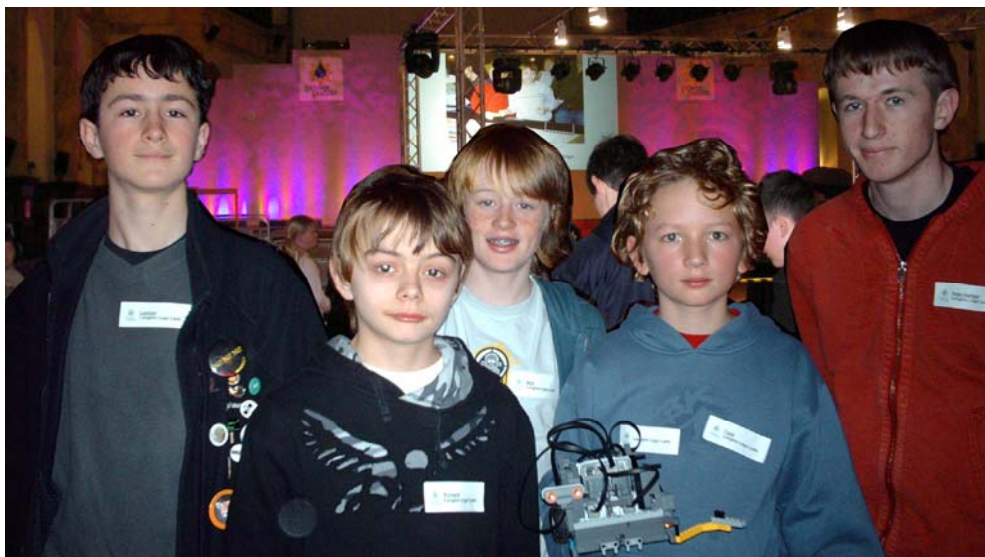


Following the Yellow Brick Road

By Mr C Boucher

The Langton Lego Lads attended the FLL Power Puzzle Final in Birmingham after winning the East Kent Regional Tournament last November. They met twenty-three other finalists from the UK and Ireland in an exciting head-to-head competition.

The team lifted its game in the Robot Challenge, gaining a very respectable score in the first round. Unfortunately they were not able to improve enough to reach the knock-out competition in the later stages. The Lego Lads performed reasonably well in the other disciplines but were up



against some very slick presentations so were unable to gain another yellow brick trophy.

It was a very demanding tournament and the team enjoyed the atmosphere as the competition built to an exciting crescendo. They left the venue planning their return after being inspired by many excellent

examples of programming and robot building skill. The team members are: Lachlan Bennett, Matthew Phillips, Todd Lieben-schutz-Jones and Richard Ladley. A special mention must be made of Peter Hatfield, the official Team Mentor, who supported and coached them throughout the journey and competition.

BOOK MARK

By Langton Librarian
Mrs T Jones

The new Robert Muchamore book, *Sleepwalker*, has arrived! This is the 9th in the series and one of the best so far. The cherub agents are called in to investigate after an airliner explodes over the Atlantic. The 10th book, *The General* will be out in October, but before that, there will be a special World Book Day title in March, *Dark Sun*.

This term's other new new books include *I am Legend*, the science fiction story which has now been made into a film, Conn Iggulden's latest title *Lords of the Bow* and the 3rd in the New Heroes Series by Michael Carroll, *Absolute Power*. There is a new biography of Lewis Hamilton as well as the 2nd volume of *The World According to Clarkson*.

March 6th is World Book Day and there will be some special events taking place in the Library.

Throughout the week, there will be a book fair with many titles to choose from, including new best-sellers. Prices will start from £2.99. And for every book purchased, the school earns up to 50% of the value back in free books for the Library.

On Friday March 7th Joe Craig, author of the popular Jimmy Coates series will be in school to talk about the ideas which have inspired him to write Jimmy Coates and to share techniques for turning the ideas into stories. He will be giving two sessions in the Library to students from years 7 – 10 but there will an opportunity at lunchtime for everyone to meet him, buy books and have them signed.

World Book Day tokens will also be available in the Library.

