



(picture courtesy of the Evening Standard)

Pupils support war hero Phil Packer

Phil Packer was at Eltham College from 1984-89. In 2008 he was severely injured while on active service for the Royal Military Police in Iraq, losing the use of his legs after a spinal injury. He was told he would never walk again. At the moment Phil is undergoing rehabilitation for the extensive injuries he suffered, but this has not dampened his determination to support the 'Help for Heroes' charity.

This year Phil completed the London Marathon. This was an amazing achievement, given that because of his injuries he can walk no more than two miles each day, so the whole course took him nearly a fortnight. Through his efforts over a million pounds was raised for Help for Heroes. To support him, Eltham College pupils walked part of the course with him, and we

also organised a sponsored cross-country run. Altogether the school is contributing a sum of £6,000 to Help for Heroes, the most we have ever donated to one charity, and Major Phil himself is coming into school in July to receive the cheque and speak to the pupils about his challenges and achievements.

Since the London Marathon Phil has completed another incredible feat - pulling himself 1,800ft up the sheer rock face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in the US. This took him 80 hours and he described it as his hardest challenge so far, both mentally and physically. In February he rowed across the Channel. Major Phil Packer OE really is a remarkable man.

Is this a record?



How do you score 48 runs off one over?
In an U15 cricket match v Colfe's on 18th June, from an over lasting ten balls (including 4 no-balls); Jack Robertson (picture) hit 44 (four 6s and five 4s) and there were 4 runs for the no-balls, making 48 in total. This is a record for Eltham cricket and, we believe, for cricket at any school. Jack also plays in the school 1st XI.



Morris Minors

A Morris dancing "side" of Year 7 and 8 boys has "danced out" for the first time. The idea was formed nearly two years ago when the Anglo German Society of Minden approached Eltham College German teacher Peter Cheshire to see if a group could be formed to dance at the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the battle of Minden. So the group will go out to Germany for a few days in early August to perform some dances from the Welsh border tradition. These dances are somewhat simpler than the Cotswold Morris which we usually see, but they

are very vigorous. The group also plans to perform a traditional Mummers play. They will be accompanied by Mr Cheshire and also by Mr and Mrs Cavendish and they will stay with families whose children are pupils at our partner school, the Besselgymnasium.

On Saturday 6th June the side made its debut, dancing at the Mottingham Festival. They managed a spirited and largely accurate performance and they looked very much the part in their costumes which were made by Mrs Cavendish. It is hoped that the Morris Minors can continue as a regular club.

Merry Mottingham

Once again in 2009 Eltham College has played a full part in the Mottingham Festival. This event, organised by local residents every two years since 1973, began on Saturday 6th June with the unveiling of the new Mottingham Village Sign, the result of fundraising by the villagers. The sign is based around our plane tree, and also features the front of the school and a cricket bat, recalling WG Grace who lived in Mottingham Lane and frequently visited the school.

Eltham College adopts two Orangutans

Pupils, parents and staff have taken part in a campaign run by the College's environmental society *EcoEltham* to recycle unwanted mobile phones. As a result of the kind donations we were able to raise around £180 for the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation - more than enough to adopt two orangutans. The new additions to the Eltham College community are Kesi and Lomon.

Orangutans may well become extinct within the next ten years as they face numerous threats. Kesi's hand was chopped off when plantation workers killed her mother with a machete. Now a champion tree-climber and nest-builder, Kesi is an excellent role model for newly arrived orphans. Lomon spent years chained up in a wooden box, and when rescued he weighed only a third of the normal weight for his



age. Through the work of the BOS Foundation, Lomon has now gained not only weight but also his self-confidence.

Less than 5% of the 90 million unused mobile phones in the UK are recycled, and this is an excellent way of acting more sustainably while helping to raise money for this important cause.

Unfortunately, despite several requests from the pupils, it is not possible to have Kesi and Lomon over for a visit!



Deputy Head Edmund Cavendish acted as compere at the Fete and Grand Opening in Foxes Field, our Morris Dancers performed (see above) and on Sunday the Songs of Praise service was held in the School Chapel. The Headmaster led a conducted tour of Eltham College during the week, and the Junior School Choir sang with the Barbershop group Kentones in the Antony Barnard Hall. On Sunday 14th June we hosted the annual cricket match between the Gentlemen of Mottingham and the school. This year the Gentlemen won.

