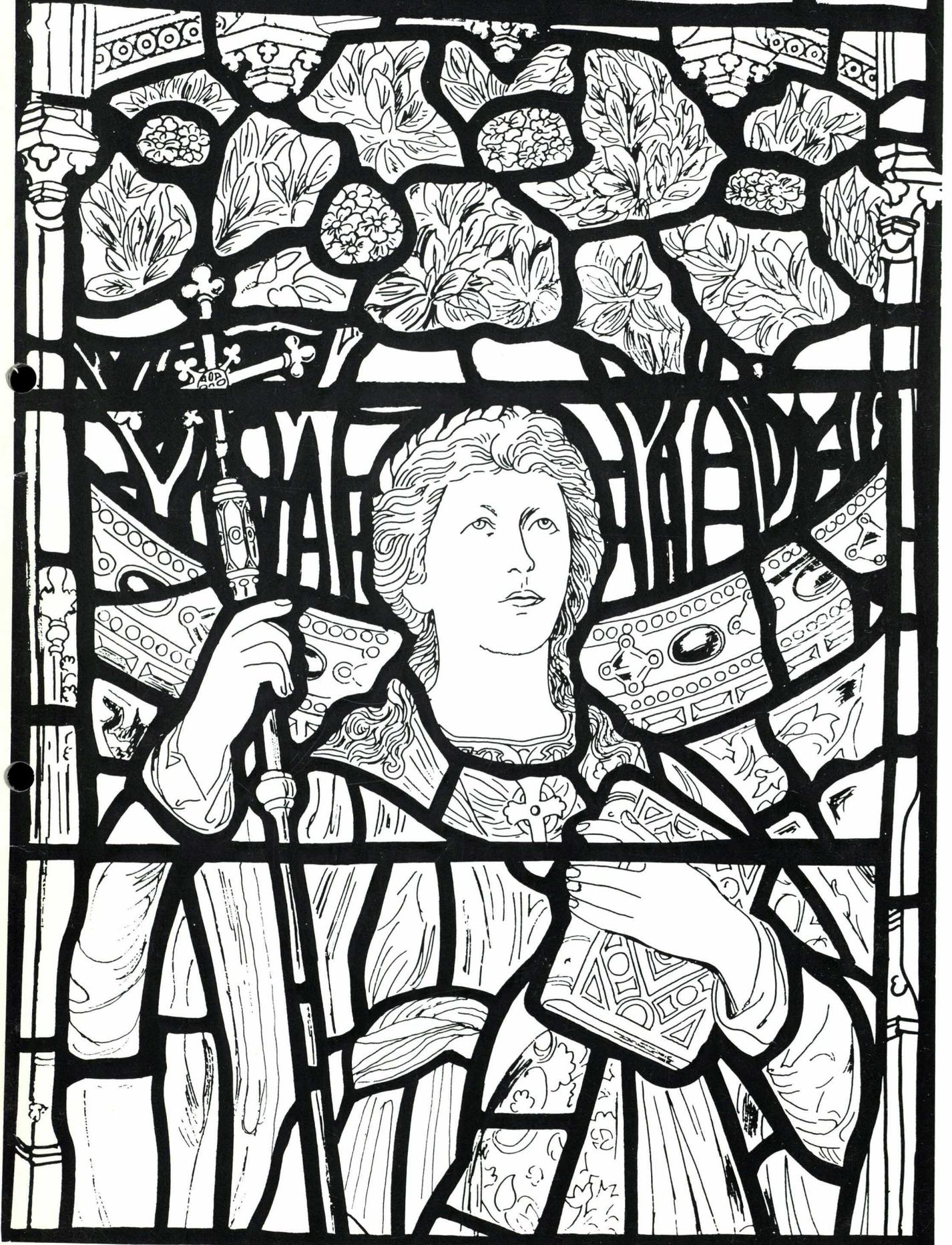


ST. MARY'S HALL

Magazine

Summer  
1993



# **BURT BRILL & CARDENS**

*Solicitors*

30 OLD STEYNE  
BRIGHTON, BN1 1FL  
Tel: 0273 604123  
Fax: 0273 570836

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

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

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

The Senior Partner: Mr. Kenneth Edwards

or

Mr. Kevin Smyth

or

Mr. David Edwards

or

Mr. Nicholas Rimmer

# ST. MARY'S HALL

(Founded 1836)

