



Aldenham Today

ISSUE 30 WINTER 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

This latest issue of *Aldenham Today* will give you a good feel of much of the activity that has been going on at Aldenham since September. There have been a significant number of highlights to record and personal achievements to note in a very busy schedule. One of the highlights of course has been the adoption of St Hilda's School, Bushey into the Aldenham Foundation. St Hilda's has a proud tradition since it was founded in 1918 as a girls' school of considerable distinction, and it is a school which shares our ethos of inclusive holistic education as the correct way to bring the best out of a child. We hope that the quality of education on offer up until Year 6 in both Aldenham Prep and St Hilda's will mean that many parents will choose that their child continue into the Aldenham Senior School. The St Hilda's Educational Trust and the Aldenham School Charity will each continue to operate autonomously.

We celebrate the many successes recorded on our sports field, in the classroom, the music and drama departments and all other areas of the School. The usual high standard of performances at the House Music Competition continues to ensure that this is one of the highlights in the School calendar. The excitement and anticipation for this event builds from the very start of each year, and never fails to live up to expectations as every pupil in the senior school has the opportunity to represent their House with great pride. Any parents able to join us for this event or the Carol Service at St Albans Cathedral, will bear witness to the abundant musical talent within the school. In the Theatre, the senior production of *Macbeth* was a most striking performance of the play and a testament to the amazing ability of all the drama students and staff involved.

The presentation to our leading sports men and women by former 1500 metre World Record holder and World Champion Steve Cram was truly an inspiration in all areas of their life whether for sport or elsewhere. The CCF were represented at the Remembrance Day Service in our Chapel, and on Remembrance Sunday they joined with the residents of Letchmore Heath for a service at the memorial on the village green. With an exciting Talent Show, various CCF field days and camps, and a memorable OA Dinner to welcome back notable military OAs, it has indeed been a busy time. You can read about these events and others - including our Historians' trip to Berlin and the footballers' tour to Madrid - in this magazine.

We were delighted that the Right Revd Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans, was able to join us for our Chapel service at the beginning of 2011, during which he dedicated the new pews. As the weather eventually picked up in January, some of the first games of the season saw our players take on Australian touring hockey teams in very exciting matches. Our netballers had training sessions with Amanda Newton, ex England Captain.

The success and excitement in many areas of School life are recorded in this newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading about life at the School and pupils' personal achievements which will be of interest to everyone who knows them.

James Fowler



James Fowler with Loraine Cavanagh, Headmistress of St Hilda's

DRAMA

Lord of the Flies

Christopher Hudson declared the Middle School play Lord of the Flies “a triumphant production, with effective staging and strong ensemble acting. Mahlon Prince’s direction really did the play justice, showing the huge changes in character from the innocence in the opening scenes to the final scene with a tribe of blood smeared Neanderthals shaking their spears at one another in front of a fiery projection.”

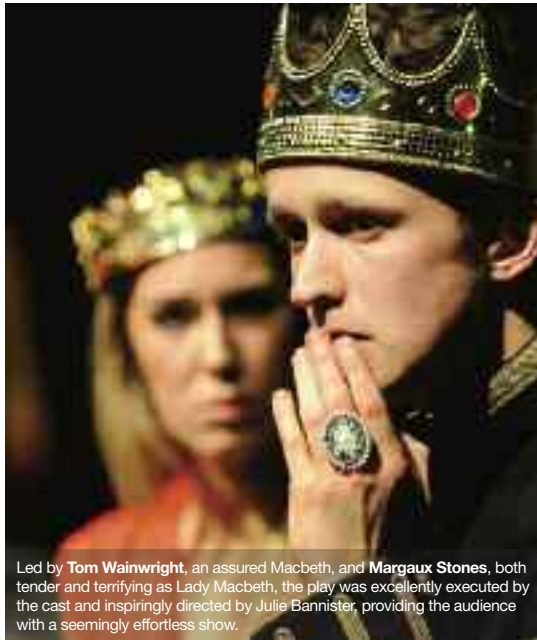


Adam Agacy, who played a convincing Piggy, is led to his death by **Brigita Baniunaite** the terrifying Regina.

Macbeth

Lower Sixth Former **Lydia Chapman** describes this year’s Senior School production of Macbeth:

With an outstanding cast – **David Cotter** as Banquo, **Christopher Hudson** as Macduff and **Joe Jones** as a polished young Malcolm, the play was not simply great; it was a triumph.



