

CHATTERBOX

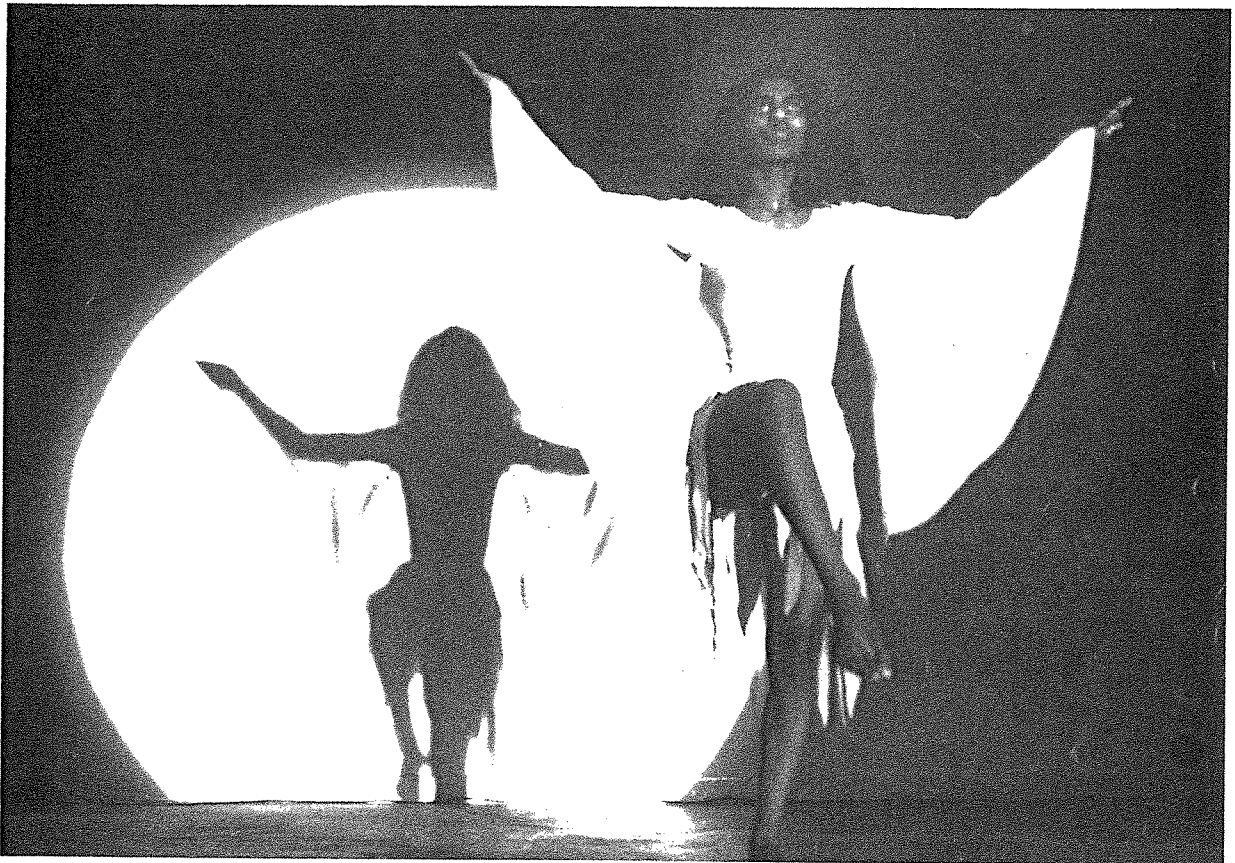
THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1994

LET THERE BE LIGHT



The Beauty of the Dance, Nadia Nadarajah

From the opening notes of Kirsty McMullan's solo clarinet to the closing readings and final bars from the Senior Band, through the humour of a Bethlehem inn filled with yuppies and fortune seekers to the poignancy of "Love will Build a Bridge" (sung by Year 7 backed with photographs of African suffering), the Celebration of Christmas touched the hearts of all who came to join in the Mary Hare production.

Many hours of hard work had been put into the Jazz Dance (Years 11, 12 and 13), the Rock and Roll Christmas (Year 9) and the readings. All of the dramatic sketches (including Christmas carols) involved learning pages of dialogue.

The music excelled - confidence and musicality that would be a source of pride in any school.

To produce an extravaganza of this scale requires dedication, vision and commitment from staff and pupils (over half the school were involved) and all who contributed both on and back stage deserve the highest praise.

Well done, Mary Hare proves that there are no limits for hearing impaired youngsters if they are given the chance.

