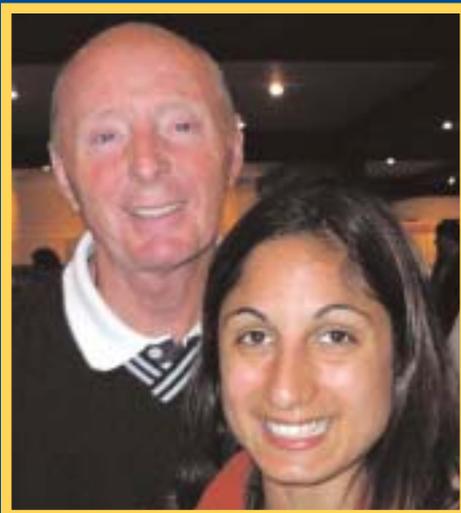
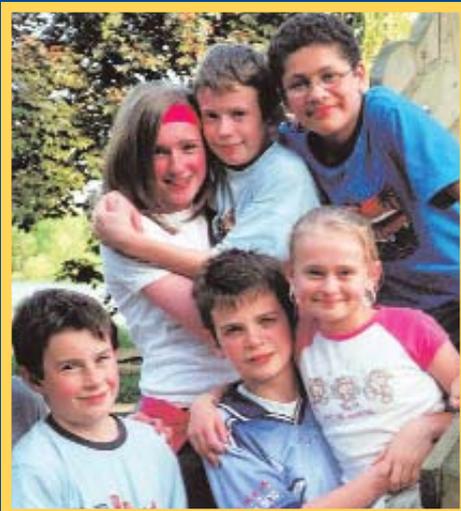


soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine



October 2004

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The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of 'Soundwave'.
If you would like to submit an item, 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!

Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining

The rain fell this August but it couldn't dampen the party atmosphere at Mary Hare. Improved A-level grades and excellent GCSE grades raised our spirits as the holiday period came to a soggy end. Congratulations to the Class of '97, the Class of '99 and all the families and staff who have supported them over the years.

A-level: The Class of '97

All of our Year 13 candidates secured a place at university: all but two students at their first choice institution with none needing to go through clearing. As our students go up to university next year it is good to know that both Oxford University and Bristol University will be extending a welcome to three of our former Year 13. Of equal delight is the knowledge that some of our students would not have made it to university had they not benefited from the Value Added education at Mary Hare.

GCSE: The Class of '99

Our GCSE candidates enabled the school to record its best set of examination grades ever. An impressive 87.1% of our Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more grades A* to C. This statistic has increased by 30% over the last seven years and means that we remain the highest achieving State School in Newbury at this level.

More importantly, the A* to C grades were weighted more heavily towards the higher end: collectively our candidates achieved 17 A* and 46 A grades. At 7.2% and 26.6% respectively this achievement places Mary Hare in the top 240 State Schools within the whole of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

By achieving outstanding results in Speaking and Listening (English), French, Music and Drama, our pupils have demonstrated once again that no subject is off limits at Mary Hare.

Full Circle

Already the successes described above have passed into the annals of history. The new academic year has begun and we are already working hard on the next chapter of this continuing success story. At Mary Hare we are determined that pupils challenged by their sense of hearing will be empowered by their sense of achievement.

Tony Shaw
Principal of Mary Hare Schools

The English Speaking Board encourages effective speaking and listening skills with a practical emphasis. The aim is to develop clear, lively, articulate spoken English for presentation and communication skills and to build confidence. The examinations are undertaken at schools around the UK and overseas and are externally examined.

This year, Mary Hare students spoke on a wide range of topics including, 'The Simpsons', 'Roller Coasters', 'Living on an Egg Farm', 'Roller Hockey', 'Gaelic Football' and 'Lego'. **Adam Watson** gave a talk entitled 'Celebrity Chef' and gave out samples of his chocolate brownies, no doubt in an attempt to bribe the examiner!

We were delighted with our results and the positive comments on the report sheets; our nine students who achieved Distinctions were especially pleased.

esb success



OPEN DAY 2004

Once again, the annual Mary Hare Open Day proved very successful, with over 200 people in attendance.

Congratulations and huge thanks go to our Year 12 students, who performed their duties superbly as guides, helpers and refreshment providers. Those who were on escort duty got very wet whilst waiting for visitors to arrive but did not complain and carried on regardless.

Our visitors were taken in groups on a tour of the school, where they were able to see lessons taking place and also to observe our Group Hearing Aid working in the classroom.

Lunchtime ran smoothly, as always, thanks to our wonderful kitchen staff who had to cope with the increased volume of people to feed - a perfect opportunity for our visitors to try the excellent food that is available to our pupils every day.



Mary Hare guides wait to greet visitors



Visitors were then treated to poetry readings by students from Years 7 and 8 and to compositions performed by some of our very talented musicians. Dr Tucker and Mr Shaw then addressed the visitors and the day came to a close at 3.30 pm.

Our younger visitors returned home with goody bags and hopefully happy memories and dreams of returning to Mary Hare in a few years time!

ndcs exhibition

The annual NDCS Conference and Exhibition took place in June at Sandown Park in Esher, Surrey. This year marked the charity's 60th anniversary and the new venue for the exhibition proved popular with the families and professionals who attended.

The Mary Hare group was well represented with stands from **Mary Hare Schools**, **Mary Hare Training Services**, **Arlington Laboratories** and the **Burwood Centre**.

During the two-day event, the School stand was visited by many former pupils with fond memories of their time at Mary Hare, who were keen to look for familiar faces amongst the staff on

the 2003 school photograph, which was on display!

On the 'Family Day', staff were kept busy with questions from parents who wanted to know more about Mary Hare Primary and Secondary Schools.

We hope to welcome many of those we spoke to at our next Open Day.

For the first time this year Mary Hare Training Services were represented with their own stand and audiologist **Viv Ogg** was kept busy with a steady stream of professionals who wanted to know more about the post-graduate and vocational courses offered by Mary Hare in conjunction with Oxford Brookes University.



Mary Hare, Burwood and Arlington staff deal with the steady stream of enquiries

1/2? / NY. // MaZRLa *1. ADORABLE PUPPETS*

Interview by
Laila Doobeh and Lizzie Pearson

Dr Tucker, when did you receive your invitation?

"I'm not certain, let me look in my diary (looks in diary) I think I have it written down (goes and asks secretary)... ah... the Master of the Queen's household, Admiral Blackburn, telephoned me on 2nd April to invite me to luncheon on 25th of May."

Were you surprised? Do you know why you were chosen?

"I was more than surprised - I was shocked and obviously delighted! I have no idea why I was invited. Maybe she wanted to know more about deaf children. Don't know really!"

Who else was at the lunch?

"There were 10 people there with the Queen and her husband. There was an Army General, a scientist and a professor of law from Cambridge University. I can't remember them all, though."

Where did you actually eat lunch? What was the room like? What did you eat?

"At Buckingham Palace, in a room next to the reception. Strangely enough, it wasn't as big as Blount Hall, but it was a lovely room with paintings and the dining table was made from solid wood. There were antique glasses that were 200 years old in the middle of the room with a decanter to pour the wine. I ate veal, but that is all I can remember."

Were there servants? How were they dressed?

"Yes, there were servants. They were well dressed, in a black uniform that looked like the one the Navy has."

What did you wear? Were you nervous?

"I wore a very nice Armani suit, with a yellow tie and a blue shirt. I looked very smart. Oh yes, I was so nervous. Not many people go to lunch with the Queen! So that was special."

What did the Queen talk about? Did she talk to you?

"Yes I talked to the Duke of Edinburgh as well (her husband). We talked about dogs - she has 10 dogs! Wow! She also talked about our school and how deaf people can be clever and not many people think the same. We talked about the law and the famous Chelsea flower show! She goes there every year, as she loves flowers and she talked about the Canada geese, which fly into her garden and stay there. She says they are rather annoying because they always wake her up early in the mornings! She also talked about growing vegetables in her garden."

Can you remember what she wore?

"I'm a hopeless man! I can't remember what she wore! When I came home, the first question my wife asked was "What did the Queen wear?" I said I couldn't remember! I think she wore a pearl necklace (I think she did...)"

How did you know when it was time to leave?

"I was there for about 2 ½ hours and knowing when to leave was a very delicate matter. The Queen thanked us all for coming and that was a kind of signal that it was time to leave, about five minutes later."

Did you drive there yourself?

"No, because it is hard to get to London for a certain time, so I caught a train and then a taxi. I gave the taxi a special badge so that he could drive through the gates of Buckingham Palace."





How do you tell an author that you want to change his story without offending him?

Year 7 pupils discussed the question with Stephanie Standsbie, an editor from Random House Publishing, when she visited the school in June

It is very, very difficult to get a story accepted by a publisher (even J K Rowling had many rejections) and when you do, your publishers may wish to change parts of the story. However, once the text is agreed the next thing to consider is the cover, because, when people are deciding whether to buy, they really do judge a book by its cover!

The final design is agreed upon after consultation between publisher and author - even the title has to be negotiated. A famous author's name will generally feature strongly on a cover as this allows buyers to quickly spot a favourite author.

Stephanie produced some 'Mood Boards' with ideas from designers and asked Year 7 to help out by telling her which covers they found attractive. Pupils were allowed to keep covers that they particularly liked, once they had explained why they liked them.

Roger Watson was even able to spot an unpublished Jacqueline Wilson book, simply from the cover illustrations, which he could tell were by Nick Sharrett. Overall, the dark, scary-looking covers were the most popular, especially with the boys.

There was a wide variety of covers on display: a rich black velour embossed with gold lettering, a leather effect, some covers with expensive metallic foils, some shiny and some matt.

The publisher works hard to keep the price down because although we are prepared to spend about £6 at the cinema and around £15 for a CD, we generally consider books to be expensive.

It was intriguing to see how the pages of a book are formed from one huge sheet of paper, printed in such a way that, when folded and cut, the pages are in the correct order.

Due to the folding process the number of pages in a book must always be divisible by eight.

(Calculators out at the end of the article!)

Fiction books take about a year to produce but a book with colour illustrations might take up to three years.

All books are sold to foreign buyers at Book Fairs as production costs are only met when a home and overseas market have been secured.

The pupils had lots of questions for Stephanie at the end of her talk and they certainly know a lot more about books now!

Jack Arnold commented, "The talk from Random House was very interesting for me because I learned how a book is made. I also liked the book covers we were given."



HUGH OGUS

Chairman of the Board of Governors



I was elected to the Board of Governors in the early 1970s but my first association with the school was back in 1968, when I joined a company manufacturing lighting equipment where my new partner, Ross Mansell, was deaf. His father, George Mansell, OBE, was responsible for setting up the school at Arlington Manor following the death of Miss Mary Hare.

Mary Hare bequeathed her school and property in Burgess Hill, Sussex, to the State and the post-war government asked George Mansell to set up a residential grammar school for deaf children with initial funding from this bequest, granting it non-maintained status.

Mr Mansell became the first Chairman and remained on the Board until his death in 1987. Ross had been a pupil of Miss Mary Hare and George Mansell had befriended her (no PTA in those days!). There is a bone china tea service in a cabinet in Dr Tucker's office that Ross remembers being used when his father took tea with Miss Mary Hare at Burgess Hill.

I soon discovered that I had been brought in to run the company because my boss was concentrating on the affairs of the school! Gradually, I was drawn into school affairs, my first assignment being to work with the architect on the development of Blount Hall.

The start of my serious interest in deaf education dates from the birth of Ross Mansell's children, Anna and Leo. George Mansell, wishing his grandchildren to have an oral education, went to see Miss Mary Corbishley at her private school, Mill Hall, in Cuckfield, Sussex. This was just a few miles from Mary Hare at Burgess Hill – the two strong-willed ladies had competed in earlier years, though I was told that Miss Corbishley was trained by Miss Hare.

To his consternation, she told him that she was about to retire and close the school. There being no other oral primary school in the South of England, Mr Mansell teamed up with others, mostly parents, who wanted the school to survive and formed a charitable trust to buy the school from Miss Corbishley.

I joined the new board with responsibility for finance and, to save costs, our company did all the accounting. I became Chairman of Mill Hall following George Mansell's death but eventually resigned from that Board to concentrate on my work as Chairman of Finance

and Vice Chairman at Mary Hare School.

