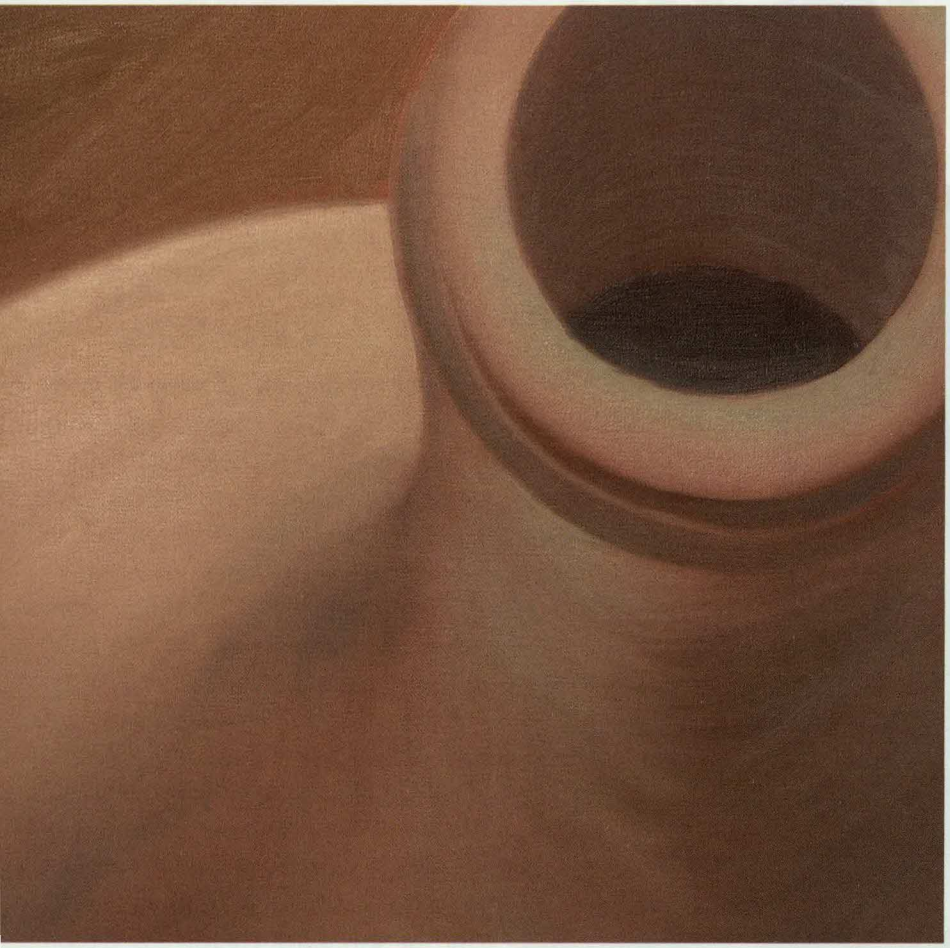


MY INTERVIEW

with British Museum Curator, Thorsten Opper

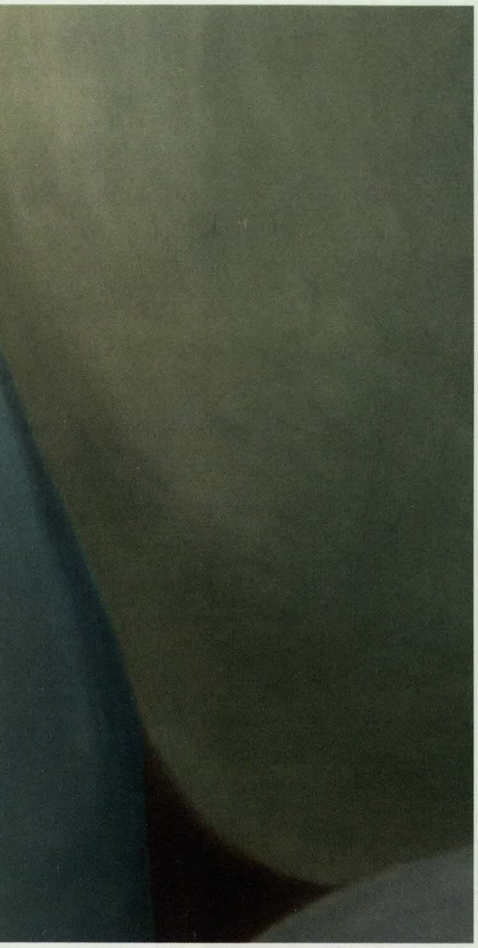
On the 8th October this year I was invited to go to the British Museum to interview Mr Opper. After a lot of trouble my parents arranged for me to go on the 1st November at 2 o'clock. I just couldn't wait!

At 12 o'clock my step-dad, Neil, came to pick me up from school. Annie and Hannah came to get me from Science. I had to miss one of the experiments but I didn't mind; I was so excited!

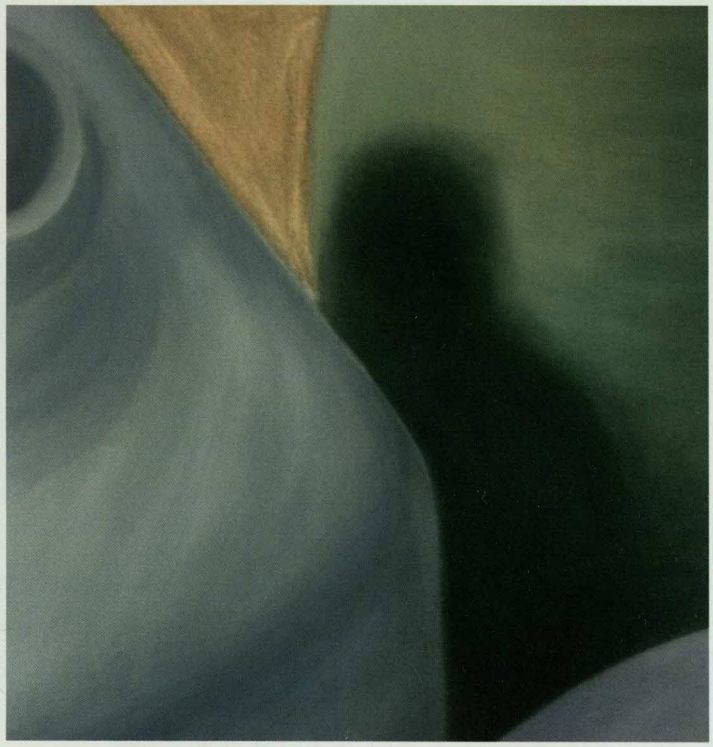
In the car I had a salami sandwich and listened to my walkman. When we got to London we picked up my step-gran, Margo. When we arrived at the British Museum Neil dropped Margo and I off. We were quite early so we walked around the atrium and looked in some shop windows. When we got back to the place where we started Alice met us and took us to a private library behind one of the exhibitions. There we met Mr Opper, who took us upstairs and showed us some artefacts. One of them was a piece of sculpture which he thought he knew who it was because he had seen something similar on the front of a magazine. He showed me the magazine and I agreed with him. Then he showed me some antique (Victorian) books which had pictures of the temples before the decoration had been removed. Later we went to the staff canteen and I made the interview. I was really nervous but managed to ask him all my questions. Alice recorded the interview on a tape recorder and said she would let me know when a copy of the interview would be ready. Afterwards we had a quick walk around and looked at the Elgin Marbles.

What do you like about your job?

The thing I like most about my job is that I have to do lots of different things. Once a week I am 'on duty' which means working in the Students' Room and answering questions from members of the public. We receive lots of letters and e-mails from people with questions about things they are interested in. I also prepare exhibitions which includes writing catalogues, preparing objects for travel and going to other museums.



PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION



Rosalie has been working with the theme Objects and Objectivity throughout her A Level final examination.
These three oil on canvas paintings were created over three working days of the examination.

