

## **A Day of fun at Disneyland!**

After our very hardworking day singing around the Somme at the ANZAC Day ceremonies the boys were looking forward to a day of relaxation and enjoyment of Disneyland Resort Paris.

We took the drive down from Amiens and enjoyed the countryside as we went with the boys asking every 15 minutes or so 'Are we there yet?'. Finally arriving at our hotel, The Cheyenne, we were greeted by Goofy cavorting around the lobby. With only one room ready, it was all bags stacked inside and off to the park.

There was a real sense of excitement within the group with Liam Jones, one of the senior school boys literally jumping up and down with anticipation.

As it was almost lunchtime we ate straight away and while the boys were hungry it was an effort to keep them still long enough to eat.

Inside we made the decision to hit Frontierland first and all headed for the Thunder Mountain Railway, a sedate looking, but not sedate acting wild train ride up and down rocky canyons. With some deep breathing even some of the more reserved members of the group summoned up the courage to ride and we all had a great time.

Many boys then went on to the Haunted Mansion and the shops were given a work over.

We moved on to Adventureland where we again decided to live dangerously and try the Indiana Jones and the Temple of Peril rollercoaster, a gut churning experience with a 360 degree loop. We were surprised by those with the intestinal fortitude to ride and with only a 5 minute wait, many ran straight round and went again! Pirates of the Caribbean was next which was a more gentle experience and some boys climbed the Swiss Family Robinson Treehouse. A few grabbed a bite to eat or drink. All this fun is hard work.

The group made the call to skip Fantasyland, [although one or two went with a teacher], as most of the rides were of a sedate nature and we headed as a group to Discoveryland where the monster of all roller coasters - Space Mountain is found. This all black 360 degree loop, corkscrew ride which starts with the train being shot out of an enormous cannon was the hit of the day and once again many boys rode it a second or even third time. Buzz Lightyear ride was also a great hit and the shops attracted a significant crowd.

We then headed for Buffalo Bill's Wild West show which was a live horse/cattle and man adventure which loosely [very loosely] told the story of how the west was won. There was a great deal of audience participation with the audience divided into four 'teams', much cheering and jeering and as it is a dinner-theatre chowing down while we watched.

Heather Barman and Jill Woodger were drafted to act as damsels in distress and rode a stage coach during an outlaw scene and Joshua Healey was selected to compete in a shooting competition hosted by Annie Oakley, which he won!

A great deal of fun was had by all and although our voices were a bit worse for wear due to all the cheering, we went home happy after a full day of fun.

On Monday we travel back to London via the channel ferry, will have dinner out and then an early night in preparation for our last sightseeing and rehearsal day on Tuesday. Wednesday will start bright and early with the dawn service in Hyde Park!