

	<p>Mrs Barbara Bell, Director The Primary Latin Project <a href="http://www.minimus.com">www.minimus.com</a> Follow us on Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/minimus_Latin">@minimus_Latin</a></p>	<p>82 Swiss Drive Ashton Bristol. BS3 2RW Tel: 0117 953 1819 <a href="mailto:bmbellmini@aol.com">bmbellmini@aol.com</a></p>
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## Newsletter 61 – January 2017

Dear Supporter,

### All Change in the Primary Latin Project

Whenever I met the late Sir Jeremy Morse at Classics functions he showed great interest in the progress and spread of *Minimus*. He wanted to know sales figures of the various *Minimus* components and plans for creating new materials in the future. He was delighted to hear that many primary schools have decided to make Latin their designated language and he very much enjoyed stories of pupils who began their Latin with *Minimus* and were now at the stage of embarking on University degrees in Classical subjects. The on-going support of the whole Morse family, both in terms of generous financial support and encouragement, has been very much appreciated by me personally and by our committee over more than 20 years.

However, Jeremy always took the long term view of the project and on each of our meetings he would say “How are you getting on Barbara on the search for your successor.” I usually failed to make eye contact with him, shuffled about nervously, and said “Not very well Jeremy.” Jeremy died last February and his words about my successor have come back to me many times, after a period of family illness and some stress in the Autumn I realised his wisdom – I simply had to look long term and find the right person to take over from me.

That person is Mrs Jayne Treasure. Any of you who know Jayne will endorse my decision, backed up by the PLP committee, to ask Jayne to shadow me for a year as deputy director of PLP, with a view to taking over from me in late Autumn 2017. I have known Jayne for over 35 years and having observed her in the classroom when we were both teaching at Haberdashers Girls School in Monmouth I know that her scholarship, professionalism and passion for Classics makes her just the right person. Add to that the fact that Jayne has semi-retired but finds herself very busy fulfilling her own personal mission to spread Classics in the state sector. She is teaching two *Minimus* clubs currently and loving it and she also teaches some Latin and Classical Civilisation at Crickhowell High School. Jayne visited the committee to report on some of the exciting developments in Classics in Wales and in 2015 she became one of my team of *Minimus* Trainers. Jayne has carried out a number of speaking engagements on my behalf and has run some very successful training events and following Wendy Hunt's stroke in the summer, Jayne kindly stepped in and agreed to run our Grant Fund. For so many reasons she was the obvious person and I was thrilled when she accepted my proposal, we are already working closely together so that she is becoming well acquainted with the many different facets of the *Minimus* world.

I am so pleased that PLP is going to be in such safe hands. I will not be walking away from *Minimus* but Jayne's closer involvement with the day to day running of the project will leave me more time to create new materials with Helen Forte. We will announce clearly on the *Minimus* website when Jayne has become the Director of the PLP and this is likely to be early in November 2017.

### Trainers and Training

Thanks to on-going support from Classics for All the PLP has changed the pattern of training

teachers to teach *Minimus*. Schools can approach me directly or Hilary Hodgson from Classics for All ([hodgson.hilary@gmail.com](mailto:hodgson.hilary@gmail.com)) requesting training for their school. Hilary and I are frequently in touch and decide which of the trainers has the best experience and the best geographical location for that particular request. To be a *Minimus* trainer requires at least a years teaching of *Minimus* in the classroom, as well as many other criteria. We currently have 14 trainers based around the country but there are some serious gaps, for example we have no-one from Ireland (North or South) in our group; the North West of England - Liverpool, Chester, etc is not covered at all; we need more trainers in the London area. If you feel that this is something that you would like to do and if you live in any of those areas please get in touch with me. We have drawn up a list of criteria for becoming a *Minimus* Trainer and I am putting the various criteria here:-

The criteria to become a *Minimus* Trainer are that you need to have taught *Minimus* for at least a year; that you enjoy teaching it and are passionate about spreading it; that you have good people skills and respond promptly to e-mails and can be flexible about timings. If you are interested in becoming a trainer we have a 'Train the Trainers Day' at Birmingham University on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.