Artworks by
Rosalie McBride
Year 13

Being a curator of Greek and Roman Antiquities, do you spend a lot of time in Greece and Italy?
I tend to go to Italy about three times a year. My favourite places to visit are Rome and Pompeii as they have so much history there. Sadly, I don't get to go to Greece as often, but I really like Athens. In northern Greece, where the Macedonians lived, there are also lots of great sites, which I like to visit. Last time I was in the region I went to Vergina to see the massive tomb of Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.

Have you ever been on an archaeological dig?
Many. The last one was in Turkey where I was excavating a cemetery which held lots of sarcophagi. It felt very strange opening them and finding the bodies surrounded by money and objects. There was a danger of grave robbers so we had to work very fast during the day to ensure that nothing could be stolen overnight.

What is the best thing about being a curator at the British Museum?
I like the great variety of people who work here. There are other curators, conservators, designers and photographers and many other people who you can learn from. I love that I learn something new every day.

What is your favourite object in the Museum?
If I had to choose, it would be the head of the horse of Selene from the Parthenon, as it is typical of Greek art. At first sight it looks so realistic but actually it is the way the artist imagined an ideal horse should be. I also really like the head of Augustus from Egypt. This used to belong to a statue - then a hostile tribe knocked it off and took it with them to bury in front of their temple. The more I know about an object and its history, the more I like it.

Manon Wells-Jesus
Year 6

COVER STORY: TAKE A PEEK

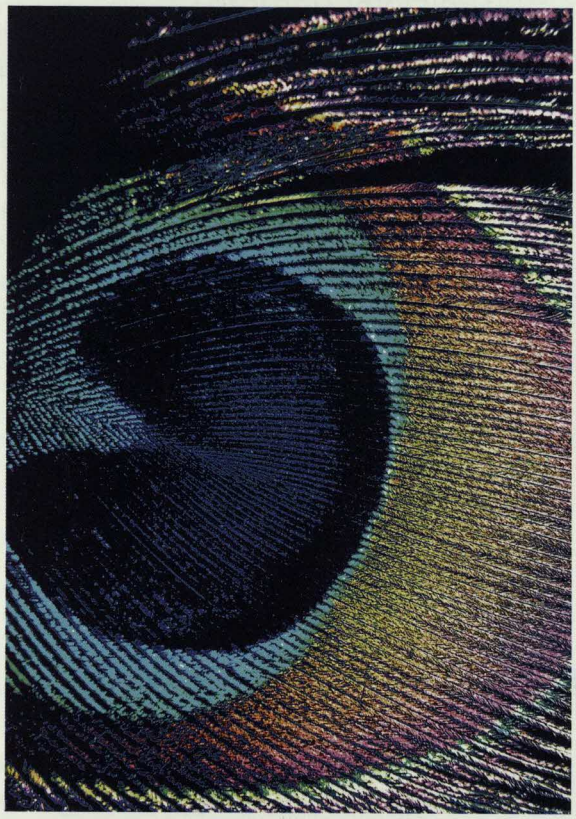
This image is a simple self-portrait. It keeps a link with my A Level Art project, which was about image and self-identity. I was influenced by two major female artists, Cindy Sherman and Frida Kahlo when I took this shot. By showing the view from above looking down, I tried to appear to be reaching beyond me, and similarly, it appears as if the spectator is putting me under investigation.

Esther Hu Year 13

Esther Hu has made some spectacular and provocative images over the last few years whilst she has been studying Art at St Mary's Hall. She is about to take her Foundation Studies course at Chelsea College of Art and Design.

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE SEEN

Pupils' images selected for the front cover of this year's School Magazine include work by Sophie Bowles, Year 10, Rosalie McBride, Year 13 and Freya Tanner, Year 8.



PLACES OF WORSHIP

To complement their study of Islam and Sikhism, Year 9 students visited the Shri Guru Singh Gurdwara in Crawley and the Regent's Park Mosque in London. Suitably dressed in their modest clothes of trousers, long sleeved jackets and headscarves, their ears ringing with the do's and don'ts of their teachers, they stepped shoeless inside.

The contrast between the two centres was as clear as it was sublime. The warm, golden colours of the gurdwara's prayer hall reached out to welcome all. Its throne of rich silks and glittering tinsel majestically housed the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Holy Book, whose scriptures were melodiously chanted. Men and women sat separately but adjacently, crossed legged, listening and periodically joining in with the hymns as the ragis played their traditional Indian musical instruments.

In contrast, the cool, white interior of the mosque with its high, spacious dome and centrally hanging chandelier, gave a silent solemnity to the men's prayer hall. The minimalist mihrab, showing the qibla towards Mecca, together with the minbar from where the Imam would give his sermon, held a dignified simplicity which focused on the Muslims' submission to their faith. Only the gold-leafed Arabic script, encircling the dome, revealed the beauty of the Quran's scriptures.

The importance of both places of worship to each faith was echoed in their additional use as community centres and places of learning, where old and young alike learn to read their holy texts and understand and apply their meanings to their daily lives.

Kathy Rees
Head of Religious Studies

CHINESE NEW YEAR

As an annual tradition, our ESL group of Year 11's organised a Chinese New Year assembly at the beginning of the year.

We started the assembly by saying farewell to last year's animal - the rooster and welcoming the Year 7's who were born in the year of the dog. We gave them red pockets and talked about the characteristics and coming fortune of the dog sign.

The most memorable part was the demonstration of pleasing Tai Sui, with Mr Hargreaves dressed up as the furious (but funny!) Chinese General who represents Tai Sui. Tai Sui is a figure in Chinese Astronomy that is believed to control our fortunes just like the horoscope does.

We ended the assembly by giving out gifts for those who solved the riddles on the lanterns, as in the Lantern Festival.

We hope that through this assembly, everyone could understand more about Chinese culture.

Finally, thank you Mrs Garside for those lovely decorations and Mr Hargreaves who provided the Year cake (although it was burnt due to our careless cooking...)!

Kiwi Lau
Year 11

ASK SISTER

Our resident Sister answers some common questions; Pupils are able to seek advice from Sister every day.

Dear Sister,

I'm concerned that now my daughter has started school, one of her new friends might have head lice. Can you offer us any advice?

Anyone can get head lice, mainly through direct head to head contact, but also from sharing hats, brushes etc..

Prevent spreading by checking hair daily and detection combing, combing through the hair with a head lice comb obtained from chemists. There are many preparations both organic and chemically based; these can also be obtained from your local chemist.

Dear Sister,

I've begun to get spots on my face and forehead. I've spoken to some of my friends about how to make them go away but they keep telling me different things. Can you help me?

You may have heard that acne can be remedied in a number of ways. You could have heard that tanning clears up skin. Although a tan masks spots, the sun can dry and irritate, leading to future breakouts. People believe that chocolate/greasy foods cause spots though recent studies show that no specific food does so. Some people do notice breakouts after eating particular foods but everybody is different. The more you wash the fewer the breakouts- although washing removes dirt and oil, it can also cause dryness and irritation. Don't always believe that popping spots helps them go away faster. You might think that this may make them less noticeable but can cause them to stay around longer. By squeezing you push the bacteria further into the skin.

Generally you need to wash twice a day with a mild soap in a circular motion and pat dry.

Dear Sister,

I am very nervous about my exams in the summer. My mum says I'm too stressed out and this is making me feel even more worried. Can you help me work out how to cope?

By becoming stressed or nervous, your body could be demonstrating a way of rising to a challenge and preparing to meet a situation with focus, strength, stamina and alertness. Stay calm and try to keep under control.

- Be realistic: don't try to be perfect, nobody is
- Good night's sleep: helps deal with negative stress
- Learn to relax: make time in your schedule to do something that you like and that relaxes you
- Watch what you are thinking: your outlook, attitudes and thoughts influence the way you see things
- Solve the little problems: this will give you a sense of control and you will be able to tackle the bigger problems

Lydia Staniford-Terrahe
School Nurse

FASHION

WHAT'S HOT & WHAT'S NOT

Sofia Duplain in Year 10, models a vintage St Mary's Hall school coat.

