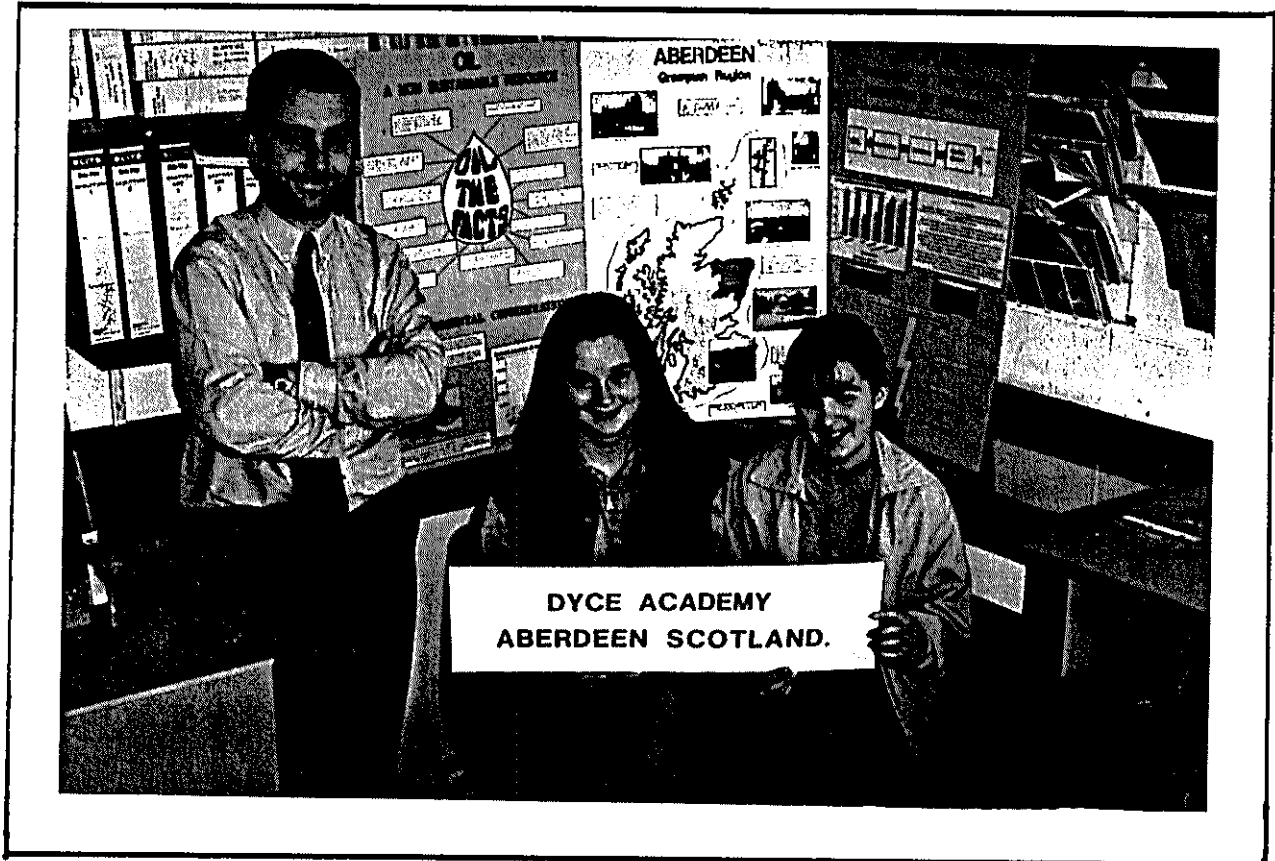


## CARETAKERS IN CANADA



From 24 - 29 June, Raymond [redacted] and two sixth-year pupils, Fiona [redacted] and Laura [redacted], attended the 7th Annual Conference of Caretakers of the Environment which this year took place in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Through Caretakers International, students and teachers come together from all over the world to promote Environmental Education and develop international awareness.

The theme for this year's conference, was Natural Resources and this was explored through a wide range of workshops, group discussions and field trips. During these activities we investigated aspects such as Land and Earth Resources, Marine and Woodland Ecosystems, and man's role today in our planet's environment.

At some stage during the five-day event we all took the time to find out about each school's project, which were all based on a theme in their home area concerning the environment and natural resources.

Continued on next page

## **Caretakers in Canada (contd from Page 1)**

This conference was not all work and no play; there were many social events organised, encouraging people to get to know one another, eg we had a disco, barbeque, live band, and were invited to spend a traditional evening with native Canadians - on a Miq Maq Reservation.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for young people from all over the world to get together and exchange ideas and views about our environment, and to realise that no matter who you are or where you come from, concern and awareness for our environment links us all.

In June 1994 it will be Dyce Academy's turn to host the Caretakers of the Environment conference. Preparations for this are well underway to organise the programme and activities for the delegates from around the world.

## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION FOR FAMILY GROUPS**

Parents! How would you like to take part in outdoor activities with your children?

Aberdeen Outdoor Education Service are offering outdoor education courses for 'family groups'.

