

soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine



October 2005

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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!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

By **Tony Shaw**

Principal Mary Hare Schools

Each year gets more exciting, as we learn of all that has been achieved in the name of Mary Hare – both in Newbury and further afield. Our extended family continues to grow and its fantastic achievements are always an inspiration to us all.

What makes Mary Hare so special is that at our heart is a community of pupils who travel from far and wide to attend the best school for the deaf in the country. Indeed, over the past two years one particular student has flown regularly from her home in Calcutta, India. Her reward? Grades A, A, B & D at A Level!

This year our A Level students achieved an overall pass rate of 93%, with 54% of pupils achieving A to C grades. More importantly, with the support of our Careers department, all of their desires to go on to Higher Education have been realised. We wish them well in their future careers.

At GCSE it has been another outstanding year, with 82% of all entries passed at A* to C and 81% of pupils achieving 5 or more grades A* to C. At Mary Hare Primary School, pupils taking their Key Stage 2 SATs did exceptionally well and we congratulate them all.

As the new academic year gets underway, I would like to look back at some of our major achievements over the past year. Our first year as a Training School is now complete. The rolling programme of training and development work has been extremely successful and will continue to develop over the coming months. I am grateful to Sue Lewis for her leadership and dedication in this vital work.

This year, we were invited to be a pilot school for a new type of Ofsted inspection, combining Education with Care. As you may know, we excelled in the final report and one Ofsted judgement takes pride of place: "The needs of every pupil and student are placed at the heart of the school's work; it provides an outstanding level of care, guidance and support."

Our second invitation this year came from the DfES, asking us to become a 'Trailblazer' Specialist Special School and Mary Hare formally achieved this status on the 1st of September. In this new role we will be working with professionals, locally and nationally, to support many more hearing impaired children. This is an exciting new development, which we look forward to with great anticipation.

Our Training School and Specialist Special School programmes will be a major focus of development during the year, not forgetting the opening of the much-awaited PACE (Performing Arts, Conference & Education) Centre. We look forward to building on this success and continuing our vital work to secure the future of deaf children and young adults.



MUSIC MAKERS

The Mary Hare School music department had a great reason to celebrate when this year's examination results were announced as the **BEST EVER!**

This year, students took examinations in flute, piano, clarinet, saxophone and (for the first time) drums. Congratulations go to the following pupils (l to r):

Emily Troddyn (Flute) Grade 5 Pass with Merit
Daniel Clements (Drums) Grade 1 Pass with Honours
Justine Durno (Flute) Grade 7 Pass with Distinction
Oliver Harper (Drums) Grade 1 Pass with Honours
Rebecca Clements (Flute) Grade 1 Pass with Merit
Sam Calder (Flute) Grade 7 Pass
Amelia Berreen (Clarinet) Grade 1 Pass
Not pictured:
Lauren Austin (Piano) Grade 2 Pass
Amelia Lewis (Saxophone) Grade 4 Pass
Hannah Evans (Flute) Grade 5 Pass
Helen Willis (Theory) Grade 5 Pass

Special Events

TO STONEHENGE AND BEYOND ...

By **Adam Watson**

Earlier this term, we were invited to present an assembly on deafness to a mainstream school, so we all got typing and wrote about our experiences of being deaf. Our connection with the school was Ms Turchet, who used to teach French at Mary Hare; she is now the special needs teacher at Stonehenge School.

Dr Rocca drove us there one afternoon in April. When we arrived, we were shown into a dining hall (not a patch on Blount Hall) where we were to do our assembly. **James Davies** spoke about changing schools and **Lauren Austin** showed how her deafness has not affected her love of music. **Victoria Wright** and **Lizzie Burton** gave a joint talk on deafness within the family and I gave an account of deafness in everyday life.

“ This was an amazing experience and if anyone else gets the chance - take it! ”

After the assembly, we went into the video conferencing room and waited for a school in Canada to call. The Stonehenge School has frequent video conferences with places all around the world - their previous conference had been with the University of California.

We then engaged in a fascinating conversation via the video link which gave us an insight into other people's lives - we exchanged email addresses and we plan on keeping in touch.



The Mary Hare presenters with their new friends from Stonehenge School

HOAX IMPACT!

By **Aliya Gulamani**

This year, Year 12 Media and Photography students have been working on a collaborative project with Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, aimed at raising awareness among young people, as to the problems caused by deliberate fire setting and hoax calls.

The 'Hoax Impact!' project required us to create a poster to be displayed across Berkshire, to help young people realise the dangers of making hoax calls to the emergency services. The 'Hoax Impact!' campaign was supported by the Vodafone UK Foundation, Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, West Berkshire Education Business Partnership, Thames Valley Partnership and West Berkshire Council.



Aneurin chats to Meridian TV presenter Andy Craig

The culmination of the project was an exhibition in June at the Vodafone headquarters in Newbury, to which we were invited. The posters from all of the participating schools looked absolutely fantastic; some of them sent out really powerful messages and used strong images.



Aliya talks to Simon Weston (see her design on the Gallery pages)

We had a good opportunity to walk around and look at the posters and then listen to a presentation led by a fireman from Berkshire Fire Service. He introduced Simon Weston, a survivor of the Falklands War who suffered terrible burns as a result of a bomb explosion. He gave a powerful speech on the importance of young people speaking out to their peers, which was very inspiring.

Prizes for the best posters were awarded. Out of the schools that participated, only nine people received a 'Highly Commended' Award and Mary Hare snatched up four of these awards: **Francesca Roberts, Aneurin Barker Snook, Rajiv Chada** and **myself!** All the Mary Hare students produced fantastic posters and everyone received a certificate for taking part in the campaign.

We had our photos taken and I was honoured to have one taken with Simon Weston. At the end of the day, we headed back to Mary Hare feeling glad that we had had the opportunity to participate in such an important campaign.



Special Events

EMERGENCY LIFE SKILLS is an initiative from the British Heart Foundation to raise awareness of the basic skills necessary to sustain life until professionals arrive. Following a course that they had undertaken earlier in the year, Mary Hare teachers cascaded the training to Year 7 pupils.



Pupils were enthusiastic about this opportunity to learn some life-saving skills. Ashley commented, "I learned to save someone's life: doing things in the correct order to help people who are choking, having a heart attack or difficulties with breathing. I knew a bit before, but I really enjoyed it! I found putting people in the recovery position really easy but chest compressions were hard because you had to do it in the right place."

For those who might have been thinking about a future career in medicine, the day proved useful. "I enjoyed the day because in the future I want to work in a hospital, so it will help me," said Grace, "I can be more useful in life. The chest compressions and rescue breaths were not easy, because you had to make sure the body was in the right position."

Many pupils appreciated the chance to learn how to help in an emergency. Rose explained, "I learned how to save people and now I will know what to do if someone is collapsing. I did not know what to do before. I enjoyed it very much because I liked learning all about it. I enjoyed using the recovery position because it was funny but exciting too. I found that easy to do. Giving people rescue breaths was hard because you had to cover the mouths so that no air could get out."

“ I really enjoyed today as it has been a valuable experience and I learned a huge amount. I found CPR the hardest. ”



OPEN DAY 2005

On Bank Holiday Monday in May, it was business as usual at Mary Hare School as we opened our doors to around fifty prospective families who may consider Mary Hare as an option for the education of their child.

Guests were welcomed to the school by the Principal, Tony Shaw and then taken on tours of the school and lessons by Year 12 guides. Parents were impressed by the confidence of the guides and were also especially pleased to meet the Year 7 pupils who led tours of their own boarding house.



Tours of the Art department prove popular

It was a gloriously sunny day and visitors enjoyed a buffet lunch served in the Conservatory with seating in a beautiful marquee, generously loaned by Mary Hare parent, Mr Kevin Jones. The youngsters were also able to let off steam in the sunshine, on the bouncy castle.

