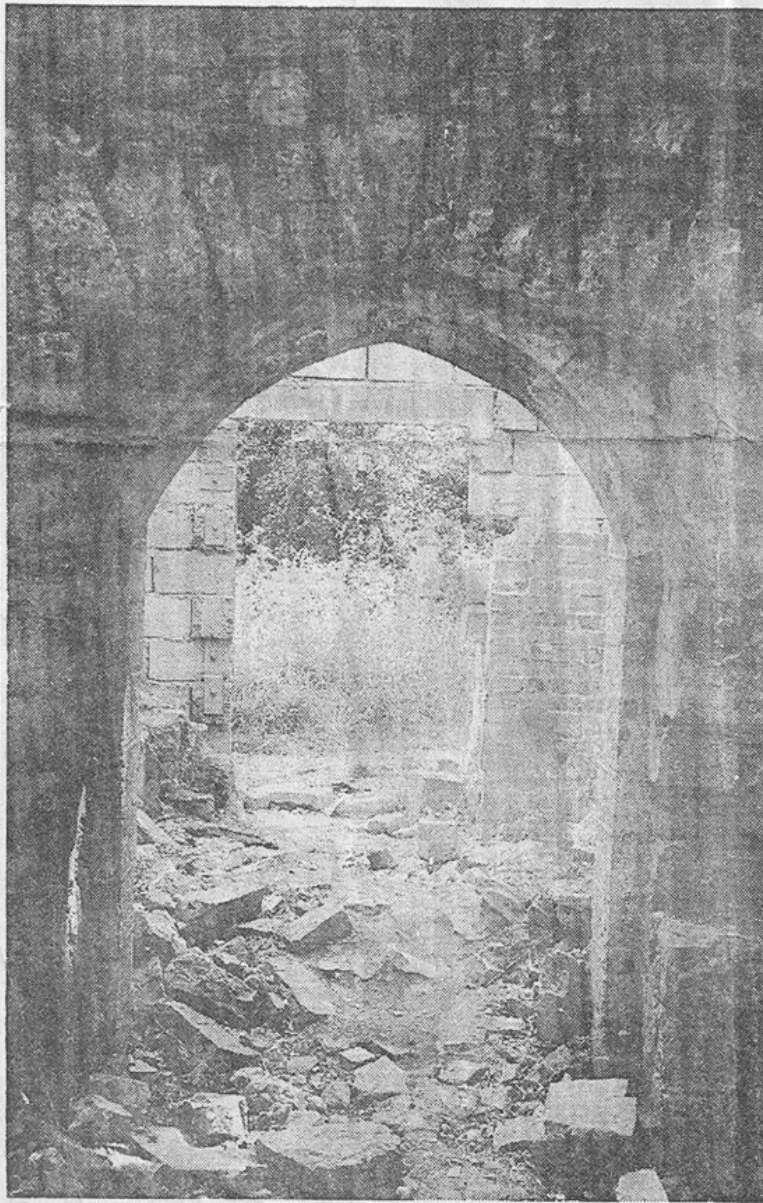


Sussanne's prize study



A POIGNANT picture of a derelict Cardiff church has scooped a festival prize for a teenager with learning problems.

Sussanne Lawson, a 16-year-old from Cardiff's Woodlands High School, Ely, won the Ely Festival prize — in a competition open to all adults — for her eloquent study of the nearby, vandalised St Mary's Church.

Sussanne is keen on art and, since Easter, she's been attending a photographic course once a week at Ely Community Shop in Caerau Lane, taken by Malcolm James and Ruth Jacob. And she's been encouraged by her school art teacher Miss Alana Dallimore.

Miss Dallimore said she was "very proud" of Sussanne because she had faced competition from adults in the area.

'Progressed'

Sussanne's parents David and Joyce Lawson keep a hardware store in Clare Road, Grangetown. Her mother said today: "This is a great achievement, and I hope it will be a permanent confidence boost.

"It's already changed my daughter's attitude to everything. She wants to try everything now

She beats grown-ups in contest

— before she'd tend not to try. She's really been lacking in confidence."

Mr James, organiser of the Ely Festival photographic competition, said 15 people had entered the over-16s contest won by Sussanne, who is an official slow learner at her special school.

"She took her photo on a single-lens Pentax camera, which is moving towards the kind of equipment used by semi-professionals. Sussanne has progressed by leaps and bounds since she started with us."

