



Royal  
Russell

## Headmaster's Weekly Newsletter

28 February 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

The half term week was very busy for a large number of pupils and staff with a super successful programme of overseas adventures including the Ski Trip to Utah, the Spanish Exchange Trip to Zaragoza, the Geography Trip to the Azores and the GCSE History Trip to Berlin and Munich. The opportunities for learning and development that these exciting experiences present are hugely important and I'd like to thank all of the staff who organised and ran these trips so magnificently.

On Wednesday morning we welcomed over 40 families to an Invitation Open Morning following up on offers made for places to join Year 7 and Year 9 in September 2020. After a brief introduction in the Library, our guests were introduced to Year 8 and Year 12 guides who gave a whistle stop tour of the School. The feedback on our guides was outstanding and it was fitting that the wet weather relented for a moment so that they were able to show our wonderful campus at its sunlit best!

Our Ash Wednesday Service in Chapel marked the beginning of Lent, with the Choral Society boosted by select members of the Choristers and Barbershop contributing some beautiful music from Byrd's 'Ave Verum' to the service.

The Music Department have been busy rehearsing for the Music Dinner which starts at 7:00pm in Great Hall on Saturday 7 March. The theme is 'Red Carpet' and it will feature many of our groups and soloists. If you would like tickets, please email Vicky Rees [vrees@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:vrees@royalrussell.co.uk).

The Auditorium programme is packed with rehearsals this week, as Year 11 Drama students prepare for their assessed performances. At the same time, members of Year 7, 8 and 9 have started preparations for their production of "Ten Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse", which will be performed on Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March. Tickets are available from Katie Smith: [ksmith@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:ksmith@royalrussell.co.uk) in the School Office.

Just before half term I gave an assembly to Year 12 on leadership and launched the application process for our new School Prefects which is running this week. It has been very interesting to read their letters of application and, in observing Year 12 preparing to lead the School next year, I have enjoyed seeing the positive and supportive relationships that they have built within their cohort. At the Year 12 Parents Evening last night, parents and students were busy reflecting on the progress that they have made during the first half of this important academic year and it was very encouraging to hear positive feedback about the students from so many of the teaching staff.

Year 12 joined Year 13 students, who have been working hard in preparation for their trial examinations today, for the Sixth Form Photo on Wednesday lunchtime.

I hope you have seen our latest update on the School's response to the spread of coronavirus. We have been reminding our pupils about the importance of regular and thorough hand-washing and have been raising awareness through posters and discussions.

The following video gives a helpful explanation of how you can help to protect yourself against viruses. It might be helpful to look at this at home with your children: [coronavirus protection video](#).

We remain extremely grateful for everyone's understanding at this time. The wellbeing of the Royal Russell community is of the upmost importance and we will continue to keep you informed as the situation and official advice changes.

**Chris Hutchinson**

Headmaster

# Royal Russell Ski Trip

39 pupils, accompanied by four members of staff departed school at 3.30am for the annual ski trip to Utah, USA.

A lovely direct flight from London Heathrow with plenty of spare seats made for a relaxing start to the trip. Numerous compliments were received from fellow passengers and Delta Airline employees on the excellent manners and behaviour displayed by all the pupils, which were lovely to receive and a good reflection on all those involved.

The week started with a day of snowfall ensuring that the already good snow conditions simply improved beyond all expectations, especially as blue skies accompanied the rest of the week.

The great conditions and empty slopes allowed everyone the chance to improve on their technique and to challenge themselves too. The group consisted of a range of pupils with more snowboarders than previous years, numerous first timers/beginners and several that have skied before, therefore the ability range was wide but all were accommodated into suitable groups, supervised by excellent instructors from the Snowbasin ski resort.

It was a pleasure to see friendships forming, many across different year groups, individuals being positively encouraged and the look of happiness and satisfaction on individual faces when they'd overcome a slope that at the beginning of the week they'd thought too difficult, made for an excellent trip.

