

# THE TURRET

Tower House School Newsletter 2010-2011



*Reinventing  
a classic*

## TWO MONKEYS

The scale of the production  
was *unthinkable*

NOT FOR REPRODUCTION

Edition 1# 2010-2011

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Special thanks

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T.H.S Article Icons:



THE TURRET



CREATIVE



TRAVEL/ TRIP



ACADEMIC



SPORTS



# TWO MONKEYS

the Production



MARCH 2011 SAW THE RE-INVENTION OF A CLASSIC. THE STORY OF 'A COUPLE OF MONKEYS AND TWO VINTAGE SHOOTERS'.

Once again, the scale of the production was unthinkable, with a cast of 70 and a production lasting two and a half hours. The filming saw 7 full days on location, 14 days editing and 61 scenes! Yet the end product was some of the best filming shots and acting seen at Tower House.



On-stage, the most complicated staging ever attempted at Tower House was completed hours before the dress rehearsal. The end result being three separate stages and a spectacular look.

The tale focused around Dexter, a tough talking jack-the-lad card player. He and his friends, Beans, Carter, Tom and Quinn decide to chip in £10,000 each to bring him into an illegal high-roller card game run by terrifying local villain 'Atchet Alfie. However, Dexter doesn't realise the game was rigged and he ends up owing Alfie £250,000 with dire threats of losing a finger for every day he is late paying up.



Suffice to say, it ended up with all sorts of shenanigans - a couple of old shotguns, a few more dodgy geezers chasing the lads and a number of shoot outs!!

From the top left: Luptaquo eicatur reperepuda quatia quiduci endicii sincilic te sitatur andic tem sectet volecatur acerum quunt.



Pictures courtesy of: Agnis ipsam seque



# T.H.S. WEST END TRIP

*Years 4 and 5 journeyed up to London to see a matinee performance of WICKED*

This tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two girls who first meet as sorcery students. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. It is based on the novel by Gregory Maguire, which re-imagined the stories and characters created by L. Frank Baum in 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' – is a text currently studied by Year 4 as a Summer term class reader.

Review by Alexander Harris:  
Today we went to see Wicked.

It took a long time to get there because of the traffic – around an hour. When we got there we had to wait 40 minutes till the show started. Finally the show did start. It was about the Wicked Witch of the West, the Good Witch of the North and the Wicked Witch of the East's childhoods. It was really entertaining, and nice to see the witches as you don't see them in the film of the Wizard of Oz – you only see the feet!

In the second half of the show, they showed how after the Wicked Witch of the West had been a child she had grown up and become a really hideous witch, and how she'd married the lovely Witch of the North's husband. The Wicked Witch of East was the Governess of Munchkin Land. She wasn't as wicked as her sister, but she

was still wicked. She was lovely and pretty when she was born but when she got older she got a wheelchair and she got less and less beautiful, and cast a spell on her servant. At the end of the play, the Wicked Witch of the West leaves Oz forever. After this we went home. It was 6:30 when we got back, and our parents were waiting to see us. We had a dazzling time!

As a follow up activity to Year 4's curriculum studies on 'The Wizard of Oz', Mr Wolf suggested that the class might like to enter a current Times and Random House competition, aimed at giving budding designers the opportunity to see their illustration on the paperback cover of a newly printed edition of this children's classic tale.



ART  
EXHIBITION  
2011

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Piece by: Arch icimolo  
Painting by: Otaspellorit volut doluptam



# FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2010/11



*It was a really fantastic day despite the weather and in the end we had around 100 players from reception through to year 8 playing at various times. We raised lots of money, well over our £1000 target, due to so many of you turning out.*



# DON'T STEP ON THE CARPET

*Greek Tragedy, Live, in Cambridge*

EVERY THREE YEARS, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRODUCES A GREEK PLAY - IN GREEK. THERE AREN'T THAT MANY GREEK PLAYS, WHETHER TRAGEDIES OR COMEDIES, BUT THOSE THAT SURVIVE ARE PRETTY GOOD. AND, OF THE SURVIVORS, THE TRAGEDY OF AGAMEMNON, WRITTEN IN 458 BC BY AESCHYLUS AND WHICH TELLS THE SORRY STORY OF THE GREEK LEADER'S HOMECOMING AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF TROY, IS ONE OF THE BEST. THE BEST, SOME SAY. WE DECIDED TO LET YEAR 8 MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS.

