

Cranleigh Matters

The Cranleigh School Newsletter

Issue No 26
Winter 2006
www.cranleigh.org

Cranleigh School, Cranleigh
Surrey GU6 8QQ
Telephone 01483 273666

Cranleigh girls riding high in 2006

We started the year with a fourth place at the St Bede's School Hunter Trials with excellent riding from Phoebe Roberts, Harri Snelling, Imogen Way and Katie MacDonald ensuring us an intermediate place in the National Schools Equestrian Association Finals alongside the



novice team who had already qualified. In the finals at Ardingly our novice team of Arabella Roberts, Georgia Lubbock, Imogen Way and Katie MacDonald did extremely well to win the championship class with Imogen Way coming away as the Individual National Champion. Genevieve Clark finished fourth in the individual placings and there was some brave riding from Isabel Graham-Watson and Gaby Brown. The intermediate team finished second, with Anna Rickenberg in fourth place individually.

At the Windlesham Schools SJ Competition the A team of Arabella Roberts, Imogen Way, Chloe Allison and Genevieve Clark were placed sixth, with double clears from Chloe and Genevieve, and the B team of Gabi Brown, Madeleine Iafate and Isabel Graham-Watson were seventh, with double clears from Madeleine and Isabel. They then secured qualification for this year's National Finals with a second place at the Farlington School Show, with excellent riding from Arabella, Chloe, Gabi and Phoebe Roberts. The Open team of Harriet Ruddell, Gemma Briance, Georgia Lubbock and Harri Snelling won their class, ensuring that for the first time we were represented at every level at the National Finals in November.

The culmination of the year for the very best of our riders is the All England Schools Show Jumping Championships held at Hickstead in August; this competition draws teams from all over England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and is fiercely contested. For the first time we were able to send two teams to this event but despite some excellent riding by all our team members the A team of Georgie Haynes, Olivia Craddock and Alice Palmer missed qualification for the final by one place, finishing 13th out of the 50 teams who started the competition. Congratulations to Georgie and Olivia for achieving clear rounds and to Georgia Lubbock and Gemma Briance (who joined Harriet Ruddell in the B team) who both finished their rounds on only four faults.

Congratulations go to Georgie Haynes and Alice Palmer, who represented England in a Home Pony International in July, returning with team silver and team gold respectively, as well as some excellent individual placings. Young riders from Cranleigh School have certainly made their mark in the equestrian field over the past few years and this was capped recently with an impressive fourth place (out of 29 competing schools) in the British Inter-Schools' One Day Event Championships held at Stonar School in Wiltshire on the 23rd and 24th September.

Olivia Craddock riding her chestnut mare Winter Holly led the way with a resounding win in her section of the competition, completing the show jumping and cross-country phases on zero faults to finish on an outstanding dressage score of 31. Anna Rickenberg on Catch This was also double clear in the show jumping and cross-country, with her dressage score placing her high in her section, and Georgia Lubbock, despite an unfortunate eight faults in the show jumping, finished seventh in her section after a bold and speedy clear round cross-country. Katie MacDonald, riding her relatively new pony Dundee Sandstorm, was competing at this level for the first time and impressed everyone with her clear cross-country and good dressage score.

Only nine points separated the first four schools and the Cranleigh team was delighted to have finished in fourth place ahead of such schools as Millfield, Stonar, Eton College and Cheltenham College, all previous winners of this prestigious event, at their first attempt.

The National Schools Show Jumping Championships rounds off the equestrian year in November and once again Cranleigh produced some phenomenal results competing against schools from around the country. We were Reserve National Champions in both the Intermediate (Harriet Ruddell, Phoebe Roberts, Harri Snelling, Emily Palmer) and the Open Competitions (Olivia Craddock, Anna Rickenberg, Imogen Way) and our young Novice riders (Arabella Roberts, Chloe Allison, Tom Lane, Genevieve Clark) were placed 7th out of the 36 schools in their section. Madeleine Iafate produced the most spectacular performance of the day to come away as National Novice Individual Champion, with other individual places going to Olivia Craddock and Chloe Allison in their respective competitions.

The Equestrian Team is a fast-growing and increasingly successful addition to the School's sporting programme, with over 30 young riders currently representing Cranleigh in all disciplines and at all levels.

MCA



Alan Rusbridger OC

The editor of 'The Guardian' and one of Cranleigh's most prominent former pupils returned to his old stamping ground last month to deliver a fascinating talk to pupils on recent developments in his industry. Over 60 A Level Politics students attended, along with regular members of the Purvis Society.

