

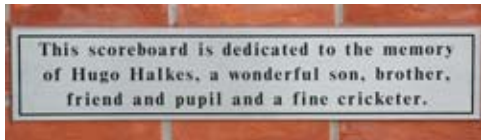
The Dauntsey Newsletter



Summer 2008 Issue 19

Cricket Dedication

Thursday 22nd May saw the opening of the new electronic scoreboard which is dedicated in memory of Hugo Halkes, who died in September. Mr and Mrs



Mrs Halkes spoke warmly about Hugo to his many friends who had assembled for the occasion. After a blessing from the Chaplain, Mr Bill Frindall, the well-known BBC scorer and statistician, declared the scoreboard open. It was immediately put into use as the School's 1st XI played the MCC; this proved to be a superb match, which the School won by 6 wickets.

Two cricketers were recently presented with bats by the Chairman of Governors, Richard Handover, for their outstanding achievements in the game this season. Jon Lodwick (*pictured right*) scored his maiden century (113) in the MCC match. Owen Alsop (*left*) scored 116, his maiden century for the 1st XI, as Dauntsey's beat Monkton Combe by 58 runs to secure the School's position at the top of the Peak Sports League. Owen was also selected to play for West of England U15s against Wales in June.

Drama



The Lower School production of *James and the Giant Peach* at the end of term was a great success. The 100 members of the cast brought to life this much-loved Roald Dahl tale of James Trotter's extraordinary adventures in a colourful and fun performance.

New Astroturf

The new sand-dressed Astroturf pitch is on target for completion by September, and will be a great addition to the Hockey programme. For the second time in three years, the boys' 1st XI Hockey Team ranked amongst the top eight in the country, reaching the National Quarter Finals in March.

Young Enterprise

Every year, under the guidance of the Economics & Business Studies Department, Lower Sixth pupils are selected (by interview) to set up and run a business as part of the international Young Enterprise Scheme. This year's company, Sprint, proved to be exceptionally successful, selling home-made beeswax candles and personalised stationery. In March, Sprint took part in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in Corsham and won the trophy for Best Stall and Best Customer Service. When the Company took part in the County Final on 15th May, Sprint won three trophies for Best Financial Performance, Best Company Report and the BP Castrol Cup for Best Presentation. This assured that they became the most successful Young Enterprise Company in the School's history of taking part in the Scheme, and the ten members are to be congratulated on their achievements.

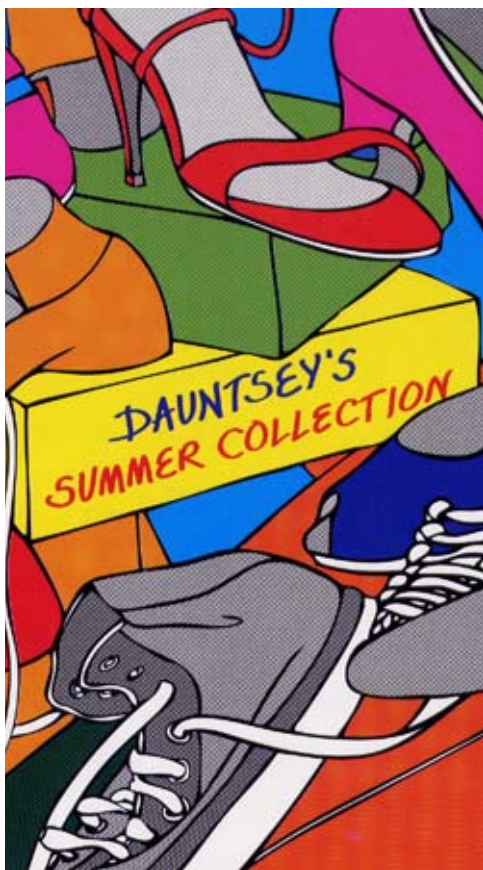


Writing Competition



This year's Writing Competition, organised by the English Department, saw some excellent entries from throughout the School. The theme was 'new beginning', or 'regeneration', to tie in with the School's chosen charity, Msaada. The Lower School entries were written in class; the Middle School competition consisted of writing a speech for the school debating society on the death penalty in Britain, and the Upper School competition entries were either a poem or short story about 'rebirth' or 'a second chance'. In all cases, the winners and runners up produced work of exceptional quality.