We travelled up to Cambridge by train on the last Friday before the autumn 2010 half-term. The weather there was relatively benign for East Anglia: overcast but not rainy, with a touch of freshness in the air. We had allowed several mums to join us, and Mrs Radford was there to ensure fair play.

We had arranged to meet three experts before we saw the play. Our first stop was Pembroke College (founded 1347), third oldest college in town - so old, in fact, that Mr Games had once been an undergraduate there. Many of the boys wanted to know if all Cambridge dons are mad. They were about to find out. We were met by two Pembroke classicists,

Professor Richard Hunter and Dr Renaud Gagné. Dr Gagné normally writes articles with titles like 'Mystery Inquisitors: Performance, Sacrilege, and Authority at Eleusis' but he had no difficulty pitching his remarks to us about Aeschylus, Greek drama and society, the position of women in Athens and so on.

Our next speaker was Dr Richard Hunter, who had not only survived being Mr Games' Director of Studies but had gone on to become the Regius Professor of Greek and a Fellow of Trinity College. The boys were delighted by his wide-ranging, topical and humorous remarks, and they asked a wide range of questions, many of

which drew an approving 'Good question' from our expert panel. It was a superb introduction to the story behind this particular (off-stage) outpouring of blood and marital gore.

*We really had met a crazy Cambridge classicist - but also an extremely brilliant and interesting one*

We adjourned for lunch by the river, where we tried not to drop crisps onto the heads of passing punters. Then we stormed into the beautiful (and endlessly photographed) King's College, and raced up the stairs to the rooms of Prof Simon Goldhill.



This man is, along with Richard Hunter, another Cambridge star, regularly pitching up on radio and TV to discuss the world of Greek tragedy, in which he is an acknowledged world expert. He had just been speaking to a girls' group. Now it was our turn.

We plonked ourselves onto his sofas and richly coloured carpets and, barely pausing for breath, he kicked off by asking, 'So, if your mother killed your father, would you kill your mother?' There followed a half-hour of sheer buccaneering Classical roller-coasting. The boys were on an absolute high as we left his room, with several remarking 'we really had met a crazy Cambridge classicist - but also an extremely brilliant and interesting one.'

Two food-related stops followed. First was the Fudge Factory on King's Parade, where the boys loaded up on more fudge than would have been considered scientifically possible, had we been guests of the Physics Faculty. Next, and more dangerously, every boy seemed intent on buying wrapped sweets from the bar at the Arts Theatre. And so, as the lights went down and the watchman began his unforgettable opening speech ('... the long watch I keep, one whole year awake, propped on my arms, crouched on the roofs of Atreus like a dog...') the tension was ratcheted to an almost unbearable degree by the sound of untwisting sweet wrappers.

Still, with the sweets digested, the students watched, spell-bound, as Clytaemnestra prepares to give her hubristic husband a welcome home present that he'd never anticipated. There was song, dance and domestic cruelty - and all in ancient Greek. The boys loved it: one said that he was so gripped, he had forgotten to watch the English surtitles.

After such a cathartic experience, everyone left the theatre feeling super-charged and uplifted, and we filled half a noisy train carriage on our journey back south. The next Cambridge Greek play is in 2013. Watch this space!

# OVERVIEW FENCING

2010/11

*Ex THS pupil George Bailey, who left Year 8 in 2009 with a combined Fencing / Drama scholarship to Millfield School, had been chosen to represent Great Britain in the U17 (Foil) Fencing Squad and went on to compete in a handful of different international events over the course of the school year – many congratulations to both George & his family!*



Our fixtures schedule kicked off in October with an away match against St. Benedicts of Ealing, in which the B team won admirably after a long drawn out contest with the As fighting hard in their match eventually going down by the narrowest

*After Christmas, at the start of the Spring Term, we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Jo Hutchison*

of margins. I always look to introduce a handful of Year 5 boys into competitive matches each year, and for 2010/11 I'd like to personally congratulate Ben Kara; Harry Cotterell; Ruaidhri Morris and Max Henderson for all their hard work and dedication to the sport and also some very encouraging performances with signs of great potential for the future.

