

The Bridge

Christmas 2013

SUCCESS
FOR ALL

St LUKE'S
SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE



Merry
Christmas

St. Luke's celebrates our
Wildlife Champions!





Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful following our excellent results this summer to be able to see year 7 settling in so well and the students enjoying the huge range of opportunities on offer. We are all able to enjoy the lovely purposeful ambience we have created here at St Luke's so that your son or daughter enjoys the best possible education.

At Christmas time we remind ourselves that as always the child is and must be at the centre of all we do. We never categorise or label children at St Luke's and the whole notion of high, middle and low ability children does not exist here. That kind of notion is for the imaginatively bereft and intellectually idle. We believe that there are no limits to what our students can achieve.

As success grows the horizons stretch ever forward. All children have special gifts and enthusiasms. Some take longer to acquire skills or need teaching in different ways. All are precious and we take our responsibilities very seriously. Fun in education with variety and excitement are our cornerstones here. We obtained our 12% over government aspirational targets this year not by analysing data, important though that is, but through fostering a spirit of care for the individual and developing self-belief in every child where every child expects to do well and achieve.



And our students do all expect to do well. Excellent lessons and teaching are the most important part of a child's success supported by trips, visits, a rich diet of extra-curricular opportunities and constant interest and encouragement.

In every school I have taught in the triangle of partnership between school, child and parent seems to be constantly reinforced but what does it actually mean?

We will all agree that the child should be at the centre. They deserve the best possible chance to flourish and have as wonderful a life as we can help make it.



But what of parents and the school?

Does this partnership mean that a good parent is one that never questions or challenges us in the actions we take or education we provide? Well no. Absolutely not. We should be accountable and constantly challenged. That is how we grow and learn. We are not perfect although we try hard to be. We must always be reflective and look to improve the education and care we provide. We clearly look for your support with uniform to instil pride and homework to support independent learning but your role is far more than that. My own belief is that as a parent or carer you have the greatest influence by far on your son or daughter. The values that you instil early on and your interests and views will by and large be those that they will adopt in formative years and later on as teenagers when they may kick against those they kick against something solid and views that are dependable based on the strongest bond in most families and situations.



We constantly get inspirational athletes and authors and other prominent figures to talk to and inspire the children here. And they are incredibly inspirational. We recently had a delightful visit by our friend Olympic and Commonwealth gold medal winner Craig Heap. (Please note my photograph with him. I will leave you to decide who is the better looking but the clue is in the medals!) He is a marvellous athlete of the highest calibre, down to earth, incredibly personable and was a brilliant raconteur and had the students in stitches! But in terms of his overall impact I would bet that any conversations that you had with your son or daughter about his visit and the interest you showed in what they heard and saw with Craig would have been by far the greater because you were lending your approval and weight to the feelings your child had on.. "could I really ever be like that?...could I truly achieve as much in gymnastics or indeed any other field that I chose? Could I ever have rippling muscles like those?" Well –there I have to admit defeat I'm afraid.. but the children still have time!



This then to me is the crux of this triangle. A respect and recognition of the simple fact that your influence is by far the greatest for your child. We then reinforce your positivity and experiences from home and you reinforce ours. In short we develop a way of working together which reinforces without any chinks that each child really can do brilliantly in one way or another and that the child really knows and feels that is true which of course it is.



The bottom line is that as a child were I lucky enough to have listened to a brilliant athlete like Craig (once again note my picture with him above!), yes I would have loved it and been inspired but at the end of the day like millions of boys all over the country I wanted to be like my Dad, even though I pretended like everyone else that I didn't! I would have told my Dad all about Craig and his response would have really mattered in how I interpreted that experience. He would have loved hearing all about Craig ! Simple words and reactions as we know can inspire a child forever.

My Dad told me that education was important so I believed that to be so. He had books and told me that reading was important and a source of pleasure so I loved reading. Dad was a zoologist and loved Natural History as do I. He also told me that fishing was God's own gift to mankind so I followed in his shadow throughout my childhood for miles across moors, seashores, rowing him across reservoirs and trudging around lakes usually carrying his creel and tackle! I am an avid sea trout fisherman to this day. Indeed thrashing about in bushes in the pitch black at 1.00am sorting out tangles and falling into rivers in the moonlight remains my main source of relaxation.

In short...you could have put Neil Armstrong in front of us as children and we would have been interested..fascinated probably but at the end of the day it was our parent, parents, or carer and those who love us who had by far the greatest influence along, as the years rolled by, with our friends, teachers and inspirational figures like Craig.

My New Year's resolution therefore is to strengthen this partnership having reflected afresh on what it actually means and work even better with you as parents and carers ensuring that our opportunities to meet and communications with each other are as good as we can possibly make them.

I know how hard we work here at St Luke's Science and Sports College and I know how hard you work in supporting us towards these fine ideals so may I on behalf of myself, our staff and governors thank you for all of your support throughout the year and wish you all a very merry Christmas!



Mark Pinchin



St Luke's hosts.....



On the 9th of October, Devon Wildlife Champions and St Luke's offered 250 primary and secondary school students from all around the Exeter area the opportunity to "get stuck in" with their local wildlife.



The day was kicked off by expert underwater photographer, Paul Naylor. He shared some of his amazing stories and images with the students, inspiring them to take an interest in our oceans. One pupil who was particularly impressed was young trainee photographer and wildlife champion, Danielle Bradford. She described the talk as "inspiring".

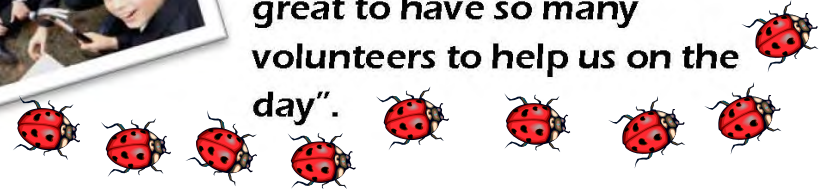


The students got slimy with the National Marine Aquarium, learning how different underwater animals make use of, and are affected by, slime. The enthusiasm on stage meant that all of the students were desperate to help out and participate in the challenges. George Lloyd particularly liked the part when he was asked to help to make slime, and Louis described the talk as "funny and educational!"