In the afternoon, students entertained a packed Dulverton Hall with music, dance and poetry readings.

The day ended with a joint address by Chief Executive Dr Ivan Tucker, who gave an overview of the Mary Hare organisation, and Mr Shaw, who spoke about how families might go about securing a place at Mary Hare.



Principal Tony Shaw chats to visitors over lunch

“ I particularly enjoyed visiting lessons, seeing the Group Hearing Aid in action and hearing what pupils had to say. Visiting teacher from Shirley High School Hearing Resource Centre ”

On the following day, we welcomed a second group of visitors, as we held an Open Day for Professionals for the first time. Twenty five guests came to find out more about the services provided by Mary Hare, for pupils and professionals working in the field of deafness.

The group travelled over to our Primary School site in the afternoon to observe lessons, as well as finding out more about the work of the Burwood Centre and Arlington Laboratories.

Mr Shaw said, “We were delighted that the sun shone and allowed prospective parents and guests to enjoy our school and really understand the full range of support services that Mary Hare has to offer. As ever, our pupils were our best ambassadors”.



The Burwood Centre and Primary School welcome Open Day visitors



NDCS FAMILY FUN DAY AND CONFERENCE

This year's NDCS Family Fun Day was held at the Heart of England Centre in Coventry; Mary Hare was well represented with stands for our Primary and Secondary Schools as well as the Burwood Centre.

Families were able to make the most of the beautiful weather by enjoying the huge range of activities organised in the grounds, as well as taking time to visit the many exhibitors attending the event.

During the day, Mary Hare representatives were able to chat with parents considering future placements for their children, offer advice about the assessment and support services provided by the Burwood Centre and as ever, catch up with many former pupils who came to visit us.



Sue Lewis explains all on the Burwood stand



Prospective families visit the Mary Hare Schools stand



Abbie Willis meets up with another former pupil, Mark Cunliffe

For the first time this year, the NDCS Annual Conference was run as a separate event. So, a week later, it was back up the motorway, this time to Birmingham. We were able to promote our wide range of training courses, as well as the support services provided by Arlington Laboratories and the Burwood Centre, to those working in the field of deafness.

Staff were kept busy with enquiries from professionals working in different spheres, including teachers, speech and language therapists, audiologists, consultants and local education authorities. Our thanks go to the following people who helped at these events: **Sally Beckett, Kate Finigan, Sandra Wylie, Sue Lewis, Peter Gale, Viv Ogg, Jane McMillan**, parent (and former pupil) **Abbie Willis** and former pupil **Rebecca Withey**.

You can read more about former pupil Rebecca Withey in our Alumni News - page 38

Spotlight On ...

SUE LEWIS

Director of Educational Development & Inclusion

What is your job at Mary Hare?

As Director of Educational Development and Inclusion, I'm in charge of the training Mary Hare offers to schools and other services supporting deaf people. I have to help people understand the needs of deaf children and how best to help them. This involves training support staff and teaching assistants as well as teachers and audiologists, to help children in school to cope with their work and to make sure they get the help they need.

By **Louise Saunders** and **Louise Buglass**

What made you interested in deaf education?

I have a profoundly deaf sister but initially did not think about teaching deaf children. I wanted to teach young children when I left university. I taught in a mainstream school in London but moved to teaching in a nearby school for the deaf that needed some temporary help. I enjoyed it so much that I stayed there for a long time and I've worked in deaf education ever since.

What were you doing before you joined Mary Hare?

I trained teachers of the deaf and worked with families with deaf children. I worked in clinics as well as special schools and units. My last job was working for a charity, The Ewing Foundation, based at the University of Manchester. I travelled around the country to schools and units, helping teachers and families.



What challenges do you face in your job?

The biggest challenge is spreading the word, not just in schools, but in the wider community. Mary Hare is a huge learning resource available to anyone that works with deaf children, but people tend to think of it only as a school to send children to. A lot of people don't know what we can offer so we need to reach out and make everyone aware how Mary Hare can help.

Do you plan any changes at Mary Hare?

There have been a lot of changes already! I hope that over the next two or three years we will be able to include more pupils and staff in the training and support services we give to other schools. Now that Mary Hare has become a Specialist Special School and a Training School, we will have access to more resources such as new computer equipment.

Can you tell us something about your family?

I'm married and my husband is a teacher of the deaf. We have two children, Ruth who is at university studying English Literature and Aimee who is 11 years old. I have two brothers and one sister. The problems that my deaf sister Diane overcame made me determined to improve things, so that deaf people can have more opportunities.

What do you like best about being at Mary Hare?

I worked on my own for a long time, so this is better because I meet different people everyday. Being around the pupils at Mary Hare reminds me of what my job is all about. I like the challenges of my new role and often ask myself 'Can we do this?' and, if so, 'How can we do this?'

For more information about Mary Hare Training Services, please contact: 01635 244200 (voice/minicom) or email: office@maryhare.org.uk

P R E F E C T



RYAN MARSHALL
(HEAD BOY)

I come from Maidstone in Kent and I came to Mary Hare in 1999. I am studying Graphics, ICT and Physical Education.

I would love to go to university to study Landscape Design. Hopefully, I will get a job related to design, which I have a passion for.



PHILIPPA MERRICKS
(HEAD GIRL)

I am from Hastings and I came to Mary Hare in Year 10. I'm studying Chemistry, Geography and Physical Education.

I would like to study Chemistry at university, but I'm also interested in Sports Studies.



ALYSHA ALLEN

I come from London and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7. I'm studying English Literature, Psychology, Performing Arts and History.

I hope to go to university to study Public Relations and Event Management. I would love to travel after my degree and I hope to own a night club one day!



ANDREW COCHRANE

Hello. I come from Belfast and I came to Mary Hare from the land of the Gaels in 1999 - a long, long time ago! I'm studying Art & Design, Graphic Design and Photography.

I'm considering an Art Foundation year to explore the wide range of media. I would like a career in Graphic Design.



PETER MARSHFIELD

I am from Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool. I'm studying French, Geography and ICT.

I am still not sure what I want to do at university, but I have a keen interest in either Geography, French or Tourism! In the future, I am hoping to work abroad.



FRANKIE ROBERTS

I'm from Wokingham and I've been at Mary Hare since Year 7. I'm studying Performing Arts, Media Studies and Textiles.

I am not too sure what I want to study at university, but I'm toying with the idea of PR Management, Film Studies, Drama or Interior Design. Oh, decisions, decisions!



NATASHA BREWER

I live in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire and I came to Mary Hare in Year 12.

I am currently studying Photography, ICT and Media Studies.

I am planning to go to university to study either Social Work or Media.



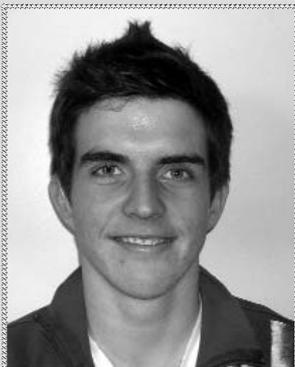
SAM CALDER

My family home is in Lichfield, Staffordshire and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7.

I am studying Mathematics, Chemistry and French.

My ambition is to go on to Durham University to study Maths and Chemistry.

P R O F I L E S



ADAM MCCORMICK
(DEPUTY HEAD BOY)

I come from Belfast and I came to this wonderful school in 1999. I'm currently studying Maths, Art and Graphics.

In the future I would like a job related to the arts or graphics, possibly Architecture.



ALIYA GULAMANI
(DEPUTY HEAD GIRL)

I live in Reading and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7. I am studying English, Media Studies and Psychology.

I'm planning to go to university to study Creative Writing. I also want to travel and experience different cultures in other countries.