DON'T FORGET

There will be an
additional
INSET DAY
on

Thursday 20th
March 2008

**Students should
not come to school
on that day**

Sports News in Brief

By Mr R Green

HOCKEY

January was a bumper month for the Langton hockey sides with all teams bar the 2nd XI winning all of their matches. But the 2nd XI deserve credit for winning their first game for three seasons, a 2-1 victory against Rochester Maths. In fact, all six matches against Rochester Maths across the age ranges were wins for Langton.

In the Kent Cup, the Under 18s have reached the semi-final stage with wins against Manwood's 11-1 and Eltham College

4-0. The Under 14s have matched this by defeating Hayes 8-0 and Manwood's 11-0. At the time of writing the Under 16s have beaten Cranbrook 4-3 in a game that sounds a lot closer than it actually was. To book a place in the semi-finals they now need to beat Rochester Maths. If they do win this will be the first time for many years that all three age groups will represent the Langton on the Kent Schools' Hockey Finals Day, which is scheduled for 27th February.

Perhaps this shows that all those cold Friday night practice sessions led by Mr Dowsing, Mr Mitchell and Mr Green at Polo Farm are all worthwhile.

Other results:

1st XI – Duke of York's W4-2;
Rochester Maths W6-4; Chatham House W3-2
2nd XI – Duke of York's L2-4;

Rochester Maths W2-1; Chatham House L1-2

Under 15 – Norton Knatchbull W7-1; Rochester Maths W12-1; Chatham House W11-2

Under 14 - Rochester Maths W4-2; Chatham House W5-0

Under 13 - Rochester Maths W6-0; Chatham House W6-0

Under 12 - Rochester Maths W3-0; Chatham House W9-1

FOOTBALL

Sadly the Langton Under 12s went out of the Kent Cup at the semi-final stage, losing a very close encounter 1-0 to Norton Knatchbull. Despite applying a lot of pressure on the Knatchbull defence Langton were unable to equalise. They did manage to get the ball into the net twice in the final stages, but both attempts were clearly off-side,

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME TO BE AVOIDED

The DCSF are asking schools to encourage parents to avoid term-time holidays whenever possible. Schools must remember that they can only approve absence for family holidays if they consider that there are special reasons which warrant the holiday. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the maximum allowance is ten school days in a school year regardless of the number of holidays taken.

Holiday prices and the fact that parents have booked a holiday before checking with the school are not special reasons. Ten days absence for a family holiday can result in pupils with poor attendance becoming persistent absentees.

Further information is available on the DCSF website. A copy of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 is available on the UK Statute Law Database at <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk>

LEAFY LESSONS

by Robert Andrews 7G

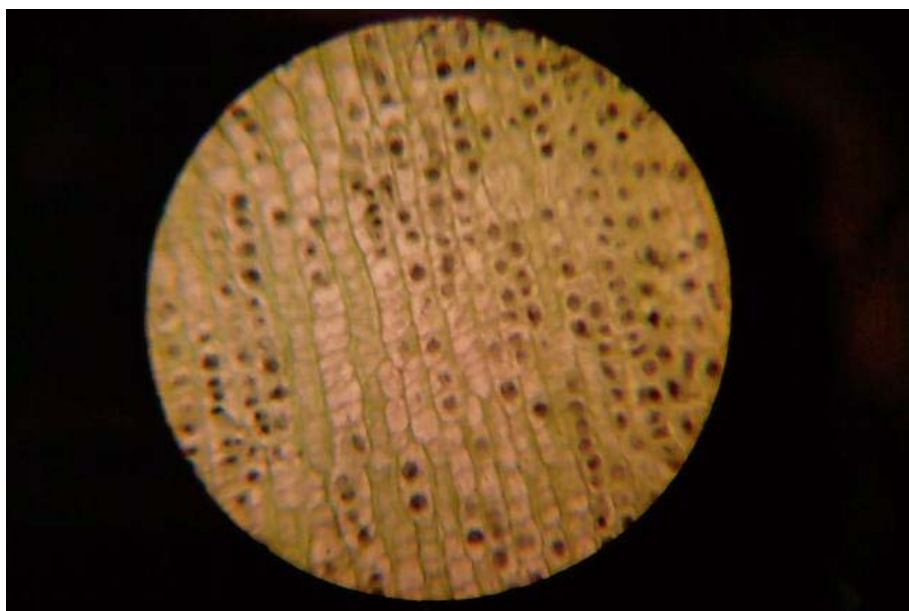
In Mr Scarlett's science class, the form 7G have been studying the structure of cells.

