

CHRISTMAS TERM 2012



Solihull
School

The Greyhound



Lower School pupils celebrating National Baking Day.

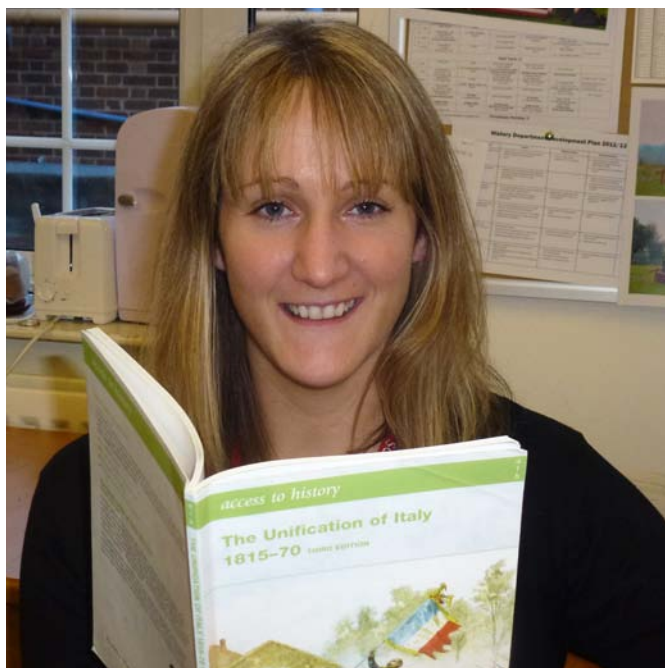


This term saw the inaugural meeting of the Solihull School Former Choristers' Association. See inside for details.



Heads of School

We welcome this year's new Heads of School: Ross Edwards and Sanika Karandikar and their deputies Joe Watson and Sophie Tillman.



The Greyhound Interviews...

Dr. Johnson, History

How long have you been teaching?

Five years.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Sharing an office with the fabulous history department! Actually, probably debating at the moment. I love debate.

Why do you like teaching history?

Because history is great! It also helps us to be less ignorant about our world which can never be a bad thing.

What is your favourite period of history to teach?

The Cold War. I wish I had done my PhD on something Cold War-related. It is more interesting than the topic I actually did (appeasement-related diplomatic disasters in the 1930s).

What historical figures would you have at a dinner party?

Neville Chamberlain, Gorbachev and Napoleon. We could have a great chat about diplomacy!

What would you take to a desert island?

My iPad so I would have music and photos and also I could play scrabble all day to pass the time. Sun cream so I don't look really old by the time I was rescued.

Am I allowed a pet? I want cheese if not, although I definitely think pets should be allowed. Will I need a generator for electricity? That makes it very difficult if so.

What would be your ideal last meal?

Thai Green Curry. Especially if I could have it shipped in from Thailand. Then I would have Baileys cheese cake made by my friend's mother for dessert. If we are doing starters then I am also going to have a baked Camembert with lots of bread. I might have to take all day to eat this, especially since none of it matches!



English Gifted and Talented Day

On Monday 12th November, children's author Steve Voake came to Solihull School for a day of storytelling, creative writing and fun! During the morning sessions he ran a workshop along with Miss Pike for visiting local primary school pupils. Sixteen Year 5 pupils, selected by their primary school for their talents in English, came for the whole day. They took part in activities alongside six of our J3s who were also selected to take part in the Gifted and Talented day. The whole event was jam-packed with different activities including a book signing with Steve Voake in the morning, games at lunchtime run by our CSLA pupils and a drama session with Mrs Wilde in the afternoon. Our J3s then enjoyed Steve's company for the rest of the afternoon, where he ran a writing workshop and talked to them about his books and where he gets his inspiration for his work. Everyone involved would agree that it was a great day and Steve Voake was a fantastic guest!





