

THE TURRET

Sports Day

FOCUSED &
READY
FOR ACTION



A day of activities enjoyed
by all the THS boys

Edition 3# 2012-2013

ACTIVITIES DAY /02

THE HOBBIT PREMIERE /03

SCHOOL NEWS /05

BRAVEHEART PRODUCTION /09

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION /11

CHARITY EVENTS /13

THS LITERATURE /15

AFRICAN ART DAY /17

ONLY THE BRAVE /19

VISITING SPORTSMEN /20

SPORTS DAY /21

TEDDY-BEAR PICNIC /22

THS YEAR BY YEAR:

RECEPTION /23

YEAR ONE /25

YEAR TWO /27

YEAR THREE /28

YEAR FOUR /29

YEAR FIVE /30

YEAR SIX /31

YEAR SEVEN /32

YEAR EIGHT /34

Icon Key

-  SN SCHOOL NEWS
-  T TRIPS & OUTINGS
-  H HISTORIC & WORLD STUDIES
-  Sc SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL
-  A ARTS
-  S SPORTS
-  Ac ACADEMIC

Contact info:
 T: 020 8876 3323
 F: 020 8876 3321
 E: secretary@thsboys.org.uk
 188 Sheen Lane,
 London,
 SW14 8LF
 On the cover:
 ... taking part in the sports
 day Tug of War
 Special thanks:
 The Team at designhouse
 www.designhouse.co.uk



Proving that THS does not need something like a Diamond Jubilee to have a great time

The 2nd (ever) Activities Day came to pass. Viewers of the recent Apprentice series will have seen Lord Sugar's would be business partners try to organise a corporate fun day. They would have done well to take some advice from Mr Peyton and the THS staff. There was barely enough time to stop for hot dogs and pizza at lunchtime – such was the pace of activities. Mr Wolf and Mrs Griffiths surpassed even their high standards by planning and executing the construction of four individual totem poles – stunning results in red, blue, green and yellow! Mrs Laird put her map drawing skills to the test by developing an orienteering course in Sheen Common Woods. 20 stages in all provided the quest for the boys. Mr Barnett and his team ran a



series of sports competitions on the common itself - running, throwing and jumping being the key themes here. Which left the fourth activity back at base camp. Mr Heanley used his contact book to track down some gentlemen who had 92,000 pieces of Lego. These were put to good use as each house team went about constructing a miniature city consisting of hundreds of buildings. I would like to thank all the teachers who worked nonstop throughout the day ensuring the activities ran smoothly. It was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to work as a team across the age groups and have a great deal of fun as well.



This was one of those special, nay surreal, evenings that only Tower House can provide. Those who attended can say they saw it here first. The 'here' in question was the Renoir Cinema, Russell Square. The event was the premiere of The Hobbit.



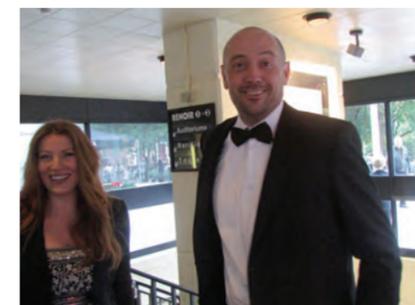
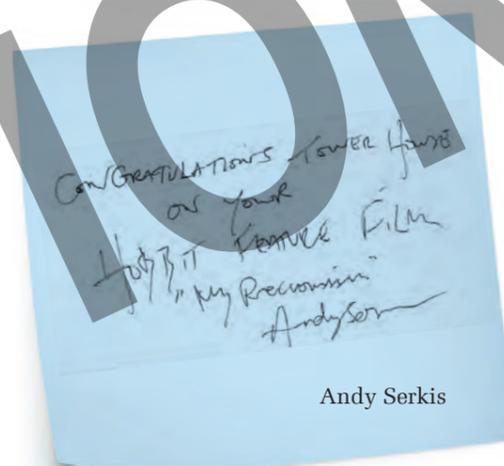
The sight of a Tower House production's details 'up in lights' outside a west end cinema is a sight that will live long in the memory – a fitting advertisement to the rest of London (the world) of this remarkable achievement. This image in itself brought a lump to one's throat; by the end of the evening there was barely a dry eye in the house – such was the sense of collective pride.

