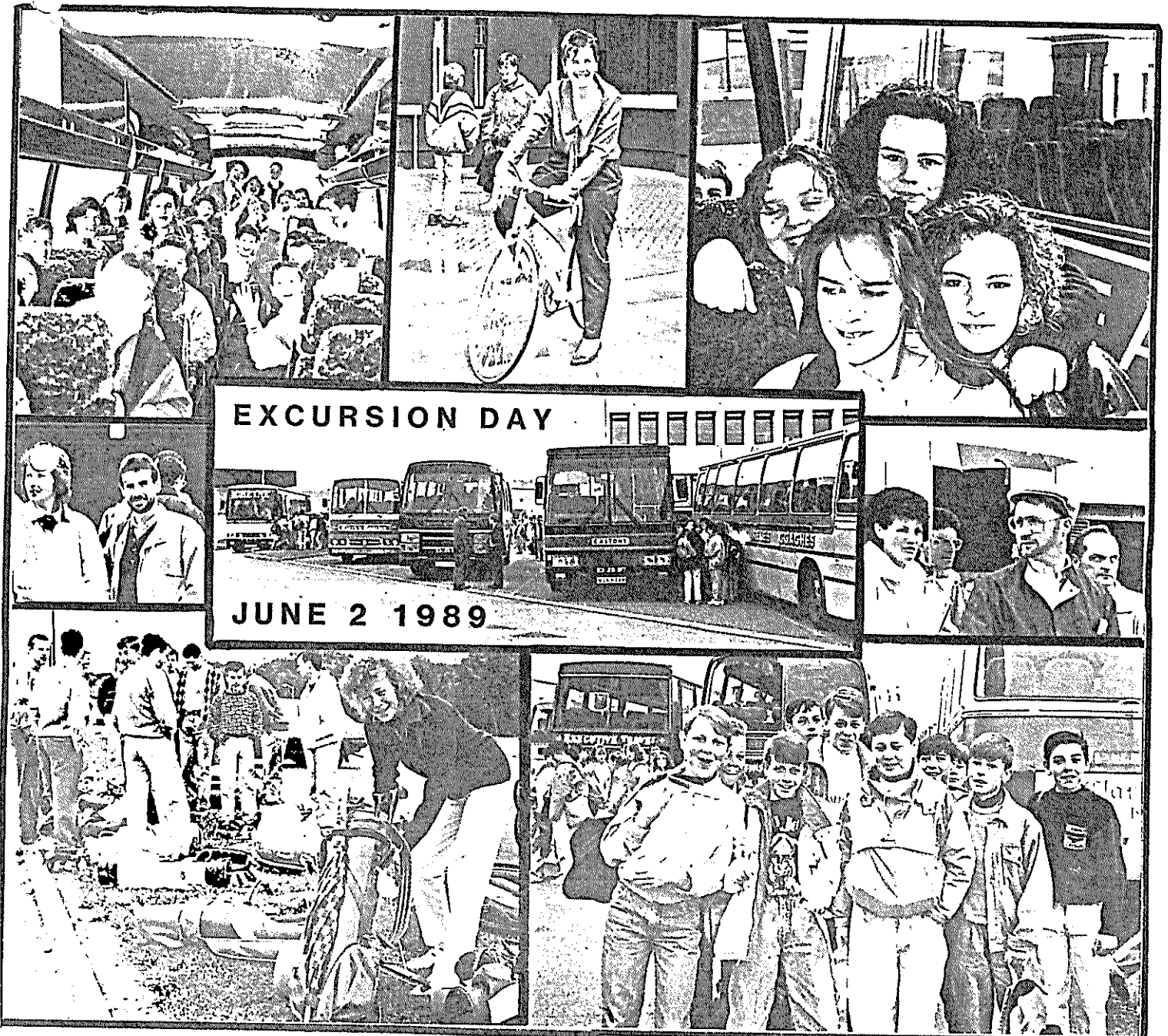


# UP D D Yce DATE Academy

JUNE 1989

ISSUE NO. 5

**E**xcursion Day - and fifteen buses (eventually!) set off for all parts of Scotland, for what turned out to be a most enjoyable day.



# COMMENT

The school has been featured in the local press on a couple of occasions in the last few weeks.

First, the P&J were interested in our attempt to attract advertisers for UPDATE and were keen to feature our first advertiser. He happened to be a local driving instructor, Ian who is well-known by many of our senior pupils.



