

THE BRIDGE



WOODBIDGE
SCHOOL



BACK TO THE 80s

Taking the audience on a journey back in time

Celebrating the ISI Report

OW London Drinks

OW News

Back to the 80s

Richard Ward Bursary

Building the Future with Lego

Young Musician of the Year

International Robot Competition

School Sports Update

Forthcoming Events

HEADMASTER NEIL TETLEY REFLECTS ON A BUSY 2016 SO FAR!



Welcome to another edition of *The Bridge* and I hope you enjoy all the news and updates. It was great to see so many of you at the recent OW drinks in London. As a recent OW told me on the night, “free drinks will always attract OWs!” however, I know it was more than that and it was a great opportunity to see old friends and former teachers. We would like to encourage more OWs to attend events, so we are looking for year group ambassadors: if you would like to volunteer please contact us.

I am also delighted that this year has seen the first Richard Ward bursaries awarded. Richard (OW 1942-50) left a sizeable legacy in his will for pupils to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. The first two pupils joined us in September 2015 and are thriving. Richard’s generous legacy has made a real difference to their lives.

In other news, school has been as busy as ever and we recently came through our ISI inspection with flying colours. My favourite comment by the inspectors was “by the time they leave school the pupils have developed into self-assured, articulate individuals who are well prepared to face the challenges of an increasingly global environment with confidence and a clear set of values.” A fitting tribute to the wonderful pupils and the teachers who help them so much.

As always we would love to see you, either at an OW event, or at a School one. However, individual visits are always welcome too; please just get in touch.

Neil Tetley
Headmaster, Woodbridge School

ISI REPORT: WOODBIDGE SCHOOL HIGHLY PRAISED

Woodbridge School was inspected by the ISI (Independent Schools Inspectorate) during the Michaelmas term as part of its normal six-yearly cycle, to which all independent schools in England and Wales are subject. The School enjoyed considerable praise in the report, and achieved ‘Excellent’ in six categories, and ‘Good’ in three.

The final report has now been published, and we are delighted with it and the strong endorsement given to Woodbridge School’s many strengths, as well as supporting our plans for further development in certain areas, notably the curriculum, teaching and learning, the personal development of pupils in the School, the excellent pastoral care, and the strong and wide ranging extra-curricular programme. We hope that you enjoy reading the full report, available on the School website, and that you feel, as we do, that it reflects extremely well on the School as a whole. It is certainly a most useful benchmark as we strive to provide our pupils with the very best preparation for life.



“The curriculum throughout the School fully supports the aim of enabling pupils to become independent, curious and confident learners who enjoy their education.”

“...a stimulating and scholarly approach that thoroughly captures pupils interest.”

“The boarding experience contributes highly effectively to the boarders’ excellent personal development and outcomes for boarders are excellent.”

2016 OW LONDON DRINKS

OWs from across the generations came together at the annual OW London drinks, this year held at the Inn of Court in Holborn. With free drinks and a fabulous buffet, the scene was set for a wonderful evening.

Attendees included Izzie Brown and Ally Hillman (both formerly Tyndale-Biscoe and OWs as well as teachers), current OW Chairman Robert Turner, and President Huw Turbervill.

It was fantastic to see many more recent OWs from the last 5 -10 years, especially as they showed such enthusiasm for the event and also for the new OW careers initiatives. All are keen to come and share their work experiences (so far!) with current pupils. We look forward to welcoming them back soon.



OW UPDATES

OW Emily Hauser gives classics talk



*OW Emily Hauser, a former pupil of The Abbey who studied at Cambridge under Mary Beard before pursuing a PhD at Yale University, offered pupils an enchanting window into the life of a classicist, and all that has come her way – quite unlike anything our pupils might have expected. An afternoon classics lecture at the end of a long week sounded pretty daunting, but the reality was quite otherwise. Emily quickly captured pupils' attention with her anecdotes from Cambridge as an undergraduate and Yale as a post graduate, before launching into a concise summary of her first book, *For The Most Beautiful*, which gripped the audience from the first. Those who had not pre-ordered were soon regretting their inefficiency.*