Cast and crew arrived by limo, flash bulbs flashed and bemused onlookers watched on as the audience posed on the red carpet.

The auditorium was abuzz until the curtains drew back and the fruits of many hours labour were finally projected onto the silver screen. I'm no film critic; but the highest compliment I can pay is that I arrived home yesterday evening with the feeling that I had been entertained by a great story that was acted out brilliantly with production values at the very top end of the scale – a feat that many Hollywood blockbusters fail to deliver.

The stars of course were the boys. Their acting skills always belie their tender ages but their performances in this production are truly inspirational – there will be undoubtedly a deluge (as ever) of aspiring candidates for the next THS production.

The Good Schools Guide describes Paul Geary as The Pied Piper, he's more than that, he's Gandalf incarnate – he has worked magic bringing this production to life and I'll say it again, 'we are very lucky to have him'.



SCHOOL NEWS

Stories from Tower House



ANOTHER MONDAY ANOTHER RED CARPET

Fresh from his successes in the THS production of *The Hobbit*, Samuel Joslin (Year 6) trod the red carpet again in the West End. Samuel stars (and I don't use the term lightly) in a film called *The Impossible* which is due for general release in January. The film tells the true story of a Spanish couple, played by Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor, and their three children whose idyllic holiday is interrupted on the

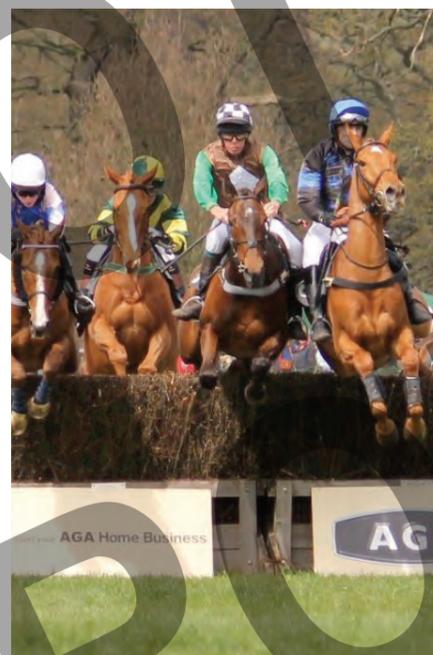
morning of December 26, 2004, when the devastating tsunami which hit Asia. Variety magazine reviewed the film and stated it is 'a heart-rending turn by young Joslin' – well done Samuel, congratulations from all at THS.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE OUTSIDE THS

It is not the norm to highlight the out of school exploits of members of the common room – but, I thought readers may wish to know the background behind Mr Geary's loss of body mass over the last few months. To cut a long story short – he has been losing weight so that he can compete as a National Hunt Jockey!

Yes, laughing in the face of genetics and the cards dealt by mother nature – the six foot (plus) Head of Drama weighed in at less than 12 stone at several point to point meetings recently. Aboard his mount – My Brother Pat (co owned by Mr Peyton) – this photo shows Mr G leading a handicap chase at the second fence! I wish I could go on to say that the THS connected partnership romped home to victory; but,

unfortunately the third was a fence too far on this occasion. Local curry outlets can breathe a sigh of relief as Mr G has hung up his silks for the time being – but, he has promised to be back for more next spring.



