

French Exchange

October 1998

This October a group of twenty second and third years spent nine days in Paris on the return trip of our exchange with Collège St. Louis-de-Gonzague last June. The girls spent the morning in class and the afternoon visiting some of the many cultural attractions of Paris, including Le Louvre museum, the Tour Eiffel, Notre Dame and La Sainte Chapelle and a whole day in Versailles. During the evening and at the weekend the girls stayed with their exchange partner's family, going on essential shopping and Euro Disney and writing their diaries in French and occasionally in English . . .

We were all made to feel very welcome by both the staff of St Louis and the parents, and many of the girls plan to stay in touch with their French partners. Overall the trip was a great success and preparations for the next exchange are already under way.

Mrs E Vincent-Gill & Miss J Revest

During the journey I was very nervous, wondering what Alix was like? I wondered what her apartment was like and what her school was like?

When we arrived I found that Alix was very kind. Every day we had something exciting to do, such as sight-seeing, going to school or staying with our French family. At the weekend, my French family took me to Versailles, which was wonderful.

The French exchange holiday turned out to be a very valuable and exciting experience!

Faye Bennett, IK

French Exchange Trip to Paris

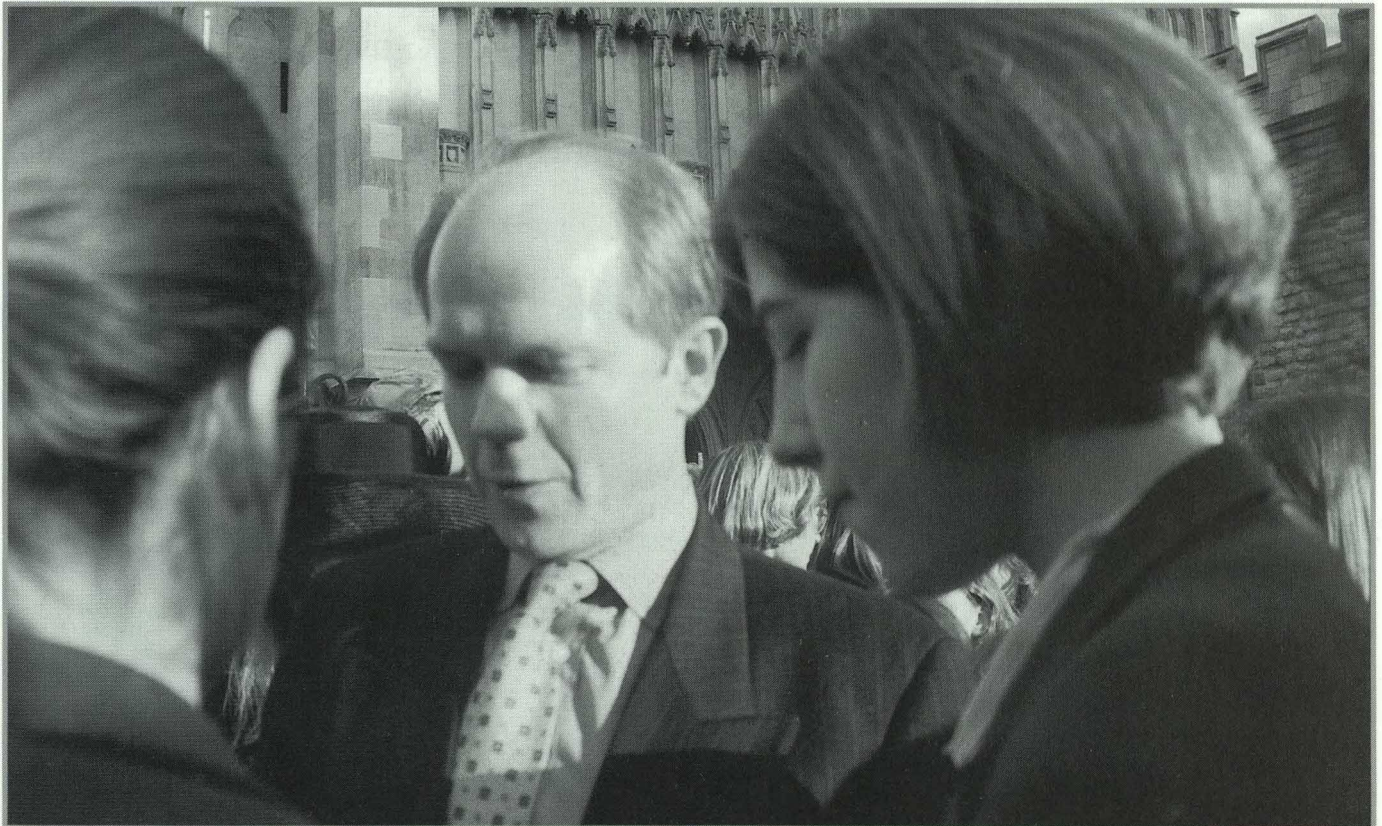
April 1998

This year's trip to Paris has been once again a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The school and parents gave us a warm welcome and looked after us very well. In particular, our girls got along very well with their partners, and we know that many of them are already planning return trips to France to carry on the friendship they began on this trip.

Despite rain every day which verged on the torrential, we managed to keep spirits up and take in a large number of the sights. These ranged from the traditional tourist attractions, such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Champs Elysées, to the more unusual visits such as the spherical cinema in the modern Défense area and a morning of having portraits painted in the artists' district of Montmartre, which proved to be a popular end to the week.

Of course, it was not all fun and games. The girls participated in a wide range of classes at the prestigious Collège St. Louis-de-Gonzague, both with their partners and in separate intensive classes. This gave them a chance to practise their French skills and see how different French classes are to our own – which seemed to give some of them a bit of a shock!

