

THE TURRET

Pitch perfect

ALL SAINTS CHOIR



Dedicated to the
'Active retired'

Edition 2# 2011-2012

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Contact info:
 T: 020 8876 3323
 F: 020 8876 3321
 E: secretary@thsboys.org.uk

188 Sheen Lane,
 London,
 SW14 8LF

Front cover:
 Ollie Parish and Archie Morley
 at All Saints church

Special thanks:
 The Team at Design House

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ACADEMIC



CREATIVE



MUSIC



SCHOOL NEWS



SPORTS



TRAVEL/
TRIP



ALL SAINTS CHOIR

at All Saints

Dedicated and committed to the task, boys of the choir and accompanying staff forewent an early attendance at the THS Christmas Fair so that they could entertain the 'Active Retired' at All Saints Church. Singing an array of festive songs the boys brightened up the dark and gloomy afternoon for some of Sheen's elderly residents. The performance was even more special, since one of the ladies in the audience was celebrating her 100th birthday!



CHARITY 2011/12



The two Thames clean-ups were extremely muddy outings and anyone who came along doubting the wisdom of wearing waterproof trousers and wellies soon understood the need for protection

Boys were covered in slightly smelly Thames mud and slime from head to toe. It was a beautiful mild and sunny morning on the 12th and with the Thames reduced to the lowest I have ever seen it, with puddles and a narrow wading channel in the middle, it was a mudlarks' paradise. Several 'finds' encouraged the team.

A metre high wader boot, three other shoes - not matching, a mobile phone, a credit card as well as glass, bottles, rusted metal, tyres and other treasures were yielded up from the mud. Triumphant cheers greeted the extraction of the first shopping trolley but it was the second which was very deeply embedded which took over an hour to wrest out, with a lot of teamwork and a certain amount of appliance of science.

The slime on the Richmond foreshore was even deeper and Jasper Gibbons, James Hibbert and Thomas Miller struggled manfully to stand upright and help drag heavy goods to the waste crates. Discarded clothes, carpet, car seats and metal weighed very heavy but nothing

was more challenging than to drag a five foot acetylene gas container (for welding ships) about 400 metres. We had previously hauled a sail from the mud and this proved an ideal vehicle for a 6 man team to drag the cylinder. The wooden planks that Thomas had previously laid across quagmire made excellent walkways. Well done everyone.

TOWER HOUSE TIGERS

We did it!

With the very welcome support of boys, parents, friends and family on the banks of the Thames and the knowledge that donations were likely to reach the £5000 mark we battled wind, torrential rain and the 21 miles of the River Thames to achieve the Great River Race challenge last Saturday.

This is a staggering achievement that Max, Thomas, Tom, Rory, Harry and Nick have pulled off at their young ages of 12 turning 13 and will be one of those significant life experiences for them. They put heart and soul into rowing and coxing the boat and have our fullest admiration for their approach to this 'marathon on water'. It was a privilege for the adults to be in the team with them and it has left Richard Hume (whose presence on the day was most reassuring) seriously asking himself if he should pursue his original thought of teaching but with primary not secondary school boys - he was that impressed by our boys.

Report by Mrs Lamplough

LEUKAEMIA AND BLOOD CANCER FLAG DAY

The effort was fantastic and has resulted in a larger total collection than last year - £620.91. The organisers were very happy and grateful.



ART EXHIBITION

2012



Artwork by: Rory Smith



Artwork by: Louis Mason-Pearson



Artwork by: Year 2



Artwork by: Mickey Bage



Artwork by: Mrs Griffiths



Artwork by: Harrison Stagg



Artwork by: Year 4



Artwork by: Rory Smith

CROSS COUNTRY

2012



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Winter Term



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Reception boys shared a book with boys from Years 2 and 3 listened to the Year 1s for fifteen minutes. Then Years 2 and 3 boys were given the opportunity to read to their younger partners. Older boys kindly and patiently helped those who were having trouble working out a word and younger boys listened attentively to their partner. It is a wonderful opportunity for all the Junior School students to sit quietly together and enjoy a book.