IN

Flat shoes - stay safe and look great
Eyeliner - gives you that little bit extra 'wow factor'
Straight hair - keep it straight and thin and you'll stay in
Shoulder bag - it hurts your shoulder, you can never fit all the books in but anything for fashion
'Oh my god' - Chantelle is annoying and a muppet but her phrase is fab (apparently)
Rock/Indie music - it 'rocks', great music and the names are great
Hair bands in hair and on wrists - amazing colours and they never go out of fashion
Eastenders (TV show) boring to some, fictional, but seems to be popular
Jane Noman - designer bags, shoes or clothes are in
Pink - it is a great colour for anyone. It comes in lots of different shades. It is not always girly!

OUT

High shoes - you look taller and finally people have realised it is not worth the pain
No make up - put some colour on!
Back packs - not a wide range of designs and even though they are better for your back people want shoulder bags
'Cool' - a phrase which has become boring and well uncool!
Charity bands - pop bands need a new look and some new songs
'Oh my days' - God seems to be more fashionable these days
Green - it's out

Clare Calder Year 9

AS WE WERE: THEN AND NOW 1934-2004

On Monday 12th December 2005, the boarders had their end of term dinner and informal carol singing around the Christmas tree in the hallway of St Hilary House, 21 Sussex Square. Mr Russell (Chairman of Governors), Mrs Meek and several members of staff joined them. This will be the last Christmas in the 'old' house since we hand it over to the new owners in August 2006.

The girls either lined the stairs, leaning against the white banister rails or stood around the piano in the alcove. They sang carols led by Mr Jay and some recited poetry appropriate to the season. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Miss Gravett, the Housemistress, in appreciation of her caring support for them. The evening finished with a very lively rendering of the 'Twelve Days of Christmas which was great fun and enjoyed by all.

As archivist, it was very interesting to realise that this event was a revival of an old tradition of St Hilary, dating back to 1934. I have a programme, which belonged to an old SMH girl called Betty Kettlewell and it shows that the 'Hilarians', as the 42 boarders called themselves, held a similar evening. They too sang songs and recited poetry.

Mr Jay gave us a spirited version of one of them, to the tune of 'Gandeanus' it included the lines "Now Fare thee well, HILARIAN House, May never mischief lurk in you."

Mrs Meek read a poem which had also been recited on the same occasion, with the words
"Now speed your thoughts, my merry maids,
And welcome coming years.
When sisters shall sit where now you sit
And raise 'HILARIAN' CHEERS".

So seventy years later, our present 21st Century girls were carrying on a tradition which Betty Kettlewell and her friends would have recognised. Maybe their spirits were there with us.

It was a very enjoyable evening and a suitable tribute to the many girls and staff who have, since 1926, spent their time at St Hilary.

Sue Carnochan
Archivist

Esther Hu
Self portrait on the mezzanine of St Hilary House

Annie Sinclair
Singing at the carol concert

Carol Concert 2005

THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT
BEST PRODUCTION SEEN OVER THE LAST YEAR

The Drama Department tries to get the GCSE and AS/A2 classes out to the theatre as often as possible. In recent years this has meant trips to see: Shockheaded Peter, The Woman in Black (twice), Three Sisters, Bouncers, Blood Brothers, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, Mother Courage and her Children, Journey's End, Shakers, Greek, The Third Man and many other excellent productions.

This year, the most impressive has to be the re-scored Sweeney Todd seen at the Theatre Royal here in Brighton. I saw the original production in London in 1980(ish) and the pared down version which is touring currently is very different but wonderful nonetheless: Actor musicians on stage throughout, a fab score and lots of blood and nasty unpleasantness. We took Years 10 - 13 along to see it and, although it was a little tricky to follow, all saw it for the excellent piece of theatre it was.

The benefit of seeing live theatre goes far beyond the need to be able to write about it for GCSE and A Level examinations. Theatre is a unique medium. It is a shared experience, and is only distantly related to the film and television media which children mostly encounter. I firmly believe that theatre is something which can involve an audience in ways that screen performances can't and I am always very pleased when students write about their experiences of seeing performances in ways which show their growing knowledge and appreciation of the skills they have seen actors use.

The practical work produced by the girls in our little theatre, the Mary Bryan, continues to reach the highest standards possible. This year both of the Sixth Form pieces were judged to be top band, and all of the girls achieved levels above 70%. The Year 12 girls produced a devised piece based around the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot and the Year 13 girls performed extracts from 'My Mother Said I Never Should', a wonderful play by Charlotte Keatley.

The GCSE girls also continue to reach very high standards. We are very proud that no one has ever achieved lower than a C grade. The vast majority achieve B - A* and I see no reason why the current cohort will not reach the same level. They all have ability and they all work hard.

Ken Lawrence
Head of Theatre Studies

THE ASH GIRL

BY TIMBERLAKE WERTENBAKER

The school play in November 2005 was by one of the most striking and poetic of contemporary playwrights. First produced at Birmingham Rep, 'The Ash Girl' is a version of Cinderella. Elements of the story are familiar enough: Ash Girl lives with her stepmother and her two selfish and spoilt sisters. In the ashes, she has lost her confidence and is bullied. She finds solace in the natural world – the otter and the owl are her companions. But the fairy godmother gives her confidence to go to the ball held by a neighbouring prince. The prince is in exile from his homeland in an unspecified eastern country. At the party, east meets west and the shy and sensitive hero and heroine find an affinity. But Ash Girl must not stay beyond midnight.

Act two sees the quest for the slipper, which ends happily. So far so good, but interspersed into this pantomime/fairy tale are creatures which represent the negative side of human life – greed, as a monkey, pride as a fly, lust, gluttony as a toad, sadness and anger as a bird. In this brilliant and disturbing way, the writer offers up a battle for the Ash Girl's soul – can she overcome these negative forces, which live in the forest?

Is this a fairy story? Is it a psychological parable? Is it a feminist drama, focusing on all those forces which keep women from achieving their potential? Whatever the intentions, it offers superb acting opportunities and a chance for some emotional characterization.

Audiences seemed to take it on the level they wished to; our brave and talented cast 'bought into' its strangeness and its depths, giving their all. Jock Peebles' settings got to the heart of the play and once again we were lucky to have Jackie Crier's flair with costumes. The ugly sisters were splendid in their 1950s outfits. The wicked stepmother's huge wig and 'Ab-Fab' look were just right. The weird and colourful animals reflected their 'sins' and the colourful dance scenes in which Victoria Lefeuve created a Bollywood style routine set off the grey sadness of the Ash Girl.

This unusual play makes a lot of demands on young performers, but as has so often been the case, teenage actors respond well to challenges and were a pleasure to direct. I count this one of the most rewarding of my productions at St Mary's Hall and I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in any way for their commitment, support and enthusiasm.

Mike Wells
Extra-Curricular Drama

THE CROW-STARVER

I couldn't believe it! We were going on a school trip but not a boring working one but a marvellous theatre trip with no work - wow! We could relax and enjoy the show with our friends and more importantly were watching a 'Dick King Smith' production, 'The Crowstarver', a personal favourite! We arrived at the theatre; the smell of popcorn rushed to my nose and the excitement left me tingling all over! Right in front of me were the massive doors that shone so brightly like a star in a clear night sky. How I longed for them to suddenly open! Then a lady came up and made my dreams come true. I was the first in and sprinted to my seat filled to the brim with excitement and anticipation! When the crowd was quiet two ladies walked on stage and one had a violin and one was playing the piano. It sounded magnificent - the soft flow of the music gently filled the air!

The story was amazing, it was about a boy who was not very smart and could only crawl until he was quite old so they called him 'Spider' and amazingly he could talk to animals and interact with them. I think that's really intelligent. When the show finished we went on the minibus back to school. Everyone was talking about the show and how fantastic it had been. Everyone just wanted to see it again and that carried on all week!

