

the PARK

the Leighton Park School termly newsletter

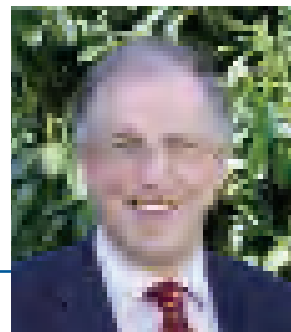
December 2005



Leighton Park School

www.leightonpark.reading.sch.uk

HEADLINES



Dear Friends,

Pupils and staff who joined us at the start of the academic year have completely settled in, and are, I hope, enjoying LP as a home from home, whether day or boarding pupils. Once again this year, we have more pupils than ever before - over 450 - and the growth looks set to continue in 2006-7, reflecting the ever-increasing demand for places, and the importance parents are placing on the Quaker values of the school.

The end of term was marked by several highlights: Not only did the girls' U16 hockey team reach the final of the **Berkshire Indoor Hockey Championships**, but for the second successive season, the 1st XV won outright the **Super Six Rugby Tournament** after a very tough final against Halliford (18-7), having beaten very strong schools en route. In the last week of term, we were also so proud of the team, drawing 12-12 with Reading School in the Daily Mail Vase quarter finals.

Congratulations to both teams and their dedicated coaches.

On the musical front, we were treated to a series of outstanding concerts virtually every week, by the soloists, the music scholars, the string ensemble and by several other ensembles including the orchestra, the choir and the burgeoning Fryer Voices. All reached a very impressive standard, involving ever larger numbers of pupils.

This term saw the arrival of a completely new drama department: both Geraint Thomas and Mark Blythe have made their mark already. The climax came with the production *Bard Attitudes*, an entertainment on a Shakespearean theme, devised by Geraint with Rosemary Scales, and involving a huge cast of senior pupils as actors, singers, musicians and stage crew. It was a wonderful experience. *Hamlet* will never be the same again.

As I write, we are looking forward to the Christmas Concert and the Sunday Christmas Evening Meeting, to be followed by seasonal refreshments in Peckover Hall, which as usual will have been beautifully decorated by the Parents Association Committee - many thanks!

An exciting phase of development lies ahead, beginning next September with the opening of the Sixth Form Centre. In 2006 we will also be starting a programme involving new classroom development and a major redevelopment of the Music Department, scheduled for completion in 2007.

Finally, best wishes to you all for Christmas, and for peace in the New Year.

John Dunston
Head

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Forthcoming Dates

For details of other events, please visit www.leightonpark.reading.sch.uk

Wednesday 4th January, 6.00pm	Boarders return
Thursday 5th January, 8.20am	Term starts
Sunday 15th January, 7.30pm	Evening Meeting
Wednesday 18th January, 7.15pm	Piano Recital - Ed Chilvers
Saturday 21st January	Entrance tests
Wednesday 25th January, 7.15pm	Music Scholars' Concert (1)
Friday 27th-Sunday 29th January	Exeat Weekend
Wednesday 1st February, 7.15pm	Music Scholars' Concert (2)
Wednesday 8th February, 7.15pm	Benefit in aid of Cystic Fibrosis
Thursday 9th February, 6.00pm	Sixth Form Information Evening
Friday 10th February, 4.15pm	Long Leave starts
Sunday 19th February, 6.00pm	Long leave ends; boarders return
Sunday 26th February, 7.30pm	Evening Meeting: Peter Anwyll
Wednesday 1st March, 7.15pm	Forty Fingers Recital
Date to be confirmed	House Music Competition
Saturday 11th March	PTA Quiz in Oakview
Sunday 12th March, 7.30pm	Evening Meeting: Stephen Shashoua
Tuesday 14th March	French Exchange depart
Wednesday 15th March, 7.15pm	Soloists Concert
Wednesday 22nd March, 7.15pm	Jazz Concert
Thursday 23rd March	German Exchange Group depart
Wednesday 29th March, 7.15pm	Strings Concert
Friday 31st March	Term ends 12.15pm



Townson House...

Sixth form update...

John Dunston reports: Plans are now well under way for the new Sixth Form Centre, due to open in September 2006.

The Centre will be in Townson, and is to include both leisure and study facilities as well as a fully equipped kitchen, and ICT area, offices for the Director of the Sixth Form, **Marjory Morris**, and her Deputy, **Karen Gracie-Langrick**, and space for tutorials and discussion. In addition, the Centre will have a garden area, which can be used for summer revision or relaxation.

Sixth Form Information Evening

Thursday 9th February
6.00pm-9.00pm

After a short introductory talk, visit departments and talk to staff and current Sixth Formers about A level courses. This will be followed by refreshments in Oakview and the opportunity to put questions to a panel of current Sixth Formers and parents.

Marjory is currently developing a wide-ranging Sixth Form programme which will offer so much to students in their two pre-university years, quite apart from the academic curriculum. It is intended that every two years, a major cultural trip should be offered, the first going to China in October 2006. Already this year, the Upper Sixth will be invited to one of a series of formal dinners with fellow students and staff. The curriculum itself will be broadened to include a number of subjects which might, if appropriate, lead to additional qualifications. Among those being considered are Mandarin and Psychology (by distance learning).

