



Ryan Finn, Cameron Rae, Fat Sam himself, (Peter Waterman) and Daniel Stears plot their next dastardly deed.

Bugsy Malone

(See page 3 for a full review)

Chloe Hurd, Lizzie Wood, Kiera Saunders, Katharine Mayer, Charlotte Cook, Hayleigh Griffiths and Gabriella Bexson take their well deserved bows at Fat Sam's Grand Slam



More Upper School Exam Success

This term is always one of our busiest, with entrance tests for both 11 and 13 year olds. It was wonderful to see such a strong showing in the 11+ Grammar School results and equally we were delighted with the results from Berkhamsted, Abbot's Hill and Aldenham. Oliver Holt was awarded a scholarship to Aldenham, which he declined in favour of sitting the scholarship for Berkhamsted and Ellie Grigg was invited back to Abbot's Hill to sit their scholarship, but also declined in favour of Berkhamsted. Ella Hockings will be joining her sister, having been offered a place at Downe House. A number of outstanding results were achieved in the various exams, but perhaps most noteworthy were Peter Waterman's results at Berkhamsted, which showed just how far he has developed in the relatively short time since he joined us. Congratulations to everyone, staff and pupils alike and huge recognition for all the hard work that they put in to achieve such splendid results.



Building Progress

The new lower school building is progressing extremely well and on time, not withstanding the inclement weather over the New Year. Most recently the roof trusses are being installed and the exterior of the building should be complete by the end of March. All being well we should be enjoying the fabulous Lower School facilities in September.

Easter Term Events

Reading Week



As part of the Citizenship curriculum Year 7 were invited by Mike Penning MP to visit him at the Palace of Westminster. We went on a fascinating trip through the Royal rooms, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We had the opportunity to stand next to the dispatch box where the Prime Minister addresses the other MPs. Afterwards Mr Penning talked to the class about being an MP and the importance of democracy. After lunch by the Thames we visited the National Art Gallery and had a look at Downing Street.



Visit to Parliament

Just before half term Westbrook Hay began its own celebration of the National Year of Reading with a Reading Week. Children got involved by writing book reviews, taking part in a sponsored Readathon during which £821 was raised, (£125 by Jack Anderson alone!) and coming to buy books at the travelling bookfair. The culmination of the week's events was undoubtedly the day on which all children and staff dressed up as a favourite book character, and there were photo opportunities galore as a parade of wonderful characters from Oliver Twist to Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland to Aslan took to the stage in the Assembly Hall. Many thanks to all those who supported these events. The money raised from the Readathon and the bookfair not only supported the charities involved but also helped earn commission to buy books for the school.

Things Ancient and Egyptian

On Thursday 21st February the Year 4s had the chance to become ancient historians for the morning. Numerous Egyptian artefacts, some replicas and some more than 4000 years old were brought in by a lady from the St. Albans Museum. Pupils had the opportunity to handle the objects and work out what they might have been used for. Many of the artefacts were linked to mummification, writing, hieroglyphics and ancient Egyptian pastimes.



Samah Khan and Elise Filippidis

After the handling session some of the pupils had the chance to dress up in Egyptian clothing, wigs and jewellery. The session was a huge success and pupils learnt a great deal about Egyptian life.

Stuart Bishop, a professional dance teacher and choreographer from the Pineapple Dance Centre in London who specialises in Fusion-Jazz, came to deliver a workshop for the children. It was a lovely experience and good fun for all. The Year 6 dancers will have the opportunity in June to go to his studio in Covent Garden to watch him teach a professional dance class.



Matthew Handscombe, Kane Thomas and Peter Waterman

Science Outdoors

We were lucky enough to visit the Boxmoor Trust on a warm and dry day! The pond dip was the most successful recorded at this time of year, with a pair of newts as well as many other species found. The boys also enjoyed sampling plant life by "randomly throwing" their quadrats in the woodland and meadow. We will be visiting Boxmoor Trust with many other year groups over the next few months and it continues to be an excellent way of exploring science outside the classroom.

