

**PRINCIPAL
POINTS**

If you want to see the best of the British seaside, it seems that you can't do better than come to the Kent School of English. The Guardian newspaper ran a high-profile contest in July to find the "seaside town of the year".

The result was decided by a panel of authors, artists, journalists, an MP and others. Towns in the competition came from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. And the result? Well, from the sixty towns nominated, Broadstairs came a very creditable second place.

The winner was another town visited by lots of KSE students this summer: St Ives in Cornwall. Only a few miles away from our summer centre in Penzance, St Ives makes for one of the best half-day trips we do.

You can read more about the panel's opinion of Good Old Broadstairs* and St Ives on page two.

I don't think the judges considered the weather when coming to their conclusions. It probably wouldn't have made any difference to the result if they had, as the whole country had a very wet summer. Luckily, neither Broadstairs nor Penzance suffered the floods which afflicted other parts of the country but many students will have gone home thinking that all the stories they had heard about British weather were true. I hope they may consider returning next year so that the myth may be dispelled!

Andy Flaig

andy.flraig@kentschool.co.uk

**See question 1 in Competition Corner; back page*

THE ROCK GROUP

One of the many groups that KSE has welcomed this year came from the IES Joan Amigó school, Tarragona, Cataluña, led by Raquel Gelonch and Artur Sasot.

The group started an English project in Spain by looking at prehistoric and medieval times - Espluga de Francolí, their home town, is famous for its caves and gothic monuments. The students wrote and performed plays in English, inspired by what they had seen.

The second part of the project was concerned with tourism and the

students' stay in England. The group visited Stonehenge and the London Dungeon amongst other places, as well as going on a guided walk with Naomi Biggs from the Thanet Coast Project to look at life and rock formations on the local seashore. The Joan Amigó students intend to produce tourist materials as an outcome of their stay at KSE: a video of the sights and sounds of England, a leaflet and Powerpoint presentation, as well as a website. We look forward to seeing their finished work!



Joan Amigó students visit Stonehenge



... and (above and below) back in Broadstairs they admire local sealife

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chris McDermott	2
Summer in Penzance	2
Geraldine's Job	2
What the Guardian said about Broadstairs	2
KSE Travels	3
Work Experience Students, 2007	3
KSE Students Enjoy a Taste of Public School	3
The Seven Bays of Broadstairs	3
KSE 2008	3
KSE T-Shirts	4
The Carters Go to Bavaria	4
Competition Corner	4
Trinity College Cert TESOL	4



CHRIS McDERMOTT

Just as this newsletter was going to print, we heard that Chris had decided the time was right for him to retire.

Over the 25 years he was at KSE, Chris contributed an immense amount and all those who have had the benefit of his teaching know what a gifted classroom practitioner he is.

Chris's work in materials development and teacher-training within the school were also invaluable. While we are lucky enough to have a strong teaching and teacher-training team in place to carry on the good work we will, of course, miss Chris's presence.

We wish Chris the best of luck in his retirement and know that he will greatly enjoy

being able to devote more time to his various interests.



Chris teaching a class of group leaders

SUMMER IN PENZANCE

You'll have seen elsewhere in this newsletter that St Ives, Penzance's near neighbour, was voted seaside town of the year. All of the students who joined our courses in Penzance had the pleasure of visiting the town which, since Turner visited in 1811, has been a magnet for artists who love the quality of the light and the contrasting colours of white sand, turquoise sea and azure sky.

St Ives was not the only place visited by our Penzance students, of course. They also enjoyed the gentle cliff walk from Land's End to Whitesand Bay at Sennen Cove (where many were tempted to dive into the Atlantic); strolled along the beach from Penzance to Marazion and over the causeway to mysterious

St Michael's Mount; saw performances of various plays at the stunning clifftop Minack Theatre; explored Truro (the county town) and Falmouth and enjoyed the views of King Arthur's Castle from the cliffs at Tintagel. These trips and the usual busy KSE teaching and activity programme meant that students not only improved their English but also got to know a lot about Cornish people and culture.

The KSE team in Penzance, led by Barry, ensured that everybody participated and got the most from their stay. They worked closely with a fantastic set of group leaders to ensure that Penzance was, once again, a great success! We look forward to being back there again in 2008.



