

Keen to be Green

Environment Week was an idea created to promote awareness of environmental issues and ways in which we can improve our present ecological situation.

On Monday, 7 November 1994, the Week was officially launched by a group of Sixth Form Committee members who presented Prayers and helped Mrs duCharme to hand out badges to all the official House Environment Representatives.

Activities such as 'Seen to be Green', non-uniform day and poster competitions were held during the Week, giving everybody the chance to become involved in current matters. However, our special *pièce de résistance* was an environmental quiz. The event had an excellent turn-out and there were even some Six Twos competing for the title of *Most Environmentally Friendly Team!* Everyone proved that they were reasonably aware of current issues, although we did have some rather amusing answers. For example, one group of Fourth Formers said that one way of saving water would be to watch the bath running!

All in all, Environment Week was a great success and we managed to raise over £200 for various charities. In addition, the collection of aluminium cans during the year has raised a further £20 for environmental charities.

Jane Hall
Head of Biology



The Garbage Angels, Environment Week's Non-Uniform Competition Winners

Learning to Manage

Early in the Autumn Term, the Six Ones, with some reluctance, entered the gymnasium for an all-day Management Conference under the guidance of Philip Le Broc. Rather sketchy as to what the conference would contain, it was with some trepidation that we listened to 'Phil's' first instructions. Everyone sat in a circle and invited the staff in as they arrived. The staff, whom we were asked to call 'guests' for the day, arrived looking equally apprehensive. Philip Le Broc's aims for the day seemed to be centred on bringing the layer together, promoting the idea of a team effort and showing the advantages of co-operating with staff!

Phil's methods consisted of a number of games and exercises. The first of these was forming a group and then devising the best method of carrying a teacher above your head around the room. Another was forming a pair with a member of staff and having to shout 'yes' and 'no' at each other as loudly as possible. Alcohol was provided at a delicious supper which perhaps aided the more emotional discussion which took place in the evening. Everyone sat in a circle, some on chairs and some on the floor, and we discussed in which seating position we felt more secure. Philip Le Broc combined his novel methods of physical challenge with a

preference for American lingo: during the discussion we were not supposed to begin a sentence with 'I think' - only with 'I feel'. We also talked of ways in which we could improve the School and whether we 'felt' happy with the way things were.

The result of the Management Conference depended very strongly on how much you put into it and in some areas it was very successful: Alex Schaafsma went on to form a Lower School Debating Society and it was also a chance for the year to get to know the new Six Ones and vice-versa. For some new girls, it provided a chance to speak their minds and state their opinions. However, Philip Le Broc's methods for bringing the year together were based mainly on his faith in the advantages of the 'group hug' and success here did seem to be somewhat limited. Our layer did get together for the day but the effects were not long-lasting. Despite this, the day was very enjoyable and if the lessons learnt were not always the intended ones, then at the very least, each of us went away with the knowledge that it did sometimes pay to be more receptive to these new methods of teaching.

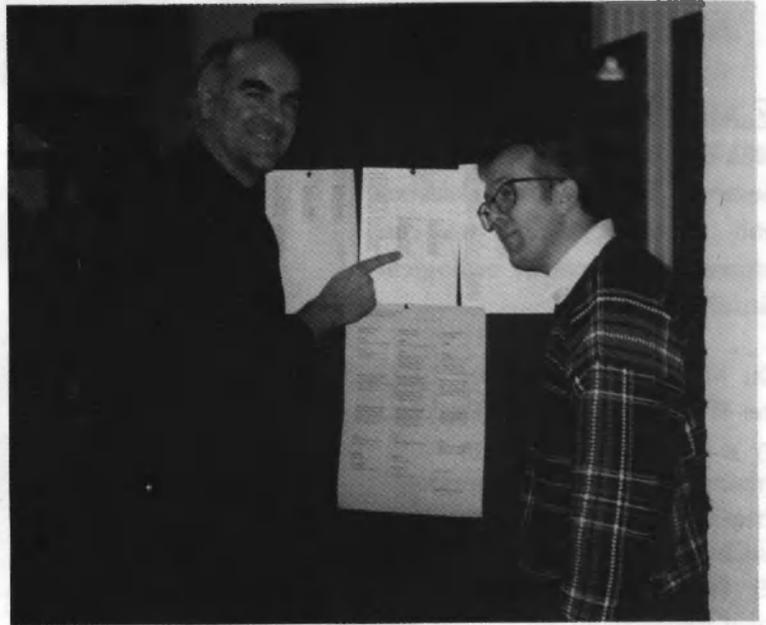
Susanna Davidson
Six One

Arts Festival 1995

11997



Theatrical Mask-making



Steve Frost and Phil Nice



Advanced Embroidery



Transitions Dance Group

The second Benenden Arts Festival for GCSE students was held on Friday, 10 February. Students from five schools in addition to Benenden attended with a special afternoon performance for the whole of Benenden School. Both events were sponsored by Coutts & Co and the Founders' Memorial Fund.

Workshops were run by 26 working arts professionals in areas as diverse as acting, directing, writing, journalism, composing and painting.

Work completed during the day was shown in a plenary session.

The usual Six One Careers' Insight Programme took place this year but was supplemented by the Fifth Form's opportunity to take part in the nation-wide Take Our Daughters to Work Day and we have selected extracts from the reports of three participants on their experiences.

Take Our Daughters To Work Day 27 April 1995

Alexandra Seddon visited the Foreign Office:

After what seemed a hectic commute to me but is just a normal day to many people, I ventured out on my first real day in the working city. I was very apprehensive when I first arrived at the Personnel Management Department because I knew very little about how the Foreign Office worked. This section of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to give it its full title, is situated outside the Office's main buildings.

I was at once made welcome and Mrs Barnes Jones, a Senior of the School and organiser of my day's itinerary, showed me to her office and explained the management structure and the main aims and objectives of the Foreign Office. In basic terms, the latter are: (a) to enhance the security and prosperity of the United Kingdom and the Dependent Territories and (b) to promote and protect British interests and influence overseas, including the welfare of British nationals.

She then described her own and the Personnel Department's role for the Foreign Office itself. Mrs Barnes Jones is responsible for the career development, welfare and personal matters of 130 people while they are working abroad. She was very willing to answer any of my questions

and greatly helped to increase my knowledge of how the Foreign Office functions.

