

CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 1997

HAPPY CHRISTMAS ROMANIA



Scrooge played no part in the Mary Hare Christmas this year. Having heard about the plight of Romanian orphans from Mr Tim Hewes in assembly, it was decided to give presents to be taken directly to orphanages in that country. Pupils selected specific names from a list including the age and sex of each youngster and then bought presents to wrap and send out. These included footballs, drawing pencils, cosmetics, games and sweets. These gifts were to be the only present each child would get and each was sent with a message of love and goodwill.

To help pay for the cost of transport it was asked that each gift came with £1 cash, but in addition several parents and friends were most generous.

Miss Ogg and helpers also made gift tags, table decorations and all kinds of Christmas fayre to sell at a special market during the school production and subsequent lunchtimes.

In total over two hundred gifts were sent out at about £5 each and a cheque for £730.44 was presented to Aid to Eastern Europe during the Christmas party.

Many thanks to all who were so generous, but especially Miss Ogg for such a great idea.

The photo shows Ms Jenny Slatter receiving a cheque from Roy Kerr.

QUOTE FROM AID TO EASTERN EUROPE'S THANK YOU LETTER "Please be sure to convey our heartfelt thanks on behalf of all (the orphans), to all concerned. You have proved to them in a very real way that they have not been forgotten and that someone, somewhere really cares about them."

TIM HEWES, Project Co-ordinator

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TIRABAD '96

Mr Galbraith reports that the year 9 expedition to Tirabad for a week of activities again proved "mighty successful" with teamwork and co-operation escalating up a steep learning curve. The staff expressed their thanks to the pupils for contributing to such a successful week. The best way to capture the flavour of the week is to dip into the diaries:-

"I was looking forward to going to Wales (really, to be honest, raring to get away from school!)"

"It was not what I expected . . . it was better."

"We had vegetable soup (yuk!) followed by chips, corned beef and baked beans (yum!)."

"We had to slide down the hill on our bottoms!"

"We trekked back slowly because our boots were getting heavier and heavier."

"My group had to do senior orienteering, which was very, very, very hard."

"I don't know why but I love climbing."

"Climbing 8/10. Two points deducted because of the rain."

"The moment I've been dreading - caving."

"I think caving was a very good experience - I'll give it 11/10."

"We had to choose between mountain biking, gorge walking and caving."

"One thing I didn't look forward to - the wet clothes."

"I was thankful to miss a lesson of physics."

"I set off as an energy filled 13 year old then later on I was a slow 70 year old."

"The staff were supposed to have gone out for a meeting. We all suspect they had gone to the pub. So we had Fiona and Andy in charge of us for the night."

"First the dreaded pile of breakfast dishes to wash up."

"The wet bit was coming up - the rat's hole - I enjoyed that so much I went through it 3 times!"

"Wow, it was absolutely fabulous!"

Thanks to Damaris and Kathy for your diaries

50 YEARS ON

Once again a major part of the Christmas festivities focused on the school production with a colourful pot pourri of dance, drama and music.

Short dramatic sketches by year 11 students linked together items by well over 100 pupils from all parts of the school. The theme was the variety of views of Christmas leading to the real message in the Madonna and Child, portrayed in symbolic dance and a giant sculpture.

Lighting, costumes and all supporting staff work brilliantly together and Christine Rocca for her co-ordination must be congratulated on such a success.

A MARS A DAY

Business Studies GNVQ students don't need much of an excuse to visit factories especially if chocolate is involved and so they duly went to Mars(!). They were amazed at the speed of production of Galaxy, collected a big bag of goodies and of course wrote up their assignments! (Ed - I've put the photo in, now where's my chocolate?)

Mrs Julie Coombes and students at the Mars factory

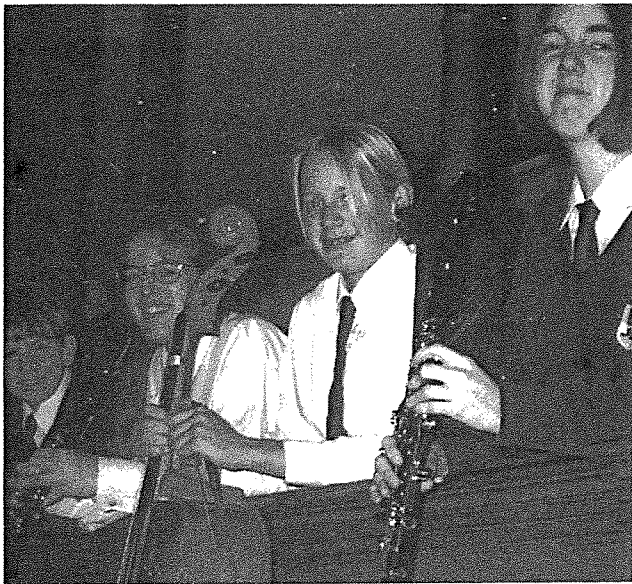


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IN CONCERT

In addition to an active participation in the school production the music department also took a flute quintet to play in St. Nicholas Church in the Newbury Schools Carol Concert in aid of Save the Children. The youngsters, Yvette, Claire, Ruth, Kathy and Julia gave an excellent performance and were a great credit to the school.

Other pupils have been busy with Associated Board Exams and we congratulate Bryony Booth who had a double success at grade 5 on the clarinet and grade 1 piano (merit), Debbie Wilkins Grade 2 Clarinet; Ben Dobson Grade 1 Cornet and Kathy Walker Grade 1 Cello (merit).



DUKE of EDINBURGH UPDATE

A group of boys and girls recently completed an eight week course with Newbury paramedics and also took part in a major presentation of their Duke of Edinburgh work with four other schools from around the region.

Plans for next term include mapping out routes for their bronze expedition; a course on animal care from a local vet and participation in a conservation course.

Keep up the good work - best wishes for your awards. Thanks to Ros for her hard work co-ordinating the training.

