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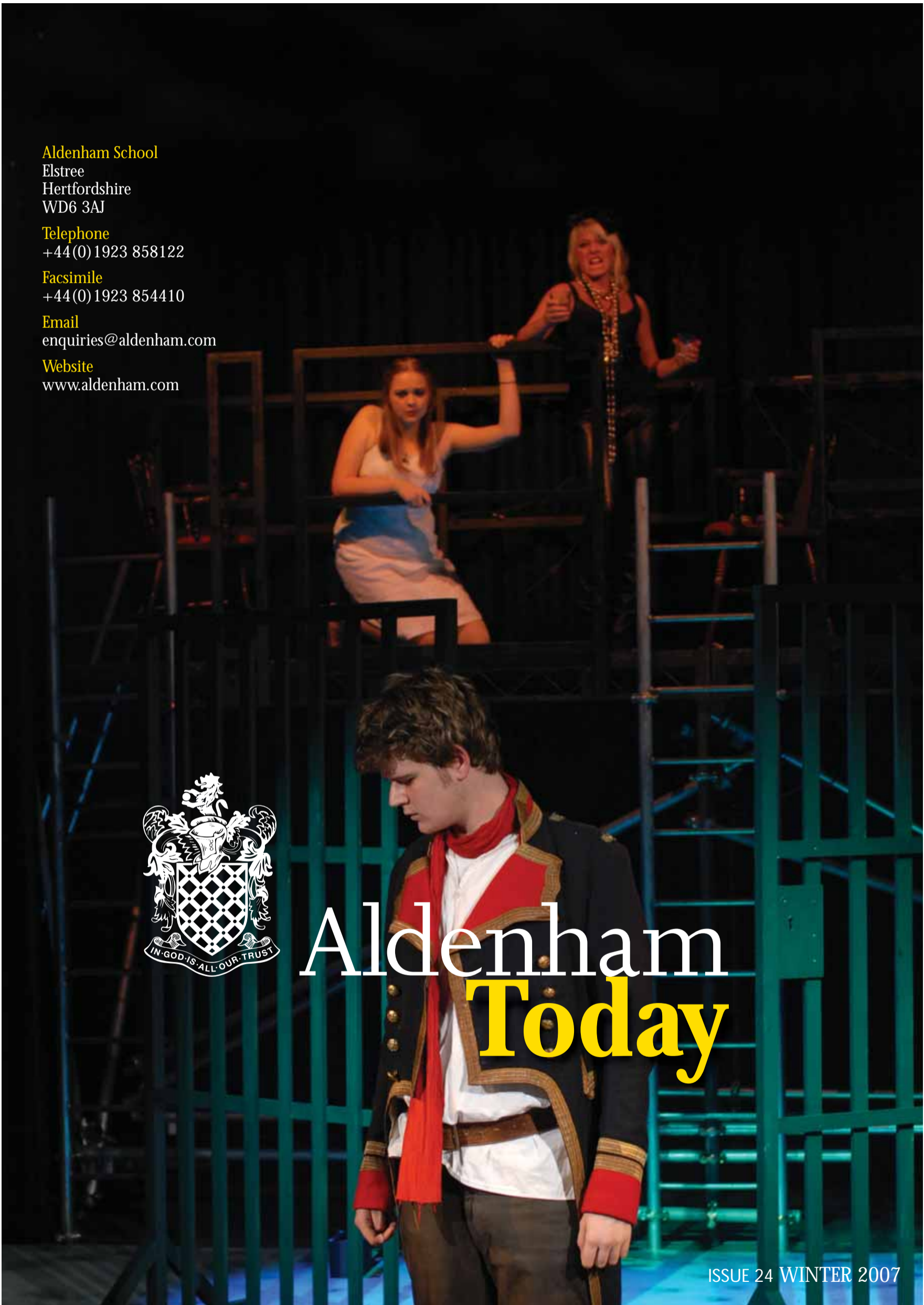
**Website**

[www.aldenham.com](http://www.aldenham.com)



# Aldenham Today

ISSUE 24 WINTER 2007



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

This issue of *Aldenham Today* will give you a good feel of much of the activity that has been going on at Aldenham since September. The success and excitement in many areas of School life are recorded here and pupils' personal achievements will be of interest to everyone who knows them.

With the arrival of the first pupils who have been all the way through our Prep School we are now truly a whole Aldenham foundation for the first time and our links with the Prep School have been growing in importance. One of the highlights of the academic year so far has undoubtedly been the completion of our wonderful new School Theatre which saw its first performance in November, *The Beggar's Opera*. The choice of this restoration classic piece, with a modern spin in terms of music, was entirely appropriate for the first of many productions in this marvellous new school facility. Our modern theatre is a fantastic addition in a school which boasts a wide range of Drama, Dance and other cultural events and it will also be an invaluable facility as a lecture theatre.

The annual House Music competition is one of those occasions that makes me proud to be part of a school that celebrates so wholeheartedly its long tradition of musical talents; an event which involves every single member of the Aldenham community in the senior school. This year's competition was bigger and better than ever with a large number of parents and visitors filling the seats to capacity. It's good to see pupils participating to such a high standard and with such a sense of competitive pride for their house. If you have not yet attended one of these performances, I would highly recommend them for their huge entertainment value.

The School website at [www.aldenham.com](http://www.aldenham.com) is a useful way of keeping up-to-date with the latest information on events and news about the School, and the Private area is increasingly becoming a widely used conduit for relevant information for parents and pupils alike.

As the weather improves, I look forward to meeting up with many parents and members of the wider community of Aldenham either on the touchline or at forthcoming School events.

**James Fowler**



*Mr Fowler passes on his considerable choral knowledge to pupils during rehearsals for the annual House Music competition.*

# DRAMA

The very first Aldenham School production in our new Theatre was a dazzling 1980s remix of the musical *The Beggar's Opera* with polished performances by the boys and girls in Years 10 and above. Add to this some spectacular special effects by way of pyrotechnics, helicopter landings, confetti bombs, special lights and sound effects and you have all the excitement worthy of a West End show. The audience were mightily entertained by talented lead performances from **Joe Bannister**, **Verity Gosden**, **Yazmine Ruzgar**, **Adrian Bliss**, **Jamie Coote** and **Ben Robbins**, and, along with a large cast of highwaymen and tavern girls, added exciting song and dance routines to the delight of full houses every night.

Director, Julie Bannister, said how delighted she was that Aldenham should have such a memorable opening night for its new school theatre, with so many opportunities – singing,



dancing, acting and technical – for the talented students. The latest state-of-the-art facilities will help to ensure that Aldenham continues its steady flow of students accepted into the National Youth Theatre and accredited Drama Schools for professional training.

The performers have set a very high standard for the many that will tread these same boards in the future. Everyone agreed that the wonderful facilities that our intimate new theatre offers can only enhance the already-strong Drama department at Aldenham and we eagerly anticipate many more equally special productions.

## A STAR IS BORN

11 year old **Hannah Sharp's** acting career took a huge leap forward when she appeared in a recent episode of *Casualty*, following her first-ever audition for the BBC. Look out Hollywood, this girl's going places!



# INDUCTION WEEKEND



Only a few days into Year 7 and the boys and girls were off to Derbyshire for four days of first-rate bonding on their induction trip. Under the intrepid leadership

of their Housemistress and other staff, and with the help of the Year 8 captains, the group piled into the unsuspecting Youth Hostel which was to be their base. Here they experienced a variety of fun team-building activities including horse riding, photography, painting and cycling to name but a few, as well as the thrills of Alton Towers on the final day! **Isabella Crack** enjoyed the House rap competition and also watching the X Factor in the evening, followed by the pupils' own version of the show ... "great fun to watch and be involved in,"



she said. The idyllic surroundings and beautiful scenery were enjoyed to the full before the tired, but happy group returned to Aldenham and to their waiting parents.