We now have the opportunity for the Sixth Form to develop a character and an identity of its own, enabling students to feel that they have made a definite break and a change from the Leighton Park of Year 11 as they prepare for university and future life. The students themselves, of course, will be very much involved in the planning of these developments, and in the running of the Sixth Form Centre.

New website...

Linda Mitchell writes: It is about five years since the current website and prospectus were developed so it is now time for a new look! A local company, DVA, have been appointed to work with us on these projects. We are grateful to pupils, staff and parents who participated in an induction day arranged for DVA to help them understand what makes us extraordinary in so many ways. A group of senior pupils have since participated in two 'Learning Sessions' hosted by DVA, giving them a first-hand look into the world of a communications business.

The aim is for the new website to become the primary place for both current and prospective parents to find information about life here. The site should be live in early spring, but we will keep you informed.

ICT News

The rollout of wireless broadband across the Park is progressing. All the Houses now have broadband access which has made a positive difference to pupils. The installation of electronic "Smart" boards in classrooms continues, with a further nine due to be installed over the Christmas holiday.

The new Multi-Media Language Centre opened at the beginning of term and was one of the star attractions of Open Morning! A detailed report will be featured in next term's newsletter. At a time when the study of modern foreign languages is being downgraded in many schools, this facility emphasises our commitment to the teaching of languages, more vital now than ever before.

Oakview Head Chef wins award...

Almost exactly one year after Sir Steve Redgrave opened Oakview, the high quality of the school's meals has won Head Chef, Ricky Adlington, the prestigious *Unsung Heroes* award from Chartwells, specialist catering and hospitality service provider to the independent education sector.

Ricky was selected for the award over 40 other independent school chefs. Chartwells' Managing Director, Mike Bond, presented the award to Ricky after the company's Innovation Conference held at LP in October.

Citing his modesty and cooking excellence,

Andrew Walker, Chartwells' Executive Chef, commended the 42-year-old professional: "Ricky doesn't act like a superstar but his cooking certainly rates him as one. He is very much a traditional craftsman - that is why he's so good at what he does - and like all great craftsmen he looks to impart his knowledge."



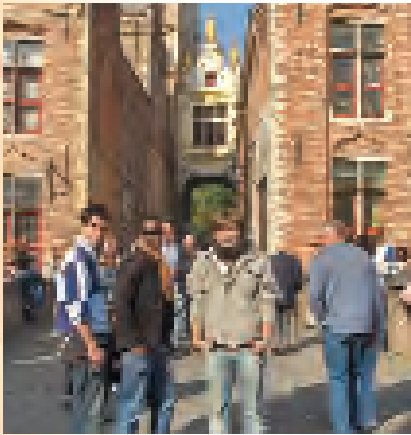
Ricky (2nd from left) with Andrew and chefs from other schools...

SIXTH FORM

Political animals...

A group of twenty-two Sixth Form students, many studying A level Politics, with **Clare Sherwood** and **John Allinson** visited Brussels for an excellent three day visit. Clare writes: The focus of the tour was to promote greater understanding of the European Union and its role in our lives.

Thursday morning was spent at the magnificent modern architecture of the European Parliament. We were first given informative and lively talks by the Director of Education at the Parliament and then by our MEP for the Green party, Dr Caroline Lucas.



Sightseeing in Bruges...

We then witnessed a debate over fishing in the Baltic, particularly noting the way each MEP was given a strict time limit on the length of their speech, perhaps an idea for our parliament! Thursday afternoon gave us a walking tour of Brussels.

John Ireland and **Phoebe Mitchell-Innes** added: Thursday night was a visit to Antwerp's Opera House to see the challenging *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss, as the opera was in German with Flemish subtitles. However, the acting and set grabbed our attention and we enjoyed the musical delights on offer. It was certainly an experience that will never be forgotten.

Clare continues: Friday took us to the European Commission with a fascinating talk by the pugnacious Director of Education, Dr Isabelle Trautmann in which she made an excellent case for the value of the European Commissioners being the 'wise men' of Europe. She said that if Britain was to succeed in today's international economy, we needed to



We are Europeans...

function as a whole with Europe, not in isolation. I left the talk very nearly converted!

Frances Dixon and **Naomi Fitzjohn** wrote: On Friday afternoon we went to visit the *Made in Belgium* Exhibition. We previously had reservations about whether Belgium had enough history to fill an exhibition celebrating 175 years of independence, given the joke about there being no famous Belgians! However, we were very impressed with the enormous range of fields in which Belgium and Belgians have excelled. We were given a minimum time limit at the start, but by the end we were hurrying, because there wasn't enough time to see it all. A very enjoyable afternoon!

On Saturday we went to the beautiful city of Bruges and enjoyed a guided tour around the city, and a boat trip along its canals. Its chocolate shops are without compare!

Henley Conference...



