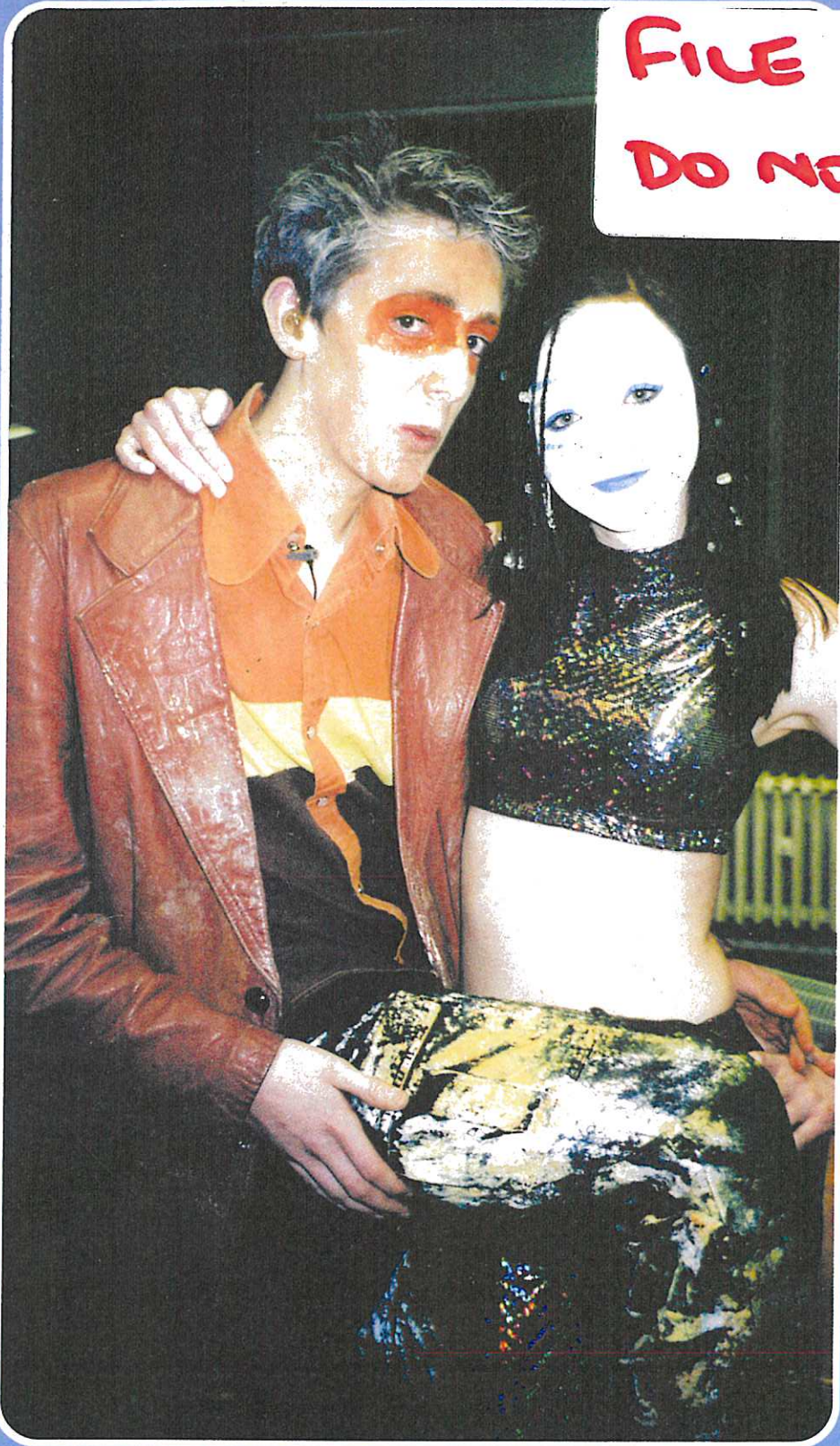


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APRIL 2003



Soundwaves



# INSIDE STORY

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Soundwave', the Mary Hare Schools Group magazine.

Although the Easter holidays are fast approaching, we felt it only right to cast our minds back briefly to the end of 2002, to reflect on the excellent Christmas productions from the Secondary and Primary Schools.

The performances were enjoyed by many parents and friends and our congratulations go to all cast members and backstage support teams who worked so hard to entertain us all.

Our cover shot shows two of the leading lights from the Secondary School production, 'Starlight Success'. **Rebecca Withey** and **Roy Kerr** both seem to be getting the 'smell of the greaspaint' before facing the 'roar of the crowd'!



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## STOP PRESS

### CARE INSPECTION

In February, Mary Hare School had its first annual inspection under the National Minimum Care Standards for Residential Special Schools regulations. These new standards have been put into place to ensure a national level of care for children in special schools. The detailed inspection evaluates the way children are looked after and kept safe in a residential setting.

Inspectors issued questionnaires to each pupil, member of staff and LEA involved – for Mary Hare, this meant up to 650 questionnaires! The inspectors spent 2 days at the Grammar School and 1 day at the Primary School. Meetings were held with care staff, Heads of House and also groups of children from each year group. Informal, 'drop in' sessions were available for students to talk to the inspectors, who also observed a School Council meeting and visited the School Houses in the evenings.

Verbal feedback from the inspectors indicates that they were clearly impressed by the care that pupils receive and also by the independence and confidence of the young people they met.

A written report will soon be received which will comment on our performance against each of the 33 standards set. Further information about these standards can be found at: [www.carestandards.org.uk](http://www.carestandards.org.uk). If you would like to discuss any aspect of residential life at Mary Hare, please contact Peter Gale, Head of Sixth Form.

The Editorial Team would like to thank all Mary Hare pupils and staff who have contributed to this edition of 'Soundwave'. If you would like to submit an article or piece of work, for inclusion in the next publication, please send your material to

**Sally Beckett** or **Deborah Buckland** at Mary Hare Grammar School

Tel: 01635 244233 / 244200 (voice/minicom)

email: [deborahb@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:deborahb@maryhare.org.uk)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, SO START WRITING, DRAWING, PAINTING, CREATING NOW!



# SEASONS GREETINGS!

## STARLIGHT SUCCESS

Review by **Mr Marlow**, English Department

The Mary Hare School Christmas Production for 2002 was "Starlight Success", based on Andrew Lloyd Webber's well known musical of a similar name.

The cast was drawn from the entire school, (Year 7 to Year 13). Whilst the lower years were mostly involved in the big dance numbers, the older students took the lead in the singing, dancing and acting roles.

**Rebecca Withey** delighted everyone with her sensitive portrayal of 'Pearl', a girl who cannot make up her mind. **Frankie Roberts** as 'Belle' and **Natalie Jennings** as 'Dinah' sang similarly poignant solos about the perils of being 'left on the shelf'.

Among the boys, **Roy Kerr** brought a lighter touch with his comic portrayal of 'Rusty', whose love for Pearl was finally rewarded after an appeal based on song and dance. **Stephen Collins** was all power and muscle in the impressive role of 'Greaseball', the champion diesel engine. **Hamish Cook's** representation of 'Electra', using his own choreography, was also a star turn.

Others deserving a mention include **Laurie McGarry** and **Camilla Stephens**, whose dance number on a refugee theme was another highlight. Laurie and Camilla, both members of Newbury Youth Dance Company, were making their final appearance in a school production. However, there is clearly a strong tradition now established, with **Aman** and **Inde Johal** and **Justine Durno** following on behind.

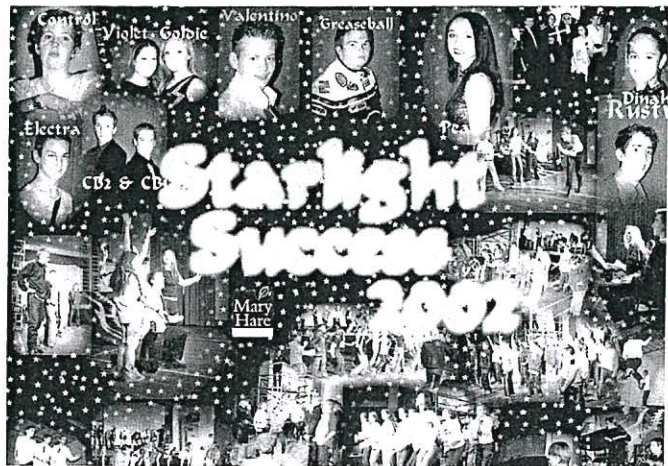
The following performances were also warmly received, illustrating the range of talent on show: **Daniel Hopkins** with his rock 'n' roll, **Chris Jones** with his own bass guitar composition, **Sannah Gulamani** on the flute, **Paul Gardner** with his moving solo and the Year 10 Drama Group (featuring **Aliya Gulamani**) with their number 'Murder on the Orient Express'.

Credit must also go to **Andre Hedger** and his roller blades – he designed a skate ramp for the hall, choreographed the roller blading sequence in the production and directed the back-projection film, which had been shot in Newbury.

Our thanks also go to the students who helped backstage, in particular those stalwarts of the Light and Sound crews, **Alex Cliff**, **Stephen Weatherall**, **Jonathan Worsfold** and **Paul Stewart**.

How was all this diverse talent held together on stage? By the tour-de-force performance of **Martine Laverty** as 'Control', the character in charge of all the races and other diversions. Her achievement in learning and delivering such a large role, in a very short space of time, was magnificent and came to typify the team spirit that ran throughout this memorable production.

Our final thanks must go to the Production Director, **Christine Rocca**, who pulled off an undoubted triumph.



## SNOW WHITE AND THE NINE (YES, NINE!) DWARVES

Mary Hare Primary School was proud to present an unusual adaptation of 'Snow White' this year, to a packed hall of parents and friends.

The whole cast entertained the audience with a wonderful story featuring The Queen, accompanied by her not-so-trusty huntsmen together with Snow White and the nine dwarves (the hitherto unknown members being 'Lucky' and 'Cheerful').

Add to this a visit by the Environmental Health Officers to the dwarves' cottage and the help given to a certain 'witch' by Social Services and the result was highly successful musical entertainment!

The pupils worked extremely hard learning their lines and dances and everyone who came congratulated them on an excellent show.