If you feel you meet this criteria please write me a short paragraph of application saying why you want to become a *Minimus* Trainer. If you are successful your travel expenses to all venues will be paid and you will be paid a fee for carrying out either a full day or a half days training. We simply could not run these events without the help of Classics for All and we are most grateful.

### **Are you new to *Minimus*?**

If you take on *Minimus* teaching you may find the plethora of different resources rather confusing, please go to the *Minimus* website, [www.minimus.com](http://www.minimus.com), and click on 'New to *Minimus*' for a list of which materials are available from Cambridge University Press or the Hellenic Bookservice; which items are only available from Nick Bell (*Minimus-et-cetera*), 82 Swiss Drive, Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2RW and what other materials there are that you may still be lacking. If you are in any doubt please get in touch with me direct.

### **New Materials**

There is clearly some confusion amongst teachers as to which of the *Minimus* materials are essential for teaching it and which are desirable and even more confusion over where to buy them! Allow me to clarify:-

- 1) *Minimusculus* – this has just been produced, before Christmas, and is a booklet of pre-*Minimus* material designed for the very young. We have been so pleased by the number of advanced orders we have received, it is ideal for younger siblings when their older brothers and sisters are studying *Minimus* at School. Designed for children aged 3 – 6 and is mostly in English. In response to requests from teachers we have taught the children Latin numbers 1 – 10 and a few phrases of greeting, if you would like to order a copy for your school, for a particular child, grandchild, etc please note that this can only be obtained from our business *Minimus-et-cetera*, you can pay for any of our products by cheque or if you have internet banking you can pay by BACS transfer, we do not have credit card facilities. If you buy *Minimusculus* we will e-mail to you a double sided sheet of A4 songs, these are songs in English to well known tunes but we have altered the words to make the songs deal with Vindolanda, the family, the Roman Army and so on, you will also receive by e-mail a page of notes for adults. In due course you will be given a password which gives you

access to some new material on-line for the very young including a colouring sheet.

This book would be an ideal introduction to Vindolanda and the characters in *Minimus* for younger siblings and it has proved to be a popular Christmas present from grandparents.

- 2) To teach *Minimus* you need a copy of the Pupils Book *Minimus starting out in Latin* for each pupil and at least one copy of the Teachers Resource Book. The CD, on which we recorded all the picture stories, is a great help in the classroom it provides change of voice and help with the pronunciation of the Latin. These are the basics and can be obtained from Cambridge University Press or the Hellenic Bookservice in London. In addition, there are materials which are highly desirable, and these include *Minimus In Practice* – an examination of the cross curricular links between Latin and the rest of the curriculum and three sets of Minibooks – these are readers which do not advance the grammar.

I hope this has clarified the situation with the different materials.

### **What else is going on**

The rest of the training group and the PLP Committee have all been extremely busy during the Autumn in promoting *Minimus* and I am so grateful that this particular load has been spread around the country so successfully. Please find below some reports from the group on how they have been getting on:-

#### ***Minimus*: What's happening in Wales (South Powys and Monmouthshire):**

*Minimus* Clubs continue to run in two primary schools in the Crickhowell area. The Workbooks have proved to be very popular again this year, with some children working through the exercises between our sessions. Both schools received grants from the PLP at the initial stage. These two primary schools are feeder schools for Crickhowell High School where Latin is now offered as an extra-curricular subject, thanks to a grant from Classics for All (now in its last year). After discussion with the Headteacher in September, she has agreed to match the grant award from 2017 onwards.

In November, all feeder schools in the cluster were invited to the High School to a number of storytelling sessions, run by the wonderful Daniel Morden; you could have heard a pin drop as the children listened to a wide range of Greek myths. In three hours, I did not hear the same story twice. Having heard more about Classics at these sessions, I hope the other feeder schools will take up my offer of running a *Minimus* Club in their school.

Another promising venture is underway with Abergavenny Museum. The curator is very interested in holding a taster *Minimus* session for local primary school teachers in Monmouthshire. The aim of this event would be to encourage interest which might lead to formal training sessions. Discussions about the date and format are on-going.