BATTY ABOUT BATS

Year 8 pupils enjoyed an evening with visitors (both human and of the winged variety) from the Bat Conservancy. After a short talk on the types of bat and an opportunity to feed an elderly and very docile specimen, the pupils set out in search of bats in the woods. It was a pleasant walk but despite being armed with ultra-sound detectors and a million candle power floodlight nothing was spotted until most pupils had returned to the houses, whereupon the two boys remaining were treated to a pipistrelle flying display right in front of the school. We'll repeat the evening in the spring and hope for more success.

(Thanks to Mrs Leonard for organising this contact).

STRESS

Below is a genuine letter reprinted with permission from a Year 11 pupil concerning English Coursework.

Dear Mrs Beckett,

I have a problem, I just have lost my English book again! I am suffering so badly because the courseworks are important for GCSE exams, I just have done my summary on baby Monica. I just left it in Room 4 and it was gone like the 1st one! Someone flogged it. I think it is easier to have a folder than a "flaming" book, because a folder is big you can't lose it easily, I nearly lost my Geography folder, last year; lucky, I saw it and just got it. WHAT am I going to do!?? Please help me! Thanks.

Anonymous

The pupil had in fact handed the book in!

WORKING FOR A LIVING

Life in the big wide world can be hard especially for a hearing impaired youngster but all of year 11 coped well with their work experience. Some of their log book entries tell the story:-

BEFORE:

"We are nervous about going."

"I hope they will let me get involved and trust me."

"I am worried about how to communicate with hearing people."

"I hope this placement will give me confidence."

"It will be a change from school with a lot more freedom."

"I am looking forward to meeting new people to prove to them that deaf doesn't mean dumb or stupid."

AFTER:

"The people were friendly and easy to communicate with."

"Although I enjoyed my work experience I realise I do not want to do it as a career."

"I was asked to do the same job for three days!"

"I learned to persevere with a job even if I don't like it."

"This has given me a clearer idea of who I am and what I want to be."

"It was an excellent week."

Thanks to all the companies that took Mary Hare students once again and supported them so well.

LATE NEWS!

Last year numerous pupils attended Newbury College on a Monday evening to complete a course in AutoCad, a computer aided design course. They contributed towards the cost of the course and regularly attended for the whole year, and as a result the following have passed their City and Guilds Certificate 4305/01.

Yoav Felberbaum, James Freestone, Gregory Pierssene, Piers Kittel, Sam Seaver, Fiona Ng.

Well done to them all.

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SURPRISE PRIZES! - EVEN LATER NEWS

At the Careers Convention in November 1995, a number of Year 11 students entered a General Knowledge Quiz.

. . . in July 1996 the results were given to Miss Gladwell!

Miss Gladwell is pleased to announce that some of the students won prizes. The following won a scientific calculator:

Richard Higgins, Gregory Pierssene, Kate Stevenson, Laura McQuillan, Nicholas Cutajar.

Reena Guru won a W.H.Smith's token; Danny Gower won a dictionary. Well done!

The prizes were provided by Kennet Training Services.

'ULTIMATE CHALLENGE'

"The human form is the artists' ultimate challenge" so pupils in the upper sixth Art & Design class attended a series of life drawing classes at Newbury's art workshop. Together with students from local schools they were able to add vital experience to their skills and extend their portfolios.

CLUB MARY HARE

Bob Lowrie is an electronic technician by day, fixing headphones by the score, but a DJ extraordinaire by night. Disco dancing at Mary Hare has reached new heights with the arrival of Bob's Champagne Disco.

The Christmas party was the latest rave - following traditional games for the younger pupils, one of Mrs Monger's excellent buffet suppers and Christmas Carols, Bob helped us all dance the night away with music ranging from The Prodigy for the young ravers to Jeff Beck for the Oldies!

NEW FIELDS

On exhibition at the Tate Gallery when year 8 visited was the (in) famous Turner Prize, awarded to the best young British artist. The pupils favoured the screenprints of Simon Patterson, but the winner Douglas Gordon was chosen by the panel. This work on video was considered by the students to be more difficult to understand, but is undoubtedly opening up new fields in art.

The year 8 pupils also had a chance to study close up the works of many famous artists, paintings prints and sculptures as part of their critical studies for Art & Design.

CAPITAL ARTS

Pencil and sketchbooks at the ready early one morning at the end of October eighteen sixth formers accompanied by six staff set off for a week in the Italian capital of the arts, Florence. Staying in a small friendly hotel right in the heart of the city the group was able to spend everyday in the galleries and churches, drinking in the atmosphere and admiring the great treasures. Famous locations included Ponte Vecchio, the Pitta Palace and Giotto's tower. They also spent a day in Siena, which provided a contrast, and travelled up to Fiesole to enjoy the view over Florence and explore the Roman amphitheatre.

