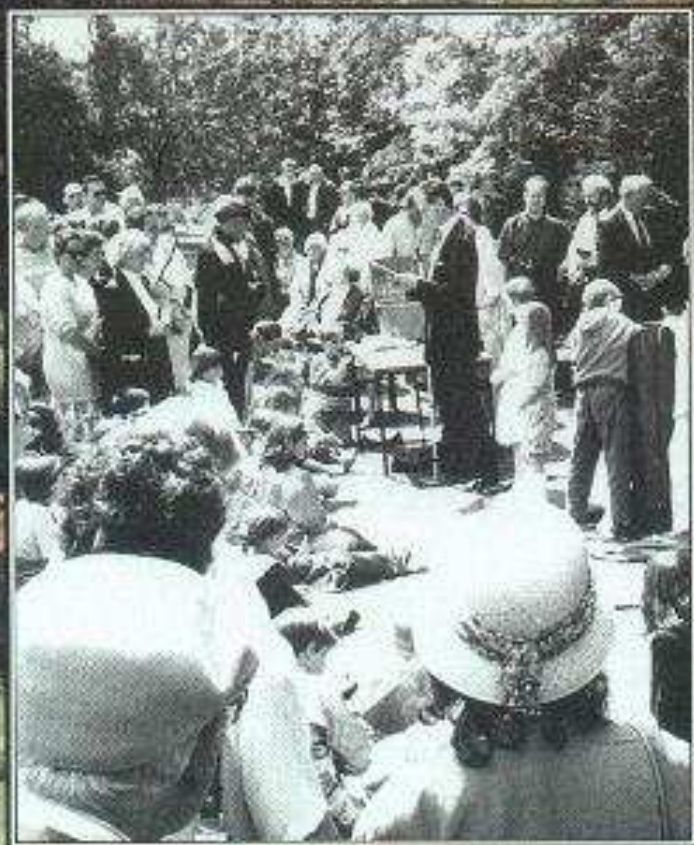


THE PROMISE



Ness Botanic Gardens 5th June 1994

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS

also at

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew:

Mexico: NSW Australia:

Pietermaritzburg South Africa:

Seychelles

THE PROMISE

Published 2004 by
The Environment Time Capsule Project 1994 – 2044

(www.ecotimecapsule.com)

A new edition based upon the original 1997 publication of the
Wirral Green Alliance – renamed since August 2003 as
Wirral Environmental Network (www.cesul.org.uk).
Reg Charity 1068306

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***Wirral Schools' Brass Band
making their debut entrance,
June 2003 at Ness Botanic Gardens.***



***The empty Capsule destined for
Ness, on display February 1994
at The Williamson Museum
and Art Galley, Birkenhead.***

Note: Photograph on front cover taken at Ness on 5th June 1994 with an enquiring 10-year-old trying to retrieve an item, a few moments before the Capsule was sealed and buried.

A letter from 1994 Eco-Person to 2044 Person

Ness Botanic Gardens, Ness, South Wirral – 5th June 1994

Dear 2044 Person

Greetings! I am writing to you to say 'sorry'! When after 50 years you open this Time Capsule and examine its various environmentally relevant objects, I am very afraid that you will be living in an overcrowded world which is seriously damaged by pollution, and whose natural resources have largely been consumed by us who came before you. I am conscious of your disapproval as you look back on us who lived during the latter half of the 20th Century. We must appear the worst generation ever – because we had the opportunity and the means to prevent you inheriting the planet in such a state – yet we did too little, too late. We should have been so much more careful with our technology, so much more gentle with the environment, so much more kind to so many animals and plants, which for you are now presumably only museum fossils or video recordings. And we let down the tens of millions of people who wanted smaller families, by failing to make available rapidly enough the choices they deserved, resulting in far more competing human being on the planet in your time than there might have been.

As for me, I was one of a minority who did our best (not enough perhaps) to stop it happening. We kept warning everyone who would listen, though there were too few of them. Our culpability is less, though few can claim to be blameless. We wish you every possible success as you clean up and try to give all three – animals, plants and humans – a decent life, at least from now onwards.

Yours sincerely,

1994 Eco-Person

PS: Though fearing the worst, we plan and strive for the best. Even as we write, I and my co-signatories are continuing the battle on numerous fronts, to preserve this fragile Earth and its diverse flora and fauna. We pledge ourselves never to despair, never to give in – for your sake. Our aim is to make you wonder why we ever made the above apology.

Author: John Guillebaud.

The Finder, in the Year 2044
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Richmond, Surrey

5th June 1994

Dear Finder,

We are writing this letter of apology to you on 5th June 1994. It is World Environment Day when we hope that all citizens of the late 20th century will think about the world which you - two generations ahead - will inherit.

We fear that you will be facing a huge range of problems, because we have failed to take effective action on population growth, misuse of resources, and care of the environment.

Already there are over 5,500 million people* on this planet. More than one third of them suffer the ills of poverty. There is a growing degradation of earth, water and air, the prospect of disruptive climate change, the destruction of natural systems, and the extinction of numberless species.

Although birth rates are falling there are currently almost 2,000 million people under the age of fifteen. They are the next generation of parents. The best scientific prediction we have suggests that even if they all had access to education and up to date methods of family planning you would be sharing the world with 8,000 million people. The worst prediction is for 12,000 million, which would mean that by 2044 you would be trying to provide for more additional humans than the total now alive. We also fear that if in your time there are fewer people than these estimates, the shortfall will be due to starvation, war and disease.

You know the problems you face. We can only guess at them. If they are as bad as we fear, we say sorry. In 1994 we see some hopeful signs. More and more ordinary people, especially children, are concerned about what is happening. Some action followed the United Nations' Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and we have hopes of the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo later this year. In particular we want it to help meet the needs of the world's women, so many of whom want the choice of using modern methods to allow them to plan their families.

Every child should be a wanted child, everywhere: we reckon that a child born into a family in an industrial country will consume at least 30 times as much energy and resources and produce 30 times as much pollution, as one born in a poor family. This also serves to emphasise the need for action on both poverty and over-consumption.

We have today buried this letter and relevant objects to focus attention on the urgency of action to keep the planet in good health. We have chosen Kew because it is a haven for plants and because those who care for them are part of a worldwide network to conservation and sustainable development. Our hope is that by the time you open this capsule and read our letter you will question the need for an apology. For that to be so, all will have to do their share and not leave everything to someone else or to governments.

In signing below, on this World Environment Day 1994, we pledge ourselves to respect the needs of our children and grandchildren in going about our daily lives. We each aim to make our contribution to a saner, safer and sustainable world. According to our talents and opportunities, we will work to advance the painful process of changing hearts, minds and policies before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Bellamy
Professor John Guillebaud
Susan Hampshire
Lady Medawar
Professor Ghillean Prance
Sir Crispin Tickell

** In 2004 this figure has increased to 6,400 million, and is still rising...*

Acknowledgements

To John Guillebaud – the originator of the concept of this 50 year Project; and who has attended at Ness Botanic Gardens and acted as compere every year since 1994.

The annual event at Ness has relied upon good team-work and mutual encouragement and special thanks are due to:

Professor Robert Marrs, Director of Ness in the early years.

Dr E. Joanna Sharples and her colleagues there.

The trustees of the Wirral Green Alliance (established 1985). Since August 2003 this has become the Wirral Environmental Network.

We also acknowledge the help of Professor Ghillean Prance, Roger Joiner (Marketing Manager) and colleagues at Kew Gardens; also David Shreeve and Libby Symons of the Conservation Foundation.

Shelagh O'Neill and staff at the Wirral Academy of Performing Arts.

The Willow Brass Group.

The Wirral Schools Brass Band under their Director, Alan Milnes; and to all parents for their interest and continuing support.

And a special thank you to Andrew Miller MP (Ellesmere Port and Neston) and his wife Fran, for their contribution and regular presence since 1994.

The coordinators at Ness since 1994 were George and Garnette Bowler of Wirral Environmental Network. They compiled this 2004 edition of **The Promise** and the original in 1997.

DEDICATION

To all the young people in 1994
who expressed their ideas and
feelings, their families and
teachers – and to all children
everywhere –
they are the future.



*Professor Robert Marrs speaking at
Ness Botanic Gardens 5th June 1994.*

TIME CAPSULES WITH A DIFFERENCE

In general, time capsules record a particular time and place for posterity, and are buried without any future date for opening. These that were buried in June 1994 were different. The concept came to me through that well-known saying... "We have not inherited the earth from our grandparents, we have borrowed it from our grandchildren". I reflected on how angry they are likely to be if we continue to live as we do today. With 25 years as the usually accepted average generation, our 'grandchildren' meant people living 50 years ahead. So this project was addressed to the people of 2044. It was linked to the United Nations World Environment Day, in the designated Year of the Family and comprised an Apology, a Pledge, a competition for school children, a Media event and a Family Party.

The time capsules contained environmentally relevant items buried with explanations and letters of apology at significant sites around the world. In the UK these were the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Ness Botanic Gardens, South Wirral. Over the same week-end similar time capsules were buried in Mexico, (Fundidora Park - Monterrey, and two other sites) and in the botanical gardens at Pietermaritzburg South Africa, the Seychelles and Mount Annan, NSW, Australia.

As the prime stakeholders for a decent sustainable future, children are central to this project. In 1994 they were invited to enter two competitions, one for the best brief letter or poem addressed to the Finder in 2044; the other for the most striking and original ideas for the appropriate artifacts to go into the capsules. There is a complete list on pages 44/45 of the items that were buried at Ness. At Kew, the selected objects included: sealed capsules of the cleanest air available then, also water and garden loam (for comparison in 2044); an apple, with the significance explained by Peter Harrison on page 8; and a petrol cap, labelled as one of our most environmentally damaging items. My own choice for sustainability symbols were a bicycle pump and a packet of contraceptive pills.

As emphasised in the two letters of apology on pages 2 & 3, contraceptives are really the ultimate in

eco-friendly devices. They have the potential to allow millions of people worldwide to choose, at will, to have no more children than they can properly provide for; or than *can in the long term arrive without imperilling all the other species with which we share the planet*. Human overpopulation is not the sole cause of loss of the planet's biodiversity and other environmental threats, but is unequivocally the *great multiplier* of most of them.

We felt it was essential to apologise. But more significant at that time and since was the PLEDGE: to do all we could to save the planet by individual and united action 'according to our talents and opportunities'; influencing those in power and changing as necessary our own lifestyles - with the goal that the finders of each time capsule in the year 2044 will wonder why we apologised!

Since 1994 there have been regular gatherings at the time capsules on or about World Environment day and annually at Ness Botanic Gardens. Over the years we have had the enthusiastic support of many distinguished people including Sir Crispin Tickell (formerly UK Ambassador to the UN), Susan Hampshire, David Bellamy, Sir David Attenborough and the Conservation Foundation. The project is ongoing (www.ecotimecapsule.com).

Other countries and other groups, or concerned individuals, are cordially invited to join in any year, to organise a similar time capsule ceremony, still to be addressed to the people of 2044 and containing the same 'main' Letters of Apology (see pages 2-3), translated as necessary.

Reader join us! At least come if you can to Kew or to Ness and read the above-ground inscriptions as shown on pages 40 and 41. Today we still need to face up to our over-consumption of limited natural resources; over-production of greenhouse gases, mismanagement of other waste and pollution; global poverty and injustice; as well as the under-funding of sexual and reproductive health as a human right for all. As we campaign together, on these interconnected issues, it may well be that apologies to our grandchildren may become truly superfluous.

June, 2004.

John Guillebaud, Emeritus Professor of Family Planning and Reproductive Health, University College, London; and Trustee of the Margaret Pyke Memorial Trust
www.margaretpyke.org and of www.peopleandplanet.net; and
co-Chair of www.optimumpopulation.org

"The world is run by grown ups, but they don't face the consequences."

**Joe Plume (13) Catford,
London SE.**



**Rebecca Harrison (13),
Huddersfield.**

What should we put in the Time Capsule

I choose a pack of photos of people who need help, places that need safety, animals who need care. On the back of each photo is where it is and what needs changing.

