



Brandeston Hall's Expedition to Morocco - 2009



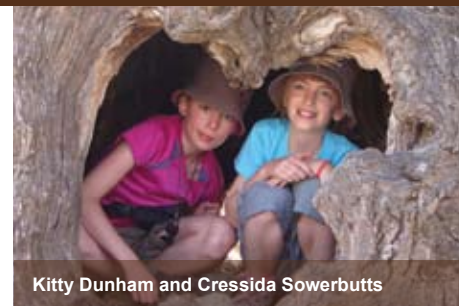
At the end of March, Mr Myers-Allen, embarked on an ambitious venture to Morocco with ten students from Year 7.

The Headmaster was accompanied by the Deputy Head, Robin Sampson, and Adrian Lawson, a parent with a thirst for adventure. The party headed off to the heart of the Atlas Mountains and together with the help of Far Frontiers Expeditions Ltd., they created a hugely successful trip of a lifetime for the young Brandestonians.

The journey began in the bustling, airless labyrinth of the souks in Marrakech, where

acrobats and frenzied snake charmers performed alongside zealous date and spice merchants.

The party then headed to the hills to stay in the basic terraced Berber villages, with their flat roofed and clay walled dwellings, nestling in the shadows of snow-capped mountains and a world away from the confines of modern life. The youngsters trekked for 7 days and walked for over 8 hours a day, through the irrigated barley fields, and up past the arid juniper forests to the passes and snowlines at over 2500m. They stayed with the locals,



Kitty Dunham and Cressida Sowerbutts

played football with the children, repaired stone walls, and visited mosques, families and farms. Each member of the team generously gave gifts to the children that flocked to greet them in every dusty village that they passed through. On each trek they were accompanied by an entourage of mules, porters, cooks and guides. The expeditioners adjusted to the basic conditions admirably. They bartered for everything and took it in turns to lead the expedition and assume roles with levels of skill that went beyond their years.

The journey ended in the fortified coastal fishing town of Essaouira, with it's honeycomb of souks.

The extraordinary trip has kindled a spirit of adventure that will develop within the school over the years to come, and a similar trip is planned for next year.

Brandeston Hall Hangar Dance



On 27th February 2009, Brandeston Hall celebrated its 60th anniversary of being an independent preparatory school with a 1940s style Hangar Dance organised by the Headmaster's wife, Helen Myers-Allen.

The sports hall was decorated with parachutes, WWII posters, bunting and manned by re-enactment groups who brought period vehicles and a B25 bomber that was converted to the



Silver Bird Music Show. 172 Guests dressed in period costume enjoyed a hearty dinner, were entertained by live music, and danced until Blackout.

Amongst many special guests, **Richard Gibson, alias Herr Flick** (pictured) from the popular 'Allo Allo' series, was on hand to run a raffle and an auction to raise money for 'Help for Heroes', with a total of £640.50 being raised on the night.

Forthcoming Events

Open Morning at Brandeston Hall and Framlingham College

9.30 to Midday
Saturday 3rd October 2009

International Rugby, Netball and Hockey Academies (Boys & Girls aged 8 - 14)

24th - 27th August 2009

450 years of the History of Brandeston Hall: 176 pages, full colour, with hundreds of pictures and mentions, rich in anecdote. Written by Norman Porter OF with contributions from former and present staff and pupils. This book is now available to purchase. For more information go online to www.brandestonhall.co.uk/brandeston/news

London Day

After the strain of mock examinations, Year 8 looked forward to their day trip to London.

Arriving at the Tower of London, they headed to The Globe theatre for an exhibition. Afterwards, pupils walked to the Tate Modern, where some unusual exhibits were on display; these included yellow and blue bunk beds with novels attached to them, a giant spider and a huge apple core.

With lunch in bustling Covent Garden, the students completed their whistle-stop tour with a trip to the Fortune Theatre to watch 'The Woman in Black', a nail-biting play based on the novel by Susan Hill.



