

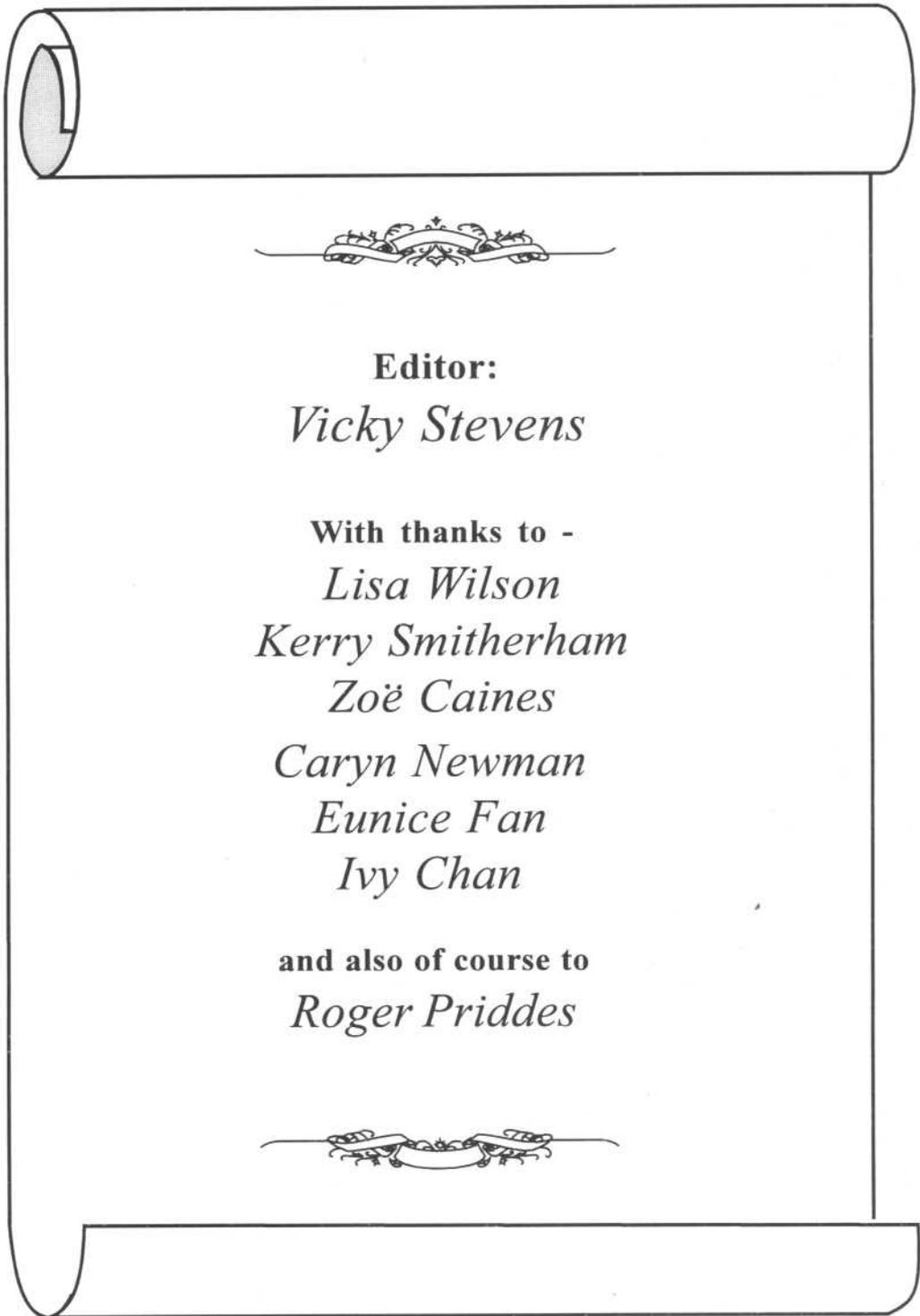


IN ACTION FAITHFUL
AND IN HONOUR CLEAR

STOVER SCHOOL --- --- MAGAZINE

1995 - 1996





Front Cover:

The successful 1996 Ten Tors Team of Louise Astbury, Katherine Storrs, Lucy Jones, Jane Howard, Chloe Mansell and Nicola Croke. They finished when over 1,000 did not!



STOVER

From the Study Window

The 1995-96 academic year seems to have flown by which is in many respects due to the packed programme that we have completed over the past three terms.

I am very pleased to report another successful year academically. Almost without exception both full sets of school reports that I have written this year have enabled me to praise the commitment and achievements of all girls in the school. The excellent subject exhibitions on Sports Day showed just how much imagination, effort and enthusiasm had been given to all subjects over the past year. And the House points totals each term have also been a credit to the hard work put in by all pupils. I very much hope to see more of the same next year of course!

As we look forward to 1996-97 we also look back to say thankyou to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Howitt, Mrs Martin and Mrs Leitch, and we welcome Miss Hutton, Miss Raithe and Mr Clarkson to Stover from September. We hope they will soon feel very much at home in our school.

On the sports field our pupils have played and worked hard to gain some excellent results in all sports. Stover's reputation for producing good sportswomen is well-established and I congratulate all those who have been selected to compete in County teams in Hockey, Cross-Country and Netball. We also congratulate Gemma Fitzjohn- Sykes on her selection for the English National Sailing team in the 1996 European Championships.

The many clubs and activities that are a feature of an education at Stover have also been busy over the year. Of course I congratulate the Ten Tors team on their outstanding efforts, but I have also watched as girls hurry around the school to change quickly from kilts to jodhpurs and from grey sweaters to oxygen tanks around 4.00pm each afternoon, and heard the enjoyment of girls practising rounders, singing or tennis - all of which add to the great variety of an education at Stover.

Over the year it has been good to see so many Old Girls visit the school and to have attended functions organised by past pupils. Stover's reputation ranges far and wide, and one can often bump into past Stover pupils up and down the country - as well as round the world - and it is very uplifting to hear of the good times they had at Stover and of their wish to come and visit the school again.

Finally I would like to thank all our parents for their help and support for the school over the past year, and Mrs Stevens for again working so hard to produce this year's school magazine.

P E Bujak
Headmaster



STOVER SCHOOL 1995 - 1996

Governing Body

Chairman	Mr T.M.T.Key, MA Cantab. FRICS, Chairman
Vice Chairman	Mr R.H. Roberts, JP
Vice Chairman	Miss F.R. Evans, Cert. Ed.

Mr H.Anderson, BSc. (Hons)
 Mrs A Anning
 Mr A.C.J. Cooper, BSc.
 Mrs C Cottle
 Prebendary N.J. Davey
 Mrs A.Dyer, MA
 Mr D.J. Groom
 Mrs A.Harrison, MCSP
 Dr P.J. Key, OBE, MB, BSc.
 Prof I D Mercer, CBE, BA, BSc, LLD
 Mrs J.W.G. Scott

School Legal Advisors: Boyce Hatton Solicitors, Torquay
 Over, Taylor, Biggs, Exeter

School Accountants: Francis Clark, Newton Abbot

Academic Staff

Headmaster

Mr P E Bujak BA(Hons) MA Cert.Ed East Anglia AR Hist S
 History & RS

Deputy Head

Mrs S Bradley Bsc (Hons) PGCE Portsmouth & Oxford
 Biology

Head of Sixth Form

Mrs M Batten Bsc RHC London
 Mathematics

Head of Boarding

Mrs H Collinge BEd (Hons) Cardiff
 Technology

Mrs S Bamberg	BA MSc	Cambridge	Chemistry
Mrs R Cockell	BSc (Hons)	Exeter	Mathematics
Mrs J Cranmer	BSc (Hons)	Hull	Biology
Mrs T Dinsdale	BEd (Hons)	S.Mark & S.John	Physical Education
Mr G Dunbar	Cert Ed	Cheshire College	Art & Technology
Mrs V Elce	BA (Hons)	London	Religious St/ PSE
Miss E Evans	BA (Hons)	Exeter	Modern Languages
Miss J M Hutton	BA(Hons)PGGE	Warwick	English & PE
Mrs J Jorgensen	BA (Hons) PGCE	Hull	English
Mrs M Kearney	BEd (Hons)	Exeter	Biology
Mrs R Paige	CSSDiploma	London	Drama
Mr Palmer	Cert Ed	Exeter	EFL
Mr R Priddes	Bsc (Hons) RSA D.IT	Leeds	Information Tech.
Mrs A Smith	BA (Hons)	Durham	Geography
Mrs V Stevens	BA (Hons) MA	Exeter & Essex	Classics & English
Mr D Topley	BA Cert Ed	Open & London	Physics
Mrs M Whitechurch	MA	Oxon	German
Mrs N Winston	Licence d' Anglais		French
Miss C Young	BA (Hons)	London	History

Boarding House Staff

Junior Housemistress	Mrs M Bousfield Cert Ed. Sarum St Mishael
Senior Housemistress & Sixth Form	Mrs M Smyth
Boarding Assistants	Miss K. Cramer & Miss K Fleming
Boarding Support Services	Mrs V Ripley

Music

Director of Music

Mrs S Farleigh BA (Hons) Dartington College of Arts
Flute Piccolo & Voice

Visiting Staff:

Miss Hiley	Percussion
Mr J Bryden	Piano
Mrs V Evans	Cello
Mr B Hill	Oboe
Miss J Hitchcock	Clarinet & Saxophone
Miss C Hayek	Violin & Viola
Mr A Stark	Brass
Mr P Hill	Guitar

Stover Junior School

Mrs C J Hill	BSc PGGE	Birmingham, Head of Junior School
Mrs D Williams	BA PGGE	Exeter
Mrs V A Chapman	BEEd	Exeter
Mrs A Campkin	NVQ	Nursery Assistant
Mrs L Sharrock		Nursery Assistant
Miss L Campbell		Nursery Assistant

School Chaplain

Reverend C Knott BA

Administration and Finance

Headmaster's Secretary	Miss L Rathe	
School Secretary	Mrs E Shillabeer	
Accounts Secretary	Mrs M Barnard	
Sanatorium Sister	Miss G Nicholas	
School Librarian	Mrs M Martin	LRAMLGSM
Speech & Drama	Mrs V Thresher	
Laboratory Technician	Mrs A Milford	
Tennis Coach	Mrs J Hough	LTA
Catering Manager	Mr. D. Woods	

Stover's Latest Enterprise: Our New Nursery and Junior Departments

The Nursery

First Steps Nursery came to the end of an outstandingly successful first year this summer. Housed in the ground floor of Clockhouse, First Steps opened in September 1995 with just four pupils. Since then it has grown exponentially under the guidance and enthusiasm of Val Chapman, Head of Nursery, and starts off its new academic year with nearly fifty pupils! A new playground has been laid behind Clockhouse and is determinedly tested every day by the tinies.

Christmas is always one of the highlights of the Nursery school year, so here are some memories guaranteed to raise wistful sighs of 'Aaah' from everyone. Another treat was a visit from Year Seven girls who had made glove puppets in their Technology lesson and entertained the little ones with a fairy story.



Father Christmas visits



The Nativity (with a little help from our friends)

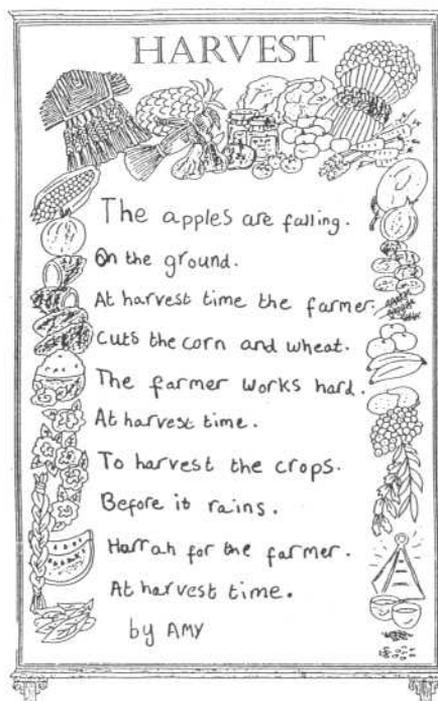
Junior Department

Our new Junior Department, opening in September 1996, is situated in Clockhouse and caters for girls aged five to ten and boys aged five to seven. It has its own IT suite and play area and will be able to make use of the science, technology and sports facilities already enjoyed by the senior pupils.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jane Hill as Head of the Junior Department. Mrs Hill graduated from Birmingham University with a degree in Geography. She has moved to Devon from Moira House Junior School in East Sussex where she was Head of Maths, Science and IT. She is a keen swimmer, qualified to instruct snorkelling, diving and life-saving and was secretary of her local sub-aqua branch. As we already have a very enthusiastic under-water sports following in the school she is going to be in great demand! She also ran Wildlife Watch activities for children through the Sussex Wildlife Trust.



Sammy by Sarah A.



Reader, She Married Him!

(A true story, which proves that there is life beyond Stover.)

It was three in the morning and the neon lights were still blazing in Wanchai. Everywhere people were spilling out of bars and taxis and queuing for the clubs, one of which must be one of the best known in the world - Joe Bananas, Hong Kong.

Only a month into the Hong Kong social scene - having left the UK where she had worked as a humble games teacher in a private girls school (which shall be nameless, dear reader)- she knew J Bs was where everyone would be. But little did she know just who the everyone would be tonight.

Shouting over the music and conversation of the tiny club which every weekend burst at the seams with its cosmopolitan clientele, she pushed herself through the masses and sat at a table near the steamed up windows at the back of the club. She had seen him earlier in Carnegies: the Hong Kong Rugby club boys were never inconspicuous on their Saturday night outings after a good win. He'd smiled across the bar and she'd hoped it was at her, but it was difficult to tell as half a dozen pairs of legs and feet did tend to obscure the view as the extrovert punters danced the night away on the bar counter. But yes! He had smiled at her because suddenly he was sitting opposite her in JB's telling each other their life stories. But not everything: she de-

ecided she'd leave big chunks out to be continued at a later date... she hoped!

They talked and talked and talked until 6am. When the bar staff started cleaning up around them they got the hint that they should leave, and coffee at his

talked and talked once again until the restaurant wanted to close. Work next day prevented the extension of the evening over coffee into the small hours once more, so they parted with promises of telephone calls.



"Reader, she married him!"

was a mutual agreement. Sitting on his balcony they watched the sun rise over the amazing Kowloon horizon. They had breakfast at 8am after which he walked her back to her flat and they parted ways for a few hours sleep.

Evening came and he phoned her to arrange to meet in town for a meal. They met at Kublai's, an exotic Mongolian restaurant in Causeway Bay where they

Call after call, meal after meal, evening after evening finally led, many months later, to a romantic weekend away. Once again she asked him what he kept in the little wooden box that went everywhere with him. This time he opened it for her. Inside the box was the biggest diamond that she had ever seen. Then he told her how he had bought the diamond in South Africa nine months before and had been waiting for the right time and place to ask her to marry him. Tears streamed down her face as without hesitation she said, "YEEEEES!!!" Then they admitted that by the end of that first week they knew that this was what they wanted.

(It doesn't happen like that in Hong Kong, let me assure you!! Well, it didn't happen to me. S. Lodwig)

Never mind Steph, there's hope yet. Ed.



"Ever hopeful"

An Autumn Walk

From the road looking into the wood the branches of the trees arched over to form a never-ending tunnel. Two huge oak trees stood at either side of the entrance to the wood like two noble guards. As I brushed my bare arm against the roughly grained bark it felt like the skin of a whale.

The path was laden with a golden brown carpet of fallen leaves. As I trod, the carpet separated to reveal the soft, dark brown, fertile earth. Large plump worms wriggled into the soil, as though they were frantically trying to run away. The sunlight beamed down on to the path ahead of me, like thousands of angels floating down from heaven.

All was silent as I walked along, with only the quiet crunching of acorns under foot.

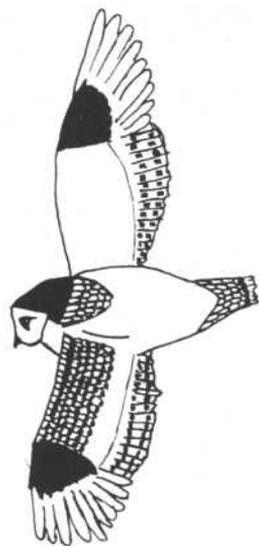
Tempting, juicy, soft blackberries weighed down their spiny branches which covered the undergrowth that had turned from green to black like magic. An unusual toadstool stood, conveniently placed, under a cover of brambles. I childishly peeped underneath, just to check that there were no fairies living there.

As I gazed up I saw a tangled mass of branches and ivy hiding the bright blue sky. I began to feel the warmth of the sun on my back as I reached a clearing. The trees seemed to whirlpool up, reaching out to the enamelled blue sky above me. The sky reminded me of those I coloured at primary school, so bright it seemed as if from a book of fairy tales.

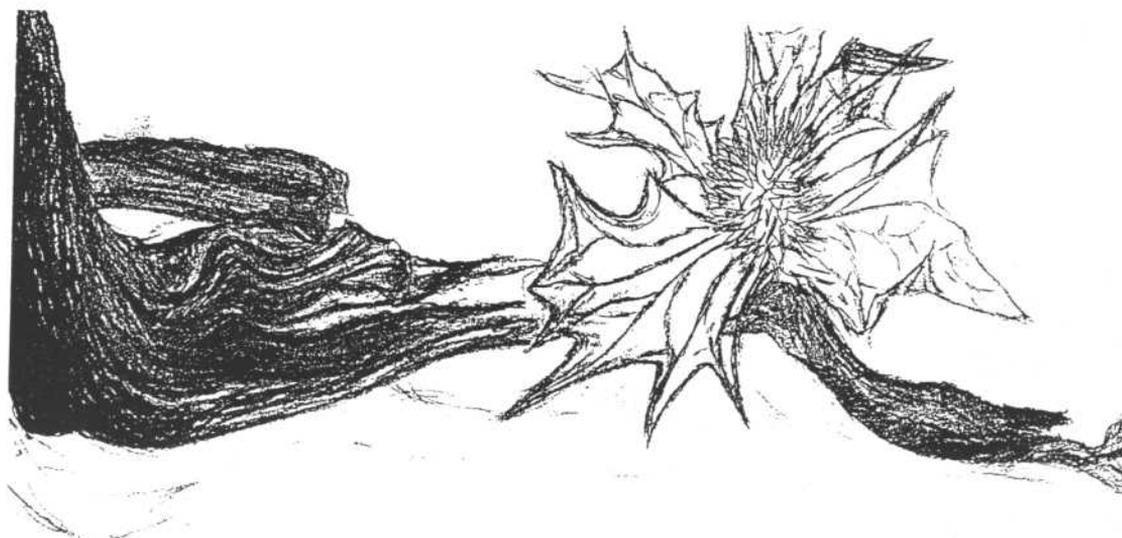
Above, a handsome buzzard effortlessly glided in circles, then suddenly called with his shrill cry. A constant flurry of wind pestered the golden leaves which never tired of dancing around in circles playing their endless games.