I. discussing his advert with some of the editorial team (photograph by J. Palmer)

Malcolm Rifkind's visit to the school was featured in the EE. The particular focus of his visit was our work with industry and commerce for which we are well-known in educational and commercial circles. He took the opportunity to question staff, pupils and local industrialists about these activities.

I think we showed him that a state comprehensive school is capable of establishing a sound partnership with industrialists without compromising our educational principles. Any small success in educating a Government Minister about the high quality of state education must be helpful to our cause!

M. Rifkind discussing the work of a science class with a member of the Science Department (photograph by J. Palmer)

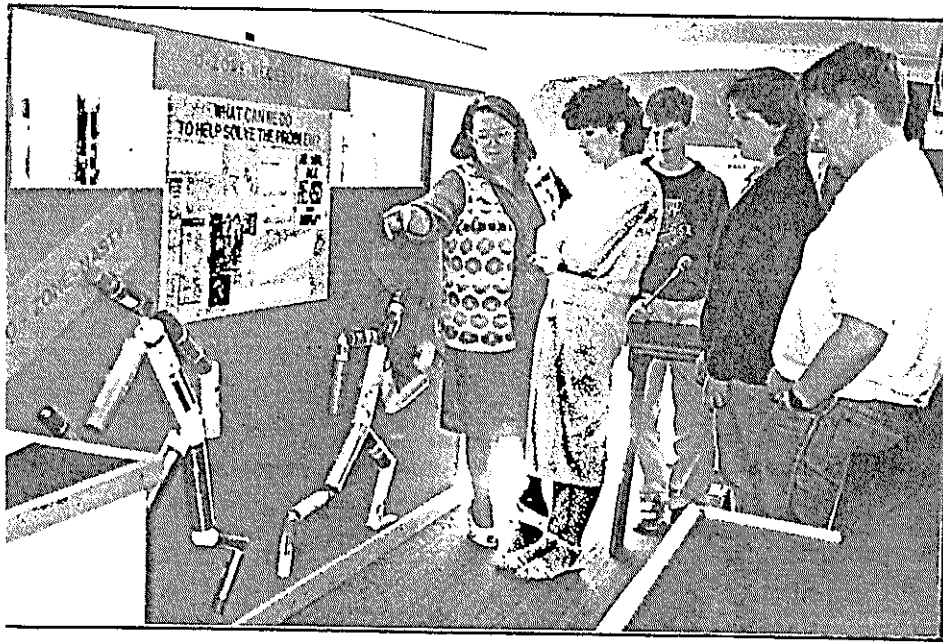
**GO**  
with  
**GLEN**  
DRIVING SCHOOL

Proprietor: Ian McLean  
tel: 0224 723112

We have succeeded in attracting a few adverts for this issue. Is anyone else interested? If so, write to the Editor, UPDATE, Dyce Academy.



# OZZONES



Dyce Academy pupils learn about Environmental Issues on the BP bus.

Work is progressing on the OzZones project in Environmental Education.

This project aims to increase pupils' awareness of a current global environmental issue - on a world-wide basis. We will be trying to find out the concerns and attitudes of people and authorities to the problem of ozone depletion and to compare and contrast these. Eventually we hope to construct an international database and from this to prepare a report which we can send back to schools in all the countries who send us information.

So far, we have been very busy making up information packs to send out to these schools. The countries involved so far are too numerous to list here - Israel, Norway, U.S.A., Peru, Belgium, Iceland - to name a few!