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WALTZING MATILDA

During the summer the Mary Hare Band, directed by Mrs. C. Rocca, caused quite a stir in Australia with ten successful concerts on their hectic tour and coverage on T.V. and in the press.

The best people to report on the tour are those that were there - our first article is from Ruth Montgomery who wrote for her church magazine.

MY TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

My school band, from the Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf, recently went on Australia for three weeks. I play the flute and I was lucky to be able to join them on a special concert tour around Sydney and New South Wales.

The thirteen pupils and six teachers arrived in Sydney on 19th July and we stayed, during the first and last weeks at a special school for the blind and deaf in Sydney. Our band practised on our first full day as we had a very full programme of ten concerts. We played at various schools and gave a concert at the British High Commission buildings in Sydney. We play all kinds of music like English County Gardens, Onward Christian Soldiers, Eye Level . . . etc. Everybody seemed to be pleased with what they heard.

During the second week we stayed with families in a small town called Forster. Once when we were in Forster High School the band was playing some pieces and then we three flautists were playing "Waltzing Matilda", when we all noticed we were on Australian Television; we were very excited. Our band was also featured in the local papers too.

We were taken on lots of trips too, like trips around the lakes at Forster, a harbour cruise, a visit to Sydney's famous Opera House, Taronga Zoo, barbecues, surfing and discovering the kangaroos and koala bars at the Wildlife Park. We also went to Port Maquaire and went touring around the woods. Everyone was very nice to us, we had a wonderful time and I shall never forget all the things that happened to me.

Ruth Montgomery (Year 9)

. . . and we also hear from Jamie Wilson (Year 12) . . .

CELEBRITIES

While we were in Australia I had a fantastic time. It's hard to believe that I have actually been there. Looking back, the trip was very well organised, all the concerts were a success in which they made us celebrities having made the front page of newspapers, been on Australian nationwide television. You could tell that everyone was impressed, especially if an Ulsterman was playing the trumpet! Yet, the whole band were receiving compliments from many Australians.

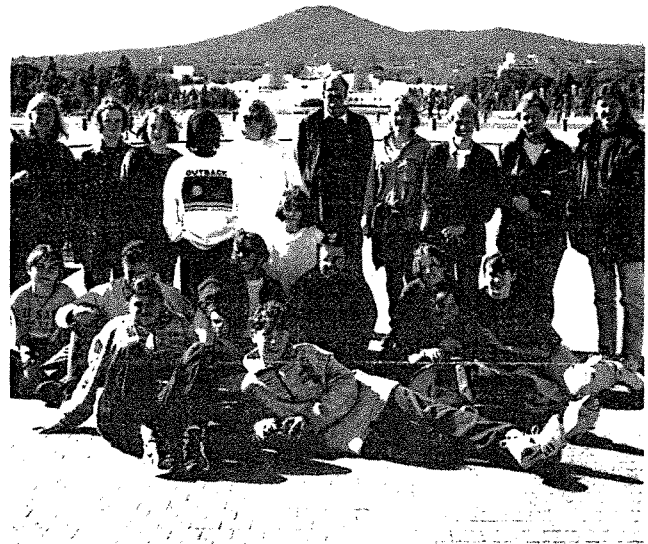
Australia is a very nice place. The weather was good, warm during the day and a typical English weather at night (freezing cold). The girls in Oz were quite nice, even though I made them look twice, and some for Bryan and Justin who got more addresses than me!

The families were exceptional, although I had more friends that were COWS because I stayed on a farm with Suzanne. Waking up at 6.30 am, feeding hay to the cows was a good experience but I don't think I would like to be a farmer when I leave school.

The wildlife in Oz was very much different, especially when a koala fell in love with me! Kangaroos hopping away in the zoos and out in the forests. Wombats were big animals, very famous for passing wind!

The trip was fascinating, lots of things that were new were amazing, but the one thing that spoilt it was the flying out - over 20 hours! I thought going home to Northern Ireland by plane for one hour was terrible but going to Australia at the end of each term would be hectic. I hope to go back to visit again in the future to see how things have changed and see a few people I have met again.

School Band



DISCO DANCING

Our electronics technician, Mr. B. Lowrie, runs the most extravagant, spectacular and loudest disco in Berkshire, so enterprising 11R enlisted his service to arrange a disco in aid of Rwanda.

The amazing dancing lights provided the most visually exciting display seen at the school and £138.20 was raised. Congratulations to 11R for a generous donation and a well organised event, and many thanks to Bob for generously giving up an evening and providing such a professional show.

