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REPTON SCHOOL'S *newsletter*



Spring/Summer 2007



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Anniversary Celebrations going well

Events to mark Repton School's 450th anniversary have been taking place around the world, including Auckland, Cyprus, Madrid, Toronto and Western Australia. The main events, however, have been in the UK.

The official launch was staged in the House of Commons, in the form of a reception hosted by OR the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford, MP for Greenwich and Woolwich. Over 100 guests enjoyed the evening in February.

Commemoration Day in May saw hundreds of former students and staff return to school to enjoy a day that began with a service in the Chapel. This provided an opportunity to hear the Choir and musicians perform a new anthem, created especially for the occasion by one of the country's most distinguished contemporary composers, Bob Chilcott.

Other attractions during the day included a cricket match and a concert in Pears School, during which the eminent OR pianist Alvin Moisey played



John Hedley (oldest attending OR) and Head Girl Susie Gilbert

Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* as the centrepiece of a performance featuring the School Orchestra, Concert Band and many OR musicians from across the years.

There are still significant events to come too. September will see a *Son et Lumière* staged in the Garth over three nights telling the history of the School in a festival of literature, light and music specially composed for the occasion. Commenting on the anniversary, the Headmaster said: "The year is designed to remind people of the wonderful tapestry of friendship of which all members of the Repton Community are part. We are also looking to the future as part of the celebrations and the events that have taken place so far have achieved these aims very successfully." Further details of the anniversary events can be found on the School website at www.repton.org.uk

Front cover: Headmaster, Bishop of Gloucester and Sir Christopher Rose



Repton Dubai Update

The official launch of the School was celebrated at a Gala Dinner, presided over by His Excellency Edward Oakden, the British Ambassador to the UAE and an Old Reptonian, and Dr Abdullah Al Karam, chairman of the Board of Directors and Dubai's Director-General of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority, on Monday, 19th March 2007. There were over 300 people in attendance, many of them prospective parents and a group of Old Reptonians.

The official launch was marked by the publication of a new school prospectus which has helped registrations reach the target of 300 for September and in some year groups a waiting list has been instituted.

The building of Phase 1 at the 35-acre site at Nad Al Sheba remains on course to be completed in time for the opening of the Junior School in September 2007 and preparations for the Senior School, due to open in September 2008, have begun in earnest.

Oxbridge Success

The country's top two universities have offered places to a dozen Repton students, with one of them in the unusual position of needing to get just two grade Es in his A-level exams in the summer to secure his place.

Edwin Hillier (S) has received the offer to read Music at Christ's College, Cambridge. Three of Repton's other sixth form students have been offered places at Cambridge colleges.

Places at Oxford University dependent on A-level results have been offered to seven students and the science department is enjoying particular success with three experimental psychologists, one biologist, a biochemist and a chemist among the successful candidates.

Daniel Reeve, who left Repton last year and who has taken a gap year has been awarded a place to read English Literature at Trinity College, Oxford.

The full list of successful candidates is:

- Rachel Attwood** - Experimental Psychology, Oriel, Oxford
- Michael Borup** - Economics & Management, Trinity, Oxford
- Suzie Chamberlain** - Biology, New, Oxford
- Anna Driver** - Biochemistry, Brasenose, Oxford
- Jennifer Ellis** - Chemistry, Pembroke, Oxford
- Stephen McGlynn** - Experimental Psychology, New, Oxford
- Sarah Parker** - Experimental Psychology, St Hilda's, Oxford
- Daniel Reeve** - English, Trinity, Oxford
- Thomas Bramall** - Philosophy, Magdalene, Cambridge
- Edwin Hillier** - Music, Christ's, Cambridge
- Johannes Lehmann** - Computer Science, Churchill, Cambridge
- Kieron Lomax** - Classics, Downing, Cambridge

Big names sell well

Top musicians Bryan Ferry and Michael Ball are the two artistes coming to perform outdoor concerts on The Square this year as part of our 450th anniversary celebrations.



