



## Bartholomew Fair a great success

In November, Worth and Woldingham School entertained audiences with their production of Ben Jonson's play *Bartholomew Fair*. It was a daunting task, putting on a 150-page play with only seven weeks rehearsal time but with hard work, determination and not a little talent, the two evening performances were a great success.

Written in 1614, the play records the smells, sights and sounds of the once famous Smithfield August Fair. A group of disparate and comic

characters invite the audience into 17th-century London life. The appreciative audience enjoyed the humour of the production and the archaic language of Jonson's piece proved no problem to the players despite their concerns.

Antony Riley, Year 12, who took part in the play said "The opening night was my favourite, with the laughing crowd really adding to the performance."



## News in brief

### Success for Worth fencing student

Worth student David Guerrini-Nazoa (Year 13), took part in the South East Regional Under 18 Foil Competition held at the school and saw off stiff competition to win the cup.

Fr Peter, the Worth fencing coach, said, "This was a great effort by David; he was focused and kept things simple, frustrating his opponents and showing good composure to win 15-8."



Two other Worth students also competed, with Oliver Plumb (Year 10) finishing in third place and Chris Kirkman (Year 11) coming sixth in the Under 16 Foil Competition.

David commented that he was delighted to win the U18 cup, "It was particularly nice to win on home turf."

Father Peter, Oliver Plumb, Chris Kirkman and David Guerrini-Nazoa at the event

### Benet conference in Chile

Benet, a network of Benedictine educators, held its fourth International Congress from 31st October until the 3rd November 2007. Abbot Christopher, Head Master Gino Carminati and Fr Martin attended the Congress in Santiago, Chile.

This coming together of Benedictine schools worldwide owes its existence in part to Abbot Christopher who, when he was Headmaster, organised the first Congress at Worth. Around 50 Benedictine schools from 24 countries were represented in Santiago including a number from Africa, Australia and the Philippines.

The theme of 2007's Congress was *To Teach as Benedict Did*, which was also the theme of the keynote address given by Fr Columba Stewart of St John's Abbey, Minnesota. Christobal Valdes, Headmaster of San Anselmo School in Santiago, gave an address entitled *Spiritual Formation in*

*Benedictine Schools*. Abbot Christopher led a workshop on *Cyberspace and Relationships*.

The three Chilean Benedictine schools are run by the Manquehue movement, a group of lay oblates inspired by the Rule of St Benedict. They place great importance on senior students ministering to the younger ones through friendship and the practice of *lectio divina* – prayerfully reflecting on passages from Scripture as they relate to our everyday lives. As the Abbot Primate, Notker Wolf, pointed out in his reflection, "Benedictine education is a form of Christian education deeply rooted in the Gospel."

"The happy atmosphere of the Manquehue schools was striking," said Fr Martin. "The huge emphasis by which these schools encourage senior students to form strong pastoral relationships with the younger pupils undoubtedly has a lot to do with this."



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Phase 2 will be a new extension on the west side of the building which will provide 16 new study bedrooms and a new main entrance. Phase 3 will be another new extension on the north; this will complete the plan and provide more study bedrooms, small dormitories and a flat for an Assistant Housemistress.

### Worth gives the gift of life



Over two days in December, a National Blood Service mobile centre set up in front of the main school building and opened its doors to donors.

Staff and students alike attended the donor sessions to give the gift of life. The National Blood Service states that donating is especially important at this time of year as blood stocks always run low at Christmas. Of the 58 people who volunteered, 47 successfully donated blood; 28 were new donors.

Worth has been host to the National Blood Service for 5 years and it is hoped that these sessions will continue.

### Worth School website

For the latest Worth School news and events, please visit [www.worthschool.org.uk/html/news/](http://www.worthschool.org.uk/html/news/)

### Dates for the diary

- 23 February  
Open Morning
- 1 March  
Parents' Seminar: Finding Happiness: Insights from the Monastic Tradition, Chaplaincy 11:00 am
- 2 March  
Worth-BHSG Festival of Arts begins
- 6-8 March  
Worth-BHSG play: Les Miserables, Burgess Hill School For Girls
- 12-14 March  
Worth-BHSG play: Enemy of the People, PAC, 7:30 pm
- 15 March  
Open Morning
- 16 March  
Lenten Sequence of Words and Music, Abbey Church, 7:30 pm



## WHISPS attracts large audience

November saw the fourth annual joint concert by the WHISPS consortium, comprising Worth School, Hazelwick School, Imberhorne School, St Paul's Catholic College and Sackville School.

