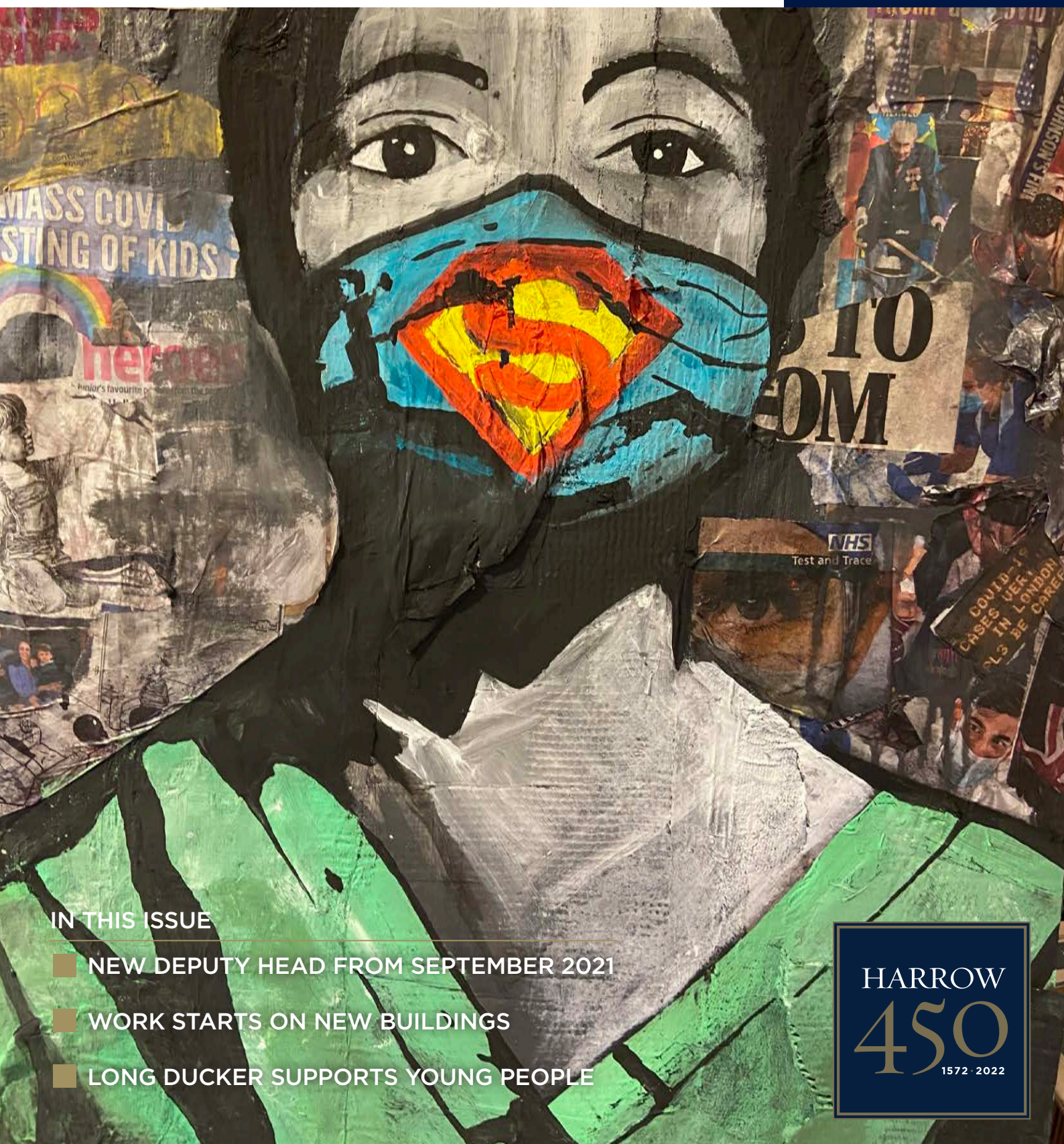


HARROW NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021



HARROW
SCHOOL



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- LONG DUCKER SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE

HARROW
450
1572 · 2022



OPEN MORNINGS

Harrow's open mornings are an excellent way for prospective parents and their sons to learn about the School and life on the Hill.

Visit www.harrowschool.org.uk for forthcoming dates and to book.

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FROM THE HEAD MASTER



In spite of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and the absence of boys from the Hill during most of the Spring term, the School has not been a quiet or idle place.

Building work was completed in Druries and The Grove, providing boys and staff in those Houses with new facilities to make their lives more comfortable and enjoyable. Work began on Project 450 – a major programme of building and refurbishment that will see state-of-the-art science and sports buildings fit for learning in the 21st century and beyond, as well as rehabilitation of our dining facilities to provide best-in-class nutrition for teenage bodies, and souls too, by creating a more socially conducive space for boys and visitors.

Both while they have been on the Hill and during their latest period of online learning, boys have continued to engage with a full and exciting programme of academic and co-curricular activities, with even more talks, society meetings and debates than during “normal” times. The School's creative life has been impressively rich and successful, and you can read

about Harrovians' myriad achievements in many areas of artistic and intellectual endeavour despite the challenging circumstances.

