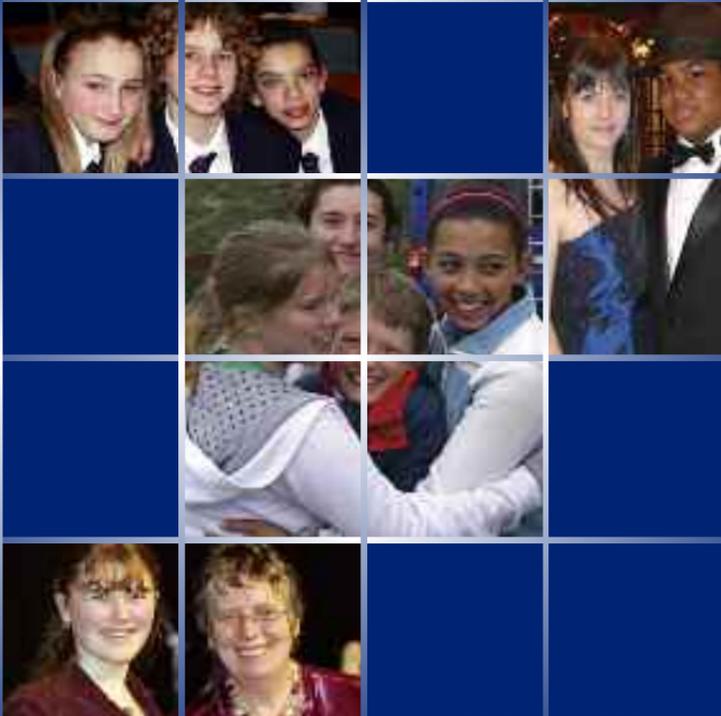


Mary
Hare



soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine



May 2008



| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| SPECIAL FEATURE | page 4 |
| STAFF NEWS | page 6 |
| WORLD OF WORK | page 8 |
| SPORTS NEWS | page 12 |
| TRIPS AND OUTINGS | page 14 |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | page 18 |
| ENGLISH | page 28 |
| LANGUAGES | page 30 |
| ART AND DESIGN | page 34 |
| FUNDRAISING NEWS | page 36 |
| PRIMARY NEWS | page 37 |
| ALUMNI NEWS | page 38 |

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 (voice) 01635 244260 (minicom) Email: marketing@maryhare.org.uk
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, SO START WRITING, DRAWING, PAINTING, CREATING NOW!

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Mary Hare School goes from strength to strength, with increasing numbers of participants and improvements in equipment. Over the past year, there have been a number of new developments.



Equipment

This time last year, a group of the current Year 11 boys put in a bid to the Youth Opportunity Fund for camping equipment. Up until this point we had to borrow equipment from other sources, which was quite difficult. The bid was successful and the group were awarded **£7,184** to spend on equipment they had decided was necessary - tents, sleeping bags, rucksacks, camping stoves, maps and compasses. However, with the increase in participants we have already outgrown the equipment we have.

This has required some extra funding and we have been lucky enough to receive **£2,500** from Skipton Building Society, **£3,000** from the Headley Foundation and **£125** for First Aid kits from Azzurri Communications. **Yvonne Cox** from the Mary Hare School office and parent **Pauline Caldaralo** were very brave this month, doing a parachute jump to raise around **£1,500** for us. This money will go towards buying more equipment, so that we can take larger groups away - so a big Thank You to all those who have been fundraising and who have donated.

This year, **Simon Thursz, Tim Weston** and **Ashley Dunn** put in a Youth Opportunity Fund bid for fleece jackets, which was also successful. This means that everyone in the scheme at Mary Hare will get their own fleece to use on expeditions. The fleeces are being kindly provided by a parent at the school and a logo for them is currently being designed as well.



Award Presentation

This year's Annual Award Presentation was a special one for Mary Hare, as we had the greatest number of pupils receiving the award since we started the scheme. **Ben Glover, Roger Watson, Jack Arnold, Andrew Kenward, Hamish Roberts, Graeme Gray, Lewis Martin, Oliver Harper, Max Thorne, Daniel Clements, Holly Lane** and **Timothy Quigley** all received their Bronze Award. **Kirsty Day** and **Ross Grant** received their Silver Award. As part of his 'Service' section for his Gold award, Ross is actively involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme across West Berkshire.

Developments

We have also been able to increase the awards on offer, with pupils now working towards Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The increase in Gold level participants has required us to start working on the extra 'Residential' section that has to be completed. This involves students spending a week or more away, participating in an activity which encourages development of new skills, meeting new people and discovering new places.



Daniel Clements and **Graeme Gray** are planning to complete this section in 2009, by taking part in a young persons' sailing experience in the Caribbean. The trip will involve not only learning how to sail, but also undertaking conservation work on the journey as well as meeting new people and experiencing different cultures.

The boys are currently looking at ways to fundraise the amount needed to complete their plans. This year will also see the start of training towards our first water-based expedition where, instead of walking, the pupils will paddle canoes for their journey. These developments would not have been possible without the support of teachers **Miss Colby** and **Mr Askew**, who provide expedition training for the Bronze and Silver Awards.

staffnews

Interview with Head of Geography Mr Robin Askew

By **Meghan Durno** and **Karina Jemmott**

Introduced by Chief Executive Dr Ivan Tucker OBE

Mr and Mrs Jack Askew were key figures in the development of Mary Hare School. Mr Askew was appointed Principal in 1950 and his wife Mary worked as a teacher. They were here when I first came to Mary Hare as a student teacher of the deaf in 1967 and during his tenure, Jack Askew made a fantastic contribution to the education of deaf children. I am delighted that Jack and Mary's grandson, Robin, joined us at the start of this academic year!

What do you know about your grandparents' time at Mary Hare School?

My grandfather started teaching at Mary Hare in 1946 when the school was at Burgess Hill in Sussex. He moved with the school to Arlington Manor and was Headmaster until 1973. He originally taught Science in the same classroom that I now teach in (Geography 1). He loved bee keeping and kept hives outside the Manor. I remember helping him with the bees and although he didn't wear gloves he never seemed to get stung. My grandmother taught Maths and did speech therapy in the tower. I have heard stories about her learning to drive on the school playing field and crashing into a goal post - she never did take her driving test!

Was it because of your grandparents that you found out about Mary Hare?

I have known about Mary Hare for most of my life as my grandparents talked about their time here and my father grew up here. They lived in White Cottages at first and then in the Principal's house where Dr Tucker now lives.

Did they tell you anything about the school?

When I was small, I visited Mary Hare with my family and can remember being given a tour of the school. When I became a teacher my grandmother was very proud. She always told me that I should listen to pupils and talk to them about their lives. I know they were happy at Mary Hare and for over 30 years after they left, many former pupils still wrote to her.

What was your first teaching job after you qualified?

My first job was as a Geography teacher at a school in Thatcham. After five years I moved to a school in Reading where I was Head of Year 7. I wasn't actually looking for a new job but when I saw the advert for a place at Mary Hare, I decided to apply. It was partly to do with my grandparents but I had also taught some deaf pupils and had found that interesting and therefore wanted to develop my career in deaf education.

Why did you choose to teach in a special school?

I have worked in mainstream schools but I was teaching around 300 pupils each week and could not get to know them well enough to develop my teaching to suit their needs. I also found that pupils had little respect for staff and did not appreciate the opportunities they had.

Do you like being at Mary Hare School?

I have really enjoyed my time here. I think there is a good community feel around the school, where people are happy and very supportive of each other. I feel that the pupils generally appreciate the opportunities they have and the hard work of the staff and that makes me want to work harder to help them.



Mr Askew shows Karina (left) and Meghan (right) his grandfather's watch



(1972) Mr Askew at the cross country finishing line with teachers Linda and Gareth Holsgrove

Will you be as famous as your grandfather?

I do not think of my grandfather as being famous but feel he was recognised for what he achieved in his life. I would like to be able to look back at my life and be proud that I have achieved something and helped others.

Do you have any other links with Mary Hare?

My parents had their wedding reception in Arlington Manor in 1964 and I have seen pictures and a video of the Manor at that time. My father used to look after the school pigs during the holidays when pupils were not there to do the work themselves.

I also have my grandfather's watch which is engraved 'To Mr R Askew from the pupils of MHGS 1973'. I inherited it from him as I am the only R Askew in the family. I wore it for good luck on the day of my interview!

Mary Hare students regularly gain the benefit from visiting local businesses as well as taking part in work placements, to help them understand more about how companies run and to experience life in the workplace. Aeron Mazija and Karina Jemmott recount their experiences...

Year 12 Work Experience

AERON

I undertook my work experience at Boots in Newbury. This place was great because they had many skilled staff who were really nice to me, there were 54 of them! Some had part-time jobs, some full-time and some had just come to earn some temporary money. On my first day I had a look around the whole building with Martin, the manager, to see how they operated. I saw a lot of machinery, staff and saleable items. The first member of staff that I met was Teresa, from Finance. She was working on wages and staff absence and she showed me how she did her work. On that day she was filling out forms for staff wages and tax and interviewing people who had missed work because of problems. Her main job was to get all the papers ready to send to Head Office in Nottingham. When they receive them, they can then send information to the bank to put the wages into the staff bank accounts.

In the afternoon, Martin was busy because he had to cover for someone at the photo collection point, so he asked me to join the opticians. I was introduced to George, the optician's assistant, who was very nice and often joking around. I really enjoyed my first day and I was looking forward to the next day to find out more.