MAKE SOME NOISE!

You could taste the atmosphere as the boys waited patiently for DJ Mark & Dance Master Troy set up their decks and lasers for the Junior School Disco on Tuesday.

Outfits ranged from smart casual (button down collars, chinos) to fancy dress (Spiderman, afro wigs etc) – but, glow sticks united us all. The thumping bass was a little too much for the more sensitive ears at the beginning; but, the inescapable compulsion to dance soon took over. On-looking adults were unanimous in their admiration of the boys' enthusiasm and techniques.



NATIVITY

'I bet you say that every year' one parent said to me, when I exclaimed that the Junior School Nativity was 'the best I had seen'.

I meant every word. The standard of the singing, acting, set design and the management of the performers was first class – every single member of the audience left with huge smiles on their faces. The Christmas story was driven along with clear diction from the narrators and having the entire Junior School on stage throughout meant the show had added cohesion, even if it did necessitate a few more bales of hay. Congratulations to Mrs Richards and her team for staging this heart-warming event.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PANTOMIME

We all enjoyed the pantomime last Thursday, from the teachers all the way down to Reception. With the theme of 'The Wind and The Willows', the Junior School spent a joyful hour and a half watching the actors. They performed extremely well and used a range of props which some of the audience wore and some of us joined the actors to perform as well. Many thanks to the Cats Grin Theatre.

PARENT EVENING

Senior school fair



The Head teachers and Registrars from the 14 visiting schools packed up their wares and 'pop up' display stands fairly late one evening after being cross examined by a voraciously enthusiastic crowd of THS parents. The feedback from our visitors was that firstly THS parents are very well informed and secondly, THS is very firmly on the prep school map and the boys we send on to these senior schools are always a credit. I would like to thank everyone for coming along and making the evening such a huge success; I trust that attendees left better informed and in some cases inspired to visit these senior schools.

RICHARD TURNER

1984-2011

It is with regret that I pass on the very sad news that Richard Turner, our trumpet teacher at Tower House, died during the summer break. Rich was an amazing musician, an inspiring teacher and a great friend and colleague around the school. Many of you will remember his incredibly strong sound at the Home Guard at the summer BBQ this year.

Richard died of an aneurism whilst swimming. He was training as an open sea swimmer for competitions where he was becoming very successful. Richard's funeral took place at the end of August in Leeds where he received many cards from his trumpet students. I have heard news of concert in remembrance of him in the near future. If I hear any more vnews I will of course pass it on.

FENCING CLUB

Twelve boys from Year 4 all successfully completed a practical assessment at the end of their six week British Fencing Level 1 (Foil) Beginners award.

All the pupils demonstrated a wide range of skills which they have been practising throughout the duration of the course, including naming different parts of the weapon and taking part in a series of short matches. Mr Black was delighted with the progress that everyone had made since the first week of term and encouraged each of the boys to consider taking the Level 2 Intermediate Award when moving up to Year 5 in September 2012.

It was lovely to see so many parents and family members present to enjoy the occasion. Congratulations went to: Matthew Ainsby, Felix Dumphie, Aidan Salmassian, Angus Walker, Lucas Dobie, James Going, Toby Groome, George Drewitt-Jones, Louis Kent, Joshua Tatters, Freddie Smith and Tim Bailey. Each pupil received a British Fencing patch and certificate in Senior School assembly.





VALETE

2012

Gilly Holbourn joined Tower House in 1999 and is one of that select band who has been not just a teacher but a parent as well. Her natural affinity for Year One boys has enabled her to give our younger boys the best possible start. They still remember her kindness, her empathy, and how much they enjoyed her reading to them. Whether in the classroom or the library, where she has also worked for many years, Gilly commands respect and affection. She put her fluent French to good

use one year by stepping in at short notice to take a French tour party with Mr Hare, and her double act with Mr Peyton in the 2008 staff production of 'Allo 'Allo had the Townsend Hall crackling with sensuality. We shall all miss her, but we wish her and Miles all the best on their world tour, where her elegant wardrobe will no doubt have heads spinning on whichever distant shore they alight.