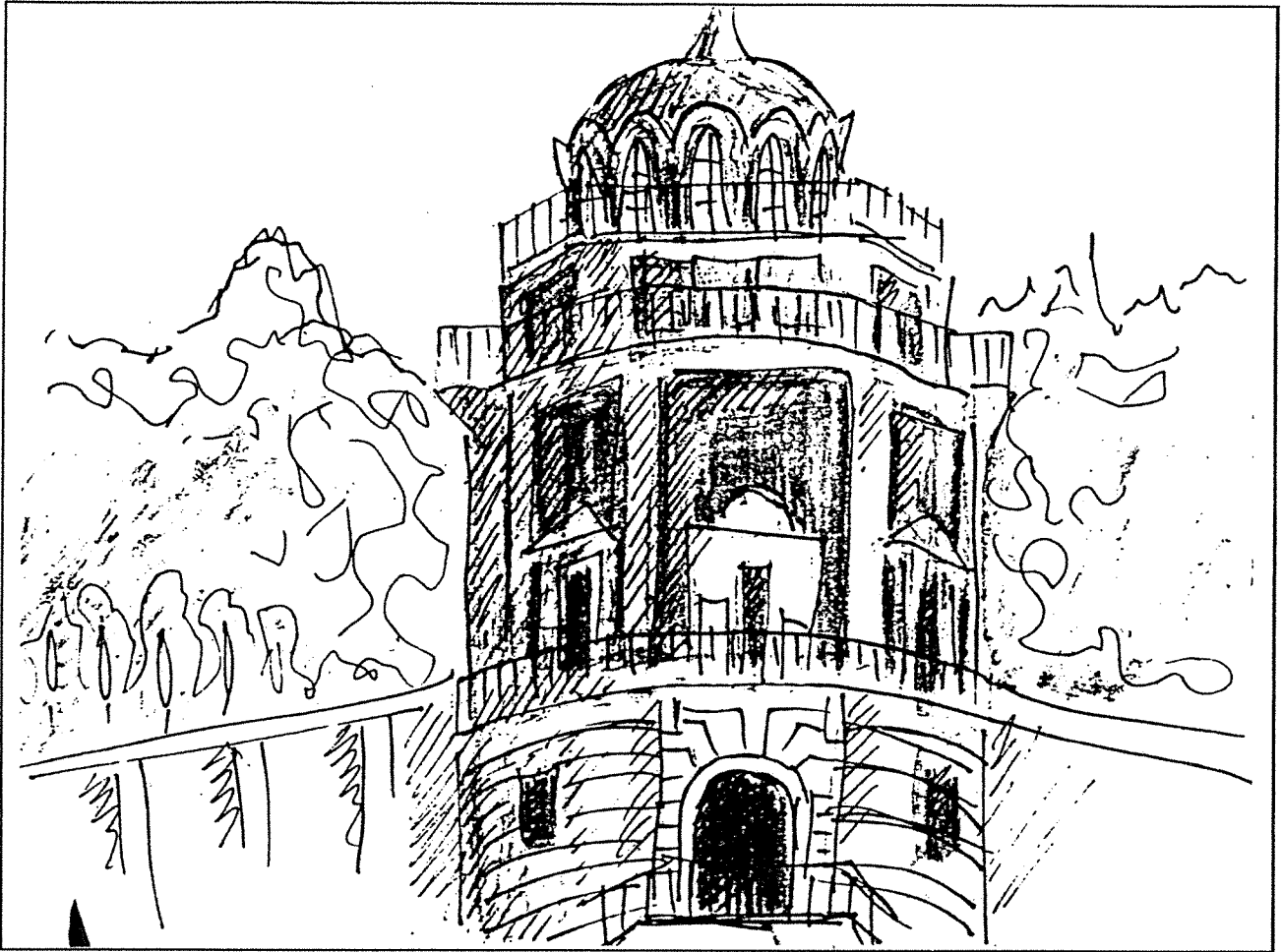
The sketchbooks, recording the sights in pictures and annotations; photographs and resulting artwork produced a stunning display of work in the Carnavon Centre on Speech Day. Some sketches can be seen on the Inside Pages. Thanks are due to Miss McKenna and all the staff for such an exciting and stimulating, yet relaxing excursion.

Some of the group relaxing



INSIDE PAGES

BOBOLI GARDENS



Tom Wilson (Year 13)

“GOBBET”

Hearing laughter, can be heard
in the distance,
Walking into a crowd,
Wanting to know what's happening,
Suddenly there's silence,
Everyone staring at me -
'What have I done?'
"Let's Play Gobbet!"
Shouted the 'Leader'
'What is a Gobbet? I
Have not heard a word like
Gobbet!'
Everyone got in a circle around me
And got closer, closer
Chanting the word I do not
Know what it even means,
Gobbet, gobbet, gobbet . . .
I shouted,
"What is a Gobbet?"
Everyone starts to laugh.
Laugh, laugh, laugh.
"He does not know what a

GOBBET is!"
More laughter
Laughter, laughter, laughter . . .
I hate those two words!
Gobbet and laughter,
Even though I do not know
What a Gobbet is,
As the 'Leader' shouted,
It made me jump,
"This is a Gobbet"
He picked a lump of food
'A Gobbet?'
And threw it -
Splat! It dripped from
My clothes
I ran away from the crowd,
"Why did I join the crowd?"
Just to get a Gobbet,
No, No, No!
Not that word again!"
Gobbet, Gobbet, Gobbet
The words echoed in my mind.

I walked back, laughing
Back in the crowd.
Silence.
Everyone was surprised to see me,
Laughing,
I picked up a lump of food,
Behind my back,
And shouted
"This is a Gobbet!"
As I threw the lump of food
In the 'Leader's face,
Everyone ran away
Just to get away from me -
Now I like the word
Gobbet, Gobbet, Gobbet
Echoed in the side of my
mind,
Gobbet, Gobbet, Gobbet!

by Anna McCabe (Year 10)

A MODERN WITCHES' CHANT

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

A microwaved hamster is a sure thing
If you add it with a Scorpion's sting.

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

Brain of a monkey and elephant skin
Served with rum and a mouthful of gin.

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

Maggots fried in cows manure
And dog's sweat served in a glass of gore.

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

Chewy earmoulds covered in wax
Cooked with mice and a load of rats

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

Stewed eyes in blood and sweat,
These are things you'll never forget.

Yum! Yum! Bubble Gum,
Look out tum, coz here we come!

Krystal Carey (Year 9)

GOING DUTCH!

Miss Sophie Stone interviewing Mr Michael van Dorth

Sophie: I hear you are from Amsterdam, is that right?

Michael: No, I'm not from Amsterdam, I was born in Arnhem. This is the city of the movie in "A bridge too far". I study in a place called Nymegen, and lived in Utrecht before my studies. This is in the middle of Holland.

Sophie: So what exactly is your study? Being in Amsterdam must be a place of excitement, so what brings you here to the ol' green pastures of England?

Michael: I study an area which is related to the study of the social world or community work in England. But my study has got a strong element of management in it.

Sophie: Sounds snooty! So what about a girl? Being a nosey parker as I am. May I ask if there's a love of your life at the mo? If not, then I'm sure there's a list of some buried in my attic somewhere!

