



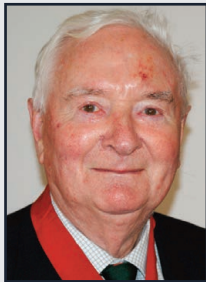
THE DRAXONIAN

READ SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDITION

2021

95TH
ANNIVERSARY

Welcome President of the Draxonians Association



This Special Edition of the Draxonians Newsletter celebrates the 95th Anniversary of the revival of the Draxonians Association following its lapse during the First World War.

Over the last 95 years the Draxonians

Association has supported and funded important facilities within the school, including the Pavilion and Memorial Library in earlier years and more recently the refurbishment of the Sports Centre, Multi Use Games Area, The Gym Clock, a major contribution to the provision of the Saddler Music Centre, payment to re-lay the Dining Hall floor, as well as the refurbishment of the Library furniture and books and the cost of the school's rebranding.

I would also like to mention the last Winter Reunion in 2019 which took place in the School Dining Hall. The numbers attending had doubled over the previous year. In fact this was so successful that a move to Moloney Hall to accommodate these increasing numbers will be needed for the next one. Anthony Saddler gave an excellent speech which was well received by everyone. The food and service were excellent. There was certainly a buzz about the Hall. The picture shows the attendees during the AGM taking place in the Strickland Music Centre (Old Gym).

Draxonians have also provided the backbone of the Board of Governors including the present Chairman and his two predecessors. The current Board of eight includes four Draxonians. Governors provide their advice and time to the management of the school entirely free, not even claiming expenses but have

the ultimate responsibility for the direction, leadership and management of the school. The Draxonians Association is therefore a major asset to the school.

I am sure we wish to continue providing the maximum support we can to the school. The Head, Mrs Ruth Ainley, and her staff have been indefatigable in coping with the recent unprecedented issues and deserve our unstinting support.

A Questionnaire designed to obtain your views is therefore attached with this Newsletter with the aim of revitalizing the Association following the effects of COVID-19. Could I please ask you to complete the Questionnaire within 7 days and return it to the email or address on the form. Your views will be very much appreciated.

Finally, may I thank John Freeman who has edited this Newsletter and Stephen Ward who has funded the cost.

David Ward
President of the Draxonians Association

Reprinted from The Draxonian vol 1 no1 1927

A meeting of Old Boys was held at the School on Saturday July 24th, 1926 on the occasion of the annual Cricket Match - School vs Old Boys. Mr GW Hill proposed and Mr C Wadsworth seconded, - 'That the Old Boys' Association be revived, and that it be open to Old Boys and Masters of the School'. This was enthusiastically carried, and the ensuing selection of officers resulted as follows:- Chairman, EV Watkins, Joint Secs, AL Heptinstall and RS Adamson; Treasurer, BM Wishart; Committee, RC Bootland, C Smith, R Butterworth and GW Hull.



It was further agreed to hold a General Meeting and the first Annual Dinner on December 4th 1926. All Old Boys whose addresses were available, were circularised, and notices were inserted in the Yorkshire Post and Manchester Guardian. As a result, our strength totalled one hundred when the first General Meeting was held at the George Hotel, Selby. At this meeting the members unanimously elected RL Walker, Esq., C.C., their first President, and sanctioned the following Rules:-

1. That the name of the Association shall be "Drax Grammar School Old Boys' Association"
2. That Masters and Old Boys shall be eligible for membership.
3. That the Annual Subscription shall be decided at the General Meeting, The Subscription at present to be 2/6.
4. That the Officers of the Association shall consist of:- President, Chairman, two Secretaries, Treasurer, Auditor, and Committee. That the President, Chairman, two Secretaries, Treasurer, Auditor and Committee shall be elected annually, and the Secretaries and Treasurer shall be elected triennially, all to be eligible for re-election.

The Dinner which followed was a great success, and our thanks are due to C Elsworth for the provision of such suitable menu cards. Thanks to Mr Fitch, the Association has been able to assume the activities of the one which

was, crushed in its infancy by the War. Further, it has undertaken to provide its members with a copy of the School Magazine, the cost of which will be covered by the annual subscription, and we are grateful to the School for apportioning space for the use of the Old Boys' Association.

The question of Old Boys' ties has been considered, and sample ties will be submitted at the next General Meeting, which will be held at the School on July 23rd, 1927. Lastly, we desire to make the Old Boys' Notes in the School Magazine a source of real interest to all our members, so please send us news!

We congratulate Mr W Furniss on his election as President of the Birmingham University Engineering Society. Mr A Walker has passed his first Chartered Accounts' Examination.

The Old Boys' Dinner

The first Old Boys' Dinner was held at the George Hotel, Selby on Saturday 4th December 1926.

The proceedings were presided over by Mr. RL Walker, C.C. (Chairman of the Governors) who was supported by the Headmaster (Mr EV Watkins, MA), the Rev R Lyne, (Vicar of Drax), Dr RS Conyngham (Snaith), the members of Staff, and about 80 Old Boys.

The Draxonian

Head of School

Head's Report



A year to forget but one that will long be remembered.

Well, our 2020 vision didn't see this coming! Twelve months on from the

first lockdown and school closure I am sure that we would all agree that, in the School's long history, we have never seen a time that even remotely approached this one. Still, it's something to add to our Read School timeline; I wonder how pupils of the future will look back on the past twelve months.

While clearly the pandemic has been devastating across the world in all sorts of ways, it is difficult to summarise adequately the turmoil into which education has been thrown over the past year. On 20th March 2020, Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that schools in England would close for an unspecified length of time, but would still look after the children of key workers and vulnerable children. What followed were more than 500 individual directives, with guidance being changed not only daily, but also in some cases on a twice daily basis.

Shortly after the announcement to close, the government also announced that GCSEs and A-levels were to be cancelled, an unprecedented event in educational history, and that in their place grades were to be based on teacher-predicted grades. Nationally it appeared that the moderation algorithm had delivered some controversial

results and Ofqual therefore decided to withdraw the computed results and to regrade students based solely on the original teacher predictions. Fortunately at Read School our exam results were upheld in line with teacher predictions so our pupils were spared the anguish of waiting for new grades to be awarded and all achieved first choice university or apprenticeship places.

Like all other schools we had re-opened in June only for Junior pupils and Year 10 while the rest of the school remained at home being taught remotely. In September we reopened to all, with a number of changes in place to ensure a more Covid-secure environment. At Read we made the early call to make mask-wearing compulsory in all indoor communal space where social distancing was not possible. Regular hand washing / sanitizing, pupils 'bubbles' and a staggered lunch were some of the measures implemented. And thus, within these very abnormal constraints we attempted to return to some sort of normality.

The Autumn Term saw a couple of positive Covid cases (mercifully far less than in most other schools) which necessitated self-isolating of pupils or staff, thereby adding further complexity to the normal busy term. We adapted sports, activities, events and routines as much as possible to ensure that pupils and provision did not suffer. School assemblies continued (in year groups), parents evenings moved to a Google Meet format, a Remembrance Day service was held outdoors and even the beloved Christmas Quiz, an end of Autumn Term tradition, moved on line and was streamed into classrooms.

