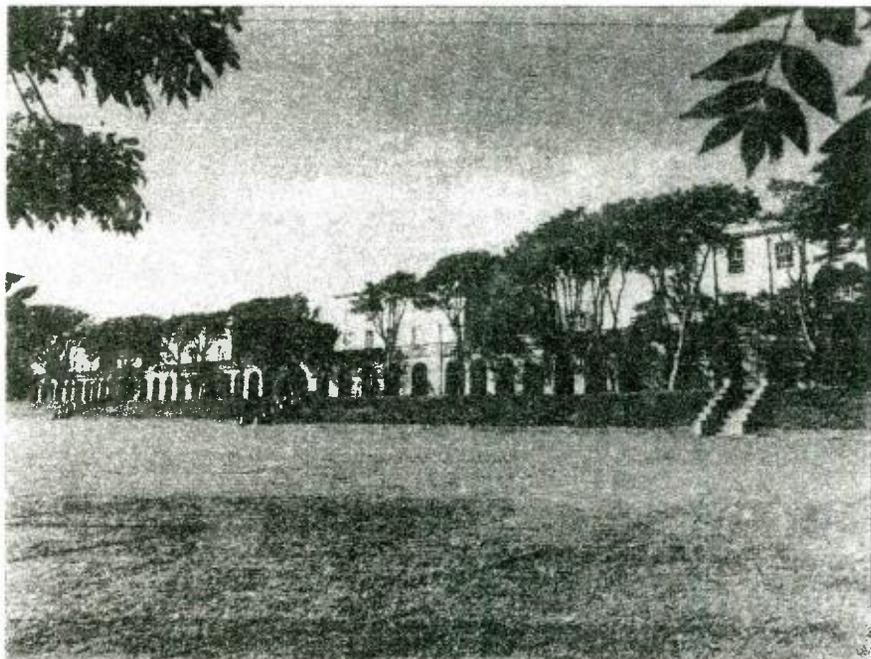


# DHSEB

**Devonport High School for Boys**



**School Magazine**

**Edition 154**

# ***The School Magazine Editorial Team***

Alex Bath	-	Editor
Howard Cradick	-	Deputy Editor and IT Designs
Jamie Tinto-Cradick	-	Researcher and Writer
Andrew Anderson	-	Picture Editor
Matthew Green	-	Researcher and Writer
Luke Williams	-	Sports Editor

# *Contents*

<b>4</b>	<b>Editor's Report</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Headmaster's Report 2001/2002</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Academic Success</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>School Council</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>New Gibbons Refectory</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>New Drama Studio</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Quartermaster's House</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Old Boys</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Archives</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Kenya Expedition 2001 <i>written by Mr Manley</i></b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Photos</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>The Most Outstanding Experience in Kenya</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Letter from Mr Mburu</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Kenya Trip 2001 <i>written by Tom Graham</i></b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Young Consumer 2001</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Sports Editorial</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Sports Hall</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Sports Review</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Russia Trip Summer 2001</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Chess Club</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>New DHSB Website</b>

# *Editorial*

## *Editor's Report*

Hello and welcome to this year's school magazine. This year's magazine is brought to you by Alex Bath, Howard Cradick, Luke Williams, Jamie Tinto-Cradick, Matthew Green and Andrew Anderson. We are bringing you all kinds of stories, from the chess club to the new website.

Howard Cradick has been collecting up all the work we have produced, and turning it into an actual magazine. He has used all kinds of software to make an attractive and interesting read.

---

---

**This year has seen  
significant improvements to  
the school**

---

---

Jamie Tinto-Cradick, Andrew Anderson, Matthew Green and I have been researching many of the things going on in the school and writing them up for you to read. This has taken us from

Russia to the new Drama Studio, via the School Council.

Luke Williams has been working hard to produce a sports section. He has met with Mr.Orkney to find out about the sports staff's hopes and aspirations now they have a new Sports Hall. We also have reports on the hugely successful trip to Russia, led by Mr. Dickens, and encompassing St.Petersburg and Moscow.

This year has also seen the introduction of the Whole School Council. We have a report on the setting up of the council, and Mr. Maitland gives his views on the new council.

This has year has seen significant improvements to the school. We hope that we bring this magazine to you at the start of a new era for the school. Hopefully next year's magazine team will have many more successes and enhancements to the school to write about.

# *Editorial*

## *Headmaster's Report 2001/2002*

2001 has been another year of real progress for Devonport High School for Boys: I have been delighted with the academic progress of the boys and thrilled to be able to hear from my office the sound of sport being played in the Hansom Sports Hall.

---

---

**2001 has been another year of real progress for Devonport High School for Boys**

---

---

As the staff and I work hard to keep up with government initiatives we are very mindful of the need to ensure that we do not lose sight of what we do so well – educate boys! We have been especially pleased that in all the 'value added' measures our students do well at all levels in the school. Traditionally our A-level performance was an area of strength and we have retained that

strength whilst significantly improving our provision for the boys in the first three years (Key Stage Three) so that they can approach GCSE's with real confidence. Public examination results were excellent with 20 students at GCSE gaining exclusively grade A/A\* (2 of whom gaining exclusively A\* grades) and with one student gaining a 'Top Candidate' award in Science from the AQA Examination Board. At A-level the levels of success were very impressive, every student gaining at least 2 passes and 10 students achieving exclusively grade A.

---

---

**Our extra-curricular programme remains as rich and varied as ever**

---

---

Our extra-curricular programme remains as rich and varied as ever, thanks entirely to the generosity

# *Editorial*

and goodwill of the staff who are willing to give up their time to share their enthusiasm and expertise with the boys. We have many, many teams out playing team sport locally, with individuals going on to record significant success in representative sport for the city, county and region. The clubs provide many activities for the boys ranging from chess to cooking and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to robot manufacture, and our trips are as varied as ever, including Wales, France, Spain, Russia and Kenya this year.

---

---

**It was a wonderful moment to have my first school assembly with all 1,070 boys and 70 teachers present in our superb new facility**

---

---

In January we were shocked to discover that the Sports Hall

builders had gone into receivership and we had a very stressful few months whilst we found a new contractor, Ryearech Ltd, to take over the project. We were delighted to take the building over in September and it was a wonderful moment to have my first whole-school assembly with all 1,070 boys and 70 teachers present in our superb new facility. Our sports provision will now improve by leaps and bounds and for about 4 weeks each summer we will have an excellent examinations hall for our 300 public exam candidates!

Many thanks to all those of you who contributed to this £600,000 project either by your generosity to the Centenary Appeal in 1996, and/or more recently, to the Buy a Brick Appeal.

In 2002 we will be bidding for Specialist College Status as a way to take forward both the school and our links with the local community. I expect to be able to report on progress in November 2003!

# *Achievements*

## *Academic Success*

Devonport High School for Boys has always been known as a successful school. Last year's year 11 and year 13 results were no different. 9% more year 11 students got all A\* or A grades, 20 students in total; including Richard Hammond, Jack Fletcher, Richard Major and David Pettit. 98% of the year qualified with 5 or more A\* to C grades, and an astonishing 68% left the school on results day with 10 or more good grades. The average points score for the students was a fantastic 61.8; an A\* gets 8 points, an A is worth 7 points etc. Making 61.8 a highly respectable score.