Art Exhibition



On Speech Day, the Art School hosted an Open Day to exhibit the work completed this year by GCSE and AS and A2 pupils. The many visitors who attended enjoyed a glass of wine as they viewed the inspiring 'New Summer Collection' which included sketches, paintings, 3-D work and textiles. Earlier in the year, a selection of pupils' work was exhibited at St Peter's Church, Marlborough, alongside work of pupils from five other local schools. Congratulations go to Hannah Wild, Finlay Kenneth and George Buist who were all awarded prizes for their exhibits, and Michael Brode who was highly commended.

Dauntsey's Triathlon

On Sunday 18th May, the School hosted its fifth annual Triathlon event, open to all pupils, staff and parents. The competition consisted of a 400 metre (16 lengths) swim, followed by a 1.55 mile cycle and ended with a 0.25 mile run. The sunny weather helped to produce a large crowd of supporters and a record number of entrants: 112 took part in the event, either as individuals, or as part of a team. The event was a resounding success, with many medals awarded and no fewer than four records broken (in the male parent, male individual, pupil team and staff/parent team categories).



Lecture Programme



A large number of lecturers have visited the School this year. Mr Kelvyn Shantry of Diageo lectured on *Introducing Brands to Developing Countries*, Dr Emma Smith lectured on Shakespeare, Justine Hopkins (Art Historian) on *Line or Soliloquy* and Prof. Laurence Harwood (University of Reading) lectured on *Genetically Modified Foods* (pictured above). Dr David Croot (University of Plymouth) lectured on *Flood Risk and Vulnerability*, Dr Abi Spear (OD 94-01) talked to Biologists about Porton Down, and the History Society welcomed Nick Hewitt (curator of HMS Belfast) and Prof. Steve Hindle (Warwick University). Next year's Mercers' Lectures will include visits from: Lt Gen. Sir Michael Willcocks, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod; Lord Tyler of Linkinhorne, Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Constitutional Affairs, and Lord Butler of Brockwell, former Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service, Master of University College, Oxford.

Barron Prize

The standard of music and performance in this year's Barron Prize was extremely high. Briony Prout's performance of Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp was highly commended. The overall winner was Joshua Dawson, who played *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin* by Debussy and Rachmaninov's *Piano Opus 3 no.2*.



Mathematics



This year, the Mathematics Department has had over 300 pupils involved in the National Maths Challenges (organised by the UK Maths Trust), with a good deal of success. Many pupils have been awarded certificates and there have been qualifiers to the Olympiad rounds at each age group. There were no less than 18 Gold Certificates awarded in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. In the recent Junior Maths Challenge, six Gold Certificates were awarded.

Charity Events



Pupils and staff have been working hard all year raising funds for this year's chosen charity, Msaada, an organisation which helps the widows and orphans of the Rwandan genocide. As well as the many individual events organised by each House, there have been a number of larger events which will contribute greatly towards the sum total raised. The Swimathon and Rowathon week in February involved over 250 pupils and included sponsored

widths and lengths and an Inter-House fancy dress diving competition. The 24-hour swimathon and rowathon saw pupils putting in a fantastic effort through the night, swimming a total of 379 miles (beating 2006's record by 100 miles). In the same month, the Reels Evening and Burns Supper for the Sixth Form, parents, and staff was a resounding success, with well over 200 dancers enjoying a haggis supper before reeling into the early hours of the morning.



Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race



Most of the Dauntsey's DW team arrived safely at Westminster Bridge early on Easter morning after the 125 mile journey by canal and river from Devizes. Snow, hail, rain, wind, freezing temperatures and choppy waves made conditions difficult for both competitors and supporters, and indeed the weather conditions were declared the worst the Race had experienced for 25 years.