Miss J Revest



Alice Rawdon-Mogg in conversation with William Hague on Commonwealth Issues Day at Westminster.

The Globe

The 4th year went to see *The Merchant of Venice* at the Globe Theatre in London on the 26th of June. As we approached the theatre it looked very much like the theatre pictured in textbooks, it was most impressive. It was very well restored to its Elizabethan rotundness. The timber-framing and thatched roof must have taken much time and effort. From where we were situated, I couldn't see whether it was thatched in reed or straw though. Inside we could see sandwiched layers of seats all around the theatre. We were in the standing section as groundlings. I was impressed that the open roof didn't let all of the rain in and was fairly comfortable if not a little windswept. That did not detract from the experience. The stage was decorated beautifully with murals of people and animals and gave a good view of the chair and actors. The audience had obviously changed since Elizabethan times. There were mainly students, mature and younger and educated adults instead of bawdy drunkards. I liked the relaxed rules on talking, eating and sitting on each other and apart from one strange woman leaning on me the audience were keenly involved and obviously enjoyed the trip.

Rosy Rothwell, 4Y

'Le Ballon Rouge'

As part of the French Theatre Season, a major celebration of theatre from France running from September 20 – December 20 1997, the European Theatre Company visited St Mary's Hall on October 15 to present 'Le Ballon Rouge', cleverly adapted from the 1956 cinema classic for schools. 'Le Ballon Rouge' is a bilingual play which tells the story of a French boy, Pascal, who comes to live in England. The language barrier leads the other children at school to alienate and even bully him. Alone, he finds happiness in the friendship of a red balloon, which is able to lead Pascal and the other children towards comprehension and friendship. The four young actors skilfully involved the audience of St Mary's Hall pupils, aged 9-14, by moving among them, encouraging them to think of questions and answers and even singing a song with them. The girls had done some preparation for the play in their French lessons and this aided their comprehension. At the end of the one-hour presentation they were able to keep an attractive souvenir booklet containing follow-up work and puzzles.

Mrs C Wales



Mycenaean vaulted side chamber (in pouring rain).

