



Commander F A Mason who shared his wartime experiences with Year 6 pupils during a visit to the school

Bringing history to life

It's not every day you hear stories from someone who lived through the war and so it was an incredibly moving experience for Year 6 pupils to hear from former Junior School Captain, Commander F A (Tony) Mason MBE DL.

A young Master Mason attended the College during World War Two, but not here in Ramsgate.

He went to Courteenhall, Northamptonshire, where he had been evacuated.

Commander Mason told pupils about the first school he had been evacuated to, prior to joining SLC at Courteenhall.

He said the sirens had gone off and as the children were being moved to the Air Raid shelter, a bomb landed barring the entrance.

They had been forced to cover frightened under the dining room tables while the bombs exploded.

Later he was carried back to bed. Ceiling plaster was swept away and he lay looking at the night sky through the hole in the ceiling.

The next day the pupils were evacuated by bus. Commander Mason noticed that his younger

brother was missing. He went to look for him only to discover his brother had drowned in an accident, during the raid.

Later in the war Commander Mason's father Lieutenant Mason RNVR (an OL) also died, from injuries sustained in conflict.

Stephen Bithel-Vaughan, Deputy Head, organised the visit.

He said: "During each lesson, I watched as tears rolled down quite a few faces and thought to myself, 'Lest we forget'."

Pupils also had the opportunity to relive memories of one of Commander Mason's teachers, Anthony Buckeridge.

On Speech Day, yet more history was brought to life as Sally Herrington, daughter of Anthony Buckeridge, former master and author of the Jennings series of books, unveiled a heritage plaque in her father's memory.

Next year is the centenary of his birth and because of his history with the College, the Ramsgate Society asked if the Junior School would like to have a blue plaque at

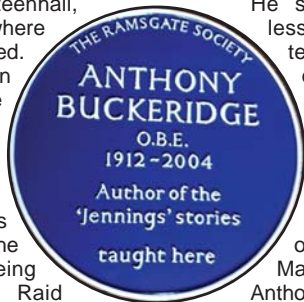


Joshua Izzard and Henry Collins, 4T, enjoy a 'Jennings' book

its entrance to commemorate his time at the school.

Simon Whittle, Head of the Junior School, said: "It's an honour to have this plaque at our front door to celebrate a unique piece of SLCJS history."

Anthony Buckeridge's writing has been enjoyed by generations of children and it was wonderful to meet Sally, and other members of the Buckeridge family, to listen to her stories and to celebrate the life and works of a famous former member of staff."



St Lawrence College

Junior School, Summer 2011



Enriching young lives

Our talented choir scooped top honours at the Thanet Music Festival, winning the 'Cup For Choirs' and a Distinction for their performance.

The pupils, pictured above, also put in strong individual performances and were highly placed in many categories.

Simon Whittle, Head of the Junior School, said: "Much credit must go to Helen Caddick in her first year as Junior School Director of Music. The Choir is thriving under her leadership, and the children are enjoying a rich variety of musical experiences."

In May, the choir was involved in a stirring performance of Carmina Burana, by Carl Orff, with the Kirby House and Senior School choirs, a rare and unusual opportunity for ones so young.

A further opportunity to enhance the pupils' varied SLCJS learning experience came in March when the whole school

got to clown around during our first fun-filled Enrichment Day. The circus-themed event, which coincided with, and raised money for, Red Nose Day, promoted teamwork and enterprise.

As well as dressing up, the children took part in a variety of workshops, including plate spinning, building bridges and observational challenges.

They also made jointed acrobats which have been displayed in a colourful frieze in Roberts Hall.

Robin Perry, Key Stage Two Co-ordinator, said: "The children were divided into teams and worked together to complete the challenges; the top three teams winning prizes at the end of the day."

Magician Ian Keable, from the Inner Magic Circle, also put on a performance of 'close-up' magic for the pupils.

It was such a great success that Enrichment Days will become regular events on the school calendar."

Next term, at the encouragement of the School Council, the plan is to celebrate Nepalese culture (with a helping hand from members of our boarding community) to help raise money in support of a charity which is building a school in Nepal.