Claire Broughton (11), Windermere.

A milk bottle – it's made of glass – it can be sterilised at the dairy and refilled with milk - and I wish I could go to the shop and recycle bottles, paper, plastics and cans.

Trudy Piggott (11), King's Lynn.

There's Nowhere Else to Go...

I think you should put some indicator paper into the time capsule to show how much acid rain there is, and how much pollution we have caused. It would make that person that opens it think about how many factories there must have been and power stations (if it's better at the time).

Or, if it's worse, it would make them think how bad it is, at that time, and they would not realise that once everyone has wrecked this planet they can't go anywhere else.

Selina Bairami (10), Warwick.

A Video

I think we should put a video in about endangered species and how we are helping them because they might not be on this world at all. So in 2044 at least, you will know that they lived once on this world. I also think that on the video there could be singing:

*I speak on behalf of the
Next generations
My sons and daughters
Their children to come.
What will you leave them
For their recreation,
An oil slick, a pylon, and industrial slum.*

Santona Clements (11), Bideford.

Turn it Round

For those of you who are to come,
I don't think this world will be much fun.
The ozone layer lets in the sun,
We'll all be burnt like a hot-cross bun.

The forests trees we're chopping down
To clear space for another town.
The animals are on the run -
Nowhere to live. What have we done?

With several species now extinct,
And many more upon the brink,
The elephants and the rhino too
Are only safe within a zoo.

The oceans of the world we spoil
With toxic waste and slicks of oil.
The whale we're trying hard to save,
What has man done since he left his cave

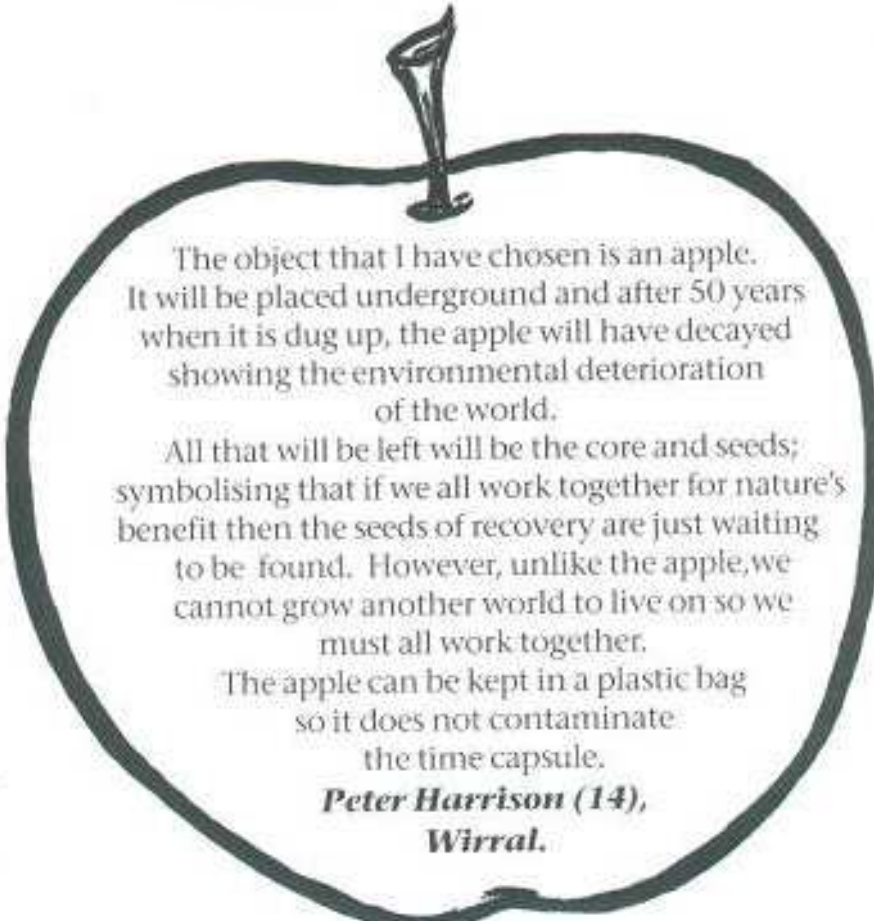
I'm sorry if this sounds so glum;
There's lots of things that can be done.
Hopefully we'll turn it round,
And have a better world when this is four

Helen Brooder (13), Windsor.

Dear Friend

This is a poem for you.
Trees give us breeze, trees give us shade,
Trees are not made of electricity or oil.
Trees are planted in the soil.
Please don't chop down trees
Because trees give us oxygen.

Fiona Hunter (8), Waverton, Cheshire.

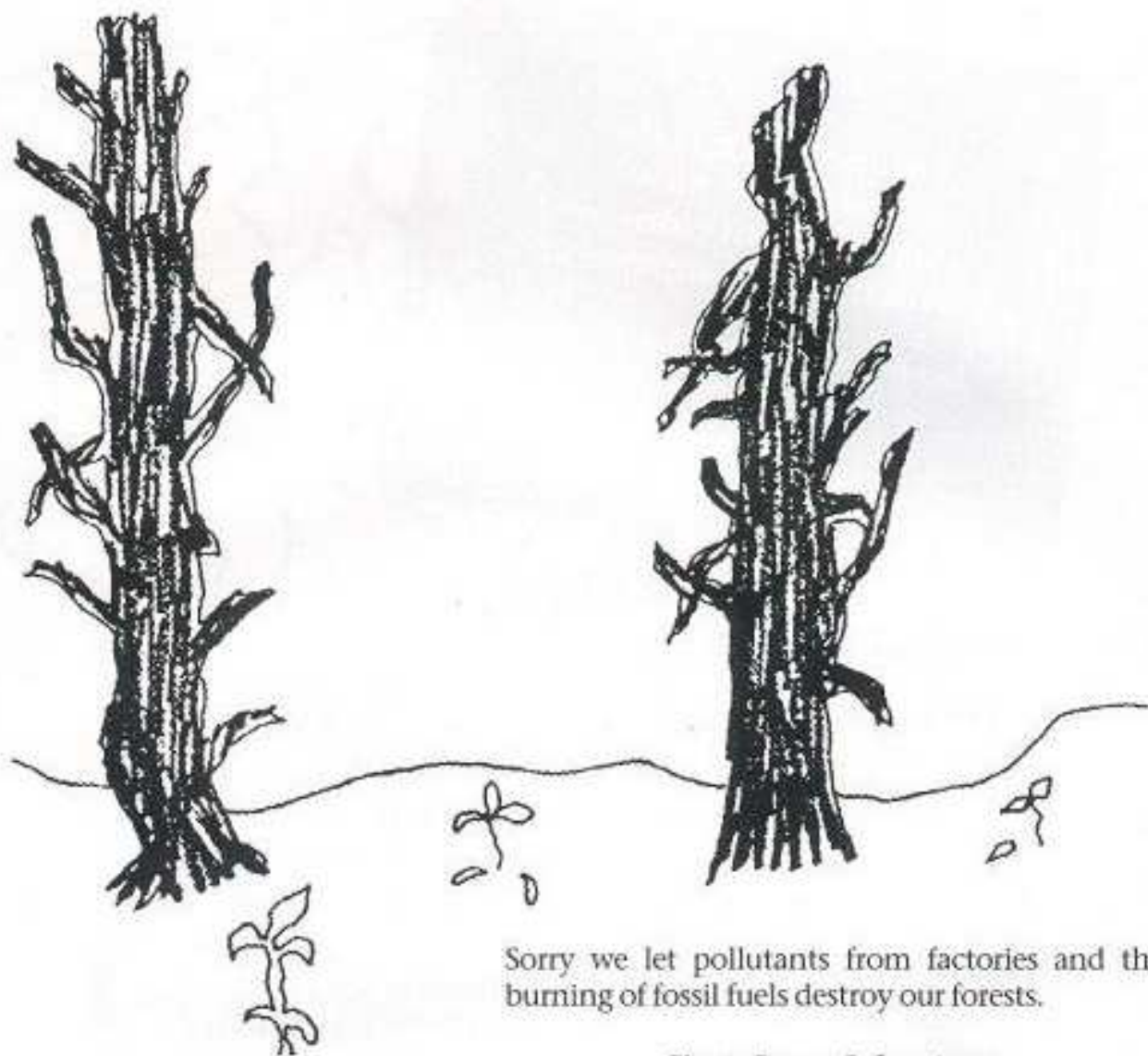


The object that I have chosen is an apple.
It will be placed underground and after 50 years
when it is dug up, the apple will have decayed
showing the environmental deterioration
of the world.

All that will be left will be the core and seeds;
symbolising that if we all work together for nature's
benefit then the seeds of recovery are just waiting
to be found. However, unlike the apple, we
cannot grow another world to live on so we
must all work together.

The apple can be kept in a plastic bag
so it does not contaminate
the time capsule.

**Peter Harrison (14),
Wirral.**



Sorry we let pollutants from factories and the burning of fossil fuels destroy our forests.

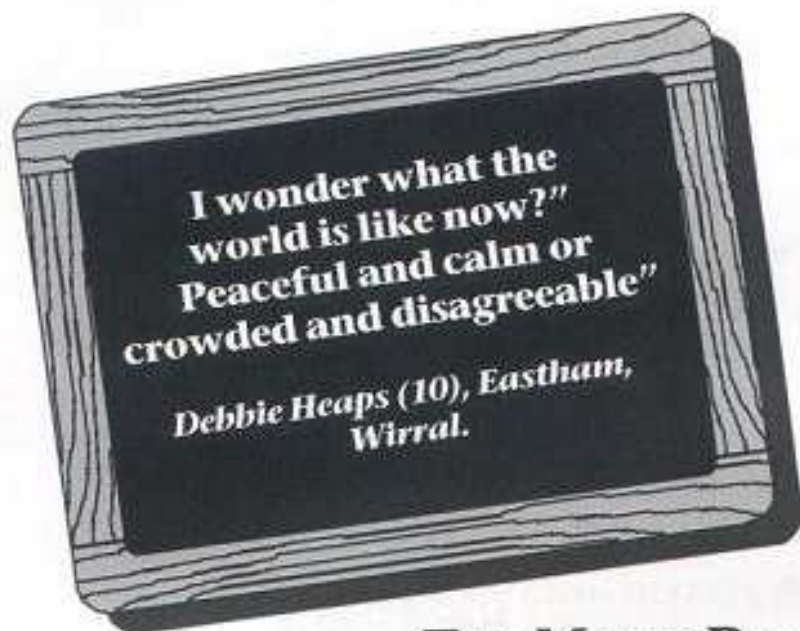
***Kara Jayne Johnstone,
Dunning Primary, Tayside.***

It's good to re-cycle all our waste
So let's get down to the re-cycling place
If cars go on speeding POW...
Most of the cats will be flattened MEOW!...
If people keep having too many kids
There won't be jobs to keep out of trouble
But instead there will be crime in the streets in a hubble

Sarah J. Walker (10), Stockport.

How good is man's life, the mere living
Greatest joy in summer.
Time is the sea, the sparkling sea.
Too many people, too many hungry mouths to feed
Take care a little; we think and we shall not perish.

Rajeev Sood (13), Catford, London SE.



Too Many People

Too many people, not enough trees,
Too much filth tipped into the seas,
We harpooned the whales, killed the fish in the seas,
How can you forgive us for crimes like these?
We cut down the rainforests, burned lots of trees,
We've left you big deserts – forgive us, please.
We're clearing up the waters, replanting the trees,
We've tried to clean up the earth and the seas.
We took the earth's treasures, lots more than we need.
We were careless and foolish and did it by greed.
We saw our mistakes, saw what we'd done;
Tried to repair it, but we've only begun.
We beg you'll forgive us; we hope you will see
A world that's recovered, that's healthy and free.