TIGER, TIGER

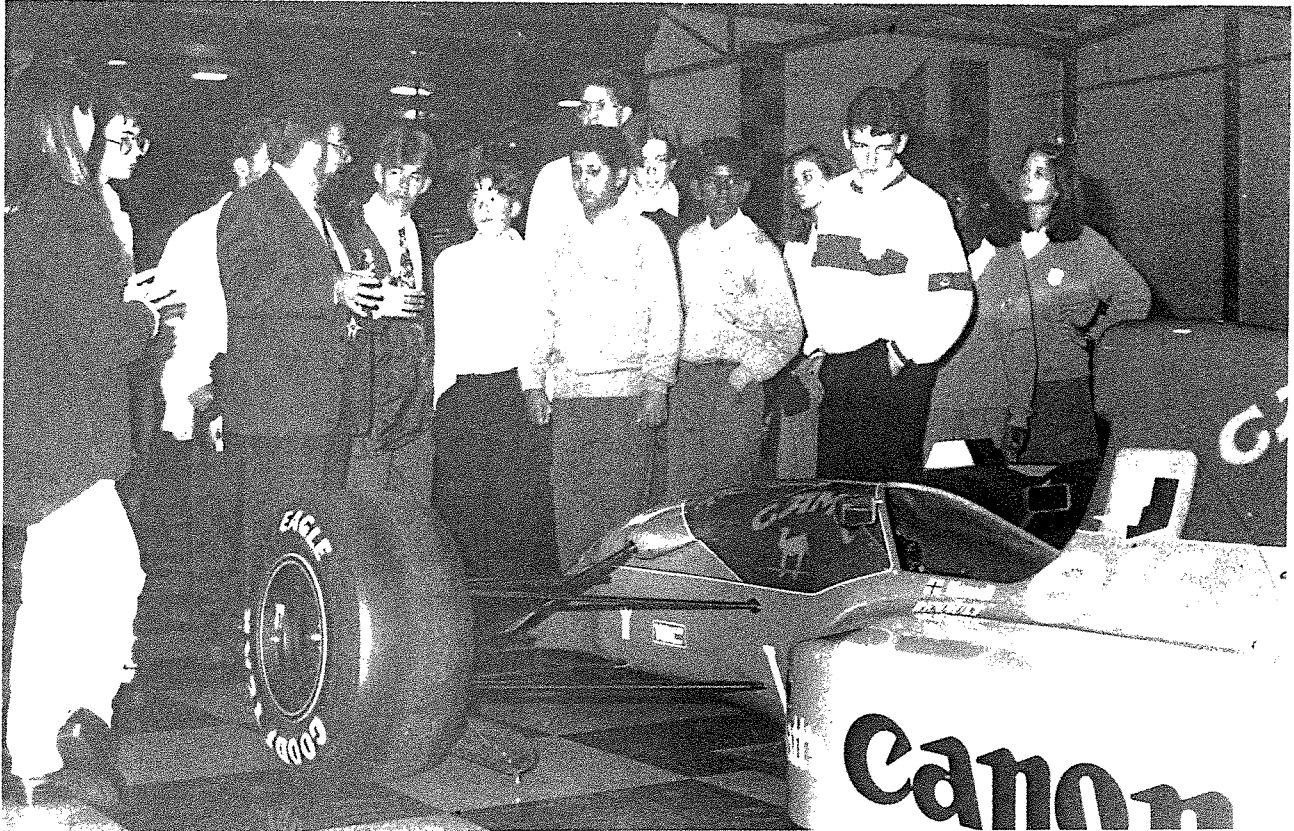
All of Year 7 visited Marwell Zoological Park as part of their science studies. On their return the pupils produced posters of some of the endangered species they had seen - including Siberian tigers, white rhinos and tamarins.

Prizes were awarded for good pictures with clear messages to:-

First Prize:	Damaris Cooke	Trevelyan Nicholas
Second Prize:	Stuart Callan	Michelle Holder
Third Prize:	Emma Gray	Kathy Walker

INSIDE PAGES

FORMULA ONE



A group of students from Mary Hare and myself, took a leisurely trip to the Williams Renault factory in Didcot on Friday, 9th September.

The factory was in the shadow of the immense coal fired Didcot power station with an ultra modern conference centre that houses a collection of past Williams' cars, including Nigel Mansell's World Championship winning car, complete with the famous red 5 on it.

We were met by Mr. Williams (not Frank Williams) at the entrance of the conference centre, and taken inside. We introduced ourselves to him, telling him our interests before being taken on a tour of the collection. Mr. Williams gave us a brief talk about various cars in the collection, including their mechanical history.