Mrs Pat Sanders, MVO, was Chairman of Mary Hare at that time and I succeeded her in 1992. She had been one of the parents who joined the Trust that acquired Mill Hall and is now a Vice-President and a Trustee of the Mary Hare Foundation. The connection with Mill Hall was renewed when it was saved (again) from closure, moving to Greenham and becoming Mary Hare Primary.

I believe that the close understanding and co-operation between the Principal, the Chairman and the Board of Governors are vital elements in fulfilling the potential of a school to make real progress. The partnership of George Mansell as Chairman and Jack Askew OBE as Principal took Mary Hare from what was virtually a start-up to being a highly successful and acclaimed grammar school.

We are fortunate in having a strong and caring Board of Governors and I value highly my relationship with them and with Dr Tucker. In the time since Dr Tucker joined, we have seen great progress in academic results, steady improvements in facilities and the completion of the Sixth Form campus and the Art and Design centre.

Mary Hare Primary, the Burwood Centre, Oxford Brookes professional

training courses and NVQ training for local companies have all been established, along with Arlington Laboratories and the Hearing Aid Repair Shop. We appointed Dr Tucker as Principal of a grammar school and he is now Chief Executive of a thriving group of diverse but related activities, well deserving of the OBE he was awarded two years ago.

Going forward, our fundraisers are bringing the PACE Centre ever closer and the school has just achieved Training School status to help take our special skills to a wider community. In becoming a National Centre of Excellence, our work may be only just beginning!

Since I retired a couple of years ago from my 'day job', running a lighting company, I have not seen much of my garden. Aside from Mary Hare, I run an educational charity, as chairman and joint trustee with two major engineering institutions, that deals with education and training for the lighting profession and electrical industry.

I also take responsibility for the educational activities of a Livery Company in the City of London, dealing with prizes and bursaries for students.

That does not leave too much time for woodcarving, playing with old clocks, swimming and travelling; the latter is known as SKI-ing : Spending the Kids' Inheritance!

Mary Hare International!

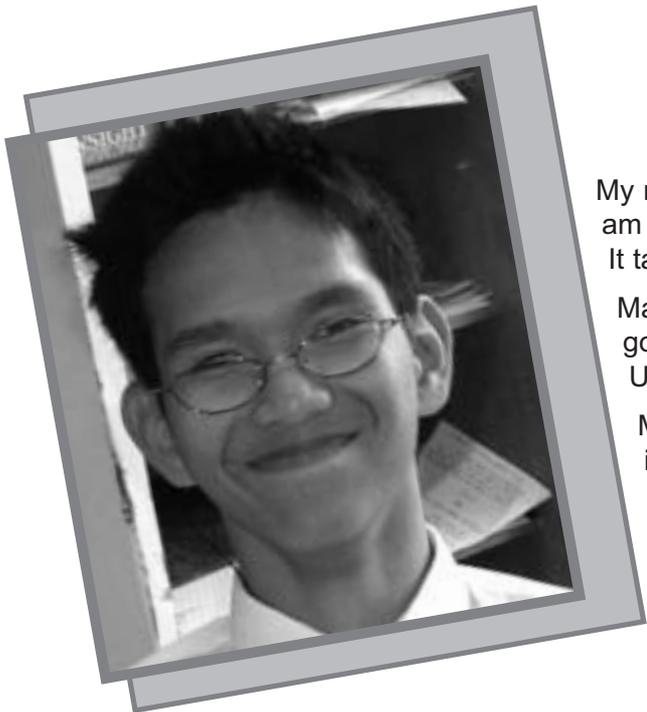
Simon Brooks

My name is Simon. I am 17 and I come from Bermuda. I don't have a home in the UK but I have friends in London and I am able to stay with them. It takes me seven hours to travel home and I fly direct from Gatwick Airport.

I love Bermuda, it's a great place to have a home and it's so hot! Getting around is easy, ferries, bikes and buses are free and even taxis are cheap. There is a great breeze on the island so you can play with kites and you can swim in the sea from any of the beaches.

There are lots of golf courses on the island and great shopping in Hamilton. There are museums in Dockyard and St. George. Also at Crystal Cave you can see underground, it is very interesting. If I had stayed in Bermuda, I would have gone to Saltus Grammar School for hearing children, which is close to my home.

We heard about Mary Hare just over six years ago. Mary Hare is great as I can understand everything here and I couldn't at a hearing school. It's hard making friends when you arrive somewhere new and when I first came here I did feel homesick. I wish I could go home at weekends in a teleport!



Afkari Aziz

My name is Afkari. I know this is an unusual name, it is because I am from Malaysia, which is about 12,000 kilometres from the UK. It takes 12 ½ hours to travel from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia is a nice hot country and here it is quite cold. I usually go home every holiday and sometimes my parents come to the UK.

My parents heard about Mary Hare School by looking on the internet. I do like it here but sometimes I get homesick because I am used to my own country and my home is very different.

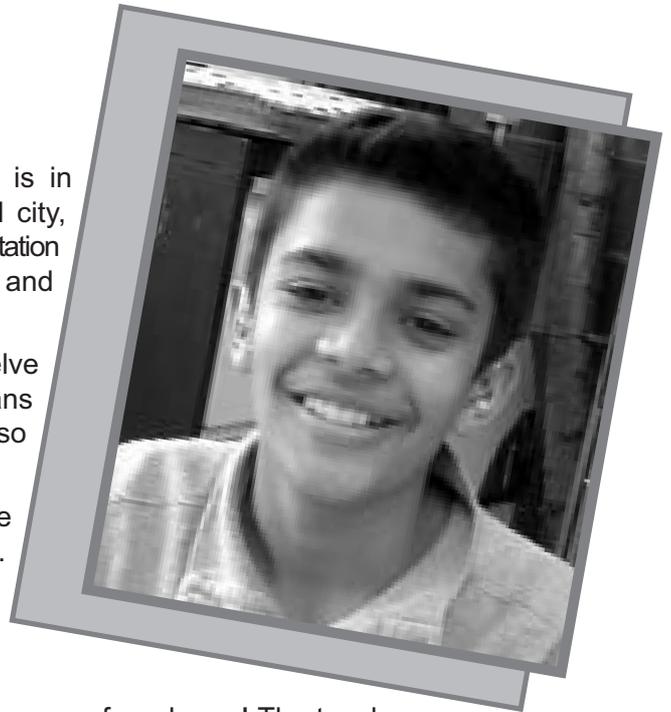
Yuvraaj Bharadia

Hi, I'm Yuvraaj. I am twelve years old and my home is in Visakhapatnam, near Vizag, India. Vizag is a beautiful city, near the sea in the East. It has an airport, a port, a train station and a shopping mall. The weather is always sunny and warm.

I can only go home at the end of each term as it takes twelve hours to fly to Vizag. Inside my house we have large fans on the ceiling to keep us cool because the weather is so hot. We have a big garden.

I'm very lucky that my parents heard about Mary Hare School when Dr Tucker came to India and met my parents. He told them all about the school and when I was twelve, my parents contacted Dr Tucker to ask if I could come and study at the school. He said, "Yes"!

I really like being at Mary Hare even though it's a very long way from home! The teachers are good. They speak clearly and are easy to understand. I also like it here because it is clean and beautiful, with a large swimming pool and playground. The food is good too. If I didn't go to Mary Hare I would have to attend a day school near home, but I'm glad I'm here!



How would YOU cope - a NEW school in a NEW country?

Oliver Richardson

I originally come from Oxford, but I currently live in Djursholm, on the outskirts of Stockholm, Sweden. I moved to Sweden two years ago from Holland, where I lived for a year when I was in Year 7.

It takes about six hours to get home with 2 ½ hours on the plane. I also travel into a different time zone although the difference is only one hour.

One of the main differences in Sweden is that the houses where I live are nearly all made from wood. There is a very old part of town in the city centre where all the palaces are - it is really nice.

Stockholm is made up of 24,000 islands, so when you walk down to the beach (500m from our house) you can see islands overlapping each other in the distance.

There are also big changes in the seasons: in the Summer I often go swimming, diving and canoeing in the Baltic Sea. In the winter the temperature drops to around -5° C and the sea has frozen over. In Sweden we get lots of snow.

My parents heard about Mary Hare before we moved abroad. If I had not come to Mary Hare I would probably be going to the International School in Stockholm.





Mrs Wylie and Adam celebrate!

2004 TEACHING AWARDS

by Sandra Wylie

In amongst the many letters and memos I receive daily, I noticed one that said 'Teaching Awards'. It seemed a strange coincidence, because just the week before I had taken a phone call asking me about the value to teachers of the awards!

At first I thought they had made a mistake - perhaps somehow I had become stuck in a computer 'loop' after receiving a certificate last year?

A colleague suggested, 'You must have been nominated again.' I laughed and thought surely not! Then I spoke to Mr Shaw who assured me that it was definitely true. The school office was already in discussion with the Teaching Awards Trust to arrange a visit to judge my credentials, as a likely candidate for the 'Excellence in Special Needs Teaching' category.

When I discovered that pupil **Adam McCormick** had nominated me, I was absolutely delighted – no one could have received a greater honour from such a lovely and well-respected student. I was very nervous on the day of my inspection but the staff and students were brilliant and incredibly supportive. Certainly Penny and Gladwys, from the Teaching Awards Trust, were impressed by the special family atmosphere here.

Adam and I travelled to Winchester to attend the Regional Finals in June and we were both thrilled when it was announced that I had won. I now have to go forward to the National Finals - my parents are incredibly proud and I'm using it as a great excuse for a new outfit! It is days like these that remind me just what a privilege it is to work at Mary Hare!

A note from Adam... Back in December 2003 I watched the Teacher Awards Programme on the television. At the end it showed the website for nominations and the first words that came to my head were: Mrs Wylie. I went on the website and typed in her name. She deserves to win the award because without her this school would be run very differently. Mrs Wylie has a great sense of humour and she is a very caring teacher. I am glad she was nominated and won!

Care staff **Claire Archer** and **Hilary Shopland** have recently been successful in gaining their NVQ in Child Care. As a result of the work they have been undertaking with the pupils over the past two years, both Claire and Hilary have successfully completed a portfolio of evidence, which has been assessed at the required National Standard.

Hilary (pictured right) is now pursuing a Vocational Assessor award and Claire (pictured left) has recently gained a City & Guilds Level IV Teaching in Further Education. She has been making use of this and her psychology degree by teaching in the Sixth Form as well as undertaking her care duties.

The professional development of the care staff at the school has a high priority and our congratulations go to the two latest successful colleagues working in this vital area of the school.



nvq success

Farewell Margaret!

At the end of the summer term we said 'Goodbye' to Margaret Lyford, who has worked as part of the Mary Hare domestic team since 1995. Besides her cleaning duties, Margaret has been the official provider of teas and coffees for the office staff, visitors to the school and for meetings held in the Manor and the Carnarvon Centre, often serving refreshments at very short notice but always with a smile!

As an experienced seamstress, she also undertook many of the repairs on items such as curtains around the school, as well as helping out staff and students who needed clothing repaired or altered. In addition Margaret is also an excellent cake maker! We will miss her many talents and her cheery face around the school and we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Congratulations

to the following staff for gaining additional qualifications:

Ms Michelle Flannery: MA Education / NVQ Management Level IV

Mr Simon Thompson: PG Diploma Education

Mrs Sarah Lelaure: NVQ Management Level IV

Mrs Lisa Bull: MSc Audiology

Mr Kevin Robinson: MA Film Studies

Mr David Bellinger: MSc Audiology

Sandra Periton muses on 'Past Times'...

Things were a little different in 1969 when I first arrived at Mary Hare. Dark green uniforms for girls and grey for boys. (No 'lady' wore trousers, so they were not allowed for female pupils or staff). Hearing aids were usually two black boxes the size of cigarette packets attached to pink receivers plugged into earmoulds by long cords. Group aids performed less well and teachers had the controls at the front where they could see them. Labs had a loop system, so pupils were not tied up but teachers were tied to the wall by the microphone leads!

The school was smaller, too. No swimming pool, Library, Art block, Sixth Form Centre, Science block, Blount Hall or computers. Manor and Mansell houses both had kitchens and boys and girls ate in separate dining rooms. Meals were delivered to the table and served by a prefect or member of staff. There was no choice and pupils were encouraged to eat a little of everything.

At weekends everyone did a Saturday job and on Sunday, after church, it was out for an afternoon walk. 'Minicoms' weren't around and so telephones had handsets for staff to listen and repeat so that parent's messages could be lip-read.