ELIN WILLIAMS

I live in Pembrokeshire in Wales and I came to Mary Hare in Year 12. I am studying Geography, ICT and Textiles.

I am hoping to go on to university to study either Geography or ICT.



JONATHAN CHAMBERS

I'm from Burton Latimer and I've been at Mary Hare for the past six years. I'm studying Maths, Chemistry and ICT and I am still thinking about my future.

My advice about exams is - what good will worrying do you? So, don't worry, just try to do your best!



RAJIV CHADA
(CHARITY PREFECT)

I live in Londonderry, Northern Ireland and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7. I'm studying Art, Photography and Graphics.

After A Levels, I am hoping to go on to university to study Multimedia Studies.



LOUISE BUGLASS
(CHARITY PREFECT)

I live in Birmingham and I came to Mary Hare in Year 12. I am currently studying English, Art and Graphics.

I am hoping to study Fashion Illustration at university.



TAMARA WILLIS

I live in Reading and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7.

I am currently studying Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology.

After my A Levels, I am hoping to go to university to study Biochemistry.



THOMAS GIDDENS

I live in Hillingdon and I came to Mary Hare in Year 7. I am studying Art & Design, Physical Education and Photography.

I am hoping to go to college for a year on a BTEC Coaching course and then maybe go on to university or get a job as a sports coach.

LEAVERS' LUNCH

The last day of June was spectacularly warm and sunny as Year 13 students and their parents were welcomed to Carnarvon Hall for the very last time ...

Chair of the PTA, Judith Roberts, congratulated students on their hard work and thanked parents for their support during their time at Mary Hare.

Assistant Principal, Peter Gale, caused a few nervous moments and plenty of laughter as he said a few words about each student's time with us. (Now we know who can't get up in the morning!)

As always, Moyra and her team provided a mouthwatering buffet and families spilled out into the grounds to enjoy the

picnic and the sunshine. Year 12 students assisted the catering team by manning the bar in the foyer, offering a choice of fruit juice or cranberry bucks fizz.

The room buzzed with chatter and 'goodbyes' as suddenly the realisation sank in that school days at Mary Hare really were over! We were pleased to hear of everyone's plans for the next stage of their education.

We wish our leavers happiness and success in their chosen careers and future life and please, stay in touch!



Extract from a fond farewell given by student Paul Stewart at the end of term assembly ...

I wanted to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the teaching staff, pupils, care staff and kitchen staff. I'll always remember my teachers who will be an inspiration to me. I would like to say a special thank you to care staff Louise and Fiona – you really looked after me all through my time at Mary Hare and have made it enjoyable.

I have had a lot of fun and good times with my year group and time has flown past so quickly that I can't believe that it's time to go! In September I am hoping to go to college and do a two-year HND Software Engineering course; then I hope to go on to university.

Mary Hare has been like a family; I've enjoyed being given support by other pupils and in turn helping others who have problems in school. The school will always be in my thoughts and I will never forget Mary Hare. I promise to return and visit in the future!



Paul presents Principal Tony Shaw with a picture taken on the recent Mary Hare student trip to New York

S U M M E R I N T H E C I T Y



Everyone can relax now the interviews are over!

At the end of April, a group of Sixth Form students travelled to London to attend interviews for a summer work placement at either Barclays Global Investors, AON Ltd, Nestlé or the RNID.

There was a certain amount of anxiety as students boarded the train but any early morning nerves were soon dispelled as our hosts made the group feel very welcome and put everyone at their ease.

After the formal interviews were over, students were taken to lunch by their hosts, followed by a 'flight' on the London Eye. The students made a very good impression on their prospective employers and were excellent ambassadors for Mary Hare.

Mary Hare governor (and former pupil) Vanessa Whitehouse works at Barclays Global Investors and our thanks go to her for organising the interviews.

Students taking part: **Frankie Roberts, Aliya Gulamani, André Hedger, Sam Calder, Alysha Allen, Thomas Giddens, Ryan Marshall and Philippa Merricks.**

“ I was surprised how well I fitted into the office environment. It has boosted my confidence in communicating with others.

Ryan Marshall on his placement with Nestlé ”



In pensive mood on the London Eye

“ It was certainly an interesting and useful experience. I met a lot of different people and it has improved my confidence a lot. ”

Sam Calder on his placement with AON Ltd

Work Related Learning

All Year 10 students have been having lessons this year in Work Related Learning, covering topics such as employment law, CV writing and other work-related skills. This course also teaches skills that employers are looking for, e.g. problem-solving, teamwork and good communication.

At the beginning of July, we held an 'Enterprise Event' to help Year 10 students develop their skills in Work Related Learning. The whole year group met at Carnarvon Hall and were immediately divided into six teams and given a fun team-building task, to get the creative juices flowing.

The winning team were the 'Hulks' who demonstrated excellent lateral thinking and team decision-making and produced the tallest tower (made from spaghetti and jelly babies!) capable of supporting a golf ball.

Students were then introduced to the main theme of the day - designing (and selling) a new product for the beach.



Team-building tower exercise



Researching the competition

They were shown a wide range of existing beach products, anything from deckchairs to cool boxes in order to understand the importance of innovation in design.

The students were then asked to go back into their teams and start discussing their ideas for an innovative product.

The teams worked extremely hard and by the end of the morning, they had designed a new beach product, complete with a name and a promotional slogan.

ated Learning

Each team had five minutes to present their ideas to a panel of judges. They had to be able to answer questions about their potential customers, the type of promotion they would use to sell their product and the selling price.

The judges were very impressed with the high quality of the designs and with the co-operative way in which the teams had worked.



A frank exchange of views!



'Beach Bums' demonstrate the merits of the 'iSea'!

Final scoring was very close, but the judges eventually decided that the winning team was 'Infinity Labs' with their product 'WRX MP3 Sunglasses' which combined an MP3 player with a pair of sunglasses.

The team had made the clearest and most persuasive presentation as well as demonstrating the most impressive team-work. All of the students clearly enjoyed the whole experience and we would like to congratulate them for taking part and working with such enthusiasm.

TEAM LIST

- 'Da Strange PPL' with the 'Seoul Ki Chair' A portable beach chair with many accessories
- 'Supernovas' with the 'Beach Tracker' A safety tracking device for children to wear on the beach
- 'X-Treme 5' with the 'Beach Buddy' A beach tent with built-in sun protection and other features
- 'Beach Bums' with the 'iSea' A surfboard for children with a see-through window
- 'Hulks' with the 'HiPod Sunglasses' Sunglasses with a built-in 'iPod'
- 'Infinity Labs' with the 'WRX MP3' Sunglasses with a built-in MP3 player

Is there life at

Year 7 pupils tell us what REALLY goes on in Howard House ...



Connor You have fantastic birthdays at Howard House. They put up decorations for you and even make cakes and buy pizzas. They never forget, so you can rely on them! The care staff at Howard House are Leslie and Ros. They are probably the best care staff, they will try their best to help you and keep you active. You can really rely on them!

Omar Howard House has an excellent range of videos and DVDs. My favourite, I think, is 'Mr Bean The Disaster Movie'. It is really funny! Every night we can watch a video or DVD and sometimes, for a treat, we get to stay up late and watch. Some nights in the summer we go to the all-weather pitch or the field to play football. Sometimes we play a game against Year 8 for fun. We usually get thrashed!



Jake Reading is my favourite pastime. I prefer to sit down with a book more than almost anything else. In Howard House there is a box of comics but for the avid reader there is a library in school. I would recommend 'Watership Down' if you want a long read and there is also a magazine rack. Happy reading!



Mungo In the evening after school has ended I usually go to the gym with the others because we do lots of games there. We do things like 'king crabs', netball, basketball and footy in the gym.