On my second day, I started with Group Administration, where I did research on the computer for information about staff, money, rules, safety and so on. Then Claire, the team leader handed me over to Andy (Pharmacy) who showed me the medicine lab and the MDS (Monitored Dosage System). He gave me the prescriptions for the driver called Bernie, who took me out in the van driving around Newbury to collect and give out prescriptions. I really enjoyed travelling to different places like houses and surgeries. I thought it would be boring, but I was wrong as I was helping Bernie to sort out prescription items, tick them off and put numbers in.

Bernie told me about his past job which was in the police, so he knew all about driving. He told me that he is legally allowed to drive with a drug for the person that it is specially ordered for. He needs to show that he has a licence for driving and is allowed to drive with drugs, otherwise if the police stopped him, he could get arrested. Bernie has to sort prescriptions correctly and make sure he doesn't make mistakes. The pharmacy can then get the medicine ready and send it to the person or give it to Bernie to deliver. He also has to check the orders with three local surgeries and if they agree, he can send it off to pharmacy. If a prescription is missing then he asks the pharmacy to send another one or goes to collect it. They are hoping to get a new machine which would fax these to other surgeries instead of driving there and back.

In the afternoon Helen, the MDS assistant, showed me around the lab. The words I saw were so complicated and I don't know how they ever get the right tablets. I would never have thought that they had to do it all by hand; making up the medicine, putting it into boxes, writing the papers up for information to give to Bernie to drive to the surgeries.

On my third day Janet, the stock specialist, showed me around upstairs with a trolley with items in it. She asked me to put the stuff away, I did it and then she showed me the pocket PC (mini-machine that has barcodes like the till) and let me try it. I really enjoyed it because I had never seen one before and I found it really interesting but lots of walking gave me aching feet.

On my fourth day, Martin showed me a room that must be closed all the time. This room contained two big safes that were almost the same height as me. Anna, the Operations Assistant, showed me the floorplan of the store called 'Eagle View'. Jodie showed me how they need to check items in the store every day just in case they change or there are new items or things to be got rid of.



Aeron spends some time at the opticians

For the rest of the day I was working on the shelves, moving them, taking the glass out, pulling the shelves out, adjusting them, putting the glass back in, keeping them clean, putting the price tag on the front of the shelves, putting the background colour in to make it attractive and finally putting the items on the shelves.

On my last day I met Bridget, the photography expert, who gave me a copy of the employees' handbook. Martin came to show me how information was received from head office - there is a computer program that the staff use which gives information about items, plans, stock, prices etc. It also has a database for when items should be released onto the shelves. Finally it shows the plans for budgets - what you think you will get and then the actual budget.

At the end of the week Martin said, "Thanks for all your hard work and dressing nicely, being nice to customers, enjoying your time, giving us a boost to motivate the staff and keep us working. Once again, thank you from all of us." I replied, "Thanks for letting me come here on work experience for a week. I really enjoyed all the work you gave me, as well as the research in the different departments."

Year 11 Work Experience



KARINA

I went to Hungerford, 8 miles away from Mary Hare School, on my work experience. I was a bit nervous going out to work in the real world. My careers teacher, Mrs Gladwell, asked me what I would like to do in the future. I told her I would like to be a fashion designer because I have chosen Textiles as one of my GCSE subjects and I love it. I love to research fashion designers and fabric which is a very rewarding experience. I wanted to learn a lot more about clothes, designers and fabric during my work experience and I have always wanted to work in a clothes shop.

Mrs Gladwell found a shop in Hungerford called Jeanne Pettit. I went to visit the shop and meet the interviewer called Marian. It felt strange to be the interviewee and I had never done that kind of thing before. My throat was nearly too dry to talk when she asked me a few questions.

She helped to make me relaxed and told me sit back, because I was sitting with my back very straight and both hands were on my lap to stop them shaking. She told me that she was the youngest to work in this shop and she was only aged nineteen. This made me feel more relaxed and we chatted and laughed. I felt a lot better after the interview and was looking forward to working there for one week.

On my first day, I had to wait outside in the cold for the shop to open, which made me more nervous. I was waiting so long that I decided to take a quick look around Hungerford town. It has a few shops and a large 'Somerfield' supermarket. I went over the bridge and saw the beautiful river flowing with the old canal at the side of the river. Lots of ducks swam there. I went back to the shop, took a deep breath, turned the handle and in I went...

Suddenly three ladies came up to me and asked if I was Karina - I nodded, too nervous to speak. They shook my hand and gave me pecks on my cheek and took my coat and handbag away for me. One lady was called Marian (the one I met earlier). She was stunning and tall and she wore a red baby doll dress with heavy wedges. She showed me around every room, where there were lovely cream walls and carpet.

Lots of clothes hung on shelves with hats, gloves and handbags on the shelves above the clothes. She asked me if I would mind hoovering every room. I nodded again and felt so babyish because I had not even spoken yet, only nodded. I did not want them to think I could not speak. I hoovered everywhere and sorted out the clothes to make sure nothing was laid on the floor and tidied the hangers in the right order. They gave me a yellow cloth to polish the shelves and window sills.

The other member of staff called Sarah looked like 'Miss Sunshine' from the film 'Chicago'. Her hair was blonde and thick with bouncy waving curls that bobbed around her shoulders. Her eyes were blue, lighter than mine. She wore a nice blue top and high heeled brown shoes.

She asked me some questions about Mary Hare and told me that she had a friend who was deaf and used to go to Mary Hare a long time ago. Her friend has two children with a hearing partner. She tried to do sign language for 'toilet' and 'thank you'. I burst out laughing because she was doing it strangely and I clapped to say 'well done'. I taught her some alphabet but she ended up giving up and moaning because it was too hard. We burst out laughing again. I felt better.

I liked it when they needed me or tried to call my name and they tapped my shoulder when they needed me. After lunch, a lady came into the shop and I was shocked because I did not know who she was when she hugged me and shook my hand.

She told me she was the manager of the company and I was, like, "Oh, Oh!" Her name was Sarah Pettit. She asked me if I would like to dress the two mannequins in the windows to display and impress people in the street. I was delighted and said "Yes!" I had to choose two outfits from the shelves and dress the mannequins.

Marian showed me the top room where the old clothes and spare clothes were left, in case customers may want another size or different colours. Natalie taught me how to wrap the clothes that the customer had bought in paper with 'Jeanne Pettit' written on it and put them into a bag to give to the customer before they leave the shop.

I had to open the door for customers to come in or go out of the shop. I also asked customers if they would like to have a drink or cup of coffee or tea. I noticed that my speech improved so much over the week because I did not sign at all! When the ladies did not understand what I was trying to say, I repeated and repeated it again until I got it right. The next time I said the same words right, automatically.

On the last day they offered me a part time job as a 'thank you' and I was delighted. This job was absolutely the right one for me because all the clothes from Jeanne Pettit were what I was looking for and suited my style of fashion.



By **Blaise Persaud**

BASKETBALL

2007/8 has been a hugely successful year for our Basketball teams. It is an amazing achievement for our small school to have 4 (out of 5) of the best teams in the Newbury area. The Year 10 Boys won the Newbury Schools Cup with Year 9 as runners up and Year 11 won the Newbury League and Cup yet again! The Year 7/8 Boys and Girls teams both qualified for the Berkshire Youth Games as the best teams in Newbury. They represented the area against the best teams from across Berkshire and finished in an AMAZING 3rd and 4th place respectively.



Year 7/8 Girls team celebrate their success at the Berkshire Youth Games

Sports Teacher and team coach Mr Owen commented, "The Berkshire Youth Games have been a fantastic experience for both teams. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day, mixing well with their hearing peers and gaining in confidence as well as improving their skills. The girls really did fantastically well, firstly to represent Newbury and secondly to make the semi-finals, only narrowly being beaten into 4th place. They have all worked extremely hard in training and have all improved as players. The tournament was really well organised with wonderful facilities, professional referees, press photographers and even 'Reading Rockets' players (see Mitchel's piece on this page). It was a wonderful experience and the confidence they gained from competing with mainstream schools was well worth all the effort."



rocket man

By **Mitchel Graham**

I play in an Under Sixteen basketball team in Reading called 'The Reading Rockets'. I train twice a week and I have a big problem with that because I have to do my prep, my washing, cook myself something to eat and have a shower, after I have finished training!

I train on a Tuesday from 6 - 8pm at the John Madejski Academy and on a Wednesday I train from 7:45 - 9:45pm at Thames Valley University. I play games every weekend and sometimes there are two in one weekend, on Saturday and Sunday! I really enjoy basketball and I am mixing with loads of hearing boys in Reading. Most of the time my parents come down when there are two matches at the weekend. The league that I play in is The Under Sixteen Premier South and we are in 9th place out of 11 teams, at the moment.

Just before morning break we gathered outside for the coach, ready for a fun-filled day! We were being treated to a day at the Waterside Centre in Newbury, to inspire us into getting active!

We arrived and met our guides for the day. With the introductions over, it was on to the serious stuff - rock climbing! We were shown how to put the safety kit on and given helmets - very stylish! Then we partnered up and approached the walls. We started with some easy ones and took turns to scale them. We did pretty well for a group of people who are meant to dislike games! It wasn't long before we were moving on to the advanced walls; then things started getting tougher. Some of us fell off and were left hanging on the ropes as our partners laughed instead of helping us! A special prize goes to Asha who was really good and scaled the walls like Spiderman!



After the exhausting session of rock climbing, we moved on to something slightly more relaxing - archery! We were taught how to use the bows and arrows and we had some attempts at hitting the target (sadly mine missed it completely). We then had a competition to see who could get the most points. Rebecca won this with her Robin Hood-like skills! Then it was time for a well deserved break before we moved on to the scariest activity of the day - canoeing.



