

Accent



on Ashcombe

THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL • DORKING

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ZIGGER ZAGGER and CABARET

Last year was Jubilee Year as you will recall.

It was also a Jubilee for Ashcombe productions!

November 1977 saw our first major production which was co-directed by Miss Goswell.

How some things have changed, though...



1977	2002
The Queen's Silver Jubilee	The Queen's Golden Jubilee
Miss Goswell's first production "Zigger Zagger" staged in Bradley Hall, running for three nights	Miss Goswell's 25th production "Zigger Zagger" & "Cabaret" staged in Ranmore "new" hall
Audience seated on the stage on blocks transported on an open-backed lorry from Beare Green Community Centre	Audience seated on tiered seating hired from Arena Seating.
Our "builders" took five hours to work out how to put up the first section of scaffolding	Arena Seating erected the 'terraces'
Many rehearsals were conducted by torchlight as there was industrial action causing blackouts for several hours at a time.	Full lighting – modern stage lights gave good lighting and atmosphere.
A youthful Mr Bourne, convincingly disguised in police uniform, made several of the audience tremble as he asked to see their car licences [Mind you, he was doing the trembling when he later tried to remember his lines!]	Mr Bourne no longer treading the boards. The cast was made up completely of pupils. Pupils were also involved backstage in stage management and lighting.
Sound and light – no amplified sound	Amplified sound for songs. Band accompaniment.

Zigger Zagger



The play was based on Stoke City supporters, who roused their team with cries of "Zigger Zagger". Written in 1967 for The National Youth Theatre, it has been produced by schools and youth groups all over the country since then. Indeed it was performed in August at the new St. Mary's Stadium, Southampton, by the Hampshire Youth Theatre.

It deals with the story of Harry [Guy Simmonds] who, at the time it was set, is able to leave school at 15 with no exam qualifications to his name. Does he settle down and take an apprenticeship to secure a job for life as advocated by his brother-in-law, Les [Dean Simmonds], or does he follow the exciting path to football glory (and violence) under the wing of Zigger Zagger [Tom Stenton], leader of the football crowd? Who will triumph, Zigger or Les? It is a 20th century morality play and Harry has to make his choice. All lead roles were excellent and plaudits go to those mentioned here plus Jacinta Collins for her staid role as the 'boring' sister, Vicky Ledwidge, who risks never being looked at again other than as the dippily lascivious mother and Matt Lawton, superb as he was, definitely does not threaten Phil Allen's role here as Careers Advisor.

"Zigger Zagger" did indeed remind the parents in the audience of the bad old days of football violence. And to think that Mrs Stockdale once stood on those terraces at Stoke City!



Cabaret

“Cabaret” is based on “The Berlin Stories” of Christopher Isherwood published in 1937. This was the first time it had been performed at The Ashcombe School.

In February 1933 the German Parliament mysteriously burnt down giving the Nazis an excuse to hound all those who spoke against them. This included the cabarets. Hitler loathed the Cabaret culture. Anti-Semitic laws were brought in. For Berliners of every creed, the writing was on the wall. All of this is set against the cabaret scene, the Kit Kat Klub where the MC sharpens his wit against the Fascist Right.

“Craig Foot was better than Joel Grey in the film version I saw,” one member of the audience was heard to remark as she left the hall. Craig did indeed show what a confident and accomplished actor he has become.

Jessica Rudd and Tom Williams as Sally and Cliff, Luke Miller and Dora Palache as Schultz and Fraulein Schneider were brilliant couples. The sexual allusions hit just the right note for a school production. The show was great entertainment with political clout.

The message from both productions were stark. Humans make their world and make their choices. You can join in with the crowd or make a go of life as an individual. But the consequences of standing up for yourself can be daunting.

When we read about “the youth of today” and “teachers” it behoves everyone who saw these two productions to redress the comment imbalance. If Ofsted inspectors ever come here in production week it is to be hoped they get tickets for the show.



Awards Evening

December 17th 2002

Over 180 pupils, together with their families, governors of the school, sponsors and other guests were in an audience of over 500 at The Ashcombe School.

There were a variety of achievements celebrated during the evening. Pupils from Years 7 to 11 and students from the current and last year's Sixth Form received prizes. The Head Boy William Tucker and Head Girl Chiara Ferrara spoke of the success of the previous school year, highlighting sporting events, a charities week that raised over £3,000, and the school musical productions. Mr Webster paid tribute to the hard work of all the pupils and the support that the school received from so many people in the wider community.

