

ST. MARY'S HALL

(FOUNDED 1836)

MAGAZINE

Autumn 1999



Letter from the Headmistress

I am greatly looking forward to reading this magazine. Last year was the first in which Mrs Fincham and Mrs Lock took over joint editorship and we were thrilled with the result. The School Magazine is a tapestry of life at St Mary's Hall; achievements, events, outings, reports, creative writing, art, photography – a celebration of the rich experience education can offer. It has been a 'bumper' year as far as examination results are concerned and it is an added pleasure to read about achievement in such a wide range of extra-curricular activities as well.

As we approach the cusp of the millennium, we reach an appropriate point at which to reflect upon achievements of the past in order to prepare for the successes of the future. I am pleased to have the opportunity in this edition to pay tribute to one of my predecessors, who made a significant contribution to the life of the Hall. Miss Doris Conrady, who was Headmistress of St Mary's Hall from 1950 to 1965, died peacefully on the morning of Monday 8th February, at Westerleigh Nursing Home in Seaford, aged 94. Miss

Conrady took over at a time when the Hall was re-establishing itself after the closure during the war. These were challenging years and in the Inspection report in 1962, the Hall was congratulated on its recovery, commenting that a 'first class staff had achieved wonders.' The School History reports 'St Mary's Hall contrived to do well under the guidance of a first-class Headmistress, its reputation stood high and excellent results were being achieved.'

When I first arrived at St Mary's Hall, I was struck by the 'history on the staircase' – portraits of Headmistresses up the stairs – with an ominous space at the top for me! Miss Conrady's portrait commands a position near the top of the second flight. I hope you will search it out. It is a picture of a remarkable and dedicated teacher, whose life we commemorate with gratitude.

I hope you enjoy the magazine. I certainly shall!

*Mrs S M Meek, Headmistress
September 1999*

Speech Day, October 1998

Prize-winners with the guest speaker, Lady Perry, in the Headmistress's study.

Standing, left to right: Daisy Edwards-Bayne, Charlotte Overton-Hart, Alice Rawdon-Mogg, Edwina Woolgar



School Prize List 1998-99

YEAR PRIZES

Year 7

Rebecca Marchant, Charlotte Ridge,
Anna Vincent-Gill

Progress Prizes

Lucy Antram, Anita Dhillon, Katrina
Stalker

Year 8

Allana Austin, Simin Kiani-Lirharani,
Laura Higson, Christina Myers

Progress Prizes

Shuk Ting (Kitty) Chan, Sonal Desai,
Kerry Moss, Rishma Patel

Year 9

Kirsty Carr, Larissa Kanagalingam,
Rokhsana Saddighzadeh

Progress Prizes

Nicola Ghiaci, Ellen Grist

Award for Contribution to the Life of the School (Years 7 to 9)

Fiona Hunt

Eureka Prize for the Most Promising Science Investigation (Years 7 to 9)

