

Battle Abbey GAZETTE

Issue 1
December 2010

Welcome to the first ever issue of the Battle Abbey Gazette! As the days draw in and the and everyone begins to adjust to seeing yet another Christmas advert on the TV, many of us on the team are looking forward to a festive break with mulled wine and just that one more mince pie! For the time being though the Abbey is still in full swing. Rehearsals for Cabaret are climaxing towards what promises to be a spectacular close to the term and pupils are hard in study! This special Christmas issue offers a witty reflection of the recent BAS Chamber Choir trip, *Bath, Wells and a Witch!*, by our editor Richard Sellens, as well as a fascinating 60 Second Snapshot with Liam and Ioy, world champion kick boxer (and head of sixth form!).

Christmas Wishes,



the
TEAM X

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RICHARD SELLENS

Bath, Wells and a Witch!

A RIP-ROARING ACCOUNT OF THE ADVENTURE THAT WAS THE CHAMBER CHOIR TRIP

Having set off at 4 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon, this trip to Bath and Wells was already proving to be more sociable in its timings than any other school trip I've been on. During the four hour journey, I was on the supposedly quiet bus (made up mainly of sixth formers who are generally too grouchy to bother with singing on minibuses) but this soon turned out to not be the case, mainly because of Mr Langridge's mixture of road rage and anecdotes about 'my friend Steve' (that's Stephen Sondheim to those of you who don't know him!). We managed to get to our strangely luxurious (yes, we had a kettle) Travelodge in one piece and we all went straight to bed...ok, that's not strictly true, we went to bed after at least 3 hours of chatting, discovering other people's rooms and drinking hot chocolate by the bucket load (or was that just me?).

what I'll be calling us from now on) decided to try breakfast at the neighbouring Little Chef, which leads me to my first *Woman of the Week!* (drum roll please)...Pat, our genial server who would patiently wait whilst we constantly changed our minds about having the Olympic Breakfast or just sticking with plain toast and jam. Unfortunately, we never got to say goodbye to her properly when she left but Pat, if you're reading this, thank you for the wonderful service you gave us.

Our first venue, and therefore our debut concert, was at Wells Cathedral. To say it was massive is quite an understatement. Let's just say it was bigger (and tidier) than the music room and had a very nice café to top it off. Afterwards, as a treat, we were taken to Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Hole. This brings me to my second *Woman of the Week!*...The Witch of Wookey Hole! The story goes that in the Middle Ages, a witch lived in the caves and, after the villagers had a rant, was turned into stone by the local priest. This tale instilled a sense of affection for this witch in the hearts of us chamber-choirians and from then on, she has been our unofficial mascot. So, if you hear a distant cackle or see a black cat, who knows, the Witch of Wookey Hole could be watching you! Either that or you're going slightly mad.

The next morning and another early breakfast then off to Longleat, where we saw giraffes, lions and some of Lord Bath's 'interesting' murals. Of course we did a bit of singing as well, which included our anthem of 'Mack the Knife'. After managing to

get sufficiently lost in the massive maze, it was time to go again, but not after a sweep around the gift shops. That evening, we were treated to a pub meal and yet another night of having one of the songs stuck in our heads.



The third and final day was spent mainly in Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths Museum where we managed to get a picture with an 'authentic' Roman and his porcelain masterpieces. Some chamber-choirians even managed to be discounted fudge just by singing, so some good did come out of the trip. This was followed by the bus journey back home, which was strangely quiet though probably because half of us were asleep. Now, on the second day, Mr Langridge happened to mention his passion for model railways so when we stopped at the service station and saw a book of cut-out trains, it was a no-brainer as to what we should do. Let's just say, Mr Langridge looked like a small boy in a sweet shop, though he'd never admit to it!

So, a big thanks to everyone involved for making this trip certainly one to remember! And hopefully there'll be many more to come.



Up early the next morning, a small party of us chamber-choirians (that's

Head of Boarding - Icy Ho & Liam Adams

- 1. What does boarding house mean to you?**
Icy & Liam: Family.
- 2. Do you remember how do you felt when you first came to Battle Abbey School?**
Icy: At first, I felt lonely because of the cultural differences. But all the nice teachers and friends made me settle down so quickly. I love my life here now.
Liam: I felt like I was in Harry Potter. I felt a little bit nervous but made friends very soon.
- 3. What kind of responsibility do you have to take on in order to be a Head of Boarding?**
Icy: Taking care of the junior boarders and trying to meet their needs.
Liam: You have to look after the boarding house and make sure that every single student is happy and make them feel like they are part of the family. You have to help with the running and organisation events in the boarding house and make sure the rules are obeyed.
- 4. How is the boarding life?**
Icy: It's perfect because I have met so many people of different nationalities and it's extended my friend's circle.
Liam: I love boarding life as I live with a lot of friends and have lots of fun with them.
- 5. What's the difference between school time and boarding time with Mr. Patel?**
Icy: I think there is no difference. He's always nice to us and just like our father. He makes me feel like I'm home.
Liam: There is not too much difference for me. He treats me as an equal now, even though I am only the Head of Boarding and so I don't feel much like his student, obviously he's still my boss but he talks to me more like a friend now rather than a teacher.