Manor Ball



The Manor Ball on Friday 27th June had the Third Form pupils dressing up to the nines to enjoy a memorable evening of dining and dancing. Elegant table service was provided by the House staff, while the pupils enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, before taking to the dance floor.



Athletics



Dauntsey's senior athletes are celebrating yet another unbeaten season this year, winning every event entered. On Saturday 14th June, 22 Dauntsey's athletes represented the Kennet Area in the County Schools Athletics Championships at Swindon. There were a number of very good performances on the day, and two athletes became County Champions. Congratulations to Cheryl Bray, who won the Senior Girls javelin and to Matthew Williams, who won the Minor Boys high jump. Matthew (*pictured*) jumped a height of 1.47m to equal the county record set in 1997.

School Trips



Since the publication of the last Newsletter, there have been no fewer than nine trips organised by Dauntsey's dedicated staff. In the February half term, 27 Upper School linguists spent an uncharacteristically warm and sunny week in Bordeaux, attending lessons and staying with local families. Meanwhile, in neighbouring Italy, the Lower School ski trip saw 70 pupils enjoying excellent snow. Closer to home, ten pupils were ice and rock climbing in the Cairngorms with the Expedition and Mountaineering Society (DEAMS). At Easter, the Senior School ski trip saw 33 pupils spending a week in the resorts of Tignes and Val d'Isere in France, whilst Classicists witnessed the lighting of the Olympic Torch and visited the ancient treasures and sites of Greece. Four further trips were held in the summer half term: First Form pupils enjoyed an activity packed few days in the Purbeck Hills, and 32 Second Formers visited La Chatelleraie in France, also for an adventure-packed holiday, where many sampled the local cuisine (including frogs' legs!). At the same time, 33 geographers were further south, studying a range of physical and human geography topics in Provence. *Jolie Brise* took a crew of Fourth Formers and staff to St Malo and the Channel Islands, and the cruise finished on a high note when the crew competed in the Old Gaffers' Festival (Yarmouth), in which she came third out of 80 vessels.



Brecons Challenge



This year's Brecon Challenge on 22nd June proved to be tougher than usual due to extreme winds and heavy downpours in the morning. However, this did not deter the 20 members of the Lower Sixth (in teams of two) who took up the Challenge with great enthusiasm. They successfully completed the course, which starts with a 12km run, followed by an 18km cycle and ends with a 7.5km kayak along the canal. Congratulations to James Davis and Luke Symington on winning this year's Challenge.

Ten Tors

Six intrepid Sixth Formers successfully completed the gruelling 45-mile Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor in sweltering conditions over the weekend of 10th/11th May. Whilst the hot weather delighted onlookers, many of the participating groups were unable to finish due to heat exhaustion. The Dauntsey's team finished well before the required time on Sunday. They were one of only seven teams, out of 14 on that route, to successfully complete the course as a team of six.



DT Exhibition



The Design and Technology Exhibition on 10th June showcased the examination work of A2 and GCSE pupils. From furniture to children's playsets, and bicycle racks to teaching aids, the quality and standard of the projects was extremely high, with a great variety of uses, designs and materials displayed.



OD Sports



In March, the OD Hockey Team played a closely fought match against the School's 1st XI but lost 2-4. The OD Cricket on Sunday 22nd June was a friendly but competitive match, with the OD team winning by 39 runs. The ODs scored 220-9 with Bryn Darbyshire (93-98) and Chris Warde (95-00) both scoring half centuries; the School replied with 181 (Will Whyte took 4-10 and Tom Foyle scored 70). On the same afternoon, there was a good turn out for OD Tennis, and the 25 matches played resulted in the ODs winning by 14 points to 11. Thank you to all ODs who support these special events, either by playing or supporting on the sidelines. Thanks also to the School's PE staff, to Matt Heffer (OD 84-91) for organising the OD hockey and tennis teams, and to Simon Cottle (OD 86-91) for co-ordinating OD cricket.



