

Newsletter Summer 2023

I simply cannot believe a whole year has gone by since our last newsletter! Time flies when you're having fun!

September 2022 saw Julia, Lucy and Rosie awarded with Gold Summer Challenge certificates. Julia had completed the most challenges in the history of The Boathouse, for which she was duly congratulated with a HUGE bar of Dairy Milk! Little Alice achieved a Bronze certificate, quite an accomplishment for one so young! Emma won the splits improvement trophy, Lucy the balance challenge and Lilija the photo challenge. We also bade farewell to Elisa as, accompanied by Miss Emily, she started at Elmhurst Ballet School.



October was a busy festival month with Eva S dancing her ballet solo for the very first time at Solent Novice and Southsea Festivals and placing 4th, and Emily and Emma placing 3rd for their duet. Lucy danced brilliantly too. Tilly was also very excited to take part in an online Royal Ballet School Junior Associate Insight Day, which she loved.

World Ballet Day is celebrated in November (in case that had somehow passed you by!) and since before Covid, Miss Emily had been wanting to mark it with her keenest Wednesday students. Mr Emily set Bury Village Hall up with a projector so we could watch the Royal Ballet Company's daily class and Domino's delivered pizza! Sadly, we didn't manage to watch the whole class as there was a power cut (you couldn't make it up!) but the children embraced the fun of a pizza party in the dark! November also saw a very successful Kingston Festival for us, with Jemima and Sophia's duet placing 1st and Lucy achieving her highest mark yet for her character solo.



Once again, our Christmas Watching Days were well-attended and the children seemed very proud to show friends and family their progress. Our Christmas Performance was "The Snowman" and everyone, from the smallest Snowflake to Father Christmas herself performed brilliantly and had a lot of fun in the process. The holidays started later for some, as Eva S, Emily, Julia and Rose took their Grade 1 and 2 ballet exams. We ended the year on a real high, upon hearing that Elisa "shone" in her first ballet assessment at Elmhurst. Having seen her in the Elmhurst Christmas Performance, this is a statement Miss Emily can well believe!



2023 started in the most amazing way, with Kevin O'Hare, Director of the Royal Ballet, offering to meet us at stage door before we watched The Nutcracker and to give us our own backstage tour of the Royal Opera House! We saw the dancers warming up and were even allowed onto the stage itself, and to explore the set! We truly cannot thank him enough for his generosity and for giving us all a day we will never, ever forget. They even held the whole performance for us while we found our seats!



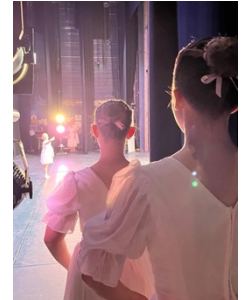


February was, as always, busy. Faye and Tilly performed at Bognor Regis, Chichester and Solent Festivals, with Faye achieving a bronze medal for her second ever performance of her ballet solo and Tilly a silver for her character solo. Isla-Rose also took the opportunity to take part in the Royal Ballet School's online Junior Associate insight class, which really inspired her. And Miss Emily and Mr Christopher got married!

As well as the children rehearsing for and performing their Mothers' Day "Surprise", it was also lovely to see so many of you at the Spring Watching Days. At Worthing Festival, Jemima and Sophia overcame their duet being stopped by the adjudicator due to disruption in the audience to win 1st place! Festivals teach so many good life lessons and I was very proud of their professionalism and resilience.

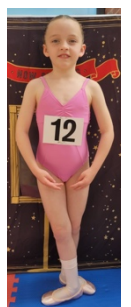


April, too, was a very busy and exciting month! Tilly took part in the Southern Dance Class Awards and performed beautifully, even in styles she had never done before, like jazz! I was very proud of her just for putting herself out there and giving everything her best effort, but the cherry on the cake was her being awarded the "Most Promising Dancer Aged 7-9" trophy! Next up was Sussex Festival at the beautiful Roedean School. Tilly placed 3rd in her modern solo and 4th in her character solo and Sophia placed 3rd in her character solo, qualifying for All England Regional Finals next May! Our lovely Intermediate Ballet Group also had the opportunity to perform on the massive stage at The Hawth again and was placed 2nd. At the end of April, we headed to the unlikely venue of Billingshurst Leisure Centre for a new competition, "South East Stars". We were over the moon to win every classical section! Well done to Emily, Emma, Eva S, Faye, Jemima, Lois, Lucy and Sophia.



After a quieter, calmer May, in June (following Miss Emily's Big Announcement!), we hosted our first ever live examiner at Bury Village Hall. Eva, Faye, Freya, Rosie and Sophie B all took their Primary exam, Hattie and Jessie - Grade 1, Tilly - Grade 3, and Lois and Lucy - Grade 5. We were delighted that every, single one of them received either Distinction or Merit. Well done everyone! We also had a successful Southampton Festival, with Tilly winning her character solo and qualifying it for All England Regional Finals next May, and Sophia placing 3rd for her character solo. Finally, Tilly received the

astounding news that, following her audition, she has been placed on the Short Waiting List for the Royal Ballet School's Junior Associate programme and, in the meantime, will receive online classes with them! Thousands of children apply for very few spaces so this is a huge achievement; well done Tiny Tilly!

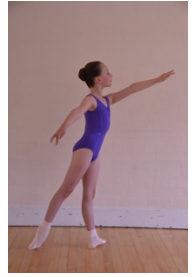


The school year ended in true Boathouse fashion with our Summer Watching Days, followed by the whole school Défilé and Reports Presentation. As always, it was humbling to see Bury Village Hall so full and to reminisce on how far our little ballet school has come in just a few years!





Over the summer, we received more fantastic news from some of our keenest students: Lucy successfully auditioned for English Youth Ballet's production of Coppélia which will be performed at The Hawth in November, and Isla-Rose and Tilly were both offered places on Camille Bracher's "Ballet Base" Associate programme. Isla-Rose also attended her first Summer School at Masters of Ballet Academy in London and loved every moment. Tilly danced beautifully at Petersfield festival and, finally,



Miss Emily enjoyed one more trip up to Birmingham to see Elisa perform in her Summer Performance. She made her very proud indeed.

Here's to another full and exciting year ahead!

With warm wishes,

Miss Emily