



July 2010

**Sir William Robertson
High School**
A Language Specialist School



ASPIRE

SWRHS School News

As the Summer Term draws to a close we have just said goodbye to our Year 11, having completed their exams and having reached the end of their five years at the school. It was a pleasure to spend the evening with these out-going students at their Prom which took place at Newark Showground. They arrived, immaculately turned-out, in a variety of modes of transport. A fire engine, limousines and motor cycle out-riders heralded their spectacular arrival. What was more impressive for me were the comments from the staff at the showground who complimented our pupils on their manners, good humour and excellent behaviour. They were a credit to themselves, to their parents and to the school. We wish them all every success and hope they will come back to see us to let us know about their future achievements!

As one year group leaves, another one starts. We have just welcomed our new Year 7 and their parents on our annual Induction Day. The pupils arrived, from about 35 different primary schools, full of trepidation but as the day went on nervousness gave way to enthusiasm and we waved them off with a real sense of excitement about starting at the school in September. Parents who attended the Induction Evening commented on the positive and enjoyable day their children had experienced. We are looking forward to getting to know them all in the new school year.

Many of the children on Induction Day, along with our own pupils, enjoyed the spectacle of our World Cup Final on the school field. In an extremely close match, Germany took on Argentina in a re-run of the 1986 final. The sides couldn't be separated during normal time so the game went to penalties. I won't spoil Mr Symmons write-up on the Final later in the newsletter, suffice to say that half of the supporters went into afternoon lessons happy, the other half demanding we install goal-line technology!

As is always the case at this time of year, we shall be saying goodbye to a number of staff and welcoming others in September. Ms Neal (Art), Mr Brown (Music), Mrs Rich (Music) and Ms Colclough (English/Media) leave us to take up promotions to Head of Department positions. Mrs Parry (Science) is leaving to take-up a full-time Science post at Lincoln Minster School. Mrs Dicks (Head of Expressive Arts) is re-locating to the south coast to develop an exciting business venture and Mr Rawcliffe (German) is leaving the school after 32 years of committed service to teaching. Mrs Palmer (Maths/SEN) is retiring, having supported children to develop their mathematical skills in a highly professional manner. All of these teachers have contributed a fantastic amount to the school during their time at Sir William Robertson and we wish them all well for the future. In the next newsletter I shall introduce the new staff who are joining us.

All that remains is to wish you all a good, and hopefully sunny, Summer and we look forward to welcoming all of our pupils safely back in September, well rested and prepared for the challenges of a new year.

Best Wishes,
Mark Guest
Headteacher

Spanish Trip - Year 8 - 15th - 20th June

Forty-six Linguists/Artists set out on an epic journey of culture and adventure to Barcelona in Spain. After months of tireless organisation by Miss McCobb, departure day finally came around and, pillows under arm, we all boarded the coach on Tuesday morning. We drove almost non stop down through England, through the Eurotunnel, down past Paris and finally, the next morning, arrived at our accommodation in Spain. After a such a long trip and almost no sleep due to excitement, we spent the first day settling in and soaking up some of the local atmosphere with a walk into Callela and a bit of early shopping, putting our Spanish skills to their first real test. In the evening we headed to the beach for a spot of beach volleyball and beach rounders, enjoying the warm sand and sea breeze.

An early Thursday start followed an early night and we set off for Barcelona and a tour of the works of Antoni Gaudi. We had an amazing tour guide who knew everything there was to know about Barcelona, from the way the traffic moved through the city to the cost of the apartments in Gaudi's buildings. We went on to see the famous Casa Milà and the Sagrada Familia and were surprised to learn that despite starting construction in 1882, the builders



aim to have it finished in the next 20 years! Get booking early, there will be a rush on. After lunch at Gaudi's park we all re-boarded the bus for Camp Nou- home of footballing giants Barcelona. It was hard to imagine how the ground must look full of fans but it is amazing even empty, and it boasts a trophy room with more awards that can be counted. Finally we headed to the IMAX theatre at the Barcelona marina, Port Vell, a place full of luxury yachts and amazing architecture. At the end of a long day we got back to the hotel just in time to have dinner and then head to bed for our next day of adventure.

