

Heartbeat



Monday, December 19

Issue 14

So this is Christmas...

In this, the final Heartbeat of 2011, we take a look at the many events that have taken place over the festive period.

December has been a busy time for everyone, not least the Music department and its students. Our talented performers were involved in a number of activities in the run-up to Christmas, as Head of Music, Mr Foy, explains: "On December 2, our Chamber Choir sang at the GCSE Presentation Evening. The following day, the College Choir and Soloists (pictured, right), consisting of Sarah Lee, Finvola Dunphy, Joe Hewlett, Katy Marsh (flute), with Charlie Corkin accompanying the congregational carols on the organ, performed at the annual Jospice Christmas Concert, to help raise money for charity. Also, ex-pupil Clare Marsh (flute) performed and ex-pupil Danielle Thomas stole the show.

"On the 6th, the College Choir performed a sing-along at the Pensioners' Christmas Party, concluding with Joe Hewlett leading *White Christmas*.

Emotional

Two days later, past and present students provided the music for The Alder Centre *Service of Light*, at the Anglican Cathedral. This was an emotional service, attended by 2,000 people, where youngsters who have died are remembered by the lighting of a candle. Special thanks to Shelby Caulfield and Sarah Lee for their sensitive renditions of Celine Dion's *Fly* and Faith Hill's *There You'll Be*.

The 15th saw the funeral of Rev Colette Thornborough of St Nicholas Church, Blundellsands. Colette was a great supporter of music at the College, allowing us to use the church regularly for concerts and encouraging pupils to provide music whenever possible. Over the years, Colette provided students with valuable opportunities to perform during services. Colette will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all. Thoughts and prayers to her husband



Keith and children Matthew and Grace.

"Also on the 15th, our students took part in a Cabaret Concert. This informal performance of solo songs and humorous readings with GCSE and A Level musicians was a great success and really got everyone in the festive spirit."

Year 7/8 Disco

On Thursday, December 8, the Lower Site School Hall reverberated to the sounds of music, as Years 7 and 8 celebrated their annual Christmas Disco, *writes Head of*

Lower School, Mr Burke.

As the pictures on p2 show, a great time was had by all as they bopped the night away. With a plentiful supply of refreshments available from the tuck-shop, their energy levels remained as high as the volume from the DJ's sound system.

Importantly, we managed to raise £365 for charity. This will be donated to the Crosby Catholic Youth organization to assist them with their planned trip to Lourdes.

Charity Food Collection

Throughout December, Year 10 donated food for a charity called Marian Care, *writes Head of Year 10, Mrs Brown.*

Based in Southport and attached to St Marie's Church, the volunteers satisfy between 450 and 500 requests for food each week from the homeless and destitute.

Anyone who knocks on the door is given a hot drink, a sandwich and a piece of cake or biscuit.

The Centre operates purely on donations, so they were very happy to see us with our 19 bags of goodies!

Year 10 pupils and their families donated tea bags and Cuppa Soups to make more than 3,000 hot drinks, tinned meats and tuna to make around 400 sandwiches and lots of treats, including biscuits, cakes, crisps and chocolate. For many of the visitors, this will be their only meal of the day.

A big thank you to Year 10 and their families for actively engaging in the spirit of Christmas and for easing the hardship of people they will probably never meet.

Pensioners' Christmas Party

Christmas came early at Lower Site as the annual pensioners' party took place on December 5.

It was a bigger event than ever, as 45 guests enjoyed a tasty meal of hot pot, fol-

lowed by Christmas pudding. The Sixth Form Cookery Club (pictured on p1) baked sweet after dinner treats while the Choir entertained everyone with Christmas carols. There was also the obligatory game of Bingo, before guests headed home. This event is funded entirely by Sixth Form students and the Head of Year 13, Mrs Fagan, thanked the students and those who gave up their time to help on the night. She said: "A huge thank you goes to all the staff who worked tirelessly during the evening, giving lifts, washing up, amongst many other tasks."



News in brief

The Silver Surfers meet at 3.40pm on January 5 at Upper Site. On the 6th, there is the Sixth Form Presentation Evening. On Saturday, January 7, there is a Psychology Revision session between 9am and noon at the Sports Hall Classroom at Lower Site.

