Further visitors arrive, a military engineer perhaps or a physician. They tour the
Castle giving their expert opinions to the
Governor and discussing the dangers
which lie ahead. No one group of children
overhears any complete conversation, but
all glean snippets and sense the adult's
anxiety. About mid-morning
pandemonium is unleashed by the news of
Henrietta Maria's imminent arrival.
Marquess Arundell, the Governor's wife,
is still ensconced in the best bed. Girls
are despatched to help her dress, to
change the sheets, and to spruce up the room.

Cal. Arundell is confronted by the Duke
of Hamilton, held at the Castle on suspicion
of treason, and now demanding to plead
his case before the Queen. Captain
Morgan prepares guns for a salute and
organises guards. The Colonel, still in
the thick of his argument with the Duke,
annoyingly inspects everything. At last the
Queen arrives. Children line the route
and cheer. Some have been known to fall
head over heels in love with this beautiful
lady in her gorgeous dress. Even the day's
English Heritage visitors become entranced!
It will by now be apparent that the
'Living History' depends on a supping
group of adults. For the last couple of
years Pendennis has been lucky enough to
enjoy the services of the Godolphin
Garrison, a historical re-enactment
society which provides the day's soldiers.
Much of the craft instruction is given by
members of the Cornwall Guild of
Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers. Off-duty
officers have been known to take part,
as do teachers from the participating
schools, friends of friends, and
members of the Pendennis Heritage
Action Group. This last named
organisation is the fruit of Calle Saxby's
enthusiasm for using the Castle, and is
also responsible for some of the costumes.
Other costumes are supplied by English
Heritage, Falmouth Community School,
the Godolphin Garrison, and the
participants themselves.
In due course the Queen is served with dinner. She graciously agrees to eat with the assembled guests, though seated at a high table with the Governor and his Lady. After dinner the children stage an entertainment. This varies from year to year, but normally consists of a series of playlets interspersed with folk-dance and seventeenth-century music. It is well known that Henrietta Maria was an enthusiast for the elaborate dramatic spectacles popular at court in happier times. Before the entertainment begins, Arundell tells the assembled children that for the Queen this will probably be the last such occasion for many years to come.

During the afternoon an important letter is delivered, leading to whispered conversations. Henrietta Maria seems relieved. At the conclusion of the entertainment Arundell announced that ships are ready to take Her Highness to France. Tonight she will sleep at the Castle, and tomorrow set sail for the safety of the Continent and her friends.

When devising a 'Living History' one is constantly faced with the problem of historical accuracy. How far should one 'embroider'? Dare one tamper with the generally accepted 'facts'? Even the 'facts' are liable to change in the light of new research. It is known that Henrietta Maria spent at least one night at Pendennis, and subsequently left for the Continent. It is known that the Governor of the Castle was Col. Arundell. It is not known that the capture of Charles' money by the Dutch was a matter of fact. In all probability the Hunter had not been in attendance at Pendennis for at least two years. This is not to say that Arundell would have invited children to the Castle.

On the other hand, he would appear to have been a likeable and popular family man, so he might have been able to do so. The atmosphere at Pendennis has been to preserve the 'facts' as far as they are known, and to flesh the story out with whatever seems reasonable or possible.

This year the 'Living History' will have a new ending. When the entertainment is over and the Queen and Governor have left the Castle hall, Captain Tregeran will resume command. After a final demonstration of weaponry he will re-emphasise what the children have learned and stress the seriousness of the situation. They will then be marched out of the Castle, back to the changing room and the twentieth century. It will be a down-beat ending, as stark contrast to last year's 'final dance'. Clouds of war are gathering around Pendennis, and the children have witnessed the end of an era.

Derek Tovey
Pendennis Living History Planning Committee

The English Civil War

English Heritage has produced this special eight page A4 booklet on The English Civil War for teachers and children. It explains the causes of the Civil War, what life was like for the ordinary soldier, and where the main battles took place. It contains many illustrations including life in an encampment; the weapons and armour of the fighting man, a useful map and a quiz page.