The dead cow parsley, only just standing after the harsh autumnal gales, shed its precious seeds which floated in the wind like confetti at a wedding.

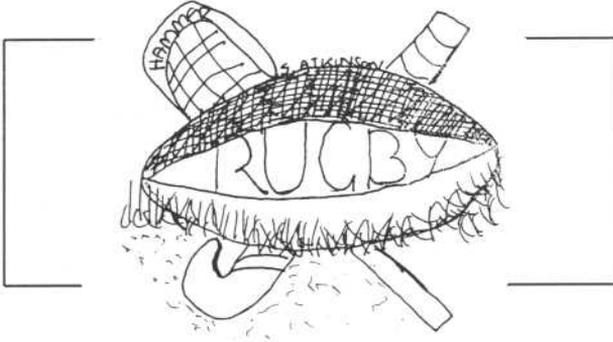
As I left the wood all the magic disappeared, but I still had a vivid picture in my head and a long, uphill walk home.



Louise Astbury Year 10



Girls Tag-Rugby Kicks Off



On the sixth of December Stover School hosted a Tag-rugby tournament for Year Nine girls. Other schools taking part included KEVIC, Westlands, Kelly College, Devonport and South Dartmoor.

Refereeing the match were the Headmaster and Nick Leonard, Rugby Youth Development Officer for Devon. The eventual winners were Westlands who fought a tough battle to beat Stover 15 - 10.

Nick Leonard presented the trophy and said, "I expect this is the first ever trophy awarded to an all-girls team for Tag-rugby in the world." He also said that it was an historic occasion and how wonderful it was to hold such an event at an all-girls school, on a rugby pitch with posts!

The event was organised by Clare Cooper for her GCSE project. Clare had trained a group of sixteen Year 7 and 9 girls for nine weeks in preparation for the event.

Squad member, Louise Neu, kept her own personal record:

In the Autumn term some of us took part in Clare Cooper's rugby GCSE project.

We had to do fitness tests, including the bleep test! In our lessons with Clare we learnt the rules of rugby, how to improve our skills and of course how to play Tag-rugby. Some of the group even had a lesson in how to score a try by diving into a pool of mud! Our training prepared us for the toughest test, the rugby tournament.

We had psyched ourselves up and were ready to go. Unfortunately our first game was against Westlands, the overall winners. It was a close game but their speed beat us to the line. Then came Kelly College. We thought they would be our hardest opponents. Just shows how wrong we could be! We beat them easily.

We got to the semi-finals, beating KEVIC to go through to the finals against Westland. It was our chance to get even with them. But it wasn't to be. It was try after try. The winning try came on in the last whistle. 15 - 10 to Westlands.

Even though the tournament was held on one of the coldest days of the month we still had to wear shorts! We fought bravely, played as a team and really enjoyed it.

Louise Neu Year 9

Hockey:

Under Sixteen Report.

Hockey has now superseded lacrosse in the PE curriculum and has proved popular and successful. Stover has joined the "Hockey - School to Club" scheme which gave the squad 6 free coaching sessions from Anette Parry, Exeter Women's Hockey Club 1st XI Captain at Clennon Valley AstroTurf. In their first full season the U16 Hockey XI made great progress and began to understand the importance of positional play. Under the inspiring captaincy of Clare Cooper the team started the season with a promising performance in the South Devon mini-tournament. The floodlit training proved to be beneficial and in the Spring term the team drew with Kingsbridge and beat Teign and Trinity 1-0. The majority of the squad were consistently available and this certainly helped the team establish a pattern of play. The team looks forward to building further on their skills and experience the next season.

Under 16 Hockey squad: C.Cooper (captain), K. O'Dwyer, E.Anning, S.Whatman, L.Astbury, L.Tar, L.Mills, A.Storrs, N.Strongman, R.House, E.Pocock, L.Crisp, L.White.

Congratulations to Fiona Linton and Jane Howard who both trialed for the South Devon Under 16 team. Fiona was selected as Centre Forward and Jane as reserve for the B team. Jane was not called on for the match on December 9th against Plymouth, but Fiona not only played but scored their only goal - the winning one. Well done!

Netball: Year 9



The '96 Year 9 Netball team consisted of Lucy Jones, Jane Howard, Cally Hocknell, Anna Gledhill, Fiona Linton, Chloe Marshall and Louise Neu (Captain), with reserves Hannah Garvin, Katherine Storrs and Ella Chivers.

We had a good start to the season by winning away at Trinity 11-13. Unfortunately we weren't as lucky in the area tournament when we lost to Torquay Girls Grammar School and Stoodley and drew with Audley Park. After the tournament our spirits were down and we lost the next two games against Churston 4-7 and TGGS 6-7. Our next game was away at Teign

and we felt confident of winning which we did 15-7! Our winning streak stayed with us for two more matches against Dyrons but we lost the third to them 0-2.

We knew it would be a tough match against Kelly College and it didn't help that our team work went out of the window. As a result we lost 1-10!!

We told ourselves we wouldn't be beaten like that again. Our next match was against Churston and it was a chance to level the scores. We did, as we won 12-5. We were certainly on a high as we beat KEVIC 19-5 and St Margarets 15-8.

Our last match of the season was against Trinity's Year 10 away which we also won 19-14, a spectacular end to the season.

Out of 15 games we won 8, lost 6 and drew 1. This season was good but next season will definitely be even better!

Louise Neu Year 9

Congratulations to Sarah Whatman and Tanya Strongman for their individual achievements. Sarah trialled as goalkeeper/goal defence at the West of England trials but was, unfortunately, unsuccessful this year. Tanya trialed as goal defence/wing defence at the Devon County trials and was picked for the Under 19 Devon Netball Team which came third in the Inter-County Schools Netball Tournament in Bristol in November.

Cross Country

The Area Cross Country Championship was held in the school grounds on Friday 12th January. On home ground Stover girls put up a tremendous show with excellent results. The Year 7 team came seventh out of fourteen, the Junior team (Years 8 and 9) came fifth out of sixteen and the Intermediate team (Years 10 and 11) came third out of ten.

Congratulations especially to Lucy Mills and Louise Astbury who came respectively third and fourth in the Intermediate section. They then went on to compete successfully in the Devon Cross Country trials (coming respectively eleventh and fourteenth) and were both chosen as reserves for the Devon team.

Inter House Matches 1996-95 Results

NETBALL

Juniors: Victoria 2 wins (26 goals)
Mary 1 win (7 goals)
Elizabeth 0 wins (6 goals)

Seniors: Elizabeth 2 wins (19 goals)
Victoria 1 win (12 goals)
Mary 0 wins (5 goals)

First: Victoria 3 wins (38 goals)
Second: Elizabeth 2 wins (25 goals)
Third: Mary 1 win (11 goals)

HOCKEY

Juniors:
Mary v Elizabeth 2-0 to Mary
Elizabeth v Victoria 2-0 to Victoria
Mary v Victoria Draw score 0

Seniors:
Mary v Elizabeth Draw score 0
Elizabeth v Victoria Draw score 0
Mary v Victoria 2-0 to Mary

First: Mary 4 goals
Second: Victoria 2 goals
Third: Elizabeth 0 goals

CROSS COUNTRY

Juniors: Victoria 81
Mary 92
Elizabeth 123

Seniors: Mary 93
Victoria 100
Elizabeth 112

First: Victoria 181
Second: Mary 185
Third: Elizabeth 235



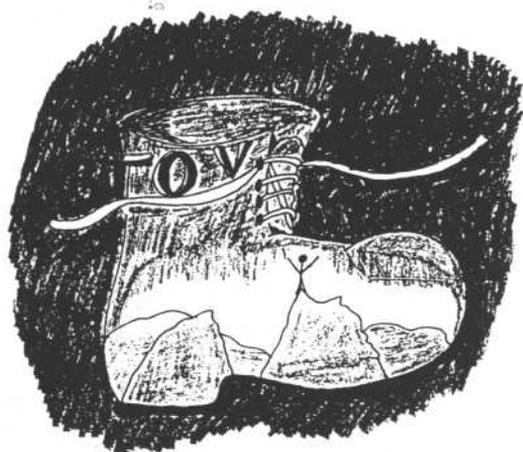
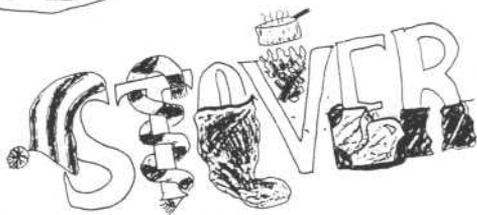
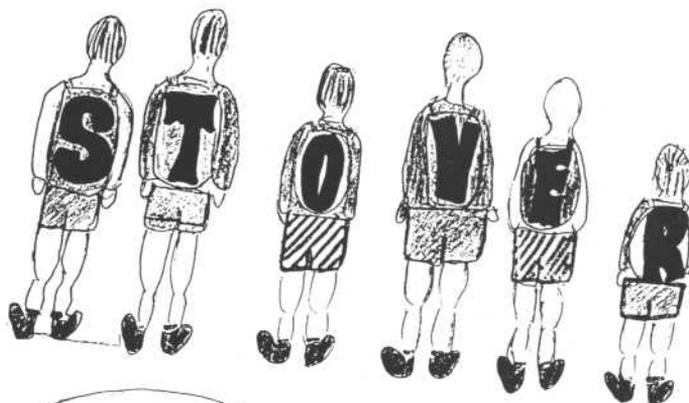
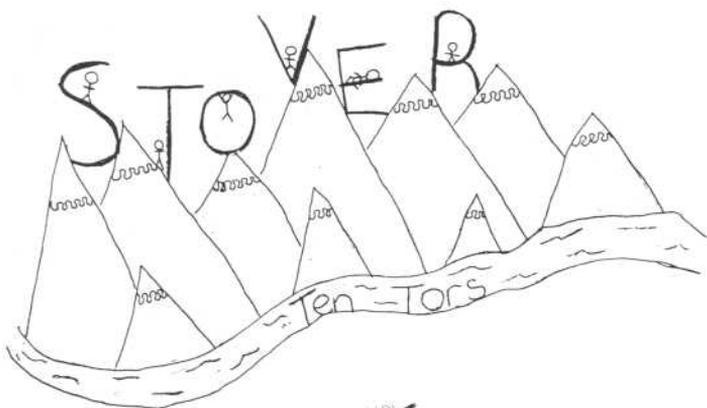
Lucy Mills and Louise Astbury chosen for South Devon Cross Country Trials

TEN TORS WEEKEND 1996

As everybody must be aware, this year's Ten Tors expedition took place in some of the most appalling weather ever experienced during the many years it has been running. Many teams were unable to complete the course with participants being dramatically (and in many cases reluctantly!) airlifted off the moor. All the more credit then to our 35 mile team (leader Louise Astbury) who kept going to the end and successfully completed what must have been one of the wettest, coldest and most unpleasant Ten Tors ever. In the picture, soggy but smiling, are (left to right) Louise Astbury, Katherine Storrs, Lucy Jones, Jane Howard, Chloe Mansell and Nicola Croke.



Design & Technology - Design a new symbol to go on the front of the Stover Ten Tors Sweatshirt



“The Tragical Tale of Pyramus and Thisbe”

A review by our Athens-based theatrical correspondent

“It was a disgrace! A group of simple minded mechanics performed yesterday before Duke Theseus and Lady Hippolyta in the Royal Theatre. Evidently it was an amateur performance which succeeded in making what was meant to be a tragic play into a comedy!

The play is a story of two lovers who plan to run away with each other. They decide to meet by night at the tomb of Ninus. Thisbe arrives first, only to be chased by a lion, and although she escapes she drops her cloak which the lion shreds to pieces with his bloody teeth. When Pyramus arrives he discovers the bloody cloak, immediately assumes Thisbe is dead and kills himself as a result. Unfortunately, Thisbe returns, finds her loved one dead and kills herself also.

This particular production failed to convey the play smoothly, and frequently the actors made mistakes with their delivery. As a result the quality of the performance was very poor and the audience failed to involve themselves in the story line.

One of the mechanics decided to interpret the character of Pyramus in an enthusiastic fashion, hurling his arms about his head whilst shouting his lines at the audience in a tedious, repetitive manner. He seemed to resemble a frenzied gorilla rather than an anguished man who had just discovered the death of his beloved.

Any atmosphere that was actually created was quickly destroyed by this actor (whose name was Bottom), leaping up on

two occasions during the performance to explain to the Duke what was happening! On the second occasion he got up from the ground where he was supposed to be lying dead and explained further, this time to Demetrius.

The setting was disastrous as well, and not at least bit convincing. For instance, the moon was represented by a man holding a lantern; and the wall, through which the two lovers try to communicate, was represented by another mechanic holding up two fingers. It did not seem to occur to them that these two objects did not have to be physically shown.

The audience were obviously amused, but politely so, and tried hard to suppress their laughter. Lady Hippolyta was heard to have said, ‘Pyramus and Thisbe is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.’ This again emphasises the fact that the entire play was of incredibly poor quality. It must be the worst production that I have ever seen throughout my professional career. However, despite the fact that the group of mechanics were merely amateurs, I have to say that they did approach the play heartily and with enthusiasm throughout, making it, all in all, a reasonably enjoyable evening.”

Sarah Parker Year Nine



'From the Archives' a pre-war production of Midsummer Nights Dream in Stover grounds

Stover School Assembly

Jubilee hall feels refreshing cool in the hot summer months, cooling off hot sweaty bodies, but in the cooler months the hall feels icy cold and, as in every season, it's dull like the inside of a deep cave, the straight crystal lines of light through the numerous windows seem to disappear as though it has been taken by an unknown force absorbing it like a life-giving drink.

The shape of the building looks like a marzipan model of a Dutch house on a Christmas cake. It looks out of place next to the old stone house, which has many secrets.

Seconds after the signal for the girls to go to assembly, the doors swing open and a raging river of green skirts, white socks and black shoes bursts in, disturbing the peace of the morning. The noise level rises after every sentence and is magnified by the echoing, like a second voice mocking the girls' laughter, secrets, gossip and chat. A desperate scramble to save seats for friends and group members takes place and the unlucky loner who dares to sit in a saved seat receives an evil stare and a sharp word to make them go.

The girls, even though they look deep in conversation, keep one eye open to spot the first glimpse of a teacher. When one teacher comes into sight, the girls jump up like springs, except for a couple who need a dig in the ribs or a good poke to make them move. Once all of the teachers have assembled and sat down the girls can follow.

As the headmaster walks into the hall his black teaching robe swirls and grows larger, like a moving black thunderstorm. He reaches his tall, commanding lectern, the expected storm recedes and with a turn and smile he announces the hymn, this time hoping that the green mass before him will not sound like a rabble of tortured and wailing alley cats. But this is not to be as some girls sing too high, some too low, some sing too loud and some don't sing at all. It all sounds a bit odd, but has anyone heard a school assembly hymn that does sound good?!

After this experience, it is time for a reading and a prayer. People's attention drifts down to their feet or out of the window, where the birds seem to tease the girls inside by happily hopping about and zooming across the sky enjoying the freedom.

As the assembly draws to a close the final announcements are made. Some teachers try to make their announcement funny; some succeed while, sadly, other do not.

The dismissal is a relief to every one. As the teachers leave, up get the girls again, they represent coiled springs jumping up and down all the time. Once everyone has been dismissed there is another mad rush to put the military lines of chairs in random piles scattered around the hall. The whole room feels as if it is pulsing with all the noise people are making, finding teachers to respond to their notices, talking (or rather shouting) to friends and scraping chairs to the stacks by the walls.

The bell sounds for the start of lessons and the buzz of activity is replaced by the eerie silence of an empty hall.

Hayley Walken Year10

The Friends of Stover Report from the Chairman.

The Friends of Stover, the parents' association of Stover School, have arranged a number of enjoyable and successful events during the last year which have been well attended. The money which is raised from these events is used to purchase extra facilities for the pupils over and above what the school is expected to provide and is spent on items which will benefit all pupils. This year the Friends have purchased the following items for the school: a camcorder, a table tennis table, sewing machines, and safety helmets and life jackets for water sports. The official presentation of these items was featured in the Mid Devon Advertiser in the summer term.

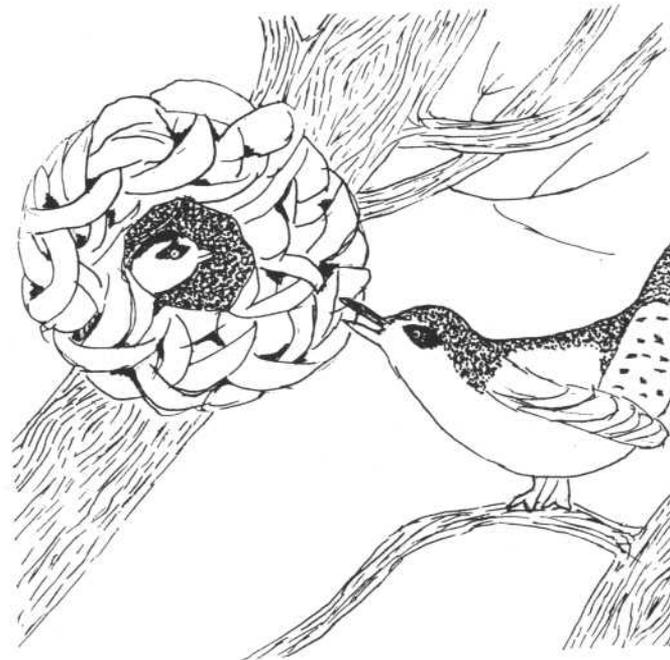
Looking ahead we are already planning our calendar for next year and have a number of events fixed. Please note the dates in your diaries!

Tuesday 8th October 96: Friends of Stover AGM followed by an informal talk by Mr Andrew Cooper (Governor of Stover School and BBC producer, Natural History Unit)
Friday 1st November 1996: Fireworks, Bonfire and Barn Dance.

Wednesday 11th December 1996: In Tune for Christmas - a musical and social evening.

In the Spring Term of 1997 Bearn's Fine Art Auctioneers are putting on an Antiques Evening at Stover.

We hope to see many parents and friends at these events.



