

Kirkham Grammar School

H e a d m a s t e r ' s L e t t e r t o P a r e n t s

Spring 2005



From the Headmaster



This publication represents the first issue of our bi-annual newsletter. I foresee my half-termly communications representing the business matters of the school and ensuring parents are kept informed of changes and developments on a regular and frequent basis. Our Newsletter will present a far more visual and pupil-orientated document. Such is the breadth and variety of activity at school that the sheer volume of material to produce each term has led us to what, I hope will prove to be an informative compromise.

The winter of 2004/5 has been a most eventful one with the opening of our New Science Centre (photo right). This excellent new facility was opened to the children in November and has already proved a venue where science can be taught in a most exciting and stimulating environment. The inter-active whiteboards and portable computer facilities provide a technologically advanced classroom but equally the laboratories are designed to be used heavily for practical work. It has been pleasing to see evidence already of this aspiration in practice and I look forward to our pupils enjoying their scientific studies in this new environment over the coming years. The Governors are now committed to the further development of our classroom facilities and the planning for Phase 2 will soon be underway.

In the annual round of published performance league tables one becomes somewhat bemused by the varied criteria used to classify schools. None of these tables accurately record the quality of a school and even further the information used to create them is often flawed by the fact that pupils take exams outside their particular age group. Such distortions do make it difficult to determine what the position is on an annual basis. I am pleased to record that this year our A2 results were the best ever recorded by the school. (Photo right second down features two of our pupils, Katie Mellor who successfully gained entry to Leeds to read Medicine and James Anderson who secured a place at Manchester to also read Medicine.) Over half the grades were at A or B level and this represented a rise of 5% from last year. This achievement reflects so well on the year group as a whole and we wish them all well as they settle into their University courses. We now look to our current Upper Sixth to ensure they fulfil their potential in the summer modules. The recent news that no less than six of the year group have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge Colleges certainly augurs well. Congratulations must go to Leanne Bonney, Vicky Biggs, Kate Denham, Jamie Hill, Anna Li and Lucy Martin (photo right) on their achievement.

At GCSE our 5th formers performed well,

bettering results last year and we now look to them to ensure the transition to A level is a successful one and to make the most of their opportunities in every way. (Joanne Box photo top right achieved no less than ten A* passes in all her subjects and has scored marks in the top five in the country in French) Life in the Sixth Form has changed greatly with the onset of regular modular exams but I am still convinced that the opportunity to experience a wide range of activity and responsibility is a vital one. Certainly our prefect body continues to do a marvellous job and I must formally recognise the work of Lucy Martin and Nick Long and their team of Senior Prefects for their work on behalf of the school.

The variety of activity over the last term has continued unabated with particular highlights lasting in the memory. The performance of Twelfth Night at the Charter Theatre in Preston was an uplifting and hilarious production and I know the Christmas Concert and Carol Service was enjoyed by all who could be there. It has once again been so pleasing to meet so many parents on the touchline as our sports teams have done battle regularly in their Saturday fixtures. I continue to be thrilled by the enthusiasm of the youngsters to become involved, be it hockey, netball, rugby or swimming. Their commitment, with your support, is so important in the life of the school and will, of course, benefit them so much in the broader experiences gained.

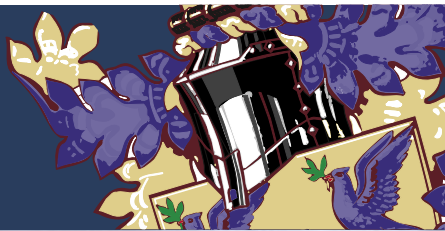
It is good to see new clubs starting in school also, with the Japanese Club underway and 'Young Engineers' going from strength to strength. Enrichment in these varied areas is an avenue we remain very keen to broaden and to make the utmost of the experiences and enthusiasms of both staff and pupils.

Later in the Newsletter there are opportunities for a much more detailed review of our pupils' activities in all their varied forms.

As our spring term is well underway we look forward to a further sequence of events; "Macbeth" in February; "Spring Concert" in March and an array of sporting competitions in the build up to Easter. In addition, I shall be sending all parents a copy of our Inspection Report Summary when it is forwarded to us. Thus the forthcoming weeks will remain as busy as ever and I will hopefully meet many of you at one of our functions or activities.



newBUILD



I am pleased to announce that our Phase I Science Facility Development is now complete and many of our students are enjoying the new technology available to them.

The Official Opening was held on Thursday 3 February 2005 and a plaque commemorating the occasion was unveiled by the Master Draper, Mr Martin Sankey (picture right). It is proposed that the facility will be open on forthcoming Parent Evenings, so please take the opportunity to look around during your visit to school.

The development of our school continues and plans will shortly be underway to secure funding for the Phase II Project, which will see a further two new laboratories and classrooms together with additional cloakroom facilities.

Once again may I convey our thanks for your generosity in helping to provide these much needed facilities for our students and as ever, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Christine Nicholson
Development & Facilities Manager





FRIENDS

The Friends have brought music to the ears of Peter Lockett, the Head of Music at the Junior School. Mr Lockett received his gift of a Piano from the Friends over the Christmas break and is quoted as saying "It's a pleasure to play". The £3,000 piano will feature in a special Celebrity Concert being organised by Mr Lockett.

Earlier in the Autumn term, the Headmaster received the keys to a brand new 17 –seater minibus donated by the Friends (picture above). The minibus is on a 5 year lease costing the Friends £6,000 a year.

