

CHATTERBOX

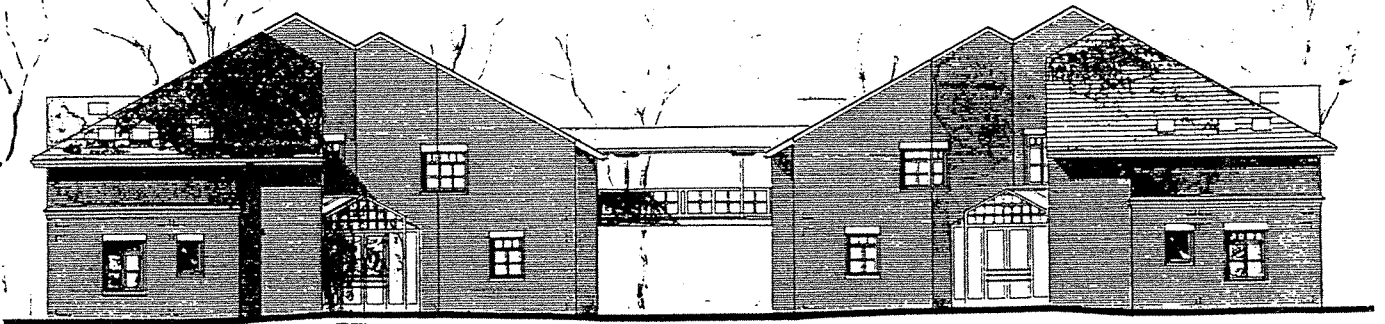
THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1993

MOST ACCOMMODATING



Following the visit of the Rt. Hon. John Patten last spring, the Department for Education has shown its confidence in Mary Hare School with a massive £400,000 grant for the Sixth Form Centre development. The money, to be spread over two years, provides a welcome boost to the funds which have already reached £1 million.

Visitors to the school have been astounded to see the rate of progress on the project. The contract with local firm - E.W. Beard Ltd. - was officially signed in mid November, but work was already well under way.

Blessed with good, dry weather the initial clearance of the site and excavation of tons of earth and clay has so far gone to plan. Sadly the guide hut has had to be demolished.

The four accommodation pavilions with single study rooms, each networked to the school computer system, and shared bathrooms, represents phase one. It is anticipated that at least two blocks will be completed by next September. Mr. Hugh Ogus, Chairman of Governors, has expressed his delight at the venture and paid tribute to the efforts of the Appeal Council. Mr. Philip Wroughton, Chairman of the Appeal Council said "The Foundation has been supported by many donations from trusts, companies, parents and individuals." But he made a fresh appeal to companies in the neighbourhood for help with the remainder of the project, which will cost in the region of £2,000,000.

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Excellent instrumental exam results have been achieved by pupils in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations. Five pupils gained the highest grade with distinction.

Mr. K. Kelly has been teaching pupils of the school on the clarinet for only one year and the following of his pupils have achieved success:

Emma Crowe	Grade 1 Pass
Clare Heaton	Grade 1 Merit
James May	Grade 1 Merit
James Bainbridge	Grade 1 Distinction (138 marks)
Claire Fox	Grade 1 Distinction
Danielle Gill	Grade 1 Distinction
Steven Meacham	Grade 4 Pass

Also successful was Natalie Smith with a distinction at Grade 2 on the violin (tutor Mrs. C. Hultmark) and Samantha Pitts, who gained a distinction at grade 1 on the oboe.

Some of these pupils will be taking part in the school band's tour of Australia next summer. Generous sponsorship has already been received from Thatcham Rotary Club and The Regency Hotel, but the members of the band are still seeking further funds to cover their costs and will be taking part in various money raising activities.

Smiling faces of the successful musicians



LISTEN HEAR!

As all parents know the auditory/oral philosophy of Mary Hare School has proved its value over the years in exam results and employment of pupils in a hearing world.

The new system of positive encouragement and praise for effort in communication is already having a good effect around the school. The following pupils have received commendations for a good attitude to oral communication:-

Two Commendations- Hailey Blandford, Rachel McDonald, Katherine Rogers.