(Photograph: Katy Mokhtar)

SMH Greek Invasion 1998

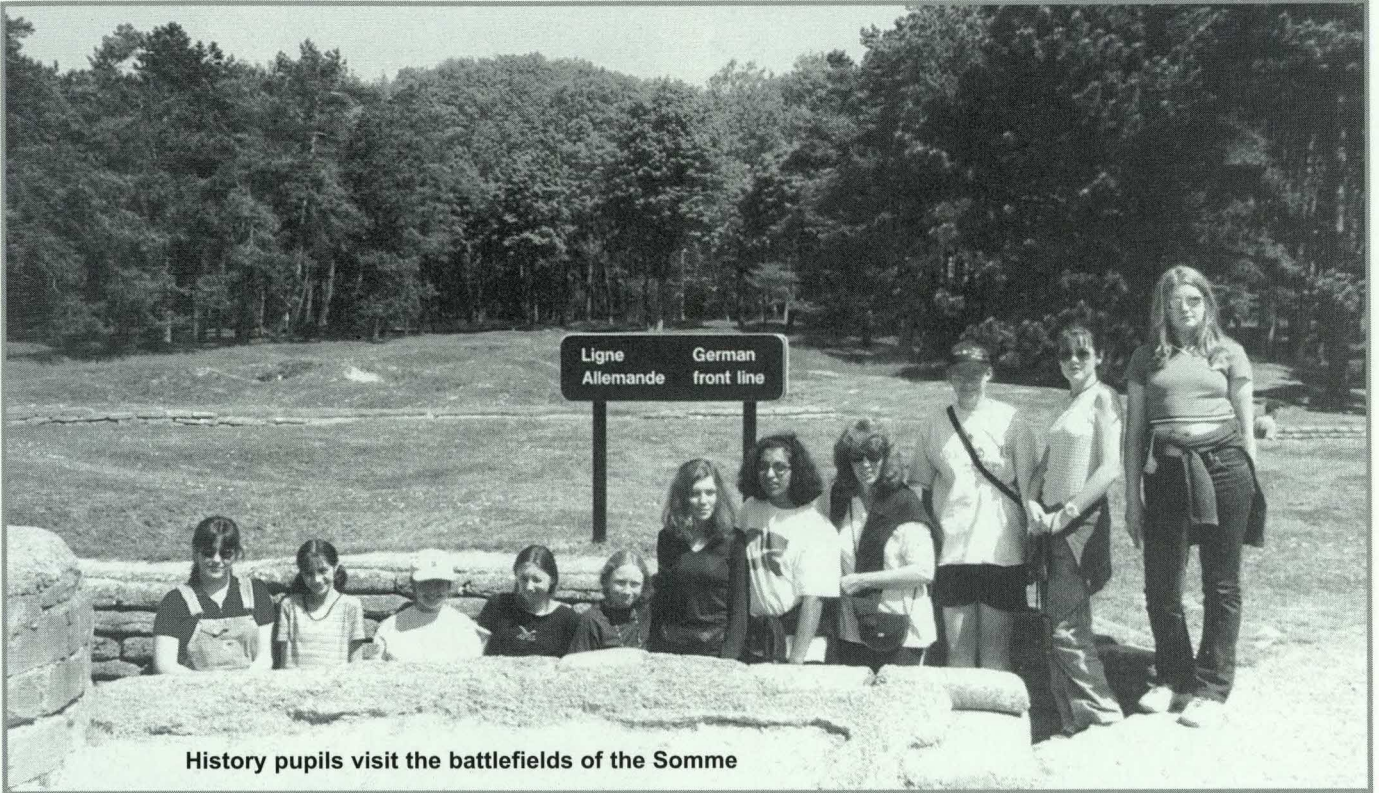
Another highly successful trip during which the girls behaved impeccably. As always our week was satisfying, exciting if tiring and one, as always full of variety, as shown by the winning photographs of the biannual competition. Many thank to all tour participants and those who helped.

Mrs S Thomason



Palace guards in Parliament Square, Syntagma.