The pupils put their expert hands to use, building bird and bat boxes, creating seed bombs and planting pond plants. Louis Jones and Elizabeth Beer loved building their bird box. Elizabeth said "It was great fun and it looks cool, despite the wood splitting on us a couple of times... It may also have been an error to let Tim operate the hammer!"



Pupils also got to design a wildlife garden under the expert guidance of Sue Fisher. This was particularly useful for us at St Luke's as we could ask specific questions relating to our soil type and existing plants. In 'Champs' we have taken this advice on board already, and had a Garden Party during half term to clear the weeds. We are now ready for our wild flower and vegetable gardens to be planted in the spring. Katie Kennedy loved the chance to show off her muscles pulling up weeds, and said that "it was great to have so many volunteers to help us on the day".



With the support and sponsorship of EDF and their team of volunteers, (and a little funding from Sainsbury's for the biscuits), the day was a huge success! Thanks also must be given to each of the exhibitors that held a stand for the day and engaged the students with wildlife activities.



Miss Colborne, Teacher of Geography and leader of Wildlife Champions at St Luke's, said "The St. Luke's Wildlife Champions did us proud! They were truly exceptional and the success of the day is largely due to their efforts to make the day so amazing! I would like to thank them all for their hard work in 'Champs' this year – what a team!"



Wildlife Champions Update



Pumpkins & Cake Sale!

With a Halloween Theme in mind, the Champs set to work making Halloween decorations (with some help from F3), and went to the vegetable patch to harvest our last vegetable – the pumpkins! Using Mr Smith's cookery room, the creative flair of the group was put to work as they carved the Jack-O lanterns.



With the classroom decorated, the Champs went home and the 'Great British Bake-off' ensued. Cakes of all shapes and sizes arrived the following day decorated with ghosts, ghouls and the occasional monster.



World Book Day 2014





With the dream of vegetable patches and wildflower gardens being stunted by our clay soils, the Champs decided to take action, before spring, and held a cake sale to raise money for compost and seeds.

The queue outside the room was amazing! 4 people deep, out of the Humanities corridor and into the Atrium. A total of £78 was raised. The Champs would like to thank everyone for their support.



Garden Party

Over half term, the Wildlife Champions decided to throw a garden party. With several wildlife beds being overgrown with weeds, the garden party was set up to allow a lot of TLC to be given to these areas. The volunteer turn-out was amazing, and a special thanks has to be given to all of the parents who turned up to lend a hand.

The wisdom of the Beer's was particularly invaluable!

Miss Colborne, Miss Daniels & the Champs!



Find out more about Miss C & Miss D on the next pages

Miss Colborne

After being part of the St Luke's team for over a year, it about time that I introduced myself...

I am Miss Colborne, a Geography Teacher and the Leader of Wildlife Champions! I love both of these roles as they have given me the chance to "get stuck in"!

Over the past year I have been climbing over volcanoes, and shimmying around shanty towns – just to get to my board! Model making with the year 7s, 8s, and 9s, certainly made my normally ordered classroom a lot more difficult to navigate! However, the talent and dedication of the students in these practical tasks has been more than worth it. The students have continued to amaze me with their creative flair and talent - maybe with a little help from some parents ☺

Hosting the Wildlife Champions Conference 2013, was a fantastic opportunity for our Champs team to show off what they have been up to, whilst also getting expert advice that will allow us to continue to develop the wildlife schemes. They have created bird boxes, bat boxes, seed bombs and various other wildlife enticing bits that we are currently placing around the school. The Champs are a fantastic and enthusiastic group of pupils that I look forward to seeing every week - and it is more than fair to say that I could not have hosted the conference without them!

I have also recently been awarded the position of Assistant Head of House and love the opportunities that this has provided. It is fantastic to have a pastoral role and to be able to interact with those students that I have not yet been lucky enough to teach.

Outside of school? Well... having rowed at university, and realising that this is not a part time venture, when I arrived in Exeter I was on the lookout for a new vocation. I like to dance – and so I joined a modern jive class. This provides me with my weekly exercise dose and a chance to perform occasionally!



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Miss Colborne is proud of her students

Miss Daniels

I am in my second year of teaching Mathematics at St Luke's and I am so happy to be in such a vibrant and enthusiastic school. The Mathematics staff are innovative and dynamic in their approach to teaching as well as being very supportive and encouraging of any ideas I might have to engage and enthuse the students! This year I have been put in charge of numeracy across the curriculum and I am really looking forward to sinking my teeth into the role and making a difference across the school.

Outside of the Mathematics department I am involved in the school production and Wildlife Champions. I love being self-sufficient and growing my own fruit and vegetables. I think it's really important for students to understand where their food comes from and to appreciate the time and skills needed to grow it themselves. This led me to team up with Miss Colborne's Wildlife Champs as they were looking for some help and ideas for their outside beds. It's been a real pleasure to see the kids so enthusiastic about being outdoors and growing (and eating!) their own produce. We had a productive first harvest with the kids enjoying peas, strawberries, courgettes and pumpkins. Thanks to the volunteers who came in over the half term to help clear the old beds, we are now hoping to have an even bigger crop next year with a wider variety of fruit and veg. Being part of the group has also been an educational experience for me. Tim, our resident year 8 wildlife and bug enthusiast has been teaching Miss Colborne and me a thing or two about the wildlife of Exeter! Having expanded in numbers this year, with some new year 7 and 8 students we are looking forward to a productive and exciting year with the Wildlife Champs.



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Year 7 Dartmoor Experience!



Almost 150 of our Yr7 students enjoyed a day and night up on Dartmoor with the trip involving a visit to the Prison Museum, Dartmoor National Park Centre, Moorland Walking, Camping and Team Building tasks. The students, thanks to partner school Plymouth College, stayed at Whiteworks Bunkhouse with some enjoying the luxury of the bunks and others experiencing camping in tents.



It is fair to say that Dartmoor provided us with some of its most challenging weather conditions including heavy rain, mist and fog but this did not deter our students from enjoying their time on the moor.



