

CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1991

WHAT A RELIEF!

Mass Stonking in Assembly!

The 1991 Comic Relief Day got off to a stonking good start with about 35 pupils stonking on stage in assembly. Lead by Mrs. Davis the assorted pupils, many in fancy dress, took turns stage front to perform the stonk. The staff, complete in red noses, judged the best stonkers and chose Beth Colwill, Sam McIntyre, Sam Dore, Rachel Doidge-Harrison, Arlene McAllister and Amelia Allardyce as prize stonkers!

Break time saw the sale of cakes with red noses and over £30 was raised in 10 minutes.

Pupils had paid to wear their own clothes for the day and many chose fancy dress, but lessons continued as normal.

The highlight of the day (for the pupils at least) was a staff v. school hockey match. This year, to the delight of the pupils, the sixth form team redressed the balance from the last comic relief day when the staff were victors. This year, after relentless pressure especially in the first half from the staff, a cracking shot by head boy, David Whitmore, decided the result in the closing minute.

The total money raised for the day was about £200.



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Tinkling the Ivories

Third year Joanna Penfold has been working hard at the piano and has achieved Grade 2 in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams. Well done, Joanna! We look forward to hearing more from her in assembly.

Slick Performance

The school band goes from strength to strength. They recently impressed a large audience of professional musicians and music therapists at the famous Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Centre in London with their slick performance. As a direct result they have been invited to play at the London Fringe Festival and the Royal Academy of Music. This is real acclaim and proof of the standards Miss Roderick and the band have reached.

Waiting List

A large number of requests have been received for instrumental lessons. Please be patient if your child hasn't started yet as teaching time available is limited. Miss Roderick is trying to accommodate all requests. The new saxophone particularly is proving popular and we hope to raise enough funds for another one soon. Lisa Jones on the alto saxophone, accompanied by Sandra Wood and Melanie Pitts on clarinets recently played in assembly after only 4 weeks tuition. Well done, Lisa!

Music Plus

After attending auditions Michael Johnston (cornet) and Lisa Jones (clarinet) have been accepted at the West Berkshire Music Centre. This is a Saturday music school in Newbury attended by over 500 local children from 6-19 years old. The two Mary Hare Grammar School pupils have joined large wind orchestras. They will rehearse each week and play Saturday evening concerts. Lisa played her first concert with the Clifton Band last week. We hope more Mary Hare youngsters will soon be able to join in with the local schools music scene. It will give them wider opportunities to meet with hearing pupils and play in other bands.

Save the Dolphins

As part of the Silver Youth Award Scheme David Whitmore organised a sponsored swim to raise money for the Greenpeace "Save the Dolphins" campaign. About two dozen pupils swam and about £100 was raised. Well done, David.



The photo shows David Whitmore (front) with some of his volunteer swimmers.

Gimme Shelter!

Next term . . . intrepid 4 KW are planning a sponsored walk with a difference in aid of SHELTER. The group of 10 pupils plan to walk the five miles to Thatcham, sleep rough in the garage of their form teacher Mr. Kevin Wright, and then return the next morning. Apart from the thought-provoking experience they hope to raise a substantial sum - please sponsor them generously.

And more Charity News

Last month over £100 was raised for the R.S.P.C.A. by various charity events.

Lower Sixth Geography Fieldwork

The lower sixth Geography group spent a tiring but rewarding week at Preston Montford Field Centre, near Shrewsbury, in March. This was an opportunity to study a wide range of topics, from glaciated landscapes to urban morphology, alongside twenty-three sixth formers from other schools. The students were mixed for accommodation and work and, after initial shyness on both sides, deaf and hearing pupils benefited greatly from these arrangements. There was ample opportunity for weather studies as we had hail, snow, rain, wind and even a little sunshine! Mr. Bob Warren (our Australian Exchange teacher) is still puzzling over the use of the word "dry" when it stops raining in Britain and everyone was grateful for thermal underwear! Our thanks must go to the staff at the centre who were friendly, helpful and so full of enthusiasm. The lower sixth are now eagerly choosing a topic for their own field work which counts towards the A-Level.

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The week is best summed up by these comments by our pupils:

"It opened up new horizons . . ." (and not just in soil studies!), "Hard work but good fun", "Brilliant", "Fantastic".

"Snack Shack"

This term a fourth year cross-curricular carousel group formed their own company to open a café in their own time after school. Under the chairmanship of Tim Roberts they sold shares, bought stock and sold pizzas, chips and drinks. Most of the work was done by the pupils themselves, but they'd like to give a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fenney for her help. The shareholders will be pleased to know a £30 profit was returned.

