

Up Dyce to Academy

ISSUE NO 27

SEP 1992

SUMMER BALL

On Friday 19 June, this year's annual end-of-term ball was held at the Skean Dhu Hotel, Dyce. It is a joint Dyce and Rankhead occasion for senior and former pupils and members of staff. It has always been seen as a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and former classmates and generally have a good time.

The poor, harassed organisers began worrying a few weeks before the date that the numbers weren't enough to justify a game of five-a-sides, let alone a Ball. These concerns were, for Amanda and Kerry, accompanied by nightmares that they were at the Ball, dancing by themselves. And so began the last minute phone calls to inform friends, "YOU WILL GO TO THE BALL". Luckily, in the last week, the numbers began to soar before Amanda was reduced to her Fairy Godmother costume and we were glad to have to increase the order with the Skean Dhu in the last week.

The night itself turned out to be a great success; it emerged that the fears of no one turning up couldn't have been further from the truth. There was an invasion of people who simply turned up on the night hoping to get in, many of whom had left school, some as long ago as four or five years. We were disappointed to see that no teachers made an appearance despite personal invitations, but this didn't spoil the fun of all the pupils.

It was a great time to meet friends that hadn't been seen for years and see everyone dressed up - ballgowns and kilts did not go unnoticed!

Photographers had a busy time when many anonymous people could be seen dancing to those trendy songsters, ABBA, and still dancing when Grease came on.

The raffle was great for raising more money and providing a laugh at a few inappropriate winners, eg Kerry won two prizes but offered them for re-affle; the chocolates were won by a girl on a diet; and the free driving lessons were won by a boy who had been driving for two years.

But despite all this it turned out to be a very enjoyable night and all the profits went to The Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital. Finally, special thanks are due to:

Art Director	.....	Alan Digweed
Musical Director	.....	Kevin Fenton
Lambada Instructors	...	Nicola McKessar Ashley Wood
Producer	.....	Kerry Walker
Director	.....	Amanda Whittle
Dialogue Coach	.....	Irene's
Posters drawn by	.....	Jackie Reid
Pension drawn by	.....	Mrs Martin
Paper stolen from	.....	Business Studies Department

Jackie Reid

DYCE ACADEMY MCMXCII

WATERSPORTS:

LES TAMARIS JULY 1992

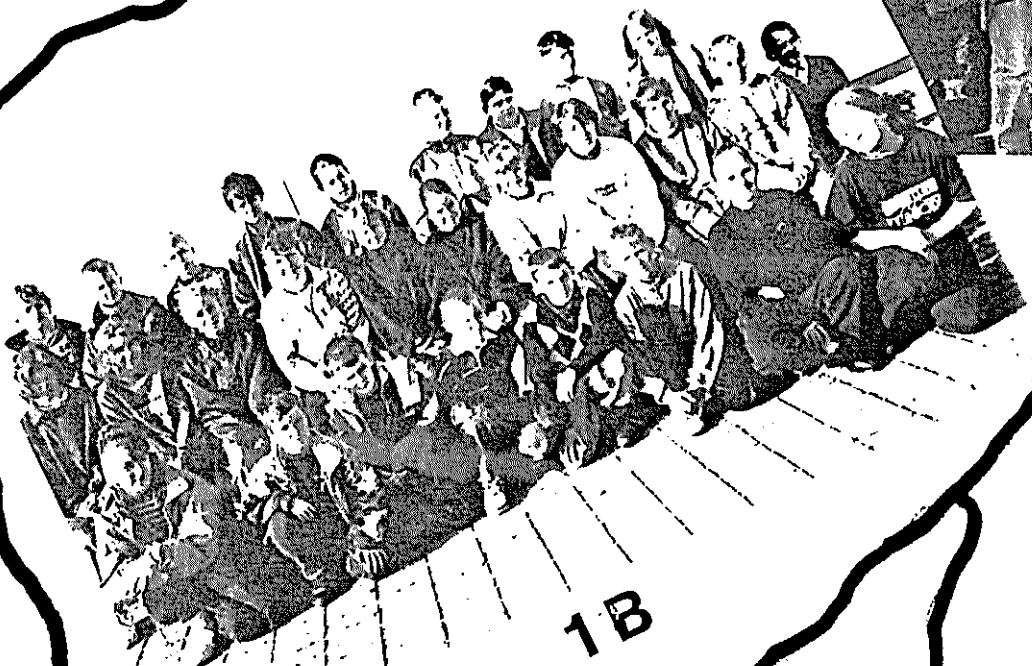
On Saturday 4 July at 6.30 am, 30 pupils and 4 teachers set off on what was to be a 40-hour journey to our destination - Les Tamaris on the 'sunny' Med.