Sarah Russo Year 7

A SELECTION OF INTERVIEWS WITH YEAR 6

Auditioning for a part in the Wizard of Oz

Q: How did you feel when you first heard the play was going to be the Wizard of Oz?
A: I felt very excited that we were going to do the play.

Q: How did you feel when you stepped up to audition in front of the whole class?
A: I felt really nervous and excited, but I got through it.

Q: Did you feel that you hit the right notes when you sang?
A: I think I did hit all the right notes.

Q: Why did you audition for the scarecrow?
A: After seeing the film, I liked the songs he sang and the part he played

Q: Were you hoping for a better part?
A: No, I am very pleased with the part I have been given.

Q: Were you nervous for the auditions?
A: Yes, I was the first one up.

Q: What do you feel about playing the part of the scarecrow?
A: I feel glad that I'm the scarecrow, but I know I have lots of lines to learn and also I have to find a brain!

Q: What do you think you will look like in your costume?
A: Ridiculous!

Q: How can you cope with the part you've been given?
A: Practice makes perfect!

Q: How do you feel about your part?
A: I am happy about my part, because I don't have to learn a lot, but I've still got a good character.

Q: What can you bring to the part you have been given?
A: I can bring a cute personality and maybe a bit of cheekiness.

Q: What part in the Wizard of Oz did you want to be and why?
A: I chose the Wicked Witch of the West, because she wasn't such a big part; but it wasn't a background character.

Q: What do you want your costume to look like?
A: Not too embarrassing!

Q: How many times did you watch the film before the auditions?
A: I watched the film about twenty times!

Q: What was going through your head during the auditions?
A: My head was just all a blur, as I was so nervous.

Q: How did you prepare for the audition?
A: I read through my lines over and over again and then said them out loud. Then I tried saying them without the words in front of me and went through the other parts and then I asked other people to test me.

Q: Did you think you were going to get the part you wanted?
A: No, but I gave it my best try.

SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SCIENCE

One windy Thursday, we got on the coach,
The Science Museum, we were about to approach,
Excitedly in groups we traipsed around,
To see the sights and hear the sounds!

First we had an important job to do,
To look at the objects and find the clues,
Medical equipment we had to find,
Before leading to the basement so we could dine!

After some tasty grub, it was time for fun,
We looked at ancient displays, it had just begun,
We learnt about carbon through a video game,
Lots of special contraptions, nothing was the same!
Everything at the museum was interesting and new,
The dancing mat was my favourite thing to do,
We became prime ministers and volcanic explorers,
There was nothing there that could ever bore us!

There was so much to do, we had no time to stop,
So I couldn't buy the chocolate aliens from the great gift shop,
On the coach back I thought of the wonderful day,
Well except for the dreadful singing on the way!

Rosina Campbell and Francesca Baxter
Year 10

The Mind's Eye

On the coach
One had dreamt of pure silence
A yawn
Wanting to swallow up the moment
A musing of utter self-destruction
My mind
Collapsed as time stood still
I woke from my reverie

Drawn in by
Its illusion
Approaching to the destination
Staring into objects from the past life
Exploring the depths of history

As I stumbled through
A whirl of science
Stood alone

In the crowded room
Found in comfort
In the chemicals
That reaps the life
And embodies the souls

Our minds were fed
By a raw sensation
From the source
Lies the mind's eye
Remembering it as
Curiosity's climax

Back on the coach of gloom
Stare outside
Accompanied by solitude

Nadia Hamza Year 10

Lucy Mayes and Gabrielle Savell-Stewart at the Science Museum

A VIEW FROM TWO OTHER CULTURES

We were interested in each others' countries and cultures. So we interviewed each other with a lot of questions. We talked about China, which is an enormous country and about Hungary, which is a much smaller country in the middle of Europe. Finally, we got different facts. First of all, let's talk about their situation and size. As we said Hungary is in the middle of Europe and its size is only 93,030 sq kms. China is situated in the east, it's nearly a hundred times bigger than Hungary. Its size is 9,59 million sq kms.

What about their culture?
Both of them have an interesting and ancient culture. Everything started hundreds of years ago and people have kept their own traditional foods and duties. In China, people like sweet and sour food and they eat rice almost every day. We can say that they live a healthier life than the Hungarians. In Hungary the paprika and green peppers dominate in every food. There are very famous foods e.g. goulash and stuffed cabbage. Hungarian foods are a bit spicy and salty. Chinese people drink green tea which is very healthy. In Hungary there isn't any widespread drink.
Another area of great interest is their religion. In Hungary people practise Christianity, which can be found in China as well. China has got more religions which developed in ancient times such as Taoism, Buddhism and Islam.
The Government has a significant role in both countries. In Hungary there is a parliamentary democracy, whereas in China it is very centralised. In China, most people live in flats because they haven't got well paid jobs. The government decided that people have to work until the age of 65, young workers can't work anywhere. They can't buy a house, only a small flat.
Chinese is a language divided into two groups, Mandarin and Cantonese which is spoken in the South and Hong Kong. In Hungary everybody speaks the same language but in the countryside it's a bit undeveloped.
In both countries there are festivals which are very famous. In China there is the Spring Festival and in Hungary the Flower festival. To sum up, China and Hungary have differences and similarities. We enjoyed finding out about them.

Summer Lu (China) - Foundation Year Student
and **Gabi Torme** (Hungary) - Short Stay Student

YEAR 8 CAMP 2005

On the 16th June 2005 the whole of Year 8 piled into the minibus and set off for Blacklands Farm for the famous Year 8 Camp.
Once we arrived the first task was to set up tents and hundreds of tent pegs and swearwords later they were up.
During our first fun-filled afternoon we had abseiling and kayaking. Abseiling is great fun, and I can only think of two words to describe kayaking: wet and muddy. So after an hour of cold and mud we came back to camp only to find a one hour queue for a shower. When I finally did get my shower, I ran out only in my towel to get back to my tent and managed to run straight into Mrs Meek in her car. Believe me it's hard to get THAT RED!
That night consisted of a 'lovely' dinner, chores and a long walk through the woods, then to finish off marshmallows and hot chocolate round the campfire and a very late night.
Next morning we were up so early, well 7.30am, but that's early for me. It was bacon 'sarnies', followed by chores before we started our day's activities.

HASTINGS AND HEVER
the Year 7 and 8 history trips

Year 7 study the Norman Conquest and it is traditional to take the group to the Hastings Battlefield in the first term. This year PA organised the trip for the exact date of the battle – October 11th – as, apart from the historical verisimilitude, there is normally some sort of special event being staged. Mrs Harris, the girls' history teacher, had done the necessary groundwork in the classroom so the girls knew the background, while the Head of Year 7 – Mrs Quantick – also agreed to come and was a calm presence. The coach ride to Battle – the site of the conflict although it is named after Hastings – was uneventful and on arrival at the coach park we had a short walk through the town to the site entrance. Once inside we started the tour by watching the open air AV presentation before the transerve of the battlefield, which is marked with information boards along the route explaining what happened at various points throughout the day. This took a couple of hours and we then went and looked at the remains of the monastery William had built to celebrate his victory and the spot where Harold was supposed to have met his death. Having completed the serious business of the day we made our way to the picnic area and had lunch. The girls then let off some steam in the children's playground, before the inevitable trip to the ubiquitous gift shop and back to the coach park and home.