Darwin



They all tackled the tasks with great enthusiasm and learnt a great deal about what it means to be part of a team, support others and consider others when undertaking activities. The trips to the local museums provided a great insight into life on the moor, both as a prisoner or indeed as a farmer or local resident.



Rutherford



Well done to all of our Yr7 students who attended the trip and thanks to the staff who gave up their time to spend a week on Dartmoor.

Ghost Stories

Inspired by Year 7s
Dartmoor Residential
Trip



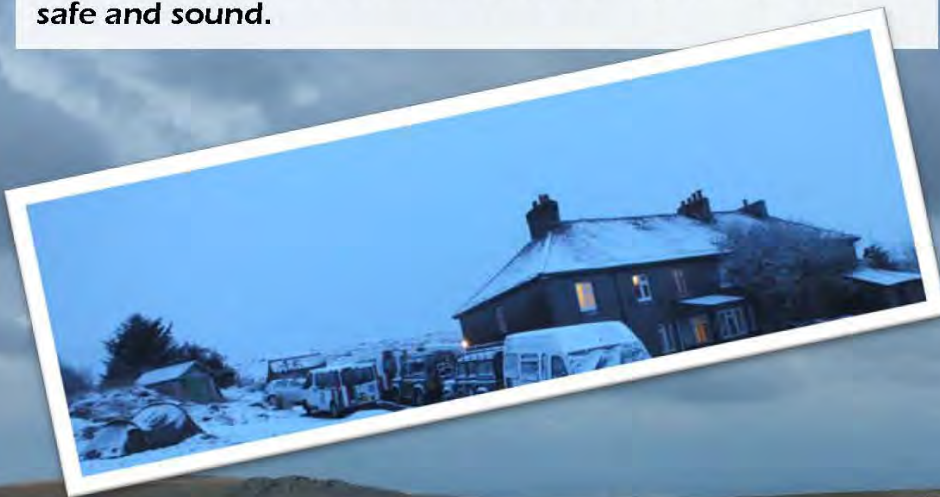
One frosty night on Dartmoor a boy called Plip got out of bed and asked about the holes in the moor. His gran told him not to go into the holes but he didn't listen. He went to the closest hole and he got sucked in. He woke up and found he was a ghost. He found a witch and asked for a poison but she said "No, only if you can find three balls". The three balls were hidden far apart but he still found them. When he got back to the witch's house he gave her the balls and then she popped and everything went back to normal. Although he still got told off for not being in bed asleep.



A long time ago in Dartmoor, there lived massive creatures. One month in winter, a very ugly monster came to Dartmoor for a fight. That fight went on for about a day and it caused a lot of damage making all the rocks stick up out of the ground. During the fight, the monster (called Max) slammed one of the creatures into the ground causing a huge hole. The water is supposedly the blood of the massive creature and the rocks are her bones. (The monster won the battle and might still be around).

Peter Coats was an amazing piano player. He played in nationwide concerts, world-wide orchestras and he made loads of money. In his mansion one night there was a knock at the door. Peter opened the door and let the man inside and warmed him up with tea and biscuits. The man was jealous of Peter's money and wanted it. He attacks Peter who tries to set him on fire but while doing this, sets everything else on fire and it rages all night. Both men wake up in the morning and try to pick up something but they fail. They realise they are ghosts and now every night you can hear music playing in the distance.

There I was staying in the garden of an old tumbled down house. It wasn't my house, I don't really know whose house it was but I did know I was lost. Lost upon Dartmoor, I had been walking since dawn. It was the only house I'd seen all day. Although you may be thinking "Why didn't you just go in?" But it wasn't that simple. I tried the door but it was locked. If I stopped walking I might not find any help, I couldn't miss this chance. I waited and waited. Suddenly I could see the mist fading and a group of children walked down the hill towards me. "Should I hide?" I asked myself. But by this time they were next to me. "Hello" said a nice man, "Are you lost?" "Yes I replied. "Oh" said the man. "Well, why don't you come back to our bunkhouse?" It turned out the nice man who invited me back was Mr Hamer, the leader of the school trip. They took me back and phoned my family so I was safe and sound.



One day (in 1703) there was a family who lived in a small house and there was a father, mother and their children. One night the children woke up with a fright, they had heard something in the kitchen. They thought it was their imagination so they went back to bed. Then later they heard it again so they both went into the kitchen thinking they should not wake up their Mum and Dad. Anyway they went into the room and saw a broken window. They thought "Who broke that?" They also saw lots of food scattered around the floor but then they saw someone with a knife. He was staring at them and ran towards them

St Luke's turns into Hogwarts!

HOGWARTS
School of Witchcraft and Wizardry



On Friday 15th November Quidditch officially landed at St Luke's which turned into Hogwarts for the day. Witches and wizards could be seen along every corridor as well as numerous house elves and other magical creatures!

The area outside the Key Stage Office was transformed into Hogwarts. Harry Potter themed cakes and badges sold out in no time and the Sports Hall was packed for the Quidditch Have a Go session. The BBC popped in first thing to film the action and we even had a visit from the Devon and Cornwall Police Crime Commissioner, Tony Hogg who joined in with the Quidditch session.



The Quidditch session delivered by the Chair of Quidditch UK went down a storm and we are pleased to confirm that there will be a Quidditch after school club and an Inter-House League starting after Christmas.

Watch this space! We'll have International Quidditch players before you know it!

Devon and Cornwall Police Crime Commissioner, Tony Hogg, Dumbledore and Dolores Umbridge

Big thanks to all the students and staff who dressed up. We were overwhelmed by the imagination and effort that people put in.



Ms Thomas & Miss Stone get their Potter on!



Have you seen this IT Wizard?



Head of Gryffindor?



Was Father Christmas at Hogwarts?



Nice perm Miss Sherwood!



The Wizard of Rhod!



Mrs Hamer looks after all the spell books!



Mrs Musson is a secret Weasley!

Some of St. Hogwarts magical staff!