The curriculum in Wales is currently under review and I had a productive meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams, in July; she is now aware of *Minimus* and the amount of Latin being offered in this area.

Finally, I will be delivering a session on using *Minimus* at the Cymru Wales Classics Hub (CWCH) Teacher Training Weekend in January 2017 at Gregynog Hall in Powys.

**Jayne Treasure**

#### **Training report from Shona Shahryar:**

On Wednesday 23rd November, I provided some after-school training for Mandeville Primary School, a very multi-cultural school in St.Albans - ably assisted by Michele Anderson. We talked to 8 teachers - all non-specialists but keen to use *Minimus* to improve English grammar throughout

KS2. We provided advice on how much of the *Minimus* course could be covered in each year and suggested they might like to use *Minimus Secundus* with Year 6. After looking at the links to English Grammar, we suggested activities and games to enhance learning for each chapter. Ways of monitoring and assessing were suggested, followed by a look at pronunciation and listen to the CD! Michele gave lots of advice on how to hold a Roman banquet as part of a Roman day, something the school was keen to do. The feedback was that the training was very helpful and much appreciated.

**Shona Shahryar**

### **Minimus Training Activities:**

Teachers at St Mary's Primary School in Congleton, Cheshire, requested a full day's training for *Minimus*, which I delivered on September 14<sup>th</sup>. A parent has been teaching Latin in after-school sessions and has passed on her enthusiasm to a member of staff who is planning to retake her Latin GCSE to help her to deliver the programme. Following the training, teaching of 27 Year 6 pupils has begun, for one hour per week, in curriculum time. Latin will be extended to Year 5 pupils next September. The staff were particularly interested in making links with secondary schools, Classics hubs and in entering any competitions for Latin. They are fully supported by their Head teacher.

Peter Wright who is lead lecturer in Classical Civilisation at Blackpool 6<sup>th</sup> Form College and a former TES Teacher of the Year applied for training for 2 primary schools. His vision is to form a Classics hub in Blackpool with teaching of Latin in primary and local academies leading to increased interest in Classics at FE level. I delivered a full day's *Minimus* training at the 6<sup>th</sup> Form College for FE lecturers and 3 teachers from Boundary Primary School in Blackpool and St John's Catholic Primary School in Poulton-le-Fylde. Teaching has started in both schools. In Boundary Primary, the teacher is teaching Latin in an after-school club to pupils in Years 3-6. It is hoped that literacy will be improved in this school with a disadvantaged intake (FSM 64.2%). In St John's, it has been decided to offer Latin to all Year 3 pupils within the curriculum. Teachers have *Minimus* resources and puppets. They are particularly interested in drama in Latin.

I have continued to promote *Minimus* at Association for Language Learning events and am making slow progress with the database. From conversations on fora and at modern languages events, interest in *Minimus* seems to be growing. More teachers are talking about starting clubs, even though the primary teaching day is already stretched. I know of 2 new Latin groups that have started this term, one with Nathalie Paris in Consett, Durham and one with Catherine Cheater in Ilkley, Yorkshire.

**Sue Balmer**

### **Training in London**

I've done three trainings days this autumn starting with an initial 'Basics of Latin Language' afternoon at Charles Dickens Primary in Southwark with five of their Staff who are beginners. They loved everything we did and were especially excited by *Minimus the Musical* – they are now thinking of writing their own Latin play! For the second session we were joined by Gabi who initiated the training application with CfA and Una who has already run *Minimus Clubs* in other London schools. After looking at the *Minimus* course together, they made a plan to introduce Latin in Year 3 during the Spring Term 2017. The school will also run a *Minimus Club* for Years 4 -6 and explore ways of integrating Latin into the school library. The programme will be launched with a Roman Day.

My third training day was at Chadwell Primary School in Romford with Alison, Archana and Sophie. We started with some Latin basics and then took a look at the whole of *Minimus* course and its resources. The school is now going to run a *Minimus* after school club for Year 4 starting in January.

**Linda Soames**

### **The 2017 Mythology Competition**

A reminder that the topics for the 2017 Mythology Competition are Odysseus and the Cyclops for Level 1 and Demeter and Persephone for Level 2. More details can be accessed via the Teachers' Resources page of the website.

