



Our cover picture shows Sixth Form students **Sannah Gulamani** and **Michael Brown** celebrating in style at the Mary Hare Winter Ball. For more glamorous pictures, see Page 25.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is there anything you would like to see in a future edition of 'Soundwave'? What do you enjoy most? What special features would you like to read? What would you like to know more about? If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, then get in touch, using the contact details below.

The Editorial Team would like to thank all those 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 School.

Tel: 01635 244233 / 244200 (voice/minicom) / email: deborahb@maryhare.org.uk

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

Older heads on wiser shoulders

by Vice Principal **Tony Shaw**

Pupils are tested at various ages and stages throughout their school career. At the age of 11 they take their Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests (called SATs), at 14 years they take their Key Stage 3 SATs and at 16 years they take their GCSEs.

As each year goes by a school expects its pupils to be able to tackle more 'grown-up' work but is their progress purely down to the march of time or is the school doing something over and above this? In 1998, the Government set out to answer this question and developed a '**Value Added Measure**' that could be calculated for each school.

If a school gets a Value Added Measure of 100, the pupils at the school get older but no wiser. If a school gets a Value Added Measure of more than 100, the school is helping the pupils get older and wiser. Here are the Value Added Measures that Mary Hare has achieved since 1998:

Value Added Measure	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %	2003 %
Mary Hare School: KS4	121.6				131.6	131.2
National Average: KS4	100				100	100
Mary Hare School: KS3					107.4	106.9
National Average: KS3					100	100

So what do these Value Added Measures mean in everyday language?

Value Added Measure: Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to Year 9)

Mary Hare's score has been about **107** over the last two years. This means that our pupils were SEVEN terms ahead of expectations. Put another way, over the three years between Year 7 and Year 9 they had achieved FIVE years and 1 term's worth of school progress!

Value Added Measure: Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 (Year 10 to Year 11)

Our score has been about **132** over the last two years. This means that a Mary Hare pupil taking 8 GCSE exams, would get THIRTY TWO grades higher than expected. On a subject by subject basis, each grade would be on average, FOUR grades higher than expectation!

When the Government published this year's league tables it was interesting to see that Grammar Schools achieved the best Value Added Scores across Key Stage 3 and that Comprehensive Schools got the best Value Added Scores across Key Stage 4. Mary Hare School, by contrast, achieved SUPERB Value Added Scores across BOTH Key Stage 3 AND Key Stage 4. As each year goes by Mary Hare pupils get 'Older and Wiser' and that's official.



MARY HARE FOUNDATION

VODAFONE CHARITY FAIR

In early December, we received an invitation to attend the first Vodafone UK Foundation Charity Fair, to be held at the company's headquarters in Newbury.

Fifty local and national charities attended the event, which had been organised to give Vodafone employees a chance to meet the organisations that had received funding and support from the company and to find out more about our work.

It was a very successful day and we enjoyed meeting many new people who were interested in the work of the Mary Hare Schools and the Foundation.

We were particularly well represented at the event, as the School Band were also invited to entertain the guests with some festive Christmas music over the lunchtime period and the poster circulated to promote the event was designed by Mary Hare student **Aneurin Barker-Snook**, during his Work Experience placement at the Vodafone HQ!



Development Director, Jane McMillan at the Mary Hare stand

PACE APPEAL UPDATE



Work starts on the PACE Centre site

We are pleased to announce that, since the appeal was launched in November 2002, we have raised a total of just over **£980,000**.

If you have visited the school recently, you may have seen that work has now begun on preparation of the PACE Centre site, with land being cleared for the car park, which has been exciting to watch.

Our thanks go to everyone who continues to support the appeal, especially those who bought Christmas Puddings, cards and calendars - this contributed just over **£2,000** towards our grand total. Our thanks also must go to the kitchen staff who worked during the summer holidays, making the excellent puddings, which everyone enjoyed!

We are grateful to the many trusts and foundations who have also helped us in recent months, including:

- CHK Charities Ltd**
- Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust**
- Englefield Charitable Trust**
- The Joseph Rank Trust**
- The Headley Trust**
- The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation**
- The Herbert & Peter Blaggrave Charitable Trust**
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation**

A subtitled version of the PACE Appeal CD Rom. is now available from the Foundation office.

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY EQUIPMENT

The Speech and Language Therapy department are now able to use some extra equipment to help them with their individual and group sessions, thanks to a donation by the charity, 'Lifeline 4 Kids'.

The TAM (Tactile Acoustic Monitor) and GRASP (Graded Auditory Speech Perception Screen) equipment are already in use and the TV and Video recorder will be used by the therapists to record, monitor and evaluate sessions with the students.



Miss Tufnell and Lisanne Holly try out the new 'TAM' equipment

LEGACIES

At the end of last year, the Foundation was delighted to receive a donation of **£48,790**, through the legacy of **Miss Winifred Cannell**.

Miss Cannell had experienced hearing problems throughout her life and decided to find out more about the work of Mary Hare School, following a newspaper article about our work back in 1997.

As a result, she resolved to make a bequest to help the school, particularly in its work with young musicians. The legacy will go towards the PACE Appeal and one of the music rooms will be named in her memory.

Mr Mike Edwards (a close friend of Miss Cannell) will be invited to attend the opening of the PACE Centre in 2005.

MARY HARE ALUMNI

ESTHER MAYCOCK

I was in the Sixth Form at Mary Hare, from 1997 to 1999 and then went on to do an Art Foundation course for one year, followed by a three year degree course in Graphic Design at Surrey Institute of Art and Design in Epsom, Surrey. The course was very hard work and I found the communication especially challenging at times, but was delighted to get a 1st Class degree.

I hadn't thought that after four years I'd be coming back to Mary Hare, but during the summer I did a Community Sport Leader Award (CSLA) and had to gain 10 hours practical coaching experience - so, I thought it would be a great experience to coach deaf students at my old school.

What was it like coming back after four years? The biggest shock was that I was no longer a student and was taken to the staff room with all the teachers! As well as new teachers and pupils, I was amazed to meet sixth formers, who were in Year 7 and Year 8 the last time I saw them. To cheer you all up, I also think that the food has improved!

I am currently applying for jobs as a graphic designer and in my free time setting up coaching events for deaf people in football and other sports.



Read more about Esther's visit on Page 18

BREE SMYTHE - 'Gap' Year Update

Hi there, how are things in Newbury? I'm currently in Kimberley, South Africa and really enjoying my gap year! I've no regrets about my decision not to go straight to Uni and it has really put things in perspective - what I want to do etc. In fact, the next best decision after choosing Mary Hare!

It's been an interesting experience. I've met lots of different people, seen many beautiful places, done lots of things I wouldn't have expected to do, BUT don't get me wrong, it's not been one big long holiday - although it was hot enough to spend Christmas on the beach!

My work placement is at the Helen Bishop Home for disabled children (physically mainly, but some have mental problems). Many of the children are affected by HIV and AIDS, victims of abusive families, or just abandoned. There are some pretty traumatising stories behind their little smiles.

My role is as a carer, helping with feeding, changing, getting them to physiotherapy (which I help out with from time to time) and basically being an entertainer for the kids!

Most of the children go to school but some of the younger ones and the more severely disabled don't. At the moment, all the kids are off on holiday, so we've got the full bunch of them and life is pretty hectic!

I'm partly writing to give everyone a general update and partly to ask a favour - to help me raise some money for clothes for the children (most of these are hand-downs and very old and torn, apart from their school uniform) and also to help finish the playroom.

I've emailed some of the sixth formers about fundraising, so they'll be willing to help and if anyone else feels that they could help too, that would be fantastic!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

by Association Chair, **Simone Goldberg**



Simone Goldberg

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their Alumni Update Forms this year - this information really helps us to keep in touch easily and helps you to receive the latest news from Mary Hare School and the Alumni Association.

Since the last edition of 'Soundwave', the committee has started work on increasing membership as well as developing the new look for the Alumni Association (including a new logo to match our new name!). We are also working closely with the school to develop a brand new Alumni website.

The new website will be going live VERY SOON and will be updated frequently with all the news on reunion events, links, photos, finding lost friends, contact addresses, committee information and much more. Watch the Mary Hare school website for news of the latest developments.

We are currently recruiting 'leaders' from each year. 'What is a leader?' you may ask. A leader's job is to keep in regular touch with the rest of their year and encourage them to sign up (for free) and become members of the Alumni Association! If you fancy volunteering yourself for this role (always looks good on a CV!), then please email me on simonegoldberg@yahoo.co.uk

I would also like to encourage you to use this regular page in 'Soundwave' to let us know what you are doing and your thoughts on looking back at life at Mary Hare - or anything else that you think readers might enjoy. Please get in touch! I am delighted to say that we are still getting new members signing up every week - we currently have 650 members, which is brilliant! Please continue to pass the word and I will be back soon with another update.

POST GRADUATE TRAINING

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES (HEARING IMPAIRMENT)

This course opens with an introductory weekend in Year One at Mary Hare School and continues with further residential weekends spread throughout the two year duration of the course. The course leader at Mary Hare is school principal **Dr Ivan Tucker**. This recently established course, offered in partnership with Oxford Brookes University, is designed for candidates who wish to train as teachers of the deaf. The part-time course is open to qualified teachers who have a minimum of one year's teaching experience.

For more information about the course, please contact: Carol Ward on 01635 244224 / email: carolw@maryhare.org.uk



Celebrations on Graduation Day

REFLECTIONS ON GRADUATION by Mary Hare teacher **Carole Howe**

When I reflect upon the Teacher of the Deaf course, I have a very vivid picture in my mind: I am sitting at my interview for the post of Head of English, as Tony Shaw is outlining the commitment to and the requirements of the course. I see myself happily nodding, thinking 'Six residential weekends a year, eight assignments, two teaching practices, a few seminar presentations. That doesn't sound so bad, I really enjoy a challenge, yes I can do that.'

Three years later, with the course now firmly behind me, I can only say that my initial thoughts were somewhat naïve to say the least! With a young family of my own, a new job, a new role, a completely new teaching environment and not knowing the difference between a ling sound and a decibel, I began to get just a little twitchy as the first residential weekend drew closer. Little did I know that the start of the course would be the end of the world as I had come to know it!

The highlights were many and among these were the lectures where suddenly things began to fall into place, especially the acquisition of language and the speech therapy lectures. I also found family support and practical audiology both interesting and challenging. The teaching practices helped me to focus in detail on my teaching and I believe has made me a better teacher. Meeting new people and sharing a few drinks after a long day full of lectures was a must and made me feel like an eighteen year old university student once again! (Many might say I acted like one too!) The food was excellent and Carol Ward did a fantastic job of ensuring that our weekends ran smoothly.

There were of course some downsides too – losing a complete essay by replacing it with the bibliography was not one of the smartest moves I ever made – especially as I had no backup disc and the essay was due in the following day! Needless to say tears of frustration were shed, followed by a little temper tantrum and I could see my two year old eyeing me up as if to say – but I'm the one who's supposed to do that! My children found it hard when the residential weekends came around and so did I, which is one of the reasons I decided to stay over – it would have been harder to travel home each evening and leave again the following morning. Why did six residential weekends a year seem very few prior to the course?

However, despite the lows, my graduation ceremony at Oxford Brookes University was one of the proudest days of my life and I gave myself jaw ache as I spent the day grinning from ear to ear. I felt both an enormous sense of achievement and very thankful for all the support I had from colleagues and my long suffering husband and children – but I have asked them all to deter me when I begin looking for the next challenge! For this year at least . . .

SO FAR, SO GOOD...

by Mary Hare teachers **Phil Hamman, David Davies and Rachel Carr**

We started our two-year training as teachers of the deaf last July, on a hot weekend, as the rest of the teaching staff headed off for their seven week summer break. It has been great to mix with other teachers, from a wealth of different backgrounds.

So far, many of our lectures have been delivered 'in-house' by Mary Hare staff and these have proved to be relevant and stimulating. The delivery can be very intense and the content so intellectually demanding, that we are left a little shell-shocked, but there is always the bar at the end of the day!

There is no doubt that the assignments are a challenge and we have all felt a sense of relief at passing the first ones. We have learned a huge amount in the first six months – only another year and a half to go!

MARY HARE PRIMARY

WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN



Joseph and Hadley try Egyptian fashion

In December, Class Two pupils enjoyed a visit to the Egyptian Exhibition at nearby Highclere Castle.

This was an opportunity to learn more about the term's History topic. The pupils participated in plenty of 'hands on' activities, such as dressing up as Pharaohs and their Queens and slaves, as well as playing traditional Egyptian games. The group also looked at the many ancient artefacts collected by the Carnarvon family, in the Egyptian Centre.

The 5th Earl of Carnarvon first looked into the tomb of Tutankhamun in November 1922 and saw the glint of gold as he and Howard Carter uncovered the first step leading down to the tomb of the boy-Pharaoh. Our pupils may have fallen under the curse of the 'Boy King', but we think they have escaped unscathed! We hope so, anyway!

COMPETITION WINNERS

Each year, earmould manufacturer, Starkey, hold a national Christmas card design competition. This year, our pupils all entered their card designs and **Martha Brownlow**, aged 9 was announced the overall competition winner!

Her card was been printed for Starkey Laboratories to send out to all their customers at Christmas. Second prize went to **Alex Ash**, aged 5, third prize to **Harry McIntyre**, aged 8 and fourth prize to **Daneil Malli**, aged 11.

