



Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 9

28th June 2005

Sue Robinson Retires

THE publication date for this Newsletter happens to be Sue Robinson's last day as my PA, before she takes her well-deserved retirement.

Sue came to MHCHS as PA to the Head in 1996, after a varied secretarial career including a stint as Registration Secretary at Mill Hill School. She arrived towards the end of Mr Culley's Headship, was in post throughout Dr Davison's time and survived a year and a half of me, ensuring the smoothest possible settling-in process.

As well as working with me, Sue provided secretarial and clerking services to the Governing

Body which is holding a farewell reception for her; I am pleased to report that both my predecessors are planning to be there.

Sue once worked in an employment agency and brought skills acquired there to the business of administering our hugely time-consuming appointments processes. For almost a decade, Sue has been the first person whom new staff encounter and I can say from personal experience that she has created a first class impression of the School. It may be this early contact, combined with her unfailingly courteous, good-humoured and helpful manner, which has tended to make all staff

seek Sue out when they want or need anything. I do not know how she has done so much work with so many interruptions, but working through her lunch hour every day may have helped! No doubt there will be many happy reminiscences at the staff farewell party.

I feel a great debt of gratitude to Sue for all her help, from the day I was appointed two years ago. There is no-one on the staff who would be more generally missed than Sue will be. Sue's husband has already retired and on behalf of the whole School community I offer them our warmest good wishes for a long and happy retirement together.

Geography Trip to Dorset May 2005

By Jo Honney (10J)

On the 6th of May, Miss Smith and Miss Heyworth and the two Year 10 Geography Classes bundled on to a coach and set off on a four hour coach journey to Osmington Bay. Once we were settled we met our team Leader, Helen or "Goldem" as she was known to Chris, Ben and Jude.

After being taken on a tour of the site we went on a hike around the local town and finally retired to our squeaky bunk beds.

The next day, we were woken up by two very loud teachers banging on our doors at 7:00am!!! Then we set off to the beach and actually did some work. We were then forced to go to the Museum of Rocks (Yay!) but we still made time

to buy some tacky gifts. We then crawled back onto our coach and drove home for dinner and work in the ICT Labs

On Sunday, we were taken along the River Bride to carry out data collection for our coursework; this was actually more fun than it sounds but did result in some very wet students. We all felt sorry for Juliette as she wore all white and still had to walk around in a muddy river all day. Afterwards we went home again to continue our write-up, whilst trying to keep ourselves awake.

The next day was the best as it involved no work, just Aeroball (I've still got the bruises, Ross) and Quad Biking. The Worst Quad

Biker Award goes to Owen and the best of course goes to me.

I cannot finish without saying a massive thanks to Miss Smith, Miss Heyworth and Mr Cannon! Photos on Page 7.



Change of Number!

As of September the main school number will be changing. It will be as follows:

0844 477 2424

Calls will be charged at the local rate.

Year 10 Trip to Calais

By Sophie Jackson

THIS was the first language trip for many years as we normally rely on French Exchange to take students to France. This Year, Year 10 were offered the chance to see a little of Northern France and practise their language in a three day residential trip to Calais

Forty Students, three teachers and a helper left Mill Hill on a coach at 7am sharp on Monday 13 June. Our itinerary had been changed at the last minute because of the long standing problem with ferry ramps, so we crossed the channel with Eurotunnel. We gained an hour and an impossibly long queue to the shuttle's only loo!

We marched the students through old Boulogne to a park for a picnic before going to visit to the Nausicaa Centre, where sea lions, sharks and crocodiles awaited us. In the evening, we unpacked in a basic but modern and welcoming youth hostel, and went straight to check out the beach, 200 metres away. We were delighted to find it wide and sunny, with fine golden sand

The next day we went on a treasure trail round the pretty tower of St Omer. The Students had to answer questions in French and conduct an interview with a local person. The students were particularly apt at using their French for their

numerous forays into clothes shops and bakeries! In the afternoon we visited a cheese farm—which some of us decided not to visit on account of the potent smell in the cellar, followed by a sweet factory where we helped to make sweets—we were particularly good at the tasting phase!

On our last day we visited an old fashioned bakery, rolled our own croissants and, again, sampled a number of their products. We ended our trip by a compulsory stop at the Cité d'Europe Shopping Centre for yet more Euro spending

The Singer Interview

By Michael Singer

JAMES GOSLING is a Year 10 student who plays for the Arsenal Visually Impaired Football Team. Earlier this week, he spoke to Mr Singer about what it's like playing for Arsenal.