We partnered up and were given lifejackets and paddles. We had to fetch our canoes and drag them to the edge of the canal - they were heavy! We were given a quick lesson on how to use our paddles - we all stood by the canal waving them through the air.

Then it was on to the real thing, just us, our canoes and lots of swans! At first we paddled down the canal flowing with the water which was fairly easy (and hilarious when Asha lost her paddle in the water.) Then when it was time to turn and row back, some of us got into difficulties! Laila and Rona sailed ahead whilst the rest of us lagged behind. We finally managed to reach the shore and dragged our canoes back. It was fun but tiring! Thank you to Mr Owen for inspiring us to get active, we will expect these activities every games lesson from now on!

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

By **Jonathan Boalch** and **Stephen Boyd**

Jonathan: We went to the Houses of Parliament with Year 8. As we went through the doors the police had to check us, to make sure that we had no bombs or other dangerous things. We had a tour guide with us who told us all about Parliament and Kings and Queens. He also talked about Guy Fawkes who tried to blow up Parliament. He told us what the House of Lords chamber and House of Commons chamber are used for. The Queen visits Parliament once a year.



We went to the House of Lords and we looked around. This room is for people who talk about laws and decide if that law should be allowed. Later we saw important people walking by and we had to stand still. I also saw the Speaker who sits in the Speaker's chair.

Later we met an MP (Member of Parliament) called Adam Holloway. He knows Alfie and his father. Next we had lunch and looked around Westminster Hall. Afterwards we went to Big Ben but we didn't go inside! Later, we played in the park for a while before our bus came and took us back to Mary Hare School. We had a brilliant time!

Stephen: When we got there we saw the front and it was very tall and all the carvings were done by hand. We went through to the robing room where there was a chair for the Queen but it was not a throne and the guide told us kings and queens used to live there until Henry VIII left and parliament is now in this building. We went to the Royal Gallery where there were paintings long and tall. The painter didn't want to sign his name so he put a glass of wine in it and one picture showed the Battle of Trafalgar where they were fighting the French and another one showed the Battle of Waterloo but this time there were two glasses of wine.

We went to the Prince's chamber and there were lots of pictures. One was of Henry VIII with his wives. Then it was on to the House of the Lords, which was massive and the room was mostly red. The Queen had a big throne and the Princes had smaller chairs. In the room they had microphones to make sure everyone is heard. We went through to the Central Lobby and it was very busy. The guide told us "when King Charles was at Parliament on the exact spot where we were standing Charles said "Get these 5 MPs", but they escaped."

We wanted to go to the House of Commons but we didn't have a pass to go through and they were debating the closures of the Post Offices. So we went to the Hall which was big, but in the old days the King was disappointed because he wanted it FOUR times bigger. This was where Charles I was put on trial but he didn't say anything as he thought that if he said something, he would be guilty and, guess what? He was found guilty and was executed. The hall was different in the olden days as it had pillars and a different roof and they held parties there. The hall was freezing and we had to eat our lunches there. We set off for the Clock Tower often referred to as 'Big Ben'. We heard it strike and we passed Westminster Abbey on the way - it was cool. We went to the Jewel Tower which was very old. Most of us were excited when we reached the second floor as it had ancient things like swords that were 1,600 years old and the boys really liked it. At the end of the day, when the coach arrived, we were disappointed that we had to go. We had a great day!



We took Year 10 and 11 students to marvel at the automated engineering spectacular of mass car production at BMW's £320m factory on the outskirts of Oxford. We entered the calm serenity of the body manufacturing area - calm even with over 300 robots welding gracefully and almost silently welding and sealing, moving and lifting hundreds of body parts around the vast area known as 'body in white', prior to painting the car's body.

Seamlessly, we moved on to the next building where many more workers added the customer-specified parts to the cars, now freshly painted and dried. Again a near silent process except for the whirr of a drill or power spanner or the hum of the conveyor system that carried the near complete vehicles up into the roof space and down to an assembly line where new parts were added and then the whole thing started again, until the finished product was driven off the production line. Throughout the assembly process man and machine carried out quality and safety checks using laser measuring tools, sonic weld tests and computer operated photographic seal surveys. As we toured the final assembly section we were amazed to hear a Mini only takes 24 hours to build from start to finish and one car rolled off the production line nearly every minute. There are 4,000 parts on a Mini, 36 wheel types and 400 interior styles as well as the broader range of vehicles than were being made, compared to our last visit in 2004.

We thanked our tour guides and trawled around the welcome area sitting in the various show models and excitedly took pictures of the millionth Mini which had been customized but unfortunately was not for sale!

All in all a very successful visit which taught pupils and staff a thing or two about mass automation and production, stock control and quality assurance and continuous improvement. Very efficient these Germans!

Mark Chandler,
Business Studies



BUDE

By **Luke Bryant** and **Adam Sklar**

At the beginning of the school year, Year 9 went to Bude in Cornwall for a week of exciting activities, with teachers and care staff Catherine, Dr Rocca, Miss Colby, Dani and Mr Marlow. It was a very long journey which took three hours. At the half way point, we went to the services to get drinks and snacks. When we arrived, we went into the bar to have a meeting. The instructor talked to us all about Outdoor Adventure. He had a list of people and which rooms we were in. I shared a room with Arran and Andrew and we were next to Mr Marlow - we could hear him snoring!

Team Building

We went back to the bar and waited for everyone to come back. The instructors had a list of the people in each group. There were 3 groups: A, B and C. Group A was doing team building, which is trying to work as a team to get good times and to beat the other groups. We got points if we passed each test.

Rock Climbing

Group B was doing rock climbing. We had to wear helmets for safety just in case there were rocks falling down from the cliffs and a harness around our hips and legs for attaching two ropes. One rope is the safety rope which the instructor holds so that you don't fall down and your partner holds the other rope.

Coastal Traverse

Coastal Traverse was the second best activity. With your group, you went for long walk to the wonderful beach and you had to follow the instructor through all the gaps in the rocks. We had to wear a helmet so we would not bang our heads. We all enjoyed that activity because it was quite hard to get through lots of tiny holes and to climb over lots of rocks.

Raft Building

The raft building was pretty good and fun. We had some barrels and lots of wood which we put together to make a raft - we had to learn to tie EXTREMELY hard knots which were eventually very hard to untie. When we put it on the water people took turns to get in to see how many people it could hold... well people got on and it all went fine until everyone pushed Russell and Iain off the raft!

Surfing

Group C was doing surfing on the beach. Our first surfing activity was to try a body board. On our second day, a few managed to stand on a full board. We loved surfing more than any of the other activities.

We really enjoyed our time at Bude. It was a great experience and we won't forget it. Even though we didn't all get to do every activity, it was great fun. Some of us were soooooo close to not going, as it was far away from home, but now we have gone there, our confidence has been boosted and we all want to do more activities in the future. It was all thanks to the staff and students who helped and encouraged each other.



Coastal Traverse



Raft Building



Rock Climbing



Team Building



Surfing

prom night

By Katie Bonné

feedback from a true princess...

Your hair, your nails, your shoes, your dress, your date, your friend's dress, your friend's date, your other friend who wanted to buy the same dress and then that other friend who tried to steal your date: besides her wedding day, the Prom is the most important event in a girl's life, every teenage girl fantasizes about their Prom, months and even years beforehand. So there we all were, the big day had finally come and we were standing in the entrance of The Manor, horror stricken, staring at fifty yards of heavy rain that separated us from the line of white limos.

One by one we battled through the rain and there was a chorus of gasps as we all clambered into the limos. The interior was lush, there were white leather seats, the carpet was black fur, there was a surround sound system, strobe lights and a mirrored fibre-optic lit ceiling. We all made the most out of our 20 minutes of living the luxurious, glamorous life before we arrived at the Hilton hotel.

Knowing Dr Papas was filming everything, we all had a choice of either getting out of the limo in an elegant fashion but risk ruining our dresses or legging it through the rain attempting to haul up our dress and carry our umbrella at the same time, which is extremely difficult to do in a ladylike manner. Luckily for me, my Prince Charming for the night came to my rescue, he scooped me up in his arms and carried me (*pictured right*). It was a bad start, but soon my Prom was turning out better than I imagined it would be.

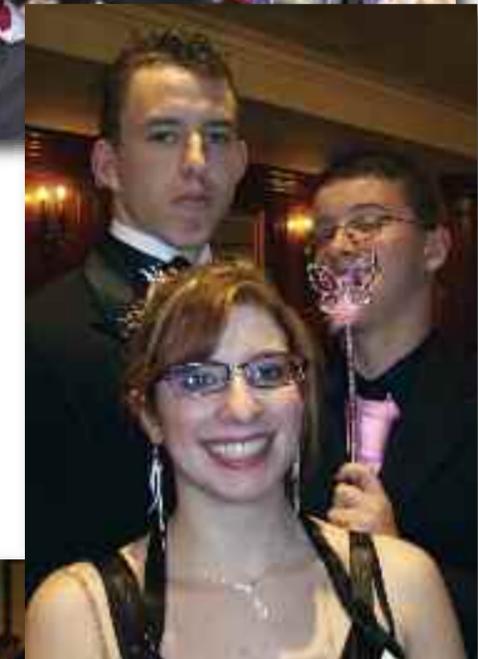
The theme was 'James Bond' and the Social Committee did a fantastic job of decorating the hall. After walking under an arch of gold balloons and past silhouettes of Mr Bond we were greeted with Martinis, shaken not stirred. The whole room was swamped with gold, red, black and white balloons; there were giant playing cards on display and a huge casino table in the corner - much to the boys' delight.