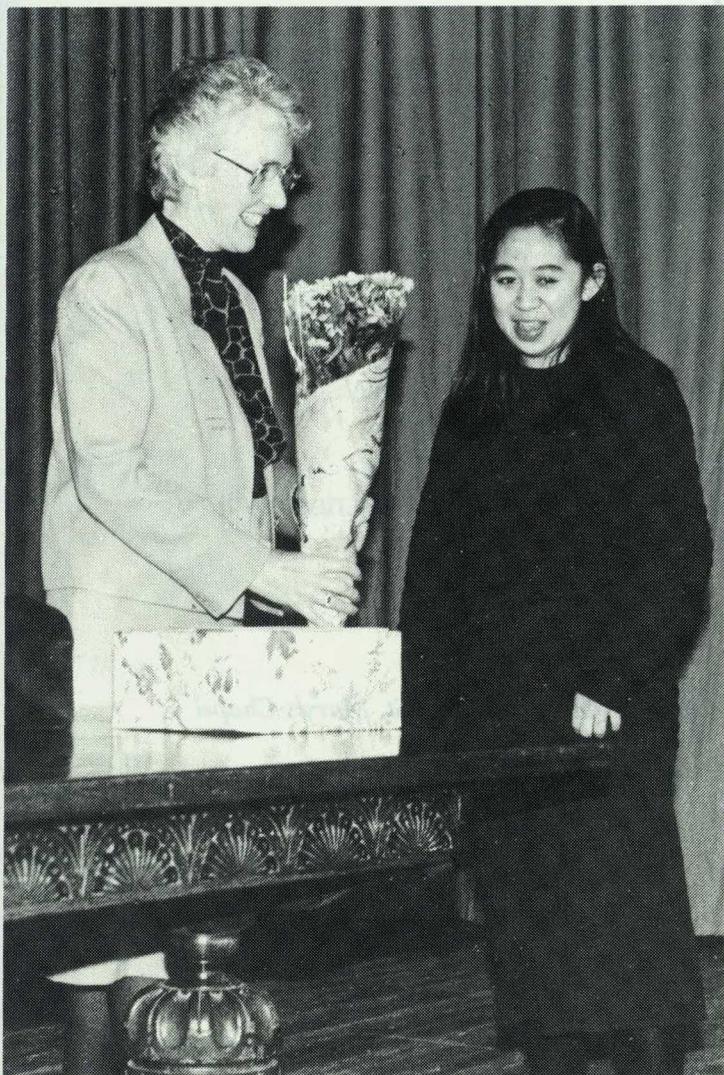
## Magazine

Summer 1993

*Cover design by Lisa Askey VS from a stained glass window in St. Mary's Chapel*

**I** write on a grey Sunday in mid-January. Last week I was given a bunch of Christmas roses, rather battered by the wind and rain, but very precious to one without a garden; I've never seen them for sale in flower shops - except the silk variety! Today I was given my first snowdrops of the year. Such is the transition from Christmas to Spring. It has always struck me as interesting that we don't have a winter term at St Mary's Hall, but an Autumn term followed by a Spring term. We leap from falling leaves to Spring flowers and swallow the Winter at a gulp. As soon as we come back we look, on our daily morning return from Chapel, for the bulbs to appear in the rockery.

It is amazing how quickly the 'whirligig of time' spins round. The year has been crammed as usual and you will find accounts in the pages of this magazine of many enterprises. Two events in particular do, however, stand out from the 'normal' run of events. On the last day of the Autumn term the school said its formal farewells to Mrs Broadbent. Below is a picture of the presentation to her from the girls made by the Head Girl, Noor Kassim. Mrs Broadbent was able too, as many of you will know, to be present at the Senior School Carol Service, and to meet



*School Presentation to Mrs M.T. Broadbent (Photo JBL)*

representatives of the parents, maintenance and domestic staff. There were presentations, too, from the Governors and staff. I spoke to Mrs Broadbent on the telephone two days ago and she said that she had had no pain since early December and felt that she was recovering her energy.

The second 'special' event was the trip to Moscow and St Petersburg undertaken by some of the girls and led by Mr Jay, in December. You will read an account of this elsewhere in the magazine, but it must have been a wonderful

## LETTER FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

experience for the girls. I know that in one sense it is always true to say that we are living 'in' history, but I hope that the girls have at least some appreciation of the momentousness of the events which led to and followed the collapse of communism in the Eastern Bloc, and the ferment which has ensued, of which they were privileged to have first-hand experience, however limited in scope. On a more personal note, one of the girls who went on an overseas visit in the Christmas holidays (there was skiing too, of course) said that she particularly valued getting to know other St Mary's Hall girls with whom she wouldn't have been in close touch in the normal course of everyday school life. Such experiences are very valuable and we are all grateful to members of staff who are prepared to lead visits abroad.