Carolyn, one of the KSE team in Penzance



Group from Alicante, Penzance 2008

GERALDINE'S JOB

I joined KSE as Accommodation Officer at the beginning of this year and somehow I have managed to survive the roller-coaster ride of the summer!

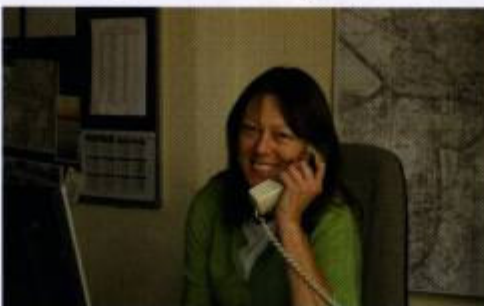
Life in the Accommodation Office is never dull and I have learned to expect the unexpected every day. Problems can arise for host families meaning they cannot accommodate students booked to stay with them. Students become ill and need a visit or a lie down in the KSE sick bay. Allergies or dietary preferences are remembered and all the while the phone seems to be ringing!

An important part of my job is to read all the feedback forms filled in by students and leaders. It is lovely to hear good reports of families as students leave, and important also for us to know where there have been difficulties. I also, particularly at this time of the year, spend a lot of time visiting our host families.

At the moment, we are in the middle of a recruitment drive and we seem to have lots of new families wanting to host students in

Broadstairs. Many people are moving to the area from London for a change of lifestyle and enjoy having students to stay. Meanwhile we have families who have been looking after KSE students for more than twenty years who still enjoy meeting new students.

Every family is unique and, of course, so is each student – putting the two together successfully makes all the angst worthwhile!



Geraldine hard at work

Delights of good old Broadstairs



Esther Addley

The judges were far from the first to be entranced by Broadstairs in Kent, narrowly beaten into second place. Charles Dickens was such a fan that he moved there to write *Nicholas Nickleby* and *David Copperfield*. An annual festival in celebration of the author, and plenty of Dickens-themed shops and pubs, continue the association. Charles Pooter, narrator of *The Diary of a Nobody*, took his holidays in "good old Broadstairs" (considering nearby Margate "too fast").

But Broadstairs is far from a twee monument to nostalgia. The town may boast rows of beach huts, a sea-water bathing pool and a celebrated Punch and Judy show, but it remains a lively community not yet overwhelmed by day-tripping Londoners. Locals talk of an admirable butcher's shop on the high street, while another local celebrity is Morelli's ice-cream parlour. The beach huts are not yet being flogged at eye-watering prices but can be booked for a reasonable fee from the local council.

The town's knockout attraction, however, is the perfect horseshoe of Viking Bay, above which the seafront is perched, a soft yellow smile of sand that deservedly sports a blue flag. Five further sandy beaches to the north offer a bit more towel-space in high summer.

"Wonderfully compact and utterly disarming," said one of our judges. "It's the real deal," said another. Broadstairs appears not quite to have grasped how delightful are its charms – which is exactly what makes it so charming.

"Seaside Town of the Year": the panel's verdict on Broadstairs (from *The Guardian*)



View from the Minack Theatre down to Porthcurno

KSE TRAVELS

Most KSE travelling is done during the winter but there were some spring and summer trips this year:

- In late April, Andy went to Estonia. KSE's local organiser, Kairi Kallaste, arranged a series of school visits and meetings in Tallinn and Hiiumaa, including one with the Prime Minister of Estonia. The PM took a few minutes out of his busy day for a chat and his spokesman showed Andy around the Cabinet Room and other offices.
- In May, Andy visited Kharkiv and met lots of old KSE friends.
- Chris M spent a week in Auxerre in June, helping to set up a teacher development scheme for AFPI. He worked closely with Riki Pugh, the course director and with the KSE teachers who work for AFPI, Steve and Eugene.
- Sue ran a teacher training week in Niederaltelch and took part in another SKT test session for teachers in Bavaria.
- In May Dave P spent a week in Poland, visiting Progress Schools in Zawiercie, Myszkov and Łazy before moving on to the Promar School in Rzeszów. In Zawiercie, Dave spent three enjoyable days teaching a wide range of ages and abilities – from four year olds to adults.

In Rzeszów Dave conducted a short seminar followed by a question and answer session in the school's lecture theatre. The topic was "What Is Being a Teacher Really Like?"