Michael: Yes, I have got a love of my life.

Sophie: That's a relief - saves a couple of quid in cleaning the cobwebs off the new shirt I bought yesterday! - So what's so great about England? Any comparison to the old Dutch horns?



Michael: You can't compare the Dutch horns to the old chap bowler hats. Yours are black and ours are white and besides they've got a different shape. I like the landscapes and I like the language. I really like to go to a pub, but they close so early here. In Holland you can drink a cold beer till three or four o'clock in the morning.

Sophie: Sounds tiring - talking of being tired - yawn - I feel a little sleepy myself. Maybe I'll get a few good hours kip and party all day tomorrow (scoff!) oh, just one more thing . . . Are you leaving soon? If you are, everyone here will miss you, you've kinda grown on us if you know what I mean! And who will teach us to speak or even dance in Dutch?

Michael: I think that is a big compliment and I really appreciate it. I'm only here now for a bit more than four months. I will leave when everyone is leaving for the great Summer holiday. I wish you a good night's rest and will serve another hot chocolate!

Sophie: Gee, thanks! What a nice bloke(!) Bit of a strange dancer though! Guess not everyone's perfect!

STATUE IN A CHURCH IN SIENA



Isabel Meacher (Year 12)

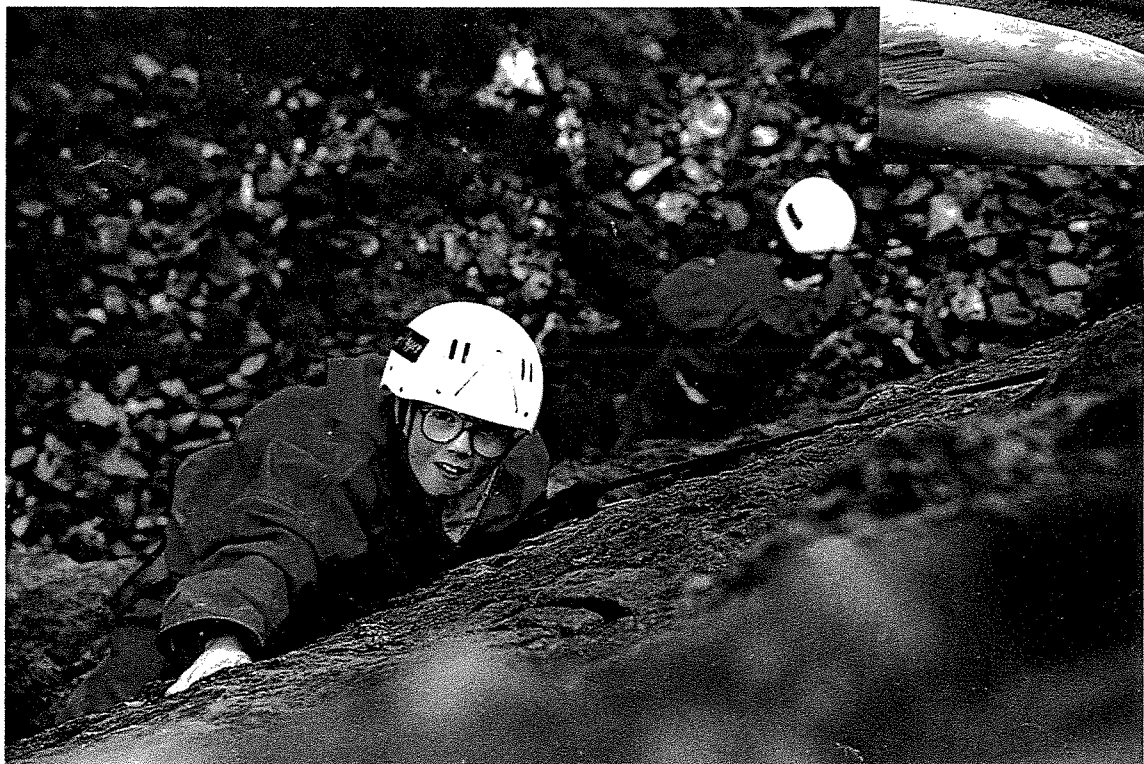
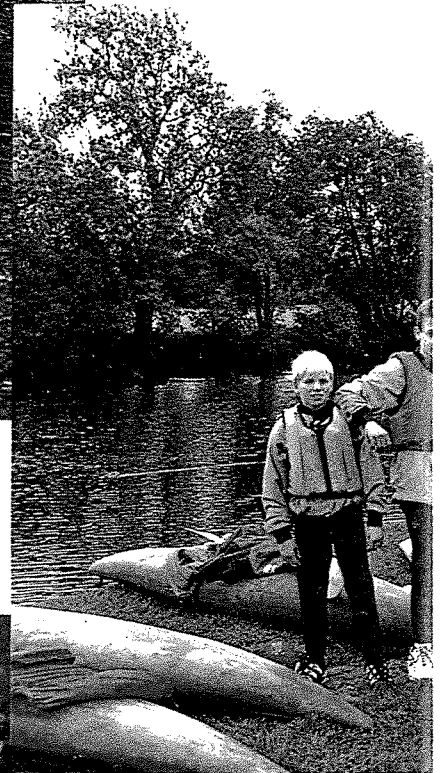
INSIDE PAGES

Details from a door in the Pitti Palace by Clare Heaton (Year 12)



CENTRE PAGES

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CENTRE PAGES

bad '96



INSIDE PAGES

ROLLING MILLS

The helmeted sixth form chemists in the photograph are at the Llanwern Steel works in South Wales. Their visit was to study location of industrial sites, uses of raw materials and maximising by-products. They also saw the hot rolling mill which was in the process of trying to break a world record - it was very hot and noisy. Later they visited the cold rolling mill and Zodiac galvanising plant.