The awards this year were presented by Canon Geraint Meirion-Jones, rural Dean of Cranleigh. He commended the pupils on their "brilliant achievements" and the school on its international dimension. Having worked in Tanzania for some years he was able to offer some advice to the young people in the audience: "travel and learn your languages."



Lauren Roberts "Good Citizen" Cup

We introduced a new annual award to The Ashcombe this year and the inaugural presentation was a rather special one. We wanted the award to represent sound values such as:

- caring for others
- friendship
- helping those less fortunate (eg disability, age)

The title of 'Good Citizen' captures these values and ideals and we believe that the student in whose name the cup is given demonstrated these values. Therefore in her honour we donate this cup to The Ashcombe to recognise future students who take the time and trouble to reach out to others, providing help, kindness and friendship.

This year the Lauren Roberts Good Citizen Cup is being presented to five students who became such special friends of Lauren and made her time at The Ashcombe such a happy one. They included her in their group when she first started in Year 9 and they remained close and special friends.

We hope over the years that this cup will go to more students who take the time and trouble to do something special, perhaps in the school or in the local community.

Thank you to Freya, Jenny, Grace, Alice and Lindsay for all they did for Lauren and thank you to Alice and Grace in particular for keeping in touch with us and helping us through this difficult year.

Pete and Joy Roberts



Ashcombe features in Prime Minister's speech on Technology



We are grateful to the local branch of HSBC in Dorking and in particular Sarah Black, the manager, for supporting this publication of Accent on Ashcombe. HSBC also supports a weekly Schoolbank for pupils.



We were delighted to learn that the school had been mentioned by the Prime Minister in a speech at the e-summit towards the end of last year.

Mr Blair was talking to delegates from many countries on the importance of the information revolution in this century. We reprint a small part below of the PM's speech:

"...schools are key to taking advantage of the broadband revolution...The Government will provide funding to deliver broadband connections to every school by 2006.

Because education is the number one priority, and because we believe in opportunity for all, every Primary and every Secondary in the Country will have high speed, always on access to the vast resources of the Internet. Every school will now be able to benefit from the experience of Ashcombe School in Surrey where whole classes of students now use broadband videostreaming to support their foreign language GCSE work. Audio and video are combined with an interactive quiz which can be paused and replayed to cater for individual learning speeds - an exciting and effective way of improving the quality of education in our schools. Broadband access will be backed by new interactive content and support material that will be made available through the digital curriculum."

To see Mr Blair delivering the relevant part of his speech, click on the link in the 'Ashcombe News' section of the home page at <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk>.

Any parents or friends of Ashcombe students might like to sample the video/quiz resources referred to by the Prime Minister. You should log on to the Ashcombe website and click on the 'Language Teaching' link near the middle of the screen and then choose 'Video-on-Demand' from the next menu. Alternatively, go straight to: <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang/videos.htm>. From this page, choose either French, German or Spanish to get a choice of sixteen video/quizzes to try out.

Derek Broomfield

It is with sorrow that we heard of the death of a former HSBC manager over Christmas who was extremely supportive of the school. Derek was a keen follower of the fortunes of the school and continued to develop the links between education and business as he worked in Dorking.

Partnership with Parents

There is a website open from January for parents who require information about Special Educational Needs

www.pwpsurrey.org

PTA

Drugs Awareness Evening

Monday 12 May 7.30pm

Study Centre.

All Parents Welcome



Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

In October a group of sixth form students undertook a Gold Practice Expedition and had the sort of experience that they will look back on in future years and say "that was a character-forming expedition." It could have been character deforming, but as Matt Kedgley in the lower sixth relates below, Ashcombe students are made of stern stuff.

Our hike took place in the hills of the Peak District and we completed about 50kms on foot. Anybody who knew our group will know what they're like normally- let alone being tired and hungry- and we were starting to recognise what we had let ourselves in for after only 5 minutes when on the way up north. There was an obsession with singing songs all the way. (Claire Butlin! How do you know so many lyrics?)

By the time we had reached the campsite, it was pitch black and putting tents up in the freezing cold wasn't something we'd been looking forward to. We managed to get to sleep at a 'reasonable' time but it was nippy (-3C). The site was on a slope and we ended up in a heap at the bottom of the tent. We didn't need to pack up the tent in the morning because the first day was merely a training day in accurate navigation across non-marked land.

Day 1

We all took turns in navigating to certain points on the map, given to us by Mr. Butlin and Mr. Stobie. The weather was beautiful, if a little cold, and we had some spectacular views.

