

THE HARROVIAN

VOL. CXXXIV NO.17

March 5, 2022



FOUNDER'S DAY
2022



RATTIGAN SOCIETY

Chariots of Fire, 16-18 February, Speech Room

The Rattigan Society has a rich history of putting together magnificent productions, and under the stalwart leadership of APC, I knew that *Chariots of Fire* would be nothing short of spectacular. Running across three nights to a packed auditorium of friends, families and beaks, this stage adaptation of the 1981 film brought to life the iconic running scenes and soundtrack, and took us from Cambridge to Scotland, with climax being the 1924 Olympics in Paris. A 32-person strong cast of both Harrovians and girls from St Dominic's, with countless others working behind the scenes, really helped this production be as outstanding as it was.



The story followed two determined young runners in the religiously divided and class-obsessed world of 1920s' Great Britain. The story first followed Harold Abrahams, who was played by Max Paton-Smith, *Elmfield*, a fiercely determined runner who becomes the first man ever to complete the Trinity Great Court Run and overcomes antisemitism in his narrow-minded quest to become the fastest in the world. It then pans to Eric Liddell, who was played by Theo Tomlinson, *Moretons*,

a devout Christian born to Scottish missionaries in China, who sees running as part of his worship of God's glory and refuses to train or compete on the Sabbath. After years of training and racing, the two athletes are accepted to represent Great Britain in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, and both athletes are selected to run in 100m. While boarding the boat to France for the Olympics, Liddell discovers the heats for his 100m race will be on a Sunday. Despite intense pressure from the Prince of Wales, who was played by Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, and the British Olympic Committee, he refuses to run the race because his Christian convictions prevent him from running on the Lord's Day. A solution is found, and Liddell is offered a place in the 400m race on the following Thursday: an offer he gratefully accepts. Both Abrahams and Liddell win their respective races, and the British team returns home triumphant. Later, Abrahams marries Sybil Evers, a leading Gilbert & Sullivan soprano, who was played by Sanaer Madden of St Dominic's, and he became the elder statesman of British Athletics, while Liddell went on to do missionary work in Japanese-occupied China.



Both Paton-Smith and Tomlinson portrayed the two protagonists superbly. They were locked into their characters throughout

the whole performance, commanding the stage everywhere they went. This allowed for the attention to be focused on them, even when they were not directly involved with the scene. As well as this, they were both able to evoke strongly the emotions that both runners felt in their troubles leading up to the Olympic Games, in the way they delivered their words using appropriate tone and actions, and the way they interacted with other characters.

What was great to see throughout the performance was the sense of ensemble. The size of cast and the number of roles in the play allowed different boys to be on stage portraying different characters, all of whom performed to the highest standard. In particular, the well-choreographed ensemble scenes with uplifting musical elements from the whole cast (particular praise should go to Sebastian Murray, *West Acre*, for his live piano accompaniments) created a great atmosphere that was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Without the group of well-rehearsed ensemble performers, the play would have lacked the sense of camaraderie that made the majority of the scenes so relatable to the story.



The set for this play was unique among Harrow productions. When staging a play adapted from a film, it is clear there will always be difficulties as there are often many different locations in short time periods. However, the staging was able to take us from Scottish Highlands to Paris within a few seconds. With the extended stage with treadmills to create a home straight, the revolving section to re-enact the famous opening running scene with the iconic Vangelis soundtrack, and the grandstand with the extra seating allowed the audience to feel as if they were really part of the story. It is clear that a lot of work had gone into making the set, costumes and pyrotechnics (when they worked) of the performance. Much praise should go to James, Kieran, Penny and others at the theatre production crew for their spectacular efforts!

A key theme that runs through the play is the concept of identity, highlighted by the 'He is an Englishman' song from the early parts in the story. It was of great contrast to very end of the production, where the entire cast represented the 43 nationalities that can be found at Harrow and was the perfect way to end such a wonderful performance by the Rattigan Society.

HARROW 450

*Anniversary Service at St Paul's Cathedral
commemorating Harrow School's 450th year since its
foundation, 11 February*

It seems appropriate to publish news of the School's anniversary celebration at St Paul's, which was held on 11 February, in this, the Founder's Day edition. On a bright and sunny Friday morning, the School departed for St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the charter in the 450th year since the foundation of the School by John Lyon.

The cathedral proved to be a glorious space to remember and celebrate our founder. As the School arrived, Jun Wha Shin, *Elmfield*, Henry Woodcock, *The Head Master's*, Haiwei Li, *Bradlys*, and the School Brass Ensemble were providing music before the service. The order of service began with the hymn *Christ is made the sure foundation*, and the bidding was given by Canon Dr Paula Gooder, the Canon in Residence. One reading was by Head of School Phoenix Ashworth, *The Head Master's*, from the book of John, Chapter 13. In addition, John Batting, Chairman of the Governors, read Psalm 127, which states that 'Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord'. This reading served as the key thread throughout the address by Head Master WMAL, which was as follows:



"[On] Ash Wednesday 1572, nearly 450 years ago to the day, John Lyon was granted his Charter by Queen Elizabeth I. Let us celebrate here in the stillness and wonder of this space, the inheritors of his intent and vision, with all the members of the global Harrow Family here represented.

What were he and his wife Joan considering when they founded the School? If they were on the Hill together at Harrow, looking east in the direction of where we are sitting now, they would have been looking out over agricultural land, much of which in the foreground would have been part of their own estate around the villages of Preston and Kenton.

The farmers of Middlesex were prosperous at this time. John Lyon was no exception, feeding the burgeoning Tudor capital less than ten miles away. Charters for institutions were granted to county squires and yeoman flourishing under Elizabethan rule; aspirations, legacy and conscientious farming were all quite conventional for this time. But John and Joan, as they looked from the top of Harrow Hill towards London, poetically, I like to think, with Charter and Seal in hand, this Charter in our midst, our Charter resting here in the presence of its family in front of the altar, John and Joan were different, and in significant ways for which we today are here profoundly grateful to God and to them for their purpose, humility and prescient care.

The exceptional nature of John Lyon is visible in three threads still woven into our foundation. The Monitors' Book shows us evidence of the first of these, and it has been signed by every boy promoted to that office since 1770. In its introductory pages, it contains a transcript of many parts of the Rules for the School that John Lyon wrote after the Charter was given and before his death. Amongst other things, it specifies the duties that Monitors should have, largely around ensuring the good order of boys and protecting Old Schools from damage. It tells us that there should be a rigorous Classical curriculum, alongside which boys should run, play games and practise archery. In these Rules for the School, with just a hint of 16th-century micro-management resonating down the years, we get the sense that John Lyon wasn't leaving anything to chance; he wanted a school of clear standards and of vitality.

I think he knew what experience he wanted boys to have at Harrow: visions of boyhood did float them before him. The second thread of leaving nothing to chance is made emphatically by John and Joan Lyon's acquisitive streak in the years immediately

after the granting of the charter. They bought land and lots of it, substantial acreage both in the parish of Harrow and along what we would recognise today as the A404 Harrow Road, John Lyon's Road. They were in the expansion business, but this was not for them. This was to build an estate: in modern terms a broadly based investment portfolio that would be given over in its entirety to the Keepers and Governors of the Possessions, Revenues and Goods of the Free Grammar School of John Lyon within the town of Harrow on the Hill, as they are known formally.

In consolidating and then giving over a massive endowment, John and Joan Lyon clearly had a perpetual foundation in their minds' eye. The stained glass in the Alex Fitch Room shows us the third thread. The glass vitrifies the moment of Charter and Seal, the refoundation; present are a saint, a queen, a cardinal, an archbishop, our Founder and a crucial sixth character, Sir Gilbert Gerard. John Lyon may have been a yeoman farmer, but he was astute and knew that if his foundation was going to be a reality, if the Charter was going to have a manifestation, it needed friends. Gilbert Gerard, appointed as executor, was that friend. In his position of Attorney General, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Master of the Rolls, he, with his associates, would be able to see to the School becoming a reality. John Lyon set down a clear structure for a Christian foundation, provided lavish resources, and ensured strong sponsors. Those are the three threads which, woven together, would start a 450-year-old legacy.



As observant Christians attending St Mary's, John and Joan Lyon would have known our two readings today well. By making their School founded on Godliness, they sought to avoid, in the psalm, the vanity of building a house, guarding a city and toiling early without the Lord's grace. The second part of the psalm talks about sons being a heritage of the Lord, like arrows in the hand of a warrior. John and Joan Lyon, unlike the parents present with us this morning and all the parents in Harrow's history into whose care they have placed their sons in a sacred bond of trust, John and Joan had no such heritage and blessing. The Family Lyon was a large one: there were cousins a-plenty, many with status. John and Joan did not favour them in making the foundation that they did; in putting all their worldly goods, the entire estate, into the school on the Hill, they were perhaps in one respect, as it says in the Gospel, laying down their lives, certainly the product of all of their lives' works, and laying it down for the sons of others. In that they could not raise sons of their own, they would leave a legacy for the sons of families needing scholarships to achieve an education. They laid down all they had accrued in their lives and entrusted it to God by putting the formation of the school into a will. No glory would reflect on John Lyon in his lifetime. Instead, he embraced complete humility, trusting and faithful, eschewing accolades. And in this laying this down, this act of love, we see the fulfilling of the promise that it will bear of fruit, fruit that will last.