I've played for the team for nearly four years and first became involved at Arsenal through a local group, which organises activities for visually impaired young people. All sorts of activities are available including dry slope skiing, canoeing and, of course, football. I attend training sessions at Highbury in

the Arsenal sports hall, twice each month and we are currently second in our league. The matches are played at Highbury, White Hart Lane and at Charlton's Valley ground. I'm in the U-18 team but was recently asked to play for the U-16s in their first tournament at Highbury. A special guest at this event was Arsenal midfielder, Gilberto. This formed the finale of 'Arsenal in the Community' 20th anniversary celebrations.

In our kind of football, the ball is not allowed above head height

and you are not allowed to enter the penalty area. Otherwise, everything else is the same.

My best game was when we beat a team from Yorkshire 11-1.

Eventually, I hope to play for the adult team, which might lead, one day, to an opportunity to play for England.



Reminder -

Please return the Student Data Check Forms as soon as possible as there are a number of students we haven't received forms for.

Year 8 Science Museum Trip

By Hayley Sims and Harriet Wigmore (8P)

ON Thursday 26th May, around 50 Year 8 students set off to the Science Museum accompanied by Miss Sood, Mr Davighi, Miss Porter, Mr Singer, Miss Lee and Mrs Pandit from the Science Department. We were very privileged as the trip was heavily oversubscribed.

We travelled by coach through London and went straight to the "Super Cool" show when we arrived. It was hosted by a member of staff from the Science Museum who made sure we all had a good time. He talked about extreme temperatures but managed to get

Miss Sood dancing like a cell (?!), made raisin flavoured ice cream and threw liquid nitrogen all over the floor!

After that we rushed off to see an IMAX film. The cinema was in the Museum and was 3D; it made everything look as it was coming right at you! The film itself was about space and space exploration teaching us about how astronauts go about their day to day lives and build satellites and laboratories without gravity!

After a very quick lunch stop we were on our way to the launch pad

where we could try out experiments in amusing ways which increased our understanding. We took photos of our shadows, made foam bridges to stand on and produced massive square bubbles! However after an exhausting day we eventually piled on to the coach.

Altogether we had a very enjoyable day and would like to thank the staff at the Science Museum and the staff who came with us, especially Miss Sood, for organising a great day out.

The Jack Petchey Foundation

By Mr S Smith

IN June the school has become involved in the Jack Petchey Foundation Award Scheme. Every month a student will be selected who has made a significant contribution to the school or local community. Nominations for the Award can be made by students, staff or parents. Forms will be available in school.

The winner will be selected monthly by a panel of staff and students. Winners will all receive a framed certificate, substitute Cheque and a nomination to a borough-wide presentation to be held

each summer. They will also nominate a school project for which the school receives a cheque for £300 from the Jack Petchey Foundation. Winners and their projects will be detailed in the Head's Newsletter.

This Foundation is a trust which funds programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25. It has been operating in East London since 1999. Since then over £15 million has been distributed to different projects. Further information can be found at the Jack Petchey Foundation website www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk

org.uk

We hope that this involvement will help us to recognize the significant contribution that some students make to school life and the community. It will also help students to recognise their peers' contributions and to make decisions that will have a financial benefit for the School.

The School Council will be actively involved, not only in selecting the winning nominations but also in drawing up a list of projects to which the money can be contributed.

Year 9 Rounders Tournament

By Sarah Lawrence and Jodie Byles (9G)

ON 25th May some of the Year 9 Students went to St James School for a Rounders tournament. We were one of the first teams to get there which meant we had time to warm up and practise. We were eager to win. Our first match was against Queen Elizabeth School for Girls, which we won 8-7.

Our next match was against Ashmole School and, to our delight,

we beat them 9½-7. Winning this match took us to the Semi-Finals. St James, were already through to the finals and to play them we had to beat St Michael's. It was a really tight match which we drew 7½-7½. We then played for an extra two minutes; unfortunately they beat us by half a rounder. We finished in 3rd Position, a position the team was pleased with considering we

only had 3 days' practice

We would like to congratulate the team: Ellie, Sarah, Jodie, Shereese, Suzanne and Sophie. We would also like to give a special thanks to Fiorentina and Yasmin for getting the team together at such short notice and an extra special thanks to Mrs Van Oosterom for taking us and giving up some of her time to help.