After Christmas, at the start of the Spring Term, we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Jo Hutchison (twice Commonwealth Gold medallist at Sabre & GB international) who gave the Seniors a talk which included how she started out in

the sport, her weekly training schedule and the ways in which she was preparing to qualify for London 2012. George Bailey also dropped by and the two of them gave a demonstration bout, with myself presiding in a non-electric (steam) friendly match.

A further five boys from Year 4 successfully gained their British Fencing Level 1 foil qualification in the Spring, with nine pupils from Year 5 moving up to achieve an intermediate Level 2 award. A busy fixtures schedule continued to pick-up pace, that I run in the second-half of each of the three terms. This year matches were held against Hampton, The Harrodian, St. Benedicts, Escrime Academy & Salle de Battersea. Fifteen different boys represented the school in total, broken down into two broad age range categories (U11 and U13). We took part in twelve A & B team matches, winning a healthy number of individual pairings and an encouraging amount of the overall Italian relay 3 man matches.

The Summer term concluded with our annual trip down to Millfield Prep in the West country for the IAPS Fencing championships. Yann

Bracegirdle came 4th in the boys U11 foil, that included one of the longest individual matches I have ever witnessed in my 26yrs of coaching in the sport! In the U14 boys event – Nick Palmer came 14th; Tullis Ross 11th & Tristan Bracegirdle 9th. Each of our elder boys completed 8 matches apiece, with 7 matches won and a collective 53pts achieved. All told this was a fantastic achievement for a small Prep school such as ourselves and as ever the boys acquitted themselves admirably throughout the competition.



# PARIS TOUR 2011

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# YEAR ONE

Discover art & culture

## A SUNNY AFTERNOON AT THE SCULPTURE GARDEN

After an energetic start with the Junior School Swimming Gala in the Summer Term, Year 1 quickly changed, boarded the mini bus with Miss Robertson, Mrs Holbourn and Mrs Griffiths and headed away from London to the peace and tranquillity of The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden. The boys have been learning about sculpture in their weekly Art lessons, investigating the materials and processes used in making sculpture.

Walking around the Sculpture Garden, in the sunshine, the children admired a vast range of contemporary art carved from metals, marble, wood, fibre glass and wire. The boys were able to describe how the sculptures from these different materials felt, following on from their Science work on Materials in the Autumn term.



## LE CAFÉ À SHEEN

Year 1 had a slightly different French lesson in the Spring Term and transformed their classroom into a Parisienne café! The boys had made French flags for the middle of the tables, made signs for their café door and hung bunting and balloons around the walls. They created the perfect atmosphere, along with traditional French music in the background, to enjoy a variety of French foods including croissants, pain au chocolate, baguettes, brie, fingerellas and chocolate chaud.. there was even a little left for Miss Robertson and Mrs Holbourn to enjoy too!

## AT THE V&A

In History, Year 1 were investigating houses and homes from the past and to further

enhance their learning they spent a morning at the V&A in South Kensington. The boys, with Miss Robertson, Mrs Holbourn and Mr Peyton, were taken on a Discovery Tour which involved them stepping into period rooms and exploring objects from the past, from Tudor to Victorian times. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed a morning immersed in the topic, visiting galleries, discussing original objects close up, telling stories and asking questions.

## POPPY FACTORY VISIT

In November Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a most informative morning at the Poppy Factory in Richmond. Many of the boys attempted to estimate the numbers of poppies and wreaths the factory produced each year. However, they discovered they were many millions out! The boys hugely enjoyed making poppies and wreaths alongside the workers in the factory, many of whom were veterans of war themselves. The boys' contribution is, in fact, for next year's poppy appeal! Both the boys and staff gained a valuable and humbling insight into the duties and work of the Poppy Factory each year.

# YEAR TWO

Exploring poetry

## THE EAGLE

by Nicholas Oldroyd

Oh swooping eagle from the sky  
Flying high as God  
Where is your home so high up there?  
Are you life or are you death?

Oh eagle with your flaming claws  
Having the strength to melt through solid iron  
Black as the night your wings are  
As you sit on the peak of a mountain looking out  
for your prey.

