

Mary  
Hare

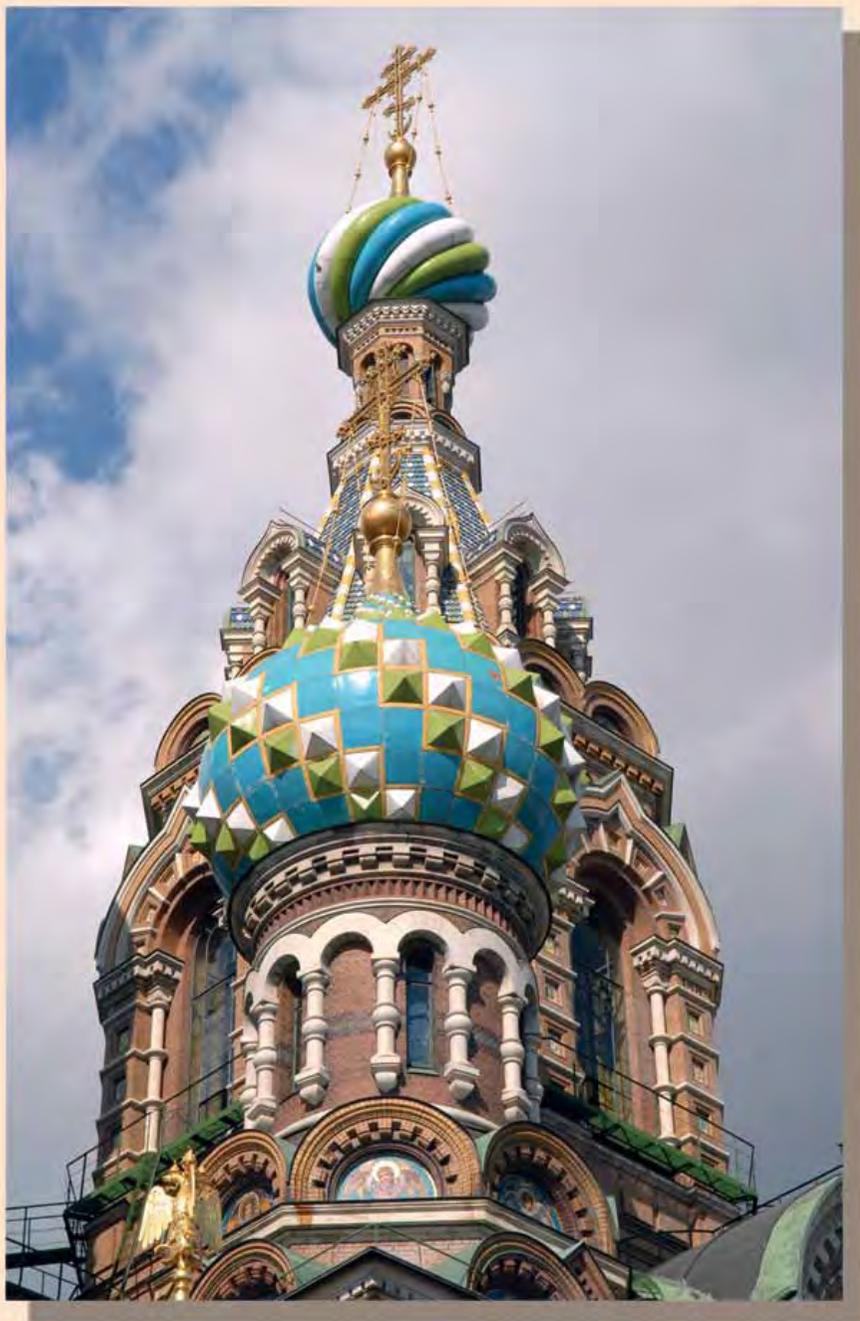


# soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine



October 2007



Pictures from St Petersburg (see also inside back cover and Page 13 for more details)

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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 (voice) 01635 244260 (minicom) Email: [marketing@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:marketing@maryhare.org.uk)

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

# EXAM RESULTS



Students pictured at the summer Leavers Lunch - exams are over at last!

Pupils had plenty to celebrate when A level results were published this year. The overall pass rate was 89%, with 45% of exams being passed at Grades A and B. Individual successes included Kati Balazs, who achieved straight As in Biology, History and English and took up a place at the London School of Economics to read Social Anthropology. Thomas Rowley's 2 As and a B meant that he could go to Imperial College to read Chemistry, while Inderjit Johal, who also secured 2 As and a B, went to Birmingham University to read History and Politics. Deputy Principal Peter Gale said, "We are delighted with these results. The linguistic complexity at A Level represents a real challenge for our students, but these results show just what can be achieved, given the right environment."

We are proud of the high numbers of A and B grades this year, but equally delighted for those students who secured their places in Higher Education with more modest grades - their achievement is every bit as impressive, seen in the context of the nature of their special needs. We wish all of our students well as they embark on the next phase of their education at universities all across the country."

It was another successful year for GCSE students too. The overall percentage, grades A-C, was 81.3%, with 26.6% grades A, A\*, which was an excellent achievement. Helen Willis achieved 9 A\* grades and 1 A grade and results from the Music Department (3 A\*, 2 A and 1 B) were outstanding. Principal Tony Shaw said that he was delighted with the results. We are now looking forward to the publication of the contextual Value Added data, which is due later this year.



We're sure that the new Year 7 intake (pictured above) will do equally well, when their turn comes in the summer of 2012!



## SPECIAL VISITORS

### Briskeby School, Oslo

Interviews by Form 7BC

**Asher-Ben** Briskeby is a school for moderately to severely deaf people. There are currently 40 students aged 16 to 18 there and it is not a boarding school. They don't have assembly, so when we all went into our assembly they didn't really know what to do! These Norwegian students were on a trip to London for six days to learn English and to visit Mary Hare School.

I interviewed the Head of the Pupils' Council with Cameron. His name is Frederic and he is 18 years old. He described Norway as 'cool, just like England but with more snow'. His favourite subject is History because he finds it interesting and he also likes to speak English. His least favourite subject is Maths!

**Chloe** I interviewed a 17 year old girl called Kristi, who lives just outside the capital city of Oslo. Kristi said she really liked Norway and it is similar to England. Kristi was interested in finding out about our headphones - at their school they use audio loops. Kristi said they were all enjoying their visit - they had been to London to see a musical and were also going to Madame Tussaud's.

**Cameron** I interviewed a Norwegian student whose name is Fredric. He lives in Esker, where there is a lot of snow. At their school they have four students with implants. Their school day is from 8.30 to 3.30. Fredric says he wants to speak English and find out about our headphones while in England. In our assembly the students talked about Briskeby and Anja read a poem that she had written.

**Kaia** I interviewed Therese who is almost 18. I learned that they don't have headphones or have to wear school uniform (which is totally unfair!) Instead they wear their own clothes to school and loops around their necks as their headphones. All the students live in or near Oslo, which is the capital of Norway. Their school is a lot smaller than Mary Hare so we are a lot bigger than them!

