

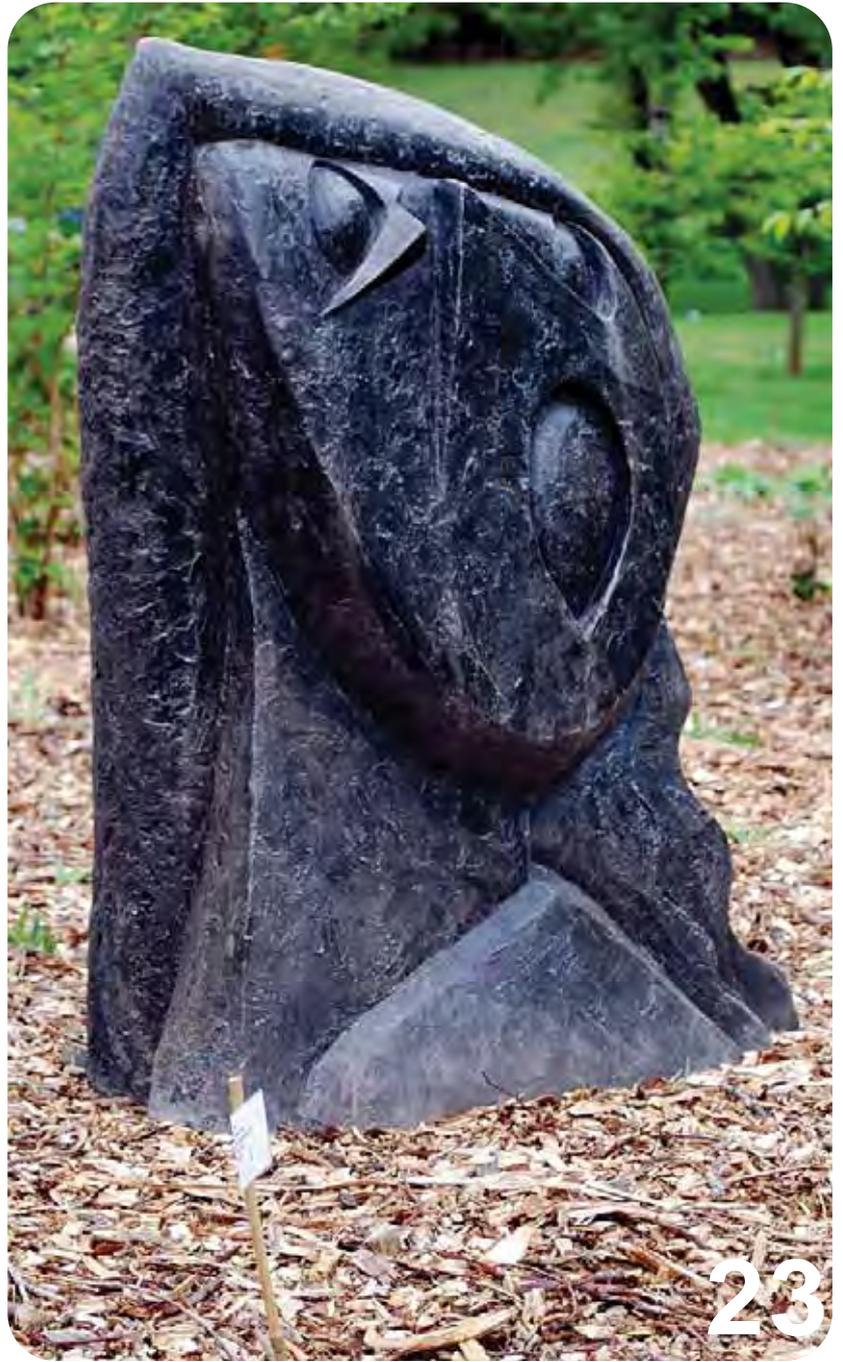
soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine

October 2009



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The summer of 2009 may not have been the barbecue season we had all been promised but there were no clouds on the horizon at Mary Hare. A superb 'Investors in People' report and an outstanding set of external examination results ensured that staff returned to work with both the drive and the energy to further advance the attainments and achievements of our hearing impaired pupils in the forthcoming year.

I am delighted to announce that 85% of pupils in Year 11 achieved 5 or more grades A* to C at GCSE, which is our highest percentage ever. A grade-by-grade analysis also showed that pupils at Mary Hare are outstripping hearing norms at grades A, B and C. Our A-Level students also excelled, achieving a pass rate of 97.5% and collectively producing an 'Initial Entry Rate to Higher Education' of 88%: superbly, one of our students set the standard for her year by securing a place at St John's College Oxford to read Physiology and Psychology.

The year ahead is full of exciting extra-curricular opportunities for our pupils, with a joint study tour to Hong Kong taking pride of place in a feature-packed schedule. These will be reported in real time on the Mary Hare website and reflected on in future issues of Soundwave. This year we have had the pleasure of showcasing the work of Mary Hare students at the 10 regional fun days across England, organised by the National Deaf Children's Society. It has been wonderful meeting families of deaf children in different parts of the country, many of whom had not heard of Mary Hare. We hope the NDCS will continue this regional approach, as we are eager for all families of deaf children to learn of our pupils zest for life, 'can do' attitude and competitive spirit. I know that this latest edition of Soundwave clearly demonstrates why our pupils are a credit to both themselves and their families.

Tony Shaw, Principal



Helen
3 A grades at A-Level



Grace
10 A* to B grades at GCSE



Timothy (left) 10 A* to C grades at GCSE
Jake (right) 10 A* to B grades at GCSE

Food and Farming Success!



Pupils from Mary Hare were runners-up in this year's Farming, Environment and Sustainability Challenge with their marketing plan for Newbury Farmers' Market. At the final in June, the Year 9 team presented their findings. Their proposals for increasing footfall and revenue included a loyalty card scheme, increased roadside advertising and greater press coverage.

The team interviewed customers, found out how far people travelled to get to the market and what their favourite purchases were. They also compared the range of products offered at the two markets. Chloe designed an eye-catching new logo; a cartoon cow with the initials 'FM', which they had printed on to an eco-friendly cotton bag. Pupils also wrote to local MP Richard Benyon and the Town Council to seek their ideas for promoting the market.

"Our team was excited and looking forward to attending the finals. We put up our display and the judges came and asked us about our work on the Farmer's Market project. They were impressed by what we had been doing. After lunch we went into the hall and did our presentation. We talked about our questionnaire's results, which showed things like how many times a month people go to farmers' markets and what they buy." Stephen

"There were four schools competing in the challenge. When it was our turn to speak my heart was racing, I couldn't relax. The judges decided that second place went to Mary Hare and we were proud. Mr Askew and Mr Shaw were proud of us too. We had a brilliant time. Thank you, Mr Askew, for taking us!" Simon

Oscar Awards 2009

At the end of April, Mary Hare hosted a dazzling Oscar Night and the hall was filled with glamorous guests who had followed the evening dress code of 'Black and White'. The 'coolest acceptance' of the evening was a close-run competition between Mr Bennett, who swaggered up for his award dressed like a rock star whilst throwing sweets to the audience and Mr Gale, who had composed his very own acceptance song, "My Nokia Baby" (the hand-held of his dreams), just in case he won. *Mr Bennett has probably lost out by holding his award upside down - see picture!* Thanks go to the prefect team and Head of Sixth Form Care Louise (*pictured right*), for all their hard work organising a memorable and star-studded evening.