Last year's year 13 also had a hugely successful year, with **every student** getting at least 2 or more A-level passes, enough to take all of them to higher education. 10 of the students qualified with 4 or more A grade passes. Almost all of the students are now in their first term at university, and a superb figure of 9 are at Colleges in Oxford or

Cambridge.

Our year 9 students have matched this trend of success. This year, Key Stage 3 SAT results broke all records. The average progress through the levels averaged out to 2.1 levels, but many students excelled 3 levels.

Other successes by DHSB students this year include Henry Baker and Michael Richards, who both competed in an International Chemistry competition. Out of 3,358 competitors, Henry came 8<sup>th</sup> and Michael 106<sup>th</sup>. Well done to the two of them.

Two DHS students have become members of the National Youth Theatre. Brian Guntrip of Year 13 and Laurie Wilkes of year 11 both succeeded in their applications to become members of the internationally renowned theatre group. These two are not the only members to attend DHSB, notably, Oliver Pengelly is currently a leading light in the NYT.

# School

## School Council

'Finally!' students cry as at last the boys of Devonport High have a positive way of voicing their ideas

---

---

**"The school council gives the pupils a voice and will hopefully make change to the school"**

---

---

for change in the school. Earlier this year Mr Maitland and Mrs Bryce took steps to instigate a school council at Devonport. Mr Maitland said that he felt, "the school council gives the pupils a voice and will hopefully make change to the school." When it was set up a list of aims for the DHSB School Council was issued:

- ☞ To encourage a positive attitude towards school life.
- ☞ To improve pupil-teacher

relationships.

☞ To provide a forum for students to put forward their ideas.

☞ To act as a 'messenger' between students and senior management.

☞ To review the school rules and make them known.

---

---

**The sixth form council had already been in action for quite some time, but many felt that the rest of the school should have their say as well**

---

---

The council has not been running long enough to prove that these targets have been achieved but things certainly look very promising. The set up of the council is this: Each form group has two council representatives,

# School

who all meet as a year group to discuss what the pupils want to discuss. They then elect two people to go to the full council meetings where they put there ideas forward for an agenda which is discussed.

---

---

**Hopefully it will, as one of the aims stated, encourage a significantly more positive attitude to school life**

---

---

The sixth form council had already been in action for quite some time, but many felt that the rest of the school should have their say as well. So far the council has made some degree of change. Personal Stereos are now allowed to be brought to school, allocation of new litter bins has been agreed and the use of the E block gym may be used as a year 11 common room.

These are just some examples of what the council has achieved so far. Mr Maitland says the council has a long way to go and he hopes that it will become more active and will be given a more prominent voice in the future. He reminds us that the school council has only been running here for a few months, and that in schools where councils have been running for 5-10 years they are capable of having a lot of influence over leadership decisions.

The instigation of the school council was a big step at DHSB and hopefully it will, as one of the aims stated, encourage a significantly more positive attitude to school life. Mr Maitland and many other teachers and many pupils are optimistic that given time this can definitely be achieved.

**For more information on the DHSB school council, visit [www.dhsbcouncil.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.dhsbcouncil.fsnet.co.uk)**

by Jamie Tinto-Cradick

# *School*

## *New Gibbons Refectory*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November, the new Gibbons refection (see photo - page 25) was officially declared open by Mr. David Crocker. Mr Crocker is the Managing Director of the Stanley Gibbons Philatelic Division. The new building is the school's seventh 'block', and is another addition to the school in recent times, along with the new sports hall. It is named after the Plymothian Stanley Gibbons, who now joins Messrs. Astor,

---

---

**The new building is the school's seventh 'block', and is another addition to the school in recent times**

---

---

Brunel, Cookworthy, Drake, Edgcumbe and Foulston in being commemorated in the form of a building. Stanley Gibbons founded a stamp business in the 19th Century. Mr. Crocker

travelled from London to perform the naming ceremony in front of 130 guests. Mr. Crocker presented the school with a picture of Stanley Gibbons, and a medal recently cast to commemorate the company's founder.

---

---

**Old boy Dr. Soper gave an illustrated talk to the audience about his polar travels**

---

---

The guests were also treated to a meal prepared and served by members of Mr. Guswell's sixth form Food Technology course. Also, Old Boy Dr. Tony Soper gave an illustrated talk to the audience about his polar travels. Dr. Soper was the co-founder of the BBC's Natural History unit.

by Alex Bath

# School

## *New Drama Studio*

This last year has seen many new buildings added to the school. We have the new sports hall, the new refectory, and there are also plans for new buildings like the new music room. Another addition to the school is the drama studio. The studio is home to Mrs. Vinken and Mr. Sparks, and it has been renovated and enhanced by them and many volunteers. The studio has been painted black, and had huge shutters put over the windows. The school was lucky enough to have members of the Theatre Royal stage-building team in to help. This meant that the room could be developed further. They installed a lighting rig, and many lights. Also, a computer system is being implemented to automatically turn different lights on and off. This means that students can now create added diversity to pieces. It also means that GCSE and AS/A Level students can study more parts of the courses.

The Studio has been named after

Clive Burrows, the English and Drama teacher who was dedicated to all his students. Mr Burrows died unexpectedly in early 2000.

The Studio Is being used to it's full potential by the drama students right now. Students from years 10/11/12 and 13 are currently performing an impressive new take on Macbeth they have prepared:

**“Set in a world both familiar and unfamiliar, the Drama Department’s production is set in a high risk world of high finance and high stakes, of blue chip companies and insider trading, of double dealing and vaulting ambition...all tracked by an Internet and Dotcom o m n i p o t e n c e ... ”**

It promises to be an entertaining piece, with the usual twist teenagers give a piece of drama! Check out the website for any information on how the performances went.

# *School*

## *The Quartermaster's House*

The music room is currently on the bottom floor of E Block, next to the sports changing rooms and below E Block Hall. This is an inconvenient place for the music room to be situated for a number of reasons. Firstly, the students taking music lessons are often disturbed by games pupils in the changing rooms next door. Also, the sound of the music which comes from the music room often distracts the students taking exams in the hall directly above it. The third problem with the current music room is that there is a distinct lack of space inside and there are pillars in the main room which tend to get in the way on occasions. To sum it all up, the current music room is somewhat inadequate and in need of a change.

On the right hand side of the driveway leading into the school, opposite the entrance to Foulston, lies a building. This building is the Quartermaster's House (see photo - page 26), and at the

moment is used for music lessons. This house is the proposed new location for the music room, to replace the current one. It will give musicians more space and will reduce the number of distractions caused and experienced by students undertaking in music lessons.

