

soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine



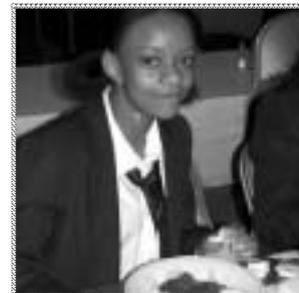
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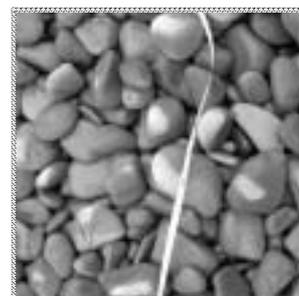
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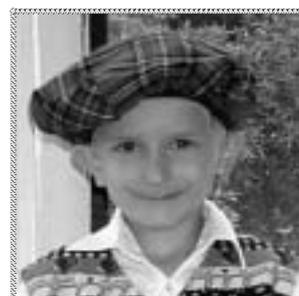
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The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of 'Soundwave'.
If you would like to submit an item for inclusion in the next publication, please send your material to:
Sally Beckett or Deborah Buckland at Mary Hare School.

Tel: 01635 244233 / 244200 (voice/minicom) / email: d.buckland@maryhare.org.uk

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, SO START WRITING, DRAWING, PAINTING, CREATING NOW!

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

With the summer approaching, the end of the Winter term seems a million miles away, but we felt it only fair to reflect on the fantastic Christmas shows at the Primary and Secondary schools, before rehearsals are underway for the 2006 productions!



Mary Hare School's production of 'All That Jazz', loosely based on the hit West End musical 'Chicago', featured song, dance and drama performed by students of all ages. The famous Mary Hare in-house student band, 'The Deafness' performed some well-known rock numbers and some of the real highlights of the show were the slick dance numbers staged by dance teacher and resident choreographer, Kylie Appleby.

This was in some ways a poignant performance as it was the last to be held in the school's Dulverton Hall. Next year all music and drama productions will be held in the brand new performing arts centre which has recently opened. Principal Tony Shaw congratulated the cast and support team on a fantastic performance and praised the teamwork that had made it possible: "As always, at the heart of our production is the partnership between pupils and staff which has made this show such a success..."



Primary pupils Georgina and Dominic are ready for the show to begin

The Primary School production of 'A Christmas Carol' was very well received by an enthusiastic audience. All of the students took part and had clearly worked hard to learn their lines, sing their songs and remember their dance moves. The authentic costumes and makeup gave a real 'Dickensian' feel to the show and the pupils performed with enthusiasm and a keen sense of fun.



The smell of the greasepaint gets Tara every time!

Special Events

SPEECH DAY 2005



Guest of Honour, Mr Livermore

Video clips from two former students on a gap year in sunnier climes, warmed the November chill at Mary Hare School's annual Speech Day. Mary Hare alumni **André Hedger** and **Aman Johal** were sorry not to be there in person, but their video diary inspired the audience of pupils and invited guests.

This year's guest of honour was Mr David Livermore, a school governor for more than 20 years and former chairman of the RNID. Mr Livermore is also chairman of the Newbury Spring Festival as well as chairman of Deafness Research UK. Mr Livermore spoke of the changing attitudes in society towards deafness and disability in general. On a personal level, he thanked the school for the transformation in aspirations of his own daughter, who now works as a highly qualified art restorer.

He also reminded the audience of the many changes he has seen during his involvement with Mary Hare School. Most recently, the school's newly awarded Training School and Specialist Special School status means that it will be working with many more professionals, locally and nationally, to support even more hearing impaired children nationwide.

Students were presented with their GCSE and A Level certificates and also specialist subject and achievement prizes. For the first time this year the 'Margaret Ann Robinson' prize was awarded in memory of a former pupil. Head Girl **Philippa Merricks** received this inaugural award, which will help to support her planned 'gap' year project, working with deaf children in Honduras. Head Boy **Ryan Marshall** proposed a vote of thanks as the ceremony drew to a close. Principal Tony Shaw commented, "The video clips of former students on their trip of a lifetime have reminded everyone of the Mary Hare mission: to send confident, young deaf people out into the world, ready to take on any challenge."



Prizewinners with Principal Tony Shaw, Chairman of Governors Hugh Ogus and Mr David Livermore

CRASH IMPACT

By **Andrew Large**



This year, all Year 12 photography students have been participating in a local community project called 'Crash Impact'. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness amongst young people (drivers and passengers) on how to prevent car crashes. We visited Thatcham Crash and Repair Research Centre where the project was officially launched.

At Newbury Fire Station we saw a simulation of a typical car crash with a teenage driver as a victim with suspected spinal injuries. Representatives from the emergency services explained what they would do in a real case like this and talked through their procedures

We were able to take photographs of the scene for our project work. We were advised on safety and the distance we should stay from the vehicle. There was a real person in the car, a volunteer, to help with our photography work. We watched the fire service at the scene carrying out safety checks and then the ambulance and police services arrived and they all worked together to get the victim out of the car. Every so often the whistle would be blown and the people would 'freeze' or change position to help the photographers.

The fire service successfully opened the car and got the victim out in 45 minutes. By then we were all half frozen! We had lunch and a warm drink inside and were invited for a tour around the station. We all enjoyed the tour and learned more about how the fire service works - unfortunately they didn't allow us to go down the fire pole!

About two weeks later we returned to the Research Centre to have a closer look. We were taken around the site and shown what they do at the centre. We were given special permission to visit a top-secret site where they have taken apart an Aston Martin V8 Vantage. We were told not to touch it or take pictures of it - a major disappointment!

We then headed over to where they actually crash the cars, the bit that everybody was looking forward to. There was a Clio to crash, but first we took pictures of it; then we moved to the room where we were to watch it crash. Some of us were lucky enough to watch it from a box with nothing in our way but a sheet of glass.

The car came hurtling down the runway at a speed of 35mph which we all thought appeared to be slow. However, it was enough to throw a crash test dummy without a seatbelt, from the rear seat of the car out of the front windscreen!

We did a lot of interesting work here and went away with lots of good ideas for the poster we now have to design. The winning design will be announced in June, so watch this space!



Audiology News

By **Viv Ogg, Head of Audiology**

Over the last five years Mary Hare has seen a rapid growth in the numbers of pupils with cochlear implants entering Year 7 and in those who are implanted whilst they are at Mary Hare School, up to and including Year 13. The number of cochlear implant users is now around 35% of our student population.

This year we have a number of pupils who are under assessment for a cochlear implant, including some who already have a date for their operation. During this academic year we have had our first pupil to receive a second implant, becoming our first bilateral implant user. In addition, one of our recently implanted Year 7 pupils has been fitted with the latest cochlear manufactured device known as the 'Freedom'. This has a number of exciting new features including being splashproof, which will come as a welcome development for many of our implant users!



Was it worth it?

Pupil **Ruya Kulle** delivers her verdict...

When I had just a hearing aid, I couldn't hear lots of things like a keyboard, a clock ticking or the crackling wood on the fire at home. Now I can hear them all! I had my cochlear implant operation in November last year. I felt nervous, because I had never had an operation before, but it was OK and the doctors and nurses were really nice.

My implant was switched on after four weeks. I was worried beforehand and at first it sounded too loud – I was crying because it was hurting my ear. I said, 'Take it away and give me my ear back!'. My Mum reassured me that it would get better as I got used to it and when it was turned down, it felt better.

It was fine by the next day and when I went into school with my Mum, I couldn't stop smiling, I was so pleased with it! Now I can hear so much more – things like people calling me from downstairs at home, which I couldn't hear before. I still wear a hearing aid in my other ear as it helps me to know where people are speaking from – I couldn't do that either before the implant. I would be sad if I didn't have my cochlear implant now.

Another satisfied customer!

After years of nagging by Miss Ogg, Miss May, Mrs Beckett and others, I finally did something about my hearing loss and this year I was fitted with a pair of digital aids at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, with earmoulds made by our own Arlington Laboratories.

