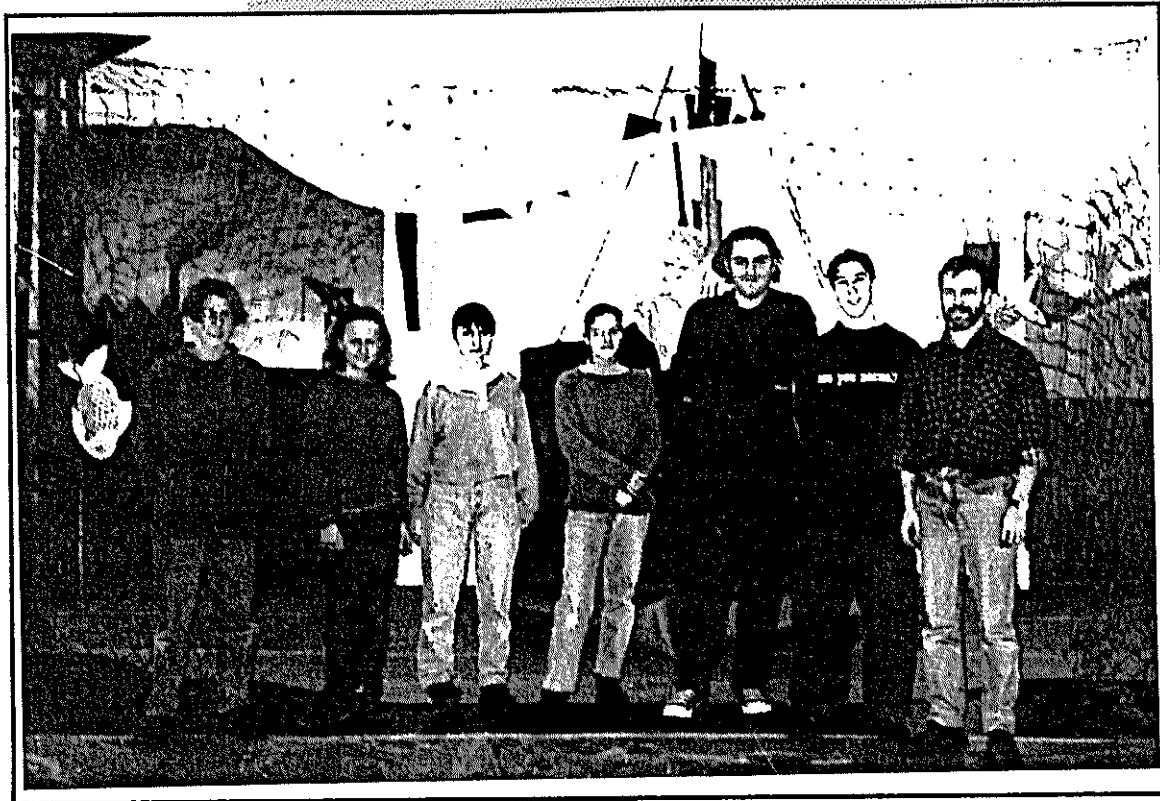




PICK A NUMBER

The winning
Dyce Academy
'Pick a Number'
Team who were
seen on
Grampian TV on
Saturday, 6th
November.

ART GALLERY WORKSHOP



During the October holiday an Art Workshop was set up at the Aberdeen Art Gallery. The workshop for pupils aged 12-18 was led by a Fife-based artist, Reinhard Behrens.

The work done by the group led to a large installation being created on the theme of shipbuilding heritage of the city. This coincided with an exhibition of the history of Hall Russell, Shipbuilders, in the Maritime Museum.

Two pupils from the academy were part of the team - Claire (S1) and Alasdair (S6). Both greatly enjoyed working on such a large scale in such a stimulating environment.

DAVID NIVEN

BADMINTON

In late October there were two Badminton Tournaments held locally. One was the Gordon District Restricted Tournament and the other was the 47th North-East Restricted Tournament.

There were a number of school pupils who competed and did particularly well. These pupils range from S1 to S4.

In the Gordon District Tournament our pupils were extremely successful. Lindsay Robertson (2B) won the Under-14 Girls Singles and partnered her sister Rachel (4D) in the Under-16 Girls Doubles to the runners-up spot. Rhea Hussey (1B) was a semi-finalist in the Under-14 Girls Singles, winner of the girls Under-14 Doubles and partnered Rob Morrice (2C) to the semi-final of the Under-14 Mixed Doubles. Rob was runner-up in the Under-14 Boys Singles and partnered Kevin Mathieson to the semi-final of the Under-14 Boys Doubles. In the Under-16 Boys Singles Keith Hussey (3B) was runner-up but he partnered Rachel Robertson (4D) to victory in the Under-16 Mixed Doubles.