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS, 2007

As every year, work experience students have made a valuable contribution to the life of KSE. This year we have had work experience students from France, Germany, Poland, Japan and the UK. Anybody interested in the possibility of work experience at KSE in 2008 should email a CV and letter to sue.wall@kentschool.co.uk

Pictured (below) are Virginie Gaugeon and Jennifer Nieland



KSE STUDENTS ENJOY A TASTE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

BY PHIL CARTER

Welcome to Wellesley House, a fairy tale of manicured lawns bordered by colourful flowerbeds fronting sturdy Victorian buildings. Step inside and a labyrinth of corridors leads you to cosy classrooms, a beautiful, wood-panelled dining hall and a fine assembly hall.

Behind the impressive gravel drives and ivy-clad buildings of KSE's summer residential and activities centre lies a vast expanse of playing fields and sports facilities including a modern heated indoor pool and a state-of-the-art sports hall.



Break dancing at Wellesley House

For five weeks in July and August, Wellesley House was home to a cosmopolitan mix of students and leaders from Italy, Spain, France, Holland, Brazil, Belgium and Serbia, happily sampling the delights of a quintessentially British boarding school. Making sure that everyone was happy and that everything went according to plan were myself and Pieter and Hazel Boonzaier.

Wellesley House students soon got used to the fun and challenges of communal living and the delicious meals of chef Audrey Fodor received rave reviews from everyone.

All KSE students during this period were able to enjoy the facilities. Evening activities like barn dances, cabarets, discos and folk singing took place in the assembly hall. Options afternoons offering a multiplicity of sports and activities ranging from football to table tennis and swimming to break dancing – not to mention Jennie Rawson's ever-popular arts and crafts sessions – all took place around the Wellesley House complex. In addition, many students visited Wellesley for their morning classes. The peaceful surroundings and relaxed atmosphere seemed to make learning English all the more enjoyable.

Whatever the weather we had a great time. Students quickly got used to their unusual surroundings and made themselves at home. It was lovely to see them enjoying themselves and making new friends. Everyone tried hard to speak and practise English and the traditional English breakfasts were enthusiastically consumed.



Jennie's arts and crafts lesson

THE SEVEN BAYS OF BROADSTAIRS

Everybody who comes to KSE in Broadstairs sees the lovely, horse-shoe shaped Viking Bay. Most people see its little sister, Louisa Bay. Some (during most summers but maybe not during summer 2007!) visit Joss Bay for KSE barbecues. If you walk to Ramsgate from Broadstairs, you'll walk past Dumpton Gap. How many will see the other three bays: Botany Bay, Kingsgate Bay and Stone Bay? Each bay has a story to tell. One of the most famous is that about Joss Bay.

Joss Bay

There is a difference of opinion about whether the beach was named after Joss Snelling or vice versa. Either way, at a time when smuggling was almost as important an industry as anything else in the area and the good people of St Peter's became adept at outwitting the Revenue Men, Joss Snelling was the most notorious smuggler.

He lived to a ripe old age, and in his dotage was presented to a young Queen Victoria as 'the famous Broadstairs smuggler'.

Viking Bay

Another bay with a tale to tell, Viking Bay was named in honour of the "Hugin", a replica Viking ship rowed across the North Sea, landing at what was then known simply as Main Bay, in 1949. The ship itself can now be seen at Pegwell Bay in Ramsgate.



Looking from Kingsgate Bay to Botany Bay

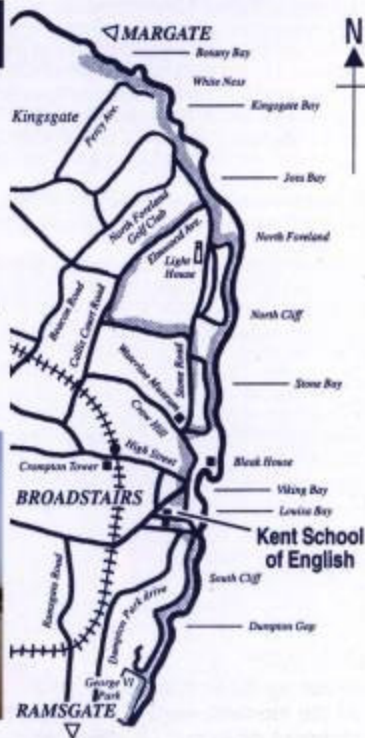


Usually at this time of year, we say that the next year will be much the same as the past year and, well, once again that is true. We will be offering all the courses offered this year: Student 15 and 21 courses for teenagers; Intensive and Super Intensive courses for adults; a wide range of specially tailored courses for groups and, as ever, high quality teacher-training courses for individuals and groups. Come the summer, we'll be back in Penzance once again.