At 8pm everyone made their way to the tables and started to sit down for their three course meal. I, however, was having a little bit of trouble trying to fit my dress under the table. My Prince Charming had to come to my rescue...again, after a lot of folding, shoving and stuffing we managed to squeeze most of the dress under the table. As if that alone wasn't embarrassing enough I looked up to see Dr Papas filming the whole thing. Dr Papas, why do you always seem to capture me on film when I am making a fool out of myself?

The meal was a huge success and I am glad to report no one spilt food on their dresses or got broccoli stuck between their teeth. After our delicious meal we played some games which included massive blow up dice, giant playing cards and some dancing! The room was then filled with excited hustle bustle as everyone helped the DJ move the tables away to make space for a dance floor. The floor was soon invaded by ruffles and sparkles as the girls started dancing the night away, the boys were crowded around the casino tables engaged in some serious gambling.

Whether they spent £200 or £20 everyone looked amazing, Blaise wore a dress imported from Spain, Ross and Graham wore kilts, Mr Wylie modelled a fabulous fuchsia shirt and Mr Gale spent the night parading around showing off his new haircut. I'm sorry Mrs Martin, but I have to give you a mention too, you looked drop dead gorgeous in your 'little black dress' and it's a shame you have to go back to wearing your lab coat!

The advantage of having a 'James Bond' themed night, unlike a 'traditional' Prom, is that there is no limit to what kind of dresses the girls can wear. Some wore satin and diamonds, some wore ball gowns and tiaras while others opted for polka dots and pearls. The boys were also over the moon because it meant they could bring their toy guns and spend the night 'catching bad guys' and shooting each other. There was not a sad face in sight, everyone was having the time of their lives and before long we were all huddled together swaying to that cheesy 'last dance' song that crackled across the speakers in the softly lit hall. It was a fantastic night but an emotional one too because for Year 13, it will be the last big time together before we all leave.



---and the award goes to...



oscar night

Mary Hare 'Oscars' night was popular, that was clear from the size of the queue at the entrance to the main doors outside Dulverton Hall. All the hard work by the Sixth Form Prefect team led by Charity Prefects **Alex Kemp** and **Shari Noraiee** had paid off. Following a special dinner in Blount Hall, a steady stream of elegantly dressed students made their way into a glitzy Dulverton Hall to enjoy drinks and nibbles and wait for the fun to begin.

Comperes for the evening were slickly dressed **David Hough** and comic **Sam Arnold** who kept the audience entertained with their wit as they invited Mary Hare 'celebrities' up to the stage to make the presentations of the shining gold Oscars. Prior to the evening the whole school had been invited to fill in a questionnaire to choose the winners, then the organisers counted up the votes to see who had won the prestigious awards!

The evening began with awards in the category for the 'Vainest Pupil'! This was won by junior **Fenella Cruikshank** who just made it to the stage in some dangerous looking stilettos and by senior **Scott McDougall**, who thanked everyone who had not voted for him! **Sam Arnold** himself received an award, quickly running to the back of the hall so that he could stroll forward in 'show biz' style to collect the award for 'Best Actor.'

Staff sitting in the balcony were also singled out for awards with **Mrs Wylie** receiving her fourth Oscar for 'Best Listener' and **Mr Marlow**, who does his best to keep everyone smiling, receiving the 'Funniest Teacher' award. Further presentations were made in the end of term assembly for staff who could not be there on the night, with **Mr Gwynn** receiving a lifetime achievement award.

Highlights of the evening included dance performed on the 'red (bubble wrap) carpet' in the centre of the hall by **Connor, Hannah, Naomi, Saffron** and **Christina** to music by the Pussy Cat Dolls and a set by 'The Deafness' who played their new number, a cover version of "I Feel Good" by James Brown.

The high quality video clips were evidence of the hours of hard work that had gone on behind the scenes: Year 13 girls appeared in their own music video, dancing to 'Don't Cha' by The Pussy Cat Dolls, directed by **Katie Bonné**, while the boys appeared in a hilarious Spice Girl Spoof dancing to 'Wannabe' with **Phillip Swift** looking very cute as Baby Spice!

Holding everything together behind the scenes were **Daniel Clements** and **Jack Arnold** on lights, **Lauren Austin** and **Katie Bonné** on 'Powerpoint' duty and **Graeme Gray** who was in charge of sound. Thanks must also go to those who sold the tickets for the big night, including **James Sorohan, Vicky Knight** and **Olivia Hills**. Overall it was an impressive evening with the **£545** raised going to support Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.



Award Winner Mr Hollitzer



Award Winner Mr Goodwin

hong kong

In November, Year 13 Photography students from Mary Hare and Kennet School took part in a study trip to Hong Kong. This type of collaboration has proven successful on two previous study trips to New York and it was felt to be an appropriate time to explore a new venue. Hong Kong offered all the photographic opportunities we would expect in a large modern city, with a blend of ancient culture, remnants of a colonial past and a vibrant commercial setting.

This was an action-packed and eye-opening tour that was eventful from start to finish. Our flight was with the new Oasis Hong Kong Airlines and our plane was piloted by a former governor of Kennet School! We were treated to some spectacular views, from 39,000ft, of the Gobi desert, southern Tibet and China before an unobstructed view of Hong Kong during our descent. On arrival we were met by Oasis representatives and escorted through to our own dedicated immigration desk. Our passage through to the arrivals hall was eased by further support from the Oasis staff who delivered us to the hotel representatives and then onto our awaiting coach. Here we were met and introduced to the hotel manager who accompanied us on our trip to The Metropark Hotel in Kowloon. Once settled into our luxurious accommodation, the students were then given the opportunity to explore one of the legendary night markets and shopping districts where it was possible to purchase almost anything, albeit mostly replicated goods.

Places we visited included: Hong Kong island, The Peak, The Great Buddha at Lantau (the world's largest) and Aberdeen Harbour, all of which exposed the students to an array of photographic opportunities. The buildings, the markets, the people, all came under close scrutiny as we endeavoured to capture this new and sometimes unusual spectacle, both in the day and at night. We also took a day out to visit Disneyland Hong Kong and Ocean Park where the highlight was an environmentally controlled enclosure that housed four giant pandas. On one evening we enjoyed a sunset harbour dinner cruise that gave us a new perspective to photograph the city from.

All too soon the trip came to an end, and a week after it started, 34 weary travellers arrived back in the UK from what was felt was the best collaborative venture so far. This was only possible due to the exceptional contributions made by all the pupils and staff on a truly memorable trip. Tom Smith, head of Art at Kennet School said "We may have flown economy but it has been first class all the way", sentiments felt by all. Indeed, the trip not only provided an exceptional opportunity for the students to provide evidence for their A Level photography coursework, but also enabled the hearing impaired students from Mary Hare to integrate with their hearing peers.

Following the trip there was an exhibition open to the public in Arlington Arts Centre at Mary Hare, during March and April which attracted excellent reviews from local art and photography critics. It is hoped to find other venues, public or private, where the students' work can be put on show during the rest of the year.

John A. Boyd
Head of Photography



BY REBECCA CLEMENTS



BY MADELEINE KHAN



BY JONATHAN ROGERS



BY CHARLOTTE BENTLEY



BY ALEX KEMP



BY HAMISH ROBERTS

*Pictures from the trip are also featured on the inside covers of this magazine

a rollercoaster ride

By **Jeff Robinson**

I am a HUGE fan of rollercoasters and with nothing to do in the summer holidays last year, I was soon feeling bored after going on holiday to one of the biggest theme parks in the USA. I got the idea about a wooden rollercoaster structure and I wanted to have the same at home - a rollercoaster in my garden that I would construct! I did the plans and was ready to go to B&Q (my favourite D.I.Y. store) to get all the wood. I used outdoor wood and got screws and bolts - by the end I had used a LOT of screws and bolts! It was quite difficult to build and I got stressed, but the amount of sawing and drilling really helped me to improve my D.I.Y. skills. At the end the total cost of the wood was £110.



HOW I BUILT IT

My wooden rollercoaster took about two months to build. First I made the top tower where the ride starts up high, then started making the track going down, making sure all the pieces were strong. It can hold up to three people standing on the tracks.

I then made the cart with a plastic box with the front bit cut out so you can put your legs through. Underneath, the plastic box was attached to bits of wood holding the wheels. Good news was it was sunny during the summer holidays so I got on with building. While I was building, it was in the garage then finally when I finished, it was moved into my garden! It speeds up to 20mph and the length is 10 metres.



A HUGE FAN

Over the years, I have enjoyed designing posters of roller coasters on my computer and I've visited a lot of theme parks to ride the rollercoasters.



The best one I have been on was the 'Millennium Force' at Cedar Point Amusement Park in the USA. It is 310ft high and goes at 92mph. When I rode that and got to the top, there a stunning view. You could look down over the whole theme park at Sandusky Island, Ohio. You can see it at www.cedarpoint.com.

YOUTH SPEAKS

Tensions ran high on a wet November evening as we made our way into Carnarvon Hall for this year's Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' inter-school competition. Mary Hare School entered two teams: **Fenella Cruikshank, Rolf Choutan** and **Russell Yeo** were our Intermediate team and **Laila Doobeh, James Alexander** and **William Ogden** were our Senior entry in the competition.