The fancy dress competition winners were:

- Ron Weasley aka Keiran Burpitt
- Hermione Grainger aka Hana Bennett
- Mad Eye Moody aka Mr McNamara



Mad Eye Moody & Rolanda Hooch

We'd like to say a special thank you to the Quidditch Organising Committee who pulled together the event and who will continue to work together to deliver the Inter-House League. Committee members are: Dani Bradford, Eilis Cassidy, Nina Groves, Harry Hayes, Rebecca Jonas, Daisy Macioccu, Ruby Macioccu, Talitha Marshall-Bishop, Beth Beresford-Slinn, Evie Stripp, Mariam El-Wakeil, Kieran Bending, Molly Brown, Miss Skinner and Mrs Musson.

As well as all of the activities on the 15th, members of the Quidditch Organising Committee were invited to attend the British Quidditch Cup in Oxford on Saturday 9th November. It was an amazing day where much fun was had and lots was learnt about this magical sport.

A whooping **£1028** was raised which will be split equally between the three charities: BBC Children in Need, DEC Philippines Typhoon Appeal and Movember.

With local radio plus local and national TV coverage St Luke's, sorry, I mean Hogwarts really hit the big time for the day!



A big thank you to Hedwig aka Miss Skinner



STEMFest@Plymouth Aquarium

On Tuesday September 17th 30 Year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth for the annual STEMFest event.

Throughout the day they attended a range of workshops linked to STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and also had the chance to find out about STEM university courses and local businesses employing STEM personnel.

In the science workshop students examined the stomach contents of a range of marine animals in order to investigate the issue of plastic waste in the oceans. This was definitely not for the squeamish!



In the Technology and Engineering workshop students were challenged to move water from one place to another.

They designed water carrying structures using only pipes and canes. 30 students (& teachers!) with paddling pools, pipes and lots of water was great fun, but we really should have taken our waterproofs and wellington boots!





During the Maths workshop students were challenged to make calculations of the species diversity in the coral seas tank. They surprised the presenter with their excellent maths skills and were given extension challenges as they finished their calculations so quickly.



The STEM fair gave students the opportunity to explore a range of stands with information from local STEM businesses and universities offering STEM courses. Many students showed lots of interest in continuing into further education and careers in STEM subjects.



The finale was the explosive STEM show in front of the Atlantic tank where the presenter dived in with his scuba gear on. A great visit was had by all, we're looking forward to STEMfest 2014 already.



Applied Science



Biomechanics

One of the many varied science courses offered to our students here at St. Luke's is the GCSE in Additional Applied Science. Completed during year 11, this course builds on the GCSE Core Science completed during year 10 and looks at the science used in a variety of roles in the real world. As part of the course this year, students will be learning about the work of forensic scientists, food scientists and materials scientists and the vital role they have in maintaining our modern lifestyles. To start the year off, students investigated the role of a sports scientist.

During this section of the course, students investigated the body systems involved in maintaining your health, how nutrition is tailored especially for top athletes and biomechanics, including the use of prostheses. During this part of our work we were honoured to be visited by Jon White who helped students gain a fuller and deeper insight into the science behind the amazing prosthetics he uses.

Taking time out from his busy schedule (including appearing on channel 4's Grand Designs with his wife, our very own Mrs White!), Jon spent two amazing hours explaining the structure and function of his prostheses giving us all a real insight into the development, materials and science which we could never have gained without his help.

Students, along with Mr Pepperell and Mr Oxer, discovered how the wide range of prostheses Jon uses enable him to maintain his active life, from his special kayaking arm to his homemade attachments that allowed him to complete the build of his own family home.

Mr Pepperell said "We could never have gained this sort of insight into the use of artificial limbs without Jon's openness and willingness to share his personal triumphs and set-backs. It's impossible to put into words how much the students gained from his time with us, and they all described his visit as an amazing 'experience' rather than just another lesson."



Our great friend
Captain Jon White
Royal Marines



GCSE Catering

Year 11 GCSE Catering students have been researching international cuisine and trialling different recipes for their controlled assessment.

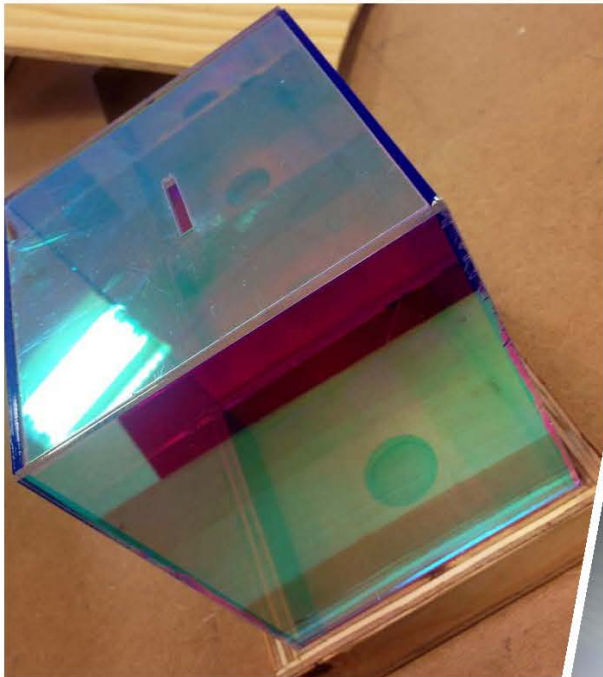


Countries such as Italy, India, China, Mexico and Poland have been researched with a variety of dishes produced. All students have shown a high level of independence and skill throughout this project. Well done!