Although it has not been possible for them to undertake their customary voluntary work in the community for the Shaftesbury Enterprise programme, boys raised an impressive amount of money through a modified Long Ducker sports event. These funds will be used to help children and young people on whom the pandemic has had a significant adverse impact. One primary school, for instance, has used the money it received to buy laptops for pupils who had no access at home to suitable devices for online learning.

I hope you enjoy reading about all that has been happening both on and off the Hill and I look forward to seeing many of you here in person in the not too distant future.

Alastair Chirnside

NEW DEPUTY HEAD FROM SEPTEMBER 2021



Mr Nick Page has been appointed Deputy Head of Harrow School from September 2021. He will succeed Mr Alastair Chirnside, who will be taking up the headship of St Edward's School, Oxford. Nick, who studied French, Russian and Spanish at Nottingham University, began his teaching career at Harrow. He fulfilled a number of roles including Head of Modern Languages, Commanding Officer of the Harrow Rifle Corps and Senior Head of Subject, as well as remaining heavily involved in the School's co-curricular life, in particular coaching rugby, soccer and polo. In 2014, Nick was appointed to Harrow's Senior Management Team with responsibility for the day-to-day academic running of the School and with oversight of all matters relating to higher education as Academic and Universities Director. In 2017, Nick moved to Westminster School, where he is Deputy Head (Co-Curriculum) and Director of Communications. He is also Vice Chair of Governors at Old Buckenham Hall School in Suffolk, and a Foundation Governor at St Jérôme's Bilingual Primary School in Harrow. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

FIRST CHURCHILL SCHOLARS ARRIVE

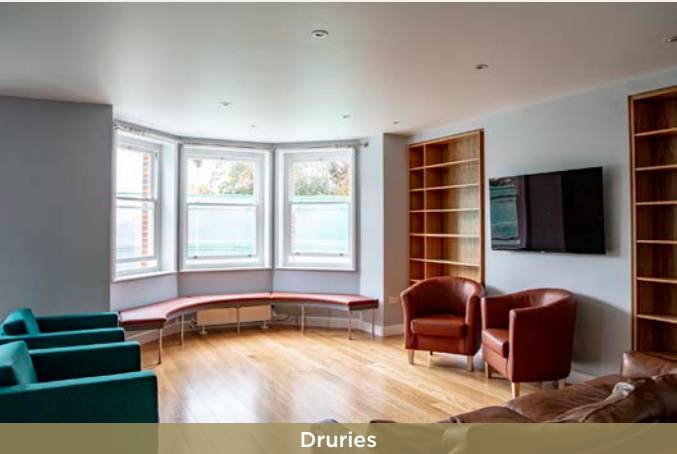
In September 2020, Harrow welcomed the first recipients of a new bursary initiative, Churchill Places. The aim of this new bursary scheme is to find boys who, in their own way, demonstrate the characteristics of personal courage, wide-ranging thinking and a global outlook, and who may one day change the world for the better. Over the next five years, the Harrow Development Trust aims to raise a £10m fund to expand the number of Churchill Places we can award every year. We would envisage awarding these places to boys joining Harrow either in the Sixth Form or in Year 9, identifying some candidates when they are in Year 6 and seeing them through two years of prep school before coming to Harrow.

BOARDING HOUSE
RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

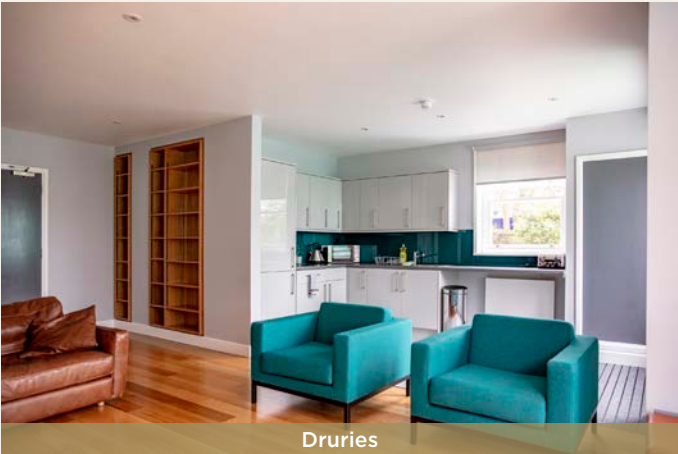
Work has now been completed on new extensions and refurbishments to Druries and The Grove. Boys in Druries were able to enjoy new bedrooms, new showers and new communal areas. The refurbishment project also provided updated accommodation for the Assistant House Master. The Grove now has an impressive entrance for the boys, new common rooms and communal areas, a dedicated Tutor’s Room for one-to-one teaching support, and new accommodation for the Assistant House Master and Matron.



Druries



Druries



Druries



Set for a failure of words by Elizabeth Drury

PROJECT 450
BUILDING WORK STARTS

We were delighted that, in December 2020, planning consent was granted for our proposals to remodel and extend the Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall and for new science and sports buildings.

Enabling works have begun for the refurbishment of the dining hall. Originally built in 1976, it now caters for over 3,000 meals a day and requires complete overhaul. This project will not only meet today’s needs but will also continue to provide facilities for events and functions. Benefits include:

- A more efficient layout and extensions that will significantly improve the dining experience for boys, including sufficient capacity for two Houses to be served at the same time;
- Step-free access and resolution of other operational issues;
- A contemporary look and feel, with more space for hospitality in term time;
- Improved energy efficiency and reduction of the carbon footprint of the building;
- Repairs that will give the building at least 40 more years’ serviceable life; and
- Enhancement of one of the best views of Central London from Harrow on the Hill.