Twelve teams from local schools took part in the public speaking competition in which speakers present their chosen topic for debate to the invited audience. Subjects included: a consideration of the controlling influence of the media, the 'size zero' issue and its effects on young people, the merits of escaping into a good book and a warning about people's unrealistic hopes of stardom – fuelled by programmes such as 'The X Factor'.

The Mary Hare Intermediate team put forward a powerful and humorous presentation warning of the dangers in a toxic chemical called DHMO. Their impassioned speech soon had everyone ready to ban the substance immediately, until they realised that the point being made was that we are all too easily blinded by science. The audience had been as well, as DHMO is, in fact, water!



Mary Hare's Senior team debated whether Christmas was truly a season of goodwill, or whether it had become an over commercialised, covetous, debt-inducing test of endurance. The team soon had the audience laughing as they recalled personal Christmas disappointments, before reminding us that we are very lucky and that the most important thing is spending Christmas together with our families.

Imagine the delight amongst the Mary Hare teams and supporters when the judges announced that our Intermediate team had won their section and our Seniors had gained second place in theirs! As winners, the Intermediate team went on to the district finals in Reading in February.

Unfortunately, the Mary Hare team did not win the final, but the students gave another outstanding performance. The presentation was filmed and shown at our annual Open Day in May, to a delighted audience of prospective families visiting the school for the first time.

WORLD BOOK DAY



To celebrate World Book Day in March, we were very lucky to enjoy a visit from Justin Somper, author of the 'Vampirates' series of books that are proving very popular with younger readers everywhere. An excited group of Year 7 students enjoyed an early picnic lunch in the classroom before going down to Arlington Arts Centre to meet our visiting celebrity author, where they were joined by pupils from other local schools: Mary Hare Primary, Falkland Primary and Curridge Primary.

Justin captivated his audience with tales of terror and bloodthirsty vampire pirates on the high seas. He talked about how one day the idea of the books came to him – it just occurred to him that pirates who were also vampires might make a story that would appeal to young readers.

Justin then took dozens of questions from the enthusiastic audience: he explained how long the books took to write (6 years for the first one!), how the covers were designed, when the next book could be expected, whether there would be a film made of the book, if he had other story ideas in mind... before rounding the whole thing off with a rousing pirate sea shanty that everyone joined in.

At the end of the session, Justin presented signed copies of his books as prizes to winners of a poetry competition that had been organised prior to the event. Prizes were awarded to **Meggie Voce** (Mary Hare School), **Kirsty Gaffney** (Mary Hare Primary), **Oscar Fenton** (Falkland Primary) and **Poppy Kemp** (Curridge Primary). See page 37 for the winning poem by Kirsty Gaffney from Mary Hare Primary School.

Many children were dressed for action as pirates and nearly everyone bought at least one of Justin's books afterwards, before queuing to get it signed by the author himself.

Justin was happy to chat with the children afterwards and seemed to enjoy the afternoon as much as they did! Our thanks go to Justin and to Anne Munby and Mme Lelaure from Mary Hare School who organised the wonderful afternoon.



SPEECH DAY



In November, Mary Hare School's annual Speech Day was held in Arlington Arts Centre. The occasion is the highlight of the school's academic year, celebrating the achievement of students from Year 8 upwards.

The opening address to invited friends and families was made by Principal Mr Tony Shaw and Chairman of the Governors, Mr Hugh Ogus. Mr Shaw reported a highly successful academic year for Mary Hare School with an A level pass rate of 60.6% at grades A to C and the best ever year for the school at GCSE, with 81.3% of students achieving 5 passes at grades A* to C.

A further insight into the life of the school came via a film of Year 11 students on their recent work experience placements in the Newbury area as well as images of pupils in the school's newly refurbished Youth Club – now a fantastic American-style diner, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PTA.

Guest of Honour was Lady Caro Wilson, Vice President of the school, who first joined the Board of Governors as Chairman of the PTA when her son was a pupil at Mary Hare. Lady Wilson spoke fondly of the immense feeling of goodwill at Mary Hare, saying that her son still values his days at the school, as a place where he could explore his identity without his deafness intruding in any way.

Deputy Principal, Mr Peter Gale, welcomed back last year's school leavers as they took time off from their current studies to collect their certificates and prizes.

Amongst those returning were **Inderjit Johal**, who with two As and a B at A Level has taken up a place at the University of Birmingham, studying History and Political Science and **Thomas Rowley** who also secured two As and a B and is studying Chemistry at Imperial College, London. Top honours went to **Kati Balazz** who gained 3 As at A Level and is now studying Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics.

Lady Wilson made a personal presentation to Mary Hare School of two garden benches, to promote friendship and relaxation amongst the students. She was delighted to discover, as the curtains opened, that the benches were already occupied on stage by students from both the primary and secondary schools!



The closing vote of thanks was made by Head Girl **Katie Bonné** and Head Boy **Michael Barber**. Katie looked around at the packed auditorium as she thanked the school for the confidence it had given her. She said, "Perhaps the most special thing about Mary Hare is the excellent support that the staff give to each individual pupil.

If someone had said to me six years ago, 'one day you will stand up in front of a large audience and give a speech', I would have just laughed - there is no way I imagined I would ever be able to do this!"

tales of mystery AND SUSPENSE

The Mysterious Stranger

By Thomas Kelly

There was once a stranger in a dark street. He always wandered around there. I was in an old, empty house which belonged to the street. I was alone, it was dark and quiet. It was thundering and lightning outside. I was eating and I lit a big fire in the house to keep myself warm. It was very quiet.

I always saw a stranger walking by my house at a certain time. I didn't want to talk to him in case he was dangerous, so I just watched him like a spy. Then, the next morning I just had a thought. It kept going on... 'Go and meet the stranger tonight at 1.00 am!'

I decided to go. All day I was talking to my friends asking them to come with me. They were really tough men and strong, that's why I told them to come. They were called 'Tanks' (that was their nickname). So, at 1.00 am we came out of the house with dogs. I was confident with myself because it was like an army. Me, the 'Tanks' and the dogs.

It was snowing hard in my face. The 'Tanks' and the dogs fell behind in the snow, I was alone. Then black shadows were appearing around me. Finally a black hat showed up, then the whole body showed up, he was all black. He said, "Beware" and disappeared.

Then finally the 'Tanks' and the dogs came and said, "What happened here?" "Nothing", I said, "Come here tomorrow at 1.00 am." Then my friends said, "Why are you so curious?", I said, "Just shh please - 1.00 am, understand me?" "Yes", said my friends.

I had to run home to bed for my next dream. That night I dreamt about the stranger, I was so curious about him. Why did he say "Beware?" Finally I had a dream about the important bit. He said "Beware" because he was going to my house. At that minute I woke up and ran down stairs and saw him, but he didn't see me.

I ran up stairs into my bedroom and locked all the doors. I hid under my bed. Then, suddenly, I saw him, he was a ghost coming through my door, then...

The Mysterious Stranger

By Jack Riley

I walked down a dark street and my friend said, "Awwww, there's rain coming, let's go back to our house..." We saw a stranger with a little dog that looked all tired and scared. "Weirdos...", said Ed, my friend.

"Oi! I ain't deaf! If I know your mum or see you ever again, you are really dead!" "As if! You are a tramp, you wouldn't even have the power to touch a knife!" Ed roared out, laughing.

I had a thought inside, "That stranger always looked at me when school was finished, with a cruel look. I was afraid that he could do some harm to me..." I walked away in the night while the tramp and my friend argued; then I heard a scream from Ed... I simply walked away.

Then the tramp called out me, "Oi, I hadn't finished with you, let me deal with you!" The stranger started to run. He was chasing me! I started picking up my pace and I ran at the speed of an athlete.

Then I saw my mother looking at me, realising what danger I was in. She shouted in a strange language! Then the tramp shouted back - he held something and pointed it at me, then ran away.

The next day I was off school because I had a bug. I thought about what the stranger was holding and pointing at me last night - it was a BUG dart that he used before he ran away, so he could see me again!

My mother went to work and I was alone. I called my friends over, they were coming to protect me! Then just before I managed to open the door for my friends, the stranger screamed at me and said, "You are never too young to die!" Then I knew it was the end of me...the world went silent...

The Mysterious Stranger

By Gemma Sanders

"BANG!" The mysterious noise occurred once again. I was getting really scared and puzzled. Who could it be?

It was a cold stormy afternoon and I was on my own. My house was ten minutes away, well not really my house - it was really a children's home. I have no parents.

"BANG!" There it was again. I looked around. There was no one there. Should I run or just keep cool? Suddenly I heard footsteps. "RUN!" I thought.

After five minutes I arrived home and it was as quiet as a mouse. Jill, the care worker, was preparing the dinner and Louise, one of the children in the house, was watching TV.

The next day, I had to pass along the same route to school. "WHOOSH!" I felt something go through me. I looked around and there was an old lady looking out of the window, she gave me the most evil glare.

I carried on walking.

After I had walked past a couple of houses, the same woman was watering her plants in her front garden - she stared at me as I walked past.

"What are you looking at?" the old woman shouted. "I was j-j-just... erm, you were looking at me first!", I replied. My heart was racing. "Don't you dare say that to me!", the old woman was furious. "I-I didn't mean to!" I apologised.

"I will haunt you forever...", the old woman cackled and disappeared. I was terrified. I ran for my life. I never wanted to see that woman again.

Suddenly, I felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned around....

overseasvisits

SEPTEMBER IN PARIS

It was an early morning at the end of September and Paris beckoned a bleary-eyed coachload of excited Mary Hare pupils. Five thirty in the morning was far too early, particularly when faced with a rather grim and scary looking coach driver! We travelled by coach to Dover where we caught the ferry to Calais - a clear crossing with blue skies and breakfast on board with Laurie happily playing on the computer games (yes, even at that time in the morning!)