Mr Smith
Miss Staddon



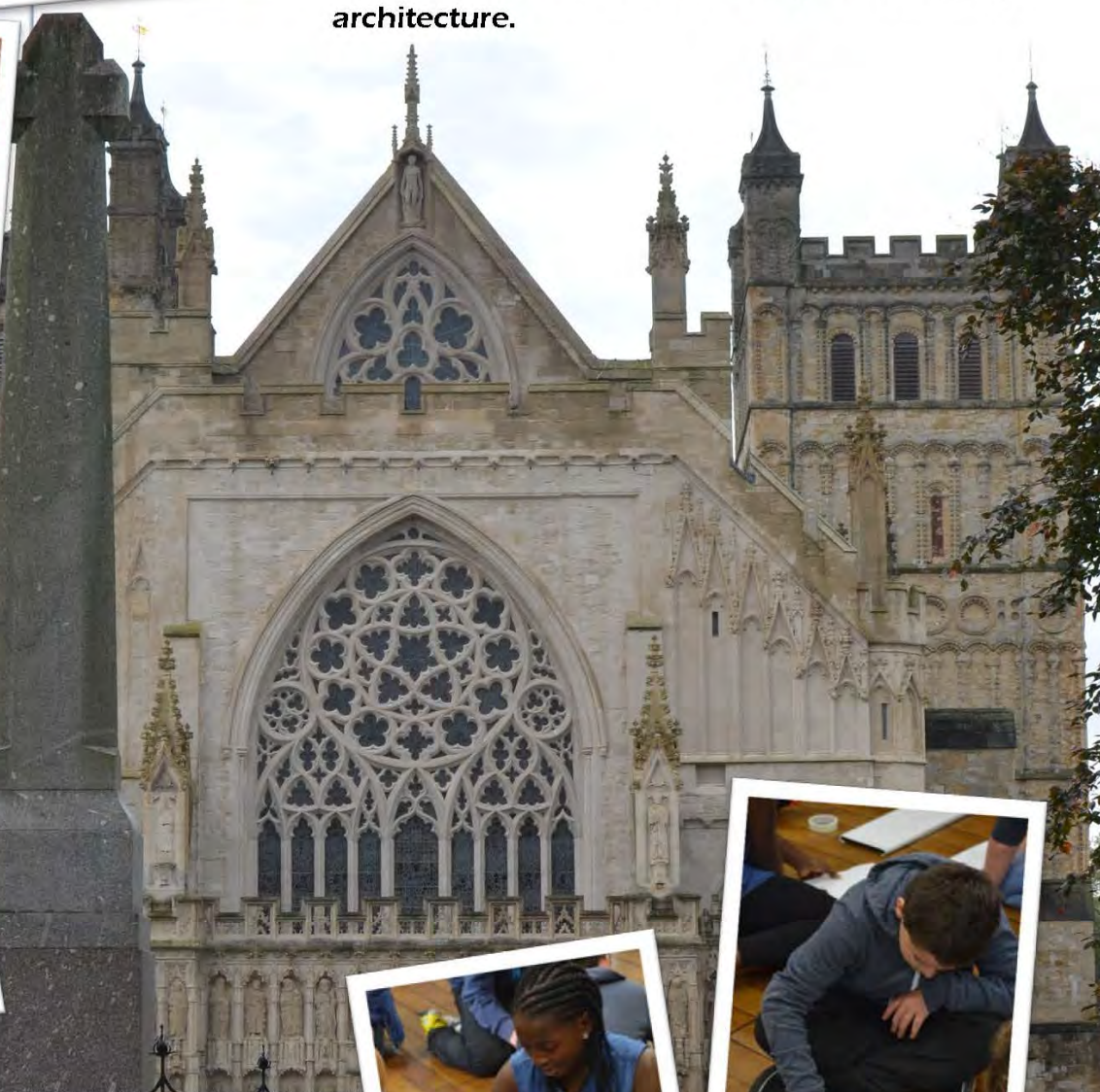
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Exploring Exeter

This term Year 7 students have been exploring the History of Exeter. From Roman Exeter to the Blitz in 1942, students have been finding out just how fascinating our local history can be.

On the 5th and 6th November the students were able to visit some of Exeter's most significant historical sites including the Underground Passages, the City Wall, the Quay, the House that Moved and Rougement Castle! Students were also given a special tour of Exeter Cathedral and were able to discover how belief is expressed through architecture.



Students even had the chance to demonstrate their creativity by learning how to make brass rubbings! These two successful and thoroughly enjoyable days have helped strengthen the knowledge of our students and the interest and enthusiasm shown inside and outside of the classroom has been absolutely superb! It was a real pleasure to take our students on the trip and they really did themselves and the college proud, well done Year 7!



Thanks to Mr Dolley for the photos!



Castles

Whilst looking in depth at what Exeter was like during the Middle Ages students were given the opportunity to create their very own medieval castle! Displaying brilliant creativity and historical accuracy, students set to work on designing and making a collection of Motte and Bailey, Stone Keep and Concentric castles over half-term.



Students used an interesting range of materials including cardboard, wood, Lego and even sponge cake! The Year 7's produced some exceptional work that they should be extremely proud of. These impressive castles are a very welcome addition to the History classrooms at St Luke's!





S T A F F P R O F I L E

Mr Le Gassick

I was born in South London and grew up there before going to Lancaster University, where I graduated in English Literature and History. After University I moved back to London and worked in various jobs in the City. I spent my spare time volunteering as a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Police Service and took part in different sports from running to cycling and rowing on the Thames. Three years ago I moved down to the West Country to train as a teacher and now live on the Dorset coast with my partner; she works as a primary school teacher in Bridport.



One of the reasons I love to teach History is because it equips us with the skills to make choices which affect our future: informed ones. St. Luke's certainly seems to complement that philosophy. As a Teacher of History at St Luke's (as well as teaching some BTEC Health and Social Care) I can honestly say I am thoroughly enjoying working in the friendly, supportive and aspirational atmosphere I have found myself in since I joined the team in September this year. Within the first few weeks I found myself running with other staff members in the Exeter half marathon, a fantastic experience (even if Mr Upston did beat me by 1 minute 44!)

Outside of the classroom I continue to pursue my interests in sport, rowing for my local Gig club and very occasionally pounding the pavements (I'm coming for you Mr Upston!) I also enjoy travelling, my favourite experiences being trekking in the Himalayas and travelling around India. Where possible I combine this passion with my love of history and have enjoyed visiting places of historical significance such as Moscow, St Petersburg, Berlin and Belgium.





