

Longparish Fete 2010

£6,000 profit – thank you – thank you

The net profit from the fete on 4th September amounts to a splendid £6,000. This is fully in line with the best years of the last decade. The money will be divided equally between maintenance and support of St Nicholas Church and the Village Hall.

The Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee are extremely grateful to everyone involved in raising this sum - individual and corporate donors, stall holders and helpers and all those who came and spent freely on the day.

We were very lucky with the weather and the new layout on the cricket field seemed to work well. The emphasis was on family entertainment. This will continue in 2011. Ideas for next year are already germinating. Please let me have any suggestions while this year's event is still fresh in your mind. Thanks to Ken Scotland and Anna Bennett there are lots of good photographs of the day on the village website

www.longparish.org.uk/gallery/Fete100904/index.html

Very many thanks to everyone for your wonderful support, assistance and generosity. See you next year on Saturday 3rd September.

Tom Bremridge
The Orchards, Forton, Longparish
Tel 01264 720689 tom@brem.eclipse.co.uk

A letter of appreciation

I would like through the Parish Magazine to say a big "well done" to the organisers of the village fete. What a great day it turned out to be, the sun shone, a lovely setting, lots of fun and interesting stalls for young and old. Loved the Country and Western music. A real effort had been made to make this day good and good it was. The cricket field was the ideal setting, with a real village feel in the air. Everyone appeared happy and chatty, a time to catch up with old and new friends. Thank you everyone. From Mrs. Kay Oliver. North Acre, Longparish.

Grand Draw results

1. E.Cook	12. Sharker
2. John Young	13. Pat (Cricketers)
3. John Collins	14. Thelma Stanley
4. T Bastable	15. Paula Vize
5. Gardner	16. Roy Sands
6. Davies	17. O'Leary
7. Sue Pretty	18. Bunce
8. Tim Sweet	19. Jo Clear
9. Sam Hoare	20. Sheila Pye
10. Kilpatrick	21. Tom Dawnay
11. Gina Snowden	

Congratulations to all our winners! A big thank you to all those who sold tickets for the Grand Draw both before and on the day, and to the kind people who donated prizes.

Jan West

September Haiku

Kitchen scents compete
chutney, jelly, jam and sauce
-autumn's edible!

Harvest Celebrations



The Church was full for the Family Harvest Service on 19 September. Thanks go to everyone who gave flowers and produce and gave their time to decorate the church. The produce

was then given to the Andover Food Bank and Naomi House.

It was lovely to see the children joining in the service. The singing was excellent and the Village Choir, led by Cathy Yelf and accompanied by Robin Smallwood on the clavinova, gave a wonderful performance of John Rutter's 'For the beauty of the Earth'.

Around 50 people adjourned to the Community Hall afterwards for an excellent shared lunch. We are very lucky that in Longparish we have such talent, both musical and culinary.

St Nicholas Churchyard

Tidy-up Morning

Saturday 9 October 2010

10am -12.30pm

One of the great amenities of Longparish is its churchyard. It is appreciated both by residents and visitors especially those walking the Test Way.

Keen gardeners (and others) are needed to help with the tidy up of the churchyard. Please bring your own tools (secateurs, rakes etc) Coffee and cakes will be provided.

For further information please contact John Young (720233) or Robert Charlton (720382)

THE HAMPSHIRE ART FAIR

7th – 17th October, 2010

Norman Court Farm

Upper Clatford, Nr Andover, SP11 7HB

An exhibition of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and bespoke furniture from artists from all over the UK. We will be hosting a lecture on Gauguin to coincide with the exhibition at the Tate Gallery on Wednesday 13th October. We very much hope you can come along and visit this wonderful art fair.

See www.hampshireartfair.co.uk for opening times or contact the organisers on 07717 833999 or 07765 860081

The Hampshire art fair is supporting Naomi House

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL REFECTORY FRIDAY 22ND OCTOBER

We have a wonderful team of volunteer helpers for our combined Parishes' day in the Cathedral Refectory but if you would like to come and join the team, we are always looking for new members to join us.

If you are able to help this time please could you let me know and which shift you would like to help on: 9.30 – 2.0, 11.0 – 2.0, or 2.0 – 5.30pm. We can arrange transport.