The Friends are able to spend these large amounts because of the hard work put in by its members. During this school year the Winter Ball raised over £5,000 and the Christmas Fair (pictures below) around £3,000. These large sums are attained by the 'DIY' approach when it comes to organising these events. Wherever we can save money by

doing it ourselves, we do, and the school benefits even more, but it does take time and any help is always greatly appreciated. My thanks to everyone who has helped at these worthwhile events.

Looking to the future, the Friends will be holding a Family Fun Day on Sunday 22 May and our prestigious Summer Ball on the front lawn at the school on Saturday 25 June. We ask you for your support at these events and would encourage you to book sooner rather than later for the Ball to avoid disappointment, as it is always a sell-out.

Robert Dunn,
Chairman of the Friends.

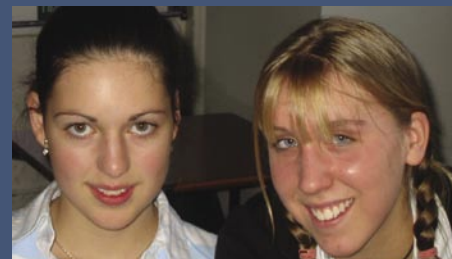


Chairman of Governors



Simon Fulford-Brown

Simon Fulford-Brown was appointed Chairman of Governors in November 2004 after joining the Governing Body six years ago. Although originally from this area Simon spent twenty five years based in London and America working in the shipping industry. For the last ten years of this time was Chief Executive of an International Cruise Line. Simon and his family have been back in the Fylde since 1993. His business interests now are primarily involved with Commercial Property Investment. Simon has three children at Kirkham Grammar School at varying stages of their education. For a number of years Simon and his wife have been active Committee members of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar. Over the past two years he has chaired the Design Project Committee responsible for the New Science Centre and now as Chairman he remains committed to moving the school forward in all aspects.



THE DEBATING TEAM

The Kirkham Grammar School Debating Society A-Team saw action at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School on Wednesday 20 October in the Daniel Nelstrop Debating Competition. Joanne Forrest and Joanne Box, in competition against teams from Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, St Augustine's and Arnold, opposed the Motion, "This House Would Return to Rationing Food".

The debates were spirited and standards were high, particularly in the clash between the Kirkham Grammar School team and Arnold, where two articulate and sharp-witted teams waged a well-mannered yet intense campaign.

At the end of the evening, the two Joannes were deservedly adjudged the winning team of the four, and progress to the next, Regional round, where we wish them continued success.

STAFF

The new school year has as always seen a number of staff changes and we have welcomed five new members of staff to the school. We hope they have all settled in quickly and that they enjoy their work with us.

Mr David Carter has joined the Mathematics Department having previously been Head of Mathematics at Christ The King RC High School. Mr Carter has already busied himself in assisting the U12B XV rugby and we look forward to his prowess in his favourite sport, cricket.

Miss Siobhan Currie has joined the English Department on a part-time basis and has also involved herself in teaching Junior School French. Sadly family reasons will see Miss Currie depart for Scotland after Easter.

After the departure of Mrs Tabb last summer as Head of Girls PE we welcome Miss Katie Glover as her replacement. Miss Glover takes on the leadership of girls' sport having recently captained Lancaster Hockey Club and coached the Lancashire U18 XI. She is keen also to introduce dance to the PE curriculum, which will be an exciting new opportunity for the girls.

In the world of Biology, Miss Bryony Cummings takes up the unenviable task of replacing Colonel Sayer's teaching responsibilities. Certainly the pupils are likely to see a change in style I suspect.

Finally, Miss Johnson has now joined the permanent staff of the Modern Languages Department after undertaking long term supply with us last year. She will be well known to many of the pupils already.

We currently also have two staff away on maternity leave, Mrs John and Mrs Sutcliffe. I am delighted to announce that Mrs John has a baby girl, Holly (picture right) and Mrs Sutcliffe a baby boy, James. We send our congratulations to both families and look forward to seeing the next generation of Kirkhamians.

On the support staff we also welcome Mr Tim McDonnell who joins as I.C.T. Technician to assist our Network Manager, Miss Janet Knight. The number of computers in school is rising all the time and the task of updating and troubleshooting these vital facilities, becomes ever more time consuming.

Parents will be aware that Mr John Wood (pictured right) will leave us having been appointed Headmaster of The Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth from September 2005. Mr Wood has made a tremendous contribution to Kirkham Grammar School over the seven years he has been with us and has been responsible for so many of the beneficial changes that have occurred during that time. We are currently interviewing for Mr Wood's successor and there is no doubt he will be a hard act to follow. There will be ample opportunity at the end of the Summer Term to reflect our gratitude, but both John and his wife, Johanne deserve sincere congratulations on the appointment.



Speech Night

This year we welcomed Professor Cary Cooper, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University to present our prizes at Speech Day. The occasion took place at the Guild Hall once again and was well attended. The audience enjoyed entertainment from the choir and orchestra before the distribution of the prizes to pupils. Professor Cooper gave an amusing and appropriate address outlining the links between school and the workplace. Everyone in the audience, both pupils, parents and teaching staff were both entertained and enlightened by the Professor's lively exposition. (Photo right: Nick Long and Lucy Martin, School Captains)





MUSIC

The end of the Autumn term always places a heavy burden upon the musicians in a school but yet again the musicians of KGS rose to the challenges presented and acquitted themselves admirably. The sheer variety of music performed bears testimony to the wealth of musical talent across the school.