Alexandra went on to meet a variety of other officials, learnt of the qualifications needed to work in this field, toured the grand State Rooms, attended a News Department briefing conference for the press and experienced the high level of security. Her most unnerving experience was to be spoken to by a Minister's Private Secretary in the Minister's own office and to have the Minister arrive unexpectedly. Douglas Hogg, the Minister, was very understanding and very enlightening also. This ended 'an excellent day'. Her most detailed meeting was with the Hong Kong Department:

After a quick lunch with some of the people I had previously met during the morning, I went back to the main building with an official of the Hong Kong Department. As you can imagine, this has been very busy because of the hand-over to China in 1997. The afternoon I was there coincided with the first House of Commons debate on Hong Kong and China for six years, so it was very hectic. The Hong Kong Department is a long corridor of about ten rooms, each dealing with individual aspects of the colony. It was very interesting to be shown a very large booklet of questions which had had to be prepared for the debate. The work dealt with for the last two years or so has been to try and ensure that there are as few changes as possible when Hong Kong reverts to China. For example, immigration from Vietnam and China needs to be controlled and every attempt is being made to avoid communist influence.

Alexandra discovered that employees of the Foreign Office have a hectic but challenging life and concludes:

I had a very worthwhile and interesting day and am very interested in doing some more work experience in the Foreign Office next year.

Phoebe Allpress had a very different but no less interesting day at Mercury Asset Management:

On the 27th April, Mrs Consuelo Brooke, a Senior and mother of Charlotte (Hemsted), kindly allowed me to shadow her at Mercury Asset Management - or the stocks and shares part of Warburgs, for those of us who are not familiar with 'financial jargon'.

Mrs Brooke is the Director of the Pension Funds section and, as I was to find out, her job is to look into new and even not-so-new companies to decide whether to invest in them or not. As she said herself, most of her day is spent on the telephone to clients, collecting vital information about the market and then dealing with huge amounts of other people's money!

She was keen to show me all the other areas of the business as well as her own and one section I particularly wanted to see was 'The Dealing Room'. All I really knew about this room was what I had been fed by movies and as I went up in the lift, I prepared myself for mass mayhem, accompanied by about five thousand people, all with at least six mobile 'phones stuck to each ear. When I arrived, I was met by the rather disappointing sight of about twenty people, all sitting at computer screens and, much to my horror, no mobile 'phones! When I asked the question: 'Where's all the action?' I was swiftly put in my place by my guide; he told me that all the best companies had up-to-the-minute IT facilities and there was therefore no need for huge numbers of people rushing around when a computer could do the job more efficiently.

Phoebe learnt a great deal about the intricacies of Mrs Brooke's occupation and says 'even though it wasn't what I expected, I found it very interesting.' A highlight was a financial discussion meeting:

In the afternoon, I went to one of Mrs Brooke's meetings with a French stockbroker called Laurent Sablio, who had brought numerous companies' portfolios with him, about all

of which he seemed to be extremely enthusiastic! They spent about an hour discussing these companies and it was especially interesting and also very amusing, as Laurent was quite a 'character'! All in all, the day was a wonderful experience and I am very grateful to Mrs Brooke.

you are morally fit to practise at the Bar.

Miss Gloster is a member of the Inner Temple Inn although for lunch we went to the Middle Temple Inn which is supposedly more interesting historically; the Temple Church, which Miss Gloster showed me is certainly of great antiquity.



Elizabeth Gloster with Neelam Verjee

Neelam Verjee went to Law with Elizabeth Gloster, mother of Sophie Brodie (Marshall):

...we walked to the Law Offices - 1 Essex Court, to be precise... Firstly, I was shown around the area. The chambers, as they were called, were built in 1677 and this is where barristers have their offices. There is also a Clerks' Room, which can be seen as the nerve centre and where there are twelve clerks who book barristers, make their appointments and sort out their diaries. There were timetables put up each day for the clerks, telling them what was on the agenda.

After I was shown around, I went with a barrister called Mr Jeffery Onions who was involved in a case to do with music copyright and the infringement of recording rights; you don't think about these aspects when you listen to the music recordings themselves! Half way through, I was taken to another court where the case concerned fraud. This was cut short and I rejoined Miss Gloster for lunch.

To become a barrister, you not only have to have a deep knowledge of the law but also have to join an Inn of Court and 'eat dinners' with other barristers so that they are able to judge your personality and see if

During the afternoon, I spent time with the junior clerks who are responsible for making sure that the barristers have everything they need for their cases and were, really, runners. During this time, I was taken around the Royal Courts of Justice, which were impressively large and imposing. A McDonald's with Mrs Addyman brought a really interesting day to an end.

A large number of Fifth Form girls took advantage of the day's opportunities to find out about such diverse fields as telecommunications, school uniform retailing, marriage guidance counselling, occupational therapy, being a readers' adviser at a library, international media sales, shipping, hospice work and a host of others. The School wishes to thank all those mothers who made this Take Our Daughters to Work Day so successful.

To the Salt Mines...

In Salzburg we saw some beautiful views. The mountains had snow and ice and corries. We saw some lovely lakes. We saw houses with spikes on their roofs so the snow wouldn't all come off at once and cause an accident. There were also specially shaped roofs to direct the snow in a particular direction.

The salt mines were the reason for Salzburg's name: salz - salt, burg - castle. We took a train-like engine down into the mines and slid down a long wooden slide in our white overalls. We actually crossed the border into Germany underground, and tasted the very salty water. The actual salt-making business closed a few years ago and the mines are now used as a tourist attraction. We went on an underground boat with amazing light effects and weird music! The roof was really low and when we touched it, salt crumbled away.

We also went to the Haus der Natur. There were lots of animals, including my favourite, the crocodile! They had some fascinating sticks all grown together like a trellis, and some strangely-shaped leaves. There were butterflies and birds and planets. I liked the planet section because you had to weigh yourself on all the planets and see on which planet you would weigh the lightest. I weighed 2kg on Mercury!

There wasn't much pollution in Salzburg as everyone had paper bins, biological bins, plastic and glass bins, aluminium bins and everyday bins. It seemed that there were lots of shops and stalls selling souvenirs so I think Salzburg relied quite a lot on tourists. Nearly every shop sold Mozartkugels!

Sophie Hall
Elizabeth Sebag-Montefiore
Upper Fourth

Postcard from Zimbabwe



At the Airport

Photo: Jane Grayling

Amazing experiences - quite impossible to recreate in the few sentences allocated! Work on a game reserve, a canoe safari, numerous game drives, highland trekking, and white water rafting in Victoria Falls were punctuated by eight hour bus rides, holiday romances, campfires and much laughter! Confidence was boosted, leaders led and friendships were forged. Quite superb - a trip with 'World Challenge' is recommended for anyone needing a breath of fresh air!

Juliet Douglas-Hughes
Upper Fifth



Canoeing down the Zambezi

Photos: Jane Grayling



Gaudi to Guernica

E
X
T
R
A

C
U
R
R
I
C
U
L
A
R

On Thursday, 16 February, we found ourselves in sunny Barcelona, armed with bags of woolly jumpers and coats for the bitter spring that we did not have to endure.