VALETE

2012 continued

Now, Peter Black joined Tower House in 2002, many a smile from boys and staff will attest not just to his popularity but even his notoriety. Peter was head of Year 4 for 8 years and more latterly our Director of Studies; but his energies have extended far beyond. Last year he swam the equivalent of the English Channel, and this year he cycled to Brighton, both times for charity. Peter will be a volunteer at the Olympics, and his warmth and sincerity would surely win a gold medal. His love of fencing has infected many in the school, and is a somewhat surprising athletic skill, one might think, for a man whose physical co-ordination does not always extend to pouring a cup of tea without displacing most of it across a much wider area. A catalogue of Peter's 'upsets' would take several volumes of newsletter, so only the briefest of references – the stone & the lawnmower, the misfiring Epipen, the double-puncture & frayed brake cable - will have to suffice to give sense of a man in his element as a teacher, while somehow at odds with many of his own limbs. As Mr Black moves to Rokeby Jr to be its Head of Learner Development, the walls of our staff toilet will be less cluttered, and the school itself will be without that dash of manic energy in which Peter abounded.

Last year he swam the equivalent of the English Channel, and this year he cycled to Brighton, both times for charity.

Mandy Lamplough came to Tower House in 1990. Besides also being a Tower House mum, she has worked in the library been Head of IT, a Head of Year and, most recently, our Head of Geography,

as well as teaching Maths and History. Mandy's supreme competence and knowledge have earned the respect and hard work of all the boys she has taught. She has taken parties of boys on skiing trips, field trips and post-exam theatre trips, but it is perhaps her stewardship of the Dan Phillips award that is her greatest achievement. Through this scheme, Year 8 boys have planted bulbs in Kew and cleared weeds on Ham Common, they have also rattled collecting tins in the street for Leukaemia and feathered oars in the Great River Race. We thank Mandy for her years of commitment at THS and wish her and Sean a very happy retirement. I also sincerely hope that any THS boys whom she meets again does so on a social occasion, and not her in her other professional capacity – as a magistrate!



RECEPTION

Discovery, play and a nativity

It's difficult to avoid the phrase 'life affirming' once again – but, this always applies to Miss Gray's assemblies.

The stars of the show, the boys, managed to overcome some early stage fright, and then entertained us all with an informative production focussed on this year's Olympics. Facts, including the mass of the balls used in Rhythmic Gymnastics, were intertwined with power point displays, acted action and video clips on the screen. I would like to congratulate Miss Gray and Miss Meakins for all their hard work – Miss Gray was a lesson in multi-tasking, switching from one medium to another during the show. Topped off with a tear jerking montage of photos of the boys' first 77 days here at THS – perfect!



YEAR ONE

Victorian times & Surveying

TRIP TO HOLLY LODGE

Year 1 visited Holly Lodge in Richmond Park to discover what life was like in Victorian times. They explored a wide variety of household items from chamber pots to mangles in connection to their Science topic "Materials" and our History topic "Homes." After dressing in Victorian costume, they tried their hand at doing the washing, making pastry, rug-beating and experienced what Victorian schools were like. When asked what their favourite activity was, most of the boys immediately chose the cleaning and the washing. Parents, take note!



TRAFFIC SURVEY

Year 1 visited Sheen Lane and carefully took stock of vehicles travelling up and down the road. We then walked down to Upper Richmond Road for a view of a busier thoroughfare. It was challenging making tally marks quickly enough! After graphing the results, they can confidently report that The High Street is an incredibly busy road, so please take care!



YEAR TWO

Exploring poetry

YEAR 2 TRIP TO LONDON FIRE BRIGADE MUSEUM

by Frederick Halford

On Wednesday we walked to the train station and got on a train to Waterloo. We went to the London Fire Brigade Museum and it was fun. First we met this lady to show us around, she was called Eleanor. Then she showed us how the fire engines had improved over time. After that we tried different fire suits on. Then we had a look at some fire fighters training. Next we went upstairs to another part of the Museum to talk about the Great Fire of London. Finally we went back to school.