I am really pleased with the hearing aids and also delighted by the response from the Mary Hare pupils. Look out the rest of you teachers - the Audiology Department will be after you - with your best interests at heart, of course!

Mike Marlow, English Department



Testing....Testing....

Mary Hare students from Year 8 to Year 13 recently contributed to an important national audiological study, when Dr Josephine Marriage, Audiological Scientist from the University of Cambridge, visited the school this year.

Dr Marriage works part-time at the university with Professor Brian Moore and also works as an independent paediatric audiologist, offering assessments on children's hearing aid fitting.

Professor Moore has been carrying out research on 'dead regions' within the cochlea and this latest study is designed to help fully define this new approach to hearing assessment.

These so-called 'dead regions' refer to areas in the cochlea where the inner hair cells are not working effectively. The job of the inner hair cells is to pick up vibrations in the cochlea and transmit them into electrical activity in the nerve fibres. Many people with severe and profound deafness have some inner hair cell damage, but this is not obvious from an audiogram.



Dr Marriage setting up the test equipment



It doesn't look too painful!

Professor Moore has developed a new TEN (Threshold Equalising Noise) test, designed to detect these 'dead regions' and a preliminary study was carried out at Mary Hare in 2005, by Susan Cairns of Southampton University. Dr Marriage has been carrying out a follow-up study by testing pupils with and without their hearing aids, providing vital data to continue the development of the TEN testing programme.

"My study subjects at Mary Hare have been fabulous!" commented Josephine. "They have all been relaxed about the tests and very helpful in taking part. The motivation of £5 for taking part (funded by an RNID grant), has clearly been a great help!" After a week of preliminary testing in January, Josephine returned for a second week of testing in February followed by a third week in April, to make the most of our enthusiastic 'volunteers'!

Spotlight On ...

Interview with Domestic Bursar, **Moyra Atkinson**



Do you think young people today eat less healthily?

I think to a certain extent they do. The fashion is to go to McDonalds and other fast food restaurants. We do try to balance that with the food we provide at Mary Hare.

How do we try to encourage healthy eating at Mary Hare?

We always put the healthy option first on the hot plate – the healthy option doesn't have to be a salad.

Why is breakfast an important meal? What is on offer here?

Breakfast is important because it is what the name suggests – breaking a fast. Children need to have breakfast to give them energy and nourishment to last them until lunchtime. They have a mid morning break but that is not enough in itself to keep them going through the morning. We provide a cooked breakfast which includes: bacon, sausage, scrambled, poached or boiled eggs, muffins with egg or bacon, fish fingers, beans, grilled mushrooms and tomatoes, croissants and bacon rolls. Also available are fruit juices, hot drinks, toast and cereals!

What choices are offered at mealtimes?

At lunchtime we offer a pasta bar twice a week and a salad bar every day. Home made soup and bread rolls are available. The hot bar offers a vegetarian choice and usually two other hot choices. Two or three vegetables including baked potatoes are available. There is a selection of four puddings with one hot, home-made option. For supper, there is a meat choice, vegetarian choice and salad. If chips are served, jacket potatoes, rice or pasta are offered as an alternative. There are usually 3 or 4 pudding choices.

What proportion of meals are grilled compared to fried?

Apart from fish and chips most food is cooked in our combination ovens which keeps down the fat content of the meal and unsaturated fats are used for cooking, where possible.

Is there always a healthy option when chips are on the menu?

Yes, usually jacket potatoes, pasta, rice or new potatoes.

Is fruit always available at meal times?

Yes, and within reason it's unlimited.

Do you try to reduce the quantities of sugar and salt used in cooking?

Yes. We do not add salt when cooking and we have reduced the amount of sugar in puddings such as rice and custard etc. We also buy tinned fruit in natural juice as opposed to syrup.

HEALTHY EATING



Chef Alan Rutterford helps at the pasta bar

How healthy are MH packed lunches?

As healthy as we can make them. We use low fat spread and offer a choice of baguettes or sandwiches, a cereal bar as an alternative to a chocolate bar, bottled water or juice. All lunches contain a piece of fruit.

Are the children encouraged to make healthy choices at meal times?

If asked, the staff will promote the healthy option and encourage the pupils to have vegetables. I have to say they are not always successful with the vegetables as children seem determined not to try them!

Do the pupils enjoy meal times?

I think they do as we always get positive feedback at food committee meetings and pupils come and tell us how they have enjoyed a meal. We all enjoy planning the menus and cooking for the children - I often ask the students for their ideas.

What things have changed during your time in school catering?

When I started in catering we had 'family service' which meant that a meal was provided in tins to each table.

There was no choice and no vegetarian option. If the table had a mixture of older and younger pupils on it the younger ones tended to get next to nothing to eat as the older ones had first choice! Also healthy food, such as salad, yoghurt and fresh fruit, was not served.

Are there any future changes that you would like to make?

Yes, I would like to introduce a separate dessert counter where the children can help themselves and a jacket potato bar with a choice of fillings.

I would like the children to be able to come into the dining room and pick out the kind of meal they would like. I would also like to have a dining room with different tables - some round, some square - to make it more interesting.

I would like pupils to come and chat to me to tell me about the kind of food they really like so that we can make additions to our menus.



An excellent choice!

T R I P S &

My day out at Bradfield College

By **Max Thorne**

I woke up on a cold, blustery morning, ready for a special visit to a new school. Everyone was really excited and nervous about the day as none of us knew what to expect. I thought that Bradfield College was a mainstream school and that they wouldn't be as clever as us! When the old minibus came to pick us up we all leaped up into it and talked and sang all the way.

When we arrived, we waited a few minutes for the class of 9A to come and collect us. They looked so big and smart! They took us through the school and to the room we were working in. I thought Mary Hare was big - Bradfield was like a mini village!



Reading through the poem

We gave a small presentation about deaf people and how to communicate with deaf pupils. We were then told to shake hands with people we didn't know, which was very embarrassing. I shook hands with almost everyone in the hall. We sat in a big circle to talk about a poem called 'Auto Wreck'. Our first task was to read out the poem. Everyone read a line then tapped the next person on the shoulder. We had a small break with orange squash and chocolate cookies. It was heaven! We were then put into groups. Meghan and I were with some lovely people called Helena, Tom, Nick and Doug. In the groups we had to act out three parts of the poem by using still images. It was a laugh! We had to perform it to the other five groups who then did the same to us.



Lunch was delicious, like a buffet. I talked to Helena, Tom and Doug who were ever so nice and funny. Meghan didn't understand all the time so I had to repeat it to her. When everyone had finished we went for a walk around the mini Bradfield village. It was so cool! My group went for a walk down to the stream, church and chapel and into the drama studio.

At 3.30 we were back in the classroom. We had to make a short movie with about 10 to 20 shots and we were shown how to use the cameras properly. We went back to the studio and showed our film to the other pupils. It was hilarious watching some of the films. My group surprisingly came in third place, but Ben and Hannah's group came first. It was so funny!

We all headed back to the main classroom and said our last farewells. We had another break with biscuits and orange juice. D-E-L-I-C-I-O-U-S! I managed to get few of the people's numbers (the girls!). We eventually shook hands and hugged a few people. When we got into the minibus we all chanted and shouted 'Bye' out of the window. What a fantastic day out - I was nervous for nothing!

O U T I N G S

MARWELL ZOO By Oliver Ward

In the first week of October, Year 7 went to Marwell Zoo. It was a cold, frosty and misty morning. Dr Rocca was the last getting on the coach. On the way I listened to my iPod. I imagined Marwell Zoo would be like the zoos in Bristol and London. I was looking forward to seeing the snow leopards.

When we got there we walked to the entrance. Unlike Bristol Zoo it didn't look that modern. We went on the tractor-trailer and when we saw the giraffes I recalled that Mr Robinson (our Media Studies teacher) had asked Jamie to bring back a giraffe.