Nicola Ghiaci

Year 10

Lauren Lansdowne, Katayoune Mokhtar,
Amie Noone, Rosalyn Robison

Progress Prizes

Wing Sum (Donna) Lui, Bianca Southwell,
Kerrie Trembling, Faye Woodbridge

Science Prize

Oi-Yan (Irene) Kwong

Jack Williamson Prize and Commendation

Claire Ghiaci

Music Prizes

Junior: Maria Redman
Senior: Nadia Behdad

The Cole Award for Musical Contribution by a Boarder

Nga Man (Amanda) Tsui

Senior Art Prize

Esi Ansah

Miranda Graham Shakespeare Shield

Jenifer Commin

Philippa Graham Classical Languages Shield

Dega Stephenson

Emelia Papadamou Shield for Progress in English

Bing Yin (Carmen) Wong

Prize for Progress in English as a Second Language

Nga Man (Amanda) Tsui

Junior Physical Education Cup for Effort and Improvement

Jessica Warner

Senior Physical Education Cup for Achievement

Alice Rawdon-Mogg

Parents School Association Technology Prize

Lucie Marchant

Anna Millyard Prize for Exceptional Progress

Yalda Saddighzadeh

Year 11

Richenda Todd Cup for Best Results in GCSE

Dega Stephenson

Overall Achievement at GCSE

Sarah Hatherly
Hannah Redman

Special Achievement at GCSE

Katherine Mathews

Effort and Achievement at GCSE

Elizabeth Bowen

Year 12

Elliott Prize for General Progress

Charlotte Overton-Hart

Effort and Achievement

Charlotte Barrow

Year 13

Overall Achievement at 'A' Level

Shin Yie (Deborah) Lim

Effort and Achievement at 'A' Level

Nadia Behdad
Gemma Finney

Special Award for Contribution to the Life of the School

Alice Rawdon-Mogg

Award to the Co-ordinator of School Guides

Charlotte Sabel

Head of Boarding Award

Azyyati Binti (Rose) Abdullah

Head Girl's Award

Jodie Graham

GCSE Results 1998-99

An Asterisk indicates an A & A* Grade
Grades A B and C only are listed

Najwan Al-Mussawi	9*
Esi Ansah	9*****
Dee Baker	8*
Elizabeth Bowen	10*****
Clare Bryant	9
Rebecca Chester	10****
Rebecca Doble	8
Claudette D'Silva	7*
Antonia Edwards	9*****
Helene Enahoro	5
Caroline Fuller	9*
Zoe Gordon	10*
Sarah Hatherly	10*****
Wai Shan (Sandra) Hung	6*****
Lavina Jonah	8**
Fatima Khamkhoeva	6**
Lucie Marchant	10*****
Katherine Mathews	8*****
Tamara McGaw	9*
Victoria Miles	9
Goldie Momen	9*****
Tsz Kwan (Rebecca) Nam	10**
Marisha O'Gunleye	10*****
Siobhan O'Hara	10****
Vanessa Paldano	9*
Dipti Patel	10*
Ekaterina Poberejnaia	8**
Hannah Redman	9*****
Rosemary Rothwell	9*
Sarah Sage	5
Ana Scandian	9**
Rochelle Seager	9*
Salha Soussi	9*
Dega Stephenson	11*****
Sara Yeganeh-Toussi	9
Man Sum (Michelle) Yeung	6*****
Vicky Young	10***

GCSE in Fourth Year

Julia Bezanson	2**
Oi-Yan (Irene) Kwong	1*
Wing Sum (Donna) Lui	1*
Rosalyn Robison	1*
Sonia Vincent-Gill	2**
Wei (Shirley) Wei	1*
She Lui (Sharon) Wong	1*

Additional GCSE Passes in the Sixth Form

Sze Kei (Joyce) Fung	1
Shaung Gao	1*
Min Yan (Venus) Li	3**
Meera Majevalia	2
Chi Wah (Maggie) Sin	3**

A Level Passes 1998/99

Azyyati Binti Haji (Rose) Abdullah	Mathematics B, Physics C
Aba Ansah	Geography E, Mathematics C, Economics C
Pik Yan (Carol) Au	Art C, Mathematics B, Physics D
Nadia Behdad	English B, Music A, Theatre Studies C
Yuen Shan (Florence) Chan	Biology D, Chemistry D, Chinese A, Mathematics A
Gemma Finney	Art B, Classical Civilisation A, English C
Kate Fleming	Biology C, Geography C, English C
Jodie Graham	Geography E
Katherine Hasson	Classical Civilisation E, Law E, English C
Tomoko Kodama	Art C, Chinese C, Mathematics C
Nga Yu (Queenie) Law	Art D, Mathematics E
Shin Yie (Deborah) Lim	Chemistry B, Mathematics A, Physics A
Carolyn Mulenga	Law B, English E
Laura Muzzall	Art A, Design Technology D, English D
Sunita Ram	Biology D, Chemistry D, Mathematics D
Amina Ruff	Classical Civilisation B, Design Technology C, English C
Charlotte Sabel	History C, Law B, English C
Yalda Saddighzadeh	Classical Civilisation C, History B, Law B
Nga Wai (Jennifer) Tsang	Art B, Mathematics B, Physics D
Nicola Walters	Classical Civilisation E, Religious Studies D
Bethlehem Zawde	Biology E, Chemistry D, Mathematics D

Destination of Sixth Form Students 1999

Name of Student	College/University	Course
Rose Abdullah	Nottingham Trent	Computing Systems
Aba Ansah	Brock (Canada)	Business Economics
Carol Au	Essex	Mathematics
Nadia Behdad	Birmingham	Music (deferred entry)
Florence Chan	Manchester	Town & Country Planning
Gemma Finney	Cardiff	Archaeology
Kate Fleming	Canterbury	Teacher Training
Jodie Graham	Manchester Metropolitan	HND B.Studies and Sport
Katherine Hasson	Greenwich	English
Tomoko Kodama	Brighton	Architecture
Deborah Lim	London School of Economics	Accounting & Finance
Carolyn Mulenga	Kingston	Sociology
Laura Muzzall	Brighton College of Technology	Art Foundation
Amina Ruff	Reading	Archaeology
Charlotte Sabel	Royal Holloway	Modern Economic History and Politics
Yalda Saddighzadeh	Hertfordshire	Law
Jennifer Tsang	Royal Holloway	Management
Beth Zawde	London Guildhall	Business IT Marketing and Law