The Charter, firm and free, that John Lyon received did not in fact found a school. Instead, he refounded an existing

successful parish school that was in operation on the Hill near to St Mary's Church. This school exists in records and we know of some of its pupils from its pre-Lyon life. Indeed, the most enthusiastic and mythologising of Harrow's supporters would say that there are oblique references to this school in three of Shakespeare's plays.

1572 was a refoundation of an existing school and today is a moment of refoundation too, reasserting ourselves and our purpose together, framed now as it was then to Godliness and the studies of Good Learning. We are calling it a refoundation not because we are going through the motions of doing it all again but refoundation because good ideas need looking after. However good an idea might be, it is the product of the human mind, it is frail, imperfect and needs sustenance. As our psalm tells us, those who build a house, guard a city and get up early need the Lord's help. All human endeavour needs that help and to rest on something eternal.



Human ideas, however virtuous or charismatic, need our care, our love and nurturing; they need our continuous and conscious refoundation. As organisms, the fact that we continue to exist is because in each moment of our lives our bodies are refounding themselves *omnis cellula e cellula*. As practitioners and participants in education gathered here, watching and listening across the world, we know that, every day, the growth of knowledge and understanding is a continuous process of refoundation.

If we are all refounders in some way educationally, we are also refounders for the families, societies and nations in which, as the book of Acts reminds us, we live and move and have our being; we owe it to those families, societies and nations to refund values and not take them for granted. As we seek to refund Harrow School and the Foundation of John Lyon 450 years on, we also accept that it is our duty in the 21st-century context to play our part in refounding the principles of democracy, rule of law, universal education and respect for all our fellow human beings; these basic ideologies that we count on every second need our love, our attention our care and refoundation. In refounding ourselves we are also, in fellowship with all human beings, honouring our commitment to refund the principles upon which civil society rests.

In a few moments, seals will be blessed and presented to representatives of all the members of the Harrow Family, the descendants of John Lyon's refoundation. That family, present here together and online across the world, is a big family, a growing fellowship, with each element being an act of refoundation in itself. Wherever we are in our great foundation, we are part of something bigger: the boys of Harrow School, John Lyon School and Quainton Hall, the Harrow Club, but also the countless young people who have benefited from the hundreds of millions of pounds of grants from the John Lyon's Charity in its 30-year history, the students in Harrow International Schools and Online. We are all part of something bigger, we are part of each other, built and guarded by the Lord: and that should give us great courage. The seals, as exact replicas as could be made of the original that they lie next to here under the dome, are a clear,

palpable refoundation of our commitment together, more than ten thousand of us as young people, professionals, parents, Old Harrovians, Old Lyonians and supporters, to continue to make good on the Founder's intent to provide inspiring education and life-enhancing opportunities for young people. The seal is the icon for our 450th anniversary because, if a Charter is an outline, an intention or a permission, a seal is a guarantee, it is a promise that this moment of refoundation is authentic, true and, with God's help, everlasting."



After the moving address by the Head Master, the service continued with prayers led by the School Chaplains SPS and JEP for the Harrow Foundation, and for the world, which was followed by the hymn, *Lift up your hearts*. The Act of Refoundation was led by the Bishop of London, who blessed the Charter itself, and its Seal of Royal Assent, which lay upon the altar at the heart of the cathedral. The Bishop also blessed new seals, minted for the occasion, which were to go out to the Houses of Harrow, John Lyon School, the John Lyon Charity, the International Schools and Online. The seals acted as symbols and living reminders of John Lyon's founding wish, to enable the studies of 'Godliness and Good Learning' for all young people. The Head Master then handed out the new seals to representatives from the whole Harrow Family in an act that commemorated the original inception of Harrow School, so that all present at the Act of Refoundation would commit themselves to the furtherance and fulfilment of our Founder's intent. Afterwards, the Collect for the Founder was led by JEP, and then the Commemoration of the Founder was led by NT. The service concluded with the hymn *Be thou my vision*, and the blessing of the whole congregation by the Bishop of London.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Leo Gordon-Pullar, *Newlands*, 'On the matter of sleep',
4 February

Last Wednesday, the Scientific Society was delighted to listen to Leo Gordon-Pullar's, *Newlands*, talk 'On the matter of sleep'.

What is sleep and why do we do it?

Dr Matthew Walker's book *Why we sleep, unlocking the power of sleep and dreams* asked what are the fundamentals of sleep? People who sleep less than six hours a night can double their risk of being diagnosed with cancer, and this behaviour can lead to weight gain, reproductive and immune system failure, and Alzheimer's disease. The stress hormone cortisol is released due to a lack of sleep.

Gordon-Pullar then told us about our circadian rhythm and how it is one of the key central processes in the body. This is because the heart starts to increase the frequency with which it contracts. This, in turn, alters its beats per minute (BPM), causes blood pressure to rise, and puts strain on the main blood vessels. In Latin, *circa* means 'around', and *dia* means 'day'. The circadian rhythm can monitor anything from eating habits

and temperature to urine production and hormone release. The circadian rhythm essentially monitors the clock speed of your body (much like in a computer CPU). Each time your eyes sample light, your circadian rhythm resets and adjusts to the 24-hour day. With modern technology and incandescent light, the rhythm has been disturbed and the body cannot maintain natural function as it was intended.

Darwin was curious to determine whether he could trace a circadian rhythm in plants. He studied the mimosa pudica plant in his experiment. He noticed that its leaves could close, its stem would move, and it would make many other bodily adjustments to its internal clock, as humans do.

Professor Nathaniel Kleitman (University of Chicago) discovered that the daylight cycle is not in fact 24 hours but 24 hours and 15 minutes. In 1938, he ventured into a cave to disprove the myth that the sun controls our circadian rhythm. He tried to adjust his body to a 28-hour day. However, he was still only able to fall asleep until 10pm. This proves that our rhythm is something ingrained in us.

Gordon-Pullar elaborated on the hormone adenosine and how it accumulates during the day to drive you to bed by discouraging wake-promoting regions of the brain. From 7am–11pm, you feel awake but, during rest, sleep cleanses your body of previously stored adenosine.

The chemical production of the hormone melatonin prepares you to go to sleep by activating a signal in the brain to tell you when it's dark. It is produced from a pathway that includes both tryptophan and serotonin. The suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) is a 'bilateral structure located in the anterior part of the hypothalamus'. It essentially monitors your circadian rhythm and serotonin levels. Serotonin is very similar to melatonin in that it stabilises your mood and controls your sleeping patterns.

He then described the two types of sleep that happen in bouts of 90 minutes continuously.

The first, REM sleep, has been reported to have the same brain activity levels as when you are awake. The body is asleep, but the mind is not idle. Typically, this is the period where you may experience dreams. The body paralyses itself before going into REM sleep. It prevents movement completely for safe dreaming, so you do not make quick actions without conscious control.

The second, NREM sleep, is when the body is truly relaxed and uses the least amount of energy. It is easy to be woken during this time. Short-term memories and experiences are transferred to long-term memory stores.

'When it comes to information processing, think of the wake state principally as reception (experiencing and constantly learning the world around you), NREM sleep as reflection (storing and strengthening those raw ingredients of new facts and skills), and REM sleep as integration (interconnecting these raw ingredients with each other, with all past experiences, and, in doing so, building an ever more accurate model of how the world works, including innovative insights and problem-solving abilities).' – Matthew Walker

Thirty percent of the population are night owls and 40% of the population are livelier in the morning. These chronotypes are inherited predominantly from parents and can be used to determine when you work best. Wakefulness of the prefrontal cortex is affected by waking up too early. It can disrupt logical thoughts, emotional reasoning and many other functions.

Gordon-Pullar then touched on the matter of sleep spindles. They are tightly packed brain waves that occur during NREM sleep. Sleep spindles are focused on the motor cortex, the most-worked part of the brain. They inhibit processing of external factors in the brain and allow you to sleep better.

Shakespeare said in *Macbeth* – '[sleep is] the chief nourisher in life's feats'.

Some researchers wanted to investigate the effect of sleep memory retention. They told 100 people to learn a list of names, one group spent 90 minutes sleeping (the length of one sleep

cycle) and the other group did not sleep at all. The group that slept retained 90% more information. The more time you spend unconscious, the more time you can spend conscious.

The brain is like a desk. It can become full. As said, memories are stored in the hippocampus in the neocortex. However, sometimes sleep can be used to remove unwanted memories and make way for new knowledge. In 2009, a Nobel laureate called Francis Crick even found a way to target and remove parasitic memories through REM sleep!

Gordon-Pullar encouraged us to not consume caffeine. Caffeine is one of the most widely used psychoactive chemicals. Caffeine 'turns off' adenosine, the sleep pressure chemical allowing you to perceive a 'delayed tiredness'. Caffeine does not fuel bodily processes. Adenosine builds up during a caffeine surge, after which you get a huge surge of adenosine which makes you feel lethargic. Caffeine can delay tiredness for up to 14 hours after consumption. Even after seven hours, the effects of caffeine are still strong enough to disrupt sleep.

Phytochrome in the liver degrades the effect of caffeine to allow your bloodstream to clear faster. This becomes more difficult with age.

Gordon-Pullar conducted a poll to measure the sleep that Harrovians get. Most people get from 6–7 hours of sleep per night at School and around 8–9 hours of sleep during the holidays.