The education centre was a unique building. It was made from some brick circles laid on each other. The funniest moment was when one llama leaned on another llama's back. Dr Rocca commented that the llama was saying "Oh, darling can you see what our neighbour is doing?!"

My favourite animals were the snow leopards, because they are such elegant creatures. Their habitat was so lifelike, it felt like you were actually there in the mountains!

At 12.30 we had lunch. I had a beef sandwich, a Coco Pop bar, some crisps and a blackcurrant fruit shoot. Jamie sent me to get some chips for him. I didn't mind because he gave me some! The trip was brilliant and I enjoyed it.

I hope I can go again with my family - I'm sure they would love it.



T R I P S &

Nettlecombe By Graeme Young



The next day we went to the River Holford and had to measure how fast the water flowed and the depth of the river. We used a tape measure and ruler to measure the depth and a hydro propeller to measure the flow. Back at the centre we discussed our findings.

On Wednesday we travelled to the beach at Porlock Weir, where we did lots of measuring exercises; checking the angle of the beach to the shoreline and picking up pebbles after every metre to work out their size and shape. After lunch we moved on to Bossington and repeated the same measurements to compare our findings.

On Thursday it was very cold when we went to Dunkery Beacon. We used an angle metre to measure the highest point of the Beacon. We took a photo at the top and then came back to the centre to talk about our work for the next day.

Friday was our last day and we went back to Porlock and Bossington to sketch the coast and the cliffs. It was so cold, I had to ask Lesley to help me! After taking our final measurements we went back to the centre one last time to finish our coursework and head back to Mary Hare.

We left school on Monday morning at 9.30 and travelled to Nettlecombe by minibus. When we arrived at the centre where we were staying, we were given a tour and shown our bedrooms. All of the six boys were in one bedroom. Later in the afternoon we met Steve, our tutor for the week. He was young and funny and we learned a lot from him.

Our first activity was a visit to Minehead. We had to look at the map and decide what sort of area we were in e.g. industrial, rural. We recorded our information on a sheet as we walked round and then went back to the centre for supper.

In the evening we completed some bar charts and pie charts to show what we had found on our survey.



At the top of Dunkery Beacon

O U T I N G S

Living History

By **James Cornish** and **Graeme Gray**

On a Thursday morning in February, we were woken up at 4am - we were very tired! We got on the coach and were very excited. We travelled to France on the Eurostar and arrived in Belgium at 11am. Our first stop was the big museum in Ieper (Ypres) - it was huge.

We were shocked to learn about the terrible things that had happened during the First World War and we were fascinated to see the weapons that were used during the war in the museum. After we had finished looking round the museum, we went to the chocolate shop, which was a wonderful treat!

Later, we walked down to the Menin Gate, which was a very sad area with the names of thousands of soldiers who have no proper graves. After that we went to the trenches. We felt really shocked – when the men fought in the war, it was really terrifying.

We looked at a display of bombs that were used in the war, then we went to a British cemetery. There were so many British soldiers who died. We also visited the German cemetery which was very shocking and sad because there were thousands buried in a very small place.

We got back to Mary Hare at about 9pm. It had been a really interesting day and we learned a lot to help with our history lessons. Thank you to the teachers for organising the trip.



A taste of life in the trenches



Enterprise

Enterprise Week 2005 was all about inspiring young people to turn their own ideas into reality. Over 400 schools nationwide took part in the 'Make Your Mark' challenge, where teams were asked to think of new ways to attract visitors to their town. Students had to present their ideas in detail, with analysis of costs and development, as well as answering questions from a panel of judges.

On a Monday morning in November, Year 10 gathered in Dulverton Hall to take part in this exciting national challenge. Whilst waiting, students were organised into six teams and given a fun team-building exercise to get them working together.

At 9.30am we downloaded the challenge (along with schools all over the UK) and quickly started to read it through, thinking of our initial responses to the challenge.

Having been asked to think of a way to attract visitors to our home town, we agreed to focus on Newbury to avoid any confusion! The guidelines were wide ranging: it could be an annual event, or maybe something with a sporting, musical or artistic theme or simply a statue, building or other tourist attraction.



Each team had a teacher to help and a supply of resources to stimulate their creativity. The deadlines were very tight and teams had to work quickly to agree on their idea and formulate their responses to the challenge.

Teams were asked to produce one page to illustrate their ideas, two pages of financial data to show how their plans would be self-financing and one page to show that they had researched their competitors. They then had to prepare an imaginative presentation using 'PowerPoint' or another method.



Eye-catching headgear helps the 'Open Air Fashion Show' presentation

Week

By 3pm all the teams were back in the Hall to present their ideas to the rest of the year group and the panel of judges. Ideas included an annual pop festival, a food-throwing festival (based on the tomato throwing festival in Spain), a tower with revolving restaurant at Greenham Common, a young persons' open-air fashion show and promotion of Mary Hare's new performing arts centre. The winning idea was for a series of Newbury Ghost Walks, supplemented by themed items for sale and activities that would provide fun for all the family.



Mr Chandler took the winning team to the regional final at the Intech building in Winchester the following week. This was a very impressive venue and everyone was nervous, but the team did an excellent job of explaining why their idea would be a success and how it would attract large numbers of visitors to Newbury. There were 28 schools taking part in the regional final and the winners (Littlehampton Community College) went forward to the National final in London in December.

Thanks are due to all staff who took part in making this event such a valuable and enjoyable learning experience.



(left to right) The winning team: Maya Pearce, David Hedges, Damien Peters, Laila Doobeh and Rebecca French (not pictured).

Duke of Ed

This long-running award programme is widely recognised by employers and educators as an effective way of developing self-confidence and self-reliance in young people. Benefits include: a sense of achievement and responsibility, discovering new skills, interests and talents and developing leadership skills and abilities. They will also make new friends, experience teamwork, problem-solving and decision-making, increase their motivation, enhance their self-esteem and develop their communication skills. They will also, of course, have fun!



Daniel and Graeme receive their certificates from Principal Tony Shaw

As part of the Award, pupils have to complete a three month service section. This has to be something which involves or aids the local community.

Daniel Clements and **Graeme Young** chose to do a course with the local Ministry of Defence Police. The course involved learning about crime scenes, arrests, finger printing, the court system and other aspects of police work. They also visited Newbury Police station, where they had a tour and Graeme got to try out the cells!

Both Graeme and Daniel have now started a cookery course as their skill section.

“

I found this course brilliant and interesting. If you have the chance, go and do it - I know you will like it!

Daniel

”

Linburgh

“

There was a lot of washing up on the trip, which heavily involved Justine scraping burnt porridge off the bottom of the pans with her fingernails. We all deserved this Bronze Award, by miles and kilometres! **Hattie**

”



Packed up with all the essentials

The Bronze Award group have now completed their final expedition. Just before October half term, four groups headed out for their two-day walk. As well as map reading and carrying all their equipment, the groups also had to complete a photography project along the way.

All groups made it to the campsite and impressed their assessor with their tent pitching and cooking skills! After a night under canvas, they then had to navigate their way back to school.

Everyone completed the expedition - there were some very tired looking people and sore feet, but all were pleased to have completed the challenge.

A big thank you to all those staff that gave up their weekend to come and help supervise the groups.

At Mary Hare, the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme is co-ordinated by Catherine Elliott, a member of the Care Staff team at Mansell House. The Award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others. Each participant's programme is tailor-made to reflect the individual starting point, abilities and interests and it is open to anyone aged between 14 and 25. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with Catherine, who will be happy to tell you about the opportunities available to you.

S T A F F

Bonjour a tous

My name is Bernard and I am the French assistant for this year. I come from Biarritz which is situated in Basque Country in the South of France, near Spain.