Led by **Tom Wainwright**, an assured Macbeth, and **Margaux Stones**, both tender and terrifying as Lady Macbeth, the play was excellently executed by the cast and inspiringly directed by Julie Bannister, providing the audience with a seemingly effortless show.

Special mention must also be given to the commitment and talent of those with supporting roles: **Andreas Leonidou** and **Rishi Popat** as the gruesome murderers; **Stuart Maclean**, **Mark Rodger** and **Joe Stephenson** as authoritative thanes; **Annabel Mizel** and **Ben James** as the slaughtered Macduffs; **Rupert Vann Alexander’s** majestic king; the list is endless and everyone involved did justice to their role. This show was enthralling; each scene was stunning, helped by the exquisite standard of the acting and the professionalism of the cast.



David Cotter played a dazzling Banquo



Elliot Howe, **Abigail Pinkerton-Guyer** and **Jodie Chun** were spellbinding as the ever present witches

STEVE CRAM VISITS ALDENHAM

One of the biggest names in UK athletics, Steve Cram MBE, visited Aldenham in November for a motivational presentation to the Sports Scholars and the Gifted & Talented group. A gold medal winner at World, Commonwealth and European level, and Olympic silver medallist, Mr Cram spoke passionately about his life, experiences and drive to succeed.

Alongside Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett, Steve Cram represents the golden era of British middle distance runners who dominated the sport in the 1980s and he is still the UK record holder for the 1,500 meters, 2,000 meters, and one mile events. He claimed all three records over a 19 day period of 1985. Only Seb Coe has been able to get within two seconds of Mr Cram's 1,500 meter record in the last 25 years.



REMEMBER THE FIREWORKS!

More than 700 visitors enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display at the School on 15th November, organised by the Parents' Association. As each of the Houses also took this opportunity to do a little of their own fundraising, there was lots to do and see ensuring a fun time for all.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Aldenham School was represented at a busy Remembrance Day service in Letchmore Heath by the School Chaplain, members of the School's CCF, the brass band and the Headmaster who laid a wreath on behalf of the School. In a wonderful community spirit a large crowd gathered in the morning sunshine at the village cenotaph for the moving service led by Revd Robert Fletcher, Vicar of St John the Baptist Church in Aldenham, Revd Dan Bond and Srutidharma Das, the Krishna Temple President from Bhaktivedanta Manor. This was followed by a short service in the School Chapel, attended by staff and parents.



We were especially delighted to welcome back one of our past pupils and former Head of School, Captain Danny Sharp, a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps, who had just returned from a six month tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Danny is pictured here with Dr Fowler.



SIXTH FORM DINNER



Former Riding's student Adam Bobroff was the guest speaker at the 2010 Sixth Form Dinner. Currently the Director of Foreign Exchange at the Foremost Currency Group, Adam is a regular guest on CNN and CNBC TV channels, reporting on foreign markets. The occasion was a special one for Adam as he met his fiancée, Thalía, at a Sixth Form Dinner in 2001. Thalía, a former Beevor's student, accompanied Adam and they enjoyed seeing the changes at Aldenham, whilst confirming that it was the people and ethos that really were their lasting memories. Adam was pleased to meet his former Housemaster, Mr Watts, who had actually awarded Thalía a Riding's House tie, as she had spent so much time in his House!

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

With his sights set on a career in engineering, **Stephen Wright** was thrilled to be awarded an Arkwright Scholarship. Stephen had his first taste of work experience with his sponsor Ultra Sonar Systems in October when he met the staff and worked with his mentor on a design for a test rig for a Gunfire Locator, a compact unit that attaches to a rifle and localises the source of incoming fire.



Mr Mark Merrifield, Managing Director of Ultra Sonar Systems, presents Stephen with his Arkwright Scholarship award at the IET in London.

ASPA ON TARGET

The Aldenham Parents' Association were very pleased to be able to buy some much needed new targets for the Archery activity. Miss Nichol receives the cheque from Chair of ASPA, Mrs Maria Kraushar.