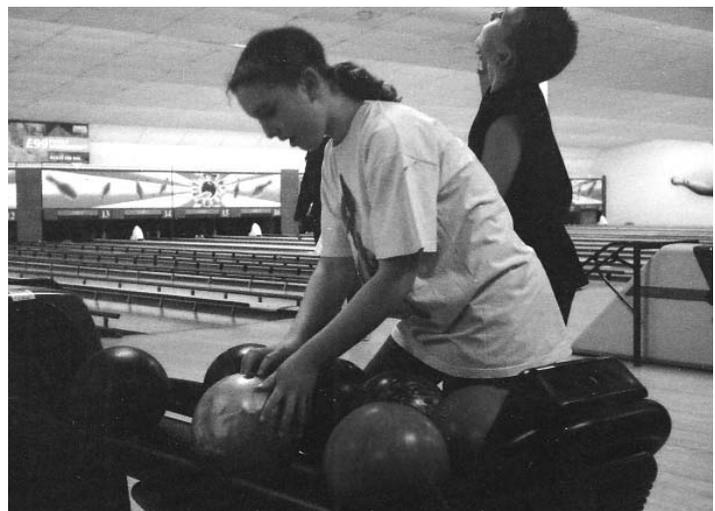
After school?



Jason Howard House is brilliant because every Thursday, if we are good, we go to McDonalds! Ros and Leslie separate us into two minibuses then off we go. After school and prep I love to relax because it helps me to think and at bedtime the beds are really comfortable.

Alessia On Thursday afternoons, about every two weeks, we go bowling. It depends on whether we've been good! We go to a local bowling alley and we play in groups of five with any of our mates. It's great fun, we talk, have laughs, go mad! Afterwards we can play games on the machines with our mates and the care staff.

Tim Howard House has a range of activities, my favourite is archery. A group from Newbury come into the gym and set up the archery equipment and at 7.00pm we go in and fire!



Grace We usually go swimming in the Mary Hare pool a couple of times a week. It is quite a big pool with a shallow end and a deep end. There is a diving board to jump from and do massive bombs! It is our free time to have fun with our friends, that's the best thing to do after school.

Simon In the winter the Newbury Canoe Club comes to Mary Hare one evening a week. There is a 'mess about' session from 7.00 to 8.00 and then a serious canoe session from 8.00 to 9.00. I enjoy this as it's really good fun.



In May, Year 7 pupils welcomed visitors from the Kennet Valley Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. They spent the day learning the skills of spinning and weaving as part of the association's National Spinning and Weaving Week.

By **Thomas McWhinney**

It was a brilliant day! We were introduced to lots of different looms and Japanese braiders on which we all made a Kumihimo braid. We also enjoyed the spinning wheel. Using the treadle and controlling the fleece at the same time was challenging but great fun!

We were shown different materials that could be used to spin and to weave; sheep's fleece, cotton, dog hair and even plastic bottles. They came in many exciting colours; it was fascinating.

“ We could go into business:
'Year Seven Enterprises,
Rugs For All Occasions' ”

Lots of us wanted to go on the peg loom, because you could make a small rug in a short time. Some of us used plastic bags to weave with. The day finally came to an end - it was a shame, but we were all tired!

We would like to thank our visitors from the Kennet Valley Guild of Spinners and Weavers. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and are looking forward to other days like this! The Guild also visited Mary Hare Primary School and the pupils had a wonderful afternoon spinning and weaving.



Sculpture Workshop



Johannes and Thomas during the workshop

At the end of June, local artist Johannes von Stumm returned to Mary Hare to lead a week-long sculpture workshop with Year 12 Art and Design students.

Johannes, who is an established sculptor, had previously visited the school to give an illustrated talk about his work, which is exhibited internationally. Students worked with Johannes to build large ceramic pieces over metal armatures. They produced individual pieces, making them first out of clay and then casting their work using plaster and wax moulds.

During the week Johannes invited the group to his studio to look at work in progress and understand the different techniques used when sculpting with stone, metal and glass. It was an intensive and challenging week, but a wonderful opportunity to work alongside a visiting professional artist.

Johannes also took the time to give each student an individual critique of their work, which was greatly appreciated.

THE ART OF DANCE

Earlier this year, the Art and Design department worked with Newbury Contemporary Dance Company to create sculptures for a local exhibition, alongside work produced by professional artists. The focus of the exhibition was artwork inspired by dance.

By **Patricia McKenna**

The project began when Newbury Contemporary Dance Company came into school to deliver a dance workshop to our Dance and Performing Arts students from Years 10 to 13.

The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the cross-curricular possibilities available to those studying the arts and to further extend community links. It also provided our visual art students with a unique opportunity to exhibit their work to the public.

During the workshop, the visual art students from Year 10 sketched studies of the dancers in motion as preparation for their sculptures, which were later developed in class. The sculptures reflected the students' research into Cubism and Futurism as part of their GCSE coursework. All of the students worked extremely hard to complete their sculptures in time for the public exhibition held at New Greenham Arts.



Preliminary sketches



Mary Hare students discuss their work with exhibition visitors

The workshop was enormously successful and an exciting opportunity for our students to extend the level of their work. The dance company was very impressed with the level of commitment from everyone involved.

The Art and Design department at Mary Hare has previously collaborated with Newbury Contemporary Dance Company; when students from the school painted very large banners inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt.

The banners became the set design for a production of 'Suisse Madel' one of the company's set dance pieces. These banners have been on show in performances in Newbury, Southampton and Winchester and recorded on film for a BBC documentary.

Take a look at our Gallery pages for more from the exhibition ...

Velocity Exhibition, New Greenham Arts



Sports Day 2005



Mad Hatters Day



Chief Executive Dr Tucker with 2005



Comic Relief in the staffroom



Weavers Workshop



Aliya Gulamani

Hoax Calls Kill

People

Like

YOU

Terminate Hoax Calls Not Lives



THERE'S BLOOD UPON THY FACE

“ Lady Macbeth was good but she was hysterical. She reminded me of Chrissie in Eastenders! I didn't expect the play to be that good but it was! ”

By **Helen Willis**

In February we went to Andover to see a live performance of 'Macbeth'. After a 40 minute journey in the minibus we arrived at the theatre. It was a performance in a school. I was seated in the front row, near the centre, which made it perfect for me to hear and lip-read the dialogue.

The play was performed superbly. The actors played their parts so well that they became really emotional. They spat out their angry words, which was impressive, but not so great if you were in spitting range when they spoke! The portrayal of Macbeth's character was extremely well done. You could see him become more evil and manic, more driven and then more desperate. You could also see the relationship between Macbeth and his wife being gradually destroyed.

“ They used old language like, 'There's blood upon thy face'. I thought it was really good and I enjoyed it. ”

I was interested in how they would portray Banquo's ghost and the stage fighting. The disadvantage of being in my position was that I was incredibly close to the sword fighting, with the swords swaying right in front of me.

I flinched a bit and then felt a fool, but I bet the actors were pleased with my reaction and that all the audience were so involved they did not notice. I also had my first taster of stage blood, which missed me but landed on my neighbour's shoe!



Back at school, pupils re-enact their favourite scenes

Book Awards

We are lucky enough to be involved in the Red House Children's Book Awards, the only major children's book prize in the UK that is awarded by the readers. This year, pupil Oliver Harper was selected to attend the award ceremony in London. Here is his account of the day ...

We left school at 8.50 in the morning and we talked about all the authors that were attending and who had a good chance of winning. When we got to the Roof Gardens in Kensington, I met some other people who are part of a local (Aldbourne) group. We went to the garden on the roof; it was really beautiful and we saw two flamingos.

The authors began arriving and I started collecting autographs. By the end of the day I had a heap of them, from authors and illustrators. Then we all sat down to a lovely lunch, starting with melon and ham; then we had chicken with fennel and lemon juice and then chocolate cake with ice cream - it was brilliant!



Oliver enjoys lunch and a good read at the same time!