Mr Greenhalgh

Footloose

THE MUSICAL

Footloose

Original music by DEAN PITCHFORD
and WALTER BOBBIE

Book of the original screenplay by DEAN PITCHFORD

Music by TOM SNOW

Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Historic music by ERIC CARMEL, SAMMY HAGAR,
KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN

19-23 NOVEMBER 2013
EXETER BARNFIELD THEATRE
01392 270891

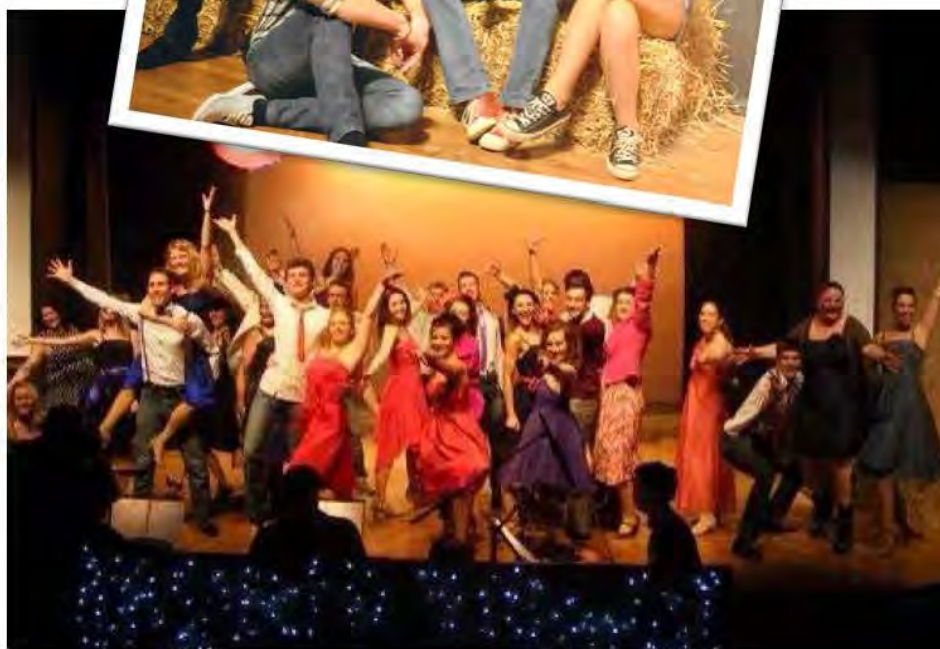
If you'd told me at the start of this year that I'd have performed in a production of Footloose by the end of the year then I probably wouldn't have believed you.

However, at the end of November that's what I did for 5 nights at the Barnfield Theatre.

When I was at school I did Performance Studies A Level and acted in school productions, but until this year I hadn't done anything drama-related since. Then, back in January I got involved with Exeter Musical Society, who put on 2 different musicals each year. I took part in *Guys and Dolls* in April, before auditioning for Footloose in September.

After that came 2 months of intense rehearsals (with a particular focus on improving my dancing abilities...), which was hard work but great fun to work as part of a team to bring the show to life. The reward of that was seeing people enjoy the show each night, including some familiar faces from St Luke's!

Overall, the show was a great experience, and we're about to start work on another show (*Me and My Girl*) which is on at the Northcott in May 2014. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to seeing St Luke's own production, *We Will Rock You*, next year...



Into the wide grey eyes

Have you ever heard it
cry to the frozen full moon?
At times I think the moon howls back

Have you seen it
stand on the mountain peak?
After running faster
than the wind

Have you been close enough:
To feel those soft, sizzling fur?
The gleam in those wide grey eyes
Gives you fear

But don't be scared,
Yes, have no fear
See what it's seen:



Thirsty teeth,
In need of blood
Looking for hours
For a feast

No, you wouldn't say
That's how it started for a beast:



Here you hear a whelp cry out loud
Sprinting around; he then smiled

Years were blown by
Like a dandelion

Lonely, he walked in awe
Till one day he saw
A superior pack walking past



From them he learned to be
the master of darkness
How to bring fear to the woods
Chills to your body

Like a single drop of water, afraid of sun
Once it reached the ocean
It became part of one
Surrounding the land



Poem & illustration by **Negar Pakgozar**

Year 11 Brittany Trip 2013



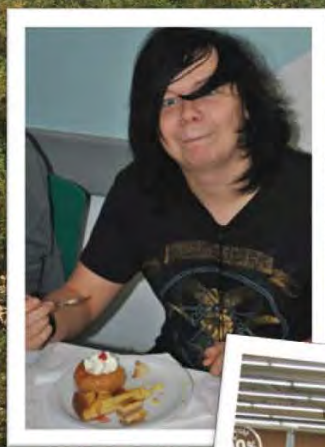
Year 11 MFL students paid a visit to Lannion in Brittany this October. After a smooth crossing on the ferry our coach took us to our partner school in Lannion where we had a delicious French breakfast.



Our students watched presentations from French students who had been on work placements in foreign countries. We heard accounts about working in Sweden, Poland and England. Florian Le Bihan did us proud with his presentation about his work experience at St Luke's.



Students were given a lovely five course lunch with traditional French food in the school refectory.



In the afternoon, we went to the Planétarium in Pleumeur-Bodou where we saw a show on 'Le Système Solaire'.



At a local hypermarket, students were given a shopping task to do. They had to find various pieces of information looking through the aisles.



For their evening meal our students went to a local restaurant in Lannion. The food was absolutely delicious!

The next morning, after breakfast we went to Morlaix where we spent the morning looking around the market. Students were able to taste different types of food, buy local food products and speak with local people to find out some information about the city.



We visited a goat farm after lunch, where we were given a guided tour. Students were able to taste cheese made on site. At first they were cautious but after a bit of encouragement they cleaned up two trays full of cheese, some fresh with garlic, herbs, black pepper and other more mature ones.



This was another successful trip where students were able to experience a different way of life, discover new places and put into practice what they have learnt in lessons. Their behaviour was impeccable and they looked like they enjoyed the experience

Contact Palestine



In July, St. Luke's MFL Department began a partnership with a new school in Palestine. It is a Secondary School called Beita High School for Girls in South-East Nablus, Palestine.

Linking up through the British council website, we participated in our first video conference, introducing staff to each other from the two different schools.