We have learnt that every living thing is made up of cells, so to understand life you need to understand cells. Our task was to identify and name the different parts in a cell. In order to find this out, we studied leaf cells

through a microscope.

We were surprised at the beauty of the magnified leaf cells. How could such a tiny speck of leaf look so spectacular?

When I asked permission to take a photo of the leaf cell on my mobile phone, Mr Scarlett agreed but was not hopeful that the picture would be clear. However he was proved wrong as a very successful shot was taken. Here it is.



Langton Spelling Bee - fingers on the buzzers!

By Peter Hatfield

On the 23rd of January the Langton Library was pleased to host its first Inter-Form Spelling Bee competition! Boys had fun spelling words from algorithm to zucchini in this fast paced, quick thinking challenge!

A spelling bee is a spelling competition style from America where contestants have to spell increasingly difficult words aloud after hearing them once. In later

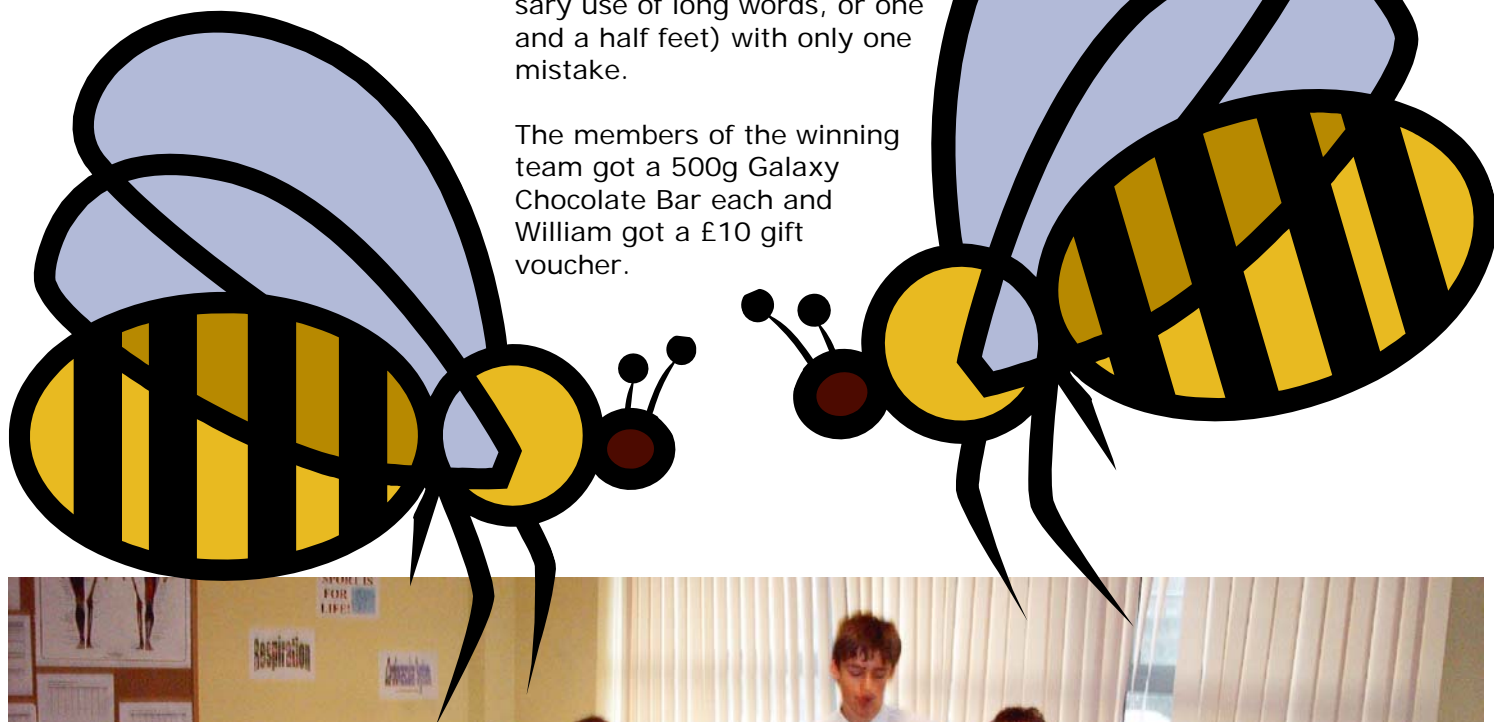
rounds, getting words wrong knocks you out of the competition. The words get harder as the competition goes on and eventually one person is left to claim the title of spelling champion!

