

# WESTONBIRT *Life*



Termly News from Westonbirt School - Boarding & Day for Girls Aged 11-18

SUMMER 2010



## Success - it's a Westonbirt Thing

Whilst hard at work preparing for public examinations Westonbirt's girls still find time to excel in the wider curriculum.

Westonbirt strives to give every girl the chance to realise her full potential, and the recent achievements of our students show that we are succeeding. The entrepreneurial skills of our **Year 12s** were proved when they walked away with the award for **Best Manufacture Product** at the **Young Enterprise Trade Exhibition** held in Cheltenham in March.

The '**Snappy Sticks**' company designed and produced three roll up storage systems for cutlery, chopsticks and cooking utensils. As well as gaining valuable business experience, the enthusiasm and self-confidence generated throughout this project is hugely beneficial. The above photograph shows the *Young Enterprise* team with their advisor, **Professor William Fairney** and **Georgina Blackmore, Managing Director**, second from right.

In music and drama every year group has had something to celebrate, with the best examination results so far this century.

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## From the Headmistress

While many other schools were struggling to start the summer term with both teachers and pupils missing due to the volcanic ash débacle, Westonbirt was fully up and running with girls working hard in the four weeks home straight to their public examinations.

Our policy for returning as early as possible in April, to give plenty of time for revision, proved definitely the right one this year. Even the girls were relieved not to be stranded on the other side of the world instead of in lessons! The **Easter ski** and **Lacrosse trips** were a great success and contributed enormously to the girls' confidence as well as to their prowess on the ski slope and the lacrosse pitch. Nowhere do different year groups mix with each other better than on trips abroad, both educational and extra curricular.

As always this term, we welcome a new team of girls to lead the school as **Study One**, pictured above. They follow on from a very hard working group, and are already showing real commitment to making their mark during their year of office. They are organising large school events with efficiency and ease and have set as one of their goals the task of improving integration amongst the nationalities and across the year groups. We congratulate **Ashley White** and **Rebekah Heaney**, *Head Girl* and *Deputy Head Girl*, **Georgina Lee**, **Lucy Snell**, **Georgina McCulloch** and **Katharine Curry**, *Heads of Badminton, Dorchester, Holford and Beaufort*. Well done also to **Georgina Blackmore** and **Michelle Mok**, *Head and Deputy Head of the Sixth Form*, and **Tiva Gross**, *Head of Games*.

We welcome formally this term **Dermot McMeekin**, the new *Chairman of Governors*, who takes over from Richard Marriott, our greatly valued chairman for the past five years. Dermot is fully involved in all aspects of the school and combines a sound and experienced business head with a deep and appreciative understanding of "what Westonbirt is all about".

Sadly we say farewell to **Miss Urquhart**, our *Senior Housemistress* for 21 years. None of us can yet imagine a Westonbirt without Miss Urquhart. She is the epitome of all that we stand for in terms of educational and pastoral values and she has been the rock of stability and good judgment for generations of pupils as well as for her many friends and colleagues in the staff room. We know that she wants to "go quietly" but there is no chance of that and we will make sure that she leaves to begin her retirement in true Westonbirt style.

As public examinations approach, there is still much to entertain and enrich our lives outside the classroom. Some girls even went gliding on Ascension Day. A large proportion of the school will be taking part in the **annual summer concert** on **14 May** and many will be singing and playing their instruments at the **Musical Gala** on **12 June**.

Thanks for this edition of *WESTONBIRTLife* go to **Mrs Bomford**, our *School Librarian & editor* and **Maija Calvert**, *Assistant Housemistress of Beaufort House & designer*.

*Mary Henderson*

Photo above: 2010 - 2011 Study One



LAMDA's Golden Girls, with Rebecca Stanton, (second from left)

## Dramatic Distinction for Westonbirt

As well as producing and performing outstanding school drama productions, the students at Westonbirt have also been studying for the globally acclaimed LAMDA examinations, with remarkable results. Not only did the 9 participating **Year 11 students** all gain Bronze medals, but the 13 Sixth Form entrants achieved 4 Silver and 9 Gold Medals (Grade 7 and Grade 8 respectively). **Rebecca Stanton** (Year 13) gained two gold medals, for Acting, and for Verse and Prose.

