ST. MARY'S HALL

Summer 1992

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ST. MARY'S MALL

Magazine

Summer 1992

Cover photograph by J.B.L., courtesy Miss A. Corris

BURT BRILL & CARDENS

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We are delighted to be associated with this issue of the St. Mary's Hall Magazine.

We would be pleased to provide advice and support to its readers upon a wide variety of legal matters.

If we can be of assistance, and for further information, please contact:

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or Mr Kevin Smyth or Mr David Edwards or Mr Nicholas Rimmer

Letter from the Acting Headmistress

When you read this, the Spring Term will be over and the daffodils on the bank, now snugly underground, a memory only. So there is no news I can give you which won't be stale. But I would like to mark Mrs Vivien Jewsbury's appointment as head of the Junior School and hope that she will have many happy years of service. We are very lucky to have a member of staff so 'tried and true' as she to fill this vacancy.

A prospective parent being shown round the school was amazed at how much there was *behind* the original, main 'house'. One building facing the quadrangle is Martin House, which was officially opened for Senior School Mathematics at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Lt. Cdr. Martin (our retired Bursar), after whom the House was named by popular acclaim, performed the opening ceremony.

An innovation in the events this year is the series of informal concerts planned for the end of the Spring Term to take the place of the Senior and Junior Music Festivals. We hope that the parents or pupils studying music will enjoy the opportunity of both hearing their children play

and meeting their music teachers. Let us know your views. By the time this goes to print you will also have heard of the Grand Draw which is to take place at the Garden Party this year. Please do your best to support this.

For many years in the past it was my task to edit the school magazine. Now I find the tables turned as I write copy to meet the editor's deadline. I should like to thank the editor, Dr Hopley; a tremendous amount of work goes into producing the finished magazine, and he does it with such an absence of fuss that it might be taken for granted.

I write on a dark day in early February and anticipate with pleasure the Summer Term when the magazine will appear. Wandering through its pages is a bit like turning the leaves of a family photograph album. There are photographs in words of a kaleidoscope of activities: trips and excursions, clubs and societies, sport, music, drama (here on stage, there in the audience), religion, academic results; and creative work - art, story, and the glimpses we are allowed into the minds of a seven year old, or seventeen year old; all glimpses of life at St Mary's Hall in the year 1991-2. I hope you enjoy it.

Pamela J James, Acting Headmistress

Acting Headmistress Mrs. Pamela James and His Worship the Mayor of Brighton, Cllr. Joseph Townsend on Speech Day (Photograph J.B.L.)





Sasha G. Kofman who gained the Royal Geography Society Syndicate Prize for the best 'A' level Geography result in the country. Sasha has gone on to Somerville College, Oxford (Photograph: J.B.L.)

Entrants to Further Education

Ioanna Ball Tina Cheng Jennifer Clarke Helen Crittall Henrietta Duveen Christianne Ellison Jane Garland Catherine Harris Sasha Kofman Paulina Lim Pei Shang Lim Cindy Ma Emma Manville Anne-Marie Ogedegbe Yammie Pang Lalida Richardson Kate Roberts Abigail Steer Anna Symonds Claire Tickner

Swansea University Birmingham University Warwick University Applying Surrey University 1992 Reading University University Collige London Brighton School of Nursing Sunderland Polytechnic Fitzwilliam College Cambridge Guy's Hospital Lancester Polytechnic Birmingham University **Durham University** Rochester University, N.Y. University College London Aberdeen University Aberdeen University Wrexham Institute of H.E. Birmingham Conservatory St Thomas' Hospital

Ancient History and Politics Law Sport and English Music English and Classics Geology

Applied Physiology
History
Dentistry Degree
Accountancy
Accounting
Arabic Studies
Biological Science
Economics and Philosophy
Theology
Psychology
Nursing Degree
Music
Nursing