BIG TOP CONCERT

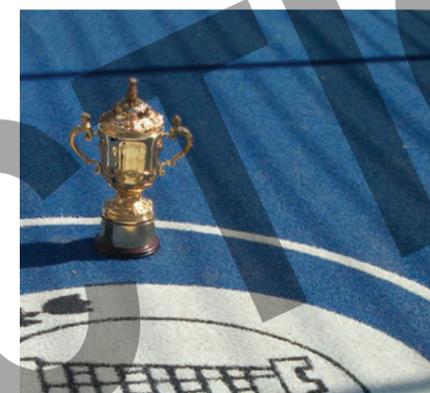
"It was the hottest day of the year and the mean THS teachers made us keep our ties on... and it was a Sunday!" This could have been a complaint from any of the 40+ boys who turned out for the Big Top Concert at Christchurch last Sunday – but it wasn't, it was made up.



The truth is that boys (and their parents) gave up their time with cheer and enthusiasm and contributed most generously to the new Christchurch Hall appeal. The soloists, some as young as Year 3 displayed no nerves at all; the ensembles were tight and flawless whilst the choir sang with gusto and passion. All in all a 'feel good factor' abounded!

MYSTERIOUS OBJECT LANDS AT THS

Some eagle-eyed, rugby loving readers may have recognised this as the Webb Ellis Cup, colloquially as known as 'Bill', or to the uninitiated The Rugby World Cup! It is also worth pointing out that this is the original cup (made in 1906) not the replica held in New Zealand. 'Bill' came to visit us on his way to Venezuela, where the first rounds of qualification are soon to be held.



NEW ARRIVALS

Some compared the excitement levels to when The Queen visited town last year – others said it was much more exciting than that. I am sure HRH would understand that few things can compete with a big yellow crane in the eyes of young school boys, photos show the aforementioned crane in differing modes.

One photo taken at 9.30am shows it getting stuck. The tarmac was too soft apparently, remaining photos show the big yellow crane in action along with the evidence that these scenes will stay in the memories of THS boys for many years.

3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MR RICHARDSON

- 1 He is half Irish.
- 2 He was once in the same rugby squad as World Cup winner Jason Robinson.
- 3 He is a black belt at Taekwondo!



Mr Richardson



Porta classroom



Over 200 gathered guests, who were lucky enough to secure a ticket, caught up with old friends and made many new ones at the Bank of England.

Mr Gosden's saxophone group created a wonderful thirties style ambience for pre-dinner drinks and the displays of old photographs and the silent auction provided many talking points. Such was the hubbub that patrons needed to be 'encouraged' to go through to dinner. The beautifully bedecked dining area evoked audible gasps – was this really the same marquee that has hosted many a smelly rugby awards events? Fine dining, fine wine followed plus a brain teaser to keep things moving – 'what is the combined years' service for currently contracted THS staff?'

“ the grand total raised by this evening was very close to £19,000! ”

After dessert, a special round of drinks - £20 for a glass of champagne may sound exorbitant; but each glass came with a chance of winning a diamond! The winner? Well, Madame Gray is looking even more sparkly than normal. Coffee cups rattled as Patrick Going did what he does best; that being The Master of Ceremonies and Chief Auctioneer. As MC, Patrick introduced our special guest speaker, Benedict – who initially presented as a rather dry politician. His true identity soon became clear as he broke out into song and together with his accomplice treated us to several operatic masterpieces. In his role as auctioneer it is fair to say that Mr Going was irresistible and bids were placed by the dozen. The generosity of donors was indeed matched by the generosity of bidders and together with monies gathered from the raffle and silent auction (plus the aforementioned sale of glasses of champagne) – the grand total raised by this evening was very close to £19,000!

Particular thanks are due to a very special group of ladies, The 1932 Ball Committee consisting of Mandy Stewart, Johanna Oldroyd, Jenny James, Patricia Joshi and Miranda Payne. They worked tirelessly and enthusiastically ensuring the event looked spectacular and ran so smoothly – I defy anyone to say how this evening could have been bettered, it was an unreserved roaring success!