Two types of course are on offer :

A taster course of one or two days' duration as an introduction to new activities and a longer series of three or four sessions of the same activity to enable the development of skills

Groups for both types of course will not exceed eight and will probably consist of two or three family units. It is recognised that often only one parent will be available but all the children of a suitable age at school could be considered for the session.

For the longer series of three or four sessions, the activities will be kayaking, Canadian canoeing, hill-walking, cross-country and downhill ski-ing.

For taster courses, parents and pupils will not be guaranteed an activity of their choice. The activity on a particular day will be decided by the instructor in the light of weather and other conditions. Activities on offer include kayaking, Canadian canoeing, rock-climbing, orienteering, hill-walking and cross-country ski-ing.

If any family is interested please let Mr Taylor know as soon as possible.

## *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Greybeard*

Twenty-six years of teaching, the last ten or eleven at Dyce, have not been without stress, conflict and the odd laugh and here I am in peace and tranquility, in the heart of the country. In fact I'm very central, situated as I am between Auchinhove and Leochel-Cushnie.

Being central makes me reflect on the alleged lack of eccentricity among today's teachers. "When I was a lad" or "Fan I wis a loon" you couldn't throw a brick without hitting an eccentric teacher - like "Doddy" for example, who, after giving the class work, would tilt his chair back and kip for the rest of the period. We had the sense to let sleeping "Dods" lie.

More recently there was the case of an old colleague and friend at Powis whose distrust of his pupils was such that he had wing-mirrors attached to his blackboard. I can't mention his other eccentricities. They might cause a diplomatic incident.

At Dyce, proximity to Mr Gove's drama classes certainly didn't allow sleep. Sometimes the noise through the wall separating F14 from F16 made communication in my room impossible. We tried using semaphore but it was too time-consuming and pupils tended to wave their flags at the same time. Eventually, I was forced to make Mr Gove aware of the situation. I set off for F16 only to find that I had been beaten by a short head by Mr Hardie and Mr Pyle. It turned out that the Drama pupils had to imagine that they were a group of male wild-cats having their tonsils out without an anaesthetic. One can occasionally go too far with empathy.

"When I were a lad" most teachers had nicknames like "Beery Bob", Happy Harry" or "Tarzan", whose grandson, incidentally, attended Dyce. "Mr C" was the best they could do for me, or more subtly, "Baldie". I was for a brief glorious moment "Crocodile Cormack". (I would have preferred "Koala").

In my country cottage I am no longer disturbed by the excesses of the Drama pupils. All is tranquil - the lowing of cattle, the hum of insects, the lark ascending, the sigh of the wind ... I could go on. Nevertheless I keep in touch with the outside world - my link, the wireless.

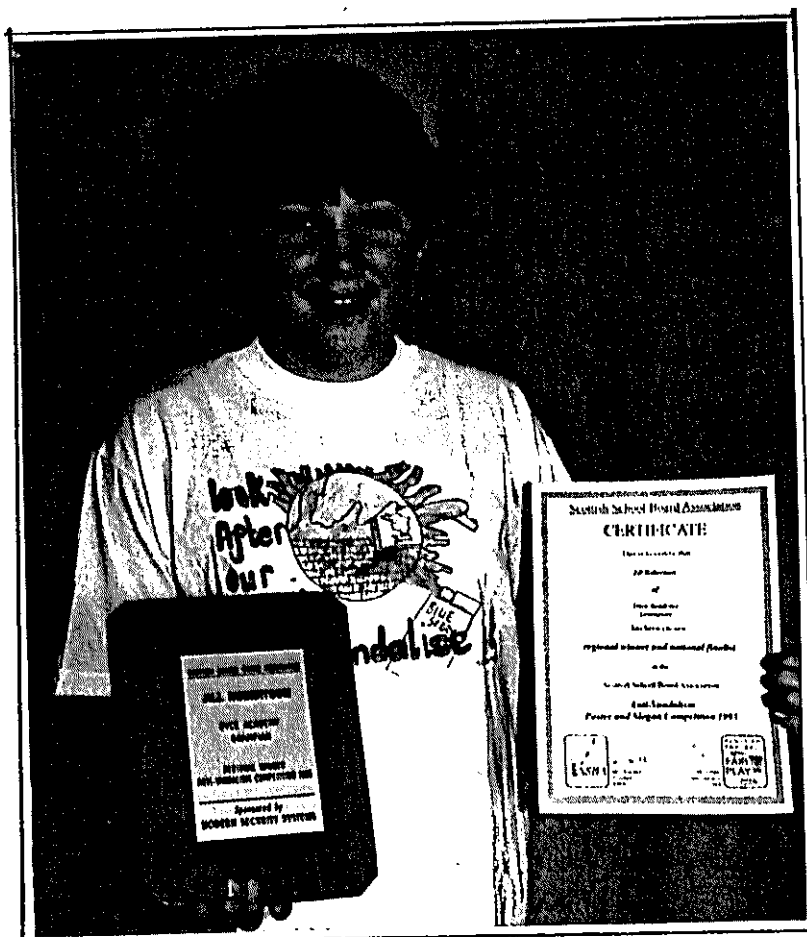
I like to think of you all at Dyce Academy especially at about 8.00 am as I listen to the road report - five-mile tailback on Corrennie Circle, Disblair Avenue flooded.