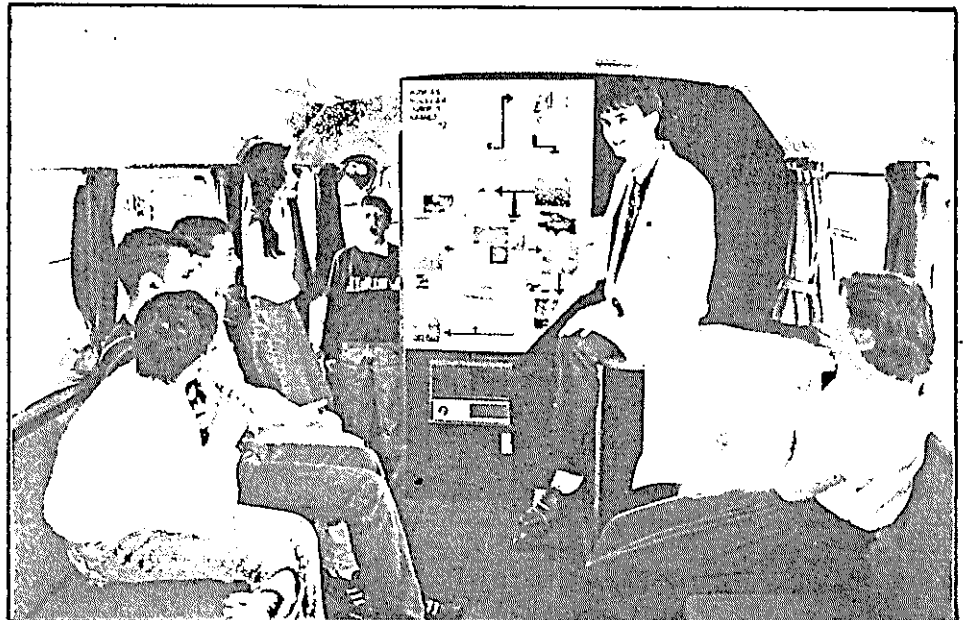
A questionnaire has been sent to each school so that the teacher and pupils can work together on its completion. We've also requested them to send us any relevant literature from their country.

It is very exciting to receive the completed questionnaires and work on the database will begin soon. We are using both conventional and electronic mail systems to make best use of our international contacts.

Senior pupils are involved in the filming and production of a video to further highlight this issue. It is hoped to complete this soon. A display of some of the pupils' work made up part of the exhibition on the BP community bus which we took to other schools in the area, hoping that Environmental Education projects might be initiated there at some time in the near future. It is hoped to display the work in the Dyce community library later in the year.

Pupils have enjoyed this project so far and look forward as much as I do to continuing correspondence with schools on a world-wide basis on a subject that affects us all.

Carol Park





## WEST COAST TRIP 1989

The West Coast Trip: ten days away from civilisation for a select band of two staff and twelve pupils, five alone in the West Coast Mountains, five on the sea in a 72 ft. sailing boat. When pupils sign up for the trip they are warned to be prepared for getting very tired carrying a heavy rucksack along mountain tracks, washing in cold mountain streams - or staying dirty! - fighting west coast midges and probably being seasick at least once. It's surprising anyone comes!

This year we were dropped by minibus at Achnashellach in Glen Carron on May 20 - the first very hot Saturday of the year. Before setting off into the mountains with our rucksacks we all changed into shorts and T-shirts. We set up camp in Coire Lair and for the next few days explored the mountains around in glorious sunshine. We had our own mountain lochan to swim in and our own peat bog for 'peat haggling'. This is a sport invented by Dyce which involves jumping - or trying to jump - from one peat hag to another without slipping and falling into the black soggy stuff in between!

After five days in the mountains we emerged at Loch Torridon for our rendezvous with 'Taikoo' - our floating home for the next five days. Before boarding, the Torridon shop was raided by a group of teenagers who had been 'shopless' for too long.

Once aboard, we quickly learned how to crew the boat under the expert guidance of the skipper and mates who also turned out to be good fun, pleasant company and excellent sing-song organisers. We sailed from Torridon to the Summer Isles off Ullapool. One particular uninhabited island experienced what was probably its first game of football on a flattish plateau above the sea. Then to Tarbert on Harris, across the Minch. We arrived at 11.15p.m. and, believe it or not, the pub was just closing.

The final long sail was from Harris to Rhum on which we were accompanied for part of the way by Dougal, a friendly fin-whale who was fed unwanted tatties. Then to Kyle and the train home, fourteen tired, sunburnt, very happy travellers, more than a little reluctant to return to civilisation.





# PROJECT BUSINESS

**P**roject Business forms part of the S3/4 General Studies programme, and involves industrialists coming into school to work with pupils. Here Neil Munro, of Rigblast, describes the experience.

When the scheme was first proposed, both Bruce Chisholm and I were immediately enthusiastic. It is important that those going through their education should have some real understanding of commerce and industry. I don't suppose that either of us truly understood the implications of 'teaching' since we had never received any formal training in this direction and our most recent experience was a number of years ago when we were at school.

During our introductory walkabout at Dyce Academy, it was significant that the teachers also seemed to be much younger than we could ever remember. The ladies were also prettier. Furthermore the bright, airy and well-equipped building housed groups of young people with greater initiative in that they were prepared to express views and weren't the least bit concerned when visitors intruded upon their classroom activities.