Getting Up In the Morning

The mist lingers above the trees as the bright orange sun peers through the few trees that are left on the hilltop. As the mist clears little wisps of cloud form a sudden chill the air as they pass across the sun's warming path. Shadows in the garden quickly disappear. The night creatures have already scurried back to the safety of their homes and many are already fast asleep. In their place are the sounds of the awakening of a brand new day.

Ben is the first to stir. Not that he wants to, but Digby, next door's dog, has been pushed out of his back door into the cold morning air. He always barks first thing in the morning hoping to make contact with his friends

around the valley. Having finished his morning chat he sits himself outside the door and cries to be let back inside again.

Downstairs, the house is beginning to awake. Dad has just filled the kettle and is rattling the coal around in the Aga. He tries to do it quietly but few people sleep through this first job of the day. It is just starting to turn into a typical frantic Saturday morning. Laura pulls the covers back over her head trying to pretend she is still asleep. No hope. The day has started. Smells of breakfast find their way from the kitchen into the rest of the house. It is surprising how good even burnt toast can smell first thing in the morning. Half-awake bodies tumble around. Ben turns the radio on full blast and makes himself a cup of very strong coffee. Without really being told everyone appears around the table expecting breakfast to be ready.



England: My Likes and Dislikes

(Yoko Kojima, a student from Japan, spent a year in the Sixth form before returning to University in Japan. She hopes to make a career as an air stewardess.)

First of all I was impressed by the British accent in which each word is clear. Next I was surprised that people blow their noses! That was a nightmare for me...However, one English custom I really respect is that people take care of their houses very much. When they want to re-model or re-decorate they do what they want themselves. In my country most of the people depend on tradesmen. Unfortunately, I have to run around a lot in English houses owing to the cats, therefore I never have time to listen to what people are telling me about their houses. I really do not understand why people in England love cats...CATS!! If I were them I would prefer a lion to keep as a lovely pet instead of cats!

As regards food, that is lovely! Especially cakes. I can't live without them now: scones, flapjacks and so on. But perhaps to your surprise my favourite is baked beans. Of course, many other foods are nice, and reasonable as well if you compare them to my country. In Japan a 1.5 litre bottle of Coke costs about two pounds and a Snickers bar is about seventy pence. When I go to the supermarket or any shops, I always go straightaway to the chocolate bars shelf. The packages are bright and there is always plenty of chocolate. Even if I do not feel like eating chocolate that makes me want to eat. When I get mad I keep eating chocolate till I become sick of it. However in Japan we don't have many chocolate bars. We do have a lot of chocolate but most of it is not bars. I also love toffee, caramel and ice cream. One thing I think is disgusting is chips. I hate them! I really hate them. Frankly speaking, I don't like any kind of dish made with potatoes. I cannot believe that a lot of people like them. They haven't got any taste at all. So I love all English foods except potatoes but I think my country's foods are much, much healthier.

As far as education is concerned, I think the English education system is a clever idea because in Japan we have about twelve compulsory subjects till eighteen years old even if we do not like some of them. On the other hand in England we can choose any subjects we are interested in which means an English education can help develop each student's character more easily than ours. But when I first arrived in England I thought A level was going to be easy because it was the first letter of the alphabet...so easy first exam! Now I have changed my mind! I would like to try and make the most of my opportunity of an English education in the future. Thank you everyone at Stover.

Yoko Kojima.

Lucy Jones Year 9

Junior YHA Trip to Cornwall

On the 22nd of June a party of Juniors made the annual pilgrimage to Treynon Bay Youth Hostel in Cornwall for the weekend. The weather was fine and sunny with a light north easterly blowing in from the sea. As the official photographer's camera didn't work, here are some verbal "pictures" of our stay, written by various members of the party. The question was, "What did you enjoy the most?"

-swimming in a freezing cold rock pool with lots of slimy seaweed and people jumping off rocks into a bluey-green patch of water.

-chucking seaweed down Miss Young's swimming cossie and generally having a good time with the dogs.

-I liked feeling the flames when we sat round the fire. We told ghost stories and that made me feel excited but a tiny bit scared.

-I liked it in the hostel because you had to make your own breakfast. We had a traditional English breakfast.

(-can you imagine Bonnie and Abby making a breakfast!!

-but then you should have seen Amy. She forgot to put the oil in the pan.)

-it was funny when Miss Evans walked in with her rosebud pyjamas. Miss Young's weren't as bad. It was all silent and then the great hysterics came. Miss Evans sulked in her bed after that.

-on the last day we went to watch the waves. They were brilliant and so were the lifeguards! The sun was always shining. I wore shorts all the time.

-our marshmallows melted and we had to catch them before they fell off the stick into the sand in a little bubbling pink blob.

-when some of the ghost stories were finished I kept looking behind me because it was dark and we were the only ones on the beach.

Visit to Rosemoor Gardens, Year 8

Rosemoor is a huge garden full of different sections that contain different types of plants. The different sections were the rose garden, the vegetable garden and the trees. The lady showed us what plants were used for and what they were like. Gardens are full of different types of plants. Weeds spread quickly around gardens, parks, fields, everywhere! Apart from the weeds there are nice plants that need to be looked after.

The rose garden was the first place we went to. The lady that showed us round told us how the rose hip worked and what the roses could be used for. Apart from being beautiful they can

symp, Turkish delight, perfume, rose water, medicine. Rose water in the Middle East is used for cooking.

There was a great selection of vegetables in the vegetable garden such as sweetcorn, lettuce, peas, broad beans, celery, grapes, parsley, carrots, Swiss chard and more! The grapes ran up the arches that were scattered around the vegetable garden. Everything had a neat decorated border round the outside. Everything was in tidy rows.

Also in the garden was a small hut (the summer house) that was made to look as if it had been built ages ago. It was made of oak - the strongest wood; cob - barley straw and mud, and there was thatch on the roof.

A herb garden provides different things that are very important such as medicines, food, drink (herb tea), perfume, soap and toiletries. They were introduced by the Romans. In medieval times people never washed properly, so to cover up the awful stench they put herbs everywhere. Every day people put them on the floor, on the window sills, hanging from the ceiling, on the tables and so on. Most herbs these days are used in cooking and in toiletries.

If you have a pond with fish in you must have pond plants. Pond plants are vital in ponds with fish in or the fish will die. Pond plants give the fish shelter, a home, shade and food. They keep the water clean and put oxygen into the water for the fish.

Trees are very useful things. If we didn't have them you wouldn't be here, neither would I. They provide food, nuts and fruit, homes for animals, shade, paper, furniture and they hold the soil together.



Last word by Emma Donaldson.

Why do people have gardens? The reason is that they love to have a healthy life and it is something to do if you have nothing to do. You can grow vegetables or flowers in your garden but most of all I think that the reason people have gardens is because they enjoy them!

TIGER !

He creeps through the jungle at night,
his yellow eyes glowing,
watching every movement.
His orange stripes glow like fire in the sunlight,
His black stripes shine in the moonlight
as black as ebony.
His growl sounds like thunder
and he moves like lightning
all his muscles rippling,
he pounces on a passing deer.
The deer's feet clumsily trying to balance,
a twist and a turn and it's free,
leaping and bounding to get away from the great paws
and sharp claws.
He lunges,
and he misses it.
His sharp, gleaming teeth snap at nothing,
just air.
He paces up and down,
not satisfied.
Then he disappears into the jungle behind,
his huge paws
silently moving along the ground.
His tail twitches,
only slightly,
his stripes blending in with the background.

Amy Arioli Year 7

WORLDWISE GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

The Worldwise Geography Quiz was held at Exeter School. Our team consisted of Sarah Whatman, Rachael Millar and myself (along with a large crowd of supporters!)

We arrived (admittedly a little late), and raced to the music department where the quiz was being held. There were more teams there than were expected so we began the quiz table-less! Once all our supporters were seated the Quiz Master read out the rules and each team introduced themselves. The teams present were from Exeter School, St Margarets, Maynard, Mount St Mary, Blundell's, Kingsbridge, All Hallows, St Thomas' High and of course....Stover School!

The first round began with the Quiz Master reading the questions and we endeavoured to answer them. The second round consisted of naming towns on a small sketch map, none of which were the same scale, making it more difficult than normal! Of course there were a few questions which taxed our brains but we did try hard.

The results were read out during the break. We hadn't got through to the finals but we weren't far off. Three boys' schools battled out a breath-taking final and the winning team - Exeter

School - were thoroughly congratulated. We all received certificates and we were pleased with how we'd done. Everyone enjoyed the evening but next year with a little more practice we hope to get further than last year!

Lizzie Anning Year 10

"TOP OF THE BENCH"

This competition is held by The Royal Society of Chemistry and a team from Stover took part in the regional finals which were held at Exeter University on the 17th of October. The team consisted of Sarah Whatman, Lizzie Anning, Fiona Linton and Cally Hocknell. The other finalists were from Exeter School, St Margarets, Colyton Grammar School, KEVIC and Torquay Boys Grammar School.

The teams had to carry out an experiment, complete a written test of chemical knowledge and write and present a talk on an important application of chemistry in the South West.

The Stover team did very well and the competition was very close. The overall winners were the team from Torquay. All schools whose team reached the regional finals were presented with a copy of an important new reference book for the school library.

Congratulations to the team, and to Vicky Croke and Lindsey White whose poster qualified us for entry in the first place.

S.Bamberg.



'Top of the Bench'

History Department Visit to Exeter Cathedral, Year 7

The realities of medieval life were brought home to Year 7 by a visit to Exeter Cathedral during the summer term. Not only did they explore the cathedral, discovering some fascinating and little known information such as the lifestyle of the dogwhipper, but were also given a practical demonstration of what was involved in donning and wearing medieval armour. The horrors of medieval warfare also inspired some imaginative historical writing.

The Dogwhipper.

Exeter cathedral was built in the late 13th century and is still in very good condition considering it was bombed in 1942.

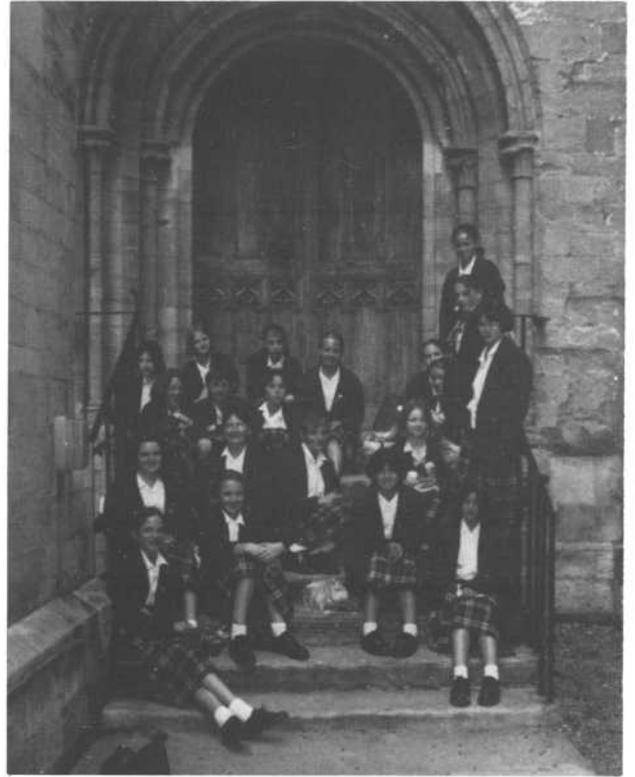
The dogwhipper was someone who would keep an eye on the people during services to make sure they weren't drunk, being rude etc. The dogwhipper and his family lived in two small rooms in the cathedral. The first room included a kitchen stove, a living room, dining room and a toilet all in that one small room! The second room was a bedroom where he and his family would sleep.

Charlotte Dimmock Year 7

Medieval armour and fighting.

Chain mail was thought to be very good because it was knife proof but it soon went out of fashion as it wasn't mace proof. A mace was a metal bar with a lump on the end designed to burst people's organs so they bled to death. Battle fields were not nice places to be with the shrieks and cries of the dying and thousands of swords clanging on one another. The armour was nearly two stones heavy and was worn twenty four hours a day without stopping. Children were given armour when they were twelve and were made knights when they were sixteen. Men rarely lived to twenty so life was short. Men got very hot in the armour because there was so much padding. It was very frightening on the battlefield also and you could hardly hear anything but your own breathing and the only thing you could see was a little slit of what was happening. The only way you could distinguish who was friend and who was foe was by looking for your country's flag and when you saw this you knew you were with your friends.

Becky Garland Year 7



Visit to Exeter Cathedral



"MY FIRST CRUSADE"

I pulled back the curtains of my carriage window and peered out. Behind me I saw the grand entrance to my home fading into the distance. I could see the road snaking up through fields and orchards to the castle which stood huge and proud on the hill top. It would be mine one day - if I did not sacrifice my life to the Cross before then. My eyes clouded with tears and I felt a lump in my throat as I thought of my brother who had been killed in the crusade two years ago.

At the port of Dover a spectacular galleon was waiting for us. We filed aboard and lay down on our bunks to write letters or diaries. Suddenly I heard the hustle and bustle of sailors on deck and I ran up. Great salty waves splashed on the sides of the ship far down below and frothy spray soaked us. The timbers creaked with the strain, sailors' shouts filled the air. I glanced up above where the great white sails were gradually unfurling like a swan unfolding its wings. The wind caught the sails and we began to move.

After a day at sea we arrived in France where the Frenchmen tried to sell us baguettes and trinkets. The architecture was splendid, rising up above the world in magnificent carvings and creamy pillars - the food fantastic: we enjoyed it very much. We journeyed on through Germany and Italy collecting thousands more supporters every day. Then followed another voyage, somewhat longer than the last and the ship less comfortable. This took us to the Holy Land at last. I awoke that morning to see foreign and tropical lands rising on the horizon. On that beautiful and colourful horizon the battle would begin.

It was very hot and sticky and many went down with diseases from new foods, the heat and the insects. One of my closest friends died from a poisonous snake bite. I hope at least that we can bury him here in the Holy Land in the Lord's loving care. Every time I feel tired, hungry, neglected or unhappy I remember the Pope's speech in Italy. It was a wonderful occasion that will stick in my mind forever. All of the Crusaders gathered in holy prayer at the Pope's feet. Just recalling his words of hope, faith and encouragement spur me on.

The Muslims have many foods, things and ways that are new to us. One of these is a clear, hard, shiny material called glass. I have bought presents for my family. A silver-framed looking glass for Mama: it is believed that when you stare into it your face is reflected! I have bought Papa a beautiful glass goblet. I have bought for my sisters a sweet-smelling liquid in pretty glass bottles called perfume and some gold jewellery. There are many new foods to try: spices like cloves, nutmeg, pepper and ginger; fruits like raisins, dates, figs; nuts such as almonds and sugar and rice. All are delicious. Food is eaten with a peculiar, silver, pronged instrument named a "fork".

Things were not so sweet for long though. One day I awoke in my tent to raucous yells, cries of pain, the swish and ping of

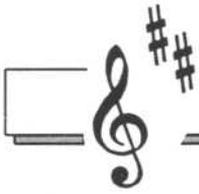
arrows and spears and the crazy stamping of the horses. I slipped into my heavy chain mail. It's for protection, but I feel hampered and over-heated and my body weight seems to have doubled. The battle was dreadful. Men tumbled to the ground, wounded horses ran loose, whinnying frantically. Weapons flew, men died, cries of anger, frustration, pain, fear and aggression filled the air. Battle raged day and night. On the third day as I knelt to drag a barely-alive comrade to safety I felt a stabbing pain in my back. I keeled over, my legs gave way...trembling...the pain immense...I passed out.

I awoke in the medical tent. The surgeon told me how lucky I was to have survived and that it would take me several weeks to recover enough to move. I was not the only one. The tent was packed to bursting point. The medical orderlies were rushed off their feet. The air stank of medicine, blood and dressings and I could taste the bitterness, pain, tears and unhappiness on my tongue. Men were dying all around me, unconscious or moaning, slowly passing away, leaving widows, orphans, childless parents back in their home country.

It was then I asked myself -did gentle Jesus require all this pain, sorrow, death and bitterness to satisfy Him? It was then I decided to go home.

It is now almost a year later. I am an invalid, my back has been damaged for life and I would have been unable to continue fighting anyway. I am, and forever will be, a hero in the eyes of my friends. But my dying wish is that the children of this earth find some other way of sorting out their problems rather than killing each other.'

Grace Bennet Year 7



MUSIC NOTES



The school year 1995-96 has proved a busy one for all of the girls involved in the music department. The commitment from everyone has been very high and is much appreciated. In October, Stover musicians and singers performed at Olympia for the Isis exhibition. The flute quartet performed the traditional sea shanty "Drunken Sailor" which was followed by a moving performance of "Somewhere" from West Side Story by the Chamber Choir. The Chamber Orchestra performed Trio No.1 by Hayden, a piece which showed the exceptional musical talents of our girls. The musical finale at Isis involved Stover Singers who sang Mozart's "Ave Verum" with a fine balance between control and expression.

The Festival of Christmas music and readings was held in Jubilee Hall on the last day of the Autumn term. It was a wonderful way to finish the term as students, parents and friends joined together to celebrate the Christmas story. Stover's singers and musicians led the concert and congregational carols with music ranging from arrangements of Handel's Messiah for flute quartet and chamber ensemble to more traditional carols like Still Night for flute trio, tambour and unison voices. The challenging Donkey Carol by John Rutter was brilliantly performed by Stover Singers who captured the story line and character of this carol from beginning to end. The whole concert was interspersed with Christmas poems and stories by writers such as Laurie Lee and Thomas Hardy.

The flute quartet, now named Flautasia, have also had a busy year. They have performed in Plymouth's Theatre Royal and at the Devon County Show. Flautasia provided the background music for the fashion show "Through the Ages" with a range of music starting with the Renaissance and working chronologically up to the 20th century with the Beatles. Other appearances have included school open days, the country fair and general concerts.

Along with concerts and competitions throughout the year, Stover Singers have also led an Evensong at Highweek Church, while a select number of girls sang "Pie Jesu" at the confirmation service.

The Torbay and South West of England Music Festival '96 proved to be highly successful and well worth entering. All of the girls who performed solos came either first or within the top three and the ensembles also ranked within the top three places. Miss Betty Roe was the adjudicator and she commented on the successful tone and the musical awareness within the chamber orchestra; the colour, balance and initiative of the string ensemble; the confident and secure part singing of Stover Singers along with their shapely musical performance, and the lively, rhythmic, musical humour incorporated into the flute quartet.