Two of our trumpeters were invited to take part in Remembrance Day Services in local Parish Churches, playing the Reveille and Last Post as part of the services. Nich Long (photo left), who also played at the school Remembrance Service, played at Kirkham whilst Thomas Bennett (photo right) played at Wrea Green. Thomas, who completed his Final (Grade 8) trumpet examination in summer of 2004, is to be further congratulated on gaining a place in the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. He gained his place after exacting auditions that were held at the Royal Northern College of Music. The Orchestra takes members from 15 -21 years old, making Thomas one of the youngest members. He joins a long list of present and former pupils of Kirkham Grammar School who have been involved with Orchestras and Bands at county and national level.

The 5th Form GCSE students presented an excellent Coffee Concert at the end of November, to the delight of the visiting Inspectors. A range of ensemble performances interspersed with solo items amply demonstrated the talent of this particular group of musicians. The Christmas Concert, held in the MPH on Thursday 9th December saw us move from 'Autumn into Christmas' with ensemble items from the various instrumental groups of the school, including the much-enlarged Concert Band. In the second half of the Concert the Choirs entertained, with the large audience joining in enthusiastically with the 'Birthday Carol', 'The Twelve days of Christmas' and carols with orchestra. Seasonal readings and solo musical items completed the programme.

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held on the last afternoon of the term at St. Michael's Church, Kirkham, gave the chance for both the Choir and the Lower School Choir to shine. Congratulations must go to the three soloists, Grace Garlington, Kara Williams and Caitlin McMillan. Caitlin deserves particular mention for taking over on the day of the service from Charlotte Jackson, who was ill.



Our new Flight Sergeant and senior RAF cadet for the year is Isobel Morley and she, and our other senior cadets, will be quite busy over the forthcoming months in ensuring our junior cadets reach the required standards of appearance and service knowledge. Our next field day just before Easter will involve some RAF cadets flying at RAF Woodvale, some joining Army cadets at nearby Weeton Barracks, and some climbing on nearby crags. A joint overnight Army/RAF exercise is also planned for the night of 16 Mar 05 to be held at Weeton Barracks.

Our summer camp this year will take place late in August at RAF Rheindahlen, Germany and promises to be an interesting and exciting experience.

On the 8th May the school campus will be taken over as the school again plays host for West Lancashire ATC Wing Training Day. Activities will include a Drill Competition, Recruiting Displays, Shooting Competition, Diorama Displays etc.

RAFsection



forward planning with the meals – or you had no lunch the next day or curry for breakfast!

Realising that the weather had been rather difficult, the directing staff allowed the cadets a choice of continuing with the 'basher-building' and sleeping out, or they could 'opt out' and kip in the covered barn – after a nice warm shower. A brave body of about 12 decided to tough it and deserve credit for trying to sleep in atrocious conditions. Even Sqn Ldr Callister woke up in a stream.

By the next morning it had stopped raining! This gave enough time to set up the activities for the day for the rest of the Contingent. By 10.30 am, (late because of another logistical problem), the various exercises began. The 4th year had a variety of initiative exercises; an assault course; weapon handling and an orienteering course. The 5th form had several activities designed to transport water over distances, by different means and usually causing the cadets to get thoroughly soaked! The second year cadets also undertook a more difficult assault course and some more military training.

NCOs and officers/civilian staff oversaw all these activities and their help and assistance is much appreciated and essential for the success of the day. The Brigadier was shown around by the CSMs after a very good brief from CSM Hatch. He was genuinely impressed

with what he saw and particularly with the attitude and enthusiasm of the cadets. Although not planned, the 'casevac' by helicopter was an added interest to all. Unfortunately a cadet slipped on the assault course and a broken leg was suspected. With difficult access at Waddecar, the air ambulance was already in the air and we were treated to an actual casualty evacuation by helicopter. The good news was that the ankle was not broken and only badly sprained.

The day proved very successful and all cadets and NCOs performed with true KGS energy and spirit, despite the monsoon conditions. Even the hardy cadets who survived the night exercise were still smiling, although a little jaded.

An extract from the Brigadier's thank you letter seems to sum up the day.....

'Despite the appalling weather the night before and during the day, it was abundantly clear that everyone was having an excellent time and the cadets were gaining a great deal from the experience'

Lt Col I.M.Scott
Contingent Commander

Potential Officers visit RMAS.

At the beginning of November, three fifth year students were invited by the School's Army Liaison Officer to visit the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Jenny Swain, Amy Shirliff and Jonathan Knowles, have all shown interest in a service career and hope for a post graduate commission. All three of them were very fortunate to be selected and spent a couple of days at RMAS having a 'taste' of what an officer cadet would be expected to do. (Apparently one Harry Windsor was having a similar visit at the same time!)



In recent years KGS has produced several officers, in both army and RAF, as well as other ranks, indicating the success and popularity of the Cadet movement.

In November Andrew Moncrieff, was awarded a 6th form scholarship from the army, which is a great achievement as very few are granted each year. Andy is hoping for a commission into the Royal Green Jackets, who are currently based at Weeton.