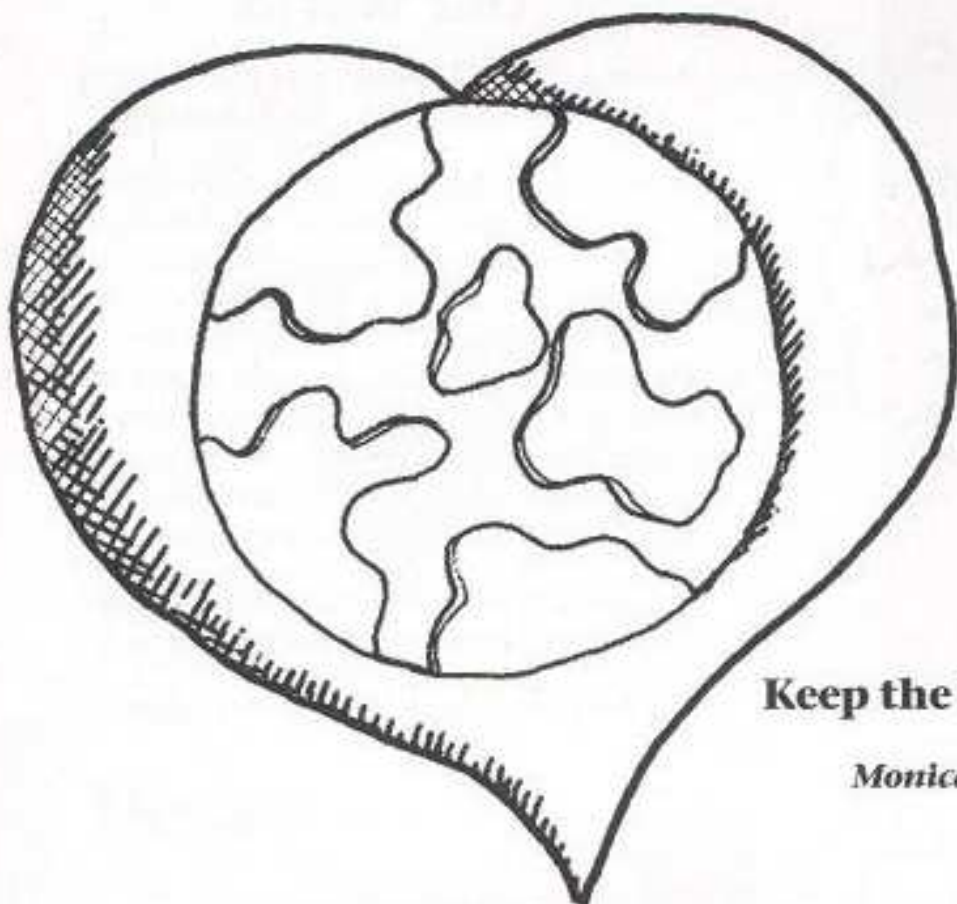
Lucinda Maloney, Beaconsfield.

The Fight of the Few

High birth rates cause over-population;
With the spread of mankind the globe is bared.
The terrible effects of deforestation -
If only between humans and nature this world could be shared.

CFCs cause ozone destruction,
Yet preservation seems to be the fight of the few.
Many are uneducated in environmental reconstruction.
This must, therefore, if it's not too late, be an aim for you.

M. Sharp (14), Wirral.



Keep the World in your heart!

Monica Kalra (12), Windsor.

I hope the population hasn't grown too much. I hope it hasn't over-run the country. If it has I don't know how you'll manage.

Debra Harrison (10), Stockport.

From the Year of Ninety-Four

This is just an apology note from the year of ninety-four.
The people increase at a rate of knots; we've more people at our door.
We've wrecked our world - it's unstoppable now, the damage we have done;
When you find this Time Capsule, there'll be no more time for fun.
Greenpeace, conferences, children at school, have tried to do their best,
Cleaning beaches, streets and towns - trying to put minds at rest.
We take a lot for granted, animals, birds and trees;
We pick and kill and destroy...accept my apology, please?

Samantha Hughes-Lewis (14), St Andrews, Fife.

Our World

The world would be such a wonderful place
If it wasn't destroyed by the human race.

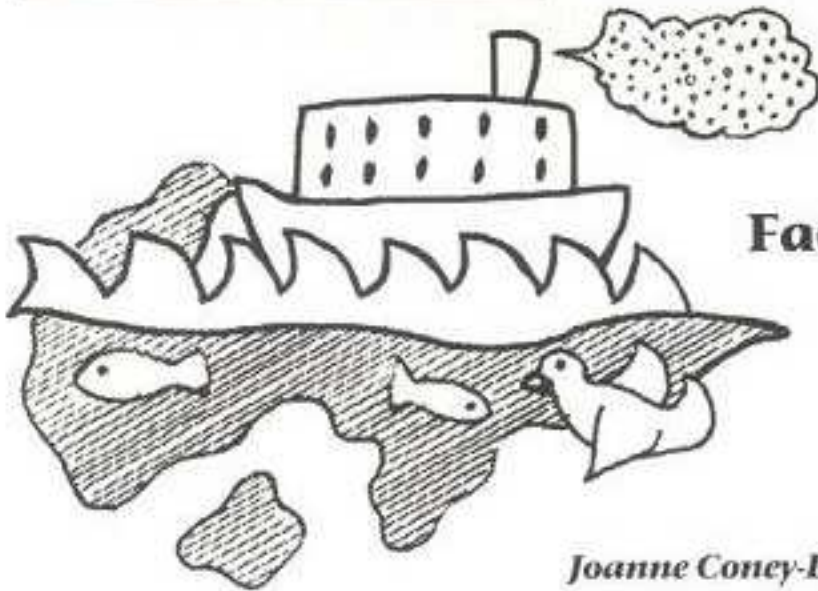
Population, starvation, animals made extinct,
And to the human race it is all linked.
It's not fair on animals like the giraffe,
But people who don't care just sit back and laugh.
Pollution is a hazard of everyday life,
Causing asthma and diseases, leaving death and strife.
Crops sprayed with chemicals, to make things grow,
But what damage they are doing we do not know.
Sprays are making our skies look greyer,
This is damaging our ozone layer.

Our world would be such a wonderful place,
If it wasn't destroyed by the human race.

Chantell Etheridge (13), Windsor.

I hope by the time you read
this letter the changes to
preserve the earth will have
been made. This can only be
achieved through commu-
nication and mutual under-
standing. We are doing this
in conservation club in
school.

*Christine Harbison (14),
Coleraine, N. Ireland.*



Factory Fishing Ships!

Joanne Coney-Lax (14), Bournemouth.

Don't Forget The Earth!

Technology will be the death of us,
We are too clever for our own good.
We have been caught up in our own greed,
So don't forget the Earth.

The Earth was here first;
What has the Earth done to us?
The Earth owes us nothing but we owe it everything,
So don't forget the Earth.

The Earth WAS once beautiful,
WE have destroyed it.
Cars, vans, lorries, all produce pollution - who made them? US!
So don't forget the Earth.

Richard Hunter (13), Catford, London SE.

We have to look after the trees.
Trees are very nice.
They have no mums.

**Lisa Mossop (8),
Waverton, Cheshire.**

The Last of the Trees

It's me – the earth.

The humans are cutting down trees –
trees make air.

KERTHUNK

That's about one million gone.

So when all the trees are dead –

KERTHUNK

The humans die.

It's like sealing yourself in a house.

KERTHUNK

And everything's blocked up,

So you're slowly dying.

KERTHUNK

If they only knew!

KERTHUNK

They don't just kill trees.

They kill animals –
elephants, rhinos, whales.

**James Wyatt (10)
Kingswood, Bristol.**



**Lisa Elmer (13)
Windsor**

We always say we could
have done more. But
when do we start doing
more? I hope we don't
start when it's too late.

**Alia-Lina Fari (16)
Hanwell, London.**

MORE QUOTES FROM THE UNDER-TWELVES

When I was born in a different country there was a war. Then I moved from Somalia to Wales. I hope the war is over now.

Ali Farah (11), Lincoln.



Do tramps and poor people still live on the street?

Daisy Venn (10), Beaconsfield.



I hope you have less population and less pollution in the year you are in.

Katy Ashton (10), Eastham, Wirral.



Give a grin – put your rubbish in the bin.

Oliver Field (8), Windsor.



From the biggest elephant to the tiniest clam none of them are more destructive than man.

Rachel Cullen (10), Warwick.



I don't think it's fair cutting down rainforests. Some people live there, destroying their homes.
And what about the animals?

Burawako Mohamed (11), Cardiff.



We have so much food in some places and not enough in others, so people are starving.

Nicola Todd (11), Beaconsfield.

Bird's Eye View

I've travelled many cities – it's always the same.
People have good intentions, but do no good.
Money rules everything.
Power is the only goal.

For money people will pollute the air,
Fill it with chemicals, let the water turn to acid.
Animals are dying,
Yet the chimneys still smoke.

Discarded chip-papers litter the parks,
Along the roadsides rubbish lines the streets,
Cigarette ends lie on the paths;
The thoughtlessness goes on.

People do so much harm; who will put it right?
What will it take before they realise that they're doing?
The people who're destroying our world must be very stupid
If we pigeons can see the problems.

Kate Alexander (13), Cheltenham.



Dear Finder

**I lived in the late nineteen hundreds,
On a small island ruled by a Queen,
Grew up in the West with the creatures and birds,
Everything round me was green.**

**All the while, oblivious of all,
My parents paid for my school.
I learned of the rainforest being destroyed
And how life for the poor was cruel.**

**I fear when you find this, hope may have gone -
We were so selfish just to ignore it.
We could have done something, but we've killed the world,
It's our fault: we never saw it!**

Jessica Abbott (13), St Andrews, Fife.

Remember there are a lot of good people in the world and they will make a difference.

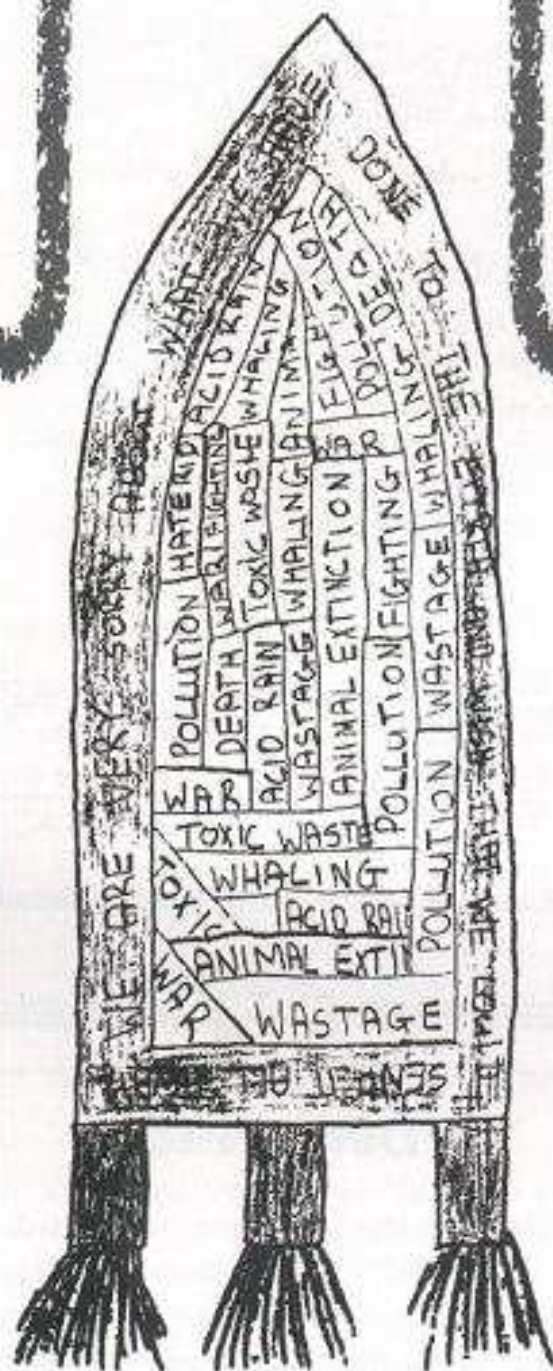
**Charlene Clarke (13),
Coatbridge.**

I intend to make a poster of how the world will look if people just sit around all day not doing anything.