A Level Passes 1990/91

Joanna Ball

Mireille Blas Justine Bowman Tracey Briffa Lorita Chan

Tina Cheng

Jennifer Clarke

History B, Latin A, Religious

Studies A French E English E

Religious Studies D Economics E, Further Mathematics C, Mathematics A

Biology B, Economics A, Mathematics A

Art & Design B, English D, French C

Victoria Clough Sarah Cole

Helen Crittall

Emma Davies Henrietta Duveen

Christianne Ellison

Biology E, Mathematics E English B, History C, Mathematics D Mathematics B, Religious Studies C, Music B French A, Mathematics E Art & Design C, Classical Civilisation B, English C Biology C, Chemistry E, Geography A, Geology (AS level) B

Classical Civilisation E Jane Garland Julia Greenslade French E Biology D, Mathematics E Catherine Harris Clair Joynt Art & Design D Sasha Kofman Geography A, History A, Latin A Paulina Lim Biology B, Business Studies B, Mathematics C Pei Shang Lim Biology E, Mathematics D Cindy Ma Further Mathematics D, Mathematics A, Physics D Emma Manville English A, History B, Religious Studies A Anne-Marie Ogedegbe Biology D, Chemistry D, Mathematics E Rebekah Palmer Geography B Yammie Pang Economics C, Mathematics C, Physics D

Llynette Rogers-Wright

Lalida Richardson

Kate Roberts

Joanna Shimkus Nicola Slater Abigail Steer

Anna Symonds Claire Watkins Josephine Williams

Use of English

French C

Physics D Chemistry E

Art & Design E

Mathematics B

English E, French C

Joanna Ball Jennifer Clarke Helen Crittall Christianne Ellison Sasha Kofman Rebekah Palmer Kate Roberts Nicola Slater Claire Watkins

Justine Bowman Victoria Clough Emma Davies Claire Grinyer Catherine Lowe Yammie Pang

Abigail Steer Josie Williams

Tracey Briffa Sarah Cole Henrietta Duveen Catherine Harris Emma Manville Lalida Richardson Llynette Rogers-Wright Joanna Shimkus Anna Symonds

English C, History E,

Biology D, Chemistry D,

Biology C, Chemistry C,

Religious Studies C, Music B

Civilisation C, Religious Studies B

Religious Studies C Art & Design B, Classical

'A' level passes in Lower Sixth

Sally Tang B

Chinese

Certificate in Additional **Mathematics**

Pegeen Armstrong B Hasniah Hashim B Brenda Ng B Emmeline Smith C Ma Kaythi Yin B

Claire Hall B Queenie Ho C Esther Poon A Sally Tang B

Additional GCSE passes in Sixth **Form**

Justine Bowman 2 Emma Davies 1 Julie Hay 1 Sally Tang 1 Ma Kaythi Yin 1

Jennifer Clarke 1 Claire Grinyer 1 Oueenie Ho 2 Emma Terrot 2

Cambridge Information Technology Course

Word Processing

Pegeen Armstrong Lorita Chan Claire Hall Brenda Ng Sally Tang

Pei Shang Lim Esther Poon Ma Kaythi Yin Helen Crittall Cindy Ma **Emmeline Smith**

Young Enterprise National Examination

Alice Armstrong Hasniah Hashim Esther Poon

Arabella Driscoll **Julie Hav**

Claire Hall Marisa Lim Norsuriati Sharbini Ma Kaythi Yin

GCSE Results

An asterisk indicates an A Grade; grades A B and C only are listed

INICH	
Helen Bastide	10******
Antonia Baverstock	10*****
Charlotte Beecham	9*
Alison Bonny	10*******
Deborah Chan	11********
Margaret Chan	6*
Terry Cheng	9****
Samantha Clough	6*
Katherine Cole	10***
Sarah Davies	10**
Abigail Davis	4
Helen Demetrious	10*
Helen Dugard	1
Sherrie Elliott	9***
Caroline Evison	8
Augustine Flint-Hartle	8*
Rosemary Fox	7
Judith Green	9****
Hana Grisdale	8**
Rebecca Hartley	10****
Laura Hazeldine	7
Charlotte Hill	9**
Clare House	10**
Terri Howard	9****
Noor Kassim	10******
Tara Kassir	10****
Lucy Major	10******
Lisa Malpass	5
Hanna Mayers	8*
Holly Mellors	10*******
Nicola Monen	9
Lisa Moore	5
Katie Moorman	4**
Suzanna Nicolls	9***
Alison Nowak	7
Charlotte Parker	9*
Alexandra Reynolds	10****
Naomi Slater	10*****
Elizabeth Terry	7**
Isabel Titlow	10******
Georgia Trott	8**
Natasha Watts	10******
Camilla Wells	9***
Catherine Wilkinson	10*******
Carla Williams	9
. 1 1 11 1	