The purpose of this trip to Spain was to study Spanish art and architecture and having discarded our bags in the 'art nouveau' style Hotel Espania in the centre of Barcelona, we were stunned by the magnificence of Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's 'organic' cathedral. Not only those acquainted with nicotine were puffing and wheezing after tackling the 730 steps of the towers, from which we earned a bird's-eye view of the spectacular city that we were yet to discover.

The next day, the group assembled to make its way to the Picasso Museum, ambling through the town to view an enormous number of world-acclaimed paintings. Here we saw a room devoted to *Las Meninas*, a monochrome paraphrase of the work of the same name by Diego Velazquez. The day's sights included the cathedral of Barcelona, the Miro Museum and the Olympic stadium.

The following day, we toured the city, admiring Gaudi's spectacular architecture and followed this with a sweaty trek to Parc Güell to observe convoluting forms and remarkably imaginative mosaic sculptures. We reclined gratefully under the cool shade of the palm trees, looking out over the sea.

That night we were carted off, cattle style, on the couchette to the city of Madrid. Having now mastered the Spanish underground system, we travelled to the Prado art gallery, the highlight of our trip. Here we saw num-

erous famous paintings by Bosch, El Greco, Rubens, Goya, Melendez and Velazquez.

Having explored Madrid, we went to the Reina Sofia museum on the last day where we saw work by Dali, *Guernica* by Picasso and other examples of modern art. After stocking up on souvenirs and duty free, we were sorry to have to return home. The trip had been a great success (thank you to the staff).

We recommend you visit Spain if only for the paella and the generous helpings of, shall we say, liquid.

Nicola Bullard
Nina Barttelot
Emma Lewis
Annabel Mackenzie-Beevor
Six One

Abroad for rain!

As we flew over Spain we saw brown mountains and many rivers and reservoirs. There was a bit of flat land but it was very dry as there had been a drought. However, we did see some waterfalls with huge drops. We went to the highest point in Malaga where you could see for miles around.

In Ronda all the bridges were ancient. I noticed one particular bridge that had four different bridges on top of each other. The people of Spain are obviously interested in arches as they are all over the place, especially at the Alhambra Palace where we saw gardens and flowers. It was very pretty. We also went to an old fortress. We went to cathedrals and churches which had a lot of gold and the pictures were really big and colourful.

The weather was sunny most days but on the two days when we went to the beach, it rained. The beach in Malaga was blacker than the one in Nerja because the rocks, which are ground up to make the sand, are black. The sea was cold. The caves in Nerja were a long way underground. There were stalagmites and stalactites and a huge 32 metre column in the Cataclysm chamber.

Clementine Shipp
Upper Fourth



Mrs duCharme (right) and Mrs Pook are overcome by the Spanish Influence in Malaga

Photo: Alexandra Whitelaw

Fourth Form Visits

My Diary of La Rochelle (by Adrienne Mole aged 11¾)

Day 1: Left school on time, hope I put my suitcase on the coach?! Mr Moore's snoring kept the staff awake!

Day 2: Arrived safely but abandoned already! Teachers deserted us in market, (later saw them eating outside a cafe), we had to buy lunch in groups. Bought pastries and chocolate. Boat trip great, wasn't seasick. Youth hostel smelly but bunk beds great. (Toilets flush noisily!)

Day 3: Sleeping Beauty castle. Funny Frenchman did tour. He gave Miss Cannon a kiss - lucky her! Visit to Roman Auntietheatre, no lions about today, phew! On to Hennessy, distillery (Cognac) for "science lesson" and a free sample for Dad. Teachers seemed eager to get to the gift shop. Dinner at hostel - bread, bread and more bread...

Day 4: Futuroscope. Brill and fab! Queues long but plenty of boys to talk to and practise French. Starting to get blisters. Mr. Sanderson and Miss Cannon sing in corridor whilst we get ready for bed, they are quite tuneful!

Day 5: Museum of mussels then off to the marshes for a land train ride and punting. Had boat races, set fire to the water and sang very loudly. Teachers needed to buy "supplies" at the Hypermarché and made us late for supper.

Day 6: Walked to boat museum, blisters growing. Climbed towers and then caught boat to the aquarium. Too many tourists there though! Journey home was ok. Have run out of money so bought mum and dad a P&O biro. Tired but happy - will need half term to recover!

Ben Moore
Samantha Cannon



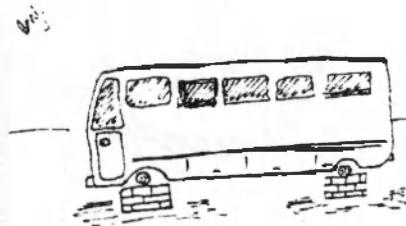
On the Quay at La Rochelle

Photo: Rose Colville



Mr Sanderson Serenades In La Rochelle

Photo: Claire Howeson



The girls don't seem to want to go home!

Ben Moore



With Mrs duCharme in Greenwich

A SERVICE OF DEDICATION
of the Memorial to
Capitaine Jean Maridor Free French, 91 Squadron RAF
24 November 1920 - 3 August 1944
St George's Church, Benenden
Sunday, 11 September 1994

A distinguished group of French visitors, some colleagues of Jean Maridor, attended the memorial Service to the man who died protecting Benenden School and village from a V1 flying bomb. Mrs Jean Holme (née Lambourn), Capitaine Maridor's fiancée at the time of his death, was a special guest at the Service and at the subsequent lunch at the School, hosted by Mrs duCharme.

The order of service was rendered into French by Caroline Bartlett.



Jean Maridor



**Mrs Jean Holme and
Wing Cdr R Sampson, CBE, DFC**



Mr T S C Busby, OBE, DL (Benenden), Mr Kenneth Potter (British Legion) and Col M Bottine (Air Attaché French Embassy)

VE Day in Hyde Park

On 6 May 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War was celebrated. My great-grandfather was Sir Winston Churchill and my grandmother, Mary Soames, is his youngest daughter. Because of this, the Royal British Legion, who were in charge of organising the official VE Day celebrations, invited me to be the person to hand to Her Majesty the Queen the torch with which she would then light the Beacon of Peace.

I was allowed the weekend off School as there were several rehearsals in Hyde Park for the ceremony. On the preceding Friday night, I went to a concert in the Park and was privileged to sit in the Royal Box. We all stood when Princess Anne arrived. On the Saturday afternoon, we returned to Hyde Park for a rehearsal during which I met the torch bearers, who, after the ceremony, were to run to many destinations all over the UK, bearing the official torches. On the Sunday, there was another rehearsal for the television cameras.

On the night itself, I stood for three-quarters of an hour holding an unlit torch and this time there were 230,000 people in the stands watching. Then I walked to the Queen's chair where I lit my torch and handed it to Her Majesty. I did not curtsy as I was told not to while holding a flaming torch. As I handed it to her, the Queen asked me what she should do with it! I watched the rest of the ceremony through binoculars from the stands. I then went home very cold but it was a great honour to be asked and it was thrilling to participate.