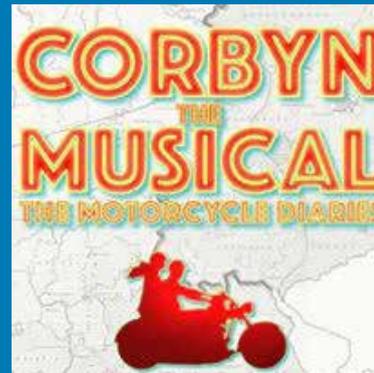
Emily's decision to retell the story of the sacking of Troy from the perspective of two minor female characters was compelling and empowering, and gave the lie to the belief that Greek mythology had to be about war and men. Her audience was left enthralled and entertained, and her name and that of her book the subject of intense conversation for many hours thereafter. We thank Emily for her time and her passion for her subject – truly inspiring.

RUPERT MYERS' PARLIAMENTARY PARODY "CORBYN THE MUSICAL" MAKES ITS DEBUT AT WATERLOO

OW Rupert Myers has embraced the time-old British tradition of sending up our politicians by co-writing a play inspired by Corbyn's alleged affair with Labour ally Diane Abbott. Rupert and his university friend Bobby Friedman came up with the concept for 'Corbyn the Musical: the Motorcycle Diaries' over beers at the pub.

The pair ran with it – and soon realised they had a potential hit on their hands – with news of the play causing such a flurry of interest that an initial one week London run was quickly extended to three – all before the cast had been auditioned, and the play has had extensive media attention, even gaining a mention on *Have I Got News For You!*

Featuring fictional appearances from Boris Johnson, Tony Blair and Ed Miliband amongst many others, *Corbyn the Musical* has been described as a cross between *The Book of Mormon* and *The Thick of It*. The show's much lauded first run at Waterloo East Theatre in April was a sell-out, and sadly there are no plans to add any further dates.



OBITUARY FOR BENEDICT POWELL 1915 - 2015

Benny Powell was born in 1915 in Ship Meadow, Suffolk and grew up in Ipswich where his father was a clergyman at St Bartholomews. After his education at Woodbridge School, he went to Selwyn College, Cambridge in 1933 to read medicine. He completed his medical studies at St Thomas' Hospital and in 1939 joined the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The second world war took him to Norway, and then, from 1942 as the highly respected Medical Officer to the 2nd Royal Horse Artillery Regiment through their campaigns in North Africa and Italy until 1945. He resumed his medical studies in 1945 at St Thomas' Hospital where he met and married his wife Jean, a Nightingale nurse.

His first job saw him based at Great Ormond Street Hospital, where he worked with Professor Alan Moncrieff, the pioneer of children's health and medicine, establishing new paediatric and public health research programmes. Benny was appointed in 1953 as consultant paediatrician to the Peterborough, Stamford and Kings Lynn hospitals where he developed particular expertise in medicine and care for new-born children. In 1962 Benny led the development of an innovative in- and out-patient paediatric unit at the new Peterborough Hospital which incorporated a landmark Child Development Centre.

When Benny retired in 1976, he returned to his home county of Suffolk. He was active for many years in Theberton as churchwarden and Tower Captain at St Peter's, and as a much loved and respected centre of the village community. Until his mid-nineties he was a regular bell ringer and a prolific gardener. Though he had been unwell for some years, he hosted two parties to celebrate his 100th birthday with great style. Benny died in October 2015 and is survived by his three children, David (SE 1966-1969), Margaret and Hugh, nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



Top: Benny surrounded by his family, and inset right: as part of the Woodbridge School 1st XI cricket team in 1932.



CAREERS LUNCH

Our most recent careers lunch focussed on sales and marketing. Pupils from Year 10 to Year 13 attended and agreed it was very useful to chat to our invited professionals about their experiences and career paths in these fields. Huge thanks to Katherine Riddell, Graham Kill, Ciara Scallon and Greg Spray for giving up their time and helping our students think more about the different avenues available to them.



CAREERS CORNER

New LinkedIn group for all OWs!

Search for 'Woodbridge School and Old Woodbrigians Careers Network' and ask to join.