Black assassin from the sky  
With your razor claws  
You fly from assassination to assassination  
Killing all the creatures on high



## THE VULTURE

by Harry Muir

Oh evil vulture on hooked tree  
How very wild can you be?  
Then 'help' a Vulcan bomber here and there  
Striking, diving at your prey  
Oh oil-splattered hurricane full of death

Why do you shoot your harmful rays at the speed  
of sound?  
Oh why, oh why do you thunder away to the South?  
And is the crafty eagle a friend or foe?  
Do you attack within or defend without?

Inspired by 'The Tyger' by William Blake



# YEAR THREE HISTORY & HORTICULTURE

*Exploring Ancient Egyptian artefacts and designing and making miniature gardens were some of the new discoveries by year 3.*

Year 3 travelled to South East London and had a wonderful time exploring Ancient Egyptian artefacts at the Horniman Museum. After an informative talk, we were each given a pair of white cotton gloves to handle a 3000 year old shabti, death mask, scarab beetles, linen bandages, amulets and a coffin painted with brightly coloured hieroglyphics. We sketched part of the museum's collection which included canopic jars and a mummy that had been given to Mr Horniman by Howard Carter himself! Adam Benaben enthused, "The Horniman Museum was very fun and interesting. We even got to hold ancient Egyptian artefacts!" George Drewitt-Jones added, "We looked at a tomb of a mummy. We saw lucky charms." The small aquarium, the music gallery and the natural world exhibit captivated us and completed our visit.

## MINIATURE GARDENS

History Year 3 designed and produced their own miniature gardens during the course of the Easter holidays. Their brief was to be as creative as possible in order to combine a variety of plants with aspects of outdoor design, displaying the end results inside one recyclable container.

In the second half of the Spring term, our caretaker Mick took a break from his usual working week to come and chat to Year 3 in the Science Lab about a Wormery which he kindly created for the boys and put on display inside their classroom. His talk was designed to help them increase their knowledge about the Science topic they were studying at the time on 'Rocks

& Soils'. Mick filled a translucent plastic container with a rich mixture of organic soil material before placing leaf litter on the surface. He then added a collection of dendrobaena, red and earth (saddle) worms to help encourage these invertebrates produce their own worm trails.

His love of fishing, combined with a keen knowledge of the outdoors, inspired the boys to ask him lots of practical questions, including, 'What is the longest worm in the world?' from George Drewitt-Jones. 'It's four metres long and lives in Australia,' Mick replied.



# YEAR FOUR

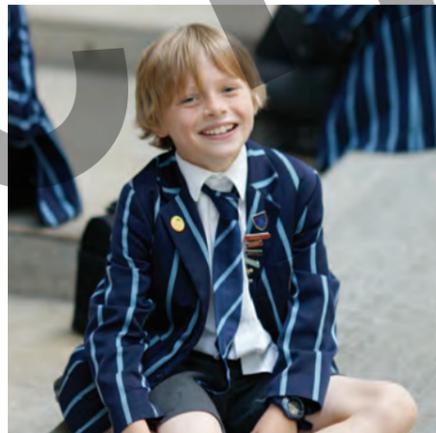
*in pictures*



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# YEAR FIVE

*in pictures*



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# YEAR SIX

*in pictures*



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# YEAR SEVEN

*in pictures*



# YEAR EIGHT

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## VISIT TO THE CABINET WAR ROOMS

The week following the trials and tribulations of Common Entrance, Year 8 visited the Cabinet War Rooms. The warren of rooms, deep underneath Whitehall, was created in secret and was the government nerve centre at the height of the war. When victory came in 1945 the reinforced doors to the war rooms were sealed and the war rooms were forgotten until the 1970s.

Our tour included Winston Churchill's tiny and sparse bedroom, the cabinet room itself and artefacts galore. The ashtray on the table had the stub of Churchill's cigar perched on the side. The boys

were amazed by the communications equipment which was the size of a small car.

At the heart of the CWR is the Churchill museum. This interactive and stimulating area provides a huge library of real and virtual sources about the great man. The boys, not having enough time to explore all of the resources on offer, concentrated on Churchill's role as Prime Minister during the war.

Thanks to Year 8 for their enthusiasm, interest and excellent manners when visiting this fascinating site of British history.



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