Enabling works will include a half-mile long temporary construction access road, using the existing track that leads to the Shepherd Churchill Dining Hall and the site of the new science building. Refurbishment work is scheduled to start in August; the building will remain operational and the work will take two years to complete.

FOUNDER’S DAY
GOES ONLINE

Each year, Harrow celebrates its founder, John Lyon, with Founder’s Day. In normal times, the main features of this event are a series of Harrow football matches between current and past members of each House, along with a range of exhibitions, music and drama performances. With School life having moved online at the start of the Spring term, this year’s celebrations moved online too. Boys from the School’s elite cultural society, The Guild, created a montage of photographs of Founder’s Day Harrow football matches from the past, recorded music and drama excerpts and created an exciting online art exhibition, all topped off with a medley of Harrow Songs.



Harrow football on Founder’s Day

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

During the Spring term, Harrovians have been benefiting from the advice and inspiration of Visiting Artist Elizabeth Drury, who has been working online with individual boys and with whole divisions from all years. Elizabeth has exhibited across the UK and in India. She combines research into object attachment theory and speculative realism with her interest in early film and theatre, and her work explores the deceptions of image-making. Testing the limitations of observational drawing, she incorporates everyday objects and artists’ tools in her work. Paper, glass, plastic pieces, pencils, lamps and fabrics are transformed from one state into another. During her tenure as Visiting Artist, she has been creating a series of works in her studio in the Art School. These works, in which misleading and hidden letters, limbs and everyday objects slip in and out of observation, have been put together in an online exhibition, *Silverfish*, which will run during the last week of the Spring term.



Work starts on the access road



Impression of the new science building



Coral outcrop

Photo: Toby Hudson CC-3.0-BY

BIOLOGY

June Hyun of the Removes was a runner-up in the Michaelmas Term 2020 Schools Science Writing Competition, run by The Oxford Scientist, on the theme of ‘An inspirational scientist, alive now, whose work is helping us to advance into the future’. He wrote about Dr Emma Camp and her research on coral.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Boys in the Computer Science Society built a desktop PC capable of cutting-edge performance. The system is the most powerful machine on the Hill and provides an ideal platform for computer science-based projects over the coming years. The system has been designed from the ground-up and assembled from bespoke, high-end hardware. It will allow many new possibilities for AI learning, neural networking and big data science, and will be used to explore real time ray-tracing simulations – a recent breakthrough in hyper-realistic graphics rendering. The typical lifespan of this type of desktop machine is around ten years, significantly greater than the three to five years for a mobile device.

ENGLISH

One of the oldest competitions at Harrow took place online for the first time in its long history. The Lady Bouchier Reading Prize rewards good reading aloud, clarity of voice, an engaging style and an ability to capture the audience. The first event took place in 1878. This year’s final was adjudicated by the novelist Ashley Hickson-Lovence. The four Junior finalists read from the novel *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer, followed by poems by Pascale Petit. The five Senior finalists read from the novel *The Doll Factory* by Elizabeth Macneal, followed by poems by Thomas Hardy. The 2020 Winston Churchill Essay Prize asked boys to consider the statement ‘Statues deny the realities of the past’. Boys submitted a fascinating range of arguments and perspectives, with the best essays showing thorough research and reflection.



Lady Bouchier

MATHEMATICS

In the Senior Maths Challenge, Harrovians earned a very impressive 25 gold, 38 silver and 16 bronze certificates. Twenty-five boys qualified for the follow-on rounds. Sixteen boys sat the very challenging British Mathematical Olympiad paper, aimed at the top 1,000 school mathematicians in the country. Collectively, they produced an excellent set of results, earning no fewer than nine certificates of distinction, awarded to the top quarter of entrants. Of particular note was Oscar Wickham, who earned a distinction while still in the Remove. Krish Nigam won second prize for his solutions to the very tough Student Problems in Mathematical Gazette. The Editor had particular praise for his talent and perseverance.

PHYSICS

Fifteen boys in the Upper Sixth sat the British Physics Olympiad Round 1 paper. This paper was taken by over 1,500 students in the UK, and was a very challenging exam designed to stretch the top young physicists in the country. Jason Zeng was awarded a Top Gold award, putting him in the top 6.4% of students nationally and making him eligible for the Round 2 paper, from which the national team is chosen. A second Harrovian achieved a Silver award.



ANCIENT HISTORY

In the Autumn term a new initiative was launched with Notting Hill and Ealing High School for Girls. Nine Academic Scholars in the Remove joined forces with NHEHS girls to work on a project on Ancient Alexandria. Each of the nine pairs was given a topic to research within the broader theme, together with a source. Weekly online meetings started with a plenary session followed by discussions and work on areas ranging from the pioneering female mathematician Hypatia to the archaeology of the lost cities of Canopus and Heraklion, and from Eratosthenes’ calculations of the circumference of the Earth to an analysis of the variety of religions that co-existed in the city. Presentations to the group and members of the SMT from both schools bore witness to the impressive research done over the term in this truly collaborative, fun and stimulating academic experience.