**Please note the closing date for entries will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

***Linda Soames***

## **Other Reports**

### **Norfolk Report:**

Norfolk continues its enthusiastic support for Latin. At Norwich's main library there is a weekly "Baby Bounce and Rhyme Time" for babies aged from just a few weeks up to around 12 months. The librarians have the brilliant policy of including rhymes and songs in other languages for the babies to hear different sounds and language patterns. The most recent addition to the repertoire was "senex McDonald". Euge!

***Jane Maguire***

### **Grant Fund Report:**

During the late summer and early autumn there were 9 grant requests; seven state schools and two independent.

Cameley Primary School, Bristol; Exwick Heights Primary School, Exeter, Devon; King Ina Church of England Academy, Somerton, Somerset; Kingswood House School, Epsom, Surrey; Lymstone Church of England Primary School, Devon; St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Congleton, Cheshire; Thetford Grammar School, Norfolk; Waterman Primary School, Rochford, Essex; Worksop Priory Church of England Academy, Nottinghamshire.

The coffers ran very low in the late autumn due to a change in contributions to the PLP fund and it was agreed, during the last committee meeting in October, to review the PLP Grants system and to put any future requests on hold until the review has been completed. There have been three further applications since the meeting.

Wendy is a very hard act to follow. The speed of turnaround from application to receiving a grant was exceptional during her watch. My very grateful thanks to Diana Sparkes and Bob Bass for their speedy decisions and eye for detail, to Rachael Jones for dealing with all matters so swiftly and to Jeremy Paterson for his words of wisdom.

***Jayne Treasure***

**Vindolanda** – This has been a particularly good archeological season at Vindolanda and I am grateful to Catherine Jarvis for keeping us updated on what has been found in that very special soil.

### **Roman sites along Hadrian's Wall 2017/2018 Report:**

#### **INSPIRING PLANS FOR HADRIAN'S WALL 2017/2018**

2017 is an exciting year on Hadrian's Wall. The year marks the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian becoming Emperor and the 30th anniversary of the destination becoming a World Heritage Site.

English Heritage will also start work on improving the visitor experience at both Birdoswald Roman Fort and Corbridge Roman Town.

**CORBRIDGE EH ROMAN FORT** - English Heritage also plans to invest in the museum and shop at Corbridge Roman Town, the popular Roman visitor attraction outside the town of Corbridge.

Never seen before objects will be displayed in a totally new-look museum, alongside the internationally significant find Corbridge Hoard and Corbridge Lion.

The site will remain fully open until September 2017 when the museum will close. Visitors can still enjoy the extensive site remains until November 2017. The entire site will close in

November and December 2017. The site will partially re-open again in January 2018 before being full re-launched in Spring 2018.

## **BIRDOSWALD EH ROMAN FORT** - English Heritage is looking to improve the visitor experience at Birdoswald Roman Fort in a one million pound plus plan during 2017.

Plans include a full re-interpretation of the site to bring the Roman story at Birdoswald to life. English Heritage is also proposing to introduce a newly reconfigured education room, shop and café providing a warm Cumbrian welcome to Hadrian's Wall visitors.

**CHESTERS EH ROMAN FORT** - The Victorian 'John Clayton' museum is being continuously updated and iPads are now in use alongside the fabulous exhibits and artefacts in the museum.

**CAVALRY PROJECT 2017** - Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site is to host a major new exhibition in 2017 celebrating the cavalry regiments that once guarded this famous North West frontier of the mighty Roman Empire. 15% of Roman Army based in Britannia. Stanwix (Uxelodunum) Roman Fort, Carlisle, one of only 7 - one thousand strong cavalry forts - in whole Roman Empire.

Taking place from Saturday 8 April to Sunday 10 September 2017, Hadrian's Cavalry explores the role and daily life of the Roman army's cavalry forces in a unique wall-wide exhibition that stretches the full 150 miles of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site area – from Maryport in the west to South Shields in the east.