GCSE passes in Fourth Year

1*

Julie Freeman Angie Ho Anita Leung

Alexandra Woodhead

House Reports

Adelaide

Adelaide House has had a fairly successful year in raising money for the Dr. De Winter Cancer Prevention Advice Centre in Brighton. During the Summer Term choc ices (of various varieties) were sold every first break and made profits of £46. During the Winter Term £40 was raised through the selling of mini chocolate bars.

Adelaide won the swimming cup in the Autumn Term as a result of coming first in the inter-house swimming competition. A sponsored swim had also been arranged but, owing to lack of support, this had to be cancelled.

The Spring Term has been busy with lots of inter-house activities taking place. Adelaide is presenting *Arthur* by David Cregan for the inter-house drama competition. The fourth year have been raising money by selling hot chocolate with cream at first break which has proved to be exceedingly successful. Well done! Many members of the senior school have been taking it in turns to sell 'Monster Munchies' at break time. In January we held a cake sale which made profits of £23.

All in all, Adelaide House had an enjoyable year and Marisa and I would like to thank the girls for being so cooperative and helpful at all times.

Emma Terrot and Marisa Lim, UVI

Chichester

1991 has been a good year for Chichester House. We raised a large amount of money for the Rocking Horse Appeal which is run by the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, through the selling of Chichechocs and also through the mufti day last term.

Furthermore we also have some success stories in the inter-house matches. We became champions in the badminton inter-house competition at the end of last term. We didn't do too well in the swimming but we managed to win several races including the staff members' swim. Well done, Mrs. Dempster.

We hope to be successful in this term's inter-house play competition and also in the sports events at the end of this term.

Being house captain has been a great experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to work with the rest of the school and it has been most enjoyable. There is also good sportsmanship amongst the Houses and discussions take place between us to avoid a monopoly on the market during break time. Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow members of the Upper Sixth for their great help in making Chichechoc so successful last term.

Hasniah Hashim, UVI

Babington

When I was elected to be Babington House Captain I could only hope I would fulfil the role with vigour and enthusiasm, thus passing these qualities on to my deputies Claire Hall and Julie Hay as well, so that we could work as a team and get results!

During the year we have raised money for two charities. The first was for St Catherine's Lodge which is a school for mentally handicapped children, and the second is The Jean Saunders' School for children with special needs. We decided upon these charities because they are both small and would therefore need our support; besides, they are both worthy causes. We have raised the money by selling sweets over the terms. Not only was this successful but the members of Babington House made cakes for a cake sale which raised a great deal of money too. This was a good way for the members to get together and do something as one. Also, recently, we had a mufti day on which the members dressed up in fancy dress and were sponsored in order to boost the money raised.

Concerning inter-house competitions, Babington came second in the swimming and third in the badminton so we hope to do as well or better in the lacrosse and netball matches. At the moment Sarah Davies and Yani Kassim are directing and producing our annual play and we are hopeful that they will follow in the footsteps of last year's competition in achieving the first prize and best actress award.

Alice Armstrong, UVI

Bristol

The Autumn Term saw Bristol House cake sales and the selling of a variety of sweets in aid of Bristol's charity, Leukemia Research. The term also contained a selection of sporting events: although our swimming team came fourth the loyalty of those who participated should be commended; inter-house badminton also took place where we did slightly better and managed to come third.