TEXTILES & CHEMISTRY AWARDS

Congratulations to our Textiles department which has for the third time in four years, according to statistics compiled by *The Good Schools Guide*, achieved the best results at GCSE by Boys taking D&T Textiles Technology at an English independent school. The Chemistry department are also winners as they got the best results achieved by boys taking GCSE Chemistry at an English independent school. We wish our Year 8 students good luck this year as they attempt to repeat last year's success at this year's Salters' Festival of

Chemistry competition at Imperial University.

Freddy Kistrup Strand is delighted to be able to start A Level Textiles this year, one year ahead of it being officially offered at Aldenham as an A Level subject. Freddy, who is passionate about the subject and hopes to make a career in fashion, was just one of the group that travelled with the School to the NEC in Birmingham for this year's Clothes Show where they were able to meet over 35 of the UK's top colleges and learn more about the degree courses available.



The Clothes Show Live was the ultimate fashionista's day out. It included a range of exciting catwalk shows, hair and beauty demonstrations, 'celeb' appearances, and shopping galore, which the students loved!

RIPPLE AFRICA

Our link with *Ripple Africa* continues to thrive as another group of 16 Lower Sixth pupils and four teachers are busily preparing for a return trip to Malawi in the summer. Once again they will be giving hands-on help to the UK based charity, set up by OA Geoff Furber and his wife Liz, which is involved with education, environmental projects and healthcare in Malawi. The specific project this time is to raise sufficient money to build a new teacher's house for the secondary school funded by Ripple. We are aiming to raise £16,000, all of which will go to *Ripple Africa*. This will be the third year running that the trip has been undertaken by Aldenham staff and students, and this year the focus will be on working alongside the rural community to help with re-forestation, education, building and assisting in the garden nursery to provide fruit trees for the community.

Check our website for more details of the Hell's Kitchen event on 12th March and a Staff 'X Factor' evening (limited tickets), planned for the summer term. To find out more about the work of Ripple Africa, please log on to their website for recent news and updates: www.rippleafrica.org.



Bean Pod sales at the Fireworks Display raised over £400 for *Ripple Africa*

GEOGRAPHERS OUT AND ABOUT BUSINESS STUDIES

Young Aldenham geographers, along with hundreds of other volunteers, gave their time to help the Woodland Trust plant trees at Heartwood Forest to transform the 858 acre site near Sandridge into the largest new continuous native forest in England.

The Geography Fieldtrip to Walton on the Naze gave the Year 10s an opportunity to investigate a section of coast that has both managed and unmanaged cliff lines. Although the weather conditions were appalling, the staff and students were well prepared and enjoyed a 'look and see' version of the trip, visiting three sites to observe the processes of weathering, mass movement and erosion and observing the differences between a defended and undefended coastline. The highlight of the trip had to be the fish and chips that everyone enjoyed for lunch in the only cafe open in the whole of Walton!



Year 8 students **Robert Atkinson**, **Josh Roston** and **Sam Aron** helped to plant 250 hazel trees, naming and speaking to each one to encourage it into growth.



CCF



Cadets on the CCF Activity weekend in the Brecon Beacons.

Year 13 Business Studies students visited Coca Cola's North London Edmonton factory on a regular trip which offers an insightful and informative tour of the production facilities at the plant. Each production line makes 20,000 bottles of Coke an hour. That's 2 million bottles a day - enough to supply North London!

Meanwhile Year 12 Economics and Business Studies students took part in a Business Challenge at the Watford Enterprise Agency (WENTA) where they had to choose a business idea and decide how to make and promote it. Following a presentation to a panel of Dragons the winners of the Challenge were **Georgia Murray**, **Natalie Polycarpou**, **Michael Tsiattalou** and **Stavros Theocharis** for their innovative ideas on Tanning Salons.



The students enjoyed the task of creating and marketing a new line of drinks for the company, to fit alongside their other well known brands.



WO1 Albrecht teaches the Cadets camouflage techniques during the CCF Field Day at West Tofts Army Camp.

BERLIN TRIP

15 students and staff visited Berlin during the half term where they dipped into German culture and History. The trip encompassed both the Nazi period and the Cold War and included visits to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Checkpoint Charlie, the Olympic Stadium and the Stasi Headquarters.



MATHS CHALLENGE

Four of our Further Maths students (**Amelia Stanbury**, **Chris Field**, **Tony Leung** and **Christian Leschner**) took part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Longdean School, Hemel Hempstead. Although the team started rather anxiously they excelled in the cross number round.

