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## Newsletter 52 – January 2014

Dear Supporter,

I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2014. This is an important year for Minimus and the Primary Latin Project when we have a unique opportunity to spread the word.

### **New Publications:**

The new Teacher's Resource Book - **Minimus in Practice** has just been published. The first half of the book suggests links between Latin and other subjects on the primary curriculum. The second half of the book contains quizzes, games, special events, visits etc.

The cost of the new book is £25 including postage and packing in the UK. Please note that Minimus in Practice is only available through our business Minimus Et Cetera; please find a new order form on the website. Those of you living abroad who would like to buy the new book can do so via PayPal and pay in your own currency. Please note that teachers are permitted to photocopy this book for use in their own institutions; they are not permitted to produce any of it for other schools or to disseminate the material on-line.

I have very much enjoyed writing this book and I hope you will find it useful.

**Minimus has gone digital!** Helen Forte sends news of the Minimus iBook: CUP have chosen Minimus as one of their digital titles. The iBook version is designed to be read on an iPad, and combines the stories and comics with the audio recordings to make an interactive ebook. Readers can click through the cartoon strips and hear the dialogue and captions spoken in Latin (by BB among others!). There's a glossary and study cards, and the photos of writing tablets can be zoomed in. The iBook edition is ideal for homeschoolers and individual learners, and brings Minimus to the forefront of digital education. The price is £12.99 and it can be obtained from the Apple bookstore.

Helen Forte

Minimus Et Cetera – Please note that we have re-designed our order form and the minimum postage is £3.00. Please destroy all earlier order forms. Please also note that you need to send a cheque with your order and that we do not send out invoices.

I am delighted to announce that Cambridge University Press have agreed with a Portuguese publisher that there will be a Portuguese version of Minimus, this is likely to come out within 1 - 2 years and will join the Italian and Slovenian versions! Exciting news.

Recent Events: I enjoyed visits to 4 schools in the Autumn Term; Parkway Primary School in Bexley Heath, Staines Prep School, The Bloo School in Surrey and Weston Green School in Thames Ditton.

I always enjoy working with children and in Staines Prep School, the Bloo School and Weston Green School we had fun using music and drama in Minimus lessons. At the Bloo School I followed work with the children with training staff after school to use Minimus. The Parkway School visit involved training the whole staff (14) as they plan to introduce Minimus on the curriculum for each year-group.

If you would like me to visit your school to work with children and/or staff I am happy to do so from late February onwards; my normal days for visits are Mondays and Fridays. Please get in touch if you would like to fix a date.

At the end of November I was pleased to attend the Classics in the Communities Conference in Oxford. This was a long day with a full programme and it was fascinating to hear about interesting ways of teaching Latin throughout this country and abroad. Evelien Bracke, Mai Musié and Lorna Robinson had enticed speakers from the USA, South Africa and Spain. There was a real buzz about the day and Minimus was all over the programme. It was excellent to hear of 2 schools where 6th formers studying Latin go into local primary schools to teach Minimus, and 2 of the 6th formers were present at the conference and described their experiences.

**Classics in Communities: Project Update** - After the success of our Opening Conference in November 2013 (which Barbara and Jane kindly attended), we are now delighted to announce the finalised programme of our workshops in June 2014, which will take place around the country. These will offer information about resources, funding, and training available to schools, and bursaries are available for teachers or students wishing to attend (kindly provided by the Classical Association, the Society for Roman Studies and the Society for Hellenic Studies).

The dates and venue are the following:

3 June: London (King's College London)

4 June: Oxford (Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies)

6 June: Cambridge (Classics Faculty)

10 June: Birmingham (Lordswood Girls' School)

23 June: Glasgow (Glasgow University)

26 June: Swansea (Swansea University)

27 June: Exeter (University of Exeter)

Barbara will help with the delivery of the workshops in Oxford and Birmingham. For the other workshops, we will work together with Steven Hunt (Cambridge), Aisha Khan-Evans (King's College London), and Bob Lister and Daniel Morden (Swansea).

For more information, please visit our website: <http://classicsincommunities.org/workshops.php> or email Dr Evelien Bracke (Swansea University) at [e.bracke@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:e.bracke@swansea.ac.uk).

Website: [www.classicsincommunities.org](http://www.classicsincommunities.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClassicsinCommunities>

Twitter: @ClassicsinComm

We would hereby like to thank Barbara for her continuous support of our project – her guidance and help are invaluable!  
Evelien, Lorna, and Mai – Classics in Communities

## Reports and Notices:

GRANT FUND REPORT: The requests for 'Minimus' resources have been steadily coming in and 33 applications have been made between the end of May 2013 and the beginning of January 2014. These consist of 25 state schools (two are senior schools), 6 independent schools, one U3A group and one home educator. These are:

BERKSHIRE: Brigidine Independent School, WINDSOR: BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: Halton Combined School, AYLESBURY: Ickfield Combined School, AYLESBURY: Woodside Junior School, AMERSHAM: CHESHIRE: Vicki Jordan (Home Educator), DISLEY: CITY OF EDINBURGH: George Herriot's Junior School (Independent), EDINBURGH: CORNWALL: Gems Bolitho Independent School, PENZANCE: DERBYSHIRE: Newhall Junior School, SWADLINCOTE: DORSET: Bournemouth U3A: BOURNEMOUTH: HAMPSHIRE: Meoncross Independent School, STUBBINGTON: HERTFORDSHIRE: Our Lady Catholic Primary School, HITCHIN: St Michael's C. of E. Primary School, BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Mandeville Primary School, ST. ALBANS: Chaulden Junior School, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: KENT: Parkway Primary School, ERITH: LANCASHIRE: St Bedes R.C.High School, BLACKBURN: LONDON: St Benedict's Junior School (Independent), EALING: Mayville Primary School, LEYTONSTONE: Handsworth Primary School, HIGHAM'S PARK: Yeading Junior School, HAYES: St John's Walham Green C.E. Primary School, FULHAM: Twyford C.E. School, ACTON: NORFOLK: Millfield Primary School, NORTH WALSHAM: North Walsham Junior School, NORTH WALSHAM: King's Lynn Academy, KING'S LYNN: NORTH YORKSHIRE: Normanby Primary School, Middlesbrough, CLEVELAND: SURREY: Meadlands Primary School, RICHMOND: Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School, SURBITON: TYNE AND WEAR: Longbenton Community College, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: Arthur's Hill Primary Schools (Westgate Hill Primary): NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: WILTSHIRE: Eldene Primary School, SWINDON: Leehurst Swan Independent School, SALISBURY: All Cannings C.E. Primary School, DEVIZES.

A very big thank you again to the Classical Association for their generous funds to help towards all these applications – we are extremely grateful to them. I also hope that 'Minimus', our busy mouse, had a good Christmas and is well-rested for a very successful 2014!

Wendy Hunt

NORFOLK REPORT, JANUARY 2014: Schools from the first cluster (North Walsham) are all continuing with their Latin. In the two new clusters funded by Classics for All, the High Schools are using the Cambridge Latin Course and all the primary schools Minimus. Following their training, they are progressing in the following ways:

### Cluster 1:

The High School is about to start up a voluntary after-school club for all years using CLC. This is being led by a Learning Assistant and a Drama teacher. They plan to assess the success of this and then decide whether to introduce Latin as an option subject.

Primary School 1: the Head is teaching the whole of his KS2 (15 children).

Primary School 2: a newly appointed TA has taken on Latin and she is working with a group of 8 Year 6 children.

Primary School 3: the whole of Year 2 is looking at the Romans and two groups of G&T children are doing Latin.

### Cluster 2:

The High School is teaching Latin to its two Year 7 top MFL sets.

An after-school Improvers' Class is being delivered by a Classics teacher from the town's Sixth Form College to students who started Latin last year.

Primary School 1: the teacher from this school works at 2 others and is teaching Latin to a total of 50 children.

Primary School 2: the Head is teaching 2 whole classes (60 children).

Primary School 3: a TA is teaching a G&T group of ten Year 6 children.

Our Norfolk Celebration Evening held in November at Norwich Castle was a splendid event. Although the main speaker (Roger Lloyd-Pack) was unable to attend, he did send an excellent message of support, as did several of the region's MPs. It was well attended by teachers and Heads and it was good to see one MP, some local Councillors and the Deputy Director of Children's Services. Two groups of children were involved and the castle took the opportunity to preview the forthcoming BM exhibition and describe how they have supported Latin learning in the county. We have had welcome coverage from both our local Anglia TV and from Sky News, where support was forthcoming from Ann Widdicombe and Mary Beard.

Norwich Castle has planned an exciting programme of Roman and Latin events for schools, families and the public, which will run throughout the duration of the BM exhibition (February to April).

Jane Maguire

TWITTER REPORT: 1621 tweets made, Following 1185, Followers 1216. Since last Twitter report we have tweeted about Minimus bookmarks being available, Minimus is now available within iBooks, Minimus appeared on Sky TV News on New Year's Day frequently (courtesy of Jane McGuire in Norfolk); the forthcoming Minimus Advocate scheme; Barbara Bell/Minimus at Classics in Communities Oxford event in November 2013. Minimus is always well received and more events in 2014 will be circulated via Twitter and the Minimus website.

Any Minimus event which does occur is always retweeted amongst the Classics fraternity, schools and further afield. @VindolandaTrust commented on our recent Sky TV coverage for example. The Museum of Classical Archaeology Cambridge is promoting Minimus via their blog:

<http://camunivmuseums.wordpress.com/2014/01/03/latin-after-school-club/> and Twitter feed:

@classarch concerning their work (recently circulated to the Primary Latin Project group). Classics in Communities is already talking about Barbara's visit to see them 4th and 10th June. Also tweeted and highlighted the wonderful news of Lindsay Allason-Jones (historical adviser to Minimus) receiving her OBE award in the January 2014 Honours' List.