The show must go on

On Thursday May 7th seventeen pupils in Year 8 presented a very successful evening of drama in the Antony Barnard Hall. First off was *The Show Must Go On*, in which a group of hapless actors attempt to present a live murder-mystery radio play; mayhem predictably ensues, not least because one of the actors is unable to speak properly after a visit to the dentist. The 20-minute drama was directed by two pupils in the Upper Sixth, Hilary Ball and Lewis Owen, whose enthusiasm for the play was clear in the performances they elicited from their cast of ten.

Dramatic Licence, the second play of the evening, involved all cast members (some of whom played two or even three roles) in a play that touches on such diverse issues as knitting, the incomprehensibility of avant-garde theatre, and the quest to find the perfect recipe for meringue. Cameron Thompson, Nick Cochrane, Jamie Barnett, Callum Stoodley, James



left to right
Jamie Barnett,
Aman Gupta,
Jaivin Raj

Spencer, Jaivin Raj, Richard Prior, Charlie Rudling and William Lott headed a lively cast in a performance of a mad but funny play that proved an ideal showcase for the dramatic talents in this year group.

Trebles hit high note



Eltham College Choir Trebles sang on 25th June in St Martin-in-the-Fields at a concert in aid of the charity Footballs for Fun, which helps children in Africa. Singing alongside the London Chorus, they performed *Carmina Burana*.

The Trebles have been very busy recently and the St Martin's event was their fifth professional concert in 2009. LSO Live has just released a CD of the 2008 performance of Mahler's Eighth Symphony, recorded live in St Paul's Cathedral, featuring the Eltham College Trebles.

Artist Mandy Franklin marks two years at Eltham

The final Art Show of the year was an exhibition in Central Hall of recent work by the school's artist-in-residence Mandy Franklin. It was a stunning show of painting, print and photography. Mandy completes two years at the school in July. She has been an inspiration and support to many Art pupils at Eltham.

The end of year show for the GCSE, AS and A-level Art pupils was held this year in the Sixth Form Gallery for the first time. It was a spectacular show with a wide range of work, including items from every pupil studying the subject. A large number of guests came to see the display and talked to the pupils to find out more about their work.



Cricket goes from strength to strength



The 1st XI at the Oval in April

Cricket at Eltham College is in a very strong position. With two sides at U12, U13, U14 and U15 levels and three senior sides, the number of pupils playing cricket at the school is at an all-time high. The fixture list is also at its strongest for some time, with tough fixtures against Brentwood, Bancroft's, Felsted, Reigate, Sevenoaks, Colfe's, Judd, John Fisher and Cranbrook. This season has seen the 1st XI put in some fantastic performances winning four matches and losing just two before half term, as well as getting through to the last 32 of the National 20/20 competition. The school 2nd XI and U15 sides remain unbeaten and the three more junior sides at U14, U13 and

U12 levels have been playing some excellent cricket.

In June the U15s won the final of the Kent Cup, defeating Borden Grammar by 63 runs, while the 1st XI beat Sevenoaks and Colfe's. The standard of cricket being played at the college currently is outstanding and there is no reason why, in the next few years, it shouldn't improve even further. The winter break also sees the 1st XI squad head Down Under for seven matches in Australia which will serve as a fantastic development opportunity for next year's senior squad.

Match Point

The U12 tennis team are through to Kent Cup finals day for the third year in succession with a resounding 6-0 triumph over Sevenoaks in the quarter-finals. The Intermediate boys just failed to get through, losing to the same opponents in the quarter-finals. The Senior team led by James Wilson also qualified for Kent Cup finals day by beating Coopers School 4-2. James is a regular member of the Kent U18 team.



Jack Matthews of the U12 team.

On Kent doubles day, James Morrison and Alex Walters reached the quarter-final of the U13 cup competition, while in the U13 plate Francis Lee-Saunders and Oliver Evans reached the quarter-final and Euan Butler and Bill O'Rourke the semi-final. In the U15 Kent doubles, The Eltham 1st pair of Josh Carty and James Martin and the 2nd pair of Diego Poyet and Omar El-Toukhy both won their groups but were paired against each other in the quarter finals, with the number one pair just winning 5-4. Unfortunately Josh and James then lost to Judd School in the semi-final.