After an agonising five minutes of dragging our suitcases up five flights of stairs we sighed a breath of relief as we discovered that there was a huge mirror in the bathroom, (well what would have been the point of bringing tons of clothes and cosmetics if you couldn't check that you looked OK in the morning?).

We arrived at the hotel, Le Château de Grande Romaine, which seemed very grand and sophisticated as it was a former chateau. We were welcomed by our two group leaders, including the bright and bubbly Dale. The rooms were very comfortable and the grounds at the chateau were huge, with tennis courts, lots of games areas and a huge swimming pool! We ate our meal in an enormous dining room and then we were taken to play sports with Dale.



The next day, after a French breakfast including Pain aux Raisins pastries, we drove into Paris and our first stop, the Eiffel Tower. The Rugby World Cup was being held at the time and there was an enormous rugby ball suspended from one of the levels of the Eiffel Tower. Ignoring our protests, the teachers decided that we would clamber up the stairs instead of taking the lift. Were they mad? Teenagers don't do hundreds of steps! There were about three thousand steps just to the first floor but it wasn't scary even though you could see through the gaps in the steps.



Some of us wondered if we would make it to the top and when I did I felt like the King of the World! The teachers looked exhausted however. We drove through Paris to get to the Sacré Coeur and Montmartre. This included going round the Arc de Triomphe, an enormous arch which has six or seven roads meeting at it. The French drivers were really dangerous and we held on to our seats as the coach raced round it.

The Sacré Coeur is an enormous white Catholic Cathedral which you can see all over Paris because it is perched on a hill. It was very dark inside and illuminated by many candles and we took in the peaceful atmosphere. The cathedral is situated in an area of Paris where all the famous artists like Cezanne and Van Gogh used to work in the past. There is a little square where you can have your portrait painted and get a drink or a chocolate pancake at a café. As it was hot, we opted for the home-made ice cream.

Back at the chateau later that evening we had a swim in the pool and the lights gave out a gorgeous glow.

Eager to go in, we cheered when the lifeguard finally came. We thought he was really pushing his luck when he explained the rules! Dale organised some evening activities which were tremendously hectic events. They included a competition to get as many marshmallows as possible in your mouth which Grace won, just managing to beat Rose!

Then there was a competition to smash oranges with a helmet worn on your head, won by Roger, and a game which involved being very flexible, won by Mademoiselle Wyman and Mrs Martin. The last game involved people who were blindfolded being fed yoghurt on a spoon by their partner. The yoghurt went everywhere in a matter of minutes, mentioning no names of course (Conor, Hugh, Nicola, Mikhail, Ruth, Alessia, James and George)!

When the morning came to go Disneyland Paris we were prepared and raring to be off! We were utterly phased by the glitz and glamour of the place, the pink castle, the flamboyant buildings and the prospect of meeting Tinkerbell. Conor and Grace squealed with sheer delight after seeing Tigger. They went over to say "Hello" but he rudely walked off and, let's put it this way, Conor does not like Tigger anymore!

Here is Conor's view of Disneyland: 'After several rides I have to say that the Buzz Lightyear rides were the best rides of all. Without a doubt "to infinity and beyond"! However I was deeply offended having left the park without getting a glimpse of Tinkers!'



The final meal at the Chateau involved trying the infamous snails. Never daunted and always ready for a challenge Mary Hare pupils dived in and sampled these chewy and garlic-tasting delicacies! Some declared that they actually quite liked them (Celestyn and Ashley). Ruth, however, was not at all keen. Ashley takes the prize for eating eleven of them!

Our final visit on the way home was a visit to the hypermarket and shopping at Calais, where we were put into groups and forced, against our will, by the cruel teachers to buy ourselves a French meal and ask for it in French (no McDonalds allowed)! Some people became French gastronomes - a fitting end to our stay.

Au Revoir Paris! A la prochaine!

We were utterly phased by the glitz and glamour of the place.

The pink castle, the flamboyant buildings and the prospect of meeting Tinkerbell.

Laila's French Diary

Dimanche 3 fevrier

Woke up at the ungodly hour of 5 in the morning! That enabled me to have a nice, relaxing bath and think about the week ahead of me. "Oh my goodness, what have I got myself into? Shut up, voice of doubt!" I packed my last minute bits and bobs and obsessively reassured myself that I had my passport. I hauled my bags down the long, winding stairs and took a last look at the sixth form.. It's kind of strange when it's quiet - not normal! Mme Kervella appeared with her car and I met her husband and their gorgeous little daughter, Louise. Off we went to Plymouth.

We arrived at the port and there was a HUGE boat sitting there, I was like "Wow, it looks like the Titanic!" The boat was very nice, with lots of shops and a cinema as well. We set sail and Mme Kervella said it was the worst crossing she had ever encountered - just my luck! The restaurant was closed due to safety reasons and no one could get on the decks - the scenery was like the 'perfect storm!' It was quite frightening and I lay down for the whole seven hours on the boat!

When we arrived it was dark. We drove across Brittany until we reached Plougstal Daoulas, a small village on the coast. It was beautiful and traditional, every house had shutters in different colours. Mme Kervella drove me to the school to meet the headmistress and the host family. This was the first time I had encountered a proper French conversation. I didn't understand half of what was going on and I thought to myself "I'm going to have a really hard week!" Thankfully, the father (Christof) was English although he preferred to speak French. The family had three children who spoke French but knew a bit of English through school. The eldest, Rebecca, was 10 years old, Barnabe was 7 and Gaspard was 5. My first impressions of the house were that it was very homely and quite big, with 5 bedrooms including a guest room with an en suite. I received such a warm welcome - I was given a poster that said 'Bienvenue en

France!', made by the children - aah! I had dinner with them and the conversation was hard to understand at first because it was all in French and I wasn't used to it. "Hopefully", I thought, "as the week goes on it'll improve and I'll understand more!"

Lundi 4 fevrier

Today was the hardest day of my life! I'm not joking - even exams are easier compared to this! I was so tired when my alarm went off at 7am. I had a shower, got changed and then had breakfast. We drove to school and I was whisked off to see the headmistress. She told me today would be an 'observation' day and then she showed me the classroom where I would be based.

The children stared at me like I was an alien and I could do nothing but stand there and look pretty! I observed a maths lesson and the pupils asked me lots of questions in French. I had to listen so hard that I thought my cochlear would burst! But I managed to answer all the questions despite the background noise. I was pretty chuffed with how I handled the situation but I hated being put on the spot. However, it gave me confidence when they understood me. I attended an ICT class - it's weird seeing the computers all in French but I realised that is why Mr Bill Gates is so rich, as his software is in every country!

Break time came and it was really weird being in the staff room, on the other side! The teachers were gossiping in French about the children, I guess all teachers are the same worldwide! I was looking forward to my English lesson because it was my comfort zone. I taught the class 'School Equipment' in English but I had to say it in French first so that they understood what it was - a bit like backward French at Mary Hare! Everyone was asking me for help and I felt my heart smile for some reason, I really enjoyed teaching.

I toured the school and it was pretty impressive. I liked what I saw and it was very organised. Every classroom



had a blackboard. No one even knew what a smart board was! Good for them, conserving the environment! Lunch was very strange. I ate with the teachers and they offered me some wine but I said No! We had a three-course meal and I didn't know what I was eating half the time! Everyone was asking me questions but I couldn't understand as it was very noisy, so I had to listen very hard and eventually I got what they were saying. I must admit, today I felt slightly homesick but I didn't let it consume me, because when I am given a challenge, I face it head on! It's weird being a deaf person in a French, hearing world! I was so tired that I was literally in bed by 8 o'clock! Oh the shame!

Mardi 5 fevrier

Today was a lot better because I was more involved in the lessons, as I was more confident. I taught 'Body Parts' to the class and did songs like "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and they really enjoyed it! I moved on to a different class where I had to describe a 'monster' and when I said he's got 6 eyes, they had to draw it on the board. I had to pronounce my words very clearly and correctly, so they would know exactly what I was saying. They really enjoyed that too.

Next was handwriting and I learned how to write in the French style! In the afternoon I watched the children do a sketch for me. It was 'Going Shopping'

and they had to say things like 'Hello how are you, how can I help you?', 'I would like a.....', that sort of thing. They did it remarkably well but I did spot a few mistakes and corrected them. Then we went to the sports hall, that was good fun and it gave me an opportunity to talk to the children out of the classroom. After that I went to a lesson where I had to play the game 'Guess Who?' in French and English. Each pupil had a board with pictures on it and they would ask me 'Does he have brown eyes?' I would reply Yes or No according to my chosen picture.

Home time! I watched 'Spiderman' in French and that was good but tiring having to read and listen to more French, so I asked for English subtitles and they put it on for me! Being in France is very good and I am improving my listening, because I can understand what they are saying now without struggling. When I go back to England I would like some listening work where I have to write word for word in French, exactly what the teacher is saying, instead of missing out words and listening just for key words because I now understand that the little words do matter, just like in English! I am more determined than ever to achieve the top grade for French because that would be my proudest achievement. Tomorrow, no school - lush! I'm going to watch Rebecca do some horse riding and then we will go shopping in Brest.