*'Queen' Christine O'Brien*

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

All the pupils at Mary Hare Primary School entered the Starkey Christmas Card competition this year and designed some really colourful cards.

**Joseph Churchill-Grigg** in Class One was awarded 1st Prize!

See his winning design on the 'Gallery' Page.

## CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING COMPETITION

Many thanks to Susan Crawford and Paula Bartlett (our School Nurses), who very kindly judged the Christmas Tree Decorating Competition this year. Congratulations go to all who helped decorate the trees, you did a fantastic job.

The trees have now been cleared away and the decorations and lights put into storage for next year. The judges had a very difficult task but, after much discussion, they named a winner.

4th Beverley 3rd Mary Hare 2nd Arnold **1st Braidwood**

You can see the winning tree on the 'Gallery' Page.



# MARY HARE FOUNDATION



## The Mary Hare Foundation

### WHAT IS THE MARY HARE FOUNDATION?

The **Mary Hare Foundation** was set up in 1991, in order to raise funds to improve the facilities at Mary Hare School.

Since that time, the Foundation has raised in excess of £1.5 million for the school, for The Wroughton Sixth Form Centre, The Princess Margaret Art & Design Centre, The Group Hearing Aid and The Burwood Centre.

The Foundation is a registered charity, governed by a Board of Trustees, some of whom are also governors of the school.

The Mary Hare Foundation is currently working to raise £1 million towards the PACE (Performing Arts, Conference and Education) Centre - an exciting new development at Mary Hare. For more information or a PACE Appeal brochure, please contact the Foundation office.

### MARY HARE FOUNDATION OFFICE

Mary Hare School, Arlington Manor, Snelsmore Common,  
Newbury RG14 3BQ

Tel: 01635 244233 / Fax: 01635 248019

email: [foundation@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:foundation@maryhare.org.uk)

### OPERATION RIDGEWAY

The Care Staff at Mansell House are putting on their walking boots and woolly jumpers, to trek for four nights and five days on an 85-mile hike along the Ridgeway, to raise money for Mary Hare.

All proceeds will be split equally between the PACE Appeal (our new Performing Arts, Conference & Education Centre) and refurbishment of the Mansell House kitchen and dining room.

The trek will take place during the first week of the Easter holidays. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Care Staff Team by sponsoring the event.



[www.maryharefoundation.org](http://www.maryharefoundation.org)

The Mary Hare Foundation website was launched at the beginning of the year. You can find us using the website address shown above, or by following the link from the Mary Hare School website.

We hope to include regular news items about fundraising and developments within the Mary Hare Schools group, over the coming months.

You will be able to keep up to date with our PACE Appeal, launched last year, as well as the Foundation's work with the Primary School and the Burwood Centre. You can also donate online by downloading the relevant forms or following the links.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all **parents** and **friends** who responded to our general appeal earlier this year.

You can still send in your donation - if you would like further information about the appeal, a donation leaflet or **Suttons Seeds** catalogue, these can be obtained from the Foundation Office.

It's not too late to send in your order for seeds and Spring bedding plants, but please hurry to ensure supplies are still available!



### LATEST DONORS

Since the last edition of 'Soundwave' we have received a number of donations. We would like to thank the following organisations for their support:

#### The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

The Foundation has given £10,000 to support the work of the Burwood Centre.

#### The Working Arts Trust

The Trust has given £1,321 towards Mary Hare's outreach Music Therapy work - this money will be used to buy musical instruments.



*Music Therapy at work*

#### The Toy Trust

The Trust has given £3,098 to enable the purchase of interactive 'white boards' for Mary Hare Primary School.

#### Benham Office Supplies, Newbury

Staff sponsored the Managing Director, Andrew Kitch, to dress up for the company's Christmas outing to see the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'. Sorry, no pictures are available, but they raised £164, which was donated to the Mary Hare Foundation.

#### Copysound, Buckingham

Copysound, who copied the CD Roms for our PACE Appeal brochure, donated £50 towards the PACE Appeal.

#### Telewest Communications, Woking

Staff were fined at a recent conference for leaving their mobile phones on, being late etc and raised £409, which was donated to the Mary Hare Foundation.

Finally, thank you to **all the individuals** who have contributed to the Mary Hare Foundation and the PACE Appeal, over the last few months.





# MARY HARE PRIMARY

PREHISTORIC WILTSHIRE  
By **Karen Smith** (Headteacher)

Class Three visited prehistoric Wiltshire in November, on a fine day in a week of torrential rain. We walked over fields to look at West Kennet Long Barrow (**picture 1**), an ancient burial site. Carl had sensibly brought his torch with him, in case it was too dark, but there were modern skylights so we could see the burial chambers.

From the top of the long barrow, we could see Silbury Hill (**picture 2**), another famous prehistoric landmark. We then drove to Avebury and walked round the stone circles, trying to work out how the stones could have been moved into place by people who had no modern equipment. (**picture 3**)

Finally, we climbed up a hill near Marlborough to examine a white horse made of chalk. We all agreed that it was disappointing close up and much more impressive from a distance.

Once we were back in school, we added to our class display on prehistoric Wiltshire with our written accounts and digital photographs of our trip.



*Celebrations by the winning team!*

## MATCH OF THE DAY

Earlier this year, we held our annual football match against 'The Mouldy Ears' team (our neighbours at Arlington Laboratories).

The Primary team members played extremely enthusiastically and, despite the valiant effort made by the 'Lab' team, we beat them 5 - 1, proving that youth can sometimes beat experience!

## FANTASY AND FAIRYTALES

A group of Primary School pupils visited 11 Downing Street in December, when they were invited to attend The National Deaf Children's Society Fantasy and Fairytale Christmas Party.

It was a wonderful chance to have a look around the famous building and to meet the Chancellor, Gordon Brown and a host of celebrities, including international footballers and the 'Blue Peter' presenters.



*Sean Ratcliffe meets Santa and the Chancellor*

## WIND

By **Jacob Willis**

The wind comes.  
It is a giant Hoover  
which has something wrong with it.  
It starts blowing hot air and dust  
all over the houses.  
When the wind dies down,  
the giant has  
turned off the Hoover.

## FIRE

By **Calum Thompson**

The fire comes on big dragon feet.  
He is blowing fire and he flies and  
he eats people.  
He is huge.  
He has got a body and sharp teeth.  
People run away to hide.  
People are dead now because the  
dragon eats people.

## SNOW

By **Martha Brownlow**

The freezing fridge opens its cold ice.  
The polar bear eats fish and in the ice cave  
it is very freezing.  
The penguin in the ice lake swims.  
Out of the shaggy white dog's mouth comes  
freezing air.  
The fish is in the lake and the polar bear  
finds it.

## KNEX ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

We had an interesting 'Engineering' morning in February, as a result of a Key Stage Two Knex Challenge, organised by West Berkshire Education Business Partnership.

The pupils learned what 'engineering' is and were set a challenge to make a Knex vehicle that could fly.

The pupils worked in groups on their designs and the winning team was announced at the end of the session.

**Martha Brownlow, Jack Moodie** and **Hadley Turner** won the challenge for their design of a very efficient helicopter. They were awarded a box of Knex each as their prize.



*The Knex Winning Team*



# REWARDING SUCCESS

## SPEECH DAY

The Annual Speech Day in November gave us the opportunity, once again, to recognise the achievements of pupils and staff, who have worked so hard to ensure the continued success of Mary Hare School. The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr Hugh Ogus, opened the programme by welcoming all those present, including the Guest of Honour, **Dr Mike Milne**.



*Dr Tucker, Dr Milne and Mr Ogus with some of the lucky prize winners*

Mr Ogus spoke about the outstanding events of the past year and school Principal Dr Tucker talked about the considerable academic success enjoyed by the school and its pupils. The outstanding GCSE results for 2001/2 are a true reflection of the excellent partnership that exists between pupils, parents and staff, all working together.

The Chairman then invited the Guest of Honour to present the prizes and address the meeting. English teacher, Mr Savoury, takes up the story...

'A Year 7 pupil came plunging out of Dulverton Hall, both thumbs raised in salute. "That was wicked!" This year, Mary Hare was privileged to welcome as its guest speaker, Dr. Mike Milne.

Dr Milne has revolutionised digital animation for computers, producing the highly successful series for BBC television: 'Walking with Dinosaurs' and 'Walking with Beasts'. Over the years he has been the recipient of 15 'Emmy' Awards and a 'BAFTA' Award and is now on both the Council and Board of BAFTA.

The audience was fascinated and often very amused by Dr Milne's talk. Using illustrations from DVD recordings of his work, he demonstrated how he had come to solve the problem of making high quality computer animation within the constraints of television, rather than Hollywood, budgets. Everyone found his honesty and wit very engaging, especially when we heard about some of the antics production staff got up to in order to simulate, for instance, dinosaur footprints in the snow.

To mark what turned out to be a hugely successful visit, Dr Milne presented the school with a new trophy: The Dr Mike Milne Cup for Achievement in IT, which former pupil **Jemma Elliott** was delighted to receive in recognition of her last year's work at the school.

Dr Milne thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Mary Hare, finding its standards impressive and admiring the warm relationship between pupils and staff. He hopes to keep in touch with the school in the future and is keen to consider forging links between the school and his own company 'Framestore' together with Bournemouth University, where he is a Visiting Professor.'

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## NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Jim Bryde received his NVQ Certificate in Management at a recent awards ceremony at Mary Hare School.

Jim is a mature candidate who took a big step by returning to study for new qualifications and successfully achieving his NVQ in Management at Level 5. As Area Manager of English Landscapes Ltd in Goldaming, Surrey, Jim handles a range of hard and soft landscaping projects from parks and gardens, to the new Vodafone headquarters in Newbury as well as landscaping work at 'EuroDisney'.

Time and project management, quality assurance and systems control are all crucial to Jim's business success. Profit margins and the vagaries of the English weather are also vital factors. Jim has found the NVQ in Management a valuable experience. The NVQ syllabus allowed him to 'unravel' the individual components of his job and analyse and evaluate each process. He has been amazed at the quantity of work he actually does and the responsibilities that he has.

"The ultimate benefit", says Jim, "is that it has made me more efficient, by enabling me to do things properly. It has been very enjoyable to gain a qualification that is highly regarded and yet is truly work-related. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last twelve months, building my portfolio and demonstrating the competencies I undertake in my job".



