

CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 1996

OPERATIONS IN BELIZE

Head Girl, Rebecah Taylor, from Richmond in Yorkshire is wrapped up against the cold but looking forward to a much warmer time in Belize, Central America. She has been chosen from thousands of applicants from all over the country to take part in the 1997 Operation Raleigh.

The selection weekend was challenging in itself with exercises in teamwork and problem solving. Profoundly deaf Rebecah said that the other youngsters initially seemed reluctant to talk to her, but gradually she helped them understand the need to face her while speaking. One of the most difficult sessions was trusting others while blind-folded!

She has to raise a total of £3,000 towards the adventure and is grateful for all the donations she has received from parents of pupils and friends. Rebecah has also been supported by pupils dancing the night away in a 12 hour sponsored disco and was delighted to receive a £200 cheque from the Regency Park Hotel in Thatcham after local press publicity.

She is very excited by the prospect of the trip and hopes to be involved in one or more of several projects in the area, including surviving in the rain forest and studying the second largest barrier reef in the world.

(Congratulations on your selection, Rebecah and best wishes in your A-levels - Ed.)



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EXCELLING IN WORK!

Nathan Ford from Year 11 made this year's work experience even more successful than usual by winning a top award for the quality of his log book recording his week's work. Out of over 1,500 entries from all around Newbury just 13 were selected for certificates and Nathan was chosen as a joint winner with Nathan Mills from Park House School.



Nathan is pictured third from the right in the back row next to Lyn Hargood (Education & Business Partnership) and Alistair Olgivie of Lloyds Bank who sponsored the award. Well done, Nathan.

PUPILS COMMENDED

Pupils who have achieved housepoint targets and been commended are Jordan Fenlon (Year 10), Aaron Miller (Year 9), Radha Manjeshwar (Year 9), Oliver Eadsforth (Year 7), Nicholas Gregory (Year 9), Davina Davies (Year 9) and Daniel Gower (Year 11). Each has received a certificate and a book token. Well done!

MOSEL VALLEY

Twenty-two GNVQ Art and Business pupils spent five days exploring the Mosel/Rhine Valley to satisfy the requirements of their course.

It was an excellent trip with amazing sights - i.e. the amount of goods used and transported by barge on the Rhine; the exhausting 500 stair climb to the top of the Cologne Cathedral; the Andy Warhol exhibition. The Ford Factory where we saw raw steel made into cars and the many beautiful castles. A memorable visit - particularly for the leaving pupils.

Mrs. J. Coombes

SURVIVAL

All Year 10 pupils did a Personal Survival Swimming course before Christmas. We would like to congratulate all those who passed. Level One certificates were achieved by the following:- Angela Spielsinger, Daniel Webster, Matthew Fenlon, Katherine Rodgers, Samantha Caiels, Katherine Roach, Thomas Beattie.

Well done to you all.

SOMETHING NEW

Over the last few weeks the Boards of Governors of Mill Hall and Mary Hare Schools have been discussing ways in which they might further strengthen their already strong relationships. Of particular concern has been the best ways of securing, in the long term, the future of Mill Hall and to provide the opportunity for young deaf children to have access to an oral education. This may include relocation of the primary school to a site at Greenham near Newbury. Full details will be released in due course but all parents may be assured that the interests of all pupils in both schools are of paramount importance.

INSIDE PAGES

DRINKS ON THE BEACH

An exciting two day conference for Mary Hare Sixth Formers together with Theale Green School and Queen Anne's School, Caversham was held in February.

The Business and Enterprise Technology theme stimulated pupils to design and market their own ideas and products working in teams to tight deadlines. It was also an opportunity for our Mary Hare students to integrate with and educate pupils from other schools.

The photograph shows Tyseer Haniff with a colleague from Queen Anne's school and their silent keyboard for finger exercises, other products included a drinks cooler for the beach (if we have another hot summer) and a floating noughts & crosses board.

Mrs. Gill Wilding said it has been a complete success "We had nothing but good reports and we hope to do it again".

She also wishes to thank the sponsors Newbury Building Society, Newbury Round Table, Newbury Education & Business Partnership, Thames Valley Enterprises and Avco Trust plc and the individuals who provided practical and financial support.



OPEN ALL HOURS!

May Bank Holiday is an Open Day at Mary Hare - if you are interested in seeing classes in action, displays of work, professional artists in residence working at the school or just finding out more, please contact the school office.

ARNOLD TRIUMPH

The level of skills shown in the senior school hockey team has been excellent this term with only one loss against the other local schools. This was reflected in the high standards in the house hockey tournament in which the seniors played in seven-a-side mixed teams and the juniors as all-girl teams.

The final results overall were:

- 1st Arnold
- 2nd Beverley
- 3rd Braidwood
- 4th Mary Hare

This success, together with a good term in the housepoints competitions, pushes Arnold to the top of the championship.