By comparison with our own experience, the whole atmosphere at Dyce Academy was much more relaxed although this did not in any way imply a lack of good behaviour or commitment to the task in hand.

So much for our first impressions. Then came the big day: we actually had

to face up to our commitment and try to put across an industrial viewpoint in terms of business economics. It was at this juncture in the proceedings that we very soon realised that the architectural layout of a classroom could adopt any shape or form that seemed to suit the style of either teachers or individual young people. Not the least bit disturbing - just different! Our audience must have viewed us much like visitors from another galaxy but, by and large, managed to hide their feelings.

As time progressed, we both felt that a relationship was established and that we could relate to our groups. We enjoyed their company and didn't view them as 'kids', but more participants in what we hope was an introduction to a different look at the world of industry. This was probably helped by the lack of formal uniforms since absolute regimentation would have made us feel like characters from a Dickensian novel. Generally, industry is just not like that!

And what about the teachers.... We commented earlier about their more obvious attributes; in addition, we were gratified at the welcome we were given before, during and after each session. Furthermore, we certainly learned, as the weeks went by, some of the tricks of the trade. Hopefully, by session 10 we were making more sense than at the very beginning.

In the final analysis, the most important point, it was great fun. Yes, thanks, we'd do it again!

Neil Munro and Bruce Chisholm

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## YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

**T**he local kirk is about to join what is a very select band of Scottish congregations, in that, by the middle of June, it will be able to call on the services of its own full-time youth minister. In fact, with the arrival of Michael and Lauren Saboff, Dyce Parish Church will acquire not one, but two full-time youth workers!

The Saboffs, a young Californian couple, plan to spend about fifteen months in Dyce, and in August, having taken some time to find their feet, they hope to launch a brand new programme for young people at the church.

Details are still to be finalised, but look out for information on: The

Saturday Club (S1-6), The Sunday Breakfast Club (S1-2), and the as yet unnamed group (S3 and above) which will meet on Sunday evenings.

Naturally, much of the Saboffs' work will be church-based, including their involvement with the newly-formed and youthful PRAISE BAND, who aim to promote contemporary forms of Christian worship, but both Michael and Lauren would welcome the opportunity to work in association with any school or youth organisation already established in our community.

For further information on these developments, please contact Ken McKenzie (724079).

# UP FOR TRANSFER

It's March and pupils' thoughts are on the approaching exams. For the staff a different ordeal is about to be faced: the transfer list. Every spring when staff quotas are announced schools have the task of targeting departments with excess staff. Teachers in these departments are then placed on the transfer list with a view to moving them to other schools who have vacancies. Teachers may within weeks find themselves in a school on the opposite of the city or may remain in their original school if no vacancy can be found.

We all know that the school roll is falling and that some staff will be transferred. The day before the Easter holidays numbers are confirmed: the school must lose six staff. I find myself as one of those with an appointment with the Head Teacher!

He is very kind and assures me that it is nothing personal, simply a matter of sums. From a roll of over 1000 pupils the main feeder primary has dropped to around 600 - less pupils coming into the Academy means less teachers required. "Be positive," everyone says. "One school is much like another." But are they? I fear not.

After a meeting with the Divisional Education Officer, arrangements are finalised. An immediate transfer is unlikely, so I will stay where I am - for the time being. My fellow transferees have their moves to other schools confirmed and begin to plan ahead. Meanwhile I must continue in uncertainty.

So it goes on - the ifs the buts and the maybes. Maybe Grampian Region will 'get wise' tomorrow and realise that smaller classes provide a solution to overstaffing: maybe.

Meanwhile the limbo continues, being here but no longer belonging.

Why worry? Everyone knows that one school is much like another; and yet...