(Photograph: Charlene Evans)



History pupils visit the battlefields of the Somme

The Somme

On the 16th of May we went on a school trip to visit the battlefields of France. We arrived at school at 5.15am and left for Dover at about 5.30 am. We travelled by coach to Dover and boarded the ferry.

When we had reached France we got back on the coach and started to travel to the Somme area.

Next we travelled to Canada which is the location of

Vimy Ridge. Here we saw the coal mines and the underground tunnels. The tunnels were very long and not particularly high. If you had been a tall soldier you would have had to crouch down to stop yourself from hitting the ceiling. We saw the rooms the soldiers would have slept in. There was not much space and there would have been bunk beds in there during the war. At the end of one of the tunnels you could see a bomb. The bomb had dug itself through metres of earth and penetrated the





Home from home! – in the trenches

tunnel's roof but had not actually exploded. The bomb was now completely safe so you could walk back up to it. Outside the tunnels there were areas of long and short grass. The short grass meant that that area had been checked for unexploded bombs and was now completely safe to walk on. The long grass was not yet safe to walk on, as there could be unexploded bombs. They use sheep on the long grass because it is too dangerous for humans to walk on. The monument was a tribute to the people of Canada who died during the war.

Next we travelled to La Boisselle which is a crater ninety feet deep where the Allies had planted a bomb underneath the German Army and blown them up.

After this we went to Cemetery where a lot of graves had "Known unto God" written on the grave stones. This means that they had found a body or even sometimes just part of a body. Even though they did not know who it was they still gave them a proper burial and grave. Some of the graves we saw had a Star of David on them. This meant that the person buried there was a Jewish soldier. We reenacted what the Allies had to go through during the First World War. First we had to climb over the trenches and start to walk to where the Germans would have been. The soldiers would have had machine guns shooting at them and not many would have made it even half way. It was very moving because you really get to feel what it would have been like to have had to walk across the fields. Also you know that at every step you take there is a possibility that a soldier died there.

We then travelled to Thiepval Monument. This monument was extremely big and had thousands of different names written on it. We searched for our relatives' names and then had a minute's silence to remember the people who had died during the war.

Then we started our journey back to Calais on the coach. There was a delay at the port so we didn't get on to the coach till later than we should have. We arrived back at school at about 11.30pm.

Naomi Stephenson, III



Kirsty Carr's winning entry in the Geography Photography Competition



Geography Photography Exhibition

During the early part of the Autumn Term, the Geography Department organised an exhibition of photographs of the natural world. Pupils and staff were encouraged to submit entries. The walls of the Geography Room were covered with photographs showing excellent examples of geographical features.

Mrs Meek and Mrs Lock judged the entries.

The winning entry was produced by Kirsty Carr (*shown left, on facing page*)

Runners up were: Julia Bezanson (volcano)

Faye Bennett (coastal landscape)

Philippa Southwell (vegetation)

Mrs Lewis won the staff category with a picture of sand at low tide (*shown above*). Mr Williamson was runner-up with a Downland photograph

I would like to thank Mrs Harvey for her hard work in organising this exhibition.

Mrs O Ridge

Najwan Al-Moussawi,
Lauren Landsdowne,
Alice Rawdon-Mogg
and Jodie Graham
outside
Westminster Abbey





The Slopes of Success with Mountains of Memories

From the moment we took-off from Gatwick in the early hours of the morning to the second we touched down, back in Gatwick, the ski-trip was a great success.

Our flight left on time. It consisted of about 1 hour. All spirits were high (if not just a little tired) and everybody couldn't wait to hit the slopes.

When we arrived at Lyon airport we were met by our ski-rep, Dani, who proved her ability to make our holiday as enjoyable as possible. Well, it was her job after-all.

All luggage was then bundled onto the coach and off we went. The four hour journey seemed to fly by as fast as the scenery changed. Just after our one stop we rolled into the widening roads that hide at the bottom of huge mountains. The view from our coach just kept on getting better.