INSIDE PAGES

A MOMENT IN TIME



Photograph by Matthew Robak (Year 12) as part of his A-level project 'Movement and Stillness'

Two Year 7 pupils describe their visit to Reading Museum:

MOSAICS

I thought the Reading Museum was quite good. We went there to find out more about the Romans and where they lived. Also what they wore in those days. At the beginning we had to do these activities.

The first activity was trying on Roman clothes and shoes. I enjoyed trying on the toga but not trying on the shoes. They were awful on your feet and very tight.

Activity two was to separate the Roman pottery from the non-Roman pottery. I found that quite boring because it was very easy, once Karim read out the clues and because some of the pieces were not supposed to be in the box.

The third activity was to make a mosaic. There were some clues about how to make them and ideas as well.

We then went on to the Gallery where we did this work sheet and looked around and we also smelled spices and played a game like noughts and crosses and wrote our name in Roman. My group didn't get time to finish the sheet for we had to go to the shop although my group stayed working a little longer than anyone else, then it was time to go.

Anthony Venus (Year 7)

ROMAN GAMES

On the 17th January, Year 7 went to the Reading Museum to look at the Romans. It was really interesting. First we looked around and this lady told us a bit about it. Then we played some of the games - it was fun. For example, we tried to make mosaics. We made different patterns and it was enjoyable. Then we tried making a channel out of pipes. This was how Romans heated their buildings. We played Nine Men's Morris which is a Roman game. Then we tried to make a small Roman bridge and then walk over it to see if it was strong enough - it wasn't. We then put some Roman pots together and smelt some Roman spices. They were awful.

Next we tried to spell our names in Roman letters and we even tried on some Roman clothes. They were a bit big on me and I nearly tripped over because of the long cloak. That's all we did in the games department. Then we went upstairs to look around and we had a question sheet that we had to answer. It was hard but I enjoyed it very much. We had questions about coins and spices and kitchen things and even what job they had. We even had to find all the huts and temples from a not very clear map. It was very interesting though. We couldn't finish it because we didn't have enough time because it took the coach so long to get there but we had fun while we could. After that we went downstairs to the gift shop and bought little gifts.

It was really interesting. I would love to go and finish it off some time because it was really good.

Christopher Abey (Year 7)

INSIDE PAGES

A FULL ITINERARY

Half past four in the morning and Year 10 GCSE French students and 7WW were woken to begin the twelve hour journey to France. We took the main roads to Folkestone to take the Channel Tunnel where our ears were popping with pressure.

After a quiz in the evening at the Chateau du Molay our first day was finished and the next few days soon flew by.

The first day we saw the Bayeux Tapestry and the concrete floating harbour left from the D-Day landings. We had fun in the evening with treasure hunts and karaoke.

The second day was just as busy. Firstly to the impressive Rouen Cathedral and a visit to the deaf school at Canteleu. It was fascinating to find that the French students take such an interest in our British sports. We asked them many questions.

The long journey home was relieved by the driver, Phil's tapes. Nicola Hewish and Chalk-Lai Wan's version of Michael Jackson's "Earth Song" will always stick in my memory.

Now there's plenty to catch up on and some teachers have said they never even missed us!

Michael Penfold (Year 10) - adapted by Miss J. Wyman and Editor.



Year 7 and Year 10
at the D-Day beaches

CHATEAU RAP

Driver Phil he said "Blast!"
"It's 5 a.m. not half past!"
Where are they, they're not here
I'll go off and have a beer!"

Down to Folkestone for the train
"You're all mad, it's very plain,
It's quicker by far to go by bateau,
If you're going to the Chateau!"

Cinema a Arromanche
Sur le matin de dimanche,
A Bayeux tapisserie
Au marche patisserie

A love-struck French boy lost his heart
To an English rose not a French tart.
Mrs. W hoped he was following her
NOT Samantha with the long blonde hair.

Poulet roti, gratinee,
Au Chateau du Molay,
Signature, extincteur,
Coca, mars mais non fumeur.

"A suspender belt" asked Michael P?
"I'll explain, first listen to me,"
Said Nicola Hewish being flighty
Who later that eve lost her nightie.

Michael dressed up, so did Rory
And Debbie Wilkins in all her glory.
Nicola's "Earth Song", Henry's chicken,
Who really won yesterday's competition?

Mr. Owen at a very late hour
Saw Yvette run for the shower,
He was embarrassed, turned very red
He thought the girls were all in bed.

Miss Wyman, our nurse with her pills and potions,
Bonjela, eye drops and soothing lotions.
Mrs. Roberts having a good time
No chocolates, sweets but plenty of wine.

Thanks to Claire and barmaid Zoe
For looking after us
And to Phil who drank some beer
And also drove the bus*.

Now thanks to all, specially Mrs. P**
She got us up but served no tea.
She's led this trip for many years
So let's all give her three big cheers.

* but not at the same time!