BRAVEHEART PRODUCTION

Outlaw Tunes on Outlaw Pipes

These were the words of McKay lamenting the loss of William Wallace's father. I am not sure if the tunes piped by Mr Hayter (pictured) were of the outlaw kind; but they certainly set the scene for the live performances of Braveheart. East Sheen can be in little doubt that THS have been performing once again. One Year 8 parent described this as their 'favourite play of all'.



I have said before that the most keenly anticipated day of the school calendar is when parts (roles) for the play are announced. Some faces are jubilant, others are momentarily disappointed – but, once the first rehearsal starts the emphasis is firmly and squarely on teamwork. I considered name checking some of the leading roles – but, I found myself scanning further and further down the list of performers; such is the strength in depth. It is only right and proper to acclaim the collective not the individual. Every cast member, back stage crew and technician played their part in a truly remarkable achievement. Regional accents, choreographed sword fights, four stages and of course interweaved filmed scenes enabled the boys to access a piece of British history and retell the story in a unique way.

One individual I did acclaim is the puppeteer who has pulled all the strings to ensure this project was a success. Paul Geary did it again! Some may have feared that after the unprecedented success of *The Hobbit*, anything that followed may have fallen flat. Not a bit of it. Paul (as only Paul can) threw his life and soul into this production – never settling for anything less than perfection; but always directing with humour and encouragement. The sheer scale of boy management (over 70 actors and crew) would have tried the patience of a saint; but to get the boys to the acting heights they achieved was nothing short of miraculous. We should all be thankful for Paul Geary!





PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We were very impressed with the quantity and quality of entries for the Photography Competition. The Energy theme evidently got you all thinking over half term and we particularly liked the explanations of how energy was being portrayed written on the back of many entries – all good grounding for Science Common Entrance. We undertook the near impossible task of choosing winners and runners up in the four different age categories – congratulations to these boys – but, we hope that even if you were not a winner, you enjoyed taking all those photos.

WINNER(S) RUNNERS UP

Rec & Year 1

Finn Heath, Ewen Hector, Edward Patel

Year 2 & 3

Leo Wrighton, Andrew Digby-Thomas, Wayland Lo

Years 4, 5 & 6

Toby Groome, Oskar Smeal, Toby Wilkins

Years 7 & 8

Fred Gillard, Archie Morley and Isaac Williams



Fred Gillard



Toby Groome



Isaac Williams



Leo Wrighton



Finn Heath

CHARITY EVENTS

at THS



WELLIES AND CAKES!

Junior School boys arrived at school last Friday in their wellington boots, many of which had been decorated in a variety of ways! From tinsel to foil and feathers to fairy lights, both boys and staff showed off their rubber footwear as part of their charity fund raising event. A truly delicious Cake Sale was enjoyed by all at the end of the day. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Esson, Mrs Petersen and their team of very creative mums and dads in the Junior School who either donated their scrumptious baking or stood outside in the rather chilly winter weather and sold these treats to hungry boys, and staff. We raised £253.50 for the Junior School's chosen charity, React, so a tremendous effort by all and thank you to everyone involved.



REACT VISITS THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Skilling who came in to talk to the boys about this year's Junior School charity, React. She explained to the boys that the charity, which is based in Kew, ensures fast and effective response to children with life limiting illnesses. She informed us that the money we raised this year could be used to provide families with specialist wheelchairs, beds, baths, and mobility aids, plus essential everyday items like washing machines and tumble dryers.

Mrs Skilling was also joined by Rachel, React's mascot! Although a little shy at first, having to be called out from behind the stage by the boys, she was soon helping us to present Special Mention certificates!



COMIC RELIEF BIENNIAL EVENT

Comic Relief's biennial event is always guaranteed to put a smile on anyone's face. The THS community never miss the opportunity to dress up and be a bit silly! Parents and boys had obviously been planning their costumes for months. Many clowns (not for the faint hearted) mixed with several Charlie Chaplins and one or two Mr Beans along with some truly impressive one offs – including a life size whoopee cushion!