Mr Rusbridger explained that newspapers have to be responsive to change, modernise and embrace the internet revolution. Now they are not so much newspapers as news organisations. Under Rusbridger's leadership 'The Guardian', in its best progressive traditions, has been at the forefront of new changes in the industry and its web-site is recognised as a market-leader. However, he also expressed concern over the increasing atomisation of society and how this was reflected in how people consumed their news. There was a civic need, he said, for newspapers to continue to promote a sense of citizenship and this they do by awakening the interest of their readers in important stories. In this sense a newspaper can never be 'neutral' and the role of the editor, in deciding what goes into the paper and what is left out, is inevitably a political one.

Rusbridger is clearly a man at the top of his game and delighting in leading the way in the delivery of 21st century news. He seemed proudest of the fact that 'The Guardian' on-line has over 4 million readers in the United States, a slap in the face, one thought, for the introspective and over-politicised news organisations there. Our VI Formers could not have failed to be impressed by the dynamism and drive that has made Mr Rusbridger one of the most important men in contemporary British media.

JDC

Brass & Singing Competitions

Reviews of these November events are on the web-site.

Congratulations to Brass prize-winners: **Advanced:** Katherine Chevis (1st with Hindemith's Tuba Sonata) and Alex Griffiths (euphonium); **Intermediate** trumpeters Eddie Hamilton (1st) and Ellie Erhardt; **Audience:** Fred Stonell (euphonium).

The winning singers were: **Senior:** Lucy Cronin (singing an extract from 'Peter Grimes'); **Senior (non-classical):** Ed Griffiths (1st) and Vanessa Mitchell, with the **Audience** prize going to Hannah Smoker; **Junior:** Dom Murray (1st) and Torv Sawyer.

House Performance 2006

Having been back at school only a few days, we were thrown into preparation for the fast-looming House Performance Evening. With limited rehearsal time and the prospect of each House teaching 30 IVth Formers to dance, the organisers were under considerable time pressure. Meanwhile, those involved with the Part Song were occupied with numerous rehearsals, busy learning harmonies and, most importantly, the words! The evening was soon upon us, and with anxious anticipation everyone piled into the Speech Hall for the first performance.

The evening began with an emotive and impressive rendition of 'The Circle of Life' from East House, organised by Chris Jackson. This was soon followed by Loveday's performance of 'Big Yellow Taxi', with its excellent harmonies and surprise ending with a verse of 'California Dreaming', arranged by Jocelyn Waller. Next came Cubitt with the Lighthouse Family's, 'High', arranged by Tom Chevis. It was both musical and uplifting. The final piece was performed by North: it was an arrangement of 'Fever' coordinated by Lucy Cronin; its atmospheric harmonies made for an entertaining performance. It was the perfect end to a very impressive competition.

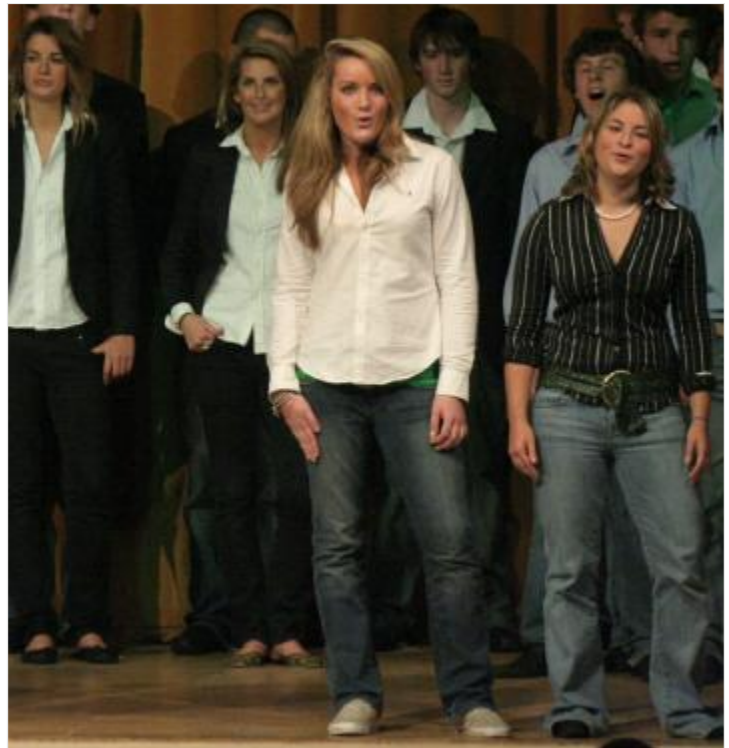
Next was the greatly anticipated IVth Form dance competition. North was the first to take the stage, performing to 'Voodoo People.' It was an incredibly imaginative and inventive dance with effective use of U.V. masks and gloves creating an individual and striking dance. Cubitt soon followed with an interesting and well-choreographed performance to Fat Boy Slim's 'Gangster Trippin'; it was not only entertaining, especially the dancing grannies at the end, but an excellent performance. Next to take the stage was Loveday, with a piece from 'Bring It On' which was exciting to watch and cleverly arranged, displaying a range of gymnastics as well as a well-executed and choreographed routine. Finally there was East's dance to 'Freestyler', with its dramatic and effective beginning, enhanced by the effective lighting. It was entertaining and displayed excellent synchronisation. The dances, like the part song, were of a very high standard, making the decision all the more difficult for the adjudicators.