**Oliver** I interviewed Anja and she is 18 years old. Briskeby School is on the southern coastline of Norway and Anja said "It is quite expensive to live there." The students came over here because they wanted to learn about boarding schools and were very interested. Anja says she loves her school and she had a great time visiting Mary Hare.

### Goodbye to Wendy Miles

Head of Manor House Care Staff

Interview by Nicole Leahy

**How long have you been at Mary Hare?** I have been here for just over 14 years. I thought it would be an interesting place to work. The pupils were very friendly and the grounds looked wonderful. There were over a hundred girls here at that time, because Year Seven and Sixth Form girls all lived in The Manor as well. It was my job to look after all the year groups and staff and ensure that children took part in the activities on offer. The accommodation used to be very crowded - there were bedrooms over Sick Bay, in the stables over the Art Block and where the school office is now.

**Were there any house rules that we don't have now?** There are some rules *now* that we didn't need *then!* For example, there were no mobile phones when I first came and no DVDs either. I remember Miss Leach used to record 'Neighbours' and 'Home and Away' for the girls and they would watch it after supper each evening. Pupils used to have to queue to use the minicomms in the evenings.

**How have things changed?** Things have improved hugely – the bedrooms are less institutionalised and more spacious and rooms are even painted in different colours! Pupils are now allowed to put colourful posters on their walls. Only occasionally have I asked for a poster to be removed! I've enjoyed the variety of the work, the smiling faces and enthusiasm of the pupils, as well as the unpredictability of the job.

**What are you planning to do with your time when you leave?** So many things! Playing more golf, travelling, spending time with my family and friends and just having more time to do things at a more leisurely pace.

**Will you miss us?** Most definitely!



Jill (left) and Wendy share a joint farewell party in the Manor

### Farewell to Jill Ross

Head of Home Economics

I first came to Mary Hare in 1995 and enjoyed working at the school, which soon became part of my extended family. Seven years later, I moved on but, with the tragic and sudden loss of Mrs Fenney in 2002 I found myself back again, because Mary Hare had helped me when I needed it - now I could be helpful in return.

Very often it's the small things that form the glue which holds a family together: a smile, a card saying thank you, time to listen, sorting out A & E results for me on the computer, being good and quiet when things are difficult, popping information in my box that might be useful, carrying in a bag to help me, trying to find my passport, taking me (not the dog) for a walk. We may not even know who did these things - but they keep the Mary Hare community working and happy and remind us that 'people who put into life, get it back'.

I am having my hip remade in November, so if you see me in Newbury some time in 2008, I may well be running or dancing...thank you for everything and goodbye.

In May, staff gathered together in Blount Hall to say goodbye to Colin, who retired (a little early!) after 26 years at the school. Finance Director, Guy Cowley, spoke warmly about Colin's contribution to the smooth running of the school, acknowledging his expansive knowledge and expertise, which will be greatly missed. Colin received cards and gifts from the staff, governors and PTA, who all praised his caring nature and support over the years.

A personal tribute was paid by music teacher Nass Bouzida, who had written a song especially for him, entitled 'Colin the Caretaker Man'. A copy of the CD was presented to Colin by Christine Rocca, Director of Music, so that he can listen to it whilst enjoying his retirement in Cornwall!

His wife, Pat, will be joining him by the sea - she bade farewell to colleagues in August, after working at Mary Hare for 11 years. Initially a member of the care staff, she was a familiar face in the school office, before moving on to the Burwood Centre, supporting work in family assessments, training services and music therapy. We wish them both well in this new chapter in their lives.



Colin receives cards and gifts from well-wishers

The Autumn Term started with a day of team-building activities for teaching staff. They were able to choose sailing, canoeing or (for those wishing to stay dry) conservation work.



By Katie Bonné

### INTER-HOUSE EVENTS



On one Thursday of every month you're guaranteed to see a group, if not the whole, of the Sixth Form running around like headless chickens! The only explanation we have for this are our beloved inter-house competitions, which we embrace with such spirit and, in some cases, bad sportsmanship!

Our Social Committee has the privilege of organising these competitions, which have become a major part of the social calendar. Events have ranged from the re-enactment of the 'Crystal Maze' to high-end Milan fashion shows and 'Ready Steady Cook'!

One memorable competition was 'Back To School', which involved us making up a dance routine, having a lesson and showing what a great school we had, with the strict rule for each house to be in the style of punk rocker, chav, nerd, or gangster-wannabe.



We then undertook an 'Ofsted Inspection' by care staff Louise and Mark. The brilliant choreography of Justine Durno and the talented singing of Hattie Bowden, who wowed the inspectors with her amazing performance of the classic 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' on her paper guitar, ensured that the 'punk rockers' stole the evening.

Another memorable night was the Fashion Show. Think along the lines of the most disorganised fashion event known to man. Joseph Wylde's impression of Michael Jackson was unforgettable, to say the least. But the pair who stole the show were Timothy Quigley and David Hough, with their version of 'Desperate Housewives' characters Gabrielle and her gardener - we'll leave the rest to your imagination...

The 'Best Homemade Outfit' was the oh-so-perfect newspaper dress, made by Katie Bonné and modelled (right) by Indie Johal. Sixth Formers work hard, but they play hard too!

I stared at the letter in disbelief, turning to my mother in the hope that she would come up with a good excuse why I couldn't go - but she just looked at me and laughed. It had made her day - everyone knows I don't do mud. As part of the privilege of being on the Prefect Team, I was invited on a two-day 'Team Building' exercise, full of challenges and activities to help us build a team, develop communication skills and experience a sense of working together.

My idea of camping is a site with showers and toilets, hanging baskets of flowers and 'Keep Off The Grass' signs. So you can imagine my confusion when we parked next to an empty, muddy field and, to my dismay, I realised this was it.

Putting up tents in knee-deep grass is tricky but the boys found it a piece of cake. However, in the kitchen of the abandoned house nearby, things were a different matter... the Aga wouldn't work, the shelves in the fridge were broken and between us we only had seven knives and five forks. Luckily for the girls, the (smug) boys came to the rescue, fixing the oven so we could get to work on the first challenge of impressing the staff with our cooking skills.

After supper we did a lot of activities and role play. The funniest one involved us not being allowed to communicate with each other, but using acting skills to find others in your animal 'family'. Have you ever tried to do an impression of a stick insect? At eleven o'clock we watched the staff drive back to their nice, warm houses. So there we were, it was pitch black and we were huddled together at the bottom of the field in silence until someone said, "Did anyone bring a torch?" Crawling back to the tents on our knees was not the highlight of the trip. Nobody knew which tent belonged to who and which sleeping bag was which. It was the worst night ever for many of us, but the next day was bound to be better... wasn't it?

