

The BRYANSTON *Newsletter*

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Breadth of achievement

Biologists, designers and classicists win honours

The British Biology Olympiad, for which schools were able to submit their best five biologists, attracted approximately 2000 sixth formers. It is particularly pleasing that two Bryanstonians should have won awards, Chris Taylor gaining gold and Nick Radford bronze. Chris's achievement placed him in the top 12 in the country and earned him a place in the final. Medals were presented at the Royal Institute of Surgery in London in July.



The Audi Designer of the Year Competition 2002 attracted entries from 600 A Level pupils across the country. Six Bryanstonians - Sue-Kim Bolton, Rachel Gotts, Jane Haslam, Ed Holtby, Chris Law and Jade Trott - were selected for the regional finals. Here they were required to demonstrate their design and technology projects and were interviewed by a panel of Audi designers. Ed Holtby won second prize in the Central area competition for his folding travel guitar which the judges deemed had market potential as well as being extremely well made.



Classical Orations competitions have long been a strength at Bryanston. In the Salisbury competition this year, Lou Broadbent won first prize in the Junior Greek class, Ali Hill won second prize in the Senior Latin class and Laura Gordon won second prize in Senior Greek class.

Science debate

During the Spring Term, the Science Society debated the motion "This house believes that the genetic modification of humans is morally wrong".

Over 100 pupils of all ages and a number of staff attended the lively debate. The motion was rejected by 90 votes to 12, with 23 abstentions.

Education for adventure

All first and second year pupils take part in an adventure education programme. The aim is to offer new experiences, provide personal challenges, both physical and mental, build confidence and commitment and develop the social skills of teamwork, communication and leadership. The 20 week course, which begins at the end of the first year, includes tree and rock climbing, caving, hiking, riding, rafting, archery and kayaking as well as problem solving exercises and instruction in map reading, expedition cooking and First Aid.

The programme culminates in five days at Skern Lodge Adventure Centre in Devon at the end of the Spring Term. This year, 130 second year pupils took part in a series of challenges from coastal traversing, surfing and high ropes courses to more cerebral exercises involving logic, planning and teamwork. Despite the rather cool weather, all the pupils agreed they had benefited from the experience and had valued the opportunity to spend time together.



Nepal expedition

Bryanston's 14th annual expedition to Nepal took place during the Easter holidays. Twenty-six pupils and five members of staff took part.

During their three weeks in Nepal, the group spent five days in Kathmandu visiting many beautiful



temples and historic buildings as well as riding in rickshaws, bartering with shopkeepers or simply watching the general hurly-burly of life in this vibrant city.



They also had a day white water rafting on the Trisuli River and two days in the Royal Chitwan Park.

However, for most the twelve days of trekking in the Annapurna region of the Himalayas was the highlight of the expedition. Here life is simple, the air is fresh and the scenery breathtaking. The trek passed through rice paddies and rhododendron forest, along ridges and river valleys, through villages large and small, and from many points the mountain views were breathtaking. But apart from the exquisite beauty of this country one of the enduring memories for many is the extraordinary generosity and goodwill of a people who have so little and whose lives have been particularly difficult in recent times. The party returned to Bryanston with renewed determination to continue to support the work of charities in Nepal.

Vive la France

French was the only language spoken by the sixth form pupils who took part in the 'journée francophone et francophile' in the Spring Term. Split into three groups, the pupils undertook tasks including writing copy for a French newspaper, making a radio broadcast and recording a television programme - all excellent preparation for the AS Level French oral exams in the Summer Term.



To add the full flavour of France, one of the Modern Languages classrooms was transformed into the restaurant Chez Albert. Here the pupils were able to enjoy café et pains au chocolat in the morning and an excellent lunch of Vichyssoise, poulet cordon bleu and crème brûlée.

Spanish and German days were held earlier in the year.

Performing arts programme flourishes

Despite the constant pressure of exams, Bryanstonians have found time to take part in and enjoy a wide range of performing and visual arts.

In the Spring Term, the Lower Sixth Form presented an excellent weekend of theatre, music and art for their annual festival. In the Summer Term, there were three major dramatic productions: the Junior Dramatic Society performed *Clueless*; for Speech Day, the senior play was *What the Butler Saw* and the Music and Drama Departments presented *Dido and Aeneas* in the Main Hall.