I think Mary Hare is a good school and I am glad to be here in Newbury, in the South of Britain. I like towns such as London, Bristol or Cardiff. Last year, I was working as a French assistant in Hull, East Yorkshire. I was also an exchange student at Swansea University three years ago. I enjoyed my stays in the UK. I like reading, going to the cinema or the pubs and travelling. See you. **Bernard.**



JULIE GILHAM



Mrs Julie Gilham, Assistant Principal, retired at the end of the 2005 Christmas term, after more than thirteen years of distinguished service at Mary Hare. Mrs Gilham came to Mary Hare in 1993, as a teacher of Business Studies and her rise through various levels of responsibility was swift. After only two years she became Head of Business Studies. Two years later she was promoted to Curriculum Manager and given control of ICT, whilst still remaining Head of Business Studies. After another three years, Mrs Gilham was further promoted to become Director of Educational Services and was then made an Assistant Principal.

Mrs Gilham won the respect and affection of staff and pupils alike. She worked extremely hard to ensure the provision of interesting educational opportunities for pupils, including organising many trips to look at industry and commerce abroad and she was unflinching in her support of those who had to work especially hard to achieve progress. As former pupil Jemma Elliott said in a recent e-mail, "Whenever I saw Mrs Gilham around the school, she always had something about her that made me think she was an inspiration to everyone, certainly to me. Mrs Gilham always seemed to be busy, yet she always made time to help people out."

During the last few years of her service at Mary Hare, Mrs Gilham particularly enjoyed the work she did - here at Mary Hare and in many parts of the country - helping specialist schools to develop their vocational programmes, for both pupils and staff. Even in retirement, she has consented to do some consultative work for Edexcel, to ensure the quality of their vocational courses. She is also completing an M Ed.

It is not possible to conclude without saying something of Mrs Gilham's extraordinary courage and endurance in living with painful and eventually serious health problems, which she bore with great equanimity whilst continuing to teach and to travel around the country, for Mary Hare Services. There can be few people who so richly deserve what we all wish Mrs Gilham - a long and happy retirement.

N E W S

Kevin Sharp

Interview by **Jonathan Chambers**

What is your job?

I am the Network Manager; essentially I'm responsible for all of the IT in both schools as well as the Burwood Centre. This year we have been working on changing the infrastructure so that we have a single network across the school. It's my job to install the systems and then train the users on the new network.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm from a commercial background; I used to be an IT manager for an industrial company. What's interesting for me is how different the working environment is here - it's a lot better!



Jonathan talks to Kevin (right)

So there will be a network around the school?

Yes, every room will be networked, including the boarding houses and Blount Hall. There will also be a 10MB line between the secondary school site and Mary Hare Primary School.

How many servers will we have?

Seven. Until now, we have been working on three networks in school, each with its own server. These will be replaced by dedicated servers, for example, one specifically for email services. This should give us faster network and faster Internet access. Students will also have remote access to a network portal so they can continue their schoolwork from home! It won't all come on-line at once - it will be a gradual process.



Alex Ralls

We are pleased to welcome Alex as manager of the new Arlington Arts Centre. Alex comes from a theatre and television background and joins us from The Theatre at Headington.

Alex is joined by Assistant Manager Janet Winnard and Technical Manager Gavin Short. The team is responsible for everything going on at the Arts Centre, including conferences, events and studio recording, as well as setting up an exciting performance programme for the 2006/7 season.

Alex is delighted to be joining the Mary Hare team: "I'm looking forward to getting to know the staff and pupils at Mary Hare. If anyone wants to pop over and say hello, we offer an excellent cup of coffee!"



Sixth Form prepare to serve pupils with their end of term Christmas lunch

Year 7 off to see a show at the local Corn Exchange



Everyone's Included!

At Mary Hare, there is always an opportunity to get involved and be part of a team. Here are just a few examples of activities this year that have encouraged that team spirit ...

Staff embrace World Book Day





Year 9 help each other whilst Outward Bound



Can you spot current and former Mary Hare pupils in Fulham Deaf Football Club Youth team?



Patrick's Day!



A trip to London's West End to see 'The Lion King'

Profile of a Fellow

William Shipley, Viscount Folkestone and Lord Romney, founded the Society of Arts in 1754. The main objective was to promote the arts, productivity and trade. It was the first organisation ever set up in Britain to benefit art and science.

We have heard that you have been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. What exactly is The Royal Society?

The Royal Society is really a community of ideas. As a Fellow, you meet many people connected with industry, commerce, public service, medicine, law, the arts - you name it! The idea is that Fellows use their association with one another to promote links between all of these various areas of interest and their flourishing in society. Really, the first concern of Fellows is the well-being of British society which is expressed in the many conferences hosted by Fellows and by the work they undertake for a wide range of charities.



Mr David Savoury FRSA

How do people become Fellows?

A Fellow of The Royal Society, who is acquainted with your work and who thinks that both you and the Society would benefit if you were to become a Fellow, will approach you and ask if you would like to be proposed for election. If you accept this invitation, then that Fellow becomes your sponsor when you seek election. Eventually, The Royal Society will take a vote. If you are elected, you are informed by letter and your details will be sent to the Regional Chairman of the area in which you live. You are then invited to an induction session and that's it. You're a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts.

When did you find out that you had become a Fellow?

I received a letter to inform me that I had been elected on November 6th 2005 and of course, I was thrilled. It is an honour to be elected a Fellow of the RSA and one that brings with it the opportunity to meet and work with many distinguished people who have, at heart, the interests of a prosperous and peaceful society. The first person that I told was my old friend, Eduard Fuller, a retired theatre and film director who really encouraged me to take seriously the invitation to become a Fellow which, at first, knocked me sideways!

When did you first start writing poetry and how did you get your work published?

I first began writing poetry when I was fifteen. It was terrible stuff, but I kept at it. I got it published in the same way as everyone else - you keep working hard at writing it. You keep sending it off for people to look at. You never take rejection personally. You get out and about and do readings at venues for poets. You enter competitions. You just keep plugging away. If what you are writing is good, someone will eventually take notice.

What things inspire you to write? The things that most usually inspire my work are reflections on love and friendship and on the absurdities of human society and the challenges it faces. But really, just about anything will get me writing. I love playing with ideas, with the musical and semantic possibilities of words and with complex rhythm and metrics.

Does your writing generally have a particular theme?

There is a very strong sense of place in my poetry and a continual attempt to find some relationship between individual experience and the universals of cultural and spiritual development. The tone of my work varies a good deal. Some of it is philosophical and reflective, some of it celebratory and some of it just a wicked romp across the vast plains of human vanity.

Do you ever see writing becoming your full time career?

There are friends who are now making the point that if I am ever to write all that I should, then I must make more time for my writing, by giving up other pursuits. Well, no one knows what is around the corner. For the moment, I still love teaching at Mary Hare and have no wish to stop. I would miss the contact with pupils and colleagues terribly. I love writing but it is a very solitary business.

What advice would you offer to other people who enjoy writing?

The only way to become any good at writing is to do it every day. Read widely. Trust your own judgement. Never give up!

We were delighted to hear that the work of no less than SEVENTEEN Mary Hare pupils is to be published in this year's National Poetry Anthology for Schools. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the annual competition. Here is **Oliver Ward's** tribute to his English teacher, which won him third prize.

MY ENGLISH TEACHER

My English teacher is strict but fair.
He looks boring on the outside,
wearing sleeveless V neck sweaters,
check shirts, faded green cords
and no-nonsense shiny oxblood
shoes.

His hair is neatly combed
and he wears thick glasses. Boring.
But, never judge a book by its cover
or an English teacher by his clothes
because inside he is...

Fun...ALWAYS! Boring... NEVER!
Dynamic... ALWAYS! Droning...NEVER!
Eccentric...ALWAYS! Sane...NEVER!
Exciting...ALWAYS! Tedious...NEVER!

When you are in an English lesson
you will never fall asleep.

When you wake up and look at your
timetable

and discover that you are having an
English lesson

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS!

Pupils who will be published: **Arran Thomas, Martha Brownlow, Oliver Ward, Saffron Lilley, William Coast, Kristina Elkins, Rose Payne, Ruth Kelly, Jack Arnold, Lewis Martin, Elizabeth Pearson, Helen Willis, Poppy Smith, William Ogden, James Davies, Oliver Harper** and **Ross Grant**.