## REMEMBER THE FIREWORKS!

Tickets sold out quickly for the Aldenham School Parents' Association Fireworks evening when over 700 spectators enjoyed an amazing fireworks display and were able to sample a variety of delicious foods including a hog roast, various cakes, sweets and drinks, with of course the ever-popular mulled wine. Primarily a social event, this is also an ideal opportunity for pupils to raise funds for their particular houses or chosen charity. The evening netted ASPA over £1,000 which will be added to their ongoing fundraising efforts towards the purchase of a new grand piano for the Recital Room.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

At a moving Remembrance Day service in the School Chapel, the whole school watched as 12 international flags were laid on the altar by children of different nationalities, to celebrate our multicultural identity and emphasise how small school communities can live in unity and celebrate diversity. The 2-minute's silence was signaled by The Last Post played on the bugle by Year 10 pupil, **Christopher Field**.



*"It is wonderful to have a chapel which is so much a centre of community life, when we reflect on the past, embrace our present and work together for a shared future"* said the School Chaplain, the Rev'd Bond.

## SIXTH FORM DINNER

The guest speaker, Mr Simon Weale, a teacher and former Head of Sixth Form, found exactly the right tone and content for a mixed audience of students and staff at the Sixth Form dinner. Also as brother-in-law of Mr Fowler, students were eager to find out if any inside revelations would be made! James Boothby, School Captain, replied on behalf of the guests. As always special thanks go to Mr Spencer (Potts) for all his efforts in organising such a major event in the School and many thanks also to the School's caterers, the Brookwood Partnership.



# WORK EXPERIENCE

The Lower Sixth completed a successful week of work experience in a career area of their choice to help them find out about the real world and discover if their expectations are matched by potential career choices. Staff visiting most of the students during the week were pleased to receive very positive feedback from employers.

Unfortunately the Careers budget would not stretch to a flight to visit students in Germany including **Tatjana Koch** at a dentist, **Paul Numann** at a Munich film company and **Fabian Kutzner** event marketing in Hamburg. Slightly closer to home **Thomas Cousins** had a residential placement with the RAF in Gloucestershire, whilst **James Egell** braved Milton Keynes to work at Toyota.

**Krishna Shamdasani**, at HSBC in St John's Wood, learned much about dealing with the public as well as ensuring that the tills were reconciled at the end of the day.

Whilst working for Tiger Aspect on a pilot game show, **Charlie MacGinty** enjoyed rapid promotion from "runner", which included making tea for the show's host Paul McKenna, to cameraman as he made use of his A Level Media Studies skills to fill in for an absentee.

**Charles Ferguson** and **Laura Rabe Von Pappenheim** worked in the laboratories at Spire Bushey Hospital, observing and conducting tests and labelling blood samples for despatch to other laboratories for analysis.

**Oliver Chamberlain** worked at Gleeds, in London and helped with the new BBC Radio development near Oxford Street.

**Joshua Nathan** at the Architects, WATG, assisted in designing the accepted security buildings at the entrance to the forthcoming Cairo Airport five star hotel.

**George Day** worked at Elstree Studios for a company which supplies cranes, dollies and other equipment for films such as the Potter and Bond series.

**Ollie Salami** received glowing reports from his time at Borehamwood FC and his success has led to the offer of two placements there in 2009.



# CCF

The second year of the reintroduction of the CCF at Aldenham proves how popular this activity has become, with a strong RAF and Army section and it is hoped to expand further to include the Navy at some point in the future. The number of girls within the CCF has more than tripled and their enthusiasm is infectious.



Regular training days so far have included flying and gliding at RAF Benson and outdoor survival techniques at Crowborough.

Perhaps the most challenging experience was the long weekend spent on HMS Albion the Royal Navy's principal Assault ship.

The Cadets sailed from Portsmouth up through the Thames Barrier and into dock at London where the Headmaster was waiting to welcome them back. During the trip the group enjoyed a private tour of HMS Victory - Nelson's



ship, and the Flagship of the Royal Navy to this day. Colour Sergeant **Josh Nathan** discovered that he is too tall for the Navy by banging his head at least every 30 seconds! The display of the amputation equipment left everyone feeling a bit wobbly but they soon recovered enough to return to HMS Albion for Brunch. HMS Warrior was next on the agenda, and again, all those over 5'8" came out with a few more bruises than they had on the way in!

Monday was taken up with tours of the ship - everything from navigation, weapons, engines and Royal Marine assault tactics! After a frantic game of bucketball on the flight deck (yes it is possible!) several cadets were allowed to drive the ship through the English Channel.

All cadets were on deck for the salute to HMS Victory and HMS Ark Royal as they left Portsmouth, something they will all remember - partly as they had to stand to attention for a good 30 minutes without moving!

**Emily Thomas** and **Neusha Pirouzi** joined the Marines for the famous Royal Marine Commando workout. They did very well and managed to keep up with the men - but ached all over afterwards! Well done Ladies!

After watching the many guns and Marine landing craft being made ready and lowered into the water, the Cadets enjoyed an official armed police escort up the river Thames. Coming through the Thames Barrier was a hairy moment as HMS Albion made it through with about 6 inches to spare. Captain Lowe presented the School with a presentation photograph of some of the activities the Albion has been engaged in over the last few months. The party made it back onto the vehicle deck in time to show the Headmaster just how to parade before the Marines took them to the pier in two of their special amphibious landing craft.



## ART SO POPULAR!

Students in Year 9 have been working very enthusiastically in the Art Department designing their own silk Pop Art ties which they will wear on Open Day to demonstrate their creative talents in this art project. They researched the Pop Art movement in depth and focused on the artist Roy Lichtenstein in order to compose their own personal designs using fabric pens to paint on the designs.



(L to R) Tamoor Azam, Jessica Oommen, Matteo Paolini and Jack Chorley proudly display their own designer ties.

## BUSINESS SOCIETY

The Aldenham Business Society offers all pupils studying Economics or Business Studies an opportunity to hear first-hand from captains of industry. The first such meeting of the term featured David Wright OA, Managing Director of GR Wright and Sons, the only flour millers in London. At the annual dinner of the Society Tony Laurenson OA recanted his tales of life as a caterer to some of the biggest names in the music business with his company Eat to the Beat (he turned down a night with Take That to return to his old school!) Philip Green, head of Economics and Business, said, "We are delighted to hear of the successes of OAs in their commercial pursuits which is a real motivator for our pupils to make their mark on the world of business. We're always happy to welcome any members of the Aldenham community to share their secrets of success with us."

## MAKING THEIR MARK

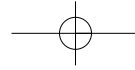
Congratulations to the McGill's House team of **Harry Blake, Alkesh Rajani, Sacheev Patel and Will Crack** who, guided by their mentor **Rishil Patel**, emerged as the overall winners in an X-Factor-style pitch for the first leg of the national Make Your Mark competition which is run as part of Enterprise Week. The winning team convinced the judges that their product, the Eco Card, was the most likely to make money and help reduce everyone's carbon footprint.



## HOUSE STEP UP

*Finally the cage, which had for a long time dominated the McGill's House entrance hall, has been removed. McGill's boys are now enjoying the much lighter and open space in the centre of the House.*





# SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

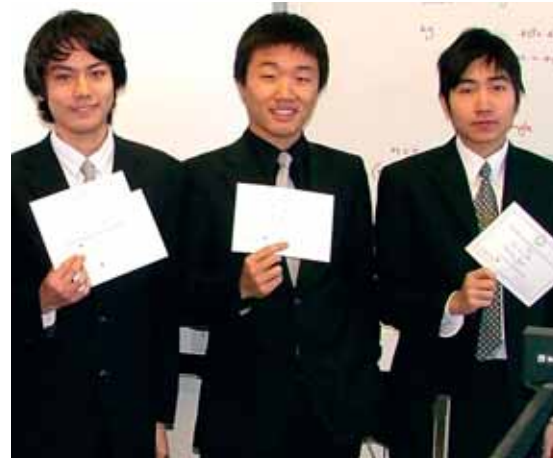


**Joshua Nathan**, the latest in a long line of successful Aldenham students to be awarded an Arkwright Scholarship for his outstanding work in design & technology, receives his certificate from Guy Hammersley of the BRE Group.