Organised in conjunction with Live Nation, the Summer Picnic performances follow last year's successful series which featured Bjorn Again and Jools Holland.

Tickets have sold very well for this year's two shows, with interest shown across the region. Bryan Ferry will appear with guest musicians on July 7 and Michael Ball is being joined by an orchestra to sing songs from the West End on the following evening.

ABBEY'S TURN

The School is now into the sixth of an eight year programme of House refurbishments and this year it's Abbey's turn.

The biggest project since the conversion of The Mitre into a girls' house, it involves one major and three smaller extensions as well as the refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities. Substantial improvements are being made to the 'link' common room, the main common room is being extended and improvements are being made to bathrooms, showers and the laundry. Extra bedrooms are being created in the roof space of the existing building as well as in a two-storey extension. The new-look House will be able to take more than 70 girls and will benefit also from the creation of a private flat to accommodate its first resident tutor.

Work started before Easter and will be completed ahead of the new school year in August.

Moving Auschwitz story

Auschwitz survivor Freddie Knoller had a huge impact on the audience when he came to talk about his incredible experiences as part of the Upper Sixth Lecture Programme.

Born in Vienna in 1921, he lived a happy family life until 1938 when Austria was annexed by Germany. His life, during the tragic period 1938 - 1945, reads like a novel: arrests, prison, escapes, hiding with false papers, joining the resistance and concentration camps. Tim Owen, who organises the lecture programme, said:

"It was a privilege to introduce Mr Knoller to the pupils. He told his story so movingly and with such humanity it touched us all." Other prestigious guests to have taken part in our Upper Sixth Lecture Programme this year include author Alan Mallinson and former MP turned journalist Matthew Parris.

Hearty Event



Among the 35,000 plus runners in this year's London marathon was Chemistry teacher and Mistress in Charge of Swimming Mrs Rushton-Jones.

She decided to take part to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation, spurred on by the fact that her father suffered heart disease when she was a teenager. Weeks of dedicated training with the help of her husband Dr Jerome Jones helped her complete the course in soaring temperatures - and raise just under £2,400 for her chosen charity. "Lots of people came to watch us, including his Mum and my Mum and Dad. I got quite emotional whenever I saw someone I knew, I don't think anyone can prepare you for that!

"I am thrilled to have raised so much and would like to say a big thanks to everyone who supported me," Mrs Rushton-Jones said.

"WONDERCRUMP" LETTER

A letter of thanks has been sent to School by Felicity Dahl, widow of celebrated author and Old Reptonian Roald Dahl, for a donation to the Dahl Foundation from Sale of Work.

The idea of giving the money came from The Priory, Dahl's old house, after it joined in the first ever National Roald Dahl Day last year.

Year 5 pupils from Foremarke were invited to visit The Priory on the day to hear a little about some of the things that Dahl was involved with there in the 1930s.

When houses made suggestions of recipients from Sale of Work proceeds The Priory included The Dahl Foundation, which offers practical assistance to children and families in connection with neurology, haematology and literacy. As a result a donation of £500 was made.

In her letter Mrs Dahl says: "I know that Roald would have been delighted and very proud that his old school celebrated the first Roald Dahl Day."

As well as the letter of thanks Repton School has also received a certificate from the Dahl Foundation, which says "Thanks to all the wondercrump pupils and teachers at Repton School". It is on display in the library.

Prospectus updated

The School prospectus has been revamped, with a new look and the text rewritten. We listened to comments from parents and students and took these on board in updating it.

It has been given a professional branding too, bringing it in line with other school documents. The overall effect is very polished, reflecting the quality of our facilities and standards.



Marathon Men

Brother ORs Tom and Eddie Auden ran in the London Marathon in May and raised over £4,500 for the Marie Curie Cancer Charity.

It was the first time they had taken part, but have run the Great North Run in the past. They completed the London course, side by side, in 3 hours and 11 minutes with Eddie coming fourth in the 18 -20 year old category and Tom finishing 42nd in the 20 - 25 year old category. A fine achievement for a great cause.