June Hyun was awarded a Highly Commended certificate for his entry to the 2021 Lytham St Anne’s Classical Association Classics Competition. His entry consisted of a video on the inaugural Flavian Games in the new amphitheatre that was to become known as the Colosseum. It was the first time a Harrovian has been awarded a certificate in this prestigious and fiercely contested competition and the judges stressed how impressed they were by the depth and breadth of his research and choice of images.

HISTORY OF ART

Following his presentation on Edward Hopper’s *Nighthawks* in the online regional heats of the ARTiculation public-speaking competition on a work of art or architecture, Gareth Tan (Upper Sixth) qualified for the regional final of the competition. He was particularly commended for his excellent handling of historical context, powerful use of rhetoric and a beautifully crafted PowerPoint.

Following the success of the ARTiculation competition among senior boys, the Art Department is launching a junior competition open to all boys in the Lower School. This will be an exciting opportunity for students to share their love of an artwork, their research abilities, their capacity for argument and their public-speaking skills.



Nighthawks by Edward Hopper



Photo: Brücke-Osteuropa

A billboard featuring Deng Xiaoping - the topic of a talk to the Oriental Society

ORIENTAL SOCIETY

Members of the Oriental Society were entertained by a range of talks by boys. Subjects included Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire, former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, and the variety of religious and philosophical belief in China.

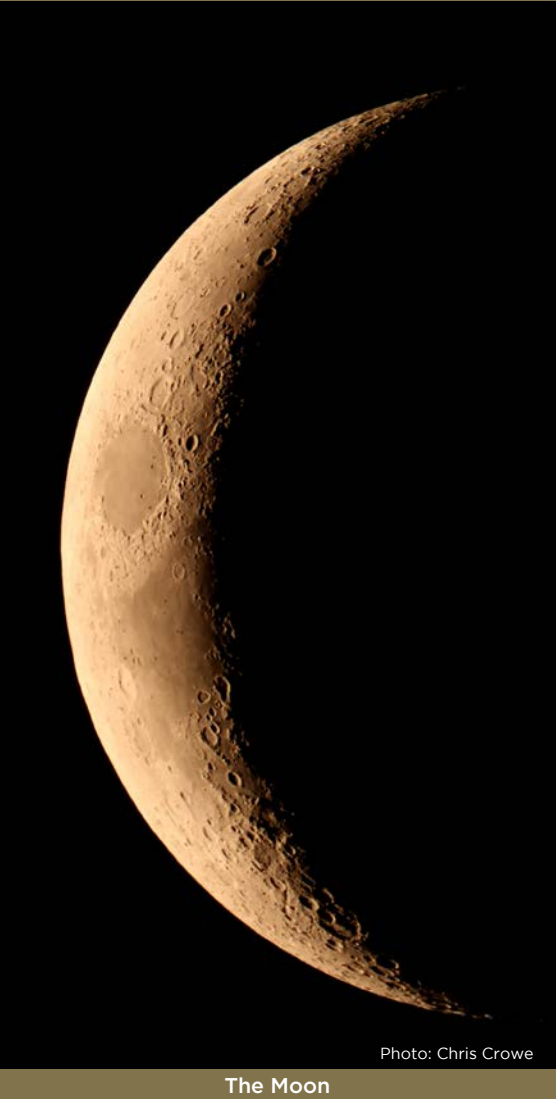


Photo: Chris Crowe

The Moon

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Alongside the continuation of online talks by boys, the Scientific Society heard from a number of distinguished scientists. These included Dr Chiara Marletto, Research Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford, whose talk 'Beyond Quantum Computation' was a riveting ride through the development of quantum theory and computation. Thanos Kildaras of Imperial College London spoke about 'Lunar Geology and the Apollo Missions'. PhD student Mr Joshua Rasera, also of Imperial College, stayed with the moon to discuss space-resource utilisation and mining on the moon. A third speaker from Imperial, Mr Stanley Starr, gave an insightful talk entitled 'Living off the Land on Mars'. Mr Starr retired from NASA in 2018 after working at the Kennedy Space Center for over 37 years. At NASA, he worked on the development of the space shuttle programme before changing his focus to developing deep space exploration technology and becoming a part of the Mars mission-planning team.

SLAVONIC SOCIETY

In October, the Slavonic Society was honoured to be host to the recently appointed Ambassador of Russia, His Excellency Mr Andrei Vladimirovich Kelin. Mr Kelin has dedicated a great number of years to public service, taking on a variety of positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1979. In addition to serving in various posts in Russian embassies in Europe, he was also Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to NATO, Representative to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Head of the Department of Pan-European Co-operation.



Russian Ambassador
Mr Andrei Vladimirovich Kelin

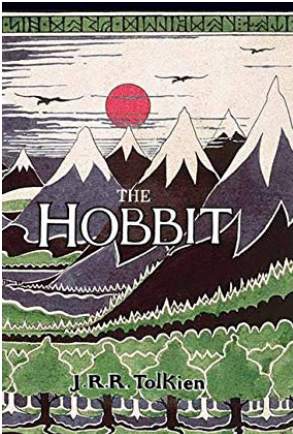
DEBATING

Harrow won its second-round heat of the English-Speaking Union Debating Competition. The Harrovian team beat five other schools to earn a place at the ESU finals in March. Harrow proposed the motion 'This house would embrace emotion in public discourse over dispassionate objectivity' and were opposed by a very strong team from Queensgate. They were also able to outshine other strong competitors in the round, from Ibstock Place School, Godolphin and Latymer, St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, and King's College School Wimbledon.