Oliver (left) and a friend from Aldbourne School meet Simon James

The award ceremony finally started. Simon James won the category for very young readers with 'Baby Brain', Jacqueline Wilson won the category for young readers with 'Best Friends' and Robert Muchamore won the category for older readers with 'The Recruit'.

The overall winner was Simon James with 'Baby Brain'. After the ceremony, we headed out onto the roof garden to have our pictures taken with Simon. I asked him how he felt about winning the award and he said it was "unbelievably great" and he couldn't believe it.

I got back to school feeling a bit sad because the day had finished but I had bought three books which I will enjoy reading in the future.

I would recommend going to a book award ceremony because you meet lots of famous authors. Remember this quotation from 'Printer's Devil' by Paul Bajoria: "The end of a book is not the end of a story"!

LINDY HOP WORKSHOP

By **Lauren Austin** and **Amelia Lewis**

In April we went to Trinity School, Newbury, to take part in a dance workshop. The dance style was 'Jive', a style not many of us had tried before and we were looking forward to something new. Jive is a beautiful, swinging, fast dance, which became popular in the West in the 40s, under the name of 'Jitterbug'.

We were introduced to the two leaders who were going to teach us the dance. They were very friendly and funny. We started off with a warm-up where we concentrated on footwork. We then learned lots of different moves such as the 'Camel Walk' and the 'Charleston'.



We then put all the moves together to make a dance. After practising the dance several more times, we stopped for a break. Then we carried on, adding a few more steps to complete the dance. We thanked the leaders and returned to Mary Hare after a brilliant day.

The Band Goes to Beaconsfield...

By **James Alexander**, **Fatima Niemogha** and **William Ogden**

At the end of June, the senior band went to Beaconsfield Golf Club to play in support of a charity called 'SIGN', which helps deaf adults. We arrived at about 6.00pm. It was a posh but cosy place. We had free glasses of 'Coca Cola' which was great!



Actor Warren Clarke joins the Mary Hare band

We played a whole range of numbers: 'A Hard Day's Night', 'Help', 'This Love', 'Everybody Needs Somebody', 'Wading in the Water', 'Something Beautiful' and 'I Feel Good'. Fatima sang her own song: 'In a Woman Like Me'.

When we were performing, we didn't feel nervous. When people were taking photographs of us, it was like blinking into a blinding comet!

Some of the band recognised Simon Pegg from 'Shaun of the Dead'. We had a splendid time - it was the third time out to perform in a year for some of us!

Band members: **James Alexander**, **Jamie Chang**, **William Ogden**, **Fatima Niemogha**, **Frankie Roberts**, **Emily Troddyn**, **Indy Johal**, **Hattie Bowden**, **Lauren Austin**, **Amelia Lewis** and **Justine Durno**.

Help!

By **William Ogden**



In December 2004 I was invited by The Ear Foundation to play at a special event – ‘An Evening of Sound’ - to raise money for a charity called ‘Destiny of a Child’, which helps children and young people with cochlear implants. In March, I found out that they wanted me to play with a Beatles tribute band from Italy! There were other musicians playing, but I was the only deaf child, at the centre of the whole fundraising event - no pressure then!

At school, Mrs Rocca said she would help me out with practising and she also supported me on the night too - I was so relieved. Over the next couple of months I had to work out the right chords and practise until I could play without too many mistakes. The problem with Beatles songs is that everyone knows them, so if you make a mistake everyone knows!



In April, my family and I travelled to Sevenoaks in Kent where the event was taking place that evening. I was a bit nervous as we arrived at the lovely, old Victorian theatre. There were lots of people running around preparing for the evening. I was introduced to Harold Davis, the compere, who showed me around and introduced me to the tribute band. I had to talk to the singer, ‘Paul McCartney’, most of the time because he spoke very good English and I cannot speak Italian!

I practised with them during the afternoon and it went well. I then had to wait around until the show was due to start, which was boring as I had nothing to do - I guess this is what it's like for most performers and musicians. All of a sudden, there were lots of people arriving. I was so nervous. I was due to play with the band at 8pm so I still had a long wait. I ended up talking to a beautiful girl so that kept me company!

At 7.45 I was called to go on. Now I was really nervous! I waited while the compere was on stage and then he called my name - so this was it, time to go on!

I can see 200 people sitting at their candlelit tables, all quiet and staring at me like hawks! Harold was talking about me to all of these people, explaining when I had my implant and how it helps me, what school I go to, that I play the guitar and drums and love music, etc.

Finally he said, “Would you like to show the people how good you are on the guitar?” and I said “Yeah!” I got my guitar and the Beatles band came on and our first song, ‘Help’, went really well. Then we played ‘A Hard Day’s Night’ and that went very well too. I did it! I took off my guitar and everyone was standing up clapping and cheering me. It felt fantastic! I wanted to stay on the stage and play more.

I took a bow and looking out I could see my Mum crying, because she was proud of me. I’m looking forward to performing again on a big stage in front of lots of people. It will always make me nervous but after you’ve done it, you feel great. The beautiful girl who I met earlier was really impressed so I ended up dancing with her!

Shortcuts

HOT DOG!

In May, a band of Business Studies Intermediate students embarked on a final venture in their one-year course. This was to set up and run a small business. After much debate, the group decided to sell Hot Dogs to staff and pupils.

The team clearly knew their market as sales were brisk, especially from ever-starving Sixth Form students. Income rose exponentially when the builders working on the new PACE Centre heard about the excellent value of the high quality sausages and hand picked onions.

The group made a deserved £100 profit, of which £25 was donated to the SHONDA project.

Congratulations to **Andrew Millar**, **Sophie Clark-Lemaire**, **Graham McClune** and **Faye Richardson** for successfully running the business venture.



A satisfied customer!



Mad Hatters Day brings out the creative side!

Our thanks to ...

the pupils and staff who have helped to raise money for many charities over the past year. They have worn their own (or other people's) clothes, made hats, bought cakes and ice cream, eaten charity lunches and watched DVDs - all for a variety of good causes! This is where the money has gone:

Children in Need **£400**

STEPS **£500**

Barnardo's **£300**

Tsunami Relief Fund **£415**

Water Aid **£150**

Comic Relief **£260**

Great Ormond Street **£100**

Shonda Project **£500**

See the Gallery pages for more fundraising fun ...

Down Under

By **Kirsty Day**

I went to Australia on Good Friday, just after we broke up for the Easter holidays. The reason I went was because my mum and my two sisters now live in Brisbane. I missed them really badly when they went. My teachers, the care staff and my friends really supported me and I would like to say thank you to those people.

When I got to Brisbane I was really looking forward to seeing them. When I did see them they were very tanned which made me jealous! Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland and the third largest city in Australia. The Gold Coast, with fantastic beaches, is an hour's drive away. My sisters have a surf board and I borrowed it from them. I tried surfing but I kept falling off – I don't think my balance is very good!

I had a really good time there. I went swimming a lot and also shopping in Brisbane. I went to a place on the Gold Coast called 'Dreamworld', that has rides like Alton Towers. I also went on the 'Wet 'n' Wild' water rides while I was there. I lay on the beach a lot as well - it was very hot! When I arrived back in the UK, it was so cold and I said to my dad, "I want to go back, because it is really freezing here!" So, for the summer holiday I went back to Australia to see my family again!



Surf's Up!

SKI-ING MAD!

By **Emily Galton**

In March I went to Salzburg, Austria with my cochlear implant group and other deaf kids. I was very excited because I had never been ski-ing before.

The first morning we were put into different groups with an instructor. My sister and another girl called Megan were with me. I learned how to snow-plough, change directions, how to stop and how to parallel ski fast down the switch back. I did lots of ski-ing on a mountain called Kitzbuheler Horn.