Spring Term commenced with a Bristol House cake sale. Since then we have sold Cadbury's Cream Eggs thanks to the enthusiasm of Laura Gold and Saffa Ayub. This term is perhaps the most hectic: Elizabeth Terry has been organising the house play, *Unnatural Scene* by Kathleen Davey, and at the end of term we also see more inter-house sports matches in which, at the present time, Bristol House appears to have a surprisingly good standing. We must also not forget the inter-house quiz where the brains of our house will be at work!

Thanks go to all those members of Bristol who support us. May this support continue next term.

Judith Green, LVI



Food for thought!

Classical Paws for Thought

Four out of twelve academic cherubs who expressed a preference say their brains prefer pedigree classics. Champion cherub owner Mrs T. says of us 'It must be the juicy goodness which makes their halos ¹ shine'.

Having been awarded first prize in the preliminary trials (GCSEs) we began our classical training which consists of vigorous Aristophanic ² exercising and 'optional' intensive Ancient History in our 'spare time'.

We attend various shows ³ in London as part of our grooming procedure by Jonesy ⁴ and Oswyn. ⁵ For our Christmas celebrations we scoffed authentic Greek doggy bags in Room J while the rest of the pound stared longingly through the window.

We go walkies ⁶ with Agamemnon ⁷ to visit our fellow dog Labes ⁸ (who's had a bit of bother with the Wasps ⁹) in the hope that Antigone ¹⁰ will come to his aid with a few libations, ¹¹ third time lucky! ¹²

In our process of becoming cherubic dogs, we will be flying to greater heights in the quest for arête, ¹³ our destination being the polis ¹⁴ of the owls ¹⁵ - hoping to gain a greater wisdom of the Hellenic world.

The Four Anonymous Heroes, LVI 16

Paw Notes

- 1. Halos: from the Greek 'halos' meaning circular threshing floor. Priests conducted ritual dances to Dionysus, God of Fertility, on the halos, out of which developed the concept of theatre.
- 2. Aristophanes: Comic playwright 445-380BC.
- 3. Shows in London: VI Form Classics Conferences.
- 4. & 5. Two of the many lecturers we have heard. Dr Peter Jones, Senior Lecturer of Classics of Newcastle University; Dr Oswyn Murray, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.
- 6. Walkies: Theatre visits to see our set texts performed both in translation and in the original Greek.
- 7. Agamemnon: produced by Aeschylus, 458BC. An investigation, in tragic form, of Divine retribution and human free will. His female character Clytemnestra provided the inspiration for Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth.
- 8. Iabes: Greek for thief a pun on the name of Laches, a General accused of accepting bribes in the Sicilian invasion of 423BC.
- 9. Wasps: Aristophanic satire (422BC) in which canine parody of the above General's trial occurs.
- 10. Antigone: A tragedy by Sophocles, produced 440BC, which investigates the moral dilemma faced when the laws of the state appear to clash with the laws of the Gods (qv. the Salman Rushdie affair).
- 11. Libations: Liquid offerings to the Gods a common addition to prayer.
- 12. Third time lucky: Libations invariably consist of three pourings the final (and therefore luckiest) one being dedicated to Zeus.
- 13. Arête: Difficult to translate into English an ideal mixture of wisdom, virtue and knowledge the ideal result of Athenian education.
- 14. Polis: city.
- 15. Owls: Athenian coin and Familiar of Athena. A school trip to Greece has been arranged for Easter '92.
- 16. Anonymous Heroes: A pun on the Eponymous Heroes the Founding Fathers of the ten Athenian tribes to which they gave their names.



Youth Summit March 1992.

Obituaries

Mrs. R. Sandy

Rocky Sandy, sadly, died on March 1 1992, after a short, serious illness, bravely borne.

She was head of the Art department at St. Mary's Hall for two periods 1958 to 1965 and 1970 to 1980, with a year at the Froebel Institute in between. She set up the Art department in the old Sanatorium where it exists today, and helped to make it a strong and thriving concern.

She was trained at St. Martin's School of Art in London, where she met her husband, Laurie. During the war whilst serving in the WRAF as a radar technician, she injured her back, which was to cause later problems, and force her into early retirement in 1980.