Results of the festival:

Solos:

Zoë Caines-Flute Sonata Class-1st place
 Lucy Jones-Flute Concerto Class-1st place
 Kate Jones-Clarinet, own choice, under 13 years-1st equal
 Kate Jones-Clarinet Concerto Class-3rd place
 Katherine Storrs-Cello, 18 and under-1st place
 Katherine Storrs-Piano, own choice, under 15-2nd place
 Fiona Linton-Voice, own choice, under 17-1st place

Ensembles:

Zoë Caines and Lucy Jones-Flute Duet Class-2nd place
 Flautasia-Flute Quartet Class-1st place
 Chamber Orchestra-any chamber ensemble-1st place
 String Ensemble-any chamber ensemble-3rd place
 Stover Singers-School Choir Class-1st place

The Wednesday lunchtime concerts have proved to be a highly successful series of recitals by music scholars and exhibitionists. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the girls to gain experience performing solo and ensemble pieces in front of an audience. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend these concerts. Details of dates are published in the Stover termly calendars.

A video featuring the musical events of 1995-96 is now available. Any parents, family or friends who would like a copy of this video should contact Mrs. Farleigh.

The music department would like to thank all the peripatetic teaching staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

S. Farleigh, Head of Music





SUMMER TERM
LUNCH TIME
CONCERT
WEDNESDAY
22nd MAY
1996
CHAMBER HALL 1 PM

ZOE CAINES
FLUTE
SONATA NO. 4.
(LA LUMAGNE)
BY MICHEL BLAVET
1ST MOVEMENT ADAGIO
2ND MOVEMENT ALLEMANDE
3RD MOVEMENT SICILIENNE
4TH MOVEMENT PRESTO
5TH MOVEMENT LE LUTIN

ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

Examination results 1995-96

Katherine Storrs	Grade 7	Cello	Distinction
Rebecca Moncaster	Grade 3	Voice	Pass
Sarah Denham	Grade 1	Clarinet	Merit
Elizabeth Anning	Grade 2	Flute	Merit
Louise Neu	Grade 5	Flute	Merit
Louisa Robins	Grade 5	Voice	Pass
Gemma Andrew	Grade 2	Flute	Pass
Katherine Storrs	Grade 7	Piano	Pass
Rachel Storrs	Grade 5	Violin	Pass
Anna Storrs	Grade 8	Violin	Pass
Helen Cottle	Grade 2	Piano	Pass
Willa King	Grade 1	Piano	Pass
Claire Lees	Grade 3	Piano	Pass
Kate Hawker	Grade 2	Trumpet	Pass
Zoë Caines	Grade 6	Flute	Distinction
Caryn Newman	Grade 3	Voice	Pass
Catherine Hart	Grade 4	Voice	Pass
Helen Cottle	Grade 1	Clarinet	Merit
Elizabeth Anning	Grade 3	Flute	Pass
Lucy Jones	Grade 8	Flute	Merit

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Examination results 1995-96

Victoria Johnson	Grade 1	Snare Drum	Merit
Frances Newman	Grade 1	Snare Drum	Merit
Bonnie Chivers	Grade 1	Snare Drum	Honours
Lizze Anderson	Grade 1	Snare Drum	Honours
Ay Rungchaiporn	Grade 2	Drums	Honours



The Phyllis Dence Memorial Concert

During the day leading up to the concert in the evening Stover Singers were involved in workshops. We prepared two songs to sing in the evening. We had never heard of them before and one was from Tanzania so our performance in the evening was purely from what we had learnt in one day! The other performers in the evening were Mr. John Bryden and the Dartington Trio. It was a very enjoyable day and concert and I'm looking forward very much to next year!

Venetia Thompson Year 7

Music Workshop with Scott Stroman

When Mr Stroman arrived to conduct our music workshop we were immediately taken by his open, warm personality and his humorous approach to teaching music. But we were all left speechless when his first instructions were to carry out a vigorous warm-up which consisted of various stretches and a lot of jumping up and down! However, we soon adapted to this "new" way of teaching and our self-consciousness dissolved very quickly.

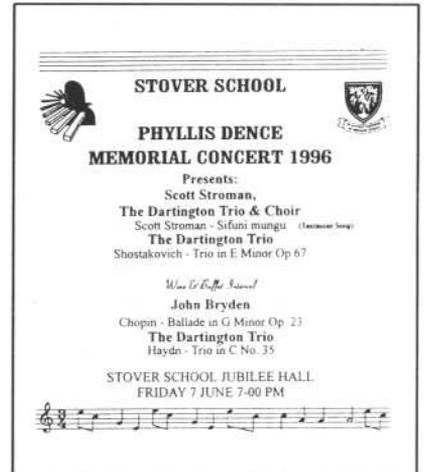
Although Mr Stroman taught us without music, we were able to learn each phrase and its melody by repetition and surprised ourselves how quickly and enjoyably we learned each song. We learnt a great deal in the short time that Mr Stroman was with us; even when we were only practising simple singing exercises we learnt how to project and control our voices effectively. He taught us about different rhythms, and rather than teaching us the harmonies by repetition as he had done with the melody previously, he made us work them out ourselves. He also coached us in the use of percussion instruments.

One of the best things that he taught us, in my opinion, were the two types of vocalisation required for negro spiritual choirs and the more up-beat gospel choirs. Surprisingly, not only were we able to sing in Swahili and pronounce the language correctly, but we also had a fair idea of the meaning of the words. The climax of the day's work was our opening performance of the two contrasting songs at the Phyllis Dence Concert. "Over my Head" was sung in gospel style complete with swaying and clapping hands. I was volunteered by my "friends" to take a small

solo part which I actually enjoyed immensely. This was followed by the spiritual "Praise the Lord". We were delighted at how well the performance went and the reaction of the audience.

I'm sure I'm not alone in hoping that we will be able to have the benefit of another workshop with Scott Stroman in the future and certainly hope to do more music of this kind.

Fiona Linton Year 9



STOVER SCHOOL

PHYLIS DENCE
MEMORIAL CONCERT 1996

Presents:
Scott Stroman,
The Dartington Trio & Choir
Scott Stroman - Sifuni mungu (Tanzanian Song)
The Dartington Trio
Shostakovich - Trio in E Minor Op 67

John Bryden
Chopin - Ballade in G Minor Op 23
The Dartington Trio
Haydn - Trio in C No. 35

STOVER SCHOOL JUBILEE HALL
FRIDAY 7 JUNE 7:00 PM



John Bryden and the Dartington Trio

Visitors

Life at Stover is enriched every year by the many visitors who come for shorter or longer periods to help us in various ways and also to gain experience for themselves. This year we have been lucky to have not one but two Antipodeans, Kate Fleming and Katrina Cramer. They have proved themselves invaluable in a multitude of different areas around the school and their willing adaptability and unfailing friendliness and good humour (often in the face of fairly difficult circumstances) made them both very much part of Stover.

We had several visiting students in the Science Department the first of whom was Glenn Smith who came in October, and taught Physics, Chemistry and, most importantly of all, FOOTIE!!

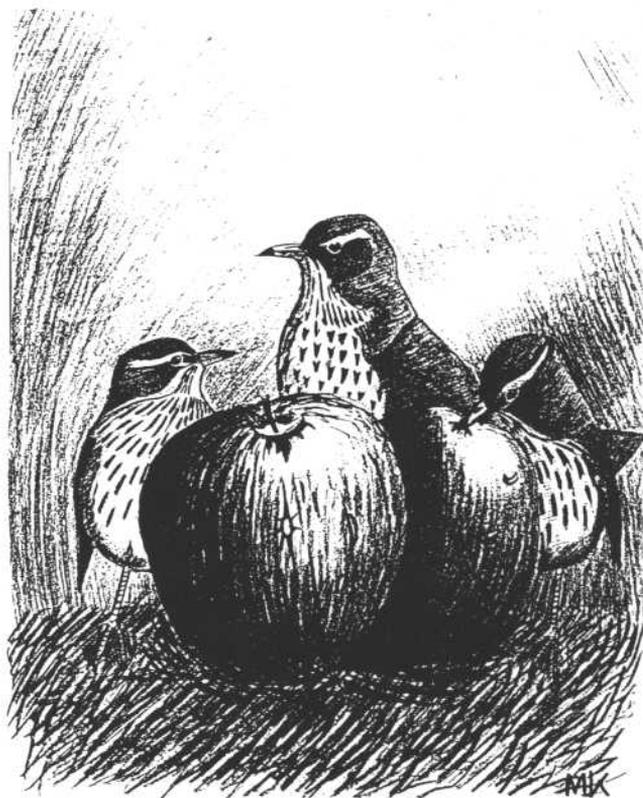
Having completed his B.Ed, he is starting work this year at Torquay Boys Grammar School. (How about a match, Glenn?)

Lena Marvao joined us in the summer and the sixth form in particular benefited from her up-to-date expertise in the theories and techniques of Analytical Chemistry. She has now returned to work in industry.

Another visitor was Matthew Knott, son of Chris Knott, the School Chaplain. Matthew, a PGCE student from St Lukes College, Exeter, was doing his teaching practice here during the spring and summer terms. An honorary member of the science department, he taught maths and chemistry but also re-established an after-school chess club, much to the delight of various budding Grand Masters in the junior years. Matthew was delighted to be able to combine his two hobbies of bird watching and sketching in the Stover grounds. He was very impressed with the bird count here and thinks he probably saw at least fifty species. Here are his comments on the red wings and fieldfares he spotted and sketched for us.

"Red wings and fieldfares arrive in autumn from their breeding sites in Scandinavia to spend the winter in Britain. Large flocks of these thrushes find the grounds at Stover to their liking and they can be often seen in their hundreds feeding on the playing fields and surrounding grounds. Early on in the winter you can get brilliant views of these beautiful birds gorging themselves on fallen apples in the orchard. The chemistry lab provides the perfect vantage point from which to watch them in comfort."

(I can guess just how delighted Mrs Bamberg is going to be after that last tip when the entire class decides to watch the fieldfares in comfort rather than concentrating on the carbon cycle. Ed)



Surfin' a la Becky

Point Break and Blue Juice are just a few of the surfing videos which make riding twenty foot waves along the coast of Hawaii look cool. It may look simple, but to get into a standing position on a moving board means that the arm muscles have to work to their full potential. They need to lever the body up and then they have to steady the body. After catching a wave, if you decide to carry on, the arms have to work hard yet again as you paddle out, going back through the oncoming waves. Back out in the middle of the sea, you will have to expect a long wait for the perfect set to come rolling in. If you catch the wrong wave you could be in for a full-time "wipe-out". This can result in you being trapped under the water with your board above you for up to two minutes.

With a lot of press-ups on shore and hard work out in the bay, riding in on the waves will come to be an everyday thing. As your confidence builds up, new moves can be learnt: things such as 360's (a full turn) and 180's (a half turn) as well as the nail-biting "shooting the hole". This is when the wave is breaking and you travel along the hole as it comes over you. Many feelings will be experienced after catching the surfing bug. You meet new friends, laugh new laughs and end up with a new lifestyle, constantly watching the horizon for that perfect set to come rolling in.

Becky Moncaster

Year 9

An Old Devonian

I used to see him wandering aimlessly in and out of our greenhouse. Most days he would just sit there, looking at the world around us, with not a care in the world. I mean we didn't mind as we had enough to do with living in a pub, so we said he could stay there.

He was already there when we moved into the pub. At that time I was about three and I never used to speak to him as I was shy. But as I grew up I got used to him coming into the pub for a drink and seeing his bent shape pottering around the garden.

The greenhouse didn't seem to be much of a home, piled up with old things such as broken down type-writers, plant pots, rugs and an old mattress, but I don't think he cared as long as he had a roof over his head. One thing I do remember clearly was a distinct smell of tea-bags which lingered in the greenhouse. I expect it was the dust and because there was no ventilation in the greenhouse so it was always humid and stuffy inside.

I used to feel really sorry for him, but soon I discovered many attempts had been made to house him; in fact he had family in Plymouth but this way of life in this area was what he wanted. We often fed him, and he was always extremely grateful. He was a curious kind of man. He was about seventy- five to eighty years old. He said his name was Ernie and he was very independent, with a ruddy, weather beaten complexion. I always used to go out and talk to him and we became chums. We used to talk about the garden and insects and I helped him look after his tomato plants. He never complained about anything, not even the weather and to him living in the greenhouse was a wonderful existence. This was until one winter when he suffered from severe bronchitis. The Social Services said that it wasn't right for a man of that age to be sleeping in a greenhouse, so they put him in a residential home for the elderly. My parents thought this was the right thing to do, and so Ernie was accommodated in an Old People's home. I was sad to see him leave, but Mum and

Dad promised I could visit him.

Maybe they really did mean to take me, but running a pub is a big responsibility and when they get time for themselves they don't want to be going to an Old People's home. I used to miss our little chats and seeing him looking after the garden. I still looked after Ernie's tomato plants and this was really a memory of him. But gradually I forgot about him.

Ernie took a long time to settle down in his new surroundings. He was found from time to time drifting up and down the lanes, slightly bemused. We often found him sitting back in the greenhouse on his old, wooden, broken-down chair.

Later on that year the greenhouse was demolished as part of the redevelopment programme. All traces of Ernie were destroyed. That was the end of Ernie and our friendship. His visits to the pub became less frequent and eventually we only saw him on good days at lunch time, but as I was at school I never saw him. We later found out that he frequented the bar of another pub down the road. He was taken there by the owner of the residential home. Eventually he passed away peacefully in his sleep. The whole village attended his funeral as a mark of respect and also to show the depth of feeling. I wasn't able to attend the funeral as I was at school but I was deeply saddened by the news. I knew that although people had tried to make his final days more comfortable and agreeable, I often wondered whether he was happier living in our greenhouse, bending over his vegetables and meeting his friends in the pub for a drink. For many summers after Ernie's death holiday makers, visiting the area, often used to enquire about Ernie. They too were saddened by the news of Ernie's death. To me Ernie was a part of my life for over two years and the day that he died will always stick in my memory.

Eleanor Grey Year 11

PASSOVER

At our Friday Religious Studies lesson we did a small play showing a real Jewish Passover feast. This feast is called the Seder. It is when the youngest child asks four questions and the oldest person answers them. There is a lot of food which acts as symbols. Passover reminds Jews of their escape from Egypt.

Three people were chosen to play a Jewish family and I was one of the three, also Grace and Rachel. Mrs Elce played the father, Grace was the mother, I was the oldest child and Rachel was the youngest child.

We all sat down at a table which was laid with small plates, wine glasses and a bottle of Ribena to act as wine. There was also some traditional Jewish food such as a hard boiled egg, to remind us of the sacrifice in the temple and of new life. There

were green vegetables to represent the way God cared for the Jews, also bitter herbs to represent the bitterness of slavery. We also had Charoseth which is a sweet mixture of apple, nuts, spices and wine used as a reminder of the cement used by the slaves when they were building for the Pharaoh in Egypt.

During the feast we had a bowl of salt water to dip the green vegetables in. The bread we ate was Ryvita, this was to act as Niatzot, a Jewish bread with no yeast in it. On the special night the Jewish people leave an empty place for Elijah and each year the Jews go to the door to see if he is there. We also did this but sadly he was not there. And at the end we all got to taste the Jewish Passover food. The meal was fun and I enjoyed it.

Rebecca Moloney Year 7

FOOTBALL MATCH - Staff v Students

On a cold December morning the Stover lads(!) and lasses braved the arctic conditions to face each other in a gruelling competition. This was a football match with a difference, a big difference! The fashion police were on full alert having spotted Mr Topley in his mauve jump-suit, Mr Bujak in a pair of tasteful red knee-length socks, Mr Smith in a girl's rugby shirt and Steph in her Dennis the Menace outfit. Was Stover ready for this?

The football skills displayed were outstanding (ish). Mr Bujak (who assured me that he was an ex-county player) managed to score no goals at all. Miss Evans, after successfully grappling a Stover girl to the ground in a head-lock was shown the red card (but not before scoring a goal) and was swiftly followed by Mr Priddes with the fashion police in pursuit.

Mr Topley in goal displayed a few well practised dives despite the ball being at the other end of the pitch and kept the spectators well entertained with a number of ballerina impressions. Despite a good effort from the Stover girls and almost totally un-biased refereeing from Fiona Linton, the teachers managed to clinch the match 3-2.

(Anonymous sixth-former)

VARSITY MATCH - TWICKENHAM 1995.

On Tuesday 12th December 1995 the Stover mini-bus pounded up the M5 with a number of very excited Stover girls on board practising their off-key but enthusiastic renditions of "Swing low sweet, chaaa-ri-o-ot". An investigation of the school packed lunches confirmed our hideous suspicions - tuna sandwiches! Aargh! Fortunately a quick stop off at the services replenished our emergency chocolate supply and we were on our way again.

We arrived at Twickenham in good spirits and full of chocolate, with the only minor difficulty of deciding which team to support. Those of us who couldn't trace our family tree back to a relative who attended Oxford or Cambridge soon had our minds made up when a group of particularly good-looking Cambridge supporters sat in front of us. We were impressed! With this dilemma solved we sat back and enjoyed the atmosphere at Britain's greatest rugby venue with 79,000 other people.

The match started off favourably for Oxford and by half time the Cambridge supporters in our group were debating whether anyone would notice a quick change in University support, from Cambridge to Oxford. However, in the second half Cambridge picked the game up and equalised with a penalty try. Both teams were desperate to win and when Oxford's fly half, David Humphreys, attempted drop goal hit the post virtually

the whole stadium was on its feet. In the last three minutes it was Cambridge who finally managed to break through and win the match 23-19 and claim the 1995 trophy.

(Anonymous 6th form Cambridge supporter)

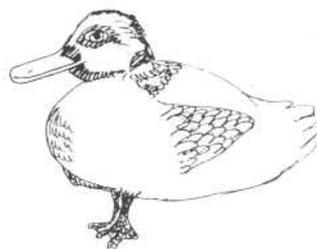
(No it's not, it's Kate Taylor. Ed.)

A TRIP TO THE RIVER BOVEY

On Friday March the 1st we went on a trip to the River Bovey. It was very interesting because we saw the river eroding the banks into a river cliff. The colours of the river cliffs were a mix of orange and red. As we walked along the river-side we noticed tiny little streams called tributaries. These were going to join the main river. Also we noticed that the river was flowing at a great speed because a duck was coming down the river towards the river Teign and into the sea very fast.

At the side of the river was a flood plain and when the river floods it soaks all the water up. The flood plain is very flat. We also noticed a tiny little beach full of sand with trees hanging over it. When the river Bovey flows high it sometimes bursts its banks and leaves a great deal of unpleasant waste in a jumble. Our trip to the River Bovey was a great success.

