



▲ by Jack Galliano (mixed media construction)



CATERHAM SCHOOL

newsletter

February 2010

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Playing a tune
on the Titanic!



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Patrick Ness on
'Chaos Walking'



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New York,
New York



Caterham School was overflowing with Christmas spirit during the first week of December as students presented their own take on the Charles Dickens classic 'A Christmas Carol'.



The familiar "Bah humbug" of Ebenezer Scrooge (played by Jonathan May – Lower Sixth) echoed around the auditorium before the ghosts of Past, Present and Future showed him the error of his miserly ways.

Three frightening ghouls portrayed by Amy Flower (Fourth Year), Ellie Croft (Upper Sixth) and Imogen Ware (Upper Sixth) narrated the tale, which was interspersed with carols and dances.

Lisa McMullin, Head of Drama, said: "I was delighted that all the performers brought each character vividly to life and that the audience responded so enthusiastically. I am always pleased to

see so many students participate in these productions, whether it is on stage, in the orchestra or in the backstage roles. I believe that their involvement in this co-curricular activity develops a level of confidence that helps to prepare them for life at university and beyond. The audience also enjoyed a festive fayre of mulled wine and Christmas cake during the interval and all went away full of goodwill."



Headmaster's Report



Dear Parents,

As I write this introduction to the newsletter, all I can see from my office window is a blanket of snow covering the astro-turf and school pitches. It is hard to believe that the cold snap has lasted for so long and difficult to remember a winter that has disrupted School life so much. But amid the inconvenience and frustration, the Caterham spirit has shone through and I have been overwhelmed by the good will and positive can-do attitude expressed by all the staff and pupils. I would also like to thank all parents for their patience, support and understanding as we have tried to carry on with as full a routine as is possible under the circumstances. As the thaw sets in, I would like to wish you all a happy new year as we look forward together to the rich and varied programme of events and challenges during the coming term.

Julian Thomas

Some snaps from our very own **Winter Wonderland...**



The Dance Band on the Titanic

Somewhere along the way, during his years of serious training on the violin, John Regan realised that he did not want to spend his life working as a peripatetic musician; instead, he has wound up on the deck of the sinking Titanic, playing to entertain the vessel's moneyed guests as they slowly descend into the frigid waters of the Atlantic. Well, kind of....

On Monday 11 January Regan and his two partners in the quirky performing troupe "Pluck" re-created the music of that fateful journey to great comic effect to a full hall of pupils from the Prep School Year 6 and our First and Second Years in their latest work, "The Titanic Show". Whilst that vessel succumbed to ice, "Pluck" braved both ice and snow to entertain and educate our pupils.

"We decided we'd just try to think if there was any famous characters in the music world that we could do a show about," Regan recalls. "After a lot of talking we hit on the idea of the band in the Titanic. They're obviously famous and not too dissimilar to us."

How dissimilar they are, really, is

hard to know. But Pluck researched the musicians in the band on The Titanic: who they were, how they ended up in the job, what they might have done between sets and, most important, what music they played. Pluck's "Titanic Show" consists almost entirely of music taken from the ship's original songbook. As a consequence, there is serious musicianship throughout the show. But there is also plenty of clowning. As they play Tchaikovsky, for instance, they might be simultaneously putting up a deck chair, playing cards or painting at an easel. The story unfolds as much through movement as through music.

John Regan said "Basically we are creating a theatre show but with live music being more a part of it than is generally the case. . . . as musicians we

are the focus of the attention all the way through. It's a bit like opera, but with instrumental instead of singing." Much of the show, naturally, is a re-imagining of events aboard the Titanic. Liberties are taken for the sake of laughs except, of course, for the tragedy that made the musicians famous.

There is no getting around the eventual fate of the band, but that scene stands apart from the rest of the performance, which generally is very light hearted and comedic. They wanted to present something that is quirky, fresh and a great deal of fun - with music. Judging by the response of the audience, they seem to have succeeded.

STUART THOMPSON
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Two Modern Pentathletes

Last year two pupils furthered their ambitions to be successful modern pentathletes.

Mariella (Third Year) and Giselle (First Year) Mackinlay became interested in Pentathlon some years ago when they were 10 and 8. They started competing at Pony Club Tetrathlon's, which is four disciplines. Following success at Area level, they took up fencing to compete in Pentathlons.

(Modern Pentathlon is an Olympic Sport and consists of five disciplines: running, swimming, shooting, fencing and riding. Competitors are split into separate Age Bands each of which cover two years, starting with Youth E at 10 up to Youth A at 18.)