** Mrs. Pocock

Mr. C. Owen and Mrs. S. Roberts

THE REAL THING

On Sunday afternoon we all went to see the Bayeux Tapestry in France. First of all, we went to see a copy of the Bayeux Tapestry. It explained the story before we went to see the real Bayeux Tapestry.

We went to see the model of William, King of England. We saw a model of small houses and small, tiny people. It was lovely. We went to watch a very big television, like the cinema and we watched about the real Bayeux Tapestry. There were two women like ghosts talking about the Bayeux Tapestry.

Then we were ready to see the real one. There was glass covering it, to preserve it. We saw a very long sewing and we had never seen anything like it in our lives!

My favourite picture is King Edward when he told William that he will be the next King of England and Harold promised William will be the next King of England (but King Harold was lying to William).

The colours were brown/light brown, light/dark green, red, black, blue, cream, white and light/dark yellow in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Tracey Spielsinger (Year 7)

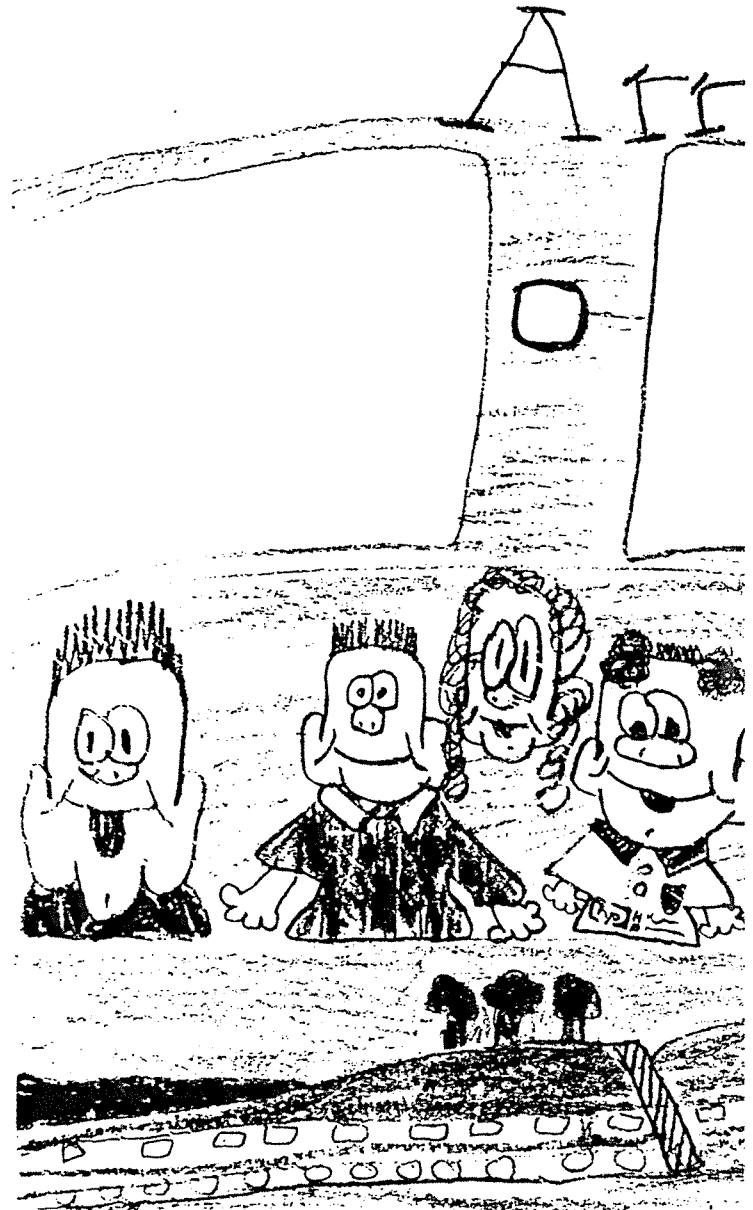
On Sunday afternoon we went to see the Bayeux Tapestry. First, Mrs. Roberts paid for us to go in. We had a look at a copy of the tapestry to tell us the story about it. Then we had a look at the model houses and castles. Then there was a film about the Bayeux Tapestry. Then we had a look at the real Bayeux Tapestry!

I was talking with Miss Wyman all the way and there were lots of nice pictures and some had rude men on! I enjoyed looking at the tapestry because it was interesting and I liked it best of all.

We went to the shop to have a look and there were lots of nice things. Mrs. Roberts got us a copy of the Bayeux Tapestry made out of paper which has the same picture as the real Bayeux Tapestry. The tapestry was seventy metres long and one and a half metres wide and then we had a look around the shops outside.

Adele Greer (Year 7)

TAPISS



Alan

Rory

Mrs.