A group of Politics students attended a talk by Boris Johnson on politics in Britain today. He spoke on a number of topics, including the differences between the Labour and

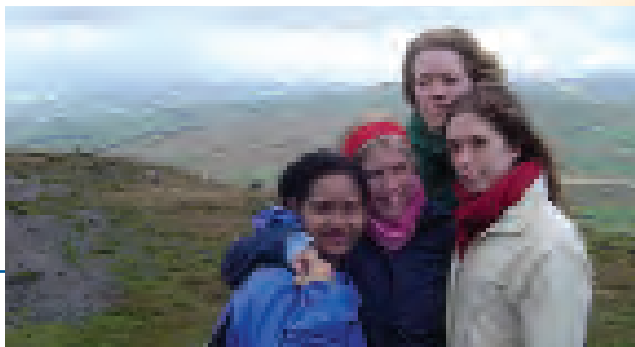
Conservative parties, devolution and the future of the Conservative party (including his belief that David Cameron would be best leader to challenge Tony Blair and Gordon Brown), and the role of the European Union. **James Dickie** and **John Ireland** report: There was a forum of questions and answers which led to **Benji Avro** winning a year's subscription to *The Spectator* for her understanding of the West Lothian Question. It was a great opportunity to put across our political views and learn more from one of Britain's most entertaining politicians.

News...

A lively and well attended talk about Feminism by **Dr Madeline Davis** (Reading University English Dept) generated entertaining and enlightening debate on issues of gender politics. No issues were left unchallenged and she confirmed to all but one pupil, that we are all true feminists!

A hypnotic presentation by **Martin Taylor** mesmerised Sixth Formers on the theory and practice of hypnotism. Both informative and entertaining, it culminating in fifteen willing volunteers joining a virtual orchestra and two still have to remember their names!

Next term will be the first in a series of formal Upper Sixth dinners, for staff, students and invited guests.



In Fox's footsteps...

Sixth Form students from the Quaker schools have again found inspiration, tracing the roots of Quakerism in the footsteps of George Fox. The Southern Schools' Pilgrimage (known affectionately as Foxtrot) was attended by pupils from LP, Sibford, Friends' Saffron Walden, Lisburn (Northern Ireland) and Sidcot.

Harriet Jackson writes: I was rather apprehensive. Although I was looking forward to going, as a Quaker already, I wasn't sure how much I would get out of the weekend. The first stop was Pendle Hill. Beforehand I thought I was fairly fit...not any more! As I stopped to catch my breath halfway up, I looked across the fields and realised why I had come. I had needed the space and silence to be able to work out my own beliefs. During the

weekend I fell in love with the Lake District. The company was fantastic and the walks amazing. I also learned things about the politics of the 1640s/50s and why Quakerism arose, that I didn't know before.. This pilgrimage was the most spiritually enlightening experience I have ever had. It helped me remember what it is to be a Quaker and confirmed my reasons for being in membership.

Sofiyya Saeed, not a Quaker herself, adds: At the first meeting, I learned a lot about the beginnings of Quakerism and the character of George Fox. I found the Quaker Tapestry awe-inspiring, I have never seen such needlework and the fact that over 4000 people participated was very surprising. The whole pilgrimage experience left me very tired but spiritually refreshed.



Views from the top...

At first, I had thought the silence of little value, but now as a result of my experience at Swarthmoor Hall, I enjoy sitting in silence in our Collects, pondering over things I never get the chance to think about as a student. Something else I have learned is that the road to success is an inner belief that can be tiring and excruciating but the result is worth the work.

Dig this....



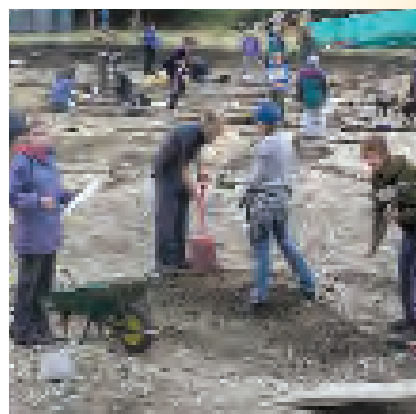
Karen Gracie-Langrick writes: In the summer, Sixth Formers attended a training excavation organised by the University of Reading at Silchester Roman Town. The

students who attended were awarded archaeological fieldwork bursaries by the Roman Research Trust. Four of the students who went on the dig are now studying Archaeology or Ancient History at University.

Jon Beale, Head Boy, writes: I was delighted to receive the bursary which went a long way to cover the costs of the venture. The excavation was a valuable educational experience.

Victoria Lean adds: Perhaps the most exciting thing about being on a dig was excavating the next layer - unearthing something which had been in situ since the roman

occupation, until my trowel removed it. I recovered Roman artefacts and a strange pink-fine substance with blue and white fragments in it.



Digging in...

Coastal trip...



Sixth form Geographers again had first-hand experience of the British landscape during their recent field trip. **James Gillespie** wrote: What a great trip! This was an experience which involved lots of fun but lots of geography. The high ropes (at Avon Tyrell) was really challenging but really funny. The stacks and cliffs of the Isle of Portland were picturesque, dramatic and unforgettable.

