

WYCLIFFE TIMES

Spring 2009

Professor brings Darwin to life

Professor Tony Campbell, MA, PhD, FLS, FRSA, of the School of Medicine at Cardiff University, and Science Director of the Darwin Centre in Pembrokeshire, is in the process of giving a series of lectures on Darwin's inspirations and legacy, including Darwin's journey to North Wales which helped shape many of his ideas. This provoking lecture certainly gave the audience a real insight into Darwin's discoveries and how relevant his work still is; in fact, the classification undertaken whilst on his five year voyage on HMS Beagle remains one of the most prolific sources of reference for Taxonomists to this day.

We learned of Darwin's early life and that he was born in Shropshire in 1809 to a wealthy and well-connected family; his maternal grandfather was the great Josiah Wedgwood. We heard of his abandoned medical career, his studies at Cambridge and his life onboard HMS Beagle as part of a Geological expedition, his love of North Wales, his marriage to his cousin, Emma and their ten children!

On Darwin's return to England in 1836, he tried to solve the riddles of what he observed on his voyage around the world and the puzzle of how species evolve. He proposed the theory of evolution, as a process of 'Natural Selection', partly drawn from his observations on the Galapagos Islands. He worked a further 20 years on this theory before he finally published the first of his many books, **'The Origin of Species'**.

The Annual Wycliffe Arts Lecture was held on March 4th in the Sibly Hall, with guest speaker Professor Tony Campbell, who gave an energetic and inspiring lecture on Charles Darwin: An inspiration for the 21st Century'.

Professor Campbell made his subject come to life; he had the unique ability to transport his audience completely; not only learning about Darwin but what effect Darwin had had on his own personal and professional journey, from graduating with a PhD in Natural Science at Pembroke College, Cambridge to his research in the field of biochemistry of deep-sea bioluminescence. We were shown amazing examples of his research and even took part in an experiment, explaining the principles of the survival of the fittest!

Professor Campbell is no stranger to international audiences; he is a published author, with books ranging from the scientific to a lactose free cookbook! He is an internationally acclaimed medical biochemist, an expert in the science of lactose intolerance, and on animals that make light and has several patents being exploited worldwide. He founded the Darwin Centre at Cardiff University in 1994 and the highly acclaimed Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival.



**Professor Campbell with
Wycliffe Staff & pupils**

We would like to extend our thanks to Professor Campbell for spending the day at Wycliffe, for giving freely of his time and for inspiring both the art and science staff and students; for the outstanding Chapel service he delivered as well as the evening Arts Lecture, followed by a reception in the Atrium, where guests were able to enjoy viewing the AS students' art work.



Feeling the chill in a Victorian Town

On 21st January 63 Year 9 pupils and six members of staff visited the Black Country Museum in Dudley. Despite temperatures that hovered around **freezing** all day, the pupils enjoyed the experience of life in a Victorian town.

The day included a lesson in a Victorian school; where pupils were 'seen and not heard', had to sit up straight, repeat their times-tables and alphabet and write neatly on their slates. Everyone's hands and fingernails were inspected for dirt and poor Charlie was even caned!

Students were able to see first-hand the cramped working conditions of the time – wearing safety helmets with muted torches to represent a candle's glow, Year 9 went down a mine! The dangers of mining were explained and a test explosion, pit ponies and true darkness all added to the Victorian atmosphere.

Pupils visited a variety of houses, shops and businesses; from the housing of the rich, the bakery, to chain makers and the outside toilets. One group met the sneezing shire horse and a tiny, but real pit pony. Everyone enjoyed the fish and chips and the Victorian fun fair.



Pupils enjoy a lesson – the Victorian way!

Do something funny for money

Wycliffe hopes to raise more than a smile on this Red Nose Day with a variety of innovative fund raising schemes!

The Haywardsfield boys endured a marathon cake baking session so they could have the most scrumptious selection of cakes available for sale at the mid morning break.

Two enterprising Sixth Form music students, Melody Vetraino and Alex Macdougall, have recorded their very own single onto CD, which is selling like those 'hot cakes'! And staff and pupils were encouraged to wear something red and contribute to the appeal. All money raised will be going to Comic Relief and we hope to report a record contribution once the pounds have been counted!



