



WELBEXIAN

THE JOURNAL OF WELBECK COLLEGE

2005







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In the early summer of 2005, we turned our back to Welbeck Abby and disappeared down the drive. The whole of 04E were feeling the incredible ambience of the moment as we made our way one last time along the road, which many girls had cycled or walked up on numerous occasions previously.

A mixture of great sadness, excitement and immense apprehension was felt as we left not only the close friends that we had made throughout the year, but also the amazing building that we had been so privileged to have lived in. However, it was time for new challenges.



As I drove along Forest Road at the beginning of this academic year, I was in total awe of the exceptionally impressive building that was now Welbeck DSFC. Very different to Chapel Court, the Forum is equally as imposing and just as breathtaking. Not only is it the buildings that have changed this year, there is now the addition of two new Houses, Nelson and Trenchard and is the first year that potential Civil Servants have joined. As well as the new student faces that arrived in September, many new members of staff arrived, including the innovative Vice Principal Pastoral. Nevertheless, despite all of these material changes to the College, any visitor to Welbeck would still be impressed with the friendly atmosphere, the chorus of 'hello's' and the pristine uniform that every Welbexian soon picks up.

A change in site has given Welbeck College the opportunity for a new start. Now, offering a better time than ever to begin new traditions and leave behind old-fashioned attitudes.

The purpose built facilities are used every hour of every day, making it easy to wonder how the College had coped so well at the Abbey. Swimming is now an important part of most Welbexian's daily routine, particularly those who have attend Swimming Club on two early mornings of every week. The pool has helped enable Steve Clench to gain Great Britain representation for his age group. On the new astroturf, the Girls First Hockey team have secured their first draw for three years! The Rugby Team are always improving; this year, getting further in the daily Mail Cup than ever before. Although the sport has remained at an unbelievably high standard, a lot has changed including the gym; where chandeliers' have been replaced with basketball nets; and a balcony instead of large portraits. Perhaps, what seems the strangest of all is the new BPFA track which is part grass, part concrete and is not quite as scenic as the original!

Every house is now contained in its own building, with females living on the top floor. These co-ed boarding houses have facilitated a better working relationship between the girls and boys and have encouraged an even stronger sense of house pride. New House Competitions have been introduced and there are many more still to come. Already, Trenchard and Nelson have begun their own traditions (such as Nelson celebrating Trafalgar night with a black tie dinner) and each Welbexian still seems to suit their own House perfectly!

As my editorial draws to an end, I would like to thank, Mr Cunliffe for all of his support. Also a huge thank you must go out to Sophie Graystone for all of the time she spent helping me edit, and to Palmer James, Jake Rawson and Alex Olssen for their readiness to write the 'unwanted' articles. Ultimately I would like to wish next year's editor the best of luck, for a tremendously time consuming, complex, but exceptionally rewarding job!

Emily Field



I write this article one term into Welbeck's new life as The Defence Sixth Form College on its new site in Woodhouse near Loughborough in Leicestershire. The end of the Summer Term of 2005 marked an historic moment in the history of the College as we completed the academic year with the traditional Annual General Inspection, the Speech Day and Summer Ball celebrations on Saturday 2nd of July. The

Speech Day weekend celebrations this year were rather special to us all and it was with some sadness and many happy memories that we watched the departing students of 03 Entry and 04 Entry leave the College for the very last time. 03 Entry were finishing their time at Welbeck and moving on to our DTUS universities and 04 Entry were preparing to move to the College's new site in Woodhouse ready for the beginning of September.

In the relatively short space of 8 weeks some of us not only had to pack up our own homes and move but we had to pack up a whole College and move it 55 miles down the M1 motorway, which was no mean feat. To leave our Grade 1 and 2 listed College and homes was a tough call and one by one over the months of July and August the residential staff from the Welbeck Estate site transferred to the new College to their new accommodation which effectively was still part of a huge building site. The contractors, on site, were not due to hand over the new buildings to the Welbeck staff until the 1st of September and so for the Welbeck staff white helmets and bright fluorescent over jackets became the order of the day as we prepared to take over the new buildings, from the contractors.

As September approached it became obvious that time was running out for the contractors and a frantic level of activity could be seen across the whole site. Boarding Housestaff were attempting to get their houses in order and the College senior management were trying to remain calm and in control; not easy when you are unfamiliar with the buildings and even more problematic with restricted access to the new teaching facilities. Through a small miracle we were just about ready in time to receive our 04 and the new 05 Entries on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September.

Following hot on the heels of the admission to the new College of 04 and 05 Entries students came two ceremonies - The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony taken by Admiral Sir Jonathon Band and the official Opening Ceremony undertaken by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Gloucester, both very successful occasions and both allowing us to reflect on all the hard work that had gone into the preparation of the College for operation last Autumn.

Now 4 months into the new College's operation we should look back at the last 6 months and give ourselves a huge pat on the back. I am unaware of any other College in the country which has continued operations as normal including external examinations, end of academic year festivities and annual general inspections and yet be able to close down operations on one site and transfer it to another county without a major disaster ensuing in the process. It speaks volumes of everyone in the organisation, from students to staff, some of whom, particularly the Housestaff and the Quartermaster/Bursar had been inextricably involved in the whole change process from start to finish. I would like to pay tribute to my own senior management team, who sacrificed most of their

summer leave period to help transfer the College to its new site and get it up and running for early September. Most new school builds have a build up period from one term to a full academic year before they become fully operational; we accomplished the whole transfer over the summer break; only Welbeck could achieve that.

Turning to operational issues the College now functions in quite a different way to its previous form on the Welbeck Estate. The whole concept of PFI (Private Finance Initiative) is not new in terms of school, college or even university services management, but until now PFI's have only been involved in financing new build and maintaining the services and general infrastructure of the buildings. There are many examples of Local Authority school PFI's throughout the country which operate on this basis. Welbeck is, however, the first UK educational PFI in which the delivery of the education services is a function of the PFI.

What does this all mean for the College? Certainly there will be challenges ahead: there is no text book to refer to and we are not aware of any other school or college in the country with a full residential community that has successfully partnered with a PFI consortium. More significantly we now have an educational partner signed up to a bonus and penalty payment mechanism, which is linked to the overall performance of the college. This is a very new and, to date a somewhat controversial concept.

There is no doubt that the key to success of the whole Welbeck - Defence Sixth Form College project will very much depend on the relationship that we as a College are able to develop with the consortium. In real terms it is the present college senior management team, which now includes a consortium appointed Bursar, who will operate Welbeck in its new form. In effect the PFI consortium is there to help facilitate the operation of the College, along with the Governing Body, who will continue to provide a steering influence to ensure that the College meets its output targets.

Whatever we may think of the whole project and the PFI process there is little doubt that the Welbeck PFI will bring long term benefits to both the College and the MoD. The PFI process still remains a controversial issue in the public domain: however the new Welbeck is quite likely to be the forerunner of a number of similar educational PFI's. The MoD has in Welbeck an educational gem which it is justifiably proud of and with the on-going support of the PFI, the development of the College in its new form is likely to attract more than a passing interest from local education authorities and maybe even the independent education sector, some of whom are already exploring PFI partnership as a development possibility.

The PFI project will operate initially over a 30 year contract time span; we have now completed the 2 year build and we are in year 3 of the contract period. In real terms we will be 10% of our way through the PFI contract by the end of the academic year, with 27 years to run. There will be many challenges ahead but I would like to think that we have created in the new Welbeck a rather special legacy for the benefit of all Welbexians for many years to come. In the meantime Welbeck - The Defence Sixth Form College will continue to deliver its very unique service, albeit in a new form and on its brand new site, as the MoD's rather special Quad Service Sixth Form College.

Tony Halliwell PRINCIPAL

STAFF NEWS



Staff News

Goodbye RNLO

Lieutenant Simon Kierstan arrived at Welbeck College to facilitate the change to a tri-service college. With the request of a Royal Navy presence at the college originally denied, further pressure resulted in the swift deployment of Lt Kierstan to the college. Undoubtedly a valuable member of staff, the Royal Naval Liaison Officer soon became integral in constructing the CCF syllabus; and I will particularly remember him from those cold and windy parades inspecting us all closely and guiding us to increase our presentation. Many students have fond memories of his legendary trip to the Canary Islands where students were involved in a weeks kite surfing, as well as his precarious driving around the estate in his Lotus Elise. We would like to wish Lt Kierstan all the best in his new posting.

Josh Sinnett

Goodbye Mr. Oldroyd

What is your definition of a brilliant teacher? Mine is one that can keep you tickled whilst making you reach your potential. Having formerly taught at schools and FE colleges in Leicestershire, Mr Oldroyd came to Welbeck initially as a maths teacher, and took on physics 6 years ago.

Mr Oldroyds sheer genius came across in his teaching style, and I am sure that not only me, but the hundreds of other students he has taught before recognise this; I was sad to see such a gifted teacher leave. He often surprised us by breaking his usual demeanour to reveal a deep knowledge of Black Adder quotes which kept us all amused! He also ran a PSHCE session on the science of humour, which pervaded all of our lessons.

Major Brown- Vice Principal Military

I was born and educated in Glasgow and at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. I was then commissioned in to The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and I have served in Norway, Germany, Italy, France, Cyprus and Northern Ireland with operational tours in the latter 2. I am joining Welbeck DSFC as Vice Principal (Military) from the Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (G6 Division). I now have a BSc from the Open University and the Post Graduate Diploma of Cranfield University. I am married with 2 grown up daughters, who put up with my current interests are mountain biking, folk rock and making whirligigs.

Mr Becks- Hard Services Manager

I went to Midhurst College, and since then the only university I have attended is the university of life. I joined the Royal Artillery, taking part in the First Gulf War, with the Dessert Rats (7 Armoured Brigade), and was involved in the Yugoslavia as an Artillery Intelligence Officer. I was also involved in peacekeeping in Kosovo, and Northern Ireland. I left the British Army in 2003, as a Battery Quartermaster Sergeant. From there I joined Interserve and became an assistant Facilities Manager working on the Network Rail contract in Manchester. Due to my military background, in April of 2005 was asked to join Welbeck College as the Hard Services Manager. My main interests are music, attending concerts, remote controlled vehicles and generally enjoying life. I am divorced with two sons, Jamie who is 11 and Harry who is 9, and trying to persuade them to come to the college, as I have enjoyed meeting the students here so much.



Mr Oldroyd's musical talents were felt throughout the whole college- he ran a brilliant jazz group, which he pieced together in only 2 weeks and it was this that led to the coining of his nickname: Jazzy-O. He also plays the jazz guitar, and has been known to play the piano! He was also known for his sporting abilities, particularly tennis and golf. Now, Mr Oldroyd is using his horticultural and home improvement skills to make a living with his wife and young son in Worksop.

Lauren Wallis and Thomas Waite

Goodbye Mr Vajzovic

Latif Vajzovic came to Welbeck College as a chemistry teacher back in 1993. However, his background in ICT meant that he quickly became responsible for ICT throughout the College and remained in this post for his remaining twelve years at Welbeck. He involved himself enthusiastically in all aspects of college life from helping out with rugby, being M/ic of athletics and organising the then annual 10 Tours expedition on Dartmoor. He was a colourful character entertaining his tutees with stories of how he invented "Windows", to being responsible for organising the ticketing system on the London Underground. Towards the end of his time at Welbeck he was a hard-working and much appreciated Chairman of the Masters Common Room. Mr Vajzovic reluctantly felt that a move to Leicestershire was not in his best interests and he obtained a post as Master i/c ICT at a school in Mansfield. He will be missed by both staff and students.

Mr Leadbetter- Examinations Officer

I joined the Army when I was 15; I went into an Infantry NCOs training battalion for just over 2 years. I served 4 years in the Infantry and then transferred to the Intelligence Corps. I trained as an analyst and then a linguist, studying Russian and later Spanish. After leaving the regular Army I enlisted in the Territorial Army for a further 6 years before work commitments obliged me to resign.

I joined Welbeck College because I believe that it is one of the best Colleges in the country, the standards expected of the students, and indeed the staff, are to be applauded in these days of declining standards. I think the new College offers students excellent facilities for study and sport and I hope that the students will feel the same way. I look forward to developing my other role as E-Coordinator of Modern Foreign Languages and encouraging students to try something more foreign than a takeaway.



Miss Remfry- Soft Services Manager

I grew up in Johannesburg in South Africa where I qualified as a journalist. After working in the industry for several years I decided to take up an opportunity to travel, and so ended up in the U.K. in 1999. After working in West Sussex for a period, a move to South Wales saw me taking up a temporary role as a helpdesk operator with Interserve in 2000. The role soon became a permanent one, which lead me to move on to Office Manager and then Regional Office Manager. This





eventually brought me to Welbeck College where I took on the role of Mobilisation Co-ordinator. Upon service commencement my role changed to my current role at the college, which is that of Soft Services Manager.

As the Soft Services Manager I am responsible for ensuring that the Administration, Catering and Domestic Services teams are providing an effective service. I have found this role certainly the most challenging yet, but the opportunity to work with the students and get involved in the activities has been the highlight of my career. I have assisted on several Snowdonia and Summer Camps, and also accompanied the Comenius team in 2005.

Mrs Mountford- Bursar

I began my career with a brief stint working in the Hotel trade, followed by a gap year traveling and working in Australia before returning in January of 1994. I started working at an accountancy firm and at the same time studied an HNC in Business and Finance. After my course I joined Facilities Management Company Integral, with whom I spent almost 8 years. I spent the last 12 months with Integral as Operations Facilities Manager overseeing all the sites, and I eventually left in September of 2003 to study for a MSc in Facilities Management at Birmingham. During this time I carried out a consultant role for two other PFI's, once again within the Local Education Sector.

In November 2004 after receiving my interim award I took a break from studying my MSc and joined Interserve to mobilise and carry out the role of Bursar at Welbeck College. In my role as Bursar I am responsible for the overall management of the Facilities Services on site. I also work closely with the Principal to ensure that we provide the best service to the students at Welbeck. I married in 2005 and my husband and I live near Lutterworth. My hobbies are show jumping and dressage, and I have a horse called Ellie and a chocolate Labrador called Fudge.



WO1 Adams- SMI

I joined the REME in 1983 as an apprentice Vehicle mechanic, where I served for 3 years. Next I was loaned out to the Royal Armoured Corps Phase 2 training centre to work as a PTI. My first posting as an APTCI was with the 1st Queens Dragoon Guards in Tidworth. I was then posted to 5 Training Regiment RLC TA during which time I decided to do my Remedial Instructors course at Headley Court, an intense 6 months course. Next I went to the Regional Rehabilitation Centre in Catterick as the senior instructor, where I was promoted and posted to Iraq where I worked as a Brigade SMI for 1 Mech Brigade. On my return I started my Football Association Diploma Course in the Treatment and Management of Injuries.

I was then given the dream posting to Welbeck College. Having been at the College for two terms I can honestly say that I have never had the good fortune to be posted to such a great job with such fantastic students and staff and am relishing every minute of it.



Ms Simpkin- Maths Teacher

I was born in Leicestershire and went to school in Loughborough before heading off to university to study Mathematics, followed by a Post-Graduate Certificate of Education. Previous teaching posts include a variety of



responsibilities as well as working in some fabulous locations, namely Poole, Switzerland, Sheffield, Rannoch in Scotland and Turin in Italy. I have always been active in sports. Having spent over 10 years living in or close to the Alps, I have also developed a passion for mountaineering and ski-mountaineering. My travels have taken me further a-field to India, Nepal and Kenya, where I have served on two community service international schools projects and a British schools mountaineering expedition. I am settling into the Welbeck way of life and looking forward to more opportunities to come.

Mr Walsh- Head of Sport

I have been in teaching for 27 years, having begun in my native north east. In 1990, I was appointed to the position of Head of PE at The John Cleveland College, in Hinckley, Leicestershire, and played a large part in the College's rise to prominence as one of the country's leading sporting schools and whilst there we were won the Daily Mail National Cup at under 15 level; one of the highlights of my career. I have been fortunate enough to be rewarded for my Rugby Coaching efforts by being appointed backs coach to the England Under 18 side from 2004, a role I am still involved with at present. I consider this to be the highest honour in coaching schoolboy rugby. I have always been an all round sportsman, having played many games to a reasonably high level. Although rugby was my main interest, I was actually more successful at badminton, and was a member of the England under 21 squad (a long time ago!!!).

I was very happy with my position at John Cleveland, but jumped at the chance to join the staff at the new DSFC. With the quality of our facilities plus the enthusiasm and ability of our students I truly believe that we are one of the greatest educational establishments of our kind in the world, and I am extremely proud of everything our College stands for. I consider it an honour and a privilege to work in such an environment, and look forward to many more years helping Welbeck students to reach their full potential in every possible field. I could not imagine a more enjoyable and rewarding job than the one I currently have!!



Mr Hubbard- Maths Teacher

Born in Leicester and now married with two children, my main hobby is music - playing and listening to. I am also a keen rugby supporter, which I have discovered is very appropriate in this collage, and I go to see the Tigers as often as possible. I also enjoy reading, cycling and walking.

I have gained a degree in Manchester, and a PGCE in Sheffield, before going on to teach in London, Leicester, Northants and Coventry which I thoroughly enjoyed. After this I felt that Welbeck provided a unique opportunity to work with extremely well motivated students in a state-of-the-art school, where the students will go on and make a difference. So far I have enjoyed nearly everything, and I am looking forward to becoming more involved in college life.



Mr Crookes- Vice Principle Pastoral

I joined Welbeck DSFC as the new Vice-Principal (Pastoral) in September 2005. I previously taught Geography at Loughborough Grammar School for the last



17 years. In the time I spent there I had been Head of Geography and more recently had Head of Sixth Form, and a member of the Senior Management team. My main interests include hill walking, kayaking and rock climbing and he has led several expeditions to the Himalayas and Greenland. My wife, Sue, and three children, Lucy (12), William (10) and Ben (7), have also taken up residence with me in the College, and they are all most grateful for the warm welcome we have received from the staff and students alike, and are all looking forward to becoming fully involved in the life of the College.

Mr. Burgess-Technology Teacher

On leaving Loughborough University in 2000 where I studied Industrial Design and Technology with Education, I began teaching at Burleigh Community College, a local school in Loughborough. I started my NQT year as the Deputy Head of Boarding, rather a bold step for a newly qualified teacher, and rapidly moved up to Head of Technology in 2003. I was lucky enough to join Welbeck in September 2005 and am now in charge of the magnificent Design and Technology Department where I am determined to make Systems and Control a successful and popular subject. Personnel I am a keen sports person, enjoying Martial Arts, Football and Hockey, I also enjoy building and operating Radio Controlled cars, boats and aircraft and have started the Welbeck RC Club, who are now affiliated to the BMFA and registered as a flying club.



Mr Browne- Nelson House Master

I am joining Welbeck as the new head of house to Nelson. I was educated at the Universities of London & Durham, and went on to teach history at Uppingham. My main hobbies are rowing, which I am very keen to develop at Welbeck, running, and Naval history which means I can teach the students in Nelson a lot about Nelson's past. My inspirations are Sir Samuel Pepys; 'The life of a virtuous administrator in the Navy is a continual defensive war against Ministers of State..and all other prejudiced inquisitors and malcontents' - Eric Liddell; 'Leave to thy God to order and provide, In every change he faithful will remain', and I look forward to making Nelson the best it can be.



Mr Sandford- Physics Teacher

I have arrived at Welbeck College full of enthusiasm for the upcoming academic year. I am a relatively inexperienced teacher having joined from Denstone College after only two years of full time teaching, but I know I can learn a lot in the college set up. I have lived in the area for some time, having studied Physics at Loughborough University from 98-02 and then onto a PGCE in 02-03. My previous academic career was actually as a pupil at the old Welbeck College, where I was part of 85E. This I hope can give me a better insight in the pupils as I will have experienced the College from both sides of the desk. My main sport is Hockey in which I played for Loughborough University. Hopefully I can bring some useful experience into the coaching of the sport whilst I am here and really develop hockey from the shadows of some of the other sports.



Mr. Cole-Electronics Teacher

I studied A levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and Electronic Systems at RGS Guildford School. Then I went on to study at Durham (Hatfield College) in Mechanical Engineering and Electronic Engineering, and the University of Wales (Bangor), in PGCE Technology.



Previously, I worked at Sevenoaks School, where I taught Electronics and Design Technology, as well as being a Rugby Coach, Climbing Instructor and Residential Boarding Tutor. My interests include all sports, but in particular rugby and football. I also have a keen interest in mountaineering, rock climbing, and skiing.

Mr Worral -

Deputy House Master of Alanbrooke

I was educated at Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall, and left there to study for a B.Sc in Pure Mathematics at Hull University. I began my teaching career back at my old school, and stayed there for three years. During this time, I taught Maths and coached both rugby and cricket. I also joined the CCF where I was lucky enough to go on lots of expeditions and gain valuable experience of fell-walking and skiing. The next eight years of my career were spent at an independent boarding school in the South West. As well as my teaching there, I again coached rugby, cricket and football, and lived in the school throughout my time there. I had the opportunity to travel widely, visiting the Annapurna Sanctuary in Nepal, South Africa twice, Australia, New Zealand, and many locations in Europe during my time at the school. Outside of my work-time, I enjoy mainly sporty activities, though it's getting more and more difficult to find time to play my favourite games, rugby and cricket. Nowadays I play more golf and squash and there is still nothing that beats getting away to the Lakes for a few days fell walking.



Miss Bowen- House Master of Trenchard

I moved to Welbeck from Bryanston School, a co-educational boarding school in Dorset, where I was Head of Biology and Assistant Housemistress. I've been teaching for 11 years following my degree in Oceanography and Biology from Southampton University. When I was younger I sailed in the British Youth Squad and I have sailed at national level in several dinghy classes. I enjoy running to keep fit and de-stress and I have run several marathons and ultra distance races, including Trailwalker a 100K navigation team race. I have just acquired a racing bike and I hope to have a go at triathlon next year. In my spare time I go SCUBA diving whenever possible, I am training to be an instructor, but I also go deep, wreck diving in UK waters and travel to exotic destinations whenever possible. I live with my 2 greyhounds: Poppy and Hal and 3 cats Gizmo, Magic and Sooty. I am also a trained falconer and I have flown hawks and falcons to hunt small game.





Mr Calland- Maths Teacher

I started Loughborough University in 1996 and did 4 years on Maths and Sport Science/PGCE. During this time represented England and GB students Rugby League. I also played cricket and golf for the University. After finishing University I went to work at Loughborough Grammar School as a Maths teacher. As well as this I was the Head of House, 1st team rugby coach and the Resident boarding master. At Welbeck I am hoping to play a large role within the rugby training, and impressed by the work ethic of not only the rugby boys but of all pupils.



Flight Lieutenant Taylor - Defence Training and Marketing Officer

I was born and educated in Nottingham. Whilst studying further education subject of mathematics, physics, physical education and art, I made good use of a Military Sixth Form Scholarship! Having also received a Flying Scholarship and gliding for the UK in Poland, I joined the University of London Air Squadron to spread my wings further. With a University Sponsorship to support studying Aeronautical Engineering, I spent a year studying in the State of West Virginia, USA. Following a spell of skiing for the RAF and the State of West Virginia, also 4 months trekking in Australia and New Zealand, the RAF finally caught up with me! I was commissioned and sent on my first tour to RAF LEEMING. Following a detachment with the Army in Oman, I served a second tour in support of the Harrier Force, based at RAF COTTESMORE, on 1(F) Sqn. This very exhilarating tour found me deploying on operations and multi-national exercises to countries including Canada, Romania and Cyprus and serving with the Navy on-board HMS INVINCIBLE and HMS ARK ROYAL.

I am joining Welbeck DSFC as the Defence Training and Marketing Officer from the Defence Logistics Organisation (RAF Wyton) having previously worked as a Project Manager, procuring equipment for the Harrier Force to conduct operations on the CVS. With Quad-Service experiences gained, I look forwards to sharing my knowledge to ALL Students at Welbeck. With a focus of leading all students to expand their military knowledge, experiences and personal leadership, I look forwards to facing new challenges.



Mrs. Michell- Librarian

I am also new to the staff of Welbeck College for September 2005, taking up my position as an assistant in the new Learning Resource Centre, along with five brand new colleagues. I am a graduate of Business Administration, having previously worked in the financial services sector so library work is a new venture for me, but I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and I am now looking forward to helping develop the Centre as staff and students get used to what it has to offer.

Although new to working at the College, I have been a member of the Welbeck "family" for the past three years, since my husband Sam joined the staff at the old Abbey as a Physics Teacher. We now live on site at the DSFC in Trenchard House with our four young daughters, Phoebe, Annabel, Josie, Kitty and a host of black and white pets.

Trish Hicks- Librarian

Born and brought up in London, my career started in the retail industry working for Marks & Spencer in areas as diverse as fabric technology to Ladies Underwear! I am married with three children aged 17, 13 and 10 and live in Woodhouse. My husband runs his own management consultancy business primarily operating within the automotive industry.

Before joining Welbeck I was a teaching assistant and swimming instructor at the local primary school and I am currently secretary to the Leicestershire branch of the Children's Society Charity. My main passions are traveling, keeping fit, gardening, watching Arsenal and walking the dog - plus occasionally reading a good book! I am delighted to have joined Welbeck and am looking forward with enthusiasm to assisting students and staff.

Mary Arthur, LRC Manager

I have worked in a variety of libraries over a 25 year career; most recently at Rawlins Community College (just two miles away in Quorn.) I am married, with two children ages 17 and 20, so I'm well versed in teenage enthusiasm and angst. I am delighted to have this opportunity to set up a new LRC and look forward to watching it develop into well utilized facility with the college.

My interests include reading (naturally), music, and walking our rather overly enthusiastic 'retired' greyhound.

Janice King-librarian

Born in 1958 in Leicestershire, I am married with three children. After graduating with an English degree from Loughborough University in 1999, I have worked in two different libraries: the Pilkington Library at Loughborough University and the Rushes Mead Library in Leicester. I am delighted to be working at Welbeck for many reasons: the students are wonderful, the building and books are brand new and my colleagues are a treat. My many interests include sailing, walking and scrambling, as well of reading of course!

Fiona Alsop-librarian

Born and brought up in Leicestershire, I originally trained as a medical secretary but quickly left this sector to work for a tour operator handling clients' complaints. After marrying my husband, who is a serving soldier in the Army, I spent a number of years accompanying him on his postings both in the UK and overseas. During this time I worked in a variety of different roles including working for the Army Legal Services in Germany. I now live locally with my husband and two children who are 10 and 8 years old. I also help out at Loughborough Gymnastics Club as an Assistant Gymnastics Coach working with children, and I am studying at De Montfort University for a Business degree. In the little time I have remaining I like to the gym, walking, cycling, reading and Sudoku.

I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity of working at Welbeck and I am looking forward to being able to assist all the students and staff when they visit the LRC.



Introduction to the Support Teams



Domestic Services

Domestic Services

The Domestic Services Team is headed up by our Domestic Services Manager, Eddie Lester, and he has a team of 5 housekeepers (one assigned to each house block), 9 cleaners and a laundry assistant to help him to carry out the domestic service. They are responsible for college wide internal cleaning and carrying out the laundry service.



Administration Team

Administration Team

The Admin Team provide all the admin assistance to the college. Our duties include Commercial and Student Recruitment administration as well as Post Room management. We also operate a helpdesk service at the college which is really a 'one stop shop' for all requests, from photocopying to transport, hospitality to leaking taps.



Catering Services

Catering Services

Philip Hayes is our Catering Manager and he has a good team of Chefs, assistant Chefs and Catering Assistants to help him provide the Catering service. Mr Hayes is always looking for ways to improve the service and we hold monthly meetings with the College Catering Committee, headed up by students who represent their colleagues. Under Mr Hayes' watchful eye is the running of the Student and Staff dining rooms, the shop and the Quorum Club.



Hard Services Team

Hard Services Team

The Hard Services Team is managed by Simon Beck. They are responsible for carrying out all reactive and planned building maintenance, arranging transport, looking after stores as well as other areas. They also manage the grounds maintenance contractor who is based on site. The team consists of, from front; Phil Gooderson (Storeman), Graham Cripps (Handyman), Joe O'Halloran (Site Engineer), Martin Turner (Electrician), Michael Harrison-Smith (Driver) and Michael Pittard (Handyman).

SPEECH DAY, SAT 2 JULY 05

PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH

Madam Chairman, Sir Roger and Lady Jackling, Distinguished Guests, Governors, Staff, Students of the College, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to first of all like to extend my personal welcome to all our parents and say how delighted I am that so many of you are able to be present with us today, to help celebrate the achievements of our students and in particular, those of 03 Entry.