When we finally arrived in Calais we were informed by our drivers that we might be forced to turn back due to the lorry driver blockades. Fortunately, this never happened, although we did get stopped at the blockades around the town where the French Grand Prix was to be

CONT P2



1A



1B



FACES!



1C



1D



1E

held that day. Thankfully the lorry drivers were allowing parties of school children to pass through.

Eventually we arrived, after taking the scenic route, at about 10.30 pm on Sunday, to be met by a bunch of groupies dressed as hippies. We were exhausted and just wanted to collapse into our beds. After a quick meal, we were shown



to our 'five star accommodation'. This consisted of a tent and 4 mattresses. How basic? Yep, well basic!! We have to point out that the teachers couldn't handle roughing it and spent the week in luxury tents - fridges, lights, real beds, tables, chairs and plenty of refreshments!

After a short introduction to the sports on the Monday morning, we were raring to go and try for ourselves. During the week we did windsurfing, topper sailing, wave canoeing, boogie boarding and various beach games. The sailors and instructors made sure we felt safe and had fun at all times.

At Black Sands Bay we went snorkelling, sunbathed and had time to take photos of the amazing view of the bay from above.

Most evenings we had a disco where our dancing skills were put to the test. Mr Bruce and his offbeat dancing was the highlight of the night and he proved to be a versatile dancer when he showed his skills at Highland dancing in the talent show.

The week came to an end all too quickly - but we have our factor 15 sunblock packed ready for July next year!

FIONA BUCHAN and GILLIAN KING

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Two parties from Dyce Academy descended on this year's Edinburgh Festival. It's rewarding to see a high degree of return business! The highlights this year were visits to Communicado's "Cyrano de Bergerac", Avner the Eccentric and comedian Paul Merton. Half the students' party (being more civilised than the staff) opted for the James Pryde exhibition in the Gallery of Modern Art. This was a rare chance to see a neglected (and talented) Scottish painter.

As always, the accommodation at Pollock Halls proved to be more than adequate and there was a heartening increase in audience numbers this year. It's amazing how much can be packed into a 2½ day trip - some students managed to see seven shows!

Weatherwise our luck held once again. The sun seems to shine on the righteous and Dyce Academy Festival-goers. My only disappointment is that the outrageous American comedienne, Thea Vidale, did not make a beeline for Mr Young who (obviously petrified) hid behind several female members of staff. The Festival trip has become something of an institution. I look forward to next year's cultural orgy!

M HARDIE

CONGRATULATIONS...

.... go to some more ex-pupils who have successfully completed courses in Higher Education :

Jacqueline Buchan -
Graduate Diploma in Physiotherapy, RGIT

Diane Frew -
BSc (Hons) in Biological Science,
Napier College, Edinburgh

Ruaridh MacLure -
BSc (Hons, Lower 2nd Class) in Geology,
University of St Andrews

Jennifer Moncur -
Graduate Dipoma in Radiography, RGIT

Warren Wattie -
BSc in Quantity Surveying, RGIT

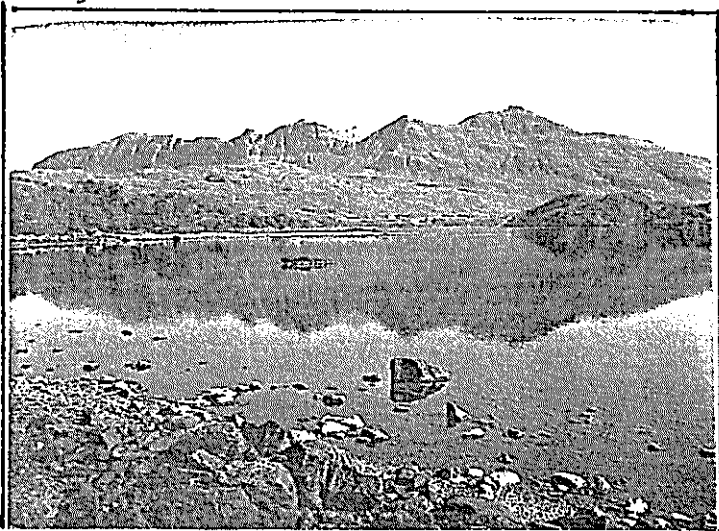
WEST COAST TRIP

The walking part of the West Coast Trip this year took place in one of the few wilderness areas left in Scotland - Assynt in the North West. We risked the visit in late June when the midges have usually become very active. We were lucky: it was windy and fairly cool so they didn't really appear.