Emily Macmanus
Fourth



Photograph by courtesy of Reuters

Visionary ideas...

Personal helicopters, flying motor-bikes, hologram televisions, underwater cities, automatic hair cutting booths, and temperature regulating clothes were just a few of the visionary ideas buried in a time capsule on 10 March 1995.

The Design Council marked its 50th anniversary by celebrating the nation's commitment to design and inspiring innovation for the 21st century through Project 2045: Design for our future. The project was open to schools, colleges, businesses and design consultancies. Participants were asked to put forward visions for design and living in the year 2045. Over eighty students submitted work ranging from concept sketches to poetry, reflecting ideas ranging from those within the realms of possibility to the truly fantastic.

The burial ceremony was well attended by students, staff and the press. Lauren Pobjoy, as the youngest member of the school, had the honour of burying the capsule. Details of the location of each of the 2045 capsules buried nationwide have been recorded at the Museum of Mankind. A copy of each entry sealed inside our capsule will be kept in the school's archives.

I hope that the contributors and supporters will be able to congregate once more at the site on March 10th 2045 when the capsule will be retrieved!

Samantha Cannon
Head of Design and Technology

Inter City to Adventure

**E
X
T
R
A** After arrival at Euston, we endeavoured to make the four and a half hour journey to Betws-y-Coed, crossing the border into Wales without the delights of duty-free. However, we were blessed with the Inter City buffet car.

**C
U
R
R
I
C
U
L
A
R** Upon arrival, we piled on to a waiting mini-bus and were taken to the field centre where the important sites of the village were grafted on to our minds. We were sharing the centre with five other schools, two of the male variety and therefore welcomed by all of us, especially Cariad. Work started that afternoon with an introduction to the rules and regulations of the centre which were assimilated by all listeners.

Our first day involved hydrology, which brought back fond memories of Nettlecombe and a very humorous incident occurred when Ali Ross disappeared, temporarily, in a bog. The day at the beach proved the most successful and enjoyable. The sun shone down and rather unfairly caught the pale skin of Alex's face, turning it to a dark shade of beetroot. To cool ourselves down, a dip in the sea was in order. Mrs Grayling joined us, though a little assistance was required, which consisted in her being carried down the beach by all of us and thrown into the imitation Caribbean.

Another of our adventurous days was spent taking a peaceful stroll in the countryside around Betws-y-Coed where, at one point, having climbed a dauntingly steep incline, we were greeted by an ill-humoured Welsh landowner, which distressed some of us. The farmer seemed to regard the place as a gold-mine rather than the slate heap which it seemed to us but we retreated to the welcoming surroundings of the field centre.

Our evenings were spent concluding the day's work and relaxing in front of Welsh television! The whole field trip was a tremendous success. We enjoyed it AND learned a good deal and sincerely thank Mrs Grayling for agreeing to accompany us. It was such fun that we are all looking forward to the slide show!

Alexandra Baleman
Rachel Khalil
Six One



Georgina Harland with Hygrometer

Photo: Jane Grayling



Even at their Society supper Inkslingers continue to write

Sixth Form Field Studies at Dale Fort, Pembrokeshire



Fish's Eye View



Worm's Eye View



Human's Eye View



Seagull's Eye View

Photos: Peter Lewis

BREAD

New to the scene in Benenden, BREAD was launched in late November. It is a Christian meeting that takes place on Friday evenings, aimed to appeal to those of religious inclinations or none.

A wide range of visiting speakers have come to talk on various issues and the relaxed atmosphere, varied activities and homemade cake make it a welcome way to end the week!

Rebecca Mullins
Head of Religious Studies

Several changes...

The School Union has met regularly this year and brought about several changes. One of these developments is the presence of two fixed exeats in the Autumn Term. This was because it was felt that this term is very long and tiring, for the new girls especially. A water fountain has finally been installed in the Cloisters for students with games between lessons.

An effort has also been made to improve the School's security. Students now meet with staff regularly as it is realised that students are often the most aware of security problems in Houses. There has also been much discussion over the necessity for obligatory church for Sixth Formers. Nothing has yet been concluded, however this is a thought for the future.

Many other small changes have also been made. I would like to thank all Union officials and staff that support the Union. I look forward to more progress this year.

Anna Jennings
President of the Union

Trip to the Sinai

E
X
T
R
A

C
U
R
R
I
C
U
L
A
R

I wriggle in my sleeping bag and open my eyes; the sky is totally clear, the sun is rising. I realise that I have never really seen a completely blue sky; living in England, that is hardly surprising.

In the Easter holidays, ten girls, four parents and Miss Moat set off to the Sinai Desert. It was an amazing experience and great fun. One of our first feats was to climb Mount Sinai itself and we all felt very pleased with ourselves until we saw all the old ladies who skip up and down the mountain every day of their lives. On the way up, we went half-way on camels, which was very amusing. The camels liked to walk on the edge of the path and push each other around and I don't recommend being terrified of falling down a mountain. Believe it or not, at the summit there were stalls selling Cadbury's chocolate and hot drinks!

On our first day in the desert, it was my birthday and my mother had insisted on sending me off with a cake. To further my embarrassment, my godmother had insisted on icing it. We sat around the camp-fire and ate the cake and I am sure it was the first time the drivers of the vehicles saw and ate an English birthday cake. This brings me to our Bedouin guides and drivers. I am sure that I have never met such a friendly, forthcoming and funny people. The biggest hit were the two Mohammeds who were nicknamed 'Banana Man' and 'Chicken Man'. Perhaps 'Chicken Man' could be persuaded to come to Benenden to help with the catering: the food was delicious. We also stayed at St Catherine's for one night where we were, it seemed, overrun by Greek tourists. This monastery is a major landmark in the desert and is a Greek Orthodox establishment and is very beautiful though we only caught a glimpse of the priests, who, not surprisingly, seemed to avoid visitors.



Photo: Harriet Reid

The best day, I feel, was the day we spent in the sandstone desert. 'Chicken Man' took us to a Bedouin well and proceeded to soak everyone - and then we took our revenge on him. That day we also climbed a sand dune and raced down. A variety of names were adopted and allocated: the five Fifths on the trip took to calling themselves 'The Famous Five Fifths', Mr Carter's designer stubble earned him the title 'Yasser Arafat' and we suspected that Miss Moat fell for our young Bedouin guide!

It was, all in all, a wonderful trip and on behalf of all those who went, I would like to thank Emma Loveridge from Wind, Sand and Stars, all our Bedouin guides and especially Miss Moat, who made it all possible.