Bhavna Daswani wrote: The sites we visited really help me to understand what we are studying now. The location and the activities such as team building was really exciting and fun.



Hanging about at Avon Tyrell

FRYER NEWS

Roger Aylward writes...

The autumn term is always particularly special as we welcome new pupils into the school. We are always delighted to see how quickly they settle in and become happy, busy members of our school community. This term is no exception and has flown by; it is hard to believe that we are now looking forward to a trip to the Snow Goose and the Fryer Christmas party.

In this busy term, we still take time for reflection and so on these pages, we are thinking about some of the things that are most important to us. The visit of the Mbale band in particular made a great impact on the children. We have

a long record of raising money for Africa but the interaction between our pupils and the band members, with their extraordinary stories, made this event particularly moving.

Looking after one another is always important. In these articles, pupils have thought about their early days in Fryer, whilst in Collect, the boarders have also shared some of the extra fun that they have.

The Fryer team and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.



Pauline and friends...

Camping out...



One of the best ways to make new friends and to get to know the staff is the Year 7 camping trip to the Savernake forest. It is a great way for newcomers to make friends and also to begin to learn to be independent and to work as a team.

Alice Herbert writes: When we arrived we were shown how to put up our tents. After a talk we attempted to have a go ourselves, and eventually, after a bit of assistance, we found a sea of orange tents. We sorted through our bags and went on a short



Fun in the forest...

walk through the forest. When we got back we made tea: noodles, soup and chicken curry followed by rice pudding and mandarins. It got dark so we had to wash up by torchlight.

In the morning after a delicious breakfast of bacon and eggs, we were dropped off with a compass and map in the middle of nowhere and had a race back to camp. It was really fun. I have never been camping before but I would love to go again, except that I froze in the night!

George Williams and **Chris Walker** add: It was great and everyone made friends and learned about teamwork. It also taught us to cook a bit.



Which way up? ...

First impressions...

This term, as well as welcoming our new pupils into Years 7 and 8, we were delighted to see the arrival of our new Housemother, **Pauline Johnson**.

Newcomers Day is a great way to help new pupils find their way around before the rest of the school arrive. **Issie Mead** and **Frankie Taylor** enjoyed the Maths Trail: This consists of working in groups to find the answers to some maths questions that are found at different places around school. It got our brains going after the long holidays and helped us find our way around.

Lucie Seacroft writes: When I met everyone I thought they were really kind and welcoming. All my teachers and my tutor, Janet, helped me settle in. I enjoy the food at LP: it's so healthy!

Harry Cartwright said: As soon as I got to LP, I loved everything about it. I love the Collects, they are better than normal assemblies, the classes are fun as well and I like to walk between lessons.

Matt appreciates the special ethos of the school: I am treated as an equal and enjoy the environment. I am treated with respect and I treat others with respect so it makes everyone happy and everything goes in a circle.



United Communities...

The truly global language of music reached across continents as the Mbale Youth Brass Band from Uganda came to LP. The group who were between 12 and 22 years old were touring the UK, to raise money for their community. All of them have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

The band performed at a concert, here on 5th November, with an appearance by the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust Holst Band. The highlight for LP was a performance in Collect, followed by workshops with Fryer. Following an Austerity lunch and other fundraising, a cheque for £500 was presented to the band, in addition to approximately £1600 raised at the concert.

Here are some of the pupils' reflections. **Elysia Newton, Ellen Few and Theo Masters-Waage:** The Mbale band was very educational because we learned how people have fun even though

they are orphans. It was amazing they could play the instruments so well after two years. Unfortunately all of the band had lost one or both of their parents to Aids. We hope that they will continue being looked after.

Archie Dickens: When the Mbale band visited, LP was taken by storm. The music was brilliant and the workshop was fun but the moment that made the largest impression on me was when I met Hasson. It is at moments like that when you realise how lucky you really are.

Frankie Taylor, Savannah Foister and Issi Mead: The Mbale Band amazed us, not only with their talents for music, dancing and singing, but the way they were so relaxed to stand up and perform in front of the whole school. You would never know that they were orphans whose parents had died from Aids. Their smiles and kindness made the morning joyful for all of us.

Harry Cartwright, Brian Poon, Matt Roberts and Daniel Ivry: Monday was extra special because Fryer had a special workshop. I chose drumming; I loved learning the different drum beats and interacting with the band.



Djembe lesson...



The girls learn some dances...

We recently received this email, from Kassim, one of the band members, which shows that the pleasure from the band's visit was enjoyed by both groups:

Hello, how is every thing taking you over there, hoping you're doing well and fine. Life is not that much hard we are finding very many difficulties here and there but any way don't worry God will help us solve them so first. I am Wamboya Kassim a trumpet player in the Uganda brass band that you at one time hosted in Reading, we are so much grateful for your hospitality and the good lord bless you so much. Please let's keep in touch.