They fence at the School, with Chris

Howser, and at his club. They shoot with the North Kent Modern Pentathlon Club (NKMPC) at Bexley, and they run with Mole Valley Running Club, where a number of other local pentathletes train. Previously members of Dorking Swimming Club, they now train before school on a Tuesday and Thursday in the School pool. They are taught to show jump by Ernest Dillon, an ex-international Show Jumper.

Last year Mariella and Giselle, represented NKMPC in Portugal at the International Copa Atlantica. They came 3rd and 2nd in their respective age groups. Also last year Giselle won the

Giselle (competition air pistol) and Mariella (epee), wearing the medals from the copa atlantica pentathlon 2009.



National Triathlon at Youth E age group.

At the National Triathlon last November Giselle was competing at the bottom of age band D and came 6th. Her goal is to win this age band next year. Unfortunately Mariella dislocated her ankle prior to the competition and was unable to compete. The girls are now training towards the 2010 events.



Our unique Study Buddy scheme

Following the success of last year's pilot, Sixth Form students have once again volunteered in large numbers to be paired up with younger students and to share their expertise and experience.

Students in the Sixth Form apply for the post of Study Buddy, undergo training in mentoring skills, and then meet formally with their younger counterpart on a weekly basis. The meetings cover a wide range of topics; from subject specific help on how to deal with exam nerves, and from self-organisation to self-belief. 34 of last year's pairings continued this year and numbers have now more than doubled to over 80 pairings.

Creator of the scheme Kim Wells, Director of Learning & Teaching, said "I was delighted by the positive response to last year's launch from mentor and mentee alike. To have over a third of the Sixth Form volunteering to give up their valuable free-time to help their fellow students is a testament to the strength of community spirit at the school".



Teachers Raised £1000 for Prostate Cancer Research in Movember!

Movember is a worldwide campaign by the Movember Foundation to make men aware of the health risks they face, thereby increasing early detection, diagnosis and effective treatment of cancers.

Movember started in Australia and has grown to be a worldwide phenomenon. This year around the world over 255,000 men raised £61m, which will be distributed by the Movember Foundation.

To participate in Movember a man simply has to grow a moustache or 'mo' during the month of November. The month is then renamed Movember.

Last November ten teachers raised over £1,000 for Prostate Cancer Research. These teachers put their razors (and their pride) to the back of the cupboard by growing moustaches of all shapes and sizes for a month. Students at the school contributed by donating funds to their teachers in return for a vote on the style of moustache to be grown.

The teachers were in good company. Rugby Union fans will have noticed that many members of the Australian rugby team supported the campaign.

The teachers gave briefings to pupils to raise awareness, explaining that prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men with 35,000 new diagnoses each year in the UK, yet is readily treatable, especially if diagnosed early.



Prior to the briefing to pupils, teachers changed into costumes to match the moustaches.

Standing, left to right: Marc Broughton, Steven Marlow, Stuart Terrell, James Burnside, Tony Fahey, David King
Kneeling, left to right: Andrew Patterson, Colin James, Neil Evans

Student wins **Gold Medal** in **British Mathematical Olympiad**

Jacqueline Hu qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad competition through her excellent performance in the UK Senior Maths Challenge.

The British Maths Olympiad consists of six quite involved mathematical problems to be solved in three hours. Jacqueline took the exam at the end of last year and came joint 15th in the country, winning a certificate and a gold medal. She had further good news in early January when she discovered that she has been offered a place at Jesus College, Cambridge to study Maths.



Jacqueline receives her certificate and medal from the Headmaster

Basketball team get off to a flying start...

We were trailing for the majority of the match against Carshalton College but we emerged victorious with a dramatic 58-47 win. A superb defensive performance, with Deji Ibuoye creating numerous turnovers whilst Daniel Ye and Eric Rhodes patrolled under the basket to snatch rebounds, provided a platform for the offence to secure the victory. Vincent Hsu scored a whopping 21 points and Michael Li, who netted two 3-pointers, contributed 14 points. The fearless Caterham spirit was there for all to see in the contribution of the Fourth Years, Benny Wong, Deji and Tony Huen, who made their debut wearing the school vest against a team of Sixth Form students. The near-capacity crowd in the Sports Hall created an electric atmosphere that augmented the performance of the team.

MS KELSEY PIEPER

Successful Author Patrick Ness talks to the Fourth Year...

On Tuesday, 19 January, author Patrick Ness came to speak to pupils in the Fourth Year about his career and his writing.

His two most recent books are part of his 'Chaos Walking' trilogy for young people. The first book, 'The Knife of Never Letting Go', is highly original and won The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Booktrust Teenage Prize. The second, 'The Ask and the Answer', has just won the prestigious Costa Children's Book Award. The final part of the trilogy (Monsters of Men) will be published in May, and has already been described by the Costa judges as 'a major achievement in the making.'

