


GRAPEVINE

SYDENHAM SCHOOL PRESENTS

A LONDON NIGHT OUT



SATURDAY 15th NOV
7.30
£2.50 EXTRAORDINARY
ENTERTAINMENT AND
FOOD.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM Mr C Dean,
AT THE SCHOOL.

Autumn 1980

Grapevine is the news letter of the Sydenham School PTA. It is a joint production of parents and staff and its aim is to keep people informed about school affairs.

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Contributions to Grapevine are always welcome. They should be sent to:

Grapevine,
c/o School Office,
Sydenham School
Dartmouth Road,
S.E.26.

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR

Well here we are at the beginning of another school year and already there are so many things to tell you about that we have had to produce an edition with four extra pages.

First of all, though, we want to say welcome to all our new First Years and their parents. We print below a special letter of welcome from Miss Rees. But you ought also to know about Grapevine which is the PTA magazine and comes out four times a year with news of things that are happening at the school. We hope you will join us as regular readers.

The pages of this edition of Grapevine will give you some idea of the range of PTA activities and our involvement in school affairs - from organising a very grand (and successful!) May Fayre to participating in discussions on the future of secondary education in Lewisham. We are always looking for more people to help us with these activities. If you are a new parent at Sydenham and would like to get involved in some of these activities, we would like to know about you. Could you fill in the form on the back page and send it into the school?

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE LOWER SCHOOL

Is it really only a month since that sunny Tuesday when nearly 300 immaculately dressed 1st Years walked shyly into Sydenham School? Although one or two are still feeling rather strange, you would think most of them had been here for years.

Everyone has responded well to my request that in all situations and to all people their words should be courteous, their smile friendly, and their attitude willing and cheerful.

We invite all new parents to join us in encouraging them in work and play. We are eager to meet and talk with you and we welcome your interest, your questions and comments.

Sheila Rees

Deputy Head in charge of Lower School

Meetings for this term

We have two meetings arranged for this term. The first is on Thursday October 16th when we have a meeting called 'So you think you have problems!'. A panel of experts will be on hand to discuss any problems you'd like to raise with them about bringing up teenagers. Then on Tuesday November 25th we've got the Annual General Meeting and Wine and Cheese Party. The promise is that the AGM this year will go on no longer than an hour which should give us plenty of time for the Party! We hope lots of people will make the effort to come along to both meetings. They will be at 7.30 p.m. in the Sixth Form Block.

London Night Out - November 15th

We're hoping to repeat the success of our May Fayre Banquet with our London Night Out on Saturday November 15th. This will include an Edwardian Music Hall with Peggy Oliver from the Players' Theatre and Larry Barnes, a well known member of the Magic Circle. Also in evidence will be the Junior Drama Club and the Pearly Kings and Queens. We are running this function jointly with the Crystal Palace Judo Club and profits will be divided between us. Tickets will be £2.50 a head to include pie (or bangers) and mash. Drinks extra but there will be a good bar with beer, wine and soft drinks. Numbers will be limited, so if you'd like to come please book early. Applications with money to Colin Dean, Head of Drama, Sydenham School.

Good as New School Uniform

Thanks to all who responded to the request for good condition school uniform in the last edition of Grapevine. The quality was excellent and as a result our stalls at both the Fayre and the New Parents' Evening quickly sold out. Over £150 was taken on the two occasions with a profit to PTA funds of nearly £50. We are planning to run a stall again at a meeting early in 1981 so please put anything decent that your daughter grows out of on one side for this. Remember the PTA only take 10% of the selling price as commission.

HEADMISTRESS' LETTER

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to write the first letter for the new volume of Grapevine. The Editors and all the contributors are to be congratulated on the regular production of this magazine which is certainly enjoyed by the girls and the staff at the school.