Hever was a new venue to the Head of the Department but suggested by Mrs Harris who had taken her own children. With the support of Claire, the gap student who kindly agreed to accompany the trip, we set off on Friday 10th March. The coach driver took us through the Sussex Weald which, in places, does not seem to have changed much since medieval times. Ashdown Forest in early spring was starkly beautiful – a beauty lost on most of the girls who seemed more interested in "mates" and i-pods. Nevertheless, when we arrived the girls could not be unimpressed by Hever's compact and romantic structure and its beautiful setting. We firstly inspected the exterior structure for its typical castellelan features – particularly the barbican and fields of fire – and then went inside and toured from room to room noting the functions of those rooms and the various memorabilia of Anne Boleyn. While these were fascinating, a teacher of modern history had more time for the mementos of the Astors – Hever's twentieth century owners. We then went round the Italianate gardens admiring the stone work the Astors had imported and finished up by playing on the wooden maze and, again, making an obligatory visit to the gift shop! All in all an interesting day which taught us all a lot about castle design and how a medieval construction can be adapted to modern living.

Peter Ashdown Head of History

WORLDS APART

These consisted of orienteering, assault course, crate challenge and rock climbing, all of which were amazing. Dinner that night was great but afterwards we all went on a walk BLINDFOLDED through the forest. And, as if that wasn't bad enough, all the teachers were standing on the side flicking us with rubber gloves and leaves.

By far the worst thing about camp was our tent. It was disgusting. There were used face wipes on the floor, dirty socks squashed into the ground and half-eaten Haribo stuck on the ground sheet. Yuck!
The next day was our last. After a couple of fun activities it was time to leave. We finished our camp experience with a fun award ceremony. Awards like 'best toilet cleaner' and 'gypsy' awards were given out; a funny end to an extremely memorable trip.

Hannah Cane
Year 9

LETS MOVE TO: SPAIN

I moved to Spain on the 27th June 2003. I know it was that exact day because it was also my 7th birthday. I felt extremely excited and I was looking forward to the hot weather as well. I was going to live on an island called Mallorca but it didn't feel like one of those islands that you might see on holiday programmes and postcards (sandy beaches and a few palm trees) because Mallorca is a very big island. In winter it is very quiet but in the summer it gets exceedingly busy and noisy because thousands of tourists visit Mallorca for their holidays. I lived in an apartment with two levels. All of the floors were tiled and all walls were white, so the building stayed cool in the hot weather. We also had several balconies. Often in the summer we used the balconies to have lunch or dinner and also for sunbathing. Our apartment also had a swimming pool, I used to spend all the time swimming and playing with my Spanish friends. When I was at school in Spain, I made lovely friends and we used to go swimming together and sometimes horse riding too.
There is plenty to do in Mallorca. There are lots of lovely beaches, water parks and many places to go roller blading and cycling. Last summer I even learnt how to sail on my own. As I went to a Spanish school, all my lessons were taught in Spanish, which forced me to learn the language.
I really enjoyed living in Spain and I miss my friends so much and would love to go back for a few weeks and visit them.

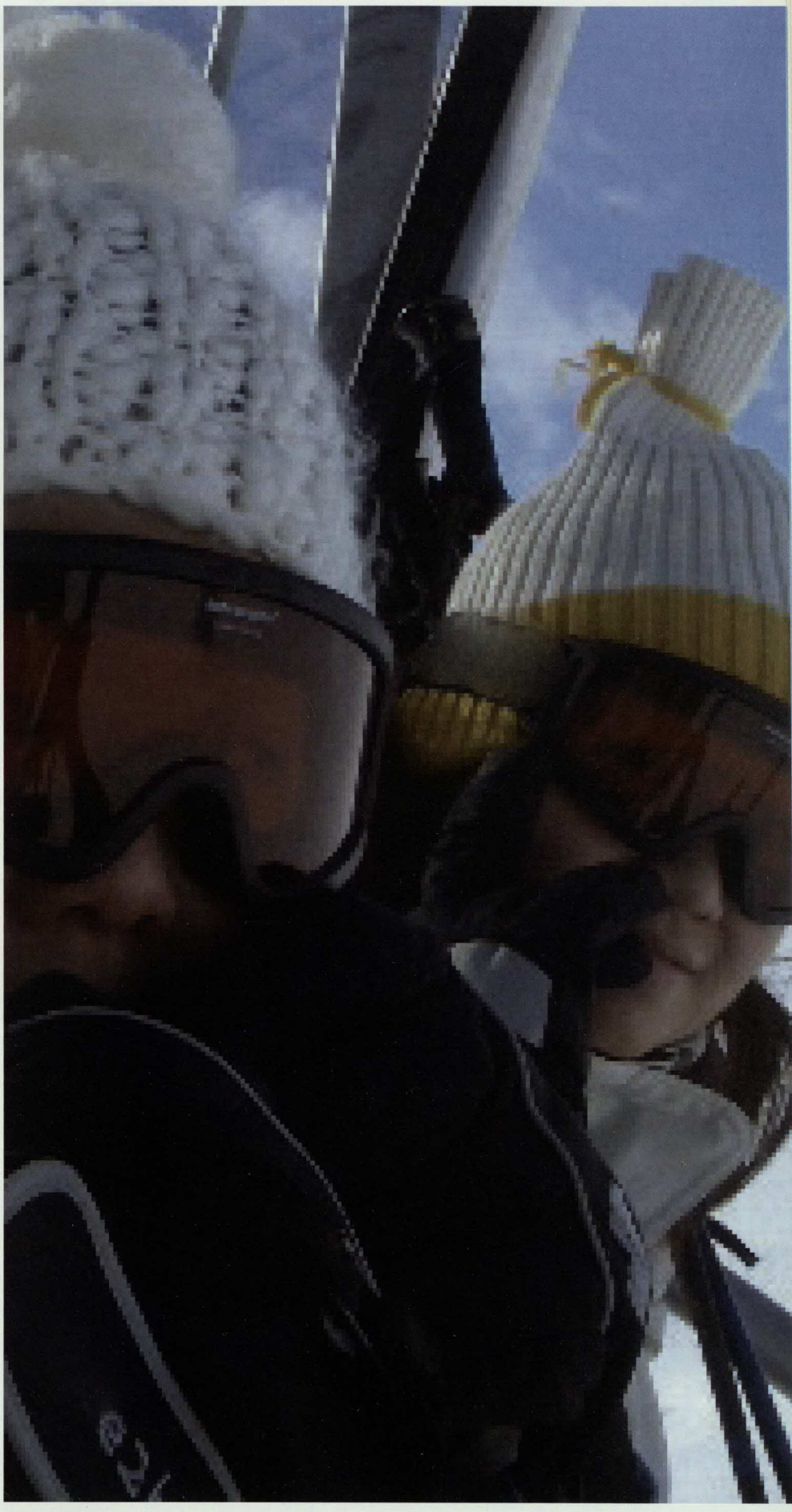
Shana Stuart
Year 5

LETS MOVE TO: MEXICO

Buenos Dias, Como estas? (Good day how are you?) I come from Mexico. It's a brilliant country - there are always parties. The one I like the best is Dia de Muertos (day of the dead). It's celebrated in September. They don't get dressed up as vampires or witches, but they pick yellow flowers and go to their dead family's grave and lay the zepanzuchitl (the yellow flowers) on the grave. They also make bread.
The food in Mexico is delicious. My favourite is El Tlacoyo. It's made with huitlacoche (blue maize) and Frijoles (Mexican beans). Some people think that Mexican food is spicy - some is and some isn't. There are some sweets called Tamarindo which are spicy. They sound disgusting but they aren't.
But what I like about Mexico even better are the people.
Everyone is really kind to you and always willing to chat to you. I have two best friends whom I met at a summer camp in Mexico, Marianne (a.k.a. Mari) and Paola.
Everyone has their own family time, normally on Sundays. It's basically a reunion of the family.
I could go on and on, but you need to see Mexico with your own eyes. I hope you enjoyed my review.
Adios, Mis Amigos or 'bye my friends'.