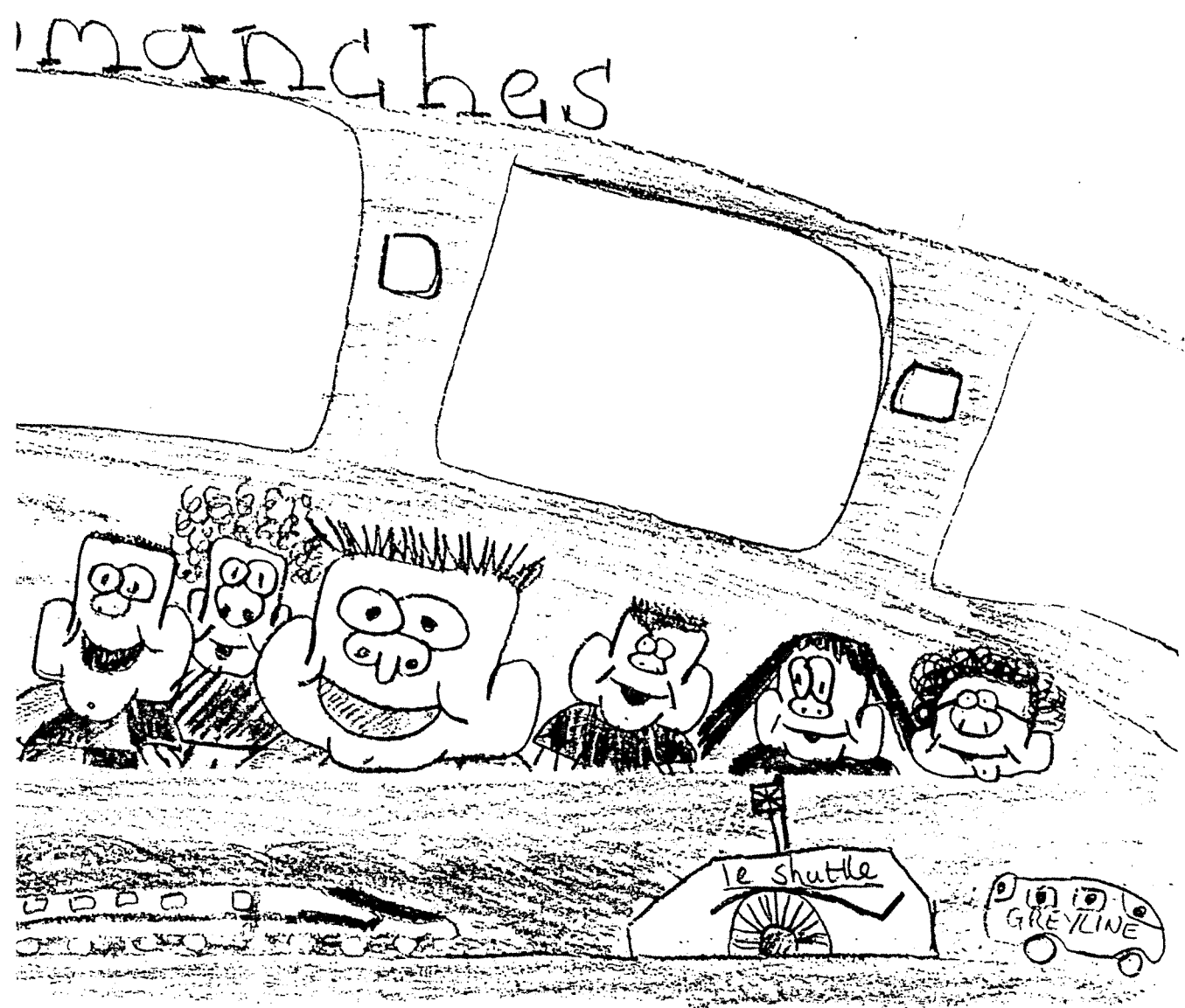
Robi

Whitehead

CENTRE PAGES

7WW ON LE SHUTTLE by Alan Wright (Year 7)

ERIE DE MARY HARE



Leigh Leona Graham Duncan Adele Tracey

INSIDE PAGES

AT WAR

Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum for an inter-active experience of life in the trenches.

Gavin Lilley tells his own story.

C.1914 - "We were woken up at 7.30 hours, had a breakfast of bacon and beans, followed by cold toast, got tidied up, checked uniform. All OK. The King's Own Men, Battalion IX trooped to the lorry which was to take us to the ultimate front. It was a terrible journey, shells blasting here and there, British people passing us, running or walking. Eventually we got there. We had to keep our heads down. A man instructed us to keep in order. We all put our non-uniform clothing in a big, green army box which was taken away before our very eyes. Still, we trooped on, wearing our uniform. We passed a tank depot, into the briefing room after relieving ourselves at 10.35 hours.

