

# Bruton School for Girls

Newsletter

Summer 2011

## The Sound of Music

The senior school production of 'The Sound of Music' was a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents and enjoy some light relief from the exam period. Mrs Hurstwaite's first major production was a triumph staged both inside and out, the audience was captivated by the magic of the Nonnberg Abbey and mountainside, the von Trapp Garden and the ballroom and concert hall. The two evening performances were a sell-out and the Tuesday matinee saw two hundred local primary school children packed in for an afternoon to remember. The production was an enormous team effort with pupils, parents and staff assisting in sewing costumes, providing props and building sets. Photos can be ordered online from [www.vincentevans.com](http://www.vincentevans.com). Click on order; username: sound, password: music.



## Alice in Wonderland

This year's prep school production was no less exciting with each performance of 'Alice in Wonderland' starting with a vintage tea party for the audience. All ages from Reception to Prep 6 took part in a memorable show which was the brainchild of Mrs McCormick and Miss Pearce. The children delighted the audience with fantastic acting and singing – although those in the theatre who did not join in the singing with gusto may have been fearful for their head!



**BRUTON SCHOOL**  
FOR GIRLS

# Music & Drama

## *From the Headmaster*

Picking out highlights of the term is never an easy task but I can safely say that the Prep School production of 'Alice in Wonderland' and the Senior School's of 'The Sound of Music' were exceptional. Both will remain in the memory for a long time to come and I congratulate all those involved in any way.

It was good to see so many parents and friends of the school at Speech Day. The sun duly shone as we celebrated the year's successes and bade farewell to the Class of 2011. The evening's PSA Ball with its theme of 'Passage to India meets Bollywood' was tremendously enjoyable and reflected great credit on the hardworking organisers, to whom we are most grateful.

The ball raised funds for the Joybells school and orphanage in northern India to which our party of sixth formers and members of staff travelled the following day. At the time of writing, the trip has got off to a successful start and we await developments. I am convinced of the immense value of such activities and we intend to build on the relationship with Joybells in future years. I know that younger pupils are already looking forward to their opportunity to get directly involved.

At the end of the academic year, there are of course departures from the staff to mark. I particularly pay tribute to: Mrs Hilary Clark, who first joined the school in 1981 and has this year been teaching on the Leiths course that she pioneered so successfully; Mrs Deborah Watts, Head of History, who decided to retire after 27 successful years at the school; Mrs Gill D'Arcy, who is retiring from her post of Receptionist; and Mrs Raye Janaway from the Catering department after a wonderful 38 years' service. We thank these colleagues and all those leaving for their contributions to the school and wish them well.

In closing, I am pleased to repeat the Chairman of Governors' report at Speech Day concerning the healthy state of the school's finances. We face the future with confidence but never complacency.

Enjoy the summer!

With best wishes from Di and me



## Wells Cathedral Concert

The cast of The Sound of Music had an opportunity to rehearse for the show in the wonderful surroundings of Wells Cathedral. The girls gave a lunch time concert of some of the best known tunes from the show, which was much appreciated by the local audience.

## CBBC 'The Big Performance'

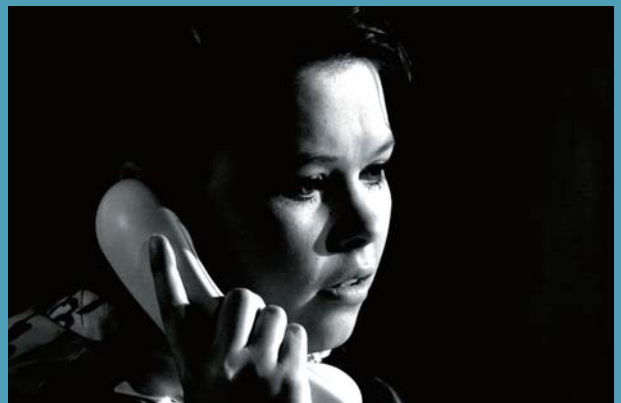
In May producers from CBBC's 'The Big Performance' auditioned at the school for participants for the next series. Ten girls from Forms 1 and 2 auditioned. Imogen Wargen (S2) has been successful and will begin filming during the summer holidays. Congratulations to Imogen.



## The Memory of Water



Award-winning comedy "The Memory of Water" was performed by A Level Drama students Carina Birch, Grace Fereday and Mollie MacMahon in the Hobhouse Studio theatre this term. The story, by playwright Shelagh Stephenson, centres around three sisters; Teresa, Mary and Catherine, who come together before their mother's funeral. Memory is the main theme in this play; the sisters' memories - recalled as they are in all their inaccuracies, provided the comedy with students portraying with great skill how people involved in incidents in the past never agree on the actual events.