Other highlights included:

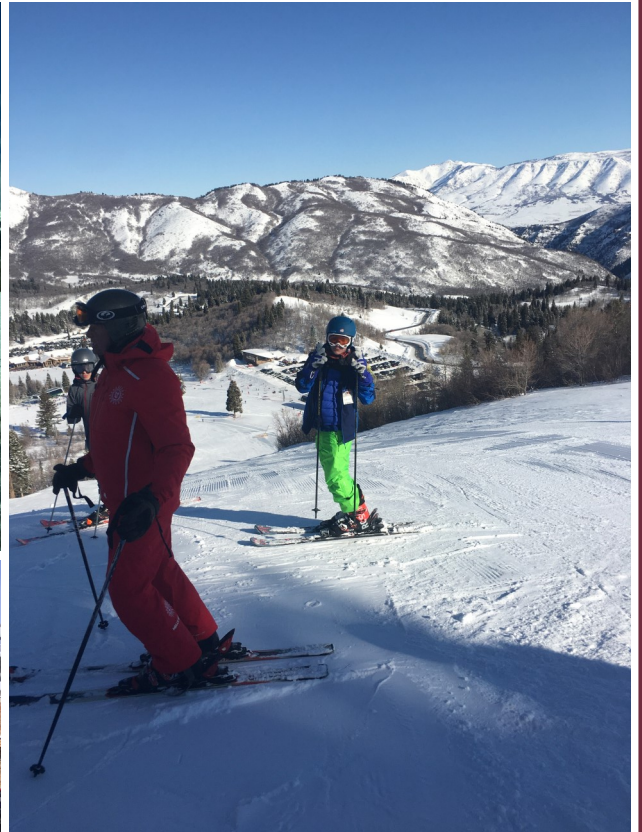
- ◇ watching an ice hockey game
- ◇ attending an indoor activity centre
- ◇ tubing
- ◇ trampoline park
- ◇ outlet shopping
- ◇ eating at a range of restaurants.

Further images are available on the twitter feed @rrsski and as shown below.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Davies for leading such a successful trip and to Mr Selby, Mrs Saunders and Ms Faulkner for accompanying.













# Spanish Exchange to Zaragoza

On Thursday morning, Mrs Conde, Miss Calvet and Mrs Green took seven excited pupils to Zaragoza for the annual Spanish exchange.

We left behind the rather windy and rainy weather arriving to a much warmer climate. We were welcomed by the Spanish families at the airport before taking each student to their new Spanish home.

Friday started with breakfast at school followed by a welcome speech in Spanish from Mr Plano and the Headmistress of Juan de Lanuza School, Pilar Fernández. After touring around the school, we were taken to the old town of Zaragoza where we visited the amazing cathedral. Our guided tour was mainly in Spanish with some English to help at times!

We had a real treat on Saturday morning with freshly made churros, which we dipped into succulent thick hot chocolate; no need to mention that there were no leftovers! Then our pupils spent the rest of the weekend doing many fun activities which were kindly organised by their respective Spanish families. We spent Monday at school and our pupils experienced a typical Spanish School day.

All of them enjoyed spending time with their Spanish partners during their lessons and breaktime. Unfortunately, our last day in Zaragoza came too quickly but to make the most of it we went to a shopping centre to buy the last souvenirs. We then visited the Muslim Aljaferia Palace, which is an incredible building. Once again, the guided tour was very interesting and of course all in Spanish!

Goodbyes were long and truly emotional, but June is not far away to welcome Spanish pupils to Royal Russell. As usual, this was an extraordinary experience for our pupils and an amazing opportunity to practice their Spanish as well as discovering the Spanish family and school lifestyle.

Finally, a big **gracias** to Mrs Conde for making this experience possible. We are looking forward to welcoming the Spanish pupils soon! Hasta muy pronto!









# History Trip to Germany

On Thursday the History Department, accompanied by 47 eager pupils boarded a flight to Munich. This marked the beginning of a six-day trip across Germany from Munich to Berlin, via Nuremberg, from the Reichstag Dome to the Marienplatz and beyond.

The trip truly began on the second day, starting with a guided tour down the streets of Munich, in the route of the Munich Putsch of 1923 and ending in a thought-provoking and sombre journey through the former concentration camp of Dachau.

On the third day, we visited the city of Nuremberg and sites such as the Zeppelin field and NSDAP kongresshalle (inspired by the Colosseum of Rome). Towards the end of day, we briefly stopped at courtroom 600 in which leaders and those considered responsible for the atrocities of the Nazi regime were tried.