Our mission was to sneak into the trenches, get information on the enemy. We split up in two groups and the other group went first. We went after a couple of minutes wait. It was smelly. We were huddled into a room. A nurse came in, seeing if we needed help. Fortunately no-one was wounded, apart from Helen Gillespie who complained of smelliness and had to be seen to. After this a soldier came in and said "someone's been hurt". We all looked at him, "please help" he said to the nurse. We were taken through the trenches, passing wounded men, periscopes which we peered through, people "going over the top" and a couple of men who were having a sly smoke. Third light of a cigarette - unlucky! Anyway, we investigated a proposed map of the area. It was an excellent model. We got involved in watching the Battle of the Somme, people being blown up in front of us. Eventually,

after passing many well dressed men with many medals, with weapons, we got out of the trenches.

Our note pads were full of information. We got to the plane and tank base, realising we were near the lorry. We got in and had our lunch, cheese sandwiches, ribenas, apples and the nicest thing, biscuits and choccy bar. Our rations for the day. We, the two groups re-joined. No one was killed, fortunately. We went back to our barracks after a bumpy ride out of no man's land."

As this was a combined History/Religious Education trip . . .

After a tour through the roadworks in London, they then visited the newly opened Hindu Temple in Neasden, where the pupils marvelled at the intricate craftsmanship of the wonderful buildings. It gave the pupils a taste of Hinduism.

And Simon Handyside writes:

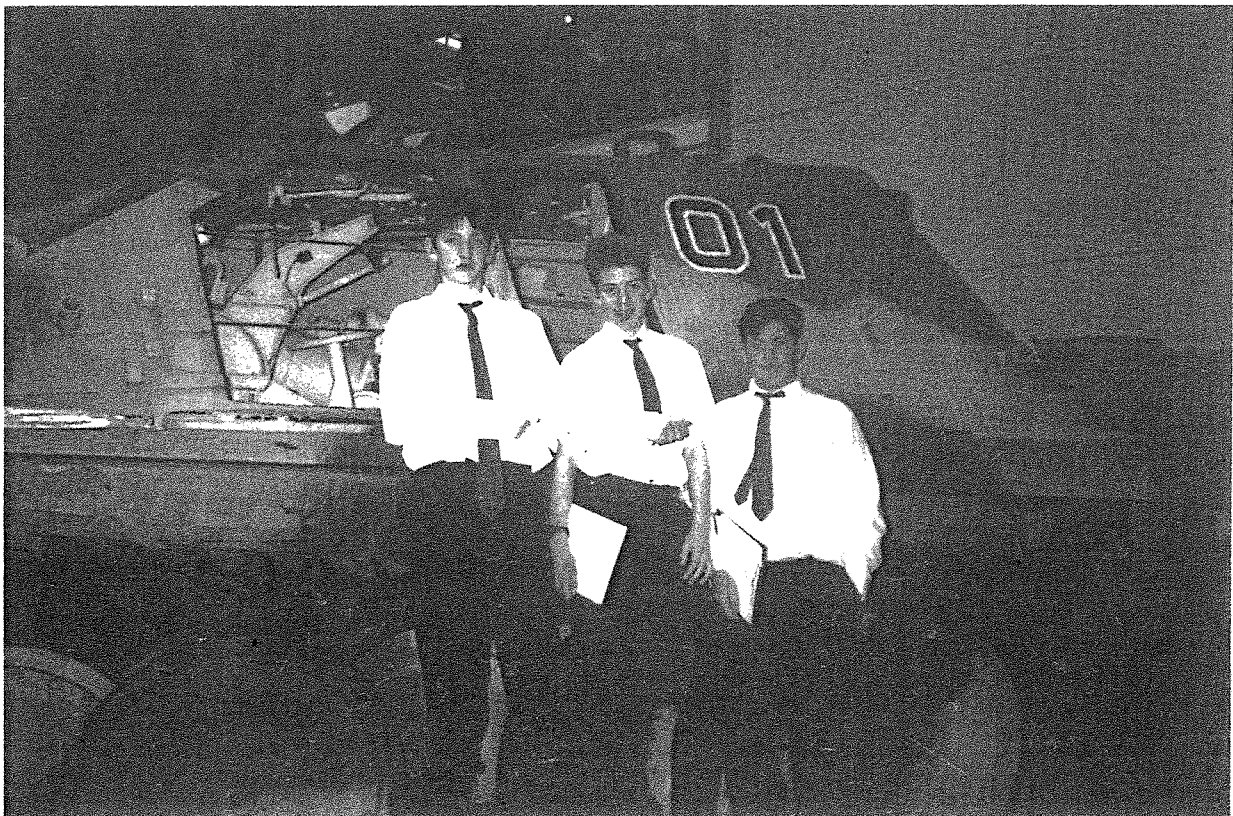
"My first impression of the Hindu Temple at Neasden - on the outside it looked beautiful, not at all as I expected. When I went inside it smelt nice like vanilla and rose extracts. It had beautiful marble all over and perfectly carved wood and statues.

On entering the temple you have to take your shoes off as a sign of respect to the Hindu religion. There are shrines and people with red dots on their foreheads to show they are Hindu. Sugar is the original Hindu ingredient, I was given a sugar crystal to suck. It was nice but bad for my dental care!