Parents will be interested to know how the Grundig Centre which is being financed from the profits of the May Fayre is progressing. After being at a standstill for some time the lighting and power circuits are now in hand, the carpets have been ordered and much of the furniture has arrived. If all goes according to plan the Remedial Department will move in shortly after half-term and we hope by Christmas it will be fully operational. We shall then be inviting our friends to call and see it and we shall certainly be sending an invitation to the manager of our local Grundig works who will be asked to take part in our launching and naming ceremony.

As usual a number of activities have been planned for the Autumn Term. At least four Houses are holding their annual social this term and the Drama Department have promised us a 'Dracula Spectacula' for Christmas!

So many school journeys have been organised for this academic year that it was decided that you would prefer to have details of them all simultaneously. This gives better opportunity to select the trip which best suits your daughter. I hope you received a copy of the school journey letter which went out in September.

We were all very relieved to hear that Sydenham is to remain virtually as it is except for a drop in numbers under the secondary school reorganisation plans. This will in some ways be to our benefit since we are still extremely overcrowded and need more room for specialist subjects.

With good wishes,

Y.B.Zackerwisch

SCHOOL NEWS

We were sorry to say goodbye to the following members of staff who left us in July: Miss Rogers (Deputy-Head of R.E.) has married and moved to Essex; Mr Bishop (Art) married during the Spring term and has now moved out of London; Miss Brumwell (Deputy-Head of Business Studies) has taken a job with the British Council in Malaya; Miss Wayment (English) has moved to Norfolk; Mrs Herbert (Modern Lang.) has moved to Staffordshire; Mr Adefiranye, Miss Gallagher and Miss Messenger (all with us on a one year contract filling vacancies) have now moved to other schools; Mrs Bamford, Mrs Gray, Mr Griffiths, Miss Retter, Mrs Senior (all part time members of staff) also left us in July.

We are delighted to welcome the following members of staff: Dr J Clifford (our new Head of Chemistry); Miss Hargadon (Deputy-head, History); Mr Plumb (Deputy-Head,R.E.); Miss Rexstrew (Deputy-Head, P.E.); Miss Walter (Deputy-head Art). Miss Walter had been a part-time member of staff before joining us full-time this term. Also Mr Pim to the Art Department, Mrs Ross to English, Mrs Scotchbrook to Maths, Mrs Vickers to Modern Languages and Mrs Deadman (who had been a part-time member of staff for some years) to Business Studies.

Mr Persad, Head of Maths, returned to us after his year's leave of absence in Trinidad where, amongst other things, he has been working on an oil rig. Miss Hotham has been seconded for 12 months from the Maths Dept. to Swansea University where she is completing her degree studies.

Two of our old girls are returning this term to teach as part time members of staff: Miss Helen Barnett to the P.E. Dept. and Miss K Zaremba to the Art Dept.. Mrs Supiramaniam has also joined the part-time staff. Her husband has been with us as a full time teacher for many years.

EXAM RESULTS

The A level results were very good indeed this year. The overall pass rate was over 80 per cent (national average 62 per cent) and all the candidates passed in English, French and Mathematics, two thirds or more passed in each of the three Science subjects, and in all other subjects the pass rate was well over 62 per cent. 26 girls sat for A levels and 19 of them passed everything!

Almost 90 per cent of the 5th Years took public exams. Four of them gained 8 0 levels, one girl getting six at Grade A. The highlights were: French - 92% pass, R.E. - 83%, Physics - 73%, Geography - 66%, Art, General Studies, Sociology and Needlework - all just over 60%.

Quite a number of girls taking CSE gained Grade 1 which is equivalent to O level. One girl obtained 5 passes at Grade 1.