Days four and five were mostly comprised of an extended walking tour of Berlin stopping at points of interest like the rebuilt Reichstag building, the memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe, the Treptow Soviet war memorial and, of course, the Brandenburg gate.

The sixth day sadly brought an end to our trip but not before an intriguing, albeit macabre, tour around a former Stasi Prison in East Berlin and a quick viewing of the intricate murals of the East-Side Gallery.

The trip was a brilliant experience in both its utility for pupils and its constantly intriguing and entertaining itinerary.

Ms Worsfold would like to add that the Y10 and Y11 students who went on the trip were a real credit to the School. There were many compliments from guides, air stewards etc about their behaviour, manners and enthusiasm. It was a pleasure taking them on the trip.

Each day the staff and guides voted on an historian of the day who had shown exceptional engagement and they were rewarded with a small prize. The winners were:

Day 1: Y10 – Hari Lalji and Y11 - Liam smith.

Day 2: Y10- Anna Clery and Y11-Luke McCabe

Day 3: Y10- Lewis Mackay and Y11 - Anna Stone

Day 4: Y10 - Ella Burrows and Paige Marsh, Y11- Ethan Edney

Day 5: Y10 - Ryan Dunning and Y11 – Louisa Carney

Historians of the trip: Y10- Anna Clery and Y11-Luke McCabe

**Liam Smith Year 11**













# Geography Trip to the Azores

22 intrepid year 7 to 9 geographers set off at the start of half term for a trip into the unknown. A delay leaving, due to fog in our connecting Lisbon airport, meant touching down in the middle of the Atlantic on the volcanic islands of the Azores took even longer than expected.

After an early night, we were escorted by our wonderful guide and driver to experience and see a great variety of special sites.

The volcanic crater lakes of Sete Citades, the coastal landforms of the island's south coast, pineapple and tea plantations, lava caves, the geothermal pools and bathing sites of Furness, the huge waves on the surfing beaches of the north coast, the fascinating architecture of Ponta Delgada and a visit to the geothermal power station meant there was plenty to maintain the interest and inspire.

A photography competition for those who attended is being held and the winning entries will be published in a future newsletter. In the meantime herewith some of my efforts.

Thanks to Mr Buckley and Mrs Allison for accompanying the trip.





# Careers Breakfast

On Friday, before we broke up for half term, our Careers Breakfast focused on the Healthcare sector.

We welcomed professionals and student ambassadors from across a wide range of roles: an Optometrist; Physiotherapist, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner; Nurse; Sports Scientist, an MA pupils' Music Therapist from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, a second year student Biomedical Engineer from King's College London, a final year medical student from St George's and an experienced GP. We were also lucky enough to cover Managerial and Leadership roles within the NHS.

Over the course of an hour, (and a croissant or two!) pupils met with each professional/student and chatted about their profession, what pathways exist in the sector and what the challenges and rewards of working in those roles are.

This was the fifth Careers Breakfast this year and next year we hope to grow these and add other opportunities for pupils to learn more about the world of work and develop their personal and employability skills.

Pupil feedback for the Breakfasts has been overwhelmingly positive and I have been particularly impressed by how enthusiastic our younger pupils in Years 9 & 10 have been in taking advantage of these opportunities.

Breakfasts are voluntary for pupils to sign up to and have been very well attended and it has been a pleasure to hear feedback from our visiting professionals who have consistently complimented pupils' engagement and intelligent questions. The most common feedback from pupils has been that they wish they had more time to speak or could meet more professionals, in more roles.

I am especially grateful to all our wonderful Parents who have kindly given up time to meet with pupils and share their career stories, and always appreciate further offers of support.

Please email me at [jharris@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:jharris@royalrussell.co.uk)

**Jenny Harris, Careers Advisor**



## Junior Russell Talks

On Tuesday, Simon Nzewi spoke to a group of Year 6 pupils about the key to success!

He looked at famous examples such as Ronaldo and Cardi B and shared the importance of hard work, dedication and believing in your dreams.

Simon concluded his talk with the message: the major key to a better future is you!