## Swimming



An impressive array of talent at the Swimming Gala

## Athletics

This Summer provided another busy and action-packed Athletics season for our girls. The season began with the County Schools' Multi-Events Championships at Millfield. Congratulations to Lottie Garratt, Eleanor Rickards, Bethan Clifford, Brea Lucas, Lucia Johnson and Kate Connors, who received certificates to acknowledge their achievements in this competition.

The Somerset AAA Open Track & Field Championships saw some outstanding results; Brea Lucas 2<sup>nd</sup> and Eleanor Rickards 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U12 high jump, Katie Knight 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U14 javelin, Sarah Parsons 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U16 triple jump, Lottie Garratt 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U12 shot put, Amy Baxter 1<sup>st</sup> in the U16 discus and shot put.

In the District Schools' Championships our sprinters performed well, in particular Olivia Clayton and Harriet Sheves. Amy Baxter again had success in the shot and discus events, and Lucia Johnson performed a great personal best in the high jump. A number of our athletes were selected from this event to represent the District at the County Championships. Congratulations to Ellie Kirwan (800m), Harriet Sheves (100m and relay), Lucia Johnson (high jump) and Katie Knight (javelin) for stepping up to this challenge.

Great success at the Somerset Schools County Junior Championships; Lottie Garratt ran fantastically well to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U13 200m Final; Harriet Sheves also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U14 race, and Alice Jenkins took bronze in the U14 discus.

At the South West Prep Schools Championships, Lottie Garratt and Harriet Sheves qualified for the finals of both the 100m and 200m in each of their age groups.

## Sports Day

## Tennis

For the 1<sup>st</sup> VI, the standard of Tennis has been impressive. Only a few matches were played in the first half of term because of examinations, but, the quality of play was excellent and the team finished with an impressive win against Warminster School. Well done to Rebecca Antill, Camilla Barlow, Kersey Segger, Hannah Galaun, Rebecca Rundle and Bella Coveney.

## Senior Colours

Congratulations to the following girls for being awarded Senior Colours for Tennis

Tennis

Full colours  
Camilla Barlow  
Rebecca Antill

Half Colours  
Bella Coveney



Kate Connors (S2), Amy Baxter (S4), Lucia Johnson (S3),  
Bella Coveney (L6) and Elizabeth Robertson (S1)  
winners of the Victrix Ludorum



Battling it out  
on the home straight



Supporters cheer on Longleat

# News

## Speech Day

Speech Day was an opportunity to celebrate another successful year at the school with family and friends. We said goodbye and good luck to the leaving Upper Sixth, who go on to new and exciting ventures. Longleat were triumphant in the Hall Championships trophy for 2010/11. Well done to all in Longleat.



## PSA Ball

The 'Indian Extravaganza' Ball took place on the evening of Speech Day. Pupils, staff, parents, friends and old girls enjoyed an evening of fine food and wine and dancing. An auction of promises raised funds for the Joybells Orphanage. Thanks to the PSA for a wonderful evening.

## Boarding



A night out in Bristol to see Evita



Boarders enjoyed the traditional camping weekend



Boarders messing about on the water

## Form 2 Study visit to France

Twenty four Form 2 girls and three members of the Modern Languages Department travelled to Burgundy, for the traditional stay at Maison Claire Fontaine. Pupils enjoyed art activities, French lessons, cooking, local visits and shopping at the local food market. The girls benefited hugely from the immersion in French language and culture and every participant returned to Bruton more confident and knowledgeable than they were six days earlier. It was incredible to realise that Bruton School for Girls' has a fine reputation even in that remote part of France where the local shopkeepers look forward every year to "that girls school from England" visiting the area. They are unfailingly impressed by our girls' manners and willingness to learn, and so were we as teachers.



Mrs Harvey



## Bruton School for Girls Spelling Bee

Pupils from eight schools showed their spelling prowess at the Bruton School for Girls Spelling Bee.

The competition brought together Abbas & Templecombe Primary, Bruton Primary, Keinton Mandeville Primary, Milborne Port Primary, Perrott Hill, Sandroyd and Sunny Hill Prep.

Congratulations to Perrott Hill pupil, Rudi Smith, who was the 'last speller standing' in the first round. The overall team competition was won by Sandroyd School, with Milborne Port close runners-up.



## Tusk Trust Presentation

BBC Springwatch presenter, Simon King, visited the school this term to accept a cheque from last year's Three Peaks Challenge team for Tusk Trust. Simon is a patron of the Tusk Trust which is a conservation and education charity working in Africa. The Three Peaks Challenge team climbed Ben Nevis, Sca Fell and Snowdon in a gold medal time of 19 hours 57 minutes last summer, raising almost £10,000 for Tusk.



