



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE SOCIETY



The Director of Chapel Music writes...

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen a steady increase in the quality of singing in our choral foundations in Cathedrals and College Chapels. This rise in standards has no doubt come about through a steadily growing appreciation of the values of a chorister education, and an exposure to high profile recordings from the Cambridge and Oxford Colleges, Cathedrals and choirs such as *The Sixteen* and *The Tallis Scholars*, which have set new standards of singing to which our foundations can aspire. The repertoire of our choirs has expanded considerably at the same time, and choristers now tackle a range of music which at one time would never have been considered possible. However, there have been times in the history of our foundations when the choral scene was not quite so vibrant.

In the 19th century, standards fell to an all-time low, and at Winchester, the Quiristers were little more than servants in College Hall, and general conditions for the boys were lamentable. Their singing duties were minimal and there was little attempt to provide them with a decent musical education. Winchester was not alone in this and many other foundations were also in a similarly dire position. William of Wykeham would have been horrified; his vision for Winchester was a College (we would now call it an 'Oxbridge' model) where the boys sang daily to the glory of God, and coupled with this received an education of a quality rare in those days.

The history of our foundation at Winchester is indeed a fascinating one, though there are glimpses down the years of high musical intentions not always achieved. The fact that the College has attracted such distinguished musicians as Thomas Weelkes, Jeremiah Clarke, Samuel Sebastian Wesley and George Dyson is indication enough of the high esteem in which the establishment has always been held. Indeed Wesley on his arrival here insisted that the boys should be singing and not serving in hall, and considerably raised choral standards as he did also in the Cathedral, a job he held in parallel. He may also have been enticed here because of the fine trout fishing on the Itchen!

Today, we can be proud of all that has been achieved over the years, but we cannot afford to be complacent. Our tradition, even at its strongest is also fragile. We live in an increasingly secular society where church-going is on the decline. There is still much education to be done amongst parents of musical

children who do not realise the values of a chorister education and for whom it may still be seen as an elitist opportunity for the wealthy. Most choral foundations are keen to promote the truth that this education is for everyone, and no musical child who reaches the required standard of entry is barred on financial grounds.

The benefits of a chorister education are too numerous to list, but the product is usually a confident, sociable and well rounded person with a strong academic grounding and a musical knowledge and appreciation which will last a lifetime. Some may become professional musicians, many will not, but it is an experience all choristers remember and count as very special. Last year, we held a reunion of former Quiristers and members of Chapel Choir, and a very large group assembled at the College to give thanks for their time here and all that they received from being in the choir. It was a very fine occasion in every way, and not least in the splendid singing at Evensong. Their presence showed the affection with which the foundation is held and an appreciation for all that it gave to them.

The current choir has enjoyed some exciting touring opportunities in the last few years, taking them to the USA, Italy, Holland and France, and continues to make frequent CD recordings. The Quiristers give regular concerts at churches, both within the Winchester diocese and beyond, and this has an important charitable element as well as helping our recruitment. However, we need to work constantly at spreading the word about the fantastic opportunities which being a Quirister brings. Our national and international profile is vital in this, and so the choir's broadcasts of Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 are especially important. We have just been invited to broadcast a special Choral Evensong to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of George Dyson in 2014. Dyson served for many years as Master of Music here, before moving to become the Director of the Royal College of Music in London.

Our current appeal for the Quiristers is a way of ensuring that this valuable tradition can continue at Winchester, and that musical boys can continue to enjoy the fruits of a superb musical and academic education. This endeavour is something which would have made William of Wykeham proud.

Malcolm Archer, Director of Chapel Music

Q REVIEWS

St Michael's, Cheriton

Saturday 13 October 2012

"A smorgasboard of music!" was how the new vicar of Cheriton Parish Church described the Quirister Concert on Saturday night. With a programme spanning from Bach, Faure and Stanford to Dankworth and Kern, the Quiristers sang with much gusto to a packed candlelit church of 200 people. The concert was held to raise money for the restoration of the Cheriton church roof. The villagers gave a very warm welcome to the boys. Malcolm Archer rose from his sick bed to conduct and Jamal Sutton accompanied the boys – even substituting with the organ when the piano had a slight technical hitch! The evening included traditional choral music like *Panis Angelicus*, and the boys ended with rousing versions of *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* and *Just the way you look tonight* – a fitting end to a lovely evening.