In the North-East Restricted Tournament, one of the most prestigious in the area, Lindsay Robertson was the winner of the Under-14 Singles, with Rhea Hussey finishing in third place. Rachel Robertson played in the Under-18 Girls Singles, one age group above her correct age group, and played well against much older pupils. Keith Hussey did likewise in the Under-18 Boys Singles.

There was a small snippet in the 'Evening Express' recently intimating that Lindsay, Rhea and Rob are in the Scottish Age Group Coaching session in Edinburgh every month.

RAYMOND LITTLEJOHN

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Susan Cantlay

Kara Imray

Cameron Mack

Moira McLean

Nicola McWilliam

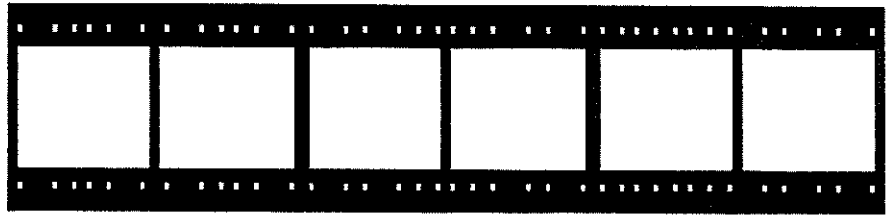
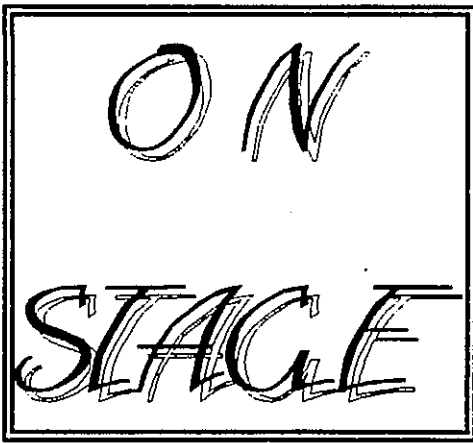
Catriona Urquhart

- who graduated from Aberdeen University in June, and to

Linda Huy

Alan Reid

- who graduated from Glasgow University.



Principal Teacher of Drama, Laurence Young, writes about drama and theatre activities that have been happening this term.

As well as the ongoing drama courses being taught in Dyce Academy, including the new Higher Drama course available for the first time this session (more of that in a future edition) there has been a hive of activity in the school recently with regard to theatre visits and drama workshops.

It started in the second week back after the summer holidays when the Higher Drama pupils had the opportunity to attend a workshop at Northfield Academy being run by Scottish actor, Tony Roper. Best known perhaps for his appearances in Rab C Nesbit and his many parts in BBC Scotland's Naked Video, he was workshopping *The Steamie*, a play written by him which has received much critical and public acclaim at theatres throughout the country and on television. The play is one of a number of Scottish texts being looked at by Higher students within the Contemporary Scottish Theatre section of the course. Our pupils heard him talk about the play, saw him work with a group of Northfield pupils as a director would work with a case and had the opportunity to ask questions. Everyone agreed it was a worthwhile and enjoyable morning.

Also in September the English Department took a party of S5 pupils to see *Sunset Song*, which was performed as part of the Scots Quair trilogy by TAG Theatre Company at His Majesty's Theatre. These S5 pupils also took part in a workshop activity here in school organised by a representative of TAG. Sadly many of the pupils didn't find this workshop too exciting and felt it was geared towards a younger age group. The same cannot be said for the truly excellent movement/dance workshop that TAG ran for our Higher Drama pupils as well as some volunteers from our S4 Standard Grade course. The workshop lasted most of a morning and those of us who participated certainly knew we had been working physically very hard by the time lunchtime came. I personally enjoyed being a 'pupil' once again and having the opportunity to work creatively with some of my students. I wasn't so keen on the fact that my legs were still aching three days later but that says more about my fitness or lack of it than anything else. The pupils were very enthusiastic about this workshop and many of the Standard Grade pupils have requested that we do more movement-based work during the course.