Testing wine tasting

The Lent Term was particularly active for the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Society with a number of events organised and well attended by pupils from across the year groups.

A languages taster evening led by Katherine Guest (F), Catherine Wilson (M) and Mrs Blain gave pupils a chance to learn some Brazilian Portuguese, Afrikaans and Italian. Various film showings were also organised giving pupils a chance to practise their listening skills. The final event of the term was a 6th form wine tasting evening during which Mr Embury introduced pupils to a number of European wines. The language skills of our 6th form linguists were tested as they matched up descriptions written in French, Spanish, German and Italian to the various wines.

Session on Supreme Court

The School's History Society recently welcomed Dr. Jackson of Nottingham University and a Senior Member of Wolfson College, Cambridge as a visiting speaker.

He led a seminar for sixth form society members on the importance of the Supreme Court in American history and politics.

The Society has organised its usual quiz nights and other entertaining events for students from all blocks, encouraging them to view the subject as enjoyable and interesting regardless of whether they choose to study it at GCSE or A level.

Opera Society



The trial of Clytemnestra

On a wet afternoon in May the Classical Society staged a reconstruction of a juicy Greek murder trial in The Mitre garden.



Clytemnestra, in cahoots with her adulterous lover, was accused of killing her husband Agamemnon and his

captive bedmate Cassandra in the bath with an axe. Confused? So was the jury, after hearing the speeches from James Corran (L) and Kieron Lomax (L). In accordance with ancient practice, the trial was held in the open air to avoid the risk of pollution from contact with a murderer, the speeches were timed with a *klepsydra* (water-clock) and the jury voted by dropping pebbles into urns by secret ballot.

The verdict could not have been closer: Clytemnestra was found guilty, but if one juror had voted the other way she would have been acquitted.

At the end of the trial there was an amazing *deus ex machina*: the goddess Athene herself descended from Mt Olympus, wearing her aegis... looking suspiciously like Mrs Newman on the roof of the Mitre patio, wearing a sheepskin rug!

Another varied and stimulating season for the Debating Society!

In the first debate of the academic year a rather Epicurean house decided it would *Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die*. However, later in the term it found time to censure local youths for just that attitude as it considered a topical aspect of school/village relations: *This House believes that chavs are not the problem, Reptonians are*. With a turnout of over a hundred, heated views on both sides made for a lively and colourful debate! In the Lent term the Society explored with JMJJ and JP the advantages and disadvantages of coming from a broken

home, and debated the place of capital punishment in the modern world following the execution of Saddam Hussein. Ever eager to court controversy to draw a crowd the final motion of the season was: *This House would have women barefoot, naked and chained to the kitchen sink*. Defined in a somewhat unconventional way by an all-female post-feminist proposition and taken up by an all-male opposition: part new man, part chauvenist, it was an amusing and enjoyable end to a most successful season.

This year's final Opera Society outing will be a poignant occasion, as the society bids farewell to a number of Upper Sixth leavers who have supported it loyally in their time at Repton. The Welsh National Opera's acclaimed production of "*Carmen*", Bizet's passionate drama of love and death in a sun-parched Spanish landscape should bring the curtain down triumphantly on a highly pleasurable twelve months of Opera Society activity which has included

Mozart's "*Don Giovanni*", Puccini's "*La Boheme*" and Wagner's "*Tristan und Isolde*". Plans for the 2007-08 season are already laid, with Donizetti's "*L'Elisir d'Amore*" (the Glyndebourne staging), Britten's "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" and Verdi's "*Aida*" all featuring on the agenda. Each Opera Society trip comprises a mixture of Reptonians who have seen opera before alongside those who haven't and Messrs Stevens and Blain are always delighted to provide further details of the society's activities.

Full Marks for Drama Student



Lower Sixth pupil, Jack Fookes (S), pictured, became the first Reptonian ever to achieve full marks for acting in his AS Theatre Studies practical unit at the beginning of the summer term. He and three others devised their own piece of experimental drama entitled *Art-audience gallery*, receiving warm praise from AQA's visiting moderator. The piece was performed in the Studio Theatre and its foyer as a promenade performance, the audience moving with the action and even, at times, participating.