In total 22 students competed from all the lower school forms. The winning form was **S** whose team consisted of Callum Earnshaw, Daniel Judge, Alex Ashley, Freddie Vantfielder, George Ogilvie and Jeremy Thundow. The individual winner William Thomas-Sam from 7B, who spelt sesquipedalian (meaning either the unnecessary use of long words, or one and a half feet) with only one mistake.

The members of the winning team got a 500g Galaxy Chocolate Bar each and William got a £10 gift voucher.

Student Librarians Guy Bates and Peter Hatfield organised the event, Guy taking the position of fearsome question master and Peter taking score and keeping order!

The event was highly successful and will be repeated next year so start practicing all you budding spellers!



Some of the 'Stingers' that the contestants had to spell:

Angstrom – a unit of length, approximately equal to the width of an atom

Dichotomy – the essential difference of two opposing ideas

Pachyderm – elephants and other similar mammals

Autocephalous – a bishop not accountable to a higher figure within the church

Quintessence – the purest form of something, or the 5th element after fire earth, water and air.

A GRAND NIGHT OUT

By Tom Rees-Davies

The Langton, as I have discovered in my near seven year stay here, offers countless opportunities for pupils and parents to get involved in various activities. Some of the things that I have had the tremendous fortune to do while at the school, have been truly awesome (the Australia an obvious highlight), so when I was approached by Mr Crick to give my thoughts on a proposed Burns Night for the sixth form, I jumped at the opportunity.

The intention was to have a free meal for between 80 and 100 sixth formers, with some traditional Scottish dancing and competitions. The main planning was done in coordination with the PA and we fleshed out the ideas, got a menu sorted and went about advertising the event.

Eventually we ended up with a party of in excess of 100, roughly 70 of which were sixth formers. To most the idea and etiquette of a traditional Burns Night is decidedly foreign and mysterious. However, lead by our mercurial in-house Scot Mr McCrae, the night was entirely a success beyond, I'm sure everyone will agree, the best we could have hoped for. The food provided by Caterlink was sublime, considering they were cooking something that very rarely makes an appearance south of the border. For many the opportunity to eat haggis was relished, but even those without the stomach to give it a try were provided for.

One very special mention must go to James Laraman, our fantastic piper who piped in the haggis to rapturous applause from those seated. It is truly something to have such a magnificent piper in our midst!

Mr McCrae went through the reasons for celebrating Robbie Burns' birthday, along the way mentioning a few things the Scots had discovered or invented, whilst highlighting a couple of English shortcomings! He said the Selkirk grace like only a true Scot could, and was fantastic throughout the evening, organising and leading through the celebration. Mr Moffat read Burns' poem 'To a Mouse' in his best Scotch accent, which was met with delight. The next part of the ceremony involved a 'Toast to the Lassies' and a reply from said Lassies. Both were preceded by short speeches from both myself and Head Girl Becki Moss, who highlighted the comical irony of having a toast being proposed at a Burns Night in England by a

Welshman. It appeared also that Becki was the only speaker of the night not to mention the inimitable Mr Mitchell in her speech - I'm sure he enjoyed the attention though!

