

Do You Remember...

...School Songs?

Here is the superb Matthew Arnold School Song that Jenny Holloway remembers singing when she was in the choir in 1962:

*Our school stands firm upon the rock of Cumnor's tree lined-hill,
Beyond green meadows Oxford's spires enchant our senses still.
A century has gone its way since poet Arnold sang;
His verses praising God and Man the bells of nature rang.
His life of scholarship and art where skill and patience rule
May serve to guide us as we work at Matthew Arnold Schoooooooooool.*

When was the last time it was sung? Did it simply fade away, or did someone write a new song with different priorities? Do Botley or North Hinksey have school songs? Westminster College certainly did! Here's the first inspiring verse. It can be heard, sung by a full-throated choir, on the Friends' website:

*From the Cheviots down to Dover,
From the Wash to Milford Town
Yea, and all the wide world over
Men are spreading thy renown.
Thy renown, oh Spartan Mother,
Westminster, our pride and boast.
Here's to love to one another
Here's a rousing, royal toast.
Floreat Westminsteriensis!*



Such songs have fallen out of fashion with a thump. It's hard now to sing them without irony. But they were loved, and they meant something real. All contributions on this interesting subject gratefully received by me at agmackeith@yahoo.co.uk or 01865 724452
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