Emily (right) with family on the slopes

Every day I travelled up to the mountains in a gondola (little cable car). I used T-bars, moving carpets, chair lifts and button-tows to go up to the slopes and then I skied down. I used the lifts because it would have taken ages to climb up the slope with skis on.

At the end of each day, when my ski lesson had finished, my family would meet up and do some more ski-ing until the lifts finished working for the day.

I was improving each day and getting better at ski-ing. At the end of the week, my family and I decided to ski down to the first station of the gondola - we had had lots of practise in the lessons and thought we might be able to manage to ski all the way down.

I managed to ski down to the station and got on the gondola and went back to the hotel. Most families with smaller children went back to the hotel straight away after the lessons finished. My family are really mad about ski-ing so that's why we couldn't stop. We did as much as we could!

I made lots of friends and talked to them, having lots of fun. Megan's sister was called Imogen and had an implant. I made friends with her too. Every evening our family sat at the same table with Imogen and Megan's family for supper. The Austrian food was nice but quite rich. I enjoyed my week in Austria and I shall not forget my first time ski-ing!



MASTERCHEF

Mary Hare boys invaded the Food Technology room one evening, under the supervision of care worker Ed Rose. The would-be chefs were given a bag of ingredients and an hour to produce and serve Spaghetti Bolognese. Within the hour, the boys also had to wash up and clear their kitchen area!

Daniel Clements said that preparing the meal had been chaotic as the room was very busy. The secret of his group's success had been teamwork: one person read the recipe, one prepared the ingredients and the third team member mixed and stirred.

In the final round, four teams went on to make chocolate puddings and overall winners were **Daniel Clements, Jack Arnold** and **Graeme Gray** with their chocolate creation, 'Saucy Paradise'. Well girls, you'll know who to accept a supper invitation from!

Bienvenue!

In May, Mary Hare welcomed nine pupils and their teachers from a French school for the deaf situated in Breteville-sur-Odon, near Caen. The French students had previously visited the Royal School for the Deaf in Exeter, before arriving to meet students at Mary Hare.

During their visit they were able to see how a British school for the deaf works and also join in after-school activities. They took time out to visit the sights in London and saw Windsor Castle and Stonehenge. Back at school in the evenings, Mary Hare students were quick to invite them to share a game of football.

The students are pictured here enjoying Blount Hall fare – they were impressed by the food, but were not so keen on Marmite!



Albaney, Anna and Louise join a photography lesson.

PGCE VISITORS

In June we welcomed three Reading University students as part of our collaboration with Denefield School in Reading, one of our Training School community partners. Albaney Davies, Anna Farley and Louise Knuckey are all studying for a PGCE in English and were given the option to spend a week at a school which reflected their particular interest. Their time was split between both schools observing lessons, speaking to key personnel and interacting with the pupils.

All three enjoyed their week at Mary Hare which they found informative and interesting. The strong feeling from all three was that the visit had 'taken away the unknown of teaching deaf children,' which they felt would help them in their teaching careers.

TEAM WORK

The Year 7 inter-form competition has continued through the year and has been very successful. All forms have been hard working, well behaved and very supportive to each other and we congratulate them all for their efforts.

At the end of the summer term the 'May' Award was presented to a delighted 7M, who were declared overall winners.

Presenting the award, Miss May reminded everyone of what a special place Mary Hare was; where teamwork, respect and working hard brings its own rewards!



Form 7M are congratulated by Miss May and School Principal Mr Shaw



Lauren is pointed out by her helpful classmates

Welcome, Lauren!

Year 10 pupil Lauren Millar joined the school earlier this year, following in the footsteps of her brother Andrew, who joined our Sixth Form in 2004. She reflects on how it feels to join a new school...

'I came to Mary Hare after Easter, just before my SATs. At first I was nervous and homesick, but I got to like Mary Hare better as I made loads of friends and I could understand the teachers clearly and was able to do the work as well.'

Before, I was at a mainstream school in Northern Ireland. I came for a week's trial and then decided to come here and I'm glad I did!'

M M M M M !

One day in early May, when school was over, pupils were asked to make their way to Blount Hall for a 'surprise'.

Despite initial suspicions, it proved to be a 'Thank You' from Principal Mr Shaw and all of the Mary Hare staff, to celebrate the recently announced excellent Ofsted report.

Boxes of doughnuts of every shape, size and flavour, together with cans of 'Pepsi', were liberally distributed and Mr Shaw arrived to much cheering and stamping of feet!

Read the full Ofsted report at:
www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/manreports/2616.pdf



The boys need no excuse to celebrate!

Sports Day

The 27th May turned out to be the hottest May day in 50 years so this year, our guests sheltered under the trees to avoid the sunshine rather than the rain!

The school PTA provided a welcome selection of hot dogs, cakes, drinks and ice cream as guests settled down to watch the events. Whilst the spectators relaxed in the sun, competitors fought it out on the track to earn points for their house.



Ryan Barrow receives his prize from Mrs Cookson



Fierce competition as always on the track

This year the senior girls' Victrix Ludorum was won by **Alex Simmons** and the junior prize was won by **Rona Thorne**. The senior boys' Victor Ludorum was won by **Adam McCormick** and the junior winner was **Charning Peters**. The Kenneth Bayliss prize for effort and sportsmanship in Athletics was won by **Ryan Barrow** in Year 9.

Presenting the prizes was special guest Elaine Cookson, previously Head of PE at Mary Hare School. When asked what it was like to be back Mrs Cookson said, "I am always impressed by the stunning grounds here and it is lovely to see everyone again." Winners on points on the day were **Beverley** House but overall winners of the house championships were **Braidwood**.

Football

In April, the Mary Hare First XI played their annual football match against Barclays Global Investors.

The game was played in an excellent spirit and was closely contested. The School team led twice, with goals by **Joseph Wylde** and **Samir Gathani**, but the final score of 2 – 2 led to a nail-biting penalty shoot out.

After scoring himself, **Thomas Giddens** made a crucial save to settle the final score at 9 – 8 to Mary Hare and was then mobbed by his grateful team mates. We would like to thank BGI for a further donation towards the Mary Hare School soccer kit fund.



Daniel Strawbridge stays cool in the penalty shoot-out



Rugby Training

In April, pupils were privileged to work with Johnny Tu'amoheloa. Johnny grew up in Australia but moved to New Zealand when he was 14. He was part of the Kelston Boys' High School team that won the first World Schools' Championship in 1998. Further success followed for Johnny when he played in the 2003 World Cup for Tonga against Canada.

Johnny was involved in the community liaison scheme at Newbury Rugby Club, which aims to promote the game amongst local youngsters. Whilst in the UK, Johnny played open side flanker for Newbury Rugby Club.

Johnny worked with Years 7 and 9 giving them a basic introduction to rugby skills and he also held an well-attended open session after school. Pupils already involved in the game of rugby were awestruck that Johnny had come to Mary Hare to coach them. Year 8 pupil **Max Thorne** said, "It was a great experience and brought back memories of when I played at home. I'm planning to play at Newbury Rugby Club in Year 9." This summer, Johnny, who is part of the Tonga National Squad, returned to Tonga for a series of international matches against other South Pacific countries.

Basketball

This year the Year 9 team played in their first ever basketball tournament

The tournament began with 2 leagues and 13 teams taking part. To everyone's delight, Mary Hare played well enough to win their league, then their semi-final to gain a place in the final. It was looking tough to win the final, playing against Theale Green School who had thrashed everyone so far and looked extremely good. After all, Mary Hare is a relatively small school with only 17 boys in Year 9 to choose from, unlike our competitors who had a much larger squad. Theale Green took an early lead but then Mary Hare scored and began to pull back into the game.

The excited supporters watched as we drew level and then continued to score, going further and further in front. When the final whistle went, Mary Hare had won against all the odds!

The team was overjoyed and sang 'We are the champions' all the way home on the bus, which was great to see but not to hear!