## Author Visit

Lucy Jago came to discuss her latest novel 'Montacute House' with Form 1 and 2 girls this term. The idea for the novel came from the author's summer holidays with her grandparents who live locally.



# Sixth Form

## Higher Education Day

This year Higher Education Day was packed with workshops on different aspects of the HE application process. Mrs Pearce and Mr Davis led a workshop about learning to think independently which involved lots of team discussion, reasoning and frantic work with calculators.

The girls registered with UCAS, began to fill in the application forms online and had a seminar about how to write a good personal statement, also led by Mr Davis and Mrs Pearce. We were lucky to have two excellent keynote speakers, Dr Robin Barlow, from the University of Aberystwyth, speaking about reasons to go to university and how to choose the right degree course, and Doris Bechstein from the Admissions department of the University of Bath, who talked us through the application process. Both speakers gave valuable insights and were able to offer helpful and pragmatic advice to both students and parents. Hattie Fooks ended the day on a highnote by winning a well-deserved prize by equalling the record for the most correct answers in the annual Personal Statement competition.



## Joybells

A big thank you from the Joybells team, who are spending the summer teaching at the Joybells orphanage in India. The team were interviewed on BBC Radio Somerset before they left and were asked to keep the newsroom informed of their progress. They have been invited to go back on the Saturday morning show on their return and we will let people know the date as soon as it is confirmed. If you'd like to follow the progress of the trip to India you can get updates at <http://www.mytripjournal.com/bgatjoybells2011>.



## Work Experience

Once AS level exams were over, the L6 embarked on a week of work experience which ranged from helping at a local school to working for the Formula One Greats enterprise. Alison Linney earned a salary during a highly successful week in which she was also offered work over the summer and Jennifer Mok gained valuable experience in Pharmacy, which she may go on to read at university, by working in Bruton Pharmacy. Tina Mok went to two different courts to see the Law in action, observing a truly shocking case one day from the public gallery of Taunton Crown Court. Emily Hughes observed a busy GP in Milborne Port, extending her exploration of medicine after an amazing week in February which she spent shadowing a consultant specialising in sexual health at the Homerton Hospital in East London.

I had a fantastic week in the Bruton Pharmacy. For the first two days, I worked in the shop part of the pharmacy, I learnt about categories of medicine, their functions and the daily routine of a pharmacy shop. Then I had the chance to dispense some medicine to local residents and learnt how medicines are prescribed. I now understand everything has to be organised and move swiftly and how important it is for the doctors' surgery and the pharmacy to have good communication.

Jennifer Mok L6



## Duke of Edinburgh

Twenty-two new Bronze DofE participants completed their Expedition training at school on a lovely, dry Sunday in March. The practice Expedition weekend in May saw the first rainfall in 6 weeks; the girls coped very well, especially cooking their dinners on Trangias in the rain! Qualifying Expeditions will take place in the autumn term.



## Montacute Picnic



Montacute celebrated the end of year with a picnic and games on Coburn

# Prep School

## Charterhouse

Prep 5 and 6 travelled to Charterhouse Outdoor Centre in the Mendips for a long weekend of challenging activities. The girls experienced bouldering, den-building and teambuilding exercises. It was a great weekend and a chance for Prep 6 to have one last trip as pupils of Sunny Hill before entering the Senior School in September.



Children enjoy the performance and post production party for Alice in Wonderland

## Sport



Prep 6 enjoyed a successful rounders season



## Pre-Prep And Prep School Sports Day

The Pre-Prep and Prep School enjoyed an afternoon of track and field events at their annual sports day. The children were involved in throwing, jumping and skipping activities as well as the traditional hurdling, sprint and mini marathon races. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



Pupils have fun at the Pre-Prep Sports Day

## Somerset Wildlife Trust Nature Trail

Toddler Group, Nursery and Reception children took part in a Nature Trail around the school grounds in June to raise funds for Somerset Wildlife Trust. Our children were joined by children from Brue Farm Day Nursery and Upton Noble Tree House Nursery with fifty-three children touring the campus raising over £50.00 for the Trust.



## Stembridge Mill

An excited group of Prep 5 girls visited Stembridge Tower Mill at Low Ham, as part of their Geography course. The first high spot of the day was a baby hedgehog that decided to cross the road as we came along. We were met at the mill by the key holder, Mr Brian Hook, who was a direct descendant of the last millers to work the mill, which closed in 1902. He was a most interesting and enthusiastic guide; explaining how the mill was run and sharing stories of his family.