After a very entertaining musical interlude from Jerry Thompson, Sam Mason and Nick Pearce, we applauded the winners:

Part Song: Loveday
IVth Form Dance: North
Combined: North

As you can imagine, the winners were elated and the atmosphere was one to remember; it was an amazing evening!

Pippa Mitchell



Bedroom Farce

Martin Allison directed Ayckbourn as the Michaelmas School Play (14th-17th November) with the Speech Hall stage-set wittily designed by Peter McNiven. It was one of those plays where tutors on duty were greeted by broad grins from pupils of all years as they returned to the House, having been thoroughly entertained. Perhaps the adults in the audience appreciated even more the subtleties of this fine production: there really is nothing like the cathartic effect of humour after the stresses and strains of the working day. It was a production that worked on all levels: traditional farce with the inherent plot devices, the visual humour, the one-liners, but also the bleaker sub-text: the finely tuned anatomy of marriage, passion dulled by responsibility and routine; the inherent loneliness of the protagonists; the lack of communication; the seeds of unhappiness - in fact the antithesis of the romantic view of marriage. It is testament to Ayckbourn's skill as a writer that he managed to write a very funny 'serious' farce and Martin Allison's skill as a director that he managed to elicit such mature performances from adolescents.

Fi Brookes was outstanding as Delia, in that she managed to convey resignation so effectively and she was a perfect foil to the comically bumbling Jack Church, another really gifted performer. Piers English coped especially well with the challenge of acting while bed-ridden: his variety of facial expressions and natural charm won the day. As Jan, Lucy Knight gave a towering performance in all senses: a formidable wife indeed! Tom Buchan literally took centre-stage as the ludicrous Malcolm and was balanced by the sweet innocence of Hannah Smoker's Kate. Liv Shepley tried hard to bring some dignity as well as comedy to the depressed Susannah and at the ending provided some bitter-sweet ambiguity. As Trevor, Charlie Hunt was Tim-nice-but-dim crossed with 'medallion man' and provoked much hilarity from all ages in the audience. The entire cast and crew should be thanked for another memorable evening of



Cranleigh swings to Swingles

The first of the new season of the Cranleigh Concert Series took place on 11th October in Speech Hall. The Swingle Singers are one of the best-known and longest-running *a cappella* groups in history and they started with three of their inimitable jazz-style versions of Bach, including what was described as Bach's 'ring-tone' Badinerie. Also redolent of their original style was a group of French numbers including Michel Legrand's 'L'été 42'; Legrand's sister was one of the original Swingles.

The eight singers did a costume change for the second half (from black and white to predominantly red) and some of the music was aimed to appeal to the younger members of the audience. Jay Harman (LVI) commented: "We didn't recognise all the titles from the programme but it was cool to hear the theme from 'Austin Powers' done so cleverly by just voices and we loved the 'Mission Impossible' encore. Even some of the classical stuff was really familiar and came alive for us, mixed with a hip-hop groove. The way the singers could use microphone technique to sound like drums, and even a bass guitar, was incredible. Some of my friends were surprised to hear tunes by Jem and Green Day cleverly coupled; the group's versatility was amazing."



The Swingles were about to depart for Rio and gave a preview of this concert with two Jobim songs, including 'The Girl from Ipanema.' It was an especially nice touch that the group had invited the School's Chapel Choir to join them in two songs (including the theme from 'Friends') and generously allowed them a solo spot with 'Shenandoah.' Those lucky enough to sing with these great artists will never forget this evening and nor will the large audience who rose to give a standing ovation at the end.