The first day was pretty basic and wasn't very taxing. We ate noodles and chicken for dinner and went to bed.

Day 2

The weather was clear yet again but it was absolutely freezing. For breakfast we ate bacon butties which were delicious if a little burnt. We packed up our tents and left the campsite for Rowlee Farm. This meant having to climb a steep ridge of rocks known as Stanage Edge. It was high enough to get some good



views across the valley. The scenery was covered in a white tint and the outcrops of rock made particularly good viewing points. The track was pretty straightforward with only a couple of misleads here and there. We made our way to our first check point on time and had just come down from the edge only to have to climb another couple of hundred metres to get to the next break point, a rock outcrop. The vegetation was barren and covered in heather. This meant we risked falling into an invisible tributary. The walking was pretty monotonous but it led us to the dam by a large reservoir. Once there we had to negotiate a route down the steep sided valley. The scenery reminded us of 'Lord of the Rings.'

By the look of the rest of the route on the map, there was only about 1 or 2km to go before we would reach the campsite. This was at the bottom of the valley and it took us a great deal longer than we anticipated, having to climb steep paths, which was tiring.

The campsite was in a very steep valley. The conditions weren't brilliant but I think we had misconceptions of what a campsite was. We had only visited ones with designated areas on

flat ground. They also had basic amenities that this one did not. However, we managed to keep ourselves occupied with cooking and playing cards all in one tent. It was a bit cramped but we had a laugh or two.

Day 3

The night had been punctured now and again by a sheep that sounded as if it was suffering from pneumonia and I was eventually woken by bleating sheep interested in the new shapes on their land. They could be seen stalking the camp rather precariously. Breakfast consisted of hot chocolate and breakfast bars. It was again freezing, due to the cloudless night. We left the site and made our way to the bottom of Mount Kinderscout. The weather had begun to cloud over and it was incredibly hot walking up the hill. We saw numerous grouse and hares on the way up. It took us what seemed like ages to reach the top of the first climb. A couple of dodgy tracks led in all directions and so we took the path that we thought looked the best. The walk from then on was pretty simple until we got to midday. The cloud cover had begun to thicken



Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

and we decided to stop for lunch at the edge of a waterfall.

The navigation from then on got tricky. The path we were trying to find apparently didn't exist and the terrain got more and more boggy the further we got towards the centre of the plateau. This way we could be sure of at least where we were. There was a difference of opinion in the group about which route to take. Fortunately it was then that we were met by Mr. Stobie and Mrs. Ager. They told us to take a bearing of a route that would have us cutting through the Pennine Way and we could walk from there easily to the campsite. It was then that the rain began to fall horizontally. The rain turned to sleet and snow. Within about 10 minutes, the weather had turned from cloudy to blizzard and because we couldn't pick out any features of the mountain (such as the edge!) we had to put our faith in the compass. We walked in a direct line towards the main Pennine Way. Our group had only progressed about 200m when Paul decided to try and walk through a peat bog that was obviously not solid enough. He managed to sink up to his waist in the stuff. Some of us tried to stifle our laughter but the more restrained members of the group managed to pull him out.

The weather deteriorated. Strong winds and freezing cold sleet was blasting into our faces. It was then that we got entirely lost again. The group (mainly the boys) argued about the position and what course of action to take. Mr. Stobie yet again popped up out of nowhere and asked us what was the sensible thing to do. We again set our compasses to the bearing that would make us cut into the Pennine Way. Eventually we found ourselves on the path, relieved that we were out of the bog. The wind became gale force and walking straight became difficult. There was still a blizzard and despite being covered in waterproofs we were soaked. Paul was of course more wet than others. We finally arrived at



Jacob's Ladder and climbed down the steep slope to the campsite of Upper Booth. We put up our tents in the pouring rain but managed to keep them partly dry. We stuffed ourselves with sandwiches and crisps and sang "Happy Birthday" to Claire who had picked an unfortunate day to go clambering up a blizzard-ridden mountain. The wind had picked up and we had to re-peg the tent because it was lifting the flysheet. The wind and rain gave us precious little sleep.

Day 4

It was still raining in the morning and so we quickly packed up the sodden tent. Our group made its way up a hill to the viewpoint of Hollins Cross. The end of our journey came just when the rain had stopped.

The expedition was challenging yet highly enjoyable and we would like to thank the Assessors and especially Mr. Stobie for getting us out of the peat bog! It will certainly be one I personally won't forget.