Having thought of you all at Dyce Academy, I turn over and fall asleep again, in my warm, snug, cosy bed.

*Geoffrey Cormack*

PS *I am sitting in my sun-drenched garden (it's always sunny here), sipping out of my tankard (from my beloved S4), my malt whisky (from my beloved S2).*

# MY DAY IN DUNDEE



I went to Perth and Dundee after winning an anti-vandalism poster competition. I got my photograph taken with some of the Scottish football team members and Andy Roxburgh. I had lunch at Morgan Academy in Dundee and after lunch I went to Discovery Point. It was really enjoyable. Afterwards I was presented with a trophy, a T-shirt with my Poster design on it, and some other items. We then went to watch the Under-21 football team play Switzerland. Unfortunately, no-one scored but I really enjoyed my day out anyway.

Jill

2D

Towards the end of last year a team of S1 pupils answered and joked their way to victory at Grampian Television Studios. The school had been invited by Grampian to field a team of S1 pupils for their children's television programme 'Pick A Number' and field a winning team we did. Joanne Cormack, Kris Duthie, David Harrison, Kevin Mathieson, Natasha Mayfield and Steven Smith, supported by about forty very enthusiastic classmates along with Mr Young and Mrs Fennell from the Drama Department, saw off the challenge from a team of Inverness pupils in a competition based on pop music knowledge and the ability to be very, very silly.

Joanne, Kevin and Steven had to deal with naming song titles from some intro music, identifying numbers in the titles of songs that were played and other pop related questions fired at them by zany presenter Phil MacKay. The most fun though came from the part of the programme which has become a staple these days for children's television shows - daft and messy games. Kris, David and Natasha took juggling with jellies, being a ballet dancer, singing the 'Neighbours' theme tune with a mouth full of Sugar Puffs and knocking an opponent's hat

off her head with skooshy foam well in their stride.

We scored a psychological advantage over the Invernessians right at the outset with our magnificent Dyce Academy banner produced by our Home Economics and Art Departments along with some of the team's supporters and although there were one or two scary moments when our opponents pulled in front, our team tells me there was never any doubt about the outcome, including the gunging of one of their opponents, and they put part of their success down to their tremendous and very noisy support.

Grampian Television certainly treated us well. Our team members were chauffeur driven to the studios while the rest of us were transported by luxury coach. Our team met various television personalities, we were all given sandwiches, drinks and sweets for the journey back to school and the team members were presented with souvenir T-shirts and John Menzies gift vouchers.

At the time of going to press we still don't have a transmission date but it's certainly an event to watch out for.



# CONGRATULATIONS

... to the following former pupils who have recently successfully completed courses at -

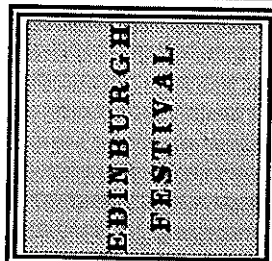
## The Robert Gordon University

David Allan	-	BSc in Applied Science
Edward Allan	-	HNC in Chemistry
Emma Davidson	-	BA in Business Studies (Honours)
Robert Greenhorn	-	BSc in Technology and Business
Moirra Holmes	-	BSc in Physiotherapy
Juliet Ingram	-	BA in Design and Craft
Kevin King	-	BA in Business Studies
Rachel McGregor	-	PG Diploma in Information Analysis
Niall McKenzie	-	BSc in Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Linda McRobbie	-	BSc in Nutrition and Dietetics with State Registration (Honours)
Matthew Nicol	-	BSc in Applied Science
Nicolas Pyle	-	HNC in Quantity Surveying
Shirley Smith	-	BA in Hospitality Management
Simon Smith	-	BEng in Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Carole-Ann Tewnion	-	BA in Librarianship and Information Studies (Honours)
Pamela Virasami	-	Diploma in Diagnostic Radiography
David Watt	-	B.Sc in Computer Science (Honours)
Sara Young	-	HNC in Chemistry

## University of St Andrews

Timothy Palmer	-	B.Sc in Computational Science (Honours)
Kirsten Taylor	-	B.Sc in Geoscience (Honours)

This information has been sent to the school by the Universities. Information on the achievements of our former pupils is welcomed from any source.



Once again senior pupils and staff sallied forth ready to grapple with the world's biggest Cultural Jamboree. The number of S5/6 pupils requesting places this year was over forty. In the end twenty-seven (many of them veterans) attended the Festival. The highlight for most pupils was the young Irish comedian, Sean Hughes. Many of the senior girls bought autographed copies of his book and Jackie Reid took several hundred action shots. (In between sighing and saying to Joanne Stirton, "Ooh, he's lovely and cuddly"). Many of the staff enjoyed the restrained and understated comedy of Mark Thomas.