Julie Whiting in the Upper Sixth has been selected to play hockey for Wales in the Champions Challenge Tournament in Dublin later this month. (24 September)



Debating

Solihull School recently entered a team of over twenty debaters in the Birmingham University Schools Debating Competition, competing against teams from both the Birmingham area and further afield. It was an incredibly successful day for our debaters, and Jack Fowles was awarded best speaker in the competition. Three out of the four pairs in the final were from Solihull and after an impressive debate on 'This House believes an expert oligarchy is better than democracy,' Katy Hatter and Sanika Karandikar won the competition. Also in the final were Jack Fowles, George Diwaker, Joe Halbert and Arun Baxter. Eight out of the top ten speakers were from Solihull School and Caroline Camm made an impressive debut, ranking in the top ten while still only in the Middle School. Well done to all involved.



Classics Society

As ever, the Classics Society has been busy, out and about exploring the Ancient World. Our first trip was to the Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association Lecture held at the University of Birmingham. The speaker was the eminent Classicist Professor Edith Hall (King's College London) and she was speaking on the topic of 'Why do women in Greek tragedy still speak to us today?' It was a stimulating and enjoyable lecture which considered a new approach to the characters in our texts, asking how their actions can be compared to our daily lives.

Our second outing of this term was to the Museum of London, to explore our capital city from prehistoric times right up to the modern day. We also visited the city's Roman walls (the remains of Londinium) and the Guildhall, which has the remains of a Roman amphitheatre hidden beneath it.

These trips have both been very enjoyable, giving us more detailed insights into the Ancient World. We are now looking forward to the 'Life and Death in Pompeii' exhibition at the British Museum in the summer, and I'm sure Mrs Johnson has at least one more trip up her sleeve!



House of Commons!

On 23rd November 2012, UK Youth Parliament had their annual debate in the House of Commons. As the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) for Solihull and after being selected as the debate lead by the West Midlands region, I was able to speak from the dispatch box in the chamber.

The whole experience was amazing. In the morning before the debate I got to meet with Rt Hon John Bercow MP, speaker of the House of Commons. I also talked to many MPs throughout the day. At lunch we were also asked to do television interviews. The entire day was geared around us, and improving lives for young people.

Members of the UK Youth Parliament are the only people other than MPs who are allowed to sit on the green benches and debate in the chamber. Therefore being guaranteed a speech, after being voted to represent our region, was an honour. It is an experience I will never forget, and I am pleased to have been fortunate enough to have been granted this opportunity.

Natasha Browne



New Bursar

The School has appointed a new Bursar. Richard Bate joins us after a successful career in a variety of commercial and industrial roles, both national and international. He will replace Christopher Warren who retires this term.



Visit our Facebook page to see photographs of the new racing canoe and flight simulator the PA has given the School. (25 September)



Tom Foxall, a recent Old Boy, will be on University Challenge next Monday night at 8:00 pm on BBC2 as Captain of Pembroke College, Cambridge. (27 September)



Speeches

This term saw our annual Lower and Middle School Speeches and we were pleased to welcome Professor Hugh Montgomery who spoke to a packed Bushell Hall and awarded the prizes to the students. Professor Montgomery is the Director of the UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance, but is also a celebrated polymath. Among his numerous achievements, he is an ultra marathon runner, a published children's author, he has climbed Everest and he holds the world record for underwater piano playing!



The English Society

This term the English Society welcomed two speakers to the School. Dr Stephen Purcell from the University of Warwick spoke to Sixth Form English Literature students about Tragedy, focusing on Sophocles' *Antigone* and Shakespeare's *King Lear*. We also welcomed the poet Caroline Bird. Caroline is a strong role model for our aspiring writers and literary scholars because she studied English Literature at Oxford University and her first collection *Looking Through Letterboxes* was published when she was only 15. Caroline was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize for Writing in 2008 and 2010 and was the youngest writer on the list both times. Caroline performed her work and led us all in a stimulating poetry workshop which produced some exciting first drafts. She also welcomed Rebecca Took into her new position as Poet Laureate for Solihull School 2012-13.