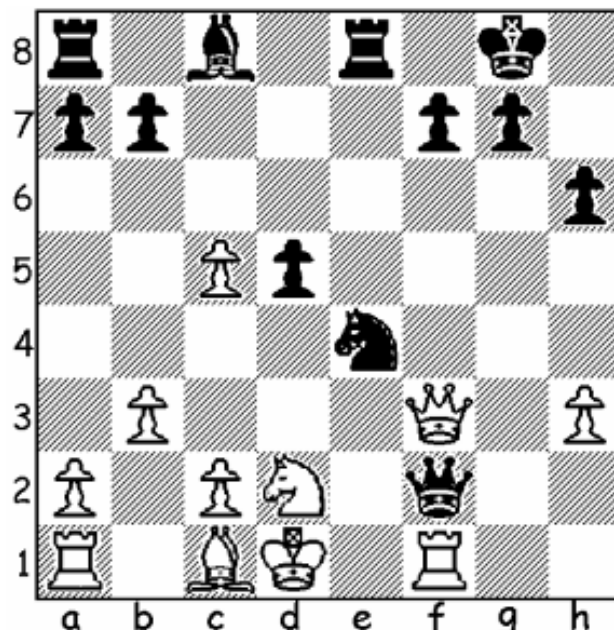
Finally, Gordon-Pullar eagerly answered many questions from the floor. One of which asked how the brain responds to a lack of sleep. The circadian rhythm and melatonin production are altered. When you wake up in the middle of the night, melatonin can be used to reset the rhythm.

Gordon-Pullar expressed the facts about sleep with passionate intensity. After the lecture, we all departed fulfilled and knowledgeable about how our body reacts to sleep, and why it is vital for living a healthy lifestyle.

CHESSE PUZZLE

The weekly Chess puzzle set by JPBH (Master i/c Chess). Email him your answers (jpbh@...) – the best solver throughout the term wins a prize.

This edition's puzzle: Black to play and mate in 2



Last week's answer: 1. ... Qh1+ 2. Kxh1 Ng3++ 3. Kg1 Rh1#

OPINION

SUDOKU

Persevera per severa per se vera

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							1	
	6		7		5			
		1						
			4			5		
		8		9			3	
				8				
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		2		1			9	

GAFFE AND GOWN

Quips from around the Hill

"Does anyone know why Wordle is not a five letter word?"

"Miss, it's way too cold, could I please close the windows?"

"No. Wear more layers. Wear more clothes. Wear a fur coat perhaps." "Are those really allowed, miss?" "Absolutely not. I'll confiscate it, and then I'll wear it myself."

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRs,

Why are there no op-eds being published in *The Harrovian* that are worth reading? I get it, we're all busy people, but a school of 837 intellectual boys and over 100 knowledgeable beaks must surely contain intelligent writers who deploy a scholarly approach and are willing to broadcast their views. Is there a way of asking more boys to contribute their opinions to *The Harrovian* so we don't need to read further political commentaries? *The Harrovian* is currently fulfilling its role as an 'organ of record' but it's not reaching its potential to be an outstanding 'forum for debate', which has led to the decision by some ambitious boys to create a new splinter publication, *Harrow Notes*. So I would like to call on more boys to write for *The Harrovian* to generate more interest in our wonderful School newspaper.

So, as it is written, let it be done,
ANDREW ARTHUR, THE KNOLL

THE PROBLEM WITH THE MEDIA

In America, there is a large division between the left wing and the right wing, or so it seems. Perhaps the media is playing a large part in the problem, and the division is not quite as much of a chasm as it looks.

For the media, news that engages people is news that makes money. The more people are engaged the more money media companies make. News channels constantly feed people news that people want to hear and specific news pieces that get them annoyed and even more engaged. For example, the infamous Fox News may run a piece on how the latest US election was rigged. This is news that many hard-right Republicans and Trump supporters want to hear. This creates what is called an echo chamber. The more people hear other people endorsing and confirming their thoughts, opinions and views, the more they believe them as irrefutable truth and fact. This continues in a continuous loop in which people's thoughts are echoed back at them, hence the term echo chamber. Social media is a place that can create very dangerous echo chambers. Twitter is especially bad for this. On Twitter, you choose who and what topics to follow, and Twitter recommends more things like that. Over time, people can end up following people who constantly express their, often radicalised, opinions. As this happens, people can end up believing what the people they follow say. This can leave you with a deadly feedback loop of often radicalised ideals and opinions being thrown at them.

In a wonderfully written book by Julian Sayarer, called *Interstate*, about hitchhiking across America, he found that, despite what you may read in the news, the average American doesn't have nearly as strong opinions on seemingly controversial topics such as labour unions or on the infamous left-right-wing division. Of course there are many in the country who live by Democrat or Republican but, in a country of 330 million people, not every single person can, or wants to, express their opinion on who to vote for or who to not. The media simply blows up the littlest things and only portray the story from one side in order to evoke emotion. As a man Mr Sayarer met on his travels said, if the American corporations went to Mexico and ruined the main agricultural sector there, what did the American people expect was going to happen? Mexicans would just find money to go to college and get qualifications? That did not happen. Instead they had to risk their lives to cross the border to earn a decent wage and feed their family.

The media, and news specifically, is how people get their information; people will only know the story that the immigrants are 'invading' the country and stealing jobs, not that they are coming here because American companies took their jobs. We only get one side of the story; therefore, opinions are only formed based on half of the story and thus information is spread that is incorrect, misleading and categorically false. The worst part of this, and it does get worse, is that people do not always know that they are spreading this misinformation. This again goes back to that same idea that the media only tell one side of a story or twist stories in order to make money. This is why it is good to read articles from different news companies so you can build up an accurate picture of what is happening and to get as little bias as possible.

In America, there is a large division between the left wing and the right wing because the media wants there to be. The division seems to be a chasm because that gets people like us interested in what is happening and reading news articles. There are people that do follow left or right wing until they die, but this is not the majority. Look into the headlines you see because they are made to aggravate you, and always read around.

These are dark times. War is all of a sudden far too close for comfort and climate change has taken a backseat. Faith in world leaders is at an all-time low and discord seeps into every aspect of society. Mental health is in decline, but in these dark

times we have to stay strong. Our community on the Hill is an incredible light in this darkness. Do not let that light be exclusive to the Hill, bring it home. Bring it to friends you have not seen in a while. Bring it to the strangers you meet in the street. Do not let what you hear bring you down. Let it inspire you to change yourself and let it inspire you to change others. Bring awareness to climate change again. Say no to war. Take back control and do not let the media dictate how you think.

METROPOLITAN

ARI ASTER'S MIDSOMMAR

Film Review, Daniel Sidhom, The Knoll

The psychological horror and thriller genre of film has been one that I favour the most. Characters are often concomitant with insidious types of darkness, ones that obliterate themselves from society and human nature itself. It's a form of storytelling that inspires so much creative layering and nuance, that even those who are normally horror averse can find something to sink their teeth into. Five psychological horror and thriller films that I view as the greatest of all time: 'The House That Jack Built' (2018), 'Hannibal' (2013), 'Joker' (2019), 'Mother!' (2017) and 'Midsommar' (2019). All share the dark depths of the human mind, with negative emotions being brought to the forefront. But Ari Aster's 'Midsommar' conjures up an even madder and more ambitious nightmare. Set in the remote wilds of northern Sweden, Hälsingland, it features ingredients that are not usually found in movies of such unsettling qualities – the skies are blue, the sun is out, and everywhere are angelic-looking characters, adorned with flowers and dancing merrily. Yet Aster is able to orchestrate the descent from paradise to a breathless, hallucinatory, and exceedingly agoraphobic escapade with clinical precision. In this article, I would like to make clear why 'Midsommar' is the greatest cinematic masterpiece in the film industry, while elaborating upon its intricate themes, and its beguiling, head-spinning atmosphere.



The structure of 'Midsommar' is in many ways similar to a Romantische Oper, a genre of early nineteenth-century German opera. The overture features everything that happens before the title cards appear, in the snowy undefined landscape, when Dani's family dies in an apparent suicide, and she is plunged into grief. The plot is generally straightforward; a couple, Dani and Christian, travel to Sweden to visit their friend's rural hometown for its fabled "midsummer festival", but what begins as an idyllic retreat quickly devolves into an increasingly violent and bizarre competition at the hands of a pagan cult. The opening shot illustrates a colourful handwoven tapestry, marking the changes between the winter and summer months. At first, it appears that the tapestry is depicting the passing of the seasons, with two faces marking the middle of winter and summer. However, upon closer inspection, characters from the film appear in each stage of the tapestry, acting out what they will do at various points in the film. Before the plot has even

begun, we are given a sense that everything has been pre-planned, as though everything that you are about to see is as natural as the passing of the seasons. The first act begins two weeks before Christian, Mark, Dani, Simon, Connie and Josh embark on a journey to Sweden, invited by their friend Pelle, who is part of the Harga community. Upon their arrival into the idyllic village, they are encouraged to take psychedelic mushrooms, making them less trusting of what is happening around them and exacerbating the distance and miscommunication between Dani and Christian. It is also interesting to note how Dani is the only member to be greeted with a “welcome home”, a sign of their unfeigned compassion for her suffering and misfortune.

