



# EPSOM

## COLLEGE

Issue 9 Spring 2006

## Inaugural Inter-House Pancake Race



Photo: Linda Clakson

lies in the archaic English verb "to shrive," which means to absolve people of their sins. It was common in the Middle Ages for priests to hear people's confessions at this time, to prepare them for Lent.

It is also known as Pancake Day because originally pancakes were eaten to use up milk and eggs, which traditionally were not eaten during Lent and would otherwise spoil during this period.



Photo: Linda Clakson

The first inter-house pancake race was run at Epsom College on Tuesday February 28th - Shrove Tuesday - with Raven House winning the Junior race in 1 minute 23 seconds, Fayrer taking the Intermediate title in 1 minute 15 seconds and Granville the Seniors in 1 minute 8 seconds. However, the consistency of Raven's passing and tossing across the year groups meant that they were placed first overall. Well done girls!

So why Shrove Tuesday and Pancakes? In the Christian calendar, Shrove Tuesday is the English name for the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The origin of the name Shrove

Legend has it that a woman making pancakes, on hearing the church bell calling her to church, raced out of her house with frying pan in hand so she would not be late for confession. So the tradition of pancake races began! 🍳

## An Opportunity to Perform

House Soirees provide an opportunity for the boys or girls of each house to perform for all those involved in the houses, be they academic or support staff, other pupils or parents. The recent Forest House Soiree involved more than

## World of Work



Photo: Norman Rice

*Volunteers and pupils enjoyed the exchange of ideas at the World of Work evening.*

A "World of Work" evening was held on Thursday March 2nd, involving over twenty volunteer speakers, representing a wide range of professions, who spoke to Fifth and Lower Sixth Formers about their work, how they came to be attracted to their occupations and what they find fulfilling and stimulating about them.

As a College, we are fortunate that former pupils, governors and staff are willing to give of their time and, judging from comments gathered from them and from various pupils who attended the evening, there was much useful ground covered and good social ties secured. 🍷

three quarters of the house performing sketches they had written themselves and musical pieces that had recently won solo competitions within the school. Raven, Robinson and White House Soirees are all in progress as we go to press. 🍷

# Annual Chemistry Lecture and Dinner

The College was exceptionally privileged this year to welcome Professor Andrew Hamnett, an electrochemist of international repute and the Principal and Vice Chancellor of Strathclyde University, who gave this year's annual chemistry lecture to the Sixth form. His wide-ranging talk on "Fuel Cells -Fuelling the Future" took almost 70 students and staff from the

basic ideas of solvating ions through to the redox changes at electrode surfaces and the power that could be harnessed from them.

Old Epsomians with an interest in Chemistry would be welcome to attend this event in future and should contact Mrs Tracy Muller, Head of Chemistry via e-mail: [t-muller@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:t-muller@epsomcollege.org.uk). ♥



Photo: Linda Clarkson

*Professor Hamnett meets with students after the annual chemistry lecture*

## Pupils to Develop Technical System for Royal Navy

A team of five L6 pupils is participating in this year's Engineering Education Scheme. Thomas Wharram (Downsend), Katie Pavey (Aberdour), Daniel Park (Box Hill School), Shun Ito (Aberdour) and Nicole Lim (Sains College) are working on a software engineering project for the Royal Navy.

In January 2006, the team spent three days at Southampton University, concentrating on the requirements of the project and implementing a solution on behalf of the Royal Navy. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of March. The team is required to write a professional report, present the project to a panel of engineers and put together a display to

highlight its work at the celebration and assessment day, to be held at HMS Collingwood in Gosport on April 26th, 2006. For more details on the scheme and future progress visit [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk) Click News then EC News. ♥



## Rabbi Speaks of War Years...

In January, the College was delighted to welcome guest speaker Rabbi Barry Marcus from the Central Synagogue in London as guest speaker to the Chapel. A member of the Chief Rabbi's Cabinet and a Trustee of the Yad Vashem UK Foundation, he spoke movingly about the heroism of OE Brigadier Glyn Hughes in Bergen-Belsen in 1945, demonstrating to the College community the relevance of the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day, "making a difference." ♥

## ...First Hand Experiences of War Years are Shared

Holocaust survivor, Mr Rudi Oppenheimer, visited the College earlier in the term to share his experiences of the time nearly 61 years ago, when - aged just 12 - he and his family were taken to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where his parents subsequently died. Mr Oppenheimer spoke of his experiences as a German Jew in Amsterdam before the war, of his later ordeal in Belsen and of the liberation of the concentration camp by Red Army Cossacks. In the last six years, Rudi Oppenheimer has visited over 500 schools around the country and abroad, sharing his experiences with pupils. ♥

## Website Brings You News!

Don't forget to look at the College website on a regular basis. Results are updated weekly and an EC News is posted fortnightly to keep you up to date with What's On, a range of events and pictures. Go to [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk) and click on News, Sports Results or News, EC News.