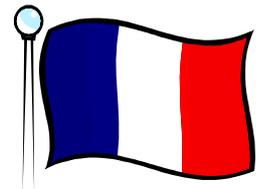
Friday was our visit to Gerona, the famous Roman city. Here we toured the town taking in some Roman churches and castles before entering the buildings and looking at the Roman baths. After lunch in Gerona we moved on to visit Figueres, home of the museum of Salvador Dali, a famous Catalonian surrealist. While some of the work was beyond our normal comprehension we certainly learnt that Dali was both skilful and imaginative- though the dancing puppets on invisible string outside the museum also took up a lot of interest. Another long bus ride saw us back in Barcelona and a visit to L'Aquarium, Europe's largest Aquarium. There was an amazing collection of all sorts of marine animals, from Penguins to Jellyfish and Sharks to Seahorses.

It is hard to describe how we managed to fit so much in to such a short space of time, and how much fun we all had. The work of Gaudi influencing a whole city, the genius of Dali and his abstract thinking to the hard work of the staff and friendliness of the local people all led to a fantastic school trip. A big thank you to Miss McCobb, Mr Hardy, Miss Garner and Mr Norton for their hard work in making the trip run so smoothly, and of course to all the others such as the coach drivers who kept us safe. The journey home took us over the Millau Viaduct in France, the tallest bridge in the world, and after such a hectic few days we managed to get some well deserved rest in while the bus rolled on back to school. Even though no one was really home sick it was great to be back, arriving Sunday afternoon, just giving us enough time to catch up on some sleep before school on Monday. All the pupils arrived home in good spirits and with a big Gracias! for such a wonderful trip.

Mr Seymour



Community Courses at Sir William Robertson High School



In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council

Basic French & Basic Spanish

Two short 10 week courses for total beginners who would like to learn the basics

Would you like to be able to cope in situations such as...?

****ordering food and drink****

****asking for directions****

****booking accommodation****

Learn French and/or Spanish in a relaxed enjoyable way.

Courses cost £25.00 each



To enquire about a place on the next course

Please contact: Mrs Quincey

Tel: 01400 272422

enquiries@swrhs.org



Sponsor Wanted



The MFL department are looking for a company to sponsor a competition.

Do you work for a company that would be willing to sponsor a prize (large or small) to help us?

If you would like more information please contact

Mrs Quincey 01400 272422

Primary Languages Festival 2010

Approximately 120 pupils from local primary schools came to celebrate their achievements and show off their talents in modern foreign languages in our annual primary languages festival on Thursday 1st July. The five judges had the tough decision of finding an overall winner after being entertained with a medley of delightful songs, sketches and short plays in French, Spanish and even Latin! Framed certificates and prizes were awarded for creativity, outstanding performance, accuracy of language and communicative excellence to Leadham, Long Bennington, Welbourn and Ancaster primary schools with the overall prize awarded to St. John's at Bracebridge Heath for their charming French presentation of 'Le Radi Geant' A big thank you also to a group of year our 9 pupils who taught the youngsters to order their snack in either French or German and generally helped out with the morning's activities.



Miss McCobb

SWRHS Rocks The Drill Hall!



Once again, for the third year in a row, SWRHS pupils proved how creative they can be; designing, making and modelling garments on the catwalk at the annual Fashion Show in Lincoln.

Our project this year involved some year 9 pupils who are Gifted and Talented in Art. They visited Lincoln to draw from the architecture of the cathedral and other buildings in uphill Lincoln. Back in school, they worked for 2 days with the textile artist, Sue Rowland, learning a range of textile techniques which they used to develop their unique designs. We selected a colour theme of blue, black, white & silver to create a 'collection'

which worked when seen as a whole.

Many Lincolnshire schools participate in the Fashion Show and it is a fantastic showcase for students and schools. Apart from a group from a primary school, our pupils were the youngest and the only group not following an examination course at GCSE or A Level, and yet their work stood out as being of exceptional quality and as good as the older students.

R.E.A.D. Book Award

R.E.A.D (Resourcing Education and Development) is an association of secondary school librarians in Lincolnshire who meet on a regular basis to promote reading, to exchange ideas, and for professional development.

For the first time this year R.E.A.D promoted a local Book Award for the best 'Amazing Adventure' series. The shortlist consisted of the six most popular adventure series, nominated by the participating schools.