Our main base was to be at the site of a small bothy called Suileag to the south of Loch Assynt. As there was more than one minibus load, we split the party into two groups for travelling. The advance party discovered that the bothy couldn't be reached by the planned route because of a rather swollen and, therefore, impassable burn. They wasted an hour walking in the pouring rain because of this. They then had to walk for another hour or so with the rest of the party to get into the bothy by a different route. To add to this rather bad start, we found on reaching the bothy that the flat land in the area that I remembered from a visit some years ago, didn't exist! We had to use some ingenuity to find room for our tents. We only partly succeeded so this was used as an excuse for the ladies in our group to sleep in the bothy.

Things went much better for the rest of the time. We spent three nights at the site and had some very good days walking in reasonable weather. On the first of these we climbed Suilven, one of Scotland's most spectacular mountains. On the other we climbed another nearby mountain, Canisp, returning via a typical north west wilderness of lochans, bog and heather, giving us scope for some good navigation practice.

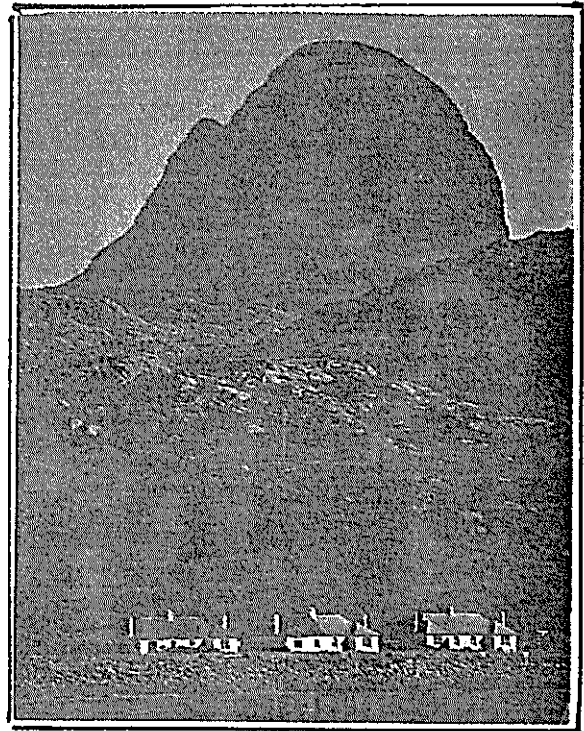
The group then divided. One section undertook an interesting expedition as a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme practice. The rest of us moved our camp to near Quinag - another mountain to climb. All in all, a very enjoyable few days with a very enthusiastic group of pupils from 2nd to 6th year who walked very well together.



QUINAG

The sailing part of the expedition started from Ullapool. The 72 ft ketch 'Taikoo' was to be our home for five days and we were to act as crew. The skipper's plans were quite ambitious - to circumnavigate Lewis and Harris. The weather had other ideas!

Fairly soon after leaving Ullapool, a number of the crew started to go strange shades of green and to make funny moaning noises. Because of this, we didn't go very far on the first day - just up the coast to Lochinver. The heavy weather was still around on the next day but we nevertheless managed to cross The Minch to Stornoway but not without a few more of the crew feeling a little unwell.



SUILVEN & LOCHINVER

By the following day, just about everyone was beginning to get their sea legs so we were able to cope with the heavy weather a little better and had a really good sail from Stornoway to Gairloch. On the last day, we sailed from Gairloch back to Ullapool.

The strong winds and heavy seas meant that we didn't experience ideal sailing conditions; we only had all the sails of the boat up once. On the other hand, it was very exciting for those who were well enough to enjoy it which did include everyone, at least for some of the time.

As crew the pupils did an excellent job. They learned very quickly how to sail the boat and, just as important, how to prepare food that was worth eating.

Plans are already well advanced for next year's trip. The expedition will probably include walking on Harris in the Western Isles and sailing around the Northern Isles.