All four pupils scored highly but Jack received the magic 50/50 for his performance. This was particularly good news for Jack as he intends to train as an actor after his A Levels.

OPEN COURT

An exhibition of past pupils' work was staged in New Court Gallery - the refurbished Squash Courts - to coincide with Commemoration Day.

The rebuild project has created an outstanding facility with four first floor studios for Artists-in-Residence and two textiles studios.

The studios will come into full-time use when Fine Art Textiles is added to the Art Department curriculum in September 2008. Until then exhibitions and events will be staged in the building, which represents an impressive architectural achievement and adds a forward-looking element to our 450th anniversary celebrations.



Key successes for Peter

The title of Repton Young Musician of the Year 2007 was awarded to Peter Stones (L) at the end of an evening of outstanding performances by winners of the instrumental classes. He played Trombone Sonata by Serodzi.

Celebrated violinist and leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra James Clarke came to judge the finals and said he was very impressed by the standard of all the competitors. He presented Peter with the winner's cup.

The win was Peter's second key success this year, having learned in

January that he had gained a place at one of the country's foremost music colleges, UCE Birmingham Conservatoire. He will become a student there in October.



All the finalists for Repton Musician of the Year

Record raiser



A record amount was raised this year for our Lent Charity, with the Cabaret, other events and collections during the term bringing in an amazing £10,000.

The recipient of the funds is The Orpheus Centre, a residential performing arts centre working with young disabled adults.

The Centre is based in the former family home of Richard Stilgoe, and we were delighted when he and three of the students joined us for the final night of the Charity Cabaret.

The audience was spellbound by the performance the trio gave after being introduced by Mr Stilgoe and there was not a dry eye in the house as everyone joined in with the words and actions of their final number.

Performances by the 130 Reptonians involved - which included everything from solo and big band performances to mime, clowning and comedy sketches - were equally impressive and were a fine demonstration of the considerable talent we have in school.

Piano diploma

Lower Sixth form student Alex Fish (C) has recently passed his piano diploma with the London College of Music and Media, part of Thames Valley University.

As well as performing, to gain this prestigious qualification Alex had to sight read and complete an oral examination.

He can now use the letters DipLCM after his name. Quite an achievement for a student of his age!

LCM qualifications are unique in the graded examinations world in being awarded by a university.

King's Singers

The world renowned King's Singers will be visiting the School on Thursday 22nd November.

Formed in 1968 by six Choral Scholars from King's College Cambridge, the King's Singers quickly became a prominent musical force in the UK and today the group's engagements are spread throughout the four corners of the globe so we are delighted to welcome them to Repton for what promises to be a very special concert. During the day they will give a Masterclass to members of the School's choir and new harmony group 'The Reptiles'.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased in person from the School's Bursar's Office. Details will be available on the School's website www.repton.org.uk



National places netted

Seven of our girls have netted places at the Independent Schools Football Association for Girls (ISFAG) football development centre where they will receive first class coaching and play matches against football league academy sides.

The players attended two trial days in Ascot where qualified coaches assessed their performances. The seven selected are Sophie Griffiths (F), Stella d'Arch Smith (M), Safia Wortelboer, Kim Bradley (M) and Katherine Guest (F) for the U18s and Chloe Williams (M) and Sophie Davies (M) for the U16 squad. Girls' football was introduced at Repton in 2001 and has grown year on year ever since. Many now choose it as their sports option and the team trains twice weekly, playing matches in the Lent and Summer terms.



Hole-in-one

Lwr Sixth Former Edward Raynor (L) scored a hole-in-one at Allestree Golf Course in May. He teed up at the 5th hole and unleashed the perfect shot. Master in charge Russell Embery said "Edward achieved the rare feat at the 178 yard 5th hole at Allestree. His five iron shot landed close to the flag and he watched the ball roll around the edge of the cup before dropping in". The Repton golfers play every Tuesday afternoon from April to December on different courses in the Derby area.