Prizewinner Martha



BONFIRE NIGHT FUN

On the evening of November 5th the school was filled with witches, walking skeletons and monsters.

Fun and games included apple-bobbing, a rice-crispie race (with teaspoons) and musical chairs.

A special meal was served in a darkened dining room and then the children moved outside to enjoy a spectacular display of fireworks.



Dominic in party mood

RADLEY COLLEGE FRIENDS

Since the start of the Spring term, a group of Sixth Form students from Radley College, Oxford has been visiting the school on a weekly basis.

A recent lesson involved designing and building a moving vehicle. The Mary Hare pupils worked in groups with their Radley helper and when we tested the designs, all of them worked!

The older boys are also helping with football skills, which is proving a great success and our pupils really look forward to seeing their Wednesday afternoon visitors.



Pupil Marco gets some help on the road

NEW GROUP AID A GREAT SUCCESS

Our new group hearing aid is a great success with teachers and pupils. Each pupil with post aural hearing aids has headphones customised to their hearing loss, and the cochlear implant children are connected to the system through their implants.

The headphones are lightweight - nothing like the heavy things which we used to use - and so are much more comfortable to wear. The pupils can hear each other, and the teacher, very clearly - as if they were standing next to each speaker, and not on the other side of the room.

Using the system improves listening skills, including turn-taking, as well as speaking and means that each child is an equal participant in any class discussion or lesson.



STAFF NEWS

WELCOME TO MARY HARE!

MANSELL HOUSE

Blue Nolan No, it's not a nickname, his name really is 'Blue'! Blue originally comes from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire but more recently he has been living in the capital of the West Country, Exeter. He has come from a retail environment, working for a chain of well known photographic stores. Prior to this, he was a chef at another residential school and still has a massive passion for food – creating and (especially) eating it! Time permitting, Blue plays hockey for Newbury and Thatcham and is also a keen photographer.

Jodie Collins Jodie was born in Western Australia and arrived in the UK, after working for six months in South Korea, teaching English to primary and secondary age children. She lived in the town of Incheon, near the capital Seoul. Jodie gained a BA in History and English from the University of Western Australia, followed by teacher training. She has experience of deafness, as her brother is profoundly deaf. She is qualified as a basketball referee, but is also keen on the more sedate things in life, such as art and literature.

Fiona Boman Fiona has recently moved back to this country from New Orleans, USA, where she lived with her husband who is a professional photographer. Fiona has had many varied and interesting jobs in the USA as well as England. She has more recently worked with adults with learning disabilities. Fiona is very creative and enjoys many hobbies involving the arts.

MANOR HOUSE

Sarah Dryburgh. Sarah has joined us from Auckland, New Zealand, during her 'gap' year. She will be returning to her home country after the summer, to study Physiotherapy at university.

CLASSROOM SUPPORT

Karen Oldroyd. Karen has been working here since November 2003, supporting Veronica in Year 12, as her notetaker. She says, 'I have been made to feel very welcome and I am really enjoying my time at Mary Hare. I am married with two children, Charlotte (11) and Christian (9). I was looking for a job that fitted around the family and when I saw this position advertised in the local paper, I thought it sounded really interesting. I am glad that I applied and I am pleased to have been appointed!'

TEACHING STAFF

Debbie Noble



I am now in my eighteenth year of teaching, my experience being mainly in mainstream education. My subject is Geography, but I have also taught RE, History and Science.

I am married with two children, Joe (18) and Harry (15). I spend much of my holiday time visiting friends and family in France. My hobbies include watching rugby and football, socialising with friends, trips to the theatre and cinema and working out the best way to use a golf club and the ball at the same time!

I am now settling in to the Mary Hare way of life and I look forward to becoming involved in the many facets of the school.

Maud Jamin

I'm 22 years old and I was born in Reims, France. I live with my parents in a small town called Courpiere but I have recently been living with my best friend in a flat in Clermont-Ferrand. I am a student and my university is in Clermont-Ferrand. It's called "Université de Langues et de Sciences Humaines".

When you become an language assistant you only have the choice of a region and so I did not ask especially to come to Mary Hare. When I discovered that Mary Hare was a school for deaf children I was afraid, because I didn't know how to sign. However after my first day I understood that, although it would not be easy, it would be an extraordinary experience!

When I arrived, the teachers and children were so welcoming that I felt at ease very quickly. The pupils are amazing - a lot of things are a mystery to me, like how a deaf child can hear my accent and why do they have an accent?

I'm really happy to be here and I think I'm very lucky to be at Mary Hare. I would like to thank all the staff who have been so nice to me. My career? I want to become a French teacher for foreign students. I don't mind if my pupils are children or adults. In fact, my dream is to become a teacher who trains future teachers.

George Kelly



My name is Mr Kelly and I am the new Maths teacher. Before coming to Mary Hare, I worked as a teacher of the deaf at Heathlands School in Hertfordshire.

My hobbies include building and repairing computers, playing lots of different sport such as golf, tennis, swimming and skiing and I like travelling to different countries.

My favourite trip was travelling across the USA on a 'Greyhound' bus , where I saw fantastic cities such as New York, Boston, San Francisco and Las Vegas. I also visited the beautiful national parks such as Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. As my brother and his family have just moved to America, I'm hoping to visit more often in the future.



STAFF NEWS

COMINGS & GOINGS AT BLOUNT HALL

Jean Monger, our Domestic Bursar, retired in September 2003 after 26 years spent working in the kitchens at Mary Hare School. Jean recalled with pride that she had taken no time off sick during that period!



She joined the school originally as a vegetable preparation worker, progressing to Cook and then to her position as Assistant Bursar. Jean replaced Miss Smith who had previously run the school kitchens.

Before coming to Mary Hare, Jean worked as a Housekeeper at the Castle School, Newbury. She also starred in a television advertisement for 'Summer County' margarine! Jean recalled that one afternoon, when she was collecting her children from school, a camera crew were there, filming. The film crew interviewed Jean, who was indeed a user of the margarine in question! They did a screen test and returned to film Jean at home, while her children had their tea, enjoying 'Summer County'. Jean said this was thirty seven years ago and there have been no more TV roles since!

The Mary Hare social calendar has always kept Jean and the other kitchen staff very busy. Jean said that Speech Day was, by far, the most taxing day in the catering year, beginning with the children's breakfast, followed in quick succession by lunch for the pupils, governors and finally afternoon tea.

Jean was full of praise for her staff who, she said, were a great team. Being late with a meal is just not an option, so it is 'all hands to the hob!' Other demanding events are Christmas Lunch, the Christmas Party and Sports Day. More recently, the Oxford Brookes residential weekends have added to the workload, although many of the students would testify that the meals produced by Jean and her staff have helped to compensate for the torment of giving up a weekend to lectures!

The school's cooking facilities are powered by propane gas and electricity. Jean and her staff have faced a few tricky moments during power cuts and, on one occasion, when a miscalculation meant that they ran out of gas! At times like this, emergency generators are used and all of the power is directed to the cookers, to make sure that children and staff are fed. Jean said that in a power cut, the washing up piles up everywhere and the kitchen staff have to wash it all by hand, later, as the dishwashers are out of action.

Blount Hall menus have always offered plenty of choice. When asked if she had any favourites, Jean remembered a Belgian cheesecake – a speciality that often appears on the Oxford Brookes menu - and also apple crumble, which she enjoyed making and the children enjoyed eating!

Jean plans to spend her 'retirement' taking more holidays, visiting her son in Northern Ireland and spending more time with her grandchildren, whilst still fitting in a part time job locally. Jean agreed that she would probably enjoy cooking at home more, now that she is not cooking for a living. When asked what she would miss about Mary Hare School, Jean replied 'Everything!'

Jean has left us in good hands. Jackie Guest took charge of the kitchens for a month or so and since then we have been well looked after by our new Domestic Bursar, **Moyra Atkinson**, who joined us last summer. She brought with her twenty-four years of catering experience, having previously worked at The Haberdasher's School for Girls in Monmouth and Downe House School in Newbury.

Moyra says that she appreciates working in a smaller school like Mary Hare as she has time to pay attention to extra details in catering for the students and staff. Moyra has worked hard to make the dining room feel homely and inviting and she has been delighted by the appreciative response. Moyra says that this simply makes her and her team want to try harder.

She says, "If a child wants something particular, we try to provide it." On Saturday nights, Moyra and her team ensure that the dining room feels welcoming for those not going home for the weekend. Tables are grouped more intimately and spread with tablecloths, to give a 'restaurant' feel.

Moyra's themed menus have been extremely popular - pupils have been treated to a Spanish style lunch with paella and tapas and a special menu for Chinese New Year! She hopes to make international cuisine a regular dining room feature as well as celebrating events such as Valentine's Day and other special days. The customers are certainly impressed, one satisfied diner was overheard saying: "It's like a 5 star restaurant!"



Moyra settles in to Mary Hare

SIXTH FORM

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Head of Sixth Form, **Mr Gale**, talks about his new home

How long have you been in your office?

I moved in during the summer holidays. A couple of weeks later, the Manor House pupils - with a bit of help from the care staff – decorated the office to welcome me. I arrived on Monday morning to find balloons, plastic squirrels, gnomes and a big teddy sitting at my desk. I thought it was a good joke!

What precipitated the move?

Mary Hare School has some beautiful buildings, but it is short of office space. The move to the summerhouse freed up an office in school for somebody else and gave me a little more room.

What do you like best about your new office?

The views across the fields are lovely. I feel lucky to work in such a lovely part of the school site.

Is there anything you don't like about it?

Running to and from the office in the rain! The basketball sometimes gets a bit close at lunchtime as well. I'm not keen on the pupils calling it 'Hagrid's Hut' - I think Adam Watson started that.

Who chose the furnishings?

There's just a standard office desk and chair, nothing fancy, but I chose them.

Has it taken long for people to find out where you are?

Not really, but I don't get so many people asking for hole-punches and Sellotape as I used to! People who need to see me still find me easily enough.

Are you a trendsetter? Will other members of staff want to set up their own 'garden offices'?

I don't think so. I've definitely got the best one. The other summerhouse is pretty but it has no glass – the sides are open to the elements, which would be no good at all!



Mr Gale discovers a 'welcome committee' on moving in day



Day Two - discussing tactics!

MANAGEMENT SKILLS EVENT

by **Glen Chivers**

For two days in October, Year 12 students joined students from two other local schools (John O'Gaunt and the Downs School) in an event at Newbury Racecourse.

We were surprised to find that our business conference would be in the brand new Grandstand, which turned out to be very nice. It even had a bar, but unfortunately we weren't allowed to use this!

After the students from the other schools arrived, we were put into groups. The first activity was a team-building exercise, making a tower as tall as we could and putting an egg on the top. There was a catch - we had to build it with spaghetti and jelly babies and it's not as easy as you think!

After a tour of the racecourse, the main aim of the two days was to give a presentation to try and win the contract to solve a real life problem at the Racecourse. They wanted to increase their profits and asked us to think of ideas on how to do that.

First of all, we listened to Amelia Alvares from Dell, who advised us on how to give a good presentation. We also had discussions with the managers of Newbury Racecourse, on finances and marketing, to help us in our presentation. Then we finally got stuck into our group work and discussed what we were going to put into our presentation, to try and win the contract. We had to find ways to maximise the company's revenue. Making our group a logo and slogan involved quite a big debate but we got there in the end! Then, with lots of land and woodland available, ideas of what to build ranged from discos to a theme park!

The second day was based at Mary Hare, when we continued working in our groups and the final presentations were made after a working lunch. In the morning we had a bit of fun finding out a bit about betting and learning what the 'odds' meant. We watched a race – 'Blackbeat' won and the winners got a chocolate bar!

The judges from Newbury Racecourse and other local businesses judged us on our ideas and how good the presentation was. In the end, Team 8 won the contract (which wasn't real!), so congratulations to them. It was a fun event and our confidence in working with hearing people has been boosted. Thank you to Mrs Hansen and Mr Gale for helping us all out on this business trip.

AFTER SCHOOL

COMPUTER CLUB

January saw the start of a lunchtime computer games programming group. Using some freely downloadable software called 'GameMaker' (www.gamemaker.nl), pupils are able to write their own 2D games - the sort of thing you see in online games or games like 'Pacman'.

The software is very easy to get started on but gets more complex as you get more ambitious. It even has its own programming language. After only a short time, we already have some nice games being developed.

'This club is brilliant, because you get to make your own games and you have to think!' says **Jonathan Chambers**.

There are only a few members at the moment, but hopefully numbers will increase over the coming weeks. Entry is free, so come and find out more about it. The club runs on Tuesday lunchtimes from 1.30 pm.



Computer Clubbers

A NEW CHESS TALENT

Year 7 pupil, **Lewis Martin**, is sparking a chess revolution at Mary Hare. As a member of the England Junior squad, he came third in the British Under 11 Chess Championship, held in Edinburgh last summer. Lewis is without doubt the strongest chess player ever to attend Mary Hare and many other pupils are now trying to emulate him, by competing at lunchtimes in the 'Quiet Room'.