Sport at The Ashcombe

Gym and Dance



This event again proved to be popular with the pupils. Regular practices culminated in the Gym and Dance Evening held in February. The evening was a huge success with over 80 pupils participating (60% increase from last year), with every year in the school being represented from Year 7 to the 6th Form. The pieces on show ranged from curricular and GCSE work to extra-curricular performances. There was a mixture of floor gymnastics including sports acrobatics, vaulting, tumbling and a trampoline display. There were also various dances and individual and combined trampolining routines.

Judo

Jamie Richardson (Y9), Cameron Ede (Y9) and Jonny Kerlake (Y10) were medal winners at the London and S.E. under 18 competition last month in Norwood, London. The school Judo club takes place after school on Wednesday Evenings 6.30 - 7.30pm.



Twickenham Visit



A coach party of over 50 pupils, parents and staff went to Twickenham in March to see the England versus Italy international match. For many this was their first visit to the HQ of English rugby.

Volleyball

Ashcombe Volleyball Club, based at The Ashcombe Volleyball Centre, now has 8 teams playing in the major competitions in England. Ashcombe Dorking 1 have finished their season in Womens National League Division 1 in 2nd place and Ashcombe Dorking 2 were 3rd in Womens National League Division 3 East. The Sussex Mens team have amalgamated with Ashcombe and finished a creditable 5th in Mens N.V.L. 3 East. All these teams are looking for new players for next season to strengthen their squads.

Junior teams entered Under 16 and 18 national Competitions with the Under 18 girls reaching the last 8 round and the Under 18 boys team losing at the semi-final stages to last years champions Wessex.

Next season Ashcombe will be entering new teams in local league competitions in Surrey with many of the matches to be played at The Ashcombe



Ashcombe Under 18 Boys and Girls teams at the National Last 8 Championships, March 03

Volleyball Centre. We welcome new adult and junior players, beginners and experienced players.

Want to join in? Contact Freda Bussey on 01903 824281 or come and see us training on Thursday evenings 6.30 - 9.30.

Indoor Athletics

The Ashcombe Sports Hall was the venue for this year's local primary schools indoor athletics competition. Over 150 pupils participated in this fantastic event.



International Links and Visits

German Exchange 2002 - 2003

There is always a moment of anxiety mixed with excitement as the Germans arrive for the annual Exchange. This year 14 pupils from Heinrich-Böll Gymnasium in Troisdorf, near Bonn were accompanied by two teachers to spend eight days with Ashcombe families in November.

You might think what a time of year to visit but we actually benefited from some sunny days, especially when we went to Brighton. After a tour of the Pavilion we were able to sit on the promenade for our picnic lunch before exploring The Lanes. This is always a popular visit with our European friends.

The German pupils enjoyed a day in Canterbury, familiarising themselves with the works of Chaucer at the Canterbury Tales. At the end of the tour they had to vote for their favourite tale. I'm not sure which one won. The visit to the Cathedral is always impressive and the pupils were relieved that the guide spoke German.



This year both Ashcombe pupils and their partners spent a day in London. First of all there was a visit to The London Dungeon which was enjoyed by most of the group. Audience participation in some of the scenes proved great amusement for all. It was a bonus to walk over Tower Bridge and see the Tower of London. In spite of the second 24 hour stoppage by firemen we were then able to make our way by underground to Leicester Square and

walk to Covent Garden. The German pupils had an additional day in the city and after an aerial view from the London Eye they toured Westminster on foot, not forgetting the photo stop outside Buckingham Palace.

I know that the participating families arranged outings and activities at the weekend and a good time was had by all. Again, due to the efforts of everyone, this was a successful Exchange. Thank you.

Mrs. J. Clarke



International Links and Visits

French Exchange January 2003

.....and they talk about the British weather!

All boxes were ticked and everyone had details of the French pupils from Collège Sonia Delaunay in Gouvieux. They were due to arrive on Friday afternoon, 10th January. That is, until the phone rang. Can you imagine that the French pupils had said their goodbyes and were sitting on the coach ready to leave when the driver heard a news flash on the radio. Due to hazardous motorway conditions in France the Exchange party were unable to travel. After several phone calls to all concerned, the programme was rearranged and 29 French pupils, accompanied by their two teachers, arrived four days later.