Haywardsfield boys selling their scrummy cakes



Students and staff dress in red to raise money for Comic Relief

House Music has over 400 entries

Despite the adverse weather conditions, House Music has been running this term with its usual enthusiasm! All four houses had an evening earlier in the term to put forward their solo and duet entries; these varied from nursery rhymes to concertos with instruments ranging from the spoons to tuba; overall they were over 400 entries! The Houses are now busy preparing their big ensemble items for the House Music Ensemble Evening on Thursday 26th March.



News from the Development Office

The Wycliffe Development Office is now home to the whole school Marketing Department, the Old Wycliffian Society, and the development team. This group is responsible for the acclaimed school websites and the suite of branded marketing material now used in all our promotional material.

The new OWS/Development Office website, Wycliffe Online, was launched in January to provide the means for OWs to get and keep in touch with old school friends. OWs should have received their login details by post – if any OW has not, please contact the Development Office on 01453 8204239 or development.office@wycliffe.co.uk.

We now have an array of photographs to post on the site provided by members of the Wycliffe Facebook group and from previously unseen school archives. We are working on a "Marketplace" for businesses and services which will be made available to parents as well as OWs and on a "Help a Child" initiative.

Following a very successful reunion in Hong Kong last October, we will be hosting another in the British Embassy in Tokyo on 20th April 2009.

Further reunions are being planned in London and South Wales; see the website for more information on these events.

2009 is the 70th anniversary of Wycliffe's exile to Lampeter in West Wales. To mark the event the "Wycliffe Whippets", an eclectic group of runners are in training to run the 127.5 miles from Lampeter to Wycliffe on OW Day, 9th May, arriving at 8.00pm.

Wycliffe supports St Rose's School's Smile Appeal

The Head, Margie Burnet Ward, was delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £1,033 to Mrs Frances Billington, Head of St Rose's School in Stroud. The money was raised during the Autumn term from a Non-Uniform Day for the pupils and from the collections taken at the end of term Carol Services. St Rose's Special School in Stroud launched its £2.2million Smile appeal in November 2008 to provide a new hydrotherapy unit and early years facilities.

The multi-sensory hydrotherapy unit and physiotherapy centre will provide state-of-the art facilities on the school. It will enable all the school's children, aged two to 19, to enjoy the benefits of being in the water, bringing them the freedom and independence they rarely experience.



The new Early Years Unit will have ground floor access and a sensory garden and play space, for the youngest children, almost all of whom are reliant on wheelchairs.

Mrs Billington visited the College this week to talk to pupils who want to become involved with helping the pupils at St Rose's. It is hoped that these visits will shortly become a regular feature of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme service section and further events are planned to raise funds for the Appeal.

Wycliffe Ladies put on their walking boots for a midnight stroll in the park!

Staff at Wycliffe, along with the School's catering company Aramark, are to join together when they step out in style in the Cotswold Midnight Walk in Cirencester Park on June 26th. The thirty strong team comprising the Head, Mrs Margie Burnet Ward, teaching, administrative and catering staff will also be joined by the Head of the Preparatory School, Mr Adrian Palmer who has volunteered to marshal the event.

Wycliffe is no stranger to raising money for charity. We support a variety of charities and are proud to be taking part in an event that will be raising money for this worthy cause.

Head, Mrs Margie Burnet Ward says; "Wycliffe is firmly set within the community and I'm delighted that so many staff have joined together to take part in this important fund raising event. I'm thrilled to be associated with Cotswold Care and particularly proud that money raised through this challenge will go directly to support local families.

"I'm looking forward to future collaborations in which Wycliffe can be involved and we are currently working on a project with Ed Jenkins, Director of Music and Marianne Sweet from the Cotswold Hospice to provide a musical ensemble for an event planned for the spring"



OW DAY – Saturday 9th May 2009

The College is open from 9:30hrs to all OWs, their families and friends.

Join the Head for a drink followed by a buffet lunch in Wycliffe Hall or if you can come earlier we welcome you to the OWS AGM, followed by the special OW Chapel Service.

This year Wards celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the extension to the House and all Ward's OWs are especially welcome.

Don't forget Saturday 9th May is OW Day

This year's reunions feature the years of 1959 and 1979. Please contact the OW office for details of the co-ordinators for these reunions

David Lewis and Nick Treadaway have kindly agreed to act as co-ordinators for the 1959 reunion with Nigel Jones and Huw Powell hosting the 1979 reunion.