The Christmas break was going to be a hugely welcome relief, more so than ever

before. And then a day before the end of term, we were advised that schools would be required to set up mass testing of their staff and students on their return – oh, and have a nice holiday!

On 4th January, schools were instructed to switch to remote learning until at least February half term and Read School quickly resumed teaching of six lessons per day via Google Classroom. Twelve months ago nobody had even heard of such things but how things have changed! During the six weeks of the Spring Term we also accommodated up to seventy key worker children in school daily, with an interesting scenario of pupils learning 'remotely' from school on Chrome books while teachers delivered lessons from home.

It is a credit to all Read School teachers and pupils that our Spring Term (which finally saw a return to school for all on March 8th) went as smoothly as it did with disruption to learning minimised, an ongoing routine of lockdown sport and extracurricular provision and a continuous thread of pastoral care. We received some very positive feedback on our online learning programme and with parents talking to other parents, this has resulted in a steady stream of enquiries of new pupils.

Over the past weeks we have again navigated the cancellation of 2021 exams and are once more preparing for teacher-assessed grades. Moloney Hall has been reconfigured to a lateral flow Covid test centre, ably run by School Matron Josie Smith and her efficient team, and we are conducting in school testing of all pupils and staff twice per week. In true Read School spirit everyone has just got on with it!

As the Spring Term draws to a close and with it the anniversary of twelve long months of abnormality, it forces reflection on the rollercoaster of the past year which has comprised many challenges, yet many so achievements and uplifting moments. Our talented pupils never cease to impress us and whether it's been academic accomplishment in the classrooms and labs, Spring term sport (netball, football as well as our new activity, trampolining!), CCF, cooking in our Leith's academy, creative output has never faltered.

So now we pause for a short Easter break before the Summer Term begins and hope that we can look forward to a period of relative calm, with the return of parents and Draxonians for school events and visits. We are tentatively planning Commemoration Day for July 3rd albeit with an adjusted al fresco format this year and hope that many Draxonians will be able to join us for this important event. A year like no other but now in its 354th year, Read School is still going strong.

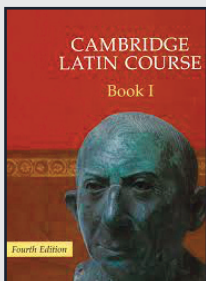
Ruth Ainley
Head



The Draxonian

Read School

Latin back on the Curriculum



'Amo, amas, amat' ...how many Draxonians could complete the conjugation of one of the most recited verbs in Latin? Hopefully those former pupils who got the chance to study Latin will have fond memories of

their studies and may even remember a phrase or two.

Personally, I have always loved Latin, after throwing all my eggs into a single linguistic basket with French, German and Latin A-level many years ago. I am a firm believer that, far from being a dry or outdated subject, Latin is one of the most intellectually rewarding subjects we can teach in school and one which firmly supports our mission to offer a broad and rich education at Read School. A basic knowledge of Latin can significantly improve vocabulary and understanding, leading to higher attainment in other subjects and with over 60% of English words having Latin or Greek roots there are plenty of connections to be made with our own language, not to mention French and Spanish. The sudoku-like deciphering of cases and tenses, also makes it great brain training!

The original stated purpose of Read School in 1667 was "to instruct the children of the parish without charge, to read, write and cast accounts, and further to teach them Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and other languages as occasion should require". Therefore it was a real joy to restore Latin back to its rightful place in the senior school curriculum last year and dust off the Cambridge Classics book to reunite with Caecilius and co. When I was

initially greeted with the question 'but why are we studying Latin Miss, isn't it a dead language?', it was a great pleasure to be able to explain all the ways in which Latin is still very much alive in the English vocabulary and grammar we use on a daily basis.

Eighteen months later and my Latin pupils and I have metaphorically travelled from Pompeii to Roman Britain and onto Alexandria, absorbing the colourful and fascinating history of the 1st century Roman Empire. We physically travelled up to Hadrian's Wall last summer to further bring the subject to life and plans are underway to revive the School's much-loved educational trip to Pompeii and Herculaneum. We are also seeking an opportunity to get involved with the 'Dig for Eboracum', an exciting project to continue excavation of Roman York with the York Archaeological Trust.

After five years of absence, Latin has now been re-introduced as a GCSE option with nine eager Year 9 pupils opting to study the subject to GCSE in September. It complements the other languages taught in school: French, Spanish, German and Mandarin. Not a bad languages offering for a small school and hopefully one of which Charles Reade as well as all the former Drax Latin teachers would heartily approve. Floreat schola!

Ruth Ainley



The joys of learning Latin in Year 9 Autumn Term and from March 8th now with masks.

The Draxonian

Obituary

Glyndwr Owen Moore



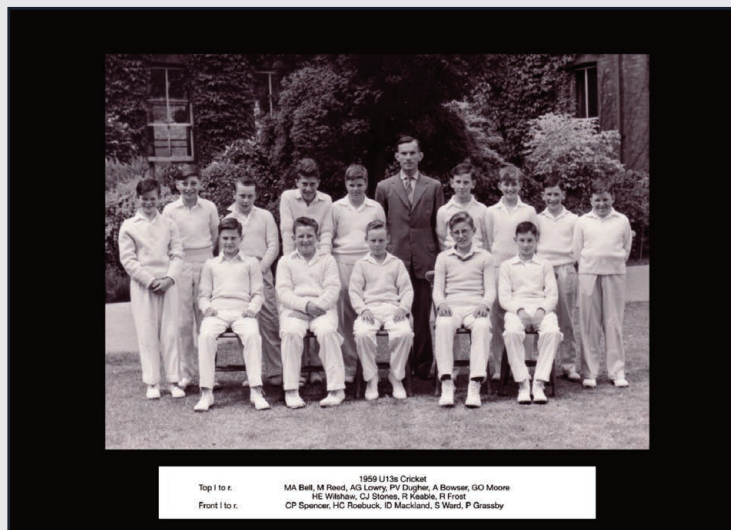
Glyndwr Owen Moore.

Sadly Glyn (known to all those who attended Drax Grammar School from 1952 to 1961 as Reggie) passed away peacefully on Thursday 18 February 2021 aged 92 in Babbacombe, Torquay.

Glyn taught at Drax Grammar School from 1952 to 1961. He answered an advert in the Times for a master to teach Latin and History at Drax on the 10th May 1952 after obtaining a 1st Class Degree in Latin, History and English at London University. He also completed a Diploma Course at University College, Exeter and as part of that course taught at King's College (a Public School), in Taunton.

Glyn started his first term at the same time as Frank Hudson (Physics Master) – a passage from Frank's publication of his time at Drax reads "I arranged to arrive at Drax several days early for my first term, and I found that Drax has a station by the odd name of Drax Hales. I journeyed to Leeds and queued at the ticket office. A young man next but one before me asked for a single to Drax Hales please. The ticket inspector said 'Never erd of it' but in the end was asked to look it up. Then it was my turn at the office and I said clearly 'A single to Drax Hales please'. You can imagine the astonishment and disbelief. 'Well I'll go to Nora' said the ticket clerk, 'I'd never heard of that place before'. That young man was Glyn Moore on his way to his first teaching post at Drax to teach Latin and History.