There were some care staff but teachers, who then lived in Howard House, took a much larger share in the care. Bed times started at 7.45 pm with lights out



half an hour later! Two teachers were on duty until 10 pm when everyone was in bed until the Housemaster or Housemistress took over. They dealt with the midnight feasts, sickness (though there was a nurse on call, of course) and the feelings and problems that always seem worse in the middle of the night.

Since then over a thousand pupils have been through the doors of Mary Hare, leaving to follow a variety of careers from stonemason to astronomer, parent, scientist, designer, Governor and many, many more - and I have been fortunate in knowing so many of them. I have learned so much from everyone at Mary Hare and will mention just a few:

Driving from the groundsman, Mr Bridgeman and the caretaker, Mr Chalker, who vied with each other to tell me what I was doing wrong.

Phonetics from Mrs Askew, who couldn't believe my Potteries pronunciation.

Teaching from Miss Williams and Miss Jones and all those pupils over the years (from whom I still have lots to learn!).

Computing from Mr Ward, Mr Treasure and Mrs Pointeer and, of course, Mr Thompson, who all taught me more than any of the public courses I attended.

Cake decoration and much more, from Mrs Fenney.

How to answer a door in the middle of the night before waking up - by pupils who thought I wasn't there, if I didn't answer the door within seconds. (I even met my husband on a course, trying to learn how to answer those late-night questions!).

Now I plan just to go quietly and to celebrate my husband's renewed lease of life after his operation. However, like the stories of Mary Hare's ghost, I dare say I will be around from time to time.

Thank you for all the happy memories, for the enormous part you have all played in my continuing education, for the support in sad times and for the tolerance you have shown.

I hope you are as lucky in all the people you meet in the future, as I have been in meeting all of you...



Michael receives a warm welcome from Year 7 pupils

AN AUDIENCE WITH...

Back in May, Year 13 student **Michael Brown** paid a visit to Room 14 to give some of our younger pupils the benefit of his advice and experience, as he prepared to leave behind his duties as Head Boy and move on to new challenges beyond Mary Hare.

The Year 7 pupils gave Michael a warm welcome and after shaking hands with Yuvraaj and Calum, Michael settled down to answer a stream of questions about life as Head Boy.

They were keen to hear about both the good and the bad sides of the job and said later that they were impressed by Michael's air of quiet confidence, as well as being in awe of his considerable artistic and sporting talents!

greenland, peru or the north pole?

On a damp, grey day in April the Sixth Form gathered in Carnarvon Hall for a talk by Sam Eve of the British Schools Exploring Society. BSES is a youth development charity that has been organising challenging adventure and environmental research expeditions for over 70 years. Sam explained that students who wish to join expeditions in 2005 need to start their planning now! Expeditions vary in length and can be fitted into a summer holiday or can be taken as part of a 'gap' year.

The students were rapt as they watched a video in which previous expedition students told of their adventures. Some had travelled through sticky jungle heat whilst others told of encounters with a polar bear and 24 hour sunlight! Anyone applying to join an expedition in the summer of 2005 will be able to choose from Greenland, Peru and Svalbard at the North Pole.



Students who had undertaken expeditions explained how you learn a lot about yourself and other people as you travel together - you discover what is petty and what is important and, most of all, you learn not to judge people by appearances.

Sam explained that applications to join the expedition have to show that you are committed and ready to face a challenge. Informal interviews follow and then if you are successful you need to set about raising the money to pay for your adventure. BSES will help students with fundraising suggestions and some grants are available.

BSES is keen to keep its connection with Mary Hare, having had young explorers from the school for three years running a few years back. The pupils who took part in these life-changing expeditions were **Krystle Carey, Kathy Walker, Bethan Stephens, Anthony Venus, Hannah Bishop, Dominic Caswell** and **Ben Scraggs**.

prefect profiles



PAUL STEWART (DEPUTY HEAD BOY) I am from Belfast in Northern Ireland and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7. I am studying Sociology, Photography and IT. I hope to take a 'gap' year before I go on to university to take up Computer Studies and Software Engineering. I would advise others to make sure they try to make Mary Hare a happy place for everyone.



CAITRIONA FEE (DEPUTY HEAD GIRL) I'm from Belfast in Northern Ireland and I've been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am studying Textiles, Health and Social Care and Sociology. I would like to do Social Work at university. My words of advice would be to respect each other.

AMAN JOHAL (HEAD GIRL) I come from Birmingham and I've been here since Year 7. My A levels are Sociology, Geography and Economics. I would tell others to enjoy Mary Hare and make the most of it while you can! I intend to take a 'gap' year for travel when I leave and I am still planning my career.



WILLIAM STONE (HEAD BOY) I'm from London and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. At the moment I am studying Maths, Economics and Art. When I leave I plan to study Accountancy at university. I would advise the lower school that revision is worth it!



SAUL ALLISON I come from Guildford and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am studying Biology, Leisure and Recreation and Photography. I hope to go to university to study Sports and PE. I would advise the lower school to enjoy Mary Hare and make the most of it while they are here.



ALEX PRESCOTT I am from Shropshire and I joined the school in August 2003. I am studying English Literature, Sociology, Economics and Photography. I hope to go to university to do a degree in English Literature. I would tell the lower school to listen to the prefects!

RUTH HENRY I come from Bangor in Northern Ireland and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am studying English Literature, IT and Sociology. I would advise others in the school to work hard. I hope to go to university to study English as part of a combined degree.



JAMES BARNES MILLER I come from Oxford and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. At the moment I am studying History, English Literature and Economics. I hope to go on to university to do a degree in History. I would advise the younger pupils to listen to the older pupils!



ROSS EDWARDS I come from London and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am studying Art, Maths and Sports Studies. In the future I would like to do something with Design or Accountancy. My advice to the lower school would be to enjoy your football!



CARRIE FISHER I come from Carrickfergus in Northern Ireland and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am studying Biology, Health and Social Care and Art. I would like to be a Veterinary Nurse when I leave school. My advice to others would be to work hard, achieve things for your future!

MALVIKA PERIWAL I come from Calcutta in India and I joined the school in August 2003. I am studying Media, IT, Art and Photography. I hope to go on to study Media at university. My advice to the lower school is to listen to the prefects!



BEN GOODMORE My home is near Bristol and I joined the school in Year 7. I am studying Maths, Geography and Economics. I would like to go to Bristol University to do Computer Science or Plymouth University to do Architecture. I would tell the lower school to do your best!



GLEN CHIVERS I'm from Southampton and I joined the school in August 2003. I am studying Economics, Geography, Maths and Business Studies. I am considering a degree in Computer Studies. I would tell the lower school to behave and work hard.



LUCY JONES I'm from East Sussex and I have been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I am currently studying Textiles, Photography and Business Studies. In the future I would like to study Fashion Design and Photography at university. My advice to the lower school is to make the most of meeting loads of mates at Mary Hare.

ALIYA: When deciding about our placements, we both asked to work with children. Philippa worked in a Primary School as a teaching assistant and I worked in a Nursery School as a play assistant. Our main task was to educate the children through play, so they would benefit educationally and have fun at the same time!

PHILIPPA: During our first day at work, we both felt pangs of nervousness – you name it, we felt it: shaking hands, agitation, we even felt like catching the bus back to school. However, we were determined to face up to our task and decided to stay.

ALIYA: We were both quite shy at approaching the children at first, even though they were very young. The children appeared to be really friendly and started talking to us, giving us the confidence to play and interact with them.

PHILIPPA: At the end of our first day, we were worn out but, at the same time, we felt a huge sense of achievement by accomplishing successful communication and interaction with members of the younger generation.

ALIYA: Although we occasionally experienced moments when we were not quite sure what to do, we used our instincts to make the best out of the situation and found that we thoroughly enjoyed each day.

PHILIPPA: The staff that we worked with were amazing! They were extremely patient and understanding. They also encouraged us to communicate with the children, giving us ample opportunity to make the most of our work placement.

ALIYA: Being profoundly deaf, there were moments when we both failed to understand what the children were saying or what they meant. However, instead of letting this deter us, we decided to use gestures to enable a clear and constant flow of communication. If this failed, we would ask the senior staff members to help us. This then gave us the confidence to approach the situation with more assertiveness the next time it occurred.

PHILIPPA: Our last day was a complete contrast to the first! Instead of pangs of nervousness, we felt pangs of sadness. We were both sad to leave our placements, where we had great fun, became more independent and learned valuable lessons. We are both determined to keep in touch with our employers and visit our placements again.

ALIYA: We both had a great experience and would like to thank our employers as well as West Berkshire Education Business Partnership and our Careers teacher, Ms Gladwell, for organising the work experience. We appreciated the chance to experience the real 'world of work'!

In February, **Sebastian Cunliffe** and **Ben Knighton** enjoyed their work experience placement at the Treasury in London. The Treasury offices are situated near Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament in Westminster and the boys commuted to work daily, during their week working for the government.

at the treasury

our men



Ben (left) and Sebastian (right) with the Chancellor

"It was a good experience", said Ben, "and we were able to use our Economics knowledge in the work place." Sebastian added with enthusiasm, "We even met Gordon Brown!" Indeed, the two boys got the opportunity to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer after work at a drinks reception. They also met the Permanent Secretary of the Treasury and the government's Economic Secretary, (who incidentally used to work for the RNID).

Sebastian and Ben were lucky enough to get tickets to view Prime Minister's Question Time, "Where we saw Tony Blair and Michael Howard debating" added Ben. As part of their work at the Treasury, they also had prime seats at the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report meeting, as well as getting a taste of administrative work and the daily routine in the department.

"I really liked our mentors. They were University students who were there on a year's placement - we got on well and they were really helpful," said Sebastian. When asked to summarise their week, Ben and Sebastian gave very positive responses. "It was a valuable experience which we will carry on to University."

In April, ten Sixth Form students travelled to London, to be interviewed for summer work placements at various city companies, including Barclays Global Investors, AON and Nestlé. The morning train from Newbury was packed with busy commuters, so the work 'experience' started straight away!

Being experienced Tube travellers, the group soon arrived at Tower Hill where they paused for a break before walking to BGI.

Sannah was able to direct the group as she had worked there last summer. She had clearly been a popular addition to the workplace, as her ex-colleagues were delighted to see her again when the group toured the building later in the morning.



city slickers!



Getting to grips with life on the 'Tube'

Students were informally interviewed in pairs for possible placements and then slightly more formal individual interviews were conducted. Conversations between students and prospective employers continued over an excellent buffet lunch.

In the afternoon the group set off by taxi for a flight on the 'London Eye' and although students were able to relax and enjoy the experience, on a brilliantly sunny day, they were still observed by the interviewing team!

William Stone meets his prospective employer

The day ended with a walk back along the river, across Hungerford Bridge to Embankment for the tube journey back to Paddington. This time William took the lead as an experienced London traveller. Students returned to school at 5.00 pm, not quite a full working day for most commuters but, for some, a taste of things to come!

The students all gave positive and valuable feedback after their placements. **Ciaran Semple** and **Lisanne Holly**, who both spent two weeks at BGI, found the experience 'really interesting' and **Aman Johal** enjoyed her time at AON, where she was able to move around many departments. 'It was a really good experience and gave me lots of independence', she commented.

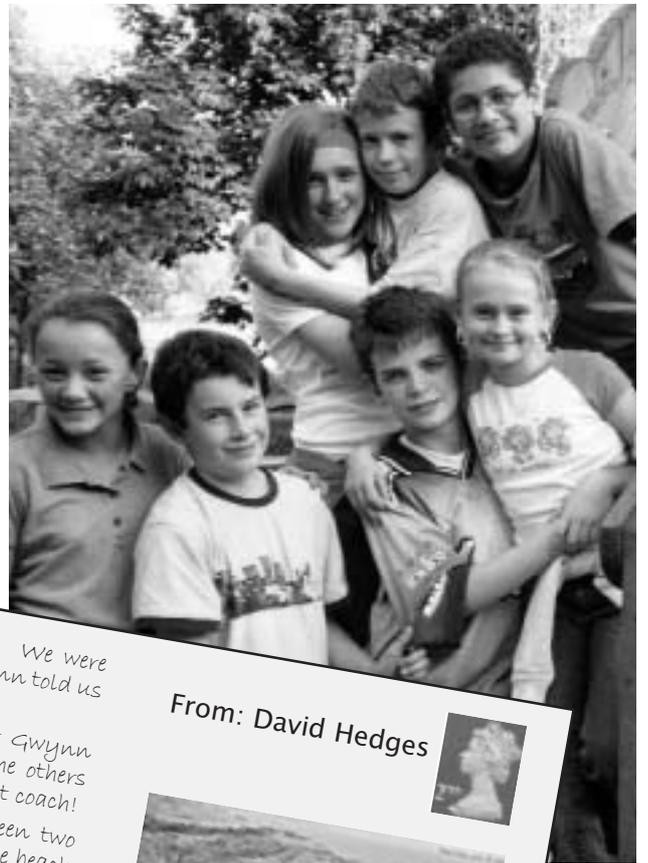


adventure seekers

Last term the whole Year 7 group visited the Adventure Playground at Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre, to test out their excellent range of slides, swings and climbing apparatus.