ENTRY TO HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

The following girls are starting degree courses this Autumn:

Teresa Tosone - Liverpool Polytechnic: European Studies
Marion Taylor-Russell - Roehampton College: English/History
Julie Franklin - Bedford College, London: Maths
Tracey Payne - Warwick University: Maths
Julie Blanks - University of Kent: English/French
Jean French - University of Kent: English
Anne Accini - University of Kent: English/ French
Adele Pike - Wolverhampton Polytechnic: Humanities
Susan Larnier - Reading University: Agriculture
Penelope Jarrett - Selwyn College, Cambridge: Natural Science
Maria Tedaldi - Sussex University: French

The following girls are are starting art college foundation years:

Esther Dare - Camberwell
Rebecca Romp - Camberwell
Janice Woods - Goldsmiths

MAY FAYRE (i)

Congratulations to all involved with the May Fayre! It was a stupendous success! Not only did we make £4600 - £600 above target - but everyone who came seems to have enjoyed themselves so much. There were many appreciative comments about the number of activities going on - indeed several people remarked on how there was no need to spend more than the LOP entrance money to be able to have a most enjoyable afternoon. Fortunately most people spent more than that! We estimate that we had about 3000 people passing through the School at one time or another that afternoon and our gross takings (including the raffle and programme sales) were over £8000. It is a tribute to everyone present (and to our security brigade) that in spite of all this money changing hands there was not one single unpleasant incident.

The weather helped - we couldn't have chosen a better May Day - and it was fun to see half of us dressed up in Elizabethan costume (even if it proved very warm underneath!). The experiment of mixing a serious display of school work with the fun of the fair was a good one and congratulations should go to all those members of staff who organised this. And lots of thanks also to all those parents, staff and girls who helped with the wide variety of stalls, games, pedlars and other activities. Many people have asked for details of how much their own activity made and details of takings as far as we have them are given on the next page. These are a little bit rough and ready since we did not always get precise returns. And remember too, these takings are gross - there are a lot of expenses to offset for a fair as big as this.

Those who came to the evening banquet and firework display were treated to a wonderful evening of food and entertainment. Kemp's Jig was colourful, funny and bawdy; while the fireworks, like the rest of the day, went with a bang!

Above all our thanks and congratulations to Colin Dean. who master-minded the whole programme and without whose driving enthusiam we would all be the poorer.

MAY FAYRE (ii)

Takings at the May Fayre

<u>Stalls</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Games and Sideshows</u>	
Groceries	77	Coconuts	37
Cakes	29	Stocks	27
Books	127	Darts	25
Plants	147	Wheatsheaf	10
Herbs etc	135	Crockery	21
White El.	120	Skittle	20
Crafts	90	Treas. Hunt	33
Toys	105	Plank	12
Sweets	59	Trampoline	8
Ins. Raffle	24	Pony Rides	37
Make Up	19	Candy Floss	37
Records	81		
Wine Spin	47	<u>Raffle and Programme Sales</u>	
Lucky Dip	91	Sales	3462
Win a Ftb)	570	Advertising	442
Win a Pda)			
Rem Dept	59	<u>Refreshments</u>	
Uniform	70	Sandwich)	332
Balloons	23	Teas	
Auction	122	Hot Dogs	143
Pedlars	101	Tuck Shop	321
		Bar	755
<u>House Stalls</u>			
Austen	10	<u>Gross Revenue from</u>	£8805
Aylward	11	<u>all sources</u>	
Ferrier	7	<u>Total Expenditures</u>	£4117
Ryder	10	<u>Net Profit</u>	£4688
Thorndike	13		
6th Tomb.	195		

The main use to which this income will be put will be the equipping of the new Remedial Teaching Centre in the Lower School. This is to be called the Grundig Centre in recognition of the generous donation by Grundig of the main prize for the raffle - a colour TV. Thanks to this the raffle was the largest single money raiser in the Fayre.

ILEA ALPINE EXPEDITION

I remember four years ago reading an article somewhere about the lunacy of mountaineers. How strange I thought that people can allow themselves to be severely injured, mutilated, even killed, for the sake of climbing mountains. Now when I look back on the injuries and narrow escapes I encountered this summer, I am led to question my own sanity!

I visited the Alps as a member of the ILEA Alpine Expedition - a venture of 47 pupils and 21 teachers from Inner London Schools. At 15 I was one of the youngest members, the oldest pupil being 19. There was no one else from Sydenham School but all the other people involved were amiable and it was easy to make new friends.