The horror of the film gets underway in the second act in which the brutal culture of the Harga community emerges; the village celebrates a disturbing ritual at the Ättestupa, the name of the high cliff where the elders throw themselves to their deaths. This ritual suicide is a pivotal moment for the character of Dani. The film’s gory scenes start off the gradual transformation. Whereas her boyfriend Christian has always been quick to dismiss her anxieties, frequently talking her into ignoring her own feelings and backtracking on her initial discomfort, the Harga community specifically emphasises the importance of acknowledging one’s emotions. In one scene, as Dani prepares to retreat and cry in private as she always has, she is gently surrounded, held up, bolstered by women who tacitly give her permission to feel everything she’s feeling right in the moment. She screams, cries, wails, and they do the same, echoing her sounds, sharing in her grief, her rage and amplifying it even further. It’s a scene which Aster creates a sense of catharsis, despite it being a disconcerting atmosphere.

The sheen of this small idyllic village eventually wears off, and the panic of escape sets in. One by one, each visitors begin to disappear as the film slowly builds in tension and horror with grim scenes. The brutality in the film feeds into the transformation of Dani, whose psyche at first grows numb, but eventually starts to welcome the violence that has so long revolted her. The film concludes on a chilling scene, as we witness Dani’s face, as she slowly begins to smile.

The majority of critics believe that Dani’s cryptic smile resembles her finally possessing the freedom she never truly could establish within herself, as a result of her association with a man that lacked the ability to show any sentiment towards her. For her worst “affekts” – affections and emotions – are, as it turns out, all tied to the character of Christian. The Harga, therefore, naturally decide to use Christian, who is an “ideal astrological match” for Maja, for his genetic material, and then, as long as Dani picks him for the ceremony, for purging the worst “affekts” of the whole community. With the yellow pyramid building aflame, the whole community gathers outside, howling as they did at the Ättestupa. However, this time, they also clutch at their faces and bodies, as if they are allowing everything that is unconscionable inside themselves be let out. The last image of Christian being burned alive and Dani smiling visually reveals to the audience the violence one must do with someone in order to find peace within herself. But several critics view the ending of ‘Midsommar’ as a successful form of psychological manipulation, in which Dani succumbs into joining the commune. The Harga community is not only the instigator of every negative event that happens, but it is also the twisted positive resolution that comes afterwards. Every distressing situation that Dani finds herself in is because of the cult – but every solution she finds also comes from the cult. It is a common tactic used to trap victims, and as Aster himself points out, “if you can be the solution to all of their problems, they won’t ever want to leave you. But if your victim is isolated, then you also have to cause the problems.” The acts committed are designed to psychologically brainwash the audience as much as Dani.

While the narrative of ‘Midsommar’ may be simple to identify – a two and a half hour study of one woman’s emotional

journey towards emancipation from a toxic relationship – there are subtle themes that most viewers will miss during their first viewing. The opening tapestry gives a sense that everything has been pre-planned, with everything occurring as natural as the passing of the seasons. Another crucial theme is observed through the flower crown. Perhaps much like the opening tapestry, it is not immediately clear that the main characters may not be in control of their actions. Dani only really wants to attend the festival because the loss of her parents has left her feeling very isolated and vulnerable. That is until we notice a flower crown next to Dani’s dead parents, implying that Dani’s loss may not have been a suicide after all. Furthermore, the use of drugs in ‘Midsommar’ expand upon the themes of hallucination and stimulation. Our visitors are seen embarking on a mental excursion that imparts feelings of increased energy, pleasure, emotional warmth, and distorted sensory and time perception. The flowers of the cultivated lands move as though they are breathing and forming shapes. In one sequence, an entire forest takes on the shape of a glaring face – could it actually be the supreme deity of the Harga community surreptitiously making its presence known?

Likewise, the repeated use of symbols forms another crucial theme of ‘Midsommar’. Throughout the ritual suicide at the Ättestupa cliffside, the two elders are seen piercing both hands, and smearing their blood on the ‘Raidho’ stone tablet. This specific rune signifies one’s journey, control, growth and evolution. It represents the life path of a person, and through their sacrifice, the elders will be subjected to a spiritual rebirth. Finally, Dani’s eventual breakup with Christian, and coming out changed on the other side, is on par with pagan attitudes to a liminal death. Once someone dies, it is the duty of the family to prepare their body for a new life in the society of the dead. Essentially, they die twice. We see this idea played out in two very different deaths; of Dani’s family, and the ceremonial deaths of her friends, which mark the beginning and end of a change in Dani’s life.

PHOTO COMPETITION

“Celebrating Cultures”

1st place: Mrs Price (Rendalls Matron), *Early morning alms, Luang Prabang*



A wonderful photo, the composition here is stunningly considered and there is a nice balance between the green hues of the trees and the striking orange of the men on the right. The contrast really directs the eyes to the subjects in the photo. The image is a great sneak peek on the culture, fashion and tradition in Laos. The photo has a considerably amount of grain and is not of the highest quality but is yet another great representation to how camera gear is not essential to effectively capture a moment of creativity, brilliantly done!

2nd place: Miss Emma Pinto (Database and Research Officer)



"I took this photo on Ukerewe Island, Tanzania, an island with a high population of people with albinism who have historically been discriminated against and murdered because of their skin condition. This photo shows a group of boys at an exhibition celebrating the diversity on the island."

The abundance of race and different people in the photo have been put together well here. It displays art and photography as a medium of teaching and exposure to current problems in the world. The contrast with the subjects' backs and the front-facing photos on the wall results in a nice balance with the photo adding a real creative element to the image.

3rd place: Edos Herwegh Vonk, *Newlands*, Upper Sixth

The patterns on these painted ceilings always make for quite aesthetic pieces, and the variety of pattern and shape adds lots of quite organic elements, which is always a striking feature in images. The beautiful painting really celebrates the classical Renaissance painting of its time and complements the architecture of the building surrounding it. The composition is really nicely considered and well centred.

4th place: Mrs Read-Lukomska, Polish Master



Street photography is always a great way of exploring a specific culture. I think that the centred column creates an excellent focus point in the image and the colour grading adds an attractive green tint to it. Another nice touch is the variety of colour and the architecture in the background.

THE DOGS OF WAR

by Anonymous

In a far and distant country,
A not so foreign and strange a land,
At the eastern edge of freedom,
An unfettered people make their stand.

Threatened on all sides, they turn,
Backed against the wall,
They blow the horn of Roland:
Rurik's children sound the call.

They call us from the battle lines:
As we watch eastwards, far away,
And now the clouds look grimly down,
On a nation's final days.

Through night closing all around,
Through the snarling of the beast,
The call, it louder sounds,
Sounding, coming from the east.

But where the bulldog now?
Where the heroes gone?
Where the bark? The jaws with
Ready fangs since deemed too long?

He watches onward troubled,
Hamstrung by his leash,
And wonders what his sires did,
In an age of little peace.

Their barks are now but echoes,
The hound is now a pup,
And his friends are far and falling.
The bear is in his cups.

A drunken, roaring monster,
Where the hounds to bring him down?
They sit, afeared, and watch there,
Watch, and merely frown.

SPORT

BADMINTON

*The School v St Dominic's Sixth Form College, Won
24 February*

It is always exciting for Harrovians to have fresh opposition, this time in the shape of St Dominic's Sixth Form College. The team there was only established in the Autumn term 2021, and we were fortunate enough to host them in their very first fixture. Novelty could not be supposed to mean this would be an easy match, and it was clear that the boys from St Dom's were going to fight every point and relish the challenge of every encounter. Their 2nd pair put up a feisty defence against Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, and Dawei Sun, *Bradlys*, of Harrow's 3rd pair in the first round of the fixture, securing what would turn out to be their only victory. There were spirited games up and down the Sports Hall, with a nail-biting final match between the rival 1st pairs featuring Alex Locke, *West Acre*, and Marcus Tung, *West Acre*. After a neck and neck 21-19 win in the first game, our boys succumbed to a 17-21 loss in the second, before a powerful come back in the third and final game, which they won 21-15. Our thanks to scorers Felix Doan, *Bradlys*, and Chris Liu, *The Head Master's*, who served the team by flipping the score boards and getting involved in the friendly singles and doubles game at the end of the fixture. The atmosphere was superb throughout, with good sportsmanship on show at every turn. We look forward to visiting St Dominic's Sixth Form College next academic year for the return fixture.

The School v Epsom College, Won

Saturday's fixture against Epsom College saw the Harrow team achieve a clean sweep, securing a strong victory in every match. There were some stellar performances across the board. Captain Alex Locke and Vice-Captain Marcus Tung, both *West Acre*, gained the upper hand early in on three of four matches, demonstrating a confident performance. Pair 2's Jarvis Lam, *The Park*, and John Kwong, *Lyon's*, formed a dynamic duo, securing wins in all but one game. Pair 3's Wilfred Leung, *Druries*, and Dawei Sun, *Bradlys*, appeared to have fun on court, winning their matches with energy and enthusiasm. In Pair 4, Vlad Plyuschenko, *The Grove*, and David Nackmanovich, *The Knoll*, demonstrated keen skill and focus, notably winning a friendly game against Epsom's Pair 1. Ashton Kong, *The Head Master's*, and Felix Doan, *Bradlys*, are also to be commended for their great sportsmanship, playing for the opponent's Pairs 3 and 4 with the same energy and determination as they would play for Harrow. The fixture finished with various friendly games with mixed teams from both schools. We very much look forward to our next encounter with Epsom College.

HOCKEY

22 and 24 February

Yearlings A v John Lyon School, Lost 2-3

1st Team Away v Bedford School, Lost 0-6

This was a tough national cup game against a talented Bedford side. Harrow linked up nicely in the mid field and played some constructive hockey, but it was difficult to find gaps in the Bedford defence and to stop their talented forward line from scoring some outstanding goals.