As far as serious drama was concerned, Hull Truck's "April In Paris" and Communicado's "St Julian" seemed to be winners. As many of the girls had just finished SCE courses in Art, the gallery visits were unusually busy and popular - particularly the RSA show "The Line of Tradition" and the Scottish Gallery's summer show. My thanks to all who took part, especially the senior pupils whose patience and good natured sarcasm made it one of the more memorable years.

**M HARDIE**



*FIRST YEA*

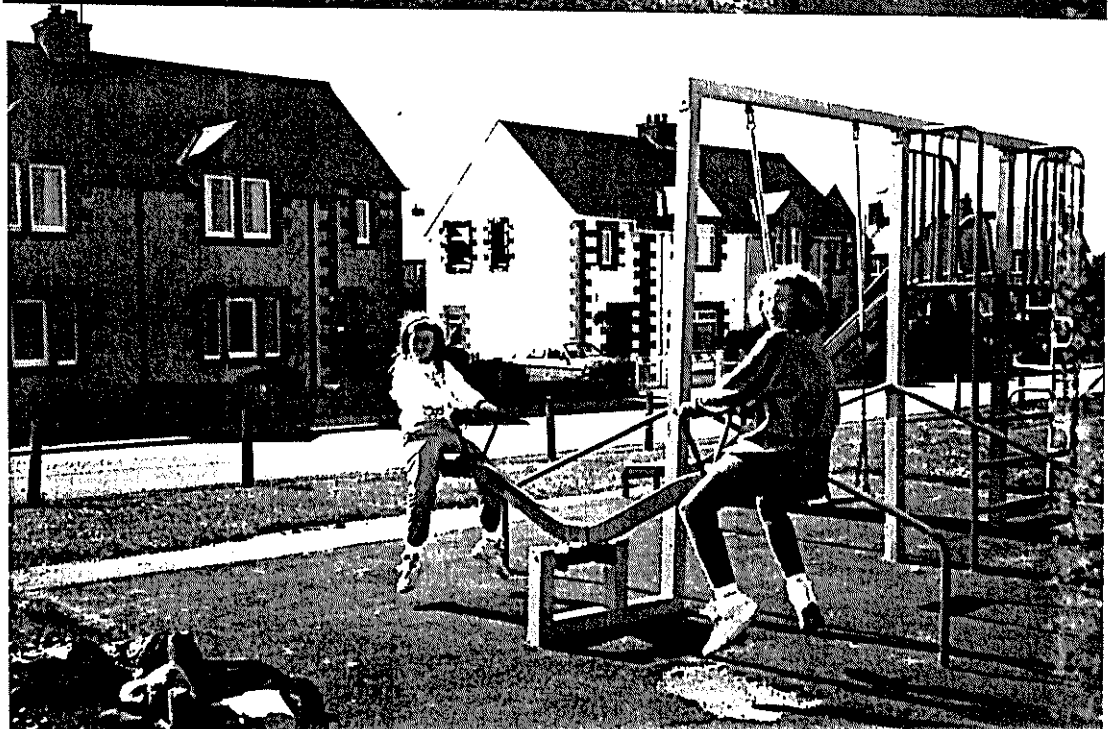
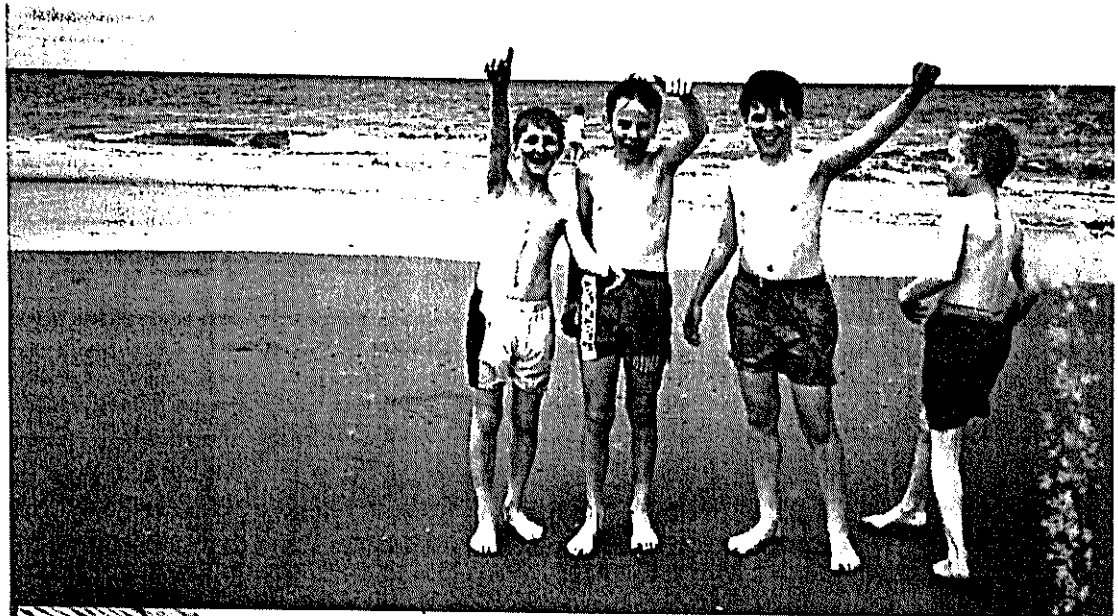
*PUPIL*



*CULLEN*

*JU*

ENJOYING



E  
PERIENCE

# ENTERPRISING MATHS DAY

On Tuesday 22 June 1993 thirty-one secondary schools in Grampian Region took part in the Enterprising Maths Day Competition held in Summerhill Education Centre.