Sarah Wigley, Q Parent (yr 8)



Britten's War Requiem, Winchester Cathedral

Thursday 15 November 2012

The musical forces of Winchester, under Nicholas Wilks, gathered at the Cathedral to perform Britten's War Requiem. The piece makes huge demands on performers and audience alike. The Quiristers, out of sight and physically separated from the main choir, sang their 'other-worldly' role beautifully, bringing a precision of pitch and clarity of diction to the performance. The soprano soloist, Claire Rutter, said she had never heard the Quiristers sing so well and their contribution to an emotionally intense evening was evident to all.

Despite being written in 1961 for the re-dedication of Coventry Cathedral following its destruction in 1940, Britten's work focuses on the First World War. It is sobering to think that six Quiristers gave their lives during this conflict; then, as now, they would have sung in College Chapel and made the daily trek past the Wykeham Arms. Britten forces us to face the realities of such loss of life and this was perhaps the ultimate point of the evening.

Simon Clothier, Q Parent (yrs 5 & 6)

Charity Concert, Winchester College Chapel

Saturday 9 March 2013

On Saturday 9 March 2013 the Quiristers gave a lovely recital in the Chapel of Winchester College to raise money for the Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group, which works with refugees and asylum seekers. The evening was unusual, taking the form of a history of the Quirister Foundation weaving together Malcolm Archer's interesting and humorous talk with examples of music that the Quiristers would have sung during their six hundred years history. From the ethereal plainsong chant of the *Missa de Angelis*, sung as the boys processed down the Chapel (with solos by Angus, Teddy, Austin and Kieran), through Tallis' haunting *O nata lux de lumine* to Dyson, the Quiristers held the audience spellbound. The evening was brought to a close with three twentieth-century secular pieces, the rousing finale being Rose's arrangement of *My Way*. Head Quirister Jasper Wigley sang the solo verses superbly showing what a beautifully mellow and mature voice he has, whilst the other trebles sensitively accompanied him. Bravo!

Sophie Armstrong, Q Parent (yr 7)

St John's in the Soke, Winchester

Saturday 4 May 2013

This week summer finally arrived, and with it an opportunity for the Quiristers to perform a concert at the beautiful church of St John. The twelfth-century building has associations with the earliest days of the College, so the evening was an opportunity for the Quiristers to continue the tradition of choral music there.

Under Malcolm Archer's direction, the boys delivered some much-loved choral favourites, including Ireland's *Ex ore innocentium*, Vaughan Williams' *The Call* and Plumstead's short and sweet *A grateful heart*. The finale of the concert was a performance of Britten's *Friday Afternoons* - twelve brief, simple and witty songs accompanied by Jamal Sutton on piano and beautifully sung as the sun set all around. The boys clearly enjoyed these just as much as the audience!

Toby Stevens, Q Parent (yr 7)



Q REVIEWS

Winchester Match Service

Saturday 22 June 2013

The Winchester Match Service was what it was designed to be, quintessentially Wykehamical. The Warden having been duly ushered in and conducted to his seat, the Quiristers arrived with the Dean of Chapel, the Reverend Justin White, in a resplendent green cope. A good resounding *Love Divine* gave way to the choir's performance of Howells' *Coll. Reg. Te Deum*. Howells was in fact the order of the day, also providing the organ voluntaries both before and after the service. The highlight had to be Parry's *I was glad*, every bit as uplifting as it was at the Royal Wedding; at the last *Amicabilis Concordia* service, I thought the Chapel roof was going to lift off.

The Headmaster explained the fascinating history of the annual Eton-Winchester cricket match, once involving Harrow and his joke about Dr Moberly having his revenge in the weather turned out to be painfully poignant later. His major theme was how Chapel, at the centre of the School's community, sets the tone for everything Winchester does. This was further explained in the interesting extract from a history of Win Coll read by the Senior Chapel Prefect.

The whole congregation gave good voice to the second verse of the National Anthem, rarely sung these days, but, for all its out-of-date wording, completely relevant to our current queen. Another faultless performance from the Quiristers and a memorable service for many proud, appreciative and nostalgic Wykehamists!

