

The next day we had the usual breakfast and then went shopping in a hypermarket, a very big store. I bought lots of presents. Then we had lunch and went to Versailles, the great palace built by Louis XIV. The palace and grounds were very beautiful, too beautiful to describe. Then after looking at the palace, we went back to the hotel, to pack, eat supper and to go to bed.

The next day we had to get up at about 6.30 a.m., as breakfast was at 7.00. We drove for two hours to Calais, had a very bumpy one-and-a-half-hour ride to Dover and a two-hour drive from Dover to Brighton.

All in all the trip was excellent. I really enjoyed it.

*Victoria Miskelly, I11G*

### FRENCH EXCHANGES

In 1986 the fourth annual exchange will take place between St. Mary's Hall and the Collège Saint-André in Saint-Maur (Val de Marne). We travel to France at Easter and the French party returns in July.

Last year's group from St. Mary's Hall spent the first fortnight of their summer holiday in Saint-Maur during a heat-wave, which also included the 14th July celebrations. SMH girls are always warmly received by their French hosts and the linguistic benefit of such a visit is considerable. I only wish more girls would take advantage of this opportunity to broaden their horizons.

In May 1986 we shall be taking "Dido and Aeneas" to France, to perform for our twin school in the Town Hall of Joinville-le-Pont. Some forty-five girls of all ages will be involved, and will be welcomed into French families during our four-day stay. A similar "échange culturel" is planned for 1987, when we hope that the Collège Saint-André will bring one of their presentations over to St. Mary's Hall.

*D. W.*

### SPANISH

We again took part in the Hispanic Council's Prize Examination which, although no one won, is excellent practice. We went to lectures at Canning House in London on "Spain since Franco" and to a lecture on the use of languages in different careers.

A visit was again made to the play put on in Spanish at King's College, London.

*H.K.T.B.*

## THE ARTS

### MUSIC REPORT

At the time of writing, preparations are well under way for the production of "Dido and Aeneas" to be staged in early May. We have an excellent line-up of principals led by Katherine Burt, who is to sing Dido; her Aeneas has been imported from outside S.M.H. and we are all very grateful to Russell Hall for agreeing to sing with us. After four performances as part of the 1986 Brighton Festival we are then taking the production to St. Maur for a performance to pupils, staff and parents of the Collège St. André, who are to be our generous hosts. The "Paris-Gig" is something like a blind date; we know little about the facilities, acoustics, size and "feel" of the hall and no doubt a couple of rehearsals will be spent on adapting the production, but we are all looking forward to initiating what will, we hope, become a regular cultural exchange.

Looking back for a moment, the Music Department has been as active as ever. Open Day 1985 recognised the tercentenary of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti, and the loan of Brighton Polytechnic's harpsichord was a great success, played very well by Laurie Jennings, who is now studying in the music department of York University. The Senior Choir took part in a charity concert at The Dome, having to sing rather refined music immediately after a "mind-blowing" performance by a local pop-group! We were invited to sing at The Purcell Room on the South Bank as part of the National Festival of Song and the Senior Choir excelled in perfect surroundings, accompanied once again by our "resident" harpist, Louise Martin. We have been invited to appear again and look forward to doing so. There has been a series of concerts taking place in school as well; the Christmas Concert was very well supported and a staff concert is planned as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Senior and Junior Music Festivals showed the talents of over a hundred girls, ranging from piano beginners playing "Hot Cross Buns" to the Two Fantasy Pieces for Oboe by Nielson played by Joey Boger, who won a particularly exciting Open Grade 8 class.

Visits have included concerts at The Dome, South Bank, "West Side Story" at Her Majesty's and Glyndebourne, who produced three stunning productions for the 1985 Schools Season. Girls are taking part in the Worthing and Brighton Music Festivals and the Choirs are to compete against our old rivals very soon.

The visiting music staff are increasing in number all the time; the next developments are for harp, percussion and double bass and we should then, in a few years, be able to sport a full orchestra (every music teacher's dream!). We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Letschka and Mrs. Cook, both of whom are now proud mothers, but we welcome Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Williamson, Miss Marleyn and Miss Kaukas.

I have to admit that flicking through the diary of the next few months I wonder how we'll get it all learnt and rehearsed in time, as well as preparing for Os, As and Grade exams and the G.C.S.E., which is now imminent. I conclude by thanking all the girls for their loyalty and eager participation in the Music Department.

