



# *The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter*

## *Volume 14, Issue # 13, 27th June 2011*



### MAJOR NEW RESOURCE!

It's taken quite a while and a lot of hard work from the Grounds and Maintenance Staff, but the old ponds below the Garden of Memory have undergone major refurbishment works and are now well on the way to becoming a superb resource for outdoor learning by all the children of Somerhill.

The ponds were drained and then cleared of all the mud and debris which had collected over the years—no mean achievement! We took specialist advice on the design of the jetties and then our own staff created the jetty and boardwalks you can see in the pictures below. It is hard to believe the transformation which has taken place—the area used to be a rather gloomy and muddy spot, only seen by a few. To be fair, Sid (Mr Coakley's old Labrador) was rather fond of taking the odd mud bath there! Now we have the beginnings of an attractive wildlife haven, with large safe jetties for the children to use for pond dipping. A nature walk has been set out, largely for the younger children in SPP, with information boards soon to be erected explaining what wildlife they might see.

A huge thank you to the Parents' Association for the funds they donated to this project, which has enabled us to produce this most fantastic resource which will benefit all our pupils.



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### Paper-Free Reports and End of Term Packs

All three schools will be producing the end of term reports in paper-free format this term. In line with our Eco Schools promise to cut back on paper, the end of term packs will also go paper-free as of this term. You will be able to find everything posted in the Parents' Area of the website from the last day of term. We hope this will also address all those last minute panics when those envelopes appear to have disappeared over the summer! Full details will be relayed to you nearer the end of term.





## THE SUMMER FAIR

The success of the Summer Fair can be attributed to all the volunteers who gave their time with great humour and enthusiasm and the families who enjoyed a happy family day. As a school community we raised a staggering £5,400 which included over £1,600 for a variety of charities. WELL DONE and thank you to all those who came along and enjoyed the barbecue, games and assorted stalls. Have a super summer !

Julie, Penny and Annabelle



I would like to add my thanks to those of the Parents' Association to everyone who made the Fair such an enjoyable event. There are obviously a lot of 'Righteous' parents on the Fair Committee as from 10.00-2.00pm were four of only six dry hours that we had here at Somerhill all week-end...the heavens opened at 3.00pm! I am delighted that we were able to support some worthy causes and it was great to see constituent members of the Somerhill community all having fun. Very well done! Mr C



**KUSASA Project**

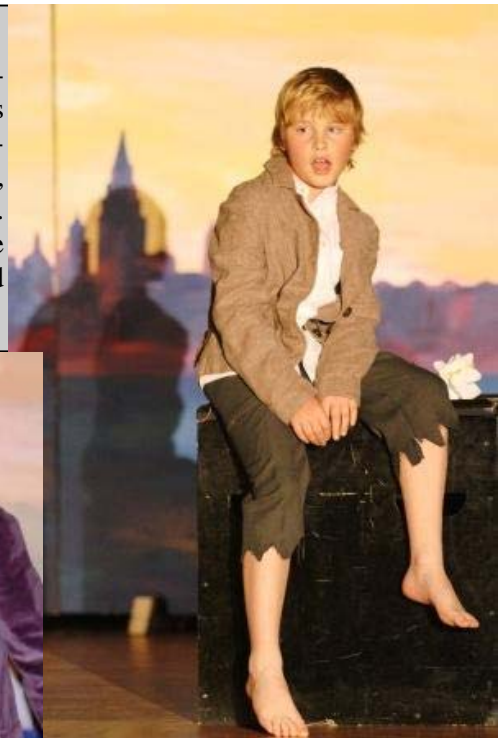
A picture of some of the helpers at the Summer Fair on the Kusasa Stall, where various South African items were sold to raise funds for the project in South Africa supported by YC and Madame Spiers, our former Head of French.

The Yardley Year 8 Leavers' stalls raised some £550 for the charity. Madame will be making a flying visit here next week on her way to promote the project at a fund raiser in London.

Well done boys!

## Oliver!

The Yardley Court Senior Play, *Oliver!* was a superb show; congratulations to all of the boys who took part! Mrs McDonald, Mrs Withers, Mr Sumner, Mrs Lambert and the whole team are enormously proud of the cast for their great energy and enthusiasm, which produced some wonderful and unforgettable performances. It was a great pleasure working with the boys on this play, and we hope that they enjoyed it. Thank you for everything, cast and crew, and well done!