Traditionally the French pupils spend time in school and this year was no exception. They accompanied their partners to a conventional lesson and then followed a specially designed programme. We tried to include aspects of our educational system which the French do not experience. The favourite activity was making copper crystals in chemistry and the pupils also enjoyed sampling a variety of home baked English scones. An English lesson would not have been complete without a touch of Shakespeare- "hubble, bubble toil and trouble", and all that! Of course they loved our ICT facilities and the badminton or five aside football games in the sports hall.

This year we were most grateful to St. Martin's and St. Joseph's primary schools for hosting our visitors. Each French pupil worked with a small group of primary children. They spoke in French and English together to find out things about each other and life in France and England.

A day in London with a group of keen French pupils, the majority of whom have never been to England before, was a must. They always want to see Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament and of course, we didn't disappoint them. The pupils were also thrilled to visit Madame Tussaud's, mixing with the sporting idols, pop and film stars, not forgetting historical figures, royalty and being photographed with George Bush and Tony Blair.



An excursion to Winchester was a new venture and everyone enjoyed the guided walking tour of the ancient city. Starting from King Alfred's statue we took a brisk walk to the Old Hall and King Arthur's Round Table. Much to the pupils' frustration there was no time for shopping here. It was a beautiful sunny day and the walk by the river, past the College and back to the cathedral was great. After lunch we went into the cathedral, preferring the French speaking guide to the worksheet for information about the history of such a beautiful building.

The pupils were able to compare the once capital of England with the chief city of Surrey when they visited Guildford. Volunteer guides pointed out the main places of interest before the pupils sampled Burger King for

lunch. They were then allowed to do some shopping for gifts to take home for their families.

The weather couldn't have been worse on the Monday when we took both Ashcombe pupils and their partners on a joint visit to Portsmouth. It rained so heavily and the waves were so huge that the road along the Southsea promenade was closed. We finally reached the D-Day Museum where, after watching the film, partners were encouraged to complete the worksheets together. This made sense to us as the French pupils had questions in English and vice versa. During the afternoon we went to the Aquarium where feeding time for the otters was a focal point, raising controversy over the plight of young chickens that were devoured by our aquatic friends. Peace was resumed once we arrived at Gunwharf Quay where a little retail therapy ruled before heading back to Dorking.

Finally, I recognise that it's not without a great deal of effort, patience and tolerance on the part of pupils, families and staff that an Exchange is successful. It is not always easy welcoming a stranger into our homes, or indeed going to a stranger's home for the first time. Families organised activities and visits for the French pupils in the evenings and at the weekend. Everyone worked hard to ensure success and as a result, at the time of writing, I am sure we shall all have a super time when we visit Gouvieux in March.

Mrs. J. Clarke



International Links and Visits

Italy Visit 2002 11-16 November

This year's Italian Exchange was a resounding success. Miss Metherell and Mrs Williamson were joined on the trip by the following students who were a joy to take abroad: Chris Horvath, Jon Mair, Paula Rowe, Halima Shamsuddin (Lower 6th GNVQ), Becky Smith, Orla Macrae (Year 11), Rosie Blunt, Kayleigh Jones, and Mary Penman (Year 10).

The GNVQ group have written a short summary of the main highlights:

"The Italian exchange was amazing! We left school at the horrific time of 4.30 a.m. in the morning (Jon and Chris had not actually been to bed!) and were driven all the way to Stansted by Mr Blow. He wished us bon voyage and returned to school for a day's hard graft! We, on the other hand, had an exciting plane journey to Rome and then on to Montalcino by train. We eventually arrived, tired and hungry, at around 8.00 p.m. where we were greeted by our new Italian families who would be our hosts for the week.

Our Italian families were lovely. Everyone got on with their partners extremely well (even Chris and his room mate Samuele, aka Cha Chi, who spent the first 2 nights arguing about whether to sleep with the light on or off!). Our hosts must have thought that we needed fattening up, as the amount of superb food we were given was too much even for Jon.

We visited some excellent sights, including Florence, Siena, Rome and the Banfi vineyard. There were enough giant wine barrels to keep Miss Metherell and Mrs Williamson smiling for a long time! Highlights included climbing the 465 steps of the cathedral in Florence (Chris, who is scared of heights, did a marvellous job of getting all the way to the top – and bizarrely, decided to do the descent going backwards!). Chris calculated that we had climbed up 2986 steps on the entire trip. In fact,



we did so much walking that Kayleigh's feet completely packed up on the final day! We visited the Uffizzi gallery in Florence and saw the Colosseum, Pantheon and Spanish Steps in Rome. Special thanks must go to Miss Metherell and her fluent Italian for managing to get us back from Florence in one piece after finding that the last train had already gone."