They also spent time at the nearby lake, feeding the usual array of ducks, geese and swans and the evening finished off with a trip to McDonalds, where everyone ordered their own meal.

Year 7 trips out are regularly recorded on video and then transferred to a final copy at the end of the year, to remind parents and students of their excellent year in Howard House!



greetings from swanage

Our first stop was Chesil Beach at Abbotsbury. We were skimming stones and relaxing, but then Mr Gwynn told us we were there for a Geography trip not a holiday! Then, on to Fortuneswell. Not much time so Mr Gwynn chose a few of us to quickly do the work while the others stayed on the bus. Then off again in the boiling hot coach!

Our task today was to measure the distance between two facets as well as the angle of slope from one end of the beach to the road, then counting the number of waves in one minute.

We used ranging poles, clinometers, a stopwatch, measuring tape and a piece of paper. Oh here we are at Durdle Door - we walked down to the arch and it is sooo big! We drew a quick sketch then walked a whole mile, were my legs tired! On to Lulworth Cove and the Stair Hole. It was so... I don't know how to describe it - just go there and you will see what I mean. Let's describe a couple of silly things that happened. Simon was standing by the water edge and one of his feet got soaked and Damien and Charnning were walking down the dusty slope when Charnning slipped and nearly fell down the slope. Damien fell over him and rolled headfirst down the slope! But we all got home safely and we had a good time.

David

From: David Hedges



The Stair Hole



Oliver Harper getting a 'hands on' experience!

towers, torture & tasty morsels!

The end of June saw the annual visit to Warwick Castle, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Starting with a breathtaking climb up Guy's Tower and along the battlements, the eager pupils then descended into the dungeon and the torture chamber.

A new feature after lunch was a falconry display where several lucky pupils got the chance to wear the gauntlet and entice a bird of prey with a tasty morsel of freshly killed rabbit!

MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE MOSQUE by Lizzie Pearson

In March, my year group went to Maidenhead to visit a mosque. When we arrived, everyone searched through Mrs Wylie's handbag for the best headscarf! When we got inside, everyone took off their shoes. My first impression was that it was well looked after. We walked upstairs and our guide talked to us about the five pillars and the strong bond between Christianity and Islam.

Then we looked at the dome and minaret. The man told us how modern day science was really to do with Islam and how they were the first to start that.

After the talk we walked downstairs into the prayer room and we looked at the beads and the special stand called the minbar and we found out which way Mecca was. Then, the boys looked at the hats that Muslim men or boys wore to pray. We said thank you and goodbye to our guide. I enjoyed the trip but next time I hope people will speak more carefully, as I had trouble fully understanding.



A 'MINI' EXPERIENCE



It was like a well-drilled dance presentation as the workers effortlessly built mini after mini in their brightly coloured uniforms, resembling theme park employees, rather than the traditional oily car mechanic normally seen in archive footage.

The group then moved to the 'Body in White' area of production, where the car body is welded together from multiple steel panels, by an army of human-style robots, prior to having all the familiar parts we associate with cars added. This process was a little oilier but again, very precise.



Finally free drinks and a chance to climb all over the Mini Cooper displayed in the visitor centre built up an appetite for our lunch. The guides Terry and Amelia were thanked for their time and certain members of the group eagerly held out our hands for the keys to free Minis. Disappointingly they received promotional brochures instead... Ah, maybe next time, Mr Chandler...

record breakers



Mary Hare teachers **Kevin Robinson** and **Vic Rocca** were among the 500 plus saxophonists who successfully broke the World Record for the largest saxophone ensemble at the opening of the annual Bath Music Festival on Friday 21st May 2004.

The crowds went wild when the announcement was made that the record, which stood at 321, had been smashed. Also playing in the ensemble was **David Wylie**, a former teacher at the school.

Pictured left to right: Kevin Robinson, David Wylie, Vic Rocca, with Elizabeth McCauley (fellow Teacher of the deaf)



Frankie goes to Beaconsfield!

What a terrific evening! How often does the school band get to perform with drummer Bev Bevan, of The Electric Light Orchestra, or sing with Dennis Waterman (of Minder fame)! In June, the Mary Hare School band was invited to perform at a Celebrity Golf Event at Beaconsfield Golf Club in aid of the charity 'SIGN', which seeks to support the wellbeing and mental health of deaf adults. Before playing, the band were able to chat with celebrities Jasper Carrott and Warren Clark who asked the students about the school and their future plans.

The band, led by Director of Music Christine Rocca, opened with a rousing version of 'The Year 3000' by Busted, followed by **Frankie Roberts** singing a sultry 'All that Jazz'. **Georgia Dalton** performed her first public solo, singing 'Beautiful', which left at least two ladies in the audience with tears in their eyes. They were not prepared to let the band go at the end of their set and various members of the audience came up to join in. Our talented percussionist, Nass, was usurped on the drums by Bev Bevan and Dennis Waterman sang two romantically charged duets with Frankie: 'Fever' and 'I Feel Good'. Dennis was a little uncertain of the words in places but Frankie was able to put him right!

Mrs Beckett wasn't the only member of the 'press' in attendance and Frankie's picture, performing with Dennis Waterman, was subsequently featured in OK Magazine's Diary section ... Fame at last!

In June, Mr Gale travelled to the Russian Embassy in London to attend a reception and concert to mark the British launch of the charity 'MUSIC OF LIFE', which seeks to give musical opportunities to disabled young people.

Former Mary Hare pupil **Ruth Montgomery** represented the school and performed a movement from a Mozart Flute Concerto with great presence and grace. She was applauded loud and long by an appreciative audience, that included the Ambassador and renowned opera singer Maria Guleghina, who also performed.

Ruth travelled to London to take part in the concert between her end-of-year exams and a series of performances at the Royal Welsh College of Music, where she is currently studying. After the concert Ruth joined the other performers and chatted with guests at a reception in the ornate Embassy conservatory.

music



of life

Return visit to Sophie Ryder's Studio



Students pictured with Sophie Ryder (right) at her studio

Earlier this year, Art students from Years 11 and 12 were invited to visit the studios of sculptor Sophie Ryder, who ran a workshop at the school in 2003.

The idea was to help her work on two of her latest sculptures, a lady hare and a minotaur which were both over 12ft high!

The students were asked to carve messages into the sculptures, using words or images. The work was quite tough and if you were not careful, you chipped off

rather too much and had to start again, after some hasty repair work!

The plaster sculptures were made over a wire armature and Sophie had embedded all sorts of interesting plastic and metal objects, as well as asking a poet to carve verses around the body.

The work will be cast into bronze and the students' contribution to the piece will be permanent. When finished, the two sculptures are going on tour starting in China.

art workshops



In July, artist Simon Cooley ran a week's intensive portrait workshop. Three days were spent modelling a head in clay, working from a life model.

It was an absorbing process designed to encourage the students to observe more accurately and to look carefully at the structure of the face.

Apparently the longer you look at someone the more

interesting they become!

After the clay portraits were completed, students then had to cast them in plaster, which was a whole new process for the group.

Plaster was mixed up and flicked over the clay heads to make the moulds, covering them completely so that they were no longer recognisable. The moulds were then filled with fresh plaster and left to dry.

During the final two days, the moulds were carefully chipped away to reveal the cast underneath.

This was a long process, with a few 'accidents' on the way - however, Simon also taught everyone how to repair any damage!

It was an amazing week and the students enjoyed it very much indeed. We hope Simon will be able to return sometime in the future.

At the end of the summer term, Year 7 attended a week-long animation workshop, led by professional animator Vikaas Mistry, who has recently worked with the BBC.

Vikaas explained the different methods and processes involved and then students began work on illustrating a verse from a poem, especially written for the project by English teacher Mr Savoury.

Students worked in groups on single lines from the verse, producing drawings which were developed into storyboards and then paper cut-outs and plasticine models.

The models were painstakingly photographed using a computer, moving the paper or plasticine fractionally between shots.

The more time spent on the animation, the more realistic the final outcome and Year 7 worked extremely hard to complete the work in the time allowed.

After filming was completed using an animation program on the computer, a voice-over was recorded. The work has also been recorded on to DVD and each Year 7 student has a copy to keep.

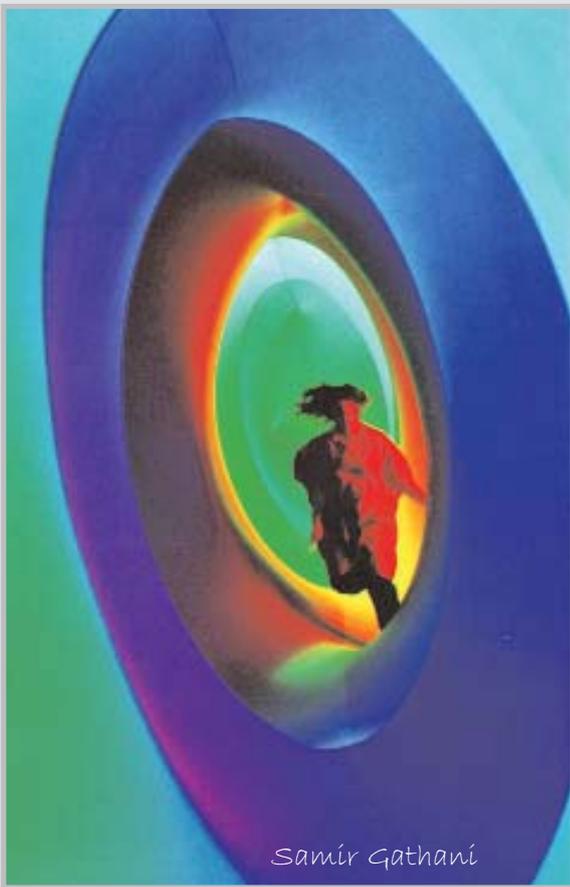


In March, Debi Retallick led a two-day 'Felt Making' workshop with the Year 12 Textile group. Debi has exhibited nationally and internationally and offers workshops around the world.

Students were shown examples of Debi's work and introduced to different ways of working with the pre-dyed wool fibres. After a short practice, all of the students designed

their own sculptural form, based on their coursework studies.

Making felt objects is not as easy as it sounds. To create the felt itself, the different coloured wool fibres are laid along a template of the final shape. The fibres are then matted together by rubbing with soapy water, needing strong arms and lots of patience!