Georgina Dean Year 7



DYRONS GYMNASTICS DISPLAY

The huge gymnasium was crowded full of big and little children warming up on the thin mat spread over the hard floor. Everyone was sitting on hard wooden benches or on the floor around the mat. I looked around and saw Mrs Dinsdale talking to an important looking lady in a multi-coloured tracksuit.

Altogether there were seven of us Stover girls who were going to perform our gym routines for the display. Kate Jones and Leila Waters, my two partners for the routine, sat next to me. I could tell they were nervous, so was I. Suddenly I smelt a cheesy smell, I looked down and saw Kate had taken her shoes and socks off. Pooh-O!

The displays soon got under way. Some of them were very good. Others I thought that there were really too many people in a group and it looked a bit messy. It was interesting when a group used balls or ribbons. One group was supposed to be clowns, another group were dressed as the Royal Navy. One school based their routine on the sea. There were older children doing it as well as very small children.

Lorna's and Lisa's routine went very well, but unfortunately Julia and Vanessa couldn't do theirs. Kate, Leila and I thought ours went quite well but not as good as when we practised it. This didn't matter because it was really like a dress rehearsal for the Inter-house Dance and Gymnastics Competition.

Karen Ball Year 8

FIRST DAY AT STOVER SCHOOL

I with my sister bring a lot of heavy burden baggage
From Taiwan the distant place,
To come to England to Stover School to study.
Today is my first day at Stover School,
I am incessantly nervous,
Oh! This school is so big! I don't know what I have to do,
My English is so bad,
I'm afraid no one knows what I'm talking about,
I worry all the time can I study well here,
I hope I can pass the GCSE!

The swimming pool like a sea is blue and cold,
The book mountains in the library,
The cars in the car-park that me feel it's so compact,
The tree is tall like a giant,
The rainbow colour flowers put together like a real rainbow in the sky,
The birds singing like a bee of a most refined and prepossessing appearance in concert,
The laughter leaping in the air,
The students like ants walking on the lawn,
The school like a versatile museum!

Francis Chang Year 7



Gymnastics Team

MES VACANCES DE SKI

Je suis allée à Whistler dans Vancouver en Canada. C'était les vacances et c'était fantastique. Je suis arrivée le 21 Décembre. Je suis allée à l'hôtel qui s'appelle "Fairfield". C'était très chic! Je suis arrivée le soir et j'ai loué des skis et des chaussures de ski. Je suis retournée à l'hôtel. J'ai mangé dans un restaurant Chinois.

Le lendemain matin, je me suis levée à six heures. J'ai acheté un forfait et j'ai pris le télésiège. Je suis montée au sommet de la montagne! J'ai mis mes skis et j'ai commencé à descendre la montagne. Je n'ai pas trouvé le ski très facile. Ma famille était très bonne sur les skis mais je suis tombée tout le temps!

J'ai déjeuné dans un petit restaurant à la montagne qui s'appelle "The Nest". C'était délicieux. L'après-midi, j'ai fait du ski. Je suis retournée à l'hôtel à quatre heures et demie.

J'ai passé une bonne journée!

Nicola Croke Year 10

PLAISANTERIES

Deux escargots se promènent sur une plage quand ils rencontrent une limace. "Demi-tour!" dit un des escargots, "nous sommes sur une plage de nudistes!"

(limace=slug; demi-tour = turn round)

Un homme se promène son chien en laisse. Il rencontre un autre homme avec un crocodile en laisse. "Salut sac à puces!" dit le crocodile au chien. "Salut, sac-a-main!" répond le chien.

(en laisse = on a lead; rencontre = meets; puce = flea)

In the restaurant:

"Herr Ober! Es ist eine Fliege in meiner Suppe!"

"Tatsächlich! Das kostet zwei Mark extra!"

Frage: Was ist eine Raupe?

Antwort: Ein Wurm mit einem Pullover!

FRENCH EXCHANGE TO VIRE

Je suis allée en France pendant les vacances pour une semaine. Quand je suis arrivée en France ma correspondante et sa grandmère sont venues me chercher en voiture - j'ai trouvé ça très gentil!

Le premier jour je suis allée avec ma correspondante, Fleur, son frère et sa grandmère, à l'Abbaye aux Hommes à Caen. Après ça, nous sommes allées au marché et nous avons acheté notre déjeuner. Pour le déjeuner nous avons mangés des frites et du poulet. L'après-midi nous sommes allées au chateau près de Caen. J'ai trouvé ça très joli!

Lundi je suis allée à Arrromanche avec mes amies. Nous sommes allées dans les boutiques et j'ai acheté un petit cadeau pour mes parents. L'après-midi nous sommes allées au Mont Saint Michel. Le soir je suis sortie avec Fleur et nous avons joué au football et au handball. Mercredi nous sommes allées à Paris et je suis tombée dans l'escalier de la Tour Eiffel! Jeudi je joué au football et je regardé dans les magasins dans la ville de Vire, et vendredi je suis retournée en Angleterre!

Fiona Linton Year 9



A CAVALCADE OF COSTUME

From the Middle Ages to the Beatles and beyond this cavalcade of costume throughout the ages held its audience spellbound. Stover girls joined forces with friends and associates of Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood to model an incredible range of costumes the majority of which came from Mrs Thurgood's own huge collection although some particularly lovely Georgian and Victorian ones were kindly loaned by Killerton House.

The evening fell into two parts, starting in the Middle Ages complete with knight in shining armour and his be-wimped (if that's the right technical term) lady on his arm. Amazingly professional-looking models took us through the ruffs and farthingales of the Tudors and Stuarts to the bonnets, plaids and crinolines of the Victorians via some fascinating "revelations" - literally! - about underwear. Stover's musical ensemble Flautasia provided background music appropriate to each period throughout.

After a magnificent buffet supper the audience staggered back to their seats for part two "Into the Twentieth Century". Greeted with jazz rhythms from Flautasia they watched a wonderful sequence of flappers in Charleston frocks and cloche hats, wartime wives in severe utility costumes, Romantic post-war



New Look dresses, hippies in flares, beads and afghans and seventies swingers in boots and mini-skirts. Two impressive tableaux, "Rose-tinted spectacles" and "Rhapsody in Blue" and a breath-taking parade of wedding dresses brought a most unusual evening's entertainment to a close.

Throughout the evening there were demonstrations of hair-dressing, make-up and floristry, and we would like to thank Joy Arscott, Rosemary Jones and Monica Scott for showing us their extremely professional skills - and also for making some Stover girls look even more stunning than usual, if that's possible. Thanks



too to the National Trust at Killerton for the loan of many of the costumes from their collection and especially to Elizabeth Thurgood for all the organisation and hard work involved in making the evening such a success.

V. Stevens



STOVER DIGS NEW POND FOR MORE PEOPLE TO FALL INTO!!

In an effort to make as much use of the School grounds as possible, and enable more long-term field work to take place, we are hoping to build a new pond.

The present pond in the Jungle has never, despite lots of TLC, developed a very extensive animal community - perhaps because of its size and position.

We hope to be able to develop a larger, more open area with better access for groups of pupils, but this will obviously entail lots of DIGGING! If there is any parent or friend who might be able to provide assistance in the shape of a digger (non-human) please contact Mrs Bamberg or Mrs Kearney.

Once the hole is dug and lined we hope to stock it with plants developed from cuttings or divisions, so if you are clearing out your garden pond and thinning existing vegetation please think of us! Animals will tend to find their own way in once the pond is established.

If we are able to set up the site within the next few months our new Year Six pupils will be able to study the area and monitor its development. By the end of the millenium we will hopefully have a well-established pond providing plenty of educational opportunities for pupils of all ages as well as maintaining the proud Stover tradition illustrated above.

S. Bamberg, Head of Science



Pond Dipping

SIXTH FORM INTERNATIONAL AND PANCAKE EVENINGS

At the start of the Autumn Term, Mrs Collinge, inspired by the cosmopolitan make-up of the Sixth Form this year, came up with the innovative idea of an International Evening to kick off social events. The aim of the evening was to prepare a dish of foreign origin. My own stress-filled contribution was oeufs a la neige. The other offerings included a delicious pork Stroganoff and a mouth watering Thai soup. The staff and our less adventurous colleagues were repeatedly amazed at the standard and range of the food we produced.

The staff reciprocated our hard work a term later with a pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday. We all got a great deal of enjoyment both from watching the staff slave away and the pancake mountain grow. The speed with which this was demolished was amazing and must still remain unchallenged. These events were such a success that in our opinion it would be criminal for them not to be repeated next year.

Lizzie Anderson and Ruth Hammond.

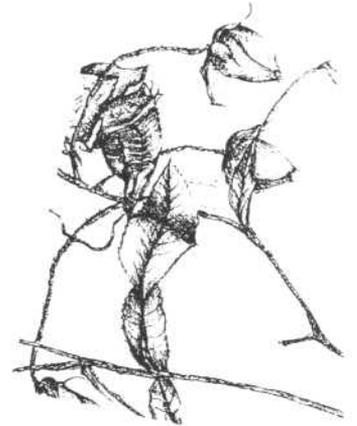


MICHELLE BIRD

Staff and Year 12 girls have been very moved by the unexpected death of Michelle Bird who came into school twice to speak about the experience of being HIV positive. They wrote the following for the celebration of her life held on 18th October 1995 at a friends' Meeting House in Bristol.



Michelle was an admired and respected lady throughout our school. Her courage and optimism was an example to us all. Her honesty and her ability to share her feelings so easily with us was valued by all who listened to her. She gave us an insight into a subject that very few would have been willing to talk about and for this we are very grateful. Our hearts go out to the people she loved of whose valuable support she spoke of so often. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her at Stover.



STOVER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP.

There has been an Amnesty International society at Stover for the past three years. This international organisation exists to campaign for the rights of prisoners of conscience - those of any political or religious persuasion who are unfairly imprisoned for their beliefs. As a school group we have two main functions: to raise money for Amnesty funds and to write letters to the authorities on behalf of prisoners and send greetings, often at Christmas, to encourage the prisoners themselves.

This year has been particularly busy for the Year 11 Amnesty group. We have arranged several fund raising events including a multi day which was very successful and raised around £70. We also began to collect stamps which can then be sold on to enthusiasts in aid of Amnesty. At Christmas we decided to

encourage people in school to order goods from the Amnesty catalogue. To increase awareness of the suffering of people around the world we gave an assembly about the recent massacres in Rwanda. A spare place was laid in the canteen to make people think about how they would feel if one of their friends went missing without trace, as has been happening to students in Uganda. Finally, and most importantly, we sent letters to heads of government in countries where human rights have been violated. This included writing to the British Prime Minister, John Major, about arms for Afghanistan. At Christmas we sent Christmas cards to those who had been unjustly imprisoned.

Hannah Carew-Gibbs and Sarah Whatman
Year 11 and V. Elce, Head of Religious Studies

(NB Notice spotted in round corridor by Ed. " Amnesty for year 11 in Room 3 this lunch hour")

HOWLERS !

Geography:

"To protect the coast from erosion you could, somehow, make the cliffs waterproof, although I don't know how!"

Cross-curricular - Geography/Classics;

"The flat - topped hill in the diagram is called a Plato."

English:

"Macbeth kills Banquo because he doesn't want any of Banquo's seeds to become king after him."

Technology:

"A wind - surfer would have bright colours so that if he drowned the colours would show up".

History:

"Prehistoric transport was not up to standing battle very well but it was up to standing having to stay put in one place and its remains found for a long time."

EXCUSES, EXCUSES !

"Sorry I haven't done my homework, because I hung my jacket up outside the H.E. cupboard which had my locker keys in and somebody took it to give it to me and then gave it to somebody else to give it to me but didn't so I couldn't get into my locker which had my school bag in it. I will do it tonight. Sorry."

Anon.

Christmas Cakes

The ever popular Christmas cake competition took place during the Autumn term. This involves a lot of hard work before you get to the fun part of icing - all that weighing, marinating, mixing and stirring followed by long slow cooking and gentle maturing under the supervision of Mrs Collinge. My mouth is watering already. As usual there were some highly original creations as well as the more conventional decorations on display and they all looked - well, good enough to eat! Congratulations to everyone. The results were:

Seniors : First Victoria Anning
Second Demelza Williams
Third Fiona Parker

Year Nine : 9C First Claire Blackmore
Second Melody Cooper
Third Kate Munday
Highly commended : Suzanne Gould

9L First Cally Hocknell
Second Katherine Storrs
Third Louise Boudouy
Highly commended Julia Simcox

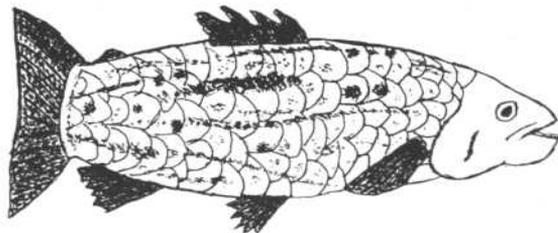
MAGISTRATES' COURT VISIT.

During February we were privileged to be spoken to by two magistrates of the Teignbridge bench in our PRE lesson. They talked to us about what was involved in being a magistrate, the responsibilities, and how they are appointed. For though being a magistrate is voluntary and not a paid position the following criteria are used in the selection process: how is the person perceived in the public eye, do they have a good sense of right and wrong and are they likely to be biased in favour of any group in society. An attempt is made to keep a balance on the bench, for example between the sexes and political parties. No magistrate has any formal legal training.

Year 11 was very fortunate to be invited to the Newton Abbot courthouse to see for ourselves what goes on. We were quite surprised to discover that the proceedings are always open to the public. Our group was divided into two: one of the courts had a trial complete with witnesses going on; the other court had a succession of cases varying from motoring offences to shop-lifting and violence. There is a limit on the penalties which magistrates can impose (a maximum of £5,000 fine, six months in prison or two years voluntary service) so more serious cases are handed on to the Crown Court in Exeter. The bench consists of a chairman and two other magistrates, advised by a clerk on legal matters.

I think that everyone who visited the court and heard the presentation were interested and intrigued by how justice is seen to be done through the people. Many of us will consider becoming magistrates in later life. We would certainly like to thank Mr. Rooth and Mrs. Clyne for their presentation and Mrs. O'Malley who is the project co-ordinator.

Christine Hiles Year 11



Two Ballads in very different moods

THOMAS A BECKET.

The knights they sat in the king's great hall,
The king was grey and sad,
He turned his face against the wall,
His servants thought him mad.

The news had come from England then
With furious speed and sound.
And Henry raved and ranted when
He learned of Becket's ground.

"Now who will rid me of this priest?"
The wily Hery asked,
And four knights rose and left the feast.
The king's face was a mask.

They crossed the channel with great speed,
And rode through out the night,
They forged ahead as did their steeds,
'Till the Abbey came in sight.

Inside the priest at station dwelt
A holy man was he.
Before the altar flame he knelt.
It was a sight to see.

Then through the doors the four Knights burst
The flickering flames were killed.
They heeded not that they were cursed,
As all his blood they spilled.

So back to France the four knights went,
The bloody death was known.
The king denied that he had sent
The men, to save his crown.

But later he with pity came
To where the saint had lain,
And did his penance on his knees,
To him who had been slain.

St. Thomas a Becket 1117 - 1170. Archbishop of Canterbury
1162. Chancellor of England 1158 under Henry II. Opposed
Henry over taxation, murdered in Canterbury Cathedral and
made a saint in 1173.

Louise Neu Year 9

LUCY JANE

Lucy Jane was a right old pain
For when we used to play,
She'd dance around like Lady Muck
And roll upon the hay.

One day she took a country walk
She wandered far and wide.
She found it was a big mistake
And cried and cried and cried.

She cried for twenty seven days
Beside a farmyard gate.
She filled the streams for miles around
The rivers were in spate.

You might have thought we had a drought
But Janey solved the lot.
The reservoirs for miles about
Were filled up to the top.

So dear old Jane had saved the day
And South West Water cheered.
"Today my dear, you paid your way,
Please cry again next year."

Gemma Fitzjohn-Sykes Year Nine

TUDOR TRADITIONS

In December, the Tudor Dance Group, who had previously demonstrated their skills at the Country Fair, spent the day with Year Eight. Their leader, Mrs Elizabeth Thurgood, gave an entertaining and fascinating talk on the eccentricities of Tudor dress and the differences between Tudor and modern food. The girls were taught some authentic Tudor dances after which everyone enjoyed some traditional Tudor dishes prepared by Year Eight in their Home Economics lesson. Somehow the snow, rather than being a nuisance, added to the authenticity of the whole experience!

JAPANESE VISIT

Following the success of last year we were again visited in the spring by a group of secondary school girls from Japan. They spent two weeks with us, staying with local host families, improving their English during the morning and visiting places of interest during the afternoons. Their visit was rounded off as last year by a highly enjoyable Barn dance in the Jubilee Hall.

The Art Trip

The first time I stepped into the National Gallery, facing the work of many of the most famous artists in the world, to almost feel the textures of the paintings instead of admiring them in books, and experience staying in London for two nights - that was the art trip.

It was not very nice to get up early in the morning at the weekend but we had to make the best use of time. Although we were very tired, the excitement kept us awake and we chatted all the way in the train. Then we went on the London underground which was stuffed full with people.

When we arrived at our destination it was a moment to remember. It was enormous and beautiful. I could not control myself and blurted out 'Wow! We need to get a map!' As soon as I said that everyone took off for their own favourite area.

I was amazed by the lovely paintings surrounding me. I could hardly believe that I was facing the paintings of Picasso, Cezanne, Constable, Van Gogh and lots of other well known artists. I could smell the odour of oil paint and old paper. It was difficult to squeeze in the crowd to get the best position to study the pictures. Well, we could not always be too nice to others as I also needed to have a look at the excellent paintings. We did a lot of sketches which were part of our GCSE and A Level studies.

When we left the Gallery it was already tea time and I was so hungry. We settled in the hotel and had supper either in the hotel restaurant or the fish and chips shop outside the hotel. Life in London was expensive as everything was highly priced.

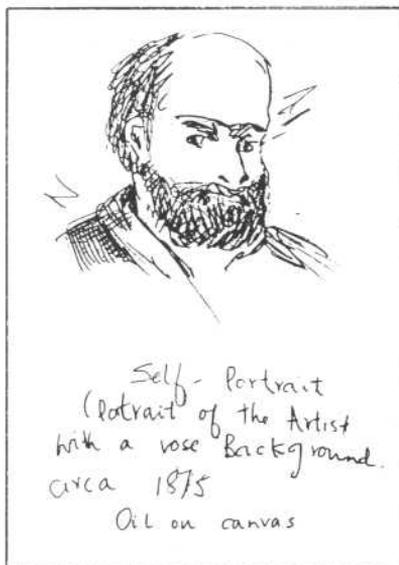
Time passed by quickly and the next morning we hurried to the Tate Gallery to see the Cezanne Exhibition. There were rooms full of the famous impressionist's work, including his paintings and sketches. We bought some postcards and souvenirs in the gift shop.