What is the Enterprising Maths Day Competition? It's an annual event to which all schools in this region are invited to send a team of four pupils to compete in a variety of events which test mathematical skills in different ways. The winning team and runner-up are invited to represent Grampian in the Scottish Enterprising Maths Day to be held in Strathclyde in October and the winning team from that event competes in the European Competition.

Two weeks prior to the actual event, our team of four plus two reserves spent several lunchtimes practising for the Swiss Competition which consisted of two games - "Switch" and the "Fifteen Game" in preparation for the Head to Head matches with their opponents. Pupils also researched and prepared for the Poster Competition with this year's theme of the Golden Ratio and Rectangle.

On the morning of 22 June, Keith Hussey, Grace Rayner, Rachel Robertson and Julie Marr set off for Summerhill, sadly leaving behind Greig Pirie and Jill Reid who must be commended for all their hard work.

On arrival we were given refreshments and then the busy day began. Pupils were given 30 minutes to complete their posters whilst teachers were briefed on the rules of the individual contests. The second item on the agenda was the Speed Competition which involves teams visiting eight stations at each of which pupils are presented with a practical task like tangrams. Pupils were then challenged to solve a number of questions of a fairly long and demanding nature. During this Team Competition each group had to decide which questions to attempt and which strategies to employ to solve as many problems as possible in the time allotted.

A welcome break followed for a buffet lunch and the strawberry tarts and home bakes were much appreciated, especially by our team captain.

Two events took place during the afternoon session, namely, the Swiss Competition and the Relay Competition. Our industrious lunch hours had not been wasted because we fared well during the three rounds of Head to Head matches.

And finally, the Relay Competition dreaded by all supervisors because it consists of pupils thundering to the front of the hall at great speed to collect their questions from the 'unsuspecting' row of teachers sitting pinned against the stage. A 'handicap system' operated during this event with the highest scoring teams seated at the back of the hall so they had further to run than the lower placed teams. Working in pairs, pupils race against time to answer as many questions as possible in the forty-five minutes.

The final scores were tallied up and for the second year running Elgin Academy were overall winners. Although our team didn't win, we thoroughly enjoyed our day and after all, it's the taking part that counts.

KATH THOMSON



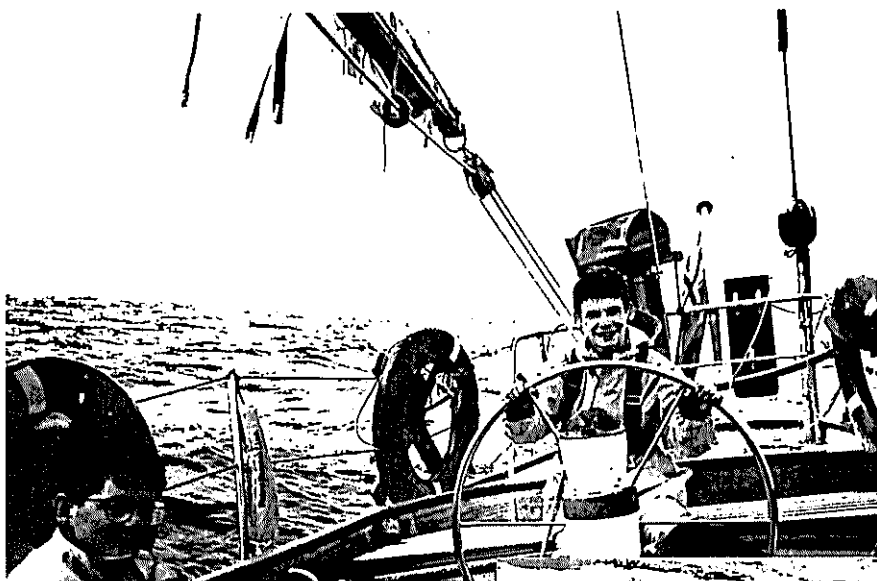
# WEST COAST TRIP GOES EAST

West Coast trip sails from Wick to Orkney via the Dornoch Firth .... something strange here .... is the skipper leading us up the 'North Sea' path, has the chart plotting gone haywire or is the decca navigator playing tricks?

No, it was all part of a well-organised plan. This year the sailing part of the West Coast Trip took place in the last week of term and set out from Wick. The idea was to go to the Orkney Isles, spend some time sailing there and then come down the east coast to disembark in Aberdeen.