There is also speculation that the current music room may be turned into a new fitness suite. At the moment the equipment is in a small room next to a classroom with just a few machines in it. If the music room could be transformed into such a facility then the school would be able to fill it with many machines and equipment, which many students and members of the school community would find profitable in improving their health and fitness. Overall, the proposed relocation of the music room could be very advantageous to many of the pupils, and is just another of the headmaster's many plans to improve the facilities and

# *Old Boys*

## *D.H.S Old Boys Association*

### **President**

-The Headmaster

### **Chairman**

-David Cole

### **Treasurer**

-Tom Orchard

### **Membership/Social Secretary**

-Dennis Rowe

### **Minute Secretary**

-Alan Porter

evacuation of the school to Penzance on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1941. According to records, 380 boys travelled to Penzance by special train on that date – a clear indication of the severe disruption of normal school life caused by the Blitz. The march 1941 number was 640 pupils.

---

---

## *Anniversary Year*

At the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM of our re-established Association on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2001, Peter Fielding stood down as chairman in accordance with our Constitution and received a well deserved note of thanks for his valiant efforts over the past two years. The continuing vital support given to the Association by Nic Pettit, despite his heavy workload, is greatly appreciated.

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the wartime

**According to records, 380 boys travelled to Penzance by train on that date - a clear indication of the severe disruption of normal school life caused by the Blitz**

---

---

Prior to evacuation, boys attended

# *Old Boys*

Road. After evacuation to Penzance, several widely different and often scattered buildings were utilised either for tuition or accommodation purposes. Some boys were “privately” evacuated elsewhere, while others not evacuated joined the Emergency High School established at the former Sutton High School Buildings in Regent Street. Inevitably, a fragmented Devonport High School resulted from such transfers and movements of pupils.

Since the return of the school to Devonport at the end of the summer term in 1945, the new location at the former Stoke military hospital has been developed enormously. Now some of the older “Old Boys” would marvel at wide-ranging educational, social and sporting facilities now centrally available at the Devonport complex!

Not forgetting that each of the current number of 1,070 pupils is a potential member of the Old Boys’ association as well!

## *News of Old Boys*

Many Old Boys responded to Chris Robinson’s “Looking Back” articles during July and August 2001 in the “Evening Herald.” These featured the 1946 photograph of DHS staff and pupils and also DHS evacuees photographed returning home for Christmas, 1942. Those of us who appeared in the original 1939 photograph taken at Albert Road will have even older memories!

R.J. (‘Bob’) Rickard (1942-1951) wrote regarding the 1946 photograph: “I regularly meet another Old Boy, Ted Gynn, in Edinburgh. His and mine careers have been incredibly close. We both became Officers of Customs and Excise and served simultaneously in the malt whiskey distilleries in the north of Scotland; we courted and married girls from neighbouring villages, and ultimately took up appointments in Edinburgh.

# *Old Boys*

“My sister has told me the old school building in Albert Road, where my father attended before and during WW1, has been demolished. I feel sadness that landmarks like that disappear. My days with the school started during the days of evacuation to Penzance, and then at the newly acquired military hospital in Paradise Road.

“I have fond memories of my school days, and it is good to maintain a link with DHSB, no matter how tenuous.”

## *Contact with and between Old Boys*

Bob Rickard’s final comment is particularly relevant to the intention of the Old Boys’ Association Committee to improve inter-communication facilities. One method already discussed is to make extensive use of an existing world-wide-web site.

Another objective is to strengthen the local ties between the DHS OB Rugby Football Club and the Association itself.

As a result of improved contact between Old Boys generally, it is hoped that the Association will be more successful in promoting social events.

In response to the DHSB “Buy a

## *Forging Links between the Association and the School*

Brick” appeal 2000/2001, several Old Boys gave generous donations towards the construction and equipping of the School’s new Sports Hall. This is a first-class sports facility, and should provide enjoyment for pupils for many years to come.

The Old Boys’ Association Committee has already approved the funding of two Year 12 (lower

# Old Boys

Sixth) prizes each of £50 combined with accompanying trophies per year, subject to review. These are to be awarded at the discretion of teaching staff to those pupils at certain levels who have shown particular improvement during the year apart from any academic achievement. The objective is to recognise and encourage individual progress outside the remit of the existing prize system.

## *A Date For Your Diaries*

### Annual General Meeting of the DHSB Old Boys Association

*6.45p.m. REFECTORY*  
on Wednesday 3rd July 2002, on the occasion of a school "Open Day". An opportunity to meet and chat with other Old Boys, and for members to discuss any plans and events for the following year. Also your chance to see

some new developments and facilities in the school complex.

The Association needs your support!

## *Obituaries*

*Fighting dancet,*  
David Cliffe (1938-1945)  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] David subsequently died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2001. At school David was a natural all-rounder – a strong swimmer, good rugby player and fine athlete, plus high scholastic achievement. He gained Athletics Colours in 1944 and Rugby Colours in 1944/45. He entered the Royal Navy as a Cadet, Accountant Branch, having passed first in the whole of England.

While stationed locally he became Captain of the Old Boys' Association Rugby team. His naval career was marked by senior rank promotions, accompanied by overseas postings, including Malaysia and Hong Kong. In time he became

# *Old Boys*

Commander at HMS Drake.

David supported much Church and community work, and took a particular interest in the Plymouth Mencap Society. He is survived and greatly missed by his wife, Zita, and their two children.

## **Frank May (1938-1945)**

Frank died of a heart attack on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2001, aged 73 years. He lived his whole life to the full, and was always proud of DHS. Frank was very keen on sports, particularly Rugby, for which he received School Colours. During his National Service period Frank became a writer in the Royal Navy, and in civilian life he gained teaching qualifications at Exeter University.

From 1955 to 1965 he taught at Honicknowle Secondary School and then taught until 1988 at Whiteleigh Secondary School. Frank was a very conscientious, dedicated and hard working teacher, who enjoyed his work tremendously. Outside his profession, his many community interests included duties as a St.

John Ambulanceman and as a voluntary worker for Torr Home for the Blind.

He is survived and greatly missed by his wife of 45 years, Gloria, their two children, and three grandchildren.

Both David Cliffe and Frank May shared many similar experiences. Both were in Gilbert House and evacuated to Penzance in 1941. Both were at Tredarvah hostel on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1942 when it received a direct hit by a bomb dropped from an enemy plane. Both were accommodated at the Maine Hotel hostel for a while, and both enjoyed swimming and playing rugby. On leaving school, both joined the Royal Navy. Both had long and successful marriages.

Despite failing health, Frank was able to attend David's funeral, a gesture typical of the bonding which often developed between former fellow-evacuees.

David Cole (1939-1947)  
Sports has always been an area

# *School History*

## *Archives*

### *Researchers Notes...*

I find that research into the school's yesteryear, be it a teacher's remark in passing or delving into archives, is something which can be highly entertaining and fun and at the same time intellectually advancing. From something as little as looking at the photos of the whole school in E Block and seeing which teachers are still with us, which have left, which have retired and which have changed their image noticeably, as well as those which, sadly, we will never see again. Also something which I am doing as I write this article; and that is looking through back issues of the school magazine, notably from 1933 to 1940, which, at the time thrice annually, means 22 publications, allowing for some that are missing between those two dates.

### *Staff Leavers...*

We say goodbye to Mr Britton of the RE department, who was with us a very long time, and anyone who has had him as a teacher will know he was always very enthusiastic and demonstrative about his work.