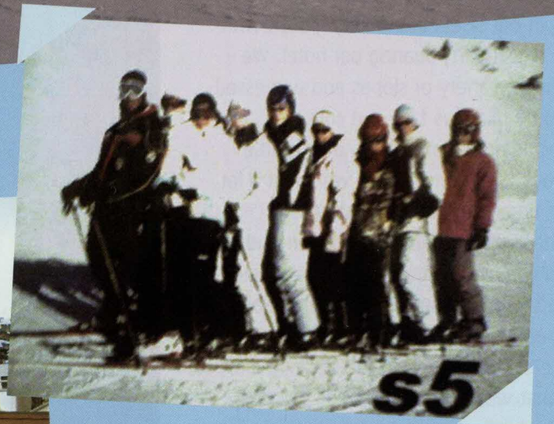
Carina Schou
Year 5

HOT SPORTS, COOL NIGHTS AND A LOT OF SNOW...



Such an amazing trip: one week, an 'extended family', just thirteen students and two teachers, and an awful lot of fun and laughs. The 2005 ski trip was so special. We stayed at Passo Tonale in Italy, in an hotel with interesting food which found most of its way out of our bedroom windows or into a lift, which we broke on more than one occasion. The skiing was brilliant. We split our skiers into ability groups with a Welsh party sharing our hotel. We tried a variety of slopes and witnessed some hilarious falls and collisions including Hannah skiing over a little boy! Aside from skiing, we spent a lot of time chatting, playing cards, shopping, generally having fun and of course, checking out the boys! Our ski rep was Dave and he organised some great evening activities too, such as ice-skating, a quiz night, karaoke and what was the best night of all, the disco. We also saw a different side to the teachers, especially Mrs Hargreaves who displayed some very interesting hand gestures! There are far, far too many funny moments and memories to fit into this small space, but we can all definitely say that it was our best ski trip so far. There was something very special about that trip we're still talking about it as we near the summer holidays. In fact, our stories have persuaded over forty people to sign up for next year's visit. Take a look at our photo album for a taste of Italy.

TRAVEL



SKI TRIP 2005 PHOTO ALBUM

LUNCHTIME TREATS BY YEAR 4

Fleur Willard
School Chef

On a typical school day, three Year 11's interviewed the kitchen staff about the healthy and varied menu served daily. The kitchen provides a two-course meal daily, with a choice of three hot meals, a salad bar, and hot and cold puddings. Main meals are always accompanied by a selection of fresh vegetables.

Today's pizza included vegetables to encourage healthy eating. This was so popular it ran out by 1.20pm. Most of the staff, however, chose salmon, which was found to be 'very enjoyable and delicious'. The marble cake and hot chocolate sauce was 'deluxe'! Many students, however, opted for fruit and yoghurt.

Fleur gave us the recipes for all today's courses. In fact she's happy to tell us more about food preparation, hygiene and cookery in general. We were impressed by her concern for health and variety.

Natalie Banfield,
Natasha Allahiary
and **Becky Broe**
Year 11

Creamy tomato soup, luscious and smooth it trickles down your throat.
Lovely lasagne makes me feel all hot, cosy and warm. With big sheets of pasta that goes down just the way I like it. Lots of lovely meat.
School pizza is bliss. Cheesy, delightful, chewy, chompy and lovely!
Roast lamb is delicious, warm and meaty with mountains of gravy.
Juicy, mouth-watering gravy dribbling down your mouth.
Yummy roast chicken with crispy potatoes and runny gorgeous gravy.
A tender, succulent roast.
Delicious sausages, fantastic and tasty with zingy ketchup on the side.
Just thinking about the macaroni cheese makes me feel hungry.
Macaroni, mmm. Nice and creamy.
Only on a Friday, yummy, scrummy chips!

Crumbly, melting chocolate shortcake topped with sweet chocolate creamy custard.
Lemon sponge, soft and delightful as a cloud.
When you taste it your taste buds tingle and your tummy grumbles for more.
Gorgeous jam tarts, crunchy with luxurious, steamy, strawberry jam.
Rock cakes, crumbly in my tummy. They taste of cinnamon and melt in my mouth.
Sweet, warm, syrup sponge cake, so warm and sticky it makes me lick my lips and dream.
Chocolate pudding! It melts in your mouth like heaven.
Crumbly marble pudding goes down into my rumbling tummy.
Chocolate sponge cake with melting chocolate custard oozing over the top.
When you put it in your mouth it melts and slides down your throat.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

IT'S COOL TO BE WATERWISE

Summer's here and the garden comes into its own, fun in the sun, kids playing out or parents just sitting on the patio. We all love it, but there is a standing hosepipe ban. Bah!

This should not be a problem, though, because established gardens do not need to be artificially watered.

Worried about the lawn turning brown? Don't be! Simply raise the cutting level of your mower during dry spells, leaving the grass slightly longer and therefore greener. Watering it can not replicate nature. It just encourages weak, spindly growth along with shallow rooting. It also encourages disease.

With trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, nature takes care of itself. Their roots will tap down deeper to find the water table. They will just grow slower in dry spells; but their blooms will be equally as good – so just be patient. It's true, all new plants need a lot of water until they are established. And containers need regular watering (as you are their only source), but drought-resistant perennials planted in the soil (like geraniums, nasturtiums and marigolds) will flourish regardless. Heathers and alpines, too, need very little water.

Try to give hanging baskets a miss this year. Swinging in the wind in full sun will use a gallon of water a day (enough to sustain a family of four people!)

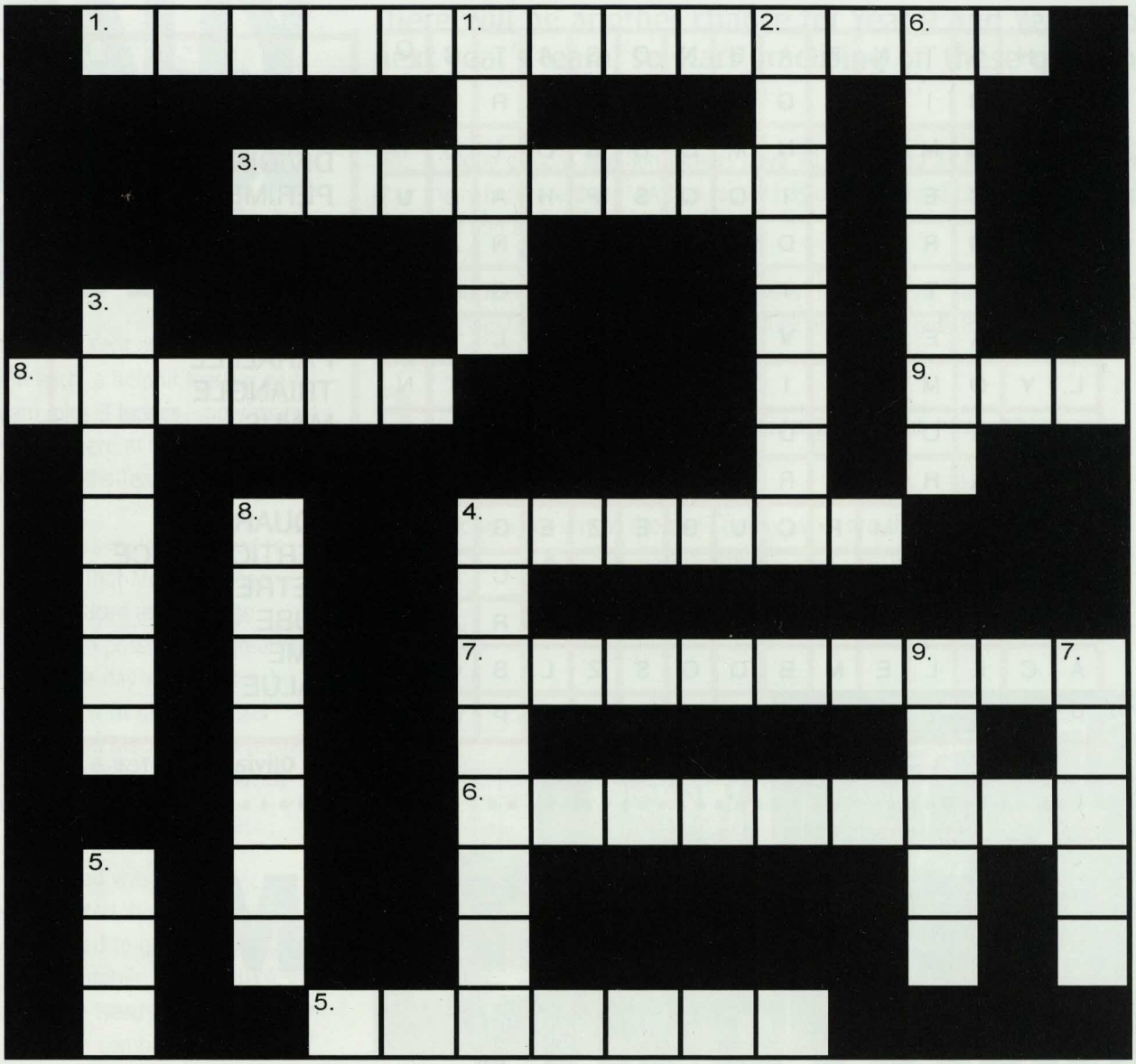
If you want to get really serious about all this, a rain barrel is a great idea as this standing water will become nutritionally rich and the plants love it.