The competition ran from September 2009 until May 2010, allowing pupils' sufficient time to read as many books from each series as possible.

Pupils were invited to vote for their favourite series and also enter a book review competition. A Year 7 english group, led by Mrs Settery, followed this Award and a small group had the pleasure of attending the awards ceremony on 23rd June at Bourne Grammar School. Joe Craig, the famous children's author and one of the authors of the 'adventure series' nominated, entertained pupils from nine participating schools with his humorous stories before announcing the winning series, Alex Rider by Anthony Horowitz.



It was a fantastic day and two of our pupils, Conor Elliott and Edward Fox, participated in presentations, one on the profile of author Mark Walden and the other on one of the book reviews submitted. It was wonderful seeing so many youngsters engaged in reading for pleasure and also sharing their thoughts with each other.

We look forward to the next award which will be in 2012. *Mrs Morton*

EXAMINATION RESULTS

GCSE results are officially published by awarding bodies on Thursday 26th August. However they are being released to schools on Tuesday 24th August, enabling us to produce a statement of provisional results for all Year 11 pupils which should be accepted by sixth form and FE colleges.

School will therefore be open on Tuesday 24th August from 10.30 am until 3.30 pm for Year 11 pupils to collect their GCSE and other results.

School will also be open on Thursday 26th August from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon for any pupil who needs to collect their awarding body statement of provisional results.

Please note that we are unable to release examination results to pupils by telephone or email unless there are exceptional circumstances. Pupils should contact Mrs Williams in the school office to make alternative arrangements if they are unable to collect their results on the above dates.

Examination certificates are usually received at school in October, and details for their collection will be sent out in the autumn term 2010.

Oh What a Night!

Wednesday 30th June saw the biggest crowd ever from school at the Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark to celebrate the end of an era for Y11 pupils at the annual school prom.

The highlight of the evening is always the arrival of pupils in the different modes of transport. Each year we think there cannot be anything that we have never seen before but each year someone manages to think up a novel means of getting to the prom. This year it was on a mobility scooter!

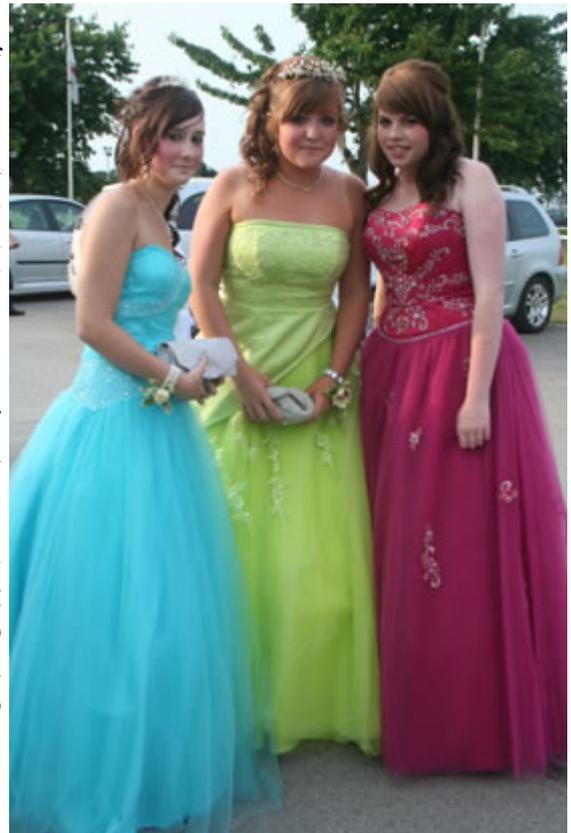
The dresses of all of our girls were amazing; it always surprises the staff that there are never two identical dresses. Our young men also looked incredibly smart in suits (yes, with top buttons fastened on shirts!) and we even had one in a kilt.

This year there was a little more entertainment. Pupils were able to have a flutter on a blackjack or roulette table, using plastic chips instead of real cash. It was exciting to count up at the end who had won the most chips: Roberto Leighton and Sam Thompson managed to beat everyone. Well done to them both!

We also presented a few “comical” awards to individuals who had been, for example, the most talkative or best joke teller during their time at school.