Each year, we welcome hundreds of visitors who come to find out more about Mary Hare. In May, prospective families joined those with a place at Mary Hare School for 2009/10, to meet students and staff. Our new Year 7 students, some of whom are pictured on the following page, have now settled into life at Mary Hare School...

Open Day for Families



Our annual Open Day for families, on May Day Bank Holiday, attracted over 200 visitors. Prospective families joined those with a place for 2009/10 to spend the day at Mary Hare. Student guides showed families around the campus, where they were able to observe lessons, chat to teaching staff, visit audiology, speech therapy and meet care staff in the boarding houses.

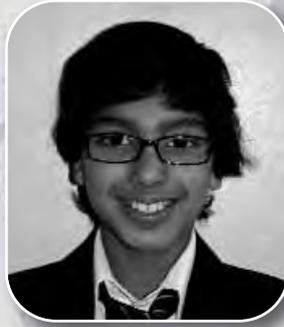
After lunch, visitors assembled in Arlington Arts Centre to watch a DVD showing some of the work done by pupils with the French department, including a "Murder Mystery" play performed by Year 7 and produced with the help of Vincent, our French teaching assistant. There was also live music and dance to enjoy, with a first public appearance by 'Soundproof', the new Mary Hare Year 7 band.



While Sixth Form students entertained the younger children, Deputy Principal Peter Gale offered advice to parents considering Mary Hare as a choice for their child, answering questions about procedures for a place at the school. Families of the new intake met with care staff, teachers and other support staff who would be working with their children from September. It was a very busy day for the school and visitor feedback was very positive.



Hajra



Deepak



Dylan

My First Day At Mary Hare



Oliver



Levi



Lucy

**When I started I was excited
But I thought I wouldn't
Make any friends.**



Adam



Emma

**Now I know I can make friends.
I think it's great here and I love it.
It's got to be the best time
In my whole school life!**



Henry



Ruby



Habiba

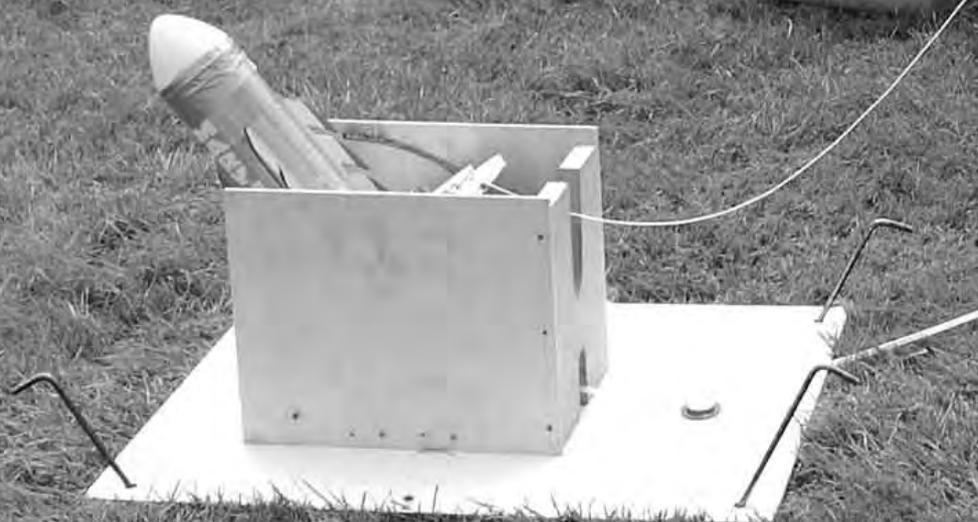
After weeks of feverish activity in the workshops, the day of the very first AWE Water Rocket Challenge arrived! Teams from other local schools carried their “top secret” water-powered rockets to the launch area, trying at the same time to get a sneaky preview of the opposition! Competing schools were Brighton Hill, Denefield, St Bart’s, Kennet School and Mary Hare. Our team was Cameron , Stephen , Asher Ben , Simon , Andrew and Alex. It was good to see people looking impressed as our rockets and launcher were unpacked!

The Mary Hare Rocket was a sophisticated piece of high quality engineering built around a low-tech lemonade bottle! Our original nose cone was a tennis ball strapped on with tape, but after a number of test flights we switched to a vacuum-formed nose cone filled with sand to achieve a perfect flight. The rockets were stabilised with fins designed by the students on a computer and precision cut using the laser cutter. We tested and modified a number of different launching mechanisms to ensure consistent and reliable flights.

Having checked out the launch site, we attended a talk by someone who really knows a thing or two about rockets - Professor Francis Keenan, Head of the School of Mathematics and Physics at Queens University, Belfast. His current topics of interest include the study of hypervelocity stars and post-Asymptotic Giant Branch objects, in particular those in globular clusters. In 2003, he was awarded a Research Fellowship by AWE Aldermaston, to work on a number of topics related to plasma physics, including laboratory astrophysics and atomic physics. His talk was really interesting, with clips from film and television shows to illustrate how accurate the ‘science’ is in movies and programmes such as ‘Star Trek and ‘Star Wars’. Our water rockets seemed a little less exciting after watching all those science fiction clips but when we got back to the launch site, the competitive spirit kicked in and we were ready to take on the opposition!

There were three rounds in which we had to launch our own rocket as well as a model that was common to all teams. We could launch our own rocket as many times as we liked but only one launch would count as our official score. Within each round the flight time and the landing zone were recorded. After a disappointing first round, when our rocket failed to land in the designated zone, we were lying second to last.

The Mary Hare team were not going to give up without a fight though and a strong second round saw us climb up into third place. By the final round the team had everything running like clockwork and we won that round with ease, which was enough to raise the team to a very proud second place overall. We were beaten by an excellent rocket designed and built by the Brighton Hill students who managed a little more consistency over the three rounds. We also picked up an extra award for ‘Best Launch Mechanism’ due in large part to Mr Baxter’s expertise. It was an exciting day and we are hoping that it will be repeated next year! Mr Davies



AWE WATER ROCKET CHALLENGE



The Year 11 Awards are presented each year as a result of the comments written by staff in praise and support of the students. In the last assembly before the start of GCSE exams, Mr Shaw and Mrs Martin presented awards to those who had consistently demonstrated consideration and thoughtfulness towards others or who had improved their behaviour over the past year.

Most Dependable and Helpful

Christopher , Brian
and Mikhail

Best Effort

George and Fahima

All Round Improvement

Celestyn

Most Considerate

Grace

Year 11 Awards

Overall Winner

(with the most votes across all categories)

Emma



“Emma is the most considerate of pupils and has always sought to maintain excellent relationships with everybody. I have never seen her angry and she listens to what you say and cares about how the teacher feels too. She is always smiling and happy and this has an effect on people around her. It has been a pleasure to teach her - she has fantastic social skills.”



"George is polite to everyone and I don't think I have ever seen him in a bad mood. He is kind, with a warm and friendly character and is always happy to have a chat. A delightful young man!"



"Fahima is brilliant - she just puts her head down and works! She is not distracted by others and meets all the deadlines set a delight to teach."