Rosie Lowry 01264 720325



Longparish Cricket Club

*Sponsored by Barker, Son & Isherwood,
Solicitors*

Weather, injury and absence conspired to dash any hope of promotion for Longparish's two senior sides. The Longparish 1st XI were well placed requiring 40 odd with 4 wickets remaining in a low scoring game against eventual League champions, Ventnor, when heavy rain washed out any chance of a result. The game at Wellow & Plaitford was cancelled shortly after breakfast. With a win in the final game against United Services II and a fair wind in a couple of other results the slimmest chance of promotion from County Division 3 remained. Unfortunately United Services II faced the prospect of relegation if they lost; so many of the Southern League United Services 1st XI turned out on parade. An under-strength Longparish struggled against the Southern League attack, posting 105 for 9. U15 William de Cani who was pushed up the order to open, was the top scorer with 65. United Services II sent in a couple of Southern League openers who both fell to the bowling of Ross Stewart, but some big middle order hitting saw United Services past the post with overs to spare. The game was the last for 1st XI stalwart Les Martinez who has played at Longparish for many years and is returning to Trinidad with his family. All at the club wish him well. Longparish finished 8th in County Division 3 and with many of the games this year decided by the smallest margin, hopes are high for an even better finish next year.

With 3 games remaining Longparish 2nd XI were placed 3rd in NW Div II. The important game against an Over Wallop side, also chasing promotion, was washed out. Bottom of the table Penton were dismissed for 104 with U15 Ben Gardner taking a career best of 5 for 15 from 9.4 overs. Justin Jackman 36 and Martin Bearpark 24 scored the bulk of the runs as Longparish II passed the target with 10 overs to spare. In the final game U15 Sam Woodward took 3 for 36 against highflying Godshill who closed on 168 for 9, Ben Gardner hit 25 at the top of the order as Longparish lost early wickets. A partnership of 83 for the 5th wicket between Martin Bearpark and Justin Jackman got Longparish back on the rate. Bearpark fell for 65 and Jackman was unbeaten on 41 at the close, as Longparish won by 5 wickets with one ball remaining. Longparish II finished 4th in North West Division II, missing out on promotion by the narrowest of margins, a superb achievement after gaining promotion to the division last year.

The Sunday fixture list was also hampered by the weather. A keenly anticipated game against the mighty St Cross Symondians proved to be a one sided affair. William de Cani and Brad Aldridge both hit unbeaten 50s, Ben Gardner 39 and Andy Roberts a career best 41 as Longparish finished on 246 for 8 from 35 overs. Andy Roberts also recorded his career best figures with the ball of 5 for 9 before dashing off to buy a lottery ticket as St Cross were dismissed for 124.

Longparish also enjoyed a mini-tour to Devon with a win over Uplyme & Lyme Regis, and a tight game with Seaton. Some camped, some stayed in more salubrious surroundings. Some got up early, some got up late (one never went to bed), some played golf, some went fishing. Everyone had a fantastic time and vowed to return again next year.

Longparish U15 finished runners up in the Winchester & District A division and were denied a title deciding game with champions St Cross A by the weather. It is the final year of Colts cricket for this side; many have already represented the club at senior level for several years. The side first played together under the auspices of coach Justin Jackman as U10s in the U11 league and have achieved remarkable success both indoors and out against all clubs in the area. A happy and talented bunch, they are a credit to the club and their achievements in Hampshire Colts cricket in the past five years

are something of which the club can be proud. Their final game was a resounding win in a twenty over thrash against a Chairman's XI side who would have preferred to have played the Longparish U11 side, although on recent evidence the outcome would have been the same.

Cricket moves indoor next month with Longparish fielding many Colts and senior sides, fixtures and results can be found on www.longparishcc.co.uk. Thank you to all who have supported the club throughout this hugely enjoyable outdoor season, which has seen Longparish cricket go from strength to strength.

Chris de Cani

August 100 Club Winners

£35 Mary Jo Darrah
£15 Sarah de Watteville
£15 Chris Hewitt



LONGPARISH GARDENING CLUB
TUESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2010
7 pm in Longparish Village Hall

**John Negus on "12 Months of Colour"
Flowers and Foliage from January to December.**
John Negus trained at Wisley Gardens and Merrist Wood Horticultural Colleges. A photo-journalist, he enjoys sharing his passion for gardening and other outdoor pursuits. John broadcasts regularly on Radio Surrey. He answers e-mail and "snail-mail" queries for "Amateur Gardening" and escorts groups around gardens. He also lectures on board cruise liners!

Members free. Non-Members £5.00.
Raffle towards the cost of future speakers.