Senior Rugby - First Match

By Rory Kinane

ON March 21st, the senior Rugby side, consisting of students from Years 11 to 13, played the first ever home Rugby Game at Mill Hill. The new posts and pitch, which were only installed at the beginning of this year, were put to good use as tries and kicks flowed. Unfortunately they were all for the away team, Enfield Grammar. The well-seasoned side scored 37 unanswered points. At first Mill Hill hopes were high as on the opening kick, hooker Aneesh Popat managed to break through the Enfield line before offloading to prop Mathew Shannon who managed to break another tackle before going

down. But the hope was squashed as Enfield quickly gained possession and scored a try down the right wing.

After that Enfield continued to dominate the match and prevented Mill Hill from putting together a continued piece of offensive play by turning the ball over constantly in the rucks and mauls. Enfield were well drilled, using their backs to perform dummies, loops, switches and other tricks to create an overlap. They used this advantage to score tries down each wing and to Mill Hill's credit, the only time they did score was on the wing.

At half time the score was 24-0

to the away side, but Mill Hill heads didn't drop and the boys continued to struggle on bravely. The second half was gruelling and disheartening, made worse with cramp and injuries including to captain Safwon Suleyman, but luckily the injuries were not serious and took no-one out of the game.

Final score 37-0 but the match was not a total loss as it was great training to play against an experienced side and the experience bonded the team together as well as being fun.

Calendar

JUNE

Wednesday, 15th Food Masterclass
 Saturday, 18th Year 9 Geography Field Trip Departs
 Wednesday, 22nd Dance Medley 7.30pm
 Thursday, 23rd Dance Medley 7.30pm
 Friday, 24th Year 9 Geography Field Trip Returns
 Sunday, 26th World Challenge– Student Training Day
 Monday, 27th Staff Training Day
 Year 11 Camp Departs
 Tuesday, 28th Start of Year 9 & Year 10 Exams

JULY

Friday, 1st Year 11 Camp Returns
 Saturday, 2nd Year 9 Geog. Trip to Switzerland Departs
 Tuesday, 5th Poetry and Music Evening
 Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
 Wednesday, 6th Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
 Maths Masterclass
 Friday, 8th Year 9 Geography Trip Returns
 Monday, 11th Year 10 Work Experience Begins
 Knapp House Depart
 Thursday, 14th New Year 7 Induction Day
 Friday, 15th Knapp House Return
 Monday, 18th Sports Day MHCHS 9.00am - 3.00pm
 Tuesday, 19th New Year 7 Parents Evening
 Thursday, 21st TERM ENDS
 End of Work Experience
 World Challenge Party departs to Argentina
 End of Year exam results/reports sent home

Dancing to Success

By Norma Mann

Congratulations to Vidushi Gor (8Q) who completed her Grade 5 Classical Ballet Course at the Royal Academy of Dance. Vidushi earned a Merit pass by obtaining 69%. Vidushi was assessed in different areas from classical technique, rhythm and movement, free movement exercises, classical music and technique. The School would like to congratulate her on this achievement and wish her every success in her future.

Athletics

Congratulations to the Athletics teams who achieved excellent results in their first Borough League Fixtures.

Results so far are:

Year 10 Boys Athletics - Runners Up
 Year 10 Girls Athletics - 3rd
 Year 9 Boys Athletics - 3rd
 Year 9 Girls Athletics - Runners Up
 Year 7 Boys Athletics - 7th
 Year 7 Girls Athletics - 4th

This is a brilliant start to the Borough Fixtures and the teams are keen to compete again. Well Done everyone, and good luck in the next round!

Please visit our Website
www.mhchs.org.uk

PE Kit

By Mrs Van Oosterom

In an attempt to ensure all students are able to achieve and are keen to participate in PE lessons there is going to be a change in the department's policy regarding non-participants. Currently students who do not bring their PE kit are given kit to wear for that lesson, and sanctions are in place. This will continue to happen. However, those students who bring notes to say they can't participate due to injury or illness are currently given a task to do and sometimes are not asked to change.

From September 2005 students who cannot participate physically in PE lessons will still be required to change into their kit (unless there is a physical reason why they cannot, such as a cast on

their leg). They may also bring an appropriate sports jacket if they wish, to ward off rain or cold weather. They will be asked to do coaching or an observation task during the lesson, which will involve them in the lesson without their having to do a physical task.

Schools that have adopted this policy have spoken positively about it, and believe that their students are more motivated and learn more in their PE lessons. As we wish to give our students all the opportunities available to them we believe that this will be a positive move. Students who do not bring their kit in this situation will be given kit to wear and appropriate sanctions will apply.