*(l to r) NVQ Co-ordinator Julie Coombes, Jim Bryde and Sally Courage, English Landscapes Personnel Manager*

### NVQ - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NVQs are job-related qualifications available to employed people (in paid or unpaid work). They confirm competence in a job role, by judging that role against national standards. These standards are proved by a range of activities, such as direct observation of a job role, documentary evidence and by contact with employers, customers and work colleagues.

NVQs prove you can actually do the job, rather than just write or talk about it - reflecting your true skills at work. **Mary Hare** offers NVQs to outside organisations, as well as staff and individual employees, in the following areas:

Training & Development, Care, Administration, Customer Service, Sales, Call Handling, Management, Engineering and ICT

For further information on how Mary Hare can help with NVQ accreditation, please contact **Julie Coombes** on 01635 244276



# WORLD OF WORK

## VISIT TO TWICKENHAM

Last November, the Sixth Form AVCE Leisure and Tourism group spent an afternoon at Twickenham Rugby Stadium as part of their course. The visit included a guided tour of the stadium, a visit to the Museum of Rugby and, of course, the obligatory look around the RFU shop.

The aim of the visit was to collect information about the customer services of the Rugby Football Union and to discuss the safety aspects of holding events at which more than 70,000 people are present.



There were many highlights to the visit, including entering the England dressing room and sitting in the Royal Box.

Outside the dressing rooms there is a display of brass plaques outlining famous English victories. A number of these included victories over Ireland, making Anthony Sinclair quite depressed!

The students, **Joanna Raper**, **Anthony Sinclair**, **John Lathey** and **Rachel Wiehl** were first class ambassadors for the school and are keen to go on similar visits to other major sporting arenas.

## WORK EXPERIENCE CELEBRATION

In November all Year 11 students completed one week of Work Experience, during which they kept a 'Log Book' – a diary of what they did each day. Approximately 1,500 students from all schools in West Berkshire go out on Work Experience each year and take part in a competition to find the best Log Book.

Four Log Books by Mary Hare students were chosen by the judges – those completed by **Rachel Watkins**, **Amanprit Johal** (Highly Commended), **Andrew Vye** and **Breish Rowe**. The finalists from all schools attended a celebration evening earlier this year, hosted by local company Bayer plc, where they each received a certificate.

Amanprit and Rachel gave a talk about their experiences in the world of work – Amanprit worked at local solicitors, Charles Hoile and Rachel spent the week working at Newbury District Hospital. There were about 100 people in the audience and they were very impressed by our two students. Here is an extract from their presentation:



*Mary Hare finalists receive their certificates*

### Rachel

'We were both excited and nervous about going out to experience the world of work. In addition to the normal worries that students have, we had an extra concern. Being profoundly deaf, we were worried about communication – whether our employers would understand us or whether we would be able to understand them.

I chose Newbury District Hospital because I want to be a midwife. This was a valuable experience because I was able to see how the different departments work, within one hospital. I spent time in the Day Bed Unit, the Fracture Clinic, X-Ray and Pathology Units. I particularly enjoyed the X-Ray department. I really enjoyed my week at the hospital and it has made me decide that general nursing is not for me! However, I am still keen to train as a midwife.'

### Aman

'I chose Charles Hoile because I am interested in the law. I really enjoyed the days I spent at the Magistrates Court in Reading and Newbury. There were some really interesting cases, but unfortunately I am not allowed to tell you about them due to confidentiality clauses! I also enjoyed reading case files, where I gained more knowledge about how the law works. The whole week was a great learning experience, which exceeded our expectations. We have both gained in confidence, knowledge and experience.

Breish's placement was at the local newspaper, the Newbury Weekly News. Here are some of her thoughts about her own experience:

### Breish

'I was extremely pleased to be placed in the Newbury Weekly News Editorial office, because it was exactly what I wanted. I am interested in a career in writing and this was the perfect opportunity to see if it really suited me.

On the first morning I entered the building with a feeling of trepidation, but the receptionist greeted me with a bright smile and someone was sent down to meet me. I spent most of my time working on reports, but I did have one day out with a photographer and another day with a reporter, which was really interesting - it was good to go out and do what real journalists do. I also helped the librarian and secretary with typing and copying, so it was almost like three 'Work Experiences' in one!

Thank you to West Berkshire Education Business Partnership, Bayer plc and all of the local employers, for organising a highly successful experience in the World of Work.



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

### A Year12 Perspective

When I first started at Mary Hare, I often thought to myself how cool and grown up all the Sixth Formers seemed. I remember respecting and looking up to the popular ones. I have now been a member of the Sixth Form for just over six months and I am enjoying every moment of it and intend to make the most of the time I have here.

As Sixth Formers we all naturally set an example for the younger pupils of the school. Knowing that you have people looking up to you in this way is, I think, one of the responsibilities you take on and people expect you to be trustworthy and mature.

In the Sixth Form, the amount of trust and range of privileges are greater and punishments are not as severe! Sixth Form privileges include being able to go shopping after school any day of the week, going to see people outside of school and, with the care workers permission, letting them come and see you at school too.

We have various activities during the week for Sixth Formers only, such as a weekly trip to a health and fitness gym and dance classes. The activities I enjoy are things like spending a day in London or Reading with my friends, ordering pizzas at school and events such as school discos.

We have two care workers in the Sixth Form, who are friendly and good to talk to about any problems I have. If I do not feel any of my friends can help with a particular problem, I know I can go to one of them. They are always very understanding and always seem to have time for all of us.

The prep (homework) times are from 4:30 to 6:00 and then from 7:00 until 8:00pm. We are expected to be doing our prep at these times, but it is our responsibility to make sure we get it done. We are considered responsible enough to set our own bedtimes and get ourselves up in the morning. We have a common room in each house that is open until 11pm - after that we go to our dorms or talk.

Now I am in the Sixth Form a lot more is expected from me. This does increase the pressure, but it helps us understand that it was our decision to come back for further education. I am currently studying Performing Arts (Dance and Drama), English Literature and Photography. The work is harder and it can be challenging but nevertheless I am enjoying all of the subjects and will also be taking an AS Level in French next year.

It has finally hit me that University is only a year or two away. I do get worried making the right choices but we have our Head of Year, Mr Gale and our Careers Advisor, Ms Gladwell, to talk to about these decisions. I have already looked at some options and my parents and I feel pleased that I have a lot of help with this decision.

Comparing Mary Hare to my last school and with some other Sixth Forms, I know that I made the right choice coming here. It gives me all the support I need and I always have help by my side if I need it. If I succeed in the future, then I have Mary Hare to thank!



*Sixth Form Campus Life*

## E-MENTORING

A group of Year 12 students are taking part in an E-Mentoring scheme, set up by West Berkshire Education Business Partnership. The scheme provides young people with a 'contact' in a local business who they can e-mail for careers advice, support or just for a chat. All mentors work for major local employers, such as the AA and Vodafone and all those involved have attended training provided by West Berkshire EBP.

Head of Sixth Form, Peter Gale, is very pleased that so many Mary Hare pupils are involved. "Whilst we are proud of the support and guidance that we already offer, there is no doubt that e-mail dialogue with a local person, already in the world of work, will be a good thing. The pupils will eventually be able to visit the employees to see their workplace at first hand. We will also invite the mentors to visit the school to meet the young person they have been working with."

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many of those who left Mary Hare School last summer are now settling down into their second term at University. Earlier this year, we contacted them all to find out how they have been coping and what advice they had for current Sixth Form students. Here are just some of their replies...

"Welcome to the real world!"

"Visit your chosen university - you will be there for a few years and organise good support"

"Make the most of your remaining time at Mary Hare - it will fly by!"

"I love working as a team, to solve problems."

"Go to a university that **you** want to go to, don't worry about where your mates are going."

"Expect the unexpected!"

"Prepare for the vast amount of independence."

"Think of Mary Hare as a valuable starting point and a catalyst for the future"

"Life is so different... I've learnt a lot from people."

"The course is different to school - easier academically than I thought."

"It's hard work!"

"The course is interesting and I'm enjoying learning."

"Be strong and patient- it will come together in the end"

"I enjoy the seminars as I'm able to interact with my group."

Take university in your stride and make the most of what it has to offer"

"The course and my friends are great... organise your support before it's too late"



# allery Gallery Gallery Gallery



Aysin Halil working in clay



The winning Braidwood Tree



Year 8 English work - a few design ideas

## GREEN

By Louise Saunders

Green for jealousy, people feeling low.

Not many people like this colour,  
they prefer bright colours.

Green, what colour is this?

Why does it exist?

The grass, the trees, those little green bugs...

Green for illness,

people turn green when they are about to run  
to the bathroom, of course.

Why aren't there better colours?

Like red, pink, orange, yellow, blue, purple, violet...

People wish this green had never been invented.

I don't blame them.

But the grass, the trees,  
anything that is natural green is a beauty of nature.

But still, green,

what a horrible colour.

This colour can make you ill.

I would never wear this colour.

I blame the people who dyed the clothes green.

Green, green, green,

Why don't you just go away?



'Wolf' by Michael Brown



# Gallery Gallery Gallery Gallery

## ORANGE

By Beth Simmons

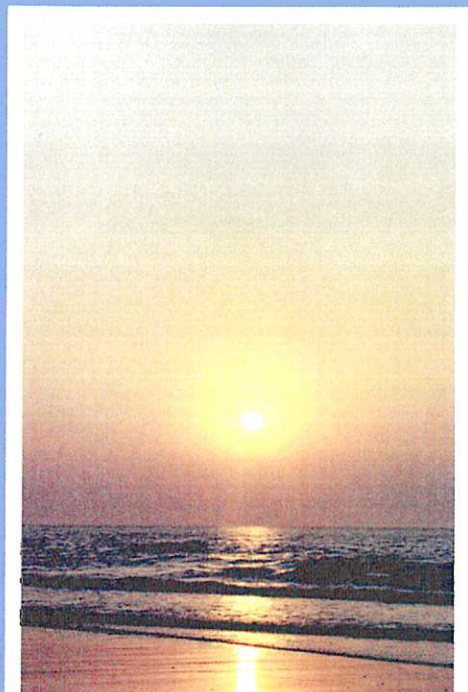
A feeling of nervousness with orange  
flames that burn in my heart.  
Fiddling inside a stocking, right down  
to the toe and finding a satsuma  
orange.  
Watching the glowing orange sunset,  
the best place to be.  
Seeing an orange tennis ball reminds me  
of early tennis days.  
Hugging an orange marmalade cat will  
warm you up, like sitting by the fire.