Any queries to Rosie Lowry 01264 720325
Or rosie@yewcottagealongparish.com



VILLAGE HALL EDWARDIAN EVENING
16TH OCTOBER 7.30pm

Tickets are selling fast for the Village Hall Centenary event and are £7 for adults, £4 for children and £20 for a family. Longparish Church Choir and the Longparish Players are providing entertainment. Edwardian dress is optional. If you would like some advice as to what to wear please contact Gina on 720128. Please remember to bring your own drink, plates and cutlery. We will provide a 2-course supper.

If you would like to help with sponsorship, donations and raffle prizes to keep the cost neutral please make cheques payable to Longparish Village Hall and send to Alice Evans at Orchard House, Longparish, SP11 6PB; or let me know what raffle prize you would like to donate.
John Scott. Chairman 01264 720018

Macmillan - World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Thank you very much to all those who supported the recent coffee morning; especially those who provided cakes, raffle prizes and helped set up and clear away. We raised a grand total of £371.06 for Macmillan Cancer Support and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We hope that you will support us again next year and bring along your neighbours, relatives and friends so we can raise even more for this good cause.

Gina, Jacqui and Linda

Longparish Community Association

LCA brings you:

Teatro Che y Moche performing Oua Umplute!

The title means "Stuffed Eggs"
Sunday 14th November at 6.30pm in
Longparish Village Hall
Bar available.



You are all invited to a party to hear the entertaining and boisterous tale of Grandpa's long life told through the music he loved. This is a show for all the family from one of Spain's finest street theatre companies and was the hit of

the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe.

A spectacle combining theatre, music and mayhem with superb musicianship in a show filled with fun and passion. Drawing on the universal language of theatre and inspired by Eastern European and gypsy music traditions, this band of Spanish gypsies quarrel and perform music with an enrapturing effect.

"Oua Umplute features a wonderful four-piece band of musicians from Saragossa in Spain, with gypsy music running in their veins. There is not a moment, from their lachrymose opening number to their spirited finish, when their effortless playing is not a delight – and, in the case of enormously dexterous fiddle player Teresa, a wonder."

Fiona Shepherd, www.edinburgh-festivals.com

"A lovely show (Edinburgh 2009) that would work a storm in village halls." Peter Gregory - Arts Wales

Tickets:

LCA members: Adult £5.00, Young person £3.00; Family 12.00
Non-members: Adult £7.00, Young person £4.00; Family 15.00

Tickets from the shop, from Fiona Gould (720709) or Sandra Jones (720551)

Show supported by Hog the Limelight

Madam Galina is coming to Longparish

Iestyn Edwards is never seen on stage with Madam Galina the Russian prima ballerina. Some say they are one and the same. The Liverpool Post said of her, 'Has to be the result of a

drunken one-night stand between Tommy Cooper and Margot Fonteyn. Part clown, part panto-dame, part stand up, total hit! Joanna Lumley's favourite tenor, Iestyn Edwards is coming to Longparish on Saturday 12 February. Save the date!



LCA Recycled Teenagers



In August nearly 30 members enjoyed a cream tea by the river in Forton. Jim and Joyce Morgan cut a special

cake to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Our September outing was to the Hawk Conservancy.

Despite a very poor weather forecast the only rain was when we were indoors having lunch. We saw three flying displays of birds of prey and Jim got a new parting in his hair from the talons of a low flying vulture.

Our next outing is a tour of the New Forest on 28th October with lunch at The Filly at Brockenhurst. If you'd like to come please contact Corinne on 720643.



LCA - L2SOTM - The Longparish Second Sunday of the Month handicap race

It was a lovely sunny morning for the September race and a much better turnout. We welcomed new runners Jack Dundas and his father Jim who came because the race was included in the Andover Advertiser, and also Matthieu Rident running as an accompanied junior. Alan Montague -Dennis stormed through the field to take first place and the cup for most improved gentleman.



Most improved lady was Katie King. The young runners all did very well and special mention goes to Matthieu who was second overall and Katie Evans who was first female. Thanks to Emma Evans, who took charge, organised everything and presented the prizes as Jack was away, to Maggie, Graham and David for marshalling, time keeping, the signs and the refreshments and to the Cricket Club for the lovely venue.

The next race is on Sunday 10 October at 10am at the Cricket Ground. All runners are welcome as are brisk walkers and supporters.

LCA coffee morning for October

Rosie Lowry is hosting this month's coffee and chat on Wednesday 13th October. Everyone is invited. You are assured of a warm welcome at her home, Yew Cottage, between 10.30 and noon. If you need a lift please contact Gloria on 720425.