The loss of Mr Drane, master of electronics design and technology, will sadden many. His previous naval employment meant that he was standing in good stead for the MA in teaching the subject, and his vast knowledge was of great help to the students.

Well-known English teacher Ms Lovett is unfortunately no longer with us. It is a similar story with Mrs Pishneshin of the Art department.

Mr Thomas of Physics and Mr Hoffman of Mathematics were with us for a short time, but will be fondly remembered by their pupils.

# *School History*

## *Into the Archives...*

Ahhh...the familiar smell that comes from aged paper, the familiar snap as pages, compressed together by age and finally loosened, stiff as a board by the entrepreneurial researcher. The familiar instant blowing away the ever rising cloud of dust that works its way off the front cover, having been laid to rest for many years and finally roused, stiffly, like it has been disturbed from a long dormant period at the wrong moment in time...

Well, maybe in the future I will experience this. Perhaps fortunately the headmaster keeps his back issues of the school magazine in such conditions that maybe in about fifty years time would you experience the above sensation. Still a nice thought though.

As previously mentioned, the past magazines range from 1902 to the present day, but I have looked at the 1933-1940 set. This is the period in history when Europe was in conflict – a conflict that

was so far only done around a negotiation table, not full out war. The December 1933 and 1934 issues both feature a mention about the war in terms of the editor's opinion. Strangely enough the mention of war does not appear again until the April 1938 issue, when war is mentioned now as an almost certainty, only a month before the first step to Hitler's domination of Europe; the taking of Austria. The intervening period between the subjects of war is very much at a tangent to the subject of war, where the editor's column became the place for Shakespeare quotes and the discussion of art. The tone of the editor's column becomes ever more gloomy after the April 1938 issue until the March 1940 issue, where war is not mentioned. Perhaps this was a result of the British troops not seeing action on the famous Maginot line until later in the year, and the "Phoney War" not really affecting Britain in any great way. The July 1940 issue however makes the point clear of how the fall of Paris could affect the safety of Britain. Ironically,

# *School History*

he also mentions the way the new German culture will affect the traditionalist art that Paris is home to.

As year 12 students have recently applied to be considered as school prefects (myself included), it struck me as very relevant to include the little extracts of what information about prefects I could glean from these issues. One stood out above the others, and that was a photo of the school prefects in 1933. At the time the school had around 400 pupils, and the photo included 12 prefects – about one prefect for every 33 pupils. Nowadays the school has around 30 prefects, and well over a thousand pupils, and the ratio is still the same; one prefect for every thirty three pupils. Nice to know that, even when the school is undergoing ever-more recent changes, some things remain the same. Also, in the magazine is a mention of how the younger pupils treated the prefects: “While dealing with people of a tender age, I might mention here that in those days (1922) small boys regarded prefects as people

to be respected and not as in these days (1934) targets for divers jibes and cruel jests.” Just glad to know that some things never change.

Despite the slightly depressed feeling of imminent war that comes from the March 1934 issue, namely in the editor’s comments which starts with a simple statement – “Europe in ferment!” – there is still room for a little humour to be added. Although it seriously derogatorises the Cornish, it does make an amusing read. He describes Cornwall as “the West,” and says he made a visit with a friend to the “...baron, inhospitable, uncivilised lands that lay to the west of the Tamar...”. He mentions how, even on the boat, the Captain offered a sacrifice of one of the passengers in order to please ‘Father Tamar’. They soon lost sight of their weeping relatives, and on the approaching shore natives could be seen with broken bottles, sticks and stones. They were carrying firearms and gas masks in preparation.

# *School History*

The idea of escaping punishment is as easily noticed in the days when the back issues were published as they are today. One magazine mentioned that the clock, which used to hang in the middle of the corridor, is now on the stairs. Apparently, if a teacher was annoyed with a pupil and wanted to send them to Senior Management, then the pupil was told to stand beneath the clock. This was with the full knowledge that the Headmaster would frequent this area. Watch owners now had an advantage as they could stand back and observe the clock and pretend to be checking their watch. This was providing the Head did not pass by too often that is!

The new school Sports Hall has at last, been completed and the vast range of uses that it now yields, not to mention the excellent facilities, does well to belong to a school with an impeccable record of sporting achievements. In almost every edition of the magazines that I looked at, there is one sports photograph, usually of the rugby team. Their

dimensions compared to those of the Headmaster, who is by no means small, is interesting to say the least. Sporting results are nearly half the magazine itself and there are countless reports of inter-house sports events. I thought I might mention a couple of interesting facts that I picked up about sport that are slightly different. The first, is the Cadet Corps, who had a flourishing record up to 1928, when it was disbanded. To compensate those demobbed members the School started a rifle club, although due to the lack of funds, this quickly came to an end. The second, is an article in the December 1933 issue which has a paragraph on swimming. A school swimming club was formed for the first time to make DHSB a "school of swimmers." The gala was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Mount Wise baths and a huge inter-house competition was organised, and was apparently won with flying colours by Gilbert.

by Matthew Green

# *School Trips*

## *Kenya Expedition 2001*

Over October half term, Mr Manley and Mr Orkney led 32 pupils from Years 9 and 10 on the school's third expedition to Kenya.

The party spent the first part of the trip at Greensteds School, Nakura – a private school on the outskirts of Kenya's third largest city. Visits were made to the town to witness urban life in a developing country, but Greensteds was also used as a base for excursions to several local attractions. These included the National Parks at Lake Nakura and Lake Bogoria, which are famous for their saline lake water and vast numbers of flamingos. Lake Nakura also hosts rhinos and lions, while Lake Bogoria boasts geysers, hot springs and boiling mud! The party also scaled the heights of the Menengai Crater – the second largest volcanic crater in Africa and took short boat trips to Crescent Island (on Lake Naivasha) for an unforgettable encounter with a baby giraffe and

some albino gazelles.

Then it was off to Kigio Eco-Conservation Centre – an amazing place, where the boys slept in traditionally designed and built thatched huts. They went on a guided bush walk with Samburu guides, which culminated with swimming in an incredibly cold, incredibly brown mountain river, and helped with a game count early the following morning. They were given a talk on Samburu culture and visited the gallery of the Centre's owner, Chris Campbell-Clause, who is an internationally renowned wildlife and landscape painter.

The main event at Kigio was the boys' visit to Mwega Primary School. When we first visited, in October 1999, this school consisted of a single corrugated tin shack, which served as classroom and refectory for about 30 pupils taught by one teacher. Resources were negligible, but the boys in the party subsequently



One of the many elephants seen on the trip to Kenya (Page 32)



A pack of Lions in Nairobi National Park (Page 30)



Outside one of the classrooms at Mwaga School, Kenya (Page 27)



Our £250 donation that makes so much difference (Page 27)



The Gibbons Refectory (Page 10)



Our Winning Young Consumer Team, National Champions 2001 (Page 33

Top: Second from left - Matt Simkins

Bottom: Will Carroll, Ryan Worth (Captain), Seb Nixon, Dan Every



Quatermasters House - to be the new Music Centre (Page 12)



1070 boys and 70 staff meet in the new Sports Hall for assembly (Page 39)

# *School Trips*

raised £750 in sponsorship to aid this school. We discovered that that money had been spent on a roof (see photo - page 24) for a second classroom (Mwega now has four, accommodating 120 pupils, four teachers and a Head!) and on the building of a large water tank to provide for the whole campus, including a new toilet block.