## DIARY UPDATE

- June 23 : School visit to Craibstone
- June 24- : Environmental Education
- July 2 : Conference in Chicago
- June 29- : School trip to Switzerland
- July 7
- July 5 : Term ends
- August 21 : 1989/90 Session begins (Teachers only)
- August 22 : Term begins for teachers and pupils at 9a.m.
- October 9-13 : Holiday (dates inclusive)

GET YOUR SKATES ON  
 STENYWOOD ROAD PHONE 724454

**DYCE ICE RINK**  
 \* OPENING MID-AUGUST \*

EVERY FRIDAY 5pm - 10pm + SCHOOL HOLIDAYS  
 \* SATURDAY 10am - 10pm

\* SKATING \*  
 \* ICE DICEGO'S \*

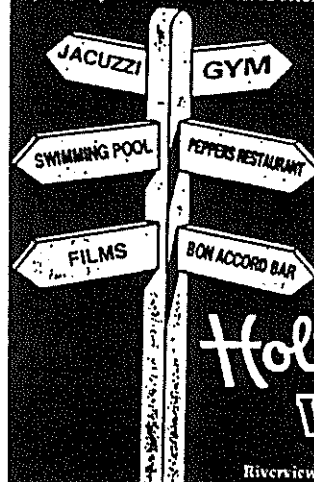
"COME ALONG THE ICE IS NICE AT DYCE"

£1.50 for 2HR SESSION; £1 SKATE HIRE

Many thanks to the Clydesdale Bank, Dyce who did not want to advertise but made a donation to our running costs.

## What are you doing this weekend?

If the prospect of mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon and washing the car on Sunday morning doesn't exactly fill you full of anticipation, why don't you give yourself a well-deserved break.



With either a "Family Weekender" where children under 19 stay free,\* or "Two's Company," where couples can enjoy a romantic "get away from it all" weekend. Just imagine one or two nights accommodation in a four star Holiday Inn with full breakfast. Plus use of all the facilities and entertainment offered by Aberdeen's leading hotel.

\* Children stay free if they share your room. Maximum 2 adults, 3 children per room.

**Holiday Inn®**  
**Weekender**

ABERDEEN  
 Riverview Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen AB20AZ

## SWIMMING

The first ever Scottish Schools Swimming Championships were held at Bellshill Pool on Saturday 10th June.

The senior team of Jennifer Mowatt, Ailsa Campbell, Lindsay Davidson and Jackie Buchan won gold medals in the Senior Medley and Front Crawl relays and silver medals in the Open Medley and Front Crawl relays.

The junior team of Claire McKenzie, Alison McKenzie, Vicki Rose and Karen Reid won the bronze medal in the S1 Girls Medley Relay.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to three of our students for recent achievements.

Duncan Taylor is the first Dyce Academy pupil to gain a place at the National Youth Theatre Summer School. Having auditioned with hundreds of young people from all over Great Britain he is one of the few to be offered the chance to spend two weeks in London during the summer holidays. He will then have the opportunity to return each year to participate in Youth Theatre activities. Duncan, who hopes to follow a career in the professional theatre, should find this a very valuable experience.

Nicola McWilliam has gained 34th equal place in this year's Aberdeen University Bursary Competition. More than 200 students entered the competition. Nicola is to study Chemistry aiming for B.Sc.(Hons) and the award means £125 per year.

Mary Smail is to be sponsored by BP to attend the International Youth Science Fortnight in London, from 26th July to 9th August. BP sponsor 20 places and for the fourth year running, a Dyce Academy student has been chosen. Previous representatives were Susan Critchlow (1986), Nicola Stewart (1987) and Matthew Nicol (1988).

## DYCE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAR

Many readers of UPDATE will be aware of the existence of the above car - there was a report in the last issue about the excellent concert which raised funds for the disabled transport in the area.

The car is now being used quite heavily, particularly during the day, to transport people who have difficulty using public transport or who are physically disabled. However, the whole scheme is dependent upon the services of our volunteer drivers and while we already have quite a number, further expansion of the service will be limited unless we can add more. The car is an adapted Ford Escort and the actual driving is not any different from the ordinary Escort and demonstrations of the way to load and unload wheelchairs are given to new drivers.

So, do you have the occasional free morning, afternoon or evening at any point in the week? If you do we would ask you to consider joining our pool of drivers. Whether you want to drive quite frequently or only once a month we would like to hear from you - any contribution of your time will be of value.

If you feel able to volunteer please write to or phone: David Montgomerie, Dyce Academy, Riverview Drive, Dyce.

## Young VIDEO

*Weddings  
Christenings  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries*

No Event Too Large  
No Occasion Too Small

Phone Liz Young  
Inverurie 22889.

# WIGGINS TEAPE MURAL



Before.....