<http://hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/events/hadrians-cavalry-2017>

### **The Sill, Once Brewed, Northumberland National Park**

**The Sill is an exciting £14.2 million initiative of international importance that will create a Landscape Discovery Centre and new YHA Youth Hostel at Once Brewed in Northumberland. The Centre will open Summer 2017.**

The Sill – Landscape Discovery Centre will enable people of all ages and circumstance to understand and explore the landscapes, history, culture and heritage of Northumberland. Its major purpose is to allow the landscapes of Northumberland National Park and beyond to be accessed by even more people, including children, families, older people, disabled people and those who are less confident at exploring natural places.

The design was finalised after months of extensive public consultation and refinement. The Sill design will harmoniously reflect the distinctive Northumbrian landscape in both its shape and the materials used in its construction. Its centrepiece will be a beautiful Whin Sill grass roof, planted to replicate the unique natural grasslands of the surrounding area. The Sill's fully accessible living roof will sweep gently upwards, giving visitors a bird's eye vantage point across one of the UK's most magnificent landscapes and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall. 80% of the externals are constructed from local stone and timber.

- See more at: <http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/sill/#sthash.zMsjNLU1.dpuf>

## Vindolanda Arts Council England Supports Vindolanda Venture

The Vindolanda Trust which operates both Roman Vindolanda fort and museum and the Roman Army Museum has been awarded a £105,000 grant by Arts Council England through its Resilience Fund towards an ambitious three part project that will see the redevelopment of two of the open air museum buildings at Vindolanda and the conversion of a new mini bus to create a multi-media mobile facility that will deliver aspects of the award winning on site provision with rural community groups and schools.



Supported by  
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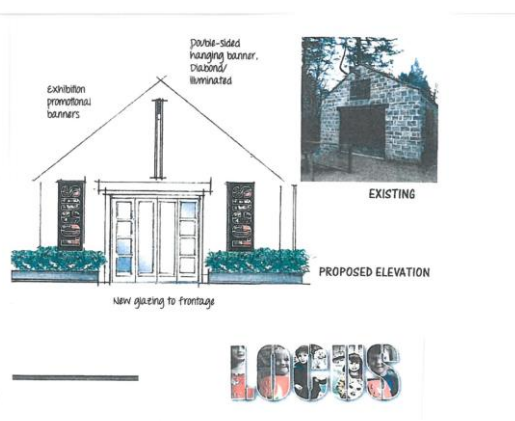
### The project

#### *The domus*

An inviting and interactive replica home will provide access for a younger audience to a multi-sensory space, with strong National Curriculum links, showcasing children in the Roman landscape based on evidence from the Vindolanda excavations.

#### *The locus*

A new interactive, environmental and economically sustainable temporary exhibition space. The re-purposed building will be used to display in-house temporary exhibitions as well as external art, music and research exhibitions.



#### *The Romans on the Road*

The Vindolanda education team will use the converted multi-media bus to provide a fresh and innovative way of engaging with audiences who due to time, budget or capability are unable to access the sites.

- See more at: <http://www.vindolanda.com/blog/press-releases/post/arts-council-england-supports-vindolanda-venture/#sthash.azrrKfO4.dpuf>

**Catherine Jarvis**

### **MEC Report:**

***Minimusculus***, the pre-*Minimus* book for ages 3 to 6, will have been published by the time you read this. The price of *Minimusculus* is £5 in the UK which includes postage and packaging. These can only be ordered direct from *Minimus et cetera*. We had about 50 orders for the book prior to publication so this is obviously going to be very popular. *Minimus* workbooks continue to sell well with sales approaching 4000. We are continually re-stocking. Get your orders in, teachers.

All 3 sets of Minibooks continue to be popular both in the UK and abroad in the US and Australia amongst other places.

All the usual *Minimus* goodies such as pencils, rulers, erasers, badges etc continue to sell and be available. Do contact me at *Minimus et cetera* with your requests.