WHAT A SCORCHER-

HOT DOGS AND HIGH JINKS

AT AMNESTY BARBECUE

The barbecue of the year took place (finally!) at Balmedie beach on the evening of 3 September. North-East fire units were alerted as Mr Ferguson QUICKLY AND SPECTACULARLY got the charcoal glowing and Mrs Masson showed a deft touch with hamburgers, sausages and rolls which were soon toasting nicely. An excellent menu, with vegetarians thoughtfully catered for, was rapidly devoured, and this was followed by a twilight wander over the dunes and a seaside game of rounders. As you'd expect, all the usual cheap tricks were used against the batting side: new rules were invented, googlies bowled, bases obstructed; best of all, to complete a round, batspersons were obliged to run uphill through soft sand (who thought of that one?) which proved

little taxing for the more mature members of the party. With scores at 11-9 - or was it 9-11? - exhaustion set in and a truce was declared. As the light faded and a spectacular moon climbed over Torry, everyone, hungry again from their exertions, headed back to the barbecue for 'a light snack' of around 50 toasted marshmallows each. It's rumoured that some people even demanded 'DOUBLE!' ... however, our lips are sealed! (Well, after 50 marshmallows each they would be, wouldn't they!). Interesting and ingenious ways of toasting marshmallows were demonstrated, and the features of the 'perfect' specimen seriously discussed. Alas, all too soon it was pick-up-the-litter time and, bouncing along from all that ASDA fizzy, we headed for the minibus.

PORTUGAL

CARETAKERS CONFERENCE

In June of this year a party from the school attend the 6th Caretakers of the Environment international conference in Portugal. The party consisted of two fifth year students, Amanda Ingram and Greg Dempster, and two teachers, Jim Presly and Raymond Jowett.

The theme of the conference was 'Tourism and the Environment' and prior to going a lot of hard work was put into researching and preparing a project which had to be presented during the conference. The Dyce project was based on the effects of tourism on the coast around Aberdeen. It was interesting to compare our project with others from all over the world.

The trip lasted for one week during which we were all kept very busy. There was the opportunity to learn about Portuguese tourism through field trips, lectures and discussion. It was a great chance to learn more about environmental issues and also to exchange ideas and thoughts about the environment. Working with young people and teachers from many different countries was a great experience and an opportunity to make many new friends.

In general a great time was had by all. Hopefully the people who apply to go to next year's conference will gain as much from it as we did.

AMANDA INGRAM



HEIDELBERG 1992

The birds sang, the bus was loaded, parents waved, the cheers rang out and we moved off into the evening traffic on our way to Germany. Twelve hours later found us shivering in a 'balmy' July evening in a service station outside Birmingham on our way to Dover to catch the 7.00 am ferry to Ostend - all 43 pupils and 5 very fatigued members of staff - and we had only just begun!

The dire warnings about the French blockade of ports hadn't stopped us so were we going to let lack of sleep deter us from enjoying glorious continental weather and beautiful German countryside? Ever since Stonehaven Craig Hanratty had asked, "How much further to Heidelberg?" By the time we had reached the German border he'd stopped believing our answers of "Only another couple of hours." Everything was peaceful in the bus when we had a blow-out on the autobahn and decided to test German efficiency on a Friday evening at 8.00 pm. A repair crew arrived in about 40 minutes - better than the AA man.

We eventually arrived at our hotel - Gasthof Linde - just beyond Heidelberg, sometime after 10.00 pm. The hotel still looked as nice and comfortable in the grey light of day, and grey it was. We went into Heidelberg to ascend the heights of the castle by funicular railway, cruise down the Neckar amidst curtains of rain and do some shopping.

Heidelberg is an elegant, graceful town on the banks of a major river which is still used to transport heavy goods such as cars by barge. With its status as a major city and its university, it has many buildings of great architectural note and beauty and this was very evident to us from the river and our walks around the city.

Sunday's rain was heavier than Saturday's and continued all the way through the Black Forest (we still managed a not-so-dry toboggan run, even Miss Smith) to Freudenstadt to see the largest market square in Germany.

By Monday the rain had held off sufficiently for us to enjoy a visit to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Caught in a time warp, it was a magical place further enhanced by the Santa's Wonderland of two Christmas shops. Even the Philistines amongst us were affected by the place. Our way home included a visit to a falconry situated in a German Schloss (or castle). The antics of birds of prey as big as S1 pupils certainly impressed all of us - some more favourably than others. That evening we took a trip to Hirschhorn, the pearl of the Neckar, where we had a lovely view of a typical German village bounded by the river.

Tuesday saw a change of pace and mercifully less rain - Hassloch Theme Park where people pay good money to be frightened to death and stare fear in the face. The log flumes were especially popular (we'd gotten used to getting wet). Our final stop was in Heidelberg for last minute shopping and back to the hotel to pack for our trip northward.

Most evenings were spent in the hotel with its pool, although we did go to Heidelberg one evening, but our pace was so hectic we were usually glad just to relax in the evening.