The Music Department also offered a diverse and full programme. The Senior Orchestra and Choir performed Mozart's Requiem in March and the Summer Concert included pieces by Fauré, Sibelius, Mascagni and Vivaldi. The Concert Band gave a number of performances both in and out of school and the String Orchestra and Brass Ensemble held lunchtime concerts in the Main Hall. Chamber music also flourished with four Bryanstonian ensembles taking part in the National Chamber Music Competition for Schools. The

ensemble of Vicky Sayles, Kat Sayles and Mary Tonkin (seen practising below) was selected for the final concert in St John's, Smith Square, London and were rated, unofficially, in the top two nationally.



Kayaking marathon victory

Bryanston's kayakers triumphed once again in the gruelling 125 mile Devizes to Westminster Race. Competing for the first time since 1999 - their race was cancelled in 2000 (bad weather) and 2001 (foot and mouth disease) - the four Bryanston boats won a total of five trophies.

Competition in the Junior Doubles class was strong with 55 crews taking part. Aply supported by parents and Old Bryanstonians and played in to many of the portages by a Scottish piper, the Bryanston boys produced outstanding performances. Mark Burton and Nick Farren finished first as the fastest junior crew, winning the Berksonian Cup and the Wiltshire Gazette Shield. Jack Fraser and Simon Murray finished second, Matt Rogers and Seb van Aaken ninth and



Duncan Barnes and Nick Thomas tenth.

The combined times of the leading crews won them the Junior Team and Schools Team Trophies - the 11th and 14th times respectively that Bryanston has won these trophies. There was a prize, too, for the supporters - the Simon Zweck Memorial Trophy donated by some years ago by Bryanston for the support crew of the winning junior boat.

Young writers

Every First Year pupil donned the mantle of author in April's short story competition. The challenge: to produce the most compelling story in just 700 words on the theme of conflict.

The results were startling in the range of style and approaches adopted. The writing tended to the serious rather than comic and many chose to

base their stories on recurrent adolescent themes.

So many entries were simply spellbinding in form as well as content that it was no easy task to allot prizes. However, the winners were Beatrice Bathe, Theo Evans, Eleanor Green, Christina Nethercott, William Stafford and Alex Williams.

New appointment



Bill O'Hearn has joined the Bryanston staff as Director of Development. Bill will work with the Headmaster and staff, the Governors, the Bryanston Society and the Bryanston Foundation to maintain strong relationships between the School and its former pupils, parents and friends and to encourage gifts to support Bryanston's objectives. "I am extremely impressed with the

goodwill that exists in the extended Bryanston community and look forward to contributing to the success of the school in the future", says Bill.

Bill comes to Bryanston from the United States, where he has worked for seven years in educational advancement, including the last five at Yale University. He would be delighted to hear from those interested in sharing ideas or learning more - please ring him on (01258) 484555 or e-mail development@bryanston.co.uk.

Athletics: Harriet Balme, Alex Barstow, Chris Hillier, Mark Lea, Kirsty Morris and Chris Patterson were U20 Dorset Champions and Georgie Cockerell, Max Lacy and Jess Oundjian were U17 Dorset Champions.

Cricket: The U15 team won a place in the final of the Dorset Cup. During the season Tom Turney (U15) and Jim Denning (1st XI) scored two centuries each.

Cross Country: Harriet Balme, Chris Hillier, Symon Stratton and Max Lacy qualified for the English Schools championships where Max finished 17th. Chris Hillier won the trophy for best independent schools runner in Dorset.

Hockey: The U15A boys won all their school matches and the U14 Girls were County Champions. Ben Edgell played for the West U21 Men's Team which won the Regional U21 Tournament. John Bourne was selected for the Regional Academy U17 group. Philipp Kempf, Ben Edgell and Fabian Döring played for Dorset U18, and John Bourne, Jamie Gibbs and Will Dean for Dorset U16. Both teams won the West County Championship. Will Dobbs and Hugh Macpherson played for Dorset U14. Georgie Allen, Shona Doran and Bryony Hutchinson played for Dorset U14 and Georgie Thompson for Dorset U15.

Kayaking: In addition to winning the Devizes to Westminster Race, Bryanston were Junior Team winners of the Waterside and Thameside series. Mark Burton came 1st in Division 6 in the Exe Circuit Marathon.

Rowing: In the Schools Head of the River, George Neville-Jones, Jonny Crump, Ed Pash and Robin Hardy finished 2nd in the coxless quads and Lizzie de Courcy Wheeler, Kate Roberts, Alix Odgers, Bindy Bowden and Kat Sayles finished 5th out of 20 in the Womens J15 Quads. At Tewkesbury Regatta, Bryanston won the Victor Ludorum for the club with the most wins. At Marlow Town Regatta, the senior boys won all four events they entered and the juniors won at Coate Water Park and Reading Town Regattas.