Into October now and the first Saturday of the month saw forty staff, partners and friends heading south for Edinburgh to see *Les Miserables* at the Playhouse Theatre. The following Wednesday I was back down with a busload of pupils to see the same show, a show which many staff and pupils have described as the best thing they've ever seen in a theatre. *Les Miserables* is magnificent theatre. Wonderful music, stunning sets and faultless acting combine to create a truly great theatrical experience. It is little wonder that so many people return to see it a second or third time. It runs until early January. If you get the chance - go!!

The week after *Les Mis*, S4 Standard Grade Drama pupils were taken to HMT to see the musical *Scrooge* as part of a theatrical evaluation exercise. The sets and special effects were something not to be missed but personally I found the music disappointing and unmemorable. I'm sure a lot of this was to do with the fact that the star of the show, Anthony Newley, was not playing the part of Scrooge at the matinee performance. Although his understudy did a creditable job he was certainly no Anthony Newley and others who saw Newley in the part have certainly described his performance as a triumph.

During October senior pupils had the chance, thanks to Joyce Giles of the English Department, to see *Relative Values* by Noel Coward and *The Cemetery Club* starring Millicent Martin (there's a blast from the past), Judy Cornwall (from *Keeping Up Appearances*) and Ann Charleston (from *Neighbours*). A few also took the opportunity to hear Bernard MacLaverty, as part of *Writers' Fornight*, talking about his books and his screenplays of the Films *Cal* and *Lamb*.

The term of course has a few weeks to run and so we are not finished yet. Standard Grade Drama and Higher Drama pupils will be able to experience some puppetry (many I'm sure for the first time) when the Hunter Theatre Company of Edinburgh visit us in early December and towards the end of the term any pupil following a certificate drama course can join an outing to the Inverurie pantomime, Aladdin. We had a very successful trip to last year's Peter Pan and once again pupils will have the chance to boo and hiss their drama teacher as I am playing the part of Morkar, the evil wizard. We must of course not forget our own school Christmas show, the musical Smike, being organised by June Smith from the Music Department and Ruth Teehan from the English Department. Performances are on 14 and 15 December and tickets will be available towards the end of this month.

Pupils of course are encouraged to visit the theatre outwith school organised visits and the new forthcoming attractions noticeboard outside the Drama Studio is one attempt to further this aim. Theatre flyers can now also be picked up from a table inside the studio. If pupils go to His Majesty's Theatre with parents or friends they may also be able to take advantage of the Region's Theatre Discount Voucher Scheme. I can supply pupils with further information about this.

We'll soon be looking towards the next two terms for more theatrical experiences to expose our pupils to and already as a bit of real forward planning we've made two block bookings - one for staff, one for pupils - of seats for the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Cats which is running at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, from April until July next year. I hope that the rest of the school session can be as exciting theatrically as this one has been.

LAURENCE YOUNG

MATHEMATICS MASTERCLASS

There are two S2 pupils from Dyce Academy currently taking part in a regional Mathematics Masterclass. The two young mathematicians are Kevin Mathieson and Nicola Henderson (both 2A) with Lindsay Robertson (2B) as a reserve. They are attending eight Saturday morning classes in the Satrosphere, Aberdeen, from October to February, where they will meet with 28 others to work on a wide range of mathematical topics.

The Mathematics Masterclasses have been set up by SATRO (Science and Technology Regional Organisation) to give enthusiastic young people a chance to broaden their knowledge and experience of mathematics. The topics to be tackled include 'Sugar Lumps, Toblerone and the Dodecahedron' and 'Friendly Numbers and their Relations'.

Kevin and Nicola have already attended two classes and comments such as, "It's good" and "We enjoy trying the problems", must be a recommendation. Both are looking forward to the remaining classes - nothing to do with the 'free juice' at interval!

CLINTERY FARM VISIT

Last month all S1 Social Subjects pupils visited Clintery Agricultural College as part of a unit on Farming which they are at present studying.

We found out about all the different people who worked at the College but were most interested in those who were involved with the actual farming side of the operation. Clintery keeps sheep, beef and dairy cattle, as well as having a large piggery. They also grow a variety of crops, most of which are used on the farms.