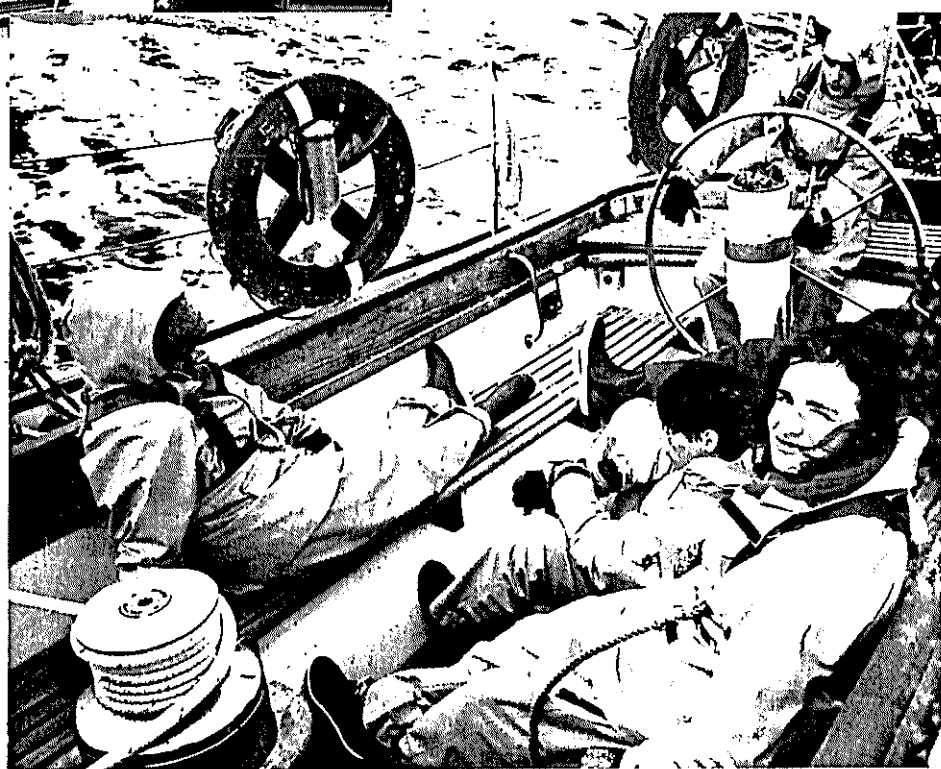
Unfortunately, strong winds from the north suggested the Pentland Firth would be a horrendous first day's sail and so we ran before a force 6 gusting 7 wind (that's quite wild) down to Portmahomack using the time to develop our sea legs and become familiar with our new ocean home, the Ocean Youth Club Ketch, Taikoo. It was hard work and exciting sailing for the start of

our cruise; several suffered silently, turning a pale shade of green, many lost their lunch over the downwind side and, as the three other crew members were deaf we had quickly to learn how to communicate effectively with them. Ian Learner, our skipper, developed a 'buddy' system by which each deaf person had a hearing buddy in their watch (duty group) to help ensure that they understood instructions and could therefore fully participate safely in all that was happening. This required much patience on both sides so that we came quickly to a new appreciation of a sense we so easily take for granted, as we saw others struggling to comprehend what was going on around them.



Most of the Dyce Academy group had sailed on Taikoo before and so it was not long before Ian felt we were competent at handling the boat, so much so that no sooner had we reached Portmahomack than he decided that as the wind was now coming round to the south we could sail back north through the night up to Orkney. After a delicious meal of roast lamb and all the trimmings expertly cooked by Dyce Academy, we set off once more with a new more favourable weather forecast.

(Contd on next page)



I had the dawn watch (3.00 till 6.00 am) with my crew of four. We counted oil rigs and watched the sun rise as we puttered quietly north. The wind had died and we were forced to motor ignominiously north, across a very peaceful Pentland Firth, quite unlike a notorious return journey by ferry on a previous Social Subjects field trip to Orkney. After a few hours ashore followed by a brief sleep we departed at 3.00 am to catch a favourable tide out of Kirkwall and sadly southwards. We were disappointed that the weather had not allowed us to have enough time to explore the sea around Orkney but grateful that we had at least reached there. This time the Pentland Firth crossing was more exciting and some found that their sea legs were still a bit shaky; more food for the fish? Now the crew's skills were really to the fore; rapid sail changes, competent steering, with excellent meals, freshly baked scones and copious cups of tea and coffee to fortify us through the two days' sailing back to Aberdeen, with a brief overnight stop in Fraserburgh.

During the five day cruise the group had worked hard at learning the skills and acquiring the knowledge to complete the RYA Competent Crew Award. Knots, navigation and the workings of the boat were no longer a mystery; we learned a bit of what it must be like to be deaf but suffered some West Coast 'withdrawal' symptoms .... next time had to be back on the 'real' West Coast. After all, there's nothing quite like sailing into a beautiful sunset amongst the Hebridean Islands.

