



Spring 2003

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

High Flyer

World Challenge – Mongolia and Argentina

Handing over the challenge – a report by Sabine Gläsmann

In summer 2002, ten girls set out on a month-long trip to Mongolia, on Sheffield High School's first World Challenge Expedition. Unlike other excursions, the girls had to raise nearly £3,000 each in the two years leading up to the expedition (Do you remember the cake stalls, the Mongolian evening, and, oh, the 25-mile hike? The girls' feet do!).

The trip was an outstanding success. With a vast countryside, several days on horseback and a ten-day-long trek on foot, the team got to see parts of this huge country far away from the beaten track. Football games with the wranglers and working in an orphanage gave them the opportunity to get to know not only the country, but its people, too. Throughout the trip, the girls budgeted for their own food, and did so thriftily enough to allow for a big farewell party in Beijing, our starting and finishing point, at the Hard Rock Café. Oh, and could I forget standing on the Great Wall of China, picking grapes on the way, or going for a Chinese meal and a spot of scarf-dancing in the square? Surely not.

Now the team is back, settling into examinations, but the trip will stay with them for a long time. World Challenge



The Mongolia team on the school's first ever World Challenge Expedition.

Expeditions helps to send away hundreds of schools each summer, helping students to gain independence, team skills and a view of a foreign country that cannot be reached by straightforward tourism. Fortunately, Sheffield High School has managed to secure another expedition destination for 2004, so a team of fifteen girls (a 50% rise!) will set out to Argentina.

So far, it is early days in the preparation, but with £3,000 to raise, the girls are already work-

ing hard in order to make the trip possible. At the moment, the team are researching the country, getting physically fit and raising all the money they can. So if you see all these cake stalls, competitions, etc., remember what each team member is trying to achieve – it is a huge goal, and the team need all the support they can get. Already, they have to be very organised, running and minuting their own meetings, following through with fundraising ideas and working together as a team.

The trip to Argentina promises to be just as exciting, with a beautiful landscape, cloud rainforests, steppes and a huge waterfall as only some of the possibilities that are the team's for the taking. The world really is your oyster. Let's go looking for pearls.

Television Stars!

Four Y9 pupils have been able to watch themselves on television during the Christmas holidays.

Colette Warden, Charlotte Wake, Frances Cummins and Isra Mansoor were chosen to take part in a science experiment conducted by Professor Tony Ryan, of the University of Sheffield Chemistry Department. The girls travelled to London on 19th December to assist at the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures given by Professor Ryan and broadcast on Channel 4. Their hair was washed in two different shampoos to illustrate the effects of conditioner. The girls also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at how television programmes are made, and new hairstyles, courtesy of the Channel 4 team.



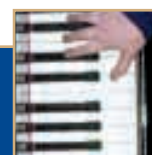
Inside...



Banking on Success



Investing in the Future



Music to the Ears

THE EXCITING LIFE OF SHS SIXTH FORM...

Budding Bankers

On 18th November, 5 sixth form girls took part in a national challenge, 'Target 2 Point 5', run by the Bank of England. Crystal Ng, Jessica Hook, Alex. Knowles, Nikita Kumar and Louise Wagstaffe took on the role of the Monetary Policy Committee to assess the state of the economy and the outlook for inflation. They then had to set an interest rate to meet the government's inflation target of 2.5%. They presented their analysis to a panel of Bank of England judges who were impressed by their Socratic style.

So successful were they that they won this stage of the competition and now go forward to the Regional Final in February. Congratulations, financiers!



Part of the winning sixth form Bank of England Team.

Success beyond school ...

Louise Marriott who left school last summer with excellent A level results (Grade A in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Geography) has been awarded an undergraduate scholarship by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. She is one of few girls to be given this award in what is still a male-dominated field. She is now studying at Imperial College, London.

Senior Mathematical Challenge

For a number of years now, girls from this school have taken part in the UK Junior and Intermediate Mathematical Challenges. This term, for the second year running, we also entered the Senior Challenge ... quite a tough competition, but intended to be memorable and enjoyable too.

Of our 20 sixth formers who took part, 14 were awarded certificates for being among the highest scoring 40% of candidates (6% Gold, 13% Silver, 21% Bronze).