Dr Papas, who also enjoys bridge, basketball and soccer, can often be found taking up the chess challenge with a variety of players. However, he leaves Lewis to Mr Marlow – a former international player (albeit twenty eight years ago!). Mr Marlow commented, 'Lewis is a real find and a credit to both his family and the Thamesdown Club in Swindon. In Lightning (5 minute) Chess I have already lost two games to him, which is two more than I have lost to Mary Hare players in the past twenty years!'

For those of you who are chess players, here are the moves from a recent lunchtime game between Lewis and Mr Marlow:

LEWIS MARTIN (WHITE) MR MARLOW (BLACK) Ruy Lopez, Exchange Variation

1 e4	e5	8 Qxf3	Bxe5	15 g4	Nf6
2 Nf3	Nc6	9 Bd2	Qe7	16 Bg5	h6
3 Bb5	a6	10 0-0	0-0-0	17 Bxf6	Bxf6
4 Bxc6	dx6	11 Rad1	Nf6	18 Qe3	½ : ½
5 Nc3	Bd6	12 Qf5+	Kb8		
6 d4	Bg4	13 Rfe1	g6		The bell went!
7 dxe5	Bxf3	14 Qf3	Nh5		The position is equal



Lewis works out his strategy

SHORT CUTS

THE NIGHT OF THE BLIZZARD

by **7BR English Group**

The snow had been promised for long enough, but by prep time on 28th January we thought it had passed us by. That evening, half of 7BR were practising for the swimming gala and the rest of us were busy with prep.

Things began to get exciting when the lights flashed on and off – this caused plenty of screaming in the changing rooms and those of us doing prep rushed to the windows to look out. We saw blue and purple lightning and seconds afterwards we heard the boom of thunder.

Swimmers and prep workers alike rushed outside into the snow as it began to fall. At first it was like soft hail then it turned into powdery, icy snow. We tried to grab it to make snowballs but it was like dust in our hands. Us swimmers didn't last long outside, as we weren't really dressed for it! Anyway the ominous boom of thunder drove us back inside.

After supper, with all our outdoor gear on, we went into Howard House garden for a 'mega' snowball fight and we terrorised Leslie! The teachers were looking a bit confused - their cars were all identical mounds of snow in the car park. Some slithered their way home, some negotiated the school drive sideways, some went home with friends and one poor person was stuck in school all night! The next morning lessons were delayed until 9.30. We were dismayed that so many staff had managed to drive in to work and even worse – the sun shone and the thaw began!



'FENNEY'S' - Open for Business

by **Mr Chandler**



Members of the Tuck Shop Team

To give the Business Studies GCSE course a more vocational feel and to bring it in line with new requirements for 2004, our Year 10 students have risen to the challenge of setting up and running a school Tuck Shop.

The Tuck Shop was named 'Fenney's' in memory of Mary Hare teacher Rose Fenney, who did such a sterling job in the past and the students involved have called themselves the 'Five Desperados'.

Each student has contributed school 'capital' to the venture with the aim being to make a profit, which would be divided up, to cover their initial outlay and the rest going to charity.

The business venture could not have happened without the kind support of the school, especially from teachers Mrs Wylie and Mrs Ross, whose Food Technology room has been extremely useful, together with the support from all the Mary Hare students.

'Fenney's' was especially popular during the three performances of the Mary Hare Christmas Production, providing welcome refreshments for performers and guests and raising **£500** for the Meningitis Trust.

The students involved in this venture have managed to turn a business idea into a business success. Conventional businesses can take months, if not years, to break even and make a profit. However customer demand has been tremendous, sometimes outstripping supply and forcing Mr Chandler to make an unscheduled dash to the cash and carry! Consequently, 'Fenney's' has recorded a handsome profit, which is a triumph for those who took up the challenge of running the school tuck shop for the specified period of three months.

Closure is now imminent as other academic demands take over and we wonder how the school will cope without the sugary supplement to their diet! We hope that our customers will not be too disappointed by our closure and we offer them our thanks for their support. The 'Desperados' are discussing the possibility of one more outing, maybe at Sports Day in May, so watch out for us there!



Another satisfied customer!

SHORT CUTS

CHRISTMAS CAKE PARADE

by **Ross Grant**

Last term, Year 9 made Christmas cakes as a tradition for us to take home and share with our families during the Christmas holidays. Some people, well probably most of us, have Christmas cake on Christmas Day.

The best part of making the cake was decorating them and putting icing on top. I had to keep mine very flat, as I was travelling home by plane. I learned that you must keep your eyes on the icing, making sure that the texture wasn't too thin.



SCIENCE PRIZE WINNER

Following on from her excellent Key Stage 3 SAT result in Science, Year 10 student **Justine Durno** was nominated for a prize to recognise 'Outstanding Effort and Achievement in Year 9 Science.'

In October, Justine visited the CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford, for a site tour as well as the formal talk and presentation. In addition to her winner's certificate, Justine was presented with a number of books, chosen by her from a book list.

CHOCOLATE TREATS!

In October, Class 8MS worked hard in their English lessons on new design ideas for Thornton's chocolate wrappers. The group had studied packaging and decided it could be made much more enticing and attractive for younger children.

The Thornton's design team were very impressed with the results. So impressed, in fact, that they sent a big box of chocolates and toffees that brightened up English lessons, all the way until Christmas!

See the Gallery Pages for some of the design ideas.



MARY HARE FUNDRAISING WORK CONTINUES

Extract from a letter to Dr Tucker, from **Pesi Narielvala**, Oral School for the Deaf, Calcutta:

'Dear Ivan,

It seems almost trivial to keep on thanking you for your valuable help and support, but what else can I say other than 'Thank you very much indeed'. You were helpful in getting the materials for the earmould lab and how can I thank you only for your help on this occasion, when throughout the last several years we have drawn so heavily on your support and guidance.

We are now getting earmould orders and, thanks to you, we are in a position to fulfil them. Please do accept my very grateful regards and my cordial greetings.'

Dr Tucker says,

Mary Hare pupils have raised **£500** towards the cost of these materials with their own fundraising events so I must pass on my thanks to them. Our pupils continue to work in small ways to raise money for a variety of charities and they do a great job. I would love some of them to meet the children from Oral School in Calcutta. and maybe we should set that as a target for the future.

OTHER FUNDRAISING SUCCESS:

In November, Mary Hare school turned 'pink' for the day, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Day, raising money by choosing to model pink fashions or by buying pink cakes. Together with funds raised from a 'Swimathon' a massive **£700** was donated to the charity. Well done to all students (and staff) who took part and for whom pink is now a new regular addition to their wardrobe!

The post-Christmas 'blues' were put to good effect in January, when students and staff were asked to dress head to toe in blue to raise money for UNICEF. We were able to donate **£130** to the charity, which was an excellent result .

For pictures of those who embraced our 'Pink' and 'Blue' days wholeheartedly, see the Gallery Pages.

Friends of Mary Hare

In September we were delighted to welcome a special visitor, **Mrs Alexandra Blunt**, to Mary Hare School. Mrs Blunt had a special interest in looking around the school and was especially keen to see the portrait of Miss Mary Hare in the Manor House Reception.

Although Mrs Blunt has lived in the Newbury area for many years, as a young girl she lived in Burgess Hill, West Sussex and still retained strong childhood memories of seeing Miss Mary Hare, who opened her first school in the town.

She told us how she walked past Miss Mary Hare's school every day, on the way to her own school. She would watch the young pupils, accompanied by their teachers, travelling down the lane in carts pulled by nanny-goats! Mrs Blunt said that, at five years old, she was always envious of the Mary Hare children and longed to have a ride in the carts herself!

There were also memories of princes and princesses, from royal families all over the world, who were cared for by Miss Mary Hare during her time at Burgess Hill.

Mrs Blunt was given a tour around the school, meeting some of the students and staff, including school Principal, Dr Tucker. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed meeting Mrs Blunt and listening to her fascinating stories about the origins of Mary Hare School.

Mrs Blunt was equally delighted to see how the school has now developed – although she has lived in the area for many years, she had never had the chance to visit the school before and very much enjoyed the whole afternoon. Her kind donation of some toys was passed on to the Primary School for our younger pupils to enjoy.



Mrs Blunt remembers Miss Mary Hare

WHO REMEMBERS MARY ASKEW?

asks **Dr Tucker**

If you do, your recollection will probably be from the period when she worked here as a teacher and her husband, Jack, was Principal of Mary Hare School. This was also the time (around 1967) when I came to Mary Hare as a student teacher of the deaf, working in some of Mary's Maths classes.

Both Mary and Jack had a passion for helping deaf children to be successful and they were hard taskmasters with their student teachers, I can tell you! Jack presided over substantial growth in pupil numbers and undoubtedly built up the strength of the school, for others to follow.

When I became Principal, it was wonderful to renew my friendship with the Askews and to meet them in Inkpen, where they lived at the time. Jack passed away some time ago but Mary is still doing incredibly well, living in a nursing home in Devon, near her family. She will be 95 in June this year and still enjoys hearing from friends and former pupils.

Mary loved living in the Principal's house and used to regularly visit us here at Mary Hare. She still remembers the original layout of the house – even the colour of the carpets and her Rayburn cooker in the kitchen!

We have decided to give the Principal's house a proper name, to be added to its postal address and this will be Askew House. We are now waiting for a nice name plaque to be made. The photograph is a recent picture of Mary, taken with her three great grandchildren. If you would like to get in touch with Mary, you can send your letters directly to me and I will pass them on (unopened) to her. I am sure she would be delighted to hear from you!



Mrs Askew with her great grandchildren

'Disc World' Science comes to Mary Hare

Prize-winners and guests at **Speech Day** in November were amused and entertained by the talk given by this years Guest of Honour, **Professor Jack Cohen**.



Dr Tucker and Prof Cohen join the prize winners



Putting the 'science' into science fiction



Mr Ogus welcomes our guests



Presentation Time

Examination certificates were presented and prizes were awarded to students for their achievement and endeavour, not only in their academic studies, but also in music and dance, sport and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

In his opening address, Chairman of Governors, Mr Hugh Ogus, welcomed parents who had come to the prize giving from all over the UK. Mr Ogus reminded his audience how much Mary Hare has changed over the years. He pointed out that it was only a few years ago that Mary Hare consisted solely of the grammar school.

Since then Mary Hare has grown to include the Mary Hare Primary School as well as developing commercial businesses to support the charity. The school is also working in partnership with Oxford Brookes University to train audiologists and teachers of the deaf, and is involved in outreach work within the local community.

Before the actual awarding of prizes and examination certificates the summer leavers were treated to an entertaining and moving video record of moments of their school life from Year 7 to Year 13. Mr Ogus commented, "I hope you will see the remarkable journey the youngsters have been on in their time at Mary Hare." Each of the leavers was presented with a copy of the video sequence to take away with them.

Guest of Honour, Professor Cohen, previously a lecturer at Birmingham University, works in collaboration with fantasy science fiction writer Terry Pratchett. In his address he gave his audience plenty to think about as he quite literally conducted a chemical experiment as he spoke and made every one wonder about the nature and existence of aliens in the universe!

Professor Cohen also had pupils speculating on quite what the world might have been like if a meteorite had not wiped out the dinosaurs. Would intelligent dinosaurs have evolved?



Presentation Time



Friends Reunited at Speech Day 'Afternoon Tea'

Life on the catwalk

In October, Mary Hare pupils took the fashion world by storm for the second year running, when they appeared in a fundraising fashion show at Newbury Racecourse, in aid of the Newbury Weekly News 'Over 80's Christmas Parcel Fund'.

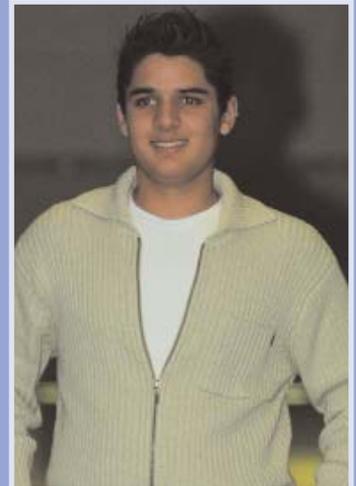
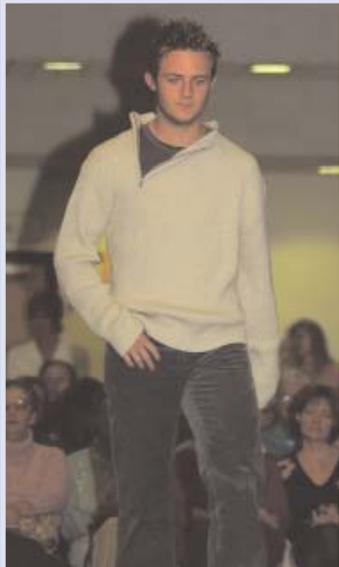
The fashion show was organised and sponsored by local businesses but special thanks must go to **Hilary Shopland** from the Manor House care staff, for her overall management of the event.

Over fifty Mary Hare pupils, girls and boys, took part in the event alongside pupils from local schools Park House and St. Bartholomew's in Newbury.

As always, the pupils awed their audience with their slick sophistication, once out of uniform and dressed to impress.

Justine Durno said of the event, 'The atmosphere was buzzing and everyone was really friendly. We all enjoyed ourselves, strutting our stuff, raising money, making new friends and going to bed late!'

Hattie Bowden echoed this sentiment, 'We were all doing our bit for charity and I could see that everyone was enjoying it. The atmosphere was friendly, many people made new friends - it was brilliant fun. Thanks to Hilary who organised it!' We will let the pictures tell the story...we are off to the shops!