The morning was chaos - we had an hour to cook breakfast, make lunch and pack the tents away. The only way to get it all done was to work together. Thanks, Jonathan, for your contribution - standing in the middle of the mayhem and explaining how you like your bacon sandwiches. After we had scoffed down our "crispy, but not burnt" bacon sandwiches at record speed, we were off in the minibus to 'Adventure Dolphin'. We did loads of outdoor activities which were great fun. Working as a team, we managed to balance thirty nails on one upright nail, get everyone through a vertical spider web without touching the ropes and get from one side of the field to another using only four boxes. It was a great morning and although some of the tasks were hard, we all saw the funny side of things. Nothing however, could prepare us for that afternoon.



We seem to have a bit left over...



Whose turn is it to cook?

After a satisfying picnic, we had to put on clothes that we wouldn't mind getting a bit wet. The task was to build a raft, big enough for all of us, out of old canoes and rope, which we then had to test in the river. Despite our best efforts we all ended up falling head first in the water at some point. Thank you, Mrs Martin, for saying "you may get wet" - it was helpful, thanks!

This was just the experience we needed in order to prepare us for what is coming up this year and, despite initial expectations, we all actually had a brilliant time. It is times like this that you never forget and always look back on proudly. My advice for next year... bring a torch, a towel and don't wear wellies if you are going in the river!

# sportsnews

## SPORTS DAY 2007

Mr John Madejski OBE, Chairman of Reading Football Club, was guest of honour at this year's Sports Day. After touring Arlington Arts Centre with School Principal Tony Shaw, Mr Madejski enjoyed watching the students compete in the inter-house competitions before presenting prizes to the winners.

The weather suited athletes and spectators alike with a mixture of sunshine and light cloud whilst the PTA provided burgers and sausages on the BBQ and a tombola stall run by a team of parents and students.

Mr Madejski spent time talking to the competitors and commented afterwards, "Football tends to grab the headlines these days and the good work that is going on in schools is often overlooked."

Vice Principal Dr Nick Papas added, "Mr Madejski has done a wonderful job of encouraging students through his Football Academy. From the point of view of our own students, it was fantastic to have someone here who has done so much for sport."



Mr Madejski presents the House Shield to captains Katie Bonné and Hamish Roberts



Cheering on your team mates is hard work!

**Junior Girls Victrix Ludorum**  
Rebecca Zelic

**Junior Boys Victor Ludorum**  
Hassan Sheik

**Senior Girls Victrix Ludorum**  
Karina Jemmott

**Senior Boys Victor Ludorum**  
David Hough

**Kenneth Bayliss Trophy  
for Effort in Athletics**  
Hassan Sheik

## football



The Mary Hare football team

By David McNamara

In May, we played football against JHW, a city-based recruitment company, who have sponsored our team for a number of years. Six members of staff were in our team.

We won the match 5-2. Timothy scored two, Jason scored one, there was one own goal and Blue (from the care staff) scored another.

Timothy said, "Scoring two goals against JHW felt good because the match was very competitive. Their defenders were brilliant and very hard to get through, but I still managed to get two goals!" Lee really liked playing in the match and said, "It was really enjoyable. It was fun to have a chance to play in goal but I think I did it badly!" Mr Thompson added, "Mr Marlow and I served a useful purpose in slowing down the scoring rate when it looked like Mary Hare were going to really take control. I think the other side were sad to see us on the sub's bench!"



Matthew Potter and Thomas Paull racing to the finish



Thomas McWhinney in the shot put

### ski trip

By Dr Papas



It was a real pleasure to organise another Mary Hare ski trip for Easter 2007 to Crans Montana in the Swiss Alps, off the Rhone Valley. We were extremely lucky with the weather and the snow conditions for this time of the year. The prolonged cold spell during February and March helped build up good snow on the glaciers.

After a tiring journey, we arrived to find better than expected accommodation, fantastic weather, good instructors, very helpful ski company reps and friendly staff and pupils from other schools.

This year we had 12 complete beginners in the group. They all managed to have a lesson at the dry ski slope in Bracknell, but snow is a lot more slippery!

Everybody improved tremendously by the end of the week and we all came back in one piece despite many falls resulting in minor injuries, one of which required helicopter transport and a visit to a Swiss hospital.

During our time there, we met Mr Phil Mooney, headteacher of a large comprehensive school in Blackburn with his two deaf sons Michael and Tom, who joined us for ski-ing and some of the social activities.

Mr Mooney wrote to me after the trip, commenting on what an inspiration our students had been to him and his family and what excellent ambassadors they were for Mary Hare School. I would like to echo his words and thank the pupils for their excellent conduct but also for their determination to improve their ski-ing.

Year 13 History group spent a weekend in St. Petersburg in March with the added pleasure of Mr Shaw's daughter, Claire (a fluent Russian speaker), as company.

One of the best things about Russia for the girls was the food; unfortunately the same could not be said for the boys. One of the greatest accomplishments of the trip was getting Andrew to eat vegetables and something other than peanut butter on bread! Hot chocolate in Russia is literally 'hot' chocolate - so sickly you had to have a glass of water with it.

We followed the tourist trail, visiting the Church of Spilled Blood, St Isaac's Cathedral and the Hermitage, where Andrew took about 800 photos in the space of a few hours. Kati and Indie managed to get lost in the maze-like corridors and finding the second floor was a task for all of us, where we admired the works of Picasso, Rodin and Henri Matisse.

On the last night we went to a Georgian restaurant and had to walk back in a blizzard so Andrew could take another 400 pictures of the Hermitage and a frozen river. None of us were too pleased!

We had planned a list of things that were a necessity to bring back, including Vodka, Caviar, Russian Dolls - not forgetting the famous Cossack hats. Haggling over the prices with the market stall traders was a new experience for all of us!

Russia was very different from what we expected. The traffic was a nightmare with filthy cars everywhere, from Fords to Ferraris and not one clean car in the whole city! One of the best experiences we had was the Banya, which consisted of us sweating buckets in a 94°C sauna then rushing to the cold pool. In between we whipped each other with birch branches!

The funniest thing was the look on Mrs Whitehead's face when Kati slipped on the wet floor - she was afraid she'd break her neck and we'd be rushing to a Russian hospital, which would certainly have been an experience to remember.

We want to thank Mrs Whitehead for letting us go to Russia, and Claire for coming - without her we couldn't have done half the things we did! We had a great time and would strongly recommend getting a taste of Russian culture by visiting St. Petersburg. Just remember to pack your thermals!



The group stop for a breather - more pictures from the trip can be seen on the inside covers of this issue

# shortcuts shortcuts shortcuts



Emily with her grandfather

## EMILY GALTON

By Mrs Clare Galton

Recently Emily, who is now 16, gave a short speech at a service to mark the death of her grandfather. The service was in a small church in Norfolk and it was attended by many friends and family members. It was a formal occasion consisting of speeches and music. Emily talked for about five minutes and her speech was really well received. People afterwards talked about how calm she was and how clearly she spoke.