We were then taken for a drink and biscuits in the conference room before being allowed to roam amongst the collection, bearing in mind that we were not allowed to touch the cars.

Mr. Williams took us upstairs to watch a video of the Williams race for the 1993-94 Championship title, which was won by Alan Prost, in a Williams Renault. After the video he answered people's questions, including one on whether a deaf man or woman could drive a formula one car. His reply was that it was very possible, but it is a very long ladder to reach the pinnacle of motor sport, and being able to drive in formula one.

After he answered the questions we were all ushered downstairs, given a poster and badge, and waved goodbye,

But before we left, John Boyd took a photo of us standing beside Mr. Williams.

In all, it was an enjoyable trip, and if other people get a chance to go, I would advise them to snap it up.

James Martin (Year 12)

THE DAY BEN DIED

(This article was inspired by "The Red Sky in the Morning" by Elizabeth Laird.)

Today was one of my worst days. Ben, my handicapped brother died. The terrible news was told by my mum, my tears became ice which couldn't be poured out on my cheeks. It just froze in my eyes. I felt God wasn't there for Ben's need to live.

My dad came home today, the ice in my eyes melted and finally I cried with my father. The first thing I noticed was that the house no longer had was the sound of Ben's laughter, crying.

I went to his room to have a last look, the cot was in the wrong place, I was so annoyed so I moved it so Ben can see the pigeons cooing. Ben was sleeping, I kept thinking he'll wake up soon but I have to be honest with myself - Ben's dead . . .

Claire Fox (Year 9)

INSIDE PAGES

THE LETTER

by ANDREW STIBBS (Year 11)

The vicar is in church and has a letter in his pocket. It is now eight o'clock in the evening and everybody has gone home after the service. He takes the envelope out of his pocket, takes the letter out of the envelope and begins to read it . . .

Dear Father

"Hello dad, It's your favourite son, John here, I want to write you a letter. Do you remember when I used to go to school, everyday I got bullied just because I was the only black and deaf person in the whole of the school? There was a bully called Alastair, who was the most popular guy in the school, and always picked on me, sometimes he would just punch me in the face and call me a nigger, and thick and deaf, sometimes it was much, much worse. He sometimes got a small first former and bullied him and made the first former say it was me who bullied him and not Alastair. I always got in trouble for bullying but you didn't believe me the first time I told you that I didn't do it, plus when I told you about Alastair you did nothing about it. Why didn't you do anything about it? I forgive you for that."

The vicar groans, he had done nothing about the bullying because Alastair's father was a powerful man with much influence over the town of Garton, so even if he had confronted the boy's parents, they would have ignored him and then said the vicar was an immigrant, but he should have tried.

"Do you remember when a beautiful girl from the U.S.A. came to Garton to stay for quite a long time? Alastair was the first boy to ask her out and she accepted. I vowed, in hatred of Alastair, that Caroline would be mine in the end. All I had to do was to wait, and wait patiently."

The vicar puts his hand onto his head and lets his head rest. He thought the girl was a nice, normal quiet girl, come to stay in Garton, because the family had sent their daughter to Garton so she could have her education in Europe. It was such a pity that John found out before he did when he asked John to give her a welcome. The family were very rich and their daughter was very popular at school, but unfortunately was racist as well which was very sad, because John had given his view of what he thought of Caroline. He carries on reading.

"I loved her. She was so beautiful, she stood out of the miserable dump of Garton. I was very hurt and very disappointed when I summoned up the courage to ask her out and she replied with the answer that I was hoping not to hear, which was, "Why should I go out with a nigger?"

The vicar clenches his hand in frustration, he had gone to the girl's guardians to give a piece of his mind after John had told him about it but they had laughed at him and threw him out in front of the Mayor of Garton. The vicar wished John hadn't asked her out at all, it wouldn't have caused this much trouble, and anyway, he wouldn't have approved of John and Caroline going out together.

"The next day, I went to school. It was one week before Sports Day and I had been training hard for two months, and the P.E. teacher, Mrs. Smith, had picked me for the 100m and the relay team. I was well chuffed at that."

The vicar smiles, yes he remembered the teacher, John would have been very surprised if he found out the teacher that picked him was his mother. He was going to tell him when he was mature enough to understand why, but it was now too late for that. He carries on reading . . .

"and Alastair was there when she picked me, he gave me a really hard time because he was jealous he hadn't been picked which was his fault really because he had been ignoring the racetrack and concentrating on Caroline, thinking he owned her. Caroline was strangely silent at that time. I didn't understand why Caroline didn't join in when Alastair said, "Deaf and dumb nigger."