Bob Wigley, Q Parent (yr 8)

National Preparatory School Orchestras' week

Sunday 14 to Saturday 20 July 2013

Seven Quiristers packed their bags and instruments in mid-July and headed to Wellington College for the National Preparatory School Orchestras' week.

The course is designed to encourage promising musicians to experience the inspiring sounds of playing in a full orchestra, and the boys spent the week working hard with around 100 children, aged nine to fourteen, in one of the two NPSO orchestras. The tremendously hot weather did not dim the quality of their music making, and only enhanced the wonderful recreational facilities of Wellington College which the boys enjoyed every day.

The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Adrian Lucas, was boosted by the participation of Alexander Clothier, Teddy Menard (violin) and Austin Stevens (oboe).



Austin Stevens



Christopher Clothier

The Training Orchestra was conducted by Peter Davis, and featured Thomas Burkill (violin), Christopher Clothier, James McBratney and Tristan Wigley (cello).

The culmination of the week was a packed concert on Saturday 20 July. The Training Orchestra began the programme with the finale from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, John William's theme from *Star Wars* for wind and brass, and an arrangement for strings of Brahms's *Lullaby*. They finished their wonderful performance with Strauss's *Radetzky March*.

The Symphony Orchestra then took to the stage with the Overture from *Tsar Boris* by Kalinnikov, George Butterworth's *Rhapsody - A Shropshire Lad* and finally back to Dvorak to close the concert with his *Festival March*.

The standard attained by these young and enthusiastic musicians was quite amazing. It was of great benefit to the Quiristers to focus for the week solely on their instrumental work, and a wonderful opportunity for parents and friends to appreciate their wider musical gifts. They should be congratulated for playing at such a high standard – it was an exhilarating and inspiring concert.

Maryanne Burkill, Q Parent (yr 5)



St John's in the Soke, Winchester

BRITTANY TOUR DECEMBER 2012

On 14 December 2012 the Quiristers set off for France to go on a choral tour in Brittany. They had to endure a very rocky ferry trip during which only three of the boys were not unwell!

One thing the Quiristers have an abundance of is resilience and the boys bounced back in record time, all rising to the challenge of the concerts ahead.

The first was in the church of Notre-Dame en Saint-Melaine in Rennes; the church was sparse to look at, but the acoustics were superb and the boys sang beautifully. They all stood in a line under an ancient arch as, no doubt, many will have done before them.

The concert opened with *Missa in Simplicitate* (Langlais) and was followed by a selection from European composers dating back to Bach's *Bereite dich Zion* from the *Christmas Oratorio* accompanied by Jamal Sutton (organist), through to the present day, with a lovely piece of music written by Malcolm Archer, *There is no Rose*. The most powerful part of the service was at the very end when the boys processed out of the Church singing from *A Ceremony of Carols* by Britten; it was a beautiful and striking end to the evening.

On Sunday morning the boys sang during the Mass with the local choir in the church of Bazouges-La-Pérouse. This was followed by a very jovial three course lunch in a restaurant in La Fontenelle, giving sustenance to staff, boys, parents and siblings for the final concert which was to take place in the Church at la Fontenelle, later that afternoon.

The boys sang from the same programme of music as the day before. There was a full turn out from the local community who were rightly proud of the fact that the composer Jean Langlais came from Fontenelle. Everyone enjoyed singing his music.



During the concert half a dozen young girls from the local choir of the College of Saint-Andre d'Antrain sang for the Quiristers – their voices provided a delightful contrast to those of the boys.

The return journey was thankfully less colourful than the outward trip, and the boys returned, hopefully proud of their performances to enjoy a well-deserved Christmas at home.

Ellie Fane, Q Parent (yr 6)



BRITTANY TOUR DECEMBER 2012

We left Q School in the dark on Friday morning to catch the Ferry at Portsmouth for our six-hour trip to Caen. The sea was so rough that most of the Quiristers were unwell on the crossing. I am never seasick, so I watched a movie on a TV screen high on the wall.

We arrived that evening at the Hotel Campanile where we stayed for three nights, and I thought it was great. The very best thing was the breakfast every morning – croissants, pastries, hot pancakes, jams and hot chocolate in big mugs. Even thinking about it makes me feel full! I liked being able to make Luke and myself a cup of tea every morning in our room. As we had only one tea bag between us, I popped it in the electric kettle, filled it with water, and then put it on to boil. It clicked off when it was ready and I poured the tea out into glass mugs and topped it up from little containers of milk.