Mercredi 6 fevrier

Today was probably the best day of the week so far because I had a lovely day out with the family. I woke up at the very late hour of 8:30! We set off for the local library to drop off some books; it amazed me to see so many French books without a single word of English! We watched Rebecca horse riding in the forest right next to the River Lyon. It was really beautiful. We went to Brest for a bit of shopping. There were lots of English shops but I wanted to go into a French boutique so I could buy something French. I bought two tops. We went to the port area, which faces the Atlantic Ocean and it was really warm and sunny. I actually took off my coat! After that we went back to the house and I relaxed with my music and watched a bit of French telly which is

really weird! School tomorrow, but we are going to 'Oceanopolis' (an aquarium) with the children.

Jeudi 7 fevrier

Today I went to 'Oceanopolis'. It was a rather interesting day because the tourist guide was speaking very fast in French and I was finding it hard to pick up the flow. I think it's because it's a topic that I knew nothing about - fish! I saw seal, jellyfish and lots of different types of fish. Today was really tiring because the children kept asking me questions in French when we were in the lab and they had to do work about fish. I read the booklet and didn't understand it but the more I tried, I understood. Today was a very long day but I eventually got to the end of it with a banging headache due to concentrating all the time with no breaks. I had fun because it was something new. Tomorrow is my last day at the school, I feel excited and sad at the same time because it has been such a good experience.

Vendredi 8 fevrier

Today was my last day at school! Mme Kervella came to see me at break time. She told me that she would be taking photographs and filming me in action in the afternoon. I was HORRIFIED at the idea of me acting like a fool being captured on film. I was really, really nervous. Normally I would help the teacher but now I was the teacher! I would rather do a speech at Speech Day than this, but there was no turning back! Lunch came and I was panicking with no idea what I was going to do, so I calmed myself with a book. I thought, 'Don't worry, I've got until 3.30 to cook up something good.'

The bell went and Mme Kervella came with me to the classroom. All I could think was 'How long I have got left?' Suddenly the teacher said "Right, Laila will teach us English today, come on up Laila." I was, like, "@!£\$%&*'" So I walked up with everyone's eyes on me. The camera was rolling and I took a big gulp, then I was in 'Business' mode. I taught them 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. I wrote it on the board and sang it really out of tune, but the children didn't notice as they were enjoying it. Then we did "Guess Who?" and 'If

You're Happy And You Know It Clap Your Hands.' Break came and I breathed a sigh of relief, but I had another class to do so we did 'Old MacDonald!' I was much more confident and the kids enjoyed it but lots of giggling occurred when we did animal noises, (sighs), kids! Then a professional photographer came along and took some pictures - apparently I am going to be in the local paper!

The day came to an end and I was very relieved - tired but content. Lots of feelings came rushing at once. Different kids gave me cards or gifts which was really sweet of them. I said my farewells to everyone and thanked them for having me. When I returned home, as it was Sylvie's birthday (the mum), we had pizza takeaway and went to the local cinema to see 'Asterix Aux Jeux Olympique' - this was difficult to follow but I picked up some words. As it was a visual film, I enjoyed it but I was exhausted at the end of it!

Conclusion

My trip to France was truly a very interesting experience and I would love to do something like this again. I would recommend it to anyone to embark on an experience like mine. It is really worth it and it made me appreciate what I have now, because I was out of my comfort zone for an entire week. It is not the same as going on a holiday because you have no one to rely on, apart from yourself and you have to trust yourself enough to make last minute decisions and to try your very best to understand your peers and to rise to the challenge that is given to you.

It made me realise what skills I currently have by putting them to the test and I managed to gain more, like patience with myself and how to adapt to an entirely different culture and much more. I am very proud of myself for achieving something that I would have never imagined before I came to Mary Hare. It made me look at myself in a different light. I feel that I am capable of doing anything and no barriers can stop me.

ROCHE COURT

Last November, all of the pupils studying Art and Design in Years 10 and 11 went to visit a special sculpture park called Roche Court, near Salisbury. It was freezing and everyone was moaning because it was threatening to rain, but the teachers had advised us to wear warm clothes!

As we entered Roche Court, through automatic gates, we noticed it was surrounded by fields with cows. Most of us didn't think it was an art gallery as it looked like a wildlife park. However as we got closer, we could see one of the sculptures.

It was rather unusual to see it in the middle of the fields but actually it looked good. In fact all of the sculpture looked interesting. It was all different, unique and rather amazing. The sculptures were made out of lots of different materials including bronze, steel, stone, wood, polystyrene and loads more.

At Roche Court there were fifty different kinds of sculptures outside, each with a different aspect. The pupils were divided into groups, so we could manage to see all of the works.

Everyone had their favourites and my favourite was the Twisted Oak, it was long and looked like a cork screw, and I really liked the colour of the oak. We weren't allowed to touch the sculptures as they were all for sale, and it was frightening to see the prices! They were expensive!

As well as wandering around the grounds we were shown into the gallery and the artist's house by the educational officers based at the centre. It was good to get in from the cold. The gallery and house have won architectural awards and are both minimal in design. It was difficult to find the sink in the kitchen and the toilet in the bathroom because they were tastefully boxed in. When artists are working at the centre they are allowed to stay in this specially designed house.

Richard Deacon had a large sculpture in the gallery based on his canoe trip down the Orinoco River in South America. It was made out of wood which had been soaked in water and steamed to twist it so it looked like flowing water. Thanks to Miss McKenna and Mr Hollitzer for organising this trip as we all enjoyed it.



It was rather unusual to see it in the middle of the fields but actually it looked good...

It was all different, unique and rather amazing.



EVERYTHING YOU NEVER CARED ABOUT...

This was an exhibition of art work on show at Arlington Arts Centre from January through to March by invited professional artists, students from Bournemouth Arts Institute and pupils from Mary Hare, organised by Tony Trigwell Jones (AAC) and Patricia McKenna (Mary Hare School).

The exhibition included the work of artists Adam Brigland, Malcolm Ellison, Clive Dillison, Nigel Grimmer, Aysin and Ali Halil, Matt Lippiatt, Vikaas Mistry, John Williams, Patrick Wray and students from Mary Hare including **Louis Kissaun, Jason Bown, Luke Christian, Kristina Elkins, Fahima Hussain, Christopher Laing, James Paul, Rose Payne, Matthew Potter, Thomas McWhinney, Isabelle Rowsell** and **Hassan Sheikh**.

The exhibition looked at common links of graphic communication featuring animation work from graduates of the Bournemouth Arts Institute. In virtually all of the artwork shown, text and titles were an important integral element of the work. The Year 10 pupils created work specifically for the exhibition. A quote from the review in the Newbury Weekly News reads, "This challenging yet entertaining show is another strong step towards Arlington Arts really putting itself on the map as a serious art venue" **Jason Bown**, who exhibited in the show, writes his own review...

Everything you never cared about. Just reading that sentence makes you think. What do we really care about? What is so precious to us, that we don't realise that it is precious until it's gone? What is so important to us, but we always take for granted?

I was lucky enough to have my work included in the exhibition and on display in Arlington Arts Centre. Personally, I liked a lot of the work shown in the exhibition, including the 10 prints by John Williams. He used many different complex layers of photographic images and drawing which really captured everyday life.

One of the most stunning examples of artwork is 'Art and Poetry in the Service of Self-Expression'. I love the way it takes the mockery out of life and recreates old signs from many years ago. Ironic is a word that sums up the work and it touches the heart effectively when you realise that life today isn't so safe or strange as we would have thought. The signs speak of a truth and it makes the whole thing potentially effective.

I love the way Nigel Grimmer's work expresses and captures a strange meaning or saying in a photograph with images that are based on irony. The whole exhibition is cleverly based on irony because basically it makes us stop and think of something more important. Do we care about the things we thought we cared about? Or can we live without them?

To be honest, I just sit right here on my sofa and smell that lovely smell of home and my mother's cooking and life's luxuries are all around me. But what happens when that's gone? Well, for the time being, I'll carry on looking at wonderful exhibitions like this and just be entirely grateful with what I've got. Maybe that's the real reason for irony in the exhibition. Maybe, they've cleverly made me think of what I've got. In any way, they've succeeded.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Mary Hare parent Pauline Caldaralo, supporter Guy Elson and Yvonne Cox from the Mary Hare School office recently took the bravest step of all - out of a plane at 10,000 ft, raising over £1,500 for the Mary Hare and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Pauline describes her experience...

I did it! It was a different kind of experience, not one that I would care to repeat, but I did it! The initial fear was going up in the aircraft, then to be confronted with dangling at 10,000 feet whilst the instructor was strapped to my back - it only took 5 seconds but it was bizarre - lots of ground below me!. Then falling at 130 miles a hour... I closed my eyes for a split second and then remembered that I was there to enjoy it! I lost all sense of reality and just wanted to get down. The views were fantastic though and when the parachute went up, I realised that I was going to make it. I am proud of myself for doing it, albeit a little annoyed with myself for not enjoying it as much as I had hoped!



Yvonne takes the plunge

We did it!



Pauline's back on solid ground

garden festival Sunday 22 June 2008



This year, we are delighted that the Rare Plants Fair has added Mary Hare to its list of venues in the south of England – we will have nurseries from the west and south of England selling rare plants. There will also be a Mary Hare plant stall, speakers and experts, an Eco-Zone, other trade stalls and the opportunity to walk through Mary Hare's beautiful woodlands on our 'Woodland Walk'. Light lunches and snacks will also be available. We hope that you will want to join us and enjoy a great day out.