The vicar smiles. John didn't know that Caroline had come to church one day to talk in the confession cubicle and they had a very long talk. Caroline had decided to stop being racist.

"And the next day, Caroline finished with Alastair and asked me out! I was amazed at that, it was unbelievable. I was so happy. But why didn't you approve of it?"

The vicar let out a groan. He had thought it stupid for a black deaf boy to go out with an ex-racist girl who had just finished going out with a racist boy and so had disapproved.

"Anyway I ignored you and continued going out with Caroline for a month and one day we decided to talk about having sex."

The vicar raises his eyebrows and smiles sadly. It was unbelievable that kids were growing up fast but it was too fast for me, he carries on reading.

"After Caroline and I had gone to a night club, we stayed out very late. We decided to go back to Caroline's house because Caroline's guardians had gone to another part of Europe to have a meeting about an important subject. We decided to make love. After that I kissed Caroline good night and I ran back so happy and I decided to tell you nothing about it."

The vicar sighs. He had wondered why John didn't talk to him that night and demanded a confession out of him and John had run away crying. He had thought it usual for a fifteen year-old boy to tell a father where he has been and so had thought it right to demand him to tell me what had happened that night. But he shouldn't have done it, oh well it was too late now. It had been done. No way I can change it but I want to.

"You wrung and bullied a confession out of me and I ran away, crying. I was so upset that night."

The vicar sighs. He shouldn't have pushed the boy so hard. He carries on reading.

"You wouldn't let me come back home and instead gave me some money in a letter addressed to me because you were too angry to give it to me. I used the money to sleep in a hostel to give me time to find a job."

continued . . .

INSIDE PAGES

The vicar throws the Bible in anger and weeps, "Oh why, why did I kick my only son out over one little thing? I wish I could change what has happened. Well it's too late now" the vicar thinks.

"I found a job which was very tiring and very hard but it had good pay. I just had to wash pots and pans at a restaurant at night and I continued to go to school by day."

It was good the boy decided to continue his education. I couldn't forgive him at that time but I should have, thinks the vicar as he carries on reading.

"After three months Caroline had decided to take a pregnancy test and it tested positive. She didn't tell her parents as she knew they would want to know who was the person responsible. She decided to tell me first and I decided to take her to the clinic to make sure and the clinic also said it was positive. At the end of the day we knew one thing. She was going to have a baby."

A baby, a creation of a new life, so important to mankind and I ignored it. The vicar weeps and stops and then carries on reading.

"The baby was born on 13th October. She was eight weeks premature. But I didn't care because I was so happy, until I found out that Caroline had died in the process of giving birth because the birth was very difficult for her as it raised her blood pressure, and the baby might not live. She looked so vulnerable. I called her Pamela because of her dark tanned skin. She looked so beautiful, like an angel."

The vicar groans, "It was too late for me, John had contacted me about the baby. I should have rushed to the hospital but what did I do? I just carried on the service. I was so stupid and stubborn."

"You didn't come when I contacted you, so you could see the baby; I was so sad and hurt but I decided I must be brave and look after my daughter Pamela. Then one fateful day Pamela died from a small accident, the tube supplying her with oxygen had broken and when Pamela had no oxygen in her lungs any longer, she died slowly and painfully of oxygen starvation. It was devastating for me, for my lover and daughter so I won't be alone anymore. Good-bye, I will always love you."