I should like to also extend a welcome to all our guests and particularly to Sir Roger Jackling and his wife, Lady Jane. Sir Roger is here today in his capacity as the recently retired Director of the Defence Academy, located in Shrivenham. He has seen extensive service in a senior capacity with the MOD civil service. In his capacity as the Director of the Defence Academy he was responsible for coordinating the operation of the entire Defence Academy and its various satellite units including Welbeck College. With Civil Service MoD students due to join the college for the first time in September, it is therefore highly appropriate that he should be with us today and we look forward to his address to the College in due course. Thank you, Sir for agreeing to be our Prize Day presenter today.

I am delighted that Lady Anne Cavendish Bentnick is able to join our celebrations this morning, along with both William and Alison Parente, who of course have been our close neighbours, within the Abbey certainly throughout the time that I have been associated with the College. [However she will be able to join us for the Luncheon and the Annual General Inspection this afternoon.] As our 52 years on the Welbeck Estate draws to a close I would like to formally thank Lady Anne, William and Alison Parente for both their support and friendship, during not only my time as Principal of the college and but indeed for the support that has been forthcoming from the Estate over our 52 years of operation of the College on this wonderful site. When our students leave on Sunday and when the staff leave the site for the final time over the summer holiday break most of us will experience a whole range of feelings and all of us I suspect will feel a little sad to be leaving, but we will take with us some very happy memories of the college in this unique special setting.

Returning to our special visitors today, I am delighted that Mrs Sue Bird our senior civilian Governor on our College Board is presiding over today's ceremony. Sue is well known to both the college staff and our students, not only in her capacity as a Governor, but also as a Governor who takes a very pro-active interest in the activities of the College and most especially in the students and staff who make this college tick.

Finally may I also give a warm welcome to members of the Defence Academy under the Command of Admiral Nigel Lathom who together with Col. John Rouse, Lt Col Joe Fuller and Maj. John Lloyd continue to so effectively support this college and indeed have spend a considerable amount of time and effort on the new Defence Sixth Form College Project.

Welcome also to The Chairman of Bassetlaw District Council and to the members of both Interserve and TQ Education who have joined us for our celebrations today.

My report to you this year will focus on the present, in the form of the leaving 03 entry and the achievements of both the 03 and 04 entries over the year. In addition I will report on the transition of Welbeck College to its new Defence Sixth Form College status, which has been the main focus of much of our strategic planning throughout the past two years.

The format of the Speech Day weekend celebrations this year, as last year, is relatively new in that both the Speech Day and Annual General Inspection sections of the festivities now takes place on the same day. The Summer Ball will also take place this evening making the whole day an action packed series of events which I hope you and our students will thoroughly enjoy. The compressed nature of the programme today for our speech day prize giving does not allow me to present a full report of college events over the past year,

however the Welbexian magazine, does provide full coverage of the year's events. We have recently taken delivery of this year's edition and I hope you will enjoy reading it, in due course.

Under the DTUS scheme, that is, the Defence Technical Undergraduate scheme we now sending up to 90 students from each leaving entry to quality universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Southampton and Newcastle and Northumbria. From September 2004 we added both Aston and Loughborough Universities to the scheme and they are now fully operational. The university support units have proved to be very popular with our undergraduate students who as a part of the DTUS scheme attend the support units of Thunderer, Trojan or Typhoon Squadrons. The value of the support units is several fold and not only have they opened up a range of tri-service military training opportunities for our students post Welbeck, but the units ensure that our students can sample some of the benefits and challenges of civilian university life and yet importantly remain academically focussed.

We are now into the final months of the building process for the new DSFC on its site at Woodhouse near Loughborough. The college is on schedule for completion in the at the end of August 2005. In May 2004 we had a Time Capsule burying ceremony on the new site to which we invited representatives of the local community, including a number of children from the local schools and colleges. The Defence Minister, The Rt. Hon. Ivor Caplin MP officiated over the ceremonies and it marked the start of our formal links with the new site as well as with the local

Community of Woodhouse. Only this last week I attended a very positive meeting with the Local Parish Council who were eager to hear of our operational plans for the site and joining us today I am pleased that we have representatives from both Woodhouse Parish Council and Leicestershire County Council.

This September the first group of MOD civil service students will join the college making the 05 entry to the college effectively Quad – Service, which effectively completes the college's transition to its new status. In terms of military staff we already have the services of Flt Lt Nick Smith as our RAF College Adjutant and Lt Simon Kierston as our Royal Navy Liaison Officer and in September we gain the services of our new vice Principal Military – Maj. K. G. Brown. For us all, 2005 has been an extremely busy and pressurised year and the year ahead promises to be just as challenging in moving the organisation forward to ensure that we are best placed to take full advantage of the our new status and indeed of the excellent new site that the DSFC will afford us. Naturally we have mixed feelings about uprooting the college and moving it 7 junctions down the M1 and it has been a difficult and tough operational year making it all possible. We have probably taken our eye off the day to day running of our college here on its Welbeck site but I suppose with the scale of the transition operation and the urgent need to focus on the future this has been inevitable. Whatever we may feel about the change from the AFSC to the DSFC one thing is quite certain; the future of this fine college is now assured something that, we, at the college have worked very hard indeed to secure. I think we can take some pride in the fact that we have together, over the past 5 years, secured the future of this college for Welbexians for many years to come.

Returning to the present, the members of 03 entry will very soon move onto the next stage of their training 'on route' to undergraduate degree training and then on to the Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, before finally qualifying as Commissioned Officers. This morning you have just witnessed the 'pass off', of 03 entry as they graduated from this college, in the Annual General Inspection which was presided over by Sir Roger Jackling, who is of course the prize giver and guest speaker for the Speech Day proceedings today.

Turning to the college year I will now highlight a number of important points:



1. Academic Results.

On the academic front the college has had a very good year. This year we achieved a pass rate of 100%, across the board at 'A' level, with a UCAS score of 343 points average per student. This compares with an average UCAS points score of 394.4 points for the previous year, but of course this year we have dropped 'A' level General Studies from our curriculum, in favour of our enrichment curriculum. The Good Schools Guide ranked us as the top performing school at 'A' level, in the country, in terms of both our male and female students in 'A' level Physics and the ALPS (A Level Performance Scheme) agency presented us with a congratulatory certificate; ranking us in the top 3%, out of all UK schools, for our overall 'A' level performance. In inspection terms we continue to look at self evaluating inspection schemes which are likely to replace the more traditional inspection regimes within 5 years. At the same time the move to the new college will enable us to move forward with our e-learning initiative which will enable students to take on more responsibility for their learning process, thus enabling our students to access University learning techniques whilst with us in the sixth form.

2. Head and Deputy Head of College.

The success of a college not only depends on the Principal, his senior management team, the teaching staff and non-teaching staff but also on the assistance of an effective, reliable and professional senior prefect team. Over the last academic year, Liam Wilson, as Head of College with the assistance of his Deputy Head's of College, Mitch Lawson, Matthew Cryer, Mark Bugg and Head of Lodge/Annex Charlie Bridge have proved to be a very professional and efficient team. In particular I would like to thank Liam Wilson, who has demonstrated quiet, yet highly effective leadership in dealing with the numerous college issues that have come his way. My fellow staff and I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the prefect team and in particular to Liam for the time and effort he and his team, have put into the college over the year. Congratulations and well done team!

3. The Teaching, Military and Support staff

It gives me great pleasure, most especially on my own behalf and indeed on the students' behalf to thank all our staff, whatever their role in the college, for the time and effort they have put in over the past year for the good of the student body. With the fast approaching relocation of the college, this summer, the workload for our staff has increased enormously over the past year and I feel that special thanks must go to the Welbeck team who have worked tremendously hard on the transition process across the organisation. If I'm honest, I would have to admit that for most of us, this year has not been an easy one, as we have been working flat out preparing for the move to the new college over the summer.

Schools and colleges occasionally do move site but not usually from one county to another. Any site relocation is a disruptive process, moving 55 miles down the M1 is another matter and inevitably a number of staff will be unable to move with us this summer. I do not propose, this morning to detail all those across the organisation who will not be joining us in Woodhouse but I do want to put on record my very grateful thanks for all they have done for the organisation, during their time with us, and I would like to wish them well for the future. Most teaching staff will be moving with the college to its new site and we have been very fortunate to secure 12 new teaching staff to join us at Woodhouse site in September. Over the course of the year we bid farewell to a number of the college teaching staff.

Mr Latif Vazovic - teacher in charge of ICT for a period of 13 years.

Mr Graham Oldroyd - Mathematics teacher at the college for 12 years.

SGT (SI) Simon Naylor who assisted for a 1 year period with PT training in the college.

WO1 (SMI) Andy Parker - in charge of PT training in the college from Sept 02 till Jan 05

We welcomed two new staff temporary staff to the Welbeck

Common Room in January

- i) Mr Richard Larder - on a temporary appointment as an ICT teacher. and
- ii) Mr Jonathan Wells - on a temporary appointment as a Mathematics teacher.

To all of them we offer our very best wishes for the future and our sincere thanks for a job well done.

On the College Music front we say goodbye to Tim McEwan who has given us loyal service as our Choirmaster as well as tutoring Singing and Keyboard. Liz Hydes has taught Strings, whilst Jane Orsborn has trained the college band and tutored the Woodwind players. Louise Patterson has taught Percussion and Tony Varley the Bagpipes. We have some fine musicians in the college and our peripatetic music staff have done much to ensure the continuing success of music in the college – my grateful thanks go to you all.

4. College Sport

We continue to perform to a high standard in a number of college sports and this year has seen the continuing success of our newest option – triathlon, which has become a popular and competitive sport at the college. Time will not allow a report on all college sports; the Welbexian magazine covers our full range of sports in more detail, but I will mention both Rugby and Rowing as representative sports this morning.

Our rugby teams continue to perform well at both male and female level – the girls teams won 7 of their 8 fixtures, only losing to the Yorkshire County under 18's. The boys now have the potential to field 5 teams and the 1st team won 11 of their 12 fixtures as well as reaching the last 16 out of 540 in the Daily Mail cup this year. The sevens reached the semi-finals of the Rosslyn Park National 7's, going on to win the National Club's U 19's 7's Tournament – beating Worcester Academy and the Nottingham Academy in the final. You will be pleased to learn that 16 of the Army's U21 and 6 of the Combined Services U21's are former Welbeck students. We have one student from O1 entry currently playing for the full Army Squad.

In Rowing the college competes at national level and in particular this year we competed in both the Army Regatta – with win in the single Sculls pairs and in the Joint Services Regatta – with wins in the Men's Eights and Fours – effectively every member of the ten man squad was in a winning boat.

Rugby and Rowing are but two of our college sports but across the full range of college activities we continue to perform to a high standard.

5. The Prince Philip Medal

It is traditional that during the course of this address I announce the name of the winner of the Prince Philip Medal, which is the most prestigious award to be presented today. By definition the award must go to a senior year student who has given not only impeccable service to the college but he or she must be one of the top rated students in the college. This year's student has high personal standards, he has been a loyal supporter of the college and his year group, he is a very able and well liked young man and he has, in the staff opinion, made significant progress in all three areas, which we deemed as being important for Welbexians. These vital areas include those of personal, academic and physical development. He has earned the respect and regard of both staff and students alike and I am quite sure he will make a very fine Officer in due course. May I be the first to congratulate this year's Prince Philip medal winner Liam Wilson of Portland House. I would ask this year's Prince Philip medal winner to step forward now and be awarded his medal by Sir Roger Jackling.

6. Senior Prefects appointments for the DSFC.

Breaking slightly with tradition I am now going to announce the new college officials for the DSFC.

Normally we would wait until the summer break before deciding on next year's officials but as this is a special year with a move from 3 to 5 houses in September we have decided to announce the new college officials early.



Principal's Speech - Continued

Next year's Head of College will be Charles Becher / Deputy Heads of College are Emily Field and Sam Collins and the Senior Under Officer (SUO) is Mark Willis.

Congratulations to you all!

7. The College / The Present and the Future

This weekend we reach a milestone in the college's history marking the end of the college's long association with the Welbeck Estate and sadly the point at which we leave the beautiful surrounds in which we have been privileged to work for so long. I know the students will miss the estate atmosphere and all it has to offer and those of us living on the estate are, as you will appreciate, are somewhat reluctant to leave our houses.

The College however must move on and we must together embrace change and the opportunities presented to us in the form of the new Defence Sixth Form College are now just around the corner. For the LVI students amongst us today, they are the ones who effectively will get the best of both worlds, I sincerely hope that they appreciate this as we will be looking to them to take the college forward in its new form. The challenge for them is to take the best of Welbeck with us from Nottinghamshire and to develop in the new college an ethos and culture which will reflect that of a modern and progressive sixth form college, one that will serve all 3 services and the MoD civil service for many years to come. I am sure that being Welbexians they will be more than up to the challenge.

Our new college will open in September this year and the student

numbers will grow from 200 plus students to about 350 students, serving the future recruiting needs at sixth form level of the technical branches of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and MoD Civil Service.

IN CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, the College this year has just produced a 100% pass rate at 'A' level and you cannot get much better than that, we are due to take over brand new and state of the art premises on our Woodhouse site and we become fully quad-service in September 2005. The college continues to deliver excellence and in my opinion Welbeck is the academic jewel in the MoD's crown. I put it to you that we have in Welbeck and potentially in the Defence Sixth Form College, a thoroughly effective and evolving organisation which you can be justifiably be proud of.

FINALLY

Madam Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Sir Roger and Lady Jackling, Governors, Staff, Students of the College, Ladies and Gentlemen, visitors, I trust you will thoroughly enjoy sharing this special day with us here today, may I wish you all an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable time with us.

Thank you very much indeed for being with us today as we come to the end of an era on the Welbeck Estate and as we move forward into our Defence Sixth Form College status, building on the success of the past 52 years. Well done Welbeck! **Thank you very much.**



Welbeck speech - Guest of Honour - Sir Rodger Jackling's Speech

I start by extending a warm welcome to Speech Day 2005 on behalf of the governors and the Defence Academy – of which Welbeck is a very important part. This is an important day for the whole college community, and it is particularly significant for the 2003 entry and for their parents.

Congratulations to the graduating students. The Principal assures me that you have all worked very hard and shown great commitment on all fronts – the academic, the military, and the sporting. You are completing a demanding – and I hope fulfilling – part of your development. You are a successful class and can be proud of what you have achieved.

The efforts and success of the graduating cohort has sustained the success and standing of the college as a whole. Welbeck stands second in the national league table for sixth form colleges, and in Nottinghamshire, it is the top performer academically at A and AS level. This is an achievement which delights the Governors, the Army, and the Ministry of Defence. It more than justifies our confidence in and commitment to the Welbeck formula, and it reflects great credit on the talent and hard work of the student body.

It also reflects great credit on the professionalism and commitment of the teaching and military staff. Their efforts enable the students to meet their academic objectives and to develop as young leaders. The College can only succeed in this its primary purpose if the staff and students work together effectively, and this they clearly do. The admirable results of this year are particularly praiseworthy when preparations for the move of the College have been an additional burden, and a personal concern for members of staff.

The move of the College from Welbeck this September makes this the last Speech Day at Welbeck Abbey. It will bring to an end a 50 year association which has been highly successful from the Army's point of view. I also believe that it has been a very enjoyable association for the many students who have spent two years in this marvellous environment and gone on to have successful military careers in key roles in the modern British army.

As this long association between the Army and Welbeck Abbey

comes to an end I should like to pay tribute to the Bendinct family. Not many of us share our homes with 240 young men and women operating at maximum energy levels and pursuing a bewildering variety of sports and military activities. Lady Anne Bendinct and Mr. and Mrs. Parente have been good landlords and very supportive of the college and on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, I thank them most warmly for that.

The move of Welbeck is only one of several changes which are in train. Where in the past students would go from here to the Royal Military College at Shrivenham, the '03 entry and their successors will go on to one of five 'civilian universities' as part of the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme. There they will enjoy a full and 'normal' student experience with their welfare and military development overseen by a small team of service officers. The effectiveness of this arrangement is well proven by the experience of the Royal Navy at Southampton University over the last 15 years or so, and now Newcastle, Northumbria, Aston and Loughborough Universities are joining the roster.

A further change is the transformation of Welbeck into a Defence Sixth Form College with students sponsored by and intended for the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, and my own cloth the MOD civil service, as well as the Army. This development recognises not only the vital importance to Defence of high quality officers and officials with excellent technical education, but also the success of Welbeck over the years in laying the foundations for that education and the career which follows.

It also reflects our increasing joint or tri-service approach in defence, not only to support and training, but also to operations. While the distinct roles, cultures and identities of the Armed Services are preserved, a growing number of key organisations within defence are manned on a tri-service basis which also reflects the character of today's operations. MOD civil servants are a significant part of this mix both in the UK and in supporting roles on deployed operations. With the inclusion of MOD civil servants in the scheme, Welbeck will now be supporting all four of the defence tribes.



Welbeck speech 7-05 - Continued

A final word to the '03 entry and graduating class. I hope that you will look back on your time at Welbeck with pleasure and satisfaction, and I hope that you are looking forward to your future at university and thereafter in the armed forces with excitement. The world in which the armed forces operates has been transformed in recent years. They are deployed much more widely than they were 15 years ago. They are busy on a much greater variety of missions. And they are increasingly working not only with the armed forces of other countries, but also with government and non-government agencies to promote security and stability around the world. It may be that combat operations dominate the headlines and they remain the most demanding professional challenge, and vitally important. However, the British Armed Forces of today contribute to international security and the stability

and security of communities in a multitude of different ways. At the same time, the way defence is managed, the way it develops, procures and supports equipment is being transformed. There are tremendous opportunities for able young men and women who are technically educated and become service officers or MOD civil servants. All being well, that is what you Welbeck students will choose to do. You will become members of a highly professional and impressive cadre. With the perspective of one who is not a member of any of the three services, but who has had the privilege of working closely with them for 35 years, I would say that the quality, integrity and spirit of the British service officers compares well with any other group of young professionals in this country. So congratulations to the graduating class, and good luck.



Prize List 2005 Speech Day

Lower Sixth – 04 Entry

Lower Sixth Business Studies Prize

REME Lower Sixth Electronics Prize

REME Lower Sixth Electronics Prize

Stephen Caulcott Memorial Prize for Engineering

Lower Sixth Government and Politics Prize

Lower Sixth Government and Politics Prize

Lower Sixth History Prize

R Signals Lower Sixth Information Technology Prize

Lower Sixth Mathematics Prize

Lower Sixth Mathematics Prize

Lower Sixth Performing Arts Prize

Lower Sixth Physical Training Prize

REME Lower Sixth Prize for Sporting Excellence

REME Lower Sixth Best Technology Project

RE Lower Sixth Technology Prize

Lower Sixth Physics Prize

Lower Sixth Geography Prize

Lower Sixth Physics Prize

Lower Sixth Chemistry Prize

Lower Sixth Biology Prize

R Signals Lower Sixth Prize for Academic Excellence

Michael Miles Memorial Prize for Mathematics

Lower Sixth Physics Prize

Lower Sixth Chemistry Prize

Lower Sixth Geography Prize

R Signals Lower Sixth Prize for Academic Excellence

Adam Durant

Ben Bockett-Pugh

Alex Ward

Tom Goodwin

Katrina Farr

Samuel Vause

Grace Wentworth

Laura Yaxley

Ben Barnett

Molly McLean

Bryn Perry

Emma Kearsey

David Locke

Mark Roberts

James Askew

Alys Davies

Sarah Bennett

Ben Howe



Prize List 2005 Speech Day

Upper Sixth – 03 Entry

Ironmonger's Prize for Upper Sixth Adventure Training

Upper Sixth Adventure Training Prize

Upper Sixth Biology Prize

Upper Sixth Business Studies Prize

RLC Upper Sixth Prize for Chemistry

Upper Sixth Critical Thinking Prize

AGC Upper Sixth Current Affairs Prize

REME Upper Sixth Electronics Prize

Stephen Caulcott Memorial Prize for Engineering

Upper Sixth Geography Prize

Upper Sixth Geography Prize

Upper Sixth History Prize

R Signals Prize for Best Information Technology Project

R Signals Upper Sixth Information Technology Prize

Upper Sixth Mathematics Prize

Upper Sixth Mathematics Prize

Upper Sixth Further Mathematics Prize

Upper Sixth Performing Arts Prize

Upper Sixth Performing Arts Prize

Upper Sixth Physical Training Prize

REME Prize for Best Upper Sixth Technology Project

RE Upper Sixth Prize for Technology

RE Upper Sixth Prize for Technology

Wilfred Perry DHOC Prize

Wilfred Perry DHOC Prize

Upper Sixth Physics Prize

Wilfred Perry DHOC Prize

REME Prize for Upper Sixth Sporting Excellence

Cyril Unwin Head of College Prize

Upper Sixth Physics Prize

REME Upper Sixth Electronics Prize

RMCS Upper Sixth Prize for Academic Excellence

Upper Sixth Mathematics Prize

Upper Sixth Physics Prize

John Sutton Prize for Upper Sixth Government and Politics

RMCS Upper Sixth Prize for Academic Excellence

Richard Greener

David Moffat

Emily Stickland

Peter Laird

Rose Billingham

Edward Byrne

Charlie Bridge

Simon Barker

Christopher Postlethwaite

Sara Mitchell

Ben Woollan

Emily Corrigan

James Bamber

Ricky Gayfer

Alistair Thompson

Alexandra Lawrence

Richard Dixon

Alexandria Ingham

Jennifer Dowdell

Emily Ball

Matthew Woodman

Thomas Townend

Christopher Broad

Mark Bugg

Mitchell Lawson

Matthew Cryer

Liam Wilson

Richard Harriss

Emma Warren



MINERVA Education & Training

Minerva Education & Training

In May 2003, the Special Purpose Company Minerva Education and Training Ltd (Minerva) was established specifically to deliver Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College (Welbeck) under a 30-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with the MOD. Minerva, comprising Interserve, TQ Education and Training and HSBC Infrastructure, designed and constructed the new college and began delivering full facilities management and educational services in September 2005 when the college became operational.

What challenges have Minerva faced?

The PFI concept to design, build and operate projects undoubtedly provides a highly visible environment in which high standards are set and subsequently maintained by the appointment of suitably competent subcontractors.

In September 2005, Welbeck moved from a construction project to a live educational community with many and varied services to be delivered. The learning curve was steep during the transition from the old Welbeck to the new functional college, however this environment proved to cultivate an adaptable, tenacious and focused site team.

In addition to the students many Welbeck staff reside on site, needing to deliver a stimulating, demanding curriculum whilst experiencing significant personal changes resulting from moving their families to a new college in a new part of the country. Minerva recognises their success to date and fully acknowledges the leadership and support of the Principal, Tony Halliwell in motivating his staff to achieve their objectives for Welbeck through some testing times.

So what's next?

One of the many challenges facing Minerva in the short term is to

ensure that any gaps in communication, systems and process are swiftly bridged, combining reactive activity with proactive management. Further integration, building on the lessons learnt in transition, is now key to building our relationships as long-term partners. Workshops designed to remove the blockers to our team cohesion are currently being prepared, which will encourage communication, and empowerment to resolve daily issues by site level management.

During the first quarter of services commencement, the structure of the facilities management company, Interserve Defence Ltd, has been reviewed and enhanced by the appointment of a site operations manager, charged with ensuring all statutory obligations are complied with, self monitoring of service quality and timely completion of works reported to the central Helpdesk. It is a measure of commitment to the project that both strategic and tactical changes can be made when a need is identified. This new and high profile role will be mobilised in March 2006.

And for the future?

The future holds many exciting challenges and opportunities for those at Welbeck, there are plans to explore third party revenue for the college, and for it to be a centre of excellence for rugby, which Minerva look forward to supporting.

There are some perhaps lesser known activities that Minerva will be conducting, for example reviewing the life cycle refresh programs to ensure the facility is maintained to a high standard of finish and ecological planning for the estate to protect existing flora and fauna and encourage new native species to the site.

Minerva recognises all the hard work that has gone into the success of Welbeck, and looks forward to building on these successes into 2006 and beyond.

A NEW LEAF



Welbeck Abbey – Through the Ages

How many people can look back on their past and say they spent a year of their life surrounded by the might and grandeur of Welbeck Abbey? Few students can claim to have taken a PT lesson in an underground ballroom with chandeliers and paintings looking down on them, watching their pain as they begin another lap of honour. However those who can will say with pride that their years in the grounds of Welbeck Abbey were most certainly the proudest and memorable of their life.

Welbeck College has been situated at Welbeck abbey for 52 years, and in July of 2005 O3e and O4e took one look back at the beautiful stonework and flawless gardens saying a private farewell to an estate seeped in more tradition and happy memories than any could possibly put words to.

The first mention of Welbeck abbey is found in the Doomsday book dated at 1086 where it is said to of belonged to Hugh Fitzbaldric and although the history of the estate is sketchy until the 3rd Duke of Portland came to own it, there are vague references to whom it belonged to throughout time. In the twelfth century Thomas de Cuckney built an abbey on the estate and although much of the abbey was burnt down in the 1530s during King Henry V111s disillusion of the monasteries some of the outer walls remain and

many prefects have dined within its confines as that was where the Prefect's kitchen was situated.

It is unknown when exactly the buildings were rebuilt; however it is known that around the 17th century they belonged to the Duke of Newcastle, John Holles. His daughter, Lady Dorothy Cavendish was his only daughter and with her marriage to William Henry Bentick the 3rd Duke of Portland, Welbeck Abbey became the property of the Bentick family. However most who hear of the Bentick family do not associate them with Welbeck Abbey, but with politics, as William Henry Cavendish-Bentick became Prime Minister in 1807. He had four sons, all called William, the oldest – William Henry was to become the 4th Duke of Portland. He married Henrietta Scott and took the name Scott under royal licence becoming William Henry Cavendish Cavendish-Scott-Bentick dying at Welbeck Abbey in 1844.

With his death, his second eldest son inherited the Dukedom and large sums of money. The name of this son was William John Cavendish Scott Bentick but lavish as his name and parentage was, he did not lead the life one would expect, but one of tunnels and blacked out windows. The 5th Duke of Portland built extensively throughout his life, however his buildings were most certainly



Welbeck Abbey – Through the Ages - Continued



unusual, not to mention extravagant and expensive. The tunnels at Welbeck Abbey are, of course, as impressive as their reputation. The longest travelling almost four miles to Worksop station and wide enough to fit a horse and carriage down. Of course this led to a favourite activity for the students – tunnelling. As one would have guessed by now it was indeed this strange man who ordered the building of the massive underground ballroom – in fact the largest room without a supported ceiling of its time being 10 000 square feet. Not only did he build a skating rink in the garden and ensure a chicken was roasting at all times but, towards the end of his life he lived in four rooms each one painted pink with a toilet in each one – the logic for which will be hidden forever.

But what drove a man with such social class and money to such extremes? He led a normal life: tall, handsome and an excellent horseman as a cavalry officer in the Army. He had most things people of the time could only dream of. He even gave up a brief spell in politics for horseracing and hunting before travelling Europe. There are many ideas and mysteries as to why he hid himself away, one being that he was greatly disfigured. However, the one I believe is a sad tale of unrequited love: in 1842 he proposed to an opera singer, the soprano Adelaide Kemble, she refused and from this point the duke spun stories of ill health and was seen less and less.

It is the imagination of this man whom many have walked through as they continued their life as students at Welbeck. He built many hundreds of structures around the Welbeck estate, the lodge at which I have slept many nights was built as a school for the children of his workers and every morning on my way to breakfast I have gazed upon the outer walls of his great riding school, the biggest - bar one – of its time.

With neither himself nor his brothers producing offspring the title and inheritance of the 5th Duke of Portland went to a cousin and it

is from there – in 1953 – that Welbeck the 'Army's Best Kept Secret', a source of pride was founded.

With the advance in technology between the world wars, the realisation was that technical officers were needed in order to bring a new edge to the services. The people needed were simply not coming forward to fill the quota and research soon showed that the army would have to train its own technical officers. But how do you train an officer if their education basis is not high enough and their social class prevents the financial backing for advancement? Welbeck College accepts people from all backgrounds, and allows everyone with officer potential and an ambition for a technical degree a real chance to make their dreams come true.

Welbeck Abbey has the perfect reclusive setting for the training of young people to advance academically and personally. The discipline was strict, but effective, producing well presented, charming, fit officers with a distinct pride in the army. Initially with two entries a year Welbeck College was a huge success providing the army with the technical expertise that it so desperately needed. Because of the development of the A-level it became possible for only one entry per year, each split into the two houses York and Harland. Welbeck has been through many changes, the first a change from a military head to a civilian head so that academics could have a higher profile. Secondly the introduction of females to the system, one that seemed such a risk at the time and yet a decade later a third of the college consists of girls. Lastly the change that brings me here, sat typing at my own laptop, in my own room with my own shower, looking over a flood lit Astro turf.