**Sarah McKim (9)
Edinburgh.**

War and racism is bad.
People think just because someone is a different colour they don't like them.
I don't care what colour they are as long as they are all flesh and blood.
My best friend is Dean and he is a different colour.
But he is human.

**Stuart Sneddon (11),
Cardiff.**



**Michael Malone, Dunning
Primary, Tayside.**

**Why should
children say sorry?
We have not done
anything yet.**

**Mathew Thomas
(11), Quedgeley,
Gloucestershire.**

Sadness is animals locked in a cage, having no freedom; having no space.

**Lisa Elmer (13)
Windsor.**

Beside my house we have a small wood and up the road we have a common. We see lots of animals, a badger sett, a fox den, deer and rabbits. I hope this countryside will not be destroyed in fifty years.

**Rachel Townend (10),
Cookham Dean, Bucks.**

LETTERS FROM FOUR GIRLS UNDER 12

Dear Finder...

Millions of people, including myself, have been extremely stupid and reckless. We use so much electricity, like using and leaving lights on when there's no need. We also turn the heating up when we could just put another jumper on and when we could walk down the road to the shop, we are lazy and use the car. I am sorry about us chopping down the trees without thinking of the consequence.

Samantha E. Banks (10), Warwick.

Dear Finder...

I hope there are still trees and animals and no one is at war - you and your friends are happy and all is well - people are not cutting down trees or killing the animals for skin fur and meat - that the air is not too polluted.

Kate Davies (9) Bromley, Kent.

Dear Finder...

When you open this time capsule I will be fifty nine. I hope you still have a beautiful world. In 1994 one of my favourite things to do is to go on holiday. I love to build sand castles, and swim in the sea. Is this still possible?

At the moment the hole in the ozone layer is small and is affecting Antarctica, Australia and New Zealand. Does this ozone layer still exist? Which animals survived? I hope our dog is still alive because then you can meet him. I hope you don't have as many problems as us.

Kimberley M. Barrett (9), Birkenhead.

Dear Finder...

I am writing this letter to tell you about water, because water is such a wonderful thing that we sometimes take it for granted. Just think if there was no water there would be nothing, not even one tiny little bug. We have done such dreadful things to it by emptying chemicals in that are of no use to us. The chemicals have endangered water life, which has died or moved away. I hope it isn't too late to put right what we have done.

Charlotte Beaumont (11), Warwick.



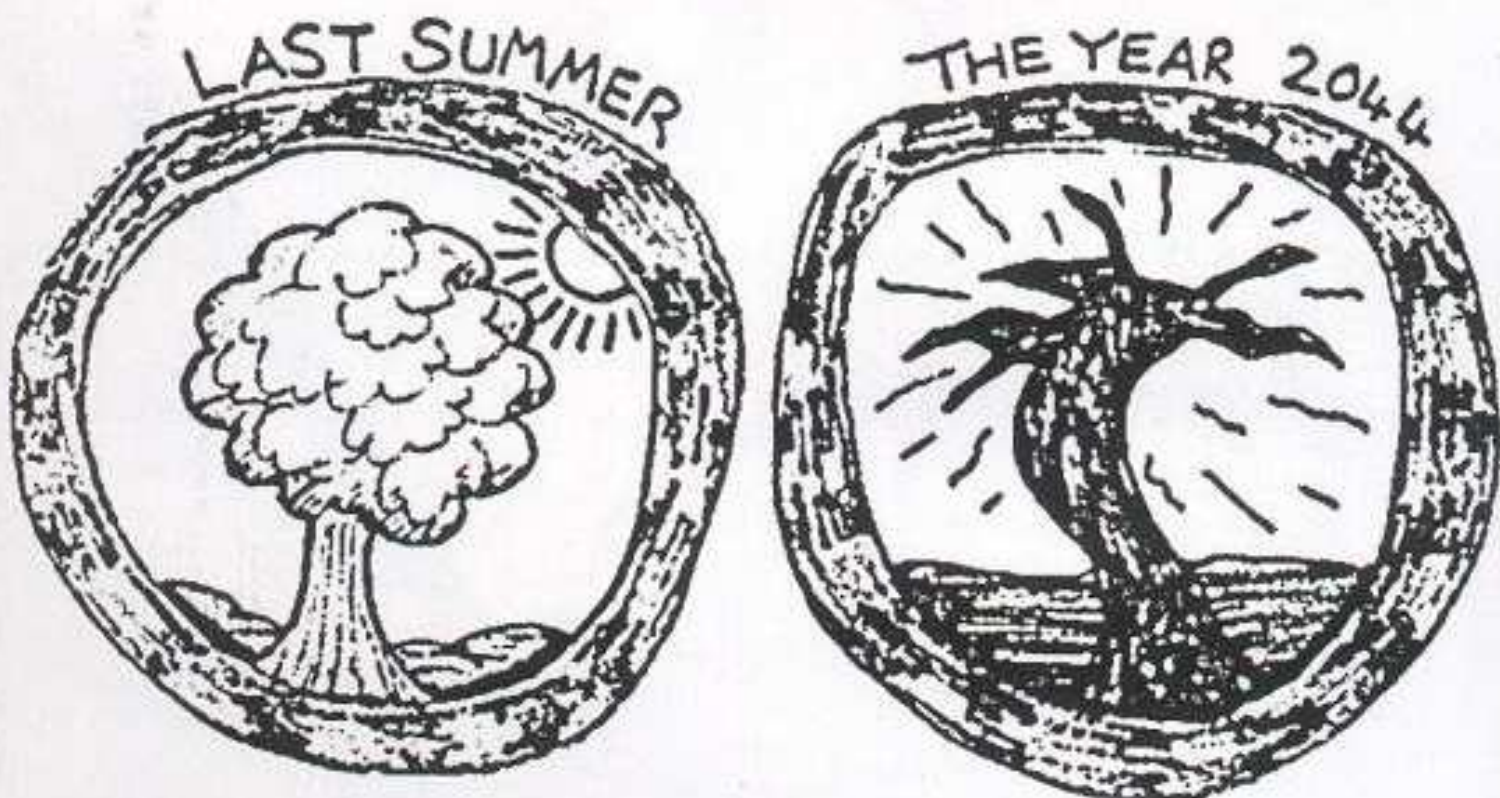
AN APOLOGY AND A PLEA

Shame on those who rip pages
Of our good history books,
And put them in the fire or on the garden,
For our precious peat bogs tell us
About our food, our homes, our weather
For the past thousands of years.

In the present time, intact
They contain mosses of black
And bottle green, bog cotton, rosemary and myrtle,
Bearded lichens of gold and rose,
The mysterious magenta sphagnum,
A clear reminder of progression
Through time.

They hold our future in their depths,
They have a role to play to save
Our world from global warming.
For this good reason we want you to ensure
That what we have campaigned to keep
remains unaltered.

Inga Irvine (13), Coleraine, N. Ireland



Claire Hutchings (12), Bideford.

I Hope For Co-Operation

I hope to see birds singing, and children being helpful and cheerful.

I hope that I can see no badness on Earth.

I hope the wind howls, the rain falls down.

I hope for co-operation.

I hope there is no litter, that Britain is tidy, that children have brilliant educations.

I hope that children play in parks.

I wish the world automatically changed

I would love to see no arguing and back-chatting.

I would love to see ducks swimming in ponds.

I hope for love and laughter, sunshine.

But I would live to see the world at peace.

Sam Siddorn (11), Wirral.

STOP THE ROT

Our earth had once a lovely face
With peace and friends in every place
But now our world is pollution and blood
It will sear our world and stick like mud.



Stop the pollution Stop the war
The badness goes down to the core
If everybody gave a helping hand
We could stop the rot and save our land.

Rebecca Harrison (13) Huddersfield.

Hello, how are you?

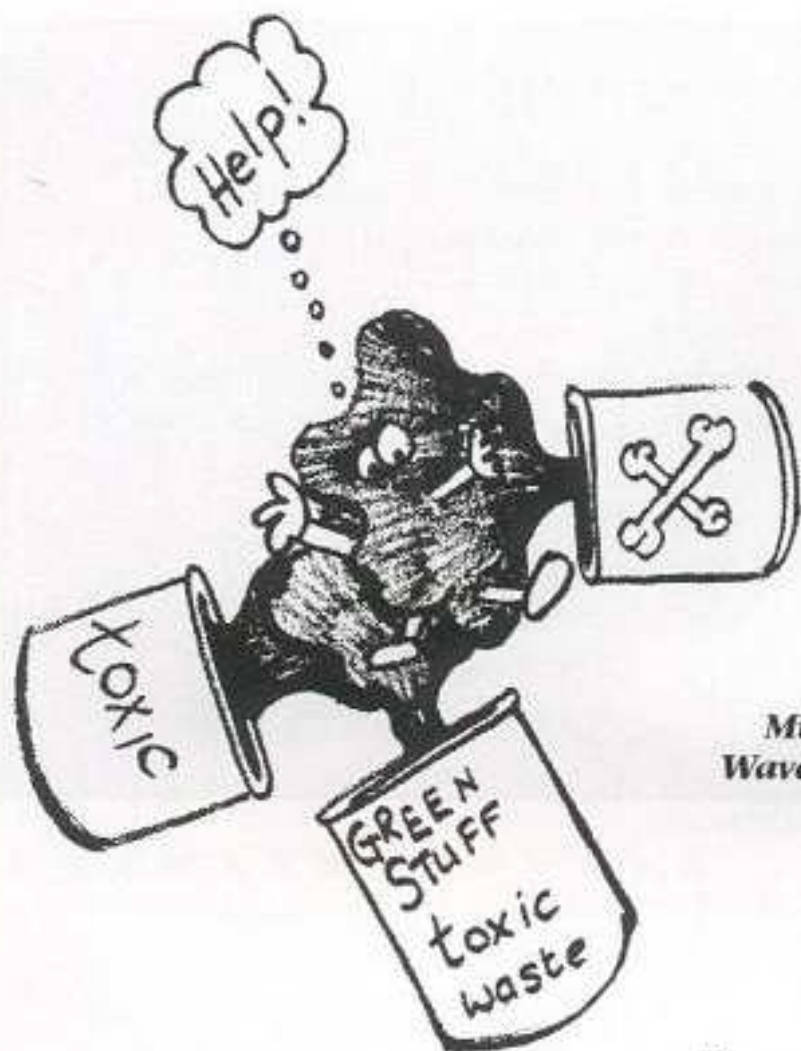
My name is Ali Ibrahim. I was born in another country and now I am in another country. Things have been different for me. I moved from the other because of the war, there were people dying. They are killing.

The armies killed men, not girls or women. I don't know why. Some armies are trying their best to stop the war. We are very very sorry about all the things we did.

In my own country every year there used to be a war. Now people are nasty to each other, calling names, making fun of each other. It is disgusting. I can't believe it. Why can't they just stop everything even the fighting?

I wish people would sort out the problem just to live happily.

Ali Ibrahim.



*Michael Norris
Waverton, Cheshire.*

SAVE OUR WORLD

Do you think this pollution should have a solution?
Lots of people do now, but the question is HOW?

This is where re-cycling comes in.

Take all your cans to the re-cycling bin,
Then all these cans get squashed right down,
To help keep our world GREEN not BROWN.

Our ozone layer has got a hole right through,
But no one really knows what to do.

Harmful gases are ruining the air,
Which causes the hole in the ozone layer.

Look for the sign that says NO CFCs,
And buy re-cycled paper to help save the trees.
We could all die from the sun's harmful rays,
So try to cut down on the use of hairsprays.

Time is running out, we must all be aware,
So before it's too late we must take extra care.
Include these issues in our future education,
Then we'll leave a safe world to the next generation.

Holly Nippard (13), Bournemouth.



Can you breathe in 2044 and
is the air clean again?