'Plaster Shoes' by Roy Kerr



Christmas Card design by Joseph Churchill-Grigg



'Belgian Sunset' by Maurice Laneres

## BLACK

By Erika Jones

Full of darkness.  
Blackest of black.  
You can see nothing  
but, perhaps, you could see  
something in it,  
if you look hard and carefully.  
Oblivion of blackness, if you fall into it,  
you never stop falling...  
Sometimes it shows fears.  
Occasionally, it blazes and screams at you.  
Sometimes it sneers at you and  
displays evil.  
Often, it symbolises the colour of  
death  
At odd times, it provides calm and  
tranquillity  
But often, nothing.  
Black is the colour of mystery...

# Gallery Gallery Gallery Gallery



## INTERVIEW WITH GREG PHOENIX

By **Sophie Severn**



*Greg shows off his surfing moves!*

Greg Phoenix has recently joined Mary Hare School as part of the care staff team. He has come all the way from Ballito in South Africa and he will be with us until the end of the school year. He is working with the care staff, currently looking after the boys - waking them up, supervising them and taking them out on trips.

He heard about Mary Hare when he was organising his 'gap' year and feels that it is very different to his own school back in South Africa. His school is far more relaxed - they allow tattoos and piercing and students have mobile phones with them all the time. Greg thinks that pupils at Mary Hare are better off than in some deaf schools in South Africa. He said that we are lucky to have rights and benefits e.g. Disability Living Allowance.

His hobbies include playing music, especially bass guitar - he plays for a band back home where he is a lead singer. Greg enjoys playing squash, rugby, water polo, hockey, street hockey and motor cross. He also enjoys surfing.

He is enjoying his time at Mary Hare, it has such different surroundings to where he comes from and it is also a different culture. He has seen snow for the first time while he has been here! When Greg finishes working at Mary Hare he will go back to South Africa but he is planning to get a visa then return to England to live here and find work.

# SHORT CUTS

## BREAKFAST CLUB



## GIRLS NIGHT IN

Manor House girls had an 'Absolutely Fabulous' evening in February, when they were treated to some free beauty lessons.



*Rachel Watkins gets the Lancome treatment*

Lancome and Clinique representatives from the local department store, Camp Hopson, volunteered their services, along with nail specialists from Sculpture Club in Newbury.

The girls enjoyed different treatments, from facials and manicures to makeovers. The beauty specialists gave out some 'goody bags' and treatments to be raffled. The raffle raised £30, which will go to a charity, yet to be chosen.

Care Staff worker, Hilary Shopland said, "I organised the evening, because the girls here don't get the chance to go around the town with their mums. They all had a wonderful time and have been using the products from their goody bags. Now the girls are asking if the volunteers can come back to help with their makeup for the Summer Ball!"

The Breakfast Club meets three times a week. Invited pupils from Year 8 meet on Mondays, Years 7 and 8 meet together on Wednesdays and Year 7 meet on Fridays.

The club starts at 8.30 but pupils often arrive earlier, drawn, no doubt, by the lure of hot or cold Ribena!

The group practises good handwriting and regular attendance is rewarded by a House Point for each visit and a 'sweet' reward. Extra House Points can be earned if pupils present their exercise books and show recent work that is especially neat.

We are about to set up a day for Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. Lucky 'invitees' will be able to earn McDonald's vouchers for their work!

## ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING!

Earlier this year, Year 11 thoroughly enjoyed a visit by the Impact Theatre Group, who came to illustrate the options open to students after GCSE exams. The aim of the session was to find out if you are an 'academic' learner, a 'practical' learner, or a bit of both.

The range of characters portrayed by the company, to help the students decide, was astounding - Elvis, The Simpsons, Austin Powers, The Osbournes, Scooby Doo and The Men in Black were just some of the characters who contributed to a performance that was so full of energy, it was exhausting just to watch! An outstanding and effective way to communicate and well worth the visit!



*Elvis takes the stage*



# SPORTS NEWS

## HOUSE CROSS-COUNTRY

The annual school cross-country competition took place in December. We were lucky with the weather which, although cold, was bright and sunny. There were some fine performances from the pupils and also from some of the sportier staff. After the race, everyone was rewarded with an excellent Christmas lunch and 'star studded' Christmas entertainment!

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Junior Girls (1 lap)

- 3rd **Amelia Lewis & Emily Troddyn**
- 2nd **Hattie Bowden**
- 1st **Camilla Willis** (13.44 secs)

Junior Boys (1 lap)

- 3rd **Philip Swift**
- 2nd **Daniel Hopkinson**
- 1st **Louis Francis** (13.01 secs)

Senior Girls (1 lap)

- 3rd **Laurie McGarry**
- 2nd **Rachel Watkins**
- 1st **Alex Simmons** (14.16 sec)

Senior Boys (1.5 laps)

- 3rd **Mark Gill**
- 2nd **Anthony Sinclair**
- 1st **Ross Edwards** (18.49 secs)

Open Event Boys (1 lap)

- 3rd **Kevin Bradley**
- 2nd **Marios Costi**
- 1st **Ryan Marshall** (11.15 secs)

Open Event Girls (1 lap)

- 3rd **Lilli Risner**
- 2nd **Fiona Biggs**
- 1st **Martine Laverty** (19.20 secs)

### OVERALL HOUSE CHAMPIONS **BRAIDWOOD**

## SWIMATHON

Following an earlier defeat against a local school, someone suggested that our swimming teams needed to get fitter! As a result, the sponsored Swimathon was organised. During the Spring Term, over a period of seven weeks, students were invited to take part in the Mary Hare Swimathon. A total of 38, 866 lengths were swum, or 486 miles, or 23 times across the Channel!

4 students completed Challenge 5 – The Channel: 21 miles: 1680 lengths.

**Martine Laverty** (Year 12)

**Liam Nesbitt** (Year 10)

**Helen Pine** (Year 11)

**Sam Calder** (Year 10)

Year 9 Girls are also commended for achieving the most number of lengths as a Year Group – 6138 lengths. The staff enjoyed seeing many pupils on a regular basis and hope that you all now feel a lot fitter! You should be proud of yourselves, for putting in so much effort and congratulations go to everyone who took part.

## CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2003

In early February, 26 pupils from Mary Hare took part in the Newbury Schools' Area Cross-Country Championships, held at Newbury Rugby Club.

It was a very cold day, with a bitterly cold North wind and wet, muddy conditions. The pupils performed very well, though there were one or two disappointments due to recent illnesses, with most managing to gain respectable positions.

The Under 15 and Under 17 Boys ran exceptionally well as a team to gain a good mid-table position. The best individual performances were from **Alex Simmons, Adam McCormick** and **Camilla Willis** who came in 6th, 14th and 15th place in their respective races. Congratulations!

Thank you to all those who made an enthusiastic contribution to this event and for putting in the hard work in training.



## HOUSE HOCKEY

Inter House Hockey Results  
December 2002

### Junior Results

4th Mary Hare 3rd Beverley  
2nd Arnold **1st Braidwood**

Braidwood Junior Team

**Emily Troddyn**  
**Katie McWiggan**  
**Elizabeth Burton**  
**Rebecca Clements**  
**Clare Halliday**  
**Carman Suen**  
**Hattie Bowden**  
**Laila Doobeh**  
**Maya Pearce**

### Senior Results

4th Braidwood 3rd Mary Hare  
2nd Arnold **1st Beverley**

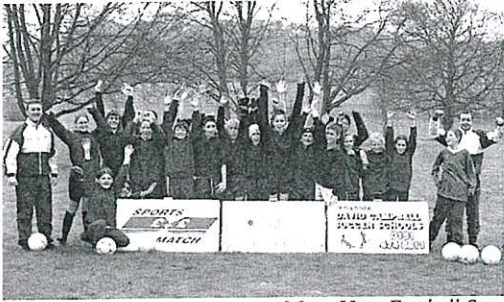
Beverley Senior Team

**Beth Simmons**  
**Faye Richardson**  
**Martine Laverty**  
**Erika Jones**  
**Jessica Hyde**  
**Heather Thomas**



# SPORTS NEWS

## HEAR THE CHEER!



Mary Hare Football Stars

A recent visit by coaches from David Campbell's Soccer School, gave Mary Hare pupils an excellent insight into the world of soccer coaching. A course was set up on the cold, damp playing field for a session that involved a warm up with 'dummies', fitness training, followed by the main activities, concentrating on passing and shooting skills, before finishing off with a couple of games.

The coaches approached the session with great enthusiasm, keeping the attention of the pupils with demonstrations of simple drills and well-timed activities - a positive and fun day for everyone who took part.

We would like to thank David Campbell for providing our pupils with the opportunity to take part in promoting the 'Hear the Cheer' programme, sponsored by Phonak UK.

## UNDER 16s NEWBURY RUGBY

By **Andrew Cochrane**

I have been playing for the Under 16s Newbury Rugby squad for five months now. Mr Gill introduced me to the club, where he also plays. We don't play rugby at Mary Hare, partly because of the risk to people who have cochlear implants. I don't have an implant and I really wanted to play, so Mr Gill suggested Newbury Under 16s.

I had never played rugby with other hearing players, so I was nervous. When I first met the squad, I could not believe the size of some of the players - they were giants!

I go to rugby training at the club every Wednesday. I play in the position of 'winger' - you have to be fast and also strong - it is my perfect position.

There is always a match and sometimes training too, every Sunday. I played in a match against London Welsh which was brilliant. The Newbury team played very well, (including me!) and we beat London Welsh 26 - 19. It was a difficult match.

I play rugby for Newbury (an English team), even though I am Irish. When I leave Mary Hare (and Newbury) I will be able to play for my local area club, 'Malone,' in the future.