In Business

The G.C.S.E. fourth year Business Studies group visited the Reading Evening Post to find out about the management and communications structure of the newspaper. They also were impressed by the use of modern Information Technology and the speed of modern computer controlled presses. Their reports will form part of their assessed projects.

Advanced notice - TRAUDCRAFT

The fifth year G.C.S.E. Business Studies group would like to draw your attention to a notice with all your other bump about TRAUDCRAFT. They will be selling TRAUDCRAFT goods at sports' day this May. Please support them. TRAUDCRAFT aims to ensure that producers in third world countries get fair wages for their work.

Snow Joke!

While many Berkshire schools closed after the heavy snowfalls early this term the Mary Hare School valiantly worked on. By 9.30 a.m. on the Friday concerned almost a full complement of staff had battled their way to school and lessons began as normal - of course the pupils were delighted!

Unfortunately many parents had to change plans for the weekend and pupils couldn't go home but the pupils had a great time making the most of their enforced weekend at school.

Forensic Science

Fourth and fifth years discovered the importance of the work carried out by forensic scientists when Ms. Helen Robinsdn from the Home Office Research Laboratories visited the school. She outlined the work of the different departments and then highlighted some real life cases where prosecutions have been successful. This included the first use of DNA finger

printing - a technique developed in her laboratories at Aldermaston.

Several youngsters have expressed an interest in forensic science as a career.

Tyrannosaurus Rex

Six lower sixth students made a trip to the inorganic Chemistry laboratories at Oxford University to hear a lecture on "Fluorine" by Professor Holloway, a leading researcher in this field. Sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the lecture was attended by over 200 local sixth formers and included some memorable demonstrations of reactions of fluorine - a real tyrannosaurus rex of an element.

Mummies' Day Out

The complete first year enjoyed a day trip to the British Museum with the History staff, particularly to look at the Egyptian relics as part of their current work. The macabre mummified remains of both humans and cats provoked a considerable amount of discussion!

A Church Crawl

And, as part of their G.C.S.E. Religious Studies topic on Christianity, the fourth year R.S. set have been visiting the churches in Thatcham - they have been comparing traditions in the United Reformed Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Baptist Church and St. Mary's, the local Anglican Church.

Land of Giants

One Sunday 45 pupils and 7 staff visited the Granada T.V. studios in Manchester. The exciting two hour tour is acclaimed as one of the best media visits that can be made and the Mary Hare pupils certainly had a memorable time. They saw Coronation Street, Downing Street, the Sherlock Holmes set and were made to feel small in the Land of Giants. The staff at the studios were excellent guides and provided first-class support for the students.

Successful CADS!

Congratulations to sixth formers Matthew Smith, Robbie Wilson, Jo Atkinson and Neil Caws and fifth formers Matthew Israelsohn and Chris Beech on their successful completion of evening classes at Newbury College in AutoCAD. AutoCAD is the nationally recognised City & Guilds computer aided design course and the Mary Hare youngsters were in a group alongside practising draughts people from local industries.

Sports Results Service

House Cross Country

- 1st MARY HARE
- 2nd BRAIDWOOD
- 3rd BEVERLEY
- 4th ARNOLD

Individual winners: Alan Brown (senior boys), Emma Poynton (senior girls), Conor Fox (junior boys), Lisa Mingay (junior girls).

House Netball

- 1st MARY HARE
- 2nd BRAIDWOOD
- 3rd ARNOLD
- 4th BEVERLEY

House Swimming Gala

- 1st ARNOLD
- 2nd MARY HARE
- 3rd BEVERLEY
- 4th BRAIDWOOD

Individual winners: David Whitmore, Chris Beech; Justin Moule (senior boys); Rachel Doidge-Harrison (senior girls); John Docker (junior boys); Louise Gibson (junior girls).

House Hockey

So far only the senior part of the competition has been held. Present positions are:-

- 1st ARNOLD
- 2nd MARY HARE
- 3rd BEVERLEY
- 4th BRAIDWOOD

House Football

- 1st ARNOLD
- 2nd MARY HARE
- 3rd BEVERLEY
- 4th BRAIDWOOD

Full Sports Colours for effort, achievement and commitment have been awarded to:-

- Melanie Pitts (netball)
- Tanya Spalton (netball)
- Heather Ferguson (netball)
- Emma Jones (netball)
- Celia Hulme (netball)
- Estefania Walsh (netball)
- Lisa Moffett (netball)
- Helen Thew (swimming)
- Lisa Jones (swimming)
- Rachel Doidge-Harrison (swimming)
- David Whitmore (swimming)
- Chris Beech (swimming)
- Andrew Burgess (swimming)
- Justin Moule (swimming)
- Commendations:-
- John Docker (swimming)
- Bryan Moore (swimming)
- Sara Murray (swimming)
- Helen Mitchell (swimming)