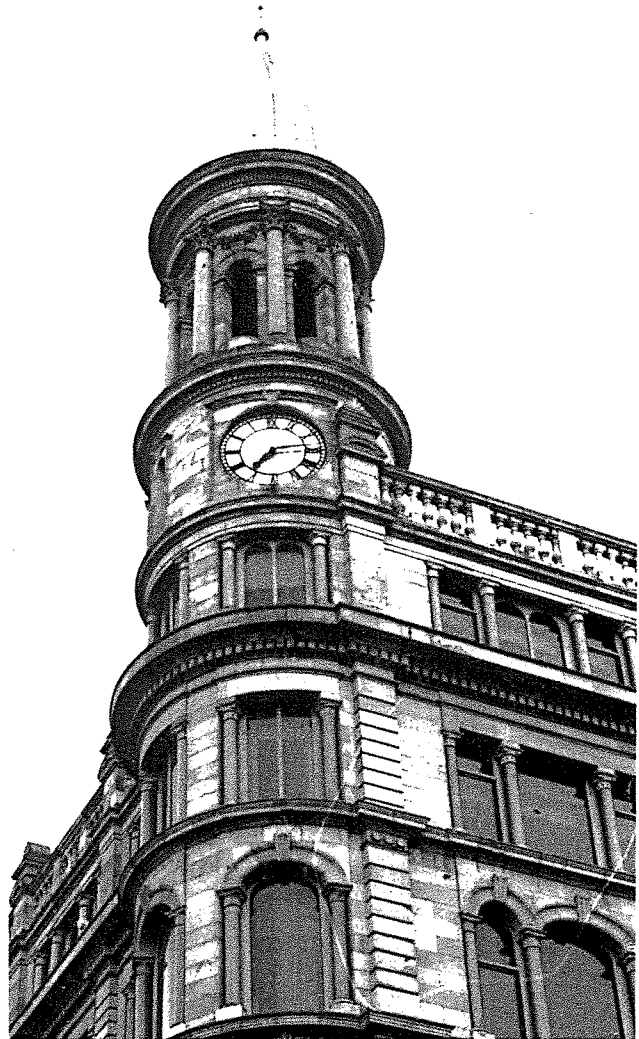
The vicar weeps and weeps. He folds up the letter and puts it back in the envelope. It was far too late now. He should have forgiven John before he died. But it was not too late to honour John by reading the letter over and over again, every day for the last twenty years since his death.

MY SPECIAL THINGS

My special things are my nana's photo of my Granddad who died before I was born, this is special because I never knew what my Granddad looked like, and a photo of Graham Bell, who my Granddad worked for, and which my uncle Norman has got to remind him of his dad. It is special to me because I'm proud that my Granddad worked for the great inventor, Graham Bell.

Kathy Foden (Year 9)

Photograph of an office building in Belfast taken by Bryan Moore (Year 12)



THROUGH A BLIND MAN'S EYES

One Thursday in November 8BF had a visit from Mr. Sears from the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

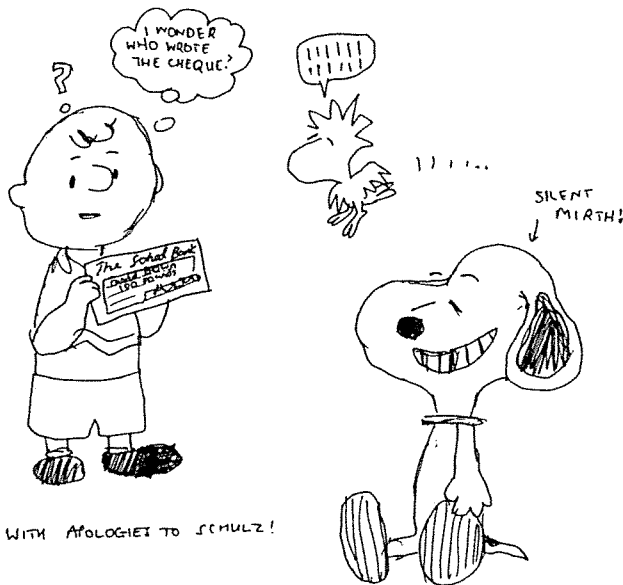
We were very interested in what he had to say and we were very surprised to see all the useful objects he had to help blind people.

Mr. Sears talked about lots of things interesting, for example, there was a small object to say when a tea cup was full, it made a bleeping noise; a light probe that made a high pitched sound to show that lights were on, and also when you use playing cards there is some Braille on each card.

8BF are hoping to raise money for the R.N.I.B.

Kirsty Graham (Year 8)

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE FORGED CHEQUE



One morning in a science lesson Mrs. Wallis came in looking very cross! Someone had forged a cheque to Charlie Brown for £700. She was very cross because it was signed with her signature, but she didn't do it. She asked Snoopy if he had done it but he said no. He said Woodstock had done it. But Woodstock said he didn't do it. So she asked us if we could solve the mystery. We said we'd try!

She gave us the cheque, her pen, Snoopy's pen, Charlie Brown's pen and Woodstock's pen. Soon we came up with an idea. We ripped up the cheque and put it in a solvent and the ink came out. Then we did a dot of each pen on the piece of special paper in a line about 2 cms apart and we also put the cheque ink drops on it. We dried it and labelled it, rolled it up and put it in this solvent. We left it for 10 minutes and there was our answer: the ink was exactly the same as the cheque. Snoopy had done it! He was lying all along. MYSTERY SOLVED.

Beth Sewell (Year 8)

KEEP UNDER CONTROL!