OD Day & Over 65s Reunion Dinner



OD Day on Saturday 21st June began with the Old Dauntseians' Association AGM, at which the Chair passed from Philip Abbatt (OD 70-75) to Jeff Balcombe (OD 67-72). The Head Master thanked Philip for his work over the last two years and made a presentation on behalf of the School and ODs. The memorial service for former member of staff, David Burgess was attended by many ODs and colleagues, including Guy King-Reynolds, former Head Master, and his wife Jeanne. Dan Day-Robinson's (OD 71-78) eulogy was a fitting tribute to a unique man. The Over 65s Reunion Dinner in the evening was attended by more than 60 guests, some of whom had travelled great distances. Many old friendships were renewed, and guests enjoyed reminiscing and looking through school archives and photo albums. Former member of staff, Jim Hodges, gave a moving speech about former members of the common room and Capt Ted Hackett (OD 56-60) replied on behalf of the ODs (*both pictured below, far right*).



OD News

Congratulations to Natalie Russell (OD 02-04) for completing the Halfords Help For Heroes Bike Ride 2008. She was one of nearly 300 who cycled over 340 miles round the battlefields of Northern France in five days. Also on the cycle ride was Dauntsey's Governor, Brigadier Shane Rutter-Jerome, pictured left with Natalie.



James Eacott (OD 99-04) recently took part in one of the most gruelling marathon challenges in the world. The Atacama Crossing is a six-day, 250-kilometre footrace, whereby each individual must carry his or her own gear, food and clothing in a backpack, at an altitude of some 4000m. James raised a substantial amount for Facing Noma, a charity formerly supported by Dauntsey's.



Many thanks to Bob Laverton, MBE (OD 35-39) and Major James Nairne (OD 37-42) who recently spent a day in the School Library going through the existing archive photograph albums, adding names to the many faces featured.



Richard Robbins (OD 41-45) has kindly donated one of his paintings to the School. Entitled 'The Pond', the 10' x 4' oil painting was inspired by his memories of his time at School, in particular the Manor. Richard is an eminent and much-exhibited and collected artist, and Dauntsey's is very grateful for his generous gift.



Plaque of Remembrance

On Monday 27th October, a group of Old Dauntseians and former staff will be travelling to Ypres in Belgium for the unveiling of a memorial plaque in St George's Church, to commemorate the pupils from Dauntsey's who have been killed in conflicts in the twentieth century. Also attending will be Fifth Form pupils on the Western Front History trip. Mrs Joy Thomas, former member of staff, is organising the trip, and is glad to hear from any ODs who may wish to attend. She can be contacted via the Foundation Office on 01380 814664.

Annual ODA Dinner



This year's ODA Dinner was held on Friday 7th March, and the guest speaker was Martyn Barklem (OD 68-75). Martyn is a London barrister and Circuit Judge, whose interesting and wide-ranging career defies the conventional wisdom of the school careers advisers. The many diners enjoyed the evening, and it was especially good to see so many young ODs, most of whom had left between 2005 and 2007, and many of whom had played hockey earlier in the day.

OD Events 2008/2009

OD Golf Day

Friday 5th September

Olive Society Lunch

Saturday 13th September

ODs in Hong Kong

Saturday 12th January

OD Hockey

Friday 13th March

OD Annual Dinner

Friday 13th March

ODA Travel Award to be Launched



The Old Dauntseians' Association is delighted to announce that it is soon to launch the ODA Richard Sandbrook Award. Set up in memory of the late Richard Sandbrook (OD 59-64), the Award honours his many achievements as an environmentalist and founder member of Friends of the Earth. The aim is to promote an awareness of the environment and to encourage initiative and enterprise. The Award will be launched in November, and is open to all pupils in the Upper Sixth and to Old Dauntseians up to the age of 25. Entries are by written submission (by end of January), and should be supplemented by maps, itinerary and budget. The successful candidate will be granted an Award of up to £1,500 to pursue their proposed itinerary. On their return, the Award winner will be required to write an article about their project for the ODA Magazine, together with a display for the School. Further details will be available in the autumn.