Anything which happens on the Minimus website [www.minimus-etc.co.uk](http://www.minimus-etc.co.uk) is also tweeted eg: the Minimus training grants; the Mythology Competition; the teacher training events; other events attended/happening etc. People on Twitter are also very good at retweeting the Minimus newsletter online and Barbara and Helen's respective blogs. It will be good to publicise Minimus events in the US if Barbara visits Zee and Ruth Ann this year. We will also be publicising the new Minimus in Practice book when it becomes available for sale in the very near future.

Salve! Salvete! Please do not hesitate to tweet with **@Minimus\_Latin** on Twitter as we are always delighted to hear your news and how you are using Minimus. We look forward to hearing from you!

Catherine Jarvis

MINIMUS ADVOCATES REPORT: Richard Waddington and I have been delighted by the response to our appeal for Minimus teachers to be willing to promote Minimus in their area. (Minimus Advocates.) So far 25 people have offered to be these local representatives. We would like more people in the North of England and we would very much like Scotland and Ireland, both North and South to be represented, please think carefully whether you could help us out by becoming a Minimus Advocate - an important part of the 2014 campaign. We will be having an introductory meeting at my house on Saturday 15th March 2014, where we look forward to working more closely with the Advocates to see how we can best promote Minimus this year, when state schools are required to teach a language, which could be Latin.

Barbara Bell

Your Assistance Please! How you can help us: the good news is that we now have more than 4,500 people on the Minimus mailing list all over the world ; the bad news is that only 1,500 of those are in e-mail contact with us.

We do want to establish and spread the word and increase the size of our membership, however, CUP no longer post copies to those without e-mail or abroad and we need to increase the numbers of people who receive the newsletter electronically. Therefore, please may I ask you to think of anyone you know who currently teaches Minimus; would you please urge them to contact the Project with their e-mail address and we will happily send the Minimus newsletter to them.

Future Events: During the Spring Term I shall be visiting Fairfield Prep School near Bristol to teach children their first Minimus lesson, I'm delighted to be returning to The Richard Pate School in Cheltenham to work with the children on music and drama and I will be judging the Southampton Minimus Reading Competition in March 2014. I will be meeting and working with undergraduates at Swansea University also in March so that the next generation of potential teachers is clued up about Minimus and what it can offer.

In April our PLP Committee Meeting will take place in Norwich in the Castle Museum, I am particularly pleased that we will all be meeting Colly Moody from the Museum who has been such a supporter of Minimus.

In the Summer Term I will be helping Classics in the Communities by leading 2 Minimus workshops, one in Oxford and one in Birmingham.

On Saturday 7th June we will be holding a Minimus Training Day at James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich, London. Please get in touch if you would like an application form.

Worldwide sales of Minimus have now reached 140,000 copies and I have just heard that Minimus is the Number 1 Bestseller on Amazon's Ancient History List. What a mouse!

Some sad news: As I was finishing this newsletter today I heard of the sad news of the death of Roger Lloyd-Pack, a splendid British actor who has had a long career in the theatre but will probably be best remembered for creating two TV characters - Trigger in "Only Fools and Horses" and Owen in "The Vicar of Dibley." We have lost a superb actor but also a great supporter of Latin. He was too ill to join Jane Maguire at her Norfolk Latin evening in November and was very disappointed not to be able to go. He sent the following message which I think you will enjoy:

**Spargens umida mella soperiferumque papaver.**

**Those educated Latin scholars amongst you will no doubt recognise this as a famous line from Virgil's Aeneid, which they could no doubt go on to translate - 'scattering moist honey and sleep - inducing poppies.' Well I jest, because although the line is from The Aeneid it's the only line of Virgil's that I remember and that's for the rather shameful reason that our Latin master had problems saying his 'r's so my childish contemporaries and I would anticipate with cruel relish his negotiation of the word 'soperiferumque'**

**As opposed to this however are many many words whose meaning in English is revealed to me in their Latin roots. So much of our language stems from Latin, and what doesn't stem from**

**Latin stems from Greek, and what doesn't stem from Latin or Greek isn't worth bothering about!...( not quite true of course) Look around this room for instance - how many words and meanings can you derive from the word 'magister' - the Latin for 'master.' You know the word sedentary must have something to do with sitting. Rex-regal-kingly. It's just occurred to me writing this that our phrase - all toggled up - possibly comes from the Roman - all toga'd up!**

**The argument against learning Latin used to be that it's a dead language but how could a language be dead that is so integral to our own, and so plainly living in our own. Latin is also extremely useful in understanding grammar. In my opinion grammatical care has slipped since the day I was taught grammar. And nowadays in our Brave New World of text and tweeting grammar is actually struggling to survive as our language metamorphoses, as it must, with the times.**

**Anyone who loves language as I do, the sound of words, the richness of expression, the craft of a beautifully constructed sentence, can only rejoice at this initiative to bring Latin back into its seat of learning where it belongs - in our schools.**

**Thank you for listening and I'm sorry I couldn't be with you here today in person.**

**Roger Lloyd-Pack**

With my thanks to all of you for your interest and support,

Barbara Bell