RACKETS

The School v Wellington College, 22 February

1st Pair Won

Veer Patel, *The Knoll*, and Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, started a little slowly to win a tight first game but soon found their rhythm, with Patel playing with precision and control and Sotir dominating to win 3-0.

Colts A Lost

A promising debut for Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, in partnership with Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*. Hope played well throughout but we were just edged out 11-15 in all three games to lose 0-3.

Junior Colts A Lost

Some genuine signs of improvement in a 1-3 loss from Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, who continue to develop their games.

The School v Marlborough, 24 February

1st Pair Won

A convincing 3-1 win for Tarquin Sotir, *Druries*, and Federico Gheri, *The Head Master's*, who overcame a fight back from Marlborough to secure victory. Both boys struck the ball cleanly in the rallies.

Colts A Won

A strong display from Gus Stanhope, *Moretons*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, who maintained control to win 3-0. Some excellent serving and consistent rallying were the predominant feature of our play.

Colts B Won

Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, and Charlie Hope, *Rendalls*, came through a tight contest 3-0 with an attacking display featuring some fine serving to win 3-1.

Junior Colts A Lost

Henry Porter, *Moretons*, and Tom Campbell-Johnson, *Druries*, fought hard and lost a nail-biting fourth game that would have levelled the scores at 2-2, to leave them with a 1-3 loss.

Junior Colts B Won

A strong display from Algy Royle, *Rendalls*, and Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, who won 3-0 and showed some fine stroke play throughout.

Yearlings A Lost

An excellent match by Charlie Chambers, *Rendalls*, and Ben Hufford-Hall, *Moretons*, who fell just short in a 1-3 loss. Both boys are showing plenty of potential.

GOLF

Harrow 2-1 Charterhouse, 24 February

Like a crisp morning frost, or the first cry of a newborn lamb on a spring day, playing golf at Worplesdon is one of life's joys. The boys were treated to a course in outstanding condition in the aftermath of storm Eunice and the threat of snowstorms thankfully never came to fruition. The sun was shining, and we even had time for a warm-up (cue the team making for extra rations from the clubhouse).

First out were Captain Toby Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Aidan Wong, *The Park*. Shirvell and Wong started the match well with Shirvell draining a long birdie putt despite some

dastardly shadow movements from environment... They looked very comfortable at the turn and found themselves 3 up having made two birdies each. However, Charterhouse were not to be perturbed and managed to turn the match around to win 1 up.

Hoping to bring the match back to all-square were Max Shirvell, *The Head Master's*, and Jonty Williams, *Moretons*. After two nervous tee shots from both Shirvell and Williams on the first, the Charterhouse players, who were receiving 14 shots, believed that the opening hole was theirs. But the experienced Shirvell was having none of it and a solid recovery would see a par enough to win the hole. Williams struggled to find some form in the first couple of holes. He was constantly blocked by trees off the drive, which left Shirvell with the responsibility to keep Harrow in the ascendancy early on. However, from there on in, Shirvell and Williams played some good golf, allowing them to take a 3 up lead after 9. A dart from Williams on the par 3 10th meant that Harrow looked in firm control in the match. The Charterhouse pair were not quite done and made some crucial putts to make the ending interesting. Ultimately, both Shirvell and Williams were able to half on the 16th and secure the match 3&2.

It would all come down to the final match. The formidable pairing of Fred Hewer, *The Park*, and Victor Grant, *Moretons*, would need to get the job done to keep the current winning streak going. Both boys found the fairway on the first, and that would set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. A good start consisting of solid driving and putting from Hewer and solid iron play from Grant meant the boys found themselves 4 up after 5. A pair of doubles on the par 5 6th meant the boys halved the hole but it was little more than a blip as the boys put their foot right back on the gas. They found themselves 7 up at the turn, aided by a good par save from Grant on the 8th. A par on the signature 10th hole from both boys meant that a big win was in their sights. A par on the 11th from Hewer meant the boys won 8&7, continuing their unbeaten record as a pair and sealing victory for the blues.

JUDO

Independent Schools Judo Tournament for Boys 2022

A team of 22 boys entered the HMC Independent Schools Judo Tournament, held on Saturday at High Wycombe Judo Centre.



Nine Shell boys entered the Junior (under-14) age band of the competition. The day got off to an excellent start with Ben Allard, *The Grove*, taking the gold medal in the Under-42kg category with some intelligent judo against experienced opposition. A flurry of silver medals then followed with Harrison Gray, *The Park*, Rory Griffin, *The Head Master's*, and Jake Turner, *Druries*, finishing second in the Under-46kg, Under-50kg and Under-55kg categories respectively, with Tristan Tyacke, *The Grove*, and Neharen Inpan, *Bradlys*, earning silver medals in the Under-60kg and Under-73kg divisions. In the Over-73kg category Mac McDowell, *Elmfield*, took a silver medal with the

bronze going to Arjan Basran, *The Park*. After some excellent contests, Matthew Finnegan, *Druries*, retired injured from the Under-6kg pool. As a group, this relatively inexperienced Junior team was superb, and a good example of what can be achieved with careful preparation and courage on the day!



In the Intermediate age band, Algy Royle, *Rendalls*, and Michel Quist, *The Grove*, finished with gold medals in the Under-60kg and Under-90kg categories respectively after some very tough and exciting contests. James Lanni, *The Grove*, earned a silver in the Under-66kg division.

In the Senior age band Jude Esposito, *Newlands*, took gold in the Under-73kg category with perhaps the most dominant display of the day and some excellent ippon throws. The remainder of the Senior age band was not well populated by other schools – a sign perhaps of the restrictions imposed on judo training in the last couple of years. There were therefore many very competitive all-Harrow contests, in which boys conducted themselves, in victory and defeat, with the highest levels of courtesy that this sport demands.

In an all-Harrow Under-81kg division, Oliver Newall, *Druries*, finished with gold and Greg Morgan, *Lyon's*, silver, with Josua Biles, *Bradlys*, and Josh Soyemi, *The Head Master's*, taking the bronze medals. In the Under-90kg category Giancarlo Urselli, *The Grove*, took gold with Emmanuel Olowe, *The Grove*, and Lukas Edstrom, *Bradlys*, finishing with respectively silver and bronze medals. In the Under-100kg group Philip Truscott, *Elmfield*, earned a silver medal with Edwin Oh, *Rendalls*, taking the bronze.

At the end of the tournament, Harrow finished with six gold, ten silver and five bronze medals. Unfortunately, with many of the Senior medals not contested by other schools, they could not count towards the official medal tally and the trophy for winning school was effectively decided by the younger age bands, in which Harrow finished level with Whitgift. The tie was unlocked on the number of silver medals and Harrow finished as runners up this year. After such a dominant display by Harrow, this came as quite a disappointment to our team, who have won the shield for the last six years, but they have set their sights on the British Schools Championships, which takes place the weekend after next at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

RUGBY

Development XV Away v The Henley College, Lost 14-31

A tremendous effort by the Development XV in blustery conditions against a large and well-drilled Henley College team. Harrow took the lead with a well-worked maul scored by Bobby Dunne, *Elmfield*, before Charlie Cross, *Newlands*, went over after some

excellent handling from Johnny Codrington, *Rendalls*, under pressure. However, Henley's superior size caused problems early in the second half as they scored three unanswered tries to take a 31-14 win. Seniors Oli Newall, *Druries*, Phillips and Apollo Wilkins, *The Knoll*, led the side from the front while Cross and Freddie Dinan, *The Knoll*, produced excellent performances.

HARROW FOOTBALL

Bradlys v OH, 4-1

Nick Kingsley (*Bradlys*, 1969¹), Jonathan Wright (*Bradlys* 1984¹) Jasper Campbell (*Bradlys* 2014³) and George Wooding (*Bradlys* 2015³); Spectating Adrian Biles (*Bradlys* 1981¹), Pedro Azagra Tojar (*Bradlys* 2015³), Girk Yin (*Bradlys* 2018³)



It was the first Founder's Day in two years and the weather could not have been any better for a game of footer (apart from torrential rain, of course). As the most boisterous House on the Hill, we were ready to begin a gruelling and physical game against our 70-year-old opponents. Despite a rather low turnout from the clearly petrified OHs, we opted for a more casual game by alternating picks for our teams. We quickly chose our teams and scrambled to the pitch ready for kick-off, making sure to avoid the WWII craters that were carefully pointed out by Mr Kingsley. The game began and for the first ten minutes was a relatively fair fight, full of agitated grunts and some late hits (thanks go to Lukas Edstrom). The boys had managed to establish an early lead with a base from Tiarnan O'Brien, assisted by a sensational right arm from Sam McGougan launching the ball towards the base. A fierce defence was led by Mr Wright and the OHs looked like they had built up some momentum, although this was ultimately short lived. A strong attacking presence from the boys enabled Omar Ait El Caïd to give yards to Josua Biles, who then converted it into a comfortable 2-0 lead after he failed to do so from a previous yards attempt. The first half drew to a close and sighs of relief could be heard from both sides. Ignited by a wind, the second half was off to a good start for the OHs with some enormous hits coming from Mr Kingsley and James Nelson. A successful dribble by George Wooding and Jasper Campbell had put the OHs in a base-scoring opportunity, although they failed to convert this time. Mr Kingsley made sure to voice his disappointment although it's not quite known exactly what he said. By now the boys had become rather comfortable in their 2-0 position and this did not sit well with the OHs, particularly George Wooding and Mr Kingsley. In what was probably the most exciting play of the game, George Wooding launched a devastating counter-attack towards the boys' half with the help of Ayo Ajibola. He was quickly hunted down by Biles, Walker and Edstrom and chaos ensued. With Biles to his left, Walker to his right and Edstrom close behind it was looking rather bleak for Wooding. Despite this, the trio somehow managed to take each other out, seemingly around Wooding, allowing the OHs

back into the game. A clean sheet was now out of the equation, but this only spurred Lanre Nzeribe to send the ball forwards to Edstrom, who dribbled down the hill with never-seen-before pace. A tidy third base meant that the boys were now 3-1 up and this was shortly followed by another base from Walker to finish the game 4-1. The game was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and it was great to be umpired by DJE.