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Results 1998/99

Grade 8		
Katherine Mathews	Harp	Distinction
Katherine Mathews	Flute	Merit
Grade 7		
Wai Shan (Sandra) Hung	Clarinet	Distinction
Nicola Johns	Piano	Distinction
Nga Wai (Jennifer) Tsang	Piano	Pass
Grade 6		
Nga Man (Amanda) Tsui	Piano	Merit
Sarah Gartside	Flute	Pass
Grade 5		
Elisa Mansell	Violin	Distinction
Rosie Robison	Singing	Distinction
Man Sum (Michelle) Yeung	Theory	Distinction
Nadia Behdad	Piano	Merit
Elizabeth Johns	Piano	Merit
Rebecca Chester	Theory	Pass
Hannah Lucas	Singing	Pass
Elisa Mansell	Theory	Pass
Tamara McGaw	Piano	Pass
Faye Woodbridge	Theory	Pass
Grade 4		
Selina Austin	Oboe	Distinction
Selina Austin	Flute	Merit
Charlotte Bishop	Singing	Merit
Oi-Yan (Irene) Kwong	Piano	Merit
Alexia Fleming	Flute	Merit
Elizabeth Johns	Piano	Merit
Sarah Cockett	Piano	Pass
Elizabeth Johns	Clarinet	Pass
Hannah Lucas	Violin	Pass
Tamara McGaw	Clarinet	Pass
Michelle Moloney	Flute	Pass
Elizabeth Reed	Piano	Pass
She Lui (Sharon) Wong	Flute	Pass
Man Sum (Michelle) Yeung	Singing	Pass
Grade 3		
Valerie Furnham	Singing	Merit
Laura Higson	Theory	Pass
Elizabeth Johns	Clarinet	Pass
Christina Myers	Theory	Pass
Charlotte Ridge	Flute	Pass
Grade 2		
Allana Austin	Theory	Distinction
Faye Bennett	Theory	Distinction
Laura Higson	Theory	Distinction
Naomi Hyde-Smith	Theory	Distinction
Sarah Johnson	Piano	Distinction
Kerry Moss	Theory	Distinction
Christina Myers	Theory	Distinction
Sarah Johnson	Violin	Pass
Simin Kiani-Lirharani	Theory	Pass
Emily Maskey	Theory	Pass
Phillipa Southwell	Flute	Pass
Carol Topley	Singing	Pass
Grade 1		
Christine Barclay	Theory	Distinction
Georgina Bentinck	Violin	Merit
Atousa Saddighzadeh	Violin	Merit
Rokhsana Saddighzadeh	Violin	Merit
Bethany Seamer	Trumpet	Merit
Tamsin Shephard	Flute	Merit
Wai Nam (Gloria) Tang	Violin	Merit
Lauren Byrne	Flute	Pass

ESL Exam Results 1998-99

FCE Passes

Youn-Ji Cho (C)
 Min Yan Li (C)
 Wing Sum Lui (C)
 Tsui Nga Man (Amanda) (B)
 Katerina Karsayova (B)
 Fatima Khamkhoeva (B)
 Ekaterina Poberejnaia (B)
 Wai Shan (Sandra) Hung (A)
 Man Sum Yeung (B)

PET Passes

Swee Fen (Melissa) Lim (with merit)
 Bing Yin (Carmen) Wong (with merit)
 Shaung Gao
 Carmandado Tang
 Sze Kei Fung

IELTS Passes

Franziska Schatzler (8)
 Nga Yu Law (5.5)
 Yuen Shan Chan (6.0)
 Nga Wai Tsang (7.0)
 Tomoko Kodama (6.0)
 Pik Yan (Carol) Au (6.0)

IGCSE in ESL

Meera Majeবাদia (B)
 Ekaterina Poberejnaia (B)
 Fatima Khamkhoeva (B)
 Tsz Kwan Nam (B)

Advanced Grade

Michelle Yeung Distinction

New Era Academy of Speech and Drama

Examination Results 1998-1999

Speech and Drama Junior Medal Distinction

Jenifer Commin
 Naomi Hyde-Smith
 Nicola Johns

Grade 4

Nicola Johnson Distinction
 Kerry Moss Distinction
 Rebecca Ridge Distinction
 Faye Bennett Pass
 Victoria Miles Pass

Grade 3

Faye Bennett Distinction
 Amadea Hills Distinction
 Kerry Moss Distinction
 Lana Pinsent Distinction
 Romi Pinsent Distinction
 Rebecca Ridge Distinction
 Agatha Zargham Distinction

Grade 2

Lana Pinsent Honours
 Harriet Butterworth Distinction
 Pia Cresswell-Riden Distinction
 Antoinette Delicata Distinction
 Laura George Distinction
 Lydia Grows Distinction
 Amadea Hills Distinction
 Helen Hudson Distinction
 Harriet Mercer Distinction
 Romi Pinsent Distinction
 Laura Thompson Distinction
 Lauren Whyte Distinction
 Abigail Williams Distinction
 Jessica Hancock Pass

Grade 1

Claudia Gasson Distinction
 Abbey Gibbons Distinction
 Anna Grows Distinction
 Bethany Hancock Distinction
 Phoebe Hine Distinction
 Helen Hudson Distinction
 Alexandra Lyons Distinction
 Zara Miller Distinction
 Samatha Sinar Distinction
 Charlotte Watson Distinction
 Abigail Williams Distinction
 Eleanor Williams Distinction
 Margaret Lau Pass
 Baiju Patel Pass