# MATHS CHALLENGE

Seventeen Mathematics students from Aldenham took part in this year's Senior Maths Challenge with six of them achieving medals. Over half a million pupils enter the annual challenge nationwide.

Congratulations to **Yu Yagihashi**, **Jung Soo Lee** and **Trevor Mak**, who each gained Silver with Yu receiving the award for 'Best in School'.



# POETS CORNER



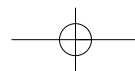
The new theatre was the venue for the inaugural Yr 9 poetry competition when students recited their own verse in front of their year group, following a term of studying poetry in English lessons. The Headmaster adjudicated the competition, and said that he was particularly impressed by the variety and standard of the poems. The winners were Lawrence Taymani (1st), **Christopher Hudson & Anthony Coote** (2nd equal) and **John Okunpolor & Mark Rodger** (joint 3rd place).

# YOUNG LEADERS

Aldenham School was founded in 1597 to serve the local community and almost 411 years later this principle remains at the heart of the School as every Saturday Sixth Form boys and girls welcome a group of enthusiastic pupils from Meryfield Primary School in Borehamwood to Aldenham to try out activities such as climbing, trampolining and gymnastics. This provides not only valuable leadership experience for the pupils from Aldenham but it also allows the young

visitors the chance to get to know new people and experience new activities. "The day is really good for both the younger ones and the older ones," agrees **Charlie Ferguson** "as it gives the Sixth Form great leadership skills and lets the Meryfield pupils have a laugh and interact with each other really well."

Last term we ran a very successful arts and crafts programme which saw the children making ceramic tiles, clay figures and Christmas gifts - there was even a visit from Father Christmas himself! This term we continue with a range of activities from dance to crazy science experiments.



# DESERT ISLAND DISCS

At the start of January the nation was treated to an uplifting interview on Radio 4 by Old Aldenhamian **Karren Brady** (Beevor's 1985-87), better known as the First Lady of Football, when she selected her favourite music on Desert Island Discs. Karren referred to her time at Aldenham as "... one of the best times I ever had. (the school) promoted individualism ... and if I ever look back to where my real confidence started and where I believed that I could be what I wanted to be, it was that school." High praise indeed!



# MUSICIANS PLAY ON



This year's House Music competition was another celebration of the enormous musical talent at Aldenham. The audience packed in to a the specially-adapted Sports Hall which boasted two large screens relaying the video recording being made by two Year 12 pupils. Performances were up to their usually high standard and the adjudicator, David Pickthall,

Director of Music at Brentwood School, expressed his delight with the entire evening, especially the fact that every single Aldenham pupil takes part in this annual event.

The Unison Song competition is of course the most passionately contested cup and to their enormous delight the Beevor's House rendition of *Hallelujah* won the day. Indeed, Beevor's had a very good night as **Archie McDonald** also took the Solo Cup with a quite incredible performance of beat boxing *Harvest Time* on the Flute; something that had to be heard to be fully appreciated! His performance was good enough to see off strong competition from other soloists including **Chan In Hoi's** *Fantaise Impromptu* on piano and a fine piece on violin by **Yu Yagihashi** of *Czardas* by V.Monti. The part song *Down by the Riverside* was won by Leeman's under the expert guidance of **Owen Davis** and Riding's snatched



first place in the ensemble section with an arrangement of *Here Comes the Sun*. **Ross Rubin**, dressed as a scarecrow, walked away with the well deserved Vening Cup awarded to the best conductor.

It was also wonderful to see Martineau's House, for the first time at a house music competition, perform a unison song of their own (*High Hopes*) to a captivated audience. All in all a tremendous display of musical talent all brought together in an afternoon and evening of excitement and fantastic entertainment.

## CAROL SERVICE



There can be few venues that are as evocative as St. Alban's Cathedral at Christmas. To see it full of Aldenham pupils, parents, staff and friends is very uplifting. The organ was played for the service for the last time by

**Colin Hughes** who has been assistant Director of Music for six years and leaves us to become Director of Music at St. Bede's prep school in Eastbourne. The opening *Matin Responsory* by Palastrina sung from the back of the cathedral by various soloists and full choir (numbering about 80 singers) was very powerful. There then followed the usual series of readings, carols and Christmas hymns. The traditional *Once in Royal* solo was beautifully sung by **Christopher Hudson** and the choir and brass group excelled themselves with some exceptional singing and playing.

Year 10 pupil **Aubrey Allegretti** has been busy out of school singing with the New London Children's Choir at the Royal Opening of St Pancras Eurostar terminal in November, at the Barbican Concert Hall in a Raymond Gubbay Christmas Extravaganza, and at several charity events, including a fund-raising concert at Southwark Cathedral for Sparks, a medical

charity for children, and at Spitalfields market in aid of St Joseph's Hospice. Over the summer Aubrey attended an NLCC residential week and also sang as part of rock star Lou Reed's backing group at two concerts in Amsterdam.

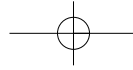
Along with members of the Aldenham Chapel Choir, Aubrey also sang with the Harrow Philharmonic and St. Albans Brass quintet at their Christmas Concert at St George's Church, Pinner View conducted by Director of Music John Wyatt. All sang to a very high standard and the chapel choir have already been asked back for next year!

17 year old **Tim Gourley** was thrilled to make the final five in a national singer/songwriter competition (out of 1,173 entrants in 25 categories) - with a piece he had written in his spare time between lessons and recorded in the School studio! At the finals, Tim was even more delighted to be placed second behind the winner, a 30+ artist already signed to a record company. He is now working on his own CD, as well as studying for his A Levels.



## LES PHILOSOPHES

Les Philosophes is a Members Only society for Sixth Formers which the Headmaster selects from the most able pupils. The Society, which has been running for around 20 years, holds several events each term, usually with guest speakers on wide ranging topics to educate and stretch its members. This year began with a talk from published film and media commentator Tony Watkins on *Film and Worldviews* and last term finished with the popular biannual Christmas Quiz which **George Day** describes as "...a fantastic night. The evening was enhanced by excellent refreshments, a different course of food with each of the seven quiz rounds! The Secretaries of the Society, **Joshua Oommen** and **Helen Shelton** helped the evening run smoothly." (Ed. Sounds like a great evening, I'm sorry I missed it!)



# SKI TRIP



closed before their return and the party were forced to find different ways of making it back to their chalet, including one fit, athletic group who joined the long line of other skiers who walked very slowly back up the slopes to the resort! All made it back in one piece and are eagerly looking forward to next year's trip.

*Aldenhamians enjoyed the best snow for the time of year for fifteen years.*

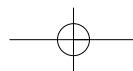


12 year old **Grace Conway Murray** also spent the holidays training in Meribel, as part of the 10 weeks she spends each year with her ski trainer, in preparation for a future Paralympics. Born with cerebral palsy to the right side of her body, Grace has not allowed this to hold her back as she has been skiing since the age of four. We wish her every success.



During the Christmas break the senior ski party set off for Val Thorens, part of the 3 Valleys region of the French Alps, with an abundance of thick powder snow and glorious sunshine for all to enjoy. It was still cold enough though to freeze the water in your glass whilst having lunch!