Harriet Reid
Lower Fifth



Phoenix and Hands On

Early in the Autumn Term, over forty enthusiastic Six Ones formed two Young Enterprise companies. By half-term, these were fully operational and each was equipped with a managing director: Charlotte Baden-Powell and Sophie Brodie. 'Phoenix' made and sold cotton scarves, while 'Hands On' produced grass heads.

The two companies soon got their goods into production and started to sell them straight after half-term, to willing parents, staff and fellow students, as well as at a trade fair outside School.

Both companies were successful and made profits. Each produced an annual report and, as a result of this, Phoenix progressed to the second stage of the competition. During the Spring Term, many of us sat the Young Enterprise Europe examinations and no fewer than eight distinctions were obtained.

Considerable thanks are due to our two company advisers and to Dr Peter Lewis, who gave both groups a great deal of practical help. In the course of this year, we have often been told that Young Enterprise is, above all, a learning experience. I am glad to say that it was a lot of fun too!

Gemma Shearman
Six One

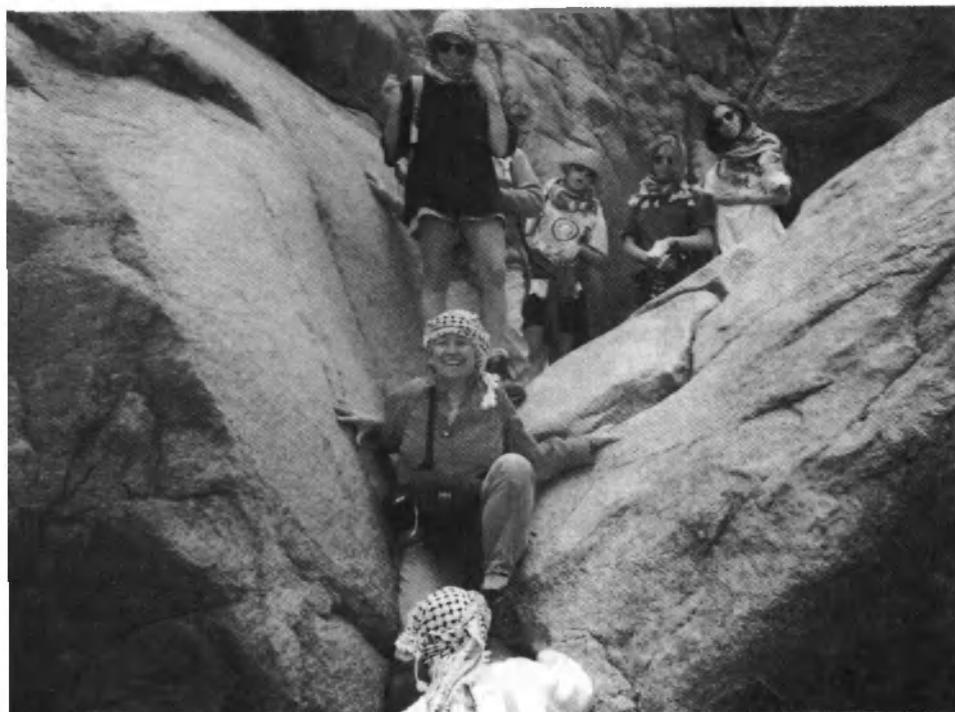


Photo: Eva Phillips

The Nettlecombe Experience

One Saturday morning in May, the Lower Fifts frantically sped around their Houses searching for various objects of kit. Outside, the clouds were low and grey - perfect weather for field studies, but luckily for us, the weather stayed good most of the week. Trembling teachers embarked on a long coach journey with 78 noisy girls. The coaches lurched forward amid cheers of "Freedom"! Five hours later, hordes of hot and sticky teenagers emerged from the convoy outside a looming house with a haunted air and creaking floorboards. Those hours of stored-up energy were released in unpacking and exploring. The groans of the field studies staff were drowned in yelps and squeals of delight.

By dinner time the group had been shocked into reality by measuring yellow flowers all over the front lawn! Dinner was a noisy affair, aided by the acoustics of the Great Hall. After dinner, a welcoming speech in the Flanders and Swan style was addressed to us by a metal-hipped man called Dr Crothers. He looked like Henry the Eighth and held his stick under his arm in a military manner, reminding me of an ex-sergeant major who was now a strict PE teacher. With this picture in my mind, I thought that we had been sent to an army camp and would have to work from 6am till 10pm till we died of exhaustion, but Dr Crothers was so friendly and funny that I knew that, after all, we were going to have a good time. His trusty canine companions were Basil, the Jack Russell and Sam the golden retriever, who was very good at releasing "dog gas" in the laboratory!

At Nettlecombe there is a delicious range of food, which prevented our stomachs from talking. It was almost like home cooking - cooked breakfasts, decent packed lunches, delicious buns or cakes for tea and a filling supper. What more could we want? On a typical day a loud rising bell rang at 8am, but if it was someone's birthday we would get up somewhat earlier.

We worked and played in the beautiful Somerset countryside, paddled in the bubbly stream of Embercombe in magnificently scenic Exmoor, and flooded our wellies investigating the distribution of freshwater invertebrates at six stages downstream; this day ended happily with a water fight. We trapped field mice and rolled down the steep hill, covering our

clothes in grass stains! When we went to Porlock Bay we had great fun measuring stones and investigating longshore drift: as the stones moved along the beach they were eroded and made smaller and smoother. It was a privilege to see a seal swimming in the Bristol Channel - a first time for some; when it poured with rain, we took refuge in a tiny shop. Another day we did the famous 'Nettlecombe Grassland Experiment', counting different species in plots mown like a normal lawn, plots mown every year and plots never mown; it wasn't the most interesting investigation! However, we liked the idea of working with the real world rather than imitating the land forms in a classroom.

We worked a lot, we learned a lot, and it was great fun. Only believe the good rumours about Nettlecombe: you'll have a good time.

CONTRIBUTORS: Olivia Powles
Amelia Calvert
Anna Fremantle
Harriet Witheridge
Catherine Langdon
Katie Cullinan
Louise Heming Johnson
Alice Wright
Sara Milnes Coates
Joanna Langham
Freya Goolden
Tessa Viljoen
Saivipa Patpongpiul
Zita Yarwood
Helen Dunnet
Juliet Nash
Zante Walker
Rebecca Smart
Tanya Madhvani



Fun?



Work?

Behind the Scenes Week at the Royal Opera House

I applied for the course for 16-21 year-olds in February 1995, expressing my interest in theatre and was delighted to receive the letter of acceptance to start on 17 July.

