

# CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1994

## A ROARING SUCCESS!



Compliments flowed after the school production right at the end of last term. The dedication and commitment of the cast and back stage crews brought the deserved success with the performances of "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe". Special thanks must go to producers Mr. Lee and Mr. Savoury, who were delighted with the whole show. It is difficult to single out individuals; they were all stars, but undoubtedly the magical performance of Lisa Mingay (the Witch) and Jonathan Nelson (as a cheeky Edmund) helped to create a scintillating atmosphere.

Bewitching Lisa Mingay

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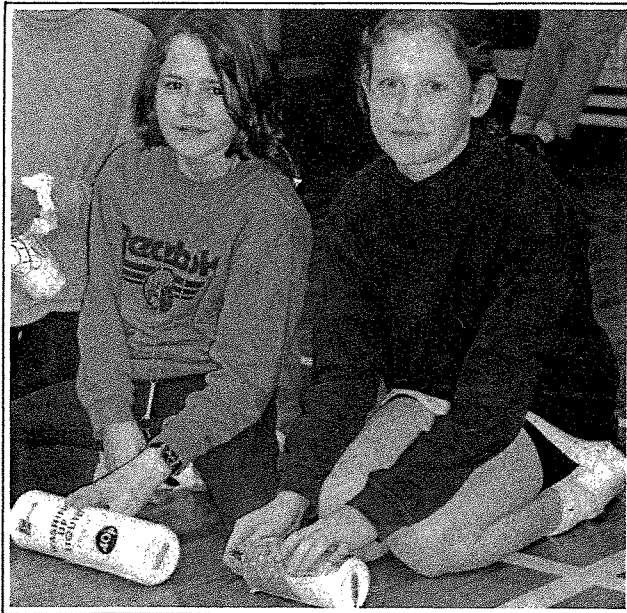
## FURTHEST, STEEPEST, FASTEST, BRIGHTEST

The girls of Year 7 showed that the next generation of Science and Technology is secure with them by sweeping the board in a competition organised by the science staff.

The brief was to make and demonstrate a rubber band racer. A multitude of plastic bottles and cans raced across the hall floor and prizes were awarded for the vehicle that travelled furthest and fastest and also for the one that climbed the steepest slope. Finally, the most attractive design was judged and the only male success, Jonathan Nelson, was second in this category.

We welcomed Mr. Peter Burch from Quantel as adjudicator and the full results were:-

Furthest:	1st	Mary Slater
	2nd	Emma Rawson
	3rd	Davina Davies
Steepest:	1st	Elizabeth Culver
	2nd	Emma Clarke
	3rd	Sarah Gallagher
Fastest:	1st	Emma Clarke
	2nd	Katie Fleming
	3rd	Katy Wood
Best Design:	1st	Emma Clarke
	2nd	Jonathan Nelson
	3rd	Anna McCabe



On their marks, Mary and Katy

## WHAT A PARTY!

The band gave an impressive performance to raise money for their Australia trip at a concert for the local Liberal Democratic Party in the presence of Newbury's M.P., Mr. David Rendel. Over 150 guests loudly applauded the band and the band were invited back next year.

## GIVE ME A CALL

Richard Higgins of Year 9 has joined Jamie McAlley and James May by successfully completing his training for the novice licence to use the amateur radio frequencies. He is eagerly awaiting his call sign and will be ready to broadcast worldwide from the school's own station. Congratulations Richard - good tuning!

## PAN'S PIPES

Congratulations to Beth Colwill (pass) and Michelle Hall (merit) for their success in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music flute exam grade one. Thanks to our peripatetic flute teacher, Alison Pickering, the number of flautists in the school is rapidly increasing.

## SMARTY BEAR AND TEDDY RUXPIN

If you walked down the corridor near the computer rooms one day in February you were liable to be attacked and run down by a number of very mobile robots!

The information systems group from Mr. Pointeer's school at Emmbrook joined with Mary Hare pupils to study aspects of computer control. They were first introduced to Smarty Bear and Teddy Ruxpin (Mr. and Mrs. Pointeer's toys!) before exploring other applications of computer controlled activity including traffic lights, robotic arms and other mobiles.

The inter-school mixed groups also toured the school and made new friends. Sam Seaver summed up "Overall it was a very interesting day and we enjoyed ourselves immensely as well as learning a lot about computer control".

## SPEAKING UP

Congratulations to all these pupils for receiving commendations for good oral communication skills this term:-

Bassim Baz  
Greg Beedie  
Samantha Caiels  
Diane Chawner  
Robert Childs  
Emma Clarke  
Lucy Clark  
Emma Crowe  
Elizabeth Culver  
Davina Davies  
Jordan Fenlon  
Alex Gomes  
Nicholas Gregory  
Piers Kittel  
Radha Manjeshwar  
Aaron Miller  
Wesley Pope  
Katherine Rogers  
Stephen Russen  
Angela Spielsinger  
Daniel Webster  
John Wood  
Janet Young

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## ON YOUR BIKE (TO AUSTRALIA!)

If you're feeling fit why not join in the sponsored cycle ride to help raise funds for the band's trip to Australia on 17th April.