SHERIDAN SOCIETY

Literature

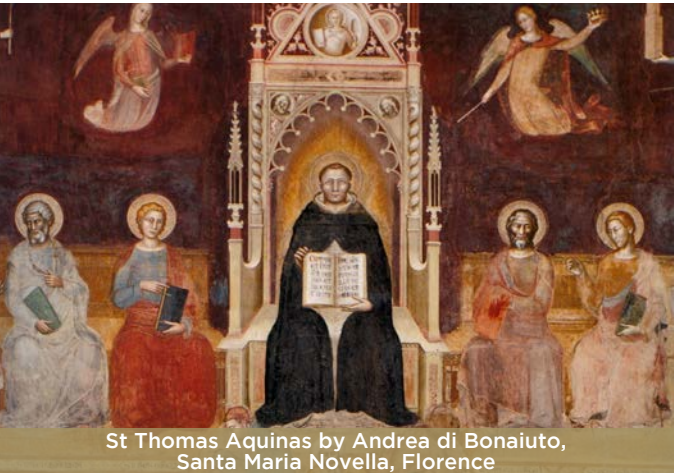
The influence of myths and legends on later writers was the theme of talks to the Sheridan Society. One Harrovian spoke on 'Tolkien's Mythological, Literary and Lifetime Influences', looking at the literary, biographical and historical influences that Tolkien used to forge his own cosmos: Middle Earth. Another Harrovian outlined the wide-ranging influence of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* not only on the classical world but also how it is inextricable from Western literature and contemporary pop culture.



GORE SOCIETY

Theology and philosophy

After an extended absence, the Gore Society released a revamped version of its magazine. The publication features a broad range of contributions from boys and beaks, touching on diverse themes in philosophy, ethics and theology, including Fermi's Paradox, religion in literature, the history of Western philosophy and St Thomas Aquinas. Members of the society also heard from Theology & Philosophy beak Dr Spencer Bentley who spoke on the topical subject of 'Infectious Faith: Christianity and Ancient Epidemics'. His talk examined two significant epidemics in the Roman world, how they emerged, spread and may have contributed to the growth of the early church.



