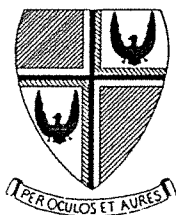


# CHATTERBOX

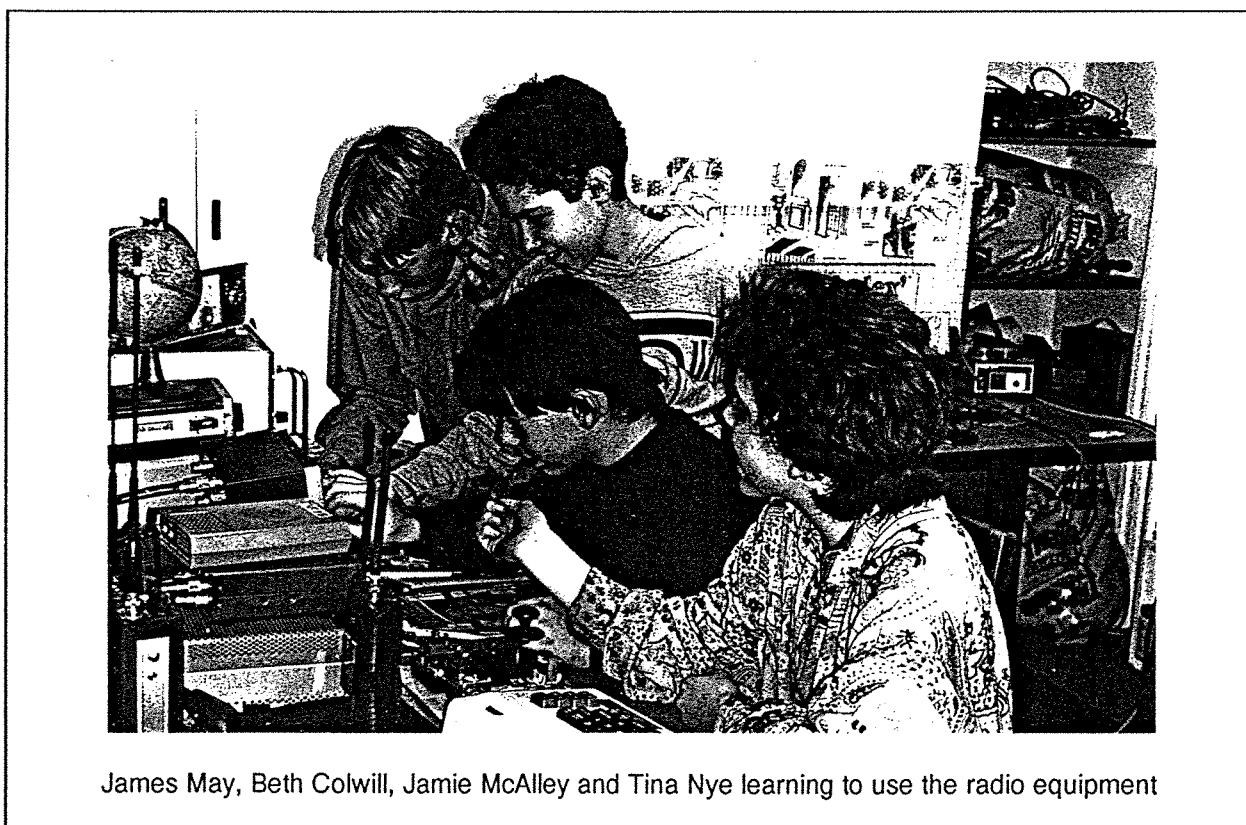
THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 1992

## "G7MHS CALLING"



James May, Beth Colwill, Jamie McAlley and Tina Nye learning to use the radio equipment

An amateur radio station with all the facilities to train students for the new novice D.T.I. licence has been set up at the school.

All amateur radio operators have to pass an examination before they can use transmitters on the amateur bands. Merton Vaslet, whose call sign is G4JAL is the approved City & Guilds instructor for the school. Training has started, the first pupils are James May and Jamie McAlley.

When they have passed their exam they will be able to talk to other amateurs anywhere in the world using voice, morse code or data transmission from a computer connected to a radio trans/receiver.

The BP Forties Field have kindly donated £500 towards the cost of transmitting equipment, for which the school is most grateful.

The school call sign will be G7MHS and will be issued about the end of May 1992. If you are interested please come and see our station.

# THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## CLAPPING ALONG

A two thousand strong audience at the Royal Festival Hall clapped along as Natalie Veale lead the school band through three songs when they appeared at the National Festival of Youth Concert on 30th March.

The band were delighted to be asked to play in the concert in aid of the John Groom Charity for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children.

Music teacher, Miss Roderick, commented "Bryan Moore was so calm on the drums. He didn't play a beat wrong. It was lovely that Natalie came back to sing. It all went very well." Well done all!