Eleanor Smith was, for the second time, our School Star! Ellie's mark ranked her amongst the top 1.4% of over 60 000 entrants. This has earned her an invitation to take part in the Senior Olympiad; and we are all proud of her.

A Woman's Place is in ... the Houses of Parliament

All the A level politicians visited London on the 6th September to attend a Houses of Parliament Open Day. Mr Fuller had negotiated a bargain on the train and was as keen as mustard to show the sixth-formers the centre of power! The day started with a brief visit to the Royal Courts of Justice the heart of Britain's Judicial System and a definite must for all the budding lawyers amongst the Year 12 & 13 Politicians.

The visit began at Portcullis House, the most expensive office building in the whole of the UK and purpose built to provide office accommodation for MPs. The students were amazed at the rented fig trees which cost the UK taxpayer £45,000 a year, although they accepted that they were rather impressive.

Luckily we were the only school there that day and were able to have a personal audience with Bob Ainsworth M.P. who is a Junior Minister at the Home Office and a former Chief Whip for the Labour Party. He was well grilled by the girls with questions ranging from the Government's Crime poli-

cies and those Fig Trees! The group was warmly congratulated on the quality of their questions and their ability to argue.

After this we were taken underground to emerge in the Houses of Parliament, passing Michael Portillo on the way, well tanned, relaxed and very chatty. For the next hour we were given a guided tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The girls were thrilled to be able to stand at the Dispatch Box and be able to imagine themselves as Tony Blair or Ian Duncan Smith. The last stop was the gift shop where a new Politics Mascot was purchased, since named Tony Bear!

Below: Tony Bear.



Riding High!

Holly Croxton of Y12 helped her British team to victory in the Ballindensk CCIP, held in the first week of October 2002.

Three teams from Britain travelled to Cork for the competition – representing the North, Midlands and South – and Ireland was represented by four teams. The competition comprised both individual and team events.

The three-day event consisted of Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country. Holly was second after the dressage, jumped the only British clear show jumping and was double clear cross country to finish **first**. An individual and a team triumph! Congratulations, Holly.

Physics Olympiad

Congratulations to Vicky Murphy who won a Silver Medal in this National Competition which attracted almost 1000 entries.

In all, 6 SHS sixth formers took part and all received a certificate or medal.

Eleanor Smith added to her mathematical success by winning a **Bronze Medal** (Category I).

Banking on the Best Education

Sophie Shaw and Sofya Harrison of Y7 have been awarded scholarships under the HSBC Scholars scheme. This is part of a programme to widen access and increase diversity at the best schools. HSBC have agreed to fund 2 scholarships for entry to the school in each of the next 3 years.

The girls travelled to a ceremony in London on 15th November to be presented with their awards by Sir John Bond, chairman of HSBC.



David Corker congratulating Sophie Shaw and Sofya Harrison with new Head of Year 7, Margaret Stoddard.

CHARITY BEGINS AT ... SCHOOL

The Toybox Children

Charity endeavours play a significant role in High School life and the Christmas Fayre gave us a welcome opportunity for new developments. Girls from Christian Union and 11Y, together with Ms Salmon, Mrs Miller and Mrs Smith, ran a stall for *Toybox*, a charity working with street children in Guatemala. Hand-made crafts and toys are produced there by cooperatives and the income generated provides educational opportunities for children who live in extreme poverty.

The stall at the Fayre raised £270 and subsequent lunchtime stalls in Moor Lodge brought the final total to £425.

Carols in the Gardens

On the evening of Monday 16th December, in front of the newly restored pavilions of Sheffield Botanic Gardens, a seasonal concert was held to raise money for the restoration fund.

The SHS Concert Band was pleased to be asked to provide the music for the occasion and so help to raise money for this worthwhile cause which is, literally, on our doorstep.

Love Russia? – Give socks!



Mrs Nashvili is joined by Alina Gregory, whose mother comes from the former Soviet Union and understands the plight of children there.

Once again, Mrs Nashvili has been busy raising awareness for this worthy cause. This year, we had a “sock appeal” – donations of pairs of socks, together with £1 for postage, to provide much needed warmth and protection for poorly clad Russian children. Almost 200 pairs of socks were donated.