"Celestyn was really charming on our visit to Berlin. He joined in with everything with a smile and was always considerate and caring. He even offered to help me up the stairs with my suitcase!"



"Grace is certainly full of grace and has maintained her lovely nature in spite of often being the only girl, from Year 7 up, in classes full of 'eccentric' males."



"Brian is always willing when asked to do something, but retains a great relationship with his peers. He does things like tidying up, that others ignore. He just does it; no fuss, no nonsense – that's Brian."



"Mikhail has worked incredibly hard and made outstanding progress. He always offers help and support, playing an active role in running Dance Clubs and extra-curricular dance activities. An absolute superstar!"



"Christopher always has a bright smile on his face and has a good sense of humour to match. He takes an interest in other people and helps out without being asked. He is a pleasure to have around!"

The Cole's Diner Youth Club at Mary Hare goes from strength to strength, thanks to the fantastic efforts by club leader Kirrilyn Gardner and her team. They have been busy raising money to buy new equipment for pupils to enjoy - fundraising events have included a sponsored walk and a fashion show which together raised over £2,000. Thank you to everyone who supported them.

By Kirilynn Gardner

At the beginning of May, a group of students and staff stood outside the Manor, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at 8am, awaiting our ride to the White Horse at Uffington. We were embarking on a mini adventure dressed in Cole's Diner T-shirts, Hawaiian skirts, walking boots and day sacks. "Why?", you may ask. To raise money for some new outdoor tables and chairs and possibly an ice cream machine or freezer for ice lollies! We were also helping to raise funds for Daniel and Graeme's Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

We were facing a 22 mile hike over two days, following the Lambourn Valley Way - through pretty countryside and quaint villages. On Day One we stopped in Lambourn to eat our lunch outside the church - we did get a few funny looks in our Hawaiian skirts! Some people thought we were a dance troop and asked Charlie to do the hula, which she did and managed to get a donation for it too - after we explained who we were!

We then carried on to East Garston, walking through lots of fields and then finally on to Great Shefford, where we spent the night inside the village hall. Kirsty, Louise and Anita drove our bags up to the hall so we didn't have to carry everything and we slept in tents, inside the hall to get the camping experience but with proper loos, to the girls' delight! We enjoyed a meal of Spaghetti Bolognese, garlic bread and salad and then we settled down to watch a film with hot chocolate, marshmallows, whipped cream, popcorn and biscuits - we had to regain our energy after walking 12 miles on the first day!

The next morning, after a full English breakfast, we set off on the last leg of our journey. Liesl joined us at Great Shefford and through Bagnor. This bit was quite hilly but the views were lovely. We walked through fields with horses, cows and sheep and enjoyed the bluebell woods. The last leg of our journey was uphill to Donnington Castle, through Snelsmore Common and then back to school. When we got back, we had a shower and I ordered pizzas to eat in Cole's Diner, to celebrate our success!



Re-Fashion Works!

Fashion aficionados at Mary Hare gathered in Arlington Arts one evening in May, to pick up top designer tips on budget and recycled couture from our in-house fashion gurus.

Hosts for the evening were Connor, Hannah and Cole's Diner leader, Kirilynn (*pictured below*). Ellen, Fahima and Lisa, along with care staff Charlie and Louise, were in charge of hair and makeup, Mikhail was in the wings co-ordinating models for the cat walk, Simon worked the spotlight and 'The Deafness' provided the musical entertainment.



First on the catwalk were 'The Junk Yard Angels' in Gothic style, followed by 'Time Warp' fashion from the 70s and 80s. An 'On the Spot' design competition was won by Mrs Beckett who dressed Mikhail in an 'off the shoulder number made from bin bags (payback for all those noisy English lessons, Mikhail!). The grand finale was the 'Wedding Show' with stunning outfits made for a fraction of the usual cost - Gok Wan, eat your heart out!



PRIMARY News

Newbury Races



We had a very kind invitation to Newbury Races in March. We were given our own pavilion and the children picked horses by choosing favourite names, numbers and colours. It was very exciting to cheer our horses as they rushed past and we had a good view near the finishing post!



We travelled in the school minibus to see round Rushall Farm. We fed orphan lambs; we collected eggs from the hen house; we looked at donkeys, piglets, cows and a new born calf. The children loved it.

Cheerleading



The older pupils have been learning how to cheerlead, which involves gymnastic display and dance presentation. It was great fun and amazing to watch.

Rushall Farm





Afghan Connection

Mary Hare Primary School has recently 'twinned' with a school for deaf and visually impaired children in Taloqan, Afghanistan.

Our pupils designed and made a wall hanging about themselves which we have sent out to our twin school.



In July, a team of volunteers from Vodafone spent the day at Mill Hall, tidying the gardens and building a beautiful wooden pergola (as part of our new wildlife and sensory garden). We are grateful for their help, both financial and physical!

Colourscape



Pupils visited 'Colourscape' in Victoria Park, Newbury as part of the Newbury Spring Festival. The huge tent with dazzling colours was amazing and walking through the different rooms was like being in a magical world! The children loved the music workshop, especially the large metal bowl which resonated; they could feel the strong vibrations on different parts of their bodies.

An Inspector Calls

Review by
Mungo



At the end of April, Year 11 went to a theatre in Wokingham, to watch a play by J.B. Priestley, entitled 'An Inspector Calls'. We were seated on the very front row, to enable us to lip-read the actors more clearly, although we were quite literally in spitting distance and by the end Hassan and I had sore ribs after monitoring this phenomenon and stifling our laughter throughout the performance. The play began with a boy weakly tugging on the curtains, trying vainly to get them to rise. Startled, I checked a copy of the book - there was no mention of a boy. Aha! Either we were in the wrong play, or the director and actors had employed artistic licence to suit their own purposes.

After the curtain had gone up, an old lady wandered on stage, doing some menial tasks. Thoroughly alarmed by now, I was convinced that we were in the wrong play. The lady left and returned with a man in a coat. "Please Sir, an Inspector's here", she piped up. I relaxed – this sounded familiar and then suddenly the house's façade split in half! Actors spilled out onto the stage and I recognised them!

There was Mr Birling and, of course, that one was Sheila. They had strong voices which boomed out loud and clear, echoing around the theatre. The Inspector was very animated and made energetic use of the stage.

The play was excellent, enhanced by the superb facial expressions of the actors, although Mrs Birling seemed to alternate between laughing and crying at the end, ending up in a grotesque mixture of both. What took my breath away the most was the dramatic scene near the end in which the house fell over, accompanied by crashing crockery.

That was the highlight of the whole play, perhaps rivalled by the elderly maid who sat puffing away at a cigarette and drinking while the family raged around her, or perhaps the drunken confession of Eric eagerly gulping down the contents of the half-full whisky bottle handed to him by his ashamed father. On reflection, the artistic licence taken by the director and actors improved the dramatic effect of the play and I would highly recommend it to anyone.

Ship's Log

Daniel (Forward Port)

Graeme (Forward Starboard)

In September, two Mary Hare students were lucky enough to work as crew members for a week on the 'Lord Nelson', a tall ship run by the Jubilee Sailing Trust. The boys ended the voyage by sailing into harbour for a grand reception at the start of the Southampton Boat Show.