The students learning to snowboard moved on to the slopes quickly and those skiing for the first time progressed exceptionally well to be able to join the more advanced staff and students on the outing to the slopes of Meribel and Couchevel in the neighbouring valleys. Unfortunately on that day all the major ski-lifts back into Val Thorens



# SPORT

## FOOTBALL

This has been a great year for the school football teams. The 1st XI had a very successful season finishing with a record 7 wins, 3 draws and lost 5. They reached the quarter finals in the Independent Schools' Football Association six-a-side tournament and finished a creditable 3rd in the Southern School League only one win behind this year's winners Bradfield, who we narrowly lost to in the first game of the season.



*The 1st XI team finished with an almost perfect performance against the OA XI near the end of term when, despite some horrendous weather, their fluent passing style overwhelmed the opposition. The eventual score line did not truly reflect the dominance of the school team.*

On an individual level several players are approaching milestones in terms of appearances; **Matt Wallace** leads the way with 88 and Captain **Sam Kaye** on 63. Several others are approaching their half-century of senior appearances.

Congratulations also to **Joe Gritt** who has been selected to captain the full Independent Schools' Football Association U16 team.



*L to R Top goal scorer of the season, **Dan Quick** and 1st XI Captain, **Sam Kaye***

The 2nd XI and U14 B teams both had fantastic seasons, winning 9 and 8 games respectively. The 3rd XI and U16 XI finished the season strongly and overall the commitment shown by everyone has been a feature of the season; there are plenty of promising players for the future.



*Joe Gritt in action*



*Ben Weinberg on the ball*



*Adam Williams gains control of the ball*

# HOUSE SUCCESS

Kennedy's House continues its winning streak under their new Housemaster, Mr Pietrek, as cups for the Junior House Effort, Junior Football, Squash and the Conductor's cup have already been added to the House silverware - and the year is not half-finished yet! They were just pipped to the post in the House Unison and the Seniors' Football cup, coming runners-up. Well, you can't win everything!



*Kennedy's winning Junior Football squad*

# HOCKEY

*The season got off to a great start with a 2-1 win for the 1st XI against Haberdashers', hopefully they can continue this success.*



# ETON FIVES

The Aldenham School Fives Club, playing in three age groups, has expanded its fixture list to include a ladder tournament held at Aldenham with QE Barnet, Bryanston and Stowe, and also played the first ever matches at U13 level against Belmont and Orley Farm. Club captain **Cameron Grant** partnered OA Captain Josh Rose in the Turnbull Trophy competition at Eton in December, where they won all three of their matches to reach the

quarter-finals, which take place in February. We wish them well. Wins were also recorded at Senior level against local rivals Mill Hill and QE Barnet.

**Adam Williams** won the individual competition at the inaugural Aldenham Tournament on Remembrance Sunday but perhaps most encouraging has been the emergence of promising talent from Martineau's House.

The Lent term sees a continuation of the busy fixture schedule and the first ever girls matches, which will be played with Highgate and Mill Hill. We also look forward to the climax of the Fives

season with the Prep Schools' Competition at Harrow and the National Competition at Shrewsbury. Watch this space!



*Several Martineau's players entered a tournament at Harrow, with three players, **Andrew Rennie, Luke Robertson and Jamie Burchill** making the final four.*

# 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Teams from six schools enjoyed a high level of football in a fun and friendly atmosphere at the fifteenth Aldenham Prep School 5-a-side Football tournament in October. The Aldenham A side lost 2-1 in the final to Lochinver House after going unbeaten in the group stages with 6 wins and 2 draws. Aldenham Bs played well and finished 3rd overall above St Martin's, Devonshire House and Quainton Hall A teams - generally, it was a very impressive day by all the Aldenham students.



The Aldenham A side with their coach Matt Johl, GAP student from New Zealand.

# KARATE

**Stephen Kemp**, a member of the England Karate squad, continues his winning streak adding Gold and Silver for team Kumite (fighting) in the cadet category (14-16 year old) boys at the W.T.K.A world championships in Italy last October. As one of the younger members of the team, Stephen trains long and hard hoping for more success in the forthcoming championships in Birmingham, Hungary and Ireland.

We have not heard the last from this champion, and anticipate even greater accolades in the future.



*Stephen had a bit of explaining at airport security when he brought home his Trophy, a samurai sword!*

# GOLF

An Aldenham team of three pupils and one teacher beat off fierce competition from 14 other Independent Schools, including Bedford and Millfield, in the Independent Schools' Golf Association's one-day competition at The Shire London on 15th October. The Aldenham team walked away with 2 trophies; the Best School Team winners and the coveted Best Individual Boy cup which was won by Sixth Former, **Matthew Wallace** who smashed the Junior Course Record and equalled the overall course record!



*Congratulations to our three pupils whose combined scores secured the Scratch Cup; they are **Will Kirby**, **Matthew Wallace** (the current Under 18 Hertfordshire Captain) and **James Memory**. This win follows the School's earlier success when another team, also led by Matthew Wallace, qualified for the ISGA National Finals and were placed 4th overall with Matthew achieving a Gold medal.*

# GIRLS GAMES

Considering this is the first season the girls have had fixtures in both netball and hockey, their results have been encouraging. **India Loddy** has been appointed Captain of Netball, and **Yasmine Ruzgar** Captain of Girls' Hockey because of their outstanding personal commitment to girls' games.

## NETBALL

The U13s beat Belmont 14-6, a worthy result and a great effort from all who played. Other pleasing results were draws against Peterborough & St Margaret's (7-7) and Edge Grove (11-11) and a fantastic 20-1 win against Peterborough & St Margaret's in January. **Derin Omojokun** is giving an outstanding performance across the board, and the girl showing the greatest improvement is **Ronell Van Vuuren**. Wins from the U15 team include the match against Immanuel (14-4) with great performances from **Emily Thomas** and **April Mancey**. The U16 team played Peterborough & St Margaret's, winning 12-9 in an exciting game to watch - **Emily Thomas** made several intercepts and **Charlotte McPhee** shot a number of excellent goals.

*Derin Omojokun is playing superb netball.*

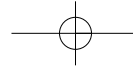


## HOCKEY



Aldenham's first ever Girls' Hockey match, an U15 fixture against Mill Hill, was an evenly contested and very competitive game with the result in doubt until the final minute. After conceding a goal just before half time our girls dominated for most of the second half. With our entire team committed to attack we almost got the equalizer when Mill Hill cleared off the line in the final minute only to sweep down the pitch to score on the break.

A young 1st XI side gave an admirable performance against a very accomplished team from Haileybury. **Abigail Shamah** and **Verity Gosden** showed great determination in defence. **Yasmine Ruzgar** led by example, **Joanna Ramsey** made several fine saves in goal and **Neusha Pirouzi** scored with a fine solo run from the half way line.



# PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The term started with 123 children in the Pre-Prep and Prep Departments. We welcomed Mr Jason Whiskerd, the new Head of Prep and Mrs Rachel Doherty, the Year 1 class teacher.

Pupils got behind various charities this term including Jeans for Genes and Operation Christmas Child when the children filled shoe boxes with presents for children in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Our Shakespearian Workshop was a real success as everyone in Years 1- 6 got involved in a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*.

A Harvest Festival array of tinned and packet food was given to The Salvation Army for distribution amongst those in need in the local area.

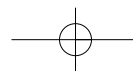
Our new School Chaplain, Reverend Bond talked to the pupils in assembly about the importance of Harvest Time.

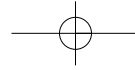
Reverend Bond also led our first Christingle Service when we joined Years 7 and 8 in the School Chapel.

School trips have included a Year 6 visit to Hazard Alley for a hands-on experience learning about safety. Year 5 had a wonderful time at Hatfield House meeting several characters from Tudor times.