On Saturday we had a walk around the market at Fougères. The market had shops around the sides, with stalls selling food in the middle. During the day we rehearsed for the Sunday Mass and the concert in the evening. Mr Archer made us rehearse a lot for our entrance and exits for both the Saturday and Sunday concerts. We processed in and out whilst singing *Procession* (Britten) from *A Ceremony of Carols*, which we had not done before. I really enjoyed the Saturday concert, although I had to keep listening for when English was spoken, as I could not understand the French.

The Mass at Bazouges-la-Pérouse on Sunday was very long, and even though I could not understand the French being spoken, as a Roman Catholic I could easily understand where we were in the service. We then went for lunch in La Fontenelle and we had different courses, including radishes, green salad and couscous. I think I prefer English lunch to French lunch!

After the concert at the Church in La Fontenelle, the parents went to a drinks party, while the Quiristers played 'forty-forty-in' on the car park outside the village

hall in the dark, which was a great run around, though it was a relief to get back to our hotel for a sleep.

My favourite piece from our two concerts was our last piece, *The Holly and the Ivy* composed by Mr Archer, as it reminded me that Christmas was nearly here. It was really nice to have Quirister Mums and Dads there to be with after we had sung, and it made me feel as if we had done a good job after trying so hard.

There were not as many Quiristers on the way back to England on Monday, but the crossing was calm. That was a good thing as there was a lovely buffet lunch, but you had to ask for what you wanted in French, which was a bit tricky: good thing I know the word *frites*!

Thomas Burkill, Quirister (yr 5)



Q JOTTINGS

Quirister School in the mid-1950's

Paul Taylor (Q, 1953-55 & E, 1955-59)

I joined Quirister School in Cloister Time 1953 and celebrated my twelfth birthday in my first term. The reason I started later than usual is that I was replacing a boy who had run away three times, so they needed someone of a similar age to fill the gap. Life at 64 Kingsgate Street was sometimes pretty miserable and he had evidently had enough!

The Commandant of Stalag Luft 64 was John (Wally) Weekes, who ruled us all with a rod of iron. To be fair, he never lifted a finger against us, but achieved his results with a mixture of gruffness, angry outbursts and humiliation. I was fortunate in that I was sent up to books (into a junior Win Coll div) for French in my first term, and then for all subjects for the next two years, following in the steps of David Woolley and Andrew Pritchard, and thus was spared some of the misery.

We were allowed 1s 6d a week for pocket money, less any fines that Wally decided to levy. I remember one cruel occasion when the grandson of the Archbishop of Canterbury was called up to the dais to receive his pocket money. "Fisher" came the silky invitation. Fisher, who was always in some kind of trouble, picked his way through the desks in the classroom and mounted the dais. "18 off – sit down".

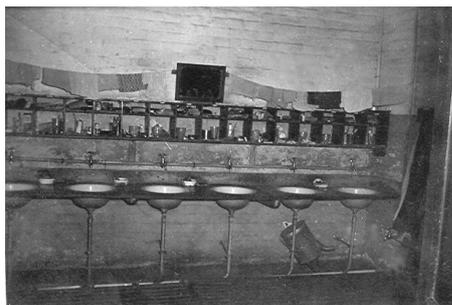
We had to write a letter home each week, and this had to be handed in unsealed at the time we received our pocket money – so we assumed that it was useless to complain.

Conversation was not permitted during meals, only perhaps a request to pass the salt.

Once a week the Headmaster of Win Coll, Walter Oakeshott, would come to Quirister School to read, *Montezuma's Daughter* by Rider Haggard, to us for an hour. This was a real treat, and I was very impressed that he took the trouble to do it.

Bonfire night was very hazardous. Health and Safety Laws had not been invented, and the yard at the back of Quirister School had not been opened up in the way it is now. So a bonfire in the middle and 16 boys throwing bangers at each other was something to survive.

In my first term the Director of Music was Henry Havergal, followed in the next term by Christopher Cowan, who was a very special man. Christopher knew that we didn't have an easy life, and he set aside a room in his house for us to find some refuge if we wished whenever we wished; he would regularly take four of us at a time for a mystery tour in his Jowett Javelin for a



half day out. I remember one afternoon when we saw Burt Lancaster, a big film star of the day, playing cricket in a charity match in one of the local villages. What a thrill!