**Nikki Skwara (12), North
Hykeham, Lincs.**



Oliver Campos (13), Windsor.

POLLUTION

P is for plastic that will not decay.
Oil is for oilslick that threatens our bays.
L is for lakes where the fish are all dead.
L is for dangerous levels of lead.
U is for uncontrolled dumping in seas.
T is for acid rain's threat to our trees.
I is for increased CO₂ in our air.
O for the decreasing ozone layer.
N is for nuclear waste we must store
for thousands of years
at sea or on shore.

**Hannah Pooley (14),
Market Bosworth, Warks.**

This is a letter of apology to say sorry for all the waste and pollution and other things we did wrong in the past. If we could turn back time I am sure we would try and correct our mistakes. By now I'm sure you'll have found some way to fix our mistakes.
At least I hope you have. I would have liked to help in any way I could. I wish we could have done something about it at the time before it got any worse. We wasted too much energy.

Louise Murphy (11), Wolstanton.

ENVIRONMENTAL POEM

Our lovely world is dying,
And all we are doing is multiplying.

We have to stop this fighting
Otherwise all we will be doing is crying.

We have to stop this war,
Otherwise we will be no more.

We have to find a good solution
To stop all this horrid pollution.

We have to stop making CFCs,
Or they will be our death penalties.

I often say a little prayer,
To cover the ozone layer.

We have to clean up our world of rubble,
Otherwise we will be in trouble.

Andrew King (11), Shirley, Croydon

WE'RE SORRY

The ozone layer is getting thinner.
And people in Africa eat no dinner.

We're trying to cut down on CFCs,
But we're throwing tons away after tea.

There are many births day by day,
But less and less people are dying away.

This is just a poem to say
We're sorry that we make it this way.

We're cutting down an acre of trees
In just twelve seconds, so please...

ACCEPT THIS APOLOGY.

John Eatough (11), Bideford

To the finder...

How are things in 2044? It's bad enough as it is. If things have gone wrong I'm very sorry. I enclose a map of the countryside.

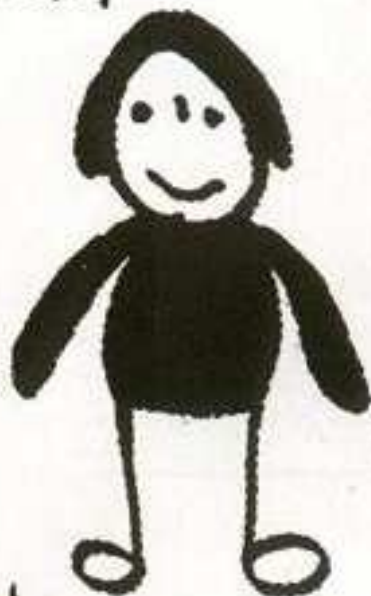
It is writing paper made from old maps so we can save waste.

But do you even know what countryside is? I think people should think green and try to treat the earth with more respect. After all we only have one earth with nutritious food, friendly people and a clean atmosphere - if you have any atmosphere left, that is.

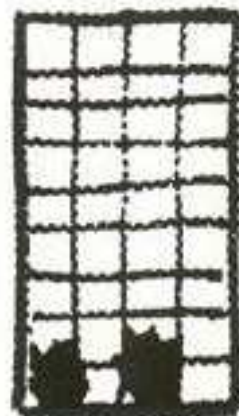
I wonder what stupid person invented aerosols? I have been walking to school. I recycle lots of things and I hope technology does not make us too lazy.

Jonathan P. Bufton (10), Upton, Wirral.

Bad



Good



Padraig Leonard (8), Hatfield.

**I've done my bit.
Please do yours.**

*Kylie Tesdale, (9),
Edinburgh.*

**It would be great if we
could taper paper
And recycle it later
We are trying our best
Why can't the rest?**

Natalie Archer (10), Stockport.

Personally I should try and cut down my consumption of soft drinks and crisps that add to the thousands of kilos of rubbish we have to dispose of every year.

***Gordon Darroch (14),
Catford, London.***

It isn't just the air that's polluted. It is nature that is being brutally abused. Also the human minds have been polluted with racism, violence and cruelty.

Jamie Barnes (13)

POLLUTION

The sea is full of rubbish.
The air is just the same.
Chemicals, pollution -
Lots of acid rain.
Animals are dying,
Some are in pain -
Something must be done.
It really is a shame!

Laura Plested (7), Wirral.

**World Environment Day commemorates every year the
UN Conference on the Environment,
held in Stockholm in 1972.**

**The aims included - To deepen awareness of the need for
preservation and enhancement of the environment.**

George & Garnette Bowler

AN ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

(Mobile Theatre)

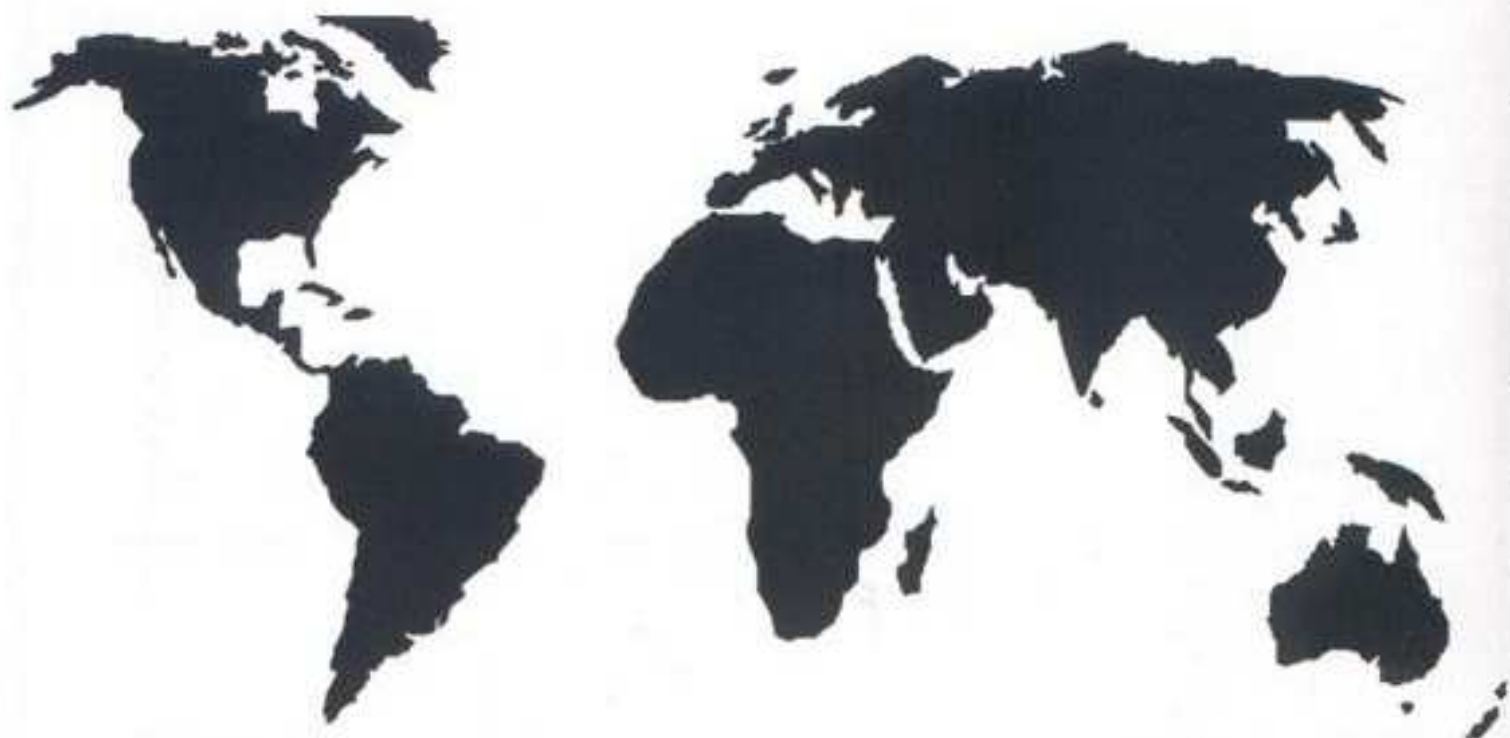


*June 2003
at
Ness
Botanic
Gardens*

WIRRAL
ACADEMY
OF
PERFORMING
ARTS

WAPA
PERFORMANCE





Glimpses of similar events world-wide

Extract from the Sunday Telegraph, Sydney NSW 5th June 1994

Head to the Garden and get in touch with nature

Mount Annan Botanic Garden, the home of Australia's largest collection of rare and endangered native flora, will host the official World Environment Day celebration for the State today.

Highlight of the day will be the sealing and burying, at noon, of a

time capsule full to the brim with environmental impressions, fears and hopes from local children – part of a world-wide ceremony at other major Botanic gardens, including Kew in the UK.

The celebration will include energy saving ideas and demonstrations involving thirty

organisations representing various concerns. Leading architect Gareth Cole will speak on energy efficient housing issues.

The day has been designed to appeal to nature lovers, garden lovers, party lovers and the environmentally considerate.

(The following week it was reported that all records were smashed with 5,000 people attending. W.E. Day commemorates every year the UN Conference on the Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. The aims included – to deepen public awareness of the need for preservation and enhancement of the environment).

FROM MEXICO

*Organiseers included the Nuevo Leon State Pact on Ecology:
the Fundidora Park and the Oxxo Prize to the Ecology.*

On the 5th June 1994 at the Fundidora park, Monterrey in Nuevo Leon State (as well as at two other sites in Mexico), World Environment Day was celebrated under the title "One Earth, One Family" based upon the Environmental Time Capsule Project 1994 - 2044 devised by Professor John Guillebaud of the UK.

Many companies sponsored this Mexican Programme which at Fundidora Park included:

A tree planting ceremony of 240 trees involving 240 children from public and private schools - so that in 50 years these families will see the outcome of their symbolic action towards environmental improvement. Later in the day, a concert was given by two orchestras. The aim was to achieve spiritual harmony among the audience - to

evoke our coexistence with our environment.

A monument has been built in this park and a stainless steel capsule deposited inside - containing letters, poems, messages and drawings from people of Nuevo Leon, addressed to the generation of 2044 when the capsule will be opened.

The commemorative plaque read in Spanish - *"Today, Sunday June 5th 1994, we are depositing in this place a capsule which contains the testimony of our efforts to preserve the environment. All who are here and now do apologise to the generation that will open it in the year 2044 - because of the damage done to the planet they are inheriting from this generation."*

Seychelles will this year join with countries from all over the world to commemorate National Environment Week from June 3, with the burial of a special Time Capsule.

The Time Capsule 2044 is an apology to the future...and a pledge to do more for the environment.

At 3.00pm that day a capsule containing a letter of apology to the finder, letters by school children, poems and other chosen objects will be buried in the Botanical Gardens to be dug up in 2044, 50 years from now.

The objective of this project is to raise awareness of the important environment problems facing every one. It is hoped that by changing the way we live, we can help to build a better future.

From "The People" Weekly Magazine, Seychelles Islands.

A letter from Nadege Etienne, a 1994 student...

Dear children of 2044,

By the time you finally read my letter I will probably not be around, so I want you to listen to it very carefully.

At the rate the world is changing now you will probably be living in a completely different world and environment. But since we are here on our small, but beautiful island, the change might not be as strongly here as in other parts of the world.

That is why I sincerely hope that you, our future children and grandchildren, will do as much as you possibly can to maintain the beauty that surrounds us here in the Seychelles. If not it would be such a pity for you not to be able to see for yourselves all the numerous beauties that have kept tourists from all over the world coming to admire them, and also the pride they brought in us.

Well, it is true that we today are not doing our best to keep our environment healthy and beautiful, what with the cutting down of trees, pollution of the air, land and water and the rapid population growth. For that we are truly sorry.

But I also think you should feel lucky for the large group of people who have been and still are, trying to keep the environment beautiful just for you.