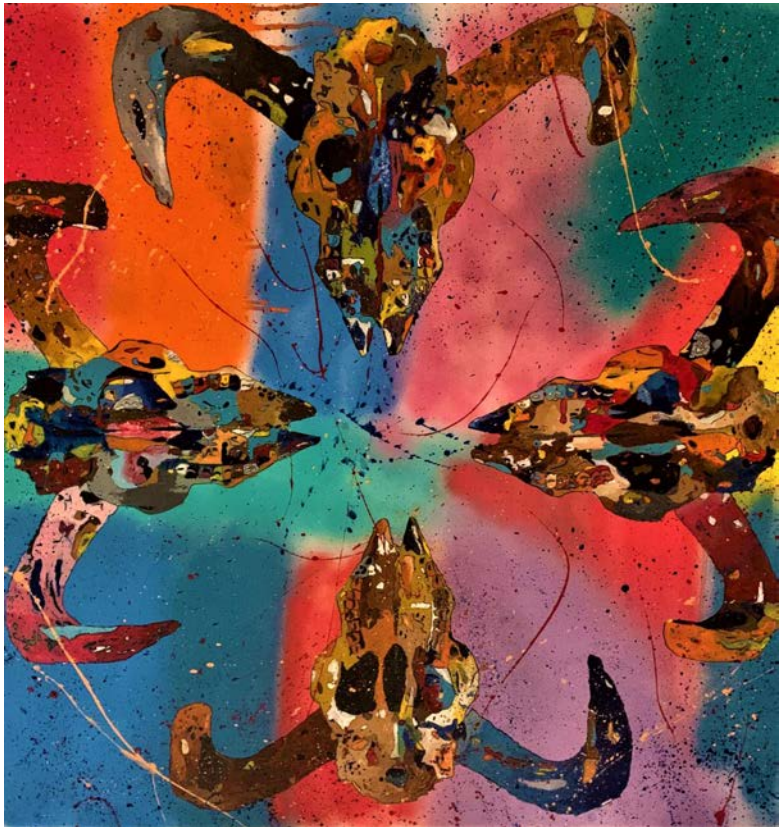
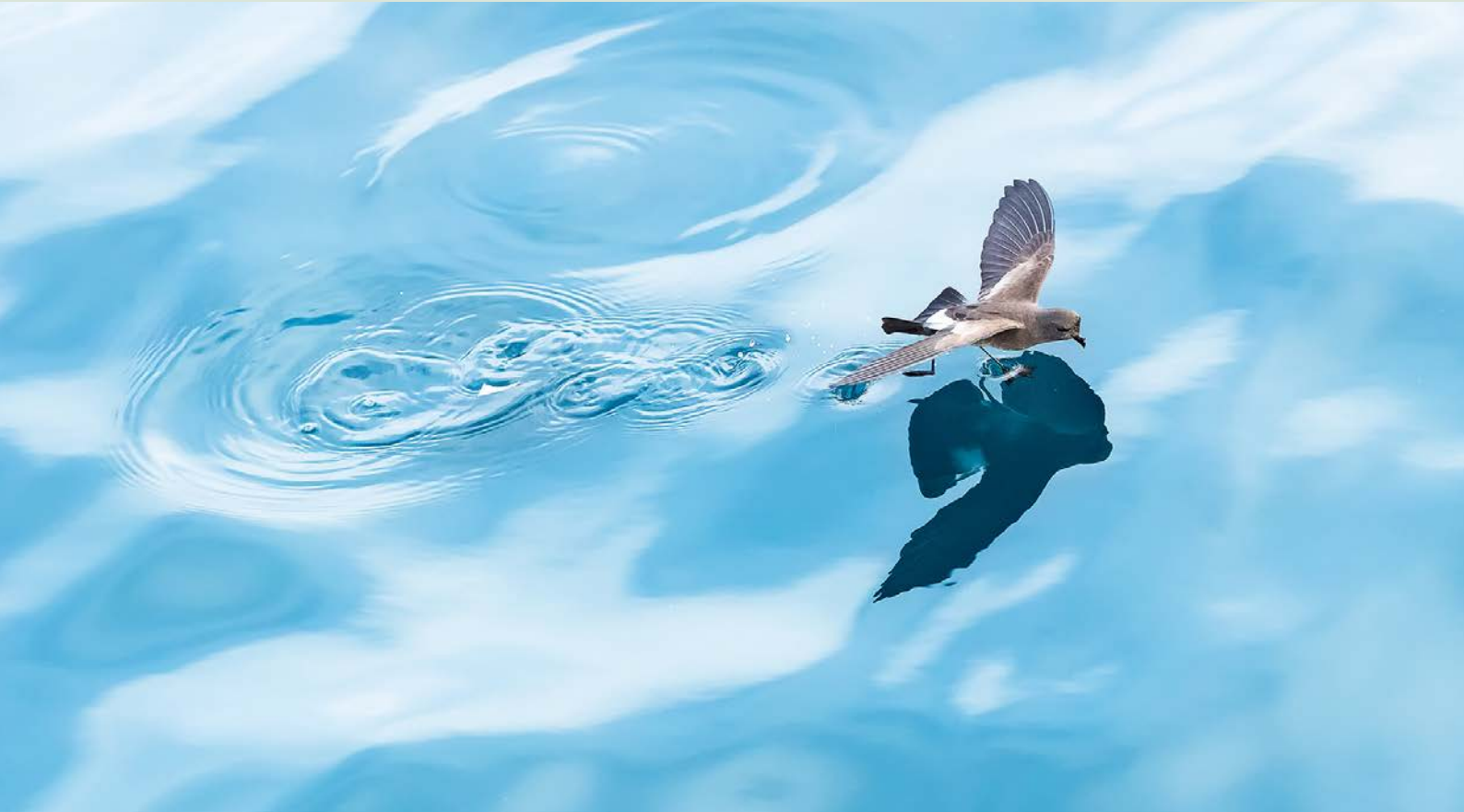
St Thomas Aquinas by Andrea di Bonaiuto,
Santa Maria Novella, Florence

SCULPTURE SOCIETY

The newly created Sculpture Society hosted its first two events. Jane McAdam Freud, Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, gave an exciting insight into her work with her talk 'Context, Content and Process'. Jane is represented in the British Museum and the V&A Museum and has had 57 solo exhibitions worldwide. In 2014, she won the European Trebbia Award for achievement in the arts. A second speaker was Matt Hughes, Head of Modelling at Framestore, who gave a lecture on 'The Art of VFX'. An Oscar-winning creative studio, Framestore works with directors and producers to design, plan and create visual effects. Their latest projects include *The Crown*, *007 No Time to Die*, *Doctor Strange* and *The Suicide Squad*.