Year 4 visited the Hindu Temple in Letchmore Heath and Year 3 went to the British Museum which included a Mummy Workshop. Years 1 and 2 had great fun at the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green looking at toys from the past.





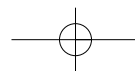
Our Years 3 and 4 pupils kicked off a series of Festive Concerts with a polished performance of All Around the World, followed by Foundation Stage's *Simply Nativity* and the Year 1 and 2's performance of *Ned's Christmas Discovery*.

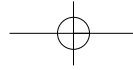


## PREP SPORT

"It's not the winning but the taking part that counts," so goes the Olympic motto. Aldenham Prep does compete under this banner but there is nothing like the smile on a winning team at the end of the day. We have had many smiles this term along with the occasional tear (mostly from the teachers!)

The Prep School continues to expand its extensive football and netball fixture list and endeavours to involve all who wish to be included. Our loyal parent supporters have encouraged some spirited performances from all of the teams.





# FOUNDATION STAGE

The children supported various charities including collecting goods for Harvest Festival for the Salvation Army, wearing their jeans for 'Jeans for Genes' and filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



The Foundation Stage had a busy start to the term welcoming many new families and Mr Whiskerd as the new Head of the Prep School.



All the pupils received a gift from Bookstart at the end of term with those in Reception getting a copy of Funny Bones and the Nursery children a Treasure Chest full of goodies.

The chickens started to lay in September and have been producing a healthy yield of eggs throughout the term. A range of assemblies included a visit from Mrs Rooprai, who talked about Diwali.



There has been a strong focus on 'Outdoor Learning' - and the outside 'Pots and Pans' music line has been greatly enjoyed by all.

The term finished with a traditional Christmas party, an entertainer and a visit from Father Christmas himself who handed out gifts to all the children, generously provided by ASPA Prep.

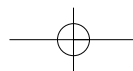


The topic for the term for the Nursery children was 'People who help us' and highlights included a visit from the Fire Brigade and visiting the School Shop and Library.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 23rd February - Prep Schools' Music Day    | 14th June - <b>OPEN AFTERNOON</b> |
| 12th March - OA AGM                        | 22nd June - OA Day                |
| 17th March - U12s Hockey Festival          | 28th June - Visitation Day        |
| 19th March - Spring Concert                | 4th July - Eros to Eros Run       |
| 13th June - Prep Schools' Cricket Festival | 4th July - ASPA Leavers' Ball     |

Editor - H Sherman.  
Photography - H Sherman, A Scott, A Westwood, A Cushing, Cameron Holt, S Coote



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

This issue of *Aldenham Today* will give you a good feel of much of the activity that has been going on at Aldenham since September. The success and excitement in many areas of School life are recorded here and pupils' personal achievements will be of interest to everyone who knows them.

With the arrival of the first pupils who have been all the way through our Prep School we are now truly a whole Aldenham foundation for the first time and our links with the Prep School have been growing in importance. One of the highlights of the academic year so far has undoubtedly been the completion of our wonderful new School Theatre which saw its first performance in November, *The Beggar's Opera*. The choice of this restoration classic piece, with a modern spin in terms of music, was entirely appropriate for the first of many productions in this marvellous new school facility. Our modern theatre is a fantastic addition in a school which boasts a wide range of Drama, Dance and other cultural events and it will also be an invaluable facility as a lecture theatre.

The annual House Music competition is one of those occasions that makes me proud to be part of a school that celebrates so wholeheartedly its long tradition of musical talents; an event which involves every single member of the Aldenham community in the senior school. This year's competition was bigger and better than ever with a large number of parents and visitors filling the seats to capacity. It's good to see pupils participating to such a high standard and with such a sense of competitive pride for their house. If you have not yet attended one of these performances, I would highly recommend them for their huge entertainment value.

The School website at [www.aldenham.com](http://www.aldenham.com) is a useful way of keeping up-to-date with the latest information on events and news about the School, and the Private area is increasingly becoming a widely used conduit for relevant information for parents and pupils alike.

As the weather improves, I look forward to meeting up with many parents and members of the wider community of Aldenham either on the touchline or at forthcoming School events.

**James Fowler**



*Mr Fowler passes on his considerable choral knowledge to pupils during rehearsals for the annual House Music competition.*

# DRAMA

The very first Aldenham School production in our new Theatre was a dazzling 1980s remix of the musical *The Beggar's Opera* with polished performances by the boys and girls in Years 10 and above. Add to this some spectacular special effects by way of pyrotechnics, helicopter landings, confetti bombs, special lights and sound effects and you have all the excitement worthy of a West End show. The audience were mightily entertained by talented lead performances from **Joe Bannister**, **Verity Gosden**, **Yazmine Ruzgar**, **Adrian Bliss**, **Jamie Coote** and **Ben Robbins**, and, along with a large cast of highwaymen and tavern girls, added exciting song and dance routines to the delight of full houses every night.

Director, Julie Bannister, said how delighted she was that Aldenham should have such a memorable opening night for its new school theatre, with so many opportunities – singing,



dancing, acting and technical – for the talented students. The latest state-of-the-art facilities will help to ensure that Aldenham continues its steady flow of students accepted into the National Youth Theatre and accredited Drama Schools for professional training.

The performers have set a very high standard for the many that will tread these same boards in the future. Everyone agreed that the wonderful facilities that our intimate new theatre offers can only enhance the already-strong Drama department at Aldenham and we eagerly anticipate many more equally special productions.

## A STAR IS BORN

11 year old **Hannah Sharp's** acting career took a huge leap forward when she appeared in a recent episode of *Casualty*, following her first-ever audition for the BBC. Look out Hollywood, this girl's going places!



# INDUCTION WEEKEND



Only a few days into Year 7 and the boys and girls were off to Derbyshire for four days of first-rate bonding on their induction trip. Under the intrepid leadership

of their Housemistress and other staff, and with the help of the Year 8 captains, the group piled into the unsuspecting Youth Hostel which was to be their base. Here they experienced a variety of fun team-building activities including horse riding, photography, painting and cycling to name but a few, as well as the thrills of Alton Towers on the final day! **Isabella Crack** enjoyed the House rap competition and also watching the X Factor in the evening, followed by the pupils' own version of the show ... "great fun to watch and be involved in,"



she said. The idyllic surroundings and beautiful scenery were enjoyed to the full before the tired, but happy group returned to Aldenham and to their waiting parents.



## REMEMBER THE FIREWORKS!

Tickets sold out quickly for the Aldenham School Parents' Association Fireworks evening when over 700 spectators enjoyed an amazing fireworks display and were able to sample a variety of delicious foods including a hog roast, various cakes, sweets and drinks, with of course the ever-popular mulled wine. Primarily a social event, this is also an ideal opportunity for pupils to raise funds for their particular houses or chosen charity. The evening netted ASPA over £1,000 which will be added to their ongoing fundraising efforts towards the purchase of a new grand piano for the Recital Room.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

At a moving Remembrance Day service in the School Chapel, the whole school watched as 12 international flags were laid on the altar by children of different nationalities, to celebrate our multicultural identity and emphasise how small school communities can live in unity and celebrate diversity. The 2-minute's silence was signaled by The Last Post played on the bugle by Year 10 pupil, **Christopher Field**.



*"It is wonderful to have a chapel which is so much a centre of community life, when we reflect on the past, embrace our present and work together for a shared future"* said the School Chaplain, the Rev'd Bond.

## SIXTH FORM DINNER

The guest speaker, Mr Simon Weale, a teacher and former Head of Sixth Form, found exactly the right tone and content for a mixed audience of students and staff at the Sixth Form dinner. Also as brother-in-law of Mr Fowler, students were eager to find out if any inside revelations would be made! James Boothby, School Captain, replied on behalf of the guests. As always special thanks go to Mr Spencer (Potts) for all his efforts in organising such a major event in the School and many thanks also to the School's caterers, the Brookwood Partnership.