## Old Epsomian's Outstanding Achievements



Photo: Bob Newman

The College was delighted to hear of the Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia to Mr Bob Newman. The Order of Australia, instituted by Her Majesty the Queen on February 14th, 1975, was established as "An Australian Society of Honour for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or meritorious service."

The Medal of the Order of Australia is awarded to people contributing widely to the Australian Community. Bob Newman won his award for services to the forestry industry, for professional and administrative roles in industry organisations, for his work as an educator and author and for services to the community, including Rugby Union, for over 50 years.

Bob emigrated to Australia on his own in 1946 when only 17 years old, but he maintains good links with the College and, indeed, planned his holidays in 2004 to allow him to be at the Royal Albert Hall for the opening event of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations. 🍷

## OEs Shoot at Commonwealth Games Melbourne 2006

Parag Patel (Holman House 1989-1994) and Ian Shaw (Carr 1982-1987) will represent England and Scotland respectively at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in the fullbore open rifle event. This is the only Commonwealth Games event to be contested equally by men and women. Results will be posted on the College website. Go to [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk) and click News, EC News/Sport. 🍷



*Ian Shaw celebrates his win in New Zealand 2003*

## 24 Year old Ex-Public Schoolboy Becomes Minister

Old Epsomian Razvan Orasanu, the last Eastern European scholar to go through Epsom College as part of the Soros Foundation before the scheme ceased, has been made President for the Valorification of State Assets in Romania at just 24 years of age. He has the massive task of recovering 5 billion Euros worth of debt, privatising several hundred companies and liquidating approximately 500 more.

After gaining A grades in English, French and Economics in one year at Epsom, he attended the London School of Economics, taking a year out from the course to teach English in China and learn Mandarin. Having completed his LSE course, he moved on to the French Business School in Paris before returning to Romania.

Speaking of Razvan's achievements, his former Housemaster and Teacher of English, Mr Rob Worrall, said, "He was



Photo courtesy of Razvan Orasanu

an extraordinary boy at school with incredible drive and ambition, who recognised how lucky he was to have been given a chance of a top education by the Soros Foundation. He never wasted a moment and was very able indeed." 🍷

## STOP PRESS

The College is sad to report the death of Maxwell Phair, who was a Master at the College between 1939-69. OE Roger Bland, who passed on the news, said that he was a man of enormous enthusiasm

for life, who insisted on thought, logic and detail. The College extends its heartfelt condolences to his wife Venetia and family. 🍷

# Rugby In The Limelight

The College was delighted when England Rugby Sevens Coach, Mike Friday, agreed to conduct coaching sessions for the pupils in the lead up to this season's Rugby Sevens tournaments. Mike, who has been invited to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, said of his visit, "I find coaching good fun and rewarding and coaching school pupils is a different challenge to the professionals I normally coach." Mike, who is based at Twickenham, played scrum half for Wasps and now mentors promising scrum halves, a role which takes him all over the country. 🍷

# An OE Returns Again

Tim Vine, Old Epsomian, comedian and actor, returned to the College library recently to finish filming a short film he started before Christmas. The romantic comedy film was written and directed by Tim, who also plays a pilot. He is currently looking forward to starring as the ex-

boyfriend in a sitcom for BBC1, the rehearsals for which start in the summer. The programme will be transmitted on Friday evenings.

For more information go to [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk) Click on News, EC News edition 1. 🍷



Photo: Linda Clarkson

*Tim Vine OE and Paul Lassell-Diesen in action in the library*

# Triple Rugby Success

Following Mike Friday's visit, it was apt that Epsom College swept the board at the Sussex Schools Open U18 Rugby Sevens tournament at Christ's Hospital School in Horsham, when the Under 18 boys teams won both the A and B team competitions without losing a single game. The boys' success made it a triple celebration for the College as only a week earlier the girls had won the Christ's Hospital Girls Sevens tournament.

Drawn in the strongest group in the Sussex tournament, the Epsom College A team beat Brighton College, KCS Wimbledon, Isleworth and Syon and Cranleigh to reach

the quarter final, where they beat Framlingham College, Suffolk, by 21 points to 7. In the semi-final, Epsom coasted to a 31-0 victory over the fancied Filton College from Bristol.

The final pitted Epsom against local rivals John Fisher and a fiercely contested match saw Epsom run out 14-0 winners. Epsom became the first team in 12 years to retain the title they had won a year earlier.