Solihull School Poet Laureate

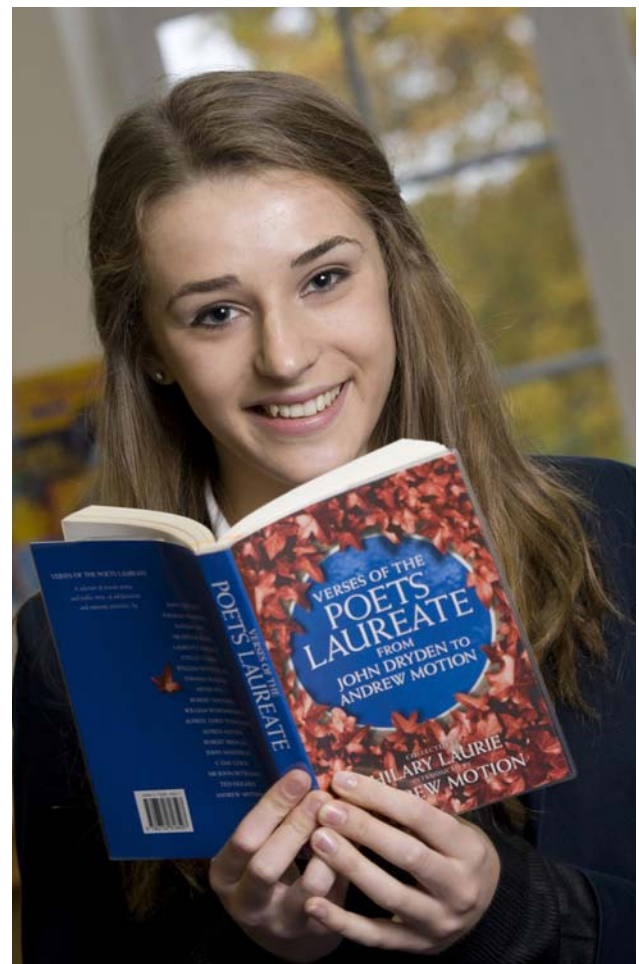
The School has appointed its first ever Poet Laureate. Rebecca Took in the Upper Sixth won the competition with her poem on the School's motto 'Perseverantia'. Rebecca, who is hoping to read English at Oxford University, has already written a poem for the School's Remembrance Service, which she recited in Chapel, and is composing another work for Christmas.

She also mentored Lower School pupils who wrote poems on a theme of kindness and respect as their contribution to National Anti-Bullying Week.

She found her inspiration after attending an Arvon Foundation creative writing course in Devon where she was tutored by Caroline Bird.

The appointment of a Poet Laureate was the brainchild of Miss Pike, who hosts pupils on Arvon courses and was runner-up in last year's competition to name a Poet Laureate for Warwickshire.

She said: 'As countries and counties appoint Poet Laureates, I had the idea of encouraging a love of poetry across the School by holding a competition of our own. All the entries were impressive, but Rebecca's was outstanding'.



Oliver Walker, School Choir Master, has won 'Young Hero' in this year's Solihull Civic Awards for his (musical) services to the community. (29 September)



In rugby, Solihull Old Boys beat Warwick yesterday 34-10 to win the Claude Coton Cup. Mrs Dora Coton presented the cup to captain Simon Bright. (30 September)



Remembrance 2012

The School took a break from tradition this year when the retiring Bursar laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service. Christopher Warren, a former Colonel in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, leaves the School at the end of the Christmas term after nine years.

Traditionally a former pupil now in the Armed Forces after starting their training in the School's Combined Cadet Force, is invited to lay a wreath at the annual parade and service.

All 1000 pupils along with Governors, teachers and Members of the Old Silhillians' Association paid their respects in front of the War Memorial.

During his time at Solihull School, Christopher Warren has been a driving force behind the development of outstanding new facilities including the David Turnbull Music School, the Denis Tomlin Archive Room and the George Hill Building.



Leonard Stevens Building Opening

Fred Stevens officially opened the Leonard Stevens Building in September in memory of his father. We are very grateful to Fred and his family.



Canoe team

The School's canoe team has a new kayak, purchased using a grant from the Parents' Association. It can regularly be seen on the local canals in training for this year's Devizes to Westminster Race.