The rest of the season got even better, with the team comfortably beating every team with considerable style.

By the end of the season, MARY HARE WERE THE YEAR 9 NEWBURY LEAGUE AND CUP BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS. Well done to everyone involved!



The proud team show off their medals in assembly (l to r): **Ryan Barrow, Rowan Warnock, Dominic MacNeill, Chris Maher, James Alexander, Simon Wilkins, Jamie Chang, Pierre Gaudion, David Hedges, Aeron Mazija, Charming Peters** and **Damien Peters**.

A girl's view of Didcot Power Station

By **Hattie Bowden**



Justine and Holly are thrilled with their glamorous safety wear!

In March, Year 11 went to Didcot Power Station where we were welcomed into a room full of hard hats and goggles, which we had a great giggle over. I thought it was hilarious that they gave earplugs to us - nevertheless we took them and played with them!

We were given a talk on the workings and mechanisms of the power station. We were then split up into groups - those who had a cochlear implant and those who didn't - as only the non-implant pupils could go into the generator room. My group included me, Holly, Justine and Simon and our guide was a woman called Pat.

First of all we learned about the layout of the power station and the vast scale of one of the cooling towers. You could actually fit St Paul's Cathedral into one of them!

The groups then gathered together and travelled over to the coal transportation / storage area. Pat told us about the way the coal is stored and what important factors have to be considered. We then went up to a platform overlooking the train tracks, where coal is loaded and unloaded. We learned more about how coal is transported into the power station to be used as fuel.

We then went back onto the coach to visit the area where electricity is transferred to the National Grid. A debate then started about who had the most fashionable goggles - I liked Pat's, merely because they were lime green, whereas ours were just blue and embarrassingly massive. Pat lent me hers for about five seconds, so I could see if they looked good on me. Holly agreed that they did, while Justine just laughed and Simon looked confused!

We then headed for the generator room, where there was a partition overlooking the area where staff look at big computer screens to check that the equipment is working properly. While we were watching, there was a problem with a turbine and an orange light was flashing, indicating the problem. They also check the levels of electricity being produced and make sure it is at a safe level. They had little mascots on the big screens! We also had a bird's eye view into the generator room, which unfortunately we weren't allowed into.

We then went way down three floors of stairs and on the way we discussed our guide's diet (going really well) and the need for regular exercise! We handed over our lovely goggles and hard hats (which had made my hair go embarrassingly flat) and Holly and I ran over and gave Pat a big hug - she was really flattered! As we left, we admired the view of the grey, weird-looking buildings and the water shooting out of the bottom of the cooling towers ...

Year 8 Field Trippers

By **Karina Jemmot, Meghan Durno** and **Hannah Whalley**

On a Monday morning in May, Year 8 were very excited about going on a Geography field trip. We left at 8.30am with Mrs Carmichael-Jones, Miss Ogg, Mrs Noble and Mr Gwynn and after three hours we finally arrived at a beautiful place called Abbotsbury to do a beach profile.

This included measuring the width of the beach and measuring 30 pebbles. We watched Mrs Noble as she went into the water to measure the backwash and swash. She wobbled in the waves, almost fell and could have been soaked - everyone burst out laughing! Mr Gwynn started the time on his watch and we counted seven waves in one minute.

Then it was back on the coach for Fortuneswell Beach. We recorded the same things here, except that this time it was Mr Gwynn's turn to wade into the water. After a stop for lunch, we cleared everything up and got back on the coach to go to Durdle Door. Mr Gwynn showed us round the beach and we did some sketches of arches, bays, stumps and rocks.



Then we set off for a long walk – we had been dreading this! It took us about 20 minutes to get to the top of the cliff, where we waited for the others to catch up...guess who was at the bottom? Mrs Noble, Miss Ogg and Mrs Carmichael-Jones, of course!

At the top of the cliff we sketched the hills, valleys and the cove, then we walked down the other side. We split into two groups: one group went to the information centre to find out five facts about the area and the other group had to go to the very top of the other cliff to draw the arch, stack and stump.



Then we swapped over. Of course, when our group went up the cliff it started to rain; in fact, it poured! We ran to the information centre. We were pathetically wet and everyone else was dry!

When we got back to school we clapped the teachers and the coach driver and thanked them for organising the trip. We really enjoyed ourselves!



Primary News

In April, Class 3 had a very interesting visit to a Digital School House, where pupils were able to design their own web page about Earth and The Planets, linking in a practical way to their Science Key Stage 2 work.

Each pupil worked at their own computer and they were all treated to lunch and given a certificate and a goodie bag, including a T-shirt.



Our Year 6 pupils joined other West Berkshire pupils for a 'Junior Citizen' morning run by West Berkshire Education Business Partnership with Thames Valley Police.

This project teaches children about a range of safety issues surrounding railways, roads, bikes, strangers, emergency first aid, fire and rescue and ambulance services. It was a busy and very useful morning.

In May, the whole school took part in the second phase of the 'Heartstart' programme, part of our British Heart Foundation project which teaches emergency life support and how to keep a person alive until professional help arrives.

Pupils learned about choking, serious bleeding and cardiac arrest. The older pupils were trained in CPR, using dummies bought with the grant given to us by the British Heart Foundation. The children took the whole thing very seriously and it was a very successful venture.





To help with our History topic 'Children in the 2nd World War', Classes 2 and 3 enjoyed a visit to the Steam Museum in Swindon at the beginning of the Spring term. The highlight of the day was 'The Air Raid Experience', which the pupils really enjoyed.

We donned our regulatory registration cards and gas mask boxes and one child dressed up as the ARP warden, leading us into the shelter when the siren started and informing us when it was safe to come out.

Pupils were amazed to see just how many objects were fitted into the shelter, including books, beds, toys, cooking utensils, a gramophone and the obligatory communal potty!

It was an enjoyable and interesting visit which conveyed what an emotional and difficult experience it would have been in reality.



In June, the whole school took part in a community project designed to help conserve the woodland around the Pigeon's Farm housing estate next to the Primary School. We were asked to make a model of the estate and so all of the pupils walked round part of the estate before lunch and then spent the afternoon making models of houses and trees, then painting and glueing them on to polystyrene boards.

It was great fun and the pupils were very proud of the finished product. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, who are involved in the project, have promised to bring the model back for the children to keep after they have used it.

On this year's World Book Day, staff and pupils dressed up as characters from books. We had Dennis the Menace, Asterix, Mr Tumnus and Snow White, to name but a few.

Staff dressed up as '101 Dalmatians' and our World Book Day assembly was led by Cruella de Vil (aka Mrs Smith) - the children enjoyed watching the staff quaking in their spotty clothes - it was great fun!

See the Gallery pages for more ...



Mary Hare FOUN

We are always grateful to friends and supporters who work hard, organising events in support of Mary Hare. This year we enjoyed two delightful evenings of music and dance, which raised in total over £3,800 for the PACE Appeal.



Susannah (centre) with the Mary Hare performers

In February, a concert was held at Downe House School, raising over **£750** for the PACE Appeal. The evening featured performances by pupils from Downe House, Mary Hare, Eton College and Radley College and was enjoyed by an appreciative audience of family and friends.

The event was organised by Downe House student **Susannah Warren**, granddaughter of the Countess of Carnarvon (Patron of the Mary Hare Foundation).

Susannah and her friends worked extremely hard and we are grateful for their support. Susannah commented afterwards, "I hope that Downe House and Mary Hare can continue to work together in the future. I wish the Mary Hare Foundation the best of luck in their fundraising efforts and look forward to seeing the new PACE Centre open in 2006!"

At the end of April, an exhilarating evening of music and dance was held at the Corn Exchange in Newbury in support of our PACE Centre appeal. The event was organised by **Charlotte Lewis**, whose sister Amelia is a Mary Hare pupil. Charlotte had previously attended a musical performance at the school and was so impressed by our musicians that she decided to do something to help!