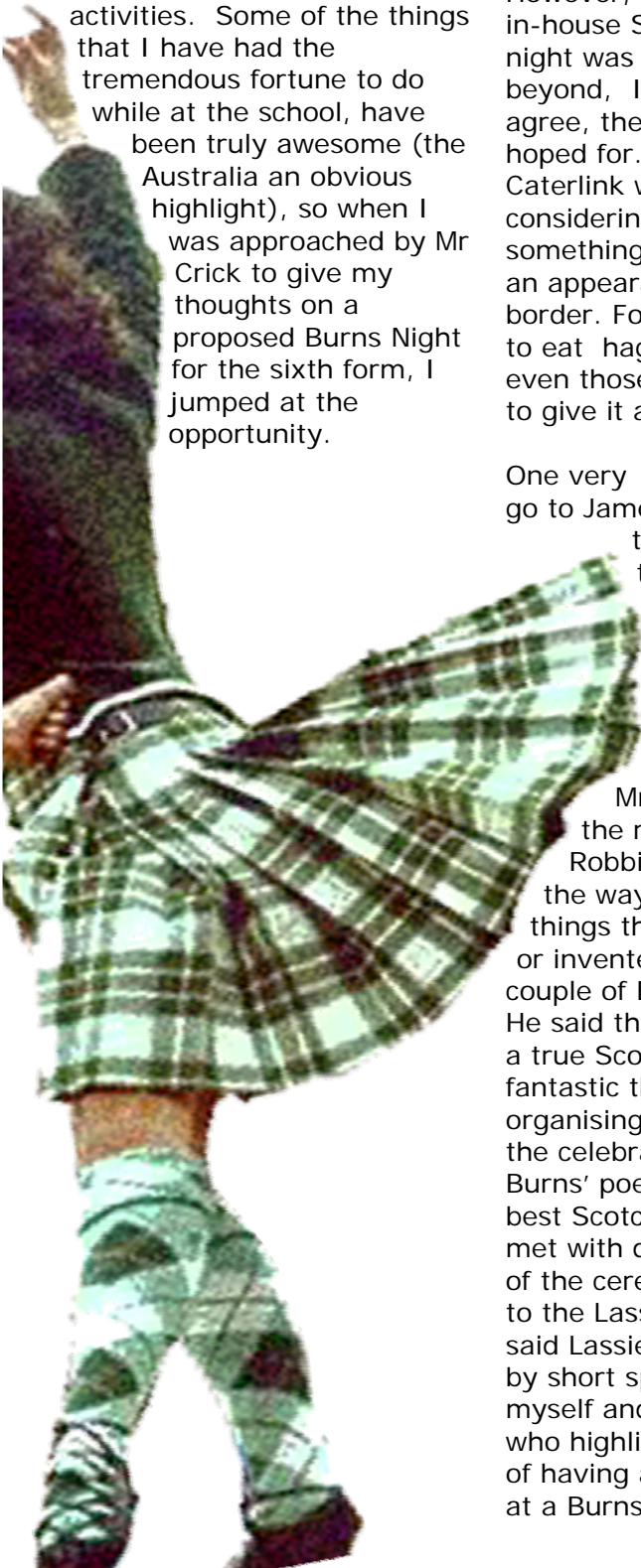
Then the final and arguably most enjoyable (or should that be embarrassing!) part of the night. With everyone having taken advantage of the bar, it was time for the Scottish dancing. In the three weeks leading up to the Burns Night, rehearsals had been taking place every week lead by Mr Stan and Mrs Sue Larkins. Another big thank-you also goes to them. With half the room knowing roughly what they were doing and the other half having not the slightest clue, nearly everyone took to the dance floor.

What followed started off in an extremely red-faced fashion ended in a mixture of total chaos and total enjoyment. To be fair, people got the hold of the dancing fairly quickly, but either way people enjoyed themselves entirely. To round off a near perfect evening, James played Auld Lang Syne and the entirety of those present danced. An energetic close to an equally energetic evening.

Hopefully, due to the monumental success of the evening, it will now become an annual event. I believe it is no exaggeration to say that everyone there that evening had a fantastic time and would do the same again if asked.

From my point of view it was Extremely rewarding to see everyone enjoying themselves as they did.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who was involved in making it such an electric evening, and long may the Langton tradition of extraordinary opportunities continue!





Lots of parents/guardians have already signed up to receive electronic communications from the school - either emails or text messages.

This is a quick and efficient way for the school to send letters and reminders - not only does it save paper, but it also means no more rummaging around in the bottom of school bags to find important notices that have been sent home via 'boy post'!

If you have not already signed up, please do so by contacting Angelina Sheppard at the school either by email (office@thelangton.kent.sch.uk) or by telephone.



Report by

Every year, the Langton geography department takes year 9 on a fieldwork trip about rivers. I think it's definitely true that we learn better out of the classroom. We visited two sites along the River Nailbourne. We went to sites in Bourne Park, just south of Bridge, and Littlebourne. We all investigated the depth, gradient, velocity, width and different sized stones in both sites.