Young ENTERPRISE

The name of this year's Young Enterprise Company, "Shazaam", was voted for by the pupils of Kirkham Grammar School in September. The Lower Sixth team of entrepreneurs began the company year by producing necklaces made out of guitar plectrums, which were on sale at the rock concert in October. These proved to be very popular and were definitely a unique idea. Their first event, the Halloween disco, just before half term, was thoroughly enjoyed by all the first to third year that came and it certainly put the group's organisational skills to the test. At the Christmas Fair the company did face painting, sold handmade cards and gifts as well as running a "Guess The Teacher" competition. Thanks to the staff who provided photos.

Shazaam are at present on a break while they sit their AS modules, but watch out for their Valentines Day products and a possible football competition later this term. All profits from this year's company will be donated to charity (to be decided). We would like to thank our business advisers, Paul Desborough and Robert Dunn, for their continued support.

To School in a Limo!

Bradley Bushell, first year pupil, won the Rock FM Limo to Lessons Competition for himself and six friends to be driven to school. They were greeted by fellow schoolmates, staff and parents.



Again this year we decided to replicate the format of last year, which was very successful and highly enjoyable. Although not a full biennial, formal inspection, we were honoured to have the new Brigade Commander, Brig. J.J. Powe OBE, to review the day's activities.

The weather was not quite as kind to us as in previous years but we soldiered on! As well as the torrential rain all week, (which was bound to make the ground rather soggy) it rained through most of the night – making the 'Survival Ex' aptly named. On departure of the advance group the night before, there was some confusion as to mini-buses and how many cadets and kit can fit into them. This meant our CO had to double shuffle for the last of the overnight groups. Logistic problems will always crop up when nearly 300 cadets' plus directing staff have to be transported any distance.

Once there, Sqn Ldr Callister had devised some devious tasks for the intrepid volunteers for the survival exercises. About 40 cadets opted to take up the challenge to 'live off the land' and set up a bivvy site, whilst signalling in a helicopter and also defusing a nuclear device! As you can imagine the evening was not without surprises. A team of terrorists (NCOs) were tasked to destroy the platoon base and were successful (much to the disgust of Mr Taylor!). All this took place during one of the wettest nights of the month and everyone was a little damp.

Stomachs were rumbling somewhat by late evening/ early morning and the soup, baked potatoes and bread were much appreciated. Our resident chef, Lt Col Scott, had been secretly preparing a welcoming snack. 24 hour operational ration packs also were a bit of a novelty to the junior cadets who realised the importance of

Diary Dates

Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday, 24 February at 7.30 pm

Third Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Monday, 28 February

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
10.00 am, Saturday, 5 March, KGS Astroturf

Kirkham Grammar School U18 Invitation Hockey Tournament
Saturday, 12 March

Founders Day Service
Tuesday, 15 March

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 9 April
St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Fourth Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Thursday, 28 April

60th VE Day Anniversary
10.00 am, Sunday 8 May - TBC

OKA XI v Headmaster's XI Cricket Match
1.30 pm, Sunday 8 May

Senior School Sports Day
1.00-4.00pm, Wednesday, 11 May

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Monday, 16 May

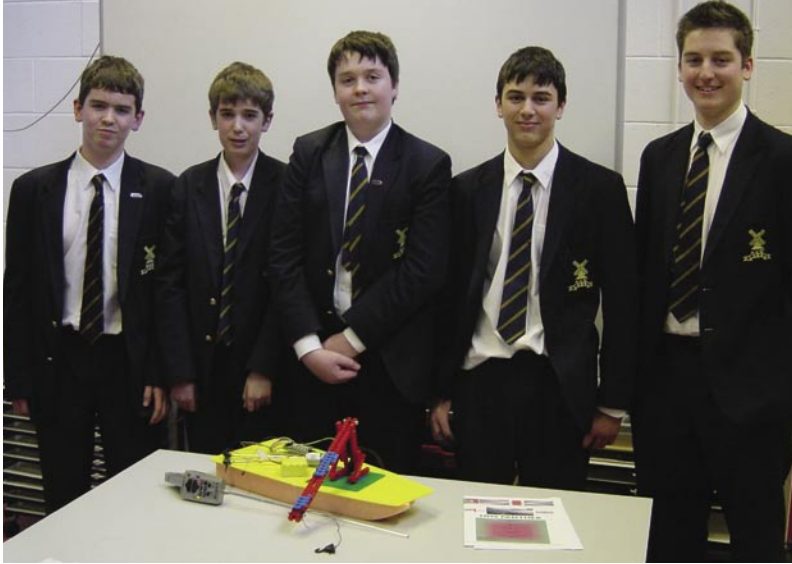
Friends of KGS Family Fun Day
Sunday, 22 May

1st XI MCC at Kirkham Grammar School
Friday, 24 June - TBC

Sixth Form Ball
7.00 pm, Friday, 24 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
6.45 pm, Saturday, 25 June

New Parents' and Pupils' Welcome Evening
7.30 pm, Monday, 4 July



YOUNG ENGINEERS

The Kirkham Grammar School Young Engineers have had another busy term. In September the club was opened up to 1st and 2nd Year pupils and over twenty students from these year groups are busy designing and building their own robotic mice for the 2005 Schools Micromouse Championships to be held in June. The process of building these white-line following robots involves pupils in work with electronics, mechanisms and computer control as well as the production of a website explaining how they designed and built their mouse. The teams are being assisted in the construction of the mice by the joint secretaries of the Young Engineers Club, Joe Douglass and Jamie Panepinto.