Also, mulching with a natural leaf mould and other compost materials not only feeds your plants and smothers weeds, it also stops the sun from baking the soil your plants grow in. Easy, isn't it?!

And, of course, there is a bonus in all of this: your wisdom will be rewarded. Shallow-rooted vegetation will suffer (i.e., weeds), so less hoeing and everybody's happy! Who knows, this might just rub off indoors, too, and you can give yourself a brownie badge for being a true eco-warrior!

David McElvenny
Gardener

Julia Primostka in Year 11 won a Geography competition by recording scenes from the Natural World. Here are her three winning photographs.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A folding line with the same on each side
2. A circular pyramid
3. Straight, up and down
4. A 4-sided shape with all equal sides
5. A shape with 8 sides
6. A figure with right-angles on every corner
7. A chart made up of bars
8. An angle, more than 180 but less than 360
9. A line of numbers

CLUES DOWN

1. Altogether
2. A circular prism
3. A shape with 6 sides
4. Another word for take-away
5. The answer to an addition
6. Numerical figures
7. X 3
8. A plain figure with many sides
9. Could be acute?

by **Olivia Herriott** Year 6

CROSSWORD

MATHS WORDSEARCH

C	H	S	T	N	P	A	B	N	O	G	A	T	C	O
A	O	B	I	L	V	G	H	N	N	M	L	R	E	B
X	C	N	M	R	A	N	M	O	H	B	O	I	U	T
F	A	C	E	S	L	I	Q	Q	S	P	H	A	L	U
Z	R	Q	R	S	U	D	K	H	Q	O	T	N	A	S
O	H	P	T	U	E	I	B	C	U	O	H	G	T	E
A	U	A	E	N	M	V	Z	O	A	B	A	L	L	A
L	Y	O	M	I	I	I	S	M	R	Z	O	E	T	N
E	W	R	O	M	O	D	E	R	E	N	P	H	B	G
L	X	A	H	V	E	R	T	I	C	A	L	D	K	L
L	P	L	O	M	P	C	U	B	E	Z	E	G	D	E
A	A	U	L	N	M	L	Q	E	I	A	F	C	K	C
R	B	G	P	A	A	R	T	R	A	H	C	R	A	B
A	C	E	L	E	M	B	Q	O	S	Z	L	S	C	A
P	E	R	I	M	E	T	E	R	H	T	L	P	O	Q

OBTUSE ANGLE
MODE
DIVIDING
PERIMETER
REGULAR
MEAN
OCTAGON
CONE
PARALLEL
TRIANGLE
MINUS
EDGE
BAR CHART
SQUARE
VERTICAL FACE
METRE
CUBE
TIME
VALUE

By **Olivia Mason** Year 6

END OF TERM 'UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE'

On Friday 16th December 2005, we did a university challenge. There were five people in each house team, one from each Year. Mr Hargreaves asked questions on various topics, and teachers had contributed questions on their subject. It was quite fun and the questions varied from being relatively straightforward to being quite difficult.

For example, "who was Scrooge's clerk in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol"? This question was easy for me because we had just studied it in English, but I did find it quite difficult to identify what pieces of paintings or photographs were originally taken from.

Everybody had a lot of fun and we finished the afternoon by singing some well-known Christmas songs, accompanied by Mr Jay.

In the end, Chichester, well lead by Claire MacNeill, won in an exciting Final against Bristol.

Anna Owen
Year 10

MATHS REALLY CAN BE FUN!

32 teams from Kent and Sussex, 4 people in each, a helpful teacher with each team, plus 3 judges – how many people were there at the Regional Final of the Maths Team Challenge?

This question is simple compared to the challenges that Megan, Rebecca, Kitty and Zara faced at Tonbridge School, although possibly the greatest challenge of the day was finding the venue in time, with Mrs Dempster having to rely on Megan's map-reading skills, and being thwarted by closed roads and confusing road signs!

The Group Round was not very successful for SMH, but the team quickly recovered to gain many points on the Cross Number. After a break for lunch came the Head to Head Round in which the team competed directly against other schools, one at a time, to guess the rules of a sequence (sometimes very obscure rules). This was nerve-wracking, but the round our girls enjoyed the most. Finally there was a Relay Round, with the team working in pairs. They needed to combine their Maths skills with running and dodging skills, as between thirty and sixty boys and girls ran to give in their answers and receive their next questions!

Overall, it was a great day out, with lots of laughter. An experience not to be missed – if you like Maths, that is!

Jayne Dempster
Head of Maths

There will be another chance for Year 9 and Year 8 to be next year's team, so start practising on these questions:

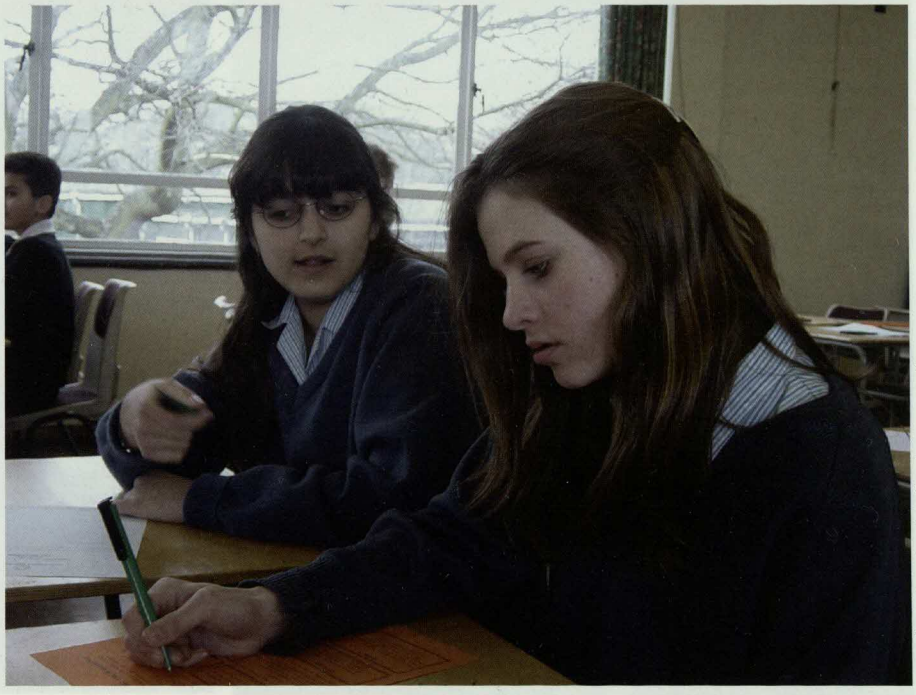
1 A group of lions and lion-tamers have 10 heads and 24 legs between them. How many lions are there? (A lion tamer has one head and two legs. A lion has one head and four legs.)