Top Scorer ... again, and again!



A member of our U16 girls' hockey squad has had a tremendous year, being the top scorer for Repton, for Derbyshire U17s and for the Midlands U15s.

The success enjoyed by Harriet Fell (F) does not stop there. She was, of course, a valuable member of our national U18 title-winning team in March and in May she was in the victorious team (Belper Hockey Club U18s) at the National Cup Finals.

Earlier in the season Harriet had been part of two other national winning teams - the Midlands U15s and Belper when they won the National Indoor Finals. Harriet is a great competitor and a skilful player, congratulations to her!



BEST EVER SWIM

School swimmers achieved a best ever for Repton when they took part in the national independent schools' relay event at Whitgift School in Croydon in May.

Our girls and boys did well throughout the day but the real success came in the 4x50m medley relays with the boys

making it through to a thrilling Dunelm Cup final. Team members Alexander Fish(C), Sean Smale (S), James Dickinson (O) and Mark Crawford (L) all completed strong legs to achieve second place overall.

Seconds separated the first five teams and the victorious boys were delighted to be awarded Silver medals for their Dunelm Cup performance - School's best ever in this event.



Sprint to Victory

Athletes from Repton School were well represented at the 2007 Derbyshire County Athletics Championships and managed to pick up a total of 15 medals. Within this, three boys' performances were so spectacular that they have been invited to compete at the regional qualifiers of the National Championship: Luke Carlile (L) (triple jump), Jonathan Hendrickx (N) (Shot Putt) and David Jones (L) (100m). Last year, David Jones outclassed other talented sprinters across the country to reach the final of the Boys U18 100m English Schools Final coming 7th. Hopefully he can do even better this year!

Repton's Hockey Reign

Over the course of the last ten years, Repton has developed a reputation as one of the leading schools for hockey in the country and this year became the first school, in the history of the schools' competition, to win both girls' and boys' U.18 Midlands titles.



The girls' national finals took place in early March, at East Grinstead Hockey Club in truly awful weather. However, Repton won all four games comfortably, beating Arnold (4 - 0), Felsted (3 - 1), Millfield (5 - 1) and finally St. Edwards (6 - 0). This was Repton's third

consecutive national title and the one which was won with most ease, as the girls won the round-robin tournament by five points, having scored more goals than the rest of the teams put together.



Two weeks later, it was the turn of the boys at Timperley Hockey Club. The different format within boys' and girls' hockey meant that the boys had to play a quarter-final, followed by a semi-final. Repton drew Birkenhead in their quarter-final and played excellent hockey in the 8 - 1 win, setting up a game against Kingston G.S. Sadly, despite having most of the possession and more chances, Repton lost 1 - 0. Commenting after the semi-final Simon Clague, (master i/c hockey) said, "My personal opinion is that this team is the best

that Repton has ever produced and they have certainly produced some of the most exciting schoolboy hockey seen for some time. The girls too have been fantastic and it has been a most memorable year of hockey for the School".

In addition to the successful year, four pupils will be representing England in the European Youth Championships in July. Susie Gilbert (F), Charlotte Craddock (A), Georgie Twigg (F) and Tim Gilbert (O) will be travelling to Edinburgh as members of the England U18 teams.

County success

The U15s became County Netball Champions in a thrilling afternoon's play of determination and professionalism. They started the tournament as they meant to go on and in the group matches, of six minutes each way, managed to score at least 10 goals in each. The girls went from strength to strength in the semi-final and beat Woodlands School 12 goals to 5.

In the final the girls met Lady Manners, whom they had already beaten in the group stages, and despite a shaky first minute, their nerves seemed to subside and the trophy was never in question. Commenting on the successful afternoon Miss Oborn said: "The Under 15s were a joy to watch: they played as a real team, encouraging each other and constructively helping each other on court. This was a fantastic conclusion to the season."