Samir Gathani



Martin Kenyon



Dominic Weedon - Mary Hare Primary

"This is a jaguar - he has very big canine teeth for tearing meat"

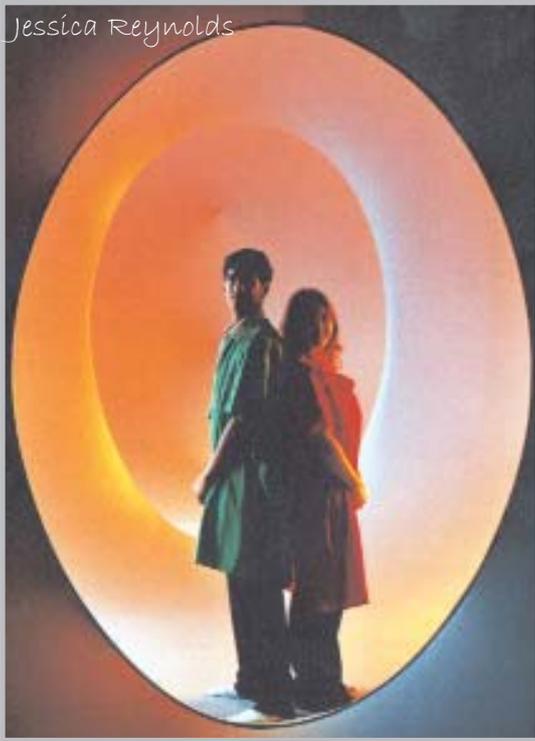


Michael Brown

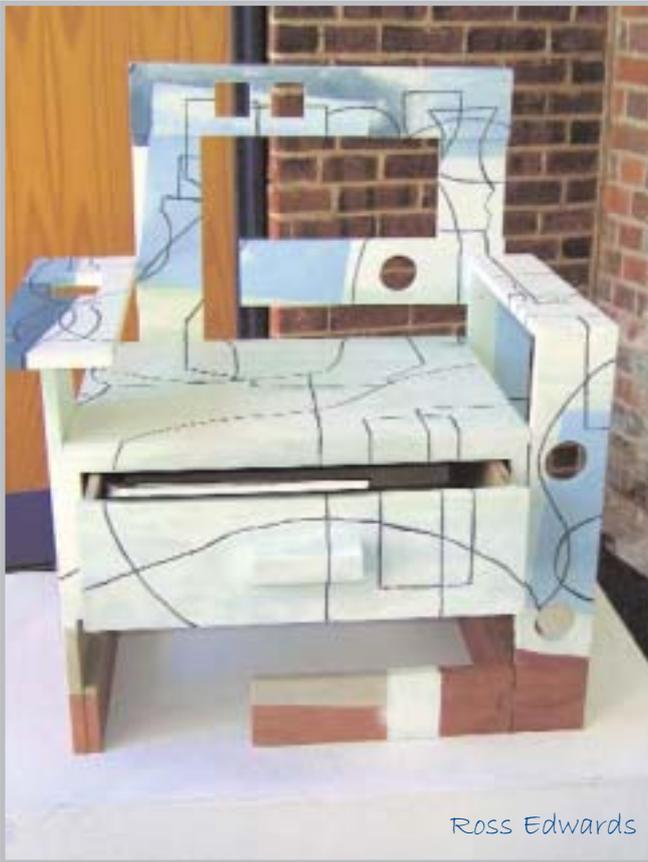
funky footwear day at the end of March, staff and pupils revealed their good humour and generous



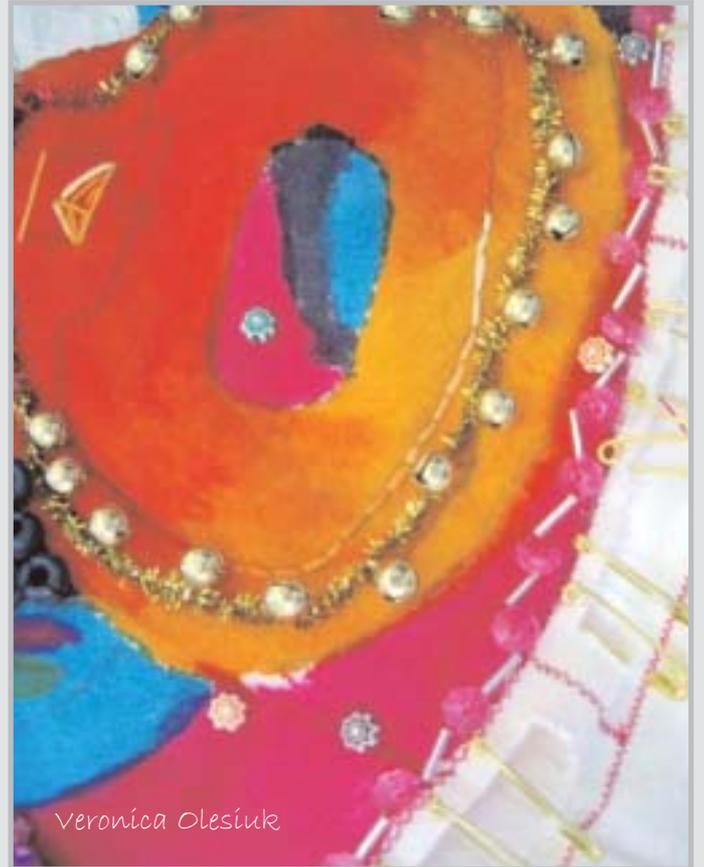
Jessica Reynolds



Lucy Jones



Ross Edwards



Veronica Olesiuk

nature once again by donning outrageous footwear - all in the name of charity. Can you guess who's wearing what ?



of mice and men

In March, Year 11 Drama students travelled to the Old Vic, to see a production of 'Of Mice and Men', adapted from John Steinbeck's classic tale of Depression-era California.

Frankie Roberts said of the trip, "I was quite surprised to see so many young people there. The atmosphere was really good and we seemed to have a close rapport with the actors – we were sitting in Row B!"



'Model' student Philip Swift



going global

As part of Year 9's preparation for this year's SATs examination on 'Macbeth', students made models of the Globe Theatre, as it was in Shakespeare's time. The group learned about theatre-going in the time of King James I, when 'Macbeth' was first performed.

To mark St George's Day on 23rd April, Year 8 researched the story of the real Saint George and then wrote their own versions of the story... here is the tale of **ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON** by Helen Willis

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there lived a beautiful lady. She had long fair hair, which she wore in a plait right down to her waist. She was good and kind and everybody in the village loved her. The village was in a valley next door to a high mountain. In the mountain, in a deep, deep cave, there lived an evil, greedy, ugly dragon.

The dragon was so greedy that very soon he had eaten all the animals that lived on the mountain. Next, he came down to the village and started eating the sheep, then the goats, then the pigs, then the cows until there were no animals left.

The villagers were very upset. Every time they saw the dragon,

its great, green, scaly belly was getting bigger and bigger and bigger. "There are no animals left", said the villagers. "Tomorrow, that great, greedy dragon is going to come and start eating us, one by one".

The beautiful lady could not bear to see the villagers so upset. "I will go and find the dragon" she said. "Perhaps I can persuade it to leave the village alone." So, that night, she started to walk up the mountain to find the dragon's cave.

In the morning, the villagers realised what she had done. "We must help her", they cried. "But how can we?" At that very moment, a wonderful thing happened.

A knight in shining armour, riding a huge white horse, entered the village. "I am on a quest," said the knight, "My name is Sir George and I am here to serve you". The villagers could not believe their luck.

They quickly told Sir George all about the beautiful lady. "Her name is Hope, she is trying to save us all, but we fear for her life. The evil dragon is so greedy, it will swallow her in one gulp".

Sir George galloped away. He climbed the mountain and, sure enough, as he reached the dragon's cave, he found Hope crying and the dragon with its mouth wide open, just about to strike.

"Stop that at once, you evil beast!" commanded Sir George.

The dragon roared at him, breathing flames. Sir George did not hesitate. He drew his great sword and using his shield to guard him from the flames, he marched towards the dragon and drove his sword deep into the dragon's heart. With a great sigh, the big, fat, evil, green dragon lay down and died.

"My hero!" exclaimed Hope, "How can I ever repay you for such a brave deed?" "Easily" said Sir George, "Marry me". "I will", said Hope, "for you have saved both me and the village". The very next day they married and they lived happily ever after.

EATING

by Ben Glover

When I eat I chomp,
When I drink I gulp,
When I have gum I chew,
When I drink hot tea I sip,
When I eat cake I drool,
When I am hungry I rumble,
When I eat a carrot I crunch,
When I feel sick I choke!

EATING

by Max Thorne

Drink slurping
Crisp crunching
Apple chomping
Toffee chewing
Wine sipping
Full English drooling
I'm hungry. Rumbling tummy!

THE TRENCHES

by Katie Bonné

Barbed wire,
Poking out,
Children running around,
Enjoying the game,
Children pretending to be soldiers,
Making gun noise,
Going in and out of caves,
Jumping across the ditch,
Stamping in muddy puddles,
Screaming, laughing,
Having the time of their lives.

I have a picture in my head,
Of a soldier,
With a photo in his hands,
Admiring it with pride,
Tears running down his cheeks,
Suddenly,
A bomb explodes nearby,
He hides his photo in his pocket,
Prepares his gun ready to shoot,
Crawling on his chest,
Using his elbows to move,
Keeping his head low,
Watching every living thing moving around,
Wanting to surrender to get home unharmed,
But he must fight for us,
But before he knows it,
Another bomb comes down in the trench,
but it doesn't go off,
He stops and stares at it
The photo was of his wife.

SPIRIT

by Hamish Roberts

In my mind
I could see something!
Something sad!
I'm trying to imagine what it is!
I think it is a person in my mind
Dressed up in green, old fashioned
With a gun
And a grenade.
I don't understand now!
Maybe ...it is a ...
Spirit ...

KISSING

by Shari Noraliee
and her Year 10 English group

There are lots of ways of kissing
Squashed noses, first kisses
Slobery kisses
Warm kisses
Flirting kisses.
Romantic 'film' kisses that go on forever
A peck on the cheek
Sixth Formers in the corridor kissing
Teacher says, 'Go to your lesson!'
Mum's kissing,
Embarrassing in front of all your mates.
Grandmother's kiss (and cheeks pinched)
...'How much you've grown!'
Mmm, just kissing.

BOYS AND MEN

by Meghan Durno

Tanned like a tall oak tree,
bad boys, good boys, different boys,
lots of different types to choose from!
Hmm ... which one do I like?
This one? ... Nah! ... Him? ... Ooh!
I could shop for days,
buying different kinds of boys,
school boys, skater boys, girly boys
or even, sexy boys ... I like them!

Haikus by Meghan Durno

RAGDOLL

Ragdolls are cute things
They are very loveable
I love to hug my Ragdoll.

EXAM!

I have butterflies
Shaking like a leaf today
Hope it's over soon!

At the end of the Spring term, pupils from Years 7 and 8 went on a day trip to the Pas de Calais, organised by teachers Mme Lelaure and Mrs Carr. It was a truly gastronomic experience!

After visiting a 'boulangerie', to see how French bread is made, the next stop was a chocolate factory where pupils witnessed the entire manufacturing process, from cocoa bean to hand finished quality chocolate.

The French product was considered to be a fair equivalent to the Belgian delights sampled by staff on the earlier Year 9 History trip – the downside was that the French chocolates were twice as expensive and twice as rich, so teachers could only eat half the amount, before catching the ferry home!



L'histoire et la retraite de Concorde

As part of his A2 French coursework, Year 13 pupil Stephen Weatherall wrote a stirring and knowledgeable review of the history of 'Concorde', from its birth in 1969, to its final farewell in 2003. Here, Stephen sums up his feelings on the spectacular aircraft...



'L'amour ressenti par tout le monde est bien évident. Étant un adorateur de Pointu moi-même, j'étais déçu - j'aimerais le voir voler à nouveau.

Il aurait été inévitable que Concorde soit retiré du service, mais c'était malheureux qu'il n'ait pas eu une sortie digne qu'il a bien mérité.

Je comprends aussi les raisons de sécurité et d'argent, je pense donc qu'il vaut mieux avancer et regarder l'avenir.

Je ne peux qu'espérer qu'un autre avion supersonique soit créé bientôt, avec le même sentiment de vitesse qu'on avait simplement en le regardant.'

The two Year 11 Full Course French groups came together in their last ever GCSE lesson at the end of May, to wish each other well and say 'au revoir' to their teachers and French assistant **Maud Jamin**. The occasion was celebrated in style with plenty of French cheeses, bread, brioche and pain au chocolat to enjoy whilst chattering away 'en français'.

The pupils had completed 75% of their final GCSE qualification and so the mood was relaxed and a very pleasant way to close the door on five mostly very happy years! We wish the students well.



Teacher Sarah Lelaure (left) bids Maud 'Au Revoir'

BATTLEFIELDS VISIT

Report by Victoria Wright, Afkari Aziz, Michael Barber, Michael Hadley, David Hough, Ben Sowden and James Davies

We woke up at 4.00 am and the bus left Mary Hare at 5.00 am. We all settled down and went to sleep on the journey to Folkestone. One of us took a photo of Mr Marlow asleep with his feet up! After breakfast in the Channel Tunnel, we soon arrived in Belgium. The museum at Ypres was very interesting but the toilets were unusual, because they were not very private.

The Menin Gate had thousands of names carved on it of people who had died in the war, but no one ever found their bodies. At Sanctuary Wood we were all very excited about going into the trenches, because it was a real trench, which the British soldiers had used in the war.



The underground part was very scary as you could not see a thing and you had to feel your way through. The shop had some old '3D' machines with horrible pictures

In the Tyne Cot cemetery, thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers were buried. James Davies found a gravestone that said 'J Davies, died 20th November 1917'. In the file at the entrance, it said that his name was James Emery Davies and he came from Liverpool. Ben Sowden found three 'Sowdens' who he believes are related to him.