Thinking about that occasion reminds me of just how much Emily has achieved. She was deafened, having had meningitis as a baby. Her first language was sign. She was implanted when she was 3 years old. She went to hearing impaired units in local primary schools and at 11 started at Mary Hare. She has always been comfortable about using her voice and communicating orally and she still signs too.

The things that struck me about the speech were just how calm and confident Emily was, how readily she agreed to do it and how well she communicated with the audience. She helped to write it and expressed how she felt about her special relationship with her grandfather. What a change from the shy primary-school child we knew.

## butterflies

By Chelsea Pritchard

*Girls are like Butterflies*

*They are not like these wild boys,*

*They can be as shy as ever*

*In the mornings, you see them,*

*Fluttering.*

*They will be colourful like*

*The bright colourful sky*

*Whenever you play outside,*

*They will be as playful as you.*

*Sometimes you would wish that you*

*were free like them.*

*They can be cheeky and naughty,*

*But they will always be cute.*

*Girls are like Butterflies*



Sol on the winner's podium

## sol warwick

Sol is a member of the DriveTech Junior Karting Club at the Castle Combe motor racing circuit in Chippenham, Wiltshire. He got his racing licence in January and entered the DriveTech Junior Spring Championship. He has won an award for 'Driver of the Day' and has won at least one race in every meeting throughout the championship.

In June, he won the final Round of the championship, which earned him a place in the Final - he came first in that too, scoring his first podium win, collecting a first place trophy and a garland.

He was also awarded 'Best New Driver' and received another trophy for this. He finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the Spring championship out of 56 drivers. Sol has set consistently fast laps, with his fastest lap being just one tenth off the lap record. His goal is to win the DriveTech Championship and then work his way up into Formula One!



A team of volunteers from Vodafone spent a busy day during the summer holidays, giving the Manor House bedrooms a facelift. Our thanks go to Mary Hare parent Mrs Pauline Caldaralo, who organised the day.

# OSCAR AWARDS NIGHT 2007

The annual Mary Hare Oscar awards took place at the end of March. Students and staff dressed in their best, to enjoy a star-studded evening of prizes, music and dance. The organising committee of Andrew Large, Indie Johal, Jason Mycroft, Oliver Richardson and Ali Halil had worked hard behind the scenes to give the event an authentic and professional feel.

The awards went to: Cleverest Junior, Jake Cyriax; Cleverest Senior, Justine Durno; Hardest-working Junior, Grace Lecznar; Hardest-working Senior, Helen Willis; Most Improved Female, Emma Hawes; Most Improved Male, Philip Swift; Senior Sports Personality, Ryan Barrow; Junior Sports Personality, James Paull; Funniest Teacher, Mr Marlow; Funniest Care Staff, Blue Nolan; Best Care Staff, Grant Skeates; Cleverest Teacher, Mr Treasure; Funniest Senior, Ken Emezie; Best Looking Male, James Arnold; Best Looking Female, Naomi Dauhoo. A Life Time Achievement went to caretaker Colin Almond (who had been lured from the comfort of his armchair on the pretext of a burst pipe!)



Grace and Emma celebrate with their awards

An exciting auction took place during the second half of the evening, when the audience were able to bid for two hours of time from Sixth Formers Hamish Roberts, Holly Lane, Ken Emezie, Daniel Wheeler or, a surprise lot, Ed Rose (pictured left) from the Care Staff! Contenders would be required to complete any reasonable and legitimate task for the successful bidder. Care Staff member Hilary Shopland bid £35 for Ken Emezie - surely cheap at the price!



The programme's entertainment highlights included Mr Gale, who sang his hit song 'I Had a Dream' and Sixth Form student Ali Halil, who appeared on screen in a remake of the famous 'Levi' ad.

Ken appeared in a version of the ITV News and Ken, Jason, Andrew, Timothy and Joe danced to the Robbie Williams hit, 'Angels' (pictured right).



The money raised from the evening went towards the children's charity UNICEF.

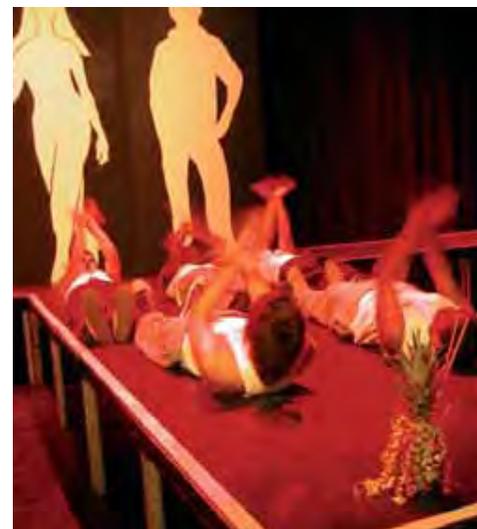
Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help organise the fabulous evening.

# charitynews

## FASHION ROCKS!

Mary Hare hosted a fashion show at Arlington Arts Centre at the end of March to raise funds for deaf children in the UK and in South Africa. Students and staff modelled the latest collections available from local retailers Desperado, Animal, Marks and Spencer's Per Una and Fat Face.

As in all the best fashion shows, the audience was lavishly entertained. 'Fashion Rocks' featured performances with dizzying back flips by the Mary Hare dancers, hot music from DJ 'Funked Up' and a live set from 'The Deafness'. Mr Gale, as compere, brought a cohesive humour to the evening as he dragged unsuspecting members of the audience on to the stage to chat between modelling sequences.



Raffle prizes included dinner for two at 'The Square' Restaurant, two Sony Ericsson v630i phones (donated by Vodafone) and a cut and styling at DeBretts Hairdressers. Our thanks go to DeBretts and make-up artists from Camp Hopson's cosmetics department who arrived before the show to make our young models look the part. Lighting supplied by GLS Lighting & Sound Company ensured that the show had a truly professional edge - Mr Gale in particular was delighted with his 'follow spot' which he demonstrated by leading it around the stage!

The proceeds from Mary Hare's 'Fashion Rocks' (£400) were sent to KWA Thintwa School for the deaf in South Africa. A HUGE thank you to Care Staff member Hilary Shopland for organising the event.

# special events

## ACTIVITIES WEEK 2007

By Mr Treasure

There is more to education than just passing exams! Education is also about preparing young people to take their place as young adults in society and the world of work. Activities Week was an opportunity for Mary Hare students to broaden their experiences, help them develop their team-working and presentation skills and to develop new skills in areas where the National Curriculum doesn't go. In developing the timetable, we aimed to engage and involve everyone in a variety of experiences... and have fun. In the end, I think we were very successful. These photographs show just a small selection of what we did during the week. I do believe that everyone was involved, everyone had a variety of experiences and everyone had fun! We hope to organise something similar next year...