A concert of music and art is planned for midsummer (Saturday, 20th June) - watch out for details next term.

## PUPILS MAKE MUSIC IN HOUSE OF LORDS

On Thursday, 2nd April Melanie Pitts, Sandra Wood and Lisa Jones (clarinets), Jamie McAlley (guitar) and Katrina Tobin (singer) played and sang to a delighted audience in the hallowed surroundings of the House of Lords at Westminster. The occasion was a reception for the National Aural Group hosted by the Lord Carter. They played beautifully and Katrina Tobin sang to the very attentive audience.

Lord Carter gave them a special treat, not extended to ordinary guests like Dr. Tucker! This was a guided tour of both Houses of Parliament. Jamie McAlley could hardly contain his excitement when he returned giving anyone close at hand details of the seating, the microphones and the decor. The Festival Hall on Monday, the House of Lords on

Thursday - where will these talented musicians end up next!

## PASS THE WORD

... and year 10 pupils also visited the headquarters of local chemical company, Bayer, with whom we enjoy a good relationship. The youngsters toured an exhibition, watched a video and then took part in a light-hearted quiz. The winning team were presented with leather-bound dictionaries and the runners up received Bayer's rulers.

## WE'VE GOT THE POWER

Science students from years 10 and 11 travelled up the A34 to Didcot Power Station to see how electricity is generated. They were impressed by the vast size of the generating room and the extreme noise levels.

## A QUICK NOTE

Information technology and art cross paths more and more. The music department now has a computer which will be very valuable in G.C.S.E. composition work as it can emulate a whole orchestra and provide accompaniments for pupils to work to.

## BY DESIGN

A combined Art and C.D.T. trip with a large group of years 11, 12 and 13 students visited the Design Museum, the Design Council, Whitechapel Art Gallery and the National Gallery in January. The youngsters gained a great deal of inspiration from the exhibits they saw.

## WHAT A STEEL!

Mr. John Doidge-Harrison from the Shropshire group of the N.D.C.S. recently presented the school with a cheque for over £600. The money was raised after the school band played a concert in a barn in Shropshire in the autumn. It is hoped to purchase some steel drums for the band to widen the repertoire. Why not get the band to visit your area?



# THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## A BIT CHILLY

Sixth form English literature A-level students travelled to Oxford for a production of "A Winter's Tale".

The unusual avant garde production was found to be thought-provoking and stimulated much discussion.

## CHECK MATE

The chess team rarely get mentioned (because they don't win much!), but, great news, they beat Reading School reports Mr. Marlow. Robin McMeekin and John Austin won their matches and two were halved in the 3:2 victory. Reading School has a good reputation (it's where Dr. Tucker's son goes!) and this is a tremendous achievement. Congratulations.

## ON OPERATION

18 year old Neal Caws from the Isle of Wight has a target to reach of £3,000 in 12 months.

He hopes to visit Mauritius to take part in a Marine Biological Survey or Botswana to explore sparsely populated areas with OPERATION RALEIGH. Neal is a sixth former taking A-levels in Maths and Art and he also studies Ceramics at Newbury College.

He was selected from hundreds of hopeful applicants after a tough but exciting weekend at Radley near Oxford, where problem-solving skills, leadership qualities and team spirit were assessed. One task involved building a bridge, which unfortunately collapsed so the team had to wade through ice-cold water. Well done, Neall!



## JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



The journey of a lifetime awaits year 11 pupil, Rachel Doidge-Harrison, in July when she travels off to the Far East to follow the silk road from Peking to Pakistan.

Profoundly deaf Rachel was one of twenty-four shortlisted from hundreds of young people who are disadvantaged in various ways. She attended an interview and the panel were most impressed by her research and presentation.

While travelling the silk road Rachel looks forward to meeting people from other countries and, as a talented artist, she will also add work to her art portfolio.

She initially had to raise £500 towards her own expenses. After publicity in the Shropshire Star newspaper, a ceilidh was arranged to raise money and also the Iron Men and Severn Guilders Morris Men danced and collected their way round Ironbridge with Rachel dancing as part of the team. A grand total of over £900 has been raised so far, so the surplus can be used to help pay for some other youngsters.

After Easter Rachel plans a sponsored swim for 2 hours in the pool at school. If you'd like to help this trip, please contact her at school.

## ON THE SHORE

An integral part of A-level Biology is a field trip and in chilly February Lisa Jones, Mel Pitts, Stefan Kodjie, Suzanne Rodaway and David Prince together with Mr. Coulter braved South Wales to study marine biology. They teamed up with the Howell School, Cardiff at the Dale Fort Field Centre near Haverfordwest and our pupils worked in small groups with the other students. They studied the ways the flora and fauna adapt to different habitats on the shore.