*A.J.*

### THE INTER-HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION 1985

This year's Inter-house drama competition took place at the end of the spring term. The plays chosen differed greatly in their content. Bristol House performed an amusing short play called "Burning Topic", while Chichester House tackled Bernard Shaw's "Androcles and the Lion". Adelaide House produced a hilarious farce called "Man with the Bowler Hat", while Babington's winning performance of "Ernie's Incredible Illusions" brought the audience to their knees, weak with laughter. The adjudicator talked of the high standard of performances and everyone certainly seemed to enjoy them. We can now look forward to the same high standard next year.

*Rebecca Utley, UVI*

### THEATRE VISITS

The Sixth Form this year have seen HAMLET at the Young Vic, ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA at the Chichester Festival Theatre, THE DUCHESS OF MALFI at the National Theatre and, most recently, AS YOU LIKE IT at the Barbican. They have attended workshops on HAMLET at the Young Vic and the Mermaid Theatre, on Shakespeare's Roman plays at the Mermaid, and a two-day workshop at the National Theatre on THE DUCHESS OF MALFI (see report below).

The Fifth Form attended a workshop and performance of TWELFTH NIGHT at Chichester Festival Theatre and also enjoyed a stimulating workshop on TWELFTH NIGHT by the Rainbow Theatre Company.

In the Autumn Term the Fourth Form saw a lively production of MACBETH at Eastbourne.

*P.J.J.*

### THE DUCHESS OF MALFI WEEKEND

During October 1985 a group of Upper Sixth English students spent a weekend in London devoted to John Webster's play "The Duchess of Malfi".

The first day the course was held at the National Theatre and we spent the morning with Ian McKellan, who talked to us about his rôle in the play and, as a leader of a group of National Theatre actors with Edward Petherbridge, told us a great deal about how people in the theatre actually "work". During the afternoon we watched a matinée performance of "The Duchess of Malfi", which we appreciated even more with our newly-acquired insight into theatre life.

On the second day we got up early and made a seemingly endless tube journey, armed with the Sunday papers, out to Goldsmiths' College. Philip Prowse, both the director of the production and designer of the amazing set, gave a "question and answer" session to begin with, receiving with grace some sharp criticism of his portrayal of some of the characters, and explaining his aims and intentions in the production. After coffee, Simon Trussler gave an interesting lecture on Webster and the play, emphasising its historical importance and discussing possible sources for the plot. For the rest of the day we were divided into small groups either to study the text or to explore the choreography, costumes and make-up used, as we chose, each group being led by actors and actresses from the performance we had seen the day before.

We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, as it provided a rare opportunity to meet and talk with working and successful actors and actresses and also to see an excellent production of the play and consider new aspects of "The Duchess of Malfi".

*Melanie Harrow, UVI*

### "LADY PRECIOUS STREAM"

(The School Play in the Autumn Term 1985 was the Chinese folk-play "Lady Precious Stream" adapted by S. I. Hsiung.)

In this year's school play, which tells the story of the youngest daughter of the Prime Minister of China, I played the title rôle. This was a wonderful experience for me, though it took a long time to learn the lines, even with the help of my mother and Miss Stringer.

I played the youngest of the Prime Minister's daughters, who was told by her father to choose a husband on her sixteenth birthday. However, she did not want to choose a prince, as her family wanted, but instead selected the gardener, Hsieh Ping Kueih. She thus gave up a life of luxury to live in poverty in a cave. Her husband went off to war and was thought to have been killed, but in fact he had been saved by the Princess of the Western Regions and was a king. Not for eighteen years did he return to China, when he was happily reunited with his wife and accepted by her family.

The play was difficult for us because we had to try to use Chinese gestures and move in a stylised way. Apart from Mrs. Lock's lovely backdrop there was little in the way of scenery: a narrator told the audience what the scenes contained and chairs and tables had to become rocks, caves, mountain passes and gorgeous palaces. However, we had splendid costumes made by Miss Stringer, Mrs. Rothero and Mrs. Ringer, which were colourful and looked very authentic and the skilful make-up of Mr. Chris Horlock made us look properly Oriental. Some of our parents had quite a shock when they saw us on the stage.

Performing the play for the first time was terrifying for all of us and I don't think we would have been able to cope without the help of our backstage crew, Miss Stringer and our producer Mr. Wells.

