



Summer 2002

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

High Flyer

Benjamin Frith Masterclass



Benjamin Frith with Emma Blackburn and Kerry Horne.

To celebrate the arrival of our new Yamaha C5 grand piano, the famous concert pianist, Benjamin Frith, took part in an inaugural recital and masterclass with two Y12 girls on Tuesday 16 April in the main school hall.

Benjamin Frith has won the Rubenstein Prize and the Busoni Piano Competition; he has made numerous discs and has recently been in the top ten of the Classic FM Chart. He teaches at the Royal Northern.

What a privilege then for Emma Blackburn and Kerry Horne of Y12 to take part in this masterclass. Emma is studying to take her Diploma on the piano and is also an accomplished tenor horn player. On this occasion, she chose to play Dances Nos 2 and 5 in Bulgarian Rhythm by Bartok. Kerry, who joined the sixth form last September, plays both piano and recorder to grade 8. She played Beethoven's Sonata in C minor Op 10 No 1.

After the masterclass, we were treated to a recital by the master himself. In all a wonderful musical experience.

We are grateful to FOSH for all their hard work fund-raising over the past two years which has made possible the purchase of this magnificent instrument.



Benjamin Frith gives his recital.

Berlie Doherty Book Launch

How do you become a famous author? Answer: complete your own bedtime stories!

This was the message from Berlie Doherty when she came to Sheffield High on Tuesday 30 April to launch the paperback edition of her new teenage novel: *Holly Starcross*.

Berlie Doherty is one of the most gifted and successful authors for young people and has twice won the prestigious Carnegie medal, for *Granny was a Buffer Girl* and *Dr Nobody*. She visited the Junior School last year and enjoyed the experience so much that she asked to come back to launch her book. It was a privilege to welcome her to the main school hall on this special occasion and to hear her fascinating talk about her life and work.



When Berlie was a child, her father would tell her bedtime stories – but he left her to finish them for herself. From this came her decision to be a writer, at the tender age of 5 years! Her first published writing was for the children's page of her local paper, the 'Liverpool Echo', and her motivation the prize of a box of chocolates.

Berlie told us about her varied life, as a mother of three, a play producer with Radio Sheffield, and a book reviewer for the TES. In addition to her teenage novels, she has written for children and adults. Now she lives locally, in Edale.

It may be the computer age, but Berlie still writes her first drafts long-hand.

Her piece of advice for budding writers: "Be nosy, and jot everything down!"

Inside...



Dreaming of Success



Business is Booming



Hanging Around

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Carina Wan, Ife Adebajo and Wonba Song.

This year's school play was Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which was performed at the Merlin Theatre in Nether Edge during the last week in February. For the first time, the play was directed not by one, but by three teachers – Mr Bailey, Mr Bond and Mrs Heery and over 50 girls were involved in the production. Good fun was had by all during rehearsals although there was a very hairy time when half the cast fell ill with flu and Mr Bailey thought he was going to have to go on as Oberon! (Actually I think he was rather disappointed that Hannah Wyslych recovered in time for the run!)

Hannah and the rest of the cast put in excellent performances. It is very difficult to single out any one performance as they were all so good, but Helen Sutherland was particularly superb as Bottom – she had the audience rolling in the aisles. And special thanks go to Claire Nissenbaum who 'saved the day' when the original actor could not continue as Flute.

Of course the acting is only one aspect of the school play. Chris and Jane Wells, parents of Roanna and Bethany, designed a superb set and costumes and Alice Buxton's mother worked her usual magic with the make-up, turning the girls into elves, fairies, asses and even men! Indeed Lucy Marriott and Joanne Thomasson looked very 'dishy' as Demetrius and Lysander and I'm sure half the audience were in love with them!

This was a whole school effort, with the Drama, English, Music, and Art Departments and many more members of staff and girls putting in hours of hard work and I know the cast and my fellow directors were extremely grateful for their time and good-humoured support.

So Bravo! Well Done! Thank You!

Now what shall we do next?.....