Stage Technique - Solo

Advanced 9

Rebecca Rowland Honours
 Amy Blackburn Distinction
 Michelle Moloney Distinction

Advanced 8

Michelle Moloney Distinction
 Rebecca Rowland Distinction

Advanced 7

Rosalyn Robison Distinction
 Faye Woodbridge Distinction

Intermediate Grade 6

Alexandra Mitchell Distinction
 Zulehkha Waheed Distinction

Grade 4

Agatha Zargham Distinction

Grade 3

Lauren Marshall Distinction

Grade 4

Anita Dhillon Honours
 Katherine Haines Honours
 Sarah Johnson Distinction
 Carol Topley Distinction
 Catherine Frankel Pass
 Anna Mojab Pass

Grade 3

Lucy Antram Distinction
 Athena Georgiou Distinction
 Antoinette Delicata Distinction
 Lauren Whyte Distinction
 Ekaterina Soumilova Distinction
 Charlotte Ward-Caddle Distinction

Grade 2

Lauren Byrne Pass
 Vusisizwe Tebe Pass
 Phoebe Hine Pass
 Zara Miller Pass
 Harriet Mercer Pass
 Laura Thompson Pass

Intermediate Grade 6

Selina Austin Honours
 Charlotte Ridge Honours
 Rosalyn Robison Honours
 Faye Woodbridge Honours
 Charlotte Bishop Distinction
 Rokhsana Saddighzadeh Distinction
 Nikki Edwards Distinction
 Cheryl Hughes Distinction

Intermediate Grade 5

Saphy Ali Distinction
 Atousa Saddighzadeh Distinction
 Anita Dhillon Distinction
 Katherine Haines Distinction
 Anna Mojab Distinction
 Catherine Frankel Distinction
 Alexandra Stuart-Hutcheson Distinction
 Anna Vincent-Gill Distinction

Guildhall School of Music and Drama Examination Results

SPEECH AND DRAMA

Grade 5

Jessica Warner Pass

Grade 4a

Amy Blackburn Merit

Grade 4

Selina Austin Honours
 Allana Austin Merit
 Jenifer Commin Merit
 Nicola Johns Merit
 Lucy Lynch Merit
 Alexandra Mitchell Merit
 Charlotte Ridge Merit
 Zulehkha Waheed Merit

Grade 3

Nikki Edwards Merit
 Cheryl Hughes Merit

Grade 2

Rebecca Arghiros Merit
 Jemma Cowen Merit
 Nicola Johnson Merit
 Katie Salt Merit
 Rebecca Labertouche Merit
 Julia Fortune Merit
 Georgina Tunbridge Merit
 Katie Beves Pass

Preliminary

Eleanor Blackwell Merit
 Grace MacDonald Merit

Junior Preliminary

Eleanor Williams Merit

SOLO ACTING

Grade 7

Edwina Woolgar Merit

Junior Department

Juniors Perform Will!

Sixty girls from the Prep Department went to town at the end of last term. They visited the National Art Gallery and National Portrait Gallery as part of the Junior Department's Art Week activities and then went on to the Globe Theatre. They limbered up their bodies, imaginations and voices in a workshop session with one of the Globe's actors and learned, in true Globe tradition, words from three of Shakespeare's plays. Then they went on that famous stage and performed brilliantly, holding the passing audience of tourists spellbound by their courage and confidence. How many other people can say they performed at The Globe at 8 or 9 years old?

Mrs D L Francis, Head of Prep Department

James Berry comes to St Mary's Hall

On the 7th October 1998 a poet came to our school. His name was James Berry. He was very interesting and put a lot of expression into his fantastic poems. My favourite poem he read out was one called the Boy Don Rap. He split us into two groups to write a poem, one side wrote a poem about a special event they could remember and the second group wrote a poem about going for a walk meeting an animal and doing a dance with it.

Helen Hudson, UPF

Gloucester House News

School started again in September 1998 with anxious, seager children in their new classes looking pristine in their uniform and with sun-tanned faces. The Department welcomed Miss Elaine Holman who quickly settled into her post of Reception Class Assistant. The children soon took to her sense of fun and humour and the staff appreciated her support and great efficiency. We have said a number of hellos and goodbyes during the course of this year and none was more poignant that the farewell to Mrs Winterton at the February half term. She had been with us for four years and had become a much loved and valued member of the Department bringing to her roles of Nursery Assistant and After School Care Supervisor something very special that is difficult to put into words. The children and the staff were heartbroken as she left but we wish her well as she is now living closer to her family. Miss Donna Fleming joined us in March to take over her post and quickly filled the gap left by Mrs Winterton. The children have enjoyed the variety of activities that she has created and have warmed to her youthful but calm, peaceful personality. Mrs Crumpton joined her in May to take the Elliott House prep. and settled into her new role very quickly. As I write this we are preparing to say farewell to Mrs Carol Mander at the end of the Summer Term. She is retiring, along with her husband, to be able to make full use of their narrow boat on the Oxfordshire canals. Mrs Mander has worked in Gloucester House for seven years and has been a

Nursery dressing-up assembly to celebrate World Book Day





dedicated teacher and much valued member of the staff. The children have always respected her calm, caring personality and have flourished under her care. We all wish her a very long and happy retirement and thank her for the loyal support that she has given to Gloucester.