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9.15	Registration and coffee	Wycliffe Hall
10.15	OW Society AGM	Council Chamber, Wycliffe Hall
11.30	OW Chapel Service	Chapel
11.30	Cricket match 1st XI v OW XI	Nr Sports Hall
12.15	Drinks with the Head	Atrium – School House
13.00	Buffet Lunch	Wycliffe Hall
14.00-16.00	Boathouse at Saul open	Saul
14.15 onwards	Tours of Wards House / Wards 60th Anniversary	
14.15	Guided tours of Senior School (and Prep School if wished)	From Wycliffe Hall
14.30	Tennis matches	Lower tennis courts
14.30	Netball v OW VII	Sports Centre
14.30	Croquet – have a go!	Ivy Grove lawn
15.00 – 16.00	School Shop open	Shop adjacent to Sports Centre
15.45	Tea	Marquee – Ward
16.30	Cake Cutting Wards 60th Anniversary	Wards
17.00 – 19.30	Hog Roast	Marquee – Wards
19.00 for 19.30	1959 Leavers' Reunion Dinner	Wycliffe Hall
19.00 for 19.30	1979 Leavers' Reunion Dinner	Wycliffe Hall
20.00	Return of Wycliffe Whippets	Wards

OW 200 Club

The OWS again welcomes your support for the 2009/10 200 Club. A leaflet is enclosed for you to complete and return to the OW Office – by doing this you are guaranteed

an opportunity to win one of the many cash prizes throughout the year.

PRIZE WINNERS - SPRING 2009

1st	15	Barrie L Humphreys	P J SH	1942 - 1949	£340.00
2nd	54	David G Dimery	J SH	1977 - 1988	£127.50
3rd	89	Keith Ronald	SH	1940 - 1945	£85.00
4th	151	Brian P Metcalfe	J SH	1956 - 1961	£42.50
5th	47	Bernard J Acland	H	1942 - 1945	£21.25
6th	125	Philip L Pritchard	H	1970 - 1976	£21.25
7th	25	Peter D Venning	SH	1956 - 1960	£21.25
8th	155	Robert H Jackson	W	1963 - 1967	£21.25

Wycliffe Online

Following the successful launch of the website we now need your help – **we want your news, views and photographs.**

During the next two/three months we will be developing a marketplace page. This will be an opportunity for you to advertise, free of charge, your business or offer services to the OWs and Friends of Wycliffe through our website. If you are interested in this service please contact the OW office for further information.



Visit: <http://community.wycliffe.co.uk/NetCommunity/Page.aspx>

Roger Cullimore

(P H 1946 – 1956)

On Tuesday 10th February, Roger Cullimore, Chairman and Chief Executive of The Moreton C Cullimore Group, visited Wycliffe. Although Roger has been a regular visitor over the past few years to the College, this was the first time he was able to see and appreciate the major works undertaken both at the Prep and Senior School over the past 7 years.

Roger took the opportunity to discuss with College staff whether there may be an opportunity to sponsor a pupil in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and the College. Roger, through his Company, has

sponsored over a number of years the recently appointed captain of GCC Club, Alex Gidman (P S R 1992 - 1999).

It was also good to hear news of Roger's son Moreton (H 1992 – 1997). Having successfully completed a BA in Business Management at Sheffield and also an MA in Sports Management, Moreton is very actively involved in running the operational side of the company. He still maintains a strong friendship with his peers from Wycliffe namely Luke Bowery, Ally Drury and John Jennings.

After his meeting with Margie Burnet Ward, Roger, a staunch supporter of Wycliffe College summarised his visit "My compliments to all at Wycliffe taking BOLD steps and investment to meet modern demands for young people's

future and at the same time being LOYAL to the principles of pastoral care and a friendly approach to pupils, parents and staff at the school. True to the College motto "BOLD AND LOYAL".



Margie Burnet Ward with Roger Cullimore

OW to run Marathon

OW Emma Lowther (1997) will be running the London Marathon this April in support of the Meningitis Trust. Emma chose this charity having contracted meningitis in February 1998, whilst she has now recovered is still getting over the physical after effect.

Emma now works for the Meningitis Trust in Stroud chose to run the London Marathon as a personal challenge to support them and those affected by the disease. Along with her friend Debbie they hope to raise £3000. Emma said "I have never run a marathon before but having started my training back in October I feel very motivated and determined to cross that finish line in under 5 hours."