Retirement led to a late flowering of her fine painting. Her influence, kindness and sense of humour means she will be remembered fondly by staff and former pupils.

Frank Peter Smith

Frank Smith died suddenly on 9th March, 1991, and is greatly missed by all his friends at St. Mary's Hall. He served the school for eleven years as a member of the Maintenance Staff and gained the utmost respect and affection of everyone he came into contact with. He was a master of many trades and an invaluable asset to a small staff. He never let his poor health in later years interfere with the proper performance of his duties and indeed other members of the maintenance staff were always trying to persuade him to take things a bit more easily - Frank would have none of this, however, and I well remember him, with a sledgehammer in his hands, demolishing a wall in Elliott House during the Christmas Holidays, 1990.

Always cheerful and a perfect gentleman, he was devoted to St. Mary's Hall and in return the school owes him a great deal, for he was an outstanding example to us all.

Everyone wanted a memorial to Frank and the domestic staff suggested the sundial which is now on the Middle Terrace; it was blessed by the School Chaplain on 3rd July, 1991.

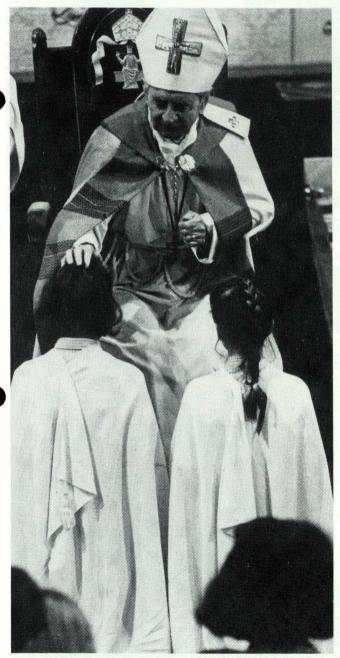
Our deepest sympathy goes out to Frank's family in their sudden loss. R.I.P.

M.D.M.

P.J.

Photographic Society

Last year was a busy and successful one for the Society and the results of members' efforts were reflected in a creditable display in the Art Building on Garden Party Day during the summer term. At the end of that term it was with regret that we had to say goodbye to our three talented Upper VIth girls and nearly all our Vth Form members. We hope that in their fresh fields they will have the facilities and opportunities to pursue their interest in photography. Despite this loss it is consoling to see so many enthusiastic members coming up the school in the IInd, IIIrd and IVth Forms.



Confirmation March 1992 by the Right Reverend Edward Knapp-Fisher in the School Chapel of St. Mark's (Photograph by J.B.L.)

This year we had an influx of girls wishing to offer photography for the bronze award of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Among the requirements for this award is the production of a portfolio of photographs of children and animals. Mrs. Vivien Jewsbury of Gloucester House has been most kind and tolerant in allowing members (including some of her own former pupils) to photograph the smallest and youngest children in the Junior School for their portfolios.

Last September the Society lost the room in Martin House that had been used as a studio. This had been a most useful room to the Society and particularly for boarders at weekends as during the dark winter months it was possible to tackle portraiture and still life when weather and light outside were unsuitable. Mrs. Lock of the Art Department was also very helpful in our loss and on several occasions allowed us to use a room in the Art Building. At the present time we have not been able to use this room as it appears to be used for the construction of a life-size human body, which, if suitable, may well appear in the viewfinders of some cameras later on in the year.

In conclusion, our thanks go to Dr. R. Dixon who generously presented a 35mm Zeiss Centarex Camera to the Society before leaving last July. The Society also acknowledges the receipt of a Durst 670BW enlarger for the darkroom and this will eventually replace the smaller Durst 305 which has been on active service for the last nine years.

S.L..R.