An ongoing special feature of this year has been the sharing of our Chapel with the Church of St John the Baptist. It is our privilege and our pleasure to have been able to put ecumenism into practice. It was lovely to come back on January 6th (Epiphany) to find St Mark's not cold and gloomy and 'unlived-in' (not, of course, that a church can ever be said to be that), but warm and glowing with candles. The pre-term staff Eucharist was sandwiched between two celebrations of the Mass by the St John the Baptist congregation, so the Chapel was alive with worship. We all had the privilege too, since we returned early in January, of sharing the St John the Baptist Crib at the Lady Altar, with its beautiful crib figures.

You will find much more about the happenings of the past school year in the pages of this magazine. I should like to thank Dr Hopley for all the work that goes into editing it, and thank too all the contributors. I am looking forward to reading it; I hope that you all enjoy it.

*Pamela J James, Headmistress*

## Entrants to Further Education

Alice Armstrong Applying to university 1993  
Pegeen Armstrong Birmingham University  
Claire Hall Brunel University  
Hasniah Hashim Liverpool University  
Marisa Lim University College London  
Norsuriati Sharbini Manchester University  
Emmeline Smith Surrey University

Sally Tang Bradford University  
Emma Terrot Guy's Hospital  
Kaythi Yin Loughborough University

Nursing Degree  
Engineering  
Biochemistry  
Electronic Engineering  
Medicine  
Electronic Engineering and a Modern  
European Language  
Pharmacy  
Nursing Project 2000  
Electro-Mechanical Power Engineering

## 'A' Level Passes 1991/92

Pegeen Armstrong - Biology C, Chemistry D,  
Mathematics C  
Alice Armstrong - Classical Civilisation C, English C,  
French E  
Claire Hall - Classical Civilisation C, Design &  
Technology D  
Hasniah Hashim - Chemistry B, Mathematics D, Physics C  
Julie Hay - Economics D, English D  
Queenie Ho - Home Economics D  
Marisa Lim - Chemistry B, Mathematics A, Physics B

Esther Poon - Biology D, Chemistry C, Mathematics D  
Norsuriati Sharbini - Chemistry A, Mathematics A,  
Physics B  
Emmeline Smith - Chemistry D, Mathematics E,  
Physics B  
Sally Tang - Chemistry C, Mathematics D, Physics E  
Emma Terrot - Home Economics C  
Kaythi Yin - Mathematics C, Physics B, Design &  
Technology A

## Use of English

Alice Armstrong  
Emmeline Smith  
Kaythi Yin

## 'A' Level Passes in Lower Sixth

### Chinese

Margaret Chan B

### Music

Deborah Chan A

## A/S Passes in Lower Sixth

### Ancient History

Judith Green A  
Terri Howard A  
Naomi Slater B  
Elizabeth Terry C

## Certificate in Additional Mathematics

Alison Bonny B  
Deborah Chan A  
Margaret Chan B  
Terry Cheng C  
Sarah Davies C  
Noor Kassim A

## Additional GCSE Passes in Sixth Form

Margaret Chan 1  
Queenie Ho 1

## Cambridge Information Technology Course

### Word Processing

Mona Alimin Karen Altabev  
Lisa Askey Carina Bloom  
Alison Bonny Deborah Chan  
Lindsey Coombs Masrina Damit  
Sarah Davies Julie Freeman  
Caroline Green Judith Green  
Lisa Hanner Sarah Harvey  
Maya Hatton Joanna Heal  
Queenie Ho Noor Kassim  
Janan Kassir Alison Ko  
Deborah Lang Henriette Langner  
Corinna Lipka Nicole O'Connell  
Ciar O'Hare Clare Purkis  
Helen Roberts Sarah Stallard  
Emma Tennant Elizabeth Terry  
Annie Tong Josephine Tsoi  
Mariam Yousuf Khoorie-Pour

### Spreadsheets

Pegeen Armstrong Emmeline Smith

Sarah Stallard

### Databases

Emmeline Smith

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

### Silver Award

Esther Poon

### Bronze Awards

Karen Altabev Lisa Askey  
Sarah Bridgewood Eleanor Clarke  
Barbara Cole Masrina Damit  
Noor Kassim Janan Kassir  
Anna Millyard Ciar O'Hare  
Penny Powell Sarah Terrot