We headed for Rotterdam through glorious sunshine - the first for five days - and admired the sunflowers in the fields. A riotous evening in the ferry disco where Dyce Academy drove everyone to bed to the tune of 'Flower of Scotland' and then home via Hull. On 9 July around 3.30 pm Dyce came into view and the bedraggled, happy, exhausted group fell off the bus into waiting arms - always evidence of a wonderful trip!

RUTH TEEHAN

TREASURE HUNT

The early summer peace of Duthie Park was shattered one fine evening by the anxious cries of "Did you bring wellingtons?" "Here - 20 carrier bags." "Of course, I have wire cutters": and the frantic revving of car engines. It was just the sound of Dyce Academy engaging in their cross-curricular activities - the Staff Treasure Hunt. All sorts of unholy alliances had been formed and it was colleagues' orienteering skills, creative thinking, problem-solving abilities and a certain crazed view of reality that won them a place on a team.

The last car disappeared into the blue horizon and the Social Committee returned to wait for the first car back. After an hour-and-a-half it appeared, considerably easing the anxiety of the committee - "At least somebody finished it" - and amidst shouts of "Easy", "Impossible", "What was clue 20?" and "Who made up these clues?" the remainder of the pigeons came home to roost. Just before closing time, Rhona Smith and her team and the Art Department rolled in. Competitions brought their unique souvenirs of their odyssey - a tray from the Lairhillock, a mixed berry dessert from the same establishment, a specimen bottle, half a hedgerow and a banner - "Look out for low-flying fowls". Most managed to complete the course but one group from the dizzy height of the second floor managed to stumble on another treasure trail entirely and successfully completed that!

The eventual winners were a truly integrated team - the top four aces of Hellen Matthews, Marjorie Macdearmid, Jennifer Clark and Isabel Masson and the booby prize went to the Art Department team for their low-flying fowls.

WHAT'S ON?

19 - 23 October COMMUNITY TEXTILE PROJECT

The aim of this workshop is to produce a hanging using rug-making techniques. The finished piece will then go on display in a City venue. All participants will meet before the project gets underway to discuss design ideas. For further information, please contact David Atherton or Rosemary McKenzie on (0224) 276276 ext 2080/2082
Tillydrone Library
10am - 4pm, free

19 - 22 October JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

A four day workshop in jewellery for 12 - 18 year olds. For further information and to book a place, please contact David Atherton or Rosemary McKenzie on (0224) 276276 ext 2080/2082
Aberdeen Art Gallery
10am - 3pm, free

WORKSHOPS

Thursdays from 29 October

ACROBATICS

With Scaramouche New Circus. A fun blend of tumbling, acrobatics and movement games to improve balance, co-ordination and fitness. Open to anyone over 12 years old.
Please book in advance by ringing

19 - 23 October

ART WORKSHOPS

Two art workshops run every day throughout the school holiday week. For further information and to book a place, please contact David Atherton or Rosemary McKenzie on (0224) 276276 ext 2080/2082

Westburn Park House
10am - 12 noon and 2 - 4pm, free

Wednesdays from 28 October

CLOWN

With tutor Angela Knowles. Please book in advance by ringing (0224) 646333 ext 207
McClymont Hall
7 - 9pm, £25, £18 (concessions)

19 - 23 October SCULPTURE PROJECT

Staff from the Scottish Sculpture Workshop at Lumsden lead a sculpture project for 8 - 12 year olds. The workshop introduces basic wood carving techniques to be used to build a totem pole which will be exhibited at a public venue in the City. For further information and to book a place, please contact David Atherton or Rosemary McKenzie on (0224) 276276 ext 2080/2082
Kaimhill Community School
10am - 4pm, free

Fridays from 2 October ADULT BEGINNERS TAP DANCE

Four week introduction to tap dance with an emphasis on fun and dancing. No experience required. Open to anyone over 14 years old. With tutor Nicola Walters. Please wear hard soled shoes or tap shoes. Book in advance by ringing (0224) 646333 ext 207/8
McClymont Hall
6 - 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.25

THEATRE

8 October KEN CAMPBELL IN 'PIGSPURT'

Vinuous storytelling from this eccentric genius of the Fringe. Definitely not for the faint hearted!
The Lemon Tree
8pm, £6, £5 (concessions)

30 October FROM HONEY TO ASHES

The Practice presents a nightmare scenario of lost innocence, as mankind's indifference to environmental devastation is powerfully projected in this real life tragedy turning a Garden of Eden into a wasteland. "A truly remarkable theatrical achievement" The Stage
The Lemon Tree
8pm, £6, £5 (concessions)