## INDIVIDUAL TROPHY WINNERS

Junior Girls

2nd (equal)

**Kirsty Day**  
**Rebecca Rose-Hood**  
**Emily Troddyn**

1st

Junior Boys

2nd

**Hamish Roberts**  
**Thomas Rowley**

1st

Senior Girls

2nd

**Brie Smythe**  
**Martine Laverty**

1st

Senior Boys

2nd

**Ross Edwards**  
**Liam Nesbitt**

1st

## NEW SCHOOL RECORDS

**Emily Troddyn** Junior Girls Medley (76.73 secs)

**Liam Nesbitt** Senior Boys Individual Medley (56.57 secs)

**Liam Nesbitt** Senior Boys Butterfly (11.62 secs)

## HOUSE RESULTS

4th	Mary Hare	60 points
3rd	Braidwood	78 points
2nd	Beverley	92 points
<b>1st</b>	<b>Arnold</b>	<b>100 points</b>



## GROWING SPORTS TREND AT MARY HARE

By **Harry Allen**

As a result of interest from a group of pupils, Mary Hare has recently set up basketball teams for different year groups, supported by the PE Department staff and Dr Papas.

At our first tournament this year, the Under 16s team came 5th out of 6 teams. They did very well and learned a lot from the experience. At the next outing, the Under 14s team came 3rd out of 8 teams - an excellent result.

The next event was on the same day as the school Swimming Gala - a few team members were worn out before the match! We won our first game and drew the second. We were finally awarded 2nd place in the tournament and the team were presented with Runner Up medals.

After the Half Term break, everyone was delighted to find that a new basketball court had been marked out and goal posts erected. The extra practice facilities will no doubt improve the Mary Hare teams' performance, so watch this space!



The new goalposts arrive



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## COLIN ALMOND - SCHOOL CARETAKER

Interview by  
**Philippa Merricks and Erika Jones**



Mr Almond looks after the school, caring for all the buildings and keeping the school running. He has been working at Mary Hare School since 1980 and used to work at a local paper mill until he came here.

Mr Almond reflected on the changes that have taken place at the school since he began work here. When he started at Mary Hare, there were no computer rooms and the Sixth Form block had not been built. Mr Almond also noted that the boardroom, where he was being interviewed, was a common room when he first worked at the school.

Mr Almond recalled the strict organisation on Sunday mornings, when pupils were 'bussed' off to church, then taken for a compulsory walk on Snelsmore Common, followed by a session when the whole school was taken out to clear up any litter in the grounds.

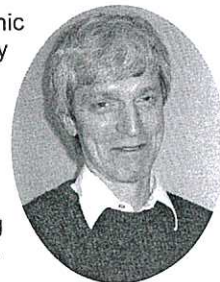
Mr Almond is responsible for all of the repairs and upkeep of the buildings and he helps oversee the gardening, hedge cutting, lawn mowing and sweeping of the playground, to make it safe for the pupils.

Mr Almond enjoys working at Mary Hare because he gets the chance to do a great variety of jobs. "It is a very nice place and fun to work in", he said. Mr Almond relaxes when he is away from school by enjoying his hobbies, sea fishing and classic motorbikes.

Mr Almond used to attend a school in London at Shepherd's Bush. His school was a mainstream comprehensive school. He thinks that school children nowadays, both deaf and hearing, are much better off than before. "Schools now give pupils more opportunities for their future and everyday lives and they are less strict than before."

## DAVID BELLINGER SCHOOL TECHNICIAN

Interview by  
**Sophie Severn & Faye Richardson**



Mr Bellinger is in charge of the electronic equipment that the pupils use at Mary Hare. He has been working at Mary Hare for nearly 13 years.

Mr Bellinger saw an advert in a local newspaper, which made him apply to work at Mary Hare. He did several jobs before working at the school, including being an apprentice and a draughtsman.

He was an apprentice for Rascal and was there for 5 years. He then worked for a smaller company for 3 years and the last job he had, before working at Mary Hare, was for a company in Reading.

Mr Bellinger is responsible for developing the technical equipment for the pupils. He introduced the current headphones and the modern Group Aid system that we use at Mary Hare. He would like to introduce further developments to the Group Hearing Aid and also to make headphones for the younger children at Mary Hare Primary School.

Mr Bellinger said that, in his opinion, Mary Hare hasn't changed that much in the last 13 years. He likes the way that there are so many different people, "It is like a big family at Mary Hare and you cannot find that in industry."

He loves the fact that he can make a difference. There is nothing that particularly annoys him in his work at Mary Hare, apart from some pupils not taking proper care of their headphones!

Mr Bellinger's ways of relaxing when he is away from school include painting, and drawing. He said that his own school was very different compared to Mary Hare and it was very strict. He thinks that school children are better off today, because there are more choices in the subjects available for study.

## BEHIND THE BURSAR'S DOOR!

Interview by **Harry Allen**

Guy Rogers, our School Bursar, has worked at Mary Hare since 1992. Prior to joining us, Mr Rogers worked at Huyton College, a girls' boarding and day school for 350 pupils. As this school was in Liverpool and Mr Rogers lived in Oxford, the job at Mary Hare was a little closer to home!



Mr Rogers has previously worked as a property developer, hotelier and he also served in the Royal Air Force for 27 years. In the RAF he worked as a navigator and in air traffic control, with overseas postings in Germany, Cyprus and North Africa.

Mary Hare School was markedly different when Mr Rogers first came here. What was simply a Grammar School, with 185 pupils, has now grown to two separate schools and five other businesses. Mr Rogers is Financial Director of all of these, although he says that most of his time is taken up by the 192 employees. "The finances are easy by comparison!" he said. Mr Rogers is responsible for finance, personnel, the fabric of the buildings, maintenance and new building work – everything, in fact, that is the 'non-academic' side of the school.

It is the diversity of the job that makes it interesting – Mr Rogers has helped to develop the school into a group of companies that support the main charitable aim of the school, which is deaf education. He is currently involved with the development of the PACE Centre and over the next few years will continue to support Mary Hare in becoming a centre of excellence in deaf education.

Mr Rogers is no stranger to boarding school life. He was a boarder himself at Seaford College, in Petworth, Sussex from the age of 8 to 18 years. Life at boarding school was much harsher then – pupils only went home at half term and for the main holidays. There was no weekend leave and discipline was strict! When asked if school children are better off today, Mr Rogers was quick to reply, "I'll say!"

When he is not at Mary Hare, Mr Rogers enjoys playing bridge, going on foreign holidays and building model boats. He is currently working on a wooden model of 'The Bounty'.



# AUDIOLOGY

## AUDIOLOGY - CHANGES & TRENDS

By **Viv Ogg** – Mary Hare Audiologist

It may come as a surprise to many readers that nearly 25% of current pupils are cochlear implant users. For Mary Hare, as a school, this is a unique concentration and results in a significant level of experience and expertise in this field. The significant number of implant users brings with it new challenges for the Audiology team and staff are now becoming as familiar with checking cochlear implants as they are with hearing aid checks.

All three main implant manufacturers are represented, but the majority of pupils use the Cochlear device. Over recent years, it has been a great advantage for pupils to move from a 'body worn' to a 'behind the ear' device.

Communication is a key factor in ensuring efficient management of cochlear implants. At Mary Hare, we have to liaise with 12 other teams throughout the country and one team in Australia! Throughout the year team members come into school to assess their users, as well as contacting us by phone, email or letter.

The majority of users have been implanted before they arrive at Mary Hare. However, as you will read in the following articles, we have seen an increasing number of teenage implants over the past two years. The decision about cochlear implants remains with the child, their family and the cochlear implant team. Success is not always guaranteed, but implants can be considered as one of the range of amplification options available.

Watch out for more information on analogue and digital hearing aids in the next edition of 'Soundwave'.

### DIGITAL HEARING AIDS

Whilst digital hearing aids have been available for a number of years, initially they were only available privately and were mainly fitted to adults.

In 2002, as part of a modernisation programme, the NHS commissioned a pilot scheme to study the benefits and issues relating to the fitting of digital aids to children.

The main benefits of digital versus analogue hearing aids, include the ability to process more complex signals, thus improving the sound quality for wearers.

The audiologist is also able to make much finer tuning adjustments, which help with volume discomfort management and feedback control.

Digital aids can also allow for different hearing 'programmes', for example quiet or noisy conditions, settings for listening to music etc.

We are pleased to announce that, from January 2003 (in partnership with the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading) we have started to fit digital hearing aids at Mary Hare School.



*Audiologist Viv Ogg with pupil Andrew Vye, using video otoscopy to examine the ear canal and eardrum*

### DEAF IN A HEARING WORLD

By **Kirsty Price**

I was born on the 2nd December 1986. I started to experience problems with my hearing from the age of four or five years. The first doctor we saw told us that there were no problems with me, that I was a healthy little girl - we kept trying different doctors who also said I was healthy.

My teachers at Eagleswell Junior School thought differently. They said I seemed to be daydreaming all the time. We then went to my GP, who referred me to Bridgend Hospital. All this happened over a period of two years.

Mr Evans (ENT) became my consultant, and Jay Joseph fitted me with hearing aids at the age of six. My mother felt very angry at the time, as the problem took so long to sort out and my grandmother felt very sad, as I could not hear what was going on around me and I could not hear her voice anymore.

When I was eleven, I started to think about the possibility of having a cochlear implant fitted. At thirteen, I decided for definite that I wanted it. We then had to wait a year before it could be fitted. I am now fifteen years of age and have had my cochlear implant for nearly two years. It is working well and I am enormously pleased with it. My family, friends and teachers are also pleased with the way it is working out.





# AUDIOLOGY

## MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT

By **Katie Bonné**



**KATIE'S STORY:** When I was six or seven I totally refused to have a cochlear implant. I did not understand anything apart from the fact that I was going to have an operation. Everyone thought I should have it but Mum and Dad didn't force me. As the next few years went by, I slowly understood and by the time I was nine, I was willing to have a cochlear implant. After loads of scans and meetings we finally got an appointment to have the implant fitted.

On the night before my operation we went to the hospital and the building didn't seem right - it was like a small shopping mall, next to McDonald's. We went up the lift and hunted for 'Ward G4'. In the wards my first impression was that it was very childish and too young for me, but I soon realised that wasn't very important because it felt warm and bright. That night I was impressed by all the televisions, Play Stations, videos and games. I knew it was going to be a very nice stay in hospital.