The aim of the group is to put OWs in touch with each other via their careers; networking, mentoring and advice. The group is also open to current Sixth Form students so we hope OWs will offer advice, work experience and mentoring to this group too.

This new group is for anything careers-based and is yours to use. Ask to join now and get networking!

THE RICHARD WARD BURSARY

For STEM subject study



Jamian Stephan and Emilia Cole

Students wishing to study STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at Woodbridge now have more opportunities following the creation of a new bursary fund for Sixth Form pupils.

The Bursary fund was gifted to Woodbridge School by former pupil Dr Richard Ward, whose studies at the School from 1942 to 1950 sparked a lifelong passion for science.

Richard Ward passed away in November 2014, leaving half of the surplus of his estate for Woodbridge School for the benefit of gifted pupils wanting to study STEM subjects at A Level and beyond, but who may otherwise be unable to afford a place at the School.

Richard Ward lived in Felixstowe and came to the School in 1942 with a 'compassionate reduction' – effectively a bursary of the day – and remained in the School until completion of his A Levels, leaving as both a School and School House prefect. His name is on one of the Honours Boards in School Hall. He then went to Birmingham University in 1950 on an East Suffolk Major Scholarship to read chemistry, graduating with First Class Honours in 1953. He remained at Birmingham to gain his PhD (1956), followed by two years as a research fellow, working on gamma ray degradation of carbohydrates. In 1958 he went to Ohio State University on a one year fellowship, and enjoyed the USA so much that he stayed there, joining Dupont in Wilmington, Delaware, where he remained until retirement in 1992, thereafter continuing as a consultant to Dupont until 2012.

The bursary offers provision for the funding of two students studying STEM subjects at Sixth Form. The first bursaries were awarded this year to Jamian Stephan and Emilia Cole who both began studying A Level chemistry, physics and mathematics this academic year.

PUPILS BUILD THE FUTURE WITH LEGO



A team of pupils at The Abbey have been creating and coding futuristic Lego robots ahead of their participation in the international First Lego League competition, which kicked off with a regional level competition in January 2016.

First Lego League is a global science and technology competition where young pupils learn to design, build and code an autonomous Lego robot to complete certain tasks. Over 25,000 9 to 16 year-olds take part from over 80 countries each year, in a bid to help young people develop the skills and knowledge needed for their future careers.

The Abbey's team of 4 pupils is sponsored by American-based software company VMWare, who sent business solution strategist and former Woodbridge School pupil, Ed Hoppitt, to meet the team whilst visiting the UK on 1 December.

MUSICAL DUO GAIN PLACES AT LEADING LONDON CONSERVATOIRES



Two students have achieved the extraordinary accolade of being accepted into two world-famous music schools. Isabella Pincombe, who plays the oboe, will be studying for a degree in music at London's Royal Academy of Music from September 2016, whilst Georgia Dawson, who plays the French horn, has secured a place at the Royal College of Music. Both students currently study A Level music at the School.

Isabella, who already has a diploma in playing the oboe, went through a tough round of written examinations and faced an audition panel of world-renowned oboists before achieving her place at the Royal Academy. Isabella impressed the audition panel so much that they made the unusual decision to offer her a scholarship place on the day.

Securing places at the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music are remarkable achievements and we wish Isabella and Georgia all the best as they begin their studies there later this year. Both students have shown real musical talent and we are very proud that they will be growing this further at such prestigious institutions.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2016

Talented young musicians from across Suffolk were recognized at the second Woodbridge Young Musician of the Year competition. Following on from the success of last year's Junior competition, this year's entries were extended to include Intermediate and Senior young musicians aged up to 18. The competition was adjudicated by Robert Smissen who is principal viola with the London-based chamber orchestra, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Senior Young Musician of the Year winner was Isabella Pincombe on oboe. Bass trombonist Samuel Taber from Farlingaye High School, received second prize in the Senior competition, and pianist Harrison Cole from Woodbridge School came third.