I pray that you will take my message seriously and try to protect what you have got left for your sake and that of the next generations.

Good luck and thank you.

World Environment Day 1994

PROGRAMME

Natal Botanic Gardens
Pietermaritzburg

The Environment Time Capsule Project

Welcome
Dr Ronnie Nelson

Reasons for this Project & What is in the Capsule?
Bridget Ducasse & Catherine Stevens

Introduction
The Deputy Mayor, Mr Vernon Mason

Speech by the Guest of Honour
Mr Peter Miller

The Promise
Paula de Villers

Planting of a Natal White Stinkwood (*Celtis milbraedi*)
Mr Peter Miller, Musa Mathebula, Daniel Smith & Peter Stoltz

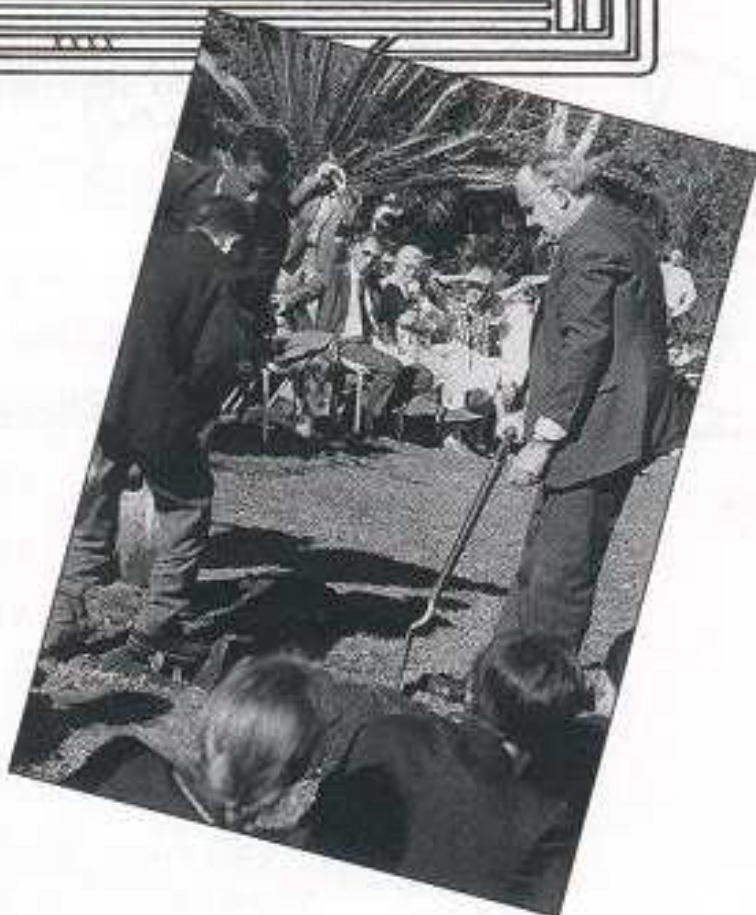
Burial of the Time Capsule
Carter, Linpark & Voortrekker High Schools

Sanbonani, The Miracle, Heal the World & We are the World
Carter High School Choir

Thanks & Closure
Dr Ronnie Nelson

Arranged and co-ordinated
by Carter High School,
Pietermaritzburg.

***Guest of Honour, Peter Miller,
planting the celebration tree at
the burial of the Capsule in cele-
bration of World Environment
Day at Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
Republic of South Africa.***



The Promise

The Rhino falls to its knees, a horn ripped
untimely from its head, and dies.

The elephant majestically crumbles, its
magnificent tusks gone, and dies.

A baby child is born.

In his hand he clutches the hopes of a new
generation, and the sorrow of the old.

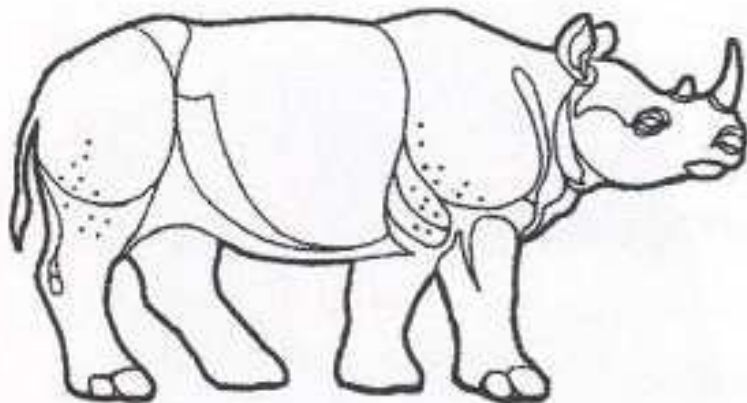
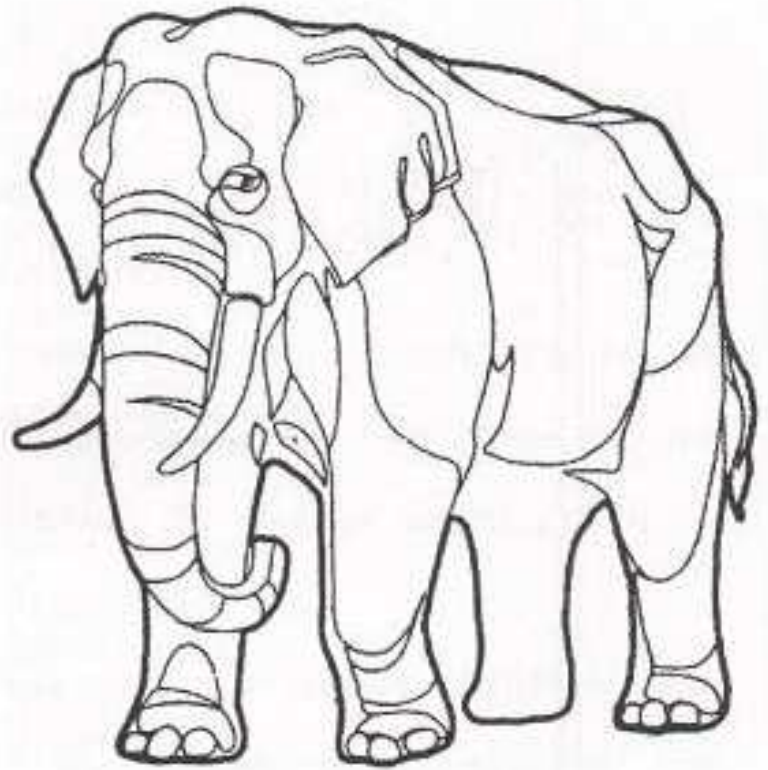
He will probably never find his
full potential.

He will be stunted before he has grown.

This is my generation:

Turmoil, death, unwanted babies, a dying planet.

It is not your generation, please don't let it be.



We will give you this world, black and
dying, unless we do something.

We will try.

We will raise awareness,

Hope and peace.

Our world will not be your world.

Yours will be better.

The rhino shall roam freely,

The elephant shall live long,

And you shall live in a better world.

A living world.

I promise.

*Paula de Villers (15) Carter High School, Pietermaritzburg,
Republic of South Africa - 1994.*

Don't go around saying the world owes you something.
The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

Lucy (12), Bideford, North Devon.

Soon there won't be any more countryside because
too many people are buying cars. So we need more roads,
which is awful.

Sophie Bridgman (10), Beaconsfield.

At the moment there is a threat
to pandas, otters, elephants,
rhinos, whales and others.
I hope they are not extinct.

**Anne Thomas (10),
Beaconsfield.**

To the Finder...

Each little black spider washed away,
Each enormous grey elephant slaughtered,
Each whale shot in the bloodstained ocean,
Or innocent fox hunted...
Why?



Each tiger shot for a rug,
Each rhino shot for his horn,
Each zebra for his flashy coat...
Why end this way? Why end this beauty?
Each animal soon may go.

It is too late to say we're sorry,
But something has to stop,
Before there's nothing to apologise to.

Abigail Roddam (13), Huddersfield.

Dear Finder...

We will try not to cut down trees and we try not to cut hedges down and pollute
the sea and I hope that the world is nice and fresh at the end.


I hope it looks like this in 
2044

**From Neecol Corry (6)
Windermere.**



Let the Apple represent Planet Earth

Slice the apple into quarters.

Throw away three of them.

These represent the oceans of the world.

Q: What fraction do you have left? **A:** One quarter.

Slice this in two, and discard one half.

This represents land that is inhospitable to people; deserts, swamps, high mountains, or covered by ice...

Q: What fraction do you now have left? **A:** One eighth.

Slice the $\frac{1}{8}$ into four final segments and dispose of three.

These $3 \times \frac{1}{32}$ segments are areas that are too rocky, too cold, too steep, still covered by (fast disappearing) rain forest, or with soil too poor to actually produce food. They also include cities, suburban sprawl, roads, shopping centres, schools, factories, car parks...

Q: What fraction now? **A:** $\frac{1}{32}$

Carefully peel the last $\frac{1}{32}$ slice.

This tiny bit of apple peel represents the skin of the Earth's crust, which is the top-soil on which all humankind and much of the biosphere depends. It averages only a few feet deep. Due to human activities (erosion, over-farming, pollution)...we lose an average 25 billion tons of it per year. With more and more people sharing land, each person's share gets even smaller.

(Adapted from the Activity Guide supplied with World Population Dots – a superb DVD available from www.popconnect.org)

A letter from Suki, aged 11. Dated 4/5/94, St Mellon's, Cardiff.

To the Finder of the Capsule

This letter I have written to you is a letter of apology from me to you. It is Wednesday the 4th of May in the year 1994. In our year now, we have a lot of people, at least half the world is made up of children, but nearly all the rest is made up of adults. Throughout the 1900s the population has grown more and more, the number of houses has grown more and more and the cars have become more and more, but, most of all the pollution and the sickness, the sadness and the dying has grown more and more.

There are people in many countries, like Africa and India who cannot control the population of children and adults and are having to starve to feed their children or family.

We used to have many rainforests around the world, with beautiful, tropical birds and animals, but many rainforests have been destroyed now, the trees have been cut down, the animals are dying, the earth is being dug up where the trees were cut down and buildings have been built in their place.

Also all the tankers in the sea trying to suck up oil and send the oil to the land by ships, but the ships leak, or crash, and all the oil swims into the sea killing many beautiful and rare fish and whales....

The ozone layer has many holes in it, all over the world made from pollution and rubbish. People have been getting more into cleaning up, which is good because grown ups say children are the adults for the future, so we need to know the good and bad.

In the 1900s we have had 2 world wars and many other smaller wars which are killing innocent people over greed and stupidity. People are starving and frightened, the world was and still is quite a bad place.

Nowadays crime, like stealing and murdering is not unusual. People, especially old people, are afraid to go out on their own late at night because of strange, rough, bad people who wander around waiting to cause trouble.

The last thing out of hundreds I am going to tell you about is the testing on animals. The doctors and scientists who work on animals say, "they are only a small part of the human race". But I say every little bit counts, the small amount of animals tested on counts up to large amounts of animals being tested on.

If the world and time you live in is bad, then what can I say, but sorry? But if it's much better then thanks for making it that way.

Yours sincerely

Suki Parsons (11)

A note from Janet Thorning -

“Who knows what tales these children will have to tell after 50 years have passed?

My prayer is that if everyone plays their part in protecting this miraculous planet we inhabit, the children’s hopes will have been fulfilled and their fears confounded.”

Wirral Green Alliance, June 1994

Renamed The Wirral Environmental Network

from August 2003

The Plastic Ring on a Pack of Four

I am deadly.
I strangle seabirds.
It only takes one careless human
Throwing me away uncut to kill.
I fix myself around necks,
Then tighten.
I strangle my prey.
Most humans don't realise,
So the killings go on,
I am unrepentant.
Why shouldn't I be?
They are only birds.