Sylvia

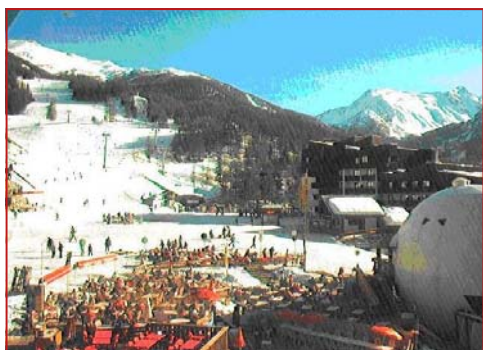


In January the ballet enthusiasts from the school were lucky enough to go to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to watch the Royal Ballet dancing the performance of Sylvia - based on a story from Greek Mythology. Mrs Henderson commented that, 'It is really important for the children to watch professional dancers on the stage to understand how the ballet is performed, and to learn more about the steps that they practise in the lesson.'

Dance Workshop



Easter Term Events



Skiers' Excitement Mounts

At the time of going to press, ski trip 'holloas' across the yard and around the school are frequent; "Is there good snow?" "I'm getting excited, Mrs Leach!" "Not long now!!!" "Did you get my passport?" "Do we really have to be at school THAT early?"...

Well, I am pleased to say snow reports are very good. The webcam picture above shows the lowest slopes on Thursday 13th March at 16:45. There is good coverage all -round on upper and lower slopes and the snow is described as 'velvet'; perfect for falling into! You can check out the resort and keep up to date with snow etc at www.lesorres.com

We will also be contactable via email at wbhski@hotmail.co.uk so if anyone wants to drop us a line, please feel free.

Bugsy Malone

The penultimate week of term saw Westbrook Hay transported back to pre-war New York for 'Bugsy Malone', directed by Stewart Woodward. It was a wonderful success and real team effort. This teamwork included: costumes co-ordinated by Mrs Wood and Mrs Henderson; impressive props prepared by Mr Harvey and Miss Cumming; and many other teachers who helped with artwork, stage management, prompting, lighting and sound. Teamed up with the director was our musical maestro, Gary Savage, who worked hard to achieve not only confident singing but some high-quality solos. What really made the play a success, of course, was the children. Tom Finlay as Bugsy showed real confidence and stage presence. Equally impressive was Peter Waterman as Fat Sam, who had just the right balance of humour and menace. Ella Hockings as Tallulah projected just the right mix of cynicism and worldliness. Francesca Tubb as Blousey was an

Music from Many Cultures

In March, Douglas and Carol Coombes ran a wonderful workshop for the children in Years 2 – 6. The 90 minute workshop was entitled Music from Many Cultures. The children learnt about many unusual musical instruments that they would have seen for the very first time and eight of the Year 6 children performed twelve bar blues as a hand bell team. (That has to be a first!)



Gabriella Bexson, Robyn Khan, Claire Allen and Hayleigh Griffiths

Mrs. Brookes' Year 1 class at Berkhamsted Castle, where they enjoyed a climb to the top of the motte and a talk about the history of the castle, which helped a great deal with their history work

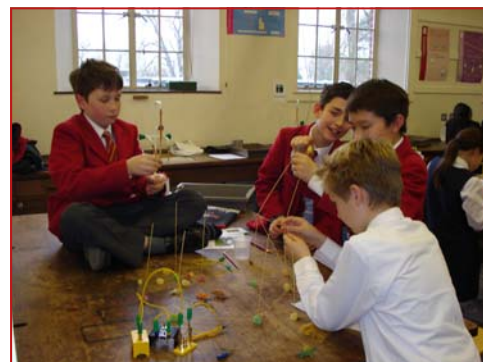


example to everyone: always reliable, always on cue, perfectly in character. Then there were some wonderful cameos too: Gareth Caine and Jasper Exley as Fizzy; Cagey Joe Sansom, Ryan Finn and Kane Thomas. Equally memorable was the inspired casting of Taylor Bryant and Henry Bexson as the hilarious, incompetent New York cops. All seventy children involved can look back on a wonderful venture. You could feel their sense of elation when they came off stage, and Mr. Woodward and Mr. Savage are to be congratulated on the vision and ambition for what could be achieved. Richard Henderson



Cameron Rae and Tom Finlay

Unusually this year the Beginners' Concert served a double purpose, showcasing some of our established players also. All the soloist performed well, sometimes despite obvious nervousness. The opening boogie from the Westbrook Hay Wind Band kicked us off well. Cameron Rae had a particularly big surprise when the Headmaster appointed him Westbrook Hay's Leader of the Orchestra. Cameron then proudly led his orchestra in the closing medley of Welsh songs which was very well received. Well done Cameron and all.