Lewis Chinn from Woodbridge School was announced as Intermediate Young Musician of the Year for playing the tuba. Amelie Clarke from Debenham High School came second for playing the flute, and alto-saxophonist Harrison Perkins from Woodbridge School came third. Trombonist Henry Dinwiddy, aged 11 from The Abbey at Woodbridge School, was crowned Junior Young Musician of the Year, with cellist Sam Burkitt from Farlingaye High School in second place and pianist Acer Smith from Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School in third place.

Each winning musician received a trophy and a book token and every participant received constructive feedback from the adjudicator Robert Smissen.

"It was wonderful to hear so many enthusiastic, passionate and committed performances from local young musicians. Everyone who played should be very proud of their achievements as they undertake their journey in music!"



BACK TO THE 80s

Friday night and everyone's movin'... The youth of yesterday today. Back to the 80s – the energy, the teamwork, the colour and the sheer exuberance. Many, many congratulations to the brilliant cast, from stage-shifting chorus to leading lords and ladies; to the wonderful band hidden away in the gods, but playing like gods; to the crew back stage (over three dozen of them, pupils and staff!); and of course to the directorial powerhouse of Miss Mayes and Mr Williams, which this year additionally introduced Miss Foster as musical director and Miss Clements as dance for terrific debuts. Thank you all – and long live the 80s!





2016 Suffolk Prep Schools Cross Country Championships



Woodbridge School was once again crowned overall champion at the East Anglia Prep Schools Cross Country Championships, held at the School in March.

The event, which involved hundreds of pupils aged 10-13 from 20 prep schools across the region, was hosted for a second year by the School.

Pupils at The Abbey scooped 5 of the 11 available titles on the day, including Overall Team Champion, Overall Boys Champion and Overall Girls Champion. The U11 Boys Champion was won by Woodbridge School pupil Henry Dinwiddy and Ruby Vinton won the U10 Girls Champion.

Despite the grey skies, the event was a glorious day for Woodbridge School and The Abbey cross country teams. It was a privilege to host the event for a second year and to see an outstanding performance from young runners across the region.

NEWS FROM THE SLOPES



Arthur Bartlett in Year 8 reports from his trip to Pila in Italy for the ESSKIA squad training in March.

I have had the most incredible opportunity this season to improve my ski racing. I qualified, somewhat to my surprise, for the ESSKIA (English Schools Ski Association) junior squad, on the basis of the dry slope races that Woodbridge took part in last September. I was invited to join the ESSKIA squad training in Pila in Italy from 13-20 March.

The week in Pila was a great chance to meet ski racers from other schools and parts of the country. It was a full program of race training, competition, ski preparation and fitness, and some school work too. I was really pleased with the progress I made during the week - I won the Giant Slalom competition and came third in the Slalom.

At the end of the week I travelled from Pila to Tignes in France to join four time Olympian Chemmy Alcott and her CDC Performance team to prepare for and compete in the British Alpine Championships.

This was the biggest ski racing challenge I have ever faced and just qualifying gave me a huge sense of achievement. The program was intense; fitness, activation, skiing, ski prep, and homework but great fun and the camaraderie of being part of a small team - just nine racers - was amazing.

I was pleased with my placings; although a way off the podium, I had made real progress. The most thrilling thing I did for the first time was the Super G, a race with very long turns on very long skis, and although I crashed out in the race I cannot wait to have the chance to do it again. I am delighted that CDC performance has invited me to join the team training in New Zealand for four weeks this summer.

2016 Equestrian One Day Event at Poplar Park



Woodbridge School organized the 20th NSEA Inter Schools Annual One Day Event at Poplar Park on Sunday 20 March over the Poplar Park BE XC courses for 80cm, 90cm & 1m classes. For many competitors this was their first chance of the season to compete cross country and they were rewarded with near perfect conditions. Over 100 competitors making up 18 teams and Individuals travelled across the East of England from schools as far away as Cambridgeshire, North Norfolk and East Sussex to compete in the 3 disciplines of dressage, show jumping and cross country.

The 80cm class was run as a Hunter Trial for children 13yrs and under. This was won by the Woodbridge School Junior Team of Ada Marson (4th individually) riding Rolly Rascal, Neve Walker (9th individually) riding Heritage Zena and Fleur Ludgrove (10th individually) riding Aston MyTime of Warleigh. This was a very fine performance as all three riders were making their cross country debuts on new mounts.