## GCSE Results

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

Clare Barnes	9
Amy Bayless	7**
Alice Bolton	9*****
Tracie Bowes	9**
Julia Bramich	10*****
Lucy Clifford	6
Michelle Corfield	8**
Jocelyn Crouch	9
Amy Downe	3
Derin Eleso	7*
Alexandra Exley	4
Julie Freeman	9***
Josie Gander	10*****
Sarah Harvey	10*****
Alanna Henry	10
Susannah Hildyard	10*****
Angie Ho	7*
Jemma Joyce	7
Janan Kassir	10*****
Alexandra Kellett	10*****
Ziggy Kennell	10*****
Henrietta Knott	7
Anita Leung	7*
Katrina Maddock	10**
Nina Maddocks	2
Rachel Pratt	8**
Victoria Robinson	10*****
Joanna Sharpe	9*
Panita Vig	9****
Katie Wilkinson	8*

## GCSE Passes in Fourth Year

Alison Ko	1*
Annie Tong	1*
Josephine Tsoi	1*

## Young Enterprise National Examination

Mona Alimin	Pass
Alison Bonny	Distinction
Deborah Chan	Distinction
Margaret Chan	Distinction
Terry Cheng	Pass
Sarah Davies	Distinction
Judith Green	Distinction
Noor Kassim	Distinction
Elizabeth Terry	Credit
Georgia Trott	Distinction

## St Mary's Hall Scholarships

Scholarships to the Senior School have been awarded to the following girls:

Daisy Bayne	Moir House School
Katherine McGlinchey	Windlesham School Trust Ltd (Charity)
Charlotte Overton-Hart	St Mary's Hall
Sarah Twenty	Tavistock & Summerhill School

Baroness Cumberlege presenting prizes at Speech Day,  
October 1992. (Photo J.B.L.)



## Adelaide House

The summer began very well with an abundance of money being raised from the sale of ice-creams, crisps and sweets. Everyone played well in various matches, particularly in tennis.

In the Easter term less money was raised but this was boosted by a cake sale towards the end of term. We did well in the swimming, coming second, and came first in the inter-house badminton; so many thanks to everyone who took part!

The house play to take place later this term is *The Repentant Dragon*, by Vera I Arlett, which is being directed by Panita Vig and Janan Kassir. We also hope to have strong teams for inter-house general knowledge, lacrosse and netball; so good luck to everyone taking part.

*Terri Howard and Alison Bonny, UVI*

## Babington House

When Anita Leung and I were elected to be Babington House Captains, we hoped we would carry out our duties with enthusiasm, so that together with Henrietta Knott, our deputy, we would work as a team and get results.

During the year, we have raised money in aid of the National Council of the YMCA, which is an organisation that helps over 2,000 British youngsters who desperately need help. We have raised this money by selling food almost every day.

The Spring term has been busy with lots of inter-house activities taking place. Although we came third in the badminton, we won the Swimming Cup in the Autumn term after coming first in the inter-house swimming competition.

Babington House is presenting *The Theft of the Crown Jewels* for the inter-house drama competition, and we hope to do well.

Being House Captain has been a great experience for both of us. We would like to thank the girls for being so cooperative and helpful at all times.

*Derin Eleso and Anita Leung, LVI*

## Bristol House

Bristol House has achieved extremely pleasing results this year. We have raised a substantial total of £175 for our charity, Leukaemia Research, and this amount will have increased by the end of this term. The majority of our money is from selling chocolates during first break. I would particularly like to thank the various members of the second and third forms who sold them, as well as everyone who bought them. At the moment Katie Walters (3F) is selling stationery to further increase the total.

As far as sport is concerned, Bristol has improved. We won both the tennis and the

rounders, came second in the badminton, and third in the swimming. We look forward to some promising results from the inter-house lacrosse, netball and general knowledge at the end of this term.

All participation in the inter-house events is greatly appreciated. This term the house play, *Charles Augustus Milverton* by M.M. Hardwick, is being produced by Susie Hildyard and Vicky Robinson.

In addition, we have been collecting stamps, foreign coins and unused petrol tokens for a private charity, The Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Fund, set up and run single-handedly by Mr David Bunn who, despite having suffered three heart attacks in one year, spends his time raising money for the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has participated in events or contributed to the house.