Emma has started raising funds and with the help of a non-uniform day held at Wycliffe

on January 27th has added another £389.55 to her donations. If any Old Wycliffians or Friends of Wycliffe would like to add to her fund please just click on the following to go straight to Emma's Just Giving website: www.justgiving.com/emmalowther1



Emma (Right) with friend Debbie

OW Squash Champion

On the weekend of February 20th Anthony Graham, a former pupil at Wycliffe College, was successfully crowned British Under 19 Junior Squash Champion, effectively making him the best junior in Britain.

Anthony started playing squash in September 2001 after attending a taster day at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and following encouragement from Howard Smith joined the Wycliffe Junior Club. He was later able to become a student at the college on a squash scholarship and fully devote himself to his sport.

After leaving Wycliffe in July 2008 he decided to play full time squash in the hope of playing for England in the European Junior Team Championships, staged in Germany. Destiny was on his side as he celebrated his 19 birthday (the upper age limit) the day after the championships finished! Anthony hopes to improve his skills and to continue to represent his country in the future. For the full article go to Wycliffe Online.



OW Calendar

APRIL

Mon 20	Summer Term Begins
Fri 24	OW Lodge Meeting Stroud 17:30hrs John Hutchen 01453 883384 john.hutchen@virgin.net

MAY

Sat 9	OW DAY 2009 OW Office 01453 820439 ow@wycliffe.co.uk
Thurs 21	OW Golf Society Spring Meeting Peterstone Lakes Gold Club, Cardiff Peter Beynon 01873 854725 peter.beynon@kolvox.net"
Fri 22	Half Term Begins
Sun 31	Half Term Ends

JUNE

Thurs 11	OW Lodge Meeting Stroud 17:30hrs (Gloucester Schools' Fraternal Meeting) John Hutchen 01453 883384 john.hutchen@virgin.net"
Sat 20	OW Prep School Reunion OW Office 01453 820439 ow@wycliffe.co.uk"

JULY

Sat 4	Summer Term Ends
Fri 10	OW Lodge Meeting Stroud 17:30hrs John Hutchen 01453 883384 john.hutchen@virgin.net"

Postal Address: OW Society Office,
Wycliffe College, Stonehouse GL10 2JQ

Wycliffe takes on the cold snap!



Despite the cold-snap that brought the county to a stand-still, Wycliffe managed to keep its doors open. With the help of a team of staff all mucking in to clear pathways and grit roads, students managed to brave the worst

of the weather and make it to lessons. For those teachers and students living in more remote areas, it was no day off! With the aid of Wycliffe's new *Virtual Learning Platform* which provides remote access to curriculum

material via the internet; staff were able to set and mark students' work and continue their teaching from home. When not working the students made the most of the snow!

Boarders help recreate Darwin's creatures

Charles Darwin's 200th anniversary celebrations – boarders tackle a big community project with reams of wool!

Following the big snow and three days of snowballing, on Sunday, 8th February 2009, our boarders took part in a big community project involving Charles Darwin's 200th anniversary celebrations and a large amount of wool!

The textile team in the Stroud area, lead by Liz Lancashire, imagined that Charles Darwin had emptied his store cupboard and had piled up all the stuffed or dried animals and creatures used to support his evolution theory. This textile team are now recreating these by using wool and our boarders were lucky enough to make at least one thing each towards this project. Liz brought along two show-stopping knitted but lifelike creatures – a tarantula and a four-foot-long land iguana as inspiration.

Some of the children made wire-based, wool covered lizards, some made beaded tassels which will be used on the exhibition and some tried knitting tentacles for other jellyfish.

Nathan from Year 8 impressed us all by his knowledge of Charles Darwin and even the most reluctant of teenagers could proudly say they had helped this community project. The rest of us wrangled and tangled with wool and beads in our creations... and all over the floor afterwards!

The finished work will travel around the country on display, similar to the old fashioned 'bearded lady stall' – all knitted of course! Display venues are to be Oxford, Cambridge, London, Stroud and Bristol.

Many thanks to Liz Lancashire and her patience! Good luck with the exhibition.



Nursery kidding around!

On Thursday 4th March Upper Nursery had a special visit from a local Vet. David Preece is a parent of a child in Upper Nursery and kindly agreed to bring along two baby goats with him, which were less than 24 hours old.

