

# UpDyce to Academy

Issue No 26

A CULLEN DIARY

JUNE

May 1992

THE S1 RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE



WEDNESDAY 10 June

Got off to a good start. Slight delay, Joyce forgot medicine, Mr Brady went to collect it. Mr Brady's car was laden with trays and trays of shepherd's pie. Settled in fine. No baked potatoes yet.

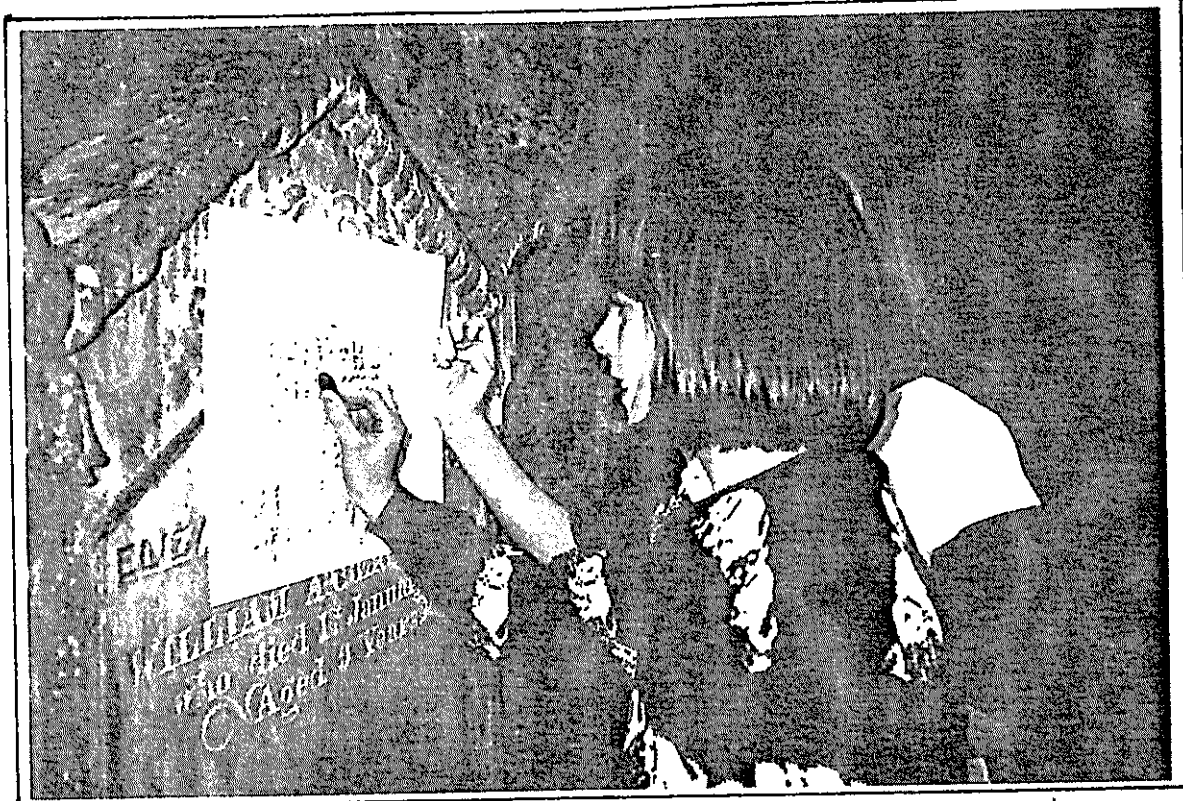
THURSDAY 11 June

Paul exhausted, no sleep from boys snoring.

ART TRAIL : Seniors built the most amazing sandcastle that the bay of Cullen has ever seen!! Adoring P7s totally drenched Paul.

CLIFF WALK EXPEDITION : Lovely day. Pamela climbed the cliff with the use of only one hand with Miss Smith firmly and hysterically attached to the other (no exaggeration!). On returning from cliff walk, we discovered Grace slaving over a hot stove. With educated guess work, Pamela and Grace "made?" macaroni sauce. Then Pamela left Grace to serve 24 ravenous, screaming pupils. Went through several gallons of orange juice because of Mr Brady's "slightly" salted garlic bread.