We spent the first two weeks in Austria and then split into groups for the final week, some going to the Dolomites in Italy, some to Chamonix in France and some to Zermatt in Switzerland.

While we were in Austria my group, which consisted of six pupils and three teachers, had a narrow escape when the top of a mountain we were walking along began to disintegrate under our feet. I knew straight away that this was a cornice - an overhanging platform of snow often found on Alpine summits. Luckily we all had quick reflexes and managed to throw ourselves from the falling snow onto the real mountain. There was an immense rumbling and then someone said, "Who have we lost?" We made a quick count and found that we were all alive, but very jumpy. We could so easily have been scattered some 10,000 feet below this beautiful mountain in the Stubai Alps.

When you are in high altitudes the sun's rays are much stronger and you get sunburnt very easily. In spite of painting my face with high altitude cream (bought at great expense from a climbing shop in Catford!) my face became blistered and swollen, and my lips, cheeks and nose cracked and sore. My skin felt as if it were being stretched by hot tongs. But even worse was the effect on my eyes and I suffered from severe snow blindness for a number of days.. This was incredibly painful; I felt

ILEA ALPINE EXPEDITION

at one time that I would be left permanently blind. Fortunately, although painful, none of this hindered me too much. In the two weeks in Austria, we climbed eleven peaks in the seven days actually spent mountaineering, all of them over 10,000 feet.

I was amongst the party of eight pupils and five teachers to go to Zermatt, home of the most famous mountain in Europe - the Matterhorn. We did not climb this because a young Englishman staying at our campsite was killed on it and it was decided not to climb it as a mark of respect for a fellow climber.

However, we did climb the Monte Rosa - the highest mountain in Switzerland and Italy, and the second highest mountain in Europe at 15,052 feet. We set off at 1.30 a.m. and climbed for many hours with the stars above us. We got to the summit at 9 a.m., photographed a tin of haggis and shivered trying to eat sandwiches in the bitterest of winds. The higher you climb, the thinner the oxygen becomes. Many climbers get altitude sickness because of this. We all felt a little ill; some people felt queasy; for me my head felt as if it were being hit constantly by sledgehammers. As we came down, I noticed myself feeling very jolly. This was mostly due to the immense feeling of satisfaction and achievement, but also because I was a little high on oxygen!

After coming down to the Monte Rosa hut, we set off across the massive Monte Rosa glacier, up the valley side and then down to Zermatt. It was 8.30 p.m. when we finally reached camp, after walking solidly for 19 hours. The next day we set off on a two day drive back to London.

Now my arms and legs still carry many scars as souvenirs. I suppose this means my sanity is questionable. But nothing can be compared with the beauty of the mountains and the inexplicable feeling of ecstatic jubilation that comes with the ascent of every peak.

Eleanor Dare 5th Year

MEMORIAL EVENING

Miss Burdon was a happy person who had a wide variety of hobbies and interests, and it was most appropriate that the keynote of an evening devoted to her memory should be happiness. It was a wonderfully happy occasion, full of fun and laughter.

One of Miss Burdon's first loves was music and so we began the evening in a flower decked hall with a variety of musical items. Duetists, soloists, junior choir and school orchestra all contributed to a delightfully tuneful hour to set the tone for the evening.

There followed an interlude for refreshments. Guests who came from the concert to the Sixth Form Block were welcomed with flowers brought from their own gardens by members of staff as a reminder of the joy that gardening brought to Miss Burdon.

The occasion reached its climax in the Library where an appreciative audience enjoyed a Fashion Show of contrasts. First Year aprons and Second Year Nighties modelled by the younger girls trailing soft cuddly toys, were followed by sophisticated outfits designed and made in the Fashion Workshop classes for O level and CSE. These garments showed a very high technical standard and were warmly applauded as the models moved around the room. Casual wear, check trousers, jackets, office outfits, party dresses in jewel colours, satin housecoats and dance production costumes led in kaleidoscope array to the grand finale of the dainty May Queen dresses and a superb wedding dress of white lace over satin.