Amazing Artwork

Members of Y6 Art Club have been busy creating two murals based on Rousseau's jungle paintings. The pictures have been placed under the covered way and brighten up a formerly dull corner of the Melbourne House playground.

A project based on their work has been submitted as the school's entry to the **Howell's Competition**, which is open to all GDST Junior Departments. The girls' ideas, research, sketches and photographs of the finished product were incorporated into a Powerpoint presentation and Sheffield was shortlisted, reaching the last four! In the final judging of the competition, Sheffield took **SECOND PLACE!**

All the girls and staff would like to thank Mrs Booker, Aleisha Brooks, Isobel Henley, Rose Paxman, Emma Rattee, Emily Starbuck, Ella Thomas, Polly Warrack and Amy Whitworth for their imagination, skill and hard work – and for cheering up the playground.

Gran Saves the Day!

There was magic in the air at the end of the Spring Term when all the Infants took part in *Gran Saves the Day*. The play was based around the characters found in the Oxford Reading Tree books and set in a circus. All the circus characters were down in the dumps; they couldn't perform because the circus magic had been stolen. Fortunately, Gran knew what to do. With the help of the children, she saved the day and the circus magic was restored.

It was very much a group effort; prior to the performances, Mrs Blade wrote the script with the help of all the Infant staff. Parents helped with the costumes and the girls did lots of artwork to turn the Hall into the Big Top. At last we were ready. The Ringmaster, Stephanie Twomey, stepped out and ably took charge of the circus, helped by Georgia Salamat, Eleanor Gunn, Pippa Kay,

Felicity Goodall, Lori Delaney and all the pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. All the girls rose to the occasion to produce a wonderful show.



Competition Winners

Congratulations to ...

● Y12 Chemistry students, **Grace Li** and **Hannah Wilson**, who were runners-up in the **Sheffield Young Analyst Competition**.

● **Charlotte Forest** (Y11), **Emily Wraw** (Y10) and **Naomi Flowers** (Y9) who had outstanding success in the **UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge**, proving themselves to be among the best young mathematicians in the country. They and another nine High School



Successful pupils in the Mathematical Trust Challenge.

students qualified to take part in the International Challenges for their age-groups. In one such further competition, the European 'Kangourou sans Frontieres', four Y9 girls were awarded **certificates of distinction**.

● **Katherine Payne** who won a competition run by Radio 3 and BBC Philharmonic. The competition was a **musical murder mystery** in which each character in the story was represented by a musical instrument. The winner had to discover who the murderers were by recognising the instruments playing. The prize was a trip to London and an appearance on the 'Blue Peter' programme.

● **Grace Li, Anna Palmer, and Anna Singleton** who won the first round of the **Siemens Business Simulation** competition. This is an international competition which tests various areas of business, including environmental issues, industrial relations and profitability. They travel to Munich at the end of June for the next round.

Y12 Intrepid Travellers

Rebekah Bell and Gaby Lee were travelling with a purpose – to help others. **Rebekah** spent three days at Easter in **Kazakhstan** as a TEAR Fund representative, learning first-hand the problems of that country and how the relief agency is tackling some of them.

TEAR Fund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) runs a programme of long-term relief called Teen Challenge, working amongst drug addicts. It is estimated that 70% of the schoolchildren in Kazakhstan are on drugs. Rebekah visited rehabilitation centres where she took English classes and had the opportunity to talk to the recovering addicts, some as young as 12 years old.

Rebekah was amazed by what she saw, especially the happiness that was so evident despite the very basic facilities. Now it is her task to publicise their plight and the work being done to help them.

Gaby has been busy raising funds for an expedition to **Morocco**, organised by Rotherham International Youth Organisations. Altogether, between 29th June and 14th July, she is visiting Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert.

But Gaby isn't going just for pleasure. She will accompany a group of adults with Down's Syndrome, who would be unable to experience this exciting expedition without willing volunteers like Gaby.