Born in the USA, Patrick studied English Literature at the University of Southern California. His main job after graduating was as corporate writer at a cable company, writing manuals, form letters and speeches. In addition to being a successful author he also sometimes teaches creative writing or writes reviews.

Headmaster Julian Thomas said: "We

are very fortunate that Patrick agreed to come to talk to our Fourth Year pupils as he is due to depart for Australia to promote his books. We believe that a truly excellent education is about more than academic achievement alone and encouraging the enjoyment of reading is very much a part of that. We believe in the power of the written word and the personal enrichment to be gained through reading. Each year we have a number of best selling authors lecture the pupils on their approach to writing and the source of their inspiration. The pupils really enjoyed questioning Patrick about his approach to the subject matter and the issues tackled."



Cameron Williamson asks Patrick Ness to autograph his book.



U12A Rugby Team reach the Plate Final of the RGS Guildford Tournament



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The U12A rugby side had a fantastic adventure at the annual U12 RGS Guildford tournament. After a disappointing defeat to local rivals Whitgift in the first match the team showed their fighting spirit by winning the next match against Tiffin School and drawing with Ashcombe.

By doing so they secured a second place spot in the group and qualified for the semi final of the plate against RGS Guildford. This was always going to be a hard task considering RGS select their teams from a year group of around 150 boys. Fortunately, the Caterham team were not intimidated in the slightest and produced an outstanding display to win 10-0.

Unfortunately the final seemed to be one step too far and the exertions of the semi final meant they lost 7-5 to a Wimbledon College team that could have been beaten.

Director of Sport, Rob Clarke, said: "The boys were great ambassadors for the school and it was a pleasure to take them."

The squad for the tournament was: Alex Pearce (*prop*), Anthony Baston (*hooker*), Daniel Castle (*prop*), Tim Henley (*second row*), Angus Whitfield (*second row*), Marcus Hodgkinson (*No 8 and Captain*), Alex Orbell (*scrum half*), Harry Higginson (*out half*), Nathan Lewis (*left wing*), Simon Whelan (*inside centre*), Jacob Welsh (*outside centre*), Hasan Moosa (*right wing*), Thomas Kent (*full back*), subs – Sean Tanner; Miles Gamble; Ben Cowlard.

Joyeux Noel.....



The last social of the term for AS/A2 students who are studying French was well attended with 23 pupils, 6 teachers and our French Teaching Assistant, Ms Stephanie User.

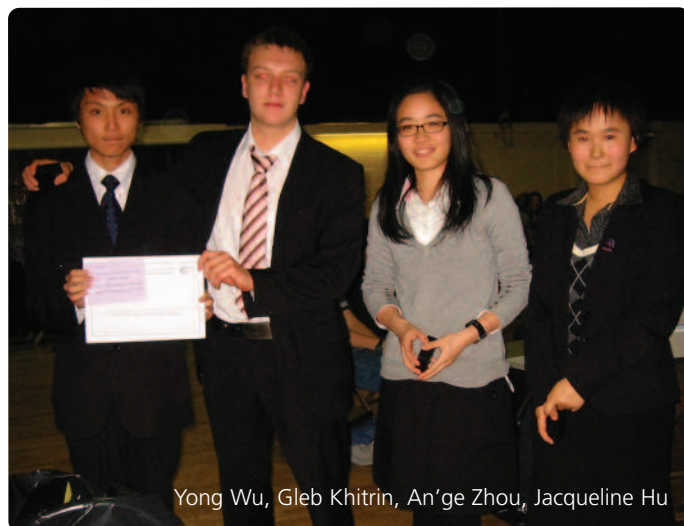
During the evening it was announced that Dan Nicholls (U6) and Megan Armitage (L6) had won the Proverb quiz which was staged during the previous social proving that "quand on veut on peut!"

Everybody enjoyed a drink (pas d'alcool bien sûr!) and some festive cakes. There was also much enjoyment as everyone opened their "Père Noel secret" gift, the idea was to guess in French who had bought which present.

NICOLE MCVITTY

Second Place in the Regional Final of the Senior Mathematics Challenge

Last November our Senior Team of Jacqueline Hu, Yong Wu, An'ge Zhou, Gleb Khitrin competed against over twenty other schools in the Regional Final of the UK Mathematics Challenge which was held at Surrey University. Having won the competition the previous year we were very hopeful but, sadly, we were edged into second place by our old rivals RGS Guildford.



Yong Wu, Gleb Khitrin, An'ge Zhou, Jacqueline Hu

History, Drama & Art Trip to Washington DC and New York

OCTOBER 2009 BY MR NICK MILLS

In the Autumn half-term forty-eight Fourth and Fifth Year students and six brave members of staff enjoyed a History, Art and Drama trip to the east coast of the USA visiting Washington DC and New York.