Peter Kearney, Jack Stewart, David Cartwright and Henry Bexson

Accepting the Haileybury Science Challenge

On Thursday 13th March a team of four boys from year 7 competed in the Haileybury Science Challenge. The theme was "Jurassic Park" and the tasks ranged from analysing "dinosaur blood" and "fossilised Triceratops poo" to constructing a model T-Rex enclosure, complete with electric fencing. It was a great opportunity to enjoy science in a rather different context and well done to Jack Stewart, Peter Kearney, Henry Bexson and David Cartwright for proving to be very good palaeontologists!

Easter Term Sport

1st Team Rugby

Overall this was a season of mixed results with us winning two out of the six matches. In all honesty we should have won two further matches, being the better team on the day. However, there were a number of fine performances by many of the team: Oliver Holt always led by example; Bobby Thomas at open side put in a massive number of tackles; Matthew Hampstead at scrum half was the team's most improved player; Luke O'Nien's footballing skills were always present at fly half; Kane Thomas at inside centre usually broke the gain line and Jack Meads scored in every match (the first pupil to have achieved this). Particularly encouraging was in our last match we were able to field primarily Year 7s for much of the second half, which augurs well for next season. The following played: **Oliver Holt** (captain), Henry Bexson, Adam Brown, Taylor Bryant, David Cartwright, Will Feron, **Matthew Hampstead**, **Matthew Handscombe**, Oliver Hurd, Peter Kearney, Max Khazaneh, Alistair King, Jacob Lewarne, **Jack Meads**, **Luke O'Nien**, Ryan O'Sullivan, George Simons, Dylan Tenty, **Bobby Thomas**, **Kane Thomas**, Max Wright. (colours awarded)



Rosslyn Park Sevens

Unfortunately, due to the appalling weather conditions this annual tournament was abandoned. It was all the more the pity because we probably had our strongest 7s team in recent years. However, we were fortunate enough to get together with two other schools on the day and play a round robin of matches. Against Rokeby we won 21 – 5. Our second match was against Merchiston Castle, a school from Edinburgh, who had travelled down the day before. Quite clearly they were used to playing in such extreme conditions and we did well to lose only by six points; the final score being 14 – 20! The handling and running was excellent from all three teams. I think the picture of the squad on the day says it all!

Colts A Rugby

We have had something of a catch phrase for this season of "a win for the little man!" Despite being the smaller pack in every game, we have supplied plenty of ball to the backs for them to run in the tries. The handling skills of the backs has often been breathtaking, as countless times the unselfish play of the forwards and scrum half have set up Chris Bauldreay and his merry men of runners. Joshua Awosika, Charlie Martindale on the wings and Matthew Burr at outside centre have scored 2/3 of our tries, illustrating our "whole team" approach. It was probably a try scored by inside centre Alastair Custance at Heath Mount that typified the quality of the team; every member of the team was involved in the build up to the score. Alistair Walters captained the team by example as the leading forward at hooker, but in truth he would make a super centre too. Luckily we only needing to use 13 players and the weather was kind to us, and the backbone of the team returned from last year's team, with Ethan Williams being an important cog in the pack. Throughout it has been a team effort. We have also had fantastic support from the parents; their help and encouragement is very much appreciated. Your children have been a real pleasure to work with and I have greatly enjoyed your company on the touch line.

The Team: Alistair Walters (captain), Ethan Williams (vice-captain), Kevin Kirwan, Joshua Awosika, Charles Martindale, Matthew Burr, Chris Bauldreay, Adam Winsor, Heston Harris, Jasper Exley, Reece Pitman-Willcock and Sam Marsh.