Our final stop was at Cité Europe, where we had tea and stocked up on various items which were later confiscated by the teachers – c'est la vie!

FIVE DAYS IN BERLIN

by Lewis Martin

During February half term, I went to Berlin for five days to play chess for the English National Junior Squad U12s team. The sixteen of us met up at Heathrow Airport on Saturday morning to depart for Berlin. We stayed at the Pegasus Hostel in the East of Berlin. The next day we played a match against a team from the North East of Germany. It was a hard fought match against a stronger team. Later on we played a game of football; unfortunately our team captain had to go to the hospital with a broken leg!

On Monday we went on a tour around the city, we visited the Old Parliament Building (Reichstag), the Brandenburg Gate and the remaining parts of the Berlin Wall, we travelled by tram and train. In the evening we went to the 'en passant' café and competed in a rapid play competition. I won ten euros.

On Tuesday, we visited West Berlin, the zoological gardens and the 'Story of Berlin' museum. We returned to the café again for our final match of the trip against the Berlin U18 team. Next morning the team departed for Heathrow Airport to return home after an enjoyable trip.

Wiltshire and West of England Chess Championships

The following weekend, I took part in the Under 12s section of the competition. This is a Swiss (6 games) tournament against players from all over the country. I was seeded number one player of the section out of more than 80 players and played on the top board throughout both days of the event. I had five wins and one draw. This was enough to win the competition.

By doing this, I won several trophies, a chess board and a cheque. I became the Wiltshire Under 12 champion, the West of England Under 12 Champion and was joint winner of the Under 12 Open Championships. Quite a week!





Earlier this year, we were asked to accompany a group from Birmingham City College on an adventurous trip to Goa, India for two weeks in March (to rub your noses in it, at the hottest time of the year). The purpose of this trip was to enable deprived young adults to experience a 'getaway' trip and to complete a challenge award.

When we first met the group, we were nervous as going on an overseas trip with a big group of hearing people was something new to us. Our first impressions were that they were rude and arrogant but throughout the holiday, we got to know them better and realised that they were down-to-earth students who had had a hard upbringing.

After an 11 hour flight, we stepped out of the plane and could feel the hot humid weather straight away. Miles better than typical English weather! Our first accommodation was at Paloem beach, a place discovered by backpackers. The area was poor and a culture shock.

We couldn't believe our eyes when we saw where we were staying - in a tent for FOUR nights! But it was worthwhile, for as soon as we explored the area, we saw a long white stretch of beach with clear sea, surrounded by beautiful palm trees. It was paradise - I thought I was in a movie scene. The cost of living was inexpensive, around £1.50 for a 3-course meal, and the food tasted delicious!

We took part in many activities during our stay at Paloem beach.

Early one morning, we set out by boat for a deserted island called 'Monkey's Island' to watch the sunrise and the dolphins swimming.

We walked through villages and gave out pens and books to the children. They would run up to us as they don't get many opportunities and pens and books are luxury items for them.

Without realising, I accidentally lost my memory card in the village and then a group of village kids ran about 500m just to return the card. I gave money in return for their respect.

We helped villagers to catch fish from the sea with a fishnet. The waves were fairly rough and we were taught to surf by Norman (on the college staff) - we were better than the males, so watch out boys!

Our next destination was Colva beach and this time we stayed in a hotel with a proper bathroom and swimming pool. On our first day in Colva, we went to a flea market. It was a bit annoying because the locals pressured us to buy products off their stalls.

They were well known for ripping off tourists, but luckily Aman and I bargained to buy things at much lower prices than the first outrageous price.

Strangers in Birmingham are great friends in Goa!

Report by
Aman Johal and Lisanne Holly

The following day we went on an adventurous trip to visit the waterfalls, in a jeep through the jungle for 45 minutes - even through the rivers. Red dust was spread all over us.

It was amazing to see wild monkeys and beautiful birds up close. When we were nearly there, we could see the waterfall from the top it was beautiful. As soon as we got there, we quickly dived into the water. It was cold but it cooled us down! We only stayed there for an hour, but it was worth a hectic day's travelling.

We then visited a temple about an hour away. It was very old and in the middle of nowhere. I stupidly walked into the temple without taking my sandals off and everybody was shouting at me to get them off. I ran outside and suddenly I fell and was left with a big bruise on my leg. I think it was a curse for not taking my sandals off!

On Saturday we relaxed by the pool. In the evening we went to another flea market. It was better at night, as we could hear the music and see the lights through the colourful materials on display. Aman and I had a go on a go-kart. I can assure you that I was way better than Aman, due to her countless crashes! Afterwards we went to 'Club Cubana', a nightclub on top of the mountain with a beautiful view and a swimming pool and free drinks all night!

On Monday we spent all day shopping in a city called Panjim. The designer shops there were really cheap. I bought a Levi top for £4, which would be £25 here! It makes you realise how expensive England is. After shopping we went on a sunset boat trip.

The next day we decided to check out the beach next to our hotel. We tried out a banana boat and parachute with a lovely view over the beach and the village where we were staying.

On Wednesday we visited a valuable mansion owned by the Portuguese royal family. It was interesting to see all the valuable things in the house and learn about their history, as the family had previously owned Goa.

Finally it was the last day. We returned to the beach to try out the jet skiing. It was very scary and very fast, especially with Aman being the driver! In the evening, the college people hired a restaurant/bar to celebrate the success of our holiday together.

It was an emotional time as the students collected their awards and various people gave speeches about what they had learned on the trip. It was a once in a lifetime trip, when we experienced a wonderful and unique cultural background. I would recommend that you go there one day!

We would never have imagined ourselves interacting with these students and on that last night, someone made a very good quote - "Strangers in Birmingham are great friends in Goa."



it's all for charity!

During 2003/4 a record amount was raised for many different charities, proving that Mary Hare pupils are keener than ever to think of others from time to time!

In September we raised £600 for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association** and shortly afterwards we wore our jeans and raised £170 for the annual **Jeans for Genes** Appeal. In November, with the help of a huge donation from the very successful Mary Hare Swimathon, we sent £700 to **Breast Cancer Research**. Who could forget the Oscar Awards, which raised £650 for **Children In Need** in November? Sales of refreshments during our Christmas

Production raised £500 from parents and friends who joined us - the mulled wine was clearly a hit! This went to our chosen Christmas charity, the **Meningitis Trust** and in the same month we also sent £50 to the **RNID**.

We raised £130 in February for **UNICEF** and then began raising money for **STEPS** – a charity dedicated to helping children born with lower limb abnormalities. (See our Gallery Pages for pictures of 'Funky Footwear' Day) Unusually, having raised £220, we put this campaign on hold until later in the year, because a more urgent cause came to our attention.

We began to concentrate on our **'Mozambique Appeal'** – raising funds to provide a new sewing machine for a village workshop there - and by June we had raised £400. (See below for more details).

In March we sent £205 to the **Parkinson's Disease Society** in Northern Ireland, after one of our Sixth Form students spoke to us about his father who is sadly afflicted with the disease.

This brings our grand fundraising total for the past year to a STAGGERING **£3,625.00!** Thank you to everyone who has supported these events throughout the year and let's see if we can go over the £4,000 total next year!

VIETNAM CHALLENGE

In February 2005, Care staff member **Tracy Cope** will be raising money for the **National Deaf Children's Society** by cycling across Vietnam in a physically and mentally challenging ten-day tour.

Over the coming months, Tracy will be undergoing a rigorous training programme including a healthy eating and fitness programme to get in shape. Getting used to riding again will also be a challenge as Tracy has not been on her bicycle for some time! She has already been building herself up with a bike tour through Wales and a training weekend, as well as light rides through Newbury to get used to riding again.

The biggest challenge will be to raise the £2,600 needed for the trip. Half of this will go towards travel expenses and the rest will go to the charity. Tracy is aiming to raise £3,000 so that she can give more money to NDCS. She will be holding numerous fundraising events, including a charity football match, a teddy bear's picnic and some car boot sales. At each of these she will also be organising raffles. In school, Tracy will be organising some low-key fundraising that will include cake sales and a 'Guess the Baby Photo' competition. Any support for these endeavours will be gratefully received!

Tracy would be delighted with any help and support from pupils, colleagues and parents, so do please contact Tracy in the Manor for more information or if you would like to help in any way.



BREAKFAST FOR MOZAMBIQUE

Monday 21st June was the longest day of the year as well as the start of the school exam week. What better way to make sure we all made it through the day than by fortifying ourselves with a full English breakfast?

The breakfast was in aid of a charity working in Mozambique and about £200 was raised to help purchase a sewing machine, which would enable the women of the village to become self-sufficient.

Over 100 staff and pupils were only too pleased to tuck in to bacon, eggs, sausage, mushrooms, beans, tomatoes, fried bread and waffles. Special thanks go to Mary Hare chef Mark Winwood and the kitchen team who produced an excellent meal, to Carole Howe, Anita Leach and David Hollitzer who helped serve the hungry and to Mr Treasure who organised the whole thing!



NO PAIN, NO GAIN!

The London Marathon Experience by Mary Hare parent Carol Jones

Extract from an article first published in the "CICS (Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group) May 2004 Newsletter".



With kind permission of Action Photo U.K.

On a cold, wet and windy Sunday morning I arrived at a friend's house declaring "I DON'T DO RAIN". As a fair weather Club runner for Ealing, Southall & Middlesex AC, I do like the running conditions to be just right, so this, my first marathon, was not at all what was required.

Five of us set off by taxi at 7.20 am from Ealing, worried that the driver didn't seem to know where Blackheath was, except that it was South of the River Thames - not encouraging when your nerves are completely frayed. We arrived at 8 am just as the roads were about to be closed and the taxi was about to run out of petrol.

I'm sure Blackheath Common is very pleasant on a sunny day, but in the cold, wet and wind, with no shelter, we were cold before we even started. Standing around with dustbin liners over your head is not exactly warming, but better than nothing! Claire (another Ealing runner) and I lined up for the Blue Start and amazingly managed to get through the line within one minute. This makes a huge difference as at least you can get into a reasonable pace relatively early.

As an experienced half-marathon runner, the first ten miles were absolutely fine. It really started to rain around the Tower Bridge area, which was not at all pleasant. I knew those supporting me would be along the route into and out of the Isle of Dogs, but it's very difficult to spot people in the crowd because you are concentrating on weaving your way in amongst the other runners. I did, however, spot Richard (my husband) who, after 20 years, still doesn't need a megaphone in a crowd! My ears must be attuned to his dulcet tones.

The 'wall' hit at about sixteen miles, by Canary Wharf. Luckily, at this point two of my fellow Club runners caught me and I tagged onto them. So for the next four miles Teresa, Sarah and myself kept each other going. Sarah then dropped back, leaving Teresa and I to run the last six miles and to cross the line together. When you come around that last corner, by the fountain outside Buckingham Palace, believe you me you don't see the Palace at all - all you're focused upon is that finish line.

Having run 26.2 miles, when you cross the line the shutters come down and suddenly you can't walk another step. Your chip is removed, you are given your medal, a goody bag (including the statutory silver blanket) and you collect your bag and then attempt to get home. Luckily, two friends came to find me and managed to get me home on the Underground.

Arriving home I stood at the bottom of my stairs debating how on earth was I going to get up them to the bathroom!

Needless to say I was back running the following Thursday. I now, at last, have my official time, which was 3 hours 40 minutes and 55 seconds and there is a strong possibility that I could get an automatic place next year.

Would I do it again? If you had asked me during the Race, then NO - but if you had asked me on the Sunday night, YES! As a Club runner I'm used to running on country lanes with no support whatsoever; the crowds and the atmosphere at the London Marathon are absolutely amazing. It truly was a fantastic experience. I was just outside the top 50th lady in my age category and in the top 9% of all women running. Not bad for a veteran 46 year old mum of four boys!

POST SCRIPT

Carol will have raised over **£2,000** which will be shared equally between CICS and the Mary Hare PTA Fund. Thanks to all those who supported her efforts!

On Friday 14th May, two of our PE staff took a group of pupils to be involved in the Area Athletics for West Berkshire. **Camilla Willis** and I decided to go and so did **David Hough, Daniel Hopkinson, James Arnold, Thomas Giddens, Ryan Marshall, Kirsty Day, Philippa Merricks** and **Harry Allen**.

When we arrived at the athletics stadium, it was packed with pupils from different schools in West Berkshire. First of all it was the girls' field events while the boys did their track events. Camilla and I were involved in the Under 15 long jump and

Camilla was amazed by the length of the girls' legs and was expecting to do really badly (which was not true). Philippa did the shot and she came 4th in the Under 17, while Kirsty did the high jump.

