

# CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1993

## UP, UP AND AWAY!

The Lloyds Bank Hot Air Balloon team livened up a science lesson for Year 8 and Year 9 pupils in March.

The pilot explained the way the materials are selected for the basket and envelope, pointing out that a wicker basket is not used simply because of tradition, but because it fulfils all the required properties.

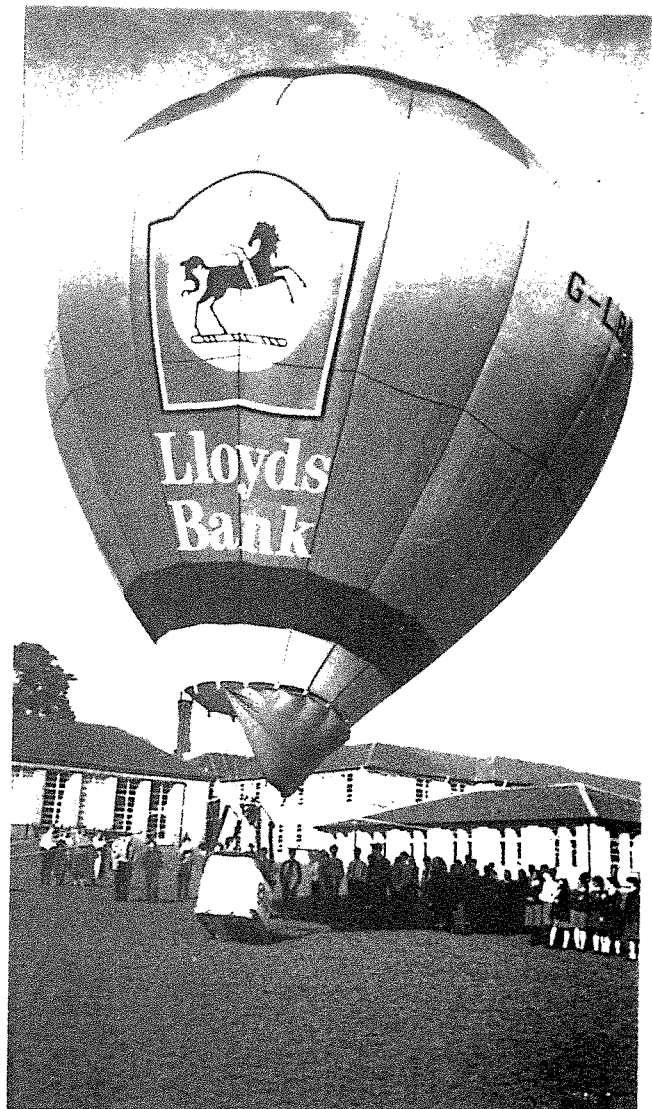
After answering questions ("what happens if you run out of gas?" among others!) the crew inflated the balloon on the field. The slightly windy conditions added to the excitement as 1 tonne of hot-air swayed around and the tethered balloon lifted off.

The Meridian T.V. crew filmed the event and Deepa Shastri and Oliver Rado later appeared on the local channel, expressing their delight in the event.

The T.V. crew and balloon team all commented on the politeness and good behaviour of the pupils. We must in return say a big thank you to Lloyds Bank for their sponsorship of the Headway Schools Programme.

## COMPETITION

Lloyds Bank also have agreed to sponsor a competition for Year 8 and 9 pupils to write, draw or make something related to what they saw. Perhaps a poem, a story, a poster or a model balloon. Entries are due in after the Easter holiday.



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## “YES PLEASE, MINISTER!”

“Why is it so difficult to get information on exam results for hearing-impaired pupils in Local Education Authorities?”

“What is the future for a school like Mary Hare?”

“Are we likely to get a grant for the sixth form campus?”

“Is it fair that 5% of G.C.S.E. marks are for grammar, spelling and syntax?”

These were just a few of the questions put to the Rt. Hon. John Patten when he visited Mary Hare Grammar School in February. The Secretary of State for Education spent some two hours at the school in company with a very senior Civil Servant from his department. The Minister had coffee with members of the teaching staff, met Dr. Tucker and also Mr. Philip Wroughton (Chairman of the Appeal Council). He toured many classrooms including English, Maths., I.T., C.D.T. and Science.

It was the first time Mr. Patten had visited such a school for the hearing-impaired and he was eager to learn more of the problems and challenges faced by able pupils who have a linguistic difficulty. He expressed his delight at the standards he saw and spoke to several pupils during his visit.

Although he said “I haven’t got my cheque book with me”, Mr. Patten did suggest funds might be available for a grant from the D.F.E., however he pointed out that the pot of gold for all special schools is severely limited and the work of the Appeal is vital.

The Secretary of State later wrote to the school expressing his support and sympathy for the requests and views put to him.