Recitals were given by each school and the five schools combined to perform two movements from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite, *Morning* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*. Concluding the concert were more than 100 singers performing movements from the *Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott and Handel's challenging coronation anthem *Zadok the Priest*.

With an audience of almost 1,000 it was the biggest concert most of the performers had ever experienced and the setting of Worth Abbey Church complemented the talents of the young musicians involved.

The collection was in aid of Worth Abbey Outreach Peru, an organisation committed to finding godparents for children in the Ayacucho Children's Home in Peru. More than £700 was raised by the event.



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## More House construction work commences

Refurbishment of the unused boarding accommodation in Austin House commenced on 26th November when the construction company arrived on site. This is the first step in the creation of More House which will provide boarding and day facilities for girls arriving at Worth in September 2008.

The new access road leading from the main drive, which has been built, will initially be used by construction traffic and ultimately form the driveway to the girl's boarding house. The north wing of Austin House, formerly matron's accommodation, was demolished just before the Christmas holidays.

There are 3 construction phases, which will eventually provide boarding accommodation for 78 students. The first phase involves the refurbishment of the existing Austin House building ready for occupation in September 2008. This will provide preliminary accommodation for boarding and day Sixth Form students, a common room, Housemistress' office and matron's room.



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interview



**Dr James Whitehead** joined Worth in September as Deputy Headmaster. He comes to the school from Downside, where he was Director of Studies, having taught previously at Radley College.

**Why did you decide to come to Worth?**

I am a passionate believer in Catholic education and wanted to continue working in a Benedictine framework. The post at Worth was an opportunity to take on a new challenge, especially in terms of more pastoral work and in delivering co-education, which I had already experienced at Downside. It was also a chance to move closer to my family who are based in Sussex.

**What were your first impressions of Worth?**

A school that is very professionally run, true to its Benedictine identity and welcoming, open and inclusive.

**How does Worth compare with Downside?**

Both schools are wonderful places to work and their core values are the same, although they find a slightly different expression. Worth is different in that it has a more contemporary feel and progressive style of development. It's beautiful location yet proximity to places like London and Brighton – Downside has a more emphatically rural setting – also gives it a different atmosphere.

**What have you enjoyed most during your first term?**

I have enjoyed the interaction with a highly professional and successful Common Room, as well as with the pupils, who seem to be mature, well-balanced and friendly. Particular highlights include the concerts and services in the Abbey Church, attending school plays, refereeing rugby games and listening to the oral presentations of Year 12 IB English students.

**What are your aspirations as Deputy Head Master of the school?**

My main aspiration is to meet the challenge embodied in the first line of my job description, which is to embody Benedictine values in the way that I perform my role. I also want to ensure the successful delivery of co-education and to help manage both the academic and pastoral care aspects of the school to the highest level.

**What are you looking forward to when girls join Worth in September?**

Girls will help make Worth genuinely become a family school and the impact of the strength of the family in this context will make a huge contribution to the school community. Worth is already a great success story in a variety of areas, for example, in the Arts, in academic work and sport. Co-education will provide another new injection of energy and enthusiasm into these areas, whilst also contributing to the wider success of the school in a range of activities.

**Can you sum up Worth in one phrase?**

A spiritually alive, self-aware, extraordinary place.

# Academic Societies off to a good start



With the Autumn Term came the launch of Academic Societies for students in the lower school, offering an alternative to prep in the last period each Monday or Friday. Participating students can investigate anything from culture to volcanoes, from numbers to language.

One group used computer modelling and packages to solve problems and delve more deeply into the mysteries of mathematics; another has been looking at culture, trying to find out what it is to be cultured and the difference between high and low culture. For the more practical student there has been the opportunity to build volcanoes, ranging from the traditional cone shape to the more exotic caldera formation. As the models are built from papier-mâché, there is always the possibility of getting covered in glue or paint and to speculate on the way in which they will finally ignite and erupt.

The Aurillac Society has been co-writing French stories with students from Worth's exchange school: they email their chapters which are then improved by their French counterparts. Worth students provide the same service in English for those in Aurillac.

Some of our history scholars have been investigating how the past is represented in films, for instance comparing *A Knight's Tale* to the real Chaucer and following this with their own research.