The 4th Year Young Engineers are also busy designing and building a radio-controlled model boat for the finals of the Royal Navy Operation Storm challenge to be held at the HMS Sultan naval base in Gosport on Thursday 17 March 2005. The team's boat, HMS Panther, has been designed to manoeuvre around a model harbour and pick up items from the harbour floor using a crane on board the vessel. Pictured (below) is the Operation Storm team with the first components for HMS Panther. The team comprises; Daniel Casson, Peter Armstrong, Oliver Youngman, Jamie Panepinto and Joe Douglass.

The Design & Technology Department is also looking forward to the 2005 Rotary Technology Competition to be held in early March and will be entering a team into each of the three age categories.

BATS IN THE BELFRY? NO... OWLS IN THE LIBRARY!

Visitors to the school on Tuesday, 7 December, would have been forgiven for thinking that the Library had entered a surreal world! The Conservation Officer from the World Owl Trust spent the afternoon in school, talking about the work being done to conserve these wonderful birds of prey, many of whom are endangered. The star of the show was Mia, a long-eared owl, who behaved impeccably throughout in spite of being on show to large numbers of people in a Science lesson, the Staff Room and the Library.

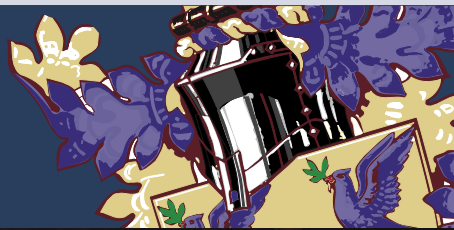
Mrs Copland had suggested the visit initially for Mrs Taylor's Year 7 English pupils, who had been looking at 'ghostly writing' and who had produced some excellent work: owls feature prominently in the genre and this was an unusual way to end an interesting and lively topic.

The audiences learnt about the behaviour and habitat of each species of owl and many pupils were able to take photos of Mia using their mobile phones. She enlivened the proceedings at the end of the day by disembowelling her food, causing many people to feel somewhat ill!

The World Owl Centre is based at Muncaster Castle, in Ravenglass, Cumbria and is open to the public throughout the year.

Mrs C Copland

OLD KIRKHAMIANs' ASSOCIATION



AGM and Northern Dinner 9 October 2004

A mixture of former pupils, staff and invited guests sat down for an evening of sumptuous delights courtesy of the school's catering department. With the last morsel of Key Lime Pie safely digested, the formal proceedings began. Grace was said by Master of Ceremonies, Adrian Long (OKA Committee Member and KGS Director of Studies/Head of Sixth Form), whilst his son, Nick, who is currently Captain of School, presented a speech which paid tribute to the spirit of the school, something which is at the heart of the family feel of KGS.

Keith Cartmell, President of the Old Arnoldians' Association, was invited to speak on behalf of the top table guests, and he amused listeners with anecdotes from the legal profession. Prior to these amusing asides, Mr Cartmell presented our outgoing President, Simon Gardiner (KGS Head of Art/Webmaster), with an Old Arnoldian bow tie - to elaborate, Simon had been both a student and a member of staff at KGS and Arnold School!

The chain of office was then passed to new President, Leon Rathbone, a retired biochemist.

"Young" Old Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion 19 December 2004

An afternoon of staff -v- OKA football again started the Christmas celebrations for recent leavers. The score is a bit uncertain but the staff team (which only contained four members of staff!) are adamant that they won by three goals.

Once recovered from the exertions of the afternoon, the players joined more than a hundred other 21st Century leavers in the cosy atmosphere of the Members' Bar of Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club. The Members' Bar was a privilege afforded to us as a result of our normal venue, The Dooley Suite, being taken over by ballroom dancers!

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 5 March, 10.00 am
Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match

Sunday 8 May 2005 (TBC)
60th Anniversary of VE Day Memorial Celebrations



On Sunday 8 May, the Old Kirkhamian's Association will take part in the national celebrations relating to the 60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe. The intention is to hold a Memorial Service in the Old Hall in the morning, with displays of memorabilia and a buffet lunch to follow. A cricket match will take place during the course of the afternoon.

Saturday 9 April 2005
Southern Reunion Dinner (St Edmund Hall, Oxford)

Saturday 8 October 2005
AGM and Northern Reunion Dinner

Sunday 9 October 2005, 2.30 pm
Old Kirkhamians v Spoon A-As (formerly Anti-Assassins)



After 75 years association with Kirkham Grammar School retired local Bank Manager, Mr Richard Ovington Wilson (pictured above), retired from the Board of Governors at their Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2004. Mr Wilson attended the School from the age of 11 and was School Captain 1934-35. His involvement with the school continued as a parent prior to his joining the Board of Governors over 30 years ago. Watched by Mr Simon Fulford-Brown, the newly elected Chairman of Governors, Mr Peter Hosker retiring Chairman of Governors presented Mr Wilson with a silver Highland Quaich dish, known as the cup of friendship, in recognition of his service to the School. Mr Wilson thanked everyone for the gift and expressed his pleasure in witnessing the continuing improvements and progress, which has been achieved. He sent his best wishes to all concerned, in the knowledge that the future prospects for the school are in safe hands.