The 90cm was very well supported with 11 school teams competing with 41 individuals. Woodbridge's team of Tabitha Wilson-Smith riding Ruby Queen of Diamonds, Lydia Sida-Page riding Corrin Hill Clover (6th individually) and Georgie Warren riding Autumn Gold (7th individually) took 7th place overall.

The 1m class saw a brilliant double for Woodbridge's Lye sisters; Zara Lye won her section riding Jana de Cavaignac & Tessa Lye won her section riding Dawns Glen. Bella Regis riding Forever Unique secured a fine 2nd place in her section, to round things off in excellent style, helping the team to a convincing win overall.

BOYS' HOCKEY 2016



The boys' 1st team squad started their pre-season work during the last two weeks of the Michaelmas term, dedicated to training into the evening. Competition for 1st team selection was tougher than ever.

The early preparation and hard work paid off as the first team had a very successful open season, convincingly winning five of its six matches. Highlights include a great 5-2 win over Ipswich and 3-1 against Culford. Unfortunately the team lost to Norwich on penalty strokes in the national Cup Competition but bounced back with a

3-1 win when Norwich visited Woodbridge for a block fixture.

The first team boasted some great talent, starting with captain Callum Askins. Edward Robson was the School's top goal scorer, scoring 10 goals in the season including two hat-tricks. The senior players showed that experience is so valuable, while a number of Y11 pupils stepped into the team with confidence. Another highlight of the term was the 1st team's successful run into the semi-final of the St George's 6s competition. Oliver Justz in Y9 made his first team debut in the tournament and showed just what a good young goalkeeper he is.

The second team secured great wins over Ipswich and Culford. Mr Davis' 3rd mixed team trained with enthusiasm throughout and started a new fixture against Northgate.

Lower down the School, the U15s had a difficult season but it did not deter players from working hard and improving every time they practised and played matches. The U14 players made the step up to 11-a-side hockey with much success securing four wins during the term. In junior hockey 90 percent of Y7 & 8 had a chance to represent the School in matches; a highlight also being the Junior 1's win over Norwich.

A number of pupils achieved individual successes at club and county level. Congratulations to Toby Stowe, Hugo Thomas, Oliver Justz, Alex Weir-Simmons, Joshua Graves on county selection. And well done to Myles King for county selection and for winning the National U18 Indoor championships with his club.

OW DATES FOR THE DIARY

THURSDAY 30 JUNE 7.30pm

JOHN STAFFORD MEMORIAL CONCERT

Music and observations reflecting the life and music of John Stafford, with performances by OWs and current pupils.

St Mary's Church, Woodbridge

Followed by a reception at the Abbey Hall

Tickets: Free (but booking essential)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/seckfordtheatre

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 6.15pm for 7.00pm OW DINNER

Join us for dinner drinks, dancing and an all-round great opportunity to catch up!

Woodbridge School Tuckwell Room

Following drinks on the Chapel Lawn

Tickets: £30 each,; students £25

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 7.00pm OW CAROL SERVICE

Join us for the annual end of term carol service.

St Mary's Church, Woodbridge

Followed by mince pies at the Abbey Hall

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER 12noon onwards OW CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Our traditional Christmas drinks at the Kings Head, Market Hill.

A chance to meet friends old and new, including staff past and present.

As if this isn't enough....the drinks are on us!

The Kings Head, Woodbridge

No need to book, turn up on the day

CALLING ALL OWs! YEAR GROUP REPS NEEDED

The School is looking for Year Group Reps to help us to trace lost OWs in their year who might like to get back in touch with each other and attend OW events at the School. If you are usually the person within your group of old school friends who likes to get everyone together, then this would be the perfect role for you. Please contact alumni@woodbridgeschool.org.uk for more details.



PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

We are always delighted to hear from all OWs, the very recent or very much less so! If you would like to have a story featured in the Bridge; to contact us about news of other OWs; offer up any new ideas for fun events and gatherings; or if you are interested in careers networking, please do get in touch. alumni@woodbridgeschool.org.uk

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