*Can you work out which picture goes with which activity?*

Pottery    Orienteering    Cooking Up A Feast    Rushall Farm

Reading Museum    Box Making    Climbing    Magic of Chemistry

Knitting, Spinning & Weaving    Activities Week Magazine

Maths Puzzlers    Egg Race    Trampolining    Film Poster Design

Duke of Edinburgh Award    Museum of Welsh Life    Raku Firing

Dance    Gnashers Day    Chess Mania    Potted Sports    Drama

Windsor Castle    Sailing    The Big Pit    Film Trailer Production

T-Shirt Design    'HeartStart'    Creative Writing    Jewellery Making





## ACTIVITIES WEEK 2007





# ACTIVITIES WEEK 2007



# The All American Diner

After a HUGE fundraising effort led by the PTA, a major refurbishment of the school youth club was completed this year, providing an American Diner with table service and a full menu of food, snacks and drinks. Youth Club Co-ordinator, Kirilynn Gardner, reflects on what has been achieved...



Excited customers await the grand opening



Testing out the new surroundings

Since I first opened the Youth Club, there have been many happy times full of parties and events - everything you could imagine, from theme evenings for Chinese New Year to Casino nights, Bingo, 'Blind Date' and who could forget the famous 'Y-Factor'!

This year, the biggest and most exciting event of all filled the calendar, the long-awaited opening after its refurbishment. It was a time of mixed emotion, as we came to the end of an era but also the beginning of an exciting new one.



Kirilynn (centre) with her helpers

Standing behind the counter with my team in their cool new uniforms, overlooking the diner with its snazzy new floor and shiny red seats, we waited for the hands of the clock to tick over to 7pm on the first night.

We felt a wave of sensations: happy, excited and nervous but full of honour and pride for our new youth club. It is now a bright and welcoming place, ready for new memories, good times and laughter to cherish and look back on.

Thanks for the support, fundraising efforts, donations, commitment and hard work - the Youth Club wouldn't be here without you!

# DEAF AWARENESS WEEK 2007

Mary Hare hosted a series of events this year to support Deaf Awareness Week. Bright yellow 'HEARD ABOUT IT?' badges, based on a design by pupil Jake Cyriax, were worn throughout the event to highlight deaf awareness issues amongst the wider community



## holly parsons aka rebecca withey

Pupils queued for autographs when former Mary Hare student and 'Grange Hill' star Rebecca Withey came back to school to introduce a performance of 'Earfull' by Tim Barlow, one of the shows offered at Arlington Arts Centre as part of Deaf Awareness Week. She hosted an after-school question and answer session which was attended by an eager crowd of young fans.

Rebecca plays the part of 'Holly Parsons', a character who is severely deaf, in the television show. Filming the series had been hard work, taking up five days of every week with most days starting at 7.00am for make-up and continuing through to 7.00pm.

Learning lines was also hard and Rebecca explained she rehearsed in front of a mirror as she memorised her lines for the next day's filming. She was asked by one student if she was "really famous" and Rebecca played down her personal fame saying that the most important thing about appearing in a television series was to remain realistic and not get carried away.

In Arlington Arts Centre, before the evening show began, Rebecca spoke to the theatre audience about her time at Mary Hare and explained how the support she had received as a student at the school had given her the encouragement to pursue a career in the performing arts.

She commented on how much the school had changed in the few years since she had left and was especially jealous of the new Arlington Arts Centre facilities! She said that she would always be grateful to Mary Hare and that it was a real pleasure to be back.

Rebecca has just completed her final year of a Dance degree and is already very involved in teaching others in community performing arts projects. She is clearly destined for great things...



Rebecca poses for a picture with Rosie Lopez

# DEAF AWARENESS WEEK 2007

In support of Deaf Awareness Week, Arlington Arts Centre hosted a series of events by deaf and hearing artists, which were enjoyed by many



## 'Earfull'

**T**im Barlow's autobiographical show was introduced by former Mary Hare pupil Rebecca Withey, who spoke about her experiences as a student at the school as well as her subsequent career at university and in the world of performing arts.

Tim has performed roles in a variety of film, television and theatre productions. He left the army in 1969, having joined up straight from school. 'They brought out a new rifle at the time. Huge bang it had. Made me deaf. Then, in my thirties, I decided to become an actor...' Tim performed his one-man show to a delighted audience, who enjoyed the chance to participate in a lively question and answer session with Tim at the end of the evening.

'If your life isn't like the adverts - run, until you feel the pain you deserve' was the theme for a series of witty and thought-provoking monologues written and performed by Sophie Woolley, a unique artist and comic actor with the ability to make audiences laugh and cry by turns.

Her hearing loss is one of the reasons why every performance of 'When to Run' is subtitled. Sophie explains, "I couldn't bear the thought of performing the sort of play I couldn't go and watch myself. There is so much exciting arts and culture that deaf people miss out on. The technology is out there, and it's not that hard to do."



## 'When to Run'

## 'Transitions'



**I**nited guests attended a special Preview Evening of an exciting exhibition, as part of Newbury's 2007 Open Studios programme. Guests viewed work by a large number of local professional artists, as well as pieces submitted by Mary Hare students and tutors.

A 'sealed bid' art auction raised over £1,000 for Mary Hare School's Art Department. The Centre looked wonderful with an impressive variety of painting, ceramics, sculptures and photography on display in the building and gardens.

Sculptor Simon Cooley spoke on behalf of the exhibiting artists, thanking all those involved for their hard work in organising the exhibition and praising the wonderful venue. He also spoke affectionately about his own longstanding connection with Mary Hare, expressing his admiration for the commitment to artistic expression that is always evident.

# school open day for new parents



A prospective new family chats with Speech & Language Therapist Katherine Richardson

Open Day proved to be popular once again, with around 80 families from all over the UK braving the rainy weather to visit us. Dr Ivan Tucker introduced the audience to the wider work of the Mary Hare organisation and Principal Tony Shaw added a warm welcome.

Visitors were escorted by pupils on a tour of the school site, before having lunch in the grounds, with the opportunity to chat to students and staff. In the afternoon, families enjoyed student performances of poetry, music and dance.

Those with children due to join the school in the Autumn were able to meet some of the key members of staff who would be working with them, while families of younger children attended a talk by Deputy Principal Peter Gale, advising parents who might want to pursue a place for their child when they were a little older.

Tony Shaw said, "I was delighted that we were able to offer so many prospective parents and pupils the chance to see us in action. This annual event provides us with the opportunity to explain the many ways in which we can offer support to families whose children are hoping to join us. It also confirms that levels of interest in our school among parents have never been higher."

# MARY HARE HEARING CENTRE

**M**ary Hare Hearing Centre clients enjoyed an evening reception at Arlington Arts Centre, before the performance of 'Earfull' in the main auditorium.

Guests enjoyed wine and canapés, followed by a welcome by Chief Executive, Dr Ivan Tucker and Hearing Centre Manager, Kevin Howlett. There was just time for a short tour of the centre's facilities, before the show began.

The event was a great success and Kevin commented afterwards that it had been a pleasure to show his clients at first hand the cause they were supporting by choosing to come to Mary Hare for their hearing aid support.