Hats off to Year 8 for organising a running a series of fun activities for all boys to enjoy. These ranged from shooting red noses off bottles with Nerf darts to the rather more passive pursuit of having one's hair dyed. The financial bottom line is that we raised £612 (lots of coins!); however, the end result for the boys and staff has been a fun packed day raising funds for a very worthy cause.



THS LITERATURE

Noteworthy

AN AFTERNOON OF GOTHIC HORROR

by Daniel Montesino Jones

Years 7 and 8 were treated to a tense and thrilling afternoon of suspense and Gothic Horror. Rupert Mason, a solo performing actor from The Redheart Theatre Company, came to school and entertained us with two stories, including one by the prolific writer Edgar Alan Poe. The two tales were set brilliantly and created ominous, menacing scenes. Rupert, being a solo performer had to operate his own sound and lighting and did this using a pad with buttons, hidden deceitfully amongst the props. This talented performer created a dark and perilous impression of The Gothic genre and really inspired our learning of it. We loved the performances and were entirely gripped from start to end. There is nothing better than a horror story to round off a busy Christmas term.



POETRY COMPETITIONS

Boys from Years 5 – 8 entered the national Prep Schools' Poetry Competition

Three Tower House students were given awards. Harry Swallow's adaptation of Emily Dickinson's poem 'To the Wild Wind' received third place in the Years 5 and 6 category, while Max Rogers' poem based on the style of Edgar Allan Poe's poem 'Alone' and Ben Kara's war poem, were both highly commended. Meanwhile this photo shows the winners and runners up in the 'in house' competition.



AT THE END OF IT ALL BY BEN KARA

At the end of it all...
 Would another spent life matter?
 At the end of it all,
 Another cut or another bruise
 Made no difference to the pain
 I felt.
 At the end of it all,
 The miles I have walked
 Can wear away my feet
 No more.
 At the end of it all
 The many hours spent and wasted,
 Holding your guns, with bated breath,
 Waiting for something to happen,
 Made no difference to the lives lost that day.
 At the end of it all
 It's just another lad.
 At the end of it all it's just another
 family crushed.
 At the end of it all you wonder
 "Sweet Jesus where are you?"
 And at the end of the day you realise
 Sweet Jesus doesn't care.



ALONE BY MAX ROGERS

I am alone	This is hate
I am wandering lonely	I am hatred
in a poppy field	My face is a shadow
Tears fall from	That few see
the clouds	When people see it
The sky is black	It takes the form of
Death is at my fingertips	the Devil
I am the Lord of the	When they turn away
background	They smile in relief
I am a loose lace	I am in Hell

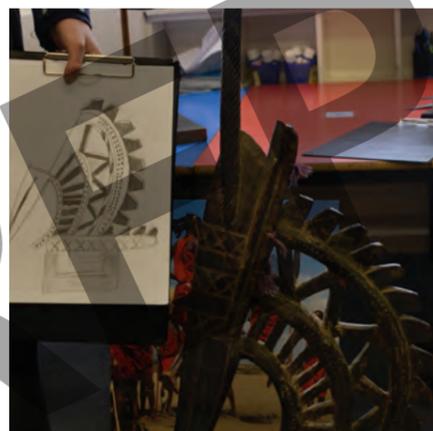
TO THE FAST FLOW WIND BY HARRY SWALLOW

Bring the sun bring the light;
 Give the buried flower a home;
 Find the brown beneath the shadow;
 Bathe my window, make it bright,
 But whate'er you do tonight
 Melt the clouds and leave the grass
 That is the way
 Burst into my joy;
 Swing the wind;
 Run the storm;
 Scatter the poems on the floor;
 Turn the poet out the door.



AFRICAN ART DAY

Workshops ran over the course of the day in which boys listened intently to the stories behind a vast range of African objects, including weapons and masks. After trying on some of the rather heavy masks and exploring the different objects, boys began to sketch their favourite, making sure they included the elaborate details each displayed.



ONLY THE BRAVE

Cross Country



“There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing.”