GB Golden Girls

Two pupils had the great honour of representing Great Britain in the 2007 Australian Youth Olympic Festival and returned to school sporting gold medals.

Charlotte Craddock (A) and Susie Gilbert (F) spent three weeks in Sydney, preparing for the elite youth hockey competition and then taking part in the games - and at the end came away with gold by beating Australia in the final.

Charlotte was the youngest member of the entire squad and also the first player to score for GB in the competition. She added another to her score sheet in the tournament and Susie also netted one, not including one controversially disallowed in the nail-biting final against the home nation.

Commenting on the whole experience, Susie said: "The three weeks were the most amazing experience and I am very grateful to the school for letting me go. To have played hockey against China and New Zealand was fantastic but then to go and beat Australia in the final was just incredible. Having a taste of what an Olympics would be like has inspired me to strive even harder to achieve my sporting goals."



Trip of a lifetime



An Easter Holiday Geography - Spanish visit to Costa Rica led by Miss Collins and Mrs Checketts was, everyone involved says, the "trip of a lifetime".

Rainforest exploration, kayaking, snorkelling in the Caribbean Sea and zip wire travel in the forest canopy were all included in the activities enjoyed.

Visits during the eight-day adventure were made to the volcanic region of Arena and the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. A boat trip along the Caño Negro brought the party within feet of Caiman Crocodiles, Red Ear Slider Turtles, Great Blue Herons and Amazon Kingfishers.

After two busy days in Monteverde the party returned to San José, where the final morning was spent visiting a primary school. This was run along the principals of sustainable development, with pupils growing their own food in the school gardens and recycling many of their waste products.

On her return Miss Collins said: "The incredible scenery and warmth of the people made a deep impression on all of us."

Cricketers on Tour



The U15 cricketers escaped the winter gloom before Christmas for a two-week tour to Cape Town.

It was a tremendous success measured in enjoyment and the sheer experience that the players received as part of their cricketing education. The local opposition were, as expected, strong and to win two games out of six was a fair achievement for the Repton squad.

The off-the-field trips to Table Mountain, Robben Island and Cape Point were spectacular and nothing short of memorable for the squad. There was also the unforgettable experience of eating at an African-themed restaurant in Stellenbosch, where the boys were not slow to sample all kinds of prepared dishes, including meats such as warthog, antelope, crocodile and ostrich.

CCF remains first rate



The Repton School Combined Cadet Force has achieved some notable successes this year, as well as receiving first-rate inspection reports from all quarters.

Equally, the cadets themselves continue to shine, succeeding in a range of activities including A Coy night exercise RAF flying experience, abseil off Pears School, kayak capsize drill and live firing.

Two recent individual successes are of particular note. Stella d'Arch Smith (M) has been awarded a Sandhurst



scholarship after a gruelling two-day interview during which she underwent various tests ranging from mental aptitude to physical.

Repton CCF is soon to see change, with both the O/C, Lt Col CR Carrington, and the RSM, WO1 (RSM) MF Todd, to retire shortly, after long and distinguished work.

Howzat?

On the same week-end as he recorded his first century for Repton, Tom Poynton (S), was notified of his selection for the initial squad of players for England's U19 World Cup team next year. Wicket-keeper, Tom, a member of the Derbyshire Academy, is one of 40 players in the group from which the eventual party to travel to Malaysia will be selected. Before that he will be part of the Repton tour travelling to Grenada this coming December so he faces a busy few months!

Better by Design!

The school's Design Centre has been transformed over the last two years, with the creative talents of pupils being showcased by the high quality products that they have produced.

The interest and rapid growth in the number of students taking the subject to examination level is due to the renovation of the facilities, new computer controlled machines being introduced,

and the students being allowed to select and direct their energy into creative and demanding project work.

The appointment of a second teacher of D&T, Gemma Hill, who joins us in September - will hopefully sustain interest in the subject. It is hoped also that the recent increase in the number of girls taking the subject will continue in years to come.