In Wales, I had a frightening experience. When I was mountain biking, we had to ride on the roads, up hills, down hills, and some which are difficult and good fun 'cos they are steep. Then, when we got half way we went to an enormous car park look-alike. But it wasn't, it was really a place for people to ride their bikes or motor bikes. There were also hills, we were told to go down them.

I was really terrified, I wouldn't go down. I thought that if I use my brakes I'll slip and hurt myself. But then everyone could do it, not me! Then I still wouldn't go down after everyone had been down about five or six times. Then they all moved to a much higher, steeper hill, except me and Greg. Greg had a painful finger, he was told not to try it so he couldn't do it. I was watching them go down, I couldn't imagine what it was like to look down while going down, controlling yourself, but then I managed to do the easiest slopes of all.

Go and try it out, it is under control! Once you go down you will want to go down again and again. I went down, terrified but I still survived. Just go and see what it's like! Now I would like to go again but I've had my turn. Now it's your turn, do it!

Danielle Gill (Year 9)

LEARNING ABOUT YOURSELF

Before I went to Wales, I thought I was awful at sport and I wasn't good at exercising and I put myself down and I sometimes envied other people's ability for sport.

I also thought other people would be fantastic in Wales and a million times better than me. I thought I wouldn't go through the small holes in caving because I was scared and often had nightmares about caving. When I got there I was fine, I was even better than the people I thought were good at some activities.

I learned that others were more frightened than me and I had lots more confidence in myself than they did. I helped them to do it even though I was scared myself but I wouldn't show it. I had to put on an act to show that I wasn't scared but I was really.

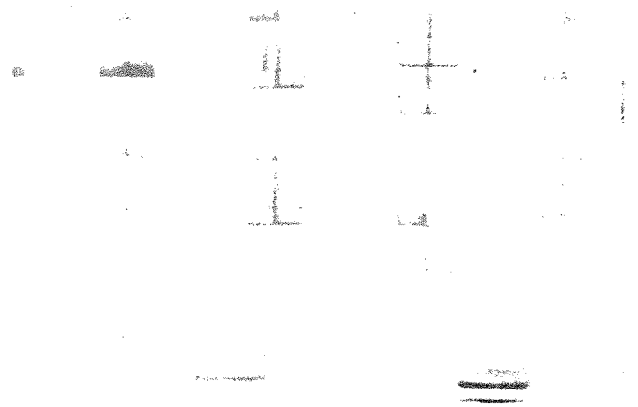
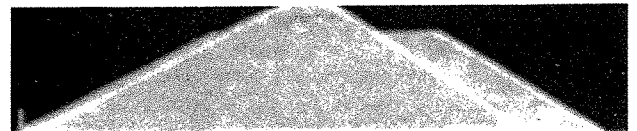
I looked at the people I once envied and realised I was better than them at some things. I also saw a different side to people that I once hated and learned to accept them for what they are and that they do have a good side.

The most important thing I learned, I expect others have learned too, is that nobody's brilliant at everything.

Katherine Roach (Year 9)

BLACK AND WHITE

What an odd looking photograph to put in Chatterbox! This negative print was taken of Mansell House by Beth Sewell after she made a pin-hole camera at home as part of her science studies on light. It might not be of the quality of Pentax, but it owes a lot to Fox-Talbot!



THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WHO DUN IT?

The secrets behind several mysterious crimes were revealed by Dr. Tina Lovelock, a forensic scientist from Aldermaston laboratories, when Year 11 students attended a lecture at Oxford University in Chemistry week. She emphasised that in every contact some transfer of dust or fibres or fluid must take place - it is the job of the forensic scientist to make the connections between the scene of crime and the criminal beyond all reasonable doubt.

A TASTY MORSEL

Last month Mary Hare pupils were asked if they would be willing to take part in a pizza survey by a reporter from 'Today' newspaper. Never let it be said that they turn down a food opportunity!

Jan (from the newspaper) arrived one Wednesday evening armed with many different 'shop brand' pepperoni pizzas. After six extremely large helpings the 25 pupils had to complete question sheets. Jan then took these away to write her report that was published in the colour supplement on 22nd October. Did anyone see it? If not - it is on the noticeboard in school - along with a few photographs.

A SHARED EXPERIENCE

All of Year 9 once again set off with Mr. Galbraith to Tirabad in Wales for a week of outward bound activities - two of their reports appear in the centre pages.

MANY THANKS

Mr. Philip Wroughton, Chairman of the Mary Hare Foundation, spoke at Speech Day to thank all who had contributed to the success of the appeal for our sixth form centre. This will be officially opened soon and we will have further news in the next edition.