First, we went to Bourne Park near Bridge. We went in two minibuses before having to take a short walk to the River. Minibus rides with the school are always

goof fun. Everyone seemed to sing their way there, making up silly ditties which I cannot repeat in a school news report! We carried out lots of experiments, noting them down as we went along: we used measuring sticks for depth, tape measures and a floating bottle for velocity (we ended up shouting at this bottle telling it to hurry up because we were cold!) The water was extremely cold and so we couldn't keep our hands in it for very long and so no-one wanted to search for pebbles. It usually ended up that one brave boy did it all by himself while the others stood by and laughed.

We then collected all the gear and moved on to Littlebourne. The river in Littlebourne was wider and deeper because it is further downstream. After finishing all the tasks we had a little time in the river wading through the water. Everyone got very wet here, most people turning up their boots to make their own little stream. The joint strength of Mrs Taylor and Mr Raines had to be used to get one boys squelchy boots off his feet. To his relief they were successful. A few unlucky people managed to get themselves stuck in the mud. In one boys case a crew of highly qualified pulling teachers got to the job immediately, showing their skill by wrenching him out. I think next year they should consider taking a crane! No one really fell in, however many people tripped up but luckily saved themselves from a complete drenching.

The weather varied for each group, one group had to return to school early because of bad weather. However, despite the cold and, in some cases, wet weather the trip was extremely interesting, exiting and a fun way to explore rivers.

Especially laughing at teachers and other classmates.

RAKattack

A plethora of posters had the whole school scratching their heads, wondering what was going on. What was this RAK thing all about? An invitation to Run A Kilometer? A reminder that Roses And Kisses may be in order as Valentine Day approached? Mr Butler and Mrs Waters were the brains behind the posters and they weren't saying....

Eventually their secret was out.
RAK = **R**andom **A**ct of **K**indness.

In an assembly to the whole of Key Stage 3 Mr Butler explained how easy it would be to turn the

Langton into a warm and cuddly place, suffused with good feelings—just by everyone doing one random act of kindness each day in the run-up to half term. Of course, serious RAKateers could do more than one RAK a day if they felt particularly kind. A RAK could be as simple as holding the door open for a fellow student or smiling at a teacher. Years 7, 8 and 9 students immediately grasped the possibilities and it wasn't long before they started to stack up their RAKs. Mr Butler has offered prizes to the form who took up the challenge most effectively and to the student who

writes the best article, for Langton News, explaining how the 10 days of RAK made a difference to the school.

A list of some of the RAKs carried out by students will be included in the next edition of Langton News.

Remember - the 10 'Official' RAK days may be over but kindness costs nothing and anyone can make someone else's day a little bit better by doing a simple act of kindness.

Butler's Battlers Win Through

By Ben Abrahms



Young Consumers.
What an adventure - I really don't know where to begin.

In typical Langton style our YC team was made up of whoever we could find in the library at the time. After some minor alterations post-qualifying round, Dan Keim, Geoff Baldwin, Joe Mooney and I took a trip down to Maidstone accompanied by Mr Butler, with aspirations for victory. After some heated competition we

progressed through to the finals. Facing off against Chatham House, the favourites to win the competition, and Mascalls School (Mr Butler's former school) we were destined for an action packed final.

At the start we found ourselves trailing behind both schools but we clawed back the points until we were almost level with both teams. In the final section, the buzzer round, our team obliterated

the opposition, (Joe Mooney, for example, managed to buzz in and correctly answer a question after only hearing the first three words of it!) taking the lead by the time the event had come to a close.

After the presentation of an iPod shuffle to each of us and a couple of snaps for the media we were finished and took our train back to Canterbury on an adrenaline high; watch out South-East Finals!



By Phil Day, Chair

The Parents Association of Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys has a long tradition of fund raising for worthy projects whilst at the same time providing a social environment for all parents of Langton pupils to enjoy.

As Parents or Guardians, you are automatically members of the Parents Association. You are also welcome to become Committee Members, attend Committee Meetings and help to decide on events and shape the role of the PA.