We arrived at the hotel and went straight to our rooms and then up for lunch. After lunch was the first opportunity to discover the rest of the village and the boys in it!

The next morning the wake-up from the PE teachers echoed down the corridors.

Breakfast was at 8 am and was continental.

After breakfast we all threw our skis over our shoulders for that 'professional look', as Mrs Hurst said, and headed up the mountains in the telecabin to the nursery slopes. There we had a mini-test to put us all in groups. The ski instructor for the advanced group was Denis and ski instructor for the beginners group, which later got renamed as the executive club, was Edmon.

The daily routine would be a lesson at 9.00am till 11.00am. At 11.15am we would find a spot in the sun and eat lunch, supplied by the hotel. There was slight change of plan on the second day as there was a snow storm, so lunch was at the hotel. Between lunch and the next lesson we had the opportunity to sun-bathe or go for a ski





around the mountain. The next lessons started at 2.45pm – 4.45pm. After a couple of days this lesson time turned nicely into a fun time. Denis and Edmon took us on different slopes: green, yellow, blue, red, black. All the lifts, bottom, chair, bubble and telecabin. We skied in Death Valley, Hell Rock – you name it, we've all done it.

At the end of the second lesson we strolled back to the hotel, had a shower and went up for dinner. All meals were extremely good. At the end of dinner was the evening entertainment. Every night was something different. We had a bingo night and a quiz night, both with prizes. One night we went to watch an ice-show and

a ski-show which demonstrated skiing over the years. Another night we went ice-skating and bum-boarding. I'm sure many of us have the bruises of bum-boarding to prove its speed especially on a black slope. Towards the end of the week the late nights, early mornings began to show and the news of a ski-test on the last day wasn't welcomed.

The test took place on a blue slope and the idea was to ski down safely without falling over and to do the best of your ability. Everybody did so. That evening we were given our rightfully earned wards. There were Ski 1's, Bronze pass, Bronze merit, Bronze distinction or Silver prizes to receive. Nobody failed. After the awards we all said goodbye to Denis and Edmon and started packing.

The next morning was breakfast, luggage on the coach and off we went to the airport for our return journey home.

We all must give Mrs Hurst, Mrs Moss and Mrs Hawkes big thanks which they most definitely deserve. Skiing was great and enjoyed immensely by all. It was hard to leave the relaxing atmosphere of the hotel, crew and the beautiful scenery. I only hope we have a repeat performance next year.

Amy Drinkwater



Grange Exhibition

'Such bold, inspirational painting! Brave yet sensitive! I am delighted that the visual arts are in such good hands. The future is assured.'

*Brighton & Hove Arts
Council*

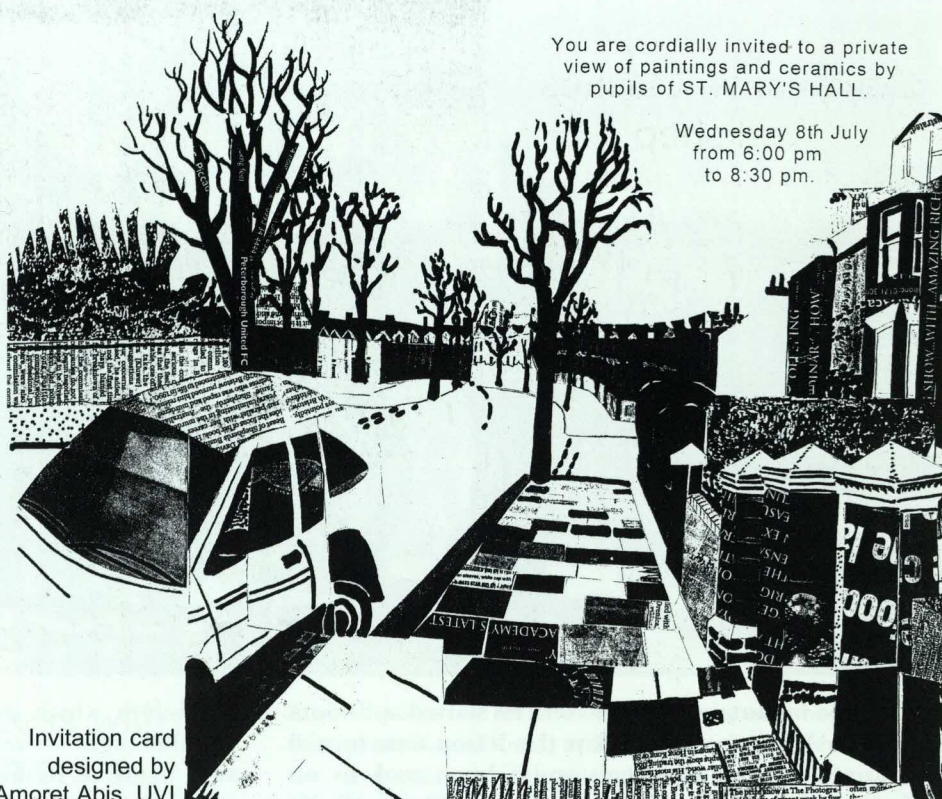
'I am most impressed by the high quality, liveliness and new approaches, and approaches of their art: a show of considerable talent.'