New Head of Transition

Miss Smith has been appointed as Head of Transition. She will play a key role in supporting pupils as they make the move from primary to secondary education.



Skiing: The School U19 girls' team finished second at the ESSKIA English Final in Norwich today behind Reed School. (9 October)



The netball 1st VII came 2nd in the Solihull Borough Competition, qualifying for the West Midlands Competition. The 2nd VII lost to our 1st VII in the semis! (11 October)



Christmas Term Drama

Lower School Productions:

For two nights members of the Lower School performed *Homer's Odyssey* adapted by David Calcutt. The production was well attended and involved 46 pupils from the Third, Shell and Fourth Forms. The pupils worked together effectively and showed great commitment. Cerys Stansfield was outstanding in the central role of Noman (Odysseus). Dr Jukes provided excellent lighting and Mr Cureton excellent live music. Mrs Wilde directed.

Senior School Play:

Sixth Form students performed Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Ash Girl* over three nights in November. There were several excellent performances including that of Lauren Buchan as the Ash Girl, Sally Farrant and Lucy Rosier as her sisters, Nicola Cronin as the Mother and Emily Hodge and Oscar Street as the Fairy and Sadness. Several Third and Shell Form pupils were involved, playing spiders and mice. Excellent technical and backstage support was provided by pupils from the Middle School and the Sixth Form guided by Dr Jukes as Production Manager and Mr Hadley as Technical Manager. Mrs Thomas and Mrs Marks led a team of Sixth Formers who created superb makeup designs and the costume design by Dr Partridge was equally outstanding. Mrs Wilde directed.



Exchange Visit of Solihull School to Colegio Oleza (Orihuela, Alicante)

On Sunday 21st October 2012, seventeen Middle School students, accompanied by Mr P E Morgan and Mrs E Cassano, travelled to the town of Orihuela in the Spanish province of Alicante in order to visit the Spanish exchange partners with whom they had spent such a wonderful week in Solihull in March 2012. It was an incredible trip, with some memorable days out. There was the ascent of Cruz de la Muela, the mountain that at over 600m towers over Orihuela. The views from the summit were breathtaking, taking in the surrounding towns and landscape and extending as far as the Mediterranean. Also, there was an historical walking tour of Orihuela, a day at the beach, time spent at the school, and opportunities to play football against our Spanish hosts.

Although we were sad to say goodbye to our friends from Orihuela, we did so in the knowledge that everyone concerned had learnt a great deal about the language and culture of Spain during a fascinating week and that moreover, bonds of friendship had been strengthened during the course of an unforgettable seven days in Spain.



Das Alles ist Deutschland

At the beginning of this half term, the German Department was proud to launch the third edition of its German Magazine, *Das Alles ist Deutschland*. Under the joint editorship of Frau Cramb, Isaac Webber and James Green, and featuring a raft of articles from students throughout the School, this latest publication has been rated the best yet.

This is partly due to the new, professional print and ten pages of external articles: it is obvious that there has been a remarkable improvement since the last edition. The leading article of this issue is a four page piece very generously donated by the German chef, Alfons Schuhbeck, in which he details (in German, of course) his recipe for *Schweinefillet mit Apfelbaumkraut*.



Our Chapel was packed tonight for The All Age Clown Service. You'll find a photo album on our Facebook page. (14 October)



Natasha Browne has been selected as Debate Lead for the West Midlands in the House of Commons on 23 November, to be televised on several channels. (15 October)



Ross's Charity Work

Climbing Kilimanjaro to raise money for Diabetes UK has allowed me to get involved with their charity. As part of this, I was invited to speak to MPs, diabetologists, young children with diabetes and their parents in the House of Commons. The purpose was to launch a new campaign to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of diabetes in young children. It gave me a great opportunity to speak about my own experiences and how with the right mindset, diabetes can be managed and doesn't have to stop you from doing anything you set your mind to.