Said Sir Rannulph Fiennes. Well, we put this theory to a test in March as pupils of the whole school ran the cross country course in aid of their chosen charities. Did we allow the wind chill of -4C deter us from our objective? Not a chance. Our (frozen) stiff upper lips were set and we were determined to complete as many laps as we could.



Mr Peyton arranged and conducted an operation that ‘ran’ like clockwork and many parents decided to join in with their sons. There were many notable performances; not least from Oscar White, whose attempt at a school record number of laps was thwarted by a herd of deer walking slowly across in front of him. Well done to everyone: boys, parents and staff for displaying the type of resolve that can make us all feel proud.

THE GREAT RIVER RACE

The standing group photo shows an exhausted crew after completing the 21 miles on the Great River Race. Ten oarsmen (and oarswomen) struggling against an outrushing rip tide. Staff members Ryan, Barnett, Robertson plus yours truly combined with Sam James, Daniel Montesino Jones, Yann Bracegirdle, George Hayter, Sebastian Payne, Harry Harvey, Alex Bain and Alex’s mum Sharon in an epic battle of wills against nature.

Very tough going from Chiswick Bridge – but, refusing any offers of a tow to relieve our burning muscles we crossed the finish line unaided.

This was a fantastic achievement for boys and adults alike and our efforts are made so much more worthwhile since we raised two thousand pounds for Macmillan Cancer Care – thank you to everyone for sponsoring us so generously.



VISITING SPORTSMEN

Pupils in the Senior School were treated to a visit from an England international rugby player. Christian Lewis-Pratt, a member of the England Sevens set up, answered many questions from the boys concerning the demands and attractions of being a full time sportsman. We watched some footage of Christian holding his nerve to convert his own try to help England win a recent sevens tournament in Wellington, NZ, in front of 47,000 fans. One particularly astute questioner knew that rugby sevens will be an Olympic sport in Rio 2016 and Christian told us all it was his greatest ambition to play in those games.

MARK ILOT COACHES THE BOYS

As part of our sports development program and on-going commitment to always challenge and improve our boys sports experience here at THS, we were lucky enough to have the inspiration of ex-England and Essex fast bowler Mark Ilot to coach our 1st XI squad. The boys were put through their paces with a number of fielding drills and practices as well as finishing up with a game of ‘V’ cricket. Mark was fantastic with the boys and ended the session with Q&A time. Our boys as ever asked plenty of challenging and interesting questions and learnt a huge amount from the experience. Our thanks go to Mark Ilot for giving up his time for our boys and for giving them a real boost at the beginning of the season to try to achieve as much as they can.





SPORTS DAY



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

There were super hero bears, sports bears (including a swimming bear very suitably attired for the weather), soldier bears, and even an Ewok. Mr Peyton and Mr Richardson had a difficult job choosing the three winners but finally settled on 1st prize to Adam Attia with his inspired Stephen Hawking, and in joint 2nd place, Timmy Hill's Mary Seacole with her wonderful medicine chest, and George Hartley's very professionally attired Alastair Cook.



RECEPTION

TRIP TO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

BY MISS GRAY

Reception had a wonderful time on our trip to the Natural History Museum. The boys experienced three different forms of transport and showed good number recognition when spotting our bus! We wandered around the creepy crawlies gallery coming across a giant moving scorpion not to mention the many mites! After our visit to the creepy crawlies we had a look round the mammal section.

This was incredible. The life size the blue whale ran the length of the display room. And made the elephants, hippos and wildebeests look

like miniature models. After our wander around mammals it was time to refuel.

Lunchtime was over in a flash and it was on to the highlight of the day the butterflies. We were not quite expecting the 29 degree heat and humidity but we were willing to put up with this in order to see the butterflies. There were so many different species from the blue, morpho, the tree nymph and swallowtail. We were lucky enough to see all the different stages of the lifecycle. The butterflies landed on our heads, shoulders, elbows and faces and the boys were transfixed. We made our way out of the house to a very welcome breeze. A very tiring day but well worth it. Thank you to all the parents for your help.