The girls were able to climb the mill steps, which were very steep and narrow and they saw the huge wooden cog-wheel that operated the mechanism for turning the sails into the wind. They were impressed by a rather large crow's nest that had been built on a ledge under the thatched roof and they enjoyed the spectacular views from the windows. They were allowed to look in the miller's cottage, now a NT holiday cottage, and thought that it would be a lovely place for a sleep over!

A quick visit to the adventure playground and a picnic finished off the trip very nicely!



## Gants Mill

As part of their local studies in Humanities, Prep 3 and 4 made two exciting trips locally to learn more about Bruton.

The first trip was to Gants Mill where Mr Brian Shingler, miller and owner of the historic watermill conducted a guided tour, where the girls had hands on experience of grinding barley and generating electricity. The girls were fascinated by the history of the mill which dates back to the Domesday survey of 1068. Brian, a sixth generation miller, started the mill for the girls. Water from the mill leat was let into the Victorian turbine and the girls could hear the rumble as the shafts, belts and wheels start to turn. They then saw and felt the warm barley meal coming out of the grindstones.



The girls then took a riverside amble to the top weir and marvelled at the beautiful display of flowers in the garden.

The second trip included an exciting if not slightly exhausting climb of St. Mary's bell tower. The girls were pleased to see Brian again, as he has been the Tower Captain of St. Mary's for the past 30 years. The girls had the opportunity of not only seeing magnificent views across



Bruton from the top of the tower, but also experienced ringing the hand bells.

They then proceeded to explore the treasures of Bruton Museum, finishing the trip with a guided walk through the Bartons, discovering all the nooks and crannies of ancient Bruton.

## Prep 3 & 4 Sleepover

Prep 3 and 4 along with Mrs Snow and Mrs Hatt, had an enormous amount of fun when one balmy Friday night in June, they had a giant sleepover at the Old Vicarage Boarding House. After supper, there were many outdoor games, culminating in a camp fire, toasting marshmallows and eating smores (marshmallows sandwiched between two digestive biscuits-delicious). The girls really enjoyed playing in the meadow and before we knew it, it was already 8 o'clock, time to make camp in the snug, with hot chocolate and a film. The next day the girls enjoyed a continental breakfast, al fresco, in the Prep school Adventure playground, playing happily before being collected later that morning.



## Prep 6 Leavers Party

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June Prep 6 had a wonderful leaving party where all parents came to watch the talented 19 girls strutting their stuff down the catwalk. The evening was amazingly fun and all the girls, staff and parents had a good time! The girls had delicious food and the best raspberry punch. Dressed up in their fabulous party outfit, they looked stunning! All the girls had speeches that they read for their friends while walking down the catwalk. They had funky music playing in the background while the girls showed off their beautifully made bags. The girls got to choose what design they wanted on their bag and all objects on the bag were hand stitched on! It did take a lot of work, time and effort but it was worth it! After the Fashion Show the girls got the long waited Yearbook with lots of pictures, they also had fun going round and getting each other's autographs and messages from the pupils leaving this year! We also had live music from a band called infinity and 1, this band had four members from Prep 6 and played a beautiful song by Adele!

## PSA

The PSA AGM will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 6.30pm in H4 next to the Hobhouse Studio Theatre. All Prep School and Senior School parents are invited for drinks and an opportunity to find out about the role of the PSA.

## SHOGA

Over one hundred old girls, former staff and current staff attended the Sunny Hill Old Girls Association annual reunion on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Leavers from all eras at the school enjoyed wonderful hospitality and an orienteering event around the school campus.



## Old Girls Open Afternoon

The afternoon before the reunion, the school opened its doors to old girls, who came to see the school in action. Fifteen old girls from the 1950s to the 2000s took a tour of the school with a current pupil, learning how things have changed over the years. Old girls were able to see lessons taking place and to talk to teaching staff and pupils to find out how the school operates in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Old Girls Art Shows

Several of last year's leavers have been exhibiting their work in the end of year show at Falmouth Art College. Sophie George, Tallulah Pomeroy and Katie McAuliffe all had work in the show.



## Bruton Arts Society

All members of Bruton School for Girls and their friends are invited to the 58th Bruton Art Society Annual Art Exhibition to be held in the main hall of Bruton School for Girls. The exhibition of over 200 exciting paintings and sculpture by members of the Society runs from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of August 11.00 - 5.00pm until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 11.00 - 3.00pm. The Bruton Art Society Student Prize of £100 has been won by Sophie Bowen who has been awarded a place at Falmouth College of Art.

The school art department studio's will also be open for public viewing.

## GCSE and A Level artwork