While we girls were showing the other girls from different schools how well we could do in our field events, David Hough ran the 200 metres for the under 15s. He gained 4th place in the heat.

Daniel Hopkinson ran the 100 metres heat and gained 3rd place by a close call. Harry Allen gained 4th place for the 100 metres, sprinting along the track like a

whippet. The boys moved on to the field events while the girls ran their track events and James Arnold gained 1st place for the shot put in the Under 17s.

I felt relieved when I had finished my event, which was the long jump and I looked forward to relaxing and watching people run. But I was wrong!

Philippa asked me if I could do the relay with her, Camilla and Kirsty for the Under 17 event, instead of the Under 15s where I would normally run. I dreaded this happening but Philippa reminded me it was all part of the fun! We came last but I enjoyed running and it was a good laugh!



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Earlier this year, we were thrilled to celebrate the achievements of the newly formed Mary Hare basketball team who, against all the odds, won the Newbury Basketball League title, winning every game they played.

Through sheer hard work, determination, willingness to accept both praise and criticism and a stubborn refusal ever to give up, they managed to overcome all obstacles and deserved to be called champions.

It was good to see Mary Hare's name on the trophy for the very first time – it won't be the last! The following pupils received medals in school assembly: **Tim Quigley, Ryan Marshall, Thomas Giddens, Matthew Everett, Ken Emezie, Louis Francis** and **Harry Allen**.

Some of our readers may know that Year 11 pupil **Ken Emezie** has been playing in Mr Owen's basketball team, the 'Hurst Hornets' this year. The team plays in the Wessex Men's Division 2, a tough league which expects a high standard of play.

Ken has done extremely well, not only keeping his place in the team but also winning the 'Coaches Award', which goes to the player who has most improved during the year. Well done Ken!

SWIMMING GALA

At the beginning of the Spring term, the swimming pool at Mary Hare was a scene of furious activity for several weeks, as students prepared for the annual swimming gala, held in February. Teams of students, representing the four houses were chivvied into practice sessions by House Captains **Martine Laverly, Joanna Raper, Abigail Palmer, Lisa Smith** and **Liam Nesbitt**.

On the day itself, staff and non-competitors lined the poolside to support their House. Swimmers represented their House in both individual and relay events, to noisy support from the onlookers. The overall House winners, with joint first place, were Beverley and Braidwood; school records were broken by:

- Chris Mayer** (Year 8) – 1 length back crawl
- Liam Nesbitt** (Year 13) – 2 length back crawl
- Lizzie Pearson** (Year 8) – individual medley
- Emily Troddyn** (Year 9) – 1 length breast stroke



Sports Day 2004

This year, the weather forecast was not promising but the rain held off and, although it was chilly for the spectators, the cooling wind provided good conditions for the field and track events. Our special guest for the afternoon was Brian Kokoruwe, the Team Manager and Director of Deaf UK Athletics. This organisation is responsible for sending British deaf athletes to many international competitions.

Our thanks, as always, go to friends, parents and former pupils who supported the event and to the PTA and Fenney's Tuck Shop for providing welcome sustenance to keep up the energy levels. Moyra and her kitchen staff team provided a fantastic tea in Blount Hall after the event – we understand that Margaret baked around 1,500 cakes! Our sympathies go to PE teacher Mr Owen who, being new to the school, knew nothing of this traditional end to Sports Day and missed it!



RESULTS

Victor / Victrix Ludorum Cups

Junior: **Jonathan Rogers** and **Camilla Willis** Senior: **Ross Edwards** and **Alex Simmons**

The Kenneth Bayliss Trophy

Michael Hadley

House Champions

Braidwood (437 points)

2nd Beverley (373 points) 3rd Arnold (356 points) 4th Mary Hare (305 points)

Report by Inde Johal

During a revision lesson for GCSE Science, Mr Davies introduced the class to one of the first interactive whiteboards in Mary Hare School. The board is situated in Seminar Room 2 in the Manor and we used it for some quizzes and crosswords; the answers were selected by touching the whiteboard.

There were several programs for Science which showed us how certain experiments worked when we changed a variable. The verdict from the class was that we all found the board extremely useful for revision and our request to Dr Tucker would be for a whiteboard in every room please!

whiteboards



national science week

It was Senior Assembly with a difference in March when Mr Davies and his form took to the stage to perform some 'miraculous' experiments. **Peter Schofield** invited his white-coated colleagues to join him in a drink to celebrate National Science Week.

Being a fussy lot, they requested five different drinks, which Peter poured from the same bottle of what looked like red wine. How did the red wine turn to milk or lemonade in the glass? It wasn't 'magic' but 'Science' and you would have to do A Level Science to find out how it was done!



Patrick Hyland, Caroline Marrett, Helen Pine, Lianne Holly, Malvika Periwal and Craig White went on to explain some interesting science facts that they had researched themselves. Students who are fed up with carrying heavy bags might be especially interested in Craig's report, which follows:

"I found out how new technology has been used to develop bionic legs for soldiers. US researchers have developed strap-on legs to allow people to carry heavy loads over long distances. This is part of a US defence project, designed for use mainly by infantry soldiers. The device consists of a pair of mechanical, metal leg braces with a power unit and backpack style frame.

More than 40 sensors and hydraulic mechanisms calculate how to distribute the weight of the load, just like the human nervous system. The device is able to run for up to two hours. When testing the device, soldiers walked around in the 45kg exoskeleton with a 31.5kg backpack and said that it felt like carrying little more than 2kg."

When do we get to use these for cross-country? The assembly ended on a colourful note - with the lights dimmed, Peter poured the contents of two flasks into a jar and produced an impressive bright, luminous blue liquid. Science looked pretty interesting!

fenney's

Sarah Jones, **NSPCC** area co-ordinator for West Berkshire schools, was pleased to come to Mary Hare in May to talk about the charity and to collect a cheque donated by Year 10 Business Studies students. The group presented Sarah a cheque for £388, which had been raised over three months when the students set up and ran their own tuck shop.

As most readers are aware, this project enabled students to gain first hand experience on how to run a business successfully. Thank you to everyone who supported 'Fenney's' by buying our products and special thanks to Mrs Wylie for her help. 'Fenney's' may return for one-off events, so watch out for us!



James Arnold with Sarah Jones

my snake by Sam Arnold

Some of you may have heard that I have a snake - he's a male snake called Thierry. I copied this from the Arsenal player Thierry Henry because he's my favourite player. Thierry is a Corn snake and he is 4ft long. In the future he will be more than 6ft long and will live for 15 to 35 years. He has been with us for four years - we got him from a pet shop in Harrow in June 2000, for my birthday.

He is a great pet. He knows me from his sense of smell and he has some sense of sight and taste too. He doesn't mind when I pick him up now, but the first time I did it he was so scared and nervous. When I put my hand in Thierry's tank, he used to head butt my finger. This was quite painful and I became scared of him - I did not pick him up for three months. Then I made myself be brave and pick him up but he did it again. I thought I would never pick him up!



The next month my sister Camilla fought me to pick him up and so I did. I felt his scales and they were so beautiful and smooth. I thanked Camilla because she had helped me to pick up the snake. Now my sister doesn't want to pick him up because she is scared that he will hurt her with a head butt.

Thierry is very colourful and very healthy. He has had no disease in the four years that I have had him and it makes me feel proud that I have a great pet, although he can still give me a head butt if he is fed up or hungry. Thierry eats medium-

sized, dead mice and these are his favourite food. We always keep dead mice in the freezer and when the snake is hungry we put one in a plastic bag and leave it for to thaw for four hours. Thierry loves it - he squeezes and attacks the mouse. We give him one mouse a week. Sometimes he attacks the mouse in a dangerous way, like attacking prey, which looks exciting.

Corn snakes love wood chip and tree branches inside the tank to make them feel at home. Corn snakes live in North America in the forests.

They do sleep but their eyes do not blink. They enjoy climbing.

Last year, Thierry escaped from his tank. I was really upset as I love my snake a lot. We were going to buy another snake but I didn't want another one, I wanted Thierry. We searched for three days then, suddenly, Thierry was found by my dad. I was so happy, I thought how lucky I was and I thanked my dad for finding him. Now I always check the tank to see if he is OK. Thierry is my best pet along with my gecko called Leza. Thanks for reading about 'My Snake', I hope you found it interesting.

In our last edition we wrote about Ian Stillman's visit to Mary Hare and Dr Tucker offered a placement for a speech therapist from the Nambikkai Project

BENEDICTA ISAAC

My name is Benedicta Isaac and I am a Speech Therapist with the Nambikkai Foundation.

The Foundation is situated very close to Kanya Kumari on the southernmost tip of India. The Founder and Director of The Nambikkai Foundation is Ian Stillman and our mission is to help deaf people to be independent, to live with dignity and to fulfil their potential.

I have come to visit Mary Hare School for two months, to experience and learn about deaf education in the UK, so that I can take home this information and use it with the deaf people in India.



junior artist of the year

Some time ago, Mary Hare pupil **Hamish Roberts** entered an art competition through the Society for All Artists. Back in June he heard that out of the 4,000 entries, from over 50 countries, he was down to the last 25.

In July, he was awarded the 'Junior Artist of the Year' award and our congratulations go to Hamish for such an excellent result!



Hamish with his painting

ON THE EDGE

Representatives of 'The Edge', a West Berkshire based service for young people, came into school in March to talk to pupils in Years 10 to 13. The Edge is a support service for those who have issues or concerns about drugs or alcohol. It supports not only young individuals but also their friends and families in need of support and advice.

Staffed by a team with a variety of backgrounds who can all lend their own particular area of expertise to the job, they offer counselling, family work, education and group sessions, together with a range of other support services.

The Edge prides itself on being a confidential, non-judgmental service. It is all about giving young people the correct information, so that they can make the right choice for themselves. Their presentation was well received and supplies of their literature were left for students to read.



Mrs Wylie welcomes a visitor from 'The Edge'

For more information on The Edge contact them on: 01635 582005 or go to their website: www.edgecrew.co.uk.

leavers lunch 2004



Report by Mrs Hansen

The annual lunch to say farewell to our Year 13 students was, as always, a very informal and pleasant occasion. The beautiful summer day, the fantastic lunch and welcome drink all helped to get everyone to relax and mingle. There were teachers, care staff, parents, families and students all chatting together, recalling highlights from their years here at school and plans for the future.

It is quite an emotional day for me as, like my colleagues, I have got to know the students I teach and those in my form very well over the past two years. I have been there with them through various ups and downs, both personally as well as academically.

It is a real pleasure to see how mature and confident they are as they prepare to leave school and start the next stage in their life. The parents used the opportunity to express their gratitude to the staff for all the support their child had received whilst at Mary Hare. The individual presentations were made with a short tribute to each student, often causing much laughter from parents and the students themselves. So the occasion ends with tears, hugs, laughter, photographs and promises to keep in touch. Don't forget to let us know about life after Mary Hare! See Page 38 for news of other Mary Hare Alumni...

SYNAGOGUE VISIT

In R.E. we have been learning about Judaism, and how Jewish families lead their lives. We visited the Oxford synagogue to find out more.

We were shown some very interesting things, like the shabbat candles, the bread and the prayer shawl. The Torah scrolls were beautifully written, all with a quill, and our pupils had remembered that they are read from right to left. Joseph even remembered the word for the prayer cap – the kippah.

It was such an interesting visit and Mrs May, who made us very welcome and showed us round, said that our pupils knew much more about Judaism than the school (of hearing children) who had just visited!



SEAN RATCLIFFE

We have had a very sad start to the school year. In August, Sean Ratcliffe died suddenly whilst on holiday with his grandparents in France. We are all missing him very much - he was a very popular pupil, always on the go, full of energy and enthusiasm for so many things.