Glyn took an active part in many of the School's activities, not least the School's Dramatic Society and in 1954 the Gilbert & Sullivan opera, Mikado. Again, from Frank Hudson's publication "There remained the question of who was to be the Mikado himself and here we were lucky that the new Latin Master Glyn Moore was endowed with an excellent acting talent and furthermore had a very good singing voice as well. After a number of auditions he was elected to take



the part and continued to occupy the leading role in most of the later productions as well". These included The Right Honourable Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B. in H.M.S Pinafore, Colonel Calverley in Patience and Sir Roderic Murgatroyd in Ruddigore.

Glyn also played some rugby at Selby Old Boys (now Selby R.U.F.C.) and was Club Treasurer for several years.

Perhaps the finest tribute to Glyn was paid to him in the December 1961 copy of the Draxonian. "Mr. Moore left us at the end of the Summer Term to take up a post at The Sexeys School, Blackford, Wedmore in Somerset. He had been our Latin Master for 9 years, and throughout this period had served the School and district in various capacities. There was hardly any branch of the School activities that he had not entered into, and we shall miss his humour and quiet

influence. As Housemaster of York, coach of the Under 13 teams both in rugby and cricket, his involvement in the Dramatic Society and organiser of the School tours abroad, he will be very much missed. We wish him all success in his new post".

I have kept in touch with Glyn for the last 30 or 40 years, exchanging letters and cards on a yearly basis at Christmas – I know little of his time as Latin Master in Somerset but after retirement he worked in a Sub Post Office for 9 months and continued his love for operatics (but preferring to be part of the Chorus rather than taking leading roles) and singing with the South Devon Choral Society – he also

became the 3rd Euphonium in the Teignbridge Silver Band! He went back to night school to study 'A' level German and Mathematics – obtaining Grade A passes in both subjects. He also learned to play the piano. He spoke German quite fluently which came in very handy on his many holiday walking trips to Austria.

I, for one, will very much miss his wit and humour – as his late Sister Megan once said in a letter written to me just after Glyn had gone into care in 2017 "he was a very special man and a true gentleman".

Stephen Ward (1957-1963).

The Draxonian

Obituary

Mrs Beverley M



Mrs Beverly Mooney.

It is with sorrow that we record the sudden death of Mrs Beverley Mooney at the age of 65 on the 4th March 2021.

Mrs Mooney is the mother of Nicola and Eleanor Mooney, both of whom were pupils at the school when Mr Saddler and Mr Hadfield were Headmasters. Mrs Mooney and her late husband took a great interest in the school during that period. Mrs Mooney was Chairman of the Parents and Friends Association and Mr

Mooney, Treasurer. Mrs Mooney was the initiator of the very successful Summer Ball and she also taught at the school for a period. When Mrs Saddler was advised of Mrs Mooney's passing she said with her husband they were a wonderful support for the school and almost lived there.

Nicola is the Draxonians Administrator and a profile on her success appeared in the last Newsletter and we send to Nicola and Eleanor our deepest sympathy in their bereavement. Mrs Mooney's last visit to the school was for the Winter Reunion 2019 when we were delighted to welcome her back to the school. Little did we think that so soon we would be recording the passing of such a valued and worthy Draxonian.

David Ward
President

Reflections of School Life

D Ward

Life at Westfield (Adamsen) House during The War

During the War, my father made two or three visits a year to Drax (Hull and Barmaley) railway station as part of his job with the *movement of timber by rail*. On these journeys from York where he lived he was particularly impressed by the behaviour and discipline of the Day Boys who travelled by train to Drax Hales station and then walked to the school. At the station all boys who were under control of the prefects were required to quietly stand back before alighting or joining the train to allow other passengers to alight or join first. On the basis of this evidence my parents decided this was the school for me as a boarder.

I joined what was then Dixie Grammar School at the start of the Summer Term 1942 and boarded at Westfield House (now Adamson House) walking to and from the school for lessons, sport and lunch. The residential part of Westfield was occupied by Mr Adamson (Deputy Head), Mrs Adamson who was House Mistress for the boarders and their two daughters Christine and Ruth.

This was the worst part of the War. Food and fuel were rationed and ration books had to be handed into the school for the time we were at school. Baths were only available and compulsory once per week on Sunday evenings with two boys in the bath at a time to conserve tepid water. In very hot weather we would be encouraged to go out onto the back lawn naked where Adamson would hose us down with the garden hose. Within the house there was only cold water for washing at the wash basins.

At that time the school took boarders from the age of 7 until the age of 10 who were educated at the Village School and boarded at Westfield. There were therefore two dormitories at Westfield, one for the juniors and one for the seniors. Lights out for the juniors was 10.30 and for the seniors 10.30 and strictly observed. Reveille was at 07.30 and breakfast at 08.00 to provide sufficient waking time to the church for 08.45 Assembly where the day boys also joined either from the train or having cycled in some cases all the way from Selby.

Parents were provided with a list of the clothes required for each term. These were packed in a trunk and sent to Adamson House about three days before the start of term by the railway passenger service to achieve a perfect 5.

the start of term by the railway passengers' luggage in advance service. A boy's first job on arrival at school was to unpack his trunk which had been placed at the foot of his bed and stow his clothes in his locker adjacent to the bed. Lockers had to be kept tidy military style with all the edges of the clothes lined up. Inspectors took place regularly and marks given for tidiness and layout. A small prize was given at the end of term for the winner.

Parents had to label all clothes with their boy's name. Embroidered Cash's tapes were not available during the War and my mother had to make mine.

JD Bramley

Memories of Grass and Westfield House 191



Sometime in 1944 or 5 (aged 10), I cycled with my father all of the 15 miles or so, to take an entrance test in an ancient building, at a previously unheard-of boys boarding school, at the far side of Selby, called Drax. Father had been a time trial man, so Hamiltonian and Cannery straight were nothing to him. I clearly remember my very welcome first pub drink at The Black Dog before continuing to Drax.

[illegible]

They must have killed two pigs like we did at home, and *adance* every week, for too long, we had horrible brown for breakfast. Those in the know, had envelopes to pocket it and dispose of it in the field (no houses) on the way to school. I was once chased through a gap in the hedge, and found myself *ice-dipping* envelopes of brown from all over the world! If we needed to buy anything from *Naylor's* shop, [*soposia* Church] we had to draw our money from our *Westfold Bank Account*, as we weren't allowed *cash* in pockets. *Adance* would pass us going very slow on his account bike, and maybe stop as going into the shop – *bad* trouble. Later, some of us had bikes too, and we always finished up racing each other past the school, with spectacular crashes at times.

D Ward

Read School History Society – Answers to Questions by David Ward 16.3.2021

1) Years at the School

I joined the school in May 1943 and left in August 1948.

Food, clothes, sweets and petrol were all rationed. The school roll was normally about 230 boys which included 60 boarders. Classes were up to 32 in size. The only transport to the school was bicycle or an infrequent train service at Drax Hales station and then walk. Syltians in Cambridgeforth ran a taxi service and also provided a coach for the school to take loans to away matches and to the public swimming baths in Sylt. Until 1945 no external lighting was permitted because of the blackout. All windows had blinds and showing an external light was an offence. The whole school area was therefore very dark and batteries for torches were in vogue short sunlamps.

There was only cold water to wash in with tepid water in the baths and showers. Junior boarders were allowed one bath per week in 5 inches of water with two in a bath at a time head to toe. Showers were only allowed after sports activities. Soap was rationed.

There were no mobile phones, social media or television. The only women at the school were the Maïron and two mistresses standing in for male teachers called away on active service in the forces. Contact with parents was considered unsettling so contact except by letter was discouraged. The nearest public coin telephone was near the church. Term time was therefore somewhat monastic and hardy.

Today these conditions might seem unacceptable but we were all treated the same and got on with it. Complaining would have been ignored and the school's ethos was to turn out boys of character and this showed to our advantage when two years after leaving the school we had to do two years compulsory service in the armed forces and be posted anywhere in the world. Any boy trained at Drax found this change in lifestyle interesting and easy and those boys from this era who return to Old Boys functions say we were none the worse for it. They say the school today is too much like a holiday camp.

F Hudson

DRAX GRAMMAR SCHOOL



RS Adamson

IMH Freeman

Swiss
Trip

1961

This is an account of the School Trip to Switzerland which started on the evening of August 14 1961 and contains the travellogue taken from the School Magazine - The Dragonite Vol 7 No 10 December 1961. The photos, post cards and administration documents are from the author's collection with the exception of the Underwalders at Flüelen from www.kingseaworld.co.uk.

Jill Freeman

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Day 1 - Monday



The Fentons

The Fentons at Read School

In 2005, I started researching our Family history, no idea what it would tell me, what secrets it held but after a while I amassed a lot of names and dates but only a few stories. What I can say is that I regretted not asking all my family and relatives about what they knew before they passed away, especially my father, Kenneth Fenton. Recently, I was approached by John Freeman who told me that Ken was one of five pupils from the same family who attended Drax, probably the first and maybe the only family of this number.

This story starts on 5th July 1883 when Robert Percy Fenton was born in Eastrington to Thomas and Eliza. By 1901, aged 17, he was an apprentice to and living with Robert Clark (his sister Lucy's husband), a Joiner. Percy then married Annie Tee in 1902 in Howden and later, they were living in Long Drax in 1905, where he was employed as School Caretaker/Carpenter ready for the opening of the new Boarding Block at Read School. The Curriculum in the 1911 Prospectus includes Carpentry and Joinery and the use of tools. It also mentions the newly installed Heating, Ventilating and Sanitary systems which would have been maintained by him.

Percy and Annie had 12 children, 5 girls and 7 boys of whom Clifford William (1914-16), Lawrence Percy (1920-uk), Eric (1925-29), Thomas Leslie (1929-37), Ken (1932-38) attended Drax.

Clifford William Fenton became an office worker and moved to Hull. In 1939 he was living in Goole with wife Eliza and a daughter. His occupation later was Chauffeur and whilst keeping in touch with the family, visits were not often.

Lawrence Percy Fenton (Percy) married Kathleen, the sister of his brother Joseph Reginald's wife, Madge. They moved to Scarthingwell where he was farm foreman. In 1946 the family moved to New Lodge, Drax and subsequently in 1949 purchased Brockholes Farm in Drax, which the family still own.

Eric Fenton continued to live at home with his parents and then his brother Stanley and purchased and ran a chicken farm just beyond Read School. I regularly saw him on my visits to Drax but lost touch after Uncle Stan died. Drax remained his home for the rest of his life.

All three were in reserved occupations during the war.

Thomas Leslie Fenton worked at The Olympic Oil and Cake Company (BOCM) near Selby after leaving school as an accounts clerk and after the war moved to Snaith where he married Mary. They moved to Orpington in Kent and then Hook in Hampshire in the following years and we were to make regular visits.



Left - Ken Fenton and his older brother Tom, 1935. Centre - Ken, playing football as goalkeeper with his brother Tom, back row, far right. Right - Robert 'Percy' and Annie Fenton.

Ken, also worked at The Olympic Oil and Cake Company, cycling to work each day before joining the RAF in 1940. Keith Simpson, my uncle by marriage, recalled Ken telling him how he was so impressed when one of his former colleagues at the OCO and another Read pupil of similar age, Ted Cryer, returned to his place of work to show off his uniform with his newly acquired wings. Edward Francis Cryer was to lose his life on a training mission on 3rd October 1940. He is buried in Selby Cemetery and his name is on the Tablet on the wall of the Memorial Library to the Fallen of WW2. On returning home from the war, Ken married Nancy Baker from Selby and later moved with his wife and children within OCO, then Unilever to work for Birds Eye in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. He was employed in a 1960 styled building designed in a figure of eight with penguins in one 'circle' and flamingos in another. There were crocodiles and turtles in the reception, managed by an extremely cautious receptionist.

During this time we regularly visited the family's house called the Laurels in Drax. This was next to the Huntsman public house, and the other family members who lived in the nearby areas.

I was just 18 when my father died. Because I never asked him about his experiences during the war, I did not understand what my father went through. I knew he was in the RAF and a POW, I think he flew RAF Blenheim aircraft but my father never spoke of it. He passed away on 19th November 1976, aged 56, no age, after suffering a relatively short period with cancer. He was cremated and his ashes scattered in Drax cemetery with his parents and alongside brother Stan. We made regular visits to the family in the Selby/Drax area and to the cemetery to pay our respects. I always remember it being very cold as a boy. Keith Simpson recalled that at as a pupil at Drax Read

The Draxonian

The Fentons

The Fentons at Read School

Grammar school, he:- 'Witnessed with envy at about 8.30 am on a glorious summers morning, Ken 'Buzzing' Drax village. Whilst going through the village to the Grammar school we, the schoolboys and many of the villagers, were entertained by the aerobatics of a Blenheim bomber sweeping low over the Church tower, banking and returning for several 'strikes'. 'All the villagers and the older schoolboys who knew Ken were sure that it was him, as they had followed his RAF career with interest, and this was later confirmed by Ken's father.' Was his father Percy there to see it?

'The Drax 'Fly Past was well remembered as a cross country flight, testing navigational skills and endurance. These were a feature of OTU training and on one of these, Ken followed a familiar route, recognising landmarks, and wanted to show his family and friends his new aeroplane.'

Keith says 'At the morning assembly in school a short while after the 'Fly past', the Headmaster told us that yet another old boy, namely Ken was a wartime casualty.' 'Sometime prior to 17th July 1941 at school, we heard through people in the village that Ken was a survivor and such was the excitement at this news that several of us approached his father. He could only confirm the rumours. I believe that it was probable that one of the people involved in the search for the aircrew in the dinghy had passed news to Ken's family. Ken later told me very little about the raid and destruction of his aircraft. He said there was no time to feel any fear. It was a full-time job concentrating on the controlled ditching of a large aircraft, which had lost power'.

The full story can be seen at: KenFentonsWar.com - which I researched and wrote for my three boys and for my father's generation to tell their story.



While Ken was a POW, he drew this picture from memory of Drax Church in his POW logbook.

Nick Fenton



This picture of Ken with his father and mother, Robert 'Percy' and Annie Fenton was taken on his arrival home for the first time in nearly 4 years.

The Draxonian

Recollections

Memories of Drax and Westfield House 1945



Sometime in 1944 or 5 (aged 11), I cycled with my father all of the 15 miles or so, to take an entrance test in an ancient building, at a previously unheard-of boys boarding school, at the far side of Selby, called Drax. Father had been a time trial man, so Hambleton and Cammy straights were nothing to him. I clearly remember my very welcome first pub drink at The Black Dog before continuing to Drax.

I somehow passed the test, and have to admit, that the 6 years of suffering there at the end of WWII helped prepare me well for the years to come! Except for a few days away at Bridlington and my Grandma's at Fairburn, Westfield House came as a shock to me and my 24 mates. School was a mile or so trek through the village in all weathers, and back again for lunch. Mr R S Adamson (KING!) was in charge of my first year there, and his wife was a hero, trying to feed us. He later became a good headmaster. A prefect and monitor from school were mostly in charge, and did the whacking! Whether that was a bonus or punishment for them, I never knew! They were in charge of 2 of the 3 tables at lunchtime, and King the other. They served out the Shepherd's Pies etc which all come from the kitchen hatch opposite the middle table. Each table had a waiter for a week, then change – same with washing up. It was vital to have a speedy one, to beat the other two to the hatch for any seconds. These were drawn lots for, as well as the dish and then the spoon!

Seven beans on toast was the record minimal for breakfast. We were soon finished, then watched Adamson/King plough through his piled-up plate while he attempted to stir-up polite conversation. They must have killed two pigs like we did at home, and once every week, for too long, we had horrible brawn for breakfast. Those in the know, had envelopes to pocket it and dispose of it in the field (no houses) on the way to school.

I was once chased through a gap in the hedge, and found myself side-stepping envelopes of brawn from all over the world! If we needed to buy anything from Naylor's shop, (opposite Church) we had to draw our money from our Westfield Bank Account, as we weren't allowed cash in pockets. Adamson would pass us going very slow on his ancient bike, and maybe spot us going into the shop – big trouble. Later, some of us had bikes too, and we always finished up racing each other past the school, with spectacular crashes at times.

I will now try and remember our share of the interior of Westfield House. The drive from the road passed the remains of a sizeable lawn and large gardens. We went in through a side door and up one or two steps into what really was our wash-ups, with sinks on two of the walls. Opposite were grim stone steps leading up to the three dorms. The big one had maybe eight beds, either side, with the prefect and monitors at the far end. Sometimes later, when they came to bed, one of them would read a story to those of us still awake and waiting! Left of the main door of the dorm were three steps and the door into the junior dorm, which I can't ever remember being in. It had five or six beds. Next to the steps was a bucket to tiddle in, instead of falling down the stairs in the night. I'm fairly certain we didn't have to empty the bucket, which was a wonder. Nearly forgot, a door in the far long wall took you into the sick bay, and the rest of the house, which I never explored, or needed the sick bay!! Once, quite a few of us, had mumps, never went to school and played French cricket all day, as there didn't seem to be anything wrong with us. But they did feed us separately, and a lot better! Carefully back down the steps and into the wash-ups entrance hall. On the opposite wall to the door, each of us had an ancient locker to keep books and things in, but not food!

Before moving on, I have to tell you about prefect Peter Penny from Doncaster, first team full back and Bruce Woodcock boxing fan, also from Doncaster and Heavy Weight Champion of Europe. He was very proud of his unique autograph which was Best Wishes Bruce Woodcock. His younger brother, John, was my mate. Peter pressurised a few of us into his boxing club and me being the biggest, was his favourite sparring partner. Into this set-up, Barry Simpkin, from Bridlington, was a late arrival, and Peter discovered his father was, or had been, a boxer and he boxed a bit too. No problem, his first night, a go with Bram! Just us two and Peter in the wash-ups. He danced around, and made me feel a right idiot.

BUT at home on the farm with two yards of cattle, I was too young to carry the 50 bags of turnips to feed them each day. So, I wound the bags up on a sack barrow and tried to keep three men going, left hand, right hand, when left became tired. Result, on his first night at Drax, (does he remember?) my left hand hit him, over a wash basin, his head hit the wall behind, and he slithered to the floor and Peter carried him to bed!!

The Draxonian

Recollections

Memories of Drax and Westfield House 1945



Exiting from the left-hand corner of the wash-ups took you into a windowless sort of utility room, with toilets and two bathrooms on the left – two baths a week and two sharing! Coats and shoe lockers occupied the other two walls with a door, far right, leading into the main play and dining room. To the right of the door inside, was the tuck cupboard, which was an important part of our lives! I had a parcel and letter from home every Tuesday or Wednesday. Sadly, one or two others hardly received anything. Cakes, buns, sweets and chocolates were stored in the cupboard, all supervised over by the Prefect and Monitor. They rationed the size of cake taken out for tea, and twice a week we were allowed some of our own sweets, and extras, if you bribed the Prefect with one or two! At the far end in the bay window was a small table, which our supervisors worked from and kept an eye on us – no chasing round the tables. Saturdays was games night. The tables were put back, and Adamson came through to rule over some rough team games. Husky Fuskey was one, and never heard of since Once a week Peter Penny would make a ring of the chairs and organised some boxing. No one was keen to spar with me, but Geoff Lund from Cawood agreed to, if I promised not to hit him! His nickname was Cutty, because his father had been to Drax and was called Cutty he said! So!! However, we hadn't been going long when Adamson came through to show interest, and chat to Peter P. Cutty upped his game, landed one or two good ones, which must have impressed Adamson. But Adamson went, and Cutty carried on. Eventually, like a catch in slips without knowing much about it, my left hand hit him, through chairs and out on the floor. I can't remember if Peter put him to bed or not!! Cutty was a good Centre, and we were good friends. Later he was teaching at Tad Grammar where my eventual wife joined him for a year or two. During my six years at Drax I made many lifelong friends and we've had some good get togethers with shared memories. But as far as I know, neither Barry Simpkin nor Cutty Lund has ever been back – Am I responsible??

PS1 – A bit more about Cutty. He used to keep a league table of his favourite day boys, by the quantity and quality of the spare bits from their pack up lunches they left for him!!

PS2 – P W Zoz Mumby had a lot of short fuzzy hair hence his nick name, and the ditty that went with it. Living in the Jungle, living in a tent, better than a prefab – no rent?? No wonder, one day, he set off across the fields for home, but sadly was back in time for tea! His ancient Parents (40-50 years old) came to see him in summer later on at school in an equally ancient car. They once brought him a windup gramophone, but only one record. "Put another nickle in, in the nickelodeon, all I want in loving you and music, music, music". Neither of us will forget our clumsiness after a Sunday Church Service – especially Zoza. He'd gone up to school and I was still at Westfield. He would get the Sunday sports for me to read in the sermon. Instead of tucking it safely inside his jacket after I gave him it back, he was trying to stuff it into his pocket in the porch going out. "Hey, hey, what have you got there laird, (lad)" Adamson had spotted him and clobbered him on the spot. I was on my way, very fast, to Westfield. He told Zoz to report to his study when he got back to school, and he will never forget those six-of-the-best – and I never ever read a paper in church again!!



Also, I remember us making model aircraft from kits. Warcraft Wonder for one sort. A decent Prefect from Goole called Peter (Titch) Longhorn, sent for a large expensive plan to make a one from scratch. Eventually it was finished, but sadly early days, it got into a thermal and flew away and Peter never got it back. I could go on and on like breaking my collar bone and gladly missing my only senior six-mile cross country race. Also, sadly, the disappointment when the 1947 floods got within 100 yards of the school, but no farther!

Happy Days - Mundana Vana Gloria
JD Bramley

The Draxonian

The Draxonian

World Book Day

Emily Goldberger



One evening we watched a tremendous storm. Thunder and lightning struck right over our villa. It lasted all night. The water ran down our street, but next morning the sun was shining. I would love to go back next year.

Rafel Llovera. (Y.L.)

Draxonian 2000

Kings and Queens

I wish for hope

The globe is an apple in a bowl with
many
Others around it,
Not one the same,

Draxonian 2000

— *Upper Proj.*

35

14

Kristin Simpson

Davenport 2000

24 Draxonian 2000

24

Draxonian 2000
45

Draxtonian 2000

45

45

52 Draxonian 200

Draxonian 2000 1

Draxonian 2000

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1

12

Read School - The Draxonian 2005

RUGBY SEASON REVIEW

U12, Captain: Grant Nicholson:

The U12 team have had a great season of Rugby. This year we have had 12 players who have come through the junior school with a really good grasp of rugby skills, techniques and match experience. In addition the new boys who have joined the school have added further skill and experience. The team has worked well together and grown in confidence as the season progressed. Alex Oliver has been outstanding all season, leading the forwards in a decisive manner, his rucking and mauling has been exceptional. Josh Cusack has been well with the backs and kicked with accuracy all season and Sam Reid has been a dependable, powerful runner and tackler in the centres. This team are potentially the best set of players we have seen at the school in a number of years. I am sure the promise they have shown this year will continue as they move through the school.



U13, Captain: Hadley Stringer:

A tough season for the U13 team. The U13s have struggled for players this season from their own age group, and although a number in the team, the physical side of the game has been tough. Hadley Stringer has performed really well leading the team with confidence and authority, towards the end of the season Matthew Tans, Tom Perkins and Jimmy Wu combined nicely in the backs, in addition Tom Edwards continued his improvement from last year playing in a determined, controlled and aggressive manner. Although most results didn't go our way it was a season where we improved considerably. Well done boys!



U14, Captain: Adam Picken:

The U14s should have been a strong winning team, commanding respect from the opposition, however failure to perform to the best of their ability in most of their games resulted in a disappointing season. Too many matches saw Read winning at half time only to throw away the second half, or conversely perform really well and dominate the second half, after a poor first half. I hope the U14s have learnt some valuable lessons this year; these include the value of team work, the necessity to train as a whole team every week and the fact that rugby is a tough, contact sport. Given the tough season 2 boys have risen in stature and both deserve a special mention. Adam Picken and Alex Webster are both committed players capable of holding their own in any opposition team we can perform well as an U15 team, it's up to you boys.



THE CAST

Fairy Bow Belli
King Ret
Alderman Fitzwarren
Alice Fitzwarren
Mick Jagg
Caitlyn Corrie
1st Male Mustel
Sarah the Cook
Dick Westergaard
Tommy the Cat
Wendy
1st Mouse
11 Brits
Tuffazul
Avalude
Chorus (the raffle)

Zara Norris

Rebecca Trott

Matthew Stuart

Roddy Marshall

Kirsten Stafford

Charlie Horrold

Amey Inglethorpe

Kevin Hutton

Jessie Drury

Harry Baxter

Tom Jackson

Tom Edwards

Matthew Tom

Megan Beaton

Melissa Inglethorpe

Emily McHugh

Emily Huntington

Megan Beaton

Melissa Inglethorpe

Tom Jackson

Katie Bingle

GIRLS' HOCKEY SEASON

It has been a very long and busy hockey season with a great deal of success. We have played against a number of different schools, such as The Mount, Silcoates, Mount St Mary's, Queen Margaret's and Scarborough College. All the teams have managed to make this season their most successful yet. The improvements in skill level have been tremendous due to the hard work that they have put in and all the girls have been fully committed.

I should particularly mention the U13 squad who have been unbeaten except for one defeat to Scarborough College. In addition, the U12 girls have done well considering that many of them had never held a hockey stick at the start of the term!

Hannah Buck who is the captain of the U14 team has written the following short review of the term:

"The U14 girls' hockey team have had an enjoyable season this year having won more matches than we have lost. We have played well as a team with the defence making some excellent tackles and the midfield supplying some great balls to the forwards, who were always in the right place at the right time. If we continue to play this well as a team, then I am certain that we will have even more success next season!"

The captains (c) and vice-captains (vc) have done an outstanding job this term in organising their teams, so well done and thank you to the following students:

U12 - Ellie McGucklen (c) and Kelsey Hutton (vc)
U13 - Hannah Buck (c) and Melissa Inglethorpe (vc)
U14 - Jessica Drury (c) and Leonie Newby (vc)
U15 Team - Various

I would like to thank all parents and guardians for their support as I realise that it would not be possible to fulfil a busy calendar of fixtures without their co-operation. I hope that we can look forward to a productive next season next term.

Players of the Season
U12 - Alice Campbell-Wood
U13 - Katie Bingle
U14 - Hannah Buck
U15 Team - Emily Drury

Most Improved Player
U12 - Ellie McGucklen
U13 - Amy Inglethorpe
U14 - Sadie Redfern
U15 Team - Emma Redshaw

Susan Barbour



READ SCHOOL RECEPTION CLASS



The Lower Junior School had a number of new starters in September, and we wish them all well at the beginning of their school life at Read School. Pictured are the whole Reception class:

L - R Back row

Ben Lodge, Elliott Burgess, Mrs Haddock, Harry Hugg

L - R Seated

Georgina Leigh, Alice Simmons, Ellie Perth, Ella Mae Webster

L - R Front row

Joshua Longworth, Matthew Lodge

We also welcomed William Potts into Year 2.

END OF HALF-TERM COFFEE AFTERNOON AT THE LOWER JUNIORS

All the staff are very proud of the pupils in the Lower Juniors and thought it would be a good idea if, during the half-term, grandparents, aunts and uncles came to see the wonderful work they have been doing. The school positively radiates with the colourful, careful work that has been created by the children. So an invitation was issued for all of the above to come to a Coffee Afternoon and see these delightful displays first hand. And not only was this a visual treat, but the children treated their guests to a rendition of the songs they performed at Harvest time and Class 2 performed Land of the Silver Birch, a song which was related to this term's topic on trees. It was a very well attended afternoon, and a good time was had by all, especially Mr. and Mrs. Lay who had no less than 4 successful draws from the raffle! I am asking Mr. Lay to buy my next Lottery ticket!

The afternoon was enjoyable for staff, pupils and their families and it is hoped to repeat the event on a regular basis. Thank you to everyone who came.

Susan Tolman

LIFE AT ADAMSON HOUSE

The girls:

The girls at Adamson are really nice and kind. It is really enjoyable here and I think the others like it here as well. We get on really well with each other and we are like one big family (without the arguing!)



The Pets:

We have two cute guinea pigs called Ant and Dot. The younger girls all take turns to feed them and on a weekend we clean them out. In our rooms some of us have fish.

Mrs Bennie:

Mrs Bennie is our housemistress who looks after us and takes us to Selby on the weekends. She also runs the evening club and a story for half an hour before we go to bed at night.



Weekends:

At weekends we are always going somewhere like ice-skating, shopping, theme parks, the cinema and plenty more places we are never bored.

Sometimes we get a lie in until 12 o'clock on a Saturday. Every other week on a Sunday we go to church and have a Sunday formal tea every week.

Maths Challenge



PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

Pupils from the Upper Junior School took part in the Primary Maths Challenge for the first time this term and came away with an extremely impressive set of results. We had no less than eight award winners out of the pupils who took part.

Gold Award

David Baker, Year 5B

Silver Award

Elliot Stirling, Year 6B

Hannah Goss, Year 6D

Bronze Award

Alexander Smithfield, Year 6A

Brenda Stirling, Year 6A

Amran Bago, Year 6D

Angela Wu, Year 6D

Robert Oliver, Year 5C

Congratulations to you all!

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

The school achieved five certificates in this year's Challenge (one more than last year), comprising three Silver Awards and two Bronze Awards.

Best in School

Ralph Mok, Year 13

Silver Award

Ralph Mok, Year 13

Eric Tang, Year 12

Gregory Bost, Year 11

Bronze Award

Ken Cheung, Year 13

Helen So, Year 12

Ralph Mok scored a very high 83 marks, only one mark away from a Gold Award, and this score would have won him the gold last year.

Ken Au, Alan Tsang, Ben Lilywhite, Penny Tsang, Sarah Barron and Gary Mok all received a Bronze Award by just a few marks, hopefully they will have better luck next year. Sarah Barron and Matthew Watkins achieved very creditable scores, placing them 7th and 13th, overall. Well done to all who took part!

Harvest Festival

The Junior School held their annual Harvest Festival service in Dixie Church in October.

The service of Harvest Thanksgiving was led by the children in the form of singing, playing and prayers from around the world, together with dramatic performances from the Junior Choir and our regular group. Show-revellers saw Matthew Lodge from the Early Years class, as a scarecrow, but all the children performed beautifully. This was followed by the singing of harvest songs on the altar. The children had decorated bibles and filled them with gifts of food, and these pictures were also displayed by the children in the village of Dixie. Long Dixie and Cambridge. A raising collection in aid of the earthquake victims in Pakistan raised a magnificent £280!

The Harvest Festival service was the culmination of several weeks' hard work by the Junior School children as a lot of them also entered a Harvest competition, in which they had to design and make a Harvest picture, depicting a typical Harvest scene and using only natural materials. The competition winners were:

Early Years - 1st place - Joshua Longworth, 2nd place - Alice Simmons, 3rd place - Elliot Burgess

Year 1 - 1st place - Joshua Battar, 2nd place - Joe Richardson, 3rd place - Adam Campbell-Wood

Year 2 - 1st place - Alex Reed, 2nd place - Libby Reid, 3rd place - Lucie Elton

Year 3 - 1st place - Kenna Prosser, 2nd place - Hannah Tom, 3rd place - Jack Whitworth

Year 4 - 1st place - Jenna Haynes, 2nd place - Laura Parks, 3rd place - Phoebe Longworth

Year 5 - 1st place - Abbieke Hoadwin, 2nd place - Harry Tom, 3rd place - Luke Derbyshire

Congratulations to all the winners!

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival

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Harvest Festival



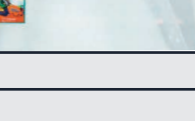
Food:

The food is really nice! We get a full fry up every morning except on Sunday when it is a buffet. On those days we get toast and cereal and then when we get back we have breakfast, so we have a breakfast which is a fry up.

Parties:

The parties are great. We had a Halloween party and we all dressed up. It was really fun. I don't know if we are having a Christmas party but we are decorating Adamson soon which will be fun.

Megan Wilkinson and Angel Wu



The Draxonian

Read School - The Draxonian 2013

Rugby Review

REPORT

The U17's squad have had a great season, achieving some great rugby which has led to only one loss, one draw and the rest all draws.

In the U17's, the new boys to rugby quickly showed their knowledge and skills, who assisted for the more experienced members to achieve some very pleasing performances. Dan Dwyer and Tom (Theodore) cemented their places in the team as props, and grew in confidence with each game. Ryan Ford & Freddie Giles proved to be solid reliable and committed and continued to be forward workhorses while the backs showed the variety of their talents about the field.

Harvey was a bright kid only in the season which started with a 22-17 draw. At the end of the season, he was named as the best player in the school and was named as the best player in the school and was named as the best player in the school.

A switch away to 11v11 was met on the agenda, but with a number of absences the squad was reduced. However the members of the team and their commitment was evident on a cold and very wet morning on a heavy pitch in a 27-27 draw. The season finished against Harrow 15 with a victory and a great performance and with Michael Dwyer being awarded a trophy of his achievement.

Players' Player of the Year - Toby Evans
Coach's Player of the Year - Alex Chapman

The physical nature of the game of Rugby is significant for all age groups. However its educational aspects must not be overlooked as it teaches the U17's and U18's about teamwork, discipline, and the importance of the game. The U17's and U18's have shown a great deal of improvement in their skills and their understanding of the game. The U17's and U18's have shown a great deal of improvement in their skills and their understanding of the game.

Players' Player of the Year - Sam Edwards
Coach's Player of the Year - Oliver Newton

The U17's and U18's have shown a great deal of improvement in their skills and their understanding of the game. The U17's and U18's have shown a great deal of improvement in their skills and their understanding of the game.



Sixth Form news

There has been a very busy term for the Sixth Form. The year began with a day of teambuilding activities at Harlow Water Park, where students had to work together to overcome various challenges. A special mention goes to Team Skyward and their excellent work on the day.

Members of the Sixth Form have also proved to be committed to supporting the school's various initiatives. The year has allowed the pupils to gain valuable experience and to participate in workshops on leadership and study skills. The year has been a very successful one for the Sixth Form.

Phish in the Upper Sixth have submitted applications to university. The high number of

offer being received by our pupils is proof that they are highly valued individuals with lots of potential, and diverse volumes for their progress.



VISIT TO HARLOW CARR GARDENS

In October the children visited Harlow Carr Gardens, near Harrogate, as part of their topic on trees. Despite the very wet weather the children had a lovely day exploring the beautiful grounds and a very educational afternoon spent with one of the rangers from the centre on the wacky woodland experience.

After morning snack the children visited the Alpine House and heard about how plants adapt to their environment. The afternoon was spent in the forest learning about the different types of trees, their uses and their importance.

The children then had a traditional French breakfast of croissants and pain au chocolat.



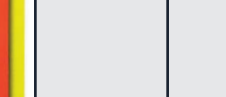
SANTA AND THE REINDEER AT PARK LODGE

We all had a wonderful time at our Christmas event. The children were invited to a tour of Santa's office where he answers all his letters from around the world. They then saw the elves in their workshops making Christmas cards and gifts for the children.



NATIVITY

During the last week of term, the children performed their nativity concert for their parents in the Performing Arts Studio. The Year 1 & 2 children were narrators and read the Christmas story beautifully and clearly to everyone's delight.



New Pre-School Play Area



Considerable work has gone into the design and layout of the new Pre-School outdoor play area to ensure a learning environment was created that promotes high quality play and exploration across the 7 areas of learning and development of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

Outdoor play fosters a sense of well-being and is central to young children's learning and development. Children can move more freely and work on a larger scale, exploring space and developing co-ordination, balance and body awareness.

A range of different tactile surfaces have been used to encourage exploration and to stimulate the senses. These include rubber paving, grass, gravel, tarmac, and logs.

A growing area and sensory garden enable children to develop curiosity, fascination and an awareness of

Holocaust Museum, Newark

We visited the Holocaust Museum in Newark to be greeted by a guide, who took us to the main hall to tell us what we would be doing during our visit. The museum was set up chronologically from early modern European history up to 1945 and each section showed different stages of the persecution of the Jews.

After the museum visit, our second activity involved a speaker, Mr. Tom Oppenheimer, who told us about his experiences as a Jewish child growing up in Germany during the Nazi regime and the difficulties he faced trying to flee to the United States.

Paul gave us a clear insight about his life within the camps and the hardships people had to go through to survive. For example, people were expected to live and work up to 15 hours a day on just 200 calories! He recounted how



Sports Days



Children in Need

The theme chosen for this year's Children in Need was 'Be a Hero'. The children were encouraged to think about what it means to be a hero and to share their ideas with the school.

The day started with an assembly, which started with an inspirational PowerPoint presentation showing the children's ideas for being a hero.

A huge thank you to all staff who were willing to enter the Puffins race and a huge thank you to all pupils, parents and staff who entered a cake for the Bake Off.



The Draxonian

Read School - The Draxonian 2015

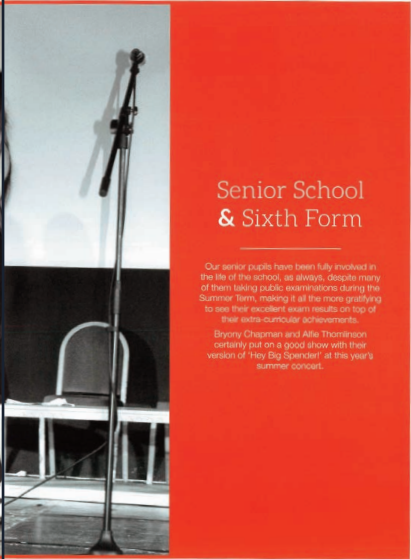



PREP SCHOOL

World Book Day in March provided a wonderful opportunity for the Prep school to dress up as their favourite book characters.

10 Prep School

Prep School 11

Senior School & Sixth Form

Our senior pupils have been fully involved in the life of the school, as always, despite many of them taking public examinations during the Summer term, making it all the more gratifying to see their excellent exam results on top of their extra-curricular achievements.

Bryony Chapman and Alfie Thomlinson certainly put on a good show with their version of 'Hey Big Spender' at this year's summer concert.

16 Senior School and Sixth Form

Senior School and Sixth Form 17

Globe Theatre Visit



On a bitterly cold day in February, Ms. Hewson and Miss Cross, took eight Sixth Formers by train to London to see a performance of 'The Changeling' at the Swan Warehouse Theatre.

This is a reproduction of a seventeenth century theatre, adjacent to the main Globe theatre. The theatre was quite small, and - especially - totally candlelit! It was especially important to see the play as it is on the A2 English Literature syllabus, and no film of it exists. The production had been well received by critics, and certainly brought the text alive for the students, two of whom felt very smug when they recognised the quotations that Ms. Hewson had been testing them last year. Ms. Hewson herself experienced some unexpected audience participation when one of the ladies from the asylum 'escaped' and hid next to her in the audience.

"It is anticipated that the developing link with the school will be continued in the future."

Environmental course at Leeds University

Only in the Spring Term, seven A2 Biology/Geography students attended a one day course in the Environmental Sciences department at the University of Leeds.

A warm welcome and introduction to students from the other two schools attending was followed by a two hour practical investigation and assessment of soil samples using a number of proven techniques.

A short lecture by a senior member of staff on the effects of acid rain on upland soil and watercourses was followed by a second practical session involving invertebrate sampling of a local stream.

This was the second time in the past few months that students from the school have attended a course in the Department. It is anticipated that the developing link with the school will be continued in the future.

Dr John Davies



Summer Concert



20 Senior School and Sixth Form

Senior School and Sixth Form 21

Megan Hughes



Megan Hughes has been a pupil at Read School since 2001 when she entered the Prep School at Alderman House as a tiny blond haired four year old and has become the epitome of a Read School 'all-rounder', throwing herself into everything the school has to offer and grasping every opportunity which comes her way.

Her achievements in school are many and varied, in sports, music, drama, with the CCF and with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. She is a talented sportswoman, not only taking part in school sports since the age of 7 and going on to captain the First XI hockey team, but also playing for Wakefield Hockey Club, achieving success at U16 level and above. She has also been selected to play for Yorkshire at county level. Megan is also part of the highly successful Read School Ladies netball team who have gained promotion in their league for the last two years.

Megan has been president of all of being chosen to be Head Girl during her first year in school, carrying out her duties within the school with cheerfulness and dedication and there were a few damp handkerchiefs in Molineux Hall when she gave her 'Vote of Thanks' at this year's outgoing ceremony on Commemoration Day.

After gaining 10 GCSEs, 9 of those at A* grade, she has gone on to achieve a magnificent A* A in her A level studies, which means that she has been able to take up a place studying biomedical sciences at St. Anne's College, Oxford. We all wish her the very best as she continues to grow and mature - congratulations, Megan.

Evangeline Barnby



Year 9 pupil, Evangeline Barnby, has had a busy year both in and out of school, with her musical and dramatic talents winning her many accolades.

In school alone, Evangeline has taken part in the annual 'Ballet Show', had a role in the Senior School production of 'The Tempest' and 'Hungry Duncun', entered several classes in the annual Molineux Trust music competition and walked away with seven trophies at the Barnaby Festival, including the Ernest Frost Memorial Cup for the most promising instrumentalist of the Festival and also the Speech and Drama Rose bowl, presented to the best performer of the Festival.

In June, Evangeline was placed first in all four drama sections of the Cleethorpes music and drama festival, leading entries from many private and state schools from around Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. At the same time she was appearing as Tallulah in a production of 'Bugsy Malone' at Hull New Theatre and also in an Italia Conti show at the same theatre.

In the same week, Evangeline was announced as the winner of the Young Achiever Award in Wang Mills future stars awards at the Cleethorpe Hall Hotel in Louth.

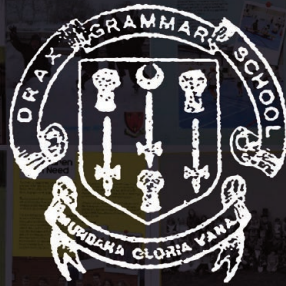
These are wonderful achievements for one so young and she should be very proud of herself and the recognition she has received.

Evangeline was placed first in all four drama sections of the Cleethorpe music and drama festival, leading entries from many private and state schools from around Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.



58 Student Profiles

Student Profiles 59



THE DRAXONIANS A S S O C I A T I O N

REVIVED 1926

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