Book Week 2009

An action packed week! The storyteller, Irene Ridley and dancing puppet 'George', visited Brandeston for 2 days, as did the travelling book fair.

Every class from Year 2 up visited our school library and learnt how to use the new computer system that has been installed and Years 7 and 8 journeyed to the College to be introduced to the workings of a larger library.



Irene with 'George'

Year 5 ran a used-book sale and the proceeds were added to the donations from the whole school event which took place on Thursday, with everyone dressing up as their favourite book character. The money raised, almost £300, was donated to Book Aid to support reading in Africa.

Shakespeare Workshop 2009

The Rowley Hall became a stage and all the children players. Guided by Laura Norman from the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich, Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Shakespeare workshop this term, and went through some fantastic scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*. All three years groups completed the day by giving a condensed 10 minute performance to their fellow pupils and staff.



School Disco is good news for Charities



On Friday, 17th April our Year 7 pupils organised the annual disco in aid of charity. This year's chosen charities were the RNLI and the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

The Juniors were first and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing to the music provided by DJ Paul Payne, who generously donated his services for the evening. After the first disco the pupils quickly tidied up and restocked the refreshments, including cans of Suso which were kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Drnec and were ready for the Senior disco. A great time was had by all and at the end of the evening we were delighted to have raised £272 for each of the 2 charities. *Well done Year 7 for a fantastic event!*

Junior Production - a bit of a mouthful



Congratulations must go to all the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 who performed brilliantly in our junior production, A BIT OF A MOUTHFUL. With an assortment of poetry, song and dance the audience was treated to an onslaught of talent, energy and enthusiasm.

There was some fantastic ensemble dancing, and great singing in Jonah-Man Jazz. Between them, the children learnt over 20 different lyrics and poems, some of them quite long and complicated. Every child, even the youngest, had their moment in the limelight.

There has been a lot in the press recently about the importance of children memorising poetry, especially traditional poetry by heart, and the thinking is that it is no longer done routinely in schools. Brandeston has clearly demonstrated that the art of reciting and learning poetry is not dead.

To be able to learn by heart, recite, and deliver a poem is a great skill. The children proved that they could cope with difficult new words, alliteration and assonance effortlessly, and they will no doubt remember some of these poems when they are adults.

What they have achieved this term is tremendous and we are really proud of each of them.



George Donsworth as Jonah

"To be able to learn by heart, recite, and deliver a poem is a great skill. The children proved that they could cope with difficult new words, alliteration and assonance effortlessly..."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reception Activities!

Pre-Prep count the days

Numbers, numbers numbers.

As children grow and begin to learn about our world, they experience numbers in many ways. Every day, since their first day of school back in September, the children have been counting how many days they have been at school. On Friday March 6th, they reached 100 days of school and celebrated in grand style.

The day was packed with different number activities; the children painted 100 dots, walked 100 steps, weighed 100 items, balanced for 100 seconds, and much more. They ended the day with a fabulous cake with no less than 100 candles on it.



Starfish gets great Reception!

The Reception class had the pleasure of a wonderful outing to Great Yarmouth Sea-life Centre. The children delighted in seeing many sea creatures. Their favourites included the sea-horses, the jelly fish and, of course, the big sharks. During a 'touch pool' session the children were given a talk about the fascinating lives of starfish, anemones and crabs. They even had the opportunity to touch them too. It was a lovely day enjoyed by all.



Jamie King and starfish

Sports Report

Suffolk tennis champions

Brandeston Hall pupils, often playing under the auspices of Framlingham College Tennis Club, have continued their excellent performances this term. India Ball, Year 3, claimed the Suffolk Under 8 Mini Tennis Championship title at Holbrook High School with some tough tennis against county colleagues. India was also part of the Under 8 team that took the County Club title, along with Lottie Summers, Xavier King and Kit McCausland (pictured L-R). The team played their final matches at Framlingham College and won epic contests against Culford and Amberfield Tennis Clubs.