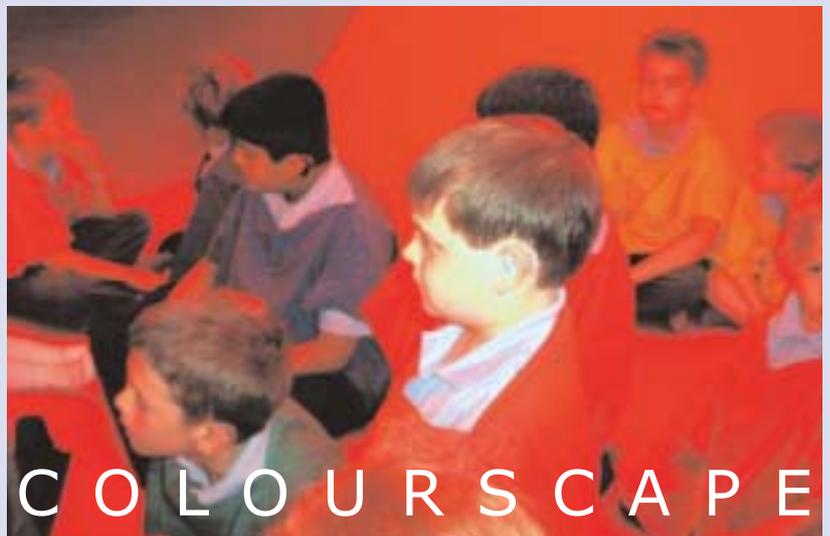
He loved football, he loved reading, he loved history, he loved his Play Station, he loved jokes. His general knowledge was remarkable. He was a delightful, cheerful, affectionate and fun-loving person and it is difficult to believe that he is not here anymore. We are all thinking of Clara and Chris, his parents.

Karen Smith - Head of Centre

As part of the Newbury Spring Festival, there was a 'Colourscape' exhibition in Victoria Park. This was advertised as a 'living work of art', which you go into, rather than look at.

It was a tent, with burrows in it, all fitted with wonderful lights of different colours. We had to wear a coloured overall and the lights made our skin and the overall change colour, to the delight of the pupils.

Different colours suggested different moods. There was for example a brilliant yellow sunlight colour, when we could imagine being on a beach, and a dark intense red, which was not relaxing at all. The children (pictured right) loved it.



COLOURSCAPE

going to the dogs

In March, a group of Mary Hare staff and Sixth Form students joined over 150 guests at a Charity Greyhound Racing Evening at Wimbledon Stadium, organised by parent governor Judith Roberts to raise funds for the PACE Centre Appeal.

Many of the races had been aptly named for the special Mary Hare evening with 'Howard House', 'The Manor' and 'Mansell' all appearing as individual race titles. The final race of the evening was 'The Sixth Form Registration Dash' which, in spite of its name, was an extremely swift race!



At the end of the evening, Dr Tucker, Mr Gale and the students were invited to present trophies to the owners of the winning dogs. A total of **£7,500** was raised from the racing evening and our sincere thanks go to Judith Roberts for organising such a splendid event and to all the friends and supporters who contributed to this wonderful fundraising total.

Staff supporting the event with Dr Tucker, were Peter Gale, Jane McMillan, Fiona O'Regan, Wendy Banister and Sally Beckett. Students who lent their support were, **Ben Knighton, Martine Laverty, Lucy Jones** and **Glen Chivers**.



Roger Wills helps a Vodafone employee

deaf awareness week 2004

We were pleased to contribute once again to this year's Deaf Awareness Week in May. Two members of our audiology team, **Viv Ogg** and **Roger Wills** visited the Newbury headquarters of Vodafone plc, to offer employees free hearing tests and advice on any hearing problems. Viv and Roger were kept extremely busy and appointments were over-subscribed by the end of the day.

Vodafone Wellbeing Manager, Andrew Meredith, was delighted with the response, "Our employees were really happy and it was great of you to spend the time. Please say thank you from me to your colleagues who visited us and we look forward to welcoming you again next year."

A few days later, friends and families joined us in Carnarvon Hall for a delightful Musical Evening, with a range of solo and group performances by Mary Hare pupils. It was a wonderful opportunity to listen to our outstanding musicians and find out more about their fantastic achievements.

Music teacher Christine Rocca spoke about the exciting plans for the new PACE Centre, including the development of the music therapy services currently provided by Christine and her colleague Cathy Brady.



Guests take to the floor at the Musical Evening

The fundraising work for the PACE Centre continues, with a number of events to raise awareness for the appeal.

Earlier this year we were pleased to hear that the Newbury branch of **NatWest Bank** had decided to hold their annual charity Quiz Night in support of the PACE Appeal - we obliged by holding the event in Carnarvon Hall and welcomed 30 teams from local business, who contributed just over **£2,000** towards the appeal.

During the same week, a **Charity Dinner and Auction** was held for 250 specially invited guests, at Combe Manor near Hungerford.

The fundraising total for this event is still to be announced, but we hope to have raised at least **£50,000** for the appeal. Our thanks

must go to the hardworking Committee who came together especially for event and are now taking a well-earned rest!

In June 2005, there will be a Mary Hare **Charity Race Evening** at Newbury Racecourse. Further details on how you can support this event will be circulated nearer the time. Watch out too, for news about our **'On-line Auction'**, to be held next year - where you can bid for some exciting items and support the PACE appeal at the same time!

At the start of the summer break, we heard that our application for support from the **National Lottery** was successful, with a grant of **£211,000**. This brings our current fundraising total to a tremendous **£1,775,000** - making good progress towards the building cost of around £2.5 million, although there is still a way to go!

MAKING THE MOST OF MOBILES

The strong partnership between Mary Hare and Vodafone led to an exciting new development earlier this year, when two of our pupils (**Martine Laverty** and **Michael Brown**) were asked to try out new developments in mobile phone technology and then report back on their findings.

The new phone, created using a Nokia Communicator 9210i with RNID software, enables users to make a full range of calls, using the RNID 'Typetalk' service to translate, when necessary, between speech and text.

When calling another Textphone user, the text messaging is 'real time', which means that text conversations can be held 'live', rather than waiting for a response via the SMS service.

Martine and Michael were each loaned a Vodafone mobile Textphone for a week and asked to use it as much as possible - not a difficult task!

On returning to school after the weekend, the students were interviewed by the local television company, Meridian TV, who subsequently aired an item

about the new technology on the local news that evening.

Martine and Michael both had very positive comments to make about the new phone. They could use them in situations where previously they might have asked a hearing friend to help, which they felt was a significant way forward.

We were only too pleased to collaborate with Vodafone in testing this exciting new technology - don't forget to look out for it in the shops!

Barclays new futures

An exciting new project will soon be underway, thanks to an award of **£10,000** through the **Barclays New Futures** Scheme.

Our A Level **Media Studies** students, supported by teacher Kevin Robinson, are producing a video aimed at making people more aware of issues around deafness, communication and the integration of deaf and hearing people.

This is a truly collaborative project involving pupils from our Secondary and Primary schools as well as work with their hearing peers from a local school.

Students will take the lead on all aspects of the project - from the initial planning stages through to the scripting, directing, filming and editing work. They will also be responsible for distributing and promoting the finished video, working with a number of business partners along the way.

We hope that we will be able to launch the video to an invited audience in the newly opened PACE Centre and look forward to seeing the results of their work!

Annual Report

Many readers will have received the 'new look' Mary Hare Annual Report for 2002/3, which was produced this year.

We hope you enjoyed reading about the outstanding achievements of the Mary Hare group of services. The next Annual Report will be published in early 2005.

If you would like a copy of the latest Annual Report, please contact the school or the Mary Hare Foundation.



alumni association news

Thank you to everyone who VOTED recently on the proposed improvements to the way the association works for YOU. We are pleased to announce that there was an overwhelming vote **IN FAVOUR** of all three proposals: the **new logo**, the **new name** and **sharing data** with Mary Hare School. All of these changes will now go ahead with immediate effect.

The new website - **www.maryharealumni.org.uk** - is now LIVE! Please support the new site by sending in your contributions or suggestions on how the site can develop. We want to hear from you! Just email: foundation@maryhare.org.uk.

Please note that if you voted against the sharing of data, your details will not be transferred to the Mary Hare database. This means that you may miss out on future updates - so if you change your mind, just contact the Mary Hare Foundation office, who will be happy to add your name to the list.



www.maryharealumni.org.uk
your website, **your** views, **your** news!
www.maryharealumni.org.uk

melissa mostyn

I was always running away in my first year at Mary Hare! I would crouch, shivering in my pyjamas, in the summer house at night while prefects' torches swept the lawn outside. Given the alternatives this is not an option I would recommend!



I was a dreamer and could be teased for being small (initially) and whimsical (always). Yet that didn't prevent the achievement of prizes in English Literature, Speech and Drama as well as good marks in English, Art, Media Studies, History and French, as I left Mary Hare in 1989. This shaped my ambitions and led to a MA in Fashion Journalism at the Central Saint Martins School of Art in London.

I am best known as probably the only deaf fashion journalist in the country, getting published in Vogue, The Independent, Esquire, Scene, Ideas Factory, iVillage.com and Fashion Capital. But fashion retail, arts criticism, community media, illustration, book publishing, and television are now all part of my expertise, as well as editorial stints including Deaf Arts UK and The Fashion Book.

If you find school as tough as I once did, rest assured that the world of fashion is even tougher. Hassling editors for writing commissions; being openly scrutinized for your dress sense; jostling with hissing fur-clad divas for space in the shows; coming home to beans on toast after glitzy launch parties – these are the perks of being a fashion journalist. Full-time editorial jobs are as rare as hen's teeth, and only an overriding passion, a sense of irony, and a superb talent for multi-tasking and schmoozing will see you through the many lean years.

These days, I freelance in the arts. As Marketing and Arts Co-ordinator for Deafworks, a small deaf-led business, I devise their overall marketing, PR and press strategy and work towards better deaf-hearing integration in the arts. Following arts management training I plan to support and motivate deaf artists full-time. Writing is no longer my main career, although proposals for an illustrated book have been evolving for some time. Versace this might not be, but at least it's valid, and genuine rewards are more forthcoming.

laura atherton



After leaving Mary Hare in 2000, I went to the University of Central Lancashire, where I achieved a 2.1 Honours degree in Sociology and Deaf Studies. In my final year I applied for funding from the Jack Ashley Millennium Award, to make a video about what a television channel for the deaf could be like. This proved popular with the community and gave me inspiration and confidence that I could do so much with my talent.

After this experience of video-making, I felt some important aspects were missing from my university course, so I applied to the University of Wales (Aberystwyth) to study for a Masters degree in Television Studies, on a part-time basis. This has filled in all of the gaps, as well as making me realise that I want a career in television. I am thoroughly enjoying the course, as well as living with my boyfriend of five years, Oliver Eadsforth - yes, everybody, I'm still going out with him!

I have a part-time job, working in 'Weatherspoons', which has given me much confidence. I've been working there for about a year and I wait on tables and serve behind the bar. I still enjoy an active life, socialising with friends around the UK! After my Masters, I would like to get my own place in London and find a job within the television industry, starting as a researcher and eventually becoming a producer. Who know's what will happen? Ask me again in a few years time!

CONTINUED SUCCESS... taken from a letter received from the parents of former pupil **Michael Penfold**.

'Michael has recently achieved a 1st Class Honours degree along with two other awards, one from the Institute of Civil Engineering, from Loughborough University. He is now about to commence employment with Arup (consultant engineers) where he will start studying for Chartered Engineer status. We believe that without Mary Hare, he would not have achieved such high results and we sincerely thank the staff for all that was done for him, during his time at Mary Hare. Yours sincerely, Ros and Gerry Penfold'

g a r e t h s n e l l i n g

1991 was the year I left Mary Hare, moving on to enjoy the best years of my life at Hull University. I studied for a BEng in Electronic Engineering for three years, followed by a Post Graduate degree in Radio Systems Engineering (radar, mobile phones and all that boring stuff), for a year. We all had to work hard, but boy, did we students play hard!

As part of my last degree, I joined the Motor Industry Research Association as a student researcher. There I completed my dissertation and stayed on with the promise of employment. It never materialised, so I returned to Wrexham, my home town, in 1997. After various temporary jobs ranging from van driver to warehouse worker, I moved to Abbey National as a cashier.

After two years, my contract with Abbey National ended but fortunately, I came across a post for a trainee audiologist. I applied for it and never looked back. I trained for two years, passed the rigorous exams and training and I have been an audiologist for three years. I am just about to be promoted to Senior Audiologist with the intention to undertake yet another degree (habit forming this!), the MSc in Audiology.

Away from work, I enjoy cooking, reading, a spot of DIY on my house, tinkering with my battered old car, cycling and drinking real ales. I also get involved with our local amateur dramatic group where I do all sorts of things from actor to stage manager - pantomime is my particular favourite! I am also treasurer for our local NDCS group, which is rather strange since I am single and do not have any children! Mind you, I act like a big kid, so I suppose that's appropriate!





Leigh Williams enjoying the animation workshop (See Page 19)

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



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