The next morning I woke up with my mum sitting beside me and I could feel a bit of panic. My Mum and Dad tried their best to comfort me. As I walked downstairs my legs felt like jelly and my stomach was churning. I went into a small room where they had a very thin wheelie bed. I could only just stay on it!

They kindly puffed up the pillow and tilted my head to one side. They then wheeled me into the anaesthetic room and by this time I was too scared to cry. They put a drip needle into my hand - it was horrible, but I was thinking about other things so I did not take much notice.

The next thing I knew, loads of hands were lifting me up and placing me on my original bed. I felt so weak, as if I was full of fluid. My bones felt like flower stems, my brain was taken over with pain. My Mum and Dad came through the door and I had never been so happy to see them in my life. That day was a bit of a blur, but I remember that I was sick and I slept most of the time.

Now all we can do is wait - wait for the good news. They turn my implant on with a special computer, three weeks from now. I feel glad it's all over and I can't wait for the tuning, although I've been told I probably won't like it at first but I think I am prepared for that. I feel so proud that I have my own personal experience that not many other people have had.

**MUM'S STORY:** We were so excited that Katie was having her operation at last, but also a bit worried. The doctor told us that all parents feel like that. We thought Katie was very brave - she might have felt scared but she didn't show it. When we saw her afterwards she looked very strange, with a huge bandage on her head like a turban. For a few days she felt sick and poorly and we knew it was true because she didn't eat any of the sweets that everyone sent for her!

However, she was soon back to normal. I remember how kind and gentle all the nurses were and how all her friends were thinking about her and keeping their fingers crossed for luck. Now we are looking forward to the switch-on. That will be so exciting.

**DAD'S STORY:** I had been so fed up with all the delays in arranging Katie's operation, that I was pleased it was finally going to happen. However, when I arrived at the hospital at 7 o'clock in the morning before the operation, I felt very nervous and wouldn't have minded if it had been put off.

I could tell that Katie and her Mum were also nervous, but we were all putting on a brave face. When she went in for the operation, the surgeon told us not to worry and said that the best thing to do was to go shopping to fill up our time. So that's what we did! Because we were thinking so much about Katie she probably ended up with even more Christmas presents than normal.

When Katie came back from the operation, I was impressed at how little fuss she made. I could see that she was in some pain but she never cried or got cross. The worst she said was, "I just want to go home".

I felt so sad for her that I would willingly have swapped places. However, it didn't last long and Katie has made a good recovery. No one really knows exactly what to expect when her implant is turned on in a few weeks, but we are all excited to see how it is for Katie and hope that it will improve things for her.

**ABI'S STORY:** I'm Abi, Katie's cousin. I am three months older than Katie and we have been best friends since she was born. I went to see her in hospital the day after the operation. When we first saw Katie, she was lying in bed surrounded by flowers and cards.

She looked quite miserable when I first saw her. She had a bandage on her ear. When we started chatting she told me that the bandage was fine, but it was the bands on her wrist and ankle which were uncomfortable!

Before I saw her I thought Katie wouldn't be able to hear me at all, so I was surprised to see that she was answering me, as she would have done before. She didn't want to eat anything, even the chocolates I had brought her from my leftover birthday the day before, which is not like Katie at all - she tells me they are gone now though! After three days, Katie was back to normal and she was jumping around on the floor with my little sister.

**SWITCH ON DAY** was back in February - we asked Katie to update her story and let us know how things went.

"I've now been switched on! I thought I would hate it and want to take it out, but to my surprise, I got used to it very quickly. The only problem I had was that it was a bit quiet, but they are turning it up again in a few days time. All I can say is - IT WAS WORTH IT!"



# AUDIOLOGY

## OUR COCHLEAR IMPLANT

By **Judith Roberts** (Mother of Hamish)

29th July 2002 will always remain a very important date in the Roberts household - this was the day that our son Hamish had his cochlear implant, at the age of 12.

Both of our boys are profoundly deaf, but Hamish's hearing has always been slightly worse than Cameron's and this became more obvious as Cameron began to develop speech. Hamish was diagnosed at 11 months old and, being the first member of the family to be deaf, we were naturally very shocked.

Gradually we met other families with deaf children, including one family whose little boy had been born deaf but was implanted in Germany, (implants on children born deaf were not being done in this country at that time). This particular little boy, Alex, became a very good friend of Hamish's and it was interesting to watch their progress. For about the first five years they progressed at the same rate but suddenly Alex's listening and expressive language skills took off. He even began to sign with Hamish, as he felt this was the best way of communicating with him.



I knew that Alex had been born more deaf than Hamish and yet I was seeing a child who was doing so much better both with his receptive and expressive language.

So began my quest to get an assessment for Hamish. We found it to be a very traumatic experience, especially as we believed this was the best way forward for him and yet the decision was not ours. He was initially turned down because he had too much speech. We did get a second opinion and whilst they didn't comment on his speech so much, his hearing levels were considered borderline for an implant.

We were shattered. I guess we had pinned so many hopes on this. Still, I didn't give up, especially as I could see the gap between Hamish and Alex growing. If we were to call to the boys, it was Alex who responded first and it was Alex whose vocabulary was increasing at a faster rate.

At this time, Hamish did not particularly want an implant. He was at Mary Hare Primary School and everyone understood him and he understood everyone else. However, it was the future that I was concerned about. Once he obtained a place at Mary Hare School, I went back to Nottingham and asked them to re-assess him once and for all. His hearing had deteriorated slightly and the criteria for implanting children had also changed, but he was now 11 years old.

We were advised not to expect the same results that are seen in young children who are implanted. However, we still felt that an implant would benefit Hamish, particularly as he would be able to hear environmental sounds that he had never heard before. At the age of 11 he was not keen - he did not want a big scar and appeared to be happy with his hearing aids, especially as everyone could understand him. Perhaps the only thing which frustrated him, was his inability to use a telephone and, particularly, a mobile phone!

As parents, we believed that this was the right way forward for Hamish. Obviously no parent wants to put their child through elective surgery, but we both felt it was the right decision for him. Hamish took a little longer to decide but finally said that he wanted an implant, particularly as the surgeon had told him that he would only have a very small scar.

I can't pretend that 29th July was an easy day for us. Had we helped Hamish make the right decision? What if something went wrong? We are now some six months down the road and we are in no doubt that Hamish made the right decision. He also feels that he made the right decision.

Seeing his face when he hears new sounds is amazing - the kettle boiling, his tummy rumbling, but I would be lying if I did not say that the most momentous thing for all of us is being able to speak on the mobile telephone! We took Hamish to a shop at Christmas and, like any teenager, he had already chosen a phone but sadly he was unable to hear on that one. No, the only phone he could hear on was the most expensive one in the shop - as I said to him at the time, "typical!"

We know that many of the implant centres concentrate on younger children, but if you feel that your teenage child may benefit, go and ask them.

It is our belief that many professionals have been very pleasantly surprised by how well the late 'implantees' are doing. As parents, we are absolutely thrilled, especially when Hamish wrote the other day " I am very pleased that I had the operation and I look forward to hearing lots of different sounds over the coming years!"



# MUSIC, DANCE & DRAMA

## WEST BERKSHIRE MUSIC ENSEMBLE

By **Sannah Gulamani**

**Fiona Biggs** and I were encouraged to join the West Berkshire Music Group as a way of interacting with other musicians and to build our confidence in performing with others.

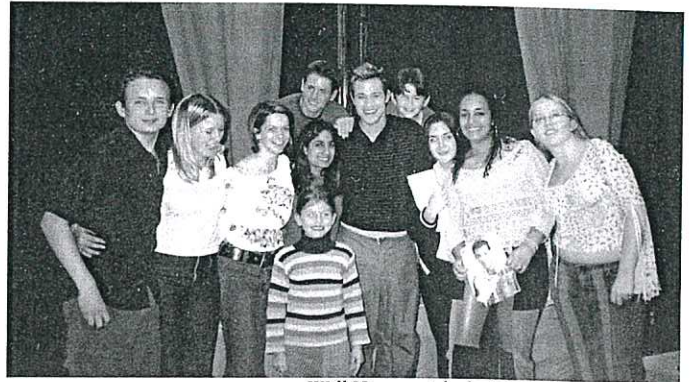
When I first arrived, I was quite nervous – especially as I got there half an hour early! I met my teacher, Mr Salisbury, who was really nice and made me feel welcome.

Playing with the other musicians was difficult at first but, as time went on, my confidence grew as I became more used to the pieces we were playing and I began to socialise more with the other musicians.

It was hard at times, especially when we had to play notes in a certain pattern – I had to watch the teacher's fingering to try and play the right notes.

However, overall, I think that it has been a great opportunity as it has certainly given me confidence to play with other musicians in the future.

I would recommend the experience to anyone who is serious about their music, who needs to build up their confidence and is prepared to put in the effort.



*Will Young with the Mary Hare musicians*

## CHILDREN IN NEED

By **Sannah Gulamani**

Last November, a group of musicians from Mary Hare were invited to play for BBC's 'Children in Need' event, accompanied by Will Young.

We were excited, nervous and also curious as to how Will would treat us as musicians. However, our deafness did not seem to bother him – he was extremely nice and very 'down to earth'. He took a big interest in our music, by asking us questions and encouraging us when we were playing.

This was a huge opportunity for us all and the experience has given us a new perspective on how we feel about the future and carrying on with our music. For me personally, it has increased my confidence dramatically.

In the end, it was worth all of the effort and we were all pleased to be given the chance, not only to be on television with a famous person, but to show others how seriously we take our music.



## MUSIC XTRA FESTIVAL 2003

This annual festival of concerts, workshops, visual arts and informal fringe performances, took place in Birmingham in March.

A group of Mary Hare musicians played their part in the programme, by performing in the Community Music Concert.

The concert featured the music of Steve Brown, which was performed and co-composed by the Mary Hare students. Well done to all those who took part in an entertaining and enlightening mixture of music.

## WATERMILL WORKSHOP

In February, students studying GCSE Drama and A Level Performing Arts visited the Watermill Theatre in Newbury to take part in a practical workshop.