There was a small exhibition at the back of the temple showing information about the religion.

Looking at the shrines and taking my shoes off to keep it clean made me think how beautiful the Mandir in Neasden was."

Three unlikely soldiers at the Imperial War Museum: Jonathan Nelson, Jonathan Evans, Gavin Lilley



INSIDE PAGES

ROMEO & JULIET STUDIES by Simon Handyside (Year 9)



A COAT OF DEATH

I wake up one morning and let out a cry
 "Snow, snow. Hooray!"
 Then I look at the horse and birds
 And I realise that snow is a coat of death
 The animals starve, and their food ration is cut down to half
 Snow is a coat of death.

I go out and play
 The snow is like clay
 You can make things out of snow!
 I see footprints in the snow
 And I follow them, where they go
 Then, to my horror, the footprints end
 I find, lying on the floor my little feathered friend
 DEAD
 Snow is a coat of death.

I like to make patterns that are funny
 Sometimes, I wish it was snowing all the time and not sunny
 I like to see the cars stop and go
 BUT! Then I see a car
 CRASH
 Snow is a coat of death.

My mum calls "Time to come in".
 I shout "Oh! Do I have to?"
 As I trundle in I look at the fishpond
 And I see . . . my little finned friend
 DEAD
 Snow is a coat of death.

Natalie Day (Year 7)

ICE

Ice is a snake
 Slithering quietly
 Towards you
 Closer and closer
 In through the night
 You never see it coming
 Until it is too late
 By that time
 You can't run away
 Just like ice on an icy road
 You are trapped!

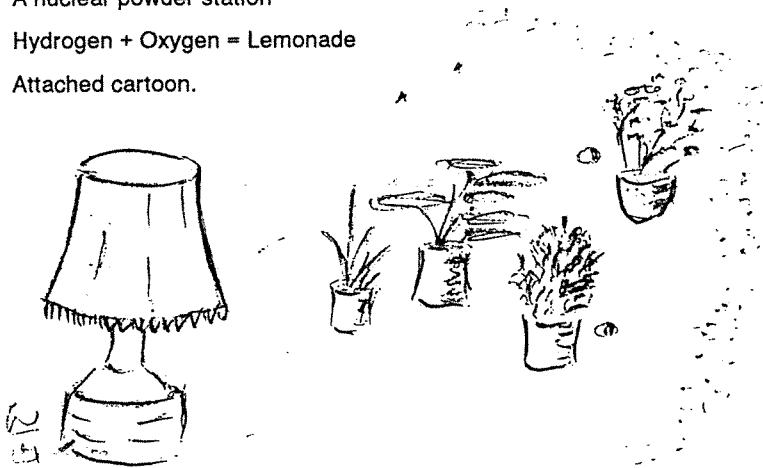
Jenny Foster (Year 7)

INSIDE PAGES

HOWLERS

These are genuine blunders from pupils' books and exams - with apologies to all the (anonymous) contributors:-

1. Q State three reasons why prototypes are produced before articles are finally manufactured.
A If you encounter a mistake you can develop another one.
2. Q Write one fact about yourself.
A I am a human bean.
3. Q How could a company motivate their workforce?
A . . . if you were to give extra pay to motivate workers then a reasonable percentage must be sex so that they are motivated.
4. A nuclear powder station
5. Hydrogen + Oxygen = Lemonade
6. Attached cartoon.



"There are nine plants in the solar system"

I WISH

I wish . . .
That one day
I would win the National Lottery
And I could give some to my family
And I could buy loads of things
From pens to houses
You name it.

I wish . . .
That one day
I would become a world famous runner
So that everyone would know me
And I could run for Wales, my country
But I know that will never happen.

I wish . . .
That one day
I would become a vet
So I can care for sick animals
And make them well again
But if only I pass my exams.

Most of all
I wish . . .
That one day I'd go to town
And realise I can hear
I need not wear my hearing aids again
But I know that will never happen.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

The sea is a beauty
Everyone enjoying themselves having fun
The sea is a beast pulling the people into the outer sea
The sea is a beauty, lovely and calm
The sea is a beast causing shipwrecks.

The sea is a beauty of rippling smooth waves
The sea is a beast drowning children
The sea is a beauty with bright colours
The sea is a beast for rip-curl currents.

The sea is a beauty for building tunnels to the water
The sea is a beast for having weaver fish
The sea is a beauty to buy ice cream
The sea is a beast with razor shells to cut your feet.

The sea is a beauty to have fun
The sea is a beast eating its prey
The sea is a beauty to go swimming
The sea is a beast and a current of Death.

