

70th Anniversary



The seventieth year since the foundation of Vinehall and the fiftieth year since the establishment of the Vines Society have been marked by a number of events. The highlight was the Anniversary Ball on Saturday 29th June 2008, attended by a large number of Vines, teaching staff and parents. During the course of the evening, a brief video was shown, presenting some of the contrasts between the tiny school that was founded by John Jakobi and taken on in 1946 by Tom and Kitty Stuart-Menteath with the large and thriving school we know today.

The process of growth was continued by Tom's stepson Richard Taylor with his wife Pat who handed over Vinehall to their son-in-law and daughter, David and Sally Chaplin. In turn the enlarged preparatory school with many more pupils and wonderful facilities was placed in the hands of Julie Robinson in 2002.

However, along with the contrasts in terms of pupil numbers and impressive buildings, there are still enormous similarities with the founding ethos of the school. The desire to see our children grow in confidence and learning, to be independent and adventurous and caring and thoughtful to those around them remain essential features of the modern Vinehall. The emphasis on service is embodied in our motto:

To do our best for the benefit of others.



70th Anniversary in Pre-Prep



As part of Vinehall's 70th birthday celebrations, events were rolled out over this term to enhance the children's learning. We were very keen that the children benefit from these events and that the curriculum be enriched. Celebrations brought together the whole Vinehall community and gave the children a sense of the School's ongoing history.

All children in Nursery and Pre-Prep were able to 'step back in time' and enjoyed finding out about history on their doorstep. The children dressed up as Lord and Lady Ashton, former owners of the house, and as maids, stable lads and other servants to act out how life would have been for the former occupants. The children thought that it was amazing that over 100 years ago the family was almost self-sufficient and able to grow melons and other exotic fruits which are now flown in from Africa for us to eat as snacks.



Mrs Chaplin, a former Vinehall teacher and Headmaster's wife, visited the children and told them all about the school in the 'olden days'. Favourite activities included the game *Giants and Ogres* as well as membership of the *Chimps Club* which you could join if your tree climbing was good enough! Mrs Chaplin also described the outdoor swimming pool from which, on one memorable occasion, a cow was winched - facilities are greatly improved today!



All the children participated in our *dressing-up day*, the theme of which was 1938. We welcomed street urchins as well as pupils from the upper echelons of society that day!



70th Anniversary Celebrations

The children have celebrated our anniversary in some wonderfully varied ways.



1938 Dressing-up day

This year has allowed us to focus on the history of the school and the children have had great fun looking back over our past. The termly Dressing-up day was themed '1938' and both Pre-Prep and Prep school children showed considerable ingenuity in their choice of clothes.

The Pre-Prep also spent a day where they dressed as Lord and Lady Ashton and their servants and learned about life upstairs and downstairs.



Visitors to the exhibition of Vinehall Past and Present on Vines' Day



1960s Dressing-up day

A special mug celebrated the anniversary



Pre-Prep children worked together to make a ceramic relief of some of the Vinehall buildings



Mrs Quelli Coles' potters made a celebration 70th anniversary cake



Staff joined in on Dressing-up day



Today's Year 8 pupils smartly dressed for the Christmas Dinner and Dance



Big 70 Photo Shoot

The highlight for many was the Vinehall BIG 70 photograph where the entire school and staff were photographed from the air by Mr Robinson as Vinehall parent, Mr Casselden, hovered in his helicopter. Mr Whitehead organised the school with military precision and the children formed a human 70 on the lawns.



The Vines' Society is 50!

This year the Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary and the School is 70 years old, so the weekend of 28th/29th June was dedicated to celebrating these momentous anniversaries.

Vines' Day



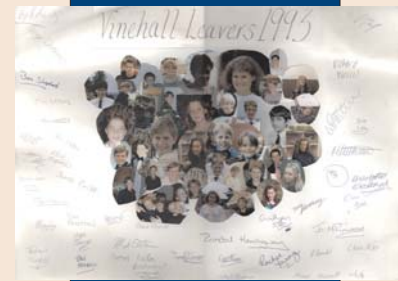
Sunday 29th June took on a special significance and Vines of all generations, including some from the earliest days of the school, came to enjoy the day.

The Leavers' Service was followed by a Buffet Lunch and the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Society. The cricket match was played in glorious weather but this year the Vines' XI did not repeat its 2006 success, and the Head's XI just prevailed in a high-scoring match.

The fête, held in the huge marquee erected for the Ball, was better than ever and there were displays of the history of Vinehall since 1938.

There was a gymnastics display and a brass ensemble performance as well as a band performance to start the fête. The children's disco ended the day. We are grateful to so many parents who ran stalls for the children, all organised by the Friends of Vinehall.

An excellent tea was marked, as usual, by the presentation of the Tom Stuart Menteach Cup (to Jack Newman) and this year, for the first time, the presentation of the Gilbert Travel Bursary, to Jack Thomson and Will Thoms. A presentation was also made to Ruth Close to mark her retirement. She has looked after the office administration for The Vines' Society for more than ten years.



The Millennium Building