My first day at the Royal Opera House was certainly an eye-opener and I was particularly surprised at how easy it was for over eighty of us to become friends during our initial 'bonding' session. Each day was broken down into four two-hourly sessions with a one hour lunch break in Covent Garden. Throughout the week, we attended a ballet and opera demonstration, a 'life in the orchestra' sequence, a tour of the Opera House and of the workshops for directing set and costume design, stage management and lighting design. We even attempted some opera singing which was certainly an experience! My favourite, however, was certainly the 'wigs and make-up' demonstration, which consisted of the head of department showing us various wigs of the past and also giving us a fascinating make-up demonstration. For this, a volunteer was chosen from the audience whose face was divided in two and then skilfully made up, much to his embarrassment, half as a man and half as a woman!

Another highlight of my week was the 'Department Visits'. Firstly, we saw the 'Model Room', which had an amazing display of miniature model sets of all past productions at the Royal Opera House. Afterwards, we visited a performer's dressing room, where we saw a demonstration on the art of prosthetics, which is the making of constructions to alter someone's appearance on stage. In this case, the performer used the character of one of the gnomes he played in Wagner's *Ring* cycle as his example.

Our last visit was to the costume department, where we were shown a display of costumes used in past productions along with the extensive wardrobes. I was astonished by the amount of attention to detail which went into the costumes and equally



Kathryn Eustace

astonished by the ultimate cost. I also managed to obtain an interview with one of the costume designers, which will be very helpful for my A Level Theatre Studies costume project.

At the end of the week, I had the chance to direct a scene from the play *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw. I found this particularly challenging, as the three characters in my scene were played by actresses from a London stage school, who were much older than I was. However, I found that by working closely with them, I was able to express my own ideas successfully.

The treat of the week was a performance of Verdi's *La Traviata*, with the leading role of Violetta being played by Carol Veness. Unfortunately, the performance had to be abandoned after the second act as Carol Veness was suffering from laryngitis. I will, nevertheless, always have wonderful memories of the beautiful singing, the extravagant set and the elaborate costumes.

The entire week was a very colourful experience, greatly developing my own presentation skills, and I would encourage anyone interested in the arts to attend this course.

Kathryn Eustace
Six One

Macbeth

A trip to see *Macbeth*? Various emotions spread through the Upper Fifths. After discussion, we decided this might be useful and enjoyable, with perhaps McDonald's too!

So, Thursday, 23 February came and the coach arrived. We arrived in good time for a quick leg-stretch before settling down in the (somewhat small) New End Theatre, Hampstead.

The beginning seemed somewhat different from the play we had been studying and a few sat through the first five minutes believing we had come to the wrong play! However, it slowly became familiar to all and we waited eagerly to see how *these* actors would interpret the plot.

We were pleasantly surprised when the supposed 'old hags' of witches appeared from under the stage as three young girls dressed in bright orange. The general opinion was that the characters were portrayed effectively with interesting ideas, such as modern dress, incorporated. It was encouraging to see such a young group of actors working so well together.

The play continued in an impressive fashion and most of the original text was kept. The characters were, on the whole, similar to those we had expected, although we were all disappointed with Lady Macbeth, as she had a strong Irish accent which undercut the play's vital Scottish setting.

A particularly impressive part of the production was the way in which the stage's wooden platform was slightly raised, not only to give a slanted look, but also to allow the actors to emerge from underneath, often surprising the audience.

At the end, we were so impressed with the play's effect that we completely forgot our craving for Big Macs! The return seemed quick and no doubt seemed comfortable for our able 'minders', Mrs Elkin and Miss Cannon, as the loud group were fast asleep in the back.

Kate Kandiah
Alexandra Pye
Upper Fifth

Post Examination Programme 1995

E
X
T
R
A

C
U
R
R
I
C
U
L
A
R



Shades of Bruges I



Bruges Transport



Shades of Bruges II



Checking the Money

Other than Bruges visits, elements of the post-exam programme included:

Parents' Association outings

Visits to Aylesford Priory, Knole Park, Cambridge and The Body Shop factory and headquarters

Lectures:

Colour Me Beautiful

How to Entertain

***As You Like It* workshop**



Shades of Bruges III



In the Square

Questions and Answers

What do you do if you want to have breakfast in bed, have a slave for a day, wear your own clothes in lessons or have your car washed?

How do you persuade even the most conservative members of staff to wear bright red?

What do tennis rallies, visiting Her Majesty the Queen Mother, hair plaiting in Marshall and Sushi band pop concerts have in common?

THE ANSWER to all of the above is: raising money for charity at Benenden.

There's something about a good cause that inspires the best in everyone and this year has been no exception. A huge amount of money has been raised through the imagination, flair and sheer hard work of girls and staff on all sides - they and family and friends have given most generously, enabling us to raise a recorded total of £5819.56.

A powerful and moving talk by Sally Trench elicited numerous enterprises to raise money for Project Spark: to fill two lorries with food and medical supplies, for Sally to drive across firing lines to reach the neediest people in Bosnia.

Closer to home, a well illustrated talk by Mrs Margaret Hanlon prompted some fruitful fund-raising for the Canterbury Oasts Trust. This is an important charity which enables mentally disabled adults to run a Rare Breeds Farm with a restaurant, as well as other local projects.

Other charities supported this year include:

- Save the Children
- Queen Mary's Clothing Guild
- Benenden Challenge
- Comic Relief
- World Wildlife Fund
- St Botolph's Centre, London
- Survival International
- The Macmillan Fund
- Help the Aged
- The Royal British Legion
- Royal National Lifeboat Institute
- St George's Church, Benenden
- Treloar Trust
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Shelter

Rebecca Mullins
Almoner

Sixth Form Lectures

Forensic Science

*Mike Silverman
Scientific Support Manager,
Kent County Constabulary*

An Introduction to Further Education

*Jacki Burr-Lonan
Kent County Council Careers Department*

Economics and Being a working mother

Professor and Mrs Lal

Applying to university

Brian Heap

Developmental Learning Difficulties

*Steve Clarke
Developmental Therapist and
creator of The Centre for
Developmental Learning Difficulties*

Life from my wheelchair

Mark Bowen

Mark, a 19 year old paraplegic and ex-Haileybury boy, achieved ABD at A level despite breaking his neck two years previously and suffering total paralysis. He had just spent three weeks on safari in Africa and after his GAP year has a place at SOAS to study African Studies.

South Africa, a den of iniquity or a cradle of hope?