DEVELOPMENT & OA OFFICE



The Development Office kicked off the new school year with a launch party at Aldenham Reservoir Sailing Club to celebrate the arrival of the two new Firefly Dinghies. The dinghies were purchased with donations to the 2009/10 Annual Fund.



Headmaster James Fowler, Chairman of Governors Stuart Lewis, Bishop of St Albans, the Right Revd Alan Smith and our Chaplain, Revd Dan Bond.



In November the School welcomed back two distinguished former pupils to the OA Annual Dinner. Major Russell Lewis MC, 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment, who was awarded his MC for service in Afghanistan, started the evening's proceedings with a fascinating pre-dinner talk on his experiences coming face to face with the Taliban on a daily basis, in Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province.



Before guests sat down to dinner an even more illustrious former pupil, Field Marshal the Lord Vincent of Coleshill GBE KCB DSO, unveiled a copy portrait of himself which now hangs in the School reception. The original is displayed in the 47th Royal Artillery Officers' Mess on Thorney Island. Lord Vincent was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom, the professional head of the British Armed Forces. Lord Vincent and Major Russell were guests of the President of the Old Aldenhamian Society, Mr Neil Sutherland, himself a former Colonel in the Royal Engineers.

The Bishop of St Albans blessed the new pews, purchased with donations to the 2010/11 Annual Fund. These are both excellent examples of how a donation to the fund has an immediate impact on the School, and the Development Office is extremely grateful to everyone who participates.

MUSICAL NOTES

This year Aldenham was fortunate to welcome Miranda Francis from the Purcell School to undertake the daunting task of judging the school's House Music Competition – undoubtedly the most competitive night of the school year.

The competition opened with a winning Ensemble entry from McGill's and their rendition of McCartney's legendary Bond theme, *Live and Let Die*. Last year's winners, Beevor's House band, came in second place with a medley of rock 'n' roll classics, and Riding's House produced a splendid version of *Bohemian Rhapsody* (complete with clarinet, bassoon and euphonium) to take third prize.

Then followed the Part Song – an event in which every house has to select a small group of singers to perform the same arrangement of the same song in three-part harmony. This year's song was the jazz standard *Fly me to the Moon*, originally by Bart Howard. The fact that every House (and with two entries from Paull's House!) produced a polished performance of this tricky number was an achievement in itself, though special mention must go to Leeman's, Paull's (Holmes) and Kennedy's Houses for taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize.



Leeman's, winners of the Part Song.

After a hearty tea break, and with the arrival of 500

parents to fill the Sports Hall, the Solo Competition got underway. **Harry Cohen** started proceedings with a stunning performance of *Cry me a River*, for which he was deservedly awarded third place. **Joe Cummins** then produced a fiendishly difficult piano solo, and was unlucky to come away without a placing. In fact, all of the solos were performed to such a high standard that it was



Joint first place in the Solos was awarded to **Christopher Hudson** (McGill's) and **Alice Erman** (Paull's), both of whom sang with confidence and technical skill. **Harry Collins'** inventive use of stage technology gained Beevor's another second place, whilst **Takuma Furutani's** skilful bowing on the violin narrowly missed another placing for Kennedy's House.

impossible to judge them apart. Martineau's House then provided a brief musical interlude in the form of hit song *You Raise Me Up*. They all sang spectacularly well, and we look forward to welcoming them into the main competition in the coming years.

Finally the Houses settled down for the most prestigious prize of them all – the House Unison. In this competition every member of the school sings with their House in a unison version of a song chosen (usually) by Housemasters and senior boys or girls from the House. Paull's House began with an astonishing performance (and it really was a performance) of Carl Orff's "O Fortuna" from *Carmina Burana*. **Lydia Mills** conducted with skill and confidence. The result, a solid second place. Well done to the girls and to their Housemaster, Mr Dean. As the evening went on, a hushed audience heard fantastic performances of Del

Amitri's Nothing ever happens (McGill's), Billy Joel's *She's Always a woman to me* (Riding's) and Bryan Adams' Heaven (Leeman's). Third place was taken by a very dramatic version of Sondheim's *Ballad of Sweeney Todd* (Kennedy's), complete with blood, most of which came from Kennedy's House seniors **Ben Boothby** and conductor **David Cotter**. This was certainly among the most memorable moments of the night! However, Beevor's House swept the board with their rousing version of *Go the*



Beevor's took not only the first prize in the House Unisons, but their leader **Christopher Field** also picked up the coveted Vening Cup for the best conductor.