Under 12 Girls' Club team

The Under 12 Girls' Club team emulated their younger team mates' achievements by lifting the Suffolk title as well. Sophie Lawson, Amanda Birch, Saffron Wilford, Taylor Ball (pictured) and on one occasion Kelsey Love, faced strong opposition against teams such as Amberfield and Haverhill Tennis Clubs to progress through to the East regional stages of the AEGON sponsored competition. Earlier in the term Taylor had also won the 2009 Suffolk Schools' Singles One Day Tournament without conceding a set.

At the top of the school, Lucy Ashby-Hoare, Year 8, crowned a beautiful day at the college by winning the club Under 14 tournament which also doubled up as the qualifying round of the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition. Lucy will now join Year 9 pupils, Camilla Hopkinson, George Castle and Robert Camplin, in the 'Road to Wimbledon' County final, which will be held at Framlingham College in July.

Under 8 team with coach Trevor Wright



BRANDESTON HALL IN SENSATIONAL ATHLETICS FORM

Brandeston Hall started the athletics season in record-breaking form in balmy conditions at The Suffolk Amateur Athletics Association Championships at Northgate Stadium in Ipswich.

Gold medallists included Susannah Reid in the Under 1500 metres and Oliver Thornton in the Under 15 Boys' Hurdles. 12 other Silver and bronze medals were also achieved. Full details of the recipients are on the school website.

The school have continued their outstanding athletics season by winning the North Suffolk Boys' and Girls' Under 12 Athletics Championships. The Championships, which were held at Brandeston, saw the girls' team captained by Emma Owen win the title for the fourth time in as many years and the boys led by Roman Engelbrecht retain their titles of 2005, 2007 and 2008.

The pupils who were clearly delighted with their performances can now look forward to the East of England Championships and the County Cup.

An extra mention must go to Susannah, whose running achievements continue to grow. With the hat-trick of Anglian Prep Schools' cross-country titles under her belt, Susannah has gained the confidence to continue her middle-distance running on the track. This term Susannah has already beaten the school 1500m record by 4 seconds and the 3000m record, which has been unbroken for 17 years, by an astonishing 3 minutes. As a result of these performances, Susannah has been invited to the National Schools' Athletic Championship to be held at Sheffield in July.



Amanda Birch brings the U12 team home to victory!

Cricketing honour for Brandeston boys



Kristian Williman and Gavin Kiernan (pictured L-R), both in Year 8, have achieved the honour of being the first boys in Suffolk to receive the prestigious Centurions Award. The Lord's Taverners launched this award last year to recognise the achievement of boys and girls under the age of 18 scoring their first century in an organised club or school cricket match.

The boys scored early season centuries against South Lee and Barnardiston Hall preparatory schools. They have each received certificates endorsed by the 10 living batsmen to have scored 100 first-class centuries: *Zaheer Abbas, Dennis Amiss, Geoffrey Boycott, John Edrich, Graham Gooch, Tom Graveney, Graeme Hick, Mark Ramprakash, Vivian Richards and Glenn Turner.*

Kristian, who is vice-captain of Norfolk Under 13s, also plays for Under 14s, as well as being part of Norfolk's Cricket Academy. He has been in prolific form for Brandeston Hall this summer, averaging over 50 with the bat and with over 20 wickets to his name already!

Callum becomes a Saint

Callum Anthony, Year 7, has been selected to represent the Northampton Saints Elite Player Development Academies. Callum who has played club rugby for Southwold Rugby Club for 7 years was thrilled with his selection, and follows in the footsteps of former Brandeston pupils Will Owen and Greg Gaughan, by being selected for the east area development squad and then on to a premiership team academy.



Army mascot

On 2nd May, Year 6 boarder Tom Monaghan had the honour of being the army's rugby team Mascot at Twickenham for the annual Army versus Navy clash. Tom thoroughly enjoyed the day and was presented with his shirt in assembly by the Headmaster upon his return.