OVERSEAS VISITS

By Hamish Roberts

During the summer holidays, I went to South Africa for ten days with some South African friends who now live in London. We stayed on a game farm called Makgokolo in the north-east of South Africa. It is very close to the Drakensburg Mountains and the Kruger National Park.

Every day, we got up at 5.00am to go on a game drive, as the best time to see the animals is the early morning and early evening. We went in a Landrover with an open top and four rows of seats. It was freezing in the morning so we surrounded ourselves with blankets until the sun came up. We saw the sun rise every morning, which was very quick but beautiful.

The game farm was split into two, separated by the 'M4' – not the motorway that you and I know, but a very long, dirt track! Before we entered the 'river' side, our guide gave us the rules : **DO NOT TALK! DO NOT STAND UP! STAY IN THE VEHICLE!** Then he showed us his gun - it was not for killing the animals, it was for people who didn't follow the rules!

On our morning drives, we saw lots of different game: impala, who jumped very high, blue wildebeest who were very ugly, bushbuck, greater kudu (the male looked so different from the female) and one of my favourites, waterbuck, with the marks on their backside looking like they have been stuck on a toilet seat!

My brother, Cameron, was always very quick to spot the baboons and vervet monkeys, who had so much energy. You had to look very carefully as the animals were so well camouflaged.



Hamish checks the spoor

Every morning, we would have a 'pit stop' by a dry riverbed. It was difficult to believe that during the summer months, it could be full of water. We were allowed out of the vehicle and sometimes we made a fire or examined different types of dung to see which animals had been there. If it was warm and fresh, we knew the animals were close by. During our stay at Makgokolo, we saw about 26 different animals and 75 different birds. In the afternoon we went on another drive on the 'lodge' side where there were no elephants or lions, so we were allowed to get out of the Landrover and someone was allowed to sit at the very front on the 'tracker's' seat on the bonnet. The tracker's job is to spot the animals by looking for fresh dung or 'spoor' (footprints).

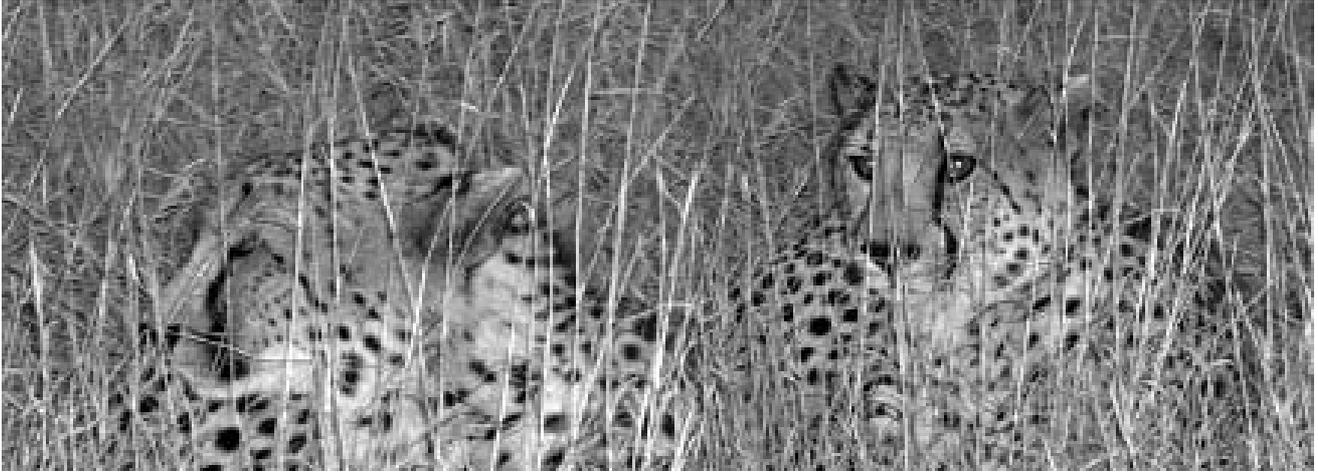
We saw different game on this side, like white rhino and zebras. The evening stops were at special lookouts – the views and the sunsets from these were mind-blowing. When the sun had gone down, we went back to our lodge for a braai (barbecue). We tried lots of different food like eland, warthog and pap, which is a type of maize and the staple diet of the African people. We were lucky enough to go to another game farm, Mooipan, in the north-west, close to the Botswana border. This was very different as the countryside was flat, with different animals to see.

We had a fantastic holiday and there are some things that I will always remember...The time when my brother went to sit in the tracker's seat and was told that if he saw any animal, he was to remain very still and quiet. At that moment a white rhino walked out from the bushes right in front of him.



Taking the zebra back to the farm

OVERSEAS VISITS



Cheetahs in the long grass

He was very good because he sat very still even though the rhino was standing watching him for about three minutes. It might not seem that scary, but these animals are huge. My brother is now called 'Rhino Roberts'!

I will also remember the time at Mooipan when one of the adults went hunting and shot a zebra. They have to shoot game sometimes to keep the numbers under control. We went to search for the dead zebra, watched it being loaded on to a truck and taken back to the farm, where it was skinned and gutted – I will never forget the smell when the stomach was opened up! It was not something that I enjoyed seeing but as my friends told me, this is life in the bush.

My most memorable day was our last day at Makgokolo. We were desperate to see elephants and lions so we went over to Edeni as we had been told this is where the elephants had been seen.

We took a tracker with us and he very quickly took us to the elephants – these people are so clever and their eyes are very sharp. We heard a rumbling and a cracking noise, then the elephants came through the trees. We couldn't see too well, so we crossed the dry river bed and watched the elephants who started walking towards us. We saw three elephants, a father, a mother and a baby.

We took many pictures, but had to sit very still and quiet. The female elephant started to flap her ears which means she was getting cross. They got very close so we decided to move on. If you ask any of the gamekeepers if they are frightened of any game, they all say the elephant, so I felt very lucky to have got so close to them.



A close up look at the elephants

We wanted to see lions, but they were too far away, so we went to look for the cheetahs. We met a lady who was doing research on them. She told us that in the morning two male cheetahs had attacked a female and her cubs. They wanted to kill the male cub, because it would soon be the same size as the adults and become a threat to them.

We were not allowed to see the female cheetah because she was angry but we went to look for the male cheetahs. We eventually found them lying in the grass. They were very calm. They were about five metres from us, but they did not attack us as it was evening and they only hunt during the day. I could not believe we had got so close! What a day – elephants and cheetahs all so close to us.

It was a remarkable holiday - I hope this might encourage some people to make the visit. I certainly hope that I will be lucky enough to go back again.

Shortcuts

YEAR 11 AWARDS



Hamish, Emily, Katie and Adam

The newly introduced Year 11 Award for courtesy and consideration to others is based upon the votes received from Mary Hare staff - not just teachers, but all those involved in day-to-day contact with the students.

Many of the students received votes and some wonderful comments were made about them. At the end of term, four eventual winners (pictured, left) were chosen from a long list of nominations:

Manor House: Winner, **Katie Bonné** and Runner Up, **Emily Troddyn**
Mansell House: Winner, **Adam Watson** and Runner Up, **Hamish Roberts**

See if you can guess which pupil they are talking about...

“

He will ask you how you are ... never nasty ... his smile brightens up the day ... genuinely kind if people look sad.

”

“

She is sensible and mature while still being good fun ... kind, considerate ... she even put a chocolate on a new pupil's pillow to make her feel welcome.

”

“

Courteous, friendly, responsible and charming. A lovely sense of humour, even when he's moaning about something!

”

“

She appears so genuinely kind-hearted ... consistently polite and helpful ... always smiling ... a pleasure to work with!

”

BEAUTY NIGHT

At the start of the year, Year 10 and 11 girls enjoyed a relaxing evening following their A and E tests. The event was held in the conservatory in the Manor house. Representatives from Elemis, Clinique, Lancôme and Estée Lauder came in to demonstrate their products and offer makeovers – who could resist?