*Naomi Slater, UVI*

## HOUSE REPORTS

### Chichester House

This year's term of office began with Sherrie Elliott as our House Captain and myself as deputy. We organised teams for both the inter-house tennis and rounders matches and all girls played well. After a hectic Summer term of raising money for the Royal Alexandra Rocking Horse Appeal by selling cans of Coke, we parted for the summer holidays.

I returned in Autumn to find that Sherrie had left, which meant that I had to take over as House Captain, and because of other responsibilities in the school, it has been a great relief to have the support of Mrs. Betts, the Lower Sixth, and Nicola Hudson, our Middle School Captain. It turned out to be rather an eventful term with Chichester House holding a mufti day and raising approximately £100. Chiche-Chocs also became a large contributor to our termly total and everyone helped by either bringing in chocolates or selling them during first break.

This term looks forward to the inter-house netball and lacrosse matches as well as the inter-house drama competition which is currently being prepared for. This year a scene from *Toad of Toad Hall* is being acted out.

In summary, it has been a busy year, with both its ups and downs. Let's hope next year is even better. And don't forget to keep on collecting those house points!

*Georgia Trott, UVI*



*Mufti Day, 1992.*



On Monday evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms the sixth form chemists attended the University of Sussex's Chemical Society lectures that were of interest to them. After some of these lectures they came back buzzing with enthusiasm. During the Autumn term the sixth form spent a day in London listening to lecture demonstrations on Folk Medicines, Fluorine Chemistry, Developing New Drugs and Demonstrations with Liquid Air.

At the end of the Summer term the lower sixth chemists attended a two day practical course at Queen Mary and Westfield College in London. These two days enable the students to see very expensive mass spectrometers and nuclear magnetic resonance machines in action, and to tour some laboratories where active research is taking place. The second part of each day is spent in the first year undergraduate laboratories carrying out experiments which are relevant to their A level course but may not be encountered until a later stage. As far as the girls are concerned the downside is having to be at Brighton station at 7.15 am so that we can arrive at QMC at 9.30 in time for the first lecture.

In the Spring term a team entered for the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual quiz held at Steyning. Although unsuccessful they had a most enjoyable evening. In the Summer term a group of third form girls got together to enter the Chemistry Club competition sponsored by the Salter's Company and the Royal Society of Chemistry. My role was to give the girls their head with their project and supply the practical back up that they asked for - it took us a while to get used to this reversal of roles with them being in charge. The girls put together a lecture demonstration on Forensic Science. The Crime: their chemistry teacher had been found murdered in the laboratory. There were three suspects. Evidence was presented implicating all three suspects. The audience identified the killer from the evidence presented in a mock trial. Finger prints were taken from a glass containing poison. Fibre, ink, paint and hair samples were examined and plaster casts made from shoe heels and tyre treads. Display boards were set up as a backdrop and each girl showed how the 'clue' had been made to reveal its secret. In turn the girls demonstrated how the tests were carried out and talked their way through the findings. On presentation day at Portsmouth University we had to go first which left us with a long wait while the three judges examined the other entries. The girls gave a slick demonstration and then had to face a barrage of questions. I was very pleased with their confident replies. What elation when they were awarded the runners up prize of £150. We shall be buying a data logger interface so that we shall be able to link experiments directly to the computer and process the results instantly.

*P.M.J.*

## Third Year Visit to Portsmouth University Chemistry Club Competition

In September 1991, our chemistry teacher, Dr. Jackson, told us about a chemistry competition that was to be held at Portsmouth University, and asked our class if we were interested. Five of us gladly agreed to join in the competition. We were: Naomi Titlow, Jenny Mathews, Siân Harvey, Lucy Barnes and me - Doyin Eleso.

Soon afterwards, we all agreed to meet on Mondays during our lunchtimes and gather our ideas. We chose our topic out of several other subjects and called it 'Chemistry in Crime'. Each week we would meet at the chemistry laboratory and decide on different things to choose, and

### CHEMISTRY 1992-1993

share our thoughts. For example, we made several casts of bicycle tyres, footprints and handprints. We studied chromatography, fingerprints, fibres and fabrics.

After some weeks of preparation, we decided to have a dress rehearsal of our presentation on the day of the Garden Party. Mr Knight, Mrs Blunt and Mrs Boddington helped us with our crime story by playing the parts of the three suspects.