# Signals Course

This year, two cadet Sergeants travelled to Blandford Military Camp in Dorset to represent Royal Russell CCF in a further Signals Course.

Before this, the entire contingent had learnt basic 1 star and 2 star level signals content last summer, experimenting with small personal radios on camp. I thoroughly enjoyed the first stage as it was the first time the army section had used radios on a large scale, and so we volunteered to join others from different schools across the country and further our knowledge.

Making our own way there, we quickly got to know cadets from Norfolk, Liverpool, Scotland and even those who travelled 11 hours from Northern Ireland. That day, we had dinner, found our accommodation and had a relatively chilled evening to make new friends with the people we would be spending the next week with.

Throughout the week we spent a couple days in the classroom block learning 3 star and 4 star level theory, as well as playing with pieces of both "Don 10" and "Lightweight Quad" field cables that would have been used for undercover communications. We learnt to successfully fix, join, and crimp lengths of these cables as a military party would in the field. We also perfected our knots for tying back the cables in the field.

Whenever we got the chance, despite battling with gale force winds and a few hailstones, we spent the day in a field called the Craddock, experimenting with "Don 10" cable and constructing various line crossings. Each crossing had to be checked for faults and eventually tested through a circuit of telephones; if you could communicate to your group mates across the field, you were successful!

For the next stage of communications over a distance, we also constructed 5.4m and 12m masts to mount our antennas. In a more realistic scenario, these same types of radio masts would be capable of receiving signals and talking to signallers all over the world, as far as New Zealand.

By the final day we were brimming with new information to bring back to our contingent, having successfully passed 3 star, 4 star and gained our cross flags badge. I look forward to teaching the younger cadets all we learnt and we may even join the advanced course in early summer - having the potential to be the top 1% skilled signallers in cadets.

## Rebecca Clery Year 12



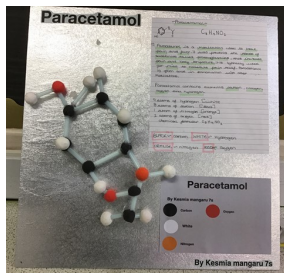
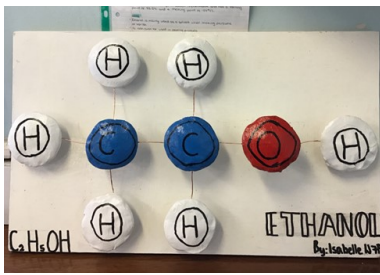
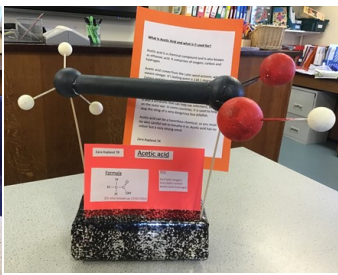


# Year 7 Chemistry Models

As part of their introduction to Chemistry and the exciting world of atoms, elements and compounds, Year 7 pupils were required to make a 3D model of a compound of their choice.

A huge congratulations to pupils for making a range of ambitious, creative and exciting models which have been on display in the Science Department this week. The time and effort put in by all pupils was excellent.

The winners of the best models from 7R were Zoe Spellings, Zara Aspland and Luca Bradbury. 7P winners: Sebastian Laidlaw, Isabelle Ward, Jairus Earl. 7S winners: Kesmia Mangaru, Johan Prinsloo, Dixie Evans. 7Q winners: Joseph Venkatasami, Tallulah Haley, Harry Orchard.



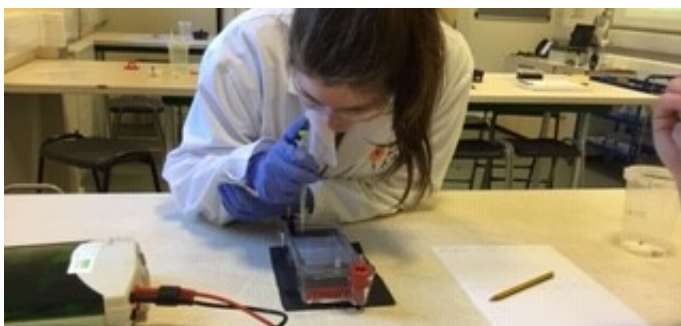
# Biology Trip to Wakehurst Place

Year 13 A level Biologists visited Wakehurst Place as part of their practical endorsement.