PLAYED 8 WON 7 LOST 1 POINTS FOR 216 POINTS
AGAINST 31



The Colts A scrum-half Adam Winsor after a tough training session

Colts B Rugby

With such a strong group of Colts this year it was not difficult to pick a 'B' team each week and several of the backs would have played 'A' team rugby in other years. Although we were sometimes pushed off the ball, and lost it at the break-down, when the ball did pass through the hands of the straight-running Rhys Gordon and out to Lee Tyrell, Fred Kelly or Rory Williams, all able to run through their opponents with apparent ease, tries came frequently and provided our loyal supporters with some thrilling rugby. Several Year 5 players gained the experience they will need to form the core of next year's A team. The season ended with five wins and two losses, well done boys.

Beechwood Park Sevens

This tournament for Under 11 teams took place at Beechwood Park School on Friday the 14th of March. We contested a final against Beechwood Park of epic proportions, having comfortably sailed through the group stages. In 60 minutes rugby we averaged 2 points a minute as many excellently constructed tries were scored. In his presentation speech the Headmaster at Beechwood singled out the team for the "beautiful" rugby that we had played throughout the Tournament. Unfortunately we fell just short to a very powerful Beechwood team. That is only half the story. Three minutes into the final we were losing 14-0 and resembled the "down and out" scene in "Bugsy", but the real character of the team then came out as they battled their way back to tie the scores. The next try was going to be the decider and although we went so close it was the rapid Beechwood centre who broke away to break the hearts. There were some very brave little boys on that pitch.

The Team: Alistair Walters (captain), Ethan Williams (vice-captain), Joshua Awosika, Charles Martindale, Matthew Burr, Chris Bauldreay, Adam Winsor, Jasper Exley.

The Results:

Group Matches:

| | | |
|------------------|------|-------|
| v Orley Farm | Won | 42-7 |
| v Edge Grove | Won | 42-0 |
| v Beechwood Park | Lost | 7- 21 |

Semi Final

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| v Lockers' Park | Won | 21-0 |
|-----------------|-----|------|

Final

| | | |
|------------------|------|-------|
| v Beechwood Park | Lost | 14-21 |
|------------------|------|-------|

Easter Term Sport



Katie Downham, Alexandra Burgar, Isobel Kirwan, Teia Griffiths, Hannah Alexander, Paige Symns and Mary White.

Under 9 Girls

On Saturday 8th March a team of U9 girls took part in the Kingshott Festival of Sport. This is the fifth year we have entered this tournament and it is an opportunity for the girls to play friendly matches without too much emphasis on the results, and to gain experience against some different schools. The girls played 4 netball, 3 hockey and 2 football matches, the latter encouraging a more vocal input from Fathers on the side line, but all who took part enjoyed the day. Thankfully the weather held out for us as well, as at one point there was the chance that we would get strong winds and heavy rain. At the end members of Staff from the schools taking part were asked to nominate a Player of the Tournament and this went to our very own Teia Griffiths.



Chris Bauldreay with Terry Jenner

Netball



Natasha Martin, Isobel Southwood, Lizzie Wood (capt), Elizabeth Godfrey-Gush, India Bates, Chloe Hurd, Katharine Mayer, and Alice Woodmansee

Westbrook Hay win Netball Final

On Saturday 23rd February Westbrook Hay U10 Netball team took part in a tournament involving 12 schools at Heath Mount School, Watton-at-Stone, Hertford. They played other Hertfordshire based schools throughout the morning and won their group matches and semi-final game, qualifying them for the final. This was a very exciting match with the score line being even throughout. The girls played with determination and skill, employing all the tactics they had been practising. They managed to hold onto a one goal lead and as the final whistle blew the final score was a victory to Westbrook Hay by 4 goals to 3.

Top Bowling Coach comes to Westbrook Hay

Fresh from coaching the England 'A' squad Terry Jenner (Shane Warne's coach and ex Australian bowler) came to try and weave his spell with 16 wrist spinners, who were joining his South of England coaching course held at Westbrook Hay. The age ranged from 9-17 and children travelled from Kent, Essex and Middlesex. Terry offered four boys from Westbrook Hay the opportunity to join the group: George Lewarne, Chris Bauldreay, Kripa Panchagnula and Alistair King. All four boys had a great time and hopefully they will now be spinning the ball square come the cricket season!