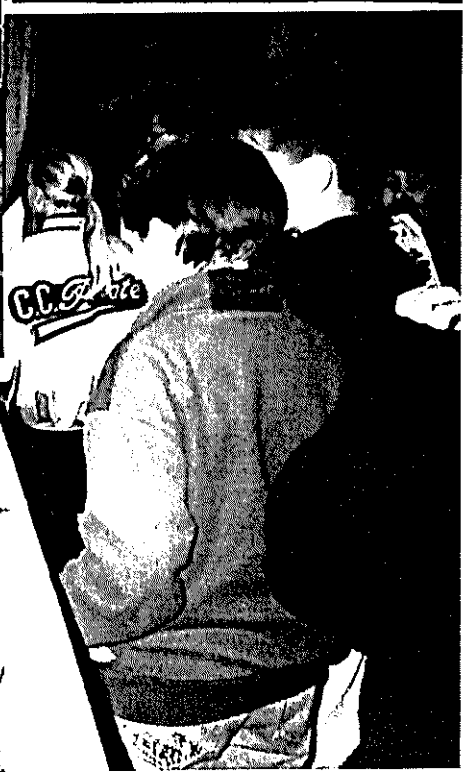
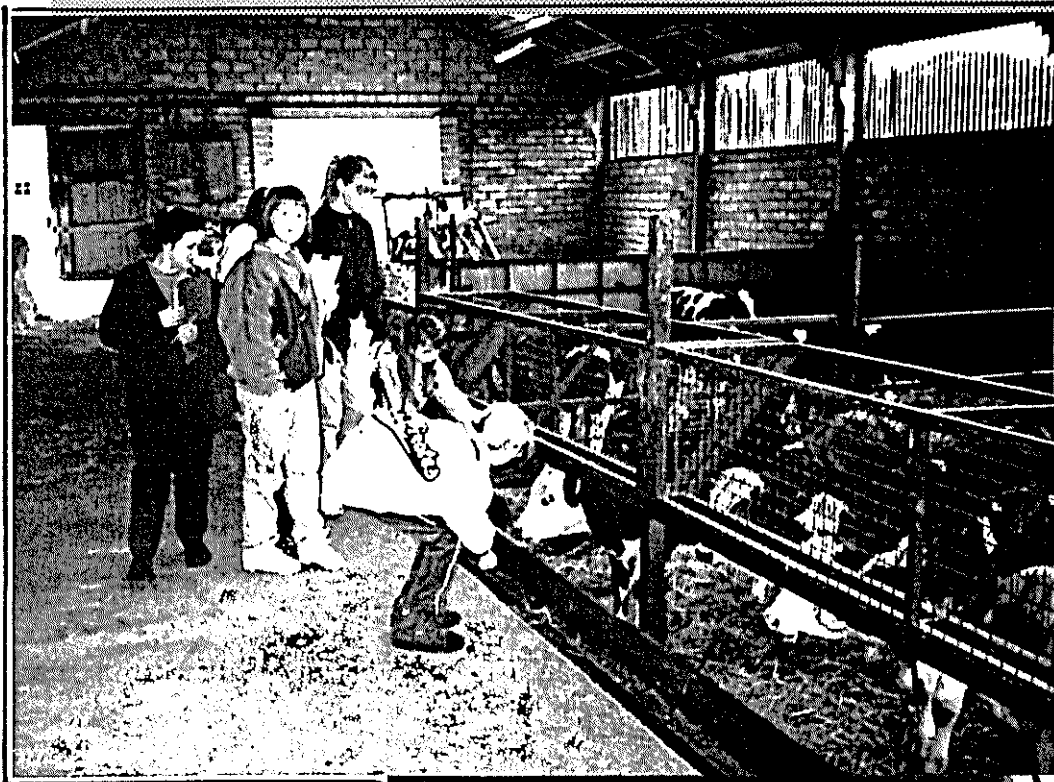
Fortunately, the weather was fine for our visits but we were reminded of how wet it had been recently - the fields were marshy and muddy, and many crops were still uncut with farm machines lying idle.

We were able to see some of the young animals which were being kept inside. The week-old calves which sucked our fingers were appreciated and the day-old piglets which could be held were cute - but the piggery had rather a strong smell which turned a few stomachs.