PORTRAIT

Also at Speech Day a portrait of former Principal, Mr. K. Pearce, was unveiled.

It is to be hung in the entrance to the school.

The painting by artist Diana Golledge has attracted much critical acclaim for capturing the character of a much loved head of the school.



THE RINE IN SPINE

When I came to work at Mary Hare Grammar School, I thought I knew what speech therapy involved. You know, listening, speech sounds, grammar, intonation, voice, rhythm, vocabulary, and so on. Well, yes, all of this is extremely important, but you need to be flexible to apply knowledge of these in ways that help individual pupils.

For example, I've found myself attempting to work in French so as to assist someone with her pronunciation for the GCSE French oral exam (she passed!), planning observation tasks so that pupils can discreetly note the hesitations and repetitions in staff's speech (to convince them that nobody is totally fluent all the time), and only this week I've written out the Cockney pronunciation of "The rain in Spain", so as to explain the apparent weather discussion in "My Fair Lady". (Eat your heart out, Professor Higgins, I'm doing your job in reverse, and yes, this pupil can now "talk Cockney".)

Learning vocal expression, together with facial expressions and body language has meant that some extraordinary things have been shouted from, or whispered in, the speech and language room!

Staff will sometimes mention that a pupil's voice is very high, or always loud whatever the situation - not only teaching staff either - one pupil some years ago had developed a rather 'whining' intonation which caused the catering staff in Blount Hall to think she was always moaning about the food (have you ever thought how many ways you could say 'potatoes', for example?). Listening and awareness work soon helped with this problem and resulted in improved relations all round!

Some pupils leave it very late to attend speech therapy - work experience usually results in a small avalanche of self referrals, and a few reluctant souls don't commit themselves until the sixth form. I would say to those 'ditherers' - don't leave it too late (the longer you wait the harder it is to change) - take advantage of what Mary Hare has to offer; it will be much more difficult to find suitable help once you leave.

P. Tufnell

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DOCTOR PEACOCK

We were delighted to hear the news that Rachel Peacock, who left Mary Hare in 1985, has successfully completed a Ph.D. of research into heart disease.

Rachel left Mary Hare with three grade A's in A-level sciences and studied at Durham for her first degree in Molecular Biology. She then went to University College, London, to take up her doctorate. Well done - a wonderful example to all of us.

ON COURSE

The new GNVQ Art Advanced is providing many exciting and unusual activities for the students, from sketching installations they had built in the woods to visiting the V. & A. Museum in London with their teachers, Miss Armstrong and Miss McKenna.

Other departmental trips have included Year 11 to the Oxford Pitt Rivers Museum to study art from around the world and also Year 8 visited the Tate Gallery.

AIDS AWARENESS

The pupils of the school regularly 'enjoy' a charity lunch of soup and rolls in place of their usual school meal. The money saved is donated to a specific charity.

Recently a cheque for £200 was handed over to the Mildmay Hospice in London, where AIDS' victims and their families are given medical help and support. This money will buy toys for the children, who are often ostracised by their school friends.

During AIDS awareness week a form 11 group presented "Facts about AIDS" assembly and the cheque was presented by Mr. Savoury.

SHOOT

The netball competition was battled out on the courts with the following overall result:

First	Braidwood
Second	Arnold and Beverley
Fourth	Mary Hare

NATIONAL FINAL

We were pleased to hear that Duncan Rowley did so well in the National Schools' Athletic Championships in July by winning his heat and striding round to achieve an excellent fifth place in the final of the 400m.

Well done, Duncan; this is the first time a Mary Hare pupil has reached an all England final.

IT'S A RECORD

Swimming Gala

Well done, everyone who swam. There were some very close and exciting races. There was one new record set: Senior Boys 4 x 1 Medley Relay. The old record was 51.2 secs. The new record is now 49.9 secs. set by Beverley House.

Individual winners:

Junior Girls	Third	K. Walker	Year 7
	Equal First	E. Culver	Year 8
		N. Deverson	Year 8
Junior Boys	Third	M. Penfold	Year 9
	Equal First	R. Childs	Year 9
		B. Baz	Year 9
Senior Boys	Third	A. Hearn	
	Equal First	A. Hurley	
		P. Thomas	
Senior Girls	Third	S. McIntyre	
	Second	V. Paull	
	First	L. Mingay	

House Results

First	Arnold	129 points
Second	Beverley	120 points
Third	Braidwood	109 points
Fourth	Mary Hare	80 points

Again, well done to everyone - swimmers and spectators - for a great afternoon.



Russell Cooke stroking his way to victory