This year, knowing Mwega's needs, the DHSB School Council allocated £250 from the proceeds of Comic relief activities as a further donation (see photo - page 24). This money was presented, together with the boys' personal gifts of pens, paper, books, sports kit, calculators and geometry sets to Mwega School at a special assembly organised by the Head, Mr Peter Mburu. This was especially memorable for the sight of 32 normally self-conscious make adolescents, dancing, singing and clapping with the young Kenyan children! Mr Mburu has since sent a letter of thanks to us all at DHSB (text below).

The final stage of the expedition was a two night camp near the world famous Masai Mara reserve. Game drives yielded excellent views of leopards, lions, elephant, buffalo, hyena and 'majestic herds of migrating wildebeest'. The boys also conversed noisily with the hippos in the Mara River and made an informal incursion into Tanzania (without paying the visa fee...). A highlight of this part of the trip was a talk on Masai culture by the camp manager, and a visit to a Masai 'borma' with traditional dancing, singing and spear and club throwing. Sadly (?) no one offered us the traditional drink of blood and milk!

It is good to note that no one was injured or seriously ill, although there are always a few upset tummies and this was no exception. Some boys initially got 'hurt' in their wallets while getting used to haggling, but without doubt (judging by their bulging baggage) they all got plenty of excellent souvenir bargains to bring home.

# *School Trips*

## *The Most Outstanding Experience...*

by Mr Manley

The experience that will remain in my memory always would have to be that of Mwega School. Their attitude contradicts the attitude that we have towards school and learning. The schoolchildren in Kenya were all smiling. As we visited each of the classrooms the children were all very attentive and hardworking.

We helped the children to learn English and maths, which they were very good at. I tested them to read, write, state opposites, multiplication and subtraction. The most amazing thing about this was that they got everything that I asked them right. We presented out gifts and as we did, we knew they would use everything to the best they could. If I go back to Kenya and see one of those children I will think that we helped them to be where they are.

Phil Sleep 10N

The airport was just a few miles from Nairobi, as we drove into the main city I could see the occasional shanty house, people were walking and cycling along the road. I had only seen this sort of scene on television shows like Comic Relief. The minibus driver started telling us that people could walk miles and miles just to earn a few pence per day. This moved me quite a lot.

The Centre was a different world; it was as if we had not left London. It was so rich, but then we got in the outskirts again and it was even worse. There were open sewers. But everyone was so happy. We waved from the window and people in lived in worse conditions than rats do waved and smiled back.

Tom Thornberry 9W

# *School Trips*

## *Letter From Mr Peter Mburu, Headteacher of Mwega Primary*

Thank you for considering us in your schedules.

The fraternity of Mwega Community viz teachers, pupils, the committee, the parents and all stakeholders appreciate every bit of donation to this school. Be it pens, books, clothing or finance.

At this point I want to pledge excellent results following the donations that come to Mwega.

We single out the visits you have made to this school which have not only been appreciated but have gone a long way into boosting our morale towards excellence. Your donations yesterday will gear us up to forge ahead. We have noted with gratitude our association with you all having come or been represented. We feel we are members of the same family.

We do want to believe that God will bless you all and continue protecting and shielding you. May he grant his mercies to you all.

Thank you for everything.

Pass our love to both those we have met and them that we hope to meet later.

Yours sincerely

Allow me to single out the donation of 250 pounds presented to us yesterday...assure you that this will be used wisely to benefit the community at the school.

Peter N Mburu  
Headteacher

# *School Trips*

## *Kenya Trip 2001*

A weeklong trip was organised by Mr. Manley and Mr. Orkney for 32 boys from years 9 and 10 to the East African country of Kenya. These boys would have the experience of a lifetime venturing into the National Parks and Reserves of Kenya.

We set off from school mid-afternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> October for a 10:25pm flight from Gatwick to Nairobi National Park, just a few miles from the city. We had the best first day possible, seeing rhino, cheetah, lion (see photo - page 23) and many types of antelope and gazelle. After spending the rest of the morning and the early afternoon here we embarked on the three and a half-hour journey to the town of Nakuru in the middle of the Rift Valley. This was where our first lodging was – Greensteds Boarding School.

After a good night's rest we set off with our guides for a whole day Game Drive in Lake Nakuru

National Park. This was another excellent day, seeing about two million flamingos, many waterbuck and lions. We drove over salt beds that the lake covers when it is full. In the evening we returned for a swim and some much-needed rest.

---

---

**We climbed the 500m or so to get to the top of the Menengai Crater rim to look over the second biggest volcano crater in Africa with a diameter of 7km**

---

---

Day three in Kenya was the day when we climbed the 500m or so to get to the top of the Menengai Crater rim to look over the second biggest volcano crater in Africa

# School Trips

with a diameter of 7km! We then continued to the Lake Bogoria, one of the hottest places in Kenya and a long way north of Nakuru. The atmosphere here is even hotter and very humid when near the Geysers and Hot Springs which stem from the volcanic activity that originally formed the Rift Valley. Also here is one of Kenya's few herds of Greater Kudu, a large, rare antelope, of which we saw two females.

On Thursday we moved to the Malewa River Lodge in the Kigio Conservation Centre. The first day here was spent watching a spectacular rainstorm and then going for a walk in the resulting Somme-like mud. Friday was Lake Naivasha day when we went to the area that produces half the world's supply of cut flowers. We first went to Crescent Island (which is actually a peninsula) and saw where the film of Karen Blixen's *Out Of Africa* was set. We saw albino Thompson's Gazelle and Gnu's (wildebeest). We then went half way around the lake, passing Mnt Longonot and to Elsamere, the house of Joy and

George Adamson of *Born Free* fame. We returned for our last night at Kigio.

The next day, Saturday, was our Masai Mara transfer day when we would travel for five hours along dusty tracks through the towns of Naivasha and Narok before arriving at the Olpeer Elong camp. We spent the evening in the Mara watching elephants, lions and their cubs, leopard and great numbers of antelope and gazelle as well as almost getting stuck in the mud caused by a tremendous tropical storm.

It became apparent the next morning that the storm had gone on all night and was likely to continue well into the day so the Mara was likely to be a bog. Regardless, after a full English breakfast we headed off on the long marshy track to the Mara River after which the Masai Mara is named. On the way we must have passed some 2000 wildebeest and 1000 buffalo and bumped through countless potholes and mini lakes in the road. When we got there we

# *School Trips*

found the Mara's hippos having a great time in the muddy riverbanks before we illegally crossed into Tanzania for lunch under an ant-infested tree. Here we came across a huge flying insect that looked like a whip scorpion that took a liking to crawling up Mr Manley's leg! As no one knew what it was called we named it after one of the drivers – the giant Ngeroki beetle. We returned across the Masai, chasing hyenas on the way arriving back at our camp at Olpeer Elong for our final night under canvas.