Nothing can ever be compared to my time at Welbeck Abbey and although we have left in body, our time there has become part of history that we can all be proud to have been part in.

Sally Hannigan



Some people often use the quotation 'It's not the end, but the beginning of something new' and this is certainly the case; although 2005 saw the end of Welbeck Abbey at Worksop, it has also seen the beginning of this new era, the opening of Welbeck – The Defence Sixth Form College, purposely built to cater for every Welbexian's needs. It has taken little time to adjust. Then again, what can be expected in an environment where everything you could possibly need is at your doorstep; ready to use at a moment's notice?

Students and Staff alike are taking every opportunity to use the amenities on offer, whether it is in the form of the 25 metre, five-lane Swimming Pool that the Welbeck Swimming Squad use weekly. The several squash courts offering a top of the range, first class facility with a balcony view for onlookers to view the game and glass protection; stopping stray balls from causing injury. There are two gyms; one being a dynamic Weights Gym with plenty of varying machines; all of which are brand new, and designed to push the limits. The other is the gruelling CV room where athletes train in preparation for their BPFAs. There are acres of playing fields, including an Astro Turf; where the hockey teams train and play. The two main Rugby pitches are where the matches take place and where fellow Welbexians cheer on their team during Home games.

Not only has Welbeck seen a turn around as far as sporting facilities, the IT has also seen quite a significant improvement. All students are happy to accommodate this; as the facility is very modern. Students have been issued with laptops (Pentium 4). This comes complete with many accessories, allowing internet and intranet connection in study rooms, classrooms and the learning resource centre. The Internet Café caters for students outside the LRC for easy access for prep purposes, or for 'being on the ball'. E-learning has also been introduced, an intranet function allowing access to the Welbeck network for, mainly, prep purposes. E-learning providing a service where students can complete work tasks on their computers, which is consequently tracked by teachers to monitor progress.

The study bedrooms have single bedrooms for all upper sixth students, with College Heads having a balcony view of the campus. The Lower Sixth have shared bedrooms of up to three persons,

enabling quick friendships and easy integration. Both rooms have en-suite facilities and have ample space. Each house block has a self contained bath, allowing tired rugby players to relax properly! There are now five Houses, each containing just over 50 students each. This includes the introduction of two new houses: Trenchard (named after Lord Trenchard) and Nelson (named after Lord Nelson). All Houses contain laundry facilities in which there are ironing boards, washing machines and tumble dryers. There is also a drying room, particularly helpful after wet hill walking sessions undertaken by the Lower Sixth. On the ground floor of each house a common room area exists where students mingle and socialise in a relaxing atmosphere, free from stresses.

The student dining hall provides sufficient space for all students and two hotplates serving up food to cater for every taste. Most Upper Sixth students agree that the food has improved tremendously on last year's! Some would even say Welbexians were spoilt for choice and that the food should be less 'classy'! The main social area is the 'Quorum' adjacent to the Student Dining Hall and this is where pupils from different Houses socialize and unwind, often by watching the 'cinema' sized television screen.

The Unwin Hall is used for assemblies and other meetings; houses have 3 assemblies a week, in which prefects, team captains and other students give information about forthcoming events or to present awards, for example: 'Man of the match'. Recently the Hall was used in the House Shout performance; in which all 5 Houses competed for the Singing Award.

The Parade Square is near Welbeck's main entrance. It is used for Combined Cadet Force drills that all cadets must master during their two years at Welbeck. The various facilities used for Battle PT are two fold; including the high ropes course and the assault course. The high ropes are used to promote team work and to enable the students to become more efficient at handling dangerous situations. The Assault Course has blocks, trenches, walls of varying height (from 6ft to about 10ft); providing a major challenge to overcome.

Never do you find a bored Welbexian!

Palmer James & Sophie Bowden

COMBINED CADET FORCE



Platoon Listing

SUO Willis

A Squadron

JUO Devlin
PUO Bennett*
CUO Ker
PUO Jennings
CUO Dixon
PUO Askew
CUO Rees

B Squadron

JUO Yaxley*
PUO Cave
CUO Clare
PUO Barnard
CUO Roberts
PUO Richardson
CUO Field E*

C Squadron

JUO Campbell*
PUO Green
CUO Binks*
PUO Kearsey*
CUO Bruford
PUO Howley
CUO Barker

D Squadron

JUO Fergus
PUO Carr
CUO Field H
PUO Keogh
CUO Ashmore
PUO Farr*
CUO Blackburn

Leadership

JUO Keeling*
CUO Becher
CUO Flowers
CUO McCulloch*
CUO Gaught
CUO Ward*
CUO Perry

Support Services

JUO Milne
PUO Band Stevens
CUO Robinson C*
CUO Collins



The A.G.I Drill Display 2005

This year's drill display was one of the best Welbeck College could have hoped for on its last year at Welbeck Abbey. The drill display demonstrates a sharp, crisp discipline and a brilliant show of stationary foot drill, marching in perfect step with one another and amazing rifle drill, and this year was no different.

The team consisted of 12 members – 10 Lower 6th and 2 Upper 6th – with another member of the Upper 6th as the Drill Commander, David Moffat. The other members of the drill team were Abi Roberts (03E), David Wallis (03E), Fay Ackland (04E), Claire Howard (04E), Sam Denny (04E), Laura Yaxley (04E), Charlie Durant (04E), Heather Ball (04E), Richard Fergus (04E), Fred Punter (04E), Andrew Dixon (04E) and Malik Devlin (04E). The colours were carried by Gareth Rees, and his two half-guards were Patrick Lannin and Luke Campbell, all three of 04E.

The first task for the team to do was to learn the basics of drill, as there were members who had never done drill before attending Welbeck. These practice sessions usually took place one night a week, and the precise day had to be revised several times, due to assorted members having other obligations. The team started practicing just before the Christmas holidays, and by February, the team had decided on its movements for A.G.I Day. The practicing of the movements was intense, with the display being changed roughly every two weeks. By the Easter holidays, the team knew what was to be done, but actually doing it proved to be more difficult than it seemed.

The team had a little difficulty in practicing after the Easter holidays, as the exams were fast approaching, but with a little



patience, a few shouts from David Moffat and a hard determination, the team managed to pull together and give the display 100% effort. There were a few problems several weeks before the display, and that was that several of the team members were forced to pull out of the display (myself included). The problem then lay in finding several students to fill the gaps and to teach them the manoeuvres in just several weeks. Those students managed, though, and with all the hard work that went into the display, it is hardly surprising that the end result was absolutely astonishing.

David Roy



AGI Day 2005

The sun rose, the alarms went off. Today was the day we had all been preparing for. 03 Entry were passing out, 04 Entry were going to take part in what was for most, their first big parade. After many weeks of bullying, polishing and drilling it was time to impress. The day began with a big breakfast; we then started to get on our uniforms. Today was not only a big day for the students, but a first and last for the College. It was the first parade with Royal Navy and RAF students within the ranks of Army students. Sadly it was to be the last AGI Day to be held within the grounds of Welbeck Abbey. With this in mind, we were all out to impress. At 1000 hours we were ready to parade. The acting SUO was JUO Evitts. The inspecting officer was from the MOD Civil Service, Sir Rodger Jackling. Following the inspection, we paraded off much to the joy of 03 Entry, the last entry to pass out of the college on the Welbeck Abbey site.

Following the inspection, it was time to change out of our respective Service uniforms and into College Kit. This turned out to be the first of many uniform changes to be seen throughout the day. All of the students, teachers and guests gathered in the Great Hall for the speeches and prize giving ceremony. This was followed by a lunch in the marquee of melon, cold meats and cheesecake – all thoroughly deserved by the relieved students. It was soon time for the displays; the first being a dramatic entrance from the Royal Logistical Corp parachutists, who parachuted along side the lake to the delight of the crowd. Next there was the interesting Judo display. This aimed to show how Judo can be used within your everyday life. After much throwing of bodies, splitting of bamboo canes and rolling about, they ended to a roaring round of applause. After the Judo, the Gymnastic display began. This was a



demonstration of many techniques learnt in the Gymnastics GA. Following the gymnasts was the Assault Course display involving many people who showed how the course can be done for different ends. One of these was the transportation of a field gun over the course. Unfortunately it did not quite return as unfortunately a part was left at the end of the course. Following these displays, there was the traditional Beat and Retreat; which began with a fly over by a Tornado. With the end of the impressive Beat and Retreat, all that was left was the ball until 03 entry's time at Welbeck was finished and 04 entry to have completed year one.

Stuart Griffiths



BRNC SUMMER CAMP 2005



On 15th August 2005, five Royal Navy students from Welbeck College arrived at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) for what promised to be a week of exhausting activities.

On arrival we were split into different divisions which were to be our 'families' for the week. Each of the six divisions was named after a Trafalgar Class submarine. Each division was headed by two CCF officers who were then supported by a team of young officers, officers currently under training at BRNC.

Soon after arrival, after we had been shown to our cabins, there was a quick lesson in how to make up a bed appropriately, then we were left to unpack. The week had then begun and that evening passed away in a blur of new faces and division meetings. By the end of the first night a healthy inter-division rivalry had already begun.

The first full day began to the tune of an alarm clock ringing at 0630. Straight away each division had a different activity to do, known as a Period Zero. These were either; early breakfast (always a good day!), drill practice with Chief Petty Officer Whitehouse or fitness. After this the day would begin.

No two days were the same, many of the events being based around interdivision competitions. Each division completed training in sailing Bosun dinghies, motor whalers and Picket boats, knots and

seamanship, navigation, leadership, drill and all attended a session at the College's Bridge Trainer; a mock up of a Type 23 frigate's bridge. All through these activities the divisions were marked on their performance, presentation, ability to be organised and teamwork. The points gained went towards the final score of each division.

As well as being observed through training, there were also the interdivision events; a series of competitions designed to test every aspect of the divisions' resources. There were many competitions including a camp challenge involving all division members in a number of small task such as constructing models and Sudoku quizzes.

The week was very tiring but overall rewarding, especially being able to see the number of non-cadets which were in each division learn drill and valuable lessons about how to interact with other people. It culminated on the Saturday with a final parade after a weeks intense drill instruction from the Chief (very different to the Army drill taught at Welbeck). This parade is known as divisions and took place on the parade square at Dartmouth with an impressive backdrop of the River Dart estuary. Everyone was dressed in their best rig and the parade consisted of a march on to the music of the Sea Cadet Band, an inspection of the divisions by a senior officer and then a final march past to honour the Commanding Officer. This was most definitely the highlight of the week as it was such a brilliant experience and brought a feeling of pride.

Summer Camp finished on the evening of Sunday 21st August with the final presentation evening, including prizes for the best division (the one with the most points), and for the best cadet in each division. Every division had managed to bond as a team with a unique streak to each, showing the potential of all the cadets on the camp. Much of this was due to the excellent instruction and enthusiasm of all the officers involved especially the young officers who were able to give all and insight into life at the College.

It was a truly enlightening camp and helped all of us discover a little more about ourselves.

Emma Kearsey



Corps of Drums



After the rigours of the AGI parade and lunch with loved ones had taken place, the crowd mustered down the mall for what promised to be the highlight of the day: the Corps of Drums. Having just witnessed the fly past, we had a lot to live up to; but guided as ever by the drum major, Mark Foster, nothing could stop us. This was largely true, apart from Chris Evans who proceeded to drop a drum stick. The performance was more complicated than previous

years, and involved heavy practises from Easter onwards. But Mark, with the help of James Lee, managed to drag us kicking and screaming to rehearsals twice a week (even on Sundays) until we knew our paradiddles from our ratamacues. A steep learning curve, this was doubtlessly an enjoyable experience for all involved. Special thanks to Henry Callaghan for stepping in at the last minute.

Tom Blackburn

Snares:	Mark Foster	Tenors:	Laura Cotton
	James Lee		Cassie Graham
	James Bamber		
	Henry Callaghan	Bass:	Tom Blackburn
	Jake Rawson		
	Chris Evans	Cymbals:	Rob Jones
	Sam Milne		
	Rob Becher		
	James Flynn		

**Preparing students for the future**

2004, leading up to the inevitable transition of the College to its new purpose built location at Woodhouse in Loughborough, was always going to be a tough CCF year. With my additional SMT responsibilities as the Client Representative for Welbeck College in dealing with the Minerva Consortium, my time with the CCF was limited during the early part of the academic year as I dealt with the College's difficult transition from Workso to Woodhouse, and the set up of the new Defence Sixth Form College. However, there was still a requirement for a firm and positive training programme to be developed prior to the new 2004E arriving and the continual development of 2003E. To ensure that the correct training was delivered to support the Snowdonia and Summer Camps respectively, and also to prepare the outgoing entry for the next stage of their new Service careers (see below), the Military Staff, supporting CCF staff and those teachers who give up their personal time to support the College CCF; were given clear guidance and objectives. Additionally, this would be the first year that Royal Naval and Royal Air Force students would be attending the College and it was important to show that the three Services could all conduct cohesive training that meets the requirements laid down by the Defence Academy, regardless of the chosen Service of individuals.

What are these requirements? Well, the Defence Technical Officer Engineering Entry Scheme (DTEES) is what it says – an engineering scheme; and one that Welbeck College plays a fundamental part in its six year cycle of life. The first two years at Welbeck College, followed by three years (or possibly four for some) at a University sponsored by the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS) and then culminating in up to one year's training at a Services Officer Training Academy. Therefore, it is important that training is carefully structured to support the DTEES. This means the CCF staff have a firm understanding of the training requirements, the objectives therein, and the commitment to make a programme both fun and productive. If one was to follow the training programme carefully, and consider the requirements of the DTEES to develop Welbexians into confident and robust potential officers, it is testimony to the CCF Team, and indeed those within the CCF Welbexian ranks, who have once again pulled together to successfully deliver an exciting and demanding programme. In particular, a training programme that, in all areas, has tested and stretched the Welbeck CCF under difficult, and often arduous conditions (see Snowdonia report below) to both prepare them for life in a DTUS University and provide the Senior Management, House Staff, Academic and Military teams with clear and unequivocal evidence as to the leadership progress made by Welbexians during their two year Welbeck stage of the DTEES.

Farewell to the old team.

Without doubt, the CCF team at Welbeck Abbey have much to be proud of in their delivery of constructive training. Maintaining the vision, and always being able to see the broader picture, has enabled the training programmes to be both constructive and fun. It is not easy to deliver a military programme in an establishment whose remit is to develop the personal and leadership qualities of Welbexians whilst still trying to maintain a basic military flavour, and the following comments received in a letter to the OC CCF from the Commandant of the College of Management and Technology (CMT) at the Defence Academy (who personally found the time to visit Summer Camp along with several of his key senior officers who control and administer the DTEES) vindicates this vision, and applauds the efforts made by all staff for the efforts and ingenuity

placed into the preparation, planning and execution of Summer Camp:

"I enjoyed the evening visiting the command task area, which very much impressed me; you and your team have obviously put a lot of thought and time into ensuring they are stimulating both mentally and physically and definitely not run of the mill. I have always held great store in the power of command tasks to test the ability of participants and as a fellow engineer can understand the enjoyment you and your team must get out of seeing them tackled and, in most cases, completed.

As always, I left with a definite glow from the students' enthusiasm and cheerfulness, to maintain their attention for the week requires ingenuity and initiative, especially with so many students. I am very pleased to see that you have got the balance right and will, I'm sure, get the most from the students."

The Commandant then went on to say how excited the entry was about the military phase of the exercise that was due to commence shortly (see below).

To hear comments like this totally justifies the time, energy, ingenuity and commitment of the CCF staff, particularly those who could still find the time to support the Summer Camp despite their other commitments, and can only bode well for the future. Those who attended are in no doubt as to the outstanding success of the camp, which was once again hailed by the Commandant of the Garelochhead Training Camp as the best prepared and most energetically delivered exercise of all units that visit his training region.

As I have chosen to leave the Services after thirty four years of service, eight of them with Welbeck College, I would like to pass on my greatest regards to those CCF Officers and teachers who have continually supported me in my drive to deliver constructive and imaginative training. Thank you all for your efforts, but thank you all even more for your dedication in supporting the Welbexians in the first, and most important years, of their Service lives.

Medieval Journey leads to an exciting and memorable challenge.

With the Upper Sixth being fortunate to have the bonus of a Chinook ride to their Field Day the 2004E were eagerly participating in the challenging Medieval Journey. Once again, ye olde wizards, witches, demons and gargoyles had conspired against a new breed of lower sixth students by creating a challenge that would stretch them both mentally and physically. Now, considering that the 2004E, just like their comrades in 2003E, are all intending to become engineers, it was with great intrigue that some of the medieval structures that were designed and built could clearly not be classed in the category of 'catapults'. Some were catapults of a fashion, but others were special constructions made out of logs, barrels and poles that were designed to fall apart and, in some cases, fire backwards!! These were clearly the winners in the design competition phase as the OC decided that he would offer more 'Groats' (medieval style points) for side splitting, hysterical failure as opposed to engineering prowess!! That said, one particular group almost won the competition first hand as their firing mechanism consisted of just about the whole team pulling the firing arm upwards by sheer brute force. This is where the 'ignorance' part should have been added to the brute force bit and, as the tension of their catapult released, their weapon of 'least destruction' collapsed and they all nearly ended up in the lake as they flew backwards in a heap. Had they actually fallen into the lake, then they would have been crowned 'worst engineers ever';



and a delight for all to laugh at.

The catapult phase was followed by the infamous carting phase. Once again mechanical considerations were at the forefront of these medieval times of construction and some 'mean, lean and go faster style' carts were constructed. However, full credit must be given to the OC who decided this year to have a test showing of the carts prior to the actual race as this proved to be hilarious. Hardly a cart was displayed that didn't either lose a wheel, fail to steer without forty people pulling on one side only or keep the effigies seated comfortably for the forthcoming ride. At this stage it is worth mentioning some of the effigies – designed solely from indigenous materials. They were both frightening and fragile (as they race proved later) but also provided clear evidence that plastic was a medieval era invention as somehow the majority of effigies seemed to have some plastic content! The race was as exciting as ever with more 'groats' being lost as the very valuable product (commonly known today as water) was spilled either almost immediately the race started or during the many and varied obstacles that the carts had to pass through, over or around. Well done to all who participated, but please spare a thought for the OC and his team who ran alongside all six carts!!

Following a night march to set the appetites the 'groat collectors' all bedded down for the night to await the following 'morns activities. As the mist subsided there was evidence that the demons had been up to their old tricks again and all teams had to endure a series of entertaining and down right hilarious tasks that had everyone either totally soaked or splitting their sides in laughter. With mystic puzzles, egg swinging problems, the exceptionally complicated (but clearly funny) 'Ring of the Lords' and the soakingly good 'pendulum valley', everyone one emerged at the end of their task phase with an inordinate amount of 'groats' and items collected along the way.

The Medieval finale was even more entertaining as each group was challenged to perform a short play that told the story of how the beautiful sleeping maiden was brought back to life by the Knights of Old. This was exceptionally entertaining with the CCF staff getting their fair share of ribbing and the discovery that not only had plastic been invented during medieval times but 'rap' was also a common way of communicating! A good time was had by all, well done 2004E for making the exercise such fun with your enthusiasm and vigour.

Sir, is it true that the weather is always this bad in Snowdonia?

The OC quite often includes the phrase 'there are four seasons in one hour in Snowdonia' and these words definitely came true during Exercise Snowdonia Stretch 2004. With more students than ever before in a Lower Sixth entry the demand for qualified and experienced instructors was a very difficult challenge. As a result the OC CCF decided to make a change to the exercise by splitting the hill walking phase and command task phase over two separate days with each set of 7 groups hopefully completing each element successfully. However, the weather on the first day was not particularly inviting and took its toll on the first set of groups in the mountains. Remember, hill walking is not just about 'bashing over the hills' but is a great medium to place participants into a demanding personal and group situations. The true personality of everyone is always clearly evident when they are either cold, wet, hungry and tired – or indeed all of them. This stretches individuals and gets either the best from them, or in some cases, not the best. Each individual is inevitably different but it is always pleasing to see the team work and comradeship that quickly develops when the going gets tough. Mr Dufton was leading the first group up the highest of the day's mountains when extremely bad weather set in resulting in him making a collective decision on behalf of the

Contingent that the routes should be re-routed for safety. This was very professionally done by all hill walking instructors, some who did not meet Mr Dufton on his return down the mountain, but made contingency plans of their own to look after their groups accordingly. During this difficult phase the 'four seasons in one hour' statement came to the fore and 2004E had to cope with some very extreme conditions. It was exceptionally pleasing to see the spirits remaining high even though everyone was thoroughly soaked through.

The command task phase was also suffering with the poor weather conditions as the small stream that formed the basis of several command tasks quickly became swollen and the OC had to make alternative command tasks until the river receded to a safer level. It was during one command task that the OC was commanding when one student, standing in the pouring rain and trying to support his group during their command task, asked the OC 'Sir, is it true that the weather is always this bad in Snowdonia?' Thinking for a second, and admiring the fact that the student looked like a drowned rat due to poor personal organisation with his clothing, the OC replied... 'What do you mean... this is a good day!' leaving the said student pondering on the thought that surely it couldn't get worse than this. All was not lost though, contingency plans were already well prepared and hot drinks and a nice warm barn, complete with a small fire, was arranged to allow the students some respite from the weather conditions.

There was much to learn from the first two days and despite some personal short lived misery in the cold and the wet, it was pleasing to see that by the time Summer Camp had come and gone, all students had gained a clear understanding of the importance of personal preparation for outdoor activities and the need to focus upon personal discipline with regards to their kit.



On the activity day the Orienteering phase was very successfully commanded by Mr Dufton whilst Mr Hirst, Capt Clarke and the OC looked after the 'blind mans' run where a mobile construction was built by two teams who had to navigate a team of 'horses' (students) as they pulled their devices around a difficult and ever winding obstacle

course. This command task called for some good communication skills and it was exceptionally entertaining to see 'blind folded horses' that can't tell the difference between their left and right at odds with each other as both groups often clashed at the same obstacle, sometimes even from the opposite directions!! The prize at the end of this very funny and extremely dirty task in the rain soaked fields was an experience to behold as each group had to get their whole team onto a specially designed floating platform... that doesn't... float that is! Screams could be heard from afar as each individual was invited to stand on the platform without it sinking, only to find it doing just that as their team mate's counter balanced each other. A cold, but hilarious time was had by all and



much credit goes to all 2004E participants who made the best of this very funny task despite the cold conditions.



Now if you just pass me that...

Summer Camp

The Leadership Conundrum....

The objective of your mission is to build a 'cranium' device that is capable of remote operation to pick up a Compact Disc that contains valuable information. A piece of cake... where are the parts? How long do we have? Have we got any tools? Sir, does it always rain like this in Scotland?

The answers to all these questions were quite obvious... the parts are here, there and everywhere – you've just got to find them. How long do we have? – well, coupled with the fact that some of the items are a particular distance away, hidden and only lead to other parts in another locations – not long when you need to feed yourself and be at each command task earlier enough to earn them! Tools, yes there are plenty of them – here's Mr Clarke's mobile workshop but you can only use it within a specific time and I'm only going to let you see the plans once, and for a short time at that. And, yes it does always rain like this in Scotland, but look on the bright side, at least it keeps the midge's down!

A series of tough command tasks loomed for all and a lot of guile and cunning was called for as teams found themselves with a very difficult bridge to cross that, at first seemed to be quite simple, until that is the damn stuff needed to achieve it were below the bridge, and then they couldn't touch anything! Oh, and it's also not a good idea to drop any of the bits into the river as they just seem to disappear quickly and you can't complete the task without them. In fact being left dangling on the end of a rope when nobody above can see you is also quite entertaining (ask some of your mates!). What a task, it just seemed to get more and more complicated and you know what we Welbexians are like, we like to complicate things anyway, so it was no surprise to find this a task that was only eventually completed following many failed attempts.

Deep in the woods was another very simple looking task that just needed somebody to keep hold of one end of the rope while the rest traversed along the other sections. 'Wait a minute....don't let go of'..... thud! 'Oh dear she's fallen off!' 'Right team, pay more attention, everyone must keep the rope taught at all'.....thud, thud and more thuds! 'Who did that?, couldn't you see that we were all holding that rope?, why did you let go of the other one?, now we've all fallen off'. 'Sir, will you please stop laughing, 'Mini Me' is trying his best to stop himself doing full circles on the ropes... oh dear, now he's fallen off'... along with all the others on their sections of the course it had to be said. This task proved to be a very entertaining challenge that called for some very good communication skills. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the task and a

good laugh was had by all with only one or two teams actually getting to the end of the course.

After several days of collecting parts, designing electrical engines from leggo and making all sorts of devises that were supposed to be supportive of the 'Craniums' operation the final testing period arrived.

'Hold on a minute Sir, I just need to rebuild my engine that has momentarily disintegrated as I tried to lift a weight that it was clearly not designed to lift'.

'Actually Sir, if you notice the angle that our Cranium has approached its objective, you'll notice that the local earthquake has moved the rails too far to the left'.

'I'm sorry Sir; did you actually say that it was supposed to operate remotely? – I don't think you did, honestly Sir!'

were just some of the comments that came out during the hilarious testing phase. However, the whole leadership challenge proved to be a very rewarding one as all participants enjoyed the freedom of operating on their own within a local region that from a safety point of view did not require groups to be accompanied by a qualified adult. The engineering skills that went into supporting the 'Cranium' builds was first rate and some excellent constructions were built, some even had spoilers and headlights! Well done to all teams, in particular to those who achieved the mission but also to those who failed.....but made us all laugh.

Hill Walking Phase.

As always, the hill walking phase carries a mixture of pleasure alongside an apprehension of physical difficulty. As mentioned earlier in this article hill walking is not just about 'trudging up and down mountains' but clearly focuses upon personal achievement and the very region of Scotland, with its peaks and ridges, is the perfect location for this element of the Summer Camp. Students are clearly tested in both navigational and physical terms but it must not be forgotten that some superb skills and experiences are gained along the way. Many students have never been into this type of region before (apart from their short experiences in Snowdonia) and it is always pleasing to hear the comments from students who achieve a personal goal and find the peak in adverse weather or, in better weather, experience the isolation of the mountains for the first time. Camping in isolated camp sites is also an experience that tests all participants. Notwithstanding that a safety team visited the camps each evening and, when necessary, replenished water and rations, camping in isolated areas is still a difficult thing to do, especially when your kit is wet and the weather conditions are poor.

Some hill walking groups were fortunate enough to experience having the Defence Academy visitors in their groups for a short time and much praise was given by all visitors to the enthusiasm and dedication of all students as they planned and traversed their chosen routes.

The Military Phase.

The ever popular military phase was very well received by all students and the military training day organised prior to the start of the field deployment was both great fun and interesting. The SMI delivered, with the help of Mr Hirst as a Driver, a very good vehicle check point package that clearly prepared the students for the rigours of stopping and searching vehicles during the field deployment. Lt Cdr Walsh, Capt Clarke and the OC delivered a superb Close Quarter Battle simulation which traversed through both open and covered ground which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. These two activities were then complimented by a 'search and recognition' module that helped prepare all for the impending 'night operations' on the military field deployment.



With several lower sixth students taking on the personas of local activists and infiltrating the populace a period of tension was experienced as the military Field Base Area was guarded against attack or disruption whilst overnight observation exercises were mounted to retrieve intelligence for the Intelligence Cell to try and determine what was going on in the area. Following occupation of the Base Camp Area some difficulties were experienced when a handful of local protestors demanded to enter the Base Camp to speak with the authorities. It is fair to say that some found this a very difficult thing to deal with and much was learned by all about handling very difficult situations with a firm but not too hard approach. After much shouting and demanding, the protestors eventually left and this set the scene for higher vigilance in guarding the Base Camp. Throughout the next few evenings, two large observation posts were established and much intelligence was gleaned. This intelligence was passed into the Intelligence Cell and from the information collected several military operations were activated, leading to Vehicle Check Points capturing known or wanted activists and arrests being made following 'tip offs' from the local population. Eventually, the local activists suffered from some very clever intelligence gathering that led to their numbers diminishing and them fleeing a now unsafe and know area to another 'safe house' to plan further disruptions. This led to the Base Camp also moving to a better position to monitor activities and, following some more good intelligence gathering, it was determined that the local activists, and in particular their leader, should be captured. A late evening/early morning operation carried out by each Platoon eventually led to the entire local activists being neutralised and the leader being captured by some observant Platoons.



An exciting and well organised field operation that all participants, including the supporting staff, thoroughly enjoyed.

The Future at Woodhouse.