DADS AND SONS READING

Some of the Year 2 boys had a very special bedtime story session. Dressed in their pyjamas and with their favourite teddy and blanket they returned to school to snuggle up on bean bags with a hot chocolate and cookie, whilst listening to a wonderful variety of stories read by their Daddies.



YEAR 2 ASSEMBLY

Boys and adults were seen sporting leeks and daffodils on their lapels as Year 2 treated us to a very informative assembly on St David. Apparently he was a very well respected teacher, who could make his voice heard even at the back of a large crowd! The boys also gave a stirring rendition of Cwm Rhondda (Bread of Heaven).



YEAR THREE

in pictures



YEAR FOUR

at the Science Museum

SCIENCE NIGHT AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Science Night Sleepover
by Tim Bailey

At the Science Night, first we had to go to an assembly where there was a silly lady in a swim suit talking about roles. Next we went to an area where we learnt about colours and light and made our own kaleidoscopes. Afterwards we went to the hall of Science History and we made our own ultra violet torches and had a hunt for four cards and had to shine a torch on it to see the picture. Next in a Laser place, we saw lasers cut through balloons and saw a volunteer scramble through the lasers.

Finally at the end of the first night we went to bed at 11.00pm and woke up at 7.00am. After breakfast we went to the Launchpad, where there was a mixture of things to do. All of us visited an IMAX movie the size of 4 buses (or was it double decker buses??). To finish off we had another assembly where prizes were handed out and then went into the gift shop before going home.



YEAR FIVE EXPLORING BRITAIN

SHORT BREAK TO YORK

By Alex Lees and Oliver Slack

DAY 1

On the first day we went on the train to York. When we arrived we unpacked in the hotel and then went to Clifford's Tower. After that we went to Micklegate Bar and then back to the hotel for a tasty dinner.

DAY 2

On the second day we went to the National Railway Museum and had three workshops. Next we walked down to the Shambles and we had a hot chocolate at Betty's which was delicious. Dinner once again was fantastic

DAY 3

In the morning we went to Holy Trinity Church and we had a play performed about George Hudson. After that we went to the Minster to listen to Evensong. Afterwards we went on the ghost walk, which was my favourite activity. It was very wet, but also enjoyable

DAY 4 (THE FINAL DAY)

On the last day we first packed all of our belongings then we went to the Jorvik centre to look at the Viking remains. Then we went to have our lunch and then we went to the sweet shop. Next we went to Jorvik DIG. After this we went back to the hotel to collect our luggage, and set off back to London. We had such a good time away it was shame to come home!

TRIP TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

by Filippo Santiano

At 9:30 am on Friday the 9th of March year 5 walked down to Mortlake Station from Tower House School. We got the train to Waterloo Station and we took the underground to Goodge Street and from there we walked to the British Museum and we went inside.

We were there to visit the exhibition on Hajj. Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Muslims travel from all over the world to get to Mecca.

For Muslims Mecca is a sacred place where they can get closer to Allah (peace be upon him).

The kaabah is a large shaped building inside the mosque known as Al-Masjid Al-Haram. Millions of people encircle the kaabah seven times in an anti-clockwise direction. The number of Pilgrims ranges from twelve thousand people to two million people.

The kaabah is the holiest place in Islam. Muslims should go to Mecca at least once during their lives. They dress in white robes and pray as they encircle the kaabah. When a man has visited Mecca he is called a Hajji and a woman is called a Hajja. It is the most spiritual journey for a Muslim.





YEAR SIX

A COLLECTION OF MEMORIES FROM FRANCE

Year 6 Residential

We loaded our bags into the coach and got on. That coach took us to Portsmouth. The massive ferry was named the Mont Saint Michel and we did lots of fun stuff on the long crossing. When we arrived in France where a coach took us to the Chateau de la Baudonniere where we had hot chocolate. There was also a very weird imitation of a fire alarm by a lady. After that we went to sleep.

In the morning we went to a typical French market where of course we bought rasta hats from a really cool Jamaican guy who did some really good deals on the price. After that we went to the Mont Saint Michel which was a very impressive sight. We explored the ramparts and streets. The evening activity was a treasure hunt in the dark, which was thrilling and enjoyable.