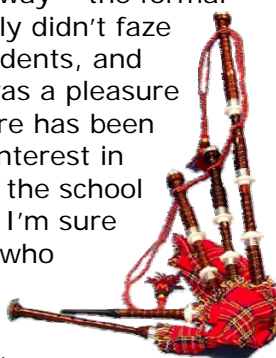
This role is changing, and although still retaining the fund raising element, it is increasing its involvement in the interaction between parents and the school, arranging events to discuss topical issues, and it is also involving parents in certain areas of school life that relate to their own skills or qualifications, such as provision of Clubs. Remember that any parent who only wishes to help out at events, and doesn't feel that they want to be involved on the committee can do just that, we are always looking for helpers!

A Big Burns Thank You

We'd like to take the opportunity here to thank all of those who took part in the recent Burns Night celebration, and helped make it a great success.

Our particular thanks go to Bob Crick for his tireless efforts in co-ordinating the event, the wonderful catering, led by Gay and Caterlink, the Scottish Dancing 'training' provided by Sue and Stan Larkins, and the unforgettable John McCrae as President for the evening. James Laraman piped in the haggis, Ken Moffat offered us poetry and Mrs Temel sang.

It was wonderful to see everybody enjoying themselves in such a 'traditional' way – the formal dinner certainly didn't faze any of the students, and the dancing was a pleasure to watch. There has been good deal of interest in adding this to the school calendar, and I'm sure the students who attended would recommend it.



Quiz Night on 29th March

The New Langton Boys Quiz Team headed up by Ben Abrams is back to test your quiz skills in March.

This time around the evening will be an 'American Supper' type event, which will be reflected in the ticket price of only £4 per person (£3 Students), and we will provide cutlery. There will be a Bar provided, and Raffle and prizes as usual.

Booking Form and Tickets will be available from School Reception shortly.

Raffle Prizes needed

Hopefully you will be able to attend one of our events, but if you can't, and would like to help in fundraising, we are always in need of Raffle prizes – it saves us purchasing them and eating into profits. So any new gifts anything YOU would like to win in a Raffle) please get to Reception as soon as possible – thank you.

Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Event in March

The Parents' Association is pleased to invite you to an information evening on Wednesday 26th March at 7.00pm.

It will be held in the School Hall, and scheduled to last for approximately one hour.

Dr Duncan Mackay, Deputy Head (Pastoral Care), Andy Raines and Angela Scully will present the School's policies and the care systems in place, along with The School Drugs Education Co-ordinator, Anne Lord, who will provide an informative presentation and the opportunity for Q&A.

Please take the time to come along, have a cup of coffee and raise any queries you may have, find out what is taught to your boys in PSHE classes and see what YOU can do to advise and protect your children.

Our next Committee meeting is on Thursday 13th March.

Contact and General Information

If you would like to contact us, here are some names and numbers:

Phil Day (Chairman)

- 01227 709142

philipday.motif@btinternet.com

Guy Sharrock (Vice Chair)

- 01303 262006

gsharroc@crs.org

War verses

Year 9 Students have been writing poetry about the Great War in their history lessons and a selection of the best will be printed in a booklet to be published shortly. In the meantime, Langton News is pleased to print these two outstanding verses.



Brave Men Lie Dead

By Jamie Leigh

They will not rise as the sun comes up,
They will not sleep as it goes down
Forever young, never old
We will remember them as they lie cold.

Like toy soldiers men fall down
Row after row they are gunned down
Bullet riddled corpses plague the fields of many
Brave men lie dead. Life? They don't have any.

Men gave their lives
For the glory of England
And now they lie dead
A muddy grave to lie in.

In a lifeless graveyard
Brave men lie.
For our tomorrow they gave their today.
We will remember them everyday.

The Red Fields

By Hugh Aldis

We have won the war but at a great cost
The fields are red with the blood of those lost
The machine guns are staffing the once green fields
The wounds that are given will not heal

All around there's the shout of 'retreat'
The Germans are yelling, 'the Tommies are beat'
Again and again out of the trenches we'll go
While all around there will be screams of fear, or woe.

For us, the brave ones, will never stop
Again and again well's go over the top
For I am one of the allies elite
And us Tommies will never be beat.

We will come at you with our bayonets drawn
And all the hope you had will leave you forlorn
For when the moon wanes, there will only be pain
And those once beautiful fields will be red again.

