



# Fyling Hall Matters

Friday 16th September 2016 (Issue 1)

## Magic in Whitby

Every Harry Potter fan, that means any patriotic English person, should know a dark artefact; the Hand of Glory, which belongs to Whitby's Museum collection. Borgin described it to Draco as "Best friend of thieves and plunderers!" Indeed, according to Old European beliefs if the thief put a candle, made from the fat of the villain who died on the gallows, between the fingers of a Hand of Glory it will "give light only to the holder" and put households to sleep.

Readers of Harry Potter could observe this power in "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" when it helped the Death Eaters to get into Hogwarts. Yet, some people believed that it has even more supernatural qualities, for example that it is able to open any lock! But what actually is the hand of glory? It is a pickled hand from a man who has been hanged. Does this seem to be an unpleasant view? Maybe, but it is certainly very rare; as XVIII century documents described there are many conditions required to make

the artefact work: the hand has to be chopped off while a man is still hanging.

Nowadays, as it is practically impossible to find a person hanging from the gallows, let alone a lunatic willing to chop off their hand, there will not be any new Hands of Glory produced anytime soon. Visiting Whitby Museum may be the only opportunity to see it and witness a mark of magic in our Muggle's world.

**Karolina Gruzal**



## RAF Visit

The pupils at Fyling Hall School were lucky enough to start off the term with a fun packed two days with the RAF. The activities aimed to improve teamwork, leadership and interview skills. Year 10-13 kicked it off on the first day back. We were split into three groups and each group was allotted a time schedule to complete the activities.

The engineering activity consisted of constructing a self-standing model, as a team, that had to move a ball to a certain location; the further the ball travelled the more points scored. In the second activity we were tested on

our team and leadership skills by being given simple tasks such as having to walk at the same time whilst being directed by a single, chosen member.

The final part of the day was a short talk. This gave advice to the pupils on how to prepare for interviews that will be taken later in life. This advice came in very handy, as a few days later the sixth form were informed that the RAF officers would be giving a mock interview to each student. Each officer chose who they thought performed best and those students were given prizes for their achievements.

**Anna-Luisa Ayckbourn and Izzy Clements**

## On this day in ...

... 1846, the Mexican-American War marked the first U.S. armed conflict chiefly fought on foreign soil. Mexico was unprepared against the US President James K. Polk, who believed that America was destined to spread across the continent to the Pacific Ocean.

A border skirmish along the Rio Grande River started off the fighting and was followed by a series of U.S. victories. When dust cleared Mexico had lost about 1/3 of its territory, including: New Mexico, California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

**Silas Venus Haslett**

## Isolated tribes of the Amazon

As we all know, since the 15<sup>th</sup> century Europeans had some knowledge about the Americas, that is, if we were to disregard the fact that Vikings were the predecessors to Columbus. Since then, as history went on, the idea of an American has evolved, new stereotypes have risen up, some positive, some negative, but nevertheless we see the continents as a land of diversity, globalisation and innovation.

After all of the contact had been established with the indigenous Americans (Aztec, Olmec, Inca, Cherokee), we rarely alienate ourselves from the New World, thinking about the people inhabiting that land as equally developed, being a part of the international community.

What if I were to tell you, that the aforementioned is not the case? In the deep, partially unexplored rainforests of the Amazon valley, there are humans completely cut off from the world, in fact, contact was never made, which means that, those cultures are stuck in the Bronze Age, living as in tribes, hostile towards any outsiders. The conditions, which they live in would be deemed unacceptable for a person from the age of the Internet, furthermore, these tribes are so secluded in the depths of the rainforests, that the most common diseases, such as the common cold, or

chicken pox, would exterminate them in a matter of days. Imagine living in primitive circumstances, where the things you might take for granted, have literally never been discovered, the innovations that seem to be obvious are unknown.

Wouldn't it be fascinating to observe a completely distinct pathway of evolution, to discover another language and customs never heard of before? Many organisations have been trying to attract attention to this matter, despite that this issue is widely unheard of and the isolated peoples are yet to acquaint themselves with us.

**Aleksandr Akulov**



## Snapshot

The new school year began on a busy and fun note with sporting fixtures, visits from the RAF, CEM testing and much more. The first two days back were motivational and exciting with RAF visits for the whole school.

The talks, lessons and activities were a great way to start the year and we came out with many useful skills. Even on the first weekend there was a trip to Dalby forest accompanied with the nice weather, it was a great way

to start the trips and we will be looking forward to Jump 360 next Sunday. There was also a trip to York.

Monday was a busy day for the Year 9s as they headed to Wakefield to visit the coal mining museum. The Year 7s also had a trip to Whitby Abbey on Friday. This week the fixtures consisted of the U15's match against Caedmon College Whitby.

This weekend will also be busy with sport with: U16 football trials, 1<sup>st</sup> team rugby against Pocklington and 1<sup>st</sup> team and U15's hockey against Ampleforth. We are looking forward to another busy week next week.

**Clementine Bentley**



## It's Magic You Know

Motivation is not an easy thing to find nowadays. We live in a world where everyone's going up against everyone else for jobs, for schools and for opportunities. It's tough, it really is. At the very least I know I struggle with finding motivation almost daily and I greatly appreciated the wise words of Mr John Hotowka. I never really thought myself much of a magic fan but I still find myself thinking about that newspaper trick. In retrospect I could probably find the secret out in 2 seconds on Google but where's the fun in that (or the magic)?

Mr Hotowka was wonderful. He was nice, he was funny and his advice actually made some sense! The problem I usually have with motivational speaker type people is that they talk a lot but they never actually say anything. Mr Hotowka admittedly did talk a lot, but

at the very least there was a point to it all.

That point being that life requires a lot of hard work and a lot of sacrifice. But you don't need to work so hard you never have fun and one of those sacrifices doesn't have to be your sense of humour.

People my age say they don't want to end up "stiff" and "boring" and somehow interpret that as "I shouldn't do my homework on time!" or "I shouldn't study!" when that's just not the case. Like Mr Hotowka said "I'm middle aged and I haven't grown up!" He worked hard and he got good grades and now he's got a prosperous career getting paid to do what he loves!

And at no point did he need to give up the supposedly "child-like" ability to have fun. And neither do you.

**Damilare Williams Shires**

### PHOTO OF THE WEEK - "Frogs in Maths"



### Words of the Week

	This week	Next week
Tricky:	<b>revive</b>	<b>echo</b>
Trickier:	<b>invigorate</b>	<b>resound</b>
Trickiest:	<b>reanimate</b>	<b>reverberate</b>

### Inspirational Quote:

"Strive not to be a success but rather to be of value"

Albert Einstein

### The Week Ahead

Mon 19th	2:00pm	DofE Introductory walk—Years 11-13
	4:00pm	U12 District Football trials @ Lady Lumley's
Tue 20th	2:30pm	U13 rugby v Scarborough College (Home)
	3:00pm	U16 District 7's rugby tournament @ Scarborough RUFC
Wed 21st	10:00am	U18 County football trials @ Easingwold
	1:00pm	U18 District hockey tournament @ Lady Lumley's
	2:15pm	1st XV, U15 rugby v Ampleforth (Home)
Thu 22nd	2:30pm	U15 Hockey v Scarborough college (Away)
	4:00pm	Years 7-9 Netball v Eskdale (Home)
Sat 24th	11:00am	U15, U13 rugby v Ashville (Away)

### News Team

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