5 - 10 October

ELVIS - THE MUSICAL

The phenomenal career and times of Elvis Presley from 1954 till 1977 told through 85 non-stop musical numbers and a cast of 25. The show won the award for the best musical in London's West End during its run at the Astoria Theatre
His Majesty's Theatre
Mon - Thurs 7.45pm, Fri & Sat 6 and 9pm, tickets from £8.50

30 October FOOLS PARADISE

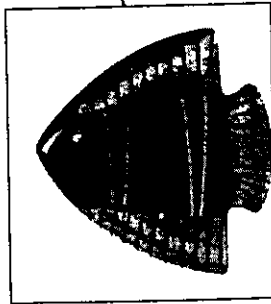
Goldbier presents Greg Proops and Parrot, as seen on Channel 4's "Whose Line is it Anyway?"
The Lemon Tree
9.30pm, £6, £3.50 (concessions)

9 & 10 October THE BALLAD OF THE LIMEHOUSE RAT

Winner of two Carling London Fringe Awards, this is energetic and highly accessible theatre. "Stephen King eat your heart out" City Limits
The Lemon Tree
8pm, £6, £5 (concessions)

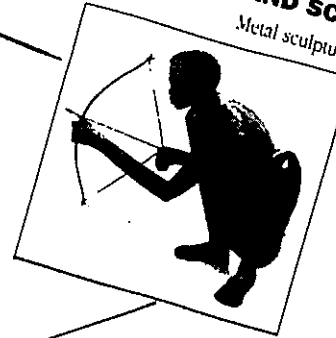
EXHIBITIONS

from 10 October
JANICE TCHALENKO
 A retrospective exhibition of ceramics by this major British designer and maker. Exhibition organised by the Ruskin Gallery, Sheffield James Dun's House



from 31 October
ROWENA PARK
 Specialising in decorative acrylic jewellery with bright enamel finishes. Brighton-based Rowena Park will be exhibiting some of her most recent work Aberdeen Art Gallery

until 24 October
ELIZABETH CAMERON
 Silver and gold by this Banff-based jeweller who draws on the Buchan coastline and countryside for inspiration
 Aberdeen Art Gallery
 Elizabeth Cameron



10 - 31 October
BULAWAYO CRAFTS AND SCULPTURE
 Metal sculpture, basketware and cloth designs are amongst this impressive range of work from Aberdeen's African

SPORT

19 - 23 October
FOOTBALL COACHING
 Free coaching sessions at parks throughout the City. Each session runs from 2 - 4pm. To book a place, please contact (0224) 647647.
 19: Duthie Park
 20: Allan Park, Cults
 21: Westburn Park
 22: Central Park, Bridge of Don
 23: Hazlehead Park