After signing in and finding our bunks, the Captain and First Mate gathered everyone together for a welcome and safety meeting. We introduced ourselves, explaining why we were on the trip - for us, it would count towards our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award 'Residential' section. The first day, after the morning call at 7am, it was time for breakfast and then we moved out of the harbour and into the North Sea. Once on the ocean, the waves were crashing up against the ship which made us nervous - was this going to happen all week? The sails were released and the motors turned off - we were under sail and powered by the wind.

We arrived in Holland the next afternoon. The evening was ours to spend ashore; some people climbed up the mast, but we had already done this the day before! We were at sea for the next 2 nights, sleeping through rough seas and being woken up with the ship rocking and waves crashing onto the deck. We arrived in France at lunchtime and stayed until midnight, when we were woken up to set the sails ready for the journey back to Southampton. The night was cold and the strong waves and winds made it hard for us to secure the sails. On Saturday we reached the Solent and sailed into the harbour in the evening, where we had a party to celebrate the end of our voyage.

We had our own chef on board who cooked everything, with help from the crew. In our spare time we would climb the mast. You are not clipped onto anything, until you reach one of the platforms on the way. Each day, we spent time pulling the yards round, setting and tightening the sails and manning the ship. We took a log of the weather and location every hour and kept a lookout for incoming vessels, especially fishing boats.

Every morning there was "Happy Hour" - cleaning the ship, scrubbing the decks and cleaning the heads (toilets). We were very lucky with the weather: apart from the rough waves we had sun shining on us all week and not a spot of rain. We had a great time and would recommend it to anyone with an interest in sailing. We enjoyed the week very much and were glad to have had the chance to join this voyage.

The Jubilee Sailing Trust ensure that their ships are accessible to all kinds of people of all ages. On our voyage there were people who were deaf, people with vision loss, wheelchair users and people with learning difficulties. Everyone was treated equally which was a really good thing. We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the organisers of the Southampton Boat Show who funded our places on the trip and gave us such a fantastic opportunity.



The previous issue of Soundwave featured a visit to Mary Hare by two teachers from the Buguruni School For The Deaf in Tanzania. In June, two of our teachers, Michelle Flannery and Viv Ogg, completed the African exchange by spending two weeks in Dar Es Salaam. We hope that the relationship between these two schools will continue to flourish in future years.





Being welcomed on arrival at Dar Es Salaam



Buguruni School's headteacher shows pupils a picture of Mary Hare School



Class One with teacher Judith Kaneno (left) who visited Mary Hare last year



Meeting the audiology team that support the children at Buguruni School



Working with teaching staff and audiology equipment

SEGRO Young Artists



By Arran

In June we travelled to London to visit the Royal Society of Arts. We were invited to view the work we had created with the textile artist Jennifer Lapsley, as part of the SEGRO Young Artists programme. Our project theme was 'The World of Work' and we interpreted this by creating pieces from textiles that looked like worn fabric from work clothes. Material was taken from old work clothes, dyed and then printed on top using stencil and photographic silk-screen printing. The images came from photographs showing people in different work situations.

Our work was inspired by the women of Gee's Bend - a small, remote, black community from Alabama, USA. It was extremely interesting to create the work and then get the opportunity to exhibit at the RSA as professional artists.

We also got the chance to view other schools' work on the same theme. Some of their work was very good and the variety of different art mediums was quite surprising. We were treated to drinks and canapés and listened to some speeches – it was quite a posh occasion!



On the Shelf

By Zoe and Ellie

We had already cut out pieces of wood for our mini bookcases to take home at the end of term, now we needed to join them together. Mr Baxter told us what to do: first of all we used the pillar drill to make holes in the sides, we used a marker so that we knew where to drill the corresponding holes on the second piece of wood. Then we used glue and dowels to join the sides to the base and back of our shelf unit. Ta Da! It was complete - we just needed to wait for the glue to dry before it went home to be a treasured present for Mum or Dad!

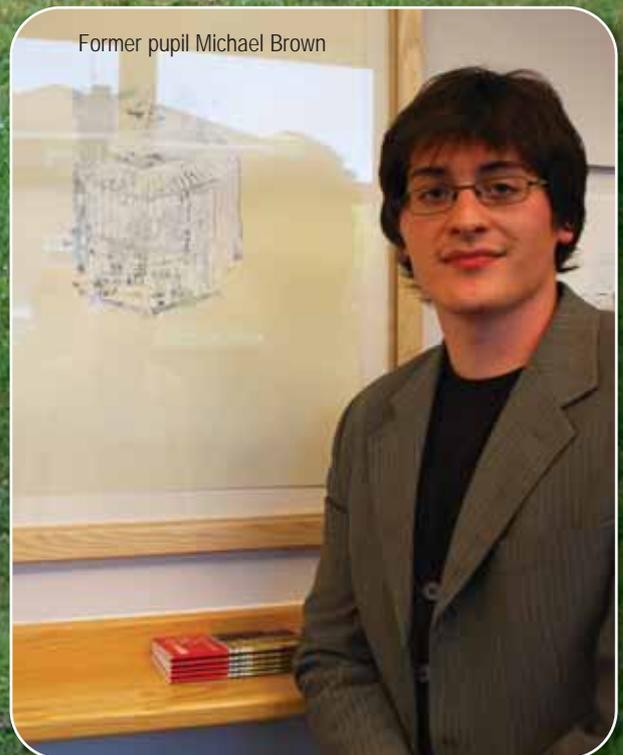


A Quiet Knowledge

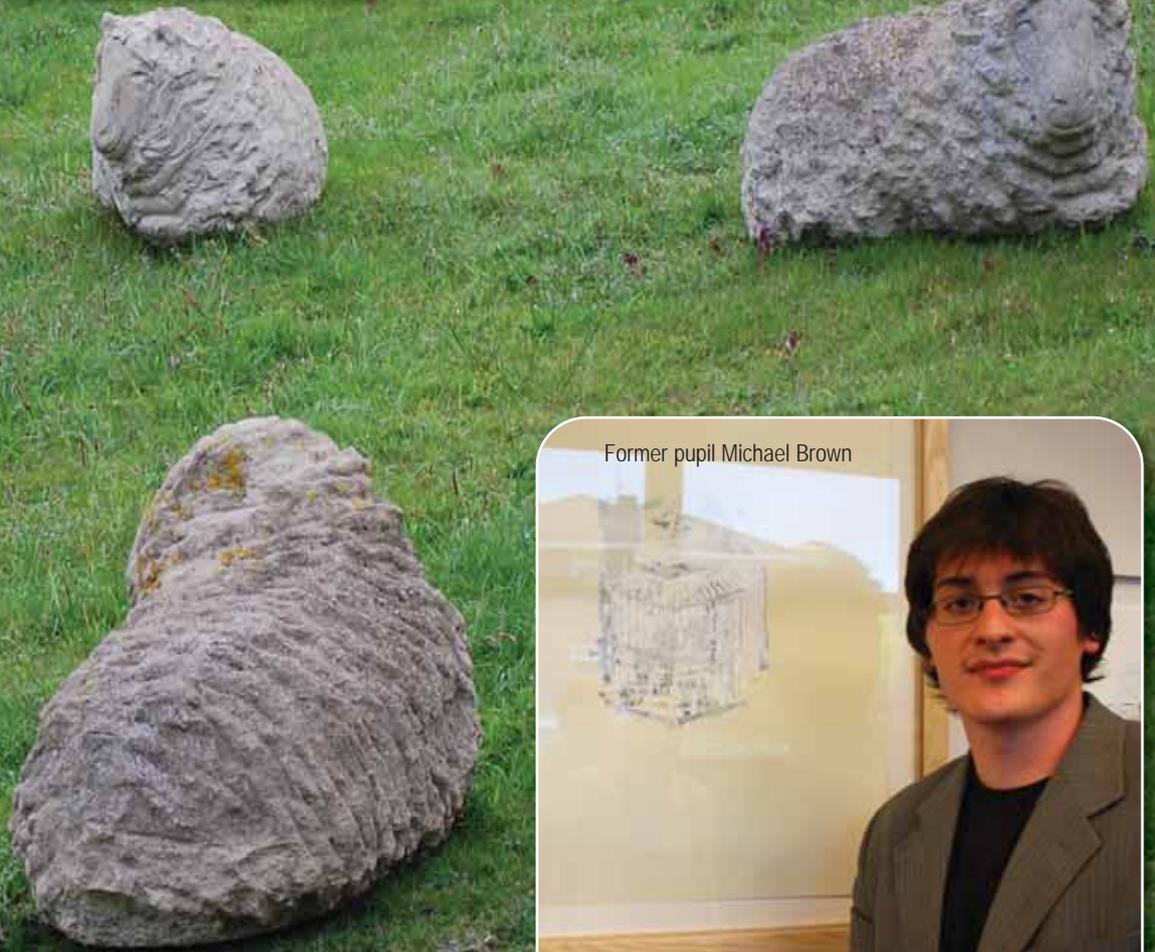
Arlington Arts Centre opened its doors to art lovers in May with an exhibition entitled "A Quiet Knowledge", part of the West Berkshire and Hampshire 'Open Studio' scheme. Art and sculpture was displayed to great effect both within and around the arts centre and featured work by local and nationally acclaimed artists, as well as exhibits by Mary Hare staff, students and alumni.