Mr. Coulter said he was most impressed by the quality and standard of work produced by the Mary Hare pupils which counts towards their A-level grade.

# THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## ALLONS EN FRANCE

An exciting cross-curricular activity took place just before the end of term when three sixth formers and ten year 10 pupils travelled to France to study the retailing and leisure industries around Le Touquet.

Accompanied by Mr. Lee, Mrs. Pocock and Mrs. Roberts, the pupils visited the Fortinettes Ship Lift, Cristallerie d'Arques, a bakery, two leisure centres, two markets and the Eurotunnel exhibition at Sangatte. All of the preliminary correspondence with the business establishments had been carried out by the sixth formers. Questions in French concerning the running of the industries had also been prepared to ask the management while they visited the leisure centres and glassware factories.

## FEEL THE BEAT

At the end of March we welcomed the Phoenix Contemporary Dance Company. The members of the ensemble were appearing in Bracknell and visited the school to give a workshop with year 8 pupils.

Pam Johnson, leader of the troupe, lead the year 8 pupils in a warm up session including work with 3, 4 and 5 beats to the bar. Then the three male members of the company tutored smaller groups so they could dance a short presentation at the end of the two hour workshop.

The pupils said they had a great time.

## ON THE BALL

Watch out for news of the Charity Rugby Match early next term (3rd May) when a team of international rugby players meets a Newbury XV. Don't miss it.

## MARATHON EFFORTS

339 goals were scored in a marathon hockey match by a dozen senior girls in aid of OXFAM.

Ronie Keetley explained "We divided into three teams of four. Each team played for half an hour and then rested for 15 minutes. So in 12 hours each person played 8 hours. Thousands of bruises were created and we raised over £100."

## LEISURELY

Meanwhile in the boys' house a more leisurely activity took place - 24 hours of snooker was played by seven prefects (6 boys and 1 girl). Each player played 8 hours, refereed for 8 hours and rested for 8 hours, but sleeping was not allowed. The students also "fined" themselves in aid of OXFAM at 5p per foul, although Nigel Benbow with 237 foul shots was relieved when a concession was made so he only paid 1p per foul. Over £160 was raised.

## FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW!

As part of his training as a teacher of the deaf Mr. Coulter undertook a project researching the way pupils approach scientific concepts. He has been given the opportunity to develop his work at Downing College, Cambridge where he has been elected as Fellow Commoner. Our hearty congratulations.

During his summer vacation Mr. Coulter will reside at the college and carry out an extensive "literature review of the conceptions of severely and profoundly deaf children with respect to scientific concepts."

## WATCHING THE WHEELS GO BY!

Staff and pupils are preparing for this year's N.A.G. London to Brighton cycle ride on 10th May. The target this year is £50,000 for summer schools and support of families with young hearing-impaired children.

## PUPILS SPEAK OUT

"What a splendid three days I've had" said Miss Anita Downey after she had completed the English Speaking Board Examinations. The year 7 and 8 pupils had prepared a short talk and learnt a poem to recite from memory. They were then asked questions on their talk. Mrs. Downey said, "Many gave talks which showed depth, humour and a real sense of emotional involvement - their marks reflected their standard of presentation and oracy. Above all though, I felt such a sharing and willingness on the part of each group to help and support each other. Their concentration and listening made the experience a real joy for me."

The grades for most pupils were marked to the same standards as hearing children and so the distinction grades below were a tremendous achievement. Congratulations to all who took part especially those who gained top marks:-

Senior introductory grade distinction: Russell Cooke, Michelle Hall, Michala Hedigan and Alistair Daiziel.

Senior grade one distinction: Deepa Shastri, Sam Seaver, Tom Wilson, James May, Beth Colwill, Katrina Tobin.

## CELEBRATING THE TARTAN

"Ye pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill o'fare,  
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware,  
That jaups in luggies.  
But, if you wish her grateful prayer,  
Gie her a Haggis!"

This was how Arlene McAllister addressed the school haggis in assembly to celebrate Burns' night. We were fortunate to have on the staff for just a brief month Mr. Bernard Sims, who, although from the Forest of Dean, was a very accomplished piper. Dressed in full regalia, he piped our haggis into assembly where Amelia Allerdycce explained the origins of the Burns' celebrations to the astonished pupils. The assembly then sang the "Skye Boat Song" to more bagpipe music.

Mr. Sims also visited year 7 classes to explain the workings of the bagpipes and give the pupils a chance to see and hear them close to.

## IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Mrs. Rosemary Hall, mother of Michelle in year 7, is running in the London Marathon (26 miles) on 12th April in aid of the Mary Hare Foundation.

Watch out for her on T.V. in a Mary Hare Foundation T-shirt. It's not too late to pledge your support for this splendid effort.