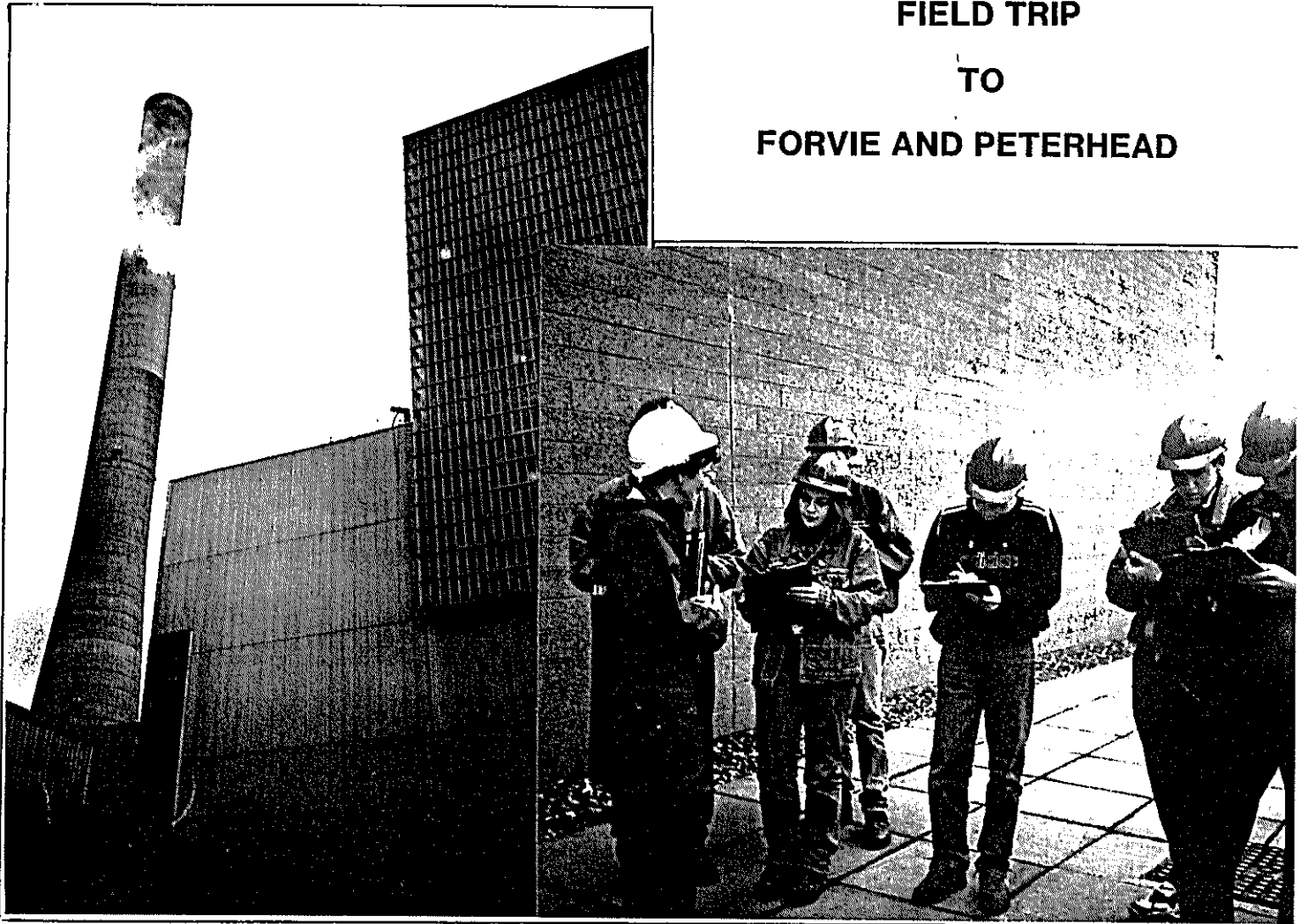
Back out in the fresh air we moved on to Tertowie where we saw some animals in fields. Philip the Herd was able to give us a lot of information about the animals in his care.

All too soon it was time to go - and although there was still plenty to see it was on the bus and back to Dyce, complete with country aroma which travelled back with us via boots and in some cases even clothes!

MORAG FORREST



FIELD TRIP TO FORVIE AND PETERHEAD



S3 Geography pupils on a recent field trip to find out about contrasting ways in which the land is used ... at Forvie Nature Reserve where we learnt why Forvie is such a special area and how a local weather station operates ... and at Boddam Power Station, Peterhead. Once we had penetrated the security system the staff gave us a warm welcome and issued us all with hard hats ... to be worn all the time ... and earplugs only to be worn when we were told to do so!

The tour, in small groups was interesting and informative with lots of opportunity to ask questions. Pupils enjoyed the

experience and the refreshments afterwards when the group were complimented on their behaviour and the interest they had shown during the visit.

Alison Angus