### Crew

Ben	Greg
Martin	John
Angela	Struan
Gordon	Isla

*Alison Angus*

Suddenly, it's June again and the Cullen Residential Experience is upon us - various pairs of Academy staff heading north, courtesy of Irene's Coaches with up to twenty P7 pupils grouped into their new S1 classes, two seniors, heaps of luggage and sports equipment and enormous quantities of

breakfast cereals  
macaroni cheese  
sausages  
rolls  
sticky toffee  
pudding etc etc

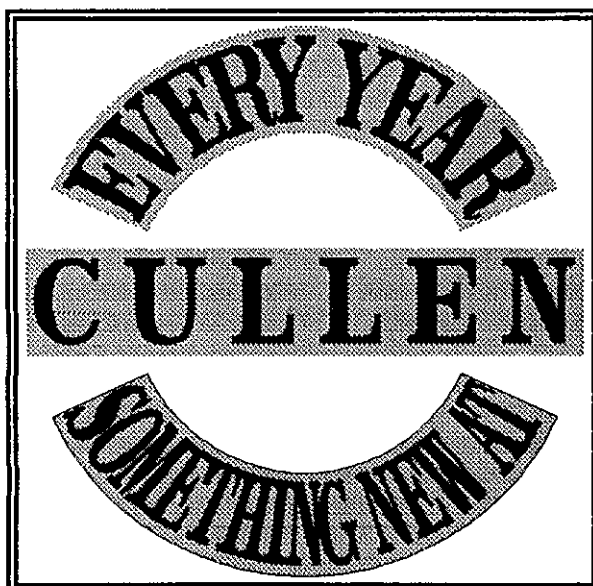
for two nights away at Cullen Outdoor Centre.

The arrival at the Centre is always a good moment, the kindly Warden welcoming us with a comfortable and spotless place to stay. Luggage is unpacked and the usual disputes settled.

"SNOT FAIR  
I BAGGED THE TOP BUNK FIRST!  
NO YOU DIDN'T!  
YES I DID!"

"Girls! Boys! .... A little more maturity here please ...."

Lunch follows, and then it's time to sort out the table-setting and dishwashing squads and give a quick briefing on how to score maximum team points before setting off, clipboards at the ready, on the Cullen Historical Walk. As our brightly-coloured crocodile wends its way down through the square, we note various important features like the Seafield Coat of Arms, the names of streets, the details on the War Memorial, and the locations of the joke shop



and best ice cream parlour for miles. And all this in a village that was long ago shifted down the road because it was too near the laird's fine new house!

After trying our hands at a bit of architectural drawing, it's on down to the harbour for some more historical research and a tentative toe-in-the-water, after which there's time for a short tour of the shops and back up the hill for tea. Following admirable work by the dishwashing squad we're soon off on the Cullen Old Kirkyard investigation where two-hundred-year-old records of infant deaths and the creepy carvings on gravestones - skulls, crossbones, scythes, hourglasses - impress not a few. Will there be nightmares we wonder? .... Night falls: by 11.00 pm everyone is in bed and by around 4.00 am all is quiet (or did I just give up listening at that point?).

Next morning the great coastal expedition gets under way. The seaward interest of Cullen unfolds - the old fish-house and jetty, a fresh-water well on the beach, wildflowers, rock pools, breakers, seabirds, the fun of beachcombing and of the spectacular cliff path itself, and finally the way back waist-high in grass along the edge of the barley fields. After lunch a chance to swim in the harbour, to explore eastward along the beach, to leave your name in the sand. In the evening, the Cullen Quiz, counting the arches on the viaduct - 17, .. or is it 15? .. or 14? .. and solving clues down among the dolls' houses of the fisher town. The grand finale is a Tug o'War on the beach, which Mr McLean thoughtfully proposes should take place across the burn. Best of three - and wet feet to the losers! On our last morning the Great Tidy Up ensures that we leave a good reputation behind us, after which, bags packed and team points totted up, we await our transport back to Aberdeen.

There's never a shortage of memorable moments at Cullen, good or (occasionally) otherwise. High on the list this trip must be the sudden appearance close to shore, on one of our walks, of a large school of dolphins gracefully dipping and soaring eastward along the Moray Firth in the last of the evening light - a truly magical sight to be remembered for a long time to come.

## STAFF CHANGES

Geoff Cormack of the Modern Languages Department retired at the end of last term.

Julie McLure of the Mathematics Department decided not to return to work after the birth of her baby last session.

Panline Hay who had been working part-time in the Chemistry Department has taken up a new post in Inverurie Academy.

Two technicians, Joyce Forsyth and Margaret Cameron, retired early this session.

Sheila MacRae, who has been our school nurse for a number of years, has moved to a new nursing post.

Prior to the summer holidays, Jane Evans joined the Music Department to cover the absence of Anne McIntosh on secondment.

We were joined by the following staff at the beginning of the session:

Janet Finucane is our new school nurse.

Janette Massie has joined the Chemistry/Science Department.

Sibylla Weigel has joined the Modern Languages Department.

Some Dyce Academy staff have recently been successful in gaining promotion.