*Gail Andrews (13)
St Andrews, Fife.*

Oil Slick

Choking, hacking the vile gunge
From deep in her lungs, she flounders,
Slipping, collapsing at the water's
Edge.
Dark waves, capped in tar, lap
Incessantly, caressing her pathetic body.
Again she struggles
And falls;
Gives up.
Do I care as she stares out
At me through the TV screen?
Reflected onto the beach, I see myself
Plain and featureless, eating
A bag of crisps,
While beside me, she disappears
Into the oil, struggling to
The last. Swallowed.

She now rots on the
Sea-bed;
I change the channel.

Ian Napier (13), Cromer.

Too Many People

It's nineteen hundred and ninety four
The earth is dying and can take no more
The future's bleak for kids world wide.
Unless new ways and means are tried.

Nature lovers live in fear,
As animal species disappear,
Building factories on life's green fields,
More motorways for yet more wheels.

Industrial gases destroy the atmosphere
The air we breathe is rarely clear,
Untreated sewage destroys our beaches,
Oil waste kills all Earth's creatures.

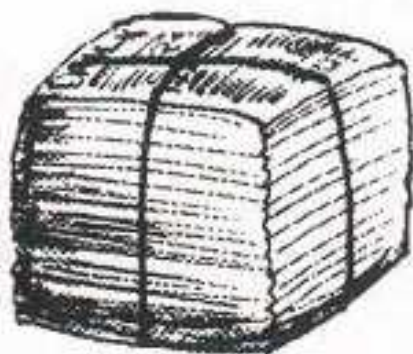
Too many people, most takers not givers,
Help pollute land, sea and rivers,
Humans just want more and more,
In nineteen hundred and ninety four.
Sorry the world's in a state
We hope it's improved
before it was too late.

Laura Jones (11), Stockport.

THE VALUE OF WASTE!



+



=



Lucy (13) & Steph (14), Bournemouth.

A Stitch in Time

It is 1994 and the world is in a pickle. It is not too late, but something must be done.

The rivers and seas need to be cleaned up, the ozone layer needs patching, and the rainforests need saving.

Society and charity work must continue, and above all we must help it to help itself.

Have fun in 2044, but think of the world, and how to help it. If it's in a mess, don't blame us, for it was our parents' and their parents' fault, for we tried to save it.

Pete McCrea (13), Cheltenham.

Drowned in Slabs of Concrete

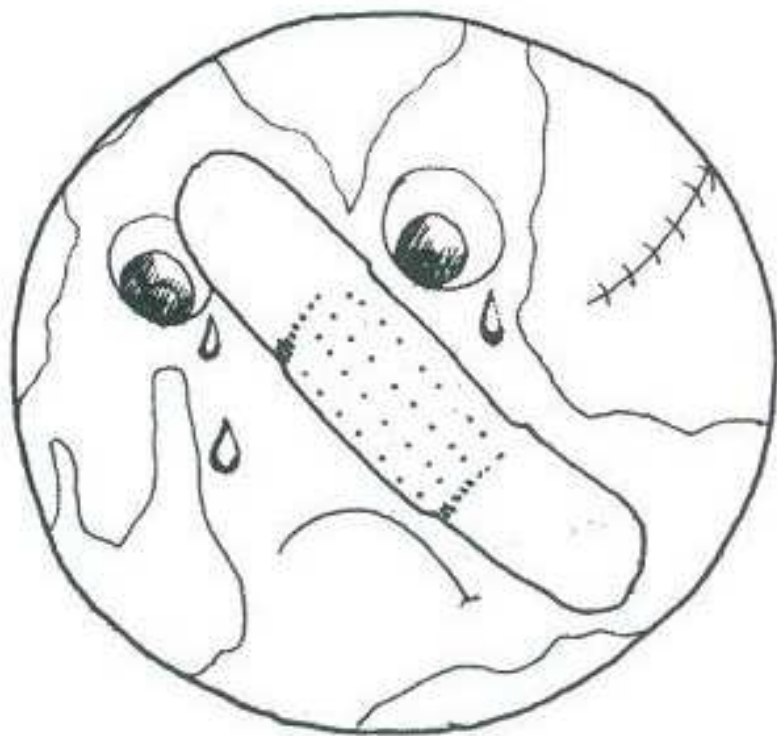
On the horizon,
Steel chimneys carve into
The grey sky,
Pumping smog, choking clouds
With pollution.
The din of the streets, human life,
Never stops.
The glare of artificial lights
Stains the air,
Deadly and strong.

Drowned in slabs of concrete.
Layered with city muck,
A cluster of grass struggles to
Breathe
Below a wooden fence.
The spreading shoots of
A sycamore seed weave
Through the pavement cracks
And tiny roots
Struggle to anchor
In the sandy dust.
Young leaves plead,
Brown
With dehydration
Fear.

But the hustle of the traffic and
People
Fail to hear.

Harriet Robjent (13), Cromer.

Stitches and Plaster!



Rebecca Harrison (13), Huddersfield.



I feel that the most important issue is that of global warming – the government has no long-term strategy – it would mean heavy expenditure in both public and private sectors.

The government can't afford to do this.

Dominic Mills (14), Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Destruction to this planet was
due to one thing – greed.
Don't make the same mistake.

Dawn Pratt (13), Bideford, Devon.

This little anthology is the only record of a selection of the young people's contributions that were sealed into the Environment Time Capsule at Ness Botanic Gardens in June 1994.

It may also be of interest to the reader that this Time Capsule project is registered at the Department of Ethnography, of the British Museum, London, with details of its exact location.

Copies of the exact location are also with John Guillebaud, Dr Joanna Sharples at Ness and with the Trustees of the Wirral Environmental Network, The Manor Trust Building, 79 Gorsey Lane, Wallasey CH44 4HF.

***Garnette & George Bowler,
Compilers and Project Co-ordinators
at Ness Botanic Gardens since 1994.***



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TIME CAPSULE

The Time Capsule placed beneath this plaque in June 1994 contains letters and objects linked to the many environmental concerns felt by the children of today.

Letters from the adults apologise for the overcrowding, pollution and resource scarcity we fear we will leave behind. They also state our commitment to overcome these problems through individual and concerted action, so that all species may share life together on a safe and sustainable planet.

Our goal is to make the apology unnecessary by the time the capsule is opened on 5th June 2044.

***It is better to light a candle than
to curse the darkness***



NESS
BOTANIC
GARDENS

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TIME CAPSULE

The Time Capsule placed near this plaque in June 1994 contains letters and objects linked to the many environmental concerns felt by the children of today.

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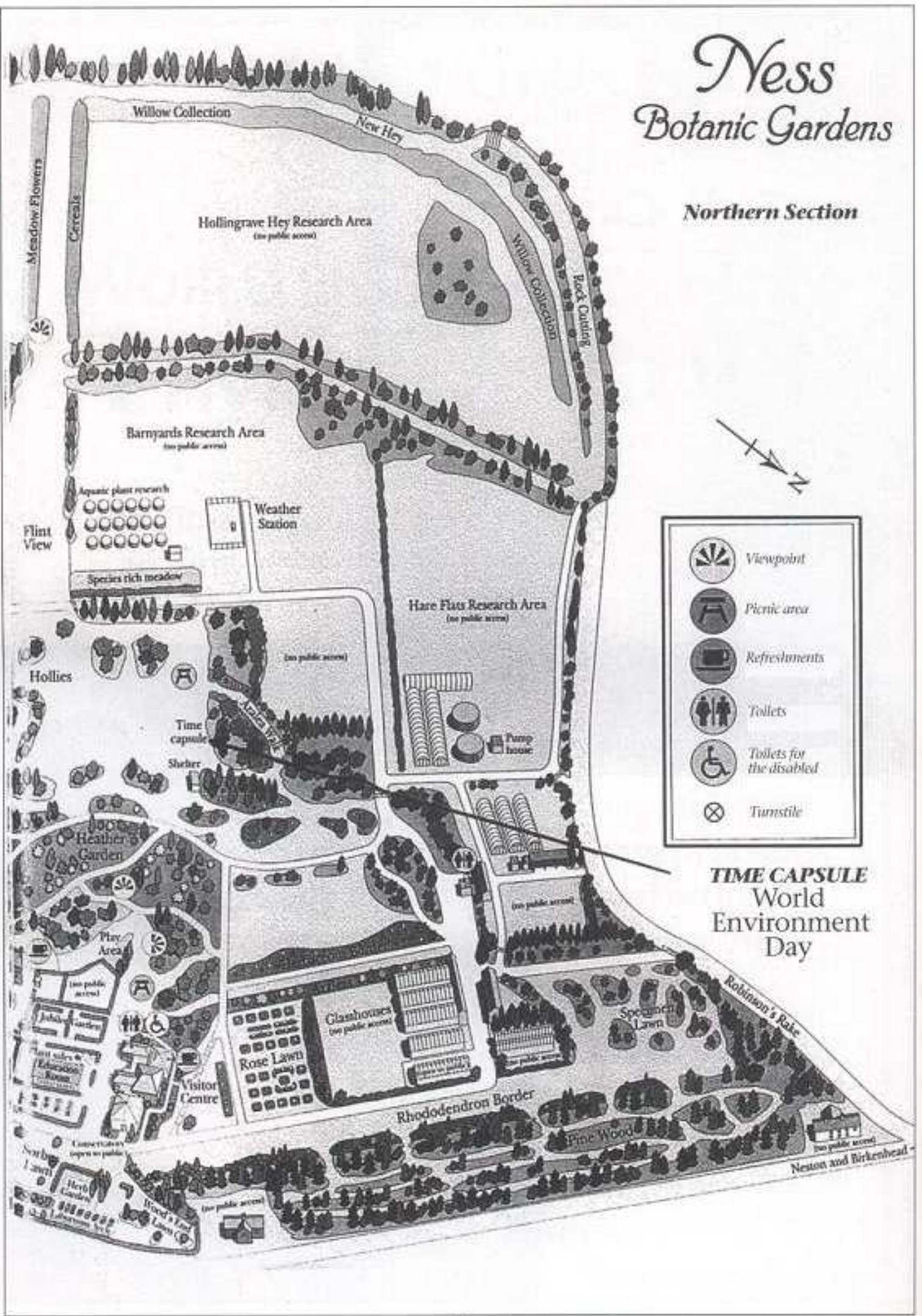
*It is better to light a candle than
to curse the darkness.*

Donated by G & R



Ness Botanic Gardens

Northern Section



-  Viewpoint
-  Picnic area
-  Refreshments
-  Toilets
-  Toilets for the disabled
-  Turnstile