Former pupil Adam Watson



Former pupil Michael Brown



Arlington Laboratories one of Mary Hare's associated trading services, is a market leader in the earmould industry; the second largest manufacturer in the UK with a turnover of £.2million. Tucked away on our Primary School site at Mill Hall, the success of this dynamic business is not immediately apparent. We spoke to its director, Ismail Nawasra, to find out more about the business and his involvement with it.



Arlington Laboratories has an exciting future to look forward to, with new developments in technology enabling it to lead the way in earmould manufacture. If you would like to know more about their work, visit arlingtonlabs.co.uk

How it all started...

Whilst working as a university lecturer in dental technology, Ismail met a colleague from the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, London, who needed help with their hearing aid earmould services.

He moved to the hospital's Audiology unit and saw great potential for development in the earmould technology being used. He worked on the introduction of new colours and styles, to extend the range of earmoulds available to clients of all ages.

Ismail was introduced to Ivan Tucker (now Mary Hare's Chief Executive), whose passion for supporting the welfare of deaf children was already well known to professionals working in the field of deafness. Dr Tucker was keen to establish an on-site laboratory for pupils of Mary Hare School, to improve provision of the children's earmoulds.

In 1997, **Arlington Laboratories** was established (with support from hearing aid manufacturer, Starkey). Ismail moved to Mary Hare to lead the 'team' of one technician and one administrator. However, in order to be a viable business, the lab had to do more than just support the needs of pupils at Mary Hare School.

Over the years, the company has worked hard to extend its customer base, which now includes NHS Trusts, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Schools for the Deaf from all over the UK. All profits from the company go directly to the Mary Hare charity – a unique aspect that appeals to many of its clients.

Arlington Laboratories are proud of their claim to be a specialist, independent manufacturer, with extensive experience of making earmoulds of all sizes, from newborn to adults. The company now employs 24 people and last year produced over 135,000 earmoulds, for clients all over the UK.

What of the future?

The conventional way of producing earmoulds is very labour-intensive, using manually operated grinders and drills to produce the high quality, fast turnaround earmoulds that Arlington Laboratories is known for.



Modelling software (Library Image)

The company already has planning permission to extend their premises and are currently working on a proposal to bring the latest technology to Arlington Laboratories.



Laser Printing (Library Image)

In the changing world of new technology, customers now expect state of the art products, designed to the highest specification. The way forward lies in Computer Aided Design and laser technology. This will speed up turnaround time, improve the quality of the finished product and provide a cleaner, quieter, environment for technicians.

As a natural extension to these services, there are also plans to move into the field of 'hearing protection'. **Arlington Laboratories** will be able to offer a complete service to industry and commerce, from advice on hearing protection in the workplace, to testing, impression taking and earmould manufacture for employees working in a noisy environment.



SPORTS News

National Sports Week

As part of National Sports Week at the end of June, a Sports Fair was held in Dulverton Hall at lunch time. Lots of local clubs from volleyball to cycling were there to recruit new members. Students and staff could sign up to clubs, try new activities, have a go on the Nintendo Wii or ride bikes with Progression Fitness cycling club.



Visitors could also claim vouchers for a range of free taster sessions, including swimming, outdoor water activities, tennis, squash, hockey and volleyball. A community celebration was also held in Arlington Arts to recognise the work being done by local schools, including Mary Hare, who are members of the West Berkshire School Sport Partnership. Guest of honour was rower Zac Purchase (*above left*), Olympic Gold medallist from the Beijing 2008 Games who congratulated students and staff for their efforts and enthusiasm.



The Great Britain squad of 78 Deaflympians who travelled to Taiwan in September for this event included 18 Mary Hare alumni as well as current student, Louise (*pictured right*). Overall, Team GB finished 26th in the medals table, winning Gold, Silver and Bronze in Tennis, Athletics, Swimming and Badminton. Louise was part of the Women's Football squad, who just missed out on a Bronze medal, being beaten into 4th place in a closely contested match against Russia. On her return Louise commented, "Going to Taipei for the 2009 Deaflympics was a great opportunity for me. I played in 3 out of our team's 5 games against Japan, Thailand and Russia. I had a fantastic time and am looking forward to taking part again, in Greece, in 4 year's time!".



SPORTS DAY 2009



For once we were lucky with the weather for our Sports day in May! Umbrellas, raincoats, overcoats and scarves were left indoors as we took to the sports field in bright sunshine. Special guest was Alison Hutcheson, who was brought up in the Newbury area before becoming a sports news producer both for BBC News 24 and BBC Scotland. Alison commented on the stunning location and spoke of the great feel to the afternoon event.

The junior and senior field events took place prior to the track events and by the opening march on to the main field, Braidwood House held a narrow lead with Beverley only 3 points behind.

Philip Swift in Year 13 also deserves special mention, with a great 1500m run on his last sports day at Mary Hare, that was just 4 seconds outside the school record.

Beverley House were the winners of the sporting events but they were beaten by Braidwood House who won the overall House Trophy, with Arnold House 3rd and Mary Hare 4th.

Principal Tony Shaw said, "It was wonderful to see the competitors cheered on by their families, enjoying the opportunity to meet up, having travelled from all parts of the UK."