Old Kirkhamians Roger Cartwright and Ian Porter perform in the MPH in the "Space Invaders Concert". (See main article for pictures of the school band Enigma)



the **art** DESIGN
department

ARTWORKS 2005



Derek Yeung



Luke Doherty



Harriet Roethlin-Cook



Derek Yeung



Marcus Evans

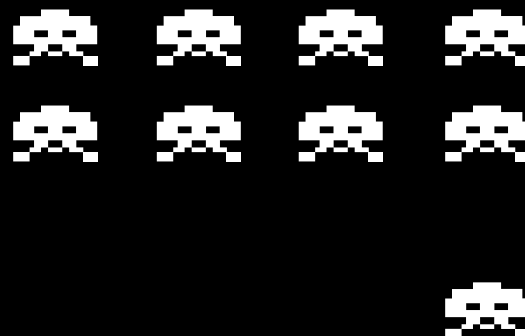
SPACE INVADERS CONCERT



The Old Kirkhamians' Association concert presented an invasion of Rock music to a packed audience at KGS from different eras in the "Space Invaders Concert". First on was "Enigma" a L6 band led by Alex Miller (lead guitarist). The Old Kirkhamians lead band, "Starfish", a top North West band led by Old Kirkhamians Roger Cartwright and Steve Collins then took to the stage. Roger was lead guitarist in "Dethwish" (1980) and last performed in front of the school when he was in the U6 22 years ago. The group was supported by Ian Porter and Chris Robinson, also of "Dethwish" vintage.

Roger, lead guitarist, was recently a finalist in the national "Gibson Riffathon" where he was highly commended by "Led Zeppelin's" lead guitarist Jimmy Page. "Starfish" played numbers by Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and Santana to mention but a few.

These photos express the energy on the night especially for the recently formed "Enigma". As a result of this foray into rock music the band are set to perform on the 8th March - TBC. Watch this space!



Drama

It has been another exciting term in the Drama Department. The highlight was Kirkham Grammar School taking part in the RSC Shakespeare for Schools Festival. This is a national event co-ordinated by the Royal Shakespeare Company designed to introduce as many young people as possible to the world of theatre and the Bard. On 21 October over 30 second and third years performed a 70's version of Twelfth Night at the Charter Theatre in Preston. The event was very well supported by pupils, parents and teachers and was a thrilling experience for all involved. We cast the play in the Summer Term and rehearsals started in earnest. We wanted a live band as well so some rather rowdy auditions took place for this.

In September The Young People's Theatre Company "Drama-rama" came into school to deliver an energetic and inspiring workshop to the whole cast. We then had an opportunity to perform at Open Afternoon in front of very appreciative audiences. On the day of the performance we loaded cast, costumes and instruments onto the coach and headed down to the Charter Theatre. We had a backstage tour and were allocated dressing rooms to get into costume; we went into the auditorium to watch a dress rehearsal of Romeo and Juliet. We were ushered on stage for a technical rehearsal and proceeded into the dress rehearsal. After lunch we had time to put a few finishing touches to the show and to rehearse the musical numbers. It was then back to the dressing rooms to get into costume and make-up and before we knew it the audience were arriving, the house lights went down and the festival started.

Two other schools performed but Kirkham Grammar School was saved until last. Our seventies glam rock band kicked off with Josh Green on vocals and guitar, Chris Monaghan and James Ford on guitar and Grace O'Flaherty on drums. Their version of Slade's Cum on feel the Noize was spectacular. Star performances came from Caitlin MacMillan and Michael Gyi as the twins and Grace Garlington and Charles O'Flaherty (complete with white lycra Elvis costume) as the other love interest. Richard Draper led the drunken chums as Sir Toby Belch and Benedict Fulford-Brown valiantly fought and lost as Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Everyone in the cast did tremendously well and they really worked together as a professional ensemble. It was a fantastic event for all concerned.

We ran several theatre trips as well last term. The AS and A2 Theatre Studies students went to Bolton to take part in a workshop and then see a chilling production of Macbeth performed in a disused warehouse and directed by Max Stafford-Clark. The play was extraordinarily compelling and unsettling; this was probably a theatrical highlight of the decade and we were very lucky to participate. On a lighter note we also took 110 pupils from all age groups to see Blood Brothers at The Grand in Blackpool; a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone. We then welcomed the actor Phil Hearn into school to run workshops for all exam course drama students. For those of you who know the play, Phil was the original "Sammy" and devised much of the original show; he performed on the West End and then toured Broadway and throughout the world with the original cast of Blood Brothers.

This term we're going to see Fame, Blue Remembered Hills and The Seagull. We also have Splendid Productions coming into school to perform Brecht's Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui and to run related workshop's for all GCSE, AS and A2 Drama students. Curtain up on another packed programme of events!



England midfielder Robert Sissons featured in the Under-17 squad for last summer's Nordic Championship in Finland and had a very successful tournament as England battled through to third place. He even weighed in with the first goal in the 2-0 win against the Faroe Islands. He played twice in the Pepsi Tournament in September and has continued to represent his country with the round ball.



DukeOFEdinburghAWARD

Since our last report we have had a very successful expedition to the Northern Lakes during the October half-term around Keswick with 28 Pupils, our largest expedition to date. As ever the wind and rain made the experience a little brisk at times! Our next expedition will take place over the Easter holiday to the wilds of Snowdonia and once again we hope for good weather

CLIMBINGCLUB

The year started with a trip in the last week of the summer holidays to Eskdale in the Lake District. This enabled us to climb on granite for the first time and in a beautiful mountain setting. The weather was not good enough to allow us to visit any high mountain crags, but we did climb for most of the first day and all of the second day of the trip. Much good climbing was accomplished but, for at least some members of the party, the experience of cooking and camping in small tents will probably leave the strongest memories.