On Wednesday we made bread and sang songs. Then we had a break and split into two halves. One did orienteering and the other half did archery. At supper we had snails which were actually quite nice, then had cake because it was Isaac and Kaspar's birthday. In the evening we had a French quiz.

On Thursday I got into my army gear to go on the Assault Course. It was the best bit of the trip.

At the end I went headfirst into a cold river. After that I did climbing and got to the top of the difficult wall. The hot chocolate was lovely, especially after the Assault Course.

On Friday we took a coach to the Bayeux Tapestry because we had packed our bags and put them on the coach for home. The Tapestry was really interesting. Afterwards we had lunch and checked in at the port. We got the ferry back to Portsmouth and the coach back to Tower House.

ABLE WRITERS DAY

Year 6 THS pupils plus girls and boys from Holy Trinity and East Sheen Primary attended an Able Writers Day here at Tower House School. The day of intense writing was led by Nazrin Choudhury. Report by Fred Gillard and Harrison Stagg Miss Choudhury first took us through a sociable activity where we told each other our names and what we like to read and do.

Then the hard work began, we had to devise, develop and write a play in groups of five. After much discussion, debate, analysis and rewrites we finally performed our plays in the hall to the others.

It was a tiring day as we had to think, write and edit almost constantly, but it was great fun and gave us a glimpse into the life of a script writer.

YEAR SIX

continued

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Year 6 re-enacted the Domesday enquiry into the manor of Mortlake in 1068. The enquiry, based on authentic events, names and places, was led by Canon Robert (Chief Commissioner) and Ranulf (Reeve of Mortlake). Each boy had been briefed on his name and role before the visit. Edward Halford

was a particularly forceful Canon Osbert and Louis Mason-Pearson enjoyed his character, Swetricus. Everybody played their part with enthusiasm and knowledge as the Commissioners discovered why 35 pigs had been hidden in the woods at Barnes and why the toll at Putney was a massive 2 pennies! Our visit was rounded off by seeing the Domesday Book in all its glory.



YEAR SEVEN

Days out and excursions



TRIP TO CALSHOTT

by Oliver Clark

“A Geography trip to the South Coast, having to do some serious work towards 20% of our Common Entrance – this did not sound like the ideal way of spending 5 days in the New Forest. How wrong could I be?”

The first afternoon, we set about investigating Cadland cliffs, how they are being eroded, and some of the other coastal processes such as longshore drift that occur. The evening brought a great hour of football in one of the hangars. The following day, we spent our whole time up to our knees in water, diligently writing and taking measurements of the River Lymington. After another evening of football, we soon found ourselves again in water, this time in a trawler, looking for creatures living in Southampton water and the afternoon brought studies of preservation of the New Forest. The last day of studies took us to the River Darkwater, where we investigated small creatures using kick sampling. Now, the final day was something special! We spent the morning either attempting the challenging low ropes course, or the spectacular velodrome – one of the best things I’ve ever done. This trip was something to remember.

DEGAS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

by Harry Harvey

When we first arrived at the Royal Academy we were greeted by a stunning piece of Soviet Russian Constructivism named Tatlin’s Tower. But this was by no means the subject of our visit to the Royal Academy and the Degas exhibition. We were greeted by our guide, named Kim. The first piece of information she told us was about how near or close you should be to a painting and how distance can remove detail and add it as well. Next she took us to what was by far the most famous piece of art Degas produced the statue of “The little Dancer Aged Fourteen”. She explained that it was made of bronze and had a real cotton tunic. After that she took us to what was my favourite piece of the exhibition, the early pieces of photography and film. The film, which was all stop frame demonstrated movement in incredible detail. After that we went round to the next two parts of the exhibition. Before we said goodbye to our guide we saw a fascinating piece of film which was believed to be the only piece of film that Degas was ever captured in. Finally we got to the end of a brilliant day of which we were incredibly lucky to be able to have.



YEAR EIGHT

In pictures