Fryer Library...

It is twenty years since Fryer House opened, and this year we will be thinking about how life in the house has changed. One way to mark the event is the refurbishment of the Fryer Library.

When a student requested some new books for Fryer Library during a recent student council meeting, they had no idea that Roger was already thinking about reviewing and upgrading book provision in the house following a generous donation, writes Librarian, **Chris Routh**. I was delighted to be invited to help with the project, which will also involve a complete refurbishment of the room. We plan to closely involve students and to explore ways to promote and maximise the use of what promises to be a fantastic resource.

After school fun...

A busy after school programme is one of the high points of Fryer life. Pupils have written about some favourite activities:

Pop Lacrosse is a hit with **Josie Wallace** who writes: I had never played before, neither had anyone else. Nicky Williams took us for it and we learned so much. We warmed up, then we did ball and stick training, then we played a game. It was really fun!

Rachel Kelmanson writes about Ceramics: We made pots using coils of clay. We made a base then got the coils wound around it. We had to

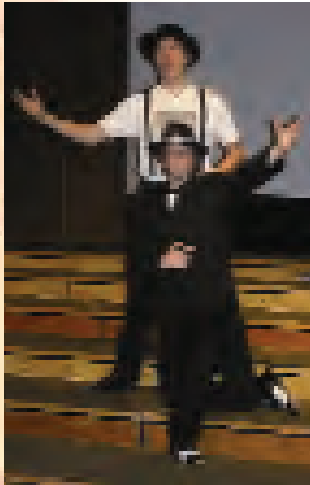


make sure no air got in, and there were no lines to be seen. This hobby was really fun.

Claire Brandt likes ICT Club: It is an opportunity to finish any work, to work on powerpoint, to research using the internet or email friends.

ARTS

Bard Attitudes...

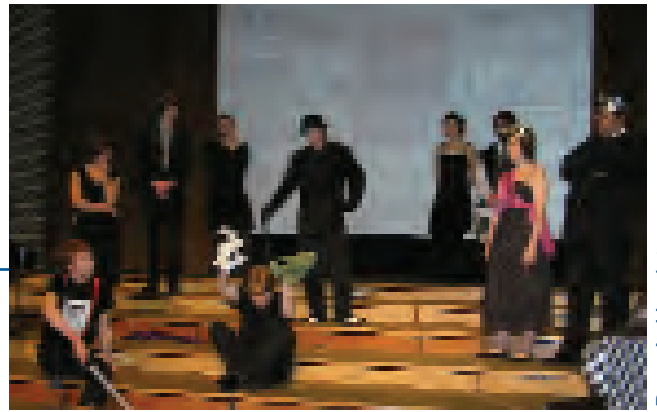


Joey McMillan writes: This year there was a senior production for the first time since *Cabaret*, so we had a

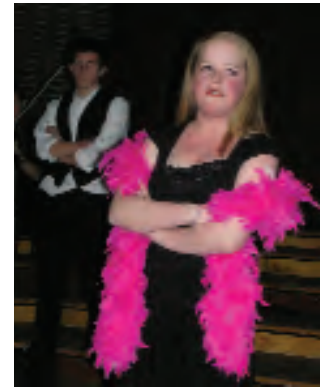
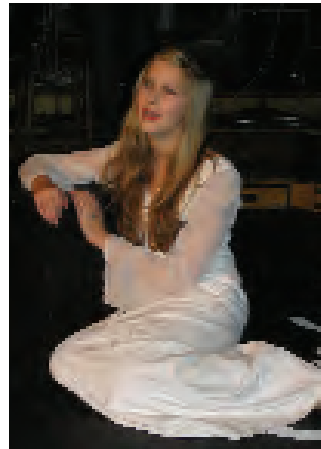
lot to live up to. With our new Director, **Geraint Thomas**, and a wealth of new material both by and relating to Shakespeare, we had a lot of work in eight weeks. We split into groups according to the pieces we were in. I had a duet from *Kiss me Kate*, with Nick Masters-Waage, and a part in *Doggs Hamlet* (a version of Hamlet lasting fifteen minutes!). Along with the final dance, I, like most people, had a lot to be getting on with.

I particularly enjoyed *Doggs Hamlet*. The cast was mainly U6 Theatre Studies students and we had fun putting our spin on an hilarious and dramatic script.

I couldn't wait to get on the stage as well as admire the



Doggs Hamlet...



I hate men...

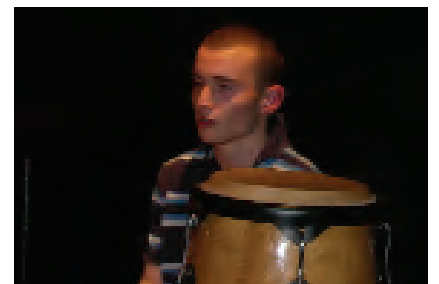
fellow company members' performances which I hadn't had a chance to appreciate before. I'm sure the audience enjoyed it almost as much as we enjoyed putting it on.

Christmas Card Competition...