Work by Jane McAdam Freud



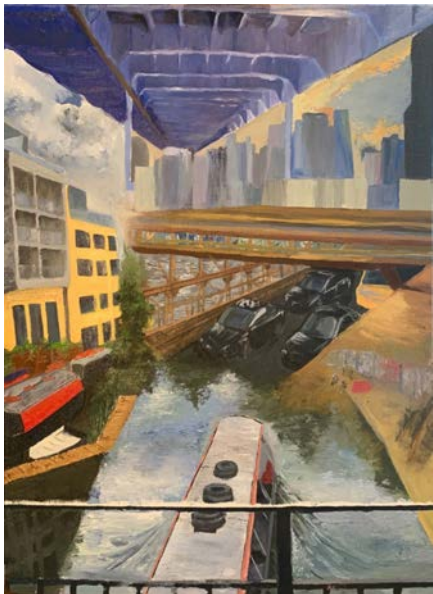
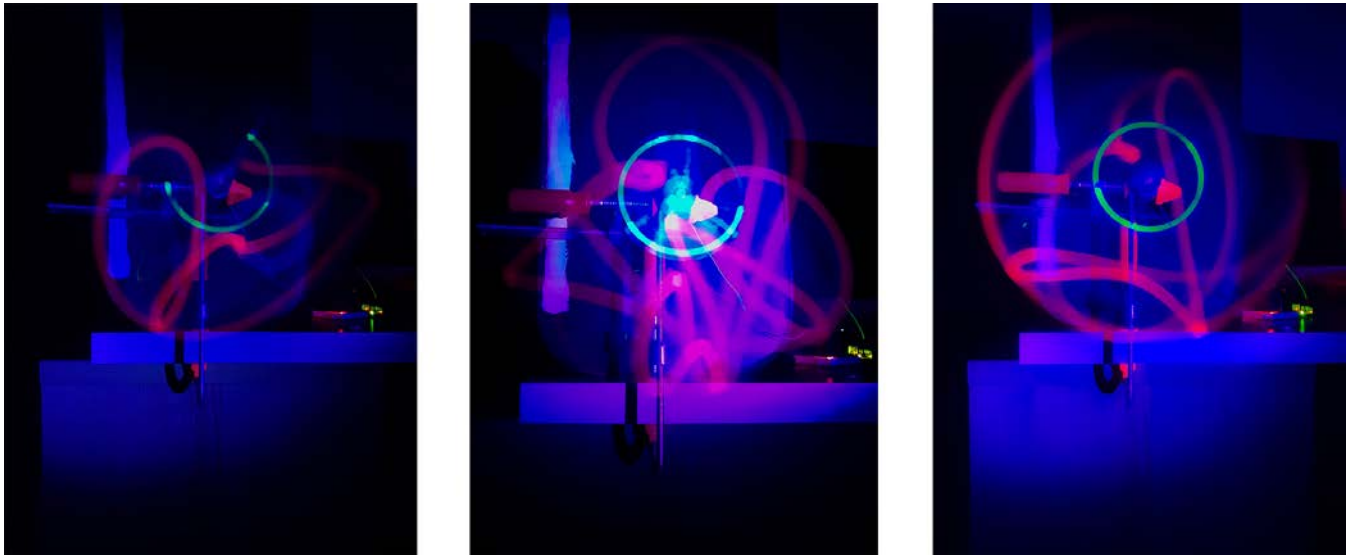
ART

During lockdown, the Photography Department held a regular competition in which boys and staff submitted photographs on a specific theme, with the best entries featured in the School magazine, *The Harrovian*. Many imaginative and striking photographs were sent in from across the School on the themes including 'Winter is coming', 'Motion' and 'Night photography'.

Members of The Guild put together an exciting exhibition for the 2021 Founder's Day, showcasing some of the fantastic work produced by boys in Art.

Work from both these projects is featured on these pages.





MUSIC

Although the audience in Speech Room was very restricted for this year's House singing competition, Gleees and Twelves maintained its high standards and displayed the impressive range of talent across the School. In the Gleees competition for unaccompanied ensemble singing, the adjudicator, Mr David Hill, Musical Director of the Bach Choir, awarded third place to Moretons for their rendition of *When the Party's Over* by Billie Eilish. Second place went to Bradbys for their performance of *Beautiful Girls* by Sean Kingston, and the winning performance was given by The Grove, who sang *I Won't Give Up* by Jason Mraz.

In the Twelves competition, for accompanied groups of 12 singers, The Grove were this time awarded third place for *Use What You Got* by Cy Coleman. Second-placed Lyon's gave an audacious version of *Happy Together* by The Turtles. First place went to Newlands for their thrilling and evocative interpretation of David Bowie's *Space Oddity*.

The School's musicians continued to be involved with a number of concerts, albeit in a somewhat different format from usual. The Autumn term concluded with wonderful Carol Services, with performances from the Chapel Choir, Byron Consort and the Brass Ensemble. After Christmas, all concerts took place online but were enjoyed by the whole School community. There were several lunchtime concerts, an online Singing Prizes competition and a Woodwind Evening.



Gleees and Twelves



The Great Gatsby

DRAMA

In the Autumn term, The Head Master's and Bradbys both produced their biennial House play. In an adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece *The Great Gatsby*, boys from The Head Master's brought the audience into the 1920s and the decadent and doomed lives of the residents of West Egg. Bradbys took their audience back to Henry VIII's England, with Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*.

The annual Shell Drama Festival, which sees Shell boys from each House performing a short scene, directed by Sixth Formers, this year featured the stories of Hans Christian Andersen. There were a wide variety of interpretations of Andersen's classic tales, showcasing the excellent acting skills of many of this year's Shell boys.

All boys in the Shell year at Harrow have Drama lessons as part of their weekly timetable, focusing on core skills including ensemble work, creative expression and presenting with confidence. They put these skills to use in the Monologue Competition. Every boy in the year group selected and performed a character monologue, with 17 boys participating in the online final, which was judged by Mr David Kenworthy, Head of Drama at Marlborough College, who commended the collective high standard.



The Great Gatsby



Shell Drama Festival



Shell Drama Festival



Shell Drama Festival



A Man for All Seasons



A Man for All Seasons

A Man for All Seasons

SPORT

Although no competitive sport was possible for Harrovians during the latest lockdown, boys and staff continued to have access to regular sports provision. A document detailing all aspects of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle was circulated, along with links to training methods for boys’ sports of interest. Weekly fitness challenges were set, to engage and bring everyone together.