Druries v OH, 5-2

Adam Ait El Caïd (*Druries* 2016³), Arthur Ludlam (*Druries* 2016³), Charlie Bendon (*Druries* 1989³), Freddie Everett (*Druries* 2010³), Edward Hardy (*Druries* 2010¹), Nick Liddle (*Druries* 1989³), Callum McLean (*Druries* 2011³), Toby O'Connor (*Druries* 1982³), Rafe Wendelken-Dickson (*Druries* 2014³), Louis Kunzig (*Druries* 1983³), Sam Hardy (*Druries* 2008³)



The Druries boys started the game quickly, gaining four opportunities in the first ten minutes. However, due to lack of skill, the misshapen ball was always remarkably missed! Joe Mclean was first to score after a brilliant catch, and O'Connor followed with quite a jammy base, assisted by Alex Gabbitas. The old boys came back and after a lot of turtling and rucking for the ball, it found its way into our base.

Another base for both McLean and the old boys meant that at half-time the score was 3-2 to Druries. In the second half, the old boys managed to stay out of their own half for much of the game (the advantage of playing down the slope in both halves!) and even strong runs from Paddy Elliot and Oliver Newall could not break through. As the second half crept on, McLean smashed in a superb Ronaldoesque volley securing his hat-trick, and to hammer the nail home in the final few minutes O'Connor took the ball up the slope, searing past his father and scored the fifth base. It was a brilliant effort from all in a bright sunny spring day, with the final score of the game ending 5-2 to Druries!

Elmfield v OH, 1-5

Paddy Breeze (*Elmfield* 2016³), Oliver Wills (*Elmfield* 2016³), Marehiko Kondo (*Elmfield* 2016³), Hector Michelin (*Elmfield* 2016³), Henry Wilson (*Elmfield* 2015³), Robin Guthe (*Elmfield* 2015³), Otto Heffer (*Elmfield* 2015³), Panav Patel (*Elmfield* 2015³), Paddy Kinnaird (*Elmfield* 2015³), William Blunt (*Elmfield* 2015³), Kit Hart (*Elmfield* 2013³), Angus Denison-Smith (*Elmfield* 2013³), Freddie Dennison Smith (*Elmfield* 2011³), Oliver Wilson (*Elmfield* 2011³), George Winters (*Elmfield* 1988³), Tom Paton-Smith (*Elmfield* 1988³), James Thompson (*Elmfield* 1988³), Casper Hill (*Elmfield* 1987³), Harry Bloomfield (*Elmfield* 1986³), Jonathan Blackwood (*Elmfield* 1984³), Jasper Blackwood (*Elmfield* 2017³), Simon Denison-Smith (*Elmfield* 1981¹), Andrew Smiles (*Elmfield* 1985³), and Roddy Hill (*Elmfield* 1958¹)

After a very successful Harrow football season, the Elmfield House team was keen to see off the Elmfield giants of old in what became an incredibly tough match and the House's only

loss – with the exception of the one to the House which need not be named. Naturally, a legion of Old Elmfieldians were eager to return and the Old Elmfieldian team consisted of an multi-generational machine with such giants as two fathers from the current Upper Sixth and the most recent former Head of House (a true force of nature, Mr Breeze). Spurred by sunshine, sausages and success, the Elmfield Upper Sixth felt confident in their ability to see off the Old Elmfieldians. However, it was not long into the first half when we realised that such confidence was ill-founded and by half-time the score was 3-1 to the Old Elmfieldians.



As is customary, the Elmfield House team was keen to graciously concede the downhill advantage and continued to play against the slope for the remainder of the match. Although many valiant attempts were made for the House to restore its position as victors, the Old Elmfieldian team's dogged offence meant that by full time the score was 5-1. Indeed, they had successfully secured their status as giants of old. Many thanks go to those giants for making the effort to return and play, and the House looks forward to many more matches in the future. A special mention also goes to Henry Hancock as the House's sole base scorer and, of course, to Edward Blunt for the spectacular culmination of his five years of Harrow sporting prowess coming to a head with his crowning achievement of scoring 0 bases and (maybe) inadvertently helping to score a base for the opposition. Up the Field!

The Grove v OH, 4-6

As The Grove boys headed down to Sheepcote 4 for the return of the Founder's Day match against the OHs, there was only a general feeling reflecting the cloudless sky and the prospect of a good game of footer. Two old boys, James de Broë-Ferguson and Stafford Proctor, both captains of this season's OH XIs facing the School, had taken up the gauntlet against the House. The Upper Sixth knew they were in for a good one. Jack and George Herron, lads of significant size and greater spirit, had also joined their OH comrades against the House in what proved to be one of the most memorable matches played in Red and Blue.



Conceding the slope at the start, as is customary against those 'feeble of foot and rheumatic of shoulder', the House very quickly realised that, while they themselves were playing a gentlemanly friendly, the OHs, supplemented by the Lower Sixth, were very much determined to prove themselves once more on the footer field.

Soon the bases started rolling in despite a valiant effort from the House's back three, who had not played since Shells, but morale was upheld by the sunny weather and the spectacle of great runs and boshes from both sides. Soon, the House's superior size and skill started paying off, but not on the score card: Lower Sixth Formers and OHs were flying everywhere but the score remained firmly in their favour. Soon the match came to an end, and with it the feelings of strife and competition, which gave way to the warmth of the day and the sense of camaraderie built on our common traditions and culture. The game ended with the Old Boys on top, but the House was left with a distinct sense of hope for the future, that in our time we ourselves might well come back to the Hill and show them how it's done!

The Head Master's v OH, 3-3

Théodore Seely (*The Head Master's* 2015³), Will Travis (*The Head Master's* 2013³), Sean Hargraves (*The Head Master's* 2015³), Jamie Hill (*The Head Master's* 2013³), Amit Armon (*The Head Master's* 2013³), Harison Saunders (*The Head Master's* 2013³), Dan Adebayo (*The Head Master's* 2014³), Rick Lawson-Cruttenden (*The Head Master's* 1970²)

As usual, there was a lot of pre-match talk about which boys would be stumbling over from The Castle down to the footer fields for Founder's Day. The Head Master's numbers looked rather measly at first but when a few more lads (who had visibly been enjoying their time at uni) rocked up, the match began. A noticeable appearance was seen from Will Travis, former leader of the Outcasts and self-proclaimed 'King of Exeter', who was ready to put younger brother Matt 'on the floor'. The match started slowly from both sides with some very average chat from the OHs as they complained about their lungs. The Head Master's managed to secure two early bases through Jack Hedley and Alex Seeley. Unfortunately, the OHs struck back via a monstrous hit from the protein beast, more commonly known as Harrison Saunders. Having been a bit jealous of all the bases being scored, Orlando Hill decided to get himself in on the action to make it 3-1 to the House at half-time.

Given the (marginally) superior fitness levels of the House, they decided to play up hill again, which proved to be more challenging than it first seemed. The heir to the throne, Matt Travis, decided that it was time for him to try out the 'turtle' tactic but to no avail. Dan Adebayo, who was spotted wearing tracksuits for the match, managed to pull another base back for the OH team. With the momentum going their way the OHs managed to somehow find another base to make the score 3-3. This was shaping up to be one of the all-time classics and had it not been for Jordan Pickford at the back (Max Shirvell) then the OHs would have scored a last-minute winner. SAH and CTP decided it was time for a pint and the match finished 3-3, which was probably a fair result.

Best wishes to Theodore Seeley who had achieved the highest score in his year group for his Modern Languages course at Cambridge. What a GOAT.

The Knoll XV v OH, 4-4

Karim Wilkins (*The Knoll* 1984³), Alexander Wheeler (*The Knoll* 1999³), Duncan White (*The Knoll* 1999³), Leo Sixsmith (*The Knoll* 2008³), Henry Elsom (*The Knoll* 2011³), Nicholas Lloyd Williams (*The Knoll* 2011³), Sam Riddell-Webster (*The Knoll* 2011³), Oliver Seex (*The Knoll* 2011³), George Grassly (*The Knoll* 2013³), Calum Butler (*The Knoll* 2015³), Arthur Leney (*The Knoll* 2015³), Alex Walker (*The Knoll* 2015³), Archie Ross (*The Knoll* 2015³), Mark Bruno (*The Knoll* 1984³)

It was Founders Day at last. The highly anticipated matchup between the current members of the House and the OHs from the past was finally here. The day started off with all OHs

and the House XI taking a photo in front of the Boyer Webb, before the current captain of the School Harrow football team, Nick Martin, kicked the day off by hitting the ball over The Sunley. There was a huge turn out from both teams resulting in the game eventually being played 15 aside.