Sir Keith Ajegbo speaks to his old school



recently at Deptford Green School until his retirement in 2006.

Keith Ajegbo, whose father was Nigerian, was born in 1946 in South-East London. He has written movingly about the difficulties of growing up as a mixed race

Sir Keith Ajegbo is our guest of honour at Speech Day this year. Sir Keith was knighted for his services to education in 2007, after being an acclaimed Headmaster for twenty years, most

child, and how in his case he turned it into something positive. In 1958 he came to Eltham College and seven years later left with a place at Downing College, Cambridge to study History.

Sir Keith is now a Government adviser and in 2007 produced an influential report into Citizenship Education in schools. He also chairs the Board responsible for the new Diploma in Humanities and Social Sciences.

While at Eltham College Keith Ajegbo was our star tennis player – probably the best we have ever had. When he was in the 2nd Year (Year 8) he beat all the Sixth Formers,

and when he was in the Sixth Form they banned him from playing in the school tournament to give the others a chance! In five years of Kent Schools' tennis he was unbeaten, and at Wimbledon in the Public Schools tournament he reached the national semi-final every year, winning the



final once. When he left in 1965, the Elthamian described it as the end of an era.

Eltham pupils explore Europe



Spring is always the busiest season for the Modern Languages Department and its long-established programme of visits

abroad. The trips began on consecutive weekends with Year 11 cultural trips to Berlin and Paris. Highlights in the German capital included watching a football match at the Olympiastadion, a tour of the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauerstraße and a trip to the top of the TV Tower on Alexanderplatz.

The following week we returned to the Continent to spend three days in the unseasonably sunny French capital. We went to three art museums (Centre Pompidou, Louvre, Musée D'Orsay) and strolled along the Champs Elysées. We climbed the Arc de Triomphe and wandered through Montparnasse Cemetery to pay our respects to Jean-Paul Sartre. In the evenings we had a meal at the Art Nouveau Chartier restaurant and savoured the bawdy Parisian nightlife around the Moulin Rouge and Sacré Coeur. On our final day we took the train to Versailles. Despite the sudden drop in temperature and the long, chaotic

queue, the inside of the Palace was still a revelation.

Then groups from the Senior School departed on Exchanges to Laval and Minden and a study visit to Barcelona. The links with our Partner Schools go back over thirty years. Year 9 and the Lower Sixth were in Laval simultaneously. The Year 10 German Exchange to Minden included a tour of the Volkswagen headquarters in Wolfsburg and the traditional Germany v England football match. In Barcelona, the Lower Sixth combined language lessons with excursions in and around the city: to Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, the Nou Camp stadium and Figeras.

One thing is certain: understanding how people live in different cultures is essential and it will take much more than a weak pound to prevent us from travelling abroad.

Stallworthy lectures on Wilfred Owen

Continuing the series of guest speakers this academic year, on Monday 27th April the English Society welcomed Professor Jon Stallworthy to Eltham to speak to the Lower Sixth on Wilfred Owen. We were pleased to be joined by pupils and teachers from Trinity School, Croydon and Archbishop Tenison's.

Professor Stallworthy is a Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford and a leading authority on the World War I poets. He is the editor of countless anthologies of War Poetry (including The Oxford Book of War Poetry) and has written biographies of Wilfred Owen and Louis MacNeice. Professor Stallworthy was also delighted to learn that an ancestor of his had attended our school in Blackheath in the nineteenth century and, as a result of some research by the school archivist, he was presented with a piece of his writing.



An accomplished poet in his own right, Professor Stallworthy gave a lecture that traced themes from Owen's juvenilia through to his final poems. Close focus on a handful of poems allowed the students to analyse specific techniques such as pararhyme. The talk was followed by a Q&A session in which pupils from the schools asked many searching questions to help clarify their understanding of this important poet. We hope the meeting helped them in their summer examinations!

Duke of Edinburgh Award trip

The Easter holiday saw pupils return to the Black Mountains around Longtown for their practice expedition before they participate in the final qualifying expedition to the Isle of Arran in the summer. Arran has some similar terrain to the Black Mountains, but is somewhat more remote.

Pupils from Year 11 and the Lower Sixth made up the two Gold and three Silver teams which took part.