Fighting for justice

The name **Ian Stillman** may be familiar to many readers. In August 2000, Ian, a deaf charity worker, was wrongfully arrested and subsequently imprisoned in India for twenty-seven months – 829 days to be precise.

Last December, senior Mary Hare students were able to listen to Ian's story at first hand when he visited the school, accompanied by his wife Sue. Ian has family connections with the Mary Hare, as his grandmother was one of the first pupils to attend Mary Hare School.

At the time of his arrest Ian was in India where he had lived for nearly thirty years. He was working for the Nambikkai Foundation, which he set up with his wife in 1978. This Foundation is a charitable organisation offering support and training for deaf girls and boys.

Ian explained that one evening he was travelling by taxi in the Kullu Valley, in the foothills of the Himalayas. The taxi was stopped for a security check and Ian was arrested when twenty kilos of cannabis resin was found in a bag, supposedly belonging to him - Ian had never seen the bag before.

He thought everything would be sorted out very quickly, but he was wrong. He had to wait in jail for eight months and when his case did come to court and he was convicted, the judge said he would be in jail for a further ten years.

Ian was refused a sign language interpreter for his trial, which was conducted in Hindi. Ian told us that he felt like a cardboard cutout in court; he could not speak, he could not understand - he just stood there. The judges also suggested at one point that Ian was not in fact deaf at all.

Ian explained that Indian jails are very different to British ones. During his imprisonment he was in three different jails, the second and third being a little better than the first. They are very crowded and in this particular region they are very cold, due to the altitude. Finally, after tireless campaigning by his family, the British High Commission and many other supporters, Ian was released.

Ian said that if he had not been a Christian, he might have gone crazy during this time. He explained that he now has a much greater awareness of the human condition and would like to help prevent this kind of thing ever happening again. In the meantime, Ian and Sue's son is helping to carry on the work of The Nambikkai Foundation. Further details about the work of the Foundation can be obtained from the following address:

Project Director
Nambikkai Foundation
PB No 2, Palavoor 627 121
Tirunelveli
Kattabomman Dt, Tamil Nadu
India

Dr Tucker commented after Mr Stillman's visit:

'Ian came over to me as a gentle person, yet someone with a piercing intellect and great determination. It is very sad that his life's work in India - helping very poor deaf people - should be brought to a close so brutally. He and Sue must be so proud that their son is carrying on the work and I know that Sue is returning to India early in 2004.

I am sure that there are ways that we at Mary Hare can help them. We will be offering a placement for a speech therapist from the Nambikkai project here at the school and I am sure that our 'Charity Group' will come up with plenty of other fundraising ideas.'



ART & DESIGN

ESTHER'S EXPERT ADVICE



Former pupil **Esther Maycock** popped into the Art department in the Autumn term and brought her art portfolio with her. Esther graduated from Surrey Institute of Art and Design last summer with a First Class Honours Degree in Graphic Design. She was able to discuss her projects with students and explain the expectations and demands of the course.

We were extremely impressed with Esther's work and always welcome former pupils who are able to give invaluable advice to our sixth form students. The photograph shows Esther discussing her work with some of the sixth form.

We recently had news of another excellent achievement by former pupil **Richard Dougherty**. Richard studied architecture at Queens University, Belfast and graduated in the summer with a Distinction. He is now working for an architectural firm in Belfast.

IT'S IN THE BAG!

by **Mrs Barton**

Earlier this year, Year 8 students were given two pieces of plain white fabric and asked to make a bag.

The students spent a lot of time experimenting with different methods of dyeing and printing. They researched, evaluated and made decisions about the project, producing some very impressive written work, before working on their final design.



The bags were all extremely colourful, individual and very successful. Some can now be seen disappearing down the school corridors and I hope the ones that went home are also in constant use!

I would like to say 'Well Done' to all of Year 8 who worked on the bags and I look forward to next year's Textiles project.

VISIT TO LOCAL ARTIST STUDIO

In September the artist Nick Schlee kindly invited our Year 13 Art students to visit his studio in Upper Basildon. Nick is an established artist who has exhibited in different galleries throughout England and America. **Aysin Halil, Rebecca Vaughan** and **Michael Brown** were lucky enough to see examples of Nick's latest work, which had recently been on exhibition at Christ Church Gallery in Oxford.

Nick works in oil paint and is inspired by the local landscape. By working on the beginnings of a painting he was able to demonstrate his techniques to the students. He sketches outside and from these drawings develops charcoal studies to help establish tone and composition. From these smaller studies he works to a larger scale in oils.

Nick's studio is an inspiration. Tables are encrusted with oil paint and his pictures are stacked high. He works quickly using observation and memory to record the changing colours of the landscape.

Aysin, Michael and Rebecca have been developing their own drawing skills further by attending Life Drawing classes at New Greenham Arts in Newbury. The picture shows Nick working on a painting in his studio.



ELECTRONIC COMMISSION

The Art department recently worked with Barclays Global Investors to create an electronic Christmas card that was sent to employees and clients of the company.

The winning designs were based on a Winter Landscape theme and were created using collage prints by some of our Year 10 and Year 12 students. We were able to liaise with the company who helped to transfer the collages into digital images with the help of their in-house graphic designer.

Sannah Gulamani added one of her musical compositions, which plays as the images show one by one. We would like to thank Barclays Global Investors who were kind enough to give us this opportunity to experiment with new technologies.

Barclays Global Investors are donating a sum of money to the Art Department, which will be used to fund an artist in residence.

ART & DESIGN

RESISTANT MATERIALS

Project Evaluation by **Lee Green**

My product meets the design brief, as it is a bottle opener! The finished product function also works as we have tried it on a bottle. I have learned a new skill of working with metal and how to hold pieces hard together without getting them pulled apart. I have also learned to use a new tool called a pop rivet, to hold the plastic on to the metal. I worked safely all the way through the project.

I did not find the project difficult, but I got scared when the teacher used the rivet gun to punch the pop rivets - it cracked two pieces of plastic. If I started again I would not change anything about the product, but I have changed one of the pictures as it was about Arsenal again - now it's about Aldershot.

I did enjoy making it because it is going to help me open all the bottled drinks I have at home instead of using my hands and cutting myself. I have now finished the work on plastic and metal and will now maybe move on to using wood.



Testing the product function

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



In the autumn term art students from Years 10,11 and 13 visited the National Portrait Gallery to see its permanent collection. The photograph shows some keen students sketching in Trafalgar Square during their lunch break.

ART AT ARLINGTON LABORATORIES

Staff and pupils in the Art Department have been busy creating artistic images of earmoulds, to help raise the profile of the valuable work done at Arlington Laboratories.

Earmoulds made today are so colourful that they lend themselves to all sorts of artistic interpretations. Some of the images have already been enlarged and framed and others will be used in promotional literature for Arlington Laboratories. See the Gallery Pages for examples of our creativity!

EXHIBITION AT NEW GREENHAM ARTS

In the summer term of 2003, Year 10 Art students exhibited their work at New Greenham Arts Centre, Newbury along with other Primary and Secondary schools in West Berkshire.

The exhibition was attended by the artist Peter Randall Page, the sculptor who was recently commissioned by Newbury Town Council to create a water and granite sculpture for Newbury lock



Looking around the exhibition

INTERNATIONAL RENOWN

Back in 2002, Miss McKenna visited a school for the deaf in Tokyo, Japan. She was asked to take with her some samples of our pupils' artwork and these were entered into an international art competition.

Three Mary Hare students were awarded prizes and their work has been exhibited in Japan, alongside work by students from all over the world.

Congratulations go to the following pupils who received certificates and a pack of art materials, in recognition of the high standard of their work and its contribution to international friendship: **Justine Durno** (Silver Award), **David Hay** (Bronze Award) and **Michael Brown** (Bronze Award).

We are planning to submit more work for the next International Children's Art Exhibition, so watch this space for stories of more success!

Gallery Gallery Gallery Galle



Year 8 Artwork



Year 10 GCSE Work



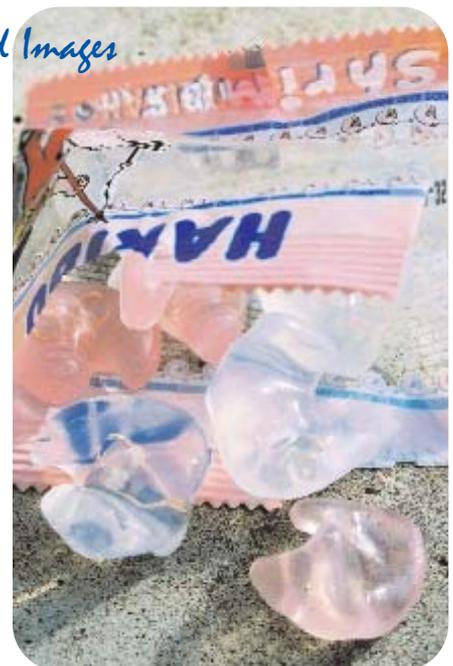
Michael Brown



Pink Day

Earmould Images

Charlotte Scott



Gallery Gallery Gallery Galle

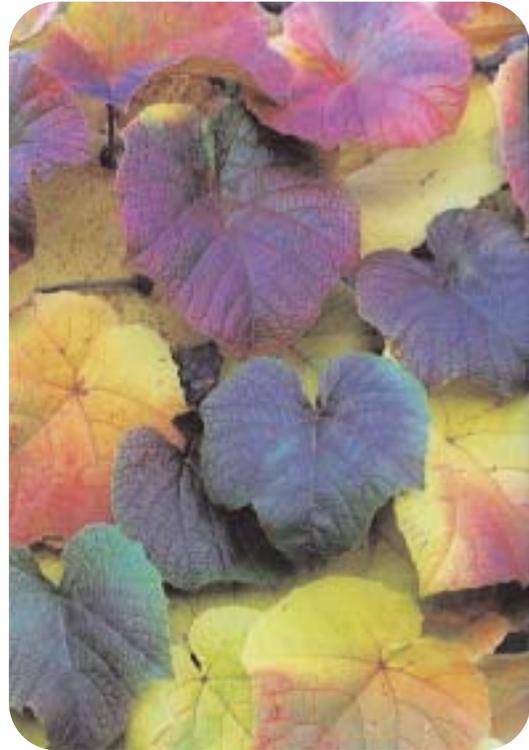
Blue Day



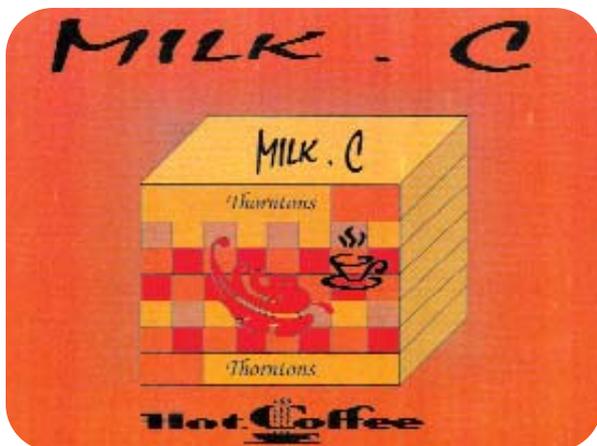
Seeta Manjeshwar



Earmould Images



Ewan Edmonson



Year 8 Design Work

THE PERFECT INDULGENCE

Rich, creamy chocolate, made to make you better. One bite and your addicted to the sweet taste of love! The all new irresistible chocolate bar from Thorntons's.



Best eaten when sipping a cappuccino. Be daring while you have a chance.



MUSIC & DANCE

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

by **Sannah Gulamani**



Sannah receives the good news

The 3rd of December was an important day for me. Not only was I taking my Grade 7 exam on the flute, but I also needed this qualification to do a Music course at University. I was extremely nervous on the day and tried to do a few warm-up exercises before I went in. I had to play three pieces – two accompanied by the piano and one solo piece, as well as other musical pieces. I played 'Cantilena' by Poulenc, 'Sonata in G' by Haydn and the solo piece was called 'Jade'.

Taking the Grade 7 exam requires a lot of hard work and I had to practise for a maximum of three hours each day, to make sure my tone had not slipped. You have to inject a lot of 'musical' playing to ensure a good pass as well. Scales were an important feature of the exam and you had to play them at a certain, quick speed - I had to learn over seventy scales of Minor, Major and Arpeggios! I also had to do sight-reading and aural tests, including rhythmic examples to test my knowledge.

When the results came out, I was ecstatic to find out that I had passed, knowing what a hard standard it was to achieve. I hope to continue playing and even achieve Grade 8 in the future at university. At the moment I am continuing with my A Level Music and practising my repertoire for my A2 Music recital. Achieving Grade 7 enables my playing to be judged at the same level as hearing players, which will be important for me in the future.

SUMMER STAGE SCHOOL

by **Helen Willis**

In the summer holiday, I went back to school - Stage School! I joined a theatre workshop for young people aged between 11 and 18 and we worked on scenes from 'Grease' and 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. We had just a week to learn all of the songs, dances and lines before giving a performance to about 100 people (parents, friends and family) at the Reading Arts Centre.

I got a shock when I went into my first dance class – it was being taught by Johnnie from 'HearSay'. Now that the group has broken up, he has extra time and he wanted to come back and teach at the school where he

trained to be a singer. He was really nice – encouraging and patient when we got it wrong. He went through everything with us until we got really confident.