Some months ago the school was approached by Stan Johnstone of Wiggins Teape Stationery in Dyce to become involved in the production of a mural to be painted at the factory. The Art and Design department in school was brought in at this stage to discuss and plan the proposed mural using pupils' drawing and design ideas. Two second year groups (2AB1 and 2CD2) were selected to be involved. Visits were arranged when the pupils were able to tour the factory observing all that was going on, picking up many ideas, not to mention envelopes and stickers.

The wall selected for the mural, although interrupted by a variety of pipes, doors and windows, was prominent from the various work stations of the factory. Back in class pupils got busy developing ideas from initial rough sketches, notes and from photographs taken on the visit into finished colour designs. Most work was individual although some pupils worked in small groups.

At about this stage in the project Stan Johnstone and Dick Bartlett, the artist who was to paint the mural, visited the school to check progress

and to encourage the pupils. The other class teacher, Mrs. Headworth, and myself now had the task of incorporating as much of the pupils' work into a final design as was possible.

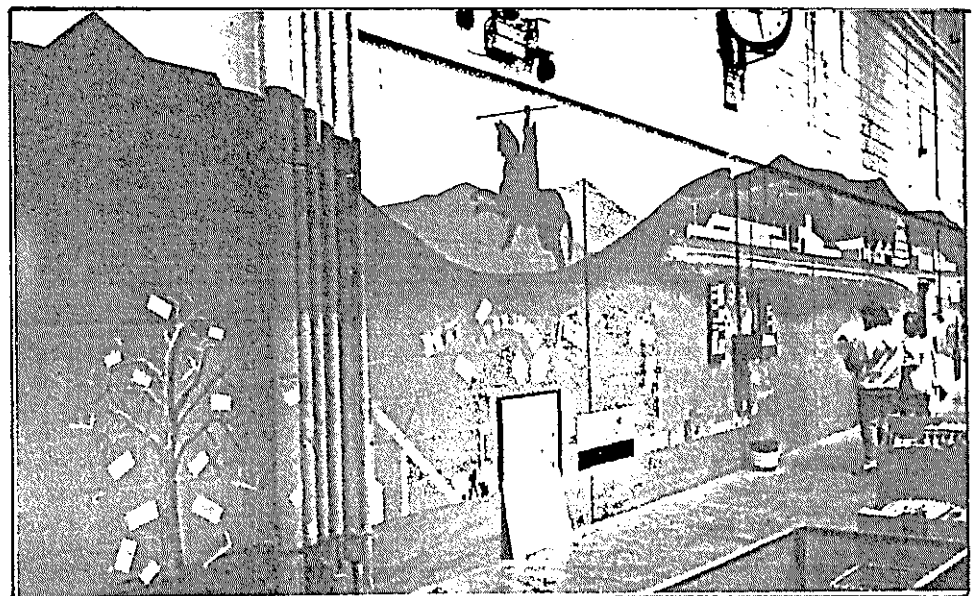
Meanwhile, Mr. Bartlett's Aberdeen city skyline was taking shape on the factory wall. A large section of the remaining space was allocated for the pupils' contribution. On the pupils' following visit they were able to see the progress which had been made on the painting, the areas of their own work particularly impressing them, although some expressed the thought that their artwork could have been bigger and brighter.

This link with local industry has been of great interest to pupils and staff alike and we would hope to be involved with similar creative projects in the future - local firms please note.

The official unveiling took place earlier this month. Let's hope the workers don't find it too distracting but indeed a great improvement.

David Niven

.....After





# HEARTSTART

Over the last few months several of the Academy's teaching and non-teaching staff have been shedding pounds in a variety of ways in order to raise pounds for the Heartstart Campaign.

Swallowing pride instead of doughrings and yum-yums our sponsored slimmers lost a fair tonnage, raising the fine figure of £60.

Their achievement is indeed respectable and the rumour is that at

least one of the team has been approached by a major 'Clubbie' company to model swimwear for next summer's catalogue - the only problem is that it's one of the male slimmers!

Losing weight in a different way was Kenny McIntosh of the English Department who competed in the Aberdeen Marathon and raised £32 for Heartstart.

Congratulations go to all of the above.



Sculptor Alison demonstrates her work to Dyce Academy pupils at the Aberdeen Art Gallery Mobile Exhibition.