# WORK EXPERIENCE

The Lower Sixth completed a successful week of work experience in a career area of their choice to help them find out about the real world and discover if their expectations are matched by potential career choices. Staff visiting most of the students during the week were pleased to receive very positive feedback from employers.

Unfortunately the Careers budget would not stretch to a flight to visit students in Germany including **Tatjana Koch** at a dentist, **Paul Numann** at a Munich film company and **Fabian Kutzner** event marketing in Hamburg. Slightly closer to home **Thomas Cousins** had a residential placement with the RAF in Gloucestershire, whilst **James Egell** braved Milton Keynes to work at Toyota.

**Krishna Shamdasani**, at HSBC in St John's Wood, learned much about dealing with the public as well as ensuring that the tills were reconciled at the end of the day.

Whilst working for Tiger Aspect on a pilot game show, **Charlie MacGinty** enjoyed rapid promotion from "runner", which included making tea for the show's host Paul McKenna, to cameraman as he made use of his A Level Media Studies skills to fill in for an absentee.

**Charles Ferguson** and **Laura Rabe Von Pappenheim** worked in the laboratories at Spire Bushey Hospital, observing and conducting tests and labelling blood samples for despatch to other laboratories for analysis.

**Oliver Chamberlain** worked at Gleeds, in London and helped with the new BBC Radio development near Oxford Street.

**Joshua Nathan** at the Architects, WATG, assisted in designing the accepted security buildings at the entrance to the forthcoming Cairo Airport five star hotel.

**George Day** worked at Elstree Studios for a company which supplies cranes, dollies and other equipment for films such as the Potter and Bond series.

**Ollie Salami** received glowing reports from his time at Borehamwood FC and his success has led to the offer of two placements there in 2009.



# CCF

The second year of the reintroduction of the CCF at Aldenham proves how popular this activity has become, with a strong RAF and Army section and it is hoped to expand further to include the Navy at some point in the future. The number of girls within the CCF has more than tripled and their enthusiasm is infectious.



Regular training days so far have included flying and gliding at RAF Benson and outdoor survival techniques at Crowborough.

Perhaps the most challenging experience was the long weekend spent on HMS Albion the Royal Navy's principal Assault ship.

The Cadets sailed from Portsmouth up through the Thames Barrier and into dock at London where the Headmaster was waiting to welcome them back. During the trip the group enjoyed a private tour of HMS Victory - Nelson's



ship, and the Flagship of the Royal Navy to this day. Colour Sergeant **Josh Nathan** discovered that he is too tall for the Navy by banging his head at least every 30 seconds! The display of the amputation equipment left everyone feeling a bit wobbly but they soon recovered enough to return to HMS Albion for Brunch. HMS Warrior was next on the agenda, and again, all those over 5'8" came out with a few more bruises than they had on the way in!

Monday was taken up with tours of the ship - everything from navigation, weapons, engines and Royal Marine assault tactics! After a frantic game of bucketball on the flight deck (yes it is possible!) several cadets were allowed to drive the ship through the English Channel.

All cadets were on deck for the salute to HMS Victory and HMS Ark Royal as they left Portsmouth, something they will all remember - partly as they had to stand to attention for a good 30 minutes without moving!

**Emily Thomas** and **Neusha Pirouzi** joined the Marines for the famous Royal Marine Commando workout. They did very well and managed to keep up with the men - but ached all over afterwards! Well done Ladies!

After watching the many guns and Marine landing craft being made ready and lowered into the water, the Cadets enjoyed an official armed police escort up the river Thames. Coming through the Thames Barrier was a hairy moment as HMS Albion made it through with about 6 inches to spare. Captain Lowe presented the School with a presentation photograph of some of the activities the Albion has been engaged in over the last few months. The party made it back onto the vehicle deck in time to show the Headmaster just how to parade before the Marines took them to the pier in two of their special amphibious landing craft.



## ART SO POPULAR!

Students in Year 9 have been working very enthusiastically in the Art Department designing their own silk Pop Art ties which they will wear on Open Day to demonstrate their creative talents in this art project. They researched the Pop Art movement in depth and focused on the artist Roy Lichtenstein in order to compose their own personal designs using fabric pens to paint on the designs.



(L to R) Tamoor Azam, Jessica Oommen, Matteo Paolini and Jack Chorley proudly display their own designer ties.

## BUSINESS SOCIETY

The Aldenham Business Society offers all pupils studying Economics or Business Studies an opportunity to hear first-hand from captains of industry. The first such meeting of the term featured David Wright OA, Managing Director of GR Wright and Sons, the only flour millers in London. At the annual dinner of the Society Tony Laurenson OA recanted his tales of life as a caterer to some of the biggest names in the music business with his company Eat to the Beat (he turned down a night with Take That to return to his old school!) Philip Green, head of Economics and Business, said, "We are delighted to hear of the successes of OAs in their commercial pursuits which is a real motivator for our pupils to make their mark on the world of business. We're always happy to welcome any members of the Aldenham community to share their secrets of success with us."

## MAKING THEIR MARK

Congratulations to the McGill's House team of **Harry Blake, Alkesh Rajani, Sacheev Patel and Will Crack** who, guided by their mentor **Rishil Patel**, emerged as the overall winners in an X-Factor-style pitch for the first leg of the national Make Your Mark competition which is run as part of Enterprise Week. The winning team convinced the judges that their product, the Eco Card, was the most likely to make money and help reduce everyone's carbon footprint.



## HOUSE STEP UP

*Finally the cage, which had for a long time dominated the McGill's House entrance hall, has been removed. McGill's boys are now enjoying the much lighter and open space in the centre of the House.*



## SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS



**Joshua Nathan**, the latest in a long line of successful Aldenham students to be awarded an Arkwright Scholarship for his outstanding work in design & technology, receives his certificate from Guy Hammersley of the BRE Group.

## MATHS CHALLENGE

Seventeen Mathematics students from Aldenham took part in this year's Senior Maths Challenge with six of them achieving medals. Over half a million pupils enter the annual challenge nationwide.

Congratulations to **Yu Yagihashi**, **Jung Soo Lee** and **Trevor Mak**, who each gained Silver with Yu receiving the award for 'Best in School'.



## POETS CORNER



The new theatre was the venue for the inaugural Yr 9 poetry competition when students recited their own verse in front of their year group, following a term of studying poetry in English lessons. The Headmaster adjudicated the competition, and said that he was particularly impressed by the variety and standard of the poems. The winners were Lawrence Taymani (1st), **Christopher Hudson & Anthony Coote** (2nd equal) and **John Okunpolor & Mark Rodger** (joint 3rd place).

## YOUNG LEADERS

Aldenham School was founded in 1597 to serve the local community and almost 411 years later this principle remains at the heart of the School as every Saturday Sixth Form boys and girls welcome a group of enthusiastic pupils from Meryfield Primary School in Borehamwood to Aldenham to try out activities such as climbing, trampolining and gymnastics. This provides not only valuable leadership experience for the pupils from Aldenham but it also allows the young

visitors the chance to get to know new people and experience new activities. "The day is really good for both the younger ones and the older ones," agrees **Charlie Ferguson** "as it gives the Sixth Form great leadership skills and lets the Meryfield pupils have a laugh and interact with each other really well."

Last term we ran a very successful arts and crafts programme which saw the children making ceramic tiles, clay figures and Christmas gifts - there was even a visit from Father Christmas himself! This term we continue with a range of activities from dance to crazy science experiments.