Area Athletics

Jamie

In June, Year 7 went to the Area Athletics which takes place every year at Palmer Park in Reading. We were really excited and nervous. We were up against millions of other schools - well not exactly, but I wasn't bothering to count them because we were getting the day off school and I didn't want to do any Maths. If any teachers are reading this, I was actually sad that we missed school, OK? In the morning the girls did the field events and the boys did the track events. We didn't do well at first but we gradually caught up and in the afternoon we swapped over. As we got on to the field and track, our adrenalin was pumping. Unfortunately, we didn't win but at least we tried our best. We walked back to the bus happy with ourselves and on the way home we were singing. Well done to the all of the Year 7, who did very well.

Jay Jay

Mrs Hart made sure we knew what we were doing and told us where we had to go during the day. We did quite well in our heats - Pav came 3rd in the Discus, I came 12th in the Javelin and Cameron came 3rd in the High Jump. It was very good fun but hot when you were competing. I'm glad we had Area Athletics!

Diarmuid

The weather was perfect, it was warm but cool when the wind blew. I did the Relay, 100m and Shot Put. In my heats I came 4th in the Shot Put, 4th in the Relay and 6th in the 100 Metres. We didn't win anything, but we were close in all the races. The other schools were really fast and I was shocked by their talent at running and the strength in their arms. I was proud of my friend Pav who came 3rd in the Discus.

Hamish

The sandwiches were nice. It was good fun and the staff did a good job guiding us through races and cheering for us and supporting us.

Catherine

I had to wait a long time for my turn because I was doing the Relay and the Girls' 150 Metres in the afternoon and we arrived in the morning! I was really hungry but finally it was lunch time and I rushed to eat my food - but the bad news was I got called down to do the 150 Metre race while I was eating. I got to the race track with my friend Kirsty, the man starting the race shot the starting pistol in the air and it was so loud for me. Then there was the Relay and I did it with Ruta, Kirsty and Sophie. It was a tight finish and we just missed getting into the final. Lastly we had our photo taken and then got on the bus and came back to Mary Hare! It was one HARD day, but we all tried our BEST!

STAFF News

Lesley White

Teaching Assistant Lesley was a South Region finalist in this year's National Teaching Awards, having been nominated by one of her pupils. He commented, "Lesley has helped me so much over the past 7 years - she helped me to achieve great GCSEs as well as helping me in all areas of my life. She takes me out to lunch when I need a break and keeps me on a task in school. Lesley is a fantastic person and I was proud to nominate her."

Lesley (*pictured below*) said: "I love my job and to get nominated by one of the pupils and receive an award for something that you really enjoy doing is marvellous. It has been such a team thing, so many teachers and students spoke to the judges when they came to school and have been so supportive. It was all-round a great experience."



Sister Mary Clare

In May we said goodbye to Sister Mary Clare who has worked with us for 16 years as an Independent Listener to the students. This was her 'official' title but she did far more than this – she worked closely with anyone needing support, pupils and staff alike. Her presence helped make Mary Hare the special place it is and we will miss her smiles and sensible, positive attitude to life. She reluctantly felt that having almost reached the amazing age of 80, it was time to 'retire' although we will continue to welcome her to school events in the future.

Maude Jamin



In June we were pleased to welcome back former French Assistante, Maude Jamin (now teaching at a school in Lyons). Maude, who was at Mary Hare in 2003/4, came back to visit us with her colleague David Carmille and students preparing to take the French equivalent of their GCSEs. The group were able to join some Mary Hare lessons, as well as finding time to visit Stonehenge, Windsor and London.



FUNDRAISING News



In June, the Mary Hare Foundation held a reception for invited guests to launch the Murray House Appeal. Friends and supporters gathered in the Manor House conservatory to find out more about the appeal to raise funds for a new Year 11 boarding house at Mary Hare School.

Guests were formally welcomed by Dr Ivan Tucker OBE, Mary Hare's Chief Executive and Kirsten Loyd, Chair of the Mary Hare Foundation (*pictured right*), who in turn reflected on the past achievements of the Mary Hare Foundation and the challenge that lies ahead to raise a £1 million towards the cost of building the new boarding house.



Head Boy Daniel and Head Girl Meghan (*pictured top right*) talked about their experiences at Mary Hare School, explaining what a difference the new boarding house will make to Year 11 students, who are making the transition from GCSEs to A Levels.

On display was a time capsule, kindly made and donated by Boundary Metals, which will be buried in the foundations of the new building next year. Over the coming year, students at the school are being asked to nominate items to be included in the capsule.



Would you give up a bar of chocolate or a pint of beer to help us?

A STANDING ORDER of £2 per month for a year with Gift Aid

A DONATION of £24 with Gift Aid

AN EVENT like a coffee morning or 'dress down day' at work

WOULD RAISE £30 OR MORE...

Every donation counts and you can make a difference!

Visit maryhare.org.uk for a Standing Order Mandate and Gift Aid Declaration

Mill Hall Wildlife and Sensory Garden

In June, we were delighted to hear that we were to receive a donation from the Vodafone Foundation, to help develop a wildlife and sensory garden for pupils at Mary Hare Primary School. Head of Centre, Karen Smith, accepted a cheque for **£2,200** from Rachel Elcome from Vodafone, when she visited the school recently.

The garden will introduce the children to biodiversity, conservation, looking after plants and flowers and growing vegetables to eat. Pupils are going to be involved in the garden's design and maintenance of a variety of plants throughout the year.



The garden will have different sensory areas with raised planters allowing easy access to help children identify and understand different senses. The journey around each planter introduces children to different colours, textures and shapes. Benches will be provided so the children can sit and enjoy the plants for longer.

The garden will help children learn by using a hands-on approach, exposing them to a multitude of colours, patterns, smells, sounds and textures to stimulate and hone their sensory skills. It will keep them engaged and also allow the teacher to explore with them other important lessons about nature, changing weather conditions and seasons.

Parachute Jump



In July, Lucy Williams leapt out of a plane for us - raising over **£500**, which will be used by Mary Hare Primary School to buy equipment for cookery lessons. Thank you to Lucy and her supporters for choosing to donate to the Mary Hare Foundation.

Vodafone Cricket



Our friends at Vodafone once again donned their cricket whites and played from 'Dawn till Dusk' in a sponsored event, to raise funds for Mary Hare. With matched funding from the company, they hope to have raised over **£2,500**, which will go towards the Murray House Appeal. Our thanks go to organiser Alan Davies and to all his colleagues for their support.

Tales of Marathon Men...

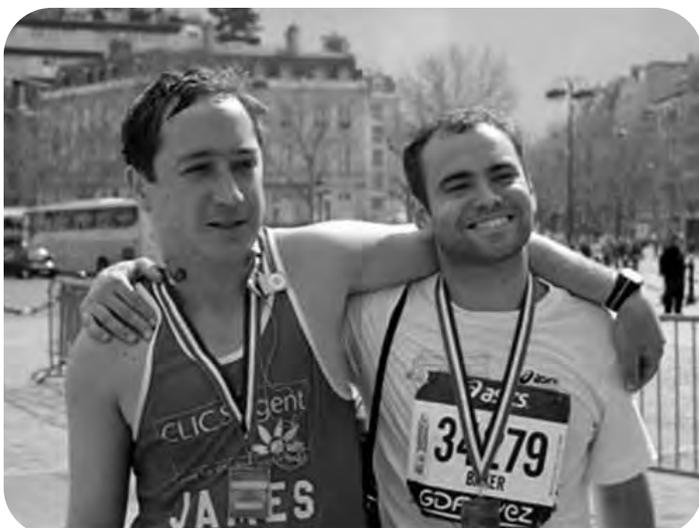


In June, former Mary Hare teacher Mr Norris came back to tell us about how he decided to run in the 2009 London Marathon. He applied through the National Deaf Children's Society for a place, planning to raise £1,500 for them, with anything extra going to Mary Hare. His finishing time was 3hrs 35mins and 8secs and the total raised for Mary Hare was **£3,500** with some Gift Aid income still to be received.