John Wood explains about acids and alkalis to Dr. Tucker and Mr. Patten

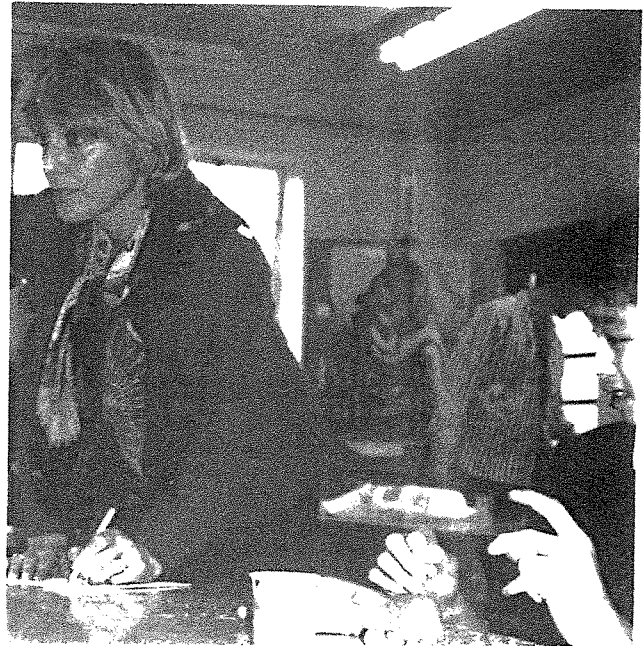


## IN THE DARK

The dark room has now been completely refurbished - many thanks are due to John Boyd and his helpers. It is now well on the way to being equipped to a high standard for student projects in Art and Photography.

## THAT’S LIFE

Esther Rantzen dropped in at the end of last term on a private visit. She is seen here in a Year 9 lesson signing autographs.



## SQUASHED TOMATOES

After years of longing to get out of school uniform, most sixth formers returned to the green sweaters for Comic Relief day. With pupils looking more like St. Trinian’s refugees, lessons continued (roughly) as normal, despite the occasional interjection of “Tomatoes” from a sixth former avoiding a fine (for each time they failed to include tomatoes in a sentence). Other pupils changed to fancy dress and prizes were given to Ruth Montgomery, Katherine Rogers and Angela Spielsinger who appeared as pixies, Jamie (sorry, James) Bainbridge and Mr. Marlow (who failed to get out of his pyjamas that morning).

Over £150 was sent off to the charity.

## HAVE YOU GOT IT TAPED?

‘Take That And The Bad Kids’ was the unlikely name of a Year 10 pop group who wrote, produced and marketed their own tape this term.

As part of their carousel project two songs were written “Do you remember the War?” and “Mr. Wendel” (based on words by Arrested Development). The Year 10 pupils then recorded them, designed the sleeve and posters and sold shares to finance their company. It didn’t exactly sell millions, but sales were healthy enough to generate a good dividend as the profits grew.

Managing Director of the company, Tola Adenika, said “The most difficult part was telling my friends what to do! It was very hard work!”

There are a few copies left which may be available at a discount price - contact Christine Roderick for details.

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## CROSS CHANNEL - CROSS CURRICULUM

A three star chateaux near Bayeux was the headquarters for this year's combined Year 7 English with Year 10 French/ Business Studies trip. They say they worked hard, but if you ask what they did it seems they played games like bowling and treasure hunts and had discos every evening until late!

In between games they visited the Cathedral at Rouen, where a group of deaf French children showed them round and took them back to their school. (The football match went 3:1 to the French.)

The tapestry at Bayeux always provides a highlight. The D-Day War Museum and Mulberry Harbour at Arromanche gave plenty to talk about.

The Business Studies Group interviewed the manager of a market (Bobby says they were cruel to the rabbits), and the manager of the tapestry museum. They also questioned the staff in the local tourist office about attractions in Normandy.

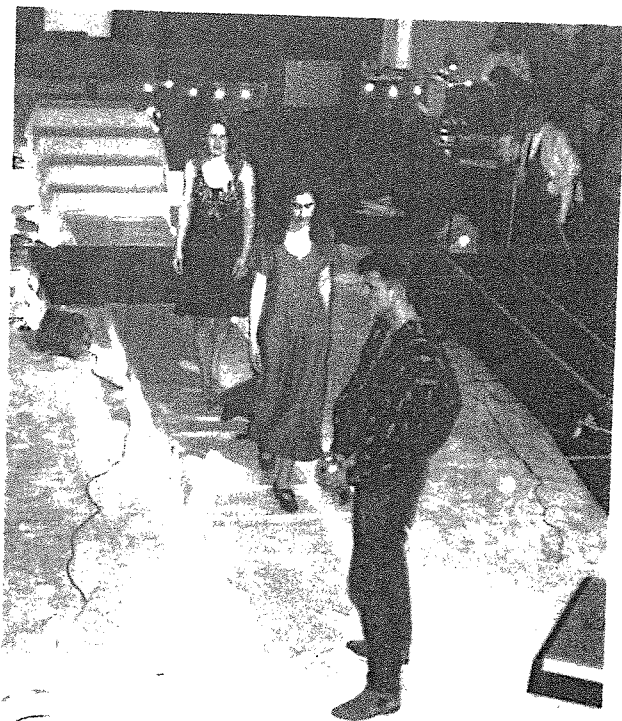
A day trip to Paris including a boat on the Seine and an ascent to the top of the Eiffel Tower topped an exciting five days.