# DESERT ISLAND DISCS

At the start of January the nation was treated to an uplifting interview on Radio 4 by Old Aldenhamian **Karren Brady** (Beevor's 1985-87), better known as the First Lady of Football, when she selected her favourite music on Desert Island Discs. Karren referred to her time at Aldenham as "... one of the best times I ever had. (the school) promoted individualism ... and if I ever look back to where my real confidence started and where I believed that I could be what I wanted to be, it was that school." High praise indeed!



# MUSICIANS PLAY ON



This year's House Music competition was another celebration of the enormous musical talent at Aldenham. The audience packed in to a the specially-adapted Sports Hall which boasted two large screens relaying the video recording being made by two Year 12 pupils. Performances were up to their usually high standard and the adjudicator, David Pickthall,

Director of Music at Brentwood School, expressed his delight with the entire evening, especially the fact that every single Aldenham pupil takes part in this annual event.

The Unison Song competition is of course the most passionately contested cup and to their enormous delight the Beevor's House rendition of *Hallelujah* won the day. Indeed, Beevor's had a very good night as **Archie McDonald** also took the Solo Cup with a quite incredible performance of beat boxing *Harvest Time* on the Flute; something that had to be heard to be fully appreciated! His performance was good enough to see off strong competition from other soloists including **Chan In Hoi's** *Fantaise Impromptu* on piano and a fine piece on violin by **Yu Yagihashi** of *Czardas* by V.Monti. The part song *Down by the Riverside* was won by Leeman's under the expert guidance of **Owen Davis** and Riding's snatched



first place in the ensemble section with an arrangement of *Here Comes the Sun*. **Ross Rubin**, dressed as a scarecrow, walked away with the well deserved Vening Cup awarded to the best conductor.

It was also wonderful to see Martineau's House, for the first time at a house music competition, perform a unison song of their own (*High Hopes*) to a captivated audience. All in all a tremendous display of musical talent all brought together in an afternoon and evening of excitement and fantastic entertainment.

## CAROL SERVICE



There can be few venues that are as evocative as St. Alban's Cathedral at Christmas. To see it full of Aldenham pupils, parents, staff and friends is very uplifting. The organ was played for the service for the last time by

**Colin Hughes** who has been assistant Director of Music for six years and leaves us to become Director of Music at St. Bede's prep school in Eastbourne. The opening *Matin Responsory* by Palastrina sung from the back of the cathedral by various soloists and full choir (numbering about 80 singers) was very powerful. There then followed the usual series of readings, carols and Christmas hymns. The traditional *Once in Royal* solo was beautifully sung by **Christopher Hudson** and the choir and brass group excelled themselves with some exceptional singing and playing.

Year 10 pupil **Aubrey Allegretti** has been busy out of school singing with the New London Children's Choir at the Royal Opening of St Pancras Eurostar terminal in November, at the Barbican Concert Hall in a Raymond Gubbay Christmas Extravaganza, and at several charity events, including a fund-raising concert at Southwark Cathedral for Sparks, a medical

charity for children, and at Spitalfields market in aid of St Joseph's Hospice. Over the summer Aubrey attended an NLCC residential week and also sang as part of rock star Lou Reed's backing group at two concerts in Amsterdam.

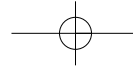
Along with members of the Aldenham Chapel Choir, Aubrey also sang with the Harrow Philharmonic and St. Albans Brass quintet at their Christmas Concert at St George's Church, Pinner View conducted by Director of Music John Wyatt. All sang to a very high standard and the chapel choir have already been asked back for next year!

17 year old **Tim Gourley** was thrilled to make the final five in a national singer/songwriter competition (out of 1,173 entrants in 25 categories) - with a piece he had written in his spare time between lessons and recorded in the School studio! At the finals, Tim was even more delighted to be placed second behind the winner, a 30+ artist already signed to a record company. He is now working on his own CD, as well as studying for his A Levels.



## LES PHILOSOPHES

Les Philosophes is a Members Only society for Sixth Formers which the Headmaster selects from the most able pupils. The Society, which has been running for around 20 years, holds several events each term, usually with guest speakers on wide ranging topics to educate and stretch its members. This year began with a talk from published film and media commentator Tony Watkins on *Film and Worldviews* and last term finished with the popular biannual Christmas Quiz which **George Day** describes as "...a fantastic night. The evening was enhanced by excellent refreshments, a different course of food with each of the seven quiz rounds! The Secretaries of the Society, **Joshua Oommen** and **Helen Shelton** helped the evening run smoothly." (Ed. Sounds like a great evening, I'm sorry I missed it!)



# SKI TRIP



closed before their return and the party were forced to find different ways of making it back to their chalet, including one fit, athletic group who joined the long line of other skiers who walked very slowly back up the slopes to the resort! All made it back in one piece and are eagerly looking forward to next year's trip.

*Aldenhamians enjoyed the best snow for the time of year for fifteen years.*

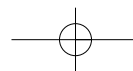


12 year old **Grace Conway Murray** also spent the holidays training in Meribel, as part of the 10 weeks she spends each year with her ski trainer, in preparation for a future Paralympics. Born with cerebral palsy to the right side of her body, Grace has not allowed this to hold her back as she has been skiing since the age of four. We wish her every success.



During the Christmas break the senior ski party set off for Val Thorens, part of the 3 Valleys region of the French Alps, with an abundance of thick powder snow and glorious sunshine for all to enjoy. It was still cold enough though to freeze the water in your glass whilst having lunch!

The students learning to snowboard moved on to the slopes quickly and those skiing for the first time progressed exceptionally well to be able to join the more advanced staff and students on the outing to the slopes of Meribel and Couchevel in the neighbouring valleys. Unfortunately on that day all the major ski-lifts back into Val Thorens



# SPORT

## FOOTBALL

This has been a great year for the school football teams. The 1st XI had a very successful season finishing with a record 7 wins, 3 draws and lost 5. They reached the quarter finals in the Independent Schools' Football Association six-a-side tournament and finished a creditable 3rd in the Southern School League only one win behind this year's winners Bradfield, who we narrowly lost to in the first game of the season.



*The 1st XI team finished with an almost perfect performance against the OA XI near the end of term when, despite some horrendous weather, their fluent passing style overwhelmed the opposition. The eventual score line did not truly reflect the dominance of the school team.*

On an individual level several players are approaching milestones in terms of appearances; **Matt Wallace** leads the way with 88 and Captain **Sam Kaye** on 63. Several others are approaching their half-century of senior appearances.

Congratulations also to **Joe Gritt** who has been selected to captain the full Independent Schools' Football Association U16 team.



*L to R Top goal scorer of the season, **Dan Quick** and 1st XI Captain, **Sam Kaye***

The 2nd XI and U14 B teams both had fantastic seasons, winning 9 and 8 games respectively. The 3rd XI and U16 XI finished the season strongly and overall the commitment shown by everyone has been a feature of the season; there are plenty of promising players for the future.



*Joe Gritt in action*



*Ben Weinberg on the ball*



*Adam Williams gains control of the ball*

# HOUSE SUCCESS

Kennedy's House continues its winning streak under their new Housemaster, Mr Pietrek, as cups for the Junior House Effort, Junior Football, Squash and the Conductor's cup have already been added to the House silverware - and the year is not half-finished yet! They were just pipped to the post in the House Unison and the Seniors' Football cup, coming runners-up. Well, you can't win everything!



*Kennedy's winning Junior Football squad*

# HOCKEY

*The season got off to a great start with a 2-1 win for the 1st XI against Haberdashers', hopefully they can continue this success.*



# ETON FIVES

The Aldenham School Fives Club, playing in three age groups, has expanded its fixture list to include a ladder tournament held at Aldenham with QE Barnet, Bryanston and Stowe, and also played the first ever matches at U13 level against Belmont and Orley Farm. Club captain **Cameron Grant** partnered OA Captain Josh Rose in the Turnbull Trophy competition at Eton in December, where they won all three of their matches to reach the

quarter-finals, which take place in February. We wish them well. Wins were also recorded at Senior level against local rivals Mill Hill and QE Barnet.