Fiona, Heather, Matthew, Martin and Sam



BALLOONING

Last at Mary Hare three years ago, Lloyds Bank balloon team paid us a further visit recently. After explaining to year 8 and 9 the specific needs for the materials used in the envelope and basket, the team inflated the balloon on the field. The blustery wind added to the excitement as the mass of hot air billowed around and then the pupils were able to help deflate and roll up the fabric. Many thanks to Lloyds Bank and the Virgin Balloon Company.



AN EVENTFUL TIME

Departing in the early hours of one Saturday morning, thirty year 10 pupils studying French, three sixth formers and five staff travelled directly to Paris where they spent their first day on a Bateau Mouche on the River Seine, climbing the Eiffel Tower and visiting La Musee d'Orsay.

After a night in a hotel outside Paris the group moved on to Bayeux to see the famous 900 year old tapestry. They then stayed in a chateau before going to Rouen to renew acquaintances with friends from the Mary Hare sister school for the deaf at Canteleu. (Mary Hare parents may be interested and perhaps alarmed to know that the French Government are closing all special schools.)

The activities for the day had to be cut short after a road accident in which a car ran into the side of the school coach. Fortunately no injuries were reported, but it took over an hour to fill in all the required paperwork. Also included in the trip were a goats cheese farm and a hypermarket.

The return journey did not pass without incident - a minor fire on the ferry had the passengers on alert and the crew at muster stations for half an hour. So after an eventful, but thankfully safe four exciting days, the party returned to school much inspired.

J. Wyman

INSIDE PAGES

A SAFE, FUN WEEK

A report from Alicia Burzynska (Year 9)

Wednesday 9th October - This was the day I had been dreading. I had to do caving. I hate small spaces - in other words I hate caves (I mean can you blame me!). I guess I got a bit freaked out at the last minute but Fiona and Andy (people from the hostel) and Kevin (a care staff from Mansell who came with us) were informed to watch out for me if I got just a little too scared (which I did! A lot!).

So here's how the day went - First we entered a huge cave to get used to the torch light on our helmets. Then the first big challenge. The 'death ledge'. It was also the scariest. Kevin was behind me checking on me every so often to check I was all right.

I had to lie on my stomach and push myself along with the tips of my toes, (not easy if you have massive wellies on!). OK so I admit I started crying but I was well scared, it was such a cramped place but I survived!

I also went into the letter box. Not much different, just a little quicker. And last of all after wandering around the caves we came to the washing machine!! The washing machine was a small cave with rushing water rushing through it. You just sat in it and let the water carry you through. And the water was freezing!! But it was worth it. At the end of the day I felt really good because I'd done some thing I never thought I'd do.

It was just lucky I was told the things about people drowning in the caves after I'd come out!

But I'd like to say thanks to everyone who was in my group including staff for being great! It was really strange because the boys actually bothered to keep coming up to me and saying "are you alright?" "I'm right behind if you want help etc." You'd think they would just laugh at you but if you come to think of it all the activities we did in Tirabad had to be done sensibly. You could still have fun but had to be responsible and help others etc in order to have a safe fun week. And I'm glad to say we did have a fun, safe week and I and every one else were proud to say we've done things we thought we'd never do! And now we have.

SELF AWARENESS WALES

Ben Palmer's account

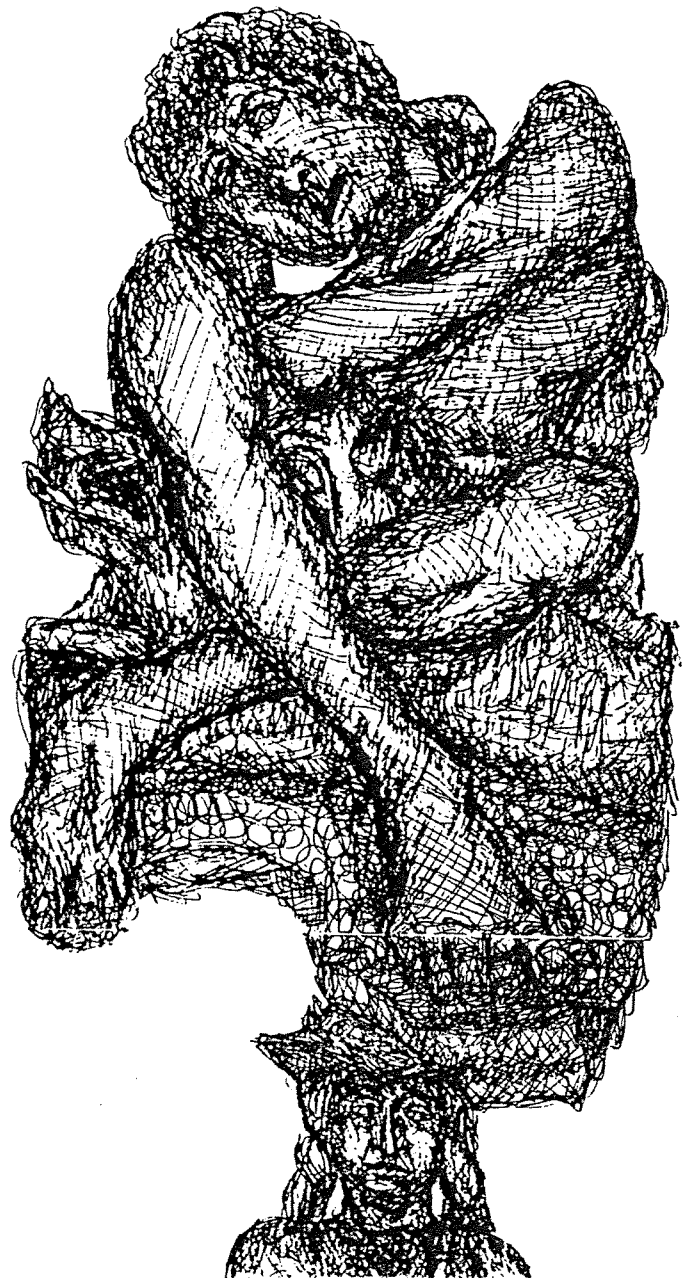
When we headed off for Wales, we were excited at the prospect of learning new things. In a way we were nervous that we would make a fool of ourselves, We were excited about all the activities.