The singing was the real problem. I just can't sing in tune, but I got very good at miming and just made sure I didn't volunteer for a solo! On the final day, it was frantic backstage, with everyone having to do quick costume changes and having panic attacks about their solo parts. Luckily, the performance went very well and I managed to remember all of my words. Johnnie said he used to mime to lots of his songs on stage too, so I was in good company!

FEATHERS AND FIZZ!

In January, Mary Hare School's Senior Band helped to raise funds and awareness for the charity 'Sign', by performing at the 'Feathers and Fizz' Ball to celebrate the charity's 18th birthday.

'Sign' is a specialist national charity, which provides residential and day services for deaf people with mental health problems and our musicians were only too pleased to be involved. Staff and students took the opportunity to dress glamorously for the 'black tie' occasion and were able to join the guests for the special dinner, at the Phyllis Court Club, Henley on Thames.

The band played two sets of five pieces each during the evening. Both the organisers and the invited audience thoroughly enjoyed their contribution and showed their appreciation by presenting the players with a celebration birthday cake!

When asked what the band had thought of the occasion, music teacher Margaret Ellwood said, 'They loved it!'



Band members: **Harry Allen, Inde Johal, Justine Durno, Sannah Gulamani, Fiona Biggs, Louise Saunders, Hattie Bowden, Kirsty Day, Rebecca Withey, Sam Calder and Frankie Roberts.**

MUSIC & DANCE

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION DELIGHTS FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

Parents and friends were thrilled by the 2003 Christmas Production at Mary Hare School. This year's production was called 'Katz' (no relation to the West End musical!), which followed the nine lives of a cat, with the lead role played by the multi-talented **Rebecca Withey**, who will be going on to study Dance and Choreography at university this year.

Pupils from every year sang, danced and acted in a variety of set pieces devised by music teacher and show director, Mrs Christine Rocca. There were many highlights: **Daniel Hopkinson** and **Fatima Niemogha** starred in a drama piece that evoked memories of 'West Side Story' and **André Hedger**, **Andrew Cochrane** and **Emma Hampson** were hilarious in a tribute to the Sixties.

Inderjit Johal led a beautifully choreographed Indian dance, whilst **Alysha Allen** and **Frankie Roberts** had their audience joining in with their 'rap' number. The show ended with a powerful rendition of 'Beautiful' performed by **Georgia Dalton** and a moving dance duet by **Paul Gardner** and **Rebecca Withey**.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the performance – we can't wait to see what you have in store for us this year!



Andre Hedger gets carried away!



Let's not forget the backstage crew!

FOLLOWING THE STAR AT MILL HALL

At the end of the Christmas Term, parents and guests enjoyed watching the Primary School pupils take part in a dramatisation of the Christmas story entitled 'Follow the Star'. The production opened with an eager group of farmyard animals preparing to follow the star to Bethlehem.

The audience was treated to a lively musical number after the Emperor, **Martha Brownlow**, discovered that her country was in dire need of an up to date census. The census complete, the census officer, **Sean Ratcliffe**, amused the audience and shocked the Emperor by announcing a total of 47 citizens! The actual figure turned out to be 4,794.

A hilarious dance sequence followed, including a great dustpan and brush number, as boys and girls alike cleaned up and prepared to welcome visitors to the inn. Busy as he was with his Hoover, one helper could not resist a happy wave to his mum!

Although Mary and Joseph - played by **Georgina Lofthouse** and **Jack Moodie**, were turned away from the inn, a concerned Joseph was able to persuade the innkeeper to find them a place in the stable.

An enthusiastic group of shepherds then set off with a rousing song, having been told by the Angel Gabriel to 'follow the star'. They met with the Wise Men and all the farmyard animals at the stable in Bethlehem for a confident final number.

Special thanks must go to the musicians and teachers from Mary Hare School for producing the music and dance numbers and accompanying the performance. Our congratulations also go to the pupils for their wonderful achievement and to all the staff for their hard work, in making the production such a success.



Starry Nights

GONE IN A FLASH! Report by Year 7

At 6.30 on the evening of Wednesday 5th November, we started to get ready for Mr Gale's fantastic fireworks on the field behind Jean Carnarvon Hall. It was cold but dry; some of us wore coats, woolly hats and gloves; some of us were big and brave and only wore jumpers (and shivered later!).

We all paid £1.00 and the profit of **£83** was sent to Dr Tucker's charity. At Carnarvon Hall, we were able to buy hot chocolate, squash, beefburgers and hotdogs, which were served by the busy Sixth Form students.

At 7.00 pm the fireworks began. Mr Gale could be seen from a distance, running back from the fireworks after lighting them! There were colourful electric blue explosions, an orange, red and green 'Catherine Wheel' and lots of exploding showers of colour.

Some of the fireworks sounded like guns going off, some screeched with a high-pitched whistle and some exploded with a huge bang. The display lasted for about twenty minutes and then Mr Gale reappeared from the bottom of the field looking very sooty! As we walked back to Howard House, we could still see flashes in the sky, from other firework celebrations. 'It was short, but brilliant!' said Ben. 'It hurt my ears!' grumbled Karina. 'It was phenomenal!' declared Max and 'Really good fun!' according to Roger. Year 7 produced some firework safety leaflets as a timely reminder to have fun but keep safe. Have a look at some of their ideas on the Gallery Pages.



Firework Fans

OSCAR NIGHT 2003



'Oscar Night' in November was a dazzling affair, brilliantly organized by students **Erika Jones**, **Philippa Merricks**, **Adam McCormick** and **Sam Calder**. Pupils dressed elegantly for the occasion and sat grouped around tables in Dulverton Hall, where they were plied with food and drink, with excellent waiter service.

Philippa Merricks and **Andrew Cochrane** were our main hosts for the evening – Philippa kept proceedings under control, whilst Andrew demonstrated that he is a compere with a line in ad-libbing to rival Mr Marlow!

The making of the beautiful golden 'Oscar' masks, was organised by Sam, using a variety of Year 10 and 11 faces as models!

Oscars were awarded for a range of skills and attributes. These included **Hannah Whalley** (Cutest Pupil),

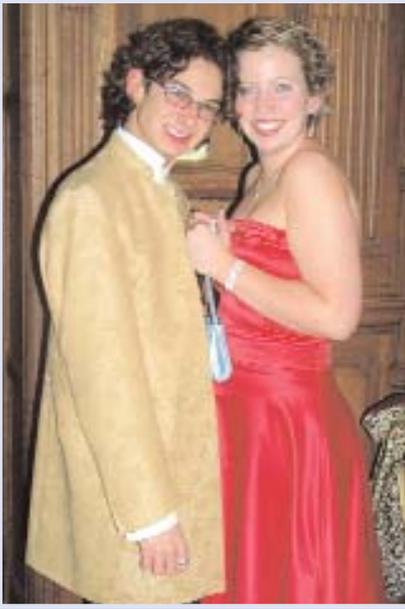
Andrew Cochrane (Funniest Pupil), **Mrs Wylie** (Best Listener) and **Mr Treasure** (Cleverest Teacher).

Rebecca Withey and **Fiona Biggs** provided entertainment during the interval, with a 'Grease' sing-along, which had the stage vibrating. Another class act was provided by Mr Gale, who sang a pun-packed 'In My Garden of Love'. As an encore, he then dragged staff 'volunteers' on to the stage for a brave rendition of 'Summer Loving'.

Lucky winners in the raffle collected prizes ranging from teddy bears to massage oil and the evening closed with a speech of thanks from Hilary Shopland, which was so long that Andrew pretended to doze off on stage!

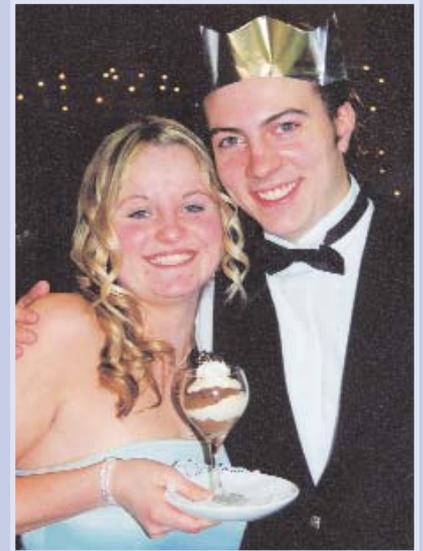
Not only was it was a great night but an tremendous **£650** was raised for Children in Need, so thank you to everyone who supported the occasion!

Winter Ball



The Mary Hare Winter Ball took place in January, in the baronial Great Hall of Mary Hare Primary School. The students organised the entire event themselves, with support from Louise Osborn (Head of Sixth Form Care).

The students looked stunning in evening dress, with some of our Irish and Scottish boys wearing kilts in the family tartan to celebrate the occasion.



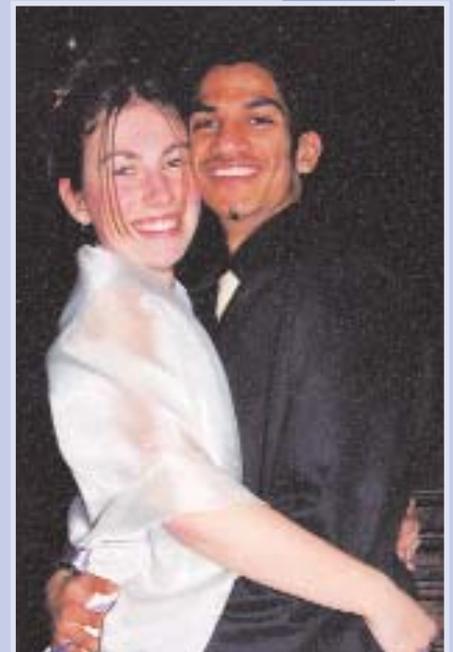
The evening began with a welcome drink followed by a delicious three-course meal, selected by the ball committee: **Aliya Gulamani, Kimberley Vaughan Seymour, Martin Kenyon** and **Chris Wightman**.

After dinner, special thanks were given to the committee, to Louise Osborn and to Rachel Cheer who made a photographic record of the event. Birthday cakes were also presented to Louise and **Rachel Watkins** who both had something extra to celebrate that night!



After dinner, everyone took to the dance floor for the disco before returning to school just after midnight.

It was a glittering affair and we are sure that the photographs will speak for themselves...



Speaking and Listening

YOUTH SPEAKS

In November, Mary Hare School hosted the Thatcham and District Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' Competition, for the third year running. The competition seeks to foster the verbal skills required in presenting a convincing point of view to an audience. Teams entering the competition have the opportunity 'to formulate ideas on significant subjects, in a timed situation' and to present these ideas in the forum of a public meeting.

This year, four junior teams and three senior teams entered the competition from Trinity School, Kennet School and Mary Hare. Each team consisted of three students; the Chair, the main speaker and the vote of thanks.

Representing Mary Hare in the junior team were **Katie Bonné**, **Adam Watson** and **Scott MacDougal**. Their talk, 'Let them Board', was a positive and amusing account of boarding school life and we may have a few more applications to Mary Hare on the strength of it!

In the senior section, **Hattie Bowden**, **Inde Johal** and **Justine Durno** won a well-deserved 'Runners Up' prize with their witty consideration of modern television viewing, 'Seven Hundred Channels and Still Nothing to Watch!' In spite of this declaration, it was amazing to discover the confessed viewing hours of our team - what do they find to watch and when do they do their prep?!

The presentations were all of a very high standard, throughout the competition. The whole evening was great fun, with the teams making their audience laugh and think. The Mary Hare teams would like to say a special 'Thank You' to Mr Gale, who seriously curtailed his own television viewing in order to help them rehearse!



Taking a break between role-play sessions

In November, students in Years 8 to 10 worked with the group 'Learning in Action'. The group, who have visited the school before, is a charitable organisation which delivers training on a range of topics.

The day began with a role-play session on 'Bullying', for the younger pupils. The group demonstrated just how wide-reaching bullying can be, from criticism of dress, hairstyle, attitudes to study, other people's homes or other people's relationships with their parents. The group demonstrated how easily we can hurt and undermine one another by not respecting other people for what they are.

LEARNING THROUGH ACTION

Discussion was animated and pupils were very involved in the question and answer session that followed. One of the conclusions reached by pupils during the discussion was that criticism of others is often fuelled by jealousy.

The presentation to Year 10 concentrated on 'Peer Mentoring'. This showed how pupils themselves can help one another, drawing attention to the idea that often pupils prefer to talk to other pupils about a problem, rather than to "interfering" adults. Students worked in pairs and were encouraged to LISTEN to their partner, who was asked to reveal a little information about themselves.

The group then demonstrated, through role-play, how a bad listener often responds to a friend's problems by talking about their own.

Georgia Dalton was asked to show how a friend should behave and students discussed a sympathetic solution. Mrs Wylie, who organised the visit, said, 'The students gained a great deal from the day, they were enthusiastic, well motivated and are looking forward to formalising a peer support programme for Mary Hare.'

A pupil mentoring scheme is now in place at Mary Hare - see students **Hattie Bowden** or **Inde Johal** for more information.