The highlights in Washington included a visit on the first evening to the awesome Washington monument, and a walking tour of the Mall including the Capitol, the White House and the Lincoln Memorial. The Smithsonian Institute offered a day of inspiring art and fascinating museums – highlights included touching a piece of moon rock and admiring Rocky's boxing gloves.

The atmosphere on the coach was electric as the skyscrapers of Manhattan came into view across the Hudson and the three days in New York did not disappoint. We dabbled in abstract art in a workshop at the Guggenheim, and were blown away by the energy and creativity of the physical theatre of Fuerza Bruta. The

magic of ice skating after dark at the Rockefeller Center allowed the party time to catch their breath while the breathtaking views from the Empire State Building did not disappoint.

All on the trip agreed that this was a

varied and full a week as they could have hoped for, and returned home exhausted but with fantastic memories.



Olympia Trip December 2009

Despite the threat of an early season snow, intrepid fans of the Christmas show-jumping at Olympia made their way to London for a fun and festive afternoon. Pupils from the Prep and Senior Schools, parents and teachers were united in their passion for everything equestrian. The horses were much admired – both real and fake...as can be seen in the photograph of some lovely mementoes won on the day.



CONGRATULATIONS!

HOCKEY PLAYERS SELECTED FOR THE SURREY SQUADS

It was announced in December, even though our hockey season had not begun, that the following boys had been selected for the Surrey County Squads. **Well done!**

U13 Adam Chevreau-Kareliusson
Ben Cowlard
James Foggin

U15 Fraser Kenny
Charles Hammond
Ryan Greenhalgh

U16 Tom Chatfield
Henry Mundell

England Netball Co-Captain Runs a Coaching Session

Karen Atkinson, the current England netball co-captain, came to Caterham School on Thursday 19 November to run coaching sessions for the U14, U15 and Senior netball players.

Karen has over 100 England caps and has played in three Commonwealth Games and three World Championships. Earlier that month she was inducted into the England Netball Hall of Fame. She is currently a player/coach of the Mavericks Super League team who were runners-up in the league last year and, with several international stars, are hoping to go one better this year.

Headmaster Julian Thomas said: "Karen is an excellent role model for any student interested in sport. Not only is she a talented player, she also has an excellent work ethic, which means that she

remains at the very top of the game. The discipline of training hard is something that we aim to instil into all our pupils. The girls really enjoyed the sessions and benefited from Karen's considerable knowledge and experience."

Karen returned in January to run a netball coaching Inset for teachers.



The writings of Charles Pritchard, Journalist and Raconteur

Charles Pritchard was a journalist and writer who had been a life-long member of the Congregational Church and then the United Reformed Church, through to his death in 2007.

He was a member of Oxted United Reformed Church, and wrote regularly for many local publications, as well as professionally for national publications. He wrote prose, poetry, hymns, articles and much more. Many of his writings display his dry wit, but he was also a deeply spiritual person, which again is reflected in his work. Charles had wanted to act for a living but, although this was not to be his path, he was renowned as a raconteur extraordinaire! The collection of writings in the book were researched, selected and then edited over a two-year period by Jane Damesick.

The book, published by Oxted URC and Hurtwood Press, is available from Jane, price £10.



SCHOOL CHARITIES

If you would like to make a donation to our projects with Lerang'wa School, Tanzania or Nagydobrony School, Ukraine please either send a cheque made payable to 'Caterham School Ltd' to Mr. David Clark, c/o Caterham School or donate via www.justgiving.com/caterhamschool

Future Events

Hockey, Lacrosse & Netball Matches

As usual we have a number of competitive fixtures throughout the term across most age groups. These matches are detailed in the Spring Term Calendar. Occasionally fixtures change when a school cancels or alters the timing. We update the fixtures on the web site (Activities – Sport) on a weekly basis to try to keep an accurate fixture list. Please do come along to support the teams.

Please note that if a pupil is included in a team list for a School fixture he or she is expected to make the fixture his or her first priority and be available to participate.

PARENTS! Are you a former pupil of Caterham School or Eothen School?

If the Old Caterhamians' Association do not have your current information, please contact Alina Rennie to make sure that you are kept informed of all the events and news.

Contact either through reception at the school or via email: alina.rennie@caterhamschool.co.uk

Amazon Shopping to Benefit Caterham School

If you wish to buy something from Amazon please use the link on the school web site

www.caterhamschool.co.uk/links.htm

The school will receive 5% commission for each purchase you make. This income will be directed to school projects and/or trips. As there is no cost to you, it is a very easy way of raising funds for the school.