Mr Oxer, Mrs Whalley and Mr Giraudon made first contact with the Headmistress and colleagues from the Science and English department. We learnt about our partner school. They have 21 teachers and 260 students (girls) aged 15-18. They teach through Arabic and English. The day starts at 8am and finishes at 2pm. There are 7 lessons each day and they have Friday and Saturday's off. Classes usually have between 35 and 40 students. They study in three main streams: scientific, literary and commercial.

The school, one of the best in Palestine, is very keen to collaborate with us on many different aspects and especially on some science projects and experiments. They are interested to learn about how we teach, how we incorporate new technology in our lessons (use of mobile phones, IPADS, IPODS, computers, video conference). They are also very keen to develop their teaching of English and learn about the English Curriculum.

Students from each school will definitely benefit from this partnership, interacting with one another through video conferencing and also learning about the culture of each country.

We are now going to be planning some science projects and will also organise another video conference in November to discuss possible projects for next academic year.



This was a great first meeting which has given us a lot of food for thought.



Season's Greetings

from



Personalised Learning

We are near the end of another term in Personalised Learning and are still thrilled with our results from last year's year 11, excellent work and well done to you all!

Our Personalised Learning curriculum is aimed at getting the best out of our students so they will feel they have achieved and been recognised for their achievements.

This year we are pleased to be offering two new GCSE qualifications GCSE Leisure and Tourism and GCSE short course Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions.

We still have the courses offered last year, NCFE qualifications in Equality and Diversity and Nutrition and Health for some students and will also be offering them as additional qualifications, when the GCSE exams in Leisure and Tourism and Religious Education have finished.

Mrs W Harrison





Whilst St. Luke's always has a lot to celebrate, Thursday 14th November saw forty-one of our students do it in style at the Excellence in Exeter Awards Evening, held at the Great Hall of Exeter University. This annual event highlights the outstanding work done by students of all ages across Exeter. To receive an award, students need to consistently excel for a whole key stage, (years 5 & 6, 7 – 9 or 10 & 11) and can receive their recognition from one of the following areas:

- Academic Excellence
- Service to the Community
- Artistic or Sporting Endeavour

As always, it was incredibly difficult to choose the winning students and for every person named, there were a number of others in close contention. Congratulations then to the following students for their amazing success:

In addition to these, each college puts forward one act and this year St. Luke's stole the show, (I might be biased though), with a stunning display or Sporting Excellence from gymnasts Isabella and Jemima Kerley and Tae Kwon Do expert Imogen Allen that got the biggest cheer of the night.

Finally, our Wildlife Champions had a chance to highlight the amazing things they've accomplished over this past year, (as detailed elsewhere in this magazine).

Parents and teachers alike looked on proudly, many with a manly tear in their eye as a fantastic evening drew to a close. Every year our students continue to amaze me with their talents, their dedication and their perseverance. That goes for our staff too and it wouldn't have been possible without Justine Colborne, Ruth Daniels, Hayley Antonello and Kealey Sherwood doing an awful lot of running around and organising to make it all possible.



Lewis Wilson
Isabella Kerley
Jemima Kerley
Grace Reeves
Artemios Pappas
Azma Miah
Tom Dunkley
Ben Parker
Joshua Brown
Ellie Murray
Jack Moncur
James Warmesley
Lucy Allwood
Molly Emerson
Evie Stripp
Molly Shelton Brown
Eve Moulton
Charles Kolya
Nina Groves
Isabelle Rye
Ryan Ellis
Alannah Clark
Chantelle Bowyer
Claire Bisby
Tapuwa Mukonoweshuro
Chloe Williams
Rebecca Jones
Arifa Nabizadeh
Ryan Emmett
David Jonas



Thank you to all and to all the students who took part (and especially their parents who I suspect had an even harder job!), a huge WELL DONE!

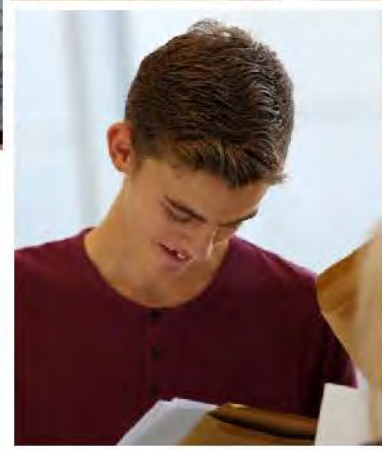
Torsten Payne
Co-ordinator for the Gifted and Talented programme



RESULTS DAY

We are delighted to say that the students at St Luke's Science and Sports College have continued to achieve outstanding GCSE results, performing 12% above their challenging FFTD target! This measure of success has been at the heart of our celebrations today with the students and staff. Our students achieved 58% 5+A*-C including Maths and English against a FFTD Target of 46%, and 83% 5+A*-C against a target of 77%. Mark Pinchin, Principal, joins me in thanking our wonderful staff and students for their hard work and achievements, and we wish the students every success for the future.

Dave Holt, Deputy Principal



The 'Class of 2013' Graduate



Olympian and Commonwealth Gold Medallist Craig Heap joined us to celebrate the achievements of 'The Class of 2013' during an amazing evening of performance, awards and inspiration.



The evening kicked off with an amazing performance from the cast of 'We Will Rock You' with them treating the audience to a fantastic rendition of Radio Ga Ga.



The presentation of academic awards followed with a number of students being recognised for their amazing achievements and efforts.



Next, an inspiring story from Craig who described how he went from schoolboy to being the first ever British man to win a Commonwealth Gold Medal in Gymnastics. The retired Olympian and now, BBC Commentator, had the audience in fits of laughter combined with tears of emotion.



A great story of determination, courage and commitment left us all with the message of always try to be the best that you can be.



Our evening finished with our next round of awards with students being recognised for their fantastic commitment to life at St. Luke's. Ryan Ellis scooped the Principal's Award being described by Mr Pinchin as an outstanding young man of exceptional talent and commitment.

Mr Pinchin went on to close the evening with a big thank you to the Class of 2013. A group of amazing students, who have been the heart of our school for the past 5 years. Always remember, come back to see us, you will always be part of St. Luke's.



