



# AldroLink



7th May 2008

Issue 20

## Headlines

As this edition of Aldro Link shows, it has been a busy first few weeks of term. Well done to the boys for not only getting into the swing of work and activities so quickly, but also for the way in which they have dealt with a number of disappointments – notably caused by rainy cricket days! I am delighted that last week's FoAA Quiz night raised such a good sum for the Surrey Care Trust (£1100). The boys will have an opportunity to find out something of the Trust's work next Thursday when Mrs Gwen Folland will be coming to speak to the school about it.

As a number of boys prepare to take their scholarship exams this week, congratulations are due to Justin Humphries in Form 6 who has been awarded the Blackstone Award at Charterhouse: very well done – and let us hope it is a good sign for scholarship candidates!

*Amal Arki*

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## Cricket Season is here!



## Aldro Skiing Trip 2008 Wengen, Switzerland

On Friday 21 March a party of 58 children and adults left Aldro to head for the snow-laden slopes of the Jungfrau region, deep in the Swiss Alps. After some of us endured a rather hairy flight out from Heathrow, we eventually rolled into Interlaken late that evening, ready and raring to go.

One of the attractions of skiing in the Jungfrau region is that you are able to ski no fewer than four different areas, all challenging in their own ways. For the first three days of the holiday

ery from just about every peak was simply stunning. A great way to spend the Easter weekend.

On the fourth day we spent most of the time at nearby Männlichen. A number of wide runs with fresh snow made this another top day's skiing, again with excellent views over the Lauterbrunnen valley. By now all groups were up and running, and enjoyed superb conditions before the weather closed in late in the afternoon.



we stuck to Kleine Scheidegg, with its long, winding red runs beneath the breathtaking beauty of the Eiger mountain. Beginners and intermediates all found plenty of powder, even if the weather conditions ranged from spring sunshine to temperatures well below freezing and a biting wind. Dodging the near-suicidal sledgers became an acquired and necessary skill! The 30 minute haul up the cog-wheel railway was certainly picturesque, if somewhat tedious at times, but well worth the effort – the scen-

We then tackled Müren, a pretty mountain village free of cars, perched on a high, sunny terrace facing both the Eiger and the Mönch. The village is the highest altitude ski resort in the area, and leads to the wonderful Schilthorn, with its revolving Piz Gloria Restaurant, made world-famous by the James Bond film 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'. Yet again

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## ALDRO PLAYERS ENJOY THE I.A.P.S. CHAMPIONSHIP



Over the Easter holidays over 100 players from all over the country took part in the 36th annual Prep School Chess Championships. The standard of play was higher than usual in the Championship section and the individual and team competitions were very close again.

We had a strong team with only a few of our top players missing on holiday. The U.13 team came 2nd in the Hodgson Cup and the U.11 team were 3rd in the David Bull Cup. All 27 of our players from Jon Hall (captain) at the top the school down to our year 3 players playing for the first time enjoyed the tournament and the added extras such as the trip to Chessington World of Adventure and the simultaneous displays.

We did extremely well in both team competitions coming 2nd= in the U.13 age group and 3rd in the U11 age group. Silver medal winners included Jon Hall, Raunaq Cavet, Elliott Ghent, James Whitton and Robert Hewett, they were our top scoring players in the Championship this year.

Our bronze medal winners in the U.11 team competition were Elliott Ghent, Robert Hewett, James Whitton, Angus Hatrick and Adam Bagley.

Other Aldro prize winners included; Jon Hall who used all his skill and experience to come 4th= in the Championship out of 52 players winning a book token. He only lost one game to the joint winner.

Jamie Cotta was outstanding to win section A with 6 wins out of 6 (trophy) .Charlie Kidd showed what a promising player he is by coming 1st= in section B with 6 wins out of 8 (trophy). Ben Taylor fought hard in section C to achieve 2nd = with 5.5 points out of 8. Hamish Mackinnon played well in the simultaneous display to win a best game prize.

George Rix, James Smith and Gwilym Price were all group winners and trophy winners on the first day achieving a place in section A where they all played with great ability. The full set of results will go on the Aldro web site. Congratulations to all the boys who played.

Many thanks to Mr.Tuddenham who controlled the Championship section and organised all the evening activities for the boarders and many thanks to the parents who helped over the three days particularly Mrs Price.

*David Archer*

## Aldro Golf Championships

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon at the beginning of term, Aldro held its Golf Championships at Broadwater Park, Godalming. Competition from Forms 6, 7 and 8 competed for the lowest overall score and top 3 positions in their respective age groups.

Plenty of great golf was played with Harry Gwilliam retaining the shield for the lowest overall score. Alvaro Estalella and Martin Wahl were the winners for their respective year groups. Many thanks to all the parents who attended and kindly acted as markers and ball spotters.

### Results:

#### Year 8

H. Gwilliam	(38)
H. Morton	(40)
C. Mitchell	(40)

#### Year 7

A. Estalella	(40)
H. Charles	(44)
R. Cavet	(45)

#### Year 6

M. Wahl	(44)
H. Mallin	(45)
L. Coghlan	(47)

## Fishy Tales



Charlie Crawford caught a 2.5 pound carp on the lake Tuesday. His fly was a gold headed green caddis pupa. He is the first fisherman to receive his fishing badge this season. Charlie said, "I thought the fish was pregnant it was so big!"