This year there was a competition to design the LP card. It seemed a good opportunity to showcase some of the artistic talent in school and was fun too! The winning design was by Amber Wilson with a cheery snowman sporting an LP scarf. It was a difficult choice and there were a number of highly commended entries: Reuben MacNaughton, Constansia Cain, Parris Bigley, Nick Gale, Angus Lai and Emily Stubbs.



Drum roll...



Rowan Foster performed with the Youth Music Theatre UK this summer in *Goblin Market* which played six evenings a week for four weeks. He arrived to find that he wasn't playing the drum kit but a 12-instrument percussion section and so had to learn fast how to play some of these instruments. *Goblin Market* was a piece of new writing composed by Conor Mitchell, the Music Director, who was very pleased with Rowan's performance. The band comprised about eight players, many of whom were university music students.

Rowan has also been awarded a prestigious Cymbal endorsement with Soul Tone. It's a fantastic achievement to be recognised by a well established percussion brand.

Individual Achievements...

Many pupils flocked to the cinema to see **Eliza Bennett** in the role of Tora in the blockbuster movie *Nanny McPhee*. Working with Emma Thompson, Colin Firth and a who's who of British stars is a remarkable addition to Eliza's already impressive theatrical record.

Michael McLennan: Having won a competition to present the Friday night show on Radio Passion in Oxford, Mike has now been employed to present the Sunday afternoon show as well. His co-presenter is OL Dominic Skevington.

Laura Marling was the support at a show by eighties icon **Howard Jones** at the Arts Centre Windsor. She was very well received by the audience.



Music live...

Another busy term in the Music Department, with pupils working extremely hard and performing brilliantly, says **Rose Scales**, Director of Music.

John Dunston described the Ensembles Concert as a milestone in music at LP. Performances included the thirty five strong orchestra, Fryer Voices (supported by Chris Mitchell and Nicole Fleury-Griffiths) and the senior choir.

The Strings and Soloists concerts were further special evenings - many pupils performing for the first time and really achieving an excellent standard. The term ended with senior musicians contributing to Bard Attitudes and a splendid Christmas concert.

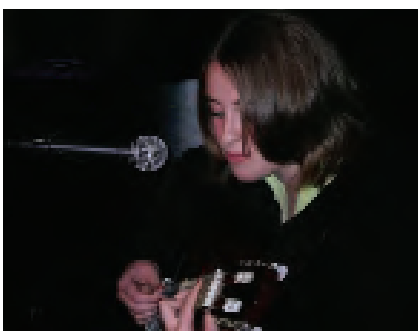


Jazz Kittens rehearse

On the last Friday of term, members of the Senior Choir helped lead the singing at the Madejski Stadium at

Reading FC's Carol service. They were joined by John Madejski, the Bishop of Reading, players and other local celebrities.

Tracey Harrison writes: LP received a little MTV treatment when it played host to a one-off acoustic music

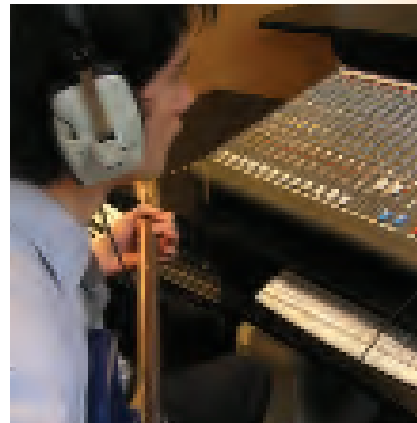


Acoustic artists...

event, *LP Unplugged*. No electric guitars, no electronic keyboards, with all music performed acoustically and the audience showed great appreciation and respect for all the performers.

The event, organised by members of staff, Tracey and Mic Harrison, was to promote the song-writing talents within school. *LP Unplugged* showcased the talents of **Jonathan Ratner, Sean Howlett, Clea Heaton, Nicole Fleury-Griffiths, Emma Baggott, Noah Kelly, Rowan Foster, Olivia Wheeler-Robinson** and **Laura Marling**.

All the music throughout the evening had been written and composed by the students themselves. The evening provided refreshing and reassuring knowledge that the future of original contemporary music may not be at risk!



In the studio...

Book News...

Earlier this term, LP provided the venue for the launch of the Berkshire Book Award for 2005. The event involved students from over twenty local secondary schools, including all of LP's Year 9s. **Ann Cassidy**, author of one of last year's most popular short-listed books, *Looking for JJ*,



Book signing...

talked about being a writer and explained how much she had enjoyed tracking the award. LP's Year 9 will be reading and discussing the books short-listed for this year's award.

Chris Routh, Librarian, writes: A group of Year 9 students recently enjoyed a talk by former Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. Michael held the audience spellbound with some of his own moving wartime stories including *Private Peaceful*, *War Horse* and *The Best Christmas Present in the World*.

Chris Wheeler wrote: We went to Reading Town Hall; Michael Morpurgo spoke very well and was moving as well. I had a great time!

Sonic Art...