In September the school climbing wall was extended to make it 25 % larger: the funds having been raised by the club through sponsored activities over the last few years and with the generous support of BAE Systems. There are now five climbing stations on the wall and the extension provides climbing which is more like climbing on limestone than the gritstone-like climbing of the original wall. Various club members have very much enjoyed setting new routes on the new piece of wall and the extra space is very useful.

There was a very welcome influx of new members at the beginning of the academic year particularly from the 5th form, however the core of the club remains the 6th form with David Spencer, William Horton and Andrew Moncrief all performing at a high level both indoors and out. Poor weather in the autumn term meant that we did not climb outside as often as we would have liked to but the Thursday after school session remains oversubscribed and the Tuesday lunchtime session was also very popular. We look forward to the better weather of spring which will enable us to venture out on to real rock once again



number DAY

On Wednesday 1 December all the first years at Kirkham Grammar School took part in "Number Day", an event to raise funds for the NSPCC. On the day each form was divided into teams and they participated in two mathematical activities: Mathionaire (a maths-based version of Millionaire) and Maths Scatergories (a game to test their mathematical language). Each first year was sponsored for the points their team scored in these games. The first years thoroughly enjoyed the event and raised just over £600 for the NSPCC. Thanks to everyone that sponsored them.

S. Howe / C. Houghton



Swimming

Kirkham's swimmers have had plenty of pool time since our return in September. A rearrangement in our PE lessons to ensure the squad swimmers train together regularly has been a great success. Standards have improved, and competition for places in the girls, boys and mixed teams is intense. Our intention, simply, is to have more swimmers representing the school in all age ranges and for both boys and girls. Whilst we inevitably struggle against some of the larger schools who have many more pupils to choose from, our heightened competition only shows where some of our swimmers need to improve.

In our Mixed Galas, the teams have defeated Bolton School and Stonyhurst on two occasions. There were several impressive individual and team displays in these events. In the Girls' only Galas Kirkham have worked hard to improve their results from last season. The girls convincingly beat Merchant Taylors in the Junior Competition but lost to a very strong Merchant Taylors side in both the Intermediate and Senior age groups. In our other competitions, Kirkham beat Canon Slade School and narrowly lost to Hulme Grammar. In the Boys' only Galas the teams have had very tough fixtures against top class opposition. The teams were heavily defeated against a very impressive Lancaster RGS side. The boys then lost narrowly to Hutton GS and Arnold in a close fought match. More recently the team was placed third in a quadrangular match at Hutton against the hosts, Arnold and Tarleton. The team awaits fixtures against Ripley and a return fixture with Lancaster.

In a team effort such as swimming one should not highlight individuals but at the Senior end it would be wrong to ignore the efforts of Phillip Hingley, Lee Ryan, Jonathan Knowles, Stephen Hatch, Andrew Hatch, Luke Dickinson, Kayleigh Kuroski and Grace Skinner throughout their time at school. Also special thanks to the Shore Café in Hest Bank for the sponsorship of the team shirts.



Grace Skinner helping out at the Junior School



Rachel Porter at work



Latin Trip to Hadrian's Wall

On Friday, 15 October 2004, a group of twenty-four Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form Latin students and staff visited Housesteads and Chesters Roman Forts on Hadrian's Wall. This was largely to support the GCSE Latin civilisation topic on the expansion of the Roman Empire.

An informative and enjoyable day was had by all.
Mrs S P Long

interHouseevents



People say to me, when you play you appear to be telling stories...

Concert Pianist - Alfred Brendel.

The Canadian poet Anne Michaels comments that there are three kinds of teachers: one who teaches by making you afraid, one who you makes you angry and a third who makes you love him. In an attempt to become the "third man" perhaps you will allow me the liberty of telling you a story — House Events can wait awhile, I'm sure you'll agree!

The following tale was relayed to the writer Bruce Chatwin by a boatman ferrying him over to the remote island of Chiloe, lying just off the coast of mainland Chilean Patagonia. Here is found a small, weather beaten isle of myth and fable, dotted with dark, dense woodlands and secluded ocean beaches flanked by rolling dunes.

On approaching the northern shore of the island the boatman pointed to the cottages which lined the landing stage. "In the second cottage," he went on, "there lived a family — mother, father, daughter. We knew them well..." "One day the mother told the girl to fetch some water for coffee from the spring. The girl did not want to go: there was a stranger, she said, in the village. But the mother insisted and the girl did not come back. The mother called and called and searched everywhere. The neighbours said yes, they had seen a stranger. He was fair and tall. The mother knew that Millalobo (a mythical being — mainly sea-based, with powers like Neptune) had taken her daughter..." "A year later the girl came back with a baby in her arms. The woman was thrilled with her grandson, and rigged up a cradle. One morning, the daughter left the house, warning her mother not to look at the child. "Remember what I said mother," she repeated as she closed the door.

More later... House events beckon!