*Alison Ewezoh, III*

### CLASSICAL CIVILISATION THROUGHOUT 1985/6 WHAT WE GET TO!

Where do I begin? The number of trips has been so many in the last year that I have lost count. Needless to say, the British Museum is a great favourite, as it houses a great deal of what was once part and parcel of Ancient Greece. John Boardman, a celebrated authority on Ancient Greek art, gave a lecture one evening on the sculpture of the Parthenon, and that very same afternoon we had had a talk on Greek pottery. One outing consisted of a lecture on Greek women in the morning, a tour in the afternoon and a

performance of Tippet's "King Priam" in the evening. Other trips to the theatre have been to Bradfield College (I go into more detail later) and to "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes in Cambridge. A course in Greek was also organised last holidays and was a great success. To crown all this, a visit to Greece has been arranged. Girls from the third form upwards doing the subject will be going this Easter holidays for two weeks. Time will be spent visiting the sites of ancient Greece and what could be better than to see that which before now has been merely envisaged by the imagination and text books? There is so much we do and we have certainly been given many opportunities to see what we study. I hope I speak for others when I state that all these excursions have brought Classical Civilisation to life, and therefore, rendered it all the more interesting.

*Rebecca Utley, UVI*

### PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY REPORT

This year once again has been a successful year for the Photographic Society. There has been much enthusiasm, especially among the lower years and, as a result, the Society has been rapidly increasing in numbers. This is hardly surprising since we have a very patient member of staff teaching our new recruits (and occasionally reminding the so-called experienced ones, too!). It is to him that we owe many thanks for all the time and effort he puts towards the Photographic Society.

Encouragement is one of the main things needed, especially when one makes an occasional mistake in not succeeding in developing a film.

The photographic display at Open Day last year seemed to impress many onlookers. There were projects shown on Fiji, Friston, Willingdon, animals, the Sixth Form Centre and some portraits. This year, amongst the projects being worked towards for the Garden Party are "Different aspects of fashion", "A Day in the life of a VIth former" and a project on Brunei.

Despite this being a rather time-consuming hobby, it certainly brings a satisfaction as you eagerly wait for a new print to take its form in front of you, with, more often than not, most pleasing results.

*Mary Barltrop  
Karen Duxbury, LVI*



The Wang Family and the gardener Hsieh Ping Kueih  
Lady Precious Stream

## THE CLASSICS TRIP TO BRADFIELD COLLEGE

### "ANTIGONE"

This year's Classics trip will remain imprinted on my memory for years to come. Why? Read on . . . We — Miss Morgan, Mrs. Banks, Jane Whitmore and myself — bundled into the car ready for the three hour journey. After numerous confrontations with elusive contact lenses, we arrived at our destination.

Having been shown to our seats by black-gowned prefects, we took great pleasure in sipping white wine out of paper cups, while admiring the cut glass crystal goblets of our somewhat dignified neighbours. However, it was the theatre itself that so impressed us. Seated on the stone slabs of the open-air Greek "theatre", we felt transported back into the harsh reality that was fifth century Greece. Once the lights came up, our attention was immediately captured and held throughout the performance. "Antigone" was given new life and meaning.

The chanting and stylised dancing of the chorus in Greek was hypnotic and the costumes spectacular. I do not remember losing my concentration for one moment as the spellbinding plot was unfolded. The discordant music was unnerving and jarred the nerves into the realisation of the tragedy. The dark trees around the hollow seemed to be pressing inwards, as though to draw our eyes towards the action.

We all felt, at the end of the evening, that we had been in a trance, and had been only rudely awakened to the twentieth century by the hooting of a distant car horn. It may sound a little melodramatic, but we went through a catharsis; a purging of emotions. The journey back was one of tremendous energy, particularly so where the lungs were concerned. Eat your heart out, Frank Sinatra!

*Rebecca Uttley, UVI*

## HISTORY

### A FIFTH FORM HISTORY OUTING, APRIL 1985

A visit to the Imperial War Museum is not just a grim reminder of man's ingenuity this century in devising increasingly sophisticated engines of destruction. The displays are devoted to set the major wars in their diplomatic and social context and are excellently set out. It is a helpful stimulus to O level History revision and the visit formed part of a Saturday in London for fifth form history students. The afternoon was spent in the National Portrait Gallery, whose range of displays of nineteenth and twentieth century figures is especially good. The more culturally adventurous could go to a display of seventeenth century dancing on the top floor. The day ended with dancing of a different sort: a visit to "Me and My Girl". This was barely justified on historical terms by being a hit musical of the 1930s, a period which the girls study, and was wholly justified by being a splendidly produced, totally enjoyable and stylish romp much appreciated by pupils and staff alike.