CRACK THE CULLEN CLUES : Mrs Headworth set off fourth and managed to arrive at the destination at least half an hour after everyone else. Also a chance for seal spotting, a rare sight in the waters of Cullen.



## IN THE CHURCHYARD

**EVENING :** Once P7s settled down for night, a number of confessions from Mr Brady. The only one we can dare to mention here is the fact that Mr Brady could be seen strolling around Aberdeen sporting shoulder length hair and a pair of maroon flares with a yellow zig-zag down the side.

**FRIDAY 12 June**

The girls' dorm was spick-and-span by **EIGHT O'CLOCK** due to the excellent organisational skills of Rachel.

### PRIZE WINNERS

The winning groups were -  
Orange First and Green Second.

**PS :** Mrs Headworth's sneaky double ice-creams.

Paul's natural teaching ability.

Although outside there was glorious weather, we had torrents of tears from one homesick P7.

One P7 (who will remain nameless) actually thought that the Inverness road sign was put up by the seniors specially for the "Crack the Cullen Clues".

**PAUL, PAMELA, GRACE AND RACHEL**

## BASKETBALL

Although the U-15 league season is over, it is still unclear who has won, but Dyce must have a reasonably strong chance of being up there near the top. Unfortunately, at the end of term, we lose more than three-quarters of the regular team players, as most will have turned 16, or left school for employment. This will, though, mean that the younger players now have a chance of finding a more regular place in the team.

Basketball club will continue next session and although they may be too old for U-15, I hope the older players will still attend - they are a keen bunch of pupils and if the U-17 league is formed, will no doubt want to resume regular matches!

Leading scorers from this session are :

James Caird	104	points
Craig Wilson	74	"
Stuart Douglas	73	"
Mark Tewnion	52	"
Gordon Orr	40	"

**ANNE McINTOSH**



Margaret, the only remaining founder member of Dyce Academy's Maths Department, has decided to retire at the end of this term. Margaret has enjoyed a long and successful career, having taught in many schools - notably the old Girls' High School (now Harlaw Academy) and Northfield Academy, prior to coming to Dyce.

Pupils will remember Mrs Martin as a strict and awesome character, but as one who always had their best interests at heart. She had her own particular style of maintaining discipline which was well recognised both by pupils and staff alike.

Both staff and pupils will have their own particular memories of Mrs Martin. One Excursion Day saw her accompanying, along with other members of staff, a large group of pupils to Loch Ness. Any jokes about sighting a monster, in or out of the boat, were quickly quashed!

Sadly, ill health has meant a long spell of absence this session. Margaret looks forward to a long and happy retirement at Ballater. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

## FESTIVAL OF RUNNING

On Saturday 16 May, Duthie Park, Aberdeen, was the venue for the Aberdeen Festival of Running. Although the sun was shining, there was a bitterly cold wind and it was perhaps this which kept onlookers away - quite a poor turn out, considering the calibre of athletes present.

Steve Cram ran the mile course with around 500 runners of all ages and abilities. Next on the agenda was the men's mile, where Peter Elliott just beat the European 1500m champion, Italian, Gennaro Di Napoli. In the ladies' mile, Tatyana Dororstikh, of the CIS, beat Kirsty Wade to come home first.

Perhaps the best race of the day was the 5km. Moses Tanui, who had made a 5000 mile journey from Nairobi at the last minute, put in an amazing display of style and speed, and won easily against a strong field. Britain's strongest challenge in this race came from Eammon Martin.

All in all, an exciting day's entertainment, and if the cold wind was too much to bear, BBC Grandstand showed the 'big races' live!

ANNE MCINTOSH

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

At the recent Aberdeen Music Festival, three of our pupils were competing in the string sections.

Grace Rayner (S2) won the U-12 viola solo class, whereas Sarah Moir (S3) and Laura Gairdner (S3) both did well in the U-16 and U-14 viola classes.

Various pupils have just sat their piano exams with either 'Trinity College' or 'Associated Board' - their results should be published soon.