North raise £6,776 for CHASE

North House raised £6,776 for the Guildford-based charity CHASE Hospice Care for Children this term. Ninety boys took part in a Charity Day, attempting to travel the equivalent distance of the 'Cape-to-Cape' route in New Zealand, a distance of over 2,500km. All the boys contributed by cycling, running and swimming their way around a course set up at the School. Starting at 6am they managed to complete the event eleven hours later. Master in the charge of the event, Ed Burnett, was impressed by their dedication to such a worthwhile cause and commented: "The students really supported one another throughout a long and gruelling day. Most importantly, they really applied themselves to the task of supporting children less fortunate than themselves by raising such a significant amount of money."

CHASE Advisory Council member, John Hastings, accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity and said how much the enthusiastic support of young people from the area meant to the 253 families being cared for by CHASE, either at home, through the Community Team or at the purpose-built children's hospice, Christopher's, at Artington, just outside Guildford.

He added: "CHASE care and support is available 24 hours a day throughout the year, at no cost, to families with a life-limited child. Unfortunately we receive no statutory funding and are therefore entirely dependent on volunteers like the boys of Cranleigh School for providing our annual

Cranleigh School musicians entertain church-goers



The Reverend Canon Nigel Nicholson welcomed the School's singers and instrumentalists to St Nicolas Church on Friday October 6th for their third annual autumn concert. The large forces of the Chapel Choir under Director of Music, Marcus Pashley, stirred the listeners with Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and showed their versatility in works by Stanford and Haydn as well as in a beautiful arrangement of 'Shenandoah.' The smaller Chamber Choir gave mellifluous performances of three further American numbers, including a very moving spiritual, 'All My Trials.'

Vocal solos came from Tom Chevis and Lucy Cronin, who was joined by Annabel Roberts on the high A trumpet in Handel's challenging 'Let the Bright Seraphim.' The church organ was tested to the limit by Tim Uglow in the well-loved slow movement of Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor, taking on the role of the orchestra to support the glowing tone of Daniel Sheppard's fiddle. Daniel will play the whole concerto with orchestra in a concert on January 19th.

The organ was also heard in a solo piece by Clerambault, played by Marlon Date Chong, and the sizeable audience of church-goers, Common Room and parents were also treated to a beautiful classical guitar solo from Alex Oldroyd and a euphonium arrangement played by Fred Stonell. Fred is one of a huge number of the School's pupils who play in the various wind ensembles: on this evening the Brass Quartet performed 17th century German dances and the Big Band, under Bob Wilson, sent the audience out of the church humming such popular favourites as 'What a Wonderful World.'

In his closing thanks Nigel Nicholson remarked: "I really don't know how these young musicians find time to do all their work and play all their sport, on top of all the hours of practice needed to reach such a high standard."





Pictured are the three players from our 1st XV who have been selected to play for England U18s this year. They have already enjoyed two training matches in Ireland and France and are now geared up for the Home Nations Competition early in 2007.

Seb Stegmann also played for the U18 team last year; Sam Smith, who played for the England U16s last year, is Seb's junior partner on the wing and hopes to emulate him by playing a year early. It would certainly be great to see him emulate the five tries he scored for England against Italy last year. Up front the School's abrasive hooker, Greg Bateman, has finally got his chance to shine at National level and, given the destruction he has caused with the ball in hand this term, he is bound to be motivated to make the most of his opportunity at this level.

EMB

Georgina Moffatt (UVI) has a leading role in a new TV series, *SKINS*, an off-beat comedy drama series about a group of 16-17 year old friends. It will be broadcast on E4 from 8th February and repeated on Channel 4 in the summer.



Pictured above is John Thompson (Director of Admissions) who taught the four students: Eliza Sawyer, Tom Chevis, Olivia Roberts and Jocelyn Waller, who were awarded certificates by AQA for outstanding results (full marks) in English Literature. As well as the distinction of these students being in the top five (out of almost 42,000) for the whole country, the English Literature A* + A grades were the highest of all our subjects this year at almost 84%. Following re-marks, the grades in English are now close behind at 82%, with History on 81%. The two English GCSEs also achieved a 100% at B or above, this being equalled by Art, Drama and

West House Plays

Chekov's 'The Proposal' is an extremely entertaining short play and the actors gave two very contrasting sides to the story, with both comedy and rage being portrayed. The comedy came in a variety of ways: Adam Jolly gave Ivan Vassilievich a plethora of nervous twitches and habits and took full advantage of the dramatic comedy of the situation; Pippa Mitchell gave Natalya a hilarious contrast between displaying soft innocence and child-like obstinacy, and Nick Williams as Stepanovich gave a powerful performance by getting very puffed-up and going on outraged rants. Director Olivia Mullins kept a tight enough rein to avoid the humour getting out of control, yet allowed all three actors the freedom to express themselves through comic acting of the highest quality.



