

'History', writes Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, 'is like a nymph glimpsed bathing between leaves: the more you shift perspective, the more is revealed. If you want to see the whole you have to dodge and slip between many different viewpoints.' Framlingham's historians have done plenty of dodging and slipping this year, with many students enjoying what they do and reaping their reward.

They have been building on a strong set of results from 2006 when the A grade pass rate at A Level was 71% and the GCSE A*/A rate was 62%. A number of last year's students are now engaged in further study of the subject at Russell-group universities: Rosy Lawrence, Abigail Mackrill, Leanne Newton, Will Poole and Alex Reid are all dating Clio in their tertiary education. In the current Upper Sixth crop, Claire Bush has a conditional offer to read History at St John's College, Cambridge, while Matthew Tubbs, Alex Cape, Tom Gaughan and Michelle Li hope to read the subject at other top universities.

Claire and Matthew were among a number of students who made excellent contributions to History Society meetings this year. They each spoke on their Personal Studies, an attractive area of A2 in which students can choose any historical topic that interests them and investigate it in a disciplined manner. Claire looked at Catherine de Medici and the role of women rulers in the Sixteenth Century (appropriate enough for a Head Girl!) and Matthew studied the effects of the Indian Mutiny on the Raj (nothing like Stradbroke!). Another interesting study was the Slovak Martin Sopussek's take on the Munich Crisis of 1938 considered from the Czech angle as well as the British.

Other History Society presentations were given by learned colleagues. Mr Hutchings ranged from Plainsong to Protestantism (though not wishing to go as far as the latter), Mr Jowitt discussed art in the same period, and Mrs Sanders talked on Chaucer and the Catholic Church. With Y12 students producing their own power-point presentations on Richard III and Y13 giving brief talks on Counter-Reformation saints, the society has clearly had an Early Modern bias, a healthy antidote to Hitler and All That!

The Sixth Form also enjoyed their annual trip to lectures by top university

experts in London. The Lower Sixth were enlightened by such luminaries as Steven Gunn and John Watts, while the Upper Sixth heard from Lars Fischer and Leif Jerram, the latter particularly impressing by his dressed-down style and direct delivery – no grey-as-dust historian he! We are always grateful to our efficient minibus drivers who save us from being at the mercy of a rail system that never delivers!

Other scholarly highlights may be mentioned in Years 12 and 9. Jonathan Waghorne and Harry Johnstone volunteered to write substantial essays for a competition run by Corpus Christi, Cambridge, a good experience in these days when AS examiners don't trust you to write in continuous prose for more than 20 minutes at a time! Year 9 should be well prepared for this by some excellent project work on topics of local interest: outstanding were Megan Byford Crane's 'Kett's rebellion', Eleanor Shallow's 'Old Cannon Brewery' with its very potable Appendix IV, Lauren Baller's Brandeston Hall 1541-2007, Olivia Castle's 'St Edmund's Southwold' and Charlotte Pring's 'Fressingfield Village'; but many others were highly competent and enjoyable reads. If Years 10 and 11 have to put their main focus on GCSE, this does not mean they are fallow years at all, and Year 11 in particular has some highly committed students who enjoy Pryor House Group, Latin and many other little extras that can humanise rigid courses. There is a very promising take-up for History from Year 11 into Year 12.

Some of the staff behind this deserve a mention. We are grateful to the English Department for lending us Dr Heard with her scholarly approach. We lament the departure of Mr Jowitt but wish him well with his artistic aspirations and look forward to purchasing Jowitt prints as they come on the market! We look forward to Ananda Harrison (Moreau 1996-99) coming to join us in September. And we share the delight of Mr and Mrs Marvell at the birth of Miranda.

You may go, then, to the Art Department for life drawing in a studio in the TAC: but if you want to look for Clio bathing in the dappled light of some distant century, come and part the leaves with the Historians!

Mr Mark Robinson, Head of History

Et vermis vertit. The barbarian exam boards keep trying to abolish Latin, sed usque recurrit.

Why? Parentes id cupiunt, and parental choice matters. Discipulique etiam id cupiunt when push comes to shove. Some at least catch the spark, while others get a serious GCSE (no "Classical Studies" here!) for their curricula vitae. Yes, it's hard work learning the grammar and vocabulary, but Rome wasn't built in a day and new vistas appear along the way to lighten the load: there's Domitian at his ambrosial feast enjoying Martial's wit, there's Horace making his Bandusian Spring famous, there's the Country Mouse who goes to the Big City but returns home after a bad experience with Molossian hounds.

All this was on the syllabus, unlike the tempting Catullan and Ovidian by-ways. So one hopes seven Latinists have collected a GCSE and that some have a treasure for life. Having dipped a toe into the Metamorphoses, they will be prepared for life's changes.

Years 9 and 10 have promising groups in the pipeline poised to drink at the Pierian spring, and Year 10 in particular will miss Mrs Sanders who over the last decade has so generously shared her classical expertise with many Framlinghamians.

Therefore let transient Education Secretaries do what they will; without Latin there could be no 'secretarius' nor 'educatio'. Like the bourgeois gentilhomme, they have been talking prose all their lives and not known it. Interim, verme verso, nos in Arcadiam imus.

Mr Michael Cooke



MESSRS COOKE (LEFT) AND ROBINSON