As this final parade left the library to tumultuous applause everyone agreed that it had been a lovely evening which Miss Burdon would have thoroughly enjoyed. I am sure that she did.

V. Kelly
Deputy Headmistress

EARTH, AIR, FIRE AND WATER

In July the Art, Dance and Drama departments, together with girls from the Lower School, combined to produce a memorable and unusual evening of dance, mime and acting.

The dramatic episodes - on topics ranging from worms to computers - were well staged and well acted. Much of the material was of the girls own creation, and the enthusiasm and self-confidence of all those taking part was considerable. This enthusiasm perhaps accounted for a tendency for the actors to shout their words - sometimes to such a degree that it made understanding difficult. Hopefully these promising young actresses will learn to vary the pitch of their voices and to learn that dramatic effect can be gained by lower, more controlled tones.

The grace and skill of the dancers was of the high standard we have come to expect. The dramatic Fire Dance with the vivid red costumes accompanied by superb drumming was particularly exciting and contrasted with the pale blue-grey shades and weaving patterns of the earlier Air Dance.

The Water theme was well illustrated by several items - Singing in the Rain, without Gene Kelly, but nevertheless splendidly performed; an amusing Beach scene which showed the comic talents of a number of the girls; River Waltz which combined actors and dancers in a most successful and entertaining way and had the audience in gales of laughter. Fay Romans deserves special mention for her skilful and humorous performance in this latter scene.

The evening culminated in a delightful Fairground scene in which everyone took part - including the audience with spontaneous clapping.

Congratulations to all those involved in making this such a lovely evening. Obviously the combined efforts of the three departments worked most successfully. So much can be gained from this sort of co-operation - perhaps another time it could be extended to include the Music Department. In the meantime, we look forward eagerly to more such entertainments in the future.

Ann Fahey (Parent and Governor)

INTRODUCING OUR HEAD GIRLS

Our two Head Girls for this year are Melanie Baldwin and Jackie Mould. We asked them to write a short piece introducing themselves to our readers.

Melanie writes, " I'm in 7Y and doing three A levels - Physics, Chemistry and History. It is a strange combination but appropriate for the job I want which is to work in museums. Before I can get this I have to go to university and get a degree in History.

During the past year I have been involved with two school plays, helping with makeup backstage; I have served tea to the staff on the Parents' Evenings and last February I was one of the senior team for the Rotary Club's "Youth Speaks" competition. I am on the Forum committee and would like to be more active on it.

Basically I think the Head Girls are an important link between the Headmistress and the students in both the Sixth Form and the rest of the school. The responsibility of this link should prove to be an interesting challenge for anyone who is voted into the position of Head Girl. "

Jackie writes, " I am in the Sixth Form and studying for three A levels - Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. When I leave school I would like to work either as a scientific officer in the forensic police laboratories or as a radiographer in a hospital.

At home my main interest is dressmaking. At school, I give a hand in the Remedial Department; once a week I do a session helping 2nd Years with maths. I help run the Film Club, and was House Captain for my House - Thorndike. Last year I sometimes looked after 2G2 when Mr Kightly had House meetings.

I enjoy being Head Girl not only because it is a new experience but also because it gives me the opportunity to get to know more people than I would otherwise and to become involved in many more activities."

SPORTS

Our annual Sports Day at Crystal Palace took place on Wednesday July 2nd. Luckily it was one of the few sunny days last summer!

During the afternoon seven records were broken and two new records established by the following girls:

Beryl Adams (Keller)	3rd Year Long Jump
Doreen McCalla (Aylward)	3rd Year High Jump
Esther Williams (Aylward)	Senior High Jump
Wendy Hawkins (Thorndike)	Senior Shot Putt
Dawn Higgins (Keller)	1st Year Rounders Ball
Angela Hughesman (Aylward)	2nd Year Javelin
Eleanor Dare (Keller)	Senior Javelin
Pauline Reid (Aylward)	Senior 100 metres
Keller 3rd Year Relay Team	

Other outstanding results were shown by Barbara Supple (Ryder House) who won the 1st Year 200 metre and Long Jump, and Esther Williams (Aylward) who won both individual events - the 200 metres and the High Jump - in the Senior Championships, and was a member of the winning team in the Senior Relay.