Ross Edwards, Head of School

Schools' Challenge

On Wednesday 14th November, two teams of pupils headed towards the annual Schools' Challenge competition at King Edward's School, hoping to regain some honour from last year's crushing defeat. The A-team consisted of Sam Foxall, Richard Bradley, Oliver Daniels and Josh Samuels, and the B-team was Simon Turpin, Casey Davison, Ethan Smallwood and Chris Fowler, with subs David Herriotts and Angus Young. Unfortunately the B-team did not fare too well. After a scandal involving the King Edward's Stratford team which resulted in their disqualification, the B-team played against Shrewsbury and was knocked out after a hard fought match, leaving them out of the whole competition.

The A-team marched on, being picked to play King Edward's School in the semi-finals. Sadly, the opposition team was simply stronger and took a convincing win against the Solihull team, knocking them into the 3rd place final. Even though morale was low, the team managed to rouse its spirits in the final game, and make one final win against King Edward's High School, to ensure a pleasing 3rd place finish for Solihull but not allowing them to progress into the next regional round. I would like to thank Mrs Sykes and Mrs Johnson for all their help coaching and acting as quizmasters during the competition and to Mr Garner for driving a minibus full of loud quizzers to the competition.

Sam Foxall



The Sick Children's Trust



On 28th October Mr Babb completed the Great South Run – the world's largest 10 mile running event – in Southsea, Portsmouth. He finished 3540th out of some 25,000 runners in a time of 1 hour 22 minutes and 35 seconds. Through the generous sponsorship of family, friends and colleagues at Solihull School he raised over £650 for The Sick Children's Trust, in memory of his four-year-old goddaughter, Olivia, who died in February this year following a tragic accident. Mr Babb completed the run with Olivia's father, Graham, who was supported and accommodated by The Sick Children's Trust during Olivia's final days in hospital. <http://www.sickchildrenstrust.org/>



November!

No, not a typographical mistake, but a global campaign to raise awareness of male health issues and raise funds to support Imperial Cancer Research and Prostate Cancer UK. This year for the first time, eighteen male staff decided to grow moustaches in aid of this worthy campaign. Different styles of moustaches have been grown, and it has injected a sense of fun in the staff room, as it has been difficult to take some colleagues seriously with their facial topiary. To date we have tipped the £1000 mark, and hope to raise even more with the 'Great Shave Off' on Friday 30th November.



The Junior School Cross-Country A-Team won the South Solihull Schools Relay Competition tonight, beating almost 40 teams in the process. (15 October)



22 cadets & 3 officers commemorated Remembrance at the War Memorial in Solihull on Sunday. The cadets performed admirably on this important occasion. (12 November)



Junior School Charity Week

During the week before half term, the Junior School became a hive of activity as the annual Charity Week fund-raising machine rolled into action. Having debated and deliberated, the Junior School council decided upon two charities to support. These were Winston's Wish, a childhood bereavement charity, and JDRF (*Junior Diabetes Research Foundation*).

Throughout the week the children took part and supported a variety of events, including the Staff v. Monitors football match, the Classroom Copper Chaos, the Junior School Talent Show and, of course, the Great Big Junior School Tuck Shop that took place in the Refectory. This year, the enthusiasm and teamwork of the children meant that records were broken and the final total raised was a magnificent £4037. Well done to everyone within the Junior School and thank-you to all the pupils and staff within Solihull School who supported the Junior School and donated during the week; your support was very much appreciated.

Mr S. Mitchell



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Junior School over half term were busy filling shoeboxes with toys, games, stationery and hygiene items in aid of Operation Christmas Child, a charity that sends out Christmas shoeboxes to children from impoverished backgrounds all over the world. Each child that completed a shoebox chose whether they would send a box to a boy or a girl and the age range they thought their shoebox was suitable for. The final count of the shoeboxes was a staggering 167! A great effort by all members of the Junior School. We even managed to get our photo on a huge shoebox mosaic which can be found here: <http://www.zumyn.com/zumyn/1340907339/>



Learning about the Roman Testudo Formation

Pupils in the Junior School went back in time to become Roman legionaries. They were given instructions in Latin, no less, and formed all of the Roman manoeuvres brilliantly.