On the 21st October 1992, the day of the competition, we set out in the morning and drove to Portsmouth. When we had arrived we unloaded and set up our equipment in one of the laboratories and waited for the judges to arrive. When they did, we all started our projects. We showed the judges our presentation as they approached our bench and, after we had answered some complicated questions, they looked at our displays and left our work bench to examine the work of other schools.

After they had looked around they gathered all the schools together and announced their final decision. We were very surprised to find out that we had come in second. We gladly received our prize which was a cheque of £150 for the chemistry department. We each received a £10 book token and a certificate.

Later, we had a light lunch and returned back to school.

*Doyin Eleso, IVY*



Runners-up in the Chemistry Club competition. Left to right: Jennifer Mathews, Siân Harvey, Lucy Barnes, Doyin Eleso. (Photo J.B.L.)

After teaching at St Mary's Hall for thirteen years, I felt the need to re-charge my batteries and the Governors kindly agreed to give me a form of sabbatical leave during 1991-92. The number of lessons I taught was reduced so that I had the time and energy to bring myself up-to-date with the latest developments in Physics and Physics teaching.

I spent three weekends in Oxford where I rediscovered the beauty of the college buildings and enjoyed a nostalgic trip around all my old student haunts as well as learning about 'Archeological Dating Techniques', 'The Importance of Gravity' and 'Galaxies and the Cosmos'. Hearing the top men in these fields of study talking about and illustrating their work was really inspiring.

I attended many one-day conferences at the universities of Surrey, Sussex and London (King's College) where I learnt more about 'Energy Supply and its Environmental Consequences', 'Elementary Particle Physics', 'Geology', 'Telecommunications' and 'Medical Physics'. The last one was greatly helped by spending an afternoon in a hospital where the technicians themselves showed us the actual equipment they used. X-rays, C.A.T. scans and radiation involve an amazing amount of physics and the precision that can be achieved with the aid of computers is very great.

For the first time, I attended the annual meeting of the Association for Science Education which was held at Sheffield University during the Christmas holidays. This gave me some very practical, down-to-earth information on topics such as teaching astronomy in the National

Curriculum and using computers in physics experiments. I even made my own optical fibre kit for use in the fourth year. I also had the opportunity to browse through the many new textbooks now available and to have a good look at the latest equipment and apparatus designed for the National Curriculum and recent developments in A-level physics.

## MY SABBATICAL LEAVE

I got up earlier than usual on many Saturday mornings to watch Open University programmes on television and learnt some useful and interesting facts about lasers, rockets, eye imaging, flight instruments and mathematical analysis.

Physics never ceases to fascinate me and I have really enjoyed exploring the subject further. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governors and also the other science staff, who allowed their timetables to be changed on my behalf. In particular, Mrs Boddington took on a greatly increased responsibility for the physics teaching in the fourth and fifth year.

I have already been able to use much of what I learned to improve the teaching of physics at St Mary's Hall and I do hope that some of my enthusiasm for the subject is rubbing off on the girls I teach.

A.R.

The activities of Symposium, St Mary's Hall's debating society, have been many and varied this year, with keen and voluble support from enthusiasts from first to sixth form.

We began the season with a mock public speaking contest, of which more later, and continued with motions as diverse as "Parents should pay for any damage done by their children" and "Euthanasia should be legalized" on the serious side, compared with frivolous topics such as "Christmas? Humbug!" the last of which was defeated by the widest margin of the year, only one supporter raising her hand in tribute to the speaking skills of the proposers.

The standard of speaking is always praiseworthy until the debate is opened to the floor, after which it tends rapidly to descend, if the topic is controversial enough, into a chaos of flailing hands clamouring for attention. If the topic is ill-chosen, as it was on one occasion, an awkward silence fills the room, the principal speakers having left nothing to be said.

A small but delightful triumph was our appearance at the Brighton and Hove Rotary Club's annual public speaking contest on 27th January. In order to give every girl in the school a sporting chance, a well attended audition was held in December 1992. Selecting three girls to represent S.M.H. was excruciatingly difficult. Our choice finally alighted upon fifth former Helen Roberts and fourth formers Emily Hall and Marie York.