See the *Minimus* website for a new order form for all the books sold by *Minimus et cetera*

**Nick Bell**

## **Recording the Myths**

Thank you very much to those of you who responded to my request for your views on recording the myths which occur in *Minimus*, there was overwhelming enthusiasm for this idea and most of you felt that the short versions in the actual book could be expanded on CD. I am currently negotiating with Daniel Morden and Hugh Lupton and I hope very much that this project will take off the ground in 2017 - watch this space! (or rather watch the *Minimus* website [www.minimus.com](http://www.minimus.com))

## **And Finally**

*It is always gratifying to receive e-mails and letters from children telling me how much they are enjoying Minimus. When those children grow up and go to University to read Classics and tell me that it all started with Minimus, I feel a very warm glow inside! Our chairman, Jeremy Paterson, while lecturing on a ?????? cruise in the summer met the parents of Imogen Stead and he discovered that she had begun her Classical studies with Minimus. Imogen has kindly written about how her love of Latin started young and spread:*

### **Minimus and my journey through Classics by Imogen Stead**

For a seven-year-old with limited knowledge of any language other than English, Latin might not seem like the obvious place to start. And yet, it was at this age that I began to show such a strong interest in the funny language found in churches, on monuments and adorning crests that my mum thought it was time to put a stop to my barrage of questions and find some answers. Latin, uncommon enough further up the education ladder, was not at the top of the list of subjects for my primary school to offer, so mum turned her attention towards whatever beginners' resources she could find in order to foster my interest in the language.

Upon coming across the *Minimus* textbook, she realised that she had struck gold: here was an approachable, manageable introduction to the lingua Latina which was specifically aimed at engaging and enthusing young learners such as me. Unlike its more daunting counterparts, aimed at schoolchildren about to begin a rigorous and old fashioned training in the language, the *Minimus* books provided an imaginative and, dare I say it, fun approach to language-learning. I began to follow *Minimus* the mouse through various storyboards which integrated simple Latin speech bubbles with colourful pictures, each one aiming to make me familiar with a new feature of the language. Along the way, the chapters introduced characters from a 'typical' Roman household to give me my first taste of Roman history, and connected the unknown with the familiar through etymological pointers so that I could begin to link English words with their ancient counterparts.

By the end of the first book, I had a strong interest in all things Latin and couldn't wait to continue it in a formal educational environment. In addition, I found that it gave me a firm foundation for learning other languages: when I started learning French in the latter stages of my primary school years, the similarities in the vocabulary and structure of the language were immediately apparent to me, enabling me to pick up the fundamentals much more easily than might otherwise have been possible.

Fast-forward to today, as I enter the closing stages of my undergraduate degree in Classics, and still I find myself occasionally glancing back to my first steps in learning Latin through *Minimus*. Just the other day, in my Latin Historical Linguistics tutorial, a discussion about the different treatments of the Proto-Indo-European voiced aspirate system in the Sabellic languages and early Latin language prompted the mention of the name 'Rufus' as an interesting counter-example. I smiled to myself as I remembered the cheeky red-haired boy Rufus to whom I had been introduced through *Minimus* – who could have guessed that so many years down the line we would meet again!



*Mus Exit.*

**Imogen Stead**

A former pupil of mine, Anna Aplin, hopes to read Classics at University and again she pays tribute to starting all this with *Minimus*:

Studying the *Minimus* books was something that solidified my love for the study of Classics. The characters of *Minimus* and the family at Vindolanda were incredibly helpful in making Latin fun and engaging at such a young age. Playing Claudia in the first performance of '*Minimus the Musical*' at the age of ten sparked my interest in Roman Britain, encouraging me to visit Vindolanda as well as focus my studies on women in Roman society. *Minimus* played an instrumental role in my decision to study Classics at university as it laid the foundation of my interest as well as putting in place the areas of the subject that I would later be most interested in.

**Anna Aplin**

Thank you for all your support, advice and encouragement over the last 20 years, the Books and the Primary Latin Project have taken off beyond my wildest dreams.

It has been a marvelous adventure for me, my husband Nick and our two daughters Joanna and Katharine. I intend to write two more Newsletters - for April and September, but as Christmas approaches next year it would be only proper for the next one to be written by my wonderful successor, Jayne Treasure. Throughout the last 20 years I have made so many good friends through *Minimus* and that is just one of many aspects of the PLP which have been so rewarding, please keep in touch! With my thanks and my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017.

**Barbara Bell**