---

---

**We saw two leopards, had giraffes virtually putting their heads in the bus and saw about 50 elephants**

---

---

The next day we had a tremendous morning – the best that even the drivers, with 30 years of experience, had had. We

saw two leopards, had giraffes virtually putting their heads in the bus and saw about 50 elephants (see photo - page 23). This was a really excellent start to our last day when we would eventually have to leave to take the three-hour journey to Nairobi. After the long and tiring journey we stopped for recuperation at the Mayfair Court Hotel where we had dinner before heading for Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. We boarded the plane and took off at about 11:00pm EAT.

We arrived at Heathrow around 4:30am GMT. The five hour coach journey back was decidedly less interesting than any of our journeys in Kenya!

This was a truly excellent trip; the entire group are greatly indebted to Mr and Mrs Manley, Mr Orkney and Mr Owens and everyone else who contributed such as the owners of the lodgings and our drivers. I would recommend that anyone who is given the opportunity should try and get on to the next trip.

# *Achievements*

## *Young Consumer 2001 Report*

For 6 months of the past year, our team of 5 (see photo - page 25) has been avidly sat in the food tech room, learning fun, thrilling facts, such as the meat content of an economy burger\*, and what government act keeps you safe from lethal hounds\*\* (Note: \* 50%, and \*\* the much esteemed "dangerous dogs act"). Helped on in our quest to become young consumers of the year 2001 by our self styled "guru", chef G, and at a later date Mrs Natalie Hatswell of trading standards, our path to glory was a tricky one, and yet we held firm through all adversity.

It began in the midst of Winter, a meeting in A block to discuss what lay ahead of us, our intrepid task force of Matt, "the reserve", Dan "the hesitant", Seb "the bloater", Will "the intelligence" and Ryan, a.k.a. "Captain beav". The few wise words we could get from the knowledgeable food tech teacher, enlightened in the ways of Young Consumer, were that in

order to do well, there were two key parts. Firstly, we should read through the schools extensive history of consumer law, and it's nigh on encyclopaedic catalogue of past questions. Secondly, we needed to defeat the girl's school.

The first task we set to with a ferocious enthusiasm. Before we knew it, Ryan had found he had a knack for consumer law, Dan a good general knowledge, Seb had begun to learn there was more to food, than simply what it tasted like, and Will had learned just about everything. We were helped in this epic labor by the friendly and very helpful Natalie, a walking reference book of the competition, who guided us where we went wrong and kept us up to scratch. The second task was a little more tricky and involved a lot more subtlety. We had to find out as much about the girls teams as possible, and delude them as to our team members. Before long we had convinced them that we did not in fact have Will, our

# *Achievements*

secret weapon, but in fact our fourth member was someone of a slightly lesser intelligence (I'm not naming names). Ex-boyfriends provided lots of information about the girls and in the practice sessions, we kept Will quiet and acted dumb, a healthy tactic.

Before we knew it, the locals had arrived for the first batch of qualifiers; 7 Plymouth schools battling it out to become the ultimate Devon young consumers. The draw produced something we feared, we were up against both girls teams, and with only two teams going through from each round, the pressure was on.

We took an early lead over both girl's schools thanks to each team member answering individual questions correctly, as well as an expertly taken buzzer round. We were following Chef G's wise words of "not going all out, beating them in a relaxed manner", but the fact that they seemed to have prior knowledge of the questions phased us, and suddenly we were worried. It

seemed that the vast majority of the questions asked had been in the infamous blue file from the practice. Now how did they get hold of that? We needn't have been worried, of course, for we had not fully released Will on them yet, but we didn't want to do that unless fully necessary. We maintained our lead despite brief retaliation from the girls, and even when they were granted points for incorrect answers (Jam doesn't coagulate, unless you're the YC adjudicator), we ploughed on ahead, winning by about 16 points, a considerable margin in YC terms. Onwards to the final!!

We had the chance of a free lunch before trying to take down DHSG team B, as well as the Egguckland and St. Bonifaces teams, and Seb made full use of this facility, eating 8 Danish pastries and a small hillock of rice, curry and poppadoms.

And then came the final. Our guru had told us to really go for it, and thus, in no uncertain terms, we thrashed the other teams. Onwards to Cardiff for the

# *Achievements*

## National Finals.

And so began the intensive training by Natalie, who wouldn't rest till we knew exactly who the minister for health was, precisely how old you needed to be to buy a hamster, and exactly what MRM is (Alan Milburn, 14 and Mechanically recovered meat).

And then came Cardiff. Thrown in at the deep end against teams who were all a year older than us, we soon made friends with pleasant teams such as Mascalls, and enemies, such as the arrogant, patronising, and downright rude Ringwood school, or ringworms as they soon became known. Our brief stay in the university involved orange fights, long distance conversations with some peculiar lads from Leeds and a general lack of preparation for a national final. Woken up at the unsociable time of 6:00 AM, the only thing that really awoke us was the sight of the breakfast we were supposed to eat; boiled bacon, black pudding and something that none of us could quite identify.

Our first verbal tussle with the Ringworms came on the coach to the arena, when their teacher, a local man who had attended Plymouth College, seemed less than impressed by the fact that we had only had to beat 7 teams to get where we were, and informed us that his bunch of suave looking yuppies in suits had beaten "hundreds of teams". The guru provided our retaliation, as upon hearing of his Plymouth schooling told him "oh how nice, you learnt all you know at Plymco", 1-0 DHSB!!!

Of course, our run of awkward draws dictated the fact that we were up against them in the semis. With the winners of the three separate heats, and the overall highest loser going through, we felt we had to win it to be assured of a place in the final. At this late stage we were going all out. However, our local tactics did not quite apply in this different quiz style, and all we had to go on was our natural talent. It was the captain who truly pulled us through this one, his coolness

# *Achievements*

under pressure shining through as most of the questions were directed his way. Before we knew it, it was over. We had got through surprisingly comfortably considering it had rushed past us, and the jubilation began. We were in the ultimate final!!!!

And yet, as if to blight our excitement, as well as the other heat winners, Mascalls and Christleton high, Ringworm had scraped through as the highest losers. "We were saving ourselves for the final" commented their teacher. "So you actually planned to lose the heat" we replied. They scowled, we growled, and so the war continued, 2-0 DHSB!!!

We each dealt with the pressure in our own way. Ryan hijacked a Playstation that was on display in the trading standards show that was running in conjunction with young consumer, Seb, Dan and Matt hijacked a machine that dispensed free novelty photos, and Will collected free pens, mugs and stationary from the shows many stalls. The tension was clear: Will hardly spoke, Dan

and Matt were both uncharacteristically subdued, Ryan didn't stop hammering questions into Dan (in particular, the minister for health, Alan Milburn, but we'll come back to that) and Seb ate a surprisingly modest lunch, only one serving. Before we knew it, we were sat on a stage, in front of a multitude of spectators, about to embark upon what for all of us would be the most stressful thirty minutes of our lives. And so it began.