The Girls' U12 Hockey team won their Hockey Tournament on Saturday beating King's High Warwick in the final 1-0. (12 November)



Congratulations to the Junior School Swimming Squad who beat Warwick Junior School tonight with a fantastic team performance. (12 November)

Roald Dahl Day

This term the Junior School celebrated Roald Dahl Day in many scumdidlyumptious ways. There was talking backwards like Esio Trot, writing our own revolting rhymes, making up Oompa Loompa dances, inventing sweets for Willy Wonka, and bug hunting insects from James and the Giant Peach. Also, we held a Roald Dahl Reading Relay and a special edition General Knowledge Quiz, involving every year group. We had lots of fun!



Winner Of Junior School Anti-Bullying Week Poetry Competition

Hopeless

They were there, they were coming for me,
Always there, always coming for me,
I was left alone in a dark room,
Taunted.
Harassed.
Unsure.
Frightened.
And hopeless.

Day after day it was the same routine,
But they never grew weary at the sound of screams.
Kicked me.
Punched me.
Verbally confronted me.
But never the occasional speck of kindness anywhere,
It was all hopeless.

Nowhere to hide, nowhere to go,
No one to help me, not that I knew.
The quieter I got, the more suspicion grew,
People questioned me,
Begged me to tell them my problem,
But I was silent.
Why?
I'm older now,
But they're still there,
Still coming for me,
And I'm still left hopeless.

By Jyotsana Dasoondi, J3H

Summary of Junior School Sport - Christmas Term

It has been a busy Christmas term for Junior School Sport. Our mixed swimming team powered to victory over a very strong Warwick School team in a highly competitive gala. We have also seen our elite Junior School swimmers train with the Senior School squad and compete with them in the Warwick 50s. Charlotte Rigg (J4), Fraser Blackhurst (J4) and Ben Smith (J3) swam brilliantly - all coming in the top 3 in their races. Fraser and Ben were also part of the U12 Medley Relay winning team.

A combination of boys and girls from J3 and J4 gave everything to win the Solihull Cross Country Borough Championships, held at the Old Silhillians, beating over 40 other teams in doing so. Our U11 Girls' netball team has had encouraging wins against Balsall Common and Sharman's Cross, with more excitement to come in the New Year.

The U11A football team bounced back from a 3-1 loss against Hallfield to win the return leg 3-2 and the U11B team have impressed hugely with an unbeaten record to date.

Our U10 rugby team put on a tremendous performance to come out victorious against Bablake 7-3 having lost narrowly to The Grange 6-4. Meanwhile our U9 rugby team produced an impressive display to win comfortably against Bablake, whilst the U8 tag rugby team look to go unbeaten after their last minute 7-7 draw away to Bablake.

Thanks to parents and staff for their continued support.

Junior School Anti-Bullying Week

The Junior School embraced Anti-Bullying Week with lots of activities aimed to raise awareness of the consequences of unkind behaviour. Children filled our special box full of kindness nominations, with William Sargent, J3, and Jem Perry, J1, both being awarded our 'Kindest Child in School' Award. Jyotsana Dasoondi was the proud winner of our poetry competition, and Lydia Stevens and Yusuf Skinner created the best anti-bullying posters. As always, our super mentors were on hand to help all week!



Congratulations to Jamie Turpin in the Lower Sixth, who won second place in the Open Section of the Birmingham Anglo-French Society Schools' Branch French Speaking Competition at Birmingham University. (14 November)



Choral Spectacular!

17th November saw the first meeting of the Solihull School Former Choristers' Association, with 80 former Choristers, Organ Scholars, Organists and Choirmasters, Chaplains, Headmasters and supporters joining together for an epic day of singing, celebrating and reflecting on the School's unique choral tradition. As well as lunch and tea, the day featured two main events in the Chapel. The unforgettably loud Choral Evensong, sung by current and former choristers, was conducted by world-famous choral conductor Simon Halsey, and accompanied on the organ by an array of former Organ Scholars. We were delighted that our most 'former' Chorister, Bishop David Tustin (1944-1955), was able to lead this service.