# WHAT'S ON

Here are just a few of the things you might like to get involved in over the summer holidays.

## SPORT

THINK SPORT TRY SPORT July/August

All kinds of sports coaching and activity - climbing, abseiling, windsurfing, kayaking, horseriding, orienteering, tennis, athletics, football, rugby, badminton and hockey. Either FREE or £2/£1 maximum cost. See noticeboard outside gym for details, or telephone 276276 Ext 2489 for more information.

## FOOTBALL COACHING

Details from Aberdeen Football Club Pittodrie. Tel. 632328

## ART WORKSHOPS

### SCULPTURE AND MODELLING

Building large objects sets and props including seige machines, mythical beasts, battlements and ancient dwellings which will then be used in a community play. Westburn Park House 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, 20 - 24 July. FREE. More details Tel. 276276 Ext 2080/2082

## THEATRE

CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP 29 - 31 July  
MUSIC HALL

Have a shot at Circus Skills with the Magic Carpet Theatre Group. Tickets £3.50/£2.50 from Aberdeen Box Office.

## SATURDAY DRAMA WORKSHOPS

Aberdeen Arts Centre 9.15-10.30 am and 2.00-3.30 pm. £1 per session - pay at the door.

## DANCE

### CITY MOVES OPEN DAY

All kinds of dance for the over 14s. Cowdray Hall 10.00 am - 6.00 pm  
£1 admission. Tel. 646333 for Advance Booking.

# NATIONAL SWIMFIT WEEK



By the time this article is read, at least a dozen staff will have swum a mile in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Swimming Development Fund.

When Joyce Giles (Senior Teacher, English Department) suggested the staff should actively participate in this event, she was met by derisive laughter, but she still sent for sponsorship forms.

The staff were encouraged to 'train' for the event and so many staff took this seriously that the pool became rather crowded and it was suggested that the staff swim in two loops (but most preferred swimming costumes). The staff were divided on this issue and so it was abandoned (not the swimming costumes). The staff were united in their refusal to allow a photograph to be taken of them during a training session! (Isn't life depressing enough?).

Meantime nearly all the staff have doubled their rate of swimming and even before the swim has taken place have been pleased with the support of colleagues and pupils.

Scan the next issue for an 'update' of the money raised.

K MORRISON

# HENRY MOORE COMES TO DYCE



Put more precisely -  
"3-D Construction : An Exploration of  
Form, Natural and Man-made".

The purpose of the course is to engage the pupils in constructing several forms using a variety of materials. It should enable the pupils to explore elements of form including texture and pattern, height and depth, mass and space, and provides the opportunity to develop constructional skills using paper, card, plaster and clay.

The aim of the course is not to produce budding Michelangelos or Henry Moores, although who knows? But, to encourage the pupils to enjoy a 'hands-on' approach to experiment with and create 3-D constructions with a natural or man-made theme.

We are all familiar with large immovable statues in public places, both in and out of doors - as well as smaller works in galleries, offices and even in homes. Like other cities, Aberdeen has its share of these public monoliths usually of famous people, often royalty and usually dead! As for Dyce the war memorial is the only obvious man-made piece of sculpture which in some ways echoes the standing stone circle erected by our forebearers