The girls were mesmerised, showing a degree of concentration rarely seen in lessons! The evening was organised by care staff member Hilary Shopland and was supported on the night by Manor care staff Debbie and Anita.



The Y Factor By Adam Watson



'The Deafness'

Back in October, the social elite and A-list stars of Mary Hare gathered in Dulverton Hall for a night of pure showbiz entertainment: - none other than the Youth Club's very own 'Y-Factor'!

Contestants battled it out with many memorable performances, including **Daniel Hopkinson** with his version of 'Lonely' by Akon and **Grace Lecznar** and **Rose Payne** with 'My Heart Will Go On'. **Laila Doobeh** wowed the audience with her dazzling display of card tricks and this was followed by an awesome rap by **Fahima Hussain** with dance backing by **Nicole Leahy**.

Mary Hare's rock band, 'The Deafness' with **David Hedges**, sang Green Day's 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams'. **James Alexander** took over the singing for their last number, 'American Idiot.'

The voting was a close call, but there was only one winner, 'The Deafness'! The crowd went wild and the winning act performed again amid balloons and confetti before accepting their prize - a night about town in a limo with complimentary pizza and drinks - rock and roll style! Congratulations to **James Alexander**, **William Ogden** and **Jamie Chang** for their winning performance. Many thanks to Kirilynn Gardner and her Youth Club team for organising this event. All proceeds went to the planned Youth Club redevelopment.

Shortcuts



Outward Bound

Mary Hare has developed a strong bond with ICI Paints, based in Slough, who sponsor the Outward Bound Trust programme and this year the company took a special interest in the progress of our students. The ICI team visited the Mary Hare pupils in action in Wales and then returned to school in November for a special assembly, to present certificates to all those who had taken part.

Representatives from ICI, Chris Roling and Chris Donovan, toured the school with our Head of PE and Outward Bound co-ordinator Cheryl Colby. They talked to students, bringing a special visitor of their own to the classrooms – the Dulux dog, Cedric, with his owner Gina Willis.

Students and staff gave Cedric an especially warm welcome and were sorry when it was time for him to go. Cedric, for his part, was on his best behaviour and didn't seem to mind how many strokes and pats he received from his many admirers.

Youth Speaks

How careful are you about your recycling and what effort are you making to hang on to your regional accent – if you have one?! These were the topics addressed by our entrants for the annual Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition held at Mary Hare at the end of November.

Hugh Mulloy, Andrew Kenward and Calum Thompson spoke on the subject of recycling, bravely choosing a serious topic when other entries were more light-hearted. Andrew was a very convincing main speaker with his catchy reminder: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. The boys earned a special mention from the judges who commented on the importance and relevance of their chosen topic.



The Mary Hare teams receive their certificates

Our senior team quickly had the audience chuckling over their presentation on regional accents. **Rebecca Rose Hood** introduced **Kirsty Day** as the main speaker – an expert in her own right with her strong Lancastrian accent! **Holly Lane** offered the vote of thanks and apologised to the audience, especially the judges, for Kirsty's remarks about the Reading accent! Our thanks go to Moyra and Margaret for the lovely spread of food in the interval. Special thanks go to Mr Lee, who coached both the Mary Hare teams.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



The West Berkshire Leading Edge Programme links Mary Hare with Park House Sports College, Castle School and Trinity Performing Arts College. This consortium of local schools gets together on a regular basis to share resources, ideas and expertise across the curriculum.

As a Specialist Special School, Mary Hare is actively seeking to share its expertise with mainstream schools and the link with Park House grew out of an initial desire to exchange skills in sports teaching and speech and language work. However, when new Maths software was recently made available, there was immediate agreement to share this exciting new resource

New 'Prometheus' software had been used by Park House as an innovative way to teach maths – using an electronic 'voting pad' to select the answer to a range of multiple choice questions. As well as being a fun way to study maths, the software provides quick and effective feedback to teaching staff, analysing the performance of pupils and identifying areas where they may need additional support.

This strengthening partnership between Mary Hare and other mainstream schools in West Berkshire came into focus in November, when a camera crew arrived to film a Year 7 class trying out the new Maths teaching resource for the first time.

The Youth Sport Trust had picked four areas in the UK to highlight best practice by schools working in strong local partnerships and chose to include the exchange programme between Mary Hare and Park House Sports College, Newbury.

The finished film will be shown across the country, to encourage other schools to think about sharing good practice and try new teaching methods in this way.

Vice Principal Nick Papas was interviewed by the film crew, to explain how Mary Hare values this special relationship with other local schools and how such collaboration can be of benefit to all involved.

In March we were visited by a Russian television film crew accompanied by the Chief Executive of 'Music of Life'. This organisation provides musical opportunities for children with special educational needs, enabling them to play with professional musicians in choirs and orchestras. It is modelled on the Russian World of Art Foundation and has previously invited Mary Hare alumni **Ruth Montgomery** and **Bryony Booth** to play at the Moscow Conservatoire. The organisation is currently helping 15,000 children worldwide.

The film crew spent three days at Mary Hare filming for a programme about musically gifted children which will be shown on Russian television. Ruth Montgomery will be featured in the programme as she has been associated with the foundation since 1997.



Music teacher Mrs Rocca (right) with the film crew

Sports NEWS

The FA Community Coaching Programme in partnership with McDonalds is a national football coaching initiative, which aims to train and deploy up to 8,000 coaches to develop and expand the community football infrastructure throughout the country.

As part of this initiative, Mary Hare Sixth Form students were off to an early start in January, as they embarked on a Football Association coaching course. Local course tutor Mark Whiffin (ex-goalkeeper for Hungerford Town) delivered the intensive Level 1 course to 25 students over two weeks. The course helped students to look at the effective delivery of coaching, health and safety considerations, first aid, child protection and the development of practical skills.



Students with their tutors at the end of their first theory session in Carnarvon Hall

Mary Hare PE teacher Chris Gwynn worked with Yvonne Hayes, Director of Sport at Park House Sports College and top coach Jim Kelman, former manager of Wycombe Wanderers, to help deliver the training to the Mary Hare students. Mr Gwynn commented, "This was a great opportunity for our students who may be considering football coaching as a career. They were able to learn practical skills and most importantly, how to deliver them safely to the youngsters in their care."



Thomas receives his certificate from Assistant Principal Dr Papas

In November, Mrs Hart and I went to Bracknell Sports and Leisure Centre for a Level 1 Badminton Course. We were both looking forward to it. We arrived and met the teacher who would be teaching us for the rest of the day. We also met PE teachers from other schools who would be involved in the course. I was a bit nervous and I think Mrs Hart was as well. However, they were very friendly and welcoming.

It was a long, hard day but we learned lots of new skills and rules. The course increased our knowledge about what many people consider to be England's most popular racket sport. It was predominantly aimed at supporting the coaching of beginners, juniors and adults, but there were a lot of activities aimed at children.

I am now a qualified coach and when I leave Mary Hare I will be able to run sessions in my local sports centre or when I go to university. Miss Colby is very pleased with me as I had to use my communication skills confidently to coach a group much older than myself. I would like to thank Mrs Hart for her help that day.

CHARITY NEWS

In November, Mary Hare held its first, very own fashion show. The idea came from Year 12 Charity Prefects **Louise Buglass** and **Rajiv Chada**.

Interest in the project grew rapidly and an impressive list of staff and pupils happy to participate began to grow. The event included themed outfits for teachers and a 'celebrity' walk of fame quiz. Prizes winners in the junior, senior and staff categories were **Mikhail Novak**, **Pembe Alp** and **Miss Ogg** respectively. The evening raised over £100 for Children in Need. Many thanks to Louise and Rajiv for all their hard work!



Two fashion victims take to the catwalk!

Who Have We Helped?

Last year we were approached by the Tiny Lives Campaign, a charity dedicated to helping very premature babies get the best possible care. They were hoping to raise funds to completely refurbish the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bristol's Southmead Hospital. We felt this was a very worthy cause and the fact that its Ambassador, Polly Highton, is the mother of a Year 9 pupil made it more relevant still.