YEAR 1

POPPY FACTORY

Year 1 visited the Poppy Factory in Richmond. We learned about the wreaths commissioned by the Royal family, the history of the Poppy Factory and how to make different poppies. The boys worked busily, making a total of 495 poppies which will be part of the 29 million the British Legion will sell next year. Adam M declared

**“I am so excited!
This is the best
place!”**

Ed decided that, not only was it the best school trip he had ever been on, but that when he was older, he wanted to work at the Poppy Factory. The kind staff allowed us to help them make poppies and wreaths and we were given a tour of the machinery that cuts out the shapes needed for assembling poppies. The boys displayed their best Tower House behaviour of course!



YEAR 2

In pictures



YEAR 3

In pictures



YEAR 4

In pictures



YEAR 5

Trip to York

“the Jorvik reconstruction showed daily life in Viking town ...there were even smells!” “I bought some panpipes, a ring and a money bag from the gift shop – but I would have liked the £168 sword”



“the sweet shop was like heaven” “Mr Barnett said that we had paid off the sweet shop owner’s mortgage”



“people were put in the stocks at Micklegatebar for being poor – by the way this was not a pub”



“thank you so much to Mr Barnett, Mrs Laird and Mr Heanley for taking us”



YEAR 6

In pictures



YEAR 7

Trip's and outings

CALSHOT TRIP FROM MR HEANLEY

Year 7 spent an activity laden week down at Calshot. We combined physical activities with biology and geography to ensure the boys gained some hugely enriching experiences. The focus of the week was our geography fieldwork projects on rivers and we were lucky to have two fantastic instructors who guided the boys successfully through their fieldwork and data collection. This allowed us come back to the classroom with a great base with which to write up the project. The highlights of the trip included trawling for marine life, cycling on the wooden velodrome and watching the instructors feed a particularly ravenous cuttlefish.

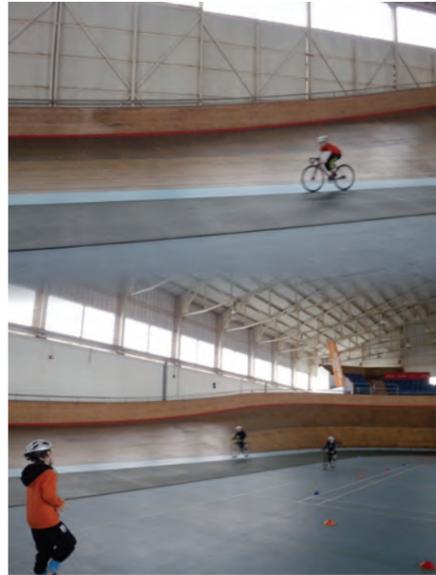
CALSHOT REVIEW BY EDWARD HALFORD

Calshot was a very successful trip with investigating the river Lymington and doing activities at the centre. We measured 8 sites on the river Lymington and explored the processes going on there. The Velodrome was fun with everybody getting on to the red line. The Highlight of Calshot was the velodrome and the trawling where we caught plaice and crabs. Overall it was a brilliant trip and I enjoyed every minute of it.



YEAR 7

In pictures, continued



YEAR 8

In pictures

DAN PHILLIPS AWARD BY MR RYAN

'Willow Spiling' is the ancient skill of using the natural properties of willow trees to create living and environmentally sympathetic flood barriers against erosion of the river bank. In March, eight members of Year 8 (and one enthusiastic Dad!), fresh from their labours in the exam hall, joined the ETRUT volunteers in willow spiling near Richmond. The boys took to their tasks with relish, especially enjoying the 'cutting and sawing' part of the process to provide defences against 'Old Father Thames'. Chris Cockel, ETRUT organiser was, as usual, mightily impressed with the efforts, good humour and success of the Tower House contingent.

Many thanks to all who braved a 'bracing' three hours on the river bank!