And of course there was the 3 course meal and disco. Mr Seymour led many of the pupils in a conga line on a tour of the dance floor; no-one knew he could move so well!

All in all it was another huge success. Pupils enjoyed their evening immensely and staff looked on proudly at this year group who are leaving SWRHS and going on to many different places. ***Mrs Hardy***



Leicester Trip

This term the Humanities Department took the majority of the Year 8 pupils on a Cultural and Religious visit to Leicester. We were lucky to be able to visit the Madressa Falahe Darain, an Islamic Mosque and Education Centre and the Shree Hindu Temple and Community Centre. After arriving and removing our shoes (as is the customary sign of respect) we all sat in the main hall where Muslim prayers take place. The Imam from the Mosque talked through the Islamic faith, explaining their key beliefs and rituals, such as the 5 pillars of Islam and Zakat, the donation of money to those less fortunate than themselves. Pupils were given a chance to



ask questions and were impressive ambassadors for the school, asking some challenging and thoughtful questions on the role of Women in Islam and the expectations on Muslims in their daily lives. We certainly learnt that Islam is a peaceful religion. In fact it is a way of life as well as a religion, where everyone is seen as equal.

After lunch in a local park, we moved on to visit the nearby Shree Hindu Temple. After removing our shoes again, we entered the temple to see a wonderful display of various avatars in their shrines and colourful scenic pictures on the walls. There was a big difference between the formality of the Islamic Mosque and the more relaxed nature of the temple. This soon came across when we learnt how Hindus can choose which God to worship, unlike Islamic dedication to the one God, Allah, and the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him).

We were given a history of the various Gods in Hinduism and an explanation of some of the symbolism, such as the flute and the coconut. Hindus not only believe in reincarnation, but like Muslims, in the equality and effort we should show in being good citizens. As part of this they fed all the pupils with some cultural dishes such as a traditional Hindu coconut ice cream. After showing our gratitude and appreciation, we packed up and headed back to school. It was good to see how some of the things we learn about in RE actually look in real life. As a result, our appreciation of Britain as a diverse nation and our understanding of our fellow



cultures and religions has certainly improved. Many thanks to the members of staff who helped the trip run so smoothly, and staff at both the Mosque and Temple who made the visits so enjoyable. *Mr Seymour*

Junior Mathematics Challenge

CONNOR BRUNSDEN EXCELS IN MATHS CHALLENGE

Gifted and Talented students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the 2010 Junior Mathematics Challenge, arranged by United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT).

Thirty-Six students from across the year groups attempted a collection of multiple-choice questions with a high degree of difficulty attached to them. The pressure of the questions were increased by the possibility of being docked marks for incorrect answers, meaning students were required to choose their answers carefully.

The results were very encouraging. Students across each year group gained either a gold, silver or bronze award for their efforts, with other students receiving a certificate of participation for taking part with interest and enthusiasm.

The highest achiever was **Connor Brunsten**, who not only achieved a gold award, but was elected to take part in the Junior Maths Olympiad (see below). Students who also received a gold award were **James Evans, Martha O'Brien and Rebecca Andrew**, all from Year 8.

The list below are students that gained an award (Year 8 unless stated):

Gold: Connor Brunsten (best in school), James Evans, Martha O'Brien, Rebecca Andrew

Silver: Luke Chapman (Year 7), Jem Renshaw, Lewis O'Hanrahan, Matt Taylor, Cameron O'Hara

Bronze: Emily Sanderberg, Jacob Connolly, Harry Lovatt

Connor Brunsten, the highest achiever in the school, has recently taken the Olympiad exam. We, as a school, are very proud of his achievements. He was unable to gain an award this time but his results were very encouraging and suggest that he will continue to excel in the subject in the future.

We hope that the SWRHS students of the future will show the same enthusiasm as this group of mathematicians have done during this challenge. They continue to be a credit to the school. *Mr Barnes*



Connor Brunsten

Bali Rai



Year 8 were the targeted audience of famous childrens' author Bali Rai for the day on Friday, 9th July. He entertained the pupils with three group sessions in the library with his amusing stories about how he writes his books and where he gets his ideas from. An additional session involving twenty pupils had the privilege of being part of a creative writing group and Bali also made time to sign personal copies of some of his books for those who purchased them.