Well done to our current Year 11 students who have made such an encouraging start to their final year at St Luke's. In particular we are delighted with the students who recently completed their early entry GCSE exams in English and Maths. Their response to the support from their teachers and their maturity in preparing and sitting the exams was a clear signal that success is in their sights! We will await the results of these exams in early January and for now, in all subjects, I am sure that every student will ensure that they know exactly what they need to do to get themselves one step closer to their Aspirational Target

Year 11 Success



Following in the footsteps of last year's Year 11 who were so successful might seem a daunting task, but a few words of wisdom from them include:

- Avoid any and all distraction in lessons, ensuring that you get the very best from the most valuable resources you have... Your teachers!
- do your absolute best in coursework and controlled assessments... The more marks you can gain now the better!
- prepare for your Mock Exams as you would for any National exam, as it will give you a 'reality check' of how you might perform based upon your current preparation... And help you identify where your strengths and gaps in knowledge or skills are.
- sacrifice your personal time to attend revision sessions... review, summarise and memorise... This will help you to retain what you are being taught now.
- if there is anything that you are unsure about, just ask!!

On behalf of the staff, I'd like to wish you all the very best for the year ahead and we look forward to seeing you rise to the challenge. Remember 'marginal gains', leave nothing to chance and prepare for success!

Best wishes
Mr Holt

Student Matters

Restorative and Solution-focused Approaches at St. Luke's Science and Sports College

Over the past 3 years, we have been developing these two interventions in our College to support our caring ethos and underpin our Positive Behaviour Policy. These two approaches look at different ways of working with pupils, staff and parents to encourage greater communication, responsibility and accountability with and to each other.

Working restoratively is a most effective way of resolving difficult situations and conflicts by reflecting on the harm that's been caused by behaviour or language, with everyone involved contributing to the way forward. Of course, in addition to using this approach to resolve conflicts, at St. Luke's we underpin our whole ethos on restorative approaches by highlighting the importance of relationships and positive communication, alongside self-respect and valuing people's differences. We know that students learn more and become more successful when they feel valued and enjoy coming to school. We are outstanding at both encouraging and supporting our pupils to be the best that they can be.

In order to support our Restorative approach, we work in partnership with leading expert Mr Kiernan who spends a few days each term with us training and supporting staff so that we all understand the principles behind this approach and have the tools to help us implement these strategies.



Mr Kiernan

More recently, Mr Kiernan has trained small numbers of staff in solution-focused mentoring which aims to build on the strengths that every pupil has to help them to overcome difficulties, problems and ultimately, barriers to learning. Students are being supported on a 1-1 basis to help them chart a way forward and find solutions to their problems and/or barriers to learning. The underlying principle is that everyone can change their future, but often need help and support.

Outcomes

Ultimately, this approach to management of student behaviour in the College is primarily designed to improve attainment by building upon our ethos by creating a safe and caring environment in which we address discipline by restoring relationships rather than just implementing unimaginative measures. In addition we aim to remove any barriers to learning for students to support improvement in attainment for particular groups and individuals.

A restorative school;

- Replaces judgment and failure with appreciation, possibilities and hope.
- Addresses discipline by restoring relationships rather than punitive authority.
- Promotes respect for the whole school community – teachers, students and their families.
- Listens to every voice.
- Develops respect.
- Extends hospitality to parents, families and visitors.
- Celebrates diversity.
- Promotes high achievement.

Miss Sherwood

Student Intervention

St Luke's Science and Sports College has an inclusive ethos firmly rooted in the belief that the core task of education is wider than a focus on academic learning. It also concerns young people developing their own sense of self-worth and competence while at the same time promoting and supporting the self-esteem and well-being of others, both in their school and local community.

Sometimes our students can experience a barrier to learning that can impact on all aspects of their education and on the school community. At such times they often know what they should do but find it hard to do it and rely on staff to work with them to identify difficulties and offer an appropriate intervention.

As Head of Student Intervention I encourage and support our staff striving to raise standards of attainment and achievement for all students with a barrier to learning and across specific cohorts of young people including Children in Care, students with an additional educational need and, in liaison with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, students with special educational needs.

I am privileged to work with staff committed to an outstanding education for all students, who routinely make modifications, adaptations, and reflect on evidence-based decisions to support interventions specific to each student.

Our staff meet regularly with students both to monitor the intervention and the completion of their negotiated targets. They also support parents and carers to seek agreements at home on completing homework and complying with rules and boundaries.

There are a range of students requiring intervention, from those experiencing temporary or minor difficulties to those who have a specific additional need.

Our provision of individualised programmes of intervention, based on student need and assessment data, currently number twenty seven and range from solution focused work using SMART targets to our flagship Aspire programme raising levels attainment, engagement and aspiration for students at risk of disengaging.

Intervention at St Luke's is based on early identification, a 'no blame' attitude and a 'can do' culture where collaboration is encouraged. We have developed active partnerships with Devon County Council, other schools and external agencies such as Careers South West, Educational Psychologists, Police Community Support Officers, Young Carers, Education Welfare Officers, Bereavement Counsellors, the Local Area Partnership and Integrated Childrens Services. We deliver activities and programmes which promote inclusion and positive behaviour and actively address anti-social behaviour using restorative approaches to manage conflict resolution and anger management.

Former St Luke's Pupil Rewarded by University of Worcester for Outstanding Academic Achievement

A former St Luke's and Exeter College pupil was among almost 100 University of Worcester students to receive academic scholarships earlier this month.

Morgaine Wilkinson was awarded the £1,000 scholarship by Vice Chancellor Professor David Green at the brand new University of Worcester Arena at an award ceremony in October.

Morgaine, a third year Drama and Performance student, said: "To me, receiving this award represents the result of a lot of hard work, but it's also something that does those who have helped me get to this point, proud."

Mrs Hepworth-Wain



Morgaine Wilkinson

**Christian
Response to
Eastern
Europe**



Cree boxes were donated by our wonderful students and staff. The boxes will go to children and families who live in extreme poverty in Europe. Thank you for your generosity.



*Happy Christmas from
the Newsletter Team*