The game kicked off with the OHs starting. Within four seconds of the whistle being blown, The Knoll's very own giant, William Wauchope, coming in at 6 foot 6 weighing a whopping 95kg, was face first in the ground after being catapulted by Lloyd Williams. The House knew it was going to be a long, hard afternoon as the momentum shifted towards the experienced OH team. The OHs quickly took the lead with a well-taken yards from Riddell-Webster becoming the first base on the score board. This was quickly followed up by two bases in quick succession from Lloyd Williams, making it three to the Old Knollites. However, after a change of tactics the House team started to play to their strengths, running down the space on the side of the pitch. After a defensive kick down the wing from the House's own baseline by Baba Obatoyinbo, the House team managed a counterattack with Martin outpacing four OHs to score the first base for the House XV. The OHs quickly reacted, solidifying their defence with some heavy hitters (including the likes of Calum Butler and Archie Ross).



On the other end of the spectrum the expected fierce battle between the smallest people on the pitch, the father-son duo, Apollo and Karim Wilkins, did not disappoint.

The OHs quickly clawed back their three-base lead after some poor defensive errors from the House team leading to the opposition taking yards. The OHs continued to apply pressure. However, the House team continued to fight on, leading to a breakaway only to be stopped by the last OH line of defence – Alex Walker. As everyone seemed to crowd around with the ball being knocked about from shin to shin like a Yearlings E football match, Edred Clutton expertly took yards and quickly slotted the ball through the horde of the gold and black shirts into the bottom left corner against the run of play ending the half 4-2 to the OHs.

The second half kicked off with the House team in high spirits after Clutton's second base of his entire Harrow career. Following an inspiring team talk by Capitan Martin, the team was pumped up and ready for the second half and with some well-timed substitutes, the House team came out guns blazing, breaking the line and running circles around the old boys. Special mentions go to Issah Merchant who controlled the whole back line throughout the game, thwarting any attack by the OHs, dominating play at the back and making runs that Virgil Van Dijk would be proud of. You could tell the OHs had not done much sport in the last few years as stamina began to fade. Indeed, an unnamed OH claimed that the half-time whistle was the highlight of the half for him. Even Grassly, the multi Long Ducker record breaker, managed to fade into the chaos in the middle of the pitch. This led to the OHs trying to slow the game down forming a turtle which had all 30 people on pitch in at one point, but the overwhelming might of the House XV was too much for the OHs, leading to a vital turnover – only

to be thwarted by some illegal plays by Karim such as hooking Will Tate's ankles after he had made a break through, despite being in the mud himself. The House dominated the second half with Tom Haworth clearing the ball up to Martin who from halfway dribbled the ball up the pitch, outpacing the opposition to score his second for the day. At this point the score was 4-3 to the OHs but momentum was on the House's side until OH Arthur Leney took it into his own hands, making his own counter attacking run and skipping past several defenders before a vital last ditch tackle by Anton Shashenkov cleared the ball away from danger for a corner, which was wasted by the OHs, a common theme throughout the match. Almost immediately, Martin launched the ball 20m from a throw-in to Tate, who was set free again, this time with no Karim in front of him to trip him up. Unfortunately, Tate's military fitness had not paid off and was caught slacking by a charging Simon Martin and Lloyd Williams. Just before he was sandwiched between the two giants, Tate heroically managed to poke the bouncing ball to Nick Martin who subsequently left his father for dust and smashed the ball through the two sticks to round off a hat-trick. The game now had only a few minutes left before the final whistle, but the House knew they could scrape the win and pushed forward, driving through the morning Chapel fatigue and comforting thoughts of curry and beer at full time. There was a sense that there would be one last big chance and there was. William Barrett, who has consistently been playing and scoring for the House in the last five years, managed to get in the right position to catch the ball for yards in the dying moments of the game, with a pinpoint accuracy and physique that Samonas could only dream of. It was a tight angle, but he had managed harder shots this season. The match rested in his hands, he took aim and fired, driving his right foot through the ball. Despite his best intentions, the ball was sliced wide, marginally missing the sticks (an action that Kepa would clearly take inspiration from in the Carabao Cup later that evening). The final score came out to be 4-4, a fair match with a game of two halves. Man of the match on the OH team went to Lloyd Williams and the award for the House XV went to Merchant for an excellent defensive display as sweeper.

Lyon's v OH, 3-7

Alex Melf (Lyon's 2014³), Zeddie Johnson-Watts (Lyon's 2014³) Will Ogden (Lyon's 2010³), Louis Martine (Lyon's 2010³), Jake Figg (Lyon's 2010³), Kevin Kwong (Lyon's 2010³), Oli Rosson-Jones (Lyon's 2012³), Ed Rosson-Jones (Lyon's 2014³), Hamish O'Rourke (Lyon's 2014³), Jasper Chia-Croft (Lyon's 2010³), Ed Chia-Croft (Lyon's 2013³), Alastair Llewellyn-Palmer (Lyon's 2014³), Charlie Llewellyn-Palmer (Elmfield 1980³)



There were plenty of Old Boys to make up an eleven but, despite the glorious sunshine, a few of them preferred to watch from the sidelines and one or two Sixth Formers joined their numbers for the match. The boys, full of confidence and spurred

on by NJM, felt sorry for the visitors and offered up two of their better players. They quickly rued this as the Old Boys raced ahead 3-0 in almost as many minutes – playing uphill too! The first half ended 4-1, with the Old Boys demonstrating far better instinctive footer than the hosts. Despite playing uphill in the second half, the boys were able to perform better and the final score was 7-3.

Moretons v OH

On one of the greenest pitches anyone had used since Shells, Moretons was delighted to welcome back a brace of Ballingals to dust off their boots and return to the Hill. The Moretons XI, buffed by the addition of two veterans of the game, were faced up against the “B Team” of the young guns in the Lower Sixth who were wishing to give the senior boys a run for their money. The game started with the OH-led team taking a storming early lead despite some missed base kicks.

After suffering a flurry of conceded bases, the Lower Sixth were banking on the advantage of the down hill which had afforded the House team so much confidence. Some opportunistic runs from Max Morgan and Victor Grant kept a sense of hope, but the cool defensive work of Alex “defensive guarantee” Lee, Freddie “the Haye maker” Gregory, and Jake “can only excel” Brockwell kept the clean sheet intact. As the ball stayed light and fast, the players didn’t quite manage to do the same and as space opened up, the opportunity for exciting transfer plays did too. After a streak of almost Catalonian tiki-taka transfers with Theo Tomlinson, it was Alex Ballingal making his return, who slotted home the final base of the half.

At the beginning of the second half, there was another Ballingal limbering up to aid the Lower Sixth in their quest to hold onto some dignity. Valentine Ballingal looked ready for Chapel but was instead the best-dressed footer player in recorded history and provided useful momentum for the struggling side. But, regardless, the Moretons XI ramped on and added another six to their tally, prompting the officials to call the game early for “health and safety” reasons. All in all, it was a fast-paced, creative game with one clear set of winners. The Lower Sixth will certainly be counting themselves lucky that King Faisal was unavailable to witness this fixture.

Newlands v OHs, 5-6

Archie Hogben (*Newlands* 2015³), Felix Reding-Ruiter (*Newlands* 2010³), Brandon Plumb (*Newlands* 2010³), Ewan Josserand (*Newlands* 2015³), Charlie Christie (*Newlands* 2015³), Henry Revill (*Newlands* 2012³), Declan Shortt (*Newlands* 2014³), James Larard (*Newlands* 2014³), Christian Boland (*Newlands* 2014³), Max Grogan (*Newlands* 2014³), Hugo Rowse (*Newlands* 2014³), Ben Coldicott (*Newlands* 2017³), Matthys Du Toit (*Newlands* 2014³), Sam Allen (*Newlands* 2014³), Long Hei Ng (*Newlands* 2015³), Steve Dickson-Tetteh (*Newlands* 2012³), Rory Jack (*Newlands* 2012³), Hein Jurgens (*Newlands* 2012³), Anton Jurgens (*Newlands* 2013³), Jamie Herholdt (*Newlands* 2012³), Gabriel Adebisi (*Newlands* 2013³), Koye Babayo (*Newlands* 2013³), Dougal Barr (*Newlands* 2014³), Edward Revill (*Newlands* 2013³), Gin Radesich (*Newlands* 2013³)



The House: Hugo Anderson, Michael Chiimba, Rupert Cullinane, Brian Donohugh, George Ferguson, Ehiada Garuba, Edos Herwegh Vonk, Rafe Hogben, Roger Litton, Henry Pearce, Luke Ritchie, Hanno Sie, Freddie Taylor, Jude Esposito, Thomas Hobbs, Bode Kolawole, Kanta Morishige, Jake Phillips and Charlie Young

Newlands arrived at the Boyer Webb in typical early fashion to gain prime positioning for the photo, looking forward to a good game of Harrow football against a numerous ON team. The game failed to disappoint, with so many Old Newlanders (ONs) turning up that it was looking more like a 30-sided team. Despite the gain in weight and lacking of fitness in some opponents, they were none the less a force to be reckoned with, scoring almost immediately after the first play. We were frightened that it could turn into a thrashing – it was almost impossible to get past Charlie Christie, particularly while Archie Hogben was bouncing his way through. The game was full of laughs, big hits and sibling rivalries. EWH got in the way of the ball and was slightly winded for a minute or two. Inevitably, the ‘turtle’ tactic came out through Matthys Du Toit who bravely scrambled with the ball beneath him, supported by all the ONs, which baffled the Newlanders. Nevertheless, it proved to be a fiercely competitive game with both teams level throughout – Hugo Rowse scored his first base ever! The game ended with a score of 6-5 to the ONs, Charlie Christie responsible for the winning base. Strong support from Long Hei Ng on the side lines was greatly appreciated although he was very concerned about his suede shoes and the mud! The House could not have looked more forward to a nice curry. The Shepherd Churchill pulled through. A bottle of Heineken, two poppadsoms and a divine bhuna curry were shared and could not have satisfied the House more. Conversation flowed, jokes and stories from over the years were shared. Some of the ONs then waddled down to the Sports Centre for a game of water polo. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable day.