---

**Slowly we clawed back to a  
contendable position, yet  
still we could not topple  
Ringwood from the top spot**

---

Ringwood took the early lead. It came as a complete surprise, but apparently we had underestimated the urban goons. Not only that, but the other two had more points than us as well. Looking back, it was probably very useful, as for one thing it made us feel less invincible, and for another, it incurred the wrath of Will. From then on he was unstoppable,

# *Achievements*

whether it was deciphering seven letter long, obscure initials, or regurgitating facts from seemingly nowhere. Slowly we clawed back to a controllable position, yet still we could not topple Ringwood from the top spot. Then came the most agonising moment of the entire competition.

The question master directed to Dan “who is the minister for health”. We had hammered this one into Dan so very often, we expected a near instant answer, but no, Dan had other ideas. With 10 seconds to answer, he decided, “yeah, I’ll use up 9.5 of those, before giving my answer”. We were staring intently at him floundering in front of the Mic, and in the corner of my eye I could see the guru and Matt perched on the edges of their seats, mouthing furiously at him. Just as he was about to be buzzed out, he spat out the answer, a breathless “Alan Milburn”, and we all breathed a sigh of relief, except for chef G, who realised he had in fact stopped breathing.

All that stood between the cup and us was a two-minute buzzer round, which could change everything. This time, we knew we had to go for it. And we did. Dan let fly two answers in quick succession, Will took out a few stinkers which only he would know, but Ringwood also knocked out a few correct answers, and by the end we didn’t know who had it. We sat there, overcome with tension, before the final score appeared: Ringwood - 35, DHSB - 38. Straight away, we leapt up, with a cry of happiness, and we were awarded the trophy and our prize money to “We are the champions”, before the guru, a usual incarnation of serenity came over, all flustered, and enthusiastically congratulated us. Ryan wandered off to have a little chat with the Ringwood teacher, Seb went off to find some chocolate, Dan tried to regain rational thought, and Will just stood there grinning. We had won!

by Sebastian Nixon

# *Sport*

## *Sports Editorial*

The year in sport for this school has been a bit hectic with the sole focus on improving the set-up we have. The school magazine sports section therefore has reflected upon that heavily with in depth articles concerning the sports hall (pg.38), the fundraising that is allowing it's very existence (pg.42) and what the future holds for sport at Devonport High, now that this structure finally in place.

---

---

**It's not all looking to the future though, as I've had to focus on what's going on now in school sport, what with us being so successful at pretty much everything we try**

---

---

It's not all looking to the future though, as I've had to focus on what's going on now in school sport, what with us being so successful at pretty much everything we try. Just ask the swimmers, or the U-15 rugby team and they'll tell you about the achievements that have been made. Every major sporting event or achievement is detailed on pg.41, in our comprehensive annual sports review.

It was hard work chasing up all the information that needed to be gathered, but I can honestly say the most enjoyable part by far was conducting an interview with Mr. Orkney from the sports department. Not only was it my chance to be a "real" journalist, but it also provided a valuable insight into the future of sport in school, and the grand plans that await us all.

by Luke Williams

# *Sport*

## *The Sports Hall*

where Devonport High School has excelled, winning Devon Championships, National Cups and more across a wide range of sporting activities. However, the facilities have never been there to match this standard. Thankfully, this is now changing, with the development of the new Sports Hall being indicative of the effort to which the school, its pupils and associates have gone to in order to ensure continuing success and ever increasing sporting excellence.

The Sports Hall (see photo - page 26) is massively spacious, allowing us to play basketball, five-a-side football, indoor hockey and tennis as well as running several games of badminton, volleyball and no doubt a hole of golf, should the school so wish it. Thanks to the equipment it should hopefully be receiving, all this and more will be possible. A full array of badminton and tennis equipment is already at the pupils' disposals,

with plans for numerous basketball backboards (including two full sized ones at each end) and, rather excitingly, professional cricket nets.

---

**The Sports Hall is  
massively spacious,  
allowing us to play  
basketball, five-a-side  
football, indoor hockey and  
tennis as well as several  
games of badminton**

---

Not only is that because we haven't had cricket nets since I've been at the school and I'm a cricket fanatic, but these nets will be twice the length of Plymouth College's and will pull out to almost the entire length of the hall. The significance of this is that it will bring the Hall's facilities in line with the English Cricket Board (ECB) standards, hopefully resulting in the hall

# Sport

being used for regional/county level training, not to mention the benefit to the students. The financial benefit gained from this, together with other such schemes, should then enable the school to invest further in the cause of sport in school, producing a snowball effect that only sees sport in school improve.

The cost of this alone though is £16,000, a large portion of the £21,000 needed to get the (snow) ball well and truly rolling. This is a lot of money, especially when considering a total of around the half million mark has been spent on erecting the sports hall alone. That is why the school has started running a bold fund-raising initiative that not only aims to draw in outside sponsorship from local business, etc., but most importantly the people who are closely involved with the school. It aims to reach the full £21,000 mark through fun-raising alone, and at the time of going to press had so far obtained between one third and one half of this, with much more still expected to come in.

---

---

**The school has started running a bold fund-raising initiative that not only aims to draw in outside sponsorship from local business etc., but most importantly the people who are closely involved with the school**

---

---

One of the major events that signalled the start of this fund-raising kick saw a large number of the Sixth Form getting involved with a triathlon consisting of running, swimming and cycling 20 minutes each and a sponsored walk for 1 hour. Many others participated in self-organised efforts, such as the six strong team of Jason Fisher, Thomas Brenton, David Pettit,

# *Sport*

Richard Hammond, Will Carroll and James Cope walking 25 miles on Dartmoor. English teacher Mrs Shaw managed to raise almost £150 with a sponsored swim backed by many students. Rather “different” efforts included the surfers, including Bradley Turner and James Pierce, who did a sponsored surf of 8 beaches in just one day, and Year 13’s Mark Bramham, who span around a frighteningly large 400 times to raise money.

---

---

**To further encourage pupils in their already excellent fund-raising efforts, the school has arranged for the best of those efforts to be rewarded with excellent prizes in a draw**

---

---

in a draw. If you successfully raise £25 you have the chance to win a signed England rugby ball, a Plymouth Argyle shirt signed by John Beswetherick, Plymouth Albion and Exeter Chiefs signed rugby balls, and other such prizes. However, if you raise £50, you are in with a chance of winning International Rugby tickets, a Plymouth Raiders signed basketball, another England rugby ball and more. This has received a great response from the pupils, and don’t forget, it’s not too late to contribute to the future of sports in this school and win yourself one of those fantastic prizes.

by Luke Williams

To further encourage pupils in their already excellent fund-raising efforts, the school has arranged for the best of those efforts to be rewarded with excellent prizes that can be won

# *Sport*

## *Sports Review*

It has been another successful year for the school's sporting sides, across the years, and so here is a summary of the notable achievements.

### **Basketball**

This year we have teams from year 8-11 and the sixth form, with games having just commenced in the local leagues. The Year 13 team have begun in the English schools League but lost in an extremely close game, 90 points to 86.