There are one or two additions to the courses which KSE is involved in or running in 2008:

In the summer of next year, we'll be working with a partner school in France to offer our traditional Student 15 course to French students who prefer to learn in their own country. We'll be offering the normal packed programme of class, visits and teaching in a residential school. Meanwhile, our partner school will be offering a similar course for students wanting to learn French. If you are interested in either of these courses, email andy.flaig@kentschool.co.uk

We will also be adding a multimedia course for teachers. The course will aim to help teachers find ways to exploit the wealth of materials available online and in commercially produced packages and to develop classroom techniques which foster learner independence.



KSE T-SHIRTS

After many years of selling the traditional navy blue KSE T-shirts, we decided to liven things up by adding two new bright colours to our range: bright pink and bright orange. Pens, key rings and posters are also available.

T-Shirts modelled by Kana, Jessica and Joseph, three of our work experience students (right). If you're visiting, we still have some available!



THE CARTERS GO TO BAVARIA

Phil Carter and family recently took a tour of Central and Southern Germany catching up with group leaders, KSE friends and former students.

For Philip and family, a big highlight was a visit to Fulda to join in the birthday celebrations of Anita Brandner, a long-time group organiser. The party was a

roaring success as Philip explains:

"Anita organised everything. It was a brilliant party held in the school where she teaches. She was surrounded by dozens of friends and colleagues. We had a delicious meal and then a series of songs, poems and speeches in her honour."



Anita's party gets under way



The birthday girl!

COMPETITION CORNER

All about Broadstairs this time. There may be at least one trick question! Answers to andy.flaig@kentschool.co.uk.

We have prizes for the two entries with most correct answers: books which relate to the questions below.

- Which Charles referred to "Good Old Broadstairs" (see Principal Points) in the passage below?
I said to Carrie: "I don't think we can do better than 'Good old Broadstairs'". Carrie not only, to my astonishment, raised an objection to Broadstairs, for the first time; but begged me not to use the expression, "Good old", but to leave it to Mr. Stillbrook and other GENTLEMEN of his type. Hearing my "bus pass the window. I was obliged to rush out of the house without kissing Carrie as usual; and I shouted to her: "I leave it to you to decide". On returning in the evening, Carrie said she thought as the time was so short she had decided on Broadstairs, and had written to Mrs. Beck, Harbour View Terrace, for apartments.
- Which Charles referred to "Our English Watering Place"?
- Which central Broadstairs pub is named after a character from a Dickens novel?
- Which Broadstairs pub is named after a famous engineer?
- Which Broadstairs pub is named after one of England's most famous sailors?
- Which Broadstairs bay has a very famous namesake in Australia?
- Which 20th Century Prime Minister lived in Broadstairs?
- Which novelist: "... walked for several hours on the cliffs between Kingsgate and Bleak House, and smoked an entire case of cigars, striving for a title, but with a barren result. As the sun went down ... contemplating the North Foreland lighthouse [he exclaimed] "You are ugly and stiff and awkward; you know you are: as stiff and as weird as my white woman. White woman! - woman in white! The title, by Jove!"?

TRINITY COLLEGE CERT TESOL

September saw a new set of teacher trainers graduate from our Trinity College CertTESOL course. The course is an intensive four weeks and includes:

- input sessions from our tutors: Dave Parsons, Sue Wall and Nigel Feist
- six hours of teaching practice
- several hours of observations of experienced KSE teachers
- many hours of assignment writing – about grammar, vocabulary, methodology, phonology and so on

We were pleased to keep up our recent 100% pass rate, as all eight of the trainees passed with flying colours. On the course were a mixture of people who had worked at KSE in the past as Activity Assistants and people from outside – including Sonja from Germany, who was our one non-native speaker on the course. Well done to all concerned!



Dave P with Cert TESOL group

BACK PAGE PICTURES

Top to bottom:

- Andy reading the guest book in the Prime Minister's office, Tallinn
- Group leaders' Friday lunch
- Strike!
- Joss Bay
- Independent students visit Canterbury Castle
- Louisa Bay
- The La Louvière group relax at the clocktower