The weather was kinder this time compared with our previous visit in October, but all the same the routes included some stiff challenges. Groups walked for 3 days and covered around 45km overall. They carried all their equipment and food with them and were entirely self-sufficient the whole time. All teams showed good navigation skills and fine camp craft.



Each group carried the SPOT device which again proved a useful addition. This is a tracking system which allows staff to intercept the groups regularly for the purposes of assessment, without giving the group positional information.

British fencing champions



The Junior School Fencing Team

Eltham College Junior School are the British School Team Champions for 2009. Competing at Whitgift School in the British Schools Championships, our Junior Team won the Epee Championships and were runners up in the Foil. They met the same team from Sussex House in both finals and, having lost 41-37 in the Foil, were determined to beat them in the Epee.

A highly emotional match resulted in a 45-31 win for our team on Sunday. The Seniors also did well, coming 3rd in both Foil and Epee, and they narrowly missed a place in the final after losing 39-40 to George Abbot School in the Semis.

The team has won medals in all competitions entered. At the Elite Epee Final in Leatherhead Harry Peck won Bronze at U13, Adam Whitelaw Silver in U11 and Andrew Hughes Bronze at U11. Adam Aspden won Bronze at the Academy Foil Cup in London and Adam Whitelaw gained Gold at the Leon Paul Junior Series in Warwick. At Warwick, Adam was spotted by the GB Epee coach and has been invited on a training course with the 'tomorrow achievers' team. At the Kent Championships, Eltham fencers almost repeated the clean sweep of medals they had achieved the previous year. Harry Peck won the U14 category and Dom Chiu at U10. We also won two Silvers and three Bronze medals!

Overall, Fencing at Eltham is stronger than ever. Credit for this goes to all the boys for their hard work and training, and to Fencing Coach Tim O'Conor.

International checkmate

Junior School chess continues to ride on the crest of a wave, building on last year's success. Already this year a bumper number of boys have represented Kent at chess and have won awards for excellence. In addition, three boys reached the Liverpool final qualifier for England U11 squad selection. Conor Murphy and Alexei Davis of Year 6 performed outstandingly well, under intense competition and pressure, and were selected for the squad. A fantastic achievement by both boys Owen Messere, still only in Year 5, narrowly missed out but is a hot prospect for selection next year.



Alexei Davis, Owen Messere, Conor Murphy

At U9 level, Alexander Selway and Sachin Balaachi were members of the Kent team which won the EPSCA Inter-Counties Championships - the first time Kent had won the U9s event. Then in June the U11 team reached the finals of the EPSCA National tournament to round off a very successful year.

Science galore



Science Week was a great success again this year. The theme was having fun and trying something new. First the Year 3 boys went to the Science Museum for a sleepover. On the Monday each of the classes visited nine different Science Stations and carried out investigations ranging from eating chocolate to designing and making paper aeroplanes and melting ice cubes.

Then there were visits to the Maritime Museum, the London Aquarium and the Herstonceux Science Centre. Back in school the boys had a 'Mad Materials' workshop and watched a Science Production called 'The lights and sounds of Tinseltown'. The week was rounded off by the House Science quiz where Livingstone emerged victorious.

Hubble bubble toil and trouble

Each year Eltham College Junior School performs a summer play. These plays are always popular with parents, pupils and staff and this year's selection - *Macbeth* - was no exception. It was a brave choice for a junior school to perform a Shakespeare play but they pulled it off beautifully. Boys in Year 6 took on the main acting roles with the Year 5s playing the supporting cast of either soldiers or spooks.

The play starts with the three witches, (Bayo Bello, Ryan Brown and James Selway) meeting Macbeth and Banquo,

(Bolurin Adedipe and Roshan Ruprai) on a misty heath. It is here that the sisters foretell the futures of the two Scottish warriors which eventually leads to the downfall of the ambitious but corruptible Macbeth. Bolurin Adedipe played a convincing Macbeth portraying both strength and vulnerability. Once news of Macbeth's predicted future reaches Lady Macbeth, played by Kaisun Raj, the future of King Duncan is sealed.

Mark O'Dwyer, who produced and directed the play, says, "The play was a huge success largely thanks



to the excellent performances of the main characters, most of whom had substantial parts to learn. The whole cast really got into the spirit of the play and have discovered that Shakespeare is still enjoyable today." The audience were spellbound from beginning to end and their appreciation was evident from the rapturous applause at the end.