They carried out genetic profiling techniques used for crime scene analysis and at customs to identify illegal trade of plants species under the CITES agreement. They also were able to carry out micropropagation, cloning cauliflower plants from small explants.

These are now growing in the science lab and will produce a cauliflower plant in 4 to 6 weeks. Following this the pupils visited the Millennium Seed Bank, which is the largest collection of seeds in the world and has been developed as a safety net for plant species at risk of extinction.

This gave the pupils hands on experience and an understanding of the use of the techniques in real life situations.







**ROYAL RUSSELL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTS**

**RED CARPET - AWARD WINNING MUSIC  
DINNER**

**SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020**

**GREAT HALL 18:30 FOR 19:00 START**

**TICKETS £15 (TO INCLUDE SUPPER)**

**Please email**

**[vrees@royalrussell.co.uk](mailto:vrees@royalrussell.co.uk)**

**To reserve your tickets**



A silhouette of a zombie with outstretched hands against a bright orange sunset sky. In the background, a city skyline with various buildings is visible. The text "ROYAL RUSSELL YEARS 7-9 PRESENTS" is overlaid on the image in a white, dripping font.

ROYAL RUSSELL YEARS 7-9 PRESENTS

"TEN WAYS TO  
SURVIVE THE  
ZOMBIE  
APOCALYPSE"

30TH-31ST  
MARCH  
7.00PM  
AUDITORIUM

TICKETS FROM MS SMITH IN SCHOOL OFFICE



# BOOK SALE !

SALE OF GOOD QUALITY SECOND-HAND BOOKS  
IN THE LIBRARY

THURSDAY 5 MARCH - 1.10PM  
TO CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY



**Blesma**  
THE LIMBLESS VETERANS



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING SOME CASH IN  
WITH YOU ON THE DAY!  
(LOOSE CHANGE APPRECIATED)

ALL PROCEEDS TO : BLESMA  
(MILITARY CHARITY FOR LIMBLESS  
VETERANS)



# Canterbury Tales Progress

‘We all have a tale to tell’

## Swimming Challenge

Royal Russell School is undertaking a series of exciting challenges this year, culminating in a Grand Finale Celebration in June 2020.

Our Fundraising Total So Far.....

**£14,103.88!!**

The concept, like the famous stories, The Canterbury Tales, is that we are all travelling together, but have our own tales to tell and our own challenges ahead.

We are using this idea to raise awareness and donations for causes we care about. Events so far have included cycling, sleepovers, running, mental health awareness.... you name it, and we've done it already or will be doing it very soon. And what about us swimmers?

Some of you know me, or will have seen me in and around the pool. My name is Lynne Faulkner, along with Jo Scarlett, are organising the **Swimming Challenge**.

**When** – Sunday 1 March through to Friday 31 March 2020 (inclusive)

**What** – Swim and record the number of lengths completed in the log book for every session you attend

**How** – Complete a small postcard to tell your tale! These will be available at the reception desk and then stuck onto the desk.

**Fund raise / donate** – This is voluntary. Our official, chosen charity is Dementia UK and you can click on our Just Giving page to add to our total, or you could simply donate to your own favourite cause.

### The Challenge

Royal Russell School to Canterbury is 63 miles.

64 lengths of the pool = 1 mile

63 miles x 64 lengths = 4032 lengths

I believe as a community, we can swim from Royal Russell School to Canterbury and back three times or  $4032 \times 6 = 24,192$  lengths

To add a competitive edge, the number of lengths will be cumulative but three groups have been created:

Junior School, Senior School (including staff), Swimming Pool Members and outside lets.



Can you help your group get to Canterbury and back first?





# Miss Wong's Walkie Talkie Climb

This weekend Bhonae (Old Russellian) and I (Miss Wong) will be climbing the Walkie Talkie to raise money for seriously ill children at Great Ormond Street Hospital!

We feel quite nervous, but we are ready to take on the challenge of climbing 896 stairs. Our T-shirts have arrived.

Thank you so much for everyone's support and donations.