In the B team tournament, Epsom College was never stretched and beat Cranleigh, Brighton College, John Fisher and St John's Leatherhead to win the round robin competition. 🍷

# Table Tennis Team Show Great Promise

The table tennis team of Kevin Lee (Captain) and Brian Wong (both Diocesan Boys School), Justin Taylor (Hall School, Wimbledon), Stuart Mathys (Homefield Prep School) and Calvin Wong (Tam Pak Yu College) qualified as runners-up in the Zone Finals, held at Whitgift in January. Going through to the Regional Finals in Cheltenham on the 19th February, victory eluded them despite two close matches in which they faced Wollaston, losing 1-7, and Chesham, losing 3 - 5. At an earlier event in the year, Stuart Mathys qualified for the National Individual Finals to be held in April. 🍷



Photo: Fi Drinkall

*Parents brave the cold as the teams keep winning!*



Photo: Carole Rice



# Netballers Win Through



Photo: Carole Rice

*The U15 Netball Team celebrate their success - LtoR Helena Mortimer (Captain), Samantha Burke, Laura Butcher, Anna Dick, Georgina Morley, Ashley Crane, Lucy Phillips and Florence Kirby.*

The U15 netball team put in an outstanding performance to win the County Finals. Winning their pool games against Greenacre, Tormead, Croydon High School, St Catherine's, Bramley, Guildford High and Reigate

Grammar, they went on to beat Putney High 5-3 in the semi-final and Caterham 11-4 in the final. This was a particularly satisfying result after being pipped by Caterham by just one goal in last year's final. 🍷

## Surrey Ends on a High

It was the end of an era for Surrey netball when the senior county side won its last-ever home fixture 45-28 against West Yorkshire.

The squad, including Epsom College student Eboni Beckford-Chambers, which has won every game this season and sits proudly at the top of the England Counties second division, will be disbanded later this month when the whole county structure is dismantled.

Surrey captain Lucy Barber said she is confused and saddened by the decision to call time on county netball. Surrey netball has a long history and at a recent reunion dinner, one former player could trace her involvement in county netball back 70 years.

## Harpsichord Recital

Gilbert Rowland, one of Britain's finest harpsichord exponents, thrilled his audience at the College with a wide repertoire ranging from Bach to Soler, interspersed with Scarlatti and Couperin.

Gilbert brought his own, recently commissioned instrument on which he displayed great flair, coupled with tremendous dexterity, to captivate both the young and the not so young on this most magnificent keyboard instrument. For over 90 minutes, ably supported by Epsom's Director of Music Graham Lodge, he took his audience back through the centuries to the grand halls of England, France and Italy. A Magical Mystery Tour par excellence.

Graham provided a second pair of hands in the performance of the complex and compelling piece "La Douce et Piqante" by Couperin, the bagpipe-like drone behind the melody filling the room with mystery and magic as the audience sat captivated by 20 fingers working in harmony to produce such a delightful piece.

Graham deservedly took his applause with modesty and repaid his audience with an off the programme encore of The Harmonious Blacksmith by Handel. 🍷



Photo: Linda Clarkson



# Shrewsbury House School take Senior National Prep Schools' Rugby Title

The premier Rugby event in the Prep School calendar, the National Schools' Rugby Tournament Final was held at Epsom College once again with Shrewsbury House school from Surbiton taking the senior title.

Bishop's Stortford took the U9 title whilst St George's, Windsor, were winners of the U9 plate final. Winchester House came home as champions in the U10 event with The Ridgeway winning the U10 plate final. It was a close run thing in the U11 main final with Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Bishop's Stortford sharing the title. In the U11 plate final Shrewsbury House were again victorious with Felstead winning the U13 Plate Final.

More than 2000 spectators, some bringing tents and packed lunches, gathered to cheer the 500 players on in the four age groups whilst the central marquee was well used as people took advantage of the hot dogs, warm drinks and cakes on sale.

The tournament is the highlight of many Prep School sporting calendars and the sense of pride amongst the players is overwhelming. Their enthusiasm was heightened by the presence of the Harlequins players who refereed many of the matches and included James Inglis (England U19), Kiba Richards (winger) Darren Clayton (flanker). Mr Stephen Borthwick, Headmaster at the College, presented the prizes. 🏆



Photo: Linda Clarkson



Photo: Linda Clarkson



Photo: Linda Clarkson



Photo: Linda Clarkson

# Development Trust News

## Performing Arts Spaces: Phase I

The first stage of this exciting project gets under way in May this year with the building of a New Studio Theatre. This will be created in what was the disused squash courts building and will be the second studio for the College. The indoor space will be transformed to incorporate both a new studio and a sprung-floored dance studio. The studio and workshop space will enable pupils to prepare dramatic work, hone theatre craft skills, and will also create additional and much needed space for dance.