## FOSSIL FINDS AT OSMINGTON MILLS



During the Easter break we visited Osmington Mills on the Dorset coast. The fossils were not that plentiful but we found a few interesting finds.

The find of the day was a superb piece of a large ammonite which was found by Edward Mair. The other intrepid fossil hunters were Matthew Hobkinson, Ben Taylor, Gwilym Price and James Vance.

The most common find was a bivalve called the trigonia. Before the return journey Mr Gardiner gave out prizes for the best finds of the day. We stopped off for supper on the way back and all in all had a good day out.

DJA

## Form 6's Trip to the River Wey



On Monday 28th April forms 6H and 6T visited the River Wey at Liphook to study the river. The journey down there gave some of the boys their first look at the building of the tunnel at Hindhead and on the way back we were delayed for some time.

We were lucky with the weather and managed to avoid the April showers. Last year we had a dog eating the equipment and this year a different dog problem with one dog showing rather too much interest in my ruck sack. We managed to compare two sections of the river and apart from a few wet feet the field work went well.

Both classes enjoyed the excursion and they obtained some good results to use in their Year 6 Geography Enquiry. Thanks to Mr Chris Rose for his assistance.

DJA

## Congratulations!



It's not very often that an Old Aldronian has featured on the front page of the Daily Mail (perhaps the infamous Kim Philby being the last ...) so very well done to Robert O'Donovan for his great achievement of captaining the Wellington College 1st XV to victory in the Daily Mail Cup. The fact that there were a couple of other OAs in the team (Sam Shires and Adam Gadsby) adds to the Aldronian celebrations.

## St George's Day Celebration



With others from the District, Aldro Cubs and Scouts paraded down Godalming High Street to celebrate St. George's Day. They say 'Never work with children or animals', but this occasion broke that rule. Several Aldro boys joined others with brightly coloured towels to create a giant dragon for St. George [The District Commissioner] to slay! After a service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul we paraded back without a drop of rain.



## Famous Fantasy Author Visits Aldro



On Thursday May 1st Aldro played host to famous children's fantasy story author Jonathan Stroud. Mr Stroud spent the morning talking to boys in Forms 7 and 8 about the Bartimaeus Trilogy, which consists of *The Amulet of Samarkand*, *The Golem's Eye* and *Ptolemy's Gate*. These are his most popular books and are being published in 38 countries worldwide.

The boys asked many questions including, where do the ideas come from? Mr Stroud replied, "Ideas come from everywhere and can hit you at any time. I once got a very good one in the bath. The idea of Bartimaeus came while walking gloomily home in the rain."

Mr Stroud was very kind to take the time to visit, as he battled with a cold, and spent over an hour signing books in the library.

## Summer Term Calendar 2008

5 Mon		UK Chess Challenge Megafinals Return from Weekend Leave (or Monday between 8.00 and 8.30pm)
6 Tues		Charterhouse, Cranleigh, Eton Scholarships begin
7 Wed	7.15pm	Aldro/Charterhouse Concert, CHC
8 Thur		CE French Oral
9 Fri		CE French Listening Cranleigh Eric Abbott Award
11 Sun	7.00pm	Chapel: Rev Kevin Mentzel, Army Chaplain
12 Mon	6.00am AM	Form 7 History trip to Arras, France SATIPS Art Exhibition, Feltonfleet
14 Wed	7.30pm	FoAA Fashion Show, CHC
15 Thur		Form 3 Theatre trip to London
16 Fri		Squad Music Competition – 1st round
17 Sat	9.00am	Chapel: Richard Peskett Esq Swimming: IAPS Boys Finals
18 Sun		No Chapel Service
19 Mon	5.15pm	Chess: Guildford League Jamboree (h)
20 Tues	10.30am	Form 6 Parents' Coffee Morning
21 Wed	11.00am	School Photograph
22 Thur		Athletics: 7 Schools Meeting at Spectrum
23 Fri	4:30pm 5:05pm	2nd Industry Grades Forms 3, 4 and 5 Half Term Begins Forms 6, 7 and 8 Half Term Begins
24 Sat		Forms 3 & 4 trip to Twickenham, London7s
24 May to Sunday 1 June Half Term		

## Ski Trip continued...



the skiing and scenery combined irresistibly to make this one of the most memorable days of this and any skiing holiday.

The week sped by, and we came to the final day with a smattering of fresh overnight snow. We headed for Grindelwald, and then up to First, where the top runs reach well over 2500m. Visibility varied during the day, although most of us managed to ski at least halfway back down the mountain in a heavy snowstorm to round off the week on a high note.

A hugely enjoyable week: a decent hotel – even here the panorama was picture-postcard quality – with friendly and accommodating staff, and a well-stocked bar; typical evening entertainment for the children – swimming, snooker, ten-pin bowling, and a rather surreal fondue evening in the company of an ex-Swiss body-builder and his alpine horn; magnificent scenery throughout the area; most important of all, terrific skiing on fantastic snow.

So many memorable moments in just one week. Roll on next Easter!

## Caption Competition



Please send all captions to: [walpn@aldro.org](mailto:walpn@aldro.org). The winner will be chosen by Mr Rose and will receive a prize!