Looking back over the past year, it is easy to forget all the activities and events that the staff and children take part in. I am glad that we keep a scrapbook of photographs, programmes and suchlike in order to remind us of the varied and enjoyable times throughout the year. As always the year follows the seasons and one of our first occasions to celebrate with our parents was the Harvest Festival held in the school chapel. The children processed through the grounds absolutely laden with produce from all corners of the world and gave thanks for the Harvest, performing, as ever, in the delightful way that our young children manage to do so effortlessly.

World Book Week gave the Department the opportunity to go to town with dressing up in our favourite book titles. I am not sure if 'Snow White' is the favourite story of the staff, but they did make the most marvellous dwarfs, hardly having to dress up! The children arrived at school in the most amazing outfits, their imagination and creativity running riot for the day. There was every character imaginable from 'Spot' to 'My Naughty Little Sister'. Numerous photographs were taken and the day inspired some lively paintings as well as some delightful book reviews.

After the October half term, rehearsals for the Nativity

play began in earnest and the children became involved in singing new carols, costume fittings, dance movements and learning their words. 'The Journey of the Kings' was produced with an Eastern flavour and the video shows the minarets being rushed to the chapel only seconds ahead of the children, on a bleak and windy day in December. The children gave a wonderful performance sending out the true message of Christmas and staff and parents alike were deeply moved. As I write this in early June I am now starting my last half term at St Mary's Hall and one of the memories that I shall carry in my heart will be the numerous, but varied Nativity plays that the department have produced over the years, each and everyone of them having been so beautifully performed. They have been a great credit to the talented staff and children within the Department.

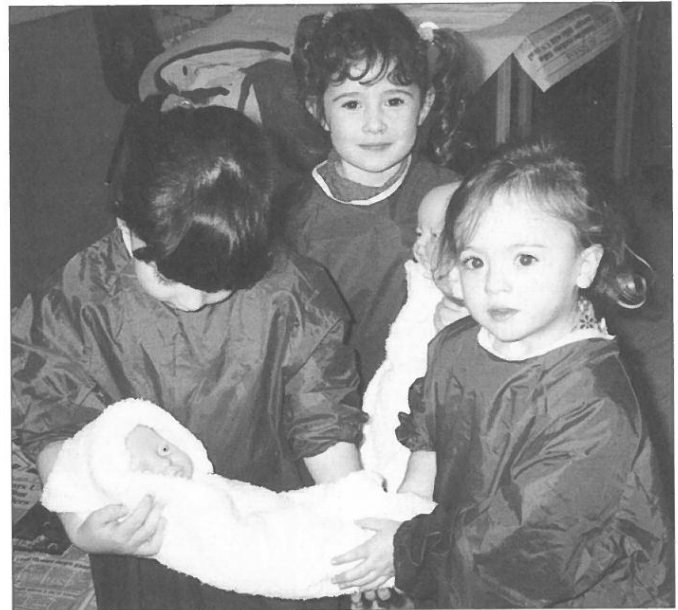
Art Week at the end of the Spring Term was a chance to set aside all the other subjects for five days and concentrate on the pleasure of being creative and using a variety of media. The children fashioned leaves out of clay, motivated by a local potter and also saw a wonderful selection of paintings from the Tate Gallery. This took the form of a slide show and the techniques, history and fine details of each painting were pointed out by an inspirational speaker. The children sat spellbound as they were shown a variety of paintings and the secrets they held on the theme of 'Water'. They saw artist such as Brueghel, Constable, Turner and . . . Other activities that week included making underwater collages, weaving using sea

colours, fish mobiles and paintings.

Mrs Aviss set up a lunchtime ensemble group with a number of young instrumentalists from Elliott and Gloucester in January. This has proved to be very popular and we look forward to hearing the children perform to an audience at the newly introduced awards ceremony at the end of the Summer Term. Mrs Haywood and Mrs Ward-Caddle gave their music pupils the opportunity to perform to their parents, the staff and children, at a delightful concert at the end of May. At other times during the year the children have performed on their recorders and other instruments as soloists or in groups at our Tuesday assemblies. It is always a pleasure to watch young children perform and to see their obvious enjoyment as they master a new skill.

The last half of the Summer Term is always extremely busy with the prospect of Sports Day, Garden Party and trips out to a variety of local places of interest. The children start looking ahead to moving on to a new class or department. There is always something to plan for or organise as the academic year turns full circle. I have felt very privileged to have been so involved in Gloucester House for several years. I shall miss the warm, caring support of the staff a great deal. I feel that many of the parents have become like close friends over the years and I wish you all well as your children continue through the school. As for the children, they are the heart and soul of Gloucester House and their smiling faces, affectionate natures and great quests for learning and school will stay with me as I move on. Gloucester House celebrates its 10th Anniversary in October this year. I wish it another happy and successful ten years, plus many more to come as Mrs Hazel Hawtin takes up her new post as Head of Department in September.