Weeks of preparation did not follow: the Christmas holidays began instead, and when we returned to school for the new term, Helen was at once enmeshed in the horrors of "mock" G.C.S.E. examinations. Thus, our rehearsals began just five days before the contest itself was due to take place. We certainly had no time to become stale, and on the night itself, the girls gave a stunning performance on our chosen subject, "Soap". Although we did not win the place in the semi-final, we were highly praised, and Helen Roberts, with a spirited yet controlled and impeccably timed speech, carried off the Best Speaker award,

But it would be a shame to

praise only three girls and leave out all the rest. Excellent performances have also been given in the course of the year by sixth formers Deborah Chan, Julie Freeman and Victoria Robinson, fourth formers Emma Chapman, Ayesha Gilani, Joanna Comens, Nneke Ikedife, Katie Taylor, and Yegi Teymoorzadeh, third formers, Abigail Delow, Laura Harvey, Emily Young, Maria Nunn,

## SYMPOSIUM

Louisa Canavan, Tara Israel, Lucy Middleton, Katie Walters and Zoe Temmerman, second former Charity Khalil and first former Nicola Mansell.

Many thanks to these and all other girls who have supported Symposium.

C.R.

*The Public Speaking Team*



**O**n March 10th, 1992, Zoe and Naomi held a Children's Summit at School to discuss environmental issues with the panel, which consisted of local councillors and businessmen. Little did they know what lay ahead!

Save the Children, in conjunction with W.W.F. and U.N.I.C.E.F., had encouraged children around the country to organise these events. Zoe and Naomi were chosen with just four other students, to meet the Prime Minister at 10, Downing Street, on 3rd June to put forward their views and opinions, just before he left for the Rio Summit.

I received a telephone call at home from Mrs James one Friday evening to ask if I would accompany the two girls to London on the following Wednesday. When I came into School on Monday I was told that London Weekend Television wanted to accompany us on the day

and, before long, TVS showed an interest as well. Zoe now takes up the story ...

"The television crew arrived at my home at 7 am to see me get ready for my eventful day. They accompanied me to School and, until the nerve-racking time when we left for the station, they filmed my morning's activities. Mrs Ridge, Naomi and I left for the station at 10.15 am with

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ZOE AND NAOMI

'The Crew', where we were fitted with microphones. We were given VIP treatment, courtesy of British Rail.

"Mrs Ridge then informed us of the disappointing news that John Major had to make a statement on Maastricht in the House of Commons and would be unable to answer our questions but would just receive the Children's Charter. We felt disheartened at this stage as we wanted to put our views personally to John Major.

"We took a taxi to St James' Park where we had our picnic lunch. The TVS crew met us there and Natalie Grey, a reporter, asked us several questions. We then made our way to No 10. We were now very excited at the thought of meeting John Major and Lady Chalker. As we walked down towards No 10, we were amazed at the number of cameras poised at the door. Then the great black door opened and we were escorted up the famous staircase to the room where we would meet the Prime Minister. As we walked through the door, we saw what looked like a film studio. We were positioned in a semi-circle and waited for the Prime Minister with great anticipation.

"On the dot of 2.30 pm, Mr Major, accompanied by Lady Chalker, entered the room. He chatted briefly to each of us individually and then explained why he couldn't stay for longer. Lady Chalker then answered our questions and assured us that she would pass on our comments to the Prime Minister.

"We then had refreshments after which we had a tour of No 10. The Cabinet Room was a particular highlight of the tour.

"Just before leaving for Brighton, the Crew took us on a sight-seeing tour of London. All in all, it had been a day that we will never forget."

It was a great privilege for both Zoe and Naomi to be able to discuss their ideas with such important people. We hope to foster their concerns, perhaps by organising ourselves, in the next academic year, a conference on the 'Future of the Planet'.

### Fifth and Lower Sixth visit to **CAREERS 2000,** Earls Court, London, November 1992

**C**AREERS 2000 was a unique opportunity to gain valuable information about all aspects of further education and about training and placements in a wide variety of careers. The arena was packed with stalls staffed by representatives from universities, all anxious to hand out their prospectuses, many of which I accepted, to my later regret as I struggled home with four bulging bags! One of the main attractions of the exhibition was a hotel stand which held competitions throughout the day - at one time two girls were making cocktails in a race against the clock, but I felt that they weren't likely to be offered jobs on the strength of their 'creations'! There was so much to see that it would have taken a whole day to have visited all the stands, and though I was quite contented to amble round the arena until two o'clock, I was relieved when I could finally rest my feet back in the minibus. The journey home took a little longer than expected but all in all I felt that it was an interesting day out, and well worth a visit next year for those who have the opportunity.