Chapel Report

The following is a brief report of Christian activities within the school. A Eucharist is celebrated each Wednesday for pupils and staff parents are welcome too. Twice termly there is a Eucharist for the whole school with preachers from the Brighton and Hove area. Sixteen girls were presented for Confirmation on 13th March from forms 1, 3 and 5. The officiant was the Rt. Rev. Edward Knapp-Fisher, former Bishop of Pretoria. As Chaplain I continue to lead the senior school assembly each Wednesday, and Sister Alison, Church Army, together with Michael the monkey puppet takes junior school assembly on Friday mornings. A Christian group of girls meets every Monday lunch time with a varied programme. The termly boarders continue to worship with the congregation of St. Mary's Church, Kemp Town.

D.P.





Music Report

Spring Term 1991 saw the bizarre and unannounced arrival of 'Roberto', an itinerant Chilean pianist and resident of Paris who, it would seem, was in pursuit of any performing opportunity within a twenty mile radius of Newhaven. The possessor of a virtuoso technique, 'Roberto', without so much as a warming of frozen fingers, entertained and possibly educated a large number of our younger pupils throughout the day. Sadly, any further performances were 'snowed off' and we have not seen 'Roberto' since.

The end of the Spring Term saw the first of two concerts prepared during this period, the second taking place in early May, shortly after our return from the April vacation. I note that this particular concert was in aid of Comic Relief and I must admit that both A.J. and myself were very relieved that all went well - the girls always deliver the goods when under pressure!

Our Brighton Festival Concert of May 11th began with a short recital by our two 'A' level students, Anna Symonds and Helen Crittall, who repeated the programmes they had performed for the visiting 'A' level examiner a few days earlier. We were very encouraged by the request made by the examiner that we should record these recitals as examples of 'the highest calibre of performance' within the framework of 'A' level.

The remainder of the concert was one of our most sophisticated to date and a fitting farewell to

an exceptionally musical and committed sixth form. The programme encompassed virtually the history of western musical culture with representative items ranging from the Elizabethan Giles Farnaby to the mysterious jazz composer Thelonius Monk. The concert finished with the magnificent Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda by Gustav Holst.

With the concert season over for us we embarked in the Summer Term, and in collaboration with the drama department, on a workshop in performance of the new mini-musical Trolls by Peter Skellern. A piece of somewhat dubious musical merit, Trolls provided an opportunity for 'marching up and down' and in the case of Emily Hall as the Goblin, terrorising toddlers in the audience! We hope the girls enjoyed themselves.

Autumn Term '91 saw the beginning of auditions and rehearsals for the evergreen musical Annie and we agonised over the fact that we had to exclude many willing and able girls from the chorus for purely logistical reasons.

Whilst R.R. acted the fool, A.J. conducted a small but 'tight' band of visiting staff and ex-schoolgirl Helen Crittall. ('Tight' is the word in the trade used to describe a group of musicians who play well together and together well).

In addition to Annie we took the decision to stage our normal concert a week later in order to maintain the momentum of our instrumental



Chamber Choir at Festival Concert in Chapel (Photograph: J.B.L.)

work. I must admit that we were concerned as to the wisdom of this as it put a great deal of strain on the girls participating in both *Annie* and the concert. We needn't have worried as they sang and played magnificently and we also felt that our standards were maintained in spite of losing so many key musicians the summer before.

Spring Term '92 brings two exciting innovations: firstly, the acquisition of the very latest computerised music technology which provides truly stunning capabilities for both of us in the preparation of scores, etc., and the girls in the construction of their GCSE composition files. The capabilities of this equipment are too numerous to list here but R.R. would be delighted to demonstrate this facility to any interested parents or friends.

The second innovation is the replacement of the competitive music festivals with informal instrumental and vocal solo concerts, thus providing many girls with a more appropriate and less daunting performing opportunity. These concerts will also provide a 'shop window' for the superb work of our visiting peripatetic staff without whose commitment and interest we would not be able to function.

We should also like to take the opportunity of thanking our colleagues from other departments who have so graciously cooperated with us when extra rehearsal time is needed in the preparation of our performances.

R.R.

Speech and Drama Report

This has been another successful and exciting year for all the pupils who take speech and drama as an extra subject.

In March 1991 several students entered for the Brighton Competitive Musical Festival gaining three first places, four second places and several third places in the respective classes - ranging from acted duologues to solo verse speaking.