Vivien Sparkes, June 1999



Bathing baby dolls, just like baby Honor: Elizabeth Hazelton, Casidhe Maguire and Eloise Poulton

All Dressed up in the Nursery

Dressing up is a favourite pursuit of three and four year olds. Happily this year afforded several opportunities for the Nursery pupils to do just that. In October they joined the Pre-Prep children in costume as storybook characters to celebrate World Book Day. Peter Pan and Rapunzel rubbed shoulders with Snow White and Cinderella in superb home-made outfits.

At Christmas the children dressed up as stars, angels, animals and trees to act out 'The Legend of the Little Fir

Nursery pupils trying on police hats and jackets brought by Police Schools Liaison Officer, PC Marshall



Tree' for their proud families. In January Eloise's baby sister Honor was bathed by her brave mum in the classroom to start off our 'Helpers' topics. The children subsequently donned aprons and re-enacted the sequence of events with dolls in the water tray.

February brought hats – police hats, courtesy of PC Marshall who visited us as an example of a helper from the local community. March provided Red Nose Day, what finer reason could there be to dress up entirely in red?

July promised the very smartest of outfits for the Garden Party. Some pupils relished the ultimate dressing up opportunity that September would bring . . . school uniform!

Carolyn Riggs



Nursery Christmas play, 'The Legend of the Little Fir Tree'

Pre-Prep 1

Pre-Prep 1 have had an interesting and stimulating year.

During the Spring Term they thoroughly enjoyed participating in all the experiments associated with their topic on 'air'. They also designed and made their own kites and were very excited when the day came to fly them. The climax of all this work was a trip to Gatwick Airport, which they shared with the Reception Class. The first port of call was the cinema where the children were able to watch a film on 'A day in the life of Gatwick Airport'. Next was the snowman ride. As this was a simulated ride it was lovely to feel that we were floating over Brighton. Lunch was eaten in the North Terminus as this allowed the children a trip on a monorail. Then it was back to the top floor of the South Terminus where the children were able to explore an aeroplane – did the cockpit really have so many dials? – how did the pilot manage? Finally we watched the aeroplanes taking off and landing before returning to the coach and school. This visit was also an excellent introduction to the next term's project on journeys. Much of the work for this project could be undertaken in the school grounds but it was not long before we were off again accompanying the Reception Class to the Mohair Centre.

We went to Gatwick Airport. We went on a coach. We saw some aeroplanes. We went to the cinema and we sat on a bench seat and we saw 'A day in the life of the Airport'.

We went on a snowman flight. It made me feel I was sneezing. We watched the aeroplanes taking off and landing before going back to school.

Rahul Sriram, PPI

We went to Gatwick Airport yesterday. When we went on the coach I saw an aeroplane and we passed a farm. When we got there we sat down on some seats. We turned around and as we were turning we saw a fire.

Sophie Gross, PPI

We went to Gatwick Airport yesterday. We went by coach to the airport. It took a long time. We saw a park and we saw some aeroplanes before we got to the airport. We went in the lift to the top floor. We went to the cinema and we saw a fire drill. It felt like we were some aeroplanes going to fly and land. Then when it finished we went downstairs and watched the snowman's flight. Then we went on the train. We had lunch. We had to go on the train because we had to go to the North Terminus. We went back to the South Terminus. We went in the lift to the top floor to look in an aeroplane. We went in a cockpit. Then we went round the corner and watched some aeroplanes take off and land. There was a British Airways one and a Virgin. We went back to school by coach again.

Emily Leung, PPI

ELLIOTT HOUSE SPORTS DAY

*Right: Tamsin Shephard, Trans,
at the start of the 200m.*



*Below: Adelaide House Captains,
Lauren Whyte and Elisa Mansell,
Trans*

*At bottom: The 800m;
Abbey Gibbons, L Prep 2;
Stephanie Gordon, L Prep 1;
Rosie Nayler, L Prep 2*



A staff tribute to Mrs Sparkes

Mrs Vivien Sparkes left St Mary's Hall after nearly nine years teaching in Gloucester House and Elliott House, and for the last two years in her role as the Head of the Nursery and Pre-Prep.

Mrs Vivien Bradley arrived one summer, fresh from Canada, on a temporary term's contract but was far too valuable a member of staff to be allowed to leave. Indeed it took her a very long time to 'escape' and even then, with a good deal of hesitation and reluctance.

Viv, as she is affectionately known to her colleagues, is a supremely conscientious and caring teacher. She gave to us warmth and openness and will remain a much loved and respected member of our staff Old Girls' network.

We will miss her enormously. Her sense of fun, justice and loyalty contributed much to staffroom conversation. To her pupils she was affectionately known as 'Mrs Sparkly' and so they named her adopted Hawaiian Goose – a leaving present – who resides at Arundel Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

We have been through a great deal together – back operations, divorce, teenage children, remarriage, house-moving, National Curriculum, Literacy and Numeracy Hours, Staff Meetings, staff and pupils' outings – and we know that she will continue to support us at SMH as we wish her good fortune and great happiness in her new job teaching the Reception Class at Burgess Hill.