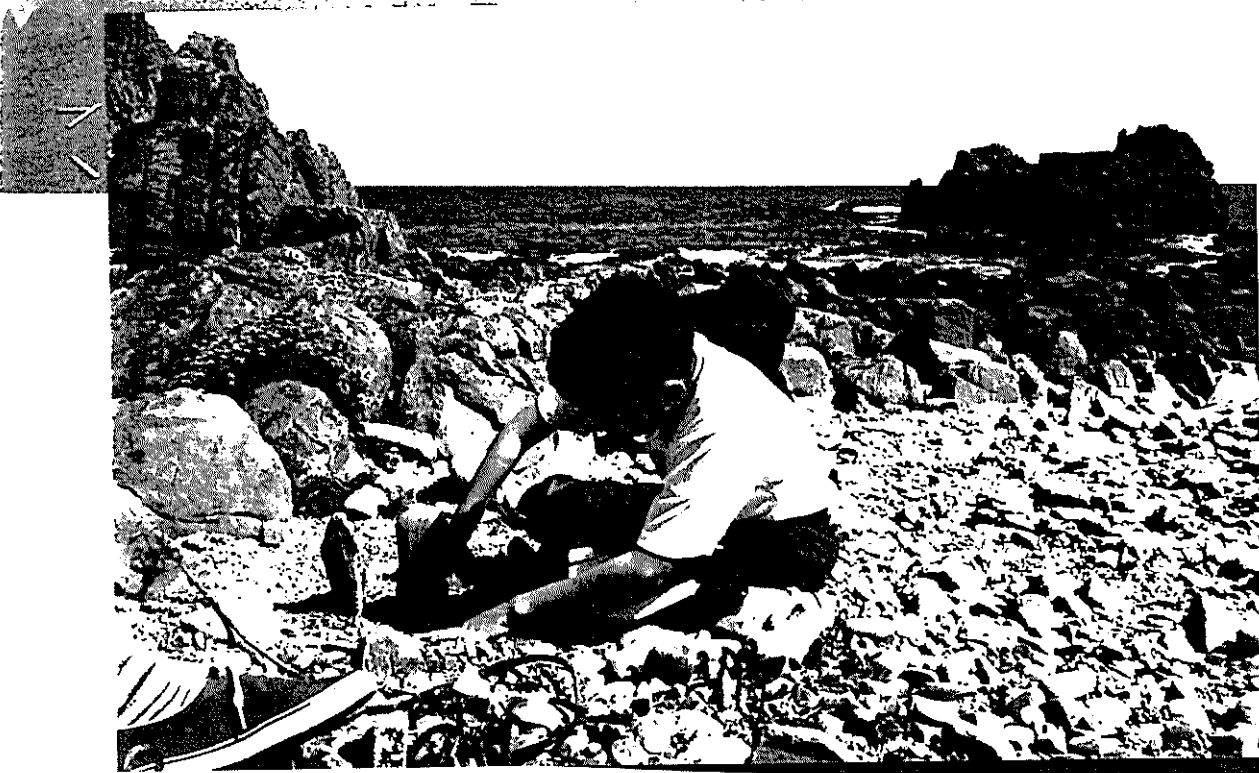
on the hillside above Kirkhill some 2-3 thousand years ago. That apart, we have groups of large lumps of stone arranged in a rather haphazard manner around the school and other parts of town. This owes more to JCB power than the art of sculpture. There is just the chance that if the 'Airport Garden' project is resurrected, some 'created' sculpted pieces of pupils' work may appear there in the future.

As it is, we hope to have the pupils visit the Sculpture Department at Gray's School of Art; there to get inspiration and ideas from both students and staff.

Furthermore, we are also fortunate to have the Scottish Sculpture Workshop quite close by at Lumsden, so a visit to see some international sculptors at work will be of great interest. We hope to arrange some direct help and advice from both of these local centres and to have the pupils work with a sculptor on a regular basis.

All in all this short course offers interesting possibilities into what is an unusual but intriguing art form. Let's hope the pupils benefit from and enjoy the many options available to them.

# CULLEN COLLAGE



# LANGUAGES FOR ALL

This session, all third year pupils at Dyce Academy will study a modern foreign language. So what, you may ask? The fact is that, until fairly recently, only about one fifth of all Scottish pupils were successful in modern languages examinations in fourth year.

So why make everyone continue with a modern language? Obviously, the pattern has changed considerably with the advent of Standard Grade courses, designed to provide syllabuses and assessments for a much wider range of pupil requirements. The majority of pupils in the current third year are following Standard Grade courses in French or German or both.

The school also recognised, however, that it was important to offer parents and pupils maximum choice and flexibility in selecting courses for S3/S4. Some pupils, therefore, have opted for 'short courses'. In modern languages, there are the modular courses certificated by Scotvec. In the present session, German I and French II are being offered. (At the moment, German is not offered until S3). It is hoped that these courses, which have a small vocational input, will be stimulating and offer pupils the success they were perhaps previously denied.