Kath Thomson of our Mathematics Department has been promoted to Senior Teacher (Mathematics) in the department.

Jennifer Clark of the Learning Support Department will be moving to Torry Academy after the October break to become Principal Teacher (Learning Support).

## TECHNOLOGY IS THE BUSINESS

Five senior pupils from Dyce Academy - Peter ..., Derek ..., Christine ..., Bruce ... and Graeme ... attended this five-day course at the Robert Gordon University in September.



## BOOTS VOUCHERS

BOOTS are at present running a Free Sports Equipment Campaign. For every £5 spent you receive a voucher.

All vouchers will be greatly received by the PE Department.

The offer runs until 26 October.

# 'See a Penny .....'

It all started when three of our Netball team were arguing over who was going to get the biggest kit. We realised then that the strip we bought a few years ago was no longer suited to our needs, as the girls in the club were bigger than the original girls for whom the strip was bought. Someone said, "We'll just have to get a new strip", and while we all agreed, we wondered where we would find the money to finance the new strip. Knowing that I had a lot of old junk in my house and presuming that most of the girls' mothers would have similar, we decided on having a car boot sale.

After gaining permission from the school we set the date - 26 June - and started collecting for and advertising the sale. We put up posters in Asda and the other local shops, Mums and Dads were recruited to put posters on work noticeboards, we advertised in the P & J and EE (our biggest expense) and we believe we even got a mention on Northsound.

All staff in the school were asked if they had anything that they no longer required. We had a slow response to start with, but gradually things started to arrive and we eventually amassed a huge amount of items including the proverbial kitchen sink which we eventually sold, inclusive of taps, for £15. The ladies shower room in the PE Department was beginning to look like an Aladdin's cave: we had TVs, computers, skis, cups, toys, chairs, books, pots, ornaments, jewellery and lots more that I cannot remember.

On the Wednesday before the sale our first advert appeared in the P & J and from then on there was a steady flow of telephone calls making inquiries about the sale and some booking a pitch.

On the Friday (school excursion day) while most of the school were off enjoying themselves, I spent the entire day labelling and pricing items and moving them from the PE Department to the exit door nearest the car park. The only thing left which was totally outwith my control was the weather. I knew if the weather was not good then all our efforts would be in vain.

On Saturday morning when I awoke at 6.30 after a very restless sleep I pulled back the curtains and felt like crying when I saw how bleak and cold it looked through the rain spattered windows.

Undaunted, I set about waking my husband and 14 month-old daughter, Cayce-Jade, fed, watered and changed them (yes, my husband too!) and at 7.45 we were on the road to Dyce to the strains of "The Sun has got his hat on" (we had to do something to cheer ourselves up). As we drove up the hill towards Dyce Academy, my heart sank when I realised there were no other cars in the car park. I realised I had made a big mistake. I had not checked with the janitorial

services to see what time they would be arriving. I imagined all my goods behind the door, but knew I could not get at them. On my way across the playground, I saw a one pence piece on the ground. As I started to step over it I remembered the old saying, "See a penny pick it up, all day long you'll have good luck", so I bent down and picked it up.

The first car roared up the hill at 8.15 and as I approached I found out they were from Huntly and were here to catch all the early bargains. About two minutes later our first two 'seller' cars arrived, Gail (a club member arrived and then John, the jannie. I think it was then that the first ray of sunshine squeezed past the big black clouds over Dyce Academy and shone on the car park. From then on it was all go!!

The rest of the girls arrived and in between directing the cars and carrying all our stuff out of the school we all got stuck in and were in business a couple of minutes later, Donna making the first sale of a few boxes and jars of outdated chocolates for £5. Soon we had somewhere in the region of forty sellers in the car park and there must have been more people in our car park buying than in Asda that day. We literally never halted from 8.30 till about Noon.

We were amazed at what some people will do to get a bargain. One buyer was there about 8.30 and was round the back of our stall looking in the boxes before we got a chance to open them. She did buy a couple of things from us, then she dashed to the next 'new car'. Later, my husband saw her filling up the boot of her car with all her bargains. The car was a Mercedes!!

All in all we had a great day despite the slow start. I was amazed at how hard the girls worked at setting up the stall. Laura Brand was heard to say she was "sweating carrying the boxes" - something she has never done playing a game of netball - and in a slack moment Donna and Gail donned some of the trendy outfits we had for sale in an attempt to attract more buyers. We finally packed up at 2.30 selling about half of what we had.

At home over a well-earned cup of coffee, my husband and I totalled the 20 pences, 5 pences, etc and reached the grand total of £382.43. We have an outstanding bill to the P & J but we are confident that we raised £350 for our day. The money will be used to buy new strips and if there is any left over we will use it to pay registration and affiliation fees.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of staff who donated goods and to those who supported us on the day by buying from us. Also all the Mums and Dads for supporting their daughters - especially Cathy Cowie who arrived with daughter, Donna, and her contributions and ended up becoming an extra pair of hands behind our stall. Her help was greatly appreciated.

*Audrey Innes*