Left: Oliver Jackson, Y1, and pupils with their acrobatic frieze



Olivia's got talent



Olivia Binfield has met leading animal conservationists Gerald Durrell and David Sheppard following her memorable poem recital on Britain's Got Talent.

Lucy, the boa constrictor, coiled itself around Olivia's neck as she shared her love for animal conservation.

The judges loved her performance and gave her a unanimous 'yes'!

The eight-year-old, who wants to be a zoologist, said the best thing about being on the television show was "scaring Ant and Dec".

Royal celebrations



Pupils, from left: Hal Holmans-Thompson, Arabella Piper and Franciszek Wolny

We all enjoy a good wedding and, just like the rest of the country, pupils at SLCJS were swept away by Royal Wedding fever.

To celebrate the marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton, the pupils held a Royal Wedding Pageant, and our very own Archbishop of Canterbury conducted the marriage

service. Pupils waved flags, sang songs including 'They're Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace,' and listened to Handel and Elgar plus the National Anthem played by the Welsh Guard.

They then sat down, with their best party manners, to enjoy High Tea with cucumber sandwiches and fairy cakes.



Above: the Under 11 Hockey and Netball teams; below the Swimming squad and Goal Attack Olivia Henry-Thrussell

A win-win situation

It has been a vintage year for our sports teams, with the Under 11 Boys' Hockey team remaining undefeated all season and winning the Granville League tournament.

Dale Spencer, PE Co-ordinator, said: "This is the most successful side in my five years here. To remain unbeaten all season is a fantastic achievement."

Not to be outdone by the boys, the Girls' Netball team won the Wellesley House Under 11 tournament and represented SLCJS at the IAPS regional tournament at Roedean School, the first time this has happened in living memory.

Following the Wellesley House Tournament, Coach Sarah Baker, said: "In our school matches we competed against much bigger schools yet we won each of the nine games we played. It was a fantastic achievement to win the tournament as the team beat schools from all over Kent.

We were entered into the IAPS tournament because we have such a good team this year. It was a wonderful

experience for the girls.

I am very, very proud of them. They are lovely, keen, dedicated girls and it has been hugely rewarding for me to work with them."

The Under 9 football team also performed well. They got into the semi-final of the Kent College tournament and came away with the fair play award.

In Cricket, Spencer Smith (Under 11s) scored an unbeaten 50, an impressive achievement for one so young.

After three races, SLCJS have been crowned winners of the 'Small Schools' Trophy in the Thanet Cross Country Championships.

Archie Ralph-Harding was placed 2nd and Paloma Higgins and Joseph Griffiths were placed 3rd overall in the three races.

Our swimmers have also performed well this year.

Felix Connelly (Under 11) produced a great swim to qualify for the 50m backstroke final at the Kent Primary Schools Swimming Championships.

In May's Thanet Primary Schools Swimming Gala,



SLCJS was placed fourth out of 13 schools. This is a great achievement for a small school. To put this into context, we were up against schools who have 120 pupils in a single year group!

Special mention must go to Felix Connelly who won a silver medal in backstroke and Libby Gibbons who also won a breaststroke silver medal.

Mr Spencer said: "Geoff Cocks, our swimming coach, and I are really proud of the swimmers' achievements.

They are a keen, talented and dedicated squad."



Performances were 'literally' wonderful



Congratulations to Years 5 and 6 who put on a stunning performance of 'The Hunt for William Shakespeare'.

Technically, the show was very demanding, the young actors having to dismantle and re-erect the Globe Theatre in front of the audience.

Caroline Topping, Director, said: "This play was challenging because of the Shakespearean language, the set changes and the period costumes but the children were fantastic, putting on a wonderfully entertaining performance."

The Lower School also had the opportunity to shine in front of an audience when, sporting 'mouse



ears', they joined hundreds of other children in a performance of 'Fingers McGraw', accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra.

They had learnt the song before their visit and had made 'Wanted' posters in the style of the book, 'The Getaway' by Ed Vere.

As Fingers McGraw is a cheese thief, the lucky pupils also made tasty cheesecake in class!