Chief Executive Dr Ivan Tucker (left) with Hearing Centre clients

# trips & outings



## GLOBE THEATRE

By 8GS

At the end of June, everyone in Year 8 went on this trip, with some of the Sixth Form who were visiting The Tate. We walked along the Embankment to The Globe after the coach dropped us off.

A man called Adam Coleman showed us round – he told us that he had been an actor before he started working in the education department at The Globe. Adam explained that the building of the new Globe Theatre was completed in 1997. Plays are performed, as far as possible, just as they were 400 years ago and some just use male actors as they did in Shakespeare's time.

It was fascinating inside the Globe – the thatched roof and the wooden galleried seating were beautiful – it smelt good too, but Adam told us that it smelt pretty bad in Shakespeare's time! The people, or 'groundlings', who stood for the performance were really squashed together and there were no toilets so...

“ *Sylvie Norman I really liked doing the acting in The Globe Theatre and looking at the unusual pictures in the gallery* ”

While we were there, actors were rehearsing for a performance of 'All's Well That Ends Well' and we were watched a little bit of this. After our tour we went for a workshop on next year's Key Stage 3 play, 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

Adam talked to us about the importance of using our bodies as well as our voices to express feelings.

We discussed the characters of Benedick and Beatrice, who pretend to hate each other but secretly care about each other.



Rebecca Zelic and Morgan Litt-Wilson work from the script



Before working with any of the actual script, we warmed up for an exchange between Beatrice and Benedick by using words as weapons. In pairs, one of us 'fired' words that hurt like bullets and our partner had to respond as if they had been injured. Adam also let us use the actual script to act out an argument between Benedick and Beatrice – he said that we were good and that he did not usually use the script with Key Stage 3 pupils!

## TATE GALLERY

Later, we walked to the front of Tate Modern and sat down at the tables to have our lunch – some of us bought drinks and ice cream but we were a bit shocked by the London prices! Tate Modern is probably the largest art gallery we have ever been to. It used to be an old power station before it was converted to Europe's largest gallery, containing modern and contemporary works of art-work from 1900's to the present day.

There are seven floors in Tate Modern but we only had time to visit some of the permanent collection on Level Three. We were split into small groups so we could go around with our teachers more easily. We had a really good look at the different artworks, but weren't allowed to take any pictures, unfortunately!

We saw all sorts of different things, including paintings, photography, sculpture and film. There were pieces by really famous artists whose work we had looked at in class, including Picasso, Matisse and Salvador Dali.

Some of the work was beautiful and some of it was funny. We saw cartoon drawings of a man and his dog which had been made into an animated film. We saw some black and white film footage and a tin of baked beans in what looked like a lift. What is interesting is the way you always have to think when you look at art and work out what the piece is about.

Some of us went into the foyer of the gallery to look at an exhibition called 'Global Cities'. This was looking at how the way of life in cities from all over the world has changed. It is really interesting and if you have not seen it yet then it is worth visiting.

The Sixth Form stayed at Tate Modern all day! They looked at an exhibition of work by the Brazilian artist Helio Oiticica and a special show about Salvador Dali and Film. They really enjoyed both exhibitions which will help them with their project work.

“ *Aimee Campbell All the different artists in The Tate Modern had drawn really good pictures* ”

# red house book awards

By Asher-Ben Pearl

Mary Hare is fortunate to be among schools nationally who participate in the Red House Children's Book Awards, reviewing the 'latest reads'. When the students have made their choices, authors are invited to receive awards in 3 categories: Picture Books, Younger Readers and Older Readers. Asher-Ben was invited to attend the awards day...



Asher-Ben (far right) with festival friends

**FRIDAY** I arrived at Woodlands Activity Centre near Hay-on-Wye at midday and met my group as well as Gill Hanlon, from Red House Books.

After lunch we were briefed about what we would do when we arrived at the festival. At the festival site we had a talk by the authors who were short listed for the older children's book award plus the last award winner.

The audience asked questions about each book and after about an hour my dad and I left to get some autographs and, of course, to buy some books!

I tasted Hay's famous tasty ice cream and had a look around some more stalls. At around 4.30 I joined my group and got more autographs! At 6:00pm I sat at a well-laid dinner table with Steve Smallman (author of 'The Lamb Who Came To Dinner' in the Younger Readers category) and had dinner - roast chicken with stuffing and chocolate mousse to follow! Afterwards, it was award time. Each author explained about their book and answered questions. Then the results followed. My group announced the results of the Younger Readers' category. Celebrations, streamers, whistles and party poppers followed!

The results were:

**Younger Children Category** - 'Who's in the Loo?' by Jeanne Willis and illustrated by Adrian Reynolds.

**Younger Readers Category** - 'You're a Bad Man Mr Gum!' by Andy Stanton and illustrated by David Tazzyman.

**Older Readers Category** - 'Girl, Missing' by Sophie McKenzie.

**Overall Winner** - 'You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!' by Andy Stanton and illustrated by David Tazzyman.

After the celebrations we all went back to Woodlands and then on to our boarding house where we enjoyed hot chocolate and storytelling before bedtime.

**SATURDAY** After breakfast, we travelled to Hay village for a young writers' workshop to get some pointers on how to write a story and we wrote a page-long story (see next page). Then my group split up and looked around Hay and its bookshops and I also visited the market place and bought souvenirs and books. My dad and I had our lunch and looked around some more book shops (and of course, stocked up on fudge at the fudge shop!). Then it was time to drive home.

Remember this wise saying and impress your friends: **Books are like paintings and you (not the author) are the artist - painting the picture in your imagination, using words from the book as your paint.**

# it's coming...!

*It was chaos, panic, and disaster. There was a dark shadow on the mountains. I was lucky to be alive. Injured, bruised and a dark memory. But alive. It all started at the book awards. The winner was announced and the first party popper went off. That's all it took. One party popper. And that started it.*

*No one knew just how significant that party popper was. No one knew what was in store for us. At least we had our party. But as the celebrations were just closing, alarms went off. After we had heard the dreaded sound, there was utter and total horror and panic.*

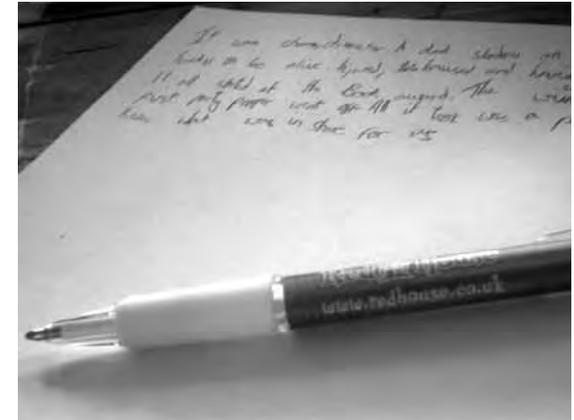
*A stranger burst through the doors and said "It's coming! It's coming from the mountains!" Then the emergency locks hissed and twisted until there was no way out or in... Some people hammered on the walls till the wallpaper would have come down, if there had been any! Others cowered under the tables. The authors bashed on the wallpaper-less walls along with the majority of the people at the award. All that had changed outside was a shadow on the mountains, getting larger by every second.*