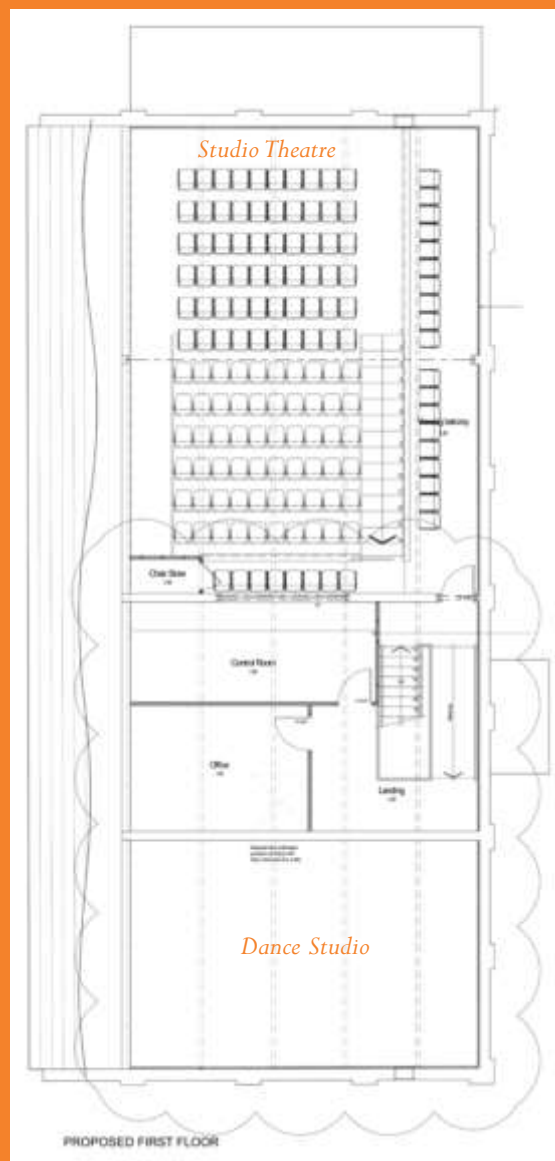
Each of these activities is vital to developing team-working whilst meeting the curriculum needs of Drama and Theatre Studies.

Monies already given to the Development Trust will be used for this phase, which is expected to cost around £1M and take around 6 months to complete. 🍷



Photo: Linda Clarkson

## The New Studio Theatre and Dance Studio from architects' drawing



## New Faces!

At the start of the term we welcomed Richard Love as the new Development Director. Richard began his career in sales and marketing before moving to become Director of Development at Robinson College, Cambridge, in 1996. He was previously at both Woodbridge and Brentwood Schools before joining the College in January.

Also new to the Development Trust is Rebecca Holmes, a former account executive from the world of advertising. More importantly Rebecca also brings with her experience in event planning and fundraising in schools. 🍷

*Mr Richard Love and Mrs Rebecca Holmes*



Photo: Linda Clarkson



## Quiz Night Success

The Friends of Epsom College held a very successful Quiz Night, with Head of Drama, Paul Henson, taking on the mantle of Quiz Master and presiding over a very efficient OE/pupil team of markers and runners. Around 100 Friends attended and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Congratulations

to the winning team (from the Common Room!) and a big thank you to Bev Spencer and the Catering Department for an excellent meal. The next event is the Summer Dance at the Royal Automobile Club. Details from [c-creevey@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:c-creevey@epsomcollege.org.uk) 🍷



Photo: John Higgs

## Staff Prove Studying Pays Off

Two members of staff have been studying hard over the last few years and have recently been awarded their PhDs. Mr Eric Huxter, Geography Teacher and Director of Extra-Curricular Activities, has gained a PhD

from Kingston University, while Teacher of History and future Housemaster of Granville House, Mr Murray Todd, completed his PhD in medieval history over the recent holidays. 🍷



Photo: Linda Clarkson

Mr Eric Huxter

## Friends - We Need You

Are you a member? "Friends" is a unique Association for parents, friends and Old Epsomians. We socialise and have fun in order to help finance small improvements and purchases within the College - £7,768 was invested in the College in 2005. Subscription to Friends is £15.00 per annum. For more details please email Mrs Carol Creevey on: [c-creevey@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:c-creevey@epsomcollege.org.uk) 🍷

## Presentation of Limited Edition Print of Epsom College

The Headmaster was recently presented with a first edition print of the College by Claire Rodgers and Alan Ridgway. For more details visit [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk) and click News, EC News edition 4. 🍷



Photo: Linda Clarkson

## Key Ring - Reminder

There is still time to order Personalised Key Rings for your children's school bags, PE bags, etc. You should have received an order form in the post just before Christmas. If you require a further form, please contact:

[maria.cruse@keystatus.co.uk](mailto:maria.cruse@keystatus.co.uk) 🍷

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