THE GRANGE, ROTTINGDEAN

You are cordially invited to a private
view of paintings and ceramics by
pupils of ST. MARY'S HALL.

Wednesday 8th July
from 6:00 pm
to 8:30 pm.

Invitation card
designed by
Amoret Abis, UVI



Development Issues Workshop

In the Spring Term the Religious Studies and Geography Departments were very pleased to welcome two parents of our Third Year girls, Dr K Bezanson from the University of Sussex and Mr R Moss from Cafod, for an afternoon devoted to Development Issues.

Dr Bezanson introduced us to the difficulties of defining the term 'developing country'. He produced a range of interesting statistics which gave us much good for thought, especially the comparison of prices in Vietnam and the United Kingdom and information on Harlem, USA.

Mr Moss invited participation in various activities which looked at the inequalities still existing in the world.

Both departments plan to work together on development issues in the future.

Mrs O Ridge



Dr Bezanson, University of Sussex (left), and Mr R. Moss from CAFOD.



Head Girl, Jodie Graham; the Headmistress; The Mayor of Brighton, Cllr Francis Tonks; and Mr and Mrs John Commin, Chairman of Governors, at the Garden Party, July 1998



Above: Chamber Choir singing Elgar in the Spring Concert.

Right: Jazz Band: 'Taking the A Train'.



Below: Senior Choir singing Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater'.



PSA News

I am grateful for the opportunity to briefly highlight the Parent School Association's achievements during the last year, but first on behalf of the Committee, would like to welcome all new parents and pupils to St Mary's Hall.

Throughout the year we were pleased to support the school on numerous occasions including Open Evening, Junior Sports Day, the May reunion of the SMHA (Old Girls of the School) and Garden Party, whilst also organising fund raising events ourselves.

In the lead-up to Christmas we served mulled-wine and mince pies during the interval of "Fiddler on the Roof" and held a raffle for three Christmas Hampers. Our younger pupils from Elliott and Gloucester once again had great fun dancing and playing at the Junior Christmas Disco, complete with a visit from Father Christmas and this event proving to be ever popular, has become a regular feature on the school calendar.

During the Spring Term, Gloucester House Hall made the perfect venue for the second P.S.A. Quiz Night. Some of the finest minds on the south coast racked their brains, whilst Simon Conn (our quiz master) standing in for Jeremy Paxman, sped through the rounds, keeping order, with the maximum of efficiency – a great time was had by all! We propose to hold our next quiz night on Saturday 6th March 1999, so to avoid disappointment, please organise your teams and book your tickets early when they become available in the New Year.

Much hard work and planning went into organising the Line Dance on the 27th June. Although numbers were less than the previous year, the Main Hall was alive and kicking to the rhythm of Southern Stomp. The supper of hot dogs and burgers (not forgetting the bar) provided the required sustenance for the energetic dances.