Rugby: Tommy Booth played for Wales U17 and is in the Wales U18 Elite training squad.

Tennis: The U15 girls were runners-up in the Dorset County League.

Squash: James Pearce played for Dorset and Jamie Gibbs, Alice and Luke Lintin, Ed Morgan, Mark Pritchard, Chris Smith and Jo Stafford played for Wiltshire.

Don Potter's 100th birthday

Don Potter, who taught at Bryanston for some four decades, celebrated his 100th birthday in April.



After the 1st World War, Don became one of the early Boy Scouts and worked closely with Baden-Powell at Gilwell Park. Here, he carved totem poles, built their log cabin and became an expert rope-spinner. He was apprenticed to Eric Gill for six years in the 1930s and joined the staff at Bryanston in 1940.

Don taught sculpture, pottery and metalwork. Sir Terence Conran and the renowned potters Richard Batterham and Mike Dodd are amongst the many former pupils to whom he was an inspiration. He also played the cello in the orchestra for many years and was in charge of the school's own fire brigade.

Don's work has been seen at the Whitechapel Gallery, the Royal Academy and in the Royal Society of British Sculptors travelling exhibition. His major sculptures include a 12ft figure of Christ at Zomba Cathedral in Malawi, a crucifix in St George's Chapel Windsor and the statue of Baden-Powell in Queensgate London.

Don retired from teaching at 82, but has carried on working ever since in his studio in Bryanston Village. This wonderfully rounded life will be celebrated in a book to be launched at the opening of an exhibition in Dorchester Museum on 20th September.

Renewing acquaintances

Two very successful social events took place at Bryanston on Saturday 22nd June.

The first was a lunch for the Class of 1992. This was the ninth "Ten Years On" Reunion to have been held and numbers were the highest ever. Some 53 former pupils attended, several travelling a considerable distance for the occasion. We were also delighted to welcome spouses and partners and a number of small children. Lunch was an excellent barbecue and many of the Class of '92 stayed on for the Bryanston Society Midsummer Party.

Approximately 900 guests attended the biennial Midsummer Party, some arriving during the afternoon to spend time canoeing, swimming, playing tennis or squash or simply wandering round the school. The evening drinks reception began at 5.00 p.m. and was followed by a delicious buffet supper. The party concluded with an innovative adaptation of Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath* in the Coade Hall. Mercifully the weather, though not particularly warm, remained dry and a good time was had by young and old alike.



Pupil Enrolment

For full details, please contact:

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Email: admissions@bryanston.co.uk

Lucian Freud (P '38) holds his largest Retrospective to date at the Tate Britain from 20th June - 22nd September.

Kevin Crossley-Holland (H '58) won The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize for his book *The Seeing Stone*.

De Vic Graham Carey (H '58) Bailiff of Guernsey, was appointed Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours 2002.

John Spenceley (D '58) was appointed CBE in the Birthday Honours 2002.

Saira Shah (G '83) was named Journalist of the Year 2001 and won a number of awards, including three BAFTAs, for documentary film work in Afghanistan.

Gwendal Collis (C '94) was awarded a Masters in European Business with Distinction and graduated top of the year.

Matthew Steen (Sh '95) gained an MSc in IT with Distinction.

Hugh Wright (Sh '96) was presented with the Royal Humane Society's silver medal for his heroic actions in helping to rescue 15 crew members of the Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club during a freak storm on the River Abro in Spain.

Louisa Clein (Hn '97) played a leading role in the BBC series *Judge John Deed*.

Matthew Gilbert (D '97) gained the only First Class degree on the UMIST 4 year Electronic Engineering MSc course.

Tristan Craddock (D '97) was awarded the IMechE Best Student Certificate by Newcastle University.

Tom Lowes (D '98) gained a First Class Degree in Chemistry and is a Scholar of Worcester College, Oxford.

Ben Moxham (Sa '98) gained a First Class degree in PPE at Exeter College, Oxford and has won a Fulbright Scholarship to Harvard.

Huw Bennett (P '01) played rugby for Wales U19.

Dates for your diary

22 Sept	Activities Day
25 Oct	School Concert
26 Oct	Parents' Association AGM
28-30 Nov	School Musical: <i>Oklahoma</i>
1 Dec	Advent Carol Service
1-7 Dec	Christmas Show: <i>Scrooge</i>
8 Dec	Senior Orchestra Concert
5-6 Apr	Bryanston Society Party Washington USA

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