**Adam Williams** won the individual competition at the inaugural Aldenham Tournament on Remembrance Sunday but perhaps most encouraging has been the emergence of promising talent from Martineau's House.

The Lent term sees a continuation of the busy fixture schedule and the first ever girls matches, which will be played with Highgate and Mill Hill. We also look forward to the climax of the Fives

season with the Prep Schools' Competition at Harrow and the National Competition at Shrewsbury. Watch this space!



*Several Martineau's players entered a tournament at Harrow, with three players, **Andrew Rennie, Luke Robertson and Jamie Burchill** making the final four.*

# 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Teams from six schools enjoyed a high level of football in a fun and friendly atmosphere at the fifteenth Aldenham Prep School 5-a-side Football tournament in October. The Aldenham A side lost 2-1 in the final to Lochinver House after going unbeaten in the group stages with 6 wins and 2 draws. Aldenham Bs played well and finished 3rd overall above St Martin's, Devonshire House and Quainton Hall A teams - generally, it was a very impressive day by all the Aldenham students.



The Aldenham A side with their coach Matt Johl, GAP student from New Zealand.

# KARATE

**Stephen Kemp**, a member of the England Karate squad, continues his winning streak adding Gold and Silver for team Kumite (fighting) in the cadet category (14-16 year old) boys at the W.T.K.A world championships in Italy last October. As one of the younger members of the team, Stephen trains long and hard hoping for more success in the forthcoming championships in Birmingham, Hungary and Ireland.

We have not heard the last from this champion, and anticipate even greater accolades in the future.



Stephen had a bit of explaining at airport security when he brought home his Trophy, a samurai sword!

# GOLF

An Aldenham team of three pupils and one teacher beat off fierce competition from 14 other Independent Schools, including Bedford and Millfield, in the Independent Schools' Golf Association's one-day competition at The Shire London on 15th October. The Aldenham team walked away with 2 trophies; the Best School Team winners and the coveted Best Individual Boy cup which was won by Sixth Former, **Matthew Wallace** who smashed the Junior Course Record and equalled the overall course record!



Congratulations to our three pupils whose combined scores secured the Scratch Cup; they are **Will Kirby**, **Matthew Wallace** (the current Under 18 Hertfordshire Captain) and **James Memory**. This win follows the School's earlier success when another team, also led by Matthew Wallace, qualified for the ISGA National Finals and were placed 4th overall with Matthew achieving a Gold medal.

# GIRLS GAMES

Considering this is the first season the girls have had fixtures in both netball and hockey, their results have been encouraging. **India Loddy** has been appointed Captain of Netball, and **Yasmine Ruzgar** Captain of Girls' Hockey because of their outstanding personal commitment to girls' games.

## NETBALL

The U13s beat Belmont 14-6, a worthy result and a great effort from all who played. Other pleasing results were draws against Peterborough & St Margaret's (7-7) and Edge Grove (11-11) and a fantastic 20-1 win against Peterborough & St Margaret's in January. **Derin Omojokun** is giving an outstanding performance across the board, and the girl showing the greatest improvement is **Ronell Van Vuuren**. Wins from the U15 team include the match against Immanuel (14-4) with great performances from **Emily Thomas** and **April Mancey**. The U16 team played Peterborough & St Margaret's, winning 12-9 in an exciting game to watch - **Emily Thomas** made several intercepts and **Charlotte McPhee** shot a number of excellent goals.

*Derin Omojokun is playing superb netball.*

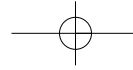


## HOCKEY



Aldenham's first ever Girls' Hockey match, an U15 fixture against Mill Hill, was an evenly contested and very competitive game with the result in doubt until the final minute. After conceding a goal just before half time our girls dominated for most of the second half. With our entire team committed to attack we almost got the equalizer when Mill Hill cleared off the line in the final minute only to sweep down the pitch to score on the break.

A young 1st XI side gave an admirable performance against a very accomplished team from Haileybury. **Abigail Shamah** and **Verity Gosden** showed great determination in defence. **Yasmine Ruzgar** led by example, **Joanna Ramsey** made several fine saves in goal and **Neusha Pirouzi** scored with a fine solo run from the half way line.



# PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The term started with 123 children in the Pre-Prep and Prep Departments. We welcomed Mr Jason Whiskerd, the new Head of Prep and Mrs Rachel Doherty, the Year 1 class teacher.

Pupils got behind various charities this term including Jeans for Genes and Operation Christmas Child when the children filled shoe boxes with presents for children in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Our Shakespearian Workshop was a real success as everyone in Years 1- 6 got involved in a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*.

A Harvest Festival array of tinned and packet food was given to The Salvation Army for distribution amongst those in need in the local area.

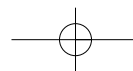
Our new School Chaplain, Reverend Bond talked to the pupils in assembly about the importance of Harvest Time.

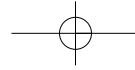
Reverend Bond also led our first Christingle Service when we joined Years 7 and 8 in the School Chapel.

School trips have included a Year 6 visit to Hazard Alley for a hands-on experience learning about safety. Year 5 had a wonderful time at Hatfield House meeting several characters from Tudor times.



Year 4 visited the Hindu Temple in Letchmore Heath and Year 3 went to the British Museum which included a Mummy Workshop. Years 1 and 2 had great fun at the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green looking at toys from the past.





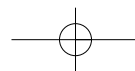
Our Years 3 and 4 pupils kicked off a series of Festive Concerts with a polished performance of All Around the World, followed by Foundation Stage's *Simply Nativity* and the Year 1 and 2's performance of *Ned's Christmas Discovery*.

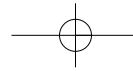


## PREP SPORT

"It's not the winning but the taking part that counts," so goes the Olympic motto. Aldenham Prep does compete under this banner but there is nothing like the smile on a winning team at the end of the day. We have had many smiles this term along with the occasional tear (mostly from the teachers!)

The Prep School continues to expand its extensive football and netball fixture list and endeavours to involve all who wish to be included. Our loyal parent supporters have encouraged some spirited performances from all of the teams.





# FOUNDATION STAGE

The children supported various charities including collecting goods for Harvest Festival for the Salvation Army, wearing their jeans for 'Jeans for Genes' and filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



The Foundation Stage had a busy start to the term welcoming many new families and Mr Whiskerd as the new Head of the Prep School.



All the pupils received a gift from Bookstart at the end of term with those in Reception getting a copy of Funny Bones and the Nursery children a Treasure Chest full of goodies.

The chickens started to lay in September and have been producing a healthy yield of eggs throughout the term. A range of assemblies included a visit from Mrs Rooprai, who talked about Diwali.



There has been a strong focus on 'Outdoor Learning' - and the outside 'Pots and Pans' music line has been greatly enjoyed by all.

The term finished with a traditional Christmas party, an entertainer and a visit from Father Christmas himself who handed out gifts to all the children, generously provided by ASPA Prep.



The topic for the term for the Nursery children was 'People who help us' and highlights included a visit from the Fire Brigade and visiting the School Shop and Library.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 23rd February - Prep Schools' Music Day    | 14th June - <b>OPEN AFTERNOON</b> |
| 12th March - OA AGM                        | 22nd June - OA Day                |
| 17th March - U12s Hockey Festival          | 28th June - Visitation Day        |
| 19th March - Spring Concert                | 4th July - Eros to Eros Run       |
| 13th June - Prep Schools' Cricket Festival | 4th July - ASPA Leavers' Ball     |

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