The next stop was Covent Garden. We were all waiting for this moment to buy some fashionable clothes and jewellery. There were millions of shops and it was

as if we could never finish looking at them. Mr Dunbar and Mrs Stevens settled in a cafe while the rest of us were busy in the search for nice shops.

It was time to go back to Stover. We were tired of the long travelling and fell asleep in the train. Although it was only two days, we were really fulfilled by the paintings in the Galleries and the wonderful time in Covent Garden. Mr Dunbar and Mrs Stevens had done a good job of looking after us so none of us got lost or into trouble. It was wonderful to go and I am glad I went.

Camilla Kwong, Year 10



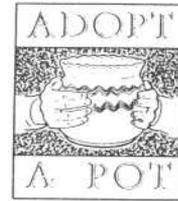
Some of Camilla's sketches from the Cezanne Exhibition



Please help! A number of ancient pots and pans need a good home, very friendly, quiet and completely house-trained!

The VIth form Classics group would proudly like to present the newest, yet oldest, member of Stover School: PLINY the POT. Pliny the Pot is a Samian Ware Bowl, dating from the Flavian period 69-96 AD. It was found at Sea Mills, in Bristol, during the construction of the Portway in February 1922. Samian ware, a very distinctive type of pottery, began to be imported into Britain on a large scale soon after the Roman conquest in AD 43. It was fine, usually red-coloured tableware, sometimes plain though often relief-decorated. Our pot has some very distinctive decoration: the figures which form the main part of the design have been separated by small medallions with winged cherubs alternating with panels containing hares and birds as well as a form of a motif known as "St. Andrew's Cross". The shape of the bowl and the nature of the decoration are typical of one area of Samian production and suggest that it was made in a South Gaul pottery or workshop.

You may ask yourselves, "Why on earth would anyone want to adopt a pot?" However, it is for a very good cause. The Archaeology Section of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery is responsible for the care of approximately 4 million groups of objects ranging from the smallest prehistoric flint tools to an excavated Roman villa. The sheer number of objects, their diversity and the many ways in which they need to be preserved, places an increasing strain on their resources. Money raised through the 'adoption' scheme is therefore used for the direct benefit of the collections. The money sent is spent on upgrading or providing new storage systems which will be better for the objects in the long-term. In some instances the conservation treatment of a particular object is financed.



This is to certify that
Stover School VIth Form Classics Group

has adopted the item(s) listed below

*A Roman Samian
 Ware Cup*

*for a period of 1 year
 from 18th June 1996*

Signed Chris Boyd

City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Research on the collections is helped by the purchase of new books for the library. All this can be done for the small sum of £5 a year.

You can choose from a wide range of different objects from pots to weapons. In the adoption pack you receive the exciting contents of:

- ~ a certificate
- ~ a colour photo of the object
- ~ a description giving details of the object
- ~ an information sheet putting the item in context.

If you are interested in adopting a pot for yourself or a friend please see Mrs Stevens for the details. It is for a very good cause and it is also great fun.

D.Williams Sixth Form

Year 9 Activity Weekend

6:30 am and silence apart from a few murmurs from the Year Nine group stuck in the middle of a field on Dartmoor! For most of us it felt like the crack of dawn for 6:30 is not usually a time in the morning we appreciate experiencing, but the lingering aroma of bacon and knowing we were going caving made the majority of us more enthusiastic. We packed our bags several times making sure we had everything for the day.



Round the camp fire

We arrived at Pridhamsleigh at 9:00 to be presented with a pair of baggy overalls and a fireman's helmet with a head torch and what felt like a car battery. Some of us were issued with wellies and we were now ready to journey to the centre of the earth. All groups went on the modest route apart from one alone which ventured where no sane group had ventured before! The group consisted of Jane Howard, Cally Hocknell, Chloe Mansell, Lucy Jones and Gemma Fitzjohn-Sykes. Our instructor, Nick, had a hard time from our group for there was no turning back for us until we had conquered the cave! This meant ducking and diving, squeezing and stretching our way through holes and tunnels. Then it was time to wash in the river and move on to our next adventure, abseiling.

This demanded complete mental attitude and required our utmost physical strength! We practised rock climbing with Phil and John and then we moved onto the real challenge, the AN-GEL DIVE which meant running down the rock face head first! For some of us the adrenalin was becoming a little overwhelming but others were thirsty for more!

Vertigo was our next obstacle to overcome and Lucy volunteered to jump off

of the jump is not actually throwing yourself off the bridge but if you open your eyes in mid-fall and see the water rushing towards you, and as you thump the surface you see your life rush in front of you! The water was black and cold, and before you knew it you were shivering and your teeth could have held a chat show! Soon after we had to head back to camp, for a night of orienteering.

We went in pairs and Miss Lodwig sent us off at three minute intervals. Jane and Cally were sent off at 10:20 by which time it was pitch black; this offered more of a challenge to find the clues! There was one field that we were not permitted to enter, the BULL'S FIELD, although I remember our team getting lost and when we re-read the map it confirmed we were standing whack-bang in the middle of this field! Miss Lodwig had asked us to try and be back for 11:00 and Jane and I had found six of the ten clues by this time, so we tried to make our way back to camp. Congratulations go to Julia, Hannah and their extra team member, Mike; they managed to gather eight clues. After a few campfire songs and a lot of hyper-activity we scrambled into the tents ready for another energy-demanding day.

Time to get up and, guess what, 6:30 again!(only Beavers had a later wake-up call at the more acceptable time of 7:00). Mrs.Collinge had prepared breakfast for

Holne Bridge first, but it was very difficult for her to go off straight away. The most keen was Ella who managed to race round and jump six times. The worst part



Richard about to be capsized

us all which was a pleasant surprise after the nasty shock of waking up early. After eating we had to pack up everything in sight. We packed bags and cleared up tents which included fighting over whose pegs were whose.

Everyone piled into their separate mini- buses ready for their last activities for the weekend. Beavers and Badgers were with Mr Priddes ready for canoeing and an interesting coastal walk. Only when we went to pile into our mini-bus the door managed to unattach itself from the bus. We took a great deal of time to fix it back on and we weren't highly successful and only managed to attach it temporarily, so delicate driving was needed. When we were near Goodison sands we took a detour to collect Richard, who was going to help with a group of fairly hopeless canoeists.

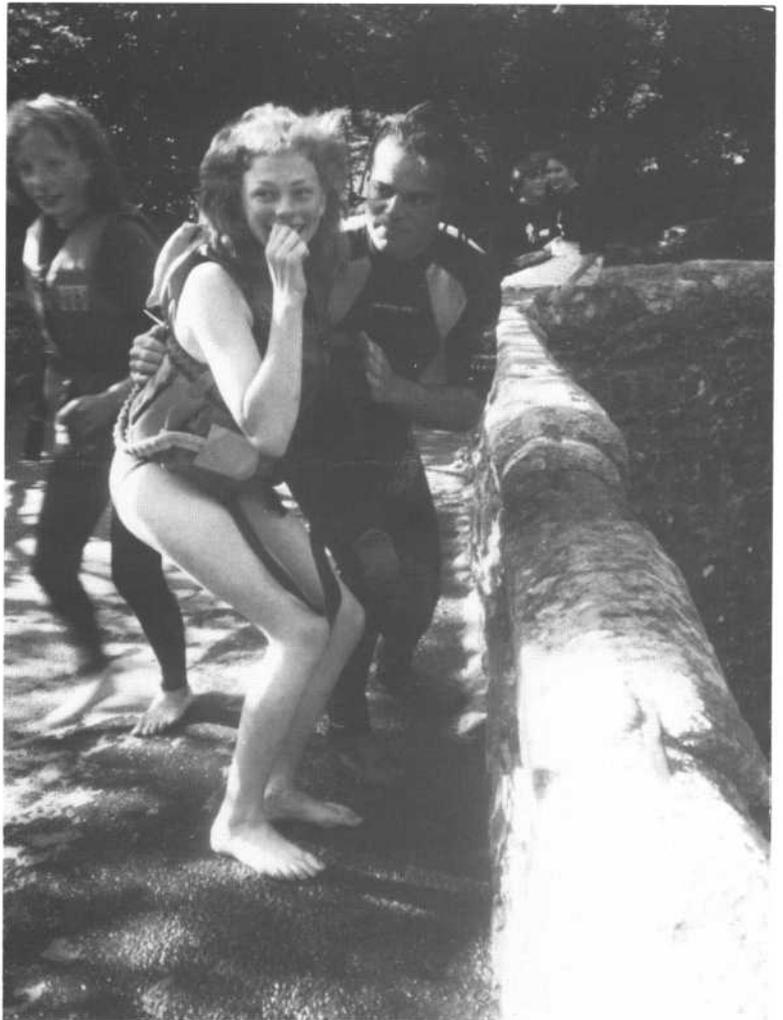
We were all pretty wet apart from Richard, so Chloe and I had a suspicion that he might accidentally capsizes. We then made sure this happened, causing hysterics on the shore, including his own father!

The activities proved to be a great success, because everyone said they enjoyed them thoroughly, and when people were put to the test it showed their real capability. Thank you to Miss Lodwig, Mr Priddes and Mrs Collinge for a superb weekend!

**Cally Hocknell and Chloe Mansell
Year 9**



On the Beach



Jessica needs some encouragement to jump

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

For several years the Lower Sixth at Stover have taken part in Oxford University's Young Enterprise Scheme. This is a project which encourages teenagers to find out in a practical way about the real world of business. The participants set up a company to design, manufacture and market a product. They raise the capital to fund their stock by selling shares in their company and are expected to show a tidy profit at the end! This year's company was called Kinetics and made and sold a very attractive range of jewellery made from silver set with semi-precious stones. The company's USP or Unique Selling Proposition (without which marketing gurus claim your product will flop!) was that the stones were all "birthstones". Thus the product appealed to a wide range of customers as everyone has a personal interest! Neat or what? Kinetics was floated on the back of the sale of 25p shares to friends, staff, family and anyone else who could be arm-twisted into investing. Considering the company made a handsome profit of over £100 those who did invest received an excellent return on their capital. And there can't be many of us who, as a result, are not sporting a bracelet, earrings or (for the exhibitionists) an anklet set with golden topaz, mauve amethysts or crimson garnets. Finally the participants had to sit an exam the results of which are given below.

E.Anderson	Credit
S. Archdale	Credit
A.Bibby	Distinction
J.Fisk	Distinction
C.Graham	Pass
R.Hammond	Credit
L.Latham	Pass
L.Lucas	Credit
S.Reynolds	Credit
T.Strongman	Distinction
D.Williams	Pass
V.Williamson	Pass

Congratulations to the Kinetics team.

CHALLENGE FOR INDUSTRY

Year Nine have also proved themselves very capable of rising to the challenge posed by working in industry. The "challenge" was organised by the Devon Education and Business Partnership and involved Trago Mills, Midland bank, Vander Ltd. and MacDonalds. Representatives of these organisations spent the day in school and organised various tasks or challenges for the girls to compete within a given time. These ranged from designing, costing and marketing a Christmas meal to organising the finance for a new business venture. As a result of their efforts they were invited to a behind-the-scenes visit followed by a free meal at MacDonalds in Torquay (where Miss Evans failed to meet the challenge involved in parking the mini-bus in a car-park with a maximum height entry.)



'Beavering away'

GEMMA SAILS FOR BRITAIN

Year Nine pupil Gemma Fitzjohn-Sykes who sails an optimist dinghy was selected to represent Great Britain in the European Sailing Championships which took place in Palma, Majorca in July and August. The prestigious event drew forty five teams from all over Europe and from as far away as the USA and Argentina. Gemma was there for two weeks, the first of which was officially training but there was plenty of time for sight-seeing. Although the British team did not win this year there's always hope for 1997 by which time perhaps Gemma will have graduated to a bigger boat!

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

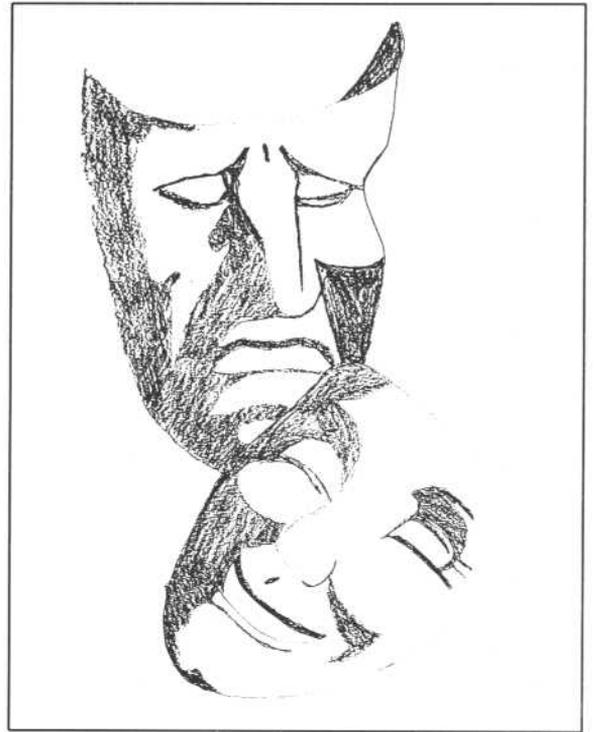
One of the many enjoyable aspects of studying Drama (and English!) at Stover are theatre trips. This year students have been to see a wide variety of dramatic presentations including the following: *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, *Salome* by Oscar Wilde, *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill, *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, and *Jude the Obscure* based on the novel by Thomas Hardy.

At Christmas the school was treated to two contrasting productions in a delightful double bill: Ted Hughes' thought-provoking verse drama, *The Coming of the Kings* presented by Year Nine, and the Sixth Form's elegant production of the Commedia dell'Arte piece, *The Letter*

Year Nine had been beavering away at *The Coming of the Kings* during their drama lessons and at last the time had come for them to present it to parents and friends. The varied dialogue of prose and verse and some mumbo-jumbo had been divided up so that everyone, even the most reluctant, had a part. Animals, fortune-tellers, businessmen, priests and minstrels mingled with the traditional characters of the Nativity.

The production revealed what a wide range of talent there was available. The musicians in the group happily assumed the tattered garb of wandering minstrels and entertained us with instrument and voice. Several girls showed considerable flair in their interpretation of character and imaginative approach to language and movement. Despite the untimely intrusion of the fire alarm the performance rolled on and Ted Hughes' amusing and fanciful version of events leading up to the Nativity reached its poignant and dramatic conclusion to the delight of all concerned.

In complete contrast was *The Letter*. Nine girls from Year 12 joined the Senior Drama Club and found themselves grappling with the colourful and timeless characters of the

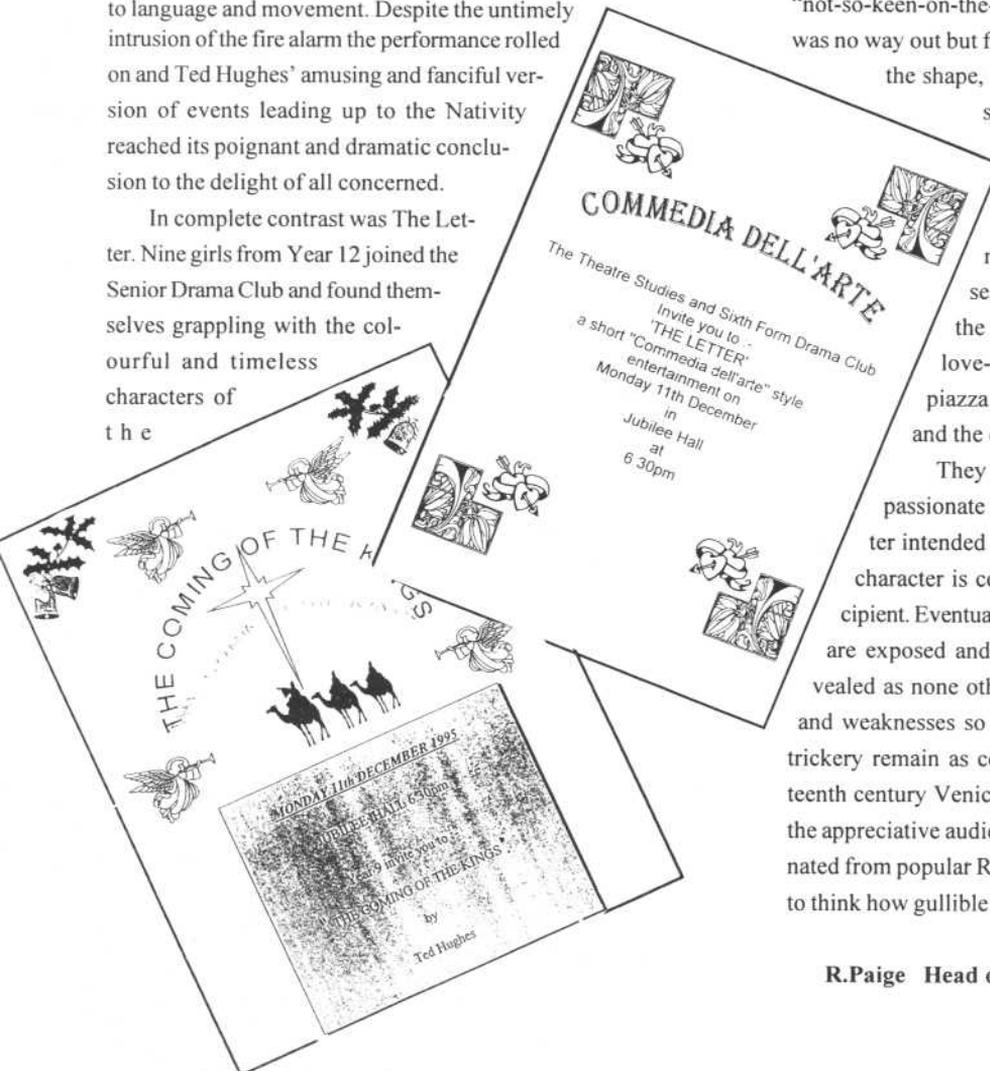


Commedia dell'Arte. The original members of these wandering troupes were a bunch of multi-talented improvisers so there was plenty of work to be done!