## LOCAL HISTORY

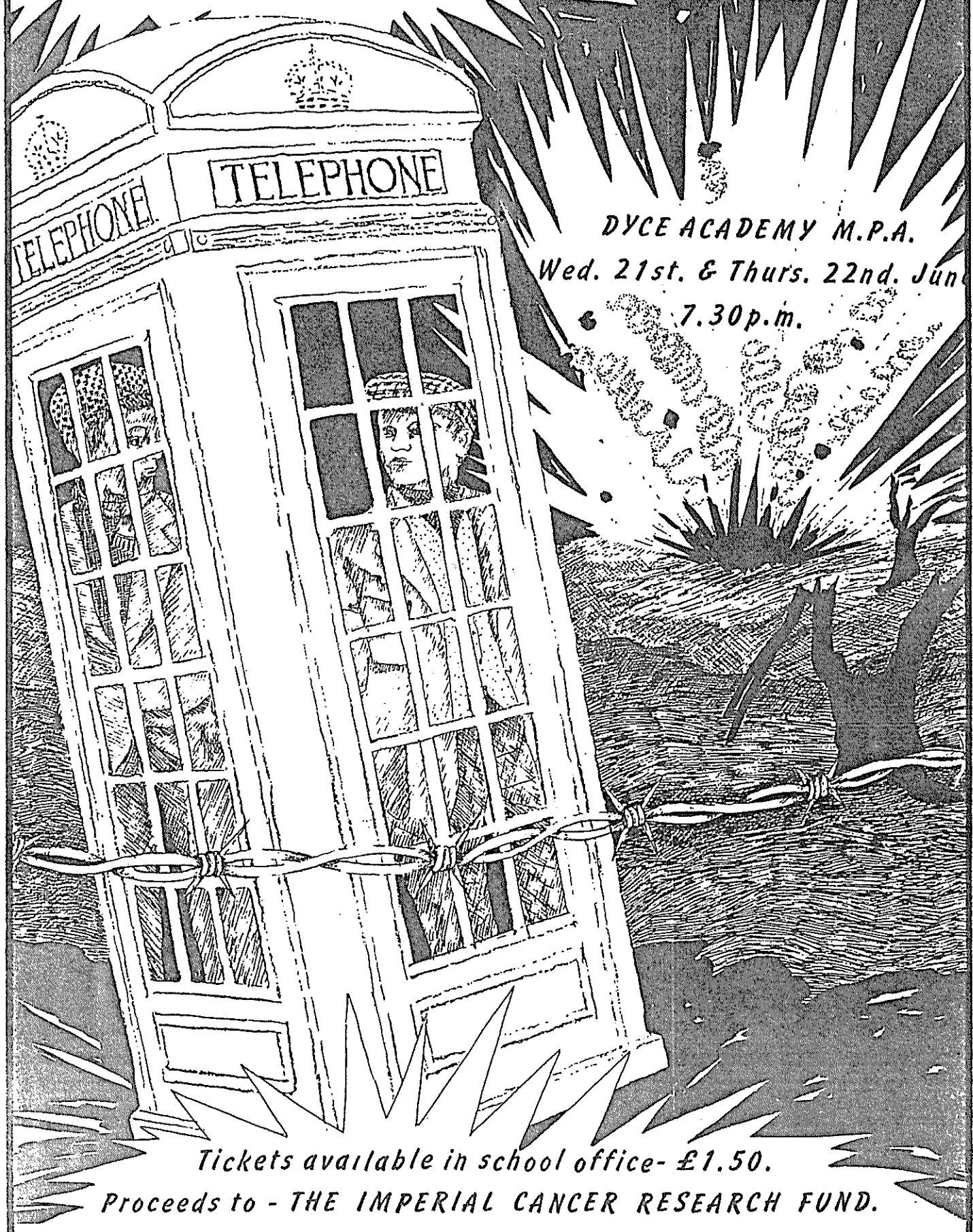
**H**ave any of your family lived in Dyce for many years?

I am at present researching for a booklet on the history of Dyce and would welcome any information, source material, old bills, documents, photographs, etc. relating to the parish's past.

Any material I receive will be well looked after and returned to owners after use.

If you can help, please contact Val Moir, P.T. History, Dyce Academy, as soon as possible.

*Dyce Academy presents.....  
THE RETURN OF SANDY AND WULLIE.....  
(A Song and Dance Revue).*



*DYCE ACADEMY M.P.A.  
Wed. 21st. & Thurs. 22nd. Jun  
6 7.30p.m.*

*Tickets available in school office- £1.50.  
Proceeds to - THE IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND.*