My worst achievement was orienteering and caving but funnily enough my best achievement was going caving. Because I had been claustrophobic before so when I entered I put all thoughts away of my fears; now I've overcome my fear and my other achievement was on the last day. We went for an adventure walk. I expected to be panting and sweating at the end of the day, but on the contrary I had never felt better in my life. The air was much cleaner than England's air was. It was definitely greener, in fact I think there is more green in Wales than England.

I was surprised how we helped each other very much. I expected that the boys would have been racing for first place instead they helped each other to get there. I think the best achievement was done by Bethan because despite her fear of fishes she still jumped in the river on the last day! Also I laughed when Bethan went to canoeing because when she

capsized she had thought the river was deep so when she touched the floor she thought it was a fish! She was screaming! Also Sean surprised me while orienteering because he didn't know the difference between North and South because he went in the wrong direction for an hour! If I could go again I would change something - the heat! It was absolutely freezing and washing machines, there weren't any! Some newspapers and a T.V. with intelligible subtitles!!!

DRAWINGS IN THE BARGELLO



Oliver Harland (Year 13)

INSIDE PAGES

THE AFTERMATH OF XMAS

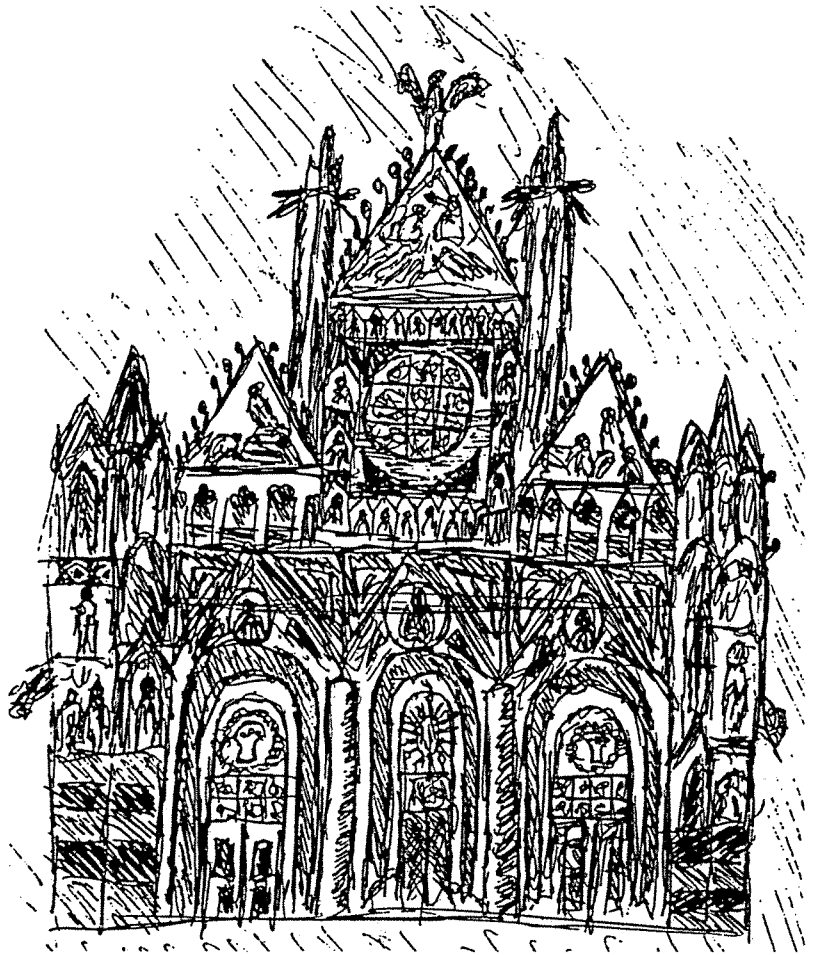
For the tenth day in a row
I eat a cold turkey sandwich.
Aunty Ethel's polyester socks,
3 sizes too small for me,
Lie disused amongst my presents
As I listen to the CD I got,
Chewing away to the music
With overtones of parental dissent
Reaching a frenzied screaming climax
As the turkey blindly looks on.
Little brothers and sisters crying -
They've broken their toys.
The phone is ringing . . .
Ringing . . . ringing - click -
Silence.
A brief "Hell-o!"
It is Uncle Fred. Are we alright?
Are we enjoying ourselves?
Wasn't Barry Manilow superb
Last night, as was the Queen?
No.
Not today, Uncle Fred.
The aftermath of Xmas.
If I see another mince pie I will hurl it.
Emma Rawson (Year 10)

STATUE OF MARY



Lisa Townsend (Year 13)

SIENA CATHEDRAL



Andrew Reid (Year 12)

THE JAGUAR

Creeping through the wilderness,
The Jaguar looks on.
It approaches its prey
Ever so silently, quietly.

Snap goes a twig.
The Jaguar stops, ears pointed,
Eyes glistening
In the moonlight.

Strong, brave, fearless,
The Jaguar continues
Looking very contented,
About to leap, its strong feet show.

The deer eats the sweet, soft grass,
Not knowing it's the Jaguar's prey.
The Jaguar jumps, and lands with a heavy thud,
The deer in its jaws.

Strong sudden movements,
The deer is still alive.
The Jaguar lifts its paw
And strikes.

The deer is dead.
The Jaguar eats.
This quaint but deadly animal
Has succeeded.