The programme featured singers, dancers and musicians from many local groups and schools (including Mary Hare) and the show played to a packed house of enthusiastic supporters. Many of the school groups had never performed in such a large public venue before, so credit must go to these young people who performed with style and confidence.

The event was a tremendous success, raising over **£3,100** for the appeal. Mary Hare's Development Director, Jane McMillan, said, "Charlotte did a fantastic job organising this event. It was a really good way of raising funds, involving families and friends from the local community. We are grateful to everyone who attended and supported the event. We are especially grateful to the Lewis family who all worked so hard to make the evening such a success."



Mary Hare dancers in rehearsal

Foundation



Student 'volunteers' count the proceeds from the gate collection



Mrs Anne Egerton (centre) with Christine Peake and Jill Oxley of Craftsman Framers, Newbury, supporters of the after-dinner auction

On midsummer's day in June, thousands of racegoers enjoyed the evening sunshine at Newbury Racecourse raising funds for the PACE Appeal at the same time.

Our Charity Race Evening was organised by the PACE Appeal Council with generous support from many local companies and individuals.

were also held to round off the evening. The event was a tremendous success, raising over **£64,000** for the appeal.

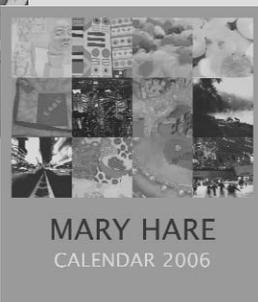
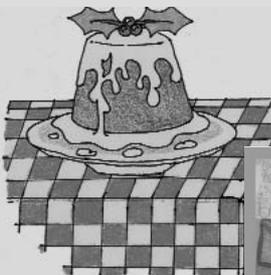
evening and I would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us, both in the planning and on the evening.

Racegoers took part in an 'Envelope Lottery' as well as contributing to gate collections at the end of the evening. A dinner and auction for invited guests

Chairman of the Mary Hare Foundation, Mrs Anne Egerton, was delighted with the success of the Race Evening. "It was a fantastic

The money raised will make a real difference to the progress of our appeal and we look forward to opening the PACE Centre in 2006."

Coming soon ...



Family Production of 'Animal Farm'

3rd to 8th April 2006

Presented by Theatre in Trust at the Britten Theatre, London. All proceeds to the PACE Appeal. Full details and ticket prices will be available shortly.

They're back!

Due to popular demand we are delighted to announce that Mary Hare Christmas Puddings & Calendars will be back on sale this year raising money for the PACE Appeal. Order Forms now available.

For further information please contact the Foundation Office: 01635 244233 / foundation@maryhare.org.uk

Alumni News



REBECCA WITHEY



I began my first year at the University of Wolverhampton in 2004, studying Dance Studies & Professional Practice and I've been busy ever since! In January I had my first dance performance at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton. In March I was invited along to Walsall Deaf People's Centre where I proposed to set up a dance aerobics class for deaf people and their peers. This project is currently underway and all being well, should be set up some time this year.

A few weeks later I went to an audition for the part of a deaf character in 'Grange Hill'. After reading a script to Phil Redmond, I was in the final three and sent home awaiting news. After a long wait, I was finally called back to re-audition. We had to read the script again and I was given the part on that day!

I was immediately introduced to the hair, make-up and wardrobe departments where all my details were taken and I was then invited back to the studio two days later for my character's make-over. I was handed all of my scripts and sent away to learn my lines. A week later I was on set and filming my first scene with my co-star! It was a brilliant experience in a great atmosphere.

I am filming with 'Grange Hill' until the end of October, shooting the whole of the series, which will be on your screen this autumn, so look out for an old Mary Hare face appearing! Afterwards I shall return to University to begin my second year. After that - who knows?

I left Mary Hare in 2000, going on to an HND Photography and Digital Imaging course at South Nottingham College. After graduating in 2002 I was unsure about the next step, so I decided to take some time out to work abroad with children and joined YWAM (Youth With A Mission). I worked in Northern Ireland and also in Timisoara (Romania), working with school children in the village.

I enjoyed it so much that I wanted to do similar work with deaf children and so I went to Brazil for four months to work with deaf children aged 6 - 17. Their education was so poor that they needed extra help outside school. Their first language is Brazilian Sign Language and many of them cannot speak or lipread for lack of support, hearing aids and money. I felt so privileged to be the first deaf volunteer to work with them.

When I came back to the UK, I decided to go back for the final year of my photography degree. I have now completed this and my final year show went well. My heart is often drawn to the deaf children that I worked with in Brazil and I am pleased to say that I went back there in July for two months!

SARAH GALLAGHER



Sarah with friends in Brazil

SIMON ASTILL



Well, July 2005 was the 20th anniversary of my departure from the grand doors of the Manor House! The years have sure gone past in a blur - it only seems like last week I packed my trunk for the last time (yes in those days we did the whole Harry Potter thing).

When I left, I took a voluntary position as a lifeguard and swimming coach - my dream job! I gave this up to earn a proper wage as a Recreation Officer at Nottinghamshire Deaf Society, moving on to work as an Administration Officer at the Nottingham Land Registry. It was not really my scene, but it was good money and I got to work with computers, which I loved. I stayed there for 14 years and I'm now back at the Nottinghamshire Deaf Society as an ICT Officer and Trainer.

I'm teaching older deaf people the basics of computers and enabling them to gain qualifications they didn't have the chance to go for at school. This is a really successful project and last year I was awarded the Adult Tutor of the Year award by NIACE.

Away from the daily grindstone, I enjoy spending quality time with the family - my wife, Teresa and daughter, Morgan, who's four years old. I also love surfing and try and get some waves in when ever I get the opportunity, which is not very often! If there are any other deaf surfers out there, please do get in touch. I'm also still into cooking - Mrs Clews would be proud of me! I wonder what I'll be doing twenty years from now? Hopefully living in Cornwall and still surfing! After all, I'm always being told to chill and there's no better place to be than waiting for the next wave to come in! Peace.

BRYAN DISS

I attended Mary Hare School from 1946 until 1951. I have good memories of most of the teaching staff - Messrs Mundin and Askew were fine teachers and RA stayed a friend for long after I left. Miss Cragg and Miss Gardiner were fine too, the former especially.

I went into Local Government as an Architectural Assistant but later found a better niche in Civil Engineering Laboratory work and stayed there from 1953 (in Birmingham) to 1992 when Telford New Town Laboratory closed with the ending of New Towns. The education from Mary Hare and further training at evening classes and specialist courses all helped me get along. The oral education made it easy to mix at work and socially.

My (hearing) wife worked with me in Birmingham and we have two (hearing) children. We lived in the West Midlands, moved to Shropshire and finally retired to South Gloucestershire.

I very much enjoy reading 'Soundwave' and I pass on my copy to my daughter Sarah who teaches at Elmfield School for the Deaf in Bristol - she did her practical training weeks at Mary Hare! I like to keep in touch with old pupils of my school years by visits, meetings, email and fax. We recently went to Sydney and it was great to meet with Phyllis (Garrad) Hunt and her husband who had recently had David Anthony stopping with them. We have visited David in Denver, USA and have had him visit us here many times. Phyllis emigrated to Oz to join her son and daughter there. They've been there about 15 years and have six grandchildren. I have known her since about 1940 at two schools (we are both 'Brummies').

My advice to current pupils? Get a good all-round education, as this really helps with career changes in later life! Mix with hearing people as much as you can, as you will have to work and live with them later.



Bryan with Phyllis Hunt (nee Garrad) on a recent visit to Australia



Howard House friends help Nicholas celebrate his birthday

For further information about Mary Hare, please visit our website: www.maryhare.org.uk



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