Year 8 students **Jake Adams**, **Louis Slater** and **Niall Logue** with their band, The Undecided, won through to the regional finals of the 'Live and Unsigned Competition', the biggest national music competition in the UK for unsigned bands and acts. At the regional finals in April the band will again be performing their own original music in front of a live audience and famous judges including Noddy Holder and Anne Nightingale. With the BBC, record labels, radio, press and producers all present it will be a great opportunity to show off their talent to a wider audience. Good luck boys!

These talented young musicians, who practise in the Music School at Aldenham during their lunchtimes, write their own songs. They were first spotted at the Aldenham Talent Show, winning it in 2009 and again in 2010. They also took part in last summer's Aldenham Rock Concert and during the school holidays attended a rock school summer camp.

CAROL SERVICE

Governors, staff, parents and students were joined by Old Aldenhamians for the annual Carol Service in a packed St Albans Cathedral. This festive occasion was a perfect showcase for the beautiful singing by our marvellous choir accompanied by Andrew Wyatt (OA) on the superb Abbey organ. The Christmas story was told through a number of readings by pupils from the Prep and Senior school, as well as the Chairman of Governors and Headmaster.



Jonathan Richard playing the flute part in a carol specially arranged for flute, choir and organ by John Wyatt, Director of Music.



The first verse of the opening carol was beautifully sung by Max Well.



LEARNING THE ROPES!

At sea...and Dame Ellen MacArthur was there too...

Ten pupils accompanied by The Revd. Stead and Miss Matthews took to the sea in the Solent in October. Sailing on two yachts from the United Kingdom Sailing Academy the pupils were instructed in basic sailing skills and competencies leading to their RYA Start Yachting Certificate, and **Jack Collins** his RYA Competent Crew Certificate. In strong winds and good conditions the pupils sailed the yachts from Cowes to Yarmouth where they spent a night in harbour.



Jessica Stokes and **Miranda Dodd** were thrilled to meet Dame Ellen MacArthur who was sailing at the Academy making a film to promote the work of UKSA. Paull's MacArthur House is named after Dame Ellen, the other House being Holmes, after Dame Kelly Holmes.

SPORT FOOTBALL

This season will be remembered for a successful football tour to Madrid, two unfortunate first round knockouts in the ISFA Cups for the 1st X1 and U15A sides, a host of postponed matches due to bad weather, and the usual ups and downs of competitive sport. With over 100 matches played across all age groups in the space of twelve weather interrupted weeks, all Aldenham students should be proud of their achievements.

Martineau's teams had a very successful season, winning over 75% of their games. Special mention must go to captain of the 'A' team **Sam Brown-Light** who led the side so well throughout their successful campaign.



A new 7-a-side tournament for Year 7 students was held at Aldenham resulting in victory for the home side. **Theo Campbell** and **Adam Regan** were the star players on the day.

The U14As enjoyed some great wins over Highgate (4-1), Westminster (6-2) and Winchester (3-1). Players who deserve a mention are **Jordan Davis**, **Macauley Keating** and **Ben Holden**. The U15A side were extremely unlucky to fall at the first hurdle in the ISFA Cup, losing to John Lyon in a game they dominated from start to finish. Their best win of the season came against Chigwell (5-1), **Tilk Malhotra** being named Player of the Season.

The U16 side developed throughout the term and lost only one game, to a very strong Eton side. They enjoyed great success, considering they were frequently missing three or four of their best players who were borrowed by the 1st XI. **Luke Robertson** and **James Greensmith** were the season's star performers.

The 3rd X1 won four of their last five games, with **Felix Hoh** their Player of the Season. The 2nd X1 Player of the Season went to **Matt Goodfield** who played a number of 1st X1 games. The 2nd X1 also produced the biggest winning score line of any senior side when they thrashed John Lyon 5-0.

Matt Lench and **Richard Hall** were consistent performers in the 1st XI, with **Reece Bennison** and **Toby Bayley** improving with every game. Wins against rivals Highgate,

Chigwell and St Columba's were the main highlights however the best team performance came in a match against Charterhouse which, despite a 3-2 defeat, saw an outstanding team display which had the opposition's managers purring about the 1st X1.