Connell McGinley (Year 9)

INSIDE PAGES

POEMS BY BETHAN STEPHENS (Year 9)

WAITING

The room is so quiet - a deathly hush has fallen
We all wait expectantly,
Each one of us conscious of it, each aware
Of what we are waiting for.
Oh, how quiet it is. So cold, so still . . .
The time goes by so slowly,
And we all seem to be asking
each other an unspoken
question -
"What if he doesn't come?"
But now . . . we hear footsteps
Steady, unhurried footsteps slowly
coming nearer and nearer.
And a rattle cuts the silence sharply.
The door knob turns.
All eyes are on it fearfully, waiting
for the blow.
Was it going to be the right person?
It opens, a shadowy figure outlines
the doorway.
The cue has come, we all
Spring to our feet and shout:
"Happy Birthday!"

RAIN

Rain is beautiful, almost ethereal to me
When it rains, the glistening drops plip-plopping.
The air is so clean and clear that I want to be
Out there, being wild, even dancing and hopping
About, making a fool of myself but I don't care.

It's so special, it has a fascination about it
That claims me its prisoner with little trouble
At night it's so utterly beautiful, with a light lit
I'm drinking it all up and I think I'm seeing double.

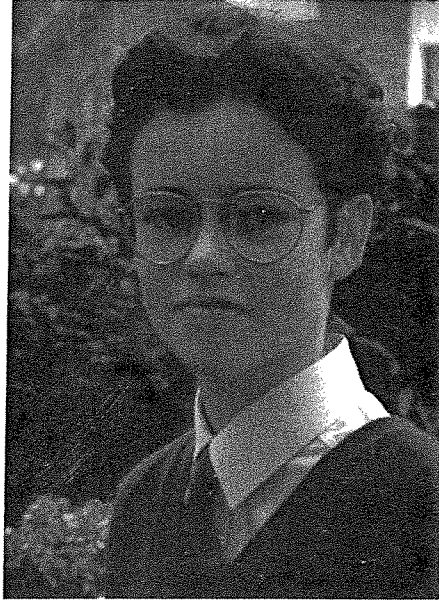
As I have to remind myself what the reality holds
If a world dominated by society and such,
Torn by prejudice and Man's greed for gold
But now, I must not think of that, at least do that much
For surely this is a moment that should be treasured.

I watch the shining drops fall lightly onto the trees
They slip off the green leaves onto drenched people
on their way
Causing much shivering and hurrying away to be free
Of the so called wretched rain - but not me, I say.
This scene is so arresting though and I need to
get out there.

As I go out, it's so fresh and the mass of colour
Is so vivid and deep, the sky is blue and the sun
Is shining. I feel like a knight noted for valour
Coming out of a battle triumphant, the enemy, he stuns
So glorious and symbolic, he is upon his mighty steed.

I walk along, my shoes squishing in the mud
Coming to a pond I stand watching the pools
That the driving rain has made, I study a small bud
And think how delicate it is in this world of fools.

The rain drives down madly, one might say a god being rude.
Causing some farmer such extreme joy that he will
even kneel
To the mighty Rain who gives us our daily food
But also heedless of the controversy, elsewhere it feels
I stand there in the midst of the pouring rain and I think.



SLEEPLESSNESS

The lights go out and night falls,
My worst enemy is now sleep.
I stare at grim forbidding walls
My thoughts come to me in a heap,
I'm falling way out of my depth.

My mind is screaming for peace,
Why me, I think, why me?
To me, there is oppressive heat
Clogging my senses, killing me
It's all too much, I can't take it.

Moonlight shines upon my face
And now I'm calm and at ease
Silvery moonlight, like lace
Plays upon a surface, then ceases
My eyelids feel so heavy.

My body relaxes, tension gone.
I fall into a dreamlike trance
That clashes with earlier thoughts done,
And I lead a wild dance,
Around Dreamland, fears forgotten.

THE STREET

The street is deserted, empty and strange.
Unkept, derelict houses rank on each side
With grimy broken windows, a whole range.
And I can't help but feel nervous with no guide
To lead me safely through this God forsaken place.

Then suddenly I see faces staring at me,
Thin, piteously maligned, dirty faces,
Eyes boring into me, begging for some fee.
For, according to them I'm part of a different race
Unknown - my way of life is almost a fantasy.

My clothes are clean, theirs are ragged and torn.
I accept that my food will be on my table
They don't know where their food will come from next morn.
To me, this situation represents a fable
That God - or someone - is trying to teach me.

Part of me is sorry, another is cold.
My emotions are mixed, should I not help?
Look at them, I tell myself - give them something -
bread or gold.
I have second thoughts as an undersized child yelps.
I walk away, I know I'm cold and callous, but what can I do?

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A LARGE POT OF COFFEE

In October Mary Hare pupils and staff were excited to be one of 12,000 centres taking part in a world record breaking coffee morning to raise money for MacMillan Nurses, who provide respite care for cancer patients and their families. Coffee, squash and biscuits were served at breaktime and the school raised £250 towards the massive national total, which will probably be over £2 million.



Year 9 and prefects raise their cups for MacMillan nurses

DIDN'T WE HAVE A LOVELY TIME . . . ?

Quotes from year 7 reports on their trip to Marwell Zoo.

Some of the animals were smelly, I don't like that smell.

I stroked a goat.

Some was boring, but most was good.

We saw snow leopards, which has beautiful skin and got a long tail to balance.

It was good fun.

I was so excited to see the animals.

I stroked a snake (sic).

Mr. Goodwin lent me £1.

I enjoyed it.

I liked the Jaguar best.

The giraffes was very tall but smelly.

I didn't buy anything because I had no money.

The lady said the people cut off animal skins for making carpets, coats, gloves, boots and clothes.

I am just about the same size as the giraffes' long legs.

Sometimes people hurt animals just for fun. That is very cruel of them. I would not do that to them. Would you?

As always prep after Marwell is a poster competition.

Congratulations to prize winners - EMILY MEACHER, MICHAEL CLARK and runners up STEPHEN COLLINS, RACHEL HUMPHRIES, ANDREW CULVER, RACHEL WIEHL.

GEOGRAPHERS DO IT ALL WEEK!

Wyld Court Rain Forest, Sean Connery, Emma Rawson, Popcorn and Snelsmore Common all featured in the Geography Action Week in November as part of a national event to promote the subject in schools.