Mr Norris raised the money for Mary Hare to say 'Thank You' to the school, the students and the staff for being such an inspirational place. He collected sponsorship from family, friends, neighbours, strangers and work colleagues and it was clear from local support that the Newbury community holds Mary Hare School in high regard. Would he do another marathon? Maybe...he has already applied for next year's race!



*Iain Tucker, son of Mary Hare Chief Executive, Dr Ivan Tucker OBE, also completed the London Marathon in support of Mary Hare, raising just over **£1,200**. We are grateful to everyone who supported him through such generous sponsorship. Pictured right, taking a well-earned rest after the event!*



In April, Justin Baker completed the Paris Marathon with his friend, James Green. They were running in support of two deaf charities, Sabah Society for the Deaf in Malaysia and Mary Hare.

Justin's sister, Vicky, has been working with the Sabah Society for the past few years and he wanted to raise funds for Vicky's school. He decided that whatever he raised for a Malaysian charity should equally be raised for a similar UK charity and Mary Hare was a name he'd come across via the website justgiving.com.

By collecting sponsorship from friends and family, they managed to raise **£750** for each charity. Thank you to Justin and James for choosing to support the Mary Hare Foundation.

LIGHTMONGERS' AFFILIATION

In May, Mary Hare School was delighted to become affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers. Our Head Boy and Girl accompanied Principal Mr Tony Shaw to the formal ceremony in London where they were awarded a token of appreciation for their services to the school. Head Girl, Fatima, tells us more...



Head Girl Fatima, Head Boy William and Principal Mr Tony Shaw with Lightmongers' Master Mr John Warden

In a series of e-mails regarding arrangements for the day, it soon became clear that this was no ordinary occasion. Immaculate dress was required for this 'black tie' event, where we were to represent Mary Hare School.

On arrival, we were given a booklet with a seating plan for the dinner and a programme for the evening. We entered a grand room where we met various important people. Glasses of wine and canapés were going round. I stuck to a tasteful orange juice while Mr Shaw and William enjoyed a bubbling glass of champagne.

We moved to another room, where the Lightmongers took those who had had partnerships with them over the years (including our Chief Executive Dr Tucker), through the process of becoming a member. This involved repeating after the Chairman their honourable duties, signing a contract and receiving a certificate.

Then it was time for food, which was presented wonderfully. Each dish was full of rich, intense flavours. The meal was certainly an experience - I had my seat pulled out by the gentleman sitting next to me and had my drink poured and was offered wine, which I politely refused. After dessert, we listened to a few short speeches which then led to William and I being called up to receive our certificate.

To round the evening off, Mr Shaw gave a speech showing much pride in the development of Mary Hare, which is now officially a charitable cause supported by the Lightmongers Association.

Then it was time for the Loving Cup, a tradition where a heart-shaped, two-handled cup filled with port is passed around in an orderly fashion, demonstrating that we shall all watch each other's back. I nearly sat down when I was meant to be guarding

someone's back until they'd passed on the Loving Cup. As it was a new experience for me, I was excused for having made a mistake.

We then began to wrap up our conversations and we offered our appreciation to the Chairman of the Lightmongers and to Mr Ogus for our certificates and generous gifts before finally making our way back to Mary Hare.

Will and I wish to express our gratitude for having been invited to this first Lightmongers event, which should continue for many years to come. We had a fabulous time, with good company and excellent food.

We wish this year's Head Boy and Girl the very best and hope they have as much pleasure in the experience that William and I had in attending the event.

SIXTH Form

Team Building

By Daniel and Catherine

In June, the newly announced prefect team went on an overnight camping trip, to find out more about ourselves, each other and to develop skills in working as a team. The first challenge was a 4 mile walk to the campsite in Hungerford, after setting off from Inkpen. We were walking in a boiling heatwave, which proved a challenge for some, as it felt like we were walking in a desert! Each member of the team was very encouraging towards the others. We managed to find the campsite with help from a local man but the hard work didn't stop there.

One group had to put up the tents and the other had to cook dinner. Later that night we played team games, organised by Louise and Mrs Martin, which were great fun. One game involved being on the edge of an imaginary cliff and if we stepped outside the boundary, we would be dead - luckily no one died! We then had a group session talking about helping others around school and being a mentor. We all learned a lot from this and heard how everyone else was feeling.

We got up early the next morning, which proved hard for some people after a rough night's sleep. The boys had to share one big Teepee tent and for the girls, it was their first time sleeping in tents. We shared the roles of making breakfast and packing between the two groups, which enabled us to leave on time. According to the teachers, it was the first time a group had managed this!

We headed to Oxford where we were going canoeing on rafts. Before we could start we had to work as a team to solve some more puzzles to tax our brains. After lunch we went canoeing. It was great fun and everyone enjoyed it. We all got wet, went down a weir and had many laughs. We got to munch on cakes afterwards, while talking about what we did and didn't enjoy. We had a great two days of excitement and good weather and returned to school feeling very tired. We would like to say a big thank you to Miss Elliot, Miss Colby, Mrs Martin and Louise for organising the trip.



PARTY IN THE PARK



On a summer evening in June, the prefect team ended the academic year with an event where the whole school could get together and socialise. The party took place behind Carnarvon Hall, where people from every year, including care staff, had to queue up to receive a green band in order to be admitted; the turnout was great!

By Daniel and Meghan



We had a huge BBQ served by Ed, Pierre and Roger. There was an obstacle course built by Roger and Christian, consisting of hula hoops, wheelbarrows, benches and nets. People raced each other through the obstacles and then on to a 150ft long inflatable obstacle! This proved to be popular with everybody - there were queues for it all evening. Max, Jacob and Oliver created a waterslide with the aid of a hosepipe which everyone enjoyed! We had an ice cream van to help us celebrate and music was provided by several iPods. Hannah and Karina worked on the face paint stall for the evening with designs fantastically improvised to suit each pupil's request.

Not many Year 13s could join us, due to exams, but we held a party for them a few weeks earlier, with a scavenger hunt, a BBQ, a water fight, a bonfire with marshmallows and a memorable balloon launch where each person was given a balloon, string and a piece of card to write down their best memories.

Judging by the atmosphere, it was a great and an emotional end to the night. We would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make the 'Party in the Park' possible and helped with the smooth running of it!



ALUMNI News

Dear Alumni

It's hard to believe how quickly the summer has flown by! At the end of June, we held an alumni reunion at Mary Hare School, which was a tremendous success. Over 170 guests were given the chance to meet up with old friends and revisit old haunts on tours led by members of staff, followed by a delicious afternoon tea in Blount Hall. Thank you to everyone who supported the day by donating raffle prizes, helping to organise things and by coming along. See you at the next one!