*Deirdre Francis,
Head of Prep Department*

Visit to Drusillas Zoo

PP2 enjoyed a visit to the Discovery Room at Drusillas Zoo. The children were learning about Animal Movement and the day provided a fascinating insight into this subject. Some children dressed up as bats and lemurs and everyone had the opportunity to observe live animals at close quarters. Curious fingers gently stroked the young snake which had just shed its skin. And then . . . it was the turn of the giant millipede! It was 10 cms long. It was black. It had hundreds of legs. Faces turned pale at the prospect. But led by fearless parent Maureen Alldis almost everyone laid bare an outstretched arm for the tantalising tickle of those hairy little legs.

Janet White, Teacher PP2

I was looking forward to going to Drusillas. When I got there I felt excited and nervous at the same time. I went into a Discovery Room where a lady gave a talk about how animals move. She had a snake. I have never touched a snake and I felt anxious but when I actually touched it, it felt warm and dry. I felt guilty because I had thought that snakes were slimy. I also saw millipedes. I was debating whether or not to hold it but decided not to. But now I want to. The monkeys were very funny. They kept pressing on the glass. One monkey had a lot of fruit. It nibbled one and threw it over his shoulder. He chose very carefully. He had a lot of food and it was like he was saying "I don't like that one."

Hannah Alldis, PP2

At Drusillas the snake was getting nearer and nearer to me and I was feeling very very brave but nervous and anxious too. Then it was my turn! I took a deep breath, put out my hand and felt the snake. I was surprised. I thought the snake would be slimy and slippery but the snake wasn't. It was very smooth and dry and it kept smelling me with his tongue. When the snake had gone I felt very pleased and proud of myself and I felt very happy too. Next some millipedes came round and they have about 350 legs! They tickle when you have them on your hand. When I had got out of the Discovery Centre I went to see some BATS! I went inside a room and all the bats were hanging upside down and they stunk a lot. Two of the bats were eating bananas and there was a cardboard fruit-bat which you would stretch out your hands and arms to see if you were as long as the fruit-bat. Next I went to see some penguins! And guess how long penguins can stay under water for? 5 minutes! My favourite animals were the otters. One of the otters went close to the mini river and I kept on saying, "Go on, go on" and in the end the otter went in the mini river and I was very pleased about it. The meerkats were very funny and they have a lamp so when they go under it they feel all warm. There was a big big bubble and tunnel and if you want you can go in the tunnel and put your face in the big big bubble and see the meerkats better. There were tiny little mice and the mice had a little house which had four rooms and little stairs so the mice can go up and down if they want to. I also liked the porcupine which was black and it had

spiky bits sticking up from her body and head and the porcupine was called Hannah! By the Discovery Centre there was a Discovery Bus. I really wanted to go in the Discovery Bus but it was closed. On the way to the Discovery Centre you go through a tunnel and there is a weighing machine so you can see if you weigh as much as warthog and Mrs White said she did! As well as a weighing machine in the tunnel there were flaps and if you could lift it up and could see some true things about animals (and some I didn't think were true.) After a few more hours we walked back to the coach and got on. On the way back Mrs White made up a song called 'PP2 went to Drusillas Zoo' and I sung it all the way back to St Mary's Hall. I really enjoyed my trip to Drusillas Zoo. I hope I can come back soon. Bye-bye Drusillas!

Rose Collard, PP2

Reception Class

By the end of the Summer Term the children in the Reception Class have made such strides both socially and academically that it is hard to remember how these timid, nervous children arrived at school in September, clutching their mothers skirts and having to be cajoled away, at times, from lengthy parental farewells. One of the joys of being a teacher in the Reception Class is watching their swift and rewarding progress, particularly after Christmas.

We have enjoyed a wealth of activities, visits and trips this year and have also helped raise a lot of money for charity. On Red Nose Day the children performed an assembly about mathematics and became the number clowns for the day. They then helped to raise £75 with the rest of the department by a series of competitions and games. Nobody expected the magnificent sum of £500 which was raised by the sponsored 'Pedal Push' in aid of Childline. The Nursery and Reception classes both pedalled eagerly around the playground, indeed some looked as if they might take off into the air, such was their enthusiasm!

In the Spring Term the class went to Gatwick Airport with Pre-Prep I as part of their topic work on 'Transport'. In May we joined the class again for a trip to the Mohair Centre. The children became farmers for the day and had certain tasks to perform in order to look after animals on the farm. The delight in watching the children's faces when they found and collected warm eggs from under the hens will stay with me for a long time. In the afternoon the children were treated to a workshop of activities turning wool or mohair from the fleece to a woven article. They were introduced to interesting objects such as a 'Niddy Noddy', a spinning wheel, teasing brushes and a peg loom. The peg loom proved to be such an easy method for young children to weave that the following day I returned to the farm to order one for school. More enjoyable days out await us in June and the children look forward to these events as much as the staff do.

*Vivien Sparkes
Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep Department*

U11 Netball

This year's U11 netball team have done amazingly well and were undefeated throughout the season, winning all 10 matches.

The reason we have proved to be such a good team is because we have had an excellent team spirit and love to practise every school break.