There are many challenges to meet at the new Defence Sixth Form College in Woodhouse. It is pleasing to report that the Defence Academy were very supportive of the OC's request to arrange for the new Vice Principal (Military), Major K Brown, to visit the Summer Camp. It was an ideal opportunity for Major Brown to see the College CCF in action and also to see the logistical efforts required to support active CCF Operations. With the addition of up to 35% of new teaching staff starting in the new College, many of them with CCF experience, the future of the Defence Sixth Form College CCF should only go from strength to strength.



Comenius - Student's Perspective

Comenius 2005 started at 11:00 on the morning of Tuesday the 22nd of February in what was surprisingly three inches of snow. This, we all felt, was a good omen for our trip to Austria, especially one that included a weeks skiing. We arrived in Manchester Airport in time for a fish and chip lunch and departed for Austria after a two hour delay at the airport. On landing in Vienna we were greeted by a delegation of Austrian students, some of their military officers and lots of snow. From the airport we were taken by coach to the Austrian school in Weiner Neustadt. The trip, which we had spent weeks preparing for had begun!

The first five days were spent using the Austrian College as a base. The first day was busy: we were shown round the school, joined in English lessons, fired the Austrian Steyr Aug (Army Assault) rifle and gave a presentation to the Austrians on our home towns. The afternoon spent on the range was particularly interesting as most of us had never done any live firing before, or in fact fired a gun at all. The afternoon culminated in a shooting competition and about fifteen of the Austrian students joined in. From the ranks of the Welbexians came both the worst and the best shots. Over the next few days we were kept active; this included a uniform inspection by the Cornel in charge of the school, followed by a tour of the "Therasian Milak Akademie", which is the Austrian equivalent of RMA Sandhurst; a sight-seeing/shopping trip to both Vienna and Weiner Neustadt; a short trip to the barracks of the Austrian military guard where we were given an overview of life in the Austrian Army; and most memorably, the Cornel took us on a hike through the local hunting grounds, where he pointed out how to

recognise animal tracks in the snow, joined us in a round of schnapps and helped us build a truly enormous snowman.

The day spent in Hungary with the school in Budapest was probably one of the most enjoyable of the trip, despite an early morning start. The Hungarians were very friendly, we had a hilarious day with them which culminated in an impromptu concert/drill display/singing competition, which even Major Turner and Ma'am Remfry joined in with.

The second half of the visit consisted of a skiing trip to the Tirol region of Austria. We stayed with some of the Austrian students in a very comfortable ski lodge and ate some delicious food. The majority of us had never skied before however, two of us braved the advanced group and just about managed to stay in one piece. The snow conditions were fabulous and by the end of the five days we had all fallen in love with both the Austrian Alps and skiing, despite a few setbacks including Chris Evans spending a few days in hospital.

All in all, the whole trip was a very enjoyable experience: we got on well as a group and also with our hosts, we had a good laugh and we also learnt some important lessons in diplomatic relations. Our thanks goes to our Austrian and Hungarian hosts who made a real effort to make us welcome and to keep us amused, and also to Major Turner, Ma'am Remfry, Mr Stevenson and Mr Halliwell who accompanied us and worked hard to make the trip happen. I also feel that Mr Hirst deserves a mention for although he was unable to come to Austria with us, he still put in a lot of time to help this Comenius trip happen.

Grace Wentworth



The Annual COMENIUS Exchange Programme

In February 2004 Major Turner took 10 students across to Austria and Hungary to participate in educational, military and adventurous training activities with the now firmly established exchange programme with the Austrian and Hungarian School Battalions.

Lessons and military training with the Austrians

The team, consisting of four boys and six girls from across the 04 Entry included students from both the Army and Royal Air Force Service elements of the College. On arrival in Weiner Neustadt the team quickly settled into the Austrian School routine by being introduced to some English lessons being taught to the Austrian students. This took the form of many group discussions and listening to the Austrian students participating in tape recorded English sessions. Thereafter, Welbeck students were treated to some military training activities where the Austrian assault rifle was demonstrated. As the afternoons activities would be based on the military firing range it was very important to attend the early morning session as safety when using any weapons is paramount. Following a successful training session that also include stripping and re-assembling procedures, blockages and loading and aiming practices our students were ready for a good session on the Austrian Electronic Firing Range. The Austrian firing facilities are first rate as their School Battalion is closely located to their Officers Military Academy and superb military facilities are in abundance. A good afternoons firing took place with Sophie Bowden ending up as the best shot overall and Sally Hannigan and Fred Kiddie finishing fifth and sixth respectively. Not bad for a first time session with a weapon that the Austrians use on a regular basis! Shame about Josh Sinnett though, as he finished up as the second worst shot, with our very own Grace Wentworth propping up the pile as the overall worst shot of the day. Well done Grace, it was very good of you to offer yourself as a bad shot so as not to embarrass the Austrians!



My home town

In the evening, a presentation was conducted by the Welbeck team to two year groups (approximately 120 students) where each Welbexian did a presentation about their home town and its famous landmarks, people and nearest military connections. This proved to be a very popular event which was also attended by the School Director, Herr Swanzer and the School's Military Commandant, Col Rossenblattl.

The Austrian Military Academy and Ceremonial Guard

The following day included a very interesting presentation and tour of the Austrian Military Officers Training Academy, the Austrian equivalent of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The presentation was conducted by the present Chief Of Staff at the

Academy a Col Pauchenwine who speaks very good English and had a lot of tales to tell of the Academy's history and its successes during the years. The tour was also conducted by the Chief Of Staff who proved to be an excellent guide taking the students around the inside of the Academy buildings, including the only Church (the Academy's Chapel) in Austria that is located above ground as it takes up the floor space immediately above a tunnel entrance into the Academy courtyard. Once again the Welbeck team did themselves proud by formally presenting themselves to the Chief of Staff in the courtyard, with the elected IC, Charlotte Durant taking the lead with the parade formalities.



After the Academy visit a further treat was awaiting as the Chief of Staff also accompanied the team to Vienna to visit the barracks that house the Austrian Ceremonial Guard. In previous years the visiting Welbeck team has been fortunate enough to see the Ceremonial Guard practicing but this year the Guard was deployed on Ceremonial duties elsewhere in Austria. However, a tour of the new museum at the Barracks was a real treat as Welbeck were the first official overseas visitors to have seen the newly constructed museum that charts the whole history of the Austrian Ceremonial Guard. Lunch was provided at the Barracks before the team were then taken into central Vienna and taken for a cultural tour of the famous 'windy' city by fellow students from the School Battalion. This was also a great opportunity for the team to buy some gifts for family and friends and to see the many traditional 'Mozart' related activities that adorn the streets of Vienna.

Crossing the Hungarian Border

On the third day an early start was necessary as the team went, by rail, to visit the Hungarian partnership school. This was a particularly interesting day and started with an early morning breakfast and then an opportunity for each Welbexian to do a presentation to the Hungarian students about Welbeck College. Following many questions from the Hungarian students Major Turner then delivered a presentation regarding the College's impending move from Worksoy to the new Defence Sixth Form College at Woodhouse. Interestingly, during the question time following Major Turner's presentation there were almost as many questions about the new College from Welbexians as there were from the Hungarians!

After lunch with the Hungarian students in their main dining hall, the team were taken to a local military engineering factory that makes military armoured vehicles for the Hungarian Armed Forces and other countries Armed Forces. This was a very interesting afternoon which culminated in a guided tour around the factory production line where several vehicles were in various stages of construction. Even better, several Welbeck students were given the opportunity to test drive the vehicles around the factory testing



The Annual COMENIUS Exchange Programme (continued)

areas. Thankfully there were no accidents, but some of the Hungarian test drivers had to intervene several times when steering and braking proved to be difficult for some!

The afternoon was then completed by a cultural tour of Gyor where Hungarian students took the team around their local town and showed them the local places of interest and the shopping areas.

Finally, in the early evening when the team were waiting for an hour or so until the coach arrived to take everyone back to the railway station, the Hungarians and Welbexians started to have a small 'competition' between each other on the stage in the main dining hall. This proved to be very entertaining with each Welbexian visiting the piano to play a short piece, sometimes accompanied by a song from the team. The Hungarians would have none of this and also played their part. This quickly turned into a marching competition as Welbeck students paraded, once again under the command of Charlotte Durant, to show off some good English military marching skills. The Hungarians duly followed and then Welbeck proceeded to march in Hungarian style whilst the Hungarians marched in English style. I'm not so sure who was the best but it was exceptionally entertaining and many new friends were made by the end of what turned out to be a superb visit to Gyor and the Hungarian Military School Battalion.

On returning to Weiner Neustadt there was an opportunity for a meal out with the Austrian students and everyone went out for a

pleasant evening. On the Saturday morning the Austrian students hosted the College team on a tour of Weiner Neustadt and this proved to be a very popular event and much shopping was done prior to the deployment to the Alpine Skiing Course.

Skiing in Felbertal, Lower Austria

On Sunday a long five hour journey saw the team arrive at the Military Skiing Lodge at Felbertal in Lower Austria. This is a superb facility and the weather was excellent with lots of snow. The Welbeck team was split into three groups with the non skiers forming a beginners group one or two starting with the intermediate group and Sally Hannigan and Grace Wentworth going with the 'mad Austrian' advanced group. It is not intended to put too much detail into this element of the report regarding the skiing as individual articles are published regarding various experiences. However, it is fair to say that the Welbeck visiting team fared very well with some absolute beginners proceeding toward some fine skiing and Sally and Grace being scared out of their wits by the 'mad' Austrian group!

In fact, at one stage during the week Major Turner bumped into the team when skiing with the Principal only to hear Sally mumble 'Sir, they're mad and are trying to kill us'. A quick look at Grace, followed by a nod from her, seemed to confirm this - but by all accounts they fared very well with the go faster team and did the visiting team proud.



Exercise Snowdonia Stretch 2004- Student's Perspective

The much talked about and awaited Exercise Snowdonia Stretch began on Tuesday evening as an excited O4E boarded a fleet of coaches and minibuses heading for Capel Curig in North Wales. Immediately we realised that it wasn't going to be as easy as expected when it began to rain before we even left the college grounds. The atmosphere on the buses was somewhat dampened as we were all slightly unsure as to what awaited us.

The first night consisted of a meeting for the ICs and 2ICs along with our Austrian and Hungarian visitors. Whether or not they understood our attempts to communicate with them is still unknown.

On Wednesday morning the real action began as groups of prepared Welbexians huddled around their trusty Ordnance Survey maps to plan their route for the day.

After a short 6km walk along the most uncrossable terrain (to where we would spend the night) we were faced with the task of erecting about 40 tents on somewhat of an uneven campground.

The rest of the day was taken up completing command tasks on which our leadership, team play and problem solving skills were assessed. Groups who had completed the walking phase of the exercise first, worried us as their tales of horizontal rain and vertical slopes made day two an ominous prospect!

Most of Wednesday evening was spent cooking our somewhat controversial military ration packs whilst sitting around fires reminiscing of the day's events. Our campground had turned into more of a mud bath as the constant rain had created streams outside of all our tents.

Early Thursday morning the campsite was woken as many angry O4E students rose to find themselves inches deep in water as their tents had flooded. To accompany this they were faced with the prospect of a gruelling day's walking. The routes from the previous day had to be changed due to the bad weather and so we planned lowland walk visiting some large waterfalls along the way.



The tired groups of O4E arrived back into camp mid-evening looking rather wet and tired. However an evening of 'Full Metal Jacket' in the NAAFI soon reversed the atmosphere as we looked forward to another day out in the hills.

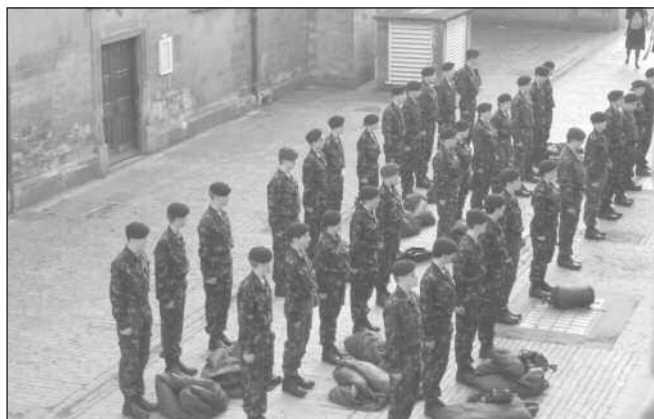
Friday consisted of 2 parts: a podding exercise and a very difficult orienteering course. The podding involved getting all members of the team onto a raft in freezing cold water. However under our weight the raft sunk, so either way we got very wet and cold. From here we had to walk to an orienteering course on some moorland. It was much more tricky than expected as the fog had come down reducing visibility dramatically. Some surprise bacon buns and milkshakes soon warmed everybody up as we waited for transport back to camp where the clean up programme would begin.

After these 4 days of hard work everybody looked forward to returning back to college and then the Easter Holidays.

Malik Devlin



From the SUO



A start to another Academic year brought new students and services to a newly Built Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College. Within weeks the quad service college and Combined Cadet Force soon regained the Welbeck traditions and started to feel like home.

Now the purpose built, state of the art college has made the CCF more efficient and dynamic; with its own CCF training room, armoury and stores in its own section of the college the CCF was able to function right from the start. Also new in September was

the Officer in Command, Major Brown to the CCF with the departure of Major Turner in September.

The new OSE students soon settled into the CCF routines, and within the first few weeks the new students were taught by the Upper 6th how to prepare and iron kit, basic foot drill and background Military Knowledge. This was essential for them as they were preparing for the Passing In parade; this is an annual CCF event where by the Lower 6th have their first parade, and are assessed as a Platoon on their Uniform, Drill and Military Knowledge. Those that pass are awarded their berets and are then enrolled into the Welbeck CCF.

The Passing In parade was the final parade for Training Officer Lieutenant Simon Kierstan Royal Navy. The Departure of one Training Officer brought in new military member of staff Flight Lieutenant Eleanor Taylor Royal Air Force.

Although the CCF has been slow starting, things are on the up as 14 CTT, the Army Cadet Training Team, have been enrolled into redeveloping the Training and Exercises. This we make a vast improvement and enable a structured format to the Combined Cadet Force.

SUO- Mark Willis



Operation Welbeck Wanderer

11.11.05. The day starts early as usual in Welbeck DSFC, students roll out of bed rubbing their eyes and welcoming a new day. Except today, unlike every other, they are doing something different, new and exciting for everyone, it is time for Exercise - two days worth of learning basic skills needed in the armed forces.

For most, the main preparation for the exercise was, typically, the night before we left! Ration packs or "rat packs" as they are known were issued a few days beforehand, as was the kit needed, although some got their kit just the day before they left!

0810 on a chilly Friday morning, the lower sixth gathered in the sports hall to have their kit checked and ponchos issued. The checking of names echoed through the cavernous building, while students, nervous that something may have been forgotten but at the same time excited about the challenges ahead, chattered in small clusters. A jovial mood was adopted inside the buses and as students are not under the ever-watchful eye of the officers, many animated conversations start. Some students, realizing the urgent need for sleep dozed off — to the great amusement of their peers!

Arriving at approximately 1230, after solemnly observing the two minutes silence, the students tumbled off the bus smiling and laughing. We were immediately briefed by Major Browne, who gave us information on the safety aspects of the overall exercise. After a short wait we, as platoons, were shown our pitching sections for our bashas, Charles Ashington-Pickett, our very capable upper sixth PL (Platoon Leader), gave subtle hints on improving our shelters, not telling us the solution but rather showing us a route towards that solution. A comment from Charles: "It was a good start to the CCF year for the lower sixth with the chance for them to get prepared for Snowdonia and Summer Camp, by getting their personal admin up to scratch and familiarizing themselves with rations, cooking, holding together as a platoon or group and using the equipment properly without losing too much of it!"

After boiling a meal I was not altogether looking forward to — but



that proved rather appetizing — 11 platoon moved out for some patrolling practice. Using the hand signals previously taught to us, James Eadie was designated scout and led the now named "Rambo Platoon". As we navigated our way around the points set for that night's exercise we noticed other platoons. A suggestion from myself set us dashing into the woods and arming ourselves with rifles and a various assortment of other weaponry — shaped sticks, that is. We began to stalk our unwitting prey. As we closed in, like a silent and deadly snake hunting its defenseless victim, the tension was high. Leaping up and bellowing with all our might we charged! After feasting upon the surprised platoon unlucky enough to receive our wrath we laughed and ran; all are merry as we continue patrolling.

As we arrived back at base camp, we set our defenses around "Rambo Platoon", as well as adding the finishing touches to our bashas. We socialize with other platoons, although when a couple of 12 platoon attempted to break through our defenses we were, as expected, quite upset. After capturing one and tying him up we held him for a while as he reflected on his wrong doing, then let him go telling him to warn other platoons of the horrors that awaited if they tried anything!



Operation Welbeck Wanderer (continued)

Charles appeared back and we were all eager to get out on the beat, donning our waterproofs as it is drizzling. We get out to the road, the beginning of the exercise. We have six checkpoints, at each we are to wait for twenty minutes, identifying anyone seen and doing various tasks. One checkpoint involved eavesdropping on a pair of RAHF (Rutlanders Against Harrier Faction), the conversation involved "Russian feathers, which are soft and warm and fluffy. Russian feathers damage Harriers engine.", "Russian bricks are not like feathers, they are hard and cold we use bricks too", "We like Greenpeace", "No we are Greenpeace" all said in a strange and mildly disturbing attempt at a Russian accent. At around 2130 we are finished and return to crawl into our low slung bashas. Strangely, I found that it was the best night's sleep I'd had in quite a while! Even considering the fact that my head protruded out the end, much to the amusement of my sleeping companion!

At 0700 we are woken by the sounds of mess tins noisily clanging together. Crawling out of bed we were quick to grab our hexamine burners and get breakfast on, using the water first to boil our food then for a superb mug of hot chocolate! We packed away quickly and efficiently, storing everything in our bergens.

After packing our equipment we gather for a short exercise on "camouflage and concealment", after a quick repeat on

application, cam cream is smudged onto our faces. The "buddy-buddy" system proves to work efficiently during these circumstances and we enjoyed warping our friend's faces greatly! The exercise would have one platoon on the road spread out in a line – who had to remain stationary and spot the others - and then the other platoon hiding in the foliage near the edge of the road. 11 platoon were first in and I found a simple, but effective, hiding place – behind a very big tree! Sadly though, nearing the end of the exercise the outline of my utility pouch was spotted by a keen eyed cadet and I was caught. The exercise was repeated with the other platoon hiding and ourselves trying to find them.

Camouflage and concealment over, we moved back to the minibus to wait for the coaches, we had half an hour's wait so another mug of hot chocolate was prepared and shared within a small group! As the buses arrived, we were tired but pleased with the outcome of the exercise, also looking forward to a hot shower!

All in all Operation Welbeck Wanderer was an exemplary start to learning basic field craft, and enjoying it too. I think everyone had a great time and enjoyed the experience, while gaining knowledge on a lot of new things.

Dan Chant



Loughborough Remembrance Sunday

At 8.35 on a frosty Sunday morning; Army number 2s and Navy and RAF number 1s could be seen piling into a coach. The marchers were going into Loughborough to commemorate the victims from WWI and WWII, and the victims from more recent wars, including the Iraq conflict.

The coach came to a halt outside the TA Centre and the Welbexians emerged. The squad went straight to their marker; which was by the side of the TA Centre, in the middle of TA recruits. Several minutes later the rhythmic sounds of stamping feet emanated as the Welbeck squad and the TA recruits marched off. The route was onto the nearby road and into central Loughborough via several main roads and into a small concrete car park. The park contained War veterans wearing medals and some carrying traditional swords.

After a brief rest, the marching was continued through several roads into the Memorial Park. On the sidelines large crowds of parents and members of the public were viewing the spectacle; most of whom had arrived to pay their respects at the park. More veterans wearing countless medals were waiting at the park as the

TA Recruits and the Welbeck marchers approached. Flags were waved and a small crowd gathered by the perimeter of the park.

A speech was read out by one veteran thanking the marchers for attending; ending with the inspiring sight of thousands of poppies flying down from the tower and landing on the ground. This signifies the British soldiers who have died whilst on active service. Several prayers were read out; the general theme being the want for peace and the condemnation of violence in the world. 'Praising Jesus', 'Valiant Warrior' and 'God Save the Queen' were all sung out in succession, and helped to warm the singers as it was bitterly cold.

After all songs had been sung, the squadrons marched off one by one; the Welbexian squad following the Sea Cadets. Fortunately nobody from any squadron fainted during the entire event at the park. The route the marchers followed was exactly the same; and after around another half an hour of continuous marching the contingent arrived back by the TA Centre in our places. The marching was good and the reputation of Welbeck was kept.

Palmer James



Summer Camp- Student's Perspective

Before we departed for summer camp, the entry was split into 12 platoons. Each platoon had an IC and 2IC, with some having a Austrian accomplice. This was to aid with organising the event; as well as aiding with the individual assessment. The training for summer camp was split into 3 phases: hill walking, leadership and military. The entire entry would be split in half – 1-6 platoons would hill walk, while 7-12 did leadership tasks and vice versa for the first 6 days, then we would have a rest day, followed by a 3 day military phase. This looked to be a demanding part of Welbeck training, but also looked to be good fun.



Upon arrive to the camp, in north-west Scotland; after a hellish bus ride; we were placed into billets (basically barracks), with barely any storage space and a bed each. Luckily, we would only be spending 3 nights in these, the rest of the time would be spent sleeping under the stars or in a tent.

The first day on camp was as expected – a rush to pack with little sleep as people sat around talking/telling jokes/having fun. Hopefully this was a sign of things to come, as morale was exceptionally high.

The leadership phase was the first of the 2 phases I was placed on. It started with a hike to the leadership area, followed by pitching tents. In the rain. With midges. It looked to be fun for the next few days, and a little more relaxing than the demands of the hill-walking phase. The leadership phase, for me, was good fun – we had little to do except move from area to area and do tasks, sleep and eat. Some of the tasks were quite demanding however, with the forak task being my personal favourite – a series of physical tasks throughout a wood, with various members of the team being blindfolded, or tied up, for each one. The idea behind each task was to complete it in order to get a part number – which would be used for the grand finale: a race to build the best crane in an allotted time within a workshop.

During the leadership phase I had a lot of fun, and had a great laugh with the group I was placed in – the look on the principal's face when we bumped into him singing the yogi bear song was unforgettable!

However, after the first 3 days of relaxing leadership tasks, the hill waking phase began – this was a long, long walk for everyone involved. My group DS the Colonel, who has a lot of responsibility within the British army, and mountains of experience, which were

thankfully passed on to the group at every possible opportunity! The hill walking phase held some great challenges, and some great rewards – the views from the tops of some climbs were fantastic, but the climbs down were often dangerous, to say the least.

After the hill walking phase, we has a rest day in camp, in preparation for the military phase of summer camp. This rest day allowed for a chance to visit the local town, as well as a lot of sleep, which everybody took full advantage of.

Following a nice relaxing day off, the military phase began. The first day consisted of training at an urban style camp in the middle of nowhere, with skills such as patrolling and close quarter battle taught and put into practice. The day finished with the march to the harbour area for the exercise, and a night observation post, on which the weather was spectacularly bad.

The second morning was into normal harbour routine, with people eating, sleeping or manning checkpoints. During the day, the exercise developed dramatically, with information about bombs planted by the enemy and found by our patrols. That night, more people performed a night observation post, while four members of the CCF decided to set up their own post on a hill nearby, only to be attacked by the SMI and the RNLO because of their bad drills!



The following day was very eventful, with the CCF moving from its harbour area, into an ambush, a platoon at a time. After this, a lengthy tab beck to the training village ensured, the a walkthrough of the final attack. After this, we had a wait until darkness fell, which for me equalled more sleep time. After dark, however, the fun began, with the final attack taking place a platoon at a time, it being an attack on a building, defended by the enemy!

The final attack was the last part of the military phase and after this we made our journey back to camp, for a well deserved night's sleep. The final day on camp was a clean up, followed by another long bus journey back to Welbeck. The bus ride was a great feeling; the atmosphere was amazing, everyone glad to have finished a demanding period of their lives. Roll on AGI!

Jo Carr



The Inter-platoon competition 04/05



The year was filled with many an exciting competition in which everyone participated. There were tugs of war, dodge ball, military knowledge tests, orienteering, vehicle searches and a gun run.

Students scaled the heights of the assault and confidence courses in races and there was even a march and shoot competition, where top college shot went to Claire Howard 04e. Eight and nine platoon had many successes throughout the events but when it came to AGI day the point scores were close as to who would take home the winners shield. The final contest was fiercely fought out in front a crowd of cheering friends and family. Junior and senior cadets joined forces to navigate a specially designed obstacle course whilst transporting water and numerous burdens. Several wet pairs of combats and a full barrel of water later and one platoon came first sending them to the top of the points chart to take the title of College Platoon 2005!

Claire Howard



The Passing in Parade

It was a dry, sunny September day; and for the students, was one of the most difficult days in Welbeck to date. This was because a select band of Armed Service officials: the OC (Major KG Brown); the RNLO (Lieutenant Simon Kierstan); the Adj (Flight Lieutenant Nick Smith) and the new RAFTO Flight Lieutenant Eleanor Taylor, were, along with Sub Lt Walsh and Cpt Clarke (ccf ranks); testing all Welbexians on their Cadet Skills. The Platoons started off the day well; with only a small minority of members getting earmarked for scruffy kit. This was quite an achievement as the kit inspection was very thorough but not a surprise as all students had spent the week ironing and polishing.

The next section, Military Knowledge; was overall performed to a lower standard. Despite this the level of knowledge the cadets had learned was impressive. The RNLO was overseeing this stage; and he was a fair but firm marker who would spot any mistake, including your marching. Flight Lieutenant Eleanor Taylor was equally strict. Finally the Group and Platoon marching; the section of the test, most thought they would find the hardest, and they did.

On the parade square the tension was mounting as the PUO's gave their last drill pointers. Each platoon made their way to their examiner and adrenaline was pumping: the pressure was on to perform to the highest standard. Apart from the odd tick tock walking and stamping the wrong foot – most platoons performed well; especially the 5th Platoon. The SMI said the Fifth Platoon 'shone'.

Afterwards all platoons lined up by the front of the College and waited for the results – to see who had earned their berets and for the Upper Sixth, who would lose theirs.

The results were that all Platoons barring Platoon 4 and 5 passed meaning these Lower Sixth got their berets and the Upper Sixth got to keep their much loved headdress.

The overall result was a big improvement on last year's performance; as a higher percentage of platoons passed this year's more difficult Passing in Parade.

Alex Olssen and Emma Brown



Pentathlon Weekend 2005

A regular event for Welbeck CCF; the pentathlon was being held for the final time at the abbey due to the relocation of the college as well as Captain Sparkes last event before his retirement. For this reason, everyone involved wanted to make it special. With help from Captain Sparkes and second Lieutenant Mitchell, the event was organised by PUO Cooke. She had a team of Upper 6th to aid in running command tasks and a team of tired Lower 6th, fresh from summer camp the day previous, to host the teams.

In total, there were around 8 different CCF, ACF and ATC branches which took part, with teams travelling from as far a field as Newcastle and Bedford. There were two teams of six per branch, one for junior cadets and one for senior cadets. Each team had to complete exactly the same tasks, and for each task they were

scored. The team with the highest score at the end would be the winner.

Tasks this year included the assault course, gun run, forced march, rafting and several other leaderless tasks designed to test the mental and physical skill of the individual as well as the team.

The event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all. The most popular events seemed to be the assault course and rafting, from which no one escaped dry. Hopefully, this year's event will be just as gratifying, seeing as it is the first at the new site. This will offer exciting new challenges and we hope all the teams will return to try their hand at this new look event.

Andy Dixon









HOUSE NEWS



Alanbrooke House

It was both with a sense of regret and with a sense of anticipation that Alanbrooke House left behind what had been its home since it came into existence. But with the walls of Kitchen Block now left long behind, the members of 04E who stayed in the house looked on to the somewhat daunting task of transferring the rich and community based ethos which came to represent Alanbrooke House to a totally new setting.

So it was after a long and well deserved rest over summer that 04E returned, a day ahead of 05E, to try and settle in to their new surroundings. The division into five houses cost Alanbrooke dearly as two fifths of 04E were transferred to make up the upper sixth of Nelson and Trenchard. With the arrival of 05E; the house prefects and upper sixth, under the guidance of Doctor Palmer, began to shape the entry into Welbexians, a process which so far has gone very well, with not one member of 05E in Alanbrooke having left college.