*M.E.W.*

### FIRST YEAR HISTORY EXPEDITION

The First Year set out on their history expedition on a sunny fifth of May. The morning was spent at the huge Roman palace at Fishbourne, where we enjoyed a video introduction to the site and, armed with the guide sheet provided by the museum, we studied the mosaics, inspected the exhibits in the galleries and wandered through the garden, now planted as it would have been in Roman times.

Our coach then took us to Bosham, where we ate our packed lunches overlooking the harbour and afterwards visited the church, where we saw the grave of King Canute's young daughter.

We spent the afternoon at Chichester Cathedral, where we gazed at the splendid architecture and heard something of its history. Of all the treasures seen the ones which most impressed our party were the lovely silver replica of St. Peter's Church in Brighton, the great tapestries of John Piper and the strange figures under the misericords in the choir.

*J.R.*

### VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On September the twenty-fourth a party of girls from the fifth form together with a few lower sixth set out to visit the Houses of Parliament.

After going through several security checks, we proceeded through Westminster Hall. It was very spacious in gothic style, and

it was one of the few parts of the building to survive the fires. We arrived in the Grand Committee Room, where we were shown a film strip on the work of Parliament. It was very interesting and informative. Next we were introduced to our guide, who gave us a conducted tour of both Houses. We noted the different coloured upholstery in each House — red for the House of Lords and green for the House of Commons. We discussed whether the House of Commons should be televised when in session. I had imagined the debating chambers to be of a larger size. The guide explained to us the use of the pigeon holes — they were individual letter-boxes for the M.P.s; consequently we were able to find the representative of our local constituency. We arrived back at Westminster Hall, and we were amused to learn that during the restoration of the oak rafters a tennis ball, presumably used by Henry VIII, was discovered; it was made of human hair.

*Catherine Woodthorpe, VD*

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

### SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

The Houses have continued to work hard this year to raise money for their own chosen charities. The forms gave particularly generously towards the Christmas boxes we give to elderly ex-employees of St. Mary's Hall and to some of the old people living in Kemp Town and we received warm letters of appreciation from some of them. The weekly visits to old people living near have continued and I would like to express appreciation of the faithfulness and the caring shown by the girls who give up their time to visit old people.

We have tried a new venture this year. Mrs. Ridge has organised a weekly visit by some sixth formers to St. Dunstan's, where they help by reading to the residents and chatting to them and we were so happy to see some of them attending the annual Carol Service and the Christmas Concert.

*K.W.G.*

### THE LIBRARIES 1985-6

St. Mary's Hall now has three distinct libraries: one for the Junior Department which contains approximately 1,000 non-fiction and 600 fiction; one for Forms I-III, the Middle School Library, which has approximately 3,500 reference and 900 fiction, and the Senior Library, chiefly for Forms IV, V and VI and the staff, with approximately 1,500 fiction and 11,000 reference books. Among the latter are about 500 books from the pre-World War II era, including the Bible presented "For Family Prayers" by the Founder and others bequeathed by him and early friends of the Hall. We have been fortunate to acquire in recent years a number of leather-bound School Prizes, which had been presented to Evelyn Odell, Charity Girdlestone and others.

Many people have been most generous in their gifts to the Library and among them this year are Mrs. H. Bland, Susanna Bryant, Lord Chalfont, Rosemary Drew, the Israeli Embassy, Miss Audrey Miller, Miss S. Morgan, Mrs. J. Needham, Juliet Parrish, Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Tummons and Naomi, Mrs. Woolliscroft. The books bequeathed by Irene Lawrence (a lovely collection) have now all been added to the Library.

The only sad note is the continued disappearance of stock, despite the efforts of the librarians to track down the culprits. It would commemorate the 150th Anniversary in a wonderful way if some of these missing books could be returned — anonymously if necessary! They must be somewhere!

During the year Deborah Kol has gained her Senior Librarian's Badge and there are several Fourth Formers also who are becoming excellent librarians. More girls than usual in Form V have continued with library work and their help is much appreciated. The Third Form librarians have worked hard to keep the Middle School library tidy and have repaired many books.

*L.J.B. and S.S.*

### RADIO SUSSEX FIRST CLASS QUIZ

St. Mary's Hall played Patcham Fawcett School on Wednesday 13th November, 1985 at home. Our team, which was a little less experienced this year, trained hard but regrettably lost 28-39. We look forward to greater success next year.

The team members were Angela Tebe, Minnie Black-James, Gemma Buckley and Christianne Ellison.

*H.K.T.B.*