TESTING OLD-FASHIONED SWEETS

by **Helen Willis**

In the book 'Boy' by Roald Dahl, he mentions the confectioner's shop and how he would spend all of his money on sweets, so we decided to test some and see what they tasted like. We tried old-fashioned sweets such as 'Tonsil Ticklers' (Fisherman's Friends), Sherbet Lemons, Strawberry Bon-Bons, Liquorice Allsorts and Pear Drops.

First, was the Strawberry Bon-Bon. It looked like a hard pink ball with white powder sprinkled all over it. I put it in my mouth, expecting it to be nice. I had a big shock as it was too sickly and the taste of strawberry was too strong. I decided to be brave and carry on chewing and it gradually became alright, so I swallowed. But the aftertaste was still there so Mrs Beckett got some water for us.

Next, we tried the Fisherman's Friend ('Tonsil Tickler'). I had been dreading this because a Year 9 pupil had informed me that it was disgusting. It smelled of liquorice and looked like a small brown disc. It felt hard and rough. When I tasted it, it was so horrible. It stung my tongue and certainly didn't tickle my tonsils! It was strong, acidic and tasted like medicine. The taste became unbearable, so I spat it out.

Thankfully, we tried Pear Drops next. The Pear Drop looked like a small yellow/red pear (living up to its name!). It felt rough and hard and I had difficulty biting it, but it tasted okay, like strong pear with a slight hint of nail varnish.

We tested Liquorice Allsorts next. I asked Mrs Beckett for advice as to which one tasted the best. She suggested the one that looked like a blue pebbly stone. It smelled of turpentine and felt rough, hard and bumpy. It tasted horrendous but I decided to be brave and carried on chewing and swallowing it. It tasted like nail varnish and turpentine put together – Ugh!

I was so glad when it was time to taste Sherbet Lemons. This tasted really nice and lemony. The minute you bite, this fizzy juice comes out. It was rather sticky and it was hard to bite it. I smelled it, but there was no smell whatsoever. It looked like a yellow diamond.

Mrs Beckett wanted to record the lesson, so she gave us all another Pear Drop and took a photo. There were some spare Sherbet Lemons, so we took one each at the end of the lesson and ate it at break time.



Pear Drops come under the scrutiny of the test panel

OXFORD BOOK CONFERENCE

by **Adam Watson**

In November, I was invited to a Book Conference in Oxford. I had previously gone to the award ceremony in London and so I dressed up in smart clothes and off I went.

We arrived at the Oxford University Press centre and were given a bag of free books and magazines, all due to be released in 2004/5, so I was amongst the first members of the public to read them! I was the only young person there, but it didn't matter as we all had one thing in common – a love of children's books. After tea and biscuits we listened to a talk by John Foster, a poet who read some of his funny poems and did a rap about how bad a boy was. I loved it – the whole thing was hilarious and the room was in stitches.

We then had a discussion as to why books go out of print and also had talks by various authors, such as Philip Gross, who wrote the bestseller 'Going for Stone'. He talked about his soon to be released novel, 'The Lasting', which I have started reading and it looks very promising!

We had a buffet lunch and then a talk by Helen Pielichaty, who writes books about teenage girls. She spoke to me later and asked for my help in writing a book about a deaf girl in a mainstream school and the problems she faced. My experience at my old school was the sort of thing she was looking for and we have now set up contact, in case she needs any more advice or has questions to ask. At the end of the afternoon, there was a cake to celebrate the Oxford Book Group's tenth birthday.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish them a happy birthday and to thank everyone who made it possible for me to go to such a brilliant event.

SPORTS NEWS

LTA – DISABILITY AWARENESS COURSE

by **Elizabeth Pearson**

Last July, a group of pupils went on a tennis-coaching course in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. We were all very excited to be learning new things and meeting new people. We piled out of the minibus and we made our way to the inside tennis courts, where we were taken for a warm-up and, believe me, after that we were all very warm!

We started to 'rally' with each other. I was with Laila – she kept hitting the ball everywhere and making me run. I found that very challenging but good fun. I started to play with Beth, then with Michael Barber.

Then, former Mary Hare pupils, Bryan and Fiona, came and introduced themselves. They were there to train the tennis coaches in deaf awareness and they told us to ask the coach questions if we did not understand. There were twelve coaches to help nine of us!

We were put into groups to play singles and doubles. Then we played a game together where we all lined up at one end and someone was 'Champion'. The 'Champion' fed us all balls and we had to hit them back over the net. If we hit it out, we had to go around the net and try and catch the ball.

At the end, I was sad to leave because I was having fun, but all good things must come to an end! I hope we go again sometime.

Pupils who took part:

Alex Simmons, Beth Simmons, Laila Doobeh, Elizabeth Pearson, Asha Hylton, Edward Cliff, Jonathan Chambers, Carmen Suen, Hattie Bowden, Kirsty Day, Hamish Roberts, Sam Arnold, Michael Hadley and Michael Barber.

MARY HARE HOCKEY SQUAD

Match Reports by **Philippa Merricks**

At the end of September, players from Years 10 and 11 went to play the Kennet School. We were all nervous, because it was our first match and also we were not used to playing on grass. We played really well in the first half, defending and attacking well and even when Kennet scored the first goal, we didn't lose confidence.

In the second half, we swapped a few players. We defended well and came close to scoring many times. When the final whistle blew, we had only lost 1 – 0. The Kennet School team had four players who played for the county, so we felt we had done well.

The next day, we played against St Gabriel's School. No goals were scored in the first half and we played really well, although we gave the other team about four short corners, due to our heavy feet! In the second half, we had lots of chances and finally, Clare Halliday scored one beautiful goal, right through the keeper's feet! We were over the moon, but there was still two minutes to go before full-time so we carried on attacking with all our might. The whistle blew, we screamed with joy – we had won our first match of the season!

Thank you to Miss Colby and Mrs Harris for taking us to the matches and to all the players who took part:

Philippa Merricks, Erika Jones, Louise Saunders, Alex Simmons, Beth Simmons, Inde Johal, Pembe Alp, Hattie Bowden, Clare Halliday, Justine Durno, Rebecca Vinall, Carmen Suen, Holly Lane and Kirsty Day.

TENNIS IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS

by **Beth and Alex Simmons**

With a whole bunch of British players (and no Mums and Dads!) we left at the start of the summer holidays, for ten days of tennis in Southern Austria. We stayed in a very impressive hotel, only five metres from a huge lake and close to the tennis courts. This meant we could get up at the last minute for the 15-metre walk along the lake.

On the first day, we were anxious about the draw for the competition and were disappointed that only three countries were playing in the women's tournament, Great Britain, Austria and Germany. As the tournament lasted ten days, we were to play each team twice.

The first two days were spent in training. Alex, who had forgotten how to play on red clay, slipped, tripped over and rolled down the court. We looked at her and stood there, smiling.

Alex couldn't understand why we were so unsympathetic, until our coach, Julie, said, 'Wow! You look fantastic with a red tan! This would look brilliant if it were on both arms and legs!'

The International Tennis tournament rules do not allow players to wear hearing aids during the matches, but we could talk to the coaches during the breaks – about tennis or other subjects too! There was a 'rest day' in the middle of the tournament, when some people went on a boat trip across the lake or, like us, sunbathed nearby.

In the second round of the tournament, the girls' team won ALL of their matches and, for the first time, Great Britain won! We were all given medals while we held up the British flag.

SPORTS NEWS

MARY HARE BASKETBALL

Report by team coach, **Mr Owen**

The Mary Hare basketball team has set the Newbury Under-16 League alight this term and are now perfectly placed to lift the title for the first time ever. In their first full season they have exceeded all expectations and their achievements, despite adversity, have been truly remarkable. This year they entered their first full season in a long established league against schools with many more boys to choose from and in the knowledge that they could only play away fixtures, (with nowhere suitable for matches on the Mary Hare site).

THE TEAM

Timothy Quigley	Shooting Guard
Ryan Marshall	Point Guard
Matthew Everett	Shooting Guard
Louis Francis	Forward/Guard
Thomas Giddens	Forward
Harry Allen	Forward
Ken Emezie	Centre



THE GAMES SO FAR

THE CLERE (away)

The Clere School has a long tradition for having good basketball teams. Their current team has been runner up in the Newbury League and Cup for the last three years and so their experience and skill would prove a massive test to the Mary Hare 'new boys'.

The match began as a tight encounter with the Clere taking advantage of a nervous Mary Hare team to go into an early lead. A time out was needed which settled the Mary Hare team who began to play and baskets from Ken and Harry saw them go into a lead at the half time break. In the 3rd and 4th quarters baskets from Ken, Tim, Ryan and Louis kept them just out of reach until a late surge from the Clere team pulled the lead back to just one point. It wasn't enough and Mary Hare had beaten the Clere, WOW!!!!!! **Mary Hare: 22 - Clere: 21 (Scorers – Ken , Harry, Tim, Ryan and Louis)**

THE HURST (away)

The 'BIG ONE!' The Hurst school is my old team, who had won the League and Cup double comfortably, for the last three years. Surely this game was beyond Mary Hare? Despite their recent morale-boosting win, our boys were nervous before the game. They knew they were massive 'underdogs' but were determined to do well. After a team talk, their shout of 'TEAM' completely drowned out the Hurst shout as they walked onto court.

If the Hurst boys were expecting an easy win they were in for a shock. The intensity of the Mary Hare defence completely disabled the opposition's offence and they looked confused and at a complete loss as to what to do about it. Brilliant defence from Ryan and Matthew harried their shooters and inside they were completely shut down by Harry and Louis. Even when they did find a way through and managed a shot on basket, Ken at centre made some outstanding blocks to deny them.

The action was end to end with baskets from Ken and Harry giving Mary Hare a half time lead of 6pts. In the 3rd and 4th quarters the game was still close but the Hurst began to pull back with a couple of fast break baskets. Ken was again the main scorer with Louis also getting a basket and with brilliant team defence and the superb rebounding of Tom and Harry, Mary Hare were managing to stay just out of reach. Two points down, the Hurst team threw everything at the Mary Hare basket and the last two minutes were nerve racking and frantic but the team managed to cling on to a memorable victory, AMAZING!!!!!!

As the final whistle went a huge cheer went up and the boys could barely believe what they had just accomplished. They were all smiling for the rest of the week! **Mary Hare: 17 - Hurst: 15 (Scorers – Ken, Harry and Louis)**

KENNET SCHOOL (away)

The game against Kennet saw the Mary Hare team go into a match as favourites for the first time. This caused the boys to have a few nerves and this wasn't helped when they saw the size of the opposition - they were massive! Mary Hare went into an early lead but on offence they were missing too many easy baskets and again they relied on their superb defence and brilliant rebounding effort by Louis, Harry and Tom, against much bigger boys, to keep a narrow lead going into the second half. The third quarter went the same way as the first two, with Mary Hare squandering too many chances.

The fourth quarter started with the result still hanging in the balance. However to have achieved so much in their first season they were determined not to throw it away and they put everything into the final ten minutes. Their effort paid off and time and again they were able to stop the Kennet attack with brilliant 'hustle' defence at the top of the zone by Matthew and Ryan. On offence they finally began to find some rhythm and pulled away to win comfortably in the end.

Mary Hare: 17 - Kennet: 9 (Scorers – Ken, Harry and Tim)

SPORTS NEWS

CON POWELL TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

by **Kirilynn Gardner**

The first annual Con Powell Table Tennis Tournament took place this year in October 2003. Con loved table tennis (and so do many of you at Mary Hare) so, what a lovely way to remember such a kind and gentle man who spent many years with us at the school.

It was a great event, held over two evenings, with many spectators watching the gripping matches. Thanks go to **Ross Grant** and **Hamish Roberts**, who served thirsty customers with refreshments from the Youth Club. On the second evening, with a lot of good players going through, it was difficult to know who would win. A few players pulled out – maybe they recognised the tough competition!

The final, between **Thomas Giddens** and **David Hough** was a gripping one – I was hanging on to the edge of my seat!

David didn't start off too well, making a few mistakes, but soon pulled back for a nail-biting finish. He kept getting those balls past Thomas, who may have been quietly confident in the earlier stages.

When Thomas missed the last shot, David was declared the winner, winning by 14 points to 12! David was able to collect his prize at Speech Day in November and we send our congratulations to all the players who took part:

Max Thorne, Channing Peters, James Sorohan, David Hough, Adam McCormick, Thomas Giddens, Ammad Urrehaman, Lewis Martin, Peter Marshfield, Jonathan Chambers, Damien Peters, Chris Maher, Louis Francis, Harry Allen, Chris Drew, Ryan Marshall and Rowan Warnock.

MARY HARE FIRST XI GIRLS' FOOTBALL

by **Philippa Merricks**

Fed up with the inequality of boys playing football matches skilfully every week, many of the girls felt that their football skills were being wasted. So, the senior girls set up a new football team in 2003 and **Martine Laverty** and **Joanna Raper** organised our new weekly training programme. Our official training started in September and included a hard work out, led by **Ross Edwards** and **Saul Allison**, who mimicked Mr Gwynn's style of training - any mistake, or not listening to the young 'coaches' meant 10 press-ups! They treated us hard but well - no 'girlie' chattering was allowed!