In the spring and summer terms of last year, Alanbrooke took part in the inter-house competition calendar, and produced some fine performances. While we were missing our three strongest runners for the college run, (these being running at the nationals on that day), we still ran well, with the first across the line being an Alanbrooker, but we failed to produce the overall team victory needed to gain the trophy. Unfortunately, this set a trend for the rest of the inter-house competitions, as Alanbrooke, despite some exceptional efforts, failed to secure the cricket trophy, and came second in the football competition. In the autumn term, the inter-

house singing competition failed to go our way, with our entertaining but perhaps not technically superb rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody not fully appreciated by the judge! The highlight was arguably Luke Kellgren's air guitar version of Brian May's solo!

On the social side of the house: in the spring term, Alanbrooke had a house outing to an all-you-can-eat Chinese restaurant, and with more than a few members of the house pushing the boundaries of 'all-you-can-eat' to extremes, K-Block was an interesting place the next morning! But a good time was had by all, and it is likely that something similar will be undertaken this year. In the autumn term, Alanbrooke has had two socials in the form of a pub quiz, with Mr Worrall as quizmaster, and a murder mystery night, both of which went very well, and may be repeated in future years.

On behalf of Alanbrooke, I would like to thank Doctor Palmer for his continued efforts for the house, and Mr Worrall, our new Deputy Housemaster for the work he has done so far: it is much appreciated. Alanbrooke House now faces the most significant challenge in its history. It is essential that our roots, which are a source of such pride for those in this House, are not forgotten. Yet we must adapt and accept the changes of such a radical move, as has been the transition from Welbeck Abbey to the DSFC. There is no doubt that both 04E and 05E will preserve the essential character of the House.

Sam Vause - Head of Alanbrooke



Nelson House



After a well deserved summer break, 04E arrived back at College, now in Woodhouse Eaves, to settle in with their new Housemates. The new house's upper sixth was made up of Welbexians of all three houses from the previous site in Worksop. After a quick introduction to the new Nelson Housemaster, Niall Browne, whom was also new to the college this year, the upper sixth settled in well to look forward to what is an important year. The new upper sixth residents provided a good calibre of personnel within the House, including a Deputy Head of College, 3 Junior Under Officers, 2 Platoon Under Officers, a number of Cadet Under Officers and many first team players in a number of different sports.

A day later 05E arrived and soon bonded well with the upper sixth, showing off some of their rather interesting characters and traits! After a week in college, Mr Browne announced the prefects of Nelson House, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank: Samuel Milne, Charlotte Robinson, Hannah Shorthouse, Robert Richardson, Harry Field and Grace Wentworth for their contribution towards the house this year.

The annual college trip to Alton Towers soon fell upon us and this was a superb time to get out into the real world and to get to know everyone inside the college a little bit more.

With the October Half Term coming to a close, the first Nelson House Trafalgar Night, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar, was held in the college dining room. This was a very successful evening with it being many

people's first formal event and it was a good experience for all. The guest of honour was Rear-Admiral Lippiett and his wife. After our guests left we all retired the Quorum where Mr Browne entertained us all with some Mess Games.

On the run up to Christmas the first inter-house competition was held, the House Shout, this involved the whole house coming together to practice the Foundations: Build me up Buttercup; and with a part song of Wonderwall the house went on to win the competition. Special thanks must be given to Tristan Cook for his efforts towards the evening and his abilities on the piano.

The first half of this year was very exciting and full of many events. As a house we have already had great success and look forward to more in 2006!

Andrew Clare - Head of Nelson



Portland House

2005 kicked off with Mr Cunliffe in charge of the house, stepping in due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, the spirit of the house was undaunted by this change. We enjoyed our house meal with disco at the Red Lion in Worksop. A big thank you goes to Dave Wallis for organising this very successful event in which the food was delicious, the disco very entertaining and the overall atmosphere superb.

When the house football competition came around, Portland were confident, having 1st XI vice-captain (Offord) and four other regular first XI players with many 2nd team players making up the squad. Although we had such a strong team we lost our first game against Alanbrooke. With the other result it meant we went into the game against Stirling needing to win by two goals. In the last minute we had a goal ruled out, resulting in us coming 2nd.

House cricket took place in the summer term. As with all the other sports Portland went out with a strong side. Wilson and Postlethwaite were relentless in the bowling stakes and Portland had the best chance of retaining the cup. Plenty of runs from 1st XI captain, Wilson and Offord meant that the other houses struggled to contain them. This led to a convincing victory for Portland.

The Sunday preceding AGI day and Summer Ball was a sad day for 04E not only because we were saying our goodbyes to 03E but we were also bidding farewell to the College. We'd like to thank Gary Offord and his prefect team for all their efforts throughout the year, all that you did was appreciated. A special thank you goes to Mr Cunliffe for all that he did, ensuring the house operated smoothly all year.

This September Portland House welcomed a new housemaster and deputy housemaster; Mr Clarke and Mr Heir. We are tremendously grateful to have them both within the house, and are exceptionally please about Mr Clarke's table football skills- hoping that there may be a competition soon!

The term began with a welcoming social organised by our social prefect Heather Ball; this involved music, games and plenty of food,

encouraging new friendships and house spirit to be formed. There are have been other similar 'house gatherings', in which Portland House gets together and celebrates.

This year unlike all previous years both 04E and 05E were new to the house, nevertheless, 05E have settled in extremely well with not a single leaver in the first term. All are becoming increasingly involved in college activities. A big well done to Philip Spowart for organising Welbexians to support at the Great Central Railway at nearby Quorn. Also well done to Emma Brown for organising some ballroom dancing sessions.

The house shout took place in November, a new house competition. As a house we sang the "Friends" theme tune, "I'll Be There for You". We had great fun practicing it and performing it on the night. The part song chosen was "A Whole New World" from "Aladdin", sung by four extremely talented Portlanders, a special mention must go out to Ali Joffri for surprising us all with his amazing singing voice. Both performances were enjoyed by the whole college.

On the 9th December, Portland House went to Nottingham Theatre Royal to watch Snow White in Pantomime. Lauren Wallis put a lot of hard work into arranging this, so thank you to her. The night was a success and good fun was had by all.

On the whole it has been an exceptionally busy yet successful year for the house. Our thanks go out to Mr and Mrs Clarke along with Mr Heir for their devotion and support in getting the house off to a flying start in its new location. A special mention goes out to Ma'am Grant, who started as housekeeper in September. She has exceeded her role as housekeeper in becoming our termly mother, agony aunt and general helper! Also to Jemma Crowson; her helper! Their continued hard work is much appreciated within the house.

We are looking forward to 2006 in anticipation, waiting for many more successes to come rolling our way.

Jimmy Barnard - Head of Portland



Stirling House

As a member of Stirling House, I know of the many awards and personal achievements that have been reached by the students in the house this year. Credit goes to every student for making it so successful and enjoyable; I would like to share some of the memories and a few highlights of the year.

In the spring term we continued our sporting success of the previous year by winning both the inter-house football and college run. The football team took with them an army of supporters and secured a firm win after valiant efforts against both Alanbrooke and Portland teams. This winning streak continued into March with Andrew Corrigan coming an impressive second in the traditional college run. However, most onlookers still claim that he had not even broken a sweat when he reached the finishing line and could have won it hands down if he had wanted to!

Towards the end of the academic year Mr Copley invited the Stirling 04E students to 'a pizza and games extravaganza' at the Welbeck cricket pavilion. It was a welcome celebration for the end of the exams, though summer camp still loomed close by!

The start of the new academic year was to see Stirling House move to the new Welbeck DSFC site, a new house block and a brand new set of lower sixth students, as 04E moved to their final year at the college. Stirling students shone in the new year, with the presentation of college and CCF positions. Special congratulations must go to Charles Becher (Head of College), Mark Willis (Senior Under Officer) and Megan Keeling (Junior Under Officer Leadership). I also became the first female Head of House - an achievement of which I am especially proud and honoured.

With the introduction of two new houses in the new college we unfortunately lost some old faces and dearly loved "characters" from the house. Though old-Stirling had been spread far (well, not that far) across the new site, friendships still remain close and strong.

In November, after many late-night singing rehearsals (including an impressive solo attempt by Sam Taylor!), we had the first ever interhouse singing competition - 'House Shout'. Stirling came away with a surprise second place in the house song, with a powerful rendition of 'Something Inside So Strong'. This reflected the effort put in by every member of the house. The part song, featuring Claire Harrison, Alys Davies, Morna McClean and myself did not fare so well, only managing joint fourth. All in all, we performed well and came away with overall third place.

After a very busy Autumn term Stirling House celebrated in style with a Venetian Masquerade Ball at the nearby Beaumanor Hall. There was a good effort from most with ornate (and some not so ornate!) masks. It was a very classy affair, even though we replaced a string quartet (so usually seen at balls of this type) with a mobile disco!

The past year has heralded a huge change for Stirling House, with the ups and downs of the move from the old college to the new site in Woodhouse Eaves. All in all it has been a brilliant but hectic year, with special thanks due to Mr. Copley and Mr. Walsh (our new deputy housemaster) for their continued support. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings; more memories, more challenges and I hope that 05E will continue to achieve and succeed in the same way that their fellow Stirling students have this past year.

Sarah Bennett - Head of Stirling

Trenchard House

The very first term in Trenchard House has proved interesting; difficult at times but extremely rewarding all the same. Our new lower sixth originally struggled to get used to demanding lifestyle but the house prefect team helped them settle in quickly. The beginning of a new house is always exciting and as it was not only the lower sixth new to the house but also the upper sixth and house staff, there were plenty of opportunities to begin new traditions within the house. Favourites are the house newsletter and a homemade birthday cake on each Trenchardian's special day.

Trenchard is already renowned for its very busy social calendar; which kicked off with a house warming party on the very first night. Since then we have had three Saturday night house gatherings which went down well with all involved, this has facilitated the friendly and welcoming atmosphere that can be felt throughout the house. We all recently travelled to Meadow Hall shopping centre for Christmas shopping. At one house gathering we decorated our Christmas tree with gold tinsel and baubles – very attractive! The most recent of house gatherings was the Trenchard Christmas party which was enjoyed by everyone, fifty

Trenchardians playing the generation game was quite a sight!

We have just acquired a table tennis table which is in use whenever 2 Trenchardians have a free moment. The first of the inter-house competitions was "House Shout" in which we came second. This was mainly due to Jay Leary's amazing voice, scoring 9 out of 10 with his amazing rendition of No Matter by Boyzone; this went down extremely well with the girls! At the Halloween social there was a pumpkin competition in which we won; special thanks going to James Askew for his efforts in carving the pumpkin. At the college fireworks display the house sold cakes that we had made and rose over £100 for charity. On the same note Ma'am Bowen will soon be running the London marathon for charity.

A big thank goes to all the staff involved with the running with Trenchard house, especially to Ma'am Bowen and Mr Mitchell whose time and effort they put into the house are greatly appreciated.

Mark Roberts - Head of Trenchard

COLLEGE TRIPS

Parachuting 2005

In October of 2005, 14 Welbexian's ventured south to RAF Weston on the Green, for what was going to be a truly unforgettable weekend; and not necessarily because of the parachuting.

The students arrived in the pitch black, with the only light source coming from their mobile phones - it was as can be imagined a tedious task to erect the tents! But, however, nothing is impossible and they soon were settled down in the make shift mess (a porter cabin). Along with a few of the instructors, the Welbeck students exchanged stories and banter until the early hours of the morning.

Saturday morning arrived with a day full of training to look forward to. After a triple egg, bacon and sausage sandwich, and numerous hours of running around hangers in jump suits practising various drills - as well as being strung up in "baby-bouncer" like harnesses - the students were deemed ready for their pre-jump exam. Thankfully, they all passed, not letting the college reputation slip, and leaving Sunday free to jump. Saturday night quickly came and went, and on Sunday morning, all 14 parachutists rose with the sun, eager to face the 3500ft drop - under a 7x9 canopy.

Tension was running high as they awaited the call from the control centre, informing them that they were up next. Copious amounts of tea was drunk in an attempt to calm nerves, as they anxiously waited for the call. Wind speeds were high, and as student jumpers, it was unsafe to leap out of a plane into winds with speeds above 15 knots. Twice, Welbeck was put on standby, only twice to be told to stand down, as reports from nearby RAF Brize

Norton came in with devastating news. Wind speeds were in excess of 15 knots - no jumps today. The disappointed Welbexians were debriefed in the training room, and invited back to jump again free of charge.



All in all, the trip was a first-class experience for everybody involved. An enjoyable time was had by all, only slightly hampered by the fact that the jump itself didn't go ahead. No doubt, all 14 students are eager to complete the course in March 2006 - all in one piece!!

By Leigh Glasper

Battlefield Tour

Over March Exeat weekend, twenty wide-eyed Welbexians boarded a coach at three in the morning, ready to depart for a long journey to the Ypres region of Belgium. Ahead of us were two days of reflection, stories and unbeknownst to us and reconstructions...

On the first day we went to the trenches of the second battle of Ypres, which are still largely intact. There we listened to horrific stories as told by our retired Colonel tour-guide, and also tried walking through the communications tunnels to give us a grasp of what our ancestors went through. The attached museum had hundreds of slides of the surrounding area at the time, which had a profound effect on the group. After this, we took a bus ride into the town of Ypres, to see a prison where six British soldiers were shot for desertion. Mr Cunliffe then took it upon himself to cheer us up, so the day was topped off with a trip to the sweet shop, which was, without doubt, the happiest part of the day. Finally, the party had a parade at



"stand to" at Menin Gate, with Gregor Deeming performing on the bagpipes.

The second day was a trip to the memorial of the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, which had constant reminders of the Empire's contribution to WW1. In addition to this, our guide demonstrated both his impressive fitness and keenness for the trip when he got us to run through the course of the battle, the climax of this being going "over the top", in which I personally won a Victoria Cross.

Towards the end, the whole party was very tired, to say the least, by our surprisingly physical visit to Belgium. Arriving late back on Sunday night, our whistle stop tour of WW1 was complete. Although a sombre trip, this is not to say it was not enjoyed thoroughly by everyone. A thought-provoking and interesting visit, our many thanks go out to Mr Cunliffe for organising the trip for the history students, and also to the Colonel for his enthusiastic delivery and astounding knowledge of the battlefields we visited.

Jake Rawson

Skiing in Whistler

After an exhausting start to the year, twenty-five Welbeck students travelled half way around the world to experience a fun-filled week of skiing and snowboarding in one of the world's top ski resorts, Whistler-Blackcomb in Canada.

On the morning of the 13th February a group of very excited Welbexians along with the Principal, Mr and Mrs Clarke and Major Thompson eagerly waited at the crossroads to begin the 7000km journey from Worksop, Nottinghamshire to Whistler, British Columbia. After a long and tiring journey lasting approximately twenty hours, we arrived in the beautiful surroundings of Whistler Village, situated in the valley of a stunning resort. Although extremely tired the anticipation to begin a day of skiing was immense.

We were split into three groups depending on ability: beginners, intermediate and advanced. For the beginners; as they boarded the gondola on the first morning and began the ascent up Whistler Mountain; the prospect of skiing from the top to the bottom seemed extremely daunting. Little did they know that by the end of the week, this was what they would be doing!! Throughout the course of the holiday there were some fantastic examples of how

to 'stack it with style!' demonstrated by Mark Roberts, Chris Marris and best of all, Matt Keogh, when he managed to tumble from the top of the Flute bowl to the bottom, approximately two hundred metres below! Well done to Matt for making it to the end of the trip in one piece!

Although the beginners had a few knocks and thumps throughout the week, by the end of the holiday they were all competent skiers and managed to gain their Basic Ski Proficiency Award. On the last day they even all attempted a black slope and successfully made it to the bottom!

As well as skiing, there was a group of highly skilled snowboarders who demonstrated their fantastic jumps at the snow parks. However, on the odd occasion they did end up colliding with a tree (Charlie Bettridge-Saunders)!

Whistler town was a hive of activity which we all made great use of following a strenuous day on the slopes. All of the groups met up and enjoyed a hot chocolate or possibly a beer or too at the Brasserie before returning to our cosy log cabins at the Riverside resort for a much needed afternoon nap!

In the evenings we ventured into the village and enjoyed magnificent food at restaurants such as a Mongolian Grill. This restaurant in particular was a hit with us all as you were able to help yourself to an assortment of fresh vegetables, fish, meat and noodles. You were then able to watch the food been cooked on in a huge stir-fry and smell the sweet aromas which definitely got our taste buds tingling!

The whole trip ran extremely smoothly and we all gained a qualification whether it was the basic ski proficiency award or the advanced proficiency award. Unfortunately, one member of the group, Rob Richardson, had to depart a few days early due to an accident at the ski park which resulted in a trip to Vancouver hospital! We can now thankfully say he has completely recovered from his injury.

We would all like to say a big thank-you to Mr Clarke for organising the amazing trip and to all the staff who attended. I am sure they all enjoyed the holiday as much as we did!

Charlie Robinson





Cranedale visit: Geography & Biology Fieldtrip

As part of our Biology and Geography A2 course we travelled to Cranedale in East Yorkshire for a weekend of fun packed fieldwork!



For the biologists the aim of the weekend was to decide on an appropriate coursework investigation and to familiarise themselves with a variety of different techniques which could be used to collect data. The biologists looked at three sites: a woodland area, a coastline and a stream. In the woodland area they looked at

techniques which could be used to enable them to carry out a reliable investigation based on a study in the area. Information on light intensity, pH of soil, moisture levels and vegetation cover were gathered. In each of the other areas similar techniques were used. After the weekend each biologist had to come away with a proposed fieldwork title, which they would then carry out when they returned to the centre a couple of weeks later.

The geographers spent their weekend studying rivers and looking at soil profiles in the Yorkshire moors in the area of Shortsha Beck. Considering we initially thought soil profiles were the height of boredom, when actually seeing the vivid orange colour of the hard iron pan in the profile of a podsol, gasps of 'wow' and 'that's amazing' could be heard! That sure put a smile on Mr Hirst's face!

As well as working very hard throughout the day carrying out our investigations and then later in the evening analysing what we found we had our evening meal to look forward too! The food at Cranedale was unbelievably delicious and thoroughly appreciated by all who went!

Although the weekend was hard work it was enjoyed by all!

Charlie Robinson



Scotland Trip

Whilst the remainder of Welbeck College had packed their bags in preparation for the Christmas holidays, a group of ten Welbexians had packed their rucksacks with helmets, harnesses and ice axes ready to embark on a three day climbing expedition. After a long journey to Scotland and a visit to the local Tesco we arrived at our accommodation on the Wednesday evening. Once we had settled in we were treated to Mr Duffton's tasty curry.

We awoke early the following morning to find a fresh layer of snow on the ground outside our accommodation. We were greeted by our Mountain guides and led to our first challenge. The winds were high but so was our morale and despite the adverse weather conditions we climbed our way to the top of our first Monroe. The day's activities had taken their toll on all of us, and we were grateful to return to the accommodation for a warm shower and our evening meal. In my opinion the massive portions of Staff Naylor's creamy carbonara were well earned.

The second day of our adventure started slightly earlier than the first to allow for travelling time to the Cairngorms mountain range. Once we arrived at the Cairngorms we were faced with a treacherous climb to the top of a ridge. Our instructor stopped us along the way to demonstrate how to gauge the risk of avalanches. The climb to the top of the ridge was all made worthwhile when we were able to enjoy practicing how to stop when sliding down a snow covered

mountain face. We all headed to bed early this evening to rest sufficiently for the biggest challenge of the three day expedition; the climb of Ben Nevis.

It felt like the middle of the night when we awoke on the third day. The minibus was again loaded up with rucksacks, ice axes and eager Welbexians. We got off the minibus on a track near to the start of the ledge route, and we set off with rucksacks on our backs and ice axes in our hands. The ledge route of Ben Nevis allowed us to see some amazing views and experience climbing close to the edge. Which I am certain, will stick in all our memories for a long time to come. Unfortunately we didn't make it to the summit of Ben Nevis due to the unfavourable weather conditions but we had all put in maximum effort and were satisfied with the day's climbing. The walk down from the ridge of Ben Nevis was an enjoyable experience with most people finding themselves sat down in the snow a few times along the way. By the time we arrived back at the accommodation the whole group was exhausted, however we all still had enough energy to have a good look through the many photos that had been taken during the trip.

On Sunday 19th December the group returned from Scotland to enjoy a well earned rest over the Christmas break.

Siobhan Brough



Gran Paradiso Trip

In early July, a team of intrepid explorers boarded a plane bound for the Valle d'Aoste in northern Italy. There, we were to practice climbing techniques, alpine style climbing and generally having some fun along the way with Mr Dufton and our mountain goats Andrew and Giles: both experienced mountain leaders. We arrived late, after the hour drive from the airport, high into the mountains and tents were pitched by the transit van's headlights. It was worth it in the morning however, as we woke to the sight of a dazzling mountain reservoir with the breath-taking Italian alps providing

the backdrop. This was the first of our three day altitude training programme, in which we climbed a number of peaks, and played in a lot of snow. In addition to this we practiced ice arrests and rescue techniques for the big climb. Accommodation was always warm and pleasant, be it a mountain hut with a full plate of pasta, or a north face tent with a cardboard box full of ration pack.

Day five saw us rise at 0400, ready for the days climb to the top of Gran Paradiso itself. The ascent took five hours to complete, and only two hours to descend, due to some of us choosing to run



Gran Paradiso Trip (continued)

down the mountain. Back by midday, we then strolled to our final rest stop before going home.

As with all college events, it's what you make of it, and I can safely say the team made it a memorable trip. A huge thank-you must go out for Mr Dufton for organising the trip, and to Andrew for his expertise and humour.

The team:

Matthew Cryer

Richard Dixon

Emily Ball

Tom Waite

Luke Kellgren

Sarah Bennett

Jake Rawson

Jake Rawson



Kitesurfing

At the end of July a group of Welbexians ventured to the sandy beaches of Furterventura to enjoy a week long kite surfing course. From the moment we arrived the whole group was eager to explore the local area and also find the hotel's swimming pool. On the first afternoon Welbeck's competitive spirit shone through in an unofficial international game of water polo between England and Spain in the hotel's pool. After a short siesta we went out for dinner and to meet our instructors for the following week and the other members of our group. It was an enjoyable evening and everyone was enthusiastic about the kite surfing which would begin the following morning.

The Jeeps arrived bright and early to take us to the deserted sand dunes on which we would learn how to set the kites up, how to fly them and what to do if they came crashing down which happened to some people more than others. The instructors made sure they taught us about where the kite would fly with regards to the wind so that we would understand how to tack when we got onto the water. The kites have a leash attached to them which means they won't fly away completely but that you will follow the kite for a short while across the sand on your face if you let go of the bar.

Consequently several people resembled the Sandman by the end of the first morning.

As the days went by everyone's skills greatly improved and we learnt how to launch and land the kites for our partners. By the third day most of the group were confidently harnessed and flying their kite. Nobody could wait to get on the water with the kite and it was smiles all around when the instructors said we were ready to move onto Body dragging.

Body dragging is when you fly the kite and allow it to drag you across the surface of the water but without the board. It is quite a challenging thing to do at first because eyes must be fixed on the kite even when there is a huge wave going across the top of your head. The kites came crashing down quite frequently at this point but we managed to get them back under control and were soon progressing onto combing the kite flying with a board attached to the feet. For the first few attempts people were standing for just about enough time to realise they'd stood up. However by the end of the week everyone was happy with the progress they had made and were definitely not ruling out a similar trip in the near future. Siobhan Brough



Egypt 2005

When offered a holiday to a beautiful country with a chance to do a bit of scuba diving, a lot of people were interested. Rob Jones organised everything so all we had to do was come up with the money. We got the numbers down to fifteen; Sam Ingamells, Bryn Perry, Chris Evans, Kelly Edgar, Lauren Wallis, David Locke, George Kemp, Rich Bashforth, Becky Lee, Rob Jones, Fay Ackland, Alex Lawrence, Tom Dunbar, Harry Turner and Paul Winterbourne. Although a little disappointed to discover that Egypt is one of seven countries with a drinking age of 21, we were all very excited!

Before we left there was a bit of a panic about all the injections that we needed but Ma'am Clarke sorted out everything as usual and comforted a few of us (who will remain unnamed). No doubt she saw a fair few tears when students were faced with the numerous needles!

The flight was from Gatwick, on the Sunday morning after breaking up for Easter. George and Fay opened their homes for us to stay at on the Saturday, allowing us a decent nights sleep ready for our 6.45 flight! A five hour delay didn't faze the Welbexians (particularly as we got a free food voucher) and we were off on our journey. As soon as we arrived at our hotel at about 22.30, we stripped off and dived in the pool. Eventually, we grabbed some grub and headed to bed ready for a 7.00 rise to start our studies!

There was a lot more theory work to do than any of us had imagined. From early morning up until lunch we were in a classroom, surrounded by books and exams which was not what we needed after a long term at Welbeck! We spent our lunch breaks sunbathing by the pool and grabbed some food from the bar. The

afternoon saw us kitted up in wetsuits, BCDs and heavy tanks, learning skills in the pool. On our fourth and fifth days we ventured out into the Red Sea to complete our course and see some breathtaking views and tropical creatures. We saw hundreds of Clownfish and got very close to a Pufferfish. During these two days we were laying on the deck soaking up the rays when not in the sea, and a few of us unfortunately ended up a bit sore and burnt. The instructors were lovely and said how impressed they were with us. We didn't have any problems and learnt fast, well what can I say?

We all passed our PADI Open Water Diver course (apart from Sam who had some problems with her ears) and have a snazzy card to show for it.

The shops, pubs and clubs were a short taxi ride from our hotel, and entertained us every night. Wednesday night was Pachas Desert Party. Lauren, Sam, Fay and I headed off into the desert on a bus at nearly midnight and danced in the sand at a big open air venue. Thursday night we spent at the hotel as there was entertainment. Beautiful belly dancers, and men doing a strange dance with bowls and sticks. We all got belly dancing lessons (Chris was a natural!) Kelly was dragged onstage by one of the performers who was dancing like a chicken. I even got a kiss from a stage camel! On Saturday we went to a gorgeous beach and had a go on the banana boat. Dunbar and Winty performed a few stunts but needless to say, we didn't stay on for very long. We were all sad to leave, so on Sunday we stayed by the pool until our coach picked us up at lunch time.

Becky Lee

COLLEGE SOCIETY



Alton Towers



Sunday morning, a time when most Welbexians are nowhere to be seen in order to catch up on the sleep missed the previous week. However, at 7.55am on the 25th September 2005, 320 bleary eyed students were to be found making their way to the several coaches that awaited them on the parade square.

The reason for this unlikely phenomenon was the annual trip to Alton Towers, a couple of hours down the road.

The coach arrived and the students departed, most heading (suddenly more lively than before) for the old white knuckle favourites such as Nemesis, with a g-force bigger than a shuttle takeoff; and the flume, making most students too wet to notice the rain.

The legendary 'Oblivion' which many would say was more like a near death experience than a rigorously checked theme park ride with enough safety devices to make getting out at the end a difficult task. Many Welbexians were also quick to discover that it is not just birds and the RAF who can experience flying: Air makes you forget what the ground below your feet feels like. The teacups also remained a firm favourite, especially with the rugby players, who insisted they were not to be taken lightly.

While all were having fun rediscovering the old rides, many headed for the recently built "Rita – Queen of Speed" which catapults the riders from 0 – 100kph in 2.5seconds. This somewhat breathtaking array of shiny metal, speedier than a race car and offers more lift than an aeroplane; encourages both the budding Jenson Button and engineers alike.

With the array of fast food takeouts the students weren't too fussed about missing out on Sunday lunch, and instead indulged in McDonalds and Pizza Hut, not thinking about a week's hard work in the gym to work it all off.

When the time came to leave, once again 320 bleary eyed students, exhausted, soaked through and bearing photographs and toys' from the day's activities returned to the coaches, ready to get an early night after an enjoyable day for everybody.

Aimee Hutton



Ballroom Dancing

Wednesday night had arrived and it was time to see if all my hard work had paid off. I had spent the last few weeks communicating with the Vice Principal Pastoral, who had found me a teacher, Mr Beazley, who was prepared to teach some of us to ballroom dance. After weeks of getting times and venues sorted it was finally time for the first lesson.

During week one we were taught basic quickstep movements. After a lot of shuffling around and bumping into each other we finally manage to all go in the right direction, whether we were doing the right steps or not. The first session was a great laugh and no-one could wait for the next one. So the following Wednesday we hurried back onto the dance floor where this week we learnt to

rock and roll. This is the one I think the majority of us enjoyed the most. The dance was fairly fast and we got very hot quite quickly. After another week of practicing we had aced the rock and roll.