Having a visiting author to our school has become an annual event in supporting the development of a whole-school reading environment by promoting reading for pleasure and raising reading levels. For Bali, the greatest thing about being a writer is for a young reader to say 'your book made me want to read more books'. He enjoys the honest feedback from readers he meets during his school visits and indeed, some of the more eccentric ones may find themselves turning up as a character in his next book.

We are already thinking about next year's guest and hope the next one will be just as inspiring as Bali. Watch this space! *Mrs Morton*

Year 9 – Introduction to Work Experience

Our Year 9's were fortunate enough to take part in a Work Experience Introduction Day run by Sarah Hastings of the EBP in preparation for next year. The day was focussed on what to expect and how they could prepare during the summer holidays thinking about their interests and trying to match these to possible placements. They looked at different areas of work and how to apply to businesses and in particular using the telephone. BT kindly lent us several telephones for the day for pupils to practice this skill by applying for a fictitious placement. It was a successful day that really got the pupils talking to each other about their ideas. As yet, pupils are not actually applying for placements as we still have rather a lot of preparation to do before this can happen! They can, however, be thinking of types of placements that they feel would suit



SlamJam Final

On Tuesday 29th June, SWRHS battled it out against the other winners of the regional heats in order to become the SlamJam Champion of 2009. Edward Fox in Year 8, gave a confident and entertaining performance of his monologue 'I think I'm going to like it here.'

SlamJam is a celebration of the spoken word, through poetry and storytelling. The competition aims to encourage creativity and offers participants the chance to express themselves in front of a live audience and a 'discerning' panel of judges. It is the second time that the competition, for 11-18 year olds, has been held in the county. The event was held at the Drill Hall in Lincoln, giving the performers a nerve-wracking, yet thrilling, opportunity to appear on stage before a large and very responsive audience.

Fifteen schools competed from all over Lincolnshire and the standard of performances, at all Key Stages, was even higher than last year's. The variety of material performed was staggering and certainly took the audience on an emotional rollercoaster of a ride. After their performances, the pupils received feedback from the panel of judges. Last year, it was felt that the judges' comments were too harsh; this year the comments were much kinder. Ed was praised for the standard of his writing; the judges congratulated him on his use of figurative language, his confident delivery and the way in which he used actions to vividly bring to life his memories of starting secondary school. One of the youngest entrants, he certainly held his own against the older competitors.



Despite not winning his category, at the end of the evening Ed was singled out for praise by several members of the audience. He had a fantastic evening and is all set to compete in SlamJam 2011!

Mrs Ditton

Year 10 Castleton Trip

Forty-Nine Year 10 students studying GCSE Geography and BTEC Travel and Tourism spent the day in Castleton, Derbyshire looking at how tourism is managed in the Peak District. They were involved in several activities including street surveys, car park surveys and generally looked at signs of tourist activity within the area.

Although it rained all day, the students enjoyed the tasks and even asked for a repeat visit in the future.

Mr Roberts

More Achievements!

Congratulations to our Year 11 COPE group. All have successfully achieved their wider key skills and COPE qualifications. These qualifications are recognised by employers and colleges and are the culminations of two years hard work. *Mrs Davies*

2010 FIFA WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA™

11 JUNE - 11 JULY



FIFA would have been proud at the level of participation witnessed at the 2010 SWRHS World Cup Football Finals. Over 100 Year 7, 8 and 9 boys took part in the event representing the last eight countries to stage the FIFA World Football Cups.

The competition was run by the current Year 10 GCSE pupils. They attained the Football Association Junior Leaders Award earlier in the year and put their skills to practice by helping organise, manage, lead and officiate during the competition.

The early group games saw close matches but the four teams who progressed into the semi-finals were Argentina, USA, Mexico and Germany. Prior to these games the German hotshot Alex Stayne was leading the “Golden Boot” award with 5 goals!

The results of the semi-final games were no real surprise, with Germany and Argentina setting up a predictable last match. However the crushing 7 – 0 win by Argentina with the goal machine Alec Swaby netting 4 times sent him to the top of the goal scorers’ chart.

For the final, the real World Cup was flown in from China, 100% nine carrot plaster (it did look good though). The final was well supported and the majority of the school together with our new Year 7’s witnessed the tense encounter. Neither team was giving much away in the first half although if a team were going to score, Diego Maradona’s team looked the most likely. The second half followed the first with both teams canceling each other out.

