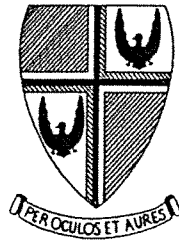


# CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1992

## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

Parents may well recall Sir Harry Secombe's "Goon Show" days with great affection and may also be viewers of the T.V.S. "Highway" programme. Sir Harry focused on Newbury in November and a substantial part of the programme was made at Mary Hare. Dr. Tucker was interviewed, the school band played and scenes from many departments in school were shown.

A highlight of the visit was a brief performance by international percussionist Evelyn Glennie, who chatted to pupils as they crowded around her rosewood marimba. She explained the simultaneous use of four sticks and how different beaters will make different sounds.

The band were also invited back to the recording studio in London where they watched Sir Harry and the orchestra recording the music for the programme.

(If you missed the broadcast please contact me and we may be able to arrange for you to borrow a tape or view it at a parents' day - K. Wright.)



Pupils crowd round as Evelyn Glennie demonstrates the marimba

# THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## DEFENSE DE PARLER ANGLAIS!

Through the magic of information technology the French students of Years 9 and 10 have begun to develop a link with Le College de Canteleu in Rouen. As part of the Edu 2000 project, faxes and text have been sent and received through the Campus 2000 electronic mail system. Initially, a "getting to know you" period of exchange of personal information will take place and then the system can be used to ask questions, to explore our different cultures, entertainment, use of free time, fashions, etc.

Year 7 pupils meanwhile are experiencing total immersion and English is forbidden during French lessons. Ici on parle Francais! (or at least one tries to!)

## KINGS AND QUEENS

The chess team proved that last year's success against Reading School was no fluke by doing it again - much to Dr. Tucker's delight (his son goes there!).

Other matches have not proved so fruitful, but Mr. Marlow reports that Daniel Gower and Thomas Catchpole of Year 8 have tasted their first wins for the school, and in one match with William Borlais School, Stephen Dering defeated a Buckinghamshire county player. Well done!

Paul Neal, P.J. Lot and Matthew Hearn have also played well. Keep it up lads! You'll note there are no lasses - any suggestions as to why not, should be sent on a postcard . . .)

Footnote: Mr. Marlow wants everyone to know he beat an International Master the other night. The International Master doesn't!

## IN COURT

The House netball competition produced an identical result to last year with Mary Hare retaining their title and Braidwood narrowly squeezing ahead of Arnold as runners up. Beverley were not very successful in either the junior or senior section, but helped to contribute to a very competitive tournament.

## MOVING IMAGE

A stimulating and exciting trip to the Museum of the Moving Image was enjoyed by Year 10 Media Studies pupils. Together with a party of Newbury College students the class visited the Museum to look at the development and history of movies and television in connection with G.C.S.E. project work.

## LIVE LINK

The media buffs of the future got a taste of live work as 9FR provided a video link at the school swimming gala for the spectators in the gym. With interviews, captions, scoreboards and live action the team are now seeking a Saturday afternoon slot to rival the B.B.C. sports presenters.

Meanwhile 9SR are preparing a pop video on rebellion - in French!

## LOVE STORY

The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of "Anthony & Cleopatra" in Stratford was a sell out, but our sixth form students managed to get tickets and travelled to the performance in early December. The performance stimulated much discussion material.

## THE PUPILS' VIEW

The first taste of the world of work can be a daunting experience. Mary Hare pupils are well prepared and here are some comments from Year 11 pupils after their work week in November:-

"Not one moment was boring. I saw over twenty operations." Robert Rattray (Falklands Veterinary Surgery)

"I really enjoyed myself as a graphic designer. I just wish I could work here for another week." Jaskarn Singh Mann (Quantel)

"My work experience was great. It really made me feel confident about the future." Hannah Worthley (Thatcham Health Centre)

"When I worked in W.H. Smiths I felt I learnt about how to communicate with people and how to ask questions to find out information. It gave me confidence." Tammy Broskom (W.H. Smiths)

"I learnt a lot about computers and met a lot of people. However, it isn't the kind of job I'd like in the future." Sam Dore (Quantel)

"I enjoyed working with the terrors in the nursery. I liked it when they were naughty!" Marcella Stratton (Headstarts Nursery)

"One week isn't really enough!" Alex Hurley (Digital)



Our thanks go to all the local companies who take pupils and give them valuable experience and support.

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## HANDS ON

Year 7 pupils travelled once again to Marwell Zoological Park to study endangered species. Several pupils had a close encounter with the animals in the education department including a python and a rat.