So by the final week we took to the dance floor like fish in water. The final week we also learnt to waltz which we got to try out in a few dances that Mr Beazley named the Welbeck Ballroom Graduation set. Now that the sessions have finished we are all keen to learn more dances and show off what we know, so we still get together for a dance on Wednesday nights, teacher or no teacher. In the future we would like to get some of the staff involved and get them strutting their stuff.

Emma Brown



Bonfire Night

Sunday 6th November wasn't exactly a warm day and yet never the less at 1900 260 Welbexians gathered on the parade square in anticipation of the evenings events. Armed with hat, scarf and gloves we were huddled together ready to watch Mr Disney's firework display. The night kicked off with a spectacular array of colours which lit up the sky. From the beginning a spread of treacle toffee and fairy cakes were on offer that Ma'am Bowen and team had spent all day preparing, raising £107 for charity. These were greatly appreciated accompanied with a nice cup of hot chocolate whilst gazing up at the night's sky. By 1920 everyone still stood in awe, all were a little disappointed that the last of the fireworks were let off, but Mr Clarke came to the rescue with three hundred sparklers- keeping us amused for a further five minutes. Fizzling to the end of an amazing evening we trooped back up to house blocks with eyes glistening and smiles on our faces. This years Bonfire night was yet another evening that could be added to the list of Welbexian nights to remember.

Emma Brown



Harry Potter

On December 3rd at 5pm; a bus left the Guardhouse to go to Loughborough Centre, to the main shopping street. The students had come to see Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire. The transport system involved a bus runs picking up Lower and Upper Sixth students, mainly separately, in the transport bus.

Despite early confusion, all groups arrived in Loughborough by 1750, ten minutes before the film was due to start. The groups slowly made their way towards Screen 2, and sat down; ready for the film to begin. There were no adverts; and the film started very abruptly with a creepy Lord Voldemort scene at the start. This progressed to excellent special effects throughout, and a very fast-

paced plot, which kept the audience on their toes. There was an intermission halfway through the film, very strange in itself, as most cinemas do not have intermissions. The one and only weakness of the film was major scenes, (for anyone who has read the books) being deleted. After the film had ended, at 2145 all groups made their way back to the bus to be taken back. One of the groups had gone to McDonalds for dinner. The other groups returned to Welbeck College. The film was excellent, and the event was very enjoyable; and was a complete success.

Palmer James



House Shout



As the Houses lined up outside the Unwin Hall, the students were very nervous as they were taking part in the first inter house event in the history of Welbeck. The night certainly was a night to remember. The students were seated in their respective houses and the Vice Principal Pastoral gave a short speech giving the background information of the actual event.

Portland started first with 'I'll be there for you'. This is a song that the popular television series Friends has on its opening credits and is a warm song sung from the heart by Portland. Bohemian Rhapsody was sung by Alanbrooke next; a very difficult song sung by Queen and is said to be the member's Freddie's greatest piece ever; reaching the US number one for 9 weeks straight, a success certainly mirrored by their performance. The purple ties of Nelson marched on to give a very well choreographed and extremely well planned, as well a loud piece called 'Build me up 'Buttercup'. This song was sung by the 'Foundations' in the 1960s and was first performed by a mixed group of West Indies and English singers. Their song reached number one in 1969 and has been covered more recently by bands such as McFly.

The actual movements included well timed blazer swinging and tuned in footwork that worked well with the song. Trenchard were next with 'Summer Nights', taken from the musical 'Grease!' and most famously performed by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Last but by no means least came Stirling with 'Something Inside So Strong' originally sung by black artist Lenin, during the South African apartheid. It was sung with no background music; original in itself as all other Houses used background music. The singing was the main strength of Stirling and they out sung all other Houses.

In the short sings stage Nelson entered 'Wonderwall'; and during the performance Brad Woodward was the star and he walked around the audience to a deafening applause that was well deserved. Next four Portlanders sung 'A Whole New World', the 1992 Disney's Aladdin that Peter Andre and Jordan have just released as a UK single. Stirling marched on next with 'Can you feel the love tonight' an all Upper Sixth girl group with a strong unified voice that resonated across the hall. Alanbrooke entered with 'Killing Me Softly' performed by Robert Flaque in 1939 USA, a song the 'Foggies' in 1996 have recently used. The song was sung with the perfect volume, giving a very good performance. Trenchard then walked on with 'No Matter What', involving a solo performance from Jason Leary who was determined no one would forget him! Everything was planned from the setting (quilt chairs and guitars set up) to the lighting (lighting was turned down so the stage was at candlelight level).

Afterwards the adjudicator, Mr Davy Evans (Music Director of Uppingham school); awarded the following points, thus selecting a winner: Portland: 15 points; Alanbrooke: 15.5 points; Stirling: 16 points; Trenchard: 16.5 points. The winner was therefore Nelson with 17.5 points. A cup with a purple ribbon was awarded to Nelson.

Nelson House had won the first inter house competition in Welbeck's history.

Palmer James



The Opening Ceremony

Friday 30th September 2005, the day Welbeck DSFC was officially declared open and ready for business, started with an extremely exciting broadcast at 9:20am on BBC News 24. All five common rooms fell silent as the news reader went live to the new Welbeck DSFC site in Woodhouse, Loughborough. Welbeck quickly lost its old title of "The Army's Best Kept Secret" as the new, purpose-built college was broadcast across the nation as "The Defence Sixth Form College". During the broadcast, film was also shown from the previous week when the BBC TV crew had followed poor unsuspecting students around the college, giving most at least 5 seconds of fame!

However the television crew were not here for any small reason, as this day was crammed full of celebration; a Royal visit, the Royal Marine Band and the Royal Signals Motor Cycle display team all preparing to wow the visiting V.I.P.s, guests, staff, parents and of course, the Welbeck students! After many years of planning and preparation, this was the day where all involved with the college could finally appreciate the finished product in all its glory.

The first real event of the day began in the Sports Hall at 11:00am, musical entertainment supplied by Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band. The band played fantastically, especially the Drum Corps who came in near the end of the Band's performance to show-off



The Opening Ceremony (continued)

their amazing drumstick drills! It definitely set a high standard for Welbeck's own Corps of Drums to live up to next A.G.I. day!

As the entertainment played in the Sports Hall, there was a simultaneous tour being conducted for Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester. Having just arrived she was being escorted around to some of the places of interest in the college such as the new Learning Resource Centre, the Internet Café and a few example classrooms to meet and greet with a groups of selected students. On entering the sporting area of the college she even viewed a "Quiet" game of squash (played by Matthew Stannard and Ben Howe). Eventually she reached the Sports Hall itself where everybody was anxiously awaiting her arrival. After a giving a speech, saying how delighted she was to be asked to open the college and how impressed she was with the facilities and its students, she pulled the cord on the purple curtain. Welbeck DSFC was officially open, time for lunch!

The lunch itself was an event, two huge adjoining marquees quickly filled with guests and parents (credit goes to all the students on ushering duty who managed to seat every single person right on time!) played in by the Royal Marine Strings section. Her Majesty and the V.I.P.s took their places at the high table and the lunch began. Starting with those strange melon balls, the main course was a selection of meats, salad and couscous, but

the grand finale came in the form of that gorgeous Bailey's cheesecake (it had to be mentioned!). At half past one, Her Royal Highness departed from the marquee as her visit came to end.

After lunch the Royal Marine Band was out on display again, performing a selection of marching tunes (the Corps of Drums again showing off with lots of stick formations). The Royal Signals then took over the show with their famous "White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team" (an act I know most students were particularly looking forward too), and they definitely lived up to everybody's expectations! Climbing up ladders whilst riding, reading a book whilst sitting backwards on the bike (and still steering!), to jumping through FIRE, and consequently destroying Mr. Copley's first team rugby pitch! The best had been saved till last and they completely stole the show!

The day was an immense success and as the day came to a close, it was time for everyone to return home for the first Exeat of the year. Everybody had been thoroughly entertained by the events and could return home to tell their friends that since breakfast they'd been on national TV, met a Royal, been serenaded by the Royal Marines band and watched a death-defying motor cycle display. Not bad, eh?

Alexandra Olsson 04E



Karate

When a poster emerged on the notice board advertising karate, I was amongst a large number to sign up very quickly! Some had a little experience; others years; and others none whatsoever. I've often wondered how hard can kicking the air and shouting a bit be? After the first lesson I soon realised!

It all started with a warm up which was easily doable, but when the press ups were done on our two front knuckles it got a bit harder! So after the warm up we started learning to block, and more importantly in my eyes: to punch and kick.

We started off slowly but we were very quickly made to do it at high speed and this was where doing the techniques got hard Trying to do more than one thing at once utterly confused all the boys (of course the girls can multi-task so they were fine). The first week culminated in us practising on each other which allowed to get used to working against flesh and bone instead of air.

The second week had a different approach, we were working on our

catahas (or patterns), this is a series of moves and techniques that are put together to show you fighting different imaginary attackers with different techniques. Although this sounds easy trying to remember when to do these moves and how to do them correctly is extremely hard and resulted in a number of us looking like idiots. It's ok though... because we can work on it, or so I've been told, anyway.

We have now got to a stage where we are able to start practising moves on each other in a real fighting situation, i.e.: on the mats against an opposition with referees judging the winner. This is what I was looking forward to doing the most, the thrill of blocking and throwing kicks and punches is amazing! Now that fighting and catahas have been taught to us we are able to start thinking about competitions and gradings.

Karate at Welbeck has taken off and we should soon be entering competitions and adding more accomplishments to the college's tally. Alex Smith



Leeds half marathon

On Sunday 15th May a group of keen runners from Welbeck travelled to Leeds to take part in the 2005 Leeds Half Marathon. Once the Welbexians had arrived in Millennium Square they began to prepare themselves for the 13.1 miles that lay ahead of them. These preparations varied from warming up to vain attempts to defy gravity by use of Helium balloons.

The day was a great success and everyone managed to complete the challenging route around Leeds in less than 2 hours and 15 minutes. Some students did exceptionally well; Richard Greener completed the half marathon in 1 hour and 22 minutes, which ranked him 65 out of over 2900 runners. For many of the Welbexians it was their first half marathon but everyone seemed eager to make sure that it is not their last.

Siobhan Brough





Pantomime: Snow White & The Seven Dwarves

The start of the festive season means the start of pantomime season, a hypothesis that Portland certainly proved.

Portlanders and some members of the other houses, who also agreed with Portland and decided that a pantomime would be a good way to start the festivities, bundled into a pair of coaches and departed for Nottingham Theatre.

Nottingham's Christmas lights dazzled the streets whilst Welbeck's more cultured students made their way through the white stone columns into the theatre itself.

However, the seats were not designed with rugby players in mind, much to the amusement of the brownie troop in the rows in front, who our students shared polite conversation with, discussing the finer points of camping.

The show started and many were reminded of their childhoods

when they realised that snow white was a former member of b*witched. As the plot thickened with increasing cry's of "he is behind you!!!" and "oh no he doesn't!!!!" all were having fun it seemed, despite the un-anthropometrical seating.

With dancing dwarves and oversized forest animals, evil queens, ugly witches and handsome princes, the show was in full swing and everybody was to be seen shouting warnings, singing along with "Muddles" and "Nutty" and jumping in their seats. Another common similarity between Brownies and the potential officers of Welbeck College

After the final bow the crowd moved out, and after a final look at the lights of Nottingham, the Welbeck busses pulled away having enjoyed a first-rate evening.

Aimee Hutton



Summer Ball 2005



The final summer ball at Welbeck abbey was certainly a memorable occasion. The marquee was huge and decorated with frilly cream and blue material over all of the support pillars and the sides walls were made so they would catch passing breezes and ruffle throughout the evening. This not only had the effect of keeping the

marquee looking superb all night, but also restricting air flow making the interior extremely hot and sticky.

The anteroom to the side contained some very tall ladies (on stilts) the official college photographer, and, most importantly the bar. With all alcoholic beverages at £1.50 many pints, bottles and shots/shorts were purchased and rapidly consumed for a pleasing effect across the student body and guests.

Outside on the hockey hard there was a bouncy castle, inflatable laser quest and other temporary fair ground rides. The first thing I saw when I went down to the hockey hard was that of gentlemen in dinner suits and ladies in ball dresses bouncing up and down and around and about was quite a shock. I soon joined in getting my own dinner suit rather dusty.

Come midnight, it was time for the fireworks display; 'Ooohs' and 'aaaaghs' from the crowd complimented the incredible display put on by Mr Disney. My only complaint was the night went far too fast.

Sam Rees- Boughton



Presidents Dinner



On the last Tuesday of the summer term all of the 03E met in the library, for what promised to be an eventful Presidents Dinner. All looked smart, despite many people worrying about the Adjutants interesting choice of attire.

Everybody soon moved in to the Master's Common Room to meet their guest and socialise over pre-dinner drinks; here everybody took the opportunity to capture a few memorable photographs (particularly of Tim Homan, who looked particularly dashing!). The meal itself started in high spirits and continued as the food arrived, while a Ghurkha Band entertained. This was followed by guest speeches and a small display from the College PTI's.

As the meal drew to a close the students and guests moved in to the Senior's Club where they had the chance to relax, and mingle some more. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was a super finally for the 03E.

Nick Barnes

70013 Oliver Cromwell



Oliver Cromwell on display at York before moving to the Great Central and restoration beginning

When 'British Railways' was formed in the late 1940's, they inherited a large number of run-down steam engines from the four companies it was originally formed from. The new management decided that to supplement these they would build some more locomotives with a fresh new design. The visual appearance of these new engines was much different to any seen in previous years.

One such model was the 'Britannia', a large express locomotive designed by R.A Riddles - Fifty five such engines were built and became highly successful. Although, like all of the new engines, they had a very short working life - not due to design fault, but to the decision to end steam haulage in the mid-60's.

However, two Britannias' were preserved: the 70013 'Oliver Cromwell' as well as the original No. 70000 'Britannia' itself.

'Oliver Cromwell' was kept as part of a national collection of steam locomotives, based at York railway museum. It was kept running until the 1980's at Bressingham Railway museum, before finally retiring, to remain in the museums collection.

In 2004 it was decided to restore it, and Steam railway magazine launched a fundraising appeal. After having the necessary raised funds, it was moved to the Great Central Railway at Loughborough.

The Great Central railway was more than eager to introduce the train to the students of Welbeck DSFC, who were to provide an excellent hand in the restoration of this classic locomotive.

The work began and many students have volunteered to help as part of their Thursday afternoon's general activity.

After a session to introduce the students to the type of work involved, they were quick to get going on the real nitty-gritty of restoring every detail of this spectacular machine. The Welbexians were trusted with vital roles, from machining metal to fine tolerances as well as painting the outer body of the train itself.

Restoring Cromwell is an extensive job; every part must be stripped right down, cleaned and checked, and many parts are even totally remade.

The Welbeck students continue to keep in touch with this local community and help to restore this locomotive to its former glory.

Great Central Railway Santa Specials

The move to the new site has bought us very close to the Great Central Railway, based at Loughborough. This line is Britain's only preserved stretch of double track mainline, allowing large trains to pass at speed. It was built over 100 years ago and was planned as a northern link to a proposed Channel Tunnel — something only just being reconsidered now!

Now a major heritage attraction, the line showed great interest in the new college nearby and asked if we could help on their 'Santa Special Trains' in December. These trains run on pre-booking only and are a vital source of income for the line. Last year they were voted the best Christmas event of the year.

The event runs over 4 weekends, only the last of which we couldn't help with as it was in the Christmas holidays. The turnout was enormous, with a large number of people volunteering to give up their time and help the railway. Although we were at first uncertain of what we were doing, we very quickly got into the swing of it, helping make the event a success by distributing mince pies and drinks.

The next weekend also saw a few musicians and singers to entertain on the platform and train. This was put together at quite short notice,

and proved a big hit with the public, often with whole coaches of people joining in! Thanks to Graham Roberts, Tina Schaforth, Tess Binks and Aaron Thompson for their excellent performance.

The final weekend was the most intense. Whereas before there were just 4 trains a day, there were now 6 normal Santa Specials and 4 "Santa Pluses", where the children spent more time with the man himself. This called for more organisation of the groups, and Jenny Walkley kindly stepped in to organise the Santa Plus people. Also on the Saturday, a small contingent of the college band came along to perform on the platform while the public awaited the next train. PUO Mark Stevens organised this side of things, and made an excellent job of it.

Overall, a lot of fun was had by all, and comments from the staff were all complimentary about our conduct and help.

Thanks to all those who went, especially those who dragged themselves up on a Sunday morning for the early shift. Hopefully the college will continue to be involved with the railway (one of Britain's most interesting and important), especially on the engineering side.

Phillip Spowart

Socials 2005

Socials at Welbeck this year have been many; memories blend into each other so remembering what happened at every single one is a difficult task for any Welbexian! However, there were, of course, a few outstanding highlights.

The year's events started with the 60s and 70s social seeing the return of some brightly coloured flared clothing that would have made our parents proud! Tree huggers and hippies swarmed the library, parading peace symbols and painted faces. The DJs ditched their normal routines and went for generally more swinging contributions, with many replays of the repeatedly requested "Build Me Up Buttercup". Funky wellies and badly flared trousers twisted the night away!



Due to many people being absent for one weekend or another, two socials fell just a week apart from each other; the Band/Singer social and the Cowboys and Indians social. As there was such a general theme for the Band/Singer social, costumes were at a low. However, Andrew Corrigan and David Locke deserve a mention for their extreme effort in becoming the Rock/Metal band, "Korn". Their make-up effects were particularly impressive! More of an effort was made the next week, most people at least wearing a cowboy hat or had stuffed a feather on their head.

Next was the "St. George's Day" themed social but it was quite a strange theme to dress for! Some had "acquired" pillowcases and had fashioned them into the flag of St. George dresses ... other's used laundry bags in the same form. Some Stirling girls went full out and put their talents together to produce an actual dragon, a five person berth walking, talking, dancing Chinese style Dragon. Maximum points for effort! Unfortunately, the Dragon managed only 3 minutes of life, as it was quickly "slain" by some of the upper sixth with plastic swords.

More socials did follow but due to the amount of revision that was slowly creeping up on many of the Welbeck students, numbers started to dwindle. Despite the lack of numbers most felt inclined to get up and dance, despite the energetic efforts of Henry Callaghan and Adam Cooke!

Welcome Social

Keeping with tradition, the second weekend of the new college year brought the first social, normally a time for the Upper Sixth to welcome the Lower Sixth to their new college but this year it was a welcome party for all. At long last pupils, teachers and their offspring all piled in to the brand new "Quorum Club" ready to christen the dance floor and let their hair down after a manic settling in period.

Though the social started with a distinct lack of dancing,, this was understandable as most people were more interested in eating as we had a delicious spread which spanned about 12 tables! The overall atmosphere was friendly and upbeat.

Soon people were finishing their food and the dance floor did

eventually start to fill up, though credit must go to all of the younger children who were up and dancing before any of the sixth formers had even finished their sandwiches! They set a very high standard of dancing, including the classic "knee-slide" and "spin-in-circles-dance" (though I admit, I was very jealous of those party dresses).

Not to be outdone, the Welbexians took the floor in their masses and so began the start of a brilliant first social. Highlights include a few death-defying crowd surfers, an oldschoool dance-off, mass chav-dancing and of course the classic, headbanging teachers (or should we say teacher, singular!).

At the end of the night, I think everybody had a good time and the club started emptying as all the sweaty dancers headed back to their houses for some well deserved showers, most looking forward their Sunday lie-in.

Halloween Social

Nobody recognised the Welbexians as they dined together on the night of Halloween. Everybody had got into the spirit of the event; this could be seen by the large variety of costumes, which ranged from the traditional Vampires and Witches to the more adventurous Two-headed monsters and Ghost Busters!



We began the evening with a delicious meal comprising of three courses. For the first time the houses had been blended together into a seating plan, which gave everyone an opportunity to make new friends and get to know people in a different type of environment to the classroom. The sound of conversation that filled the hall during the meal proved it to be a great success.

During the meal we were entertained by the talents of the musical students amongst us. Students had formed bands, some performed alone. Many of the songs, being well known, had everyone singing along and added to the cheerful atmosphere of the night.

After a pudding of Ghouls' Surprise and the results of the House Pumpkin Competition (Trenchard won!) the students moved to the student club and spent the night either on the dance floor or getting wet and messy playing the time-honoured Halloween games of Apple-bobbing and 'Find the Sweets in the Flour'.

It was definitely a night to remember for all. Special thanks must go to the Social Prefects who put a lot of time and effort into decorating the student club and organising the whole night.

Snowball

After weeks of hard work and preparation the night of Snowball, the much anticipated event was upon us. There had never been so much movement on the girls' floor as there was that night. Running up and down the corridor sharing hairdryers, hair straighteners, and make up. Swirling around in our evening dresses asking each others advice on hairstyles. However on the boys' floor things weren't quite so chaotic. After a quick five minute shower and a shave the guys were ready to throw on their suits and get going.



Socials 2005 (continued)



At six o' clock we were all seated at our tables with entertainment bands playing in the background. As we got up for the first drink the

staff started to serve our meal, a traditional Christmas roast. Towards the end of the meal the band started to play a few Christmas carols, which we all sang along to. As an accompaniment to 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' the SMI performed an impressive acrobatics display, which is traditionally performed with the APTC's regimental piece.

Later we moved on into the quorum where many of the girls left their shoes and headed onto the dance floor. Throughout the night various different people had the chance to try out their DJing skills, each set containing a few Christmas hits. After a night filled with laughter and dancing 2230 arrived so after a quick clean up we hobbled back up to our houses massaging our blistered feet. All in the all the night was a total success and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Alex Ollson and Emma Brown



Band and Choir

At the start of the year, the band received an influx of new members into many of the different sections. This brought a new depth to the music and resulted in the tackling of some more complicated pieces under the leadership of Jane Osborne and CUO Bandmaster Jennifer Dowdell.

Choir also gained some valuable new members. Alex Ingham was chosen as Head of Choir and throughout the year worked hard to lead us to success. Tim McEwen took up his regular post and conducted the choir in all our pieces.

Just before the college broke up for the Christmas holiday; the band, choir and many soloists put on a musical evening to celebrate the talents of many of the students at Welbeck. The band played four concert pieces including 'Cornfield Rock' and 'The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon'. The evening was a huge accomplishment and enjoyed by parents and students alike. The Choir preformed some popular carols as well as some less well known pieces – "The Twelve Days After Christmas" was a roaring success.

For the rest of the year, the band worked hard towards the end of year celebrations as it would be the last year at the Welbeck Abbey site. The day prior to AGI day was the Summer Concert, giving the band, choir and soloists another chance to perform. The band played many pieces, including 'Lord of the Dance' and 'Glasnost'; while the choir performed an arranged song by the head of choir Alex Ingham. During Speech day, some selected members of the choir preformed a musical interlude with "When we say goodbye" which was very appropriate for our last day on the Welbeck abbey campus.

The band still had a few pieces up their sleeves for the beating of the retreat on AGI day. As the band formed up and began to march on to the mall to the sound of 'Thunderbirds' the crowd hushed, only for the band to halt before entering the parade square... The crowd waited in suspense before, seemingly from nowhere, a Tornado Fighter Jet flew over college in a fly-past to start the band's display routine. The band continued with its demanding routine before marching back on to the mall for the Corps of Drums and Drill Team displays. The beating of the retreat ended with all the participants of the three displays marching back on to the parade square for the national anthem and the final bugle call in a farewell send off to Welbeck Abbey after 51 years.

In September 05, with Welbeck in its new buildings, band and choir had a fresh start. Band was organized by Mark Stevens, promoted

to PUO band and choir was taken on by Teresa Binks. After many years of good service, Tim McEwen decided the commute was too long and resigned as choir master. This space was filled by band mistress, Jane Osborne who now does band and choir consecutively in one night. Both Band and Choir were joined by members of the Lower Sixth, filling in the spaces left by 03 entry.

The first major event for band was working with other Welbeck volunteers who were helping out the steam railway near to the new site. In December, visitors got off the trains to be welcomed by carols preformed by the band who were on the platform. Some vocalists were also involved in singing carols inside the train, accompanied by Philip Spowart on the violin. A good time was had by all and it was nice to do a good turn out of college. Next on the agenda for band was accompanying the "singing" of carols at the dinner of the Snow Ball. The band played well but the singing left something to be desired, but it did look like every one was enjoying themselves!

The main event of the term was the winter concert. Both groups practiced hard before hand, and as always, the night was chaotic behind the scenes! About two hours before the concert, it became very clear that the choir simply could not remember the word's to two of the pieces being preformed and resulted in some hasty, large font "Cheat Sheets" being elegantly disguised on the music stands! The band managed to acquire some tinsel to dress up their instruments with minutes to spare and a bedlam of glitter and scissors ensued. However, we were all ready just in the nick of time! The concert opened with "Once in Royal David's City" lead by the choir, with the audience invited to join in. The content of the concert was refreshingly light and very varied, ranging from delicate flute duets, to a performance of "Shaken' Stevens' Merry Christmas Everyone", Band's cheerful renditions of 'The Phantom of the Opera' followed by 'Colonel Bogey' and choir's tribute to "Dem Bones" and "One Single Light" (cheat sheets much appreciated!) with many other acts of superb quality. Band finished off the night with "Santa Claus is coming to town" which reflected the pleasant relaxed atmosphere in the hall. The Principal addressed the College, and thanked all those involved with the performances. Band and Choir both presented Jane Osborne and Mr Hirst with tokens of appreciation and then College departed for a well earned break.

Teresa Binks



Sponsored Press-ups

On Tuesday 8th November, four Portland Lower Sixth stepped up to the challenge of completing 2000 press-ups between them. Between Will Wingfield, Will Fox, Darren Tremble, and myself, David McNeish; we reached 2000 in just under an hour. A large number of people turned out to watch us suffer in the Portland common room, and also to cheer us on!

All the money raised in sponsorship was donated to a charity project run by Woodhouse Eves Baptist Church, situated near the

college. The money raised, about £200, was used to build a house for twins and their Grandmother living in Rwanda, who lost the rest of their family due to the genocide in 1994.

We are very grateful to the large amount of support we received: the very generous sponsors; people who acted as counters; and of course, Alex Smith's motivational music; were all very much appreciated!

Dave McNeish

CHAPEL NEWS



From the Chaplain

I write as a newcomer to the College, having only served as Chaplain since the opening of the new college buildings in Leicestershire three months ago. In that sense, I still have my 'L' plates on, and am gradually getting to know the students and staff, as well as the ways of the College, and seeking to discern how best to exercise the role of the chaplain in this new institution. There is, for example, no space set aside as 'chapel' in the college. When it comes to assemblies and monthly Sunday services, we have the interesting challenge of creating a worship space within a modern hall, where the excellent projection facilities offer exciting IT possibilities for enhancing our worship, some of which we were able to exploit in our Christmas Service.

Beyond the College boundaries, I am the Church of England rector to the three 'rural suburban' Leicestershire villages of Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland, with a combined population of some 3000 people. I live in the rectory at Swithland. The college is set in Woodhouse parish, the smallest of our three villages, where its coming has more than doubled the population! Woodhouse has a small mediaeval church dedicated to St Mary in the Elms, which is the spiritual home not just of the Church of England members of the village, but also of the local Roman Catholic community. There are also Anglican churches in Woodhouse Eaves and Swithland, as well as Methodist and Baptist Chapels in Woodhouse Eaves. All the churches in Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves are in walking distance from the college, so there are plenty of opportunities for students to attend Sunday worship outside college if they so choose. I know that the resident worshippers in all the churches enjoy welcoming Welbeck students to worship with them. They are



also just beginning to realise that welcoming Welbeck students could well involve some changes for themselves! This Christmas, for example, Nelson House is holding its House Carol Service at St Mary's Church, something the churchwardens are looking forward to hosting. A small group of Welbeck bell-ringers has recently formed, who practice at St Mary's – some of the group are established ringers and others are quite new to the art. This addition is a great encouragement to the local ringing teams. From an ecumenical perspective, as well as going out, we are also enjoying inviting Baptist and Methodist ministers into College, to share in our assemblies and services.

Our three villages have been looking forward to welcoming Welbeck College into the community for some while. Now they enjoy the reality. Especially appreciated have been two fully subscribed 'invitation evenings' for the residents of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves; visitors much enjoyed discovering both the building and the people who live behind the security gates and the barriers! Students too are beginning to look for opportunities to serve the local community, to assist, for example, in their work towards the Duke of Edinburgh awards. These links are important for both college and community.

From a chaplaincy perspective then there are many challenges and opportunities for all of us, not just for me. But I am particularly grateful to the Principal, the staff and the students who have been so welcoming and so helpful to me in my early days as Chaplain. And I look forward with anticipation to the coming term and to my continuing life as a member of the Welbeck College community.