2 A block of chocolate is divided between three friends. Sarah gets two ninths of the block, Neil gets one quarter of the block and Helen gets the remaining 76g. How many grams does Sarah get?

3 I run for 24 miles at 8mph and walk for 24 miles at 4mph. What is my average speed over the journey in mph?

4 By looking closely at the table below, what are the missing numbers?

3	8	10	16	35
2	7	7	?	?

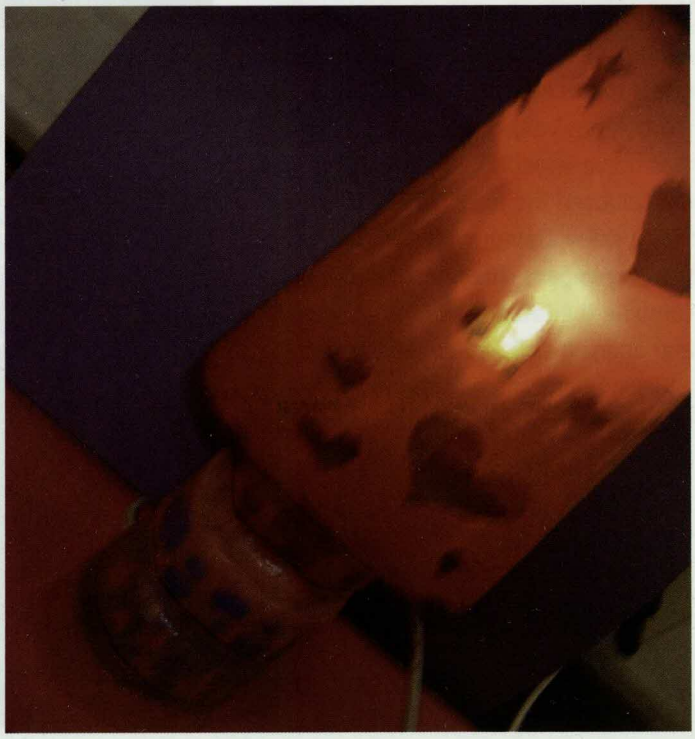


Answers: 1) 2 lions 2) 32g 3) 5 ⅓ mph 4) 13, 31

SMALL OBJECTS OF DESIRE

YEAR 10 LIGHTING PROJECT

The Year 10 lighting project continues to be popular. Shown here is **Ivy Cheung's** Gehry tower and **Sofia Duplain's** illuminated acrylic rods. **Ruby Law** and **Aisha Barda** have used translúscent polypropylene to make their shades.



A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

St Mark's Chapel Development

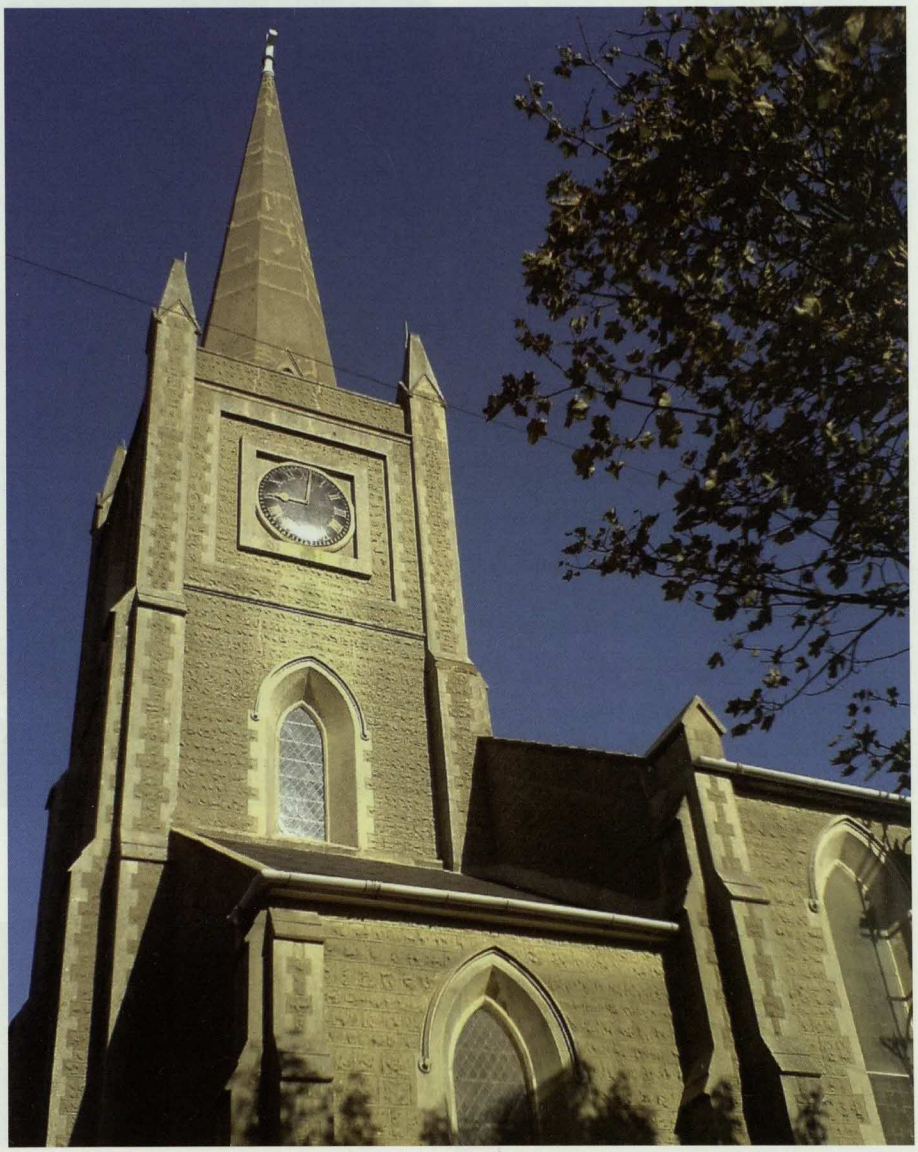
As most of you will know, St Mary's Hall aims to restore and develop the beautiful grade II listed Chapel of St Mark's for the benefit of our current and future pupils and the local community.

Those of you who have visited the Chapel recently will be aware that it is in urgent need of repair. Without our intervention it will no longer be able to be used at all. Our development plans preserve the historic building and its function as the School Chapel.

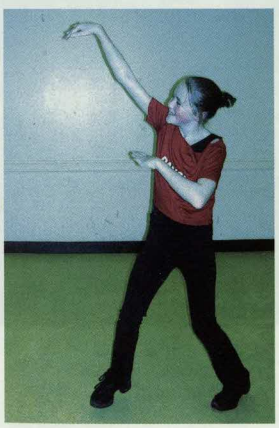
Did you know that Canadian regiments were stationed at St Mary's Hall during World War II?
The restored building will feature a display on the Chapel and surrounding area's history. Input from any keen local historians amongst you would be most appreciated – along with memories or photographs of the Chapel.

A CENTRE FOR ARTS

St Mark's has the potential to become a vibrant, light and attractive space for worship, music, dance, exhibiting art and drama. A multi-functional arts centre would complement the tremendous improvements the School is undergoing and give St Mary's Hall pupils top class facilities in which to study.
By using St Mark's to its full potential we can also provide much needed rehearsal and performance space for youth groups within our community. Several Trusts have already pledged their support for this exciting project and our next step is to seek the necessary permission and remaining funding to move forwards with saving the Chapel.



I am a member of a local dance group and I would love to have the opportunity to take part in my favourite activity here at School.



Alice Kerrigan
Year 6

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who can offer their assistance in any way.
Please call Helen Farquharson on 01273 647 778 or email appeals@stmaryshall.co.uk