Two courses are available: 12 miles for juniors and 24 miles for seniors, and Mr. John Boyd (from whom sponsor forms are available) assures us there are few hills.

There will be a free T-shirt to commemorate the event for anyone raising over £20.

Please, if you can help or suggest other ideas to help raise funds, contact Mrs. Rocca.

(Bob Warren, who spent a year at Mary Hare Grammar School on an exchange from Oz, called in again in January and he and Mrs. Cookson, who is in Oz with her husband, are helping to organise the tour in Australia.)

## GOOD FOUNDATIONS

Mr. Eric Forth, M.P., Under Secretary of State for Schools, visited Mary Hare on 10th March to inspect progress on the Sixth Form Centre and lay a foundation stone. Mr. Forth also toured the school visiting many classrooms and discussing aspects of the school with Dr. Tucker and the Governors. The D.F.E. has promised to contribute £400,000 to the appeal fund. Mr. Tim Lowden reports that about £200,000 is still needed to complete the project.

It is hoped the first two blocks will be open in September to provide rooms for 30 sixth formers.

## FRANCE ENCORE!

Pupils in Year 10 have continued to use the computerised electronic mail (E-mail) service to communicate with the school for the deaf at Canteleu near Rouen. Twenty-four youngsters, together with four staff, also visited the school again at the end of March and the pupils were able to use their French to find out about school life in France.

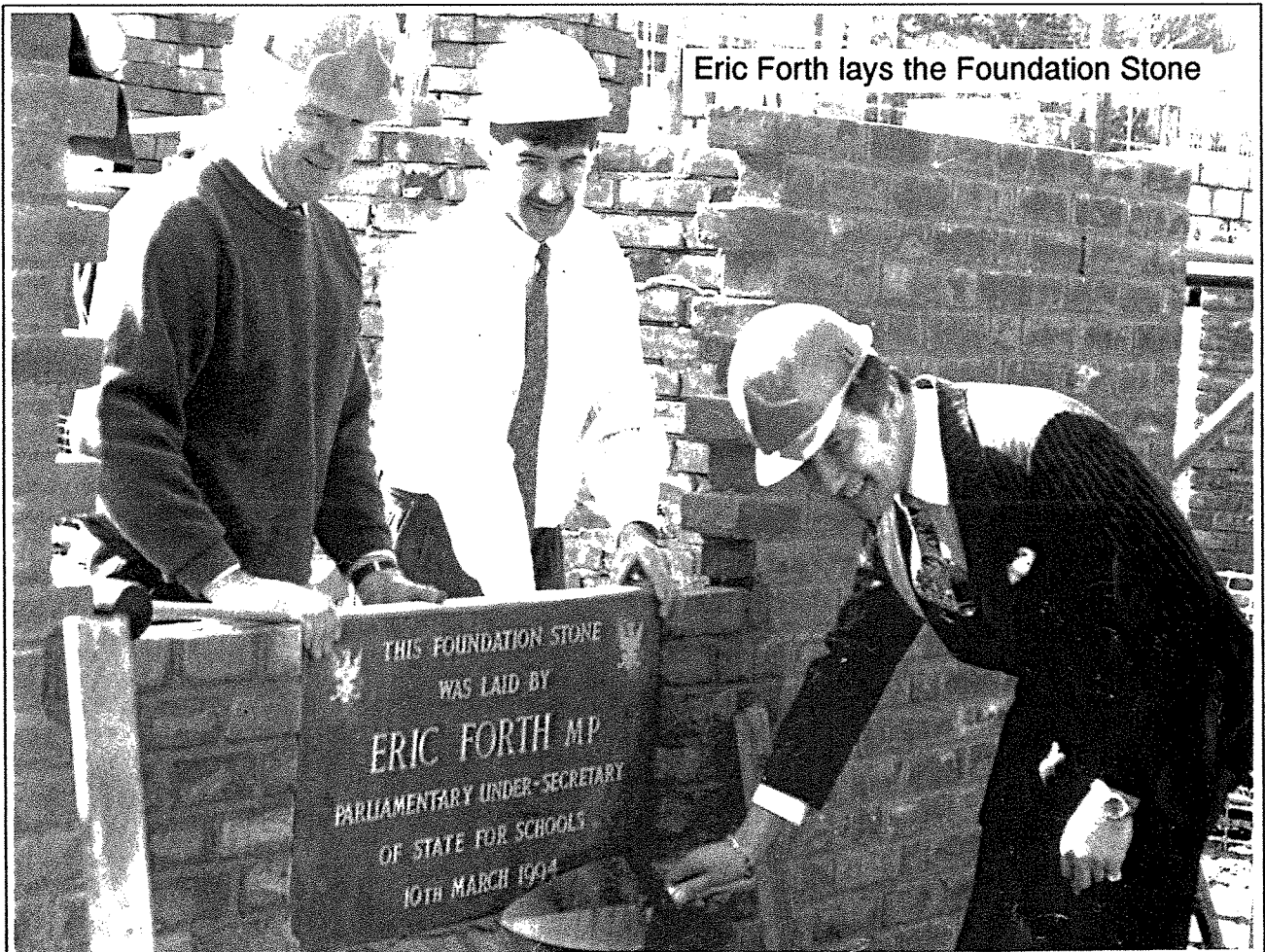
Other excursions included the Benedictine Palace and the Whaling Museum at Fecamp, and time to explore Dieppe. Some pupils were also able to carry out assignments for Business Studies projects in the French markets.