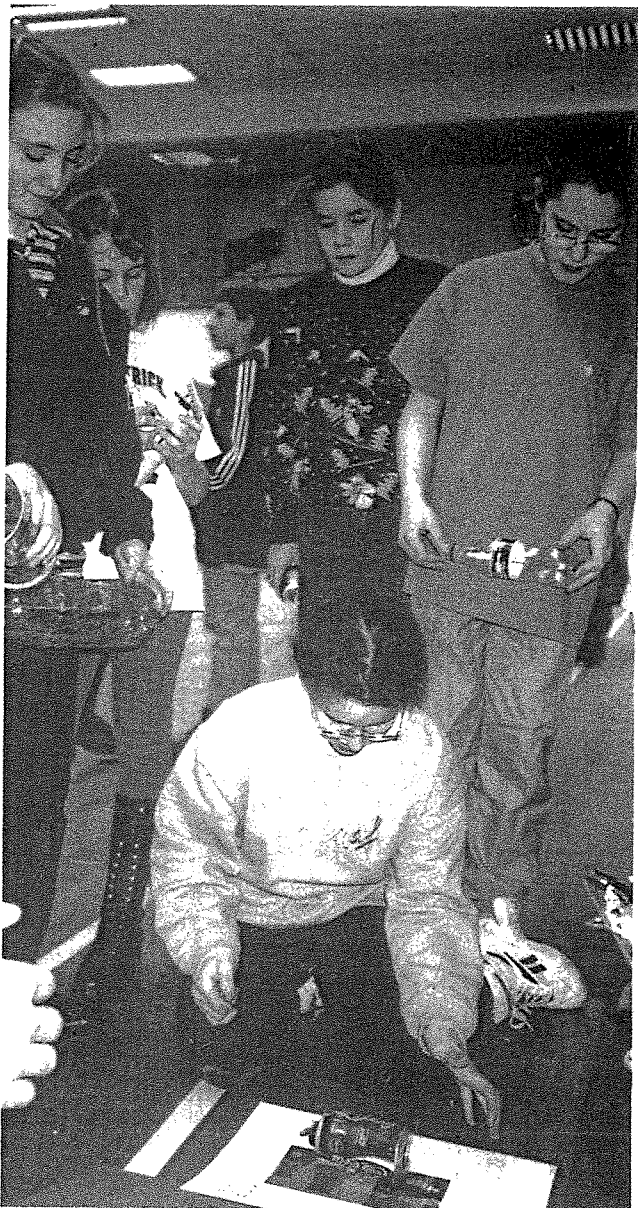
Jemma Elliott (Year 7)

Jodie Griffiths (Year 7)

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WACKY RACERS

Holiday prep was exciting for Year 7 as they designed and built rubber band powered racers from Coke cans and plastic drink bottles. When it came to the challenge of distance, speed, climbing a ramp and design the boys turned the tables on last year's success by the girls and Alan Wallis was overall winner, followed by Alan Wright and Graham Beckwith.



PASSING BY

The national news has carried scenes from the protests concerning the work on the Newbury by-pass. Parents will be pleased to know that, apart from a couple of minor intrusions into our grounds, this has not affected the school at all.

Some staff have on occasions been delayed by contractors vehicles and the police. (Perhaps they were mistaken as protesters!)

A PROBLEM SOLVED

Seven local companies helped to make a very successful Business Studies problem solving day in March for 26 Year 10 students in Newbury. Together with six other schools the mixed and integrated groups of pupils tackled problems ranging from the design of bank accounts for teenagers to evaluation of Debenham's Customer Services. Other groups discussed the Newbury by-pass and some designed new products for Tesco's.

The Education & Business Partnership organised the liaison and transport and awarded certificates to all participants. Mr Chandler reports a successful and fruitful day, with great collaboration and hard work from all our pupils.

OUT AND ABOUT

A-level Geographers ended the Christmas term by enjoying speeches at a London conference by Arthur Scargill (on Energy) and Jonathan Porritt (on environmental issues).

This term has also been very active with a visit to the Bracknell Meteorological Office where they met ex-pupil Margaret Finch and were given a VIP tour of the computer forecasting systems. The forecasts correctly predicted snow on Mrs Wilding's birthday for the first time in 40 years (whoops! - Ed).

The GCSE study of settlements in Year 10 meant a visit to the new city of Milton Keynes. Although impressed by the open spaces, general tidiness and lack of traffic jams (unlike Newbury) there were mixed feelings about living in a new town. "It didn't feel like home - it was all too sorted." "It seemed like a ghost town" and "It was depressing" were typical comments.

Finally an ambitious field trip to Giggleswick in the Yorkshire Dales was undertaken in conjunction with the pupils from Downe House School.

LIVING ARTISTS

Michala Daly-Hedigan and Gregory Pierssene were among the art students who visited Roche Court and Salisbury Cathedral as part of their GCSE studies. Their reports are too long to print in full but include these comments:-

"The grounds (of Roche Court) contained eighty nine different sculptures made by various artists from Paul Robert-Holmes (whom I met) to Barbara Hepworth."

". . . they are very interesting in shape, size and different materials, such as bronze, stone and marble."

"There was such a variety of imaginative themes, designs and range of materials."