Anne Horton



Bell Ringing

Towards the end of November, local resident Graham Sharp approached the college desperate to find young bell ringers. To his surprise, 11 students showed interest, and to add to his shock, eight had had experience. He jumped at the opportunity and invited everyone along to St. Mary's Church Woodhouse on a Tuesday evening to practise. Sure enough, a pack of Welbexians

stormed the Church and piled into the cramped bell tower. Mr. Sharp was ecstatic with the quality of ringing. We have visited a few times now, for hour slots. Training continues with the aim that in the future, Welbexians will ring the bells independently on a Sunday morning.

Graham Roberts



Christian Union

After a slow start, the CU has established itself with a lot of new faces and energy from both the Upper and Lower sixth. It has been a challenge to get things up and running smoothly but with the enthusiasm brought by the new members it has been a pleasure to organise and lead the meetings.

Discussions have ranged from "what does God mean to me?" to the morale issues surrounding Christian involvement in the armed services.

Due to our new location we have had the unique opportunity to experience the wide range of worship in the local area, from Sunday morning matins to evening youth groups.

There is regular college attendance to the local church of Woodhouse and the Quorn Baptist Church. This has been received with warm welcomes from the local parishioners who are always delighted to see a college presence, and have made every effort to

integrate the students into the congregation.

After a brief year we said goodbye to Malcolm Garrett as the college chaplain. We will all remember his chapel sermons. Especially around Christmas, being told how Father Christmas, if he obeyed the laws of physics, would be crushed instantly and his reindeer would instantaneously combust under the forces generated by the acceleration needed to do his rounds.

Due to the lack of a chapel, the college houses have assemblies in the Unwin Hall throughout the week. Along with this new set up we welcome the Canon Anne Horton of the local diocese; she has taken up the difficult task of the college chaplain, which is to engage our minds at some ungodly hour of the morning: 0815. She has done a sterling job by explaining the morning's scripture passage and relating it to our day to day lives.

Benedict Woods & Tom Goodwin



Catholics in Welbeck

Not only has Welbeck College moved site from the old Welbeck Abbey in Worksop to the new site, we as students have also moved to the new parish and Catholic community of Woodhouse. We have been welcomed with open arms by the support and kindness of the members of our new church. Our welcome has not only been within the church, but also extended to events such as charity coffee mornings at the homes of members of Woodhouse parish. There are further, similar, events which we hope to attend in future such as the Christmas Fair this year. During which, and over our time at Welbeck, we hope to make further links with the wide-reaching Catholic community around college which provides us with a supportive family outside of Welbeck and the close community we already have of Welbexians.

Although there is no dedicated Catholic chapel in close proximity to

college, there are regular Catholic services in the church of St. Mary in The Elms, Woodhouse. With these we have been invited to join the close-knit group of local parish members. The majority of regular attendees at Sunday Mass are Upper Sixth who include the Head of College; Siobhan Brough; and Luke Campbell. Although other Catholics within Welbeck are welcome to attend when they wish. There are also others who choose to go to Catholic Mass instead of the monthly Church of England service in college.

As a member of 05E I have not only appreciated the opportunity to continue attending mass but also I have been able to get to know both fellow Catholics and the local Catholic community of Woodhouse.

Melissa Kavanagh 05E

COLLEGE SPORT



Female 1st Hockey



Welbeck DSFC 2005 season proved to be somewhat challenging: moving from the old site to the new; transferring players from grass to Astroturf! The coaching was unquestionably valuable as 04 and 05 entry mixed to form a flexible and dynamic team. The new facilities were paramount to the team's training along with the dedication from all members, turning out at least three times a week.

The first match against county champions John Cleveland tested every individual and the structure of the team with many players out with injury and illness. John Cleveland made good ground putting pressure mostly on the defence and pulling back the midfield players in support. Well timed runs from Lucy Woodford and Kat Fenner created some chances at goal with Sophie Leonard winning back possession time after time. The end result was 10 – 0 to Cleveland, a well deserved win, however it gave us the opportunity to re-think our own format. Player of the match went to Kat Fenner for a strong and consistent performance.

Next match we came up against Mount Saint Mary's putting our best eleven on pitch for the first time. The first half started slow but with a strong defence, play was swept out to the wings, keeping St Mary's in their own half. In particular, Sophie Spencer-Small made some great tackles and won back possession many times. As the pace of the game picked up the team pulled together more making ground and putting pressure on their keeper. Good efforts from Sally Hannigan up front and Prunella Ellwood, putting several shots on target. Emily Field was heavily relied upon to get the ball up the other end of the pitch with strong hits out to the wings. Our play vastly improved from the last match ending in a 1-0 loss, giving the team more morale and confidence.

The last match of the season was a 0-0 draw against Ratcliffe College. After a slow start, Welbeck were in full swing with several attempts at goal. Solid performances from Hannah Lines and Tina Schafroth in our defence helped push play out to the midfield players. Some more good runs from Kat Kirk and Lucy Woodford, hitting shots just wide of the goal. Welbeck's fitness was vital; however, a lack of communication meant some mistakes were made. Goal Keeper Chris Hannam made some awesome saves and progressed as the game went on. However player of the match went to Sophie Spencer-Small for two cracking matches!

The bulk of this year's team will be the foundation to next season. With more fixtures to play under the direction of Mr Sandford, whose hard work and patience we all appreciate, the new hockey team are set to do well.

Laura Yaxley



Male 1st hockey

With the move to a new site and with a new coach, new kit and a new team, everything was in place for a good start to the season. Mr Sandford has proved to be a very able coach, and with a solid core of upper sixth players and a very able group of lower sixth, including several county players, we had the makings of a very strong looking team.

We went into our first match against Notts High with mixed expectations, unfortunately Notts High proved that experience is more important than individual skills and we lost. Our performance on that day did show, however, a vast improvement in this year's team over last year's. Our new keeper, Tony Stanley-Adams, proved very able. Man of the Match was Jake Rawson, for playing an outstanding wing and moving the ball well through midfield into the end zones.

We continued to train under Mr Sandford's direction and we built upon the lessons learned from the match. Our next test was

Loughborough Grammar. This was our first match at home and it was good to see a crowd of people turned out to lend their support. We played a greatly improved game, showing that we had bonded as a team and that the training had been worthwhile. We were unlucky not to win as we were obviously the better team but we were simply unable to put balls past the post. Charlie Monk scored a cracking goal with an assist from Ross Donaldson who brought the ball from half way. Man of the Match went to a deserving George Holdcroft.

This was our final match of this year. However this is a new sight and there have been changes. The 1st team can now look forward to some hockey matches being played in the hockey season next year.

Well done team, thank you Good luck for 2006.

Will Cave



Male 1st Rugby

The Welbeck 1st XV was broken apart at the end of the autumn term having had a very successful season leaving many rival schools beaten by the Welbeck boys. However it was not over as far as rugby was concerned because sevens started and the development squad was formed in preparation for the new season in September 2005. After a few practise sessions the development squad took on the best team the upper sixth could muster. The result was a win to the future Welbeck squad and therefore things looked good for the next season.



The training continued every Thursday of the spring and summer terms with basic handling being improved in every session and the team starting to bond as a squad. After a long summer of relaxation and light training away from the Welbeck situation the development squad went to Shrivenham (the defence academy) near Swindon for our pre-season kick start. Things were looking promising with the squad bonding better in the long sessions each day and the set phases were taking shape.

As we got back to our new home in Woodhouse Eaves the squad was quickly reunited along with some new entrants in preparation for the first game of the season against Uppingham School. With only two sessions under our belt the 1st XV headed off to Uppingham, however the lack of training as a team showed and the game was lost 8-3 with our only points coming from a drop goal. The next game was soon after, against Bromsgrove who boasted five England international players. The game did not go well and Welbeck were outclassed, leaving the final score 32-7.

After these early defeats, heads were down at Welbeck. However, with new coaching faces in the form of Mr Calland and Mr Walsh who we had met on pre-season, we got spirits back up in time for the 1st round of the Daily Mail Cup. Welbeck headed off to Arnold Hill School and from the off, were determined to go far in the competition. The game went as planned and a good victory of 56-0 allowed us an easy passage through the first round. Following this the 1st XV faced Ratcliffe College, who we again defeated; with 0 points conceded and 55 points scored this gave the squad a well needed uplift, however we had still yet to defeat difficult opposition. Next on the fixture list came Nottingham High School which had proved to be a close game in the previous season. However this year the game was quite different. The Nott's pack dominated the field and used a strong driving line out to put points on the board. This was aided by a very good kicker in the form of the Nott's full back who kicked for the corners and gave their pack good positions to attack from. The game ended 17-12 to Nottingham High School, and a very disappointed Welbeck squad walked from the field.

Welbeck next faced John Cleveland College, a challenging fixture from last year. However, this year the strong and unbeaten JCC side were more than we had ever faced before. The match demanded a perfect defence in order to stop the JCC centres from running the

length of the field and Welbeck answered. The rush defence organised by the captain was highly effective and caused the JCC number ten to kick for the corners. However the JCC pack was effective and scored from a driving line out. With huge hits coming from all around the park and the tackle situation been dominated by the Welbeck tight five the game looked within reach. Although the defence was near perfect the attack was lacking and the two Welbeck breaks were not converted into points on the board.

After a tiring half the Welbeck discipline started to dwindle and penalties were conceded well within scoring distance which the JCC ten made the most of. After a difficult game the final score was left 13-0.

The season continued with Welbeck passing through the stages of the Daily Mail Cup into the 5th round, beating old local Derby side, Worksop College and others such as Leicester Grammar School and finally the Magnus Church of England School. The turning point of the season however was the Leicester Grammar game and we have not lost a game since meaning we are now through to face John Cleveland in the 6th round of the Cup.

The highlight of the season is completely distinct. On Wednesday the 9th of December the side faced Nottingham High School for a second time in the season with a bitter taste left in the mouth from the last encounter. However a completely new side stood in front of the opposition and after a massive build up Welbeck was alive. For a position that Welbeck had never been in before, a dynamic and passionate game unfolded in front of the hundreds of staff pupils and family that came to watch. With every tackle and pass cheered for by the crowd, the Welbeck team left the field victorious.



After a good season the 1st XV were invited to the super 16s tournament run by Gulliver's Travel held at Warwick University. The tournament entrants included teams and academies from all over England, Wales and Scotland including Colston's Collegiate, Llandovery, John Cleveland College, Coleg Sir Gar, Truro college, Ivybridge Community College, Neath PTC, Keswick College, Swansea College and Mount Saint Mary's. The step up in the standard of play was needed as we were placed in a pool with Colston's, Swansea and Keswick. For our first match we were faced with Swansea who are renowned for hard-hitting, aggressive Welsh rugby. A good game followed with the Welbeck forwards dominating the tackle situation and putting the Swansea side on the back foot. The score was against us however with the 1st XV failing to put together a good attack and kicking our possession away into the opposition half, leaving the final score 11-0 in Swansea's favour.

Next we played Colston's Collegiate who we all understood to be one of the top rugby institutions in the Country. Missing a few of the original starting players we played good aggressive rugby and forced our opposition to play the ball out wide. As expected we were beaten, however a promising performance was given leaving our



Male 1st Rugby (continued)

opposition with a taste of Welbeck rugby that they will not forget. Finally we were left with a realistic chance of beating some opposition, with a match against Keswick College. With several players missing the team started well with early points being put on the board, however with no rhythm of play established we failed to gather a lead and were held in our own twenty two for long periods of the game, leaving the final score as a draw.

The second day of the tournament also proved challenging with the first game against Llandovery college who we dispatched with little trouble. However, this left us with Bradford Grammar School next, who we were well capable of beating. However the game did not run

in our favour with possession being kicked away and we lost the game 8-5. This left us in the position of having to win our next game in order to be in with a chance of winning the plate. However our last game was against Neath PTC who also had an aggressive style of play. Our tiredness from the two hard days of rugby showed. One try came from the Welbeck forwards from determined rucking and continuous pressure.

Positive season so far with 65% of the 14 games won, the 1st XV look onwards to the spring term, with more return fixtures from previous seasons and yet more Daily Mail Cup games, as we head into the future at the new home of the Welbeck legacy.



Male 1st Rugby- from the captain

The Welbeck 1st XV rugby season started very quickly after the start of term with a tough fixture against Uppingham School. With the team only being selected a few days before the fixture; and lack of training as a team, we went into the game with a weak structure, and although we put in a good performance as individuals, we lacked performance as a team. The final score was 8-3 to Uppingham.

Shortly after we played Bromsgrove School who fielded many England U18's players and with the Welbeck team still lacking that essential team camaraderie, the final score was 32-7. With the season now in full swing, Welbeck rugby did not have the start that they were hoping for.

Welbeck College 56-0 Ratcliffe College

Welbeck College 12-17 Nottingham High School

Welbeck College 3-20 John Cleveland

Welbeck College 22-27 Loughborough GS

Welbeck College 40-5 Mount St. Mary's

Welbeck College 24-18 King's Grantham

Welbeck College 71-7 Denstone College

However, the Welbeck 1st XV has also been involved in the Daily Mail Cup which involves nearly 350 schools across England. Our first round draw was against Arnold hill that weren't the best of teams and with the Welbeck team slowly developing, the team played well to get a 56-0 win. We then had our old college location rivals Workop College in the 2nd round at home in the new

College location in Loughborough. The final score was 19-7 with the 2 important tries coming from fullback Sam Collins. We then drew Leicester Grammar School in the 3rd round who were renowned to have a strong set of forwards. The game did not start as planned going 13-3 down in the first half. Just when the crowd thought Welbeck proceeding into the fourth round, an awesome 2nd half performance with tries from Adam Durant, Patrick Lannin and Fraser Ledingham contributing to the 20-16 win. The fourth round was quite different to the 3rd with Magnus C. of E. School losing to the Welbeck side 66-0. With 5 consecutive wins, the Welbeck side began to have the confidence they first lacked at the start of the season and with the 5th round being played against Nottingham High School who were the side that Welbeck lost to 17-12 earlier in the season, questions were asked whether the Welbeck side could proceed into the last 16 in England. Tension was high days before the game, and with the whole college staff and student's support the Welbeck 1st XV won 24-0 out classing the big physical Nottingham High team. Tries coming from Chris Marris, Fraser Ledingham and two from David Locke.

Throughout the season, there's been strong performances by prop Adam Durant, back row Fraser Ledingham and center Tom Howley who have stayed consistent in all fixtures.

With the season still not complete, and the Welbeck side reaching the furthest in the history of the college in the Daily Mail cup, who knows where the season will end.

David Locke



Rugby Sevens

The fifteen aside version of the game saw Welbeck through a good strong season in the final year at The Abbey site; however it was time for the sevens season to begin...

We had three main tournaments that we had been entered for and we knew that we could shine in all of them. The training sessions that we had put in prior to the tournaments were as intense as a usual 1st XV session, so we knew that we were prepared for the first tournament. With pace from all over the squad it was hard to choose a seven to play in each of the games.

The first tournament was at Newark. There were about 16 schools and colleges that had entered from around the area. We got off to a good start and did well to keep the momentum up to get to the final where we won comfortably.

The second major tournament was the national schools sevens held at Loughborough. With a hard group, we knew that we had to make a strong start. We drew the first game against a combined Notts, Lincs and Derby school side; however we won the remaining

games in the group. We then went on to play Worcester Academy in the semi-final; a hard game but we came through to win and reach the final of the second tournament in a row. The final was again against NLD. The boys were now better prepared for the game and eventually ran out comfortable winners.

The final tournament was the National School's Sevens Tournament at Rosslyn Park involving hundreds of schools containing the cream of school boy rugby. Owing to a military exercise we were only able to field a weakened side consisting of Upper Sixth students. The team played hard to get through the group stages on the first day and won through to the quarter finals held on the second day. The boys worked hard to get through the group stages on the first day. Unfortunately a very tired Welbeck side lost to a talented Taunton side. The sevens season proved to be a successful one for Welbeck rugby and rounded off an excellent year for Welbeck rugby as a whole.

Tom Howley



Male 1st Football



This year, Welbeck football's 1st XI enjoyed its most successful season to date. Without a single loss, or draw for that matter the team were celebrating after the defeat of Birkdale on the 9th February. Having a goal difference of +15 just go to show what a triumphant season it actually was. Golden boot winner for the year with 11 goals including some stunning strikes was Captain Nicholas Barnes.

The first game of the season was on home turf on a wintry January afternoon against a well-prepared Notts High School. Both teams started well and neither side really had control of the game. Barnes finished a good team move that started at the back to put our noses in front. Some good defensive play from the back three kept us in front at the halfway stage. As the second half progressed the superior fitness of the team stretched the opposition and allowed us to play more freely resulting in Barnes and Bamber adding to the goal tally for a convincing Welbeck victory.

A week later we found ourselves playing away at Kings School, Grantham on a very wet and uncut pitch. Immediately after kicking off we realised we were up against a team desperate to win at all costs. A few rash challenges were made early on and tensions between the sides were clearly high. Within ten minutes there was a strong penalty shout for Welbeck as the Kings' keeper brought down Barnes just inside the area, but as Barnes took an over exaggerated tumble the referee waved it away. The game remained very tight and as the game neared the end the oppositions over zealous tackling was beginning to be matched by a frustrated Welbeck side with the score at 2-2. A few hard challenges from centre half Ledingham roused the team to mount a final offensive two minutes into overtime which resulted in a brilliantly drilled shot from Bamber to steal the 3 points for a hard working Welbeck side.

The next game saw us playing away against a small Wyggeston College side. After our wake up call the previous week we were well prepared and went for it straight from the kick-off. Bamber bagged a brace with an extravagant display of skill. His first was an acrobatic bicycle kick and the second was a spectacular volley. Barnes, Kellgren and Barnard also netted to end the game a comfortable 5-1.

After the convincing win at Wyggeston, we went into the home game against Bilborough with a very complacent attitude. From the beginning of the match Bilborough fought for every ball and were by far the better team. At half time we were 3-1 down and defeat looked imminent. But, after an inspiring talk from SMI Adams the team came out for the second half not prepared to accept defeat. We fought twice as hard as Bilborough, we were first to every ball and we began to gel as a team. The hard work began to pay off and the goals began to flow. At the final whistle Barnes had netted four with the final score at 7-4. A well earned victory for an outstanding second half team performance.

After a two week break the Welbeck side were raring to go. The home fixture against Nottingham NCN saw some strong support for

the Welbeck side. Some strong individual performances from Offord and Marris motivated the rest of the team. Offord scored his first of the season from a blunder by the keeper. Forty yards out and under pressure, Offord decided to relieve it by launching the ball into the air. By complete fortune it was on target and as the keeper came off of his line to collect it he misjudged the bounce and it went over him into the goal! Later on in the match Collins opened his account with a stunning left footed half volley from the edge of the area, rocketing into the back of the net. At the final whistle the score was 4-2.

Going into the final game ever to be played on the Welbeck grounds with a 100% record still intact the team were very proud and very confident. Birkdale turned up on this bitter afternoon ready to spoil the party. After coming all this way with that record this season, the Welbeck side were not prepared to give it away easily. Welbeck had a nervy start to the match going behind early on but a strong spirited side fought on and gradually gained control of the match. Barnes topped off a great season with two goals and a good quality display.

Honours

The following 1st XI players were awarded colours:

FULL COLOURS: Barnes, Bamber, Dunbar, Offord, Wilson L

HALF COLOURS: Barnard, Leary, Ledingham, Collins, Marris

BEST OVERALL PLAYER 2005: Barnes

GOLDEN BOOT: Barnes

BEST SPORTING CONTRIBUTION 2005: Sinawi

HOUSE MATCHES

The annual inter house competition promised to be a close affair as 04E contained some capable players spread evenly between the houses. Portland edged it on paper but the games were always going to go down to the wire. The games would be played in the following manner: Stirling would play Alanbrooke first with loser playing Portland. After this, Portland would play the winner of game one. This way all three matches could be played before a winner was confirmed. In the event of equal points after the last match, it would be decided on goal difference and, as a last resort, a penalty shootout.

The opening game between Stirling and Alanbrooke ended in victory for Stirling, with Willis and Barnes the scorers. The game was a close contest and could have gone either way but Stirling was the stronger side. After a short break Portland came onto centre stage to take on Alanbrooke. Portland had the stronger team and was confident of victory, but Alanbrooke had other ideas. They wanted to avenge their loss to Stirling and prove themselves. Portland created many opportunities early on but were unable to finish. Alanbrooke fought hard and were rewarded with a goal scored by Kellgren on the counter. Portland knew they couldn't afford to lose this. Wilson and Offord battled hard and created many more chances that went begging. It began to frustrate the Portland team and towards the end of the match found themselves struggling to gain possession. Then a shot from Barnes which had beaten Betton, the Portland goalkeeper was kept out by the 'Hand of God' belonging to Evitts. Unfortunately the referee did see this and subsequently showed Evitts the red card. Dunbar slotted home the resulting penalty ending the match 2-0.

The final game between Portland and Stirling left Portland with all the work to do. If Portland won 2-0 then the competition would have to be decided by a penalty shootout. However, if Portland won 3-0 then they would definitely be overall winners. This was not going to be an easy task but was definitely achievable. Soon after kick off, Stirling found themselves trailing a goal to nil from a Wilson special. The game then developed into a stalemate, until Willis levelled the game for Stirling. This put Portland into panic mode and they were pushing for goals. One goal did come via the boot of Offord but this still



Male 1st Football (continued)

wasn't enough. Portland needed to score just one more to take the competition to a shootout. With one minute remaining, Portland mounted a final attack. A shot from the midfield just outside the area had the Stirling goalkeeper in trouble. As the shot was parried it carried on towards the goal and looked like it may have crossed the line. With shouts of joy from the Portlanders both on and off the pitch, the ball was judged to have not crossed the line fully. As the ball was cleared by the keeper the final whistle blew to the delight of the Stirlings and the disappointment of the Portlanders, contemplating what could have been.



Cricket

As a college, we are not renowned for our cricketing expertise; however we entered the season hopeful as we had some strong players. The first match we played was against Netherthorpe. They arrived with what seemed to be a very mixed team, with ages ranging from year 11-13. Their captain came forward and did the toss with the Welbeck captain for the season, Liam Wilson. We lost the toss and were put out to field. Our opening Bowler Owen Scarrott got us off to a good start with figures of 10 runs for 0 wickets off 7 overs. Unfortunately the other end was not kept tight and Netherthorpe had a constant flow of runs. A stupendous bowling effort from Ali Thompson coming on second change from Scarrott saw the fall of 8 wickets from his 11 overs. However the damage had already been done with one of their openers making 64. The visitors score for the innings tallied at 157. This was a big total for us to chase for our first match together as an inexperienced team.



This inexperience showed in our batting, wickets fell cheaply, although some did look promising at the crease it was not to be on the day! Tim Homan coming in at eight top scoring with 13 was the last attempt to reach the total. Welbeck finished all out for 73. Not a good start to the season but many promising things came from it, and with our heads held high and some lessons learnt we went into the second game against Mount Saint Mary's.

Second game of the season and Welbeck started by losing the toss again, Mount elected to bat first. A change of bowling came from Liam Wilson and Nick Barnes, as our opening bowler from previous was away on other commitments. The captain got the bowling off to a good start and everyone seemed keen in the field. Liam ending with figures off 9 overs 4 wickets and 26 runs, he finished off their batting with the first two balls in his 9 over. Another impressive display of bowling by Ali Thompson saw him take his wicket tally to 10. The visitors made 138 on what seemed to be quite a good track, and we were keen to get out there and get our first win.

Again the wickets fell early with Green and Thompson losing their wickets to some good opening bowling. Then the captain came in

The final table looked like this:

	Played	Won	Lost	For	Against	Goal diff.	POINTS
Stirling	2	1	1	3	2	1	3
Alanbrooke	2	1	1	2	2	0	3
Portland	2	1	1	2	3	-1	3

Stirling won on goal difference but it was an extremely tight competition with only one goal in it

Jimmy Barnard.

number three and soon got settled into a rhythm and scored a quick, well worked, 55. The problem that we had was he did not have any support as wickets fell around him. Once again "big hitter Homan" came in late order and smashed a quick 20 to boost the core to 100 only to see the fall of the Captain and Homan in quick succession. This left it down to the remaining three to score the runs we desperately needed to secure a win. With a change of bowling back to the openers, the lower order were struggling and managed to get the score to 111 before we were bowled out. All in all this was a more convincing game and with the squad improving every game, learning from their mistakes, we went on to play Worksop College, a big game as it was the locals.

Finally we won a toss in the game against Worksop college and elected to bat on what seemed to be an overcast day, a good day for swing bowlers. With Green injured, he dropped down the order to make way for the captain to open with Thompson. Once again we saw Ali struggle with the bat but stuck at it to aid Liam as he looked in good form once again. Liam went on to show a stunning display of batting, playing a full range of text book shots all round the park, making 84. This looked as though it was going to be supported by James Flynn batting 3 and scoring a well worked 13. As Liam was in full flow, Foster and Green went out to support his innings but only to be given out cheaply by two LBW decisions by the opposing umpire. But this was taken well by the team who struggled to aid Mr. Wilson in his scoring. The innings for Welbeck ended up at 145, once again improving on previous performances.

With our best bowling line-up of the season, Scarrott being back with the team, we were positive in the field. This showed as we skittled the away team out for just 77, by far the best performance we had made all season.

The final game of the season was against Abbots Croft, this also being the final game that will be played by Welbeck on the prestigious abbey square, what with moving to the new college. We had a new star below, who was rooted out through the house matches, and with the added passion to win the last match on the square we went into the match fired up but focused. With our new addition to the bowling line-up, Sam Collins - Liam, with confidence, elected to bowl first, with the intention of taking some quick wickets. This was not quite the case, but with some superb, tight bowling, we managed to restrict the visitors to 55 for 4 of 20 overs. With the bowling change, came wickets. Sam coming on for his first spell taking 2 wickets for 11 off 3 and Liam bowling his last three overs for 0 runs and taking 3 wickets all falling within the same over.

This impressive bowling display limited the visitors to just 70 off their 25 overs. We were keen to get out and bat, with myself and Ali Thompson opening we hit off to a confident start against some good, consistent bowling. The opening bowler being the opposition's best player, with figures of 6 overs 0 wickets and 7 runs. The pressure built and the openers lost their wickets after a patient innings to score 48,



Cricket (continued)

leaving only 23 runs to be scored for victory. With Flynn and Scarrott to come in 3 and 4 we thought that being competent cricketers that they would see us home, but this was not the case as they lost their wickets cheaply, Flynn 0 and Scarrott 1. Homan filling the spot of 5 came in after the fall of a quick wicket, Flynn, hit a quick 2 and also lost his wicket. This gave way for the captain, Liam Wilson, and the new kid, Sam Collins to wrap up the session, scoring the final runs quickly and without giving a chance away. A good, satisfying win to finish the season!

House matches being house matches, it lead to a very competitive event. With Stirling having won all male house matches up to this point and being classed as favourites, it was feared that the captain and a few regular players from Portland may spoil Stirling's final triumph.

Portland started their house matches off with a convincing win over Alanbrooke, Portland batting first and scoring an impressive 104 off their 20 overs. The pick of the batting being the top four batsmen in the team, each scoring 15+. With Ali Thompson leading Alanbrooke's attack along with Andrew Cooke, Alanbrooke valiantly fort for their 43 runs against a very strong bowling line up. Their innings consisting of 4 ducks. The Portland bowlers looked in good form going into the crunch match against Stirling.

The next match to be played was Stirling Vs Alanbrooke. Stirling batted first and got off to a good start with the first three batters scoring 59 between them, leaving time for the middle order to come in and hit out or get out. Stirling finished their innings on 125 for 7.

Alanbrooke came out keen to beat the tournament favourites and looked as though they might be in with a shot with some inspired batting by Ken Davey, scoring 28 – bowled Green, and Tim Homan 27 – bowled Foster, the lethargic attitude of Stirling in the field looked to be the end of their reign but the bowlers tightened their lines and cleaned up the tail end, leaving Alanbrooke 89 all out.

So it was all down to Portland to disrupt Stirling's reign of the final house matches ever at Welbeck Abbey!!

Stirling batted first and against the strong bowling line up of Portland, Alex Green and Mark Foster got the team off to a good start against some quality bowling by Liam Wilson. The good start to the batting was followed up by Pritchard and Barnes. After an impressive display in the field, Stirling finished on 72 all out. Stirling knew that this would not be an easy target to defend, especially considering the way which Liam Wilson had been batting this season. Portland got off to a quick start and soon tallied up runs on the board. Barnes managed to take the important wicket for Stirling in his third over, this being the wicket of Liam. But this was not enough as Offord and Flynn were on form. With a quick change of keeper and bowler, Captain Nick Barnes hoped that bringing on new bowlers may produce a wicket; but it was not to be, Portland went on to comfortably score the runs in 14 of their 20 overs, a comprehensive win against the favourites, depriving them of a clean sweep for all Male first team house matches- Well done Portland!