The Senior Quiz not only concerned itself with questions of Legend but also featured a legendary display from School House's Angela Loxham — outstanding Angela! School House won the competition by defeating Fylde convincingly in the Final. Kirkham's bravado was only curtailed by School's scholarly performance in the Semi-finals. However, it was in the Junior Quiz that strange goings on occurred! There was a feeling that one of the buzzers didn't appear, on occasions, to be reacting quickly enough, so placing certain Houses at a

disadvantage. However, Kirkham House rode such "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" to emerge victorious — Caitlin McMillan (Kirkham's Captain) clearing the way with her calm, confident answers. As House Master of the winning House there is no truth to the rumour that I told other Masters to "buzz-off" regarding the problems encountered here!

Basketball — if Patagonia is "the land of giants", then I suppose basketball is the sport for such beings. No giant killings in the Senior competition this year with the pre-tournament favourites School House proving to be worthy champions. Fylde gave their all, only a couple of 3 pointers in the latter stages denying them what would have been a famous victory. Kirkham I'm afraid were plagued with injuries, including Captain Andrew Crook, the result being the wooden spoon here. Preston house were the surprise package, finishing second. A word about School's Oye — ballet shoes or trainers Oye?! Viewing our star man was reminiscent of watching Nureyev in his prime - poise, balance, flair and a grace worthy of one of Mr. Tchaikovsky's Swans — his shooting wasn't too bad either!

If Oye had guided us to the artistry of the game then the junior competition reminded us that sport is indeed an extension of the battlefield. Although encouraging the "...you'll be a man my son" ideal, it was agreed that the foul rule might, ahem!, need some looking into next year! Nevertheless it was a close competition — three teams tied at the top on 4 points. Fylde won on points difference, with School in second and Kirkham third. Preston seemed to have forgotten how to win a game this time around.

In Senior Netball the Lavelle sisters dazzled for Preston House, although Kirkham gave them a fright in the Semi-finals, only losing narrowly after being in front for most of the match. In the Junior competition Fylde won, beating Kirkham in a close final. We were all delighted to see that Mr. Reeves' (Fylde Housemaster) vocal chords were in good health during proceedings — although I understand that a couple of ships retreated back down the Ribble Estuary thinking they had heard a fog-horn! Only joking — Mr. Reeves vocal encouragement of his team I'm sure was instrumental towards his House's victory.

A message here to the greater Chess world — the Bayliss brothers, Messrs Paul and Andrew, are looking to get you! Their victories were instrumental to Fylde's regaining of the crown — Kirkham being the Monarchs for the previous two years. Kirkham and School shared second place.

Speaking of Monarchs — Dr Rollins, the "Ozymandias" of

2003/2004 Champions Preston House was absent through illness for several weeks during the Winter Term, so I'm afraid that, in Shelley's words, there was less of the "look on my works ye mighty, and despair" for Preston this time — but "Ozzy" is now back!

"Oh I say sir!", the closing minutes of the Junior Hockey saw nerves tattered as School House snatched victory milliseconds from the breath of the final whistle — all concerned needed a long lie-down after the game! To the losers, Kirkham, what can I say, what can I say?!

Swimming, no fish out of water here — great performances from all Houses. Colonel Sayer made a welcome return for this event, officiating as starter. Over 150 pupils were involved in what proved to be another close competition. Preston won at the death - the end relay results proving vital, with Fylde and Kirkham sharing second place. School had a few gaps in their squad which cost them dear. Preston will particularly thank Rachel "mermaid" Armistead, who was heads and tails better than all others!

As things stand Fylde are "first among equals", with School close behind. Preston (last year's winners) currently lie in fourth. Well done to Mr. Reeves — a good start to his reign with Fylde House.

Back to our story.....

Despite what the daughter had said the mother was aching to see her grandson and rolled back the coverlet. From the waist down the baby was a seal. Then it changed into a star and bounced around the room, and out of the window, buzzing like a horse-fly.

"The girl heard the buzzing. She knew that her husband had claimed the child and sent it to live in the sky. She roamed the seashore crying the child's name "Cucao! Cucao!" She walked into the water and slid under the surface...

"Millalobo built a palace for her at the bottom of the lagoon. Once a year, during Easter week, he frees her and she floats to the surface, and when she sees the meadows and the churches, she breaks into a cry: "Cucao! Cucao! Cucaooooo!"

This Easter, if the weather allows, I shall cross from Argentina over the Andes and down to Chiloe. I shall walk a certain beach and listen for Cucao's call — I'll let you know what happens!

Mr S F Duncan (House Recorder)



RUGBY 2005



These photographs are of the U12 XVs, U13 XVs, U14 XVs and the 1st XV. More photos can be found on-line at: <http://homepage.mac.com/photosonline/>



SPORTS NEWS

England Call-up

Three of our pupils have been called up for England U18 rugby union squads. Hooker Jordan Page is in a 26 strong England party for the Home Unions Festival in South Wales from 25 March 25 to 1 April, along with Marcus Jackson, goal-kicking fly-half. Lock Glen Townson is in the England 18 squad for internationals against Ireland in Cork on 26 March, France at Bournemouth on 2 April and Wales at Neath on 9 April. (The boys are pictured right)

Lancashire Hockey Honours

21 Kirkham Grammar School girls have been selected for the Lancashire School Girls' Hockey Squads for this season. (pictured bottom of this page)

Photo below the U16 XV Squad.

Please use the school website for the latest information/reports on sports at KGS at:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/sport



D.R. Walker

D.R. Walker Headmaster