*Susannah Hildyard, LVI*

## Ski Trip

January 3-10

The coach left SMH at 4.15 a.m., anxious parents bidding their children farewell amid cries of 'Yes, I have got my passport!' and 'No, I won't break anything!' and the atmosphere was one of anticipation, albeit a little subdued given the hour of the morning. We arrived at Heathrow in good time and there was a chance to have a revitalising cup of coffee and to change last-minute lire. Once we arrived in Lyons we caught a coach that was to take us to the hotel, just outside Bardonecchia. The journey through the Alps was breathtaking - we slowly climbed a steep, winding road which afforded an incredible view of the valley below - a magnificent panorama of waterfalls, huge icicles and partially-frozen lakes. For those who had taken travel-sickness tablets it was a wonderful journey, but it was a little less than wonderful for those who hadn't!

The hotel was a friendly, family-run business and we were offered much more individual attention than could have been expected - the chef's wife even made a birthday cake for Nicola, totally unprompted. However, it cannot go unsaid that there were a few 'surprises' awaiting us in the annexe in which we stayed. The beds felt as if they had borne several generations of English skiers, and created something of a symphonic sound whenever someone rolled over. The bathrooms were built on the theory that if both feet are on the ground at the same time someone has ordered too many floor tiles, and the plumbing was skilfully engineered to store and return all odours from the last twelve hours for a second savouring! The showers had the amazing facility of offering alternate bursts of hot and cold water, which all added up to an interesting selection of exclamations for the person waiting outside the door!

The food really was excellent - night after night we were served a delicious meal after an arduous day's skiing, and the unlimited supply of

fresh rolls with every meal more than made up for the hotel's less attractive qualities. I really missed them when I returned home to 'Safeway Brown with flour improver'.

The skiing conditions were superb at the beginning of the week, as we were fortunate enough to have snowfall on the first night, but towards the end of the week they deteriorated as the ice spread down to the lower reaches of the slopes. The mountains of Bardonecchia offered pistes to cater for a variety of different abilities, and I think that everyone was able to find areas to meet their needs. The tuition was good, and all the beginners progressed with amazing speed (sometimes literally) throughout the week.

Bardonecchia was a beautiful town, dwarfed by the huge mountains surrounding it. The view from the chair-lift was spectacular, and no photo

## OUT AND ABOUT

could have captured the true essence of the place - the crisp Alpine air, the imposing mountains and immense, almost suffocating, silence that descended when the last skier left the pistes.

For me the holiday was a wonderful experience - it was of course a chance to improve my skiing under expert tuition, but it was also a chance to really get to know the people behind the faces that flash past each break-time. I came away with many good memories of the evenings we all spent together tobogganing, playing games or just talking about the adventures of the day. I am sure I can speak for everyone in extending my thanks to Miss Ford and all her colleagues for putting such a lot of effort into making the holiday so much more than just six days of skiing. I just hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

*Susannah Hildyard, LVI*

*Third formers in Dieppe, Summer 1992. (Photo J.B.L.)*



### **Fifth Form Visit to Parliament**

Early in October the Fifth Year, having spent the morning at the Imperial War Museum, attended a course on the work of Parliament run by the House of Commons Public Information Service. An interesting audio-visual presentation held in the Grand Committee Room was followed by a stimulating question and answer session and a very interesting tour of the Palace of Westminster.

*J.R.*

### **First Year Visit to Canterbury**

At the end of the Spring Term 1992 the History Department went with the First Year to Canterbury where in the morning we visited the Cathedral and were interested especially in its association with St Thomas Becket. After lunch we went to 'The Canterbury Tales', an exhibition which with the aid of life-sized characters from Chaucer's stories and appropriate smells and clever lighting, gave a vivid picture of life in fourteenth century England.

*J.R.*

### **Third Year visit to Little Woodham (the 17th Century village in Gosport)**

Everyone had looked forward to this day out so much. Mr Wells and Mrs Roberts had told us so much about this carefully reconstructed village called Little Woodham.

After a reasonable coach journey of two long hours we finally arrived at our destination. Everyone left the coach ready to have an exciting day.

The village had different houses, inns and work places scattered around. Our first destination was the wheelwright. We followed the muddy path towards his workshop when an old, dirty, filthy beggar came up behind us dressed in a few sacks. He started to make very dreary sounds almost trying to catch a few of us unawares by pinching us and pulling people's hair! When we eventually reached the wheelwright he showed us exactly how he made his wheels, how he used his tools and what he did each day.

We moved on throughout the day visiting different houses and huts as well as the inn, the

*Third formers at Little Woodham, July 1992. (Photo J.B.L.)*