One Commendation - Bassim Baz, Thomas Beattie, Bryony Booth, Samantha Caiels, Diane Chawner, Samantha Denton, Yvette Eyo, Ruth Montgomery, Angela Spielsinger, John Wood.

Please see the enclosed advert for items you can order to help your child care for their hearing aids and ear moulds.

TWO WAY TRAFFIC

Work experience is an opportunity for our Year 11 pupils to taste the world of work outside school, but it also provides a chance for hearing-impaired students to educate employers in the area about the problems deaf youngsters have.

This year's work experience week, organised by Miss Gladwell, again proved a great success with many complimentary letters received from local banks, shops and companies where our students worked.

Here is one extract from Panasonic . . . "I thought I'd take the opportunity to congratulate you on two fine ambassadors for your school, Justin Smith and Matthew Hearn. This was the first time our company has taken pupils from your school, but we now hope that this will continue on a regular basis. We were a little unsure of ourselves . . . from a communication viewpoint, but our staff showed great enthusiasm . . . and everything went off pretty well."

BOARD NOT BORED!

Stephen Dering, last year's Chess captain, has retired to spend time with his politics! However, we have an enthusiastic new intake of Year 7 players, two of whom, Nicholas Gregory and Jonathan Evans have already won games in the Berkshire League. Our young team, led by Daniel Gower, Thomas Catchpole and Piers Kittel can look forward to continuing success - but where are the girls to follow in Natalie Veale's footsteps?

INTREPID EXPLORERS

As part of the National Curriculum Year 7 have been finding out about the local area. In late November they ventured out into deepest darkest Berkshire in the school minibus to see what services were available in the nearby villages of Wintebourne, Chieveley, Hermitage and Donnington. Some pupils were surprised to find some places had very little to offer - only a pub and a postbox! However, they did discover that Mary Hare is near to some interesting services, for example, an Army camp, a castle, a pottery and a pub called "The Pig in Hiding".

Year 7 parents - the next time you visit, ask your son/daughter for a guided tour of the area and see how much they can remember!

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MYSTERY

Teaching has changed over the years but here are two mysteries to solve:

1. Why was Mrs. Coombes throwing eggs out of a window?
2. Why was Rachel Doidge-Harrison pushing a pushchair round school?

Answers on a postcard (or even in a plain brown envelope) to the editor.

FAIR TRADE

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director General of Fair Trading, was the Guest of Honour at Speech Day and spoke of the innovations he had been able to make as director of OFTEL for hearing-impaired people using the telephone network.

Speech Day also marked the unveiling of our video/text monitors in Dulverton Hall. This new venture enables us to sub-title speeches. Mike Thomas of Year 11 must be commended for his discrete camera technique which helped people at the back to see and lipread.

TOP OF THE CLASS

Mr. T. Coulter successfully passed his Diploma as a Teacher of the Deaf last year with flying colours and was awarded the prestigious Eichholz Prize. We are very proud of the fact that in recent years the Eichholz Prize for the most outstanding student on the course, which is not awarded every year, has twice been presented to Mary Hare teachers, the other being Mrs. O'Connor.

ASLAN

At press time frantic activities are taking place all over the school in preparation for "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe". Scripts and actions are being learned, sets built and painted, tickets sold and pupils from all parts of the school are involved.

LOGO

At the top of this newsletter you will find the school crest, designed by some early pupils. It has been suggested that the badge is updated before the 50th anniversary of the school - perhaps with an English motto.

What do you think? Have you got any ideas for a 21st century crest? Please let Dr. Tucker know.

PRIVATES ON PARADE

Two Mary Hare pupils were among the cadets who gave a presentation by the Berkshire Army Cadet Force at Shire Hall in November.

Peter Culver and Thomas Salomone joined the Newbury detachment of the cadet force in March this year. Dignitaries from across the county attended the evening, including the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and Newbury's Town Mayor, Mrs. Marion Paterson.

"Being a cadet has given us an opportunity to do things that we had never dreamed of before," said Peter Culver.

GETTING DOWN

The Jiving Lindy Hoppers delighted Year 8 pupils with an energetic workshop of contemporary dance in September. Accompanied by teachers Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. Horrell, Mrs. Rocca and Miss McKenna the pupils learnt to "feel the rhythm" and "get down and boogie".