60 second snapshot

Where in the ABBEY?

Our photographer has taken pictures of important places around the school at some rather bizarre angles! See how many you can recognize throughout the Gazette - there are some anagram clues on The Back Page to help you.



RICKY LAU

a chinese perspective

An eight-hour jet lag, a totally different culture and over five thousand miles away from each other. You might be curious about how we integrate into British life.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

Food

For most of our meals, we always had rice as one of our dishes. But in Britain, we have pasta or mashed potatoes instead.

Languages

It is probably the common difference for all of the boarders. In China, most of us speak Mandarin and some people in territories like Macau and Hong Kong speak Cantonese as well.

Teaching and Learning Methods

In England, teachers encourage active learning and adopt an interactive teaching style. However, it is different from that of China as most students are passive learners. Because of this, we may find it hard to interactive with teacher and classmates during the class.

Interesting Facts

'Bless You'

We have learnt to say 'Bless you' (ㄟ) after people sneeze.

'I have never had such a regular sleeping pattern.'

Most of the Chinese, particularly Hong Kong-ers, are night workers. At home, we would sometimes work until five in the morning or stay up all night to finish our work. As most of us are now boarders, there is a definite bedtime and so we go to bed way earlier than we were now.

Chinese Food V.S. English Chinese Food

We're quite sure English Chinese restaurant has a completely different recipe as the food tastes so unlike what it should be. You will probably find Chinese food not tasty only because you've had it before in an English Chinese restaurant. Visit China and have some real Chinese meals there. We're sure you would love it as much as we do!

Noodles

We have instant noodles as our snacks instead of biscuits and chips. We can't deny that sometimes having biscuits and chips as our snacks is much more convenient. However, it isn't too troublesome to cook noodles as it only takes you three minutes. There is a wide variety of choices as well. From seafood to beef, I bet you could find your favourite pack!

NAOMI CRUIKSHANK

Harry Potter

and the Deathly Hallows PART 1



The penultimate Harry Potter film has been released and everything is quite different to the first film when Harry was just an eleven year old. Gone are the days of Hogwarts and Diagon Alley and instead a quest to find and destroy Voldemort's remaining horcruxes had just begun.

The three main characters in the film have grown up a lot since we first saw them; Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) are now preparing to fight in the war of the wizarding world, with lives at stake.

The script is extremely witty and will get as many laughs as shudders from the numerous deaths. It is clear that the movie is directed for the generation that have grown

up watching it and so the humour reflects this. Who would have thought that when choosing his wand in Olivander's shop only 10 years ago he would go on to cross dressing due to a Polyjuice potion in the new film?

The film is dark and packed with wonderful performances from the deranged Bellatrix Lestrange (Helena Bonham-Carter) and the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes). There is also a reappearance of the faithful house elf Dobby.

The film ends on a spectacular cliff-hanger, which leaves you craving Part 2 of the Deathly Hallows. The books and the films are a world phenomenon and definitely not to be missed!

Where in the ABBEY?

MAX MAHER

THE HISTORY OF...

SNOW

"After awaking this morning and opening my window to empty the contents of my chamber pot into the street, I noticed the presence of a strange, white material covering the entirety of everything. After recovering from a brief panic attack I immediately proceeded to telephone the Pentagon, who informed me that I was not to worry, as the mystery substance was wholly innocent and harmless.

After my unfortunate discovery of the meteorological phenomena known as 'snow', I felt compelled to conduct some research into its nature, and history."

The substance was discovered in 1842 by Dr James Snow, purely by chance, in an experimental procedure to determine the melting point of a chimney sweep (who was comprised of approximately 80% water). During the procedure, some polystyrene packaging from a delivery that morning was accidentally left inside the cooling chamber, and after approximately 17 minutes its super-cooled molecules conglomerated to form a soft, white, powdery material.

Dr Snow named his discovery after himself, as scientists throughout the ages are renowned for doing (for example: Dr. James Calculator or - of course - Prof. G Faeces) but the word was also handily an acronym for 'Somewhat Nippy or Wet', which helped to integrate the term into the Victorian vocabulary.

The primary use of snow after its discovery was in construction, where it was commonly used in the mid-Victorian era to provide easily-constructed, affordable accommodation for the everyday family. However, after numerous unfortunate and catastrophic incidents like 'temperatures rising above 0°C' it was decided that building long-term housing out of snow was quite possibly the stupidest idea ever.