After the visit pupils designed posters concerning conservation and Miss McKenna had the difficult task of deciding winners. The winning posters were by Sophie Stone and Chalk Lai Wan, with excellent efforts by Bassim Baz, James Logan, Greg Beedie, Yvette Eyo.

## HEAR THIS

Year 10 Science pupils carried out a study of the uses of materials. A very pertinent and fascinating area where new materials have had a vast impact is in hearing-aids. If you have stored away old aids (especially the box like body aids grandma wore) please send them to Mrs. Leonard as she hopes to set up a mini-museum.

## BOLD AS BRASS

A very successful concert in aid of the Mary Hare Sixth Form Block Appeal was held in St. George's Church, Newbury in November. Westminster Brass, The Jane Austen Singers and our own school wind group treated the audience to a full and varied programme. If you'd like to know more about how the Appeal is going, contact Mr. Lowden at the school.

## IT'S A DATE

The school band also took part in the local schools' Carol Concert in St. Nicholas' Church, Newbury, where hundreds of children from this part of Berkshire gather to share the joy of Christmas music.

The band have also been supporting the National Aural Group with a performance at Exeter College, Oxford, and have a further date in Edinburgh on 27th March.

Music teacher, Miss Roderick, has been delighted at the level of support from parents and friends in the locality - many thanks. She looks forward to a large audience in Scotland - see you there.

## NEW MUSIC

A warm welcome to two new peripatetic music teachers - Miss Pickering (flute) and Mr. Kelley (clarinet) have started giving lessons at the school. Around 60 pupils now have instrumental lessons - a most noteworthy achievement (groan!).

## CONGRATULATIONS

... and some of those pupils are progressing rapidly through the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music exams:-

Rosemary Halson	Piano Grade 1
Joanna Penfold	Piano Grade 5
Steven Meacham	Clarinet Grade 3 (Merit)
Suzanne Clubley	Clarinet Grade 3
Jessica Wilde	Clarinet Grade 2
Melanie Pitts	Clarinet Grade 5
Michael Johnson	Cornet Grade 5

Sincere congratulations to these youngsters. They are a credit to their teachers and set a wonderful example of what can be achieved through dedication and practice.

## WHAT A STAR

There is a gigantic trophy on display in the entrance hall to the school and the proud winner is Alex Hurley. The trophy is engraved "The National Show Handling Competition Overall Individual Winner" and Alex won it with his Bedlington terrier bitch "Star" at a recent show organised by The Kennel Club Junior Organisation.

Alex has ambitions to go on to win other national competitions now for the Junior Handlers Association and The Kennel Club. (Star has also recently produced two pups who have yet to be named.)

## HEROES

Year 9 once again enjoyed an activity week in Tirabad, South Wales. Highlights of the week included gully bashing (sounds cruel doesn't it?); orienteering; caving; canoeing and a waterfall walk. Nominations for "Wally of the Day" were abundant, but it was difficult to select one "Hero of the Day" each day for the prize (a bar of chocolate).

Special mention for hard work and achievement must be made of Tina Nye and Lauren Tan.

## STOP PRESS

Swimming gala result:-

1st Arnold	125 points
2nd Mary Hare	110 points
3rd Beverley	104 points
4th Braidwood	96 points

## NO RESISTANCE!

Mr. D.A.J. Shaw, seen here teaching Ohm's Law to Sarah Gowdy and Victoria Paull, was welcomed to the staff in September as the new Vice Principal.

Mr. Shaw, a teacher of Science with a specialism in Physics, has moved here from St. John's, Boston Spa, with his wife, Ruth, and their daughter and son. They have settled in quickly and many parents have already met Mr. Shaw at Speech Day or for review meetings. We hope he and his family have a long and happy stay at Mary Hare.



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## INTO THE CHAIR

After eight years Mrs. Pat Sanders has stepped down as Chairman of the Board of Governors. She has steered the school through many difficult but exciting changes, including the appointment of a new Principal and the extension of Science and C.D.T. facilities. Our sincere thanks are expressed to her for all her commitment and dedication.

Stepping into her place is Mr. Hugh Ogus (pictured), who was introduced on Speech Day. Mr. Ogus lives near London and is the Managing Director of several companies, including Poscelco (lighting). He has had a very long relationship with the school through George Mansell with whom he worked. We wish him well in the hot seat with all the responsibilities he now shoulders.



### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

3RD MAY 1993

## MARY HARE OPEN DAY

Please come and join us.

See classroom teaching.

Have your hearing tested!

An interesting day for everyone.