The 1st Year competition was won by Ferrier House, the 2nd Year by Thorndike House, the 3rd Year by Keller House, and the Senior Competition by Aylward House.

For the second year running the championship shield was won by Aylward House. Congratulations to their teams.

HOCKEY RESULTS Congratulations to our hockey teams who have won all their matches so far this term. On September 18 they played Eltham Hill; the Juniors won 8-0, and the Seniors 4-0. On September 25 against Northbrook, Juniors won 4-0, Seniors 3-0.

NETBALL Congratulations to the 1st and 2nd Year teams who won their matches against St Theresa's on Sept 23. Unfortunately the 3rd, 4th Years and Premiers lost.



ARE YOU COLLECTING HEINZ LABELS?

This term the school is taking part in a scheme which enables them to obtain free sports equipment in exchange for labels from H J Heinz products. You may have seen details of the offer on special ' Help your School ' labelson Heinz products. Between now and the end of term the school hopes to collect 40,000 labels! Enough to obtain a gym crash mat and a digital stopwatch. Please buy as many products as you can with the Heinz label and send the labels with your daughter. She can take them to the P.E. department any day at 12.05 pm. Every label is valuable, but particularly those which feature details of the scheme. Please encourage friends and relatives to save their Heinz labels too. The more we can get the better. See if we can hit the 40,000 target.

SECONDARY REORGANISATION

REORGANISATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DIVISION 7

At the PTA Meeting on June 5 last term we discussed the problem of falling rolls in secondary schools in Lewisham and the need for there to be substantial changes in secondary school provision in the borough. As a result of that meeting we sent a resolution to the Education Officer supporting the staff views that the school should remain single sex and catering for the 11-18 age groups, but that cooperation, particularly at 6th Form level, with Forest Hill School should be increased.

The Education Officer has now published his proposals. For Sydenham these accord closely with the views we all put forward. The school is to remain single sex, to work more closely with Forest Hill at 6th form, and probably also at 4th and 5th form level. At present it is suggested that by 1989 the school is 'slimmed down' to a 6 form entry school. Forest Hill would also become a 6 form entry school so that their numbers would exactly balance ours, making cooperation easier. From our point of view this is not necessarily bad news since it will give us a lot more space in the school. But it will probably make it rather more difficult to provide for subjects which only two or three people want to study, which is why it is important to increase the links with Forest Hill. With both schools together it should be possible to provide just as broad a range of options as at the moment.

For other parts of the borough the proposals are not so straightforward. Brockley County, Lewisham and Roger Manwood it is suggested should merge into a mixed comprehensive on the Lewisham site, and in the east of the borough it is proposed that Catford Boys and Catford Girls' should also merge into a mixed school. If you would like to hear more about these plans, there is to be a public meeting at 7.30 pm at Forest Hill School on Thursday October 23. There will also be a 'surgery' in the Sixth Form Block from 12 noon to 8.00 pm on Monday 13th October.

HELP!

We always need more helpers for PTA activities. If you be prepared on occasion to help us, please fill in the form below and return it to the school.

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

Daughter's Name Tutor Group

Have you any special interests/talents which you feel you could contribute to PTA affairs?

e.g.

Carpentry

Painting and Decorating

Typing

Book-keeping

Cooking

Helping with fairs etc

Printing and/or Graphic Design

Writing and Editing Newsletters

Serving on committees

Anything else

.....

.....

It is always useful to know of people prepared to fetch and carry things in their cars or (particularly vans.

PTA Officers

We shall be electing new officers for the PTA at the AGM on November 25. Until then your officers are:

Chairman: Margaret Sharp 778 8776

Secretary: Brenda Jones 699 5668

Treasurer: Sylvia Webb 699 7156