After the discoveries of the limitations of snow as a building material, snow suffered from a period of considerable lack of popularity. In fact, as a result of number of snow-related deaths and injuries, many people of the time turned from their previous snow-loving selves into furious anti-snow lobbyists, discriminating and campaigning against snow at any available opportunity. Throughout this period there were many reports of cruelty and even violence towards members of the snow community, but unfortunately many of the relevant authorities chose to turn a blind eye to such incidents; they themselves presumably equally antisnowetic in their views.

This period of suffering for snow went on until the passing of the Anti Snow Discrimination Act in 1905. The act outlawed any open abuse or mistreatment of snow, and was passed mainly due to the endeavours of the young priest, Christopher Mass, who was proclaimed as a hero to snow everywhere, who commemorate his life by covering the land in their fluffy whiteness once a year, on the day of his birth.

This, often controversial, practise has been kept up ever since, resulting in the fabled 'Snow Day' that we know and love.



FUN FACTS



Even the dinosaurs had snow days - and it is widely speculated amongst dinosaurologists that snow was responsible for the downfall of the Dinosaur



Snow has even been the inspiration for pieces of cinema, namely the minimalist masterpiece 'Snow: The Movie' and its modern cinematic blockbuster, 'Snow 2: Brain Freeze'



Snow was used as a weapon in the bloody and devastating Lapland Civil War



Snow has even inspired its own successful brand of cereal. Yum!... Only kidding!

an interview with

Miss Malevic



1. What do Biology and Kick-boxing mean to you? Is there any relationship between them?

using all my biological knowledge helps me know how my body works. Kick-boxing is mind over matter. It is a state mine. Biology has to be the most amazing subject in the world because the human-being is biological specimen.

2. how did you find the interest in kick-boxing?

I need a sport that makes me focus and remove everything out of my mind at that moment in time. Getting the black belt initials a magnificent journey.

3. You have a lot of work to do, apart from being a biology teacher and kick-boxing coach of the school; you are also the head of sixth form, run a photography wedding business and have Brown-White belt in karate! How do you manage to cope with the workload and is there any special way you use to relax?

I am fantastic at time management! I work hard ,train hard and play hard. My philosophy is life is short: every second counts, be the person you want to be. To relax I watch Eastenders, Spend time with my family, Swim and sit in my beautiful garden - I love gardening.

4. Before a kick-boxing competition, how do you feel and how do you cope with this? During the competition, is there any exciting part that you want to share?

I was very, very nervous for two weeks before the event! I focused on my training every single day. I ate,trained and slept kick-boxing. At the end of my fight,having my arm raised by the referee, showing I had won the gold medal and was now the world champion was an amazing feeling.

5. What did you learn from this huge event in your life?

I learnt that even someone my age can reach for the stars and realize their dreams.

6. Will you join any other world competition of kick boxing in the future?

In march 2011 I will be fighting the WAKO and ICO british title. Also in 2011 I will be participating in the ISKA in Austria.

7. You are such an expert in martial arts. What other do you want to try ?

Get a black belt in karate in 2011. I would like to be a NINJA!

8. What A Level subjects did u study?

Zoology,Maths and food and nutrition.

9. As a head of sixth form, could you say something through the newsletter for pupils?

Work hard,play hard. Follow your dream

**“WORK HARD, PLAY HARD.
FOLLOW YOUR DREAM”**

THE Back Page

Battle Abbey

CLOES

1. Conform Mosh Mix Motor
2. Riding Moon
3. Bath Ballots
4. Ragbag Shells
5. Firmer Moths Quoit Ox
6. Chef Mirror Mom Pox Sto
7. Chapter Ark
8. Chloroform Stroke Mix
9. Gather Yell
10. Chords Fix Rim Rotor

Where in the ABBEY?

FRANCE

Wine Snails
 Cheese
 Paris Salad
 Eiffel Tower
 Baguette Beret
 Strikes Romance

GERMANY

Logic Beer
 Cars Sausages Berlin
 Christmas Market Family
 Hunting Bretzel
 Sour-croust

Russia

Vodka Snow
 Moscow Money
 Dance Princess Nuclear

ITALY

Pizza Opera
 Pasta Rome
 Cappuccino
 Vespa

SPAIN

Parties Relax
 Sun Warm
 Beaches Paella Torrida
 Barcelona Guitar

CHINA

Noodles
 Population Poverty
 Rich Great Wall
 Calligraphy

THE TEAM

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The clouds show typical thoughts on countries taken from a poll round school. So what do people think when they talk about England?

The Queen, London, Bowler Hat, Posh People, Big Ben,

Small house/cottage, Football,

Accent, Rain, Fish and Chip, Tea