Pumpkin Contest

Sunday 10 October

We hope your pumpkins are growing well. But don't worry if they aren't. Last year we had a winner with a pumpkin that weighed less than two

ounces! This year's contest will be on Sunday 10 October in Longparish Village Hall. We are starting at 4pm to make it easier for parents to bring children. Hot dogs and light refreshments will be available (no charge but donations welcome) to keep hungry people going while the judges do their stuff. All entries are free but please support the raffle (in aid of the Playgroup) and bring a raffle prize if you can.

There will be prizes for decorated pumpkins, prettiest pumpkin and the most unusual pumpkin as well as the usual prizes for size for all ages. For more information see the pumpkin area in the village website.

Jeremy Barber 720459

LONGPARISH PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1001065

Recycle with Longparish Playgroup.

At the playgroup we work with the children to recycle as much as possible and teach them the importance of doing this.

We now have the opportunity to turn some recycling into fundraising, to raise some money for the playgroup. If you have any of the following items please drop them off at the playgroup or ring us on 01264 720455.

- Any textiles- clothes, shoes or bags.
- Used printer ink cartridges
- Used stamps
- Old mobile phones.

Thank you.

Claire Nash

BUMPER FUNDRAISING EVENT for BREAST CANCER CARE 9th October 2010 from 2 – 4 p.m at Longparish Village Hall

If you have any unwanted gifts for our tombola, nearly new clothes, toys, books, cakes, produce, raffle prizes or donations please contact Sue on 01264 720053 or Iris on 01264 720381. Regrettably, we are unable to accept jumble, furniture or electrical goods.

WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING UNWANTED BRAS ON BEHALF OF THE HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE.

BIRDS OF LONGPARISH THE SISKIN

The siskin is a resident breeding bird with numbers increasing in the winter due to an influx of birds from Europe. It's a member of the finch family, slightly smaller than a goldfinch and more compact. The male siskin has a streaky yellow-green body, black and yellow striped wings and tail which is forked. He has a black crown and small bib, which the female lacks. Siskins spend most of their time high up in fir or spruce trees where they eat the seeds in the cones. In winter it will visit the bird table where it likes peanuts and sunflower seeds. To watch its movements it's more like a tit. Breeding in southern England is scarce. It nests in April high up in fir or spruce trees. A small nest is made of twigs, grass, moss and spiders web lined with hair and sometimes feathers. The female lays 3-5 eggs, pale blue marked with purplish to black spots and scrawls. These are incubated for 12-13 days and the young fledge in 13-17 days. The siskin is a bird to watch out for on your bird table though some years are better than others.



I saw my last swift on the 20th August in Longparish but on the 3rd September while sitting in my mother's garden in Andover I saw five flying around feeding.

Don't forget to clean your feeders and bird tables regularly. According to the RSPB the greenfinch population has decreased by a third due to a virus which can be found on feeders and bird tables. The birds die because their throats swell up so they cannot feed. We may think we are helping the birds in winter by feeding them, but only if we clean our feeders.

chris bowman



CHRISTMAS IS A COMING... St Nicholas Christmas Fair Saturday 4 December 2 – 4pm in the Community Hall

Please put this date in your diaries. Any offers of help and produce would be greatly appreciated. Local Christmas gift or craft sellers can book a table at the fair to sell their wares for a small fee. Contact Jane Young (720233) or Eila Chamberlen (720691).

Road Safety Awareness

Cyclists - Do You Know?

At night your cycle MUST have front and rear lights lit. It MUST also be fitted with a red rear reflector (and amber pedal reflectors, if manufactured after 1/10/85). Flashing lights and other reflectors may help you to be seen but MUST NOT be used alone.

You should not ride more than two abreast and should ride in single file on narrow or busy roads.

AUTUMN CLEAN UP OF VILLAGE

SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2010

10.00 am to 1 pm

VOLUNTEERS WANTED to help with the village autumn clean up day. One of the main objectives is to clear the stream of weed and dead leaves. The water level will drop by several inches and the stream will remain clear for the rest of the winter which reduces the risk of flooding. There are plenty of other jobs as well so the more the merrier. More details next month.

Please reserve that date and come to help.. Free lunch of sandwiches and chips for all volunteers!

Jeremy Barber 720459

Longparish Parish Council

Planning

At the Parish Council meeting on 13 September the Council had no objection to a new application for a replacement dwelling and garage on the site of the Bungalow in Mill Lane [there was no significant increase in size on what had been approved already and the PC preferred the brick and flint design]; a minor amendment to a permitted scheme at Woodstock; and retention of secondary glazing at Maiden Cottage.