The day concluded with the current Chapel Choirs performing a very moving Requiem by Old Silhillian David Briggs, with the composer playing the organ alongside a small orchestra. A most impressive day!

Too hot to Handel!

On 8th November the Chamber Choir had the rare opportunity of teaming up with Armonico Consort's team of world-class opera singers in a performance of *Too hot to Handel* - a modern mix and interpretation of movements from some of Handel's most popular operas and Oratorios. The production, which received five stars in the Birmingham Post, displayed the Choir's versatility by featuring a flash-mob *Hallelujah Chorus*, a surprise movement sung during the interval and a final chorus on the stage. For some this was a fabulous introduction to opera, and a very entertaining evening was had by all involved.

Musical Success

Congratulations to pianist Max Dormon, who won the Sheila Gaskell trophy for the performer with the most potential in classes Grades 4-7 at this year's Solihull Festival in September. Max was thrilled!

Girls' Choir visit to Old Sils' lunch

On 17th October the Girls' Choir section of the Chapel Choir, comprising girls from J4 up to the Fourth Form, went to sing at the Old Sils' Over 60's annual lunch. There were approximately 100 Old Boys gathered at the Silhillians Club, many now into their 90's, and our girls entertained them prior to their lunch. It transpired that some of the members present were themselves in the Chapel Choir in their school days. We sang several items from our recent repertoire; Rutter's 'All things bright and beautiful', an anthem by Grayston Ives (known to many as Bill Ives from the King's Singers), and our own Miss Davies's composition 'The Aviemore Setting' of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. In addition, Charlotte Sasse gave a beautiful violin rendition of 'Remembrances' from *Schindler's List* by John Williams. Everything was expertly accompanied by Mr. Perrins (once we'd found out how to get the keyboard to work!) Apparently it was the highlight of the Old Sils' day and we were delighted to be able to sing for them and demonstrate what the current Chapel Choir has to offer.

Saint Cecilia Concert Goes with a Bang!

On 15 November over one hundred musicians entertained a full Bushell Hall for the annual Saint Cecilia Concert. In a varied programme parents, friends and pupils were treated to the theme from *The Simpsons*, Britten's *Simple Symphony*, *Singin' in the Rain*, The Beatles, *Shrek* and 'Mars' from Holst's *The Planets*, courtesy of the Wind Bands, Guitar Group, String Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and many others. There were some excellent solos provided by Aviva Sandler, Eloise Burchell, Dominic Martens and Abigail Smith, between them representing all sections of the School.

As well as the musicians, the stage crew did a brilliant job ensuring things flowed smoothly and Dr Jukes came up trumps with his stunning visual images and pyrotechnical wizardry, ensuring the Jazz Singers' performance of *Les Misérables* ended the first half with a bang!

Informal Concert

On October 17th an Informal Concert took place in the David Turnbull Music School.

Thirty- seven pupils representing both Junior and Senior Schools performed solo instrumental and vocal pieces to a large and enthusiastic audience.

A wide variety of repertoire was played and sung.

The evening concluded with a virtuoso performance from cellist Dominic Martens which was, hopefully, an inspiration to everyone to keep practising!





LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) has been nominated as 'Human Rights Organisation of the Year' by Air Europa. (26 November)

Summer Concert

As part of this year's Remembrance events, the Senior Choir gave a performance of Karl Jenkins's 'The Peacemakers' in November. This is a brand new work by the award-winning composer which the Senior Choir performed to great emotional effect, accompanied by members of the School's Symphony Orchestra.

The Choir and Orchestra were joined by a Semi-Chorus made up of girls from the Lower School, who did a wonderful job singing descants over the older voices. Julie Whiting also gave a very impressive solo performance.

The evening was a powerful evocation of the importance of 'peace', made even more poignant by the images created by Dr Jukes.

New Carol for Christmas!

This year's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will feature the premiere of a new carol composed by Mr Phillips, with lyrics by Miss Pike.

Nativity Song has been written for treble / soprano and alto voices. The carol will be sung in the School Chapel by the Girls' Choir on the evening of Sunday, December 9 and the Boys' Choir on Monday, December 10.