Sonic Art has started the year with a bang! Budding songwriters, sound engineers, musicians, composers and arrangers invade the Music Department every Wednesday after school to get creative. **Archie Dickens** writes: You use 3 programmes, Reason, Cubase, Sibelius. There are four Year 7s..me, Elysia, Chris and Theo. We all thoroughly enjoy it. Sonic Art is making music and it has given a boost in my music life. I have made several great pieces of music with Cubase. They are called Riding with winter, Elephants and Constantinople.

SPORTS

Super Six Champions...again!...

Mark Simmons, Head of PE reports: The 1st XV have had another successful term and recently retained the Super Six Shield which we won for the first time last year. Following a solid victory over Salesian College, Farnborough in the play-off semi-final the team had a repeat of the 2004 final against Halliford School. An excellent start saw us go 18-0 up at one point but Halliford fought back well in the second half before LP ran out 18-7 winners.

As we go to press the 1st XV are still in the Daily Mail Vase competition. Having beaten Desborough School, Maidenhead and Easthampstead Park in the earlier rounds of the Daily Mail Vase Competition, at the end of term we entertained Reading School in a tough regional quarter final. The game always promised to be a close affair, and so it proved, as the final score was 12-12. Rules of the competition state that the away team goes through in the event of a draw. It was really a herculean effort by the team to run such opponents so close.

The U15 rugby team have progressed really well this season. Collectively, they have shown more awareness of the requirements of team play and there have been some outstanding individual performances. They now have a large squad of players ready to move into the senior school next year.

The U14 team have had a successful term winning all but two of their fixtures. Many individuals have clearly grown in confidence as the term has progressed. Special mention should be made of the outstanding contributions made by **Saxby Fitzjohn** and **Sam Poulson** whose strong running has been a handful for our

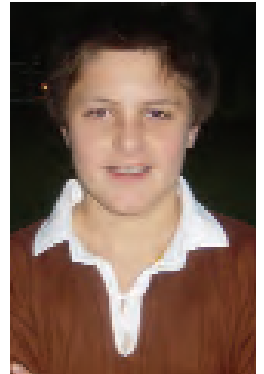


strongest opponents.

Ashley O'Rourke, Simon White and Laurence Hunter have all played regularly for the Berkshire U18 rugby team this term.

Following trials this term both **Rory Otterburn & Stuart Gough** have been selected for the Berkshire U15 rugby squad. They have attended training sessions and their inter-county matches take place after Christmas.

Phil Dunster, who captains the Leighton Park U14 team has been selected to play for Berkshire in their inter-county fixtures in the New Year.



Super Six finalists...

Sports Festival...

In September, twenty-two teams from local Prep and Primary schools descended upon LP for the annual Sports Festival. Six-a-side football teams for U11s and U13s, and U11 netballers took part in hotly contested competitions, with supporting parents and staff enjoying the glorious autumn sunshine on our playing fields.

Eight teams entered the U11 netball competition and, following an initial "round robin", the top placed four teams went through to the Cup Final knockout (Manor Prep, Dolphin School, The White House and St Andrew's) whilst the lower positions



St Neot's celebrate..



Happy under 13s..

competed for the Plate (Rupert House, Daneshill, Langley Manor, Waverley). The Cup was won by St Andrew's, beating Manor Prep School 5-2 in the final. The Plate was won by Waverley, beating Daneshill 3-1 in their final.

Oakley Junior won the U11 Football, with St Neot's runners-up, whose older team won the U13 competition. The other U11 semi-finalists were Dolphin School and Langley Manor. In the U13s, the runners up, in an extremely close final were Leighton Park's Fryer House, with 3rd place secured by Bearwood.

Roger Aylward commented: It's wonderful to see the Festival celebrate its sixth birthday with such competitive but sporting play. We certainly saw some excellent and closely contested play in all the tournaments which made an extremely exciting spectacle.



St Andrew's..

Hockey news...

Jakki Marr writes: At U18 and U16 level, teams competed in the Berkshire County Indoor Tournaments, where the U16s reached the final stages, as they attempted to retain last year's title. The U16s eventually came second in the county, which is a great achievement. The team played three matches, losing 2-0 against Abbey and Claire's Court, but winning 4-1 against Newlands.

At U18, U16 and U14 level, teams participated in the Berkshire County Outdoor Tournaments. Also, the U15s have been undefeated this term, beating Kennet, St Gabriels, Marist, Pangbourne and drawing with Claire's Court.

Reading Schools Mini-Hockey League : The Year 8 'A' team did very well to reach the semi-finals of the Tournament by coming 4th in the Table. They unfortunately lost to The Abbey in the semi's but were the only team to draw with them in the first round matches. Abbey were the eventual winners.

House competitions: In the Senior House Hockey, the winners were Reckitt with School 2nd and in 3rd place, Grove. Reckitt won both their matches and School beat Grove in a close match.

In the **Junior House Hockey**, in 1st place was School, with Grove 2nd and in 3rd place Reckitt. This year was the first that every Junior girl

participated in the Junior House Hockey competition. Each House had an A and B team consisting of 9 players, and every team played each other apart from A v B in each House. School were convincing winners but Grove put up a determined fight.