*Oliver!*, directed by Mrs Withers and Mrs Mac, was a great hit and we owe a big thank you to all involved. Tremendous acting and superb vocals made this performance by Year



6, 7 and 8 boys a joy to watch. We cannot find any negatives or flaws in this production. The costumes and makeup, by Mrs Lambert, were fabulous. Alex Spensley, starring as Oliver, was amazing, as were Jonathan Smith (Fagin), Marcus Michau (Dodger) and Dan Payne as Nancy. Even those without major roles played a big part in making this play one to remember. The stage managers were a great help and were key to the success of the performance; without them, we could not have done it. Mr Sumner was wonderful on the piano and was a huge inspiration to the boys. This production was brilliant entertainment for all to enjoy — you couldn't ask for more from a school production.

(Oliver Smither, Will Donald, James Abbas, Oliver Bee)





Our final Grandparents' Afternoon for the children of Years 5, 6 7 and 8 proved just as popular as the earlier ones, with everyone having a wonderful time. Thank you to one and all for making these afternoons such a success—especially the catering staff for their wonderful cakes! We will definitely keep Grandparents' Afternoons on the calendar for the future.



The Year Two classes visited Tudeley Church in connection with their R.E. and Art work. Mrs. Dunkin Wedd told the children all about the church furniture and the story behind the magnificent stained glass windows created by Marc Chagall. The children were beautifully behaved and Mrs. Dunkin Wedd was most impressed with their knowledge!

On Wednesday Year 3 went to Crofton Roman Villa and Bore Place. The boys learnt all about the history of the villa, its discovery and eventual opening in 1988. They learnt all about Roman home life on the farm and even had the opportunity to dress up as Roman characters. The boys made mosaic patterns, did brass rubbings and were able to handle genuine artefacts.

Following on from the Villa we travelled to Bore Place to experience life on a dairy farm. The boys were fascinated to watch the cows being milked and to learn how everything on the farm operates. They then made Green Man clay masks; which was really mucky! All in all a great, informative day out!



### BIBLE WORKSHOP

Somerhill is hosting a free special informative workshop on Translating the Bible in the morning of Saturday 16 July in conjunction with Roger Millman. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mr Millman via office@somerhill.org and we will forward your message.

### LOST PROPERTY

Mrs Wilkes has a rather large collection of mobile phones and iPods in Reception which need to be matched back to their owners! Please see her for further details and do please check to make sure yours is at home! Some were left from the Summer Fair.



#### Year 5 Visit to Le Touquet

36 filles et leurs profs ont passé une belle journée en France. Nous sommes parties de bonne heure et en arrivant au Touquet nous sommes allées au marché pour acheter des souvenirs, du fromage, des cerises, et beaucoup de béréts! Après avoir fait un pique-nique à la plage nous avons bu un diablo-fraise ou un Orangina au café. Ensuite les filles ont écrit une carte postale et sont allées à la Poste pour acheter des timbres. Avant de rentrer en car tout le monde a goûté une glace, c'était délicieux!

#### SOMERHILL CLASSIFIEDS

The closing date for entries for the final 2010-11 series of Somerhill Classifieds is this Wednesday - 29th June. Clear that clutter over the summer—full details on the Parents' Area of the website.



#### Newly Refurbished SPP Play Area

You may have noticed all the new equipment recently installed in the SPP Play area just beyond the staff car park. We are delighted with the improvements and very grateful to the SSPA for their generous donation to help fund the equipment. It will be a great resource for the younger Pre-Prep children and Late Class are planning to use it most afternoons too. **Please may we remind you that it is intended for use by Pre-prep children only.**

## The SAS Summer concert



The SAS Summer concert took place on Thursday 16th June, and just gets better and better. The Lent concert was divided into Junior and Senior events, but for this end of year concert the three schools came together again to delight the large audience with their skilled renditions of pieces ranging from Abba to Rossini!

Choral work was again very strong, and our thanks go to Mr Sumner, Mrs Saby, Mrs Billing, and Mrs Holmes for all their hard work and encouragement. Thank you, too, to all the specialist instrumental teachers for all their efforts over the year.



The NAGC Explorers Club is visiting Tunbridge Wells on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July!  
The family fun day includes the following:

**‘Compare the Meerkat’** Meet Meerkats and other furry animals from around the world with Tropical Inc.

**Animal Art** Painting and collage opportunities for families

**Space Cadets (age 10 and over)** Rockets and Rocketry - A day of experiments and explosions (with an option for the Bronze Crest Award)

**Photography (Arts Award students)** Exhibitions and workshops by Arts Award photography students

**Robotix Club** An opportunity to enjoy Robotix club activities

NAGC is a national charity dedicated to offering all children opportunities. Information about the group can be found at: [www.nagcwestkent.btck.co.uk](http://www.nagcwestkent.btck.co.uk), [www.amazingchildren@nagcbrtain.org.uk](mailto:www.amazingchildren@nagcbrtain.org.uk) For further information please contact Mrs Jennings ([tjennings@somerhill.org](mailto:tjennings@somerhill.org)) or email [nagcwestkent@hotmail.com](mailto:nagcwestkent@hotmail.com)



### Yardley Year Four Play

Year Four boys enjoyed two fantastic, vibrant performances of 'Robin Hood and the King's Bling', a little known story based on the legendary hero of long ago.