Jeremy Taylor

A Career with Shell International

John Pearce

The Born Free Foundation

Annette Andre

MONTY

Gary Montgomery

Careers for a journalist

*Barry Penrose
Investigative Editor of Sunday Express and The Times*

Russia from the inside

Greg Yeoman

Classic and Caribbean - travelling thoughts on cults and culture

David Harmsworth



Baroness Warnock

Founders' Lectures

Feminism

Baroness Warnock

Taking supplies to the people in Bosnia

*Sally Trench
Author of 'Bury me in my Boots'
and Founder of Project Spark*

Sculpture

EXTRA CURRICULAR



K8 and K9 at Sunset:
the first sculpture in the new sculpture park



Prof Grigori Bulgarov (aka Mr Stiller), with his 'interpreter' Richard Whitehead, visits the Long Gallery



Anthony Hawken demonstrates sculptural technique at the Arts Festival 1995

Textile News

Girls are encouraged to visit exhibitions and museums to look at historical or modern textile pieces. This year the Fifths saw professional artists' work at the Commonwealth Institute in an event entitled 'The Art of the Stitch', which included large-scale pieces for corporate display. A visit to the Indian Rooms at the V & A later that day proved to be a wonderful source of ideas and, for some students, was the first of many visits.

Besides looking, it is exciting to take part in a public exhibition and some girls exhibited at three events this year. Firstly, congratulations to Melissa Clive who won joint first prize in the 15-18 age group in the Embroiderers' Guild de Denne Bursary Awards, winning a cheque for £50. Her richly-embellished velvet waistcoat *Streets Paved with Gold* won the Young Textile Group's competition 'Pantomime', held at Hampton Court Palace, to be exhibited again at Alexandra Palace, in October.

Nicola Bullard, Melissa Clive, Hannah Morgan and Alexandra Ross were amongst those who, in April, exhibited with the Tunbridge Wells Group of the Embroiderers' Guild at the town's art gallery.

Finally, congratulations to Joanna Aitchison, U16 class winner in the National Embroidery Championships at Ascot Racecourse in June. She was awarded £50 for her piece *Freedom*. Jenny Newton and Elizabeth Parish had the pleasure of hanging work alongside that of other textile artists.

Fashion and creative textiles are regularly exhibited in the Entrance Hall and in Long Gallery Art Exhibitions. Watch for displays of wonderful embroideries and textiles from the Historical Costume Collection which has items from 1800 onwards and from many cultures and countries. The Menswear section of the Collection recently had its 1970s area extended with the donation, by Alexander Stiller, of an Aquascutum suede overcoat with fur collar.

Elaine Tyler
Head of Textiles

Ski-ing and a Sun-tan

Benenden trips across the pond to California

In the early hours of the morning of Friday, 24 April, the party began to assemble at Heathrow, ready to endure an eleven-and-a-half hour flight. We were wonderfully welcomed by the sight of two of our three instructors who would take on the arduous task of (supposedly) chaperoning us throughout the holiday.

Our first stop, once in LA airport, was the nearby 'Continental Plaza', a suitable 'passing through' place with spectacular views of Burger King. Overcome by jet-lag, we 'crashed out' on the first night.

On Sunday, we embarked on our seven-hour coach journey to Mammoth Lakes, where we would spend our week ski-ing. Surprisingly, the time passed quickly thanks to bizarre musical tastes, incredible scenery and a lot of jumping about by Emily Wills.

When we finally arrived at the Austria Hof Hotel, everyone piled off the 'bus in relief. Naturally, in the excitement, the Six Ones made a beeline for the bar. Alas, the Americans are a peculiar people and you have to be over twenty-one simply to enter one, even if, like us, you have only the innocent intention of buying orange juice. We were not to be deterred however, and later managed winningly to persuade the barman to serve us - much to Helena de Chair's delight.

The following seven days were spent in bliss, skiing on some of the best snow in the world and, with the assistance of our lovely instructors, we became speed demons overnight. During the day, the sun shone endlessly while in the evening, the moisturisers were continuously re-applied in a vain attempt to curb peeling and cool the 'lobster look' that all but Ali Ross had been blessed with.

Almost two-thirds of the group tried their foot at snowboarding, urged on by rumours that the instructors were gorgeous. It proved to be harder than it looked and produced some seriously impressive bruises.



The Intrepid School Ski Party in California

After a strenuous day on the slopes, the spa pool, outside the hotel in the snow, was very inviting and soothed away many aches and pains. It also gave James Scopes the chance to get his own back by splashing every one as much as possible. After some capers on the last night, we reluctantly packed our bags and departed, not forgetting to rescue Helena from behind the bar!

We became stars for the day and visited the sights and sounds of Hollywood and Beverly Hills, planting our hands and feet in the prints of our heroes and heroines. When we felt sufficiently armed with handfuls of suitable souvenirs - plastic Oscars and the inevitable T-shirts, we boarded our 'plane and waved a fond farewell to California and to a great holiday. On behalf of the whole group we would like to thank Mrs Scopes, Mrs Grayling and Mr Nebbs for putting up with us all and organising such an excellent and successful trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by those reporting on it here, who are:

Sophie Brodie
Lucinda Cornes
Alexandra Ross
Sarah Scott
Six One

Skiing in Flaine

From 28 January to 1 February 1995, the Benenden School skiing team stayed in Flaine in France for the annual British Schoolgirls' Races. The team consisted of seven: Sarah Baddeley, Zoe Bedford, Natasha McDonald, Jenny Bekenn, Katy Tiptaft, Natasha Pobjoy and Lauren Dudley. Miss Steven kindly looked after us during our stay.

We arrived in Flaine on Saturday evening and on Sunday we trained for the forthcoming races in cold and windy conditions with heavy snow-fall. We woke on Monday morning nervous about the giant slalom race but everybody made it through the course, which, considering the weather, was very impressive. That afternoon the sun finally came out for the dual slalom, a fun event in which we competed as a team.

Our last race, the slalom, was on the Tuesday and on a difficult course, which we were all pleased to complete safely. We left Flaine with sorrow on Wednesday, having had a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable stay.

"Computers are a powerful way of creating pictures." An innocent enough statement; and even if you don't like computers, you'd probably expect to be denounced as a reactionary if you dared to argue with it. Now I'm a physicist, and I **do** like computers. So if computers are so wonderful, why is it that all the pictures I try to draw come out like the two opposite—neat but totally unrealistic?

My complete lack of artistic talent is only part of the answer. The problem is that traditional computer drawing packages make it easy for you to draw lines and curves, and to colour in shapes. But if this is **all** that your drawing program can do, you have to work very hard to get something that looks even remotely realistic. With the exception of certain styles of interior decoration, the world around us is **not** made up of straight lines, curves and solid areas of colour!