## Katherine Mansfield Lives Again

The audience at Westonbirt's Spring Lecture was held spellbound as **Dr. Gerri Kimber**, *Chair of the Katherine Mansfield Society* and mother of Bella in Year 9, brought this gifted writer to life once again. Despite a life cut tragically short, Katherine Mansfield's writings live on, and are as relevant today as they were ninety years ago.

There was even a letter from *Dame Jacqueline Wilson*, *Patron of the Society*, written especially for the girls at Westonbirt explaining her life long love of *Katherine Mansfield's* work.

Gerri (far right) with guests



# SPRING TERM HIGHLIGHTS



## Faultless and Inspirational

These are just some of the adjectives used recently to describe Westonbirt's musicians. The **Samba Band** (pictured above with **Director of Music, Dr. Charlotte Exon**) was described as 'technically faultless' at the **Music for Youth Festival**, and at the **GCSE Music Conference** our students (pictured below) were so impressive that the **Chief Examiners of the Edexcel Examination Board** were keen to learn all they could about the school. Add to this the best **Associated Board Music Exam** results so far this century and it's clear that Westonbirt's musicians are making a name for themselves.



## Lacrosse Tops the Charts



A brilliant team effort at the Welsh Rally won the **Under 12s Lacrosse Team** the championship.

Amazing, awesome and a rollercoaster of experiences; these are just some of the terms used by girls to describe the **2010 US Lacrosse tour** (picture below).



One of the best things to come out of the tour is the strong relationships forged between girls across the year groups.

## Food for Thought...

Chartwells are now several weeks into their new catering and support service contract, and have transformed the dining experience for all.

With fresh salad bars and a choice of buffet savouries every day there is something here for everyone.

*'The presentation and selection is much better.'*

(Year 7)

*'Much improved - better choice and serving system.'*

(Year 10)



## Booker for Young People's Literature

Our Reading Club '**Books@Westonbirt**', is busy reading the 8 books shortlisted for this year's **Carnegie Medal** (the national Children's and Young People's Literature Award.)

Check <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk> to see their book reviews.



## Celebrating Cultures

Our fourth **International Day** took place recently, with our overseas students treating us to exhibitions and presentations about their countries' cultures. Always a vibrant occasion there was a decidedly carnival atmosphere, with displays of traditional costume and the chance to try some authentic games. The national delicacies were once again a great success.



## 6th Formers on the Catwalk

A fabulous **Ladies Night**, presented by **Rose Hill Westonbirt's Parents' Association**, featured a champagne and canapé reception followed by a two course dinner. During the evening, celebrity stylist **Stuart Weir** (who has styled for Kylie Minogue amongst others) hosted a fashion show. The clothes, chosen from a number of boutiques in Tetbury, were beautifully modelled by some of our own **Sixth Formers** (pictured to the right.)



# MOVING ON!

Preparations for the **Association's 80th Anniversary celebrations on 20th June** are shaping up well. If you would like to attend, please sign up via our website: [www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk/alumni-area.html](http://www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk/alumni-area.html)

To date over 300 people are due to attend the **Garden Party** and a 'scratch choir' of 40 will be singing vespers and anthems.

A souvenir fine bone china dish (opposite) and mug are available and can be purchased on the day or via the website.

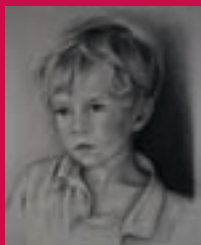


Having recently heard about two Association members' success in the jewellery business we were pleased to receive news of **Lucinda Coldrey's** growing recognition as an artist.

**Lucinda** (or **Lulu** as she was known) left Westonbirt in 1999 and has held many exhibitions, the most recent at the **Southfields Art Gallery in Wimbledon Park, London**.

She specialises in beautifully crafted paintings and drawings in a variety of mediums from oil paints to charcoal and pastels.