Tony Bell, who plays 'Bottom' in the current Watermill production of 'A Midsummer's Nights Dream' took the group on a backstage tour, looking at the dressing rooms, makeup and costumes.



*Treading the boards*

He then led the students in some practical work on the set in this unique, intimate theatre.

The production is 'in the round' and all of the students had an opportunity to perform with props and costumes, experiencing the difficulties and pleasures of working in this special environment.

## MUSIC EXAMS

The following pupils took Music Grade examinations this term:

Piano

**Sam Calder** Grade 2

**Emily Troddyn** Grade 1

**Kirsty Day** Grade 1

Flute

**Lauren Austin** Grade 4

**Emily Troddyn** Grade 1

**Alex Simmons** Grade 2

**Helen Pine** Grade 1

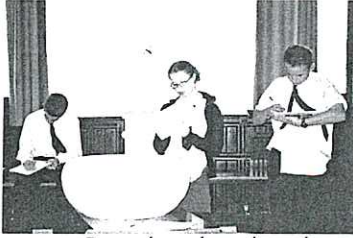
**Maya Pearce** Grade 2

**Victoria Wright** Grade 1



# ART & DESIGN

## NEWBURY LOCK WATER SCULPTURE



*Research work on the sculpture*

Newbury Town Council has commissioned a sculpture by the artist Peter Randall Page, for Newbury Lock. It will be a carved granite bowl, set with circular granite paving and linked to the Lock by an underground pipe.

This exciting project, which involves a number of local schools, has given our Year 10 GCSE Art & Design students an opportunity to attend site visits, meet the artists, as well as attend a sculpture workshop, culminating in an exhibition of their work to the public.



*Students visit the Newbury Lock site*

Students involved with this project have also created their own designs and models for sculptures in the public domain. Their ideas have been developed by studying the work of Peter Randall Page and other artists. The work of all the local schools involved in this project has been exhibited alongside that of Peter Randall Page over recent weeks, to high acclaim.

## PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS



*Simon Cooley discusses his work*

Professional sculptor **Simon Cooley** visited Mary Hare School in November, prior to running a workshop with Year 10 Art students later in the term. Simon has done a lot of work for the BBC and has also worked on set designs for a number of films. He has exhibited nationally and internationally and also teaches at St Martin's College of Art and Design in London.

Simon spent time with Year 10 and Year 12 students on his first visit, speaking about his own work. He explained why he became interested in sculpture and how he learned his skills - a lot of his inspiration comes from meeting and learning about people and



*New Greenham Arts Centre*

listening to music. He showed a large collection of slides and photographs, illustrating the wide variety of his work, from giant head portraits to steel sculptures.

In December, Simon worked with the group for a day in the studios at New Greenham Arts Centre. At the workshop the students produced very large drawings, which then became the basis for the development of large sculptures. They worked with plaster and metal and used welding techniques to create their designs. A local engineer joined the project to work with the students and advised them on technical issues when building their designs. Simon has since returned to the Art and Design Department to discuss his own work with the Year 10 and Sixth Form Art students and he will be visiting Mary Hare School again in June.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

A group of Year 10 and 12 Art and Design students visited the Phoenix Cinema in Oxford in December to 'Meet the Artists'.

The two British artists were Peter Randall Page and David Mach. Both are well-established artists who are recognised internationally, with their work on exhibition throughout the world.

Students sat in the front row and were treated to a slide show and talk by each artist. Peter Randall Page is well known for his sensitive sculptural stone carvings developed from responses to natural form. David Mach is famous for his controversial work including a life sized brick train. Everyone enjoyed this very entertaining presentation.

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This year, all Key Stage 3 pupils took a practical Design & Technology exam, in February.

Year 7 pupils made a greetings card and a plastic key ring. Year 8 worked in teams to produce instruction leaflets to 'tie-dye' a t-shirt. Year 9 pupils made greetings cards and Valentine biscuits.

Although chaotic at times, it was a huge success! Everyone was well focused and the work produced was of a high finished quality. Well done to all students.



*See the finished designs on the 'Gallery' Page*

## MARY HARE ARTISTS RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Students from Mary Hare have been awarded **nine** medals in an International Children's Art Competition. One silver and eight bronze awards will be presented to the school.

The international competition is sponsored by the Japanese art suppliers 'Pental' and an exhibition of all the work entered from each participating country has been on show in Tokyo since March 2003.

Head of Art, Miss McKenna, entered the artwork when she visited the Tsukuba School for the Deaf in August 2002.



# ENGLISH

## IT'S A WRAP!

By Mrs Beckett's **Year 8 English** Group



*Jason Sedon & Hannah Douglas with their design ideas*

At the end of November, when Christmas still seemed a long way away, our English teacher cheered us up by getting us to analyse the packaging on a range of Nestlé products.

The range consisted of a new 'Smartie' white chocolate bar, three kinds of 'Aero', 'Rolos', 'Little Rolos', 'Chunky Kit Kats', 'Munchies', 'Milky Bar Buttons', 'Milky Bar Munchies' and Nestlé 'Double Cream' bars.

Of course, as well as considering the packaging, we had to sample the contents!

We designed our own packaging for the sweets, trying to improve on the current Nestlé designs. We each wrote a letter to Nestlé, to accompany our design. In January, just

when we thought Nestlé had ignored our letters, we got this reply together with a big box of sweets:

"Dear Year 8 English Class, Thank you very much for your letters and design ideas for the redesign of some of our products. We photocopied the designs and put them on our notice board. Everyone in our Marketing Department here at Nestlé in York has been looking at them and they are very impressed. As a reward, I have sent you some of our products. We hope that you enjoy them. Thank you again. Yours faithfully, Tracey Snowden - Marketing Department"

Have a look at some of our designs on the 'Gallery' Page - maybe Nestlé will soon be using them!

## ENGLISH SPEAKING BOARD

The English Speaking Board exams took place at the end of March. This year, we had an even bigger number of entries – a total of 47 – requiring two examiners on the first day and one on the second day.

Pupils presented talks on a variety of topics: Disneyland Paris, England's Rugby History, My Holiday in Malaysia, Tigers and Clay Pigeon Shooting, to name but a few.

This year, we are pleased to announce that we gained 15 Credits and 8 Distinctions. Well done to everyone who took part.

## WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH BOYS?



*Justine, Inde and Hattie receive their prizes*

Their coach was Head of Sixth Form, Peter Gale, who said "I was very proud of the girls. They spoke with humour and really engaged the audience. It was fantastic to see them competing and winning as equals against teams of hearing children."

The senior team, who won last year, also did extremely well. Their chosen topic was 'Fashion' and its hold over young people. Main speaker **Aman Johal** bravely dressed in the latest fashions, to make her point, whilst team members **Breish Rowe** and **Frankie Roberts** made excellent supporting speeches.

Coached by Assistant Principal, Brian Lee, the team could easily have won, but they faced tough competition from the other teams who managed to take first and second place. Although the team was disappointed, they were pleased with their own performance.

In February, **Inde**, **Hattie** and **Justine** travelled to Reading College for the Zone Final. Four teams competed and the girls did a great job. Mrs Whitehead accompanied the girls and was greatly impressed by their confidence and clear delivery. The team came second and, while disappointed not to win, they are already busy planning next year's topic!

## THE SCOTTISH PLAY

In January, Year 9 went to Harrow Way Community School in Andover, to join a workshop and performance of 'Macbeth' to support their Key Stage 3 SATs preparation.

The theatre group consisted of three actresses and one actor who, between them, played, Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, Fleance, Malcolm, Macduff, Lady Macduff and two murderers!



*Students watch the final performance*

The group prepared the audience by asking for ideas on how to portray the different characters. Suggestions included Lady Macbeth jumping up and down with excitement at seeing Macbeth, after he had received the witches' prophecy and Macbeth going shopping while he was deliberating over whether or not to kill King Duncan.

The actors tried out the ideas, and whilst everyone was very amused they also became more involved in thinking about the director's role in a production. The final performance was very good, although the cast had to change parts several times! Everyone enjoyed the trip and felt that it had helped their preparation for the May examinations.

In November, pupils **Justine Durno**, **Hattie Bowden** and **Inde Johal** fought off stiff opposition from other local school teams, winning the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition. The girls gave an entertaining talk entitled, 'What's the Matter with Boys'.



# SCHOOL TRIPS

## YEAR 9 TRIP TO BELGIUM

Report by **Mr Marlow**

In late February, Year 9 pupils were somewhat surprised to be woken from their slumbers at 4 o'clock in the morning, for a day trip to Belgium.

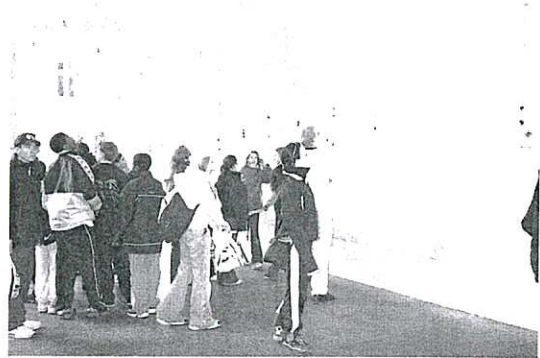
Breakfast was eaten under the Channel and the first stop was the 'In Flanders Field' Museum in Ypres, located inside the rebuilt Cloth Hall.

We were very impressed by the up to date visual displays – the museum had only just opened on the school's first visit in 1999. Even more impressive was the Menin Gate, a memorial to the 54,000 Allied troops with no known grave in the Ypres region.

We had lunch at the Sanctuary Wood Museum, after clambering over the trenches and shell craters in the owner's back garden, (a millionaire, who is still wearing the same brown pullover that we saw him in last year, although he has now darned the holes).

Perhaps the most poignant visit was to the Tyne Cot Cemetery, where Mrs Whitehead found the grave of her great uncle who was aged just 19 when he was killed nearby.

Tea was taken at Cite Europe (yes, even out of school, mealtimes dominated our thinking) and we arrived safely back at Mary Hare School, all clutching our prized souvenirs – Belgian chocolate. We would like to thank Mrs Whitehead who organised this excellent day out, in spite of a Risk Assessment Report stating that there are still a million unexploded shells in this area.



*Students at the Menin Gate*

## SCIENCE TRIPS

March saw two separate science department trips involving whole year groups.