## 15% PROFIT

Investors in the company set up by Year 10 Business Studies students were delighted to receive a 15p dividend on each pound invested. The music tape performed, produced and marketed by the company, sold well but a few remain at 75p. All further profits will now go to charity.

## JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

All Year 8 students spent a day at the Natural History and Science museums in London studying the solar system, formation of the earth and space travel. They had opportunities to experience an earthquake and try many hands-on experiments in the Blast Off and Flight laboratories.



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## WELL DONE, MATES!

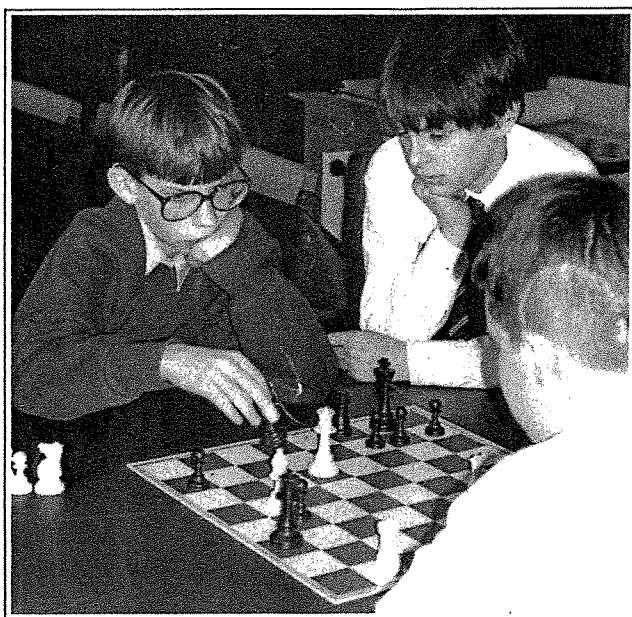
Mary Hare 5, Bulmershe School 0 was the highlight of the term's chess fixtures. It was the only success in the league, but there have been many fine performances, especially from Daniel Gower and Thomas Catchpole on the top boards. They were ably supported by a regular team of Nathan Ford, Piers Kittel, Nicholas Gregory, Jonathan Evans and reserve, Aaron Miller.

Playing in the U15 league with all our players from Years 7 and 9 means that our team will remain the same next year, while pupils in Year 10 of other schools will be too old.

Stephen Dering has assisted at many matches and is considering coming out of retirement so that we can have an under 18 team as well.

Finally, Daniel, Thomas and Piers all took part in the recent Berkshire junior training weekend, which was held at Mary Hare.

Daniel makes a move, watched by Thomas



## WHETHER THE WEATHER BE FINE!

Since the opening of the all-weather playing surface hockey has proved popular and playing standards have risen. An U16 team soundly beat local Turnpike School 10-3 in their most recent game. Well done!

At the time of writing the inter-house tournament is in progress - similarly the house rugby and house soccer.

## DESPITE THE ELEMENTS

Congratulations to all our runners in the area cross-country. We sent teams in various age groups and were delighted with their determination in the appalling conditions on a foul, muddy, cold and very wet day on Hungerford Common.

Katy Wood deserves special praise for pushing herself hard and finishing third in the U13 race (Mr. K. Wright's daughter, Frances - from the Downs School - came fourth!).

The inter-house cross-country in school was run this year over a slightly different course to avoid the building site. The individual winners who did well to keep their feet on some very slippery sections were:-

Laura McQuillan, Alistair Dalziel (Juniors),  
Corinna Simmons and Barry Campbell (Seniors)

and Mary Hare house were victorious overall.

## ALMOST IN THE NET

A team of Year 7 pupils performed very well in the area U12 netball championships, coming third in their group and only missing a quarter-final place by one point, having won 1, drawn 1, and lost 1. Well played!

## OPEN PLAY

The 1st XI soccer team has finished second in their league of four teams.

Played	Won	Lost	Goals for	against
3	2	1	8	8

Overall they have played many more fixtures and recently have achieved an unbeaten run of seven games with a few more games to come. Mr. Galbraith notes that they are playing an open, attractive, passing game.

The junior teams (U13 and U15) have participated in many enjoyable games winning and losing in equal measure.

## GO AHEAD

As reported in the national press, the Newbury by-pass, sweeping to the west of the town, has got the go-ahead.

Work will start late this summer on the road and over the next two years visitors to Mary Hare will find vast changes at junction 13 of the M4 and south from there on the A34.

The existing road round Newbury will ultimately be much quieter and even on race days access to the town should be much easier (at least for a year or two!).

The school is planting a tree screen and has plans for double-glazing to minimise any extra noise. Levels will be carefully monitored, but no serious problems are foreseen.