Our play began in Sherwood Forest where the villagers were protesting about being poor, VERY POOR!

Robin Hood had not quite got the hang of robbing from the rich to give to the poor. In fact, he was in desperate need of money himself! Robin, supported by Marion and backed by his Merry Men, hoped to steal the King's Jewels; but failed miserably. King John planned to steal the jewels, sell them and stash the cash for use when he retired; but failed miserably. The evil Sheriff of Nottingham would have liked to steal the jewels to supplement his pension plan and keep the jewels for himself; but failed miserably.

By intrigue and deception the villagers stole the jewels and became rich, outwitted the authorities and the outlaws to become rich.

A great team effort which had everyone smiling, including the elusive horse!!!



The rain held off for our annual trip to the Golden Hinde in London. We learnt so much about life on board a Tudor warship and all wished we could have shared the spoils of Drake's treasure trove! But chocolate brownies from Mr Cornwell and an ice cream were a great substitute.



### COMMON ENTRANCE SUCCESS

Congratulations to all of our Year Eight boys who have passed their Common Entrance exams and now are set to go to their schools of first choice. The results were very strong again this year and teachers and boys have put in great efforts to produce first rate marks. Together with the 10 scholarships already won by this year group (4 academic, 2 music, 2 drama, 2 sport), it has been another excellent year at the top of the school.

Senior school destinations are as follows: Tonbridge 16, Cranbrook 4, Sutton Valence 3, St Bede's 3, Eastbourne College 2, Sevenoaks 1. Well done boys!

## PICTURE OF THE SCHOOL

Don't forget there are still copies of the lovely 'cartoon' of The Schools At Somerhill available to buy. Jam-packed with lovely little studies of all the various activities across the three schools it is a wonderful representation of our schools—you can view the original in the foyer of the Dining Hall. Poster sized prints can be purchased through Reception.

## SPP SPORTS 'DAYS'

Reception, Years One and Two were lucky that the rain held off for their Sports afternoon on Monday last. It was a super event organised by Mrs Wallace, Mrs Davis and Mrs Samworth. The parents were extremely competitive in their race and I think some are still nursing their war wounds!



**Kindergarten** pupils managed to dodge the rain showers on Tuesday and Wednesday and were able to complete their Sports Days with no interruptions. All the children participated with enthusiasm, demonstrating their developing sporting skills and will be ready to compete in the full pre-prep sports next year.



**Nursery** children, too, were lucky to complete both of their Sports sessions before the rain set in. The children had tremendous fun with walking backwards races, bucket and spade races and not forgetting the spade and beanbag race! Thank you to all the parents who managed to come along and give their encouragement!

## Sports News

**IAPS Athletics Successes at Ashford.** Both Derwent Lodge and Yardley Court are thrilled by the performances of their athletes at the recent District Two IAPS Championships See below for the individual reports.

### Raining medals!

In atrocious rain-swept conditions the **Yardley Court** boys' athletics team produced a gold rush at the IAPS county athletics meeting. Teachers were delighted to have 11 boys qualifying for the National finals to be held in Birmingham next month - a fantastic achievement! All our boys competed magnificently with the following winning medals

#### Gold

- L McKeeve (Triple Jump)
- J Harvey (200m)
- H Rees (1500m)
- D Wilkinson (800m)
- P Ankjaer (400m)
- H Brewer (High Jump)
- M Newton, E Fraser, F Brewer and J Harvey (U12 4 X 100m relay)

#### Silver

- C Pratten (200m)
- F Brewer (1500m) (Qualified)
- J Collins (Shot Putt)

#### Bronze

- C Thomson-Frost (Long Jump)
- H Rees (200m)

Well done everyone and good luck for the finals!

**Derwent Lodge** came away with two Gold medals; Kathleen Faes in the 1500m who set a new Kent record and Millie Davies in High Jump who broke the Year Five school record. Kathleen also won a Silver medal for Long Jump beating 20 other jumpers. Both of these athletes have qualified for the National Finals in Birmingham on 4th July. Grace Annetts broke the Year Five school record and came 4th in the 200m final, and in the 800m both Beth Peachey (4th) and Holly Thomson-Frost (8th) achieved new personal best times. Kathleen, Millie and Grace did particularly well, as they were competing against Year Six athletes.