It costs £1.50 including postage and packing and is available from English Heritage, PO Box 229, Northampton, NN6 9RY. To obtain copies please use the order form in Resources, included in this issue of Remnants.

There are over 30 special events at English Heritage sites around the country this summer to mark the Civil War anniversary, ranging from battle re-enactments to living history and period music. For full details, contact our Special Events Unit on 071-973 3459.

En route...Mistley Towers

En route is a series written by teachers who have investigated one of our less-visited monuments. Ramsey County Primary School chose to study Mistley Towers as part of their term's inquiry into the Stow Estuary, the place where they live.

Along the walls at the beginning of Mistley village in Essex are the dignified Mistley Towers, dominating the River Stour. In recent years, warehouses have been built behind them, interrupting their once beautiful backdrop of water and sky. Nevertheless they still stand as impressive, doleful guardians of the estuary, unlikely monuments of the past, incomplete and mysterious, bounded by disproportionate iron railings.

These important architectural buildings are the remains of the Thorn Church built in 1533. The famous architect Robert Adam only designed two churches in his life and here is one of them — well partly! The nest was demolished in 1870. The Towers became an important starting point for rounding curiously in the enquiring minds of young children, stimulating their imagination and arousing innumerable questions of the sort needed all our life, such as how did they get there? What was it for and what has happened in the past? Examining the graves, sketching the Towers, looking at the plans added on afterwards were all additional insights into the Thorn Church, but the most exciting prospect was unlocking the secret doors and examining the simple beauties inside. Passers by window heard the girls on this sunny day saying, ‘would you mind if we peeped, we always meant to get the key, have a look!’ The children proudly impart their new knowledge to pedestrians, parents and others.

Richard Rigby comes to life as they gaze at The Swan fountain and the spa building behind. Clues and artefacts abound around Mistley. How exciting to read part of Richard Rigby’s will incorporated on a wall inside the Towers and then see Rigby Avenue by chance on the way back to school. Of course the Matthew Hopkins story as witch-finder general add spice as the children gaze at the Thorn Ines and Hopping Bridge where witches were supposedly drowned. This is the National Curriculum, real life!

Dilys Parren
Ramsey County Primary School near Harwich
Essex

Mistley Towers is on the B1352, 1.5 miles east of the A137 at Lawford, 9 miles east of Colchester OS Map 169 ref TM 16320. The site is open all year plus Mondays in winter. There is a keykeeper so check access please ring 0223 455552.

Historic Buildings and their World Links

There are many starting points for learning about historic buildings such as finding out how and why they were built, and how they were used and by whom. Such investigations are usually associated with local history or national history. However historic buildings do have clues which can tell us about links with a wider world in Europe and beyond.

For more than 2,000 years we have imported materials and ideas as well as being a base where people from many countries have settled. Building materials might come from local or regional quarries but in some instances they have been shipped from Europe in the case of stone for some of our castles or of hard wood for some furniture. The designs used might have been developed around such as
It is only when a power cut plunges us into darkness that we realize just how chaotic city life without street lighting would be. The first lights, powered by gas, were introduced early in the nineteenth century, but as each one had to be lit by a lamplighter, they were mostly confined to major thoroughfares. Eighty years later electricity did away with all that and now lamps of all shapes and sizes ensure that even the smallest street has left the dark ages behind.

This type of street lamp is so common that it is rarely given a second glance, but looked at closely it is a design success story: its height and curvature giving it elegance whilst fulfilling the function of spreading light evenly where it is most needed.

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The glass globe with its top opening shows that this was originally a gas lamp which has since been converted to electricity. It is highly ornate with a fish motif on its base, reflecting its positon near water. In this case on the Thames embankment.

Streetwise investigates clues to the past that can often be found in the streets near your school.

△ Narrow streets and pedestrianised areas usually have lights which have straight posts or are attached to walls. Lamp shapes are either unfrilly and functional, or echo the shape of earlier lights.

△ Victorian lamp standards are easy to recognize. They are made of cast iron because it was cheap then, and are often decorated, particularly on the base. This one shows the story of St Martin giving his cloak to a beggar.