Three times a week, exercise programmes were sent to all boys and beaks. There were online fitness sessions with Harrow’s Head of Strength and Conditioning, online yoga, and skills-based training sessions for all the sports in which the School competes. These were delivered by the beaks and coaches at Harrow. Boys could choose to do any of these courses, or to follow one of the training plans for beginner, intermediate or advanced 5km and 10km runners. Eight-week gym training plans were available for those with suitable space and equipment, focusing on hypertrophy, strength and power development.

Podcasts, articles and video links were sent to the boys so that they could learn more widely about sport. Subjects included sports psychology, nutrition, training methods and recovery techniques. The heads of the major sports all produced podcasts to maintain boys’ interest and focus. Members of The Philathletic Club developed their own series of podcasts featuring interviews with the many talented sports players across the School.

Although there has been little competitive sport worldwide, the School has had some successes from its senior rugby players, two of whom have been selected for the England Under-18 rugby squad.

Pre-season planning is underway for the Summer term, when it is hoped that Harrovians can enjoy being outdoors and active again.

LONG DUCKER

Long Ducker is the annual sports event through which the School raises money for the year’s chosen charity, which in 2020 was Young Harrow Foundation, and for the Harrow Club in West London and other local charities and organisations. Although Covid restrictions meant the 2020 Long Ducker course was confined to School grounds and took place over two days, boys ran the race with great spirit, despite the challenging weather, tough course and the unusual circumstances. Members of Newlands, Elmfield and West Acre were first to take to the fields on the Friday afternoon. The weather forecast for the Saturday morning, when the rest of the Houses were scheduled to run, promised a torrential downpour. The first House away in the staggered start managed to dodge the worst of the weather, but over the course of the day routes had to be changed and emergency marshalling procedures implemented due to the rain. In true Harrow spirit, however, the weather proved an incentive to the boys and created an occasion to remember, with a positive impact on the local community in a year that created enormous challenges for everyone.

Several boys in the Lower School chose to try the Short Double Ducker, which entails swimming 5km or 200 lengths, and running 10km. A number of Sixth Formers undertook the challenge of the Long Double Ducker – swimming 10km (400 lengths) and running 20km. Upper Sixth Former William Tate completed the run in under two hours and the swim in under three hours, earning himself a Double Ducker Tie. Over £175,500 was raised through this year’s event.



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

To decide how money raised by Long Ducker and the School’s Covid response fund should be distributed, representatives of the School and Young Harrow Foundation (YHF) held a forum in which they adjudicated the type and size of grants that would be made from the large number of applications that YHF had received. Twenty-four applications were accepted, and £115,000 is in the process of being distributed. Elsey Primary School in Wembley is using its grant of £3,500 to buy some laptops to distribute to pupils who struggled to access online learning due to a lack of computer devices.



Toby Deacon (*Newlands 2000*) and **Oscar Blustin** (*Newlands 2007*) produced a new audio adaptation of J M Barrie's beloved classic, *Peter Pan*. The production was in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital and featured an all-star cast and an original music score.

Robert Nelson (*Bradlys 1983*) made his debut for England Over-50s cricket team against India (UK) and earned his first one-day international (ODI) cap v Wales. During the 2021 cricket season, Robert hopes to play various ODIs and trial matches, trying to win selection for the England squad for the Over-50s World Cup, due to be played in Cape Town in March 2022.



Alex James (*Elmfield 1990*) founded London to Lima Spirits in Peru. The brand was awarded a Gold Medal in the International Wine and Spirits Competition 2020 for their Mulberry and Coca Gin, and features in the World Atlas of Gin. He encourages OHs to

apply as interns with his business and to coach or play cricket for Cricket Peru, for which he is Vice President.



Ed Nicholson (*Elmfield 2007*), **Ollie Spray** (*Elmfield 2007*), **Rory Townsend-Rose** (*Moretons 2007*) and **Caspar Mould** (*Bradlys 2007*) swam a relay in August 2020, raising over £15,000 for James' Place charity. They took on the swim after a few years' training and set out at 2.13am on 7 August. Twelve hours and 51 minutes later, they touched land again in Wissant, France. Training was treacherous and inventive, considering the COVID-19 restrictions, but they powered on and were pleased with their time.



Aristo Sham (*Moretons 2010*) featured in the *New York Times* article '10 Classical Concerts to Stream in December'. Two of his recitals were streamed live on YouTube.



Maro Itoje (*The Grove 2017*), England rugby star, campaigned to help tackle the school laptop shortage, which left many young people at a disadvantage during lockdown. Maro supported Saracens Foundation in their effort to provide children across North London and Hertfordshire with unused laptops and devices donated by the public. Post-pandemic, Maro is seeking a review that could make it possible for every child in England to receive a laptop as part of a standardised school kit.

Nicholas Coni (*Druries 1948*) was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Education for Older People in the New Year's Honours List 2021.

Martin Gordon (*Druries 1952*) was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to people living with HIV and AIDS in China in the New Year Honours List 2021. Martin was previously awarded an OBE in 1994 for a lifetime of service to banking and finance. He then embarked on a second career of charitable service when he established the Barry & Martin's Trust in 1996 in memory of his late partner Barry Chan, with the aim of building co-operation between the UK and China on HIV AIDS education, prevention, treatment and care.

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