The teachers also helped raise money for *Love Russia* by giving donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. £80 was raised in this way.

● In addition to these special appeals, throughout the term the Charity Prefects and charity representatives from each form and House officials have worked hard to raise money for a wide range of charities, including:

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind **The Minerva Trust** **RSPCA**
Children in Need **Sightsavers** **UNICEF** **Roundabout**

Last, but not least, 80 shoeboxes were filled with gifts and toys for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Appeal. Truly, charity *does* begin at SHS!



Friends of Sheffield High School

Having purchased the grand piano last year, FOSH have not rested but are still busy fund-raising. Now they are aiming to buy a replacement minibus for the senior school, furniture for the junior school library to make it child-friendly and welcoming, and play-ground equipment to increase enjoyment outdoors.

Two major ventures took place last term: the sale of wrapping paper raised £930 and the Christmas Craft Fayre raised just under £1500.

The two events of this year are the Ball and the Firework Display – both celebrating the school's 125th Birthday.

The Opening of the Winter Gardens

The night was freezing, but the atmosphere was far from cold, when Year 4 joined children from over 40 schools in Sheffield to help officially open Sheffield's new Winter Gardens on December 11th.

The girls had made lanterns during DT lessons and these lit the way as we all walked from Devonshire Green to the Peace Gardens where there was a spectacular firework display.

It was a very special evening, which will be remembered for many years to come.

The Gingerbread Man

On Saturday, 9th November, many of the 6 year olds in the Junior Department came back to school, bringing friends with them. The girls had come to enjoy an Art Workshop, where activities included, mask making, finger puppets, baking, painting and drawing. The activities were all linked to the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and the morning culminated with singing and drama in the hall. All of the girls took home a scrumptious gingerbread man.

Ski Team Success!

The year so far has been very promising for the Sheffield High School ski team, who have competed successfully in both county and regional schools competitions. The team, which is captained by Year 10 pupil and Welsh international, Alice Thelwell includes Year 9 pupils Hannah Parker and Madeline Holding and Year 7, Heidi Parker. After an excellent placing in the regional round in Sunderland during September, the girls qualified to race for their school in the English Schools Ski Association National Schools Championships Finals. The team travelled to Swadlincote Ski Centre in Derbyshire during October, where they took part in the U16 and Open categories, a promising achievement as they have two more years at this level of competition.



The Sheffield High School Ski Team.

L'École des Femmes

On the afternoon of Friday, 11th October, the European Theatre Company, a London-based touring company, came to the school to give a performance of Molière's *L'École des Femmes* which was watched by over 90 of our French students in Y10 and above as well as some guests from other local schools.

Arriving only a couple of hours before the performance, the group transformed the stage of the main hall into a very convincing replica of a 17th century French village in a commendably short space of time and the audience was soon gripped by Agnès' attempts to throw off the unwanted attentions of her guardian, Arnolphe, in favour of the much more eligible Horace. The play was performed in a simplified version which made Molière's text accessible to the students and the humour of the situation was not lost on them as Arnolphe suffered reverse after reverse before the surprise arrival of Agnès' father ensured her marriage to Horace, just as Arnolphe was thinking he had finally triumphed.

The play's main themes of the rights and education of women provided ample material for subsequent class discussion and made it a very fitting work for performance at SHS in this our 125th birthday year.

Forward Dates

FOSH 125 Ball, Cutlers Hall	Saturday 8 March
'Let's Celebrate' 125 Combined Arts Concert, Octagon	Tuesday 11 March
SHS 125th Birthday	Wednesday 12 March
GDST Minerva Careers Fair, Octagon	Wednesday 26 March
125 Full School Photograph	Tuesday 29 April
SHOSA 125 Lunch	Saturday 21 June
Music Concerts	Thursday 15 May Tuesday 24 June Wednesday 2 July
Sports Dinner	Thursday 3 July
Summer Celebration	Monday 7 July
Sports Days	Friday 4 July (MH) Tuesday 8 July (Senior)



A Star in the Making!

Congratulations to Ruth Nicholson of Y7 who has been selected for the National Children's Orchestra. Ruth is an accomplished violinist and pianist and joins the Under 13 orchestra at the age of eleven.

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