The Park v OH, 3-4

The Old Boys: Tim Farr (*The Park* 1971¹), Michael Ansell (*The Park* 1984³), Crispin Nieboer (*The Park* 1987³), Huw Power (*The Park* 2007³), Oliver Tippet (*The Park* 2012³), Saif-Ali Durrani (*The Park* 2013³), Pawit Kochakarn (*The Park* 2013³)



The House: Antonio da Silveira Pinheiro, Max Ding, Kieran Leung, Iyanu Ojomo, Chinedu Orji, Jerry Qi, Jiho Ro, Aidan Wong, George Fenwick, Tomas Kemp, Archie Kyd, Ben Kyd, Joe McGuinness, Noah Mazrani, George Sage, Nathan Shepard, Max Wilson, George Ansell, Caspar Stone, and Jerry Qi

Umpires: BJDS, Professor Adrian Wilson (*The Park* 1963³)

The House and Old Parkites bore with equanimity the apparent ignominy of being relegated to Field Pitch 1 and, having got there, were pleasantly surprised to find a pastoral Eden under vivid blue skies. The pitch was virtually untouched, and the slope pronounced even by footer standards. BJDS was joined by fellow umpire Professor Adrian Wilson.

With six Old Parkites turning out for the OH team, their ranks were bolstered by members of The Park Lower Sixth including Chinedu Orji, who covered nearly as much ground in the game as everyone else put together and enjoyed some feisty duels with his Head of House.

The OHs started downhill and scored two yards bases in the first half, one by Mr Michael Ansell (who enjoyed some good duels with his son George) and one by Aidan Wong. A third could have followed on the stroke of half-time, had Chinedu taken his yards kick with as much speed as he covered the pitch! The House defended stoutly and sensibly, and had some promising forays up the mountain, too.

The slope proved a telling ally in the second half, the House scoring two bases in quick succession to make it 2-2. A mix-up at the back then brought about an 'own-base' (sic) to nudge the House ahead. When a fourth was added (all, I am ashamed to say, soccer bases), it looked like the game was up, but a fine late rally from the OHs saw Mr Ansell score his second in the dying minutes.

Final score: The Park 4-3 The Park OHs. But all soccer bases v all yards bases allowed for much badinage about falling short of the Giants of Old, and a sense of 'honours even' at the end of the game.

An excellent afternoon that saw some good footer played and reminiscences enjoyed.

Rendalls v OH, 2-4

William Emus (*Rendalls* 1978³), Simon Freethy (*Rendalls* 1978³), Caspar Williams (*Rendalls* 1979³), Jim Glover (*Rendalls* 1978³), Joe Snow (*Rendalls* 2005³), Kyri Pittalis (*Rendalls* 2006³), George Olesen (*Rendalls* 2006³), Ed Harmer (*Rendalls* 2006³), Harry Ruffell (*Rendalls* 2006³), Rupert Elston (*Rendalls* 2009³), Fisayo Ayodeji (*Rendalls* 2009³), Will Bonnet (*Rendalls* 2009³), Noi Omaboe (*Rendalls* 2009³), Rupert Smith (*Rendalls* 2009³), Marcus Peers (*Rendalls* 2009³), Dan Firoozan (*Rendalls* 2009³), Chris Short (*Rendalls* 2009³), Ed Griffin (*Rendalls* 2009³), Julian Martin-Smith (*Rendalls* 2010³), Freddie Ruffell (*Rendalls* 2010³), Harry Sizer (*Rendalls* 2010³), Josh Morley-Fletcher (*Rendalls* 2010³), Miles Kellock (*Rendalls* 2010³), Ryan Chung (*Rendalls* 2011³), George Whitcombe (*Rendalls* 2011³), George Chichester (*Rendalls* 2011³), David Thomas (*Rendalls* 2011³), Teddy Short (*Rendalls* 2011³), Toby Wilders (*Rendalls* 2011³), Alfie Norris (*Rendalls* 2012³), Taiga Morishita (*Rendalls* 2012³), Toni Fola-Alade (*Rendalls* 2012³), Jack Firoozan (*Rendalls* 2012³), Tola Fola-Alade (*Rendalls* 2014³), Caspar Grundy (*Rendalls* 2014³), Alex Hall (*Rendalls* 2014³), Tom Placintescu (*Rendalls* 2015³), Michael Fitzgibbon (*Rendalls* 2015³)



For Rendalls, Founder's Day involved a record turnout of 40 or so Old Rendallians (ORs) who came back to the Hill. Before the match, there was a moment of silence for two Rendallians who lost their lives over the last couple of years: Ollie Bates and Basil Fisher. It reminded all of us the importance of

Founder's Day and the bringing friends together, but also the remembering of old ones too. Playing the match on Hemstall 6 was a muddy but memorable affair for all those involved, and the game started off quickly. The ORs capitalised on the downhill advantage in the first half and with keen aggression kept up the pressure on the Rendallians' base. They were able to take quick yards on numerous occasions, despite pressure from the opposition. Fortunately, a few stray shots over the wall and wide of the base meant that their half-time lead was limited to 2-0 – both bases through kicks from the hand, Noi Omaboe and Will Bonnet hitting the target. The second half was a lot more competitive, and play varied back and forth between both ends of the pitch.

Despite conceding a third base again through Noi Omaboe, the Rendallians were undeterred in their mission for a win. A break away counterattack finished by Nikolai Hanbury inspired hope, and it didn't take long until he scored another with a kick over the wall, to make it 3-2 with five minutes to go. The rolling substitutions from the ORs' 30 players may have helped against a flagging House team and, ultimately and unfortunately, a quick yards in the final play of the game from Julian Martin-Smith saw the game finish 4-2 to the ORs, as the ball ricocheted off the post and in. Nonetheless, it was a thrilling and tense match enjoyed by all. With every single player covered in mud, it was a clear indication of the amount of effort that was put in.

West Acre v OH, 3-6

Old Boys: Mark Shemilt (*West Acre* 1977³), Tom Falcon (*West Acre* 1982³), Matthew Gibbens (*West Acre* 1984³), Jonathan Digges (*Moretons* 1984³), Milo Chetwynd-Talbot (*West Acre* 2013³), Alex Bethell (*West Acre* 2016³), Matthew Harrison (*West Acre* 2016³), Ben Harrison (*West Acre* 2016³)

The West Acre XV, who hadn't yet won a game, had a physical encounter with an experienced Old Harrovian side. The first half proved to be more so even than anticipated, until Ryan Nasskau opened the scoring after taking advantage of a somewhat rusty Old Harrovian side. However, this was met by a swift response from the OHs who were keen to prove themselves and quickly levelled the score. Two more goals followed from either side with Charlie Digges scoring for West Acre to bring the first half to a close. The second half was another uphill battle with Archie Chatwin scoring a base from range to finally break the stalemate. Charlie Digges quickly followed to make it his second of the afternoon. After some brutal challenges, the OHs caught a complacent West Acre side off-guard, scoring a base from distance to make the score 4-3. Towards the end of the game the fitness levels of the OH side began to fall with Charlie Digges scoring his hat-trick. The final minutes of the game saw Kit Chetwynd-Talbot score the final base of the afternoon to bring the full-time score to 6-3.

WATER POLO

*The School v Stowe, Won 9-3,
24 February*

Harrow triumphed 9-3 over Stowe at the annual derby fixture. Up front, Sam McGougan, *Bradlys*, and Henry Emerson, *Newlands*, put in a staggering performance, scoring four each, while Anton Shashenkov, *The Knoll*, added one to his tally. The Stowe Aquatics Centre was also scene to a number of defensive theatrics, with Gus Chukwuemeka, *Druries*, building a formidable back-line on his debut for the Senior squad, earning him the Man of the Match award. Also making their

debut were Rahul Ponniah, *Newlands*, and Louis Parry-George, *The Park*, with the latter donning the red hat for a fortuitous stint in goal in the shallow end. William Codrington, *Rendalls*, should be commended for making his first start for the senior side in the Shells.

SWIMMING

The Tonbridge Trophy, 24 February

Harrow made the journey to Tonbridge for their revamped tournament. Harrow made a strong start in the 4x50m freestyle relays, with the seniors clocking in at 1:41.33 in more-or-less even splits, and the juniors at 1:47.72. In the individual events, standout performers were Eshaan Firake, *Newlands*, with 26.90 in the 50m freestyle, James Rates, *Newlands*, with 55.49 in 100m freestyle, and Jospeh Li with a 29.35 in 50m backstroke. The trophy was decided by the final two individual medley relays, in which Rates set a personal best time, earning to Swimmer of the Meet accolade.

Harrow placed third out of a group of 11 schools with 145 points, narrowly pipped by Tonbridge (151) but ahead of Dulwich (138).

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

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