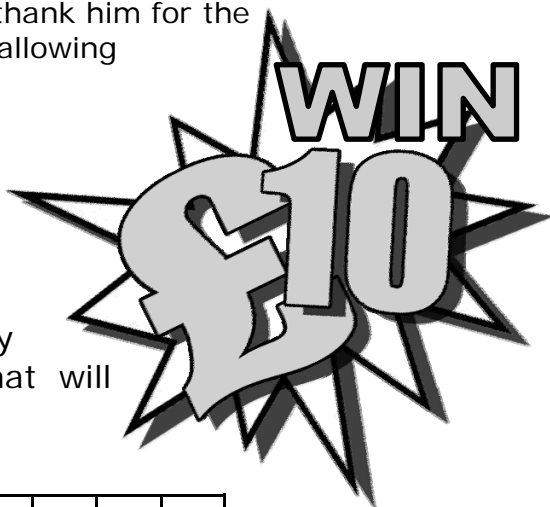
For a greater cause these lives are taken
And our lives at home had to be forsaken
There will be dead, wounded and dying all around
And everywhere those fields will be red to the ground.

These horrific events you don't ever want to see
But hope must never be lost for it is the key
It is the only thing that can keep me sane
The hope that I won't see red fields again.

We have won a battle, but glorious war
Wars like that there will be no more
I can now safely walk up my home lane
I will see no more red fields again.

History Word Search

Christopher Jenner of 7L has hidden words - all with a history theme - in the grid below. If you can find them, you could be in with a chance of winning a £10 voucher. There is another £10 voucher on its way to Christopher to thank him for the time and effort he put into preparing this word search and allowing Langton News to reproduce it here.



To Enter: Find all the hidden words (printed on the right hand side of the page) in the grid below. The words may be printed horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Mark the words carefully, complete the entry form and hand the whole page in to reception by 25th March. The first correct entry pulled out of the hat will win a £10 voucher.

B	A	L	T	R	O	F	N	O	M	E	D	N	O	M	I	S	BATTLE OF HASTINGS
A	E	C	R	U	O	S	C	L	K	M	O	N	P	Q	D	S	NORMANS
T	B	T	F	C	A	L	N	E	S	V	O	V	D	C	L	K	MOAT
T	L	O	D	X	P	K	E	N	R	O	M	A	N	O	L	W	PORTCULLIS
L	A	A	O	D	R	P	A	P	R	U	S	N	O	L	A	F	BEAUMARIS CASTLE
E	D	N	N	O	L	M	Z	R	R	Z	D	E	S	H	W	C	CURTAIN WALL
O	S	O	M	C	R	A	N	D	P	C	A	N	N	O	N	L	MOTTE AND BAILEY
F	R	L	C	O	H	B	E	O	N	D	X	L	I	M	I	C	HARDRADA
H	V	Y	N	Z	A	R	R	Z	O	D	V	C	W	O	A	P	DRAWBRIDGE
A	X	L	M	R	H	T	N	O	P	Q	I	F	D	T	T	C	SENLACK
S	D	O	O	O	C	L	A	H	A	R	K	L	O	T	R	E	SAXONS
T	O	N	L	U	D	R	A	W	B	R	I	D	G	E	U	S	KEEP
I	S	E	L	L	U	S	D	I	N	H	N	Z	D	A	C	E	VIKINGS
N	S	L	E	N	T	R	O	F	Y	A	G	E	L	N	O	R	HAROLD GODWINSON
G	I	L	L	I	O	N	Y	E	R	R	S	O	O	D	A	U	EMBRASURES
S	O	Z	N	X	C	R	R	O	L	D	E	N	R	B	X	S	BARONS
L	B	G	S	L	O	U	O	R	A	R	D	C	A	A	P	A	ARMOUR
F	S	O	L	R	Z	O	T	X	V	A	D	Y	H	I	P	R	HISTORY
C	H	O	L	Z	E	M	S	A	A	D	R	E	L	I	Z	R	SIMON DE MONFORT
B	E	A	U	M	A	R	I	S	C	A	S	T	L	E	O	M	HISTORY
B	U	X	Z	Y	P	A	H	L	M	Z	X	O	P	Y	Z	E	CANNON
																	CAVALRY
																	MURDERHOLES

NAME Form