Fundraising ideas began to flood in. Mr Treasure immediately set about organising a 'Minor Celebrities' competition in which baby photographs of different teachers were displayed around school for several weeks. Staff and pupils were invited to purchase an entry form and guess the identities. The competition proved hugely successful and thoroughly enjoyable - with a few surprises when the answers were revealed! The competition raised over £200, including a generous donation from Year 11 students **Katie Bonné** and **Lauren Austin** who raised an additional £70 by giving up chocolate for Lent.

We also dedicated the donations made during the Christmas Production intervals and held a 'Guess the Weight of the Rabbit' competition. The toy rabbit in question weighed a mighty 14lbs and was won by **Katrina Jones** in Year 12. We are still wondering how she got it home at Christmas! Our total for the Tiny Lives campaign was a fantastic £550.

We must not forget, however, all of the other charities we have helped so far this year. In October we raised £200 for Jeans for Genes and then in November Children In Need happily fell on Speech Day and guests were extremely generous in their donations. Together with the Fashion Show, wearing our stripey clothes and selling cakes, we raised £438 for Children in Need. In the same month, we presented the Shonda Project in Africa with a cheque for £305 and in January we wore our trainers for the day in aid of the RNLI, raising £200. In addition this year we have raised £15.95 for the Meningitis Trust, £100 for a school in Moldova, £151 for CLIC and £300 for a school in Malaysia, which brings our grand total so far to a magnificent **£2309.95**.

So, a HUGE 'Thank You' to all Mary Hare pupils, parents, staff and friends who have supported our fundraising efforts - and there are still a few months to go before the end of the school year!

SIXTH FORM NEWS

FUN FOREVER - WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

On a wet afternoon in December three sharp-suited business people set off from Mary Hare School for Newbury Racecourse Conference Centre. They were on their way to present their innovative ideas, as finalists in the annual 'Champions of Enterprise' event for schools, organised by West Berkshire Education Business Partnership.



Sixth Form students from Mary Hare and John of Gaunt school had elected to work together as they could recognise the benefits of smaller schools working together in partnership. The team was aptly named 'John and Mary's Bubbleworks' and they were there to present their business plan for a bubble-shaped, weatherproof play dome.

The team worked on a full range of business issues - researching their market, producing an appealing design, calculating costs and deciding on marketing strategies. Their convincing presentation to the judges included a 3D design and bubble blowing machine just to emphasise their idea!

Ideas from other teams included a bug themed adventure playground, a pirate themed volleyball game, 'Cubetastic' - super size stacking cubes made from recycled plastic, a child sized Olympic Games activity and 'Aquaplay' - an octopus shaped boat play centre. All the teams were supported by mentors from local business and special thanks must go to 'Bubbleworks' mentor Rolf Rombach of Newbury Building Society for all his advice and especially for making the team's bubble wrap ties, to go with the sharp suits!

Certificates were presented to all finalists by Amanda Richards, Chief Executive Officer of West Berkshire EBP and the judges had a difficult time deciding on the overall winners. All the teams were praised for their efforts, their excellent teamwork and professional business projections.

Mary Hare and John of Gaunt schools received a special mention for considering the weather in their planning and overall winners were the Downs School with 'Cubetastic'.

Congratulations to our team for their excellent presentation and for all the hard work put in before the event by teacher Mrs Hansen who supported the students throughout the project.



THE BLOOD DONORS

By **Philippa Merricks**

After an early supper, five Sixth Formers went to the Newbury Royal British Legion to give blood: **Jonathan Chambers, Elin Williams, Graham McClune, Rebecca Thomas** and myself. As I had given blood before, I had a key ring with my blood type on it, but for everyone else it was a new experience.

After a simple blood test from the middle finger, we then donated blood. The length of time it takes to give blood varies between people, depending on the speed of blood flow. On average it takes approximately 10 minutes to give one pint of blood. Mr Marlow came along to give us some moral support - he reckoned he had given seven 'bodyfuls'!



Afterwards, we adjourned with pale faces to a seating area for a well earned drink and some biscuits to recuperate. We had a plaster put on our arm, which had to be left on for at least six hours and we were not allowed to participate in any strenuous exercise or heavy lifting for a while. That night most of the group were quite tired as one pint is quite a lot out of an average of eight pints in your body - quite understandable! Our thanks to Louise for driving us there and keeping us smiling when some of us were feeling a bit strange. We need more students to join us next time – remember, it's only an armful!

GO AHEAD AND JUMP!

Head Girl **Philippa Merricks** has been busy all year with a series of fundraising activities to support her 'gap' year placement in Honduras, Central America, where she will be working with the local deaf community. A highlight of the Spring term was a sponsored bungee jump, which raised over £180 towards her adventures. Here is her firsthand account of the experience...

In February, I travelled to Slough to do a bungee jump off a crane, which was 160ft high, approximately 53 metres! We arrived about 10.30 in the morning but there was already long queue and I was the 15th person to jump that day.

As I got ready to jump I had to have a strap put around my ankles and a safety harness around my waist. When I reached the top of the crane and the doors opened, I stood on the very edge of the platform. As the man counted down '3-2-1', I was thinking, no turning back for me!

I cannot really remember exactly how I actually dived, so it was good to watch the video afterwards! It was such a great adrenalin rush, I felt as if I was really flying, until the rope jerked me back and sharply upwards to reality. After a few bounces, I was lying on the ground, removing the harnesses. My hands were shaking from the adrenalin. I would now definitely grab another opportunity to do a bungee jump or to try out other types of adrenalin sports. Go for it!



Primary News

In November, former heavyweight champion boxer Sir Henry Cooper OBE visited the primary school to present a cheque for £7,250.

The money had been raised by Mary Hare parent Sarah Grigg (pictured back left) who organised a black tie dinner and auction back in October. Proceeds were split equally between the Mary Hare Primary School and CICS (Cochlear Implanted Childrens Society). The money will be used to equip the primary school classrooms with electronic 'smartboards'

Sir Henry met the children in assembly and answered their questions about his sporting career - explaining about his current work to help charities which support disadvantaged children. Afterwards he toured the school and chatted with teachers and parents over tea and cakes, before departing at the end of a very busy afternoon.



The children were thrilled to meet him and were very impressed to hear that he started boxing at a children's club at the ripe old age of nine! He autographed pictures that the children had made in preparation for his visit and posed for a posse of photographers (professional and amateur) with the greatest of patience.

The Dragon Train

By **Jack Moodie**

*The dragon train roars in the tunnel
Its eyes were glazed with fire eyes
Its long tail looks like the carriages sweeping the rails
He breathes out and then all the smoke comes out of its nostrils*



Pupils enjoy a trip on the Watercress Line

By **Joseph Grigg**

*The Dragon has big bright eyes
It's got a big steamy nose
The dragon has very pointed teeth
It's got a long tail like a carriage
A BIG greeny dragon train*

The whole school enjoyed their visit to Sevington Victorian School, as part of our recent 'History Week'. We all donned our Victorian costumes and adopted our new Victorian names and we were then met by Miss Squires and her assistant.

We were all suitably obedient in the schoolroom and later that day we enjoyed making wax candles and lavender posies. It was a wonderful day, which brought Victorian history alive for everybody.



The children pose (straight-faced) in the Victorian manner



Our pupils recently took part in 'Creativity in Sport' - a programme led by Lizzie Webb (of TV AM Exercise Fitness fame).

The event was co-ordinated by local secondary school Park House Sports College and five schools took part in the activity, which was filmed by Meridian TV.

We were delighted to hear that our pupils were judged to be the best co-ordinated dancers and won the cup! Certificates and the winning cup were presented by Mr Derek Peale, Headteacher of Park House Sports College.

Lizzie Webb expressed her delight in working with the Mary Hare pupils: "Your pupils were wonderful... not only did they perform brilliantly, but they behaved beautifully too! I had the most wonderful day and I hope to have the opportunity to work with your delightful pupils again."