Miss Pike said: 'This is my first attempt at writing the lyrics for a song or carol. I chose to tell the Nativity story, beginning with Mary and Joseph's weary journey to Bethlehem and culminating in the angels proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth. Mr Phillips has worked tirelessly on the composition, creating a very beautiful piece of music that I feel proud to be associated with'.



The Saxophones!

It has been a busy term for Saxophony from day one as they performed a rousing 'Rule Britannia' in the first assembly of the year. Work then began on music for the St Cecilia Concert. The newly-formed Senior Saxophone Quartet is taking their first Ensemble Exam shortly which they believe is a first for the School! They played at the recent Lichfield Festival where they achieved a Distinction and highly acclaimed medals. More rehearsals are underway in preparation for the Christmas Fayre, Solihull Sings! and the Christmas Festivities outside John Lewis. Let's hope that they can sell some more CDs on the strength of their performances!



History and Politics USA trip

In the half term holidays a group of Sixth Form students ventured across the Atlantic to visit Washington and New York in the run up to the American elections. We began the trip by exploring the various landmarks of Washington such as the White House, Lincoln Memorial and the incredible Smithsonian Museum. A short coach ride later and we arrived in Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell and the famous Philly Cheese Steak. After a day in Philadelphia we journeyed to the Big Apple, New York, to marvel at the magnificent buildings such as the Empire State, Grand Central Station and Plaza Hotel. We also managed a spot of shopping on the spectacular Fifth Avenue where shops such as the 'NBA Store' were raided. We absorbed many historical sites such as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island plus the tragic World Trade Centre site, now dubbed Ground Zero. Overall the trip was fantastic and full of educational value and we would like to thank Dr Johnson, Mr Affleck and Miss Smith for their time and effort.

Remembrance 2012

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The evening was a powerful evocation of the importance of 'peace', made even more poignant by the images created by Dr Jukes.



Charity: We done to everyone at School. So far this academic year you have raised £8530. (30 November)

Christmas Term 'Teams of the Week'

Saxophony

Excellent performance in Senior School Assembly

U19 Girls' Ski Team

1st in the ESSKIA Regional Finals

CCF Skills at Arms Team

Perseverance and skill in the Schools' CCF Cup

Girls' 1st XI Hockey Team

Superb victory v The King's High School Warwick

U14 Rugby Team

Excellent victory v Bromsgrove School

Cast & Crew of Homer's Odyssey

Two marvellous performances in the Bushell Hall

U12 Girls' Hockey 7-A-Side

Excellent performance in winning Solihull Tournament

Debating Team

Brilliant performance in Birmingham University Debating Competition

Orihuela Exchange

Fabulous ambassadors for Solihull School

The Chapel Choir

Outstanding performance at the inaugural meeting of the Former Choristers' Association

Cast & Crew of The Ash Girl

Three Excellent performances in the Bushell Hall

Movember Men

Wonderful fun and superb fundraising - £1500 and counting!

The Chapel Choir

Two tremendous services of Nine Lessons and Carols



Rugby Report

The season thus far has been successful against a very much strengthened fixture card. The U18 and U15s both reached round 5 of the Daily Mail National Cup, both losing extremely close encounters. A number of students have also gained representative honours either for the Borough or County. Notable team results have been those of the 2nd XV and the U14, both of whom have only lost two matches. Junior School rugby is thriving with fixtures at all age groups.

Skiing Success

Both the boys' and girls' teams reached the ESSKIA English final this term. The U19 girls finished second behind Reeds school. The girls went on to represent England again at the British Final, an absolutely amazing result considering we have lost Libby Thomas and Hannah Shakeshaft to injury. The U16 boys' team (all in the Fourth Form) had a great set of second runs and showed much promise. Tom Lawrence (individually) finished 6th out of 31 boys covering all ages.

Swimming Report

This term, the swimming team has had success in three galas at all ages against some very strong Schools including Warwick and Nottingham.



Hockey Success

The U12 girls celebrating victory in the Solihull Area Tournament.

Follow Solihull School on twitter: @solsch1560.

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