I did have some good times, but they were mostly outside the prison camp. I really enjoyed woodwork, shooting, scouting with Mr Mitchener, and football and cricket with Mr Kingsbury. The music staff were outstanding: Christopher Cowan, Raymond Humphrey, Julian Smith, John Gwilt and Jane Cowan. Musically, life was very satisfying, and it gave me a good grounding in sight-reading, the choral repertoire, and piano and cello playing.

I still have total recall of a lot of my time as a Quirister. I remember the weekly tolls (cross-country runs), the happy afternoons spent picking our way through water meadows in our wellies, the bed-making every morning, the shared baths and the cleaning of shoes before going to bed. I remember also the concerts in Music School with visiting performers like James Blades (the percussionist) and also the grand performances with distinguished soloists in Winchester Cathedral, in which we often took part. One of the things I really enjoyed was the annual performance by the local Gilbert and Sullivan Operatic Company!

I really have a lot to thank Quirister School for – two years' free education at Win Coll as a Quirister in a junior Div, leading to a Headmaster's Nomination to E House as a Wykehamist, and then a Choral Scholarship to King's College Cambridge, which I think was a first for a Quirister.

Paul Taylor

THE QUIRISTER APPEAL

Winchester is committed to maintaining the ancient choral foundation, and would like to guarantee its future. At the same time we want to ensure that any capable musical boy benefits from a choral education, irrespective of his parent's financial background. We are in the 'Quiet Phase' of the fundraising campaign, which involves identifying prospective donors, securing 'lead' gifts, and expanding our network.

To date we have secured nearly £1million in income and pledges. This includes a significant legacy pledge, a

£50,000 donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation and a recent donation of \$30,000 from the Orinoco Foundation. I would like to thank all the donors who have generously supported the Appeal.

For further information please contact Tamara Templer or go to the Wykeham Campaign section of the Winchester College Society website, under Support Us, www.wincollsoc.org

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OBITUARIES

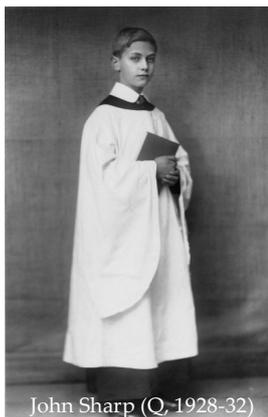
John Leonard George Sharp (Q, 1928-32)

12/10/1917 - 10/08/2012

John Sharp came to Quirister School in 1928 and left in 1932. Although he never related stories of his time at school one assumes it was happy. His son Peter remembers him wearing his blazer and tie, and displaying the school crest at their home. He was a keen member of the cricket team and once said, with typical modesty, that he would have liked to have become a professional cricketer, but would not have been good enough.

After a short period at a commercial college, he secured election to the Bank of England. Soon afterwards he met his future wife, Audrey. When war broke out in 1939 he immediately volunteered and joined the 51st Highland Division. In 1940 the division was left in France by Churchill as a political gesture to the French and, after retreating to Normandy, he was captured by Rommel. He spent the next five years in a prison camp in Poland and was then force-marched back to Germany in the middle of winter as the Russians advanced. He recounted being bombarded by both Russian and American forces, the latter unaware they were shooting at British prisoners.

Eventually liberated by the Americans, he was able to return home and he married Audrey in May 1945. His only son, Peter, was born in 1947. The family moved in 1951 to the house in Great Bookham where he would spend the rest of his life. With a stable background he was able to concentrate on his career and he rose to a senior position in the Bank of England.



John Sharp (Q, 1928-32)

Audrey died in 1975. Soon afterwards, John commenced a long retirement, punctuated by a year as an adviser to the Central Bank of Swaziland, which gave him a taste for travel. He was still regularly visiting his son, now living in France, until he was 90. He became a member of Surrey County Cricket Club and was involved in local charity work for many years. Although his eyesight deteriorated, he was always immaculately turned out and remained fiercely independent. John was much loved in his community, as a large congregation at his funeral could attest.