Mary Hare

FOUN

THE PACE APPEAL
Performing Arts, Conference and Education Centre

The PACE Appeal is nearly at an end

We have come a long way since the PACE Appeal was launched in November 2002, with the aim of raising £1 million towards a performing arts centre for Mary Hare.

I am extremely grateful to my fellow trustees, the PACE Appeal Council and the many volunteers who have helped us to achieve and surpass our original target. As I write, the Mary Hare Foundation has raised over £1.6 million towards the project, with a further £700,000 coming from government grants, a lottery grant and other grants to the School, bringing the total raised to £2.3 million.

The building work is now coming to a close - the centre will be in use from May 2006 and an official opening is planned for the autumn. We will continue to fundraise over the summer, with two more events in support of the Appeal. Prue Lane Fox is organising a sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall and Judith Roberts is organising a ball in London in the autumn. These events will bring our fundraising to an end when we hope to have raised a total of £2.5 million towards the project.

It will have the opportunity to formally thank everyone who has supported the Mary Hare Foundation with this ambitious appeal when we hold the official opening of the new centre.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carolyn Von Stumm, Marcus de Ferranti, Theatre in Trust and all those involved in the recent production of Animal Farm in London in support of the PACE Appeal. We all thoroughly enjoyed this great production, which raised just over £42,000 for the appeal.

I look forward to making my final report on the PACE Appeal in the autumn.

Mrs Thomas Egerton

Chairman, The Mary Hare Foundation

NatWest Quiz Night



The winning James & Cowper team

Following the success of last year's fundraising event, we were delighted to host another NatWest Charity Quiz Night in November in support of the PACE Appeal. More than twenty five local businesses came to Carnarvon Hall for an evening of tough questioning from host David Buckmaster, Commercial Manager of NatWest Bank in Newbury.

The Mary Hare team of teachers put in another spirited performance but were beaten to the winning post by a team from James & Cowper, Newbury. A total of **£2,050** was raised from the event and we are grateful for the continuing support from NatWest and all of the local companies who joined us on the night.

Foundation

Animal Farm By Luke Bryant

In April of this year, I performed in Animal Farm in the Britten Theatre, London and this is the story of my experience.

In October, I saw a letter from the school offering pupils the chance to perform in Animal Farm, to help build the PACE Centre. I put myself forward after agreement from my mum and dad. In December, I met the directors Barry, Carolyn and Peter and we talked about me acting in the show and what this would involve. I was now looking forward to starting rehearsals and performing.

In March, we started rehearsals (Fatima and Ben were also taking part). My first rehearsal was at school with Carolyn and Barry and we practised dance moves and speaking parts. We were told that we would be pigeons and young animals like a duck or sheep. We then started travelling to Chiswick in London to rehearse with the rest of the cast. It was a small green tin hut and we spent several weekends here rehearsing. It took a long time, but it was fun, poor Mum doing all the travelling!

On 26th April, we went to the Britten Theatre in London for the final Dress Rehearsal. We had a look round the theatre and it was wonderful. On the first night of the show I was nervous in front of the big audience and I hoped that my acting had gone well. We did six performances altogether and I had family or friends at each show.

By the last night the nerves had gone and I was finally relaxed. After the show we had a drink and said our goodbyes and I thanked the directors for picking me for a part in Animal Farm. Everyone who watched the show (including my music teacher Mrs Rocca) said 'the show was brilliant!'. I really enjoyed it and I hope to have the chance to do more of these performances. It was a great experience and one I will never forget.



The cast of 'Animal Farm' with Fatima Niemogha, Ben Glover and Luke Bryant, front row from the left

Alumni News



EMMA HAMPSON



Some of the daytime television viewers amongst you may have spotted me back in November in a BBC programme featuring various people about to take their driving test. My instructor was approached by the production company and I found myself signing a contract and then being filmed for several weeks during lessons and then finally on my driving test - I passed with flying colours, which was a great relief as it was on camera! I now drive a Clio and love driving everywhere.

Having studied for a Beauty Therapy Diploma at college, I am now living in Colchester, where I am secretary for Colchester United deaf women's Football Club. I enjoyed the nail technology part of my diploma course so much, that I am now on a follow-up course which will give me the qualifications I need to set up my own mobile nail-care and beauty business.

A friend of mine, who has recently graduated with a degree in Business Management, is helping me and I have applied to the Prince's Trust for funding to help get me started. So far, things are going well and to plan. I have lots of ambitious plans for the future and for the development of my own business.

www.my-journal.info/deafguyana

This is the website to head for if you want to find out more about Steven's adventures in Guyana, working in the Youth Development Programme run by the VSO. He is helping a local organisation that works with people of several disabilities, on many community based support projects.

Steven graduated last year from Sheffield Hallam University in Sport and Leisure Management and decided to follow in the footsteps of other Mary Hare alumni, by volunteering overseas for a year, to help people in developing countries.

His year in Guyana has been action-packed (as you will see from his website diaries and photo albums), not least of which has been to set up a thriving Deaf Club with help of other deaf volunteers in the team.

If you want to be inspired and get the latest updates on his fantastic year, check out his website. You can also visit the VSO website to find out more about opportunities available and how you can help in many different countries and cultures, making a real difference.

STEVEN WYNNE



Steven at Kaieteur Waterfall (the world's longest single drop waterfall)

KRYSTLE CAREY



You may have heard on the grapevine that I graduated last summer. After four years at the University of Southampton I gained a double Honours degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry. Naturally, my family were over the moon. Sadly, my Mum missed my graduation as she passed away in November 2004 after a brave and well-fought battle against cancer. One of my promises to my Mum was to fulfil my ambition to become a Doctor of Science, which motivated me to persevere with my studies.

My studying is not yet over, as I am now back at Southampton, doing an MPhil / PhD in Chemistry for another three years! This will be quite a challenge but I am pleased to be using my Chemistry and BioChemistry skills in cancer research, an area I very much want to be involved in as part of my future career.

I want to assure you that I'm not a complete Chemistry 'geek'! I'm involved with the university Ballroom and Latin Dance club and I have many uni friends who are always dragging me out!

I am still to this day very grateful for the education I received at Mary Hare. I still think well of my teachers, especially those who taught me at A Level, as they gave me the best headstart I could have had. I try to keep up to date with events and news at Mary Hare by reading 'Soundwave'. I can't believe how much the school has moved on!

RUTH MONTGOMERY

After Mary Hare I went to Trinity College of Music in London on a foundation course, then I had another year out to further my flute studies. At the end of that year I was finally able to gain a place to study for a B Mus honours degree in Music, where flute performance was my major subject. I went to The Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff where I enjoyed the performance course and made many friends. After four years I graduated in the summer of 2005 which was one of the best things I've ever achieved.

This is how my week looks now: on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays I work as a peripatetic flute teacher in the Chelmsford area where I live; I travel to six different schools. I teach 30 hearing pupils in total on the flute. My pupils range in age between 9 and 17 years of age. On Thursday and Fridays I travel to Mary Hare and teach pupils the flute. On Tuesday evenings I play my flute in the Essex Wind Orchestra and have about six charity concerts throughout the year.

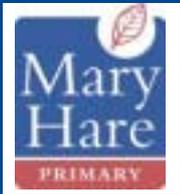
I started my job as a peripatetic flute teacher in November last year and quickly grew to love it. It was strange coming back to Mary Hare school earlier this year and calling my old teachers by their first names! I am slowly getting used to it now and it is really going fine - the Year 7 are nice. I cannot wait to move into the new performing arts centre; it will be an exciting place to teach and see more pupils come up with creative ideas in music, art, media, dance and drama.





Vicky Wright meets Brenda from 'X Factor' during a school trip to see 'Chicago' in London's West End

For further information about Mary Hare, please visit our website: www.maryhare.org.uk



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For information on our associated services

(hearing assessments, training, earmould and hearing aid services) please contact our Marketing & Development Office: 01635 244233 / marketing@maryhare.org.uk