*And then a flash of light, I was blinded. The ground shook violently; I fell and hit the cold ground and darkness crept over me. "This is it", I thought, "I'm finished. I'm dead." But no, I had only passed out. The next thing I heard was cheering. They had broken the wall. My legs were numb but I was carried with the flow. "Is it over?" I groaned. But no was the answer because the shadow was still there looming on the mountains. Then it dawned on me that it wasn't a land slide or even an avalanche. It was much worse. The mountains themselves were collapsing!*

*Then with super human effort (well really I only got up and ran but you got to admit my legs were numb and as floppy as a dog's ears), I got off the mass of people I was floating on and ran on the rocky, grassy and muddy terrain. I saw an emergency car departing but it was going... going... gone. They had left the entire population of authors, book testers and representatives of the Red House's Children Book Award behind.*

*Then everyone was running and running. Some screaming, yelling and some sobbing. An hour passed then another. We set up camp like savages in a thick forest east of Hay on Wye. I was sure we were in England. I felt glad that we were in my home country again. I then went into a fitful sleep.*

*The next day we stopped running and started walking, trying to find a town for help. Finally, as the sun was beginning to set, we saw buildings. A sign saying Andordale indicated that we were in a town and the crowd, including me, walked steadily, with the help of some kind locals, to the town hospital. The next day my dad and I were escorted home, much to the relief of our family. That is my story. A story about a disaster that damaged a tenth of Wales. Many people were injured. But none died. Like I said we were all, lucky to be alive...*



# warwick castle

By Form 7BC

The teachers who took us were Mrs Whitehead, Mr Bennett, Mr Marlow, Dani and Rosa. On arrival, we did a quick tour of the moat. Some of us nearly slipped down the sides but fortunately it had no water in it. We walked across the drawbridge, under the portcullis and past the murder holes – luckily there was no defending army pouring boiling oil or shooting arrows!

We walked over to see the birds of prey and then sat down by the river and had lunch with all the other school groups. We could see a huge trebuchet on the other side of the river and we watched it firing cannon balls into the woods.



We went to see the 'King Maker' exhibition, where there were lifelike waxwork figures in the rooms, then we visited The Ghost Tower. It was really scary, as ghosts kept jumping out of nowhere. "They scared the life out of Mr Bennett!" said Kaia, although he insisted he was crawling round on the floor in the dark looking for someone's cochlear implant!

Next we went to the waxworks exhibition called 'A Royal Weekend in 1897' – the Victorian times. Someone set off the alarm because they picked up an old crystal glass! Two security guards came running and Mrs Whitehead was so embarrassed that it was one of us.

We also went to an exhibition called 'A Dream of Battle' where we watched a film about a twelve year old squire who had a dream about the Battle of Barnet.



Then we went in the dungeon – it was horrible. There was something called an 'oubliette', which was a small hole in the ground and the worst criminals would be put in there and left to die.

We went to the gift shop and bought models of soldiers, swords, bows and arrows, medieval coins, books and sweets. Some of us fell asleep on the way home – we had a great day!



# SOUTH DORSET



By Sylvie Norman

When we arrived, Mr Gwynn split us into four groups with one teacher each. We had to measure the width and slope of the beach, deposited material and the size and shape of the rocks. The beach is called Chesil Beach, near Abbotsbury. My shoes were filled with little pebbles. They were really smooth. We used the following equipment in our group: ranging poles, measuring tapes, clinometers and callipers. The long beach was about 130 metres long from the sea to the end of the beach. When we had finished here we drove on to Fortuneswell to look at the difference in the pebble size. The pebbles at Abbotsbury are small and the pebbles at Fortuneswell are big.



Next we drove to Durdle Door and went on a long walk. We saw six features: arches, cliffs, stumps, stacks, caves and beaches. We had to do sketches of Durdle Door and then walked to Lulworth Cove, which is a round beach with two cliffs opposite one another. We split into two groups and took turns to go to the Information Centre and Stair Hole.

Our last stop was Swanage, where we went to see the beach with groyne. We had fish and chips for supper and then we were off back to school. We had a great time on the trip, we enjoyed the walking and it was relaxing!



# happy birthday arlington arts!

It's a year since Arlington Arts Centre was officially opened and what a year it has been! The Centre is truly on the map as an exciting new venue for the arts and business community, as well as bringing huge benefits to the pupils of Mary Hare School

## MUSIC, DANCE & DRAMA

Students and staff from the Mary Hare Music Department have now settled into their new home in Arlington Arts. The **Band Room, Practice Rooms, classrooms** and **Recording Studio** are now in regular use, both during and after school, and pupils are enthusiastically enjoying these exciting new facilities.

As well as making good use of the new teaching areas, the school has benefited from the Centre's auditorium and function rooms. Film and football nights in the main theatre are now a regular feature of the after-school programme of activities.



Making music

The Centre has hosted student dance and fashion shows, special school award nights and assemblies, student art exhibitions, careers forums and staff training events. We have also welcomed new parents and professionals, during our annual Open Days.

## MUSIC THERAPY



Christine Rocca with Alistair, implanted at 18mths

The work of the Music Therapy Unit, led by Christine Rocca, is now well underway with families, schools and community groups travelling regularly to the new unit to take part in music therapy sessions. Resources have also been produced by the Music Therapy team to support parents and other therapists unable to attend the centre itself.

Music Therapy services are now offered by the team to pre-school as well as nursery and school children, together with adults and community groups who would benefit from this type of specialist therapy.

We were especially pleased to hear that the work of the Nordoff Robbins Mary Hare Music Therapy Unit had been recognised by the National Lottery (who supported the building of the unit with a significant grant). The Unit was nominated in the **2007 National Lottery Awards** and received a great deal of local and national interest as a result.



## THEATRE

An eclectic mix of comedy, drama, music and dance is now the mainstay of the Arlington Arts Centre programme. Highlights of the past year include: **Swansea Ballet Russe's** performance of 'Cinderella', the stompin' blues nights by **Seasick Steve** and **David 'Honeyboy' Edwards** and the stand-up comedy brilliance of **Russell Howard**.

The Centre has hosted shows, workshops and summer schools by Berkshire Youth Dance, Newbury Contemporary Dance Company, Steps Ahead and Reading University, as well hosting events for the Newbury Comedy Festival and the Newbury Open Studios Programme. There have been some excellent reviews from the local press, putting Arlington Arts on the map as a mainstream entertainment venue.