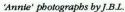
At the end of each term there is a large entry for both New Era speech and drama and acting examinations and for the Guildhall speech and drama examinations and there was an outstanding result in the Winter Term, 1991 with 44 pupils taking part gaining a total of 32 merit awards and 9 honours awards. This I feel shows the degree of dedication and enthusiasm given by all concerned to this subject. In the same term Alice Armstrong gained her Gold Medal stage technique acting award which is a very advanced level and is a pleasing culmination of her studies over the years.

C.B.

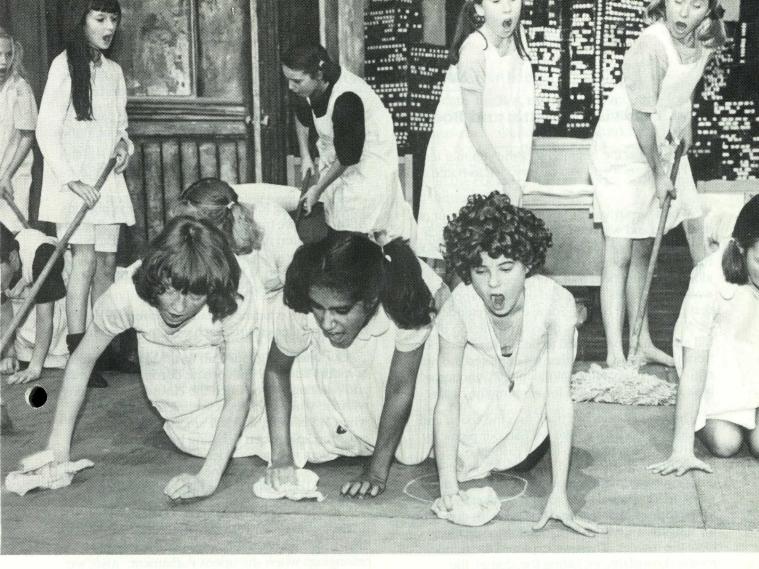
Drama Report

'Annie'

It was Saturday night and the hall was crowded. It was dark all around me and the band was playing a very familiar tune. I hummed to the song which I knew so well. The professional band kept on playing, and I kept telling myself not to be nervous. I laughed quietly to myself thinking how different I looked in a red curly wig, and a torn smock. As the curtains drew back all the orphans lay still, and I could tell that they were excited. Suddenly, just as I was about to walk on the stage and start acting, all my fears suddenly disappeared and I was no longer nervous, just thrilled and I felt that the stage was my home, a special bond. I felt it was my friend, and so with plenty of courage I faced the audience. I sang 'Maybe Far Away' with confidence and I could imagine how down-hearted Annie would have







felt. Everyone said my singing that night had been the best I'd ever sung.

I enjoyed acting with the teachers, especially Mr. Wells. While we were acting together, no longer was he my History teacher, but a brand new person. I hope I have the pleasure of acting with him in the near future. All the way through the play I felt adrenalin in my body; I felt so happy. I have some favourite times and some not so favourite ones which I will share with you. My favourite part of the play was when the officer carried me on and Miss Hannigan (Jocelyn Crouch) was pretending to be nice and worried about me. She kept cuddling me and everyone in the audience thought it was hilarious. I like it when you have an audience who appreciates you.

My worst bit was when I had to sing the familiar tune 'Tomorrow' to the audience. That was fine but the only trouble was the dog Suki (Sandy) was on stage with me at the time and I'd never acted with a dog before. So I was a bit worried that she would do one of these three things: wet herself, bite me, or get nervous and run off the stage! I think that was the only part of the play where I was slightly tense.

In the rehearsals for *Annie* everyone kept saying to me, 'Poor you, you have to cuddle Mr Wells and kiss the Bursar.'

I replied, 'I don't mind really; it is just what acting is all about. When you act you can't be shy. You have to accept cuddling people and kissing people whom you would never have dreamed of kissing or hugging before.'