The Academic Society programme has made a good start with a varied range of choices and hopefully the prospect of more in the future.

# Parent Seminars

For a number of years the Chaplaincy at Worth has been running seminars for parents. These provide an opportunity for parents to meet each other to discuss issues of mutual concern, especially issues relating to education and spiritual growth.

and Adolescence. Others have focused more on the spiritual growth of the parents themselves. In the Autumn term the focus was on Benedictine values in education. In other words, how does the Benedictine ethos influence life both inside and outside the classroom?

Dr Duncan Pring led one such seminar, *Benedictine Values in Education: My Experience as a Parent and Teacher/Housemaster*. Dr Pring used five phrases from the Rule of St Benedict to explore how Benedictine values are used to support young people through what may be awkward and difficult years. One such phrase is "He must so arrange everything that the strong have something to yearn for and the weak have nothing to run from". Dr Pring explained, "To me it says that all boys are different and we



should work on trying to bring out the best in all of them. I sometimes encourage them to be a bit more adventurous and then I hold them to account from time to time to see that they are living up to their aims."

opportunity for discussion in small groups over coffee. On 1st March a further seminar, *Finding Happiness: Insights from the Monastic Tradition*, will be led by Fr Stephen Ortiger.

In addition to the insights gained, parents have greatly enjoyed getting to know each other better as each seminar provides plenty of



# Moving visit to Auschwitz

Led by Head of History Simon Lucas, a group of 36 Sixth-Form historians and four staff travelled to Kraków to embrace its rich culture and learn about the city's past.



A guided tour of the city included visits to the cathedral and a chance to appreciate one of the many art collections in the Historical Museum of Kraków. A visit to the Old Synagogue gave students an insight into why they were there.

Seeing the wonders of the Wieliczka salt mines involved climbing down hundreds of steps to 300 metres below ground, where statues of historic and mythical figures are revealed, all sculpted by miners out of the rock salt. Even the crystals in the chandeliers are fashioned from the salt. The students

also descended into the chapel of St Kinga, known as the underground salt cathedral of Poland.

At the Auschwitz concentration camps the group underwent a tour of the grounds and its history, an experience that left many of the students deeply moved. Joseph Bradley (Year 12) commented that "Auschwitz has to be seen and felt to be truly understood. To walk across the ground where around one and a half million people were killed is a truly profound experience and one which I will never forget."



# Worth shoot to win

New to the Wednesday afternoon activities available to students is Clay Pigeon Shooting and December saw the first inter-school shooting match.

At the Southdown Shooting Club, near Worthing, ten students from Worth played against eight from Seaford College. The poor weather conditions did not prevent good performances from all members of the team. After calculating the average score, Worth won the match by 40.2 points to 38.5.

Activity organiser Jayne Dempster said, "The boys prepared by visiting the club a couple of weeks before, so that they could see the level of difficulty of the traps."

The team practise at the Northall Shooting Club, where they are split into two groups and trained by Mr Ian Meekins and another national standard shooter. Each trap requires different skills: sometimes the clay speeds along close to the ground or comes across in the air, towards or away from the shooter – the boys have ten shots at each trap.



# Young Enterprise Trade Fair

Over £500 was raised for charity by three Young Enterprise companies from Worth who sold their products at a Trade Fair held in Burgess Hill last December.

Each year a number of Worth students take part in the Young Enterprise scheme, a programme that encourages young people to learn about business by running their own companies. This year the companies set up at Worth under the guidance of Guy Teasdale, Head of Business Studies and Economics, were Fisso, Branded and Blacktree.

The students set up stalls inside the Market Place shopping centre looking not just to make money for their respective companies but also for the school's charity, Development Nepal, which benefited from 50% of the profits.

Fisso offered a tombola as well as a wide selection of gel candles, while Blacktree sold unique handmade Christmas cards and candles along with a 'guess the number of Smarties' competition with a chance to win an iPod Shuffle. Branded, who focused on selling sweets, chocolate and advent calendars, eventually sold out completely.

Year 12 student Joseph Bradley, Managing Director of Blacktree, said, "We all enjoyed the day immensely. Our feet were sore for days but we were happy that we had learned so much."



editorial team insight

- Maximilian Hensgen (Year 13)
- Al Matthews
- Rebecca Paterson
- Karen Smith
- Thomas Wade (Year 13)