Molière's comedy of errors, 'Sganarelle', featured two couples: Sganarelle (Patrick Roulston) and Sganarelle's wife (Georgie Moffat); and Lelie (Jack Hartley) and Celie (Lucy Haynes) who, by pure bad luck, mistake their lovers' kind actions for adulterous behaviour. The play builds to a climax where the couples are on the verge of breaking up but luckily the situation is straightened by Celie's nurse (Lucy Moore). The crowd favourite of the evening was Paul Arthur who portrayed Lelie's manservant in an outrageously camp manner. Jack Hartley gave a superb performance as the layman caught in a ridiculous situation and he gave a gravity to the play through which one could relate to his character. Patrick showed impressive comic timing, feeding perfectly off the insane and seductive Georgie Moffat. Richard Ashton gave a commanding performance as Gorgibus, the authoritative role of the play, bringing out the seriousness behind the mind-boggling complexities of Molière's play. The action was very skilfully paced by director Olivia Mullins so that the two plays in the first half complemented each other superbly.

The contrasting second half was an adaptation and abridgment by Gordon Neill of 'Daisy Pulls It Off.' As Daisy Meredith, Shaunagh Duncan played the victim very well, putting in a strong performance against the spiteful bullies Monica Smithers (Kate Heinrich) and Sybil Burlington (Charlotte Chesney) and complemented by her friend Trixie (Sara Williams). Becky Fryatt and Lucy Ellingham gave amusing cameos and Hilary Cronin's very impressive portrayal of the bitter and elderly Miss Milvane, with Phily Townley's seamless Franglais and beautiful French accent as Mademoiselle, were notable performances in this large cast. Bev Elliott showed both learnedness and maturity as the Headmistress and honourable mention must be given to Alex Carpenter, who stood in for Sophie Cartwright's role of Belinda Mathieson at only a day's notice and still managed to put up a good show. However, the crowd favourite of the evening must have been the appearances of four teachers: Mr Crosfield's Russian accent as Mr Sobrowski brought many laughs but even more were in store as Mr Neill, Mr Humes and Mr Maitland (aka the Irish Mafia) dressed as policemen chased Mr Crosfield around the stage, shaking their batons and blowing their whistles.

Huge thanks are due to Mr Neill and Miss Mullins for their superb direction and to all involved for a thoroughly entertaining evening. Among the large numbers of staff and pupils working behind the scenes, special mention should be made of Abi Meaker for running the lighting and sound for all three plays.

Riley Madincea

On Peak Rock

At Long Leave six VI Formers (Abi Meaker and Messrs Bashford, Cameron-Blackie, Haddock, Hunt and Wilson) gained their first experience of climbing on real rock. All had climbed regularly at Craggy Island climbing wall, but were yet to transfer their skills outside. They were accompanied by Dr Simon Young, the Reverend Phil Parker and Emma Herbert.

The party were based in the heart of the Peak District, and climbed at Stanage Edge, probably the most popular climbing crag in the world. However, given the time of the year and the weather conditions (occasional showers and fierce winds) there was easy access to the best climbs there.

With a good selection of climbs at the easier end of the range, all were able to achieve an impressive number of ascents, despite freezing fingers and being buffeted by the wind. A great deal was learnt and essential rope techniques mastered, opening up many new opportunities for our climbers in the future.

PVP

From Special Forces Soldier to the Silver Screen



For the first anniversary of the Tom Avery Society, on November 8th, we heard a breath-taking illustrated lecture by Ken Hames. Ken is now well-known for the two extraordinary expeditions he has led and televised in *Beyond Boundaries*; he took 11 seriously disabled individuals and welded them into a team to cross severely hostile terrain in Nicaragua and Namibia.

Ken served in the Army for 25 years, including the SAS and service in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf. Yet he spoke of his greatest challenges being his most recent and highlighted the vital need for respect, empathy and genuineness to mark individuals and groups who want to face and conquer life's challenges. The packed audience went home both humbled and inspired, not just by Ken himself, but by those whom he has led.

PVP