Initial enthusiasm soon gave way to the doldrums of the "not-so-keen-on-the-idea-after-all" phase. However, as there was no way out but forward, they gradually began to assume the shape, sound and utterances of the Commedia stereotypes, including the learned doctor who knows everything but understands nothing and his friend, the miserly merchant Pantaloon with his mischievous valet, Harlequin. Two obsessive lovers, the hypersensitive Pierrot, the vain, domineering La Cantarina and her love-sick pupil Flavio all mingle in the town piazza with Fiorinette, the refined courtesan, and the doctor's flirtatious wife.

They are all pre-occupied with a letter and its passionate contents. Which one of them is the letter intended for? "Hope springs eternal" - and each character is convinced that they are the intended recipient. Eventually the bubble bursts, vanities and dreams are exposed and the perpetrator of the mischief is revealed as none other than Harlequin. The human foibles and weaknesses so devastatingly exposed by Harlequin's trickery remain as common today as they were in seventeenth century Venice and undoubtedly struck a chord with the appreciative audience. The Italian Commedia itself originated from popular Roman comedy and it is perhaps salutary to think how gullible we remain even after so long.

R.Paige Head of Drama

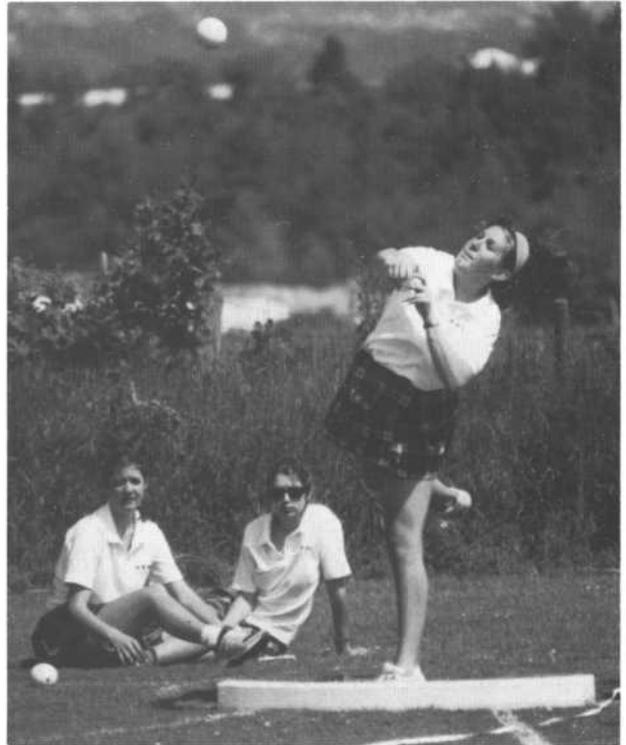


Sports Day 1996

We were again blessed with wonderful weather and, as last year, the summer frocks, panama hats, strawberries and cream and "Chariots of Fire" on the tannoy all contributed to that tremendously enjoyable and oh so essentially English atmosphere! Formality went out of the window (the Headmaster was down to shorts and bare feet by time we got to the tug-of-war) and all in all it was a relaxed and delightful afternoon. Well, for the spectators anyway! Let's not forget the competitors who were running their cotton socks off round the athletic track ("Fifteen hundred metres??? You have got to be joking!!") and hurling various dangerous objects, including themselves, at and over various fixed points. During the tea interval parents and friends could visit an exhibition of work in the Jubilee hall which proved very popular.

Trophies

Best Junior athlete:	Helen Cottle
Best Intermediate athlete	Lucy Mills
Best Senior athlete:	Anna Storrs
Fastest Relay team shield	Year Nine, Mary
Open best long jump	Lucy Mills
Inter house Athletics Cup	Mary





THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Oscar Wilde's well-known and perennially fresh comedy of manners is a gloriously rich mine of deliciously witty quips and epigrams, many of which have found their way into this review. For how could one hope to better the master's use of the bon mot? After all, this was the man who is supposed to have said on his death bed, "Either this wallpaper goes or I do."

This totally unbelievable tale of confused identities and true love triumphant (as long as it is supported by "nearly half a million in unit trusts") was splendidly realised by the Sixth form. Special commendation must go to Jenni Fisk who, after sharing the part of Jack with Caroline Graham in the first performance, bravely took over the entire role on Thursday when Caroline was taken ill. In the best tradition of the stage she took to the boards after the briefest of run-throughs and gave a splendid performance.

The play opens in the bachelor flat of the louche and incorrigible Algernon Moncrieff (a most convincing Tarida Kuesuwan) where John (Jack) Worthington is rather unwillingly explaining to his friend his double (or possibly treble life). "I am Earnest in town and Jack in the country". The double life is due to the fact that in the country he has to adopt "a high moral tone" as guardian to his niece Cecily and "a high moral tone can hardly be said to conduce very much to either one's health or one's happiness.... That, my dear Algy, is the whole truth, pure and simple." But as Algy points out, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple. Modern life would be very tedious if it were either and modern literature a complete impossibility!" As true today as in 1895!

At which point appears perhaps one of the best known grandes dames of the English stage, Algernon's appalling aunt, Lady Bracknell, the prototype of a long

line of gorgon aunts in English literature. In this difficult part Ruth Hammond was never less than magnificent on a Wagnerian scale. Her announcement later in the play that she was forced to travel to the country on "a LUGGAGE train!" carried as much outraged resonance as her more famous query as to Jack's socially unacceptable origins:

"A HAAANDBAAAG??" Her conviction of the link between social and moral superiority never wavering ("three addresses always inspire confidence"), she carried all before her.



Accompanying Lady Bracknell is her daughter Gwendolyn Fairfax ("I am always smart and never wrong"), given a wonderfully steely, sophisticated performance by Caroline Grant, her nose held so high in the air away from the smells of the rural poor that she could scarcely see over it. To Cecily's remark, "When I see a spade I call it a spade," Gwendolyn replies frostily, "I am glad to say that I have never seen a spade." The contrast between Gwendolyn, in her sleek chignon and high-heels and Louise Latham's pert Cecily, bemocked and be-sandalled, all sideways glances and little-girl determination, was excellently handled.

Cecily's views on education went down extremely well with this particular audience: "Horrid, horrid German! It is not at all a becoming language - I know I look quite plain after my German lesson!" Nor did Lady Bracknell have a high opinion of education: "I do not approve of

anything which tampers with natural ignorance. The whole theory of modern education is radically unsound. Fortunately, in England, at any rate, education produces no effect whatsoever!"

The true strength of the cast of a play is often revealed when they are not speaking but still on stage and this is where amateur productions can often be faulted. Not so this one. Not for a moment did a member of the cast drop out of character. Marvellous, wordless stage business (Gwendolyn's appalled but polite reaction to the horrors of a country sitting

room - dead rabbits, game bags everywhere) and excellent body language kept the characters alive in front of us. Outstanding in the latter field were Sarah-Jane Archdale's fluttery, gawky Miss Prism and Ayesha Markland's smarmy, slightly flaky Reverend Chasuble. Even the two contrasting butlers with minimal dialogue were convincingly street-

wise on the one hand and rustic on the other.

Timing is of the utmost importance in comedy and again this cast was near faultless. Miss Prism the governess, cruelly described by Lady Bracknell as "a female of repellent aspect, remotely connected with education" is given the crucial denouement of the play. As Sarah-Jane twitchily, sniffingly revealed that she had put the manuscript of her novel in the pram and the baby in the handbag the audience surely agreed with Gwendolyn: "The suspense is terrible! I hope it will last!"

But of course, it didn't, and the play came to its tidy end with all couples neatly paired off with only some slight disapproval from Lady Bracknell: "Nephew, you seem to be displaying signs of triviality." "On the contrary," replies Jack. "I've now realised for the first time in my life the vital Importance of being Earnest!"

V. Stevens

Stover Country Fair 1996

On the morning of Saturday the seventh of October the grounds and building of Stover school were unusually busy. Large areas were being marked off with ropes and signs were appearing everywhere: 'Craft Hall', 'Parking', 'Trade and exhibitors only', 'Terriers and Lurchers This Way'. Relays of staff gunned their cars through the gates laden with green posters for last minute wall-papering of any place in South Devon that didn't yet know that Sunday the eighth was the day of Stover's first Craft and Country Fair.

"Whose idea was this anyway?" we moaned as we frantically knocked up more copies of that most vital sign of all: 'Toilets'. The name J-- J-- was muttered more than once and it was rumoured that a wax doll and pins had been spotted in one of the less frequented corners of the staffroom.. Most Stover staff need at least eight hours sleep a night with a top up of say fourteen at weekends if we are to function as normal human beings, but certain indefatigable individuals (this isn't personal, but Mrs Thatcher springs to mind) seem to manage very well on three. We lesser mortals were allowed to stagger home that evening with strict instructions to turn up at six am to park the trade and show traffic.

Came the dawn... and one of those gorgeous, warm, bright, Indian Summer days started to materialise. As cars started - and continued - to pour steadily onto the field all our nightmares ("Suppose it rains?" "Suppose no-one comes?" "Suppose we all go down with dysentery the night before?" and so on) faded with the early morning mist. The old grey stone house and wealth of autumnal trees provided the perfect backdrop for the day's celebration of all things rural. From fly-fishing to the Victorian funfare, from ferret racing to Tudor



dance there must have been something for everyone to enjoy. Among the most popular were undoubtedly the elegant side-saddle display (starring our very own

ex-pupil, Sophie Dunkerley) and the endearing mink hounds who, with their long lollopy legs and shambolic good cheer, almost managed to upstage the



South Devon fox hounds. The Jubilee hall had been transformed by Mr Dunbar's hard work into an Aladdin's cave. Needlework, jewellery, dried flowers, paintings, pottery and much, much more must have provided many Christmas presents for Stover friends and families this year.

By five the crowd was thinning and those of us who had been "volunteered" for Mrs Mop duties donned our industrial strength rubber gloves and sallied forth to clean up. Never the world's most popular job, but we were amazed and delighted at how little real mess there was, considering how many people had tramped, eaten and loo-visited their way around the grounds that day. The maths department revealed that the day had been profitable as well as wildly successful in all other aspects and the committee assigned a large part of the profits to various rural and local charities. I think in fact that it was at that meeting that

a steely look came into those blue eyes and a familiar voice was heard to say, "Now, what about next year...!!"

V. Stevens



GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD COURSE

ABERGAVENNY, SOUTH WALES

23-25 FEBRUARY 1996

On Friday the 23rd of February we all met up at Stover at eight fifteen am to set off on the trip to Wales. The people going on the trip were Elizabeth Anning, Cat Hart, Louisa Robbins, Hayley Walkden, Vanessa Arscott, Lucy Mills, Natalie Strongman Emma Pocock, Lucinda Tar, myself, and the two teachers, Mrs Smith and Mrs Elce. The journey was long and it rained for the majority of the time but it was still fun as we sang and talked. We arrived for our appointment at the British Steel works in Hanwen at about 11:45 am, and were taken on a conducted tour.

The steel works was a huge place covering two thousand hectares. Although the steel works covered a vast area, they did not look as bad as you would expect. They were very environmentally friendly, and there were lakes with Canada Geese, rabbits, ducks and other animals still living there. They also used special equipment for refining and they recycled waste materials. We were told how the machinery worked, and we visited the part of the works where the huge slabs of steel were cut and rolled. (This was where we had to wear ear plugs). It was very hot and noisy, but it was very interesting.

After our visit to the steel works we spent the afternoon doing some fieldwork in Urban Newtown. First of all we went to two different industrial estates, then to two different areas and compared the more modern areas to the old areas and noted the good and bad points. The end result was that the more modern areas were better because they were well kept and did not look unsightly.

Natalie Henderson Year 10

Day two

The day started as the rain poured down the window. We were dropped off outside the town to walk back and complete a town survey. We were equipped

with a full set of red and blue waterproof clothing, our clip-boards and woolly hats. We looked terrific! As we stepped out of the bus a huge lorry passed and soaked us from head to toe, a great way to start the day! But we were still going to soldier on.

We were assigned to carry out tests on the pollution and land use in and around the town. Our first major stop was the train station. That was quite appropriate as we looked like train spotters but we didn't feel out of place as there were some other interesting people there too! And then the bus station was to follow. Unfortunately we were then asked to look at car tax discs to find out where the cars came from. This we regretted as people gave us funny looks as we peered inquisitively into car windows.

We arrived at the Town Hall where we were supposed to meet up, ten minutes late but with all the work completed though rather damp!

To complete the day we walked, now dry, to do pedestrian and traffic counts and to fill in a questionnaire we had composed the night before.

Day three (and final day)

On the third and last day we went to two places on the river to accomplish a river pollution survey. To do this we took small samples of the river and studied the animals to see if they were pollution tolerant. One set of samples was taken above the town and the other below to see how the town affects the river.

Up on the mountain snow still lay in small patches to make sure that we were really cold compared to the mild Devon climate! Fortunately we were privileged to take a more relaxing trip - as we didn't have to make notes - to an old disused pit. We were taken underground by an authentic Welshman to discover information about the lives of the miners in past years.

To conclude our trip we were lucky enough to catch Mrs Smith on camera as she had been avoiding it all weekend!

**Louisa Robins and Natalie Strongman
Year 10**

Elizabeth House Report

Elizabeth House is undoubtedly the best! I may be slightly biased as house captain, but Lizzie House certainly has the most fun and that is surely what house spirit is all about.

The school year started off very successfully with a Lizzie House victory in the General Knowledge Quiz. The cross-country in February stretched house enthusiasm to the limit as temperatures hit arctic level. The Music Competition in March went with a swing with a top performance by Lizzie House, climaxing in a tuneful rendition of "I Close My Eyes" from the musical "Joseph And His Technicolour Dream Coat".

Sports Day was a great success with Lizzie House members running, throwing, launching and gasping their way into second place. (A major breakthrough in Stover sporting history as third place has been reserved for Lizzie House for years!) Inspired by Wimbledon, the Lizzie Tennis Team smashed and volleyed their way to victory with an odd ace thrown in for good measure! The number of gold medals won in the swimming by Lizzie House was surely not reflected in the final result, but the sun stayed out and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our house charity "Animals In Distress" benefited by £128 from our fundraising schemes, which included; a Roller Disco, Coin Collecting and a Fun Swim and BBQ. Understandably our charity events proved slightly more popular than Vicky House's sponsored aerobics session. A number of girls visited the Animal Sanctuary in Ipplepen to see where their money was going and what their efforts had achieved.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of Lizzie House, and I wish them good luck in the coming year.

Kate Taylor

Mary House Report

This year Mary House gave its support to the Camomile Centre which carries out animal related therapy on an eleven acre farm overlooking Dartmoor. The centre aims to increase the self esteem and develop the basic living skills of children and adults with special needs.

The money that was raised in a Christmas stall organised by the House was presented to a representative of the Centre during one House assembly. This money has since been used at the centre to purchase three sets of new shoes for the ponies there.

During the summer term our fundraising efforts were put into a sponsored bike ride around the school grounds, initiated by Hannah Garvin and Julia Simcox in Year 9. The money raised - was over £80.

After a slow start our inter-House competition efforts gradually picked up and by the summer term we were on a winning streak. On a blazing hot day in June Mary House charged ahead of the opposition in a truly amazing performance which saw us win this year's sports day. (Of course Mr Dunbar's cries of "COME ON MAAARRREEE!!!" made all the difference.) After proving we were still on winning form in the senior rounders, we splashed our way to success in the Inter-House swimming competition. and a brilliant effort by the whole of the House saw Mary deservedly win the House cup at the end of the year.

Leanne Lucas (with help from L. Latham and R. Hammond)

Victoria House Report

Victoria House has been extremely busy this year, amassing many house points and not too many minus marks (well this is partly true)! Alex Bamford and Fiona Linton have done exceptionally well - congratulations and keep it up!

We have retained the House Cup as our prized possession - perhaps it is time another house had a chance to win it. After all we have to be generous! In addition to this we won the Music Cup under the organisation of Caroline Grant. We also won the Junior Cross Country (which is a real killer) and the Junior netball, even though Vicky House has not previously been renowned for its sporting successes.

As well as all this we have been raising money for Devon Air Ambulance - our House charity for the past year and hopefully for the next few years. We managed to raise £500 from running a raffle and from suffering some very strenuous aerobics. Even some willing volunteers from other houses joined in the latter under Miss Lodwig's energetic instruction. At the end of the term the Air Ambulance helicopter itself literally dropped in on Stover and the whole school were able to have a good look at it - we even managed to get our photos in several newspapers that day.

Next year under her new leader we hope Victoria House will prove to be even more successful. Make sure the House Cup stays with its rightful owners. Keep Vicky House Number One !!

K. Smitheram and V. Anning

Stover Netball Tour of South Africa

My previous travel experience has high-lighted for me the importance of arriving in a country with an open mind, allowing yourself the opportunity to make your own views and opinions. I feel that this was particularly important when we were visiting South Africa, a country undergoing dramatic political change and also a country which has in the past received such negative media coverage.

Cape Town, our first stop, was a stunning city which hosted some of the best netball sides in South Africa. In this respect it was perhaps not the best place to start our tour! However, the Stover teams put up some brave fights against some excellent sides.

The host families were very friendly and gave us our first and certainly not our last taste of South African hospitality. The variable winter weather did not prevent us from seeing all Cape Town had to offer and it certainly lived up to our expectations. The Cape provided us with great food and drink at incredible prices. It was our first experience of the exchange rate (seven rand to the pound) and we certainly made the most of it!

There was only one disturbing factor about Cape Town and that was the extent



The Team

of the security on the private properties. This was an aspect I found hard to get used to, coming from a relatively crime-free area of England.

The highlight of our stay in the Cape was the Langa School, a black township school that we visited. After rather negative reports from our host families we were all amazed at the reception we received. I will never forget how satisfying it was to meet children who had so much enthusiasm for learning, something rarely seen in our more privileged societies.

Durban, on the east coast was actually experiencing its coldest weather for a

long time yet still managed to provide us with a warmer, more tropical climate. Although our netball skills were improving all the time our efforts weren't quite enough to beat the Durban Girls' High School but we certainly gave the almost unbeaten side a run for their money! Our hard work did pay off however when we had two wins against Thomas More School.

Again we enjoyed the company of our host families and glimpsed the Durban nightlife which I'm sure few of us will forget! We were certainly sad to leave Durban's nightlife, beaches and surfers, but, as they say, there were places to go and new people to meet. Our netball was improving by the day and we managed three wins in Petermaritzburg. Maritzburg didn't offer much of a nightlife, so the cinema and an early night were on our agenda. Perhaps this was the real reason for our triumphs!