TIME CAPSULE
World
Environment
Day

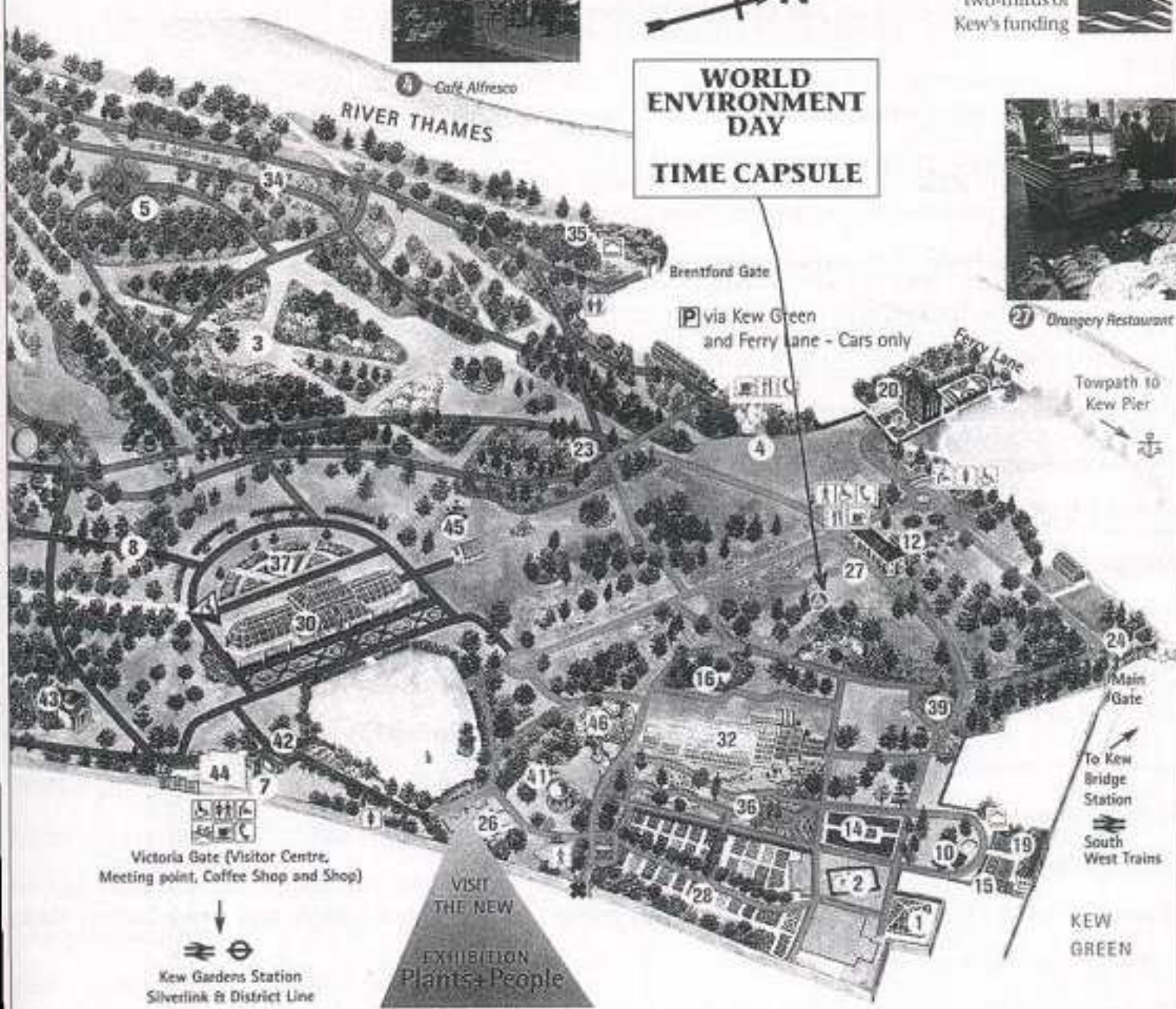
THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW



The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food provides some two-thirds of Kew's funding



**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
TIME CAPSULE**



Victoria Gate (Visitor Centre, Meeting point, Coffee Shop and Shop)

Kew Gardens Station
Silverlink & District Line

VISIT THE NEW
EXHIBITION
Plants+People

KEW GREEN

World Environment Day – 5th June 1994

Environmental Time Capsule Project

List of items sealed in the Capsule and buried at Ness 5/6/1994

Two newspapers – a copy of *The Guardian's* Environmental section of 3/6/94, and a bulky Sunday paper.

The 'Greenhouse effect' on climate change – leaflet from the National Society for Clean Air (UK).

British Rail's Inter City Brochure and Timetable.

Public transport in Manchester and the new Light Rail system there.

Bicycles and the big city. 'Who said they don't mix?'

A pollution mask for kerbside motor vehicle emissions.

Picture of a child in traffic and links with asthma.

Our motorways and 'spaghetti' junction in central England.

The Environmental Transport Association leaflet for the 'careful' motorist.

Cutting Fuel Bills the 'green way' – a letter to the Press.

Energy efficient and long-life electric light bulbs – promotional leaflet.

A Poster showing ways to save energy.

A leaflet about The Centre for Alternative Technology – famous UK research and educational complex in mid-Wales.

Global Deforestation and the loss of tropical Rainforests affecting climate change.

The magazine – *Environment Now*.

Tribal peoples and information about threats to their survival.

Damage to the Ozone layer – some canisters using CFC operated sprays and information about today's refrigerator emissions.

The Journal of Compassion in World Farming – UK-based food animal abuse campaigning body.

The newspaper *Mail on Sunday* with an article on BSE (Mad cow disease) and likely causes.

A milk bottle and a sample of other disposables – will there be more or less to throw away in 2044?

The need to reduce 'household' wastes; and a Directory on recycling consumer waste.

Composting garden and organic household waste.

Acid Rain – a leaflet from the National Society for Clean Air (UK).

A Calendar on Endangered species published by *Shared Earth*.

A wildlife poster: 'What will be left in 50 years time?'

A pesticide container – the need to reduce or avoid any use in agriculture.

A leaflet on Organic gardening and food supplies catalogue.

A letter from Jonathan P. Bufton aged 10 of Upton, Wirral.

A poem from Michael Stroud aged 10 of Wirral.

Video nasties – a newspaper article on this form of 'thought pollution'.

All I ever needed to know I learned in the kindergarten – a Thought for the Day.

Extract from the book 'Universal Kinship' with a leaflet quoting Jeremy Bentham from the 19th century, on animals.

The state of the NW Beaches in the UK and the Dee Estuary – a local newspaper article and a leaflet from Deewatch.

An empty bleach bottle – symbolising the campaigns of the Women's Environmental Network throughout the UK; and an empty box of unbleached recycled facial tissues.

Three leaflets on the Family Planning Association and population issues from a UK perspective.

Conservation of nature and the World Wildlife Fund (W.W.F.) – leaflet.

A leaflet on the community based Local Economy Trading Systems.

The New Economics Foundation, London – 'economics that puts people first'.

Badger protection – a leaflet from the Wirral and Cheshire Badger Group.

Friends of Storeton Woods – an example of local community action from 1989.

Wirral Green Belt Council – working to protect green open spaces from unsuitable developments.

Many letters from parents to their children – looking towards 2044.

The Charter of the Wirral Green Alliance (established 1985).

Letters of apology with many supporting signatures and –

A letter signed and composed by two MP's – Andrew Miller and Chris Smith.

A bicycle pump –

And a packet of contraceptive pills (see page 6...)

Contributing Schools

Scotland:

St Leonard's, St Andrews, Fife
St Patrick's High, Coatbridge
Bruntsfield Primary, Edinburgh

Northern Ireland:

Coleraine Girls Secondary, Coleraine
Newton Breda Primary, Belfast

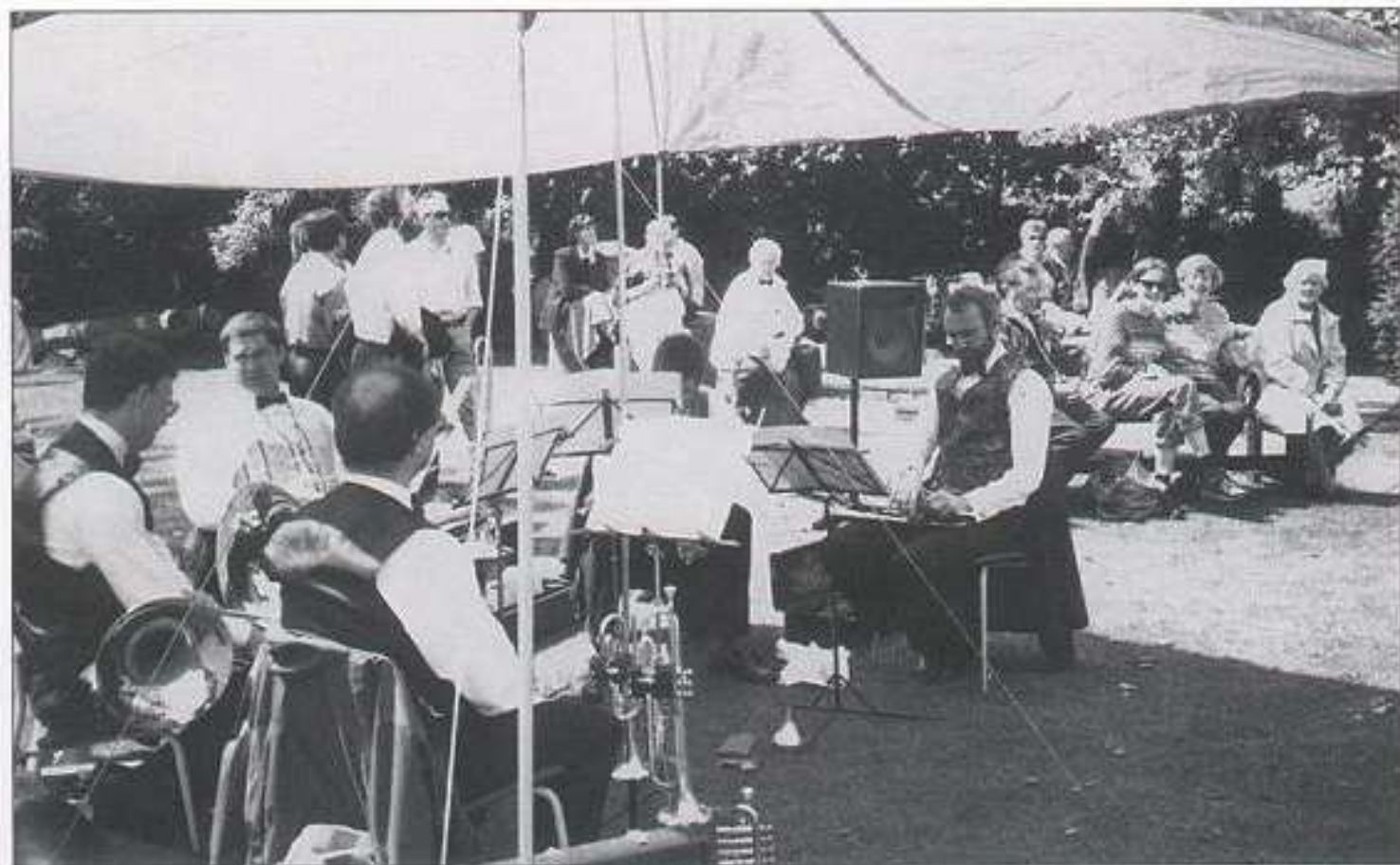
Wales:

Oakfield Primary, St Mellons, Cardiff

England:

Alperton Community, Wembley
Avonbourne, Bournemouth
Balcarras, Cheltenham
Bedlington High, Northumberland
Beech Green Primary, Quedgeley, Glos.
Beeston Hall, Cromer
Bourton on the Water, Glos.
Bromley High, Bickley, Kent
Brune Park, Gosport
Burnham Market CP, near Kings Lynn
Edenham High, Croydon
Edgehill College, Bideford
Fairweather Green Middle, Bradford
Gerrards Cross C of E, Gerrards Cross
Greenford Primary, Dorchester
High March, Beaconsfield
Kirkburton Middle, Huddersfield
Lancaster Royal Grammar, Lancaster
Market Bosworth High, Warwickshire
Mill Hill, London NW7
North Kesteven G.M. Lincoln

Oriel Bank High, Stockport
Portland Primary, Birkenhead
Poulton Lancelyn Primary, Bebington
Redcastle Furze, Thetford
St Anne's, Windermere
St Christopher's, Wembley
St Dunstan's College, Catford SE6
St Edward's, Windsor
St Margaret's, Bushey
St Mary's C of E, Eastham
St Olave's, London SE9
St Philip Howard, Hatfield
Stanton Road Primary, Bebington
Sundance Playscheme, Hove
Ten Mile Bank C. Primary, Morecambe
Warwick Prep, Warwick
Waverton Primary, near Chester
West Kirkby Grammar, Bebington
Wirral Grammar, Bebington
Wolstanton Prep, Newcastle, Staffs
Woodbridge School, Suffolk



The Willow Brass Group resting! They played at Ness Botanic Garden's annual event from 1994 till 2002.



A glimpse of the burial scene at Ness Botanic Garden on Sunday 5th June 1994.



Professor Bellamy, Susan Hampshire and a group of young people at Kew Gardens, 1994.



*Clockwise from left:
Professors John Gullebaud
and Ghilleen Prance, Lord
Mayor of Richmond & Kew,
Miss Susan Hampshire and
Professor David Bellamy -
with the time capsule.*