[Peter Sharp, son](#)

Joseph Andrew Purkiss (Q, 1938-40)

11/06/1926 - 25/11/2012

Andrew Purkiss was a Quirister from 1938 to 1940 after being educated at the German School in Cairo, Egypt, and before going on to Wanstead High School, Essex.

After two years in the Intelligence Corps, he went to St John's College, Oxford, and then started teaching in Beckenham, Kent. He retired after 40 years in education, as a teacher and headmaster in the London Borough of Bromley, and then embarked on a second career of individual tuition, and charity work, for which he gained the Mayor of Bromley's Award.

He attended several reunions of the Quiristers, where he showed us his old haunts and reminisced about his schooling at Winchester.

He is survived by his widow, two children, three stepchildren, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

[Tricia Purkiss, wife & Jennie Hawley, daughter](#)

DIARY OF EVENTS 2013 – 2014

CONCERT IN ODIHAM CHURCH, HAMPSHIRE

Saturday 5 October at 7.00pm

GLEE CLUB CONCERT, WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Thursday 21 November at 7.30pm, tickets available through the Cathedral box office.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE, CHAPEL

Sunday 8 December at 6.30pm

The Advent Carol Service at Winchester is always a very special occasion and an opportunity to hear beautiful singing from Chapel Choir. Following the service, which will last about an hour, a Drinks Reception will be held.

Invitations for this event will be sent out to Old Quiristers in October.

CAROL SERVICE AT ST LUKE'S CHURCH, CHELSEA

Tuesday 10 December at 6.30pm

To be held in support of Cystic Fibrosis.

QUIRISTERS TOUR TO BELFAST

Friday 13 December to Monday 16 December 2013

CHAPEL CHOIR TOUR TO RUSSIA

Sunday 23 to Monday 31 March 2014

WINCHESTER MATCH

Saturday 21 June

Invitations to this event will be sent out in Common Time.

CHORAL SERVICES

Evensong in Chapel at 5.30 pm on Tuesdays

Eucharist at 5.30 pm on Thursdays

Compline in Chantry at 7.15 pm on Saturdays

All are welcome at these services.



Quirister Dubbing



Quirister Prizegiving

QUIRISTER PRIZES

Gordon Rule Cup for Head Quirister:

Peter Waters (2011-12); **Jasper Wigley** (2012-13)

Corrie Cup for the Quirister who has contributed most to the life of Pilgrims' School: **Wilfie Bentley** (2012); **Johnny Woodman** (2013)

Dennis Lee Prize for the best all round Quirister of the Year: **Peter Waters** (2012); **Jasper Wigley** (2013)

Coulson Cup for any junior member of the choir who shows sustained effort: **Tomas Magnusson** (2012); **Thomas Burkill** (2013)

Simon Beechey Prize for solo singing: **Jasper Wigley** (2012); **Kieran Mackison** (2013)

John Weekes Prize for the most promising soloist: **Angus Armstrong** (2012); **Alexander Clothier** (2013)

Robertson Prize for all-round contribution to the choir: **Johnny Woodman** (2012); **Teddy Menard** (2013)

Stenning Cup for the most improved musical ability: **Kieran Mackison & Teddy Menard** (2012); **Angus Armstrong** (2013)

Ford-Sagers Cup for instrumental work: **Myles Docherty** (2012); **Austin Stevens** (2013)

Sever Cup for the outstanding Quirister sportsman: **Myles Docherty** (2012); **Wilfie Bentley** (2013)

Q School Cup for the boy who has contributed most to life at Q School: **Wilfie Bentley** (2012); **Johnny Woodman & Kieran Mackison** (2013)

Head Quirister: **Jasper Wigley** (2012-13); **Angus Armstrong & Teddy Menard** (2013-14)

Second Quirister: **Johnny Woodman** (2012-13); **Austin Stevens** (2013-14)

Malcolm Archer, Director of Chapel Music, is pleased to announce that four Year 8 Quiristers have received Music Awards from Winchester College for September 2013:

Wilfred Bentley	Exhibition
Kieran Mackison	Quirister Award
Jasper Wigley	Music Scholarship
Johnny Woodman	Mozart Award

The website allows members of the Quirister Association to register and book online for Q events, go to www.wincollsoc.org to register.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this newsletter and to Toby Stevens (Q parent) for the photographs. Please send us your articles or photographs for inclusion in the next issue.