Year 13 students **Daniele Kitchen**, **Kane Wise**, **Richard Hall**, **Toby Bayley**, **Matt Lench**, **Freddie Numann**, **Reece Bennison** and **Max Raby** will be missed not only for their contribution, but also for their love and pride in representing the School at this level.

34 members of the 1st X1 and U15A teams went to Madrid at Half Term for what can only be described as a



Kane Wise (1st XI captain) and Richard Hall (1st XI Player of the Season) on tour in Spain

truly memorable trip. They watched an Atletico Madrid vs Almeria game, toured the Bernabeau, the home of Real Madrid, stayed at the Spanish FA headquarters the pre-tournament base for the World Cup winners, visited a theme park and most importantly both teams played four matches against local opposition under floodlights. The 1st X1 had four excellent fixtures with 1 win, 2 draws and a 3-2 defeat with **Johannes Schlicht** the outstanding Player of the Tour. The U15A also played four games with 1 win, 1 draw and 2 defeats. Player of the Tour went to **Toby Mifull** with special praise for two U14 players playing up a year, **Jordan Davis** and **Macauley Keating**, who were outstanding.



1st XI Aldenham coach Mr Cornock in Madrid - eyeing up his next club move?



HOCKEY

A highly successful girls' hockey season with the most extensive fixture list ever saw the girls make great strides forward at every age group. From Martineau's **Alex Peries** and **Georgina Yeabsley** excelled, whilst in the junior teams **Rasheida Price** and **Amy Flood** both impressed sufficiently to be given opportunities in the 1st XI. In the senior girls, **Jessica Oommen**, **Annabel Mizel** and **Frederikke Kistrup** became the first Aldenham girls to be awarded full school colours for their outstanding contribution to girls' hockey over the last three years. The weather did its best to disrupt the programme in the last few weeks of term but the 1st XI were still able to finish the season with a three match unbeaten run.



We were delighted to host *Wanderers Australia* - a touring side, comprising boys and girls from across Australia, who had already visited France, Belgium and Holland. A hotly contested match eventually saw the Aldenham boys' 1st XI 2-1 winners in a game full of pace and attacking intent. It was an outstanding performance from our boys against quality opposition. Next it was the turn of the girls, and it was clear from the guttural roar of "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie" emanating from their team huddle that these girls meant business. Unfortunately their team included several state players and proved too strong for us at both 1st XI and U15 level but the experience will

have done wonders in developing our girls' hockey. It was pleasing to see players like **Abby Pinkerton**, **Amy Flood**, **Rasheida Price** and **Rosie Baker** rise to the challenge and prove that they can compete at such a high level. We are planning to make this an annual event. Any of our pupils interested in broadening their cultural and sporting horizons might be interested in a reciprocal tour to Australia which runs every July.



NETBALL

Half way through the Netball season and the girls are improving with each game. Martineau's achieved a good success rate in their matches so far. The Senior teams have battled hard against some very strong opposition, showing excellent talent in difficult circumstances. Special mention must go to **Rosie Hartzig** and **Ellie Todd** in the 1st and U13A teams respectively for their excellent shooting, as well as to **Abi Pinkerton-Guyer** and **Farah Fakouri** (1st and U15) for their enthusiasm and control during a game.



The ex-England captain, Amanda Newton, held a special training session during which the girls worked hard and showed real signs of improvement. Having such a well established player hold a Games lesson is a great opportunity for our girls to expand their understanding and key skills.

GOLF

The Aldenham golf team of **Will Kirby** (Captain), **Alex Milligan** and **Chris Milligan**, enjoyed a 2:1 win over St Columba's in the Independent Schools Golf Association matchplay competition.

CRICKET



Dean Headley (ex England Cricketer) presented Riding's boys **Lee Tyrrell** and **Jack Gibbins** with the U13s Bowler of the Season and the Under 14s Player of the Season trophies respectively at the Buckinghamshire County Cricket end of season presentation.



Everyone is taking full advantage of the fabulous new fully fitted Fitness Suite, available for the exclusive use of pupils and boarders during PE lessons, Activities sessions and in the evenings and weekends. A much used facility to help keep everyone fit and healthy.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



The term started with celebrations; the Nursery marked its 18th birthday and Pre Prep its 10th birthday. We welcomed back Abigail Watts who was in the first ever Reception class as she joined us to cut the birthday cake.

