

Rising stars



MUSICAL FAMILIES: Former pupils the Mills and the Trotters

By Debbie Cotton

THE Mills and Trotter families were pupils at Preston between 1992 and 2004. Alex and Matthew Trotter and Jack, Olivia and Peter Mills all agreed that Preston had been great at motivating them to pursue musical interests. The boys all started learning brass instruments and Olivia the double bass whilst in KS 2 and went on to perform with the Brass band and Orchestra at Eggescliffe Comprehensive school. The high standard of music they experience there brings them both personal satisfaction and the opportunity to perform regularly for live audiences.

They all have happy memories of performances at Preston undertaken in Y6 before they left. The children had the opportunity of

working with staff from the drama department at Eggescliffe.

"It was great fun and good preparation for the transition between Primary and Secondary school", said Jack.

The students have wide ranging musical achievements. Jack plays bass guitar in the soul band "About Time" which along with the Eggescliffe Brass band toured Italy last summer.

Matthew is a member of the Tees Valley Youth Choir who were runners up in last years BBC Choir of the year competition, appearing at the Millenium Centre in Cardiff.

Alex is a member of The National Youth Brass Band with whom he tours twice yearly. Alex is intending to make music his career and has been offered a place to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance for next September.

Cue, action - at last



ALI BABA: Year 6 perform at Eggescliffe School

By Jean Coulthard

THIS was the headline in the Darlington and Stockton Times in July 2000 - but July 2007 will see productions benefit from a new venue - a state of the art hall here at Preston Primary School with sound and lighting.

Since 2000, we have worked with Eggescliffe School and either performed there or in our old hall. Pupils and staff are very excited

about the new facilities and are looking forward to using them to enhance their forthcoming performances. Natalie Broughton (Year 6 in 2000) told us:

"Ali Baba was such a wonderful experience for my friends and I, we were so grateful for the opportunity to perform it as our leavers concert. It was so much fun to take part in and was a perfect way to say goodbye to each other and Preston."

Star in the making

By Year 4 & 5 Children

HOLLY Robinson is on the road to stardom. Currently a student at Eggescliffe she is hoping to make singing her future career. Holly admits that this ambition started with her performance in the Year 6 production of "Ali Baba."

"I'd always enjoyed singing," she admits "But it was after the show that one of the staff, Mrs Kell persuaded me that I should have professional singing lessons."

Her obvious talent can be heard in her performances with the soul band "About Time" at the twice yearly concerts held at Eggescliffe School.

Holly not only sings but also trains hard as a dancer and is studying drama at "A" level.

She is intending to take up a place at a Performing Arts College in September.

"I have a rather dramatic personality," laughed Holly, "And I feel I can express myself through my singing. It's something I can give back to other people."



SINGER: Holly Robinson

Musical Preston Primary



IN TUNE: Harry Wang

By Ian Wang

HARRY Wang is currently a pupil at Eggescliffe Comprehensive School. Previously he was at Preston, where he learned to play the violin. He is also a pianist and is a member of the Eggescliffe School Orchestra. His first piano piece was called "Ode to Joy", which he learned when he was 8 years old. He said that he wanted to learn to play music because hearing other people play had inspired him. Harry really enjoyed playing for the whole school in assemblies whilst at Preston.