"Franz Stabler had a display of seven huge terracotta pots ... the shadows at the base of the pots were really effective."

"Living Willow Arbour is made by Clare Walmsley. The sticks are bent over to make a shelter, but there are lots of spaces which the light can come through."

". . . it is the shapes, the sizes, the feelings of the sculptures, the materials, the forms that are most important." "If I thought the outside of Salisbury Cathedral was magnificent then the interior was outstanding." "We were enthralled."

Thank you for your contributions, your enthusiasm is evident.

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PRESENTS

James Bainbridge is pictured helping to load presents into the car of a representative from Chieveley Evergreens Club. These were donated by pupils in forms throughout the school for the elderly and lonely at Christmas. Many thanks.



VINCENT

The lower sixth A-level Art and Chemistry groups attended a lecture on Vincent Van Gogh at Downe House School. The lecture was sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry and was given by Anthony Flinn.

The lecture began with a brief introduction to the properties of paint and the link with chemistry and moved to a discussion on Van Gogh, his paintings and his life with the emphasis on colour.

Using a 2 way slide system, Flinn demonstrated how he travelled around France to trace Vincent's footsteps and identify the original subjects of his paintings. Vincent spent most of his time in Arles where he took a passionate interest in the landscape.

Flinn put great energy into his presentation in particular when it came to describing a possible reason why Vincent cut his ear off and sent it to a local brothel. Flinn's theory suggested Vincent got the idea after watching a bull fight where the bull's ear is cut off by the matador and given as a token of affection to his girlfriend or wife.

Vincent later shot himself out in the fields that he had painted so often. Flinn demonstrated this by producing a fake gun and firing a shot. The loud bang produced caused Miss McKenna to jump in terror and drop all her notes.

Flinn told us that one of Vincent's paintings had recently been sold for 50 million pounds. The most Vincent ever received in his lifetime was three pounds.

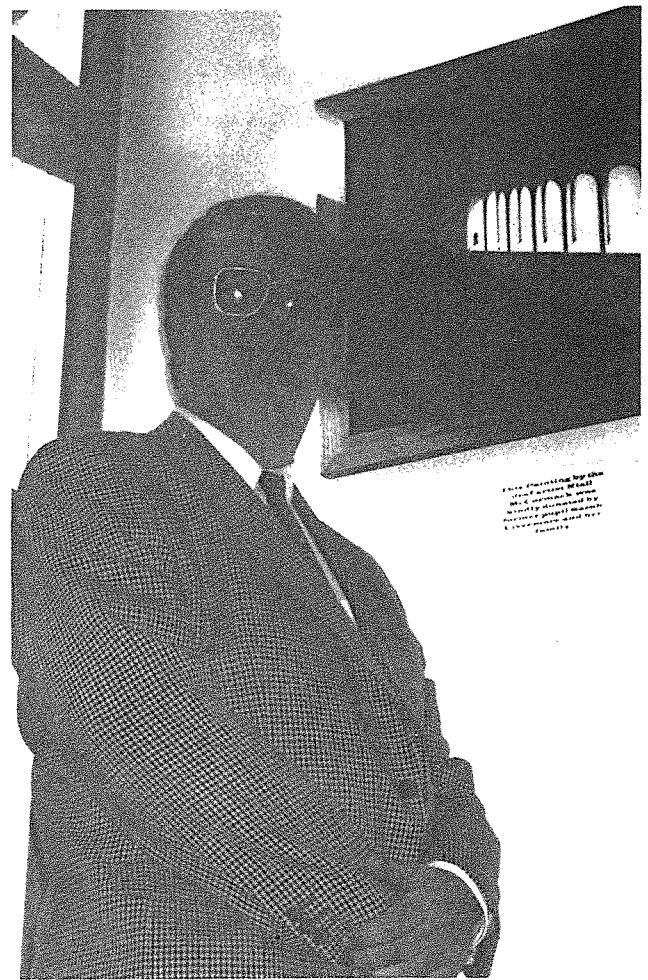
We found the lecture very interesting even though it was difficult to follow at times - it was a valuable experience for when we go on to higher education.

Oliver Harland & Tom Wilson (Year 13)

WIR SPRECHEN DEUTSCH

Welcome to Mr Peter Gale, who has been appointed as Head of Sixth Form. Mr. Gale was formerly at Newbury's St Bartholomew's School, which has one of the largest sixth forms in the country and he was Deputy Head of House.

His curriculum specialism is in modern languages and he has already stimulated an interest in German preparing sixth formers for a Business Studies excursion to Germany. There is also the possibility of introducing a GNVQ module in German.



Our picture shows Mr. Gale in the entrance to the Carnarvon Centre appreciating a painting by Niall McCormack which was kindly donated by Governor, Mr. David Livermore, on behalf of his daughter, Sarah, after he saw it in an exhibition of work by hearing impaired artists organised by SHAPE.

Chatterbox Editor: Mr. K. Wright

Producer: Mrs. C. Ward