So sudden death penalties! We can not name and shame those who had the courage to come up and take the penalty kicks, let’s just say the result of the competition was one we have all heard before: Germany won on Penalty kicks! *Mr Symmons*

A BIG THANK YOU

once again to all those who sent in the TESCO vouchers. We have had a record number collected this year enabling us to purchase pots and pans for the Food Technology department and Special Need resources for the English and RE departments.

Morrisons are starting their vouchers again in September and we urge you to collect these as well and send them into school. These schemes really do benefit our school enabling us to purchase additional items for departments thus stretching the budgets a little further.

Mrs Giddings



2010 Kesteven District Championships 2010

Sir William Robertson High School took pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 to participate in the Kesteven District Athletic Championships held at the Meres in Grantham. The pupils participated to their best ability, most reaching the finals of their discipline.

Penni Vidler	800m	Silver	Thea Thompson	100m	Silver
	Shot	Silver		200m	Silver
	100m	Bronze			
Cloe Hubbard	1500m	Gold			

Overall the Inter Girls Team came 3rd in the large schools competition.

Sam Wooler	Long Jump	Bronze	James Evans	Long Jump	Silver
Cameron Hall	400m	Bronze	Jordan Thomas	High Jump	Silver
Toby Smith	Relay	Silver			
George Ryan					
Harry Ginnif					
Jordan Thomas					

The other pupils that took part were:

Amy Meagher, Tobey Vidler, Skye Jennings, Liam Moran, Jack Maggs, Anna Kempster, Jade Paul, Sarah Cliffe, Amie Hardy, Darci Horribin, Bethany Phillips, Emily Taylor, Edward Maccallum, Matthew Holland, Steven Tranmer and Doug Sleeman

Congratulations to all that took part.

More Sports Results!

ROUNDERS - KESTEVEN & DISTRICT CHAMPTIONSHIPS

Year 7 girls came 4th

Year 8 girls came joint 1st.

Year 9 girls came 3rd

Year 10 came 2nd

CRICKET

The Year 7 boys cricket team were victorious in the first ever school match against Central. For some of the team it was their first ever hard ball cricket game!! William Robertson batted first and scored 115. Notable batting performances were Tom Kemp, 27 not out and Tom Lane 20 not out. In return Central could only muster 53 runs, Will Stevens being the pick of the bowlers.

House Match

Dragoon were the double winners of the House cricket for 2010. There were many great performances and these will be celebrated in assemblies at the end of term. For pictures of the winning teams visit the PE website.

For more information on house matches, school fixtures, clubs and even your GCSE homework visit the school website and click on Physical Education!!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR INVIGILATORS

to help oversee our examinations.

It is a part-time role, but can make a real difference to the smooth-running of examinations for the candidates.

Full training will be given and we pay £6.85 per hour.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer, committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. Successful applicants will be required to undergo an Enhanced CRB check, and from November 2010 must be registered with the ISA.

If you are interested in finding out more about being an invigilator, please contact:

Mrs S Williams in the school office - Tel: 01400 272422

Or E-mail: enquiries@swrhs.org

HELP US TO HELP YOU! Keep us informed

Please make sure that we have up-to-date contact information if we need to speak to you during the school day. Forms are available from the school office.

Absences

If your child is absent from school or has a medical appointment, you can leave a telephone message by:

- Dialing 01400 272422
- Selecting option 3 to record pupil sickness/absence/medical appointment
- Selecting option 5 to report anything else or leave a message for a named member of staff.

Attendance is monitored weekly and parents are contacted about unexplained absences!

Term Dates for your Diary 2010/11

Term 1	Tuesday, 7th September 2010 - Years 7 and 11 Wednesday, 8th September 2010 - All Years End of Term Friday, 22nd October 2010
Term 2	Monday, 1st November 2010 - Friday, 17th December 2010
Term 3	Tuesday 4th January 2011 - Friday, 18th February 2011
Term 4	Monday, 28th February 2011 - Friday, 8th April 2011
Term 5	Wednesday, 27th April 2011 - Friday, 27th May 2011
Term 6	Monday, 6th June 2011 - Wednesday, 22nd July 2011