The group arrived back, despite a ferry engine failure mid-Channel, in the early hours, tired but exhilarated.

## DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF FASHION!

Melanie Wilkins has always wanted to organise a fashion show. The Y.A.S. Gold Award (Performance Challenge) has presented her with that opportunity.

On Friday, 26th March twenty senior pupils took to the catwalk in their debut as fashion models. All the technical support and effects were manned by other pupils in a spectacular show generously sponsored by Marks & Spencer, Fosters Menswear, Saffron Moon, Intersport and Satin & Lace (wedding hire).



From casual to formal, from beachwear to evening dress, the event was crowned by Caroline Ward in a stunning bridal outfit - Caroline has said she would like to become a professional model. We wish her well. The entire event was in aid of Tear Fund and a representative attended the show and gave a brief presentation.



## PANDEMONIUM

The Kneecap Dance group have been tutoring a mixed group of pupils from Years 10 to 13 for a presentation at the Arts Workshop in Newbury. The eleven pupils met each Tuesday lunchtime and then joined with teenagers from all over the locality for "Pandemonium" - a mixed media event covering a range of styles at the end of March.

## MORE NOTES

Welcome to Ken Kelly, a retiring headteacher, who is joining the part-time music staff and teaching clarinet and saxophone. This increases the hours available for lessons. Interested pupils should see Christine Roderick.

## OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Year 8 have had an exciting term, also visiting the Science Museum. A lightning tour and a special hands on session, provided a day of stimulating experiences following their topic on Space.

Reena Guru submitted an almost perfect quiz entry and was awarded a prize. Runners up were Gregory Piersenne and Daniel Gower.

## THE LAND OF OZ

Many thanks to those who have sent in items for the Car Boot Sale to raise money for the school band's proposed trip to Australia. The sale is after Easter and we would still like more goods. Look in the attic, garage and shed - there must be something you can send us to sell, however small.

Other ideas for fund raising would also be appreciated - contact Miss Ogg at the school.

## IN THE DOG HOUSE

Far from the dog house - Alex Hurley has continued his success as a dog handler by winning several junior classes at Crufts. For success in obedience, handling and the utility group, Alex was awarded an engraved glass trophy, an atlas and a pen from British Airways, numerous rosettes and medals and a cheque for £100. Congratulations.

## FLOPPIES

The school is once again collecting the TESCO "Computers for Schools" vouchers.

The target is 4,000 - so far we have 70! Come on, please collect all the vouchers you can from relations, friends and neighbours and send them in to school as soon as possible.

## SPORTS NEWS

### New Image Rugby

The New Image Rugby is proving very popular in all parts of the school and the House matches were keenly fought.

Result:-

1st Mary Hare	15 points
2nd Beverley	13 points
3rd Arnold	4 points
4th Braidwood	4 points

### Hockey

... and the House Hockey:-

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

### Swimming

Year 9 swimmers have been working towards Personal Survival Awards. The following are to be congratulated for achieving Level I:-

L. Stickings, W. Pope, J. May, J. McAlley, A. Stibbs, T. Wilson, S. Seaver, M. Robak, T. Salomone, M. Nelson, R. Dougherty, J. Bainbridge.

And Level II:-

T. Salomone, M. Nelson, S. Seaver, J. May, R. Dougherty, M. Robak.

Senior students have also been working towards the Ki-Ora Swim Challenge Awards.

### Silver Award and Gold Award

Many congratulations to:-

A. Hearn, T. Curtis, S. Meacham, P. Eames, S. Burgess.

### House Matches

At this time of writing, House competitions are under way in Hockey, Football and Rugby. Results will be published in the next issue.

### Football

The season now draws to a close and results in general have been very disappointing. However, as they say, "there's always next season".

### Seniors (U16 and 1st XI)

played	won	drawn	lost
17	4	1	12

### Juniors (U13, U14 and U15)

played	won	drawn	lost
13	5	2	6

The 1st XI have had a long, hard season and despite a string of bad results, including an eight game losing streak, players have persevered and have tried to play attractive passing football. Thanks to all players, juniors and seniors, for representing the school in fixtures.

### Next Term

Sports Day looms ahead so pupils and staff alike will be working towards organising the "Big Day". Next term also sees the commencement of the cricket season. The U13 and U15 teams are entered in the local schools' district league. Rounders and tennis matches will feature prominently plus all the school and the area athletic events. Somewhere amongst all this, exams and school work will be fitted in!

(D. Galbraith)