MUSIC

4 October
WOLFSTONE IN CONCERT
 Music Hall
 8pm, £7

UNDER-TWELVES

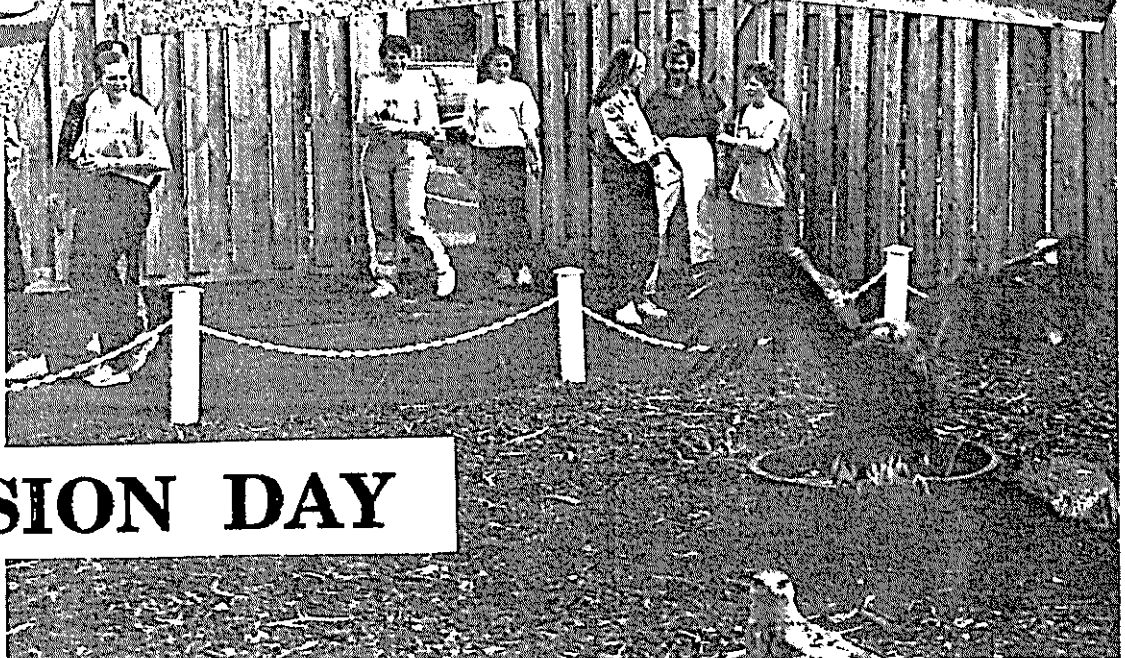
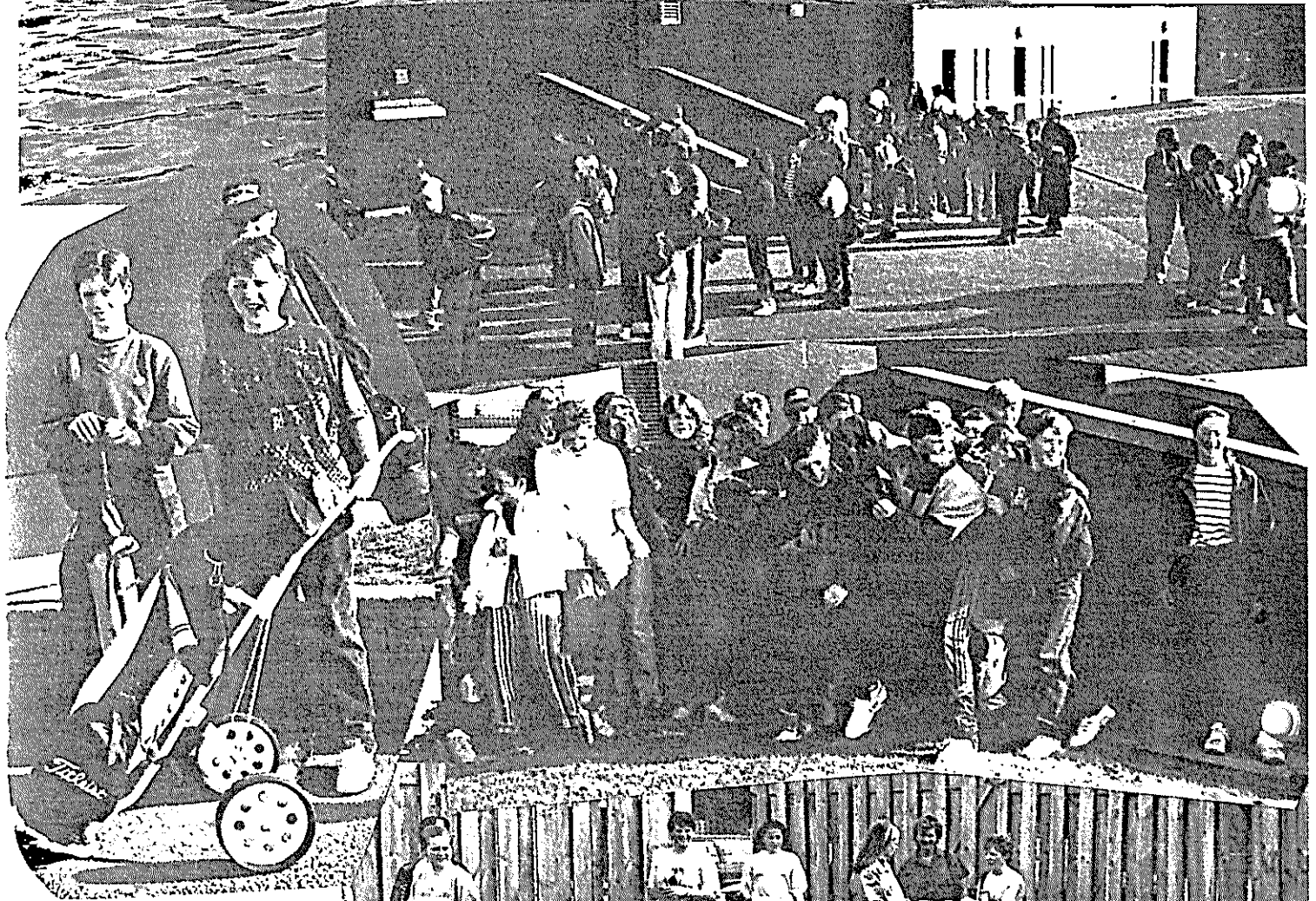
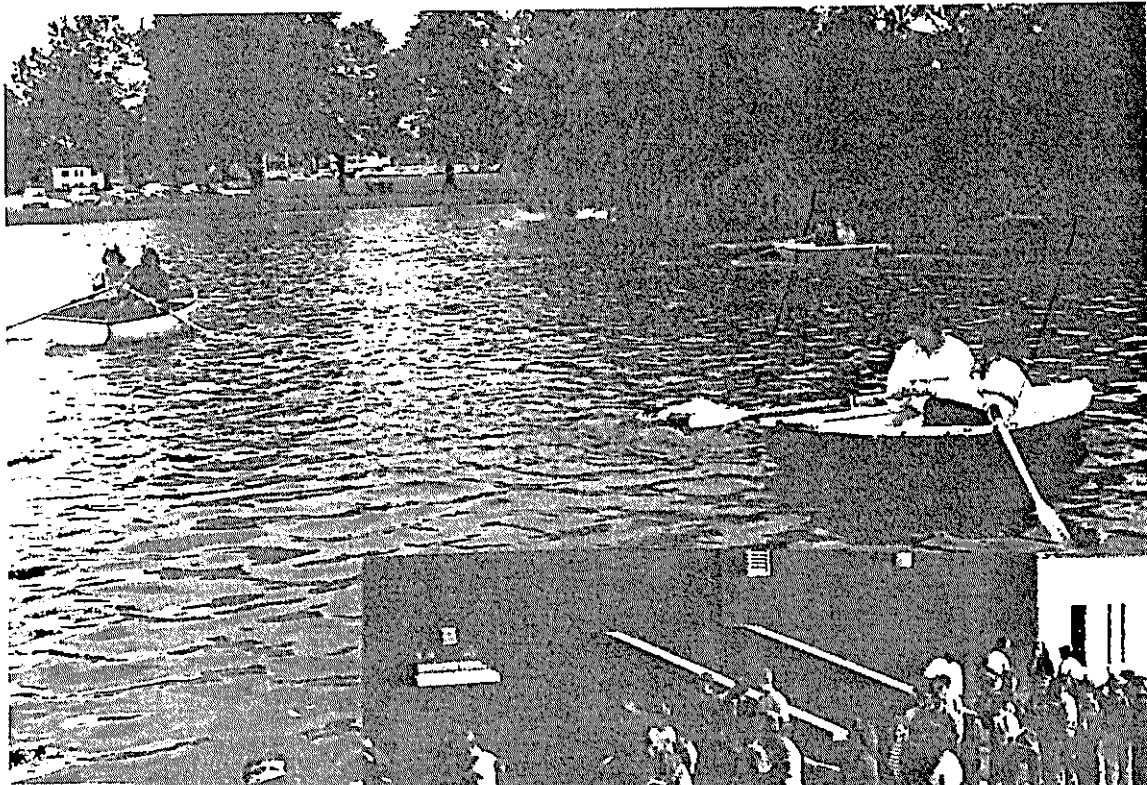
26 September - 28 November
ART WORKSHOPS
 A series of ten Saturday workshops for 6 - 11 year olds. For further information and to book a place, please contact David Atherton or Rosemary McKenzie on (0224) 276276 ext 2080/2082 for more information and to book a place
 McClymont Hall and Westburn Park House
 10am - 12 noon, £15 for the series

19 - 23 October
CHILDREN'S CREATIVE DANCE CLASS
 A week of creative dance classes during the October holiday for the under 12's with Claire Osborne and Nicola Walters.
 City Moves Dance Space
 2 - 3pm (5 - 8 year olds).
 3.30 - 4.30pm (9 - 12 year olds).
 £5 for the week's tuition

5 October
AILEEN PATERSON
 Author Aileen Paterson visits Libraries as part of Children's Book Week
 Dyce Library: 10.30 - 11.15am;

20 - 24 October
FIREMAN SAM - READY FOR ACTION!
 Fireman Sam, the hero from Pontypandy Fire Station, is back in a brand new set of adventures.
 His Majesty's Theatre
 10.30am & 2.30pm.
 £6.50, £5.50 (children)

19 - 24 October
FIREWORKS
 Fun and games for children with Playfools. All sessions run from 2 - 3.30pm and are free of charge
 19: Dyce Library
 20: Kincorth Library
 21: Bucksburn
 22: Cults Library
 23: Statnick Library
 24: Children's Department, Central Library



EXCURSION DAY