Testwood Trout Farm:

In the July edition, we reported that for technical reasons, the 2008 appeal concerning an application for the temporary use of a mobile home as an agricultural worker's dwelling at Testwood Trout Farm had to be heard again by a different inspector; and that the new appeal would take place on 21 September.

On 28 Jul 10, TVBC met the applicant with their respective advisers to prepare for the new appeal hearing. During the meeting it became clear that with more robust evidence and demonstrated changes to the business since 2008 [including new electric aeration and increased production] there is now a functional need for a fulltime worker to be located at the site. As a result the applicant has been told that TVBC would not contest the issue of need for the mobile home at the inquiry.

A new planning application for the mobile home was submitted as a result of that meeting and the new inquiry has been postponed pending the outcome. In view of the recommendations of Reading Agricultural Consultants [advisers to TVBC] and officers of the Council, the PC decided not to object to the new application.

Lower Mill Villas and 'The Horse Field'

Mr Giles Wordsworth from Smiths Gore told the Council that Zurich had instructed them to sell both sites. The 'horse field' is the field between Malthouse Cottage and Meadowsweet, opposite Tudor Cottage. Both sites are likely to come to the market within the next month, probably in 3 lots. He fielded several questions from the Council and members of the public who attended.

As part of the marketing process, Mr Wordsworth also wanted to sound out the PC as to their views on the possible development of 7 small houses on the Lower Mill Villas site, a project that had been suggested a year or so ago – but with no support. TVBC Councillor Jim

Neal, a former chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee advised that the proposal was outside current TVBC policies on tandem and backfilling.

In responding, the PC agreed that it could not support a proposal that was outside of TVBC policies, but would be prepared to work with Zurich on a scheme that was within policy guidelines.

Open Spaces

Village Clean Up Day: The Autumn clean up day has been set for Saturday, 20 November.

Playground:

The playground is in excellent condition thanks to Clive Kent who does such a good job of cutting the grass and



to the volunteers who pick up litter and do maintenance work. The skate ramp refurbishment is complete and feedback from users is good. It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying the playground, particularly at the fete where this picture was taken.

Set against this, some littering and minor vandalism is no more than an inconvenience although, of course, we could do without it.

The cricket club anticipates the drain work being completed in the next couple of months.

Footpaths

The proposed diversion to Footpath 12 in the 'Christmas tree' field behind Tudor Cottage has been approved.

Highways

Over the summer repairs to the potholes and drains on the B3048 by Middleton House have been completed. Some work has also been done to the worst of the potholes in the passing place at the top of Southside Hill. Thanks should go to our new Highways link officer who has been very effective in responding to reported road damage.

The next full Parish Council meeting is on Monday 11 October. Meetings are public. Parishioners are welcome to come and can speak by invitation.

Christopher Duxbury - Chairman. Tel: 720580
Email: chairman@longparish.org.uk

Great South Run – 24th October

At least 4 Longparish villagers have entered the 10 mile Great South run in Portsmouth. Three of us are running to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, namely Jacqui Healey, Sandra Jones and myself. Carol Dunford has entered as an individual.

If anybody would like to donate please contact me (or any of the others) and I will let them know what the 'just giving' internet address is as soon as I have set it up. Thanks for your support.

John Scott
E: johnhscott01@btinternet.com

Longparish School News

It has been lovely to welcome our new Year R children, who were all full-time by the end of the second week. They have settled in extremely well and have already taken an active part in the school community, voting in the elections.

Senior Citizens It has also been good to welcome our Senior Citizens back for our monthly lunches. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining us for these events, please do contact the school so that we can give you more information. The dates for this term are: 19th October, 23rd November and 15th December (Christmas Lunch). The cost is £2.35 for two courses. The children look forward to these lunches and the opportunity to converse with other members of the community.

Admissions If you have a child who will be 4 before 1st September 2011 and are starting to think about selecting your preferred school for your child's education, we are holding Open Days on the morning of Tuesday 13th October and the afternoon of Thursday 25th November. These days provide parents with the opportunity to see the school in action and to meet pupils and staff. The closing date for this year's applications is midnight on Saturday 15th January 2011. If you would like any further information regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Admin. Office on 01264 720317.

I hope you will enjoy reading the reports below from some of our school journalists about recent activities.