Gaby's fundraising efforts have included a sponsored swim, sponsored camping on Kinder Scout and bag-packing in Sainsbury's.

We look forward to Gaby's report on her return.

Other travellers ...

● Bon voyage to **Hazel Gray**, also Y12, who travels to the Ukraine to help build an Adventure Playground at a Scripture Union Holiday Centre.

● Bon voyage (and safe return!) to **Frau Gläsmann** and the girls on the Mongolian Expedition who will be hiking, horse-riding, and painting classrooms in an orphanage.



Friends of Sheffield High School

FOSH has just donated £1,333 to the Junior and Senior Schools – and their fund-raising continues. They are grateful for all the support in the past and look forward to your help in these events:

Wednesday 18 September

Cheese and wine (following the Welcome Evening for new parents)

Wednesday 16 October AGM

Friday 22 November

Autumn Fayre (emphasis on "pocket money" toys and games)

Monday 25 November

Wine-tasting evening to Morrison's, Hillsborough. Six or seven wines will be tasted as well as some nibbles. There will be an opportunity to buy some of the wines. Tickets: £5 (half to Childline; half to FOSH)

Friday 14 March 2003

FOSH Ball in the Cutlers Hall, marking the school's 125th birthday celebrations.

Royal Relay

Year 9 pupil, **Alice Thelwell**, has been selected as one of the 5,000 who will be a Jubilee Runner for the Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay. This great honour has been awarded to Alice for her excellent achievements in skiing. Last year, Alice skied for the Welsh Girls Team in the British Dry Slope Championships and the Welsh Mixed Team at the Irish Dry Slope Championships.

The Sport's Council has selected Alice because she embodies community values, spirit and national pride. Alice will be acting as an ambassador of the Commonwealth and she will assist the baton as it travels from hand to hand in a remarkable journey spanning the United Kingdom. The journey started in March outside Buckingham Palace and will culminate when Her Majesty the Queen officially opens the first Commonwealth Games of the 21st Century, in Manchester.

Healthy Outdoor Exercise!

On 8 May, all the girls of Year 9, together with nine staff, enjoyed an outdoor activities day. The activities included: a 2-hour, 3-mile walk; high ropes course; low ropes course; and team-building exercise.

All this adventure should give the girls a taste for **Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions**, and is certainly a great introductory experience to this kind of outdoor pursuit.

This year, several girls from Years 10 and 11 have been busy with **Duke of Edinburgh** activities.

Fifty-five girls from Year 10 took part in a practice expedition weekend in April at the Thornbridge Education Centre, near Bakewell. This was preparation for the real expedition in September towards their **Bronze** award.

Twenty-eight girls from Year 11 are working towards their **Silver** award and their practice expedition, also in April, took place near Hope. Their assessed expedition will take place over three days in July.

You can't accuse High School girls of being couch potatoes!



Year 9 pupil Emily Shallcross enjoys the outdoor activities day.



Booming Business

Once again, our **Young Enterprise** companies have returned from the area competition laden with prizes! The companies, set up and run by girls in the lower sixth, took five of the awards.

Contraband won the most prestigious 'Best Overall Company' award and came first in the 'Best Presentation' category.

That 70's Stall was runner-up in the 'Best Overall Company' category and the 'Best Performing Managing Director' was won jointly by **Shona Patience** and **Anna Singleton**. **Kawaii** was runner-up in the 'Best Trade Fair Stand'.

The girls expressed their gratitude to their advisors from the world of business who give so much of their time and expertise to help them. Thanks must also go to the parents who helped with the judging of the internal competition, and to **Will Taylor**, Head of Business Studies, who gave so much time and energy to assist the girls and accompany them to the competition.

'Contraband' – winners of the Best Overall Company category.

Forward Dates

Thursday 12 September Senior School Prizegiving

Wednesday 18 September Welcome Evening for new parents

Saturday 12 October Senior and Junior Open Morning

Saturday 16 November Sixth Form Open Morning

Tuesday 10 December Carol Service at Sheffield Cathedral

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