Mini hockey team....

Individual achievements...



Lizzie Hearn has been selected for the Hampshire U17 Rugby Squad, a remarkable achievement. She will be going for trials for the South Region in the new year.

Isobel Dodds & Amy Simmons have been selected for Berkshire U15's and



also have played a number of ladies matches therefore playing on both Saturdays and Sundays. Amy has also been selected to train with the select U16 Academy group at Reading Hockey Club.

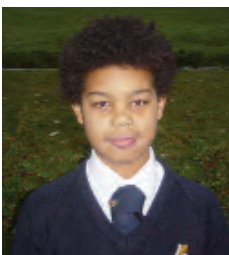


Millie Dennis continues to play County Netball for

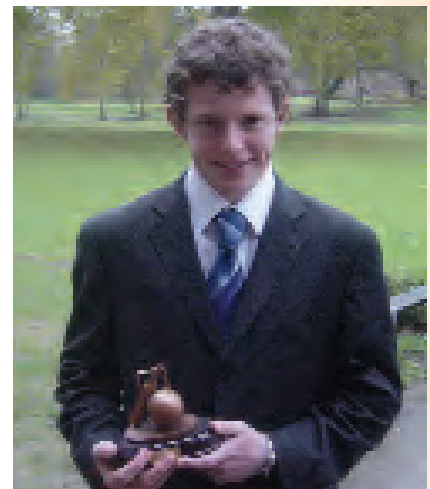
Berkshire and is looking forward to a tough season next term with both County matches and a full set of school fixtures.

Will Denselow finished his summer having represented Berkshire at U.16 level and breaking into the Hampstead CC 1st XI in London. Early in September, Will played at Lord's in one of the regular fixtures held at the end of the summer on the Nursery ground.

Jake Elias has become the youngest Leighton Park pupil to gain county cricket recognition for over ten years. He has been selected for the County U12 team for next summer and he will be attending coaching sessions with his squad next term.



Edward Hunter has been selected for the Berkshire U16 cricket squad for next summer. In the New Year he will join the squad for a series of



training and specialist coaching sessions. He is seen here holding the *Player of the Year Award* for Berkshire District Cricket 2005.

Thomas Williams has recently won the boys Junior Rose Bowl at Mapledurham Golf Club. Following a school rugby match on a Saturday morning he hurried across town to make sure he was at the golf club for his scheduled tee-off time. Not the best preparation but the rush was all worthwhile as he won!



NEWS

Duke of Edinburgh Gold...

Hot off the press...We are delighted that **Matthew Leopold** who left in 2004 and is now at the University of Durham, has just been awarded the prestigious D of E Gold Award. His final phase was achieved during his Gap year in Tasmania. More information in the next issue.

A busy programme of Bronze activities included the Year 11 Bronze group expedition to the Forest of Dean which involved a 30km walk. **Will Budge** wrote: It was a tough day's walk, the weight of our packs not easing our pain as we carried all we needed for the night. However, laughing all the way, we camped for the night, feeling very tired. I'll be sure to do Silver if it's this much fun! **Jack Stanley** added: At first the walk was easy. We walked and walked, saw beautiful views and had to keep stopping for water as it was so hot. As we walked on, we became exhausted, but Nick kept our spirits up with singing. As we neared the campsite we sped up, eager for some warm food. **Jack Stubbs** said: It was thoroughly enjoyable and highly recommended for anyone planning to take the award.



Forest of Dean trip...



Year 10 cooking practice run...

Speaker's Corner...

The ever popular JBH Speech Competition transformed the hall into LP's own Speaker's Corner. The heckling was as vigorous as ever but the four speakers, all first timers to JBH, handled it well.

Ken Lovesy writes: **Ella Patel** became our first female winner for a few years, impressing the judge **Hugh Turner**, from Oxford Brookes University, with her speech opposing capital punishment. Stirring competition came from **William Ijebor** (There is no such thing as morality), **Harriet Jackson** (Legalise euthanasia) and **Ed Watson** (Embrace the intangible: three cheers for geekdom; the internet is a good thing).

You have to be crazy, and brave, to enter, with seven minutes for each speech in which heckling is welcomed.

The competition dates from the time of Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin, the first Governor of the school, who saw John Bright, a venerable Quaker and orator/politician respond to a heckler in Parliament and came up with the idea of a competition with heckling at the core. Only at LP could such a 'creature' which is so unpredictable, original and exciting take place!

New MP's visit...

We were pleased to welcome our new MP, **Rob Wilson** to school. He met a group of pupils and had a tour. John Dunston writes: Rob has a great interest in education and is a member of the all-party Education Committee.

He is well informed and has a passionate interest in the educational provision for young people. He was also very impressed with the pupils he met and the values of the school.



Rob Wilson MP ...

LP Parent Teacher Association

Family Quiz

Saturday 11th March,

Tickets £10 (£5 children) available from the School Office

Includes a tasty hot supper!



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