During our stay in Petermaritzburg we visited another township school in Elandskop. This was a missionary establishment run by two nuns, Sister Rose and Sister Mary. A visit from an English school was clearly the highlight of their year.



Wildlife

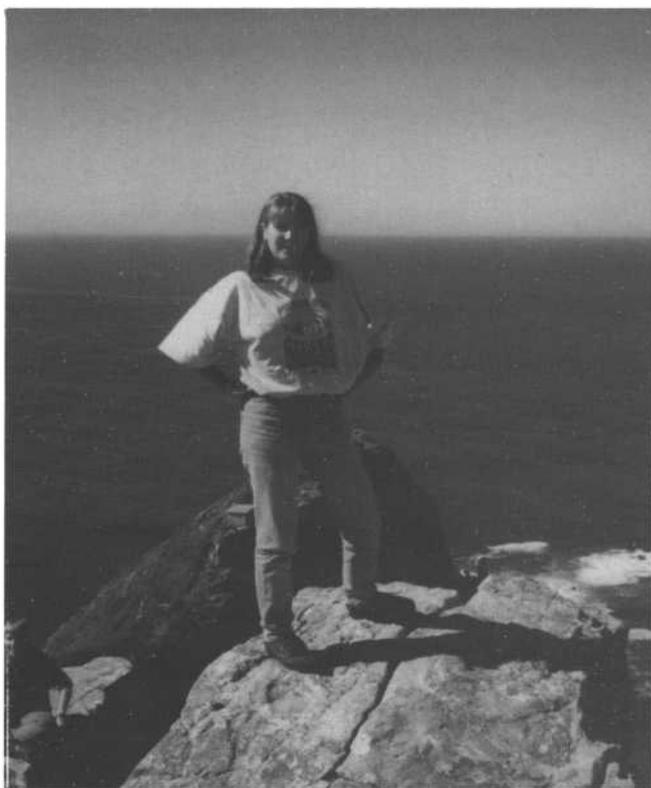


And we actually played netball

We were greeted with what seemed like hundreds of singing, dancing and smiling children. It was a most moving experience. As at the Langa School their enthusiasm, pride and respect for each other was a lesson to us all. The lasting memory from this school will for me be the children's shoes in rows outside the classrooms. They removed them before each lesson so as not to dirty their new floors.

After preparing ourselves for the cold weather which was forecast for the Drakensberg Mountains we found ourselves stripping off to shorts and T-shirts during our guided walk through the mountains. The scenery was spectacular and the walking was a refreshing alternative form of exercise. It made a welcome break from the netball!

Newcastle, where a tournament had been organised against some Afrikaner schools, provided us with some of our most challenging matches. Stover put up some excellent performances, successfully beating the host school, Hope High, and narrowly missing out on a victory over a Natal regional side. As on so many occasions our welcome from the host school was memorable. The choir sang and the juniors put on a magnificent dancing display. I think what amazed us all the most was how uninhibited the children of only five or six were when performing in front of strangers.



Cape Point between the Pacific and the Atlantic



A Zulu tribe



Goodbye South Africa

The Kruger Park was our next stop. Everyone had been really looking forward to this. We visited two game lodges, Skukuza and Pretorizkop. Pretorizkop was for me the nicer of the two, smaller and more unusual. We were extremely lucky to see a huge variety of game considering the short period of time that we were in the park and the sheer size of the park itself. The second day brought us the most excitement as four lionesses had conveniently decided to have their breakfast (a baby giraffe) at the side of the road, apparently an extremely rare occurrence.

Johannesburg, like most large developing cities, showed evidence of violence, crime and poverty. However, recent political changes seem to have given Jo'burg more than its fair share. Although we were not directly exposed to many of the problems, they were quite obvious. On a brighter note we again experienced more

kind hospitality from our host families who were determined to show us all the positive aspects of Johannesburg.

South Africa is a country undergoing dramatic changes which have resulted in much political and racial tension. I feel, however, that experiencing the new South Africa at first-hand has helped me to understand the complexity of the problems it has had to face. I won't deny that this wonderful country has its problems, but to help it overcome them I feel it is vital that others experience South Africa at first hand as we have done in order to understand more realistically what is happening and to get a balanced view. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality, South Africa, from us all, and our very best wishes and hopes for your future.

Tanya Strongman Team Captain

Last word from our Steph:

On the whole Gail and I saw so many changes in both of the teams' playing abilities and fitness. They all worked well together learning tactical awareness, and skill levels developed threefold from the beginning of the tour to the end. Now I wish them the best of luck for the coming season which should definitely be their best yet!

A tour that I shall never forget, and which was made, for me, by the excellent company which took up my challenge of taking Stover's first sports tour abroad. Let's hope there will be many more!

S. Lodwig

Inter - House Swimming Gala

A few pictures are worth a thousand words...What more can I say. Ed.



OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION NEWS 1995 - 96

At the AGM in June 1995, it was decided to hold a social event in November. It was hoped that a buffet supper might attract more support than the AGM and those present volunteered to contact as many OGs as possible to make the evening a success. We had no idea how many people would venture out on a November night and were delighted when some 50 Old Girls, some together with their husbands, made the trip to Stover. The party began with drinks and a welcoming address by the Headmaster who, together with Mrs Bujak, joined us later for a meal prepared by the committee. Those present were impressed by improvements to the school and enjoyed looking around. The evening was great fun, and as a result one or two Old Girls rejoined the Association and many asked us to hold a similar event in the future.

In January we donated £ 60 to the middle school boarders who had been raising funds for a microwave for their new common room. The cash was part of the profit made on the buffet supper and meant that the girls were able to buy and use their microwave at the beginning of the term.

In March we planted a rose bush at Teigngrace in memory of Mrs Key. The weather was kind and we were joined by members of the family and several old girls. A weeping willow was planted on the terraces, also in memory of Mrs Key. Sadly Mr Guntrip's copper beech had not survived, so a replacement was planted near the sports field, again with the welcome support of the Guntrip family.

June 8th saw the 1996 AGM and although attendance was down we again enjoyed lovely weather and the school was looking at its best. We were delighted to launch the Headmaster's appeal to cover the swimming pool and agreed to donate £1,000. We hope to establish closer links with Governors by appointing an official OG governor. There are already OGs on the Governing body but we have not approached them on behalf of the Association until now. We are sure that the school would benefit from links between the two organisations.

We are hoping to host a drinks party on 1st November as part of the school bonfire party and barbecue and look forward to seeing as many OGs as possible then. We will be organising a buffet supper at a later date. It is good to hear news of OGs whether directly or as a result of their visits to the school, and we hope the Association will continue to flourish.

Kate Howard
Chairman OGA



Committee

Chairman	Kate Howard (Rowe)
Vice Chairman	Rachel Evans
Secretary	Anthea Morley-Smith
Treasurer	Sally Lean

Melian Kearney (Pappin), Bunty Scott (Jenner), Jennifer Lean, Rosemary Jones (Poyntz-Roberts), Pene Key, Tessa Adams (Shillabeer).

OLD GIRLS' NEWS

Deborah Jones graduated from the University of North London in July 1995 with an HND in Consumer Marketing Studies and has since entered the second year of a BSc Hons course in Food and Consumer Studies. During her course she spent a month with Family Circle magazine and was involved with food photography work and journalism. She is in touch with Trudie St John living in Exmouth with her four children. Trudie's sister Emma is married and living in Swindon with her husband and daughter Rosie.

Sarah Christmas (Kendall) writes from her home in Cornwall where she lives with her husband, Stephen, their daughter Emily and son Alexander (born 7th December 1995). She is in touch with Claire Endacott, who was married last December; Caroline Ntim, who now has a daughter, and Tara Clifford, Sarah's sister, Eliza, is still enjoying her life in London. Sarah also met another Old Girl recently - Shirley Williams.

Nicola Grey has just completed her final year at Warwick University and is hoping to teach abroad. Her sister Lucy is currently doing A levels at Torquay Technical College. Nicola is in touch with Claire Lincoln who is in her final year at Cardiff studying English and Journalism.

Lynne Browning is living in Bristol with her family - her youngest daughter has just finished a course in Music and Drama at Birmingham University.

Maureen Reichwold (Sharpe) writes from Uplowman with news of her daughter Rosemary Poile (Reichwold) now living in Surrey with her husband Tom and sons Matthew and Martin. Rosemary is in touch with Margie Draguisky (Michelmore) who lives in Sheffield with her husband, son Ben and daughter Rhea.

Fay Tribble writes from Hertfordshire where she is currently between jobs. She keeps in touch with Emma Chapman who is still living in Plymouth.

Lucie Brewis graduated from the University of Portsmouth in July with a 2.1 in Applied Chemistry and is starting a PGCE course to teach science at Bristol University. Her sisters Jennie (Heaselden) and Sallie (Brewis) are both well. Jennie's children now three and four are growing up fast!

Katie Snell was among the last nurses to graduate from Nightingale and Guy's College of Nursing and Midwifery.

PS from the Secretary.

In last year's magazine I reported that the records were to be put on the school database, which they were, by Melian, Kate and myself on a hot summer's day! However, it was not possible to print address labels, but Melian came to the rescue again by offering to input all the addresses on to her own computer at home. So this is by way of a public thankyou to Melian for all she continues to do for the Association.

PETRA LUCACIK

Girls (and Old Girls) who remember Petra will be pleased to learn that she has at last managed to raise enough funds to enable her to begin her course at St Hilda's College, Oxford, this October, where she will be reading Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry. Petra, who is a citizen of the Slovak Republic, came to Stover in 1990 and soon showed herself to be both a popular member of the school community, and an outstanding student from the academic point of view. She obtained nine Grade As at GCSE and in 1995 four Grade As at A level (Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Statistics), and was offered a place at Oxford the following autumn.

For several nerve-wracking months (for all of us!) it seemed that she might not be able to take up her place for financial reasons as the fees for overseas students are double those for EU nationals. Petra herself spent six months at home in Slovakia arranging loans and grants to cover part of the cost, and also secured a job with the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell, who will pay her for translating scientific papers from Slovak into English as well as employing her during the University vacations. Thanks largely to Dr. Key, who raised a great deal of money on Petra's behalf, and the Headmaster, who invited her to use the school as her base in England, as well as securing additional funds, she was well on her way to achieving her target by July. Visits to Oxford and Harwell, and many hours slaving over a word-processor in the IT room finally bore fruit, and she learned at the end of the summer that Oxford was prepared to grant her 'home fee status' This means that the money already raised will be enough for her to begin the course. Needless to say, everyone at Stover is delighted and relieved. We wish her every success and hope she will keep in touch and come back to see us soon, and often.

S. Bamberg, Head of Science

Life At Stover During The War

In 1940 at the age of 12 I was sent with 2 boy cousins a little younger than myself to Devon, as it was thought to be less dangerous for us by our parents as our home was in the suburbs of London.

For one year we lived in a pretty little house in Liverton with my Nanny and her sister to look after us. Our parents enrolled us as day children at Stover School, and we rode there each day on our bicycles.

At once Stover seemed a haven of peace to us and we all revelled in the surrounding beauty of the school and gentle friendliness of the staff and pupils. Miss Dence was our much revered Headmistress, with Miss Lydgate as her greatly contrasting but equally loved and revered second in command. Evangeline Sladen was our Head Girl and to a twelve year old she appeared as beautiful and good as any heroine in the Angela Thirkell school girl books I read so avidly!

As my first year at Stover ended my boy cousins were sent off to boys' prep schools, my nanny went into the WRAF and I became a very happy boarder! By this time the war was beginning to "hot up" a little, and even we children were beginning to notice some changes.

A camp of American GIs was set up in our school grounds and it was a great excitement when a lorry load of men drove along the road in front of the school whistling and making catcalls at us, in a manner that dear Miss Dence did not approve of! All fraternisation was absolutely forbidden!

As the war progressed over the years 1941-1942, bombing could be heard nightly from Plymouth and even Torquay. We had to be extremely strict with the blackout and I remember a humiliating time when all members of my dormitory were given conduct marks (a great disgrace in my day!) for reading under the bedclothes with torches with the shutters open.

At this time Miss Lydgate set up teams of fire fighting parties, we had many drills with the stirrup pumps and it all seemed great fun to us. The main problem was waking up in the middle of the night to go downstairs to try and sleep again in the cellars whilst the raids were on at the coastal towns. I never remember feeling frightened for ourselves whilst at Stover which says much for the homely, happy atmosphere that the staff provided for us. Our under matron was a twenty year old girl not much older than ourselves. She was a Jewish German girl and her parents had helped her to escape just before the war and Miss Dence had given her a job and a home. She was much loved and we were distressed to find out later that her parents, both doctors in Berlin, had not survived.

In retrospect I realise we were extremely lucky to be so well fed at Stover during the war years. Of course at the time we grumbled as all school children do, talking of weevils in the rice and so on; but our school cook at the time did a magnificent job, and the thing that remains most in my memory is the daily salads

produced on the home farm and served with every main meal, hot or cold - an idea years before its time.

Because Torquay and other south coast towns were being besieged by German hit-and-run machine-gunning planes, we got quite used to our games mistress giving a specific blast on her whistle, at which signal we fell on our faces spread-eagled on the lacrosse field. We had no injuries so we were obviously not a direct target, but I distinctly remember hearing the planes not far away.

School continued I'm sure in much the same manner as it does today. Exams were taken, games matches exchanged, etcetera. Trips were probably more limited but we visited Exeter Cathedral sometimes and were given treats of walks on Dartmoor. And just once, the never-to-be-forgotten occasion when Miss Lydgate allowed us as a small group of fifth-formers to have glasses of cider outside a pub at Buckfastleigh.

The whole atmosphere of the school in wartime was intended to allay all fears in our young minds, especially fears for our brothers and fathers in the war. But tragedies did happen, girls lost their dear ones, and I remember especially one poor girl whose little brother died one Sunday morning when a bomb fell on Torquay.

The war intruded on us quite dramatically however when a German plane came down in our school grounds (which were then 1,200 acres I believe) and the parachuting pilot was captured. A Dartmoor prisoner, taking advantage of wartime conditions, was also recaptured in our grounds, adding great excitement to our daily gossip.

Our war efforts seem small in retrospect but we did our best with knitting scarves for the forces, sitting in the library on a Friday evening with Miss Dence or Miss Lydgate reading us a story. We also picked foxgloves by the dozen to be used in the production of the drug digitalis.

When the London bombings increased, one or two of us spent part of our holidays at Stover. We had a happy carefree time without too many restrictions, and I remember then putting in some time potato-picking - a back-breaking job even at that age!

I left Stover in July 1944 feeling then, as I do now, a very lucky girl to have spent the major part of the war years in such a happy, beautiful place amongst so many lovely people.

Ann Chapple (nee Webster)

(Ann rejoined the Association last year. She lives with her husband, a retired RAF doctor in Gloucestershire)

Speech Day 1995 which would normally be covered in this edition of the magazine, was reported in last years magazine. We thought that as an alternative you would like to see this historic photograph of Speech Day 1937 or 1938.

Miss Phyllis Dence the Headmistriss is hidden by the speaker presenting the cup to?
Can anyone tell us?
The speaker is possibly the artist Miss Igglesdon.
Any further information or correction would be gratefully received for our records.



Reflections on leaving Stover.

When I was asked to write about my time at Stover (yes all 7 years of it!), I wondered what on earth I was going to write. Despite what those of you who know me might think, I am not going to go on about depressing school exams or the dreaded G.C.S.E.'s and A-Levels in which everyone invariably does well despite cries of, "I know I've failed" and, "That must have been the worst paper ever!" I have to say though, that six hours of A-Level exams on one day is no picnic!

Going back to my first day - September 6th 1989, age 10. This was one of the most daunting experiences I had encountered up until that time. People were swarming about, exchanging gossip, laughing and joking, whilst us "new girls" stood around, not knowing quite what to do. We soon got into the swing of things however and the four years I spent boarding were very eventful. I remember in my first term I was caught - HORROR! - out of bed after lights out, looking out of our dormitory window at the commotion outside and Mrs Bousfield informed me that they were only "bringing my new broomstick"!

In the fourth year we were given the 'privilege' of organising the annual Christmas Party for the first to third years. What can I say? To cut a long story short it was not what we had intended. However, the next day everyone commented on how fast we served the food - there is hope for us yet at Burger King!

Possibly one of the most memorable events at Stover are the Balls - all those R.A.F. and Navy lads in their uniforms have always been and will always be very popular with the Stover lasses! Even though I was unable to make it to this year's Ball, nothing prevented me from going to the sixth form socials. The 'T' Party at the beginning of the Upper Sixth was especially memorable since it was fancy dress - we provided everything from Tempresses to Thespians and received all sorts - Topless waiters to Ninja Turtles!

Being in the sixth form gave me a lot more responsibility, especially when I became Prefect and later on head of Vicky House. In the Lower Sixth I, with a few others, was asked to write and help

produce a Sixth Form melodrama which I thoroughly enjoyed (as did the audience) and was one of the highlights of my Sixth Form life and something I may continue at University.

Becoming joint Head of House was another challenge I faced, with a little trepidation at first, especially with the thought of A-Levels looming ever closer. However, with the help of the House staff and the Lower Sixth, I quickly came to grips with my new position and have enjoyed the experience.

With only a few days left to go before my school days are over forever, I have to admit to a feeling of sadness - leaving all the friends I have made and staff who have helped me over the years, but also a sense of anticipation and excitement - University awaits!

K. Smitheram

Kerry achieved two A's and one B grade at A level and will start a degree in Law at Sheffield University this October.



The Staff photograph this year has lost its caption.
Perhaps you are able to identify the various members of staff
in the photograph?
Answers to the editor please.
Thank you for your co-operation.
Ed.



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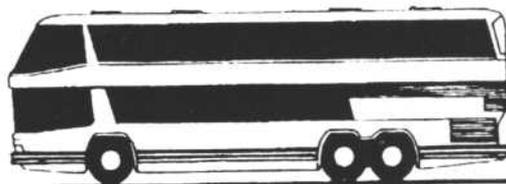
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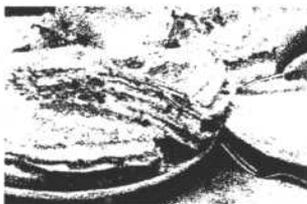
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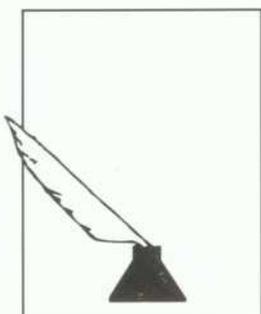
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