Please click [here](#) to donate.



## Forthcoming Events - Check Firefly Regularly for Details!!

A Pilgrim's Way Relay

Staff Bake Off Competition

Canterbury Run

Bike Run to Canterbury Cathedral

Cathedral Choir

Croquet for St Christopher's

Canterbury to School three-day Walk

Fringe Event

Buchanan Sofa Surf Sleepover

Cake Sale

Sport v King's Canterbury

The Big Tea Party

Canterbury Hostelry Tour

Thirty Mile Walk

Restless Triathlon

24 hour spin class

**The Grand Finale!**  
**Sunday 14 June 2020**





Royal Russell Presents

# JAZZ

## An Evening with Claire Martin OBE



With the Nikki Iles Trio - A Tribute to Tony Bennett and Bill Evans

**Thursday 23 April : 7.00pm : Auditorium**

Multi-award winning vocalist and Linn recording artist Claire Martin has been a tour de force on the UK jazz scene for over 30 years and brings together a trio of some of the finest musicians on the scene today; Steve Watts - double bass, Matt Home - drums led by celebrated pianist and arranger Nikki Iles.

Claire will be singing some classics from the Great American Songbook alongside stylish re-workings of the Tony Bennett/Bill Evans songbook repertoire. Claire has enjoyed worldwide critical acclaim and gained many awards including winning eight British Jazz Awards and in 2018 she was the proud recipient of the BASCA Gold Badge Award for her contribution to jazz. Nikki Iles was the BASCA Gold Badge winner for 2019 and is one of the most in-demand pianists of her generation.

Tickets are £17.50, plus booking fee. Please click [here](#) to book

**'Worldclass' THE TIMES**

## Year 10 'Tenner Challenge'

The Business department is participating in the Tenner Challenge, a national competition for young people.

Pupils are each pledged £10 from the Tenner Bank and use this start-up capital to get their enterprise off the ground.

They have 4 weeks from Monday 24 February to set up their business, coming up with an idea of a product or service they can sell and gain first-hand experience of entrepreneurship.

Any support and encouragement you can give during this activity would really be appreciated.





# From the Sport Department

## Netball

On Tuesday the U14 ABC teams travelled away to St George's College Weybridge for what would be a tough afternoon of netball. The U14 A team showed another Brilliant performance. They had a very close start to the match finishing with 7-7 after the first quarter.

The girls worked tirelessly to try and gain a strong lead but the opposition were very strong and didn't make it easy. A draw in the last quarter left the final score at 30-26 to St George's. A fantastic effort from all players. Congratulations to player of the match Ella Smith and coach's player of the match Amy Tree.

The U14B team showed patches of great play throughout the match with lots of tactical play displayed in training coming into force during the game, however, the girls were outplayed on the day. Congratulations to player of the match Emily McCann.

The U14C team worked hard throughout their match against a very tough St George's team. The girls displayed some very good technical passages of play, particularly in the third quarter.

Unfortunately the St George's team was too strong and came away with the win. Congratulations to Gaia Castano Paramova who had a very strong game in Goal Defence and was awarded player of the match.



## Football

### 1st XI

1st XI beat Forest School to reach the Quarter Final of the Trinity Cup.

An impressive display ended with goals from Imran Kayani, Jack Gallagher and Kilae Crockwell which completed a successful afternoon winning 7-1. Wellington in the Qualifier Final next week.



# Key Diary Dates

Sunday 1 March	Boarders' Trip to the Waterpark
Monday 2 March	Year 12 A Level Geography Field Trip to Snowdonia
Monday 2 March	Year 10 GCSE Art Trip
Wednesday 4 March	Year 7 Geography Trip to Seaford
Wednesday 4 March	Buchanan Theatre Trip to The Boyfriend
Wednesday 4 March	Year 12 English Literature Theatre Trip
Thursday 5 March	Music Concert at Shirley Methodist Church
Thursday 5 March	GCSE Drama Parents' Evening
Saturday 7 March	Music Dinner
Sunday 8 March	Boarders' Trip to the Art Museum



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Royal Russell School

We welcome your feedback. Please send to Ciara Campbell, Marketing and Communications Manager  
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Royal Russell School

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen