The Golden Jubilee year was always going to be significant and the death of the Queen Mother over the Easter period brought particular sadness for us all. The College marked the occasion by flying the flag at half-mast from the date of her death to the funeral. The Council Secretary filed past the coffin on behalf of the College community and signed the Book of Condolence at the Palace of Westminster. A letter of condolence was also sent to Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, which was signed by the President, the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Headmaster. Our message of sympathy was acknowledged by the Palace.

As June approached, it was time to celebrate in a different way: high winds forced cancellation of the parachutists who were to film the CCF marking the Jubilee with a line up of ‘EPSOM COLLEGE 50’. Nevertheless the students carried on and, with photographers hanging from the windows, we were able to record the occasion.

Founder’s Day, at the start of the Golden Jubilee weekend, was another time for celebration, both of our Founder, Dr. John Propert, and also of the Jubilee. Glorious weather set the scene and, as pupils all over the campus entertained their families and friends, a giant cake made by our own pastry chef, Wendy Chappell, was cut by two of the youngest pupils, Charlotte Worthington (Manor House School) and Nilesh Satguru (British School, Netherlands).
OE Dinner

The Cambridge OE dinner, earlier in the year, was brilliantly organised by Deputy Head Norman Rice and Leila Cunningham in Downing College. Norman skilfully negotiated weekend traffic conditions to get the 11-strong staff contingent to the venue in the nick of time and, during dinner, he took the opportunity to pay the first of many tributes to David Young’s multi-faceted contribution to the College over 33 years. It was a particular pleasure to witness the fulsome involvement of OEs currently at Cambridge in the intellectual, sporting, dramatic and social calendar of the University as well as the evident affection they have for Epsom and all the friends they have made at the school. Seen from the perspective of this sample of students, Epsom is in great shape!

Farewell and Thank You

The end of any summer term is always tinged with sadness as those staying bid farewell to the senior pupils as they move on to a new life and also as we say goodbye to colleagues who have been part of the College for many years. As always, several members of staff are leaving, due to retirement, promotion or changed family circumstances. It would be inappropriate to send out this second newsletter, ‘The Link’, without saying thank you to Dr. David Young, who over more than 33 years has given magnificently to the College as a teacher of Biology, Housemaster and, more recently, as Director of Studies, in addition to fulfilling a host of dramatic and sporting roles. We wish him every happiness, as he heads for his newly-restored cottage in Bristol.

Dr Brian Summers, Chris Mann and Jackie Dibden also leave us at the end of this academic year; we wish them well in retirement, at Harrow and at Hampton School, respectively.

Dream becomes Reality

A dream became reality when, after a year of fund-raising to support the charity ‘Task Brasil’, the College became the proud owners of a farm on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. During the year, pupils have entertained other pupils, parents and friends in displays of comedy, music and dance to raise over £2,500, they have washed cars, sold CDs and found numerous other ways to raise the £30,000 target needed to buy the farm.

Oxbridge Honours

Congratulations to Gregory Froome (Reigate St. Mary’s Prep & Choir School), Mohammed Mandegar (Iran), Melanie Orchard (Bournemouth School for Girls), Olayemi Akingbade (Nigeria), Anne-Marie Tong (Malaysia), Young Min Kim (Daneshill School), Jesse Tam (Clifton College Prep School), Toby Williams (Chinthurst) and Craig White (Downside), who have all received offers from Oxford and Cambridge this year.

Craig has also been offered the position of “repetiteur” at St. Catherine’s, Oxford. In addition, Duncan Reid (OE) has been accepted unconditionally at Fitzwilliam, Cambridge, to read Geography next year.

Rock legend, Jimmy Page, took to the stage as part of the fundraising programme for ‘Task Brasil’, his named charity and the charity of which his wife is a trustee.
On top of the World

Members of Common Room (LtoR) Dr. Brian Summers (Chemistry), Dr. Linda Skelton (Maths), John Potter (Chemistry) and Eric Huxter (Geography) enjoyed the Michaelmas half-term break on a trekking holiday in Ethiopia on the summit of Ras Dashan (4,620m), an extinct volcano and Ethiopia’s highest peak, in the heart of the Simien Mountains. A walk of 8 days (3 days in and 4 out) to gain the summit, proved an exhilarating experience and showed the diversity of talents our staff possesses!

Audiences enthralled by Opera at Epsom College

(L-R) Samantha Reynolds as the Countess, Miranda Malins as Susanna, Tom Glass as Figaro and Michael Holiday as Count Almaviva.

Some of the most accomplished voices amongst Epsom College pupils enthralled audiences in a full-length opera with an outstanding performance of an 18th century masterpiece – Mozart’s The Marriage of Figaro.

The four principal leads, who delivered the highly complex vocal lines to an appreciative audience, were played by sixth formers: Tom Glass (Lanesborough) as Figaro, Miranda Malins (Wimbledon High School) as Susanna, Michael Holiday (Glyn) as Count Almaviva and Samantha Reynolds (Bilton Grange) as the Countess. They were supported by a further 7 solo performers, the youngest being just 14 years old, Katie Moss, (Dulwich Prep). In addition, there were a further 13 supporting roles. Dressed in elaborate period costumes and wigs, the cast was accompanied by a 13-piece orchestra.

Head of English, Mr Stephen Oliver, who directed the opera, said, “The initial impulse to do an opera came from the pupils, themselves. Their performance represents a remarkable achievement and it has been of enormous educational benefit. Undoubtedly, the experience for all involved in performing The Marriage of Figaro should be unforgettable.”

Musical Moments

Music can be seen and heard in College in many ways, not only through the operas, musicals and concerts that are put on throughout the College calendar but the Choir have sung in Salisbury Cathedral, the annual Prep School music day took place earlier in the year and the Choir sang outstandingly at Founder’s Day. The Madrigal Group also entertained visitors on Founder’s Day and there have been several concerts and musical occasions to raise money for charity throughout the year.

Particularly noteworthy are Gary Lau (Hong Kong), Anshel Ma (Hong Kong) and Craig White (Downside) each of whom holds the professional qualification of ATCL (Associate of Trinity College London). This accolade is rarely achieved by students at school; Gary and Craig hold theirs on piano and Anshel for singing.
Heron Court Day Nursery was officially opened when Dawn Smith, the Heron Court Day Nursery Manager, and Stephen Borthwick, Headmaster of Epsom College, helped 3-year-old Fern Dodd and 4-year-old Adam Southey to cut the ribbon.

Epsom College has joined forces with Dawn Smith to provide day care for children of staff at the College and from the local community. Over 30 children of between 3 months and 5 years have already been attracted to the nursery, registered with OFSTED, that offers a small pre-school, run by a qualified teacher for the 3-5 year olds to follow the Early Learning Goals curriculum, as well as structured play and activities for the younger children.

White House Soirée 2002

White House entertained parents and guests to its annual soirée at the start of the year. The programme, composed of contributions from a large proportion of girls in the House, included comical sketches and musical items that reflected an interesting breadth of talent. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the rendition of the House unison, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, originally presented at the Choral Competition in October 2001.

After the performance, supper was served in the Cafeteria, during which parents had the opportunity to socialise with each other, as well as with girls from the House and members of Common Room. Participants and audience alike had a most enjoyable and relaxing evening.

Epsom College Nursery Opens

The students then perform at the Festival from 20th – 26th August between 1.30pm – 3.10pm daily at a prestigious Fringe venue, Augustine’s on George IV Bridge. Tickets are available from the Fringe office on 0113 2260000 or on-line at www.ed-fringe.com. To find out more about the show and the company, visit www.epsomcollege.org.uk/stay

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Epsom College steps in

Epsom College stepped-in to hold an alternative girls’ rugby tournament, when the Rosslyn Park Sevens competition was cancelled earlier in the year due to waterlogged grounds. Nationwide Site Services sponsored the event, thus ensuring 16 of the original 32 teams enjoyed an exciting afternoon of girls’ rugby. Caterham School were narrowly beaten by Welbeck College from Nottinghamshire 10-12 in the trophy final, whilst the plate final was won convincingly by Christ’s Hospital, Sussex, beating Chislehurst and Sidcup School, 38-5.

Rugby Stars in the Making

The premier Rugby event in the Prep School calendar, the National Schools’ Rugby Tournament, reached a successful conclusion at Epsom College with Shrewsbury House, Surbiton, sharing the Under 9 Trophy with The Downs School, Bristol, in a tight 0-0 match. Bedford Prep School out-played Homefield, Sutton, to win 10-0 in the Under 10 final, whilst The Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Junior School, Wakefield, Yorkshire, took the Under 11 Trophy for the third time, beating Crossfields, Reading, 28-0. Chinthurst School, Tadworth, had a close match in the Under 13 group, sharing the trophy with Town Close Prep School, Norwich, as the match tied 7-7. More than 2,500 spectators gathered to spur-on 500 players in the four age groups.

The tournament is the highlight on many Prep School sporting calendars and the sense of pride amongst the players is overwhelming. Their enthusiasm was heightened by the presence of England and British Lions player and finals organiser, Roger Uttley OBE, and Ryan O’Neill, Ireland Under 21 and Harlequin full back, who joined the Headmaster to present the prizes.

The tournament was first played in 1996 and, now sponsored by Edenbrook (a CRM technology consultancy), involves 170 teams from 80 Preparatory Schools throughout the country with the National Final usually being held at Harrow School. Due to the elements and a risk of water-logged pitches, the decision was taken to re-locate the finals to Epsom College.

Surrey Cup Success for Epsom’s Squash Teams

The College’s 1st team regained the Surrey Cup in a very close competition with victories over Cranleigh, Reigate Grammar School, RGS Guildford, St Paul’s, Trinity and Whitgift. The team’s only loss was to KCS Wimbledon, who came a close second to Epsom College.

Captain, Simon Gregory (Chinthurst), led the team with Mark Webster-Smith (Aberdour) at No.2, Robert Weatheritt (Aberdour) at 3, Jack Glass (Cranleigh Prep.) at 4 and James Bryant (Holmewood House), at 5. Robert and James won 6/6 matches, with Mark and Jack winning 5/7. Joe Moore (Downsend) played in the absence of other 1st team players.

The 2nd team also had a successful season. Not only did they win their division of the Surrey Cup, emphatically defeating 1st teams from Hampton, Howard of Effingham, Reed’s, St John’s and Westminster, as well as the KCS 2nd team, but they also won 20 of their 21 matches throughout the season. U14, U15 & U16 boys’ teams were all unbeaten over the season.

(L to R) 1st team players, Joe Moore, Mark Webster-Smith, Simon Gregory (captain), Robert Weatheritt with the Surrey Squash Cup.
The girls from Downsend Prep School, Ashtead, took the overall girls’ title in the 25th Epsom College Prep School Superteams tournament - a fitting win, as it was their boys’ team who were champions in the very first competition. Parkside Prep School, Cobham, won the overall boys’ tournament for the second year running.

This tournament saw over 300 boys and girls from 63 teams competing in a variety of track, field and swimming events, culminating in a 4 x 100 relay. This was in contrast to the competition’s humble beginnings, 25 years ago, which involved 8 senior boys’ teams and a tug-of-war finale. The Epsom College Prep School Superteams has evolved into one of the sporting highlights of the Summer Term.

Cross Country: The senior boys’ team came 2nd out of 16 teams in the Hurst Penny League. Luke Hearne (Chinthurst) was placed 2nd out of 116 runners. Luke went on to finish 2nd in the Surrey County Championships and has subsequently represented Surrey at the English Schools’ Championships. Richard Hodge (Milbourne Lodge) and Gareth Needham (Downsend) were also selected to run for Surrey as were Charlotte Wood (Danes Hill) and Charlotte Johnson (Danes Hill).

Shooting: Matthew Read (Downsend) has been selected for the Great Britain Cadet Rifle Team, The Athelings, to tour Canada in the summer. He has also been selected for the England Schools’ team for the fourth consecutive year, an all-time record. Matthew has led the school to record-breaking success, this year, with the team winning 6 out of 7 of the school tournaments. Hopes are riding high, as the Ashburton Shield approaches……. watch this space!

Swimming: Michael Parry (St. Joseph’s, Singapore) represented Surrey Schools v Kent Schools. Once again, the Senior girls’ team have enjoyed an unbeaten season, including wins over Eastbourne, King’s Canterbury, City of London Freeman’s School, Charterhouse and Cranleigh.