The Foundation Stage supported many causes including the Indian Flood victims and Jeans for Genes, and they also wore their spots for Children in Need.



A topic for the term was 'People Who Help Us'. This included a visit from the local fire brigade and a parent-led assembly on dentistry and healthy teeth.

The Nursery children all brought in their favourite toys to draw and they painted pictures of themselves for their work on 'This is me'. As part of this project the Reception class also created family trees.

The parents enjoyed a social evening where the focus was on emergent writing. The term ended with a performance of the *Nursery Rhyme Nativity* and a traditional Christmas lunch.



Year 6 pupil **Eleni Christoforou** represented the Prep School beautifully with a faultless reading to a packed congregation at



Have you seen Blackbeard the Pirate anywhere?

On our annual Shakespeare's Day the pupils had a great time and learned a great deal as they were taken through Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.



Year 5 on their trip to the Guardian newspaper

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Gardening Club which was started two years ago has been growing (literally) ever since. With the enthusiastic help of our Head Gardener, Steven, the ground was prepared and a garden created where club members, under the watchful eye of Mrs Bond, have been keenly growing potatoes, beetroot, radishes, leeks, carrots, runner beans and pumpkins. Another fine crop is anticipated this year, with the addition of flowers and strawberries this time.



The Gardening Club harvested a bumper crop of pumpkins.



It was an action packed time for Year 6 when they visited Hudnall Park.



The Gardening Club produce was sold at the Prep School Fair's first plant stall.



The Pre-Prep Christmas production was the *Little Fir Tree*. The quality was excellent throughout and the children enjoyed their chance to perform to parents and grandparents. The collection at all the Prep Christmas performances was for Great Ormond Street Hospital and SOS Children's Villages.



The ASPA Prep Christmas fundraiser is a calendar and each month includes a picture of every child from Nursery to Year 6 whose birthday occurs in that month.



The Prep children help with Operation Christmas Child, which involved filling and wrapping shoeboxes to be sent to less fortunate children.

PREP SPORT

September arrives and Football and Netball take centre stage for the Prep School during this period. The boys had a successful season in football at both U9 and U11 age groups. For the U9s **Harvey Dodd** keeps running on Duracell batteries, with **Nkemdirim Wachuku**, **Ethan Hayes** and **Sebastian Davis** putting in solid displays. **John Bamigboye** and **Jake Reynolds** are the kingpins of the U11 team. They entered the area 7-a-side competition and, but for a hit post here and a dog on the pitch, could have got through to the knock out stages. Next year maybe... The House Football Competitions were both won by Borthwick to give them a healthy boost in the House points table.

The U9 and U11 Girls' netball squads have shown great commitment since September. They have practised hard during the lunchtime training sessions and are really starting to work well as teams. Several matches have been played which have been excellent learning opportunities and given the girls a lot of experience in a competitive situation. Initially they were very nervous and unsure, but their confidence has increased and they have had some closely



fought games. **Eleni Christoforou** has been a wonderful U11 captain. She has an excellent attitude, a positive outlook and she is a very determined and selfless player - something to which all the other girls can aspire.

The Buckingham College swimming gala held at Heathfield School saw a very successful 16 strong mixed team come away with over 20 medals between them. **Toby Hollis**, **Isobel Stitt**, **Milly Gould**, **Andrew Ingate**, **Jamie Gall** and **Jack Coles** all won their individual races.

Field Hockey has now started in earnest. You can tell that because the temperature has dropped by 10 degrees! Small cold hands and hockey sticks are not always a match made in heaven. But steadfastly the pupils from Yrs 3 - 6 are busy learning new skills in anticipation of putting them to good use in future fixtures.