Admission is £4 on the gate - there is a special advance purchase ticket for £10 which includes entry and unlimited speaker sessions. For further information contact Anne Munby on 01635 244204 or email a.munby@maryhare.org.uk

Last November, the Mary Hare Foundation was very sorry to say goodbye to Sir Philip Wroughton, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, who had served as a Trustee for 16 years, having been its Chairman when the Foundation was first established. We are very grateful to Sir Philip for all his hard work and enthusiasm for the work of Mary Hare. Anne Egerton, Chairman of the Mary Hare Foundation for the past 11 years, also stepped down in November. Anne remains a Trustee and we are immensely grateful to her for leading us through the PACE Appeal and the appeal for the Art & Design Centre. Anne is succeeded by Kirsten Loyd. We look forward to working with Kirsten and the Board of Trustees in the future.



primarynews

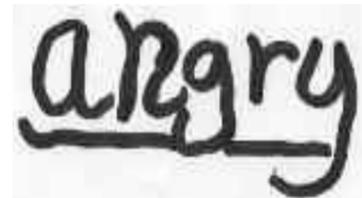
a lamb is born

By **Ruby Lycett**

We visited Rushall Farm to see the sheep and lambs. First we went on the trailer. There was a bench covered with straw. We had a ride for 5 minutes. Then we saw the sheep with the lambs. They are so cute. We held the lambs.

We saw a lamb being born. The ewe was pushing. She was baring her teeth - that means she was pushing. The foot was coming out first, then the head, then shoulders, then the man helped to pull the lamb out. It was all slimy and sticky, the ewe licking the lamb. She or he didn't move or anything. The ewe kept licking the lamb, she or he moved a little, the lady said she will have more babies, maybe 2 or 1 or 3 more.

We saw the other lamb being born too and the ewe was in pain. The man helped the ewe. Another ewe got two lambs, not her lamb, she had it because the mother got too many lambs, about 5 or 6. Then we went back to school.



By **Kirsty Gaffney** **SPRING**

Old winter is asleep and gone
New spring is awake and come
The animals are awake
The spring make flowers grow bigger
Colour purple, pink, white, yellow and blue.
In the winter the trees have no clothes
And then the spring comes and the trees
have new cloths to keep warm

The deer eating new grass
The squirrel eating acorns
I hear birds singing a song
Worms peeping out of the earth
The new flowers beginning to grow
The people having a picnic
the sun is beautiful and shining
The wind is fresh.



Author Justin Stomper with Kirsty on World Book Day

In January, Primary staff attended an inset day entitled 'Promoting Emotional Wellbeing in Deaf Children'. This day provided many useful ideas and strategies for use in PHSE lessons. The children have discussed what it means to feel happy, sad, angry and excited. They expressed their thoughts in paintings, writings and drawings (left)

alumni news

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who has returned the update form we mailed out to all members in March. If you didn't receive our annual mailing, we may not have your correct contact details, so do get in touch!

Following feedback from the 2007 mailout and the subsequent voting process, we have updated our constitution and the new set of rules has now been agreed. Thank you to everyone who helped us through this review. We also asked for more people to join our committee and I am pleased to say that **Kreb Dragonrider** (David Townsend) and **Joanna Rowland-Stuart** are new members who will be an incredible asset to the team.

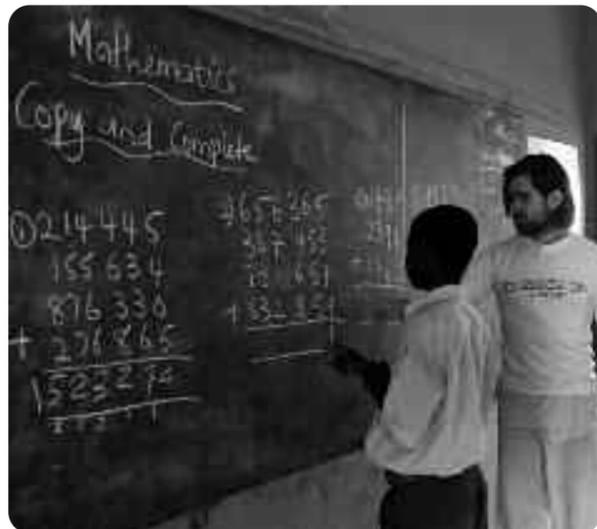
Kreb has been nominated the alumni archivist and has been given access to lots of old, previously unseen, material which is extremely exciting! He is busy sorting through these items and anything we can use will be put on our website. We are aware that our section of the Mary Hare website needs to be updated regularly with the latest news and items of interest. We want to expand it to include things like old photos, letters and copies of the Phoenix magazine, but we hope you understand that this will take some considerable time. If you have any archive material that you think other members would enjoy, please contact Kreb directly via www.maryharehistory.org.uk/email.html

Simone Goldberg
Chair of the Mary Hare Alumni Association

A WELCOME RETURN

Mary Hare School was recently delighted to welcome back **André Hedger**, who spoke to current students about his experiences and adventures in Africa, which he somehow manages to squeeze into a very busy life, whilst studying for a degree at Sheffield University!

He spoke with enthusiasm and commitment about the work he has done to support a school for the deaf in Ghana. Students and staff at Mary Hare have helped raise funds for the school and it was wonderful to see, at first hand, what had been done with the money raised.



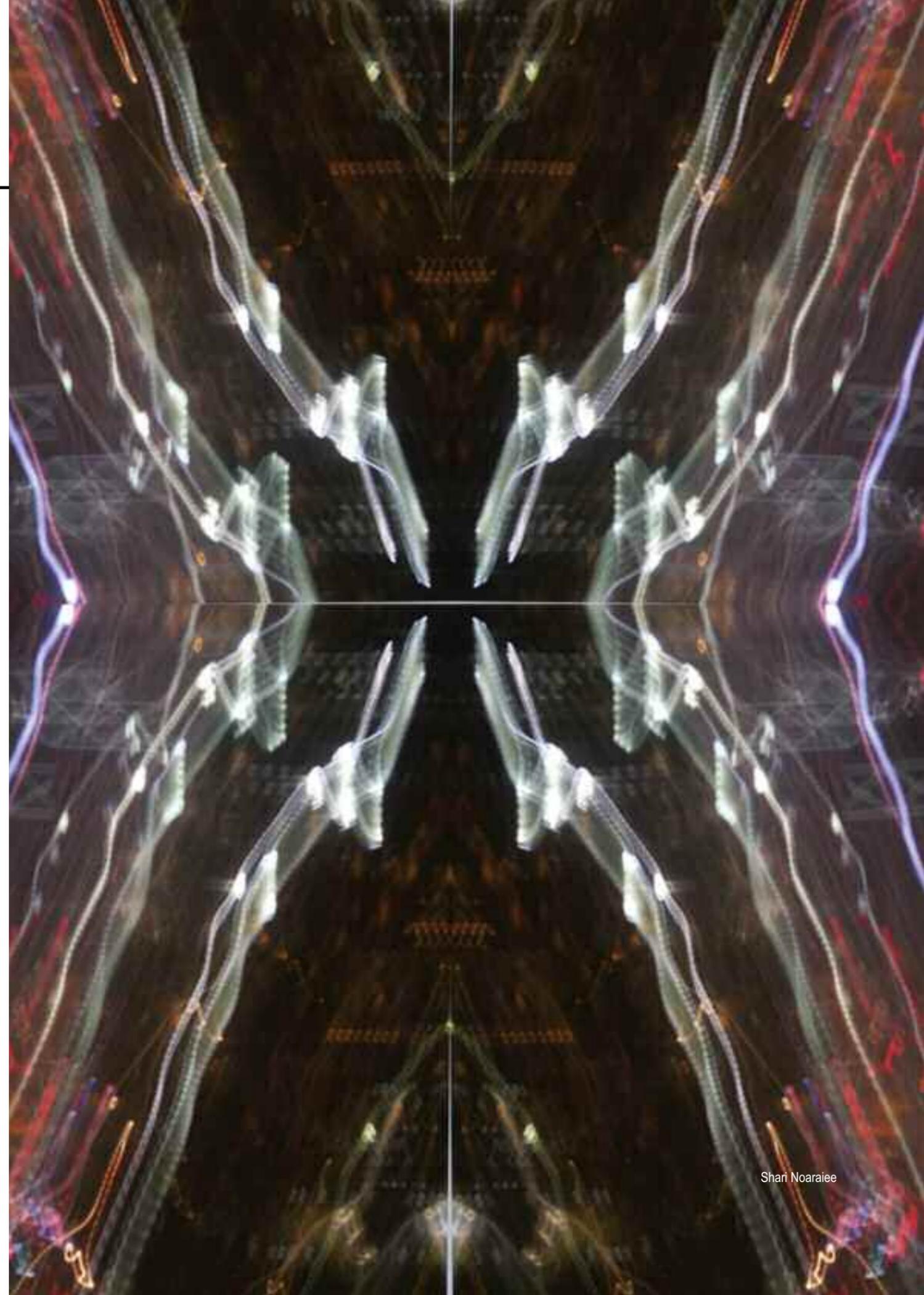
André with one of his pupils

CONGRATULATIONS!

Former Mary Hare pupil **Jamie Matthews** was part of the winning England team and also won the individual tournament, to become World Deaf Squash Champion 2007. Congratulations Jamie!



Former Pupil & World Champion, Jamie Matthews



Shari Noaraiee



Yvonne Cox, Pauline Caldaralo and Guy Elson prepare to take a leap of faith for Mary Hare - see page 36
 (pictured 2nd, 3rd and 4th from left)

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



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For information on our associated services

(hearing assessments, training, earmould and hearing aid services) please contact our
 Development Office: 01635 244233 / info@maryhare.org.uk