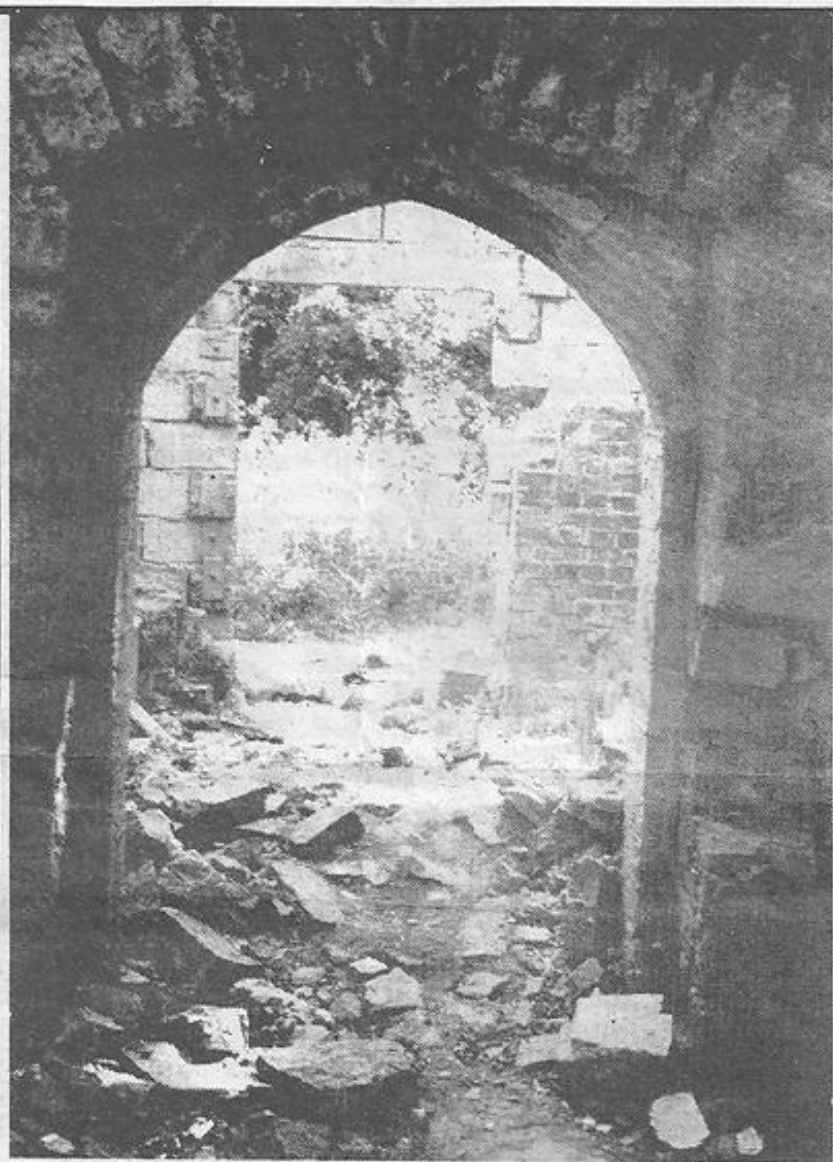
Woodlands teacher Mr Kevin O'Connor, who takes Sussanne for media studies, describes her as a "nice, enthusiastic child."

"When the art teacher took pupils to the church recently, Sussanne was obviously struck by the contrast between the archway and the rubble inside."

Sussanne, who has her own camera, won vouchers for £25 worth of photographic equipment.



Above, Sussanne, left, with her teacher Miss Alana Dallimore. Left, the picture which won the prize



Local girl scoops first prize in photo contest

Sussanne Lawson of Clare Road, Canton has won first prize in a photographic competition organised on behalf of the Ely Festival by the Ely Community Shop.

Sussanne aged 16, who attends Woodlands High Special School, is very keen on art and attended a photographic course under the encouragement of her teacher, Miss Alana Dallimore.

Sussanne took some photographs of derelict St Mary's Church, and entered the best for the competition.

Sussanne said: "I was shocked. I couldn't believe it. It is really exciting to win this competition. I have got my own camera and will use the £25 to buy some extra things for it."

Mr Malcolm James, the organiser of the competition, said he was particularly pleased because this was an open competition and Sussanne had won the adult section.

Miss Dallimore said that she was very proud of Sussanne because the competition had been open to all adults in the area.