Year 8 boarded a coach for London to visit the Science Museum in Kensington. They visited many galleries which tied in with their Year 8 work, including 'Space', 'Flight', and 'The Future'. The highlight of the day had to be the 'Human Body' film in the IMAX theatre. Few of us will forget the image of food falling into a stomach, projected onto a screen the size of 5 double decker buses!

Year 11 continued the annual tradition of visiting Didcot Power Station, supporting their work on 'Electricity'. For once, the weather was kind to us and the group had an excellent tour, led by 6 power station guides. The enormous size of the cooling towers allowed us to appreciate the massive scale of the electricity generating industry and the noise in the generating hall was loud enough for all the teachers and many of the pupils to need ear plugs.



*Year 8 enjoy the Science Museum*

## FIVE GO TO SLAPTON

In February, the Mary Hare Five (**Faye Routledge, Heather Thomas, Edward Scoble, Stephen Weatherall and Miss Ogg**) went on a geography field trip to Slapton in Devon.

Each day was long and hard work, with the group looking at the impact of tourism on the region as well as investigating and measuring ecosystems on the local rivers, lakes and coasts.

The first couple of days were spent at Dartmoor National Park and on the local beaches (it was hard work, honestly!) and this was followed by treks through the bramble and gorse to work on the local rivers and lakes. For the rest of the week, the focus was on coursework and Miss Ogg led the group on study work based around a large stretch of local coastline – testing wind speeds and looking at coastal defences.

Evening were spent recovering from the exertions of the day, but the group enjoyed spending time with students from the other schools, who were also based at the centre. Overall, the week was muddy, windy, wet and tiring, but everyone returned safe and sound, having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



*Ed, Faye & Stephen work on a vegetation transect*



*'Kick-sampling' at Slapton Ley*

Highlights of the week:

'Standing in a lake, looking silly, kicking up the things from the bottom into a net and then arguing whether the red squiggly thing was a Fluke worm or a Lug worm.'

'We liked wearing the bright yellow 'Glo-Brite' jackets, because they made us feel important!'

'Miss Ogg went under some barbed wire and landed in lots of sloshy mud, which decorated her hands and legs all day!'

'Certain members of the group looking at a washed up dogfish on the coast. They failed to see the approaching waves, which caught them up to the knees - **very** cold feet for the rest of the day.'



# OVERSEAS VISITS

## DR TUCKER GOES TO INDIA

Report by **Aneurin Barker-Snook** and **Aliya Gulamani**

As Director of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf, Dr Tucker is actively involved in many projects helping deaf children in poorer parts of the Commonwealth. During the Christmas holidays, Dr Tucker visited India. "It was a real 'whistle-stop' tour" he said, "looking for new projects and visiting some of the centres we have helped before".

The first school Dr Tucker visited was the Rama Krishna Mission School near Kolkata. He met the 'Swami' – the monk who is in charge of the school – and observed how the deaf and blind children there were being taught. Dr Tucker explained what he saw, "There were more than sixty children being taught in the same room. Some had hearing aids, but mostly very poor quality ones. Few of them had earmoulds and the lesson looked dull and boring. I had a job raising a sparkle in the children's eyes to take a photograph."

The problems at the school were caused mainly by the Swami's attitude to the children – he had not seen the achievements than could be realised by deaf children, given the right opportunities. This has made Dr Tucker even keener to help, so that the children can achieve their true potential.

Next stop was the Oral School for Deaf Children, where the Society had established an earmould laboratory and hearing aid repair facility ten years ago. "It was great to see it was still working and making the best earmoulds in Kolkata" said Dr Tucker. He was also able to meet Babui Das, who was sponsored by Mary Hare School a few years ago, who was getting on well.

Dr Tucker then moved on to Chennai. He visited the Little Flower Convent School and the Clarke School for the Deaf (modelled on the Clarke School in the USA). Both schools have been helped by the Society in the past, but they still have a long way to go. "The equipment is very old, but still working and being used, but they really need some help to upgrade" said Dr Tucker.

Whilst in Chennai, Dr Tucker was able to meet Sylvia Wright. Sylvia is a nurse who went out to India 22 years ago and stayed there – a fantastic example of how we can all contribute to helping deaf children in India. She organised the building of a hospital and school for deaf children in India and continues to do all she can to improve the lives of many young Indian children.

Dr Tucker commented "It is lovely to see her work. The classes are small and there is a boarding house for the children who come from far away in the countryside. However, the hearing aids, earmoulds and assessment facilities are poor. I would love to help Sylvia – I know that she would use every penny wisely."

Mumbai was the next stop on the itinerary – known as 'The Gateway to India'. Here, Dr Tucker visited teachers and audiologists working with very young deaf children, who need help to set up a centre for their work.

Finally, on to Pune to visit the King Edward Memorial Hospital, where they are keen to upgrade their audiology facilities with the latest equipment. The hospital has a special audiology unit specifically to assess deafness in newborn babies.

Dr Tucker's trip to India and his report to the whole school assembly opened up a new sense of understanding. Here at Mary Hare School, we have reliable equipment, clear communication with staff and peers, clothes, food and housing. In India it is rare for deaf children to have even one of these 'privileges'.



*Babui Das*

Mary Hare is now setting up a fund to support the deaf and blind children in India.

There are lots of things to do – provide better education for the children, upgrade the audiology equipment and hearing aids, train more teachers and audiologists.

How could **you** change the lives of young deaf children in India?



*Little Flower Convent School*



*Rama Krishna Mission School*



*Oral School for the Deaf technicians*



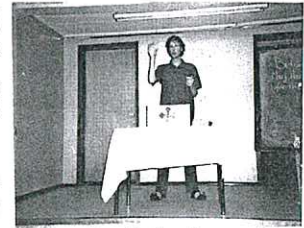
# OVERSEAS VISITS

## SOMALILAND AND ETHIOPIA

By **Emlyn Burton**

The half term holiday in October 2002 took me to Somaliland and Ethiopia. Why? Well, for good reasons. There are four children in my family, (I am the youngest) and we have a comfortable life, with more or less everything we want. Our parents were determined that, as we grew up, we should experience at first hand what life is like for people who are not so fortunate. I think maybe that my parents thought it would make me moan a bit less about my own life!

My brother Toby had a great time during his 'gap' year as one of the first deaf volunteers at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Jordan. My other brother Jamie and my sister Kate also had fantastic experiences working and travelling. Where could I go that would be different?



*Emlyn tries his hand at teaching*

My mum knew of an organisation, 'The Deaf Africa Fund', run by Doreen Woodford, where deafness would be an asset rather than an obstacle. It was clear that conditions were going to be very tough, so I was given a 'taster', to help me decide whether I would survive a whole year. I visited two schools for the deaf – one in Somaliland and the other in Hosanna, Ethiopia (about 9 hours drive from Addis Ababa). Here are some extracts from the diary I kept during my African experience:

### Somaliland

Today, in a lesson, I chatted with the kids while the teacher (Ibrahim) was marking their work. I talked about everything, about my hair (why I kept it so long), why I don't shave, about my brothers and sisters, my school, my girlfriend etc. The kids and Ibrahim laughed a lot. I like Ibrahim. He's a young teacher, he's funny and he always looks interested.

Tonight, I was horrified by the big difference between Dr Analena's house and the kid's house. Dr Analena and the others had a cosy dinner, electricity, (meaning lights), computer, TV and video. They watched TV, whilst the children, in their house, were doing practically nothing in the total dark. As darkness fell completely, I couldn't see a thing. There was only one candle for everyone. I carried on doing my Maths prep, but lots of things were on my mind. What are the other children doing in their rooms?



*A receptive audience*

### Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, I stopped over in Addis Ababa, on the way to Hosanna. In Addis Ababa the gap between the rich and poor is really massive. There were rich people in the city centre, whereas around it there were thousands, I mean thousands of really, really poor people begging for money. They wouldn't let me go, insisting on money.

Still, it was good to walk around as it is a very active city with lots of things happening at once – taxis stopping suddenly, asking if I wanted to get in and then zooming off! There were already people inside, but they still ask you if you want to get in! The buses were really, really crowded. I could imagine being squashed to death inside one of them!

Went to this young man's house in an area where poverty is huge. On the way home, stopped by at an Internet café to check my emails and then walked home. Packed everything, ready for tomorrow as gotta catch a bus at 6.00 for a really long 9-hour journey to Hosanna. Bedtime. Nite.

Am really glad that there is a young man accompanying me to Hosanna. This was his old school and he will stay with me all week. He's a really fantastic young man, my type of person. We chatted about anything. I would really love to invite him to England, where he'd be shocked by London but he would enjoy it! Am totally looking forward to the week, as he said the school's most popular sport is football and the deaf students are really good at it!



*Students show their football skills*

### ANDRE HEDGER

I have been climbing since I was three years old. My father, who is very keen on climbing, has taken me all over the world including the UK, Canada, Mauritius, South Africa, Cyprus and Tenerife.

I started learning to climb on the sandstone cliffs in Kent and on indoor climbing walls. One of the things I enjoy about rock climbing (apart from being outdoors) is being so high up of the ground. I have tried ice climbing in Canada in the winter but found it very cold.

My favourite part of climbing is trying new routes where no one has ever been before. The photograph of me on the mountaintop was taken in Mauritius, on a two thousand foot mountain called 'Le Mourné', where my dad and I made the first ascent.

The summit was so overgrown because no one had ever been there before. It took many 'abseils' to get down from the top, as we had to retreat down a six hundred feet vertical face. I was so exhausted afterwards that I could hardly walk back to the hotel.

The other picture was taken on the chalk cliffs at Beachy Head in Sussex, training for our climb of the vertical ice water falls in Canada.

My ambition is to climb Everest when I am older and make it to the very top. During the October 2003 half term, I am going on a rock climbing expedition to the Cedarbergs and Table Mountain in South Africa.







*Form Tutor Liz May with pupils Mitchel Richardson, Rowan Warnock and Damien Peters, doing their bit for 'Comic Relief'. Over £400 was raised through various events on 'Big Hair' Day.*

If you would like further information about any of the Mary Hare organisations, please visit our website at [www.maryhare.org.uk](http://www.maryhare.org.uk) or contact:



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