Quotes of the week include:

"I love my Italian family" (Jon, about 150 times every day)

"I've come to the conclusion that all that art galleries consist of are

pictures containing floating babies, hippies and rude things" (Jon again).

All in all, Italy was a fantastic experience which is highly recommended. Great food, nice weather, amazing scenery, incredible sights and excellent company. We had a top time and can't wait for our Italian partners to visit us in a few months. They are still texting us every day and telling us how much they miss us! Jon and Chris have already decided to book tickets to go back to Italy next year. And if Jon says "I love my Italian family" one more time

International Links and Visits

Chinese Visitors



We were delighted to welcome Ms Wei Jing, Deputy Mayor, Changzheng Town, Mr Chen Yongheng, Deputy Headteacher, Shanghai Changzheng Middle School, Mr Huang Xiaofeng, Deputy Headteacher, Shanghai Changzheng zhongxin Primary School and Ms Wang Aimei, teacher, Changzheng Town Community School, to Ashcombe School. This was the first time that a member of Chang Zheng [meaning Long March] Town Council has visited us and the presence also of two teachers from another secondary and a primary school in the

area means that the potential for links could extend well beyond that of the two secondary schools.

We therefore organised a programme to correspond with the composition of the delegation. The group went to MVDC to meet and have lunch with the Chief Executive, Heather Kerswell, the Chairperson, Heather Ward and David Timms. They visited Chinese lessons here and spent some time in St Martin's Primary School. Our exhausted guests were able to stay for the first half of 'Cabaret' before returning to London.

It is interesting to note that the frequency of visits between the two communities is now no longer a novelty. It is a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience hosting such visitors and strengthening our links. The benefit to international understanding is estimable and there are many people in the community whose lives have been enriched by these developments.

6th Form Social Hallowe'en Theme

The school's strong international links were upheld when English met Dutch for a fun-filled Hallowe'en social. The annual opportunity for members of a school from Holland to visit The Ashcombe coincided, once again, with the Autumn term 6th form social. The Senior Prefect team laid on some zany snacks in a room decorated with cobwebs, skeletons and hand-carved pumpkins. Apple-bobbing, doughnuts on a string, a yucky dip and some aptly spooky music were our contribution to the entertainment whilst the Dutch taught us their version of musical chairs and conducted a psychological love quiz! Everybody got on well, had a fantastic time and the Dutch left for their muddy campsite having put their English skills to the test!

Mole Valley Youth Council

Young people in Mole Valley now have their own council. As a joint initiative between Mole Valley District Council and the Secondary Schools in the area, two young people have been selected from six of the schools in the area to represent their school and all young people in Mole Valley on the Youth Council. The councillors selected from Ashcombe School are Kathryn Woodroof and Will Tucker.

The Youth Council will mean that young people will be directly involved in the process of defining what District Council services are provided for them. With a budget of £5000 work has begun to improve the services and facilities for young people.

Already plans are being circulated for a new skate park in Leatherhead and the Envy 2003 concert (held last year at Meadowbank in Dorking) is well under way.

Before their first meeting, the councillors and their deputies met at High Ashurst Education Centre for a team 'bonding' day. The activities that took place were designed to get the young councillors thinking about working as a team and compromising to meet everyone's needs. Activities



Picture shows team 'bonding' day at High Ashurst Centre.

included an assault course and a high ropes course, which tested everyone's fear of heights when they had to jump off a 30ft telegraph pole.

The Youth Council have now met twice and at their second meeting met with representatives from Surrey Police to discuss issues of mutual interest. Crime is a big issue involving young people - in particular their attitude to crime and the police - and the Youth Council felt it was important to get young people's views heard.

This principle applies to everything that the Youth Council does. They are the 'voice' of young people in Mole Valley and their main objective is to express the needs and wants of the

younger generations. The Youth Council are currently working to promote the identity of the Youth Council and make sure young people know it exists for them.

What has and will continue to make the Youth Council so successful is the fact that it is run by young people: all twelve councillors are aged between 12-18. Young people in Mole Valley have finally been given the chance to make Mole Valley a safer, happier place for youth of today to grow up in.

Kathryn Woodroof 10YY



The Ashcombe was approached by the Dowler Family to support the fund in their daughter's name.

We therefore sent off a proportion of money from the first Mufti day of the year as the purpose of the fund is to create a series of safety awareness programmes for teenagers. The school also supports the annual Aids Day Appeal, thanks to the promotional work from a group of sixth formers.