



## Headlines

*It has certainly been an action-packed couple of weeks since the last Aldro Link was assembled! So much has been going on that it is hard to know what to highlight here. However, there are two things that perhaps stand out. The first is the "stop press" news that the under-12 A chess team returned from the exotic location of Brean Sands near Weston-Super-Mare having won the UK National Chess Championship. This is a great achievement and a tribute to their dedication over the year. Well done!*

*The second highlight has to be the Junior Play. There is a full account elsewhere, but it was an outstanding show – full of entertainment and the evident enjoyment of the cast, and of a standard well in excess of what one might expect 8 and 9 year olds to produce. Well done to all the boys involved and thank you to all the staff and parents – but especially to Miss Bartley for her extraordinary endeavours.*

*Amil Ark*

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## Surrey Care Trust Duck Race Goes Swimmingly and Raises £233.00 !



It is hard to find suitable adjectives to describe this event: "amazing", "extraordinary" and "epic" are three that could probably just about fit the bill (or should that be the beak?).

Suffice it to say that in front of a massive crowd of duck painters and trainers, over 200 well prepared ducks took to the water. The race had been meticulously prepared and all possible problems considered in good time – apart from the wind veering 90° to ensure that all the competitors swam in entirely the wrong direction! Nevertheless, quick thinking by the Great Aldro Duck Race committee enabled a winner to be clearly identified: well done to Matthew Oh and his impressive duck "Swift" that proved to be a mighty winner (in spite of its hairstyle!). Most of the ducks survived the excitement and have been reunited with their proud owners; just a few remain as orphans!

After the excitement of the race itself had subsided, attention turned to the ducks' fine plumage – which boys (and indeed, staff) had spent much time preening to ensure that their ducks

were the finest looking. In the end, some outstanding ducks were selected for judging by Mrs Christine Hill and prizes were awarded as follows:

**Nearly runner-up: Jack Bolton**  
**Joint Runners-up: Louis Bellman & Alexander Fomin**  
**Winner of the best plumage award: James Vance**

Well done to all the winners – and to the owners of all the 200 ducks that took part – a great deal of effort clearly went in to making them look so fine!

The Great Aldro Duck Race has so far raised a total of just over £233 for the Surrey Care Trust, with a bit more to come in: thank you very much to everyone who raided their piggy-banks to support this vital local charity.





## IS IT DOOMSWOOD DEADSTONE? NO IT'S DOOMSDEAD WOODSTONE. NO IT'S DEADWOOD DOOMSTONE!



Mix together cowboys, Indians, Native Americans, gold diggers, double crossers and saloon girls, and we were presented with a fabulous array of new acting talent. There was a hold-up at the Gold Bank, a train chase, a gunfight over a love interest and cowboys following "a wandering star". Laughter abounded! There were too many wonderful performances coupled with the script which was hilarious and delivered to maximise the hilarity. The costumes were amazing; the props were simple and effective with a back drop view to long for when on holiday. Well done to everyone on stage, backstage, lighting, sound, directing and choreography. It was a memorable two nights.



## MULTIPLICATION MERRIMENT

Learning our multiplication tables gives us a skill for life, but mastering them can feel like a constant uphill struggle. Therefore, as an incentive, Form 4 was promised a party at the end of the year if everyone tried hard to achieve "Master of Multiplication" status. All the boys rose to the challenge, so Thursday afternoon they headed towards the island to celebrate.

In pairs the boys tested each other with mathematical questions and awarded each other edible prizes ranging from crisps to chocolate crispies. Finally, to mark their mathematical success, everyone crossed the new bridge over to the island and explored before leaving by the wire fixed perilously over the lake. Not to be outdone



*The afternoon got a 'thumbs up' from the boys.*

by the boys Mrs Gunner and Miss Collett-White also risked an afternoon dip in the water! It was an afternoon of cheering and all round celebration.

Well done to all the boys for their hard work and a big thank you to everyone at home who helped them to achieve such good results.

Form 3 boys - keep learning those multiplication tables and it could be your turn next year!



*Jack Footer was one of the first boys in Mrs Gunner's set to be made 'Master of Multiplication'.*



## Year 8's Final Adventure



## JUNIOR BOYS AT TWICKENHAM

Like in 2007, our "father and son's bonding experience" at Twickenham was the school's biggest outing of the year with a record 101 participants including boys and dads. It was also a huge success and the wonderful weather made the day particularly pleasant.

The rugby was fantastic, as the best Sevens players in the world competed in front of twenty-five thousand spectators including the magnificent Kenyan fans and many others.

Our excited autograph hunters had a chance to approach England, New Zealand and Fiji stars as well as newcomers to world rugby from Moldova or Portugal - all in the typically relaxed and friendly atmosphere of Rugby Sevens. Sixteen nations were represented, united in the brotherhood of our game.