Year 8

Football

By Anthony Johnston

Congratulations to the Year 8 Football team who reached both league and cup finals, winning the cup competition. Many thanks most go to all members of the squad and to Mr Edwards who managed the Team

Sporting Achievements

By Mrs Van Oosterom

Congratulations to some of our Students who have worked very hard and excelled in their Sports:

Blaize Esmond - Selected for Middlesex Golf, Winner of Wee Wonderer's Golf

Adam Porter - Team Runners up in the British Heart Foundation Golf Tournament

Zach Moss - Team Runners up in the British Heart Foundation Golf Tournament

Blaize Esmond - Team runners up in British Heart Foundation Golf

Tournament

Daniel Ashworth - Winner of the Doubles Rowing and Runner up in 4s Rowing

Jamie Makopa - Qualified for the London Youth Games team for Barnet Trampolining

Elliot Walton - Qualified for the London Youth Games team for Barnet Trampolining

Georgina Blake - Qualified for the London Youth Games team for Barnet Trampolining

Year 7 Netball Won Division 2. Congratulations to Year 7

Year 8 Netball Won Division 2

Congratulation to Year 8

Year 9 Netball Won Division 2

Congratulations to Year 9.

Year 9 also were runners up in the Playoffs

Year 10 Netball Won Division 2

Congratulations to Year 10

Senior Netball Won Division 2 and was runner up of the league Play offs.

Year 7 Head's Challenge Walk

By Iain Frenkiel & Max Gelibter, (7H)

On Saturday 14th May, 50 Year 7 students participated in the first step of the Head's Challenge. We had to complete a 15 mile walk in the Chiltern Hills. We set off bright and early at 8am, bound for Princes Risborough.

Everybody thought it would be a challenge and 15 miles seemed a very long way. We arrived at Princes Risborough at around 9, and started the walk promptly.

A few hours and a lot of steps later, most of us were wishing we'd stayed in bed. One thing that kept us going was Mrs Mann, Miss Tai and the minibus with its seemingly endless supply of chocolate and

drinks.

Lunch in Wendover also boosted our energy levels and at around 1:30 we were ready to walk the remaining 7 miles to Tring.

However, we were not full of energy for long! Seven miles soon started to feel like a very long way to go.

Eventually, eight hours after we had started, we approached Tring Station, where the coach and minibus were waiting for us. Most of us were very glad finally to be able to rest and relax on the journey home.

Well done to everybody who completed the full 15 miles.

Thanks to Mr Bradford, Mr Smith, Mr Hudson, Miss Jackson, Mrs Mann, Miss Tai, Miss Howarth, Miss Perkins, Mrs Reynolds and Miss Wright for an enjoyable but challenging day.



Mill Hill Students are Winners Once again!

By Linder Trinder

AT a Competition sponsored by Laing Homes a combined team of year 12 and year 13 students beat other schools in the Borough. The Health Protection Agency in Colindale yet again hosted the Barnet Business Challenge on 15th April. The winning team of Jay Khiroya, Mark Walters, Michael Hagai, Nehal Khan, Amar Mandalia, Warren Ng and Rakesh Vithalani had to

present their findings to a panel of judges as well as an audience of students and teachers. The Winners were presented with gift vouchers, courtesy of Laing Homes, however their vivid memories of the day were to do with the delicious sandwich lunch!

Congratulations and thanks to the team for representing the School and the department so well.



Geography Dorset Trip Photos

Continued from Page 1



Geography Field Trip to Kew Gardens

By Siobhan Hardy (8H) and Katherine Clifton (8G)

ON Wednesday 18th May Year 8 went on a Geography trip to Kew Gardens. After a quick experiment, where we all stood in a circle, turned to the side and sat on each other's knees to show how every element in an ecosystem depends on the others, we split into groups for a guided tour of Kew Gardens.

First we went into the Palm House where we saw bamboo that can grow up to a foot in a day, coco-

nut and mango plants and the biggest seed in the world; it is bigger than a football!

During that morning we also went to the Evolution House that showed evolution from 300 million years ago through to 180 million years ago. In the afternoon we went to a house which contained Lily pads large enough to hold the weight of a small child.

We saw the Prince of Wales

Conservatory where there were different exotic plants such as cacti and the Titan-Arums plant which opens once a year and gives off a really bad smell! There were also some plants that disguised themselves as stones for camouflage.

Thank you to Miss Heyworth, Miss Smith, Mr Bernardo, Mr Cannon and Miss McEwan who all came on the trip. It was a brilliant day and everyone enjoyed it!