Our first football match was against St Bartholomew's School, Newbury in November. Mr Gwynn, the referee, kept his eyes on the ball throughout the match. We played well in the first half but, unfortunately, by half time St Bart's was in the lead by 2-0. Mr Gwynn gave us a motivating talk on how we could improve our football. I came on in the second half as the goalkeeper. We played really well - we attacked and defended and certainly improved but, unfortunately, it was too late and we lost 2-0. We are determined to train hard and set up as many girls' football matches as possible, to keep up our skills. We could play in a football league for girls in Berkshire and maybe win the championship, so watch this space!

CROSS COUNTRY 2003

A Teacher's Perspective

Early in December, teachers **Sally Beckett** and **Sarah Lelaure** decided to start training for the age-old Mary Hare Christmas tradition – the cross-country race. Why? – because it seemed like a good idea at the time! Here's how they got on...



'Our biggest concern was being able to stick to the actual circuit, due to our shared (and much mocked) lack of navigational skills! However, help was at hand as Cheryl Colby, Head of PE, accompanied us from the start.

The first run took place on a bitterly cold day and should have been abandoned due to poor visibility – no, it wasn't foggy, we just couldn't see due to how much our eyes were streaming in the biting wind!

However, we persevered and even with a fair bit of walking in between the running, we completed the course in a respectable 20 minutes. A further three training sessions followed and running times got steadily faster, with completion time the day before the race standing at an impressive 17.42 minutes!

THE BIG DAY...Nerves set in immediately prior to the run itself – probably the thought of jostling for a place in the narrower areas of the track with the other 'senior girls'. It was tough going to say the least – and some pupils definitely didn't like being overtaken by their teachers!

Having so many marshals dotted around the course to cheer, clap and provide encouragement certainly helped, but there was no denying that the over-enthusiastic training session of the previous day had taken its toll. At last the finishing line was in sight – and we were absolutely delighted to discover that such pain had not been in vain, another 10 seconds had been sheared off our personal best, making completion time on the big day 17.32 minutes! A quick look at the results of the first three senior girls reveals plenty of room for improvement next year!

Christmas lunch at Mary Hare had never tasted so good!

Strangely, no photographs are available of Mrs Beckett and Mrs Lelaure! Our picture shows some of the boys making their way to the finish line.

SPORTS NEWS

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

What a spectacular day and what tremendous spirit. It never ceases to amaze that so many people take part in this competition and that everyone tries so hard. We are so lucky to have such beautiful school grounds and the weather was perfect for running. Praise is due to all pupils and staff who took part.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Junior Girls

1 st	Camilla Willis	12.51 minutes
2 nd	Karina Jemmott	14.22 minutes
3 rd	Sally-Ann Muller	14.41 minutes

Junior Boys

1 st	Jonathan Rogers	11.14 minutes
2 nd	Daniel Hopkinson	11.34 minutes
3 rd	Michael Hadley	11.49 minutes

Senior Girls

1 st	Beth Simmons	14.00 minutes
2 nd	Alex Simmons	14.01 minutes
3 rd	Pembe Alp	15.14 minutes

Senior Boys

1 st	Adam McCormick	18.43 minutes
2 nd	Ross Edwards	19.30 minutes
3 rd	Ryan Marshall	19.34 minutes

Certificates of Effort went to:

Lee Green, Carmen Suen, Katy McWiggan, Ben Sowden, Ross Grant, Adam Watson, Aeron Mazija, Rona Thorne, Dominic McNeil, Emily Galton, Jacob Willis and Jack Arnold.

Open Race

1 st	Louis Francis	11.33 minutes
2 nd	Christopher Drew	11.49 minutes
3 rd	Matthew Everett	11.52 minutes

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

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



ENGLAND CALL FOR MICHAEL

Mary Hare Head Boy and Newbury Colt **Michael Brown**, was called into the England deaf rugby squad for the international game against France in 2003.



Michael, who plays as winger, joined the England squad at Wolverhampton to prepare for the game, which was played at Fontainebleau.

Michael's selection may not have gone down well in one section of his family – he hails from Aberdeen, but has English and Scottish-born parents and has opted to wear white instead of blue. Here is his report of the experience:

'It was nerve wracking to be picked to play in the starting line up, but once I was on the pitch I was a lot calmer. It was a lovely sunny day and the grass was dry – perfect for playing rugby!

We started well but gave away a few penalties in the early stages of the match. This was the first game that the England team had ever played and so we were a bit shaky at times.

We managed to pull a few points back but were unable to hold the game against the mighty French team who were, after all, much more experienced than us. We finally lost the match 16-3, but it was great to be involved and I really enjoyed the experience'.

Further international games are certainly on the agenda Michael says, 'I hope to do an arts course in the future, which would enable me to stay in the area, but I also want to make it into semi-professional rugby, if I can.

Now I am concentrating on helping Newbury to make it into the seventh round of the national Plate competition, for the first time in their history.'



MEDAL HONOUR

Three local schoolteachers were honoured at the end of last year, for their services to soccer in local schools. **Mr Chris Gwynn** from Mary Hare School received a medal to mark 25 years' service to the school, which was presented by David Lailey of the English Schools Football Association.

TRIPS & OUTINGS

ON THE ABERDOVEY TRAIL

At the beginning of October, another brave Year 9 group set off for their Outward Bound adventure in Aberdovey, Wales.

Daniel Waller reports...

When we arrived, we carried our bags up the hill to our big room, where we were sorted into groups. Our first activity turned out to be the most interesting day for me – staying in a log cabin for the night. Our instructor, James, said, 'We are going to a wood in the middle of nowhere.' As we drove in the minibus we suddenly saw a strange wooden building – this was our 'cabin'.



Diving for the trapeze



Group Preparation Work

Hamish Roberts continues...

'We went out for a walk, in the dark, with no torches. It was scary but brilliant! Back in the hut, it was freezing – there was just a small stove for burning wood that we had collected.'

Michael Barber particularly enjoyed abseiling from the cliff top...

'I wanted to go first to get it over with, because I was really nervous. As I went down, I said to myself, 'I'm going to do it' and I did it! Yippee!'

Rebecca Clements had similar feelings about gorge-walking...

'We had to wear wetsuits, life jackets and helmets. My wetsuit had two holes in it, which let in the ice cold water. When we got up the hill, we had to plunge into a river full of rocks. We had three helpers, James, Reef and Robin, so we felt safe but it was freezing and there were big rocks everywhere. When we got back to the centre, we all had a hot shower.'

Other activities included canoeing, rock climbing and 'jetty jumping' into the harbour. The food was excellent and everyone slept like logs, after a hectic day's activities. Thanks go to Dr Rocca, for organising the trip, Miss Colby and Mr Marlow for having a go at all the activities and to Hilary Shopland from the Manor House care staff, who made everyone laugh, even when she was crying with the cold!



Jacob's Ladder



Abseiling



Rock Climbing

TRIPS & OUTINGS

YEAR 7 SCIENTISTS INVESTIGATE

by **Mr Treasure**



Pond Dipping at Snelsmore Common

To complement their studies of 'Classification' in Science, Year 7 went out and about during the winter term. The first trip was just across the road from the school to **Snelsmore Common**, a designated site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) where the wardens, Keith and Adrian, helped the students to rummage in the leaf litter for little beasties.

Then, after a picnic lunch shared with Keith's dog Poppy, the afternoon was spent pond-dipping and an amazing number of fish and even a little toad were caught.

On our return one student took the sign 'Take only memories, leave only footprints' a little too literally - his wellies were full of water and so he decided to go barefoot, leaving a trail of little wet footprints for the rest of us to follow!

Shortly afterwards, Year 7 was a bit more adventurous and took a coach trip to **Marwell Zoological Park**. We arrived just in time to catch the 'tractor train', which took us all around the park, so that we could get our bearings and plan our route. There were so many lovely, exotic and strange animals to see. The meercats were of special interest, with their young playing while the elders maintain a sentry duty. We soon learned the names of the whole of the giraffe family and were most impressed with the tigers and other big cats.

A great time was had by all, especially in the Education Centre, where we were allowed to handle the big stick insects, lizards and other unusual animals.

Finally we visited the shop to buy little presents for the family. These trips were memorable due to the exemplary behaviour of Year 7 and their thoughtful thank you cards and letters to all staff involved. So, 'Thank You' Year 7 - we thoroughly enjoyed being out and about with you.



Penguin spotting

YEAR 9 STEP BACK IN TIME

by **Mrs Whitehead** (with help from Year 9)

In September, Year 9 went to the Black Country Museum to experience life in the Victorian Age. The museum is no ordinary, boring museum – it is open air! The houses, buildings, shops, bridges and all sorts of other things are authentic, original, real!

The coalmine and the canal were actually worked in Victorian times. The other buildings have been moved, piece by piece, from their original location. There was lots to see, but here are some of the highlights:

The original sweet shop

Mrs Wylie was delighted! We were shown how sweets were made but were horrified to be told that many of the original colours and flavours were really poisons. We were a bit dubious when we were offered a free sample, but many of us overcame our fears.

The canal and a trip through the Dudley Tunnels

It was cold, smelly and the roof dripped. A few of us tried to 'leg' the canal boat through the tunnel, which is what they had to do before boats had motors on them. **Katie Bonné** did well - it must have something to do with her long legs!

The school

'Time to go to school' said our guide. We groaned. We thought we were here for a day out? However, this school was different to Mary Hare. There were slate boards to write on, sliding seats to sit on and a CANE for anyone who was naughty! Mr Marlow got into a lot of trouble because he could not recite his times tables. He had to stand in the corner for most of the lesson. We're glad they don't do that at Mary Hare!

The coal mine

Again it was dark, smelly, dusty, cold and wet. We had to wear special hard hats so that we did not hit our heads on the low ceilings. We found out about the hard lives of the miners, who spent many long hours working in dangerous conditions, for very little money - some of the miners were as young as five years old. Perhaps Mary Hare isn't such a bad life after all!



Waiting for the sweet shop to open!

TRIPS & OUTINGS

SPORTS STUDIES TRIP TO TWICKENHAM

by **Lisa Smith**



During our Sports Studies lessons, we had been discussing sport in the newspapers. We talked about whether rugby will be more popular than football, because England was doing so well in the Rugby World Cup. Mr Owen asked us if we would like to go to Twickenham Rugby Ground and we thought, 'Why not!'

At that time, England were through to the World Cup final and when England actually won, we really wanted to go and see the cup and find out more about the sport itself. Although we all wanted the chance to meet Jonny Wilkinson himself, unfortunately he wasn't there!

When we arrived, we couldn't believe how big the stadium was! We had a guided tour around the stadium, but the most exciting part was visiting the players' changing rooms. The guide told me where Jonny Wilkinson usually sits and I sat there straight away of course!

We then went through the players' tunnel, which you see on the television when the players are getting ready to go on to the pitch. It felt amazing to see the huge stadium from where the players stand on the ground. As you look round, you try imagine what it is like to have people everywhere, cheering you on.

Next we visited the museum and the guide told us that we were there on the last day that the World Cup was being displayed, so we rushed to see it – we were the first people from Mary Hare to see it and we were really pleased that the England team had worked so hard and won the cup. We all had a great time and would like to say 'Thank You' to Mr Owen for taking us on the trip.

MY VISIT TO TWICKENHAM

by **James Alexander**



On 6th September 2003, when England was playing France, my rugby club (Abbey) was invited to Twickenham, to play against Reading RFC before the big match. In the morning I was excited and ready to go - only sixteen of us could go and I was in the team!

First, we had to meet each other at Abbey's ground. We were expecting a coach to take us and we found a coach but no driver. So we had to go with our parents and we had to take a few boys in our car. We were also expecting our new kit, but it was late so we had to get it at Twickenham. Off we went - my heart was pounding fast but I got used to it. We had to stop and slow down a few times to wait for the other cars to keep up with us.

Finally we were at Twickenham with all our bags packed. I had to carry the ball bag, which was heavy! As we made our way to the ground, all I could hear was my team's studs going clump, clump and my dad talking to me and me asking questions all the way. We stopped at a fish and chip stall to have something to eat, then we headed to the gate for the West stand, but that was closed and so was the gate for the North stand. Then we got to the East stand gate and it was open!

Once we got in, we got our new kit. I felt impressed with it. Then we made our way to the changing rooms. This was a bit boring because we had to keep waiting and we were not allowed out of the changing rooms. We also had to keep doing rehearsals as well, for about an hour.

At 4'o clock was the fun bit, when all the players were arriving. Once, I stuck my head out of the door (when you weren't allowed to) and saw Martin Johnson and I was caught by security. Then we went to play on the pitch. Our area was very small, because the players were practising. I scored a try and I was very happy. When we finished, we went round the pitch and the crowds were cheering us. Then we went back into the changing room to change into our new kit.

Now we held the England flag and out came the England players. The English and French players stood in a line to sing their national anthem. When the French were singing, I was in the way of some England players and one of them was Matt Dawson. He said, 'Do you think you should move over?', so I did and then he winked at me. When the England anthem began, I saw myself on the big screen – I was so excited! Soon the game started. I watched the rest of the game and England won, beating France. That day I will never forget.

OVERSEAS TRIPS



Andrew takes it lying down!

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

by **Andrew Cochrane**

Last year, our sports teacher Mr Gill asked me if I would like to go on tour to South Africa with the Newbury Rugby Squad. I took the information sheet home and when my mum said, 'Andrew, you are going to South Africa!' I screamed so loud – it was a great feeling! With help from my mum, dad and Dr Tucker, we raised the money and after months of excitement I was off!