John Fleet



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th February

- Prep School Music Day

9th March

- OA AGM

March 24th-25th

- Dance Show

March 12th

- *Hell's Kitchen* in Aid of Ripple Africa

21st March

- U12s Hockey Festival

31st March

- Spring Concert

6th-7th May

- OA Trip to Ypres, Belgium

17th June

- Prep Schools' Cricket Festival

18th June

- OPEN MORNING

26th June

- OA Day

2nd July

- Visitation Day

6th July

- Eros to Eros Run

8th July

- Visitation Day

8th July

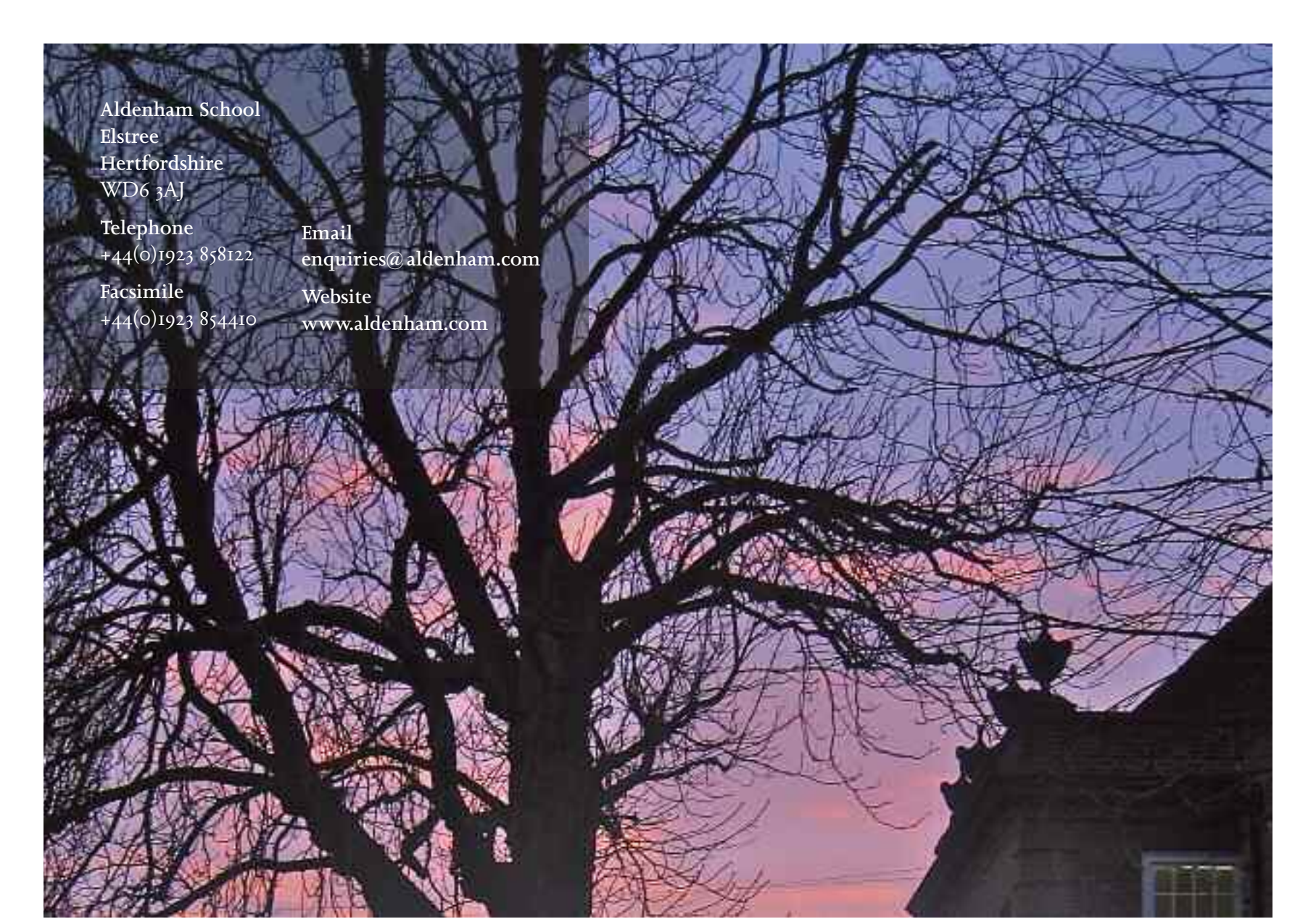
- ASPA Leavers' Ball

Editor

H Sherman

Photography

H Sherman, A.Scott, K Parker, G Tweedale, J.Wilkie, M Barton



Aldenham School
Elstree
Hertfordshire
WD6 3AJ

Telephone
+44(0)1923 858122

Facsimile
+44(0)1923 854410

Email
enquiries@aldenham.com

Website
www.aldenham.com