### **Rugby**

The junior rugby teams in the school are especially strong this year, following on from last season's excellent form across throughout the school. The year 7 "scruffs" have already notched up an impressive seven wins out of seven under Mr. Strang. Last year's highlights include the U-16s reaching the Devon Cup Semi-Final, but unfortunately losing 33-10 to Brixton in a game that was closer than the score line

suggests. The U-15s actually won the West Devon Championship with the U-14s coming Runners Up in their equivalent. There shall also be a new tournament for an U-17 team this year, so there is still lots to look forward to.

### **Football**

Last season's football results on the whole were not entirely as good as would have been hoped for, but the U-13s helped to make up for that by winning the Plymouth Schools League as well as the Cup. There were some individual achievements of note though, with both Michael Thackery and Gary Astor representing Plymouth Schools FA. The plans for this year's sixth form intend to create first, second and third XI teams that will hopefully see more people involved and more good results for mention in next year's magazine.

by Luke Williams

# *Sport*

## *Fundraising*

In order to successfully accomplish the £25000 target for equipping the new sports hall, much fundraising needed to be done. Along with sponsored walks, a runs and football match, a sponsored triathlon event was organised that many (including myself) expressed great interest in. The three consecutive events (swimming, running and bike riding) took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October at Centre Parks. First up was swimming, everybody had to swim up and down the length of the pool for 20 minutes as Mr. Orkney looked giving encouragement. Even Mrs Shaw, a regular swimmer, dived in and completed her target of a mile in less than one hour. Whereas others achieved varying distances from 30 to 75 laps in the time given. Mrs Shaw raised £46 for the sports hall.

No sooner had we stepped out of the pool we were faced with 20 minutes of running and bike riding ahead of us. The group split

into two halves: one to ride and one to jog on a set track. I was forced to run. Sprinting easily at the beginning, I could barely walk by the end of the second lap. Adrenaline kept me and the others pushing on however as those on bikes glided by with ease. 20 minutes finished and we swapped feet for wheels, it was my turn to sit back, relax and let it do the hard work-or so I thought. Eight laps later (and some bad back cramp) the quite enjoyable yet strenuous ordeal was over.

Everyone who took part congratulated each other as we all fought the desire to collapse in a state of unconsciousness. In all £10,000 has been raised for equipment for the new sports hall, and it has begun to show. New badminton nets are in place, and indoor heating facilities have appeared. Those who put in the effort have achieved great things for the sports department and after years of planning the school can finally turn its attention

# *School Trips*

## *Russia Trip Summer 2001*

In the summer of 2001, Mr. Dickens led a trip, with the able assistance of Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Sandercock, to the Russian cities of Moscow and St.Petersburg. Once it was explained that Russia wasn't always cold, and that it would be astoundingly hot there, demand for the trip was huge. Once the select 50 or so had been selected, they set off to lunchtime sessions with Mr.Dickens to learn some Russian (particularly how to say "I am lost, where is the Hotel") and grasp a vague idea of the two cities layouts.

On a warm summer night in July, the adventure truly started. F Block was bustling to the sounds of worried year 9's (and a few 10's and 11's) saying goodbye to their parents, and the sound of Mrs. Shaw despairingly trying to teach people how to write luggage labels.

The coach journey to Heathrow passed without much trouble,

apart from a heated argument about Greenpeace by the year 11's and a heated argument about something to do with cartoons by the year 9's. Once at Heathrow, it seemed no time till our Muscovite tour guides were greeting us, and we were being whisked to the Hotel Rossiya, on Red Square. We quickly unpacked, were introduced to Russian food (this is the last time some ate anything that hadn't come from McDonalds-however the more adventurous were intrigued, and tried it all!). Then we went on a brief trip around Red Square and the truly amazing St.Basils Cathedral.

Over the next few days, the DHSB tourists visited everywhere in Moscow that could be visited (the yr.11's gave in first, easily losing faith of seeing a hotel many times before anyone else even pondered food, drink and sleep!) We visited the space centre, the Amazing Kremlin, full of huge buildings and many

# *School Trips*

churches. On Red Square (impressive itself) we found St. Basils cathedral, and the very eerie "Lenin's tomb". Also, Moscow is home to the huge Church of Christ the Saviour. Inside you find some of the most amazing architecture, and from the rooftop we found some of the best views of an amazing city.

We endured a maddening and a memorable train journey from Moscow to St.Petersburg. On arrival we found St.Petersburg-like Moscow, was absolutely boiling. Some people were a little confused, they were still sure that Russia just wasn't warm! The hotel provided some with a fantastic view of the rivers, and of the Aurora, whereas some were able to enjoy a the sight of an extension being built onto the side of the hotel! The Aurora was blessed with a DHSB visit, many photos were taken aboard the ship which started the Revolution. Also in St.Petersburg was the Winter Palace. Probably the most amazing building we saw. It was home to the Tsars when they were overthrown, but it is now home to

some very fine art, including 2 of the 9 Leonardo Da Vinci's in the world. We ended the second leg visits to the Summer Palace and The Memorial. The Winter Palace is home to huge Gardens, from which you can just see the coast of Finland, and indoors it has been restored to show how the Tsar and his family lived. The memorial was the final calling before the airport. People were very tired, but everyone was still moved to see the affects of all those who died on Russia, and even though most were glad to be going home, the final stop left a mark on all who went.

When we pulled up to the huge DHSB wall aligning Paradise Road. Everyone who had been to Russia was able to look back and recall a memorable experience, from Aurora's to Winter Palaces via some wayward caviar and some amazing street orchestras. We were ALL proud to say we had been, but glad to say we were back to the comforts of home, and free of Mr.Dickens' scheduling!

by Alex Bath

# *Extras*

## *Chess Club*

Chess fans continue to ensure the Chess Club is a roaring success! The Club is held in Room C14 (The RS room) and always has a great atmosphere. Nearly every session attracts between 35 and 40 players eager to play. Everyone is invited, so come along, grab a board and pieces, and have a game! If you're a novice, you never know, you might even win!

Membership is free, and we have two teams who are part of a Team Competition. Our A-Team has just ensured their passage through to the next round. The B-Team faces Truro in mid November, and look forward to similar success. So, if you're after some entertainment during the week... head down to the Club. You're more than welcome.

by Mr Jessop

**CHESS CLUB**

# *Extras*

## *New DHSB Website*

In recent times the world has become 'web wise'. DHSB, as always, is not going to be left behind. It has recently launched the School website: [www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org). The website hopes to provide a link between the school, and the home. It has term dates, useful information and links for people to use. It is also aimed at helping to discover the school. It has two interactive school tours. One is a more basic guide to what is where in the school. The second has a highly enjoyable moveable Headmaster, who once put over a place on the map, will inform you about the buildings use, a brief

history of it, and several photos show you what the area looks like.

The news portion of the website helps members of the school-past and present-to keep up to date with what is going on in the school, from what the next school performance will be to the opening of the next new school building.

The website seems to be yet another superb feather in the schools cap. At the rate the school is going, there never is an end to new additions to the school!



**[www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org)**