The staff wore badges with catchy slogans, year 9 explored the misty rain forest and year 8 the local heathland. The film 'Medicine Man' attracted an audience one evening (or was it the free popcorn).

Ongoing events included a "Where in the World?" quiz and a Geological "Name the rocks" competition - both were run by Emma Rawson (year 10) - well done. And a lot of fun was had by all - we look forward to next year.

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

BOXXING CLEVER

An innovative design for a lunch box produced by a company calling themselves "BOXX" won the most orders at the buyers' convention at the end of this year's Business and Enterprise Sixth Form Conference. The team of Sam Seaver, Nicky Cutajar, Clare Heaton, Mark Nelson, James Bainbridge and five pupils from Park House and Theale Green Schools flooded the market with advertising on the first day to raise their profile, thus stealing the initiative.

The best business plan was judged to be "Jigger" with their novelty box and the best display stand went to "Sub-Zero" with their exciting computer graphics to sell a drinks cooler combined with a radio.

Over 150 students took part from the three schools and generous sponsorship was given by Newbury Road Table, Newbury District Council, West Berkshire Education and Business Partnership, Thames Valley Enterprise, Saltire Management, Esso, Marks & Spencer, Datarange and Avco Trust. Thanks to the sponsors and representatives who gave their time to guide the teams and adjudicate. Thanks to Mrs Wilding for organising it again.

GOOD PERFORMANCES

This winter term has been dominated by cross-country. All pupils from years 7-10 have worked hard, and shown improved running times in lessons. It is interesting to note that in the House Cross-Country, the first 4 runners home in the junior girls race clocked faster times than the winner of the senior girls Cross-Country race, over the same distance. The lesson here is; training and practice pay off.

In the House Cross-Country, overall winner was Beverley House. Individual winners were:-

Junior Boys: Stuart Callan (Yr 9) Junior Girls: Clare Davies (Yr 8) Senior Girls: Katy Wood (Yr 10) Senior Boys: Richard Dougherty (Yr 13)

It was very pleasing to see good performances from Anthony Sinclair (3rd place) in his first Cross-Country event. Sarah Hill-Tout placed 11th in Junior girls. Well done.

FRIENDLIES. We have played very little soccer this term. Other schools play rugby, we do not. However the juniors enjoyed a friendly fixture against Langley Grammar School. The U14s lost 3 - 2, throwing away a 2 - 0 lead, and the U12s lost 6 - 3 levelling the game at 3 - 3 after being 0 - 3 down.

The 1st XI and 2nd XI have played a handful of friendlies in preparation for next term's league matches. Results have been mixed, Mr Gwynn and Kevin Walker are still looking for the right balance in the team.

PASS THE BALL. This is a fairly new activity to us. We have entered an U16 team in a Newbury league. The year 10 and 11 boys have responded well to training and practice, so far we have played two and lost two! Despite that we have passed the ball around well, Michael Penfold is top scorer so far, and Bassim and Greg work hard to give us height and strength. More hard games next term!!

NEWBURY FOOTBALL LEAGUES. This year we have entered 3 teams in the local leagues, U13 (Yr 7 & 8), U14 (Yr 9) and U16 (Yrs 10 & 11). How we will get all the fixtures in I don't know. There is a lot of work to do to bring up our standard of play.

In amongst all this activity there will also be several hockey and swimming fixtures.

D. Galbraith

Sam Seaver sells a Boxx to Mr. Baker



A NETFUL OF ENTHUSIASM

The girls have practised and played netball with much enthusiasm, but mixed success.

Under 12

The majority of year 7 have regularly attended practices and in their one fixture against St. Joseph's won one and drew a second match. Keep it up, girls!

Under 13

In their second season this team have won 1, drawn 1 and lost 2.

Under 15

A team drawn from year 9 and 10 have experimented with numerous position changes, but in competition with strong teams entirely from year 10 in other schools have had little success, losing all five of their matches.

Senior A and B

These teams are increasingly experienced and improving. In their 8 matches however they have enjoyed only one win.

Don't lose heart girls, keep up the enthusiasm and practice - success will come your way.

HOUSE NETBALL

A keen competition resulted in success overall for Mary Hare, with Beverley, Braidwood and Arnold providing good opposition.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Last year's hockey season was very successful and as the season gets into full swing we hope to report further wins this year. So far four matches have been played on the all weather pitch - won 1, drawn 2, lost 1.

GOOD LUCK THIS TERM.

E. Cookson

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MESSING ABOUT IN A RIVER SCREAM

Having been told that A-level Biology fieldwork is very exhausting and extremely hard work, Heather, Hamish, Martin and Sam set off for a week in Wales with a certain amount of trepidation. However the weather was kind, the Field Centre tutors brilliant and with the enthusiasm of the students the week flew by, even though we were working 14 hour days for a week. (This equates to 3/4 yr study on a normal school schedule!) No limpet, dogwhelk, seaweed or saltmarsh was left uninspected; no temperature, pH, incline or speed left unmeasured: the whole week's work covered a huge range of topics and impressed upon us all the many and varied ways in which Biology impinges upon our lives. The students found that during the week many of the separate topics taught at school began to slot into place and 'once difficult' ideas became more understandable.

I would like to thank John Boyd for all the wonderful photos he took and thank everyone for their unfailing good humour and dedication which made this trip so successful.

C. Burroughs

The Museum of Modern Art in Oxford was the destination for the A-level art group in September when they visited the controversial "Scream & Scream" exhibition. A show through the media of film and video, it proved to be a challenging and exciting experience.

The art and design students also viewed the emaciated figurative sculptures of Giacometti at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. These fascinating sculptures range from a few centimetres to four metres tall.

At the same time the "Living Bridges" exhibition of architecture connected with structures across water proved to be most unusual.

The whole presentation was built around a model of the River Thames flowing through the rooms of the gallery.

Mrs Burroughs, Martin, Hamish, Sam & Heather



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