David talked to the children about his job, and the children were able to stroke the goats and ask questions about them. David also provided goats milk and cheese for the children to try – most agreed it was delicious! Upper Nursery would like to say a big Thank you to David for a fun and informative visit.



Vet David Preece shows Upper Nursery a goat, less than one day old



Dressing up for World Book Day

The Pre-Prep enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day. All the children dressed up as characters from their favourite story books and had a grand parade in the hall.

Book related activities took place throughout the day, with lots of excited chatter and imaginative role play. All the children designed and made their own stunning bookmarks.

The children wished they could dress up every day!

Outstanding musical performances

During the course of the Spring Term, pupils from Wycliffe Prep School have been engaged in a fierce house music competition, producing some outstanding musical performances. Whilst the original final was due to take place in the week before half term, the snow forced the final to be moved; as such, the house song entries (the last category of the competition) took place on Friday 27th February, with Mr Bristow from the Senior School selected to adjudicate the event.

The competition was very close, with only a few points between the houses. The competition was eventually won by Lincoln, who performed a stunning rendition of Coldplay's Viva la Vida in the finale. Well done to all the performers who contributed so much to such an excellent and high quality event, as well as to all the staff and Mr Duffy for all their continued hard work in the Music Department.





Matthew seeks squash success

Matthew Bedwell has been selected to play for England in the Home Internationals against Ireland, Scotland and Wales which takes place on 27th and 28th March in Dublin. He will play for England again two weeks later in a team event in Qatar.

Matthew is currently ranked second in England at under 13 level, one place in front of Kyran Young who is ranked third (also a prep school pupil).

Dursley Primary Schools Cross country League

Each year Wycliffe run four teams in the Dursley and district cross country league. This is a very well supported league with up to 100 runners in each race from all the local schools. There are four races and all races count for the final placings. This season we were not able to fill all the races with the same pupils due to other school fixtures, but we still managed some notable successes.

FINAL LEAGUE PLACINGS

Junior Boys Years 3-4
Wilfrid Hunt - 10th

Junior Girls Years 3-4
Rosanna C-La hei - 1st
Jess Telford – 3rd
Ellie Bathurst – 8th

Senior boys Years 5-6
Joe Geeleher - 7th

Senior girls Years 5-6
Teddie Mardon 8th

As a result of our successes, Karl Fong, Tom Seabrook, Joe Geeleher and Teddie Mardon have been selected to run in the district team in the county Championships at Newent Community School on Saturday 14th March.

Girls win South Cotswold tournament

The u16's girls won the South Cotswold hockey tournament last week. They topped their group matches with convincing victories and did not concede a goal.

They went on to play Stroud High School in the final, winning 1-0 from a short corner from captain **Sammy Blundell**.



The Mercian League Second Round Playoff

1ST XI: Won 1 – 0 (Ben Woodward)

On Thursday 29th January, Wycliffe's second round of the **Mercian League** was played against a strong Monmouth School at Wycliffe. Historically, this is a tough fixture for us. However, the 1ST XI were determined to change this trend. The game was played evenly in the first half, with Monmouth having slightly more opportunities to take the lead. Nevertheless, Wycliffe's defensive line held firm and Dan Morris's goalkeeping kept the 1st XI in the match and the score remained 0 – 0 at half-time.

The second half began promisingly for the 1sts as they began to dominate possession

and field position. After a determined build up of play by the midfield, this ascendancy produced a sensationally powerful goal, into the top left hand corner, by Captain Ben Woodward. This provoked Monmouth into an all-out attacking style and, in the last 30 minutes, they had ample opportunities to equalise, however, the defensive pressure from Wycliffe forced Monmouth into skewing and missing shots.

Recognition once again must go to Keeper Dan Morris for keeping a cool head amongst this barrage of shots from the Monmouth strikers. Consequently Wycliffe managed to hang on after using all their get-out-of-jail free cards in a strong 1 – 0 victory.

U9s Net a Winner!

The U9 netball team started the season with a fantastic game against St John's, in which they won the match 21-1.

The girls played with determination and flair. Coach, Miss Ainge said "Not only did they play extremely well as a team, they also showed how adaptable they were too; I was able to move the players into different positions during the match and they adapted well each time. I'm looking forward to the coming season and seeing how the team grows with confidence."

For the very latest news, views and events visit wycliffe.co.uk

Wycliffe College, Bath Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2JQ Tel: 01453 822432