My most favourite thing about doing Annie was that all the cast were super, not to mention the teachers! We were all one big happy family and there was no jealousy involved whatsoever. Everyone helped each other and said 'Good luck' and 'Well done'. It was fantastic. It helps so much when you're acting to know that there are people urging you on. The friendship of all the girls was something I will cherish. I have to say everyone in the play was great from oldest to youngest and if anyone had been away from the play any nights, no matter how big or small a part she played, she would have been missed because everyone was excellent and involved. Everyone tried his or her best and that is what counts. I am proud of everyone in the play and also grateful to all the teachers who helped me and everyone else.

Annie is the best thing that has happened to me. I loved every minute of it and the memory of the friendship between the whole cast and acting in such a production will remain in my memory forever.

Heather Goddard, 3F

Out and about

First Year visit to Battle and Bodiam

One day at the beginning of the summer term the First Years went on a history visit to Battle and Bodiam.

When we arrived at Battle we tumbled out of the coach and walked up to the little hut which was the entrance. Near there we watched a video film about the battle of Hastings and then walked along the battlefield trail. At places along the walk were tables which told us what happened at that point in the battle. Some of us pretended to be Anglo-Saxon soldiers defending the top of the hill and others pretended to be Normans attacking from the bottom. After that we explored the ruins of the monastery which William the Conqueror built in gratitude to God for winning the battle.

Then we all bundled back into the coach and headed for Bodiam where we had our picnic by the river. We walked up to the castle, going across the huge moat and under the portcullis into a big courtyard with ruined walls all round it. We went up long spiral staircases of cold, stone slabs to the tops of high towers. It was worth the climb for the fantastic view. We took lots of pictures from the towers. Then we explored the ruined rooms downstairs, including the chapel, the kitchen with the huge fireplace, the deep well and the pigeon house.

At last we returned to the coach to start the long journey home. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day out.

Nathalie Hojka, 1K

Fifth Form visit to the Imperial War Museum and Parliament

We filled the Imperial War Museum, reading, talking and gasping about the shocking, interesting and heart-breaking fates of those killed during the First World War. There were so many displays and paintings round every bend of the museum that there wasn't enough time to see everything.

However, we stepped into a most horrific and life-like model of the trenches where we were able to see, hear and smell the same things that the soldiers of the Great War had to encounter: darkness and bloodshed, exploding shells and cries of misery, the stench of unhygienic trenches.

At the entrance, we were able to take part in a simulator which tossed and turned us about in the same way as a plane would have done to a pilot in the Second World War. It was fascinating as well as amusing!

After having lunch among the reckless pigeons of London, we travelled on to Parliament. Before we were taken round, we listened to the Labour Shadow Education Minister talk about his experience as an M.P. and we were allowed to raise and fire questions at him.

When the educational talk was over, we split up into smaller groups, each with our own guide.

Our interesting tour lead us through numerous corridors adorned with ornate decorations, murals and paintings. We visited the House of Commons with the white lines representing the 'old days' when M.P.s were, and still are, not allowed to cross the lines when debating because this would bring them to a sword's length from their opponents. We then witnessed the contrast of the House of Lords which was filled with golden furniture, elaborate ceiling and ornaments.

On leaving, we were shown the Queen's room: the parlour where she changes and leaves her belongings when she opens Parliament. Also, we saw a hall where there were statues of famous leaders, such as Asquith and Lloyd George - it really was most interesting. This led to the 'voting lobby' where M.P.s' voting takes place.

The day was very tiring but extremely interesting. I would love to go to Parliament again if the chance should arise.

Janan Kassir, 5T

A Trip Back in Time

(A History/English department visit to a National Trust Theatre's Education day on the 1920s at Polesden Lacey - Summer Term 1991)

We were caught in a time warp. The year was 1927. We looked around us and saw trees, open fields in the distance, a large country house. There was not a busy road in sight, and no planes flew overhead. Not a sound could be heard except the chattering of the birds and our own voices. We stared at each other in amusement, laughing at what our friends were wearing. Some of us were dressed as servants, some as