Tennis: Matthew Brown (Dr.Challoner’s) won the National Indoor U16 Tournament. He also captained the Great Britain Under 16 Team which reached the final of the European Winter Cup, before losing to Germany.
Darren Walsh (Wilson’s) won the National Under 14 Clay Championship and was a member of the Great Britain Under 14 Team.

Netball: The girls’ U15 A and B sides were unbeaten and the U14Bs won the District tournament.

Hockey: The hockey season was a very successful one, particularly for the boys’ first team as well as for those boys and girls who achieved individual success. On an extremely tough circuit of fixtures, the boys often out-played their opponents with their team spirit; they were led outstandingly by Oscar Kingsbury (Reigate St Mary’s Prep). Good wins against Trinity, Whitgift and Wellington, early on, set the tone for the season. Adam Howard (The Hawthorns) scored over 20 goals and goalkeeper, Sam Francis (Copthorne), played magnificently all term.

Major colours were awarded to:
- Oscar Kingsbury (Reigate St Mary’s Prep)
- Adam Howard (The Hawthorns)
- Matt Francis (Copthorne Prep)
- Ben Sears (Hazelwood School)
- Chris Cocks (Chinthurst)
- Matt Francis (Copthorne Prep)
- Ben Sears (Hazelwood School)
- Chris Cocks (Chinthurst)

Adam Howard was selected as captain for the Surrey Under 19 Team. Oscar Kingsbury, Alex Robinson and Jesse Tam (Clifton College), also represented Surrey. Sam Francis and James Marjoram achieved both County and South of England Honours at Under 17 level. On the girls’ side Charlotte Joseph (Milbourne Lodge) and Clare Naude (South Africa) were selected for the Girls Under 19 Surrey Squad and Krysta Munsford (Reigate Grammar) and Caroline Lane (Danes Hill) for the Under 17 Squad.

Athletics: Katie Amos (Putney High) became the District U17 Javelin Champion. Rory Harding (Sutton Grammar School) the Senior Boys County Discus Champion, Paul Ventris (Aberdour) the Senior Boys 800m County Champion and Joe Moore (Downsend) the Intermediate Boys 400m Hurdles County Champion.

Adam Green (Downsend) and Segun Ogunsheye (Therfield) reached the National Qualifying Standard in the 80m Junior Boys Hurdles and the 100m Intermediate Boys Hurdles respectively.
Library Staff Win National Photography Competition

In a National Photographic Competition sponsored by the Library & Information Show, probably the largest conference and exhibition in the library calendar, Epsom College staff came up trumps!

Penny Leyland was the overall prize winner and was awarded a digital camera for the Library. Her photograph showed the College Library building taken from the ground floor, embracing the full height, levels and beams with an interesting light effect.

Jane Marshall was the category winner for “The Library and its Users,” winning £100 of book tokens for the Library. Wendy Spink, Angela Laing and Sarah Pavey all received commendations for their entries and these will be displayed at the ExCeL exhibition centre, alongside the winners. Some of the photographs may also be used by the Library & Information Show marketing team to publicise future events.

The competition, which is only open to qualified professional librarians, was judged by a panel made up from professional librarians from various work sectors; they were looking for both the quality of photograph and the way in which the photo conveyed the spirit of today’s modern library.

Penny Leyland receives a digital camera from novelist Anne Fine as overall winner of the LIS Photographic competition. Looking on is Jane Marshall, winner of the 'library users' category.

Engineering Award for Epsom College Pupils and Teacher

Five Physics pupils at Epsom College have successfully developed a labour-saving idea for National Grid thanks to their teacher, David Poore, Head of Physics. David has acted as the Engineering Education Link teacher for the last three years and has been awarded a Gold Certificate for his commitment and dedication to the project; an accolade usually only awarded after 5 years continuous involvement.

The Engineering Education Scheme is run by the Royal Academy of Engineering and the project, which took the pupils a year to complete, involved developing a concept to solve the problems of degradation of polymer insulators on National Grid transformers. Each year every transformer insulator at all power stations has to be checked for UV wear, taking two men at least a week. The Epsom College pupils’ idea could take just one day, making considerable time and labour savings for National Grid.