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Grant ... an ex-pupil of Dyce Academy, who has been named as 'Apprentice of the Year' in Grampian and Tayside by the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust.

Well done, Grant!

make everyone study a foreign language?

It is important to be realistic. No one expects Britain's mixed record in foreign languages to be transformed overnight. It is surely reasonable, however, to expect that, in the years ahead, all young people will have a basic social competence in at least one European language other than English. The supremacy of English as an international language is unchallenged. This does not mean, however, that there will be any less demand for personnel with, for example, basic communication skills in a foreign language. The role of Europe and the Single Market may still seem vague, but already almost two dozen senior pupils from Grampian have experience of work placements in France and Germany. Small numbers so far, but things do seem to be moving in a certain direction. In addition to its traditional academic role, languages will need to be relevant in a social and vocational context.

All of this creates challenges not only for pupils but also for the staff delivering these courses. Our principal aim is to encourage the pupils' self-confidence in their communication skills. This is only done effectively with relatively small learning groups which have access to good materials and equipment. In these respects, we feel we have got off to a good start.

DONALD THOMSON

PRINCIPAL TEACHER (MODERN LANGUAGES)

In the photograph (l - r) :

Ron ... (SECTT Training Officer),  
Mike ... Grant ... Colin ...  
(Electrical Services), Gilbert ...

# DYCE NETBALL CLUB

As the Netball season draws to an end, Dyce can look back on a fairly successful year. The school club which started off with about 30 juniors and 12 seniors has gradually dwindled to about 10 of each. However, the club has done well to stay together, considering they have been without a coach in school for the last six months.

The senior team finished runners-up to Westhill Academy in the School League, and also in the Senior Tournament held at Torry Academy in February. Next season sees the senior team lose Emma Golder as she leaves to take up a job in a nursery, but we hope to find a replacement with the same keen eye for goals that Emma displayed.

The junior team which last year consisted only of S1 girls bravely lost to a very experienced team of S3 girls from Hazlehead and combined S2/3 teams from Ellon and Albyn, but emerged victors over Torry and Robert Gordon's. In the S1 tournament held at the end of last year, Dyce II were runners-up in their section, losing only to Dyce I who went on to win the tournament. Dyce II came third following a close match to decide third and fourth place. Hopefully, if we can keep the dedication and enthusiasm of this team as they move into S2 and S3, we should have an excellent junior team in the next two years.

The school association next year are proposing to continue with both Junior and Senior Leagues and we hope to start a friendly league for S1 girls. In addition to this there will be tournaments for S1, S2/3 and seniors held throughout the year.

Congratulations go to Helen Anderson, Arwena Valentine (S5), June Stewart and Laura Park (S4) who were all picked for the Under-16 Aberdeen District squad, playing in two tournaments in Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Helen and Laura also passed the district preliminary umpiring course and can now umpire matches in the Adult League, much to the pleasure of the team coach who has had to umpire all the matches allocated to Dyce so far this season.

Our first year in the Adult League was probably the most disappointing. In the first half of the season the team lost to a few teams, including Porlethen, Newmachar and Kemnay. This was due more to these teams fielding older, more experienced players and at times inexperienced umpires, rather than the Dyce team having poorer players.

However, the girls showed great determination and in the second half of the season they managed to win a few matches, most recently beating Ernest & Young, who are in a higher division, and Newmachar who were soundly beaten 24-16, putting them into the semi-final of the Summer Plate competition.

Next season we are hoping to enter two teams into the adult league and now that the coach has produced the year 2002's Junior team centre, training on Monday nights will restart and we envisage the club going from strength to strength.

The photograph shows the S1 Tournament winners.

From L-R Back Row : Pauline Duncan, Vicky Veitch (Captain), Donna Cowie, Louise Fraser.

From L-R Front Row : Adele Catto, Casey Cargill, Yvonne Strachan.

Finally, we must once again thank Mrs Golder for her untiring support and assistance in transporting the girls to various matches, especially the 50-mile round trip venues.

AUDREY INNES