Alex Foggo - Headteacher

The Andover Junior Triathlon

This summer, a team of 23 pupils from Longparish CE Primary School took part in a triathlon competition. We had to swim 88 metres, cycle two kilometres and run 800 metres. In preparation for the triathlon we trained once a week for an hour. Thank you to Mrs Healey, Mrs Gregori, Mr Barber, Mr Gould and Richard who helped us train.

On the day of the race we got to Farley at 1pm and the race started at 2pm. There were loads of people taking part, watching and cheering. We were full of adrenalin and raring to go! First we swam, then we cycled, finally, we ran and burst through the finishing line! It was our proudest moment. Everyone tried their hardest and supported each other and congratulations go to all who took part. In the boys' event, Matthieu was fourth overall and Craig ran the second fastest time; Katy was 10th overall in the girls' event.

Emily Hollingdale and Scarlett Ridge

School Council Elections

During September, hustings took place in each class in preparation for the election of our new School Council. Children made posters and wrote speeches in order to promote themselves as candidates. The election took place on 23rd September 2010, with all the children entering the polling booth to vote. The votes were collected in and the peer mentors counted them. The children were really anxious.

On 24th September, Mr Foggo announced the new School Council: Eleanor Bell and Verity Flynn-Williams from Chaffinch class; Nina Smith and Maia Redden from Kingfisher class. Silas Harris and Helen Smith from Heron class and Emily Hopwood from Robins.

I'm sure all the lucky school councillors will have fun and be happy helping with the organisation of the school and raising money for our ideas and Mityana. Tia Bowman.

PGL

On 13th 17th September Years 5 and 6 (Chaffinch class) went on a residential week to PGL an adventure camp near Swindon for daring school pupils. They enjoyed millions of brilliant activities stretching their fears and nervousness to the limits! We tried: Climbing, Crate challenge, Vertical challenge, Giant

swing, Orienteering, Problem solving, Quad biking, Trapeze, Zip wire, Low level ropes, Tree top study trail, Survivor, Archery, Tunnel trail, Aeroball and Abseiling, Aeroball was fun! You each had your own trampoline, two for each team. There was a goal that you had to get your soft, denim aeroball into! Quite confusing, but once you got the hang of it, it was a good laugh!

My own favourites were Giant Swing and Tree Top Trail, because they got my adrenalin pumping! It was a fantastic week and all of Chaffinch had great fun! Freya Love

From a tiny seed – great things may grow!

Longparish School's Gardening Club has won a regional competition to grow the tallest sunflower – and has been presented with £250 in prize money for the school.

The sunflowers were carefully tended, even during the summer holidays, by the children. The winning flower, which reached a towering 170cm, has continued to grow since the judges came to measure it for the final time. Members of the Longparish School Gardening Club; Ella Harris, Maia Redden, Nina Smith, Holly Bell and Elizabeth Wade, planted the seeds provided by Basepoint, – the company sponsoring the competition, before the Whitsun half term holiday. Teacher Maria Robertson, who runs the club, says "They were a very dedicated team.

Five of them took it in turns to make sure the plants were faithfully watered and cared for, even talking to the sunflowers to encourage them to grow! The sunflower chosen for the competition was measured every Thursday. It was lovely to hear that it had won and the school has £250 to buy some IT equipment, comprehension books – and some new bulbs for the Gardening Club."



NEWS FROM TESTBOURNE

It was a pleasure to meet our new Year 7s as well as to welcome back our older students. The year 7s seem to have settled in quickly and have impressed us with their cheerful and enthusiastic approach to life in their new school.

EXAMINATION SUCCESS We were also able to celebrate another really good set of GCSE results (not released in time for the September magazine). We achieved our highest ever number of students gaining high grade passes: 82.6% achieved five or more A*-C grades and almost a third of all grades were A*s or As. 61% of students gained five A*-C grades with English and Maths, which was in line with challenging targets set when the year group joined the school, and every single student left with at least five GCSEs and some with 14!

OPEN DAYS We will be holding Open Mornings from Monday, 4th to Thursday, 7th October (following our Open Evening on the 30th September). Parents of primary students are welcome to join us on tours to see the school in action on a normal school morning. Just call our school reception to book a place on one of the tours.

'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS' Students are already hard at work rehearsing for our next big production, 'The Little Shop of Horrors', which promises to be another high quality show. Performances are on Tuesday, 19th to Friday, 22nd October. Tickets cost: £7:00 for adults, £3:50 for children and Senior Citizens and £20:00 for 4-person family ticket (with a 2 for 1 offer on the first night!). Telephone Mrs. Sagar in the Performing Arts Office on 01256 892061, ext 211, to book yours. Hilary Jackson Headteacher