In July, I said my goodbyes and headed for Belfast airport, meeting up with the rest of the squad at Heathrow. The flight was terrible – twelve hours watching a Japanese film with subtitles - but we finally landed at Johannesburg and then headed on to Durban. The first couple of days were spent in the sun, swimming and training, although we did manage a visit to a local nightclub on the beach, which was wicked!

On the first day of the tournament, we played in a packed stadium and won two out of our three matches.

When we were told that we had made it through to the semi-finals the next day, we couldn't believe it! On semi-finals day everyone was nervous. The bad news was that we lost the semi-final, but with a very close result.

We all felt disappointed but were then told that we were still able to play in the Plate Final, against the 'Zulus'.

After a flying start to the game, I had to defend most of the time, as they sprinted past us. I did get to save the ball and sprint until I got to the last player. Although he was small and had no protective gear on, he still managed to pick me up, swing me round and - bam! - I was injured. Everyone clapped as I was taken off.

The score was still 0-0, but then our luck began to change as the tries began to come and when the final whistle blew, we knew we had won the Plate Final! The Zulus sang and danced for us, they were really amazing.

We came third overall in the tournament and collected a beautiful wooden Elephant Trophy – we celebrated with the Zulus until half past three in the morning! It was wonderful! We were sad to leave Durban, but spent the next few days travelling and visiting the local game parks. I saw so many wild animals; rhinos, buffalo, elephants, wild boars, monkeys, giraffes and zebra.

At the end of the trip we visited the Zulu school to play a friendly match. The Zulus were still supporting us and singing songs for us - it was fantastic. We lost the match, but we didn't really mind! After the match we swapped shirts - the Zulu coach even gave me his shirt as a present!

They were great people and it was amazing how close we got in such a short time. This was my favourite part of the trip, although it was moving and emotional when it was time to leave. The final day came and we headed for Durban and our flight home. I couldn't believe how quickly the tour had come to an end. I had the most incredible time of my life and I will never forget it.

OVERSEAS TRIPS

SOUTH AFRICA 2003

by **André Hedger**

In October I was on my way, flying half way across the world to somewhere more beautiful, more exciting and yes, I admit it, more dangerous. After ten hours at the back of a plane with four dumb movies, plastic food and little sleep, I finally touched down in Cape Town with my father, to start a new climbing adventure.

Day one - the first day

We hired a car and drove straight to Table Mountain. We got to the top by a cable car, then we climbed the face, named 'Jacobs Ladder', which was fantastic but tough – it was hard to look 3,400 feet down. We had started out at 10.00 a.m. and I didn't get off the mountain till 8 p.m. It was difficult and scary, trying to find a route down in the dark.



Day two - never stop exploring

Up at six o'clock and we went surfing in Cape Town. It was great, but the water was freezing as it comes from the South Pole ice caps. There are great white sharks in the South African ocean, which I tried to forget but I kept one eye out for a fin! I had my picture taken - I took off my wetsuit as it said 'Gary's Surf School' and without it I looked more of a professional! I hit my lips on the coral reef and they were swollen for days.

At lunchtime, we saw penguins at the natural park, which was fantastic and I got to swim with them! It was exciting but they stank really badly! We then went to Cape Point, where the two oceans meet - the South African equivalent of Lands End.

Day three - the road trip

Walking up the mountain again wasn't too hard as I was getting used to it. We left early, for a five-hour drive north to a small village, in the middle of nowhere, called Cedarburg. I only saw six cars in the next two hours on the road, with beautiful desert and hundreds of mountains. I saw lots of ostriches running fast around the desert. There were also baboons everywhere that were aggressive around humans. The signs mentioned that we were getting closer to the hot springs and we came to an outdoor pool, which the lava below ground heated up to 46°C. I didn't know that and jumped in and really burned my bum. We finally arrived in Cedarburg at our hostel, which wasn't bad.

Day four - just another day

Walking to the cliffs was a nightmare, an hour uphill with a huge rucksack full of stuff. It took almost the whole day, walking and climbing in six pitches of which I led four, but it was great. Walking back on our own route through a gorge, it was beautiful to see the way the rock was formed. At that moment I was almost tempted to do Geography A Level but by the end of the day, no way!

At the end of the climb, we had three hours before it got dark, so I had great time swimming naked in the river! There was a waterfall, plunge pool and a place about 50ft high to jump off with no one there.

Day five - the best/worst day

This day I will never forget. I did one of the hardest overhanging climbs I have ever done, without a rope. I did so many hard climbs and hiking that day, that I was exhausted.

It was a 1000 times worse than Mr Gwynn's cross country and, from my point of view, worse than the army! We walked for over seven kilometres to reach an arch formation, which my father had heard about. It was hidden from the cliffs and about 100ft high and it was beautiful, being surrounded by the cliffs and big views.

I had worn my harness all day and it started to hurt my hips, as it held a lot of climbing gear; camera, water bottle, first aid kit, binoculars, torch, Swiss army knife and all the cams. It was a real nightmare.



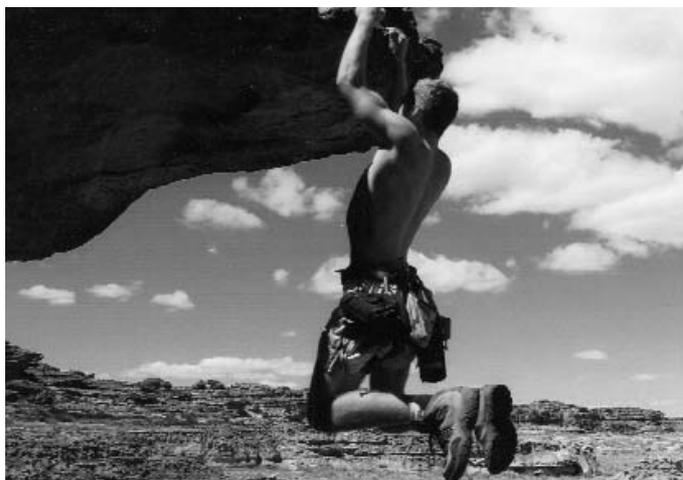
OVERSEAS TRIPS

Day six- help

Today we relaxed around the plunge pool (the river). We saw ancient paintings by the bushmen in the nearby caves. The paintings are hidden, as the National Park doesn't want lots of tourists to come. Later I did 'bouldering' around the overhanging cliffs and when I got hot, I jumped and flew towards the river from high up, like a bird.

In the afternoon I got lost for three hours in the desert as it was so big. We were just exploring around. I got really worried - Dad must have been a mile or so away and could have been heading north whilst I was searching south.

There were so many caves, there was an echo each time I shouted. Then I spotted his red rucksack and as I went up to him, he said "Oh there you are!". I guess I was expecting a little more comment after being lost for all of the afternoon and thinking it could be days.



Day seven - the hardest climb

Today was tough, leaving the hostel at 6 a.m. and walking a mile or two, then climbing a long hard eight-pitch climb from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. I was a little scared climbing over two roofs under a 400ft drop from the face! That evening, the sky was purple before it got dark. It was so beautiful, but too dark to take a picture.

Day eight - the worst day

Early in the morning we packed and left the farm to move on deeper into the desert. We went off to Wolfbergs cliffs and walked until my legs burned out. I saw a perihelion, where the sun reflects itself and makes a double line. You may never see one ever in your life! Up we climbed and the hill went on with every new horizon. I saw wild baboons and the higher we went, the colder it became. It got dark and cold so we slept in the caves.



Day nine - continuing

When I woke, my beard was frozen - it was 4°C and snowing and I had never been so cold. We didn't have the right clothing to climb so we walked to the top, which only took two hours.

We took the easy way, climbing with snow on my head and my jumper soaked. I was so cold that I shivered all day. My feet went a little black - it was so horrible and a lot tougher than the army. The best thing was that, at the top, I had reached 6,400ft walking, in two days, which is a fifth of Everest.

Walking down took almost all day and when I got back to the hostel, I stayed in the hot shower for over an hour until the water went cold. I slept from 5 pm until the next day, as I was so tired.

Day ten - the end

We were on the road back to Cape Town to pick up our flight home. I had a huge 'KFC' in the town, which was the best meal ever - better than the dried meat we'd had to eat, which had been gross all along. I also met some deaf people who lived nearby and we managed to communicate for a while.

As the car was driving slowly, I spotted hundreds, maybe thousands, of homes made by the local people, which went on for miles. I saw children there, who will never get the opportunity to be educated, even if they really want to learn. They were staring at me through the window and I felt sorry for them all and wished the best for each one. They thought of me as the rich, lucky, spoilt teenager and it's true and so are all of you - every one of you.

Remember, you should be very grateful, as others wish to be in a school like ours, more than some of you might do. You are lucky, you are fed one hundred times better than the poor children I saw that day. Dr Tucker is the one to thank, for making Mary Hare School possible for us.

LANGUAGES

MON SEJOUR EN FRANCE

Extract from the diary of **Sam Calder**



Quand je suis arrivé à Calais en France, je suis allé à Paris où j'ai visité la Tour Eiffel. Elle était grande! Il faisait beau et la vue de là-haut était belle. Je suis redescendu et puis j'ai marché autour de la Tour Eiffel et il y avait un énorme et joli jardin devant la tour.

Le samedi, je suis allé au cinéma de Rex et c'était intéressant. Après, j'ai fait une promenade en bateau et j'ai vu beaucoup de bâtiments. Il faisait soleil. A trois heures, j'ai visité le Sacré Cœur et c'était plus grand que j'avais pensé!

La dimanche, je suis retourné à Paris en car pour aller au parc de Disney land. J'y ai passé toute la journée et c'était pas mal. Il y avait beaucoup de montagnes pour nous promener. Il pleuvait donc j'étais trempé! Ma montagne préférée était la montagne de l'espace car il était une très rapide montagne. Je suis monté trois fois!

Le lundi, c'était la dernière journée de mon excursion. J'étais triste pour ça. Au moins j'ai eu des bons moments pendant les derniers trois jours. Je suis allé au stade de France, où la coupe du monde a eu lieu en 2002. Il était plus petit que j'avais pensé, mais c'était tout de même intéressant. Le stade a eu 25,000 places de l'avancement! C'était une visite guidée avec un homme français du stade. C'était difficile de comprendre l'homme parce que son accent était très fort.

Le meilleur de l'excursion serait la nourriture! C'était délicieux! Je vais visiter encore la France quand je serai plu âgé, en fait, je pense vivre en France! Au revoir!

LE CAFÉ DE LA VIE



Le Cafe de la Vie

During the winter term, Year 9 students worked hard in their French lessons, to play their part in this year's Christmas Production of 'Katz'. First of all, pupils worked in small groups (helped by Maud) to learn and practise a French conversation, 'in the restaurant'.

Then they invented a menu for their own restaurant and Lizzie Burton's striking piece was chosen for use in the Christmas production. Pupils were then asked to imagine different restaurant scenes and to write their own conversation. The four that were chosen were:

L'enfant terrible – the naughty child

Les amoureux – the lovers

Le serveur pas habile – the bad waiter

Le vieil homme – the old man

Patrick Sheill worked with Maud on the scene with the bad waiter and **Adam Watson** worked very hard to produce some very realistic food props, quite a lot of which ended up on the floor! Well done to everyone in Year 9!

WORLD OF WORK

A WEEK AT WORK

by **Louise Saunders**



Louise spends time with her pupils

Everyone in their GCSE year, goes on work experience to discover what it is like to be in the real world and have a chance to see if the job they choose is right for them. I was really worried about going out to work as I felt that I was not good at communicating with hearing people, apart from those I know. I was placed at Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary School in Newbury.

I went to my preliminary interview in October. It was quite scary because the person I met had a moustache and beard (headmaster of the school, Mr Keith Watts) and I could not understand him, so Mrs Beckett helped me with communication, during the interview. I knew that I would be nervous and shy because of the communication problems that I was bound to have with people I had never met before. However, after the interview I felt a bit happier because I knew what to wear and knew who the staff were at the school.

My week at work was incredibly good, apart from a few minor difficulties. I spent time with three different classes during the week. I was told to help supervise the children and to support them in their work if they did not understand something. I was expected to help them, which was my favourite part of work experience. It was really nice to know that the children liked to ask for you and wanted you to work with them. Classes 1 and 2 made me feel very useful! This is what made my week great and I was really disappointed to have my last day at work.

During the week, some amusing things happened. For example, one girl was trying to tell me her name - I thought she said "Bacon", so I was calling her that and then realised that the word 'bacon' was not a name, it was a food! When I went to her class, I looked in her workbook and saw that her name was Megan, so it was embarrassing for me!

Another time, when there was no teacher in the room, I wanted to make the children smile and relax, so I decided to do some funny actions and all the children started to laugh. Suddenly they went a bit quiet, I did not realise at first but then saw that the teacher had come back into the room and was watching me. When I looked at her, she just smiled and didn't say anything so I expect she was pleased that I was happy with my position with the children.

I got on pretty well with some of the staff and many of the children, probably because I am more like the little children! My speech improved over the week, which I am really pleased with. I would say that this job would not be for me because I am not a serious enough person when it comes to little children - I just love them and I like to fit in well with them.

Now my work experience is over, I feel more confident about my future because I know that the people I have worked with liked me. I am quite looking forward to leaving school and starting work, but I will miss my social life!



Mary Hare Primary School pupils enjoy the spring sunshine in the school grounds