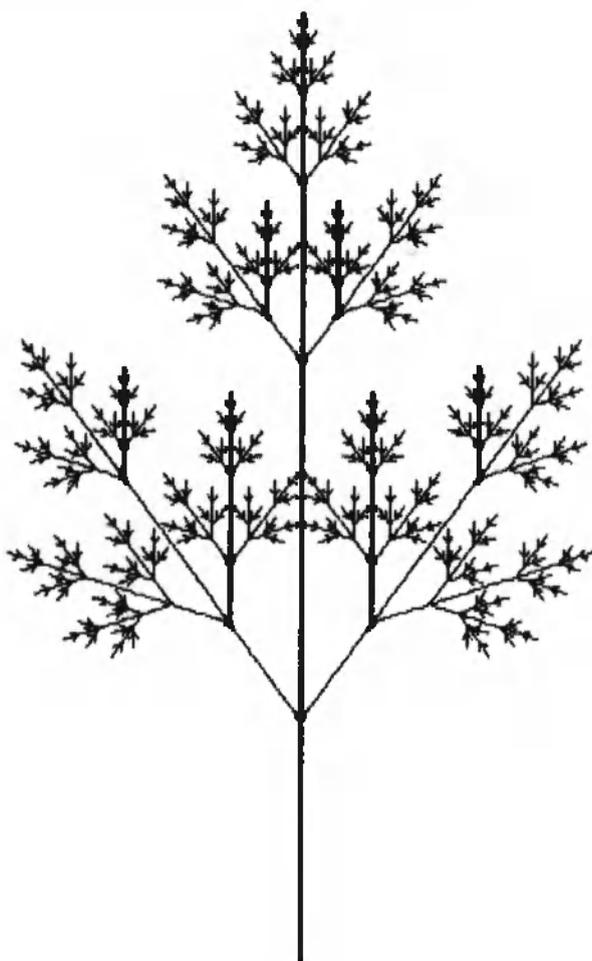
This matters, because unless computers can generate realistic pictures without the intervention of artists or cameras, they'll never be able to complete their program(me) of total world



clouds



mountains



domination. Fortunately, advances in mathematics in the last twenty years have provided a way to generate realistic pictures using shapes called **fractals**. These shapes have the property that if you magnify part of them, you see the original shape once again. The 'plant' opposite is an example of this: each branch is a copy of the whole plant. Nature is full of shapes with this structure—ferns, trees, the course of a river, the edge of a cloud, the side of a mountain... These natural shapes aren't perfect fractals, but they're close enough for fractal versions of ferns, trees, etc., generated by computer, to look extremely real. And because the rules that describe a fractal ("make the branch the same as the whole plant") are simple, computers can draw them very quickly and efficiently.

Just as traditional drawing software is best at drawing simple shapes, so traditional physics is best at handling simple systems—a pendulum, a single atom, a single planet orbiting a single star. Of course, this doesn't mean that traditional physics can **only** handle simple systems. Just as a skilled artist can draw realistic pictures using only straight lines and curves, so a physicist with the requisite skill can identify the essence of a complicated problem and simplify this until it can be solved, without simplifying so much that the link with the original problem is lost.

But sooner or later both the artist and the physicist

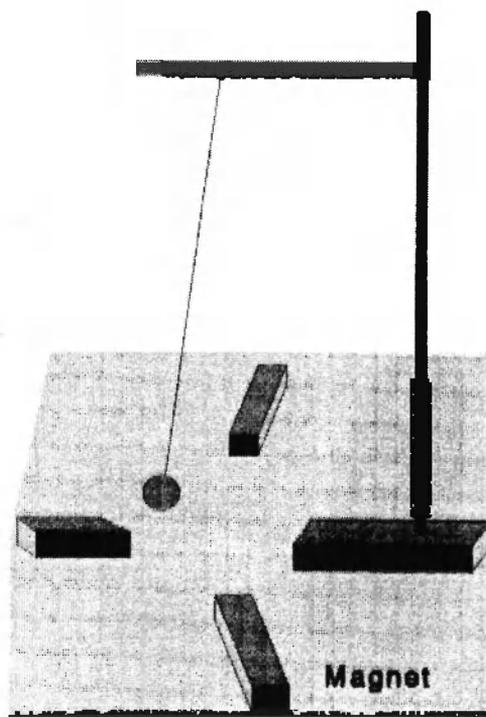
reach the limit of what they can do in this way. The artist who finishes with straight lines and curves and wants to draw something more complicated can move on to new shapes. Some of the best modern computer drawing software allows the use of fractal shapes and textures, giving the artist access to a far greater range of images. Is there something similar for the physicist? Is there some unifying principle, analogous to fractals, that will allow the physicist to study complex systems?

Understanding complex systems fully is going to keep scientists busy for a long time yet, but the first step on the road is the notion of **chaos**. Scientists have long been used to the idea that simple systems behave in simple ways. A pendulum is a simple system: swing it, and it does more-or-less what you'd expect; swing it again, and much the same thing happens. But not all simple systems behave in this simple way. Swing a pendulum in the presence of three magnets (see the picture) and it goes all over the place! What's more, if you start it off from the same place a second time, its motion is completely different! Adding the magnets has made the motion of the pendulum very sensitive to small changes in its starting position. Because the starting position is never known exactly, the motion of the pendulum is actually unpredictable, even though the laws that govern its motion are known. This unpredictability is called **chaos**.

Chaos occurs throughout Nature—in the size of animal populations, the weather, the beating of a weak heart, the dripping of water from a tap. All of these systems are governed by simple known laws, but all can be so sensitive to external conditions that, like the pendulum, there's no way of predicting what will happen over long periods of time. Left-over hippies will tell you that chaos represents the final failure of reductionistic Western scientific rationalism, or something similar. Even if you know the laws that govern a system, they say, you can't tell what that system is going to do, so science has failed. But the real situation is almost the exact opposite of this. Let me explain.

If it's true that simple laws can lead to complicated behaviour, then it is also true that behind complicated behaviour there may lie simple laws. Before chaos was recognized, a system which looked complicated was generally assumed to be complicated. But chaos has taught us that complicated behaviour may be the result of simple

Nothing in Nature is random...
A thing appears random only
through the incompleteness of
our knowledge.—Spinoza



laws, which means that understanding complicated behaviour is no longer hopeless. It's true that we can never predict the long-term behaviour of a chaotic system. But if we know the simple laws which govern the system, we can predict what will happen in the **short** term and we can understand the general features of what **might** happen in the long term. For example, the weather is a chaotic system. Knowing if it is going to be raining in six months' time is impossible. But short-term forecasts work well, and our understanding of long-term climate changes is getting better all the time.

The study of chaos is the study of complex behaviour in simple systems. Of potentially much greater importance is the study of **simple** behaviour in **complex** systems. An example: the human brain is a complex system, but human behaviour doesn't reflect the complexity of the brain at all. This is lucky, because the wiring of our brains changes from day to day as our brain cells die and aren't replaced. If our behaviour was as complicated as our brains, we'd be different people every day! But if it's not the detailed structure that matters, what is it about our brains that makes them work? It's looking increasingly likely that the answers to such questions will come not from slicing brains up on a chopping board, but from a general theory of complex systems.

Nigel Dowrick
Physicist