Westbrook Hay entered a team in both age groups this year giving the U10's valuable experience from playing in this tournament but it was the U11 team that fared the best. They qualified in their group to take on Berkhamsted in the semi final and won 4-3. The final was a re-match with a team the girls had met in their group and lost to quite heavily. However, the girls fought hard, settling into more confident and accurate passing, and with the defenders marking tightly to spoil Maltman's chances of getting the ball into the shooting area the score line was greatly reduced this time around. It wasn't enough though, to stop Maltman's Green from a well deserved win. Our team finished runners up and were presented with their medals and certificates at the end of the tournament.



Claire Allen, Hayleigh Griffiths, India Filippidis, Gabriella Bexson, Eleanor Grigg, Ella Hockings, Charlotte Cook and Robyn Khan

Inter-School Cross Country

Ethan Williams finishing 2nd, Jasper Exley 3rd, Joshua Awosika 6th, Rory Williams 8th and Matthew Burr 9th meant we had five in the first nine home! The winners shield was ours! The Under 13 boys team finished in a very creditable second place, and the Under 11 girls finished third.

UNDER 11 GIRLS: H. Griffiths, G. Bexson. E. Hockings, E. Grigg, E. Wood, A. Woodmansee, C. Hurd, E. Innes

UNDER 11 BOYS: E. Williams, M. Burr, J. Awosika, A. Winsor, K. Kirwan, C. Bauldreay, J. Exley, R. Williams.

UNDER 13 BOYS: M. Wright, L. O'Nien, R. Finn, G. White, O. Hurd, O. Holt, R. O'Sullivan, H. Hammond.



Our Westbrook Hay Community

Alongside our regular coffee mornings on the following Wednesdays - 16th April, 7th May, 11th June & 2nd July, the WHA are running four more great events in the Summer Term:

Back by popular demand the Family 'Bingo' will be held on Saturday 10th May

Our Annual Family Funday is on Sunday 15th June

The End of Term Disco will be on Tuesday 1st July

The fantastic Beijing Olympic Ball culminates events on Saturday 5th July

We really look forward to seeing you at one of our events, having a great time.



New School Equipment

The WHA have been making termly donations to the school library and sports department for some time now and have this year agreed to expand this to include termly donations to both Lower and Middle School. Purchases this year already include: kitting out the new Swallows classroom; providing a new Year 3 DVD player; the new Vault Box/Horse for the Sports Hall and supplying the funds for Middle School to purchase the wireless audio headsets used in their latest school play

Burns Night

The WHA hosted another highly successful Burns' supper for a select gathering of tartan-oriented parents. It was lovely to see some former parents returning to the scene of previous triumphs and the evening was enjoyed by one and all. Graeme Elliot began proceedings with the Selkirk Grace and Andrew Bryson was in fine form with his dirk, addressing the haggis with customary zeal. The Headmaster managed to weave several stories into what passed for a toast to the Lassies, but the undoubted highlight of the evening was again Jan Makower who provided a musical riposte on behalf of the Lassies and then led the communal singing that is always a feature of this evening. Her father joined her to add his own Celtic flavour and both did well to drown out the ever enthusiastic Peter Makower!

Chef provided the feast, which included all the trimmings and, apart from the picnic party who had opted out of haggis in favour of something less Scottish, everyone tucked in heartily and worked up a fearful thirst. With 'Flower of Scotland' competing with 'Swing Low' and the 'Skye Boat Song' battling it out against 'Wonderwall', there were memories for all the revellers to take with them as they wound their weary way to their beds, replete and hoarse and vowing never again to drink anything other than single malt.



Katherine Cummings, Andrew Grundy and Guy Kerridge taking bets at this year's Race Night which was a resounding success and was well supported by the gamblers at the school.

Race Night



Easter Egg Hunt

This year's event was very successful, with over 100 children taking part – despite this term being so full of events. The children, parents, grandparents and friends who came and braved the damp weather, had a lovely time, searching throughout the school grounds for their clues. The children were rewarded with an Easter Egg each for their efforts. On return to the conservatory, light refreshments were served – a big thanks to Chef Graham for arranging this. The raffle first prize, a beautiful hand-made rabbit, made and kindly donated by Amanda Stockbridge, was won by William Garnett, 1H. Well done William!



Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

Kate Woodmansee, Westbrook Hay Prep School

E-mail: kate_woodmansee@westbrookhay.co.uk