Towards the end of the season we entered Bellerby's Netball Tournament. We played seven matches altogether, won four and drew two, losing an exiting final 8-4 against a very strong Ashdown House team.

The team are very grateful to Miss Easterbrook who has been a fantastic coach.

Tammy Shephard, TRANP

The U10 Netball

I can remember the excitement of our very first match! With all the parents watching we were all so nervous! We faced Westbourne House and dare I say it Westbourne played extremely well, but the Under 10's played even better and it was an away match! With just 45 seconds left it was 7 all, but our GA, Rebecca Ridge, scored a goal which won us the match! I felt so proud of my team. Every single one of them.

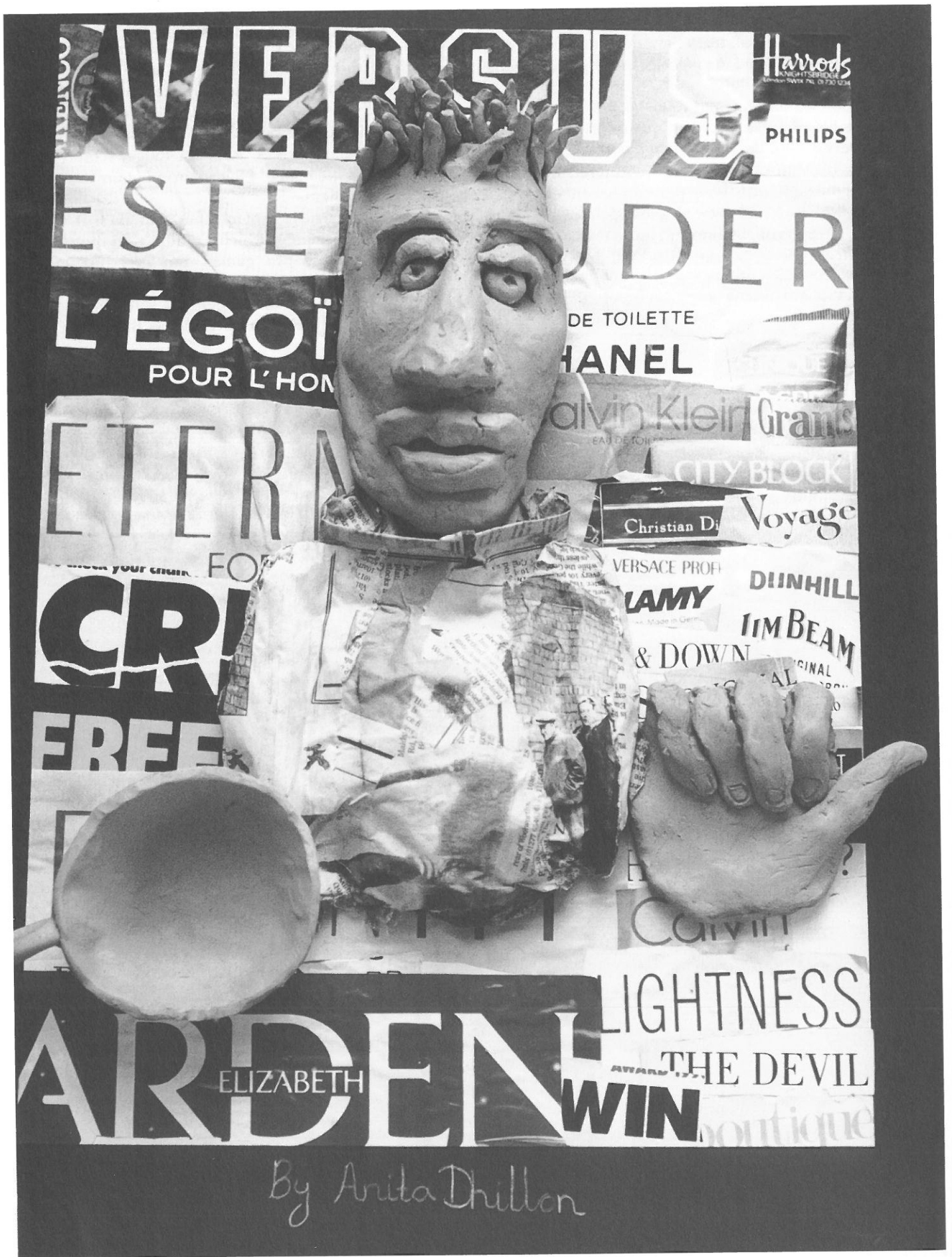
We won our next two matches, but then it was the Bellerby's Tournament which we didn't do quite so well in and won only two games, but everyone enjoyed themselves and I think it was a good experience. Our next match against Brighton College was a tough one, both sides played very well, but nevertheless Brighton College won 5-3.

Overall I think the team have improved immensely and have played like a team throughout the whole season! Well done!

Georgina Bentinck, TRANP

1999 Midland Bank Sussex Tennis Champions: St. Mary's Hall Alisa Watts, Katie Russo, Elisa Mansell, Tammy Shephard





By Anita Dhillon

Mixed Media: Anita Dhillon, 1st year