## TRAINING



Delegates take a coffee break in the foyer

Local clients now using the Centre include **West Berkshire Council, St John's Ambulance, Thames Valley Enterprise, Vodafone, The Chartered Institute of Marketing** and a number of small local businesses. We look forward to steady growth in use of Arlington Arts Centre by local and national companies, who now recognise the excellent facilities we can offer.

## CONFERENCING

'**Developing A Listening Ear**' was our first major international conference for professionals working in the field of deafness, which took place in July.

Working in conjunction with 'Now We're Talking', the event involved international and national speakers in a series of keynotes and parallel workshop sessions, including research updates and overviews of a range of subjects. Over 125 delegates and exhibitors attended the three day event and feedback was very positive. Further conferences are now planned for 2008.



Mary Hare now runs much of its short course and post graduate training from Arlington Arts Centre. The Centre is used by other hearing related businesses such as, **DELTA, GN Otometrics, Phonak, Starkey, Specsavers, BSHAA** (British Society for Hearing Aid Audiologists) and **BAEA** (British Association of Educational Audiologists).

## music therapy



Colin Powell and Christine Rocca receive their runner-up award from Tess Daly

In July, we were delighted to hear that the Nordoff Robbins Mary Hare Music Therapy Unit had been nominated in the **2007 National Lottery Awards**. We found ourselves urging supporters to join in the public vote, to see if we could win the 'Sunday Mirror Award for Best Charity' category. When the voting lines closed, there was nothing to do but wait for the live BBC1 Lottery Awards programme in September, to hear the results.

The Music Therapy team, accompanied by Colin Powell (whose son Jude featured in a film promoting the work of the unit), travelled to the VIP event at BBC's Television Centre.

Although, sadly, we were not successful in winning the final stage of the competition, we were delighted with the level of local and national interest that was generated as a result of our nomination. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported us and to those of you who voted - thank you!

The annual 'Keep Off The Grass' music festival in Newbury nominated the Music Therapy Unit as their chosen local charity this year. A sunny weekend encouraged plenty of festival goers and the event was a great success. Pictured below are KOTG DJ Jamie Walsh and Mary Hare's Anne Munby, encouraging the sales of raffle tickets!



In May, Buildbase employee Scott Smyth (pictured above) called in to the Mary Hare Development Office, to donate £450 in support of our Music Therapy work, following his recent sponsored parachute jump. Thank you to Scott and to his supporters. *If you've always wanted to do a 10,000 ft freefall sponsored jump, we'd love to hear from you!* STOP PRESS: Yvonne Cox (Mary Hare School Office) is about to step forward - do all you can to encourage her!

Celebrity artist Rolf Harris delighted our pupils in June, when he visited the school to run a painting workshop.

Before the creative fun began, he produced his famous 'wobble board' and didgeridoo and led the children in an enthusiastic rendition of 'Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport'. He also showed them some illustrations he was working on for a new book of the famous song, due out later this year.

During morning-break, Rolf had a brief tour of the school, taking special interest in the themed murals painted on the walls of the childrens' bedrooms.

Rolf worked with pupils on self-portraits, using special paints he had brought along. Afterwards, he said that he had had 'lots of fun' and our pupils were thrilled with their special visitor. We are very grateful to Rolf for his enthusiasm and interest in the school.

## mill on the brue

### Outdoor Activity Centre



“ Oliver I saw a lamb. His name was 'Camper Van' and I fed him. ”



Folarin inspects Rolf's portrait of himself

“ Kirsty I was apprehensive because I looked down and it was so high. ”



# alumninews

## 2007 REUNION

The MHAAs reunion this year was organised mainly for those who didn't have the chance to join us at our reunion last year. With a crowd of over 170 it was, again, a definite success. Many guests were from the 1950's – 60's era and we also had a good few from the 1940's!

We were prepared for the rain this year, so when it came at the beginning of the day it didn't dampen our spirits. The rest of the day was fine, much to our delight!

The event began with welcome speeches in Arlington Arts Centre auditorium. Joining me in welcoming the guests was School Principal Tony Shaw. He provided alumni with an insight into the activities of the wider Mary Hare organisation, which support the school.

There are some excellent new facilities in place for the pupils at Mary Hare. The refurbishment of the Youth Club, as an American Diner, is fantastic. The American-style fridge and cooker were both purchased using donations made by one of our members, Richard Cole. He and his family and friends organised a wonderful party earlier this year and raised money for Mary Hare. The new Media Studies department is now open, equipped with Apple Mac computers, matching the high standards of the current media industry.

The speeches finished with video clips of all of the previous Christmas productions from both the primary and secondary school.



Mr Robinson shows visitors the new Media Suite

Our guests then made their way to the conservatory and marquees on the lawn for lunch, prepared by the Mary Hare catering team. This year, individual lunch trays were prepared which saved the long queues and allowed everyone to sit down to eat at the same time.

After a leisurely lunch, visitors went on tours of the school led by guides and current teachers at Mary Hare. This was the highlight of the day and many enjoyed their trip down memory lane – there were stories being told by different people almost everywhere you went!

The day ended back at the Arlington Arts Centre with a lovely selection of home-made cakes and refreshments. We would like to express a huge amount of thanks to Paul and his catering staff for preparing the delicious lunch and thanks to all of the staff who came in and opened their departments and led tours. Thanks also go to our volunteers who helped out on the day.

We hope you will join us again in a few years' time, when we hope to run reunion events in a different format which will allow you to be with friends of your own era. Meanwhile for news on our activities, come back and check out our website! *Simone Goldberg, Chairman*



Simone (centre) with the 2007 MHAAs committee





Donovan West gets a glimpse of life behind bars at the Museum of Welsh Life, during Activities Week

For further information about Mary Hare, please visit our website: [www.maryhare.org.uk](http://www.maryhare.org.uk)



#### Mary Hare Primary School

Registered Charity No: 1048386  
 Mill Hall, Pigeons Farm Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG18 8XA  
 Tel (voice / minicom): 01635 573800  
 Fax: 01635 524999 / email: [primary@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:primary@maryhare.org.uk)



#### Mary Hare School / Mary Hare Sixth Form

Registered Charity No: 1048386  
 Arlington Manor, Snelsmore Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BQ  
 Tel: 01635 244200 Minicom: 01635 244260  
 Fax: 01635 248019 / email: [school@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:school@maryhare.org.uk)



#### Mary Hare Foundation / Mary Hare Alumni Association

Arlington Manor, Snelsmore Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BQ  
 Tel: 01635 244204 Fax: 01635 248019  
 email: [foundation@maryhare.org.uk](mailto:foundation@maryhare.org.uk)  
 Registered Charity No: 1002680



#### Arlington Arts Centre

Mary Hare, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BQ  
 Tel: 01635 244231 Box Office: 01635 244256  
 Minicom: 01635 244260 Fax: 01635 248019  
 email: [admin@arlingtonarts.co.uk](mailto:admin@arlingtonarts.co.uk) / web: [www.arlingtonarts.co.uk](http://www.arlingtonarts.co.uk)

#### 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](mailto:info@maryhare.org.uk)