Hailey & Katherine concentrate hard with the Jiving Lindy Hoppers



AEROBATHON

Ann Capewell, a Newbury school girl, died tragically from leukaemia this summer. The students at her school wanted to remember her by raising money for Leukaemia Research.

As a keen sportswoman it seemed fitting that a sponsored aerobathon should be organised. The fund raising event took place on Sunday, 28th November led by Falcon from the T.V. Show "Gladiators".

Pupils from Mary Hare joined in the fund raising money by being sponsored for one and a half hours of aerobics. Deepa Shastri, Jordon Fenlon, Matthew Fenlon, Greg Beedie, Victoria Paull, Nadia Nadarajah, Louise Pitchers, Reena Guru and Isabel Meacher were the pupils who exhausted themselves for a good cause (with help from Mrs. Whitehead and Mrs. Wylie). Well done!

FLOATING ON AIR

A charity lunch helped to raise £200 towards a Nimbus Air Bed for the Duchess of Kent Hospice near Reading. The bed, which costs £3,000, is to provide comfort for emaciated patients.

Sister Christine Cook of the Macmillan Nurses spoke to the school assembly and received the cheque.

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NATURAL SELECTION

Following the success of last year's carousel project, a new company "Power Media" has been formed to market and promote the band "Natural Selection". Songs have been written and recorded, artwork for the cover and posters designed, shares sold to finance the cost of materials and live gigs sought.

The two songs by James May, Sam Seaver, Tina Nye, Katrina Tobin, Lee Stickings, Beth Colwill, Khuram Saraf and Deepa Shastri are entitled "Coloured World" and "Get de Life".

Managing Director, Sarah Gowdy, says "Managing the money has been quite difficult, but we are sure we'll make a profit". Company Secretary, Jessica Wilde, predicted that shareholders would receive up to £1.44 for each £1 invested.

Tapes are available in a limited edition only and can be purchased at £1.75 from Tom Wilson.

BOOKED

Many thanks from Miss Leach to all who contributed vouchers for purchases from W.H. Smiths. The library has benefited with over £200 worth of books, which will be arriving in January.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Shortly after their arrival all of Year 7 had a day at Marwell Zoological Park near Winchester. All, of course, as part of their Science studies. They were treated first to a "hands-on" talk about animal classification, including close encounters with Montague's Spectre (an Australian stick insect) and a friendly python. The afternoon was spent touring the zoo and completing a quiz guide.



Mrs. Hutcheson examines a Montague's Spectre with Helen Gillespie and Katy Wood

ON THE BOX

We recently had a visit from a representative from the National Captioning Institute who gave a short talk and demonstration to a large group of pupils and donated a video caption reader to the school together with two captioned videos on which the subtitles are encoded.

Thanks to the generosity of Ritz video we have also been given a further two caption readers and so will be able to have one in each House and one in the White Cottages.

OFF TO AFRICA

Well not quite! Mrs. Rocca and Miss McKenna took a group of pupils to Bracknell to see a display of African dance and music by a troupe from Benin.

PRIVATE VIEWING

There was also an art trip to the White Chapel Gallery to view Lucien Freud's latest paintings.

SPORTS NEWS

Swimming Gala

A very exciting gala took place in October with the result undecided until the very last relay race.

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

Individual Trophies:

- Junior girls - Elizabeth Culver
- Senior girls - Rachel Doidge-Harrison
- Junior boys - Alistair Dalziel
- Senior boys - Philip Thomas

House Netball Results - November 1993

- 1st Mary Hare
- 2nd Beverley
- 3rd = Arnold and Braidwood

School Netball Teams' Results

The netball teams so far have not achieved much success, the U16 showing most promise.

	played	won	drew	lost
Under 18	2	-	-	2
Under 16	3	2	-	1
Under 15	3	1	1	1
Under 14	3	1	-	2
Under 13	3	-	1	2
Under 12	3	-	-	3

School Soccer Matches

Competing against the large schools in the area is not easy, but the soccer teams are giving creditable performances.

	played	won	drew	lost
1st XI	6	2	2	2
Under 16	2	-	-	2
Under 15	3	2	-	1
Under 13	2	-	-	2