Simone Goldberg, Chairman MHAA



Leavers Lunch

On a sunny Sunday in June, Year 13 gathered in Carnarvon Hall for an emotional Leavers' Lunch. Sarah Fincham, Chair of the PTA, Louise Osborn, Joint Head of Care and Rachel Carr, Head of Year 13, were there to welcome students and their families for a final "Goodbye" and to wish them luck for the future

Looking back over the past two years, Mrs Carr reminded students of the good and not so good times and, with the help of video footage, some of the hilarious moments shared by this year's leavers.

She told them, "While you may remember when we sent you back to get changed because you were wearing shorts or flip-flops, or put you last for lunch for arriving late to form, I will remember your help at Open Day, your smiling faces at the Party in the Park and the Prom and the many conversations I've had with you about your future. I will remember your support and friendship to one another and I am sure you will keep these friends for life and will always have someone to lean on."

Mrs Carr went on to give special thanks to the Year 13 form teachers Mr Davies, Mrs Howe and Miss Wyman as well as care staff Louise, Grant, Kirtley and Karen. Mrs Carr also thanked the PTA who organised the very first Leaver's Lunch just over 10 years ago and continue to give financial support both for the day and for the production of The Leavers' Year Book.

Adding to the emotion of the occasion 'The Deafness' played for the last time and in a realisation of a personal ambition, Mrs Carr joined the band on keyboard for one song! The final song was fittingly 'Lean on Me' and in spite of the sadness on the day, this year's leavers know that they have made many good friends at Mary Hare who will be there for them in the future.

To mark the occasion a delicious lunch was served by Paul Leverton and his team whilst Roger, Christian and Max from Year 12 served drinks to thirsty guests. This year the lovely weather meant that people were able to enjoy their lunch outside as they talked over old times. School seems quieter now without them, but we hope that as 'Year 14' they will come back and visit to tell us all about their new experiences in life after Mary Hare.



(l to r) Sarah Fincham, Louise Osborn and Rachel Carr

Sarah Gallagher

1st World Deaf
Ice Hockey and Curling
Championships 2009
Winnipeg, Canada



I heard that the British Deaf Sports Council was looking for people to play curling for the 1st Deaf World Championships in Canada. I went along to a practice session, not knowing what to expect except lots of ice, throwing stones and sweeping. The sessions were tough, learning how to slide, how to throw the stones and how to curl them. Sweeping is also important and it's not as easy as it looks! The aim is to get the stone as close as possible to the "button" (the centre of the circle) at the other end.

I was pleased to learn that I would be in the group going to Canada as part of the GB Women's team, along with Jacki Wan and Kathy Walker (also Mary Hare alumni). We flew to Winnipeg, Canada in April. The first few days were spent training at the ice rink. We soon learned which ice sheets were "fast" and which were "slow" by watching the speed of the stones.

The opening ceremony was an awesome experience with entertainment from around the world: there were some deaf drummers, Native Canadian Hoop Dancers, some drama based on curling and ice-hockey and finally the competition was declared 'Open'.

The week was spent in matches against the other countries - this was our first chance to play a proper match. We played first against Croatia. They sensed our hesitation and took advantage of that. Nevertheless, during the second half we upped our game and won 6-4. It would have been 8-4 if we had known not to shake hands to end the game before declaring the last two points!

The men's team were just as nervous and wanted to win their first game too. They did, which was a fantastic experience.

During the week we watched other games if we were not playing and learned techniques and tactics from the other teams. As the event went on, our gamesmanship improved steadily and by the end of the week the GB men were guaranteed a medal.

The GB women were not far behind, ending up in a tie-breaker. This became a 'knock out' round and, to our dismay, we were up against Croatia again! Despite their earlier confidence when realising we had only 2 months experience, we beat them 10-9 in a game with a nail-biting finish and with time running out. We were through to the next tie-breaker!

Unfortunately we only had an hour's break for lunch before getting back on the ice, to play Slovakia. We lost, but as good losers we accepted our fate - we had been playing back-to-back matches for two days.

We knew we had done well with a final 4th place overall, just missing out on the medals. However, it was a fantastic experience just to be there in Canada. The GB men won a Bronze medal, after a very close game against Switzerland.

All in all, we enjoyed ourselves, learned more about the game of curling, got to meet other people from around the world, and improved our game!

Lauren Austin



I left Mary Hare last year and decided to spend time travelling before going to University. This was the best decision I've ever made and I'm so happy that I took this opportunity. So far I've been to Africa, India and Thailand. For those of you considering the same, don't let your deafness worry you. At first I was worried about how others would react and cope with my deafness, but it wasn't necessary at all. There were times when I missed what was said but I knew I could ask anyone in my group what I missed and they would tell me.

My first stop was Africa. Our time was split between working and activities, but work was strangely fun as well! We worked with trees and plants - hard graft as it involved using machetes! We also took care of an ill eland (a deer) and got to play with lion cubs! We visited Cape Town one weekend and decided to go sky-diving. We got very excited as our plane took off. As we got higher and higher, the view got more and more breathtaking. When the instructor told us that we only had 2,500 ft to go before we could jump, my heart skipped a beat! Then a minute later we were told that the wind was too strong and we could no longer jump. I was absolutely gutted but it did mean we had a free flight over Cape Town and an afternoon to go shopping!



After a quick trip home to England, I was off to India, to work in a cow sanctuary and a zoo. Cows are considered holy by many people in India so they are never put down. This meant that a lot of the cows in the sanctuary were extremely ill or very badly injured. One weekend we travelled for 2 hours from Jaipur to Pushkar. We were excited about the prospect of riding a camel - however, after 3 hours on a camel we were very excited about the prospect of getting off! We camped in the desert that night and it was surprisingly cold - the first night since being away that we needed to sleep under a duvet! The culture in India is so different from ours in terms of tradition and religion. It was hard at first to get used to their culture but once we did, we really enjoyed our stay. India was a trying place because of the diversity, but I loved it - it was an amazing experience.

The travelling experience got even better with Thailand. We arrived as they were celebrating their new year. They celebrate by putting clay on people's faces (to represent the past) then covering you in water (to represent washing the past away). When we weren't getting covered in clay and water, we visited many temples and were amazed by the intricate detail of all their decorations and statues.

We spent a week trekking in the jungle, which was such hard work. It took 2 hours of constant climbing to get to the top of a VERY steep hill, but for the view we got from up there it was so worth it! (pictured right) After an exhausting trek, we spent our last week relaxing at the beach, on a beautiful island called Koh Samet. At night we watched a fire-dancing show which was really impressive. The dancers were really talented.



When they finished the show they stayed on the beach and one night they organised some games for the audience. I took part in one! It was a limbo game, but no ordinary one - the limbo pole was on fire! It was extremely scary and very warm! I was only runner-up, but I still got a prize anyway! Travelling has been the greatest experience of my life and I can't wait to do more. I strongly advise every one of you to consider travelling, even if you only do it for a summer. It'll be the best time of your life and you'll probably end up with the "travel bug" and want to do more!



Last term, Year 7 studied bees, as part of their research to prepare an 'insect-friendly' flower planter for a local competition for schools. We were lucky to have the in-house expertise of bee keeper Liz Butcher, from Mary Hare School's office, who brought in an observation hive. This gave students a unique opportunity to observe the bee population at very close quarters! Our thanks go to Liz for her help.