At the end of the Summer Term, a 'first' for us was to serve Pimms in the marquee at Garden Party. Judging by the demand, this was most successful and the proceeds from the sales were put towards the 'Millennium Library Carpet Fund'.

We have now achieved our goal to complete the carpeting in the Senior School Library. With the much appreciated donations in the form of sponsorship of squares of carpet received from parents and other monies raised by the P.S.A., we shall be giving the school £1,500 for the project, together with £500 for the benefit of Elliott and Gloucester Houses.

I would like to thank all the parents, pupils and staff who came to our events for their support. For those of you who have not been to one of our social events, please look out for the next one and do join us – we are confident that you will have fun. Your support is always most welcome and needed to make these occasions a success.

Should you have ideas for socials or would like to become involved with the P.S.A., please contact us via School Reception or make yourselves know to the Committee members at one of the events this term.

Denise Hastilow, Chairman of the PSA



Jazz Band: 'Taking the A Train'



Duet from Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater'



Amoret Abis and Dipti Patel playing Mozart's 'Lucio Silla'. Amoret is off to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, to read Music

A Trip In Time from the Twentieth Century to a Sixteenth Century Manor

Friday June 26th began well! The weather was fine; the costumes of the girls looked great; the coach arrived on cue!

Our outward journey had no mishaps, and we arrived in time to eat ice creams before our role play exercise in being Tudor monks, workers and pages began. We proceeded to play out our given roles as people living in and around Ightham Mote in 1536. We were concerned about the possible closure of the local monastery by Henry VIII.

Led by professional actors from the National Trust Theatre in Education, who portrayed various historical characters, we were soon absorbed in the problems which the momentous changes of the 1530s brought to the local community. What would happen to the monks? Could they find a place in an increasingly secular society? How would the shepherds, spinners and weavers cope with the new Protestant ideas and the economic changes brought about by the closure of the religious houses? Could we do without our holy relic, our blessed Saint Catherine, taken by orders of the government from the local church?

The girls playing pages took messages from one group to another as the story unfolded. Hunting songs, fanfares and chanting played their part. A dance in the manor was dramatically interrupted as Protestants and Catholics argued their case and brought home the bitterness of the controversies of the period. Eventually, the actors departed, and we were left to ponder on how we would have reacted to these dramatic situations in the sixteenth century.

Then to the coach and to the homeward journey. Suddenly we were back in the twentieth century on a busy main road, with rush hour traffic and our own problems to think about. A coach with a red light indicating an over-heating engine now faced us. The driver pulled into a convenient lay-by and phoned the garage. They would send a mechanic, but how long would we be

delayed? An hour and a half seemed likely. The horror began to dawn on us! 47 pupils and 3 staff were unable to get back to Brighton and the England v. Morocco match to be played at 8 pm that evening. We would miss it!

We telephoned school and parents to let them know the bad news and we waited – and waited! 6.30pm came and no mechanic arrived. We were beginning to feel hungry and thirsty. Mr Wells and Mrs Doyle dressed as Tudor peasants hailed a passing taxi to take them to the nearest food store to buy some much-needed sustenance. They bought back 50 bananas, crisps, chocolate and drinks. Not exactly a Tudor feast, but very acceptable. Meanwhile, we had had some exercise, climbing into a nearby field.

The mechanic arrived, but after trying to do some repairs, reported that he could not mend the damage. And 8pm was approaching fast! But all was not lost. He had a portable TV and we could hear the score replayed from girl to girl. And England scores!

The day was not all gloom and doom! More good news came: the coach company had found another coach and persuaded a poor driver to leave his TV and come to our rescue! Mrs Carnochan stopped tearing her hair out and we sat listening to the football match on the coach radio, making some more phone calls to let everyone know that we would be back to St Mary's Hall by 10 o'clock.

And so it was that night closed over our adventure – a History trip to remember!

And England won their match!

Susan Carnochan