Alex Green



Cross Country



The final season on the Welbeck Estate was the most successful, with both boys and girls teams being County Champions, and both placed 2nd in the Midland & Northern Schools Championship.

The number of Saturdays in this short term meant having to fulfil two and sometimes three fixtures on the same day. The first two boys' races of previous years fell on the same day, and so we took one 'first' team to Worksop (beating Nottingham and Repton, won by Alex Rafferty), while another 'first' team were at home to Oundle, which we also won, with Mitch Lawson first in the race. In the same events, the girls' first team at home came second to the eventual M&NIS champions Oundle, with Emily Ball winning. The away team were second to Worksop with Heather Ball third placed runner.

The County Championships at Nottingham were tough races, but Welbeck were easily the best teams in both the boys' and girls' races. Alistair Thompson was our first runner home, with Lawson and Harry Morris also selected for the English Schools at Norwich. Emily Ball was third, and was selected along with Claire Harrison and Laura Cotton. We had 3 fixtures on the first Saturday after half-term. The first and third teams went to Uppingham and we won against Stamford (who had the first three runners home) Stowe, and Oakham. Thompson was our first home in fourth place.

The girls also won a close match against just Uppingham, with Emily Ball second and Claire Harrison third. At Ampleforth the second and fourth teams took on the eventual M&NIS champions as well as Stonyhurst, they did well and ended up in second place. Darren Wilson was eighth home. At home on the same day our fifth team beat Worksop with Ben McConnachie was first in the race. The girls second team also won against Worksop, with Heather Ball third. We had a home match against Loughborough, and won easily with Richard Greener first in the race.

There were strong performances from both teams in the Midland and Northern Independent Schools Championships at Silcoates, with Emily Ball taking the silver medal. Harrison was fifth, Graham seventh and Jenny Dowdell twenty-fourth. The team finished second out of twelve teams, by just three points. The boys grouped really well, with Kieran Graham leading us home in twelfth place. Close behind were Andrew Corrigan, (14), Greener (19), Thompson (22), Toby Blake (25) and Morris (28). The team finished second, clearly behind Ampleforth, but well ahead of the third team (Norwich).

The College Run was won by Richard Greener (A) in a personal best 30:29, with Corrigan and Graham next home. Stirling comfortably won the House match. Liam Wilson was again first footballer home in sixth place. The girls ran as individuals because of other sporting activities, Emma Kearsey was first back in 39:15.

Many students ran well more than once though not mentioned above, including Felix Bracher, Malik Devlin and Ryan Perry.

Full colours were awarded to Emily Ball, Blake, Cassie Graham, Greener, Harrison, Lawson, and Thompson. Half-colours went to Bracher, Corrigan, Devlin, Kieran Graham, Morris, Perry, and Darren Wilson.

My thanks to all the Staff who assisted me this year, and also to Matthew Cryer, David Palmer and Richard Harriss for organising the marshals.

P Hardern

Female 1st Rugby

The ladies 1st XV rugby team had a fantastic season. Despite none of the lower sixth having much experience in playing rugby before, by the end of the season we had a team which had grown in confidence and worked together to get results.

After only a few training sessions, our first match was against Dinnington RUFC. On home turf and with increasing support from the sidelines, we claimed a victory of 21-5. A couple of weeks later, again at home and with the support of the college we got our 2nd victory; an extremely convincing win over John Cleveland with a score of 67-0! After a 50-0 win at home over Sheffield Hallam University and another, thrashing Lincoln University 67-0 away, we came up against Sheffield Hallam University again. This match must be mentioned for one of our opposition who was, shall we say...quite large! It took about 5 of our players to get her down, although there were some brave individual efforts! In the end our fitness and teamwork came together to make sure of a 31-0 win.

Just 3 days later a match against a touring Canadian side resulted in our 3rd 67-0 victory. Next was Rosslyn Park 7's tournament, where the upper 6th did well and were unlucky to lose out in a hard fought quarter final. Our last 15s match away at the Doncaster stadium against the Yorkshire schools side was always going to be difficult. The final result was 17-5 against us, but it didn't take anything away from the brilliant season we had overall.

Thanks to all the upper sixth girls who brought on the lower sixth loads throughout the season and I'd like to wish you all good luck with your rugby in the future.

The new Welbeck ladies first 15 rugby squad played their first match of the 05E season with only a handful of GA training behind them. The opposition- Leicestershire County- fought hard from beginning to end with an added advantage of having previous match experience. However, Welbeck hit hard right from the start,



making dedicated tackles and breaking the defensive line. The forwards tackled well early in the game to stop Leicestershire gaining ground with some great tackles by Hannah Lines, Sam Denny and Sophie Bowden. The pack worked hard as a unit, which resulted in several scrums being turned over to Welbeck. The back line improved in both attack and defence as the game progressed resulting in awesome runs from Kat Fenner and Prue Ellwood putting Leicestershire on the back foot.

The second half was altogether more focused and productive, as the players settled in their positions. More ball was sent out to the wings enabling Aimee Hutton to score not only her first try but this seasons first try, along with a second breakthrough soon after from Tina Schafroth. The forwards won a lot of ball creating the final try which was scored in the last few minutes by Katie Ward who then converted. As the whistle blew Welbeck had put 17 points onto the board with no points conceded. Player of the match went to Vicky Grove for an impressive debut performance at scrum half.

Rowing

This year has been a great year for Welbeck rowing, winning 26 tankards and two trophies, at both the Army and Tri service rowing regattas. The crews were pieced together from mainly complete beginner crews and through hard work on their part and more so Dr Morgan's they were brought up to a standard to compete in a regatta.

Tankards were won by:

Jake Rawson *2

Luke Kellgren

Henry Callahan

Milly Corrigan * 3

Andrew Corrigan*2

Tom Blackburn

Tom Waite * 2

Peter Laird * 3

Alex Ashmore

John Ker

Tom Flowers * 2

Sam Vause *2

Claire Howard

Charlie Bettridge-Saunders



Overall an extremely successful rowing season. All of which would not have been possible without Dr Morgan's continued commitment to the sport.

John Ker and Tom Waite.

Sailing

Last year sailing took place in the summer term at Welbeck Abbey. There was a mixture of competent and beginners within the group. This meant that mixed ability teams were formed so that everyone could have a chance to learn and improve their sailing. As so many people opted for sailing as their major sport, everyone was separated into two groups: half would sail on Wednesday and half would sail on Saturday. No serious races took place as it was only ever between the group and it was always touch and go as to who would win. As the term went on a few people dropped out and the group became smaller, meaning more people were able to sail twice a week. People started to improve and showed good potential: Malik Devlin and Chris Evans were the biggest improvers. Other good sailors from that year were Grace Wentworth and Charles Ashington-Pickett.

The lake at Welbeck Abbey was thin and incredible gusty at times but it also could be dead, with no wind at all. This meant that all sailing was tested constantly. It is said the best sailors can move in the lightest of winds. Many people raced on a Sunday against the other club members and Welbexians were placed constantly. Good sailing came from Rich Greener (Commodore of Welbeck) and his crew of Georgina Kemp; who were placed regularly on a Sunday. This year was full of dedicated people who would stay behind and help with the repair and upkeep of the boats. The end of the term was a sad one, our last sailing sessions was full of fun and games with double traipsing on the 3K and climbing the masts from everyone. Truly a day everyone will remember. On the final day of Welbeck came the packing up of all the equipment and the saying

goodbye of the people that had helped in our time there. One thing that will always be remembered from that year was the Commodore's impressive constant capsizing! Half colours were awarded to Chris Evans, Malik Devlin and Charles Ashington-Pickett. Full colours awarded to Bryn Perry and Megan Keeling.

New Welbeck means a new start. The sailing club has moved to the Foremark reservoir, a half hour's drive from the college. Here the reservoir is very large and so is the club. The local universities all use it so there is potential for some big races where I believe Welbeck will come out strong. We have some potentially awesome sailors amongst the group this year. Just to mention a few Alex Thompson, Paul Fassam and again: Grace Wentworth. The beginners have picked up the new skill especially Chris Wright who is doing incredibly well and shows no fear and Jenny Walkley has improved too. Sailing as a major sport has gone into two terms. This will allow more people the chance of sailing. In the summer term the sailing session will be back strong and the races will start. At the moment we are just improving our technique and learning the skills required to be good sailors. As the weather gets colder theory and maintenance will start to take place which will improve our team. The boats we are sailing are lasers 1, 2 and one 3, and toppers. A big thank-you has to go to our two Commodores Megan Keeling and Bryn Perry who are our instructors and safety cover and thank-you also to Mr Hirst for the work effort and time he puts in to get us to the club and the safety cover he supplies. Without his dedication sailing would not go ahead.

George Kemp

Triathlon

The third year of triathlon at Welbeck went well. Not only did a good number of 03 entry carrying on with triathlon for a second year but there was a very large number of newcomers. With most people already having a very good base fitness, the training started hard and fast with bike run sessions taken by Mr Graham, Mr Patel and Mr Davidson. Worksop College was the venue for the swimming training and those sessions involved a bus trip there and a pleasant run back to college on the back road.

After a good few weeks of training and technique practise the Mansfield triathlon was upon us and we were all fired up to do well in the race. The weather was disappointing but this didn't dampen the spirits of the Welbeck triathletes.



Everyone who took part finished and there were some very good results for first timers and re-runners alike, with Alex Rafferty winning his age group category.

Ryan Perry had a storming race finishing seconds behind Rafferty and doing a personal best time. We had 8 students go under the hour and then everyone else who took part come extremely close to the hour mark.

For the Welbeck boys it was:

- 1st Alex Rafferty
- 2nd Ryan Perry
- 3rd Steven Clench

For the Welbeck girls it was:

- 1st Charlotte Robinson
- 2nd Emma Kearsey
- 3rd Claire Harrison

There were a couple of unfortunate people on the day; Matthew Stannard had a flat tyre when leaving transition so quickly changed his wheel. Charlotte Durant got a flat tyre on the way round the cycle route and had to run quite a distance to get back to the transition area to go out on the run.

The Welbeck triathletes are looking forward to next year especially now triathlon is available for two consecutive terms.

Steve Clench



Swimming

Since the new 6 lane 25m pool opened at the beginning of October it has been in constant use by students of all abilities; a dedicated few have been braving the chilly mornings to be in the water by 0630 four mornings a week.

With the help of Mr Hall, an experienced coach from Coventry, the college was able to enter two teams into the Bazuka National Swimming Championships for Secondary Schools. The first round took place on 25th November in Nottingham in the evening and excitement was high with many of us having not competed within a year. First up were the boys '4 by 50m' medley relay where they came fourth. The girls fought hard in their '4 by 50m' free style relay and a fast time earned them 3rd place just a few hundredths of a second behind two of last years finalist teams. The next event of the

night was the boys '4 by 50m' freestyle relay and after a fast paced heat they came away fifth. The final race was the girls '4 by 50m' medley relay, having done well in the freestyle the team hoped for a repeat performance, eventually securing another third place.

The teams were as follows Claire Howard, Emma Kearsey, Charlotte Robinson, Charlie Bettridge-Saunders and Claire Harrison. With Liam Flynn, Steve Clench, Harry Field, Sam Cartwright and James Eadie forming the male squad.

A fun evening was had by all and it was good to see pupils getting back to competitive swimming like fish to water! Now we eagerly await the Leicestershire County Age Groups in the New Year.

Claire Howard



Squash

The squash facilities have come a long way since last year's single crumbling court: with 4 brand new courts, 3 of which have viewing galleries and all are glassed back. The courts are widely used at all hours of the day, every day, by students and teachers alike. All abilities are welcome, from complete beginners being coached by the adjutant on Wednesday and Saturday for major sport; to the advanced students at the top of league playing against each other for the top spot on the on the ladder – or playing the select few experienced staff.

On the student's ladder the top spot is closely fought over by Matt Stannard, Ben Howe and Tom Tongs. Dr Morgan and Mr Harden

have the top spot over all and although the top 3 students often play them, they remain on top in first and second place. Each week on major sport days the games take place, everybody playing somebody either two places above or two places below them on the ladder. All levels play during major sport, and all are given pointers throughout. Since the beginning of term, everyone has dramatically improved their game.

The courts are used outside of major sport as well, many students use the courts after prep, at the weekend or during a free afternoon to play friends and better their game.

Tom Tongs



Badminton

This year saw the return of Badminton to the Major Sport list at Welbeck DSFC. The game turned out to be popular, with a group in excess of 20 taking part in the first term. As the college was lacking in a tutor to teach the sport, Mr Hubbard kindly volunteered to take up this position. His method of teaching was of a very high quality, considering he had not played Badminton since he himself was a school.

After just a few sessions at the start of the term, it became obvious that it was to be a popular sport in the first term; therefore I took up the job of organising a Badminton ladder, which currently consists of 32 students and 4 members of staff. Of these, the most impressive player, by far, is Jimmy Barnard (04E Head of Portland), who has risen to position 7 from position 31 in the space of just a few weeks. Currently he has not lost any games he has played, a somewhat excellent achievement.

In the next term, there will be an Inter-House Badminton competition, in which a team of 14 students from each house will play a series of games to compete for best house. There will be singles, single sex and mixed doubles matches played and each house have a very good chance of winning, each having a captain with outstanding skill in the game. The house captains are as follows:

Portland – Jimmy Barnard (04E)

Alanbrooke – Matthew Keogh (04E)

Nelson – Mhairi Robertson (05E)

Trenchard – David Roy (04E)

Stirling – Martin King (05E)

The competition will take place during the first half-term of the New Year and I'm sure it will be an interesting tournament, giving everyone a chance to shine. Hopefully there will be many supporters watching over the balcony!

Inter-house Badminton

On Sunday 22nd January 2006, Welbeck's first Inter-house badminton competition for a number of years took place. There was a great excitement and apprehension about the competition, almost an equal amount between the spectators as for each house's team members. The matches started promptly at 1400hrs, and the last game ended at 1700; so it was a long and tiring competition for all participants.

It was held in general regard that Nelson House would come out on top in the competition, with Portland trailing just behind. Nelson did not disappoint their housestaff or students; losing none of the rounds played, and only losing a few of the individual matches they played. It was not Portland, however, that came second place, but Trenchard.

The competition for 2nd, 3rd and 4th position was incredibly tight, with Trenchard, Portland and Alanbrooke all winning 2 rounds and losing 2 rounds, therefore the positions were decided by individual matches won/lost. Trenchard came 2nd place by winning one more match than Portland, who had only won one more match than Alanbrooke. Stirling were unfortunate in the competition, and lost all four rounds played, but the positions were secondary to the prize that all the team members claimed; that was the honour and pride to represent their house in a thoroughly enjoyable competition.

David Roy



Female 2nd Hockey

Welbeck ladies second hockey team have had a fair season this year. With no fixtures until the second half of the term, the first few weeks were spent on the astro-pitch training hard, getting to know one another's strengths, weaknesses and general hockey abilities! It soon became clear that players had a range of skills to offer the team and it wasn't long before positions were filled and we were heading towards our first game. Saturday 12th November saw the team play Mount St Mary's seconds on home ground. After a bad start to the first half, the team came fighting back to have an unbeaten second half, though the final score was not in our favour. The girls then used their experience in preparation for a match the following Wednesday,

away to Ratcliffe College seconds team. They had the upper hand on the game from the start and although the defence worked well their forwards managed to pick holes in our back line several times.

All in all it has been an enjoyable season, with everyone having improved their hockey and having had fun in the process!

Team: Annabel Turner, Charlotte Richardson, Charlotte Robinson, Emily Rainsley (GK), Emma Blouddyn, Heather Ball (Vice Captain), Kathryn Kirk, Lauren Wallis, Melissa Kavanagh, Rhiannon Ebdon, Sara Dunn, Victoria Gunter and Claire Howard (Captain).

Claire Howard



House Hockey

One Saturday in January all five houses converged onto the astro to compete in interhouse hockey, in what would prove to be a tense afternoon. Despite absences due to other sporting commitments, the houses all fielded strong teams. In the round robin stage of five minutes per match, it was a defenders game, with little opportunity for shots or free hits. Consequently, the two teams advancing to the final got there simply on goal difference, leaving Alanbrooke and Stirling to compete for third place. Alanbrooke achieved this with relative ease, scoring two to ensure third place. This left Trenchard

and Portland to battle for the title. The game started strongly for Portland, resulting in a goal early on. However, Trenchard fought back and Jarvis netted an improvised short corner. A goal from both captains had now forced the game into golden goal. Partly due to a magnificent cross from Monk converted easily by Entwistle (who had scored six during the day), and partly due to Askew dancing instead of defending, Portland slotted the winner. A fun afternoon, our thanks go out to Mr. Sandford and Ma'am Simpkin for umpiring, and also to Portland for winning. Makes a nice change.



Female 1st VI Football

We began this season with great enthusiasm for the game despite the fact that the majority of us had not played before. With SMI Adam in control we were sure to progress quickly. We spent the first couple of weeks getting to grips with the basics, everyone putting the effort in to improve their skills ready for our debut against New Nottingham College.

We were confident; playing at home we had a great amount of support from the sidelines. Unfortunately, despite the relentless efforts of the team to find a gap in their defence again and with the force of a strong opposition, we lost 4-1. However, the team did not give up and after only a couple of weeks of intense (but fun!) training we were playing away against John Cleveland College.

With new tactics and a confident squad we were led once again onto

the pitch by Captain Katie Ward. The first half went well with the Welbeck girls dominating the play, keeping the score level at 0-0. In the second half Cleveland contested more strongly for the ball and two unstoppable strikes made the score 2-0. We fought hard and several chances were narrowly missed. Despite the loss, it was heartening to see how well each and every player had improved and grown in confidence since the beginning of term.

Towards the end of the season, we took a break from training and made our way to Frankie and Bennys. The food was brilliant and it was an ideal opportunity to talk tactics!

Thanks to SMI Adam for his efforts in training us to the best standard girls' football has ever seen at Welbeck!

Vicky Grove



Male 2nds Football



This year the Welbeck Second XI was captained by Graham Evitts. We played five fixtures, with two convincing wins and three close run losses. The first game was at home against Bilboro College. It was a strong performance by the newly formed squad and although we took the lead in the first half with two goals, the

defence was not enough to withstand the onslaught of the Bilboro forwards. The final score was Welbeck 2, Bilboro College 3.

Following this defeat, the team persevered with two wins, the first a 6-0 white wash over Nottingham High School, a close rival, and a 5-1 victory away to Kings School Grantham.

Unfortunately the next two teams to be played were known as worthy opponents and they did not disappoint. Wyggeston College were first, and won a tough and very physical game on their home turf, the final outcome 3-2. The final game of the season was against Birkdale School at Welbeck. The last ever 2nd XI game to be played at Welbeck Abbey. The students of Welbeck did not disappoint and it was good to see a home crowd out supporting us. It was another close game, with Birkdale on top with a score of 5-6. An entertaining game for the crowd and a good end to the season. We all look forward to the next 2nd XI season at the new Welbeck DSFC site.

Ed Gaught

OLD WELBEXIAN REVIEW



President Old Welbexian Association



**Lieutenant Colonel
Steve Vickery
Royal Signals**

The purpose of my short article is to inform you about the Old Welbexian Association (OWA). Some of you may have heard of it. Essentially it is a network of Welbexians who have commissioned in to the services and wish to maintain a link with the College and a link to those friends

they have made at Welbeck. Of course, we are also open to civilians who have chosen not to join the services post Welbeck.

In the past few years the OWA has not enjoyed a high profile at the College, however we (the OWA Committee) aim to make amends. We plan to participate with you in a few sporting events just prior to the June President's Dinner. At some stage during that day, I will talk to the leaving entry about the importance of joining the OWA

– we might also have our web presence established by the summer!

I often say to friends and colleagues that Welbeck has played an important part in my life. Without the benefit of 2 years at the College I would not be where I am today; I was also fortunate to return as the adjutant in 1990, a 2 year tour that I enjoyed immensely. I now feel that it is time to pay something back to the College and that is why I was appointed as the Chairman last November.

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy your marvelous new College at Loughborough and I hope to meet many of you later this year.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Vickery

Commanding Officer

14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)

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OP Bracken – Oct to Dec 04



I was awoken on the morning of 19 Oct 04 following the first night of celebrations of the Gurkha festival of Dashain by my mobile phone. The Regimental Foreman of 30 Signal Regiment was asking if I could get to a military phone, or pop into the Ops Room at my earliest convenience. This was the first that I heard of Op BRACKEN, the Op that would become known to everyone in the country as the redeployment of 1 Black Watch to FOB DOGWOOD in the Iraqi Sunni Triangle.

As Ops Officer of 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron and OC of the 30 Signal Regiment contribution to the Spearhead Light Element, I was to take a small group of British and Gurkha soldiers with a 501 SATCOM detachment and provide communications for the Black Watch and for a UK Liaison Headquarters (LOHQ). The LOHQ was to be sited at FOB KALSU, the HQ of the US Marine Corps' 24 Mobile Expeditionary Unit, 1 hour SE of DOGWOOD. Within 72 hours of that initial phone call we were in a C17 on our way to Basra, and a further 24 hours later me were in a US escorted convoy from Baghdad to the North Babil region of central Iraq.

The nature of the deployment brought a number of particular challenges, not all of them technical:

The improvised nature of the CIS plan for the deployment required a good deal of lateral thought from every member of the Detachment. A number of common systems were used (and sometimes abused) in very uncommon ways in order to achieve

communications in a challenging environment. I do not consider myself a particularly technical officer but I was very grateful for my technical background. As part of a small team I found myself abandoning the 'bird's eye view' on a number of occasions and getting elbow deep in wires and circuit boards.

Working with the Americans was a fantastic experience. The USMC personnel were nothing like the stereotype. Professional, helpful and incredibly welcoming, they dispelled many of my coalition illusions. Their progress in the field of Network Enabled Capability is outstanding, especially in an all-arms grouping like the USMC.

Once communications were achieved and proven, we were free to assist with the local defence of the FOB. Royal Signals soldiers were patrolling daily, shoulder to shoulder, with US Marines around the canals and fields of North Babil. This was a phenomenal opportunity. The Brits, Gurkhas and Americans all learnt a great deal from each other, and it was a perfect example of the Signaller as both Soldier and Tradesman.

The Sunni Triangle being what it was (and indeed still is), mortar and rocket attacks were daily occurrences. I was alarmed to discover that incoming mortar fire is as bad as everything I had ever read. Being caught in the open without your body armour and helmet is a mistake that you only make once. Discovering a way to cope with this proved an interesting leadership challenge, and one that was overcome with humour. For example, a detachment challenge was issued to be the first person to be 'Waah-ed' under fire. This was successfully completed by Cpl Dickinson when he asked me breathlessly, 'What was that?' while we cowered in our shelter. 'What do you bloody think it was.' was my reply, met by a chorus of 'Waah!' from the remainder of the detachment.

In summary, Op BRACKEN was a fantastic opportunity to practice some low level leadership, to get really immersed in the technical complexity of communicating in a challenging environment, and to genuinely make a difference on operations.

Capt Jon Malcolm R SIGNALS, Adjutant 14 Signal Regiment (81 Entry)



An Old Welbexian's Summer Holiday

(Text of an email sent to Mr Cunliffe)

Dear Mr Cunliffe,

Having finally remembered to get your email address from Corrigan Jr, I felt it only appropriate to email (as promised) in reference to the Eastern Europe trip.

First things first, you'll be pleased to hear it all went just about to plan, although admittedly the plan wasn't hugely detailed and rather vague in it's objectives. Well Poland was rather exciting, Warsaw and it's varying styles of soviet- era concrete housing blocks (that could only have been designed by some central planner sat in Moscow without a care for the poor Pole's skyline) and then the milk bars and their neo-communist style are strange to see on the same streets as Macdonalds (and their infamous arches of capitalism). Krakow was beautiful, as expected although it seems likely to become the Polish equivalent of Prague with hoards of drunkards flying to celebrate marriage there. Naturally Prague was exactly that, full of Londoners causing drunken mayhem and for some reason there was a unusual number of people with "Neil" on their stag party shirts.

Although the night tarnished Prague, in daytime the city with it's terra-cotta roofs made it so much more stunning. Following trips to Zakopane and standing at 1987 metres on the Slovak/Polish border line (looking over what seemed to be the entirety of Slovakia) in the Tatras and a few nights stopping here and there in Slovakia we eventually found Andrew Corrigan in Budapest. I'm guessing that he told you of jumping off a train, walking in delirious dehydration back along the railway line to a town in the death of night, accepting a lift from a woman whose only communication with us was broken German and then her dropping us off by car at Lake Balaton's premier nudist campsite. Well from here the group broke apart, Olly suffering in the heat spent the rest of the time in Switzerland, Adam/Rob trekked back across western Europe hoping to get a ferry back to England whilst Andrew (with his ever so amusing friend Antony) carried on to Zagreb, being kicked off a Hungarian train along the way in some godforsaken town called "Nagykanistza" in SW Hungary where there was nothing to do but play in the fountain, as being a Saturday in Hungary nothing was open. Onto Zagreb and I decided it was time to see Serbia, and although money was incredibly low (approx £10, having left my cashcard on the train with Andrew) I still thought it would be a greater experience should I simply live like a tramp the rest of the way. I stopped in some odd places along the way to Belgrade, eventually getting to a city which despite the odd building that was 'NATOed' in 1999 was very normal, infact scarily so, for some reason you expect these nations to be unable to function following major bombing campaigns. But somehow I guess money always finds a route to restructure. The city still held reminders of the Milosevic regime, and although they sell his postcards on streets I can't see him being placed in the House of flowers with old Tito.

In Belgrade I also had lunch with the Australian ambassadors wife (which, me being infinitely poverty stricken, she paid for) who was a lovely old Australian lady who had a love for cricket and hosting functions. A somewhat ideal lady for an ambassadors wife then. I also managed to find my great Uncle's grave, somewhere in the depths of Novo Grobje where according to the plaque the British war dead died fighting with partisans against the Nazis. From here I was no living off nothing, and I decided it was time to visit the British Embassy- who (given they dont seem to have much to do) loved to have a british person visit, and not just a load of people wanting work visas.

Having been fed with enough cheese sandwiches, and having drank enough coke to kill a horse whilst chatting to a young man who will probably one day be the head of the foreign office, I continued on my way.

Crossing to Bosnia wasn't that easy, being the only non national on the bus I had to go through the rigmarole of explaining what I was doing-to a man who knew how to ask the question, but blatantly didn't understand the answer. Banja Luka became the most forsaken place I've ever seen, putting even Nagykanistza to shame for sheer nothingness.

Although even the trains didn't run here and bus was once again the only way. Eventually getting to Sarajevo following a bus journey in 30 degree heat, I stepped out into a city that was trying it's hardest to suppress the feelings of a bitter past. The people looked beaten, and the teenagers my age (as was explained to me by an Sarajevo girl studying English, in Sarajevo) who spent their lives in shelters during the siege have a tendency to be a little less than outgoing. Walking and seeing the Sarajevo Roses (where a shell's impact area is filled with red concrete to remember the person who was standing before the shell impacted) brought home the realities of war, and sniper's alley with the plethora of bullet holes was horrifying to say the least.

Onto Mostar and seeing the bridge in early evening over the Neretva river is at least an attempt to show peace is back in the area, I never really understood why the co-existence couldn't exist to start with, but often I thought it was probably the effect of decisions made far from here. Realising I had about two and a half days to get back to Geneva to fly home, I literally rocketed (well as quickly as I could on Bosnian trains) back north and to Switzerland. I just remember how pretty Bosnia was in terms of untouched forestry, which I'm told will remain that was due to the sheer volume of land-mines en-placed there.

However more importantly, next summer (2006) trip to Central Asia is being planned. My initial route will probably involve trekking (or flying, depending how much time I have) to Baku then crossing the caspian to Turkmenbashi, following through Ashgabat and up to Samaqand, Tashkent, Bishkek and Almaty before catching the train north to Astana and then onto Omsk before going west on the trans- siberian back to Moskva, then st Petersburg and catching a ferry back to Rostock then eventually onto England. I'm guessing you've done this route before (back in the day when it was the silk route?!), so would you recommend any particular areas along the route?

Well I imagine you have much skiing to do in your French Maison, so I'll leave it here.

Having seen Emily just a few days ago, she's well and you'll be pleased to hear she's going on a bit of an adventure this summer to thailand. See how cultured the Durham produce are?

If you bring a group of Welbexians to visit Southampton, then I'd have to discuss travels with you in further details.

With Regards and wishing you a merry Christmas, and I'd really best go now as it's midnight mass.

Owen