More examples of Lulu's work can be seen at: [www.lucindacoldreyart.com](http://www.lucindacoldreyart.com)



*Ali Warington Smyth  
Honorary Secretary*

## News from the Friends

(From Sally Moreland, Chairman)

At the end of last term 49 guests enjoyed a post-lecture supper following the excellent talk on "Katherine Mansfield and the Bloomsbury Group" by Dr Gerri Kimber.

This term the FOW is organising two events - the first is on **Friday 21st May** when a post-lecture supper will follow the talk by **Major General Peter Williams** entitled "**Shaken, Not Stirred: Life As A Cold War Spy**". We are sure that the evening will prove incredibly popular, and most interesting too.

Unfortunately our second event has been cancelled. This was due to take place on **Saturday 22nd May** with *The Summer Dance and Dodgems Evening*. Ticket sales were slow and, as the event would not have broken even, it was reluctantly decided to cancel. Obviously we are all disappointed, especially for guests who had purchased their tickets and were looking forward to the evening.

This term the FOW has purchased new blinds for the Sixth Form Common Room; other bids are in-hand and we hope to report on the outcome of these in the next edition of Westonbirt News.

Autumn dates for your diary: **Friday 15th October: Westonbirt Lecture** by local entrepreneur, Founder & Managing Director of Glasses Direct, **Jamie Murray Wells**, followed by an optional ticket only post-lecture supper. **Saturday 16th October: Murder Mystery Evening**. Details for both events will be available later this term.

Details of all FOW events are displayed in reception as well as on the school's website. In addition there are regular mailings (by email and post) and, where applicable, tickets can be purchased through reception.

## New Faces

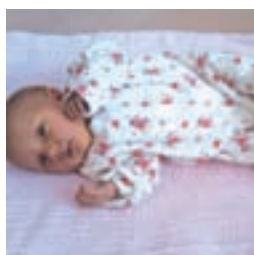


**Stephanie Bryan** joins us as the new **Marketing Director** for *Westonbirt* and *Rose Hill Westonbirt Schools*.

Stephanie is not totally unfamiliar with Westonbirt, having competed in lacrosse matches here herself in her school days (for *St Helen's* & *St Katharine's, Abingdon*). Stephanie studied French and German at University, and then completed a *Postgraduate Diploma in International Marketing*.

Her Marketing experience has included working for Microsoft in Paris, staging events in Germany and several years in London working in television and post production.

Prior to joining us she was the Marketing Manager for two luxury hotels – *The Bath Priory* (Bath) and *Gidleigh Park* (Devon) where sampling Michelin star cuisine was a must! Stephanie lives with her husband and two small children in the nearby village of Marshfield.



A new addition to the Drama Department's family: **Matilda (Tilly) Toghill**.



Head of Classics **Mrs Weeden's** new baby girl, **Lily**.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER & AUTUMN 2010

**Friday 11 June (7.30pm)**  
**The Ardeton Quartet**  
Orangery

**Saturday 12 June (7pm for 7.30pm)**  
**Musical Gala Dinner**  
Great Hall & Library

**Friday 18 June (2pm)**  
**Sports Day**  
Sports Field

**Thursday 1 July (from 3pm)**  
**Art Exhibition & Reception**  
Art Department

**Thursday 1 July (7.30pm)**  
**Friday 2 July (4pm)**  
**Junior Drama Production**  
**"Daisy Pulls It Off"**  
Orangery

**Friday 2 July**  
**Barbecue (6pm) &**  
**Open Air Concert (7pm)**  
Orangery Terrace

**Saturday 3 July**  
**School Service (9.30am) &**  
**Speech Day (11am)**  
St. Catherine's Chapel & Orangery

**Saturday 29 August (5pm)**  
**Bampton Classical Opera -**  
**The Marriage of Figaro**  
Orangery Terrace

**Friday 10 September (6.30pm)**  
**Drinks Party for**  
**Prospective Parents**  
Library

**Saturday 18 September**  
**Taster Day for Prospective Pupils**  
School

**Saturday 9 October (from 9.30am)**  
**Opening Morning**  
Guided Tour

**Friday 15 October (7.30pm)**  
**Westonbirt Lecture:**  
**Jamie Murray Wells**  
Orangery

**Saturday 16 October (7pm)**  
**FOW Murder Mystery Evening**  
Great Hall & Library

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