The all-day activity also allowed our junior boys to visit the stadium, its shops and museum to complete a memorable experience with dad at the Home of Rugby. They went home with their eyes full of stars and classic tries, and many a night, I bet, was filled with healthy rugby dreams.

Our year 8 leavers spent an action packed week with PGL Activity Holidays at their Osmington Bay site in Dorset. We stayed in chalets overlooking Weymouth Bay. During the day we took part in 4 activity modules ranging from quad bikes, fencing, mountain bikes, giant swing, climbing wall, raft building, dragon boat racing, abseiling, archery and others. During the evening activities ranged from wide games to a disco. The weather was great, the food was good, accommodation, four boys to a chalet, staff had individual rooms and the views across Weymouth Bay were breathtaking! Overall the boys enjoyed themselves and the trip was a success. A great way for our leavers to finish their time at Aldro.



To view all the photos from this trip go to [www.aldro.net](http://www.aldro.net), PHOTO ALBUM

*David A Smith*

## Vive La Fête Française 2008



Happy expectation bubbled as the CHC filled, to a French café sound, and the whole school responded to 'Bonjour'. Each class participated with songs, quizzes and games. The audience welcomed the 8H play which is written and performed entirely in French by 8H. It has become a tradition for the play to revolve around the Aldro teachers'

unique characteristics and the boys enjoy trying to identify which teacher is being portrayed.

The Fête Française is always an exciting event which gives each boy the chance to show off their French in a fun and entertaining way.



*Canada won the squad treat this term. As you can see, they had a great time at Chessington World Of Adventure!*



*8H posing as Aldro Staff*

## ***GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!***



The end of the Summer Term is always a time of farewells and this term is no exception. We say goodbye to Miss Ellie Quinn and Miss Lucy Macdonald Watson who have been fully involved all round the school. Miss Bartley is returning to New Zealand after two energetic years at Aldro where she has not only taught one of the Form 3 groups, but has also immersed herself in Aldro life: the Junior Play was certainly a fitting tribute to her!

Mr Philip Donaghy leaves us after nearly five years as head of ICT. He has also been involved in plenty of other areas of the school and his rugby tours to different parts of the British Isles have been especially memorable. He leaves us to become a housemaster at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland. Mr Rob Davies is leaving to become Head of Boys' Sport at St Andrew's School, Turi in Kenya. He is another who has been immersed in the life of the school and has regularly

given up what was supposed to his free time in order to take boys to a wide variety of sporting events – quite apart from his help in the boarding house.

Mrs Julia Hunt has been helping at Aldro as a learning support teacher for 16 years and became our first Special Needs Coordinator in 2004. In the four years she has been responsible for this, she has revolutionised our learning support and I am extremely grateful to her for her huge commitment both to her pupils and to the school. I am sure



that she deserves a restful retirement – but I am told that grandchildren may be even more demanding than prep school boys!

Our final leaving member of staff is Mr Humphrey Davis. He was a pupil here and returned to work for Mr Crispin Hill, his old headmaster, in 1976. He has been absolutely committed to Aldro and has given unstintingly of his time, devoting his career to the school. Many old boys have told me that they owe a great deal to him and that he has been especially good at keeping the teenage contingent at the top of the school "on side". He is also postponing a restful retirement, having agreed to step into his old headmaster's shoes by taking over as Director of Skillway, the important local charity based in Godalming.

Full tributes to all our leaving staff will appear in the forthcoming edition of "The Aldronian". In the meantime, we wish them every success and happiness.

### *Form 3's 'Supercalafragalistic' Concert*

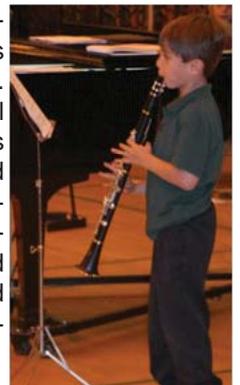


In the CHC there was an air of excitement amongst the Form 3 boys as their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters gathered to hear them perform their concert. If the boys were nervous they didn't show it, they sang out clearly and played their instruments with great aplomb. Every boy either performed on an instrument being learnt in extra lessons, or on a percussion instrument which they had mastered in music lessons and was used to accompany their Form's song.

It was impressive to see the boys playing with such enjoyment and confidence. The only reminder of their young age was that some pianists were unable to reach the floor with their feet and others played a clarinet almost as big as them! Other instruments played included the cello, recorder, guitar and violin.

Thank you to Mr Carr and all the individual music staff who teach the boys so well and also to everyone at home

who has encouraged the boys with their practice. Above all, "Well done" to the boys for all their hard work - the rapturous round of applause at the end was a just reward for all their endeavours!



#### **Lent Term Calendar 2008**

September	
3 Wed	School Begins - Boarders
4 Thursday	School Begins - Dayboys
October	
17 - 27	Half - Term
December	
9 Tue	End of Term